



Christian Church in Ohio

D I S C I P L E S O F C H R I S T

A covenant network of congregations in mission:

We are the Body of Christ gifted and called in covenant together as Disciples of Christ to be centers of transformation on the new mission frontier of our own communities.

Congregational Leaders Mailing – November 2010

355 E. Campus View Blvd. Suite 110, Columbus, Ohio 43235-5616

Phone: (614) 433-0343 Fax: (614) 433-7285

www.ccinoh.org

Starting February 1, 2010 the traditional Minister's Mailing was transformed into the Congregational Leaders Mailing. This expanded the mailing beyond the Pastors, to the Elders, Board Chairs, Treasurers, Youth Leaders, Deacons, and many more. If there are other congregational leaders at your church who are not receiving this mailing, please forward this to them and tell them to get in touch with us about receiving their own copy.

NOTE: Please print off and post any flyers/posters contained in this packet so that the congregation is informed of Regional events.

Prayer Concerns

Message from Rev. Dr. William H. Edwards

Regional Calendar

Thanksgiving Offering

Bulletin Insert & Poster (*poster separate*)

Women's Advent Retreat

Registration

Christmas Offering

Resources & Poster (*poster separate*)

Advance Ministries Winter Retreat

Letter, Flyer, & Registration

United Nations Seminar

Scholarship Fund Flyer

Spiritual Life Retreat

Information & Registration

Ohio Ministries Convocation

Brochure (*separate*)

Please Note, the Open Church List will now be available to Ministers upon request.

Email jstoddart@ccinoh.org or call 614-433-0343 (ext 120)

Prayer Concerns

If you have anything to put in the Prayer Concerns, please email them to ccio@ccinoh.org or call the Regional Church Office. Prayer Concerns are emailed out as needed and included in every Congregational Leaders Mailing.

Deaths

Mary Doerr, Mother if Rev. Michael Doerr and Mother-in-Law of Rev. Heather Schimmel, died October 3. Michael is the Pastor at Mount Healthy Christian Church in Cincinnati and Heather is the Pastor at Norwood Christian Church also in Cincinnati. Messages for Michael, Heather, and their family may be sent to 7009 Hamilton Ave Apt 4, Cincinnati, OH 45231-5265.

Joseph H. Rawson, Brother-in-law of Rev. Andrew Hoover, died September 24 at the age of 63. Andrew is the pastor at East Columbus Christian Church. A memorial service for Joe was held at the church 1055 Mc Naughten Rd, Columbus, OH 43213. Messages for Dinah (Joe's Sister/ Andrew's Wife) and Andrew Hoover may be sent to the church or to 3602 Maykassar Drive, Westerville, OH 43081.

Health Concerns

Virginia Graves, wife of Rev. Clyde Graves, had a bad fall that has caused some internal bleeding. Virginia is back at home now and doing well. Messages may be sent to their home at 121 Conren Dr, McArthur, OH 45651-1102.

Joys

Jesse Linus Lemuel DeWeese was born at 10:58pm on Saturday October 23. Jesse is the son of Revs Elizabeth and Donald DeWeese. Liz is the Pastor at Anderson Hills Christian Church in Cincinnati. Jess weighed 8lbs 2ozs and was 20.5ins long. Mom and Baby are both doing fine and resting comfortably at home. Messages for the DeWeese family may be sent to the church at 8119 Clough Pike, Cincinnati, Ohio 45244 or lizdeweese@gmail.com.

Congratulations to Regional Program Minister Rev. Dr. Brenda Webster on the arrival of her first grandchild. Aubrey Madison Bell was born to Raquel and Kevin (Brenda's Son), on Oct. 7th, 2010. Brenda is in Memphis celebrating with the newest addition to her family. Messages may be sent to bwebster@ccinoh.org or to the Regional Church Office.

Kellan James Batten was born July 25th at 3:41 am at Mercy Hospital in Canton. Kellan weighed 7lbs 2oz and was 19" long, both mom and baby are doing well. His mom and dad are Anna (O'Hara) Batten and David Batten, grandparents are John and Colleen O'Hara. John O'Hara is the pastor at the First Christian Church in Ashland, OH. Congratulations may be sent to: John and Colleen O'Hara 143 N. High Street, Jeromesville, OH 44840 or revjohnohara@zoominternet.net.

"For God so loved...." – John 3:16

Dear Partners in Ministry,

As we prepare for this Advent season, celebrating the glorious gift of the coming of Jesus Christ as Savior to this world, we are reminded that we serve a God who gave. God so loved the world that he gave. God caused a portion of God's self to become flesh, and heaven announced that his name should be called Jesus. Yes, God so loved, and so gave, that whosoever believes, even now, in God's way of giving and loving, shall discover a quality of life that shall not perish.

