Hazelwood Christian Church 1400 W University Avenue Muncie, IN 47303

Ph. (765) 282-5969; Fax (765) 282-5569 Email: hazelwoodchurch@gmail.com Website: www.hazelwoodchurch.org

Preschool website: www.hazelwoodpreschool.org

Rev. James Petty, Associate Minister
Marianna Gill, Interim Newsletter Editor
Tony Gill, Moderator
Sunday Schedule: Worship Service, 10 a.m.
Coffee Fellowship, 11:15 a.m., Children Church School, 10:10 a.m.;
Adult Church School, 11:30 a.m.

<u>Hazelwood's Statement of Calling</u>: As members of the body of Christ, we at Hazelwood are called to share God's love by introducing individuals to Christ and nurturing personal spiritual growth for Christ's mission.

Motto: Our BEST for Christ



Look for us at:

www.hazelwoodchurch.org

We will be constantly building
and adding to it,
so check back often!

You can also contact us
through the Website. Check
out the home page.

NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

December 3
December 17

Items to be published in the Newsletter are due in the office one week prior to publish date. Thank you!



HAZELWOOD LEAVES

November 19, 2015



"During the first Board Meeting of the year, I laid out five areas where I felt we needed to focus our efforts for 2015. Those included: addressing our staffing, determining what worship will look like, supporting the Search process, improving the relationship between church leadership and the preschool, and continuing the review of our operating procedures.

"Overall, I'd say we've had a very successful year. While the decisions were difficult, I believe our staffing more realistically reflects both our needs as a congregation and what we can afford. Additionally, in light of declining worship attendance, we came together as one Body and developed a meaningful worship service blending elements of both the Traditional and Celebrate services.

"Thanks to Rev. Diane, through an implementation of weekly coordination meetings where both church and preschool leadership come together, the whole of our staff are now working much more efficiently. And while we have yet to hire a full-time Senior Minister, the Search Committee is reorganized and ready to complete its task. Throughout the nearly 18 months we've been going through the process, the Elders have adopted a member of the search committee to specifically keep them in their prayers. We look forward to this continued spiritual leadership from them.

"While there may be a few areas where our operating procedures still need some work, as a Board we did adopt the Ethical Guidelines for Congregational Conduct. This simply codifies what we should already know; how we should act towards each other, the officers of our church, and the world as a whole.

"Bottom line, we, as a congregation, should be proud of what we accomplished this year. Likewise, we should keep our heads held high as we look towards the bright future that God has in store for us."

Tony Gill, Board Moderator

JOYS, CONCERNS, and INFORMATION

In Appreciation:

"Dear Hazelwood family, I pray you're having a blessed Fall and having fun starting to prepare for the holidays. I've tried to retire twice, but I keep getting called back to work. My routine now is grandkids on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and 9-10 hour work days on Tuesday and Thursday. It's a little more balanced now, and the part-time income is nice as I transition. I'm so thankful for all of you, especially at this time of year, and I will always feel blessed for the Hazelwood family who helped me pull my life back together. In Christian love," Debbi Rains

"Thank you to all who were able to come out and to help clean up our property on the All-Church workday. We had over 20 volunteers present throughout the morning to rake leaves, pick up sticks, scrub down the kitchens, clean some of the rooms, polish the pews, clean the windows, and more. Our church looks great, and it is ready for our fall and winter activities." Rev. James Petty

"I appreciate all the help that was given to make the Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner run smoothly. Whether you helped set up, serve drinks, get food ready, or clean up, it's nice to see us all working together. We had a great array of food, and a good time was had by all." Marianna Gill

"On behalf of the Preschool and the Youth, we would like to thank everyone for their help in making the Bazaar a huge success! We would especially like to thank the Preschool Team for all of their hard work. As you all know, the Bazaar takes months of preparation. Everything from vendors, donations, signs, food preparation, to volunteer sign-ups were strategically thought out to insure a successful Bazaar. Great Job, Preschool Team! Thank you to the many volunteers, clean-up crew, and Hazelwood staff for your hard work as well. Many thanks to the Hazelwood congregation for their love and support. It was good to see so many of you come out and support the Preschool and Youth. Thank you to the Delaware County community for coming and participating in our Bazaar." Angela Lopez & Rev. James Petty

Concerns:

- Joyce Adams has been released from IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital. She has been placed on hospice care at home.
- Don Kirk is in IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital, having tests run.

