

2016 Annual Celebration


Christ Church United Methodist
January 29, 2017

Cultivating An Adult Faith
God: Beyond the "Good-Only" Paradigm
January 17, 2016



Christ Church United Methodist
A Discipleship Congregation
481 Colorado Blvd., Denver, CO 80202
www.churchofchrist.org
303.733.8789

The Stories of Jesus
The Story of Nativity Week
March 6, 2016




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GOOD FRIDAY
March 25, 2016



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Easter Vigil
March 26, 2016



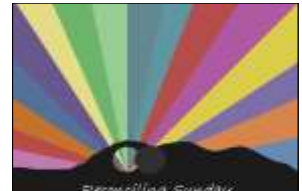
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Easter Sunday
March 27, 2016
Keep the Stone Rolling



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Reconciling Sunday
10th Anniversary
May 1, 2016



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Choosing How to Walk the Path



I Choose to be **Barfing**

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ORDINARY PROPHETS
FOR
ORDINARY TIME



JRD BASE COACH
AUGUST 21, 2016

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REAL Christ Church
A Discipleship United Methodist Community

Abandoned or Gripped?



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Why did Jesus cross the road?



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"Remember the days of youth, the days of your youth."



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Unkward Traditions



November 22, 2016

Christ Church United Methodist
A Discipleship Congregation
481 Colorado Blvd., Denver, CO 80202
www.churchofchrist.org
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The Christmas Gifts
December 24, 2016
5:00pm



Christ Church United Methodist
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Christmas Eve
December 24, 2016
7:00 to 9:00pm



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Celebration Of Our Community in 2016

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Christ Church United Methodist
A Reconciling Congregation
690 Colorado Blvd, Denver 80206
ChristChurchColorado.org 303-322-0784

Identity



Relating. Engaging. Advocating. Learning.

Christ Church is a community of faith seeking to be REAL.

We believe all **R**elationships matter.

We believe the call of Christians is to **E**ngage the community within and around.

We believe we are **A**dvocates for justice.

And together we are **L**earning what we believe
and putting it into practice.

Mission Statement

A thoughtful Christian community seeking relationship, offering grace, questioning faith, and striving for personal and social wholeness.

Reconciling Statement

Christ Church United Methodist is called to the ministry of reconciliation, as asserted in **the United Methodist Book of Discipline. We celebrate our human family's diversity of** sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, age, faith history, economic status, marital status, physical & mental ability, and educational background.

We affirm that all people are created in the image of God, and as beloved children of God, **are worthy of God's unconditional love and grace. We welcome the full inclusion of all** people in the life and ministries of Christ Church United Methodist as we journey toward personal and social reconciliation and transformation, calling out the gifts of all.

We embrace as a gift the diversity of our congregation. We recognize that there are differences among us, but believe that we can love alike even though we may not think alike. We invite all people to join us in our faith journey toward greater love, understanding and mutual respect.

New Members



January, 2016
Billy G., and Laura C., (constituents),
Lauren D., Sajad A., Shima A., Raad A.,
Jamie G., David O. Also shown Idrees A.,
Rasha A., and Mustafa A. (preparatory)



April, 2016
Scott L., Kim L., Sue F., Bart S., Sara S.,
Kenneth C., Michelle M., Abigail B.,
Ronnie S., and Barb P. Also shown
Jordan L. and Justice L. (preparatory)



June, 2016
Jessica A., Mario A., Kat H., Andy
M., Keith B., (constituent) and
Patrick D. (constituent)



November, 2016
Michael S., Traci P., Emily R.,
Devin L. H. Also shown Finn S.
(preparatory)

Not Pictured:
Derek C., Abby D., Chuck Y., and Jeff W.

Baptisms



Olivia B.



Jordan L.



Sarah P.



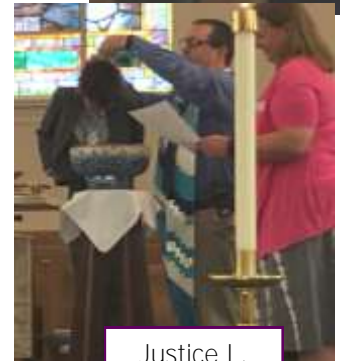
Lauren D.



Samuel C.



Gavin D.



Justice L.

