

BEACON NEWSLETTER

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A Multi-racial, Multi-cultural, Open and Affirming Congregation JUL-AUG 2011

Pastor

Rev. Courtney
Clayton Jenkins

**Director of Gospel
Choir**

Joan Bacon

Church Secretary

Diana Reid

Financial Manager

Jim Rutledge

**Temp. Sat/Sun
Custodian**

Brian Littles

Director, Saturday Fun

Cheryl Wacasey

Beacon Editors

Kathy Baker
Mary Sherry

Design Editor

Cyndi Henderson

Photographer

Kathie Buckner

Beloved -

I want to thank each and every one of you for the way you pulled together to make the Installation a success for Euclid Avenue Congregational Church. Every single member of our Church family engaged to participate in some way to bring glory to God on this auspicious occasion.

Words cannot begin to express the love and support I felt as we united pastor and people on Sunday, June 5th. Beyond this, I am humbled by your cards, notes, and gifts. It is these tokens of love, appreciation and thanks that encourage me to keep on trusting God in the ministry.

Part of my responsibility as pastor is to help us grow in our Christian faith. For me, this work I do is all about making disciples of Jesus Christ to transform our community, our city, our state and even the world. During the week leading up to the installation, well over 30 members of our congregation came together to serve the hungry a hot meal. I saw many of you blossom in new ways as you served on that Tuesday evening and I found myself deeply moved by your compassion and willingness to roll up your sleeves in service to the least and the lost.

I recognize that this installation was not just important for me, as your Pastor, but equally important to this congregation when we



consider the past year. May this Installation remind us that God has a bright future in store for us if we would just trust. May we be encouraged by all those in attendance during this momentous occasion that our congregation will grow in knowledge, Spirit and numbers. May we be reminded by the presence of the Holy Spirit, which dwelled

in that place, that God is with us on the journey.

We have a bright future ahead of us and I am excited that we have come together "for such a time as this." May we each grow in the "grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18). For if we do, I know God will bless us to be a congregation that will reach the masses. We will Reach Up...Reach In...Reach Out... Reach Across...Reach Beyond. I look forward to reaching with you as your Pastor.

With love and gratitude,
Pastor Courtney Clayton Jenkins



SERVICE DAY - MAY 31, 2011



INSTALLATION MORNING SERVICE JUNE 5



INSTALLATION MORNING SERVICE JUNE 5

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

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY SERMON SERIES – “ONCE UPON A PARABLE”

Why do we find it easy to remember the stories our parents or teachers affectionately shared with us when we were children? Perhaps it’s because their stories used familiar everyday objects to help us understand unfamiliar ideas, setting in concrete important lessons about life. Jesus Christ utilized the same fascinating method by offering parables to help his disciples – and you – grasp and remember the vital keys to successful living. In our Summer Sermon Series: Once Upon a Parable, you’ll discover the deep and practical meaning of Christ’s parables and gain a better understanding of our role as disciples of Christ. The series began the last Sunday of June and will continue through July and August.

ASIAN-AMERICAN RECOGNITION

SUNDAY JULY 10

July 10 is designated by the United Church of Christ as Asian-American Recognition Sunday. At EACC we will observe this day with a sermon by Joan Ishibashi of the Western Reserve Association office, Japanese drummers from the Denison Ave. United Church of Christ, and a reception after worship featuring everyone’s favorite Asian-American foods. Members are asked to bring sushi, eggrolls, noodle dishes, yakitori, fried rice, or any other Asian-American dish that they know how to make (or purchase) to church with them.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

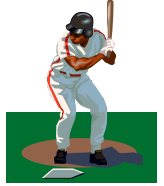
The Adult Bible Study group that meets before worship every Sunday with AI Parks will be reading and discussing the following Scripture readings and topics in July and August:



