

Please Mark Your Calendars

**Children's Musical
Sunday, December 13th**

**A Night In Bethlehem
December 19th
5:30 -8:30**

**Chancel Choir Christmas
Music Celebration
December 20th
(Second Service)**

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
Carols and Communion
3:00pm
Blessing of the
Children's Service
5:00pm
Candlelight/Communion
9:00pm**

The next *Channel* deadline will be
THURSDAY, January 7th, at 12:00 p.m.

Please e-mail your articles to:
Valerie@christchurchumtucson.org

The *Channel* is available online!
Should you wish to save the church
some money and also save paper, please
e-mail Valerie to receive the *Channel* via
e-mail.

Pastor's Pen

2009 has been a challenging and rewarding year in the life of Christ Church United Methodist. The economy took a toll on our church. We decided not to do, at this time, the "Writing the Next Chapter" capital improvement campaign. That decision was made in late 2008 but the implications of not doing it in 2009 were that we were able to do the "Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations" program that generated 100's of ideas to improve our church.

The economy also cost us our associate pastor's position and for awhile the youth choir director position. We restored the youth choir director's position through a generous special gift but not the associate pastor. This has allowed

us to pursue a Director of Christian Education (DCE) position. Our hope and prayer is that our pledges will be sufficient to provide us with such a position in 2010, which has been a long held dream here at CCUM.

Along with the DCE position we decided to go forward on a project to become "The church for families with children living at home." Our goal is to bring in 10 families this year and 20 each year for the next 5 years. So far this year we have brought in 6 families along with their 14 children and the year is not over. We have one remaining Membership Luncheon on December 13th and anticipate bringing in 2 to 4 more families. So far this year we have brought in 38 new members! Our growth is adding new challenges for Sunday School Classroom space.

Our new members have come to us from all over the world. Our latest members came to us all the way from Liberia. We share some members with the Goshen Ministries who are from the Congo. We have started using some of our classrooms for Goshen Ministry Sunday School classes that are taught in English. This is so that as these children grow, they will feel at home in an English speaking church and culture. The Goshen Ministries continues to thrive and they are now opening an orphanage in Burundi Africa. Eventually they will send over a medical team and I believe we need to seek to participate in this ministry.

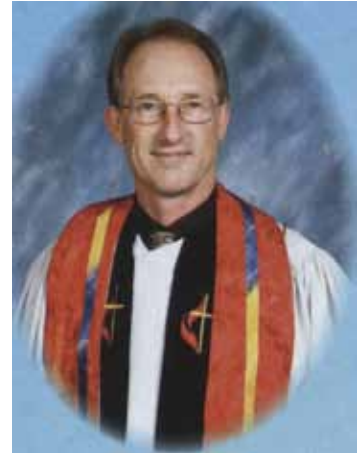
Five new ministries were started here this year: Starry Night, Music Camp, Older Adult Ministries task force, Basketball Food Ministry, Free Clothing Exchange & Boutique and the Recreation Group for Youth with Autism. Once again, we gathered dinners and gift certificates for Thanksgiving Dinners. This year we gathered food and money for 87!!

In 2008 we failed to pay our apportionments in full because we waited too long to pull money from our account at the DSWAC Foundation and our earnings disappeared and the account went into the red. This year we have avoided that mistake and pulled money out while it was there. We are on a good course to pay all our apportionments this year and if everyone continues their sacrificial giving, we will do it.

I look forward to serving another exciting year of ministry with you in 2010!!!

In Christ's love,

Rev. Fred C. Baum





We would like to thank EVERYONE that has helped
in the Children's Ministry area this year!
Thank you for sharing your gift with our children!
Please say YES! when you are asked to help next year.

We need a digital camera with a USB hookup to take our Sunday school pictures.
Please remember us, if you get a new camera for Christmas!



Thank you to our GREAT volunteers for the month of November:

Julie Gates, Dave and Carol Mellgren, Peggy Bartlett, Pat Prokopp, Valarie
Fowler, Joan Jervis, Matthew Montgomery and Alex Cole!

We had a great month learning about how God provides for us.

In December we will memorize Luke 2:10-14, as we study the story of Jesus'
birth, make Advent crafts and enjoy Christmas movies.

The Sunday school children will paint Nativity sets that will be delivered to our home bound members.

Help Needed to Deliver Our Gifts to the Homebound

We are looking for volunteers to help deliver a beautiful Nativity set to each of our Homebound members. Please consider sharing one 1/2 hour of your time with someone this Christmas season. It will be the most rewarding time you will spend!! We will have names, maps and the Nativity sets (handmade by Sam and Peggy Scalzo and painted by our Sunday school children) ready to be picked up on Sunday, December 6th. You may deliver them any time before Christmas.

