CONTINUING THE CELEBRATION

In my first message to you in the July 2009 issue of *The Chimes*, I quoted a passage from the book *Reaching for Rainbows* by Ann Weems, where the author writes: “I celebrate the church of Jesus Christ, where two or three or thousands can gather together in the Lord’s name and touch this world with the amazing good news that somebody cares, that God joins us in community so that someday this world will be loved to wholeness.”

When Cindi and I arrived at Christ Church a year ago, we did so with hearts full of joy. As our “interim appointment for up to one year” draws to a close at the end of June, our hearts overflow with an even greater abundance of joy – not because we’re leaving, but because we have been blessed with a year of praying with, worshiping with, laughing and crying with, planning and studying with and thoroughly loving and being loved by some of the most wonderful Christian people we have ever known in forty-one years of ordained ministry. You folks are remarkable in so many ways. Your love and concern for one another, your passionate desire to help persons in need, your deep faith and abiding commitment to Jesus Christ and to all that is good, noble, righteous and pure in this world are indicative of your clear understanding of the gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Our all-too-short time together has included opportunities for spirit-filled worship, full to overflowing with intensely beautiful music by our tower chimes, organ, vocal and bell choirs and various individuals from the congregation; extraordinary assistance in worship by lay and clergy liturgists; fabulous worship, study and service opportunities with our sister congregation, Union Avenue United Methodist Church and the chance to share in ministry with Pastors Hoyte Wilhelm and Rebecca Innerst, along with opportunities for me to lead worship at nearby Copeland Oaks, a place that many of my teachers and mentors in ministry over the years along with Christ Church members, call home. In addition to worship, there have been many thrilling times of Christian fellowship including: working at the burger stand at Carnation Days in the Park, Christmas family night, Easter breakfast, fellowship luncheons, “witnessing” the making of peanut brittle, opportunities to attend plays in which children from Christ Church acted and concerts in which members of the congregation played, along with lectures, service club meetings and dramatic productions to which we were invited by members of the congregation, the Tower Concert Series, Scouting programs and events, circle and unit meetings of United Methodist Women, the Day Care Christmas program, and a variety of other special times too numerous to mention. In addition to the many wonderful memories Cindi and I take with us from Christ Church, I must share what a privilege it has been for me to work with a staff of individuals that is second-to-none. Believe me when I tell you how blessed you are as a congregation to have a committed and loyal staff of folks that works tirelessly on your behalf.

To say that we will miss you and the joy of our ministry together is an understatement of epic proportions. You have brought unparalleled joy to our hearts and lives over the last twelve months and for this we will be forever grateful. Although it’s difficult to leave, we’re excited and overjoyed for you at the appointment of the Reverend Karl Stonebraker as pastor of Christ Church. Karl and Pam are delightful folks and will fit into the Alliance and Christ Church communities in wonderfully marvelous ways. You will love Karl and Pam and the inspiring, sensitive and committed leadership they will bring to Christ Church. I know Karl to be one of the truly gifted, deeply spiritual and genuinely compassionate pastors in our East-Ohio Annual Conference. God will richly bless the mission and ministry of Christ Church through Karl and Pam Stonebraker.

Our prayer for you, dear friends, is that you continue to faithfully serve the Lord Jesus Christ as you have in the past. God has granted you special gifts and a deep and abiding commitment. Continue to do everything in your power to fulfill the Great Commission of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ – “to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything that I have commanded you.”

BLESSINGS ON YOU NOW AND ALWAYS! WE WILL NEVER FORGET YOU.

PASTOR CHRIS AND CINDI MARTIN
FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

The Council met in its regular bi-monthly session on Tuesday, May 11, 2010. Trustee chairman, Bruce Helsel, gave a comprehensive report on the Trustees’ review of the Energy Audit completed last fall and anticipated plans for improvement projects around the church. Mark Locke, Facilitator of the Spiritual/Strategic Planning effort updated the Council on progress to date and outlined coming plans. As a part of that process, the Council will need to meet in special session on Tuesday, June 8, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. for interim growth goal reshaping, prioritizing and discernment.