The biblical text and theme of 2010 Christmas offering is **John 3:16, "For God so loved...."**. I praise God for the ministry of our Regional Church. Across the life of the Christian Church in Ohio, there are exciting stories of the **God's love** in the work of **new** congregations being established, existing congregations being renewed and transformed, and leaders equipped for ministry. Great things are taking place as we are to join God in God's mission for the sake of the world.

For 2010, the Regional Church Council approved a budget with a goal of \$80,000 for the Christmas Offering. Together, we can answer God's call to be a "covenant network of congregations in mission" by supporting current and future ministries through the annual Christmas Offering. Each year, churches throughout the Region collect this offering in support of regional outreach ministries, including Camp Christian, youth, young adult, women and men's ministries, the Cleveland Christian Home and new initiatives such as the Congregational Transformation Network.

With deep appreciation for your previous Christmas Offering contributions, we are asking that you prayerfully consider setting your own congregational goal for this year's collection. The Regional Church Office has a number of customized materials available to help you promote the Offering--from a downloadable PowerPoint presentation to bulletin inserts to ideas for children's sermons. These materials are available by either contacting the Regional Church Office at 614.433.0343 or visiting the Web site at www.ccinoh.org.

Please allow me to also use this opportunity to express deep appreciation for all the ways you support God's work in the Regional Church, be it through prayer, leadership and attendance at regional events, or financial offerings. Many people lives have been blessed with through your support of the Christian Church in Ohio.

I look forward with great anticipation of what God will do through us as ministers of the Gospel and leaders in Christ's church in the days ahead.

May God's Blessings be with you,

Bill



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November

- 4 Regional Elders Meeting
- 5 – 6 Regional Church Council Meeting @ Camp Christian
- 10 Congregational Transformation Team Web Conference
- 11-12** **Regional Church Office Staff Retreat – RCO Closed**
- 13 Alternative Energy Committee Meeting @ Camp Christian
- 13 Chi Rho Commission Meeting @ RCO 10:00am – 3:00pm
- 13 Ohio Disciples Men's Commission @ RCO 10:00am – 3:00pm
- *13 – 14 Children, Worship, & Wonder in Lexington KY - [REGISTER NOW](#)
- 16 Commission on Ministry @ Northwest Christian Church, Columbus
- 17 Personnel Committee Meeting @ RCO 10:00am – 2:00pm
- 19 New Church Committee Meeting @ RCO 10:00am – 1:00pm
- 19 – 21 CYF Leadership Training – For Conference Officers/Alternates & State Officers
- 25 – 26** **Thanksgiving, RCO Closed**

December

- 1** **Deadline for entries into The Buckeye Disciple**
- 8 RCO Staff Meeting & Christmas Celebration
- *11 Advent Retreat for Women @ Camp Christian - [REGISTER NOW](#)
- 24 - 27** **Christmas Holiday, RCO Closed**
- 31** **New Years Day Observed, RCO Closed**
- 31 – Jan 2 Advance Ministries Winter Retreat @ Camp Christian – [REGISTER NOW](#)

2011

January

- 11 Interim Ministers Working Group Meeting @ RCO 10:00am – 3:00pm
- 12 RCO Staff Meeting
- 17** **Martin Luther King Day, RCO Closed**
- 18 Commission on Ministry @ the Regional Church Office
- 21 New Church Committee Meeting @ RCO 10:00am – 12:30pm
- *24 – 25 Ohio Ministries Convocation @ Crowne Plaza Columbus North Hotel
- 25 Ohio Disciples Extension Corporation (ODEC) Meeting @ RCO 10:00am

February

- 2 RCO Staff Meeting
- 5 Disciples Fellowship Retreat Planning Meeting
- 8 Personnel Committee Meeting @ RCO 10:00am – 2:00pm
- 15 Commission on Ministry @ Northwest Christian Church, Columbus

February Continued

- *15 – 17 Spiritual Life Retreat for Pastors @ Camp Christian – [REGISTER NOW](#)
(Spouses of Pastors & Retired Pastors are also invited)
- 22 Webinar on Coaching @ 7:00pm
- *25 – Mar 5 United Nations Seminar for 11th & 12th grade youth in New York City & Washington D.C.
[REGISTER/MAKE PAYMENTS NOW](#)

March

- 1** **Deadline for entries into The Buckeye Disciple**
- 1 Executive Committee Meeting @ RCO
- 8 Regional Elders Meeting @ RCO 10:00am – 3:00pm
- 9 Ash Wednesday
- 9 RCO Staff Meeting
- 15 Commission on Ministry @ Northwest Christian Church, Columbus
- 17 – 18 UCC Partnership Training
- 18 – 20 State Youth Convention @ Bethany College
- 21 Ministers Workshop & Dinner
- 22 – 23 Coaches Training @ Camp Christian
- 25 – 26 Regional Church Council Meeting @ Camp Christian
- 28 Interim Ministers Spring Workshop @ Camp Christian
- 29 New Ministers Orientation @ RCO 9:00am
- 30 Anti Racism Training for New Ministers @ Camp Christian 9:00am
- 31 Sexual Ethics Training for New Ministers @ Camp Christian 9:00am

