

BEACON NEWSLETTER

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A Multi-racial, Multi-cultural, Open and Affirming Congregation

DECEMBER 2008

ADVENT---WAITING IN HOPE!

One of the best images of the season of Advent (for me) is the one Fred Buechner offers. Advent, he writes, (somewhere, and I can't remember where) is like sitting in a darkened theater. The lights have dimmed. The curtain is still down but is about to be raised. All are seated, waiting in great anticipation for what is about to happen. Everything is hushed.

Advent is that moment in time, a moment of waiting, hoping and expectation: four weeks of waiting, hoping, preparing for the magnificence of Birth. After all, Evelyn Underhill (great spiritual guide of the 20th century) advises, we dare not saunter carelessly or casually up to the new born Christ! We need to get ready.

As we prepare, as we ready ourselves, we wait in hope.

No one likes to have to wait for anything. Yet we spend a good portion of our lives waiting. We wait at stoplights, at the doctor's office, for friends who arrive late for appointments, for exam scores to come in the mail, for the test results from the doctor that will give us a better picture of our physical condition. We wait to get married, to turn 21, to retire sometimes in fear, sometimes in hope.

Once, long ago, when I was waiting to finalize a contract, I was filled with gloomy doubts about the terms of the package: would I have enough salary, would my benefits cover all my and my family's needs? Then right in the middle of my fretting about adequate benefits and salary, the sweet, clear, unmistakable voice of the Lord asked, *Is that all you hope for?*

Paul the Apostle writes in Romans 8: 24-25, For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? For if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. What Paul means is that when we hope, we focus not on what is given *but upon the God who gives*. When our hope is fixed upon God, hope and waiting become synonyms.

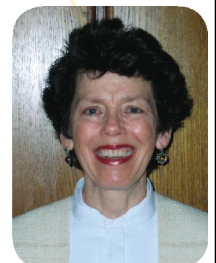
Ron James writes in *A Joy Wider than the World*,

A lot of people are hopeless. They see no remedy for anything in life. Indeed, there are untold millions who are without hope because of poverty/war/sickness/lack of love/nothing to believe in. Even many of us who have comfortable lives and are members of the Christian church have little knowledge or confidence in Christian hope... Sometimes hope is simply wishing for good things: not much snow this winter, economic recovery, a better relationship with a parent/child. Christian hope draws a much wider circle!

How wide is your circle of hope? What are you waiting for, what are you hoping for this Advent? Jurgen Moltmann, theologian, writes, Hope is not an appendix to our faith; it is a new setting forth and a transformation of the present (*Experiences of God*). Can you see Advent this year as a time pregnant with promise, a time of setting forth to greet the Birth of God in a manger?

May this prayer accompany all of us as we journey toward Bethlehem: *Almighty God, who came to us long ago in the birth of Jesus Christ, be born in us anew today by the power of your Holy Spirit. We offer our lives as a home to you and ask for grace and strength to live as your faithful, joyful children always. This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (A Guide to Prayer for Ministers and Other Servants [Upper Room]).*

Wishing you a blessed Advent, your friend and Interim Pastor, Terri



Interim Minister
Rev. Terri Young

Director of Music
Timothy Robson

Director of Gospel Choir
Joan Bacon

Christian Education Director
Marcy Molmen

Financial Manager
John Peterson

Church Secretary
Diana Reid

Custodian
Ernie Clark

Director, Saturday Fun
Cheryl Wacasey

Beacon Editors
Kathy Baker
Mary Sherry

Design Editor
Cyndi Henderson

Photographer
Kathie Buckner

Sunday Schedule

8:45 a.m.
Adult Bible Study

10:00 a.m.
**Celebrative Worship
Service &
Church School**

Following worship
**Fellowship and
Refreshments**

Bus transportation
available to/from church

DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Sunday, December 7
Second Sunday of Advent**

Preacher: Rev. Terri Young

Scripture Readings:

- Isa 40: 1-11
- Ps 85: 1-2, 8-13
- 2 Pet 3: 8-15a
- Mark 1: 1-8

Worship Theme: Messengers of Hope
Pearl Harbor Day

**Sunday, December 14
Third Sunday of Advent**

Preacher: Rev. Terri Young

Scripture Readings:

- Isa 61: 1-4, 8-11
- Ps 126 or Luke 1: 47-55
- 1 Thess 5: 16-24
- John 1: 6-8, 19-28

Worship Theme: Shouts of Joy

Sunday, December 21

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Festival of Lessons and Carols

Christmas Fund Special Mission Offering

Wednesday, December 24, 5:30PM

Family Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 28

First Sunday after Christmas

Preacher: Rev. Terri Young

Scripture Readings:

- Isa 61: 10-62: 3; Ps 148
- Gal 4: 4-7; Luke 2: 22-40 or
- Isa 60: 1-6; Ps 72: 1-7, 10-14
- Eph 3: 1-12; Matt 2: 1-12

Worship Theme: Long-Awaited Gift

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Please keep our confirmands in prayer: Amber Bogart, Cornelius Bogart, Amber Green, Lavera Hampton, Chris Sanders, and Jeremy Southgate.

