



# The Buckeye Disciple Christian Church in Ohio

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

*A covenant network of congregations in mission*

September/October 2009

Volume 18, Number 5

## The Ministry of Money

Dr. Todd Adams, Associate General Minister and President, will be leading two internet based learning opportunities on September 23 and October 1. On September 23 at 7 pm Dr. Adams will be leading a Bible Study for anyone who wants to participate. The text he will be working with is Matthew 25:14-30 for the Bible study. This study will be about how we hold on by letting go. In order to be good stewards, we have to clearly understand God's mission for our lives and the resources entrusted to us and then get to work. On October 1 at 7 pm Dr. Adams will be leading a discussion for leaders of congregations on the topic of Stewardship. The theme is: "So They Ask You? Top Ten Things You Need to Know to Chair the Annual Fund Drive of You Church!" Mark your calendars and be watching for more information. For more information contact Ohio Disciples Outreach Chair Kevin Phipps at [revkevwoster@gmail.com](mailto:revkevwoster@gmail.com).



## Regional Church Support on the Journey of Congregational Transformation

Taking into consideration the complexity of Congregational Transformation and the diverse nature of the conditions and scenarios that congregations within the Christian Church in Ohio find themselves, the Regional Church's Congregational Transformation Ministry Team believes that there is no one single "cure all" approach.

The role of the Regional Church is to be a partner to resource pastors and congregations as they discern their own unique "spiritual strategic journey" of transformation. Therefore, the Congregational Transformation Ministry Team has developed a Regional Church model of support that will educate and train leaders, identify and utilize resources, and network congregations and pastors to share their learnings and experiences. This model of support is comprised in networks:

### Network of Leaders

A key component of the model is the development of a "Leadership Network" for pastors who have covenanted to become "Transformational Leaders". The leadership network will be intentional in:

- *Sharing the outcomes of congregational insights related to the use of transformation resources;*
- *Creating a "community of learning" through the use of "webinars", so that training and vision casting events for transformation can be held without requiring travel. (Webinars are events held with the combination of conference call and internet-based presentation);*
- *Writing articles on the topic Congregational Transformation for the Buckeye Disciple and sharing experiences at regional events.*

*Continued in the next column*

*Transformation continued*

## Network of Congregations

Another component of Regional Church support of congregational transformation is the development and facilitation of a "resource network" among congregations who make a formal decision and a covenant with the Regional Church to become a "Transforming Congregation."

The Pastoral Staff and the Congregational Transformation Team will closely monitor the activity of the **congregational network** and offer recommendations by evaluating new transformation resources and sharing the results with the pastoral and congregational leadership networks.

## Network of Coaches

Coaching is an exciting way to draw out from within pastors and leaders the gifts and skills for transformation. The Congregational Transformation Team considers coaching perhaps the single most important resource for transformation and leadership development available for pastors and congregations. The Christian Church in Ohio has trained and developed a support network of coaches to work with pastors and congregational pastors committed to Transformation.

## We are one in the Spirit... and the word

*Jennie Stoddart, Christian Church in Ohio Office Administrator*

By far my favorite hymn/camp song is "They'll Know We Are Christians". The opening line proclaims "We are one in the Spirit, We are one in the Lord." This is so true, and to me so evident in the pages of each issue of The Buckeye Disciple. The articles convey joy, sadness, accomplishment, deep need, genuine reflection, and much more from our brothers and sisters throughout the church. Every issue reminds me of those Christmas letters you get from a distant family member that catch everyone up on what's been happening in their life. It is so important that we all realize how connected we all are, how much of a family we really are, and how we all contribute to the active faith community.

The Buckeye Disciple touches the lives of thousands upon thousands of people every issue. You are one of those people!! I hope and pray that the wonderful ministry of this newsletter will continue for years to come, and I need your help to insure this happens. As you know, we do not charge a subscription fee for The Buckeye Disciple, so we are dependent on the generosity of those who see it's value. The printing, mailing, online posting, and labor all cost money. I am asking you to prayerfully consider making a special contribution to help with this essential ministry. Gifts of all sizes make a difference, especially in this difficult economic time. If you are receiving this in the mail, there is a donation envelope included in this mailing. You can also go to [https://www.ccinoh.org/donate\\_online.aspx](https://www.ccinoh.org/donate_online.aspx) and give an online donation (be sure to designate to The Buckeye Disciple).

Thank you for reading!! I am so grateful for, and blessed to be one in the Spirit with, each and every one of you.



### Spiritual Insights Rev. Dr. William H. Edwards

*“But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. **If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.** Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. - 1 Cor. 12:24b-27*

As the body of Christ, our mission is to reach all who are not in the fellowship of the church with the love of God. We reach out to them by building relationships with them. **We are in the relationship business.** We are called to invite others into a relationship with God through Jesus Christ, and we do that through **relationships**.

Relationships in the Body of Christ are Interdependent. “If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.” Interdependence in the body of Christ is people of faith interacting with another by the power of the Holy Spirit and results in a rich, serendipitous potential of creating synergy that is far better than one individual could ever come up with on their own.

As Disciples, we must move from the idolatry of autonomy to the holiness of interdependence. Interdependence is the richness of relationships, the spontaneity of creating together what could not be done alone. For where true synergy of interdependence is created in the midst of the interaction itself, people are altered...people are transformed...people are changed. Something new is created.

It's like an orchestra. An orchestra has many instruments, the violins, the trombones, the woodwind section, clarinet, oboe. There are also trumpets, horns, and the percussion section.

But you know what? Unless that orchestra does certain things cooperatively, the different instruments will never make music. Although the violins sound different from the horns and the horns sound different from the percussionist, they are all playing the same song. That's interdependence. In the church of God, the Holy Spirit writes the music and Jesus Christ is the conductor.

