

# Weekly Update – October 18, 2016

## A Personal Word ... From Jim Pollard

### *Looking to the Future of Christ Church*

This is an important year in the life of Christ Church –a year of visioning and planning as we look to the future. The first step in this journey is a half-day planning retreat on Saturday, Oct. 29, 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM. – and you are invited to participate.

It is a time devoted to discovering God’s vision for Christ Church. We will offer our prayers, our hopes, our thoughts, our feelings, ideas, dreams about the purpose and opportunities for the ministries of Christ Church as we look to the next years. I’ve even referred to this time as a “refounding” of the church – clarifying the purpose and mission of the church in a community and world that is changing, and finding the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to do whatever is necessary to engage in vital ministry in the years ahead.

The results of the retreat will be shaped into a purpose statement that will be discussed with all church members in a series of small-group gatherings that will take place in the months following the retreat, and through that process, a strategic plan will be developed at a second retreat to be held in the spring – and the plan will then be presented to the church for affirmation, and serve to guide the ministry of the church in the next several years.

Guiding the process will be the Rev. Dr. John Wimberly, Jr. a consultant in church planning and ministry. Dr. Wimberly is an ordained Presbyterian pastor, an experienced consultant, and author of two books on church planning and development. His role is to assist us in our journey into the future. He will ask leading questions, challenging questions, and help us discover the decisions that we need to make as we shape our ministry for the next years ahead.

If you decide to participate, please note:

- Full time participation is essential -- 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM
- Please notify the church office by Monday, Oct. 24 if you plan on participating.
- While lunch is not included in the day, refreshments will be available throughout the morning – so please let us know if you are coming, so we can make proper arrangements. (A kitchen crew is not needed – a neighboring church has been asked to care for the refreshments and kitchen duties, so we can concentrate on the retreat opportunity).
- Dr. Wimberly has provided web links to four articles: please read them in advance: (printed copies will be available in the church office and on Sunday, Oct. 23 for those who do not access by computer).

<http://www.congregationalconsulting.org/what-i-no-longer-believe-about-congregations/>

<http://www.congregationalconsulting.org/spiritual-formation-future-church/>

<http://www.congregationalconsulting.org/governing-board-good/>

<http://www.congregationalconsulting.org/congregational-culture-is-crucial/>

- Finally, and most importantly – pray, pray, pray to be open to the leading of God; pray for the ability to listen to one another, pray for faith to engage in the journey into the future, pray for the opportunities that will emerge, and pray for ways that you can join with others in Christ’s ministry through Christ Church.

In Christ’s service,  
Jim

## Daily Bible Reading – 2016      Shaping Our Life Experience

Excerpts from both the Old and New Testament are included each day. This is a great way to support your ongoing growth in faith and the Christ Church community as well.

October 18: Isaiah 65-66; 2 Thessalonians 1

October 19: Jeremiah 1-2; 2 Thessalonians 2

October 20: Jeremiah 3-4; 2 Thessalonians 3

October 21: Jeremiah 5-6; 1 Timothy 1

October 22: Jeremiah 7-8; 1 Timothy 2

October 23: Jeremiah 9-10; 1 Timothy 3

October 24: Jeremiah 11-13; 1 Timothy 4

October 25: Jeremiah 14-16; 1 Timothy 5

## In Our Prayers

**Joy!** Patty Keller completed her course of treatment for cancer

We note with sympathy and sadness the death of **Harold Ortman** on Friday October 14. Harold lived at Blocher Home. A memorial service will be held at a time to be announced.

We also extend our prayers and sympathy to the family of **Glenn Hurst**, who died on Tuesday, October 18. A memorial service will be held at Christ Church on Monday, October 24 at 11am.

Bob Kreib – currently in Mercy Hospital

Ann Burdette – Wesley Rehab (Room 705) following hospitalization

Gaetano Castellino Sr. – home from the hospital

Joyce Moser – upcoming hip replacement surgery

Rita Arnold, Carol Teresi, Beth Sweet, Charles Terranova, Carolyn Day, Janet Hill, Susan Schauer, Elvira Gonzalez, Florence Stengel, Richard Mestler, Fred & Lynda Painton

Chris Maliken, Alex Dunbar, Lindsey Darling & Ian Johnson – all serve in the US Navy

## **This Week at Christ Church**

New Church Office hours in effect

**Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 9 am to 5 pm, Tuesday & Thursday – 9am to Noon**

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|-------------------------|--|
| Tuesday, October 18 -   | 7 pm Christian Ed Team                   |
|                         | 7 pm – Staff-Parish Relations Team       |
|                         | 7:30 pm – Trustees                       |
| Wednesday, October 19 - | 7:30 pm – Choir Rehearsal                |
| Thursday, October 20 -  | 6:30 pm – Praise Team Rehearsal          |
|                         | 7 pm – Leadership & Nominations Team     |
| Friday, October 21 -    | Harvest Dinner - 4:30 – 7pm              |
| Sunday, October 23 -    | 9 am – Casual Praise                     |
|                         | 10 am – FaithXpress                      |
|                         | 11 am – Traditional Style Worship        |
|                         | 1 pm – Community Youth – Pumpkin Carving |

## **Opportunities to Make A Difference**

### **Serving Veterans**

During October the following items are being collected for men & women at the local Veterans Hospital...Socks, Underwear, Towels, V-neck T-Shirts, Toiletries, Throws or lap blankets, Gift cards (McDonalds, K-Mart, Wal-Mart, Tops, Wegmans – Please give to Diane Klenk or the church office) Audio Books and DVDs are also collected. There's a bin at the back of the worship space. Got questions? Call Diane Klenk at 651-0236.

## Uganda Wells of Love



An anonymous donor has generously agreed to make a matching gift to the Wells of Love project in Uganda!! All gifts *up to \$5,000* will be matched to provide clean, safe drinking water to remote areas of Uganda. Your gift makes a difference! Donations and questions can be directed to the church office or Kathy Weaver.

**Food Pantry** - suggested items:

**October 16 –Canned Fruits & Vegetables**  
**October 23 – Stuffing Mix & Mashed Potatoes (instant)**

All food items are always needed. Paper products and toiletries are welcome anytime. Grocery carts are available in the church for your donations. Thank you!

## Hospitality & Welcome

Sign up on the bulletin board in the Café to host some Sunday morning!  
Invite your family, friends, ministry team or group to join you!  
Share in this Café ministry of hospitality and welcome.

**Café** – Donations are welcome in the Café for use on Sunday mornings – baked goods, half & half, oj, fruit & cookies are useful!

**Blood Mobile** –



**Friday, October 28 2-6 pm**  
Call Geoff Hill at 316-1522 to donate or to volunteer

## Coat/Winter Hats, Mittens

During October we're collecting warm coats, hats, mittens, scarves, boots, for Seneca St United Methodist Church located in the Seneca-Babcock area of Buffalo. Warm items will be given to neighbors in need. Look for bins in Crafts Hall.

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## **Harvest Dinner**

**Friday, October 21**

**4:30 – 7 pm**

*Roast Pork dinner and homemade desserts!*

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## ***Community Youth Group***

*Middle & High School*

*Bring your friends!*



**Sunday, October 23**

## **Pumpkin Carving**

***We're off to pick a pumpkin or 2!***

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...God's love is unconditional. God does hear us no matter our attitude. The value we receive from our relationship with God, however, will be influenced by our attitude. If we believe we are self-sufficient we will be less likely to be open to the blessings that come as we love both God and neighbor.

~Bob Cornwall, *Ponderings on a Faith Journey*