



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

Volume 17, Number 3

May/June 2008



Strengthening Your Congregation For Mission



Clergy Luncheon Seminar
12:00p.m.
Rev. Julia Brown-Karimu
Vice President
Division of Overseas Ministries

Disciple of Merit Award
Banquet Dinner
5:00p.m.

Friday, October 17, 2008

Opening Worship 7:30p.m.
Rev. Cynthia Adcock
Rev. Jeffrey Wheeler
Northwest Christian Church
Led by - CYF & Advance



Laitry Luncheon Seminar
12:00p.m.
Rev. Dr. Glenn Thomas Carson
President, Disciples of Christ
Historical Society

Ministry Fair
Displays of Transforming
Ministry Materials

Saturday, October 18, 2008

Youth Programs at Camp Christian
Bus Leaves at 8:30a.m.

Women's Luncheon
12:00-2:00p.m. Saturday, October 18, 2008

Men's Luncheon
12:00-2:00p.m. Saturday, October 18, 2008



"Worshipful Work" - 8:30a.m.
State of the Region Address
Rev. Dr. William Edwards
Ohio Regional Pastor & President

See your Pastor or Church Office
for a registration form. You can
also print a form or Register
Online at www.ccinoh.org!



Closing Worship - 3:30p.m.
Rev. Dr. Jeremiah Wright
Trinity United Church of Christ
Chicago, IL



Spiritual Insights Rev. Dr. William H. Edwards

"The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ".- Eph 4:11-13

The Regional Assembly Planning Team has been working for over a year to put together an assembly that celebrates the transformative work that is happening in the mission and ministry of our congregations and equips leaders "for the work of ministry, building up the body of Christ."

I want to encourage as many of you as possible to plan on being in attendance at the 2008 Regional Assembly, October 17-18, 2008 in Columbus at the Crown Plaza Hotel. The theme for the Assembly is "Body Building: Strengthen your Congregation for Mission" based on Ephesians 4:11-13. In this issue, you will find promotional information featuring the speakers and special guests: Rev. Julia Brown-Karimu, Rev. Dr. Glenn Thomas Carson, Rev. Cynthia Adcock, Rev. Jeffery Wheeler, and Rev. Dr. Jeremiah Wright.

All of these gifted and dynamic speakers were chosen because of their experience in ministry that would help us as a Regional Church explore our theme of "Body Building: Strengthen your Congregation for Mission".

I am sure many of you have been concerned over the media coverage about the Rev. Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright. Unfortunately, what has been lost in inflammatory rhetoric and the news commentators' criticism of "sound bytes" taken from a few sermons is that Dr. Wright, a theological scholar who speaks five languages fluently, has inspired a congregation to create over 100 fully-functioning ministries, created seven separate non-profit community development corporations, led thousands to Christ and preached over 10,000 sermons out of a proud and prophetic tradition of our Christian faith. This is why he was invited last year to join the cast of capable keynoters and preachers for this year's Regional Assembly.

Who knows what the political landscape in America will look like by the time of our Regional Assembly in October? However, I believe that our assembly will be a great opportunity to discern and receive, to hear and discuss, some God inspired insight from all of our speakers about how the mission of our congregations can be strengthened.

Regional Calendar

May

- *3 - 4 Camp Christian Reunion
- 6 Youth Scholarship Committee @ Scioto Reserve
- 8 Retired Ministers' Retreat @ Camp Christian
- 8 Disciples of Christ of Southwestern Ohio 7:30pm
- 8 Christian Education Conference Call 7:00pm
- 12 - 13 Recent Seminary Graduates' Retreat at St Therese's
- 14 RCO Staff Meeting
- 15 Regional Church Office Pastoral Staff Meeting
- *16 - 18 Disciple Men's Fellowship Spring Retreat @ Camp
- 20 Commission on Ministry @ Northwest CC, Columbus
- 23 - 25 Disciples Fellowship Retreat @ Camp Christian
- 26 Memorial Day RCO Closed
- *31 Youth Scholarship Golf Outing @ Scioto Reserve