April

- 2 Christian Education Conference @ First Christian Church, Ravenna 9:00am
- 2 Women's Lent Retreat @ Camp Christian
- 6 RCO Staff Meeting and Easter Celebration
- 8 – 9 Youth Council Meeting @ Camp Christian
- 15 – 17 Advance Ministries Spring Retreat @ Camp Christian
- 16 Women's Convocation @ Gender Road Christian Church, Canal Winchester, OH
- 19 Commission on Ministry @ Northwest Christian Church, Columbus
- 22** **Good Friday, RCO Closed**
- 24** **Easter Sunday**
- 26 Ohio Disciples Extension Corporation (ODEC) Meeting @ RCO 10:00am – 12:00pm
- 30 Congregational Transformation Event @ Disciples Christian Church, Cleveland Hts.

May

- 4 RCO Staff Meeting
- 5 Regional Elders Meeting
- 7 Christian Education Conference @ Central Christian Church, Newark 9:00am
- 10 Personnel Committee Meeting @ RCO 10:00am – 2:00pm
- 17 Commission on Ministry @ Northwest Christian Church, Columbus
- 20 – 22 Ohio Disciple Men's Spring Retreat @ Camp Christian
- 27 – 29 Disciples Fellowship Retreat @ Camp Christian
- 30** **Memorial Day, RCO Closed**

RCO = Regional Church Office
*** Online Registration is now available**



Making a Difference

THANKSGIVING OFFERING

The **Thanksgiving Offering** supports Disciples Colleges,
Universities and Theological Institutions

The education we choose reflects who we want to become. More and more, students who want to make a difference in the world are choosing Disciples higher educational institutions.

At the 21 theological institutions, universities, and colleges related to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), students discover vast opportunities to educate the heart, the mind, and the soul.

- Student and campus ministry programs provide more than worship and Bible study – they welcome students to the campus community, where they find life-long friends. Students also create and join in opportunities that make them better leaders and stakeholders in the church, in the workplace, and in the community.
- Courses go beyond textbooks and inspire students to think about how they can change the world.
- Professors, instructors, and mentors focus on the student’s academic progress and ethical development.
- Students find life-changing opportunities to serve neighbors near campus, communities in other parts of the country, or across international borders.
- For students answering God’s call to ministry, Disciples theological institutions challenge imaginations and sharpen the skills needed to lead and minister with congregations in the 21st Century.

Your support of Disciples higher educational institutions through the Thanksgiving Special Offering makes a difference in the lives of the more than 26,000 students who chose a Disciples education.



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DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

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Star Seekers

Advent Retreat for Women
Saturday December 11th 9 AM to 3 PM

At the Herald B. Monroe Lodge, Camp Christian
Leaders: Margot Connor and Kay McGlinchey



Cost \$35 by December 3rd (\$40 after December 3rd)
Come for a slumber party the night before for an additional \$25

A day of reflection, prayer, conversation and crafts.

Register: www.ccinoh.org

To register offline send payment along with the form below to:

Christian Church in Ohio, 355 East Campus View Blvd, Ste 110, Columbus, Ohio 43235

Questions? Contact Ministry Leader Rev. Stephen Bentley (614)433-0343 or sbentley@ccinoh.org.

Advent Retreat for Women December 11, 2010

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____

BIRTHDAY ____/____/____ PHONE (____) _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____ CHURCH _____

FOOD CONCERNS _____

DO NOT WRITE HERE

DATE _____

CHECK NO. _____

AMOUNT _____

Thank you for being a part of the 2010 Christmas Offering for the Christian Church in Ohio (Disciples of Christ). Your Ohio Disciple Outreach Ministry Team (ODO) has prepared some ideas for you to use as you prepare to receive this offering. It is suggested that you receive the offering on December 12 and 19, however, feel free to participate whenever your congregation chooses during the Christmas season. Our goal this year for the Christmas Offering is \$80,000. While that number seems huge, if each of the congregations in Ohio participates it becomes a number that we can not only achieve but far surpass.

If you have ideas that you think would help with the Christmas Offering, please share them with ODO. Our goal is to help provide you with the tools you need to tell the story of the ministry being done through the Christian Church in Ohio and the General Ministries of the church. If you have not reviewed the ODO Notebook, you are encouraged to view it on the region's website (www.ccinoh.org) or call the Regional Church Office to request a copy.

God speed to each of you as we prepare for this blessed and holy time of the year, and thanks be to God for all that God has given to us. May we respond in grateful, generous, and creative ways.