- July 3 God Reacts to Disobedience
Joshua 7:1, 10-12, 22-26 Romans 6:1-11
- July 10 Listen to God’s Judges
Judges 2:11-19. Psalm 78:1-8
- July 17 Use God’s Strength
Judges 3:15-25, 29,30 Psalm 27:7-14
- July 24 Let God Rule
Judges 7:2-4,13-15; 8:22-25. 1 Samuel 2:1-10
- July 31 Return to Obedience
Judges 10:10-18 2 Corinth 7:5-11
- August 7. Walk In God’s Path
Judges 13:1-8, 24-25. Romans 2-18
- August 14. Choosing a Community
Ruth 1:8-18 Romans 10:5-13
- August 21. Empowering the Needy
Ruth 2:8-18 Proverbs 22:1-9
- August 28. Respecting Community Standards
Ruth 4:1-10. Philipians 1:3-11

FELLOWSHIP FRIDAYS (OR SATURDAYS)

July 9 – 7PM - Take Us Out to the Ball Game! Join us to watch the Cleveland Indians play the Toronto Blue Jays, let the kids participate in Kids Fun Day, enjoy the International Festival and watch the fireworks after the game. There may be a few tickets left (\$7) – see Judy Sieck, Claude Brewer or Manny Roderick. Scholarships are available – see Pastor Jenkins.



USHERS MINISTRY

Looking for a once a month ministry with few meetings? Like meeting and greeting people? Want to be affirmed as a valued and contributing member? Then it sounds like YOU are just the person to serve on one of EACC's Usher Teams! Contact Charlene Higginbotham; you can start serving right away.

LETTERS FROM THE EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

One of EACC’s outreach projects this school year and last, started and maintained by Ann Drysdale, was to stock and staff the “Dolphin Depot” at the Early Childhood Development Center (a Cleveland Public School, Preschool – Grade 3), where the children exchanged the “Dolphin Dollars” they had earned for good behavior for trinkets and toys. Here are a couple of the letters of thanks we received on the last Dolphin Depot day before school closed for the year.



Dear Dolphin Depot People,

Thank you for helping us pick what we wanted from the Dolphin Depot. All of you are the nicest people I ever knew.

Jaden P.

Dear Dolphin Depot Volunteers,

I like your toys. But you are the best Dolphin Depot Volunteers in the World. I love all of you. You are the nice ones. Enjoy. Can you write back? Thank you all.

Love, Markisha

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY AND POTLUCK

Ladies, plan to join Pastor Jenkins in a Bible study designed with you in mind, on Wednesday, July 13, at 5:30 PM at our church office, 9411 Euclid Avenue. Bring your favorite dish to share, and let's learn and fellowship together!

EACC T-SHIRTS ARE STILL AVAILABLE

This is great way to tell others about your church. Pick up a t-shirt from the church office. Cost is \$15 for adults and \$10 for children.



UNITED BLACK CHRISTIANS

UBC presented 15 certificates and gifts to graduates in three UBC churches in June.

We welcome this annual tradition of recognition for students and encourage their continued academic achievement.

UBC will be represented at General Synod in Tampa, Florida, July 1-5 by several members of Mt. Zion UCC, East View UCC and Euclid Avenue. Charlene Higginbotham will be coordinating the UBC Exhibit Booth and Luncheon with Debbie Winters.

Consider following the events of General Synod on the UCC website as we say good-bye to Edith Guffey, welcome new leadership, discuss a new governance structure and hear from a long list of dynamic speakers and worship leaders.



CITIZEN CIRCLE

Citizen Circle, a group of community members committed to helping people recently released from prison make the change from "offender" to "citizen," find that the biggest obstacle for the participants is often securing employment. Jobs are hard to find these days for everyone, but especially so for people with felonies in their backgrounds.

Currently we are trying to help one of our participants, a young woman with an excellent work history, find employment. She has had experience in retail, cleaning, and waiting tables, and would welcome the opportunity to talk to any employer. If you are hiring in any of those areas or if you have personal knowledge of someone who is, please contact one of the Citizen Circle members listed below.

