



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

William and Susan Schoeffler
Co-Directors of Music

Amy Campbell
Creative Ministries Director

Rev. Tim Fitch
Associate for Youth and Family Ministries

Judy Griffith
Financial Secretary

Toni Laurenson
Office Administrator

Issac Glover
Custodian

Adrian von der Lippe
Sunday Custodian

Inside:

- Advent and Christmas at Disciples – special two page insert
- Disciples' Hours in December
- Welcome Mark Rogers-Berry!
- It's Journey Time!
- Meet the Neighbors' Holiday Dates
- Time and Talent survey

Church Life

At Yellowstone and Mayfield

Volume 66 Number 3 • December, 2009

Wishing you a joyful Christmas



and a blessed New Year



Dear Disciples:

Have you looked around in worship lately to see how many new faces there are in the pews? Using Sunday, November 22nd as an example, more than 15% of our worship attendance were visitors. And, of that 15%, there were five visiting children and youth, four young adults, and three first-time visitors. The others have been coming for several weeks now. Some of our visitors have found us through our website. Others have come first to the Meet the Neighbors Meal. One was drawn to us by hearing the carillon music. A family saw photos in the newspaper of our Spooktacular. Another family attended worship after being invited to a youth event.

We are *growing*, Disciples! Good news, yes?

Can you remember when you were first visiting this church? You may still remember who it was who first greeted you or sat in the pew with you or walked your children to Sunday School or introduced you to the pastor or the first note you received in the mail. These *firsts* probably played a big part in your decision to join. You'll notice I didn't even mention the music or the sermon – that's because **you** play such a huge role in people deciding to return another Sunday.

It's called hospitality.

Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. (Romans 12:13)

I have a few suggestions for how we might be even better at this than we already are:

- Park in one of the far corners of the parking lot, if you are able. Leave the best spots for visitors.
- Sit in the middle of the pew, making room for later-arriving visitors to sit on the aisles.
- Sit in a different pew than you usually do – you'll see different people!
- Challenge yourself to making one new acquaintance each Sunday. *Hello, I don't think we've met, my name is . . .*, walk back to Fellowship Hall together and have a cup of coffee. Introduce that person to someone else.
- Invite a visitor to an upcoming event: Family Advent Event, The Choir Cantata, Journey to Bethlehem, the next Community Meal, etc.
- Remember that good hosts are also good listeners.

From the Benedictines we learn that hospitality is about making room in our lives for other people – a matter of daily practice. *In genuine hospitality, they write, we work to make our entire existence a welcoming table.*

See you in church.

Growing Disciples

Ourselves. Our Church. Our Community. Our World.

Ourselves

ADULT EDUCATION DURING DISCIPLES HOUR

- **December 6th** – *Janice Ziegler* leads “Faith Lessons on the Life and Ministry of the Messiah” This is the start of a series of lessons on the life and ministry of Jesus as expressed in a DVD presentations by teacher and historian Ray Vander Laan. Filmed in the Holy Land, he uses the geography, topography, culture and history of the times to reveal deeper meaning and understanding of our familiar New Testament passages. Each presentation is about 20 minutes, and will be accompanied by a short scriptural study to show the Bible basis for the lesson.
- **December 20th** – join us at 11:30 a.m. for our casual and contemporary Connections Worship
- **December 27th** – A Child’s First Christmas Celebration following worship



Our Church

“DISCIPLES CHRISTIAN CHURCH CHANGES LIVES”

If you were in Connections worship in October or 10:00 worship on November 15th, you’ve seen the video that features Disciples’ members as well as some of our Bhutanese friends. The video was produced by *Joe Backe*, owner/partner of Immediate Info (www.immediateinfo.net) of Carmel, Indiana, and offered as a gift to the

congregation by *Pastor Kris and David Eggert*.

This project was undertaken during our Stewardship Campaign as a way to highlight some of the ministries of our church. In each interview and with each picture, we can see and hear the impact of these ministries. Indeed, they can change lives!

