



# The Beacon

Monthly Newsletter of Christ Presbyterian Church

January 2012

## Inside

Led by the Spirit  
Page 3

Music News  
Page 4

Mission News  
Page 6

## Our Mission:

United through Christ's love  
we are called to: graciously  
invite people to Jesus Christ;  
encourage spiritual growth;  
promote enriching worship;  
foster community; and  
equip members for faithful  
service in our church,  
community and world.



Tom Schwartz, Pastor  
[www.cpctoledo.org](http://www.cpctoledo.org)

## Capital Campaign Exceeds Goal Over \$860,000 in Pledges

During worship on Sunday, December 18, Phil Mintun announced that the Renewing our Vision Capital Campaign had pushed past the goal of \$800,000 by \$61,000 dollars. This is a wonderful accomplishment and we can all be grateful for the many people who have made a financial commitment to this special campaign. 125 pledges have already been received and we anticipate even more members will see the value of giving to this campaign to renew our mission and ministry.

We all need to extend a special thanks to the leaders of the campaign: Phil Mintun; Robert Burnett, Sr.; and Rachel Novakovic. They were assisted by our staff and 25 team leaders which included: Administrative Leaders - Barbara Ball, Nanci Poling; Advance Commitment Leaders - Jodi Schmidt, Jack Rogers; All Church Event Leaders - Kate Backoff, Dale Burnett, Kathy Frank, Karen Wharram; Bridge Leaders - Linda Smith, Robin Ratzenberger; Children's Leader - Amy Huffman; Information Meetings Leaders - Bill Drake, Cheryl Porrett; Invitation and Response Leaders - Liz Puskala, Sally Rose, Jim Wagner; Major Gifts Leaders - Craig Findley, Tim Schmidt; Prayer Leaders - Mary Wharram, Bruce Wharram; Print Package Leader - Kay Sellers; Student Leaders - Kim Long, Bob Lydy; and Visual Leaders - Bill Hobrecht, Michael Schwartz. We can also be grateful to the Deacons and several other members who gave of their time and energy. Our church consultant, Craig Miller, from RSI Consultants was a valuable resource throughout the campaign.

Though the Renewing our Vision Capital Campaign surpassed its goal, we still need to receive pledges for the 2012 Operating Budget. Many members have increased their pledges, but we still need to receive approximately \$40,000 in pledges. We have another 100 households that we hope to hear from this month.

## Annual Congregational Meeting

January 29, 2012

On Sunday, January 29, at 12:15 p.m. we will gather in Hansen Hall for our Annual Congregational Meeting which will include lunch, a visual review of the past year, and the appropriate business matters that we need to conduct. All are invited to attend.

## Pastor's Desk



Dear Friends,

I look forward to the coming year with a great amount of anticipation regarding our future ministry and mission. The success of the Renewing Our Vision Capital Campaign will enable us to make some significant building improvements and give more concentrated attention to hands-on mission, pastoral care, and outreach into the community. As your staff, elders, and deacons meet for this year's Planning Retreat, it will be a time to focus on how we can be more responsive to the needs of our membership and to the needs of our community. It will be a time for us to discern where God is leading us.

I look forward to the small groups that Kris and I will be leading during Lent which will focus on how we can enrich our spiritual lives. We will examine the strength that occurs in Christian community when each member takes the time to focus on his or her own strengths and pitfalls. We will reflect on ways that we can turn inward, before we offer quick judgments of others. I am reminded of the Anglican Bishop who died many years ago. In the crypts of Westminster Abbey I am told these words are written on his tomb:

“When I was young and free and my imagination had no limits, I dreamed of changing the world. As I grew older and wiser, I discovered the world would not change, so I shortened my sights somewhat and decided to change only my country.

But it, too, seemed immovable.

As I grew into my twilight years, in one last desperate attempt, I settled for changing only my family, those closest to me, but alas, they would have none of it.

And now as I lie on my deathbed, I suddenly realize: If I had only changed myself first, then by example I would have changed my family. From their inspiration and encouragement, I would then have been able to better my country and, who knows, I may have even changed the world.”

May the coming year provide each one of us with the opportunity to discern how we can nourish our spiritual lives, and then may we be ready for God to lead us into a hopeful, grace-filled future.

Blessings,



Tom Schwartz

## New Small Group Sermon Talks

A new small group opportunity for those seeking a supplemental Bible study to find deeper meaning in the Sunday morning sermon. You don't have to be a Bible guru; you simply have to want a deeper understanding of God's Word. Participants will read through and discuss the scripture passage that will be used for the upcoming sermon.

