

Celebrate

January 2016

"Growing in Christ and the Word and Bringing Others to Him"

Pastor's Snapshot...A New Year Brings Continuing Restoration

Look at these words – restoration, revitalization, redevelopment, and renewal. What do they have in common?

re - a prefix indicating a return to a previous condition.

As a church we are in the process of change; so many ask the question, why is it necessary or when did we lose ourselves? The answers to these questions are complicated because the history of any organization is always cyclical. The key here at CCC is that we each want what we perceive is the better way. However, there has been no collective voice until now. We have come so far and have a long way to go. This journey is one where our eyes need to be on Jesus all the way.

The Mission and Vision Team have given us and we agreed that our Mission Statement is "To Be the Hope of Christ in Our World." These powerful words represent for us a renewal of our first love, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Each of us has to determine where we will participate in the wonderful plan that God has for our lives. How will we live out our gifts, skills, talents, and passions in support of being the hope of Christ in our world? This means looking at your previous personal assessment on Spiritual Gifts and seeing how they align with what God has given you as actions of life. These actions of life are what make us happy and draw us to engage our talents in service to the kingdom of God. Some dream about what would be a better job or opportunity, so live that out here through the church and make a difference.

As the survey from the Mission and Vision Team come to you, it is our greatest desire that you will fill it out with integrity and a spirit of humility. We need to hear your voices on the topic of who we are and how can we serve the WORLD starting right next door. Once we understand what we have in common to offer the community around us, we will survey them about their needs. We are seeking a place to serve beyond the doors that fits within our skill set.

Some are, or have asked, how long will this process take? I would say to each of you how long did it take us to forget to shut ourselves off from those around us. Please remember many, many churches are asking these same questions. To live is to continually focus on what Jesus told us, to Go and TELL the story of grace, make disciples that will repeat the process, baptizing in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This only happens when we remember Matthew 10:8, "...Freely you have received, freely give." Pray – Listen - Obey

Grace and Peace – Pastor Tony

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP



Children and Worship provides one way of being in worship with children ages 4 through 2nd grade. In their book, *Young Children and Worship*, Sonja Stewart and Jerome Berryman combined their extensive experience as teachers of young children and adults. The result is a program that offers the church a unique and innovative worship experience for young children. The program calls for a structured time with children based on an outline for worship found in most Reformed and Presbyterian churches - we gather in God's name; we proclaim God's word; we give thanks to God; and we go out into God's world. This approach translates the religious language of Biblical stories, parables, and liturgy into concrete materials, which children use to retell into the stories themselves. Children and adults are drawn into the stories together as they experience, rather than merely learn, about worship.

When children reach the age of 10, parents are encouraged to keep their child with them in the sanctuary.

January 3 - Jesus is Baptized

January 10 - Jesus in the Wilderness

January 17 - The Mustard Seed

January 24 - The Leaven

January 31 - The Great Pearl

Church Humor...

One balmy evening in the South Pacific, a navy ship spied smoke coming from one of three huts on an unchartered island. Upon arriving at the shore, the crew was met by a shipwreck survivor. He said, "I'm so glad you are here. I've been alone on this island for more than five years." The captain replied, "If you're all alone, why do I see three huts?" The survivor answered, "Well, I live one and go to church in another." "What about the third hut?" asked the captain. "That's where I used to go to church."

Children's Sunday School

"One of the most important responsibilities in the Christian life is to care about others, smile at them, and be a friend to the friendless." James Dobson

*"Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."
Colossians 3:12*

The children in our Sunday school classes were pleased to give a \$182 gift to Samaritan's Purse this year. It was a blessing to see their enthusiasm as they shared God's good gifts with the hungry, suffering children supported by Samaritan's Purse. (Mrs. Diana Edwards contributed to their fund, too, and they really appreciated that!)

For the K-2 class, lessons in January on Jesus' travels from Bethlehem to Egypt, and from Nazareth to the temple, teach the children that God's Son grew up. In February, Jesus' baptism and His call to the four fishermen to follow Him allow the children to understand the start of Jesus' ministry. This prepares the children to learn Jesus did good things that teach us about His care, love, and forgiveness.

