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- Our new playground is almost finished

Church Life

At Yellowstone and Mayfield

Volume 65 Number 7 • June, 2009

JOIN US THIS SUNDAY, MAY 31ST,
FOR OUR PENTECOST WORSHIP
AND FOR THE RETIREMENT PARTY OF
NANCY KIDD
AND
KAREN WALSH!!

We will share casual, contemporary Worship
and then gather for an All-Church Picnic!

During the picnic
(you don't need to bring a thing –
just come and enjoy the food and fellowship!)
we will celebrate the Ministry and the Retirement
of *Nancy and Karen*.

We hope that *Jonathan Mosley* will be one of the
musicians this Sunday – perhaps his last before he
and *Emma* and *Fletcher* move to Nashville
(see more details of their new adventures inside).





Dear Disciples:

I'm back just today in the office after being away at the Festival of Homiletics in Atlanta last week. As you'd expect, today has been filled with the usual administrative details – returning phone calls, answering e-mails, checking in with the staff team, etc. – that demand my attention after I've been away. Though administration may not be my favorite part of the job, there's lots of ministry opportunities in those details. *It's good to be back!*

I'll be glad, though, when I can take some time to look over my notes from last week. The week was intense, with little time to reflect about one lecture or sermon before the next one began. I don't want to set these pages aside just yet – what I gained was of far too much value for that. I'm not just a preacher – I'll always be a student of preaching as well. Archbishop Desmond Tutu – always an inspiration – spoke on opening night. Prolific author and theologian, Walter Brueggeman, who at 86 years old still is on fire about God at work in the world, captured our hearts and minds. With too many others in-between to mention, just know that I was in a good place, soaking it all in, thinking, writing, and praying in the fine company of other preachers.

Later this summer, I've been asked to be a presenter at a Health and Wellness Retreat for persons in their first five years of parish ministry. I'm supposed to speak about the nature of *call* to ministry. Often it is a tough transition from seminary to a local church, and it is easy to lose sight of why we do what we do and for what greater purpose. I'm grateful for the week away at the Homiletics Conference where even an experienced professional like me can come away refreshed, renewed, and reminded of my own call. I'm grateful for a congregation that understands the significance of continuing education opportunities and reflection for their pastor.

With this June edition of Church Life, many of you are getting ready for summer schedules with schools out and vacations planned. I hope you'll be with us in worship, on Mission Mondays, at the Meet the Neighbors monthly meal, etc. whenever you are in town. The work of the church and the opportunities to refresh, renew, and honor God in worship goes on 12 months a year! See you in church.

Pastor Tris

At our final Board Meeting of the 2008-2009 church year, the Personnel Practices Handbook revisions were approved. The Outreach request to help the Cleveland Christian Home with their fundraiser was also approved. Our Ministry Planning Committee, now known as Growing Disciples, made a report of their progress in finding what our congregation sees as its ministries now and in the future. Discussion is currently underway to hold an all-Board retreat to work on a report for the congregation.

**A new slate of leaders will be presented
at the Annual Congregational Meeting
on Sunday, June 14th, immediately after our worship.**

Moderator Ed Kidd

***Growing Disciples –
Ourselves, Our Church,
Our Community, Our World***

Have you attended a vision session yet? If not, you have two more opportunities to participate in one: June 7th or June 14th. At these sessions, we are being asked about where we are now finding spiritual growth in our church and what we can do together in the future to bring more growth to ourselves, our church, our community, and our world. Please call the office (216 382-5344) and let us know if you would like to be a part of either gathering. If neither date works for you but do want an opportunity to share your thoughts, let us know that, too! **Growing Disciples** needs your prayers and participation.

Janie Morrison and David Eggert

AS WE SAY GOOD-BYE TO OUR CHILDREN'S EDUCATORS THIS SUNDAY, work continues to find the person(s) to follow *Nancy and Karen* in a Family Ministries position. *Carol Edwards*, Personnel Chair, *Gail Ritchey*,

Christian Education Chairperson, *Amy Biscoff*, parent and Outreach Co-chair, *Sue Curtis*, Moderator-Elect, *Randy Wicks*, treasurer, and *Pastor Kris* are actively involved in looking over resumes and preparing to begin the interview process.

