

Christ Reformed United Church of Christ

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



Of all the faith words I tend to overuse, "journey" is the one I voice most often this time of year. As we move from the Christmas birth story toward Ash Wednesday and its sobering glimpse of a cross we find the appointed Bible stories lifting up Jesus' journey. From the son of a young couple in Nazareth to the Son of God the stories have Jesus traveling physically and spiritually. From the city to the country. From the mountains to the desert. From the faithful to the doubtful. Throughout Galilee and beyond.

We've borrowed the word journey to describe our own faith development. Whether we have physically relocated or not our faith has likely not stayed in one place. Most of us do not hold the same faith we held in the 5th grade. The events of our lives shape how we receive and respond to God in our lives, ideally deepening and broadening our faith.

To help encourage that journey of transformation the church has offered a Lenten study each year in the weeks between Ash Wednesday and Easter. Through the years we've tried a number of topics and formats. Traditional Bible study. Film and Faith. The Lord's Prayer. "What's so Amazing About Grace?" Varieties of spiritual practices. World Religions. All designed to spark your journey of faith. But sometimes those journeys have brought us right back to where we started. They have only confirmed our convictions without challenging them. Or they have spoken to our heads without engaging our hearts.

In a book that came out last year Brian McLaren offers an alternative to "journey." He suggests we "get naked." In *Naked Spirituality: A Life with God in Twelve Simple Words* he writes, "This is a book about getting naked- not physically, but spiritually. It's about stripping away the symbols and status of public religion—the Sunday dress version people often call 'organized religion'. . . "

Putting aside the titillating notion of connecting "naked" and "religion" there's a powerful invitation here. Elsewhere in the newsletter Michelle offers a summary of McLaren's book. I hope you will take a few minutes to read it. Then I hope you will consider signing up to take part in one of our L.I.F.E. (Living In Faith Everyday) groups. As Michelle and I talked about the Lenten season coming up at the end of February we decided we both wanted something more than our customary Lenten study group on Wednesday nights. We'd like to help more members of the congregation experience the power of a small group of people with whom they can deepen their faith, share life stories and enjoy fellowship. We'd also like to

(Continued on page 2)

Markings	1
Markings (Continued) Coffee Hour Hosts Needed Ash Wednesday Ladies Luncheon Accessibility Summit	2
Schantz Pipe Organ CDs Children's Center News Altar Flowers Lenten Materials Progressive Dinner Frederick School of Religion	3
Lenten Study Series	4
February Calendar	Insert
Plan Your Calendar Thank You Notes Children's Church & Spirit Stars	5
Around the Congregation	6
Around the Congregation Community Outreach	7
Head Over Heels	8

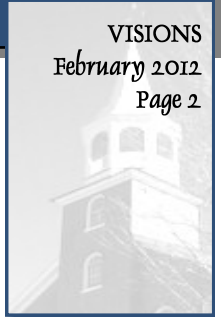


(Continued from page 1)

use this opportunity to connect new people to CRUCC. If you have friends, neighbors or co-workers who might be interested in a group you are welcome and encouraged to invite them.

We plan to offer groups at various times during the week so that everyone's schedule can be accommodated. We hope to offer them in different geographic areas to make participating as easy as possible. They will be led by fellow members of the congregation and they will use McLaren's book as a centerpiece. And at the end of the twelve weeks we hope you will have started something that will be a regular part of your life, something that will give you accessible, practical wisdom for engaging in and sustaining a meaningful relationship with God.

Don't just take a journey. Get a L.I.F.E.!



~Mark

Notes

Coffee Hour Hosts Needed

Each week the fellowship that begins in worship is extended in a time of coffee and conversation. It's a chance to connect with friends and to meet visitors over a cup of hot coffee. We need your help to make it happen. The coffee, juice and supplies are all provided, but we need a few more volunteers willing to host once or twice a year. It takes very little time; a few minutes of set up and a few minutes of clean up, but it is a great expression of hospitality to our members and friends. If you might be willing to help please contact Debbie in the church office.

Ash Wednesday

The season of Lent, the 40 weekdays between Ash Wednesday and Easter, is a time given to spiritual reflection and exploration. In the early centuries of the church the observance was only a few days long, but after the Council of Nicaea in 325 it was extended to forty days. That number mirrored the fasts of Moses, Elijah and Jesus. Observance was very strict. Only one meal a day was eaten. Meat, fish and eggs were forbidden.

