



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 1
January/February 2008

Regional Assembly Oct 17 & 18, 2008

Crowne Plaza, Columbus, Ohio



**Theme: "Body Building:
Strengthen Your Congregation
For Mission"**

Ephesians 4:11-13

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Be sure to watch future publications and the web site for more information.

"Here I am Lord, Send Aaron"

CYF Conference Mid-Winter Retreats

LAKESIDE (Districts 1, 5, 6)

First Christian Church, Mansfield January 11-13

PHYO (Districts 4, 7, 10/11, 13/14)

Central Christian Church, Newark January 25-27

HIRAM (Districts 2, 3, 15)

First Christian Church, Wadsworth February 8-10

WILMINGTON (Districts 8, 9, 12)

First Christian Church, Middletown February 22-24

For more information or to get a registration form, Contact your pastor or go to www.ccinoh.org



**Plant a Seed,
Watch it Grow**

Get Ready for
Partnership,
Chi Rho, CYF, or
Advance NOW!!

We wish to thank all the Counselors, AD's, and Campers who added input to the development of this program.

This program is designed to help those who would like to make a monthly recurring payment to reduce the burden of making a lump sum registration.

For an application and full details visit us on the web at

www.ccinoh.org, ask your pastor, or contact the Regional Church Office (614) 433-0343.





Spiritual Insights Rev. Dr. William H. Edwards

*"..to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the Body of Christ."
Ephesians 4:12*

Do you know the church is a body? But, it is not just "anybody's" body; it is the "Body of Christ." Jesus is no longer with us in the flesh and so we are his body in the world. And when we act like the body of Christ, it is amazing what happens in our congregations.

"Well, how does the Body of Christ act?" (I am so glad you asked!) In order to know how the body of Christ ought to act now, we've got to go back and see how his body acted when he walked the dusty streets of Palestine. And whatever his body did then, that is what this body ought to be doing now.

His eyes saw visions of things to come.

His head thought thoughts of the revelation of God.

His ears heard the cries of those who were helpless, hungry and homeless.

His knees bowed down in prayer to his Father in heaven.

His legs supported him as he stood on the promises of God.

His arms reached out and embraced people who needed to be loved and needed to feel that they were somebody.

His hands reached out and picked up those who were less fortunate.

His feet walked in the paths of righteousness.

His tongue preached and taught the gospel truth in season and out of season.

As the body of Christ in the 21st century, we ought to act just like that, like the body of Christ. For when people see us in the house of God, the body of Christ, there ought to be something about us that looks like God. Because the Bible says,

"Let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works, and glorify your father which is in heaven." – Matthew 5:16

I believe that 2008 will be a year of spiritual building for mission as a regional church. Our vision 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."

Our theme for the October 17-18, 2008 Regional Assembly is:

"Body Building:

Strengthen Your Congregation for Mission"

Ephesians 4:11-13

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. Please make your plans to be a part of this gathering of the regional church.

Regional Calendar

January

- 1 **New Years Day, Regional Church Office Closed**
- 4 **Ohio Disciples Outreach Contributions Due**
- 5 Men's Commission Meeting @ Gender Rd C.C.
- 8 Interim Ministers Working Group @ RCO 10:00am
- 9 Regional Church Office Staff Meeting
- 10 Disciples of Christ of South Western Ohio 7:30pm
- 11 – 13 Lakeside CYF Midwinter @ F.C.C., Mansfield
- 12 New Church Committee Meeting @ RCO 10:00am
- 14 – 15 Recent Seminary Retreat @ St Terese's, Columbus
- 15 Commission on Ministry @ Northwest C.C.
- 16 Regional Church Office Pastoral Staff Meeting
- 17 Personnel Committee Meeting @ RCO 12:00pm
- 21 **Martin Luther King Jr. Day, RCO Closed**
- 21 Adult Conference Officers @ Northwest C.C.
- 25 – 27 Phyto CYF Midwinter @ Central C.C., Newark
- 26 Disciples Fellowship Retreat Planning Committee
- *28 – 29 Ministries Convocation, Univ Plaza Hotel, Columbus
- *28 Convocation Dinner @ Northwest C.C. 6:30pm
- 29 ODEC Meeting @ RCO 10:00am
- 31 Regional Elders Meeting @ RCO