Please contact Valerie Hammons (577-8191) for a list or more information.

YOUTH NEWS

Senior High Mission trip set for July 25 - 31. The senior high youth will be going to Indian Valley reservation in Northern California and the Junior High Youth mission trip will be at local mission projects in Tucson.

Christian Calendars - The youth will be selling the Christian Calendars again. They will be available for \$10 at coffee fellowship on Dec. 13 and in the office.

Help Needed - we are looking for some cooks for the spring semester, let Tonya Jones know if you would like to prepare a meal for about 20. Tonya@christchurchmtucson.org or 327-1116

Wednesday Night Youth Bible study & fellowship - we are looking for an adult to hang out with us from 6:30 - 8:00 either once every 4-8 weeks. We have 10 youth who attend regularly.

Want to share the REAL
REASON OF THE SEASON

With your friends?



Then come to a Christmas experience unlike any other.
NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM

Saturday, December 19th
5:30pm - 8:30pm

A census has been ordered in the town of Bethlehem. Come join us as the soldiers lead you to the census registration area. You will then enter a market area and visit the many different trades the people of Bethlehem have in their market, including wreath making and a real blacksmith.

Experience the smell of hot bread baking, the sound of beautiful voices in harmony. Notice the anticipation as the people in the village see the Star. Watch for the shepherds; they will lead you to the stable area and there, with your own eyes see the newborn babe, Mary and Joseph. See the wise men bring their gifts, and you will feel the true reason of Christmas in a way you never have before.

We recreate this special night, as a gift to our community. We want you to invite your neighbors and friends to share in that celebration. Due to the generous donations of both time and gifts, we are able to present this event, free of charge.

WE STILL NEED HELP!

2 10X10 awnings, sheep, volunteers, prayers and donations!

WORK DAYS - DECEMBER 18th and 19th

We can all help in this wonderful way of sharing our faith!



Project Hospitality

PROJECT HOSPITALITY - 2010

This is our 19th year participating in Project Hospitality which provides overnight shelter, showers and hot meals for some of the homeless in our community during the winter months. We will be hosting men during the following two weeks:

January 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 & 29 AND

February 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11

Donations of men's and women's warm clothing, toiletries, basic food items and money for gas for the van and other purchased supplies are welcome and needed. The Project Hospitality sign up chart will be in the Fellowship Hall- beginning December 13th -along with a deposit box for clothing donations. As you are cleaning out your closet to replace the old with your "Christmas New" - PLEASE keep Project Hospitality in mind. The Project Hospitality Committee and Missions Area are grateful for all your help to help those who need our help! THANKS!

Older Adult Ministries by Rev. Ernie Fritschle

Have you lost a loved one this year? If so then Christmas may be difficult, actually, it seems that all holidays are especially hard that first year without the one you love. It was our last Christmas together. My wife had returned from the Mayo clinic after they had packed her blood with red cells.

As I sat in the Racine, Wisconsin Mall I realized that we would ever have another Christmas together. Tears filled my eyes, and I was filled with sorrow. What was happening? I wasn't living in the moment; I was looking ahead to the death of my wife.

In a recent article by the Mayo clinic there were ten tips how one could cope with the holidays. One of the tips was to "Be Realistic." This Christmas will be different than the last one. Stick with your traditions if you want to or develop some new ones.

Its all right to miss your loved one, cry if you want. Remember, you cannot force yourself to be happy just because it is Christmas.

Take control of your holidays, and don't let the holidays become something that you dread. Live in the moment. The past is something that you cannot change. The future has not yet arrived, but today is here, enjoy it.

In my own experience I found it to be immensely helpful when I reached out to a close friend.

You are not alone, you are in a family, the church is a family, and we live in the family of God. There may be no better place to turn to than your church family. We love you and we understand. You are not alone, we are with you.

The Psalmist wrote; This is the day the Lord which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Psalms 118:24)

Enjoy the moments of this day, and may God be with you.