There are other uses planned for this video. It is available for all to see on the homepage of our website (www.discipleschristian.org). It will also be a gift in our first time visitor bags. We also plan to have copies available for you to use as an invitation to worship for family, friends, or co-workers.

The top two ways people find a church home are by personal invitation and through a church’s website. This video will be an aid in both. It really brings our ministries to life.

FROM PASTOR TIM’S COMPUTER

Dear Friends: I recently had coffee with a pastor friend of mine and we were swapping stories about Advent. He was very impressed when I shared with him all the ways our youth and children are active at Disciples. I told him about their involvement with Journey to Bethlehem, community meals, and in our worship. He told me he wished that more churches would get their youth and children involved in different ministries. We should be proud of our ability to bridge the gap between generations around our ministries. This Advent season, when you see a kid involved around the church, smile and know you are helping our children to feel welcome and to serve God.

Pastor Tim

Worship during Advent at Disciples –

Where God Begins in Your Life

First Sunday of Advent - November 29th

With Curiosity - Luke 21:25-36

Light the Candle of Hope – 10:00 a.m.

Featuring Isabel Trautwein, Cleveland Orchestra violinist, in music of Bach, Schubert, and Mozart.

Second Sunday of Advent - December 6th

In Music - Cantata Sunday

Light the Candle of Peace – 10:00 a.m.

Featuring the Chancel Choir and Soloists presenting selections from Handel's "Messiah."

Third Sunday of Advent - December 13th

With Rejoicing - Philippians 4:4-7

Light the Candle of Joy – 10:00 a.m.

Featuring our Chancel Choir and the Joyful Bells

Journey to Bethlehem – 2:00 until 5:00 p.m.

New this Year: Wednesday - December 16th

A SERVICE OF MEMORIES: *Remembering those we miss at Christmas*

In the quiet of evening, at 7:00 p.m. in our sanctuary, with candles, music, and with an invitation to share memories and communion, we'll worship while remembering loss of special loved ones. The first experience of Christmas without a special loved one is difficult. Perhaps Christmas is still a time when you grieve someone dear. All are invited to gather as church and community in support of one another.

Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 20th

In Poetry - Luke 1:39-55

Light the Candle of Love – 10:00 a.m.

Featuring our Chancel Choir, Youth Ensemble and Cy McFarlin, soloist.

Connections Worship – 11:30 a.m.

Our youth will sing "Mary, Did You Know?" at our casual, contemporary Christmas service. We can all plan to sing familiar Christmas favorites set to a contemporary beat!

Christmas Eve - December 24th

This Night - The Christmas Story according to Luke

Featuring our Chancel Choir, Soloists and Instrumentalists as they provide Prelude music for our 7:30 p.m. service.

A story for children of all ages – communion – childcare available – closing with Silent Night and Candlelight. Pastor Kris preaching

December 27th

No Strings Attached Puppet Ministry will lead our worship

And also during Advent and Christmas at Disciples

From November 29th to December 25th: An Advent Journal by *Pastor Kris* on the Growing Disciples Blog – you may go to <http://kristine-eggert.blogspot.com/> to subscribe to the Advent Journal or you may go to our website, www.discipleschristian.org, to link to it daily

December 1st and 2nd: **Decorate our beautiful sanctuary** on Tuesday afternoon, December 1st, from 3:00 until 5:00 p.m. and again Wednesday evening, December 2nd, from 7:00 until 9:00 p.m. For more information, contact *Gail Haverdill*.

December 5th: Advent Event: The Children's Ministry Team invites you to join them from 10:00 a.m. until noon for their Family Advent Experience! They will celebrate the season of Advent as they make a variety of crafts – some to be taken to our Members-at-Home and some for you to take home. In addition to making crafts, the Fellowship Christmas tree will be decorated. You are asked to bring along one or two dozen cookies to share so, in the spirit of the season, all can enjoy hot chocolate and cookies. All are welcome! If you plan to come, please call *Pastor Tim* or the church office to let us know!

