



# The Buckeye Disciple Christian Church in Ohio

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

*A covenant network of congregations in mission*

January - March 2011  
Volume 20, Number 1

**Our Vision** 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.

In covenant together, we are gifted and called to become true community by: **Building Trust** through open and clear communication • **Listening** to one another's hopes and dreams • **Caring** for one another in times of joy and of pain • **Sharing** our transforming experiences of Jesus Christ with our communities around us • Maintaining the highest level of **ethical integrity** • **Helping to network** our congregations' effective ministries with one another • Finding ways to **empower** gifts of individuals, establishing clergy and laity as missional team leaders, and **equipping** them with the resources to do ministry • Taking advantage of the best **communication tools** available as they develop.

Relationships

**Leadership** Because we are centers for transformation, striving to embody deep Christian Spirituality and seeking communion we will: Center our life together around the **Lord's table** • Focus on vital, engaged **worship** in its variety of forms • Develop **growing faith** through training, mentoring and service in congregations • Engage **stewardship** in priorities and planning • Create **mission experiences** as opportunities for spiritual growth • Strive for openness to the work of the **Holy Spirit!**

On a new mission frontier, led by a passion for justice, we will: Be an **anti-racist, pro-reconciling** church, continuing to grow in faithfulness to the Gospel • Value **local mission** as inseparable from evangelism • Re-establish **evangelism** as a primary calling, in affirmation that our faith is desperately needed by the people of our **communities** • Hold each other accountable to Christ's Great Commission to bear the Gospel in our world with integrity and authenticity • Commit to the **inclusion** of all people, without exception, in the life, functioning, and governance of the church.

Transforming

## Week of Compassion

Greetings of grace and peace to you! I am very excited about our new offering theme. For the next three years, "Sharing Brings Joy" will remain the Week of Compassion theme.

During 2011, congregations will explore how sharing blesses, transforms, and brings joy to the giver; in 2012, how sharing blesses, transforms, and brings joy to others; and in 2013, how sharing brings joy to God. In a time of uncertainty and fear, I can think of no better offering to give back to God than our profound joy in knowing that we do, indeed, have all we need - and more.

"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work." (2 Corinthians 9:7-8)

What a joy it is to give just the right gift! The sparkle in the recipient's eyes, the delight in their voice, the warmth in their hug, children's excited jumping up and down, tells you, "This gift is wonderful!" You gave a special gift, and their happiness is a gift right back to you. It is easy to give, and to give again, when joy floods your soul because of the giving.

Because we have been changed by God's gift of Jesus, God lives! In us! And God's love moves through us to bring help and blessing to hurting lives. We have been changed because of God's love for us. As a result, we want nothing more than to pass on that love to a world in need.

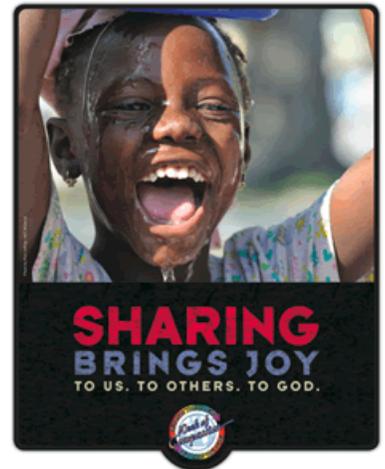
Following in Jesus' footsteps, we give our hard-earned resources through Week of Compassion to help

- build homes, schools, medical clinics, and clean water and sewage facilities in villages devastated by earthquakes, floods, and poverty;
- bring safety, shelter, and food to refugees after often violent circumstances have made their hometowns uninhabitable;
- nurture stronger futures and self-sufficiency through health care, education, job training, and tools for livelihoods.

Sharing invites God more fully into our lives. As we reach out in love, we open the way for God to reach more deeply into us. Sharing will joyfully transform you as you help transform the world. Week of Compassion: sharing resources, changing lives, bringing joy.

Joyfully Serving with You,  
Rev. Amy Gopp

Executive Director, Week of Compassion





## Spiritual Insights

### Rev. Dr. William H. Edwards

"Then the LORD answered me and said: **Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it.**" - Habakkuk 2:2

In the KJV of the bible, Proverbs 29:18 says, "where there is no vision the people perish." or as the RSV says..."where there is no prophecy the people cast off restraint."

The NIV says "where there is no revelation the people let go." Same difference...Where there is no vision, no prophecy, no revelation, no direction, the people of God will perish. Without a vision from God, we become loose, unbridled, unharnessed, undisciplined, uninhibited, unrestrained, and that spells destruction and death!

