



The Connection

Seeking to Link Person to Person And All to Christ

April/May, 2015

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Website:

www.christmethodist.org

Christ Church gathers in the name of
Jesus Christ to worship God, to invite
and nurture disciples, and to send
them into the world.

The (soon to be) Associate Pastor's Pen

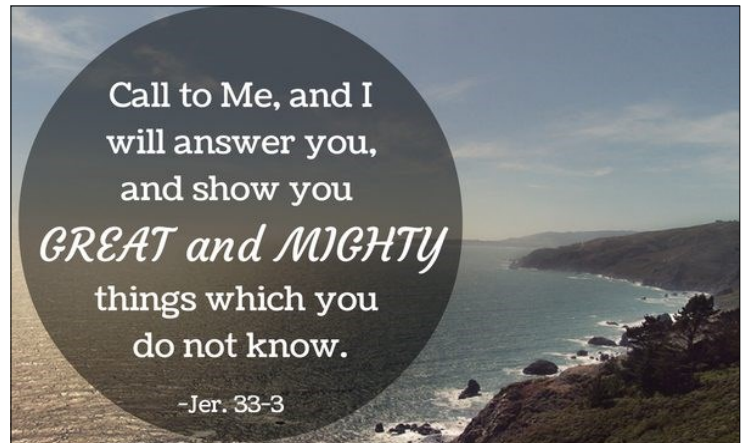
Dear Friends,

Since my wife Natalie and I first stepped foot inside Christ United Methodist Church back in September, we knew it was a special place. From our first Sunday in worship onward, we have felt and experienced God's love in beautiful ways and have sensed the Spirit moving over and over again. We have heard powerful stories, made many new friends, shared laughter and shed tears. As we reflected on our time at Christ Church during the Christmas holiday, we began to lament that we only had a few months left together.

But God is a God of surprises – and we are thrilled that I have been appointed here as your new full-time Associate Pastor!

Because Natalie and I are both from the Richmond, Virginia area and we hope to return there in the future, I will remain a part of the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church, serving on loan to the North Carolina Conference for this season. I will be commissioned in June in Roanoke, Virginia as a Provisional Elder and will begin serving at Christ UMC on July 1. Natalie and I are incredibly grateful to both Bishop Ward in North Carolina and Bishop Cho in Virginia for agreeing to this appointment, and we are so excited that we get to be a part of what God is up to through Christ UMC in Chapel Hill and around the world.

Over the next few months and as I begin my time (officially!) at Christ Church in July, I can't wait to be able to connect with many of you. I can't wait to hear your stories and your hopes and dreams for this community and beyond. And I can't wait to listen and learn and love and discover *together* where God is leading us, where we might encounter Jesus, and where the Holy Spirit will take us. Natalie and I give God thanks for each of you, and we are excited for the adventure ahead!



Peace, Brent Levy
Duke Intern

Holy Week at Christ Church



Test your knowledge of Lent & Easter traditions and practices with interesting questions you can find at umc.org/lentquiz. There's a new question each day, along with resources to help you explore the daily topic in more detail. Try a few sample questions below. And, if you get the answer correct while doing the quiz online, look who will cheer you on!

1. True or False: Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days.

Answer: True, because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" and the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

2. What does a Tenebrae service consist of? (We'll have one at CUMC on Good Friday, April 3rd at 7 pm.)

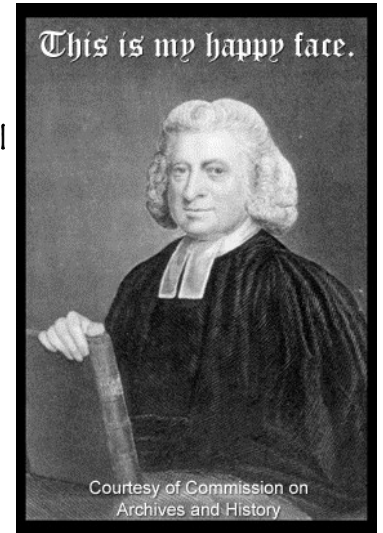
- A drama about the 7 last words of Jesus
- A reenactment of the Last Supper
- Extinguishing of candles
- The receiving of ashes

Answer: Extinguishing of candles. *Tenebrae* is a Latin word meaning *darkness* or *shadows*. During a Tenebrae service, usually held on Good Friday, worshipers hear readings describing Jesus' final hours from his arrest through his crucifixion, death, and placement in the tomb. After each reading, a candle is extinguished, darkening the room just a little. Before the final reading, the Christ candle is extinguished or removed, leaving the room completely dark. On Easter Sunday the candle is returned, a symbol of Jesus' resurrection.

