

Special Pre-Christmas Edition



From Pastor Marianne

How AWESOME is our God and the members and friends of Heidelberg!

Wow! We packed a lot into the month of November kicking off the month with our 50th Anniversary on the Cowpath celebration! For those of you who missed it, Ben Currie read the Gospel lesson with incredible diction, poise, and articulation. Way to go Ben! (And yes, he's in third grade!) Thank you hospitality for the wonderful luncheon which followed. What a GREAT turnout we had for Worship and again on the following Sunday for our Veterans' Day Service! Thank you Jerry for coordinating the Boy Scouts' participation and to everyone who made these services so special.

My first newspaper article appeared in *The Reporter* November 4th in the Lifestyles section under "Faith".

I will be a regular columnist the first Saturday of every month. This endeavor is an outreach stemming from the Membership Committee.

Friends' Club dinner was enjoyable as always. It's so nice to get together for fellowship.

Yes, we walked in the Mardi Gras parade. I said it once, and I'll say it again. You have to really, really, really love your church to walk in the rain in a parade handing out fliers about our church to strangers lining the streets in Lansdale. All nineteen of us, young and mature, braved the weather to share the love of Christ and invite the stranger to worship with us for Thanksgiving and Christmas. For our members and friends who were not in worship on Harvest Home Sunday, your faithfulness donated over 4,000 pieces of candy to be given out at the parade and numerous shopping bags full of food for the needy and 44 boxes for Samaritan's Purse. There also seems to be a lot of activity in the prayer shawl corner with several prayer shawls being given to people who really need God's love. It warms my heart to also see the scarves being knitted and crocheted for Chuckles' ministry.

Important Notice to All Members

- Al Stimson

Budget Approval: Immediately following the worship service on Sunday, December 10th, there will be a brief congregational meeting to discuss and vote on the proposed 2018 Heidelberg budget. Please plan to attend this important meeting and exercise your right to vote.

(continued from previous page)

I am so VERY proud of our confirmation students, Ella, Julia, Korine, and Justin. Their puppeteering skills came to life during the Thanksgiving Eve Service as Glenn, Mary Catherine (from Grace Lutheran), Erin, and Ashley provided the singing, Donna Henry played flute, and of course Sue on the digital keyboard. They were also FABULOUS as they gave glory to God with their traditional Israeli folk dance. Justin also played sax with the brass and Ella led the litany of prayer. The two anthems for this service were EXCEPTIONAL! Thank you choir, Sue, and everyone who made this a wonderful tribute to God in grateful thanksgiving!

I'm really looking forward to our Advent Workshop. The crafts are outstanding and I really enjoy the cookies! We will share Communion the first Sunday in December as we celebrate the season of Advent! Caroling is on the calendar for the 10th and the Cantata on the 17th. We will have Christmas Eve Services as usual at 7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. as well as our normal 10:45 a.m. service.

Our Live Nativity was moved to Friday, December 22nd from 6 to 9 p.m. Our new creche is almost finished being built as an Eagle Scout project.

We will not be having a prayer breakfast in December, but will begin the New Year with a prayer breakfast on January 7th. We will also celebrate Communion on that day.

I pray that everyone will have a meaningful and peaceful Christmas and blessed New Year. I will be on vacation from December 26th to Jan. 1st. Once again, it is a joy to serve the members and friends of Heidelberg.

Bible Jeopardy



- *Judy Stimson*

1. At Jesus' birth in the manger, his mother wrapped him in rags, also known by this name.
2. An angel announced the birth of Jesus to his mother Mary shortly after this woman was also told she was pregnant with John the Baptist.
3. Shortly after Jesus' birth, a multitude of angels was seen by this group of people.
4. This province, containing both the town of Nazareth and a sea by the same name, is where Jesus was raised returning from Egypt.
5. Wise men came from the East to see Jesus and they found their way to Bethlehem, thanks to this natural phenomenon.

Recipe Corner

- *Judy Stimson*

This edition of the Challenger is a visit to the Heidelberg Recipes Archives. Enjoy the visit down memory lane.

