

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- **Get to know
Rev. Phillips**
- **Sunday
School Kick-
off Sept. 11**
- **Chicken BBQ
& Silent Auc-
tion Sept. 17**
- **Women's
Ministries
W.I.S.E
series contin-
ues**

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CCUMC Close-Up

The church that's hard to find, but worth finding!

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AUG/SEPT 2011



Let Me Introduce Myself

Rev. Adrienne Phillips, Senior Pastor

I joined the Christ Community UMC Church Family just weeks ago, and would like to take this opportunity to further introduce myself so you will know more about your new pastor. In this edition, I will share my childhood.

My childhood was spent in Buffalo, New York, as the second eldest of the four daughters of Rev. Porter W. Phillips, Jr. (deceased, 1987) and Dorothy Bobo Phillips (deceased, 2005). My parents were from Pittsburgh, PA, the place of my birth. My father's dad was a minister; my mother's dad was a steel worker. The family moved to Buffalo upon my father being called to pastor the Michigan Avenue Baptist Church (later became the Humboldt Pkwy. Baptist Church), a historic church that was part of the Underground Railway hiding former slaves on their way to freedom in Canada. This church was a "last stop" before crossing over to Canada.

In addition to my father and grandfather being pastors, four of my father's brothers were also ministers, and my father's one sister married a minister! I am the first ordained female minister in my family; but I always recognize my youngest sister,



Dorothy (deceased 1996) as the first woman in ministry in my family. She, along with her husband, opened churches in Queens, Baltimore, and then Zimbabwe. She had the voice of an angel, and was an evangelist and champion for Christ – way before I heard the call to ministry!

My mother was very active in the church, helping with Sunday School, the youth group, and a variety of church-related activities. My sisters and I were in Sunday School every Sunday, and in Vacation Bible School every summer, which account for some of the best times of my life! To this day, I remember my solo with the children's choir, singing the 2nd verse of "Jesus Loves Me." I accepted Christ in my life at age seven, my father baptizing me.

My pastimes were writing stories and keeping a diary;

then, in my youth, writing poetry and keeping journals. I liked to sketch pictures and travel in the summers back to Pittsburgh to visit grandparents and other relatives, always insisting that I have the seat in the car directly behind my father! Even at a young age, I loved church, and my sisters and I would spend hours "playing church" at home. Guess who was the preacher!

Each summer, we traveled just outside of Buffalo (we thought it was a l-o-n-g way back then!) to a farmhouse owned by the Deacons Alliance of Buffalo. It was there I could run freely and play with my sisters, exploring the great outdoors and having the landmark experience of being chased by a hog (or so I thought!). The hog got loose from its pen, and I saw it running toward where I was, and I, thinking it was after me, ran and hid just inside of the open garage door. Little did I know that the garage was "the destination" of the hog, for it knew that it's food was in there! Talk about a little girl screaming...

If I were to sum up my younger years, I would direct you to what I wrote when I was published for the first time during my grade-school years. It was a Sunday School publication and my submission was entitled, "Why I Like Church." Maybe God was calling the little-girl-Adrienne, even then.

Women's Ministries W.I.S.E. Series



On Friday, September 16, from 6:30 to 8:15 PM the W.I.S.E. series continues with a soup and bread dinner at CCUMC Fellowship Hall. (W.I.S.E. means Women's Intergenerational Spiritual Encounters)

Life is not consistent - life is random and when things

don't line up the way we think they should, we become discouraged or depressed or angry and bitter. Come join us on that day to hear some of our women talk about their experiences and what they were able to hold onto to get them through the trials.

The soups to be served will be made from the recipes that are in the new cookbook, Soups, Stews, and Sweets - so you will have an opportunity to taste something wonderful and know that the recipe is available!!

SAVE THE DATE:

Chicken BBQ

& Silent Auction

Saturday, Sept. 17

Noon to 5:00

To benefit Mission

Trip to Uganda!

See Joe Frega or

Bonnie DeBoer

to help .

Men's Ministry, Always on the Move!

Over the past few months, Men's Ministry has happily answered four calls for help moving. For one of those moves, we had over 15 volunteers arrive, making for short work of a large project.

Our men continue to step up and do projects around the church as well. The entire church exterior has been power washed, as well as the blue entry rugs

being scrubbed, and power washed.

