

# VISIONS

*No matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.*

*Because Jesus has taught us to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind, and to love our neighbors as ourselves, we invite people of every race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, marital status, economic circumstance, and physical and mental ability into the worship, rites and sacraments, fellowship, and leadership of our church.*

## Markings

I am asked on a nearly daily basis "So when are we going to be back in the sanctuary?" Walking by the space it's clear much progress has been made. Perry Brandenburg's crew has done a wonderful job painting. Bruchey's staff and the subcontractors have made many of the necessary repairs. The new hardwood floors are being installed with carpet runners to follow. For such a long time it seemed like we'd never reach the finish line. But I'm glad to report, "Lord willin' and the creek don't rise" as they say, that we expect to re-dedicate the space on Sunday morning, April 3. The pipe organ reinstallation is still 8-10 months away, but the rest of the work will be complete. It will be great to be back in that room which has been the center of our worship life for nearly 200 years.

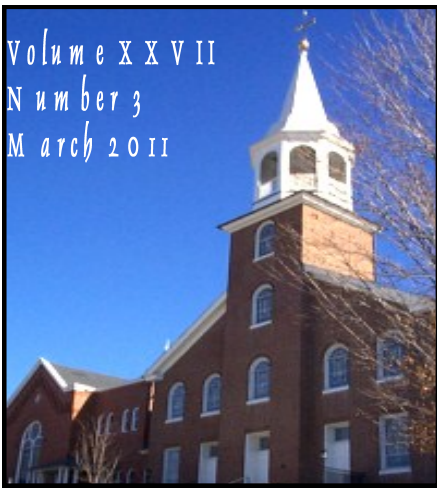
That will be the start of a month of special worship services. That we have a sanctuary to return to is due in no small measure to the first responders who raced to the church last March to extinguish the flames above the chancel. We all owe them a general debt of gratitude for the courageous work they do each day, but our congregation owes them a particular word of thanks for what they did for us. In addition we owe thanks to the contractors who worked all winter to restore our sanctuary. It is obvious they took great care with the project and they have been very willing to respond to our special requests. On April 10th we're inviting both the first responders and the contractors to be our special guests at the 10:30 worship service and at a coffee hour afterward.

On April 17th we'll remember the start of Holy Week, rehearsing the events of Palm Sunday. On that day we'll also celebrate the seven members of our confirmation class as they join the church at the 10:30 service. Palm Sunday marks the start of a roller coaster ride that over the following seven days takes us with Jesus from the shouts of "Hosanna!" to the screams of "Crucify him!" to the angel's hopeful proclamation, "He is risen!"

That final word from the angels and that final truth from God will be the center of our worship services on Easter Sunday, April 24. The story of resurrection is always good news, but it will have a particular poignancy for our congregation this year. The fire in our sanctuary elicited shock, fear and grief, emotions experienced by Jesus' followers after his crucifixion. But the empty tomb reminded them and our restored sanctuary reminds us that God can bring life out of death, hope out of fear and joy out of grief.

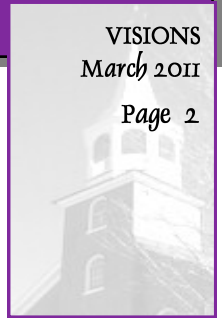
Just as our building is being restored, so must our hearts be. One cannot arrive at Easter's joy without that time of renewal. In the Christian faith we call this Lent, a six week period of sober reflection and recommitment. Join us as we begin that Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday, March 9, with a worship service at 7:00 p.m. in the chapel. As the contractors do the hard work of refurbishing our damaged sanctuary, we're invited to allow room for God to do the hard work of healing our lives.

~Mark



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### **"Raise the Star!" Update**

Work continues apace on restoring our sanctuary, with progress being increasingly noticeable! Painting of the sanctuary and vestibule has been completed and is continuing in the choir room areas. The floors have been sealed in the choir and altar areas to prevent recurrence of smoke odor and closet reconstruction in the men's choir room has been completed. A big thanks to Lee Warren and Mickey Keller for expertly building shelving for all our music in the hallway closet behind the altar. New insulation has been added to the sanctuary attic and testing and refurbishment of the air conditioning systems located there will begin soon.

