



The Connection

Seeking to Link Person to Person And All to Christ

April, 2013

Christ United Methodist Church
800 Market Street
Chapel Hill, NC 27516
(919) 969-8820; Fax: (919) 967-9924
Pastoral Emergencies
(919) 969-8820, x202

Members of Our Staff

Steve McElroy, Sr. Pastor; Ext. 207
smcelroy@christmethodist.org

Christi Dye, Assoc. Pastor; Ext. 205
cdye@christmethodist.org

Lori Cox, Assoc. Pastor; Ext. 206
lcox@christmethodist.org

Suzanne Hultman, Assoc. Pastor
Ext. 208
shultman@christmethodist.org

Rush Beam, Youth Pastor; Ext. 204
rbeam@christmethodist.org

Dr. Daniel Steinert, Director of Music
Ext. 211
dsteinert@christmethodist.org

Mary Day Saou, Worship Leader
Ext. 224
mdaysaou@christmethodist.org

Catherine Neal, Asst. Children's Pastor
Ext. 206
cathearle@yahoo.com

Vince Grace, Accountant; Ext. 203
vpgrace@christmethodist.org

Deon Roach, Office Manager; Ext. 201
droach@christmethodist.org

Jenny Knott, Administrative Specialist
Ext. 200
jknott@christmethodist.org

Bob Baker, Facilities Engineer
Ext. 209
bbaker@christmethodist.org

Debbie Arena, Director of Preschool
Ext. 210
darena@christmethodist.org

Website:

www.christmethodist.org

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

Time for Change: Reflections on Lent & Easter

Editor's Note: *I can't think of a time in the Christian year that causes me to reflect more on personal spiritual formation than Lent. Those 40 days—which can often feel like 400—require sacrifice and discipline, and I find myself wanting to race headlong into Easter and skip the wilderness of Lent. The following article, written by Dan R. Dick, a former staff member with the UMC's General Board of Discipleship, has changed my view of Lent. I hope it might help you to reconsider Lent—not so much as a time of sacrifice and denial—but more as a time of preparation for the work God calls us to and anticipation of the fullness of life Easter promises. DR*

There is a compelling metaphor that helps us embrace the wilderness and prevents us from racing to Easter. It is the metaphor of the seed. Jesus began his teaching ministry with the parable of the sower (Matthew 13) and referred to seeds and trees, fruit and branches, throughout his ministry. To see the metaphor of Christian growth and spiritual development contained in a seed is to learn valuable lessons about change and transformation. Receive these six lessons from the seed and incorporate them into your daily meditations so that they might grow to full bloom in your heart.

Lesson One: Seeds Need a Rich Environment

A seed that lacks appropriate soil may sprout, but will quickly wither and die. Even in the best soil, without water and nutrients, growth will be limited. This applies to the environment in which we grow as Christian disciples. There must be an ongoing flow of comfort and security, challenge and inspiration, learning and service.

Without such an environment, discipleship growth is stunted, stagnant, or worse, dead. We create an environment for our spiritual formation through prayer, study, worship, fellowship, and service.



Lesson Two: Seeds Can't Be Rushed

When seeds do not sprout, take root, and grow, try yelling at them. Of course, that is a preposterous idea. No one would ever think that they could somehow rush the normal growing process. Seeds require the amount of time that they require. In God's plan, the time things take is the right time. People, however, get impatient. Our culture puts pressure on us to rush through everything. We live in an age of

(See "Time," p. 2)

The Seeds of Lent Grow into the Hope of Easter



("Time," cont. from p. 1)

instant gratification. Seeds teach us that we need to learn to wait, to develop patience which is the key ingredient to transformational growth.

Lesson Three: All Seeds Grow at Different Rates

Plant a package of seeds, and immediately you see diversity in the rate of growth. Some sprout almost immediately & begin a steady rate of growth. Late sprouters often become early bloomers. And some normal beginners end up stunted and sickly. Growth is rarely even, & it is often chaotic. Where seeds are concerned, we are comfortable with different rates of development. This is not always true with our attitudes about Christian believers. We often adopt a "cookie-cutter" approach to disciple making that makes some seem advanced, while others lag behind. The seed teaches us that to mature in different ways at different times is the only true normal.

