



SUMMER NEWS

August 2009

So What Do You Want in Worship? Pastor Nina requesting your input

If you get this in time....some Christ Church folk are gathering at **Methodist Farm, Sunday August 2nd** – free admission for the beach and swimming in the afternoon, hot dogs 5:30-6:30 and then the Pastors are leading worship in the chapel at 7p.m. Bring a dish to share if you can. If the weather is unsuitable for swimming we will cancel all but the worship!

Summer Arts-based Worship

- August 2: Beatles music
- August 9: "Opening Skinner's Box" - book discussion/ planning Monday 8/3 7pm Flavour Cafe.
- August 16: movie "Milk" discussion/ planning Monday 8/10 7pm W.Hall
- August 23: musician Elizabeth Woodbury Kasius. Planning Tuesday, 8/18
- August 30: Visual Arts II, planning Monday 8/24.
- September 6th: favorite hymns –discussion/ planning Monday 8/31

In May at the Festival of Homiletics in Atlanta I heard Adam Hamilton, pastor at Church of the Resurrection (a United Methodist congregation) in Kansas, talk about his sermon/ worship preparation. Recognizing the need for more lead time for his worship planning team to develop media and publicity, he started to take a week apart each year for intense reflection about where God is leading the church and what worship/preaching plan might support that vision. To prepare for his time away, Hamilton asks people in his congregation to pray for him and for the church and to respond to several questions.

When I saw the kind of worship they do at COR, Hamilton's church where 8000 people gather on Sunday mornings, the first thing I thought was: Wow! Our church of about 80 is just as creative, if not more so. Really. But I also thought: If I could gather some of the feedback from folks in our congregation like Hamilton takes the time to do, worship might be more responsive to the questions people bring to worship

(or help raise some new ones).

And, if I could set the theme earlier our Reaching and Receiving team might be able to get the word out more effectively about what is going on here. And, if worship planning teams knew farther in advance a possible title, text, main point, then graphics might be easier and other media or drama or creative possibilities might emerge where two or three days has not allowed for it.

So, I intend to take several days apart, not because I am more efficient than Adam Hamilton-- it's just what I can figure out for this first effort. From Sunday evening, August 30th, through Wednesday afternoon, September 2nd, I will pray, reflect and work on a worship/preaching plan from Advent 2009-Advent 2010. I need your help.

First, please pray for me and for our congregation and all of our ministries together. Second, please take the time to think about the following questions: **1. Are there personal issues that you think God may be calling us to address in worship in the coming year? 2. Are there theological questions that you feel God may be calling us to struggle together with in worship? 3. Are there neglected parts of the Bible you are longing to hear?**

4. What might friends who don't go to church come to hear about?

You will also see these questions as an insert in the bulletin for the Sundays of August. Please think about them and email me your responses (PastorNina@ChristChurchTroy.org) or plan to jot down your thoughts on the insert on Sunday and give them to me that way.

Your feedback is the first step in the process. There will be ongoing conversations when I return from the retreat with Pastor Janet and the worship planning teams as we, together, make adjustments.

It is a joy to worship with you at Christ Church and to work with Pastor Janet and the wonderful, creative people who make up the worship planning teams. It is a privilege to be your pastor and an exciting time to be on this journey together with Christ--questioning, serving, growing.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Nina

CHRIST CHURCH, UNITED METHODIST

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Christ Church @ Altamont County Fair—help needed!

Christ Church is selling churros at the Altamont County Fair and there are a few spots left where we could use your help! Shifts run 9 a.m.—5 p.m. and 5 p.m.—11 p.m. daily from **Tuesday, August 11 thru Sunday, August 16**. Paul Marano is the point person and the sign-up is on the Office window. If you want to buy a Christ Church T-shirt, call the Office.

**Church Council
Thursday, August 20
7:30pm**

We are preparing for the Homecoming Block Party and setting our Fall calendar.

Christ Church Summer Arts Festival continues...

(see full listing on front page.)

August 10th at 7:00

Milk (2008 Oscar Winner) The story of Harvey Milk and his struggles as an American gay activist who fought for gay rights and became California's first openly gay elected official. Starring Sean Penn.

Office: (518) 273-8392
www.christchurchtroy.org

Sign up for Nichols-Torres Picnic – your photos needed now!

Please join Pastor Nina and Andrew, Micah, Moses and Joseph for food and fellowship at 12 Westover Road on Monday, August 17th at 5:30.

Snacks followed by burgers, dogs and brats starting at 6:00. The “fashion show” will begin at 7:00. Everyone is invited... **sign up on the Office window and -**

...bring in your photo and give to Janet.

We need these **at least one week before** the picnic so they can be scanned and the face obscured. (Your photo will not be harmed and will be given back!) **We are looking for you wearing the fashions and styles of days long gone (or not so long gone...)**if you still have an item of clothing—a prom or wedding outfit, for example., these can be displayed or worn by our youth (your choice)— **above all: keep your photo or outfit secret from all but Janet, as the idea is for us all to guess which outfit goes with which attendee.**