The Grades 3-5 class will explore Jesus and His missions in January. Looking at Jesus' growing up years and early ministry can help them as they grow in their faith. In the month of February, the children will learn about Jesus through His miracles. Understanding the power Jesus showed will encourage the children to ask for His work in their lives.

Gina Clements, Donna Henn, Erin Wilkinson, and I look forward to seeing your children every Sunday at 11 AM.. See everyone in church!

In Christ's love,
Marlene Sackett

Installation/Ordination Service

Sunday, January 10th, 2016

Elected to the offices of Elders and Deacons at our December 6th Congregational Meeting are:

Elders – Nick Knappenberger and Rich Conkling
Deacons – Amy Hochstetler, Aaron Sackett, and Ann Wenger

They will be installed and/or ordained into their perspective offices on January 10th, 2016. We ask you to be praying for these individuals as they begin their term in leadership of our congregation and for the whole community.

Friendship News...

Happy New Year Greetings from the Friendship Ministry!

Friendship ended 2015 with our annual Christmas Party on December 15th with a carol sing, Isaac's citation of Luke 2, the Christmas Pageant acted out by friends, and party food consisting of cookies, ice cream, and pop. Everyone went home with his or her own bag of gifts along with a tin of cookies! A big thank you goes to the Women's Ministry Team for providing everyone with socks, lap blankets, and ornaments, to all the cookie bakers and tin suppliers, and to the Brattons for supplying the colorful carrying bags for each friend to cart it all home. Since half of our friends (AWS now known as BENCHMARK) were invited to a dinner dance provided by the League of the Blind on the same night, and therefore could not make "our" party, Carolyn and Shirley delivered them the next day using GPS and some guessing. We would have used the star that guided the wise men, but it was not only daylight, it was also cloudy and drippy!

Our previous Bible story was about the falling walls of Jericho and how God keeps His promises to His children. We will continue with the stories of Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz, followed by the stories of David and Elijah. However, we will welcome the New Year first with the movie "Polar Express" on January 5th, complete with popcorn and pop.

Please keep our friends in your prayers, especially Laura, Peggy, and Geoffrey who are in various stages of healing from serious illnesses.

Serving the Shepherd,
Shirley and Carolyn

Outreach & Mission Team...

Thanks to the support the church has given to missions and outreach in the 2016 budget, the team has decided to increase by 10% the finances sent to our two missionaries – Rawee and Nui Bunupuradah and Susie Pederson – and also to begin financial support to Aaron and Joanna Choate ((\$100/month).

Praise God for the opportunity to be the hope of Christ to those in the 'uttermost parts' of the world (Thailand, Papua New Guinea, and the Solomon Islands). Pray for His direction in our outreach to our "Judea and Samaria." (Acts 1:8)

Happy New Year's!

New Year's Day is a national holiday celebrated on January 1st, the first day of the New Year, following both the Gregorian and the Julian calendar. This New Year's holiday is often marked by fireworks, parades, and reflection upon the last year while looking ahead to the future's possibilities. Many people celebrate New Year's in the company of loved ones, involving traditions meant to bring luck and success in the upcoming year. Many Cultures celebrate this happy day in their own unique way. Typically the customs and traditions of happy New Year involve celebrating with champagne and a variety of different foods. New Years marks a date of newly found happiness and a clean slate. For many celebrating New Years, it is their opportunity to learn from the prior year and make positive changes in their life.

New Year's is one of the oldest holidays still celebrated, but the exact date and nature of the festivities has changed over time. It originated thousands of years ago in ancient Babylon, celebrated as an eleven day festival on the first day of spring. During this time, many cultures used the sun and moon cycle to decide the "first" day of the year. It wasn't until Julius Caesar implemented the Julian calendar that January 1st became the common day for the celebration. The content of the festivities has varied as well. While early celebrations were more paganistic in nature, celebrating Earth's cycles, Christian tradition celebrates the Feast of the Circumcision of Christ on New Year's Day. Roman Catholics also often celebrate Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, a feast honoring Mary. However, in the twentieth century, the holiday grew into its own celebration and mostly separated from the common association with religion. It has become a holiday associated with nationality, relationships, and introspection rather than a religious celebration, although many people do still follow older traditions.



