



3663 Mayfield Road (at Yellowstone)
Cleveland Heights, OH 44121-1733
P: 216 382-5344 • F: 216 691-0771
www.discipleschristian.org
info@discipleschristian.org

Pastor Kristine Eggert
Senior Minister

William and Susan Schoeffler
Co-Directors of Music

Amy Campbell
Creative Ministries Director

Rev. Tim Fitch
Associate for Youth and Family Ministries

Judy Griffith
Financial Secretary

Toni Laurenson
Office Administrator

Issac Glover
Custodian

Adrian von der Lippe
Sunday Custodian

Inside:

- Welcome Rev. Tim Fitch to our church family!
- Leadership Commitment Sunday is August 16th
- Is God calling you to teach Sunday School??
- Growing Disciples Retreat is August 22nd
- Hymn Fest II – August 23rd

Church Life

At Yellowstone and Mayfield

Volume 65 Number 9 • August, 2009

Dear Friends,

I am looking forward to beginning a new phase of ministry with you at Disciples Christian Church. I believe each of us has a story worth telling – and here is a little of mine.

I am a graduate of Pillsbury Bible College and I earned a Masters in Theological Studies from Bethel Theological Seminary in St Paul, Minnesota. This fall I will be attending the University of Akron to start coursework for a masters' degree in Marriage and Family Therapy/ Counselling. I have over 20 of years experience working with young children and teens in churches, first as a layperson and youth sponsor, and now for eight years in paid positions within ordained ministry. I have ministerial standing with the United Church of Christ (UCC). My most recent position was with First Congregational Church of Akron, where I served as Minister of Family Life.

My approach in working with teens is spiritually focused. I have enjoyed working with all ages in the church and their families.

I have been married for 18 years to my wife Karis, who is a psychological assistant at Indian River Juvenile Center. She is also doctoral student at Fielding Graduate University studying psychology. We have four children: Sean, who is a senior in high school; Seth, who is a freshman in high school; Kaitlin, who is in sixth grade; and Michaela, who is in fourth grade.

This is a little bit of my story. I look forward to hearing some of your stories.

Pastor Tim



AT A SPECIALLY CALLED BOARD MEETING ON JULY 19TH

our Board approved the Search Committee's recommendation that the *Reverend Tim Fitch* be called to the half-time position of Associate for Youth and Family Ministries. In addition to what you already know about him from his letter on the first page, the Search Committee shares that *Tim* is spiritually focused in his approach and understanding as to how to direct and interact with teens. Though he has worked with all ages of children, his insight and direct experience with youth is impressive. His many references spoke highly of him as a youth minister, a staff member and a family man. The Search Committee believes *Tim* will bring strong leadership to our Youth and Family Ministries and will be a valuable asset to our staff and congregation. Please welcome him!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16th WILL BE LEADERSHIP COMMITMENT

SUNDAY - During worship, we will install officers, ministry leaders, and deacons as well as ordain new Elders. Leaders: Be in worship that morning to receive the prayers and encouragement of the congregation in your leadership positions for 2009-10.

GROWING DISCIPLES RETREAT!

There will be a Board Member Retreat at the College Club on Saturday, August 22nd. From 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., we will study the results of the *Growing Disciples* group meetings *Janie Morrison* and *David Eggert* have facilitated. From those results, we will work in both small teams and as a group to discern the interests and priorities of the ministries within our church.

We need a good representation of our congregation to continue this important work to grow our ministries with a more focused vision. We ask that all 2009 - 2010 Board Members contact the church office (call or email *Toni*) to let us know if you can attend. If you are not a Board Member but have an interest in participating, we welcome you to contact the office as well.

The College Club is located at 2348 Overlook Drive – just three miles from Disciples. The building is easily accessible from its parking lot and will provide a comfortable and attractive setting for our time together.

Sue Curtis, Moderator

IT IS THE TIME OF YEAR WHEN CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN

EDUCATION begins to look for men and women to teach our Sunday School age children during the 10:00 o'clock hour. At Disciples, our classes are: Kindergarten and 1st grade; 2nd and 3rd; 4th and 5th; and new this year, a 6th - 7th -8th grade class three Sundays each month (the other Sundays they will remain in church). Right now, you may choose to teach any age group during any time period: September, October, November, December, January, February, March, April, May/June. Look at your calendar – what would be the best period of time for you to lead a class? What age group do you think you would relate to best? Right now the slate is clean – email or call *Gail Ritchey* gmritchey@earthlink.net or 216-486-6954 before that changes! Teachers will gather at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, August 30th, to talk about curriculum – we hope you'll be a part of that conversation and a part of the spiritual formation of our young Disciples!