Without vision the people become dealers in death. They condemn others without ever confessing their own sins. They talk the talk, but do not walk the walk. I don't know about you, but I want a vision from God. **I need vision**, a vision that will give me an encounter with God!

An encounter that will confront me with the Word; challenge my thinking; penetrate my emotions; walk up and down the avenues of my very being. As a child of God and a Disciple of Christ, **I need vision!!** As the church, we live by vision. We survive and thrive by vision. **"Vision is seeing with the eyes of faith what is yet to come"**

Robert Kennedy once said, "Some people look at things that are and ask why, but many others dream things that never were and ask why not?" You see, the poorest person in the world is not the person who doesn't have a dime, but the person who doesn't have a dream or a vision. I feel sorry for people like that, because they are just aimlessly wandering through life, no direction, no purpose, no goals, no plans, no vision. They are already dead, and just don't know it. If you don't have a vision, a dream, a goal, a purpose, you are in bad shape. You've heard the old saying, "If you don't know where you are going, any old road will do." Without vision, you are never going to become what you could become.

Vision is everything. Vision is the fuel that will set our souls on fire. Vision has power enough to motivate and excite God's people to work toward the realization of the vision.

Therefore, we need to clarify God's vision for our lives as members and leaders in the church so that we know where we are going and why, so that we do not become discouraged by difficult moments, so that we can hope in visions of what we can become. Through a process of spiritual discernment, God can give you a clear spiritual vision to put "focus to your future".

Because of our vision as a regional church, I can testify that this is an exciting time in our life as the Christian Church in Ohio. I am excited about the vision we have in the Christian Church in Ohio. If you go to our website, you will see it states that God is calling us to be:

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.

*Continued in the next column*

## Spiritual Insights Continued

A "covenant network" means that we are to be intentional about our relationships; "centers of transformation" means that our congregations are to become a place where individuals are transformed by the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and in turn our congregations are transforming the communities in which they are located. As leadership within the region has prayerfully considered this vision, three priorities have emerged:

- Strengthen Relationships and Building Networks
  - Become true community by...Building trust through open and clear communication...Listening to one another's hopes and dreams...Caring for one another in times of joy and of pain...Sharing our transforming experiences of Jesus Christ with our communities around us \*
- Leadership Development
  - Building on the strong ministry foundation of Camp Christian and other leadership programs that will deepen our Christian Spirituality.\*
- Congregational Transformation and Evangelism
  - Reclaiming the Great Commission to strengthen and renew the life of established congregations and starting new congregations.

\* As we gather to vision together we must embrace the biblical truth that vision is a gift from God, imparted for all of God's people. You or I alone do not have the only or complete picture of God's preferred future for us in the Christian Church in Ohio. God's vision has been given for all of us. God's call and direction for us as a **"covenant network of congregations in mission"** will only become clear as we pray, dialogue, discern and work together on God's vision.

I am convinced we are living at a "threshold time." We are living at the threshold of a world changing at blinding speed. In an effort to take seriously this threshold moment and the future that lies before us, I invite you to join me in prayerful discernment of how the Christian Church in Ohio can develop a truly comprehensive, spiritual strategic ministry of congregational transformation and evangelism for reaching new people for Christ. **This is a time to vision together.**

I look forward with great anticipation of what God will do through us as people of faith and leaders in Christ's church in the days ahead.

May God's Blessings be with you!

Your Regional Pastor and President,  
Rev. Dr. William H. Edwards



## Get The Buckeye Disciple via Email!

If you would like to replace your copy with an emailed copy, please send an email [ccio@ccinoh.org](mailto:ccio@ccinoh.org).



Don't forget to include your name and the address to which it's currently being sent.

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

Somebody once asked me, "What is a value?" As I recall, I said then (it was a few years ago), that a value is what is of most importance to us. Dictionary.com says a value is about what has merit, worth, and importance among other things.

The Values and Seeds of Vision for the Christian Church in Ohio invite us to find importance in doing all that we can to continue to strengthen relationships and building networks; it is how we get to know each other and begin to support each other as we live the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We highly value developing leaders in every part of our church – ordained and lay; adults and youth; the oldest and the youngest among us who have gifts to be celebrated and shared. And we hold as important transforming, making the necessary changes, not because it is trendy but because it is calling us to trust God and each other enough to ask, "What is God calling us to do?" Transformation invites us into what the rest of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) calls **true community**, **deep Christian spirituality**, and a **passion for justice**.

