



February 2014

Chimes

Christ Presbyterian Church

It has been so cold that the sun-drenched snow has looked strewn with diamonds. The ancients might have said that God, or the gods, chose to send the snow that way. Moderns with knowledge of physics know that extreme cold makes sharper, flatter snowflakes, which better reflect the sun's rays. The same snow receives different interpretation depending on the perception of the one who looks.

The Bible, which celebrates God giving "snow like wool" and scattering "hoarfrost like ashes" (Ps 147:16), operates within a mindset more ancient than modern. This doesn't mean that the Bible and science are opposed, but that they help us look at the world differently. Where science gives us sight for how the world works—what a blessing this is! —the Bible gives us vision for what the world, particularly our human lives, exists for at all. The point here is not to have debates on science and religion, but to ask how closely we look at our world and what informs how we see it?

Jesus' ministry had considerably to do with sight. As he healed the blind, he also exposed the blindness of those who could see. He asked his disciples, "Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear?" (Mk 8:18). When disciples viewed children as a nuisance, Jesus rebuked them, took a child in his arms, and spoke of receiving the kingdom of God. If Jesus lived differently than others, it's because first he saw differently. Jesus looked at the world as illumined by the grace and holiness of God. Then he urged his disciples and any who would listen to see the world, and live in it, in the light of God's kingdom.

As a part of my Doctor of Ministry work, I am seeking to take a cue from Jesus. I am inviting the congregation to join me in looking again at our world. An article inside this issue of *Chimes* describes opportunities to participate in a project that will have us entering our everyday, outside-the-walls-of-the-church space to seek fresh perception of the nearness and vitality of God's kingdom. Even as this effort will be part of my thesis work for the D.Min. degree, its real purpose is the ongoing revitalization of our church. A church with eyes to see local space within the light of God will surely become more a part of God's work in that place. What matters more to the vitality of the church than joining God's mission where we are?

In the end, our souls want to know more than how the world works or how to make the world work for us. We want to know, as Gerard Manley Hopkins has said:

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.
...Because the Holy Ghost over the bent
World broods with warm breast and with ah! Bright wings.

I do know that cold, sharp snowflakes throw more light from the sun. But I can't help wanting to see a gem studded snowfield also reflecting warm, bright rays from the wings of the Holy Ghost. For then I will live my day as though the kingdom of God has come near.

I want to look again; I invite you all to look with me.

TAKE PART IN PASTOR REEVES' D.MIN. PROJECT, "LOOK AGAIN"

Jesus had a God-blessed way of seeing. Jesus' way of viewing the world led him to:

- call fishermen as disciples rather than the brightest religious scholars;
- touch lepers rather than avoid them;
- consider a paralytic to need forgiveness as much as physical healing;
- view a rich young man not as "successful" but as burdened by his wealth.

Following Jesus today involves our learning to see, like him, that all the world's space is where "the time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand" (Mk 1:15).

The purpose of Pastor Matt's D.Min. project, "Look Again," is to give the church practice at looking again at its plain, daily space to see how God's kingdom is among us everywhere and every day. There will be ways for everyone to participate. Here are three entry points:

"Imagining the Kingdom" **February 16, 23 & March 2** **9:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall**

Our imagination is how we make meaning of the world. Reflect with Pastor Reeves on cultivating a sanctified imagination, what Paul calls having the "mind of Christ." We will especially think on blessing and challenge of seeing the plain space world as ruled and graced by God. This Sunday School class is the educational kickoff to the larger "Look Again" project.

"Picturing the Kingdom" **The Season of Lent, March 5 – April 20**

Your eyes are with you everywhere you go, and so is God's kingdom! In the weeks of Lent, peel your eyes for God's gracious activity at work, in your family, at play, in your around town errands and everywhere else. Then "picture" what you see with your smartphone or other camera, by a short written vignette, or in a poem, painting or drawing. Send what you've captured of God's activity to Pastor Matt (matt@christpcusa.org) for inclusion in the "Look Again" project. Submissions will be displayed at the church and included in Pastor Matt's thesis.

"Word in the World"

Springtime 2014, Dates and Location to be Announced

We don't typically read Scripture where we shop, play, work and places out "in the world" But we will do just this, taking field trips with the Bible. How do we hear the Bible differently when it speaks out in the world? How do we view the world differently in God with Scripture reframing what we see? Discussion and feedback on "Word in the World" outings will become part of Pastor Matt's D.Min. thesis.

BREAD AND BROTH

A WEEKLY 6PM LENTEN WEDNESDAY
PROGRAM FOR THE BODY AND SOUL.

