



The Buckeye Disciple

Christian Church in Ohio

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

A covenant network of congregations in mission

January/February 2009

Volume 18, Number 1

Thank You!

To all the 2007 & 2008 Contributors to the Leadership Campaign Annual Fund

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For information on how you can donate to the Leadership Campaign Annual Fund in 2009 contact the Regional Church Office or visit www.ccinoh.org.

Ministers' Convocation Dinner: "A Leadership Summit "

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Northwest Christian Church

Schedule:

2:00pm - Leadership Seminar:

"It's all about

Relationships:

*Technological Tools
for Transformation"*

4:30pm - Hors D'oeuvres
and Fellowship

5:00pm - Dinner,
Discernment & Dessert

7:00pm - Prayer Service,
Commitment & Communion

Registration and more information www.ccinoh.org!



Spiritual Renewal

Our lives are a journey, and the road goes ever on. It's a road that began with our birth, that winds its way through meadows and mountains, that crosses rivers and canyons. For the bread that has sustained us on our journey, and for the guides who have led us, we offer thanks and praise to God.

We pray for those whose journey ends mere moments after it has begun. We pray for those who do not have the

strength to travel on. We pray for those whose path seems continually to wind back upon itself, spiraling through poverty, pain, prison of soul or mind or body, and for those whose path coils with malice until joy and power and life itself are crushed out.

In the landscape of your abounding love we know there are paths leading into tomorrows yet unfathomed. There are days ahead when all your children shall walk upon a green and fruitful earth, unafraid of war, unbeset by want, untroubled by pain or loneliness, selfishness or uselessness. Help us to shape such a world. Let our paths not be narrow and self-preoccupied. Let us build broad highways, where all may walk together in beauty. tending the gardens along the way.

As we journey on through pleasure and pain, commitment and betrayal, keep us mindful that we do not walk alone; that you are Presence in our midst; that in Jesus of Nazareth you came and shared our common lot; that you walk beside us and dance ahead of us into the future.

*From Touch Holiness, Resources for Worship
edited by Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Trabassi*



Spiritual Insights Rev. Dr. William H. Edwards

"On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." - Matthew 2:11

In the second chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, we find the story of the magi – the wise men. The two things that seem to be spotlighted are that 1) these men came from afar to honor Christ. They committed a lot time and money to take this trip. 2) They brought Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Now why would the gifts be noted and none of those other details? Many biblical scholars believe that it was because the gifts honored Christ in three distinct ways.

1. The gift of gold acknowledged the Kingship of Christ. Gold was a gift that denoted royalty, authority, and power.
2. The gift of frankincense acknowledged the Priestly Ministry of Christ. Frankincense was valuable incense used in the offerings in the temple. The incense added a dimension of beauty to the worship. It added a fragrant aroma to the sacrifices. Frankincense also was added to the oil that anointed the priests.
3. The gift of myrrh acknowledged the sacrificial nature of Christ. Myrrh is an interesting gift. In the Old Testament we see it used as a fragrance. In the New Testament in John 19:39 we see Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea preparing Jesus for burial using a mixture of aloes and myrrh, a sort of embalming ointment. Myrrh points to the sacrificial death of Jesus.

I wonder if we fully understand the significance of these gifts, that they were designed by God to carry a symbolic meaning that has significant implications on how we worship and honor Christ in our lives.

The Question is: What gifts do we bring? What is a right an appropriate gift to honor Christ? What do you we give the one who made and owns everything?

Whatever we do to honor Christ, I believe we should make sure it is personal; make sure it is from the heart - an honest desire to honor and worship the Lord. Jesus said in Matthew 22:37-38,

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment.

Look at the wise men. They used their time and personal resources to take a long journey to lay their gifts before Christ.

Our best gifts are the gifts of ourselves, something personal. In fact, it could be argued that the gold, frankincense and myrrh of the wise men seem trivial and quite useless for the God of all creation, and the savior of all people. After all, He has all the gold and frankincense and myrrh he ever needs. After all, he is the creator and owner of all these gifts. But as useless as these gifts may seem to be for God, they are a sign of the way the wise men gave of themselves. They went into the house, and

Continued in the next column

Spiritual Insights continued

when they saw the child with his mother Mary, they knelt down and worshipped. Here are these men, learned wealthy scholars of the east, kneeling at alter of the true God. Even as they paid homage, they would have realized that even the gift of themselves is something far too small for this King of kings.

What we give to our Lord may seem so trivial and modest and poor, but if they are representative of the giving of ourselves to God, this is our most important gift. Even then this is still so small in comparison to what God has given us. Nevertheless, the gift of ourselves is the best gift we can give.

When the wise men found Jesus, they brought gifts which meant they were prepared to meet the newborn King. The wise men were wise not only because they followed the star that led to Jesus, but they were wise because they were prepared to meet Jesus when they found him.

What kind of preparations are we making to meet Jesus? What are we carrying along with us on our journey? What Gifts do we bring? Is what we are carrying in our hearts suitable to be laid before the King of kings?

Before the presence of Christ you can lay your songs of praise, your two hours a week as a volunteer for a charity, your weekly visit to those who are elderly, sick, and lonely. You bring before the Christ-child your gift of the words of comfort you offered a discouraged person, or your spontaneous and overflowing response of joy because of God's overflowing love toward us. In other words, lay before the presence of Christ, your gift of yourself and your time to the work of God. The gift of "ourselves" is our gift of gold, frankincense and myrrh, something valuable, sacrificial and personal.

