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Pastor's Ponderings

Farmers' Markets and roadside stands are predominantly displaying pumpkins and gourds and winter squash, as the harvest season comes to a close. Stock up for winter, or at least Thanksgiving!

Stewardship Campaigns and Thanksgiving Community dinners are in the planning stages. We're figuring out whom to invite to our family Thanksgiving dinners, and deciding whether or not we'll go shopping the day after.

Stewardship Campaigns and Thanksgiving Community dinners are in the planning stages. We're figuring out whom to invite to our family Thanksgiving dinners, and deciding whether or not we'll go shopping the day after.

Thanksgiving = Gratitude...it is the simplest spiritual practice. So many words have been written about how an attitude of gratefulness can change the way we see the world, can bring peace to the heart in a season – and an era -- of conspicuous consumption. Here is Anne Lamott's take on "Thank You."

“If the only prayer you said in your whole life was, thank you, that would suffice.”

-Mester Eckhart

“Gratitude begins in our hearts and then dovetails into behavior. It almost always makes you willing to be of service, which is where the joy resides. It means you are willing to stop being such a jerk. When you are aware of all that has been given to you, in your lifetime and in the past few days, it is hard not to be humbled, and pleased to give back.”

— *Anne Lamott, Help Thanks Wow: Three Essential Prayers*

As we move through November, may our lives simply express *Thank You*.

Blessings.

Becky

**Christ's Church Methodist & Presbyterian United
& Falls City United Methodist Church**



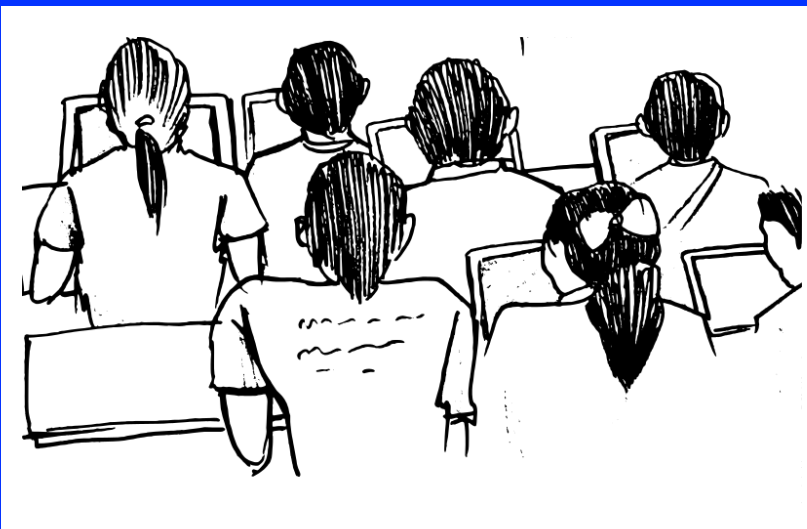
Our Stewardship Campaign for 2015 has begun; you should be receiving a letter this week to get you started thinking and praying about your financial support for CCMPU for the next year. A second mailing will arrive the week before Pledge Sunday.

Receiving Life ... Giving Life

On November 16, we will be invited to present our pledge cards for 2015. We will also be invited to become organ and tissue donors – if we aren't already -- on this Donor Awareness Sabbath.

The Stewardship & Finance Ministry team would like to thank you for the many joyful and faithful ways you are touching people's lives through the ministry of our church.

On November 16, we will be invited to present our



Regrettably, **students** in our communities continue to have unmet needs. Times are hard for many of us. We can still help others, though, even if it is only providing pens or paper.

Besides traditional classroom supplies, there are other needs, especially for warm sweat pants for elementary students. Other non- traditional school supplies such as calculators, ear buds/head phones for students to use when taking tests, Clorox wipes, and backpacks are very helpful, and with winter coming, especially sweat pants. Donations can be brought to the church, to the district office at Henry Hill Elementary, or to different school principals' offices.

Christ's Church (CCMP)
Methodist & Presbyterian
412 Clay Street W.
Monmouth, OR 97361
www.christschurchmonmouth.org
Televised on: WIMPEG
Channel 18
5am-6am, Sun. through Sat
3pm-4pm, Sun. through Sat

Falls City UMC (FC)
United Methodist Church
PO Box 473
242 N. Main St.
Falls City, OR 97334

OFFICE

Hours: M–F, 9am–12pm
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email: ccmpunited@gmail.com

Pastor Becky Strader

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email: ccmppastor@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Joy Brown
email: jrbrown@me.com

***Welcome! No matter
who you are, or where
you are on life's
journey . . .
you are welcome here.***

Are you aware of this mnemonic for *how* to pray?

