

Church Life

*at Yellowstone
and Mayfield*

*Photo by Ron Werman

info@discipleschristian.org

February 2011 Volume 67, Number 5

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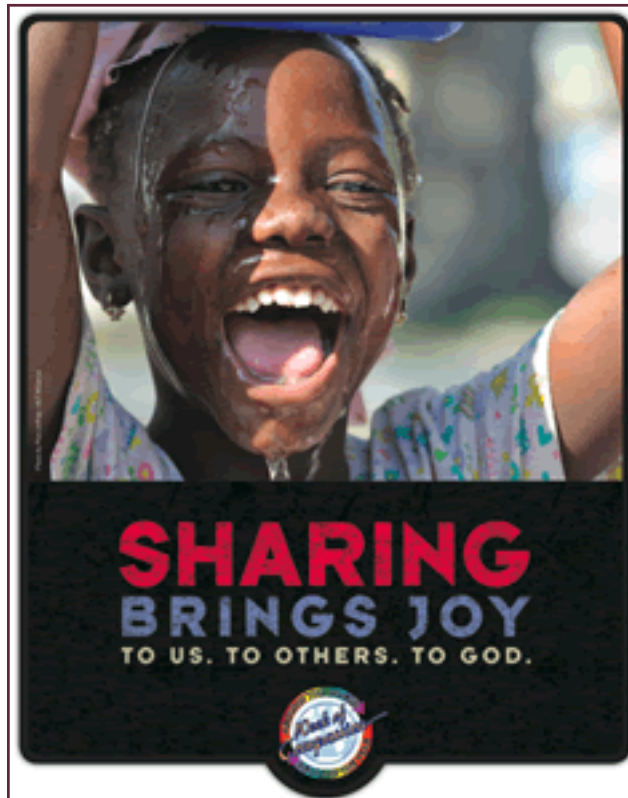
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*Sharing Brings Joy.
To Us. To Others. To God.
Week of Compassion
Special Offering
February 20-27, 2011*



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(executive director of Week Of Compassion) and page 7
for the Sharing Calendar.*



It's a couple of weeks away I know, but Happy Valentine's Day! The occasion does not warrant the same attention as Christmas or Easter certainly, but it may be one of the earliest memories for us from our childhoods. Once we entered the socialization phase of our lives in preschool, the day became a special one that usually meant a party and lots of those little envelopes to open from our friends – valentines with silly pictures and sweet sentiments. Those little candy hearts taste pretty good as I remember.

Probably not all the memories are good ones. Sometimes the occasion was marked by hurt feelings. Being left out either intentionally or unintentionally hurt. Do you remember your parents telling you that you had to include everyone? *Good for them.*

As adults, Valentine's Day takes on different levels of importance. When we are in the throes of falling in love, it comes to life. If we're involved in a nasty break-up, it may be just too painful to think about. If our children are young, we're room mothers and fathers planning parties. And, sometimes it's just another day.

But Valentine's aim at our hearts ought to be everyday and all-inclusive. No day spent without it and no one left out of it. It's not up to St. Valentine for this to happen, it's up to us:

...because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.
(Romans 5:5)

It's cold and gray outside this morning as I write, and I suspect it will be like that throughout the month of February. You're tired of shoveling snow, and you're not exactly excited about staying inside to start work on your taxes! You're just not feeling *the love*.

It's here – *that love is here* – and we hope you'll come to be part of a month of sharing love, faith, and trust with your church family. It's here where all receive an invitation to the table. It's here where all can learn how to love by being loved. It's here where we can stretch our reach beyond ourselves and around the globe – it's Week of Compassion offering time. Come, share in the love.

To paraphrase the poet, love may not make the world go round – it is what makes the ride worthwhile.

XOXOXO

Pastor Tris

Ourselfs

Meet Our Newest Member!

Christie Harrison joined Disciples Christian Church on January 16. Be sure to introduce yourself to Christie soon—here's her introduction:

I have lived in Cleveland Heights since my marriage in 1965. I am now living at the Victorian Condo, across Oakridge from Disciples, with a number of other church members. My constant companion is my little white dog Monroe. I spent many years working with the Developmentally Disabled, but have been retired for 9 years. I am impressed with the faith and good works community of Disciples, and expect to be a member for many years. My husband, Henry, is a resident of Judson Park's nursing facility.

Notes of Love and Gratitude...