The Eckrote family recently reached out to Men's Ministry because they needed to make their home handicapped accessible, fast. Men's Ministry rose to the challenge: in a matter of days, were able to locate, pick up, install, and finish an entire handicapped ramp system. In total, 9 men took the time to help tackle this enormous

project. Some took on the task of picking up the ramp parts, navigating a tough city neighborhood. Some helped dig out the old walk, or installed the freshly cleaned parts. It was a blessing to see the completed ramp immediately put to use. The Eckrotes generously donated the remaining parts for the ramps so we will be able to make the rear entrance of the church handicapped accessible too!

The Men's Ministry in action, working on the Eckrotes ramp (left) and moving Rev. Phillips (right)



Musical Notes from Denise Weeks-Bush

Hi Everyone. This has been a great Summer for me from a music point of view. I have been blessed to help lead the opening Praise music and work along with Phill and all of the "Sonrise" crew for the Summer (a job that BJ did every week). Now we are getting to the end of the Summer, so we have a need for two or more people who would be willing to lead the opening Praise music at 9:00 am. I will be leading at 10:45 and 6:30. The music team's thought is that if we have two or more to lead, that way no one would have to be committed to doing it every Sunday. If you are feeling called to lead the team on a part-time basis, please let Phill Sterling know (he's the man behind the keyboard at the 9:00 service).

We have had a great turn out for the Praise teams all Summer and we want to thank everyone who has participated: Dolores, Jan, Gail, Tim, Gloria Jean, Han Yen, Emerson, Dan, Mark,

Gary, Nate and Neal (when he can) — I hope I haven't forgotten anyone! Thanks to all of you, from Phill and I. We hope to keep all of this going for the Fall as well.

I have gotten some responses to forming a younger Praise team that would lead worship as they are ready and would bring some of our youth and younger adults into the music mix. I am excited about this and if there is anyone else who would be interested in joining, please be sure to either email me, or speak to me at church. We will be starting to figure out when we would be able to get together during the Fall.

This is just a reminder for our newer members. Sunday Grace and Healing / Praise Worship at 6:30 pm is not just a repeat of Sunday morning. *Grace Alone*, CCUMC's Praise Band, leads the Praise music and we are blessed with a testimony or message from members of our



church family or special guests. Following our corporate prayer time, the prayer team prays with those who have special prayer requests. We have found that this time blesses all of us who participate and is a great addition to our Sunday morning worship. If you like singing praise songs and/or feel that you have a special message or testimony to share, please join us at 6:30 Sunday evenings.

May God's peace and blessings be with you.

Recycle Your Ink Cartridges at CCUMC

Did you know that there are over 350 million ink cartridges sitting in our landfills throughout the country, and that 10% more ink cartridges are thrown away each year?

Did you know that CCUMC actually recycles donated ink cartridges and uses them to

purchase paper for the church, saving the earth and saving CCUMC money?

Bring in your ink cartridges and join the green revolution, help CCUMC cut down on costs and waste. You can put them in the box right outside the

sanctuary doors (behind the welcome station).

Let's keep up the trend and make it so CCUMC doesn't have to spend any money on paper this year!



Hi from Children's Ministries



Julie Valeski,
Director of
Christian Education

*We're getting
ready for Sunday
School Kick-Off
on Sunday,
September 11th!*

I would like to start off by saying a great big **"THANK YOU"** to all those people that have helped with Vacation Bible School (VBS) this summer. Joe Frega, Betty Kline, Suzanne Dibble and the rest of the VBS team have done an amazing job of coordinating all of the volunteers and participants that are coming every night. A special thank you to all of the volunteers that are helping to run shops, participating in drama, acting as family leaders, not to mention all of the other activities. You are all amazing!!! It is such a blessing to our church to have such passionate, creative people working in this Christian outreach! I hope to see everyone back on September 11th!

A very loving "thank you" also goes out to all of the people that volunteered to help teach Summer Sunday School. It was so much fun as we met in the "café" every week with our guest chefs! We found out how the Bible is our cookbook for our lives with recipes to help us live them to the fullest! We also talked about how God is our main ingredient in all we do! We heard amazing Bible stories,

made crafts, and tried our hands at being chefs as we made different snacks! We couldn't have done it without everyone that volunteered and helped with donations!

Also a big **"THANK YOU"** in advance to everyone who makes our Sunday School Ministry and our Kick-Off such a huge success every year! A special thank you to Marsha Dillon and Sue Rayo who are returning as coordinators this year. We will also see some new faces volunteering this year! Thank you to all who are planning to help get the rooms organized, decorate the fellowship hall, and get the word out to everyone as to what we have planned. It is only because of all of you, and the amazing team of teachers, that God has called to this ministry, that we are able to have such a successful Sunday school! I couldn't organize this ministry and all of the events by myself. Each person that is involved in this ministry gives of their time and resources consistently and freely! I frequently watch and listen in amazement as God helps all of us come together for the sake of our (His) chil-

dren. It is our goal to touch the lives of as many kids as possible with God's love! Together as a church (and with God's guidance!) we can do the work He has called us to do!