ACTS? Prayer is not to (just?) ask for things. One way to go about pray is by using these acts of prayer:

Adoration

Confession

Thanksgiving
and

Supplication



Christ's Church Hosts Hospitality Week Again

Last Spring Christ's Church hosted a week of hospitality for homeless families in the Salem area. It was a service to the families but also in part a feasibility study whether churches in Polk County could host four homeless families every week.

The idea was to become an extension of the Interfaith Hospitality Network in Salem and while each of us played an important role in that event, the greater commitment came from the board of the Salem IHN. After a summer of looking at resources and

challenges by expanding into Polk County, the board decided this is not the time. The need still exists and so they hope that some time in the future the resources will meet the needs.

However, one of the churches in the Salem circuit of churches found themselves unable to fulfill their commitment to IHN and the opportunity to host these families without permanent addresses was offered to Christ's Church. PJM felt it was one of our church's calling to provide this service again.

The week is the week of Sunday November 16 through Sunday November 23. It's not the week of Thanksgiving when our families like to have family time, although it's close. While these families whom we host may have the same family time on Thanksgiving Day as we, we can provide meals and lodging for one week in their lives.

Of course, that means members and friends of Christ's Church as well as members of other churches and the communities need to be good hosts. That means food with food preparers and volunteers to spend time with the families in the evening and overnight. While we never know until the day before they arrive, we expect about 14 persons with more than half being children, typically school age and younger.

If you feel called to help provide an evening meal for about 20, or a breakfast at sunrise, or are able to spend an evening with the families, or even sleep in the church one night, contact Denvy or Gail (503) 623-6377 or denvygail@saxowsky.com or the church office at (503) 838-1724. One meal, one overnight or several hours of hosting will make a big difference in the lives of these children and their parents.

"I don't want to be in the right place
at the right time,
I want to be in the right place for a lifetime."



Hunger Harvest Dinner

While a tradition may have started only several years ago, the Hunger Harvest Dinner has a long wonderful tradition at Christ's Church. With several purposes in mind its primary focus is recalling and supporting those who don't have enough to eat.

The Dinner this year is Sunday evening, November 23 at 5:00PM in the church basement. In keeping with tradition, the church will provide turkey, stuffing, potatoes, and gravy. Diners are invited to bring and share side dishes and desserts.

A Hunger Harvest program during the evening will speak to the needs for food locally and globally and celebrate all those who help fight hunger. Donations will be shared between the local Ella Curran food bank and Heifer International, which helps people to overcome hunger through out the world.



In keeping with our focus on hunger and homelessness this month, we need to let you know what food is most needed by our local Ella Curran Food Bank located in Independence.



Cereal is the greatest need this month. Donations may be dropped off at the church as well as the Independence Library.



PJM Luncheon – with a Special Program by Kevin Elmore

A soup and bread meal will be held after church of Sunday, November 9. This time offers opportunities for fellowship, a meal fixed for you and an opportunity to make a donation to our church's outreach programs, locally, denominationally and globally.

This luncheon will be extra special because Kevin, our esteemed choir director will share his adventures in

Europe where he was a part of a program of children's stories preformed and put to *his original* music. Come enjoy the fellowship – and Kevin's yarns of his travels.

Donations raised will go to support missionary projects by both denominations; the Erbeles in Alaska and the Presbyterian Frontier Foundation.



Arts & Crafts with Sherry!

Would you like to have fun with others and make handmade presents for others? (Christmas is coming.) Well you're in luck. Friday evenings Sherry Pittam is opening her home to people like you to do just that. If this sounds fun to you, too, join Sherry on Fridays at 6:30pm at her home. Bring snacks to share. Craft materials are usually provided – or you can bring your own project. The first project was hand-made books. More to follow. Call Sherry at (503) 838-2667 for more information. Have fun!

FYI

Here is the link to a monthly blog you may be interested in checking out: [Compassion, Peace, and Justice](#). You can subscribe if you like. Enjoy!