February

- 1 **Deadline for entries into the March/April Buckeye**
- 6 Regional Church Office Staff Meeting
- 7 Christian Education Committee @ RCO 10:00am
- 8 - 10 Hiram CYF Midwinter @ First C.C., Wadsworth
- *12 - 14 Spiritual Life Retreat for Ministers (Current, Retired, & Spouses of) @ Camp Christian
- 19 Commission on Ministry @ Northwest C.C.
- 20 Regional Church Office Pastoral Staff Meeting
- 22 - 24 Wilmington CYF Midwinter @ F.C.C., Middletown
- 29 - 1 Counselor Training at Camp Christian

March

- 1 Equipping the Saints Workshop, Columbus, 9:00am
- 3 Chi Rho Commission Conference Call
- 4 Executive Committee @ RCO 10:00am – 4:00pm
- 5 Regional Church Office Staff Meeting
- *8 Women's Lent Retreat @ Camp Christian 9:00am
- 8 Regional Cabinet Meeting @ Camp Christian
- 13 Disciples of Christ of South Western Ohio 7:30pm
- 14 - 15 Counselor Training @ Camp Christian
- 18 Commission on Ministry @ Northwest C.C.
- 21 **Good Friday, RCO Closed**
- 23 **Easter**
- *25 New Minister Orientation @ Camp Christian 9:00am
- *26 Anti Racism Training for Ministers @ Camp 9:00am
- *27 Sexual Ethics Training for Ministers @ Camp 9:00am
- 29 Regional Church Council Meeting @ Camp Christian

April

- 1 **Deadline for entries into the May/June Buckeye**
- 2 RCO Staff meeting and Easter Celebration
- 4 - 5 Youth Council Meeting @ Camp Christian
- 7 Interim Ministers Workshop @ Camp 9:00am
- 15 Commission on Ministry @ Northwest C.C.
- 16 Regional Church Office Pastoral Staff Meeting

RCO = Regional Church Office
* **Online Registration is now available**

Message from Regional Program Minister Rev. Dr. Brenda Webster

This is a most exciting time of the year! God continues to bestow countless blessings on our programs and plans for the future. During this season of glorious expectation, I stand on "tiptoe" in anticipation of the wonderful ideas and plans being incubated in the various programs in and around the Ohio Region. Representatives of Partnership, Chi Rho and CYF camps and conferences are in the process of planning one of the most exciting **Counselor/AD Training events** ever. Two identical training sessions will take place on February 29 –March 1 and March 14-15, 2008 at Camp Christian. Other exciting news ...

Chi Rho Camps Portage and Cuyahoga have been combined to form **Camp Portahoga**. On January 19, Counselors/ADs will attend a transitional meeting in order to smooth out the details.

The Camp Christian Reunion/Open House Team is busily planning for this great alumni affair. The Reunion will be held at Camp Christian on May 3-4, 2008. Look out for details and get ready for a time of renewing old acquaintances and reliving those irreplaceable Camp days. Speaking of Camp Christian and camp days ... we have created a **payment plan** for those who would like to take advantage of this offer. It is available to **Partnership/Chi Rho Campers, CYF Conferees and Adult Conference young adults**.

Our **Christian Education Commission** is putting together plans for a very comprehensive Christian Education conference designed to explore the various Christian Education paradigms being used across the country. Stay tuned for exciting news from our Commission.

A part of our Camp Christian marketing plan includes the artistic work of two (2) of our campers. **Mana Maxted (Chi Rho) and Hannah Casto (CYF)** were the winners of the drawing contest held in October. These young ladies will each receive a \$50.00 discount off of their camp fee for 2008. Additionally, their drawings will be reproduced as postcards and flyers and distributed across the region to churches, Counselors/ADs, campers and conferees, as we advertise our wonderful Camp. There will be new winners every year. I pray that God will bless you and yours during this glorious holiday season. God bless, Brenda

Message from Regional Associate Pastor Rev. Stephen Bentley

The Lectionary Reading for the first Sunday in Advent this year was Matthew 24:36-44. This story has Jesus' Disciples asking about the future. Jesus shares with them that no one knows about the future but he does give them some "Signposts." False prophets, wars, natural disasters, and persecutions will all take place along the way. These are things that will happen along the future journey.

