

BEACON NEWSLETTER

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

JANUARY 2011

Happy New Year!

The Lord has seen us through another year! With our hands lifted up, and our mouths filled with praise, we ought to bless the name of the Lord for the mighty and miraculous ways in which God is working in our lives. Throughout every experience placed before us this past year we are delighted in knowing that God has walked with us and watched over us as a shepherd cares for his flock. We know that it was only the Lord who has providentially ordered our steps along our journey of faith.

As we reflect on the blessings and burdens received in 2010, let us all take a moment to thank God for sustaining Euclid Avenue Congregational Church for 168 years of ministry. For all of these years, down through generation upon generation, God has sent men, women, boys, and girls along our way to add their respective pieces to the kingdom-building puzzle. Each and every member throughout EACC's history, blessed with unique gifts, has played an integral role in shaping its identity here in Greater Cleveland. No matter how large or small the task, whether front and center or behind the scenes, God has taken note of our time invested, our talents offered and our tithes contributed.

Now, as we move by faith into a new year let us all prayerfully discern the role that God is calling each of us to play in writing the next chapter of ministry for EACC. Given the wide array of gifts already divinely deposited into this congregation, we know that the Greater Cleveland community will be a better place simply by our sincere desire to love. This love, with the Lord's help,



will be reflected in our words, but more importantly, in our actions. Let us lead the Greater Cleveland community by example in this ministry of love. This deeply-rooted and unconditional love will serve as the foundation of service to our community, and to one another.

In this season of newness, let us also remain open to new, creative, and innovative ways to reach others on behalf of Christ. While the message and word of God have certainly not changed, the social, economic, and political contexts in which the people of God exist have made monumental shifts. Therefore, it is our charge to present and profess this timeless gospel in ways that are relevant to our 21st Century culture. In so doing, those who have yet to come to know Christ will have a clearer understanding as to how essential a personal relationship with God really is.

As we progress throughout our endeavor of ministry in 2011, let us keep our theme at the forefront of all we say and desire to accomplish. We are called by God to, "Reach Up, Reach In, Reach Out, Reach Across and Reach Beyond."

Called for the Purpose of the Kingdom,
Rev. Courtney Clayton Jenkins

Pastor

Rev. Courtney
Clayton Jenkins

Interim Director of Music

Charles Carr

Director of Gospel Choir

Joan Bacon

Financial Manager

John Peterson

Church Secretary

Diana Reid

Custodian

William Siggers

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

Preparing Our Ships To Set Sail



Worship



Discipleship



Leadership



Relationship



Stewardship

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The Sermon Series for January 2, 2011 through March 6, 2011 will be "Preparing Our Ships to Set Sail; Worship, Discipleship, Leadership, Relationship and Stewardship."

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Preacher: Rev. Courtney Clayton Jenkins

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9 EPIPHANY SUNDAY

Preacher: Rev. Courtney Clayton Jenkins

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Preacher: Rev. Courtney Clayton Jenkins

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Preacher: Rev. Courtney Clayton Jenkins

SUNDAY, JANUARY 30 FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Preacher: Rev. Courtney Clayton Jenkins

ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 30

After worship on Sunday, January 30th, the Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held. As in past years, we will present the annual reports of our various ministries, recognize members who have achieved significant plateaus of longevity, pause to remember members who died the previous year, and elect new officers for the coming year. All members are urged to attend. Child care will be provided.

EPIPHANY PARTY JANUARY 9

The entire congregation is invited to an Epiphany Party on Sunday, January 9, from 3:00 to 9:00 P.M. at the home of Carolyn Smith, 1867 Cumberland Road in Cleveland Heights. Carolyn and her late husband Andy have traditionally given a party on the Sunday nearest the 12th Day of Christmas. "As the wise men brought gifts to the Christ Child," Carolyn says, "I ask that you bring a bag of non-perishable food which will be donated to the Cleveland Food Bank." Checks and cash would also be welcomed. Guests are asked to bring a favorite dish to share. Beverages will be provided, along with entertainment by some of Carolyn's piano and voice students. Telephone Carolyn at 216-321-8008 for directions or more details.



