

## Music Notes

Richard Crowson & Friends with the UCC Chancel Choir present

# An Appalachian Christmas

A special all music Sunday church service  
10:30 a.m. on December 11, 2011

Bring your friends and family to this down home Christmas treat.  
CD's will be available to purchase for \$5. Order yours in Fellowship Hall.

## Revelations Recap

The Music Board and Church Choir would like to thank everyone for their support for Revelations! Thank you so much to those who "showed up" early on Sunday evening and pitched in to prepare Fellowship Hall.

A special thanks to Tim Duncan who handled the sound and lights; to Helen Griffin who accompanied everyone on the piano; to Doris Buss who played during dinner (and for Ted Blankenship's numbers); to Bucky Walters for doing what he does so well; to Dorothy Blankenship for "running the kitchen"; and to Sharon Tims for her organizational skills.

A great big thank-you to all who came to Revelations and to those who support the Music Program at UCC. We are truly blessed to have talented college students as part of our choir and worship experience. It would not be possible without the support of the UCC church members. The profit including extra donations was \$1,193.43. All going to the Student Scholarship fund.



universitycongregationalchurch

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316-634-0430 · www.ucchurch.org

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## Useful Tidbits

### Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Services

There will not be a Christmas Eve service this year at UCC. The church service on Christmas Day will be as usual, at 10:30am.

**Church office will be CLOSED**  
Monday, December 26 for the Christmas holiday AND  
Monday, January 2 for the New Year's holiday.

**Be Included** submit news items to Cyndi Richter: cyndi@ucchurch.org

**Go Green** if you prefer to receive an e-newsletter as a PDF each month, let us know: cathy@ucchurch.org

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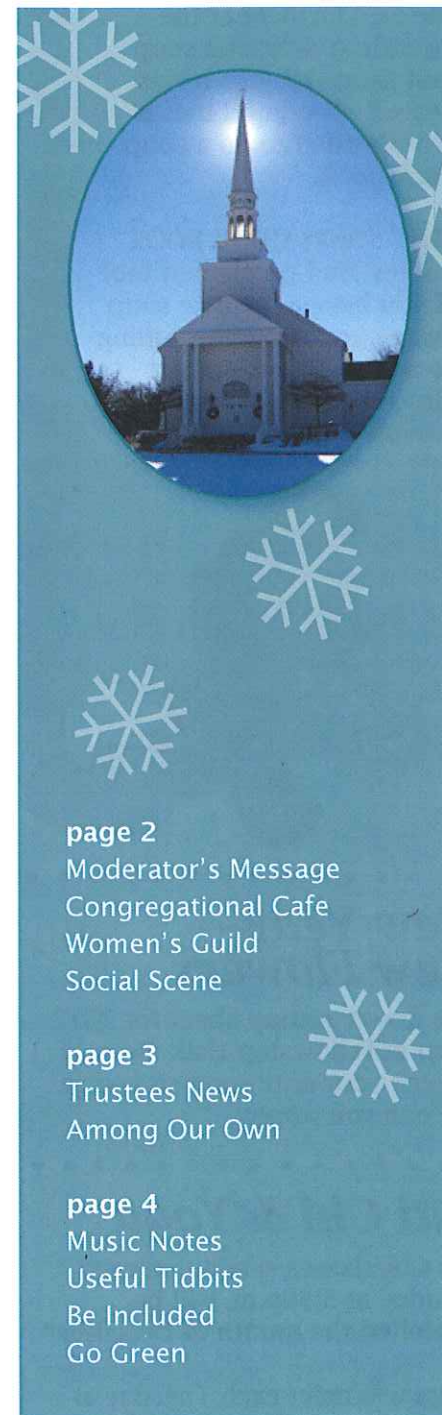
# Steeple Notes

universitycongregationalchurch

Volume 29, Issue 10

Where head & heart are partners in faith.

December 2011



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## News from the Belfry

The holiday season's here. Before you know it we will be, singing Christmas carols, and pulling trees to the curb (if you still use a live tree.)

I want to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a blessed Christmas. May your turkeys be succulent, your gifts appropriate, and your family reunions joyful.

