

BEACON NEWSLETTER

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

APRIL 2009

GOD'S FRIDAY

One part of my duties as Director of Student Activities/Dorm Director/Religion Teacher/Chaplain at a private girl's high school where I served in the mid-late 1980's, ...was to lead and chaperone groups to Bermuda in the springtime, over spring break. We usually had 18-25 girls on the spring trip; we all stayed in one hotel/motel and my job was to keep tabs on them.

Oh, my. It was, as they say, "interesting": if you have ever had to chaperone a group of high school girls, er, young women, you know what I mean. I remember midnight cab rides to the local base to retrieve some girls from the grasp of off duty merchant mariners. Then there was the young lady who made phone calls home to the US all week to the tune of \$670 (charged to her room).

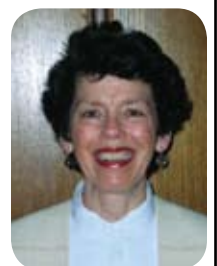
And etcetera. Every year when we came home with the same number of young women with which we left, I breathed a sigh of relief. But it was during that time that I came to love Bermuda, the little island serenely atop Atlantic coral beds, the fragrance of the hydrangeas, jasmine and (at that time, before the flower trade migrated elsewhere), beds and beds of Easter lilies, the call of the kiskadees and the exquisite beauty of the blue water.

And the kites on Good Friday. Good Friday is a national holiday in Bermuda. Shops are closed; children have the day off from school; everyone goes to the beaches to fly kites! Imagine, if you have not seen such a thing, thousands of kites in all shapes, colors and sizes winging out over the Atlantic like exotic birds searching for a place to rest: big kites, little kites, kites with and without tails,---all sailing in full regalia over the south shores of the island.

At first I wondered about such festivities on such a solemn day in the church year, a day when most Christians take time to remember Christ's death on a cross: a holiday? Kite flying? And then it finally hit me: Good Friday for the Bermudians is a celebration of Christ's victory over death, Christ's free and bountiful spirit at one with God's Spirit, sailing in the wind, rejoicing, unhampered, victorious.

We'd like to invite you to walk with us during Holy Week so that we all arrive at the celebration of Christ's Resurrection together, victorious. We begin the week with a procession of the palms on **Palm Sunday**. On **Maundy Thursday**, we gather around the table together to remember Jesus' Last Supper, betrayal and abandonment. Then on **Good Friday**, we'll gather in the sanctuary from noon- 1 pm for word and music meditations on the Seven Last Words of Christ.

Sunday, of course, we celebrate the Feast of the Resurrection, with joint choirs helping us to sing our halleluiahs, our balloon lift-off after worship, special children's activities and coffee hour in the parlor. I'm not sure how to get the full impact of Holy Week and Easter without walking in the way that Jesus went: all the way from triumphal entry into Jerusalem to victory on the cross. So come along...maybe even bring a kite. Your friend and Interim Minister, 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

APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

PALM SUNDAY/PASSION SUNDAY

Preacher: Rev. Terri Young

Scripture Readings:

Mark 11: 1-11 or John 12: 12-16;

Ps 118: 1-2, 19-29

Isa 50: 4-9a; Ps 31: 9-16; Phil 2: 5-11

Mark 14: 1- 15: 47 or Mark 15: 1-39, (40-47)

Worship Theme: Into Jerusalem

SUNDAY, APRIL 12

EASTER

Preacher: Rev. Terri Young

Scripture Readings:

Acts 10: 34-43 or Isa 25: 6-9

Ps 118: 1-2, 14-24

1 Cor 15: 1-11 or Acts 10: 34-43

John 20: 1-18 or Mark 16: 1-8

Worship Theme: Now What?

SUNDAY, APRIL 19

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Preacher: Rev. Terri Young

Scripture Readings:

Acts 4: 32-35

Ps 133

1 John 1: 1 - 2: 2

John 20: 19-31

Worship Theme: Marks of Faith

Integrity of Creation Sunday

Orthodox Easter

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Preacher: Rev. Terri Young

Scripture Readings:

Acts 3: 12-19

Ps 4

1 John 3: 1-7

Luke 24: 36b-48

Worship Theme: Christ Among Us

Healing Liturgy

Churches United in Christ Sunday

Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries

Sunday

Rural Life Sunday

HOLY WEEK AT EACC

Palm Sunday, April 5, 10 AM, Sanctuary

Procession of palms

Reading of the Passion story and special music

Maundy Thursday, April 9, 6 PM, Dining Room (assemble in the parlor)

