

CUMC JOURNAL

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Greetings</i>	2
<i>Youth Corner</i>	4
<i>A Great Loss Cont'd</i>	5
<i>From Members</i>	6

A GREAT LOSS!

By Alcione Amos



In 2009, Christ United Methodist Church lost a great friend. Virginia Alexander passed away in December leaving a hole in Christ United Methodist fabric. Many older members of

Christ Church will remember that Virginia had been a faithful presence at the church's services until her ill health did not allow her to come anymore. This obituary presents a glimpse at a well lived life.

Virginia Alexander was born sometime in the early 20th century at Houston, in northeast Mississippi. She described the area where she was born as red clay country, and attributed to the red clay of her childhood the desire to never be a "stick-in-the-mud" kind of person. Her maternal grandparents were Danes who came to the United

NEW YEARS GREETING

Happy 2010 Christ Church Family,

We at Christ Church begin the New Year with much hope and anticipation of what the year will bring.

Typically as the days pass our hopes and anticipations begin to weaken. This is why I look to a higher power that is provided through the words of the Holy Bible. Scripture is not simply inspiring, but is inspired by God Himself. It can be the basis for inspiration for all.

For 2010 my scripture passage for inspiration is, Psalm 100:3-4, "Know that the Lord is God. It is He that

made us, and we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture. Enter His gate with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, and bless His name."

This sums up much of what the Christian life is about. That is, we should share the exhilaration and joy of praise as we gather for worship with thanksgiving and praise. Thus, we should look within ourselves and remember that we have more strength and resilience when we put our life in God's hand.

Marvin Martin
Lay Leader

*Know that the
Lord is God.
Psalm 100:3*

GREETINGS FROM YOUR PASTOR

January 2010

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give your a future with hope."

The prophet Jeremiah's words seem so appropriate for the world for this time. We are reminded that indeed we have **promised hope** in our future. I believe this year holds great promises and opportunities for our church and community because we are "called people" who have embraced the things of God. We know and understand that because of our special place in God's plan, our responsibility is great. So many of us have been blessed in our lives, so sharing our faith with our neighbors and one another is just one way of expressing our appreciation to God.

Indeed Jeremiah gives us words to focus our attention on the open doors of opportunity to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ and to strengthen our faith in God. This month can be your starting point to begin your next step in our discipleship journey. Our church committees are planning many opportunities for you to do this, but you can start on your own in the following ways:

- Commit a regular time for prayer and devotion
- Serve at church
- Celebrate small faith victories in your life
- Witness to others about God's grace
- Choose a book from the bible to read and study this year

- Consider making your faith walk, dance, or sing by joining our Disciple Bible Study, dance group, or choir
- Encourage someone every day in their faith walk

I am especially encouraged by the way some members are already taking steps on their discipleship walk with God.

The Disciple Bible Study has two new members and we will begin our Sunday school class on the first Sunday in February. Which discipleship step will you take this year? Will you join us as the "called people" of God in God's plan for your future?

Finally, as we continue to see miraculous recoveries in Haiti, please continue to pray and boldly proclaim these words of the prophet Jeremiah to the people of Haiti.

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give your a future with hope." Thus says the Lord!

Because He Lives,
Rev. Adrienne Terry



This month can be your starting point.

2010 Plans

My regular prayer time is _____.

I will serve in the following new ways:

1.

2.

This year I will study the book of

_____.

CHRIST CHURCH BEGINS NEW STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVE

BY WALLY SNYDER

Our church is has initiated a new stewardship drive to get our members and friends active in our ministries. Our theme is “Giving of Your Time, Yourself and Your Assets.” Our goal is to get 85% of our members and friends involved in a Christ Church program, committee or event during 2010.

We began last November with four of our members – Marva Gumbs, Terri Stroud, George Gilmore and Wally Snyder – speaking during our worship service on what “Stewardship” means to them and how it reflects their Faith. This has been followed up with an ongoing effort to connect members with assignments that are critical to the expansion of our ministries in our church and community.

Committee members Lola Boxley, Betty Gilmore, and Wally Snyder are working with Rev. Terry in inviting members to serve in specific ways. A big part of this activity includes inviting members and friends, who have not been attending church, back to our congregation. Fifteen cards were sent out in January inviting folks back to our worship community. We began to see the positive results the very next week with longtime members returning.

The Committee will identify positions needing to be filled; maintain a list of members and friends to invite to service; and make specific invitations to serve throughout the year. A beginning list of positions open include: an Usher, helpers at the Men’s Breakfast, Adult Sunday School Teachers,

Youth Sunday School Teachers, Chair for a prospective Spring Concert, and Administrative Assistant. If interested please contact Rev. Terry or one of the committee members. We will also be contacting you.