Please include in your personal prayer time, prayers for the laity and Pastors of the following churches:

Willcox UMC, Willcox

Chaplains & Counselors and Clergy in Extended Ministries in the South District

TMM Family Services - people served and staff, Tucson

We kindly ask for your prayers for the following military personnel and their families:

Arnold Cuellar, Patrick Stevens and Kyle Forrer in Afghanistan

Rev. Brian Osborn – Ft Huachuca

All military personnel worldwide



Happy Birthday To All Of Our Members
Celebrating Their Birthday From
December 21st - December 29th

**Lynn Wilson
December 17**

**Dave Baird
December 21**

**Mary Charkowski
December 21**

**Alex Cole
December 21**

**Cody Ridge
December 21**

**Steve Washburn
December 21**

**Dan Abel
December 22**

**Haley Culpepper
December 22**

**Mary Mack
December 22**

**Alison Blacutt
December 23**

**Mary Follett
December 23**

**Betty Jean Martin
December 23**

**Calvin Morgan
December 23**

**Virginia Clarke
December 24**

**Maxine Hale
December 24**

**Carmen Kemery
December 24**

**Bill Polk
December 24**

**Landra Stonich
December 24**



Art Showing

Date: December 13, 2009
Time: Coffee-Fellowship, starting at 10am
Place: Fellowship Hall
Artist: Shavana Smiley, 17 year old granddaughter of Phil & Joanne Nonweiler
Featured Theme: Christmas Crosses...over 12 unique mixed media crosses
Preview: Website, shavanasmiley.com



FOOD BANK SUNDAY

December 27, 2009

Please put food items in Campbell's container in Fellowship Hall or Food Box in Narthex.
(Bags of apples, oranges, potatoes etc. are also welcome)

Chancel Choir Christmas Music Celebration will be Sunday December 20th at the second service.
No Third Sunday Concert in December.

Advent Blessings to all my CCUM friends, Thank you all for prayers, lovely get well cards & phone call/errands for me during my recovery! Praise God and Thank Him for many blessings!

Shalom,
Helen Gilbert

My family and I are so grateful to the members of CCUM for your prayers and caring cocerns in connection with my son, Bill in New Jersey, who had brain surgery recently. I am happy to report that he is now recovering nicely.
With much appreciation,
Norma Mills

Dear Church Family,
Thank you for all the prayers & caring thoughts during my surgery. God has blessed me thru your concern.
In His love,
Doris Wright

Thank you CCUM

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your generosity toward a successful year at Duffy Elementary School. You, provided much needed school supplies for the students as well as the teachers, during the Stewardship Campaign you helped 29 families receive Thanksgiving dinner and small gifts for the children.



Because of the dedicated members of our church, we are making a difference in the lives of children. We are truly "People Caring for People."

Debra Haddock
CCUM/ Duffy Elementary School Liaison

Dear Members of CCUM,
I'm writing to Thank you for your many outpourings of love and support of Duffy families. Most recently for the 30 + bags of Thanksgiving food and gift cards for our families to be able to enjoy the holiday. Every family is most grateful. You are a blessing to us!

Warmly,
Becky Glad (Community Rep Duffy Elementary School)

Notes From Your Lay Leader

I am a keeper!!! Now there's a statement open to many interpretations. My bold statement means, I keep things, sometimes for years. I found the following list in a folder. I did a little research and it appeared in the Channel in 1992----now, do you agree, I am a keeper. I hope you will take time to read this list and think about giving, if not all, some of these free gifts.

Ten Free Gifts for Christmas (NO shopping necessary)

The gift of Listening...Why not give this valuable gift to someone who lives alone. You must really listen, no daydreaming, no planning your responses. Just listen.

The gift of Signs of Affection...Be generous with your hugs, kisses and gentle squeezes of the hand. Let them demonstrate the love inside you.

The gift of a Note...It can be as simple as "I Love You", put them where your loved one will find them and be surprised. Write a note to someone far away and mail it.(I added this "gift").

The gift of Laughter...Just cut out a cartoon, save a clever article, or just say, "Let's laugh".

The gift of a Compliment...A simple, "you look good in blue", "good dinner, honey,"--can be of greatest value to those who may feel they are being taken for granted.

The gift of a Favor...Help with dishes, clean out the garage, etc.

The gift of Leaving Alone...There are times in our lives when we want nothing better than to be left alone. Become more sensitive to those times and give solitude.

The gift of a Cheerful Disposition...Try to be cheerful around those you love especially.

The gift of a Game...Offer to play your loved one's favorite game. Even if you lose, you'll be a winner.

The gift of Prayer...Pray for those people on your Christmas list and let them know that you pray for them. Praying for someone is a way of saying, "You are so special to me that I talk to God about you."

I wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

Take care of yourselves this holiday season, drink plenty of water and laugh often.

Sue Gemoets



WE NEED BAKERS FOR FOOD FOR LIFE!