The position has been posted in several different places – the Heights Observer and Sun Press newspapers, various seminaries and universities, and with the Ohio Christian Church and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) website for church positions. The posting reads:

Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

Disciples Christian Church, Cleveland Heights, is looking for an energetic and creative person for this half-time position in our growing church. Areas of responsibility include Sunday morning Christian Education for youth and children, support and nurture of their families, teacher and sponsor recruitment, and a commitment to growth of family ministry opportunities. Send cover letter and resume to pastorkris@discipleschristian.org.

We are still accepting resumes if you know of someone who might be interested in all or part of the position. So that we might take all the time we need to find the right person/people for this position, *Gail Ritchey* has agreed to take on Sunday programming for our children.

ALONG WITH SAYING OUR GOOD-BYES TO LONGTIME STAFF

PERSONS, *Nancy Kidd and Karen Walsh*, we also express our good wishes to *Katie Keresman*, who has been serving as our Youth Intern since February 2008. This ten-hour weekly position was created as *Amy Campbell* moved into the position of Creative Ministries Director, for this period of time while *Katie* was an undergraduate at John Carroll University (see elsewhere in this newsletter for *Katie's* future plans). With *Nancy and Karen's* retirement, we have an opportunity to look at these positions differently – always looking for the best ways we can offer Christ's love to our youth, children, and their families.

UPCOMING ADULT EDUCATION:

- † May 31st: Celebration for *Nancy and Karen* - no classes.
- † June 7th and 14th: *Rev. Linda Walling*, CEO of Faithful Reform in Health Care, will talk about the status of health care in the United States, the efforts underway to bring about reform and the role of faith-based organizations in pushing for change. *Faithful Citizens and Health Care - Health care is going to happen this year. Both the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate have included a vote on health care legislation by the end of 2009, with or without bipartisan support. Will that reform include*

everyone and work well for all of us? Will it reflect our faith-inspired values of compassion, shared responsibility, stewardship of resources, and special concern for those who are most vulnerable? Or will we simply tweak some of what's broken and still leave millions of people without needed health care? The answers to these questions will depend upon whose voices are the loudest as the legislative deliberations unfold over the coming months. These two study sessions will include an overview of the health care legislation from the perspective of moral values, an explanation of the legislative process as it leads to reform, and a look at how voices of faith can impact the results. In preparation for these sessions, a survey will be available to help us understand how our current way of health care is impacting members and friends of Disciples Christian Church. Watch for more details!

THE PICTORIAL DIRECTORIES are finished and available to be picked up during coffee fellowship each Sunday, or, in the church office during the week. You may purchase a CD of the photos taken of your family as well as a copy of the directory for \$20. If you would prefer to simply buy the directory, the cost is \$7.00. Special thanks to *Ron Werman, Thon Burlingame, Trish Burton, Sue Curtis, Kara Ladaika, and Bill Laurenson* for making our directory so wonderful!

APPROXIMATELY 15 OF OUR YOUTH (6TH through 9TH GRADES) WILL PARTICIPATE IN A MISSION TRIP RIGHT HERE IN CLEVELAND. From June 14th–18th, our kids – along

with 32 kids and adults from Geist Christian Church – will use Disciples Christian Church as home base while working during the day at locations such as: The City Mission, The Cleveland Food Bank, 2100 Lakeside, Cleveland Christian Home and more. This experience will give these young people a week of spiritual growth and worship, confidence that they can make a meaningful impact in the world, and the opportunity to work with friends (old and new) and discover a genuine appreciation of their blessings. Please keep us in your prayers during our mission trip. In the weeks that follow, we will share some of our experiences with the congregation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2009 GRADUATES!

🎓 **ADAM AUSPERK** – graduated May 16th from Kent State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Tourism Management. He will begin KSU's Graduate School of Business in June and will pursue a Masters in Accounting.

🎓 **KYLE COUGHLIN** – graduated from Tilton School in New Hampshire where he played golf and basketball. He will spend the summer as an intern for a political consulting firm in downtown Cleveland. College begins in August at High Point University in North Carolina where he will study in the school of business.

🎓 **LEXI DEET** – graduated from Brush High School and is currently an exchange student in Chile.

🎓 **HILARY DEE EHRlich** – graduated May 17th from Mandel School (Case) of Applied Social Sciences (MSASS) with a Master's Degree in Social Work. She plans

to work at a VA hospital somewhere in Ohio.