Kathy Baker, Eleanore Dees, Jewel Green, Nathaniel Martin and Dean Sieck



Earlier this year the HIV/AIDS Task Force of Greater Cleveland asked for your support in contacting state representatives regarding plans to reduce funding for HIV/AIDS medication to those needing assistance with the cost. On Sat., Aug. 20th, a Sacred Jazz Benefit Concert will be held at Mt. Zion, UCC from 4-7pm to raise funds for the HIV/AIDS Wellness Project. Your participation and support is needed and encouraged. A donation of \$25.00 includes a catered dinner & refreshments. Charlene will have tickets. Business ad space is also available. A flyer with details will be made available soon.

It's summertime, and the living is easy! The warm weather we have waited for all winter encourages us to get up and out of the house! So, head for to the tennis court, golf course, the swimming pool or beach. Maybe hiking or bike riding is more to your taste, but, whatever you do "GET MOVING!" Your heart will love you for it.

GREATER CLEVELAND CONGREGATIONS

More than 1800 people, nine of them from EACC, packed the Masonic Auditorium on June 6 for the Founding Assembly of Greater Cleveland Congregations (GCC). This event was the public launch of a new organization already made up of more than 35 congregations and organizations, and adding more week by week.

GCC plans to work on Cuyahoga County's problems in health care, education, jobs, criminal justice/re-entry and sustainable food. Over the next few months, people from the various congregations will refine those broad areas into specific issues. Working from the grassroots, GCC will hold public officials responsible for responding to community concerns.

In addition to rallying the community to solve problems in our area, GCC also offers training in community organizing. Whether or not you expect to be involved directly in GCC, this leadership training will be valuable. The next two sessions are

Saturday July 9 12:00 to 5:00 pm at Antioch Baptist Church, 8869 Cedar Ave

Sunday July 10 2:00 to 7:00 pm at B'nai Jeshurun, 27501 Fairmount Blvd in Pepper Pike

Plan to attend one of these: your presence will personally benefit you, while also strengthening both EACC and GCC.

For more information, see www.greaterclevelandcongregations.org

Ruth Garwood

WORSHIP AND ARTS MINISTRY

The Worship and Arts Ministry is considering 4 resumes it has received from people who would like to be considered for the position of Minister of Music of EACC. They welcome more applications for that position; if you know of someone who might qualify please contact Carolyn Smith or the church office for a copy of the job description. They are hoping to be able to fill this position by early fall.

Meanwhile in the summer months, during which the services will be shorter, music will be provided by visiting organists, soloists from both the Gospel and Chancel choirs, and occasional instrumentalists.

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

We welcomed Jim Rutledge, our new Finance Manager, to his first meeting. Jim presented a comprehensive list of his progress in assuming the responsibilities of his position, and gave us every indication that we had made a wise choice. Jim presented the May financial report which showed that we were only 6% below target in contributions for the first five months, and that we were \$7,000 under budget for expenditures. In addition, Jim told us of several changes in procedures he was presently investigating. It was announced that we had received highest praise for Brian Littles' performance and that he will continue as our temporary custodian.

John Baker, secretary

AN INVITATION FROM INTERACT**SAVE THE DATE****8th ANNUAL Sharing Ramadan Iftar Dinner**

Sunday, August 7, 2011
CAIR-CLEVELAND & NORTHERN OHIO
Details Coming Soon

Location:
Islamic Center of Cleveland
Community Hall
6055 West 130th
Parma, Ohio 44130



GAY PRIDE PARADE - JUNE 25, 2011

OUR KIDS AT CAMP

Fourteen EACC kids are going to UCC camp this summer! The first wave (Jada Harrison, Keayna Thomas, Herbert Lee Anderson, Ta'Kevia McConell, Jasmine Franklin, James Franklin, Malisse Roderick and Jessica Stevenson) will be returning from their "Love the Pool" session at Temple Hills at about the time this Beacon arrives in your mailbox or on your computer screen. Jessica was attending camp for the first time!

