



The Buckeye Disciple Christian Church in Ohio

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

A covenant network of congregations in mission

October - December 2010

Volume 19, Number 4



Regional Assembly

If you have not already made the decision to attend Regional Assembly, please prayerfully consider it now. Along with the many opportunities for growth, Regional Assembly offers an exciting time to renew old friendships and meet other fellow Disciples to hear about their churches are doing to clothe themselves in Love. Bring your youth and families as there is exciting programming for all ages!

Check out the Region's website for the most recent information and then to register! www.ccinoh.org

Christmas Offering

By Rev. Kevin Phipps

I have been reading with great interest that some mega-churches have decided the best way for them to grow and reach more people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ is not by expanding in their single location but by forming 'satellite' churches in neighboring communities. In one community, a congregation has purchased an abandoned shopping center to nest a new church. Those reports got me to thinking – what would happen if we understood ourselves as the Christian Church in Ohio to be one church with many locations? What we'd find is that we have more than 180 locations and in excess of 44,000 members. Our annual budget would be slightly over \$27-million dollars. Now that's a big church!!!

There are so many ways we live out our call as one church – the amazing ministry done at Camp Christian, the work of the Ohio Men's and Women's ministries, Advance Camp, the Commission on the Ministry, Reconciliation, Week of Compassion, and Regional and General Assemblies to name just a few. And maybe the best way we understand ourselves to be one church with many locations is through the ministry done on all of our behalf by our regional staff. The pastoral staff with their knowledge, caring, guiding spirit in helping congregations wherever they are on the journey of being the church God wills us to be. The support staff in keeping all the papers flowing, the pennies counted, and always ready to answer the phone with a cheerful 'hello.' The staff, both paid and volunteer, at Camp Christian who reach literally hundreds of people each and every

Continue in the next column

Christmas Offering continued

season with the glorious good news of what God is doing in Christ Jesus.

In the Christian Church in Ohio we witness an amazing example of God's gifts to us. How will we respond to those gifts?? It is our prayer that we will respond generously in our gifts to the Christmas offering that supports the Regional Church. However your congregation receives the offering – whether as part of regular worship, during a special service, or without much fanfare – we pray that you respond in gratitude for all the ways this church has touched peoples lives. You know how much we've been given in this magnificent church, so much larger and richer than we could imagine and now is an opportunity for us to give. Thank you for your ongoing support of the Christian Church in Ohio.

God so loved...



that God

Gave.

**Your Christmas Offering Supports
The Ministries of Your Regional Church**

Nurturing relationships, connecting congregations to God's mission



Spiritual Insights Rev. Dr. William H. Edwards

The biblical text for the 2010 Christmas offering is a great passage of Scripture. For in John 3:16 we find these words, which are the meat and meaning of the whole Bible, *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."*

We serve a God who gave. God so loved the world that he gave. God caused a portion of God's self to become flesh, and heaven announced that his name should be called Jesus. Yes, God so loved, and so gave, that whosoever believes, even now, in God's way of giving and loving, shall discover a quality of life that shall not perish.

However, God calls us to make a faithful and loving response to God's love for us. When we receive God's love, we will discover that it is shaped like a cross, with the vertical beam that reaches up to God and gets grace and power, and with the horizontal arms it shares that power and that love and that joy all around. That is why God's love is demonstrated in the drama of the cross.

Because God so loved the world, God has called us through Christ's church to reach out to enhance the life of the world around us. Because we believe that everyone matters to God and therefore everyone matters to us.

That's why we are to pay a tithe and bring an offering to the church, not to pay God for God's blessings, but to say thank you to the Lord by giving generously to Christ's church. When I give, I say thank you, Lord, for your countless blessings. Thank you, Lord, for sweet Communion, for pardon, for your presence, for your power. Thank you, Lord, for providing for all of my needs. Thank you, Lord, for allowing me to serve you as a Christian Steward. Most of all, thank you, Lord, for Jesus Christ, my Redeemer. God, who is a God of love, is waiting for our loving response.

When we are able to receive God's love, our loving response is to live a life style of love. For the love we pay to others represents the love we owe to God, the respect we pay to others is a genuine respect for the holiness of God present in God's people.

There is a contemporary praise song that really captures this for me. The words are:

How can I say that I love the Lord,
Who I never ever seen before.
And forget to say that I love the one,
Who I walk beside each and every day
How can I look upon your face,
And ignore God's love, you I must embrace
You're my brother,
You're my sister,
And I love you with the love of the Lord

Love for the Lord means love also for God people, and God's people include all the people of the world.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life". - John 3:16

Continued in next column

Spiritual Insights Continued

During the upcoming Advent/Christmas season, we are given another opportunity to realize our Lord Jesus Christ's presence; to celebrate the gift of his birth to this world; to keep alive the sense of wonder and mystery of Christmas; to appreciate the love of God as told in the Christmas story.