3. Why do we use lilies as a symbol of Easter?

- The white bloom is a symbol of purity
- Their blooming in the spring is a symbol of new life
- Jesus himself mentioned lilies in his teachings
- All of the above
- None of the above

Answer: All of the above. In addition to their color, spring blooming, & Jesus mentioning them in Luke 12:27, there are several legends about Jesus' connection to lilies.



Celebrate Easter

at

CHRIST CHURCH

APRIL 2 - MAUNDY THURSDAY
7:00 PM WORSHIP & COMMUNION

APRIL 3 - GOOD FRIDAY
7:00PM TENEBRAE SERVICE

APRIL 5 - EASTER SUNDAY
6:30AM SUNRISE SERVICE
Brunch to follow in Ascension Hall
8:30AM WORSHIP & COMMUNION
9:45 & 11AM CELEBRATION WORSHIP
WITH BRASS & ORGAN

**please bring cut flowers to
8:30, 9:45, and 11am Easter Services*

OFFICE CLOSING

IN OBSERVANCE OF

easter

April 6 & 7th

For emergencies requiring
pastoral assistance, call
919-969-8820, x 202.

Please Note ...
There will be no Youth Group or
Wellspring Service (7 pm) on
Easter Sunday, April 5th.

The Season of Easter

Greetings,

“The Lord is risen; He is risen indeed!” We are Easter people; faith in Jesus rests on the belief that Jesus is alive. I remind us that Jesus is alive—whether we know it or not. But to those who do believe, God gives us the power to be his children. We have the assurance of being forever with God. In this relationship with Jesus, we are given the opportunity to help others come to know the Risen Lord.

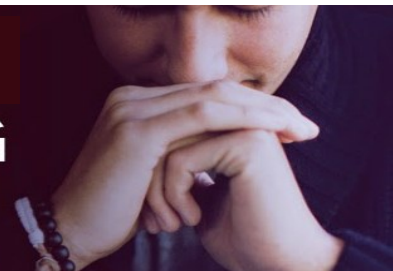
As Church, we gather as often as we can to learn of Jesus’ ways. We gather with other believers to practice our faith in Jesus. We are being trained to be effectively Christ-like in the world. The language we are adopting here at Christ Church is “Being Church” and “Doing Church.” “Being Church” is the internal workings of the faith community. “Being Church” is our worship, fellowship, studies, age-level activities, mission work, and music groups. The “Doing Church” is out in the world. It is the body of Jesus caring for people beyond the church walls.

As Christ Church grows closer to God, we will be mindful of those who are not yet here. I know that keeping a balance between “Being Church” and “Doing Church” is not easy. John Wesley described this as the balancing of our “personal” holiness and “social” holiness. In the Bible, James describes it as “faith” and “works”. Being externally focused is not forgetting what we are doing here.

I am so glad that we are on the faith journey together. Please enjoy the spring season, appreciate time with your family, and take time to pray and read the Bible.

Love in Christ Jesus, Pastor David

It's not an either/or . . .
BEING VS. DOING



No Volunteers Wanted at CUMC. Yes, it's true! At a recent meeting, Pastor David asked the CUMC staff to remove the word “volunteer” from our vocabulary when speaking about serving at CUMC & in the world. Why? Read the article below to learn more.



Do you Understand What you're Signing Up for?

By Mike Slaughter, Pastor of Ginghamburg UMC

www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/5877/do-you-understand-what-youre-signing-up-for

The Lenten season marks a time for soul assessment and realigning with the priorities of God. . . . It's an opportunity to ask ourselves, “Do I understand what I have signed up for?” Jesus’ encounters with people in the final weeks leading up to his arrest and crucifixion illuminate the meaning of the cross and the cost of following Jesus in obedient discipleship. Almost immediately after beginning his final trek from Galilee to the Holy City, Jesus encountered three different individuals. He invited all three to join him in his journey, and their responses illustrate our own confusion about what it means to be a Jesus follower.