Deaths in our community



Francis Derick
9/6/1910 - 5/5/2016



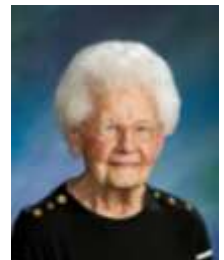
Howard Peterson
9/2/1946 - 11/19/2016



Jeanette Knepper
7/4/1934 - 11/2/2016



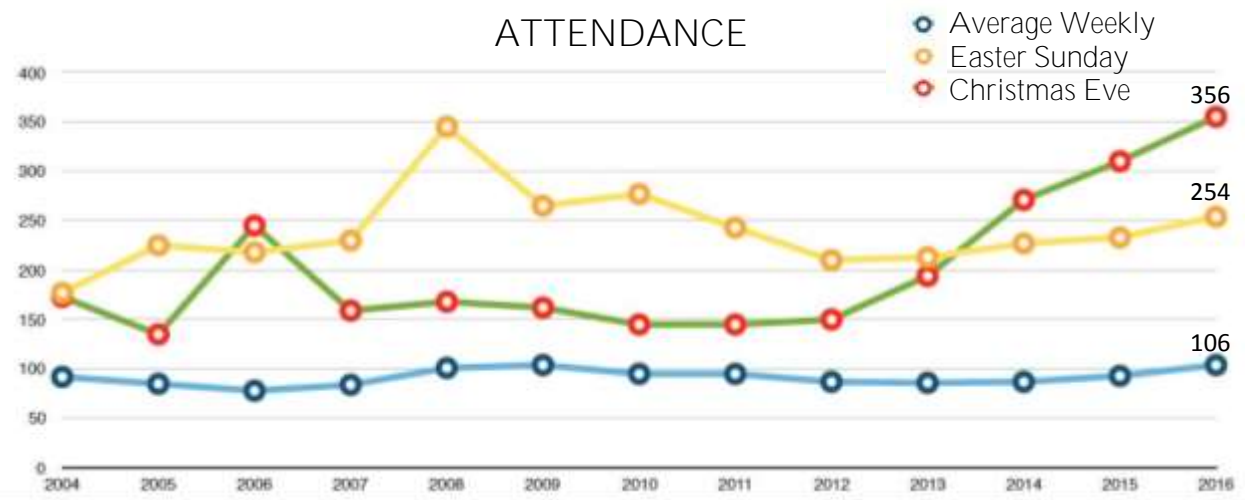
Don Statler
1/13/1935 - 12/7/2016



Ruth Breningstall
4/29/1916 - 12/26/2016

Worship Attendance and Membership Comparison

How to use: The graphs compare data from the past 10+ years. There are many ways to compare the growth of our community. The top graph compares Christmas Eve, Easter, and weekly Sunday worship attendance. The bottom graph compares annual number of baptisms and new members. The 2016 average weekly worship attendance (106 people) was up 11% over 2015.



Connectionalism

Religious Leaders

Christ Church is unique in that we are blessed to have many ministry professionals and ordained clergy representing diverse religious fields who extend the connections of Christ Church.

Rev. Dr. Gene Tucker. Dr. Tucker is a retired professor of Old Testament from Candler School of Theology and Elder from the Northwest Texas Annual Conference.

Rev. Eric Nelson. Rev. Nelson is a retired Lutheran pastor serving the Christ Church community as our visitor connector.

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Mahan. Rev. Mahan is Professor of Ministry, Media, and Culture at the Iliff School of Theology.

Dr. William Dean. Dr. Dean is a retired Professor of Constructive Theology at the Iliff School of Theology.

Dr. Katherine Turpin. Dr. Turpin is the Associate Dean of Curriculum and Assessment and Associated Professor of Religious Education at the Iliff School of Theology.

Andy Millman. Andy is Young People's Ministry Developer & Mission & Ministry Projects Coordinator for the Rocky Mountain Annual Conference.

Charmaine Robledo. Charmaine is Director of Communications for the Mountain Sky Areas encompassing both the Rocky Mountain Annual Conference and the Yellowstone Annual Conference.

Andy Blackmun. Andy is the Executive Director of Ring Lake Ranch, a sacred retreat center in the majestic Wind River Mountains of Wyoming.

Guest Preachers in 2016

In 2016 we were blessed to have these preachers share the word of God with us. A special thanks to Rev. Megan for accepting the challenge of preaching while Rev. Eric was on paternity leave.