Traditional meal eaten in silence, remembering the Last Supper

Communion and Service of Tenebrae

Good Friday, April 10, 12 noon, Sanctuary

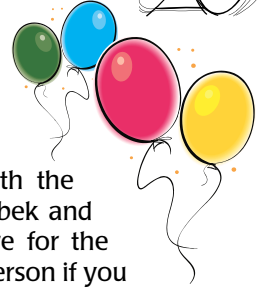
Seven Last Words of Jesus with organ improvisation

1-3PM – Sanctuary open for prayer and meditation

Easter Sunday, April 12, 10 AM, Sanctuary

Celebratory Easter Service

Festive music and balloon release



Calling all Early Risers and Insomniacs

We're looking for about 4 volunteers to help with the balloon inflation on Easter Morning. Join Pete Jerabek and the Henderson/Nordstrom families to help prepare for the balloon release. Please speak to Cyndi or Bob Henderson if you can help out, or just meet us on Easter morning between 8:15 and 8:30 in the Narthex behind the sanctuary

SATURDAY FUN

- Saturday Fun, an enrichment opportunity for children ages 6-16, has many
- "regulars," kids who have been attending for several years. One of those
- is Anton Lyles, a 13-year-old who has been going to Saturday Fun events
- since he was 10. Anton recently entered a city-wide art competition
- with a pencil sketch he called "Serenity." It will be exhibited at the Arts
- Collinwood Art Gallery at 15605 Waterloo from April 4-17. The gallery
- hours are Thursday and Friday, 6-9PM and Saturday and Sunday, 1-4PM.
- All of Saturday Fun is very proud of Anton!
- In March, the Saturday Fun children and adults enjoyed roller skating
- and a trip to the Museum of Natural History. In April they will be looking
- forward to these activities:
- April 11 – 10AM -Annual Easter Egg Hunt
- April 25 – 10AM – Movies at Loehman's Plaza (\$5)
- Contact Cheryl Wacasey (216-513-8006) or Cecelia Pritchett (216-990-
- 5575) for more information. Refreshments and/or lunch are served at
- all Saturday Fun events. Please call by Wednesday to reserve your spot.

HEALING SERVICES

Healing and Prayer Services, open to the Cleveland Clinic community as well as our own members, will continue every Wednesday at noon throughout April. These services are a blessing of peace and restoration in the middle of a busy week.

Then on the fourth Sunday of the month, a healing liturgy is a part of our Sunday morning worship service. The fourth Sunday of April is April 26.

MEN'S COUNCIL

The Men's Council will have their retreat April 24th and 25th. We will be going to Punderson Park. Anyone interested in going should contact Dave Buckle.

May 3rd we will have our annual brunch honoring the women of the church. Don't forget we still have Fair Exchange coffee for sale in the parlor after Sunday services.

Preston Howard - President

ADULT BIBLE STUDY



The Adult Bible Study group that meets in the Conference Room every week before worship will be studying and discussing the following Scripture passages in April:

April 5 – Suffering Until Death Luke 23:32-46

April 12 – Resurrected Unto New Life Luke 24:1-12

April 19 – Witnesses to New Life Luke 24:44-53

April 26 – Bringing New Life to Those in Need . . Acts 9:32-43

SOUP, SALAD, SANDWICH AND SCRIPTURE

This Lenten Bible Study series that has been meeting on Wednesday evenings at 6PM will skip April 1 and then have its last bowl of soup and discussion of the Lord's Prayer led by Pastor Terri on Wednesday, April 8. Even if you have missed the other discussions, plan to join us. If you cannot be there by 6 for the supper, come at 7:00 for the discussion. Chances are there will be a little soup left and much food for thought.

MESSAGE FROM THE MODERATOR

On Tuesday, March 17, the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, the Moderator, and the Interim Minister met together to discuss an issue which had caused a rift between the Interim Minister and several members of the congregation: the denial of the minister's office to Rev. Allison Phillips on Sunday, March 8.

It could be said that the meeting was not really needed by the time it was held because Rev. Young had already sent flowers with a note of apology to Rev. Phillips before the meeting and announced that at the beginning. But several members of the church had expressed hurt and anger over the incident, and those feelings needed to be honored and voiced.

