

BEACON NEWSLETTER

Worship
E.30th and Euclid Ave.
Business Offices
9411 Euclid Ave.
Cleveland, OH
44106-2044
216-791-5200
eacc@eacc-ucc.org
www.eacc-ucc.org

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

MARCH 2011

Pastor

Rev. Courtney
Clayton Jenkins

Interim Director of Music
Charles Carr

Director of Gospel Choir
Joan Bacon

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

From the Pastor's Pen...

Beloved,

Can you believe it's March already? Time sure does fly when you're having fun.

This past month we began our D.I.V.E. Sessions (Devotion, Imagination, Vision and Expectation). They have been a blessing to me and I hope I'm not alone in that testimony. I have been able to hear from you on a number of issues and you have been able to hear from me. I believe that God is really blessing us during this time of discussion. Something happens when we "speak the truth in love" and affirm what we are doing here at Euclid Avenue. From the dialogue to the testimonies, God is up to something.

During this month of March we will transition into the season of Lent. The season of Lent spans 40 weekdays beginning on Ash Wednesday and climaxing during Holy Week with Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday), Good Friday, and concluding Saturday before Easter. Originally, Lent was the time of preparation for those who were to be baptized, a time of concentrated study and prayer before their baptism at the Easter Vigil, the celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord early on Easter Sunday. But since these new members were to be received into a living community of Faith, the entire community was called to preparation. Also, this was the time when those who had been separated from the Church would prepare to rejoin the community.

Today, Lent is marked by a time of prayer and preparation to celebrate Easter. Since Sundays celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, the six Sundays that occur during Lent are not counted as part of the 40 days of Lent, and are referred to as the Sundays in Lent. The number 40 is connected with many biblical events, but especially with the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness preparing for his ministry by facing the temptations that could lead him to abandon his



mission and calling. Christians today use this period of time for introspection, self examination, and repentance.

Several things will be happening during this season of preparation at EACC.

First we will continue our D.I.V.E. sessions. During the month of Lent we will delve heavily into conversations regarding our property. What is God preparing us to do next with our property? Lent is a wonderful time to ask God what we are called to do. I want to personally encourage you to come to our 12:00 noon or 7:00 p.m. D.I.V.E. Sessions. We need to hear from you.

Second, I will be reading the book *Forty Days to a Closer Walk with God: The Practice of Centering Prayer* by J. David Muyskens. I want to encourage you to purchase this book and read along with me. You can purchase the book on-line (amazon.com or Christianbook.com), check with your local bookstore or contact the church office. The practice of centering prayer is not about telling God what you want, but rather hearing from God. During this season of Lent, I will be intentionally listening to God regarding our future at EACC. Will you join me? **Each Friday morning, during the month of Lent, from 7:00 a.m. - 7:15 a.m. we will gather on the telephone for reflection on the week and prayer. To participate in our telephone conference call, please dial: 1-800-444-2801. When prompted enter the access code: 9810967.**

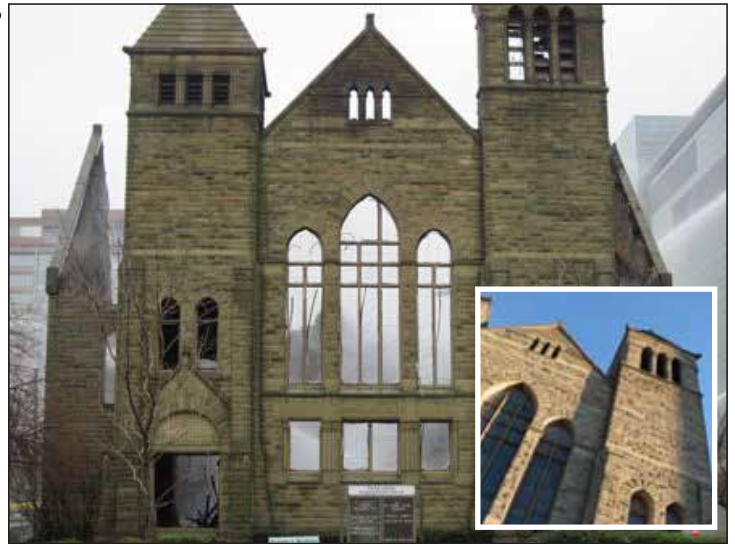
(continued on page 2)

("Beloved" continued from page 1)

I hope we can reflect on what God is saying to us together. Finally, we will have our healing service on Wednesday, March 23, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. so much has happened in a year and this is a good time to reflect on what God has done and on what God is doing at EACC. If you are "Senior Saint" who does not drive at night but would like to be a part of the service please give us a call here at the office. We are coordinating a carpool for those who would like to witness this time together.

I hope to see you during this time of preparation. I believe that God is preparing us for something great. Let us use the seasons of Lent to hear from the Lord as to what our future holds.

In love and service,
Pastor Courtney Clayton Jenkins



FIRE ANNIVERSARY
HEALING SERVICE MARCH 23

On the anniversary of the fire that destroyed our church building at 9606 Euclid Avenue, we will hold a short worship service at 6 PM on the property where our church once stood. The service will be held there rain or shine; if it's raining, please bring an umbrella; if it's snowing, please wear a hat.