It's time for Christmas candy! Do you like to spruce up your Christmas cookie plate with yummy little morsels? Homemade cookies are delightful, but when there's homemade candy sprinkled throughout the cookies, your family and friends can't get enough. Try these recipes from our church family bakers. You won't go wrong.

Chocolate Covered Peanuts

by Doris Gerges

- 1 package (12oz.) chocolate chips
- 1/2 package (12oz.) butterscotch chips
- 1 pound unsalted peanuts

Melt chocolate chips and butterscotch chips in microwave; pour in peanuts.

Drop by clusters on wax paper or foil. Allow to dry.

Buckeye Balls

by Tammy Decker

- 1 1/2 cup creamy peanut butter
- 1/2 cup butter or margin (room temperature)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 (16 Oz.) package 10X sugar
- 1 (6 oz.) chocolate chips
- 2 Tablespoons vegetable shortening

Mix first 4 ingredients by hand. It will be very stiff. Shape into balls. (This takes some time to make each ball stay together.) Place on waxed paper on cookie sheet and refrigerate. On top of double boiler, melt chocolate chips and shortening; pour in a measuring cup. With a toothpick, dip each ball into the chocolate. Cover about 3/4 of each ball. Leave a circle of light brown uncovered. Refrigerate for at least 30 minutes.

*Thanks to
Joan Baack and
Sue Camuso
for sponsoring this issue
of The Challenger!*

Membership Committee and Other Updates

- Jerry Yarbrough

There has been a lot going in the past month, and we have a lot coming up in the coming month. Hope that you enjoy reading about (and seeing pictures of!) the past events, and will come and join us in for the upcoming ones.

Friends Club Dinner. On **Saturday, November 11th**, the Friends Club was treated to dinner at The Normandy Farms Estates ACTS Retirement Center. We were provided our own room with beef, salmon or chicken as our entrees. It was Veterans Day, so we thanked our Veterans and first responders for whom we are so grateful. We had a total of 24 people attend and look forward to our Spring dinner event. So where would you like to go? Let anybody from Membership know and we will look into it.



Friends Club Dinner

Troop 141 supported our **Veterans Recognition Service** on **November 12th**. Thanks to the scouts for the presentation of the flags, and they also did a little re-enactment of the flag-raising on Iwo Jima.



Boy Scouts on Hand on November 12



Reenacting the Flag Raising on Iwo Jima



Working on the Living Nativity Enclosure

Mardi Gras Parade Lansdale. On **November 18th**, HUCC supported the community by marching in the Mardi Gras Parade from Cannon Ave to Lansdale Park. Oh, by the way, it was raining. We had nineteen people in the parade representing HUCC, including three of our confirmands: Julia, Korine, and Justin. We handed out our church trifold brochure, a leaflet about our coming holiday events, and over 5000 pieces of candy. Even in the bad weather, all had a good time and we let the community know who Heidelberg Church is and what we are doing for the holidays.



"Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night..."
Well, at least not rain for this group!!

Sunday School Lesson on November 19th Solomon's Temple. On this Sunday, the younger set studied Solomon's building of the Temple. The Temple was a massive feat built to honor God. So the children constructed their idea of Solomon's Temple, but instead of gold, huge stones, magnificent woods, and 30,000 laborers we built a Temple out of Legos. The group worked in teams to build the four walls and added some of their own ideas about what was in the Temple. They were puzzled by what a cubit was, so we measured each child's arm from elbow to tip of middle finger to determine a cubit measurement. The results were from as little as 10 1/2 inches to as large as 20 1/4 inches! Ask them about their Temple build.



Construction...



Still building...



The crew showing off their final product!

Advent Dinner and Workshop. We will hold this event on **Sunday December 3rd at 5:00 PM** in Light Hall. Dinner will be spiral ham and all the trimmings, cooked by the men of Heidelberg. We will have an evening filled with holiday crafts to brighten your home and homemade cookies also cooked by the men and children of Heidelberg. So mark your calendar and sign up in the Narthex. We will also be taking a free will offering to offset the cost of food and crafts. All are welcome and drivers are willing to pick you up if you do not like to drive at night. This would be a great time to invite your family and friends to experience some holiday fun.

