



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 4

July/August 2008

Ohio Disciples Men's Fall Retreat

Save the date now for our Men's Fall Retreat, September 19-21, 2008 at Camp Christian. We have a great retreat planned. Johnny Wray, who has been the voice of the Week of Compassion for many years, will be the keynote speaker. He will help us learn what it means to be "Men of Compassion." Other activities include hearing a Men's Chorus, slide show of Sessions 2008, and lots of fellowship and fun. Registration forms will soon be available and online Registration will be up soon. Plan now to attend.



2008 Regional Assembly

October 17-18, 2008

EPH. 4:11-13

"Body Building: Strengthen Your Congregation for Mission"

- Workshops to Strengthen Your Congregation
- Structured Youth Workshops at Camp Christian
- Ministry Fair & Exhibitions
- Clergy & Lay Luncheons
- Women's & Men's Luncheons
- Merit Awards Dinner
- Discussion Forums
- Fellowship with the Region wide faith community

Crown Plaza Hotel
600 Metro Place North
Dublin, OH 43017
Room Rate \$99.95

(You must reserve before September 23 to receive this rate)

Includes Full Breakfast Menu for Two
For Reservations call:

1-866-372-5566 or 614-764-2200

Group Name: Building Your Congregation

Register Online www.ccinoh.org

Ohio Women's Ministries

"...and he was led by the spirit into the wilderness..."

Fall Retreat is approaching!

Prayer & Spirituality

Guest Speaker: Judy G. Turner

September 12-14, 2008 at Camp Christian

"...and the spirit of the Lord was on the face of the waters..."

**Disciples Fellowship Retreat
Labor Day Weekend
August 29-31, 2008**

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

"GOD'S VISION FOR YOU"

Rev. Dr. William Edwards, our Regional Pastor and President of the Christian Church in Ohio, will be our presenter. He will explore biblical narratives that speak to the power of vision and discuss the implications for our lives as individuals, as members of congregations, and as members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Along with hearing Bill speak, we will be breaking into various groups for different activities, including fishing, Bible study, fun & games, hiking, 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 can also be a great opportunity for you and your family to come and experience camp together so your children will know what to expect when they attend partnership, Chi Rho, CYF, and beyond. Hope to see you there!! Any questions contact Bev Sajna 440-590-2488 or sajhome81@yahoo.com.

"I believe in one God, and no more; and I hope for happiness beyond this life. I believe in the equality of humans; and I believe that religious duties consist in doing justice, loving mercy, and endeavoring to make our fellow creatures happy."

Thomas Paine





Spiritual Insights

Rev. Dr. William H. Edwards

"Oh, that I knew where I might find him, that I might come even to his dwelling". - Job 23:3

Most of us are familiar with the story of Job, who was a righteous man, who experienced great calamity and tragedy in his life. Yet, even after his great loss and catastrophe at the probing and testing of

"Satan", Job said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return, the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away, blessed be the name of the Lord." Job 1:21

But then after losing his wealth, Job experienced an attack on his health. Then Job's three friends come and basically they blame Job for his condition. Most of the book of Job is the dialogue and challenge of his three friends, who argue with Job. But even after his friends talked about him, Job said, "tho he slay me, yet will I trust him." – Job 13:15.

Then towards the end of the book, we see Job still surrounded by many, many questions, not understanding and Job begins to parade his own integrity before God, justifying himself before God. In Job 31:6 he says, 'Let me be weighed in an even balance, that God may know mine integrity.'

Finally, God answers Job in the midst of a whirlwind and raises some startling questions with him. The Lord says, sit down and gird up your loins like a man and let me question you and you declare to me. I have listened to your questions, now you listen to mine. Where were you, Job, when I set the four corners of the universe? Where were you when the morning stars sang together and all the sons and daughters of God shouted for joy? In a whirlwind's fury God comes to him and says, "Do you want to debate, Job? You have been saying that you want some answers to your questions and that I have been hiding and I am not willing to debate with you. Do you want to debate your case? All right, let me put things into perspective for you. God never really gives Job a direct answer, but God just overwhelms him in chapters 38 through 40, with powerful questions to put things into perspective for Job.

