



The Connection

Seeking to Link Person to Person And All to Christ

September, 2014

Christ United Methodist Church
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Chapel Hill, NC 27516
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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

It is hard for me to realize that we are approaching the end of summer and the conclusion of my first year here at Christ UMC. You all have been so kind and supportive of me, and it is a genuine joy for me to serve with you in the Lord's work.

The *Vision* of our church is to bring Christ's hope, healing, and inspiration to our community and the world. Our *Mission* is to gather in the name of Jesus Christ to worship God, to invite and nurture disciples, and then send them into the world. Our shorthand reference for this mission statement is "Worship + 2". The Church Council has identified five Core Values which will guide our decision making. These values were inspired by the Holy Spirit, are centered in Jesus Christ, and come from the teachings of Scripture. The following values will be further explained during our new sermon series "*Core Values: How Does Jesus Want us to Live?*" beginning Sunday, September 7th:

- ◆ **Compassionate Love**
- ◆ **Active Invitation**
- ◆ **Nourishing Community**
- ◆ **Abundant Generosity**
- ◆ **Purposeful Service**

One of our goals as a church is to continue to grow—in faith, in service toward others, and in numbers of new people. The best way I've learned for this to happen is by *all of us* inviting others to join us in worship, study, fellowship, missional activity, and fun times. I will keep reminding us of this in the weeks to come.

I have come to enjoy and appreciate what we do here on Wednesdays during the fall. Starting September 10th, *The Well* begins. Dinner is at 5:30 pm, followed by study opportunities which are described further on page 2 of this newsletter.

During the month of October, we will be looking closely at Acts 2: 43-47, a scripture text selected by the Church Council for our Stewardship Focus. In the fall of each year, the church begins to look at funding ministry for the coming year. We give money to the church to do the Lord's work. When we asked to be a part of Christ UMC, we committed to support her with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Let us never grow weary of this commitment. I pray that God regularly enlivens us to be faithful followers of Jesus.

This issue of *The Connection* has a lot of information, but please remember that it's the Lord's doing, it is the Lord's work, and to Him be the glory.

Love & Peace, Pastor David



What's your Focus this Fall?



Focus Your Thoughts on These . . .

Sometimes the answer is “yes” and sometimes it’s “no,” but the question is always the same, isn’t it? As shoppers, we’ve gotten quite accustomed to cashiers making this query as we approach the register: “Did you find everything you were looking for?” What a loaded question, and depending on the customer, the cashier may get an answer for which she is unprepared! “Well, actually no, Betty. I was looking for childhood innocence and youthful idealism, but apparently both are out of stock.” Of course, the wittiest of cashiers might have this retort: “On the contrary, sir. You’ll find unobtainables on aisle 6.”

I recently read a blog entitled, “You’ll Find What You’re Looking For,” written by Pastor Joseph Yoo of St. Mark’s UMC in Santa Barbara, California. He believes each of us will find *exactly* what we’re looking for in life . . . especially if we’re looking down. Here’s an excerpt:

“There’s a wonderful midrash about two Israelite men, Reuven and Shimon, who were present when God, through Moses, parted the Red Sea. As the Israelites were walking across the Red Sea, Reuven and Shimon noticed that, though it was now safe to walk on the bottom of the sea, it was not completely dry and very muddy. Mud was getting stuck between Reuven’s sandals and toes, and he couldn’t handle it.

‘Ugh,’ he muttered. ‘What in the world is this muck?’

Shimon agreed. ‘There’s mud everywhere!’

‘Ugh. This is just like the slime pits of Egypt!’

‘What’s the difference? Mud here. Mud in Egypt. It’s all the same, no?’

The two grumbled and mumbled all the way across. And because they never once took the chance to look up, they never understood why on the distant shore everyone was singing songs of praise. For Reuven and Shimon, the parting of the Red Sea never happened. They were far more concerned with complaining. And the truth is, we will find what we are looking for.

I’m always taken aback by my propensity to be negative. I’m quicker to point out what was wrong with a church or their worship service; quicker to criticize what the pastor said or didn’t say; eager to share what I didn’t like. And I always find what I’m looking for. I’m ashamed to admit how much I relate to Reuven and Shimon . . . and I wonder how many miracles I’ve missed because I chose to look for things I wanted to complain about.