The first man enthusiastically offered himself as a volunteer, saying, “I will follow you wherever you go” (Luke 9:57). Jesus responded, “Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head” (vs. 58). In other words, “Do you really understand what you are signing up for?” In the man’s response, we see the genesis of a problem deeply rooted in the 21st century church: **We come to Jesus offering ourselves as volunteers rather than as servants.** In my years of pastoral ministry, I’ve intentionally chosen not to use the word volunteer. Volunteers serve out of the convenience of their calendars, controlling when, where, & how they participate. They say, “I’ll be there as long as I have the time, it’s not too inconvenient, & it doesn’t conflict with more pressing priorities (like kids’ soccer, a golf league, a dinner party and on and on).” Volunteers follow Jesus up to a point — the point of interference with their lifestyle.

Our comfortable lifestyles are the first points of challenge that Jesus makes when we seek to join his countercultural company of the committed. . . . Lent reminds us we can’t follow the living God in the way of the cross while clinging to lifestyles committed solely to self-comfort and convenience.

Let's get uncomfortable, Christ Church! Ready to serve Christ & the people He loves today? See pg. 5.

Doing Church: Focusing Outward to Serve Others



Thank you, Christ UMC, for helping to make last month's *Make a Difference Weekend* such a success! Numbers don't begin to tell the story of how lives were touched by this kick-off event, but they do help to illustrate how our church community rallied to get ready to do GOoD WORKS in our local community.

300 ++ - The number of people who enjoyed a delicious BBQ dinner

100—The number of Men in Black who inspired us with their rockin' gospel music

35—The number of people who used all kinds of spiritual gifts to serve throughout the evening

15—The number of members who made phone calls to invite YOU to **Make a Difference Weekend**

8++ - The number of Prayer Group members who lifted up the weekend for God's blessing

3 - The number of testimonies to the goodness of God during 100 Men in Black's performance

Countless people from across the state - The number of travelers who came from Asheville, Boone, Whiteville, Charlotte, Sanford, etc. to hear Clayton Jennings preach.

1 flat tire—for Clayton Jennings

1 mended marriage, **1** rape victim, **1** bullied high school student - who prayed with Clayton Jennings to know God's peace

Countless new friendships made over dinner and dessert

Countless opportunities to do GOoD WORKS in our community and the world were unveiled.

How are you doing GOoD WORKS?

Really! We want to know how God is using the people of Christ Church to do His GOoD WORKS and how that's making a difference in our community, in the world, and in YOU. Your service may just be the inspiration someone else needs to say, "Hey, if Fred and Wilma can do that, I can too! Here are some examples you've shared with us of how you're *Making a Difference* through GOoD WORKS.

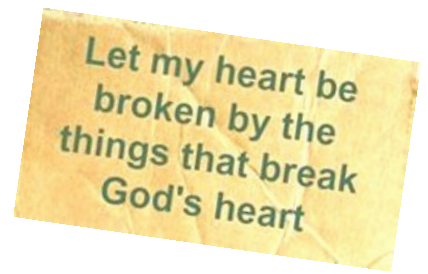
- **From Martha Risch:** "I went to the **SECU Family House** today and delivered a bag of ladies' toiletries that have been contributed over the past few weeks at CUMC. SECU was VERY APPRECIATIVE for this donation. One lady mentioned that she is familiar with the wonderful outreach that Christ Church does for the community. She mentioned Cinderella's Closet... SECU shared their need for paper products, especially toilet paper and paper towels. Driving home, I felt led to mention the possibility of having a Paper Drive for SECU during the month of May. I will plan to get a BIGGER box for paper products as I am taking the ball (toiletries) and running with it to those who have the need." (See p. 8 for more information on the SECU Paper Drive.) **Now that's GOoD WORK!**
- **From Cinderella's Closet:** **Jane Faber** was caught on camera making a difference for young women in Orange County (See picture at right.) by providing dresses and accessories so they could attend their high school prom. **Now that's GOoD WORK!**
- **From Peggy Ising:** "I wish to help with the school supply drive at **Frank Porter Graham Elementary**. I understand I would assist by seeking & purchasing supplies, per list provided by the school, and deliver supplies to the school in mid-August. I doubt that I can buy for 150 students, but I can do my part for 25-30 students." (Editor's Note: The next day, we received an email from Peggy offering to coordinate the supply drive for all of CUMC so we can serve 150 students in need.) **Now that's GOoD WORK!**
- **From Craig Wood (in Russia right now with Mission 1:27):** "I'm not the same person who traveled [to Russian with **Mission 1:27**] for the first time five years ago. God has used this experience, the kids, the orphanage staff, & my fellow travelers to shape me, mold me, and make me a new creation. Each trip continues to change me in ways that can't be articulated but are significant and felt deep in my core." **Now that's GOoD WORK!**