Message from Regional Associate Pastor, Rev. Dr. LaTaunya Bynum

Did you make a New Year's resolution? Perhaps you have resolved to lose some weight, quit smoking, watch TV less, exercise more. God bless you and much success in your efforts. But while you are making resolutions, don't forget to add spiritual growth.

Think of feeding and growing your spirit in the same way as you have fed and grown your body. Only feed the spirit with these practices:

Pray – talk to God about all that makes you grateful, hopeful, fearful, and anxious, then listen to how God responds to your prayers.

Fast – can we do without some things in order to gain clarity, do for others, let go to make room for a God who provides for us over and over again?

Study scripture – read for new insights and new challenges; take the Bible seriously enough to learn the story of how God loves without condition, redeems all open to God, and teaches us that every person matters, and that the sign of our love for God is in how we love others.

Worship – honor God who is worthy of our praise and thanksgiving.

Give – the story of Jesus is of One who gave all he had for the sake of the world. Surely we can give, even in tough times as we share the blessings God has given us with others.

God bless you in this new year and in every new day.

Regional Calendar**January 2009**

- 1 New Year's Day, RCO Closed
- 5 Interim Ministers Working Group Meeting @ RCO
- 6 DEADLINE FOR ALL 2008 DONATIONS
- 8 Disciples of Christ Southwest Ohio 7:30pm
- 13 Christian Education Conference Call 7:00pm
- 14 RCO Staff Meeting
- 15 Ohio Disciples Outreach @ RCO 10:00am – 3:00pm
- 19 Martin Luther King Junior Day, RCO Closed
- 20 Commission on Ministry @ RCO 9:00am – 3:30pm
- 22 ODEC @ RCO 10:00am
- *26 – 27 Minister's Convocation @ University Plaza, Columbus
- *27 Convocation Dinner "A Leadership Summit" 2:00pm

February

- 1 Deadline for the Mar/Apr issue, The Buckeye Disciple
- 11 RCO Staff Meeting
- 14 Christian Education Commission @ Camp 10 – 2
- 17 Commission on Ministry @ Northwest CC, Columbus
- 17 – 19 Spiritual Life Retreat for Ministers & Spouses @ Camp
- 20 – 28 United Nations Seminar for Youth in NYC & D.C.

March

- 3 Executive Committee Meeting @ RCO
- 4 RCO Staff Meeting
- 6 – 7 Lenten Retreat for Women @ Camp Christian
- 7 Equipping the Saints @ Saint Andrew CC, Dublin
- 10 Christian Education Conference Call 7:00pm
- 12 Disciples of Christ Southwest Ohio 8:30pm
- 13 – 15 OWM Commission Meeting @ Camp Christian
- *13 – 15 CYF State Youth Convention @ Hiram College
- 17 Commission on Ministry @ Northwest CC, Columbus
- 18 ODEC Committee Conference Call 10:00am
- *18 – 19 Ministerial Partner Standing Retreat @ RCO
- 28 Regional Church Council Meeting @ Camp Christian

April

- 1 Deadline for the May/June issue, The Buckeye Disciple
- 1 RCO Staff Meeting
- 3 – 5 Advance Conference Spring Retreat @ Camp
- 3 – 4 Youth Council Meeting @ Camp Christian
- 4 Cleveland Christian Home Work Day 9:00am
- 10 Good Friday, RCO Closed
- 12 Easter Sunday
- 14 Christian Education Conference Call 7:00pm
- 18 Anti Racism Team Walk-a-thon @ Camp Christian
- 18 Ohio Women's Ministries Convocation
- 19 - 20 Interim Ministers Working Group @ Camp 9 – 2
- 21 Commission on Ministry @ Northwest CC, Columbus
- 22 – 23 Coaching Training @ Camp Christian
- 24 Advance Conference Scholarship Fundraising Concert @ Northwest C.C., Columbus 7:00pm
- 25 Congregational Leader Equipping Conference: Christian Education and Stewardship @ Gender Road Christian Church
- 28 ODEC Committee Meeting @ RCO 10:00am
- 30 Clergy Clinic: Introduction to Coaching 10:00am

RCO = Regional Church Office
* *Online Registration is now available*

Message from Regional Associate Pastor, Rev. Stephen Bentley

From Advent and Christmas, we move now into the transition season of Epiphany. This transition season moves us from the Christmas themes of innocence, birth, and the coming of Christ to the Lenten themes of sacrifice and the cost of God's love. Transitions call us to refocus who we are, where we are, and where we are going. The Bible teaches us that when leaders went through transition times, they first spent time in prayer. When Elijah transitioned from the fearful prophet running from Queen Jezebel, he went into the desert and prayed and God spoke to him in a "...still small voice." As Jesus transitioned from his life before baptism to his calling, he went into the desert for 40 days where he fasted and prayed. Before the disciples could transition from a group meeting behind closed, locked doors to an empowered church, they spent time in prayer. So we come today to a time of transition not just in church seasons. Our nation is about to transition from one president to another. Many of our Ohio churches have made the decision to seek transformation: To transition from what they were/are to what God is calling them to be now and into the future. As a General, Regional, and local church, may we follow the Biblical example and enter into prayer for each of these transitions. This year, I invite you share in the many different ways the Regional Church offers churches and individuals the opportunity to pray. We encourage pastors to attend the Spiritual Life Retreat in February as a way of refocusing for the Lenten Season ahead. (Pastor's spouses also are invited to attend.) Retreats for Advance, CYF State Convention, Disciples Men, Women's Ministries, and Disciples Fellowship are all opportunities for us to pause and refocus on who we are as people of God. Come, take advantage of one or more opportunities and be transformed.