That is what God is trying to do for us, to lift our vision to see beyond ourselves. We want to keep our heads down, focused on our problem, concentrate on our pain; focused on our predicament. We want to say, "Woe is me". We want to live in pity city. But that is not what God wants for us, God is trying to lift our vision to see beyond our pain and see God's promise; to see beyond despair and see hope; to see beyond grief and see God's glory; to see beyond the tears and see the triumph; to see beyond the sadness of tonight and see the joy of the morning. God is always trying to lift our vision.

There are times in our lives when we all go through periods when we don't sense that God is listening or answering our prayers. We feel as if we are in the wilderness and left alone, without anyone without any way of reaching the Promised Land. These times can be overcome, but it involves putting our trust in God. God answers our prayers, but sometimes it doesn't come in a clear and discernible "yes" or "no." Sometimes God's answer comes through an act of faith that says trust me

Continued on page 3

Regional Calendar

July

- 1 RCO Staff Meeting @ Camp Christian
- *6 – 12 Adventure Camp @ the Au Sable River in Michigan
- *6 – 12 Chi Rho Camp Portahoga @ Camp Christian
- *6 – 12 Badger Partnership Camp @ Tempeld Hills
- 8 Christian Education Conference Call 7:00pm
- 9 Networking Conference Call (Stewardship Event)
- *13 – 19 Chi Rho Camp Maumee @ Camp Christian
- *17 – 20 Disciple Men's Sessions 2008 in Oklahoma City
- *20 – 26 Lakeside CYF Conference @ Camp Christian
- *20 – 26 Beaver Partnership Camp @ Tempeld Hills UCC
- 22 ODEC Committee Meeting @ RCO 10:00am
- 23 Nominating Committee @ RCO 10:00am
- 24 Ohio Disciples Outreach @ RCO 10:00am
- *27 – Aug 2 Wilmington CYF Conference @ Camp Christian

August

- 1 **Deadline for the Sep/Oct Buckeye Disciple**
- *3 – 9 Chi Rho Camp Miami @ Camp Christian
- 6 Christian Education Conference Call 7:00pm
- 8 – 10 Children Worship & Wonder @ Washington Ave CC
- *10 – 17 Advance Conference @ Camp Christian
- 19 Commission on Ministry @ Northwest CC
- 21 New Church Committee in Cleveland 11am – 2pm
- 27 Regional Church Office Staff Meeting
- 28 Regional Elders Meeting @ RCO 10:00am
- 29 – 31 Disciples Fellowship Retreat @ Camp Christian

September

- 1 **Labor Day RCO Closed**
- 3 Regional Church Office Staff Meeting
- 5-6 CYF Commission @ Camp Christian, Monroe Lodge
- *5-7 Camp Good Hope (Bereavement) @ Camp Christian
- 8 Interim Minister's Working Group @ RCO 10am
- 11 Disciples of Christ Southwest Ohio 7:30pm
- 11 Christian Education Meeting @ RCO 10am – 2pm
- 12-14 Ohio Women's Ministries Fall Retreat @ Camp
- 16 Commission on Ministry @ Northwest CC
- 19-21 Disciple Men's Fellowship Fall Retreat @ Camp

October

- 1 **Deadline for the Nov/Dec Buckeye Disciple**
- 1 Regional Church Office Staff Meeting
- *3-4 Grandparent Camp @ Camp Christian
- 4 Chi Rho Commission @ Camp Christian
- 4 Cleveland Christian Home Work Day 9:00am
- 7 Executive Committee Meeting @ RCO
- *17 – 18 Regional Assembly @ Crowne Plaza, Dublin
- "Body Building: Strengthening Your Congregation for Mission" Ephesians 4:11-13**
- 21 Commission on Ministry @ Northwest CC
- 22 ODEC Committee Meeting @ RCO 10:00am
- 23 Christian Education Conference Call 7:00pm
- 23 Ohio Disciples Outreach Planning Retreat @ Camp
- 27 Interim Minister's Working Group Fall Workshop
- *29 Anti Racism Training for Ministers @ Camp
- *30 Sexual Ethics Training for Ministers @ Camp

RCO = Regional Church Office

* Online Registration is now available

Spiritual Insights Continued

to lead you through these circumstances.

