



The Buckeye Disciple Christian Church in Ohio

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

A covenant network of congregations in mission

July/August 2009

Volume 18, Number 4

Going to General Assembly?

Be sure to attend the Northeast Inter-Regional Fellowship (NIRF) Reception/After Session 9 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. at the Indiana Convention Center in Room 109. Connect with other Ohio Disciples, plus Disciples from other Northeast Regions.

Haven't register yet?

Go to www.disciples.org for more information.



We want to hear from you!!

"In covenant together, we are gifted and called to become a true community."

Is your congregation doing something amazing in the name of Jesus Christ? Has your Pastor been honored in some way? Is your church celebrating a milestone? Are the youth participating in mission projects? There are so many wonderful things happening in all of Disciples churches around Ohio, we'd LOVE to share them here in The Buckeye Disciple and on the **Congregational News page of our website www.ccinoh.org**. If your congregation has something to share please submit (with pictures if you have them) it to jstoddart@ccinoh.org or sent in to 355 East Campus View Blvd, Suite 110, Columbus, OH 43235.



Hocking Chi Rho Camp 2009

*Poem by Karen Zimmer
and Cabin 12*

*Karen is a 9th Grader from
FCC Massillon*

***Here at Camp Christian
This whole cabin feels at home.
Camp Christian forever is in our hearts
Wherever we may roam.***

***We'll never forget this place
And what we came here for.
And when we stop to think about it
Camp Christian has opened a lot of doors!***

***Before Camp Christian
Our lives were very dim.
But Jesus, our Savior, died for us
So we will live for Him.***

***Camp Christian has helped us learn this,
and has cleared away a path.
Sinners, criminals and wrong-doers,
Will all feel God's wrath.***

***Always having fun
And learning a lot too.
Between quest groups and free time
There's so much to do.***

***Meeting lifelong friends
People you've only known 3-weeks of your whole life
Being at Camp Christian
Feels just right!***



2009 Youth Scholarship Golf Outing

Rev. Doug Adams, Youth Scholarship Committee Chair

What do you suppose 72 golfers were thinking about on a beautiful Saturday in June - pars, birdies and eagles? You're right, they were thinking about those things, but they were also thinking about the \$7,500 they were raising for the Youth Scholarship Fund.

The 2009 Youth Scholarship Golf Outing was held June 6th at the beautiful Scioto Reserve Golf Course in Powell, Ohio. Seventy-two golfers took to the manicured fairways and greens to play golf for the Youth Scholarship Fund. Ninety people enjoyed a wonderful banquet and awards presentation following the outing. Those in attendance participated in a Silent Auction to raise more funds for the Youth Scholarship Fund.

Since 2005, over 190 scholarships have been granted through the Youth Scholarship Fund in the Christian Church in Ohio. Over these past few years the fund has grown to more than the \$27,000 given out in scholarships since 2005. This means we have the resources to insure that none of our young people will miss the opportunity to attend Camp Christian. It's a great benefit to have a source of funding solely dedicated to the financial assistance of those who wish to attend Camp Christian.

It was a marvelous Golf Outing for a wonderful cause. We owe our thanks to the efforts of the Golf Committee and the superb assistance of the Regional office. If you missed the Outing this year you can plan to play next year and add to the strength of the Youth Scholarship Fund.



Spiritual Insights

Rev. Dr. William H. Edwards

“And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost and so are the skins; but one puts new wine into fresh wine skins” – Mark 2:22

There is a song by jazz artist George Benson that was popular when I was in college, about change. The words are: "Everything must change, nothing stays the same, the young become the old, mysteries do unfold, and nothing and no one goes unchanged." Change is an unavoidable part of life. And let's face it, without change, life would be dull.

In the second chapter of Mark, we find the Pharisees and the disciples of John the Baptist having conversations with Jesus about the transformation of traditions and change. The Pharisees were a rigid group of religious Jews who advocated very detailed and strict obedience to Jewish law and traditions. The Pharisees resisted change.

Sometimes, we act like Pharisees. There is a little Pharisee in all of us. Because we all want to do what's comfortable, easy, and familiar - "Even if it is killing us". Why? **Because change is painful. Change is painful, because it involves sacrifice.** Nothing worthwhile comes without struggle or challenge. In this life, we must take risks and step out on faith, believing even when we can't see it, trusting when we can't trace it, going when it doesn't make sense. For, the Bible tells us that we must "walk by faith and not by sight". So, don't be a Pharisee, be open to change and transformation, be open to doing things in a new way.