As the Christian Church in Ohio, God has written a beautiful symphony for us to play in the form of our common vision as **“a covenant network of congregations in mission.”** However, it is going to take all of us to play God's song, realizing our interdependence. We must not be divided by petty jealousy, weakened by part-time participation, stifled by selfish agendas, nullified by negative outlooks, satisfied with the status quo, comfortable with conformity, or resistant to winds of change blown by the Holy Spirit. We must work together with the cooperation and interdependence of an orchestra to play music of dynamic ministry that gives God honor and glory and advances the cause of Christ.

**Thanks be to God!** As I look at our regional church today, there is a fresh wind of the Spirit working to unite the church in significant and meaningful mission and ministry. It is happening among Disciples where congregations are being transformed, because they are learning the power of interdependence.

### Regional Calendar

#### September

- 2 ODEC Committee Conference Call 10:00am
- 4 – 6 Disciples Fellowship Retreat @ Camp Christian
- 7 Labor Day, RCO Closed**
- 9 Personnel Committee Meeting @ RCO 10:00am
- \*11–13 Ohio Women's Ministries Fall Retreat @ Camp
- 15 Commission on Ministry @ Northwest CC, Columbus
- 15 Interim Minister's Working Group @ RCO 10am
- 16 RCO Staff Meeting
- 18 Finance Committee Meeting @ RCO 10:00am
- \*18–20 Ohio Disciples Men's Fall Retreat @ Camp Christian
- 19 Anti Racism Commission Meeting @ RCO
- 25–26 CYF Commission Meeting @ Camp Christian
- 26 Elders Workshop @ Central CC, Wooster 9 – 3
- 29 Equipping the Saints planning team @ RCO 3:00pm

#### October

- 1 Deadline for entries into the Nov/Dec Buckeye**
- 1 Regional Elders Meeting @ RCO 10:00am – 3:00pm
- 6 Executive Committee Meeting @ RCO
- 7 RCO Staff Meeting
- 10 Cleveland Christian Home Work Day
- 19 Workshop for Pastors @ Gender Rd CC, 9:30 – 3:30
- 20 Commission on Ministry @ Northwest CC, Columbus
- 21 ODEC meeting @ RCO 10:00am
- 21 Development Committee Meeting @ 10:00am
- 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
- 31 Anti Racism Commission Meeting @ RCO

#### November

- 11 – 12 RCO Staff Retreat
- 13-14 Men's Spiritual Life Retreat @ Camp Christian
- 17 Commission on Ministry @ Northwest CC, Columbus
- 20 – 22 CYF Leadership Training @ The Hocking Valley Parish
- 26 – 27 Thanksgiving, RCO Closed**

#### December

- 1 Deadline for entries into the Jan/Feb Buckeye**
- 2 RCO Staff Meeting and Christmas Celebration
- 5 Ohio Disciples Men's Officers Meeting @ RCO 10am
- 11-12 Advent Retreat for Women @ Camp Christian
- 16 ODEC conference call 10:00am
- 24 Christmas Eve, RCO Closed**
- 25 Christmas Day, RCO Closed**

#### January 2010

- 1 New Years Day, RCO Closed**
- 1 – 3 Advance Conference Winter Retreat @ Camp
- 10 Anti Racism Commission @ RCO
- 12 Interim Ministers Working Group @ RCO 10:00am
- 18 Martin Luther King Day, RCO Closed**
- 19 Commission on Ministry @ Northwest CC, Columbus
- 20 ODEC meeting @ RCO 10:00am

RCO = Regional Church Office

\* Online Registration is now available

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

Wherever we are, we are invited to be in good relationship with God and to show our relationship with God by being in good relationship with our neighbors and friends.

The General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada gathered in Indianapolis, Indiana this summer. It was very much like the Regional Assembly, only bigger with five to six thousand in attendance, while the Regional Assembly will gather five or six hundred at our Assembly next year.

Both events are about worship and tending to church business. They are both filled with hallway and mealtime conversations, some filled with laughter and others filled with serious talk. Assemblies of the church are about reunions with colleagues and friends and they are about meeting new colleagues and friends while we nurture and delight in a new generation of leaders.

Gatherings of God's people, in great assemblies or in worship, in spiritual and faith development, and in every other interaction are about relationships. It is these connections that bind us together and strengthen the church of Jesus Christ. We can be about the joy of knowing God and of knowing our neighbors, whether in the pews or in the wider community.

Blessings to you and you continue to develop and nurture relationships wherever you are.

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

While my kids were growing into and through their teen years, I took on the added mantle of Scout Master of our local Boy Scout troop. Many Boy Scout Camps across the US now offer programs for adult leaders as well as boys. One such program I participated in was the Mountain Man program. The requirements for this designation vary from camp to camp but it is designed to build wilderness survival skills like those folk of our distant past. We had to build a shelter of natural materials and whittle a fish hook, catch a fish on it, and cook a dinner of fish and other natural items. Yes, you did have to eat it as well. There is a certain pride being a "Mountain Man" as I know that can take care of myself should I ever get lost in the wilderness for any length of time. I don't need anyone else.

For many years I used "The People of the Parenthesis" to teach my young people about Disciple history. The phrase used to describe our early forebearers was "rugged individualism." They didn't need anyone telling them what to do or believe. Is it any wonder that these folk gave birth to churches which have that same rugged individualism? This independence is in our denominational DNA. Here too, there is a pride in not needing anyone else.

In both of the above examples, there is also a great deal of self deception. While having the skills sets necessary to handle a specific emergency can be an advantage, I would not want to live in this type of situation for very long. I have a need to be in relationship with others.

Genesis 2:18 said, "The Lord God said, 'It is not good for

*Continued in the next column*

*Bentley continued*

the man to be alone." From our very beginning God called us into relationship. Church growth experts remind us that it is all about relationships. We in the church are called to build relationships. First and foremost, we are to respond to God's invitation to be in relationship with us. This relationship is at its best when we truly love God with all our heart, all our mind, and all our soul.

Second, Kingdom Building is about having a relationship with each other. Chi Rho and CYF directors alike have said that a week of Camp Christian is Kingdom Building. Those who have been there have seen with their eyes, as deep relationships begin to form and dividing walls of color, class, geography, etc. come crashing to the ground and participants in the camp begin to accept one another for who they are; who God created them to be. This is the Kingdom Building that can happen in our churches when we no longer accept the status quo of simply knowing who someone is and reach deeper to KNOW them as God's gift.