December 6th – 12th: Journey Set-Up – The Journey begins as we raise walls on the 6th! Plan to dress casually for church so you can help us pull the sets out of storage and erect the main walls. The youth will help but this is a big job and any additional adult help would be GREATLY appreciated. Work begins immediately after church and lunch will be provided. On Monday, we begin to set up! The walls may go up Sunday but the “devil” is in the details! PLEASE don't forget to show up one night during the week as well to help us finish the set-up. Come anytime from 6:30 to 9:00.

December 13th: Journey to Bethlehem – 2:00 until 5:00 p.m. – Our Chancel Choir, Soloists and guest musicians (and perhaps an appearance by the Disciples Puppeteers!) provide entertainment as our guests await their "Journey to Bethlehem" experience. The Journey cast begins to report at 1:00. If you are in the cast but haven't received, or can't find, your information sheet, please see *Lauren Wicks, Mark Ritchey or Gail Ritchey*. Cast members who come for church and prefer to stay through rather than go home and come back are welcome to join us for a casual lunch in the kitchen. Donations will be accepted to defray the cost of the meal.

December 14th – 16th: Journey Clean-Up/Take Down – Please don't give up on us now! Set clean-up goes on each evening from 6:30 to 9:00 - **Thank you, thank you!** The Journey committee would like to offer their gratitude to the many, many people whose support of this event makes it all possible.

December 17th: Community Meal Moved Up One Week – Because of Christmas, our December “Meet the Neighbors” Community Meal will be held one week early, on **Thursday, December 17th**. You'll always find opportunities to sign up for any of the NEXT THREE MONTH'S meals on the bulletin board in the kitchen! If you can help, please don't hesitate to sign up early! And, if you belong to a group that might like to “adopt” our meal for one month, please let *Cathy* or the office know. The dates of our coming meals will be **Thursday, January 28, and Thursday, February 25**. *Volunteer soon! Don't miss your chance to share in this wonderful ministry!*

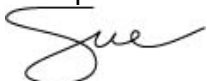
Giving/Outreach Opportunity - “A Child's First Christmas” – Christmas is coming, and Disciples would like to share the magic of Christmas with the Bhutanese children who have settled in our neighborhood. On Sunday, December 27th we are inviting them, along with their families to worship with us. How can you help? We would like to give each of the children the gift of warm winter boots. Look for a table in Fellowship Hall with gift tags. Each tag will have the name, age and shoe size of an individual child. If you would prefer to make a cash donation, we will purchase some gloves, snow pants and/or bags of rice for the families. Please return your wrapped gift to church by Christmas Eve with the child's name on the outside. Also please bring your leftover Christmas cookies on Sunday, December 27th to share during the party! Our puppet team “No Strings Attached” will be performing and it is sure to be a hit with everyone. After worship we will celebrate with cookies and milk during fellowship time.

MODERATOR'S MESSAGE

Sue's News

What does the word "gifts" mean to you? At this time of year, most of us think of Christmas presents, shopping, and wrapping . . . what we'll give and what we'll receive. In church, we use the word to represent the skills and abilities God has given us. God gives us these gifts not for us to keep, we must give them to others. When you read this, our traditional Stewardship "campaign" will be finished and decisions will be made on how we run our church in 2010 . . . *financially*. As we know, stewardship goes beyond money. Stewardship is service, it is an active ministry here at Disciples Christian Church and one that we, as a congregation, take seriously. We serve the hungry, the homeless, and each other. It is also a ministry we take seriously as individuals. Disciples Christian Church is blessed with many members who make stewardship a priority. Here there are numerous individuals serving gladly when needed. As our church becomes more active in our ministries involving education, property, and outreach, more individual stewardship is needed. We are all blessed with gifts from God and using our gifts for the church creates an opportunity to become closer to God. Enclosed in this newsletter is a survey developed to discover what gifts we have in our church family. Don't be humble! Let us know how God has blessed you and what your gifts are. Consider the parable about the three servants who were given talents and how the master reacted to their use of the talents when he returned. The servant who multiplied his talents received the largest praise from the master.

