

REFLECTIONS

MAGAZINE

*Becoming living proof of God's love,
one person at a time.*



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dr. George Strunk, Senior Pastor



ON MISSION Healing Divides

If you ever go to the Holy Land, I hope you have the privilege of Jimmy Nammour as your guide. Jimmy is an Arab Christian who is always relating what we see to the story of Jesus who he always calls "Our Lord." Jimmy tells the amazing story about the building of the Herodium. In 40 BCE, after the Parthian conquest of Syria, Herod fled to Masada, which is about 70 miles southeast of Jerusalem. About halfway there, Herod clashed with the Parthians and emerged victorious. According to the Roman Jewish historian Josephus, he "built a town on that spot in commemoration of his victory and enhanced it with wonderful palaces...and he called it Herodium after himself." According to Jimmy, at the site where Herod wanted to build this city, there were two mountains standing next to each other. Herod went to the top of the taller mountain and discovered that it was not high enough for him to see the Dead Sea. So, with slave labor, and with no thought of what it would cost in terms of toil and loss of life, he ordered them to remove the top of one mountain and move it to the other so that when he built his castle it was high enough for him to see all the way to the sea.

In the 15th chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, we are told that a man came to Jesus with his epileptic son and asked Jesus to heal him. In doing so, he told Jesus that he had already brought his son to his disciples and they could not heal him. Well, Jesus does heal him and then the disciples ask, "Why could we not heal him?" Jesus responds, "Because of your little faith. For truly I tell you that if you have faith the size of a mustard seed you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you." Of course, Jesus' followers would have known the story of the building of the Herodium from 40 years before. And now Jesus is telling them that even if your faith is only as small as a mustard seed you have the power to move mountains too! And he adds, "Nothing will be impossible for you if you trust in me."

Our Vision to Follow, Plant and Bless in order to heal divides in our community is a huge undertaking. I admit that. But I also believe this is what God is leading us to do as His People. It is a huge undertaking that may give some people pause. Aren't we already doing enough? Isn't this too much? Well, only if we think it all depends on "me!" Every journey we take builds our faith and builds our community and ultimately gives glory to God. Many hands make for light work. Christ Church is made up of over 3000 members and we have another 2000 constituents who call this community their spiritual home. If each of us did just a little piece of the work, that would change everything wouldn't it? But even that doesn't get at what Jesus was promising; this mountain of healing economic, social and spiritual divides in our community will ultimately be accomplished by faith. If God wills it then ultimately it will be done. God never calls people to do something for which God does not also provide the resources.

I am praying that this issue of *Reflections* helps you get a better picture of our Vision to Follow, Plant and Bless; and that because of that you will say, "I want to be a part of what God is up to at Christ Church." Nothing is impossible!

George

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REFLECTIONS MAGAZINE • *Follow, Plant, Bless*
Spring 2017

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BRIEFLY STATED

The church offices and building will be closed Monday, April 17 in honor of Easter and Monday, May 29 for Memorial Day.

Get Social

Be a part of demonstrating God's love through social media.



[fb.com/christchurchlouisville](https://www.facebook.com/christchurchlouisville)



[@ChristChurchKY](https://www.instagram.com/ChristChurchKY)



[@ChristChurchKY](https://twitter.com/ChristChurchKY)

REFLECTIONS Magazine

Thank you to all of our contributors. Have you seen a group or individual *becoming living proof of God's love*? Have a story idea for *Reflections*? Contact communications@ccum.net.

On the cover: Christ Church School teacher giving a student a blessing.

FOLLOW JESUS

By Brandon Dirks, Minister for Faith Formation

F O L L O W

J E S U S

The most transformative times in my faith occurred when I was committed to a small group. One summer in particular, I served on a Camp staff with seven other young adults, and I experienced authentic community like I never had before. For the first time in my life, I committed myself to them...and they to me. I mean, really committed. They loved me deeply, and I them. But they also allowed me to be fully transparent with my doubts and questions about faith. They called me to account for my behaviors, celebrated my successes, and pushed me to go deeper and be more faithful. I learned more in my head (and in my heart) in that one summer than I did in 20 years of going to church. Imagine my surprise to discover over the next 20 years that small, spiritually authentic communities was EXACTLY the method Jesus wanted the church to use to make mature disciples who can make disciples.

They allowed me to be fully transparent with my doubts and questions about faith.

The hardest part of the Follow Jesus emphasis of our Vision is the name itself. “Follow Jesus” is a term all of us have heard since we were children, and it means so many things—when we worship together as a community, serve at a homeless shelter, attend Sunday school, do daily prayers, go on a mission trip, participate in a Bible study, tithe, take a leadership role in the church, share our faith, pick up our crosses, deny ourselves, and the list can go on. All of these are excellent ways we follow Jesus’ teachings. So what exactly do we mean when we say Follow Jesus as part of our vision to heal divides?