We came together around a table to share our concerns and voice our feelings. In this diverse congregation, our different perspectives were manifest: culture, age, clergy and laity, and knowledge or lack thereof of the incident with Rev. Phillips. We heard from one who had been involved on March 8, read aloud several letters from church members, and listened as Rev. Young explained her position and reasons for it. We talked about our life together at EACC and our personal experience in the church and away from it. We told stories that were close to our hearts, shared a poem, cried, and laughed. We talked of our growth—the pastor and the congregation. We explored the differences mentioned above that lead to our varying perspectives in and of our shared life together at EACC.

We outlined plans to learn from this experience. The Worship and Arts ministry needs to develop a protocol for the welcome and accommodation of a guest minister during the interim pastor's absence. From now on, a member will have a key to the minister's office so any guest minister can have access to it before and after worship. Since much of our conversation centered on our diversity, several suggestions were made in the area of fellowship and community life: rejuvenating the after-worship dinners at members' homes, small groups, a talent show. Other suggestions were in the area of Christian education: sharing the movie "the Color of Fear" followed by a discussion. Sacred Conversations might adopt the format of the "Story Corps" project employed by National Public Radio which could help us understand the life experiences we bring to our common life.

The meeting was not always easy. Members spoke their minds, and discussion was candid and frank. We pushed beyond the comfortable and were willing to risk and expose our vulnerabilities. We spoke the truth, but we spoke it in love (Ephesians 4:15), honest about our differences but with a caring heart for each other's feelings.

Though we felt the particular problem was being addressed with the measures mentioned above, we decided to share our experience with the congregation. It seemed we had discovered some methods that the entire congregation itself might benefit from. Our intent was to share experiences that we felt would contribute positively to our life together—and thereby "build up the body of Christ (Eph 4:12)."

Dean Sieck

(The members of the Pastoral Parish Relations Committee are Kathy Baker, Leon Bibb, Dave Buckle, Cyndi Henderson, Mary Sherry, Joan Southgate and Charles Williams.)

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

Most of the Ministry's meeting on March 15 was devoted to discussion of a number of building-related items.

1. A contract has been signed for repair of damaged stone work on the East 96th Street side of the building. Work will begin late in April.
2. We have received two proposals for a survey of our heating system. We expect to approve hiring of a contractor at our April meeting.
3. We have received a proposal for repair of five windows on the east and west side landings. Pending confirmation of the bid price, we will proceed to have these repairs done.
4. Ernie Clark was authorized to complete painting and flooring on the first floor east side lavatory, and to install a drop ceiling in the second floor lavatory.
5. Installation of carpeting in the east and west side entryways will be completed before Easter.

John Peterson presented a financial report, which is highlighted on another page of this BEACON.

Reported by John Baker, Secretary

Publicity Committee

The EACC Publicity Committee is reforming. We need your help! This committee is responsible for getting the word out about our church and our wonderful activities both to our church members and to the wider community.

Please talk to either Ann Drysdale or Eleanor Dees, Co-Chairs of CITW



USHERS MINISTRY

- Looking for a once a month ministry? The Ushers Ministry is looking for you! The **fourth Sunday** Usher Team could use another member. Please speak to Phyllis Graham or Dean Sieck if you would like to volunteer.

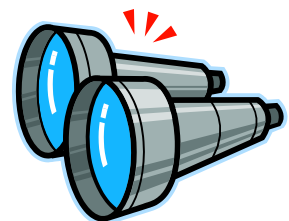


PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Search Committee is getting underway in the process of finding EACC's new permanent pastor. The committee, comprised of Dean Sieck, Calvin Humphrey, Noreen Roderick, Nikolas Southgate, Eleanor Dees, John Merritt (recording secretary), Charles Williams (chaplain), Mary Jane Cariens (vice chair) and Adrienne Brockway (chair), will be taking the steps and guiding EACC through the search process.

Very soon the committee will be asking for everyone's help. When a questionnaire comes your way, take the time to fill it out completely – and please return it! When you are invited to talk about your hopes for EACC, don't be shy, speak up!

Throughout the process, the committee will be updating the congregation about progress, so stay tuned!



HUNGER CENTER

Our congregation has been so generous in its monthly Hunger Center donations that we were able to send \$2,200 to the Cleveland Food Bank recently. In addition, our Hunger Center donations have funded meals for as many as 100 people in our 5th Monday Meal program. In March, Cloggie Crowder and her team of cooks, table setters, servers and dish washers met at Calvary Presbyterian Church and served a hot meal to an overflow crowd. Another 5th Monday will be coming up in June, so we are encouraged to continue to donate our money and time to this very worthy cause, co-sponsored by InterAct Cleveland.



