

BEACON NEWSLETTER

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

MARCH 2010

LENTEN LAMENTATIONS

Last Good Friday, 2009, your organist and I offered a three hour service on the Seven Last Words of Christ, Tim with improvisations on the organ, myself with meditations. As we trundle through Lent and before the next *Beacon* appears for the Easter issue, therefore, I offer you an edited reprint of the Fourth Word: **my God, my God, why have you forsaken me?** I offer it to you with the hope that it might comfort you in your Lenten disciplines:

“It has been said by many in the professions that the greatest of all human fears is abandonment. Human beings will go to any length to avoid abandonment. I remember a class we took in seminary about abused children and how the instructor who was both a social worker and an ordained minister told us that children would rather be in a situation that is abusive than be abandoned.

I’ve heard sermons on this verse (above, in bold) that tip toward Easter rather than Good Friday, that the end of Psalm 22 ends on a note of victory and that Jesus looked to the end of the Psalm for comfort. The only problem is, Jesus quoted the first verse and not the last.

He was suffering abandonment when he cried out from the cross and from this vantage point could only recite a poem from childhood: my God, my God, why have you forsaken me? If I walk through the darkest valley, aren’t you with me? Where *are* you?

We think of God as power, power to fix, undo, override, to make the world as we think it should be. And if God called Jesus God’s Son, there must be a better way to get that across to us humans than crucifixion! One of the most powerful

images of God’s “powerlessness” comes from Eli Wiesel’s book *Night*, the story of Wiesel’s suffering in concentration camp. At one point, the Nazis tried to hang a young boy but he was so light weight, he swung in the wind, a slow and ghastly strangulation. One of the observers cried out, “There hangs God on the gallows!”

There hangs God on the gallows because there is no answer to the problem of evil in a world God created and called good. Yes, we are to struggle against evil with every fiber of our being, but instead of looking in vain for the answer to the *problem* of evil, we need to stand in awe of *the faith* of Jesus.

Because you see, Jesus didn’t ask for the Father’s *deliverance* but for God’s *presence*. He’s not praying to God to have it all turn out his way. He trusted God to the point of the cross and he needed to know God’s presence in the midst of this horrible death. My God, where are you? The answer is that God is with us.

Things may not always work out the way we want but that’s the kind of God we’ve got, who when we cry out in the dark, doesn’t turn on the light, but hangs in the dark with us. Isaiah pointed this out long ago, “Your ways are not my ways nor your thoughts my thoughts,” says the Lord.

Perhaps here at the end of Jesus’ life and as we wait for the joy of Easter we could remember and affirm the other prayer Jesus has to teach us, “Our Father, who is always with us...” Beside you in trust and hope for Easter Morn, Pastor Terri



- Interim Minister**
Rev. Terri Young
- Director of Music**
Timothy Robson
- Director of Gospel Choir**
Joan Bacon
- 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

Wednesday
Prayer & Healing Service
12:00 Noon

MARCH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**SUNDAY, MARCH 7
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Terri Young

Scripture Readings:

Isa 55:1-9

Ps 63: 1-8

1 Cor 10: 1-13

Luke 13: 1-9

Worship Theme: Open Invitation

Amistad Sunday

**SUNDAY, MARCH 14
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Terri Young

Scripture Readings:

Joshua 5: 9-12

Ps 32; 2 Cor 5: 16-21

Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32

Worship Theme: Embracing Love
One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

**SUNDAY, MARCH 21
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

Preacher: Rev. Ruth Garwood

Scripture Readings:

Isa 43: 16-21

Ps 126

Phil 3: 4b-14

John 12: 1-8

Worship Theme: Something New

**SUNDAY, MARCH 28
PALM SUNDAY**

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Terri Young

Scripture Readings:

Ps 118: 1-2, 19-29; Luke 19: 28-40

Isa 50: 4-9a; Ps 31: 9-16

Phil 2: 5-11; Luke 22: 14-23: 56

Worship Theme: Into Jerusalem

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday, March 28,

10 AM, Sanctuary

Procession of palms

Reading of the Passion story
and special music

Maundy Thursday, April 1,

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 2, 12 noon, Sanctuary

12-1PM – Good Friday service

1-8PM – Prayer Vigil

Easter Sunday, April 4, 10 AM, Sanctuary

Celebratory Easter Service

Festive music and balloon release

HEALING SERVICES

Prayer and Healing Services will continue to be held in our sanctuary every Wednesday at noon throughout March. Patients and staff of the Cleveland Clinic as well as our own members are welcome to attend these half-hour services of scripture readings, prayers, music and healing.