M. Robert Mulholland, Jr., who is on the faculty of Asbury Theological Seminary, has a definition of discipleship that I love, “Spiritual formation is a process of being conformed to the image of Christ

for the sake of others.” Let’s look at that for a moment. First, spiritual formation is a process. It’s not an event and it’s not something that you ever master. It’s being conformed to the image of Christ over a lifetime. How does that happen?

Most often people are conformed to the image of Christ through confrontation. Yes, confrontation. Confrontation doesn’t need to be a bad word. The origin of the word comes from the 1630’s and means “action of bringing two parties face to face.” People can be confronted, or challenged, by a passage from the Bible that speaks to them, through something that was said in a sermon, or by something that a person has shared in a trusting and loving environment.

We’ve found from talking to our congregation that more of these loving, trusting environments are needed. Therefore, we are focusing our efforts on creating these, and are calling them Community Groups. So when we talk about Follow Jesus in relation to our Vision, our goal is that everyone is either in a Community Group, or preparing to be. That preparation may be participating in a Bible study, Sunday school class, or other group vital to carrying out our mission of *becoming living proof of God’s love, one person at a time.*

Jenna Wheelock, a Christ Church member that has led women’s Community Groups for the last few years says, “When we think about getting into smaller groups or in Bible studies (and I love Bible studies), they are often knowledge driven. Community Groups can take what we know and help it to go from our heads to our hearts so we really can be transformed. We are asking questions and trusting that the Holy Spirit will do the work that needs to be done on us personally. When we come together, we share what we’ve discovered about God, what we’ve discovered about ourselves and what’s God calling us to do next based on what we discovered.” Adds Jenny Fishback, “Sometimes I feel like I am watching God at work

among the people in my group.”

Jennie Weeks puts it this way, “In my ministry as Director of Adult Discipleship at Christ Church, I love watching adults participate in Bible studies where they begin discovering how God can speak to them through the words, stories and truths found in scripture. Likewise it is fulfilling to see individuals strengthen their faith through prayer, service, Christian fellowship and other spiritual practices. But simply gaining knowledge of scripture and even adding disciplines into our daily lives does not paint a complete picture of what it means to be formed into the image of Christ. When I personally joined a small group of women several years ago, I had no idea what a life-changing experience this would be. As we grew to know and love each

There is a group of people waiting to walk alongside you as you make the most spectacular journey of your life.

other, we allowed ourselves to let go of our fears and become real with each other. As we opened up about our faith (or lack of faith) we began challenging and holding each other accountable, leading us to a greater understanding of what it means to become ‘living proof’ of God’s love. As we grew as individuals and as a group, we began living differently in the world...because that kind of love is contagious. I want more people to be able to experience this kind of transformation!”

What are the relationships like in a Community Group? We asked Brian McWaters, and he responded, “By meeting weekly for 60-90 minutes with a small group of men we’re able to develop a level of spiritual ‘realness’ and accountability that I haven’t experienced in other church studies and groups I’ve been a part of.

Because we trust each other, we share our faith journey together and help each other along the way. We’re also able to hold each other accountable to what it is that the Holy Spirit is telling us. For me, it’s given me a new excitement, and a lot more discipline, to spend time in daily personal worship and pray for the concerns and growth of those in my group.”

There are groups of men and women who are loving one another and holding one another accountable for their spiritual development. These groups are making a huge impact in people’s lives. Heather Pennell shares, “As someone who grew up in church, but was new to the idea of Lordship, being in community has been crucial to my growth and the transformation of my faith walk. Since joining Christ Church, I went from knowing who God was to really having a relationship with God. Being involved with Community Groups has been a vital part of seeing what it means to follow Christ. That discovery has continued because I’ve had a space in a Community Group to explore and learn with other women.”

When we come together in groups that love and hold one another accountable we are making disciples. How? Because we are sharing life together, we are living life together and we are challenging one another. We are helping one another conform to the image of Christ. “There is an opportunity to put faith into action by talking through struggles and challenges rather than facing these alone,” shares Will Fishback. Susan Wobbe has found, “We love and support one another in the good times and the bad, we enjoy fellowship, and we hold each other accountable to do the work necessary to become disciples of Jesus. We walk a Christian journey together in community with one another.”

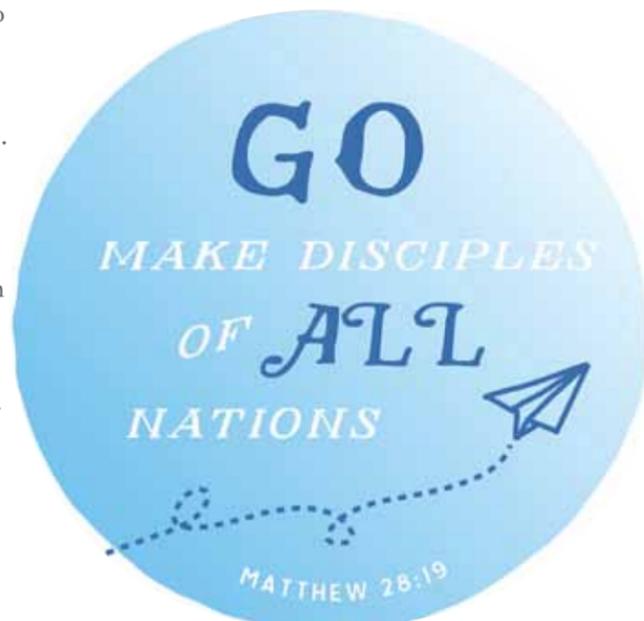
As we live into this Vision God has for Christ Church: Follow Jesus, Plant New