Albert Schweitzer said, "The only really happy people are those who have learned how to serve." Isn't that what Christianity is about? The *privilege* of serving in God's church is offered to us all, right here in Disciples Christian Church!



Sue Curtis

TIME AND TALENT SURVEY

Please take a few moments to complete the survey *Sue* mentioned and return it to the church office! Households with more than one person have two choices:

1. Each member can complete the same survey by writing their name next to ministries – or –
2. Each member can complete their own survey – more are available in the church office.

There is nothing to add to what *Sue* has already said. Please don't hide your light under a bushel – God needs you and the Holy Spirit has equipped you so let's make the best possible use of your time and of your talents! Let's grow Disciples!!

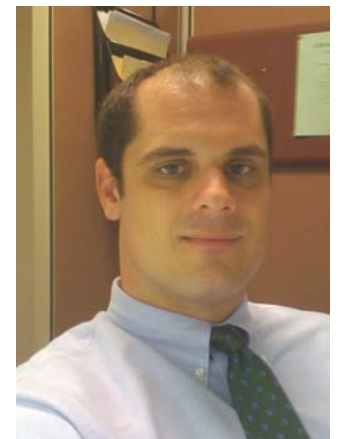
Amy Campbell

OUR UPDATED WEBSITE IS UP AND RUNNING!

When you have a few minutes, go up to www.discipleschristian.org to see what has changed! Invite your friends, family, neighbors and co-workers to check it out, too, especially our new video about Disciples. Perhaps they'll decide they are ready to have their lives changed, too, and will join us soon in worship and ministry!

WELCOME MARK!

Mark Rogers-Berry is a South Carolina native who moved to Cleveland in August of 2009 to train at the Cleveland Clinic as a Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) supervisor. After graduating from Wofford College, where he studied biology and played football, he moved to Atlanta, Georgia to attend Emory University's Candler School of Theology (Master of Divinity 2005). The son of a United Methodist pastor, Mark grew up in the Methodist church. However, over the past year he has discerned a strong call to the Disciples



of Christ church. On November 15th we joyfully welcomed him into membership at Disciples. Mark's parents live in Summerville, SC where his father serves a church and his mother is a teacher specialist at an elementary school. He has an older sister and brother-in-law in Los Angeles, and a younger brother in New York City. When not in the Cleveland Clinic, you can often find Mark reading at coffee shops near his Shaker Square apartment, attending Indie Rock concerts at various venues throughout town, and playing sports through the Cleveland Plays organization. We are grateful that God led him to us!

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- † *Gary Banas*, recovering from surgery, father of *Amy Campbell and Holly Coughlin*
- † *Averna Jane*, home from Lake West following a fall
- † *Al Kean*, recovery, second stent surgery
- † *Chris Ladaika*, recovering from surgery
- † *Vi Radomilovich*, at Menorah Park
- † *Mary Jane Moran*, Hanna House following surgery
- † *Diane Logan*, *Duane Mayhew's* daughter, recovering from surgery at Breckinridge
- † *JoAnne Humbert*, chemotherapy
- † *Elsie Hoffacker*, cancer, sister-in-law of *Marguerite Gilbert*
- † *Don Ehrlich*, on assignment in Mexico
- † *Daniel Lake*, *Pat Lake's* brother, cancer/chemotherapy
- † *Members at home: Barbara Seaver*, Summerville of Mentor; *Barbara Harold*, Homewood Residence in Richmond Heights; *Margaret Beer*, Broadview Manor; *Ella Bergeon*, home; *Louise Consilio*, home; *Marian Green*, Breckinridge; *Marjia Hehr*, home; *Frank and Averna Jayne*, The Fairways; *Barbara Ross*, Grande Pointe, *Lois Valentine*, home.

NO STRINGS ATTACHED

– our wonderful puppet ministry – will conduct the worship service at Heights Christian Church on Sunday, November 29th

at 10:00 p.m. Some of those waiting in the Sanctuary for their Journey to begin on December 13th, will also get to enjoy them. Finally, they will conduct our worship at Disciples on Sunday, December 27th, with a new program! Plan to be with us then and keep the puppets in your prayers during this very busy month ahead!