Joys:

• Ellen Edmonds has returned home from Bethel Pointe.



- November 29: First Sunday of Advent, lighting of the Hope candle. Worship service, 10 a.m.
- December 6: Second Sunday of Advent, lighting of the Joy candle. Hanging of the Greens worship service, 10 a.m. Youth Secret Santa Shopping, 11:30 a.m.
- December 12: Receptionist and Staff Christmas carry-in, 6 p.m., Sulanke Fellowship House.
- December 13: Third Sunday of Advent, lighting of the Peace candle. Worship service, 10 a.m.
- December 17: Pack Christmas Boxes, 6 p.m., Rotunda.
- December 19: Deliver Christmas Boxes, 8:30 a.m., drivers and helpers needed. Sign-up during Coffee Fellowship in the Rotunda.
- December 20: Fourth Sunday of Advent, lighting of the Love candle. Worship service, 10 a.m.; Christmas Eve service rehearsal, 11:30 a.m., Sanctuary.
- December 24: Church office closes at noon. Christmas Eve worship service, 8 p.m., Sanctuary. Light reception in the Rotunda/Library following worship.
- December 25: Have a Blessed Christmas day.
- December 27: Worship service, 10 a.m.
- December 31: Church office closes at noon.
- January 1, 2016: Have a Happy New Year! Church office closed.

Missions Update & Opportunities

DISBURSEMENTS

- ⇒ Christian Ministries \$100
- ⇒ Feed My Sheep \$200

HAZELWOOD VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to the following volunteers who helped with the "Stuff-A-Bus" on Nov. 6 & 13: Bill & Dee Moser, Don & Cheryll Crose, Dick & Marcia Miller, Jim & Nancy Reece, and Shirley Bookout.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- 1. FOOD PANTRY: Our next opportunity to volunteer at the food pantry is December 16, 17, and 18. Volunteers distribute food from 8:45 a.m.—12:30 p.m. Prayerfully consider helping. For more information, or to volunteer, contact Marcia Miller at 730-5552 for more information or to sign up to help.
- 2. NURSING HOME GIFT LIFT: We have another opportunity this year to demonstrate love to those who feel forgotten. There are many people in nursing homes who have no family, friends, or finances. They are alone and dependent on others. If not for the loving generosity of strangers, they would not receive one gift on Christmas. The gift may seem small, but it is so much more than the items in the box. It demonstrates compassion, kindness, hope, and love. Most importantly, it is one of the ways we can show the love of Christ to others. We are in need of people to "adopt" a patient. The process is really simple. We will give you a slip of paper with the first name of the person along with their specific wish list items. You would purchase the gifts and return them to the church unwrapped. That is all you would need to do. There are many patients this year who need to be "adopted." Please prayerfully consider getting involved to help one more person receive a gift that otherwise may not. There will be a distribution table of names in the Rotunda after worship. If you have questions, please contact Shirley Bookout at 744-1207 or Nikki Haars at 282-7544.
- 3. SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING: Hazelwood will be ringing the salvation army bell Tuesday, December 24, at the Marsh on McGalliard, from 10 a.m. 6 p.m. You can sign up to ring the bell for an hour. Contact Shirley Bookout at 744-1207.
- 4. WALK-A-MILE IN MY SHOES: Mark your calendar for the Muncie Mission's 12th annual walk on Saturday, February 13, 2016.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING - TIME TO DECORATE!

It will soon be time to decorate our church with the lovely poinsettias and other decorations for Advent and Christmas. If you would like to help by donating a poinsettia in memory, or in honor, of someone this year, please fill out the form below, and send it to the church office with your check, or drop it in the offering plate on Sunday. We *will not be able* to take telephone orders this year. Each gift is \$15, and you will be entitled to take a poinsettia home with you after Christmas. Names will be listed in the bulletin for the Hanging of the Greens worship service, December 6. *Thank you!*

Christmas Decoration Gift Order Deadline to receive orders is November 22, 2015.