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- † *JoAnne Humbert*, home after jaw surgery – *JoAnne* came home on July 26th – just in time to celebrate with *John* their 57th anniversary
- † *Pat McNeilly*, surgery recovery
- † *Bob Yocum*, rehab at Holly Hill, Newbury
- † *Nancy Kidd*
- † *Robin Herrington-Bowen's son*, Rick
- † *Members at home: Barbara Seaver*, Summerville of Mentor; *Barbara Harold*, Homewood Residence (new address); *Margaret Beer*, Broadview Manor; *Ella Bergeon*, home; *Louise Consilio*, home; *Marian Green*, Breckinridge; *Marjia Hehr*, home; *Violet Radomilovich*, home; *Frank and Averno Jayne*, The Fairways; *Barbara Ross*, Grande Pointe, *Lois Valentine*, home.

PASTOR KRIS returns to her office on August 3rd. Following a week of vacation with *David*, she attended the Disciples' General Assembly in Indianapolis. Serving as delegates from Disciples Christian Church this year were *Pastor Kris*, *David*, *Holly Coughlin* and *Bill and Toni Laurenson*. Disciples' member *Jim Runyon* was also at the Assembly representing Cleveland Christian Home. Be certain to ask them about their experiences in Indianapolis.

THERE WAS SUCH A GOOD RESPONSE TO OUR CALL FOR FAVORITE HYMNS that we were unable to fit them all in one week's worship service. We will have another hymn-sing on August 23rd that will include the rest of your requests.

OUR ALTERNATIVE WORSHIP PLANNING TEAM will gather again on Sunday, August 23rd, to continue planning for our first worship on

Sunday, September 20th at 11:30 a.m. If you'd like to join them, you will be welcomed! Otherwise, please continue to pray and to invite your friends to join you on September 20th.

TO OUR FRIENDS AND CHURCH

FAMILY: We would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the compassion shown to our family and friends during the recent illness and death of *Mike Narten*. The many visits from *Pastor Kris*, the friends helping watch kids, the care taken by *Toni*, *Gail* and *Mrs. Gilbert* with programs/preparations, the beautiful service, the music and reception at church – we are just so grateful for it all.

Turn Again To Life

If I should die and leave you here a while,
be not like others sore undone,
who keep long vigil by the silent dust.
For my sake turn again to life and smile,
nerving thy heart and trembling hand
to do something to comfort other hearts than thine.
Complete these dear unfinished tasks
of mine.
And I perchance may therein comfort you.

Mary Lee Hall

This poem was in the program for the memorial service and so fits my Dad, turn to life and smile – always with a smile and a wink and a quick jab.
Thanks again,

Kara Ladaika and Janet Narten

"NEVER TAKE ADVANTAGE of poor and destitute laborers, whether they are fellow Israelites or foreigners living in your towns. You must pay them their wages each day before sunset because they are poor



and are counting on it. If you don't, they might cry out to the Lord against you, and it would be counted against you as sin." Deuteronomy 24.14-15

My co-workers at Christian Development Commission are worried. The Honduran government has raised the minimum wage. The previous minimum wage of 3500 L. (\$184) a month, yes A MONTH, has been raised by almost 60% to \$290 a month. The move by the president was designed to help those workers at the bottom of the economic ladder, the cleaning women, the store clerks, and the security guards. It is fair and just to raise the minimum wage. The price of food has sky-rocketed. Fuel to cook food is still extremely expensive. Even \$290 a month is a bottom of the barrel existence that allows families to just barely scrape by. But, the effects have been devastating. Small businesses can't afford the new wages and there have been massive lay offs. This morning at 7 am there were more than 500 people lined up at the door of the Labor Department, workers who had been laid off seeking the official paper from the government stating how much their employees owed them. Ten thousand are projected to be laid off from the factories in San Pedro Sula. These are not small businesses, but multinational corporations making cheap clothing for us back in the US, companies that could afford an increase in wages. I'm not sure which is more appalling, having 10,000 people laid off, or realizing that 10,000 people were making less than \$290 a month. So, my co-workers are worried. They are frightened to go to work next Monday, fearing they, too will receive the "white envelope," the Honduran equivalent of the pink slip. Christian Development Commission, a

non-profit corporation and our partner organization in Tegucigalpa, often struggles to meet payroll, to pay bills, to have enough money to provide the services we want to provide. How can they treat workers fairly, provide a living wage and still offer the services we have promised to provide? What is a faithful response to this reality? Let us pray together for God's light to shine on those faced with layoffs, and for an understanding of our own role and responsibility to strive for a just world.

