

The Cornerstone

Christ Church United Methodist
700 S. Marshall Road, Middletown OH 45044
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“Impacting the
Community for CHRIST”



Administrative Team Report

January 26, 2020

(by Glenna Fisher, Administrative Team Chair)

Administrative Team meetings cover the gamut of the ministry and business of Christ Church, from fellowship dinners to financial challenges. Each meeting begins with prayer, followed by the singing of the Doxology and devotions, and ends with prayer.

January's meeting, starting a new year with new team members, featured a brief introduction to our meetings and how they are conducted: with a sense of God in our presence, love in our hearts for one another, and respect for others.

We've been offered Leadership Training through the Ohio River Valley District, and at least one team member planned to attend.

Rev. Dixon distributed notebooks to each team member with information relevant to the conduct of church business throughout the year, including past meeting minutes, job descriptions, and other details.

At every meeting we talk about the ministries of Christ Church. This month, Nancy Brown's work as Whiz Kids coordinator and her work with Shoes for the Shoeless was noted. These ministries make a lasting and solid impact on the lives of children in our own neighborhood.

Our relationship with Northstar Classical School strengthens, with growth expected in Northstar as they expand to include a fourth grade class next year and will need additional space. We will have the pleasure of learning more about Northstar at our February meeting when Clay Davis will be a guest at that meeting. We encourage you to attend the meeting and learn more about this growing ministry.

We heard from the subcommittee tasked with identifying some core values following consultant Tony Mosley's meeting with the team on January 6. These will be the subject of congregational meetings and workshops in February to further identify our core values and plan ways to incorporate those core values in our ministry and relationships.

Coordinator of Finance, Barb Martin, reported that we ended the year with a shortfall in income of \$26,000 vs. our budget. We have been able to pay 100% of our apportionments to the District and 10% to the Conference. We agreed to set aside monies for our District connectional obligation, but not our Conference apportionments in 2020. Our Finance Committee will meet January 30.

Staff

Wynston Dixon, Pastor
Debbie Alexander, Director of Music
Worship
Betsy Balger, Accompanist
Julie Coleman, Office Manager

10:30 am - Sunday Worship

9:00 am - Group Study

Sunday Adult Classes

Room 113: *Calvary Class*
Room 115: *Sojourners Class*
Room 118: *Searchers Class*
Library: *ReachOut*

Sunday Youth Class

Room 4: Jr. High/Sr. High

Nursery Care

10:15 am - noon, Ages 0-Pre-K,
Room 106

(Administrative Team Report - continued from page 1)

The Administrative Team will be working with Trustees, Duke Energy, and the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio to better understand our costs and benefits with the solar panels.

The data box on our solar panels became inoperative as a result of an electrical circuit problem encountered while a repair in another part of the church was being made. We will purchase a new data box; this is important because the data box records the amount of energy our solar panels are generating as well as telling us if the panels are working.

We now have new contacts for our security system: Tom Streiff and Walker Williamson. They will respond if the alarm is activated.

As has been for a number of years, the Woodcarver's event will take place in early March. In the past we have provided a dinner for them but will be unable to do so this year because of diminished resources.

And finally, a word on our signage. We are working toward replacing the marquee at the corner of our property.

Please keep our Administrative Team in prayer as we work to further the ministries of Christ Church. And we welcome you to attend our meetings, held the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

End of Year Highlights From 2019

(by Jane Tipton, Lay Leader)

The downstairs "older" wing clean-up project was started with the first initial clean-up day held on Saturday, October 19. A group of folks volunteered for the day which lasted from 10 am to 3 pm, with a time of fellowship and a pizza lunch. Incredible progress was made! Thank you to Deona Bethart and David Sauter for their leadership and organization of cleaning out and pitching junk! An additional thank you to Pastor Dixon and Administrative Team members Pam Cole, Glenna Fisher, David Sauter and Sally Williamson who joined us for the day in addition to Sheri Blunt, Nancy Brown and Katherine Johnson. Even with all that we did to completely pack the dumpster, we were left with one of the classrooms filled with things to still be "junked." As a gift to the church, a gentleman was hired and on Sunday, November 3, the rest of the items in the "junk" room were hauled away! The next phase of the project will be to clean the rooms and to assess the need for paint, repairs, flooring etc.