# of Poinsettias ordered (@\$15 each)				
Given by				
In memory of				
In memory of				
In honor of				

Please enclose check, payable to Hazelwood, in the amount of \$15 for each gift (poinsettia) ordered.



CONTINUE & WATCH - A Thanksgiving Devotion from www.crosswalk.com

"Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving." - Colossians 4:2

Two commands are given in this short directive from the apostle Paul: *continue* and watch. First, we are to continue, or persevere, in daily and fervent prayer to God. But as we do continually pray, Paul reminds us, we must also be careful to be determinedly "watching" for occasions of thanksgiving.

The word "watch" means to be vigilant, alert, attentive. It seems Paul knew that we have a tendency to grow selfish and unmindful of the Lord's blessings in our lives. We begin to take even the greatest mercies and most undeserved gifts for granted. We forget to give thanks for each and every grace in our life.

In your ongoing prayers, be watchful for opportunities to give thanks. Is there something in this request for which I could also be giving thanks? Is there a reason to be grateful, even in the midst of this trial? For instance, as I pray for this loved one to be healed, shouldn't I be grateful for having the loved one in my life to begin with? As I pray for revival in our country, in our church, and in my home, shouldn't I thank God for the promise that He will be found by those who seek Him?

Beloved, be careful to pray today. And, as you pray, be careful to give thanks to God for His abundant provision and marvelous promises. Even in the needs, even in the sorrows, even in the trials, there is always reason to be grateful.



Search Committee Update

"While the Search Committee had high hopes that the latest candidate we interviewed would work out, it was not meant to be. He said that Hazelwood has much to offer, and there really wasn't anything he suggested we do differently. He just had an opportunity elsewhere that he felt better fit where he was currently in his ministry.

"So, where does that leave us? In the days after sharing his decision with the committee, Jack Carmichael, Tom Schnuck, Eric Shirk, Myrna Atkinson, and Mike Haars resigned. Each had their own reasons. This committee has been active since the beginning of May, 2014. We've worked long and hard in finding the right person to lead us forward. I thank all of those have worked so diligently to bring us to where we are now.

"Moving forward, Shirley Bookout and Wendy Rees are returning to the committee. Amy Stucky and I will be transitioning from ex-officio members to voting members. We are joined by new members John Starnes, Kelly Heavilon, and Andrew Rowe. Our first task will be to find an Interim minister to help us bridge the gap until we find a full-time minister. We are hopeful that the process of finding an Interim will be relatively short, as some of the ones that we interviewed a year ago may be available once again.

"Once that is accomplished, we can move right into finding our new minister. We won't need to repeat many of the other activities - Listening Conferences, Worship Surveys, etc. - as much of that has not changed. Instead, we'll be able to focus on finding the right person for the job.

"I thank each and every one of you for your support and prayers through this lengthy time of transition, and I ask for your continued prayers as we see this to completion." - Tony Gill, Board Moderator



November 22 - 27, 2015

• Gratitude Sunday Worship Service, 10 a.m., Sanctuary.

• Sign-up for the Nursing Home Gift Lift, Shivembe calendars, and the

Christmas Box Project.

• Offering envelopes for 2016 will be available in the Narthex.

• All-Youth Fellowship, 11:30 a.m., Cartwright Hall.

MONDAY • Area Ministers' meeting, 11 a.m.

• NO Christian Women's Fellowship.

TUESDAY • Praise Band Rehearsal, 10 a.m., Sanctuary.

WEDNESDAY • Bell Choir rehearsal, 6 p.m., choir room.

• Vocal Choir rehearsal, 7:15 p.m., choir loft.

THURSDAY • Church office closed for Thanksgiving.

FRIDAY • Church office closed for Thanksgiving.

November 29 - December 5, 2015

• Worship Service, 10 a.m., Sanctuary. First Sunday in Advent.

• Sign-up for the Nursing Home Gift Lift, Shivembe calendars, and the

Christmas Box Project.

TUESDAY • Praise Band Rehearsal, 10 a.m., Sanctuary.

WEDNESDAY • Bell Choir rehearsal, 6 p.m., choir room.

• MS Support Group Christmas dinner, 6 p.m., Cartwright Hall.

• Search Committee, 7 p.m.

