



The Buckeye Disciple

Christian Church in Ohio
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST
A covenant network of congregations in mission: We are the Body of Christ gifted and called in covenant together as Disciples of Christ to be centers of transformation on the new mission frontier of our own communities

Volume 16, Number 3

May/June 2007

w'aa Shukriya Danyavad Kwakwhá /
la Grácias **Thank You** Merci Dank
o Spacibo Arigato Kulo Tanikiu Háv
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Your Gifts to
Pentecost Special Offering
Change Lives

 Disciples Mission Fund
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Jack Bauer, the Apostle Paul, and the New Church Committee

Television character, Jack Bauer, is no Apostle Paul. The two men have something in common— something which can be helpful in starting new churches— but Jack is no Paul.

Purpose makes a difference!

You may not be aware of it, but there is a driving sense of mission being kindled right here in Ohio. Thanks to the support of all the Disciples congregations of Ohio and our New Church Committee, we have been able to “unleash” dedicated individuals like Iluminado Castellano and Enrique Rivera on the unchurched of Ohio.

Iluminado landed in Ohio in Mentor a few years ago. There he dove into the community with a contagious faith and gathered several individuals to begin the new church called Mision Cristiana Emanuel. It has continued to grow, magnify God, and lift the lives of all those within its reach.

The enthusiasm, however, was too big for just one congregation. Soon some of the embers of enthusiasm had flown out to neighboring communities. Mision Cristiana Faro Luz in Lorain felt some warmth and energy from the Mentor church. Mision Cristiana Nuevo Vida in Cleveland and Mision Cristiana Jezreel in Ashtabula have also been blessed by the faith and dedication in Mentor.

In fact, Iluminado, himself has become one of those embers of enthusiasm that has blown on to another city. Just this last January Iluminado answered the call to move to Columbus to begin a new church there— Iglesia Cristiana Mana. Apparently there are already about 20 people gathering together to become a vital center of faith, witness, and service. And there is even some talk already about sending a glowing ember of faith over to the west side of Columbus. Apparently those on the east side heard there may be a few “lost sheep” on the west side, and these mission-minded people are not satisfied with the Little Bo Peep approach.

Oh, and guess what Pastor Enrique Rivera and a dedicated team of laypersons are doing back at Mentor. They can't be contained either. They heard that the fledgling new church in Ashtabula was without a pastor and in need of support. So the good folks from Mentor have made a commitment to drive the 40 miles to Ashtabula every Sunday evening to help host a Bible study and worship. They have a heart for it; they have a sense of mission and purpose.

It appears there is a growing sense of mission in the state of Ohio. Jack Bauer may not be an Apostle Paul, but people like Iluminado and Enrique are following closely in his footsteps.

On behalf of the New Church Committee we want to ask the churches from all over Ohio to kindle the flame. There is a purpose being ignited— be a part of it. Shine the light God has given you. One way you can do that is with a purposeful contribution to New Church Ministries through the upcoming Pentecost offering. Think about it, pray about it, and talk it up. Don't let the momentum stop.

Jack Bauer is the main character on the popular show called 24, where he is an erratic part of the Counter Terrorist Unit. Jack sometimes plays by the rules, and sometimes plays outside the rules, but Jack is always playing hard, if you can call counter-terrorism work play. Whether he is putting his life on the line, or leading the team to save the lives of others, Jack is a force to be reckoned with.

Apparently 24 is a very popular show. Many people are hooked on the storyline waiting eagerly from week to week to see how the cliff-hanging predicament from the end of the last week's show will be resolved in the current week.

Any observer can clearly see that 24 is not a religious show. One of the prominent differences between Jack and Paul is that Jack seems all too willing to use violence to achieve his ends— even against members of his own family (who, of course, turn out to be bad guys). My reading of the Apostle Paul reveals him to be a very different sort of guy, not prone to using violence, at least not since an encounter with Christ on the road to Damascus.

There is, however, something that Jack and Paul do seem to have in common: they both have a huge sense of purpose and mission. Both of them seem driven. They are passionate and purposeful people— they believe in what they are doing.

Such a sense of mission and purpose is a useful thing in starting new churches. It is unlikely we will learn that from Jack, but Paul made it pretty clear. Paul was convinced that spreading the gospel and bringing people to Christ and his church really were valid purposes. He gave his life to it.

