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May 2011 Volume 67, Number 8

Sunday, May 15 at 1:00 pm

Special Guests Shiho Saito & Joshua Vogel
In a Duo Piano Lecture-Recital

At Disciples Christian Church

This concert will benefit the Week of Compassion, designated to aid those affected by the earthquake in Japan. A reception at noon (following 11:00 worship) will precede the concert. See details on page 6.

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He is Risen! Alleluia! We have shouted that in 4 worship services now – twice on Easter Sunday morning and twice on the Sunday that followed. Your church staff was feeling a little low on energy last week after the six weeks of Lenten programming, Palm Sunday baptisms, Maundy Thursday worship, and Easter. That said, we would not order our work-lives any differently – it is a privilege to do the work we do during such sacred moments.

Many things stand out for me about this year's walk through the wilderness. In particular, it was the effect of our Maundy Thursday worship as I watched several of our young disciples preparing the sanctuary for Good Friday – taking down the purple paraments, draping the communion table in black, extinguishing the Christ candle. They took solemn care with their hands-on tasks while

Linda Walling played an excerpt from the Dubois' "Seven Last Words of Christ" and Kellie Rumba sang an emotional "Christ, We Do All Adore Thee." We dismissed in darkness and silence. It was powerful.

And for as excited as we are to announce that we had 230 in worship for Easter Sunday morning, it is a statement of the depth of our spiritual commitment that 70 persons were in attendance on Thursday evening, and several people attended the three-hour Good Friday service at St. Paul's.

Wasn't the church breathtaking on Easter morning? Both in sight and sound!

Easter has come and gone until April 8, 2012, but we continue our work as year-round Christians. Moving from our personal Lenten disciplines, Pastor's Class baptisms and new members walking forward, we look to the larger context of community and the greater church. Some upcoming opportunities are these:

- ✦ The Heights Interfaith Council and The Cleveland Heights/University Heights City School District have partnered to offer the "Books-a-Go-Go" program. You could share your love of reading with a child this summer. See elsewhere in this newsletter for details. Contact our Young Disciples Director, Kathy Smith who is looking for volunteers to participate.
- ✦ The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will meet in its bi-annual General Assembly in Nashville, TN from July 9 to 13. Already planning to attend are: Linda Walling, Mark Rogers-Berry, Kathy Smith, Paige Campbell, Emily Reed, and David and I. Are you interested in attending? Check out details at www.disciples.org. or give me a call. There is so much we can experience when we are together with Disciples from across the country.
- ✦ Our church will be hosting a state-wide event on Saturday, November 5 together with the Transformation Team of the Christian Church in Ohio. Disciples' churches from all over the state will be invited, as well as area churches of other denominations. The day will include morning worship, a key-note speaker, morning and afternoon workshops, and lunch. Though it is a few months away, planning is beginning in earnest. We will need a strong contingent of our folks on that Saturday as greeters, workshop hosts for the various speakers, etc. Mark your calendars, and let Amy Campbell know if you'd like to be part of the planning team.

As we remember those post-resurrection appearances by our Lord Jesus, we are to remain committed to serving the cause of Christ year-round. I invite your participation as we approach the warm days of summer.

Pastor

Ourselves

Meet Our Newest Members, Marie Batteiger, Stephanie Ford, and Mary-Kay Moore! Be sure to introduce yourself to Marie, Stephanie and Mary-Kay if you haven't already! *See a picture of them on page 7. *Marie Batteiger:* In November of last year, I wandered into Disciples, liked the service quite a lot, and kept coming back. After my husband Michael and I both attended Journey to Bethlehem in December, that's when I started thinking of Disciples as "my" church. Michael and I have been married for 5 & 1/2 years and we have two great cats; Josie and Max. I work as a pharmacy technician and he is a tutor. Thank you all for the warm welcome! *Stephanie Ford (a.k.a. Ratt):* My name is "Ratt" and I enjoy living in Cleveland Heights. My hobbies are pet rats, ships and rock music. I have three pet rats: Remy, Ratatouille and Randy. I also love my new church and friends. *Mary-Kay Moore:* I was born and raised in Cleveland and currently reside in Richmond Heights. My 'significant other' is a cat named Pharaoh. I have an Associates Degree from Lakeland Community College in Human Services. I work with JFSA (Jewish Family Services Association) part-time on a grant-funded program called Social Action Team. I enjoy swimming, walking, kickboxing classes, and going to the lake. Joining this Congregation feels like coming home to me - I was raised in First Christian Church of Willoughby. I'm deeply thankful to everyone here for making me feel so welcome. I hope I bring to this church as much as it has already offered me.