The Council approved the congregation’s participation in Bishop Hopkins’ 3Cs Mission Initiative. Details will be announced soon. The Administrative Council’s next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, July 13, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH COMMISSION

Thank you to everyone who helped Union Avenue United Methodist Church with the Kiwanis Food Drive on May 21. Also, thank you to all the groups who have been hosting our fellowship luncheons for Red Bird Mission. We have been eating well lately and enjoying each other immensely!

Our fifth Sunday noisy can offerings and our aluminum can collection will help our new global missionary, Beatrice Mamawah Gbanga, a missionary in healthcare in Sierra Leone. Her picture is on the opportunity board. Thank you for supporting global missions.

We will continue to have our Good Samaritan Fund offering once per quarter, and we will be sure to announce it at least a week in advance. The Alliance of Churches is now distributing the money to needy families in the Alliance area.

Our next community dinner will be held at the Alliance Neighborhood Center on Tuesday, June 29. There is a sign-up sheet on the opportunity board for those who are able to help with preparation, serving, cleanup, or just visiting with the folks from the neighborhood.

Our local food pantries continue to help the many Alliance area families who need assistance. In May we had the opportunity to support not only the Salvation Army, but also the First Immanuel United Church of Christ food pantry on Sunday, May 23, when we joined with Union Avenue to "wear red, share red." Thank you, everyone.

Our committee came up with two new projects for our congregation to support. One is a project sponsored by First Baptist Church, the week of June 21-25, Monday through Friday during the day and Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Those involved will meet at the Alliance Neighborhood Center at 7:30 each morning and will work on repairing thirteen houses. They are in need of money for supplies, lunches, and workers. Victor Lee is our contact person for this project. Please contact him if you can help in any way.

Our idea for sponsoring a neighborhood event is finally becoming a reality. On July 10, we will have a carnival in the parking lot. Jamie Greiner and Susie Buckel are co-chairmen of this event. We would like to have all the groups within the church take part. The Explorers class and the youth have already agreed to assist. An exact time has not been determined but will be announced shortly. We are thinking of having games, face painting, hot dogs, chips, drinks, and whatever else we can come up with. Please contact Jamie or Susie if you have suggestions. We are really excited about this opportunity, especially since we are not having Adopt-A-Reader this year.

God bless each and every one of you for your hard work and dedication to Christ United Methodist Church!
JUNE TELLERS

6  Diane Hisey and Bill Messenheimer
13 Nancy Sandifer and Mildred Hostetler
20 Worship in the Park
27 Jim Greiner and John Essick

JULY TELLERS

4  Julie Greiner and Larry Pyers
11 Pat Helsel and Marilyn Ruff
18 Jill Greiner and Donna Essick
25 Tyler Kinser and Bruce Helsel

JUNE GREETERS:  Entrances

6  North Door:  Peg Charlton, 9:15 & 10:15
     West Door:  Dolores Carli, 9:15 & 10:15
13 North Door:  Shirley Carberry, 9:15 & 10:15
     West Door:  Jane Moncrief, 9:15
              Ruth Eva Williams, 10:15
20 Worship in the Park:  Dick Diser and Peg Williams
27 North Door:  Betty Coleman, 9:15 & 10:15
     West Door:  Dolores Lawrence, 9:15
              Jane Moncrief, 10:15

Welcome Center  Sanctuary

Rev. David and Mildred Hostetler
Lois and Dick Myers
Connie and Larry Pyers  Phyllis and Bill Messenheimer
Lou and Bob Clayton  Jamie and Mike Greiner

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

JUNE LITURGISTS

8:30 A.M.  10:45 A.M.

