



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 covenant together as Disciples of Christ to be centers of
transformation on the new mission frontier of our own communities

Volume 16, Number 1
January/February 2007

New Church Committee

We have Good News to share and news about Good News being shared! 349 New Churches have been formed since 2001 by Disciples in the United States and Canada, but the real news is that there are over 20,000 people who have met Christ through New Church Ministry and that is real "Good News"! Now that is something for "Hark The Harold, Angels Sing" to sing about! Here in Ohio your New Church Committee is reaching out to folks who are un-churched in the name of Christ. This is part of every disciple's calling, to proclaim the Gospel to those who haven't claimed the Gospel. We are busy in many different ways creating new faith communities to welcome new disciples to Christ. Currently, the new church committee is shepherding the following new churches. All of these churches are less than 4 Christmases old.

- Light of the Community in Dayton, Willie Barnes Jackson
- Mision Cristiana Faro Luz in Lorain, Luis Morales
- Mision Cristiana Nuevo Vida in Cleveland, Vanessa Rivera
- Mision Cristiana Emanuel in Mentor, Iluminado Castellano
- Brighter Day in Mantua, Jeff Jackson
- Cristianos Unidos in Campbell, (searching for a new pastor)
- Hispanic Church in Ashtabula, (Searching for a new pastor)

These churches combine to have over 200 previously un-churched people worshiping with them each Sunday. However, just like many of your churches, the people present each week are not always the same mix of people. Combined they have ministries that are touching the lives of over 400 people! These new congregation are bringing "Joy To The World" in the following ministries: Prison Ministry, domestic violence counseling, weekly radio ministry, women's Bible studies, immigration ministry, community evangelism, Sunday school classes for children and adults, music ministry, disciple leadership development programs, and after school children's programs. These new church planters and their churches are very busy making new disciples! The Ohio New Church Committee is also planning new church starts in the very near future in the following areas:

- African American Church on North side of Columbus. This new church start is a joint start with the United Church of Christ. We are nearly ready to call a church planter and start in early 2007.
- Hispanic Church on the West side of Columbus. This new church start is a joint start with the United Church of Christ
- Hispanic Church nesting at New Fellowship Christian Church, Columbus We have just called Iluminado Castellano to be our New Church Planter. He began work on January 1st, 2007.
- New Church in Delaware. We are looking for a bi-vocational pastor to serve as the New Church Planter.
- New Church in Warren County (District 8). We have a steering committee forming and designated funds from Northwest Christian Church in Dayton which closed several years ago.

On behalf of the Ohio New Church Committee, we hope you had a Merry Christmas and "Go Tell It On The Mountain That Jesus Christ Was Born" that all may be disciples.



Helping Somali Refugees

In the fall of 2005 an urgent appeal for help was made by Community Refugee and Immigration Services (CRIS) in Columbus, Ohio. They were expecting a large number of Somali Refugees and needed help providing the necessary items to get them settled in apartments. The Department of Missions and Outreach Ministries at High Street Christian Church, Akron, decided to respond to this request by asking church members to donate household items which they delivered to Columbus. After the first delivery of items to 3 Somali families in November 2005, and with CRIS staff detailing the ongoing needs of the refugees, High Street decided to continue this mission outreach project twice a year, collecting needed items year round and delivering them in the fall and spring. The spring 2006 delivery helped 3 more Somali families. In the fall of 2006, the mission project was expanded to include the youth of High Street. The youth became furniture movers, collecting items donated from church members and then loading all the items into the church trailer and a 14' U-Haul truck. A variety of living room, bedroom, bathroom and kitchen items were collected and delivered November 10-12. Six High Street CYFers and three adult advisors, including youth pastor Rev. Chad Delaney, traveled to Columbus for a mini weekend mission trip. The items filled the apartments of 2 Somali families, with the extra items given to another family in need. The youth participated in an interactive discussion on refugees with Colleen Rosshirt, staff member of CRIS. After delivering the furniture, they ate at a Somali restaurant. Ashley Cecil, the "painting journalist", accompanied the group. Her art work and account of this outreach project can be seen at her website, www.ashleycecil.com. It was an awesome weekend of work and learning, being the hands and feet of Christ in bringing hospitality to new friends. If you would like to become involved in helping refugees through CRIS, check out their website at www.cris-ohio.com.