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY

- 9:00am **Fellowship** (FC Multipurpose Room)
 9:20am **Worship Service** (FC Sanctuary)
 10:00am **Prayer & Meditation** (CCMP Prayer Studio)
 11:00am **Worship Service** (CCMP Sanctuary)
 12:10am **Fellowship** (CCMP Upper Room)

TUESDAY

- 7:00pm **Boy Scouts** (CCMP Basement Hall)
 7:00pm **Committees** (CCMP Library)
 7:00pm **FC Board** (FC Multipurpose Room)

WEDNESDAY

- 8:00am **Lectionary Discussion Group** (Independence Grill)
 5:30pm **Joy Bells Choir Practice** (CCMP Sanctuary)
 6:30pm **Choir Practice** (CCMP Sanctuary)

THURSDAY

- 7:00pm **Thursday Book Study** (Monmouth, E. Weiss)

FRIDAY

- 6:30pm **Arts & Crafts with Sherry** (Monmouth, S. Pittam)

MONTHLY EVENTS

- Nov. 4 **Peace, Justice, and Mission Team Meeting**, 1st Tuesday (7:00pm, CCMP Library)
 Nov. 5 **Horizons Study Group**, 1st Wednesday (1:00pm, Heron Pointe, Small Dining Room)
 Nov. 5 **Charge Conference (M) & Annual Meeting (P)**, 1st Wednesday (7:00pm, CCMP sanctuary)
 Nov. 9 **Mission Lunch** following service – with **Kevin Elmore**, choir director, presenting on his musical sojourn in Germany (CCMP Sanctuary)
 Nov. 11 **James2 Dinner**, last Tue. (5:00pm, FC Multipurpose)
 Nov. 16 **Pledge Sunday and Organ Donation Sabbath**
 Nov. 16 **Homeless Hospitality Week**, Interfaith Hospitality Network families, 16th – 23rd (Volunteers needed)
 Nov. 18 **Board Meeting, CCMP**, 3rd Tue (7:00pm, CCMP)
 Nov. 20 **Lunch Bunch** 4th Thursday (11:40am, FC)
 Nov. 22 **Falls City FREE Community Thanksgiving Dinner** (11am-3pm, Falls City Community Center)
 Nov. 23 **Hunger Harvest Dinner** potluck, program, & fund raiser for Food Bank (5:00pm, CCMP Basement)
 Nov. 25 **Submission Due Date** for December Newsletter
 Nov. 25 **Stephen Ministry**, 4th Tuesday (7:00pm, CCMP Board Room)
 Nov. 25 **James2 Dinner**, last Tue. (5:00pm, FC Multipurpose)
 Nov. 26 **Board meeting, Falls City**, Last Wed (7:00pm, FC Multipurpose Room)
 Nov. 29 **Hanging of the Greens** (1:30pm, CCMP Sanctuary)
 Nov 30 **Fifth Sunday** Community Service



November Birthdays

11/28 Jim Herzog



Fifth Sunday! Nov. 30th !

November has five Sundays so stay tuned for coming information about our service to the community on the Fifth Sunday.

Prayer & Personality

by Linda Grund-Clampit

You might have gotten the impression from the two previous articles that prayer requires you to sit quietly for extended periods of time. While silence and stillness can provide a needed space for both your soul and God's still voice to talk with each other, this is not the only way to pray. The fact is, of course, that God has created all of us uniquely and there are as many different ways to pray as there are people.

Know yourself; explore the easiest way for you to pray. There are many psychological typing systems (thinking, feeling, sensation, intuition – and introversion and extraversion respectively). There are also spiritual typing systems. One common one delineates four spiritual types--head, heart, mystic, and Kingdom. One fun way to explore these types is to take an easy quiz here: <http://prayer-center.upperroom.org/resources/quiz> The following descriptions come from this source:

1. **Mystics** experience God best through rich images and symbols. You are contemplative, introspective, intuitive, and focused on an inner

world as real to you as the exterior one. Hearing from God is more important to you than speaking to God. You are intrigued by God's mystery.



2. **Head type or Sage** people love words, written or spoken; you enjoy a good lecture, serious discussions, and theological reflection. Prayer for you usually is verbal. You thrive on activity and gatherings of people, such as study groups.
3. **Kingdom type or Prophets** are crusaders with a kingdom spirituality. You experience God best through serving others, but be careful not to become so involved in your cause that you neglect your inner life. One will nourish the other.
4. **Heart type or Lover** is a feeling type, whose spirituality comes primarily from the heart or emotions. To Lovers, God is a nurturing parent. Prayer for you is often extemporaneous,

speaking to God about what is on your heart at the moment. Music moves you deeply; so does heartfelt preaching and worship.