One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing, as part of Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM), is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in more than eighty countries.

The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water and food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, emergency relief, and advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons. OGHs also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

OGHS is a Lenten Offering that will be collected this year on Sunday, March 14.

SATURDAY FUN

In February, the Saturday Fun kids went on a field trip one Saturday and did crafts in the church dining room on another Saturday. In addition to the craft project, that day they also assembled 50 personal care kits to be distributed at InterAct's Homeless Stand Down. Charlene Higginbotham, one of our church's InterAct representatives, helped the kids pack each kit with a toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, soap, deodorant, lotion, a wash cloth, assorted other necessities, and a Valentine!

In March, Saturday Fun will be visited by Healthy Connectors on the 13th, and then on April 3 will have its annual Easter egg hunt! Refreshments are served at all Saturday Fun events. Please call Cheryl Wacasey (216-513-8006) or Cecelia Pritchett (216-990-5575) by the Wednesday before the event to reserve your spot.

EASTER LILIES



Lilies will decorate our sanctuary on Easter Sunday and then will be made available at the close of our Easter service for distribution to shut-ins or to be brought home. If you would like to order a lily in memory of a loved one or special friend, make a check payable to the church, write "lilies" on the memo line, indicate on the envelope in which you put the check in whose memory you are giving your

lily, and place the envelope in the collection plate no later than Sunday, March 21. EACC does not set a price for the plants. When you make your donation, we ask that you consider fair market value.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

The Adult Bible Study group that meets every Sunday morning at 8:45 in the Conference Room under the leadership of Al Parks will be reading and discussing the following scripture passages and topics in March:

March 7 Mission To The Community - Jonah 1:1-3, 3:1-9

. Devotions: Matthew 21:28-32

March 14 A Community to Redeem - Jonah 3:10, 4:1-5

. Devotions: Matthew 9: 9-13

March 21 Family as Community - Ruth 1:1-9, 1:14, 1:16

. Devotions: John 20:24-29

March 28 Acceptance in Community - Ruth 2:5-12, 3:9-11

. Devotions: Romans 12:9-18



World Day of Prayer 2010: Cameroon

*Let Everything That Has Breath Praise God –
Written by the WDP Committee of Cameroon*

The World Day of Prayer will be celebrated by Church Women United on the 5th of March, 2010. The service will focus on issues affecting women and children and their communities in a globalized world and will be held at Mt. Zion Congregational Church UCC at 10:15 A.M. The church is located at 10723 Magnolia Drive, in University Circle.



Who said children won't eat their vegetables? On Heart Health Sunday, February 14th, Healthy Connectors hosted the fellowship table with lots of vegetables, fruit and juice. The children's table also offered a raisin bowl, string cheese(a big hit) and yogurt.

As First Lady Michelle Obama begins a campaign against childhood obesity, we can be encouraged at EACC by the fact, that if provided, we know children will eat healthy snacks/foods. We will be advocating for a choice of fruit and veggies at least a once a month as refreshments during fellowship.

March is Kidney Health Awareness Month – get screened, get informed! Saturday, March 13th at Huron Hospital from 10-2:30pm there will be an Awareness Day Luncheon, and free screening. Call 216-761-6371 for more information.



HOW WILL YOU PREPARE FOR EASTER?

There are a multitude of opportunities for you to prepare yourself enumerated in this newsletter. Please consider lending your hands as well as your hearts to at least one of these programs if you are asked to be a reader, or to sit watch at the vigil, or to prepare dinner, or to serve communion or to help blow up balloons on Easter morning at 8:30 AM. Your participation will surely make your experience richer.