In fact, it is fair to say those purposes are still valid today. God is still an outreaching God of love and redemption. People are still in need of a Savior and a community of love to immerse themselves into where they can learn, grow, serve, and worship together. And, it is still important to have a driving sense of purpose underneath it all.

Church consultant, Kennon Callahan, highlighted the need for a sense of purpose when he differentiated between two types of churches— the Good Shepherd churches and the Little Bo Peep churches. The Good Shepherd churches were those that followed the approach of the good shepherd who diligently went out to scour the area even for one lost sheep. The Little Bo Peep churches, however, followed the approach of the nursery rhyme— “leave them alone and they will come home, wagging their tails behind them.”



Spiritual Insights

Rev. Dr. William H. Edwards

“And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.” - Acts 2:2-4

The story of the church of the 1st century is a story about hope. Hope prompted by the knowledge that the Spirit is at work in the midst of God's people. On the day of Pentecost 1,974 years ago, as recorded in the second chapter of the book of Acts, known as Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came to the Christian Church in a very special way and the living God was present in fullness of power.

On the day of Pentecost, the disciples waiting in the upper room received uncommon strength to face the common problems of life. The power of the Holy Spirit replaced their weak and fearful minds with courage, their doubts with assurance, their anger with peace, their hate with love, their revenge with compassion, their hopelessness with hope, their sadness with joy, and their confusion with direction. They found new meaning and purpose in life. In other words, the power of the Holy Spirit transformed these human beings into new people.

To receive the Holy Spirit is to allow God to shape our lives that we may become what God intends us to be. Our primary concern should be to seek a close fellowship with the Holy Spirit of God, so that we become a spirit-filled people of light and life, of love and liberty – a people with fire and fury to fight against evil, to become a church on fire.

And when we come together in our congregations across this region, all on one accord, like those first apostles, and stay together, even when we are at our weakest, not even the gates of hell can prevail against us. When the church is united in a spirit of love, then the Holy Spirit can flow most freely.

My prayer for the Christian Church in Ohio is that God will send forth the Spirit to revive, transform and empower our lives and our church.

May 2007

- 3 Regional Church Office Staff Meeting
- 4 New Church Committee @ RCO 10:00am – 1:00pm
- 5 CYF Counselors Training @ Camp 10 – 1
- 7 Lakeside Counselors Training TBA 6:00 – 9:00pm
- 8 Retired Ministers Retreat @ Camp Christian
- 9 – 10 Congregational Transformation @ Camp Christian
- 11 – 12 Columbus Youth Weekend @ Camp Christian
- 12 **Camp Christian Open House 10 - 2**
- 14 Hiram Counselors @ South Haven UCC 6 - 9pm
- *18 – 20 Disciple Men's Fellowship Retreat @ Camp Christian
- 18 Ohio Disciples Outreach @ RCO 10:00am – 3:00pm
- 21 – 22 Recent Seminarian @ St. Therese's Retreat Center
- 22 – 24 NIRF, Wheeling, WV
- 23 Phyto Counselors @ FCC Cambridge 6:00 – 9:00pm
- 25 – 27 Disciples Fellowship Retreat @ Camp Christian
- 26 – June 2 Advance Conference Mission Trip, New Orleans
- 28 **Memorial Day Regional Church Office Closed**
- 30 Personnel Committee Meeting @ RCO 12– 3pm

June 2007

- 1 Deadline for entries into the Jul/Aug Buckeye Disciple
- *2 Youth Scholarship Golf Outing @ Scioto Reserve, Banquet Dinner to follow at Camp Christian
- 6 Wilmington Counselors @ FCC Wilmington 6 - 9pm
- 7 RCO/Camp Staff Meeting and Outing
- *8 – 9 Grandparent Camp @ Camp Christian
- *8 – 10 Camp Good Hope (Bereavement Camp) @ Camp
- 9 Anti Racism Commission @ North Canton Community Christian Church 10:00am – 1:00pm
- *10 – 16 Chi Rho Camp Hocking @ Camp Christian
- *17 – 23 Chi Rho Camp Cuyahoga @ Camp Christian
- *17 – 23 Partnership Camp Otter @ **Camp Christian**
- *24 – 30 Hiram CYF Conference @ Camp Christian