Lesson Four: Change Happens in Stages

Examine any plant as it grows from seed to maturity, and you will find that it is hard to believe you are looking at the same plant. While the growth follows a smooth process, it proceeds through distinct stages. These stages are marked by unique characteristics and are a measure for the relative health & well-being of the plant at any given time. Our spiritual development

Holy Week Services:

March 24 - Palm/Passion Sunday
Worship Services: 8:30 am & 7:00 pm
Choir Cantata: 9:45 & 11:00 am

March 28 - 7:00 pm
Maundy Thursday
The Last Supper Drama
March 29- 7:00pm
Good Friday

March 30- 9-10pm
Holy Saturday Prayer Vigil
*Spend time in prayer as we contemplate
& anticipate the Resurrection*

Easter Sunday

6:30 am - Sunrise Service & Breakfast
8:30 am - Worship & Communion
9:45 and 11:00 am - Celebration Worship
with Brass & Organ

progresses through stages as well. Belief and inquiry deepen to devotion and discipleship. Learning and following evolve into teaching and leading. Growth within the community of faith matures to a life of service in the world. We move through ages and stages of faith development as we grow from seed to sapling to fruit-bearing tree.

Lesson Five: Seeds Contain the Past and the Future

Each seed is the product of previous generations and contains within it all the genetic code for the future. Seeds are filled with the information that yields transformation. Each generation builds upon the last and lays the foundation for the next generation. The Word of God is the information we contain — passed down throughout the ages and preserved in us for the future — that holds the power to transform us. When we give ourselves time to grow, we unleash the God-given power to become mature Christian disciples.

Lesson Six: Seeds Have a Purpose Larger Than Themselves

Growth is not the purpose of a seed, but a means to an end. Unless seeds give rise to new seeds, they fail to fulfill their purpose. Transformation never happens for its own sake. Change happens to lead us to a new place. Growth occurs that we might not only know more, but that we might do more. Seeds are judged, ultimately, on the fruit that they bear. Christians may never content themselves with growing in their knowledge and love of God. Growth that fails to lead to a change in behavior is cancerous, not healthy. We grow for a reason, and that reason is something much larger than any individual's needs.

The lessons of the seed help us to see Lent as a time of preparation and anticipation — preparation for the work to which God calls us and anticipation of the fullness of life that God promises. Let's keep growing into Easter people who will serve the God we love by serving the people He loves.

Holy Week Events; News for Kids, Youth, & Families

The Last Supper

Christ Church will present its moving portrayal of The Last Supper as a special service on **Maundy Thursday, March 28 at 7:00 pm**. Beginning with a *tableau vivant* depicting Leonardo Da Vinci's famous painting, the play presents monologues by the disciples as each ponders who will betray Jesus. Join us and bring a friend. See page 2 for a complete listing of Holy Week services and events.



EASTER SUNRISE BREAKFAST

Immediately following
the 6:30 am
Sunrise Service
in Ascension Hall.



Fri., April 19th
5:30-8:00pm
Ascension Hall

We'll provide pizza & some games. Bring your favorites, too! Questions? Contact Catherine Neal (cneal@christmethodist.org).

Join CUMC's team for the **2013 Chapel Hill/Carrboro CROP Hunger Walk**, benefiting hunger relief efforts locally & internationally. The event will be held **Sunday, April 21st at 2:30 pm in downtown Carrboro**. You, your family, & our church family can take a 4-mile stroll (or one of two shorter routes) along the streets of Chapel Hill & Carrboro, as well as through the UNC campus. Sign up for the team, get sponsors, & enjoy the fellowship of the event. Contact Danielle Chu (daniellechu@gmail.com) or Catherine Neal (cneal@christmethodist.org; 969-8820, x 208) to participate, or look for them in Ascension Hall on April 7th & 14th. You may also register [here](#).