June

- 1 Deadline for entries into the July/Aug Buckeye
- 3 Executive Committee Meeting @ RCO
- 4 Finance Committee Budget Planning Kickoff @ RCO
- 5 RCO & Camp Christian Staff Meeting & Outing
- *6 - 7 Grandparent Camp @ Camp Christian
- *6 - 8 Camp Good Hope (bereavement camp) @ Camp
- *8 - 14 Chi Rho Camp Hocking @ Camp Christian
- 10 Ohio Disciples Outreach Committee @ RCO 10 - 3
- 10 Christian Education Meeting @ RCO 10:00am
- 12 Regional Elders' Meeting @ RCO 10am - 3pm
- *15 - 21 Otter Partnership Camp @ Camp Christian
- 16 - 20 Adult Conference @ Northwest C.C., Columbus
- 17 Commission on Ministry @ Karl Road C.C., Columbus
- *22 - 28 Hiram CYF Conference @ Camp Christian
- 28 Camp Christian Committee @ Camp Christian
- *29 - 5 Phyto CYF Conference @ Camp Christian

July

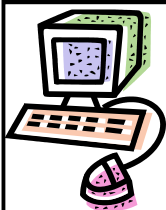
- 1 RCO Staff Meeting @ Camp Christian
- *6 - 12 Chi Rho Camp Portahoga @ Camp Christian
- *6 - 12 Adventure Camp @ the Au Sable River in Michigan
- *6 - 12 Badger Partnership Camp @ Templd Hills Camp
- 8 Christian Education Conference Call 7:00pm
- *13 - 19 Chi Rho Camp Maumee @ Camp Christian
- 15 Commission on Ministry @ Northwest CC, Columbus
- *17 - 20 Disciple Men's Sessions 2008 in Oklahoma City
- *20 - 26 Lakeside CYF Conference @ Camp Christian
- *20 - 26 Beaver Partnership Camp @ Templd Hills Camp
- 22 ODEC Meeting @ RCO 10:00am
- *27 - 2 Wilmington CYF Conference @ Camp Christian

August

- 1 Deadline for entries into the Sep/Oct Buckeye
- *3 - 9 Chi Rho Camp Miami @ Camp Christian
- 6 Christian Education Conference Call 7:00pm
- *10 - 17 Advance Conference @ Camp Christian
- 19 Commission on Ministry @ Northwest CC, Columbus
- 27 Regional Church Office Staff Meeting
- 29 - 31 Disciples Fellowship Retreat @ Camp Christian

RCO = Regional Church Office

* Online Registration is now available



Get The Buckeye Disciple via Email!

If you would like to replace your hard copy of this newsletter with an emailed copy, please send an email

(from the email address you want it sent to) to

ccio@ccinoh.org. Don't forget to include your name and the address it's currently being sent to.



Message from Regional Associate Pastor Rev. Stephen Bentley

Body Building - What a wonderful theme for our Regional Assembly! There is so much beautiful imagery in it. Of course, we are talking about the "Body of Christ." In an earlier life, I was an EMT and worked at a Fire Department as a volunteer. I saw firsthand that one of the most precious elements of the body and one of the most important elements is blood. It gives strength through oxygen and nutrition to every other part of the body. Blood helps fight infections and in most people can plug a leak. Blood gives life. Hospitals constantly need blood to help give life to those who have had surgery, been ill, or had some emergency. At the Regional Assembly, you will have the opportunity to give the gift of life. We are having a blood drive on Friday, between the lunch and supper at the hotel. It would be very helpful for us if you would indicate your willingness to give blood on your registration form and include your blood type if you know it. This will help us schedule a time for you. Remember that if you plan to be a blood donor at the Regional Assembly, you cannot have given blood since August 22, 2008. I look forward to donating the "Gift of life" with many of you as together we learn the art of Body Building. See you at the Regional Assembly.

Message from Regional Program Minister Rev. Dr. Brenda Webster

I'd like to report that there is NEVER a dull moment regarding the Program Ministry in the Ohio Christian Church (DOC). The CYF Mid Winter Retreats went wonderfully well. Particularly noteworthy is the fact that Wilmington Mid Winter CYFers went door-to-door and ultimately collected 534 pounds of food, toiletries and other items for the Hope House Rescue mission in Middletown, Ohio. Pastor Laureen Roe supervised this much needed effort. Thanks everyone!

Our Camp Christian Counselors had fantastic training sessions and are ready for camp 2008. Plans for the First Annual Camp Christian Reunion, scheduled for May 3-4, 2008 at Camp Christian, continue. Registration online is now possible. Don't wait too long!