Try prayer experience counter to your default mode:

This is a way to provide balance and stretch ourselves. As you can tell from the list above, each of the types has gifts that the community needs – and each can become a caricature if left to go out on its own trajectory without any limits. If you are a head type, you might benefit from body prayer. If you are a kingdom type, you might benefit from contemplation that asks you to just experience God's presence with you now. If you are a mystic, it might be good to put some words to those experiences of God's presence. If you are a heart type, it might be good to do some structured theological reflection.

God has created us as varied individuals, and can communicate with us in varied ways. There is no one right way. But God is also so much more than we can define from our unique perspective, so it is good to stretch ourselves and open ourselves to connecting with God in different ways. Have fun – experiment!

Thank-you So Much

Western Compass, our Christian ministry presence on campus at Western Oregon University, thanks everyone for participating in supporting the fundraisers at Burgerville and the Sunday afternoon meal and auction at the farm. The fundraisers are helping to fund a mission trip for students to Guatemala to focus on fair trade and improved working conditions for farmers.



These two photos are from the Fall Farm Fundraiser at the Rogue Farms Hopyard in Independence. We raised over \$750 for our next Guatemala Delegation and had lots of fun in the process. Special thanks to Denvy Saxowsky, Maggie Triplett and Carol Busby as well as all the bidders from Christ's Church. We couldn't have done this well without you!

– from students of Western Compass



Christmas is Coming!

Decorating for the Advent Season and the **Hanging of the Greens** in the sanctuary and around the church will begin early afternoon on Saturday, November 29! Come have fun!



Around Christmas Day Christ's Church will help distribute Christmas Baskets of food and gifts families in needs. Save your coins for Sock it to Hunger to help fill the baskets along with your contributions of non-perishable foods. Watch for more information and lists of needed foods.

On December 5 at 6:00pm Western Oregon University will kick off the season with a parade by college students, the **Lighting of the Tree** – a performance by our Joy Bells – and many other seasonal



From Falls City Methodist Church: "Thanksgiving reminds us to be grateful for our blessings and remember what we are all thankful for – and share our bounty with all members of our community. We invite anyone who wants to come to the Falls City Community Center for a FREE Thanksgiving Dinner – on real plates with silverware – on Nov. 22, from 11am to 3pm. People do not have to live in Falls City – all who want a good hot meal with friends are welcome.

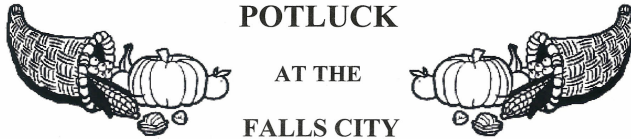
We are a community that pulls together and this event is one that shows our heart the most. Many people, all of whom have the same love and conviction that everyone deserves a hot thanksgiving meal and good fellowship, organize this.

To put this dinner on, we welcome donations of food, time, labor, and money. The most important part is volunteers to help set up, serve, and to clean up. We welcome all helpers – it is through the gracious help of many of the local churches, their members, and the town residents that we are able to do this.

And there is a lot to do! We will have takeout boxes for anyone unable to attend, so we will need people to deliver. We have jobs from greeting people to washing dishes. We also need prayers. It is only with God's Grace and lots of help that this can happen. So whatever one can do, please do!

If you have questions or wish to volunteer in any way, please call, Kristy Major, at (503) 881-3993. And thank you for your time and commitment to making this annual event happen!

**ANNUAL THANKSGIVING COMMUNITY
POTLUCK**



AT THE
FALLS CITY

COMMUNITY CENTER

SATURDAY, NOV. 22ND

DINNER SERVED: 11:00AM TIL 3PM

COME DOWN FOR A **FREE** TRADITIONAL HOME
COOKED THANKSGIVING MEAL
WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!

VOLUNTEERS AND FOOD ARE BOTH NEEDED.
Please see the Food Donation List

**If you have any questions
Or are want to donate Food items or Dessert items (or
just want to help out or volunteer your time)**

Please call
Kristy Major @ 503-881-3993

THANK YOU AND SEE YOU AT THE DINNER!

**Falls City United
Methodist Church**

welcomes the following donations for the **Annual Thanksgiving Potluck**. To put this dinner on, donations of food, time, labor, and money are welcome. Following is a list of needed food items.

