

Lay Leader Report

submitted by Ralph Bergstrom, 2013 Lay Leader

This year as in recent years past Christ United Methodist Church has been changing. We have added new members to our congregation and have been saddened by the loss of other members such as Barbara Schulze, Stan Clark, and Arlene Young.

The meetings that I have attended during the year have shown God is at work in our congregation through our leaders. Efforts have been made to revitalize our Sunday School program. Through its leaders our Youth Group has engaged in weekend get-togethers. The Stephen Ministry program continues to be an effective part of our congregation's ministries along with the Prayer Shawl Ministry. In fact, this ministry has not only comforted members of our congregation, but reaches out to the community where needs have been identified. VBS had another successful year with not only involving children and members of our congregation, but children and adults from the community. Our Mission Team continues their active work in the community and publicity overall has become more prevalent.

Our church has begun exploring revitalizing the exterior and the interior of the church with the idea of possibly updating the church in hopes of attracting visitors. This work is in its infancy, but leaders of the church have seized upon the opportunity to push forward in hopes of developing a vision in order to bring people to Christ. It is evident God is playing a big part in this and with His help we will meet with success.

In conclusion, one can see that at each church service we manifest warmth toward one another and this transcends the demographics of our congregation. This is done with the help of God and it is my fervent prayer that this will continue into the future.

May God continue to bless Christ Church.

Membership Nurturing

submitted by Kim Aupperle, 2013 Membership Nurturing Chair

Earlier in 2012 the Membership Chair position became open and vacant when Peggy Literski accepted the position as Worship Chair for 2012. The Leadership Team approached me about taking that Membership position in July of 2013. After much consideration and prayer, I believed that with God's help I would bring His vision to that position. I love my church family and am very proud to bring others to meet and fall in love with what my family and I have experienced in Christ UMC. I will proudly assist anyone wanting to become a member of Christ UMC and help navigate their faith walk in their new church family by introducing members to them, getting them involved in small groups and helping them with serving at Christ UMC. I believe God put this upon my heart and gave me a vision and mission to apply to membership.

God's Mission statement for Membership Team:

Welcoming All – Accepting All with Christ's Love

Praying Church - More Prayer more Power

Caring Church- a Church that Serves

We are many persons but in Christ we are one body. And each part of the body belongs to all the other parts. Romans 12:5

**The following 2013 membership information
is submitted by Michele Linner, Membership Secretary**

Professing Members as of Church Conference Oct. 21 2012 146

Members added since Oct. 21 2012 Church Conference + 9

- 1 Profession of Faith (Joe Greenwood)
- 2 Transfers from Other United Methodist Church (Jud & Wanda Strickland)
- 6 Transfers from Other Denominations (Mark and Marie Harden, Steve and Marty Himebaugh, Larry and Sandy Huber)

Members Removed since Oct. 21, 2012 Church Conference < -7>

- 0 Transfer to other UMC
- 0 Transfer to Other Denominations
- 3 Withdrawals
- 4 Death

How Members Removed: (W=withdrawn; D=death)

Linner, Megan	W	Clark, Stan	D	Tomlinson, Brenda	D
Lukasick, Mark	W	Schulze, Barbara	D	Young, Arlene	D
Pawlak, Jeffiner	W				

Total Members 148

Baptisms since the Oct. 21 2012 Church Conference 1

- 0 children
- 1 adult (Marty Himebaugh)

Inactive Members submitted for membership removal by Church/Charge Conference action (effective 2013 Church Conference). Inactive members who have not responded to status requests. Second year of 2-year process.

Irizarry, Aaron	Irizarry, Marti	Irizarry, Natalie	Licata, Sarah
Plummer, Brad	Plummer, Emily		

Finance Report

Submitted by Joe Kilberger, 2013 Chair

The following are the major 2013 financial related events for Christ United Methodist Church:

1. After analyzing the results of the 2013 stewardship campaign the budget was revised early in the year to balance expenses with projected income.
2. Two letters were sent to the congregation thanking them for their financial support and explaining how we are "Living Within Our Means".
3. Through September 30, 2013 expenses have matched income
4. Every attempt will be made to pay as much of the apportionments as possible by the end of 2013.
5. The stewardship campaign for 2014 will be held in November and revisions will be made to the 2014 budget if necessary.