Across the life of the Christian Church in Ohio, there are exciting stories of God's love about new congregations being established, existing congregations being renewed and transformed, and leaders equipped for ministry. Great things are taking place as we live a lifestyle of love by joining God in God's mission for the sake of the world. In this holy season let us reach out to those broken lives that feel no love. Let us be a beacon of light that will lead them to God's gift of love.

Together, we can answer God's call to be a "covenant network of congregations in mission" by supporting current and future ministries through the annual Christmas Offering.

Please allow me to also use this opportunity to express deep appreciation for all the ways you support God's work in the Regional Church, be it through prayer, leadership and attendance at regional events, or financial offerings. Many people lives have been blessed with the love of God through your support of the Christian Church in Ohio.

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

At the Quadrennial Assembly this past June, high school age young women from regions throughout the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) wearing t-shirts, pajama bottoms and sneakers sang songs early in the morning as women waited for the plenary hall doors to open. They were still singing in the evening as weary women, after a day of speeches, presentations, workshops, and meals waited for an open spot in one of the crowded elevators. They also moved carts full of health and hygiene kits, helped to direct people to the many places they needed to be, and they participated in worship. They volunteered their time as stewards and the attendees at Quadrennial were blessed by their enthusiasm and their helpfulness.

On a regular basis, women and men in the Christian Church in Ohio give of themselves. They serve at church camp, on Regional committees and commissions, and task forces. They sing in church choirs, serve on congregational boards, bring delicious food to potlucks, and communion to the homebound. They preach every Sunday, sit vigil with families in hospitals, celebrate and mourn with people whom they are called to serve.

Why? They do it because they heard a great love story one day. It was the story of God's love for the world, a love so deep, and wide, and high that it embraces the whole world. God gave to us, our lives, our hope, our church, a Savior. We give because God still gives so much to us. We can do nothing else in response to God's great love for us.

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

ccio@ccinoh.org



Message from Regional Associate Pastor, Rev. Stephen Bentley

As I recall the presents I received in Christmases past they all become a blur. I really can only remember one present with specificity. It was the Christmas of 1974 the year of the gas embargo and money was tight. I would be graduating from high school the next June. As we went downstairs to see all of our presents it was noticeably more sparse than in previous years. There were a few presents to open but mostly underwear and other necessities. But there were these envelopes stuffed in the Christmas Tree with each of our kids names on them. When I opened my it said, "Coupon good for on Canoe Trip with Dad." As I graduated by high school that year I cashed it in. Dad and I traveled from our home in Beavercreek, OH to Louisville, KY in our family canoe. That trip holds lots of memories but the best one is of the LOVE of my Father. No, my Graduation/Christmas present was not a new car or some other object. My present was 1 week of undivided attention from my Dad. His time was the most expensive gift he could have given me and it was just what I needed as I was about to enter into the world on my own. That gift of his presence was the best gift I have ever received and certainly the one I cherish the most.

Our theme for this year's Christmas Offering is so appropriate, "For God so Loved . . . that he gave." God so loves us that God did not just give us objects: the world, beauty, rain, sunshine, etc. God loved us so much as to give us God very presence in Jesus Christ. God gave God's self. There is no better gift than the gift of self. As you look at what you might give for the ministry of the Regional Church in your Christmas offering, remember that the best gift you can give is the gift of yourself. Your gifts through your Christmas Offering will continue the ministry of Regional Church as we work with congregations in the search and call process and those that are struggling with issues of transformation. Your gift of self supports our Youth ministries of Camp Christian and Cleveland Christian Home. Your gift of self through your Christmas Offering, spreads your presence beyond the local church to our family of Christian Church in Ohio churches and all the ministry we share together. Don't just stop at giving your presence to the Regional Church in our Christmas Offering, but give your presence in the many ministry opportunities that are offered throughout the year. May you know the Love of God through God's presence with us, Emmanuel, this season.

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

Wanted: A Glimpse of Heaven's Love

There you are standing in yet another line of Christmas shoppers, dutifully fulfilling your annual task of buying gifts. Not much in the "Christmas Spirit", you remove some money from your pocket, eager to make your purchase and get out of the rush. Then.... something happens ... a little boy, tattered and torn, dirty from head to toe and holding a pair of shoes, turns to you, looks up and says ...

*"Sir, I want to buy these shoes for my mama, please
It's Christmas Eve and these shoes are just her size*

Could you hurry please, Daddy says there's not much time

You see she's been sick for quite a while

And I know these shoes would make her smile

And I want her to look beautiful if Mama meets Jesus tonight."

excerpt from The Christmas Shoes by Newsong)

Even the heart of the most wretched Scrooge would surely melt under these circumstances. What is apparent in the song is that the little boy had accepted the fact that his mom was dying, he simply wanted her to look her very best if she met Jesus that night. The little boy never directly asks the man to help him pay for the shoes, he simply states his case ... tells his story. The heart of the shopper was touched and in that instant the relationship between the boy and the shopper and even the boy's mother, became one of positive eternal consequence. Blessings for all!