That is the message Jesus is teaching when he talks about new wine. In biblical days, wine was not kept in glass bottles, but it was kept in goatskins and sewn around the edges to form tight leak proof bags. But, new wine has to go through an aging process called fermentation. It experiences drastic changes in its physical and chemical properties. There is a breakdown of impurities and toxins. There is a stage of agitation and separation. Then comes unrest and then expansion. When new wine expanded as it fermented, it stretched its wineskin.

In this illustration, Jesus was conveying spiritual wisdom through a natural phenomenon. When something is new, it needs room to grow and expand, spread out and stretch, develop and progress. So putting new wine into old skins caused erosion and cracking due to the inability of the old skin to withstand the pressure of further stretching.

In essence, Jesus is saying that he did not come to patch up the old religious system of Judaism with its rules and traditions because if he had, that new wine, that new life message would have destroyed it. Jesus said in Matthew 5:17, *“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.”*

Jesus' purpose was to bring something new, the Good News, that he had come as God's son to offer all people forgiveness of their sins and reconciliation with God. The gospel, the good news message, didn't fit into the old rigid legalistic religion of the

Continued in the next column

Spiritual Insights Continued

Pharisees. The good news message of Jesus was delivered to transform the old religion into something new, so that now all of God's children are able to receive the fresh new wine, new life message of the living God.

God wants us to open up our hearts, to open our minds to receive a fresh anointing, a pouring of new wine, new life, to be transformed. Because you see, to grow is to change. So we must ask the question every time we come into God's house and every time we go to a Bible study, "Lord, How do you want me to change and grow? Lord speak to my heart, Lord give me a fresh anointing, pour out new wine into my life, make me new. God make me a vessel to receive the new wine of life."

God desires to do a new thing in our lives. Are you open and flexible enough to receive it? God desires to deepen your relationship, to bring you into new areas of ministry and service, to use you in a greater capacity in fulfilling God's vision for your church. But in order to do that, we must be willing to get out of the rut of the routine and to do things in a new way. New wine must have new wineskins.

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

Change ... A Transformation Opportunity

“... be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” Romans 12:2b

Years ago, prolific song writer, Quincy Jones, wrote, "Everything must change, nothing stays the same, for that's the way of time. No one and nothing goes unchanged." It is a well known fact that anything that is alive and well changes and grows constantly. How is it then, that something so common, so natural ... can become so painful, so scary? Our comfort zone and competencies are tampered with and confusion reigns supreme when change comes to town! Christ-centered change, however, can be a more positive experience for all involved.

Christ-centered change, like transformation, is a process requiring faith, discipline and time. Deep and lasting Christ-centered change flows out of an intimate relationship with Jesus and our desire to make choices which please Him. Jesus was not a "conformer" but a "transformer" ... a mover and a shaker! We are reminded in Romans 12:2, *“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”* If change were easy, we could just read a book, attend a seminar or a webinar and presto change-o ... be transformed! Change, however, requires mind renewal and where the mind goes, the heart follows.

Deadline for entries into the Sept/Oct issue of

The Buckeye Disciple

Due in the Regional Church Office by
August 1, 2009

Submitting via email is preferred ccio@ccinoh.org

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

A variation on the old joke asks: "How many church members does it take to change a light bulb? The answer is: Change! Why do we need to change this light bulb? My grandparents donated this bulb fifty years ago. We can't change it. Ever!"

Change and resistance to it are as inevitable as seasons changing and our next birthday. Both remind us that the earth turns and seasons move through their course, everything changes and God is still with us.

Still the hymn says: "Trust in your God, your savior and your guide, who through all changes, faithful will remain" (Be Still My Soul). Change can be exciting, boring, painful, joy-filled, affirming, and challenging – sometimes all at the same time. As we experience change, my prayer is that we will experience the love and presence of God, all at the same time.

How many church members does it take to change a light bulb? Only as many as it takes to bring new light and life to the community of faithful people.

Treasurer's Corner, Duncan Draper

The topic of CHANGE is one that is certain to evoke all types of reactions. We have all been part of CHANGE and most likely have different opinions on the topic, depending on the specific CHANGE that is being referenced at the time. As my friend Al Channell often says, 'Camp happens'. The same thing can be said about CHANGE, it happens. We can embrace, reject, ignore, facilitate, or act with some combination of these behaviors depending on how we interpret what CHANGE may mean to us.

