



The Beacon

Monthly Newsletter of Christ Presbyterian Church

January 2009

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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
Amy Rudiger, Associate Pastor
www.cpctoledo.org

Annual Congregational Luncheon and Meeting Set for Sunday, February 1

Our annual meeting will begin with a luncheon in Hansen Hall following the 11:00 a.m. service. Delicious soups, breads, fresh vegetables/dip, and homemade brownies and cookies will be served.

All members are invited to attend.

The meeting will include a slide presentation of church events and singing. Child care will be provided.

Prime Time

A Monthly Luncheon for Vibrant Older Adults

We are excited about our new monthly luncheon for vibrant older adults. Join with us on the first Wednesday of each month at noon for a delicious lunch with friends and dialogue about the things that are important to you.

January 7 – Staff from West Park Place will share with us what they know about how to keep our brains healthy and active and our memories sharp in “Mind Matters: Brain Fitness and Healthy Aging.” Call or e-mail Kay Korthuis at 734-854-7415 or kay.korthuis@gmail.com to reserve your space for lunch as soon as possible.

If you have suggestions for topics or speakers, please talk to Kay Korthuis or Joelyn Stone.

Pastor's Desk



Dear Friends,

As we begin a new calendar year, there are many reasons for us to be thankful. It is certainly true that the downturn to our economy has touched the lives of almost everyone in our congregation. Some of our members have had to respond to significant losses in income. However, it is also true that many members have found value in offering support to our church and in increasing their giving to those who are in great need.

It was a joy to see dozens of families drop Christmas packages off at the church which were given to 75 low-income families in Sylvania. Other members helped to pack food boxes which were offered to families during Thanksgiving and Christmas. Our Mission Ministry team recently designated \$7,000 to assist community agencies that are working closely with the poor and the homeless.

It is a wonderful sign of Christian commitment and compassion when people who are experiencing loss of personal income are still willing to give to others. I hope we will continue to see value in assisting those who are in great need. The Bible certainly calls us to love our neighbor.

I was also delighted to hear our choirs perform at our recently held Christmas Concert. Many thanks need to be given to Ron Prebe, Bobbie Bean, and Amy Findley for their musical leadership. We also need to be grateful for the talented men, women, and children who sang or rang bells during the festive event. Our children's choir continues to grow and it is wonderful to experience the energy and enthusiasm they bring to worship.

In January, our new Session and Deacons will be joining together for a retreat at the lodge at Oak Openings Metropark. It will be a time for forty of us to gather and begin setting our new goals and objectives for ministry. Despite all the economic challenges that face us, I am very hopeful for the ministry and mission we will be able to offer in the coming year.

Peace and Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Schwartz".

Tom Schwartz

Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study

Over the last two years we have offered the Disciple Bible Study Series, intensive, high commitment year-long studies that encourage Bible study that transforms lives and shapes disciples. Over 40 adults took the year long Old and New Testament overview two years ago and most of those continued on in second year offerings focused on Jesus and the Gospels and Genesis, Exodus, Luke and Acts. Those who have taken these classes have found that the benefits to their spiritual life far outweigh the cost of the time commitment. We are excited to be able to once again offer the first year Bible overview of the Old and New Testament. Dick Griffith, who has completed the first two years of the Disciple Bible study series and is moving on to the third year will lead the class. Disciple I is open to all adults. There is a half hour of Bible reading and study each day during the week and a two and a half hour class each week with DVD teachings from preachers and scholars across denominations. Pastors Tom and Amy will make regular "guest appearances" to the class to help address difficult questions. The cost of the class is \$35 for the study manual plus an additional cost if student needs to purchase a new study Bible. The Disciple I class will be either Wednesdays 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. or 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. beginning February 2009. Please prayerfully consider if God is calling you to participate in this class at this time and sign up for one of these times at the church or contact Amy Rudiger with your preference. We need a minimum of seven registered to run the class.