Christmas Caroling to our Shut-Ins will take place on **Sunday, December 10th** in the afternoon following the worship service. Watch for more information, and come sing with us!

Christmas Cantata. Our Heidelberg Choir, augmented with a few extra voices, will present the annual Christmas Cantata during the morning worship time at **10:45 AM on December 17th**. Please plan to attend and join us for the coffee hour afterwards.

Living Nativity. On **Friday December 22nd from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM**, we will



present our Live Nativity to the Hatfield community. We are going to be unveiling our new Manager Scene, a 12 foot long, 8 foot wide, and 8 foot high portable manager enclosure. This effort is the result of one of our scouts, **Ed Holzel**, who is completing his Eagle Scout Project by designing and managing the construction of the building. This will be a wonderful event as we welcome the birth of our Savior Jesus. We will have several animals -- a donkey, cow, sheep, and goats -- to enhance the experience. Something special this year will be (hopefully, weather permitting) a newborn baby as Jesus. MorningStar Ministries, whom we recently supported with our baby bottle drive, is helping with this effort.

Mark your calendar and invite your family and friends to this very special event.



And be sure to attend one of the **Christmas Eve** services, including candlelight, at 7:00 or 11:00 PM!

Flowers/Bulletins/Greeters

Flowers:

Nov 26 – Shirley and Glenn Snyder for their anniversary

Dec 3 – Jan and Ed Kachinsky for their birthdays and Cindra Lohan for Gerry's birthday

Dec 10 – The Crawford Family in memory of Howard Miller

Dec 17 – Kevin and Rose Kriebel for Jay Kriebel

Dec 24 – The Burgers in memory of Lloyd and Sara Wagner and Walt and Dolly Burger

Dec 31 – Lois and Frank Wonder

Bulletins:

Dec 3 - Bev Lersch in memory of her mother, Kathryn M Ockenhouse

Dec 10 - Kevin and Rose Kriebel for Jay Kriebel

Dec 17 – Open

Dec 24 – Lois and Frank Wonder

Dec 31 - Open

Greeters:

Nov 26 – Nancy Kohler and Randy Reiff

Dec 3, 10, and 17 - Open

Dec 24 – 10:45 AM Open

Dec 24 – 7:00 PM Open

Dec 24 – 11:00 PM Jan and Ed Kachinsky

Help Wanted

We have a number of positions open for just the right persons. Must be able to extend hand and clasp another person's hand warmly yet gently, while smiling. Must be friendly, and be able to enunciate the word "hello" enthusiastically (no red suit required!). That pretty much describes our whole congregation, and we need you to be a greeter! Sign up on the chart in the narthex.



Flower, bulletin, and greeter charts for the new year will be up later in December. Watch for them to go up so that you can be sure to sign up for the dates you want!

Important Calendar Notes



The **Congregational Meeting** to approve the budget for 2018 will be held after the morning worship service on December 10.

Cantata rehearsals will begin at 7:30 PM, and regular choir rehearsals will follow the cantata portion of the rehearsal. **Note**



that the rehearsal that would normally be held on Wednesday, December 6 has been moved to Tuesday, December 5. For those of you attending the Women's Fellowship Potluck, please enjoy your fellowship time, and join us when you are done.



Note that there will be no Sunday School on December 24th (Christmas Eve) or on December 31st (New Year's Eve). Please plan to join us on January 7th!

We Remember... Marianne Berry

It is with sadness that we note the passing of Marianne Berry. Marianne and Charles were visiting her family in Bradford, England when she passed away unexpectedly on October 11th.

A long-time member of Heidelberg, she served for a time as our sexton. Marianne and Charles' sons, Andrew and Eddie, were active in Troop 141, Heidelberg's scout troop. After Eddie's death, they were instrumental in effecting the initial round of improvements to the scout cabin attached to the barn on the church property.

Marianne attended regularly when her health permitted, and she will be remembered for the smile she always wore. A time for visitation with the family and her funeral service were held here at Heidelberg on Monday morning, November 13th. We will miss her, and extend our deepest sympathies to Charles, and their son Andrew and his partner, Kristine.