Community calls us to care for one another, to see in each other's faces and bearing and in our own, the image of Christ. It is caring for each other in times of joy and sorrow and all the times in between. It is what happens at retreats, camps, conferences, and everywhere God's people gather.

Spirituality reminds us that God is present with us in community and when we are alone. Through prayer, Bible study, worship, the Lord's Supper, baptism, stewardship and every other spiritual practice, we give sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch to our connection with God.

And justice grows out of a community's care and God's bearing with us. It is one of the ways we reflect the radically inclusive love of God for all creation.

What can be more important as we agree to be church together?

### **SAVE THIS DATE!**



## Ohio Women's Ministries Spring Convocation



Saturday, April 16, 2011 at Gender Road Christian Church, Canal Winchester

Speaker for the day: Sheila P. Spencer,  
Program Director, Office of Disciple  
Women, Indianapolis



Watch for more information and registration materials!

[www.ccinoh.org](http://www.ccinoh.org)

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

Throughout my life I have been a part of the Boy Scout program. I grew up in Boy Scouts as a youth and have served in leadership positions as an adult. While in the Hocking Valley Parish, I served as Scout Master for many years. One of the Boy Scout activities that takes place in the winter is the Klondike Derby. This is a weekend event where groups (Patrols) of 6 to 10 scouts make a sled. They must choose what equipment to put into the sled, but as there will be many stations of challenges, they must "Be Prepared" at each station with the appropriate supplies. These scouts must then pull their sled to the different stations and show their ability to face that station's particular challenge. The challenges consist of situations for outdoor survival: fire starting, cooking, knot tying, lashing a bridge together, first aid, compass work, knife and ax use and safety, tree identification, etc. Each individual scout shares his knowledge to the specific challenge, so they work together for their score given at the end of each challenge. When they are finished with one station, they pull their sled to the next until they have met all of the challenges. The Patrol with the highest score at the end of the day wins an award.

This is such a great experience, as it teaches these young men the importance of cooperation. It also teaches them that they do not need to rely just on themselves. They have each other, and that collective knowledge and experience is so much more than one individual.

I see this as an important learning for the Regional Church. We have a vision statement we refer to as the "Values and Seeds of Vision for the Christian Church in Ohio." This vision offers us three challenges:

- 1) How do we represent God's true community?
- 2) Because we are centers for transformation, how do we embody deep Christian Spirituality and seek communion?
- 3) How do we live out our passion for justice on a new mission frontier?

No individual congregation has all the answers, but together we can teach each other from our experience and knowledge and together we can share in our blessings. Come share with us as together we work to discover the answers to all of these challenges!

### **The Buckeye Disciple**

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## Get a jump start on Summer Camps & Conferences

Online Registration & Payment Options  
are available TODAY!!

Hard Copy Registration forms, Brochures, and Health Forms will be available at a later date.



## Message from Regional Program Minister, Rev. Dr. Brenda Webster

“The Inevitable Power of Vision”

God has bestowed a marvelous vision on the Christian Church in Ohio! It is a vision, strengthened by a covenant network of congregations in mission and a work of God in the hearts of men and women.

This vision to ... *strengthen relationships and build networks, develop leaders and transform congregations* .... will unite Disciples around a common purpose and assure the spiritual vitality of our congregations. However, to whom God grants vision, God also expects obedience and planning. God says, “Write the vision down and make it plain on tablets so that whoever reads it may run with it.” (Proverbs 29:18). Sharing the vision with clarity and communicating it to Disciples across the region is a part of exercising the obedience God expects of those to whom vision is given.

Dutiful attention to our stated vision and obedience to its purpose will lead not only to transformation among congregations, but will also strengthen individual personal character and purpose.

“And we know that God causes all things to work together for the good of those who love the Lord and who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son.” (Romans 8:28-29a).

Additionally, Godly vision requires a plan. In order to be effectively obeyed, vision must take on practical dimensions. Strategic planning on the part of those driven by the vision is an absolute must!

Specifically, plans are being made by both Chi Rho and CYF Commissions to develop lasting relationships with our pastors and youth across the region in the coming months. Our intention is to be obedient to the Holy Spirit through our vision by reaching out to assist in the spiritual and servant leadership development of our young people. The most awe-inspiring place which encourages this development is Camp Christian ... once a mere thought, a dream. However, today ... we call it a holy place, a sanctuary, a place where lives are forever changed. More than that, my friends, Camp Christian is evidence of the inevitable power of vision!