July 2007

- *1 – 7 Phyto CYF Conference @ Camp Christian
- 4 **Fourth of July, Regional Church Office Closed**
- 6 Regional Church Office Staff Meeting @ Camp
- *8 – 14 Chi Rho Camp Portage @ Camp Christian
- *8 – 14 Partnership Camp Badger @ Templed Hills
- *8 – 14 Backpack Camp starting at Gender Road CC
- 14 Budget Meeting @ Regional Church Office
- *15 – 21 Chi Rho Camp Maumee @ Camp Christian
- *21 – 25 General Assembly in Fort Worth, Texas
- *22 – 28 Lakeside CYF Conference @ Camp Christian
- *22 – 28 Partnership Camp Beaver @ Templed Hills
- *29 – Aug 4 Wilmington CYF Conference @ Camp
- 31 ODEC Meeting @ RCO 10:00am – 1:00pm

August 2007

- 1 Regional Church Office Staff Meeting @ Camp
- *5 – 11 Chi Rho Camp Miami @ Camp Christian
- 11 Ohio Disciples Outreach @ RCO 10:00am – 3:00pm
- *12 – 19 Advance Conference @ Camp Christian
- 19 Advance Conference Fundraising Concert @ Camp Christian TBA
- 28 Regional Church Office Staff Meeting @ RCO
- 31 – Sept 2 Disciples Fellowship Retreat @ Camp

* **Indicates online registration is now available**
RCO = Regional Church Office

The Buckeye Disciple

Published by : Christian Church in Ohio (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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Printed/Distributed by PXP OHIO, Reynoldsburg, OH



Praise be to God!

It comes with excitement and great pleasure to announce that after a prayerful discernment process the Regional Church Council has called two Regional Associate Pastors and a Regional Program Minister for camp.

Rev. Dr. LaTaunya Bynum - Regional Associate Pastor

Dr. Bynum comes to us from Broad Street Christian Church where she has served as Sr. Pastor for 11 years. Dr. Bynum has also served as Co-Chair for the Commission on Ministry and currently serves on the Congregational Transformation Team. She has collectively served on both General and Regional Committees.

Rev. Stephen Bentley - Regional Associate Pastor

Rev. Bentley was serving as an interim Minister at the Regional Church Office. His responsibilities included Districts; 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, CYF Commission, Chi Rho Commission, Camp Christian Committee, Ohio Disciple Men's Commission and Christian Education. Steve's experience, commitment and dedication is an asset to have indefinitely at the Regional Office.

Rev. Dr. Brenda Webster - Regional Program Minister

Dr. Webster comes to us from Cordova, TN where she serves as Associate Pastor for Children's Ministry at Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education as well as a Masters of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry with Memphis Theological Seminary. Her previous experience includes 30 years as an educator with Memphis City Schools. Her extensive background and knowledge will be a great asset to both Camp Christian and the Regional Church Office.

Please join me in welcoming the new Ministry Team. We are grateful God has brought them to us and with them comes talents to the ministry that will help lead us to God's Vision for our ministry.

2007 Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee of the Christian Church in Ohio is comprised of Sarah Richey, Paul Durbin, Gloria Shelton, Richard Hardy, Janet Soda, Jeff Wheeler (ex-officio) and the Rev. Dr. Bill Edwards (ex-officio). Most recently, we have been reviewing the annual staff performance evaluations, which are based upon the 360 Evaluation Process. We have great confidence in the 360 Evaluation Process and we feel it is an outstanding model that can be easily used by the local church. If any church would like copies of the materials used by the Region for evaluation, we will happily make them available. The purpose of the 360 Evaluation process is three-fold: 1.) to provide our staff with feedback about performance as well as identify areas of strength and direction for growth and improvement 2.) to provide an opportunity to discuss ideas, goals and feelings about job performance and 3.) to provide a plan for staff development, which will ensure success. The 360 Evaluation process charges each staff person with identifying a constellation of approximately six people who function as evaluators. These evaluators are chosen because they can offer insight into the day to day work of the staff person they are evaluating. Each evaluator receives a questionnaire based upon the job description of the staff person they are evaluating. The questionnaires rate such criteria as job knowledge, dependability, communication, etc. The results are then tabulated and the staff person is given a report that summarizes her/his performance. Each staff member meets with his/her Staff Team Leader to celebrate good performance and put together long-term plans to improve as needed. Our Regional Minister and President then meets with each staff person to set annual and quarterly goals. This year, the evaluations indicate that the workers in the vineyard have been working very hard indeed and are continuing to improve. While there are some growing edges, the staff, both pastoral and support, are making great strides in tackling a heavy work load, with a high learning curve that includes but is not limited to support of the ongoing programs of the Region, support to ministers and churches in transition, the stewardship of our Regional resources and the continuing transition of our base of operations to Columbus. Given this tremendous work load, the staff has risen to the occasion and they look forward to the inclusion of two new Associate Regional Ministers and the Regional Program Minister. Rev. Sarah Richey, Chair of Personnel Committee



ADULT CONFERENCE

***"We are One in the Spirit:
Finding Unity in Diversity"***

June 18-22, 2007

It's our 70th Anniversary!