The next group will be at "Still Loving the Pool" camp from July 24-July 30, so please write down the dates in your calendar and plan to send them a card or a note. They are Sha'Derrick Calles, Shi'Teria Anderson, Connor Bogard, Vernice Simmons, and Montana Wacasey. Their mailing address will be:

Temple Hills
5724 Dubin Rd.
P.O. Box 575
Bellville OH 44813

Yania Powell, also a first-time camper, will be at "Bright Beginnings" camp from July 20-23. She will be receiving mail at:

Pilgrim Hills
33833 Twp. Rd. 20
Brinkhaven OH 43006

Several of these children received total or partial "camperships" through the generosity of EACC members and also the Ohio Conference.

RESTORE CLEVELAND HOPE NEWS

If you haven't seen it lately, at your first opportunity, drive past the Cozad-Bates House on Mayfield Road near East 115th St. It's had a face lift, evident in its new roof and rebuilt front porch. And inside, walls have been replaced, doors and fireplaces restored, and support beams reinforced. These are only the first steps in the restoration of this pre-Civil War house; much work remains to be done. But Restore Cleveland Hope can now begin to make plans for moving into the house that came very close to being replaced by a parking garage.

Meanwhile, Restore Cleveland Hope continues to offer programs that help teach and inspire with stories of the Underground Railroad. EACC members aged 7th grade-adult are encouraged to attend the following in July:

Beloved Community Dialogues: Conversations About Race Based on true stories from the Underground Railroad

Saturdays, 4-6PM

July 16, 23 and 30

Deuteronomy 8:3, 1464 East 105th St.

Co-sponsored by:

National Institute of Restorative Justice;
Mittie Jordan, founder and Restore Cleveland Hope;
Joan Southgate, founder

July 16 - "Who is John Malvin?"

Storyteller and Discussion Leader - Karen Gilliam

July 23 - "The Barber's Betrayal"

Storyteller- Fran Stewart

Discussion Leader - Karen Gilliam

July 30 - "The Sacrifice of Lucy Bagby"

Storyteller and Discussion Leader - Fran Stewart

To register, contact Joan Southgate, Kathy Baker, or Mittie Jordan at 216-376-9792.

CHURCH IN THE WORLD

It's summer, some church members are away enjoying the summer or taking care of family matters, but the work and care of church goes on. We will serve a Fifth Monday Meal on August 29th at Calvary Presbyterian Church at 2020 East 79th at Euclid Avenue. This evening meal is a good opportunity fellowship with area residents.

Throughout the summer, the New Beginning sub-committee will be researching the availability of suitable vacant land as well as existing buildings where we might locate our church. The committee hopes to provide the congregation with good possibilities for the next phase on our growth this fall.

Eleanore Dees and Judy Sieck, Co-Chairs

INTRODUCING JIM RUTLEDGE

Jim Rutledge took over the financial manager's desk in the EACC office on June 1, and he's been hard at work at it ever since. He's finding the work challenging, as all new jobs tend to be, but he enjoys the challenge and finds that the days go fast. Most of all he is gratified to have found a position that is a job but at the same time a ministry.



Jim is a devoted member and Deacon of Bethany Baptist Church, where he and his wife Deborah, who is the minister's assistant there, have been attending for 33 years. Their two children, the two nephews they have been caring for ever since Deborah's sister died at age 35, and their three grandchildren have all attended Bethany Baptist Church as well. By now one son and one nephew have grown up and moved on, but their 17 year old son, their daughter and their 3 grandchildren, ages 6, 2 and 11 months, live with them. Jim is delighted to have his grandchildren in his home where so he can regularly play with them, take them on excursions, and enjoy their company.

Jim considers the care and nurture of children his special mission and is concerned that 40% of children who are raised in the church leave it when they reach adulthood, never to return. "We do OK with them when they're little," he says, "but we start losing them when they're in their early teens." He sees this as a motivating factor in getting more programs for youth started in our churches.