Trunk and Treat was held indoors on October 31 due to the inclement weather. We served approximately 550 hotdogs and cups of hot chocolate, and 200 hotdogs were served at the home of Debbie Alexander as a satellite ReachOut location. There was a steady, non-stop stream of visitors for the entire evening. In addition to having 18 candy "stations," we had an adult trunk/station with personal hygiene items and a trunk/prayer station with summer toys, crayons, stickers and miscellaneous items that were found in storage when cleaning out the rooms downstairs. We also had over 100 Life Books with simple messages about Christ and over 300 bracelets with Christian messages. ALL these items were given away! We also had the opportunity to pray with 5 different individuals who requested prayer; one of which came and worshipped with us on Sunday, November 3. Praise be to God for using us to be a place the community feels welcomed and where we can be His hands and feet!

The Mortgage Burning Service Celebration held November 3 and the meal afterward were well attended. Many friends of Christ Church and former members came for the celebration. The meal was paid for from the worship budget and a love offering of \$279 was received from the congregation and given to Jimmie Hendricks for preparing the meal for us. Praise God for His gifts and for this time of celebration and worship!

Saturday, November 9, brought us the annual Fall Festival which was a wonderful success! Many thanks to Pam Cole for her leadership and organization for this event which is an important fundraiser for Christ Church.

Whiz Kids is now being led by Nancy Brown. We are currently working with 7 students and are blessed to have Judy Crump, Beth Ditmyer, Bob and Mallory Hicks, Pam Johnson, Patty Mendenhall, Beth Radabugh, David Sauter, and Dan and Angie Gerlach working with this ministry. Nancy was led by the Holy Spirit to head this ministry and we are so grateful for her services.

Annual Church Conference was held Sunday, November 24, to approve Pastor Dixon's salary package and to vote on members for the SPRC, Finance and Trustee committees. Forty-six congregants were in attendance. The Rev. Paula Stewart was the presiding Elder.

The first congregational meeting with Tony Mosley was held on Sunday, December 1, with a light lunch being served. Approximately 60 people were in attendance. Thank you to those that contributed to the luncheon, setup and cleanup. The next administrative team meeting with Tony was held on January 6, 2020.

We hosted SHALOM from Sunday, December 29, through Sunday morning, January 5, which included overnight 28 guests during the week. Thanks to Walker and Sally and all the volunteers who served our guests and provided daily meals for them.

ReachOut collected hats and mittens for students at Creekview Elementary. Thanks to all of you who donated the hats, mittens and/or made a financial contribution. Special thanks to Doris who handmade many of the hats. As we are made aware of specific needs for new coats, we will alert the congregation.

Letter from the Pastor



My beloved Parishioners,

God's gift of allowing us to see another new year is God's way of giving us another opportunity to get our relationship right with Him. In my New Year's sermon, I challenged the congregation to make two resolutions this year: (1) resolve to draw nearer to

God and Christ, and (2) resolve to become closer to one another. These resolutions may seem simplistic, but if implemented, they go a long way. As with many of us, including myself, we often resolve to lose weight, get more exercise, and spend more time doing the things we want and like to do. And just like me, many of us can't seem to stick with it. I might start one, but I soon lapse. I might think of doing more exercise, but I never get around to it. I get busy with other "stuff" and never seem to find the time to spend on some of the more relaxing and pleasurable things in life.