We hope you'll join us at

**NORTHWEST
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

Mission Trip to New Orleans

"Where did you see God today," was the question Brother Vance Moore asked. The volunteers, who had traveled from Cleveland to work for the Disciples Hurricane Recovery Initiative, saw God in many places. God was seen when they painted the Mission Station, when they tiled the floor of the new church sanctuary, and when they braced the sanctuary walls. The Outreach Committee of Heights Christian Church sponsored the mission trip to New Orleans. People from three churches-Heights, Euclid Avenue, and Dunham Avenue Christian Churches-went on the trip. Twelve volunteers participated, Andrena Jones, Nancy Newman, Reverend Roger Osgood, Debbie Osgood, Ron Holman, Freddie Holman, Don Myers, Reverend John Johnson, Robin Johnson, Mick Latkovich, Richard Huff and Camille Newlon. On Sunday morning the volunteers enjoyed the early morning "casual" service at First Christian Church in Huntsville, AL. The volunteers arrived at the Mission Station on Sunday and were greeted by Brother Vance Moore, director, who guided their work for the week. The Westside Mission Station is being built to house volunteers for the long-term recovery effort necessary to rebuild the Gulf area. Brother Vance knew before they arrived that 12 volunteers were coming and that two of them were ministers, but he did not know, and was delighted to find out, that one of the volunteers, Reverend Johnson, was also a carpenter. Reverend Johnson's skills were put to use installing the baptistery in the church sanctuary. In addition to building the Mission Station, the group toured the devastation of the especially hard hit ninth ward. While driving through the lower ninth ward, the group came across another group of Disciple volunteers from Carmel Christian Church in Indiana who were working on rebuilding a home! Certainly God was seen at that encounter. Some of the volunteers toured Dillard University, that was hard-hit by Katrina. Much of the campus had been rebuilt and things were slowly becoming more normal. However, the volunteers were amazed to learn that their Dillard tour guide, his wife and two young children were still living in a FEMA trailer 18 months after the hurricane came through. The members of Westside Christian Church provided a dinner for the volunteers one evening. Because this was in New Orleans and during Mardi Gras season, the meal included a King Cake compete with the traditional plastic baby figurine. The volunteers took one evening to go to a Mardi Gras parade in the Garden District of the city. The floats and bands were spectacular. After a week of traveling together, sharing sleeping quarters, restrooms and other living arrangements, the volunteers are beginning to make plans for another trip for more rebuilding in the Gulf area. More information on the trip, including photographs, can be found at the Heights Christian Church website, www.heightschristianchurch.org. Information on the Westside Christian Church Mission Station can be found at www.forministry.com/ USLACCDWCDO, and information on the Disciples Hurricane Recovery Initiative can be found at www.discipleshomemissions.org.

Second Annual Youth Scholarship Golf Outing

To help provide scholarships for all the youth programs supported by the Christian Church in Ohio

JUNE 2, 2007

12:30 "shotgun" tee time for all golfers at Scioto Reserve Golf & Athletic Club

Food and Fellowship at Camp Christian

Hors d'oeuvres 6:15pm, Banquet Dinner 7:15pm

Golfer registrations are limited to 80 so don't delay!!

Overnight Lodging and Continental Breakfast Option Available at Camp Christian.

For more information contact the Christian Church in Ohio Regional Church Office at 614-433-0343, or visit us on the web at www.ccinoh.org



Portahoga Toga Party HUGE Success!!

Over 100 Chi Rho youth from camps Portage, Cuyahoga and Hocking gathered at the First Christian Church of Alliance for an overnight party recently. The event began with a lot of laughs thanks to Christian comedian, Will McDaniel. After that the kids played basketball, foosball and X-box 360. They shot some pool, ate pizza, danced at the hoe-down, watched movies & played board games. They participated in a midnight Communion Service and wrapped it up with breakfast Saturday morning. The event was organized by Jill Smith, Director of Family Ministry at the First Christian Church of Alliance.