PRAYER AND HEALING SERVICES

Every Wednesday from 12 noon until 12:30, our sanctuary doors are open for prayer and healing services. Cleveland Clinic patients and their families are invited to attend along with our own members. Then on the last Sunday of the month we will include our healing liturgy during our time of worship. This is an opportunity to bring forward our prayers for ourselves and intercessions for others and for the world.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

On Sunday, December 21 during morning worship we will celebrate our annual Festival of Lessons and Carols. This traditional service combines readings from the Hebrew and Christian scriptures telling the prophecy of the Christ and Christ's arrival in the world. The lessons alternate with choir carols and congregational hymns that comment on the lessons. This service has come to be one of the highlights of the EACC Christmas Season.

On Wednesday, December 24, Christmas Eve at 5:30 PM there will be a special family service featuring carol-singing and an original play performed by the church school children. See Christian Education Director Marcy Molmen's article elsewhere in this Beacon for details.

HANGING OF THE GREENS DECEMBER 5

The Christmas season officially begins at EACC with the Hanging of the Greens, one of our favorite traditions. Come to church on Friday evening at 6PM with a pot of something (or a dessert, salad, or bread) to contribute to the potluck dinner. After we eat, some of us will haul out the garlands and wreaths and decorate our church for Christmas while others of us create Christmas crafts, and then we'll end the evening by singing Christmas carols around the parlor piano. This year we're planning to decorate the entire church, all three floors, so a lot of hands will be needed for that project. This is an all-church event suitable for all ages, so bring the kids and grandkids, the parents and grandparents, the friends and neighbors.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Christmas poinsettias will be placed in the sanctuary for our worship services December 14, 21 and for our Family Service Christmas Eve, December 24. Please do not remove the plants until after the Christmas Eve service or the service on the Sunday after Christmas, December 28.



CIRCLEFEST DECEMBER 7, 12:30-4:30PM

Find yourself at one of Cleveland's most popular holiday events! Visitors to University Circle's Circle Fest on Sunday afternoon, December 7, are invited to our church for an organ recital by music director Timothy Robson at 1:30 and a program by the Case Men's Glee Club at 3:00. These are among a full afternoon of arts activities starting with holiday caroling at 12:30. The program will also include an historic exhibit and other mementos from the church's 165-year-history, hot cider and candy canes.

-
- **SATURDAY FUN** •
- Children of all ages are invited to these events. Please call •
- Cheryl Wacasey at 216-513-8006 by Wednesday to reserve •
- your spot. Refreshments are always served! •
- Saturday, December 6 The Christmas Story Museum (\$5) •
- Saturday, December 20 Christmas Party (no charge) •
-

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

The Adult Bible Study group that meets in the Conference Room on Sunday mornings at 8:45 will be studying these scripture readings and topics in December:

- Dec 7 Mary's Commitment Luke 1:46-55
- Dec 14 Elizabeth's Commitment Luke 1:39-45
- Dec 21 Shepherds Glorify God Luke 2:8-20
- Dec 28 John The Baptist Proclaims God's Message Luke 3:7-18



PASTOR TERRI FEATURED ON KALEIDOSCOPE

Leon Bibb, Anchor for Channel 5 News, recently interviewed Pastor Terri on the future of Euclid Avenue Congregational Church amid the economic hard times we face as well as the reality of EACC's neighborhood, the Cleveland Clinic.

The lively discussion centered on the hope for new mission within the context of our neighborhood and for the need to change. "Churches that survive change with the changing times, both internally and in terms of developing new outreach," Pastor Terri asserts. Dave Buckle has a copy of the 15 minute segment on Kaleidoscope if you wish to view it.

HEALTHY CONNECTORS

Healthy Connectors was represented by Charlene Higginbotham at a clergy breakfast sponsored by the Ecumenical HIV/AIDS Network of Greater Cleveland on November 13. Twenty-eight pastors and/or their representatives were treated to a big breakfast at the Fairfax Health Care Center. Pastors serving churches that have HIV/AIDS programs shared information and materials about their programs. A short video presentation reflecting the increase in new HIV infections among black women and hispanic/latinos was moderated by Barbara Baylor, Faith Community Coordinator for the UCC Health Network. Table talk among the attendees encouraged questions related to the reasons why black churches don't talk about and have been slow to implement HIV/AIDS programs and what can be done to get "on board" and work better collaboratively with each other. Materials from the breakfast meeting will be on the Healthy Connectors table for member education and information. **SOMEONE YOU KNOW OR WILL KNOW, HAS HIV/AIDS. BECOME INFORMED!**

Diabetes is not only on the rise for children, adults are always at risk also. Please check out the "Faces of Diabetes" bulletin board and pick up the educational materials on the resource table.