There’s a false notion that assumes that those who can find problems are geniuses. The truth is, it doesn’t take much intelligence to point out problems. Anyone can tell you what’s not working. The true genius comes in finding solutions. But folks like me find it easier to sit back and be armchair quarterbacks, pointing out all the things that displease us and hoping that someone else will address those areas.

I recently came across Paul’s words to the Philippians, which resonated louder than before: ‘From now on, brothers and sisters, if anything is excellent and if anything is admirable, focus your thoughts on these things: all that is true, all that is holy, all that is just, all that is pure, all that is lovely, and all that is worthy of praise.’ (Philippians 4:8)

You will find what you are looking for. If you seek to find negativity, you will surely find it. If you seek to find mistakes, you will definitely find them. If you focus on blemishes, you’ll only find blemishes.

But what if we took Paul’s words to heart and focused our thoughts on all that is true, all that is holy, all that is just, all that is pure, all that is lovely, and all that is worthy of praise? What would we see? What would we find? How different would we see and perceive the world? How many more miracles would we be witnesses to? We’d be more aware of the beauty than the brokenness in this world and in people.”

So, what are looking for this fall? God is doing true, holy, just, pure, lovely, and praiseworthy things at CUMC, in our community, and across the world. Take a few minutes to focus your thoughts on the opportunities described in this newsletter. Then, do something about it! Look up . . . and pray about how you can partner with God as we seek to live out His vision for CUMC: to bring Christ’s hope, healing, and inspiration to our community and the world.



Focused Upward, Deon Roach

Focus on Nourishing Community

*& There's Even More
at The Well!*



Music Opportunities

- ▶ Children's Choir for Grades K-5—Starts at 4:44 pm; Disciple Room
- ▶ Handbell Ringers—Starts at 5:55 pm; Sanctuary
- ▶ 11 O'Clock Sunday Singers—Starts at 6:45 pm; Sanctuary

Need more details about our music program? Contact Dr. Daniel Steinert, Director of Music (919-969-1686 or dsteinert@christmethodist.org) Check out page 5 for more music news.

*For more info on
adult/youth classes at
The Well, see pg 7*

Wednesday Nights
at

THE WELL

\$5/person; \$12/family
Youth eat free!

5:30 DINNER
6:30 CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

**Begins September 10*

KIDZ CLUB (1ST-5TH GRADE)

*meets in building 105

Kids will enjoy high energy songs, Bible verses, games, and hands-on activities, all with a focus on prayer.

YOUTH SMALL GROUPS (6TH-12TH GRADE)

*meets in youth room, upstairs building 103

Small groups from 6:30-7:30pm
fellowship time until 8

*nursery available until 8pm

ADULT BIBLE STUDIES

"Parables from Luke"

Taught by Pastor David Goehring
*In Ascension Hall

"Broken and Blessed"

Taught by Deon Roach
*meets in building 105, Room 4

"About Faith"

Taught by Erin Lane and Rush Beam
offered to high school students and
any adults (not exclusively for families)
*meets in building 101

For Kids!

Classes for children ages 3 through fifth grade. Join us for cake to celebrate the start of our new Sunday school year in Ascension Hall at 10:45 am. Learn more about children's Sunday school at www.christmethodist.org.

For 6th Graders!