Faith Communities and Bless Children, it’s important to remember that the Follow Jesus portion of the Vision is necessary for the other two to succeed. Without following Jesus we won’t make disciples and without disciples we will never be able to Plant New Faith Communities and Bless Children.

I invite you to go on this journey with us. If you are in a group that is transforming your life and where you are developing others, I invite you to cover the formation of Community Groups in prayer. We need your prayers. If you feel God tugging at your heart to step into a deeper place of discipleship, I invite you to consider becoming a part of a Community Group. God’s up to something big here at Christ Church and He wants you to be a part of it.

Brittany Byrd, Christ Church member reminds us, “There is a group of people waiting to walk alongside you as you make the most spectacular journey of your life.”

ON MISSION 
Follow Jesus



SMALL THINGS MAJOR IMPACT

By: Amy Roberts

“Great things are done by a series of small things brought together.”
~Vincent Van Gogh

During the cold winter months, my husband grows a fine rustic beard and often dons his favorite Irish wool sweater. When pulling this beloved sweater out of storage this year we were mortified to find a small but visible hole in the wool. Neither one of us is particularly crafty, but before we gave up on the sweater entirely, I asked around the Christ Church office for help. That’s when I found the Christian Crafters—Christ Church’s best kept crafting secret.

With their passion for needles and thread, the Christian Crafters have found that they can be a blessing to our community by using their unique talents in sewing, quilting and crafting.

“We look forward each week to companionship, fellowship, and the opportunity to give,” says Barbara Curtis, the Christian Crafters’ fearless leader.

Rather than spending time on personal projects, these ladies patch, restore and repair. No project is too large or too small for them to try to tackle. One of their most ambitious projects was to restore a cherished antique quilt that had been torn apart by a family dog.

They also lovingly sew “angel gowns” for children who are stillborn at birth as well as blankets and pillowcases sent to chemotherapy patients through the Chemo Care Bag project. In addition, adorable doll dresses, quilts and other crafting creations are sold to raise money for United Methodist Ministries in Kentucky. While a \$5 or \$10 mending project may not seem like much; over

the years the group has donated over \$43,000 in support of Wesley Manor, the Kentucky United Methodist Home for Children and Youth, Portland Promise Center and The Open Door Ministry at Fourth Avenue Unite Methodist.

My husband’s sweater was patched in no time and is as good as new—even better now because it is part of the Christian Crafters’ story.

The Christian Crafters are always welcoming new members for fun and fellowship. They also receive donations of fabric and crafting supplies. Contact Barbara Curtis at pojcc@twc.com or 425-4734 for more information.

ON MISSION 



PLANT NEW FAITH COMMUNITIES

By: Dr. George Strunk

More and more I am being asked, “What is this thing called Fresh Expressions?” It is a form of church for our changing culture that is by all reports less interested than ever in “coming to church.” It is established primarily for the benefit of people who are not yet members of any church. It comes into being through principles of listening, service, forming community and then exploring discipleship. It has the potential to become a mature expression of church but it will probably not look like what we most traditionally associate with church. In essence, it is putting the church that Jesus loves closer to people that Jesus loves.

Currently we are forming a team, led by Christ Church members Randi and Dan Austin that will guide the process and make strategic decisions about when and how we plant these new communities of faith. That team will help us identify the places and the people who we can move alongside to listen and serve and develop relationships. Eventually we believe there can be multiple Fresh Expressions of church, but our first adventure will be with the clients of The Healing Place. These are people who are in recovery from addictions to drugs and alcohol. The idea is not to get the clients to come to our location on Brownsboro Road (although they are certainly welcome) but to help them form their own community where they can learn more about the God who has revealed himself in Jesus. There are no plans to build a facility. Our gathering will be at an existing downtown location close to The Healing Place center at Jefferson and 10th Street. Our plan is to listen, serve, build relationships and talk about Jesus. All of this has happened at the invitation of the leaders of The Healing Place who asked for our help. We feel like God has opened this door and we are boldly walking through it, but we need some more people willing to pioneer this process with us.

Sixty-six people expressed some initial interest in the part of the

Vision that will be expressed as Planting New Faith Communities. At our first gathering, we learned more about the concept of Fresh Expressions and agreed to pray for discernment about where else God could use us to reach people who are not likely to show up at any church. There are some exciting ideas, like people who have been wounded by the church, or millennials who are turning away from church, as well as places like Norton Commons or Beecher Terrace in the Russell neighborhood—just to name a few.