Sunday School Prayer walk will be held on Friday, September 9th. The Prayer Walk is open to anyone and everyone in the congregation to come and pray for the children who attend Sunday school, those that haven't attended yet, and for the space that they gather in. The walk starts promptly at 7pm.

Our Children's Ministries organizational meeting will be held on Saturday, September 10th at 9am. If you have agreed to be a Sunday School teacher or volunteer in any capacity, your attendance at this meeting is important. Please come so that we can pray, eat, plan and talk together!

We still need a few more people to volunteer with the Sunday School Ministry. We need another team of two people for 9am service. We will have three teams that will rotate teaching so that each team

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Children's Ministries, continued from page 4

teaches every third week. We also need a couple of teachers and substitutes for the 10:45 service. If you are being called to this ministry, or know someone who would be good at it, please see me or a coordinator.

I have also included with this article, a tear out planning calendar. On it is listed all of the

events for our Sunday School and our family Social Events. Please hang it someplace easily accessible so that you and your family don't miss out on some fun and unique opportunities! Just keep in mind that some events and dates do change according to space usage, number of participation sign ups and

time constraints. We will do our best to keep everyone informed of changes!

God has given us an amazing crew to guide and direct our church's children and youth and I thank Him daily! Please keep us in your prayers as we do you!

**Don't miss
Sunday School
Kick-Off on
Sunday,
September !!!**

**ccumc
SH YOUTH GROUP**

CHRIST COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SK. HIGH YOUTH GROUP--

--OUR GOAL IS TO CREATE A SAFE PLACE WHERE A DIVERSE GROUP OF TEENS IN 9TH TO 12TH GRADE CAN COME AND BE THEMSELVES IN A CHRISTIAN ATMOSPHERE HELPING THEM DEVELOP A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD THROUGH LIFE EXPERIENCES--

--HERE YOU COME AS YOU ARE NOT TO BE JUDGED BUT WELCOMED--

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BELONG TO THIS CHURCH OR ANY OTHER TO COME ALL ARE WELCOMED--

--WE MEET MOST SUNDAYS FROM 1 TO 3 AT OUR CHURCH UNLESS OTHER PLANS ARE MADE--

--SOME ACTIVITIES WE DO- PLAY GAMES; EAT JUST ABOUT ANYTHING; HAVE LOCK INS; GO BOWLING; TRIPS TO PARKS; ICE SKATING; THE MOST; KINGDOM BOUND DARIEN LAKE, THIS YEAR WE ARE GOING TO SOULFEST IN NH A 6 DAY CAMPING TRIP TO ATTEND CHRISTIAN CONCERTS; WE BRING FOOD DOWNTOWN TO FEED THE HOMELESS; VOLUNTEER DOWNTOWN WITH REFUGEE FAMILIES--

--WE VOLUNTEER FOR VARIOUS ACTIVITIES AND CHARITIES SUCH AS PAIGES BUTTERFLY RUN, HOPE FOR HEATHER, NURSING HOMES AND MANY MORE--

--SOME TEEN STATISTICS

- * OVER 1500 YOUTH KILL THEMSELVES A YEAR
- * 1 IN 4 YOUTH USE ILLEGAL DRUGS
- * 1/3 OF YOUTH HAVE BEEN DRUNK THIS YEAR
- * 1 MILLION ARE PREGNANT

--WITH YOUR HELP SUPPORT AND PRAYERS OUR HOPE IS TO CONTINUE BUILDING THIS YOUTH MINISTRY SO WE CAN HELP THIS GENERATION TO TAKE A STAND AND NOT CONFORM TO THE NEGATIVE INFLUENCES IN THIS SOCIETY!!

--IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO RAISE OUR CHILDREN SO WE THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR HELP IN OUR CONTINUOUS EFFORT TO REACH OUT TO ALL OUR KIDS

WHY?
ADAM HAMILTON
MAKING SENSE OF GOD'S WILL

To learn more about how you can join or help out please see one of the Youth Leaders, Brent Bowden or Betty Jo Flask.

