



The Buckeye Disciple Christian Church in Ohio

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

A covenant network of congregations in mission

January-March 2010
Volume 19, Number 1

**Plan now to attend
Regional Assembly 2010
October 15 & 16**



“One Body: Clothed in Love” Colossians 3:14-15

Regional Assembly will be held at the Columbus Marriott Northwest, 5605 Glazer Parkway, Dublin, Ohio. **Please make your plans to be a part of this gathering of the Regional Church.** This will a time of sharing and celebrating the transforming work God is doing in the mission and ministry of our congregations and in our lives as people of faith. ***I look forward to meeting you there!***

2010 Camps & Conferences

Partnership Camp - For Children in Grades 3, 4, or 5

Otter Camp Camp Christian June 20 - 26	Badger Camp Templed Hills Dates TBA	Beaver Camp Templed Hills Dates TBA
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Chi Rho Camps - For Youth in Grades 6, 7, or 8 *All Chi Rho Camps are at Camp Christian

Hocking June 13 - 19	Portahoga July 11 - 17	Maumee July 18 - 24	Miami August 8 - 14
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CYF Conferences - For Youth in Grades 9, 10, 11, or 12 *All CYF Conferences are at Camp Christian

(CYF = Christian Youth Fellowship)

Hiram June 27 - July 3	Phyo July 4 - 10	Lakeside July 25 - 31	Wilmington August 1 - 7
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Adult Conference For All Adults Northwest CC, Columbus June 14 - 18	Advance Ministries Conference Ages 19 - 29 Camp Christian August 15 - 22	Grandparents Camp Camp Christian Dates TBA	Adventure Camp TBA
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Get The Buckeye Online!

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

Church World Service-- Rebuilding hope!

With over 60 years of experience, **Church World Service** applies its expertise in overseas disaster and recovery work to our work in U.S. communities recovering from catastrophe. In partnership with local organizations, CWS can make a big difference to people displaced by a hurricane or economic hard times. For example, Church World Service provided 8,075 blankets to Keene, Texas, in response to Hurricane Gustav and 200 blankets to Milton Avenue United Methodist Church in Baltimore, Maryland, for distribution to homeless people in the Baltimore and Washington, D.C., areas.

And, Church World Service keeps on working to help families and communities rebuild. For example, since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, in a landmark partnership between Church World Service and Habitat for Humanity International, CWS has helped more than 640 families repair and move back into their homes.

*Working in partnership with your congregation we can do so much! In these challenging economic times your contribution to the **CWS Blankets+ Offering** is more important than ever. Please order your free CWS Blankets Congregational Kit by calling toll-free 888-297-2767 or www.churchworldservice.org*



**CHURCH WORLD SERVICE
BLANKETS+**

CYF Mid-Winter

Conflict: Managing Stress In Your Life



We all have conflict!

Conflict with Relationships, Authority, Ourselves, and even God. How do we manage these conflicts, and how do we see the opportunities that our conflicts reveal to us?

Plan now to attend your CYF Mid-Winter!

Phyo - February 5-7
Community Christian Church, North Canton

Wilmington - February 19-21
Mount Healthy Christian Church, Cincinnati

Hiram - March 5-7
Westlake Christian Church, Westlake

Lakeside - March 19-21
First Christian Church, Paulding

**See your Youth
Director or
Pastor for more
information!!**

Or go to

www.ccinoh.org



Spiritual Insights Rev. Dr. William H. Edwards

*"¹⁴Above all, **clothe yourselves with love**, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were **called in the one body**. And be thankful." Colossians 3:14-15*

In this passage of scripture, the Apostle Paul gives us a wonderful word picture of being dressed in the clothing of Christ. He says to **"clothe yourselves with love."** Love is the deepest possible expression of the personality of God. In other words, God is Love and when we walk in God's Spirit, the garment we wear is Love.

The question is "How do we do that?" What does the garment of love look like when it is worn in the life of a Christian? What does the garment of love look like when it is worn in the life of a congregation? What does the garment of love look like when it is worn in the life of the Regional Church?