2014 Budget

Christ United Methodist Church 2014 General Fund Budget

INCOME	BUDGET
Contributions Received	149,000
Other Income	2,885
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<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	<u>151,885</u>
EXPENSES	
STAFF PARISH	
Compensation & Benefits	97,443
Travel	2,000
Continuing Education	3,250
Other Expenses	230
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Subtotal Staff Parish	102,923
TRUSTEES	
Church Facility	25,989
Parsonage	5,954
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Subtotal Trustees	31,943
MINISTRY PROGRAMS	
Membership	1,000
Adult Spiritual Development	570
Children's Education	2,150
Mission & Outreach	400
Worship	1,500
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Subtotal Ministry Programs	5,620
General Expenses	
General Office Expense	4,463
Computer Expense	1,550
Apportionments	1,000
Event Expenses	250
Misc. Expenses	171
Conference Expenses	420
Bank & Finance Charges	445
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<u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>	<u>148,785</u>
<u>INCOME-EXPENSES</u>	<u>3,100</u>

Christ UMC Leadership for 2014

Administrative Board Chairperson: Debbie Thomas

Church Treasurer: Larry Fournier

Financial Secretary: Joe Greenwood

Membership Secretary: Michele Linner

Recording Secretary: Evy Markowski

Lay Leader: Gary Slagle

Lay Member to Annual Conference: Peggy Literski; Kim Aupperle (Alternate)

Nomination and Leadership Development (Chairperson: Pastor)

2014: Joe Kilberger 2015: Debbie Thomas, Lisa Greenwood 2016:

Appointed Officers: Lay Leader, Lay Member, Ad Board Chair, PR, Chairpersons of Trustee, SPRC, & Finance

Committee on Staff-Parish Relations (Chairperson: Evy Markowski, Gary Gruebnaue)

2014: Evy Markowski, Judy Baker, Gary Gruebnaue 2015: Terence Agabin, Eric Hugg, Amy Huijbregtse 2016: *Dave Dodge

Appointed Officers : Lay Leader, Lay Member to Annual Conf. (Young Adults/Youth)

Board of Trustees (Chairperson: Eric Linner, Vice: Mark Harden)

2014: Eric Hugg, Duane Graf 2015: Mark Harden, Jenny Heider 2016: Chad Aupperle, Eric Linner

Finance and Stewardship Committee (Chairperson: Joe Kilberger)

Appointed Officer: Pastor, Church Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Ad Board Chair, SPRC Chair or Rep, Trustee Chair or Rep., Lay Leader, Lay Member, Stewardship Coordinator (Duane Graf)

Elected Member: Elena Agabin, Ken Hein

Ministries Team Leaders

Nurturing

Membership Nurturing: Kim Aupperle
Welcoming New Members: Doug Literski
Stephen Ministry: Linda Mullen
M&M: Muriel Wright
Special Events: Michele Linner
Wednesday Morning Spirituality: Pastor
Thursday Morning Women: Lisa Greenwood
Saturday Morning Men's Bible Study: Gary Slagle
Visitation Ministry: Kim Aupperle, Linda White
Kitchen Committee: Janet Kleckner, Marie Harden

Outreach

Missions: (Janet Graf, Bonnie Dodge)
PR: Carolyn Bergstrom
Web Communication Ministry: Julie Kukreja
Bethlehem Market Place: Janet Kleckner
Caring Card Ministry: Maria Lee, Cheryl Fournier

Worship

Worship Design Team: Peggy Literski
Worship Leader (Music):
Sound Team (Audio-Visual):
Greeters/Ushers:
Holy Communion: Joe & Eleanor Kilberger
Bell Choir: Janet Kleckner

Education

Adult Education: Pastor
Youth Ministry: Lisa Greenwood
Children's Ed: *()
VBS: Julie Kukreja