From *Jean Shirey*: I am extremely grateful for the cards, personal notes and inquiries I received following the hip surgery in November. I know there were prayers that have been answered—for those alone I thank you and God! Rev. Eggert's visitations and prayers were greatly appreciated. Love to all,
Jean Shirey

Baby Shower! CWF is sponsoring a baby shower for Kim and Cy McFarlin on Sunday, February 13 after the eleven o'clock service. There will be an all church potluck and a shower of gifts for Baby McFarlin. Kim and Cy have registered at Target and Babies R Us. A main dish and dessert will be provided. Please bring a salad or a side dish and join us for a joyous welcome for Cy and Kim's baby.

Congratulations! *Thon Alicia-Burlingame* won first prize in the Lake Farm Park Quilt Show's cloth doll category. See a photo of Thon's doll, the "Sassy Siamese" on the back page! The Quilt Show runs February 11—March 23 in Kirtland.

Men of Disciples

The Disciples Men's Group will be meeting February 16 at 7:30 pm in the chapel. Please join us! All interested persons can contact Dr. R.D. Burlingame at 216-291-9539.

Our Church

Moderator's Moment

Let me start by being frank. This last board meeting included financial news that could be described by some as grim. After thoughtful and heartfelt discussion we passed a budget that included a withdrawal from our endowment of almost \$140,000.00. This is an amount which, should it continue, could mean the end of our endowment within 10 years. This is actually a story that has been writing itself for many years – we have been spared the need to make hard budgetary choices many times by the arrival of a well-timed bequest. Unfortunately, the current lack of one coupled with a drop in pledges spurred by the recession made our budget a can that could no longer be kicked down the road. I admit to being very troubled going in to that meeting. But after it was over I realized that maybe the more important question is not what we are spending, but rather what we are doing. Balanced budgets are popular these days and we could certainly make the very deep cuts necessary to balance ours, but I wonder what that would leave us for our mission as a church? There is no question that long-term planning and some hard choices are necessary, but on the other hand if the next 10 years found us spending our resources, including the endowment, to do the kind of work that does real good in the world, then it would be money well spent. Maybe the plan should be to focus harder on what we are doing, and let God decide whether we succeed as a congregation. The key of course, would be our willingness to do the work. This work of this church is not something God intends for us to leave for staff to do on our behalf. We are all called to use our time and talents to be Christ's body in the world. This may be a different place than it was 10, 20 or 50 years ago, but can we each use the next 10 years to continue and improve upon our most important tradition: being a place of abundant good works? If so, then these might be the best of times.

- *Lauren Wicks*

Elders Meeting

There will be an Elders meeting on Sunday, February 20th after the 11:00 service.

A MESSAGE FROM KATHY SMITH: Our Young Disciples have experienced a busy, after-Christmas January. Chi Rho participated in a MLK lock-in where we enjoyed viewing *Remember The Titans*, a great film for discussing and discovering some of the history of diversity in this country. We also participated in some games (the snorting one was a hit), Wii, pizza and no or very little sleep. Young Disciples participated in the Homeless Standdown, and they will be selling sub sandwiches for Super Bowl Sunday on February 6. All orders are much appreciated as the proceeds will hopefully help send some of us to General Assembly in Nashville, TN. I am very blessed to have an excellent crew of volunteers. Special thanks goes to Amy Campbell and Holly Coughlin who took over for me on January 2, so I could attend my home church to hear my daughter preach. Also, thanks goes to Kyle Anthony and Zoe Curtis who assisted me during the Chi Rho lock-in and the Ritcheys who set up Wii's and video equipment for this event. And finally, appreciation goes to Josie Keresman for teaching Young Disciples during the month of January. This church is truly blessed with a great group of young disciples and their families!

Miss Kathy

Disciples Book Club The Disciples Book Club has chosen [Cleopatra, a Life](#) as their March book. Written by Stacy Schiff, this is the true story of the woman behind the myth. Schiff has sorted through the myth and misapprehension, tossed out the chaff of gossip and delivered up a spirited life. Her book is a model of concision, and its brisk, vividly written chapters move with a swiftness the Nile never enjoyed. Our March meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 15 at 7:00 p.m. For February, we will meet on Wednesday, February 16 at 7 to discuss books our members have enjoyed recently even though they were not book discussion picks. For some enjoyable reads, check out the Barnes and Noble website for the top ten fiction and nonfiction books of 2010.

Photo Op: If you are interested in having your picture taken (or re-taken), we are currently updating the pictorial directory. We'd love to see your smiling face, so call the church office to make an appointment.