Parking for those who prefer not to walk long distances will be available in the church's old lot and in the spaces reserved for our church in front of the 9411 office; all others are asked to park in other spaces in the Chicago Deli lot or across East 97th in the U.S. Bank lot. There will be chairs available for those who need to sit; others will be asked to stand for the 15-minute service.

After the service we will cross Euclid Avenue to gather in the office at 9411 for a viewing of a video about our past, present and future; to see the commemorative quilt that the Women's Association is working on; and to enjoy light refreshments and each other's company.*

Please bring the children! They will be included in the service and gathering afterward.

**Final plans subject to change.*

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 10AM

Preacher: Rev. Courtney Clayton Jenkins
Worship Theme: StewardSHIP
Anointing of 2011 church leaders

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 12 NOON AND 7 PM

Ash Wednesday Services

12:00 noon at 9411 Euclid
7 PM at 3000 Euclid

SUNDAY, MARCH 13

Preacher: Rev. Courtney Clayton Jenkins
Worship Theme: Stepping into the Wilderness

SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 10 AM

Preacher: Rev. Courtney Clayton Jenkins
Worship Theme: Stepping into the Clearing

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 6 PM

Fire Anniversary Healing Service at 9606 Euclid

SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 10 AM

Preacher: Rev. Courtney Clayton Jenkins
Worship Theme: Stepping into the Natural Rhythm

SATURDAY FUN

The Saturday Fun program is a learning and enrichment program that offers opportunities for children and youth of all ages to explore various aspects of life that might have otherwise been unknown to them. Saturday Fun encourages fellowship in Christ and fun life lessons; although it is not a Bible-study-based ministry, it definitely exemplifies that love God has for us and his commandment that we should love one another. Refreshments are served at all sessions. To reserve your spot call Cheryl Wacasey at 216-513-8006 or the church office. In March, they have one field trip planned:

March 19 - Phoenix Movie Theater - \$10 fee

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

The Adult Bible Study Group that meets at 8:45AM in the parlor every Sunday, will be reading and discussing the following scripture passages and topics in March:



March 6 Instructions about Worship

- 1 Timothy 2:1-6; 3:14-16 . . .Devotions - Hebrews 8:6-12

March 13 Qualifications of Worship Leaders

- 1 Timothy 3;1-13Devotions - 1 Peter 5:1-5

March 20 Prepare for Leadership

- 1 Timothy 4:6-16 Devotions- Philippians 3:17; 4:1

March 27 Worship Inspires Service

- 1 Timothy 5:1-8; 17-22Devotions - John 12:20-26

DEVOTION, IMAGINATION, VISION AND EXPECTATION

D.I.V.E. Sessions will continue every Wednesday for 60-90 minutes. There are two sessions available each Wednesday:

12:00 Noon Sessions - 9411 Euclid Avenue

7:00 pm Sessions - 3000 Euclid Avenue

The subject that is discussed at noon will also be discussed at 7:00 pm. Anyone wishing to attend sessions but who are unable to drive, please contact Charles Williams at 216-283-7764 for a ride.

March 2, 2011 - **EACC and the Greater Cleveland Community**

March 9, 2011 - **What is God calling us to do with our future property?** (immediately after the Ash Wednesday worship services)

March 16, 2011 - **What if God is calling us to stay at 9606 Euclid?**

March 23, 2011 - **Fire Anniversary Healing Service** - 6 PM at 9606 Euclid

March 30, 2011 - **What if God is calling us to build a church beyond 9606?**

April 6, 2011 - **What if God is calling us to buy a church?**

April 13, 2011 - **What if God is calling us to merge with another church?**

April 20, 2011 - **HOLY WEEK - No D.I.V.E. sessions**

April 27, 2011 - **Evening Congregational Meeting about our Future**

NOTES FROM THE FEBRUARY D.I.V.E. SESSIONS

February 9 – “Imagine a Church: Let’s Grow Together” - Many imagined a church that was beyond black and white in its multicultural diversity, with more youth, young families, men, and gay couples than we have now. Others envisioned an enlarged membership reaching out to the community while offering opportunities for fellowship and spiritual growth. Some testimonials:

“It was an exciting and powerful experience to ‘imagine a church.’ I feel more and more hopeful for our congregation to grow and yet maintain the intimacy we now have. I believe with God’s help we can come to feel revitalized and rebuild ourselves to be a truly giving community.” - Judy Sieck
“My experience was very positive. I came away from the session feeling confident about the direction in which the church should go. There is much we can imagine about our future together.” - Eleanor Dees

“...The new church would be more contemporary in style and multifunctional in structure so as not to intimidate potential new members with too much ornate symbolism and to allow many activities to take place. There was an emphasis on community building to allow the members to get to know each other better... The young people are the key to growth so we would restart a college ministry and invigorate a youth group with more activities such as youth choirs and liturgical dance...We would expand our

mission to the homeless. We would focus on spiritual growth and the joy of worship through Praise Services and prayer. We would involve the congregation in visiting the homebound and delivering communion. It sounds like a wonderful place to worship and live.” - Madge Potts-Williams