Losses In Our Church Family

✠ Disciples member *Jim Runyon* passed away Wednesday, April 6 after a long battle with cancer.
 ✠ Long time member *Louise Consilio* passed away Sunday, April 10.
 ✠ Long time member *Averna Jayne* passed away Friday, April 29. Averna and her husband Frank had been members for over 50 years.

Calling all soon-to-be graduates: Are you or is someone in your family going to graduate soon? We'd love to hear about the good news! Call Anne in the church office – and con"grad"ulations!

Notes of Love and Gratitude ...

Dear Church Members, We would like to thank the church for the beautiful Easter lilies and also Hazel Haffner for delivering it. We had a nice chat about the latest goings-on at the church.

Ruby and Gerald Povall

Our Church

The Updated Pictorial Directories Have Arrived

Please feel free to pick up a new pictorial directory in the Fireside Library. It has been updated for 2011. A donation of \$3.00 is suggested. Many thanks go to Thon Burlingame, Ron Werman, and Anne Ward. Their hard work and talent has made the directory beautiful!

You're Invited ...

The Ehrlichs would like to extend an invitation to their church family to attend the wedding ceremony of Hilary Ehrlich and Greg Matthews on Sunday, May 29th at 4:00 pm.

The Garden of Blessings

Spring has sprung, and with it, excitement for this summer's Garden of Blessings. The garden will be bigger and better this year! We are instituting "A Day of Gardening". This is a plan where seven people (or couples, or families) will commit to checking on the garden on their given day of the week each week. For instance, if you choose Monday, you would come over church to see if the garden needs watered, weeded, or harvested each Monday. Then you would do what ever needs doing. With seven teams, it shouldn't be a burden on any one person! The staff of Disciples volunteered to be responsible for a day. We enjoy watching the garden grow over the summer, and are happy to be involved in it's care. The bulk of the produce will go to the Heights Emergency Food Center, but if you are tending to the garden and see some veggie you could make use of...it's yours! We are also looking for one person to oversee the planting and fertilizing needs of the garden and other bigger picture items. I hope that you will consider becoming involved. If you are interested in A Day of Gardening, please let me know.

Amy Campbell

amy@discipleschristian.org

FLOWER SALE in Time for Mothers Day: On May 8 (Mothers Day) there will be a beautiful assortment of hanging baskets you can purchase for \$12 and \$18. On that day you can also place orders for geraniums, petunias, and impatiens annuals that will be available for pick up the following Sunday. All proceeds from this sale will go towards the Garden of Blessings and flowers beds around our church. Questions? Call Gail Haverdill 216-544-9801.

The Next 'Meet The Neighbors' Community Meal: will be Thursday, May 26 from 5 to 6:30 pm. As always, your help is always needed and appreciated! Please sign up in the kitchen to volunteer. Thanks!

A Message from Cathy Ausperk: Because a new job will have me working in Warren rather than in Cleveland Heights, my time helping with "Meet the Neighbors" has come to an end. At our April meal, our amazing group of volunteers (and cooks...how many cooks there have been) topped 5,000 meals served in almost three years. I can't begin to say how wonderful this experience has been for me. I couldn't possibly thank everyone enough for their support in getting this project off the ground. This wonderful ministry always needs more volunteers! Just be prepared to get a lot more out of it than you put in! "For I was hungry, and you fed me I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!" *Matthew 25:36 and 40*

You're Invited to "Learn About Disciples"!

A "Learning About Disciples" Dinner, hosted by Pastor Kris, will be offered during this month's community meal on May 26 from 6 to 7:30 pm. This is an excellent opportunity for any recent members or current visitors to meet with Pastor Kris to learn more about our ministries, our denomination, how to join, and expectations of our members. Childcare is available. Please let us know if you can come—call the church office or email anne@discipleschristian.org

Upcoming Meetings: The property committee will meet Wednesday, May 4 at 5 pm in the chapel. The Board meeting will be Monday, May 9 at 7:30 pm.