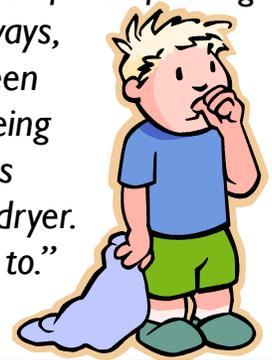
Well CHANGE is going on within the Region and we see that in a variety of ways. Recently we kicked off the 2010 Ministry Planning and Budget Building process. This was formally known as the 2010 Budget planning process. By CHANGING the description we are able to better understand the objective of our efforts. In fact, a budget is simply the result of what our Ministries plan for next year as it relates to their broader vision. The accuracy of that budget depends on the Ministry team discerning what they wish to accomplish in the future. Each of our Ministries will come together and build their ministry plan that fits within the Region's vision of serving as a covenant network of congregations in mission, called to be centers of transformation for our communities.

Camp Christian is experiencing CHANGE as we prepare new security and evacuation procedures. This is consistent with our objective of providing a safe and secure environment for our youth as well as for all those who support Camp including our counselors, Ministry Associates, and other volunteers. I previously shared with you that we are forming a Committee to look at our energy processes employed at Camp with the idea of identifying new alternative options that can provide us quality utility services but at a lower cost. We are blessed that this team has now been formed and includes industry experts from our congregations who can best lead us through this CHANGE.

Once again, I invite you to share your thoughts on this article or contact me with suggestions for future articles. You can reach me at ddraper@ccinoh.org and I look forward to hearing from you.

"It's not so much that we're afraid of change or so in love with the old ways, but it's that place in between that we fear . . . It's like being between trapezes. It's Linus when his blanket is in the dryer. There's nothing to hold on to."

Marilyn Ferguson



**Message from Regional Associate Pastor,
Rev. Stephen Bentley**

Six years ago this spring I was preparing to hike about 550 miles of the Appalachian Trail. In order to prepare myself, I planned a weeklong trip hiking a 60 mile segment of the Appalachian Trail through the lower half of the Great Smoky Mountains. My partner and I would begin at Clingman's Dome, the highest point in the park and walk to Fontana Dam, the lowest point in the park. This is not to say that it was all downhill but at least we knew there would be more downhill than uphill. Because both of us were avid walkers we assumed we could click off the first 3.5 miles to our first shelter in a little over an hour. After parking the car at the Clingmans Dome parking lot we began our climb to the top of the mountain around 6:00 p.m. We figured this would put us at the shelter no later than 8:00 p.m. Whether going uphill or down, we could not maintain our usual 3 mile per hour walking average. Darkness soon descended upon us and we had to pull out our flashlights. At one point, a group of hikers passed us on the way to the shelter. We finally arrived at the shelter around 10:00 p.m., tired and worn out from a short 3 mile walk. We awoke the next day with muscles complaining all over our bodies. We discovered to our surprise that this type of hiking uses a completely different set of muscles than those we had exercised on the relatively flat hills of southern Ohio. While we were in great shape for one type of hiking, we were completely ill-prepared physically for this trail. We had a choice. We could either travel back the 3 miles to our car or continue on the next 57 miles, exercising these other muscles, enduring pain, to finish our goal. We chose the latter, and had a great time, with lots of memories.

Is this not where the church finds itself today? We have been in fine shape for the terrain we traveled during the middle of the last century. But suddenly, we find ourselves on terrain that is unfamiliar and for which we are ill-prepared. Being church in the present requires a different set of skills, a different way of operating, and a different way of being church. The good news is that we do not have to learn these in a vacuum. We can learn with a network of other congregations in mission who are all traveling this new terrain. We can share and learn from one another as together we more fully become the Body of Christ in our world. Some steps may be painful as we exercise new learning's, but am convinced that the change is worth it and our spiritual lives will grow richer through the journey.

Regional Calendar

July

- 3 Fourth of July Observed, RCO Closed**
 *5 – 11 Adventure Camp – Bicycling
 *5 – 11 Portahoga Chi Rho Camp @ Camp Christian
 *12 – 18 Badger Partnership Camp @ Templd Hills
 *12 – 18 Maumee Chi Rho Camp @ Camp Christian
 14 RCO Staff Meeting
 14 Christian Education Team Conference Call 7:00pm
 16 Personnel Committee Meeting @ RCO 10:00am
 *19 – 25 Lakeside CYF Conference @ Camp Christian
 21 Ohio Disciples Extension Corporation @ RCO 10am
 *26–Aug 1 Beaver Partnership Camp @ **Pilgrim Hills**
 *26–Aug 1 Wilmington CYF Conference @ Camp Christian
 *29–Aug 2 General Assembly, Indianapolis, Indiana

August

- 1 **Deadline for entries into the Sept/Oct Buckeye**
 *2 – 8 Miami Chi Rho Camp @ Camp Christian
 *9 – 16 Advance Conference @ Camp Christian
 *14 – 16 Children, Worship, and Wonder Training @
 Washington Ave Christian Church, Elyria
 15 Christian Education Commission @ Camp Christian
 18 Commission on Ministry @ Northwest C.C.
 25 RCO Staff Meeting
 27 Ohio Disciples Outreach Committee @ RCO 10am

