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Church Life

At Yellowstone and Mayfield

Volume 65 Number 10 • September, 2009



ON SUNDAY MORNING,

SEPTEMBER 20TH AT 11:30 A.M.,

we will begin a new worship service in a casual setting with contemporary music.

“Connections” worship will be offered the 3rd Sunday of each month, and is open to everyone. The service will feature a praise ensemble setting the tone for our service with upbeat music reminding us of God’s love for us – sure to put a smile on everyone’s face.

Pastor Kris says, “with the same attention to quality as our 10:00 a.m. traditional worship, we feel called now to offer a different worship experience. We believe there is no one right way to worship. All are welcome.”

Invite your friends and neighbors to join us; bring your kids – our contemporary service is for people of all ages. We want to make Connections, with God, with each other and within our community!



Dear Disciples:

I'm writing this before I settle into a week of being away from the distractions of the office to bury my head in sermon planning, study, and personal meditation. My mind is already full and racing from the Growing Disciples Leadership Retreat on Saturday. With excellent leadership from *Janie Morrison* and *David Eggert*, 30+ other Disciples gathered around tables and in break-out rooms for prayer and conversations that were centered on growing *disciples* and growing *Disciples*, recognizing that we can do little to grow our church unless we also grow ourselves. I sensed as the day progressed that personal, spiritual, disciple-like growth was happening already.

Those who dedicated their Saturday to this critical work in the life of our church are eager to include the entire congregation in their excitement and their renewed commitment. Stay tuned for more – these energized disciples and your pastor are not about to let this go!

It was a busy work weekend that also brought several Disciples together after worship on Sunday to talk about the rapidly approaching debut of Connections worship. You'll read more details in this newsletter, so I'll just share my excitement about this new adventure. I'm more than ready to begin because I've always served in at least two morning worship services. I so appreciate that we can give honor and glory to God in different ways and styles, calling upon the many and varied talents found in a congregation. We experience that already in our traditional 10:00 a.m. worship, and now we will see other disciples' talents emerge in Connections worship. I encourage you to support this new effort in *growing disciples* with your presence in the pew on Sunday, September 20th at 11:30 a.m. If you also attend the 10:00 a.m. service that day – you'll be doubly blessed!

One more thing to add before I move on to the work of this study week. It's a week that will be *interrupted* with the work required of a pastor. I'll be at the hospital for prayer before a surgery, and I'll officiate the memorial service for our beloved Lucille Hylton on Saturday. Those *interruptions* are the blessing of the work I do. Saturday afternoon as the retreat was ending, I received a phone call that Lucille was in the hospital. Her condition was not believed to be critical. I'll admit that I was tired at the end of a full day, and I'll confess that I thought about waiting until after church on Sunday to visit. But I could not wait. It is always my gut reaction to just go, and together with a nudge from the Holy Spirit, I pick up my car keys and get there as quickly as I can. The visit that began when I arrived at Lucille's room at 5:00 Saturday afternoon was precious and dear and full of laughter and prayers, as we always knew to expect from such a special lady. Of course I did not expect it to be our last visit.

Make time today for an *interruption*. God's Holy Spirit will make it a treasured moment.

Pastor Tris

Moderator's Message

Sue's News

Nature is winding down and our summer gardens are on the wane, but September always feels like a fresh start. It's a new school year, a new church year, with lots of planning and activities to look forward to.

September Board Meeting: Everyone is invited and welcome to attend our board meetings. The first one is September 14th in the Chapel at 7:30pm. If you can make it, please join us...we'll have a SPECIAL celebration! For a clue to what's in store, please note the birthday calendar!

Fill-the-Calendar Meeting: Calling all committee/ministry leaders . . . a calendar planning meeting is scheduled for September 16th. Please come and help, there will be discussions on the activities for the coming year, responsibilities of each ministry, budget planning, and of course, refreshments. If you are unable to make it, please let me know what you have planned for the year ahead.

WANTED: Committee reports from 2008-09! We'd like to have the annual report ready for the September board meeting. If you chaired a committee/ministry in the last year, please email me, sucurtis@deloitte.com, or put the report on your committee work from 2008-09 in the "Moderator" mail slot in the church office by Wednesday, September 9th.

SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL RESUMES ON SEPTEMBER 13TH! When our "Young Disciples" are dismissed from worship that day, there will be classes for those in Kindergarten/First Grade, Second/Third Grade, Fourth/Fifth Grade, and Sixth/Seventh/Eight Grade. A variety of people will teach during the course of the school year and there are still opportunities for you to be one of them. *Pastor Tim* will lead the Sixth/Seventh/Eight graders. Starting at 11:30 a.m., Disciples' Hour, there will be choir and activities for those

in Kindergarten through eighth grade and our youth in CYF will meet with *Pastor Tim*.

PASTOR TIM ALSO SHARES THAT there are some exciting events on the horizon during the fall and winter! Watch for more information in the next issue of Church Life.

ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR OUR YOUTH? Yes? Then you have a wonderful opportunity to be a part of that learning experience for the youth of Disciples! Our class couplings appear in the previous column and, because we schedule teachers on a monthly basis, there are opportunities to lead almost any one of those classes for a month or two during the coming year. All teaching materials have been selected so plans are laid out for each class. All we need are willing hands into which to put them! If you would like to be a part of this ministry – or simply need more information – please email gmritchey@earthlink.net or call *Gail Ritchey* at 216 486-6954 right away. An initial gathering of teachers will be held on Sunday, August 30th at 11:30 a.m. Plan to be a part of the conversation.

SUMMER IS COMING TO A CLOSE AND TO THE DISCIPLES YOUTH, that means the annual fall youth retreat at the Chautauqua Institution. Approximately 15 of our young people will spend Labor Day weekend building relationships with each other, with *Pastor Tim* and with God. The kids will spend time getting to know *Tim*, planning activities for the year and creating and participating in worship together. Please keep our youth and their sponsors and drivers in your prayers as they travel to and from New York.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- † *The family and friends of Lucille Hylton*, who died on August 22nd and whose life was celebrated in a Memorial Service at Disciples at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 29th.
- † *Nancy Kidd*, in Hospice Care
- † *Art West*, surgery recovery

- † *JoAnne Humbert*, surgery recovery
- † *Pat McNeilly*, surgery recovery
- † *Bob Yocum*, home (*Sally and Bob's* new information: 11305 South Forest Drive; Concord, OH 44077; 440-867-2923)
- † *Rick and David Bowen*, recipient and donor for stem cell transplant on September 3rd
- † *Members at home: Barbara Seaver*, Summerville of Mentor; *Barbara Harold*, Homewood Residence in Richmond Heights (new address); *Margaret Beer*, Broadview Manor; *Ella Bergeon*, home; *Louise Consilio*, home; *Marian Green*, Breckinridge; *Marjia Hehr*, home; *Violet Radomilovich*, home; *Frank and Avena Jayne*, The Fairways; *Barbara Ross*, Grande Pointe, *Lois Valentine*, home.

ATTENTION: WOMEN OF THE

CONGREGATION: CWF will have its first meeting here in the Chapel on Wednesday, September 23rd at noon. Since we had such a wonderful time at *Carol David's* home in June, we somehow didn't get all of our plans made for the coming year. Therefore, bring a bag lunch and a beverage – dessert will be provided – and we will continue our June discussion. If you have a favorite Bible verse, bring it along, too, and feel free to share it with the group. See you then!

DISCIPLES MEN . . . We will hold our first meeting of 2009-2010 on Wednesday, September 16th at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel. Each man will receive a gift copy of the 2009 edition of the well known book, MORE THAN A CARPENTER by renowned theologian, Josh McDowell. The first edition was published in 1977, selling over 15 million copies, and was translated into almost 100 languages. It is a true classic in Christian, faith-based literature. More than a Carpenter is a fresh, stimulating study of Jesus, both the Biblical and historical Christ. When you finish reading it, you will feel that you have come to know a much more compelling, commanding, and charismatic Christ than you ever knew before. This is a book for thinkers written by one of Christendom's brightest and most accessible scholars.

Josh McDowell has been a globe girdling preacher for Campus Crusade for Christ for 45 years, focusing primarily on issues facing today's young people in some 84 countries. He has written or coauthored more than 110 books, with about 35 million in print worldwide.

I have read More Than A Carpenter twice and I have taken the liberty of assuming that our men (and our women, too) will consider it a "good read". Study and discussion of the book should carry us to the end of 2009. Finally, I wish to thank the Adult Education Committee for contributing to the purchase of these books. *R.D. Burlingame*

OUR BOOK CLUB is reading two books: one for August, Saving Jesus by Robin Meyers; and one for September, The Hour I First Believed by Wally Lamb. We will meet on September 15th at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Library to discuss both books.

STILL WORKING on back to school shopping? A FORWARD THINKER already doing Christmas shopping? If you can answer "yes" to either of these questions, you need to stop by the CWF table on Sunday mornings to look at their extensive list of available gift cards! When you purchase gift cards through CWF, proceeds go to a variety of projects within our church as well as to camping scholarships for our youth (see the article that follows to understand what these scholarships mean!). It is a win/win: you have the convenience of shopping in the Fellowship Hall and your spending benefits all of us. Questions? Call or email *Donna Beckner* (donna@discipleschristian.org).

LETTERS FROM CAMP:

- ☺ Dear Disciples Christian Church, Thank you for giving me money to come here. I really enjoy coming here. The girls in my cabin are really nice. This morning we had a loud thunderstorm and we had to stay in the bathroom. Sincerely,
Hanna Ladaika.
- ☺ Dear Disciples Christian Church, I would like to thank Katie for teaching me and my friends about church

camp. I would also like to thank all of the people that prayed for me this week. See you soon, **Paige Campbell**

☺ I'm thankful for going to camp. Also learning about God and having fun. I can't wait until (next time). I hope to have more fun at camp. Thank you for paying half of my fee!! Your only,
Joshua Ritchey

DEAR DISCIPLES CHRISTIAN CHURCH FRIENDS, I came to DCC (EACC) in 1982, about 29 years ago! Craig and I were married here, 20 years ago this August, and our children baptized here. We made the decision to drive from Berea to Cleveland Heights (when we moved to Berea 20 years ago), every Sunday. And we have tried to be as active as distance allowed us to be, always feeling a little guilty that we couldn't do more. Now, right now, we are finally feeling the need to stay on our side of town. The BIG question is: can we find a church that meets some of our lofty qualifications for a church, on that "OTHER" side of town?