Sometimes we sense that God is not answering our prayers, when in fact, God is not only answering but gently guiding us to a solution with God's hand of loving guidance. It is always a humbling experience when we look back and see the hand of God at work in our lives. Sometimes small unrelated events are God's stepping stones to major transformations in our lives. The great lesson of the book is that there are times when we cannot be told the whole picture. There are times when God does not adequately explain life to us. There are times when we must trust that not all suffering occurs because we are bad, but because it can also be the source of some final good. For only God knows the end from the beginning. From ancient times, God knows things that are not yet done. We have to remember that we have to lift up our heads and see the bigger picture. Look past the questions about the future of church, look past the uncertainty and see God's assurance.

Advance Conference to Discuss God's Place in Diversity by Dave Bernard

After an enlightening and enjoyable Spring Retreat, Advance Conference, Ohio's ministry for Young Adults age 18-29, is readying for yet another amazing outing at Camp Christian. Advance Conference's weeklong camp session will be held August 10-17 at Camp Christian.

We have planned 7 awesome days of keynote speakers, Bible study, small group discussions, conferee led worship, delicious meals, swimming, dancing, singing, movies and not nearly enough sleeping. All of the activities during the week will focus around continuing this year's theme "Divinity and Diversity." The discussions of the week will focus on God's role in diversity and how this is an issue bigger than political correctness, but rather an issue of spiritual correctness. The speakers will focus not only on racial diversity, but also on economic, social, political and theological diversity and how we, as young Christian adults in a global world, are called by God to interact with a very wide range of human beings.

Don't miss out on the chance to spend a week at Camp Christian this summer. All men and women between the ages of 18-29 are invited. We would, of course, love for conferees to take part in the entire event, but let's face it we are all busy people. Don't let that hold you back from coming to camp this summer, even if just for the weekend. I promise you won't regret it!

If you or someone you know are looking for more information or to register online for Advance Conference events please visit www.ccinoh.org. Scholarships are available for those in need. You can also visit pages for Advance Conference on MySpace and Facebook where you can learn more about Advance Conference and your 2008 officers Dave Bernard, Felix Ortiz, and Debbie Saxe.

**Deadline for the Sep/Oct issue of
The Buckeye Disciple
Due in the Regional Church Office by
August 1, 2008**

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

Two men were walking down a dusty road, sorrow in their hearts. Home was their destination but at the speed they were going, they would not get there on this night. Home, where wives work and children played loudly. While it may be hectic, at least it was familiar. Their world seemed to be falling apart. In the town they were traveling from there was evidence everywhere of the power of the foreigners who occupied their homeland. Soldiers were everywhere and there had been electricity in the air as many believed there was a battle brewing. Yet over the past weeks, these two men had felt a spiritual awakening, an understanding of God they had never experienced before. But that was all over now. The man they thought would lead them through this difficult time was dead. The question that was left unasked but was on both of their minds was, "Where is God in all of this?" As they talked together about these recent events, a stranger walked up beside them and entered into their conversation. Somehow, in spite of all that had gone on, this stranger seemed to make sense of it all. In his presence they felt peace. They invited this stranger to have dinner with them and as they sat down, this stranger took bread, after giving thanks, broke it and gave it to them. Suddenly they realized this stranger was no stranger at all. He was their savior and as they recognized him, he was gone.

Is there anything less troublesome in our day? The price of gas is cutting into the pocketbooks of both individuals and businesses. Military might is still seen as ultimate power. In this time of presidential election, everyone is fair game to find any cause to bring down a candidate. We, like those travelers to Emmaus many years ago ask, "Where is God in all of this?" My prayer is that we might learn as these Emmaus Road travelers learned that sometimes the presence of God is staring us right in the face but we fail to see it. Let us look to each other to discover the presences of Christ in our midst. Rabbi Harold Kushner has said, "When your life is filled with the desire to see the holiness in everyday life, something magical happens: Ordinary life becomes extraordinary, and the very process of life begins to nourish your soul." May we find nourishment for our soul as we seek the presence of Christ in our midst.