I know all about signposts. While hiking the Appalachian Trail this summer with the Adventure Camp Crew, we came upon several sign posts. These told us about our future. Typically, they told what shelters were up ahead and how far away they

Continued in the next column

Message from Rev. Bentley continued

were. These were helpful but there was still much living to be done between the marks on the sign post. There were beautiful sights to be discovered, and hills to climb and wind and rain to get through. But we made it to each point on our itinerary. As we sit on the precipice of 2008 and look to the future, it is empty but there are sign posts along the way. Let me share a few of them with you. On February 12-14, the Spiritual Life Committee is planning a retreat for pastors (Pastors' spouses are also invited if they are able to attend) designed for renewal. On July 17-20, the Ohio Disciples Men are making plans for Sessions 2008 in Oklahoma City, OK and hope to take a busload of Ohio Men. The Fall Men's Retreat in September will feature Johnny Wray from the Week of Compassion next September. Disciples Fellowship Retreats will take place in Memorial Day and Labor Day. These are wonderful opportunities for all Disciples to learn and fellowship together at Camp Christian. Adult Conference will meet in June with plans of expanding their ministry to younger people. These are the signpost with which I am most familiar but of course, there are others. Al Channell reminds us every year, "Camp Happens!" Workshops for churches and ministers, women's retreats, ministry to fight the causes of racism and so much more are all signposts.

My prayer is that you will join us for the Journey as together we share in the ministry God has called each of us to. Come join us in 2008.

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

It has in recent years become popular to send out "save the date" announcements letting us know that an invitation to an upcoming event will be on the way. These "pre-invitation" notices alert us that something we do not want to miss is on the way; they create a sense of anticipation; they tell us that someone is hard at work planning an event that will be meaningful, joyful, and possibly life-changing. They let us know that it is time to get ready.

During the Advent/Christmas season, we remembered in lights in our home and in our sanctuaries the hope, peace, joy, and love embodied in the birth of Jesus. We look forward in hope in confidence that God holds our future and so we look forward with eager anticipation to what God will do in and through us. In the meantime, we save the date, we get ready, we prepare by participating in the life of the church and by looking forward to the events that are on the way.

"Save the date;" really. Save April 19 for the Ohio Disciples Women's spring retreat at Gender Road Christian Church; Regional Program Minister Brenda Webster will be the key-note. Save September 12-14 for the Women's Fall Retreat at Camp Christian. Save August 10-17 for the Advanced Conference. And watch for dates for Anti-racism training for both clergy and congregations. Watch, as we move further into 2008, for more "save the date" announcements. You don't want to miss a thing. Blessings in the New Year.

Summer Camp/Conference Schedule 2008

Mark your calendars now!

Grandparent Camp

June 6 & 7

Children **entering** Grades 1-2
& a grandparent (or Aunt, Uncle, or Friend)
Camp Christian

Camp Good Hope (Bereavement Camp)

Dates to be determined

Camp Christian, Magnetic Springs

Boat Stories of the Bible! (Canoe Camp)

July 6 - 12

For anyone High School through Adult
Au Sable River in Michigan

Partnership Camp

Those who have just finished grades 3, 4, and 5

DATE	CAMP	PLACE
June 15 – 21	Otter	Camp Christian
July 6 – 12	Badger	Templed Hills
July 20 – 26	Beaver	Templed Hills

Chi Rho Camp

Those who have just finished grades 6, 7, and 8
Camp Christian, Magnetic Springs

DATE	CAMP	DISTRICTS
June 8 – 14	Hocking	4, 7, 10/11, 13/14
July 6 – 12	Portahoga	2, 3, 15
July 13 – 19	Maumee	1, 5, 6
August 3 – 9	Miami	8, 9, 12

CYF Conference

Those who have just finished grades 9, 10, 11, and 12
Camp Christian, Magnetic Springs

DATE	CAMP	DISTRICTS
June 22 – 28	Hiram	2, 3, 15
June 29 – July 5	Phyo	4, 7, 10/11, 13/14
July 20 – 26	Lakeside	1, 5, 6
July 27 – Aug 2	Wilmington	8, 9, 12

Advance Conference

August 10 – 17

Anyone ages 19 -29 years old
(at least 1 year out of High School)
Camp Christian, Magnetic Springs

Adult Conference

June 16 – 20

For adults of all ages
Northwest Christian Church, Columbus

ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR ALL CAMPS
COMING SOON
WWW.CCINOH.ORG