Disciple Bible Study Offerings: Beyond Year One

For those who have completed the first year of the Disciple Bible studies, we will be offering two new studies. Sundays from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Pastor Tom will be leading an eight week study on Paul's letter to the Romans beginning February 1. The cost of the class is \$8.00 for the Participant's Guide. Tuesdays, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Pastor Amy will be leading Disciple III (you do not need Disciple II to take this class), a yearlong study of the major and minor prophets and the letters traditionally attributed to Paul. This study will begin March 3. The cost of the class is \$35 for the study manual. Please prayerfully consider whether God is calling you to participate in either of these classes. Sign up at the church or talk to Pastors Tom and Amy to register.

Sunday Morning Bible Study

2009 is a great time to get involved in our Sunday morning Bible study that meets 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. in Scott Hall! In January and February we'll be studying Old Testament people of commitment, exploring what it means to say "yes" to God. Our pledge to join God's mission in the world may take us across the street, around the world or anywhere in between. This class wants to know: Are you ready to join God's mission, God's adventure?

Small Group Update

You cannot be a Christian alone. We need the Christian community to support us and hold us accountable. Our small groups are a great way to make friends with faithful Christians who have your best interest at heart and who are seeking God's will in their life. We have groups for study, service and fellowship; men, women, and mixed groups; young, middle aged, and older adults and mixed aged groups. Visit www.cpctoledo.org/small_group for detailed descriptions of our groups and the latest information.

Our Groups

20/30 – For adults in their twenties and thirties.

Boomer Women – Boomer –aged (or almost) women who are beginning a monthly free dinner program.

Busy People Seeking – Multi-aged group engaged in study in people's homes.

Community Outreach – For anyone interested in serving outside the church walls.

Deborah Circle – A women's book/Bible study.

Joys and Challenges – For older adults seeking fellowship and support.

Men's Group – For men of all ages.

Moms' Group – For moms of all ages with children of all ages.

Sarah Circle – A women's book study.

Sewing and Service - A group for those who sew, quilt, knit, crochet, or embroider.

Deborah Circle

The next Deborah Circle meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 14, 2009, at 12:30 p.m. Anyone is welcome to join us. We will be meeting at Jan Sellers' home. Her address is: 5916 Cresthaven Lane, Apt 317B.

If you have any questions, or would like directions, please call Jan at 419-861-6133.

Sarah Circle

Sarah circle would like to express a big thank you for all the help the children gave to the military mission in their gifts for our servicemen. Their gifts were much appreciated.

We are still collecting items for our servicemen from the congregation and they can be dropped off at the church anytime. Items we send include AA batteries, Gold Bond lotion, foot powder, wet wipes, playing cards, small games, CD's and chapstick. We are also collecting for the Hope Center. They are currently in need of powdered laundry detergent, toilet paper, paper towels, dish soap, hand soap and paper plates.

Our next meeting will be in January 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the Church.

TARP Silver Lining

The Troubled Asset Relief Program, commonly known as the \$700 billion bailout of Wall Street, may have a hidden silver lining. We reported at the end of 2007 that Congress had enacted the Pension Protection Act in 2006 which allowed persons over age 70 ½ to exclude a qualifying charitable gift out of their IRA accounts from taxable income, meaning that a person over the age of 70 ½ would not have to pay income tax on a qualifying charitable distribution from the person's IRA account. This can result in a significant income tax savings. This provision of the 2006 law expired, however, at the end of 2007.

With the passage of TARP, Congress extended this provision of the PPA of 2006 for another year. Therefore, persons age 70 ½ or older may still, through the end of this year, make a contribution from their IRA accounts to a qualifying charity. Christ Presbyterian Church, along with most churches, qualifies. For example, one could pay off the remainder of his church pledge from his IRA and not be charged the income tax on the amount contributed to CPC from the IRA account. Members could also make tax free distributions to the CPC Endowment Fund, or the Memorial Fund, or make a special gift to the mission work of CPC, tax free, from an IRA account. December 31, 2008 is the deadline and the gift must be completed by then. Be sure to call your tax advisor before making the gift to be certain that you are properly directing your IRA funded contribution to the charity.

