

**The Church of Christ, Union**

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THE CHURCH  
OF CHRIST,  
UNION

# CONSIDER...

THE UNION  
CHURCH  
NEWSLETTER  
JANUARY 2012

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Join Us Sunday Mornings!

Sunday School, 9:30 am  
Worship, 10:30 am

**About Us...**

- All who seek and serve the love of God are ministers of Union Church
- Rev. Kent Gilbert, Pastor
- Merlin Kindel, Moderator
- Larry Brandenburg, Director of Music Ministries
- Dave Kobersmith, Church Administrator
- Joan English, Office Administrator
- Rev. Wyndee Holbrook, Director of Faith Development
- Youth Directors, Chris & Grace McKenzie
- Hope Hounshell, Woman's Industrial Director
- Jennifer Shelton, Bea Chasteen, Dorie Chasteen, Childcare
- Erik Reinhart, Custodian

## Stop the Presses: The Church is on the Move...But Not Yet!

Wednesday night, Dec. 14th, we learned that our renovation project had received many fewer bids than anticipated, and the ones we did get were significantly higher than our budget estimates by nearly 35%-40%. This was a surprise and disappointment to all concerned and work is already underway to regroup and rework the process. The Design Team will meet with our architects and construction managers on Monday night to review next steps, but all of the next steps will take time: probably the entire month of January at least. **SO at this time OUR MOVE IS ON HOLD.**

best work at the most affordable cost. To do that we will consider re-bidding all or portions of the work, as well as finding ways of encouraging more companies to compete. It may also be that we will have to scale back what can be accomplished, but we are holding that as a last resort until we can understand the circumstances of these results.

**Weds. Nite Live! starts back for the year on January 4**  
**Sunday School and Childrens Church resume on January 8**  
**HERE at Union!**

In the meantime, other than disappointment, the church is not going to be materially harmed by a delay. Our rental partners

have been very understanding and willing to delay charges until we actually move in. Since our move has not yet begun, all our materials and supplies are still on-site and accessible, and our construction funds will gain that much more interest as we actively and energetically take the next steps. More information will be sent out as soon as we know our options. Thanks for your continued prayers and continued patience.

All worship services, educational and social events **will continue to be held on site at Union Church** until our project can either be reworked or re-bid to appropriately meet our needs. We are, of course, terribly disappointed not to begin as scheduled, but it is the absolute commitment of the church staff, Design Team, architects and construction personnel that we get the very

## Congregation Approves 2012 Budget

The Congregation voted on December 11, 2011 to approve the 2012 Budget of \$318,050.00 as recommended by Church Council, along with the 2012 Budget Policy and the 2012 Terms of Call for the Pastor.

In other actions, the Congregation voted to extend the current trial Board structure for another year as recommended by the Council, and voted to adopt the Union Church Non-discrimination Policy.

We all owe our thanks to our financial team of Shirley Carlberg, Treasurer, Dave Kobersmith, Church Administrator, and Sally Zimmerman, Financial Secretary, for working

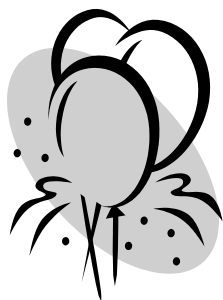
diligently to gather the information needed for projected Income and Expenses for 2012. Thanks are also due our Boards and Church Council for their deliberations as the budgeting process worked its way through the various steps during the fall months, culminating in congregational approval on December 11.

**Remember our Mission!**

*We, the People of Union Church, seek to live out our discipleship to God as a community inspired by Jesus' transforming love. As a gathering of those seeking to boldly and creatively embody Christ's life and ministry, we commit ourselves to work and fellowship that makes the radical and inclusive love of God, the beloved community proclaimed by Jesus, and the continuing inspiration of the Holy Spirit visible and real to all. As one in body with Christ, we commit ourselves to acts of:*

- ◆ Unbounded Hospitality to Build a Beloved Community of Christ
- ◆ Thoughtful, Inspirational and Intentional Faith Development
- ◆ Passionate Worship
- ◆ Risk-Taking Mission and Service
- ◆ Extravagant Generosity and Care in Our Stewardship

## January Birthdays & Anniversaries



January Birthdays

- 1 Jerry Cooper
- 5 Loyal Jones
- 5 Mia Shaffer
- 6 Dorothy Chao
- 7 Luther Center
- 7 Eliana Saderholm
- 7 Bob Shaffer
- 10 Josa Harl
- 11 MacGregor Lakes
- 11 Kiersten Shaffer
- 13 Peggy Pollard

