



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

**Nancy Kidd and Karen Walsh**  
Directors of Children's Ministries

**William and Susan Schoeffler**  
Co-Directors of Music

**Amy Campbell**  
Creative Ministries Director

**Judy Griffith**  
Financial Secretary

**Toni Laurenson**  
Office Administrator

**Katie Keresman**  
Youth Intern

**Issac Glover**  
Custodian

**Adrian von der Lippe**  
Sunday Custodian

#### Inside:

- Lots of adult Christian Education opportunities!
- Youth Sunday is February 1<sup>st</sup>
- A new option for Chancel Flowers
- Our Pictorial Directory is taking shape
- Our "Meet the Neighbors Community Meals" are growing and thriving
- Many opportunities to both have fellowship with each other and to reach out to others

# Church Life

At Yellowstone and Mayfield

Volume 65 Number 3 • February, 2009

## Create in Me, God

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.*

Psalm 51:10

The season of Lent that begins with Ash Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> and ends with Easter morning, April 12<sup>th</sup>, is a time to go deeper into your relationship with God. Lent is a time of coming clean, discipline, and sacrifice, working to remove those obstacles that keep you from really connecting with God. It is work that we do for a six-week period, the effects of which can last far beyond.

We hope you'll add at least one extra to your church experience during Lent – committing to perfect Sunday attendance, coming to mid-week Wednesday evening worship, writing for and reading our Lenten devotional, participating in a small group book study, etc. You and our church will benefit from your increased participation.

Ash Wednesday – February 25<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 pm

Scripture: Psalm 51

*Contrition*

Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent

Scriptures: Mark 1:9-15; Genesis 9:8-17

*Honesty*

Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent

Scriptures: Mark 8:31-37; Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 and Genesis 18:9-15

*Patience*

Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent

Scriptures: Psalm 19; John 2:13-22

*Clearing the Clutter*

Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

Scriptures: Numbers 21:4-9; John 3:14-21

*Complexity*

Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

Scriptures: Psalm 23; John 12:20-33

*Facing Death*

On Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m., beginning on March 4<sup>th</sup>, we hope you will also join us for our mid-week Lenten worship.

*From Pastor Kris:*

Did you know that Disciples Christian Church has a Facebook page? We have 30 people who have joined our Disciples Christian Facebook group, and we range in age from 16 to 60. Maybe you don't even know what Facebook is. Facebook is a social networking website that was started for Harvard University students in 2004, that quickly grew to include college students nationwide. Now it is open to anyone over the age of 13 and has over 150 million users worldwide. Not only is Disciples Christian represented, but our denomination has a group of nearly 4,000 networkers. I'm part of several clergy, preaching, and church transformation groups. I network with seminary, undergraduate, and even high school classmates, and it's a great way to keep in touch with my children. They post pictures all the time. I must say that helps make the distance between us feel not so great.

*So, what is all the Facebook fuss about?* For one thing, it's just fun to see what friends, family, and acquaintances are out there and what they're doing. What I did not expect is what a great networking tool it is for churches. In fact, while this newsletter is being printed and mailed, I am in Columbus leading a seminar for Ohio Disciples clergy about Facebook and blogs and how they are transforming the ways we communicate with our congregations.

I was reading a colleague's sermon recently in which she said that people who have to miss Sunday mornings are now downloading her sermons to their iPods. Her youth group prays together on Facebook at the same time every week. We are just starting to explore what such technology can do here for us at Disciples.

That said, such networking will never replace face to face interaction, but I do believe it enhances the opportunities when we are together. I also know how good (and rare!) it felt the other day to receive a hand-written two-page letter from an old friend. There are so many ways now to keep in touch, and all of them are of value to both the one who sends and the one who receives.