- Stove Top Stuffing (regular bread crumb)
- Potatoes (100 pounds)
- Jellied Cranberry Sauce
- Turkey Gravy
- Butter
- Sugar
- Celery & Onions
- Onions
- Coffee (Reg & Decaf)
- Lemonade
- Chicken Broth
- Creamer
- Salt & Pepper
- Cooked &/or Uncooked Turkeys
- Many different Pies
- Cakes & Cookies



On October 18 the **Oregon Old Time Fiddlers** gave a benefit performance for the **Falls City United Methodist Church**. Looks like it was fun, doesn't it?

The Audio Visual Team needs back up.



Volunteers are needed. Even if only to serve as a backup once in a while. Large tasks become small when divided among many people. Training and support is provided. Contact Sherry Pittam at (503) 838-2667 or Linda Grund- Clampit at (503) 838-2339

Here is a question for Apple users out there...

Can anyone recommend a strong computer program dedicated just to publishing on an Apple (Mac) computer?

If so, please let the editor know at jmbrown@me.com

Thanks!

Happy Thanksgiving

 A decorative graphic featuring the words "Happy Thanksgiving" in a cursive font, surrounded by colorful autumn leaves and pumpkins.

Excerpted from: In the News: Does Ferguson Reflect America?

By Jennifer Harvey is Associate Professor of Religion and Ethics at Drake University

The hard reality is that white Americans do not live in, with, or under the policing system that black Americans do. Segregation in housing, education, and the workforce remains so deep that most whites don't even know, let alone know well, anyone who lives in, with, or under the kind of system these accounts describe. A recent study found that the social networks in which white Americans live are 91 percent white.

Most white people can safely teach their children that police officers are safe people to be sought out if a child is in trouble. It is no surprise they are more likely to see Brown's death as a tragic accident and even to look for some explanation (i.e., Brown must have done something) that makes sense of Officer Wilson's deadly violence.

On the other hand, most black parents must teach their sons what to carefully do when stopped by police. And black sons will be stopped at some point. For them, "waiting for the facts" or "a tragic accident" sounds like anything but a neutral response to Brown's killing. It sounds like another layer of denial about the actual day-to-day experience of African Americans, a denial that leads to more deaths...

The difficult truth is that Brown's killing and racially polarized reactions to it are part of the

same problem. We live in racial worlds that are still so very far apart. The cost to those whose daily experiences remain unseen by the demographic majority of citizens and decision makers is great.

Acknowledging this painful reality and the violence it spawned again this August in Ferguson helps us begin to know where and how we Christians must respond.

What Can We Do As Christians?

...We must talk about Ferguson in our congregations. We must pray about it in worship and create forums for education and dialogue. The racial alienation laid bare in August may make this work difficult. But it is work we can and must be about if we want a different future together.

Those of us who are Christian and have not learned before now about the systemic and racialized police realities so many communities live with must begin to do so. Realizing we have diverse perceptions of Ferguson because of our different experiences is not the

same thing as saying every interpretation of what happened there is equally accurate or valid... We must come to understand why calling killings tragic accidents or isolated incidents names them in ways that leave us unable and unwilling to work to reduce the likelihood of another killing next week.

...of course, we can and we need to look around our own communities, towns, and cities and ask what's going on with policing at home. Are groups already working to build better relationships between police and black and brown communities? How can our congregations support them?

The challenges are real. The journey will be long. But following Jesus means taking the risk of stepping out and stepping up in a variety of ways so that all our youth know not only that they are beloved but also that they can expect to be treated as beloved.

Read more on the Presbyterian website at: http://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uplo...



This is a **FREE offer** in which you may be interested... The Presbyterian *Horizons* woman's magazine offers theological reflection, inspiration, interpretation of issues facing the world, and connections to what other PW groups are doing. Perhaps you would be interested in receiving a free one-year subscription to *Horizons* and to *Presbyterian Today*. This free offer is only for new subscribers who live in the United States. Please contact the office at (503) 838-1724, or email at ccmpunited@gmail.com, for more information. Happy reading!



How has the international mission by the Methodist Church for No More Malaria affected the Ebola Crisis in Africa?

The biggest Ebola outbreak in recorded history is sweeping across Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia. The disease has been declared a public health emergency of international concern because it is highly contagious, has no cure, and has a death rate of up to 90 percent in some outbreaks.

United Methodist health workers, equipped by *Imagine No Malaria* to fight malaria, are now also equipped to fight Ebola. The same trained and skilled health professionals are now on the front lines to combat *both* diseases.