Spiritual Insights Rev. Dr. William H. Edwards

See, I am making all things new. Write down what I have said. My words are true and can be trusted. Everything is finished! I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end...
Revelation 21:5-6

In the book of Revelation, through the spiritual eyes of John, we get a glimpse of heaven. In Revelation 21:1 John wrote, "I saw a new heaven and a new earth..." John, one Jesus' disciples, in the book of Revelation offers the hope of the church and of Israel, which Jesus Christ revealed to him by an angel through a series of breathtaking visions. The book of Revelation is a vision that gives us the assurance that God is in charge and that the victory is ours. God has revealed a vision, a marvelous, technicolored dream, a vision beyond our wildest imagination. What does a wild vision like this mean for ordinary people like you and me? We can dream all we like about a glorious future, but what about the realities of the here and now? Well, the answer is found in those words that were spoken in Revelation 21:5 by the one who is seated on the throne in this heavenly vision, "See, I am making all things new!" As we now look into a new year, we are called to see what God is already doing in our midst and what God is calling us to do in our lives through the spiritual vision in Revelation. This newness that Jesus is talking about is not just for those in heaven, but it is a way of life for those who gather before his altar in this life. In every relationship, in our family, in our church, in the workplace, in our neighborhood, with those out there in the world, even with those who annoy and aggravate us, even with those who say bad about us and persecute us, in every circumstance the newness that God gives us should shine through and guide us in our witness. So let us celebrate the New Year by living as if we really know what Jesus came to do and really believe that God's reign begins now. We can work to repair the damage done to creation by carelessness and greed. We can work to ensure that the next generation has a future. We can examine our own lives to see if we are walking in the will of God by our lifestyles. (Not just talking the talk but walking the walk). If you have ever had the occasion to travel in another country, when one crosses the boundaries, the customs officer will usually ask: "Where are you going? What is your purpose?" As we cross the boundaries of a new year, those could be profound questions for each of us. "Where are we going? What is our purpose?" We need to clarify our vision for our lives 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 can become. The beginning of a New Year is a good time to do that.

The Buckeye Disciple

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355 East Campus View Blvd, Suite 110, Columbus, OH 43235-5616

Phone: (614)433-0343

Fax: (614)433-7285

Website: www.ccinoh.org

Email: ccio@ccinoh.org

Regional Staff:

William H. Edwards: Regional Pastor and President, Districts 2,3,4,15 and HVP

Mary Anne Glover: Associate Regional Pastor, Dis. 1,5,6,8,9 & African American

Stephen Bentley: Interim Associate Regional Pastor, Dis. 7, 10/11, 12, 13/14

Al Channell: Camp Christian Superintendent

Regional Board Officers

Jeff Wheeler: Chairperson

Jim Rivers: Vice Chair

Bob Thornton: Secretary

Joanne Howard: Assistant Secretary

The Buckeye Disciple Editor: Jennie Stoddart Email: stoddart@ccinoh.org

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January 2007

- 1 New Year's Day, Regional Church Office Closed
- 10 Regional Church Office Staff Meeting
- 10 Regional Assembly Conference Call, 11:00am
- 15 Martin Luther King Day, RCO Closed
- 16 Commission on Ministry @ RCO, 9:30 – 4:30
- 17 Personnel Committee @ RCO 12:00 – 3:00 pm
- 19 New Church Committee @ RCO 10:00am – 2:00pm
- 19-20 ART Team Meeting @ Camp Christian
- 20 Ohio Women's Ministries "Called" Meeting
- 22 Ministers Convocation @ University Plaza Hotel, Columbus Dinner following Convocation at Fourth Ave Christian Church, 6:30pm
- 25 Regional Church Office Staff Meeting
- 25 – 28 Disciples Women Cabinet
- 30 O.D.E.C. @ Regional Church Office, 10:00