Jeff Lydy, Chair
Endowment Fund

The Gift That Keeps on Giving

Here is an opportunity to provide a unique gift for the entire family. Sam Rice, our nurse/missionary friend in Haiti, the most impoverished country in the western hemisphere, has started several Christian schools in southern Haiti, where there are no public schools. For the sum of only \$200 per 10 month school year, you can sponsor a Haitian child to one of these Christian schools. The education of Haiti's children is about the only hope for the future of this impoverished country. Rewards for this project are multifold; you'll receive a photo of your child along with a biographical data sheet and several personal letters during the school year. For more information, please contact the Wharram's at 419-882-3237 or bruce.wharram@sev.org.

Mission News

For the period of August 25 - November 30 we gave a total of 2310 pounds of fresh produce and pantry items to the Toledo Northwest Ohio Foodbank which provided 458 meals.

Our New Elders and Deacons

Elders

Jon Bossenbroek

Jon joined Christ Presbyterian Church last year and he has been serving on the Equipping Ministry Team. Jon is married and the father of Justin, Eric, and Ryan. He is an Assistant Professor at the University of Toledo. He attended the Change the World Conference this fall and found it to be rewarding and encouraging. He has participated in Habitat for Humanity and other construction projects at our church. He enjoys spending time with his children, reading, hiking, biking and camping.

Beth Carlson

Beth is a technology coordinator at Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania. She has been an active volunteer in our children's ministry programs and she joined Christ Presbyterian Church earlier this year. Beth is married and the mother of T.J. She enjoys skiing, scuba diving, tennis, reading, and anything having to do with computers and traveling.

Bill Hylan

Bill has been a member at Christ Presbyterian Church for over 16 years. He previously served as an Elder and our Church Treasurer. He is the Chief Financial Officer for Toledo Molding and Die, Inc. He has valued the people that attend CPC and the mission and outreach support to our membership. Bill also enjoys college football, basketball, and playing golf.

Bob Lydy

Bob joined Christ Presbyterian Church ten years ago and he has previously served as a Youth Deacon. He currently works as a landscaper. Bob has always felt welcomed at CPC and he has enjoyed getting involved in youth activities. He enjoys working outdoors and spending time in active pursuits like camping, hiking and skiing.

Robin Ratzenberger

Robin had been a member of Christ Presbyterian Church since 1994 and she has served as both an Elder and a Deacon. She is involved in Sales/Product Development for Sunline Designs. She is married and the mother of Karly and Jack. She has been active on our Youth Ministry Team and active on mission projects. Robin coaches girls volleyball and is the team manager for a traveling hockey team.

Phillip Mintun

Phil joined Christ Presbyterian Church last year and in his previous church he coordinated their participation in a Habitat for Humanity building program. He is a banker with Capstar Partners Capital LLC. Phil is married and the father of Ann and Matthew. He enjoys reading, skiing, golfing and sailing.

Youth Elder

Travis Zeh

Travis is a student at Southview High School and is active in the band. He has been attending Christ Presbyterian Church his whole life and is active in the youth program where he has shown his leadership in various projects. He is also one of our sound and light technicians for our services.

Deacons

Jen Barkley

Jen is a Tastefully Simple Consultant and a Teacher's Aide for Perrysburg Schools. Jen has taken an active role in Children's Ministry and Vacation Bible School at Christ Presbyterian Church where she has been a member for eight years. She is the mother of Griffen and Gage, and enjoys cooking, making cards, scrapbooking, running, and reading.

Dan Ferguson

Dan has been a member of Christ Presbyterian Church for six years. He is a paid soloist in our Chancel Choir and recently served on the Director of Music Ministry Search Committee. Dan is a recently retired teacher from the Toledo Public Schools. Dan is married and the father of a large and active family.

Judy Noll

Judy has been a member of Christ Presbyterian Church for over 20 years. She is married and has two grown daughters, Deborah and Jodie. She is a homemaker and takes an active role in caring for her grandchildren. Judy has found CPC to be a supportive and friendly community and she has particularly enjoyed meeting with couples in dinner groups.