It seems like resolutions are easy to make and fast to break. So what shall I do? Maybe, I will *determine* to be a better person hopefully by not letting anger and impatience get in the way I see and work with others. Maybe, I will *determine* to work at perfecting my devotional life by reading the Bible more daily; praying and listening to God more, and applying the insights into my life. Prayerfully, I am *determined* to spend more time helping others, especially those in need in our community. And maybe—just maybe—I'll *determine* to take better care of myself physically.

Determinations, unlike *resolutions*, should be easier to keep because they involve our relationship with God and with others, and require drawing on God's available strength and help to stick with them. God has promised to assist all of us in working to perfect our relationship with Him and with others. And God helps us meet our *determinations* that are consistent with God's will.

That's it! No more resolutions, just *determinations*. Not a bad way to start the year and with God's help, I'll stick to it all! How about you? What might your New Year's *determinations* be? With God's available help, you will be able to stick with them. I'll be praying for you; I hope you're praying for me so that all of us can achieve our New Year's *determinations*.

Let us go forward this year in the assurance of God's love, in gratitude for God's grace. Let us go forward in justification with God's will for us as God's people,

Christ's body - the Church. This is the moment, the hour, the day that the Lord has made. While we have breath, let us love one another and serve the world in God's name.

In His service together,

Pastor Dixon



The observance of Ash Wednesday, according to the Catholic Encyclopedia, dates from at least the eighth century A.D. The ancient custom was for the worshipers to approach the altar before the beginning of the Mass. A priest would dip his thumb into ashes made from the previous year's Palm Sunday palms and make the sign of the cross on each person's forehead.

Ash Wednesday is a time for repentance and the beginning of Lent. Ashes were used in ancient times, according to the Bible, to express penitence. Dusting themselves with ashes was the penitent's way of expressing sorrow for sins and faults. An ancient example of one expressing his penitence is found in Job 42:3-5. Job says to God: "I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; therefore, I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes" (v. 5, NRSV).

Just as a house can be rebuilt after it has fallen into disrepair or devastation, so God can enter into our brokenness and completely rebuild our lives so that we can become the kind of people in whom the living Christ can take up residence and through whom the loving purpose of God can become a tangible reality in this world. Lent is a time to think about our faith that doesn't come with too many parties or expectations of the season. It's a time when simplicity is encouraged instead of bigger is better. It's a time of quietness and time alone is encouraged, instead of loud music, shopping and crowded parties. It's a good time to remember that Christmas is not the whole story. It's a great time to get back into the habit of coming to church if you've been away for a while.



The United Methodist Women meet on the third Thursday each month at 10:00 am in Room 113

February 20 - Program Speaker will be Author Kim Callahan

March 19 - Program Speaker will be Glenna Fisher

All Are Invited!



SHALOM will be returning to Christ Church for a second week beginning Sunday, February 9. Sign-up sheets can be found in the lobby for those who would like to volunteer.

Please also be mindful that **SHALOM** is *no longer* accepting clothing donations except for donations of **NEW** underwear and socks. We will be sure to let you know should specific clothing needs arise.

SHALOM continues to be extremely busy this Winter having sheltered and served 97 different guests thus far. This total includes 30 women, 66 men and 1 child.

Congratulations!

Wendy Minor

upon receiving a Masters of Science in Health Informatics from the University of Miami (Florida)

Thank You Christ Church . . .

The Missions Committee would like to thank you for your support of The Salvation Army Food Pantry during 2019. Almost 4,000 pounds of food was either donated or purchased with the monetary donations you gave for the food pantry! This food helped to feed a little under 4,700 families (or almost 13,000 people) in our community. Of the 4,700 families helped, 537 were first-time visitors to the pantry. This means these first-time visitors had never had to use the pantry until something in their lives changed such as sickness, medical bills, loss of employment, increased rent, etc. which caused them to be in a food insecurity situation. Also of the 4,700 families helped, 63% visited the pantry only 1 or 2 times during 2019 meaning the majority of our families are not "living" off the pantry.