The Buckeye Disciple

Published by : Christian Church in Ohio (Disciples of Christ)

355 East Campus View Blvd, Suite 110, Columbus, OH 43235

Phone: (614)433-0343 Website: www.ccinoh.org

Email: ccio@ccinoh.org

Regional Staff: William Edwards: Regional Pastor and President

LaTauyna Bynum: Regional Associate Pastor

Stephen Bentley: Regional Associate Pastor

Brenda Webster: Regional Program Minister

Al Channell: Camp Christian Superintendent

Regional Church Council Officers

Jeff Wheeler: Moderator Jim Rivers: Vice Moderator

Betty Adams: Secretary Elizabeth Jewell: Assistant Secretary

Editor: Jennie Stoddart Email: jstoddart@ccinoh.org

Printed/Distributed by PXP OHIO, Reynoldsburg, OH

Anti-Racism Pro-Reconciliation Commission

The Anti-racism Pro-reconciliation Commission of Ohio was formed in 1999 and now consists of 19 individuals who are committed to raising awareness of the continued presence of racism in our society. By educating our congregations to the deep-rooted existence of racism that continues to afflict the daily lives of our brothers and sisters, and by exploring ways in which we can unwittingly become participants in systems based upon distorted and outdated social values, we strive toward ensuring more inclusive and loving communities free from racism and its attendant evils.

Members of the 'team' are committed to learning and to teaching others. Each member has undergone several levels of training and meets monthly as a group to discuss progress, problems and to offer encouragement. Opportunities are available to introduce the subjects of Racism and Reconciliation to congregations in the Ohio region. These sessions are 90 minutes long and serve as an educational tool for those communities who are open to raising awareness of and sensitivity to social injustices.

For those interested in inviting a trained leader to speak to interested groups in your congregation please direct inquiries to co-chairpersons, Anne Sowell and Nichole Mazza-Fredley through the Regional Office. The commission is also encouraging motivated leaders to join our team to train for the purpose of providing information to church communities on how to avoid participating in systems that continue to foster racism.

As a region that is committed to anti-racism and pro-reconciliation as a core value, we eagerly look forward to a time when racism is eradicated and where children of God are honored regardless of their racial heritage.

Mission Trip 2008 Greensburg, Kansas

Two days of travel totaling 1,000 miles brought 19 members of the Newark, Ohio's Central Christian Church Mission Team to Pratt, KS, their mission station for the week. The group disembarked and greeted the 6 members of the Moss Point Christian Church from Mississippi (also 1,000 miles distant) who joined with us for the work mission. Newark worked 3 years ago to rebuild Moss Point homes, and now they joined us to work in another disaster area. The Greensburg people were amazed at the partnership with victims who understood how they felt.

We began work on Monday with an orientation to the storm and its devastation. Then we divided into several groups for work: one did electrical service installation at more than 2 dozen houses, wired and finished a couple, and reset temporary to permanent services for many yet-to-be constructed homes. Another group cleaned up brush and drove it to the landfill. A third group found a house under construction that required framing around the garage, trusses and roof sheathing. All those tasks were finished during the week. Another group was assigned some concrete pouring/finishing and worked in the very muddy conditions to finish that task. Another group did some cleanup, drywall mudding, sanding, priming and painting for an assisted living facility under construction. Much work was done, but weather slowed down progress since it rained heavily

Continued in the next column

Mission Trip 2008 Greensburg, Kansas continued

every night and left a very muddy yard from which to work.

The mission station shared space for sleeping, showers for cleanup, a pot-luck dinner on Wednesday to get acquainted with our hosts, and many visits by the pastor to cheer us up and thank us for coming to work in their neighboring community.