6  Haven Ackley  Ellen Sol  16  Jessica Crider
13  Steve Diser  Bill Sol  22  Christian Shields
20  Worship in the Park (11:00 A.M.)  Pat Helsel  23  Robert Clayton
27  Haven Ackley  Sheila Gard  25  Nicholas Skidmore

JUNE VISITATION MEMBERS

6  Everette Coldwell, 800 S. 15th St. #1035, Sebring, OH 44672-2051
13  Helen Hunter, 800 S. 15th St. #9202, Sebring, OH 44672-2050
20  Rose Wright, 141 W. Carol St., Alliance, OH 44601-5331
27  Elizabeth Turkle, 11999 Klinger Ave., NE #104A, Alliance, OH 44601-1116

60 NOTES NEEDED FOR JOAN

Believe it or not, June 27th will mark the 60th birthday of Joan Skelley-Watts! Would you please devote some personal time to a note to Joan relaying how much she has meant to you. My goal is to be able to present her with at least 60 such notes at her birthday party. You may mail them to me c/o Huron UMC, 338 Williams Street, Huron, OH 44839-1639, or e-mail revroger@verizon.net. Thanks for helping to make a lovely memory for one who has given us all light as long as we have been blessed to know her. Peace, Roger Skelley-Watts
As I busy myself with the activities of vacation bible school and the preparation for our own summer Sunday school curriculum, I stopped in my tracks after reading an article by Melanie Gordon from iTeach (Christian newsletter). The title of that article was “THINKING THEOLOGICALLY WITH CHILDREN”. Please allow me to share with you the substance of that article.

Many children when asked can not draw a picture of what God looks like but may draw those things or people who represent the characteristics of their understanding of God. Therefore, it appears that their responses concerning how God is communicated to them is far more important than what God “looks like”.

In terms of the Scriptures, children love stories and the primary way we begin is by telling Bible stories. We are advised to not only read the stories but engage them in some dialogue concerning their understanding of what they hear and what they read. We should also be open to their thoughts and responses.

We know that children learn through experiences. As the article so poignantly states “children are not born as ‘empty vessels’”. As they grow and develop, they will collect many experiences that will shape their lives as people of God and members of the Body of Christ. As teachers, parents, grandparents, guardians and church family it is our responsibility to guide them in living out of their lives through the Scriptures. What is meant here is holy living. Then we can listen to and respect their stories as we help them see how their choices and actions reflect upon who they are as children of God.

Speaking of tradition we understand that church rituals speak to us in special ways. Children look forward to life’s celebrations like birthdays or other milestones. There are traditions in our church community and in our worship practices in which we experience rituals of prayer, thanksgiving, supplication and the sacraments of Baptism and Communion. It is important that we teach the children about the traditions and rituals of the church so that they can look forward to participating in church life.

While some of us are strong supporters of the memorization of the Scriptures, we can also guide children towards the interpretation of Scriptures and the impact it has on their lives as children of God. These interpretations help children make sense of what they have memorized as they navigate throughout the challenges of life. I have been challenged to prayerfully consider if I am encouraging our children to think theologically in the work that I do.

Peace, Dr. J.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE

This is a brief reminder that the semi-annual Copeland Oaks Communion Service will take place on Thursday, June 3, 2010 at 11:00 A.M. in the Chapel at Copeland. Lunch will follow in the Buckeye Room. Rev. Martin will deliver the message and will officiate at the serving of the sacred elements.

Congregational Care Committee

Bob Clayton
Shirley & Paul Cope
Mildred & Rev. David Hostetler
Connie & Larry Pyers
Peg Williams, Chairperson

Worship and Picnic in the Park

Sunday, June 20, 2010 ~ Silver Park, Miller Pavilion
11:00 A.M. Worship Service with Picnic to follow
Message by The Reverend L. Chris Martin

PICNIC: beverages, chicken sandwiches and hot dogs will be provided; please bring your table-service and food to share!
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES

Our Graduates were honored during our 10:45 A.M. Worship Service Sunday, May 16, 2010

Kate Nadine Cline: daughter of Charles and Treva Cline and sister to Travis, graduates from West Branch High School June 6, 2010 maintaining a cumulative 4.0 grade-point average. She plans to attend the Ohio State University and major in Allied Medicine while participating in the University Honors Program.