In much the same way as the shopper, God saw our need. Motivated by grace and mercy God offered to humankind, the greatest gift of all, redemption through the blood of Jesus, God's only begotten Son. God continues to give of God's own self to us today through forgiveness, talents and gifts to perform our jobs, peace, love, good health, children, blessings too numerous to count. Giving began with God!

The Epiphany experienced by the shopper in the song was expressed in this way...

*"I knew I'd caught a glimpse of heaven's love
As he [the boy] thanked me and ran out
I knew that God had sent that little boy
To remind me just what Christmas is all about!"*

Each of us can catch "a glimpse of heaven's love" when we begin to give generously in response to Christ's gift to us. There are many opportunities to support the mission and ministries of our Regional Church. These ministries are vital to Disciples of all ages as we strive to strengthen our relationship with Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

In what subtle way is God touching your heart to give this Christmas? How does the giving nature of God inspire you to give? "Catch a glimpse of heaven's love" ... *GIVE!*

Deadline for entries into the Jan - Mar issue of
The Buckeye Disciple
Due in the Regional Church Office by
December 1, 2010
Submitting via email is preferred ccio@ccinoh.org

Regional Calendar**October**

- 5 Executive Committee Meeting @ RCO 9:30am
 7 Regional Assembly Team Conference Call 10:00am
 9 Cleveland Christian Home Work Day
 9 Ohio Disciples Men's Commission @ RCO 10:00am
 *15-16 **Regional Assembly "One Body: Clothed in Love"**
<http://www.ccinoh.org/pages/2010regionalassembly.aspx>
 *18-22 Spiritual Life Silent Retreat @ Camp Christian
 19 Commission on Ministry @ Northwest CC, Columbus
 20 Personnel Committee Conference Call – 1:30pm
 21 Regional Assembly Team Conference Call – 1:00pm
 *25 Workshop for Interim Ministers @
 Dublin Community Church, Dublin Ohio 9:30am
 26 Ohio Disciples Extension Corporation @ RCO 10am
 27 Anti Racism Training Workshop @ Camp Christian
 28 Sexual Ethics Training Workshop @ Camp Christian

November

- 5-6 Regional Church Council Meeting @ Camp Christian
 9 Ohio Disciples Outreach Meeting @ RCO 10:00am
 13 Chi Rho Commission Meeting @ RCO 10:00am
 13 Ohio Disciples Men's Commission @ RCO 10:00am
 *13-14 Children, Worship, & Wonder in Lexington KY
 16 Commission on Ministry @ Northwest CC, Columbus
 17 Personnel Committee Meeting @ RCO 10:00am
 19-21 CYF Leadership Training – For Conference Officers/
 Alternates & State Officers

25-26 Thanksgiving, RCO Closed

December

- 1 **Deadline for entries into The Buckeye Disciple**
 8 RCO Staff Meeting & Christmas Celebration
 10-11 Women's Advent Retreat @ Camp Christian
 24 **Christmas Eve, RCO Closed**
 31 **New Years Day Observed, RCO Closed**
 31-Jan 2 Advance Ministries Winter Retreat @ Camp Christian

January 2011

- 18 Commission on Ministry @ RCO
 24-25 Ohio Ministries Convocation in Columbus

February

- 15 Commission on Ministry @ Northwest CC, Columbus
 15-17 Spiritual Life Retreat for Pastors @ Camp Christian
(Spouses of Pastors & Retired Pastors are also invited)
 25 - United Nations Seminar for 11th & 12th grade youth in
 March 5 New York City & Washington D.C.

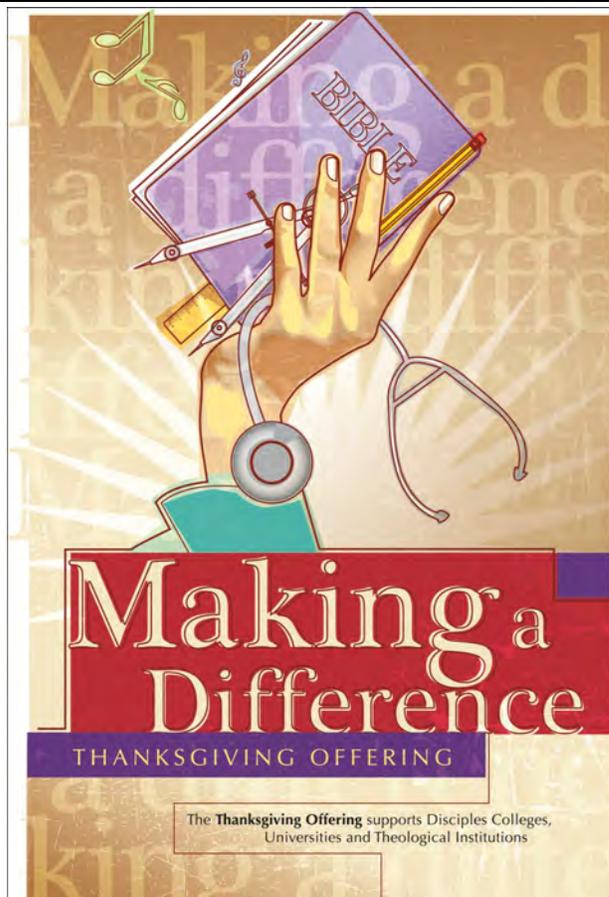
March

- 15 Commission on Ministry @ Northwest CC, Columbus
 18-20 State Youth Convention @ Bethany College
 28 Interim Ministers Spring Workshop @ Camp Christian