Ohio Spiritual Life Retreat for Ministers

(Retired Ministers and Spouses of Ministers are welcome)

“Listening, Connecting, Being”

February 12-14, 2008

Speaker: The Reverend Harry Bolen
Camp Christian, Magnetic Springs, Ohio

This is an intentional time of rest, reflection, and spiritual renewal. It is also a time of reunion and fellowship. It is always wonderful to enjoy a few days in front of an open fireplace in the Herald B. Monroe Lodge at Camp Christian. Make these few days a priority on your calendar. Register online at www.ccinoh.org or mail in the registration form included in the December Ministers Mailing. On behalf of the Spiritual Life Committee, I hope to see you there. Kay McGlinchey

Mark your Calendars, Ladies!

Ohio Women’s Ministries Convocation
will be held at **Gender Road Christian**
Church in Canal Winchester April 19



Treasurer's Corner by Duncan Draper

Really? 2008? I'm still trying to figure out where 2006 went. But as we all know, time really does march on. The beginning of a new year is filled with promises, good intentions, and updated goals. Often other competing priorities cause delays in keeping those commitments we offer and then struggle to resume. The beginning of the year is also a time to reassess prior goals. Shortly after our Regional offices relocated to Columbus, Rev. Dr. William Edwards led the staff in a discussion about Transformation and Operational Excellence. Included in this discussion were ideas and plans on how to ensure the Regional activities met the requirements and expectations of our congregations. More recently we have seen an increase in calls requesting information on a variety of administrative topics. Perhaps it is time we made a concerted effort to inform all of our congregations of the types of support available from the Regional Office relating organizational excellence. Here are some areas that you may want to ask us about.

Financial Controls and Procedures: Several congregations have called to ask for copies of documented fiscal procedures, policies, and reporting standards. We have provided information on these items and have recently requested our congregations to share into our data base their current information.

Technology: We have an external partner who provides network support, web development and maintenance, and recommends hardware and software configurations. Our partner is available to assist with our congregations' questions and issues as well. **Risk management:** We occasionally receive requests regarding insurance programs, both health care as well as property and casualty information. If you have questions on these programs, let us know and hopefully we can provide information helpful to your congregation. These are just some of the areas where we may be able to offer assistance. Let us know if you have other areas of interest and how we may assist your congregation with 'back office' types of questions. You may contact the Treasurer directly via email, ddraper@ccinoh.org or by calling our offices at 614-433-0343.

Among our Churches

gleaned from newsletters sent to the Regional Church Office

Several congregations participated in Operation Christmas Child sponsored by Samaritan's Purse which sends shoeboxes filled with Christmas presents to children around the world.

Churches include: **Central Christian, Springfield; Central Christian, Wooster; Champion Christian, Warren; Church of Christ – Christian, Carrollton; First Christian, Bowling Green; First Christian, Chillicothe; First Christian, Medina; First Christian, Salem; Mt. Healthy Christian, Cincinnati, Central Christian, Warren** and; **Saint Andrew Christian, Dublin.**

Euclid Avenue Christian in Cleveland Heights celebrated it's 25th year of *Journey to Bethlehem*, sharing the true meaning of Christmas and bringing more than 1,000 people through their building.

Talk about tradition! **First Christian Wauseon** recently held their 128th Chicken Pie Supper.

Disciples Home Mission and the Week of Compassion have a goal of 750 work groups to pay a visit to the Gulf coast of the US to help with the massive rebuilding following the devastating hurricanes two years ago. These congregations are either planning or have made a trip to the Gulf Coast:

Euclid Avenue Christian, Cleveland Heights; First Christian, Middletown; First Christian, Wadsworth; Tylersville Road Christian, Mason, and; United Christian, Clayton. For more information visit

www.homelandministries.org

Members of **Bazetta Christian** between the ages of 15 and 22 will be participating in a youth mission trip to Isle of Palms, South Carolina in June 2008 to work with East Cooper Habitat for Humanity.

The Senior High Sunday School Class of **First Christian Church of Cuyahoga Falls** is interviewing and videotaping stories of members of the congregation about how the Great Depression and World War II affected their lives. The project has three goals: 1, expose the Senior High class to your faith journey firsthand; 2, develop a video documentary that will be shown Easter morning 2008, and; 3) submit these interviews to the Library of Congress as part of their Veterans History Project.

