

GOOD NEWS from Christ Church

510 South Central Avenue, Laurel, Delaware

February 2012

Acres of Diamonds

A new year has begun and activities at church have certainly not slowed as you can see in our "What's Happening" column.

We are also starting the new year with a new monthly addition to our newsletter. Pat Murphy has joined us with a column to introduce someone in our congregation each month. So, if you want to become acquainted with your church family, be sure to read his column as someone different will be featured every month.

December was a busy month, as always. Pastor Mike hosted a pizza party with caroling that followed. After feasting on pizza we visited a couple of homes to sing carols. When we returned to church we enjoyed hot chocolate and cookies. There were about 30 of us who joined in this festive evening.

Our Cantata was presented on December 19th and was a success. We want to thank Calvin Hearn and the choir for all the hours put into practice for this event. There were some Wednesdays when we weren't sure we were ever going to be able to present our program, but Calvin snapped the whip and we got it together. A social was held after service to celebrate the season.

We had a very nice Christmas Eve candle light service and service on Christmas morning.

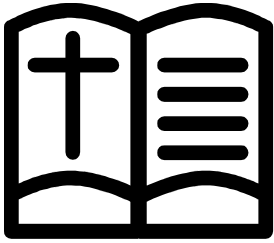
This was certainly a joyous and happy Christmas season!

OUR VISION STATEMENT

"Helping people relate to God in life-changing ways"

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

With Loving Hearts, Christ UMC, Welcomes, Nurtures and Reaches Out to Make Disciples of Jesus Christ



*From
the
desk of
the pastor*

"God's Love and Ours "

"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God." 1 John 4:7

This month will be one of record sales of chocolate and flowers as we enjoy St. Valentine's Day on February 14th. I remember going to the wedding of two good friends on this day about 31 years ago. It was held at a home in Georgetown, and since then the house that they married in has been removed, but thankfully the marriage of 31 years is stronger than ever!

Most of us recall some of the words that are said at weddings. The words shared at the declaration sound like these:

"Do you have this person to be your (husband/wife), to live together in holy marriage? Will you love them, comfort them, honor and keep them, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, be faithful to them, as long as you both shall live?"

What a loving and meaningful time this is for the newlyweds and their families and friends. And we need to keep that level of love alive and growing stronger. I am reminded of a situation actually faced by a pastor. A married wife of over 50 years in their congregation told the pastor that things weren't well at home. The wife told the pastor that her husband never expressed his love for her by saying, "I love you." When the older husband heard this, he responded, "I told her over 50 years that I loved her, and it hasn't changed!"

I was reminded today by a member of our congregation that we should always tell our family and friends that we love them. This is so true, especially when we say goodbye, because we never know what the future holds.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a says:

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8 Love never fails."

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I pray that you will let people know that you love them. Wayne Gretzky, the hockey player, stated once, "You miss 100 percent of the shots you never take." People all around us really need to hear of our love for them. The greatest force of all times is love, and it is truly a blessing to give it and to receive it.

On Sunday, February 12th at both church services we will be blessed with Thom and Deb Slaughter at our Church. Thom looks like Kenny Rogers, and sings a lot like him too. They will offer traditional loving hymns on this day at the 8:30 and 10:45 Church Services. Later that day (Sunday, 2/12), we will host a Valentine Conference and Dinner from 5:30-7:30 PM in Straughn Hall. The dinner will be catered by "My Turn to Cook". The cost is \$28 per couple, and there will also be a 30 minute Christian marriage video after dinner. Pictures will be taken and then there will be separate groups for the men and the women to attend. For this romantic occasion with candle light, we are suggesting dress clothes. Please call the church office, 875-4233, by Feb. 8th for tickets. This even is open to all married couples, or to those who are contemplating marriage. It is important for our church outreach to plan good programs, which are supported by the community. Hope to see you having a good time with your spouse and your friends on this night at Christ U.M. Church.