Help spread the word about how CUMC is doing GOoD WORKS. Take a photo of yourself (or ask a friend to snap a picture) as you serve in the community. We're calling it a **"Selfless Selfie."** Post it to CUMC's Twitter or Facebook accounts, on Instagram, or send it to Deon Roach (droach@christmethodist.org) so we can display it in Ascension Hall. It will inspire our congregation to serve and help us all to see how God is doing GOoD WORKS through His people. **Need help with a post or picture? Call the office (919-969-8820).**

Doing Church: Focusing Outward to Serve Others

Does Your Heart Break for God's People? Here are even more opportunities to mend it with . . .



Help improve adult literacy and spend time with a nationally acclaimed author at the same time! Invite a friend to join you at the **Chatham County Literacy Council's 5th annual Spring for Literacy luncheon on Thur., April 23, 11 am—2 p m, at Galloway Ridge.** The featured speaker will be nationally acclaimed author Jill McCorkle, who will share insights about her latest book, *Life After Life*, and what inspires her writing. Tickets are \$50 per person, \$29 of which is a tax-deductible donation to Chatham Literacy. *All proceeds* will directly fund Chatham County Literacy Council's **free** literacy programming and services for adults who live and work in Chatham County. To learn more, register, or become a sponsor, go to www.chathamliteracy.org, or contact CUMC member Fran Mears (franmears@nc.rr.com; 919-933-4145).



CUMC Food Drive—April 12-30

You can provide meals for hungry kids in our community! SNACK (Summer Nutritional Assistance for Chatham Kids) feeds local children during the summer months, when subsidized school meals are unavailable. SNACK provides a box of food weekly to eligible families, and CUMC can help fill those boxes.

Shopping lists of needed food items and boxes will be available in Ascension Hall beginning April 12th. Simply grocery shop, pack the box, and return it to church by April 30th. If you prefer, checks can be made out to CUMC, with SNACK printed clearly on the memo line. \$15 feeds one child for a week. \$150 covers the summer. To serve in other ways (shopping for those who can't, food distribution, etc.) or for more information, contact Shari Ligett (ncshari@bellsouth.net).

Did you now that 1 in 4 adults will experience a mental health disorder in a given year? On **Fri., April 10**, Faith Connections on Mental Illness will hold its **5th Annual Conference at St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Chapel Hill** to help faith communities engage, encourage, & serve persons who suffer from mental illness & those who care for them. The day-long event (8 am-4:30 pm) is open to clergy, lay leaders, individuals, & professionals. For details, cost, and registration, go to www.wakeahec.org, or call 919-967-5403. CUMC is joining with several area congregations to sponsor the 2015 Conference. Read the detailed brochure by visiting <http://www.faithconnectionsmentalillness.org/> or contact CUMC member Katherine Kubel to learn more (kkubel@aol.com, 967-9564).



CUMC BLOOD DRIVE—Tuesday, April 28th; 11 am - 3:30 pm; Ascension Hall Schedule your appointment by going to <http://www.redcrossblood.org/rcbmobile/drive/chooseDonationTime.jsp> or call Julie Welge (542-1545). Join this life-saving mission and schedule an appointment TODAY!