Christ's Community Church Financial Report as of 30 November 2015

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
INCOME		
General Giving	<u>220,928.52</u>	<u>209,000.00</u>
Total Income	220,928.52	209,000.00
EXPENSES		
Operating	41,862.78	40,717.71
Mortgage Reduction	25,872.59	25,578.63
Programs, Operating	20,714.93	21,119.56
Wages and Benefits**	113,863.67	122,454.80
Expense Subtotal	202,313.97	209,870.70
Operational GAIN (LOSS)	18,614.55	(870.70)
Designated Giving Programs		
Designated Giving Balance 1/1/2015	36,286.90	
Designated Giving YTD	9,945.24	
Programs Expense Designated	(14,541.42)	
Net Designated Giving Balance	31,690.72	
Additional Information as of 31 August 2015		
Cash in Bank Account	95,767.28	
Less Designated Fund Balances	31,690.72	
Available Operational Cash	64,076.56	
Mortgage Payable	285,734.87	
ENDOWMENT Summary as of 3/31/2015		
Market Value	64,520.29	
Principle Invested	45,344.50	
Cumulative Income Earned	9,286.21	
Cumulative Distributions Made	4,144.44	
Cumulative Undistributed Income Available	5,141.77	

Designated Funds Balances as of 30 November 2015

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Sub Fund</u>	<u>2014 End Bal</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Current Bal</u>
Advertising, Promotion		200.00			200.00
Building Fund		5,043.06	5,200.59	3,842.41	6,551.24
	Projector	150.00			
Chair Fund		2,193.26	(2,193.26)		
Children and Worship		128.23			128.23
Deacon		3,726.62	45.00	613.33	3,158.29
Flower		482.22		108.00	374.22
Friendship		3,076.32	1,645.00.00	820.40	3,900.92
LOGOS		1,319.68		224.33	1,095.35
Memorial Fund		1,775.00			2,270.00
	Greer Memorial	495.00			
Piano		9,010.34		1,780.74	7,229.60
Mission and Outreach					
	A Hope Center	1,540.00		1,540.00	-
	Food Drive		390.00	390.00	
Staff Gifts		70.00	20.00	70.00	20.00
VBS		763.85		610.22	153.63
Women		6,171.75	4,737.91	4,415.71	6,493.95
	Quilt Raffle				
Youth Mission		-			115.29
	World Vision	-	100.00	126.28	
	Youth Group	42.61			
	Youth Missions	98.96			
Designated fund balances TOTAL		36,286.90	9,945.24	14,541.42	31,690.72
True Desig Fund Bal: Desig Fund Total less negative bal					31,690.72
Fund balances gain/(loss)			(4,596.18)		

*Second Saturday
Women's Fellowship
Saturday, January 9th @ 10 AM*

Please join us for conversation and fellowship on Saturday, January 9th from 10-12. Why not reach out to another church member, or invite a friend or neighbor? There will be light refreshments provided. If you have a portable project, bring it along. It's wonderful to see the creativity of the talented women in our church.

Deb Neuenschwander and Marty Smith

Thank you...

I would like to thank everyone at the church for the nice basket filled with many very nice and very useable items, plus the fruit. It pays to be one of the "older" ones in our church – just look what we get! Thank you again.

**God bless each of you.
Diana Edwards**

Thanks to eleven additional pairs of perceptive eyes and adept hands, our church was quickly transformed into one of the traditions of Christmas-adornment.

Jon Nordvik gently guided us through the larger tasks performed by Carolyn Allen, Steve and Shirley Born, Tony and Betty De La Rosa, Ted and Deb Neuenschwander, Paul and Joyce Smith, and Marty Smith.