Prayer Ministry

Prayer Ministry: Lisa Greenwood
Prayer Shawl Ministry: Naomi DeLap

Committee on Records and History: (Chairpersons: Janet & Duane Graf)

(From charter members to newly joined members)

Other Ministry Reports

Children's Ministry Report

Submitted by April Patek, Director of Christian Education (Staff)

And Cheryl Fournier, 2013 Sunday School Chair

As Jesus spoke, "Let the children come to me." Children's Sunday school, Vacation Bible School and other children events provide children the great gift of developing a relationship with Jesus Christ and learning how to live more like Jesus Christ in a safe and nurturing environment. Our dedicated teachers and helpers help children discover who God is and who God wants them to become.

Children's Sunday school serves children, Kindergarten-5th grade

Vacation Bible School serves children, Preschool-5th grade

Last fall, April Patek was hired part-time as Christian Education Director for youth and children.

CURRICULUM

At this time, the Sunday school and Children's message was restarted after a summer hiatus. The Curriculum was the "One Room Sunday School" that had been chosen by Mark Gatsakos and Pastor Lee to combine all students in one classroom. In January, Cheryl Fournier and I found that the older children were not being challenged enough and so we split the older and younger children most weeks. During Lent, we followed "The Way" lessons just as the whole church was. Unlike the previous summer, we decided to continue Sunday school but with an open curriculum inviting teachers to share different interests with the children.

This year we have a new curriculum that follows the lectionary. The children in Sunday school will be presented with the same scripture that the adults will be hearing in worship. This will make it easier for families to have follow-up conversations with their children for they have now learned the same material. The students have papers to take home each week showing what they have learned and suggesting activities they can do the rest of the week.

VBS

Julie Kukreja and April worked hard together to make an awesome experience for our church and community children. The theme/curriculum was Kingdom Rock where children learned to stand strong for God. Julie and her helpers transformed the church into a castle. We had 30+ adult and youth volunteers during the week and even more adults that donated food and other items. We had a celebration Friday night and cheered on our youth knights. On Sunday following, we turned worship service into a VBS experience and twelve children including non-church members came back to sing for the congregation. After worship, the whole congregation feasted on chicken and corn (Renaissance style), played games and jumped in the bouncy castle. We are already talking about next year's theme and will be announcing it soon.

CREATING A CHILDREN FRIENDLY SPACE

The Sunday school room was a bit drab and industrial. With the blessing of Trustees, and the generous donation of paint from an anonymous donor and Julie Kukreja's donation of her time and talents, we transformed the room in time for the beginning of Sunday school (with some added details to come). We painted the entire double room a new base coat and added a fun stripe border along the ceiling. We added new bulletin and dry erase boards. Julie created the most beautiful and large world mural including many cultural icons as well as other maps around the room. The children created hot air balloons (paper mache and decoupage) to hang from the ceiling. In the media corner, we added a children's floor rug and giant bean bag pillows. The children loved it immediately and experienced how

much we value them. Many thanks to Julie for such a wonderful job!

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

...Taught and experienced elements of worship such as prayer and communion and created a dedicated prayer space for children.

...After a very successful Bethlehem Market, which was run by Janet Kleckner, April wrote and directed a children's nativity for the following Sunday's worship. All children had a costumed part and sang several songs after they acted out the drama.

...Children's music—children sang and played bells for worship.

...Began children and youth acolyte (candle lighting)

...Participated in Firefighter Appreciation Sunday and received a tour of fire station

Mission Team Report

Submitted by Linda Chodan & Tobey Sroga, 2013 Mission Team Co-Chairs.

Algonquin/Lake in the Hills Food Pantry – Super Bowl Sunday/February 2, we did a special collection of food for the pantry. 148 lbs. of food was collected.

PADS (Public Action To Deliver Shelter) – March 2, we supplied a dinner for about 50 homeless guests. Dessert was provided by the Youth group.

Loose Change Jar – Money collected went into the General Fund.