But before we get too far down the road in explaining what a Fresh Expression is, I believe the more important question is, “Why plant any new faith community?” And that answer hinges on whether or not you are convinced that people need Jesus. The *what* we do and the *how* we do it are not as important as the *why* we do it. I believe that people need the Lord.

Now here's the conviction that I am seized by: Jesus Christ is a solution to the deepest longings of the human heart.

For some of us, our picture of who Jesus is will determine in large part whether you agree. The New Testament offers us a multitude of portraits of Jesus that together help us to understand his identity. He is the son of God, the promised Messiah, the Good Shepherd, and the Savior who lays down his life for the sins of the world. He is a Resurrected Lord, demonstrating his power over sin and death. He rules and reigns in the hearts of his followers and in God's Kingdom eternal. He is the “image of the invisible God,” and the Word made flesh. He is the way, the truth and the life. And these are just a handful of the biblical pictures of the identity of Jesus.

But even if you can name who Jesus is, it still does not answer the question, “Why do people need Jesus?” To answer that question, you must consider the human condition. Why do we need what Jesus offers? If you read the newspaper, watch the news, get to know people, and understand yourself, here is a bit of what you may discover: the deepest problems facing our society are, at their core, spiritual problems. We read of teenagers killing one another and know that a society that produces an increasing number of these kids is in trouble. What is wrong with us and how might Christ be a part of God's solution? We live in a world consumed with possessions; people often go to any lengths to “gain the whole world.” How does faith in Christ tell people not to lose their souls in such a world? A young gay college student is beaten to death by his fellow students. An epidemic of compulsive gambling follows the wave of new riverboats in town. Racism divides the city. What is the answer? Is it more legislation, tougher laws, more police, or lawyers or judges? Perhaps, but the real solution must address the conditions of the human heart; it must break hearts of stone, transform hate into love, and offer healing and deliverance to those who are slaves to ideas, or their upbringing, or their addictions.

Now here's the conviction that I am seized by: Jesus Christ is a solution to the deepest longings of the human heart. He is the answer to the most serious problems that plague our society. When Jesus is Lord and the Holy Spirit enters the heart of the believer, we find the empty places filled, and the dark sides of our soul transformed.

We are in the process of *becoming living proof of God's love one person at a time*. Fresh Expressions is a way that together, we can share Jesus. If you are interested in helping, please contact me at gastrunk@ccum.net.



BLESS CHILDREN

By: Patty Groot, Director of Servant Ministries

A choo! “God bless you.” Have a blessed day!” We say it all the time but do we really understand what it means? And when we talk about our Vision, do we really know what it means to Bless Children?

You’re probably a lot smarter than I am. Honestly, when we started talking about blessing children I had to stop and think about what that really looks like. Can I write a check? Is that considered a blessing? Does praying for a child count? I had to do more than just think about it, I did some research and here’s what I found:

In the Bible, there are several words that are usually translated as “blessing” or “bless.” The Hebrew word most often translated “bless” is barak, which can mean to praise, congratulate, or salute, and can even be used as a curse. Think back to the stories in Genesis when God blessed the sea creatures and the birds. He blessed Adam and Eve. God promised to bless Abram when he called him to go to the promised land. But God is not the only one who pronounces blessings in the Bible.

Remember Rebekah and Isaac in Genesis 24? Rebekah’s family blessed her by saying “may you increase to thousands upon thousands; may your offspring possess the gates of their enemies.” And remember, when Isaac was dying, he gave this blessing on his son, Jacob: “May God give you of heaven’s dew and of earth’s richness.”

What I’m seeing so far is that God can bless, but so can regular people. And I guess that means I can give a blessing too. But I still don’t understand exactly what it is or how to do it. Back to the books...

I find words for blessing like esher, which means a happy blessing for people who fear and love God. In the New Testament I find two more words: makarios which means happiness and the word eulogeo which is more about “good words” like the blessing we say over our food.

After I thought about this for a while,

I came to this idea—when God made this world and everything in it, it was blessed...it was perfect...it was as it was meant to be. Then sin came in and messed up everything. I’m realizing a blessing as a statement of good will and happiness. It’s about a wish for God to restore God’s favor on others and to remind people of God’s complete and utter goodness.

Okay..I’m beginning to get it. But how do I give a blessing?

It seems that every blessing I find in the Bible includes five pieces:

1. A meaningful, and appropriate, touch. That looks like a kiss, hug or the laying on of hands
2. Words are spoken. The person being blessed knows they’re being blessed. It’s not an intention or a look
3. Holding the person being blessed in high esteem. That means that the person must know how much they mean to you and how special they are
4. Picturing a special future for the person being blessed. They can have an abundant life. Let them know how wonderful their life can be
5. Making a commitment to help fulfill that blessing. This might be the most important part of the blessing. Words alone cannot communicate the blessing; they need to be backed with a willingness to do everything possible to help the one blessed be successful

Now that I understand a little more about the word blessing, I want to apply it to our Vision to Bless Children. What does that look like? I think it looks like a different kind of ministry for many of us. I think it means looking a child in the eyes and making a commitment to be there. Many of you already do that. Some of you tutor every single week. You sit down beside your child and you talk to them about their day. You read together and you laugh together. But, have you ever told them what an awesome life God wants them to have? Are you willing to make a

commitment to be there for them? To listen when life gets hard? To encourage when others put them down? It’s a whole new level.