Being Church: The Body of Christ Together



Got Purpose?

Explore Yours this August!

“What on earth am I here for?” Thus begins Rick Warren’s book, The Purpose Driven Life. It’s the best-selling hardback book in history, and you’re sure to be inspired as you explore God’s purpose for your life. CUMC will host a 42-week study covering one chapter of the new expanded edition each week. Tentative scheduling is for 10:30 a.m. on Tuesdays, beginning after school resumes. Interested? Need child care? Have questions? Contact Cynthia Wheaton (wheaton.cynthia@gmail.com).



Sat., April 11, 11 am at CUMC

**Tickets: \$25/adults, \$5/students,
\$10/alumni since 2008**

Enjoy food, fellowship, & fundraising at this festive event which supports all of UNC Wesley’s missions and ministries, including work team trips, mercy and justice projects, Wesley worship, & more. Go to <http://uncwesley.org/big-wesley-auction-info/> for tickets and information.



CUMC’s music ministry invites you to a special evening of food, fellowship, & music to showcase our Handbell Choirs

and raise funds for the purchase of a 5th octave of Malmark handbells. The event will launch **CUMC’s Give-A-Bell campaign** through which your donation, in honor or memory of a loved one, can purchase one or more bells for use by many generations of CUMC musicians as they make music to the glory of God.

*A Handbell Concert
& Dinner Event
Wed., April 22nd*

The evening’s schedule is:

**5:30 pm—Meal in Ascension Hall

**6:30 pm—Ice Cream Bar in Ascension Hall

**7:00 pm—Handbell concert by Chancel Bells & Youth Bells in the Sanctuary.

For more information about the event or to make a donation to the Give-A-Bell campaign, contact Dr. Daniel Steinert (dsteinert@christmethodist.org; 969-7126).

If you’ve ever dreamed of visiting the Holy Land, now’s your chance! Join Pastors David Harvin & David Goehring when they travel there on Feb. 28-March 9, 2016. You’ll walk where Jesus walked & visit places where He taught, healed, & lived. This journey will transform your faith. Cost of the pilgrimage is approximately \$3700 for 11 days. Contact David Goehring for more information (dgoehring@christmethodist.org; 919-969-8820, x 207).



Men, Women, and Teens! Let’s play ball! CUMC has been invited to join Chapel Hill’s Summer Church Softball League . . . But we need a manager & players. Interested? Contact the office if you’ll take the lead (office@christmethodist.org).

Save These Dates!

- ▶ **Sun., April 12, 6 pm**—Food for Thought Dinner & Wellspring Service in Ascension Hall
- ▶ **Sun., April 17-19**—Men’s Retreat, Carolina Beach
- ▶ **Sun., April 19, 9:45 am**—Preschool Sunday (Learn more on pg. 7.)
- ▶ **Sun., May 3, all services**—Youth Sunday
- ▶ **Thur., May 7, noon**—National Day of Prayer at CUMC’s bell tower
- ▶ **Mon., May 25**—Office Closed for Memorial Day
- ▶ **Sun., May 31, 4:30 pm**—Church-wide Picnic; Southern Community Park (behind the Park-n-Ride lot)
- ▶ **Sun., Oct. 18**—Eric Swanson, author of *The Externally Focused Church*, preaches at all morning services.



News for Children and Families

Christ Church Preschool:

*A Place Where we Love each Child,
Know each Child,
& Help each Child Grow as a Child of God*

In the fall of 1998, Christ United Methodist Church committed to the mission and ministry of a Christian oriented preschool. Less than a year later, the halls were filled with children's laughter when Christ Church Preschool (CCP) opened. Today our preschool Sunday school rooms are used throughout the week by 74 little children, ages 2-4, as they learn and play together.



Yes, CCP helps the whole child grow and develop – cognitively, physically, socially, emotionally AND spiritually! Our preschool is rather unique in the fact that we include Chapel time each week for our preschoolers. We meet in the Sanctuary, light a candle, hear stories from the Bible, sing, and pray. Debbie Arena, our preschool director, leads Chapel time with occasional visits from the Christ Church pastors. In Chapel, we generally study Old Testament stories during the fall semester leading up to Advent and Christmas. Then, we study New Testament stories of Jesus during the spring semester. Some Old Testament favorites are Noah, Moses, Abraham, and Ruth. Some New Testament favorites are Zacchaeus, The Lost Sheep, Jesus and the Children, and Waving Palm Branches!