NOV., 2008 STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY REPORT

PARKING LOT Repair of parking lot with cold patches has been completed. Resurfacing of the lot deferred by Cleveland Clinic Foundation until hopefully the spring.

UPSTAIRS SECOND FLOOR BATHROOM Renovation of bathroom is underway.

FLOORING FOR PARKING LOT & EAST 96TH ST ENTRANCES + NARTHEX - Next bid on flooring under review. Awaiting quote and samples for evaluation, consideration and recommendation.

FRONT LAWN SIGNAGE Bid for front lawn signage reviewed by Stewardship Ministry. Publicity Committee to have input. Opinions also being gathered from congregational members knowledgeable in this area.

2009 BUDGET COM approved the 2009 budget at their November 5th meeting. Stewardship Ministry made some minor adjustments at their November 16th meeting. The 2009 draft budget will be mailed to the EACC members prior to the scheduled Congregational Budget Meeting on Sunday, December 14th.

OTHER CONCERNS: Because of time constraints, other proposals and issues have been deferred to the next Stewardship Ministry meeting.

- Ruby Brooks and Nancy Nigosian, Co-Chairs



A CHRISTMAS EVE PLAY

Why was the birth of a baby such Good News to the Bethlehem shepherds? Or to other people who lived then?

The Sunday School classes of EACC are discussing the question of what the birth of Jesus might have meant to the young people of Jesus time who lived under Roman occupation. Based in part on

these conversations, Christian Education Director Marcy Molmen is writing a play, which the students will perform as part of the Christmas Eve Service at 5:30 pm.

Marcy met with families of Christian Ed students in the parlor after the service on November 30 to tell them about the play and listen to their suggestions. Before they left, they had an opportunity to sign up to provide some of the help needed to prepare for the performance on Christmas Eve.



But you don't have to be related to one of the performers to get involved. Adrienne Brockway is designing the sets. Eleanore Dees and Cyndi Henderson have also volunteered. If you'd like to be part of this, email Marcy at Marcia.eacc@sbcglobal.net, or call her office phone, 216-791-5200, extension 14.

There is one final, important factor in making the play a success. Please join us for the Christmas Eve Service at 5:30pm and see whether your Christmas celebration isn't the better for it.

FELLOWSHIP AND COMMUNITY LIFE

November 30th marks the beginning of Advent and preparation for the birth of Christ. In the spirit of the teachings of Jesus the Christ, we look forward to the Hanging of the Greens on December 5th. On December 7th we extend a welcome to visitors during the Circle Fest. On December 21st we celebrate Christ's coming with Lessons and Carols. Then the high point on December 24th occurs with the Christmas Eve family service and the performance of a Christmas Pageant. This year we will add another feature during this very spiritual time.

This year at the Hanging of the Greens there will be an introduction and audition for the play, *Another Christmas Story*, which is written by Diana Ellington Reid. The play calls for 5 adults, 8 to 10 youth and will be performed using the reading drama format. All members of our church family are invited to audition. This will be collaboration between Christian Education and Faith Formation, Saturday Fun and Fellowship and Community Life. So come to Hanging of the Greens on Friday by 6:00 p.m., audition for the play at 6:30 p.m. Then on Sunday, December 28th the play will be read and performed during a light lunch following morning worship.

This Advent Season will be filled with music, beauty and drama. Plan to attend all of the celebrating events.

2009 ENLISTMENT CAMPAIGN **MAKING GOOD PROGRESS**

The Enlistment Committee reports that as of Sunday, November 23, pledges received from 28 member families totaled \$72,569 -- 58% of the Budget Committee's 2009 goal of \$125,000. This still leaves a large number of members not yet heard from. We need to reach the goal by December 14, the date of the Congregational Meeting called to review and approve the budget.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY

The Christian Education and Faith Formation Ministry is pleased to introduce Ms. CeCelia Pritchett as the new Assistant Director of Saturday Fun. Ms. Pritchett has been involved with Saturday Fun for the last ten years since her son's participation from the age of 2. She has assisted the director, Cheryl Wacasey, for the last several months since the resignation of Precious Bogard. Ms. Pritchett is certified in Early Childhood Development and has her own evening Child Care Center. She was motivated to pursue the training because her own son has special needs. She is enthusiastic about continuing to serve the children of the community and has ideas for the program's growth.