Did you know that we are currently doing ministry in every public elementary school to which the kids from the Russell neighborhood are bussed? We’re there...maybe not in great numbers, but we’re there!

If we blessed children in our homes, in our schools, in our church, in the Russell neighborhood, do you think maybe their eyes would shine a little brighter?

I saw a whole school being blessed recently. A teacher was very ill at one of the schools we are blessing. A call went out to parents and children alike and we all gathered at the school on a bitter cold Sunday afternoon. We each wrote out prayers on a little slip of paper and tied our prayers to a tree in front of the school. A few days later we heard that the teacher had died. She was a beloved woman and a wonderful teacher. What now? Now, we prepared a place for the children to grieve in their own way.

Your church made a place for these kids, not just the kids from our church, but every child at the school, to grieve the loss of their teacher and celebrate her life and what she meant to them. A place was created just for them. As you entered the room there were candles lit in her memory and slips of paper where they could share a prayer or a memory of their friend and mentor. They placed the paper on the windows so that everyone could share their memories, and their grief. What was surprising to me was the number of teachers that showed up to share in this journey of healing with their students. It was truly beautiful.

We are planning so these same students will receive an affirmation as the enter school for standardized testing in a few weeks. They will recognize the adults that helped them grieve the loss of their teacher. That's blessing children.

We have a team of women who are walking beside other women who are recovering from addiction. Most of the women recovering from addiction have children. All of these women have had to give up their children in order to make a better life for them. Some don't have a high school education. We help with that. If a women wants to get her GED, we're there. If a woman wants to know more about what it means to be a Godly mom, we're there. When the women get a chance to celebrate a holiday with their kids, we're there. We are there to help mom's recover from addiction, recover from the economic circumstances that keep them down and recover their relationship with their kids. That's blessing children.

Every day in the Christ Church School, EVERY day, each child hears a Bible story and receives a personal blessing from the teacher (see the cover of this issue). The impact this is having on the lives of the school families is already amazing. There is the five-year-old who's older sister was having a morning meltdown over her hair, and ran in to bless her to make her feel better...AND IT WORKED! A peace came over her and they all went off to school calmly. And then the four-year-old who make her own "blessing basket" and gathered the other kids in her class and told them the story of Jesus and the blind man, and then blessed all of her friends personally.

The children in our Sunday school also experience this every week, and we are seeing similar stories. Blessing children in turn blesses families.

Barak. What would happen if we covered this city in barak? If we blessed children in our homes, in our schools, in the Russell neighborhood, do you think maybe their eyes would

shine a little brighter? Do you think they might start to believe, really truly believe, that they are loved? Do you think that maybe they could be confident that things will turn out okay?

In my mind, I can see a place where children come home to a neighborhood that is safe and clean and welcoming. I see them welcomed by their parents...welcomed with hugs and kisses. I see them walk into a kitchen that contains good, healthy foods. I see them opening the refrigerator and being able to have a choice about what they want to eat. I see them going into their bedrooms and lying on their bed that has sheets and a blanket and yes, even a pillow.

I see a place they can go to get help with their school work along with an encouraging word and maybe...just maybe...a blessing before they leave. I see children playing outside without fear of getting hurt. I see people loving people. I see vibrant churches and streets filled with song. Can you see it? Can you?

SENIOR ADULTS

For more information on Senior Adult Ministries visit www.ccum.net/SAM. To reserve your spot at any of the events, call the SAM reservation line at 893-2201 x328 or visit www.ccum.net/SAM.



February 2017 SAM Luncheon

March Events

Blosser Music Program Luncheon Monday, March 13

What: Enjoy music from Dan Blosser, Director of Music Ministries, and his wife, Susan.

Cost: Catered lunch is \$10, program is free.

When: 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall. Reservations by March 6.

Filson Historical Society Tuesday, March 21

What: Enjoy a tour of the newly renovated Filson Historical Society.

Cost: Outing is \$5, lunch is paid for on your own at Buck's.

When: Bus leaves church at 9:30 am and returns by 3 pm. Reservations by March 15.

April Events

Senior Scams Luncheon Monday, April 10

What: Discover how to detect Senior Scams and avoid them.

Cost: Catered lunch is \$10, program is free.

When: 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall. Reservations by April 3.

Mega Cavern Tram Tour Thursday, April 30

What: Historic tram tour of this underground tavern

Cost: Outing is \$15, brunch is paid for on your own at Cracker Barrel.

When: Bus leaves church at 9:15 am and returns by 3 pm. Reservations by April 13.