Rev. Megan Armstrong

Intern, Angela Heesacker

Rev. Elizabeth Jackson, In The World

Rev. Jerry Hershops, Afterhours Denver

Rev. Julian Rush, Reconciling Sunday Preacher

Rev. Jim Mitulski, MCC Pastor

Bishop Karen Oliveto, Resident Bishop, Mtn. Sky Area

Candidate for Ministry

In November 2016, Christ Church formally welcomed Angela Heesacker as a discerning candidate for ministry. Angie voluntarily left this process in late 2015 in response to not being able to live fully into the challenge of authentic identity in the UMC. And then everything changed in 2016, for Angie and the church. Angie has spoken about her call not to live as a victim, but to challenge the system and stand authentically into her call from God to be ordained in the United Methodist Church. Angie will go before the District Committee on Ministry in February and continue her process work. Pray for **her as she navigates the arduous process and follows God's call on her life.**



Angela Heesacker

Administrative Reports

Administrative Council

contributed by Rev. Eric Strader

The Church Council had conversations around some tough strategic topics:

- Sunday morning growth and new worship service avenues
- General Conference fallout and work
- Marketing strategies
- Leadership needs related to visitors and growth strategies
- Cash flow challenges and responses
- Understanding the church sociological type and why it matters for our growth changes
- What does it mean to be community? Maintaining our core values as our identity and diversity is changed.

After 19 years, the Church Council has crafted a new mission statement. Although it may be tweaked here and there, its core captures the identity and purpose of Christ Church.

“A thoughtful Christian community seeking relationship, offering grace, questioning faith, and striving for personal and social wholeness.”

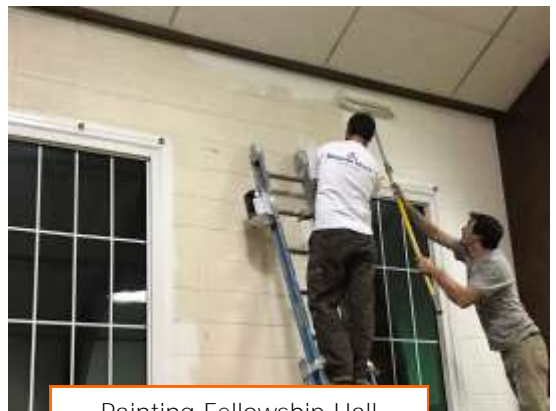
And a new tag line, REAL

Relating
Engaging
Advocating
Learning.

These conversations were challenging, but rewarding work for your leadership. Our success is exciting and we believe it is vital to celebrate it. Rarely do we witness institutionalized, older, existing congregations transform into innovative organizations responding with relevance to both the community inside these walls and the world surrounding.

Christ Church United Methodist Trustees Tasks Completed 2016

- Organized church cleanup days both inside and outside
- Hung, repaired, and removed outside banners throughout the year
- Restriped parking lot
- Trimmed bushes
- Gutter cleaning over Fellowship Hall
- Maintained ongoing relationships with all building tenants
- Signed a lease for a new tenant renting upstairs office for her spiritual direction practice
- Replaced lights over walkway leading from south parking lot to church
- Scheduled boiler and air handling system annual maintenance
- **Negotiated an exchange of parking space for Trader Joe's employees for flowers**
- Replaced refrigerator, two faucets, and bathroom sink in south apartment
- Negotiated a new parking agreement for Snooze and Anthony's employees with new owners of building at 700 Colorado Blvd.
- Met with elevator maintenance company to discuss problems with service. Researched and negotiated contract with new elevator maintenance contractor for 2017.
- Researched new snow removal companies and signed a contract with new company for 2016-2017 snow removal season
- Repaired lock needed to create Gender Neutral bathroom in the basement
- Responded to small fire caused by short circuiting heat trace. Trace repaired in 2017.
- Had Fellowship Hall and adjoining halls to Narthex and entrance painted
- Repaired broken garbage disposal
- Organized fall raking and clean up of leaves
- Upgrades to sound systems in sanctuary and fellowship hall
- Upgraded TV in youth room
- Placed TV in Narthex
- TV purchased for Upper Room, hung in 2017
- Met with potential new preschool; met with Fire Department to determine needed changes to make the space meet new fire code requirements; met with contractors to price needed sprinkler systems and determined the costs were too high to feasibly make necessary modifications.
- Started swamp coolers in spring, drained and shut down in fall
- Performed monthly elevator fire safety inspection
- Worked with locksmith to maintain functioning of both interior and exterior doors
- Working with roofers to get estimates to mitigate water damage over main entrance and to make changes to eliminate water issues in Sacristy and in basement below Sanctuary
- Ongoing discussions about future building maintenance and replacement budgeting and needs