In addition, the pantry is able to serve the number of families that it does due to the many volunteers who give of their time to this outreach. Last year, 65% of the volunteer hours at the pantry were contributed by Christ Church members! This equates to almost 2,000 hours from Christ Church.

Again, thank you for your continued support of this important outreach in our community. And thank you for caring for those who are struggling to provide a basic necessity for their families.



Notes of Thanks

Thank you to **Chuck Turner** for the generous donation of a sleeping cot to the SHALOM ministry.

From the Family of Ray Bailey . . .

Thank you for all the delicious food and beautiful preparations made for Dad's funeral luncheon. It provided a large space for us to eat and visit at a difficult time.

Thank you also for cards and visits made to Dad or our family during his last years. This church and its families have been part of our life for many years, and we have been blessed by so many here!

Love,
Glenda, Dan, Kellie, Kyle & Families

LOVE PACKAGES

Testimony from South Africa . . .

"Hello! This is just a short thank you to let you know how your giving has impacted us here in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. My husband and I have been missionaries here for 16 of the last 20 years. Currently, we are part of the Potters House Church. One of our outreach ministries is to go to the local government hospital to visit those without visitors, share our testimonies, witness about Jesus, lead people in prayer, and pray for their healing. We found that we created a thirst for God's word that we were unable to meet with meager finances. So while in Capetown, we found a free bookstore that had Christian material donated from our beloved USA! We took a box back and have been giving them to these new believers at the hospital! One whole room of patients last week received Jesus and we are so grateful for the booklets that they asked me to take their picture and send to you.

*Sometimes as Christians we give to needs and never know 'until that day' if they were of any use or were fruitful. This mail is from my heart to let you know **YES** your giving is fruitful and reaching around the world and we are benefiting from it! In the material there were some key rings with the Jesus story that our Sunday school teachers are using! Wow, what a blessing! May God stir your hearts - do not grow weary for even now you are reaping a harvest in Africa through your good works! Thank you!" Heather*

Please continue to support our **Love Packages** project by donating new or used Christian materials. You may leave your donations in the red container in the library marked "**Love Packages.**" Thank you.

Received from Rev. and Mrs. David Harris . . .

Dear Friends,

We are so delighted for your celebration on November 3 and congratulate you on your significant milestone. Although we cannot be present on this day, our thoughts and prayers are with you. We hope for many more years of your sharing the love of Christ in your community.

It is hard for us to believe that we are now in our second year of retirement following forty-six years of ministry. Our years in Middletown will always be a significant part of that journey. But now we are very blessed to have more time with our kids and grandkids and enjoying life together. God is good.

Again, congratulations on this great achievement, and may your ministry ahead be blessed with an abundance of joy and faithful witness.

In Christ Love,

Dave and June Harris

"Confidence Instead of Chaos with Dementia"

(Sponsored by Hospice Care of Middletown and the United Methodist Women)

**Thursday, March 12
6:30 pm
Sanctuary**

Dementia can bring chaos to a family from which some never recover. Teresa Youngstrom, RN and Dementia Specialist, will share several techniques that families need to know to keep the peace and have confidence in their caregiving. There will be straight-forward and easy to understand facts as well as invaluable tools to help keep the peace and avoid chaos.

Teresa is a registered nurse with more than 30 years of clinical and leadership experience. She is a dementia specialist and a Positive Approach to Care (PAC) Certified Independent Trainer, has extensive experience in the hospital and health care industry, and is owner of "A Better Approach to Memory Care." Her knowledge, hand-on demonstrations and personal experience will provide you with new tools to use with your loved ones.