UNITED BLACK CHRISTIANS

This month, members of the Advisory Board have been meeting with the ministers of UBC member churches to obtain input on the direction and goals for 2009 and evaluate the stated mission of the organization.

Three basic questions were developed for each interview. If you would like to participate in the assessment by answering these questions, please see Cloggie Crowder or me.

The Executive Council of the UCC met last week-end and unanimously affirmed the candidacy of Geoffrey Black for General Minister and President. Some of you will recall that Rev. Black participated in a panel discussion at EACC on Racial Justice Sunday while serving at the national offices, several years ago.

The delegates at General Synod in June will vote to "call by election" Rev. Black. If called, Black will be the second African-American to serve as President of the UCC.

Charlene Higginbotham



EUCLID AVENUE CITIZEN CIRCLE

Several members from both EACC and the Church of the Covenant continue to meet in our parlor every month to welcome someone who has recently been released from prison. We sit together in a circle and offer this person encouragement, support, and resources for finding housing, jobs, or education opportunities. We met rather nervously with our first participant, but quickly discovered that our method of concentrating on his strengths that will lead to a better future, instead of his past, opened up many possibilities.

We ask for the prayers of the congregation for our participants and for our Circle. We also would appreciate any suggestions you could give us about companies that are willing to hire people with felony records, or available lowcost housing. Kristine Jackson has already spent an evening with us telling us about some education and job training programs that are available. If you know someone who might like the opportunity to come meet with us, please let us know. And, of course, if you would like to become a member of our Circle, please tell Johnnie Mitchell, Kathy Baker, Jewel Green, Nathaniel Martin, Calvin Humphrey, or Dean Sieck. We know you would find the experience rewarding.



All information on the Healthy Connectors table is for YOU. Please take time to peruse the table and pick up educational materials for yourself or your family.

Events and activities posted on the bulletin board are for your participation.

An opportunity to evaluate the Healthy Connectors Ministry is being arranged with Barbara Baylor, Minister for Health and Wellness, UCC; Church in the World Ministry and Healthy Connector members. Once confirmed, the date will be published to invite EACC member participation also.

FEBRUARY 2009 FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY			
Expenses Compared to Budget			
Annual Budget		January - February 2009	
		Actual Year to Date	Budget Year to Date
	INCOME		
123,918	CONTRIBUTIONS	18,647	21,400
225,324	ENDOWMENT INCOME USED	44,183	44,237
15,600	OTHER INCOME	305	2,017
364,842	Total RECEIPTS	63,135	67,654
	EXPENSES		
	ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		
210,518	Total PERSONNEL	39,428	38,003
74,210	Total BUILDING MAINTENANCE	22,621	14,625
10,200	Total OFFICE	1,718	1,867
17,564	Total OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	1,788	3,585
312,492	Total ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	65,555	58,081
	PROGRAM & MINISTRIES EXPENSES		
12,050	Total CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY	573	1,567
7,800	Total FELLOWSHIP & COMMUNITY LIFE MINISTRY	403	717
26,650	Total CHURCH IN THE WORLD MINISTRY	75	492
5,850	Total WORSHIP & ARTS MINISTRY	80	892
52,350	Total PROGRAM & MINISTRIES EXPENSES	1,131	3,667
364,842	Total EXPENSE	66,686	61,747
0	Net Income (Loss)	(3,552)	5,907

January through February OUTREACH SUMMARY	
OCWM	0
Interact	0
Hunger Offerings	329
Great Hour of Sharing	0
Strengthening the Church	5
Other Special Offerings	112
Christmas Offering	0
Neighbors in Need	0
TOTAL	446

Restore
Cleveland
Hope



RESTORE CLEVELAND HOPE

Help EACC take the last few steps in our pledge campaign!

Over \$300 in individual contributions has come in during the last month for Joan Southgate's "In Their Path 2009!" walk to benefit Restore Cleveland Hope. Additionally, the Woman's Association has donated \$500 toward the walk.

During the month of April, Church in the World Ministry expects to complete the fundraising campaign and meet EACC's goal of \$1000 to buy the first mile of Joan's 250 mile walk.

You can help! Every 25 cents – that's right, only a quarter – brings us one step closer to our target. Share your loose change and we will reach our goal in no time. If you wish to send a check, make it out to EACC and mark it "Joan's Walk."