May Events

Elizabeth Woolsey Luncheon Monday, May 8

What: Hear from WDRB anchor and church member, Elizabeth Woolsey.

Cost: Catered lunch is \$10, program is free.

When: 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall. Reservations by May 1.

Bernheim Forest Tuesday, May 23

What: Enjoy a day at beautiful Bernheim Forest.

Cost: Outing is \$15, lunch is paid for on your own at Isaac's Cafe.

When: Bus leaves church at 9:15 am and returns by 3:30 pm. Reservations by May 17.



CHURCH EVENTS

For a complete list of Christ Church events, visit www.ccum.net/calendar.

Sermon Series: Portraits of Surrender

March 5 through April 16

Surrender is one of the four values that is the underpinning of all we do at Christ Church. We will spend Lent looking at how we can truly surrender to God by exploring people in scripture who did, including the Rich Young Ruler, Peter and Paul.



Pass It On Kids Sale

Friday, March 17 to Saturday, March 18

The Pass it On Kids' Sale is a semi-annual, non-profit consignment sale for children's gently-used clothing, toys, furniture and equipment plus maternity clothes. Find consignment, volunteer and shopping details at www.ccum.net/passiton.



PSALM Kids End of Year Program

Wednesday, March 29

Enjoy watching our children's choirs and hand bells bring glory to the Lord through the gift of music. 6:15 pm in Fellowship Hall. Reservations for a 5 pm dinner can be made at www.ccum.net/children/events.



Sermon Series: The Good Life

May, 2017

What can we learn from scripture about The Good Life? This May, we'll find out!



Homebound Communion

Wednesday, March 29

11:30 am in the Sanctuary, followed by lunch in Fellowship Hall

Reservations by March 20

Contact Leigh Ray, Assistant to the Pastors, 893-2201 x222 or lray@ccum.net



CHURCH EVENTS

The church building will close at 2 pm Easter Sunday, April 16 and reopen Tuesday morning, April 18.

Holy Week and Easter Opportunities

Sunday, April 9 to Sunday, April 16

Palm Sunday Worship

Sunday, April 9

9 and 11:15 am in the Sanctuary; 10:05 am in the Chapel

Stations of the Cross

Sunday, April 9 to Saturday, April 15

Walk the Stations of the Cross in the Chapel.

Open April 9 at 6 pm through April 15 at 10 am.

Prayer Labyrinth

Monday, April 10 to Wednesday, April 12

Walk the Prayer Labyrinth in Fellowship Hall.

Open April 10 from 5 to 7 pm; April 11-12 from 11 am to 1 pm and 5 to 7 pm.

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 13

Dinner (5:30 pm) and worship (6:45 pm) with our friends from The Healing Place

Christ Church Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary, childcare will be available.

Good Friday Worship

Friday, April 14

12* and 7 pm in the Sanctuary.

*To accommodate worship over your lunch hour, this noon service will be 45 minutes.

Childcare available at both services.



Easter Sunday Worship

Sunday, April 16

Please note that worship times are different on Easter Sunday!

6:45 am Sunrise Service at Zachary Taylor Cemetery, 4701 Brownsboro Road, Louisville, KY 40207

8, 9:30 and 11:15 am in the Sanctuary.

*Childcare available for ages two and under in the Nursery suite on Easter Sunday beginning at 7:45 am.

Off-site parking with Shuttle Service is available. Check www.ccum.net/Easter for details.

www.ccum.net/Easter

FROM THE STAFF

If you are not receiving our weekly eNews e-mail, visit www.ccum.net to sign-up.

Join us in welcoming these new staff members to our Christ Church family.



Laura Corsentino, Accounting Assistant

We welcome Laura Corsentino to our Accounting Department. Laura began working at Christ Church in January. She has a background in legal work, banking, accounting and technology. In her spare time, Laura trains and competes horses. She has her own horse named Gravitass.

“I am glad to be at a place where relationships and fellowship are part of the atmosphere, not *just* getting the job done as fast as possible.” ~ Laura



James Wedding, Custodian

We welcome, James Wedding, the newest member of the Custodial team. James is a Louisville native, born and raised. When the weather gets warmer, he can be found riding a motorcycle through the Ohio Valley, or riding dirt bikes with our own Chris Lush. James has two teenage sons, ages 18 and 14.

“I’m happy to be working at Christ Church and have a chance to work with friends.” ~James

Thank you to these staff members for their contributions to Christ Church.



Sarah Simmons, Graphic Design and Social Media

After nearly five years as part of the Communications staff, Sarah made the tough decision to stay home full time after the birth of her son Theodore “Bear” in February. Bear joins two sisters and a brother. Sarah’s contributions to telling stories of our ministries through *Reflections* and blogs will be sorely missed.