🎓 **JACKIE KERESMAN** – graduates from Kirtland High School on June 7th. A figure skater since age two, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends. In the fall she will attend Hiram College.

🎓 **KATIE KERESMAN** – graduates from John Carroll University with a degree in Religious Studies. She will attend graduate school in the fall to pursue a Masters in Education, planning to become a high school teacher.

🎓 **KELLI LIVERPOOL** – graduates from Southern Oregon University on June 14th with a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration with an emphasis in management. She hopes to earn the new International Business certificate being offered by the SOU School of Business, a certificate she assisted in creating with Dr. Donna Lane. During her time at SOU, she traveled to Costa Rica with international volunteers to do conservation work, participated in a study at Hochschule Harz in Wernigerode, Germany, and was inducted into Omicron Delta Kappa, the National Leadership Honor Society.

🎓 **MATTHEW RUNYON** – graduates from the University of Southern California with a degree in accounting. He will be employed by Raytheon Corporation in Indianapolis.

🎓 **ANTHONY SANABRIA** – will receive his MBA from the University of Phoenix.

🎓 **JONATHAN MOSLEY** – received the M.D. half of his MD/PhD degree. He and his family will move to Nashville in June so he

can begin a residency program in Internal Medicine at Vanderbilt University. *Emma* will be working at Vanderbilt where she has been given a faculty position in the pulmonary division of the Department of Internal Medicine (IM) and will be doing research in asthma.

WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO RECOGNIZE THOSE WHO ARE CONTINUING THEIR EDUCATIONS:

- 📖 **CATHY AUSPERK** is enrolled in the American Library Association's Post-Graduate Certified Public Library Administrator program
- 📖 **KATE WRATTEN**, daughter of *Kris and David Eggert*, began classes for a MBA at Indiana Wesleyan – she is a graduate of Indiana University and employed by Resort Condominiums, International (RCI)
- 📖 **TRACY KIDD CLARK** begins a Master's Program in Speech and Language Pathology at Akron University this fall where she will be a Graduate Assistant

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- † *JoAnne Humbert*
- † *John Hungerford*, rehab at Hanna House
- † *Betty Lesko*, recovery from eye surgery
- † *Shirley Craig*, on the death of her husband, *John (Jack)*
- † *Robin Herrington-Bowen's* son *Rick*,
- † *Lexi Deet*, exchange student in Chile
- † *Members at home: Barbara Seaver*, Summerville of Mentor; *Barbara Harold*, Grande Pointe; *Margaret Beer*, Broadview Manor; *Ella Bergeon*, home; *Louise Consilio*, home; *Marian Green*, Breckinridge; *Marjia Hehr*, home; *June Overfield*, Laurel Lake; *Violet Radomilovich*,

home; *Frank and Averno Jayne*, The Fairways; *Barbara Ross*, Grande Pointe, *Lois Valentine*, home.

THE DISCIPLES BOOK CLUB had to cancel its meeting on Tuesday, May 18th for a number of reasons. We will have our next meeting in the library at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 16th. The book to be discussed is still Geraldine Brooks' People of the Book. It's a rather long book and most of the members of the club welcomed the extra time to read it. Hope to see all of you on June 16th. In the meantime, "Happy Reading".

CWF WILL HAVE ITS FINAL MEETING OF THIS CHURCH YEAR ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17TH AT NOON. It will be a salad luncheon and *Carol David* has again graciously invited us to her lovely home. We will discuss CWF plans for next year and hope to have many members in attendance. We need lots of new ideas and welcome any new members to come. Joining CWF and attending programs and activities during the year provides a wonderful way to become acquainted with the women of Disciples Christian Church.

MEN OF DISCIPLES MEET NEXT ON JUNE 17TH at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel. We are looking forward to a program led by *Rev. John Humbert*. All of our men – members and visitors – are encouraged to join us!

OUR PUPPET MINISTRY will lead worship at Church of the Living Waters on June 14th!

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO MARK RITCHEY AND HIS PLAYGROUND CONSTRUCTION CREW! Our new

playground is coming along beautifully and should be ready to play on any day now. The team has been working twice a week so that our children can be outside swinging and climbing as quickly as possible.