CEFFM discussed several items concerning the disposition of Saturday Fun over the last few weeks. There was uncertainty about continuation of the program due to the absence of an Assistant Director which placed a heavy burden on Cheryl.

Planning for the 2009 year was put on hold until resolution of the problem. The following points were agreed upon at our November 23, 2008 meeting:

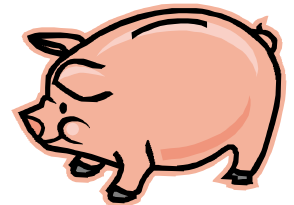
Agreement-

1. Saturday Fun will remain under Christian Education
2. The Position Description must be revised by CEFFM at the December meeting
3. The personnel will be independent contractors and not staff
4. Cheryl will continue as director
5. Cheryl will plan the 2009 events and bring the schedule and the budget to CEFFM for approval
6. CEFFM agrees that Cecelia Pritchett should be reimbursed for past services
7. CEFFM affirms the outreach nature of Saturday Fun as a youth group open to the community

CEFFM looks forward to the continuation of Saturday Fun and invites the congregation to visit the program and become involved. Saturday Fun provides a safe place for children to gather. This program includes activities and experiences that many of the children may not otherwise have access to, such as visiting museums, health and career information and trips to professional sporting events. Please take a moment to meet CeCelia Pritchett and ask Cheryl Wacasey what you can do to ensure the continued success of the program. You'd be surprised by the blessings you receive from a child's smile.

Madge Potts-Williams

OCTOBER 2008 FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY				YTD OUTREACH SUMMARY	
Expenses Compared to Budget					
January - October 2008					
	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Annual Budget		
INCOME					
CONTRIBUTIONS	91,032	103,766	123,918	OCWM	13,125
ENDOWMENT INCOME USED	141,062	193,624	225,324	Interact	2,625
OTHER INCOME	9,935	13,000	15,600	Hunger Offerings	1,567
Total RECEIPTS	242,029	310,390	364,842	Great Hour of Sharing	645
EXPENSES				Strengthening the Church	265
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES				Other Special Offerings	492
Total PERSONNEL	157,776	170,687	210,518	Christmas Offering	0
Total BUILDING MAINTENANCE	57,968	64,639	74,210	Neighbors in Need	341
Total OFFICE	7,743	8,500	10,200		19,060
Total OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	8,548	14,637	17,564		
Total ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	232,035	258,462	312,492		
PROGRAM & MINISTRIES EXPENSES					
Total CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY	7,358	10,878	12,050	YTD GIVING SUMMARY	
Total FELLOWSHIP & COMMUNITY LIFE MINISTRY	2,779	6,800	7,800	ANTICIPATED MONTHLY OFFERINGS	103,766
Total CHURCH IN THE WORLD MINISTRY	17,577	20,058	26,650	ACTUAL OFFERINGS - CURRENT YEAR	91,032
Total WORSHIP & ARTS MINISTRY	2,451	5,050	5,850	DIFFERENCE - OVER (UNDER)	(12,734)
Total PROGRAM & MINISTRIES EXPENSES	30,164	42,786	52,350		
Total EXPENSE	262,200	301,248	364,842		
Net Income (Loss)	(20,170)	9,142	0		





TENTS OF HOPE

The weather was gorgeous. The Gathering of the Tents took place in Washington, DC, the weekend of November 7th, 8th and 9th. Although I missed the vigil at the Sudanese Embassy on Friday night, I arrived on Saturday in time to be overwhelmed at the sea of 300 tents on the National Mall, with the capitol at one end and the Washington Monument on the other. In between listening to speakers and musicians, I wandered to the Lincoln Memorial and the White House to put this event in the context of our historic election. What a sense of energy! Our country had decided to embark on its own journey of hope through the election of Barack Obama and ordinary people were doing something concrete and substantial to help our Sudanese brothers and sisters. We heard from a few of those Sudanese brothers and sisters as well. I attended an inter-faith service on Sunday morning and was amazed listening to a 14-year-old refugee read two of her poems and later thank us for our presence.



We should have been thanking her for the gift of her presence. It gave true meaning to the project name that you all contributed to Tents of Hope.

Although our completed tent was not on the mall due to my need to go to DC directly from a business trip (I took one panel on the plane with me!) it will be delivered to the storage facility for shipment through Darfur Peace and Development Organization to be

CHURCH IN THE WORLD MINISTRY

Darfur and Tents of Hope. The Ministry would like to thank David Buckle for the update about the situation in Darfur, given to the congregation during worship on November 9th.

Bags of Grace. Thanks to the generosity of our church family, and the hard work of Fannie Cockfield, Kathie Buckner, Carole Brown, and the support of Eleanore Dees, Mary Guen, Julia Haynes and others, 6 "Bags of Grace" crammed full of nonperishable food items, were distributed to church families and friends on November 23. Monetary contributions totalling over \$100 were contributed to the Cleveland Foodbank.