Adult Christian Education

Pastor Linda and Julie will be leading a book study at the end of August on the book *Why? Making Sense of God's Will*, By Adam Hamilton. The classes will be on Thursdays, August 25th, September 1st, September 8th, and September 15th. Classes will be in the sanctuary from 7:00 to 8:00 pm. If you have not signed up yet and would like to join us, please see me or Pastor Linda.

Also watch for more classes to be starting throughout the year. As always, Wednesday Bible Study is on Wednesday mornings from 11:00 am- Noon. God calls us to go deeper in our relationship with Him. Are you ready?

Blessings by the box

Angel Food is available in a quantity that can fit into a medium-sized box at \$30 per unit. Each month's menu is different than the previous month and consists of both fresh and frozen items with an average retail value of about \$60. www.AngelFoodMinistries.com

Food Pantry Crumbs



Summer is a tough season at the food pantry; need is highest because kids are home from school but donations are often slower because families are out of town. Luckily, we are blessed here at Christ Community and have avoided that problem so far.

Our family members were so touched by the services for Edna Bartlett, that two chose to fill the food pantry in memory of Edna Bartlett, Gary Bartlett and Gerald Hoyt. We are so thankful for their generosity! We

were able to keep the food pantry open during the month of July thanks to their help.

Another blessing to the food pantry has been the addition of Angel Food Ministries. The blessing is two-fold: for every box of food sold, one dollar gets donated back to the food pantry; and secondly, some people have actually donated boxes of food so we have been able to send some families home with meat, eggs and milk. We don't have much space in the pantry, so the Angel

Food system makes it easier; we can distribute the food once a month.

As always, the food pantry is open to whoever needs it; all you have to do is call the church at 457-9382 and make an appointment. All appointments are kept strictly confidential.

Thank you all for your open-hearted generosity, without you, we wouldn't be able to feed all the families we do each month!

—Karen & Laurel Frega

"We should always focus on the future to avoid things that may hinder our progress in fulfilling God's plans for us."

Rear-View Mirror?

Rick Major attended a function at St. Augustine Church and shared this:

Recently, I was listening to a talk by Father Tom Servatious at St. Augustine Catholic Church. He said

that one of his favorite professors once made the statement that the best view of the seminary was in the rear view mirror. But if one focuses on only

the rear view mirror, one would probably (eventually) hit a tree. In driving a car, while periodic attention should be made to the rear view mirror, the main focus should be on the road ahead.

As in driving a car, our lives should always be focused on the future (road ahead) and not the past (rear view mirror). While it is good to periodically think back to the past, we should not

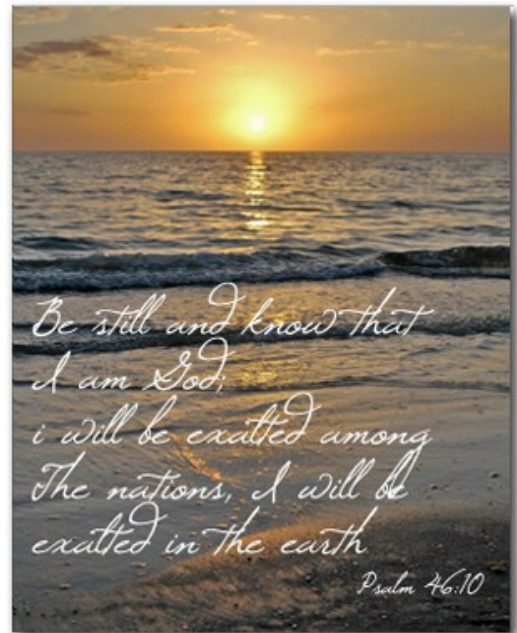
dwell there. We should always focus on the future to avoid things (like trees) that may hinder our progress in fulfilling God's plans for us.

What struck me about his talk was how it directly affected us in our future here at Christ Community. He didn't know about our transition until after the talk when I told him about it. Interesting.



