



# The Connection

Seeking to Link Person to Person And All to Christ

June/July, 2014

Christ United Methodist Church  
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Christ Church gathers in the name of Jesus Christ to worship God, & to seek, nurture, & send Christian disciples into the world.

## The Pastor's Pen

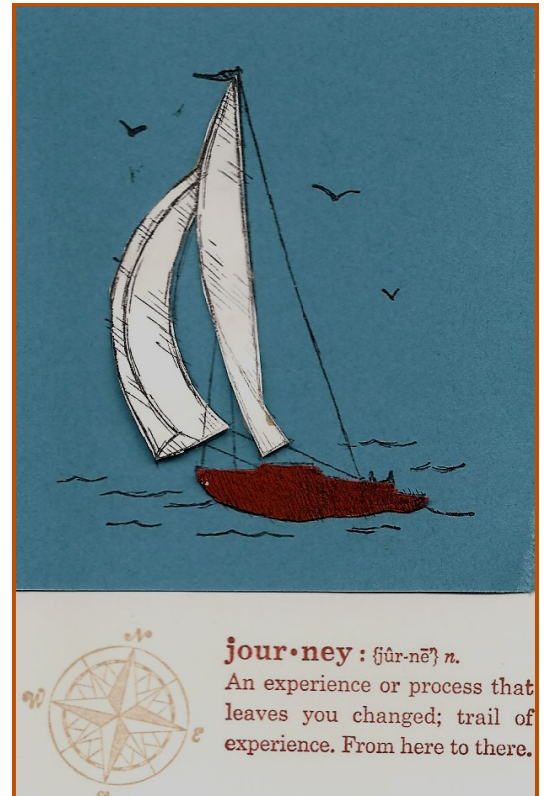
Greetings! Our Christian faith often is described as a journey. As with any journey, there are twists and turns, ups and downs. The faith journey is about maturing and getting closer to God. Jesus Christ helps us along the way. The church also has the responsibility of helping us along the way. When a child is baptized, the family and the church commit themselves to loving like Jesus and assisting the child in the ways of the Lord.

This time of the year marks the season of graduation: from preschool, from high school, from college, and from graduate school. Any graduation is a sign of maturing. The church celebrates with our students (and their families) as they matriculate to the next place along their journey. And we pray that their faith in Jesus will continue to grow. Please take note of those in the CUMC family who are graduating (See pg. 2.) and offer them words of appreciation and gratitude.

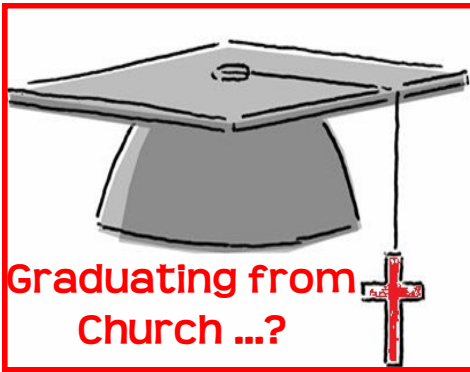
I am so thankful that we here at Christ UMC take seriously being the church. We gather to worship, to grow in our faith, and then to go into our world and be Christ-like. This journey can be exciting and challenging. I simply ask you to not give up or to take too much time away from the faith journey. Remember, we never really graduate from growing in our faith in Jesus. We are always learning what it means to love unconditionally, to care for others, and to follow Jesus.

The summer schedule will allow me to spend more time with all of you; I'm looking forward to this. Many of you will be able to get away for vacation. Enjoy your time with friends and family, and know that the Lord goes with you.

*Peace and Grace,  
Pastor David*



# Graduation and the Christian Life



My niece graduated from high school last weekend, and all five of the commencement addresses our family listened to during the ceremony had one thing in common: the speakers all started with a quote or a definition. In keeping with this season of graduation (and the theme of this June newsletter), I, too, shall begin in this fashionable way. Webster's defines the noun *graduate* as *a person who has successfully completed a course of study or training, especially a person who has been awarded an undergraduate academic degree*. Most of us would agree the term "graduate" is most often associated with the academic arena. We celebrate graduates who have completed high school or college, for example. But does that always have to be the case? Could one be a "graduate" of church or the Christian life?