In modern times the emphasis on fasting has been reduced, but Lent is still a season given to greater prayer, contemplation and service. We'll observe the beginning of Lent with a worship service on Ash Wednesday, **February 22nd at 7:00 p.m.** in the sanctuary.

Ladies Luncheon at Maryland National

Our Ladies Luncheon is going to be held at 12:15 p.m. on **March 11th** at Schroyer's (Maryland National), located at Hollow Road and Route 40. We will leave from church following the 10:30 service. Carpools will be available if needed. The entrees range from \$7-\$13. Entree selection will be made from the restaurant's

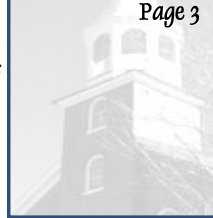
menu, with individual billing. Come and experience fellowship with our church family. If you plan to attend, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex by **March 4th** so we can confirm the number for our reservation. Please call Bea Hill at 301-473-4355, for additional information.

An Invitation to Help: Accessibility Summit Scheduled for April 20-21

At Christ Reformed, we celebrate the fullness of the Body of Christ, the Church, as realized through the participation of all members of our human family. Our hope is to grow into being such a family of faith, reflecting the greatest virtues of unity and utilizing the unique gifts of all of God's children, regardless of cognitive, developmental, intellectual, emotional, physical, or communicative abilities.

The **2012 Accessibility Summit** is a national conference designed to offer a broad range of information and resources to those impacted by disability, with a specialized track for building and uplifting disability ministries in faith communities. For the past two years we have sent a representative team from Christ Reformed and what we have brought back has greatly enriched our community of faith.

This year's **Accessibility Summit** is scheduled for **April 20th and 21st** (Friday night and Saturday) at McLean Bible Church in Vienna, VA. Information including speaker bios and a full schedule of workshops is available at <http://accessibilitysummit.org/>. If you are interested in coming to this event and giving of yourself to further develop our disability ministries, please contact Michelle Beadle at the church office by February 17th.



Schantz Pipe Organ Dedication Concert CD

Paul Fink did a great job of recording the January 8th concert by Matthew Corl, Ed Bower and Doug Remsburg dedicating our new pipe organ. Gregg Petermann has turned that recording into a CD that beautifully captures the afternoon's music.

If you would like a copy of the CD we ask that you contact Debbie Bruns in the church office. We're asking for a \$10 donation to the Raise the Star fire restoration fund for each CD. Checks can be made out to the church and noted "Raise the Star."

Children's Center News

Fall registration is in full swing at the Children's Center. If you, or a friend you may know of, are in need of full day child care or preschool for your child we welcome you to stop by to pick up an application.

In February the kids will be celebrating Valentine's Day. We have some fun activities planned followed by classroom parties.

Altar Flowers

Would you like to honor or remember a special person, celebrate a special event or simply want to enhance our worship service with flowers on the sanctuary altar? The 2012 Altar Flower Chart is on the bulletin board in the narthex and has a number of open Sundays. If you would like to honor, remember or celebrate a special person or occasion, please add your name next to that date. A member of the Altar Guild will contact you near that time with complete details. Our altar arrangements are designed by Mountainside Florist of Boonsboro MD. Cost for the flowers is \$47.00 per Sunday. Special requests are available at an additional cost. Questions?? Contact any member of the Altar Guild: Shirley Keller, Susan Blum, Becky Guyton, Connie Bell, Crystal Fink, Gail Patrick, Pat Wiles, Gertie Mende, Marty Estell, Gail Johnson, Bunny Cramer and Diana Corl.

Lenten Materials

Lenten Daily Devotional materials for children pre-K through 5th grade will be distributed during Sunday School beginning February 12. The reflections and activities start on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 22). If you would prefer to pick your child's materials up at another time, please contact Michelle Beadle in the church office to make arrangements.

Progressive Dinner

Save-the-Date! Parish Life will be hosting a progressive dinner on **March 24th**. We are looking for volunteers to help prepare the food and host. Please contact Gail Johnson to volunteer or for more details.