Deadline for entries into the July/August

The Buckeye Disciple

Due in the Regional Church Office by

June 1, 2007

2007 Camps/Conferences**June 8 – 9**

Grandparents Camp

June 8 – 10

Camp Good Hope, (Bereavement Camp)

June 10 – 16

Hocking Chi Rho Camp

June 17 – 23

Cuyahoga , Chi Rho Camp

June 17 – 23

Otter Partnership Camp

June 18 – 22,

Adult Conference

Northwest Christian Church, Columbus

June 24 – 30

Hiram, CYF Conference

July 1- 7

Phyo CYF Conference

July 8 – 14Badger Partnership Camp
Templed Hills UCC Camp**July 8 – 14**

Portage Chi Rho Camp

July 8 – 14

Backpack Camp

Contact Rev. Steve Bentley for more information.

July 15 – 21

Maumee Chi Rho Camp

July 22 – 28Beaver Partnership Camp
Templed Hills UCC Camp**July 22 – 28**

Lakeside CYF Conference

July 29 – August 4

Wilmington CYF Conference

August 5 – 11

Miami Chi Rho Camp

August 12 – 19

Advance Conference

Register for these and other events online atwww.ccinoh.org**Church provides for injured military**

The Indian Lake Community Church (Disciples of Christ) of the Village of Russells Point, Ohio, has sent 850 sweat suits to "The Clothes Closet" in

Germany. The project helped meet the continuous need for comfortable clothing for the many injured men and women, from all branches of the U.S. military, who are recovering at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. The Church's minister, Rev. John B. Ellington, Jr., Brig. Gen., is also Director of the Air National Guard Chaplaincy and Air National Guard Advisor to the Air Force Chief of Chaplains. He is very familiar with the work of the Chaplains at the Medical Center. Their services include going to "The Clothes Closet" for comfortable clothing for the injured soldiers. Rev. Ellington explained to his congregation that the wounded arrive at the Medical Center in hospital gowns. Having something else to wear can be a real morale builder on the road to recovery. Unfortunately, they have none of their own clothing and cannot just get up and go out to buy comfortable outfits as their medical conditions improve. Donations to "The Clothes Closet" are so important because the military does not provide appropriately comfortable non-uniform garments. After Rev. Ellington told the congregation "The Clothes Closet" was in dire need of clothing, Steve Lenko, Chairman of the Church Board, contacted Holloway Sporting Goods and made arrangements for various sizes of sweat suit tops and bottoms. The church's congregation raised funds to pay for the clothing. An Elder of the Church, Bob Kritzer, oversaw preparation of the many boxes of garments for shipment overseas as well as delivering them to Post Offices at both Wright Patterson Air Force Base, near Dayton, Ohio, and the Village of Jackson Center, Ohio. For information about sending "The Clothes Closet" donations of new, unused sweat tops and bottoms, or other popular items such as new black duffle bags, "three packs" of men's and women's underwear, men's and women's athletic shoes, and toiletries of all sorts, call the Indian Lake Community Church Secretary at 937-843-5636 for referral to a contact person.

Disciples Fellowship Retreat

(Family Camp)

Camp Christian Memorial Day Weekend

May 25 – 27, 2007

"Camp Christian College"

There will be different "studies/classes" offered, like a nature hike, contemporary music class, a Bible study, a history of Camp Christian class, a fishing class, a war veteran will talk, etc.

All are welcome to attend this event!!!

For more information contact

Bev Sajna (440-333-1264) sajhome81@yahoo.com orBob Stands (440-236-5778) bobs@estabr.com

CCINOH Upload

Wow! Have you seen the change? A quick list of highlighted events of the month and a fast search of any other event of the month and of the year! Easy to find, attractive looking, contact information - regional office and committees, Camp Christian, and individual churches. Quickly find schedules and directions on how to get there. Find information for the young, the older, and in between – members, visitors, and ministers. Where? At the Ohio Region's new website for the Christian Churches in Ohio www.ccinoh.org After visiting this new site, make it a favorite listing in your web browser – Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, or whichever one you use. That way you can find the site again, quickly. Calling all **church webmasters!** Please add a link from your site to the new regional site! If you need assistance to do this, give Jennie Stoddart at the regional office a call (614) 433-0343. We have a new computer support company that both created this new website and that is providing daily support for the office and camp computers. Also, there is a new Techteam of select Disciple church members meeting regularly to assist in getting the most out of our technical equipment – the website, hardware, software, and technical expense budget. Keep looking for the CCINOH Upload article in future news for the latest technical developments that we hope to provide both for the region and individual churches.