Third, there is the relationship with those who live in close proximity to the church. Chances are this group has changed over the last 30 to 40 years but the church has not recognized the change. This is the group to whom we are missionaries. In the past, these folk were often the initiators of the relationship, by coming to the church. Today however, the church must take the lead, and reach out to this community and love them.

One last relationship I encourage you to consider. Recognize that as a church we do not exist in isolation. We have gifts and experiences that are different from one another and just like individuals; we can be gifts to God to each other. One of the priorities of the Christian Church in Ohio is building relationships and networks. Join us, as together we do the work of Kingdom Building by strengthening our relationships: to God, to each other, to the community around us, and to the wider church.

### Hiram Farm & Advance Conference

Advance Conference has partnered with Hiram Farm, which is a community project born out of the desire to provide inspiration and meaningful work for the individual growth of people with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Hiram Farm was just started up in June and could use help on a variety of projects to help develop the farm. There will be an Advance led mission opportunity September 18-20 at the Farm. For more information, contact Nate Dicken [n.dicken@yahoo.com](mailto:n.dicken@yahoo.com) or Clint Messner at [camessner@gmail.com](mailto:camessner@gmail.com).

If you are unable to make it at all, there is another great way you can help out. The farm is in need of some bales of hay so we would like to challenge all of Advance to raise \$50 per person by winter retreat. 50 dollars would pay for 5 bales of hay (\$10 per bale) that would be instrumental and very useful at Hiram Farm. They will also be having a Fall Harvest Festival and Open House on Sept. 26. More details will follow soon. More information about Hiram Farm can be found at [www.hiramfarm.org](http://www.hiramfarm.org).



## Reconciliation Offering September 27 & October 4

Many  
Members  
ONE TABLE



### Treasurer's Corner, Duncan Draper

What can the Regional Offices do for us? If not a question that is asked, it is possibly one that is on the minds of many Disciples across the Region. And it is a fair question to be sure. Our mission for the Region is to provide value and service to our congregations and their membership. The Region's Values and Seeds of Vision statement clearly states "In covenant together, we are gifted and called to become a true community." Recently I have been receiving more and more calls with questions from our congregations' Treasurers regarding a variety of topics. How can the Region assist in the transition of a new Treasurer for our congregation? Does the Region have templates for security procedures? Who provides insurance for the Region and is there a benefit for our congregation if we use them also? Does the Region have control procedures for credit cards for our ministry team? These questions all come from those who are interested in doing God's work and are trying to do the best they can do. The good news is these questions all have a positive answer and we have been fortunate to be able to assist a number of congregations. However there are also questions that required us to do some homework and get input from other sources such as our external Auditor and our external Legal team.

While this support is clearly valued and needed, it begs the question if we can find a way so that this type of learning and sharing is spread more broadly across our congregations. I think most would agree that pro-active training and learning is better than reactive response. Therefore I would like to ask the question of all Treasurers across this Region. Would you participate in scheduled Webinars or teleconference meetings for the purpose of training, sharing, and building the true community? The Region would accept responsibility for the coordination of the meetings. The topics for the agenda would come from you. And all would be asked to contribute their knowledge and experience. The times of these meetings would be set based on the schedules that permit the best attendance. Perhaps one agenda may be covered in several meetings to ensure that we maximize attendance.

If you are interested in joining or if you have some questions about this concept, please let us know by emailing [ccio@ccinoh.org](mailto:ccio@ccinoh.org). We will contact all who respond by late September and provided there is sufficient interest, we will plan to hold our first meeting in mid October.

If you have suggestions for other articles please contact Duncan at [ddraper@ccinoh.org](mailto:ddraper@ccinoh.org).

## Second Ohio Mission Trip to New Orleans October 24 - November 1, 2009



**The Plan** : Our plan is to meet at Northwest Christian Church in Columbus at 8:00 AM on Sat., Oct. 24 and to be on the road by 8:30 AM. For those living in the northern part of the state you will be able to stay overnight at Camp Christian (at no cost) on Fri. night if you wish to make the trip easier and meet the group at 8:00 AM in Columbus on Sat. We will drive down over two days staying overnight on Sat. night in either Decatur or Athens, Alabama on the way down and around Nashville on our return. (We will have reservations ahead.) . (Note : we have always attended church at First Christian, Birmingham on the way down.) We will stay at First Christian Church in Metairie (a western New Orleans suburb) Sun.-Fri. nights. Showers, bunks and air mattresses are provided by the church but we need to take our own bedding. We will leave for home on Sat. AM. (Some plan to leave Fri. night and drive straight home.)

**Transportation** : We are asking for volunteers who can drive their own Vans to help us with transportation for all of us and our luggage. So far we have a church bus (14 passenger) and a mini van. We will probably need at least two more vehicles. The maximum no. we can take is 25.

**The Costs** : Two nights in a motel at about \$65/night. Meals on the way down and back. Meals during the week. Gas. We will share in the cost of fuel with the vehicle owners being exempt from fuel expenses.

**Meals** : We will probably plan to cook three dinner meals in and dine out the other nights. Lunches we will pack each day and breakfasts we will cook/ prepare each morning. We have one cook volunteer so far and could use two more. We will all share in the cost of groceries.

Contact Rev. Paul Lantis at [revpaul@columbus.rr.com](mailto:revpaul@columbus.rr.com) or at (614) 760-8830.

Deadline for entries into the Nov/Dec issue of  
**The Buckeye Disciple**

Due in the Regional Church Office by  
October 1, 2009

Submitting via email is preferred [ccio@ccinoh.org](mailto:ccio@ccinoh.org)



### Men's Fall Retreat

"I Love to Tell the Story" was written in 1866 by William Fischer from a poem written that same year by Katherine Hankey. This is the theme of our Disciple Men's Retreat this coming September 18 – 20. Why this theme? We as Disciples seem a bit reticent to "do evangelism" when the Greek word is *euangelion* which simply translated means Good News. Our purpose is not to teach people how to quote lots of scripture in order to dazzle or overwhelm people. Rather, we will be learning to tell our own stories about our relationship with God, with Christ and His

Church. Every Christian has a story about the Good News.