Painting Fellowship Hall

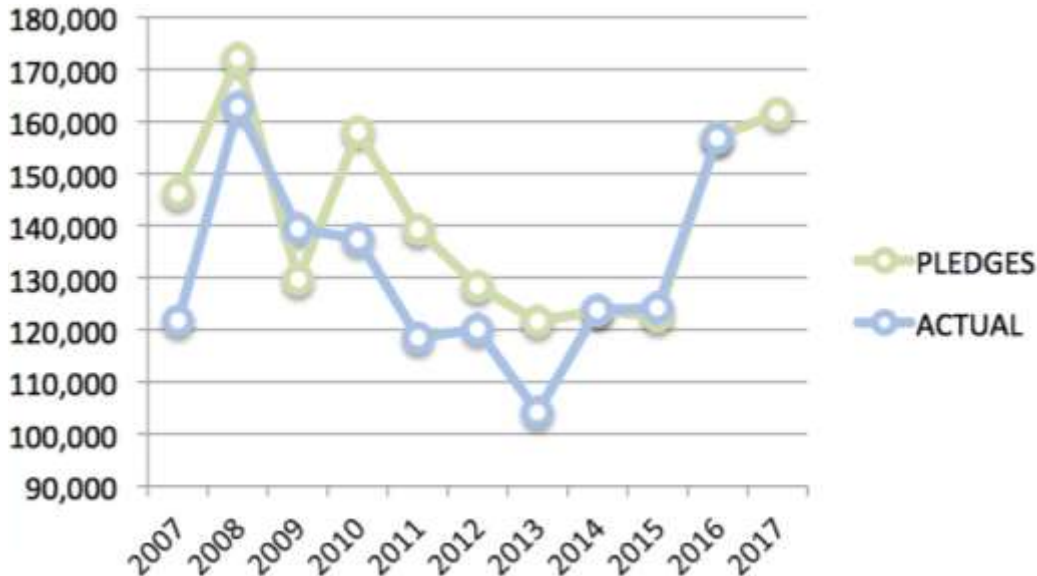
2017 BUDGET: INCOME



Income for 2017 will remain much the same as in 2016, with increases in pledging being offset by decreases in both Other Income and Non-pledge income.

Since so many more regular attendees are pledging now, we anticipate less non-pledge income.

CHRIST CHURCH PLEDGE COMPARISON



From 2014 on, our congregation has been very faithful about their pledges. In 2016, CCUM received 101% of the amount pledged!

2017 BUDGET: EXPENSE



Total Expense increase of 20.7%, almost all of which is from Personnel.

Personnel increase of \$53K reflects funding of roughly \$20K for Megan, \$12K for accompanist, \$6K for Social Justice Coordinator, and increases of \$8K for Rebecca and \$7K for the combination of added nursery workers hours and a cost of living increase for all employees (first in 3 years).

Building increase is less than 1%, indicating that we dialed in the Building category well when we increased it \$20K last year.

IMPORTANT TAKE AWAYS

Several years ago we greatly reduced our expenditures across the board, cutting each budget area to the bone in order to reduce our deficit.

Last year we adjusted the building fund upwards by over \$20K to more accurately address yearly needs—**we’re dialed in the building funding now.**

This year we’re adjusting the personnel funding upwards by over \$40K to reflect our increased child care, music, and administrative workload to get it dialed in for the coming year.

In 2017 we should have all components of the budget fully funded, and with continued growth will continue toward our ultimate goal of a balanced budget.

FINAL THOUGHTS

We want to balance the budget, but

- not by short changing our staff.

- not by having unrealistically low budget estimates that result in our “busting the budget” from the get-go.**

- not by sacrificing our ministry.

- not by hampering our growth trajectory.