- **Genesis:** What are we created for? What is student ministry about? In this three week class, 6th graders & their parents get to have their questions answered, have a little fun, & get started on the right foot. Meet Youth Pastor Rush Beam from 11:00 am-12:30 pm on Sept. 7, 14, & 21 in the youth room (upstairs, 103 Market St.) or contact him at beam@christmethodist.org.
- **Faith Walk Class** (9:45 am; Room 4, 105 Market St.) - The group will continue its study of the book of Proverbs on *Sept. 7th*.
- **Living Word Class** (9:45 am; 101 Market St. Conference Room; *starts Sept. 14th*) - How should I live? What goals are worth pursuing? How do I find meaning and fulfillment? The book of Ecclesiastes holds the answers to these age old, yet perennially relevant questions. Join Daniel Moul (djmoul@gmail.com) and Ken Reeb for an engaging study of this powerful book.
- **Parents of Young Children Class** (9:45 am; Disciple Room, 800 Market St.) - Join a discussion of *Blessings of a Skinned Knee*, by Wendy Mogel. Using the book as a guide, the group will explore how certain "blessings" address key parenting issues such as independence, self control, chores, etc. Reading the book is not required; materials will be provided in class. The class will meet on *Sept 21st, Oct 5th, Oct 19th, and Nov 2nd*. Contact: Jennifer Woods at jennwoods@yahoo.com.
- **Women's Sunday School Class** (11:00 am; Room 4, 105 Market St.) Beginning *September 21*, Susan Little will lead an 8 week study of "Favorite Bible Passages Volume 1." From Genesis to Revelations, participants will review meaningful quotations from 19 books of the Bible. Each lesson stresses Words for Bible Times, Words for Our Time, and Words for Your Life. Contact: Susan Little (sslitle@bellsouth.net; 919-929-7707).

For Adults!



Focus on CUMC's Vision, Mission, and Core Values

Dear Church Family,

At our August meeting, the Church Council voted to adopt CUMC's first-ever Vision statement along with four related goals. Our prayer is that, when achieved, these goals will result in Christ Church living out its vision and being known as the best church it can be *for* our community. My thanks to the Visioning Team for their work on this project: Jean Elia, Andy Esser, Kirk Bradley, Rick Woods, Deon Roach, Tom Caffey, Bill George, Terry Woodfin, Stephanie Stout, Sandra Henson, Ben Huffman, Tony Smith, and Cynthia Wheaton.

As we embark on a new sermon series about our Core Values in September, the following information will help you to see how those five values—in action—are necessary for us to live into our mission and vision as individuals and as a church. Decide today how you will actively participate to bring Christ's hope, healing, and inspiration to our community and the world.

Peace of Christ, Mike Roach

Church Council Chair

Vision:

Bringing Christ's hope, healing and inspiration to our community and the world.

Mission:

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

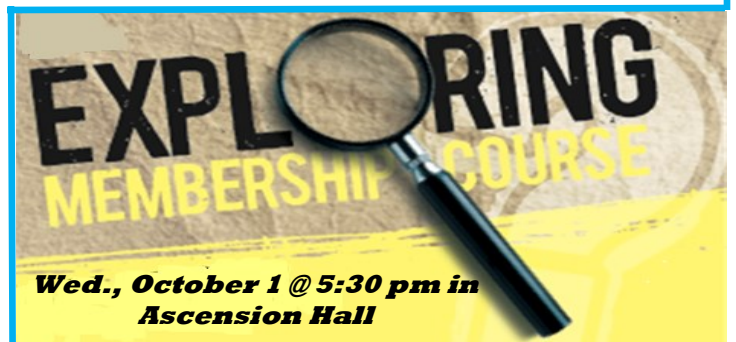
Core Values:

- **Compassionate Love** (John 13:34-35)
Demonstrating God's mercy, grace, kindness, and devotion to all
- **Active Invitation** (Matthew 4:19)
Going out of our way to engage and welcome
- **Nourishing Community** (Hebrews 10:24-25)
Cultivating the ties that bind us to each other and our neighbors
- **Abundant Generosity** (Acts 20:35)
Joyous giving through willing sacrifice and extraordinary sharing
- **Purposeful Service** (Romans 12:6-7)
Using our gifts to unselfishly care for others

Goals:

When the following four goals are achieved, Christ Church will be living out its vision and be known as the best church it can be for our community.

- ▶ **Growth:**
Double worship attendance within the next 5 years.
- ▶ **Engagement:**
Build a church of believers where everyone engages in the life of the church in addition to worship.
- ▶ **Relevant Experiences:**
Offer experiences every day that are relevant for those who are here and those yet to come.
- ▶ **Ample Resources:**
Determine and secure adequate funding and resources (budget, facilities, staffing) to fully deliver on our vision.



For more info & to register, visit <http://christmethodist.org/new-here/exploring-membership/> or call the church office (969-8820).

THE WELL

(cont. from p. 3)

More on Adult/Youth Classes

All Classes Begin at 6:30 pm.