Choir Robes

First Christian Church in Cambridge, Ohio has 30 choir robes available in various adult sizes. They are tan with burgundy accents. If you need additional information please contact Jude Frame at (740) 432-5188.

Peace, Salaam, Shalom

I wore my favorite shirt "Peace/Salaam/Shalom," on my way to a panel discussion on peace in the Old City. A shopkeeper stopped me. "Peace, Salaam, Shalom," he read. "I hope you don't mean peace for the Israelis only." In my best Arabic, I said, "No for the Palestinians, too, of course!" He stood and looked at me, "I hope that you mean that in your heart." As the sun went down that Friday night, I heard the fireworks marking Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. Before the sun rose Saturday, I heard the call to prayer signaling the beginning of Ramadan, the Muslim holy month of fasting and celebration. The holiest times of the year for Jews and Muslims had coincided while a Christian missionary watched.

"Peace, Salaam, Shalom."

Thanks to your gifts to Special Offering and Disciples Mission Fund, we walk with our brothers and sisters in this Holy Land with peace in our hearts.

Thank you,
Krista Johnson

Krista Johnson is a Global Mission Intern with the Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center in Jerusalem. Learn more about how your gifts change lives at www.churchfinancecouncil.org

Third Annual Camp Christian Open House

Saturday May 12, 2007 10:00 – 2:00

Find out about all the amazing opportunities happening all year round at Camp Christian for **all ages**. Whether you are in Chi Rho, a member of 50 plus, or anything in between, there is something going on at Camp Christian for you. Learn about the facilities, grounds, and the ways that we could all make the most of this remarkable place.

Free Lunch and Wonderful Fellowship
ALL ARE WELCOME!!!

For more information or to RSVP, contact
stoddart@ccinoh.org or 614-433-0343

Plan to be part of 2007 General Assembly Come, "Share the Feast"!

Uplifting worship and opportunities to learn about congregational transformation will headline the 2007 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Meeting Saturday - Wednesday, July 21-25, in Fort Worth, Texas, the biennial Disciples event will take place in a city that is known for its Old West heritage as well as its laid back and welcoming atmosphere. Keynote speakers include social change advocate Jim Wallis, Editor-in-Chief of Sojourners magazine and co-organizer of Call to Renewal, a federation of churches and faith-based organizations seeking to fight poverty. Also speaking is Daisy Machado, a prominent Latina theologian, currently serving as Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean at Lexington (Ky.) Theological Seminary. General Minister and President Sharon Watkins will share the state of the church in her address. Disciples Moderator William "Bill" Lee also will speak. He is pastor of Loudon Ave. Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Roanoke, Va. The pastor of the second-largest Disciples congregation, New Direction Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Stacey Spencer, Memphis, Tenn., will preach at a youth-led service on Sunday morning, July 22. The assembly theme, "Share the Feast," is based on Matthew's account of Jesus feeding the crowd of 5,000. Jesus offers a healing touch and an invitation to share in the feast of his abundance. Following the example of Jesus, Disciples are invited, in joyful, faithful response to such a gracious gift, to "Share the Feast" with others. The 2007 assembly will offer new learning tracks as well as hands-on mission, youth and young adult events, and numerous special meal gatherings. Sunday night will bring the entire assembly together for an All Assembly Fiesta where food, festival games and a celebration atmosphere will prevail in the convention hall. Online registration for the General Assembly and housing reservations are available - www.disciples.org/ga Register today.

Treasurer's Corner

Many of us have been blessed with the opportunity to attend a camp program or to visit the camp as part of a ministry event. Many have given time, money, and/or otherwise made contributions so that Camp Christian may continue to serve the needs of Disciples across Ohio as well as visitors from out of state. Martha Everhard has captured the joy that comes from participating in a camp activity in her book *ON HOLY GROUND*. Clearly Camp Christian is a most important ministry in the Christian Church in Ohio.

To emphasize this point, the Region has hired Rev. Dr. Brenda Webster to serve as the Regional Program Minister. It is with this knowledge that I share the current plans for camp finances and look forward to the input that Rev. Webster will be offering when she assumes her responsibilities.