Courtney Diane Webster: daughter of Donna and John Webster and sister to Aaron, graduates from Alliance High School May 23, 2010 in the top 10% of her class. She plans to attend The University of Akron for Photography.

Christopher Alan Handy: son of Kimberly and Jason Handy and brother to Kayla and Brandon, graduates from West Branch High School June 6, 2010. He plans to attend The University of Toledo majoring in Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences.

Aaron Michael Webster: son of Donna and John Webster and brother to Courtney, graduated May 14, 2010 from Kent State University while earning Dean’s List honors, with an Associates Degree in Human Services. He will attend Akron University in the fall to obtain a Bachelors Degree in Social Work.

Sarah Catherine Buckel: daughter of Susie Buckel and Dan Buckel and sister to Tim and Lindsey, graduated from Mount Union College May 8, 2010 with a major in English Literature and a minor in Adolescent Education. Following student teaching she will seek a teaching position as a middle school or high school English teacher.

Leanne Marie Austin: daughter of Leslie and David Austin and sister to Mike, is graduating today (May 16) Summa Cum Laude from Case Western Reserve University with a major in Nutritional Biochemistry and Metabolism. She plans to continue her education at the same university and earn her Master’s of Science Degree in Nutrition, and will be married July 31 here at Christ United Methodist Church.

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH FOOD PANTRY

We recognize a need in our community by collecting funds, food, personal and household items to help the Salvation Army in its outreach. The Christian Outreach Committee reminds you that there is always a shopping cart in the Lounge for donations, and that the third Sunday of each month is designated as Food Pantry Sunday. Since we will be Worshipping in the Park June 20, we will recognize June 27 as the next date for donations of non-perishable food items, paper and cleaning products, and cash donations to be counted for delivery to the Salvation Army. In May, 40 items and $32.97 were collected. Your response for this much needed community program is appreciated. Thank You!
FROM THE LIVING MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Application for a College Grant

All 2010 high school graduates who are church members and are advancing their education in any two or four year program are eligible (available ONE TIME ONLY) for a $500.00 grant. They may send a letter to the Living Memorial Scholarship Committee, Christ United Methodist Church, 470 East Broadway Street, Alliance, OH 44601-2698 and indicate the level of participation in church (see below), the school they will be attending and the program of study. Also, all undergraduate members of the church now in college, full time, may also apply for this same grant by submitting a similar letter.

Application for a College Loan

The LIVING MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND which was established in 1960 and revised in 1986 is funded by gifts from the congregation. These funds are held by the Trustees and are granted as loans to persons wishing to further their education.

Criteria established at that time determined that the applicant be an active member of Christ United Methodist Church. Active member means that the candidate joined the church by profession of faith or by transfer of church letter. Active also means participation in at least three of the following programs at Christ United Methodist Church:

A. Worship Services
B. Church School classes
C. Youth Fellowship (U.M.Y.F.)
D. Vocal Choir
E. Handbell Choir
F. Boy Scouts
G. Other (Explain)

Loans are now available for up to $2,500.00 per year for up to four years, and are approved by the Living Memorial Scholarship Fund Committee. Interest shall be charged at the rate of 1% per annum on the unpaid balance, and repayment will start six months after graduation or discontinuation of schooling. A parent or guardian shall be required to cosign any such loans, if the student is a minor. A written letter to the Committee shall contain the name and address of the applicant, the date, the amount requested, the institution where applicant has been accepted, the class level of the applicant (freshman, sophomore, etc.) and expected graduation or completion date of the course of study.

The congregation is to be commended for their support in funding the furthering of higher education.

The YMCA Church League Schedule 2010 for Wednesday Nights is played at Tannenhauf Golf Course. Christ Church Team Members include Dick Diser, Jim Greiner, Larry Pyers and Leo Stryffler.