It was through his church that he found ours. After the business that he managed, Merit Painting Services, a construction company, folded, he had difficulty finding employment. Jobs were hard to come by and he, a grandfather, was competing against 30-year-olds. The pastor of Bethany, Rev. Stephen Rowan, urged him to "get out of God's way" and go where God led him. Jim had never thought of working for a church before, but he felt that the EACC Financial Manager's position was a good fit, and so did the committee that interviewed him.

Jim stays busy with his work, his church, and his family, but when he does have a little free time he does genealogy research. He was delighted to discover recently that his father received a bronze medal during World War II for serving as a body guard for Gen. Douglas MacArthur, and also that his dad once played minor league baseball, both facts his father had never told him. In addition he has discovered relatives he never knew he had, most of them still living in Maple Heights, where he was born, raised, and still lives.

Jim is full of ideas for improving our financial management and record keeping procedures. At the top of his list is a "fire safe" for all our records in case lightning strikes again.

YOUTH 360 PROGRAM

The Cleveland Rape Crisis Center is currently accepting applications for the 2011-12 Youth 360 program. Youth 360 is a leadership and activist development program where young people, ages 14-16, are paid a monthly stipend to participate. (Yes, they get PAID to LEARN and BUILD SKILLS!) Selected participants will learn about sexual violence, healthy relationships, oppression, media literacy and more... then create projects to educate their peers about these topics.

To learn more about the program and download an application, visit <http://www.clevelandrapecrisis.org/news/announcements/now-accepting-applications-youth-360>

or contact Alex Leslie at alexl@clevelandrcc.org or 216-619-6194, x121.

The deadline to apply is July 15. Only 15 youth will be selected to participate.

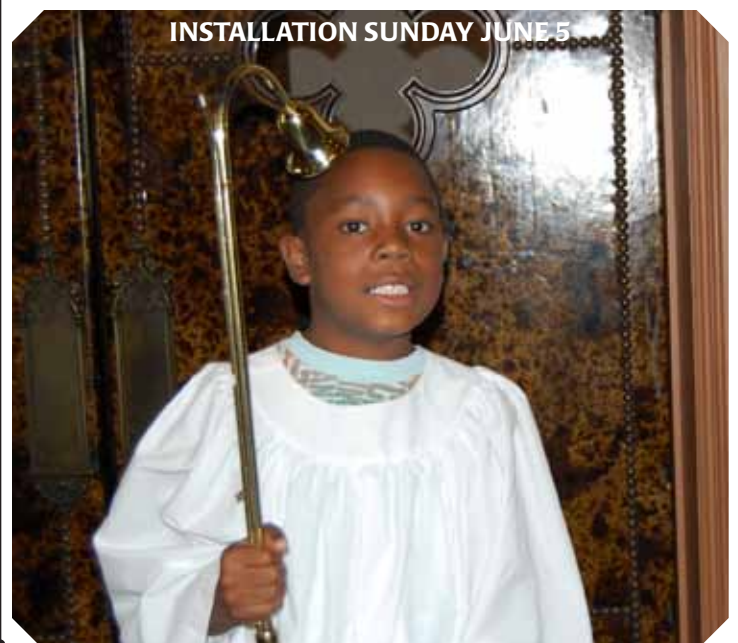
MAKE-A-WISH WALK

Teresae Tiller encourages us to participate in the following on Saturday, July 23 starting at 8:30AM:

"Come walk on the wild side at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo for the 19th Annual Medical Mutual of Ohio® Walk for Wishes®. Participants will enjoy a magnificent view of a variety of zoo animals while gathering with family and friends to help raise funds to grant the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions. This wonderful day will be filled with refreshments, prizes, games and FUN for all ages!


