

Community of Christ

Forest Hills Happenings

HAPPY NEW YEAR

January 2009

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, Jan 7 – Fireside Meal, 6:30 pm, hosted by Jim and Linda Ayre

Sunday, Jan 18 – Priesthood Gathering following Potluck after church

Wednesday, Feb 4 – Pre-budget Meeting to consider the 2009 budget
held following the Fireside Meal at 6:30 pm

Saturday, February 14 – Valentine’s Dinner at the church sponsored by the Youth
to raise funds to IYF/Spectacular. See Jay Rogers for details.

Sunday, February 15 – 2009 Budget Meeting following Potluck after church



OUTREACH HAPPENINGS

“Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him.”
Colossians 3¹⁰

OUTREACH INTERNATIONAL – “Change For Change”

We have a very successful year for Outreach International. Our Change for Change offerings plus some has enabled us to send \$811.03 to Outreach for our partnership for schools in Haiti. Our goal was \$500.00 so we made it plus. Yea for giving! The week-end of December 13,14 our teen-agers had their Hunger-a thon. No One starved to death in those 24 hours. Many thanks to Jay Rogers, Barb Harmon and Scott Shanks for their help. The teens raised \$681.00 for Outreach for this worthwhile project. Many Cheers. Soon after the new year we will choose another worthy partnership and continue to provide our change for a change in the world. – Marty Sherrard

FOOD BANK

December 14th during the worship service is the White Gift service. Please remember to bring food items for those who are less fortunate. There are many families in need this year.

January – Canned Beans, Chili, Ravioli, Toilet Paper

What's Happening In Your Group?

*"You grew weary in your search, but you never gave up.
Desire gave you renewed strength, and you did not grow weary." Isaiah 57:10*

YOUNG ADULTS - Weekly Gatherings

Starting January 8th, the Metro young adult group will begin to study the Book of Revelation. This group continues to grow close and always welcomes a new member. If you haven't tried this group out, yet – There couldn't be a better time! Starting the New Year out with a new support group of friends, could make the difference in keeping your New Year's resolutions – whatever they may be. We meet at the New Albany church every Thursday evening at 6:30 pm. If you would like more information, please talk to Mike Hoffman or Karen Mercer.

COUPLES

Valentine's Day Dinner Hosted by the Jr. High & Sr. High

Looking for something special to do with your loved one on Valentine's Day? The Junior/Senior High Youth will be offering a special Valentine's Day Dinner on Saturday, February 14th (7:00 p.m.) at the Forest Hills church. Funds raised from the dinner will be used to help pay for our trip to the International Youth Forum (IYF) in 2009.

This will be a candlelight meal, with full wait-service provided by us. We are considering an Italian meal, with fresh bread and pasta, salad, soup, chocolate and dessert.

You will also have the option of ordering fresh flowers ahead of time, they will be presented to you when you arrive for dinner.

In addition, you can pre-order a musical serenade for your sweetheart.

Our initial plan is not to provide child care on-site, leaving that up to you to make your arrangements separately.

Tickets will need to be purchased in advance, plan on between \$25 to \$40 per couple (we still have to lock in all our costs), with additional options to purchase flowers and serenades. All proceeds plus tips will be used to cover costs of the event and help pay for our trip to IYF at Graceland University. We will be selling tickets starting no later than Sunday, January 11.

Contact Jay Rogers for more information. (jay.rogers@bekaert.com, 502-222-3549)



Missional Transformation Activity

Please mark your calendar for *Friday, March 13 – Sunday, March 15* for a Missional Transformation activity with Don Compier and Larry McGuire. Friday evening at 7:00 pm will be a Coffee House to get to know Don, who is the Dean of the Community of Christ Seminary. We will consider the topic, "Theology and Mission in the Community of Christ" on Saturday (time to be announced). Child care will be provided. Don will meet with the Youth during the church school hour on Sunday, and Don and Larry will lead our worship for the 11:00 service.

MISSION STATEMENT

We proclaim Jesus Christ and promote communities of joy, hope, love and peace.

FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM



What Did You Learn This Year?

I'm not big on "New Year's resolutions" (probably because I've never kept them!), but I do like to take a little time to reflect on the year that has just ended and consider my hopes for the year to come. We had an opportunity during the last worship service of the year to consider the question, "What did you learn this year?" after the story, "The Little Engine that Could" was read during a Children's Moment shared by Sarah Runyon. The answers were written on post-it notes and stuck on a poster of the determined little engine. The responses were both diverse and similar, indicating the common threads of a shared community of varied ages and life experiences.