February 2007

- 1 Deadline for entries into The Buckeye Disciple
- 3 ART Commission Meeting @ Woodland Christian Church 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
- 6 Executive Committee Meeting @ RCO, 10:00am
- 7 Regional Church Office Staff Meeting
- 13 – 15 Pastors & Spouses Spiritual Life Retreat @ Camp
- 17 Christian Educators Retreat 9:00 am – 5:00 pm TBA
- 20 Commission on Ministry @ Northwest Christian
- 23 – March 3 U.N. Seminar
- 28 Ohio Council of Churches Governing Board Meeting

March 2007

- 2 Deadline for documents received at the RCO going into the Regional Church Council Docket
- 6 New Ministers Orientation @ Camp Christian
- 7 Anti-Racism Training @ Camp Christian
- 7 Chi Rho Commission Conference Call
- 8 Sexual Ethics Training @ Camp Christian
- 9 – 11 CYF State Youth Convention @ Bethany College
- 10 Regional Cabinet Meeting @ Camp Christian
- 13 Regional Church Office Staff Meeting
- 16 – 18 OWM Commission Meeting @ Camp Christian
- 20 Commission on Ministry @ Northwest Christian
- 21 – 22 UCC/DOC Partnership Workshop @ Ohio Council UCC Conference Room, Wed 10 - 5, Thurs 9 - 3
- 23 – 24 Regional Church Council Meeting @ Camp Christian
- 27 – 29 NIRF, Columbus (TBA)
- 30 – Apr I Advance Conference Spring Retreat @ Camp Christian

Camp Christian Nurse

Camp Christian is looking for nurses who would like to donate a week (or more) of their summer to Camp Christian. Responsibilities would include organizing and distributing medicines during the week of camp. She/he would also handle emergencies as they arise and provide transportation to the local hospital. There is no salary, but food and housing will be provided. Contact Stephen Bentley if you are interested.

OHIO C.Y.F. CONVENTION THEME: 2007 A Prayer Odyssey

Grades 9 through 12 inclusive

March 9-11, 2007

TIME: 6:30 p.m. Friday to 11:30 a.m. Sunday

BETHANY COLLEGE, BETHANY, WV

COST: \$50.00 for CYFers - \$40.00 for Adult Advisors

DEADLINE: RECEIVED AT CCIIO NO LATER THAN
FEBRUARY 26, 2007

(\$10.00 Fee WILL be applied to any received Feb 27 – Mar 9)

You can also register online at www.ccinoh.org.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

SMALL GROUP STUDY SESSIONS
ELECTION OF DISTRICT OFFICERS
U.N. SEMINAR REUNION
SPECIAL COLLEGE DISPLAYS

PLUS OUR GREAT...AND WE DO MEAN
GREEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEAT STATE OFFICERS:

REBECCA EHRLICH
NATHAN PARSONS
KIRBY KELTNER
JEFF HILVERS

AND MUCH ... MUCH ... MORE ...

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 2007. 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 2007.

For more information and to request a application 614-433-0343 or ccio@ccinoh.org.

UN Seminar

The United Nations International Affairs Seminar will be taking place February 23 – March 3, 2007. This is for High School Juniors and Seniors however this year, because we have several places still available, we are accepting applications from sophomores as well. Contact Stephen Bentley immediately if you would like to go.

We never want to see a youth unable to go because of finances yet this year there are many of our youth who are unable to raise the \$850 on their own. If you would like to make a donation please send it to:

Youth Scholarship Fund

Christian Church in Ohio

355 E. Campus View Blvd. Ste. 110

Columbus, OH 43232

Thank you for your love and interest in the Youth of Ohio.

Advance Conference Spring Retreat

Friday, March 30 – Sunday, April 1, 2007

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

Part 2 - CAMERA:

The advance Spring retreat is the second phase of 2007's three part series "Lights Camera Action" " Advance conference is an exciting and uplifting series of retreats for young adults. Advance Conference is for anyone ages 19-29, and out of High School. For more information, including how to register, please visit the Advance Conference web site at www.ccinoh.org/ministries/advance.

We hope to see you there!