The delicious wassail and munchkins may have helped by giving us the sugar boost we needed – thank you dear friends.

Lynette Mankey and Marti Harrington

P.S. Keep in mind, it all must come down in a month!

A lesson in commitment...

A hen and a pig strolled down the avenue. The hen looked up a huge billboard advertising ham and eggs. "Look at those magnificent fried eggs with the orange yellow yolks," said the hen. "Look at the fried ham steak," said the pig. They thought for a moment, then the pig spoke, "For you, those eggs were a contribution, but for me the ham was a total commitment." Some make contributions, others are totally committed.

WATCH FOR THIS...THEN ONE CLICK WILL DO IT!!

Those of you who are enrolled in the Kroger Rewards program (that brings great \$\$\$ benefits to our Women's Ministry efforts) may have already received an email from Kroger notifying you that it is necessary to "re-enroll" in the program for 2016. This is true, but it is VERY EASY to do.

Please do this before January 1, 2016 so we do not miss out on a single day of building up rewards!! When you receive the email, just click on the button that says "re-enroll now" and you are done!! That's it! Just make sure that our church name is listed as the organization that you want to receive the benefits. If you don't receive an email, go to the website as soon as possible after January 1 and re-enroll.

Thank you to those of you who continue to participate in this very easy program that brings great monetary benefits to our Women's Ministry. In the first nine months of 2015, we received over \$2,000, and we expect the final quarterly check for 2015 sometime in mid-January.

If you are not already enrolled, please consider doing so. Here's how:

Kroger Rewards Sign Up

1. To participate, you need an online account with Kroger. If you already have an account, you are ready to sign up.
2. If you don't already have an account, go to – www.kroger/communityrewards and create one. You will need to provide an email address and password.
3. You will also need to have a free KrogerPlus card with a 12 digit number on the back. If you need a Plus Card, they are available in our church office, or at the customer service desk at Kroger, or from Barb Greer.
4. Once you are signed in to your existing, or a new account, you can enroll in Community Rewards under account settings or by clicking on Community Rewards. Our organization number is 11421. Click the button to the left of our church name when it appears, then click "Enroll." Make sure your Kroger Plus card number is associated with your account (you should be able to see this in your account profile).

Thank you for participating!! If you have questions, please talk with Barb Greer.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Lenora Perkins	14
Linda Coffman	15
Clarence Bratton	25
Dale Matthews	28
Jim Rauwerdink	31
Les and Marlene Sackett	6
Paul and Marti Harrington	30

LOGOS UPDATE

January 13th is Beach Night at LOGOS, and January 27th is Circus Night. Perhaps these themes will help us escape the reality of Indiana's winter for a few hours! Remember that LOGOS runs with SWACS...if they close on a LOGOS day, we do not meet. If you are preparing the meal, please plan ahead for that possibility.

We are a small group, but every child is precious. Children grow up so quickly, and we have this moment to reach them. If we, as a church community don't teach them to love Jesus, there are plenty of people out there ready to teach them NOT to love Jesus!



January 2016 Sermon Series

- January 3 - "The Word,"
John 1:1-9
- January 10 - "UP, IN, OUT,"
Mark 1:4-11
- January 17 - "Branches,"
John 15:1-17
- January 24 - "Shema,"
Deuteronomy 6:4-9
- January 31 - "Who do we follow?"
I Corinthians 3:6-8

Secret Sisters in Christ

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up....."

Thessalonians 5:11

First of all, let me thank everyone who participated in Secret Sisters last year. If you have never been a Secret Sister before, please consider becoming one. Being a Secret Sister is uplifting, easy and fun!

Our ministry is to support and encourage each other in our walk of Christian faith. In supporting her walk in faith you commit to sending your Secret Sister an encouraging note or card each month, a card on her anniversary, Mother's Day, or any time you want to remind her that you are praying for and thinking of her. Small gifts are given only on birthdays, Valentine's Day, and at Christmas when we reveal our Secret Sister identities at our new annual brunch.