Donald Miller, the author of *Blue Like Jazz* and other books, seems to think so. He recently blogged that he had "graduated" from traditional church: "While I love the traditional church, I love it like a foundational part of my past, as though it were a University I've graduated from to join a much larger church those still in the University program are quite suspicious of." As you might imagine, this comment garnered quite a bit of attention in the Christian blog sphere. Trey Lyon, who oversees Urban Village Ministries which does community development in Atlanta, Georgia, wrote a response to Miller. He argued that, despite its flaws, being in church is not something from which we should "graduate":

*See, I could say all I need is God and all I need to meet God is me and God and the great outdoors, but that's not completely true. The truth is we need other people. Yes, I know Donald Miller said he needs community and "small groups." The funny thing is I think he forgot that's what the church does. Oh, sure, there's a stage and some songs, and there's normally someone up there talking, and when we're honest it doesn't always click into something we can apply that day or even that week. But judging church on the worship experience alone is like an Olympic judge only grading an athlete on one move during a complex, intricate routine. So I don't know what kind of church it is Donald isn't attending. And I'm not entirely sure what kind of "church university" he has since graduated from. And ultimately, I don't know him, so I'll have to go with what I know:*

- *I know that I am a child of God, but sometimes I need to be reminded of that.*
- *I know that sometimes I am a jerk, and sometimes I need to be reminded of that too.*
- *I know that God is at work in the world, and sometimes I need to tell someone else about that.*
- *I know that sometimes I think that even the idea of God is an insult to the pain others are feeling, and sometimes I need [Him to speak through] people to say "I know how you feel" and others to say "but look at how beautiful this is."*
- *I know that sometimes I am wrong, and no matter how many degrees I have, articles I write, or sermons I preach, I need someone to tell me that I'm wrong . . . and a tree can't do that.*
- *I know that, as Anne Lamott says, "The most powerful sermon in the world are the words **me too**," and I know I have never found more people to tell me that than I have found in church.*
- *I know that God is in the sunset, but I know sunsets are a lot better when they're shared. ([www.abpnews.com](http://www.abpnews.com))*

I agree with Trey. I'm not going to graduate from church—ever—well, at least not until I get the ultimate promotion to heaven. I need the weekly "remediation" of worship so I can be open to hearing God's word for me, be reminded of His love for me, be ready to offer words of comfort and encouragement to others, & always be ready to praise Him.

**Hope to see you "in class" this summer, Deon Roach**

## High School Grads

Sean Beaton	Katherine Dunleavy	Ansis Perez-Lajara	Maddie Smith
Mackenzie Bright	Hattie Ferguson	Kenny Reeb	Jordan Stenner
Alice Brower	Micah Gleason	Helen Rogalski	Julie Watterson
Jason Cox	Bri Merrigan	Claire Scanga	Katie Wilson
	Sam Parker		Kendall Wood

## College Grads

	Katie Flowers	Rachel Naylor	
Marshall Rogalski	Sarah Sullivan	Chelsea Woodfin	



# Ministry News

## Core Values at Christ Church

By Craig Wood, Core Values Team Chair



What are we all about at Christ United Methodist Church? What makes us different from other congregations? What's important to us here?