▶ **Broken and Blessed**

This 6-week DVD/book study by Rev. Jessica Lagrone is for anyone with a perfectly imperfect family! We'll trace the story of the Genesis family from Adam & Eve through the generations to Joseph to see how God brought blessing from brokenness. Moving beyond Genesis to New Testament teachings about families and on to stories of contemporary American families, this study will show participants how God can use us & our own imperfect "kin" to bring blessings to a hurting world. Contact Deon (droach@christmethodist.org). Room 4, 105 Market St.

▶ **About Faith**

Join an intergenerational group of learners (adults and high school students) to explore the big questions of our faith. Through a series of videos, we'll interact with modern Christian thinkers & learn how to talk about our own theology free of clichés & judgment. Contact Rush (rbeam@christmethodist.org). Youth Room.

Focus on Active Invitation and Nourishing Community



INVITE
A FRIEND

... with
Christ Church

**Worship
On the Green**

**Sunday, September 28
7:00 pm**

**Connect with God & Your
Community in His Creation!**



Please bring a lawn chair or blanket.



Women's Fellowship
Meets the 3rd Monday
each month; 2:00-4:00 pm
in the Library

On **September 15th**, bring a friend to enjoy a discussion of Andy Stanley's book, *Twisting the Truth*. No time to read? No worries! We'll be watching Pastor Stanley teach on DVD about how we can learn to discern truth in a culture of deception. Questions? Contact Jane Pahner (japahner@yahoo.com or 919-969-7676).

Women's Book Group
Meets the 1st Thurs. each month
7:00 pm; Youth Room

Fall Reading List

Sept. 4: *One Thousand Gifts*
Ann Voskamp
Oct. 2: *Unbroken*
Laura Hillenbrand
Nov. 6: *The Case for Faith*
Lee Strobel
Dec. 4: *Talking Taboo*
Erin Lane & Enuma Okoro
Questions? Contact Catherine Neal (cneal@christmethodist.org).

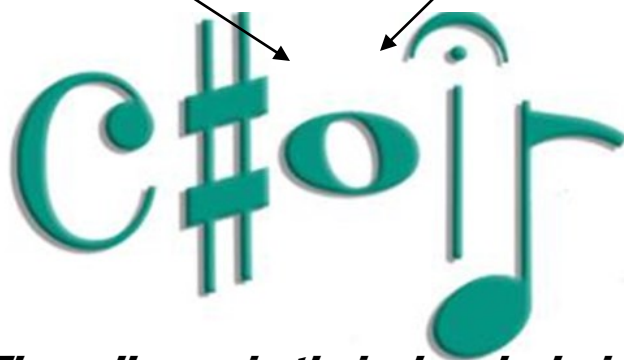


Middle School - Sept. 26-28
High School - Nov. 7-9
Camp Chestnut Ridge; Efland, NC

Each fall, our youth group takes time to step away from the rest of the world for Penguin Football, Capture the Flag, Mission Impossible, amazing worship, deep encounters with a living God, & some of the best memories of your life. Cost is \$105/person. Look for retreat brochures and registration forms at www.christmethodist.org/retreats/ in early September. Questions? Contact Youth Pastor Rush Beam (969-8820, x 204; rbeam@christmethodist.org).

What do Avril Lavigne, Aretha Franklin, Justin Timberlake, Beyonce, Katy Perry, and Snoop Dogg have in common?

Here's a hint:



**They all sang in their church choirs.
Why not you?**

Teens & Adults! Rehearsals for Sunday morning singers will begin **Wed., Sept. 3 at 6:45 pm** in the Sanctuary. We'll explore all styles of music & have a spot just for you! Contact Daniel Steinert (dsteinert@christmethodist.org; 919-969-1686) to find out more about singing or playing an instrument in Sunday morning worship.



Start September off right by joining other CUMC young adults for a potluck dinner on **Thursday, Sept. 11, 6:30pm**, at the home of Mike and Mary Saou! Bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share as well as tales of your summer. The Saous will provide lasagna. Sign up for something to bring & submit your RSVP at <http://christmethodist.org/event/641013-2014-09-11-young-adult-potluck/>. Questions? Contact Mary at mdaysaou@christmethodist.org.