Sign-up sheets will be included in the Sunday bulletin for the next three weeks and can also be found on the Women's Ministry bulletin board. Forms need to be completed and returned by January 17th. You can either drop them in the offering plate or my mail folder in the Narthex. You'll receive notice of who your Secret Sister is in your mail file on January 31st, just in time for Valentine's Day.

Again, please consider being a Secret Sister. What a wonderful way to share God's love and the Word. Be sure and let me know if you have any questions or ideas to make this ministry program even more rewarding.

Love and prayers,
Kitty

Special Christmas Eve Offering...

Friendship Ministry (Grand Rapids)

- \$538.00

LifeWater Community Church

(Shepherd's Store House)

- \$1,000.00

How could treason be committed during dinner?

Luke 11:23

A traitor is someone who acts in a way that helps the enemy. There is no “middle ground” – you’re either for or against your country. But what could you possibly do at the dinner table that would be considered an act of treason? If you lived in England in the seventeenth century, it was as simple as making a speech or a toast, or having a conversation over a drink. It wasn’t even what you said – it was what you didn’t say. There was a family named Stuart that had been banished from England. Some English people thought that the Stuarts should have been the real rulers of their country, and that it wasn’t fair that they couldn’t come back to England. So when people made toasts, they had a secret way of showing their support for the Stuarts.

In those days, tables were set with a small water bowl at each place so that the diners could rinse their fingers. If you were in favor of the Stuarts, as you raised your glass during a toast, you would be careful to hold it over your water bowl. That is how you showed that you were toasting the king “over the water,” or across the ocean. Eventually the hidden meaning of the toast was discovered by those who didn’t agree. As a result, water bowls were no longer put out on the tables. Even though the tradition of water bowls was brought back in later times, it is still considered an insult to have water bowls on the table when a British king or queen is dining.

So what? Being a traitor is a serious offense. When a person has Jesus as the Lord of his or her life, that person understands what Jesus meant when he said these words: **“Anyone who isn’t helping me opposes me, and anyone who isn’t working with me is actually working against me.”**
Luke 11:23, NLT

Because Christians are viewed as Jesus’ representatives, our unkind acts can push people away from him. When others see that we’re not trustworthy, they can become distrustful of God as well. There are many times each day when we can be a good representative of Jesus. Even the smallest bit of kindness and caring toward someone can end up being the exact invitation that person has needed to join up with Jesus.



Thursday Morning Women’s Mission Group (Women’s Sewing Group)

There is something new going on with this group of giving women. **We have changed our name!** Next, we ask that you join us to develop our new Vision Statement. Come on the first and third Thursday mornings...9:30 to 11:30 AM and maybe join for lunch after at a local spot? Ladies this is not just a sewing group, it is a mission outreach and fellowship opportunity to connect with other ladies of our church. Join us on January 7th and 21st. We look forward to seeing you there.

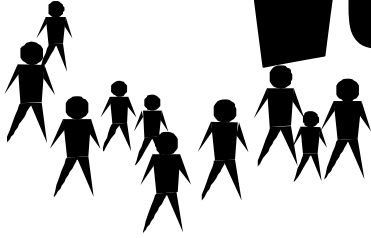
Contact person: Betty De La Rosa; (712) 539-9961 or bettydela@gmail.com

2016 Church Directory

It is that time of year when we like to update the church directories. There is a rough draft on the table in the narthex – please make any corrections necessary with the red pen, i.e. changes in email addresses, cell phone numbers, landline numbers, or any changes in home addresses. The directory will be there through Sunday, January 24th, and the new directories in your mail folders on Sunday, February 7th. If you are interested in having more than one directory, please contact the church office. Thank you!



Volunteers!



The time and talents of many help to strengthen the work of our church.

A wide variety of volunteer opportunities exist. Please contact the church office if you would like to get involved.

LAYREADER SCHEDULE

January 3 – Lynette Mankey
January 10 -
January 17 -
January 24 –
January 31 -

If you have questions, please contact Marilyn Whitney at 459-2306.