Food For Life needs bakers! Use your favorite recipe, and drop off at Church on Sunday morning. Call Peggy Pfordte (885-3955) for dates and times needed. THANK YOU FOR HELPING!

Hope Hickman
December 26

Deloris Yockey
December 26

Ramon Ornelas
December 28

Joan Tolle
December 28

Melinda Washburn
December 28

Linn Campbell
December 28

Jessica Jensepar
December 28

Mamie McGeagh
December 29

Bruce Trusty
December 29

Tyler Schiess
December 29

Follow The Star

A Powerful Re-enactment of the
Christmas Story through Music,
Drama & Dance

Saturday, Dec 19, 7:00 pm

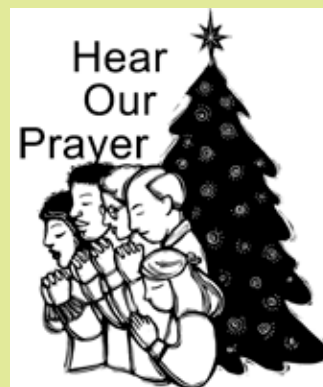
Sunday, Dec. 20, 3:00pm

Sahuaro High School

545 N Camino Seco

(520) 319-0400

www.arts-express.org





Missions Angel Tree is HERE!

Help families have a Merry Christmas!

Choose an angel from the tree located in Fellowship Hall.

Wrap the item(s) requested and attach the identifying angel to your package and bring it to Fellowship Hall on Sunday or drop off in the church office during the week.

Blessings and Merry Christmas!

UMW News

Mission Team Meeting - Wednesday, January 6th at 9:30 a.m. in Social Hall.

Unit Meeting - Wednesday, January 13th at 10:00 a.m. in Social Hall. Program: Pledge Service. Lunch: Soup, Salad & Dessert prepared by Mission Team. \$3 donation please.

Helping Hands - Wednesday, January 20th at 9:00 a.m. in Social Hall.

Naomi Circle - Wednesday, January 27th at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Betty Radmacher, 840 N. Caribe, 722-5141.

Julia Circle - Wednesday, January 27th at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Maylene Waln, 5778 E. Grant Rd. 886- 5939.

UMW SILENT AUCTION

As announced, the United Methodist Women of Christ Church are having their Annual Ham Dinner, Silent Auction and Elegant Junque Sale on Sunday, March 21, 2010, in Fellowship Hall. Is it time to clear out some of your accumulated items at home? If so, the UMW would appreciate them for our Silent auction or Elegant Junque Sale! The better, quality items help our Mission giving through the Silent Auction while the less prized items will be offered in the Elegant Junque Sale. There will be great bargains offered! Donations for the Silent Auction, must be received by March 1 for early bidding on Sundays, March 7th & 14th & and the final bidding on March 21st. The traditional, delicious Ham Dinner will be after 2nd Service, Sunday March 21st, also in Fellowship Hall. Ticket sales will start in late January. Adults \$7.00, children under 10, \$5:00. All proceeds go to Missions.

ROOM FOR YOU

Room For You, Adult Sunday morning Bible study, is nearing completion of our study on the book of Hebrews. We've learned alot but we are definitely ready for a change of pace. In January, we will begin a new study:

1 and 2 Corinthians!!!! We are excited about that and welcome anyone who would like to attend.

We meet on Sunday mornings, 9 AM, Room 17. Coffee, Bibles, study guides are provided right along with the welcome. You can come once, once in a while, or every single Sunday.

If you have any questions, please contact Linda Woodall, 745 2588 or 982 7953.

STEPHEN MINISTRY MOMENT

There will be NO Supervision in December. We will have our annual post-holiday get together in January. Stay tuned!

*"...they will call him
Immanuel"
--which means,
"God with us."*



Matthew 1:23

CHRIST CHURCH
UNITED METHODIST

655 N CRAYCROFT RD
TUCSON, AZ 85711

PHONE: (520) 327-1116

www.christchurchumtucson.org



NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
TUCSON, ARIZONA
PERMIT NO. 284



**POINSETTIA
DONATIONS**

This year you have the opportunity to support the Primavera Shelter for Homeless Men or the Community Food bank. The Worship Committee will be providing the 8 poinsettias for the altar. After Christmas Eve the plants will be delivered to the homebound.

The deadline for contributions is
Wednesday, December 16th, 2009
Please designate in the memo field of
your check: Primavera or C.F.B.

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

In celebration of: _____

From:

Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Amount: _____ Envelope Number: _____

Thank you for your generous gift and Christmas blessings.