A THANK YOU LETTER



Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for the gifts that we received from you in support of theological education at Chicago, United, and/or Eden Seminaries. Our seminaries are critical to the life of the United Church of Christ, and your support is critical to our seminaries! We are especially grateful for that support as we come to the end of our 2008 fiscal year.

Equipping new leaders with the strength of faith, integrity and vision that come from a deep biblical grounding continues to be essential to the mission of each of our seminaries today. Your dollars provide vital support for the daily operations of our seminaries as they continue to fulfill their mission.

With deep gratitude,

Ann S. Moyer
Executive Director
CUE Seminaries
of the United Church of Christ

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY

As I write this, it's the fifth day of spring. The season is bright and fresh, like a new penny, and the sun is shining. In June I may get bored with spring, but now is not that time. Spring makes me want to plan: a garden, a vacation, a picnic for the neighborhood. In particular, I want to plan programs for EACC: summer, yes, but also fall. Please help me select programs that will interest you by answering these few questions.



Summer Adult Programs (Details might change.)

We could talk about our families' histories, how they passed on their religious beliefs, what they taught us, etc. Yes No Maybe

We could start a Book Discussion Group. Yes No Maybe

Fall and Winter Adult Programs (Details might change.)

Using a virtual time machine, we'd go back and get to know some of our spiritual ancestors. What was Abraham's world like? How did he and Sarah make decisions and cope with trials—the Bible didn't exist back then. Why was David called "a man after God's own heart"? How did the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel get lost? What was the Babylonian Captivity all about? What kind of world was Jesus born into? Why did Jesus perform miracles and then tell people not to tell anyone about them? Why was Jesus crucified? What is Resurrection, really? Why did the early Christians emphasize that their God had been executed as a criminal? Yes No Maybe

Same as above, but a series centered around one theme such as

Watershed events in history: Abraham, Moses, Samuel, God's Chosen People split into two countries, the fall of the Northern Kingdom, the fall of the Southern Kingdom, the return from exile, the birth of Jesus, the Crucifixion, the Resurrection, Pentecost. You'd come 11 Sundays out of the 40 in the school year and could attend church during the other weeks. Yes No Maybe

Biblical archeology: for what events in the Bible is there archeological evidence and what does it say? Abraham, Moses, Joshua, David, the fall of the Northern Kingdom, the fall of the Southern Kingdom, the return from exile, Jesus' crucifixion, the spread of the early church. 9 Sundays of 40. Yes No Maybe

Women of the Bible: Sarah, Miriam, Deborah, Rahab, Jezebel, Gomer, the mother of the Seven Sons, Mary, Mary, Mary, Phoebe, Priscilla, Junias, Lois. 14 Sundays of 40. Yes No Maybe

In an Adult Forum, we'd discuss topics of general interest. I hope the members would suggest ideas, but if not I'd select topics I thought would generate good discussions. Yes No Maybe

Finally, in this season of rebirth, I find new ideas more intriguing than at other times of year. One new idea that other Christian Educators in our conference are praising enhances worship and fellowship on Sunday morning by moving Christian education to another time. The move also gives CE the flexibility to do things that take longer than the Sunday morning time slot permits—watch movies, do projects, or even take field trips. Are you willing to explore this idea? Yes No Maybe

Please read this over and give it some thought. You'll have a chance during coffee hour after worship a few of the Sundays in April to fill out this questionnaire. Or, if you prefer, please call me at 791-5200 or email me at Marcia.eacc@sbcglobal.net with your comments and suggestions. Or, after you have carefully read what's on the reverse side of this page of the Beacon, fill out the questionnaire, clip it out and mail it in to me at the church.

Marcy Molmen, Christian Education Director

HENRY EDWARDS,**MARCH 11, 1924-MARCH 11, 2009**

Henry G. Edwards was born in Cleveland, Ohio, the fourth and last child of Dr. Ellery and Marie Green Edwards. He graduated from Cleveland Heights High School and then went on to Hiram College where he met his first wife, Jacqueline Canfield. He left Hiram upon request, due to extensive mischievousness, and went on to graduate from the University of Iowa with a B.S. in Psychology. In 1947 he married Jacquelyn and they had two daughters, Ann and Martha. Ann's son, Jamie, and Martha's son, Thomas, were two of the main joys of Henry's life.