The point is to have our story listened to and affirmed by other Christians much the same as Paul reported in Galatians 2. Our story is the Good News of God's love in Christ for all people. When we share our own experience with one another in stories, we actually are practicing how we will share with others the Good News of God's love in Christ. We are not to go out onto the street corners to quote scripture, but to be ready with our stories of relationship with Christ when someone asks us about our journey in faith. This readiness to tell our stories is our proper witness to the faith which can be shared wherever we are. Often, we pass up opportunities to tell about Christ because we are not sure what that really involves, and we think we have to have some complicated answer. Telling the Good News is more a matter of talking about our own story of faith and our own relationship with Christ than anything else.

Together we will tell our stories. Together we will listen to each other. Together we will encourage one another to share the 2,000 year old story that is fresh and new every day in our hearts. Come to Disciples Men's Retreat Sept. 18 – 20 and enjoy.

### Children, Worship, & Wonder Training Event

**Dates:** Oct 23 – 25, 2009

**Location:** First Christian Church  
1400 Washington Ave. Parkersburg,  
West Virginia (304)485-5253

**Cost:** \$120 per person plus purchase of book -

"Young Children and Worship"

**Trainer:** Kaye Edwards,  
Lynchburg, Virginia

For Information Contact: Wilma  
Shuffitt – (888) 346-2631

[wshuffitt@dhm.disciples.org](mailto:wshuffitt@dhm.disciples.org) or

Kaye Edwards – [kedwards@dhm.disciples.org](mailto:kedwards@dhm.disciples.org)

Register:

By Mail or Call (credit cards only) (888) 346-2631, ext. 2641

Deadline: October 9, 2009 - After Deadline: \$140

Online at: <http://www.discipleshomemissions.org/FamilyandChildren/CWWV.htm#events>



### Silent Retreat: Paths to the Holy

**October 26-30, 2009 - Camp Christian**

**Retreat Leader: Reverend Carol P. Vaccariello D.Min, LPC**

Have you ever considered a Silent Retreat? Does it sound awesome to actually claim some quiet and sacred inner time to listen to the still small voice of Spirit? Are you secretly afraid that there will be no voice or is it that you would rather not hear – after all you are already too busy.

In October there is a very special opportunity being offered for anyone who feels called to an experience of inner silence. Carol Vaccariello will be our retreat leader. She has vast experience in spirituality and spiritual direction. This retreat time will begin with YOU dreaming the theme of your Silent Retreat and then applying your time during the week to your inner silence. Reverend Doctor Carol Vaccariello and other spiritual directors will be available to assist you in your deep process.

Each day we will begin with Morning Practice to prepare our bodies, minds and spirits. Meals will be accompanied by sacred reading or inspirational music so that you can keep your inner silence. You will have alone times to spend sleeping and regenerating, walking and renewing, journaling and reflecting, meditating and reinventing your being in Divine Light. Our guiding principles will be the Four Paths of the Creation Spirituality Tradition. Each afternoon there will be opportunities for creative meditation or quiet alone time. We will close each day in prayer together.

There is so much more that cannot be shared in words, but only through experience. Come and give yourself the gift of TIME to REST IN THE HOLY.

Cost: \$295 base rate which includes shared room, meals and one personal spiritual direction session which is a value of \$25. \$30 is the single supplement for a private room. Additional Spiritual Direction Sessions are available \$25 per half hour. For registration, check with your Church Office for information OR go to the Regional Website at [www.ccinoh.org](http://www.ccinoh.org).

Ohio's Interim Ministry Working Group presents another quality

### Workshop for Pastors



Responding to  
"Skeletons" in the Church Closet  
Workshop!

How to deal with unspoken congregational pain which suddenly comes to your attention

October 19, 2009

9:30 AM – 3:30 PM

at Gender Road Christian Church

5336 Gender Road, Canal Winchester, Ohio 43110



### Fall Bazaar

Mark your calendar for East Columbus Christian Church's annual Bazaar, Saturday, November 7, 2009!

This is a joyous time of working together, buying and selling, eating, and meeting new people.

If you or anyone you know, would like an 8' table to display your crafts or items for sale, please let us know. All tables are on a first come, first save basis. Please call the church, at 861-6220, to reserve your table now.

### Chance Auction

Mark your calendar for October 17. Plans are under way for Ledgewood Christian Church's next Chance Auction to benefit the Cleveland Christian Home and their meal ministry for Cleveland residents. If you would like to make a donation of any kind, please contact Sue Sipos at [ssipos@msn.com](mailto:ssipos@msn.com) or the church at 440-338-5844.

### Great Communion Service - Oct. 4, 2009.

Christian Churches, Disciples of Christ, and Churches of Christ have all grown out of a movement often referred to as the Stone-Campbell religious tradition. Thomas Campbell's "Declaration and Address," is at the very heart of this tradition. Written in 1809, the D&A is the closest thing we have to a "constitution" for our faith movement. Its thesis is that "the church of Christ upon earth is essentially, intentionally, and constitutionally one." Campbell was dismayed by how many denominations he saw and it is even worse today. So he acted to bring unity to the church and the D&A is the testament to his plan for a way to bring all Christians under one tent united together in Christ.

In celebration of the bicentennial anniversary of this event, members of the Churches of Christ, Disciples of Christ, and Christian Churches in the Cincinnati area are planning a Great Communion Service for Sunday, Oct. 4 at 7:00 p.m. It will be held in the chapel on the campus of Cincinnati Christian University, 2700 Glenway Ave. Ministers and lay people from all three groups will be leading the service which will center on the Declaration and Address and its impact on the history and the development of all parts of the movement. It will close with a communion service which will celebrate our "oneness" in Christ.