Extra Christmas Greetings. When you are making out your Christmas card list this year, please include the following:

A Recovering American Soldier
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20307-5001

To encourage you to participate, there are cards ready to write on in the parlor and a bag to them in. You can fill these out during fellowship hour, Hanging of the Greens or any other time you pass through the parlor.



used as a classroom. Funds are still being collected for shipment. You must visit the Tents of Hope website www.tentsofhope.org to enjoy the wonderful photos of the tents and to donate towards the shipping costs if you can. I am so proud of the support

our congregation has given to this phenomenal project. Many thanks to CITW Ministry for committing to the project and many many thanks to Kathie Buckner who kept things going when my energies were required elsewhere. Although this event is over, our work is not done. We connected with each other as a congregation while we decorated our panels. We connected with students from John Raper Elementary and Hope Academies. (You should have seen how excited they were at the prospect of their work going to Africa!) We connected with residents of McGregor Nursing Home. We connected with folks through Restore Cleveland Hopes Freedom Camp. So many of the messages and images were beautiful and beautifully uplifting. And through each of our decorated canvas panels we all now will be truly connected to individuals in Darfur, sending them a message of caring and letting them know they are not forgotten. I can only believe that because of this, refugees everywhere will always be a little bit closer in our hearts and our minds and especially our actions.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart, -Brenda (Bagby)



Fifth Monday Meal. The December 29th meal at Calvary Presbyterian Church, will be Coordinated by Cloggie Crowder. To volunteer to help cook, set up, serve or clean up, please speak to Cloggie. 216-231-4402

IN THEIR PATH 2009!

About 40 children from Citizens Academy and Holy Rosary Montessori School gathered to plant bulbs in front of the Cozad-Bates House Nov. 14 to help Restore Cleveland Hope Inc. Executive Director Joan Southgate kick off the group's first major fund-raising campaign.

With a goal of raising \$250,000, Joan will complete the circle she began back in 2002 by walking 250 miles from St. Catharines, Ontario, back to Cleveland. In 2002, Joan, then 73, walked from the southern Ohio River town of Ripley to Cleveland to honor the courage and creativity of freedom seekers and conductors who participated in the Underground Railroad. In 2003, she continued on her inspirational journey to St. Catharines, which had been conductor Harriet Tubman's Canadian base of operations.



In Their Path 2009! is set to begin May 1 and will mark Joan's 80th birthday. RCH is challenging supporters, friends and community groups to form teams to raise \$1,000 to buy a mile of Joan's journey. The money raised will be used to help restore the Cozad-Bates House, the only pre-Civil War-era building still standing in the University Circle area, and to allow RCH to continue its educational programming and community outreach efforts.

Before the planting began that balmy fall morning, the Rev. Terri Young of Euclid Avenue Congregational Church, where RCH currently meets, blessed the bulbs. The Cozads and their neighbors and friends, the Fords, who are documented Underground Railroad conductors, helped found the EACC. The church has pledged to sponsor the first mile of Joan's walk. Rev. Joan Ishibashi, of the United Church of Christ's Western Reserve Association, is locating UCC churches that will provide a welcome for Joan

along her route through New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio.

After planting dozens of flower bulbs, the children took time to enjoy the lush lawn of the historic home, playing and raking leaves into a giant pile that invited

jumping. The children and RCH members and supporters attending the fund-raising launch then walked across the street for a snack of cookies and cider and a brief reception at the Abington Arms. Over the years, many residents of Abington Arms have developed a fondness for and interest in the long-neglected Cozad-Bates House.

Ndeda Letson of University Circle Inc., which was given the Cozad-Bates House in 2005, told of UCI's support for the RCH fund raiser and celebrated the goal of RCH operating its educational center out of the back section of the historic home, which dates to 1853. Virginia Mook, an RCH Board member and one of the original founders of the group, showed the schoolchildren a picture of her grandmother, Mary Augustus Ford, and told of her ancestors' role in the Underground Railroad. It is her goal that the picture someday hangs in the RCH educational center inside the Cozad-Bates House.



LEADERSHIP TRAINING

On November 15, 22 EACC members met with group leader Charlotte Noble to sing, reflect, laugh, and consider how we might conduct more efficient and enjoyable meetings. Among other things, we were asked to think about what we would want to keep, no matter what changes we decided were necessary, of our church as it currently exists. Here are a few of the answers:

Family and music	Faith
Order of worship	Diversity
Church School	Feeling of being family
Building	Piano player
Spirit of Christ	Open and affirming
A good spirit	Love for all people
A sense of church family	

USHERS MINISTRY

Happy Holidays to all EACC ushers faithfully serving as greeters, ushers, information specialists and EACC ambassadors to visitors, friends and members throughout the year. Show them your love and appreciation!