New Church DVD On Disciples Identity And Beliefs Is Now Available

Communication Ministries has produced a new Church-wide DVD entitled "A Movement for Wholeness" that can be used in churches for new member orientation, discussion at men's or women's meetings or for general church use.

The title of the video is taken from a portion of the Disciples' new identity statement, "We are Disciples of Christ, a Movement for Wholeness in a fragmented World."

The 9 minute 57-second DVD talks about the beliefs and practices of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and shows how Disciples strive daily for wholeness and unity through global mission work, new church development, transformation and other efforts. One copy of the video recently was sent to most congregations. Additional copies can be purchased for \$10 each by contacting news@cm.disciples.org or by calling 317-713-2492. You may also view the video online at: www.disciples.org/Video/tabid/422/Default.aspx





Message from Regional Program Minister, Rev. Dr. Brenda Webster

"His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him who called us by his own glory and goodness." 2 Peter 1:3

There is much to be thankful for during this season. Truly, God has done great things! The Regional Assembly during the month of October was no exception! Children and youth from across the Region gathered at Camp Christian, pooled their collective talents and in one day's time put together an exceptional program based on Ephesians 4:11-13, "Parable Pizzeria Uncommonly Good Pizza". In addition to counselors and parent volunteers, our young people were guided by skilled professionals in the areas of music and stage production. Some of the participants from the adult component of the Regional Assembly attended the production and were served dinner by our young performers. Fun was had by all.

Salt and Light was the theme for this year's Chi Rho Rally on November 15th at Camp Christian. The well-attended Rally featured many hands-on activities for our middle-school youth. Parent volunteers and counselors were present to facilitate this hugely successful event.

November was also the time during which State and Conference Officers met for their annual Leadership Training in Chauncey, Ohio. An additional level of leadership has been added to the leadership team ... an alternate (or fourth highest vote getter at each conference) has been identified. The duties of the alternates will be to take the place of an elected officer if (for some reason) that officer is not able to serve; to assist in recruiting youth for the CYF Conferences during the summer. The Christian Church in Ohio is thankful for the leadership God continues to provide through the gifts and talents of these young leaders.

God is doing great things through the Christian Education and the Ohio Disciples Outreach Commissions! Plans continue for the April 25, 2009 Congregational Leader Equipping Conference. Gender Road Christian Church will host this new and different approach to Christian Education and stewardship. Featured keynotes for the conference are Sharon Warner/ Christian Education and Todd Adams/ Ohio Disciples Outreach. The Christian Education Commission is chaired by Don Barnes, the ODO is chaired by Kevin Phipps.

Continued in the next column

Brenda continued

... And God continues to do wonderful things. Several events are on the horizon for our youth the United Nations Seminar from Feb. 21-28, 2009 has triggered much excitement. Our young people will visit New York and Washington for a time of



learning and fun. In addition, state officers are preparing to lead the State Youth Convention at Hiram College from March 13-15. Three to four hundred young people are expected to attend. The theme for the Convention ... "Green Faith: This Little Energy Efficient Light of Mine."

Camp Christian Counselors and Assistant Directors can look forward to an interesting and productive time of training on Saturday, Feb. 7 and Mar. 7, 2009. Counselor training is not an overnight event this year, however, those needing to stay overnight will be accommodated. Contact Brenda via email bwebster@ccinoh.org or phone 614-433-0343, to make arrangements.

The Christian Church in Ohio is seeking to hire a CYF Conference Director. The deadline to apply is January 9, 2009. Please check our website for the description if you are interested in working with Brenda in this servant-leader capacity. Indeed, God is doing great things in our Region and in our lives. May the Spirit of God bless you and yours throughout this blessed season.

STATE YOUTH CONVENTION

GREEN FAITH

This little energy

efficient

light

of mine.

HIRAM

COLLEGE

MARCH

13-15



Looking for more? www.ccinoh.org

Deadline for entries into the
March/April issue of
The Buckeye Disciple

Due in the Regional Church Office by
February 1, 2009

Submitted via email is preferred ccio@ccinoh.org

Treasurer's Corner

At our recent Regional Assembly I was joined by Rev. Randy Clay and Mr. Braden Gueth in leading a Workshop on Strengthening our Congregations through Technology. I wish to once again thank Randy and Braden for their time and expertise in leading these sessions.

The two sessions were well attended and quite interactive. So much so that I believe it is valuable to share some of the discussion. One concern I heard was how many of our congregations are being solicited by service bureaus regarding their finance and accounting procedures. Their intent is to encourage the congregation to consider outsourcing their processing to an outside service provider. That may or may not make sense and requires detailed analysis to understand the benefits and costs associated with such a decision. My real concern is that many of these solicitations are using scare tactics to make their point, referencing the threat of criminal charges to those who are not in full compliance with standard accounting and financial procedures.

The Regional Office can help if you have concerns about your current practices regarding accounting or financial processes. We have requested procedures from our congregations that we can make available for your review. We can also facilitate discussions with other congregations of similar size or with similar issues. I have visited congregations at their invitation to review and discuss practices and procedures that we have in place at the Regional office. We can also assist in helping understand some of the key issues regarding costs and benefits in outsourcing as compared to retaining the functions within the congregation.

