



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:

- Adult Christian Education opportunities during Lent!
- Our next Board Meeting is March 9th
- Alternative Worship Update
- Our Pictorial Directory photography is wrapping up
- New Gathering Room for our children
- Upcoming events for men, women and families
- Youth Sunday Photographs

Church Life

At Yellowstone and Mayfield

Volume 65 Number 4 • March, 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 began with Ash Wednesday and ends with Easter morning, April 12th, 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.

Sunday, March 1st – 1st Sunday in Lent
Scriptures: Mark 1:9-15; Genesis 9:8-17
Honesty

Sunday, March 8th – 2nd Sunday in Lent
Scriptures: Mark 8:31-37; Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 and Genesis 18:9-15
Patience

Sunday, March 15th – 3rd Sunday in Lent
Scriptures: Psalm 19; John 2:13-22
Clearing the Clutter

Sunday, March 22nd – 4th Sunday in Lent
Scriptures: Numbers 21:4-9; John 3:14-21
Complexity

Sunday, March 29th – 5th Sunday in Lent
Scriptures: Psalm 23; John 12:20-33
Facing Death



I should tell you that, when our flight home from sunny California landed Sunday evening at Hopkins and we saw that it was snowing, I wasn't sure I wanted to get off the plane. It was good to be warm for a few days. *When will it be spring?* It was good also to relax for a few days knowing that when we returned, it would be Ash Wednesday and the work of Lent would begin. Mid-week worship as well as Sunday mornings, my Lenten practice of praying for each of you, weekly Pastor's Class and baptisms – all are additions to an already full schedule.

It might surprise you then to know that I love the season of Lent. I think it's because of a heightened awareness that we're supposed to be doing something or giving up something or learning something because we are Christian. You know, if you've lived through the last two seasons of Lent with me as your pastor, that I encourage taking something on during Lent, rather than giving something up. That said, I realize that whatever we take on means we are giving something else up that might fill that time. Time is indeed a precious resource.

So, how will you spend your time in these weeks that lead us to Easter? I hope that you'll be spending at least some of this time together with me on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. I hope also that you will find just the right balance of work and play, exercise and rest, food and fast, time alone and with others, taking care of yourself and looking for ways you can care for others.

Who knows, this heightened awareness and attention to how we spend our time just might last beyond these next six weeks. We'd all be healthier for finding balance. Our church would be a hub of constant activity.

So, I'm back from the desert that afforded me some precious R & R, ready to enter another desert. That desert where we go deeper into our faith. That desert that leads us to the empty tomb on Easter morning.

Join me, won't you?

Pastor Kris

WORSHIP AND ADULT EDUCATION DURING LENT AT DISCIPLES

CONNECTIONS - Experience with us each Wednesday during Lent at 7:00 p.m.:

- Worship that connects your workweek to your faith.
- Worship that connects and builds on Sunday's message.
- Worship that connects in different styles of music.
- Worship that connects using all our senses.
- Worship that connects us to each other.
- And as always for Disciples, worship that connects at the Table.

Wednesday, March 4th – *Becoming Real*

Wednesday, March 11th – *All Smiles*

Wednesday, March 18th – *Running on Empty?*

Wednesday, March 25th – *Knowing it All*

Wednesday, April 1st – *Staying Alive*

Child care is available during worship.



A note about the artwork, from artist *Sue Curtis*: The design was inspired by the cross, connected chain links, and the beautiful curves in circles. The word "Connections" arches over the cross like a rainbow, symbolic of God's promise from the Old Testament.

The perfect circle in red, connecting all the links, represents God and all the elements that connect us as Disciples. The links, shaped as "Cs" for Connections, are open to receive more and are reaching out beyond the circle. The circular shapes throughout, unify the symbol and echo the central circle that binds all elements as one. The closed link at the bottom of the cross is unbroken and complete, just as Christ died on the cross to reconnect us with God through grace, thus completing God's covenant in the New Testament.

ADULT EDUCATION 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" in *Pastor Kris*' office.

† 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 in the Chapel.

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 Laurensen* in the Chapel.

No adult education classes will be held on Palm Sunday, April 5th.

WE ARE WRAPPING UP OUR NEW

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY! If you haven't had your photograph taken yet, please stop by the Fireside Library immediately after worship one of the next two Sundays! If that's not possible, call *Amy* in the church office to set an appointment.

We will offer you a CD of all of the pictures taken of your family as well as a copy of the directory for \$20. If you don't want your CD, your directory will cost \$7.00. If you simply can't get to church, we welcome you to send a photograph of yourself by mail or email – but please do it this week.



MARCH BOARD MEETING
MARCH 9TH - 7:30 p.m.