So, on this month that marks my second anniversary as your pastor, I will continue to search for ways to effectively communicate the good news of the gospel. Wednesday evening, February 4<sup>th</sup>, I'll explore together with the Men of Disciples Church how we best go about building relationships in the 21<sup>st</sup> century church. *You'll excuse me now while I take a moment to read the text message one of our church members sent me while I was writing to you.*

See you in church –

*Pastor Kris*

## ADULT EDUCATION DURING DISCIPLES HOUR:

† **IN THE CHAPEL:** *Dr. Sheila McGinn* presents the second of a two part series in the Chapel on February 1<sup>st</sup>. The title of her presentation – "Surprised by Joy" – happens to be the title of one of C. S. Lewis' works. The class is now surveying key pieces of his work, focusing on his theology as revealed through his writings. Dr. McGinn (Ph.D., Northwestern University) serves as Professor of Biblical Studies and Early Christianity at John Carroll University. A scholar active on the international scene, she has presented frequent academic papers on a range of topics relating to the New Testament and the early churches, as well as on the use of electronic media for Biblical study. Her publications include books on Paul's letter to the Romans and the Book of Revelation; essays on several of Paul's letters; studies of the Passion-Resurrection stories in the gospels of Matthew and Mark; and commentaries on the Gospel of Matthew, the apocryphal Acts of The Apostles, and the second-century Montanist Oracles. She currently is developing a history of Christianity's first hundred years.

† **UPSTAIRS IN OAKRIDGE (OR, PERHAPS, IN FIRESIDE LIBRARY):** The Getting a Grip group is discussing conflict in the world. Referencing the Bible, they discuss this very timely and important topic. The intent of the class is not to discuss specific conflicts as much as it is to look at and discuss why they continue to happen and explore what answers God provides us. How we can address our differences as constructively as possible? How do we deal with issues and people with whom we disagree?

## ADULT EDUCATION COMING DURING LENT-

- **On Sunday mornings during Disciples Hour:**

† "The Thoughtful Christian: Faithful living in a complex world" – Elders *Robin*

*Phillips, Ed Kidd, Lauren Wicks, Pat McNeilly and Holly Coughlin* will each lead one of the five classes in a study called "The Road to Jerusalem."

† A book study group centered on "The Great Awakening: Reviving Faith and Politics in a Post-Religious Right America" by Jim Wallis. In describing his book, Mr. Wallis states that he is "thrilled to see this book realize its intended purpose - to build and strengthen a movement that can apply faith to social justice in ways that we might have never imagined a few years ago." A study guide will be provided. *Kim Ehrlich* and *Mary Griffith* will facilitate this class.

- **On Wednesday evenings after midweek worship:** A book study group "3:16 The Numbers of Hope" by Max Lucado. Members of this group will read and discuss this popular book that breaks down the "26-word promise, phrase by phrase, picking out key theological ideas that provide hope to Christians" (from Publishers Weekly). This conversation will be facilitated by *Bill and Toni Laurenson*.

You may sign up to participate in any of these small groups during Fellowship Hour on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup>. No adult education classes will be held on Palm Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, due to the Bunny Lunch.

**WELCOME MARY STEWART!** On Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, Disciples was blessed with a new member when *Mary Stewart* walked forward during our Invitation Hymn. Please welcome Mary, keep her in your prayers, and add her to your directory: 864 Eloise Drive, Cleveland Heights, 44112.

## WHY IS FEBRUARY 1<sup>ST</sup> SO SPECIAL??

Because it is **Youth Sunday!!** Our Youth have been working very hard: coming up with their theme, writing their own prayers and sermons, picking out the music, and planning some different and creative things for the service. They have put a lot time and effort into planning worship this year and would love to see you there!

Thanks! *Katie Keresman*

**GOOD NEWS FOR DISCIPLES CHRISTIAN CHURCH!** At our January Board Meeting, we were able to pass a balanced budget. Unlike the news coming at us from the newspaper and television everyday, we did not have to lay off any of our employees! We were also able to cut back the amount needed to be taken from our Endowment in order to meet expenses. The Ministries Planning Team now has co-chairpersons: *Janie Morrison* and *David Eggert* will lead us as our new Ministries Planning Team is formed. Happy New Year, 2009.

*Moderator Ed Kidd*

**A NEW PASTOR'S CLASS WILL BEGIN ON MONDAY, MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup>.** All children in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade and older, who want to be baptized, are asked to contact *Pastor Kris* to become a part of this class that will meet at 4:30 p.m. on Monday afternoons during Lent. Adults interested in baptism should contact *Pastor Kris*, too, to make arrangements for their baptism. We will celebrate these baptisms as a church family on Palm Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.