I truly believe the opportunity exists to strengthen our congregations using technology in an effective and cost efficient manner. You can help by sharing your current practices and procedures with us at the Regional office so that we may catalog them for reference. This information will be maintained confidentially and all references to the church and any individual will be deleted. Please take a moment to send an email to my attention ddraper@ccinoh.org with the following information.

- Accounting: What software are you using currently for posting contributions and expenses?
- Finance: What bank(s) are you currently using?
- Technology: Who is your Web provider or is it maintained by a volunteer?
- Contacts: Please identify the person and the contact information, i.e. email or phone number.
- Questions: Please let us know if there are any questions we may be able to answer or research on your behalf.

Regional Assembly 2008

Thank You to everyone who contributed to this event!!!



Disciples youth to participate in all aspects of General Assembly

Activities for youth are always an important part of General Assembly. Lots of plans are underway for youth events that will invite and inspire young people to participate in all aspects of Assembly. Special room space is being designed as places where youth can hang out, relax and reflect. There also will be cool "eye openers" and "eye closers" for youth, highlighted by great speakers and a concert.

Disciples youth will play a role in each worship service and participate in the all-Assembly Wholeness Caf. There will be a "Shadow a Disciples Leader" program for youth, mission opportunities, plus youth-friendly Learning Tracks and Resource Groups. To learn more, go to www.disciples.org/ga and click on "Youth at the Assembly."

Ohio Spiritual Life Retreat for Ministers

(Retired & Spouses are welcome)

"Practicing Your Path"

February 17-19, 2009

Speaker: Rev. Kerry Reed

Camp Christian

If unable to attend, you are invited to be in prayer support during the time of the retreat. Email Kay McGlinchey at kmcglinchey@genderoadcc.com if you will be in prayer.



Disciples equip ecumenical efforts

Disciples are providing leadership for the greater Columbus Metropolitan Area Church Council (MACC). Rev. Ken Coy recently became President of the MACC Board. He has served several terms as its Vice-President. Pastor Jerry Miller, a licensed minister, has been appointed by the Board to serve as its "Community Representative". Dr. Eric Brown, Board member, continues to give excellent leadership as Chair of MACCs "Racial Unity Services"- one of the very important and lively ministries of the Ecumenical body.

Another of MACC's featured programs is the annual Living Faith Awards Breakfast at Capital University. Each May this enterprise recognizes and celebrates the ministries of Ten Outstanding Lay Persons from across greater Columbus - with citations from the Governor, the Mayor and the honoree's personal faith testimonies. Just a few years ago MACC helped give birth to the now very strong and active Central Ohio Interfaith Council.

Columbus, like many ecumenical bodies, is experiencing the very difficult times of decreased interest and reduced resources which accompany current "Unity" efforts. The MACC Board is committed to refocus endeavors to empower the affirmation that, as Christians, we are called by Christ to seek and do together those ministries that none of us can do alone. We treasure your prayers to give wings to our continuing ecumenical posture.

Also, in Central Ohio, the Ecumenical Concerns Committee of the Central Southeast Association of the United Church of Christ and Disciples are partnering together for ecumenical enterprises. Among our programs are:

- A Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration in January
- the "Equipping the Saints" workshop in March.
- An occasional gathering of clergy from the two churches

Other Disciples on the Committee are: The Revs. Bertie Dell, Morgan Wickizer and Dr. David Stansberry (a layperson from the Fourth Ave. Christian Church)

Not to be overlooked, but thankfully celebrated is: the Rev. Dr. LaTaunya Bynum's ministry as President of the Ohio Council of Church's Governing Board. Her term for this service concludes the end of this year and leading into the Ohio Ministries Convocation in January. **Thank you Toni!** - from all of us who still believe the church is one and deserves to be seen so manifested in the world.



**DISCIPLE WOMEN.....
SAVE THIS DATE!
SATURDAY, APRIL 18**

Ohio Women's
Ministries Convocation
Gender Road
Christian Church

Keynoter: Rev. Dr. Diane Lobody
Professor at Methodist Theological School in Ohio

Youth Scholarship Golf Outing

Rev. Doug Adams

Saturday, June 6, 2009

Scioto Reserve Country Club

You're probably looking at this and thinking "What's he doing talking about golf in January", but I know you're thinking about the same thing. You wish you were on the links instead of shoveling snow and scraping your windshield. My sticks are still in my trunk. I'm here to remind you of your first golfing outing opportunity for 2009.

The Youth Scholarship Golf Outing is scheduled for Saturday, June 6th at Scioto Reserve Country Club with a shotgun start at 1:00pm. The entry fee of \$125 has not changed in the past four years. The dinner following the golf will be held right at the club this year. Later in the fall, we hope to host a dinner at Camp Christian. Details on this will be released later.

I want you to put this date on your calendar now and start thinking about the ideal foursome for this event. Leave this on the kitchen counter and your significant other might just give you your registration as a Valentine's Day present. On-line registration will be available on the Christian Church in Ohio web site. Register right away to insure your spot in the field.



The Disciples News Service Newsletter

The Disciples News Service distributes a semi-monthly e-mail news brief of events and information about the Christian Church. In addition, other features such as our "Moments in Disciples' History" and regular communications from the General Minister and President are routinely sent to subscribers. This service is free to anyone with an e-mail address. To begin receiving the newsletter, go to www.disciples.org and click on Disciples New Service then subscribe.



Where is your treasure?

"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" Matthew 6:21.