The group will meet every other Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. starting on January 24.

Please contact Pastor Kris for more information.

## Exploring Membership Class

Individuals who desire to be members of Christ Presbyterian Church are encouraged to get actively involved in worship and our wide variety of educational and service opportunities. To learn more about our church and its mission, you are invited to attend one of our Exploring Membership Classes that are taught by Pastor Tom Schwartz. This class includes participating in our “Discovering and Sharing Your Gifts, Talents, and Passion” course. Come with your questions, concerns and enthusiasm.

Our next class will be held on: **Thursday, January 26 from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.** with the companion class of Discovering Your Gifts on **Saturday, January 28 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** A dinner will be provided for Thursday night.

Please call 419-475-8629 to sign up.

## Lenten Series Companions in Christ

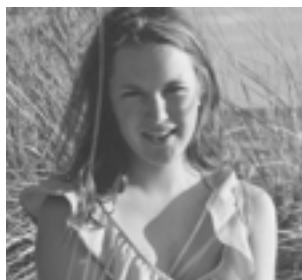
Do you want to grow deeper in your personal walk with God? Do you ever wonder what God's will is for your life? Have you ever wanted help listening for God's voice in your life? This year during the season of Lent as we journey together toward Easter, plan to join us for our 2012 Lenten Series, “Companions in Christ”. In this five week series during the season of Lent we will focus on growing in our personal faith and practice spiritual discernment. This series is sure to help you grow closer to God. More information will be coming soon.

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## Led by the Spirit....

### Meet Youth Deacon Taylor Hoffman

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The youth deacon for 2011 was Taylor Hoffman. Taylor is enthusiastic about serving in this position and feels any young person who is asked to serve should take advantage of the opportunity. She was honored to be the voice of the youth in planning church programs.

The position also provided her an opportunity to become acquainted with youth in all age groups.

Taylor is the only child of Jane and Gary Hoffman. She was born in Toledo and has lived here and attended CPC all of her life. Taylor is a senior at Notre Dame Academy and would like to attend either The Ohio State University or Michigan State University next year. Her preferred course of study is international business with a minor in French leading to a career with the U.N., FBI, or with an international business firm.

Taylor's favorite pastimes are reading and making friendship bracelets. She also enjoyed playing on the school soccer team until injuries took her out of the arena. Summer months are spent at the family cottage on Lake Michigan at Little Pointe Sable, where she enjoys water sports.

Serving as youth deacon was a valuable experience for Taylor, as she learned a great deal about the inner workings of the church – programs and projects. Working with the deacons and getting to know members of the church was an enriching experience in her faith journey.

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## We Need Your Help!

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There is a tremendous need for food and toiletries for the Feed Your Neighbor Program. Each Sunday, there will be a specific item listed in the bulletin for those wishing to participate. There will be marked boxes on carts in the Narthex and near the Hansen Hall doors.

January 1	Cereal
January 8	Soup or saltines
January 15	Canned vegetables
January 22	100 % juice – bottled or single-serving size
January 29	Tomato or spaghetti sauce or pasta

Powdered or canned milk is an essential item that can be brought in at any time.

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## Prime Time Luncheon

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A monthly educational ministry opportunity for all vibrant older adults. Participants enjoy lunch together, share in the joy of fellowship, and engage in creative and intriguing educational programs. January's program will be led by the Rev. Kris Schondelmeyer.

### Presbyterian's Today: How is Our Denomination Changing?

Wednesday, January 3  
12:00 p.m.

To reserve a seat, please contact Kay Korthuis by Sunday, January 1 at 734-854-7415 or email her at [kay.korthuis@gmail.com](mailto:kay.korthuis@gmail.com).

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## Deborah Circle Wednesday, January 11

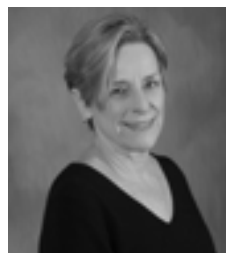
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The next Deborah Circle meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 11 at 12:30 p.m. Anyone is welcome to join us. We will be meeting at Christ Presbyterian Church.

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## Session Notes From November 29, 2011

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- Communion will be served the traditional method at the Christmas Eve 9:00 p.m. service.
- Communion will be served by intinction on January 1, 2012 at the 10:00 a.m. service.
- Session approved the baptism of Lawrence Jacob Hess infant son of Alice and Larry Hess on January 8, 2012. Time to be determined.