Congratulations to **Roger Hack**, a member of **First Christian, Salem**, who was recently selected Citizen of the Year by the Salem Area Chamber of Commerce.

Harold Rickel, a member of **Washington Avenue Christian Elyria**, recently celebrated his 100th birthday.

Did you watch the Ohio State/Michigan State football game this year? The Script Ohio at the post game show was led by **Josh Halter**, a member of **Hebron Christian Church**.

2008 Ohio Ministries Convocation

University Plaza Hotel
3110 Olentangy River Rd.
Columbus, OH 43202

On-line Registration at: www.ohcouncilchs.org
For more information offline contact The Ohio Council of Churches 614/885-9590; or 1-800-760-9590

Planned workshops:

Women, and Politics

by Dr. Pamela Paxton. A detailed introduction to women's political strengths and representation in the US and other countries.

Faith and Legislation

by Tom Smith, Jim Tobin, and Joyce Garver Keller. How our faith informs the legislative issues we address as Protestants, Roman Catholics and Jews.

Faith and Environment

by Sr. Leanne M. Jablonski, the Rev. Kurt Keljo and Ms Carol Kuhre This workshop will discuss the moral and theological issues underlying the environmental debate and appropriate roles for the faith community.

Faith and American Politics

presented by a team of Faith and American Politics, Inc., First Community Church founders...This workshop will help people better understand how their faith informs and shapes their communities and the political process.

Faith-Based Advocacy

by representatives from BREAD, Sojourner and We Believe Ohio This workshop will explore several models of faith-based advocacy. What are the promises and perils of prophetic advocacy?

Politics in the Pulpit

by Philip Moots What can be said from the pulpit? When does one cross the line? What are the legal issues?

ALSO...

Ministers' Convocation Dinner

Northwest Christian Church
1340 Fishinger Rd
Columbus, OH 43221-2398
6:30pm January 28, 2008

Join us for wonderful Christian fellowship and to discuss the future of the Region

You can register for this event online at
www.ccinoh.org

Iraqi refugees share their stories

Sharon Watkins, General Minister and President shares the stories of Iraqi refugees she met during her recent visit to the Middle East.

Three moms are sitting across the table from us in a Beirut clinic. Three Iraqi moms far from home. Pretty sure they'll never be able to go back. At least not like it is now. Lelia never once stops crying. Every time she about gets herself together, the tears well up again and drop down her cheeks. She's been in Lebanon three years already - since the beginning of the war. Sahira, more composed (or is it resigned?) has been here for ten years - since the beginning of the first Gulf War. Ranna, only three months a refugee, has three year old Ricardo on her lap. We smile - the same name as my husband, Rick. Rick is in his "dad" mode, making faces at Ricardo, trying to get him to laugh.

We hear the women's stories: "We used to live in peace with our Muslim neighbors - we knew the birthdays of each other's children. But now it's all disorder. People come to kidnap our sons, to threaten our daughters."

"We owned our own shop. Now we have nothing."

Tears are welling in all our eyes now.

Two and a half million refugees from Iraq (the US has accepted to resettle 14,000). Most are in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon - bursting those small countries at the seams, exhausting local relief efforts, introducing inflationary pressure, raising concerns that moderate, secularized countries where Christian and Muslim have lived side by side in peace, will be irreversibly destabilized.

In Lebanon, a newly-arrived refugee family receives fifty dollars from our partners to help with food, a change of clothes, medicine, school supplies, rent. A drop in the bucket of their need. In Syria, forty dollars feeds a family of four for two weeks. Our partners struggle to feed 500 families in Aleppo - \$20,000 for one food delivery. In Damascus that two week food delivery costs \$600,000 for the one hundred fifty thousand destitute families our partners are feeding there. Local churches are overwhelmed.

"These people were teachers, engineers," we are told. "They came with some money in their pockets. They have nice clothes on. They don't look destitute. But they are destitute. They are used to being the ones who give. Now they have to receive."

The moms have left the room - off to their appointments.

"How do you keep going in the face of all this?" I ask the social worker.

"I have a roof over my head," she says. "What right do I have to be overwhelmed?"

I ask the same of our Greek Orthodox partner in Damascus. "The people are so grateful," he says. "You see the relief in their faces. Besides. This is what Jesus would do. We have to respond. We must keep going."

