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Inside:

- **Growing Disciples**
- Upcoming Adult Education
- H.E.F.C. Benefit May 3rd
- Board Meeting May 11th
- Graduate Recognition May 17th
- Retirement Celebration for Nancy Kidd and Karen Walsh and an All-Church Picnic on May 31st
- Four New Members join us through Baptism
- C.W.F. Plant Sale going on now through May 17th

Church Life

At Yellowstone and Mayfield

Volume 65 Number 6 • May, 2009

Upcoming Worship at Disciples

May is such a busy month for our congregation with Mother's Day, graduations, Memorial Day weekend, and the church's celebration of Pentecost. We hope these special days will be greeted with spring temperatures and sunshine! We invite you to worship with your church family for all these special Sunday morning worship occasions.

May 3rd: **Growing Disciples** sermon series concludes
The Decision to Love
1 John 3:16-24

May 10th: **Mothers' Day**
Children's Drama and a special gift for all women in attendance
A Guide
Acts 8:26-40

May 17th: **Graduate and Teacher Recognition**
Love Risks
John 9:8-17

Pastor Kris preaching all above Sundays

May 24th: **Memorial Day Weekend**
Guest Preacher Jim Runyon
Making Hope a Reality
Matthew 25:35-40

May 31st: **Pentecost**
Casual Contemporary Worship followed by An All-Church Picnic!
Celebration of Ministry and Retirement of Nancy Kidd and Karen Walsh



I've been thinking a lot about *Growing Disciples* lately. Some of that thinking has to do with the current congregation-wide effort led by *Janie Morrison* and *David Eggert* – have you marked your calendar to attend one of the sessions? I hope so. Naturally, some of my thinking has also been part of the preparation for the three-part *Growing Disciples* sermon series that ends this coming Sunday. But it's been much more than even that. My focus has been on that first part of the tagline – *Ourselves* – and on the theme scripture from Ephesians 4:15 – *we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.*

I include myself in the *ourselves*, because I recognize I have growing up to do too!

During Lent, I prayed for 300 Disciples Christian members and participants and hand-wrote notes acknowledging all those prayers. It is good discipline for me – especially resisting the temptation to fire off e-mails instead! I know from all the years I have engaged in this Lenten practice, that it is always a powerful experience. When you shared your prayer letters with me and when you told me you were praying for me too, the experience went even deeper. Taking that time each day, concentrating my thoughts on *you*, takes me more deeply into how spiritually connected we can be with each other. I hope that, through your personal Lenten experience, you *grew* as a Disciple too.

I'm on my way, in just a couple of weeks, to a professional growth opportunity when I attend the Festival of Homiletics in Atlanta, Georgia with 1500 other preachers from across the country, taking a week of my study leave. This preaching conference features Bishop Desmond Tutu, Barbara Brown Taylor, Otis Moss III, Brian McLaren, Jim Wallis, to name only a few. Two of the themes are "Overcoming Divisions Through Christ" and "Preaching and Leading in the New Economy." I have powerful memories from the last Festival I attended in Chicago, in May 2005, and eagerly anticipate a week full of learning from some of the best, and experiencing God's Spirit in nightly worship and music.

I'll be a *growing disciple*. I look forward to all the *growing* we can do together.

Blessings,

Pastor Kris

Note: I'll be away from the office beginning Monday, May 18th, returning on Tuesday, May 26th. *Jim Runyon*, Disciples Christian member and Director of Church Relations for the Cleveland Christian Home, will preach in my absence on May 24th, and *Hazel Haffner* and *Ed Kidd* will be the elders on call.

Growing Disciples –

Ourselves, Our Church, Our Community, Our World

By now you should have received a card in the mail inviting you to a vision session on one of the following dates:

May 3rd, May 17th, June 7th, June 14th.

At these sessions, you will be asked about where you are now finding spiritual growth in our church and what we can do together in the future to bring more growth to you, our church, our community, and our world. Please call the office (216 382-5344) and let us know if you would like to change dates, or if you did not receive an invitation, to schedule a date. **Growing Disciples** needs your prayers and participation.