SEND OUR KIDS TO CAMP

The Christian Education Ministry, teachers, parents, and youth are giving a fundraiser, selling dinners, on Sunday, March 7, from 11:30 AM until the dinners are sold out. The proceeds will help ten or more of our church school kids go to "Love the Pool Camp" and "Still Loving the Pool Camp" at Tempel Hills this summer. Please come and dine in, or carry out your dinner. Be watching for other fundraisers that will help provide camper scholarships. Bring a friend! Cloggie Crowder

Please turn you order in to the church office, or contact:
Cloggie Crowder, :216-231-4402

Please select:

baked chicken
(served with mac and cheese and green beans) _____
(number)

fried chicken
(served with mac and cheese and green beans) _____
(number)

vegetarian
(two servings of mac and cheese and green beans) _____
(number)

Name _____

Summer Camp Fundraiser

Christian Education Ministry is selling chicken dinners.

Date: March 7, 2010
Time: 11:30 am to 3:00 pm
Cost: \$7.50 each

By purchasing a dinner you can help a youth attend summer camp. All proceeds will be used for that purpose.

FIFTH MONDAY MEAL MARCH 29

Every time a month has a fifth Monday in it, EACC serves a hot meal to the people who come to Calvary Presbyterian Church at 79th and Euclid to be fed. In recent months, the number of hungry people to whom we served dinner has almost doubled; we have been feeding over 100 men, women, and children. The next Fifth Monday Meal will be March 29, and as always we need the help of shoppers, cooks, table-setters, servers, and clean-up people, from approximately 3PM until 6PM. Please tell Cloggie Crowder if you would like to become a member of the Fifth Monday Meal crew on March 29.

-Cloggie Crowder



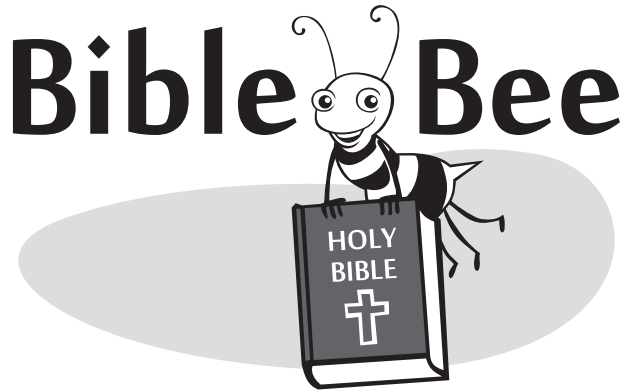
STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

We welcomed Barbara Edwards and Kim St. John Stevenson, our two new members. We were pleased to learn that we started off the new year on a positive note: in January, the church spent almost \$6,000 less than we received in pledge and endowment income. At our February meeting, we signed the three-month contract extension for Pastor Terri as approved by the Council of Ministries. We approved installation of a new set of steps to help our van riders get in and out of the van. The house committee is dealing with water leakage around the second floor landing windows on the East 96th Street side. We now have a full agenda of other concerns including sanctuary lighting, the heating system, and the parking lot. We look forward to a very busy year.

John Baker, secretary

The Church School will be having its first

Bible Bee



on April 11th
for grades 3 thru 7

This is a chance for the children to show off what they've learned.

A list of words and Bible story questions (to refresh their memories) will be available on the Church school office door up on the second floor.

We hope you will encourage your kids to participate,
and will come to cheer them on!!

JANUARY 2010 FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY

Expenses Compared to Budget

Annual Budget		January - 2010	
		Actual	Budget
	INCOME		
128,300	CONTRIBUTIONS	7,981	10,692
284,445	ENDOWMENT INCOME USED	21,840	23,704
5,200	OTHER INCOME	0	433
417,945	Total RECEIPTS	29,821	34,829
	EXPENSES		
	ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		
245,660	Total PERSONNEL	17,956	17,902
85,375	Total BUILDING MAINTENANCE	3,785	6,906
10,550	Total OFFICE	338	879
23,750	Total OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	1,113	1,737
365,335	Total ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	23,192	27,424
	PROGRAM & MINISTRIES EXPENSES		
12,100	Total CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY	205	650
8,050	Total FELLOWSHIP & COMMUNITY LIFE MINISTRY	311	783
26,950	Total CHURCH IN THE WORLD MINISTRY	170	971
5,510	Total WORSHIP & ARTS MINISTRY	21	379
52,610	Total PROGRAM & MINISTRIES EXPENSES	706	2,783
417,945	Total EXPENSE	23,899	30,208
0	Net Income (Loss)	5,922	4,621