USHER SCHEDULE

January 3 – The McMurray Family
January 10 – The Wilkinson Family
January 17 -
January 24 -
January 31 -

If you have questions, please contact Marilyn Whitney at 459-2306.

SOUND BOOTH SCHEDULE

January 3 – Kevin McMurray
January 10 – Sean McMurray
January 17 – Cole Clements
January 24 – Mike Clements
January 31 – Rich Conkling

GREETER SCHEDULE

January 3 -
January 10 -
January 17 – The Wilkinson Family
January 24 –
January 31 – The McMurray Family

If you have questions, please contact Marilyn Whitney at 459-2306.

DEACON COUNTERS

January – see attached schedule on the church bulletin board.

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

COMMUNION PREPARATION

January -

Thank You!

January 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Happy New Year's	2
3	4	5 Girl Scout Meeting 4:30 PM Friendship Ministries – 6:30 PM (movie night)	6 C.H.O.P. – 7:15 PM	7 Men's Morning Bible Study – 6 AM Thursday Morning Women's Mission Group – 9:30 AM Mission and Vision Team Meeting – 6 PM Cub Scout Den Meetings – 6:30 PM	8	9 Women's Saturday Fellowship – 10 AM
10 Installation and Ordination Service Potluck Luncheon – 12 PM	11	12 Girl Scout Meeting – 4:30 PM Women's Evening Bible Study – 7 PM	13 LOGOS -5 PM (Beach Night) C.H.O.P.- 7:15 PM	14 Men's Morning Bible Study – 6 AM Mission and Vision Team Meeting – 6 PM Cub Scout Den Meetings – 6:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal – 7 PM	15	16
17 Chancel Choir Rehearsal – 8:30 AM	18 Elder and Deacon Meetings – 6 PM Consistory Meeting – 7 PM	19 Girl Scout Meeting – 4:30 PM Friendship Ministries – 6:30 PM	20 C.H.O.P. – 7:15 PM	21 Men's Morning Bible Study – 6 AM Mission and Vision Team Meeting – 6 PM Pack 3300 Meeting – 6:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal – 7 PM Pack Committee Meeting – 7:30 PM	22 Ladies' Luncheon – 12 PM	23
24 Chancel Choir Rehearsal – 8:30 AM	25	26 Girl Scout Meeting – 4:30 PM Women's Evening Bible Study – 7 PM	27 LOGOS – 5 PM (Circus Night) C.H.O.P. – 7:15 PM	28 Men's Morning Bible Study – 6 AM Mission and Vision Team Meeting – 6 PM Pinewood Derby Weigh In – 6:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal – 7 PM	29	30 Cub Scout Pack 3300 Pinewood Derby – 9 AM
31 Chancel Choir Rehearsal – 8:30 AM	Notes:					



www.ChristsCommunityChurch.org

Email: secretary@ChristsCommunityChurch.org
or Buckeyesx6@frontier.com
www.facebook.com/pages/Christs-Community-Church/104924772884765

Our Mission Statement

Christ's Community Church, with the help of God, strives to be a nurturing church where individuals and families, children, youth, and adults are encouraged and given the opportunity to grow in:

Faith
Biblical Knowledge
Christian Living Through –
Worship
Missions and Outreach
Education
Fellowship

Sunday Schedule

9:30 AM Worship Service
And Children and Worship
Program

10:45 AM
Coffee/Fellowship

11:00 AM Bible Groups for
Adults

11:00 AM Sunday School for
Children and Youth

Celebrate!

is a monthly publication of **Christ's Community Church, a part of the Reformed Church in America, Rev. Tony De La Rosa, Senior Pastor.** We are located at 10616 Liberty Mills Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46804. Our worship service is held at 9:30 A.M. with small groups for all ages at 11:00 A.M. Nursery care is provided at both times. For more information, please call the church office at 260/436-2637 or log on to our website at www.ChristsCommunityChurch.org.

Christ's Community Church

10616 Liberty Mills Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46804