

COVENANT CHRISTIAN CHURCH
 (Disciples of Christ)
 2700 72nd Street
 Urbandale, IA 50322

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 Des Moines, Iowa
 Permit 1586

ADDRESS SERVICE
 REQUESTED

Visitors
 Bill Hagen
 Jim & Janice Cord
 Mae & Ted Wall
 Kathryn Nichols
 Laura Brubaker
 Muriel Pemble
 Eric, Tad & Jonah Guy

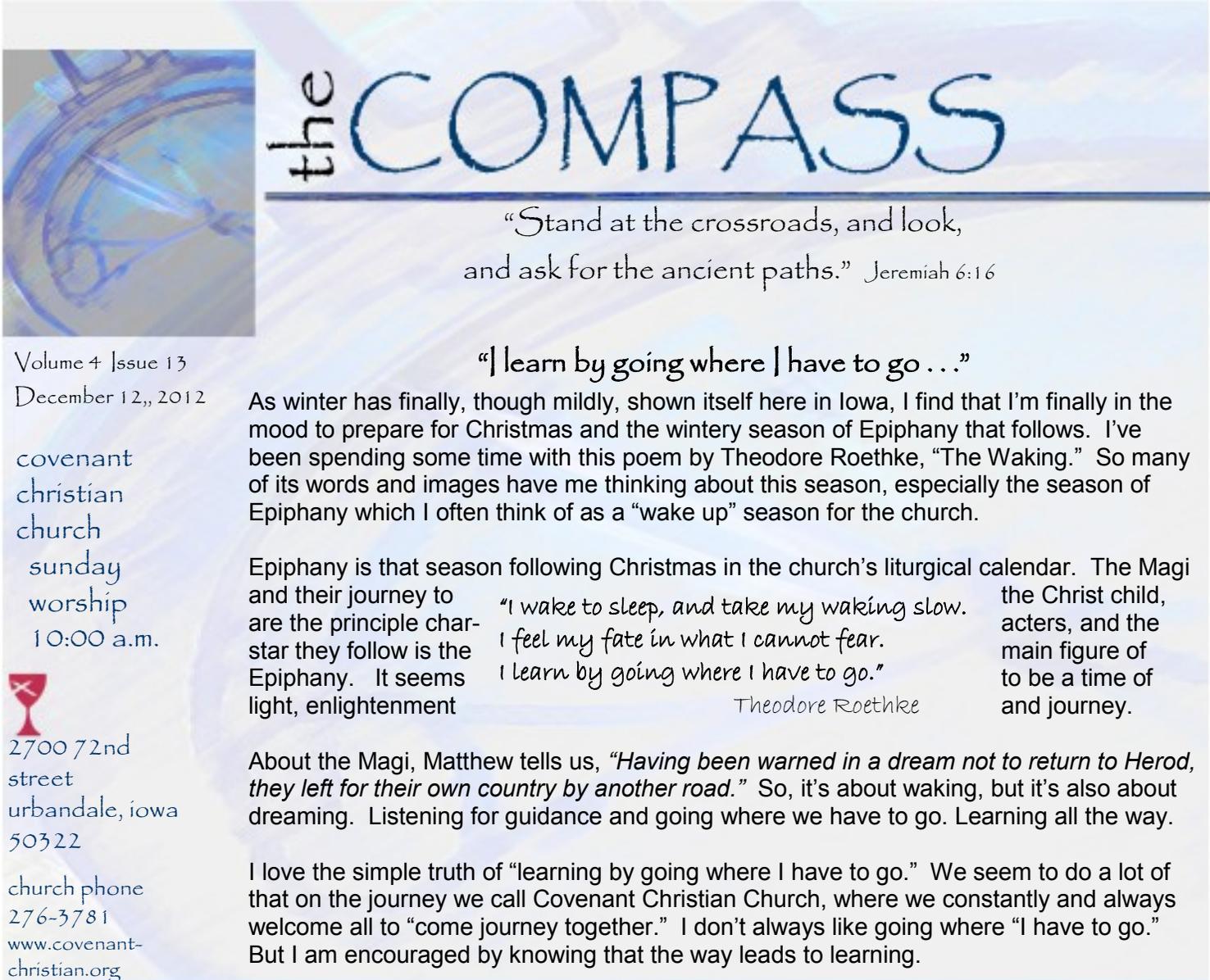
Attendance
 Sunday, Nov. 25 Worship 60
 Sunday, Dec. 2 Worship 55
 Sunday, Dec. 9 Worship 54

Financial Notes
 Nov. 25, 2012 \$306.00
 Total Deposit
 Dec. 2, 2012 \$4,136.00
 Total Deposit
 Dec. 9, 2012 \$5,321.25
 Total Deposit

How to Reach Us
 Church Phone 515-276-3781
 FAX 515-253-0174
 pwitmer@covenant-christian.org
 blundy@covenant-christian.org
 church@covenant-christian.org
 www.covenant-christian.org

www.uppermidwestcc.org
 Christian Church in the Upper Midwest
www.disciples.org

*The next newsletter will be mailed on
 Wednesday, January 23.
 Articles to be submitted by
 Monday, January 21.*



the COMPASS

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

“I learn by going where I have to go . . .”