• Vocal Choir rehearsal, 7:15 p.m., choir loft.

THURSDAY • Ministerial Relations, 7 p.m.

All events held at Sulanke Fellowship House, unless otherwise noted.

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, November 22

Gratitude Sunday. This special service is your opportunity to bring your gifts of non-perishable food items, or monetary gifts, for delivery to Christian Ministries Food Pantry. Also, you may pick up your 2016 offering envelopes from a table in the Narthex. In preparation for Advent, which begins November 29, we will hand out Advent Devotion books, one per family.

Sunday, December 6

Hanging of the Greens service. Youth will do their Secret Santa Shopping.



ELDER SCHEDULE FOR PASTORAL CARE

The Elders will be helping Rev. James with pastoral care and calls. Each week in the bulletin, the current week and the upcoming week's elders will be listed. You may call them directly, or call the church office first, and then the office will contact the elder on call. If the first elder is not available, there is a back-up elder each week. Here is the schedule for the next couple weeks:

Nov. 19—25: (1) Jim Warrner (2) Yeno Matuka

Nov. 26—Dec. 2: (1) Yeno Matuka (2) Bill Ritchie



"Thanksgiving is a special time in our home as we gather around the table and share all the many blessings that God has so generously provided. This Thanksgiving, I would like to thank each and every one of you for allowing me to serve as your Preschool Director. It has been, and continues to be, a blessing to be a part of such tradition here at Hazelwood. I love to see the many families that return year after year for quality education for their preschoolers. In closing, I would like to say thank you to each one of the teachers and assistant teachers for loving these precious children and their families that we serve. God has chosen you especially for a very important role: to share the good news of Jesus Christ with the little minds of the children we care for. Have a safe and bountiful Thanksgiving. Sincerely," Angie Lopez, Preschool Director

Looking ahead

Nov. 23: 4-5 Classes Thanksgiving Feast at 11a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Nov. 24: 3-4 Classes Day of Giving at 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Nov. 25-27: Thanksgiving Break

Dec. 15: Christmas program at 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Dec. 21-Jan. 1: Christmas Break

Gene Dobson



4	Jane Jack	19	Mary Anne Warfe
5	Michael Grove	20	Leah Ritchie
6	Wanda Strauch	21	Marianna Gill
7	Carter Ciscell	22	Kelly Heavilon
9	Mary France	22	Kendra Masionga
9	Mariangella Glaze	28	Mary Alice Lannin
11	Chelsee Journay	28	Cathy Stucker
11	Ruth Griffey	28	Esther Towns

el ıle ng Esther Towns Gabriella Carter Garrett Carter Carolyn Starnes 31 Martha Davis

19 Judy Thomas

CHRISTMAS BOX PROJECT

We will begin our Christmas Box sign up for volunteers this Sunday to help pack and deliver boxes of foods and gifts for children. On Thursday, December 17, we will meet in the Rotunda/Library area to pack the boxes with the non-perishable foods at 6 p.m. Those of you who can, meet at 4:30 to tape boxes together, check the food, and sort them into stations for packing.



The Christmas Box Project is a way that we can help less fortunate families in our community have some comfort and joy during the holiday season. These families apply with, are screened by, and are organized by the Salvation Army. Organizations like us contact the Salvation Army to request how many families and children we can adopt for this project. The Salvation Army puts together a packet of names and pertinent information. In 2014, we increased the families and children we adopted because of a surplus from 2013. We provided food for 42 families and gifts for 50 children. Our food baskets contain \$80 worth of food per family and \$25 in gifts per child.

The great news is we were able to use every penny of the 2013 surplus and money donated during our 2014 drive in helping these families last year. Therefore, we need your donations towards the Christmas Box Project more than ever this year if we are to continue to help these families.



Winnie Muhiga will once again be selling calendars to raise money to support our mission work with the Shivembe School in Kenya. Calendars are \$18.00 each. See the sign-up table in the Rotunda to order yours on Sunday.



The annual congregational meeting was held last Sunday. The budget for 2016 was presented and passed, along with the slate of officers for 2016. Names will be posted in the Narthex.

Susan Cartwright

Patricia Menzie

Ally Noel Smith

Ann Yingst

Esther Wolfe