## Attention Youth & Youth Leaders!

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE

# STATE YOUTH CONVENTION

MARCH 18 - 20, 2011

BETHANY COLLEGE

## Regional Calendar

### January 2011

- 11 Interim Ministers' Working Group @ RCO 10am-3pm
- 12 RCO Staff Meeting
- 17 **Martin Luther King Day, RCO Closed**
- 18 Commission on Ministry @ RCO
- \*24-25 Ohio Ministries Convocation in Columbus
- 25 Ohio Disciples Extension Corporation @ RCO 10am
- 28 New Church Committee @ RCO 10am – 12:30pm
- 28 Ohio Disciples Men's Conference Call @ 7:00pm
- 29 Ohio Disciples Outreach Conference Call @ 10:00am

### February

- 2 RCO Staff Meeting
- 3-4 Transformation Team Retreat
- 5 Disciples Fellowship Retreat Planning Meeting
- 8 Personnel Committee Meeting @ RCO 10am – 2pm
- 15 Commission on Ministry @ Northwest CC, Columbus
- \*15-17 Spiritual Life Retreat for Pastors @ Camp Christian  
(Spouses of Pastors & Retired Pastors are also invited)
- 22 Webinar on Coaching @ 7:00pm
- \*25-Mar 5 United Nations Seminar for youth in NYC & D.C.

### March

- 1 **Deadline for entries into The Buckeye Disciple**
- 1 Executive Committee Meeting @ RCO
- 8 Regional Elders' Meeting @ RCO 10:00am – 3:00pm
- 9 Ash Wednesday
- 9 RCO Staff Meeting
- 12 Ohio Disciples Men's Workday @ RCO 10:00am
- 15 Commission on Ministry @ Northwest CC, Columbus
- 17-18 UCC Ministerial Partnership Training
- \*18-20 State Youth Convention @ Bethany College
- 21 Ministers' Workshop & Dinner @ Camp Christian
- 22-23 Coaches' Training @ Camp Christian
- 25-26 Regional Church Council Meeting @ Camp Christian
- 28 Interim Ministers' Spring Workshop @ Camp Christian
- \*29 New Ministers' Orientation @ RCO 9:00am
- \*30 Anti-Racism Training @ Camp Christian 9:00am
- \*31 Sexual Ethics Training @ Camp Christian 9:00am

### April

- 1-2 Women's Lent Retreat @ Camp Christian
- 2 Christian Education Conference @ FCC, Ravenna 9am
- 2 Christian Education Conference @ FCC, Middletown 9am
- 6 RCO Staff Meeting and Easter Celebration
- 8-9 Youth Council Meeting @ Camp Christian
- 15-17 Advance Ministries Spring Retreat @ Camp Christian
- 16 Women's Convocation @ Gender Road CC
- 19 Commission on Ministry @ Northwest CC, Columbus
- 22 **Good Friday, RCO Closed**
- 24 **Easter Sunday**
- 26 Ohio Disciples Extension Corporation @ RCO 10am
- 30 Congregational Transformation Event @  
Disciples Christian Church, Cleveland Hts.

RCO = Regional Church Office

\* Online Registration is now available

## Cleveland Christian Home Launches Partnership Challenge Video

By Jayne Ryan Kuroiwa



"The more things change, the more they stay the same." You've heard the saying, and it's true. One hundred and ten years ago Rev. Timme, a Disciples of Christ pastor, reached out to abandoned children in his Cleveland neighborhood. And though how we accomplish that outreach has changed much over the intervening years, the Cleveland Christian Home is still a haven of hope and healing for children, youth and families.

Learn about the legacy of Cleveland Christian Home and its current programs and needs by watching our new video, "Partnership Challenge: Partners Today for Their Tomorrow." Created by Terry Bartlett Productions, this seven-minute video recaps the history of CCH, outlines its extensive current program services, and details the need for Cleveland Christian Home's 3-year Partnership Challenge campaign to overcome bond debt incurred when it gained autonomy as an agency in 2002.

Choosing to stay open came with a high cost, as CCH had to purchase its facilities and invested funds from its parent agency. Each month CCH spends \$36,000 toward retiring that debt. We've taken heroic steps to continue serving for the next century. Still, reducing the debt through the \$3.3 million Partnership Challenge is an urgent and serious need. Friends of Cleveland Christian Home are encouraged to learn more and make a pledge of generous support.

Our historic ties to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will also be celebrated in the Partnership Challenge. During this three-year campaign, donors may choose to designate 5% of their gift to the ministries of the Regional Church. In the past CCH has been the grateful recipient of such reciprocal Partner in Mission gifts. Now Cleveland Christian Home has a tangible way to show our thanks for the continuing support of our faith partners. Strengthening Cleveland Christian Home can also strengthen the Christian Church in Ohio.