NEW MINISTRY AND COUNCIL OF MINISTRIES CO-CHAIRS

Following our election of new Ministry members and other officers at our Annual Congregational Meeting on January 24, the Ministries met and the following co-chairs were chosen for each:

Church in the World – Eleanore Dees and Calvin Humphrey

Christian Education and Faith Formation – Bob Henderson and Al Parks

Fellowship and Community Life – Ann Drysdale and Phyllis Graham

Stewardship – Ruby Brooks and Kathie Buckner

Worship and Arts – TBA

Council of Ministries – Calvin Humphrey and Al Parks

2010 OUTREACH SUMMARY

OCWM	0
Interact	0
Hunger Offerings	1,109
Great Hour of Sharing	0
Strengthening the Church	0
Other Special Offerings	2,020
Christmas Offering	0
Neighbors in Need	0
TOTAL	3,129



PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

"26 Meetings??!!" "Is that possible?" "They've had 26 meetings, and they are just now reading applications?" "How could they have had 26 meetings?" "What have they been doing?"

Maybe this is a conversation between two members of EACC. Maybe it's just an expression of some of the thoughts going through members' minds.

We on the search committee recognize that the workings of our committee may be a bit mysterious to church members, and there may be many questions about what we do and why it takes so long. So we went back through all of our agendas to help us see what we've been up to, and we thought we'd share what we learned with others in the congregation. Of course, the specifics of our activities need to be confidential, but we decided to try to convey some idea of our work and perhaps clear up why it has taken to so long to get to this point.

First, imagine that you are gathering with a group of people you do not know extremely well to do a job you may never have done before that takes a great deal of careful work and clear communication—and you expect will take several months. You are doing work on behalf of many others who have a stake in the outcome, which is crucial to the future of the church. Of course, you also need to comply with the established requirements of the denominational system, so you need to learn it. You need to schedule meetings with eight others persons, all of whom have lives to live and busy schedules, and you need to find times to meet when all can attend.

Our first order of business was to assemble the church profile to be distributed to candidates who may be interested in becoming our settled pastor. To do that, we needed to gather a lot of material—some of it factual, perhaps statistical or financial, and some of it more opinion. We gathered information from several sources: the members, Association, bodies in the church and outside sources. Then we had to use that information to assemble a document that would fairly convey who EACC is and accurately reflect what its members told us. That meant reading what you wrote, sifting, tallying, and condensing data as well as devising a schedule for interacting with the congregation and receiving its input. It took a lot of writing and rewriting. We worked on that from April through September.

In early December after more orientation, we began to receive profiles. Profiles are complicated documents of 12 to 15 pages

each. Some pages have more writing than others, and some are "boilerplate," but some can be detailed personal writing about a candidate's individual theology and beliefs. Profiles include several separate personal references from individuals selected by the applicant, which can also get lengthy. Although we are getting better at reading them and finding information we find useful, each one still must be given enough care to for us to form a clear opinion. We are required to read all those sent to us by request of the applicants; though not all have sufficient experience to become our pastor. We read sixteen just to get the hang of reading them. To date, we have read 47 profiles.

Thus far, we have located possible candidates who have been called and have sent more material to help us make an informed decision. The next steps will be more extensive contacts, including phone calls to both the candidate and his or her references and of course, interviews.

A final note about our decision-making process. We do not use Robert's Rules of Order, make motions, nor vote. We work by consensus, which takes a bit longer to make sure everyone is together as we move through this process to a desirable end. Our task is to represent the congregation's wishes as much as possible, sort through the many applicants who may think they can become our pastor, and reach a final candidate who we are proud and excited to present to the congregation as the Search Committee's candidate. At that point, the congregation will have an opportunity to meet the candidate, attend worship at EACC where she or he will preach a candidating sermon, and vote on our selection.

We hope that this information will help to explain the nature or our process, why it takes so long, and reassure all EACC members that we are working on your behalf, which is a commitment we take seriously. In case you become curious or impatient later on, this article will be posted permanently on the Search Committee's display in the parlor.

If you have any questions or if you want more clarification about our process, please contact any member of the search committee listed below.