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## 2012 Chancel Flower Sign up

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The sign up sheets are now in the Narthex. What are Chancel Flowers? The Chancel Flowers are the beautiful arrangements that you see during the 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services. Christ Presbyterian Church has a wonderful flower team who arrange the flowers each week. People who sign up are either doing so in memory of a loved one or honoring a special occasion in their life. The flowers are then donated to the homebound to enjoy. Dates go quickly, so please sign up if you are interested. The cost is \$35.00. If you have any questions, please contact Tracy in the church office at 419-475-8629 or [tracy@cpctoledo.org](mailto:tracy@cpctoledo.org)

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## Heard and "Overheard"

(Congregation news compiled by Barb Ball)

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A New Year! A time for "Reviews and Resolutions" – thinking about our favorite parts of 2011 and changes we'll make in 2012! I hope you'll share the best part of both with your CPC family.

For Roger and Hattie Kate Howell an enjoyable occasion at the end of 2011 was a trip to

Minneapolis, Minnesota which made them both proud. They attended the graduation ceremony at Metro State University of their niece Katie Rom. Katie received her bachelor's degree in clinical psychology. She has been taking courses towards a master's at Adler University at same time and plans to continue her studies there.

Weddings are always happy occasions and two of them are in the news this month.

Roger and Ginny Baker traveled to Sanibel Island, Florida for a two week mini-family reunion and the wedding of their youngest granddaughter Emily Davis to Seth Kott. Emily is the daughter of Sally (Baker) and Ron Davis. The wedding took place on the beach with forty family members present. The couple will make their home in Rossford, Ohio.

On December 10, 2011, CPC member Marion Knauss and Richard Whitbeck were married at Swan Creek Retirement Village. The Rev. Dr. Christian Matthews, brother of the bride, officiated at the service and grandchildren from both sides of the family took part in the ceremony.

New babies never fail to bring joy to all who hear about them. So, I, Barb Ball, want to share the news of my first great-grandchild. Gavin Cruz Easter was born December 6, 2011 in Suisun, California to Matt and Lisa Easter. Proud grandparents are former CPC members Toby and Darlene (Ball) Easter of Lexington, Kentucky.

Wishing all a Happy and Newsworthy New Year! Send contributions to Barb Ball at 419-824-7906 or bar1tom2@bex.net.

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## Music News

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Now is a great time to join one of our choirs at Christ Presbyterian Church. Each ensemble will begin working on new music in our January rehearsals. We sing or ring a variety of music in each group and we have a great time doing it! Benefits include: singing/ringing praises to God and making beautiful music, great fellowship, new friendships, and spiritual refreshment. Following is our rehearsal schedule. Please contact Mark Mathias at mark@cpctoledo.org; or at the church at 419-475-8629 ext.: 25 for more information.

Our Chancel Choir rehearses on Thursdays at 7:15 p.m. Snowbirds and other part-time residents are welcome! We practice anthems for about six weeks (sometimes more) and have fun doing it!

Our Handbell Choir rehearses on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. Beginning music-reading skills are helpful; previous ringing experience is not necessary. Extra instruction for beginners is available.

Our Children's Choir practices on Sundays for 30 minutes after our 11:00 a.m. service (after the children have had time to get a cookie or two!). We enjoy learning songs about God and Jesus, playing instruments, and playing musical games.

### A Special Thank You

I would like to thank the CPC family for your prayers and encouragement since my accident in August.

I continue to undergo therapy for my hand and arm, and I am slowly regaining movement and flexibility in them.

Thank you to Bobbie Bean for her leadership with the choir and at the organ, and to Richard Martinez and Dan Ferguson for their assistance during my recuperation.

As we look to the New Year, I hope to return to playing the organ soon.

~Mark Mathias

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# Children and Family News

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## Advent Creations

Children and families enjoyed a festive Advent Celebration event on Sunday, December 11. Children made holiday crafts and treats for our homebound members. Good food, fun activities, and a great time were had by all.

## Warm Hearts from Head to Toe

During the month of January, children will be collecting mittens, gloves, hats, scarves and socks for needy children. Please bring items and place them in the WARM HEARTS basket located in the children's classroom wing. The items will then be delivered to a nearby mission center.