Musical Notes ♪

It's hard to believe, but it's time to start rehearsing our music for Lent and Easter. All those who enjoy singing but cannot commit to weekly rehearsals throughout the year are invited to join us for our special Lenten and Easter music. The Chancel Choir continues to rehearse at 7:30 on Thursday evenings. The Praise Ensemble rehearses at 7:00 pm on Wednesday evenings (at least for the moment). A change is actually being considered for the Connections Praise Ensemble. To encourage greater participation, if there is enough interest, we may move to "praise teams" that sing on a rotating basis. Those who want to sing every Sunday will be free to do so. For those who want to sing just occasionally, we will work around your schedule. One rehearsal a month (probably on a weekend) will prepare us for the month ahead. Our goal is to include as many folks as possible! For members of the congregation who don't want to sing in one of our choirs, but enjoy the gifts of our singers, please let us know what you like and what most enhances your worship experience. During this interim time, we hope to be doing lots of listening in order to discover how our music program can most effectively meet the needs of our musicians and our congregation. Feel free to talk to one of our choir members or to me, or leave a note in the church office, or send an email to linda@discipleschristian.org.

Musically yours,

Linda Walling

Stewardship Update

The Stewardship Committee would like to report that the proposed budget for 2011 was passed at the board meeting on January 24th. With pledges not covering expenses as was mentioned in the letter mailed to members, there is still time for you to make a pledge if you have not already done so or to increase your pledge for 2011. The Stewardship Committee would like to thank everyone who pledged this year as well as those who increased their pledges. We appreciate your contributions that help the ministries and community of faith of Disciples Christian Church move forward.

-The Stewardship Committee

February Worship

From our childhoods and throughout our adult lives, we remember the month of February for Valentine's Day *love*. As members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), we know February to also be the annual *love* offering for the Week of Compassion (see elsewhere in this newsletter for more info). In worship this month, we will explore many of the ways we are called to *love* by sharing.

Sharing Brings Joy. To Us. To Others. To God.

We are called by God to share our faith, our love at home and in the world, and trust in the God who calls us. Won't you share your Sunday mornings with us in worship, fellowship, and study?
-Pastor Kris

February Prime Time

The Prime Time topic for February is "God Is Closer Than You Think" a DVD series by John Ortner, a teaching pastor in Menlo Park, California. It is described as follows "Do your days sometimes feel like a page from a *Where's Waldo* adventure—and your heavenly Father is nowhere to be found? John Ortberg reveals the truth—that God stretches out to reach us and is an active presence in our lives. In *God Is Closer Than You Think* Ortberg takes your small group on a journey that will help you to: experience His presence in your busy life, hear Him speak in ways you understand, and discover God's desire to be with you in this moment." The subtitle of the series is "This Can Be the Greatest Moment Of Your Life Because This Moment Is the Place Where You Can Meet God."

-Janice Ziegler, Prime Time Coordinator

Date	9 am/11 am Worship	Theme	10 am Sunday Prime Time
Sun FEB 6	1 Corinthians 2:1-12	Sharing Our Faith	"God's Great Desire for People"
Sun FEB 13	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	Valentine's weekend— Sharing the Love (at home)	"Where is God in My World?"
Sun FEB 20	2 Corinthians 9:8-15 Isaiah 58:6-12	Week of Compassion— Sharing the Love (in the world)	"Partnering with God Today"
Sun FEB 27	Matthew 6:24-34 1 Corinthians 4:1-5	Sharing Trust	"Listening to the Voice of God"

Our Community

The 'Meet The Neighbors' Community Meal will be Thursday, February 24 at 5 pm. We will be serving lasagna. Please sign up to volunteer in the kitchen. Your help is always needed and appreciated!