STARTING ASH WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 5, 2014
6:00PM

Bread and Broth will begin on Ash Wednesday, with a fellowship meal of hearty homemade soup and bread, after which meal will gather in the sanctuary for the 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday service.

Bread and Broth will continue for the next five Wednesdays in Lent, with a 6:00pm simple meal of soup and bread followed by lessons at the tables from 6:30pm to 7:00pm. Rev. Aland Smith will lead studies on the Transfiguration of Jesus, leading us into what that story reveals about sacrifice, sanctification, humility, obedience, and assurance of salvation.. For details, contact Aland Smith at 440-279-4682 or smithaland@hotmail.com. Childcare will be provided.

LENT ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL: MUDHOUSE SABBATH

Join us the Sundays in Lent, March 9 – April 13 for a study based on *Mudhouse Sabbath: An Invitation to a Life of Spiritual Discipline* by Lauren Winner.

This study explores the spiritual practices of Judaism which can transform the way Christians view the world and God. It combines facilitator led group discussions with video clips of Rev. Dr. Winner, a professor of Christian Spirituality at Duke Divinity School, sharing her unique perspective growing up an Orthodox Jew before converting to Christianity. For more details, contact Cory Keller at: cory_keller@hotmail.com.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

One of the things that I've admired as I've learned more about Christ Presbyterian Church is the Sunday morning schedule. Built into the weekly time together for adults is opportunity for spiritual learning and growth in Adult Sunday school. The added bonus for the younger children and me, as the Children's Ministries Director, is the chance to provide enrichment beyond traditional Sunday school during that 9:30 am hour with Discovery Time.

Discovery Time gives the children the time and space they need to fully explore and experience the mysteries of certain ideas, traditions, practices, stories, and lessons within our faith. I would include among that list The Ten Commandments, The Beatitudes, the liturgical seasons and colors, the book of Proverbs, and prayer. These past weeks during Discovery Time, the children and I have been talking about the concept of the Trinity and the role that the Holy Spirit plays in our lives. Through their activities making "Trinity" punch (three ingredients, one drink) and seeing their homemade kites moved by the wind and the transformation of popcorn kernels to caramel popcorn, the children were able to formulate their own ideas about the Holy Spirit and thus understand it on their own terms "We can't see it, but we can feel it, and we know it's there by what we see it do." In the coming weeks, building upon their understanding of the transformational power of the Holy Spirit, the children will move to learning about the Fruit of the Spirit...What are these? What do they mean? How do they look in action?

We take our time with these lessons. We express ourselves, play, and deepen our relationships, all the while making space for God to enter in. Discovery Time creates one more avenue to allow our children to embrace a loving God and to understand their bond with both Him and those around them.

I hope you'll make this a part of your family's Sunday morning.

God Bless.

Elizabeth



Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you...



COMMUNION CLASS COMING IN MARCH...

Second Graders and their Parents will meet for 3 sessions leading up to our Maundy Thursday service. Here, the children will take Communion together with the Congregation. More details soon.

-Thanks, **Elizabeth**
elizabeth@christpcusa.org

YOUTH MINISTRIES

January was a great month for CPC Youth Group. We spent some time talking about courage and bullies. I can attest that the Youth of CPC are pretty fearless! Below are some pictures of our fear factor style game. The boys were the victors but everyone showed some serious courage!



FEBRUARY YOUTH GROUP AT CPC:

SOUPERBOWL OF CARING

Sunday, February 2

Gather before the worship to collect canned goods for the food pantry. Following the worship, we will learn how our food pantry works as we put the food away.

CPC YOUTH SELF DEFENSE CLASS

Friday, February 7

6:00pm – 8:00pm

Okinawan Karate Center

8399 Mayfield Rd, Chesterland, OH 44026

Teaching on Awareness, Bullying and Physical self defense

\$5 per person, waved if you bring a friend

GAME NIGHT / MEETING

Sunday, February 9

5:30pm – 7:00pm

SNOW TUBING

Sunday, February 16

1:00pm – 5:00pm at Alpine Valley, \$25 per person

WINTER JAM – Youth and Parents

Sunday, February 23

4:00pm - 10:30pm

Wolstein Center, Cleveland, \$10 per person

PLANING FOR FALL CONFIRMATION CLASS

Parents and their youth entering eighth grade and above next fall will soon receive an invitation to a **Confirmation Class information meeting 12:00pm, Sunday, February 23.**

Amber

Amber Bowers

Youth Director

330-719-3688

amber@Christpcusa.org

Office Hours: Monday 9:30-4:30

SAMARITAN'S PURSE COLLECTION FOR FEBRUARY: SOCKS

At the start of the new year, we thank God for the blessings we received on last year. Looking forward, we are planning for another year of ministry collecting items for the Samaritan's Shoeboxes. In February, we are collecting socks for boys and girls 2 years old – 14 years old. Please join with us in this wonderful mission.