## Kids Fun Day

Kids in grades 2-5 are invited to join us for an exciting afternoon of fun on Saturday, January 14. The Children and Family Ministry team will take the kids to lunch and bowling. We will meet at the church at 11:00 a.m. and plan to return at 3:30 p.m. Drop your kids off for some fun and fellowship! Hope to see you there!

## Bake-a-thon

All children and their families are invited to make baked goods, trail mix treats, crafts, and greeting cards to give out to our homebound members and others in need of some Valentine's Day cheer. You can be part of the fun on Sunday, February 12 beginning at 12:00 p.m. The Bake-a-thon will be followed by a potluck lunch. We are asking each family to please sign up to bring a dish to share. Sign up sheets will be located on the classroom wing information table or you may call or e-mail Monica Mancy ([monica@cpctoledo.org](mailto:monica@cpctoledo.org)) with your interest in attending or helping out.

## Sunday Morning Tween Program

Chris Gaynor and Kim Long will be teaching "We Believe" for children in grades 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. The children will meet during the 11:00 a.m. service in the Tween room.

## "Splash!" Newsletter

Parents of infants, toddlers and twos are now mailed a monthly parenting newsletter specific to the age of their child. Parents of little ones receive their first newsletter when their child is one month old, and they continue to receive it until their little one reaches 36 months. The newsletter contains an abundance of fun and whimsical ideas, including a music CD, to help parents with their little one's faith formation. We hope parents enjoy this resource as they watch their child grow and change during these important years.

## Sunday Morning Godly Play Schedule

Children age 3 through 5<sup>th</sup> grades may accompany their parents to the worship service. Children will then be dismissed from worship about 15 minutes later with Monica Mancy for Godly Play or We Believe. Children can be picked up after the service in their designated classrooms in the children's wing.

Godly Play at 9:30 a.m. service is scheduled from 9:45 - 10:45:

Preschool (Age 3) -1 <sup>st</sup> grade	Room 7
Grades 2-5	Room 8

Godly Play at 11:00 a.m. service is scheduled from 11:15 - 12:15

Preschool - 1 <sup>st</sup> grade	Room 7
Grades 2-3	Room 8

*Take-home Scripture Verse:* When you pick up your child after worship, they will be bringing home a scripture verse to learn. The verse will be related to the story told that day. We appreciate your support of this activity at home.

*Offering:* We will be asking children to bring in a weekly offering. It will be collected each week and each room will decide on what project they will use the offering.

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## Youth News

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### Youth Group Ski Trip

Mark your calendars. The Youth Group is planning a ski weekend for February 10 - 11, at the Boyne Mountain Ski Resort. We must have at least 5 students to go. Please contact Pastor Kris if you are interested in attending. We hope you will choose to join us for this weekend of fun, fellowship, and devotion.

### Upcoming Youth Group Calendar

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>
Sunday, January 1	
<i>No Youth Group due to Christmas Break</i>	
Sunday, January 8	6:00 p.m.
<i>Materialism (Life After Christmas)</i>	
Sunday, January 15	6:00 p.m.
<i>Celebration of MLK</i>	
Sunday, January 22	6:00 p.m.
<i>Self Esteem: Having Faith in Yourself</i>	
Sunday, January 29	6:00 p.m.
<i>What if my friends aren't Christian?</i>	

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# THERE ARE A VARIETY OF WAYS TO SERVE OTHERS

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## **Kids Against Hunger January 28**

We will be assembling food packets along with members from Sylvania United Church of Christ on Saturday, January 28. This is a wonderful intergenerational activity that benefits hungry children and their families. This event will be held in Hansen Hall and it is coordinated by our Mission Team and the regional staff of Kids Against Hunger. Kids Against Hunger is a humanitarian food-aid organization that seeks to reduce the number of hungry children in the USA and feed starving children throughout the world. The organization's approach to achieving its goal - the eradication of world hunger - includes the packaging of a highly nutritious, vitamin-fortified soy-rice casserole by volunteers at numerous locations within the USA and Canada, and the distribution of those meals to starving children and their families in over 60 countries through partnerships with humanitarian organizations worldwide.



## **Disaster Recovery Trip: Joplin, Missouri April 29 to May 5**

Over the last few years we have sent out Disaster Recovery Mission Teams to help people cope with the effects of tornados, hurricanes and floods. The work has primarily consisted of demolition, framing, drywalling and carpentry. We are sending another Mission Team out to Joplin, Missouri to help in their recovery from a tornado. We will leave on Sunday, April 29 and return on Saturday, May 5. For further information, please contact Bob Burnett or Rev. Tom Schwartz.