Benediction: "Mercy, peace and love by your in abundance." (Jude 2)

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CHURCH NOTES FROM THE PASTOR

- New "Church Soup" program, every Thursday in February & March, 12-1 PM. Church Dining Room. This will be primarily for church members, and it will give us a time of fellowship-guest of our members are welcome always. Soup will be made in our church kitchen by our members, Barb and Rich Joseph. Crackers and lite deserts will complement the meal. Come and enjoy this casual dinning with good company.
- Daytime Bible Study, every Thursday in February & March, 1-2 PM, Purpose Driven Life, Church Office. No books to buy, and this study will provide lessons about life, as told by Rick Warren.
- Please keep our youth and their leaders in your prayers as the conduct a 30 Hour Famine beginning February 3rd. They will work at God's Table Feeding Ministry at Centenary UMC on Friday night. Then they will watch videos, sleep in cardboard boxes as many of the homeless do, and they will end their fast on Saturday at 6 PM. A bake sale is also scheduled to be held by them on Saturday at Sears. They will be in Straughn Hall for this program, and lets encourage them in this challenge.
- Sunday, February 19th, Both Services: FOG will conduct both church services this day, and we are blessed to have such a dedicated and hard-working group of young adults at Christ UMC. Please continue to support them as they are busy with fund raising for their Cherokee Mission trip.

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- Ash Wednesday, February 22nd, 10 AM and 7 PM Services: Ash Wednesday is the start of Lent, which is a season of 40 days. Historically, Lent is a period of fasting and a time of preparation for the Easter season. There will be 2 short services this day, where ashes will be placed upon the heads of all who attend. Ashes remind us of our mortality.
- Sunday, February 26th, Pot luck dinner & game night, 5-7 PM: Come join the church for a covered-dish dinner, and lets enjoy one another's' cooking. Dress casually, and bring a game to share with other members. More on this as we get closer to the date – please mark your calendar! We are planning other “dinner-game nights” on the last Sundays of March, April & May, too.
- A Support group is forming for single parents and children. Dates are 3/3, 3/17, 3/31 & 4/14 from 5:30-7:30 PM in the Church Hall. A light dinner will be served, and activities will be held for the youth. A time of sharing and learning will be provided for the parents from 6:30 -7:30. We will need a sign-up sheet for those who would like to attend. Please contact the pastor with any questions and to register.

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WELCOME

We wish to welcome the following members who have been baptized and joined our church:

Elizabeth McLaughlin
Michael McLaughlin
Catherine McLaughlin

We also welcome Debbie Nack who has transferred her membership to Christ U.M. Church.

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CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please notify Judy Vickers of all meetings and their times, so they will appear in the church bulletin. Deadline for these announcements is Wednesday.

Please call Judy at 875-4306 or email judy__vickers@hotmail.com

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

F.O.G. is collecting Campbell Soup labels and Box Tops for Education to donate to North Laurel and Dunbar Elementary Schools. Collection box is in Straughn Hall with a list of items that are eligible.

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MISSION PROJECT

Do you have gloves, scarves, coats, jackets or hats you no longer want or need? If so, here is the chance to help someone who may be in need of them. There is a container in Straughn Hall where you can deposit and donations. Won't you help us to help those in need?

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FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR:

If you are interested in placing flowers on the alter for any Sunday, please contact:

Carole Lynch
875-3261

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Men of Faith Breakfast: First Saturday of every month, 8:00 AM

Soup Social: Tuesday evenings 5:30 PM

Bible Study: Tuesdays 7:00 PM, Miracle House

Choir: Wednesdays, 6:15 PM

Bell Choir: Wednesdays, 7:00 PM

Church Soup: Every Thursday during February & March, 12:00 Noon, soup for church members

Bible Study: Every Thursday during February & March, 1-2 PM

Thirty Hour Famine: February 3 and 4

Communion Breakfast: Sunday, February 5, following 8:30 Service

Valentine's Couples Conference: Saturday, February 11, 5-7:30 PM

Valentine's Day: February 14

Ruritan Dinner: Thursday, February 16, 5:30 PM

Ash Wednesday: February 22

Council Meeting: Thursday, February 23, 7:00 PM, Miracle House

Women of Faith Hot Chocolate Party: February 23, Straughn Hall

F.O.G. Fundraiser: Monday, February 27, 5:00 PM, Pizzeria

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DONATE OLD SHOES FOR GOOD CAUSE

Emma Rider of Bridgeville is collecting shoes to help "Edge Outreach", a non-profit organization that save lives by providing clean, safe drinking water.

Edge Outreach sells the shoes to an exporter who distributes the shoes at a very low cost to small businesses in developing countries. If the shoes are not reusable, they get sold for recycling and end up in gym floors or outdoor tracks.

This money is used to install a water purification system in poor communities.

Janet Walker, at Christ UMC is helping collect shoes for this purpose. There are containers in Straughn Hall where you can deposit your old shoes. This is a mission that costs nothing but gives so much. Please bring in your old shoes to help.

GETTING TO KNOW PASTOR MIKE

By Pat Murphy

Pastor Mike McGee is an affable Irishman with The Gift of Gab that all Irish seem to possess, but it's telling the message the comes from his heart to us; God's message that comes out for everyone to hear.