February 16 – “Sunday Worship: How We Flow” – We went through the Sunday worship schedule and discussed it, item by item. Some representative comments:

The Prelude – *“A time to quiet my mind and mouth.”*

Welcome, Announcements and Invocation - *“Maybe this is too early in the service for announcements and welcoming visitors, since many people are still coming in.”*

Hymns (in general) – *“We need help learning some of the hymns.”*

Call to Confession – *“Sometimes instead of a written confession we could have a moment of silence because what I want to confess is not always included in the confession we read.”*

Children’s Sermon – *“The topics are relevant and the stories are told well.”*

Invitation – *“I’m not comfortable with it.” “It lets people know what joining the church is about.”*

Prayers of the People – *“I appreciate the use of the microphone so I can hear what people are saying.” “It’s the most spiritual thing we do together.”*

Sermon – *“We need a response from the choir or some meditative music after the sermon.”*

Music and Meditation – *“Sitting through the postlude is unique to our congregation.” “Is it confusing for our visitors?”*

February 23 – “Sunday Worship: Music – Part I”

– Differences of opinion expressed were as varied as tastes in music. A few comments:

“I don’t see a reason to change to something totally different.”

“Sometimes I feel like I’m at a classical concert. If I want a concert, I’ll go to one.”

“One of the things I don’t like is the inclusive language in the New Century Hymnal.”

“What if one Sunday could be designated for contemporary worship?”

“I would like to have a music committee.”

“I was hesitant to join the choir because I lacked the skill of reading music.”

“If we didn’t have paid members, we wouldn’t have a choir.”

“If membership increases, we won’t have to have paid members.”

“For our youth we really need age, style and demographic ‘appropriate’ music. Our youth should be singing music they like. It should be applicable to what’s going on in their lives.”

“What if we had a contemporary service? I think we really need this if we are going to attract youth, young adults and young families. We will need something like this to ensure our future.”

“Our new minister of music should be able to work with children and know children.”

(continued on page 4)

("D.I.V.E. Notes" continued from page 3)

"I hope our new minister of music will have lots of musical diversity."

Testimonials:

"During this session we examined the music that is sung during our worship services and how it might become more diverse in representing the many cultures of the world.

The members present at the DIVE session agreed that we appreciate classical, spiritual, gospel and praise music. It was noted that the service for Hispanic Heritage Sunday was enjoyable in that the hymns were presented with the choir and soloists singing the first verse in Spanish while the congregation listened or sang, and the following verses sung in English. This method took extra preparation on the part of the choir and it allowed the congregation to listen and appreciate the beauty of the song. We noted, too, that intentionality requires extra and creative work and should be the way of the future for our church.

The question of paid choir members for both the chancel and gospel choirs was raised. It was noted, however, that for the sake of stability and singing ability that paid members are appreciated. They have knowledge and skill in singing that provide the overall good sound of the choir. We noted, too, that many of our current members were once paid members." – Eleanore Dees

"It is spiritually important for us to talk together about all these issues. We become closer to each other and closer to God as we do this and it will be helpful to discover God's will for us all. It is also very helpful for us to work together on these issues to become sensitive to each other's needs and feelings." – Judy Sieck

NEW MINISTRY CO-CHAIRS

At meetings held after the election of new Ministry members at the annual Congregational Meeting, the following were selected as co-chairs for 2011:

Christian Education and Faith Formation

- Al Parks and Manny Roderick

Church in the World - Eleanor Dees and Judy Sieck

Fellowship and Community Life

- Ann Drysdale and John Merritt

Stewardship - Kathy Buckner and Dean Sieck

Worship and Arts - Claude Brewer and Carolyn Smith

Council of Ministries - TBA

LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR C.O.M.

This training is required for all COM leaders, the moderator and vice-moderator. The training is open to other members of the congregation who would like to participate. The training will take place every 3rd Saturday at 3000 Euclid Avenue from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Attendance will be taken at each session. COM leaders will be allowed to miss up to 3 trainings in a year. For the month of March, chapters 3 and 5 are required reading.

The church has ordered the books we will use for our time together ("The Nature of Leadership."). Many of you have already picked the books up from the church office. The

books cost \$21.00. If you could bring check or cash with you when you come that would be wonderful. If purchasing the book presents a financial challenge for you please do not hesitate to speak with me personally.

Pastor Jenkins

NEW MEMBERS ORIENTATION

New Members orientation will be held at 8 AM in the 30th and Euclid building on Saturday, March 12th.

2010 ANNUAL REPORTS

Copies of the 2010 Annual Reports that were distributed at our Annual Meeting in January are still available. Contact Diana Reid in the church office.