SATURDAY FUN

Saturday Fun will start off the New Year with these activities:

January 8 – 10AM
– sleigh-riding - \$5 fee

January 22 – 10AM
– ice skating - \$5 fee

Children of all ages are invited to these events. Please call Cheryl Wacasey at 216-752-0314 or the church office to reserve your spot. Refreshments are always served!

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

The Adult Bible Study group that meets every Sunday morning at 8:45 AM will be reading and discussing the following scripture passages and topics in January:

- Jan 2 I am Your Redeemer – Isaiah 44 21-26
 Devotions- Psalm 106:40-48
- Jan 9 Turn to Me and Be Saved – Isaiah 45;18-24
 Devotions- Exodus 15;11-18
- Jan 16 Reassurance for Gods People – Isaiah 48:14-19; 21-22
 Devotions- Kings 8: 33-40
- Jan 23 The Servants Mission in the World – Isaiah 49:1-6
 Devotions- Hebrews 10:19-25
- Jan 30 Healed by His Bruises – Isaiah 53:4-6; 10-12
 Devotions- 2 Corinthians 5:16-21-



WOMAN'S ASSOCIATION

The Women's Association continues to work on lap quilts for shut-ins and those in nursing facilities. They will also be working on a memory quilt that uses photos shared by church members. This group meets each Tuesday at 10:00 AM at the Church Office. Bring your own sack lunch and join us for work and fellowship.

MEN'S COUNCIL

The Men's Council is once more selling Fair Trade coffee for \$10 a package after worship on Sunday mornings. See any Men's Council member. The coffee is available in both decaf and regular, and in several flavors.

Consider joining a EACC Team in 2011



During January, each EACC member will be given the opportunity to serve on one or two of the following teams:

- **iTeam** – Are you interested in exploring how EACC can continue to grow through a variety of creative measures? Are you interested in our identity? Innovation? Technology? Trying something new? Getting youth and young adults in our congregation? This team will seek to explore creative measures by which Euclid Avenue can draw people of every generation to the congregation.
- **Multi-Cultural/Multi-Racial Team** – Are you interested in exploring how EACC can be more intentional about being multi-cultural and multi-racial? This team will assess our congregation and find ways to encourage us to be even more diverse in race and culture.
- **Open And Affirming Team** – Are you interested in exploring how EACC can be more intentional about its commitment to be an open and affirming congregation? This team will assess our current response to members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) community and find ways to encourage all people to feel welcomed and affirmed within our congregation.

Watch for more information and sign-up sheets!



FIFTH MONDAY MEAL JANUARY 31

January is a month with a fifth Monday in it, so the hungry people who come to Calvary Presbyterian Church at 79th and Euclid can look forward to a hot meal prepared and served that night by EACC. Your help is needed: to cook, set the tables, serve, and/or clean up afterward. We usually start cooking at 3PM, serve the meal at 5, and clean up until 6:30. Please let Cloggie Crowder know about your availability.

HOMELESS STAND DOWN 2011

WHAT IS IT AND WHAT CAN WE DO?

Preparation for the Homeless Stand Down, a 3-day program sponsored by InterAct that provides those in our community who are experiencing homelessness with food, warm clothing, toiletries, medical screenings, entertainment, and many other services, is underway. There are many ways that you, as an individual, and us, as a congregation, can participate.



- volunteer your time – volunteers are needed to welcome guests, serve food, hand out clothing and toiletry items, assist those needing help, give haircuts, massages, and health screenings and much more (because thousands of guests are expected). Training is mandatory.



- help produce 700 winter boots, 200 winter coats, 2,000 bagged lunches, 2,000 hygiene kits, 2,000 RTA bus passes, and/or 1,000 pair of men's underwear either by donating the funds to purchase them or by contributing the items themselves



- help provide other wish list items such as: crayons, gifts for mothers and children, diapers and babywipes, paper table products, hand sanitizers, wheelchairs, a 15-passenger van (the last two would be on loan), to name a few

WHERE AND WHEN IS IT?