April

- 16 Women's Convocation @ Gender Road CC
 19 Commission on Ministry @ Northwest CC, Columbus
 22 **Good Friday, RCO Closed**
 24 **Easter Sunday**

RCO = Regional Church Office
 * Online Registration is now available

**Thanksgiving Offering****Campus Ministry:****A vital part of our outreach**

I'm a Campus Minister at the Campus Ministry Center at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. So let's just say that I'm probably prejudiced. Our young people go to many secular institutions, and the only contact they usually have is with para-church groups or no religious contact at all. We support Higher Education ministry by giving to the **Thanksgiving Offering**. In Ohio, we support Ohio Campus Ministries which in turn supports over 15 protestant campus ministries.

These ministries offer professional pastors and ministries to students who are at a critical time in their lives when they have a lot of questions, and easy answers are not going to be helpful. These ministries are welcoming places where our young people can explore, question, serve and grow spiritually in a Christian atmosphere which allows them to be more able to live and be faithful in this ever more diverse world.

Funding has always been and is now more than ever a vital part of keeping these ministries in service to our students and to the many students who will discover Christ for the first time. Higher Education and Religion complement each other as these ministries represent an open faith which follows Christ, seeks greater understanding, and welcomes all in his name. Your Dollars accomplish a lot in the Thanksgiving Offering!

Rev. Harry Bolen, Executive Director
 Campus Ministry Center/Lights on Campus
 At Miami University in Oxford, Ohio

Receiving applications

Disciples Benevolent Services (DBS) is receiving applications for the position of President and Chief Executive Officer. The DBS Board of Trustees seeks a transformational leader, who will work closely with the board to refine and implement an overall vision for the organization. Ideal candidates will have deep familiarity with, commitment to, and working knowledge of the culture and ethos of the Disciples of Christ, not only at the individual congregation level, but also more widely in terms of regional and general church leadership. The ideal candidate will be able to grow and develop the organization within the guidelines of its mission statement. That person also should be able to build and maintain a positive image and reality for the DBS by bringing congregations into the process of developing new ministries and keeping them included in and energized by the effort. DBS is based in Maryland Heights, Mo., outside of St. Louis. Complete information about the position can be found at: www.nbacares.org/employment.html



Come Represent Camp Christian and Advance Conference at Regional Assembly! October 15-16, 2010 - Columbus Marriott Northwest

Are you a young adult between the ages of 18 and 29? If so, we would like to invite you to represent young adults in Ohio at the 2010 Regional Assembly as a part of the Advance Conference Delegation. Those that are members of a Disciples of Christ congregation in Ohio are probably familiar with the Chi Rho and CYF summer camps. Advance conference is the young adult ministry for the Christian Church in Ohio. Whether you just graduated from CYF in August, or you've been coming to Advance Conference retreats for years, or even if you've never been to Camp Christian we would love for you to join us as we celebrate the transforming work God is doing in our lives as people of faith through the mission and ministry of our congregations.

Going to Regional Assembly can also serve to bridge the gap between the Camp Christian (Advance Conference) Summer and Winter retreats for those that are wishing to strength their bonds with God and stay in contact with their Camp Christian friends.

Advance Conference has been asked to represent young adults at a conversation table and serve as deacons at the closing service and we would love for as many young adults as possible to take part in these activities with us.

To register and/or find out more information about the 2010 Regional Assembly please visit <http://www.ccinoh.org/pages/2010regionalassembly.aspx>

To find out more information about Advance Conference please visit <http://advanceministry.org/>

We hope to see you there,

Your 2010-2011 Advance Conference Officers,
Miguel Taveras, Erin McKinney, & Alan Dicken

United Nations Seminar 2011

(February 25- March 5)

"A Once In A Lifetime Opportunity"

"It was an awesome adventure." "I went 12 years ago, and I'm still in touch with the friends I made." "It changed how I see the world." "I'm doing what I do today, because of what I experienced on the UN Seminar." "I learned that faith has a place in government decision making."

These are just a few of the comments made by the thousand or more young adults who have had the opportunity to be a part of the United Nations International Affairs Seminar Tour sponsored by the Christian Church in Ohio since the early 1960's. Better known by its short title, "UN Seminar", it is organized every two years to enable junior and senior high school students from Disciples congregation around Ohio to experience how faith and government are linked together.