More good news ... The **Regional Assembly** is fast approaching and plans are being formulated for an explosion of children and youth activities. Friday night, look for our youth to play a major role during worship. On Saturday, 3rd-12th graders will head for **Camp Christian** where they will experience the theme, **"It Takes Two Hands ... One Heart ... An Interactive Approach to Building the Body of Christ."** Our youth, grades 3-12, will simplify the scriptural components of Ephesians 4:11-13 by creating an analogy which "builds the body of Christ" using pizza, salad and drink. There will be cooking, set design, costuming, make up, acting, singing and FUN for everyone! Then ... the Regional Assembly attendees will be invited to "taste our wares" and be treated to a wonderful Dinner Theater performance by our kids. Volunteers to assist in this dynamic approach to sharing the Word of God can contact me at the Regional Church Office.

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

We called, you answered! Congregations in Ohio contributed over \$600 to Community Refugee and Immigration Services (CRIS) in response to an appeal to help two refugee families this past January. CRIS thanks you for your assistance and the families are grateful for your acts of welcome and hospitality.

Learn more about CRIS at their information table at our upcoming Regional Assembly.

Treasurer's Corner By Duncan Draper

In a recent column I invited our congregations' treasurers to contact the Region if they were in need of information on a variety of finance related topics including controls, procedures, technology, and risk management. Since that time we have had several congregations invite us to meet with them and share various information on these topics. With the support of several congregations we have been able to provide detailed information that has helped improve structure and accountability in these congregations. I believe this type of work is very much in line with the Region's Vision of strengthening relationships and building networks of covenant support.

At the upcoming Regional Assembly we will be conducting workshops on these topics. We have invited several of our key vendor partners to assist in the workshops and to be available to interact with those who may have questions or concerns. These partners include our Technology experts who have developed our updated website in addition to providing ongoing support for our computer systems. We have also enlisted the software vendor who designed and installed church software programs for accounting, contributions, and membership. This is not intended to be a commercial for these vendor partners and we will have information available for competing products and support. However, the leaders of these organizations are experts in their field and are willing to provide their insights to the questions we have today.

Another way where the Region has been able to provide assistance is in the area of payroll processing. We made the decision several years ago to outsource this function and have been very satisfied with the solution. We have referred several congregations to the vendor we utilize and provided contacts at competing payroll processors as well. This ensures that congregations have the opportunity to evaluate service options in a competitive environment, a fundamental element in vendor analysis. If you have interest in this or other financial related topics, please contact me at ddraper@ccinoh.org.

**Deadline for the July/Aug issue of
The Buckeye Disciple
Due in the Regional Church Office by
June 1, 2008**

Summer Camp/Conference Schedule 2008 There is still time to register!!!

Grandparent Camp, Camp Good Hope (Bereavement Camp), Adventure Camp - Canoeing, Partnership, Chi Rho, CYF, Advance, & Adult

See your Pastor or Church Office for registration forms. You can also register online or print off registration forms on our website:

WWW.CCINOH.ORG

Elders' Workshop!

Norwood Christian Church, June 14, 2008

Noted Author and Local Pastor Rev. Bill McConnell will be our speaker! Bill has recently written the book "Renew Your Congregation" and has been an active voice in the Church Transformation movement regionally and denominationally. He brings a comfortable, but honest approach to the conversation of turning churches around.

Cost for the event is \$15 per person.

Please contact Rev. Heather Schimmel for more information 513-631-5366 or pastorncc@fuse.net

SESSIONS 2008
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma -- July 17-20, 2008

Here are the Top 10 Reasons why Ohio men should go to Oklahoma City to experience this event:

- The opportunity to be part of 300+ Men SINGING PRAISES (Worth the price of admission by itself!)
- The opportunity to take advantage of some of the culture available in the OK area
- The opportunity to hear three of our denomination's best preachers in contemporary and traditional settings
- The opportunity to enjoy the fellowship of other men trying to live their lives in His steps
- The opportunity to learn about yourself in Workshops and other venues
- The opportunity to grow spiritually
- The opportunity to help mentor someone who is not as far along on his spiritual walk
- The opportunity to do "hands on" mission work with power tools
- The opportunity to get away from the noise of everyday life to hear that small quiet voice of God
- The opportunity to feel the power of the Holy Spirit in your life, your body, and soul

For information about this event including online registration go to www.Sessions2008.org. To find out how Ohio Disciple Men are getting involved in this national event. contact Steve Bentley at 614-433-0343 or sbentley@ccinoh.org.