- Sunday, January 30, 9AM-2PM at the Masonic Auditorium, 3615 Euclid Avenue
- Saturday, February 12, at Pilgrim Congregational Church, 2592 W. 14th Street
- Friday, February 18, 9AM-2PM at the Masonic Auditorium, 3615 Euclid Ave.

HOW CAN WE GET INVOLVED?

- Visit <http://interactcleveland.i-volunteeronline.com/hsd2011> and register
- Come to the Homeless Stand Down table in the parlor every Sunday after worship starting January 9 to learn more and for information materials.

In past years EACC has sent many volunteers to the Homeless Stand Down as well as warm clothing, bagged lunches, hygiene kits and cash donations. How do we want to participate this year? Let's decide together.

Some Interesting Things Happened As We Ended 2010

- ❖ Our giving improved. We missed our giving goal by just 6.5 %, a percent better than 2009.
- ❖ We withdrew \$70,000 less than we intended from the endowment.
- ❖ We spent 25% less than we expected on office expenses.
- ❖ We spent \$78,000 less than we planned, and overall expenses were \$68,000 less than last year.
- ❖ People from around Cleveland, Ohio and other states contributed nearly \$14,000 in response to the loss of our building.
- ❖ Our own members gave nearly \$9,000 in special offerings.

CHURCH IN THE WORLD MINISTRY

The Ministry wants to thank members of Euclid Avenue Congregational Church for donating 53 winter coats to children at the Early Childhood Development Center. This project was our second annual "coats for kids" effort. The affiliation with the school and the Dolphin Depot has been a rewarding one for the children, their teachers and our members.

This season of Advent has been a spiritual and beautiful time. Thanks to the Chancel and Gospel choirs for providing beautiful holiday music. Thanks to our Pastor Courtney Jenkins and Interim Music Director, Charles Carr. The Fellowship and Community Life Ministry has provided welcoming and delicious receptions. "Thank you's" are also extended to Al Parks, William Siggers, Diana Reid, John Peterson, and also to Bob Henderson and Robyn Nordstrom for reproducing the creche figures that were lost in the fire. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to the church family, choirs, staff, and pastor. It was a wonder-filled season.

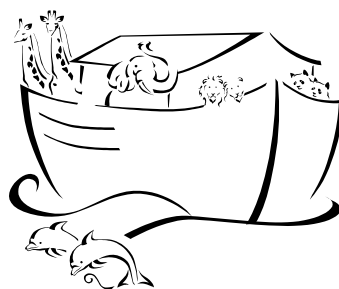
Eleanore Dees, Co-chair



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY

The Christian Education Ministry wants to remind parents to be watching for a mailing regarding summer camp programs for 2012.

Following the lead of the sermon series "preparing our ships to set sail", our church school will explore the ships and boats in Bible stories as well as the ships in our fleet and how they contribute to our success on the high seas of life.



STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

The Ministry approached the end of the year on several happy notes: members' contributions through the first eleven months were less than 10% below budget with prospects of completing the year at 100%; we spent \$28,000 less than budgeted despite foregoing the endowment contribution for November; and we received a report on the proceeds of the insurance settlement which have now been invested to help our future financial security. In addition, losses from the fire sustained by both individuals and the congregation have now been reimbursed from the fire fund. We voted to send \$1,300 of our hunger center fund to the Cleveland Food Bank.

John Baker, secretary

ENLISTMENT COMMITTEE

As of December 16 we were roughly 12% short of our 2011 enlistment goal of \$128,300, with a short list of members still considering their estimates for the year. There is a good chance that we will exceed the goal and produce the balanced budget which is so important to our financial future.