The next UN Seminar tour will be held February 25th - March 5th, 2011. Our theme will focus on Immigrants, Immigration, and Diversity. Pray about how this could be a "Once in a Lifetime Opportunity" for you.

Contact your Pastor, Youth Leader, or the Christian Church in Ohio (www.ccinoh.org) for more details.

Attention Youth & Youth Leaders!

SAVE THE DATE

STATE YOUTH CONVENTION

MARCH 18 - 20, 2011

BETHANY COLLEGE

Spiritual Life Retreat

Dreams, Divinity's Language: a Silent Retreat

October 18-22, 2010

Camp Christian

Retreat Leader: Reverend Carol P. Vaccariello D. Min, LPC



Begins on October 18th, Monday at 1:00 p.m. with registration. Closing will be at noon on October 22th, Friday. Open to Clergy, Spiritual Leaders, and ANYONE that the Spirits urges to attend. Included in the \$295 fee: Overnight accommodations at the Herald B. Monroe Lodge for four nights. All meals (12 total) beginning with dinner on Monday and ending with a box lunch on Friday for those who want to leave immediately after the closing ritual. One private Spiritual Direction Session is included in your registration fee. This is a \$25.00 value. Additional Sessions are available throughout the week for \$25.00 per half hour. There is so much more that cannot be shared in words, but only through experience.

For more information go to <http://www.ccinoh.org/ministries/spirituallife.aspx>

Unexpected Guests at the Table: Interfaith Storytelling event

Featuring Mr. George Kelley of Congregation Beth-El Zedeck, Dr. Marti Steussy of Christian Theological Seminary, and Mr. Khabir Shareef of Storyteller's Drum Inc.

Wednesday, November 10, 2010 - 6:30 pm

Shelton Auditorium, Christian Theological Seminary
Cost: FREE & open to the public; suggested donation of a canned good or a monetary donation to Gleaners Food Bank

This program has been made possible through a matching grant from the Indiana Humanities Council in cooperation with the National Endowment for the Arts.

Hear traditional and contemporary stories about feeding the hungry from Islamic, Jewish, and Christian traditions. Taking inspiration from both sacred literature and tales of hungry Hoosiers, audience members will also share their own personal experiences and connect with people involved in local hunger relief.

For more information, contact the Lifelong Theological Education office at (317) 931-4225 or LifeEd@cts.edu.

World AIDS Day December 1st 2010

HIV and AIDS need to be in our hearts and minds throughout the year. World AIDS DAY is one of the many opportunities we have to create awareness and response. The first observance of World AIDS Day was in 1988 and on the first of December. Each year since then, people, governments, corporations, churches, nonprofit organizations, and other agencies from around the globe and from all walks of life have gathered to participate in World AIDS Day events. These events help us to remember those who have died, those who are living with HIV and AIDS, those who are in the trenches of response, and all who are affected—which is all of us. One way or another we are all affected by HIV.



World AIDS Day events remind us that despite the silence, HIV has not gone away; in fact, it has increased and is increasing. Unless we work together to stop it, it will continue to claim the lives of the most vulnerable people throughout the world on a scale beyond what anyone on earth has ever experienced or imagined.

The church needs to be present on World AIDS Day, recognizing that everyday AIDS is present in the world. Receive the invitation to become involved through this special message from the Most Reverend Desmond M. Tutu, Anglican Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town:

"HIV/AIDS is devastating our communities in Southern Africa and in many other parts of the world. The Church needs to be present and to be known to be present where there is suffering, pain and despair. I pray that you will be guided by the Holy Spirit to speak the truth in love and to pour balm on wounds. May each of you bring the light of Christ and the love of God to your neighbors so you will bring hope and healing to a broken world."

Living With Loss During the Holidays

November 20 - Christian Theological Seminary

In this workshop for caregivers, Ministers, congregational leaders, social workers, and anyone seeking continuing education or growth during difficult times, Dr. Moseley offers perspective on the challenge of living with loss during the holidays. Loss is a constant, but its pain intensifies during this season of festivities. Neither families nor congregations are immune. Moseley helps participants explore responses they can make to their own grief as well as to that of loved ones, neighbors and clients. By attending to pain and emptiness at this significant time of year, learn to explore the possibilities for your own life as well as for those in your community.

Simple Gifts

Serve God with gladness! Come into God's presence with singing! Psalm 100:2

When the two of us headed to China for the first time, in 2006, we understood it would likely be for one year and possibly two. As it turned out, we lived and worked in China for four years, and we can say with all our hearts that we have been deeply blessed! It is our hope that we too have been a blessing.

We spent three years as visiting professors at the Nanjing Union Theological Seminary, then last year, took on new assignments, this time in the magnificent city of Shanghai at Shanghai University and at the YMCA. Our work in Shanghai had one aspect that was very different from that at the Nanjing Seminary; most of our students and the people we interacted with were non-Christians and even atheists. In most cases it was not that they had chosen to be "against" religion but only that they did not have a religion! Learning this brought immediately to my mind an old hymn we used to sing as children in Canada. Its second verse went like this.