To begin to answer these questions, we must remember that our faith calls us to "love one another as God has loved us". To wear the garment of love means we are called to genuinely love God and love each other fully. When we commit ourselves to others in love, we begin to understand the love of God. And when we grasp the love of God, our response is to offer our lives to God. When we give our lives to God, we live for others, placing their needs and concerns above our own. Our love for God must help us to reach out to others; to break down the barriers that keep others outside the church; to worship God by loving others. The model of being **"clothed in love"** that Jesus leaves us is to lift up somebody who has fallen, be a friend to somebody who is friendless, feed somebody who is hungry and Love the unlovable.

Love has the power to transform every type of human relationship. As Paul told the church at Corinth:

"Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It (love) bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends." - 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

So Friends, **"clothe yourselves with love."** and be an instrument of God's love in all that you do. God's love calls us to be in his Church, to celebrate his presence, to love and serve others; but most of all, to proclaim Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, our Lord and Hope.

This is the inspiration for the theme of our **2010 Regional Assembly, October 15-16, 2010: "One Body: Clothed in Love" Colossians 3:14-15**

It will be held at the Columbus Marriott Northwest, 5605 Glazer Parkway, Dublin, Ohio. **Please make your plans to be a part of this gathering of the Regional Church.** This will be a time of sharing and celebrating the transforming work God is doing in the mission and ministry of our congregations and in our lives as people of faith. **I look forward to meeting you there!**

Regional Calendar

January 2010

- 1 **New Years Day, RCO Closed**
- *1 - 3 Advance Ministries Winter Retreat @ Camp Christian
- 9 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@ RCO 10:00am
- *25-26 Ohio Ministries Convocation @ Columbus

February

- *5 - 7 Phyto CYF Mid-Winter @ Community CC, N. Canton
- 11 Regional Elders Meeting @ RCO
- 16 Commission on Ministry @ Northwest CC, Columbus
- 20 Ohio Women's Ministries Meeting @ Camp Christian
- *19-21 Wilmington CYF Mid-Winter @ Mt Healthy Cincinnati
- *23-25 Spiritual Life Retreat for Ministers (& Spouses if you have one) @ Camp Christian

March

- 1 **Deadline for entries into The Buckeye Disciple**
- 2 Executive Committee Meeting @ RCO
- *5-7 Hiram CYF Mid-Winter @ Westlake CC, Westlake
- 6 Equipping the Saints @ N. Congregational, Columbus
- 12-14 Advance Ministries Spring Retreat @ Camp Christian
- 13 Ohio Women's Ministries Commission @ RCO
- 13 Chi Rho Commission @ Camp Christian 10am - 2pm
- 16 Commission on Ministry @ Northwest CC, Columbus
- 18-19 DOC/UCC Partnership Standing Workshop @ RCO
- *19-21 Lakeside CYF Mid-Winter @ FCC, Paulding
- 23 New Ministers Orientation @ RCO
- 24 Anti Racism Training for New Ministers @ Camp
- 25 Sexual Ethics Training for New Ministers @ Camp
- 27 Regional Church Council Meeting @ Camp Christian

April

- 2 **Good Friday, RCO Closed**
- 4 **Easter**
- 9-10 Youth Council Meeting @ Camp Christian
- 17 Ohio Women's Ministries Convocation @ Gender Rd Christian Church 9:00am - 4:00pm
- 17 Advance Ministries Scholarship Fundraising Talent Show @ Camp Christian 7:00pm
- 20 Commission on Ministry @ Northwest CC, Columbus
- 24 Counselor Training @ Camp Christian
- 24 Congregational Transformation Conference @ Legacy Christian Church, Harrison 8:00am
- 27 ODEC meeting @ RCO 10:00am

May

- 1 Counselor Training @ Camp Christian
- 15 Camp Christian Reunion @ Camp Christian
- 18 Commission on Ministry @ Northwest CC, Columbus
- 21-23 Ohio Disciple Men's Spring Retreat @ Camp Christian
- 28-30 Disciples Fellowship Retreat @ Camp Christian
- 31 **Memorial Day, RCO Closed**

RCO = Regional Church Office

* Online Registration is now available

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

“Back in the day”, that is a few years ago, there was a brand new, contemporary song written by the team of Avery and Marsh. Part of the song says: ‘I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together.’”