Phyllis VanTassel

Phyllis first joined Christ Presbyterian Church in 1962 and is a retired school teacher from the Washington Local School District. She currently volunteers at St. Luke's hospital and at schools. She has two children and loves to travel and enjoys helping others through difficult times.

Youth Deacon

Ashley Hendrix

Ashley is a student at Northview High School and is active in the arts program and runs on the Cross Country and Track team. She has been attending Christ Presbyterian Church her entire life. She has attended three Youth Workcamps and enjoys helping others who are less fortunate. Ashley also volunteers her time with seniors at Oakleaf Village Retirement Home.

Souper Bowl of Caring

Outside the church walls, February 1, 2009 is Super Bowl XLIII. But within the walls of thousands of Christian churches, February 1, 2009 is the Souper Bowl of Caring. The Souper Bowl is a grassroots movement led by youth that strives to do some good for those in need on a day when corporations often spend millions of dollars to advertise during the big game. 100% of the money collected during the Souper Bowl of Caring goes directly to the organization of our choice. Donations received will stay right here in Toledo to help those in need. Look for soup pot wielding youth on Sunday, February 1, 2009 as you leave worship to make your donation and to make a difference.

Aliens in America: The Wharrams' Experiences with Foreign Exchange Students

Howard and Karen Wharram and their family have been host to foreign exchange students from around the world – literally! Their “family” hails from Brazil, China, Croatia, Finland, Ghana, Holland, Japan, Russia, and Switzerland, In the process, they’ve learned much about the different cultures of the world and about our brothers and sisters around the globe. Join with them Sunday, February 8 at 12:15 p.m. in Hansen Hall as they share some of their experiences and wisdom. Bring your favorite international dish (or bring something wholly American!), as we celebrate the things that unite us and the things that make us unique.

Sign Up for Chancel Flowers

If you would like to remember a loved one or share a special day in your life, please sign up for Chancel Flowers. The cost of the flowers is \$35.00 and they can be given to the homebound to enjoy or taken home after the service. Sign up sheets are available on the table in the Narthex or call Tracy in the office.

We Need Your Help!

There is a tremendous need for food and toiletries at the Northwest Ohio Food Bank and the Feed Your Neighbor Programs. 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 4	Canned meats, pastas, stews
January 11	Canned Vegetables
January 18	100% Juice - bottle or serving size
January 25	Cereal

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

Heard and “Overheard” (Congregation news compiled by Barb Ball)



There is a lot of news about new grandchildren this month.

Doug and Roz Reeve’s daughter Kim Ellis and her husband Jason welcomed the second son to their family on November 13, 2008. Sawyer Thomas weighed in at 9 pounds 11 ounces! He has a three year old brother, Jonas. Kim and Jason were married at CPC by the Reverend Jim Cobb.

Dick and Joyce Lewis have a new granddaughter. Izabelle Emma Webb came into the family on December 11, 2008. Her parents are Brad and Susan Webb.

Andrea Shibley became a first time grandparent with the birth of a granddaughter on December 9, 2008. Grace Lia’s parents are Robert and Araz Shibley. Jamile Shibley is the baby’s grandfather.

Grandchildren seem to be the theme of this column. Ken and Carlene McCartney are very proud of two of their granddaughters. Raychel Miller, a junior at Roosevelt High School in Wyandotte, Michigan, is a member of the school choir group that has been selected to take part in President Obama’s inaugural parade. Raychel’s cousin, Chelsey McCartney, a high school senior, just received her acceptance to attend Pennsylvania State University next fall.

Jan Sellers is looking forward to having eleven members of her family, children and grandchildren for a Christmas celebration on December 27, 2008. Jan will spend Christmas with former members, Tim and Jodie Yard, at their home in South Lyon, Michigan.

Trisha Welly, daughter of Ray and Gayle Welly, is making a move to Madison, Wisconsin to take a new position there. She and her mom recently spend a weekend in the city locating the perfect apartment.