February Birthdays

- 3 Tom Sparks
- 4 Beulah Gibbs
Don Hawkins
- 6 Gary Daugherty
- 10 Vicki Greider
Jack Myers
- 11 Jack Achberger
- 12 Emily Miller
- 13 Jeff Berns
- 14 Rachael Siewny
- 15 Vera Ward
- 16 Becky Leonard
- 17 Sue Hounshell
Rex Lawson
- 18 Pam Johnson
- 19 Jane Achberger
- 20 Ray Peterson
- 21 Janet Layne
- 22 Shirley Cox
- 23 Betsy Balger
Jim Buckey
- 24 Pam Seibold
- 25 Joshua Kassner
Mark Ward
- 26 Tonia Caudle
Walker Williamson



March Birthdays

- 2 Tim O'Connor
- 3 Larry Crump
- 6 John Sauter
- 7 Fred Ward
- 11 Mary Alice Gast
Thomas Hayes
- 12 Janet Sauter
Gerri Teeters
- 15 Connie Young
- 17 Sandy Beck
- 18 Dick Cole
- 23 George Mullin
- 25 Cherri Carpenter
- 26 Sandy Smith
- 27 Steve Johnson
- 28 Minniealta Watt
- 29 Barb Martin
- 30 Helen Mann

March Anniversaries

- 16 Tim and Carol O'Connor
- 23 Robert and Bergit Clark
Don and Suzanne Hawkins

February Anniversaries

- 12 Jim and Debbie Alexander
- 13 Don and Sandy Smith
- 16 Scott and Becky Leonard

With Sympathy

Tom Waterous upon the death of his son.

Carole Robinson and Pat Anthony upon the death of Chris Robinson, on October 5, 2019. Chris was Carole's grandson and Pat's great-nephew.

The family of Ray Bailey who passed away on November 14, 2019.

Norma Meece upon the death of her daughter-in-law, Teresa Pugh, on December 8, 2019.

Betsy Balger upon the death of her cousin, Katey Shepperd, on January 27, 2020.

February

- 2/1 9:00 am Emmaus Share Group, Library
- 2/3 6:00 pm Admin Team Mtg. w/Church Consultant, 113
- 2/4 11:45 am Yoga, 113
3:45 pm Whiz Kids, 117
6:30 pm Handbell Choir, 113
- 2/5 10:00 am Pastor's Bible Study, 113
12:30 pm NAMI, Library
5:00 pm Men's Choir, Sanctuary
6:00 pm Chancel Choir, Sanctuary
6:30 pm Bible Study, Library
7:30 pm Praise Team, Sanctuary
- 2/8 9:00 am Emmaus Share Group, Library
9:00 am Men's Breakfast, Golden Corral
- 2/9 SHALOM
6:30 pm Girl Scouts, Youth Lounge
- 2/10-16 SHALOM
- 2/11 11:45 am Yoga, Lobby
6:00 pm Admin Team, Kitchenette
- 2/12 10:00 am Pastor's Bible Study (TBD)
12:30 pm NAMI, Prayer Chapel
6:00 pm Chancel Choir, Sanctuary
7:30 pm Praise Team, Sanctuary
- 2/17 1:00 pm Membership Care, Library
- 2/18 11:45 am Yoga, 113
3:45 pm Whiz Kids, 117
6:30 pm Handbell Choir, 113
- 2/19 9:00 am Northstar Open House, NLC
10:00 am Pastor's Bible Study, 113
12:30 pm NAMI, Library
5:00 pm Men's Choir, Sanctuary
6:00 pm Chancel Choir, Sanctuary
6:30 pm Bible Study, Library
7:30 pm Praise Team, Sanctuary
- 2/20 10:00 am United Methodist Women, 113
- 2/22 9:00 am Emmaus Share Group, Library
- 2/23 6:30 pm Girl Scouts, Youth Lounge
- 2/25 11:45 am Yoga, Lobby
3:45 pm Whiz Kids, 117
6:30 pm Handbell Choir, 113
- 2/26 10:00 am Pastor's Bible Study, 113
12:30 pm NAMI, Library
6:00 pm Chancel Choir, Sanctuary
6:30 pm Bible Study, Library
7:30 pm Praise Team, Sanctuary
- 2/29 9:00 am Emmaus Share Group, Library