For God, we are treasure: "You are children of the Lord your God. ... the Lord has chosen [you] to be his people, his treasured possession" (Deuteronomy 14:1-2). One of the

gifts of being God's children is that sometimes we are called to be "treasure tenders" for God. We are invited to tend God's treasures beyond our congregation by participating in Week of Compassion.

Life can be tough at times. Hurricanes, tornadoes and tsunamis smash communities to bits. Wars and ethnic conflicts shatter the very foundations of life, shoving people out of their homes and countries. Persistent hunger, poverty, lack of education, and ill health shrivel the life and dry the spirit. The current economic crisis right here at home leaves us all feeling a bit uncertain.

But we *can* do something to respond! Through Week of Compassion, we gently and effectively care for God's treasures. By sharing some of our earthly treasure—our money, our time, our energy—decisive aid can be sent when disaster strikes. Refugees receive help as they rebuild their lives. We help people help themselves through education, health care, tools, seeds, and resources to improve community infrastructure.

And the sharing is mutual. When we care for people, we can be transformed by experiencing the presence of God. Seeing what others (or we ourselves) have lost, we are reminded what matters most in life. Seeing what others live through, we are inspired to live courageously. Seeing that new life is possible, our hope rises.

Our treasure is doing God's will, loving God, and loving God's treasured people, so we all "may take hold of the life that really is life" (1 Timothy 6:19b). Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21).

May you find your treasure, and your heart, by sharing resources and changing lives with a generous gift to Week of Compassion.

**Please join us in sharing your treasure
February 15 and 22, 2009.**

**Week of Compassion:
Sharing Resources. Changing Lives.
www.weekofcompassion.org
(317) 713-2442**

Advance Conference

Susan Wilson, Advance Conference Officer

Advance winter retreat! I cannot think of a more wonderful way to launch into the New Year. It was a fantastic, thought provoking, and spiritual weekend. With both new and familiar faces gathering together in the spirit of god it was truly another successful retreat that touched the hearts and minds of those in attendance. Looking ahead to the months to come, the Advance officers are hard at work planning the spring retreat which will be themed "Dance in God" and held on April 3-5 at Camp Christian. Indeed it promises to be a spiritually fulfilling Advance gathering. **Also, be sure to mark your calendar for April 24, when the annual Advance fundraising concert will be held.** Come out to hear and see the musical gifts of God being displayed and support the Advance ministries. It is sure to be invigorating and entertaining event. May peace be with you in this New Year.

The Camp Christian experience for Adults

*Pat Davis, president,
2009 Adult Conference*

Do you remember the great experiences you had as a young person at Camp Christian? Who can adequately describe that often life-changing week where you grew spiritually, you grew up in many ways, you learned so many new things, new friendships were established and you had such incredible fun.

The good news is that adults in Disciples' churches in Ohio can recapture the excitement of the Camp Christian experience. In the grown-up version it's called Adult Conference in Ohio. We meet for five days of spiritual renewal, worship, inspired preaching, praise, singing, study, great Bible lectures, friendships, loads of fellowship, fun and good food. There are classes, vesper services, forums, conferee-led devotions, a consecration service, and so much more. You'll never want to miss it once you've come! The theme for 2009 conference is ***Our Faith: From Roots to Fruits to Seeds (Disciples Past, Present, and Future).***



We welcome all Disciples from the Christian Churches in Ohio to join us for the 72nd Adult Conference that meets June 15-19, 2009 in Columbus at Northwest Christian Church. Lodging is at nearby motels. Please come... bring your spouse

and/or bring friends and have a wonderful week. Watch for further details in the *Buckeye Disciple* or go to the web site for the Christian Church in Ohio, www.ccinoh.org and click on the Adult Conference link. Please feel free to contact any of the officers listed there for information.





Joshua Project: Receiving, Living & Giving By Lillian Sherrod

Ribbon Cutting, Blessing and Dedication

With much anticipation and excitement, on the afternoon of October 12, the Ribbon Cutting, Blessing and Dedication services for Bethany Christian Church's Joshua Project (building expansion) got underway with Minister Denise Cunningham-Doggett and Rev. Donna Hurt serving as Worship Leaders. The spirit of the Lord filled the full to capacity sanctuary as the program commenced with all in attendance singing "We Have Come into this House," while the new video monitors flashed the words "Welcome to Bethany Christian Church" across the screen. Later on, Junior Deacon Candice Harris and Deacon Clarence Parker gave an 'official' welcome to visitors. Rev. Dr. William Edwards, then rendered the Call to Worship and Invocation.

Rev. Dr. R. E. Hedgeman expounded on Numbers 14:1-9, the Joshua Project's Biblical Theme. She spoke of the many challenges that had occurred as the church sought financing for the project, and reminded all that when obstacles occur, keep pressing on. Deacon Clarence Parker was recognized for the exceptional work he had done as the project administrator.

Following the service, everyone gathered around the new



Continued in the next column

Joshua Project continued

entryway where there was a gold ribbon set up for cutting between two stone pillars. Individuals cutting the ribbon were the Pastor and other persons representing the Elders, Deacons, Junior Deacons, Trustees, and Young Warriors. The Pastor then went inside the new wing to dedicate the elevator. Led by Mother Viola Hedgeman, mobility challenged members and Golden Gems were led into the building to cut burgundy ribbons on the new elevator. The moment was precious and unforgettable.

Tours were taken of the new wing which included: the elevator, lobby, church office, Pastor's office, conference room, computer room, additional classrooms, associate minister's room, choir room, library/bookstore, and restroom facilities. In the R. W. Dickerson Fellowship Hall, refreshments were being served, and there was a photo display of Bethany (past and present), as well as a photographic progression of the Joshua Project.



