



It Takes a whole Congregation

Pastor Nina and family are enjoying the warmth and fun and food of Texas as the Spire is being readied for printing - so I get to write to you as this month and year draws to a close.

And what a month! What a year!

At the beginning of December Mike and I were still in the UK with our families and I returned to see much had been done in my absence: the angels had been raised to the sanctuary ceiling, there had been the annual Church Conference with the D.S., and a full day of music and visitors for the Victorian Stroll. Yet the flurry of activity was still going on!

I wonder if you have ever thought about what happens in our church building through the week? How many people there are just making sure the building and the yard are in good shape and our worship remains innovative and engaging and fresh each week? Whilst December may be unusually busy, even in regular months, I just counted up more than two dozen people, who each donate at least 3 hours of their time weekly for worship preparation, for building maintenance, yard work, for joint study, for technical services, for Sunday School, for helping in the Office or keeping our finances in order. Some come in just to pick up a little, or gather dishcloths for washing. Many have been sleeping as the volunteers with our guests from Inn from the Cold, who move on to their next church location at the beginning of January after more than 2 months with us.

Did you see that the plaster of the sanctuary ceiling has been repaired and painted in places - our members volunteered their time and skill for that! Do you love the way the church looked for Christmas, do you appreciate the yard in the non-snowy months? Or the flowers in the sanctuary all year? Do you watch with interest for how the hymn backgrounds fit in with our theme each week or enjoy what the worship planning teams do with the main graphic and the service titles and our unusual and different calls to worship as we introduce our metaphor each Sunday? Have you checked out the website recently or watched the live stream or archived worship services? And what about the music - not just our paid musician but the volunteers who organize, encourage and cajole and lead our choirs: vocal, handbell and i-Gen -- and all those who participate in its performance.

We have a remarkable, skillful and versatile congregation and so many of you have, I hope, discovered there is much joy to be found in giving of your talents and passions to make Christ Church the great place it is. And there is always room for more! We do so much with the people and the resources we have - you have been so generous with them - and for those who have not found quite where to help, or a way to use your gifts, the Pastors are always happy to help you discover how you can become part of the team.

One of the reasons I think visitors find us such a welcoming and spirited place, is that so many people have learnt that worship is not something you attend, it is something you create, whether you share in planning it, or welcoming or greeting others as they come to it, or making things look beautiful or participating in its music or words, praying for it or studying what it means to be a person of faith today: thank you for all you do and all you are, for all your work in 2010 and the promise of all the New Year will bring.

Pastor Janet

<h1>Contents</h1>	
Person in the Pew: Lee Kemp..... 2	Music..... 3
Harvest Sale Report 2	Christmas Flowers 4
LTQ 2.0 2	Devotion..... 4
Human Relations Day 3	Envelopes 4
	Flowers..... 5
	January Birthdays..... 5
	January Calendar..... 5
	January Anniversaries 5
	Thank You 6
	Spire Deadline..... 6

The Person in the pew: Lee Kemp

For thirty years, Lee Kemp has been a fixture in so many parts of life at Christ Church, from playing the bells to teaching Sunday School to chairing the Harvest Sale, from serving as treasurer to a very long tenure as Finance Chair, that she's a really familiar face. Now here's the backstory!

A lifelong capital region resident, Lee graduated from SUNY Fredonia with a degree in English. She had met Roger at Methodist Farm when they were teenagers but didn't begin to date till 1971; they were married in 1974. Their sons Ryan, a chemical engineer who lives in Utah, and Eric, a mechanical engineer who lives in Chicopee, Mass. with wife Trisha, grew up in Christ Church. Courtesy of Eric and Trisha, Lee and Roger became grandparents on October 3rd, when baby Peyton was born.

After several years with the phone company's business service center, Lee was a stay-at-home mom for seven years. Returning to work, she became a bookkeeper for Cytology Screening; when LabCorps bought the company, Lee became Quality Assurance Manager/front-end systems for the Northeast Division.

After hours, when not doing something church-related, Lee likes to read (the Harry Potter series, the Outlander series by Diana Gabaldon, and James Michener's books are favorites), crochet, and burn up the road between Albany and Chicopee!