It is as we are church together that we nurture the next generation of God’s people.

A young girl is encouraged by her Sunday School teacher to try a week at church camp. She does and enjoys the experience so much that she returns year after year, through Chi Rho and CYF, growing spiritually and gaining confidence in her own abilities. After high school she attends Hiram College, and attends Advance Conference events until she is too old (30 years of age) to attend any longer.

Along the way, she meets friends with whom she will be close years into the future. Together they will give new life to the church; they will be members, some will be lay leaders and others will lead from the pulpit. All of them will take the church left for them and reshape it so that it has meaning for them. The one day, a little girl and a little boy will sit in a Sunday School class room with that woman so influenced by church and camp and friendship. The teacher encourages them to give camp a try. They do, and they enjoy it, and from that day on, they begin to form friendships, and soon they will claim their inheritance of the church and reshape it for themselves and begin to reach a new generation.

“...all who follow Jesus, all around the world, yes we’re the church together.”

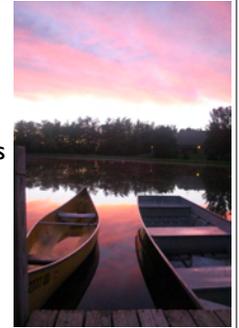
Message from Regional Associate Pastor, Rev. Stephen Bentley

One of the characters of the Bible that intrigues me is the person of Barnabas. Most of our knowledge of Barnabas comes from the book of Acts. We first meet him in Acts 4 where he sells a field and gives the proceeds to the disciples. We next hear about Barnabas when Saul has been converted and wants to meet with the disciples but they are afraid of him for fear he is still trying to kill those who follow Jesus. Barnabas befriends Saul and brings him to the disciples. He becomes Saul’s (Paul’s) partner in ministry. Barnabas, we are told, means “Son of Encouragement” and Barnabas lived up to his name. He helped Paul be all that he could be.

I remember hiking in Yellowstone National Park several years ago. My brother-in-law and I set out to hike about 27 miles in one day to the top of Mt. Electric. From 6000 feet, we headed to the top of Mt. Electric at 11,000 feet 13.5 miles away. I was very slow moving up steep hills in the thin air but Jeff kept encouraging me and was patient waiting for me. With his encouragement, I made to the top. Without his support, I would have given up long before. One of our Priorities for the Christian Church in Ohio is “strengthening relationships and building networks.” It is in our relationships with one another that we can be “Barnabas” for each other. As we move into 2010, consider how you might be a Barnabas for someone and how they might be a Barnabas for you. Together, as we encourage one another, we bring God’s vision to reality. “Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth . . .”

Our Heritage, Our History

The next time you are at a Regional Event at Camp Christian, be sure to purchase a copy of Camp Christian: Our Heritage, Our History (\$12.00). This booklet was published as a result of our first Reunion and contains the rich, dynamic history of Camp Christian along with pictures which trace the early days of camp. It will be a treasure for years to come! Not going to an event anytime soon at Camp?? No problem!! Contact the Regional Church Office at 614-433-0343 or ccio@ccinoh.org and we’ll figure out the best way to get you a book or two.



Message from Regional Program Minister, Rev. Dr. Brenda Webster Relationship Building 101

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” Matthew 22: 37-40

Those of us who have even the vaguest knowledge of educational systems, know that both teaching and learning flow from the simple to the complex, from the known to the unknown. Whatever is conceptualized and processed internally will eventually be made manifest externally at some point in time, if indeed, what has been taught has been learned.

So it is with Christian relationships and relationship building. We move from what is fundamental to that which is more challenging. In our vigor to establish true and lasting relationships with each other, it is well worth the time and effort to explore Jesus’ approach to relationship building.

In the scripture above, Jesus responds to a question from one of the Scribes, “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?” Jesus summed up all moral obligations in the word “love” which is expressed in the two-fold direction of **God** and **neighbor**. In other words, only total love for God can empower you to love *rightly* yourself and your neighbor. Relationship building begins with love and acceptance of ourselves and then moves appropriately beyond ourselves to our brothers and sisters in Christ. Realizing that this can be quite difficult, we soon find that only a genuine, personal relationship with God can enable us to do such. Then and only then will our efforts towards lasting relationship building be fruitful.