WEEK OF COMPASSION OFFERING AT DISCIPLES

February 20 and 27, 2011: The enclosed sharing calendar will help each of us prepare! See page 7 → For over 65 years, Christians in the United States have shared their material resources with a hurting world through Week of Compassion, bringing joy to God as well as to givers. During this offering season, we hope you will ask yourself and others in your community of faith the following questions: What motivates some people to share, to be willing, open-hearted, cheerful givers, while others in similar situations cling to their wealth and focus on getting even more for themselves? Why does this joyful giving persist when we can't seem to "fix" the world permanently? Why don't we conform to the attitude that some level of poverty and hunger is acceptable? Because we have been changed by God's gift of Jesus. God lives! In us! And God's love moves through us to bring help and blessing to hurting lives. We have been changed because of God's love for us. As a result, we want nothing more than to pass on that love to a world in need. Following in Jesus' footsteps, we give our hard-earned resources through Week of Compassion to help build homes, schools, medical clinics, and clean water and sewage facilities in villages devastated by earthquakes, floods, and poverty; bring safety, shelter, and food to refugees after often violent circumstances have made their hometowns uninhabitable; nurture stronger futures and self-sufficiency through health care, education, job training, and tools for livelihoods. Sharing invites God more fully into our lives. As we reach out in love, we open the way for God to reach more deeply into us. Sharing will joyfully transform you as you help transform the world. Week of Compassion: sharing resources, changing lives, bringing joy.

Amy Gopp WOC

Thank you for your generous giving,

Outreach Team

Our World

Fair Trade Myths

by Amy Biscoff

As awareness of fair trade grows, so do many misconceptions about fair trade. Below are some popular myths about fair trade and the realities behind them. *Myth: Fair Trade is about paying developed world wages in the developing world.* Reality: Fair wages are determined by a number of factors, including the amount of time, skill, and effort involved in production, minimum and living wages in the local context, the purchasing power in a community or area, and other costs of living in the local context. Wages are determined independently from North American wage structures and are designed to provide fair compensation based on the true cost of production. *Myth: Fair Trade siphons off American jobs to other countries.* Reality: Fair trade seeks to change the lives of the poorest of the poor who frequently lack alternative sources of income. As North American fair trade organizations grow, they employ more and more individuals in their communities. Most fair trade craft products stem from cultures and traditions which are not represented in North American production. Most fair trade commodities, such as coffee and cocoa, do not have North American-based alternatives. *Myth: Fair Trade is anti-globalization.* Reality: International exchange lies at the heart of fair trade. Fair trade organizations seek to maximize the positive elements of globalization that connect people, communities, and cultures through products and ideas. At the same time, they seek to minimize the negative elements that result in lower labor, social, and environmental standards which hide the true costs of production. *Myth: Fair Trade is a form of charity.* Reality: Fair trade promotes positive and long-term change through trade-based relationships which seek to empower producers to meet their own needs. Its success depends on independent, successfully run organizations and businesses - not on hand-outs. While many fair trade organizations support charitable projects on top of their work in trade, the exchange of goods remains the key element of their work.

Sharing Calendar

Joy and urgency propel the work of Week of Compassion. The purpose of this calendar is to help us remember and articulate our abundant blessings as well as to highlight some of the challenging situations in the world. Each day suggests a donation of coins or bills. Your household can decide what unit is best for your situation each day.