## **Mexico Mission August 2 to August 7**

We have sent two mission teams to Mexico to work with Dios es Amor Presbyterian Church in Mexico City. We join with them as they caravan to a village community in the mountains of Mexico. They provide health care, clothing, construction support, and children's programs. We have had a wonderful time serving with our brothers and sisters in Mexico and you are invited to join us on this year's trip. Tentative dates: Thursday, August 2 to Tuesday, August 7. For further information, please contact Rachel Novakovic or Rev. Tom Schwartz.



## **The Corner and Corner Lite**

We provide a warm meal for our neighbors in need on the last Monday of each month (The Corner) and a lighter meal on the Monday before The Corner. This mission endeavor provides a time for fellowship and a free healthy meal. A group of women, men and youth help in the preparation and serving of this meal. Everyone is invited to join in this mission to feed the hungry. Call Deb Johnson or the church office for more information.

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<b>1 New Year's Day</b> 10:00 a.m. Service in the Sanctuary 11:00 a.m. Fellowship	<b>2</b> <b>Church and Offices Closed</b>	<b>3</b> 10:00 a.m. New Membership Outreach Meeting 6:00 p.m. Special Events Team Meeting 7:00 p.m. Deacons 7:00 p.m. 20:30 Small Group	<b>4</b> 9:30 a.m. Staff Mtg. 12:00 p.m. Prime Time Luncheon 2:00 p.m. Joys and Challenges Small Group 5:00 p.m. Worship, Music, and the Arts Team Meeting	<b>5</b> 6:45 a.m. Men's Small Group 5:30 p.m. Celebrate Singers 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Youth Ministry Team Meeting 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship Meeting
<b>8</b> 8:30 a.m. Chapel Service 9:15 a.m. Fellowship Time 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Service 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 11:00 a.m. Traditional Service 12:00 p.m. Fellowship Time 12:00 p.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal 4:30 p.m. Youth 1 <sup>st</sup> Fun Day 6:00 p.m. Disciples Bible Study	<b>9</b> 9:30 a.m. Sewing and Service Group 4:00 p.m. Mission Team Meeting 5:30 p.m. Personnel Team Meeting 7:00 p.m. Community Outreach Small Group	<b>10</b> 7:00 p.m. Buildings and Ground Team Meeting	<b>11</b> 9:30 a.m. Staff Mtg. 12:30 p.m. Deborah Circle Meeting	<b>12</b> 6:45 a.m. Men's Small Group 5:30 p.m. Celebrate Singers 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 11:00 a.m. Children and Family Ministry Kids Fun Day
<b>15</b> 8:30 a.m. Chapel Service 9:15 a.m. Fellowship Time 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Service 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 11:00 a.m. Traditional Service 12:00 p.m. Fellowship Time 12:00 p.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Disciples Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Youth Night	<b>16</b> <b>Church and Offices Closed</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 9:30 a.m. Staff Mtg. 2:00 p.m. Joys and Challenges Small Group	<b>19</b> 6:45 a.m. Men's Small Group 5:30 p.m. Celebrate Singers 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship Meeting
<b>22</b> 8:30 a.m. Chapel Service 9:15 a.m. Fellowship Time 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Service 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 11:00 a.m. Traditional Service 12:00 p.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Disciples Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Youth Night	<b>23</b> 9:30 a.m. Sewing and Service 5:30 p.m. Corner Life	<b>24</b> 10:00 a.m. Sermon Talks Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting 8:30 a.m. Adult Education/Small Group Meeting	<b>25</b> 9:30 a.m. Staff Mtg. 2:00 p.m. Joys and Challenges Small Group	<b>26</b> 6:45 a.m. Men's Small Group 5:30 p.m. Celebrate Singers 6:00 p.m. Exploring Membership Class 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 9:00 a.m. Discovering Your Gifts Class
<b>29</b> 8:30 a.m. Chapel Service 9:15 a.m. Fellowship Time 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Service 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 11:00 a.m. Traditional Service 12:00 p.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Disciples Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Youth Night	<b>30</b> 5:30 p.m. The Corner 7:00 p.m. Community Outreach Small Group	<b>31</b> 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting 8:30 p.m. Adult Education/Small Group Team Meeting	<div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 10px; display: inline-block; font-weight: bold; font-size: 24px;">January</div>			