**TIRED OF LOOKING AT SNOW?** Think spring and beautiful, fragrant, fresh flowers. We don't get many floral bouquets donated for Sunday worship these days and that is likely for two reasons: our traditional bouquets are beautiful but pricey at \$60, and they are too big to conveniently carry home and display. Our Worship Ministry Team is offering a second option: a less expensive arrangement for \$30 that will be lovely but smaller and easier to take home. These flowers will show nicely on the communion table in front of the cross. You may take them home with you after worship or, if you wish, we will refrigerate them and use them again for another Sunday or two. The flower sign up chart is on the bulletin board outside the office door. On the chart, indicate whether you want to provide a small or large arrangement and if the flowers are to be given in honor or memory of someone, or, for a special occasion. Give this some thought

and help us bring some early spring to our sanctuary.  
*Gail Haverdill*

**THE NEXT PROPERTY MINISTRY TEAM** meeting will be on February 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m.

**PHOTOGRAPHY FOR OUR NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORY HAS BEGUN!**

We are doing this ourselves so there will be no high priced portrait packages to purchase. We will instead offer you a CD of all of the pictures taken of your family for a nominal fee. Included in that cost will be your copy of the directory.

Several families have already been photographed. But in order for our directory to be a success, we need your help! We invite and encourage all of our church members and regular visitors to sign up for a portrait taking session. Family pets and extended families are welcome. The more complete our portraits, the better our directory will be. Look for sign-ups during Coffee Fellowship or call *Amy* in the church office for an appointment.

**"IMAGES OF AMERICA – CLEVELAND HEIGHTS CONGREGATIONS"** is a recently published book by *Marian J. Morton*. Several pages in the book are devoted to both text and photos of the green stone, our current building, and our congregation. Ms. Morton graciously provided us with a copy that will soon be available in our Fireside Library and has promised any royalties from the book to H.E.F.C. Copies are available at Borders in Severance Town Center and through [arcadiapublishing.com](http://arcadiapublishing.com).

**OUR NEW BARNABAS MINISTRY (A Ministry of Encouragement) IS GROWING** – Many people have already been touched by receiving a Barnabas card! Following Barnabas' example in the New Testament, yellow "Barnabas Cards" are now in our pew racks. We hope you will use them to encourage others by writing a brief note to strengthen, comfort, or just say hello to those in our church family. Once you've written your note, put the person's name on the front

and drop it in the offering plate or leave it on Toni's desk. The office will see that the address and stamp are added and that the card is mailed.

***“for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” Matthew 25:35***

**DID YOU KNOW THAT . . .**

- ? . . . our next Meet the Neighbors community meals will be held on Thursday, *February 26<sup>th</sup>* and Thursday, *March 26<sup>th</sup>*
- ? . . . you can find ways to help, if you choose to, in each week's bulletin
- ? . . . if you can't help, that's okay too, we would just ask that you keep us in your prayers
- ? . . . the reason we ask for the “cooked” part of each meal to be donated is because we cannot cook food for the public in our kitchen without a commercial kitchen license (but, we can warm it up!)
- ? . . . financial contributions are used to purchase non-donated items
- ? . . . we have served more than 100 meals each month (since August) that we've offered this meal – in fact our numbers have gone up each month!
- ? . . . the need in our community is greater than ever - *Hazel Haffner* tells us that, in December of 2008, H.E.F.C. served 1330 people – 418 more than in December of 2007
- ? . . . at each meal, we've served *both* visitors and members – but always more visitors
- ? . . . several of our guests have also returned to attend our services – in fact, we were privileged on January 25<sup>th</sup> to have one become an official member of our community of faith when *Mary Stewart* walked forward during worship

God has blessed our new outreach ministry in so many ways! And we are grateful to each of you who have blessed us through participation, support, and prayer. Thank you!

**CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP MEETS NEXT ON FEBRUARY 11<sup>TH</sup>.** All of our women – both members and visitors – are invited to join us at noon on February 11<sup>th</sup> at *Mary Sayre's* home. Mary will graciously provide lunch for us. After lunch, we will have our annual book discussion. This year's book is *“The Shack”* by William P. Young. Even if you haven't read the book, we hope you'll come anyway for a hot lunch and conversation. There will be sign up sheets and directions available in Fellowship Hall on February 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see you at Mary's!  
*Pat McNeilly*

