



The Connection

Seeking to Link Person to Person And All to Christ

October/November, 2014

Christ United Methodist Church
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Members of Our Staff

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dgoehring@christmethodist.org

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rbeam@christmethodist.org

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Ext. 206; mdaysaou@christmethodist.org

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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 Pastor's Pen

Fall is such an important time in the life of a church. Here at Christ UMC, we begin to have more people in worship, our Wednesday night fellowship, youth, and children's ministries are in full swing, music groups for all ages are practicing, and even more activities are planned! In October, a mission team will travel to Russia, we'll begin building a Habitat Home, and we'll glean for sweet potatoes. At the same time, we will begin to look at funding next year's ministries and ways we can achieve our goals for those ministries. *Growth and engagement* are two important goals for 2015. We want to grow in all aspects of church life, and we desire that all the people here are engaged in some form of ministry beyond worship. However, saying that we want this to happen will not make it so. We need God's help and guidance.

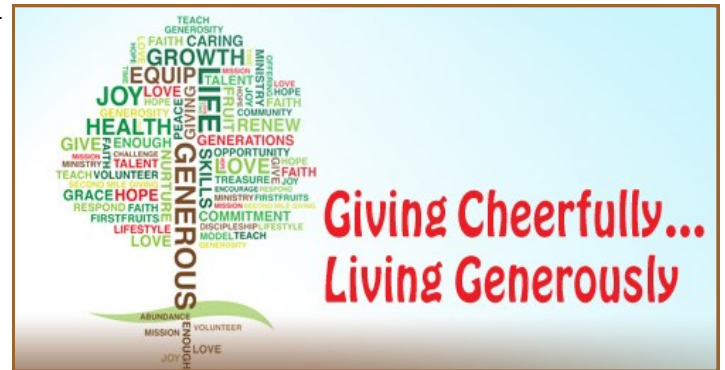
I am starting my second year as your pastor, and I am so hopeful and thankful. Here at CUMC, God has a lot of resources from which to work. We will continue to ask God, "What do you want us to do?", & we will listen for & discern His responses.

I would like to write about the financial support needed for ministry. To finish the year well, we need everyone who pledged to *complete*, and if possible, *exceed* your commitment. For the 200 giving families who did not pledge, we need you to step up and give as you have in the past; likewise, if you can give more, that will help us meet our obligations. If we maintain our present level of giving into next year, we

will not be able to ask the Bishop for a full-time Associate Pastor starting in July, 2015. Without your support, we will be restrained in funding creative ways of reaching populations of the un-churched. We truly want to grow, but my friends, we are beyond the time when people come to church simply because we are available. Also, CUMC's Staff /Parish Relations Committee has increased staff support for children's ministry. This fall, we have brought Jane Reeb on board to work with Catherine Neal and the Children's Ministry team. This is so important as the number of young families worshipping at CUMC grows. Through our abundant generosity, there's no reason for CUMC to be in want. God has richly blessed us here. I can trust Him working through you to vibrantly support the work here. Thank you!

We have much to celebrate this fall as we *do* church at Christ Church. I want you to know:

- ♦ I'm happy to have Brent & Natalie Levy here. Brent is our Duke Divinity School Intern. He brings to us experience & a deepening faith; we will serve well together.
- ♦ At the end of October, I will be one of four people going to Russia with Mission



Fall is a Time to Grow through Giving

(“Pastor’s Pen,” from p.1)

1:27. It will be good for me & my fellow travelers to experience the children at the Slobodskoy orphanage.

- ◆ Pastor Suzanne Hultman and I are preaching from Acts 2: 41-47 in October, and we as a congregation will be learning more about what it means for us to be the Church. It is clear to me that, in order for us to *be* church, we must *do* church. Doing what Jesus did is not easy, but that is why we are together . . . and Jesus has no problem working with us.

Remember, I am always interested in talking with you about church or your faith journey.

Peace and Love, Pastor David



. . . is November 9th!