All are welcome to attend. In addition to the service there will also be a time of fellowship afterwards and historical displays of area churches. Directions to CCU can be found online at [www.ccuniversity.edu/college/directions-to-campus](http://www.ccuniversity.edu/college/directions-to-campus).

### Loaves and Fishes

Bazetta Christian Church – The third Saturday of every month finds the congregation at Bazetta Christian Church hard at work serving a meal and providing fellowship for the community surrounding the church. The program called "Loaves and Fishes" was envisioned by one of the elders of the church Jennie Taylor. This has grown to become an important ministry of the church feeding 100 or more in the community.

### Moving

First Christian Church or Ashland is moving. A year ago the church realizing their current building was no longer adequate to the needs of the congregation made the difficult decision to sell the building and move elsewhere. Earlier this year, a new church property became available on the south side of town. This church is already on one level and has plenty of parking. The congregation voted on July 26<sup>th</sup> to purchase this church and relocate to this new area.



### Cozy Quilters

The Cozy Quilters of the First Christian Church (DOC) of Ravenna, organized fourteen years ago, continues today to provide warmth and comfort to local families and individuals. Each quilt includes a heart-shaped patch with a cross inside to serve as a permanent symbol of God's love. Shown in this picture are five of the current members; from left are Irene Ruggles, Shirley Stahl, Marilyn Payne, Louise Black, and Juanita Wagner. The group was formed in 1995, by Sue Riethman, a member of First Christian Church, and meets every Tuesday morning in the Blue Room of the church throughout the year. During the group's history almost twenty women at various times have participated in this outreach ministry. Fourteen hundred quilts have been given to individuals, families, nursing homes, and local agencies, including the Salvation Army, the Center of Hope (a hot meal program), Horizon House (a drug rehabilitation center for women), Safer Futures (a battered women's shelter), Freedom House (a men's shelter for homeless veterans), the Red Cross, and many others. Some of the quilts have been sold at the church's summer yard sale, with proceeds going to the current expense fund of the church. A few quilts have been sold at the Christmas auction to benefit world outreach. Donations of material and money come from the congregation and from the rebate program of Acme Grocery Store. The work of the love of Jesus Christ continues through the efforts of this group as they piece together hope, comfort, love and warmth for the homeless, the disadvantaged and the forgotten members of society's human quilt.

## Farmers Market Auction

First Christian Church in Leipsic will be holding their 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Farmer's Market Auction, this year on September 20th. It has been such a success in the past and it is a project of FCC that helps out those in need in the community. Get your hands and minds a working it will be here before you know it. For more information go to [www.leipsicfcc.org](http://www.leipsicfcc.org).



## 180 Years of Ministry

Perry Christian Church celebrated 180 years of Ministry August 2, 2009. The day was filled with renewing old acquaintances, worship, a special prayer walk around the church building, a delicious BBQ presented by the men's group, with side dishes prepared by the women. All ages had activities and memories to share.

## W.I.S.H.

Christian Temple, Lorain, through a grant, Parish Nurse Program was able to bring the WISH program, a woman's health program to their pantry night. Health screening were offered for those in the community who qualified.

## Unbinding Your Heart

### *An All-Congregation 40 Days of Prayer & Faith Sharing*

Central Christian Church Kettering, Sept 13th - Oct 24th

Unbinding Your Heart (UYH) is a six week, 40 day, all church study of prayer and faith sharing. It is part of the Real Life Evangelism Series (Unbinding The Gospel, Unbinding Your Church, and Unbinding Your Soul) authored by Martha Grace Reese and is based on her four years of Lilly Endowment-funded research. "The UYH study does not leap to the hows of faith-sharing but provides an opportunity for our church family to address fundamental questions before it moves to the hows: Why share our faith?" This inspiring study has been designed to help us as a congregation, and as individuals, to listen together for God's voice. Our prayer is that it will enrich your spiritual journey, as well as, provide you with opportunities for fellowship and fun. For more information go to <http://ccc-ket.org/>.

## Historical Church Tour

The Historical Church Tour Committee at the First Christian Church in Findlay met July 20 and designed a plan to guide visitors through the main part of our building. They discussed features of interest about the building to be shared by greeters along the way. A flyer is being prepared with information about our Disciple heritage and history of FCC to be given to each visitor. A banner advertising the Historical Church Tour will soon be on display at the front of the church, and tickets are currently on sale. The tour, which will take place on Sunday, October 11 from 1 p.m.- 5 p.m., is a fundraiser for the Hancock Christian Clearing House. For more information call the church at 419-422-5615 or go to [www.findlayfcc.org](http://www.findlayfcc.org).

## Fall Craft Show

Westlake Christian Church is preparing for their Fall Craft Show again, so mark your calendars. This year it will be held on Saturday, October 31st. Tables are still renting for \$25 for non-members or \$20 for church members. If you, or someone you know, is interested in renting a table send an e-mail to Bev Sajna at [sajhome81@yahoo.com](mailto:sajhome81@yahoo.com).

## Community Health Fair

Bethany Christian Church, Cleveland, held a "Community Health Fair" on Saturday, August 8, 2009. The theme was "The Body: God's Precious Gift." Offered were health screenings (blood pressure, blood sugar/glucose, cholesterol, body fat analysis, body mass index, and bone density), HIV/AIDS education & testing, vision and glaucoma testing, and health and nutrition assessments.

## Kemper Road Christian Church - Summer Outside the Walls!!

So far this summer we've had Friday Fish Fries, Holy Hoops, Yellow Bag distributions (bags of food to the community) and Vacation Bible School: "Camp Edge" with all the activities intentionally focused on children, youth and families in the community. The Fish Fries started as a way to get to know some of our neighbors in the community and also be a fundraiser for our summer youth activities.



Our Holy Hoops is a basketball tournament (for those High School age and under) in which we have 3 v 3 and a free throw contest. We have medals, prizes, free food and other activities.

The Yellow Bag Distribution is where we gather bags of food and once a month we go out into our neighborhood and deliver the bags. It has been an enriching and enlightening endeavor for all those who have been involved.