Living the Vision

October 13, began the first evening of the teaching and preaching component of the Joshua Project services. Pastor Hedgeman's message was of "Vision," because "without a vision the people perish." She then issued an invitation for each person to be more than a member, and be the heart of the movement of God. This goes hand in hand with the newly added fifth star – that is one of the characteristics we seek in becoming a Five-Star Church: Each member executing their Ministry with Excellence.

Disciples Night

October 14, the Joshua Project service continued with Disciples Night. The Reverend Eugene Randall, II of the Christian Church Board of Church Extension gave the message.

This event was truly a blessed one. The Lord's hand was upon everything that took place! All ministries were involved in some way or another, bringing about a greater feeling of unity and allowing everyone to 'Grab Hold of the Vision.'

*Bethany Christian Church is located at
3940 Martin Luther King Jr Dr, Cleveland, OH 44105-4357*

Disciple's Men Cookin' for Mission

For years, the International Day of Pancakes has been a successful vehicle to pair up Disciples Men's groups from across the country to projects that will directly impact the lives of children across our denomination. Disciples Men have answered the call to get involved in children's lives to make a difference. Now the Disciples Men are responding to another much needed call. Due to financial limitations, Disciples Home Missions has been forced to eliminate the funding that partially supported the budgets of four missions centers. The centers that have been greatly affected by this cutback are: Yakama Christian Mission center in White Swan, Washington; Inman Christian Mission Center in San Antonio, Texas; All Peoples Christian Center in Los Angeles and the Kentucky Appalachian Ministry.

The Executive Committee of the General Conference of Disciples Men, in February of 2008, voted to approve a transformation of this vital program and the distribution of funds. Beginning in 2009 all funds collected from the International Day of Pancakes will be distributed to all four of the mission centers previously mentioned. Since all four mission centers directly affect the children who live in these areas, the basic purpose of the program will not change, only how the funds are distributed. Pancake breakfasts are recommended, but not essential. Your local men's group can choose to have a fish fry, pig roast, yard sale or even a ham and yam dinner. Be creative in how your group raises money. All monies received January 1 through December 31 will be distributed the following year.

The mission of the Yakama Christian Mission is to be a visible sign of God's presence, by offering gifts of love and ministry to all who seek spiritual nurture and support. Ministry of the mission is accomplished through worship, pastoral care, and its program ministries. Program ministries with children are a high priority of the mission and include Christian education, with an extensive Vacation Bible School for the children in the community, and recreation using the new basketball courts and playground.

Through the work of Dr. Samuel Guy Inman, Christian Woman's Board of Missions of the Christian Church founded Inman Christian Center in 1913. A neighborhood based Community Center, Inman seeks to serve the needs of low-income children and families who live near the Center and around the Westside of San Antonio.

The mission of All Peoples Christian Center is to continue to provide a broad spectrum of social services to all, regardless of faith or race, and to empower the community to meet its needs by promoting equality, unity, respect and self determination among all who participate in its programs.

Kentucky Appalachian Ministry works to develop specific ways the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) can join with other denominations in regional ecumenical ministry; discover ways to relate to the special social and economic needs of Kentucky Appalachian people as they work together in church and community-based organizations; and to serve the wide church by sharing distinctive gifts and experiences from the people and congregations of the area.

For further information contact Stephen Bentley or go to the link <http://www.discipleshomemissions.org/Men/Pancakes.htm>

Litter Prevention and Recycling Program

From a Church School lesson on Genesis about being good stewards of the earth, First Christian members became active participants of the Mansfield Litter Prevention and Recycling Program. Members are gathered around the sign designating First Christian Church as a group who keep the neighborhood clean of litter and trash a minimum of four times a year.



Equipping the Saints

When it is winter and the trees are bare, we long for signs of hope and promise. Spring time feels a long time away. The spring bulb is deep in the ground, no sign of life in green shoots yet. The cocoon is brown and lifeless looking, no butterfly in sight. This is the "Hidden Promise" which God alone can see. The theme for this year's Equipping the Saints day long leadership training event is "A Hidden Promise." This annual March Saturday event for clergy and laity of the Christian Church (DOC) and United Church of Christ will happen on Saturday, March 7 from 9:15 AM to 3:45 PM at St. Andrew Christian Church. A fee of \$15.00 per person includes lunch, a choice of two workshops, and a day of fellowship. Leadership for the event is outstanding! The opportunities for growing in ministry are greater than any one congregations alone could support. Rev. Bob Molsberry, Ohio Conference Minister for the United Church of Christ, will be the morning keynote speaker. Participants will be able to choose one of five morning workshops and one of five afternoon workshops. Topics and leaders are: "There's a Song in Every Silence," Rev. Linda Steelman; "Practical Evangelism," Rev. Kate Huey; "What it holds, a mystery: Worship Alternatives," Professor Robin Knowles Wallace; "Beyond Ourselves: Missions & the Local Congregation," Meryl In Winters; "Christian Coaching," Rev. Michael Doerr; "Anti-Racism," Rev. Nikki Mazza-Fredley; "Prayer," Rev. Kerry Reed; "Technologies of Communication," Rev. David Turner; "Revitalizing the Church," Rev. Dr. Bill McConnell; and "Safe Churches," CSEOA Department of Church & Education.

Registration is made through the Central Southeast Ohio Association office at 6161 Busch Blvd., Columbus, OH 43229, 614-885-0722 and is due by Friday, February 27, 2009.