Congratulations to all of you!

If you have any news, please email or call me or leave the information in my CPC mailbox in the workroom.

Wishing a blessed Christmas to all!

Children's and Family Ministries

Needed Family Registration Forms

Because we are updating our family records, seeking e-mail addresses, checking grade levels and other information that may help us in working with your children, we are asking families to complete a Children's and Family Ministry Registration Form. Also, because we now put photos of our children's activities on our web site, we need to secure written permission from families. This form includes a section asking parents their preferences regarding use of photos of their children. Copies can be found on the classroom wing information table. There is also a basket there to leave the registration form. Families that have not completed a registration form will be mailed one in January. Thanks for your cooperation with this.

Children's Choir Rehearsal Dates

The Children's Choir will rehearse Sundays, January 4 and 18 at 6:30 p.m. In February, the rehearsal dates are Sundays, February 8 and 15. Children, youth and family suppers are served at 6:00 p.m. those evenings. A potluck supper is scheduled for February 8 following the Children's and Family Bake-a-thon (See details below). Please note that a rehearsal will NOT be held February 1 due to Super Bowl Sunday activities.

Sunday, February 8 Bake-a-thon at 5:00 p.m.

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 8 beginning at 5:00 p.m. The Bake-a-thon will be followed by a potluck dinner at 6:00 p.m. We are asking each family to please sign up to bring a dish or a dessert. We also need volunteers to help with the activities. Sign up sheets will be located on the classroom wing information table or you may call or e-mail Mary Bielen (mary@cpctoledo.org) explaining your interest in attending or helping out.

Changes to be Made Parents' Morning Out Program

Beginning in February we are asking Parent's Morning Out families to register and pay for their children one month in advance. So if you intend to bring your child to Parent's Morning Out in February, they need to be registered by Monday, January 26th. You may contact Mary Bielen to register your child.

Wanted: "Cooking for a Crowd" Ideas

The Children's and Family Ministry Team is seeking recipes that work for preparing a supper for a crowd (50+ people). If you have any recipes in this category that you have tried and that have worked, please send them to Mary Bielen.

Children and Their Families Visit the White House Christmas Tree Farm

Several of our families visited the Whitehouse Christmas Tree Farm on December 6th to donate \$150.00 toward the purchase of three trees to be sent to our troops serving in the United States and abroad. Two trees were purchased with the children's Sunday School collection and the third tree was purchased with a donation from one of our families. Our children wrote notes and made pictures to send with the trees.

Children Decorate Hansen Hall Tree

Children, youth, and adults enjoyed a festive Advent Creations event on Sunday, December 7. The Children made ornaments and decorations for a church tree and also some ornaments to take home. Good food, fun activities, and a great time was had by all.

Vacation Bible School Leadership Team Needed

The Children and Family Ministry Team is seeking to recruit a Vacation Bible School Leadership Team by February 28. The team will be responsible for organizing and leading the various activities that make for a fun and exciting program that our children and their friends will thoroughly enjoy. We are seeking a team of eight people to serve as leaders for the following VBS activities: crafts, snacks, music, games, bible storytelling, missions, decorating, and the opening and closing assemblies. Please let Mary Bielen or a member of the Children's and Family Ministry Team know if you are interested in serving in this capacity. By being able to organize this team by the end of February we will be able to move forward with offering a fun and exciting VBS!

Youth News

Youth Ski Trip

Each winter our youth converge on Boyne Mountain in Michigan for a weekend of skiing, snowboarding, tubing, indoor water park-ing, hot chocolate, nighttime movies by the fire, a little friendly pranking, and a whole lot of fun. Dates for this year's trip are being discussed now. Visit www.boyne.com to check out their lift and rental rates. In past years we have left after school on Friday and skied Saturday and half a day Sunday and returned home Sunday evening. Check our website often for the latest information on dates and plans. Friends are welcome.

Do You Have Your Passport?