Kevin Phipps

ODO Team Leader
Office phone: 330-262-4652
Email: kevin@cccwooster.org

Some Suggestions for a Successful Offering

In consultation with the leadership of your congregation:

- Recruit someone to be the lead person for the Christmas offering.
- Establish the dates for the offering
- Establish a goal for the Christmas offering
- Publicize the goal and the dates through your newsletter, email, Sunday bulletins, and every other form of communication your congregation uses
- Make sure you have bulletin inserts for the weeks you will be receiving the offering - they are available on the web at www.disciplesmissionfund.org or by calling the Regional Church Office
- Make sure you have posters publicizing the Christmas offering - they are available on the web at www.disciplesmissionfund.org or by calling the Regional Church Office
- Recruit people to present the Moments for Mission
- **THANK** those who have made contributions and encourage others to contribute
- Announce to your congregation how you have done with the offering compared to your goal
- Make sure the Christmas offering is sent to the Regional Church Office in a timely manner.

Call to Worship

John 3:16

Leader: Since the beginning, our Eternal God, the Lord from whom all creation draws its life, has loved and sought out God's people.

People: But at times, the people forgot the Lord, the one who made them. They turned away; they settled for lesser gods.

Leader: Like a loving parent, God did not abandon God's people. The Lord delivered them from slavery in Egypt and gave them the Law, calling them to live in wholeness and harmony.

People: But some forgot the Law, and others made it into an idol. They lost sight of the love behind the commandments. They turned away from the Almighty God, and began serving lesser kings.

Leader: Then God sent the prophets, who called the people to change their ways. The prophets spoke God's word: "Turn back to the one who created you. Turn back to the Lord."

People: Some of the people heard these prophets, but others refused to repent. Some fell into despair; others, into violence and corruption. Many lost hope.

Leader: So God's Word became flesh, and lived among the people. Because of Jesus the Son, the people do not perish, but have life eternal and abundant.

All: Through Jesus, God's love was, and is, made known. In his name, we bring our worship and our praise. Amen.

Rebecca Bowman Woods

Communion Meditation

John 3:16

For God so loved...that He gave...

When we gather around this table at Christmas time, we cannot help but feel the tension between the joy of the gift of this baby boy wrapped in swaddling clothes and the depth of the gift God would give us requiring the life of this same boy. We feel warmth and happy heartbeats in our imagined touch of the baby who would change the world. Still his eternal gift to us brings us to a place of humility and gratitude that we could not repay. As we come to celebrate and to receive a memory of the gift of Christ Jesus, let us pray that God would open our hearts to this moment's true meaning and that God would turn our hearts to gratitude and generosity in the face of such a gift of love.

Liz DeWeese

Children's Moment

Props

Four children dressed in various styles of dressing there should be one item that they can each exchange to alter their out ward appearance, perhaps as simple as a baseball cap.

A skit

They walk to the front to the church and they line up

They rotate and each time they say the name of a different area that has suffered disaster or is a location of regular intercession from our mission's group.

Then they say in unison, I am from the Congo,

Then they rotate exchanging one item of clothing pre-determined

Then they say in unison I am from Chile

Then they rotate exchanging one item of clothing pre-determined

Then they say in unison I am from Tahiti

Then they rotate exchanging one item of clothing pre-determined

Then they say in unison, I am from Louisiana

Then they rotate exchanging one item of clothing pre-determined

Then they say in unison, I am from Haiti

Then they say in unison, I am from Cincinnati

Then they say in unison, I am from Cleveland

Then they say in unison, I am from next door

Then they say in unison, we are here to thank you because

I was hungry and you fed me,
I was thirsty and you gave me a drink,
I was homeless and you gave me a room,
I was shivering and you gave me clothes,
I was sick and you stopped to visit,
I was in prison and you came to me. Matthew 25:36

PRAYER: We thank you that you have not overlooked us or forgotten about us. We pray for you and for the plight of all children so that God will place in your heart to continue the good work that you have begun. Know that in helping one of us you have helped us all. Please GIVE!

Alecia Hayes

Sermon Starters

No one knows the context in which you minister better than you. So these ideas may be helpful, or they may not. They're offered as some ideas to get your creative juices going. Please stop by the Notes my Facebook page (Kevin Phipps, Wooster, OH) and join a conversation about the Christmas offering and about the sermon particularly.

It's hard to think about Christmas. The economy continues to be tough. We've just had to spend more than \$150,000 on a new boiler for the Education Building here at Central Christian in Wooster. In the election cycle we just finished, it seemed the name calling only got worse. So-o-o, now that we're this close to Christmas, how are we going to do it? The bank accounts don't have the resources we need to celebrate the Christmas we've dreamed about. We live in a day and a time when instead of 'beating our swords into plowshares' we're doing a pretty good job of the exact opposite – taking a point of agreement and finding some ways to argue about it. Seems impossible to talk about the Prince of Peace and giving, doesn't it?