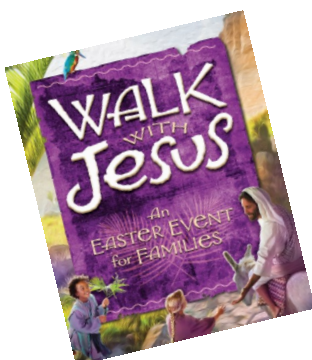
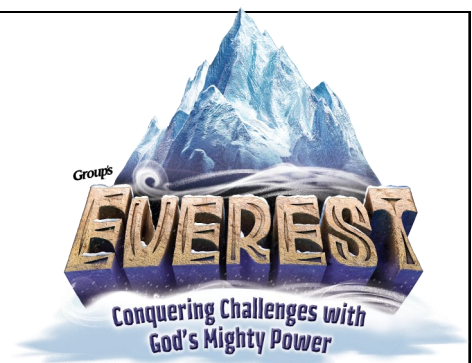
At the end of January, we read the story of John baptizing Jesus and discussed baptism. Then, we went to the baptismal font and each child, with one tiny finger, touched the water to his or her head or hand and said, "Jesus loves me." I wish you could have seen the joy on their little faces! We also found the beautiful stained glass window in the Sanctuary that illustrates the story of Jesus' baptism.

Thank you, Christ Church, for welcoming children into your building! Some preschoolers are church members and some are from the community. All these children come together to form a preschool family that works and plays together. It is a beautiful gift that we not only teach them the ABC's and 123's, but we can also introduce them to God's love! You may learn more about Christ Church Preschool on **April 19th at the 9:45 am service when we celebrate Preschool Sunday** together. Or, contact our preschool director, Debbie Arena (919-969-1690; darena@christmethodist.org).

*Peace of Christ,
Jane Reeb, Co-Director of Children's Ministry*



It's finally getting warm, and before you know it... summer and VBS will be here! **Vacation Bible School will take place July 13-17**, & it's the most FUN week of our church year. At **Everest VBS**, the kids will learn to overcome challenges with God's Mighty Power. Adults, if you like Bible stories, drama, snacks, outdoor playtime, music, crafts, or science experiments... please join our team!! (You don't have to like ALL of those, but I bet you like some!) Call or email Catherine Neal, Co-Director of Children's Ministry (cneal@christmethodist.org; 969-8820, x 208) to get involved or find out more!



The staff & congregation are grateful for the 28 members, under the leadership of Erin Furr, who helped make the Walk with Jesus come to life this spring! Over 100 people attended the event, & we believe each of them was brought closer to God through this special experience. Thank you for being such enthusiastic actors, greeters, & support staff. Your spiritual gifts were well-used to spread the Good News of Jesus!

CHRIST CHURCH

United Methodist

800 Market Street

Chapel Hill, NC 27516

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**What you use in your house, they use in theirs—
only much, much more!!**

Christ UMC is helping SECU with a Paper Drive, & your donations of the following paper goods are welcome: **Kleenex, napkins, paper plates, paper towels, toilet paper.** (The last two items are especially needed!) Beginning in May, place your donations in the clearly labeled box in Ascension Hall. Questions? Contact Martha Risch (therisches@aol.com). SECU Family House is dedicated to providing affordable, supportive housing to UNC Hospitals' seriously ill adult patients & their family members & caregivers. Learn more at www.secufamilyhouse.org/.



**Congratulations
2015
Confirmands**

Evan Ashmore-Smith, Lilianna Ashmore-Smith, Aidan Bradley, Savannah Bright, Annalee Fine, Katie Fuller, Lily Gardner, Hank Hultman, Charlie Mendys, Max Miller, Myles Miller, Elizabeth Nash, Jessica Nash, James O'Brien, Will Riggs, Carina Taylor, Benjamin Tignor, Olivia Weigle