Over the last five months, a subcommittee of the Church Council has been engaged in a process to answer these questions by defining and articulating the core values of our church family. Core values help define "what's important" to a person or organization. They guide our actions & behaviors and serve as a critical lens as we make decisions. They are our core beliefs – but not necessarily a doctrinal statement. They are our philosophy, principles, & ideals—not just words on paper—but something that should truly drive behavior & shape our culture. Christ Church's core values shape how we will deliver on our mission statement:

**We gather in the name of Jesus Christ to worship God and to seek, nurture and send Christian disciples into the world.**

We have always had core values at Christ Church; we just haven't gone through the exercise of articulating them. The process is now complete, and I'm excited to share the values with you:

**Compassionate Love** – Demonstrating God's mercy, grace, kindness and devotion to all

**Active Invitation** – Going out of our way to engage and welcome

**Nourishing Community** – Cultivating the ties that bind us to each other and our neighbors

**Abundant Generosity** – Joyous giving through willing sacrifice and extraordinary sharing

**Purposeful Service** – Using our gifts to unselfishly care for other

You can learn more about our core values by listening to a sermon entitled, *Working from Your Core*, which I shared with the congregation on June 1. (Listen to it on our website at <http://christmethodist.org/resources/sermons/working-from-your-core/>.) This fall, Pastor David and the staff will begin a five-week sermon series, spending one week diving deep into each of the core values. But don't wait! Start striving to live out these values TODAY!

Youth Ministries will be going through some big changes this fall! We are excited for these new areas of growth and transformation. Please read through our changes, & contact Youth Pastor Rush Beam ([rbeam@christmethodist.org](mailto:rbeam@christmethodist.org); 969-8820, x 204) with any questions.

► **Worship Together:** As a ministry, we want to encourage families to attend the same service. To achieve this goal, we have planned a new campaign for Fall 2014—*Worship Together*. We'll suspend youth Sunday School at 9:45 am, allowing Rush to be available to lead worship, connect with students in all areas of our church campus, and to hang out longer with them on Sunday mornings.

► **Combined Youth Group:** Starting Sept. 7th, 2014 at KICK OFF DAY in Youth Group, our youth ministries will combine forces to be one big Youth Group! All Middle and High School students will meet together for games, worship, fellowship, fun, creativity, service, small groups and so much more! The new Youth Group time will be 5:15-6:45 pm. Our leaders are excited for this new step in our growth as a ministry. Fall Retreat and Missions Trips will remain separate for middle and high school youth, however.

► **6th Graders joining Youth:** Also on Sept. 7th, our 6th graders will be welcomed into Youth Ministries through a class just for them called *Genesis*. Save the date for this huge step in their faith journeys!



What's New at CUMC? PLENTY!!

# New Faces @ CUMC

This spring, we've welcomed new members and new staff to Christ Church, and we're happy to introduce them to you here. Take a minute to greet them & extend a warm CUMC welcome.



## Heather Barsallo

- ◆ Husband Oscar
- ◆ Children: Anna 2, Leo 4 mos.
- ◆ Heather is Gordon & Nancy Jones' oldest daughter.
- ◆ Lives in Chapel Hill (Governor's Village area)
- ◆ 704-840-6113; Heather.Barsallo@duke-energy.com

## Holly Douthitt

- ◆ Husband Charles
- ◆ Daughter Ellery 14 mos.
- ◆ Holly is Gordon & Nancy Jones' 2nd daughter.
- ◆ Lives in Carrboro
- ◆ 980-875-8994; hjdouthitt@gmail.com



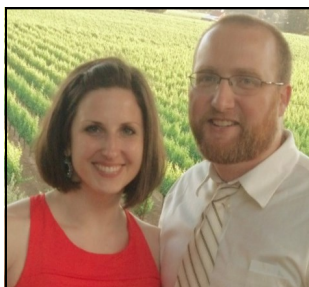
## Ashley Garrison

- ◆ Husband Wesley
- ◆ Children: Eamon 4, Emelia 3
- ◆ Ashley is Gordon and Nancy Jones' 3rd daughter.
- ◆ Lives in Pittsboro (west of Cole Park)
- ◆ 919-969-5910; aejgarrison@gmail.com



## Gordon & Nancy Jones

- ◆ Children: Heather, Holly, Ashely, and Sarah
- ◆ Live in Pittsboro (just south of Hwy. 64)
- ◆ 919-704-8059; gjones67@carolina.rr.com; enkaybeejay@gmail.com