- 14 Gaige Biggs
- 14 Elizabeth Crowe
- 16 Kent Gilbert
- 16 Larry Shinn
- 18 Kevin Burke
- 19 Hope Hounshell
- 21 Iris Brandenburg
- 21 Sally Hindman
- 21 Jamie Neal
- 21 Rory Spencer
- 22 Gloria VanWinkle
- 23 Bob Boyce

- 23 Suzanne Wells
- 24 Gail Wolford
- 31 Steve Bolster
- 31 Michelle Tooley

January Anniversaries

- 11 Kelly & Teri Mehler



*If we don't know your birthday or anniversary, we want to! Or if we've made a mistake please call or email the office.*

### The Work of the Church

#### Report from the Associate Pastor Search Committee

The Associate Pastor Search Committee has narrowed its search from about sixty applicants to thirteen.

We will be working during January to bring it down to not more than six.

Plans, at the moment, are to do telephone interviews in late January or early February.

Keep us in your prayers and we will keep you posted.

#### January Worship Leaders

- 1 Merlin Kindel
- 8 Michel Tooley
- 15 Sarah Broomfield
- 22 Alice White
- 29 Tina Walters

Call Jenny Bromley at 623-5007 if you would like to serve in this way.

### Nurture and Care Board Notes

This Board continues to continue with Christmas cards being sent to those suggested by the pastor; shut ins, those living alone.

Attempts at providing transportation as needed; requests as given to church secretary and others; **COULD USE MORE VOLUNTEERS**; Many cars means less gas/congregant, or however the saying goes.

John Payne is the usual contact for transportation, Joy Frazier for meals needed, and Lynn Cook regarding bereavement; though please contact any Board member on any of the above needed services or anything else that someone might need to worry about within reason. Submitted by John Payne

### Faith Development Board notes

#### Hurry up and wait!

Many thanks to the exceptional folks spearheaded by Betsy Hoefler

who got Faith Development packed and ready to move ahead of schedule! Now, we'll be packed and ready for an undetermined period as we "wander in the wilderness" of possibilities.

But the good news, and as people of faith there is always good news, classes and blessings will continue. Bob Berger's WNL bible study will pick up on Jan. 4 as they finish the minor prophets. Bob is currently preparing for a new testament study which will follow the current class. This is an open group for focused study and they welcome new friends. Youth groups will continue on Wednesdays with Middle School at 5, dinner at 5:45 and High School at 6:30. One "change" is suspending what has very loosely been a children's group on Wednesdays after dinner.

2012 will be a year for a confirmation class for our young people and mentors are needed. Please contact Chris or Grace McKenzie to walk along side a youth as they grow in understanding and faith. If you know a middle or high school student is ready for confirmation, encourage them to contact the



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:30 am—Morning Worship	2 6:00 pm—CL&G Board	3 7:00 pm—Faith Dev. Board	4 5:00 pm—Middle School Youth 5:45—Supper 6:30 HS Youth, Adult class in 204 7:00—Handbells	5 Noon—Bible Study 6:15 pm—Choir, 304	6 9:00 am—Woman's Industrial	7
8 9:00 am—Mission Board meets 9:30 am—Classes for all ages 10:30 am—Morning Worship	9 Office closed— Happy New Year!	10 5:15 pm—Worship Board 6:30 pm—Properties, Nurture & Care 7:00 pm - Admin., Stewardship & Finance Boards	11 WNL 5:00 pm—Middle School Youth 5:45—Supper 6:30 HS Youth, Adult class in 204 7:00—Handbells	12 Noon—Bible Study 6:15 pm—Choir, 304	13 9:00 am—Woman's Industrial	14
15 9:30 am—Classes for all ages 10:30 am—Morning Worship	16 Office closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr., Day	17 7:00 pm—Memory Keepers	18 WNL 5:00 pm—Middle School Youth 5:45—Supper 6:30 HS Youth, Adult class in 204 7:00—Handbells	19 Noon—Bible Study 6:15 pm—Choir, 304	20 9:00 am—Woman's Industrial	21
22 9:30 am—Classes for all ages 10:30 am—Morning Worship	23	24	25 WNL 5:00 pm—Middle School Youth 5:45—Supper 6:30 HS Youth, Adult class in 204 7:00—Handbells	26 Noon—Bible Study 6:15 pm—Choir, 304	27 9:00 am—Woman's Industrial	28
29 9:30 am—Classes for all ages 10:30 am—Morning	30	31				

## From the Church Administrator



What a difference one day can make. Who would have guessed that the day our bids were opened for the church remodeling project we be putting the project on hold to regroup and make new plans? Well that is what has hap-

pened—as you have read and heard by now, I hope.