THE STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

Sincerely thanks all those who have returned their 2010 pledge card. If you have not had an opportunity to do that yet, we ask that you do it as quickly as possible.

Let's keep growing, Disciples!

ATTENTION LADIES!!!

Do you remember the Queen of Christmas? How could you ever forget her? Well, a little Christmas elf flew into my home the other day and told me the Queen is about to enter our lives once again. On Wednesday, December 16th at noon, the Queen of Christmas, *Karen Walsh*, has invited all the women in our church to her very own Chickadee Christmas Castle for an afternoon of Fun, Fellowship and Fa La Lahing. Remember the trees, wreaths, toy soldiers etc.? Please bring two food items for the Hunger Center. *Hazel* will give us a list of most requested foods. Also bring an appetizer or dessert to share. We shall have our annual "white elephant" gift exchange so please wrap a "treasure" to add to the fun. Come and enjoy the festivities as CWF celebrates and anticipates the birth of the baby Jesus.

Pat McNeilly

DISCIPLES BOOK CLUB

On Tuesday, December 8th, at 7:00 p.m., the Disciples Book Club will meet in the chapel to discuss their December selection, The Help by Kathryn Stockett. Southern whites' guilt for not expressing gratitude to the black maids who raised them threatens to become a familiar refrain. But don't tell Ms. Stocketts because her first novel is a nuanced variation on the theme that strikes every note with authenticity. In a page-turner that brings new resonance to the

moral issues involved, she spins a story of social awakening as seen from both sides of the American racial divide. *Pat McNeilly*

ELDERS

Just a reminder!! The Elders will meet after the Connections Service at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 20th to further discuss the new Elder's Circles and other plans for the coming year. We are planning a pizza lunch. Please call *Toni* in the church office and let us know if you can attend so that we may plan accordingly. Hope to see you there. *Pat McNeilly and Ed Kidd*

"THANK YOU TO CHRISTIAN WOMAN'S FELLOWSHIP

for the Veteran's Day dinner. Thanks again." Signed - *A Vet*

MANY THANKS TO THE KIND FRIENDS

at Disciples who phoned and sent cards during my recent illness. *Al Kean*

TO MY CHURCH FAMILY

Want to thank you all for the cards, calls and visits. Delicious food was greatly appreciated - made *Dick's* duties much easier. Thanks to *Pastor Kris* for her hospital visits and phone calls. You are truly a warm, caring group. Thanks a million. God Bless. *Beverly Troha* !

DO YOU HAVE A DISCIPLES' MUG?

Buy one for yourself or one for a Christmas gift! The Membership Ministry Team has them available for only \$5.00 each. You can purchase one from *Trish Burton* during Fellowship Times or in the office during normal office hours. And keep your eyes and ears open after Christmas for information on another new ministry of the Membership Team: Disciples' Dinners.

DECEMBER 13TH IS THE LAST DAY TO PLACE SPECIAL CWF GIFT CARD ORDERS!

Stumped as to what to give a teenage girl –

or an eight year old boy for Christmas? Can't quite figure out how to remember a special neighbor? One answer is always "right" – a gift card! Stop by the CWF table inside Fellowship Hall on Sundays to see 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. It is a win/win: you have the convenience of shopping in the Fellowship Hall and your spending benefits all of us. Some cards are always available but - for special request cards – CWF will place their final order on December 13th for delivery on December 20th. For information call or email *Donna Beckner* (donna@discipleschristian.org).

Our Community

OUR CHRISTMAS CARD TREE WILL ONCE AGAIN BENEFIT THE HEIGHTS EMERGENCY FOOD CENTER

Rather than spending time and money sending Christmas cards to your friends within Disciples, you are invited to send one card via our card tree and to then donate the amount it would have taken to send individual cards to H.E.F.C. Simply send a card to Disciples – or leave one in the church office – that says "card tree" and includes your full name. The list of those participating in our card tree will be published in our January newsletter so all will know you sent them Christmas and New Year greetings!