On the agenda for this meeting are motions that will impact our future:

- 1) the procedures of the Ministry Planning Team;
- 2) direct deposit and on-line banking;
- 3) the disposition of the Nell Rose Riel bequest;
- 4) the procedure for discussions of personnel at Board Meetings.

As always, a quorum must be present to pass motions. We urge you to attend as we make these decisions that will move our church forward. *Moderator Ed Kidd*



THE PROPERTY MINISTRY TEAM will meet next on Thursday, March 5th at 4:30 p.m.

THE OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM invites you to join them in their ministry and to be a part of their next meeting on March 15th at 12:30 p.m.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS – Our Worship Ministry now offers a second option to our large \$60 arrangement – a less expensive one for \$30. These flowers will show nicely on the Communion Table in front of the cross. You may take them home 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 still 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.

ALTERNATIVE WORSHIP UPDATE: The time is right to start plans for an alternative worship service. Youth Sunday, with the amazing contemporary music, resulted in a ground swell of enthusiasm for a second service. We kicked off the Alternative Worship Task Force on Sunday, February 15th with a planning meeting. The **vision** for the service is to be as high quality as the traditional service is and to support it with the church staff, lay people and full programming for children.

While not everyone personally prefers an alternative worship, we hope that all will support

this effort and come together as we move forward giving of their spiritual gifts to make the service a reality. We are committed to working to help grow our church by having two very different, yet both very high quality, worship services. *Pastor Kris*, together with Music Directors *Bill and Susan Schoeffler*, believes strongly in the potential for growth in both traditional and alternative worship.

Our projected start date is September. While it may seem far in the future, there is much to do! If your passion lies in any of these areas, we would love for you to join in this new ministry:

- Music, including instrumentalists and vocalists;
- Worship team planning;
- Technology;
- Children’s programming;
- Communications, promotion and advertising;
- Time and location logistics;
- Commitment to prayer and support of this effort.

Call or e-mail *Amy Campbell* in the church office to get on board. We are in the process of working on our own computer based social network that will allow the Task Force to have on-going conversations between meetings and for the sharing of ideas and resources. We will meet next on April 22nd at 12:30 p.m.

THE DISCIPLES BOOK CLUB will meet on Tuesday, March 10th at 7:00 P.M. Since our new president has great respect for Abraham Lincoln, we selected Team of Rivals by Doris Kearns Goodwin as our March book selection. Ms. Goodwin is a Pulitzer Prize winner in history for No Ordinary Time. In Team of Rivals she allows her readers to fully understand the greatness of Lincoln. His extraordinary interpersonal skills, intelligence, and commitment complimented by the significant contributions of his three former rivals - Seward, Chase and Bates plus Stanton - allowed him to win the Civil War, save the Union and abolish slavery in America. The book shows Lincoln's capacity to put himself in the place of ordinary men, to experience their feelings and to understand their motives and desires. Please pick up a copy of the book and join us in the Fireside Library on March 10th. Everyone is welcome.

CHRISTIAN WOMENS’ FELLOWSHIP: The March meeting of CWF will be held on Wednesday, March 18th at 12:30 p.m. We are

inviting all members of Disciples Christian Church, both men and women, to this meeting. With our present recession and dismal economy, we are all concerned about what we need to do to protect our possessions. *Ann Womer Benjamin* will give us helpful hints for these troubled times. The topic of her message is, "Basic Property Planning". Please bring a bag lunch and a note pad to jot down the important suggestions Ann will provide for us. Hope to see you on the 18th.

MEN OF DISCIPLES MEET NEXT ON MARCH 10TH at 7:30 p.m. when the discussion will be led by *Robert von Lowe*. All men – members, visitors, and friends – are invited to join in on the conversation centered around "The Great Release: A Christian Alternative to the Big Bang Birth of the Universe."

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- † *Adrian von der Lippe* on the death of his father, *Rudiger von der Lippe*
- † *Hope Hungerford*, home, rehabilitation for hip replacement
- † *Margaret Beer*, in Huron Hospital
- † *John Ross*, surgery recovery, home
- † *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, *Lois Valentine*, home.

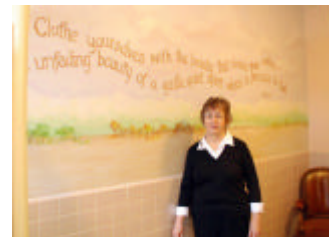
THE LORD IS CLOSE TO EVERYONE WHO PRAYS TO HIM, TO ALL WHO TRULY PRAY TO HIM. (*Psalms 145:18*) Now is the time to come closer and, as *Pastor Kris* recently said, "praying for other people changes me." Please be a link in our Prayer Chain and see how it changes you – as well as the ones for whom you are praying. Add your name to our list - call *Donna Beckner* or the church office.