The Disciples Book Club's next meeting will be held in the Chapel on Tuesday, May 17 at 7:00. We will be discussing Michael Connelly's latest Mickey Haller book (Series 4). Mickey Haller has fallen on hard times and has expanded his business into foreclosure defense only to see one of his clients accused of murdering the banker she blames for trying to take away her home. Connelly, as usual is the master manipulator as there is always something deadly serious behind his courtroom high jinks. He delves into the background of the real estate collapse and proves again he just might be the best mystery novelist in the United States today.

Musical Notes ♪

A big THANK YOU goes to the Praise Ensemble, Chancel Choir and children/youth singers for sharing their gifts of music to make our Lenten and Easter services so very meaningful. Their efforts surely confirmed just how much music contributes to our worship life together. The music program year will continue through June 12th - Pentecost Sunday. Between now and then, anyone who wants to sing for a few weeks, or to just give one of our music options a try, is invited to join us for our weekly rehearsals.

Praise Ensemble - Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

Chancel Choir- Thursdays at 7:30 pm

The children will be rehearsing during their activity times on Sunday mornings. As our music program year comes to an end, we will be looking for creative new ways to strengthen our summer music program, to maintain our current momentum, and to support our summer worship. If you have ideas to share, or summer guests who might like to perform something special for us, or thoughts about music you would like to hear, please call or leave a note for Linda Walling. The summertime will give us a wonderful opportunity to truly make music together!

Musically yours,

Linda Walling

Lost: I've misplaced the cross that I wear with my robe on Sunday mornings. It's a silver Celtic cross on a chain. If you see it anywhere around church, please let me know! *Pastor Kris*

A MESSAGE FROM KATHY SMITH: Palm Sunday marked one of the busiest Young Disciples Sundays during the month of April. That Sunday started with stadium-voiced hallelujahs at 9. Baptisms followed at 10:15 starting with an amazing performance of signing by Courtney Ritchey and Emily Reed. Followed by more hallelujahs at 11 only to celebrate the rest of the morning with an egg hunt and a brunch – whew, what an awesome morning! Many of our Young Disciples took the baptismal plunge on Palm Sunday. First to enter the waters was Evan Ritchey, who plays baseball every week and is excellent at stealing bases. He’s the one with a huge smile! Next up was Brent Bell, who attends Ratner School where he has many interests including foreign language and international governments, and enjoys time with his friends. Next were sisters Jaide and Soilé Talmadge followed by their mother, Yolanda McWilliams. This family, which includes Jason (age 8) was drawn to Disciples through Journey to Bethlehem. Yolanda recently finished school and works in Westlake for Highland Software in quality control; Jaide likes art; Soilé likes math. The last to be renewed was Paige Campbell who is quite familiar to this congregation. She’s been talking about this day since the first time I met her! I am truly blessed to know and be a part of these newly baptized children of God. During Lent in our youth sanctuary, we also had our own Lenten candle extinguishing and Lenten worships. It is my hope that these moments help reflect the bible and its stories in such a manner that the youth can come to understand its meaning. So upward and onward, it’s time to look forward to Youth Sunday, May 8, where we will focus on a mother’s love, which is not just for mothers any more – got love?

Kathy Smith, Young Disciples Director

CAMP CHRISTIAN! Registration is open. Junior Camp for children in grades 3, 4 and 5: Otter Camp June 19-25; Chi Rho Camp for youth in grades 6, 7 and 8: Hocking June 12-18, Portahoga July 10-16, Maumee July 17-23, Miami August 7-13; CYF Conferences for youth in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12: Hiram June 26-July 2, Phyo July 3-9, Lakeside July 24-30, Wilmington July 31–August 6. please visit ccinoh.org/camp/schedule.aspx

May Prime Time

Sundays at 10:10 am

- ✠ May 8: session 5 of *God Is Closer Than You Think*: "God Wants a Relationship With You"
- ✠ May 15: session 6 of *God Is Closer Than You Think*: "Heaven Breaking Through"
- ✠ May 22: presentation from *Walk As Jesus Walked*: "Don't Forget Us" a faith lesson by Ray Vander Laan about the early Christians of the first few centuries after Christ.
- ✠ May 29: Memorial Day weekend Fellowship Time



Summer Volunteers Needed

How would you like to join children and families during the dinner hour?

The Interfaith Council and The Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District have partnered to offer The Books-a-Go-Go Program, a summer event for families.

WHERE: any CH-UH elementary school

WHEN: Thursday evenings —

June 16th thru August 11th

TIME: 4:30 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

Your support would include assisting with dinner and interacting with students in the library — playing games and reading books.