The scripture passage for this year's Christmas offering reminds me that if we try to do Christmas on our own, it most certainly **IS** impossible. And not only Christmas, but everything we do in our lives. When we rely only upon the resources we can see and touch and feel we confine ourselves to an existence lived tightly within a closed box. John 3:16 invites us to a different way of getting ready for Christmas – and for life. By beginning to realize that indeed God **has** given us amazing gifts. While the material resources may not be enough to make us seem affluent by our culture's standards, the reality for most of us is that we have a roof over our heads and food in our stomachs – and God has blessed most of our congregations enough so that we are able to help those who don't have those blessings. And God has blessed us beyond measure with the gift we celebrate at this holy season of the year – the glorious gift of Emmanuel, God With Us.

When Christmas is done only with the resources I possess, it's impossible. When Christmas is celebrated in the real presence of the Living Lord, I can't wait for it to get here. For then we begin to realize just how much we've been given and come to know that the only response for such a gift is for us to give as well.

I found a litany on *Homiletics Online* that spoke to the reality of these gifts.

Confession: I don't think I can face another day of working at my "impossible" job.

Congregation: "For God so loved the world ..."

Confession: It is "impossible" for me to manage staying in my house by myself any longer.

Congregation: "For God so loved the world ..."

Confession: I can't seem to get control of my "impossible" drinking/eating/gambling addiction.

Congregation: "For God so loved the world ..."

Confession: I have "impossible" monthly bills that now outweigh my monthly income.

Congregation: "For God so loved the world ..."

Confession: I am facing an "impossible" situation with my kids.

Congregation: "For God so loved the world ..."

Confession: There is a problem in my life that I am finding it "impossible" to face.

Congregation: "For God so loved the world ..." ¹

For with God, all things are possible. May we each come to know the riches of this season.

Blessings on your Christmas journey!

Kevin Phipps

¹ "How Possible?" from *Homiletics Online*, February 28, 1999

Moment for Mission

Please invite someone from your congregation to read these Moments for Mission, then ask them to 'translate them' into their own language and share them with your congregation.

I have been reading with great interest that some mega-churches have decided the best way for them to grow and reach more people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ is not by expanding in their single location but by forming 'satellite' churches in neighboring communities. In one community, a congregation has purchased an abandoned shopping center to nest a new church. Those reports got me to thinking – what would happen if we understood ourselves as the Christian Church in Ohio to be one church with many locations? What we'd find is that we have more than 180 locations and in excess of 44,000 members. Our annual budget would be slightly over \$27-million dollars. Now that's a big church!!!

There are so many ways we live out our call as one church – the amazing ministry done at Camp Christian, the work of the Ohio Men's and Women's ministries, Advance Camp, the Commission on the Ministry, Reconciliation, Week of Compassion, and Regional and General Assemblies to name just a few. And maybe the best way we understand ourselves to be one church with many locations is through the ministry done on all of our behalf by our regional staff. The pastoral staff with their knowledge, caring, guiding spirit in helping congregations wherever they are on the journey of being the church God wills us to be. The support staff in keeping all the papers flowing, the pennies counted, and always ready to answer the phone with a cheerful 'hello.' The staff, both paid and volunteer, at Camp Christian who reach literally hundreds of people each and every season with the glorious good news of what God is doing in Christ Jesus.

In the Christian Church in Ohio we witness an amazing example of God's gifts to us. How will we respond to those gifts?? It is our prayer that we will respond generously in our gifts to the Christmas offering that supports the Regional Church. However your congregation receives the offering – whether as part of regular worship, during a special service, or without much fanfare – we pray that you respond in gratitude for all the ways this church has touched peoples lives. You know how much we've been given in this magnificent church, so much larger and richer than we could imagine and now is an opportunity for us to give. Thank you for your ongoing support of the Christian Church in Ohio especially through the Christmas offering which our congregation will be receiving on _____.

Kevin Phipps

Moment for Mission

The biblical text for the 2010 Christmas offering is a great passage of Scripture. For in John 3:16 we find these words, which are the meat and meaning of the whole Bible, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

We serve a God who gave. God so loved the world that he gave. God caused a portion of God's self to become flesh, and heaven announced that his name should be called Jesus. Yes, God so loved, and so gave, that whosoever believes, even now, in God's way of giving and loving, shall discover a quality of life that shall not perish.

However, God calls us to make a faithful and loving response to God's love for us. When we receive God's love, we will discover that it is shaped like a cross, with the vertical beam that reaches up to God and gets grace and power, and with the horizontal arms it shares that power and that love and that joy all around. That is why God's love is demonstrated in the drama of the cross.

Because God so loved the world, God has called us through Christ's church to reach out to enhance the life of the world around us. Because we believe that everyone matters to God and therefore everyone matters to us.