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
CHILDREN	Dehydration caused by diarrhea kills 2 million children a year. Oral rehydration therapy for 11 children costs \$10. Give one unit for each child precious to your heart.	400,000 Chicago residents live in "food deserts" (areas with no or very distant grocery stores), predisposing children to obesity and type 2 diabetes. Give one unit if you have access to a grocery store.	Child labor is a fact of life for 1/2 the children in Cambodia and Ethiopia; 1/3 in Afghanistan and Ghana; 1/6 in Mexico. Give one unit for every five unemployed people you know.	I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!" For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good. (Ps. 122:1, 9) Give two units in honor of your congregation.	The leading cause of preventable childhood blindness, Vitamin A deficiency, affects 190 million preschool-age children. Give one unit if you had your eyesight through age five.	About 17.5 million children under the age of 18 have lost one or both parents to AIDS. Give one unit for each of your parents who is alive now or was alive when you turned 18.	1.3 million babies die every year because they are not properly breastfed. Give one unit for each time you have eaten today.
DISASTER RELIEF	The 2010 earthquake that rocked Haiti left more than 1 million people in need of shelter. Give one unit for each home you've lived in throughout your life.	The Haitian earthquake killed at least 230,000 people. Give one unit for each blessing that provides you a strong foundation in times of trouble.	For the cost of a 55" HDTV, Church World Service can train a disaster survivor in a construction trade, helping rebuild their community while earning a livelihood. Give one unit for each T.V. in your home.	God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Cor. 9:7b) Give one unit for each three times you smiled today.	Communities are less prone to typhoon and flooding disasters through emergency preparedness training and shelter upgrades. Give one unit for each time you have been awed by creation this week.	Damage to infra-structure and local food stocks meant Chilean families affected by the 2010 earthquake lost access to adequate food for ~ 3 months. Give one unit for each snack you ate today.	For the cost of a CD, three disaster survivors can each receive a blanket providing shelter, privacy, and a way to carry belongings. Give one unit for each 10 CDs you own.
BASIC EDUCATION	1.1 billion people in the world still rely on unsafe sources of drinking water. Give one unit for each glass of water you drank today.	About 2.5 billion people lack adequate sanitation facilities. About 1 in 4 people in developing countries practice open defecation. Give one unit for each bathroom in your home.	About 14 million adolescent girls become mothers every year. More than 90% of these very young mothers live in developing countries. Give two units in sorrow for lost childhoods.	O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. (Ps. 63:1) Give one unit as an "Amen."	Educating girls positively affects not only their but their children's survivability, health, and productivity. Gender gaps in primary school attendance have closed in East Asia, the Pacific, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Give one unit in thanksgiving.	Education can break the cycle of poverty. Yet, 46 million primary-school-age children are out of school in sub-Saharan Africa. Give one unit if you have an elementary school education.	Every school day, about 7,000 U.S. students drop out of school. Only 70% of entering high school freshmen graduate each year. Give one unit to honor a teacher important in your life.
HUNGER	Worldwide, 1 billion people, i.e., about 1 in 7, are chronically hungry. Give four units to help.	Without the right nutrition in the first two years of life, a child's physical and mental development is compromised irreversibly. Give one unit for joy for your favorite fresh food item.	Children who experience severe hunger have higher levels of chronic illness, anxiety, depression, and behavior problems than children with no hunger. Give two units if being hungry made you irritable last week.	Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. (Phil. 4:4) Give one unit for each person, experience, thought, or blessing today that brought you joy.	One child dies every 5 seconds from hunger-related causes—16,000 children each day. That is the equivalent of 23+ elementary schools being wiped out each day. Give one unit if you are still alive.	Nearly one in four children in the U.S. is at risk for hunger. Give two units if you remember feeling hungry as a child or teenager.	Poor nutrition and calorie deficiencies cause nearly one in three people to die prematurely or have disabilities. Give two units if you ate out this week.

Daily Giving Devotion

- At a time appropriate for your household, read one of the theme scriptures for Week of Compassion, 2011: *Isaiah 58:6-12* or *2 Corinthians 9:6-15*.
- Invite each member of the household to describe one instance of how they have shared with someone else since the last daily giving devotion.
- Read the day's entry in the sharing calendar. Discuss the situation described and its relationship to your household.
- Consider your household's contribution for the day, and add it to your coin box.
- Offer a prayer for the people and situations high-

lighted in the sharing calendar, and for the people your household will meet in the coming hours: *Thank you, O God, for the joy of being loved by you. Thank you for the blessings our lives sparkle with. (Each member of the household names at least two.) May our gifts to Week of Compassion bring joy to each person the offering will help. We pray especially today for (the day's highlighted group). May the sharing of our abundant blessings bless their lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

- Remember to take your coin box to church on the day when the Week of Compassion offering is given.

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TIME SENSITIVE MATERIALS—THIS ISSUE WAS MAILED ON January 31, 2011



Photos by Kathy Smith

Chi Rho lock-in!



*Thon Burlingame's
prizewinning doll!*

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- * Donna Beckner, Homewood Residence
- * Duane Mayhew, home
- * Vi Radomilovich, Manor Care in Willoughby
- * Jim Runyon, chemotherapy
- * Jan Narten, broken finger
- * Al Kean, continued recovery
- * Jean Shirey, home
- * Kristen Walling, health and safety in Madagascar
- * JoAnne Humbert, next surgery in May
- * Clark Hungerford, rehab at Judson
- * Kim McFarlin, pregnancy
- * Suzanne Prech, mother's death

OUR EXTENDED FAMILY

- * Colleen Sheaffer, mother of Sue Curtis, Hospice care with cancer
- * Donald Vondriska, father of Claudia Vondriska
- * Jennifer Kless, daughter of Ed Kidd
- * Skye Marie Kellerman, niece of Thon Alicia-Burlingame

Our Members at Home

Barbara Seaver, Summerville of Mentor; Barbara Harold, Homewood Residence in Richmond Heights; Louise Consilio, home; Marjia Hehr, home; Avera Jayne, The Fairways; Barbara Ross, Grande Pointe, Lois Valentine, home, Betty Zimmer, Aberdeen Crossings.