CALENDAR!

Please confirm committee meeting dates and times with your committee chairperson.

November						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 All Saints Sunday; Angel Tree Up; Challenger Distributed	27 Worship 7:30 PM	28 Tech Meeting 7:00 PM	29 Cantata & Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM	30 Confirmation Class 6:30 PM Scouts 7:00 PM	DEC 1	DEC 2
December						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 1st Sunday of Advent Communion NO PRAYER BREAKFAST	4 Membership 6:30 PM Stewardship 7:30 PM	5 Women's Fellowship Potluck 6:00 PM Cantata & Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM	6 NO Choir Rehearsal	7 Confirmation Class 6:30 PM Scouts 7:00 PM Comp Care 7:30 PM	8	9
10 2nd Sunday of Advent Congregational Meeting; Caroling to Shut-ins	11	12 Consistory 7:00 PM	13 Cantata & Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM	14 Confirmation Class 6:30 PM Scouts 7:00 PM	15	16 Cantata & Choir Rehearsal Time TBD
17 3rd Sunday of Advent Christmas Cantata Dedicate Angel Tree Gifts; Coffee Hour Food Cupboard	18 Tentative – Worship 7:30 PM	19	20 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM	21 Confirmation Class 6:30 PM Scouts 7:00 PM	22 Living Nativity 6:00 – 9:00 PM	23
24 4th Sunday of Advent; Christmas Eve; NO SUNDAY SCHOOL; Christmas Fund Offering Candlelight services 7:00 and 11:00 PM	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS! Pastor Marianne Vacation	26 Pastor Marianne Vacation Tech Meeting 7:00 PM	27 Pastor Marianne Vacation Tentative No Choir Rehearsal	28 Pastor Marianne Vacation; No Confirmation Class	29 Pastor Marianne Vacation	30 Pastor Marianne Vacation
DEC 31 New Year's Eve; NO SUNDAY SCHOOL; Rev. Harold Burkett Supplies; Pastor Marianne Vacation	JAN 1 Pastor Marianne Vacation	JAN 2	JAN 3 Christian Ed 3:30 PM Choir presents Cantata at Peter Becker 7:00 PM	JAN 4 Confirmation Class 6:30 PM Scouts 7:00 PM Property 7:00 PM	JAN 5 Christmas Decorations Down	JAN 6 Epiphany
January						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7 Prayer Breakfast 8:30 AM; Communion; Reports for Yearbook Due	8 Membership 6:30 PM Stewardship 7:30 PM	9 Consistory 7:00 PM	10 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM	11 Confirmation Class 6:30 PM Scouts 7:00 PM	12	13 Tentative Renaissance Party
14	15 Martin Luther King Day	16	17 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM	18 Confirmation Class 6:30 PM Scouts 7:00 PM	19	20

Update from the Williams Family

Dear Family and Friends in Christ,

Thank you very much for your prayers and words of consolation these past few weeks. As you know my mother went home to be with the Lord on October 27. Her service was held on November 2 at Central Schwenkfelder Church. Approximately 300 attended.

We are thankful to Rev. Dr. David McKinley and the Church for leading and hosting such a moving event for our family. We are also grateful for your prayers which have been felt greatly in our family life. Thank you.

My brother and I both delivered eulogies at the service. While I shared a number of memories of Mom, the eulogy was based on 1 Corinthians 2:9, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him." This is not a mere wish in times of calamity but is rather a text of great hope. The Christian faith looks forward to things beyond our wildest imagination. I imagine my mother saying, "Isn't this great!" While her absence is a real and present feeling, I have confidence in her presence with the Lord and the future resurrection, and there is comfort.

Many of you have passed along reflections on my mother's life. It is obvious that she touched many lives. On this Thanksgiving Day 2017, I am profoundly thankful for her life, faith, and good example. Our world, unfortunately, is lacking good examples. I have thought about the importance of good examples a fair amount over the past few years in some detailed study I have been doing on imitation and Paul's writing. Such study informs my teaching.