That's why we are to pay a tithe and bring an offering to the church, not to pay God for God's blessings, but to say thank you to the Lord by giving generously to Christ's church. When I give, I say thank you, Lord, for your countless blessings. Thank you, Lord, for sweet Communion, for pardon, for your presence, for your power. Thank you, Lord, for providing for all of my needs. Thank you, Lord, for allowing me to serve you as a Christian Steward. Most of all, thank you, Lord, for Jesus Christ, my Redeemer. God, who is a God of love, is waiting for our loving response.

When we are able to receive God's love, our loving response is to live a life style of love. For the love we pay to others represents the love we owe to God, the respect we pay to others is a genuine respect for the holiness of God present in God's people.

There is a contemporary praise song that really captures this for me. The words are:

How can I say that I love the Lord,
Who I never ever seen before.
And forget to say that I love the one,
Who I walk beside each and every day

How can I look upon your face,
And ignore God's love, you I must embrace
You're my brother,
You're my sister,
And I love you with the love of the Lord
Love for the Lord means love also for God people, and God's people include all the people of the world.
"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life". - John 3:16

During the upcoming Advent\Christmas season, we are given another opportunity to realize our Lord Jesus Christ's presence; to celebrate the gift of his birth to this world; to keep alive the sense of wonder and mystery of Christmas; to appreciate the love of God as told in the Christmas story.

Across the life of the Christian Church in Ohio, there are exciting stories of God's love about new congregations being established, existing congregations being renewed and trans-formed, and leaders equipped for ministry. Great things are taking place as we live a lifestyle of love by joining God in God's mission for the sake of the world. In this holy season let us reach out to those broken lives that feel no love. Let us be a beacon of light that will lead them to God's gift of love.

Together, we can answer God's call to be a "covenant network of congregations in mission" by supporting current and future ministries through the annual Christmas Offering.

Bill Edwards



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November 2010

Dear Pastors and Congregational Leaders,

Greetings from the Advance Ministry Officers! All young adults, 18 years old (out of high school) through 29 years old, are invited to the Advance Ministries Winter Retreat, **December 31, 2010-January 2, 2011 at Camp Christian, Monroe Lodge**. We are ringing in the New Year with a Celebration of Diversity in Prayer, featuring Keynote Speaker Yolanda McNair! It is a great opportunity for young adults to get more involved in the church, meet other young adults, have fun together, explore their faith and celebrate the New Year! Even if the young adult is not a member of your church this is an excellent opportunity *invite* any young adult to get involved.

In many churches across the country the young adult age group is least represented in the church. However, in Ohio, we are pleased to inform that the Advance Ministry has been one of the growing ministries over the past three years. We would like for it to continue to grow and get more young adults engaged in the church through Advance Ministries. Since many young adults are in college, in debt, or in between jobs, a main reason many don't attend events is the cost and registration fees. To make sure that money is not the reason for young adults not to attend, an *Advance Ministry Scholarship Fund* has been started. We are asking for you to prayerfully consider inviting young adults to attend Winter Retreat and other Advance Events, sponsoring a young adult in your church to attend, and/or sponsoring another young adult from the region by giving to the Advance Ministry Scholarship Fund.

Included is a flyer for Advance Winter Retreat 2010. Registration and/or donations can be made by returning the bottom or online at http://ccinoh.org/events_details.aspx?id=151

You can also check out Advance Ministry on Facebook, just look for our group.

Thank you for your past and future support for this important Advance Ministry.

Blessings,

*Alan Dicken, Erin McKinney, and Miguel Taveras
Advance Ministry Officers*



Christian Church in Ohio

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

A covenant network of congregations in mission:

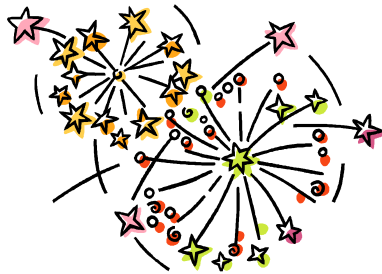
We are the Body of Christ gifted and called in covenant together as Disciples of Christ to be centers of transformation on the new mission frontier of our own communities

Advance Conference

WINTER RETREAT

Let's ring in the New Year with
A Celebration of Diversity in Prayer!

Keynote Speaker: Yolanda McNair



Where: Camp Christian

When: December 31, 2010 – January 2, 2011

Ages: 18-29 (Out of High School)

For more information visit: <http://advanceministry.org/>

Also, Friend Advance Ministry on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/group.php?gid=4731339468>



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Advance Ministries Winter Retreat

December 31, 2010 – January 2, 2011

Camp Christian, Monroe Lodge

Let's ring in the New Year with a *Celebration* of Diversity in Prayer!

Keynote Speaker: Yolanda McNair

This event is for all young adults 18 years old (and out of high school) through 29 years old.