What Would YOU do . . . If you couldn't put food on the table for your Family?

Circles®
Chatham
Creating Opportunities

According to the U.S. Census, over 15 percent of the Chatham County population lives below the poverty line. Many more live just above the line, constantly at risk. However, these numbers do not capture the *true* cost of poverty. It does not portray the individual stories that are so common among low-income neighborhoods, nor does it convey poverty's impact on families, businesses, and communities. So . . . what would you do if you couldn't put food on the table for your family or keep a roof over your children's heads?

You can get an idea of how that feels and learn what you can do to reduce poverty in Chatham County by participating in **Poverty Awareness Day on September 13, 8:30 am—1:30 pm, at Pittsboro UMC** (near the traffic circle at 71 West St., in Pittsboro). Poverty Awareness Day is sponsored by Circles Chatham and includes two free workshops:

- **Perspectives on Poverty (8:30-10:30 am)**—Educator Joelle Brummitt-Yale will interactively discuss the scope of poverty in Chatham County, the challenges facing people with low incomes, and ways social service agencies, non-profits, employers and individuals can work together to help people transition out of poverty.
- **Cost of Poverty Experience (COPE) poverty simulation (10:30 am-1:30 pm)**—Get a glimpse of how difficult it is for people living on the margins to survive day to day. You will assume the role of someone in crisis who is seeking food, shelter and other basic necessities. As you interact with social service agencies, utilities, police, the courts, schools and other resource providers, you will deal with the benefits and challenges those encounters produce.

Register for Poverty Awareness Day or volunteer with the poverty simulation at www.circleschatham.org.



Mission 1:27 Update

Last month, David Parker, CUMC's Chair of Mission 1:27, received a report detailing activities at the Kirov Ministry Center in Russia. Supported by the generosity and service of CUMC members & friends, the Center serves orphans who have "graduated" from the Slobodskoy orphanage as well as two nearby facilities. In the report, Laura Fisher of Children's HopeChest, wrote:

"Without the services provided by the [Kirov] Ministry Center program, many youth would not reach their fullest potential. Instead, they might succumb to the many risks they face after leaving the orphanage: crime, alcohol, drugs, prostitution, & even suicide. . . . Because of your gifts, graduate orphaned youth are receiving the ongoing support & sense of "family" & "home" they crave. With your help, Children's HopeChest is taking much needed steps towards stopping the orphan cycle in Russia."



Graduate orphaned youth have benefited from the services of a social worker as well as programs like Jobs for Life, Dance Club, the Leadership Program, and educational, social, & outreach events. Pastor David Goehring and a team of Mission 1:27 missionaries will visit the Slobodskoy orphanage from October 24-November 1, 2014. To learn more, visit <http://mission127.org>.

This summer, the North Carolina Conference of the UMC once again adopted **Project AGAPE Christmas Boxes for the children of Armenia** as a conference-wide mission project. You can help by:

- **Donating Christmas Boxes!** Boxes may be delivered to Haw River UMC (127 Church Circle Dr., Haw River, 27258) the week prior to **October 3-4** or on the morning of those dates.
- **Spending a few hours at the collection point at Haw River UMC** – Boxes will be checked & packed for shipping on October 3-4. Volunteers are needed to check the contents of boxes any time from noon on October 3 to noon on October 4.

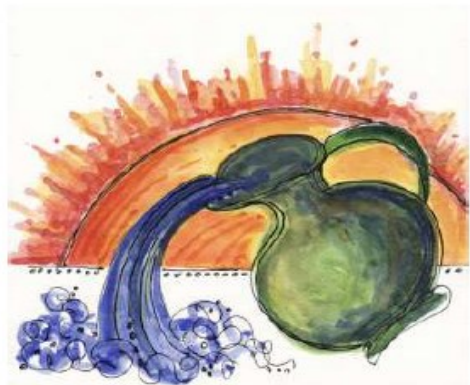
Visit <http://nccumc.org/outreach/give-christ-gave-agape-christmas-boxes/> to download the 2014 packing list & learn more about the history of this project.