School Tool Box Program – The month of April we collected \$1290.00. 43 children from Perry School in Carpentersville, were able to get a back pack filled with school supplies.

TLS Veterans – The month of April we collected 200 canned items & sent a check for \$115.00 for the Veterans food pantry in McHenry.

UMCOR/Church World Services – During April & part of May, we collected 69 packages of combs for the health/hygiene kits. The kits were assembled at the annual Conference in June.

Jewel Food Drives – We had two food drives for the Algonquin/Lake in the Hills Food Pantry. May 11 collected 383 lbs. of food & \$76.28. September 7 collected 10 shopping carts filled with food & \$198.63.

Food Collection - At our church daily for the Algonquin/Lake in the Hills Food Pantry.

Rummage Sale – June 20 we had a rummage sale at our church. We collected \$1084.00, that went into the General Fund. The items that did not sell were donated to Am-Vets.

CARDUNAL CROP Walk – October 20 we hosted the walk. 75% of donations collected will go to Church World Services & the other 25% of donations collected will be divided between Algonquin/Lake in the Hills Food Pantry, Fish Food Pantry & PADS Shelter.

ADOPTA PLATOON – During the month of October we will collect Thanksgiving cards for the soldiers. The cards will get mailed the beginning of November. During the month of November we will collect Christmas cards for the soldiers. The cards will get mailed the beginning of December.

Holiday Gift Program – The month of November we will collect gifts for a mother & her children at Home of the Sparrow. We will also collect miscellaneous items for the shelter.

Lord, thank you for the talents & skills you give us to use in serving others.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Submitted by Naomi DeLap, 2013 Coordinator

Helping Hands is the Prayer Shawl Ministry which provides a handmade shawl that has been prayed over, to our congregation, their family members, and friends and neighbors in our community during challenging times in their lives. A prayer card and a cross stitch bookmark with a Bible verse are included with each shawl. We've given out 25 shawls in 2013: 7 of those were given to Sherman Hospital. We've given 8 care boxes which contain small wrapped gifts to open every day during a difficult time of their

life.

We helped purchase outdoor banners for Vacation Bible School that was held in July. We make scarves and hats for the Mission Ministry in October.

We meet the second Monday of each month except July and December. We have 8 or 10 ladies attend as we work on our projects and have our meeting and a delicious food time. We are also thankful that we have a lady in Pennsylvania who makes shawls for us, and we have some ladies who make shawls but are unable to come to our meetings. For various reasons we've lost several ladies this year.

If you are interested in crocheting, knitting or cross stitching we would welcome anyone to join us. We will be happy to help you get started. The love of this church is far reaching and the Christ United Methodist Church flame shines around the world through the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

Public Relations

Submitted by Carolyn Bergstrom, 2013 Chair

The introduction of Public Relations started in March, 2013. The purpose of the work of this team was to provide in-house communications and an awareness to surrounding communities of the wonderful worship services at Christ United Methodist Church and the many ways the members provide service to our neighbors, the communities and abroad .

We currently have had articles and photographs of our worship service and community activities in two local newspapers: *Northwest Herald* and *The Daily Herald*. In addition, CUMC's facebook page has kept current with activity photos which is attracting more viewers. Advanced planned events can be advertised on KLove radio, and the internet website, The Patch. Both resources provide us with a good outreach.

The Northern Illinois Conference newspaper, *The Reporter*, recently published a color photo and article of our Firefighter Appreciation Service.

Future publications of our church activities will be limited to photos of adults as we follow "Safe Sanctuary" procedures for the safety and security of our children.

In-house communications designed to make members aware of our new attendees and upcoming events in our church, District and community can be found on our newly designed bulletin board. Another in-house communication is to understand the importance of the "first impression" of visitors by the appearance of our facilities.

Special Events Committee Report 2013

Michele Linner, 2013 Chair

This Special Events Ministry team's purpose is to plan free or low-priced fellowship events for church members and their friends. We have planned and implemented a number of events this year and have a few planned for the remainder of the year.