Your 2006-2007 Advance Conference Officers
Chad Davis, Erin Larsen, Bob Unger

Thanks for Giving Month Observed

First Christian Church of Alliance designated the entire month of November as "Thanks for Giving" Month. Each Sunday of the month a special group of community members who perform vital tasks was honored. Those recognized were health care workers, emergency responders, educators, and volunteers. Church members delivered flyers explaining the observance to medical offices, fire stations, police stations, and schools. Friends and family members were invited to come to worship services to be honored on their special day. At each service those being honored were presented with a small gift of appreciation prepared by the Evangelism Department.

Celebrating 175 Years

Northside Christian Church is celebrating their 175 year of being a Disciples of Christ Church and 135 years of residing at their northside location. There will be various events each month including a church birthday party and an open house including tours, food, games, and much more. The anniversary worship service will be held May 6 and will be in the style, including attire, of a service in 1832. There will be a dinner after worship followed by a program that will include viewing of the churches memorabilia. Northside Christian Church is located at 4114 Fergus St, Cincinnati, Oh 45223.

The "Forgotten Victims" of Hurricane Rita

The citizens of Southwest Louisiana and Eastern Texas who were hit by hurricane RITA (on Sept. 24, 2005) really feel they were overlooked and forgotten due to the intense national focus on hurricane Katrina and its devastation to the New Orleans area. But Rita left over 500,000 homes severely damaged or destroyed and churned up \$300,000 million in damage in its wake. The Christian Church (Disciples Of Christ), addressing recovery efforts from both storms, has mounted programs in Lake Charles, LA and in the Texas cities of Port Arthur and Beaumont to aid in the rebuilding from Rita. (There are also programs serving the Katrina damage in Medarie, LA and in Gulfport, Biloxi and Moss Point, Mississippi.) Our group of 14 from three Ohio Disciple congregations, (Northwest Christian Ch.-Columbus; First Christian Ch. Mount Vernon; and First Christian Ch.-Wadsworth), joined with 12 other Disciple volunteers from Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland and North Carolina to work for a week in Lake Charles, LA. There we were partnered with the area Habitat For Humanity organization that has set a goal of 12 houses to be constructed in 2006 and another 20 in 2007. We also had the privilege and the pleasure of being joined by a team of 12 Americore workers (ages 18-24) for the week. Our Task: to attack Week 2 of a 2-Week Blitz Build of two one-story, three bedroom homes, just one door away from each other on Fifteenth Street in Lake Charles. Framed up by the volunteers of Week 1, the houses were ready for us to apply the walls and roof sheeting, roof paper and shingles, the Tyvekmoisture seal wrap of the entire house, the siding and soffit, and to install windows and doors. Electrical wiring was "pulled" and the bathtubs set in place. Just imagine the sounds of the moaning and groaning after the first day or two from 26 volunteers whose normal routine does not include lifting, scaling ladders, crawling on roofs and scaffolding or toting lumber and supplies around! We were happy and pleased to actually meet the families who would be moving into these homes who were there putting in their "sweat equity": John and Marlene Duplechain and their young child, and Sheila Foxall and her daughter. (By the way, Sheila makes a "mean" Louisiana red beans and rice dish and a red hot Cajun spaghetti which she served our whole work team for lunch on consecutive days.) Rev. Carl Zerweck, the director of the office of Disciples Volunteering, supervised the project (hands on) all week and his cheerful and able wife Robin made sure we never went hungry by preparing hearty and delicious food for our breakfast and dinner meals. The First Christian Church of Lake Charles is serving as a "mission station" generously opening its facilities to house the workers in their efforts. The 26 volunteers from far and near became a real community during the week as they shared sleeping arrangements and bathrooms and as they joined together in evening devotions and discussions. The game of Mexican Train dominated the evening recreation time for some of the group before a usual early "lights out". (After all, we were up at 6:00 a.m. with breakfast at 7:00 before reporting to our worksite at 7:30 a.m.) No, we were sad that we were not able to complete the houses entirely before the Sat. dedication, but the local Habitat volunteers would wrap up what remained to be

Continued on next column

The "Forgotten Victims" of Hurricane Rita con't finished. And we all said our goodbye's to the new friends we had made and returned home thankful for a week of unusually good weather and feeling blessed and thankful that we could make our small contribution to show "Disciples care" to an area that is still feeling somewhat overlooked and forgotten. Carl Zerweck will be visiting Ohio May 6-8, and that he would be available to speak in a church on Sunday, May 6 and on Monday (May 7) to meet with another group or two on to offer a report of the work Disciples have been doing in the Gulf area in rebuilding following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.