Life is much less hectic the better you communicate

That Jesus loves ALL people

It's better late than never

How to let things go

You can learn by believing

People are good

Determination

To love

You can be an influence for good or for bad; it's up to me

Patience

I can't do it alone

Trust and love for others

You have to believe to make it happen

It's hard to change; you can weather a lot of diversity

Prayer of patience

Never give up

Only God is certain; I've been depending on unreliable gifts

Life is what we choose

Learn to trust

Endure and survive

God is greater than anything this life will offer us

Be thankful for what you have

Christ's love truly conquers all

Thankfulness

Love that grandchildren can bring

You can do anything you put your mind to

Quilts bring solace in grief

Be thankful even when the path is hard

Give fear to God

Forgiveness

Try new things

Trust solely in the Lord; everything else will fall into place

There are no guarantees in life

We are ALL in this together

Patience only grows when it is used

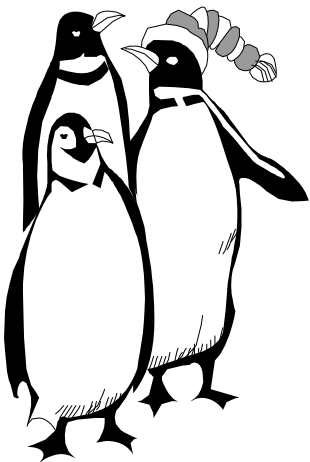
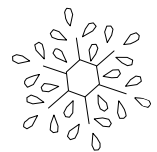
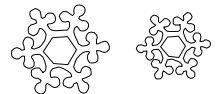
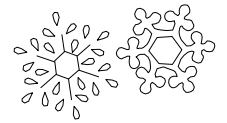
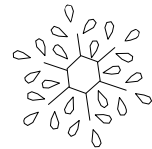
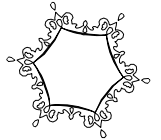
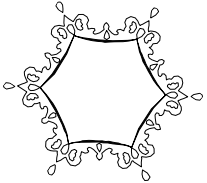
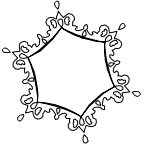
All people are of worth

End human suffering

Strength and love

I always have a home

I am not in charge; I am a servant

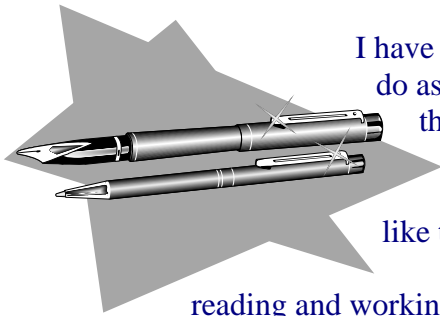


Even if you were not able to attend the worship service, I would guess you could find yourself somewhere in this list of responses. These answers reflect for me the experience we strive to connect with as we continue our missional journey, always seeking to be one body in Christ, and individually members of one another (Romans 12:5). The joys and struggles of both our individual lives and our corporate life as a congregation are reflected in the desires to forgive, to be patient, to trust, to belong, to change, to serve.

It's not a huge leap to compare our congregation to the determined little engine in the story. When we look at the many needs in our world and even in our local community compared with our numbers and resources, it's easy to say there's nothing we can do, or we are already too busy. But when we consider our shared experiences as a community of Christ, when we reflect on what God has been up to among us over the past year, both in our joys and in our struggles, perhaps we can muster the hope and faith to say, "**WITH** God, I think we can. I know we can."

My hope and prayer as we enter the new year is the same as the year that has just passed, that God, by the power at work within us, will accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20). -- In Christ, Barb Harmon

Messy Desk and Chipped Pen



I have a few quirks, shocking I know, but I suspect each of us have some things we do as part of a routine or things we do as a particular habit. For me, one habit is that I don't like to leave my desk in my home office messy when I am done for the day. I like to have things organized and ready for the next day or whatever needs to be done. When I have a messy desk, it makes me feel like things are out-of-control and I don't function as well with things messy.

On New Year's Day I was downstairs in my home office doing some reading and working on some sermon notes. I reached for a pen from a holder and pulled out one which had not been used in quite some time. It was a pen I purchased shortly after the name change of the church. When I bought the pen it was a very nice fake pearl toned pen with Community of Christ written in blue. Today it is very chipped and as I held it in my hand I wondered, why do I keep this pen?

The pen doesn't have a lot of ink left so when I tried to write a note for my sermon, I needed to write over a couple of times so I could read it. I could feel the roughness of the pen from where pieces have flaked off and it was not very comfortable to hold in my hand. So, why keep the pen?