Calvin Humphrey, Chair

WORSHIP AND ARTS MINISTRY

The Worship and Arts Ministry continues to need liturgists for Sunday morning worship and flowers for the altar. Sign-up sheets for both are in the hallway outside the sanctuary door. People who donate altar flowers are reminded that they are responsible for either taking the flowers home with them or distributing them among others.

Stoles are still being considered for both choirs to wear over basic black and white clothing. In January, meetings will begin to consider requirements and candidates for our new Minister of Music.

Carolyn Smith, Co-chair

aim

arts in ministry

AIM's participation in Circle Fest this year was well received. More than 150 visitors stopped to look at the pictorial display "From Ashes and Rubble to Hope and Renewal", viewed and commented on items on the archive table and accepted current information on where we are currently worshipping and our plans for the future.

Members can view the Display in lower level - middle room at 30th. & Euclid until Sunday, Jan. 2nd.

Members of AIM will meet at the church office on Friday, Jan. 7th at 10am to discuss 2011 programming. If you have an interest in Arts in Ministry (visual, music, spoken word, liturgical/praise dance) please join us.



Events to mark on your calendar:

Feb. 4th – Wear Red Day in observance of the “Power to End Stroke”

Feb. 5th – “It Takes Women of Faith to Carry on the Fight Against HIV/AIDS”

The National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Breakfast and Program will take place at Fairfax Place, 9024 Cedar Avenue (across from the CCF) from 9-12noon. A \$5.00 donation is being asked to defray the cost of breakfast.

Because HIV/AIDS disproportionately affects women of color in a mighty way, the Ecumenical HIV/AIDS Network continues to identify women as a critical target in our communities for increased programs and activities of awareness. The program will include a panel of experts who will discuss how selected health issues may impact women who are living with HIV/AIDS.

For reservations, contact: Barbara T. Baylor, MPH and Faith Coordinator for HIV/AIDS @ 216/736-3708

Charlene Higginbotham has represented EACC Healthy Connectors on the Planning Committee since its inception.



Sunday, December 19, 2010



*** JOYS ***

Leon Bibb was featured in an online Cleveland Magazine article about favorite Christmas traditions. Seems he began a family tree-trimming tradition by making a mistake: he forgot to take the tree stand with him when he went shopping for a live Christmas tree in 1980. As a result, the NewsChannel 5 noon and 6 p.m. anchorman returned home with a tree that wouldn't fit in his stand. So, he lowered the tree to its side, picked up his hacksaw, and began cutting off pieces of trunk like slices of bologna until he reached a portion of it that was smaller in circumference and fit the stand. He made one of these slices into a tree ornament, marked with the date, and in subsequent years made more such ornaments, each one marked with the year and hung on the family tree with red ribbon.

Rev. Terri Young sends greetings from New Hampshire (108 Rockland Ave., Manchester, NH 03102). “I am serving a small congregation in northern NH, “ she writes. It is a hefty commute: 108 miles each way and with the snowy terrain, somewhat daunting. However, I love the beautiful drive over the White Mountains...I overnight in the parsonage 3-4 nights/week; the rest of the time I am enjoying my beautiful new home in Manchester. I wish you and yours a wonderful celebration of New Birth. God has good things in mind for everyone and God fulfills God's promises.”

Jewel Green celebrated her November birthday in Las Vegas. The trip was a gift and a total surprise from her daughter, who went with her, and took her to many wonderful shows and restaurants.

Charlene Higginbotham almost single-handedly gathered the materials and set up an exhibit of EACC memorabilia in the Western Reserve Historical Society Museum as a part of University Circle's CircleFest celebration on December 5. She called her exhibit “From Ashes and Rubble to Hope and Renewal” and featured in it photos of the 9606 building in flames, the rubble after the fire was put out, and our congregation worshiping in our new location at 3000 Euclid. Many Clevelanders came through the exhibit to learn that our church is still very much alive.

Kristine Jackson attended the showing of the trailer for “Holiday Lie,” a film in which she starred, on December 19. This film was made locally during the summer of 2010 by Sanepoet films, “where Cleveland meets Hollywood.” See www.sanepoetfilms.com for more details.