Janie Morrison and David Eggert

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO THE NEXT CHURCH BOARD MEETING ON

MONDAY, MAY 11TH AT 7:30 P.M. Join us to hear all that is happening at our church and give us *your* valuable input. *Moderator Ed* has even “sweetened” this invitation by guaranteeing that “a lucky someone” attending the meeting will go home with a delicious apple pie in hand! It could be you! Please circle the date and come.

UPCOMING ADULT EDUCATION:

- † May 3rd: A presentation about Project Learn by *Cathy Ausperk* and *Barbara Powell-Watson* (from Project Learn). Several years ago, Cleveland’s Project Learn, the only local organization that offers help to adults who can’t read at all, had more than 300 volunteers. Today, they have about 60. Has the number of adults coming to them for help decreased as well? Hardly. Learn more about the work of Project Learn and what it takes to become a volunteer tutor.
- † May 10th: No classes due to Mother’s Day.
- † May 17th: *Cy McFarlin* will talk about his experiences in Myanmar.

- † May 24th: No classes due to Memorial Day weekend.
- † 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.

WE HAVE BEEN INCREDIBLY BLESSED TO HAVE NANCY KIDD AND KAREN WALSH WORKING WITH OUR CHILDREN FOR SO MANY YEARS but they feel the time has come to retire. Their last day on staff is May 31st.

While we are excited for them and their opportunities for new adventures, we are sorry to see them leave. Fortunately, they are only leaving staff – they will continue to be active members of Disciples Christian Church!

We plan to express our heartfelt gratitude for their loving care, dedication and hard work these many years by celebrating *Nancy* and *Karen* on Sunday, May 31st.

Worship that day will be casual and contemporary and will be followed by a picnic for all who are present.

Would you like to show your appreciation for *Nancy* and *Karen* by helping to plan the celebration? Please call *Amy Campbell* in the church office to get in on the fun.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO GAIL AND TOM HAVERDILL

from the Disciples Christian Church Music Ministry! *Tom* crafted a wonderful choir folder cabinet for the organization of our choir folders and hymnals. *Gail* and her Mom, *Marguerite Gilbert*, sewed beautiful padded covers for our bell tables. Your work is so much appreciated by all our music ministry members! Thank you.

OUR MUSIC MINISTRY WELCOMES JENNIFER WODA!

Jen is a mezzo-soprano who has performed extensively in

the Greater Cleveland area, including solo work with Cleveland Opera on Tour, Lyric Opera Cleveland Educational Outreach, Opera Circle, and more. Her musical theater experience includes productions with Cain Park, Medina Showbiz Company, Lakeland Community College and Kalliope Stage. Jennifer also teaches Music Together®, an early childhood music class through her company Sing and Swing, LLC (www.singandswing.org). A native of Cleveland Heights, Jennifer is happy to reside in Cleveland Heights with her husband Brian Thornton, a cellist with the Cleveland Orchestra, and their daughters, Maya (5) and Madelyn (1 month!), and two crazy Border Collies, Buddy and Mimi. Welcome, Jen!

THANKS TO PAT AND CONCETTA LAKE, NANCY KIDD, THE REED FAMILY, BETTY LESKO, THE RITCHEY FAMILY, ALLEN WILKINSON, JAKE DEET, DENNIS MILLER, LINDA WALLING, ROSALYN AND CALVIN BELLE AND PAIGE AND DEVIN CAMPBELL for all of the hard work done on Spa Day.

Part of this group raked the yard at the church and filled fifty lawn bags with leaves and twigs. Another part worked in the Oakridge wing of the building, the balcony, and Fellowship Hall.

Your labor helped to make the building and grounds look beautiful for Palm Sunday and Easter. *Amy Campbell*

WE WILL HONOR OUR GRADUATES ON MAY 17TH and we need your help! Are you – or is someone in your family – graduating from high-school, college, or completing a post-graduate degree this spring? If so, please call or email the church office with the name of the graduate, the school from which he/she will graduate, the degree to be earned and any future plans the graduate may have. We would like to have a photograph of the graduate (at least 4 x 6") and need that by May 10th at the latest. We are also curious about those students who are currently working toward a graduate degree. Please

send along that information as well: student's name, school, and degree program in which they are enrolled.