My last Sunday with you is December 25th, Christmas Day. I find some irony in that but I am planning on making that a service of love and celebration of the presence of God in the world.

This is my last newsletter column, but I will be sending out a letter in the next few weeks outlining appropriate boundary issues with my departure as your senior minister.

I wish the very best of University Congregational Church. May your future be blessed by the guidance of God and the compassion of the Carpenter.

Yours in Faith,  
Gary

## Outreach News

The Head-To-Toe Hygiene Pantry completed its first year in October. For those of you who were not here for the celebration of the successful first year on October 30th, the following numbers are impressive and worthy of letting you know.

- ✿ 5,455 is the number of families served during the first year of the pantry
- ✿ 19,430 is the number of total people served
- ✿ 38,471 is the number of products given out
- ✿ 2,176 is the number of volunteer hours not only by our members but people from other churches in Wichita as well.

Head-To-Toe  
HYGIENE PANTRY

There is a slide show that can be played on the TV in Fellowship Hall that tells the story of the pantry in pictures. You are welcome to watch it when you get a chance. It shows not only the need but the gratitude of those who are served. It also shows the dedication of the many volunteer hours it takes to make it happen. A huge thank you to Mimi Leo, Debbi Green, Kim Carraway and all of you who have given your time and money to support the pantry.

## Moderator's Message

by Mert Buckley

The search is on. Formation of the Ministerial Search Committee was completed in late October by election of seven members at-large by the Council. These seven join the moderator, and seven other members who were selected by their respective boards from the church to serve on the Search Committee. All of this in accordance with our bylaws. This is a good group of people. Effort was made to include members who have not been traditionally involved in church governance in order to bring new voices into the process, yet still include veterans for experience. I feel we have a good balance and great talent.

We have met several times, mostly consisting of organizational work, determining where to advertise, placing advertisements for the position, and establishing procedures. We have a few applicants already, but it is still early in the process. We will keep you advised as news develops, but frankly don't expect anything meaningful that we can announce for some time. Please relay suggestions you have to any of the committee members below.

### Search Committee for Senior Minister

- |                       |                                       |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Jerry Becker       | Deacons' selection                    |
| 2. Susan Barrett      | Deacons' selection                    |
| 3. Mary Ellen Conlee  | Trustees' selection                   |
| 4. John Carraway      | Trustees' selection                   |
| 5. Diane Park         | Outreach Board's selection            |
| 6. Paul Jackson       | Music Board's selection               |
| 7. Cathy Debbrecht    | Christian Education Board's selection |
| 8. Mert Buckley       | Moderator                             |
| 9. Candy Cain         | Member-at-large                       |
| 10. Anita Jones       | Member-at-large                       |
| 11. Sue Anderson      | Member-at-large                       |
| 12. Nancy Cochener    | Member-at-large                       |
| 13. Joyce Smith       | Member-at-large                       |
| 14. Leigh Aaron Leary | Member-at-large                       |
| 15. Ann Dorrah        | Member-at-large                       |

## Congregational Café

January 29th, 11:30am-12:30pm  
in Fellowship Hall for the  
Congregational Cafe.

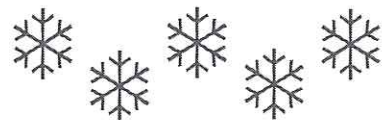
This is a small group congregational conversation that will meet monthly with the intent of keeping our congregation informed as we go through the transition to an interim minister(s) and a new senior minister. All are welcome to listen, and ask questions. Topics will be announced in the Sunday bulletin.

## Social Scene

### Men's Group Lunch

Meets the 3rd Thursday  
each month.

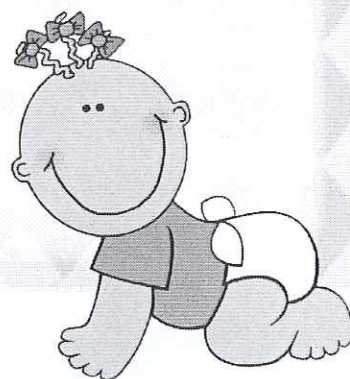
Thursday, Dec. 15th at 11:30am  
at Louie's Grill & Bar, 9747 East  
21st St. North (Webb & 21st). Let us  
know if you need a ride. Sign up in  
Fellowship Hall or call the church  
office.