Rev. Courtney Jenkins and her husband have adopted a chocolate brown cocker spaniel puppy they named Charlie Brown. So far Charlie has demonstrated remarkable intelligence in that he has already learned to “sit.” He is soon to be enrolled in obedience school where he is sure to excel.

You may have noticed the crèche and the beauty of the figures in it. The figures; Christ child, Mary, Joseph, shepherds, wise men and the adorable animals were designed by **Robyn Henderson Nordstrom**. Thankfully the computer files containing these designs were maintained by her father, **Bob Henderson**. After the fire, which destroyed the original set, Bob was able to reproduce the new and beautiful ensemble. Thanks be to God.

JANUARY 2011

(birthdays/wedding anniversaries noted herein)

		Event	Special Day
1	Sat.		Nathaniel Martin
2	Sun.	8:45 AM - Adult Study 10:00 AM - Worship 11:30 AM - Fellowship	
3	Mon.		Kristen Alberda
4	Tues.	10:00 AM - Women's Association 7:00 PM - C.O.M.	Flocie Goard
5	Wed.	6:00 PM Gospel Choir 8:00 PM Chancel Choir	Christian Sanders
6	Thur.		Nicole Buckle
7	Fri.		Victoria Mitchell Maurio Powell
8	Sat.	10 AM - Saturday Fun	
9	Sun.	8:45 - Adult Study 10:00 - Worship 11:30 - Fellowship 3 PM Epiphany Party	
10	Mon.		
11	Tues.	10:00 - Women's Association	
12	Wed.	8:00 PM Chancel Choir	
13	Thur.		
14	Fri.		
15	Sat.		
16	Sun.	8:45 - Adult Study 10:00 - Worship 11:30 - Fellowship	John Peterson
17	Mon.		
18	Tues.	10:00 - Women's Association	
19	Wed.	6:00 PM Gospel Choir 8:00 PM Chancel Choir	Kathie Buckner
20	Thur.		Dominic O'Neal
21	Fri.		February Beacon Deadline: Jan. 20
22	Sat.	10 AM - Saturday Fun	Doris Simmons
23	Sun.	8:45 - Adult Study 10:00 - Worship 11:30 - Fellowship	Cornelius Bogard Ashley Wasburn
24	Mon.	-	
25	Tues.	10:00 - Women's Association	
26	Wed.	6:00 PM Gospel Choir 8:00 PM Chancel Choir	
27	Thur.		
28	Fri.		
29	Sat.		Bethany O'Neal
30	Sun.	8:45 - Adult Study 10:00 - Worship Annual Congregational Meeting	
31	Mon.	4 PM - Fifth Monday Meal	

HOUSEMATE WANTED

An EACC member with a roomy East Side home would like to share it with a housemate. Please call 216-761-8416 if you are interested.

*** KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS ***

- ◆ Bural and Kathie Buckner
(on the loss of their niece)
- ◆ LaDoris Dantzler
- ◆ Aaron Goard (son of Barbara Goard)
- ◆ Amanda Harris
- ◆ Anthony Harris (grandson of Christine Fant)
- ◆ Grace Humphrey Cutts
(mother of Calvin Humphrey)
- ◆ Hallie K. Jones
- ◆ Juanita LeFloria
- ◆ Antonio Murrell and his mother Gayle Murrell
- ◆ Dan Southgate
- ◆ Barbara Smith Weems
- ◆ Meredith Washburn
- ◆ James Weems (husband of Loretta)

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

JOHN PETERSON TO RETIRE

John Peterson, who has served as EACC's Financial Manager since August of 2002, will be retiring as of February 1, 2011. This will be his third retirement, actually. He was recruited out of retirement number 2 (from being the executive director of a mental health organization) by Karl Steckmann and Nancy Nigosian. Retirement number 1 had been from his 20-year career as a Methodist minister. So he came to us knowing about both organizational finances and churches. He appreciated the opportunity at EACC to continue to be part of the church in a professional way but not as a pastor.