PASTOR KRIS HAS BEGUN HER LENTEN PRAYER DISCIPLINE of praying for each person in the congregation. When you receive her letter with the date she'll be praying for you, please take time to write your response on the Prayer Request sheet and return to her at

church, or e-mail your response to pastorkris@discipleschristian.org.

JOHN AND I WOULD LIKE TO THANK *Pastor Kris* and everyone for the cards and prayers during my surgery. They were deeply appreciated. *Marilyn and John Ross*

"A HAPPY HEART MAKES THE FACE CHEERFUL." *Proverbs 15:13* – This is the Bible verse that greets any woman visiting the ladies' restroom at Disciples Christian Church. Because this and four other verses are written on the walls, I am admitting that I did it and I hear that many now leave that restroom with smiles on their faces.



Great! I love doing interior decorative painting and have wanted to calligraphy words on a wall for a while. I never imagined that the bathroom at my church would present me with this opportunity and challenge. I needed to find appropriate words that expressed inner beauty and self-confidence. After much research, prayer and guidance from *Pastor Kris*, I think we met the challenge.

"Genuine beauty grows from a peaceful soul." Who of us at times hasn't struggled to feel good about themselves? . . . so I chose this affirmation.

"I am as my Creator made me and since He is satisfied, so am I."

This project took on a life of its own for me – silly as it sounds, I loved going to work in the bathroom for about a week. As I painted the words, I also thought of the beauty in nature and the four seasons, so a summer, fall, winter, spring painting seemed to fit.

"Clothe yourselves with the beauty that comes from within – the unfading beauty of a gentle, quiet spirit which is precious to God."

Disciples Christian Church, to me, is a giving, friendly, and self-affirming church. If you happen to visit the ladies' room there, switch off the light on your way out and read...

"You are God's best work of art."

Gail Haverdill

BOWL AWAY THE WINTER BLUES - Come join us for an afternoon of bowling on Saturday, March 28th from 3:00 -6:00 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Family Ministry team - watch for more details in the upcoming weeks!

YOUNG DISCIPLES NEWS

THE GATHERING ROOM FOR KIDS – While brainstorming with our young parents about possible relocation spots for our Children’s Library, a terrific idea came forth. Since we are currently using only one of our nursery rooms, it was suggested that Nursery II (adjacent to Fellowship Hall) become the home of our library and also house board games, an array of other games, and puzzles. The bulletin board could be covered with felt and used as a flannel board. It would be the perfect spot for kids to be – close by to parents – during fellowship events or various meetings. We all agreed it was a “winner” of an idea, the Property Ministry Team approved, and the change was made immediately. The addition of beanbag chairs makes the room very inviting, and the kids can snuggle right in with a good book.



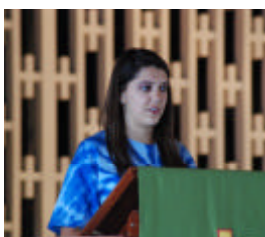
The kids love their new space! Please feel free to walk through next Sunday! A huge thank you goes to Kara Ladaika and Gail Ritchey for everything they did to make the Gathering Room happen!

THE GAME ROOM – Oakridge Hall is once again the home of the Game Room. We had tried using the “old choir room” (downstairs next to the Journey to Bethlehem storage room) but there just wasn’t enough space. Soon we will have a “new” ping-pong table (another church is donating one they don’t use) and our room will be complete. The “old choir room” will then receive a coat of paint, some “new” furniture (let us know if you happen to have an old chair or couch you’d like to donate) and will be the new Chi Rho room next year. *Karen Walsh and Nancy Kidd*

Editor’s note: *During Sunday, February 8th’s Young Disciples Moment in worship, Nancy Kidd and Karen Walsh shared the news of their upcoming retirement with our kids and our worshipping community. After serving in the position of Directors of Christian Education for several years now, Nancy and Karen have decided to make their last day in the position, Sunday, June 7th. We will miss their work, of course, but we are grateful that they will continue as Disciples!*

FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES OF ALL AGES – Palm Sunday Brunch and Egg Hunt – On Sunday, April 5th, everyone is invited to a potluck brunch in Fellowship Hall immediately following worship to celebrate the baptisms of our new members. Following the brunch, we’ll enjoy our annual egg hunt for children (nursery – 5th grade). It will be a joyous event and we hope you will plan to come. Mark the date on your calendar now and start hunting for your favorite recipe for either a salad, casserole, or dessert to share with your church family! There will be a sign-up sheet in late March so that we know you are coming!