“It is a blessing and a gift that a strengthened infrastructure is in place, thanks to the ministry of *Imagine No Malaria*,” said the Rev. Gary Henderson, executive director of *Imagine No Malaria*. “No one dreamed that the church would be called upon in this way.”

The fact that the established international mission for *Imagine No Malaria* is already in the front lines on the ground has resulted in greater preparedness and infrastructure to combat Ebola because today, fighting malaria means fighting Ebola.

The effects of Ebola have far greater impact than the death toll of more than 3000 in these countries so far.

For example, on the day Sento Conteh’s 14-year-old son died, so did eight other people, all just outside the doors of Kenema Hospital. None of them had Ebola, but Ebola contributed to all their deaths because the outbreak has caused a collapse in the health care system in Sierra Leone and Liberia, said Winston Carroo, a program consultant with Agricultural Missions Inc., an ecumenical organization that addresses the root causes of poverty in rural areas. “On that day ... in that community ... more people died (of other causes) than those who have Ebola,” he said.

The breakdown of health care systems parallels the breakdown of the economic system, Carroo said. He referred to a recent *Washington Post* article that said Liberia is “descending into economic hell.”

For example, farmers planted in March, April and May before Ebola really hit the radar screen. Now that it is harvest time they cannot get their goods to market because of quarantines, soaring transportation costs and the closing of markets, he said.

“Their purchasing power and income have really gone down. The cost of medicine, such as aspirin, has doubled. Most micro-credit groups are women who have something to do with trading and because the markets have closed, that has ground to a halt,” he said. When you have no money, you can’t travel and you can’t buy the necessary supplies that the government is requiring for each home and church.

“You cannot go and tell people they must wash their hands in chlorine bleach when they don’t have chlorine bleach,” Carroo said.

Imagine No Malaria is part of a global denomination effort armed with the belief that the world is our parish. The people of The United Methodist Church are responding with supplies, grant money and advocacy. Your donations are making a difference in this fight.

For more information on these issues, check <http://www.umc.org/news-and-media/the-church-responds-to-ebola>



Editors Note: The votes are in! We now have an official name for our Christ's Church Methodist & Presbyterian and Falls City United Methodist newsletter – **The Messenger**. The runner up name was The Herald.

In the weeks to come we shall be looking at new masthead for the newsletter. And yes, if you have a suggestion or something particular you would like to recommend, do let us know.

On another note, since our denominational websites are often relied on here, everyone needs to be aware that *both* denominations work on the issues highlighted in this newsletter; there simply isn't room to cite everything, let alone the desire to duplicate information. So, both take turns being highlighted. A richness of information is available so follow the links to find out more.

This news just in! Out of a concern for justice, and concern for the future of The Methodist Church, many of us have struggled with the movement in parts of The Methodist Church to defrock Rev. Frank Schaefer, a Methodist Minister who last year performed a marriage ceremony for his gay son and now, son-in-law. The UMC has taken a step on the journey toward justice in the **reinstatement** of Rev. Frank Schaefer... Bonhoeffer writes in *The Cost of Discipleship*, "Judging others makes us blind, whereas love is illuminating." My prayer is that no matter the cost, the people called Methodists will join Rev. Schaefer in committing acts of biblical obedience and ministry without fear, illuminating God's love within ourselves, the LGBTQ community, the church, and the entire world.

Rev. Frank Schaefer says: "Today, we are witnessing a small, but significant step toward taking another look at the exclusionary policies of The United Methodist Church. With its decision to my reinstatement, the Judicial Council has acted justly and wisely. Their decision signals hope to our LGBTQ community that has not always seen the rule of love and grace winning over the letter of the archaic law the church still subscribes to. Today's decision also signals a willingness to continue dialogue and to seek solutions that will hopefully lead to a change in these archaic and harmful policies. The UM Church needs to find a way toward reconciliation, full inclusion of our LGBTQ community and an open altar for all God's beloved children.

Read more at: <http://us1.campaign-archive1.com/?u=38f2eb8a4757127e09ba18224&id=b5452fd142&e=6b49205dfa>

Financial Corner:

As of 10/20/14 Christ's Church financial are as follows:

Budgeted income year-to-date	\$83,903.65	Budgeted Expenses year-to-date	\$104,199.26
Actual Income year-to-date	\$94,724.86	Actual Expense year-to-date	\$79,255.59

Notes

- We applied & received a check from the IRS for \$2971.43 as a **rebate** from the Affordable Care Act for medical insurance we paid for in 2013.
- Through faithful stewardship, we have also been able to install a **new furnace** in our building!