Adrienne Brockway, Chair	Mary Jane Cariens, Vice Chair
John Merritt, Secretary	Charles Williams, Chaplain
Eleanore Dees	Calvin Humphrey
Noreen Roderick	Dean Sieck
Nikolas Southgate	

CHURCH IN THE WORLD NEWS

A new year has started. Ministry positions have been filled and the stewards of the church and its programs are poised to go to work. However, there are some carry-over projects from 2009 that need to be addressed.

The first project is the installation of the Peace Pole. A decision concerning its design and placement should be made in the coming months.

The second project is the support of the Early Childhood Development Center located in the former Charles Orr Elementary School. This is an exciting mission. Our church will continue to support the Dolphin Depot where children buy

toys and personal items with dollars they have earned or saved from exhibiting good behavior or having good attendance during school hours.

The third project will involve the school's principal and members of our church in a tutoring program, which will enhance the children's reading skills performance on state aptitude testing.

Members of this ministry will continue to expand the assigned activities of evangelism, publicity, mission education and social justice in the year to come.

Eleanore Dees and Calvin Humphrey, Co-chairs

USHERS MINISTRY

Join us in welcoming Noreen Roderick and Dawn Flantroy, new members to the ushers ministry. Noreen will serve on the 2nd Sunday team and Dawn on the 4th Sunday.



If you would like to serve once a month as an usher or occasionally for special events, services or worship, speak to a team leader or Charlene.

A BIG THANK YOU –

to everyone that made the annual Soul Food Sampler on February 28 a delicious fellowship! We always say at the end of this event, that EACC could write a cookbook. Shall we?

HOMELESS STAND DOWN

Euclid Avenue Congregational Church has been most generous in helping provide for InterAct's Homeless Stand Down this year. Many of our members volunteered their time at one of the three events: Kathy Baker, Claude Brewer, Charlene Higginbotham, John Merritt, Noreen Roderick, Dean Sieck, and Judy Sieck; and with youth group members Amber Green, LaVera Hampton and Christian Sanders, their adult leaders Dave Buckle and Ann Drysdale.

Many others contributed both money and goods so that our church could send to the Stand Down bus passes, warm clothing, underwear and sox, 50 personal care kits and 50 bagged lunches. It was Cheryl Wacasey's Saturday Fun kids who assembled the care kits (toothpaste, soap, deodorant, lotion etc.), and another group of EACC volunteers will be coming to church at 1PM on March 4 to put the lunches together.

Finally, our church is providing the space and hospitality for a Homeless Stand Down celebration to be held on March 11. Volunteers from churches, mosques, temples and other religious meeting places all over the city will be coming here to celebrate the many goods and services, as well as warm smiles, given to those who have been experiencing homelessness this cold winter.

Thank you, EACC!

Post Secondary Education Forum

We support our youth and want to help them make informed choices



*** KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS ***

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| ◆ Mary Jane Cariens | ◆ Juanita LeFloria |
| ◆ Fannie Cockfield | ◆ Dominic Martin |
| ◆ Millie Copez | ◆ Dorothy Martin |
| ◆ Ruth Garwood | ◆ Family of Johnnie Mitchell |
| ◆ Hallie K. Jones | ◆ Barbara Smith Weems |

Please call the church office if you wish to put someone on the prayer list.

INSPIRATION FROM FANNIE

Fannie Cockfield offers the following Biblical interpretation of Isaiah 64:19 ("O that you would tear open the heavens and come down") by UCC pastor Anthony Robinson for our Lenten meditations:

"O that you would disturb our committee meetings, break in upon our congregational gatherings, and take hold of our conference and synod meetings;

O that you would trouble our placid worship, intrude upon our tidy rituals, intervene in our sacraments;

O that you would surge into our bland Scripture reading, strike dumb our wordy prayers, and lay your hands upon our feckless preachers;

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down;

It is you we need, O God, you alone."

TIM ROBSON TO PLAY AT THE CHURCH OF THE COVENANT

EACC's Director of Music, Timothy Robson, will be participating in a "Bach Organ Marathon" sponsored by the Church of the Covenant and the Cleveland Chapter of the American Guild of Organists on Sunday, March 21, from 1-5 PM at the Church of the Covenant. Many organists from northeast Ohio are participating in playing a large chunk of the organ music of Johann Sebastian Bach in honor of his 325th birthday. Tim is scheduled to perform at 3:00, but the schedule might get ahead or behind, so come early and stay late. It's free; come and go as you please. Refreshments will be available.