Christ Church Preschool is a half-day preschool program & ministry of CUMC. We have vacancies for 4 year olds for the 2013-14 school year. If your child will be 4 by August 31, contact Preschool Director Debbie Arena at 919-969-1690 for an application. We would love to get to know your family! Also, please join us for a special Preschool Sunday on April 14th at 9:45 am.

Snacks & Meals for Youth Needed!

Please help provide snacks/meals for our Sunday youth programs; you don't have to be a parent! Go to www.signupgenius.com/go/4090949AAA72F4-middle to sign up for a convenient date.



Volunteer Needs:

- Pantry workers (Mon, Tues, Wed. mornings; Friday afternoons)
- Food pick up (Th. mornings @ Durham Food Bank)
- Client interviews (Tues., 9 am-noon; Weds., 1-4 pm, Fris., 9 am-noon)

Food Pantry Needs

- Any canned fruit
- Carrots, mixed vegetables, greens
- Baked beans
- Vegetable soup
- Toilet paper

Questions? Contact Danielle Chu: daniellechu@gmail.com

FOOD TRUCK ROUNDUP

Benefit for IFC Community House

Sunday, April 28th
4 - 8 PM *rain or shine*

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

300 E. Rosemary St., Chapel Hill

bus

bike

walk

drive

Chez Moi Bakery
Parlez-Vous Crêpes
Sarges Chef
Olde North State BBQ
Sympathy for the Deli

Parking: Wallace Deck - corner of Rosemary and Henderson
Morehead Planetarium (small fee)

Welcome New Members!

Welcome New Members!

We welcomed a wonderful group of new members this winter, & we're still introducing them to you this month! (See below.) Take the time to phone or email these friends to welcome them to CUMC, or simply say "Hello" after worship. *If you have questions about what church membership means or would like to register for our next class (Sunday, May 5th, 12:15-2:30 pm, Ascension Hall), contact the office (office@christmethodist.org; 969-8820).*



Jeff & Nikki Bratten

- ◆ Moved from San Francisco Bay area in 2011; Nikki helps with our children's ministry
- ◆ Children: Owen (9); Ava (7)
- ◆ Geo Zone: So. Village
- ◆ 919-240-4775
- ◆ nbratten@me.com;
- ◆ Jeffbra3@yahoo.com

Adam & Abby Brown

- ◆ The Browns work together in the real estate/property management profession.
- ◆ Children: Avery (11); Riley (10); Savannah (8); Grant (6); Liam (4)
- ◆ Geo Zone: So. Village
- ◆ 919-599-3464
- ◆ abby@louisebeckproperties.com
- ◆ adam@louisebeckproperties.com



Gary & Pat Gildersleeve

- ◆ Geo Zone: Fearington Village
- ◆ 919-533-6591
- ◆ gary.gildersleeve@gmail.com
- ◆ pat@patgildersleeve.com



Deborah Gorman

- ◆ Retired UMC pastor from Wisc. Conf.; Now works in health sciences
- ◆ Children: 1 son, 1 daughter; 5 grandkids
- ◆ Geo Zone: Mdwmont/Wvr. Dairy/Oaks
- ◆ 919-967-7516
- ◆ deb.gorman@gmail.com



Chris Dry & Leah Heist

- ◆ Chris: Financial Operations Support at AICPA
- ◆ Leah: PhD Student/ Research Asst. at UNC
- ◆ Geo Zone: Durham (C) S. Chapel Hill (L)
- ◆ Chris: 804-980-0526
- ◆ Cdry.vt@gmail.com
- ◆ Leah: 703-201-3662
- ◆ lheist@unc.edu