Please watch for a letter from CUMC’s Stewardship Committee which will arrive at your home in early November. It will contain information about our 2015 budget, ministry dreams and plans, and a pledge card for you to commit your tithes and offerings to God’s work at CUMC. Please prayerfully consider your pledge for 2015; then, bring your card to worship on November 9th. We’ll place cards on the altar as an act of worship and thankfulness to our Father whose love and generosity to us is always abundant and overflowing.

Yes, it may be fall, but several of our ministries are blooming like it’s spring! Here’s what’s “growing on” at CUMC:

- **Young Adult Sunday School** is alive and thriving... so much so that they’ve outgrown their current meeting space! Starting Sunday, October 19th, they’ll meet in the youth room (upstairs in 103 Market St.). To find out more about Bible studies and events for young adults, visit <http://christmethodist.org/ministries/young-adult/> or contact Mary Saou (mdaysaou@christmethodist.org).
- **Youth Ministries** combined two separate leadership teams into one this fall, & Youth Pastor Rush Beam is thrilled with the results. Adult advisors are leading the students on Sunday evenings which frees up Rush to be a pastoral presence & to connect individually with students. In addition, the Wellspring Band (from our 7:00 pm service) plays a short set of contemporary music to get youth group rockin’ every Sunday night. Both of these changes have translated into “new life and new energy” for CUMC’s youth group, which since last spring, has doubled its numbers. “The Spirit is thick in the room,” Rush reports. Middle & high school youth, check out what’s “growing on” at 5:00 pm, Sundays (Youth Rm., upstairs, 103 Market St.)! Learn more at [http:// christmethodist.org/ministries/youth/](http://christmethodist.org/ministries/youth/) , or contact Rush (rbeam@christmethodist.org).
- **Music Ministries** are continuing to bear fruit, too. Our adult handbell choir, the Chancel Bells, has grown to support a 5th octave of handbells, & there’s room for you to join the ringers when they practice on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary. In addition, our children’s choir has now sprouted into two groups, one for pre-k and kindergarteners & another for 1st-5th graders. Check out the fun on Wednesdays, 4:45-5:25 pm, in Ascension Hall. Go to <http://christmethodist.org/serve/music/> to find out more music news, or contact Daniel Steinert (dsteinert@christmethodist.org). (Christmas Choir Cantata rehearsals start soon. See page 8 for more information.)

We're Growing!



Don't forget to turn your clock back!
(I'm turning mine back to when I was 25!!)
Sun., Nov. 2 at 2:00 am!

If the church has issued you a reimbursement check, please cash it ASAP. The check is void 60 days after the issue date.



Our Core Values in Action

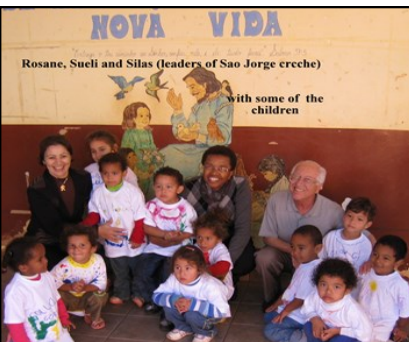
**Get Connected,
Show Abundant Generosity,
and Serve Purposefully**



CUMC's Missions Committee will kick off our gleaning project by participating in this year's **Yam Jam on Saturday, October 18th from 8 am to 12 pm.** We'll join hundreds of volunteers to harvest sweet potatoes at local farms. Last year, CUMC provided over 600 pounds of yams to food missions in Chatham and Orange counties. Fall is an ideal time to renew this effort because it's sweet potato season, and our state produces a bountiful crop. We'll glean what is left after the farmer has harvested sweet potatoes mechanically. Surprisingly, over 20% of all food produced in the U.S. annually never makes it to the table because farmers cannot harvest all crops profitably, despite their excellent food value.

Gleaning is a great family activity, and able-bodied volunteers of all ages can help, although adults must provide supervision for youth or children in our group. The day includes about 45 minutes of travel time (each way) and 2-3 hours on the farm. When we arrive at the farm (which most likely will be in southern Wake county), a trained Society of St. Andrew field supervisor will provide all the instructions and support we'll need.

