

Christ United Methodist Church 2010 Missional Budget

“A Heart Strangely Warmed”

In 2010, Christ Church is getting back to basics with a focus on salvation. The assurance of one's salvation brings peace and provides a foundation to our everyday lives as Christians. Navig8 to Life showed us that less than 100% of our church feels a total assurance of their salvation. It was and is alarming to learn that not everyone feels surety in their salvation. Our hope for 2010 is to bring the message of salvation and the surety of salvation to the entire congregation and deliver the peace and foundation that motivates us to service in Christ's name.

Our Plan of Ministry

Last year we held 183 worship services where, on an average week, 1118 persons gathered to praise God and hear His Word. 139 persons gave their life to Christ for the first time in those services. We also reached out in new and exciting ways, and one example of that is through our Older Adult Prayer Shawl Ministry:

Bless, also, this yarn and these knitting needles. May any negative energy connected to them be cast away as I cast on.

“That shawl is one of my favorite things,” said my great grandmother, Grammy, who by now was so sick, that it was hard for her to talk. Grammy was talking about the prayer shawl she had gotten from my grandparents' church after she was put on the prayer list. Grammy was sick with cancer at 92. From where I was sitting, I looked at the beautiful, hand-made, crocheted shawl with three beautiful colors, blue, white, and purple, which were laced beautifully together by caring women. The shawl was a light in the darkness, like Jesus on Earth. It reminded me, Grammy, and the rest of the family, that even though we were going through hard times, she will always be with us until her time of passing.

That shawl is so meaningful to everyone in my family. Grammy moved from hospital to hospital, to the ICU, and back to a normal room. Whenever Grammy was making a transition, she always told us that she wanted the shawl with her. A memory I always have with the shawl is whenever I walked into her room to visit her it was always at the foot of the bed. It was like the shawl was telling us that it was going to protect us through the hard times. It was a burst of hope, unlike the color on those boring, ugly, scary white sheets of the hospital bed.

The reason the shawl is so important to me is because I know it was meaningful to Grammy. I believe this reminded her that God, and so many others were with her. When I see that shawl, it reminds me that she wants me not to be sad, but to be happy, because she has moved to something better, a perfect place where she can see her husband in Heaven.

When Grammy did die, she had the shawl at her funeral. When I saw that, a hole in my heart was filled and I felt my heart leap. Grammy was there, not in reality, but there symbolically through a beautiful, hand-crocheted shawl.

While at the “reception”, I asked my grandparents if I could have the shawl. When we were wrapping up, my grandfather came up to me and said, “Mimi (my grandmother), said you wanted this. I think Grammy would've wanted you to have it.” He handed me the shawl and my eyes welled up with tears.

Every night I sleep with the shawl and it reminds me that Grammy will always be with me. ~Emily (12 years old)

In 2010, we want to increase attendance in worship by an average of at least 55 people per week and would like to involve more of our congregation in the ministry of service. We pray for the hearts of our congregation to be “strangely warmed”, completely assured and stirred to desire fulfillment through service.

Budgetary Summary

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| A. | To provide meaningful, life changing worship every week of the year | Budget - <u>\$1,632,094</u> |
| B. | To nurture persons in their faith journey | Budget - <u>\$932,625</u> |
| C. | To witness to our faith in service beyond ourselves | Budget - <u>\$766,085</u> |

Total needed to fulfill our mission of “Creating Disciples for the Transformation of the World” - **3,330,804**

A detailed line item budget is available in the church office for any who wish to review it.