Living the Questions 2.0 resumes

For those who have been taking part in the LtQ 2.0 study we will resume with the final session of the first set of classes, on Thursday, January 6th at 10:30 a.m. The second set of 7 classes will begin the following Thursday, January 13th. If you are interested in taking this study at an evening time we do have some interest, please let me know what day and time might work for you.

In February, we will begin an evening study group, most likely on a Tuesday evening. Anyone interested should talk to me about options for this group.

At last, Ken Rose and I have been approached about how to get questions answered about a range of Biblical, Methodist and spiritual issues and we are working on an innovative way to both collect those questions and provide a way of responding to them. We will let you know...Janet Douglass

Final Report on the Harvest Sale

We are pleased to report that we raised \$2,400 from the harvest sale and associated activities. A check for \$240 was sent to Troy Area United Ministries as a tithe to their programs.

The bulk of the money raised on October 29th was from the lunch and the Italian buffet. The Italian Buffet served nearly twice as many people as last year.

The bulk of the money raised from the craft sale came from the small sales we had throughout the fall at two Curves locations and the two-day sale at the Empire State Plaza in December. We are grateful to the owners of the Curves locations for allowing us to display and sell items and they have invited us to come again in the spring. This suggests that we might imagine how we do our craft sale differently next year.

We do have some choice items left in our store and always welcome additional participation in making and selling items. Dorcas Rose

Coupon Books

Just two more weeks to buy your SaveAround (Enjoy the City) coupon books. The cost is \$20 and \$10 stays with the church.

Please purchase your book by January 16th.

From Your Music Minister....

Thanks to the many volunteers, whether singer, instrumentalist, costume help, ringer, dancer, etc., who helped make December a very special month. The month began with a full and wonderful Victorian Stroll performance and culminated musically with the sublime beauty of our Christmas Eve worship. From Hymn Leader to Bell Ringer to iGen Chimer to Festival Choir Chanteuse...a wonderful time was had by all who gave of their time and talents:) It is wonderful to play music along with all of you!

Now for January, a New Year, new resolutions (you have any related to music perhaps?), the continuation of some of our groupings and the hope of new ways to inspire worship of the True and Beautiful....as revealed in Jesus....

Bell Choir: watch for bulletin or Sunday announcements as to when our group will start up again. If you're interested in ringing along with the Bell Choir, please see our Director, Andrew Torres--or just speak with a bell choir member and they'll let you know how much fun this group can be!

iGen: watch for bulletin/Sunday announcements. We hope to start the week of January 10th, probably Tuesdays at 6pm again...if you're interested in joining our group (which will focus on more drama and dance in 2011--along with the music), please speak with me. You'd be most welcome!

The MAJOR musical event in January occurs the weekend of January. 14th-16th (M.L. King weekend). We will host the annual "Jam and Sing Thing" sponsored by the Tri-City Trad Music group (<http://www.tricitytrad.com/>). We can expect more than 100 participants using our church facilities between Friday and Sunday. Sunday, a number of the musicians participating in the workshop will provide the music for our worship and I'm thrilled with that.

As always...we'd love your help leading our hymn singing on Sundays and if you'd like to prepare a special piece (instrumental or vocal) for our worship services, just let me know.

Thanks, George Garin

Human Relations Day January 16th: Lee Kemp

Human Relations Day is one of the opportunities for United Methodist Churches to celebrate our connectional work. This day of social action and raising awareness aims to heal social ills at the national level. Below is a story about one of the programs supported by your contribution to Human Relations Day.

It was a day of indulgence and inspiration for nine women from the Hoover Treatment Center in Little Rock, AK. The lucky ladies were invited to A Day of Positive Indulgence, a daylong event designed to help them transition into new, drug-free lives. BCD, Inc. and the Little Rock Chapter of The Links, Incorporated partnered to sponsor the event.