Get connected, show abundant generosity, & serve purposefully! Please email Kris Weigle (krisaweigle@aol.com) to participate, & provide adequate contact information so she can inform you of last minute plans and changes. In addition, indicate whether you can provide or will need transportation.



BOB also supports the **Refugio** ministry in Londrina. It nurtures 200 at-risk children and adolescents and will expand to serve 250 kids by year's end. They provide activities such as Taekwondo, Jiu-Jitsu, dance, & music as ways to attract the children, and the staff helps them to develop a sense of self respect, learn healthy lifestyle habits, and see that there is hope. Refugio offers Sunday evening services that attract people from the streets, many of whom become involved and have their lives changed. This year, your abundant generosity helped BOB provide over \$2,000 for electrical work for the expanding facility.

Several Sundays throughout the year, the BOB team sells Nicaraguan "coffee for a cause" in Ascension Hall, & we are grateful for your support. The product is imported from Silvio

Mendez, a coffee grower who employs disadvantaged people & provides BOB with the highest quality coffee. Proceeds from these sales are now being directed back to some newer ministries in Nicaragua that provide support for poor children and their families. Please keep the BOB team in your prayers as they travel to Nicaragua on November 5 - 9 .



Come enjoy a casual meal at Wellspring worship on **Sunday, October 19th at 6:45 pm in Ascension Hall.** Enjoy a buffet supper with open seating and music. Come for worship, come for dinner, come for dessert, just come! And, please, **BRING** a friend who would enjoy a hot meal and fellowship. Let's break bread and worship together while practicing our core values of active invitation, compassionate love, and nourishing community!

In Christ, Pastor Suzanne

*If you are interested in providing a side dish or dessert, please contact me at shultman@christmethodist.org.

***Thank you from
the Beyond our Borders (BOB) Team***

This spring, during the annual fundraising campaign to support the needy children in Brazil and Nicaragua, 75 CUMC members contributed to specific projects in the two countries. Since its founding in 2002, BOB has provided significant support to a childcare center (crèche) in the Sao Jorge favela (slum) in Londrina, Brazil where 124 children are cared for every day while parents attempt to eke out a living. This year, we provided almost \$10,000 to provide an expansion of the Toddlers' Room, construction of two new bathrooms, & other important facility repairs.

Welcome New Staff Members

CUMC welcomed Brent Levy and Jane Reeb to the staff in September, and they've been terrific additions. Learn some fun facts about them below.



Say Hello to Brent Levy

Hometown: Glen Allen, VA, a suburb of Richmond; **Now living in:** Durham, NC
Family: My wife Natalie and my cat Belle; but I am the oldest of three children. My sister Elizabeth is in graduate school at Nazareth College in New York, and my brother John is an undergraduate at James Madison University.

Why ministry? There's no easy answer to this, and I'd love to talk more about it to whomever may be interested. The short answer is: I believe God has a dream for us and all of creation – a dream for a mended, whole creation – and we get to be a part of that dream.

Person who has had the greatest influence on your life? One of my pastors, Amanda Miller Garber, is probably the single-most formative person in my life to date.

Favorite book? Hard to choose just one. I'll offer a couple of the best I've read in the last few years: *The Great Emergence* by Phyllis Tickle, *On the Incarnation* by St. Athanasius, *Tattoos on the Heart* by Fr. Gregory Boyle, *Open Secrets* by Richard Lischer, *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel.

Favorite food? Tacos, Chipotle burritos, and mac & cheese. I've never tasted a bad batch of mac & cheese.

Favorite movie? *Casablanca*, *Peter Pan*, *Finding Nemo* ... and many others!

Favorite Website? I'm kind of a tech nerd, so Product Hunt (<http://producthunt.com>) keeps me up on the latest apps and technology. Checking in is part of my daily ritual.

City I've never been to but want to visit: Anaheim, CA - home of Disneyland.

Hobbies? I like listening to podcasts, dreaming up new app ideas, listening to U2, playing keyboard, improv comedy, and reading on my Kindle.

3 people (living or dead) with whom you'd like to have dinner: Bono, Desmond Tutu, Walt Disney.