God!! Can You Hear Me Now?

Theme for the 2007 OWM Convocation

We are pleased to announce that the Ohio Women's Ministries 2007 Convocation will be held on Saturday, April 21, 2007 at Gender Road Christian Church. Last year almost 150

women from all over Ohio gathered for an inspiring day of spiritual renewal and fellowship. This year's keynote speaker is Rev. Mary Jo Bray. Workshops will focus on communication; "Listening to God and One Another", effective prayer, how to apply spiritual principles for healthy living, leadership, and transformation. Registration begins January 1, 2007. The discounted cost of registration is \$40 if received by March 16, 2007. Cost of registration goes up to \$50 if received between March 17 and April 14, 2007. Registrations received April 15 to April 21, 2007 will be \$60. Registration for youth ages 5-17 is \$10 and childcare is free for children under the age of five.

The Convocation registration forms were mailed in December 2006, and full details of the 2007 Convocation will be posted to the Christian Church in Ohio website soon after.

Twenty rooms have been reserved at the AmeriHost Inn, 6323 Prentiss School Drive, Canal Winchester, OH. A non-smoking room with double bed is \$62.00 plus tax. For reservations, contact AmeriHost at (614) 834-4793 or 1-800-434-5800. Please specify your reservation is for the southeast AmeriHost Inn located on Prentiss School Drive.

A limited number of partial scholarships are available if received by March 16, 2007.

Deadline for entries into the March/April issue of

The Buckeye Disciple

Due in the Regional Church Office by February 1, 2006



Licensed Minister Academy

Once again, our Ohio Licensed Minister Academy had a banner year with a record enrollment of 22 students

who took our Fall courses "Survey of the Bible" and "The Practice of Ministry." Greg Widener and Jeff Gill were the instructors for the 2006 courses. Wayne Enders (Ravenna) took this photo (so he is not pictured) but moving from left to right are: J.W. Young (Zanesville), Mack and Sylvia Sauer (Carrolton), Brad Ellis (Kenton), Tom Hanning (Millfield), Joseph Knipp (Carrolton), Elsie Mohr (Garfield Heights), David Tiesort (West Chester), Phillip Shafer (Carrolton), Don Newlon (Bellefontaine), Janis Elliot (Portsmouth), Greg Widener, (Columbus), Robert Esden, (Columbus), Lawrence Nielson, (Harrison), David Post (Canfield), Michelle Brown (Cleveland), Marty Eble (Eastlake), Dean Harris (St. Louisville), Paul Bomeli, (Dublin), and Bruce Botkin, (Sidney). The Ohio Licensed Academy is doing "a new thing" for 2007! For the first time in our history we have scheduled spring classes, and two very fine courses are lined up. Our Regional Pastor, Bill Edwards will teach "Evangelism" on April 14th and 21st at East Columbus Christian Church. David Odell Scott will teach "Corinthians" at Ledgewood Christian Church May 19th and June 2nd. Mark your calendars NOW!

NORTHWEST CHRISTIAN CHURCH CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Northwest Christian Church in Columbus, the Reverend Cynthia N. Adcock and the Reverend Jeffrey A. Wheeler, co-pastors, will be celebrating 50 years of ministry on May 20, 2007 and all friends and former members are invited to visit during this milestone year. "Imagine: Remembrance and Renewal" is the anniversary theme that will be carried throughout the year with several exciting events planned for everyone to attend. Northwest's 2007 Chalice Arts Series will be dedicated to the church's 50th anniversary beginning with the January 26 "Contemporary Gospel" and the February 25, well-known and well-loved, "Old Time Religion" programs. "Remembrance and Renewal Sunday" will be held on May 20 with Dr. Glenn Thomas Carson, President of the Disciples Historical Society speaking in worship which will be followed by a celebratory banquet in Fellowship Hall. On Thanksgiving Sunday, November 18, Northwest's 50th anniversary will be celebrated in worship with an "Imagine" fellowship brunch and church historical skit afterwards. Please visit the church website at www.northwestchristian.org to see all the anniversary year's planned events. You may contact Northwest Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 1340 Fishinger Road, Columbus, Ohio 43221-2398 by phone 614/457-6290, fax 614/457-1520 or e-mail office@northwestchristian.org.