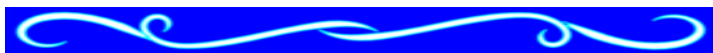
Frederick School of Religion

One of the best kept secrets in the Frederick area is the annual school of religion. It offers six weeks courses on a variety of topics taught by some first-rate teachers. Classes are Mondays or Tuesdays, daytime or evening.

This year's classes include:

- Comparing the Gospels
- A History of the First Century CE
- American Women of Faith
- Science, Faith and the Bible
- How Do They Celebrate Their Holidays?
- Genesis and Psalms
- A New Perspective on Paul
- Life as a Muslim in 21st Century America
- *The Heart of Christianity* by Marcus Borg

Classes are held at Trinity UMC on West Patrick Street beginning February 13. To register or for more information go to www.frederickschoolofreligion.org.



Happy Valentines Day from Called to Care

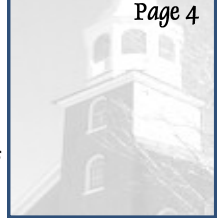
For all of the chocolate lovers out there....
According to Good Housekeeping Magazine,
chocolate, especially dark chocolate is very
good for your heart.

Eating chocolate can cut your risk of heart
problems by one-third.

Just make sure its got a
high cacao content (70%).

Indulge yourself and
have two a day.

*Hugs are great also so give your Valentine a
great big hug and a dark chocolate.*



L.I.F.E.

Living In Faith Everyday

A small group ministry to enhance your life with God

This Lent we will launch our new small group ministry, L.I.F.E. As a congregation we will walk through **Naked Spirituality: A Life With God in 12 Simple Words**, by Brian D. McLaren. Below is a summary of the opening elements of **Naked Spirituality** to give you a flavor of what's in store:

McLaren begins by reminding us of the story of St. Francis of Assisi, who in a bold act of defiance stripped down completely in the portico of the church of Santa Maria Maggiore in Assisi, Italy in the thirteenth century. The son of a wealthy textile merchant, Francis was expected to follow in his father's footsteps of prosperity by supporting the materialism of the rising, status-seeking merchant class that increasingly defined upward mobility by the clothes they were wearing.

Francis was appalled by the flagrant excesses of his day, especially in the face of disparity with the poor and marginalized. So Francis diverted money from the sale of his father's fabric to support his ministries to the poor. When called to account for it, having no way to return the spent funds, he instead offered not only his full inheritance but literally the shirt off his back (and his britches to boot!). "In doing so, Francis stripped off his earthly identity and clothed himself in a more primal and primary identity as God's unclothed creature, God's naked and vulnerable child" (McLaren, v.).

McLaren challenges us to get naked – not physically but spiritually – by stripping away the symbols and status of public religion (meaning what many refer to as 'organized religion') in favor of remembering that at the core of our relationship with God is simply our true selves, vulnerable and affirmed by our Creator. McLaren is not opposed to religion itself. He is a grateful member of the Body of Christ has worked in ministry for over four decades. What he is opposed to is when religious communities make us ashamed of our spiritual nakedness, "pressuring us to cover up more, pushing us to further enhance our image with the best designer labels and latest spiritual fads, weighing us down with layer upon layer of heavy, uncomfortable, pretentious, well-starved religiosity" (McLaren, viii.).

So how do we get naked? Many things can stand in our way:

- If we are in a dry spell spiritually, we may feel like we're simply going through the motions, but our soul remains thirsty, empty, and tired.
- Or maybe we feel bloated with too much guilt, too many 'shoulds,' too much pressure, too much activity and controversy within the church without clear/worthwhile outcomes.
- Perhaps we have reached a place where we can no longer accept the faith we inherited and long to discover truth for ourselves, but have gotten so mired in theological puzzles that we've lost touch with prayer and other practices that sustain our relationship with God.
- We may have become so disenchanted that even the word "God" has become problematic because of how it has been overused and abused in the wider culture.
- We may feel spiritually disappointed or wounded, as though God has abandoned us or had disappeared in the fog of our own skepticism and cynicism.
- Or maybe Christianity is brand new to us.