- Early registration (**paid by November 29**) \$80.00*
 - Regular Registration (**paid November 30 - December 27**) \$90.00*
 - Late/Onsite registration (**paid the 28 - event**) \$100.00*
- (**Weekend fees include event registration, meals, & lodging.*)
- Saturday only (Meals Included, NO LODGING) \$50.00

The retreat will start at 7:00 p.m. on Friday and end on Sunday after morning worship. Please bring the following items with you: Bedding or sleeping bag and pillow, towels and other toiletries, Bible and notebook.

Register online at www.ccinoh.org/events_details.aspx?id=151 or mail this form along with your payment to:

Christian Church In Ohio
355 East Campus View Blvd. Suite 110
Columbus, Ohio 43235

Make Checks payable to:
Christian Church In Ohio
**CCIO's refund policy applies to this event.*

Questions? Contact the Advance Ministry Officers at officers@advanceministry.org

ADVANCE CONFERENCE 2010 WINTER RETREAT

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____

BIRTHDAY ____/____/____ PHONE (____) _____

Please Circle Days Attending: Friday Saturday Sunday

DO NOT WRITE HERE
DATE _____
CHECK NO. _____
AMOUNT _____

____ *I cannot attend but would like to contribute to the Advance Conference scholarship fund.*

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____ CHURCH _____



Christian Church in Ohio

D I S C I P L E S O F C H R I S T

A covenant network of congregations in mission:

We are the Body of Christ gifted and called in covenant together as Disciples of Christ to be centers of transformation on the new mission frontier of our own communities

United Nations Seminar Scholarship Fund

The United Nations Seminar has been a vital part of the Ohio Christian Youth Fellowship since the early 1960's. From then to now well over a thousand young people from Disciples congregations around Ohio have had the opportunity to travel to Washington D.C. and New York City for a week. For many, this has been a life changing experience, witnessing the many ways that faith plays a part in the decision making of our nation and the world. Some of you may have shared in this worthy event, or sent your children, or have given support through your local congregation.



Year after year, the cost of this event has increased, just due to inflation, and more and more of our youth and their families are finding it difficult to finance this extraordinary opportunity on their own. Even with the help of youth groups and congregational support it is still a challenge. No one who applies for the UN trip will be turned away because of lack of funds.

The Christian Church in Ohio has supported the United Nations International Affairs Seminar Tour for many years. So many young people who have gone on this tour have gone on to become strong youth and adult leaders within the church. Would you please help support the UN Seminar Scholarship Fund by making a donation? Your donation will help keep the scholarship fund alive so that we may continue to enrich the youth of Ohio.

There are two ways to donate to the Ohio UN Seminar Scholarship Fund. Contribution can be sent to the Christian Church in Ohio, 355 E. Camp View Blvd., Suite 110, Columbus, OH 44235, or go Online to www.ccinoh.org and click the donation button at the top of the page, then fill in the other Scholarship Funds section.

You can also help by spreading the word through E-mailing, Facebook, Phone Calls, or any method you would be comfortable with.



Your prayers and support are greatly appreciated as you make a difference in the lives of these young people. May God bless you as you bless others.



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Ohio Spiritual Life Retreat for Ministers

(Spouses and Retired Ministers and Spouses are welcome)

“SPIRITUAL DIRECTION”

February 15-17, 2011

Speaker: Rev. Jerry Murphy

**The Herald B. Monroe Lodge
Camp Christian - Magnetic Springs, Ohio**



The Regional Spiritual Life Committee invites you to join us for the annual Spiritual Life Retreat. Cost is \$150.00 per person, double occupancy, all meals included. Any registration received after February 1st including onsite will be \$165.00. **Registration = Registered and Paid.** **Refund Policy:** A \$30.00 processing fee will be retained by CCIO on all refund requests. Checks to be made payable to the Christian Church in Ohio or you can register online by visiting the Region’s website at www.ccinoh.org.

Mail to: Christian Church in Ohio
355 E. Campus View Blvd. Ste 110
Columbus, Ohio 43235
Phone: (614) 433-0343

PLEASE NOTE: *If unable to attend, you are invited to be in prayer support during the time of the retreat. Please email Kay McGlinchey at kmcglinchey@genderroadcc.com if you will be in prayer.*

Spiritual Life Retreat 2011

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

City,State,Zip: _____

Roommate Preference: _____ DOB _____

Church: _____ City: _____

The Reverend Jerry Murphy

“SPIRITUAL DIRECTION”

February 15-17, 2011

I am a graduate of Yale Divinity School, 1964 after completing undergraduate work at Bowling Green State University in 1961. I served the Lakewood Christian Church as Associate Pastor, churches in Hudson and Kent and Wooster, finishing up at Walnut Hills Christian Church in Cincinnati. I have served several interim ministries in Disciple and UCC churches since 2003.