3 Grumpy Old Men, 10 Lively College Students, a Mom, and a Truly Uplifting Experience!

By Paul Lantis



It was the weekend of the big snow of 2008 and we were lucky to get out of Ohio, but we were able to pull into Gulfport at about 5:30 PM on Sun. evening. We were greeted by DHM site coordinator Larry Baldauf and invited to bring our things into our sleeping quarters. It wasn't long before the van with six (Ohio) college students from The University of Kentucky and Eastern Kentucky pulled in. They were very friendly but I must admit that their exuberant and boisterous demeanor caused me to draw back a bit and wonder just what this week ahead was going to be like! Before long the other group arrived – four female college students from Texas Christian and the mom of one of them from Virginia. They too were friendly and running over with enthusiasm. Well, everything came together just fine. Sharing the limited bathrooms and showers, having breakfasts together, packing lunches, having a moment of devotions before heading off to our work assignments, cooking together several evenings and games of Apples To Apples and Mexican Train. A great camaraderie was soon established. And what work did we do? We were split into three groups for work assignments. One group went to a house that had been rehabbed and leveled a load of dirt dumped in the front yard; some painting was accomplished and a few other tasks at another site or two. The grumpy old men, Paul Harshbarger, Jim Rivers and I, spent the week building a front porch onto a house that had been under water up to the attic, then rehabbed by previous groups. Paul, an experienced and extremely skilled builder himself, patiently led us step by step through the task, correcting our mistakes good naturedly as we went. Later in the week we were joined by the other groups as we applied a "Blitz Build" approach to get the porch completed. We became acquainted with Craig, the owner of the house, and were deeply moved by his story of courage in saving his afflicted brother during the flood, refusing to leave him behind to drown, managing to help him reach the attic just as the waters were filling the house to the attic level. We all finished with a sense of pride and accomplishment. And those boisterous college students? Oh, they were still playful, exuberant and boisterous and we had come to love and enjoy them. What an inspiration to work with fresh and idealistic college young adults who chose to give up the sunny beaches for spring break and to volunteer to work at helping some of those whose lives had been torn asunder in 2005 by Hurricane Katrina! **Want to go to the Gulf yourself?** Then why not plan to go with us in September for the **Ohio Region Gulf Mission Trip!** We'll be going for the week of Sept. 22-26 to our Disciple mission center at Medairie, Louisiana. To inquire you can email Paul Lantis at revpaul@columbus.rr.com or Jim Rivers at jrivers1@neo.rr.com. We want to start signing up our group now.

Free Community Meal

The "Loaves and Fishes" Community Meal is offered through the Outreach Ministry of Mantua Center Christian Church. The program was established over 3 years ago to meet the social, financial and spiritual needs of people and families in Mantua, Hiram, Garrettsville and surrounding areas. We offer an absolutely free meal to anyone who comes through the door. We serve a nutritionally balanced meal once a month in our fellowship hall. All workers are volunteers and the meals are self-funded by donations, although the church did provide "seed" money to get us started. We started this ministry with the thought in our minds to start small and build big. However, we soon realized that the "building" part was very limited by our small church resources, so we developed a plan to grow without straining ourselves. That plan was to develop a networking program. We wrote a manual and have established a pilot program to encourage and help other churches establish their own free meal programs. To date, two churches have developed their own programs and we have three more that we are working with to do the same. Our goal is to expand the "Loaves and Fishes" concept to all of northeast Ohio. Our dream is that there will be enough free meals available that one could get a free meal each weekday of the month, without driving too far. With a monetary grant from ATO Charities, we have been able to offer our experience and services to other churches, so that they may start their own meal. We have a website to exchange ideas and to share recipes, as well as to explain our mission. That website is: www.Loavesandfishesmeal.org. We welcome all inquiries.



Disciples Fellowship Retreat "God's Vision For You"

Memorial Day Weekend May 23-25, 2008

A gathering of Disciples, Families, and Friends of all ages at
Camp Christian

Laura Kaufman in Concert!