I personally know we had a terrific Vacation Bible School when at the last Holy Hoops, several of the youth asked when we were going to have the next Vacation Bible School. (These were neighborhood youth and not our members!)

### Upcoming events:

**Yellow Bag Distribution: Sunday Aug 16, after worship**  
**Holy Hoops: Friday Aug 21, 6:30 pm**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fall Frolic: Sunday, Sept 13, after worship**  
*(Free Community Festival)*

For more information, we can be contacted at: 11609 Hanover Road, Cincinnati, OH 45224, 513.825.4453, [kemperroadchristianchurch@fuse.net](mailto:kemperroadchristianchurch@fuse.net), Pastor: Rev. Nancy Eichorn

### Church Mission Trip

First Christian Church in Bowling Green is going on a week-long mission trip to Jonesville, VA during the week of October 18-24. This trip is sponsored by the Appalachia Service Project (ASP) which you can read about on their website [www.asphome.org](http://www.asphome.org). Appalachia Service Project (ASP) is a Christian ministry, open to all people, that fosters human development by addressing the housing needs of Central Appalachia. Each year through ASP about 15,000 volunteers repair homes for 400-500 low-income families in rural areas of Central Appalachia. Their goal is to make homes **warmer, safer and drier** for families in need, while offering transformational experiences for families, volunteers and staff alike.

### Organist Honored

The Alliance First Christian Church recently honored organist Jeri Scafidi in celebration of her thirtieth anniversary as church organist. George Cunningham, chancel choir member and a former member of the personnel committee who hired Jeri thirty years ago, served as master of ceremonies at the surprise party in her honor. Over one hundred church members attended the event to voice their love and appreciation as a fresh corsage of yellow and white daisies was presented to her.

Representing the chancel choir, director Charlene Duro spoke words of gratitude for Jeri's skills and sense of humor on behalf of the choir and presented her with a Black Hills gold necklace and earrings. Kay Hobbs from the Praise Team spoke of her courage and determination in taking on the leadership of the Praise Team for the past five years and shaping them into the worship leaders they are today. They presented Jeri with a gift card from a local restaurant.

Diana Himmelheber, representing the Evangelism/Membership Department, presented Jeri with a Scrapbook of Memories to hold the congratulatory notes of appreciation from the church family. She also read letters of gratitude from former ministers who have worked with Jeri, Dr. David Hardcastle and Pastor Rick Boyd. A note from Helen Cross, former choir director, was read, and Helen gave Jeri a silver bracelet with symbols of faith.

Humorous remarks were given by Karen Henderson, who had attempted to create a video of Jeri but found the task impossible because of the scarcity of photographs of Jeri, who is herself an avid photographer. Instead, a DVD of Jeri playing the organ was run. Larry Koenigseker, Praise Team member and President of the Church Board, presented Jeri with an engraved anniversary clock from the entire church family and honored her with thanks and praise for her loyalty, dependability, and faithfulness to her job and to her God and to her church family.

At the close of the celebration event, four cakes decorated in various themes of music, baked and decorated by Mary Ann Day, were served along with nuts and mints.

The event was planned by Pastor Pam Bruno and the Church Leadership Committee, with George and Bonnie Cunningham as co-chairmen. Special guests present for the surprise were the Scafidi children, Nichol and Bryan, from Cleveland, and the family of Jeri's husband Steve from Stow.

### 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. 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](mailto:kevin@cccwooster.org).



### ADAM'S Kids...A Ministry of First Christian Church in Cuyahoga Falls

On August 6, 2009, the ADAM'S KIDS of First Christian Church in Cuyahoga Falls, presented "Pirates of the 'I Don't Care'-ibbean." The story of the production is reminiscent of the "Wizard of Oz." While at a baseball game, the main character is knocked out by a fly ball and is transported to Johnny Bay. While working with the pirate, the lead character discovers the true treasures in life.

ADAM'S Kids, short for Art, Drama and Music, was created three years ago by the staff of First Christian. The mission is to provide a summer fine arts experience which combines biblical themes and stories in each art area for children in the community. For seven weeks, twice weekly, the children attend music, art and drama classes to prepare for the final production. As part of the mission to the community, the children brought school supplies that have been given to the Good Neighbors back to school drive.



**"I am a part of all  
that I have met."**

Alfred Tennyson

## Adult Conference in Ohio 2009 A Powerful Community of Faith



Let the people gather at Adult Conference in Ohio and a powerful community of faith rises up that deeply touches many hearts. The June 2009 conference was no exception.

The Rev. Dr. Bill Paulsell of Lexington, Kentucky, one of our outstanding speakers at the conference, wrote afterwards to say what a rich experience it was for him and his wife. He stated, "One of the most powerful experiences was seeing how everyone was so accepting (and relaxed!) about the many diverse people who were there. The traditions and practices that mean so much to the folks were impressive, too. The whole thing was a clear picture of what a Christian fellowship is supposed to be. I wish that were repeated in every congregation. You folks have something truly unique in that conference."

As the week progressed, we were increasingly touched by the reality of God's presence in our worship, in our classes and in the great fellowship we had with each other. What a blessing it was to be a part of this beloved community of faith and to renew old friendships and to make new ones.

The planning team will meet in September to begin planning the June 14-18, 2010 conference. The new officers serving for 2010 are Deb Bolen, president; Allen Harris, VP, Sue Chivington, secretary, Bob Thompson, financial liaison, Pat Davis, past president, and Lee Snyder, past secretary. New at-large members of the planning team serving a two-year term are Lynn Mattox-Baker and Patty Worsham with Charlotte Bougher and Ken Coy serving their final year. Steve Bentley is the regional liaison.

### Purchase General Assembly DVDs From Greenhill Productions

Were you unable to attend the Assembly but would like to view tapes of the evening worship speakers? Or if you did attend, are there resource group sessions that you would like to review for use in your church or community?