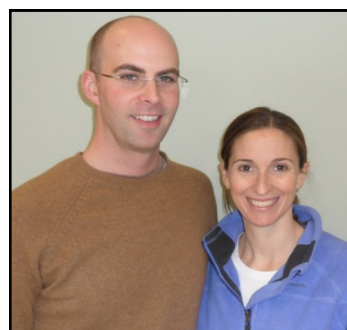
Greg & Julia Holland

- ◆ Geo Zone: Hillsboro/Mebane
- ◆ 919-967-7327
- ◆ hollandcode3@bellsouth.net



Paul & Peggy Ising

- ◆ The Isings are newly-weds who met on top of a mountain 2 years ago (Really!) & married last summer.
- ◆ Geo Zone: Fearington
- ◆ 919-200-5367
- ◆ pdising@nc.rr.com
- ◆ peggyising@nc.rr.com



Chris & Stacey Lindley

- ◆ Chris works for the Dept. of Defense, & Stacey works in the Psychology Dept. at UNC
- ◆ Children: Alexa (2); Samantha (11 months)
- ◆ Geo Zone: Southern Village
- ◆ 919-943-6087
- ◆ chris.lindley@gmail.com
- ◆ stacey.daughters@gmail.com

Serve & Grow at the Same Time!



Sherisse Marion

- ♦ Married to Richard; Children: Samantha(4); Hudson (2)
 - ♦ Geo Zone: So. Village
 - ♦ 919-904-7381
- sherissemarion@gmail.com

Janet Thompson

- ♦ Moved from Rochester, NY; teaches yoga. Lives with husband Joe & dog Grizzly. Sister of CUMC member Brenda Kitt.
 - ♦ Geo Zone: Cole Park
 - ♦ 919-240-7565
- janetrthompson@gmail.com



Just for Fun!



ARE YOU A Treble Maker?

If so, why not join the Chancel Choir or Chancel Bells?

Chancel Choir and Chancel Bells start their spring season with rehearsals on Wednesdays, April 17, 24 and May 1 from 6:30-7:15 pm. It's the perfect time to join the group! Then, starting May 5, join the choir any Sunday morning at 9:00 am for rehearsals in the Disciple Room. Please contact Dr. Daniel Steinert, Director of Music (969-1686; dsteinert@christmethodist.org) for more information.

Current & prospective choir members & their significant others are invited to a Choir Party on Sat., April 6th at 5:30 pm at Julie Lowery's home. Park along the street & bring a dish or dessert to pass! Email Julie for directions: julieanncrna@hotmail.com.

Section Shepherds Needed

Do you sit in the same place every week in worship? Love your church? Like to be welcoming to others? Help visitors in your "section" feel part of the flock by being a "section shepherd." It's simple: introduce yourself to visitors in your section, learn their names, encourage them to sign the pew pad so we can make further personal contact with them, & introduce them to the pastors. We have many visitors every week; let's make sure they all get a warm CUMC welcome. Interested?? Contact Christi Dye (cdye@christmethodist.org; 969-8820, x205).



National Alliance on Mental Illness

Walk with Your Faith Community
for mental illness support, education
and awareness



Every journey begins with that first step

Join NAMI Walks!

May 4, 2013 9:00 Registration 10:00 Walk

Dorothea Dix Campus, Raleigh

www.namiwalks.org/NorthCarolina

Contact Susan King Cope for more info:

919-788-0801 x 6 or skingcope@naminc.org

Growth Opportunities: Small Groups & Classes

MAKING
TIME FOR
GOD



SPRING RETREATS FOR MEN & WOMEN

GUYS: Enjoy a time of recreation, relaxation, & spiritual refreshment in an ocean front house at **Carolina Beach, NC from April 19-21**. The theme: *Putting Faith into Action in your Daily Living*, facilitated by retired UM minister, Rev. Lee Strange. Cost: \$160. For more information or to sign up, contact Rick Woods (rspwoods@gmail.com; 428-3766) or Robert Amico (robertamico@yahoo.com; 407-496-7676).