Every registrant will receive a ticket to the zoo and rainforest for the day." (from the Make-A-Wish website, www.wishwalkers.org)

Please contact Teresae at 216-551-7200 if you are interested in participating.



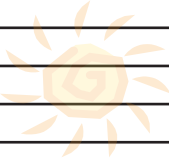



JULY 2011

(birthdays/wedding anniversaries noted herein)

		Event	Special Day
3	Sun.	8:45 AM - Adult Study 10:00 AM - Worship 11:30 AM - Fellowship	Robin Crowder Eleanor Dees
4	Mon.		Robert Henderson
5	Tues.		
6	Wed.		
7	Thur.		
8	Fri.		Nathaniel Martin
9	Sat.	9:00am New Member's Orientation 12-5 PM - Greater Cleveland Congregations training 7 PM - Fellowship Friday on a Saturday, Cleveland Indians game	Amber Green Amanda Bogard Albert Hanes Chris Henderson
10	Sun.	8:45 - Adult Study 10:00 - Worship 11:30 - Fellowship Asian-American Recognition Sunday 2-7 PM - Greater Cleveland Congregations training	
11	Mon.		
12	Tues.	5:00pm -Pastoral Support Team mtg.	Carolyn Smith Kendall Roderick
13	Wed.	5:30 - Women's Bible Study and Pot Luck	Brian Buckner
14	Thur.		
15	Fri.		
16	Sat.	Leadership Training - 9:00 4-6 PM - Beloved Community Dialogue	
17	Sun.	8:45 - Adult Study 10:00 - Worship 11:30 - Fellowship Stewardship meeting	Catherinlu Russell
18	Mon.		
19	Tues.		
20	Wed.	Yania Powell at camp	
21	Thur.		
22	Fri.		
23	Sat.	4-6 PM - Beloved Community Dialogue	James Weems Marguerite Bibb
24	Sun.	8:45 - Adult Study 10:00 - Worship 11:30 - Fellowship EACC kids at camp	Al Parks
25	Mon.	CITW meeting RCH meeting	James & Loretta Weems
26	Tues.		Timothy Robson Gavon Johnson
27	Wed.		
28	Thur.		
29	Fri.	4-6 PM - Beloved Community Dialogue	Anna Harrell Kathleen Stoll
30	Sat.		Helen Humphrey
31	Sun.	8:45 - Adult Study 10:00 - Worship 11:30 - Fellowship	

AUGUST 2011

(birthdays/wedding anniversaries noted herein)

		Event	Special Day
1	Mon.		
2	Tues.		Eleanor Lemons
3	Wed.		Ruthann Hampton
4	Thur.		
5	Fri.		Montana Wacasey
6	Sat.		
7	Sun.		8:45 - Adult Study 10:00 - Worship 11:30 - Fellowship Ramadan Iftar Dinner
8	Mon.		
9	Tues.		5:00pm -Pastoral Support Team mtg
10	Wed.		Michael Sanders
11	Thur.		Cloggie Crowder
12	Fri.		
13	Sat.		
14	Sun.	8:45 - Adult Study 10:00 - Worship 11:30 - Fellowship	
15	Mon.		
16	Tues.		Maria Kaiser Sandra Thomas
17	Wed.		
18	Thur.		
19	Fri.		
20	Sat.		9:00-Leadership Training SEPT. BEACON DEADLINE 4-7P M Sacred Jazz Benefit Concert
21	Sun.	8:45 - Adult Study 10:00 - Worship 11:30 - Fellowship Stewardship meeting	Peter Henderson
22	Mon.	CITW meeting	
23	Tues.	8:30 AM - Make-a-Wish Walk	
24	Wed.		
25	Thur.		Flossie Whitson Art Wells
26	Fri.		
27	Sat.		
28	Sun.	8:45 - Adult Study 10:00 - Worship 11:30 - Fellowship	
29	Mon	Fifth Monday Meal	
30	Tues		
31	Wed.		Kim St. John Stevenson Dean & Judy Sieck

A full color copy of the Beacon is available online at the Church website: www.eacc-ucc.org.