We are truly blessed to have Laura (Unger) Kaufmann (a former DFR camper herself!!!) and her husband Doug bringing us their beautiful music and sharing their testimonies. Laura has been busy since the age of 14 releasing albums and following her calling. Last year she was honored to be the opening act for "Selah." Visit her website to learn more about her and get a sneak preview of what a wonderful experience you're in for: www.laurakaufman.net. You don't want to miss this retreat! Along with enjoying the Laura's music, we will be breaking off into our various groups of different activities, including fishing, Bible study, basket weaving, knitting/crocheting, games, etc. Go home feeling refreshed and renewed after spending time with fellow Christians. What a great way to get away from the hustle and bustle of your everyday life and enjoy the out-of-doors! This is also a great opportunity for you and your family to come and experience camp together. Hope to see you there!! For further information call Bev Sajna at 440-333-1264 or email her at sajhome81@yahoo.com.

What to Do With a Gift

By Rev. Heather Schimmel

In November 2006 Norwood Christian Church was given a gift of \$50,000 by a local businessman who grew up in Norwood and was blessing several churches with gifts. The one request given was that the money be used to do ministry in Norwood. God moves in amazing ways and so a team was quickly formed to help show the congregation the opportunities to which God calls us. The team spent the next many months in prayer and study of the scriptures as well as meeting with different leaders from the Norwood community. We gleaned a better understanding of the changes in our beloved community. While many in our congregation had grown up and lived here for what seemed forever, our speakers quickly showed us a picture that was not the one we thought we knew. The needs in the community are many and great! It quickly became clear that God was calling us in certain directions, and ideas started to abound as to how to meet the needs that were now clear to us. After more prayer and further research we narrowed our ideas down to a "God Sized" Vision which we proposed to the congregation on March 30, 2008! While the vision truly is "God sized" and the path that lies ahead is full of challenge there is an understanding among all of us that God is truly in charge and we get to be part of the amazing things God is doing in our community.

Adventure Camp - Canoeing

Plans are underway for our Second Annual Regional Adventure Camp. This year we will be canoeing about 76 miles of the beautiful Au Sable River in Michigan. Much of this river runs through a wilderness area where deer, fox, ducks, and bald eagles live in abundance. I (Stephen Bentley) have been there and can testify to its beauty. We will leave from a Central Ohio church early on July 6th and drive to Grayling, Michigan, where we will camp for the night. We will return to the same church the following Saturday, July 12th. Each day will begin with a morning devotional and breakfast, followed by 4 to 6 easy hours of floating, fishing*, splashing, canoeing, and enjoying the beauty of nature all around us. In the afternoon we will set up camp and share in a "Bible Boat story for the day" and a fun activity. While I am sure you will get exercise, this is an easy trip. The current will take us where we need to go without much paddling. Bring a disposable camera or a water resistant camera, as there will be many photo opportunities. Cost for the trip (includes transportation, canoe, paddle, life preserver, tent, campgrounds, and food.) is \$300.00. For a trip like this, I can take only the first 20 people who register. It is designed for those in high school through adult so this is a great trip for a youth and a parent or a grandparent. Again, I am limited to 20 people plus 4 leaders. Registration can be done online or contact your minister for a form. Contact me if you are interested or need further details.

*Fishing the first day will be "catch and release", afterwards you may cook and eat. To fish you must have your own equipment and your own fishing license.

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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

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Choir Robes

Bailey Road Christian Church in Cuyahoga Falls would like to donate their old ones to a Disciple Church that may want them. The robes are tan with red piping and a red chalice on the breast. All they ask is if the church is quite a distance away that they would pay for shipping. Anyone who might be interested can call me at the church at (330) 929-2527 or email susandodge@baileyroadchristianchurch.org.

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Job Openings

Disciples Christian Church is looking for two individuals to fill two openings: 1.) Director of Music, and 2.) Assistant Director of Music. They are looking at June 1, 2008 as a target start date. Both are part time paid positions. If you or someone you know would like more information please contact the church at 216-382-5344 or send a resume and cover letter the church or email to pastorkris@discipleschristian.org Disciples Christian Church is located at 3663 Mayfield Road, Cleveland Heights, 44121. Check out their website too! www.eacc.net

Our Heritage and History Camp Christian

Calling all Camp Historians and those who LOVE Camp! Do you have historical information about our awesome Camp?

What better time than now to take a few moments to look through your albums and remember special memories!

We invite you to share any historical information and/or pictures you may have for a BOOK being compiled by Julie Bentley and the Camp Christian Reunion Committee.

For more information on how to contribute to this project please contact Regional Program Minister Brenda Webster 614-433-0343 or bwebster@ccinoh.org.