What was the worst thing about his 8 ½ years at EACC? The fire, without doubt. He was in shock, and grieving, along with the rest of us at first. Sometimes even yet he has trouble believing that it happened, that the building at 9606 Euclid is gone. If there was any good news at all about the fire, of course, it was that John had backed up all our financial records so that none of them were destroyed in the fire. He was surprised at the accolades over that; he saw it only as something that was part of his job.

And what was the best thing? There were many, he says. Perhaps best of all was that we are a multicultural, multiracial congregation by choice, that we're proud of our diversity. He knows that to be unique in a society where most folks go their separate, segregated ways on Sunday mornings. He also appreciated the many personal relationships that he enjoyed among our members.

What's next? He's going to stay retired this time, he says. He and his partner Greg have a retirement home in Las Cruces, New Mexico, and he plans to spend more time there. Then when Greg retires in two years they will move there permanently. He also plans to do a lot of traveling, mostly around the United States, but first he wants to go to Australia to visit his son who lives there. He likes hiking and exploring nature - in WARM places. He has not enjoyed Cleveland's winters or driving in the snow!

Goodbye, John, and many thanks from all of us.

Monthly Ministry Meetings

- 1st Tuesday - Council of Ministries
- 2nd Sunday - Christian Education & Faith Formation, Fellowship & Community Life, Worship & Arts.
- 3rd Sunday - Stewardship Ministry
- 4th Saturday - Men's Council
- 4th Sunday - Church in the World Ministry
- 5th Sunday - Ushers

❖ The UCC has produced and edited a new musical Christmas TV special in conjunction with the National Council of Churches.

The program, called "Christmas Angels," is an hour-long celebration of the season featuring performances by youth choirs and drama groups from around America. Local congregations in the UCC, Lutheran, Disciples of Christ and Episcopal churches submitted videos for consideration.

The UCC submitted the show to NBC and it was available to all NBC affiliate stations nationwide to run during their Christmas programming Dec. 24 and 25.

"It was up to the local stations to decide if they would air the show or not," says Jean Robinson, the UCC's video production manager.

Charter Digital Cable Systems of greater St. Louis even made the program available in their "OnDemand" schedule beginning Dec. 24. The show was free to Charter Digital Cable subscribers via the "iWantMore!" section of OnDemand

A petition from the Rev. Diane Weible, Hawaii's Associate Conference Minister, to Hawaii NBC affiliate KHNL resulted in favorable placement of the program in the station's Christmas programming - 7 a.m. Dec. 25.

"It is an inspiring program that shows the many ways churches and families celebrate Christmas," says Robinson. "We're hopeful it aired in many locations and brought the joy of Jesus' birth into many homes."

Learning that Laura Madden's entry point into freelance writing for the UCC has come via India is an attention-grabber. Her journey has gone by way of Brazil, Mozambique, South Africa, and China. She is now back in India for the third time.

A highly experienced photographer and television/film producer, Madden has worked on several "reality" shows. On her resume are editing projects for reality TV shows to include "Rescue Ink," "Border Wars," "Dog the Bounty Hunter," "Family Plots," "The First 48" and "Dog Town." The success was all well and good, but Madden found herself at a creative crossroads.

"I was having a tough time reconciling working on TV shows that I wouldn't watch in my spare time, so I decided to take a year off to work on my still photography portfolio," says Madden, whose credits also include work on an Emmy-winning PBS documentary about Benjamin Franklin. "So I packed my Canon 30D and my laptop and hit the road."

The journey began in November 2007 after a family friend in India had put her in touch with Dr. Anil Henry, who heads up Mungeli Christian Hospital in the central Indian state of Chhattisgarh.

"Think 'Trauma: Life in the ER, India style,'" says Madden, who later in that leg of her travels met a group of UCC members from Atlanta.