All our pews have been returned from storage, welcomed by the wonderful writing and artwork done by members of our congregation on the floor of the sanctuary on February 13. A quick peek into the sanctuary will show the hardwood flooring upon which the pews will rest is being installed, thus sealing the "time capsule" of that legacy writing and artwork. New carpeting has been installed in the balcony and the pews there are now in place. Extra pews which will no longer be needed are temporarily in storage, thanks to Margie Hurd for generously offering us storage space.

Due to revised scheduling, our organ is now scheduled for return in late fall. Though the carillon seemed to work during testing, we have been advised the system is beyond economic repair and will be looking at options for the future. The new technology center, for control of lighting, sound, etc., is taking shape in the balcony and new lighting has been installed in the altar area. Take note that the stained glass windows on the front of the church are now illuminated at night. A lot of visible changes are underway!

On the financial side of the fire restoration through the end of January, total pledges received from "Raise the Star!" have totaled \$57,478 and an additional \$20,575 has been received for the Fire Fund, including \$1,015 from basket sales, \$507 from poinsettia sales, \$825 from the quilt raffle, \$1,333 from Heritage Days, and \$304 from the Dance Benefit, with the rest of the Fire Funds coming from individual or group donations. We are greatly appreciative of all donations and fundraising efforts to help us recover from the fire. Thank you!!

### **Children's Center News**

McGruff Safety Program from the Frederick County Sheriff's Office visited the center in February. Many preschool parents had their children fingerprinted and photo taken. All preschool children viewed a safety video sponsored by the McGruff Program. The Children's Center will be holding their annual preschool conferences with families in March. Registration for the upcoming 2011/2012 school year continues with openings in most

classes at this time. School age and the older four year old classes fill up quickest, so if you know of a family needing preschool, all day child care, or before and/or after school care, have them contact Louisa at the center at 301-371-0360. Sign ups for summer 2011 will take place in late April. Preschool graduation and end of the year picnic has been set for Thursday, May 12 with dinner at 6:00 p.m. and graduation at 7:00 p.m.

### **Lifeline Screening**

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will host their affordable, non-invasive, painless health screenings on **Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries, which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms, which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs, which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat, which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for the Stroke, Vascular Disease and Heart Rhythm Package for \$139. All four ultrasound screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. Your Health is in Your Hands, so call 1-888-653-6441 for more information or to pre-register.

### **Ecclesiastical Council for Michelle**

One of the final steps to Michelle being ordained is presenting her ordination paper to a gathering of representatives from the churches of the Catocin Association. The paper is a summation of many of her theological beliefs and biblical understandings, as well as a description of her faith journey. After her presentation the representatives will vote on whether they sense she has a genuine call to ordained ministry. A favorable vote means she will be eligible for ordination, pending her being called by our congregation or another to serve as a pastor. This is an awesome and daunting experience for any candidate for ministry!

The ecclesiastical council will be held on **Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup>** at 3:00 p.m. at our church. Members of the congregation are welcome to attend as an gesture of support for Michelle and as witnesses to this important event. The Parish Life Board will be hosting a reception following the council.

### **New Members**

We'll be welcoming new members into the congregation on **Sunday April 3<sup>rd</sup>**. If you would like to join the church on that Sunday please speak to Mark or Michelle.



This month in Children's Church, we are learning about

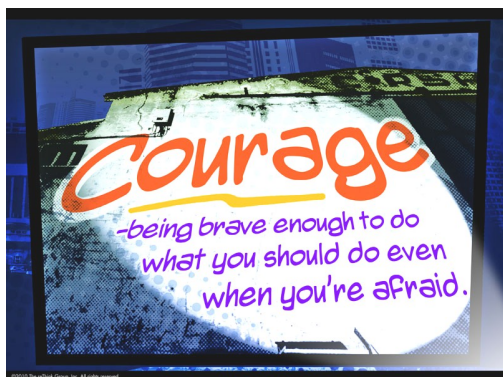
# COURAGE

Living inside out  
Standing right side up  
Looking outside in

*...being brave enough to do what you should do even when you are afraid.*

**Memory Verse:** "When I'm afraid, I will trust in you." *Psalm 56:3, NIV*

**"For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."**



## Week 1: March 6

**Bible Story:** Hit Me with Your Best Shot (David and Goliath)  
~ 1Samuel 17:1-50

**Bottom Line:** When you're afraid, remember that God is with you.

**Family Discussion:** What is a fear that you have overcome? What is one thing that you were afraid of when you were younger?