*** **KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS** ***

- ◆ Virginia Becker
- ◆ Marguerite Bibb
- ◆ Mary Jane Cariens
- ◆ Helen Humphrey
- ◆ Hallie K. Jones
- ◆ Phyllis Jones (niece of Ruby Brooks)
- ◆ Phyllis Martien
- ◆ Doris Simmons
- ◆ Nicholas Walker (son of Kenny Crawford)
- ◆ Barbara Smith Weems and family

Please remember these persons in your prayers and notify Eleanore Dees, (216) 295-0872, or the Church Office to identify the names and/or needs of others who would appreciate being remembered in our prayers.

INTERACT S HOMELESS STAND DOWN 2009

The Homeless Stand Down (HSD) is a mid-winter retreat that provides a warm, safe, and affirming space for respite, renewal and reconnection for over 2,000 guests facing the challenges of poverty and homelessness. The nationwide Homeless Stand Down movement began in 1988 as a service to veterans.

The 2009 Homeless Stand Down events will be on:

Saturday January 31, 2009
At Pilgrim Congregational UCC
2592 West 14th Street

Friday February 6, 2009
At the Cleveland Convention Center
500 Lakeside Avenue and

Monday February 16, 2009
At Trinity Commons
2254 Euclid Avenue

Be watching for opportunities to volunteer or to donate food, clothing, and other needed items.

A REMINDER ABOUT THE PASTORAL-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Pastoral-Parish Relations Committee (Kathy Baker, Leon Bibb, Dave Buckle, Cyndi Henderson, Mary Sherry, Joan Southgate and Charles Williams) continue to meet regularly with Pastor Terri. Please bring any concerns or suggestions you might have about the communications between the pastor and the congregation to any of these people or to Pastor Terri herself.

WREN CHRISTMAS NEEDS

Women's Re-Entry Network, or WREN, an organization that helps women recently released from prison adjust to living in the community again, is requesting a few items that would be helpful: socks, gloves, gift cards from Dave's, Walgreen's or CVS, or gift certificates from Dominion East Ohio Gas Company. Or if you would like to donate a gift for a child (age 12 and under; in the \$10-15 range) of one of the women, please bring it to church on Sunday, December 7 to give to Kathy Baker. Call Kathy 216-383-1684 for more information.

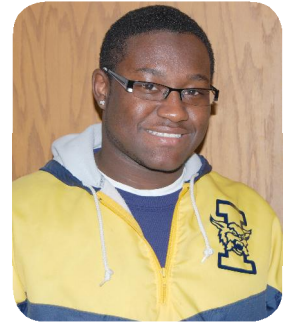


*** **JOYS** ***

Tim Robson's 25th Anniversary Concert on November 2 was attended and appreciated by many EACC members and Fans of Tim. We were able to send over \$700 to the American Guild of Organists for a scholarship in Tim's name and honor.

Ann Drysdale and her sister Martha Edwards recently returned from a 2 ½ week tour of several European countries. They cruised along the Rhine and the Danube on a riverboat, starting in Amsterdam and ending in Budapest.

Congratulations to Christian Sanders who is a Quarterback on St. Ignatius' State Champion Football team.



WORLD AIDS DAY DECEMBER 1

The theme of this year's 20th anniversary World AIDS Day is Lead -Empower-Deliver.

It is estimated that 33 million people in the world are living with HIV. Of all racial and ethnic groups in the United States, HIV and AIDS have hit African-Americans the hardest. Even though blacks account for about 13% of the US population, they account for about half (49%) of the people who get HIV and AIDS. Another alarming statistic is that today women make up more than one quarter of all new HIV/AIDS diagnoses. Reading about statistics cannot stop the spread of HIV and AIDS, of course. Only comprehensive best practice prevention programs can do that. We must become knowledgeable about HIV and AIDS and educate our young people about its transmission and treatment.

To quote Ann Hanson, the UCC Minister for Sexuality Education and Justice, "Statistics are numbers with the tears washed off them. Each statistic is a child, a loved one, an aunt, a grandfather, a mother, or a cousin....On December 1, we must pray for those affected by HIV and AIDS."

UNITED BLACK CHRISTIANS

The Greater Cleveland Chapter of UBC closed out its year-long 10th anniversary observance with a special Thanksgiving mailing to UBC members in recognition of their support over the years and anticipated support in the future. UBC churches will receive a Christmas letter with information for plans to host a UBC Clergy Breakfast early in 2009 to discuss priorities for the local chapter.

The UBC is in conversation with our adopted school, Hanna Gibbons Elementary, to determine how we might continue supporting students in academic excellence, especially in the area of reading proficiency.