As I've been thinking about the pen and the New Year, I realized that maybe my life is like the pen; rough, chipped, sometimes worn out. Why then does God keep using me? At times I'm uncomfortable and rough. Other times I have run out of energy and focus that I need to keep returning again and again to what I am doing because I'm worn down. Along with God, I have wondered if that is sometimes what my relationship to the church is like. I have come to recognize that sometimes there are chips and rough spots in a congregation's life and it might be easier to simply discard the congregation by throwing away the relationship.

As I've been sharing in the journey of transformation, I've come to appreciate that it is important to acknowledge the chips and rough spots and then look for where God is moving and using all available pens. It is easier to toss the pen into the trash and reach for another pen; one that is smooth, shiny, and full of ink. I didn't, I kept using it according to its created purpose because I realized that God has not asked me to be something I'm not. I've been asked to be a vibrant witness and to invite others to be vulnerable enough to experience a relationship with God and then respond to God's unfolding purposes in their life.

I finished my notes, put the pen back into the holder then finished organizing the folders, papers, and notes on my desk. In fact, by the time I was done, I had completely re-arranged the top of my desk and even dusted the desk. Everything ready for what was next-even a chipped and ugly pen-ready to serve. The same invitation is ours, will we respond? -- *Grace and Peace, Larry McGuire*

Daily Prayer for the Congregation

Please pray daily as we seek to discover what God is calling us to at this point in our journey as a community of Christ.

Fun Tidbits, Birthdays & Other Happenings

*“Create in me a clean heart, O God.
Renew a loyal spirit within me.” Psalm 51:10*

Happy Birthday!!

Lindsay Haupt	1/01	Kevin Simons	1/03
Kelin Peercy	1/03	Kathleen Smith	1/04
Bill Schmidt	1/05	Don Robinson	1/06
Daniel Thompson	1/09	Scott Oxley	1/10
Robert Mogan	1/11	Isabelle Ross	1/14
Sierra Younghouse	1/17	Chelsea Leichhardt	1/21
James Hale	1/21	Nicholas Oxley	1/23
Jacqueline Whitehouse	1/28	Kyle Schuler	1/30

Who Am I?

Last month's Who Am I was Darrell Rosenbarger

What is your favorite church song?	<i>HS 74 – Thank You For Giving Me The Morning</i>
What is Your favorite Bible verse?	<i>II Corinthians 12:9, “But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.</i>
What is your pet passion?	<i>My Wife</i>
What is your pet peeve?	<i>People who cut in front of you while driving</i>
What do you do for a living?	<i>Retired</i>
How many children/grandchildren do you have?	<i>2 Children / 6 Grandchildren</i>
How many pets do you have?	<i>None</i>
What is your favorite sport?	<i>Flying & Tennis</i>
How long have you been a church member?	<i>65 Years</i>
What is a fact about yourself that most people don't know?	<i>I got hit by a car while running on campus.</i>

This person's identity will be revealed in Febuary's Forest Hills Happenings

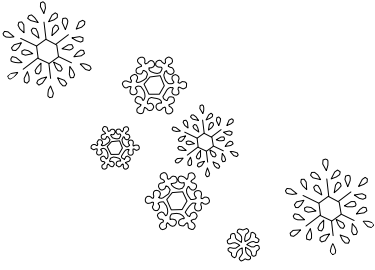
“Who Am I” is put together by Ashley and Marty Sherrard.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Next month's theme will be Valentine's Day. Send me your favorite Valentine's stories. If you'd like to send a special note to your loved one using the Happenings, I'd be glad to include that as well.

Please keep in mind that I rely on your articles to make the newsletter the best that it can be.

Karen Mercer, kmmercer@yahoo.com, cell phone (812) 399-9990, home phone (812) 951-3070.



January



January 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!	2	3
4	5	6	7 Fireside Meal, 6:30 pm, hosted by Jim and Linda Ayre	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Fellowship Service 7:00 pm	15	16	17
18 Congregational Potluck Priesthood Gathering after Potluck	19	20	21 Fellowship Service 7:00 pm	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



February

February 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Fireside Meal 6:30 pm 2009 Pre- budget Mtg after the Fireside Meal	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Fellowship Service 7:00 pm	12	13	14 Happy Valentines Day Valentines Dinner, 7 pm, by reservation
15 Congregational Potluck 2009 Budget Mtg following Potluck after church	16	17	18 Fellowship Service 7:00 pm	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Priesthood Gathering 7:00 pm	26	27	28



Community of Christ

Come Worship With Us

Wednesday Night 7:00 pm Prayer & Testimony Service

Sunday Schedule 9:30 am Congregational Breakfast & fellowship
10:00 am Sunday School for ALL Ages
11:00 am Morning Worship in the Sanctuary



Fully Staffed Nursery Provided Every Sunday for Morning Worship

Church Building is All One Level and Mostly Handicap Accessible



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