*"Sometimes even to live is an act of courage."* ~Lucius Annaeus Seneca

## Week 2: March 13

**Bible Story:** The Heat is On (Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego)~Daniel 3

**Bottom Line:** Remember that God is with you when you do the right thing.

**Family Discussion:** Does having courage mean that you will never be afraid? Have you ever done the right thing even though you were afraid?

*"It is easy to be brave from a safe distance."* ~Aesop

## Week 3: March 20

**Bible Story:** Stand By Me (Esther Helps the Jews) ~ Esther 4; 5:1-8; 7:1-6; 8:3-8

**Bottom Line:** Remember that God is with you when you speak up for what's right.

**Family Discussion:** Have you ever spoken up for someone...what happened? Has someone ever spoken up for you...how did that feel?

*"The greatest test of courage on earth is to bear defeat without losing heart."* ~Robert Green Ingersoll

## Week 4: March 27

**Bible Story:** The Lion Sleeps Tonight (Daniel in the Lion's Den) ~ Daniel 6:1-23

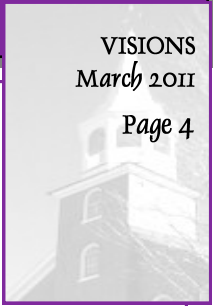
**Bottom Line:** Remember that God is with you when you are the only one doing the right thing.

**Family Discussion:** What is one right thing that most kids need courage to do? Have you ever paid a price for doing the right thing...what happened?

*"Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear - not absence of fear."*

~Mark Twain





### **You-Can-Two-Can Campaign Update**

You-Can-Two-Can



The Youth Sunday School Program's **You-Can-Two-Can** campaign to collect food for the Middletown Food Bank brought in an additional 67 items in February, bringing our total to 348. That's about 50% of our goal. If we are to reach our target of 697 items by the end of the Sunday School year we will need to average just over 100 items per month for the next four months. Please be sure to leave your contributions with your Sunday School teacher or put them in the Sukkah in the coffee hour space to ensure they get counted with the *You-Can-Two-Can* totals.

In December, reusable grocery bags were distributed through the Sunday School classrooms to help kids collect and bring items for the campaign throughout the remainder of the year. More bags are available in the Sukkah or through the church office. See the church's homepage for more information on hunger in our area and a list of suggested items for donation.

### **Lenten Series: A Journey Through the Psalms**

- Sometimes saying words of praise feels hollow to me. Does God really want to hear all that?
- I feel funny asking God for things. Doesn't God already know what I need?
- Is it OK to be mad at God, and if so, can I really say that?

As a "school of prayer," the Psalms teach us that there are many different kinds of prayer and many different ways of praying. They show us what faith looks like lived out in honest relationship with God by expressing the entire range of human emotion - fear, praise, anger, joy, thanksgiving, and despair. The Psalms remind us that faith includes struggle and doubt as well as gratitude and celebration.



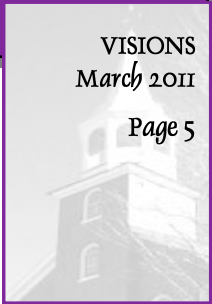
Join us on Wednesday evenings throughout Lent (3/16-4/20) as we *Journey Through the Psalms* using a series by Denise Dombkowski Hopkins, Professor of Hebrew Scripture at Wesley Theological Seminary. Dinner will not be provided this year, but everyone is invited to gather for a time of casual fellowship and light refreshments beginning at 6:45. Study will begin at 7:00 p.m. Childcare will be available - please contact the church office by noon on Wednesday to give us adequate time to arrange care.

### **Make His Paths Straight**

The Lenten Season begins on Ash Wednesday, March 9. Unlike the season of Advent, dripping with Christmas anticipation, Lent is greeted by some with a certain degree of hesitation. We revel in the many layers of traditions and celebrations that march us toward the victory of Christmas morning. But how do we prepare ourselves and our children to encounter that ultimate victory, the great mystery, which is the core of our faith proclamation: that Christ indeed died on the cross but was raised on the third day?

Age appropriate, Lenten daily devotionals will be available for adults and children beginning on Sunday, March 6, and will be distributed through Sunday School classrooms as well as the church office. Adult selections include *Springs of Living Water* (by Mark Neilsen) and *What's Next God: 40 Days of Devotions for Today's Fast-Paced World*. Parents are encouraged to join their children on their Lenten journey by sharing in a short time of interactive scripture, reflection, and prayer. In a matter of a few short minutes, families are able to declare that something unique and special has entered the world through Jesus Christ, and that he continues to form and inform how we love God and one another.