Over the years Disciples Christian has sustained us with a powerful list of good qualities: a committed congregation, historically meaningful preachers and preaching, and wonderful music programs. Most importantly, a group of people whom we have loved, laughed, cried, and celebrated with, and who have managed to live with us!

In order to find such a place, we feel we have to start looking in earnest. We want to tell you – out loud – that for now, we are leaving DCC. We don't want to sneak out, or just seem to be missing a lot. We NEED to tell you!

Craig would like to express his thoughts, as well. "First of all, I want to send my love and thanks to my 'family' at Disciples Christian. Over 20 years ago, I began attending here with Beth, and was immediately welcomed and made to feel 'at home.' I got married here, and was re-baptized here along with my children. As the years passed, I have been privileged to participate in many ways in the life of this church, and found a sense of community.

But, . . . for 20 years we have spent an hour and a half each Sunday in the car, in order to be part of DCC, while for 20 years we were supposedly looking around to see if it was possible to find a church/ community closer to home. At this time, we feel that in order to find what we seek, we need to focus on that search. The long drive always made me feel that I was not participating in all of the ways I would have liked to. I don't know if we will find exactly what we are looking for, but it is time to move forward on our faith journey. It has been good traveling with all of you, and we will certainly see you from time to time. With love, Craig"

We would like to maintain our pledge with DCC because we know the money has been handled well in the past, and trust that it will be in the future, until such time as we can find an equally trustworthy caretaker of tithes and offerings.

We won't see you every Sunday. But, out of sight is not out of mind, and we expect to stay in the loop. You all are in our permanent circle! I will miss you. I cannot use enough words to express my gratitude for our relationship, and for the personal attention we have received over the years. I love you.

Sincerely, *Beth Kean and Craig Gordon*
(*Edited for length -- a copy of the complete letter is in the church office.*)

CONGRATULATIONS TO GAIL

HAVERDILL who was recognized by RSVP, a group that supplies volunteers to other area organizations, with an annual volunteer award for her new ideas and improvements at McGregor Home. Any of us at Disciples who know *Gail* and see what she brings to our community's life, will not be surprised that she received this honor!

DID YOU KNOW THAT KRISTEN WALLING SERVED AS A PEACE INTERN THIS SUMMER?

A recent publication described her by saying, "*Kristen Walling* comes to us from the Ohio region, where she grew up at Camp Christian. Our first interaction with Kristen this winter was tricky at best . . . she was incommunicado

in Ghana, where she was studying Political Science while facing the challenges of often not having access to electricity, let alone internet and cell phone coverage. When she is in the U.S. she is a student at American University, and will graduate next May with a degree in International Relations and Economics. On campus she is the Social Justice Coordinator for the campus ministry, has interned with Ecumenical Advocacy Days, and at the offices of Columbian Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation. She is a dual member of National City Christian Church in Washington D.C. and Disciples Christian Church in Cleveland, Ohio. Her secret delight is Rugby (she plays on an inter-collegiate team at American University), and her not-so-secret passion is political issues related to conflict in Africa." We're proud of you, *Kristen!*

NANCY and ED KIDD are so grateful for your support! Sometimes they cannot utilize all of the loving gifts of food they receive. If you would like to do something special for the *Kidds*, it is suggested that you focus on *Nancy* who loves anything creamy: meatless soups and any creamy desserts – our friend has a sweet tooth!

DEAR FRIENDS, Thank you for all the cards, calls, visits and prayers which have lifted our spirits and helped so much in the healing process. Your loving support is appreciated more than you will ever know.
God Bless, *John and Patty Hungerford*

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY THANKS to all of you who showered me with cards, phone calls, prayers, good thoughts and food during my recovery from surgery. I was completely overwhelmed with the many kindnesses shown during this time. The members of this church are indeed a part of my extended family.
My sincere thanks, *Pat McNeilly*

THANK YOUR FOR YOUR PRAYERS, kind thoughts and cards during Bob's rehab at Holly Hill. We are so very grateful for the support of our church family. It truly does sustain us.
Sally and Bob Yocum

A SOUTH EUCLID CITY TRUCK FULL OF FOOD, estimated by *Bob Vitolan*, president of HEFC, to exceed 1500 pounds by weight, was delivered to the Heights Emergency Food Center the morning of August 24th. The donation was the result of a collection of non-perishable food items for HEFC organized by Notre Dame's Campus Ministry and collected by the students of Notre Dame College in South Euclid. Upperclassmen led teams of students who went door-to-door to pick up donations. What a blessing their efforts will be to the clients of HEFC! *Hazel Haffner* reports that, in July, HEFC served 1105 individuals including 444 children.

CHANCEL FLOWERS – 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