The construction supervisor we met had closed his own business and come to work as an employee of KITRO in Greensburg, supervising volunteer groups and building 6 houses. The other volunteer groups were busy but met each day at noon for lunch and fellowship. We found the coordinator working hard but finding many hindrances to keeping all the groups, jobs, resources, and supplies flowing smoothly. There is always frustration for everyone in such situations—no one knows all the elements and some always want to control what is not possible to manage. But the process works better each time it is tried.

FEMA had set up a village of trailers (quickly and efficiently, not like other disasters) and half of the residents were still in town. They watched as the process of rebuilding continued, hoping their house would be rebuilt. There is nothing to repair here, all was wiped out. Everything has to be rebuilt from the foundation to the shingles. Time rolls slowly when nothing happens on "your" house because volunteers are needed to make the difference between what insurance provides and the total cost of replacement.

Our team arrived the day after President Bush delivered the commencement address for the 30 seniors graduating from the high school. Hearts were lifted to see him present with them. The night we arrived was the first year anniversary of the storm, so a candlelight vigil was held by the survivors at the time when the storm struck—truly an inspiring moment to hear and see their strength, community spirit and determination to rebuild. Nearly 300 people gathered on that night and felt the possibility of a tornado crashing through the darkness as a frightful experience. They had less than 20 minutes' notice from the alert to the end of the devastation—only moments to save life, let alone anything else. We have witnessed the worst tornado season on record in 2008 so far, as the storms continue to plague us all across the country.

After 4 sunny days of hard work, jobs were accomplished, goodbyes were said, and the teams began the long trips home. When we arrived home, a package of M&M's was given to each participant since we had named ourselves Members in Motion, to signify the sweet taste in the mouth of a week of effort that produced success in many ways. To let go of the frustration, struggle, sore muscles, and sunburn pain means to remember how sweet it is to go, to do, and to come home safely. A first-time participant could not put into words her feelings but could only let the tears flow and say how she would never miss another opportunity to share in such an event. Life-changing? It surely will change your life if you ever "GO!" as God calls us, do what is suggested, and then let the spirit of the recipients invade your soul. Is there anything is life that is sweeter than pure Christian sharing? For 25 people in Pratt/Greensburg, KS for one week, there is nothing that can supplant that memory. Ask us, we'll tell the story over and over again.

Why preach apocalyptic?

Apocalyptic is a type of literature that is largely unfamiliar to modern congregations. Represented by Daniel in the Old Testament and Revelation in the New Testament, it is filled with confusing and often violent images. How can we interpret it? Should we preach it as documenting the past, reflecting the present, or predicting the future? This workshop will help participants answer these and other questions, and suggest strategies for preaching apocalyptic images and themes.

Join us for our sixth annual preaching retreat, "Preaching Apocalyptic" at Bergamo Conference Center August 4-6, 2008. Joining me this year are Rev. Ed McNulty, Rev. Lynn Labs, Dr. Donna Cox and Elise Eslinger.

This event is open to anyone but may be used, with permission, for master's credit. For those seeking continuing education hours, this event will provide 1.5 CEUs. Contact cwpa@united.edu for more information.

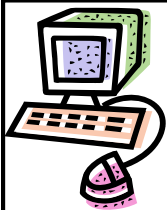
We are looking forward to another great event. We hope you will join us.



Embrace God's world through global mission Cleveland, Ohio October 2 – 5, 2008

Explore exciting new ways to engage in global mission at the fourth biennial *Missionworks!*, an event blending mission education with practical ideas for

involvement in God's mission. Your congregation will gain a renewed excitement about Global Ministries and discover how to make a difference in the world. Participants will learn how to connect your congregation to our global partners and missionaries, effectively pray for our missionaries, our partners, and our world, educate members of all ages about global issues, and seek justice on behalf of international partners through specific advocacy efforts. Congregational representatives may also participate in Ministries and Mission Interpreter (MMI) training, Saturday afternoon, through noon on Sunday. MMIs are trained to convey the stories of mission, educate people in their local church and region utilizing available Global Ministries resources about the work of global mission, and inspire others to get involved in global mission.



Get The Buckeye Disciple via Email!