Our financial objective for camp is to break even based on standard accounting principles. By doing so we would be able to build our maintenance reserves to fund future needs including new roofs for many of our older buildings, fund pool systems replacements, complete masonry repairs, and ensure our lakes are healthy habitats for all who make use of them. Toward this end, in 2007 and 2008 we will be making major repairs to our dock and replace our camp truck and tractor.

As the attached pie charts indicate our income is primarily driven by the summer program. That is to be expected. However there are clearly opportunities to increase the off season revenues and our marketing team is developing specific actions toward that end. The expense pie chart indicates that wages/salaries, utilities, and depreciation accounts for equal levels of costs associated with camp. Depreciation is an accounting practice that reflects the decreased value of a fixed asset over its useful life. I have shared as a comparison that it may be considered the expense of large projects we will incur on our fixed assets such as roof replacement and equipment replacement such as freezers, vehicles, etc. While expense management will help contain our cost structure, there are future risks associated with utility costs and insurance expenses.

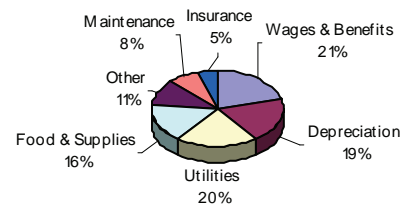
To achieve a break even financial position, we developed a five part strategy that we began with the 2006 budget and which has shown excellent progress. Four of the five strategies involve increasing income available for camp purposes. The fifth involves managing expenses aggressively without impacting the quality of the camp operation. Expense management has included an evaluation of our utility expenses, inventory controls, and purchasing programs.

The four income strategies include:

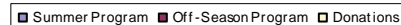
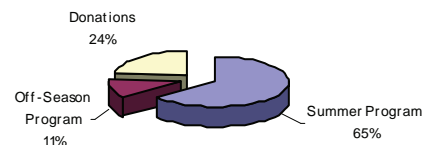
- Increased attendance at camp programs
- Building the off season usage rates for camp facilities
- Rate increases that allow higher allocations for camp
- Identifying capital needs that may be funded from specific donations

In 2006, progress was realized on each strategy. Youth camps participation rates improved by 9% over 2005. Off Season fees improved by 41% and contributed a total of \$34,000 to revenues. Allocations to camp increased from \$200 to \$220 per

Camp Christian Expenses



Camp Christian Income



camper and combined with the increase in campers, made the most significant improvement in revenues by adding over \$17,000 in income. Our lakes required an investment to rid it of grasses that were choking the oxygen from the waters and impacting our environment. Donations received from several churches were directed towards this effort and immediate improvement was realized. Within the next month we will be adding fountains that will improve the oxygenation of the lakes and improving their overall health.

Each of these programs will be extended in 2007 and we expect further improvement in the financial results. One other program that is related is the increase in funding for scholarships. We have committed ourselves to ensuring that anyone who wishes to go to camp may do so without concern for funding. In the past two years the region has provided nearly \$8,000. to over 75 young people in scholarships and we expect this need to increase. We are repeating the successful golf and dinner event on June 2. All proceeds from this event go directly to the Youth Scholarship Fund. This is an excellent opportunity for everyone to support our youth by either participating or by making a donation to the Scholarship Fund.

The financial story for camp can be complex and this article certainly will not answer all your questions. It is shared with the hope that you will now have some better understanding of what is going on financially and where we think we are headed. With your help and support, we are fully confident that we can meet the financial needs of camp so that the programs are able to continue to grow and meet the needs of all who use this wonderful and sacred place.

If you have questions, please contact me at draper@ccinoh.org. I would also like to hear from you on what other topics you might like to know more about.

Christian Church in Ohio
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST
A covenant network of congregations in mission: We are the Body of Christ
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Permit No. 8724



State Youth Convention *(Collage pictured to the left)*

On March 9-11, 265 CYF'ers and Adult leaders met on the Campus of Bethany College for the State Youth Convention. Our theme this year was on Prayer, and we learned about several ways to pray. Some of the songs written during the Music in Prayer session was used in our Sunday Morning Closing Worship. We were led during the week by our wonderful State Officers: Rebecca Erlich, President; Nate Parsons, Vice President; Kirby Keltner, Secretary; and Jeff Hilvers, Delegate. Special thanks to Mary Jo Bray, Ralph Wearstler, Jayne Hilvers, Woody Woodward, at the Adult Teachers and helpers who made this weekend possible. We also thank Bethany College and students for their hospitality.

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