How kind was our savior to bid these children welcome.

*But there are many thousands who have never heard His name.
The Bible they have never read. They know not that the Savior said:
"Suffer little children to come unto me."*

In Shanghai, we were living among the people, and seeing them as gentle, kind and giving - but without any religion, many never having heard the name of Jesus. We were not permitted to proselytize, as the Chinese government does not allow it. Still, there was no reason why could not talk about Christianity and, maybe even more importantly, to try to model in as simple and sincere a way as possible just how a Christian behaves. It was easy to love and serve the Chinese people, as they were always so good to us. This gave us pause to think about who we are and what we need to do as Christians in the world.

Let us pray, that in this season of giving we remember what a blessing each individual gift of service and love is to others.

Doreen & Michael McFarlane served as visiting professors at the Nanjing Union Theological Seminary. Doreen taught Biblical Hebrew, Greek, & Biblical interpretation. Michael served as choir director and taught western sacred music. Later, in Shanghai as visiting professor in the history department of the Shanghai University, teaching American Culture and American Religion, and Michael as choir director and concert coordinator of a branch of the Shanghai YMCA.



Alternative Christmas Ideas for Churches

Include Global Ministries Alternative Christmas in your congregation's preparations for celebration of Advent and Christmas!



Global Ministries will send you a **display, a suggested project list, and information on the listed projects** for your Alternative Christmas giving table. Or, if you wish to promote a particular Global Ministries project from the list or from our website, we will customize your display with information on that particular project. We also **will provide Global Ministries Christmas cards** in order for the Givers to notify their honorees of their Alternative Christmas gift. We also will send **information forms for those wanting our office in Indianapolis to notify recipients of Alternative Christmas gifts** given in their honor. Once you set up a table with these items you are all set to go!

If your activity encourages individuals to give Alternative Christmas gifts in honor of loved ones, they may select from our list of [suggested projects for Christmas 2010](#), or you may develop your own list of projects from those that are posted on our website www.globalministries.org in the section "Special Projects" under each geographic Mission Area.

Each Giver should give you a check written to Global Ministries, with the project or projects to be supported and "Alternative Christmas" on the memo line. Global Ministries Christmas Cards will be provided for gift givers to personalize and give to the gift recipient if they wish. Or, if the Giver prefers, s/he should fill out the information form telling us who is the recipient of their Alternative Christmas gift (you should send that to us with the check) and our office will notify the honoree with a Global Ministries Christmas card and photo of the project sent out from Indianapolis.

You, as the host, should collect the checks and information cards and send them directly to:

Global Ministries
Office of Resource Development
P.O. Box 1986
Indianapolis, IN 46206

After receiving your packet of checks and information cards, Global Ministries will:

- Send a thank-you letter and charitable gift receipt to each shopper.
- Send out notification cards if the donor desires.

All gifts to Global Ministries, including those for Alternative Christmas, are sent in their entirety to international partners for the designated purpose. No administrative fees are taken from gifts such as these because of the faithful giving from local churches to Our Church's Wider Mission (UCC) and the Disciples Mission Fund.

For More Information contact Sarah Riester at 317-713-2564 or sriester@dom.disciples.org

65th Ordination Anniversary

Lakewood Christian Church in Cleveland recognized Reverend Albert Kean for his 65th anniversary of his ordination. The service was on Aug 29th. There were congratulatory letters from Regional Associate Pastor Rev. Dr. LaTaunya Bynum, and General Minister & President Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins. Thank You Rev. Kean for all your years of service!!

New Orleans Mission Trip

The work in New Orleans due to Hurricane Katrina is far from done. It has been estimated that there is still another 5 to 10 years of work to be done. To continue our response to the need, another mission trip is being planned to New Orleans. The trip is scheduled for Nov. 13th to 20th.

The registration cost is \$125. This will cover the cost of staying at Westside Mission Station (\$75) and the cost of food while we are at the Mission Station (\$50). This registration fee is due no later than Oct. 15th. If you need to cancel your registration, a full refund will be given. Jim Rivers and John Longard (Pastor, Disciples Christian Church, Hamilton) will co-lead this trip. Both Jim and John have made several mission trips to New Orleans. You can make out your registration check to John Longard. His address is: 2923 Jamil Ct., Hamilton, OH 45011, phone: 513-889-5087 (home); 513-863-2200 (church).

There will be other costs to this trip: Lodging (to and from New Orleans); meals while on the road; and transportation. The mission trip leaders will make the reservations for the lodging, but each person will be responsible for the cost of their room based on how many will occupy that room. We will try to work out transportation, in order to keep gasoline cost to a minimum. Each person will be responsible for working out the cost of gas with their driver. We do plan to take at least one tour of the area, which will include eating supper in the French Quarter.