JANUARY 2011 FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY			
Expenses Compared to Budget			
Annual Budget		January 2011	
		Actual Year to Date	Budget Year to Date
INCOME			
128,300	CONTRIBUTIONS	10,850	10,692
252,556	ENDOWMENT INCOME USED	22,021	21,046
300	OTHER INCOME	0	25
381,156	Total RECEIPTS	32,871	31,763
EXPENSES			
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES			
243,517	Total PERSONNEL	18,839	20,095
35,164	Total BUILDING MAINTENANCE	2,516	3,047
14,000	Total OFFICE	1,196	1,119
26,100	Total OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	576	1,621
318,781	Total ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	23,127	25,881
PROGRAM & MINISTRIES EXPENSES			
6,000	Total MINISTER'S INITIATIVES.	0	458
12,800	Total CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY	50	683
10,675	Total FELLOWSHIP & COMMUNITY LIFE MINISTRY	160	477
26,950	Total CHURCH IN THE WORLD MINISTRY	73	971
5,950	Total WORSHIP & ARTS MINISTRY	262	463
62,375	Total PROGRAM & MINISTRIES EXPENSES	545	3,052
318,781	Total EXPENSE	23,672	28,933
0	Surplus or (Loss)	9,199	2,830

2011 OUTREACH SUMMARY

OCWM	0
Interact	0
Hunger Offerings	215
Great Hour of Sharing	0
Strengthening the Church	0
Other Special Offerings	425
Christmas Offering	0
Neighbors in Need	0
TOTAL	640

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Attention All Women of EACC: Church Women United will be observing World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 4. Our district will meet at 10:00 am, at the Church of the Savior, 2537 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights. Brunch will be served. Please plan to attend.



ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS

On Sunday, Feb. 20th the following students were recognized and received certificates of excellence for receiving A's and/or B's for the first grading period. They are:

- Herbert Anderson
- Yaniah Powell
- Christian Sanders
- Jessica and Sydney Stevenson
- Montana Wacasey

I am delighted to also add Melissa Bagby Logan and Amber Green for their academic excellence. There will be two more opportunities (April and June) for student recognition.

- Charlene Higginbotham

SUMMER JOBS FOR STUDENTS

Young Audiences' summer program will be hiring high school and college students for paid internships this summer. For more information and to apply, go to <http://www.yaneo.org/what/artworks/php> The application deadline is March 25.

UNITED BLACK CHRISTIANS, UCC

UBC will host a Leadership Retreat at the Radisson Cleveland, March 29-April 2nd. The Greater Cleveland Chapter will provide welcome packets and Advisory Board Member, Charlene Higginbotham, will attend on behalf of the local chapter.

DID YOU SEE THE VIDEO?

If you missed seeing the video that Pastor Jenkins showed us during fellowship hour on Sunday, February 6, you need only go to <http://www.youtube.com/eaccucc> and you can play it over and over. You are probably in some of those photos! Pastor Jenkins created this video, "A Year We'll Never Forget," out of the photos she collected before Christmas.

WORSHIP AND ARTS MINISTRY

The ministry has chosen Carolyn Smith and Claude Brewer as co-chairs and set its meeting date as the first Sunday of the month. After the second D.I.V.E. session, we changed the order of the worship service to help with the flow, to reach more of the congregation with important announcements and to greet visiting worshippers. This month our communion will be by intinction.

AMISTAD SUNDAY MARCH 6

Sunday is Amistad Sunday in the United Church of Christ. Learn more about the history of the slave ship, the replica, "the Freedom Schooner" and the important role Congregationalists and the former American Missionary Association (AMA) played in this historical event by going on-line, UCC.org.

"LETTER FROM BIRMINGHAM JAIL"

AIM (Arts in Ministry) is confirming plans for the Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Discussion and Dialog. This year, the Spring Concert will be incorporated into this event.

Please save Saturday, March 26, for a reading of "Letter from Birmingham Jail" accompanied by music and song.

CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

During the month of March members are encouraged to:

Celebrate the women in your life;

Celebrate the Women of EACC/UCC;

Attend the Free Family Day Celebration
of the Life & Legacy of Bessie Coleman

Sat., March 12,

10-4 PM at the International Women's Air & Space
Museum, Burke Lakefront Airport;

See the Visual Display and Resources arranged in the lower level of our 3000 Euclid building during March.

HOMELESS STAND DOWN 2011

Once more, the few but mighty members of EACC have reached out and made it possible for us to reach our goals for the Homeless Stand Down. We contributed 50 personal care kits, 100 stuffed animals, numerous boxes of diapers, formula and other baby needs, and enough additional cash to send InterAct almost \$300 with which to buy bus passes. Two of our members volunteered at the Stand Down: Amber Green who helped distribute clothing at the January 30th Stand Down, and Dean Sieck who drove our church van (yet another one of EACC's contributions) and delivered goods to women's shelters on February 12th.

We are grateful to all of you who contributed, and we would like to thank some of you by name for your help: Fannie Cockfield, Cloggie Crowder, Martha Edwards, Montana Wacasey, Phyllis Graham, Dean Sieck and William Siggers for assembling, tagging, and hauling the bags and boxes of donations; Cyndi Henderson for making tags and stickers and also some adorable hand-made teddy bears complete with outfits; Ann Drysdale for shopping for and delivering large quantities of diapers, formula and Pedialite.

