

Christ Church Update

Week of October 15, 2012

"Living Christ's Ways and Exploding With Love & Service."

On Sunday, October 14, we observed a Children's Sabbath at Christ Church. Members of United Methodist Women led us in worship that focused our attention on God's call to justice and mercy. The children shared their Creation artwork in our bulletins and on the windows and led us in a Creation Rap! They joyfully reminded us to celebrate life! A special treat was the prayer offered by Nicky Sebastiano at the 11 am worship celebration. Beverly Newkirk of "It Takes A Village" brought the morning message. Her program promotes the well-being of inner city residents of all ages, empowering them to become productive citizens. Beverly encouraged us to use the E method of meeting people at the point of their need by engaging, embracing, enhancing, enlightening, enriching, energizing, educating, entrusting, empowering and employing them. It starts with love, God's love for us that we show to others. Tina Houston McCrea, accompanied by Bill Bauza, reminded us that we're loved through her moving expression of the song "Jesus Loves Me."

We were joined this past Sunday by 146 worshippers and the 11 am gathering was able to hear Pastor BJ greeting us by phone from Uganda. The medical team has treated 1200 people during their visit. Pastor BJ has caught a cold, but continues to connect with others and teach. The team will return to western NY on Wednesday evening. By Sunday they may be reoriented to this time zone. Be gentle with them!

On Sunday afternoon at 3pm more than 200 family members and friends gathered to celebrate the life of Carmen Ticconi, who died on October 8. Rev. Drew Heitzenrater, former pastor, led the service, remembering the 16 years that he shared with Carmen on the Christ Church staff. Carmen served as our receptionist and went far beyond her job description as she welcomed and cared for every person who came through the doors. Diane Poe Schroeder provided music along with Amy Schroeder on violin and the choir offered their gift of music as well. My thanks to all the women and men who helped at the reception following the service including several members of the Elizabeth Circle of which Carmen was a member. Carmen's daughters, Carlina and Alicia provided each woman at the memorial service with a pink rose, honoring their mother and grandmother's battle with breast cancer and encouraging awareness and prevention when it comes to our health.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and we continue to focus on this issue as we help "Paint The Town Pink," and our church as well, in support. The Remembrance Board in the sanctuary is a place to honor, remember and celebrate all the people we love who have lived with any kind of cancer. Please continue to add names as they come to mind.

Keep in your prayers the Uganda Mission Team and the Habitat Women Build Team who continue their work to finish the house on Guilford St.

Our prayers are with Alicia Ticconi and Carlina Horley and the family of Carmen Ticconi. Memorials may be made to Christ Church in Carmen's name, and also donations to the Susan G. Komen for a Cure foundation. Also keep in your prayers Don Munson, who has had pneumonia and is currently in the Wesley Rehab unit at Beechwood. Prayers are also requested for Ruth Kitson, Marian Steve, Nicky Sebastiano, and Barbara McCray.

Watch and plan for these upcoming events...

- Harvest Dinner, this Friday, October 19, 4-7pm, sponsored by the United Methodist Women's group to support UMW mission projects. Sign up to help! Call Janet Hill with questions.
- A Women's Spring Retreat is being held April 26-28 at Camp Asbury Silver Lake in the brand new Manor! Facilitator, Rev. Gail Lewis will lead us in a theme, "Called to Be Friends". A deposit of \$75 due by this coming Sunday, October 21st will hold your spot. Contact Peggy Bermudez or Beth Sweet with questions. All women are invited!
- M & M Sunday (Mission & Ministry) Come see and hear about all the mission & ministry opportunities available in and through Christ Church. Find the place where you and your gifts make a difference!
- Annual Church Conference, Sunday, October 21, 3pm, led by Rev Wayne Butler, District Superintendent.
- Howling With Laughter women's gathering , Monday, October 29, 7 pm at the church. All women are invited to come (in costume if you like) to share in a howling good time! Watch out! There'll be lots of surprises!
- AARP Safe Driver Course, Friday, Nov. 2, 9am to 4pm. Cost is \$17 for AARP members, \$19 for non-members. Course is FREE to Veterans, and their family members during November. Lunch may be purchased for \$6 or bring your own. The class is currently full. You may be added to a waiting list.

Believe it or not CHILDREN, YOUTH AND ADULTS will have the opportunity this Sunday to sign up for parts in our Christmas Pageant, "Tell Me The Story of Christmas." This Christmas musical includes speaking, non-speaking, singing and instrumental opportunities. There's a place for everyone!! Look for the sign up board on Sunday! rehearsals begin next week.

Loving God, how good it is to know people who give us reason to call you Loving God, Caring Parent, Accepting Friend, Comforting Companion. Sometimes we like to imagine that we're independent people. And then we remember family and friends, teachers, mentors, and so many others who have given us so much, who have shaped our lives and been there all along, even when we didn't notice, those who have helped bring us this far by faith. For these wonderful devoted friends and family, our encouragers, God we give you our deepest thanks.

Keep celebrating life!

With Joy,

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