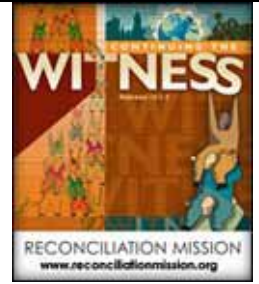
If you would like to replace your hard copy of this newsletter with an emailed copy, please send an email

(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.



Reconciliation Sunday

The last Sunday in September is Reconciliation Sunday (9/28) and a special collection will be taken. We encourage early preparation for this event and request that information be disseminated in advance to inform congregations of the significance of this offering. Proceeds from this offering are extremely important in helping to provide grants for anti-racism/pro-reconciliation training and intervention. Please contact the Regional Church Office for detailed information.



Cost:
Only \$100.00 per person

MISSION TRIP
METAIRIE, LOUISIANA
SEPTEMBER 20-27, 2008

Cost includes: Transportation from Columbus, Gas, On site Food, and lodging - September 21-27th.

Additional Personal Expenses will be approximately \$125 per person. Costs include: 2 overnight stay at the Radisson inn, Decatur, IL at double occupancy rate Individual food expenses on the trip there & back.

Hurry! We have only have room for 25!! Registrations are on a first come first serve basis.

For more information go to www.ccinoh.org or contact the Regional Church Office.

31st Annual Brush Run Revival

The 31st Annual Brush Run Revival is scheduled for July 6-11 at 6:45 pm each evening. This annual meeting of the Disciples of Christ, the Christian Churches/Churches of Christ, and the Churches of Christ is a reunion at the site of the first church established by Thomas and Alexander Campbell in 1811. Jim McElhane, the leader of the Brush Run Revival, wrote: "Our reason for meeting at this site is come together in unity to praise the name of Jesus Christ."

Speakers for the Revival are Joe Bliffen, Fourth Avenue Christian Church (DOC), Columbus, OH and Clarence Mansfield (Ret.) First Christian Church (Independent), Columbiana, OH. The music will be lead by Art Bush of Art Bush Ministry, Chesapeake, OH.

A group from the Gender Road Christian Church (Kerry Reed, minister) in Canal Winchester, OH will be touring Bethany College, the Campbell Mansion and Cemetery and the church's choir will be singing at the Brush Run Revival.

The site of the Brush Run Revival is east of Bethany, West Virginia across the Pennsylvania state line. To get to the meeting from Bethany travel east on WV 67 where at the Pennsylvania state line the road becomes 331. Continuing east about four and a half miles turn north on Farrar School Road for about one mile to the site of the meeting. Signs will be posted. For more information contact Jim McElhane at 145 Oak Ridge Rd., Avela, PA 15312 or email: jimmce@dp.net.

Senator, community leaders join Cincinnati church in dedicating historical marker

Carthage Christian Church, a 176-year-old congregation founded by renowned Disciples evangelist and editor Walter Scott, dedicated an Ohio Historical Society marker at the church on Saturday, April 12.

The event included remarks by Ohio Senator Eric Kearney, MacGarvey Ice of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society, Jody Blankenship of the Ohio Historical Society, and Carthage Mayor Bob Hartlaub. Proclamations were read during the service from the Christian Church in Ohio, Governor Ted Strickland and First Lady Frances Strickland, and Cincinnati Mayor Mark Mallory. Damon Lynch Jr., pastor of New Jerusalem Baptist Church in Carthage, delivered the invocation, and New Jerusalem's musical ensemble sang during the ceremony. Guests enjoyed a reception afterward in the church's fellowship hall.

The congregation was founded back when Carthage was a frontier village 10 miles north of Cincinnati. Scott, considered one of four 'founding fathers' of the Stone-Campbell Movement of the early 1800s, is widely credited with spreading the Gospel across the frontier.

He initially lived and worked in Cincinnati when he arrived in 1830, preaching at a church on Sycamore Street. He began preaching at a schoolhouse in the Mill Creek Valley, which led to the founding of the Carthage congregation in 1832. It was the first church established in an area better known for drinking and gambling, and some residents tried to ban Scott from preaching publicly. But his flock grew rapidly, and he relocated his family to Carthage to focus his efforts there. He also founded and edited the *Evangelist*, one of the movement's many religious journals.