So vital the command to love God, ourselves and each other, that Jesus declared these two commandments fundamental to the proper interpretation of the Law and the Prophets.

In the Gospel according to Mark (12: 33), we notice the above scripture played out to completion. The questioning Scribe not only agrees with Jesus but places this two-fold love commandment above the whole Jewish religion. Acknowledging the Scribe’s obvious enlightenment, Jesus responds, “*You are not far from the Kingdom.*” (Mark 12:34b).

Let us resolve to heed the offerings in this scripture as we continue building loving relationships with God, ourselves and others.

Spiritual Life

Attention Pastors!!! The Regional Spiritual Life Committee is sponsoring another wonderful Retreat for Clergy on February 23-25, 2010 at Camp Christian. We will gather in the Monroe Lodge on sacred ground with a roaring fire for fellowship with other clergy and spouses (if you have one) or time alone. The Rev. Chris Whitehead and his wife Kate will be presenting "I went to the movies and found Grace! (She was hiding behind the projector all along." This sounds like a fun time together and yet a time of expanding and deepening our own spirituality. Chris says, "Join us for a few days of rest, relaxation, laughter and tears as we seek God's fingerprints on films long and short, old and current, sad and comical. We'll watch some movies together (popcorn included) and share insights (without letting the gathering become too much like homework). We'll be led in worship by some of our favorite film scenes, including our closing worship, in which we will commune with the cast of Places in the Heart." The cost is \$135.00 per person, all meals included. Register on line at www.ccinoh.org or through the mail.

Adult Conference

"Deep & Wide: Living Out the Spiritual Journey" is the theme of the 2010 Adult Conference

The Adult Conference in Ohio wants to invite you to save the dates of June 14-18, 2010. The planning of another great conference is well underway for the week of June 14th at Northwest Christian Church in Columbus. We encourage you to ask others at your church to reserve these dates as well. If you've wanted to invite a friend whose never attended Adult Conference, or several friends to come with you, now is the time to do it.

The theme for next year's conference is Deep & Wide: Living Out the Spiritual Journey. Many of the conferees on their evaluations at the end of the 2009 conference asked that we have a theme about Spirituality. All of our speakers and teachers will use this theme as they plan their presentations to the conference.

The Bible lecturer is Rev. Dr. Ronald J. Allen, Christian Theological Seminary and our vesper speaker is Rev. Dr. William Edwards, Regional Pastor and President of the Christian Church in Ohio.

Further information about the conference will be sent to the conferees soon. Those serving on the Planning Team for the 2010 Conference are Deb Bolen, 2010 president, Allen Harris, 2010 VP, Sue Chivington, 2010 secretary, Bob Thompson, financial liaison, Pat Davis 2009 president, Lee Snyder 2009 secretary, and at-large members Charlotte Bougher, Ken Coy, Lynn Mattox Baker and Patty Worsham. Rev. Steve Bentley, Regional Associate Pastor, is the region's liaison to Adult Conference. The above photo is of the 2010 Adult Conference Officers.



Creative Group Communication Workshop

Save the date-- April 19, 2010. Another quality workshop is being planned by for pastors, interim pastors, and other servants of the church by the Interim Ministry Working Group. The topic will be an exploration of various Creative Group Communication processes and principles. Such communication is a vital key to developing strong and vibrant congregations. The workshop will be held at Camp Christian. An option for an overnight stay will be made available for those who want to come the night before. More details about the workshop will be forthcoming. Save the date - April 19, it will be worth it.

Camp Stock 2010

This year's Advance Conference talent show and fundraiser is fast approaching and will be held at Camp Christian on April 17, 2010. The event will begin at noon with a cookout and silent auction. All money raised at the event will go to the Advance Conference scholarship fund. If you have an act that wishes to perform, wish to donate to the silent auction or any donations of your time or services would be greatly appreciated. For more information or questions, please call Daniel Anschutz at 614-893-5950. We look forward to seeing everyone there for a great night of fellowship, music and fun!