WE ARE BLESSED BY THE ADDITION OF JIM RUNYON TO OUR MEMBERSHIP.

Jim is the Cleveland Christian Home's Director of Church Relations and Major Gifts. His mission is to strengthen and build relationships with churches, friends and donors who want to support the ministry of CCH. As a "preacher's kid" from Indiana, he spent time in several different states before landing in Ohio. About 17 years ago, he moved to Cleveland from Toledo and "fell in love with the city and all it had to offer." It was then he decided that the Cleveland area would be his "home for good." Jim has two grown sons, Jamie and Matthew, and he enjoys golf, movies, reading, tennis, travel, concerts, writing and restaurants. He also enjoys attending sporting events and follows the Indians, Cavs and Browns. Please add to your directory: 856 East 216th Street, Euclid, 44119; 216 481-3706; jrunyoun@cchome.org;



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- † *Jane Knapp*, recovering from surgery
- † *JoAnne Humbert*
- † *Robin Herrington-Bowen's son Rick*, radiation treatments/chemotherapy
- † *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 Avera Jayne*, The Fairways; *Barbara Ross*, Grande Pointe, *Lois Valentine*, home.

PALM SUNDAY BAPTISMS AT DISCIPLES

Amidst the beauty of the palms and before the festive All-Church Luncheon enjoyed by so many, we were blessed by the addition, through Baptism, of four new members to our family of faith.

JOSHUA RITCHEY is a hard-working, conscientious young man who is often seen here at church helping with a variety of ministries. He is his dad *Mark's* right hand man – feeding a doughnut when needed or serving dinner at our monthly Meet the Neighbors community meal. Even when hauling pea-gravel from our old playground, his huge smile was always evident. His talent extends to singing and even playing the bongo in our Children's Choir.



COURTNEY RITCHEY is Joshua's twin sister. Though busy at school, with friends, and with dance, she manages to find time to rake a neighbor's yard without being asked. She provides loving service at home, at church and at school. She has a loving nature and took her baptism very seriously – having conversations with her parents about her realization that her faith is a life commitment.



EMILY REED turned 11 the week she was baptized. She excels in school and swimming and has a special love for her church and doing for others. Her mother shares that it is at Emily's urging that the family faithfully attends worship and is so active in both church and outreach activities. She brings much joy to her grandmother, *Betty Lesko*, and to all who know her.



BRIAN BISCOFF is a loving and inquisitive young man known by all as a champion of the underdog. He is willing to stand for those who are maligned and has a gift for music – particularly the violin. He says he has always wanted to be baptized to wash away the wrong things he has done and to have Jesus in his life completely.



FROM ONE OF OUR NEWLY BAPTIZED MEMBERS: Dear *Pastor Kris*, Thank you so much for baptizing me. Just because you were the one that baptized me, it made it more special. I would also like to thank the church for making my day so wonderful. Love, *Emily*.
What a blessing we have in all four of these young people!

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP WILL LEARN ABOUT MACROBIOTICS on Tuesday, May 12th at noon in the Chapel. *Janet Vitt Sommer*, RN, BSN, and Certified Macrobiotics Counselor will talk about the foods included in standard American diets and how they affect our bodies. In addition to the benefits for everyone's general health, we will learn how a macrobiotic diet can specifically help people with a variety of health issues including serious medical problems. Janet is a cancer survivor who credits her cure to macrobiotics. Her story will fascinate you. All women are invited to attend this CWF event – please bring a brown bag lunch. See you there!

DID YOU KNOW THAT CWF GIVES SCHOLARSHIPS TO ENABLE OUR KIDS TO GO TO CAMP CHRISTIAN?? Look for a flyer elsewhere in this newsletter about CWF's first plant sale. Profits from it will help fund CWF projects such as those camp scholarships.

OUR MEN OF DISCIPLES GROUP WILL BE LED BY DR. JAMES FARMER at 7:30 p.m. on May 20th. All of our men – visitors and members – are welcome to join us for "Bits and Bites of Paul's Letters Chosen and Chewed."