June
- 2 - 5:15 P.M.: CUMC vs. Science Hill B
- 9 - 5:15 P.M.: CUMC vs. YMCA A
- 16 - Team Event, Tee Time based on League standings
- 23 - 5:45 P.M.: CUMC vs. St. Joseph B
- 30 - 5:30 P.M.: CUMC vs. St. Joseph A
JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

Robert and Lou Clayton  
June 6, 1963

Rev. Durlan and Alice Dumm  
June 11, 1944  
*66 Years*

Rev. L. Chris and Cindi Martin  
June 12, 1969

Wil’ and Dorothy Rogers  
June 12, 1982

Richard and Susan Diser  
June 13, 1970

Robert and Nancy Locke  
June 25, 1955  
*55 Years*

William and Ellen Sol  
June 27, 1970

John and Ada Briden  
June 30, 1972

WORDS OF THANKS...................

From Ruth and Don Rankin to their church family........

Thank you for the lovely bud vase delivered while Don was hospitalized. The carnation served as a reminder of the sentiments of prayers and best wishes sent our way as Don continues his recovery. The visits from Reverend Chris Martin, Carolyn Nichols and Reverend Dave Hostetler were greatly appreciated.

Lingering Thanks ........

I do not know how to adequately thank all the members of Christ Church for their incredible out-pouring of celebration and love on my birthday this year. I was so touched by the cards of the children and the gift of a beautifully crafted angel pin that I wear so often now. There were also cards of laughter, cards of joy, cards with photographs included, cards with delicate designs, cards made by hand, and cards from near and far. I could travel the universe to try to find a more loving place, but I would return here to where hearts are worn on the outside of the people’s lives. There exists no other place more love filled and spirit led. Thank you for the joy of your love that I will forever carry with me.

Go with God,  Cindi Martin

ATTENTION!!!

Worship Music for the summer months of July 11, 2010 through September 5th is presented by special offerings of individuals and groups who sign up. Please contact Lew Shields, Director of Music, at 330-823-7466 or the Church Office, 330-823-7136 to sign up for 10:00 A.M. Worship Summer Music.

USHERS FOR JUNE
Bruce Helsel, Captain  
C. Hubbard Ford  
Don Kingan  
Duane Locke  
Mark Locke  
Bill Prueter  
Larry Pyers  
Brad Thomas
INFORMATION WORTHY OF REPEATING:

“STUDIO GO” VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2010

A MEETING IS SET FOR Wednesday, June 9th, 2010 at 6:00 PM to connect all the dots and tie up all the loose ends for this year’s VBS offering to the Lord. We will assemble at the Vine Street United Methodist Church, 1544 W. Vine Street in Alliance. This meeting is open to all volunteers, teachers, assistants, etc. Please come to look over the classrooms, the recreation area, the kitchen area and so on and, by all means, leave a prayer for success in the name of Jesus the Christ.

Pat Helsel will conduct a Safe Sanctuary training session for all who are receiving it for the first time; if it is time for an annual renewal, now is the time to do it. Please RSVP by Thursday, May 27, 2010 to Dr. J, Christian Education Commission so that we will know how many for whom to prepare. Once again, thank you so much for all that you do.

Dr. J
Christian Education Commission

VBS UPDATE

My heartfelt thanks to the Christ United Methodist family for help with VBS 2010. So many of you have said yes to the multitude of tasks that it takes to make things work. If you have not volunteered there is still time and there are still positions to fill such as registration, youth helpers, recreation leaders, etc. However, things are going well at this time.

On Wednesday June 9th at 6:00 PM, we will have a full staff meeting (including planning committee members, teachers, assistants, etc.) Our own Pat Helsel will be conducting a Safe Sanctuary training session for those who need annual updates and those who may need it for the first time. Please feel free to join us at the Vine Street UMC on that day. Keep on praying for VBS 2010.