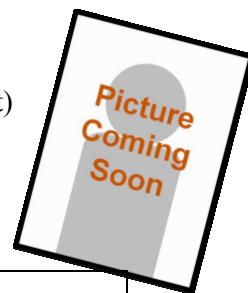


## Sarah Jones

- ◆ Youngest daughter of Gordon and Nancy Jones
- ◆ Lives in Carrboro
- ◆ 919-260-3735; sarahjones04@gmail.com

## Steve & Gretchen Marlowe

- ◆ Son Reuben (Carrboro High student)
- ◆ Live in Durham
- ◆ mfam5@att.net



## Are YOU Interested in Exploring Membership at Christ Church?

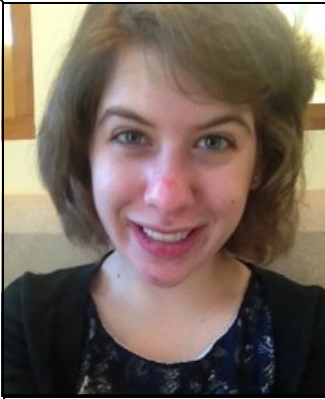
Our next class will be held **Sunday, June 29**. We'll start with lunch at **12:15 pm** in Ascension Hall followed by class in 105 Market St., room 2. Childcare will be provided. Learn about the different ministries of the church, explore the faith, learn why we worship God as we do, and meet new brothers and sisters while doing so. If you have questions about what church membership means or need to attend class on a different day, contact Mary Saou (919-969-8820, x224; [mdaysaou@christmethodist.org](mailto:mdaysaou@christmethodist.org)). To RSVP for the class, go to: <http://christmethodist.org/event/593097-2014-06-29-exploring-membership-class/>.

## Welcome Morgan Welge, our new Children's Ministries Summer Intern!

Morgan will be a sophomore at UNC this fall, where she studies Political Science. She enjoys attending UNC basketball, football, & baseball games & spends her summers boating at Jordan Lake and traveling. Morgan hopes to attend law school after graduation from Carolina. She has been a member of Christ Church since 2003 and has been involved with VBS, Children's Sunday school, and American Red Cross blood drives for years. Morgan is passionate about growing the faith of our youngest members as part of the Christ Church children's ministry team.



# What's New at CUMC? PLENTY!!



## Say Hello to Maggie Ivancic

**CUMC welcomed Maggie as our new Administrative Specialist in May, and she's been a terrific addition to our staff. Learn more about her below, and stop by the office to say hello.**

**Hometown:** Morganton, NC **Now living in:** Chapel Hill, NC

**Family:** Martin Ivancic & Dawn Parker (parents); Ali Ivancic (sister), Aaron Hayworth (fiancé)

**Why ministry?** Ministry has always been a big part of my life. My parents taught my Sunday School classes, I sang in the church choir, and I helped weekly at soup kitchens. This fall, my fiancé is entering the Duke Divinity Master's program, and I am interested in becoming more connected with the United Methodist tradition. I look forward to being a part of this wonderful and faithful community.

**Person who has had the greatest influence on your life:** Definitely my mom. She has taught me to be strong, faithful, and kind. She has always supported me in whatever endeavors I have chosen, whether it be horseback rider, gymnast, opera singer, or the latest plan—speech pathologist. She's the most thoughtful & generous person I know.

**Favorite book:** This is a difficult question . . . My favorite authors are Ernest Hemingway and James Joyce. However, I have recently read Tina Fey's *Bossypants*, and that is definitely in my top five favorites.

**Favorite food:** Chicken Enchiladas

**Favorite movie:** *Once*, directed by John Carney. It combines my love for music and realistic endings.

**Favorite Website:** <http://writtenkitten.net/>; When I'm writing papers, it keeps me on task by rewarding me with pictures of cute cats if I'm productive!

**City I've never been to but want to visit:** Zagreb, Croatia because that's where my dad's side of the family is from, and I would be interested in learning more about their history.