I have been asked to give a web seminar about modern and past Christian examples for the Forum of Christian Leaders this coming week. If you are interested, it will be held on Wednesday 29 November. It would be a pleasure to have you join us online.

The web seminar will be held at 18:00 GMT which is 19:00 Dutch time; 20:00 if you are in Eastern European countries like Romania; 1:00 pm if you are on Eastern Standard Time; 12:00 if you are on Central Standard Time. Please register ahead of time if you would like to be a part of the web seminar.

Ed. Note: You can use this link if you would like to join:

<https://www.anymeeting.com/AccountManager/RegEv.aspx?PIID=ED51D88684473D>

Our world is struggling to find good role models. The entertainment culture elevates athletes, pop stars, and actors to heroic levels, but are they worthy? Political leaders often do not provide models of courageous leadership and exemplary character they once did. Where can we turn to find true heroes?

In this webinar, we will look at the loss of heroes in our time. We will then consider early Christians within in the first and second century who became patterns to follow at a time when Christianity was defining its identity. What character traits can we see in them that are worthy to be emulated and sorely needed in our culture today.

Thank you for your prayers and support. We appreciate your help greatly in the work of international Christian leadership development.

With Christian Greetings,

Drake, Andrea, Henry, Abby, and Sam Williams

Website for Evangelische Theologische
Faculteit: <http://www.etf.edu/en/>

Website for Tyndale Theological
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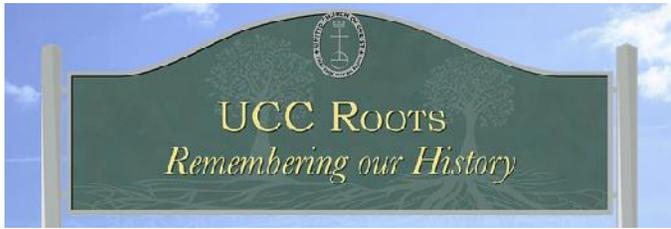
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UCC Roots



Jackie Robinson

In the early 1940s, United States baseball was segregated--African Americans and whites played in separate leagues. But the president of the Brooklyn Dodgers (Branch Rickey) set out to integrate Major League Baseball (MLB). Rickey knew that the first black player needed to have more than athletic skills. He needed to be a man with personal strength to endure racial slurs and insults, and not fight back.



Eventually Rickey recruited a young war veteran from Georgia named Jack Roosevelt Robinson (1919-1972). Robinson joined the Brooklyn Dodgers, breaking the MLB color barrier on April 15, 1947. In his first year, "Jackie Robinson" hit 12 home runs, led the National League in stolen bases and was Rookie of the Year.

Harassment was ugly at the beginning. Some teams refused to play against the Dodgers and several of his teammates threatened to sit out. Yet, Robinson was an extraordinary athlete, opening the door for other African American players.

What most people do not know is that after retirement in 1957 Robinson became an executive for the Chock Full O' Nuts coffee company and helped establish the African American owned Freedom Bank. He became a civil rights activist, lobbying for greater integration in sports.

In 1963, as a member of North Congregational Church in Stamford, CT, he was awarded the "UCC Churchmanship Award," and gave a short speech at the Fourth General Synod in Denver, Colorado.

Robinson told a story: *A young African American boy who did not know about segregation showed up at an all-white church wanting to go to Sunday School. When he was told it was impossible, he sat down on the steps and started crying. Soon God came by and asked the boy what was wrong. When the boy told him, God sat down and began to cry, too. Why? Because God had been trying to get into that church for many years.*

Contributor: Barbara Brown Zikmund

New Bibles for the Pews

As noted last month, we will be replacing the current pew Bibles with New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) Bibles. If you would like to donate one of the new Bibles in memory or in honor of someone, the cost is \$6.50. You can use the form below to accompany your check or cash. We will also be purchasing a limited number of large print editions. We will have more information, including the cost, in the near future.

Your Name: _____

Total enclosed: (\$6.50 X # of Bibles): _____

I would like to donate ____ (indicate number) Bible(s)

in memory of / in honor of / other terminology (circle one): _____

Name

You may attach an additional piece of paper if needed.