YOUTH CORNER

MISUNDERSTOOD

By: Zandra Smith

They think they know me but I barely
know myself,

day after day I try to find me but it
feels as if I’m walking through hell.

I try to look back at the past things
that happened to me,

to try to find out who I am and who I
could be.

People break me down and hurt me
along the way,

so I just look up to the sky and pray
for better dayz.

I try I really try to understand who I
am,

but the obstacles that I have faced
makes me feel as if I don’t have a
chance.

No words can explain the drama that I
have faced,

at times I can’t find my strength I feel
it was misplaced.

Growing up being abused mentally,
physically, and verbally,
sticks and stones can break my bones
but words can’t hurt me.

Holding back anger and crying does
me no good,

I’m a lost little girl that’s just MISUN-
DERSTOOD.

*Therefore do
not worry,
saying, 'What
shall we eat?' or
'What shall we
drink?' or
'What shall we
wear?' For after
all these things
the Gentiles
seek. For your
heavenly Father
knows that you
need all these
things. But
seek first the
kingdom of
God and His
righteousness,
and all these
things shall be
added to you.*

Matt 6:31-33

A GREAT LOSS (CONT'D)

States and settled in Racine, Wisconsin. Her mother graduated from college in Kirksville, Missouri and went to work as a teacher in Mississippi. There she met Virginia's father, the son of a confederate soldier.

Virginia was a very perceptive and intelligent lady. This was clear even when she gave the salutatorian speech at her high school class in 1932. The address was entitled "The Imminent Danger of Adolph Hitler." This was long before governments in Europe and the United States had started worrying about Hitler who of course was indeed a menace.

Virginia went on to graduate with distinction from Southwestern College in Memphis (now Rhodes College) then spent a year at the University of South Carolina Library School. After that she started a long career as a librarian which took her to the University of South Carolina Library; Florida State College for Women Library at Tallahassee; West Virginia University Library; State Library at Lansing, Michigan; and finally to the Library of Congress from where she retired in 1992 after 25 years of service. At the Library of Congress Virginia was engaged in producing the National Union Catalog of Pre-1955 Imprints. This, for the uninitiated in Library Sciences, was a massive project undertaken to provide scholars with the locations of the books they were looking for. At a time when the Internet was just a glimmer in the eyes of computer programmers, the National Union Catalog was an essential tool for research.

Virginia was a resident of Southwest, D.C., since going to work at the Library of Congress in 1967. She soon

joined Christ United Methodist Church and as noted before was a faithful and active member as long as her health permitted, even after she moved to Thomas House retirement home. Her memory will live in the Church's collective history.

A GREAT BEGINNING

As you know, Diamond Harris attended Livingstone College in North Carolina in the fall. Did you know she recently transferred to Delaware State University, where she joined her sister Pearl? Both young ladies are freshmen. I recently interviewed Diamond and Pearl about college life. Here are excerpts from that interview.

Pearl was stricken with H1N1 virus and was forced to miss two weeks of class in the fall. However, even with the prolonged absence, she was able to make a 2.5 GPA and Diamond made a 3.2. Pearl is determined to pull her grades up this semester. She has changed her major from nursing to criminal justice and is considering a career as an FBI agent. Diamond is still pursuing social work as her major. She has an excellent sociology professor and enjoys that class the most. Pearl's favorite class is her speech class.

College life is full of challenges from time management to money management. Both Diamond and Pearl are learning life lessons from those challenges and are looking forward to graduate school.

He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

—Isaiah 40:29-31

Invictus: A Must See

By Dr. Bettye Yates

"*Invictus*", one of the most interesting, exciting and moving movies of this time hit the big screens throughout the country in December. This movie, well worth seeing, is a true story that will help the world understand one of the many roles Nelson Mandela played during the time of his presidency. It shows one of his many efforts to bring the people of South Africa together after their many years of apartheid and racial separation.

Morgan Freeman, who has already been named for an academy award, played the role of Mandela, accompanied by Matt Damon, who also stands out for his performance as a white rugby player in the film.

The many members of the church who have visited South Africa will certainly be reminded of their experiences in the country as they watch this extraordinary film!

"*Invictus*," a poem written many years ago by William Ernest Henley, was repeated almost daily by Mandela to "hold on" during his many years of imprisonment.

Out of the night that covers me,
Black as the Pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance
I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance
My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears
Looms but the Horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
Finds, and shall find, me unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll.
I am the master of my fate:
I am the captain of my soul.

Adult Sunday School classes begin in February on Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM. We will begin by studying "Three Simple Rules - A Wesleyan Way of Living" by Reueben P. Job. Please contact Wally Snyder for more information.

900 Fourth Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024

Rev. Adrienne Terry
Phone: 202-554-9117
E-mail: christumcdc@yahoo.com

**We're on the
Web!**
www.cumcdc.org