September

- 2 Ohio Disciples Extension Corporation Conf. Call
 4 – 6 Disciples Fellowship Retreat @ Camp Christian
7 Labor Day, RCO Closed
 11 – 13 Ohio Women's Ministries Fall Retreat @ Camp
 15 Commission on Ministry @ Northwest C.C.
 16 RCO Staff Meeting
 18 – 20 Ohio Disciples Men's Fall Retreat @ Camp Christian
 25 – 26 CYF Commission Meeting @ Camp Christian

October

- 1 **Deadline for entries into the Nov/Dec Buckeye**
 6 Executive Committee Meeting @ RCO
 7 RCO Staff Meeting
 10 Cleveland Christian Home Work Day
 19 Interim Ministers Working Group
 20 Commission on Ministry @ Northwest C.C.
 21 Ohio Disciples Extension Corporation @ RCO 10am
 23-24 Regional Church Council meeting @ Camp Christian
 26 – 30 Spiritual Life Silent Retreat @ Camp Christian
 28 Anti-Racism Standing Workshop @ Camp Christian
 29 Sexual Ethics Standing Workshop @ Camp Christian

November

- 11 – 12 RCO Staff Retreat
 17 Commission on Ministry @ Northwest C.C.
 20 – 22 CYF Leadership Training @ The Hocking Valley Parish
26 – 27 Thanksgiving, RCO Closed

December

- 1 **Deadline for entries into the Jan/Feb Buckeye**

RCO = Regional Church Office
 * Online Registration is now available

The Importance of Reconciliation Offering

**Anne Sowell,
 Co-Chair
 Anti-Racism/
 Pro-Reconciliation
 Commission**

Given the current economic conditions, we are all tightening our belts and hoping that the economy will quickly get better. While we are waiting for the economy to get better and the stimulus dollars to reach Ohio and trickle down to you and me, we must continue to support our church's state and national programs. These times test our faith and discipleship when we are asked to sacrifice by giving to support programs of our denomination. If you believe, as I believe, the words of Malachi 3:10 - "I share what's been given to me and I trust God to pour me out that blessing that I won't have room enough to receive."

One of the offerings we will be asked to support in late September and early October is the Reconciliation Offering. During recent years the Reconciliation offering has decreased as the work of the Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation Commission has increased. Many conclusions can be drawn about this decrease in the offering but let's not waste time on that. I would rather spend my time making a suggestion about how we can get the offering back to what it was prior to the decline, and explain the importance of the offering.

I am suggesting that every adult Disciple save their change beginning August 1st through September 30th and donate that change to the Reconciliation offering when it is taken up at your church. If your church **doesn't** take up an offering, then you should mail the change you saved in a check or money order to the Christian Church in Ohio, designated for the Reconciliation offering. This effort by each of you will increase the offering significantly and possibly surpass our best offering year. The total of this offering is divided between the state and national Reconciliation commissions to support their programs.

The purpose of this commission as I see it is to (1) insure that our denomination continues to grow; (2) be inclusive of all people, allowing congregations to maintain themselves as communities change; (3) assist churches in learning to welcome and embrace all of God's people regardless of race, creed or color and (4) that we are living out the great commission of our Lord and Savior – Mark 12:30 - 31 "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these."

I challenge you to demonstrate your love for your neighbor, your church, the programs of the church and your God by giving to the Reconciliation offering regardless of your economic situation and you will be blessed.



**Many
 Members,
 ONE TABLE**

Live in God!

By the Advance Conference Officers: Susan, Laura, & Ryan

The power of the Advance ministry never ceases to amaze me! The spirituality of the April Spring Retreat, "Dance with God," was amazing and inspiring. During this retreat we discussed how the different rhythms and songs we encounter in our lives distract us. We were led by Rev. Jay Gamelin, a talented musician and speaker, who infused new life in our praise with some desperately-needed new songs. We celebrated in song and devotion as we explored how to better listen for the rhythm of God and how to live in harmony with it; to be led in the great dance which is, was, and always will be. On April 24th, Advance attendees gathered again in music and in God's presence for the Annual Advance Fundraising Concert. The display of talent people put forth to support the Advance Ministry was truly an amazing representation of God's gifts! After hearing about all of these incredible things that go on with the Advance Ministries, you may be wondering when you can get involved. Well the answer is Advance Summer Conference on August 9-16 at Camp Christian! The theme for this week of Conference is "Live in God." During the week we will embark on a journey to learn and discuss different ways we can make God more present in our lives as young adults in this modern time. This should prove to be a spiritually fulfilling week! Please don't let money or time be reasons to keep you from attending Advance. Scholarships are available. Plus, the beauty of Advance conference is that you can attend for as much or as little as you are able. We hope to see many new and old faces this summer. Please spread the word about Advance Summer Conference!