Anyone and everyone are welcome to come and join this work. There will be work for everyone regardless of skills. If you have any questions, please feel free to call John.

Story Teller Training

November 13 to 14, 2010
Lexington Theological Seminary

Children Worship & Wonder offers an exciting way to approach faith formation with children. The approach recognizes children as spiritual beings who already have a relationship with God.

Through Children Worship & Wonder, children learn about God as they experience God. They hear Bible stories in a way that allows them to enter into the stories and form responses out of their own life experiences. Children Worship & Wonder can be used with children beginning at age 3. A wide age range can be grouped together in one class. It is a Montessori influenced program that often works wonders with children who have attention deficit problems.

If you wish to receive additional information on Children Worship & Wonder or if you have interest in sponsoring a Training event for your region, area, district or church, contact Kaye Edwards, kedwards@dhm.disciples.org, or Wilma Shuffitt, wshuffitt@dhm.disciples.org.





HELM assumes ownership of The Intersection

Higher Education and Leadership Ministries (HELM) has assumed ownership, management, and financial support for The Intersection, a year-old web site and social network created for members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and a larger ecumenical community. Launched in July 2009

by DisciplesWorld magazine, The Intersection provides a centralized web site for discussion, information, and resource sharing among Disciples and their congregations.

The Intersection now has a new URL <http://disciplesintersection.org/>. For more information on the transition, to learn how volunteers are crucial to the site's vitality, or to comment on the change, visit The Intersection or HELM's website, www.helmdisciples.org.

Refreshing Interim Ministry Skills Workshop

October 25 - Dublin Community Church - \$25.00

Who Should Attend?

- Interim Clergy who lead and pastor local congregations (settled pastors are also welcome to attend)
- Church executives who engage with congregations and pastors during interim periods
- Those wishing to learn more about interim ministry
- Continuing Education credits will be available

This workshop, led by the members of the Interim Ministry Working Group, will help participants:

- Explore anew the five congregational tasks during the interim ministry time
- Share interim ministry strategies that work
- Improve diagnostic skills for interim ministry
- Learn about successes with Appreciative Inquiry
- Clarify the interim minister's role in developing the congregational profile

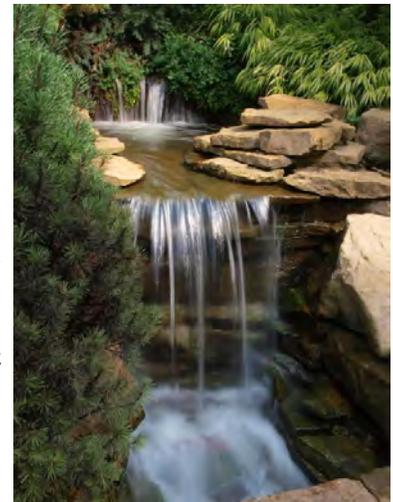
The Interim Ministry Working Group, which will lead this training event, is a joint ministry of the Ohio Conference of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church in Ohio (Disciples of Christ). Its purpose is to lift up a vision of interim ministry and its value for vital congregational life, and to support interim ministers and their work throughout Ohio.

A special afternoon session will be presented by one of our members, Rev. Sharon Keisel, entitled: "From Depression to Discernment: Tailoring Appreciative Inquiry for Spiritual Renewal" Like the current economy, many churches are depressed and do not feel hopeful about their futures. Learn how to adapt the Appreciative Inquiry model, integrating spirituality with other tools commonly used by interims, to bring organized, values-driven renewal into a variety of transitional scenarios. This presentation will include benefits realized as well as limitations experienced in actual case studies.

For more information go to www.ccinoh.org.

Photos Available

Many have probably heard that our Adventure Camp this year was a Photo Safari. We visited several different places around Central Ohio and took pictures that spoke to us of the Fruits of the Spirit. Our hope was to see the world with "New Eyes." We would like to share our best ones with the Christian Church In Ohio. You can find them at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/ccinoh> Please free to use these in your Worship Services to enhance your praise of God. If you do use them, let us know.



If you have a picture that you feel others might enjoy using in their worship service, send it to sbentley@ccinoh.org. By doing so you are declaring that you are the owner of the picture and are giving permission for its wider distribution. All of these pictures will be available free of charge to anyone willing to download them.

My hope is that you will enjoy them and that they make your Worship of God even more meaningful.

EVANGELISM in the community

Nov. 3-7, 2010
Detroit, Mich.

God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Evangelism in the Community

This Event is being designed specifically for the urban/suburban churches of **all** sizes with an emphasis on letting the smaller membership churches know that there will be workshops that will address their issues, concerns and afford tools for strengthening current and developing new ministries.

Workshops will highlight best practices of urban/suburban churches, provide usable tools that can be implemented immediately and provide engaging learning and networking opportunities for the members of your church. Facilitators are local church pastors whose congregations are engaged in successful ministries.

This conference will be empowering churches from all across the US, so that your church, your conference and your UCC can grow, **Grow, GROW** and be the Vital church God is calling it to be today and in the future.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn, network and be encouraged.