Ohio Women's Ministries host overseas guest

The women of Ohio are eagerly awaiting Quadrennial Assembly this coming June 23-27, 2010 in Greensboro, NC. Through a partnership with Global Missions, Ohio women will be hosting an international sister from Ghana, Joyce Larko Steiner! Hosting her means that Women's Ministries pays all of her expenses, travel (international and domestic) and creates opportunities for her to speak to groups in the region. Women's Ministries is responsible for her transportation to Quadrennial Assembly and arranging transportation and homes for her to stay in while she is in Ohio.

This is a huge commitment for the women of Ohio. The hope is that OWM/CWF women's groups and churches will help in partnering with in fund raising and creating the very best possible schedule while she is here. It is expected to cost about \$7,000. Almost \$3,000 has been raised so far from donations and giving at the OWM Fall Retreat this past September. An additional \$4,000 is needed and we are hopeful that Women's Ministries/CWF groups and churches in the region will help reach this goal. Please send checks to the Christian Church in Ohio, with "OWM/International Guest" on the memo line. And, please, if you are interested in having our International guest in your church or geographical area, please contact the Regional Church Office at (614) 433-0343 or e-mail Rev. Dr. LaTauyna Bynum at lbynum@ccinoh.org.

ALSO, SAVE THESE DATES!

Women of Ohio....put these important dates on your calendars:

Ohio Women's Ministries Convocation

Saturday, April 17, 2010 at Gender Rd. Christian Church

Quadrennial Assembly

June 23,27, 2010 @Greensboro, North Carolina

Ohio Women's Ministries Fall Retreat

September 10, 11, 12, 2010 @ Camp Christian

Camp Christian Reunion May 15, 2010!

The Reunion Team is asking that former campers or others associated with Camp Christian, nominate persons for the honor of *Camp Christian Hall of Fame* or *Faithful Servant*. Those selected will be inducted at the 2010 Reunion Event on May 15 at Camp Christian. Their names will be engraved on one of two plaques which now hang in the Dining Hall at camp. The deadline for nominations is **Feb. 14, 2010**.

The Nomination form may be downloaded from the Camp application page on the Christian Church in Ohio's website www.ccinoh.org.

Please observe the following in completing the form:

- You may nominate one person in each category or in just one.
- The nominee should have served Camp Christian in some capacity over the years.
- Indicate whether the nominee is living or deceased. If deceased, who should the committee contact?
- Be specific about why you think your nominee(s) are deserving of the honor(s) you have selected.

The Reunion Event of 2008 honored the following:

Hall of Fame

Martha Everhard, Ted G. Faulconer,
Herald B. Monroe (posthumously)

Faithful Servants

Jim Bane, Harry Bolen, Richard Herrington (posthumously),
Tom Madden, Roger McKinney, Larry Pigg, Howard Ratcliff,
Pete Smith, Terry VanHeyningen

The Reunion Team will review all nominations and inform the nominator/nominee of the decision(s). Questions? Contact Brenda Webster at 614-433-0343 or bwebster@ccinoh.org.

Equipping the Saints

Put the date of Saturday, March 6, 2010 on your calendars now! Equipping the Saints leadership event will be on Saturday, March 6 from 9:15 AM to 3:45 PM at North Congregational United Church of Christ, 2040 W. Henderson Rd., Columbus. The Metropolitan Commission of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the Central Southeast Ohio Association of the United Church of Christ jointly sponsor this event.

"A New Day Dawning" is the theme for this day long leadership training event for laity and clergy of the Christian Church (DOC) and United Church of Christ. The Rev. Dr. David Odell-Scott will be the morning Bible study leader. He serves as Coordinator of the Religion Studies Program at Kent State University where he also chairs the Philosophy Department. His books include "Paul's Critique of Theocracy" and "A Post-Patriarchal Christology." He is a graduate of Texas Christian University, BA. and Vanderbilt, M. Div. and PhD.

The day will be set within a pattern of worshipful work; it includes morning Bible study, a choice of two workshops, lunch with time for fellowship and exchange of ideas among churches. Complete registration information will be sent to churches in early January. The registration fee will be \$15 for the full day including lunch and workshops.