Due to his love of trees and growing things, Henry worked for Forest City Tree Company (Lanphear's) for 13 years before starting his own tree and landscape business in 1960. He focused on the diagnosis and treatment of tree diseases; he tended his trees, plants, and customers well for 50 years.

In 1978 he married Barbara Eddy, having met her at a workshop at EACC. It was always his absolute joy to have thus become stepfather to Karen, Gail, Marcy and Steve. He also enjoyed being Rebecca Gordon's grandfather.

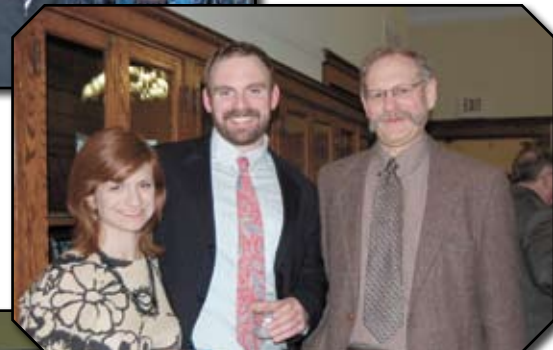
Henry was born into Euclid Avenue Congregational Church. It was his delight to serve this church in every capacity, on its many boards and ministries. He enjoyed being for a long time the only man in "Another Church Group." He had great fun at Pilgrim Hills and Temped Hills retreats, leading nature walks. He also loved belonging to the Men's Council and going on retreats with them. Each December for many years he drove to Lake County to get Christmas trees for the "Hanging of the Greens." One of his favorite stories about those treks involved driving back with Yul Mitchell in a driving snowstorm in a truck with no brakes. Over and over he said he attended EACC to be with the people there that he loved.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, REV. LASSITER

Members of East View, UCC will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Reverend Dr. Valentino Lassiter's ministry with a celebration banquet on Friday, April 24th at 6:00pm., at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Beachwood, Ohio. All are invited to join members of East View, Shaker Heights and the Greater Cleveland community for this special tribute and celebration. Contact Peggy Williams for banquet tickets (216)-751-4133. To place an ad in the souvenir booklet, contact Donna M. Lane (right away) at dmlane05@sbcglobal.net

SAM HUDSON, CATERER

Members of the congregation have asked Ann Drysdale for the name and phone number of the caterer who so generously fed us not only at the reception following her father's memorial service but the following Sunday as well, with food that was left over. He is Sam Hudson and he can be reached at 216-692-3272.

Henry Edwards Memorial



Samuel Robert Nordstrom Baptism



*** KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS ***

- ◆ Jack Baker (brother of Anna Tucker)
- ◆ Bural & Kathie Buckner (on Craig Buckner's deployment to Iraq)
- ◆ Gyasi Cooper
- ◆ The family of Henry Edwards (as they grieve his death)
- ◆ Amber Green & Family (on the death of her great-grandfather, Willie Frank Horton)
- ◆ Sherri Harper
- ◆ Julia Haynes
- ◆ Calvin & Helen Humphrey
- ◆ Hallie K. Jones
- ◆ Phyllis Martien
- ◆ Dominic Martin
- ◆ Hudson McComb
- ◆ Doris Simmons
- ◆ Ruth
- ◆ Barbara Smith Weems

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.

*** JOYS ***

Samella Carroll was surprised on her birthday (March 10) by a phone call from the "gang" at the Woman's Association meeting. Samella once attended these weekly sewing and chatting sessions regularly, but stopped going when she felt she couldn't see well enough to sew any more. The women sang "Happy Birthday" to her over the phone and sent birthday greetings. Later, Catherinlu Russell showed up at her door with a giant card, created by Cyndi Henderson and inspired by Charlene Higginbotham with the wishes on it in HUGE print, and signed by all the Woman's Association members. Samella was thrilled, and called it a most memorable birthday.

Diana Reid, injured in an automobile accident on her way home from Henry Edwards' memorial service, reports that she is feeling 90% better. She spent two days in the hospital right after the accident, but by now she is back at work full time. She expresses gratitude for your cards, prayers, and phone calls.