**Spring Basket for Easter**



The basket for March will get you ready to welcome Spring and Easter. It has a tall handle which will be stained or painted, a twined base and is woven with purple, golden yellow and Kelly green reed. The cost for the class is \$15.00. Both classes will be held on **Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>** in the Parish House. The afternoon class will meet at 12:30 p.m. and the evening class will meet at 6:30 p.m. More information is available from Gail Johnson or Diana Corl.

**Ladies Luncheon at Home at Braddock Inn**

Last year's Ladies Luncheon at The Home at Braddock Inn was such a hit that we're planning a repeat luncheon this year. So, mark your calendar and sign up to attend our Ladies Luncheon to be held **April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12:15 p.m.** at The Home at Braddock Inn, 4830 Schley Avenue, Braddock Heights. We will leave from church following the 10:30 service. Carpools will be available. Come and experience HOME style cooking and great fellowship with our church family. The cost is \$10 plus tax/tip for a pre-selected menu (\$13 if you choose crab cake). See copy of menu selections in the Narthex next to the Sign-Up sheet. When signing up, please note your entree selection, side, drink AND if you would like to carpool or be a carpool driver. Please call Connie Bell at 301-371-4622 for additional information.



Happy Spring

Spring is Here!

March 20, 2011

**Bible Study & Breakfast**

Wednesday Mornings  
7:00 am  
Mountain View Diner  
with Pastor Mark

MARCH 9, 2011  
7:00 PM WORSHIP

ASH  
WEDNESDAY

Community Outreach

**Save the Date!**

SUNDAY, APRIL 3<sup>RD</sup>

Sign-up to serve  
or provide a  
dessert!

**Camp Jamie**

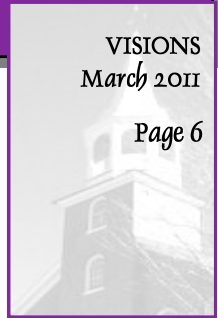
Camp Jamie is a special weekend experience for grieving children ages 6-14. This carefully designed program helps children begin to talk about their feelings related to a death of someone special, and teaches them coping skills for dealing with those feelings. An article about how Camp Jamie was a blessing to our own Poffenbarger family after the death of Fordham can be found in the current Hospice newsletter, which is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.



This year, Camp Jamie will be held on **May 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>**, Friday evening through Sunday afternoon.

For more information about the volunteer positions available and to download an application, please check out the Hospice of Frederick County website at [www.hospiceoffrederick.org/grief-support/camp-jamie](http://www.hospiceoffrederick.org/grief-support/camp-jamie).

**Deadline for volunteer applications is Friday, April 15, 2011.**



**USHERS**

March 6	Team 5
March 9 (Ash Wednesday)	Team 6
March 13	Team 1
March 20	Team 2
March 27	Team 3

**SOUND TECHNICIANS**

March 6	Nick Fink
March 9 (Ash Wednesday)	Matt Anticevich
March 13	Tony Verdi
March 20	Luke Verdi
March 27	Chris Johnson

**NURSERY VOLUNTEERS**

March 6	Wendy Campbell
March 13	Barbara Ohler
March 20	Dana Austin
March 27	Windy Tasker

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

March 6	TBD
March 13	Jean Frock
March 20	Marcia Bowers
March 27	Bunny Cramer

**MIDDLE SCHOOL HELPERS**

March 6	Logan Bramhall
March 13	Cara Johnson
March 20	Thomas Corl
March 27	Taylor Long

**LAYREADERS**

March 6	Gregg Petermann
March 13	Confirmation Class
March 20	Janet Lawler-Heavner
March 27	Ruth Falconer

**COFFEE HOUR HOSTS/GROUPS**

March 6	Jean & Bob Galey
March 13	Mary & Griff Garwood
March 20	Shirley & Mickey Keller
March 27	Anita & Ed Link
	Parish Life Board

**Church Attendance  
February 2011**

	8:15 am	10:30 am
February 6	55	115
February 13	71	117
February 20	65	119
February 27	67	134
February Average —	186	
2011 Average —	190	

**Children's Chimes with Leah**

Children ages kindergarten through 8th grade are invited to join the Children's Chimes Choir. Practice will be on **Wednesday's at 6:45PM** in the Chapel. For more information, please contact Leah Bentz at 240.405.2715 or [lhbentz@aol.com](mailto:lhbentz@aol.com).