**Hobbies:** I love to sing & take care of animals. I'm always looking for new music to learn, and I enjoy making crafts.

**3 people (living or dead) with whom you'd like to have dinner:** Mary Magdalene, Idina Menzel, and Ben Folds.

**You'd never guess, but I can . . . :** train cats to give high 5s! (I'm a cat person if you can't tell, but I love dogs too!)

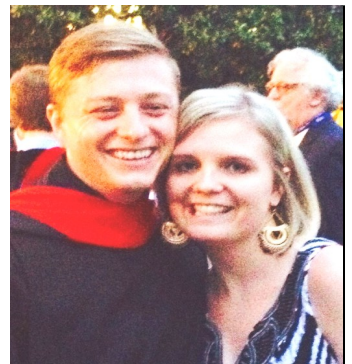
*To my Christ Church family,*

*I am filled with such emotion when I reflect on my time at CUMC & transitioning to the next chapter in Jason's & my journey. It's amazing how I can look back & clearly see God's hand in the midst of the past two years. I have gained lifelong friends, a deeper relationship with the Lord, & a love for the church that I didn't know could become stronger. I know that it's no coincidence that I worked at Christ Church. In the years leading up to Jason's first appointment as a pastor, God has been preparing me for the ministry we will have in Jacksonville, Florida. Jason jokes that I know more about the committees, charge conference paperwork, & insides of a church than he does, and he is right!*

*Thank you for the sweet emails, cards, laughs, phone calls, and most of all—your patience—which has made my job the greatest. This church & staff will forever hold a special place in my heart, and I thank God for the opportunity I've had to serve here!*

*All my love and thanks, Jenny*

*. . . And  
Good-Bye to  
Jenny Knott*



## A Thank You from Pastor Christi

Friends, words cannot express my gratitude for you as I prepare to transition to leading my own church in just a few weeks. It was here at CUMC that I first celebrated the Eucharist, first baptized a child, first celebrated a funeral, and was first formally known as "pastor." For that I will be ever grateful, and you will always hold a special place in my heart for those things. But it was also here that I met my husband; exchanged our vows and celebrated a wonderful wedding; had our first and beloved child, Jordan; celebrated her baptism; and are now expecting another already beloved daughter, due in late August. Not many congregations and pastors are able to share so many wonderful life passages (at least not in such a relatively short time!).

(See "Pastor Christi", p. 6)

# Ministry News

*("Pastor Christi" from p. 5)*

Thank you for nurturing me as a pastor, priest, and person. Thank you for loving me, inspiring me, trusting me, and helping me to live a holier life. Thank you for embracing my family and all the support you have given us. Thank you for celebrating with us, and for supporting me and us in difficult times. I leave you richer, fuller, wiser, and more faithful than when I came. Will and I feel very peaceful and hopeful about this transition; we believe it will be a very good place for our family in the coming years. We are happy to have a parsonage just across the street from the church, to live much closer to his work, and to begin to experience life in a smaller, family-based congregation in Swepsonville. I am ready to lead my own church and hope I can practice all the good gifts you have taught me.

My love & prayers remain with you, and I'm excited about YOUR future as well. I am grateful for Suzanne & David who are such gifted pastors to care for and help lead you; for the staff as they form you and help you to worship; and for the people and lay leaders of this church. God is with you and has given you all you need to engage in the hopeful future HE has for you!

***Peace be with you, Pastor Christi***

When I finished crunching the numbers, I didn't like the results. As exciting as it is to dream about possibilities becoming realities, I found myself thinking, "We are just too few for all this work." Suddenly, Pastor David interrupted my musings, calling my attention back to the discussion: "Prayer, no matter what kind, is an act of faith. Do you have enough faith? Ask yourself, how is your prayer life? If you don't know what God is up to, spend more time in listening prayer. Prayer at its best draws us into union with God." These few sentences have challenged me far more than the technical "bookkeeping" aspects of who slots where on Sunday mornings.