“I wish the congregation could know what an impact they’ve had on my life and on my family’s life. While I am at peace that God is calling me to stay at home with my family now, I will miss working at Christ Church terribly.” ~ Sarah



Valerie Bearden, Ministry Assistant for Adults and Outreach

Valerie Bearden has faithfully supported Children, Youth, Adult and Servant Ministries behind-the-scenes since 2011. Though we are sad to see her go, we are excited to announce that Valerie has accepted a position at YUM! as the Administrative Assistant to the VP of Tax. We will still see Valerie’s smile around Christ Church as a congregation member.

“The best part about my time here has been the people...the staff, the ministry teams, and the congregation members who have made me smile each and every day. It has been a honor to serve them.” ~ Valerie

MAKING AN IMPACT

Children’s Area Renovation



IT’S COMING!

This spring and summer, the Children’s Area will be undergoing a \$500,000 renovation. Priorities of the project include constructing a welcome area to aid visitors to the church and the school, HVAC improvements and a face-lift of other areas, which haven’t seen any updates since the early 1980’s. Christ Church School and our Children’s area are growing, so it is important to accommodate the needs of these growing ministries.

Colleen Pittman, Head of School says, “I am excited that this renovation will allow our facilities to match the quality of programming and ministry we are providing.” This project is made possible by a \$250,000 bequest, \$205,000 donation from the school, and a \$45,000 anonymous gift.

Vision Fund Update

We are thrilled to announce that over \$210,000 has been raised to support our Vision to heal divides in our community as we Follow Jesus, Plant New Faith Communities and Bless Children. A number of options and opportunities are being considered. Watch this space in future issues of *Reflections* for updates.

To get involved in our Vision, visit www.ccum.net/Vision.

Youth Missions Fundraiser Update

Thank you to all those who supported youth missions by attending, baking or serving at our Youth Missions Fundraiser in February. This year, our youth will take mission trips to the Dominican Republic, Tennessee, North Carolina as well as serving right here in Louisville. The February fundraiser will contribute nearly \$17,000 toward those efforts!

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Christian Sympathy

Jef Conner on the death of her husband, Stew Conner, who died November 28

Todd Reale on the death of his brother, Mark Reale, who died November 28

Jane Myers on the death of her husband, Steve, who died December 4

Kevin and Laurie Scarborough on the death of Laurie's mother, Mary Ann Gregory, who died December 5.

Elizabeth and Louis Straub on the death of Louis' mother, Beatrice Straub, who died December 6

Family and friends of Betty Humphrey Blasi who died December 7

Jim and Mary Fleming on the death of Mary's son, Brian, who died December 16

Tish Muldoon on the death of her grandmother who died December 27

Doris Stone on the death of her brother, Charles Dailey, who died January 1, and the death of her son, David Hair, who died January 13

Burleigh Kaster on the death of his wife, Mariann Kaster, who died January 3

Diane Evans on the death of her sister, Dona McLeod, who died January 11

Doris Robertson on the death of her husband, Roy Robertson, who died January 12

John and Nancy Grant on the death of John's mother, Frances Grant, who died January 15

Ellen Thomas on the death of her mother, Nellie W. Brown, who died in January

Dave and Bobbie Allison on the death of Dave's brother, Bob, who died January 19

Hank and Heather Alford on the death of Heather's sister, Colleen Winters, who died January 22

Bob and Rusti Silverthorn on the death of Rusti's mother, Agnes Cofer, who died January 22

Ralph and Carol Powell on the death of Carol's mother, Virginia Marksberry, who died January 23

Deanna Catlett on the death of her grandmother, Sherry Grubbs, who died January 25

Holli Grant on the death of her sister, Sandra J. Kennedy, who died in January

Mary Lou Duke on the death of her sister, Betty Clark, who died February 3

Bill and Susan Cooper on the death of Susan's sister who died February 5

Terry and Sue Strange on the death of Sue's father, Forrest Henson, who died February 7

John and Tara Olash on the death of John's father, Al Olash, who died February 17

Weddings

Meredith M. Cunningham and Chase M. Harber were married on October 15 at Long Ridge Farm in Shelbyville, Kentucky, officiated by Judge Mitch Perry. Meredith is the daughter of Charlie and Vicki Cunningham.

Keith Sorrels and Kathy Cappy were married by Dr. George Strunk on February 25.

Baptisms

Lena Rivers Miller (4/24/2016), daughter of Lawrence and Katie Miller, was baptized on November 27 by Dr. George Strunk. Lena is the granddaughter of Judy Miller.

Hadley Claire Mast (6/2/2016), daughter of Ashley and Logan Mast, was baptized on December 11 by Dr. George Strunk. Hadley joins brother Colton in the Mast household. Hadley is the granddaughter of Randy and Julia Mast.

Luke Daniel Jaber (6/12/2016), son of Jennifer and Eron Jaber, was baptized on December 11 by Dr. George Strunk. Luke joins brother Benjamin in the Jaber household.

Rowan Justice Roth (6/3/2016), son of Walter and Olivia Roth, was baptized on January 8 by Dr. George Strunk. James and Levi are Rowan's big brothers and his grandparents are Richard and Billie Luckett.