Destination Metairie!

On Sat., Oct. 24, three vehicles from Ohio and one from Florida hit the highways for destination Metairie – a western suburb of New Orleans.



These vehicles were filled with sixteen eager and excited Disciple volunteers headed for rehab work awaiting still from the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in August of 2005. From Dayton, Wooster, Hamilton, Troy, Wadsworth and Columbus they came. In cars, a van and a church bus loaned from United Christian Church in Clayton they came... to spend five days staying at First Christian Church in Metairie Where they worked under the mission station manager, Rev. Diane Fonderlin and her husband, Tim, a United Church Of Christ construction coordinator. The group slept on air mattresses at the church, ate breakfasts and dinners there, prepared their own bag lunches in the mornings, and drove to eastern New Orleans for work each day.

Two of the women prepared all the breakfasts and dinners but went off to work each day with the rest of the team at the work sites as well! Divided into several crews the volunteers painted the exterior of a home, helped to rehab a church building that had received flood damage, and put down tile floors and finished soffits in still other houses. Quite unexpectedly they were joined for the week by two volunteers from Kentucky (Gene Coulter and Steve Campbell.) In the evenings the group shared in vespers and then relaxed playing games of Mexican Train, Touring and Phase Ten. On Wed. night the host church provided dinner for the group and church members mixed with the volunteers at the tables for fellowship and getting acquainted. On Thur. night most of the group made a visit to Bourbon Street and the French Quarter to have a brief New Orleans experience.

During the week we learned that all but one of our Disciple Mission Stations along the Katrina battered Gulf Coast will be closed by the end of this year. (The U.C.C.'s and some other groups will be continuing.) It's not because the work is finished but rather because the funding has dried (been used) up.

On the Honor Role is most certainly United Christian Church of Clayton for not only loaning its church bus but for providing the funds for its fuel as well! The list of Honor Role volunteers includes: Bill and Bonnie Adams, and John Phillips of First Christian in Wooster; Gary Lensch of Troy; Rev. John Longard of Hamilton; Ray McDonald from Florida; Brian Bickhart and Gerry Bickhart, Rev. Patrice Fatig and Paul Lantis of Northwest Christian in Columbus; Bev Fatig of Karl Road Christian in Columbus; Jim Rivers of First Christian in Wadsworth; and Joy and Wes Scoates, Larry Albert and Ralph Simmons of United Christian in Clayton.

So ends the Oct., '09 chapter in our Ohio Disciples... Destination Service!

Congregational Leaders Mailing

Starting February 1, 2010 the traditional Minister's Mailing will be transformed into the Congregational Leaders Mailing. This will expand the mailing beyond the Pastors, to the Elders, Board Chairs, Treasurers, Youth Leaders, Deacons, and many more. If you are a congregational leader at your church, please send an email to ccio@ccinoh.org with your name and the leadership role(s) you hold. Stay up to date on all of the great opportunities, events, workshops, webinars, and much more! We look forwards to hearing back from you.

FCC, Zanesville holds a Fair Trade Fair

Members of First Christian Church Zanesville held a Fair Trade Fair on Sunday November 15th in their Fellowship Hall. This event included Fair Trade coffee samples and light refreshments, a video explaining the Fair Trade concept, and Fair Trade products for purchase. In addition the Youth Groups offered Fair Trade gift bags for sale to help raise money for mission projects.

First Christian has participated in the Equal Exchange Disciples Coffee Project since February, 2009 and to date has sold more than 500 bags of coffee. Each purchase supports Week of Compassion. We planned to make coffee available during the month of February as part of our Week of Compassion emphasis but the response was so great that we have made it an ongoing project.

Fair Trade ensures that people along every step of the supply chain receive fair wages, that workers and communities are treated with dignity, and that artisans and producers take steps to preserve the environment. The Fair Trade economy is based on justice, dignity, empowerment, transparency, and respect for people and the planet. To learn how your congregation can be involved in the Disciple Coffee Project, go to www.equalexchange.com/doc.