More fun facts about Rev. Phillips

- **Degrees:** Bachelor of Science (Secondary English); Master of Arts (Elementary Education); Master of Human Development (focus on Early Childhood Ed); Master of Divinity.
- **Jobs/Positions:** *Undergrad* – worked in a box factory; worked in hospital with the mentally disabled; worked in the campus library; *Adult, prior to seminary* – Community Center Worker; Adult Education Instructor; 8th Grade English Teacher; Head Start preschool teacher; Head Start Program Director; Early Childhood Professor; Coordinator of Christian Ed; Community College Academic Dean. *Post-seminary:* Pastor, West Avenue UMC; Senior Pastor; Christ Community UMC
- **Favorite places:** Anyplace my family members are – *and* – sitting by the ocean!
- **Favorite foods:** Indian, Thai, Jamaican, Soul, Mexican, Chinese – you name it!
- **Favorite meal of the day:** Breakfast
- **Favorite time of day:** Early morning
- **Most often repeated phrase stated to family:** Okey-dokey
- **Most often repeated phrase in general:** Peace and blessings
- **Favorite devotional:** Oswald Chamber's *My Utmost for His Highest*
- **Favorite Scriptures:** Psalm 25, Psalm 46:10, Psalm 121, Psalm 139, John 14:1-6, 18, 27; the Passion Narrative in all four Gospels (this could go on awhile, so I will stop at that!)
- **Some of my favorite people:** My sisters, Stephanie & Claudia (& brother-in-law, Walt); my daughter, Nilaja (& son-in-law, Mandell); my son, Khente; my grandchildren: Khary, Anaya, & Nia; Maya Angelou; Michelle Obama
- **All-time favorite movies:** “The Sound of Music” “The Color Purple” “Pride and Prejudice”
- **Annual “Must See”:** “The Nutcracker Suite”



Wish-List from the Trustees

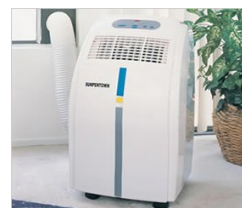
The Trustees are looking for the following items:

Portable Basketball Hoop for our back parking lot

2 Standalone/Roll Around Room Air Conditioners, (*not window air conditioners*) one for use in the Nursery, and the

second for the Senior High/ Game/Music Room. Both of these rooms are now in use year round.

Please contact the Bill Dibble or Joe Frega through the church office if you or someone you know can help. Thanks!



Pastoral Care Corner by Pastor Linda Prell



Happy August everyone! We are halfway through the summer and we have been extremely busy at Christ Community United Methodist Church. As we head into the fall season, I thought it would be a great idea

to let the Church know what the Holy Spirit has been accomplishing through our Pastoral Ministry Team. The following are the pastoral ministries that we presently have in place:

On-Line Prayer Chain: Lists of those in need of prayer are distributed so that they can be lifted in prayer. If you desire to be in prayer for these people, please contact Barbara Jesmer (beejesmer@aol.com).

Holy Communion Team: The elements are taken to those who are homebound, Nursing Home residents, or any other who are unable to be in church on Communion Sundays die to illness. If you desire to be a part of this team, please contact Pastor Linda Prell to set up a training time.

Pastoral Visitation Team: This team is made up of numerous folks who make

visits to hospitals, Nursing Homes, and people's homes whenever needed.

Card Ministry Team: This team sends out cards of encouragement to those in need. We are presently compiling a list of our youth who are away at college to add them to the list of those receiving monthly cards so that they know we are praying for them while they are away.

F.I.S.H. Ministry: Friends In Service Here is a ministry that provides luncheons following funerals and also provides meals for folks who are recovering from illness or surgery who are unable to prepare meals for themselves. The numbers of people who take part in this ministry vary greatly depending on the need at the time. There have been times during large funerals that the entire church family has been engaged.

Medical Equipment Ministry: This ministry provides medical equipment such as walkers, crutches, shower seats, wheel chairs, canes, and raised commodes for folks who have need. It is overseen by one person and sign out sheets help to keep track of the equipment at any given time.

Naomi's Table: Naomi's Table is a ministry for widows. They meet monthly for the purpose of encouragement, fellow-

ship, and education. At times, guest speakers are brought in to address different subjects that women have to face when their spouse dies.

Food Pantry: Karen Frega maintains and manages our food pantry. It is available to anyone in the church and the general public. If you have need of this, please call Karen Frega and she will set up an appointment in order to help you.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Thanks to a group of dedicated knitters and those who crochet, we have prayer shawls that we distribute to our folks recovering from illness or surgery.

I would like to say a HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who has stepped up to serve in these very valuable ministries. If you have ideas for a new pastoral care ministry that isn't presently in place, or if you desire to be involved in one already up and running, please come and see me. I am always praying about new ways in which we can serve God's people and new ideas in order to raise our pastoral care ministries "up a notch."

May you continue to be blessed by our Lord as you serve Him in order that others are blessed by His amazing love and mercy.

Christ Community United Methodist Church

The church that's hard to find, but worth finding!



Rev. Adrienne Phillips, Senior Pastor

RevAPhillips@ChristCommunityUMC.com

Church Phone: (315) 457-9382

Sunday Worship: 9:00 & 10:45 am, 6:30 pm

Sunday School: 9:00 & 10:45 am

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