LADIES: From **May 31 to June 2**, the women are invited to take time for fellowship, prayer, and reflection at beautiful **Fort Caswell Retreat Center in Oak Island, NC**. Cost is \$200 for double or triple accommodations in the guest cottages right near the beach, and all meals are included. Facilitated by Suzanne Hultman and Christi Dye, the retreat will feature special guest health educator Elaine Dye and music from Mary Day Saou. The retreat is open to women of all ages from any church as well as those without a church home. Scholarships are available. To register, go to www.christmethodist.org/2013-retreat-registration-form/. Questions? Contact Christi Dye (cdye@christmethodist.org; 969-8820, x205).

- ▶ **For Adults:** Pastors Christi Dye & Suzanne Hultman will lead *Listening for God's Guidance: Examples from the Bible* on Friday mornings, April 12th-May 17th, 10:00 - 11:30 am, in Ascension Hall.
- ▶ **For Parents:** Join *The Community of Parents with Young Children Class* for their DVD/book study of *Fight Club*. The series examines the unique dynamics of family & those relationships that are worth the fight. Future meeting dates: Sundays, April 7 & 21 and May 5 & 19 at 9:45 am in the Disciple Room. Contact Jennifer Woods (jennwoos@yahoo.com; 969-1657) with questions.
- ▶ **For Adults & Youth:** From **Wed., April 10th-May 29th (6:30—8:00 pm)**, a new small group will begin meeting in Room 4, Building 105 to discuss *When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty without Hurting the Poor and Yourself* by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert. Facilitated by Colleen Sharp & Christi Dye (as well as guest speakers, including several CUMC youth), participants will tackle questions like: What does the Bible say about poverty? How do we respond? What are some of the issues related to local and global poverty and our efforts to help? We'll also take a look at *What Every Church Member Should Know about Poverty* by Ruby Payne and Bill Ehlig. For more information, contact colleen.sharp@thefuturescompany.com or [RSVP here](#).
- ▶ **For Adults:** Not a fan of Jesus? We're trying not to be either! The Faith Walk Class invites you to join their new study of Kyle Idleman's DVD/book series *Not a Fan*. You'll explore your relationship with Christ & determine if you're a committed follower or just an enthusiastic fan. The class meets Sundays, 9:45 am, in Room 4 of Building 105. (No class on March 31.) Contact Deon Roach (droach@christmethodist.org; 969-8820, x201).

NEW TOPICS
NEW CLASSES

pray
for our pastors

Beginning in April, the Prayer Team and CUMC's Staff/Parish Relations committee will launch a five-week prayer initiative for our pastoral leadership. Join in lifting up our pastors to God and interceding on their behalf. In worship on **April 7th, look for a special "Praying for our Pastors" card in the pew racks** which will help to guide your efforts. Additional cards will be available in Ascension Hall. Imagine how the power of God will be released at CUMC when we begin to pray faithfully for our pastors!

Seeds Have a Purpose: Find yours in Missions!



Jesus took just 5 loaves and 2 fish and fed 5000 people. Project 5000 allows us to give just a small contribution of food and see it multiplied for greater usefulness. Pick up a box, instructions, and a food list in Ascension Hall and begin to work like Jesus. **Filled boxes should be returned to Ascension Hall by Sunday, March 31.** They will then be delivered to the IFC's (Interfaith Council) Food Pantry in Carrboro and to S.N.A.C.K. (Summer Nutritional Assistance for Chatham Kids) in Pittsboro.

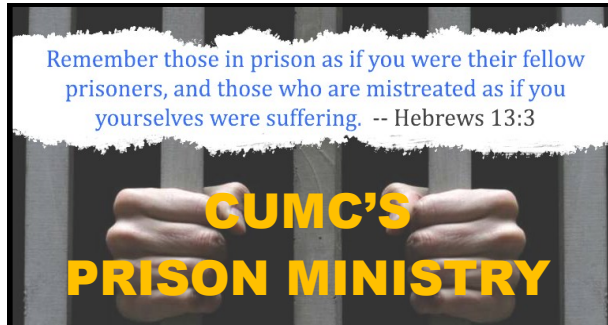
Would you like to participate in Project 5000 but can't find the time to shop? Good news! You can have your own designated shopper! Just write a check to CUMC for \$31 and drop it in the offering plate or mail it to the office (800 Market St., Chapel Hill, 27516). Add "Shopper IFC" or "Shopper SNACK" on the memo line. A designated shopper will purchase the items and deliver your box to the church. Questions? Contact Jim Wilkes (919-929-6839; jnwilkes@sprynet.com).