March

- 3/3 11:45 am Yoga, 113
3:45 pm Whiz Kids, 117
- 3/4 8:00 am Miami Valley Woodcarvers, 113
10:00 am Pastor's Bible Study (TBD)
12:30 pm NAMI, Library
5:00 pm Men's Choir, Sanctuary
6:00 pm Chancel Choir, Sanctuary
6:30 pm Bible Study, Library
7:30 pm Praise Team, Sanctuary
- 3/5 8:00 am Miami Valley Woodcarvers, 113
- 3/6 8:00 am Miami Valley Woodcarvers, 113
- 3/7 9:00 am Emmaus Share Group (TBD)
9:00 am Men's Breakfast, Golden Corral
10:00 am Miami Valley Woodcarvers, NLC
- 3/8 12:30 pm Miami Valley Woodcarvers, NLC
6:30 pm Girl Scouts, Youth Lounge
- 3/9 8:30 am Census Bureau Training, 113
- 3/10 8:30 am Census Bureau Training, 113
11:45 am Yoga, Lobby
3:45 pm Whiz Kids, 117
6:00 pm Admin. Team, 113
- 3/11 8:30 am Census Bureau Training, 113
10:00 am Pastor's Bible Study (TBD)
12:30 pm NAMI, Library
6:00 pm Chancel Choir, Sanctuary
6:30 pm Bible Study, Library
7:30 pm Praise Team, Sanctuary
- 3/12 8:30 am Census Bureau Training, 113
6:30 pm "Confidence Instead of Chaos w/ Dementia," Sanctuary
- 3/14 9:00 am Emmaus Share Group, Library
9:00 am Men's Breakfast, Golden Corral
- 3/17 11:45 am Yoga, 113
3:45 pm Whiz Kids, 117
6:30 pm Handbell Choir, 113
- 3/18 10:00 am Pastor's Bible Study, 113
12:30 pm NAMI, Library
5:00 pm Men's Choir, Sanctuary
6:00 pm Chancel Choir, Sanctuary
6:30 pm Bible Study, Library
7:30 pm Praise Team, Sanctuary
- 3/19 10:00 am United Methodist Women, 113
- 3/21 9:00 am Emmaus Share Group, Library
- 3/22 6:30 pm Girl Scouts, Youth Lounge
- 3/24 11:45 am Yoga, Lobby
3:45 pm Whiz Kids, 117
6:30 pm Handbell Choir, 113
- 3/25 10:00 am Pastor's Bible Study, 113
12:30 pm NAMI, Library
6:00 pm Chancel Choir, Sanctuary
6:30 pm Bible Study, Library
7:30 pm Praise Team, Sanctuary
- 3/28 9:00 am Emmaus Share Group, Library
- 3/31 11:45 am Yoga, 113
6:30 pm Handbell Choir, 113

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Middletown, OH 45044

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2019, KEEPING YOU INFORMED:

- Contract for NorthStar Classical School, Inc. lease became effective September 1, 2019 for three years at \$1000 per month. They are occupying 1000 sq. ft. of space.
- Contract for Rooted in Light Coaching lease became effective December 1, 2019 for 1 year at \$130 per month.
- A list of several project items for church property improvement was submitted and approved by the Admin Board. \$15,000 from parsonage sale was designated for the following projects: parking lot repairs/sealing, \$5800; replacement of carpets in church office, pastor's study and classroom 113, \$4800; cleaning of New Life Center carpet and main hallway from Holly Street and narthex area, \$1000; one apple iPad for recording our worship services for you-tube, \$335.
- Special thanks to Steve Johnson, who was brilliantly able to light up our stain glass windows in the Narthex after being in darkness for many months.
- A new apple computer was donated to the church by an anonymous family to be used in the sanctuary for our overhead projector.
- The church parsonage located at 6488 Glastonbury was sold on August 8, 2019 at the selling price of \$163,000.
- The balance \$230,000 of the church's mortgage was paid off in 2019.