For those youth and adults who are going on our summer Workcamp to Walpole Island, Ontario July 5-11, 2009, don't wait until the last minute to make sure you have an up-to-date passport or passport card. Visit www.cpctoledo.org/workcamp and click on the link for Passport and Trip Cost details for everything you need to know about passports and passport cards.

Session Meeting Highlights for November 25



Kay Korthis
Assistant Clerk

Because both the Schwartz family and the Brownlees were away traveling for the Thanksgiving holiday, the Reverend Amy Rudiger moderated the meeting and Kay Korthis (assistant clerk) recorded the minutes. Highlights follow.

1) Christian Education

Children and Family Ministry

- Advent/Christmas children's mission project is "Trees for Troops," a national program that sends Christmas trees to military personnel serving overseas as well as the military bases in the U.S. We will use the money from the children's offering to pay for the trees.

Adult Education Ministry

- "Prime Time" series of programs will be offered for active older adults at noon on the first Wednesday of each month, beginning on 1/7/09 with "Mind Matters:" Brain Fitness and on 2/3/09 with "Food Matters:" Body Fitness.
- "Conversations over Lunch" on 2/8/09 following the 11:00 a.m. worship service in the Sanctuary Howard and Karen Wharram will discuss their experience with hosting foreign exchange students.

2) Equipping Ministry

- A "Classified Ads" poster has been placed on the wall near the Pastor's office for posting sign-up sheets for upcoming projects or events.

3) Personnel

- Agreed on 2009 Personnel budget to present to Finance Team and Session.

4) Stewardship/Finance Team Report

- Reports generated by Brad Johnson and Jeff Long were distributed: 1) 2009 Stewardship Campaign Results to date with one graph showing number of members with dollar amount changes in pledges (2008 to 2009), and a second graph showing number of members with percentage increases over their 2008 pledges. 2) Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual (1/1/08 through 10/31/08) along with cash balances for the same dates.
- Jeff Long summarized their reports as follows:
 - 1) Receipt of \$453,000 in pledges to date this year; best estimate for year-end total stands at \$510,000 (vs. \$499,000 in 2008 and \$508,000 in 2007); 2) As of 10/31/08, income minus expenses resulted in

a net income of minus \$28,322.41, and cash available equaled \$19,036.99.

5) Old Business - Undesignated Giving

- Amy reminded the session that \$15,000 is available from the gift from the estate of Marilyn Ohr for special projects.
Options briefly discussed included the following: 1) youth room renovation, 2) chapel: new carpeting and seating, 3) improved sound system (microphones) for chancel area: Ron Prebe is currently analyzing needs as sound does not carry well to the back of the sanctuary, 4) choir robes for the children's choir, and 5) professional audit of CPC books.
- Amy asked members to submit proposals for special projects to the session for future consideration. Deadline (to Tracy): Thursday, January 22, 2009 at noon (prior to the January session meeting).

6) New Business

- It was moved and seconded that the CPC annual meeting be held after the last service on Sunday, 2-1-09. Motion approved.

7) Active members who need to be moved to Inactive Status

- Twenty-seven individuals will be sent a letter informing them that we are updating our church rolls and, since they have not attended for over two years, they are immediately being placed Inactive Status and may choose to be removed from the rolls.

8) Building and Grounds

- The repairs to the slate roof and the electrical work in the basement have been completed. Dick Griffith questioned if the roof work was completed as he had seen a pile of slate in the front when he was at church this week; Randy Rubley will investigate that.
- The work on the LED sign on the corner is almost completed (still needs trim finishing) despite damage to wiring to the floodlight wiring (which was repaired).
- Estimates for the cost to replace the heating pump in Hansen Hall included \$979 for the pump and \$300 for labor. It was moved and seconded that up to \$1,500 be approved to replace the heating pump for Hansen Hall. Motion carried.
- The floodlight directed at the cross in front is not working. Randy Rubley will get an estimate for a new and more efficient floodlight prior to our next meeting. (A timer is in place for use.)
- The wiring upgrade in Hansen Hall remains to be completed.