CPC FOOD PANTRY

In the past 6 months, many changes have occurred in the CPC Food Pantry:

- The pantry was relocated from the downstairs hallway to its own room between Matt's office and the Russell Room.
- Three additional pantry volunteers have joined our team – Liz McArthur, Sue Stamey and Ann Wong.
- The pantry is now open four days a week, including one evening. No appointments needed.
- Food donations are coming in weekly.
- But most importantly, we are reaching more families in our community.

If you haven't had a chance to see our new accommodations, stop down during our open hours.

MONDAY: 6:30pm – 8:00pm
TUESDAY: 9:30am – 11:00am
WEDNESDAY: 1:00pm – 3:00pm
THURSDAY: 10:00am – 12:00pm

Our goal for February is to add a refrigerator/freezer to the pantry, so that we can provide meat, fresh fruits and vegetables, milk and eggs.

If you would like to assist with the pantry or have any questions, please call me at: 440-338-1926.

Beth Bouchek

DID YOU KNOW?

- Not only does CPC have the Paper Recycling Bin located along the entrance driveway, but we also have an **Aluminum Can Recycling Bin**. This bin is on the porch at the north entrance of the church building. All of the monies earned go directly to our Food Pantry. Keep CPC in mind the next time you head out to recycle!
- Take a look around the building. **Jerry Gibson**, CPC Custodian, is in the process of giving a fresh coat of paint to rooms like The Study, the Sunday School classrooms and the Youth Room. It's a work in progress, but he's doing beautiful work. Thank you Jerry! We appreciate all you do.
- All unclaimed items in CPC **Lost & Found** will be donated to charity at the end of February.

CPC MISSIONS

CPC's Missionaries Serving with Wycliffe Associates as Orthography Consultant & the Language & Culture Learning Coordinator for the Mainland SE Asia Group

Our Wycliffe missionaries, Seth and Lauren Vitrano-Wilson, and their children, Natalia and Silas, returned to Thailand (Siam—remember *The King and I*?) on January 21, 2014. They are enthusiastic about their work and are very thankful for CPC's help in spreading the Good News to these wonderful people. This will be a first time visit for little Silas who was born in the USA in 2013. He will quickly learn the Hmong language as he grows. Seth and Lauren ask for prayers for political peace in Thailand, a place for them to live in the north when they get there, and a smooth transition to life back in Thailand. They wish us all a Happy New Year and hope to visit with us in God's time.

CPC Mission Committee

MISSION OF THE MONTH FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH is the USO. The Mission Committee will be collecting care package supplies for the military. Small travel size items are ideal. Suggestions include toiletries, personal items, snacks, phone cards, and letters of encouragement. There is a full list of suggestion in the Fellowship Hall near the Collection Box. Any questions please talk to Sandy Stumpf 440-708-8170.



OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE IN "PER CAPITA"

APPORTIONMENT:

Each year CPC shares in life of the Presbytery, the Synod, and General Assembly of the PCUSA by giving a per capita (per-member) apportionment that supports various administrative and mission costs. This year our contribution is \$26.00 per member. Giving all or a portion of your family's per capita, using the designated envelope in your offering envelopes box or by submitting a check with "per capita" on the notation line, frees up CPC budget funds or other missions efforts.

CHAPEL CIRCLE

Chapel Circle will meet at the church on Wednesday, February 19th at 11:00am. Gail Sabo will lead Lesson 5 pp. 41-48. Rita Elswick will give the devotions. Lunch out to follow.

We would like to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, and words of encouragement during Gary's illness.

-Gary and Sandy Stumpf

DEACONS

The Deacons met on January 13th for our first meeting of the year. We gratefully thank our outgoing members, Lila Latta, who oversaw flower ministry, and Carmen Elswick, who oversaw food ministry. Lila has done a wonderful job of making sure flowers are provided for worship on Sundays and for special events, as well as delivering them following the service. Carmen stepped in to a position of great need and made it look effortless. The procedures for Flower and Food Deacon were discussed as both Sue Gear and Larry Evans fill the vacant spots.

Cyndie Tropf and Deacons thank all the people who baked beautiful Christmas cookies for December coffee hour. Thank you to Pat Gedeon who arranged a beautiful sled centerpiece for our buffet table. You all made our December coffee hour extra special.

Deacons Outreach Committee will be assisting a new family in 2014. We thank the church for its many contributions during the year. The offerings from the Christmas Eve services are an important part of funding for our group. We truly appreciate the generosity of our friends and family.

The Beachland dinners will continue throughout 2014. Beachland Church and we welcome help in preparing and serving a meal for their local area.