## WG Women's Guild

Baby Shower brought 20 UCC women together to fill 60 bags with diapers, wipes, lotion, baby wash, warm blankets, outfits, and toys for underprivileged mothers. The 60 warm blankets and receiving blankets were made at the Sew Ins here at the church. A delicious soup and sandwich lunch was served — so good that it was decided to do a soup cook book.

JUST SOUPS COOK BOOK Ladies (and gentlemen too) if you have a favorite soup recipe you would be willing to share, please contact Grace Kneil at grace.kneil@wichita.edu.



## New Year— New Flowers

The flower signup sheet for 2012 is up in Fellowship Hall. Be sure to pick your date soon so you get the one you want.

## Tai Chi & Yoga

Tai Chi classes scheduled each Monday at 5:30p.m. will be cancelled the month of December.

Yoga will meet each Tuesday at 4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

## From Mary Ellen Conlee, President of the UCC Board of Trustees

I continue to be concerned about the state of our pledge income, both the completion of 2011 pledges as well as the slow pledge support for 2012. While some say that we can fund next year by allocating funds from our recent Buchanan gift, others feel that would be fiscally irresponsible. Some have indicated that they will wait and see what happens once the church search committee proposes a new minister. Still others ask that we reduce the budget to match the planned income. None of these approaches seem satisfactory as we plan for the future of our church.

The following letter to the Stewardship Committee shifts our attention in a new direction - drawing on where we are and challenging us to remain a unique place, so instead of focusing on our financial woes, I ask you to consider Melodee Eby's thoughts as you decide about supporting the University Congregational Church.

October 22, 2011

Open letter from a friend of the church:

*It is my understanding that UCC began as a unique church: thriving and growing on the questioning nature possessed by both the leadership and the congregation! It was a place where the elements of one's rational thinking were respected and nurtured. They learned from one another, they learned from literature, they learned from scriptures, they learned from history, they learned from music, they learned....period.*

*The congregation was the best example of acceptance and tolerance that could be found in a "church" setting..... generally older, generally well educated, generally tolerant of new ideas, generally rich in experiences. THEY WERE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING DIFFERENT! UCC offered the alternative experience of fellowship combined with the search for knowledge, understanding, wisdom, and YES, GREAT MUSIC!*

*When I go to "church", I want to hear the wisdom of Christ, the wisdom of Buddha, the wisdom of great men and women. I want to learn of those who have suffered adversity and carried on; those who have overcome overwhelming loss and carried on. I want to hear the words of great writers, philosophers, scientists. I want to learn from the courageous acts of others in the hope that I might dare to emulate them should the need arise. I want to learn to live in THIS world we inhabit with greater wisdom and compassion. If the foregoing means minimizing ritual, so much the better. I hope UCC's interim minister and new minister will bring us more of the above. I hope he/she will be comfortable with ambiguity and with his/her own belief system....or lack of same.*

*UCC needs to make known its singular place in the plethora of churches in Wichita. In my opinion UCC will thrive on uniqueness or perish from lack of it.*

Sincerely, Melodee Eby

## Among Our Own

### Baptism

Tim and Barbara McKee's grandchildren, **Timothy, Georgia, and Lillian McKee** were baptized at UCC on October 30 by Dr. Blaine.

The baptism of **Carter Jon Herod** was performed at the Herod residence on October 30 by Dr. Blaine. Carter is the son of Becki and Jeff Herod, brother to Elliot, Emersyn, and Edisyn Herod, and grandson of Dwayne and Debbi Green.

### In Memoriam

**Maxine Pullman**, wife of Norman Pullman died on October 10th. Her service was officiated by Dr. Blaine at UCC on October 15. Our condolences go out to Norman and his family.

**Betty Brookover**, long time member of UCC, died on November 27th. Betty is survived by her husband John who lives in Wichita. Our condolences go out to John.