2013 Events planned and implemented:

...Chili and Game Night- Saturday, March 2nd 5-8:30 pm, FREE

...State Park Hike and Picnic- (White Pines State Park) Sat. June 1st 10-4 BYO Lunch, FREE (cancelled due to rain/storm)

...Community Picnic- June 23rd, picnic fare provided, Sign-Up, FREE

...Mini Golf- Friday July 26th 6:30 – 8:30 pm, Small Fee (cancelled due to rain)

...Fire Fighter Appreciation Service and Picnic- Sunday, August 11th Meat provided, potluck donated. FREE

Coming events for Fall/Winter 2013:

...Fall Potluck – Sunday, October 27th

...Cocoa and Caroling Sunday, December 8th 3:30 – 5 pm

Coming events for Winter/Spring 2013:

...Hawaiian Themed Game Night – March date TBD

For 2014 we have asked for a \$250 budget to help keep the cost of events down for members and their friends.

Stephen Ministry

Submitted by Linda Mullen, 2013 Stephen Leader

Stephen Ministry – a ministry of care. Individuals go through a very intense training to become Stephen Ministers. We are so lucky to have dedicated people on our Stephen Ministry team.

This caring ministry is in full swing. We have Stephen Ministers working in different roles. Some are ready to provide immediate support in a crisis situation, others are providing on-going care and all are Prayer Warriors. The team meets twice a month to offer support, ideas and prayer for Stephen Ministers and their care receivers. Confidentiality is a basic tenet of Stephen Ministry, and a promise made to every care receiver.

Stephen Ministry at Christ Church goes beyond our church family and the walls of our building and includes serving the community. We are prepared to provide care in any situation. We were part of a presentation on The Five Wishes for the congregation and guests. We are always available to answer questions about this ministry to anyone interested in becoming a part of it.

We are all saddened by the loss of Arlene Young. She was in the first class of Stephen Ministers at Christ Church and a Stephen Leader, and this ministry was very much a part of Arlene's life. She spent many years in the role of Stephen Minister to care receivers, provided guidance and support for fellow care givers and also taught and encouraged several groups of people to help them become Stephen Ministers. Stephen Bear, who attends our meetings, will help to carry on her Stephen Ministry legacy.

Stephen Ministers know that we offer only care-giving and that we leave the cure-giving to God. It is our privilege to serve God through this ministry.

Visitation Ministry

submitted Kim Aupperle, 2013 Visitation Ministry Chair

Visitation Ministry is a new ministry, giving members and anyone who attends Christ UMC an opportunity to meet with Pastor and a Leader of the church to talk about their faith walk.

The reason for this ministry is to learn how Christ UMC can help their faith journey and to help them grow closer relationships within the church and church leadership.

After setting up a meeting at their home, church or nearest coffee shop, some of the questions that would be asked are;

What is your church experience and/or back ground?

What kinds of things did you enjoy doing in your church relationships?

How can Christ UMC best serve you in your faith walk?

We then end with prayer; these meetings take about 40 minutes. This is not to be intrusive but include a closer friendship within your church family.

In closing, as it says in 1 Peter 3:8; live in harmony together and in Hebrews 10:24; stir up one another with love and good works...As we gather in friendship and fellowship bringing us closer in our common pursuit of faith and service in our Lord Jesus Christ.

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10

Youth Explosion

Submitted by Lisa Greenwood, 2013 Youth Director

On Sunday, May 19th seven youth, their mentors and parents embarked on a journey for their confirmation scheduled for Sunday, November 17th. Our confirmation class this year includes Dale Harden, Celine and Jensen Jones, Nicholas Masek, Anthony Gatsakos, Alison Blackmore, and Casey Deak...all of whom received a blessing from the pastor and congregation. A care card board was also started so that the congregation could leave messages of encouragement throughout the youth's confirmation journey.

Our youth had seven active seniors graduate from the surrounding High Schools. Our congregation gave the seniors a blessing in June for their continued success in their future plans.