THE NEXT GATHERING OF THE DISCIPLES CHRISTIAN CHURCH BOOK CLUB will be Tuesday, May 19th at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Library. From Pulitzer Prize winning author, Geraldine Brooks, author of "*March*", comes this story of the journey of a rare, illuminated manuscript through centuries of exile and wars.

Inspired by a true story, "*People of the Book*" is an "ambitious, electrifying novel of sweeping historical grandeur and intimate emotional intensity. The reader is ushered into an exquisitely detailed and atmospheric past as the book's journey is traced from its salvation back to its creation." New members are always welcome to join us.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLES MISSION FUND, ARLENE PIMENTEL: "Thank you for your generous and faithful support of Disciples Mission Fund. In 2008, your congregation was one of our Top 250 supporters! On behalf of the seventy plus ministry partners receiving support from your congregation thru Disciples Mission Fund (DMF), I want to say thank you.

I want to celebrate with you the faithfulness of your giving and the generosity that you are modeling for the rest of the church. Your leadership and commitment expresses the depth of your faith in God."

PLAN TO JOIN US ON THURSDAY, MAY 28th FOR OUR "MEET THE NEIGHBORS" COMMUNITY MEAL! We'll be returning to a previously popular Italian theme and serving lasagna, salad, rolls and butter, and brownies! If you like to make lasagna or brownies, we'd be happy to have you sign up to do that, too! Simply call the office to let us know how you will help! Thanks!

OUR NEW FRIENDS FROM NEPAL THANK YOU PROFUSELY FOR SHARING SO GENEROUSLY. It is hard for us to even imagine what the life of a refugee is like but their courage and enthusiasm is contagious. Now they need our friendship. All of our new friends want to learn what it means to be an American; they are full of questions. If you have the time to drive the families to the grocery or doctor or, where it's hard to travel by bus, call Toni in the Church Office so we'll know you are willing to help. Remaining on their wish

lists: computers, vacuum sweepers, American History Books, Maps of the United States, adult bikes and a sewing machine.

THE "WEEK OF COMPASSION" OFFERING GATHERED DURING EASTER TIME AT DISCIPLES WAS \$2092. Week of Compassion is sharing resources and changing lives. Thank you for sharing your resources and helping to change lives, too. Learn more about where your treasure is shared at www.weekocompassion.org – and remember that you can give to their ministry any time by writing a check to Disciples Christian Church designating it for Week of Compassion.

DISCIPLES FELLOWSHIP RETREAT - MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND, May 22nd - 24th. It is a gathering of Disciples, families, and friends of all ages at Camp Christian in Magnetic Springs, Ohio. Hear and see Alexander Campbell "come to life" (portrayed by Dr. John Bolen) as he presents (in costume) his founding of the Disciples Church. We'll also break into groups of different activities, including fishing, Bible study, games, hiking, etc. This is an intergenerational event and scholarships are available. For more information, contact Ben Williams: [937-376-1131](tel:937-376-1131)/benwilliams@woh.rr.com.

A GRAND NEW DAY – 2009 WOMEN OF FAITH EVENT IN CLEVELAND JULY 17TH – 18TH. Registration for the two day event begins at \$79 – with groups of ten or more receiving a \$10 discount. For more information, please call 88-49-FAITH or go to womenoffaith.com

"OHIO THE FILM SERIES" IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. The next two films in this series, hosted by West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church, 20401 Hilliard Rd., Rocky River, are:

- FLOW - Saturday, May 2, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Irena Salina's award-winning documentary investigation into what

experts label the most important political and environmental issue of the 21st Century: The world water crisis. Salina builds a case against the growing privatization of the world's dwindling fresh water supply with an unflinching focus on politics, pollution, human rights, and the emergence of a domineering world water cartel.

- THIRST - Saturday, June 6, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Is water part of a shared "commons," a human right for all people? Or is it a commodity to be bought, sold, and traded in a global marketplace? "Thirst" tells the stories of communities in Bolivia, India, and the United States that are asking these fundamental questions, and examines their struggle against the politicians, international bankers, and corporate executives who are attempting to gain control of global fresh water supplies.

For more information, contact *Bob Bemer* (440) 777-9108

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.



Palm Sunday at Disciples



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

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