

**Financial Notes**

October 11, 2009

Total Deposit	\$2,075.00
Audio/Visual	\$190.00
Reconciliation Off.	\$40.00
Rent	\$70.00
Needed per week	-\$3,132

**How to Reach Us**

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[www.uppermidwestcc.org](http://www.uppermidwestcc.org)

Christian Church in the Upper Midwest

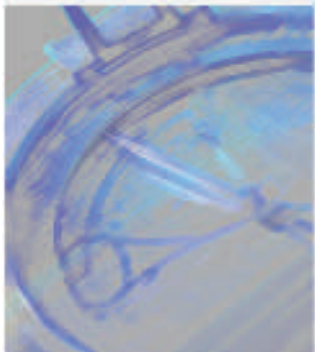
[www.disciples.org](http://www.disciples.org)

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

**Remember to  
Fall Back  
November 1!**



Welcome to the online version of the compass,  
our church newsletter!



# the COMPASS

“Stand at the crossroads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths.” Jeremiah 6:16

Empowered by the Spirit—living with the fruits of the Spirit

Volume 1 Issue 33  
October 21, 2009

*“By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. . . If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.” (Galatians 5:22, 25)*

Ahh...it's Fall and the sounds of stewardship are in the air! There's talk of covenant forms, pledges, financial needs, gifts, talents and budgets. Some people may cringe, but I think it's a great time to be in the church and talk of such things! Especially when we make important connections and speak not only of gifts, but **spiritual gifts**.

This year I'd like to broaden that even more as we speak not only of spiritual gifts, but spiritual fruits as well. I shared on Sunday one of my favorite bumper stickers which sums it up well, **“God wants spiritual fruits, not religious nuts.”** The fruits of the Spirit are at the heart of a biblical faith that saw a new community formed by the presence and action of God's Spirit. It didn't happen by magic, as may be our common misconception. It happened when gifted individuals stepped forward, spoke up and acted out of faith with the gifts with which they had been blessed.

Guess what? It still works that way. The church doesn't operate by magic, it operates on the faith of people like us, stepping forward, speaking up, offering what meager gifts we have and trusting that against all odds, they are enough. And finding out, by God, they are more than enough!

So join me in a rich harvest of spiritual fruits this stewardship season. Exercise your gifts, and together we'll discover the fruits that abound in the Grace of God.

covenant  
christian  
church



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Peace, Paul Witmer

**Communication** is a core value at Covenant Christian Church. Having recently spent some time working on the church's website and getting it up and running (see covenant-christian.org), I have **communication** issues on my mind. **Communication** is a core necessity for every living organism and all living organizations. And central to our issue of communication, is not just *what* gets communicated, but *how* it gets communicated. Consider some of these truths about healthy leaders as they apply to us as Christians: Healthy Leaders: focus on mission and strengths. . . Talk to each other not about each other . . . Accept differences . . . Maintain openness not secrecy . . . Stay connected . . . You can see how healthy **communication** is so essential to us all.

true north

...journey up.

### "Building the Body of Christ: From Gifts to Fruits"

Stewardship: The free and grateful response of Christians in managing all God's resources for God's purposes.

Sunday, November 1, during worship we will present God our covenant forms and giving commitment cards.

Let us continue to be open to God's Spirit leading us to new challenges and higher levels of giving.

Sunday, November 22, we will have a congregational meeting to vote on our mission and ministry budget, which will be based on our projected giving for next year. Following the meeting, we will celebrate with a Thanksgiving luncheon and potluck. The meat dish will be furnished.

**October 25<sup>th</sup>** – "Led by the Spirit – Exercising Gifts of the Spirit" (Romans 12:4-8)

**November 1<sup>st</sup>** – "Empowered by the Spirit – Living with Fruits of the Spirit" (Galatians 5:22-26)

Karen Vroman  
2009 Stewardship Committee Chair

#### Welcome Our Guest Preachers In November!

We have several opportunities to welcome guest preachers in our midst this month. For Stewardship Sunday, **November 1**, we are blessed to hear from **Don Hiscox**, regional minister and member of Covenant.

**Carmen Lampe Zeitler**, executive director of Children and Family Urban Ministries will be with us **November 8** to share the good news.

**Stephanie Haskins**, associate pastor at Plymouth UCC will be preaching on **November 15**.



#### Birthdays & Anniversaries November

##### BIRTHDAYS

Kaylan Avaux	11/1	Helen Crew	11/2
Pat Murray	11/3	Christine Young-Denny	11/4
Esmé Young	11/5	Russ Lundy	11/6
Jerry Bane	11/10	Dee McCaleb	11/15
Bob Avaux	11/21	Calvin Young	11/22
Marie Long	11/27	Scott Shellenberger	11/28
Betty Lou Lundy	11/29	Joe Hildebrand	11/29

##### ANNIVERSARIES

Rhonda & Scott Roach 11/2

...journey in.

#### IN OUR RAYERS

Jayde Hildebrand Paul Ratashak  
David Etzel Olin Shane  
Tommie Warwick

#### NOTES AND NEWS

- Thanks to all who helped with Sack Saturday (October 10), especially. We sold 72 sacks and 147 individual items of food. Additionally, **\$232.15** was collected in cash. This is the largest number of sacks sold in any of the 20 stores during this event, so you all need to pat yourselves on the back for a job well done.
- **Olin Shane** is recovering at home following by-pass surgery.

#### Thank You

Thank you for the prayers, cards, and kindness received at the untimely death of my brother, Jimmy.

Jackie and Don Benson and Family

...journey out.

#### Children and Family Urban Ministry (known to us as "Trinity Meal-Site")

Thought you might enjoy some of the expressions of gratitude from those who benefit from the work at CFUM:

*"It's nice to have a good meal...THANK YOU!"*

*"God bless you for your help, a lot of people appreciate it."*

*"It is good to see people come together on both the producing and consuming dimension; a delightful experience."*

*"Without the supper club my children would not get enough to eat."*

#### Interfaith Hospitality Network

**November 1-7** is the next scheduled week that Urbandale UCC will be hosting homeless families for the Interfaith Hospitality Network. Members of Covenant Christian Church partner with the UCC church to help set up rooms for the week's guests, prepare evening meals, serve meals, and stay overnight at the church. To volunteer for one or more of these activities, call Tara, **church secretary at UCC, 276-0625**.