**OUR DISCIPLES BOOK CLUB** met at the Hungerfords on January 13<sup>th</sup> and enjoyed a lively discussion, pictures of Guernsey, and delicious "T. John Hungerford" home-made apple pie. Our next meeting will take place in the Fireside Library on Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. We will discuss our book of the month – *“The Whistling Season”* – by Ivan Doig. "Can't cook but doesn't bite" opens the newspaper ad offering the services of an "A-1 housekeeper, sound morals, exceptional disposition" that draws the hungry attention of widower, Oliver Milliron in the fall of 1909. And so begins the unforgettable season that deposits the non-cooking, non-biting, ever-whistling Rose Llewellyn and her font-of-knowledge brother, Morris Morgan, along with a stampede of homesteaders drawn together by the promise of the Big Ditch - a gargantuan irrigation project intended to make the Montana prairie bloom. The characters are absolutely wonderful. The book has a little bit of everything: mystery, charm and humor.

**NEED A FUN ACTIVITY FOR THE WINTER?** Looking for something to do on a Saturday? Come join us for an afternoon of Bowling on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Family Ministry Team - watch for more details in the upcoming weeks!

**OUR PUPPET MINISTRY – NO STRINGS ATTACHED** – resumes rehearsals on Monday evenings from 6:00 until 7:30 p.m. each week. They have two upcoming performances that we'd like to share with you:

- Church of the Saviour will kick off their Lenten Season with our Puppets on Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.
- The Puppets will conduct the entire worship service at Plymouth Church on Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 a.m. (They were also asked to conduct worship at Living Waters Church of God that day but could not because of this commitment.)

If you would like to learn more about No Strings Attached, please call *Dale or Karen Schmauder*.

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

- † *Lois Valentine*, continuing her recovery at home
- † *Nancy Kidd*, her radiation treatments ended
- † *Margaret Beer*, in Huron Hospital with pneumonia
- † *Mildred Austin*, surgery January 30<sup>th</sup>
- † *John Ross*, surgery recovery, Hillcrest Hospital
- † *Members at home: Barbara Seaver*, Summerville of Mentor; *Barbara Harold*, Grande Pointe; *Margaret Beer*, normally at Candlewood; *Ella Bergeon*, home; *Louise Consilio*, home; *Marian Green*, Breckinridge; *Marjia Hehr*, home; *June Overfield*, Laurel Lake; *Violet Radomilovich*, home; *Frank and Avena Jayne*, The Fairways; *Barbara Ross*, Grande Pointe.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO PETER ZUBAN** who recently graduated from Cleveland State University with a degree in Communications. We join his parents, *Joseph and Pam*, in saying we are proud of you, Peter!

**2008 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ARE PREPARED AND WAITING FOR YOU IN THE FIRESIDE LIBRARY**

**THERE IS ONE MORE GREETING TO SHARE FROM OUR CARD TREE!** Add Jim and Janet Graff to the list of people sending us their holiday wishes via our 2008 card tree!

**THANKS TO THE MANY MEMBERS AND VISITORS WHO HAVE COMPLETED 2009 UPDATE FORMS!** It is important for us to have this information in the church office. For those of you who have completed similar forms within the last few years, you may simply write "same" where basic information is unchanged (i.e. address, phone number). But please take the time to complete other areas such as birth date, email address, cell phone number (that we may not have) and, especially, current contact information (which may have changed in the last few years). Additional copies are always available in the church office. Thank you for your cooperation.

**A RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE IS COMING TO DISCIPLES CHRISTIAN CHURCH.** On May 31<sup>st</sup> we will be partnering with Red Cross to help save lives in Northeastern Ohio. You may be asking yourself why we are having a blood drive at church. Here are a few reasons:

- ★ Every two seconds, someone in America needs blood.
- ★ In northern Ohio, over 900 healthy volunteer blood donors are needed each day to meet patients' needs.
- ★ The Northern Ohio Blood Services Region serves over 57 area hospitals in 19 counties.
- ★ Only 5% of eligible Americans choose to give blood.
- ★ One donation can help save the lives of up to three people.

Keep reading Church Life for more details about blood donation and our blood drive.

*Amy Campbell*

**THE MISSION OF INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK, IHN**, is to provide compassionate care to homeless

families, alleviate the trauma of homelessness and assist families in securing a stable home. This mission is accomplished by providing a caring, dignified environment of overnight hospitality in a church or synagogue facility, and providing supportive services to help families become self-sufficient. IHN guests are sheltered and cared for each evening by congregational volunteers. Guests stay for a week at each host congregation, arriving at 5:30 p.m. and leaving at 7:00 a.m.