You'd never guess, but I can . . . do decent impressions. People have told me that my Elmo, Mickey Mouse, and current and former U.S. presidents are better than mediocre. I'm also really good at being humble.

Hometown: Signal Mtn., TN; **Now living in:** Chapel Hill, NC
Family: On October 12th, Ken and I celebrated our 29th wedding anniversary. We have 2 children: Kenny (a freshman at the University of Alabama) & Anna (a sophomore at Carrboro High School).

Why ministry? When Kenny and Anna were little, I began volunteering with various children's ministries and discovered a love for working with the children. I enjoy sharing God's love with kids of all ages, beginning with our tiny new members in the nursery. I have discovered that by sharing the love of Christ, I in turn receive His love.

Person who has had the greatest influence on your life? My mom, Marion Summerville. She lived a life full of compassionate love, abundant generosity, and purposeful service. I cannot think of a time when she was not helping others, either by offering a listening ear, sharing a hot cooked meal, teaching Sunday School, or serving her community as Commissioner and then the first woman Mayor.

Favorite book? *To Kill a Mockingbird*

Favorite food? Dark Chocolate

Favorite movie? *The Blindside*

City I've never been to but want to visit: Paris

Hobbies? Creating videos, reading

3 people (living or dead) with whom you'd like to have dinner: Mary – mother of Jesus; Martin Luther King, Jr.; Grandma Betsy – She was my great, great, great grandmother. I would love to hear stories not only of her life growing up in Alabama in the late 1700's and early 1800's but also stories of Maw as a child (my great grandmother) who was 10 when Grandma Betsy died. I was 24 when Maw died at 102 years old!

You'd never guess, but I can . . . Throw a nice spiral. I was the quarterback on my high school flag football team. (I did attend an all girl's school !)

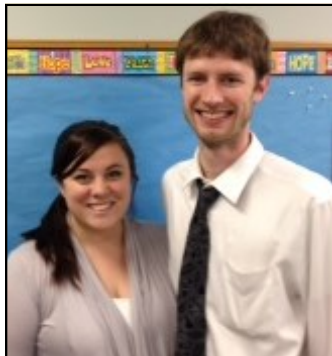


Say Hello to Jane Reeb

Welcome New Members!

New Faces @ CUMC

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



Brian Evans & Ali Gerakaris

- ◆ Getting married at CUMC on November 1
- ◆ Live in Carrboro
- ◆ 919-601-8505
- ◆ bevans515@gmail.com; agerakaris15@gmail.com;

James & Nikki Glenos

- ◆ James is an IT genius! Nikki works in Academic Advising at UNC;
- ◆ Live in Chapel Hill
- ◆ J: 919-801-8442; N: 919-932-0336
- ◆ James@glenos.net; Nikki@glenos.net



Robbie Gfeller

- ◆ Studied at UNC; works at an outdoor sporting goods company
- ◆ Enjoys fishing, reading, and classical music
- ◆ Lives in Chapel Hill (Southern Village)
- ◆ 336-413-4752
- ◆ robbiegfeller@gmail.com

David & Betty Farlow

- ◆ Live in Chapel Hill (Carolina Meadows)
- ◆ extrader3@aol.com

Katie Naftel

- ◆ Children: Jack (3); Isla (1)
- ◆ Lives in Chapel Hill (Southern Village)
- ◆ 919-923-0904
- ◆ KatieFinnNaftel@gmail.com

And a Really New Face!



Welcome Emma!

Dear Friends,

We are happily settled into our new home, church family, and life here in Swepsonville. We're delighted that Emma is with us, & Jordan is a great big sister. I'm very happy to be leading my own congregation, who has welcomed us all so beautifully. Will is much closer to his work, as am I, and we are happy for the family time that this allows. Will's parents just moved to Burlington, so we're really getting settled into a new routine as a family. We remain ever grateful for your love, prayers, & support, & know that our love and prayers remain with you.