**Church Co-ed Softball Team Sign-up**



Are you at least 15 years old and love to play softball? If so, consider joining our church softball team this year. Games will begin later this spring and are played on Sunday afternoons. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Please contact Craig Zecher at 240.674.9885 for more information.



Coming Soon...  
Easter Flower  
Order Form

*(See April issue of Visions and upcoming bulletins)*



### **New Hymnals**

Our sanctuary hymnals were smoke-damaged by the fire last March. Because most of them were already well worn, using insurance money to clean them seemed short-sighted to the Consistory. They recommended we use the insurance funds to go toward replacing the hymnals.

Over the last six weeks we've had copies of the potential replacements available for review during the coffee hour. These included the New Century Hymnal (published by the UCC), the Chalice Hymnal (published by our sister denomination, the Disciples of Christ) and the Christian Life Hymnal. Most respondents indicated a preference for the Chalice Hymnal, so we have ordered copies for the sanctuary.

The hymnals, including shipping, are about \$20 each. If you would like to buy a hymnal for the sanctuary in memory or honor of someone, you are invited to contribute \$20 per book to the *Raise the Star* Fund. We will affix dedicatory book plates to the inside covers of the hymnals when they arrive.

"Purchase a Hymnal" forms are available at the back of the Chapel. On those you can indicate the name of the person in whose memory or honor you are buying the book. Checks can be made out to the church and noted "Hymnal."



*Hymnal Dedications*

### *Thank You Notes*

Thank You!

To all of my wonderful church friends and family, I would like to thank you for all your prayers, cards, phone calls and concern. Also for the wonderful meal we have received and for Mark's visits. Hope to get back real soon. Thanks also to the wonderful Called to Care. Miss you all. God Bless.

*~Pat Wiles*



Thanks to all my fellow church members for their phone calls, cards and prayers during my recent health issue. It was a very scary time for me, and your thoughts and prayers were very comforting. Praise God for such a wonderful caring congregation.

*~Gail Johnson*

Dear Sisters and Brothers at Christ Reformed,

Just a few lines to say thank you for all of your support Saturday night at the Spaghetti Supper send off. I know several of you contributed food for the meal, several helped serve and many came to enjoy and contribute to the offering that was received. I am grateful from the bottom of my heart. Thank you!

I travel to Malawi and Zambia so very conscious of the deep love and commitment that undergird "Field of Hope" Growing Project. I will attempt to convey that encouragement in every way that I can. Again, thank you for your generosity! Peace and Joy.

*~Tim Ritchey Martin*

*Pastor, Grossnickle Church of the Brethren*

On behalf of the Middle School Youth Group, we all want to thank everyone who participated in our "A Square for the Star" campaign. We were able to raise over \$1,200 toward the *Raise the Star* efforts. A special Thank You to Bill Falconer, who coordinated the timing of this campaign with Bruchey Builders, so as to not interrupt their work with the restoration of our sanctuary. Look for a special photo collage of all your messages when we dedicate the sanctuary in April.

*Christ Reformed  
United Church of Christ*

Rev. Mark Wakefield, Pastor  
Rev. Michelle Beadle, Associate Pastor

Contemporary Worship 8:15 a.m.  
Sunday School for All Ages 9:15 a.m.  
Traditional Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Coffee Hour following Worship

Church Office Hours  
Monday-Friday: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.  
301-371-6610  
Fax: 301-371-6912  
[christreformeducc@comcast.net](mailto:christreformeducc@comcast.net)  
[www.christreformeducc.org](http://www.christreformeducc.org)

P.O. Box 333  
12 South Church Street  
Middletown, Maryland 21769

**CHRIST CHURCH  
CHILDREN'S CENTER**

301-371-0360  
Daycare – Early Learning Center  
Kindergarten thru 5th Grade  
6:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
Monday – Friday

Non Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
PERMIT 2202  
Frederick, Maryland 21701

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*Reaching out to help people to know God through Jesus Christ.  
Equipping people to love God through the community of faith.  
Sending people to serve God throughout the world.*



*Lenten Study*

*Wednesday Evenings*

*March 16<sup>th</sup> through April 20<sup>th</sup>*

*6:45 pm-Fellowship & Refreshment*

*7:00 pm-Study*