CHRISTMAS ANGELS

involved more organizations within our community this year so we only got 20 cards – and most of them have already been claimed. To learn if any remain, please contact *Amy Bischoff* quickly because gifts (no gift cards this year) must be returned by December 3rd. But you have other opportunities to give to children who will otherwise do without this year. One is through gifts to our Bhutanese children as highlighted earlier in this Church Life. The

other is through our friends at Cleveland Christian Home where the needs are great. Donations of new items are now being accepted to fill Christmas wishes of children and families served by CCH. You may call 216 476-0333 to make a donation or schedule a drop-off time between now and December 14th. To learn more about how you can help the children at CCH, go to www.cchome.org.

OUR CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

will again go to support the ministry of the Cleveland Christian Home. Watch for a letter arriving soon.

Our World



HOPE, HEALING, AND A HAND - From its beginning, the Disciples Hurricane Recovery Initiative has adapted to emerging needs and new challenges. Since September 2005,

Disciples have given over \$4.4 million to Week of Compassion in response to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Ike. At the same time, Disciples continue to answer God's call to "Get Dirty for Jesus!" Nearly 11,100 Disciples volunteers representing 1,124 mission groups have contributed 437,000 hours to the mission of disaster recovery. The value of this volunteer labor is itself worth \$8.9 million. The hours are equivalent to rebuilding 175 homes and repairing 10 Disciples congregations.

While the Disciples Hurricane Recovery Initiative winds down at the end of this year, God does not appear ready to let the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) off the hook. Disciples Volunteering, in partnership with Week of Compassion, is poised to help Disciples continue to answer God's call to respond to those hard hit by disaster and partner in mission with neighbors in need. The work of the Disciples Hurricane Recovery Initiative will continue across the Gulf Coast. The work doesn't end there, however. Disciples

Volunteering: Disaster Response is expanding its vision. As communities continue to experience and recover from natural disaster, Disciples Volunteering: Disaster Response calls volunteers to be present, offering hope, healing, and a hand in their recovery.

Answer God's call to serve today! Contact *Brenda Tyler* at 888-346-2631 or visit <http://www.discipleshomemissions.org/Volunteer/DisciplesVolunteer.htm>.

JESUS IMMEDIATELY REACHED OUT HIS HAND and caught (Peter), saying to him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?"
Matthew 14: 31



We began our second term in Botswana with Global Ministries, and those words that Jesus spoke to Peter also spoke to me, as I sometimes found myself experiencing doubts. Am I doing what is in accordance to God's plan for me? Learning a new language at any time is never easy. Learning Setswana (one of the two official languages of the country) has been especially hard. Knowing Setswana has been made a necessity by the fact that I have recently been assigned a parish by the United Congregational Churches in Southern Africa. Worship services are in Setswana. I find myself struggling to read; build vocabulary and to be able to conduct a worship service (with some semblance that the people I have been called to serve might be able to understand). At times, it feels that for every three steps I take forward, I find myself taking two steps back. Whatever clouds of uncertainty engulf me are lifted when I conduct a worship service in the village of Ramotswa, in a small room with 30 people in attendance; hear their praises to God through song, dance and prayer; and am made aware of their hopes and concerns in church meetings. Although this congregation is small, they have tremendous hope anchored in God. Over a period of two years, they have built a new church building. Although they have been unable to roof it because of financial restraints,

they have chosen, in the meantime, to start a new congregation in a village 15 kilometers away. They even have plans to erect a simple building as a place of worship there. Yes, I am reminded that our Jesus has a plan for each one of us, even when we ourselves are not certain. In this season of hope and anticipation, we pray with the church in Botswana as we are

reminded of their great faith which gives us strength in our faith which we share with others.

James & Jayanthi Wilson are missionaries with the Kgolagano Theological College in Gaborone, Botswana. Jim serves as an instructor at Kgolagano Theological College. Jayanthi serves as librarian.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Church Life at Yellowstone and Mayfield
3663 Mayfield Road
Cleveland Heights, OH 44121

**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
NOVEMBER 25, 2009**