Check us out on the Web

Find out what's going on around the region, register for events, view pictures, and so much more!

www.ccinoh.org



"Who is my neighbor?" Week of Compassion, February 18-25

In a world where technology allows us to connect with neighbors across the world in a matter of moments and yet we often remain

strangers to those living right next door, how do we answer the gospel's timeless question, "Who is my neighbor?" For over six decades, our Week of Compassion offering has given Disciples the opportunity to become participants in humanitarian work that expresses God's love to neighbors far and wide — not just to victims of the major disasters that saturate the media, but to victims of "disasters" that repeat themselves each and every day: disasters of extreme poverty and chronic hunger, of terminally unclean water and nonexistent sanitation, of terrorizing war and devastating loss. Gifts to Week of Compassion support programs that help our neighbors around the world build lives and communities that are healthy, safe and sustainable, making a huge difference in the lives of millions of families —

- creating sustainable sources of income for rural villages
- providing women micro-credit to start poverty-escaping businesses
- teaching trades and job skills to people maimed by landmines
- offering children a chance to survive past the age of five and go to school
- helping rebuild communities ravaged by natural disasters
- and so much more.

Week of Compassion gives each of us an opportunity to be the Good Samaritan to thousands of our neighbors. Through our gifts, we show the kindness, compassion and mercy to which Jesus calls us. This year we will celebrate our Week of Compassion special offering on February 18 and 25. When Jesus responded to the question, "Who is my neighbor?" he set a standard that wasn't easy to meet. By participating in Week of Compassion, your congregation 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 our neighbors around the world. And in so doing, we make a difference in our own. For more information on how your gifts to Week of Compassion help respond to our neighbors both near and far, please visit our website: Week of Compassion: Around the World, Around the Year

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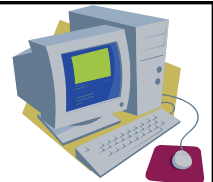


That They May Be One

January 15, 2007 marks the 21st anniversary celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and the fifth anniversary of Churches Uniting in Christ (CUIC). On January 21, 2002 leaders representing 10 denominations assembled in Memphis, Tenn. at the historic Lorraine Motel, stood and viewed the site where the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was slain on April 4, 1968. They gathered to sign an agreement committing the members and partners in mission of CUIC to express their unity in Christ by living more closely together and working together to combat racism in the church and in society. In their statement the Heads of Communion affirmed that we must hold a common vision for God's Beloved Community that is a community "committed to eradicating racism and making no peace with oppression." Growing out of the 40-year history of the Consultation on Church Union, the members of CUIC chose this sacred site of the National Civil Rights Museum to honor the prophetic vision for which Martin Luther King, Jr. lived, worked, and died. They pledged themselves "to be the church of Jesus Christ proclaiming and doing justice, and seeking peace." The members of CUIC are called to be ambassadors of reconciliation in a world sold on the idolatries of privilege and racial exclusivity that continue to divide and alienate the family of God, denying the truth that we are all created in the image of the one God. Common witness and service are two marks of our unity in Christ. Our partnership in CUIC recognizes that one barrier to the expression of unity in the Christian family is the continuing reality of racism in the church and in the human community. The vision of CUIC is that authentic unity may be born in the struggle for racial justice, and that our collective prophetic witness against injustice and oppression in all forms is a measure of our faithfulness to the Gospel. Religious and secular reports remind us that there is still much to be done to dismantle and eradicate racism. We are hopeful that our efforts will not be in vain. We believe in the words of Martin Luther King, Jr. "There is a power in love that our world has not discovered yet."



Save a Tree...Get
The Buckeye Disciple
On the Web!



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