Will you join me in doing everything you can to spread this word and raise an offering of compassion? Details can be found at [www.cchome.org](http://www.cchome.org), where you can view our video and make online donations.

To receive your own copy of the video, contact Jayne Ryan Kuroiwa at 216-688-4140, or [jryankuroiwa@cchome.org](mailto:jryankuroiwa@cchome.org).

Your good and generous gift will do so much more than pay off past debt; it will launch the mission of Cleveland Christian Home confidently into the future and aid the ministry of our Partners in Mission.

Deadline for entries into the April - June issue of  
**The Buckeye Disciple**

Due in the Regional Church Office by  
March 1, 2011

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



## Media Center

Let's face it! Money is tight, yet the demand for high-quality worship and church programming is growing. How can your church remain relevant in today's culture and still be good stewards of the hard-earned money of your congregants? The

East Ohio Conference Media Center can help!

Christians are increasingly media-savvy, and expect churches to offer a variety of multi-media resources. The Media Center has video resources for use in many aspects of worship and church programming. Media resources are available for Sunday school classes, small groups, events, retreats, youth groups, evangelism, stewardship, ministry and worship. From children's stories to hard-to-discuss topics facing today's teens to challenging Bible Studies for older adults, the Media Center has something for everyone!

Media Center membership provides your church with unlimited access to a wide array of new and classic resources. Affordable membership fees are based on a sliding scale according to church membership.

A Media Center membership allows churches to bring current video curriculum right to their doorstep at a fraction of the cost. Included in our inventory of nearly 2,000 items are video equipment such as projectors, screens, and DVD players for church use. The Media Center acquires new curriculum and resources on a regular basis, which become immediately available to member churches.

The Media Center is located at the East Ohio Conference office in North Canton, Ohio. Please stop in and visit and browse through the center. A viewing room is available for visitors to review materials and plan upcoming events. For your convenience, the entire Media Center catalog is available online, with the ability to search by author, keyword or title. Reservation requests can also be made online. To make planning even easier, reservations are offered for all resources up to one year in advance. Resources can be mailed to your church as part of the membership fee.

Should you need additional coaching, or have questions about the Media Center, please call Susan Arnold at 1-800-831-3972 ext. 139. We are always happy to offer assistance. Variety, Value, Customer Service. The East Ohio Media Center is here to help!

With the help of your Regional Church Office, Christian Church in Ohio congregations are eligible to join the Media Center of the East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church at a reduced rate of \$55 for a 12-month membership. For more information about the Media Center go to [http://www.eocumc.com/media/about\\_us.html](http://www.eocumc.com/media/about_us.html)



**2011 General Assembly**  
**Saturday, July 9 - Wednesday, July 13**  
**Bridgestone Arena - Nashville, TN**  
 Register online now at  
[www.disciples.org/ga](http://www.disciples.org/ga)  
**Register by April 1, 2011**  
**for deepest discounts**

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Volume 20, Number 1

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## The Buckeye Disciple

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### Adventure Camp 2011

This year's Adventure Camp will take us to the heart of the Great Smokey Mountains from June 5-11, which is prime wildflower season. There we will discover God's presence in the great outdoors. We will spend the week camping in beautiful Cade's Cove group campground. Cade's Cove is a lovely valley surrounded by beautiful mountains. Each day will include day hikes to waterfalls and other natural wonders of this area. It is a beautiful place for photos. Day packs would include only your camera, lunch, water and anything else you wanted to lug around with you for a couple of miles.



This camp is for everyone with an adventure-some spirit. Youth 8<sup>th</sup> grade and under must be accompanied by an adult. If you are not experienced at camping in the great outdoors, you will be accompanied by several people who are very accomplished campers so you can learn. You may bring your own camping equipment, or we will supply the basics for you as supplies last.

However, if your idea of camping is a hotel, there is an option that will allow you stay in a hotel close by and join us for all of the hikes and return to your hotel in the evening.

Cost for the event is \$250.00 per person, but youth 8th grade and under, accompanied by an adult, pay only \$200.00. This includes all expenses for the week. You will be responsible for purchasing any souvenirs. Our group camping area is limited to 20 people, so get your paid registrations in early to make sure you get a spot. For those of you wishing to make your own housing plans in the area while joining us for the hikes, the cost is \$100.00 and includes registration and lunch for the day. Econo Lodge and Highland Manor Inn in Townsend are just two of the possibilities.

If you are interested or have questions please contact Rev. Stephen Bentley at [sbentley@ccinoh.org](mailto:sbentley@ccinoh.org)