The Design Team and other church leaders met with the architects and construction management folks on Monday, December 19, to begin the process of looking at the next steps. We asked hard questions of the professionals gathered.

They shared many thoughts about why the bids we received were higher than expected in some areas and accurate in other areas.

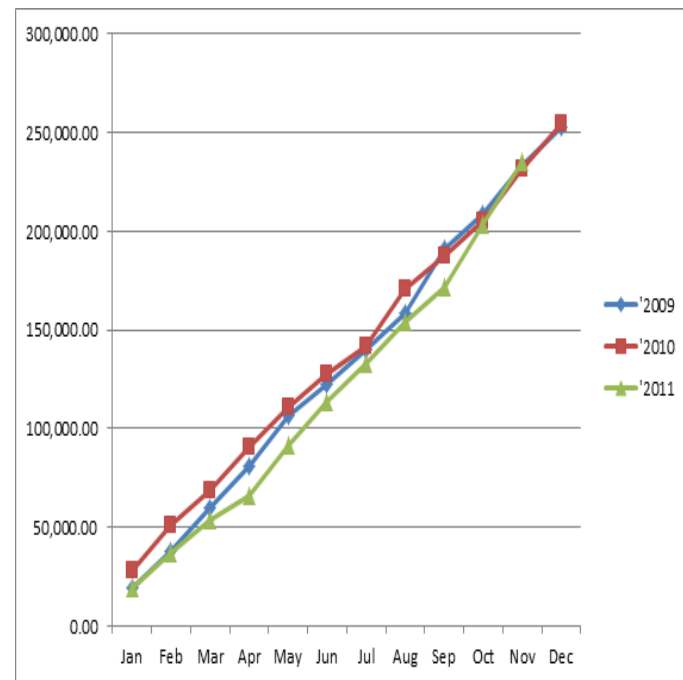
They also shared they would need more time to provide the Design Team with a plan for the next steps to be taken and we tentatively plan to meet again in early January.

At the next meeting we should have a clearer timeline, but the guess on December's meeting was that it will take a couple of months to regroup and get the project started.

We encourage your questions and comments as we regroup.

## Financial Corner

### Annual pledges and gifts through November 2011



Your annual pledges and gifts make the ministries of Union Church possible. Please continue your generous support! As of November 30, 2011, we have a net income of \$3,375 (year-to-date, we have \$3,375 income over expenses). Thank you for your pledges and gifts to the ministries of Union Church.

McKenzies. The plan is to begin in February, regardless of what building we find ourselves in. Joyce Henderson has joyfully offered her downstairs area to welcome the confirmation class on Sunday afternoons.

NEW Sunday School class on the book of Mark starts Jan. 8. Parents and friends who bring youngsters to Sunday School or those younger people seeking a foundational class are eagerly welcome to join me in the Wayside Room on Sundays at 9:35 a.m. (this gives me a chance to check on the children's classes and you time to drop off your kids by 9:30). We'll share coffee, conversation, reflection and prayer as we explore the historical first gospel together. If you have a bible you are welcome to bring it, but we'll have plenty on hand as well.

So, though we are in this period up hurry up and wait, we like the Israelites of old have lessons to learn in the interim. Let us

continue to be prayerful and mindful that each day is a gift, wherever we find ourselves.

Wyndee Holbrook

## Youth News

First off, I want to thank the members of the choir who came caroling with us on the 9th of December. What a beautiful evening! The rest of the evening turned out wonderfully as well. At the lock-in, we decorated Christmas cookies, drank hot chocolate, made Christmas ornaments and watched Christmas movies. Thanks to all the youth who came out and I want to give a special thanks to Alvera, Stephanie, and Deborah who came to help us out and share their time and talents with us for the evening.

I also want to announce that we will be have a confirmation class for the youth starting in February.



This is a great opportunity for the youth to learn about the history and theology of their faith. We want each youth evolved in the class to have an adult mentor from the congregation. If there are youth who are interested in being part of the confirmation class, please don't hesitate to contact us. That goes for any adults interested in mentoring a youth during the class. You can call us at 678-982-1731 or e-mail [chrismckenzie24@aol.com](mailto:chrismckenzie24@aol.com).

Also, in January, we are planning on taking the youth Ice Skating. The date is tentatively set at Jan. 20th, a Friday night. We will most likely need some help with transportation. Volunteering to drive would be a great excuse to get out and go skating on a Friday night!

Grace and Peace to you,  
Chris and Grace McKenzie



Youth Group cookie baking!!!



Christmas Caroling Party!!