Lay Leadership

contributed by Rev. Eric Strader, Chair

2016 saw the end of our three-year experiment with the seasonal planning teams. Lay Leadership invited the Church Council to continue the seasonal planning process with some minor shifts; adding an intentional justice component and representation, and increasing the number of laity on each team. All are welcome, see John Simmons or Rev. Eric to sign-up for a team in 2017.

Seasonal planning teams in 2016

- Outside Banner Board inviting responses and connection with the wider community.
- Parable engagement. 61 participants in small groups.
- 3 World Cafés to welcome new members and meet new people
- Wills workshop, 35 in attendance
- Joint Good Friday worship with MCC of the Rockies and 6th St. UCC
- Potlucks and meals
- Hospitality during the election offered to hundreds of voters
- Christmas Pageant
- **UMM Men's breakfast at Scott UMC**
- **Great education conversations in Adult Seminar and Pastor's class.**
- Great Worship Themes & Experiences

Sara and Steven organized hospitality for hundreds of voters



Engaging Teams

Music Ministry

contributed by Larry Brown

In addition to singing this year's "double-double" -- two Easter and Christmas Eve services -- the Chancel Choir also sang for Holy Week services, funerals, and other special services. Increased choir participation has expanded the range and complexity of the music available to them, as they so aptly demonstrated in the five anthems they presented on Christmas Eve.

Summertime activities were designed for personal expression/growth, and we enjoyed several fine solo and ensemble performances featuring our newest/bravest as well as seasoned solo or one-on-a-part singers. Nothing is quite so exciting as watching someone move from "I think I can" to "I knew I could," and the summertime performers certainly reached for the stars.

Youth support: Larry and Angie played the youth group's "mobile" Holy Saturday service on guitars and e-keyboard, and the Christian Education "village" musically supported the wonderful Christmas pageant in so many ways.

What an ambience that live string music creates! Patricia MacQueen delighted all of us with harp music in the narthex last summer and again during Advent, and we're especially grateful to her for sharing her gift with us. Returning again for Christmas Eve this year was the string quartet that Lois Owsley so capably garnered and rehearsed, as making music with them was certainly one of the musical highlights of my year.

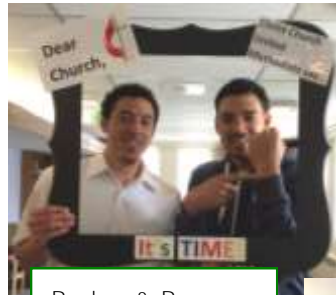
Social Justice

contributed by Rev. Eric Strader

- An Act of Love Screening: The Story of Rev. Frank Schaefer
- Collected school supplies for The Action Center
- “Dear Church, It’s Time” photos
- Rainbow Alley Meals
- Pride Parade
- Pride Parade Worship Service
- Habitat for Humanity Work Days
- Project Angel Heart Dinner
- Crop Walk
- MLK Marade
- Reconciling Sunday
- Advent giving
- Collected books for our children’s library
- Conversation with Muslim partners
- Collected coffee cups for Network Coffeehouse
- Orlando Pulse Club shooting ecumenical worship service
- Worlds AIDS Day worship service with Center for Health and Hope
- DenUM Ingathering - Thanksgiving meal collection
- Homeless weekend - Conversation with Rev. Laura Rossbert about the reality and complexity of homelessness
- UMW Mitten Tree
- Souper Bowl of Caring - United in Orange - food drive for DenUM
- Refugee Outreach Clothing Kids
- Clergy presence at DAPL in South Dakota
- General Conference organizing
- Jurisdictional Conference organizing
- “We’re glad you’re our neighbor” Yard Signs - Metro Denver and sent to Roanoke, VA, Boston, MA., Wichita, KS, Niwot, CO., Vail, CO, Austin, TX, and Boise, ID



Frank Schaefer movie screening



Broton & Bronson
“It’s Time!”

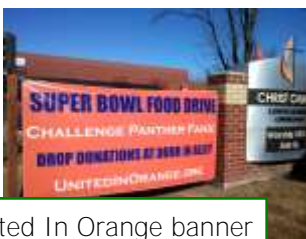


Kyle and Michael—“It’s Time!”