So, right about now I'm guessing you are probably thinking that the pitch to join the Shemaiah Group is coming. Well it's not . . . and not because you're not welcome *because you are*. But when I prayed about my concerns, when I talked to my Father in Heaven, he showed me a "new math". By adding my faith to the abundance of God's grace, a different reality began to emerge. The way I see it, you are already in the Shemaiah Group. Every place you go—wherever you are—the possibility for prayer goes with you. Every conversation you have is an opportunity for blessing. Every act of service you perform can be a prayer of gratitude to God. *You are someone's hope* (maybe his/her only hope) to bring intercession, praise and restoration. The fact is you, your faith, and the power of the Holy Spirit residing in you are a powerful prayer team.

Shortly after the prayer workshop, I received a thank you note from a participant. She wrote: "*I am hopeful that I will be able to contribute to the efforts of the prayer team and to make prayer the central focus of my relationship to God. I also hope we are able to bring prayer to those who are in need but cannot ask for it, for whatever reason.*" That's my prayer, too, and I have one for you as well. It's called the Prayer of Realization, and you can find it in Ephesians 3:14-21. Why not open your Bible and pray it today?

**PAX, Pat Horton**



**"The Prayer Closet" is a new column which will appear in each issue of *The Connection*. Written by various members of The Shemaiah Group (formerly known as The Prayer Team), the goal of the articles will be to share helpful ideas about prayer, encourage you to pray often, and to let you know how God is answering prayer at CUMC. Shemaiah means "God Heard" in Hebrew . . . & He still does!**

On Saturday, April 28, a loose confederacy of women gathered for a Prayer Workshop at CUMC. In the first part of the session, Pastor David shared his ideas and plans for prayer at CUMC, ways the prayer team might assist at Sunday services and special events, and how to better inform the congregation about our activities. As he spoke, I began to imagine sharing my love of all things prayer with the church at large, but as I added more details to my happy musings, I began to imagine more things going wrong! As with many day-dreams, my enthusiasm began to wane as I calculated the handful of women sitting around me, divided by the number of services on Sunday, & subtracted the percentages of "I'm out of town that week."



On communion Sundays starting in July, someone from The Shemaiah Group or a pastor will be at the front of the Sanctuary to anoint congregants with oil. After receiving communion, simply walk over to this designated person for anointing. Those needing particular prayers for healing, safe travel, new jobs, or any other happening would be anointed with oil. We want to offer this sacred tradition of the church at CUMC just as the Bible exhorts us to do in James 5:13-14. This is sure to become a very special time in our services of worship.

# Special Summer Events & Classes



## Lake Junaluska Singers

in concert

Dr. Melodie Galloway, Director

Don't miss this special event! CUMC will welcome the Lake Junaluska Singers on **Wednesday, July 9th** at 7:30pm in the Sanctuary. This 14-voice professional ensemble has performed nationally and internationally for conferences, dignitaries, and major events. Their music ranges from classical choral and contemporary works to gospel, folk and musical theatre styles. Prior to the concert, join us for an "Ice Cream Social" at 6:30 pm, followed by a pre-concert at 7:15 pm given by the CUMC Chancel Bells handbell choir, featuring Jonathan Dolan, *violin*, and Phil Pitner, *trumpet*. The evening's sweet desserts and musical offerings are free. Invite a friend!

**KIDS!!** It's almost time for a wonderful week of **"God's Weird Animals!" Vacation Bible School from July 14-18**. God filled the world with a lot of crazy creatures . . . including each of us, and kids ages 4 years old - rising 5th graders will play, sing, and learn how much God loves each of us as His unique children! Register TODAY at <http://christmethodist.org/vbs/>. Scholarships are available. For more information, contact the church office at 919-969-8820.