Elders Workshop September 26, 2009

Featuring Rev. Dr. Richard Hamm, former General Minister and President, Executive Administrator of the Christian Churches Together in the US, Author of the books, "Mainline to Front Line", "2020 Vision for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)", and "Recreating The Church: Leadership For The Post-Modern Age".

The Workshop will be held at Central Christian Church, 407 N. Market St., Wooster, OH 44691. Registration Fee (if received by August 1) is \$20.00 per person. Also, save September 27, 2010 for next year's workshop. The presenter will be Dr. Randy Harris, Instructor at Abilene Christian University. For more information, including how to register, contact Rev. Kevin Phipps at 330-262-4652 or kevin@cccwooster.org.

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Ohio Region Mission Trip October 26-30

Plan now to be a part of this second Ohio trip to Metairie, LA (a western suburb of New Orleans). We will again be assisting in the monstrous ongoing rebuilding program that began following hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005. If you missed the first one, don't let this one pass you by! Disciple volunteers assisted in the clean out of flooded homes and have now helped in the building and rebuilding of over 250 homes, allowing the return of 250 families to their own residences. There are some costs to volunteers for meals and travel, but there may be individuals and groups in your church or others who would like to participate in the mission effort by contributing to your expenses. Be resourceful; check into it. What will you get out of it? Probably more than you put into it yourself. You may even meet the family you are assisting, and the feeling of satisfaction you receive from knowing you have helped to make a major difference in their lives will be more than enough reward for all your labors. Plus the fellowship of working, eating and traveling alongside the other Disciple volunteers on the team will be a rich blessing to you.

So, how can you sign up or learn more about the trip? You can contact Rev. Paul Lantis at – revpaul@columbus.rr.com or (614) 760-8830.



Retired Ministers gather to form network

Fourteen retired pastors and spouses met for lunch and an introductory workshop to discuss their continuing place at the table in the Christian Church after the conclusion of active pastoral ministry. The group also expressed interest in forming a continuing retired-pastors group in the Akron and Cleveland areas, according to Tom Kerns, District 3 regional elder.

The Rev. Paul Biery, District 2 regional elder and a retired pastor, presented a program and led a focus-group discussion that sprang from his current work toward a doctor of ministry degree at the Roman Catholic St. Mary Seminary in Wickliffe. He is focusing on the role of retired pastors in the church. Biery began the program by encouraging the "practice of the presence of God" each day.

The Rev. Lin Barnett, District 3 regional elder, commented that since his retirement from chaplaincy at Akron General Medical Center earlier this year, he is finding he is spending more time with God now.

When the group was asked about recommendations for younger pastors, Barnett said he would encourage younger pastors to insist on taking a sabbatical break to recharge. "I never took a sabbatical."

Retired Regional Pastor Howard Ratcliff recommended, "Some kind of cross-cultural exposure should be built into every seminary experience." He also encouraged pastors to maintain an active life and personal identity outside of meeting congregational needs. "Get a life" outside of your ministry, so you can minister with integrity.

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Disciples of Christ
A covenant network of congregations in mission

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Back to the Future: REBUILDING OWM

Isaiah 43: 18-19

But forget that-it is nothing compared
to what I am going to do.



For I am about to do something new.
See, I have already begun! Do you not see it?
I will make a pathway through the wilderness.
I will create rivers in the dry wasteland. New Living Translation

**OHIO WOMEN'S MINISTRIES FALL RETREAT
CAMP CHRISTIAN
SEPTEMBER 11-13, 2009**

We are looking to the past to make a better future!!

New Things this year

- Sat Night Preacher - Rev. Yvonne Gilmore Essig
- The Art of Hosting Workshop
- More participant interaction!
- Sharing Our Faith Stories
- Friday Night Bible Study

Old Things too good to leave behind

- Silent Auction
- Talent Night
- High Street Cooks
- Cleveland Christian Horse Mission Project
- Cokesbury Bookstore

Start planning NOW to attend the:

- Children, Worship and Wonder Training at Washington Ave Christian Church, Elyria August 14-16.
- Disciples Fellowship Labor Day Retreat at Camp Christian September 4-6.
- Men's Fall Retreat at Camp Christian September 18-20.

The Buckeye Disciple

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