THERE IS LOTS OF EXCITEMENT BUZZING AROUND THE DISCIPLES YOUTH! The Youth have decided that they want to paint the Youth Room so, on February 28th, we will tackle this fun and exciting project. The painting is coupled with a lock-in so the Youth will show up at church on Saturday afternoon to begin painting the Youth Room and will then stay over night at the church. We are all really excited for this fun activity! Come check out the Youth Room on Sunday March 1st so you can see the final results! *Katie Keresman, Youth Intern*



**Youth
Sunday
2009**

DISCIPLES SERVE

MEET THE NEIGHBORS COMMUNITY MEAL!

Please mark Thursday, March 26th on your calendar and plan to join us for our next "Meet the Neighbors" Community Meal! There will be opportunities to help, as well, listed in the Sunday bulletin. If you'd like to donate money or food or your time (both to help and to join us for dinner!), we'd love to have you! *Cathy Ausperk*

POWER IN THE BLOOD: Disciples Christian Church is participating in a Red Cross program called "Power In The Blood". On May 31st 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.

Please mark your calendar and tell your friends so that we will be successful in this 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.

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH IS DESIGNATED AS HUNGER SUNDAY AT DISCIPLES. The envelopes with a red heart that you see in your pew pockets are provided for that offering. Did you know that for every \$1 you share with the Heights Emergency Food Center \$5 worth of food is purchased from the Food Bank? Wow! That means that your gift is multiplied five times! That little envelope welcomes a dime, a dollar or a huge check. Each month HEFC is serving nearly 1000 individuals living in our community. Would you rather bring a can of soup than donate cash? During March a basket will be provided at the back of our Sanctuary for the collection of soup. (Be sure your can of soup has a current date.) Each month we'll be asking for something different in the food basket. As always, thanks for sharing. *The Outreach Ministry Team*

MISSION TRIP IN CLEVELAND – Saturday April 4th from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. – Cleveland Christian Home Work Day – the needs are huge:

- Paint and refurbish apartments for Agape Independent Living Program;
- Organize needs room which has moved to West Boulevard Location;
- Yard Work at Cleveland Christian Home on Lorain

For more information about how you can become part of this ministry, contact *Bonnie Goldner*.

CLEVELAND CHRISTIAN HOME WALK & RUN FOR THE KIDS – Saturday, April 11th at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo - walk for kids and then spend the day at the Zoo. Registrations are available in the church office. *Katie Keresman* has talked with our Youth and they are planning to do the Walk but everyone of any age can do it – it's a great event!

HUGE THANK YOU to the more than 50 people from Disciples who cooked, baked, and donated in many ways to make the noon meal for the Homeless Stand Down such a treat for our guests at Trinity. Numbers – wow – over 600



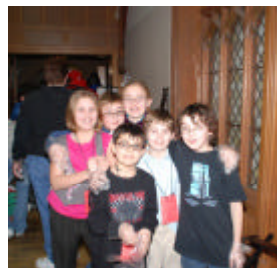
people enjoyed a warm meal and warm smiles from all the 33 Disciples volunteers of all ages who cooked

and served on Monday, February 16th. Some overheard comments: "Imagine, they served real mashed potatoes - the meat loaf tastes as good as it smells - the cookies are beautiful."



Thank you Disciples and friends for all your generosity: *Bonnie and Russ*

Goldner; Ann and Harry Farmer; Mahala and Richard Huff; Beth Kean; Craig Gordon; Marsha and Ron Werman; Carol and Bill Edwards; Paige Bobbitt; Maddie Redwine; Pastor Kris and David Eggert;



Jean Fisher; Carol David; Bernadette Janes; Ed

Kidd; Betty Lesko; Gail, Mark, Courtney, Joshua, and Evan Ritchey; Sue and Zoe Curtis; Amy, Brandon, and Brian Biscoff; Ryan Porter; Carol, Patrick, and Emily Reed; Debra Briggs; Emma and Jonathan Mosley; Robin Herrington-Bowen; Hazel Haffner; Beverly Kean; Holly Coughlin; Carolyn Bruce; Gail Haverdill; Bev Dadante; Donna Beckner; Bev Troha; Kathy Roach; Amy



Campbell; Elaine Mates; Dale Ausperk; Mary Sayre; Beverly Troha; Lauren Wicks; Claudia



Vondriska; Chris Hawkins; Elie McBride; Journey to Bethlehem "beggars" collection; The Walling family;

Duane Mayhew; Starbucks Coffee at Cedar and Warrensville Road; Heinen's; and Trader Joes.



Many thanks to Ron Werman for all of the photographs in this edition of Church Life.

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