If you have not renewed your membership, please see Charlene, Membership Chairperson or Cloggie Crowder, President.



DECEMBER 2008

(BIRTHDAYS/WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES NOTED HEREIN)

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT



1
7:00 PM - C.A

2
10:00 AM
- Women's
Association
4:00 Pastoral Care
Team
4:30 PM - Kenpo
Martial Arts

3
12 noon
- Prayer & Healing
Service
6:00 PM
- Gospel Choir
7:00 PM - A.A
7:00 PM C.O.M.
7:00 PM - R.C.H.

Dan Southgate

4
8:00 PM
- Chancel Choir

Phyllis Martien

5
6:00 PM - Hanging
of the Greens.



Bryonna Robinson

6
10:00 -
Saturday Fun

Cheryl Wacasey
Bural Buckner

7
8:45 - Adult Study
10:00 -Worship
11:30 - Fellowship
12:30 PM
Confirmation
Class
12:30-4:30 -
Circlefest

8
6:45 Citizen's
Circle
7:00 PM - C.A

Jayne Ryan
Kuroiwa

9
10:00 AM
- Women's
Association
12:00 Staff
4:30 PM - Kenpo
Martial Arts
7:00 PM -
Enlistment
Committee

10
12noon
- Prayer & Healing
Service
6:00 PM
- Gospel Choir
7:00 PM - A.A

11
8:00 PM
- Chancel Choir

12**13**

14
8:45 - Adult Study
10:00 -Worship
11:30 - Fellowship
Congregational
Meeting
12:30 PM
Confirmation
Class

Mary Sherry

15
7:00 PM - C.A

16
10:00 AM
- Women's
Association
4:30 PM - Kenpo
Martial Arts

Kenneth Crawford
Kate LeFloria

17
12 noon
- Prayer & Healing
Service
6:00 PM
- Gospel Choir
7:00 PM - A.A

18
8:00 PM
- Chancel Choir

19
Ministry Reports
Due

Yaniah Powell

20
10:00 -
Saturday Fun

**JAN. Beacon
Deadline:
Dec. 20**

21
8:45 - Adult Study
10:00 -Worship
Festival of
Lessons
and Carols
11:30 - Fellowship
12:30 PM
Confirmation

22
7:00 PM - C.A

23
10:00 AM -
Women's
12:00 - Staff
4:30 PM - Kenpo
Martial Arts

Leon & Marguerite
Bibb

24
5:30 PM - Family
Christmas Eve
Service
7:00 PM - A.A

Cheryl Taylor

25
Christmas
DAY

Paul Sherry
Christine Fant

26
OFFICE CLOSED

Laura O'Neal

27

28
8:45 - Adult Study
10:00 -Worship
11:30 - Kwaanza
Family Celebration
12:30 PM
Confirmation

Manuel Roderic
Conner Bogard

29
7:00 PM - C.A
Fifth Monday Meal

30
4:30 PM - Kenpo
Martial Arts

Pat Murray

31Vivian Taylor
Regina Bland

Monthly Ministry/Team/Council Meetings

1st Sunday - Transitional Steering Team
1st Wednesday - Council of Ministries
2nd Sunday - Fellowship..., Worship...
3rd Sunday - Christian Education...
4th Saturday - Men's Council
4th Sunday - Church in the World
5th Sunday - Ushers

❖ The Rev. John H. Thomas, UCC general minister and president, penned letters to both President-elect Barack Obama and Sen. John McCain in the days following the U.S. general election. He applauded each candidate for his willingness to faithfully serve the nation, and for the sacrifices that such service entails, including the personal scrutiny and vulnerability it exposes.

To Obama, Thomas was congratulatory as well as challenging, noting the great needs that the next Administration will face, especially with regard to poverty, the environment, and a just and peaceful global community. He also extended an invitation for the Obama family to find a spiritual home at one of the UCC's Washington D.C. congregations. The Obamas resigned their membership from Chicago's Trinity UCC in May following media scrutiny of their former pastor, the Rev. Jeremiah Wright.

To McCain, Thomas extended thanks for his strong and principled perspectives" and for a concession speech filled with hope which [calls] us to the shared tasks that lie beyond this historic election.

❖ While the rest of the country headed to the voting booth Tuesday, Nov. 4, the U.S. Supreme Court took on television obscenity in a hearing that could lead to the first ruling in 30 years on standards for regulating public airwaves.