Scott's involvement in education included advocating for a free, public school system and for the education of women. He was named a trustee of Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, in 1834.



Ohio Senator Eric Kearney (left) and Carthage Mayor Robert Hartlaub unveil an Ohio Historical Marker during a dedication ceremony at Carthage Christian Church on April 12, 2008. Photographer: Dan Woods

Remind us, Holy One, that some faithful persons refused to give up on us, and that You have not given up on any of us. We stand to be forgiven, mindful that You hold nothing against us but rather walk with us as we attempt to walk with others who suffer. Amen.



Is Coaching for You, Pastor? How About for Your Church?

From your Congregational Transformation Team

Many Christian leaders, pastors & congregations are taking advantage of Coaching as a way to develop into the most faithful and best developed leaders they can be. **Coaching might be for you!!**

How Does Coaching Work? A bit like having a mentor, guide, or a counselor, with this difference: in the coaching relationship, all the tools needed are already within the person being coached. The coach works with you by asking questions and by making brief yet powerful statements about the topic being discussed, for the sake of empowering the person being coached to find the best path forward for him/her/themselves.

Who Is Coaching For? Coaching is for anyone who wants to partner with God and another person to become the leader God calls them to be. Coaching is not about taking weak leaders and counseling them to improve, so much as it is about beginning wherever you are (hopefully a place of strength!) and partnering for a better future. Coaching, really, is for anyone ready to go further in servant leadership.

How Do I Find a Coach, and How Do I Pay for It? Good news! The Congregational Transformation Team has identified available coaches from within the Regional Church (among the pastoral staff, within the Transformation Team, among the Regional Elders, and with some specifically targeted coaches). These folks have participated in some training, with the promise to be available to coach after receiving that training. And, really Good News! Coaching received by a pastor or congregation in the Christian Church in Ohio, given by one of the coaches we have trained, is given **at no financial cost to the person/congregation being coached!**

How Can I Find Out More? Two ways: 1) at Regional Assembly in October, the Congregational Transformation Team is sponsoring a workshop for those who may consider being coached. This workshop, led by Jim Bane and Janet Mers (members of the Transformation Team), takes place Saturday, October 18th as one of the afternoon workshops; 2) in your district pastors' meetings/lunches this Fall, your Regional Pastor or one of the Associate Pastors will introduce the concept and answer questions about the possibilities and even demonstrate a coaching session for your district group.

Also, the list of trained coaches is available from the Regional Office at your request.

Our prayer is that God will use this as a way to lead us into God's future.

A mission trip to Mississippi

In April, Heights Christian Church (Shaker Heights) completed its second mission trip to the Gulf Coast. After working in New Orleans last February, this trip to Gulfport, MS was different but equally successful. Ten members of Heights took on a long drive, a lot of hard work, along with a little fun, much laughter and good fellowship, and a real feeling of accomplishment. You might think a trip like this is about rehabbing houses, or four days of driving, or enjoying a new place and different cuisine. But it is really all about people – the people who traveled and worked together, the people we worked for and with, and the people we met along the way. Old friendships were renewed and strengthened, new friendships and connections were made, and it all happened in the spirit of Christ's call to aid "the least of these."

Here is the story of one of the families we worked with ...

Bryan and Candy moved into their house in Gulfport about a year before Katrina slammed into the Gulf Coast. Two days before the hurricane hit they left their house in a rented car (neither of their two vehicles were running at the time) and headed north to Jackson to stay with friends. Because they expected to be home in a couple of days (Katrina was a category 2 storm at the time), they left most of their belongings behind, only carrying a couple days worth of clothing. After arriving in Jackson they found out that Katrina had strengthened but knew that it would be dangerous to try and rescue more of their things.

Over the next few days, as the storm moved destructively through Mississippi they traveled farther north, spending a couple nights in a shelter, and ending up back in Candy's home state of Missouri. There they were fortunate to receive immediate help from Missouri's disaster relief agencies.