Because of EACC, many Clevelanders who are experiencing homelessness and poverty this winter are a little less cold, a little more comfortable, and considerably cheered by a teddy bear to hug. Thank you!

- Charlene Higginbotham and Kathy Baker, InterAct Representatives

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

With Dean Sieck joining Kathie Buckner at co-chairs of the Ministry, we tackled our primary concern: finding a replacement for John Peterson as the Financial Manager of the church. Responsibilities have been assigned to members on an interim basis to carry us over until we have a permanent replacement, but we hope to have someone soon. A job description has been approved and

is being given wide distribution to persons in the church administration profession in the Cleveland area. Any EACC member knowing someone who might be qualified and available to serve us should relay that information to John Baker, chair of the Personnel Practices Committee or Diana in the church office.

John Baker, secretary

THINGS TO DO, PLACES TO GO IN YOUR SPARE TIME

CITIZEN CIRCLE

Here's the Annual Report from Citizen Circle that didn't get in on time to be included in our Annual Report booklet. Perhaps it contains a message for you:

Euclid Avenue Citizen Circle is one of many Citizen Circle groups that meet all over the state. The purpose of these groups is to provide support, encouragement and recommendations for services to people who have recently been released from prison, helping them make the transition from "offender" to "citizen." Our Circle is the joint project of two churches, EACC and the Church of the Covenant. For the first two years of our existence we held our monthly meetings at 96th and Euclid, but since the fire, we have been meeting at the Church of the Covenant at 11205 Euclid on the second Monday of the month at 6:30 PM.

In 2010 we met individually with several men and women, getting to know them better, and helping them discover strengths and abilities that they may have forgotten they had. Some we have been able to help; in fact, one of our participants, who since his release has started working on a college degree, has found employment, and is living in his own home, this year became a member of our circle and is now helping other participants with their challenges. Other participants are still struggling with many issues, perhaps the most challenging of which is finding employment in this difficult economy. We offer them job leads, bus passes, Dave's gift cards, and other small contributions toward their welfare, but most of all we try to give them hope and moral support.

If you feel called to such a ministry, know someone who might want to meet with us, or simply have questions, please talk to one of the EACC members listed below. We are always eager to expand our Circle and reach out to more of those who are in need of encouragement and caring. We want their reentry to mean "Coming Home to Stay."

*Kathy Baker, Jewell Green, Calvin Humphrey,
Nathaniel Martin, Dean Sieck*

BOOKS FOR KIDS Donate your new or gently used children's books at any Half Price Books location. 199,372 books were donated during the 2010 "Half Pint Library" book drive. Share the love of reading by donating your new and gently used children's books all during the month of March. Half Price Books will match every book donated. Half Price Books stores are located at 21623 Center Ridge Rd., 1607 Golden Gate Plaza, 4687 Great Northern Blvd., and 9383 Mentor Ave.



INTERACT ACTIVITIES

InterAct does more than put on the Homeless Stand Down. Its mission is to promote mutual understanding and appreciation of diverse religious beliefs. In March InterAct offers two different opportunities to learn about other faith traditions:

- **Communities in Conversation**

Interfaith Study and Discussion Group featuring the Abrahamic traditions. Conversations will take place this spring at:

Cleveland Heights Library - beginning March 1, 7-8:30 PM

Maple Heights Library - beginning March 14, 7-8:30 PM

Parma Ridge Library - beginning March 30, 7-8:30 PM

Shaker Heights Library - beginning February 28, 7-8:30 PM

There is no charge for these programs, but advance registration is required. A Study Guide will be given to you when you register. All conversations will be led by trained facilitators. For more information and to register, go to www.communitiesinconversation.org

- **Have dinner with "Strangers!"**

Join the Amazing Faiths Project! - Thursday, March 31, 2011

InterAct Cleveland and the Amazing Faiths Project invite you to participate in the Cleveland Dinner Dialogues.

Learn more and sign up online at www.clevelanddinnerdialogues.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Could you help make one of life's most challenging moments easier for people in your own community? You're invited to explore the possibility of becoming a Hospice Volunteer with the Visiting Nurse Association! A wide range of volunteer skills are needed, from spiritual companionship to sewing hospital gowns, friendly visits to patients in respite care, creating seasonal decorations and gifts for patients, office/clerical assistance, bereavement assistance, school and group service projects and many other possibilities.



Bi-lingual volunteers are especially needed. Volunteer trainings take place every Tuesday March 1-29. Call now to register: 216-902-7352 or email pkampf@vnaohio.org for more information.



HBCU College Bus Tour

April 17-23, 2011

Northern & Southern Tours

REGISTER TODAY
seating limited

High school juniors and seniors of Euclid Avenue Congregational Church have an opportunity to participate in the college tours of historically black colleges and universities sponsored by the Urban League of Greater Cleveland. There are two sets of tours, both April 17 - 23, 2011, leaving from Cleveland and returning to Cleveland.

The cost to attend a tour, which includes stops at six colleges or universities, food, bus travel, and hotel accommodations, is \$550. Students who are interested should contact the Urban League of Greater Cleveland at 216 622-0999.