COOKIES FOR THE USO

The Women's Association recently donated, through Church Women United, over 135 dozen cookies to the USO. These cookies will be served to soldiers passing through the Cleveland area.

*** JOYS ***

Congratulations to **Nathaniel Martin**, Healthy Connector/Lay Minister of Health, who recently completed a six weeks lay health advisor training at MetroHealth Medical Center. Nate received his certification at a graduation ceremony on February 15th. He is now certified to host community education forums on hypertension.

Jacob McGhee (grandson of Charlene Higginbotham) made the honor roll again - the second time this year!

Barbara Smith Weems sends the following message: "Thank you to my EACC family for your support, prayers and cards of encouragement. It helped."

Jamie Drysdale, son of Ann Drysdale, recently sent the following email to his mother: "Mom, Laura and I represented the Carter School Project to all of the top brass of Mass. Art and corporate sponsors of Mass. Art tonight (30 in total). It was the largest audience in quality and quantity that I have ever presented to and we knocked it out of the park. Everyone loved it!!!!!!" (The Carter School project was the grad school summer design/build project for which Jamie and his fellow grad students designed and did most all of the work to build a large portico for a public school serving the severely handicapped in Boston.)

Carole Brown's Art Quilt was judged number one in that category at the 19th Annual Quilts show at Lake Farmpark. Her quilt, titled "A Delicate Balance" was inspired by a reproduction of an 18th century Japanese fabric donated by the Cleveland Museum of Art. The completed piece is 24" x 48" and will be on display at the Farmpark until March 24 along with more than 200 other quilts, quilted jackets and hand made dolls. For show hours: lakemetroparks.com



MARCH 2010

(BIRTHDAYS/WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES NOTED HEREIN)

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 7 PM Cocaine Anonymous	2 10:00 - Women's Association 4:30 PM - Kenpo Martial Arts 6PM - Lenten Bible Study	3 12 noon - Prayer & Healing Service 1:00 - Staff Meeting 6:00 - Gospel Choir 7:00 - Council of Ministries 7:00 PM - Alcoholics Anonymous	4 8 PM - NO Chancel Choir 1PM - lunch-making for Homeless Stand Down Joan Southgate	5 Homeless Standdown 10:15 AM World Day of Prayer - Mount Zion UCC	6 Malisse Roderick Peter Jerabek
7 8:45 AM - Adult Bible Study 10 AM - Worship 11:30 - Fellowship Transitional Steering Team Summer Camp Fund Raiser Fannie Cockfield	8 7 PM Cocaine Anonymous Virginia Becker Antoinette Goard	9 10:00 - Women's Association 3:30 - Enlistment Committee 4:30 PM - Kenpo Martial Arts 6PM - Lenten Bible Study	10 12 noon - Prayer & Healing Service 6:00 - Gospel Choir 7:00 PM - Alcoholics Anonymous Samella Carroll	11 8 PM - Chancel Choir 6PM - Homeless Stand Down Celebration	12	13 10AM Saturday Fun Healthy Connectors 3:15 - Worship & Arts
14 8:45 AM - Adult Bible Study 10 AM - Worship OGHS offering 11:30 - Fellowship Fellowship & Community Life Daylight savings Ben Sweeney Myles Murray	15 7 PM Cocaine Anonymous Heather Lavender	16 10:00 - Women's Association 4:30 PM - Kenpo Martial Arts 6PM - Lenten Bible Study	17 12 noon - Prayer & Healing Service 1:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 - Gospel Choir 7:00 PM - Alcoholics Anonymous	18 8 PM - Chancel Choir	19	20 <div style="border: 2px solid orange; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">APRIL Beacon Deadline: MARCH. 20</div>
21 8:45 AM - Adult Bible Study 10 AM - Worship Christian Education & Faith Formation Stewardship 3PM Timothy Robson at the Church of the Covenant Tim Sieck	22 7 PM Cocaine Anonymous	23 10:00 - Women's Association 4:30 PM - Kenpo Martial Arts 6PM - Lenten Bible Study	24 12 noon - Prayer & Healing Service 6:00 - Gospel Choir 7:00 PM - Alcoholics Anonymous	25 8 PM - Chancel Choir	26 Mary Jane Cariens Linda Brewer	27 10AM Men's Council Phyllis Graham
28 8:45 AM - Adult Bible Study 10 AM - Worship Palm Sunday 11:30 - Fellowship Church in the World Robyn Nordstrom	29 7 PM Cocaine Anonymous 5th Monday Meal Linda Buckle	30 10:00 - Women's Association 4:30 PM - Kenpo Martial Arts	31 12 noon - Prayer & Healing Service 1:00 - Staff Meeting 6:00 - Gospel Choir 7:00 PM - Alcoholics Anonymous	Monthly Ministry/Team/Council Meetings 1st Sunday - Transitional Steering Team 1st Wednesday - Council of Ministries 2nd Saturday - Worship & Arts 2nd Sunday - Fellowship & Community Life, Christian Ed. & Faith Formation 3rd Sunday - Stewardship Ministry 4th Saturday - Men's Council 4th Sunday - Church in the World 5th Sunday - Ushers Ministry Dates may be subject to change.		