**Project
Agape**



Bringing Christ's Hope, Healing, & Inspiration to our Neighbors

Legacy Bible Study



God's Provision:

Exploring New Testament Epistles

Fall 2014: Paul's Letter to the Ephesians
Experience God's Provision in Power and Grace

Winter/Spring 2015: First and Second Peter
As Believers, Come and Imitate Christ

September 5, 2014—April 10, 2015

9:30-11:30 am; CUMC Sanctuary

Call the church office (919-969-8820) for a registration form or download one here: [Registration form - click here to download.](#)

SHEPHERD'S HELPERS

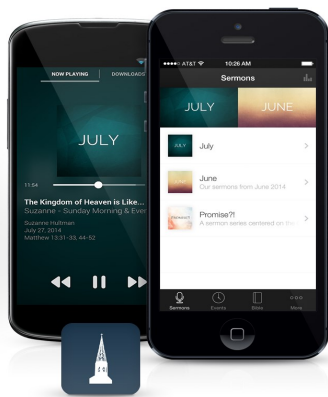


Who are they? They're Christ Church men & women committed to helping the elderly and physically challenged remain independent and live safely in their homes. Shepherd's Helpers will assist with the following **maintenance items**:

- 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, please contact Paul Ising (pdising@nc.rr.com; 919-200-5637) or Rick Meath (rickthepick@gmail.com; 623-687-1202).



Now Available

Christ Church Chapel Hill



get.theapp.co/161a

There's an App for That . . .

& we've got it! Download the Christ Church app for your iPhone or android, & use it to listen to sermons or to get updated on the latest church news. Check it out at get.theapp.co/161a.

writers wanted

Yes, it's only September, but it's time to start thinking about CUMC's 2014 Advent Devotional Book. Writers are needed to create daily devotions for the book which will focus on the five Core Values of our church. Scripture assignments will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Feel the nudge to write? Contact Cynthia Wheaton (919-969-9218; wheaton.cynthia@gmail.com) for details.

Jane Reeb joins the CUMC Staff

Long-time CUMC member Jane Reeb joins Catherine Neal as Co-Director of Children's Ministries effective September 2nd. Jane will be in the office 15 hours/week and can be reached at jreeb@christmethodist.org or 969-8820, x208.



CHRIST CHURCH

United Methodist

800 Market Street

Chapel Hill, NC 27516

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



The Prayer Ministry of CUMC has become **The Shemaiah Group**. There were many prophets & priests in the Bible called by this name, & we chose it because Shemaiah means “one who hears and obeys God.” That is our intent as a prayer group.

We do not see ourselves as exclusive or special. Rather, we humbly admit that we are imperfect vessels. However, we feel privileged to be called to pray for our church, including the staff and worshipers. While recognizing that the Lord hears each of our private prayers, The Shemaiah Group has experienced the blessing of communal prayer: *“Where two or three are gathered in My name, there I am in the midst of them.”* [Matthew 18:20] Often when we gather, the Holy Spirit expresses Himself in winsome, encouraging ways. One person will

speaking what she hears, and another will bear witness to its truth. Sometimes one will speak what another is hearing on the inside - before the second has even given voice to the thought! We come as members of His Body with our various gifts, and He gives us the great gift of unity.

Would you like someone to partner with you in prayer? Come to the church library on any Wednesday, 11:00 am–noon. We schedule 20-minute slots; please contact Pat Horton (rhortonelectric@gmail.com) or Sharon Guyer (auntsharonps84@gmail.com) to reserve a time. You can expect a warm welcome, the opportunity to briefly share your need, a time of quiet to listen, and then PRAYER. As we continue to be taught by the Holy Spirit, please join us on the journey!

In Christ, Pat Horton & Sharon Guyer for The Shemaiah Group



- ▶ Praise Band Retreat—October 4
- ▶ Stewardship Focus Begins—October 5
- ▶ Youth Progressive Dinner—October 12
- ▶ All Saints Day—November 2
- ▶ Commitment Sunday—November 9
- ▶ Christmas Choir Cantata—December 7
- ▶ Children’s Christmas Pageant—December 14
- ▶ Longest Night Service—December 17

Phone Number Changes

Please Note

- *Dr. Daniel Steinert, Director of Music: 919-969-1686
- *Debbie Arena, Preschool Director: 919-969-1690