A Year of Celebrations in Boardman

It has been a great year at Disciples Christian Church (Boardman) in 2008. This congregation has had a lot to celebrate, with two great achievements – a Mission project, and a 50th Anniversary of ministry.

In the spring a Mission trip was proposed to the elders, with the projected details to be worked out. One Sunday during our stewardship and offering time we chose to do something very different. After a message from our pastor about the parable of the talents given in Matthew 25, where Jesus taught that to be loyal servants we must make our talents grow, instead of taking up a normal offering, the church elders came forward and distributed an envelope to everyone. Upon opening it, the congregation found a crisp new \$50 bill, along with instructions asking them to invest the “talents” given to them in some way that would grow the amount to a point where we could send members of our congregation on a mission trip to New Orleans to help rebuilding efforts from hurricane Katrina. It wasn't long before the talents of the congregation began to emerge, organizing dinners, carnivals, rummage sales, a book sales and car washes. Quilts, crocheted items and homemade baked goods were for sale, landscaping services, home cooked meals, candy bars and hand picked fresh strawberries were being offered. After distributing almost \$4,500 to the members, we received back over \$14,000 in just over two months. People who didn't realize the talent they possessed, or perhaps hadn't been motivated to try something different, or push their own comfort zone did so in order to support this fundraising. This project helped so many grow in their faith in the Lord and realize that they have much more to offer than they may have realized.

A team of thirteen members drove the 22 hour trip to First Christian Church of Metairie, Louisiana, which they would call home for five days. They had been excited to arrive, but were struck silent looking at all the devastation that still existed – abandoned, destroyed and demolished buildings everywhere one looked. The group was comprised of 10 adults and 3 youth. Two members provided two meals each day for the group. The workers were directed by the folks at the St. Bernard Project, and worked in a community just east of the lower ninth ward which was one of the most heavily flooded. Of the almost 26,000 private homes in that area, only 6 were inhabitable after the storm. The group was divided in two, with half going to one home to drywall, but because one member was a professional electrician, the other half was asked to completely wire a different home. Though the temperature each day was above 100 degrees, and the days long, no one wanted to go back to the church when it was time to stop for the day. By the end of the week the two houses were drywalled and ready for electrical inspection. The group became well acquainted with one homeowner who had been living in a FEMA trailer on her property for the last three years, since she had been unable to evacuate because of a brain aneurysm suffered just weeks before the storm. She told of helicopters passing over her and her baby granddaughter again and again before being rescued, with water levels in the area reaching 10+ feet -- a heart wrenching story.

Continued in the next column

Boardman continued



This was an amazing and rewarding experience on so many levels, the tangible help they were able to offer, and the coming together as a family of the team members, creating a bond of those 13 members that cannot be expressed. The group shared some of their experiences during worship several weeks later, and all concurred that whatever you choose to give of yourself, if given from your heart and for God – God will return to you in such abundance that you will not be able to comprehend it.

The second big celebration occurred on September 14th, a celebration of 50 years of ministry of the Boardman Christian Church, now called Disciples Christian Church following the joining of a number of folks from the closing of Central Christian Church, and the merger of the First Christian Church on Youngstown, in 2004. The original charter members stepped out in faith in 1958, in breaking away from another local church, over issues of disagreement. The Anniversary Sunday was very memorable, with a number of the original charter members in attendance, many past members, and former pastors - Rev. Jerry Sullivan, Rev. Randy Johnson, who gave the message in worship, and Rev. Jim Schimmel were honored. A celebratory dinner followed, with much visiting, reminiscing, and fellowship. A souvenir ceramic mug with the pictures of the 3 churches, and a Memory Book, comprised of “Memories” submitted by many people were given to all. Posters of photos through the years were enjoyed. A number of those in attendance were over 90 years of age, the eldest two being 96. What a joyful day it was!

Disciples Christian Church has much to celebrate, and so much more ministry to look forward to, in answering the call of the Lord. All thanks and praise be to God!

Pastor Appreciation

The Koinonia Sunday School class at First Christian Church in Wauseon honored their pastors for Pastor Appreciation Month by providing beautiful cakes for their monthly mission luncheon. The cakes were made by a member of the congregation in beautiful fall colors and words of thanks. The class also took the pastors and their spouses out for dinner. Mitch Maxted and Mary Jo Bray are the pastors.



Church transformation events in 2009

Transformation is the intentional spiritual journey that a congregation undertakes systemically to realize what God has called that congregation to be as church and to do in mission in today's world. There is still time for Disciples to participate in four God's Positioning Spirit (GPS) congregational transformation meetings in 2009. The GPS gatherings will take place at various times from January to March. Organizers of the meetings say a congregation's transformational journey is spiritual because transformation is the work of God. It is systemic because it is about everything a congregation is and does, not just one aspect of a church's program. It is connected denominationally and to the whole church. It is a strategic journey because it addresses change in an intentional process of action steps. Transformation is also a continuous process. To get more information or register online, go to

www.discipleshomemissions.org and select on online registration. Resources on congregational transformation are available as well. To order them, visit: www.discipleshomemissions.org or contact Lois Robinson at (317) 713-2644 or lrobinson@dhm.disciples.org.