The day started with a visit to That Final Touch, a beauty salon located on Rodney Parham Road. Stylists Tam McElroy and Tina Slater washed, cut, and styled all of the ladies' hair. "We're trying to give these ladies a little sunshine, something to feel good about themselves, and hopefully that will motivate them to continue on," said McElroy. Rhonda, a Hoover client, who has struggled with drug and alcohol abuse for nearly 40 years, said her new hairstyle goes perfectly with her new outlook on life. "I'm just glad to have been given this opportunity," she said. "When we're out there in our addiction, we don't think about stuff like this. We don't keep up our health or our looks or nothin' like that, so it's a real nice treat." After the salon, the ladies were treated to a delicious lunch, new outfits to help them dress for success, and goodie bags filled with hair and skin products. Minister and motivational speaker Phyllis Hodges also offered words of inspiration. She talked about the importance of health inside and out, and encouraged the women to pursue their passions and dreams.

BCD and the Little Rock Chapter of the Links, Inc. have been partners in "A Day of Positive Indulgence" for 3 years. Links President Carmelita Smith said, "One of the things I've noticed over the years is the ladies seem to change, and you hope it's a permanent change. But even if you feel good about yourself for a day, that's a positive feeling that maybe you didn't have before."

Please prayerfully consider how much you can give on Human Relations Day, January 16. When we give from the heart, we receive unexpected blessings – especially the joy of making a difference in someone's life.

Given By	In Memory Or Honor Of
Thila & Harry Bell	Their parents
Randi Bentley	Eleanor Bentley
His wife, Sue & Family	Bill Blom
Lowell & Marilyn Blom	Loved ones
Annee Borthwick	In honor of Matthew Kirby's 'new year' and in honor of Sara in Australia.
Linda & Mark Campbell	Their mothers, Bette Keyes & Joan Campbell
A Friend	Warren Christian & daughter, Barbara Truax
The Cooper-Smith Memorial	Mr. & Mrs. Frank A. Cooper
Richard & Beverley Culver	Florence E. Culver
Curtis & Esther Dunagan	Loved ones
Margie Feiden	Fred & Mary Besaw, Catherine Stallmer & Rita Chaszowski
Judy Feiden	Henry & Florence Feiden and Harry & Harry C. Feiden, Jr.
The Guile Family	Marjorie & Marilyn James
The Hess Family	Grace Hess & her husband Wendell.
* *	Their sons, Wendell & John
Sharen, Joel & Emily Holcomb	In celebration of all our family who are not with us.
Lee & Roger Kemp	In celebration of our grandson, Peyton Kemp
	Our dear friend Marcel Pilette
Shirley & David Large	Their parents, John & Marge Wattendorf & George & Dorothy Large
The Lovegrove Family	George Lovegrove
* *	Loved ones
The MacDonald Family	In honor of our families
Paul Marano & Alice Rose	Brenda Joy Marano
* *	Peace on Earth
The Mattoon-Holland Family	Loved ones
Ruth Morant	Maria Morant
Mrs. Thomas Q. McNaughton	Mr. & Mrs. Bruce J. Riggs
* *	Mr. & Mrs. Dennie B. Riggs
* *	Miss Thelma J. Riggs
* *	Mr. & Mrs. Henry Kreiss
* *	Helen M.. Holmes
* *	Mr. Issac Hite Riggs
Doris Mooradian	Edward Mooradian
* *	Loved ones
The Rose Family	In celebration of Christmas
Suzanne Sherman	In honor of Madeline and Raymond Sherman
Betty & Nick Sopchak	Loved ones
Katherine Storms	Thomas Hobbie, MD
* *	Elizabeth Hobbie
The Worthley Family	Christopher Madrigal
Contributions from:	
The Kasius Family	Erica Boucicaut

Giving Envelopes

If you would like a set of offertory envelopes please ask in the Office. If you give your offertory as cash, this is the only way we can make sure you get a letter of proof of donation for tax purposes. However, even if you do not itemize this can be a helpful way of keeping up with your giving!

Letters for tax purposes for those who gave in 2010 will be available by mid-month and pledge forms remain available for anyone who missed out on handing in their estimate of giving for 2010.

Thank you.