CHURCH SERVANT LEADERSHIP ORIENTATION AND TRAINING

All church leaders are urged to attend an orientation and training on Saturday, March 5, from 9 AM - 12:30 PM at 3000 Euclid. Lunch will be served. Please RSVP to the church office by Wednesday, March 2. An anointing service for church leaders will be Sunday, March 6, during morning worship.

MEET SHKENYA AND BRIAN

Welcome, new EACC members Shkenya James and Brian Littles. They moved here this fall from Claxton, Georgia with their four children: Shi'teria Anderson (14), Herbert Anderson (13), Ta'kevia McConell (11) and Willie McConell (7). They moved here to reunite with Shkenya's brother and also because they "needed a change." One major change was the weather; although the kids love the ice and snow, Shkenya and Brian thought about returning to Claxton when the cold weather first hit. They have decided to stay because there are better opportunities here for them: the children are doing well in school, Brian is pleased with his new job with Mr. Magic, and Shkenya enjoys her courses at Bryant and Stratton College.

The day after they moved to Cleveland, they were looking for a church to attend and as they walked past the building at East 30th and Euclid they asked the woman who was about to enter it with her grandchildren if this was indeed a church. The woman (Joan Southgate) assured them that it was, and invited them in. They've been attending ever since.

Brian and Shkenya both enjoy sports; he played and coached softball in Claxton, and Shkenya played basketball in high school. Brian is loyal to the Atlanta Falcons so he's not likely to become a Browns fan, but he is growing to like

Euclid Avenue Congregational Church high school students who need help with the financing of the 7-day trip, which will be chaperoned by Urban League employees, may receive financial assistance through the church. Registration for the trips must be done through the Urban League of Greater Cleveland, which may be contacted at (216) 622-0999. However, for Euclid Avenue Congregational Church high school students who need help with financing the 7-day trip, financial assistance can be provided through a special fund established by EACC.

For church members who want to help with the college tour costs, checks made be made to EACC with the money designated for the College Tour fund.

Questions may be answered by Leon Bibb, a member of Euclid Avenue Congregational Church.

More info: Urban League website: <http://ulcleveland.org/>

Parents, Grandparents, Guardians and Campers

A variety of camp opportunities are available this summer. See Cloggie Crowder if you do not have a registration form, or call her at (216) 231-4402 for more information. **Forms need to be returned to Cloggie by March 13.** Make your plans now!



the Cavs. Shkenya likes to do hair. All four of their children enjoy music and dancing, and participated in praise dancing in their Claxton church.

Her daughters were homesick at first, Shkenya says, but by now they've adjusted to their new school and surroundings. Herbert and Willie "just jumped right in," she tells us. "Willie came home the first day of school shouting, 'Mama! I have friends!'"

He, and the rest of the family, have friends at EACC, too.

MARCH 2011*

(birthdays/wedding anniversaries noted herein)

		Event	Special Day
1	Tue	--	
2	Wed.	6:00 PM - Gospel Choir 12 noon and 7 PM - DIVE sessions 8:30 PM - Chancel Choir	
3	Thu.	--	
4	Fri.	10 AM - Church Women United	Joan Southgate
5	Sat.	9 AM - Leader Orientation and Training	
6	Sun.	8:45 - Bible Study, 10:00 - Worship Anointing Service, Amistad Sunday Worship and Arts Ministry	Malisse Roderick Peter Jerabek
7	Mon.		Fannie Cockfield
8	Tues.	10 AM - Women's Association 5 PM - Pastoral Support Team 6 PM - Council of Ministries	Virginia Becker Antoinette Goard
9	Wed.	12 noon and 7 PM - Ash Wednesday Service and DIVE session 6:00 PM - Gospel Choir 8:30 PM - Chancel Choir	
10	Thu.	--	Samella Carroll
11	Fri.	--	
12	Sat.	8 AM - New Members Training Women's History Month celebration	Ben Sweeney Myles Murray
13	Sun.	8:45 - Bible Study, 10:00 - Worship	
14	Mon.	Citizen's Circle 6:30 PM	
15	Tues.	10 AM - Women's Association	Heather Lavender
16	Wed.	12 noon and 7 PM - DIVE session 6:00 PM - Gospel Choir 8:30 PM Chancel Choir	
17	Thu.	--	
18	Fri.	--	
19	Sat.	10 AM - Saturday Fun 10 AM - COM training	
20	Sun.	8:45 - Bible Study, 10:00 - Worship	
21	Mon.		Tim Sieck
22	Tues.	10 AM - Women's Association	Eric Goard
23	Wed.	6 PM - Fire & Healing Service (9606) 8:30 PM Chancel Choir 8:30 PM - Chancel Choir	
24	Thu.	--	
25	Fri.	--	
26	Sat.	"Letter from Birmingham Jail"	Mary Jane Cariens Linda Brewer
27	Sun.	8:45 - Bible Study, 10:00 - Worship	Phyllis Graham
28	Mon.	--	Robyn Nordstrom
29	Tues.	10 AM - Women's Association	Linda Buckle
30	Wed.	12 noon and 7 PM - DIVE session 6:00 PM - Gospel Choir 8:30 PM - Chancel Choir	Jared Lavender
31	Thur.	Dinner with "Strangers"	

*** KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS ***

- ◆ LaDoris Dantzler
- ◆ Hazel Dockery
- ◆ Christine Fant
- ◆ Aaron Goard (son of Barbara Goard)
- ◆ Lavera Hampton
- ◆ Ruthann Hampton
- ◆ Amanda Harris
- ◆ Anthony Harris (grandson of Christine Fant)
- ◆ Barbara Hughley
- ◆ Calvin Humphrey
- ◆ Grace Humphrey Cutts (mother of Calvin Humphrey)
- ◆ Hallie K. Jones
- ◆ Richard Mendoza
- ◆ Doris Simmons
- ◆ Dan Southgate
- ◆ Barbara Smith Weems
- ◆ Meredith Washburn

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

*** JOYS ***

Alice Edith Jones, daughter of Melissa Henderson and Jeremy Jones, little sister of Oscar Jones, and granddaughter of Cyndi and Bob Henderson, was born on February 2. Oldtime members of EACC will remember the wonderful woman she was named after, Alice Jerabek, Cyndi's mother. Alice was a member of EACC for decades and almost every one of those Sundays she sang in our Chancel Choir. Will little Alice be a soprano, like her great-grandmother, or an alto, like her grandmother?

Shkeyna James and Brian Littles and their children have moved to a new apartment. They want to express their appreciation to Pastor Jenkins and the EACC members who helped them find the apartment and furnish it.

Montana Wacasey is proud to announce that she has been accepted into Central Catholic High School, where she will be a student this fall. And on February 15, she and the St. Adalbert Blackjacks won first place in the Avon Lake Cheerleading Competition. They performed at halftime at the Cavs vs. Knicks game at Gund Arena on February 25.

Leon Bibb has been honored by Dominion East Ohio during its 10th Strong Men and Women Excellence in Leadership celebration. He was honored along with two other prominent black individuals as the first black prime-time broadcast news anchor in the Cleveland area. Leon also appeared in the Wake Up and Live Actors' Studio production of A.R. Gurney's "Love Letters" at the Cleveland Play House's Brooks theatre on February 20th.

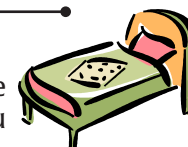
John Peterson, Diana Reid and William Siggers sent a note of thanks to the congregation in appreciation of the Christmas gift they received. They wrote, "We are so glad to have a part in the life of Euclid Avenue Congregational Church. Through the years you have supported us in so many ways. We have each worked hard to maintain the standard of integrity that is Euclid Avenue Congregational Church. It is our privilege and joy to be staff to you! You have demonstrated what Christ has preached to the multitudes: 'Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters.'

Thank you and may God bless you."

Bob and Cyndi Henderson want to thank all of you for your kind words, expressions of sympathy, notes and cards following the recent death of Bob's sister, Margy Henderson.

Downsizing or Moving?

Our new members, Shkenya and Brian are in need of beds for their 4 children. If you know of any beds needing a new home, please speak to Shkenya, Brian, or call the church office.



❖ Inspired by the theme "Turning Walls Into Tables," seventy participants from the United States and Mexico, constituents of the UCC and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), met Feb. 10-13 at Iglesia Cristiana Casa De Oracion in San Diego to reflect on the challenge that the U.S.-Mexico border and immigration laws represent for the church. They learned about ministries on both sides of the border that address those issues and visited humanitarian projects in Tijuana.

Keynote presentations were given on the subject "To Welcome the Stranger, To Welcome Ourselves;" and participants were invited to "Love Thy Neighbor" by taking action for needed reforms. Lifting up immigrants during spoken prayers at Sunday worship and encouraging the church to aid undocumented pastors should be priorities, says the Rev. LaMarco Cable, program associate for advocacy and education in Global Ministries of the UCC and Disciples.

"We need to help people understand ways in which our immigration policies are not only harming immigrants, but are directly harming all of us," says Cable, citing the potential erosion of public safety, education levels and public health.. "When police begin to enforce immigration laws, fearful immigrants fail to enroll children in school, seek needed health care, or report problems to the police."

Participants called on the UCC and Disciples to be more welcoming of all migrants by learning more about the borderlands; opposing border militarization; providing humanitarian assistance to immigrants; advocating for righteous national immigration reform; building relationships through immersion experiences on both sides of the border; and reviewing assumptions and language regarding the "other" and what it means to be "American" or "Christian."

❖ Founded in 1807, Andover Newton is the nation's oldest theological school and its first graduate institution of any kind. It has trained some of the nation's most innovative and influential leaders and continues to break new ground in theological education. Andover Newton's student body represents more than 30 faiths and denominations.

The Alban Institute was founded in 1974 as a major resource for U.S. congregations facing the challenges of a changing society. It is widely regarded for its knowledge and experience in congregational vitality and positive trends across denominations and faith traditions.

Forging a cooperative venture to provide online continuing education experiences for clergy and laity, UCC-related Andover Newton Theological Seminary in Newton Centre, Mass., and The Alban Institute will join forces in fall 2012 to offer courses in church leadership and vitality.