❖ As part of the denomination's national restructure in 2000, the day-to-day communications work of the UCC's Office of Communication (without the "Inc.") merged with other entities to form the Office of General Ministries. However, the separately-incorporated board known as Office of Communication, Inc., which focuses exclusively on media justice advocacy, opted to remain independent of OGM because it feared that its historic role as a champion of media justice might get lost in a merged structure. Since that time, a separate OC Inc. board has been supported by OGM employees, including the denomination's communications director.

As of January 31, the Rev. J. Bennett Guess no longer serves a dual capacity as the UCC's communications director and as executive director of OC Inc., the UCC's historic media-justice arm.

"The vision and scope of OC Inc.'s work has grown significantly since 2004," said the Rev. Anita Bradsahw, OGM Board chair and minister-in-covenant at Mayflower Community Congregational UCC in Minneapolis. "The attention required of its executive director has increased to the point where one person cannot possibly give adequate attention to both jobs."

The OC Inc. will no longer use OGM resources and its board of directors will continue to be appointed by the UCC's 90 member Executive Council.

For 50 years, the UCC has been a leader in the fight for a media that is more accountable to local communities. Founded by the Rev. Everett C. Parker, OC Inc. continues to be a leading voice in Washington DC advocating for accountability of the media, localism and diversity.

❖ Continuing a 10-stop listening tour of United Church of Christ conferences throughout the United States, the Rev. Geoffrey Black, UCC general minister and president, is preparing to make several stops at Southeast Conference churches. The tour – featuring visits in Pleasant Hill, Tenn. (home of our former minister, Roger Knight and wife Beth); Stone Mountain, Ga.; and Atlanta – is geared toward giving Black the opportunity to hear firsthand from diverse groups across the UCC.

The Southeast Conference transforms and strengthens lay leaders through an innovative judicatory-based program, Theology Among the People (TAP). It strives to provide theological training to leadership throughout the conference. TAP also is a key partner in establishing and developing the Center for Progressive Renewal (CPR), for which Black will serve on the advisory board.

❖ A group of 13 mainline Protestant pastors – including several from the United Church of Christ – has filed a letter of complaint with the Internal Revenue Service, claiming that a townhouse, known as C Street Center, on Capitol Hill that provides inexpensive lodging and meals for at least five conservative Christian members of Congress, is not a church, and that it should not hold the tax-exempt status afforded a house of worship. The townhouse is an affiliate of a secretive international Christian network known as the Fellowship, or the Family. Its stated purpose is to cultivate relationships with politicians, business people and military leaders, bringing them together for prayer and Bible study – and sometimes getting involved in matters of diplomacy and foreign policy.

"We are concerned that an exclusive residential club for powerful officials may be masquerading as a church," said the letter to the IRS of the C Street Center, 130-year-old townhouse valued at \$1.8 million. "Any time an organization uses church status as part of a tax avoidance scheme, it poses a threat to the integrity of religious institutions everywhere."