Sadly, our dear friend and CPC member, Betty Addison, passed away in December. Her husband, Bill and their children were overwhelmed by the support of Deacons and Betty's CPC family. They were very pleased with all of the preparation made for her memorial. We prayerfully remember Betty and her great faithfulness to CPC. She will be missed by all.

Barb Albrecht

Secretary

THANK YOU!

In CPC's transition from Jen Congdon's resignation to Elizabeth Goodin's hiring, the Children's Ministries' Committee donated their time to make sure there were no interruptions in the children's programming.

1. Operation Christmas Child was led by Beth Boucek with the assistance of Debbie Brooks and other volunteers. This allowed CPC to continue to be a mission site for Operation Christmas Child.
2. The Advent Pageant presented on December 22nd was directed by Heather Reeves. I am very thankful to all the Moms who helped Heather with the program.
3. Discovery Time was led by the creative efforts of Chris Keller, Debbie Brooks and Heather Reeves.

Thank you ladies for a job well done!

Nancy Moritz

Elder of Children's Ministries

February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 8:00am Men's Bible Study - CPC
2 *Sunday Morning Schedule 10:15am and 11:45am Souper Bowl of Caring	3 9:30am Children's Ministries Meeting 7:00pm Deacons 7:30pm Men's Discussion Group	4 9:30am Prayer Group 6:30pm Bootcamp 7:00pm Fellowship Meeting	5 6:30am Men's Bible Study	6 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 8:15pm Grateful Praise Rehearsal	7 6:00pm Youth Group Mayfield Self Defense Class 7:00pm Couples Bible Study	8 8:00am Men's Tres Dias -CPC
9 *Sunday Morning Schedule 11:45am Missions Meeting 5:30pm Youth Group	10 1:00pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Youth Ministries Meeting 7:00pm Adult Ministries Meeting 7:30pm Men's Discussion Group	11 9:30am Prayer Group 6:30pm Bootcamp	12 6:30am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Girl Scouts	13 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 8:15pm Grateful Praise Rehearsal	14 Men's Michigan Ice Fishing	15 Men's Michigan Ice Fishing 8:00am Men's Bible Study - CPC
16 *Sunday Morning Schedule Men's Michigan Ice Fishing 1:00pm Youth Snow Tubing Event - Alpine	17 CPC Office Closed in observance of President's Day 7:00pm Property & Maintenance Meeting 7:30pm Men's Discussion Group	18 9:30am Prayer Group 6:30pm Bootcamp 7:00pm Session	19 6:30am Men's Bible Study 11:00am Chapel Circle	20 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 8:15pm Grateful Praise Rehearsal	21 7:00pm Couples Bible Study	22 8:00am Men's Tres Dias -CPC
23 *Sunday Morning Schedule 11:45am Fine Arts Committee Meeting 4:00pm Youth Cleveland Winter Jam	24 7:30pm Men's Discussion Group	25 9:30am Prayer Group 6:30pm Bootcamp	26 6:30am Men's Bible Study	27 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 8:15pm Grateful Praise Rehearsal	28	

***SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE:**

- 9:30am Sunday School for Adults and Youth
- 9:30am Discovery Time for K-5th grade
- 10:30am Worship
- 10:30am Sunday School for 3 years-5th Grade

February

ANNIVERSARIES

Ralph & Donna Hetrick	02/01
Mac & Liz McArthur	02/05
Bill & Tina Fischer	02/13
Dick & Gail Sabo	02/15

BIRTHDAYS

Andrew Marino	02/01
Alex Dawson	02/04
Joy Kule	02/04
Maddox Monsman	02/05
Sharon Schaefer	02/05
Jillian Keller	02/10
Sammy Martillotta	02/10
Howard Schmies	02/12
Patricia Hassett	02/13
Elena Zagarskas	02/13
Joel Gear	02/15
Mary Goodman	02/16
Carmen Elswick	02/19
Madeleine Elswick	02/20
Susan Gear	02/20
Paul McCaslin	02/20
Tina Fischer	02/24
Dolly Carlton	02/26
Victor Bello	02/27
Gareth Reeves	02/28
Cale Zimmermann	02/28

Church office hours:
8:30 am - 3:00 pm
Monday - Thursday

Contact Information
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office@christpcusa.org
karen@christpcusa.org

Pastor Matt's e-mail:
matt@christpcusa.org

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IS THE WEATHER OUTSIDE FRIGHTFUL?

FOR EVENT CANCELLATIONS:

- Check your e-mail
- Check CPC Website:
<http://www.christpcusa.org/>
- check our [Facebook page](#)
- call the church office:
440-729-1688

CPC Office is closed when
West Geauga schools are closed.