No matter where we are on our faith journey, our souls intuitively reject fake, forced, hyped, and inflated spirituality. We long for authenticity, to strip away the layers of pretense and get down to the naked truth. And to get naked, we need a life centered in simple, doable, durable practices that will help us begin and sustain reliable encounters with the holy mystery and pure loving presence that is God.

I am interested in being part of one of the L.I.F.E. groups. The best meeting time for me is:

- Weekday evening
- Weekday during the day
- Saturday morning
- Sunday morning
- Sunday night
- I'd like to join a group meeting in downtown Frederick over lunch on a weekday.

I'd like to be part of a group, but would like to meet:

When _____
Where _____

Name: _____

Contact info (phone or email) _____

Please drop this response sheet in the offering plate, mail to the church office or email Mark or Michelle to express your interest.

Parish Life Breakfast

There will be a Parish Life breakfast in the social room on **Sunday, February 12, from 7:30-9:30 a.m.** Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Narthex and come early for fellowship and a great breakfast with friends and family.



Craft Night

Our next craft night will be on **Friday, February 17th** in the Social Room. Please join us for a social time with fellow crafters. Any and all crafters are welcome: card makers, scrapbookers, needlecrafts, etc. Feel free to bring your own dinner/refreshments. Craft time will begin @ 6:00 pm and possibly go as late as 11:00 pm. Please contact Beth Scott at (301) 788-3524 or BethOScott@aol.com to let her know if you'll be joining them so she may set-up the room appropriately.

**Middle School Youth
Upcoming Events**

**February 26
6:00-8:00 PM
Dinner & fellowship at the church**

Thank You Notes



Dear friends,

I can not thank you enough for your overwhelming support during my Mom's years of health problems and her death last month. This has been the most painful month of my life, but your support and concern has helped me tremendously. All of your sympathy cards, food, plants, flowers, hugs and prayers have made this terrible time more bearable. Thanks to each one of you who have reached out to Mark and me during this painful time. My life won't ever be the same, but I'm glad to have each of you in it. Bless you.

~Mary

Children's Church & Spirit Stars

This month in **Children's Church and Spirit Stars**, we are learning about **February's Virtue: Honor (The Ultimate Challenge)** – Letting someone know you see how valuable they really are.

Memory Verse: *"Love each other deeply. Honor others more than yourselves."*
Romans 12:10

February 5th – Honor those who are overlooked.

Bible Story: The Shepherd Kid (Samuel anoints David), 1 Samuel 16:1-13

February 12th – Honor others more than yourself.

Bible Story: Sidekicks (David and Jonathan), 1 Samuel 18:1-4, 5-9

February 19th – Honor those who are over you.

Bible Story: Sensei What? (Absalom rebels), 2 Samuel 15:1-16a, 18:5-7, 15, 31-33

February 26th – Honor God in front of others.

Bible Story: Dance On. Dance Off. (David dances before the Lord), 2 Samuel 6:12b-22a





2012 Consistory, Board and Committee Members

CONSISTORY

Elders:

Dana Austin, David Cutler, Crystal Fink, Ed Link

New: Mike Locke, Beth Tucker

Deacons

Susan Blum, Mike Campbell, Mike Mummert, Sharon Thomas

New: Mark Boettcher, Marcia Bowers

CHAIRPERSON OF CONGREGATION- (1 year term)

Jenny Powell (2012)

CEMETERY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

George Bramhall, Dave Crouse, Jay House, Richard Keller, Linda Miller, Bob Sheffler

New: Gary Bell, Elaine Harp

BOARD OF CHURCH PROPERTY

Matt Anticevich, Ron Blain, Tom Mende, Sarah Petermann, Terry Tasker, Ted Weston

New: John Bowers, Hunt Hughes, Keith Staley

BOARD OF PARISH LIFE

Marty Estell, Bea Hill, Jan Price, Sue Sheffler, Judy Zeck

New: Connie Bell, Marda Blain, Mary Lou Dent, Gail Johnson

DISCIPLESHIP BOARD

Dave Clark, Linda DeLauder, Bob Galey,

New: Mary Garwood, Amy Poffenbarger

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD

Wendy Campbell, Melissa Miller, Lisa Remsberg

New: Kathy Cutler

NOMINATING COMMITTEE – (1 year term)

To be named (Deacon) _____ To be named (Elder) _____ To be named (Cemetery Board)_____