Her first order of business, however, was fulfilling Henry's suggestion that she shoot photos of a woman's hysterectomy. "Over the course of five days, not only did I experience the shock of up-close-and-personal medical care, but I also learned a lot about the Indian medical system through what

I wasn't seeing at MCH." Antibiotics were being prescribed with abandon and in some cases doctors were whipping out medical texts if they got a patient they didn't know how to treat.

Most inspirational for Madden has been meeting "everyday people" who work so diligently for change: "People who had finished the day at their full-time job headed over to the refugees' house to sort through the mail, or help draw up a household budget," says Madden. "Parents of kids negotiated with the refugees' kids' schools when they would otherwise have been at home preparing dinner for their own kids."

In early 2010, the Rev. Gregg Brekke, United Church News editor, called to request photos of Henry for the debut issue of StillSpeaking Magazine. Madden came through, and later in the year introduced herself to the UCC – a k a "the Jesus crowd" to some of her friends and colleagues – by writing a freelance article for United Church News: the work of resettlement committees that provide long- and short-term assistance in the United States for Iraqi refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). Conducting interviews and composing the article led Madden to a new-found appreciation of the UCC.

"I was thrilled to learn about the UCC's practical approach to modern life," says Madden, noting the open-and-affirming position of many UCC churches, as well its support of women's reproductive rights and staunch opposition to the Iraq war.

Turkey will be on the table and faith will feed the spirit of Christmas for 75 Cleveland families who had apparently been shut out of a holiday meal.

Partnering with Positively Cleveland and its "Huddle for Hunger" project, the UCC announced Dec. 7 that turkeys would be distributed to residents in the neighborhood of St. Paul's Community UCC on Cleveland's near west side. The church had planned to donate hams to the families – but residents in need far outnumbered available food.

"St. Paul's has been serving those in need for over 50 years," says the Rev. Lori Tisher, outreach program manager at St. Paul's. "As the holidays are approaching, more and more people needing services are coming through our doors.

"We are truly grateful for donations like these turkeys from Positively Cleveland, which will help make the holiday season a little brighter for those struggling to make ends meet."

Positively Cleveland – Greater Cleveland's Convention and Visitors Bureau – is a nonprofit organization focused on bringing business and leisure travelers to Cleveland. Its efforts result in nearly 14 million visitors funneling \$4.53 billion into the local economy annually. The group's ties to the local faith community are solid as well.

"The UCC has always been a strong supporter of the Positively Cleveland Convention and Visitors Bureau," says Kariuki Epps, senior sales manager for Positively Cleveland. "So we naturally thought of them when we got involved with 'Cleveland Society Magazine' in assisting with this awesome program."

"We are very pleased to help the people of our great city during the holidays. We are especially happy to help St. Paul's and the UCC community."

JANUARY ACTIVITIES

(see inside for more details)

8 - 10am - Saturday Fun

9 - 3 PM - Epiphany Party

22 - 10am - Saturday Fun

30 - Annual Congregational Meeting

31 - 4 PM - Fifth Monday Meal

Each Tuesday

10 AM - Women's Association

Wednesday Evenings

Choirs Rehearse



GOD ALMIGHTY HAS BROUGHT US OUT,
NONE LIKE GOD WITHOUT A DOUBT. COME
ON CHILDREN, LET'S SING 'BOUT THE
GOODNESS OF OUR GOD. HALLELUJAH!
COME ON CHILDREN, LET'S SING 'BOUT
THE GOODNESS OF OUR GOD. COME ON
CHILDREN, LET'S SHOUT ALL ABOUT GOD'S
RICH REWARD. GUIDES OUR FOOTSTEPS
EVERY DAY, KEEPS US IN THE NARROW WAY.
COME ON CHILDREN, LET'S SING 'BOUT
THE GOODNESS OF OUR GOD.

AFRICAN AMERICAN TRADITIONAL SPIRITUAL

**EUCLID AVENUE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
9411 EUCLID AVENUE
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