Missions at Home *First Church of Christ Disciples in East Liverpool*

This area is plagued with high unemployment and decreasing revenues. Every child looks forward to the start of school and to new school supplies...pencils, crayons,

paper, markers. But for some, there are no new pencils, crayons, etc. So, with school starting, the Elders of First Church of Christ Disciples initiated an offering to purchase school supplies for local schools and for students who otherwise would have been without at the beginning of this school year. Due to the generosity of our caring and compassionate congregation, we collected a total of \$251.10, and school supplies were delivered to North Elementary, LaCroft and Westgate Middle School. Ron Pease delivered the supplies. Elders are Betty Pease, Lillian Roach, Deanna Plemons, and Karl Fife. Rev. Willard "Chuck" Adkins is the minister. The mission field is often in our own neighborhood...

John 6:35 says "I am the bread of life," Jesus told them, "He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never be thirsty." Guided by these words, members of First Church of Christ in East Liverpool spent a Saturday morning, sharing homemade bread and "the bread of life" with their neighbors. Over 80 loaves of different kinds of bread were baked by ladies in the church from cranberry to chocolate chip to friendship bread. Shown packing the bags of bread from left to right are: Bill Johnson, Ruth Hogue, Lillian Roach, Darla Adkins, Roy Presnell, and Rev. Chuck Adkins. Helping to distribute the bread were Chuck & Darla Adkins, Deanna Plemons, Roy Presnell, Bill Johnson, and Betty Pease. It was a beautiful day in the neighborhood. Seeds have been planted and watered. Now, we pray for harvest.

Cardboard Box City

Howland Community Church in Warren was the site of a Cardboard Box City which began at 4:00 pm on Saturday, October 25 and ran to 7:00 am on Sunday, October 26. The purpose of the Cardboard Box City was to bring awareness to the homeless problem that exists in the Warren/Youngstown area and to raise funds for Family Promise of Mahoning Valley. The evening's activities included a soup kitchen, entertainment by Unmeasured Grace and a candlelight vigil. Approximately, 40 people spent the night in the cold, sleeping in boxes and keeping warm by a fire. There was a certain amount of complaining about the cold but all were aware that the homeless must deal with much worse.

Family Promise of Mahoning Valley is a community response to homeless families. With 5 - 8 families being turned away from shelters each week, the need for a family shelter in the area is enormous. Family Promise hopes to alleviate some of that need opening in the Spring of 2009. The Cardboard Box City raised over \$2000 for the cause, helping to bring the opening date closer.

Family Promise relies on 13 congregations to host on a weekly rotation. Each host congregation provides lodging, three meals daily and welcoming hospitality. Guests will use a local day center from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, where the Family Promise director will provide case management services. Among other things, the day center will provide guests with a mailing address and a base for housing and employment searches.

Volunteers from each congregation are the heart of the program. Volunteers provide various services including cooking and serving meals, playing with children or helping them with homework, and interacting with guests with respect and compassion. Two volunteers stay overnight with the families.

The churches that have committed to Family Promise of Mahoning Valley to date include Howland Community Church, Howland United Methodist Church, Niles First Christian Church, Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community, Central Christian Church and Niles First United Methodist Church. The Rev. Dr. Brian Byrne, Senior Minister at Howland Community Church, is the Chairman of the organization. For more information, contact him at 330-856-3628. A website is available at www.familypromisemv.org.



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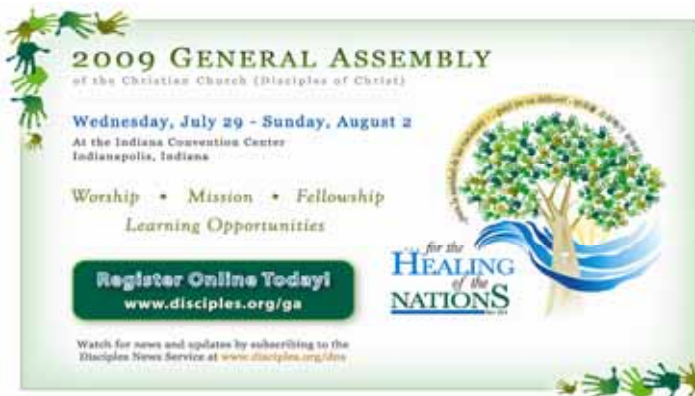
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The 10th Anniversary of DCDC

History of Donkoi Children Development Center 5 little hammers and lots of nails

One day in March 1998, I came to Mr. Khamvanh's house in Donkoi village and found little boys of grades 4 and 5 of Donkoi primary school fixing the school's tables and benches excitedly with one big hammer and some big nails.

I thought, wow! How wonderful this farmer carpenter villager is! He took initiative to do this job without anyone's suggestion. I thought again, "wouldn't it be wonderful if there was a carpenter club in the school so the boys could play with wood?" I spontaneously asked the children, "would you like more hammers?" They all said "Yes", so that was it! The young carpenter group was born. We began with five little hammers and a lot of little nails. I told Mr. Khamvanh if he could bring some bigger youths to help him fix the tables and benches while the little boys just played with the hammers, nails, and wood. Mr. Khamvanh bought a 'tuktuk' (small vehicle that carries passengers short distances) full of scrap wood and that summer of 1998 children of Donkoi primary school had a wonderful time creating anything they wanted to, no need to fix tables and benches. That was how Donkoi school's after-school program began: five little hammers, lots of nails and a skilled carpenter with a very good heart.

Xuyen Dangers is a social worker in Laos/Vietnam. She serves as a Social work supervisor of Donkoi child center and 5 other centers, Social work advisor, Faculty of Social Sciences, and the National University of Laos, for Church World Service and Witness (NCCC).