Devotion

Nancy Burgin

As I left for church this morning, I remembered the hats I had made, ready to go to Joseph's House. I was only just out of the alley; I could turn around. But I was going to do the Call to Worship so I couldn't be late...plus I had to ask Janet what announcements we had...Suddenly, I found myself thinking of the Levite and the priest in the story of the Good Samaritan. They may have had duties they were rushing off to as well. So often, we who know the story look down at those who make the wrong choice. And then we go and make the exact same mistake. That's the great thing about Jesus' storytelling. He knows humans well enough that, at any given moment, we could be any person in the story. That may be why Jesus told us "Do not judge, so that you may not be judged." (Matthew 7:1) Unfortunately, we all need to be reminded of that, from time to time. (And yes, the hats made it to Joseph's House)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31 6:30pm Wshp Planning?	Regular Sunday Schedule 9.30am: Church School (All ages) 10:30am: Worship 11:30am Coffee fellowship				1
2 (No Sunday School)	3	4 6:30pm Wshp Planning	5	6 10:30am LTQ 2.0 7pm Finance	7	8
9	10 6:30pm Wshp Planning?	11	12	13 10: 30am LTQ 2.0 7pm Trustees	14	15
16	17 6:30pm Wshp Planning?	18	19	20 10: 30am LTQ 2.0 7pm Church Council	21	22
23 Spire Deadline	24 6:30pm Wshp Planning?	25	26	27 10: 30am LTQ 2.0	28	29

January Birthdays.

3rd	Karl Facticeau	6th	Robert Weiner	8th	Juanita Deyo
11th	Jenny Tschumi	12th	Nina Nichols	13th	Casey LaMere
13th	Barry Pryor	14th	David Douttiel	15th	Julia Strock
18th	Kim Pryor	21st	Rev. C. Joseph Ingraham	26th	Peter Burgin
29th	Jane Johnston	28th	Frank Pitts	29th	Carrie LaMere
31st	Lisa McEachron				

January Anniversaries.

4th	Ron and Nancy Burgin	29th	Debbie Byers and Frank Pitts
-----	----------------------	------	------------------------------

December Flowers

5 th	Given in honor of Warren Gibson and in memory of his mother, Clara Gibson.
12 th	Given by the Lovegrove Family in memory of Loved Ones
From 20 th onwards	Christmas poinsettias
The chancel wreath was given by the Mooradian family.	

THANK YOU--A special 'thank you' to everyone who contributed in various ways to the Christmas flowers--contributions for plants, setting up the arrangements (both the sanctuary and narthex and the moving of 'stuff' that includes) and bringing the flowers to persons and places where they can be enjoyed.

Christ Church United Methodist

35 State Street, Troy, New York 12180

Return Service Requested

Non-profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Troy, NY 12180
Permit #496

Epiphany Party

The Annual Church Epiphany Party will be held on Friday, January 7th at 6pm. Brian and George have graciously offered their and Tammy's home on the East side of Troy for the event. Directions will be provided with the sign up sheet - or call the office.

Please indicate what you will bring for the potluck supper and remember to bring a wrapped gift for the "yankee auction." The gift should be valued at \$5-10. If bad weather causes postponement of the party we will try again for the following evening, Saturday, January 8th.

Sincere thank you from the Pastors

Once again, we thank you for your kindness and generosity as you have shared cards, gifts, kind words and gracious thank yous with us over the Christmas season. We continue to be touched by those expressions of affection and appreciation and feel blessed that we are able to serve such a wonderful group of people. May God bless us all as we continue to explore what it is to be God's people in this place in this day.

Pastor Nina and Pastor Janet

Spire Deadline

The February Spire deadline is January 23rd

What's That Below?

The pattern below is a Qrcode.

Qrcodes are showing up on catalogs, packaging and store shelves. If you have a smart phone you can download a free qrcode reader which can capture the image and decode it.

This qrcode provides a link to the church website, the email and the phone number..



God intends the church to be a community that embodies love, grace, and justice for all people. As a Reconciling Congregation, we therefore affirm the sacred worth of and welcome persons of any sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, age, marital status, race, ethnic background, economic condition, and physical or mental ability as full participants in our community of faith. God's love includes everyone, as does Christ Church United Methodist.

Office phone 272-8392, Fax 273-8042, URL <http://www.ChristChurchTroy.org>

The Rev. Nina Nichols Senior Pastor email pastornina@christchurchtroy.org Urgent phone: 588-6405

Janet Douglass, Assistant Pastor email janet@christchurchtroy.org Urgent phone: 273-3713

The Rev. C. Joseph Ingraham, Pastor Emeritus