Three weeks after Katrina, Bryan and Candy returned to their home to find 3 feet of standing water and piles of debris in and around their house. Knowing that there was little they could do on their own they headed back to Missouri. While beginning the process of finding out how they were going to put their home and their lives back together they discovered that their mortgage company had failed to pay their house insurance on time (it was due one month before Katrina struck) and that their insurance company was therefore denying their claim.

Three months after the storm they returned once again to Gulfport to search in the debris for evidence needed for their suit against the mortgage company and were sickened by the smell coming from a pile of debris next to their house. They called the authorities who discovered a dead body at the bottom of the pile.

For the next two years Bryan and Candy stayed in Missouri as their claim wound its way through the courts. Bryan found a new job and their kids returned to school but they continued to hope that they could return to their home and to the community that they loved in Gulfport.

A few months ago they were finally able to return to begin the process of restoring their home to a livable condition. They were able to get a trailer with the help of the state of

Continued in the next column

A mission trip to Mississippi continued

Missouri (FEMA denied their request for a trailer because since they were living in Missouri they were unaware of an application deadline) and came back with hope but very little money to rebuild.

With the help of family, friends, three mission teams, and their own hard work and determination, Bryan and Candy are seeing their home rise once again from the destruction of hurricane Katrina. They were deeply grateful for the help that we provided and we were truly blessed by their spirit of determination and hope. We hope that you will keep them and all those still struggling to rebuild their lives in your thoughts and prayers.

Attention 6th, 7th, & 8th graders

You're invited to the Regional

Chi Rho Rally

"Salt &
Light"



Date: November 15, 2008

Time: 10:00am - 5:00pm

Place: Camp Christian

Cost: \$15 per person

**Join with other
Chi Rho groups
from around the
state for a day
of fun, food and
fellowship.**

If you have any questions contact Brenda Webster at the Regional Church Office at (614) 433-0343 or bwebster@ccinoh.org.

Adult leaders will be needed to help lead activities.

Registration Forms Coming Soon!!!

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

Christian Church in Ohio
Disciples of Christ

355 East Campus View Blvd
Suite 110
Columbus, Ohio 43235

The Buckeye Disciple

Phone: 614-433-0343
Fax: 614-433-7285
E-mail: ccio@ccinoh.org

Check us out online!
www.ccinoh.org

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Columbus, Ohio
Permit No. 8724



Youth Scholarship Event

On May 31, 2008 the Third Annual Youth Scholarship Golf and Dinner program was held. Once again the golf course was Scioto Reserve Golf and Athletic Club and the dinner was prepared and served at Camp Christian. Over one hundred people attended with 80 golfers and 30 dinner only reservations. Proceeds from this event will provide \$17,000.00 in scholarships for our camp programs for youth. More sponsors this year were the major reason for the increase in net proceeds with First Christian, Wadsworth contributing a donation of \$10,000. We also enjoyed an increase of donated items that were auctioned after dinner. Plenty of tickets for OSU football and basketball and Blue Jacket tickets were available for bidding as well as various individual golf clubs, rounds of golf at some of the Columbus area finer golf courses and even a Lobster Bake dinner for two.

This marks the third consecutive year of increased attendance and increased dollars that are available for scholarship. With the economic news being generally poor around Ohio this event will ensure that we continue to be able to support all who wish to attend camp. In 2007 the Region provided over \$7,000.00 in scholarships and this year we anticipate funding requests to increase. Thank you to all who participated provided donations or silent auction items. You really are making a difference.

The Chairperson of the Committee that organizes and plans this event has asked to continue to serve on the Committee but not serve as Chair. Roy Niceswonger of St. Andrew, Dublin has done a wonderful job in establishing this event and leading the Committee for the past three years. We are grateful for his leadership, his friendship, and his abilities that will forever be a part of this event. Roy set a very high standard for us to maintain. We will have next year's event date set by the Regional Assembly. Look for our table and plan to sign up as a participant for next year.