"Pastor Mike" was born in Baltimore, Maryland and for the first thirteen years of his life it was home to Mike and his family. Mike's dad, James, passed away when Pastor Mike was eleven years old leaving his mom, Mary, to raise three older sisters and Mike. Living in a rough section of Baltimore was not what Mary wanted; so at age 13 Mike's mom and family moved to Milford, Delaware following an older sister.

Mike graduated from Milford High School in 1971 in a community he had learned to love. While in high school, Mike played tennis, baseball and was a center on some of Milford's winning teams of which Mike is quick to remind you. "I enjoyed the fellowship of sports very much", says "Pastor Mike". Mike continued his education by attending the University of Delaware from 1971 until graduation in 1975.

In 1977 Mike married Kathy who soon became a registered nurse at Beebe Hospital in Lewis. She works in the outpatient division of the hospital. The McGees have two grown children; Adam, 29 who is attending Harford Divinity and Daniel, 24 who is employed by ESPN out of New York City.

Mike worked for Wood Garage Doors in Milford for twenty years. During this time he and Kathy and family attended Calvary Unity Methodist Church in Milford. While there he taught Bible Studies and took courses in Bible and was very involved with the church. In 2004 he became a local pastor and soon after received his first appointment as a pastor. This assignment was at Grace United Methodist Church in Georgetown. Grace Church is a huge church with over three hundred members, but Mike thrived on this and was their pastor for seven years. On July 1st, 2011, Mike became the pastor at the smaller Christ United Methodist Church in Laurel. "I am very happy, I love the church and it is a community with real people; there is so much talent in the church", said Pastor Mike. The "real people" Pastor Mike was referring to was the closeness of a smaller community.

Pastor Mike loves to visit starting with his 95 year-old mom, Mary, who he visits daily. "I check on her every day", said Mike. Pastor Mike in his short time at Christ U.M. Church has made numerous visits to area nursing homes as well as to the homes of his "flock".

Mike sees growth for the church in Laurel. A couple of things Pastor Mike would like to implement into the church in 2012 are a Couples Conference, more families and finding ways to attract young people. Pastor Mike's sermons usually start with a story, often funny. Having the congregations' attention he delivers his message. In 2012 he hopes the message of God's love is delivered throughout the church.

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ALTAR GUILD

We are in full swing again after the Christmas holidays and celebrations and already time is speeding on. There is a lot to do this time of year when Ash Wednesday and the Lenten season is on our heels.

I hope you all have noticed the new oil burning candles that are on the alter table now. They were used the first time on the Sunday of the Cantata. Money was given to purchase them by the Red Hat group that in memory of Fran Muir who was a member of the group. They are beautiful and are so easy to light and no more dripping of wax!

We have a goal of getting these oil candles for the two candleabras also. They cost about \$92 to \$95.00 per pair. If you would like to donate money towards the purchase of a set of those candles, you can do it in memory of, or in honor of, someone or even just because you would like to see them instead of us having to purchase the small wax candles. The oil candles would eliminate wax dripping and they would be able to be used all year long easier because we would not have the melting problem in the summer.

There has been money ear marked for two pairs of them already by someone in our church who loves candles and we thank that person for their donation. There has also been a donation from one of our Circles to purchase two pairs. We only need three more pairs to make the set complete!

The alter guild will be busy during the next few months. If you would like to help in any area, please let me know. We probably will be having communion a lot during the Lenten season so if you could help with set up or after communion, please let me know.

Thanks,

Debbie Nack

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NEW ADDRESS

CHATTER HATTERS RED HAT GROUP

Please note new addresses for our service men.

Glen R. Brown Jr.
564 Outer Drive
Box 233
JBLM
McChord Field, WA 98438

Lewis, Adam
2630 Arnold Dr., Unit 653
Ellsworth AFB, SD 57706

Our group traveled a long way this month for their luncheon; all the way to the Georgia House in Laurel.

We celebrated one birthday, Judy Vickers. Everyone enjoyed a delightful lunch and, as always, the fellowship.

If you would like to join us please let one of our group know you are interested. There are no dues, no meetings--just fun and fellowship.