Peace, Christi Dye, Will, Jordan, and Emma

MMMM . . . BRUNSWICK STEW AND PECANS

You can help the Alamance-Orange Prison Ministry by ordering Brunswick Stew and Pecans. Proceeds from sales support the on-site prison chaplain, Rev. Dave Nickels, who encourages the inmates in their walk with the Lord. Pre-orders will be taken in Ascension Hall on Sunday, October 19 and 26, before and after each service. Reserve these wonderful treats for a special holiday gift. You may also contact Mark Patrick (mark.x.patrick@gmail.com; 919-619-6489) to place an order any time before November 3.



Fall Classes - Engage with the CUMC Community



Sundays

*** *The Faith Walk Class* invites you to join them for a new study entitled *Breathe - Making Room for the Sabbath* beginning Sunday, November 2. We limit our Christlikeness and miss out on some of God's greatest gifts when we don't breathe and build margin into our lives. Join the class to find out how you can change the pattern of busyness in your life and find God through Sabbath time. The study will be led by various participants and meets at 9:45 am in room 4 of 105 Market St. For more information, contact Barbara Moore (signingwoman@att.net).

***The Parents with Young Children Class will meet to discuss the book *Blessings of a Skinned Knee* by Wendy Mogel. Using the book as a guide, the group will discuss how certain "blessings" address key parenting issues such as independence, self control, chores, etc. Reading the book is not required as the topics are broad enough for all to discuss, and materials will be provided for class. The class will meet at 9:45 on Oct 19th and Nov 2nd in the Disciple Room. Contact Jennifer Woods (jennwoos@yahoo.com) to be added to the email reminders and reading schedule.

Learn about more Sunday morning adult classes at <http://christmethodist.org/ministries/adult/>.

Wednesdays

(6:30—7:30 pm; after Dinner at The Well)

***The Parables of Luke are the focus of a study led by Pastor David in the Disciple Room.

***About Faith is a class for high school students and adults which explores the big questions of our faith. It is led by Rush and Erin Beam in the 101 Market St., Conference Room.

***Broken and Blessed, a study for women on the book of Genesis, meets in room 4, 105 Market St. and is taught by Deon Roach.

Every Wednesday Night Through Nov. 19th

Join us for dinner & fellowship at 5:30 pm, followed by classes and small groups for children, youth, and adults at 6:30 pm. Grow spiritually and enjoy nourishing community. For a complete schedule of choirs, classes, and small groups, go to <http://christmethodist.org/ministries/wednesday-nights/>.



GRIEFSHARE

GriefShare is a Christ-centered weekly seminar/support group for people grieving the death of someone close, whether your loss is recent or even many years ago. It's a place where you can be around people who understand how you feel and the pain of your loss. During the 13-week program, you will watch an information-packed 40 minute video featuring leading grief recovery experts, participate (as you are able) in a small group discussion about the video, & complete workbook/personal study exercises to reinforce the weekly topics.

The seminar will be held Tuesday evenings, 6:30-8:30 pm, at the Seymour Center (off Homestead Rd., Chapel Hill) starting November 18 - February, 2015. Cost is \$25. Contact Rik Gervais for more information (rik.gervais@gmail.com or 919- 619-9861).

All Saints Sunday

November 2, 2014

It is the tradition of the church to remember members and loved ones of families in our congregation who have died since the last All Saints' Sunday. On Nov. 2 at all four services, we'll read the names of loved ones who have gone before us and ring a single handbell following the reading of each name. To have your loved one recognized, please contact Maggie in the church office (919-969-8820; mivancic@christmethodist.org) or record your loved one's name on the list on the Narthex table.

Purposeful Service and Abundant Generosity

Are you doing
MINISTRY
or a
JOB?

**Some people have a job in the church.
Others involve themselves in ministry.
What's the difference?**

Let the thoughts below guide us as we continue to serve our brothers and sisters at CUMC, in our community, and around the world.

And . . . thank you to Catherine Neal who shared this with the CUMC staff at a recent meeting.

If you do it just because no one else will...it's a job!
If you do it to serve God...it's a ministry!

If you quit because someone criticized you...it's a job!
If you kept on serving in spite of criticism...it's a ministry!