Oh, yes! Do you happen to have a bearded dragon? How about a chinchilla? If so, we'd like your animal friend to join us for a few hours at VBS in July. Since the theme of our summer VBS is *Weird Animals*, we'd LOVE to bring in a *live* animal (or two!) to show the children. Will you share your pet for a few hours? Contact Catherine Neal (919-969-8820, X208; [cneal@christmethodist.org](mailto:cneal@christmethodist.org)) if you can help!



## Four Evenings in July



Our Good Shepherd...the perfect Lamb  
with Kathy Russell

Thursdays July 10th, 17th, 24th, & 31st  
7:00 - 9:00 pm

Aqueduct Conference Center  
1620 Mount Carmel Church Road, Chapel Hill

*fresh*water  
ministries  
COMMUNITIES OF CHRISTIAN WOMEN

<http://freshwaterministries.net>  
for more information

Join us for any or all evenings! Ice cream & coffee will be served



## Summer Bible Studies & Summer Book Group

In the relaxed days of summer, why not use some of your "downtime" for a "pick me up"? Try out one of these studies or a book group.

### Adult Sunday School Classes

**Gospel of Matthew—Sundays at 9:45 am**, Conference room of 101 Market St.; The Living Word Class invites you to join them at any time this summer. Contact Deborah Gorman for more information ([deb.gorman@outlook.com](mailto:deb.gorman@outlook.com)).

**The Jesus I Never Knew—Sundays at 5:45 pm**, CUMC Library; Join Tim & Allison Reavis for this study of Philip Yancey's best-selling book. Questions? Contact Allison ([allison.reavis@gmail.com](mailto:allison.reavis@gmail.com)).

### Christian Women's Book Club

**The Book Thief by Markus Zusak—Ladies**, start reading now so you can join the discussion on **Thur., August 7th, 7:00 pm** in the youth room. Contact Catherine Neal ([cneal@christmethodist.org](mailto:cneal@christmethodist.org)).

## CHRIST CHURCH

United Methodist

800 Market Street

Chapel Hill, NC 27516

## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



### Want to Learn More about Being a Stephen Minister?

Stephen Ministry congregations equip and empower lay caregivers—called Stephen Ministers—to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting.

If you'd like to become a Stephen Minister or want to learn more, contact Walt Avery (919-929-7221; [mdwaltona@bellsouth.net](mailto:mdwaltona@bellsouth.net)) or one of our pastors. A training class will be offered this fall.

### Become a Shepherd's Helper

Are you comfortable making minor repairs or doing routine maintenance? If so, why not become a Shepherd's Helper! At first, this ministry will be geared to maintenance of our church facility & the homes of older CUMC members who could use some help. We are forming this team now. Please contact Pastor David ([dgoehring@christmethodist.org](mailto:dgoehring@christmethodist.org); 919-969-8820, x 207) to get involved.



### Important Dates

- ▶ Appalachia Service Project High School Mission Trip—June 15-21
- ▶ Farewell Reception for Pastor Christi—Sun., June 22 after the 9:45 & 11 am services; Ascension Hall
- ▶ Office Closed for Holiday—Fri., July 4th
- ▶ Christ Church Worship Service at Galloway Ridge—Sun. July 6; 3:00 pm in the Players' Lounge
- ▶ Wilderness Trail Youth Trip—July 7-14
- ▶ Weird Animals VBS—July 14-18
- ▶ Young Adult Cookout—Tues., July 15, 6:30 pm, The Village in Carrboro; Contact Allison for directions at [allison.reavis@gmail.com](mailto:allison.reavis@gmail.com).
- ▶ VBS Kids Sing in Worship—Sun., July 20 ; 9:45 am ; Continental breakfast to follow in Ascension Hall
- ▶ Women's Circle—Mon., July 21; 2 pm; Ascension Hall
- ▶ Blood Drive—Tue., July 22; 11 am -3:30 pm; Asc. Hall
- ▶ YouthWorks Middle School Mission Trip—July 27-Aug. 1

Coming August 2014 . . .

Pastor David will lead a study of John's 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Letters on Wed., August 6, 13, and 20, 6:30-7:30 pm, Ascension Hall.