As winter has finally, though mildly, shown itself here in Iowa, I find that I’m finally in the mood to prepare for Christmas and the wintery season of Epiphany that follows. I’ve been spending some time with this poem by Theodore Roethke, “The Waking.” So many of its words and images have me thinking about this season, especially the season of Epiphany which I often think of as a “wake up” season for the church.

Epiphany is that season following Christmas in the church’s liturgical calendar. The Magi and their journey to are the principle character they follow is the Christ child, the Magi, and the main figure of Epiphany. It seems to be a time of light, enlightenment and journey.

“I wake to sleep, and take my waking slow.
 I feel my fate in what I cannot fear.
 I learn by going where I have to go.”
 Theodore Roethke

About the Magi, Matthew tells us, “Having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.” So, it’s about waking, but it’s also about dreaming. Listening for guidance and going where we have to go. Learning all the way.

I love the simple truth of “learning by going where I have to go.” We seem to do a lot of that on the journey we call Covenant Christian Church, where we constantly and always welcome all to “come journey together.” I don’t always like going where “I have to go.” But I am encouraged by knowing that the way leads to learning.

Volume 4 Issue 13
 December 12,, 2012

covenant
 christian
 church
 sunday
 worship
 10:00 a.m.


 2700 72nd
 street
 urbandale, iowa
 50322

church phone
 276-3781
 www.covenant-
 christian.org

May we continue to learn by going, and grow by learning. In Christ, Paul Witmer

We are spiritual seekers working to grow in our love of God,
 deepening our connection to each other and
 sharing with the world our passion for justice and peace.

... journey up. . . to grow in our love of God.

Christmas Eve Candlelight

6:00 p.m.

Join us for our traditional **Christmas Eve** worship service with communion and candlelight on **Monday, December 24, at 6:00 p.m.** This will be a time of celebration with Christmas carols, the Christmas story, and an opportunity to share communion as the greatest Christmas gift of all.

Meditation in Motion

Saturday, January 5, 2013

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Retreat Ministry of Covenant Christian Church continues to offer a variety of unique retreat experiences for growth in the spiritual journey. Come experience an afternoon of yoga, breath and meditation with teachers from Shakti Yoga Shop, Des Moines.

This afternoon yoga retreat is designed for people of all levels of experience. Bring your own mat if you have one, or one will be provided. Bring a blanket or wrap if you are able. Contact Paul Witmer to register or for more information.

The Retreat Ministry of Covenant Christian Church is very grateful for a generous grant from the Christian Church in the Upper Midwest to help support this ministry.

Coming Soon:

The Ancient Practice of Lectio Divina

February 9, 2013

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

... journey out. . . sharing with the world our
 passion for justice and peace.

2012 Christmas Offering

Below are examples of a portion of the many ministries that your Christmas Offering support:

- Camp!!
- Supporting Congregations searching for a new pastor.
- The Pastoral care and support of the 300 + clergy serving or retired in the Upper Midwest.
- Feeding hundreds in a crime-ridden neighborhood at First Christian Church, Sioux Falls, SD.
- Sponsoring a Region-wide Young Adult Retreat at Lake Rathbun, and a Senior Adult Retreat at the Christian Conference Center.
- Holding the School for Congregational Learning at two sites this year: Des Moines and Minneapolis, Supporting various new Ministries shared between congregations!

100% of Your Christmas offering stays in this Region, and have impacted the lives of thousands of people throughout this region and beyond. Through your generous gifts we are excited to do even more in the coming year! Thank you for your generosity.

... journey in. . . deepening our connection
 to each other.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Jayde Hildebrand
 Paul Ratashak
 Shirlee Holmes

NOTES & NEWS

- Dear Covenant - I and my family are grateful to all of you who helped to make my mother's memorial a special time. We are thankful to see her remembered. - **Tom & Jennie Mace**
- With gratitude, we welcome **Loren Strait** to the pulpit at Covenant Christian. Loren will be preaching on **January 13** while Paul is on vacation.
- Thanks for helping me celebrate my 50th birthday surrounded by great people and good times! With your generous help, we were able to buy more than a cow through Heifer Project! It is a blessing to have your love and support, Paul Witmer
- Paul will be on vacation, January 10-15.

Implementation News

Journey Teams are finding their legs and beginning to provide ministry in ways that are both consistent with the past, while also exploring new ways of being in ministry. The Hanging of the Greens was an example of that work! We are also in the process of implementing a new way of putting together the "serving schedule" allowing members more access to the process of volunteering to serve in the myriad of ways that you serve. You will notice that there is no serving schedule included in this newsletter. Look for it to appear in different form in the weeks to come.

2013 Board

Many thanks to those who have offered to serve on the 2013 Board: Geoff Wall, Chair; Dana Schock, Chair-elect; Brad Lair, Past Chair; Julie McClatchey, Secretary; Jay Sohn, Financial Officer; Kristin Warwick, Treasurer; Drue Cavanaugh, Member at Large.



January

BIRTHDAYS

Hal Rusk	1/1	Conner Wharff	1/1
Jeff Ratashak	1/2	Edgar Smith	1/5
Gwena Nash	1/11	Oliver Young	1/11
Sam McCurdy	1/12	Donna Rusk	1/13
Bob Smith	1/15	Donna Avaux	1/24
Barb Minear	1/24	Ron Stookey	1/25
Michael Yeoman	1/28		

ANNIVERSARIES

Bob & Martha Smith	1/9
Don & Dee McCaleb	1/28