Bible Jeopardy Answers

- Judy Stimson

- 1. What are swaddling clothes?
- 2. Who is Elizabeth?
- 3. Who are the shepherds?
- 4. What is Galilee?
- 5. What is the Star of Bethlehem?

A Christmas Eve Miracle

Father O'Malley was driving down to Boston on Christmas Eve when he got stopped for speeding in Medford. The highway patrol officer smelled alcohol on the priest's breath and then saw an empty wine bottle on the floor of the car.

He said, 'Father, have you been drinking?'

'Only water', replied Father O'Malley.

The policeman asked, 'Then how come I can smell wine?'

The priest looked at the bottle and said, 'Good Lord! He's done it again.'



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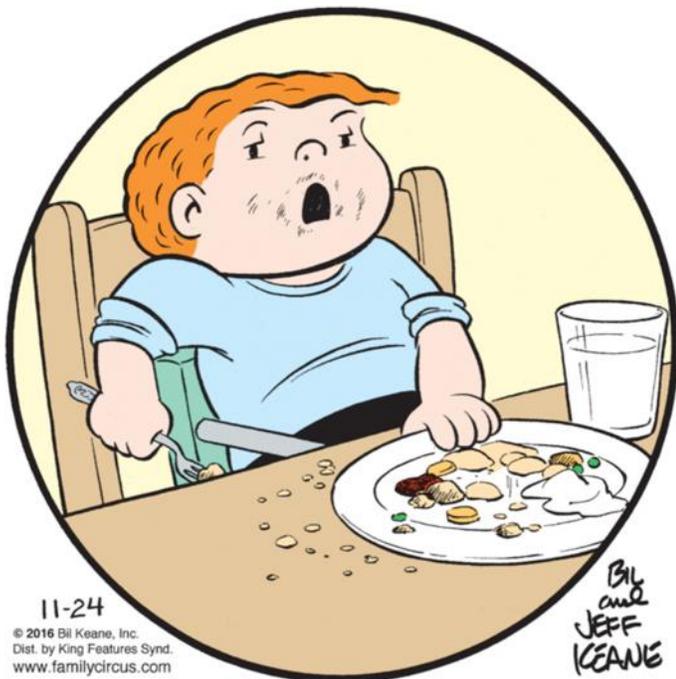
Bil
and
JEFF
KEANE

"Putting Baby Jesus in swaddling clothes was the first Christmas present wrapping."

Christmas Word Search

W J S B G K B L K K F
A O Q U W R G J S L H
L S A Z S L E O M B Y
S E W N C E P W D J C
J P P O G R J M A R Y
S H E P H E R D S N M
E L B A T S L I N A E
V D Y W C P G S N Z V
V B I G V A U G A N O
C Z X A M Q E U H M L
M O L B C R E P R B D

Word List: ANGELS, GOD, JESUS, JOSEPH, LOVE, MAGI, MANGER, MARY, SHEPHERDS, STABLE



11-24
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Bil
and
JEFF
KEANE

"That's it. I'm done being thankful."



Heidelberg United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Marianne Unger, Pastor

November 2017

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- December 3 – Communion, No Prayer Breakfast
- December 10 – Caroling to Shut-ins
- December 17 – Christmas Cantata and Coffee Hour
- December 24 – Christmas Eve – Services at 10:45 AM, 7:00 PM, & 11:00 PM
- December 24 & 31 – NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

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*May Love,
Peace, and
Joy be yours
this Christmas
and all the
year through.*

Our Mission Statement

The mission of Heidelberg United Church of Christ is to know our Savior and to let Him work through us as we reach out in worship, service, and witness to all.

Our Vision Statement

As Heidelberg United Church of Christ, we hear God calling us to accomplish the vision He has provided through: broadening the base of His church’s membership within our own congregation; communicating His gospel more effectively; serving the local community with greater commitment; to grow and strengthen in the faith with which God has entrusted us; and, in obedience to His command and call, ministering in those ways that will assure the growth and enrichment of congregational identity and Christian discipleship.