If so, Greenhill Productions has DVD and CD copies of many General Assembly activities. These include copies of all evening worship sessions, morning reflections, as well as selected portions of learning tracks, resource groups, meal function speakers, and Sunday morning worship preachers. They also have the full three-section set of outgoing Moderator Newell Williams' historical reflections.

To purchase a DVD or CD from Greenhill, go to their website at [www.greenhill-productions.com](http://www.greenhill-productions.com), click on the words, "order form," then click on the words, "Disciples of Christ General Assembly 2009."



**THE BLUE JESUS PROJECT**  
connecting Disciples with Christ's work



What is your blue Jesus? For more information on this and other DHM programs, visit [www.discipleshomemissions.org](http://www.discipleshomemissions.org).



*Pictured L - R: Tyler Bokman, Carol Bokman, Diana Tyler, Stephen Bentley, Charles Bentley, and Ray Blowers (Not pictured (Behind Camera): Tim Tyler)*

### Adventure Camp

In July, six adventurers met at the First United Christian Church in Xenia, OH. Each morning for the rest of the week brought new adventures and devotions written by Dan Harry. Sights and activities included Yellow Springs, OH and the nearby State Park of John Bryan, the Air Force Museum at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, London, OH, and Franklin, OH along the Great Miami River. On Thursday, because of "sore seaters" we hiked the Clifton Gorge trail along the beautiful Little Miami River. We did suffer a few flat tires and broken spokes but all just added to the adventure. The Xenia Church was an excellent host with the women's group fixing dinner for us on Wednesday night and the Men's group hosting dinner on Thursday night and singing for us. In the evenings, we gathered around the glow of a camp fire and regaled each other with the events of the day before closing with vesper. For the week we rode our bikes a total of 140 miles.

We are currently looking at adventure opportunities for next year. Several ideas have been suggested:

White Water Rafting

Caving (Spelunking)

Camera tour of Ohio – Choosing locations around Ohio to photograph and critiquing photographs each evening.

Hiking – having a base camp and doing day hikes – Suggested locations include: Hocking Hills, Shenandoah National Park, or Smoky Mt. National Park.

Multi-activity – Zip line, rock climbing, rappelling, canoeing, biking, hiking – different activity each day.

These camps are designed for those who are High School or older or for families of all ages. Which of these "Adventures" might you be interested in pursuing. Let me know at [sbentley@ccinoh.org](mailto:sbentley@ccinoh.org).



**New Missionaries are Commissioned at General Assembly by: Cliff Willis [www.disciples.org](http://www.disciples.org)**

The Common Board for Global Ministries today commissioned seven persons to serve in mission stations across Latin America, East Asia and Southern Africa.

The new missionaries will represent the combined mission boards of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ.

"One way we participate in the 'Healing of the Nations' is through the presence of missionaries who serve as a result of invitations by our overseas partners," said the Rev. David Vargas, president, Division of Overseas Ministries and co-executive of Global Ministries.

"Today we send out from among us those who have responded to God's gift of abundant grace by offering their witness and presence to journey with our brothers and sisters from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth," Vargas said.

Assisting him with the commissioning ceremony was the Rev. Cally Rogers-Witte, Executive Minister of Wider Church Ministries with the United Church of Christ, Cleveland and co-executive of Global Ministries.

The church seeks to be empowered by the Holy Spirit," said Rogers-Witte, as it commissions the candidates "in ministries of critical presence... to be timely and appropriately meeting God's people and creation at the point of deepest need."

Approved for missions appointments by the Disciples/UCC global mission board was:

Alan Dicken (Tylersville Road Christian Church, Mason) , global mission intern, Christian Commission of Development in Honduras

Thomas Morse, Sichuan Radio and TV University, China  
Ryan Turner (Central Christian Church, Kettering), global mission intern, Deep Griha Society in Pune, India

Donald and Maryjane Westra, United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe

John Campbell-Nelson with the Evangelical Church of West Timor

Nicholas Green with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of El Salvador

Disciples General Minister and President Sharon Watkins prayed for the appointees' strength, energy and creativity to fulfill their callings in places of greatest need.

"We celebrate their call to do justice, and to love kindness and walk humbly with God," said Vargas. "They will go forth and witness to God's grace and love, and they will receive grace and love from those they accompany."

The General Assembly also recognized the ministry of Kevin Howe who completed a term with the Christian Commission of Development in Honduras.

### Get The Buckeye Online!

If you would like to replace your copy with an emailed copy, please send an email to [ccio@ccinoh.org](mailto:ccio@ccinoh.org). Don't forget to include your name and the address to which it's currently being sent.

### **Advance Conference**

In the middle of August Advance Conference takes place to provide young adults ages 19-29 a refuge to grow in their faith and fellowship. This year was no different, with topics pushing us to "Seek God" within aspects of our daily life. We learned about what it truly means to live with God and what that means for us and our community. We were fortunate to learn all while being surrounded by our own loving community.



Each year three camp participants are elected to be the next officers; this year's officers are Jon Bernard, Brittany Stricklen, and Christina Weldy. We are very excited for the upcoming year and have already begun planning this year's retreats and conference.

A little bit about the three of us; Brittany Stricklen is from Wadsworth, OH and attends the First Christian Church of Wadsworth. She just finished up a summer with Disciples Home Mission in Neon, KY and is now looking for work in the non-profit sector. Jon Bernard is from Kettering, OH and went to the Central Christian Church of Kettering. Jon is currently living in Charleston, West Virginia and works as a webmaster for West Virginia Media. Christina Weldy is from Mantua, OH and attended the Mantua Center Christian Church, in Mantua. Christina is currently living in Pittsburgh, PA where she is working for Family Behavioral Resources as a home therapist for children with autism.

We have many different and exciting things planned to bring Advance Conference attendees together throughout the year to help in service and fellowship through bible studies. Across the state there are many different Bible studies one can attend. Also coming very soon is the Hiram Farm Mission Trip scheduled for Sept 18-20. This is a great opportunity for Advance Ministries to come together to help service in our own communities. For more information about the officers and upcoming events please visit our website <http://advanceministry.org/> and the Advance Ministries group on Facebook. We all are honored and grateful to be serving Advance this year and are looking forward to the adventure.