Kathie and Bural Buckner's son Craig and his wife Sarah are doing well in their new assignments, serving with the armed forces in Iraq and teaching in Japan, respectively. They are far from home (and each other), however, and your cards, prayers, and letters would be appreciated. Their addresses:

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Craig G. Buckner
HMM 268 MC, Unit 42010
FPO, AP. 96426

Sarah Buckner
PSC 557 Box 304
FPO, AP 96379- 0304

Joan Bacon and the Robert Plater Gospel Choir performed at an interfaith, intercultural event on Sunday evening, March 22. The audience received them with enthusiastic applause and one woman - who could have been Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Jewish, Baha'i or of some other faith - was overheard saying, "I would go to their church just to hear them sing!"

Tim Robson, EACC's music director, played the organ accompaniment for a 200-voice chorus at a performance of several Mozart works at an American Guild of Organists event on March 22 to a packed house. Because AGO chapter operating procedures preclude chapter members being paid for performing at chapter events, AGO added \$260 to the \$740 scholarship fund that EACC had established in honor of his 25th anniversary in November, bringing the total in the scholarship fund to an even \$1000. This fund will be given in scholarships to organ students.



APRIL 2009

(BIRTHDAYS/WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES NOTED HEREIN)



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

Your issue of the Beacon is available on-line in color. If you would like to receive your Beacon by way of e-mail, and save us the printing and postage costs, please call the church office or sign up online at: www.eacc-ucc.org/beacon.htm

1

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

Franklin Jackson

2

8:00 PM
- Chancel Choir

3**4**

Church Clean Up Day

5

8:45 - Adult Study
10:00 - Worship
PALM SUNDAY
11:30 - Fellowship
12:15
Confirmation Class

6

7:00 PM - C.A.

7

10:00 AM
- Women's Association
4:30 PM - Kenpo Martial Arts
7:00 Personnel

Eloni McClain

8

12 noon
- Prayer & Healing Service
6PM - Soup, Salad, Sandwich and Scripture
6:00 - Gospel Choir
7:00 PM - A.A

9

6:00 Maundy Thursday Meal
8:00 PM
- Chancel Choir

Deloris Blackwell

10

Good Friday
Office Closed
12noon - Good Friday service

11

10:00 - Saturday Fun

12

8:45 - Adult Study
10:00 - Worship
EASTER SUNDAY
11:30 - Fellowship

13

7:00 PM - C.A

14

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

15

12 noon
- Prayer & Healing Service
7:00 PM - A.A

16

8:00 PM
- Chancel Choir

Lynn Bujnak

17**18**

Hazel Dockery

19

8:45 - Adult Study
10:00 - Worship
11:30 - Fellowship

12:15 - Confirmation Class
Christ.Ed,
Fellowship,
Stewardship,
Worship & Arts
Virginia Bland

20

7:00 PM - C.A.

**MAY Beacon
Deadline:
APRIL 20**

21

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

22

12 noon - Prayer & Healing Service

6:00 PM
- Gospel Choir
7:00 PM - A.A

23

8:00 PM
- Chancel Choir

24

Men's Retreat

25

Men's Retreat
10 AM Saturday Fun

26

8:45 - Adult Study
10:00 - Worship
11:30 - Fellowship
12:30 - Confirmation Class
Church in the World

27

7:00 PM - C.A

28

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

29

12 noon - Prayer & Healing Service

6:00 PM
- Gospel Choir
7:00 PM - A.A

30

8:00 PM
- Chancel Choir

Molly Murray

❖ The Rev. Geoffrey Black, who has led the UCC's New York Conference for nearly a decade, has been nominated by the UCC's Executive Council to become the UCC's next general minister and president.

Black was previously a program staff member in the UCC's Office for Church Life and Leadership. During his career he has served as assistant chaplain at Brown University, associate minister at St. Albans (N.Y.) Congregational UCC, pastor of Congregational UCC of South Hempstead (N.Y.), lecturer in the Field Education Department of Union Theological Seminary in New York and protestant chaplain at Adelphi University. Black currently is a member of the board of trustees of Lancaster Theological Seminary. Prior to his move to Cleveland in 1994, Black ministered in local UCC congregations for over 15 years where involvement in the life of the denomination provided opportunities to participate in association and conference committees and to hold several elected offices.

The Rev. Henry T. Simmons, pastor at St. Albans (N.Y.) Congregational UCC and chair of the GMP search committee, said the search committee is excited about Black's selection and the year-long exploration that led to the nomination. "It was a tough process – the candidates we interviewed were all very qualified," said Simmons. "In the end, we felt we had interviewed the best possible candidates and found the finest person to lead the UCC at this time."