Free Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner

The Mid Ohio Valley Parish (consisting of two separate Churches First Christian Church of Parkersburg WV and Central Christian

Church of Marietta OH) hosted their 4th annual Free Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner. They have been doing this since the Parish began, serving 75-80 meals the first two years, and 150- 170 the last two years. This remains one of the larger joint ministries for the parish. Members of both congregations helped prepare, cook, serve, deliver meals to the homebound, and clean up. The meal was featured with a picture on the front page of the Parkersburg, WV newspaper Thanksgiving Day. The above photo is Tom Beardmore, Elder & Board Chair for Central Christian in Marietta, swapping out another tray of turkey. Pictures from the event, showing members of both churches in action, will be posted on the Parishes website, www.movpdoc.org very soon.



Gift Received for Bolenge Hospital in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Global Ministries is pleased to receive a significant Memorial Gift for Mrs. Ardythe M. Kleesattel. Her husband, Reverend Robert E. Kleesattel, member at Mt. Healy Christian Church in Cincinnati, and their family provided this gift to supply items needed to equip the new pediatric unit of the Bolenge Hospital in the Democratic Republic of Congo. "Ardythe was born October 17, 1928 and gained her pre-medicine degree from Bethany College in the hopes of serving in the Bolenge Hospital. She passed away November 11, 2003." Global Ministries is very grateful for this gift in memory of Ardythe M. Kleesattel. The new equipment provided, along with the new pediatric wing of Bolenge Hospital will be dedicated during a Global Ministries visit there in February 2010. To learn more about the Bolenge Hospital project, go to:

<http://globalministries.org/africa/projects/bolenge-hospital.html>

Parma Christian Church

Gloria Barnickel - Elder Emeritus

Gloria Perkins Barnickel, a charter member of Parma Christian Church and one of its first female elders, was honored with the title of elder emeritus by her fellow elders and church family on Sunday, October 18, 2009 during the regular worship service. Gloria was presented with a plaque and a pin, which she says she will wear proudly each Sunday! Her two daughters, Beth Barnickel and Laura MacKinnon, who live out of town, were able to be with her for the service, and they helped celebrate with her at the coffee hour following the service. Gloria has truly lived the message of the Gospel and has been a leader at PCC for many years. The inscription on her pin ("Well-done, good and faithful servant!") sums up everyone's wish for her.



Food Pantry feeds 40 families a month

Pastor Gene Carey is shown with some of the food collected from church members, area businesses, and other supporting organizations. Some groups donate canned goods, and others contribute money to buy groceries. Bags of food are packed by church members and passed out once a month at the church to families and individuals in need who live in the Parma area. For Thanksgiving the church passed out the fixings for a Thanksgiving dinner, including chickens, sweet potatoes, pie ingredients, cranberry sauce, etc. PCC members are encouraged to bring an item or two for the food pantry each time they come to church. Pastor Carey recently told the congregation, "No one should get a second helping until everyone has had a first helping!"



Is your congregation or district doing something amazing? Tell us about it!!

ccio@ccinoh.org

Church Transformation Conference

Mark your calendars now and plan to bring an entire leadership team from your church! Legacy Christian Church in Harrison will again be hosting a day-long conference on Church Transformation on **Saturday, April 24, 2010**. **Dave Emery, Pastor of Middletown Christian Church in Louisville**, will be the day's keynoter. Breakout sessions will include offerings by the Congregational Transformation Team, including a breakout session addressing the specific issues facing African-American churches led by Jack Sullivan, Pastor of Fifth Christian Church in Cleveland.



Historic Broad Street Christian Church Closed

The historic 137 year ministry of Broad Street Christian Church at its 1049 E. Broad Street location in Columbus, Ohio came to an end on December 31, 2009. The building is under contract to be purchased by an Ethiopian Orthodox Congregation. The final worship celebration at the current location was held on Decem-

ber 27. Please hold the members of Broad Street Christian Church in your prayer as the congregation spiritually discerns the future implications of this decision. During this period of discernment and transition, they remain a prayerful congregation, anticipating what God will do next.