(Sharon was in the Middle East to attend a World Council of Churches in Damascus, Syria. While there she also traveled to Jerusalem and Beirut to meet with church leaders and our Global Ministries overseas staff to learn about our critical presence there.)

Week of Compassion

The call to give comes regularly in church life: annual stewardship drives and capital campaigns, work trips to the Gulf South or

another hurting place, special holiday events, youth mission trips and local projects. Each giving opportunity challenges us anew to comprehend the importance of all of our participation, and to see past numbers and amounts to the practice of praise inherent in the act of giving.

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have," says the writer of Hebrews to the community of faith. The call was personal, a reminder that our actions as Christians speak more loudly than our words and worship services. God desires our participation in the lives of others, an expectation made even more pointedly by Jesus when he tells his followers, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matt 25:40, NRSV) Of course, the 'least of these' don't just live in our community anymore. As our world grows smaller, our lives intersect with so many more lives than they once did — and God's call to share what we have encompasses more people. The people fleeing violence in Sudan, suffering from AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa, reeling from devastation in Indonesia, starving in poverty in India — we are called to make a difference in these lives, too. And Week of Compassion makes that possible.

Gifts to Week of Compassion support programs that help families and villages around the world build lives and communities that are healthy, safe and sustainable, changing the lives of millions of God's children. Accomplished by individual denominations alongside Church World Service, work made possible by Week of Compassion

- helps rebuild communities ravaged by natural disasters
- creates sustainable sources of income for rural villages
- provides micro-credit to women to start poverty-alleviating businesses
- teaches trades and job skills to people maimed by landmines
- offers children a chance to survive past the age of 5 and go to school
- and much more.

Week of Compassion gives each of us an opportunity to respond to God's call: to share what we have, showing the kindness, compassion and mercy of Jesus in every part of the globe. Doing good and sharing what we have gladdens the heart of God, who promises that those who respond, "shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail." (Isa 58:11, NRSV) By participating in Week of Compassion, we can experience the joy of showing and sharing God's love — offering a hand to that stranger in need, and making a difference in the lives of God's children around the world.



DISCIPLES FELLOWSHIP RETREAT MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

MAY 23-25, 2008

A gathering of Disciples, Families, and Friends of ALL AGES at Camp Christian. For more information contact Bev Sajna sajhome81@yahoo.com

Third Annual Advance Conference Scholarship Fundraising Concert/Talent Show



Tylersville Road Christian Church
Mason, Ohio
April 25, 2008



This is an opportunity to reunite with old friends and enjoy some wonderful talent from current and past Advance Conferees. Anyone who enjoys music and fellowship is invited to attend. All of the proceeds will go to the Advance Conference Scholarship Fund which is designed to help conferees who can't afford go to Advance Conference pay for the expenses. If you have a talent and would like to participate or have any questions contact ,Pat Fatig prfatig@msn.com, Dave Diehl hyperforam@aol.com, Randy Green rjgreen57@yahoo.com, or Jane Hilvers jehilvers@earthlink.net



Children Worship & Wonder Training Event

March 7 - 6-9 pm
March 8 - 9 am-5 pm
March 9 - 2-5 pm

Washington Avenue
Christian Church
Elyria, Ohio
(440) 323-4213



Cost: \$120 per person plus purchase of book:
Young Children and Worship

For Information Contact:

Connie Metts – (888) 346-2631 cmetts@dhm.disciples.org
Kaye Edwards - kedwards@dhm.disciples.org

Register:

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

Deadline: February 22, 2008

After Deadline: \$140

Online at::

<http://www.discipleshomemissions.org/FamilyandChildren/CWW.htm#events>



Trainer: Rev. Kaye S. Edwards
Director of Family & Children's Ministries
(434) 832-1119

Now Accepting Applications

"Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our heads - O Prosper the work of our hands!"
Psalm 90:17.

Are you looking for a way for God to prosper the work of your hands? Have you recently graduated from High School, in College, and looking for a summer job with Meaning? Christian Church in Ohio is now taking applications to be a Camp Christian Ministry Associate for summer 2008. Camp Christian is truly a place where people encounter Jesus Christ in a real and significant manner. You can be part of that wonderful ministry in 2008. For more information and to request a application contact your Church pastor or the Regional Church Office at 614-433-0343 or ccio@ccinoh.org.