Linda Hanson

2009 SEMINARIANS DELEGATION

visits Bosnia and Herzegovina - One of the aspects of Week of Compassion I'm most proud of is our commitment to accompanying people in need for the long haul. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, we responded with relief aid at the height of the war, served the thousands of displaced and those who crossed many international borders as refugees, and now invest in long-term sustainable development. As Bosnia slowly and painstakingly nears membership in the EU and things improve in this post-war, transitional society, we are excited about the progress of our efforts in the "Build a Village" program, implemented through Church World Service and our local partner organizations on the ground. But this is just one way we are contributing to the healing of this country. The eight seminarians wrote of our journey in a travelogue. It is powerful reading and invites you into the world of relief and development - this ministry that you help fund with your gifts and offerings to Week of Compassion. For that, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. We are so grateful to be partners in ministry.



Week of Compassion is sharing resources and changing lives. Thank you for sharing your resources and helping to change lives. - *Amy Gopp*

EVERYONE IS ASKING what they can do to transform their congregations. You would think there is a big secret out there that only a few experts are able to address. Find the right expert and your problems will be solved. We have become much like Dr. House on the television serial. Within a one-hour period, less commercial time, a hidden, life threatening problem is diagnosed, solved, and gone forever due to the skill of this bizarre yet gifted diagnostician. The theme seems to be: No House, No Hope!



In reality nothing is further from the truth. Granted there are those who have been working in the field of church revitalization and renewal for some time now who have developed handles to help congregations get at the issues they are facing, but there are really no experts -- save One -- because the church is not a problem to be solved. The church is a people to be "problemated." Was it not Jesus who said: "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens ..." [Matthew 11:28]? Jesus never ran away from problems and difficulties nor did he encourage his followers to do so. Instead, Jesus insisted that you are to come with your concerns, set-backs, burdens, questions, woundedness, and problems. You might even say that the church, at its very core, is called to be the problem -- to speak truth to power, to elevate the lowly and lower the elevated, to forgive the unforgivable, and call the unruly to a higher, holy consciousness.

So your congregation has problems. Praise God! You are just where God wants you to be. No more bandaged solutions will do. Why not bring all your problems to the 'save One' mentioned in the second paragraph, the real expert on congregational life. Jesus will fill the empty, straighten the crooked, brighten the darkness, and send your congregation on a journey that will problem the world with God's love. And what a welcome problem the problemated church will be. The theme will be: Only Jesus, Only Problems, Our Only Hope!

Church, you know what you have got to do. Do it!

Problematically speaking,
Ron Degges, D. H. M.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE - Thanks to all of you who either donated blood, worked at the registration, or in the canteen. We had 34 folks sign in, and we surpassed our goal of 24 by producing 26 pints of blood. Those 26 pints collected could potentially touch the lives of 78 people!!

Amy Campbell

CHANCEL FLOWER UPDATE - Just a reminder that you now have two options when placing Chancel Flowers: once you choose your week, you may opt to place either a \$30 or a \$60 arrangement. You can further suggest colors you would prefer. As always, you may place the flowers in honor or memory of someone or just "to the glory of God". Please indicate all of your choices on the Chancel Flower signup chart on the bulletin board just outside the main office door. Remember that you can take your flowers home after worship or leave them here to be reused the following week.

Gail Haverdill

SECOND QUARTER FINANCIAL STATEMENTS are ready and waiting for you on the table/chest next to the back wall of our Sanctuary area. Please take yours and check to see that your records and ours agree. Thank you.

GREG MORTENSON, AUTHOR OF THREE CUPS OF TEA, will speak at Severance Hall on August 26th at 4:30 p.m. Members of our Book Club discussed this book at one of their monthly gatherings. All are invited to hear Mr. Mortenson speak. Admission is free but you must make a reservation at 216 368-0565.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
Church Life at Yellowstone and Mayfield
3663 Mayfield Road
Cleveland Hts, OH 44121

**PERIODICALS POSTAGE
PAID AT CLEVELAND OHIO**
*CHURCH LIFE AT YELLOWSTONE
AND MAYFIELD* (USPS 111-620) is
published monthly by Disciples
Christian Church, 3663 Mayfield
Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio
44121-1733.

**[Time Sensitive Materials – This issue was
mailed on July 28, 2009]**