What I want to do at the Spiritual Life Retreat in February of 2011 is get a sense of what participants do as spiritual life disciplines. I want to affirm that there is no one way to have a spiritual life discipline but see if participants can gain something for their own discipline from what someone else is doing. Much of what I'm recommending will be from Thomas Merton's book "New Seeds of Contemplation."

Camp Christian is the Ohio Region's Camp Facility, located about eight miles west of Delaware, Ohio and about a mile from Magnetic Springs. The Herald B. Monroe Lodge has twenty rooms each with two single beds. Guests will need to furnish their own bedding, towels and toiletries. Guests share rest rooms and showers conveniently located near their rooms. The lodge is handicap accessible. Meals are served in the new Howard Ratcliff Dining Hall just a short distance from the Lodge. The camp phone number is (937) 348-2811. A map and directions has been included. **Dress for the retreat is casual.**

Schedule

Tuesday, February 15:

1:00-2:00 p.m.	Registration
2:00-2:45	Ice Breakers/Get Acquainted Activities
2:45-3:00	Break
3:00-3:15	Opening Worship—
3:00-5:00	Session 1: What are your Spiritual Disciplines?
5:00-6:00	Free time/get ready for dinner
6:00-7:00	Dinner in the dining hall
7:00-9:00	Session 2: What is contemplation/solitude?
9:00	Fellowship time

Wednesday, February 16:

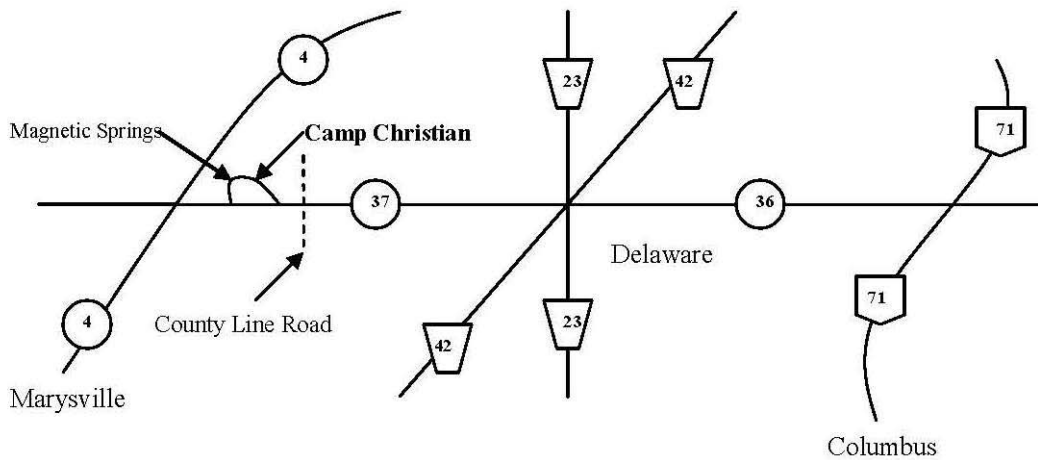
8:00-8:15	Devotions to get the day started
8:30-9:30	Breakfast in the dining hall
9:30-11:30	Session 3: What is humility & doubt?
11:30-12:30	Free time/get ready for lunch
12:30-1:30	Lunch in the dining hall
1:30-3:30	Free Time
3:30-5:30	Session 4: Does your definition of sin include pleasure?
6:00-7:00	Dinner in the dining hall
7:00	Worship into Silence

Thursday, February 17:

8:00-8:30	Devotions to come out of silence
8:30-9:30	Breakfast in the dining hall
9:30-11:30	Session 5: How is "love" manifested in your Spiritual Life?
11:30-12:00	Closing Worship and Communion—Spiritual Life Committee
12:30	Lunch in the dining hall

Retreat participants are asked to bring a favorite snack and/or drinks to share with the group. **Also bring any of your favorite resources or books on spirituality, which you use and might recommend.** Be prepared to write. Be prepared to walk if you are able. Be prepared to listen deeply to one another. Be prepared to rest.

Directions to Camp Christian



*If using a GPS or MapQuest, use this address:

Camp Christian
10299 Maple Dell Rd
Marysville, Ohio 43040

From Akron, take 76 west to 71 south to the Delaware exit that says Route 36 and 37. At the traffic light turn right.

Follow Route 36-37 into Delaware where 37 will bear to the right. Bear to the right and stay on 37. Keep straight through Delaware. Route 37 will bear to the left. Follow the sign saying Magnetic Springs. Stay on Route 37 for approximately 8 miles. Immediately after seeing the Union County Line, the very next road to the right is Maple Dell Road. Camp Christian is on Maple Dell Road which is next to the cemetery. Turn right into Camp Christian. The Herald B. Monroe Lodge will be back a long lane to your left.

From Columbus take 71 north to the Delaware exit and turn left. Follow the above directions.