Denver Pride Parade

DGMC singing Reconciling Sunday



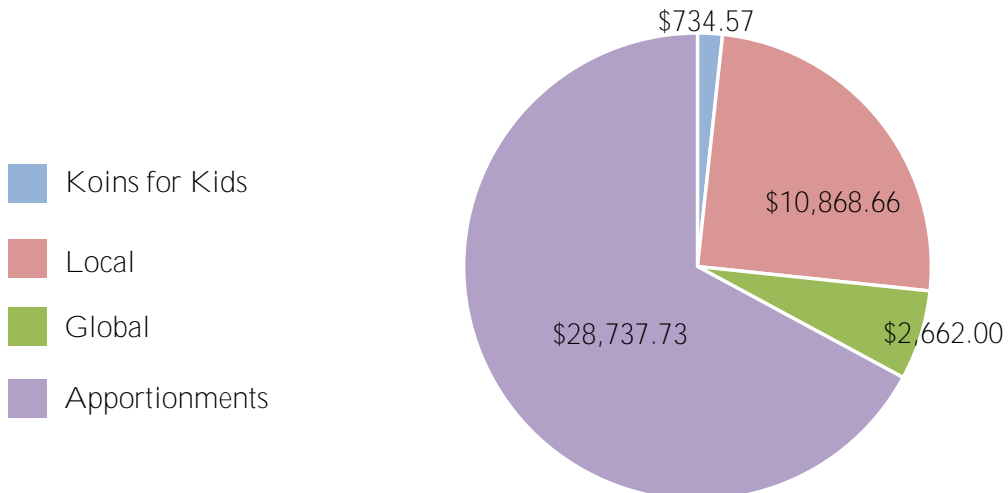
United In Orange banner



2016 Benevolences

Koins for Kids	Pura-Vida - Ingrid Education Support	\$478.00
	Thanksgiving Meals	\$150.00
	CROP Hunger Walk	\$106.57
Local	Inner City Parish	\$220.00
	Warren Village	\$380.28
	DenUM	\$325.00
	The Delores Project	\$2,697.53
	The Interfaith Alliance of Colorado	\$250.00
	The Center, LGBT Denver	\$500.00
	Habitat for Humanity	\$5,000.00
	Rainbow Alley	\$308.00
	CROP Hunger Walk	\$250.00
	The Gender Identity Center	\$250.00
	UM Student Day, Iliff	\$505.85
Global	UMCOR	\$2,122.00
	Center for Health and Hope	\$540.00
Apportionments	Mission and Ministry	\$28,737.73
Total 2016 Benevolences		\$42,820.96

CCUM donated a total of 655 pounds of food to DenUM in 2016. Following Feeding America's guidelines for valuing food donations of \$1.72 per pound, our donation is valued at \$1,126.75.



Comparison of Prior Benevolences

	2016	2015	2014	2013
Koins for Kids	\$735	\$878	\$704	\$1,072
Local	\$10,687	\$9,479	\$7,428	\$15,550
Global	\$2,662	\$1,513	\$2,427	\$1,992
Apportionments	\$28,738	\$25,269	\$23,774	\$22,220
TOTAL	\$42,821	\$36,655	\$34,333	\$40,934

Total benevolences in 2016 increased 16% over total benevolences in 2015.

United Methodist Women

contributed by Margaret Simmons

United Methodist Women is all about faith, support for each other and working to better the lives of women, children and youth locally and around the world (missions). In round numbers, during 2016 we gave \$1500 to United Methodist Women missions and \$1040 to local missions (Denver Inner City Parish, Denver Urban Matters, Warren Village, Metro Caring, Safe House, the Delores **Project, and CCUM pastor's emergency fund**), as well as **collecting and delivering many items for UMCOR and Denver Inner City Parish** from the whole church. Our Valentine Tea, Summer Brunch and Christmas party were well attended. The summer brunch program included a report by two members on their mission experience. We helped organize the Appreciation Brunch to honor and thank the people who regularly help at CCUM (Sunday School teachers, choir, ushers, fellowship hour servers, greeters, etc.) and the International Potluck, and served two receptions. Our two circles meet regularly for discussion and learning. Through our Leadership Team for Mission, all 44 members are regularly contacted, especially those not able to regularly participate. Membership is always by choice and open to members and non-members of the church.