Ecumenical commitment, concern for equal justice, African-American empowerment and community improvement have shaped Black's ministry in the church and the communities in which he has lived. He has worked at the Nassau Coalition for Safety and Justice, the Long Island Interracial Alliance for a Common Future, and the Amistad Cultural Center of Long Island, which he co-founded, and Caring Communities of Shaker Heights, Ohio.

UCC bylaws require that Black's nomination be affirmed by a two-thirds majority of the Executive Council prior to his presentation to the General Synod for call by election. If elected by delegates at General Synod for the four-year term, Black will succeed the Rev. John H. Thomas, who has served in the post since 1999 and is not eligible for re-election.

Black earned his B.A. from Lincoln University in 1969 and an M.A.R. from Yale Divinity School in 1972. He is the spouse of Patricia Williams-Black and the father of Makeda Black. He and his family reside in Dewitt, N.Y., and Black is a member of Plymouth Congregational UCC in Syracuse.

❖ A March 17 report by the Associated Press indicates the Obama administration will endorse a U.N. declaration calling for the worldwide decriminalization of homosexuality that then-President George W. Bush had refused to sign.

United Church News reported the Bush administration's refusal to endorse the declaration on Dec. 19, 2008. The story quoted the Rev. John H. Thomas, the UCC's president and general minister, saying, "The fact that we were the only major western country to refuse to [sign the petition], and on the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, is especially reprehensible... One can only hope that the new administration will grow in its understanding that any limitation of human rights and civil privileges must be rejected."

Observers of the proceedings noted Bush administration's concerns stemmed from an unwillingness to commit the

federal government to policies that may conflict with existing state statutes. Several U.S. states permit discrimination based on sexual orientation in matters of adoption, housing and employment at privately held companies.

Seventy of 192 U.N. member countries outlaw homosexuality - and in several, homosexual acts can be punished by execution. More than 50 nations, including members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, opposed the declaration.

Since 1969 various national settings of the United Church of Christ have made more than 25 pronouncements that address the concerns of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people in church and society, calling for welcome, inclusion and justice.

❖ At a meeting held in Cleveland March 17-23, the UCC's five autonomous boards were expected to consider wording changes to the UCC Constitution and Bylaws which would affirm the formation of a single governing board for the national setting of the UCC that would be brought to General Synod 27 in Grand Rapids, Mich., in June. Each of the five boards, including Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM), voted last year to take the governance changes to General Synod for approval.

On March 20, this process came to an abrupt halt at an Executive Council meeting after the JWM voted 17 to 14, with three abstentions, not to move the process forward. The boards of Local Church Ministries, Wider Church Ministries and the Office of General Ministries each voted overwhelmingly in favor of the proposal.

Proponents have argued that, as the national setting is currently configured, the presence of five distinct boards and staffs makes strategic planning and comprehensive budgeting difficult, if not impossible. Supporters also have maintained that a smaller 86-member board, as proposed, would be more effective and efficient than the 250-plus persons who now serve in governance positions.

However, some in JWM still have concerns that centralization of power is never good for those in the margins and is not in keeping with the UCC's longstanding tradition of decentralized authority. Even though women and people of color were to comprise more than 50 percent of the proposed single board, some opponents have argued that direct representation from the five organizations of historically-underrepresented racial/ethnic constituencies was not sufficient.

❖ The Spring meeting of the Western Reserve Association will be held on Saturday, May 2nd at Imani United Church of Christ in Euclid from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The theme will be "Immerse Ourselves" [in God's Word and move out into the world.]

In response to decades of struggle about how to provide medical care to those with no health insurance, a group in Ohio has come up with an answer. On Saturday, May 2nd and Sunday, May 3rd they are calling together hundreds of health care professionals to use millions of dollars of on-loan equipment and donated supplies at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds to provide health care to as many people as they possibly can - for free. Service will begin at 6:00 a.m. each day. To volunteer, medical personnel should e-mail info@ramohio.org. Non-medical persons should call 216-432-9390 or e-mail info@handsonneo.org.

ALL THOSE WHO DIE LIKE JESUS,
SACRIFICING THEIR LIVES OUT OF LOVE
FOR THE SAKE OF A MORE DIGNIFIED
HUMAN LIFE, WILL INHERIT LIFE IN ALL
ITS FULLNESS. THEY ARE LIKE GRAINS
OF WHEAT, DYING TO PRODUCE LIFE,
BEING BURIED IN THE GROUND ONLY
TO BREAK THROUGH AND GROW,

LEONARDO BOFF

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