Our youth have served the congregation and community in many ways. This year our youth enjoyed being a big part of Vacation Bible School. They served as Knights in training in the Kingdom Rock theme VBS. They acted as assistant crew guides as they escorted the participants to their various activities. The highlight of the event was on Friday when they participated in a jousting competition. The youth were standout helpers bonding with participants and leaders of the different activities.

In March the youth along with a local Girl Scout troop served at the PADS center at Cary United Methodist Church. They made beds and served dinner to the over 50 residents in the shelter. They were commended on their hospitality and humility as they served those who came to the shelter.

They participated in a "30 Hour Famine" and raised money for the world hunger relief. They visited the local animal shelter and participated in the Cardinal CROPWALK to fight hunger.

This year we are also participating in Feed My Starving Children. They will be helping to package food to send to those in need around the world.

We have Youth Education most Sundays during the 10:00 am service. Youth Explosion has meetings/outings about three times per month. There are 13 middle and high school youth that regularly attend our events and services.

Our numerous fun events that were held over the past year included Putt-Putt, a Super Bowl party, two overnight "lock ins", an overnight trip to a lake cottage, bowling, laser tag, and various events that involved food, movies and games.

Vision for 2014:

Increase our youth's knowledge of God and love for God through education (Sunday morning Youth Explosion Spiritual Fitness, and short-term programs)... Serve God by serving others: in-service events (including PADS, food pantry, 30hour famine, etc.); plus serve our church (worship team, nursery, cleaning team, etc.)... Have fun together and build relationships with each other in ways that honor God...Increase attendance by encouraging the youth to invite friends and neighbors to Youth Explosion events.

Report of the Clergy

Pastor's Report

Submitted by Pastor Kangse Lee

"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love HIM"

(1 Corinthians 2:9 NLT)

As I reflect upon the ministry of the year 2013, many things come to mind. 2013 has been a challenging year in that due to experiencing financial difficulties after losing a number of members, we have been unable to pay our apportionments in full. Yet this has been a year to be grateful because of those people who have given more than what they pledged, as well as those who have not pledged but have faithfully supported various ministries with their generosity. And this is what I am anticipating in faith about what God has prepared for our church for the year 2014 as Paul said in *1 Corinthians 2:9*.

I am so thankful for all who have worked faithfully to make Christ United Methodist Church a more Caring Church, Praying Church, and Growing Church. We will be continuing to define the call to be a "Caring Church, Praying Church, and Growing Church" in this community for Now and into the Future.

I am so thankful to all the leaders for their faithful service. In particular, I deeply appreciate the Nomination and Leadership Team members for their willingness and effort to revitalize our ministries in various needs. And certainly we need to highlight some ministries we have developed this year, such as the Charity Drive, the Caring Card Ministry, and the Visitation Ministry. As stewards, the Charity Drive reminds us not only about people, but also about other animals and God's creatures. The Caring Card Ministry helps our congregation to share not only their artistic gifts but also their caring hearts along with a new way of fund raising. With the participation of some of our leaders, the Visitation Ministry has found it to be very inspiring to be given insight about the faith journeys of many individuals which, in turn makes us think about how we can help them to grow and revitalize our congregation.

The Mission Team has once again been very busy helping many missional projects and organizations. The Children's Ministry has been another area of joy and has provided hope with their various activities. The Youth Ministry provided numerous fun events. It has been a great joy to be part of the faith journey of the Youth Confirmation Class. And, with new leadership the ministry of Public Relations is helping in the area of communications both among us, as well as within the communities around us.

This coming November we are going to celebrate the 24th Church Anniversary. Twenty-Four years ago, people began worship service in the gymnasium of Crystal Lake High School. Nine years later, they went to the Northern Illinois Conference to borrow money to buy this property where our church building now stands all because of a vision to bring people to Christ. As we head toward celebrating our 25th Church Anniversary (a milestone in our church history), I boldly ask all members of the congregation to reclaim God's vision again in this community, now and in the future. Vision is not a destination or a full grown tree but a seed God has planted in the heart of faithful people. So let us prepare our hearts for that seed. That is my prayer for you who are here now, and for those who are not here as yet.

Peace,

Pastor Kangse Lee