The new collaboration will draw on the traditional strengths of both institutions, offering high-quality, reasonably priced, interactive, educational experiences delivered to participants' computers.

Beginning in September 2012, Alban and Andover Newton will sponsor Empowerment Seminars-- four-week, online sessions using Andover Newton's online learning system and Alban's authors as instructors with whom participants will be able to converse about significant Alban books on congregation renewal and leadership. The seminars will be promoted by Andover Newton and Alban, with registration available on both of their websites.

Offerings for fall 2012 are "Leading in the Congregation" (Oct. 11–Nov. 5; register by Oct. 1), taught by Jones; and "Tending to

the Holy: Practicing the Presence of God in Ministry (Oct. 25–Nov. 19; register by Oct. 15), taught by Bruce Epperly.

❖ For an interfaith contingent of 60 youth and chaperones from Frederick, Md., a Martin Luther King Jr. Day experience in February proved an invaluable history lesson.

Representing Protestant (Evangelical and Reformed UCC), Catholic (St. Katherine Drexel Roman Catholic Church) and Jewish (Congregation Kol Ami Temple) faith traditions, the group made the five-hour trip to Whitakers, N.C., to participate in three days of work projects and educational opportunities at the UCC's Franklinton Center at Bricks.

Located on a former plantation, the Center's roots began at the founding of Franklinton Christian College in 1871 and Congregationalist Bricks School in 1895. The schools merged in the 1950s, creating Franklinton Center at Bricks, which is managed by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries. It educates church leaders, young people and community leaders with programs focused on rural justice, community development, environmental racism and workers' rights.

The Frederick group shared breakfast with neighbors of Franklinton, who spoke of life under segregation, workplace discrimination, difficulty exercising voting rights and lack of health-care access – all racially motivated. Children of black sharecroppers told their stories on what was formerly a plantation that housed slaves.

In its three days at the Center, the Frederick group repaired a ramp, replaced a kitchen counter and a sink in a dormitory, constructed a roof, painted, and sorted through historic documents and files. Vivian Lucas, the Center's executive director, thanked the group for its work, noting how it "modeled" the vision of King — both by its interfaith composition and in the way it worked together.

❖ Pastor Moira Finley is pastor of St. John's UCC in Cecil and Trinity UCC in Shiocton, 22 miles away, and oversees the hugely successful Cecil Community Clothes Closet operation at St. John's.

"We don't know where the clothes come from – it's definitely a loaves-and-fishes sort of thing," says Finley, whose St. John's congregation numbers about 80. "We put out the clothes and people take what we think are tremendous quantities. And then the next time, we still have more."

Donations are carefully hand sorted, and overly used items are discarded. Twice a month, the Closet opens at the church. Whether it's a nice shirt for a job interviewee, steel-toed boots for a construction worker, or a soft, stuffed animal for a child, the Closet meets many and various needs. For shoppers' convenience, the Closet is always open on a day when the food pantry at nearby St. Martin's Roman Catholic Church is open.

After an initial six-month, "is-this-really-going-to-take-off?" period, Finley had her answer. "It just exploded," she says. "People who were at first a little unsure about our ministry have really come to embrace it, have brought donations, have been excited about increasing our visibility in the community."

MARCH ACTIVITIES

(see inside for more details)

- 2 - 12 noon & 7 PM - D.I.V.E. Session
 - 6:00 PM Gospel Choir rehearsal
 - 8:30 PM Chancel Choir rehearsal
 - 5 - 9 AM All Church Servant Leadership Orientation and training
 - 6 - Anointing Service for All Servant Leaders
 - 8 - Pastoral Support Team 5:00 PM
Council of Ministries 6:00 PM
 - 9 - 12 Noon & 7 PM
Ash Wednesday Services
 - 6:00 PM Gospel Choir rehearsal
 - 8:30 PM Chancel Choir rehearsal
 - 12 - New Members Training 8 AM
 - 14 - Citizen's Circle 6:30 PM
 - 16 - 12 noon & 7 PM - D.I.V.E. Session
 - 6:00 PM Gospel Choir rehearsal
 - 8:30 PM Chancel Choir rehearsal
 - 19 - 10 AM Leadership Training (COM members)
10 AM Saturday Fun
 - 23 - 6 PM Fire and Healing Service (9606)
 - 8:30 PM Chancel Choir rehearsal
 - 30 - 12 noon & 7 PM - D.I.V.E. Session
 - 6:00 PM Gospel Choir rehearsal
 - 8:30 PM Chancel Choir rehearsal
- Women's Association 10 AM Tuesdays

GOD OF THE SPARROW, GOD OF THE WHALE, GOD OF THE SWIRLING STARS,

HOW DOES THE CREATURE SAY AWE, HOW DOES THE CREATURE SAY PRAISE?

GOD OF THE RAINBOW, GOD OF THE CROSS, GOD OF THE EMPTY GRAVE,

HOW DOES THE CREATURE SAY GRACE, HOW DOES THE CREATURE SAY THANKS?

JAROSLAVE J. VAJDA

**EUCLID AVENUE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
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