PLEASE PRAY!

... For our Mission 1:27 team who will minister to the orphans in Slobodskoy, Russia from March 29-April 6th.



Then, join us on **April 21, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm in Ascension Hall** for our "Russian Expo." Hear stories from the trip and enjoy a live chat with the children of the Slobodskoy orphanage!



Which powerful ministry of Christ Church is transforming lives both inside and outside the prison walls of the Orange Correctional Center in Hillsborough? Not

sure? Then, join us on Sunday, April 7th, at noon in Ascension Hall, for a Lunch & Learn about the Alamance/Orange Prison Ministry. This ministry provides a full time Chaplain at the facility, and CUMC volunteers, like Jeannie Browning, Bill Stempfle, and Jo Anne West, teach Disciple Bible Study classes at the facility on Saturdays at 9:00 am. Mark Patrick represents Christ Church on the Prison Ministry Board. At the sandwich & salad luncheon, men who have been released into the community, as well as two guests from OCC, will speak about their lives and what the Prison Ministry means to them. Curious? Please contact JoAnne West (jogwest@mindspring.com) or Jeannie Browning (sheba155@bellsouth.net) for more information or to RSVP.



WANTED: MENTORS Can-do people with good listening and brainstorming skills, positive attitudes, and compassion to mentor someone who is building the resources needed to move out of poverty. No special expertise required, but background in business, finance, education, health care, job searches, or nutrition a plus. Must be able to commit 8-10 hours per month.

WANT TO LEARN MORE? Come to an **April 8th workshop** offered by Circles@ Chatham to be held from **5:30-9 p.m. at Evergreen UMC**, 11098 U.S. Highway 15-501 North, Chapel Hill. For more information or to register for the workshop, visit www.circleschatham.org, or contact Circles@ Director Marcia Ladd at 919-533-9440 or mladd@circleschatham.org.

Christ Church, in partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Orange County & 2 local churches, is building a home for the Maung Kyar & Moeh Kaih Family. The home, located in the Phoenix Place neighborhood, is just off Rogers Road in Chapel Hill. Volunteers are needed for the next CUMC build date, *Saturday, April 13th*. Contact Robert Amico to volunteer: robertamico@yahoo.com; (407) 496-7676.



CHRIST CHURCH
United Methodist
800 Market Street

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Please Save these Important Dates on your Calendar!

- ▶ April 1 & 2: Church office closed
- ▶ April 19–21: Jr./Sr. Youth Retreat; Contact Rush: rbeam@christmethodist.org.
- ▶ April 20: Singles Game Night; 6:00 pm; Ascension Hall. Contact Jo-Anne: jroy@orangecountync.gov.
- ▶ April 30: CUMC Blood Drive; 11am–3:30pm. Contact Julie: sjmcwelge@msn.com.
- ▶ May 2: Praying for the World & our Nation; Noon at the Bell Tower
- ▶ July 15–19: Vacation Bible School
- ▶ August 19–22: C-Camp: Christ Church Acting & Music Program. Registration materials available at www.christmethodist.org.
- ▶ Anytime! Sign Up to use Access ACS. Link into CUMC's online membership directory, give online through checking account deductions, & more. It's free! Contact Deon to set up your account (droach@christmethodist.org; 919-969-8820, x201) or do it yourself on our [website](#).
- ▶ Anytime! Self-Guided Prayer Walk through Southern Village. Pick up a guidebook from the gray box on the garden gate in front of the church