WE ARE SO GRATEFUL TO RICHARD HUFF for keeping the flower bed outside the Fireside Library beautiful. He planted bulbs that bring us tulips every spring and he donates annuals for us to enjoy all summer. He also spends time weeding various beds around the property.

SUE CURTIS AND RON WERMAN ARE VERY ACTIVE IN THE CLEVELAND PHOTOGRAPIC SOCIETY'S regular competitions throughout the year. Both have won awards at different times this past year. One of *Ron's* photos placed in the Nature category in the year-end awards as did *Sue's* in the Pictorial category. Congratulations to both of them – who, incidentally, both worked as photographers for our new Pictorial Directory!

WHILE WE ARE EXPRESSING ADMIRATION, BILL BISCOFF completed the Boston Marathon in April – recording his best time ever! Congratulations, *Bill*.

SUMMER MISSION MONDAYS: Finally, warm weather has returned to North-eastern Ohio, and with it Summer Mission Mondays. This summer we have expanded our Mission Mondays' program to six weeks. The last two Mondays in June we will work on our own property doing a variety of projects. July 6th and 13th, we will be gardening at Hope Garden. And, July 20th and 27th we will be helping at Cleveland Christian Home. Mark your

calendars now so that you won't miss the opportunity for fun, fellowship and hard work in the name of our Lord.

THE JUNE MEET THE NEIGHBORS COMMUNITY MEAL will be held on Thursday, June 25th from 5-6:30. Watch for opportunities to help coming in future bulletins!

HEFC BENEFIT CONCERT: The event was a big success - over \$500 in cash was raised (twice the amount of last year) plus 200 pounds of food were donated. Thank you to everyone who supported the event and a special note of gratitude to *Jonathan Mosley* and *Jazztime*, *Bill and Susan Schoeffler*, my band mates in *Ray's Fabulous Out-of-Tuners*, *Kim and Cy McFarlin*, *Mike and Liz Keresman*, *Mark Ritchey*, *Ron Werman*, *Dale and Karen Schmauder*, *Thon Alicia-Burlingame*, *Amy Campbell* and the rest of the staff at DCC.

Don Ehrlich

FROM BOB VITOLAN: I want to extend my personal thank you to everyone involved in the recent HEFC benefit! The Food Center would also like to express appreciation to the entire Church Community for their ongoing love and support.

POWER IN THE BLOOD - Disciples Christian Church is participating in a Red Cross program called "Power in the Blood". On Sunday, July 19th, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. we will be doing our part in a partnership with approximately 300 churches in Northern Ohio to host a blood drive and encourage our congregation to join in this life-saving mission. The power of Jesus' Blood washed our sins away - the power of your blood can help save the lives of up to three people.

ON SUNDAY, MAY 3RD, BARBARA POWELL-WATSON FROM CLEVELAND'S PROJECT LEARN shared stories underlying the need for more adults to step forward and volunteer to become Reading Tutors. There is a small fee, which can be waived or negotiated, for the training and then you get to keep all the profits for yourself. These would include, changing someone's life, sharing your abilities, feeling good about yourself, contributing to a better society and helping improve a life situation beyond measure, etc. *Barbara* would like you to know that if a few people from Disciples choose to accept this opportunity, she'll hold the day-long Tutor Training right here at DCC, so you wouldn't have to go downtown. If you need more information (or cajoling), please contact *Cathy Ausperk* (440-543-6614.) Thanks for **READING** this!

WEEK OF COMPASSION RESPONDS TO SPRING STORMS – Following turbulent weather across much of the U.S., Week of Compassion sent two grants this week. The first was to the swept through southern Illinois on May 8th. The church itself lost its roof - and then heavy rains fell. We have also been in touch with FCC, Carbondale, IL, which also sustained major roof damage, and FCC, Kirksville, MO, and are awaiting word from them as they assess damages. Contributions are welcome and as always, go in their entirety as you direct them. You may donate to WoC through Disciples Christian Church.

DEAR GOD – HELP! When you are overwhelmed and need someone to help share the load, let the people on our Prayer Chain help. We are willing to petition on your behalf and hopefully increase the number of prayers for those that need them. Call *Donna* (216-382-0527) or the office. Prayers of thanksgiving are also welcome.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
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