Christian Education Commission

The VBS planning team would like to offer a Christian Parenting in conjunction with the VBS program in July. I am very excited to be a part of this big ministry to our Alliance families! The classes will be held for parents while kids are in VBS classes on Monday - Thursday evenings. Here is the proposed curriculum:

Daily topics of the Christian Parenting 101 class include:
-- A Christian Home: The role of the Father, Mother and Children.
-- Moral development in children.
-- Social development birth through adult.
-- Building a Family Mission Statement (North Star) and Family Shield.

Classes will be taught by Gail Pavliga, PhD, Licensed Clinical Christian Therapist at the Christian Counseling Alliance. Dr. Pavliga provides Christian based counseling to children, families, teens, couples and adults.

Please feel free to contact me for more information at 330-472-2754, Gail Pavliga.

You are cordially invited to a birthday party to celebrate Shirley Cope’s 80th birthday Saturday, June 5, 2010 from 2:00 - 4:00 P.M. in the Copeland Oaks Williamsburg Room. No gifts, please.
OUTREACH FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

A project started by the United Methodist Women to maintain contact with college students/military personnel having a birthday the month of each Chimes issue continues as a church-wide outreach. Birthdays in June are:

1  Brittany Strong, 239 Keefer School Road, Hookstown, PA 15050-1626
3  Sarah Buckel, 3215 Beechwood Avenue, Alliance, OH 44601-4478
13  Aaron Webster, 283 Columbia Street, Apt. 1, Alliance, OH 44601-2327
22  Travis Cline, 1264 Abbey Lane, Alliance, OH 44601-6916

REMEMBERING THE SAINTS - SUNDAY, MAY 30, 2010
THE ROLL OF THE VICTORIOUS
Members who passes away since May 24, 2009

Gerald Ruff  May 29, 2009  Margaret Ramsey  November 16, 2009
Robert Hunter, Sr.  July 14, 2009  Byrde Addams  January 1, 2010
William Thomas  July 16, 2009  Carol Reese  February 5, 2010
Ann Freeman  August 26, 2009  Wilbur Couchie  March 5, 2010
Robert Lare

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Tuesday, June 1, 2010
6:00 P.M.
Guests of Union Avenue UMW

JUNE CIRCLE MEETINGS

15  12:30 P.M.  Dorcas Circle, Lakeview Terrace, Copeland Oaks
    7:00 P.M.  M&M, out to dinner
22  7:00 P.M.  May Smyth Circle, TBA

The United Methodist Women Executive Board meetings will be held the fourth Tuesday at 7:00 P.M. on most months. Please mark your calendars for the next Executive Board, August 24, and the fall meetings on September 28, October 26 and November 23.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

June 4, 2010, Vine Street United Methodist Church
11:30 A.M.  Board Meeting
1:00 P.M.  General Meeting and Program
    Penny Lippiatt, Portrayal of Roxine

THE BISHOP’S CHALLENGE

Bishop John L. Hopkins of the East-Ohio Annual Conference is again this year issuing a challenge to each member of Annual Conference (lay and clergy) to work within their local church to bring $100 for each Annual Conference member to the conference, June 14-17, at Lakeside, Ohio, to be added to a significant offering in support of the BISHOP’S 3Cs MISSION INITIATIVE (Churches, Clinics and Classrooms, particularly in Africa and Russia, because of the GREAT NEED in these areas).

Christ Church has two members of Annual Conference (Jenni-Jo Kinser and Pastor Chris.) Therefore, our goal is to raise $200 for the Bishop’s Challenge, which can then be taken to Annual Conference in June.

Susie Buckel, chair of Christian Outreach, has placed two collection receptacles (one red and one green) in the Lounge for your donations to support this special offering. Let’s meet the challenge by making a contribution in support of this initiative.
The Rev. L. Chris Martin will be leaving us as Interim Pastor on June 27, 2010. As you know, he “technically” retired last June, but when asked to serve, he willingly and whole-hearted responded and he has served us with love. He has befriended many of us.

The Staff Parish Relations Committee would like to recognize his service at a **Celebration Reception to be held on Sunday, June 27, 2010**, immediately following the 10:45 A.M. Worship Service. You won’t want to miss this celebration!