THIRTY HOUR FAMINE LOCK IN

February 3 and 4 will kick off our 30 hour famine lock in. We will meet at Centenary Church to serve God's Table at 5 PM. Imagine feeding the hungry on an empty stomach yourself. After, we will construct our cardboard homes, and see what it is like to sleep in a cardboard box. There will be a Christian Movie marathon, have a newspaper fashion show, become a team member and compete in Tribal games. We will also be having a bake sale outside of Sears in Seaford to raise money for World Vision. We will need donations of juice (apple or grape), Gatorade or water. Any donations of baked goods such as cookies or cupcakes, would be appreciated. Don't throw away those old newspapers; we can use them for our fashion show. Each participant will be asked to donate \$20.00 for World Vision, bring two rolls of duct tape for your house and fashion show, and a baked good for the bake sale. If you would like to help out with God's Table, or the 30 Hour Famine, please see Marlene or Jeff Dulis. February 4th we will break the fast and need any donations of a covered dish to feed our group.

There will be a sign up sheet in Straughn Hall.

Thank you all in advance.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR GOD'S TABLE;

- Iced tea
- Trays of ready made lasagna
- Bread sticks or rolls
- Grated cheese
- Butter
- Salad
- Dressing

ITEMS NEEDED FOR 30 HOUR FAMINE

- Water
- Gatorade
- Juice
- Newspapers

BREAKING THE FAST:

- Covered dishes
- Drinks

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SOUPER THURSDAYS

Each Thursday during February and March, 2012, the folks who support Tuesday evening's free soup social will be making and serving home-made soup to the members of our church at noon in the church basement.

Realizing that the winter months offer fewer opportunities for us to socialize as a church family, we are hopeful this effort will appeal to any/all of you who are able to come.

So, at noon each Thursday, we intend to serve a hearty bowl of soup, along with bread and a hot or cold beverage.

Please be aware this meal is not intended for the general public.

Please pray for God's guidance in this project.



GOLDEN CALF

How many 5-letter words can you make from these words?
 (We've given you the first and last letter of each word.)

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| a _____ e | d _____ e |
| a _____ g | d _____ l |
| a _____ L | l _____ e |
| a _____ e | l _____ e |
| c _____ d | l _____ l |
| c _____ e | l _____ l |
| c _____ o | l _____ e |
| c _____ n | o _____ n |

(Answers on Page 10)

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SOME VALENTINE'S DAY RIDDLES

- What did the bunny say to his girlfriend on Valentine's Day?
- What did the kitty say to her boyfriend on Valentine's Day?
- What did the squirrel say to his girlfriend on Valentine's Day?
- What did the bear say to her boyfriend on Valentine's Day?
- What did the puppy say to his girlfriend on Valentine's Day?

(Answers on Page 10)

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY:



- Feb. 3 Cindy Matthews
Sharon Young
- 4 Victoria Cano
Tony Rubino
- 5 Richard Joseph
- 6 Samantha Dykes
- 7 Breanna Rubino
- 9 Bethany Benson
DeEnna Wedding
Norma Gober
- 10 Roger Hall
Laura Harrison
- 11 Brian Vickers
- 14 Mark Elliott
- 15 Robert Goodman, Jr.
- 16 June Unrah
- 18 Rosemary Sudduth
- 19 Aaron Givens
Katie Minton
- 20 Theresa O'Neal
- 24 Toni DeVincentis
- 27 Olan Matthews
Mona Wright
- 28 Mae Fischbeck

- Mar. 2 Dianne Thompson
- 3 Shirley Sommers
- 5 Mark Harrison
- 6 Deanna Nack
- 7 Lynne Bradley
- 8 Kaden M. Tull
- 9 Lisa Wedding
- 10 Jack Lynch
- 12 Mike Larmore
Mark Lewis
Dominick Queen
- 14 Kyren M. Tull
- 15 Doug Young

HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY:



- Feb. 15 M/M Calvin Hearn
- 25 M/M David Ralph
- Mar. 11 M/M Gary Seal
- 17 M/M Jim Bradley

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Answers to "GOLDEN CALE"

alone	caged	dance	legal
along	canoe	decal	local
angel	cello	ladle	lodge
angle	clean	lance	ocean

Answers to Valentine's Riddles

Some bunny loves you.
You're my purrrr-fect Valentine.
I'm nuts about you!
I love you bear-y much!
I wuff you!

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WEB SITE FOR CUMC:

We have a web site:

www.christumclaurel.org.

Be sure to check it out and see what is happening at our church.

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Pastor:	Pastor Mike McGee
Editor:	Betty Ringrose
Staff:	Shirley Sommers Joanne Brittingham Pat Murphy
Historian:	Bruce Farrelly

Church Phone Numbers

Church 875-4233
FAX 875-8201

Pastor's Phone Numbers

Home 302-422-6864
Pastor's Cell 302-233-2981