Worship and the Arts

contributed by John W. Simmons

Throughout the year, the worship experiences of the community are identified and outlined by the seasonal ministries planning teams and the pastoral staff. Along with many others, Worship and the Arts acts largely behind the scenes to support the requirements that make worship come to life in a meaningful way. This includes not only the people and props necessary for worship experiences (and there are many of each), but also general planning, budgeting, direction, and evaluation as we strive to provide REAL worship experiences as part of our Christ Church ministry. 2016 was just that.



Maundy Thursday
Worship



Easter Sunday

Wesley Covenant Sunday
communion with historical
communion ware



Maverick Care Team

contributed by Kenita Gibbins

The goal of the Mavericks of Christ Church is to keep our people linked to the heart of the church.

We have suffered hard times over the last year as life happens and life ends. We said good-bye to Francis Derick, Jeanette Knepper, Howard Peterson, Don Statler, and Ruth Breningstall. Way too many of our friends have been hit hard with cancer. We send them our love and thoughts. They are blowing in the wind.

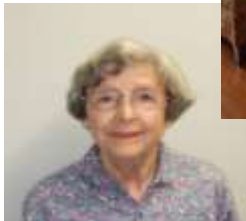
The Mavericks will rally again as they pick themselves up. We are blessed that Marilyn Degginger, Irma Simpson and Eloise Edwards still need connection.

As a Community of Faith we will hold tightly to each other. That is our way.

Jane S. and Eloise
Edwards



Jane S. and Kenita G.
visiting with Irma Simpson



Marilyn Degginger

Adult Education

Adult Seminar Topics:

- The Neuroscience of Religious Experience
- Introduction to Buddhism
- And Introduction to African Religions
- Lessons Learned at Iliff
- Becoming People of the Book
- Successful Aging
- **God is the celebration of 'yes'**
- Standing at the Narrow Door: The Wealth of the Church, the Care of the Poor, and the Fate of the Soul in Early Christianity
- Religious/Ethical Issues in Women's Health
- Artificial Intelligence and the Soul
- Reconciling Sunday
- China's One Child Policy
- Religious Conflict in Ancient China
- A New Conversation on Islam
- Individual vs. Society: Health Care Ethics in the 21st century
- Islam and Violence
- Islam/Muslims in the US
- What I believe
- The Pope's teaching on "Building the Human City"
- Denver—is growth enough? What role might the Christian churches play in "building the human city"
- The Politics of Jesús: Christology with an Accent
- Chinese Concepts of Nature and Human Nature
- What I Think I Believe
- The Dalai Lama of Tibet

Thank you to Seminar Coordinators: Patricia Dean, William Dean, Carol Everett, Joan Foster, Don Smith, Jane Smith, and Gene Tucker.

Pastor's Conversation Topics:

- Conversation on *Lamb: The Story of Jesus' Best friend Biff*
- General Conference Conversation
- Hard Topics - Safe Spaces
 - Muslims in America
 - Framework for holy conversation
 - Methodists & the Middle way
 - Death Penalty
 - Responses to Charleston
 - Homelessness
 - Physician-assisted Suicide
- Conflict in Family
- Commercials and Christmas

Children's Ministry



Sunday School Kick Off



Children's Moment

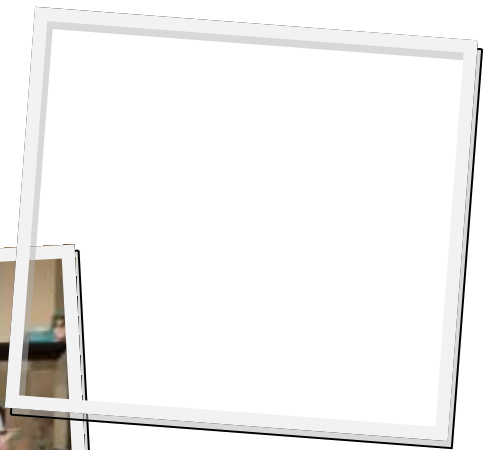


Sunday School Kick Off



KidSpace Sunday School

Youth Ministry



Homelessness Lock-In



Mission and Immersion Trip to Nebraska and South Dakota

Christ Church Staff



Pastor, Rev. Eric Strader



Minister to Families,
Rev. Megan Armstrong



Director of Music, Larry Brown



Church Administrator,
Rebecca Bourgeois



Iliff Intern, Austin Piper



Bookkeeper, Joan Camus



Organist, Jeb Barrett



Childcare, Karen Kuykendoll



Childcare, Essie Horne