Charlotte Grace Denley (10/16/16), daughter of Sara and Matt Denley, was baptized on February 12 by Dr. George Strunk. Lotte joins brothers Eli and Grayson in the Denley household. His grandparents are Ed and Bonny Folz.

Adam Clark Patterson and his son James Osborn Patterson (7/4/2016) were baptized on February 26 by Dr. George Strunk. Adam's wife and James' mother is Marilyn Patterson and his grandparents are Charles and Linda Osborn. Carolyn Walter is James' great grandmother.

Serving our Country

Maj. James E. Chapman, Jr., US Army (Son of Janice and Jim Chapman, brother of Jana Ladd)

Capt. Douglas Cummings, US Army Chaplain (Son of Sally and Jack Cummings)

2nd Lt. Danielle L. Cummings, US Army (Granddaughter of Sally and Jack Cummings)

William Felder, US Army Major; (Nephew of Frank and Ann Simms)

2nd Lt. Bailey Hawkins, US Army (Granddaughter of Marie and Richard Johnson)

Lt. Col. Brian Haysley, U.S. Air Force (Son of Marilyn Edington)

Lt. Zachary T. Huff, US Navy (Grandson of Allys and Bill Huff)

David Farc, Kentucky Air National Guard

Capt. Travis Johnson, US Army (Grandson of Marie and Richard Johnson)

Sgt. Jacob Longest, US Air Force (Grandson of Ruth Murray)

Airman First Class Michael Kluever, US Air Force (Son of Rev. Karen Kluever)

Stephanie Muir, US Army (Granddaughter of Ed and Bobbie Larkin)

Lt. Grant Parker Roberts, US Army (Son of Bill and Laurie Anne Roberts)

Lt. Cameron Kelley Roberts, US Army (Son of Bill and Laurie Anne Roberts)

Capt. Jordan Shontz, US Army (Grandson of Jane Shontz)

Ens. Jonathan Shontz, US Navy (Grandson of Jane Shontz)

Madeline Smith NROTC program at Tulane University Midshipman 3rd class

Capt. Noah J. Snyder, US Army (Grandson of Kathleen and John Snyder)

Capt. Christopher Wardlaw, US Army (Nephew of Russ Wardlaw)

Capt. Aaron Wellman, USMC (Son of Wayne and Carol Wellman)

Lt. Shelley Worth, Canadian Forces (Granddaughter of Colleen Berry)



by Rev. Dr. Leanne Hadley
Children's Ministries

TO WHOM MUCH IS GIVEN

FINAL WORD

Why the Vision of Christ Church Must Include Blessing All of the Children

When our new vision was announced, there was, of course, great excitement about our congregation going out into the neighborhoods where the needs of children are the greatest and blessing them. At the same time, I began to hear people wondering if the children, who are part of Christ Church, the active ones, those with parents who faithfully bring them to Bible Studies, the Christ Church School, PSALM Kids, Sunday School and worship would still receive the same amount of care and attention that they have up until now. I even had several parents tell me that they were not worried about their own children being blessed. As one parent said, "I mean, our children are already blessed. They have so much and these kids need the church much more than our own kids do."

For me personally, I never interpreted the Vision to Bless Children as an "either-or" choice for us as a congregation. We are called by Christ to bless children...all children. Remember, Jesus himself blessed children and said, "Let the children come to me and do not stop them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 19:14). Jesus did not specify which children, the rich or poor, those who have involved parents or those who do not, those who have beds to sleep in or those or do not. He asked us to bring all children to him and so, we are called, as a congregation, to bless all children.

In fact, the children within our walls will fill a unique role in the life of the church. With the North American decline in church attendance and more and more young people leaving churches and claiming to be "spiritual but not religious," the future of the church as we know it is uncertain. By blessing our children each time they are with us, we will strengthen them and ready them to be the ones who carry the church into the uncertain future. These children who fill our classrooms, hallways and pews are the ones God has chosen to carry our faith to the next generation. They were born for this time, they are called for this time, and we must do all we can to make sure they have the spiritual strength they need to fulfill the calling.

I do not know what the future will be like, but one thing is for certain: social justice has always happened when people with power and resources decide to step up and advocate for those who have neither. The truth is that many of our children do have nice homes, great educations, resources and skills. Because of this, they will be the ones best equipped to bring about needed changes in the future. Rather than pull away from these children, who have much, we must pour into them and help them discover where and how God is calling them.

Jesus said, "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked." (Luke 12:48). The children within the walls of Christ Church have been given much, they are blessed, but let us never forget that they are the ones whom Christ will ask the most from.

As we move forward, I am confident that we have the compassion, faith and resources to bless the children within our walls and beyond our walls. I also have faith in the future of the church, for I know first hand, from working with your children, that God's church will thrive in the future, that justice will flow down and that the kingdom of God will move closer. Let us never forget: the children we are blessing will be the ones who will make it so.

Rev. Dr. Leanne Hadley
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