New: Paul Fink, Chris Johnson

******THESE COMMITTEES ARE APPOINTED BY CONSISTORY******

CHURCH & MINISTRY COMMITTEE

Paul Fink, Anita Link, Michael Wilson, Tim Worrell

New: Chris Johnson

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Bill Falconer, Charlotte Hanson, Zoe Worrell

New: Jill Brandenburg, Dinah Esworthy, Roxanne House

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE (2 year term)

Gregg Petermann, Robyn Shafer

New: Tim Cook, Tiffany Corl, Jay House, Beth Scott

USHERING COMMITTEE

Scott and Stephanie Mekkelson– Coordinator(s)

CHRIST CHURCH CHILDREN'S CENTER

Angela Lynch, Director, Tina Ruffner, Assistant Director

Andrew Beadle, Robyn Bramhall, Jean Galey, Kim Reed (parent)

New: Terri Delloyd, Jessica Yingling



SOUND TECHNICIANS

February 5	Nick Fink
February 12	Tony Verdi
February 19	Luke Verdi
February 22 (Ash Wednesday)	Matt Anticevich
February 26	Chris Johnson

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

February 5	Paige Gorman
February 12	Jessica Yingling
February 19	Mary Johnson
February 26	Barbara Ohler

USHERS

February 5	Team 5
February 12	Team 6
February 19	Team 1
February 22 (Ash Wednesday)	Team 2
February 26	Team 3

ALTAR FLOWERS

February 5	Michelle Beadle
February 12	Linda DeLauder
February 19	Andrew Corl
February 26	Karin Tome

MIDDLE SCHOOL HELPERS

February 5	Cara Johnson
February 12	Cody Brandenburg
February 19	Travis Tasker
February 26	Keri Weston

LAYREADERS

February 5	Gregg Petermann
February 12	Janet Lawler-Heavner
February 19	Ruth Falconer
February 26	Andrew Corl

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS/GROUPS

February 5	Kelly & Benny Greenberg
February 12	Diana Corl
February 19	Kim & Hunt Hughes
February 26	Parish Life

Church Attendance

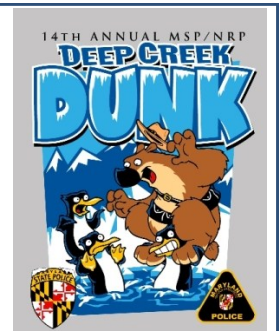
January 2011

	8:15 am	10:30 am
January 1	44	88
January 8	66	122
January 15	55	143
January 22	59	113
January 29	65	151
January Average —	181	
2012 Average —	181	

Community Outreach

Special Olympics Maryland

The Zecher family is once again taking the plunge on **Saturday, February 25th**. Keith and Lorena will be participating in the Deep Creek Dunk. This event is to raise money for Special Olympics Maryland. Donations can be made in person to Keith or Lorena or you can donate online at www.dunkmd.com. Please indicate that you would like to sponsor Keith or Lorena. Checks should be made out to Special Olympics Maryland. We would appreciate any donation that you can give.



*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
www.christreformeducc.org

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

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**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

*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.*



A Special Invitation for Our Elementary–Aged Kids (grades K-5)



**Cold, overcast skies got you down?
Is your indoor voice leaving you less than satisfied?
Sick of having nowhere to run, jump, and tumble?
Do you feel like you could just climb the walls?!**

If you answered “YES” to any of these questions, then it’s time to go

HEAD-OVER-HEELS FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE!!

Where: Frederick Gymnastics Club

4604 Wedgewood Blvd., Frederick, MD 21703

When: Sunday, March 18 from 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Wear: Come in your favorite relaxed clothes – socks are a must

What: Light snacks and drinks, open play and organized games



A Note For Parents and Caretakers

- ◆ Registration is required. Forms are available on our website, in the Narthex, and by request in the church office.
- ◆ The requested contribution per child is \$5.00.
- ◆ Friends are invited, but spaces are limited and will be filled on a first come, first served basis.
- ◆ Please drop your child(ren) off on-time and be ready for pick-up no later than 3:55.
- ◆ Children enrolled in kindergarten or above may be left without a parent. All younger children must have a parent or guardian present to participate.