2008 Disciples Men's Action Plan

Let me take this time to thank each of you in advance for helping the Men's Commission increase the participation of the men in your church in regional ministry activities. It is my hope and prayer that each man in your congregation, from Advance Conference age through the oldest of the congregation becomes involved in Ohio Disciple Men's activities in your church, in your district and in the region.

I would like to start a network of "contact" men in the region. To this end, I will need the name, address, phone number and/or email of at least one man in every congregation whose responsibility it would be to help keep the men of the region informed of any and all activities occurring throughout the region. Please email those names to ecren87369@aol.com.

Are you or any men in your congregation planning to attend Sessions 2008 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on July 17-20, 2008? We would like to charter buses to take the men to Oklahoma. In order to put the plan in motion the Regional Church Office needs to know the names of men interested in reserving a seat(s) on a chartered bus. By February 08, 2008 the Regional Church Office must have a count of men in your congregation. The contact number: (614) 433-0343 or email them at sbentley@ccinoh.org.

2008 ODM and Regional Events

Ohio Disciple Men's Spring Retreat

May 16 – 18, 2008 @ Camp Christian

Ohio Disciple Men's Fall Retreat

September 19 – 21, 2008 @ Camp Christian

Ohio Regional Assembly

October 17 & 18, 2008 @ Dublin Crowne Plaza (Columbus)

Help us help each other! We want to see every man at each event this year.

In Christ's name,

Eric Crenshaw, DMF President

Mt. Healthy Christian Church Celebrates Pastor's 10th Anniversary

On December 2nd, 2007, the Mt. Healthy Christian



Church in Cincinnati celebrated the 10th anniversary of the pastorate of the Rev. Michael Doerr. During the church's contemporary worship service he was presented an earthenware communion set and during the traditional worship a beautiful handmade stole designed and sewn by Colleen Madewell, a member of the congregation. The gift of the stole was in recognition of his office and the pastoral care and concern he has given the congregation. The congregation verbally reaffirmed his call and pledged their support for his ministry. Following the services a reception was held in the narthex of the church with greetings and refreshments.

What does God require of us?

By Mark Behle

Live as children of light...and find out what pleases God. Ephesians 5:8,10

The country of Lesotho is located in Africa, entirely surrounded by the Republic of South Africa. Every year primary and high school groups are invited to attend rallies sponsored by the Scripture Union of Lesotho. Scripture Union is an international movement that works with churches and aims to make God's Good News known to children, young people and families, encouraging people of all ages to meet God daily through the Bible and prayer. Last month, our Friends of God group attended a rally held here in the southern part of the country at Mt. Tabor High School. It was a blessed day of being together in Christian fellowship and sharing the Word of God. Our theme was "Living for Christ." Our speaker used Ephesians 5:8-12 to talk about the importance of understanding who we are and who we belong to in order to know better how to live for Christ. After listening to the presentation we divided into smaller groups and talked about "What does God require of us?" In our discussions the familiar words of the prophet Micah were brought up: To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God (Micah 6:8). We also had a chance to share with one another. After lunch, the students gathered outside on the sports field for games. Later in the afternoon, all of the school groups came forward to present their offerings in support of the work of the Scripture Union in Lesotho. We give thanks for the opportunity our children have to experience God, and pray that they may learn to walk humbly in Christ's way. We also ask prayers for justice and mercy for the people of Lesotho, many of whom need food relief in the wake of the worst drought in 30 years.

Mark Behle is a missionary with the Lesotho Evangelical Church, teaching mathematics at Masitise High School, Lesotho.

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Rev. Donald Steffy receives Honored Minister's Pin

On Sunday, October 14, 2007, Rev. Donald Steffy was presented his Honored Minister's Pin by the congregation of First Christian Church, Middletown, Ohio. Rev. Steffy served as Senior Minister of First Christian from April 1979 until his retirement in November 1994. Additionally, Mrs. Laurie Steffy was presented an Honored Minister's Spouse certificate in recognition of her devoted support and partnership during her husband's 50 years in ministry. Other ministers participating in this Homecoming service were the Reverends Dixie French, Carol Oetzel, Lauren Roe, Bernie Van Scoter and Dr. LaTaunya Bynum, (Associate Regional Pastor). Christian Lombard, student at CTS and a Timothy of the church, was also in attendance.