For more information about this event go to <http://www.ucc.org/evangelism/E.vents/>.



Advent Retreat for Women "Star Seekers"

December 11 - 9am to 3pm - Camp Christian
**A day of reflection, prayer,
conversation, and crafts.**

Leaders: Margot Connor & Kay McGlinchey

Cost \$35.00 *Come for a slumber party the night before
for an additional \$25.00*

Register: www.ccinoh.org

Cleveland Christian Home "Your Other Family"

By Jayne Ryan Kuroiwa

There's a child and family services organization in Cuyahoga County with your name written all over it.

The word "Christian" in Cleveland Christian Home (CCH) speaks volumes about the nearly 110 year history of partnership between CCH and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Ohio Disciples, in particular, have benefited from our services and donated generously to our mission.

The "Cleveland" part of our name is a bit misleading. Yes, our historic residential facility still sits proudly where "Mom" Thorpe once ran the Home's orphanage. But Ohio's last orphanage closed in the 1970s. Today's CCH has branched out across the county—offering family prevention services in homes, counseling in schools, in transitional homes for teens and young adults who have "aged out" of county or state assistance programs. Our big brick dormitory still operates in Cleveland, but it serves all of Ohio. When your local community cannot provide highly skilled, specialized treatment it sends boys to Cleveland Christian Home. And our satellite office in Barberton provides family preservation services for Summit County.

The Cleveland Christian Home, "Your Other Family," is a haven of hope and healing to children, youth and families struggling with mental illness, abuse and neglect. That means this year there are an extra 1500 people in your family. We couldn't do it without you.

Jayne Ryan Kuroiwa is filling in for Jim Runyon, Director of Church Relations and Major Gifts while he fights pancreatic cancer. Cards may be sent to Jim and his wife, Judy Hoffner, at 215 Harding Street SW, Massillon, Ohio 44626.

Meet Jayne at the Ohio Regional Assembly, October 15-16 where she'll kick off CCH's Partnership Challenge, a three year capital campaign. Want her to speak at your church? Phone 216-688-4140.

Thanks to all who have donated school supplies and school uniforms. Teachers from the Cleveland Public Schools operate four classrooms at our facility. That makes uniforms mandatory even on our grounds. Donate before November.

Find our Christmas Gift list, learn about volunteer opportunities, or donate online at www.cchome.org. If you are a student needing volunteer hours for school, we can help.

Want a special holiday project? Let's create a CCH staff appreciation moment.



Pension Fund increases support for Disciples seminarians

The Pension Fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is increasing its support of Disciples seminary students through its Student Gift Membership Program. Beginning with the fall 2010 academic term, the Pension Fund will launch a pilot program of interactive resources and other practical tools for successful ministry, particularly to congregations. Ministry-Life Choices for Seminarians is designed to augment the rigorous theological training provided by seminaries. The program is being developed in collaboration with Lexington Theological Seminary. Participants in the program will receive a Student Gift Membership in the Pension Plan of the Christian Church, funded by the Pension Fund's endowment earnings. Program eligibility is limited to Master of Divinity candidates who are in their second year level of study, who are under pastoral care and oversight of their region and attending at least on a half-time basis. For more information about Ministry-Life Choices for Seminarians and the 2010-11 Student Gift Membership, including qualification and enrollment, go to: www.pensionfund.org or call toll free 866-495-7322.



Journey to Bethlehem

Disciples Christian Church in Cleveland Heights, Ohio will be presenting its own Christmas gift to the community. On Sunday, December 12, 2010, continuously from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., Disciples Christian Church will proudly present Journey to Bethlehem. This walk-through drama recreates the sights and sounds of Bethlehem's marketplace at the time of Christ's birth. Before you enter Bethlehem, have an audience with King Herod and then be counted in the census. Once in Bethlehem, interact with street merchants as well as view some animals. Watch craftsmen at their work and be prodded along by Roman guards. Listen while townspeople, shepherds and other biblical characters set the stage for the discovery of the newborn baby in the stable. As you wait your turn to enter Bethlehem, you could be entertained by the No Strings Attached puppets or various music selections.



Come with your family and friends to celebrate this Christmas season by experiencing Disciples Christian Church's free gift to the community. Disciples Christian Church is located at 3663 Mayfield Road (at Yellowstone across from

Severance Town Center) in Cleveland Heights. For more information, call (216) 382-5344 or visit the church's website at www.discipleschristian.org.

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Christian Church in Ohio
Disciples of Christ
A covenant network of congregations in mission

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The Buckeye Disciple

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www.ccinoh.org

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2011 General Assembly

Saturday, July 9 - Wednesday, July 13
Bridgestone Arena - Downtown Nashville, TN



Tell It!

Repete yo! • ¡Dilo! • 들려 주어라!

Register online now at
www.disciples.org/ga

Register by April 1, 2011 for deepest discounts



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The Buckeye Disciple

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