

## Youth “Acquire the Fire”

Friday and Saturday, Feb. 10-11, the CCUMC Youth joined hundreds of other Christian teens at Kemper Arena for an event called “Acquire the Fire.” Proponents described it as “A 27-hour life-transforming event built around bringing volume and clarity to God’s voice in the lives of teenagers.”

Throughout the weekend, Christian rock bands performed new music and old gospel favorites. Preaching and teaching was done by a myriad of presenters; lessons included how to resist temptation, and finding new ways to rely on God when making tough decisions. The sermons were realistic, practical and applicable to modern day.

“What I liked was how it was put together,” said Joe Klein. “It felt like people in the audience were really involved.”

“It was a great experience,” said Elizabeth. “It was really cool and the music was really good. The preaching explained a lot ...”

All in all, the kids had a good time and found it to be very enriching.

## Ask the Pastor Anything

From time to time, Pastor Jenn meets with the Youth during the Sunday School hour and allows the kids to ask her hard questions. This open forum gives the teens an opportunity to be open about their thoughts, ask about moral issues, and get to know the pastor better.

The questions come from a “suggestion box” in the Youth Room, where the teens place their queries and dilemmas.

Although some “goofy” questions do arise, Jenn says the depth of these young persons thinking is truly awe-inspiring. “The questions they are asking are the very questions we all are asking,” she said..

Nancy Van Hoozer, Youth sponsor and teacher, says the young people are becoming more open with their faith and with their relationships. “It has taken a year for them to get comfortable with one another,” she said, “and to have trust.” Now, their conversations have depth, and are not superficial. They want to learn more and are ready to tackle hard stuff.

*It is exciting to see these young folks and watch their spiritual growth ... and we look forward to hearing more about them in the future.*



*Josef Klein, Caitlin Crawford, Ellen Baker, Elizabeth Montgomery and Maria Wynn went to “Acquire the Fire” with sponsors Rusty Klein and Nancy Van Hoozer.*

## Good News from the Administrative Board

Greetings CCUMC! A few months ago I stated that this would be a year of action for the Board. I almost feel like I understated that goal. We are in the process of repairing neglected items in the parsonage. We have coordinated an electrical audit of church. We are securing our internet and email system to meet our needs. We are developing and refining policies and procedures for our paid and unpaid staff. We are wrapping up the A/V project and other facility improvements.

Those tasks aside, there is something greater happening at Country Club. That is what you are doing! I can't even list the number of great things that you have done. From January to February our average attendance increased by 15%. There are five couples actively enrolled in Methodism 101, the path to membership. Each of you is doing a part, from inviting friends to service — to displaying extravagant generosity to our guests. Please continue your efforts; they are the momentum building at Country Club.

Peace,

Mark Snyder, Chair

## Find Opportunities to Serve

They call it "Almsgiving" – Mission and Service, and it's a way of committing oneself to sacrificial giving during the 40 days before Easter.

Here are some ways you can give of yourself through the church:

1. Bring food for God's Cupboard in the Library. Foodstuffs goes to Hillcrest Ministries
2. Help in the Church Office with mailings, shredding, or answering phone on busy days
3. Talk to Carole Mehl about the Garden Ministry, using our church property to grow food for others
4. Spend an hour a week at Brookside Adult Day Care in our church basement. (Call 816-924-9400). Volunteers are needed to help with craft projects, music, games or to become a Lunch Buddy.
5. Sign up to help update the "Lower Room" where Steppingstones will meet.
6. Volunteer to clean church grounds, freshen up flowerbeds and trim shrubs in preparation for the Easter Egg Hunt
7. Work at the annual Blue River Clean-Up, getting trash out of the stream
8. Offer to bring a friend to church who cannot drive themselves
9. Bring snacks or make coffee for the Family Foyer hospitality table
10. Teach a Sunday School class
11. Send a greeting card to a shut-in
12. Call a church friend on the phone each week to say, "how are you?"



**Old Photos Wanted** Do you have photographs of Sunday School parties, picnics, pot luck suppers or church friends' birthdays? Jan Ahern is collecting photos in preparation of CCUMC's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration. Please bring photos to the Family Foyer and place in the special red box; mark the photo with who the people are, and approximate date, too.