Chinese Visitors

By: **Mary Anne Woodward**

A few years ago, Dr. Xiaoling Zhu, one of our elders at Parma Christian Church and the Area Executive for East Asia and the Pacific for the Common Global Ministries Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ, told us about a village in China whose inhabitants were so poor that the adults sold their blood to a company who used it to manufacture blood products and medications. Those who drew blood from the villagers---this happened about 10 years ago--- inexplicably used the same contaminated needle for all donors. The result? Of a village of 3400 souls, 400 adults have already died from AIDS, and the same number are either HIV-positive or suffering from full-blown AIDS. Global Ministries chose that village to be part of its Child Sponsorship program, whereby individuals or groups sponsor a child who has lost one or both parents to AIDS. A \$25.00 monthly donation enables the child to go to school and live as normal a life as possible with a parent or parents missing.

Our elders decided to sponsor two such children, and my husband Dick and I decided to sponsor two as well. The elders were assigned Yinxia Li and her twin brother Donglin, who suffers from a handicap which makes a crutch necessary. The Lis had lost their father to AIDS, and their mother is HIV positive. My husband and I were assigned a 16-year-old boy who lost his mother to AIDS, and Jinhua Wang, a 16-year-old girl, whose mother had died of AIDS when she was 10 and whose father is ill with AIDS at present. We were all sent photographs of "our" kids and encouraged to send them letters, which Xiaoling translated into Chinese and hand-delivered on his visits to the village. When Jinhua received our letter, she wrote back---a heart-wrenching letter about how grateful she was to be able to go to school instead of having to take a factory job to support her family. (She was in just the 8th grade because of interruptions in her schooling due to home duties.) She asked if she could call us "Mom and Dad", and ended that letter, "I hope to someday stand before you and express my gratitude personally." Little did we know how soon that was to happen!

"Our" two girls, along with a college student who volunteers in their village helping AIDS families, traveled to the U.S. in July, where they toured Washington D.C., came to Ohio to meet our congregation, and spent part of a week at Chi Rho Camp Maumee. While there the girls experienced the famous Camp Christian love---they were quickly given American nicknames (see photo), and warmly embraced by campers and counselors alike. "Daisy" and "Julie" swam in a pool for the first time, and loved doing crafts and hunting four-leaf clovers. (The college student had already given herself the American nickname "Candy.") All three thought camp food was delicious, and were awed by the green beauty and fresh air at camp, as well as all the love!

They left camp early to fly with Xiaoling to the DOC General Assembly in Fort Worth, and from there they flew to California to spend time at a UCC camp there, returning to China on

Continued in next column



Yinxia Li "Julie", Xinyuan Zhang "Candy", and Jinhua Wang "Daisy"

Chinese Visitors continued

August 6. Meeting them left a big impression on all who met them. My husband Dick and I now realize that we have 3 new daughters, who just happen to live across the Pacific. We stay in touch with Candy by email, and she in turn keeps in touch with Daisy and Julie. Their visit has enriched all our lives, and has helped our congregation think more globally.

Dick and I arranged for Xiaoling to present his program at the Disciples House at Chautauqua on August 16. One of the folks staying at the house that week was Rev. Roger Osgood, pastor of Heights Christian Church in the Cleveland area, whose grandfather had been a missionary in China many years ago and who was instrumental in the conversion of Xiaoling's family to Christianity. It truly is a small world!!!

Should you be interested in learning more about the work of Global Ministries and their Child Sponsorship Program, you may visit their website, <http://www.globalministries.org/eap/index.html>, or phone Xiaoling at 1-866-822-8224 Ext. 3226.

Spiritual Directors

The Regional Spiritual Life Committee would like to compile a list of all Ohio Disciple Spiritual Directors. We would like to set up a schedule of one day a month at Camp Christian for Spiritual Direction for both ministers and lay people. Please e-mail the Regional Office at Bentley@ccinoh.org or Kay McGlinchey at kmcglinchey@genderradcc.com.

Christian Men's Rally

District 13/14 held a successful men's rally on November 11 after many years of inactivity. Men from 8 area churches met at the McArthur Christian Church. The theme was "Veterans' Day" with George Lash, an Elder at the McArthur Church sharing his experiences as a Prisoner of War in Germany during World War II. A display of items shared by Veterans was on display. The women of the church provided a free meal for the attendees. Future plans will be discussed at the January 7 district ministers' meeting.

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