The case, FCC v. Fox Television Stations, follows a challenge by Fox Broadcasting to the Federal Communications Commission's policy on obscenity and profanity during daytime and early evening hours on radio and television. The FCC's policy is based on a 1978 case, FCC v. Pacifica Foundation, in which the court agreed that an afternoon broadcast of comedian George Carlin's seven dirty words monologue was indecent, giving the FCC authority to police radio and television broadcasts from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., when children are most likely to be in the audience. That policy was followed until Janet Jackson's infamous wardrobe malfunction at the 2004 Super Bowl. Meanwhile, Fox had been reprimanded for two incidents in 2002 and 2003, involving singer Cher and actress Nicole Ritchie, in which variations of a vulgar four-letter word were broadcast during live award shows. The reprimand came after the FCC changed policy in 2004 to say that even "fleeting" expletives could expose the network to sanctions. The wardrobe malfunction along with viewers complaints over Cher and Nicole Ritchie, prompted the FCC to crack down on broadcasters responsibilities to air clean content.

The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New York called the FCC policy arbitrary and capricious, said it did not follow requirements of federal law and also raised questions about First Amendment rights. The appeals court questioned whether the FCC's 2004 change in policy was justified.

Following the June appeals decision, the Bush administration urged the Supreme Court to consider the case, claiming the lower court's ruling left the FCC torn between protecting freedom of speech and protecting children.

Television and radio stations argue that the FCC's changing standards leave them with little guidance on what is considered indecent. FCC Commissioner Michael J. Copps earlier this year said, The court's review will hopefully bring additional clarity to concerned citizens and broadcasters alike.

In a speech at the Media Institute in Arlington, Va., Peter Chernin, the chief operating officer of Fox's parent company, News Corp., gave a glimpse of the network's stand. Quite simply, it is time for the government to get out of the business of regulating indecent speech on broadcast TV. The threat it poses to core First Amendment values cannot be justified in our technologically diverse world.

Some critics of the FCC policy argue that responsibility for television censorship should fall on parents, not the government. TV Watch, an organization that promotes parental control, claims 65 percent of parents monitor their children's media use. They also assert that new technologies allow parents to keep an even closer watch on children's media consumption.

But supporters of the FCC policy say television and radio stations need to be monitored.

On June 9 the UCC's Office of Communications, Inc. and members of a media coalition filed an amicus brief in the case.

Of great importance to the UCC and other media advocates is that, whatever the outcome of this case, the Supreme Court continue to recognize the constitutional legitimacy of the Federal Communication Commission to have oversight over public broadcasters, said the Rev. J. Bennett Guess. While a debate over indecency too quickly boils down to whether or not it should be permissible to say certain words on the airwaves, a larger principle is at stake. We take no position on the underlying indecency issue in the case, but we have asked the Supreme Court to be careful not to inadvertently endanger any prior precedents that support the Children's Television Act of 1990 and the FCC rules that implement it.

❖ Meeting in Cleveland Nov. 5-7, the Wider Church Ministries (WCM) board voted to approve the single board recommendations from the Governance Formation Team II (GFT-II).

Several members expressed thankfulness for the GFT-II process and commented that the UCC is one of very few organizations, religious or other, willing to require its national board be composed of 50 percent persons of color and 50 percent women.

WCM is the final board to approve the GFT-II proposal.

The chairs and vice-chairs of each board, and the Executive Council, will meet with their counterparts in January 2009 to reconcile, if possible, any differences in their actions. The results of these discussions will be the basis for preparation of proposed constitution and bylaw amendments for consideration at the 2009 spring board meetings.

THE SYMBOL OF CHRISTMAS IS THE PROMISE
OF TOMORROW AT THE CLOSE OF EVERY
DAY, THE MOVEMENT OF LIFE IN DEFIANCE
OF DEATH, THE ASSURANCE THAT LOVE IS
STURDIER THAN HATE, THAT RIGHT IS MORE
CONFIDENT THAN WRONG, AND THAT
GOOD IS MORE PERMANENT THAN EVIL.

— *THE MOOD OF CHRISTMAS* by HOWARD THURMAN

**EUCLID AVENUE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
9606 EUCLID AVENUE
CLEVELAND, OH 44106**

EUCLID AVENUE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC
9606 Euclid Avenue

WELCOMES CIRCLE FEST
SUNDAY, DEC. 7, 2008
12:30-4:30PM



**Our doors will be wide open again
this year to receive Members,
Friends and Visitors of
University Circle
Institutions.**

*Plan to have lunch in the area
and then stop by in the
afternoon for:*

- * **Holiday Caroling** – 12:30 – 1:00pm
(all are welcome to join in singing)
- * **Art N Facts** – Historic Exhibit 1-4:30
- * **Mini Organ Concert** – 1:30pm and 2:30pm
- * **Case Men's Glee Club** – 3:00pm and 4:00pm
- * **EACC 165th Anniversary Memento** (*while they last*)
- * **Visitors Welcome Packet**
- * **Hot Cider** * **Candy Canes**



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