If you are interested, please contact:

Reverend Karen Graham

Church of the Redeemer

(216)932-2065 or klbgraham@sbcglobal.net

Our Community

Thank you for your generosity!

The Easter offering total came to \$763. This money goes to supporting the general ministries of our denomination.

Let's Cheer on Chris Ontko!

Member Chris Ontko will run in a half-marathon on Sunday, May 15 to raise money to fight Leukemia and other blood cancers. Please pray for Chris' health and non-injury during training race day, and for all people who are currently undergoing treatment for cancers. Go Chris!

<http://pages.teamintraining.org/noh/cleve11/contko>

Piano Concert benefiting Japan: At Disciples May 15

Joshua Vogel and Dr. Shiho Saito will perform on duo pianos Sunday, May 15th at 1 pm following Sunday service and reception at Disciples Christian Church. The Concert/talk will include works by Bach, Gershwin, and Liszt. The devastating earthquake struck Japan within a day of their arrival in Japan to start their concert/lecture tour on March 10-26, 2011. Proceeds of the concert will go to Week of Compassion and will be donated to people in needs in Japan.

CCH 2011 Scramble for Kids

Love golf? You are invited to the Cleveland Christian Home Golf Tournament. Get a foursome and help CCH. Monday, June 13th, 2011 at Fox Meadow Country Club in Medina. For more information and to register call 216.476.0333 or visit www.cchome.org.

Our World

Give Mom a WiLD Mother's Day Gift

Honor your Mom by making a special gift in her name to support Heifer International's Women in Livestock Development Project (WiLD) and help empower women around the world. Heifer partners with the Christian Church Disciples of Christ to make a difference. Go to www.heifer.org/wildwomen Or call 800-422-0474 to honor your Mom of another WiLD woman in your life. Be sure to look at the World Ark magazine on the coffee table in the Church Fireside Library.

South African Mission Presentation

Members of Disciples Christian Church and the community are invited to St Paul's Church (Fairmount at Coventry) for a Potluck and Presentation scheduled May 15th at 12:15 pm. Rich and Mary Nodar will be speaking about their mission service in South Africa, St Paul's relationship with 2 parishes in the Diocese of False Bay, and a pilgrimage group coming to St Paul's this summer. Please make reservations by calling the St Paul's church office 216-932-5814. For more information contact Ann or Harry Farmer 216-544-3789.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- ✠ *Kara Ladaika*, back spasms
- ✠ *Trish Burton*, surgery recovery
- ✠ *Duane Mayhew*, lymphoma
- ✠ *Kristen Walling*, Peace Corps Madagascar
- ✠ *Chris Ontko*, training for and running in a half-marathon to fight leukemia and other blood cancers May 15

OUR EXTENDED FAMILY

- ✠ *Jack Davis*, grand-nephew of *Ann and Harry Farmer*, Barrington, IL, rehab
- ✠ *Sherri Harkless*, sister-in-law of *Elaine Harkless*, chemotherapy
- ✠ *Jennifer Kless*, daughter of *Ed Kidd*

OUR MEMBERS AT HOME

Barbara Seaver, Summerville of Mentor; *Barbara Harold*, Homewood Residence in Richmond Heights; *Marjia Hehr*, home; *Barbara Ross*, Grande Pointe, *Lois Valentine*, home; *James Famer*, Laurel Lake; *Dick and Lois Rice*, Laurel Lake; *Violet Radomilovich*, Manor Care in Willoughby; *Clark Hungerford*, Judson; *Donna Beckner*, home; *Chuck Hood*, home; *Gerry and Ruby Povall*, home; *Duane Mayhew*, home.

REQUEST A PRAYER:

Write – use the blue paper near the Prayer Box at the back of the sanctuary

Call – Call the church office at 216-382-5344

Click – email amy@discipleschristian.org



Evan Ritchey



Brent Bell



Soilé Talmadge



Jaide Talmadge



Yolanda McWilliams



Paige Campbell

Baptisms!



Five Young Disciples and one adult member were baptized in Christ on April 17. Read about them on page 5.



New Members!



Marie Battieger, Stephanie Ford and Mary-Kay Moore joined on April 17. Read about them on page 3.

**Photos by Ron Werman*

www.discipleschristian.org

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Palm Sunday and Easter 2011

Photos by Ron Werman