Disciples Christian Church will serve home-cooked dinners and spend time with guests simply hanging out, helping with homework, playing games, etc. from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. at Heights Christian Church on Tuesday February 3<sup>rd</sup> and Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>. Many of your brothers and sisters in Christ are already active in IHN – in fact we already have enough help on Tuesday. Are you ready to become a part of this ministry, too? Here's what we need on Wednesday:

- Food! Any one or more of the following items may be prepared at your home and taken to Heights Christian to be served to guests – meat course, vegetables, salad, rolls, and dessert
- Time! Any of these gifts of time are valuable and time well spent at Heights Christian - from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. to serve dinner and eat with Guests; from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. to simply interact with guests by playing games, reading to children, and/or helping with homework, etc.; from 9:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. spend the night in your own room on site. Questions? Want to add your name to the list of volunteers? Please call *Beth Kean* or *Bonnie Goldner*.

**THE 18<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL HOMELESS STAND DOWN** is scheduled this year for Saturday January 31<sup>st</sup>, Friday February 6<sup>th</sup> and Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup>. The Homeless Stand down (HSD) is a mid-winter retreat that provides a warm safe, and affirming space for respite, renewal and reconnection for over 2,000 guests facing the challenges of poverty and homelessness. The nationwide Homeless Stand Down

movement began in 1988 as a service to veterans. The Cleveland HSD is open to everyone.

During the 2008 Stand Down, 480 volunteers from 90 congregations and organizations served 2,050 guests. The HSD provides shelter, breakfast, hot lunches, sack lunches, health screening, haircuts, boots, coats, hats, underwear, socks, personal care kits, bus passes, and access to social service providers and much more. The Stand Down has grown significantly. In 2003, 475 guests were served – in 2008, 2,050 guests were served – and this year 2,400 guests are expected to be served.

Disciples Christian Church is proud to be a member and supporter of Interact Cleveland. We are serving the Mid-day Meal for 800 Homeless people and those who help to serve them on Monday, February 16, 2009 – Presidents' Day –

at Trinity Cathedral, 2230 Euclid Avenue where parking is available on East 22<sup>nd</sup> Street and Prospect Avenue. There are many ways you can help:

- Helping in the kitchen at Trinity from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on February 16<sup>th</sup>
  - serving food and drinks to guests from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
  - clearing tables 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
  - helping for a part of that time
  - baking enough meat loaf to serve 20 in disposable foil pan(s) to be taken to the Stand Down
  - baking cookies (200 dozen will be needed!)
  - baking brownies with icing
  - donating boxes of Jiffy Cornbread Mix
- All food items should be brought, in disposable containers, to our Church kitchen on Sunday February 15<sup>th</sup>.

Children are welcome to participate but must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

Questions? Please call *Bonnie Goldner*. To add your name/donation to the volunteer list, simply call the church office.

**2009 GENERAL ASSEMBLY WILL EXPLORE WHOLENESS FOR ALL –**

Disciples from all walks of life will gather in Indianapolis from Wednesday, July 29 to Sunday, August 2, 2009 for the church’s biennial Assembly. Attendees will come from across the United States and Canada – and in many cases from around the world – to worship, learn, fellowship and discuss the future of our Church.

The 2009 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will center its work around Revelation 22:2:

.....“*And the leaves of the trees shall be for the healing of the nations.*”

As always, the thousands of disciples who gather in Indianapolis for the Assembly will

will seek to affirm and declare the gospel with faith, energy, and commitment.

Attendees will learn spiritual and practical skills that allow each of us to become part of the movement for wholeness in the world.

Interested in attending and hearing *Sharon Watkins* in person? Please talk with *Pastor Kris* as she and *David* plan to attend. It is in

Indianapolis – only a five hour drive from here!

For more information, please go to: <http://www.disciples.org/GeneralAssembly/PromotionalMaterial/tabid/269/Default.aspx>



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POSTMASTER: Send address changes  
To Church Life at Yellowstone and Mayfield



3663 Mayfield Road  
Cleveland Heights, OH 44121-1733

**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 January 28, 2009]**