If you'll do it only so long as it doesn't interfere with other things...it's a job!
If you're committed to staying with it, even when it means letting other things go...it's a ministry!

If you quit because no one ever praised or thanked you...it's a job!
If you stay even though no one notices your efforts...it's a ministry!

If you do it because someone else said it needs to be done...it's a job!
If you do it because you sensed God saying it needs to be done...it's a ministry!

It's hard to get excited about a job.
It's almost impossible not to get excited about a ministry!

An average church is filled with people doing jobs! A great & growing church is filled with people involved in ministry!

Author Unknown

SHEPHERD'S HELPERS



Who are they? They're Christ Church men & women committed to helping the elderly and physically challenged remain independent and live safely in their homes. Shepherd's Helpers will assist with the following **maintenance items**:

- Changing light bulbs
- Changing batteries & testing smoke/carbon monoxide detectors when the clocks change in spring and fall
- Changing/cleaning heating, ventilating, & air conditioning filters
- Checking/cleaning dryer exhaust vents
- Cleaning downspouts
- Winterizing (i.e., bringing in hoses, covering water/sprinkler spigots, etc.)
- Inspecting fire extinguishers
- Reviewing Slip & Fall Hazards (i.e., checking & repairing throw rug backing, burned out lights, etc.)
- Checking locks/deadbolts on doors/windows.

Shepherd's Helpers will also provide **handyman services** including hanging pictures, minor household repairs, set up & troubleshooting of electronic equipment (TVs, VCRs, music equipment, etc.), and plumbing repairs (minor clogs, running toilet, faucet repair, shower head replacement, etc.). For larger home improvement projects, they can also assist homeowners in negotiating with contractors.

If you, a family member, or a friend in the community could use a helping hand, contact Paul Ising (pdising@nc.rr.com; 919-200-5637) or Rick Meath (rickthepick@gmail.com; 623-687-1202).

► **Good News from Christ Church Preschool:** CCP has been awarded the Darkness to Light *Partner in Prevention* distinction for 2014-15, representing its commitment to the prevention of child sexual abuse & to helping children grow up healthy & whole.

► **Good News from Mission 1:27:** The missions benefit evening, *To Russia with Love*, raised \$12,640 to support the Russian children at the Slobodskoy Orphanage. **Quiz Question:** Why is this ministry called Mission 1:27? Look up James 1:27 in your Bible for the answer.



CHRIST CHURCH

United Methodist

800 Market Street

Chapel Hill, NC 27516

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Where is the oldest Methodist Church building in continuous use in the United States located?

ANS: Philadelphia

St. George's United Methodist Church was founded before the Revolutionary War, and its onsite museum holds artifacts from John Wesley and Francis Asbury. The church offers a Time Traveler experience that gives visitors a chance to learn more about our denomination's founding fathers. Tour the church online here: <http://www.umc.org/news-and-media/cathedral-church-of-american-methodism>.

On November 1st from 6-10 pm, our CUMC Youth will be offering a **"Parents Night Out" Babysitting Night**. Enjoy a night out on the town while your children enjoy a great night of fun, snacks, and games in Ascension Hall with some awesome youth babysitters! Please email Leslie Fine at jandlfine@earthlink.net or call 919-942-7889 to sign up. Please RSVP by Wed, Oct. 29th. \$10 for one child, \$15 for more than one child. Ages 4-10.



Christmas Cantata Rehearsals

will begin on Wed., October 29 at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary. Bring a friend to sing & celebrate the birth of our Savior.



- ▶ All Saints Day—November 2
- ▶ High School Youth Retreat—November 7-9
- ▶ Commitment Sunday—November 9
- ▶ Final evening of The Well, 2014—Nov. 19
- ▶ Christmas Choir Cantata—December 7
- ▶ Children's Christmas Pageant—December 14
- ▶ Youth White Elephant Party—December 14
- ▶ Longest Night Service—December 17
- ▶ Christmas Eve Services—Dec. 24 @ 3, 5, 7, 9pm

Phone Number Changes



*Dr. Daniel Steinert, Director of Music: 919-969-7126
*Debbie Arena, Preschool Director: 919-969-1690