In God's love, Advance Conference Officers, Jon Bernard, Christina Weldy, Brittany Stricklen

## Volunteers heading to Alaska\*

\*Please Note: This article was written August 13

Seventeen Disciples representing eight regions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will leave next week for a three-week work trip to Alaska. The Yukon River Flood Mission Project in Alaska is being put together by the Office of Disciples Volunteering of Disciples Home Missions and will take place Aug. 21 – Sept. 14. Northeast Alaska was hit with heavy flooding this past spring, an area where many Native American communities are located.

Participants will pay their own travel costs to and from Anchorage, Alaska, where they will initially gather. A \$12,000 Week of Compassion grant will be used to help defray costs of travel, food and other expenses once the volunteers reach Alaska. They will address flooding that has occurred along the Yukon River. “We have both clergy and lay participants,” said Carl E. Zerweck, III, director of the Office of Disciples Volunteering.

The work trip is being sponsored by the Office of Disciples Volunteering, First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Anchorage, Alaska, the Northwest Region of the Christian Church, North Alaska Disaster Response, and Week of Compassion. Included in the Week of Compassion grant are funds to cover the travel costs for both David Bell, executive director of the Yakama Christian Mission, and Josh Baird, mission station manager for Disciples Volunteering in Louisiana.

“Josh will be providing key leadership to the project as he assists me in taking on several of the logistical details related to our daily living, especially related to our spiritual lives, particularly worship, devotions and debriefing,” said Zerweck. “He will also be setting up a blog site that we will maintain throughout the project. David is providing the cultural education and sensitivity piece for the project.”

The volunteers will travel to Anchorage between Aug. 19 and 21. They will go to Fairbanks on Aug. 22 and worship there on the 23. First Christian Church of Anchorage will serve as hosts for the volunteers at the start and end of their trip. “The congregation there is excited about serving as a host for our team on the front and back ends of the project and are working out various ways to get their folks involved,” Zerweck said. “They are very grateful to be part of such an important general church event!”

Zerweck said donations are being received to help defray the cost of the work trip and each volunteer is also seeking to raise additional funds. “Most of us are carrying air mattresses, sleeping bags, pillows and towels in with us that we plan to donate to the villages where we work,” he said. “We will buy tools in Alaska and donate them to either the Long Term Recovery Organization, and/or also the villages.” He foresees a good possibility that another response team will need to return to Alaska in the spring to continue the work.

“I believe that this is a fantastic opportunity for us to truly live out and celebrate our call to be engaged in mission ‘from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth,’ “ said Zerweck. To donate to the project or get more information, contact Zerweck at 317-289-5061 or visit [www.discipleshomemission.org](http://www.discipleshomemission.org)



## Fall Blitz Build

Where ?? Galveston, Texas ~ November 7-22

What will we be doing?? Rebuilding Second Christian Church & homes of families damaged by Hurricane Ike.

Who?? Anyone interested in and willing to help with this rebuilding effort. Any, all or no skills welcome.

What is the cost?? \$175 per person per week. This includes lodging (on the floor of a church), food, T-Shirt, insurance & a Life Transforming Experience.

For more details contact: Carl Zerweck III, Director Disciples Volunteering [czerweck@dhm.disciples.org](mailto:czerweck@dhm.disciples.org) or 317/289-5061.

## Documentary 'Watermark: Stone-Campbell In The 21st Century'

An exciting new documentary, Watermark: Stone-Campbell in the 21st Century, will be released this fall. This projects features some of the brightest voices from many churches associated with the Stone-Campbell movement.

Watermark is directed by Jerry L. Jackson, a feature writer/producer/director known for his award-winning work on Wrestling With God. His resume also includes documentaries like Partners In The Journey and the upcoming The Calling as well as music videos. In addition, Jackson is an Elder in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and an active member of the Writers Guild of America.

The production of Watermark: Stone-Campbell in the 21st Century has been taken on by Water's Edge Communications. Water's Edge has been telling compelling stories on film and video for decades and seeks to use the visual arts in a range of media to reach a broad spectrum of people.

Watermark: Stone-Campbell in the 21st Century shows how our American history of faith is relevant to people, congregations and various denominations. The voices in the documentary pose significant questions in regards to the diversity of the world now and how it relates to the past. The project also focuses on how the Church can move forward and carry on the progress that has been made.

“This is a conversation that’s happening in every church in the country today: How do we institutionally provide spiritual relevance across the rich cultural diversity of 21st Century America? How do we define ourselves? How do we build community? The answers will be very thought provoking.” promises Jackson.

Many scholars, witnesses and advocates who study the movement are participating in the examination and analysis for Watermark: Stone-Campbell in the 21st Century. Among the many views in this unique collaboration are Dr. Cynthia Hale, Senior Pastor of Ray of Hope Christian Church in Decatur, Ga.; Dr. Sharon Watkins, General Minister and President of the Christian Church; and Dr. Douglas Foster, Professor of Church History at Abilene Christian University and general editor of the Stone-Campbell World History Project.

This project is sponsored in part by Disciples of Christ Historical Society. Additional funding is underway. If you'd like to support this project or for more information or to pre-order your copy of Watermark: Stone-Campbell in the 21st Century visit [www.waters-edge-comm.com/stonecampbell](http://www.waters-edge-comm.com/stonecampbell).

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A covenant network of congregations in mission

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### **Heading Off To College? Find A Campus Ministry**

College can be a trying time for your faith, but a connection with the church can help you through those hard times. If you're heading off to school but want to maintain your relationship with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), you can find a campus ministry near your school at the web site for the Higher Education Ministries Arena.

[www.higheredmin.org](http://www.higheredmin.org) has links to nearly 150 Disciples campus ministers in 35 states and more than 800 ecumenical ministries nationwide. Find contact information, addresses, and names of campus ministers. To learn more, visit [www.higheredmin.org/directory](http://www.higheredmin.org/directory), where a list of campus ministries across the country can be found.



### **The Buckeye Disciple**

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