In the letter, the pastors say the C Street Center does not meet IRS requirements for a church because it does not appear to hold regular

religious services open to the public, has no religious school for young people, and has no distinct creed or ecclesiastical structure. Moreover, the letter said, the center has avoided transparency by taking advantage of IRS rules that say churches do not have to file annual information returns, known as Form 990s.

J. Robert Hunter, another member of the Fellowship, said that while there was a separate legal arrangement, there was a "very close working relationship" between the center and the Fellowship. "There are religious services all the time in that building," Hunter said, but they are not open to the public. He said the residence is designed for people to model their lives on Jesus. He added that "one of the purposes is to give a safe place where politicians who are tempted by lust would hold each other accountable." This despite well publicized affairs of members Mark Sanford of South Carolina, Sen. John Ensign (R-Nev.) and former Rep. Charles Pickering (R-Miss.)

The Feb. 24 letter was signed by pastors of Columbus-area United Church of Christ, Methodist and Episcopal churches, as well as by the Rev. Robert Molsberry, the UCC's Ohio Conference minister, and the Rev. Forrest Hoppe, association minister of the UCC's regional Central Southeast Ohio Association.

❖ Responding to a severe ice storm that blanketed sections of the Midwest in late January, the UCC's Dakota Association of the South Dakota Conference and One Great Hour of Sharing special Emergency USA fund have provided \$8,000 in direct aid to the remote communities of the Cheyenne River Lakota Reservation in South Dakota.

It is estimated that the January 22 storm left 12,000 people without electricity. The Reservation's water treatment facilities were damaged when, due to the loss of power, water removal pumps failed. Though now operational, this malfunction necessitated a 10-day waiting period on the use of potable water supplies and the need for fresh water distribution.

❖ Six weeks after the devastating earthquake that struck Haiti, the ACT Alliance has assisted more than 150,000 people with direct aid, according to published reports. With steady support continually rolling in from key organizations such as the United Church of Christ, most of the aid has gone toward supplying fresh water, sanitation efforts, shelter, meals and food staples. Relief items and services including family kits, hygiene sets, medical assistance and health-clinic supplies continue to be distributed.

As a vital participant in the ACT Alliance, the UCC is assisting some of the most vulnerable among of the victims in Port-au-Prince, Gressier, Jacmel and Baint in the south. As of Monday (Feb. 22), earthquake-relief gifts sent to the UCC totaled \$1,304,864, including \$425,737 in online donations.

Conditions for most of the estimated 1.2 million people living in improvised camps and shelters remain unbearably cramped and poor. UN OCHA estimates that only 280,000 people – fewer than 25 percent of the targeted number – have received shelter material. Only 120,000 have received transitory shelter, much less than the 620,000 who need it. Only 3,000 latrines have been provided to people in temporary settlements; often, 200 people have to share one toilet.

Meanwhile, little is known about the thousands who have fled to rural areas. Food prices have increased dramatically, and hosting communities' meager resources for newcomers are dwindling quickly. Compounding matters is that there is no estimate yet as to when homes and neighborhoods will be rehabilitated or rebuilt.

MARCH ACTIVITIES

(see inside for more details)

- March 2 - 6 PM
- **Lenten Bible Study**
- March 3 - 12 noon - **Healing Service**
- March 4 - **Homeless Stand Down**
lunch-making
- March 5 - **Homeless Stand Down**
- March 7 - **Summer Camp Fund**
Raiser
- March 9 - 6 PM - **Lenten Bible Study**
- March 13 - 10:00 AM - **Saturday Fun**
- March 16 - 6 PM - **Lenten Bible Study**
- March 17 - 12 noon - **Healing Service**
- March 21 - 3 PM - **Timothy Robson**
plays in Bach Organ Marathon at
the Church of the Covenant
- March 23 - 6 PM - **Lenten Bible Study**
- March 24 - 12 noon - **Healing Service**
- March 29 - **5th Monday Meal**
- March 31 - 12 noon - **Healing Service**

**JESUS, WHEN YOU RODE
INTO JERUSALEM THE PEOPLE
WAVED PALMS WITH SHOUTS
OF ACCLAMATION,**

**GRANT THAT WHEN THE
SHOUTING DIES WE MAY
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TO THE CROSS...**

A NEW ZEALAND PRAYER BOOK

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