Disciples Key in Ecumenical Ministry

In Columbus, Disciples are providing significant leadership for valued ecumenical ministries through the Metropolitan Area Church Council (MACC). Jerry Miller, licensed minister staffed at Karl Road Christian Church, serves part-time as the Council's Executive Director. Rev. Ken Coy, retired Disciple Minister, who was long-time Vice-President, became MACC's President late in 2008. Rev. Dr. Eric Brown, pastor at Woodland Christian Church, serves as chair of MACC's Racial Unity Committee providing Columbus with 4 special celebrations annually and staying alert to racial concerns in the community. Rev. Ron Botts, who has standing with both the Disciples and the United Church of Christ, was long time President of MACC and remains on its Board of 16 members representing 8 Christian denominations. Other Disciples/UCC members are: Layperson, Arlene Reynolds, most faithful bookkeeper and member of the Finance Committee. Layperson, Jack Davis, former President of the Ohio Council of Churches, who brings valued information and experience to the Board. Rev. Ron Hooker, recently retired, provides greatly valued leadership as Chair of MACC's Personnel Committee and led the 2009 planning retreat. The Columbus Council is undergoing major transformation following the recent death of its full-time Executive Director, Mr. Alvin Hadley and the loss of significant funding from its supporting judicatories. MACC remains alive and well and is reconstructing for important ministries to and with the Greater Columbus community.



Wooden Nativities

The Christian Men's Fellowship of the First Christian Church in Alliance made wooden nativities for each family that attended church on Christmas Eve. Some men cut the figures and star out while others stained them. What a wonderful way to use your gifts for God's glory! For more information about FCC Alliance, go to

<http://www.alliancefirstchristianchurch-doc.org/>

Choir Robes and Hymnals

The First Christian Church in Fostoria is looking for a loving congregation for some choir robes and hymnals. There are 18 choir robes. They are a darker royal blue and the satin stoles are reversible, gold on one side and white on the other. The hymnals are older and have all the old hymns in them. If your congregation might have use for either of these please contact Alyce Clifton at cloycecli@gmail.com or call the church at (419) 435-2341.



District 2 CYF News

The CYF youth in District 2 have been very busy this fall. On Aug. 16, 50 youth and adults from the district attended a kick off picnic at Horseshoe Lakes Park in Shaker Heights. There was good food, fun and games, and district officers and advisers went over plans for the coming year. Youth got to meet with camp friends and make new acquaintances.

On Oct. 17-18 a Halloween overnight was held at Westlake Christian Church, with about 45 youth and adults attending. The event was also open to Districts 3 and 15. District officers and advisers prepared a dinner for everyone and a small worship service, headed out to a haunted forest, then back to the church for an overnight and fun. Many of the attendees also stayed for worship service the next morning.

On Dec. 12 youth and adults from the district had an "Elf for the Day" service project at the Cleveland Christian Home. They helped wrap Christmas presents for the home's annual Christmas collection and did other jobs around the home.

District 2 officers are: Kris Terry, president, Heights Christian Church; DeAndre Bell, vice president, Fifth Christian Church; Jennifer Wilson, secretary, North Eaton Christian Church; Tori Scheeff, delegate, Franklin Circle Christian Church; and Nia Sullivan, delegate, Fifth Christian Church.

District 2 advisers are: Meredyth McKenzie, Westlake Christian Church; Andrena Jones-Sharp, Heights Christian Church; and Katie Keresman; Disciples Christian Church.

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A covenant network of congregations in mission

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Photo Safari – Ohio

“The practice of photography can, indeed, become a profound spiritual practice, so that it helps the photographer and viewer become more mindful of their relationship with God, and with other human and more-than-human companions in creation. It is a way to visually celebrate or grieve what is, as well as find inspiration and motivation for what can be, as Spirit would have it; prayers without words... How would you use a camera to give witness to Spirit at play in this world?” – Taken from www.wellfedspirit.org.

Christian Church in Ohio’s Adventure Camp Ministry is sponsoring a Photography based camp in the summer of 2010. This camp will consist of several spiritually themed day trips around Ohio for photographers of any level. Plans are still being made and there will be more information to come. If you have any question though, contact Rev. Stephen Bentley at sbentley@ccinoh.org or 614-4330343.



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Submitting via email is preferred ccio@ccinoh.org

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