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

- ◆ Rev. Charles Ackerson
- ◆ Leon Bibb and the Bibb Family
- ◆ LaDoris Dantzer
- ◆ Hallie K. Jones
- ◆ Reginal Pullum (*son of Val & Regina Pullum*)
- ◆ Doris Simmons
- ◆ Barbara Smith Weems
- ◆ Meredith Washburn

Please call the church office for additions and deletions

* * * **JOYS** * * *

Yulonda Powell, who had never directed a group of praise dancers before, recruited 5 EACC girls who also had no previous praise-dancing experience to perform at the morning worship on Installation Sunday, June 5. They danced beautifully and inspiringly to a recording of "Total Praise." They plan to resume their praise dancing in the fall and perhaps recruit a few more dancers.

Adrienne Brockway solved a problem that the First United Methodist Church members who were in the building at 3000 Euclid for many decades before we moved in could not solve: she made it possible for choir members and others sitting behind the lectern to actually hear the announcements and the sermon during worship. She installed several speakers behind the choir chairs and as soon as the switch was flipped, choir members could hear! Thank you, Adrienne!

Rhonda Crowder, a staff reporter for the Call and Post newspaper, wrote an article in the June 8 issue about Pastor Jenkins' Installation as our senior pastor that was given a full-page, full-color spread. Rhonda not only described the Installation itself, but she gave background material on both our church and its new Pastor, and included this personal note: "Having attended the church since the early 1980s, it was truly a joyous occasion for me."

Jeanette Potts celebrated her 90th birthday on June 22. The previous weekend, daughter Madge Potts-Williams insisted on a big party that turned out to be a huge family reunion with 82 people in attendance, some of them coming from as far away as Hawaii. Jeanette considers herself to be truly blessed to have lived 90 years enjoying such good health. "The only time I've been in the hospital," she said, "was to have my 3 children!"

Leon Bibb conducted an interview with President Barack Obama on June 6, at the invitation of the White House. He was only with the President for a few minutes, but he spent the day in the President's home, preparing for the interview and then wrapping up afterward. The President wanted

to talk about economic conditions in Ohio, but he also asked about Cleveland's animosity towards LeBron James, and predicted that the Heat would win the championship. Leon was grateful that he didn't have to choose between interviewing the President and being with his seriously ill mother. He returned to Cleveland in time to be with her when she died. He was sure that she understood where he had been and was proud of her son.

Cloggie Crowder, who teaches our church school class in the summer time, made sure that all the men in the church received Father's Day cards from the children on June 19th.

Eleanore Dees was filled with joy by the worship service and church picnic at Cumberland Park in Cleveland Heights on June 12. "It was a rare and delightful event," she says. "The music provided by the Gospel Choir rang out through the woods and reminded me of a quaint church service in a country glen. The sermon was inspiring. It was so good to see our church family represented by toddlers, youth, parents, seasoned seniors and visitors. Many, many thanks to members of Fellowship and Community Life Ministry, and to members who blessed us with wonderful food and fellowship. While the weather was chilly, the food and fellowship more than made up for it. What a joy-filled occasion!"

Herbert Anderson, Amber Bogard, Ty'Juan Mauldin, Jeremy Southgate and Amber Green were recognized at our June 26 worship service for having received all A's and B's for all three grading periods of this school year. **Ta'Kevia McConell, Willie McConell, Keayna Thomas and Montana Wacasey** were recognized for receiving all A's and B's for the final grading period. Honorable Mention for their scholarship was awarded **Shi 'teria Anderson and Jessica Stevenson**. **Melissa Bagby Logan and Jessica Martin** were congratulated for having received college diplomas; **Amber Green, Amber Bogard and Jeremy Southgate** were recognized for their recent high school graduations.



INSTALLATION MORNING SERVICE JUNE 5



TIME FOR CELEBRATION JUNE 5

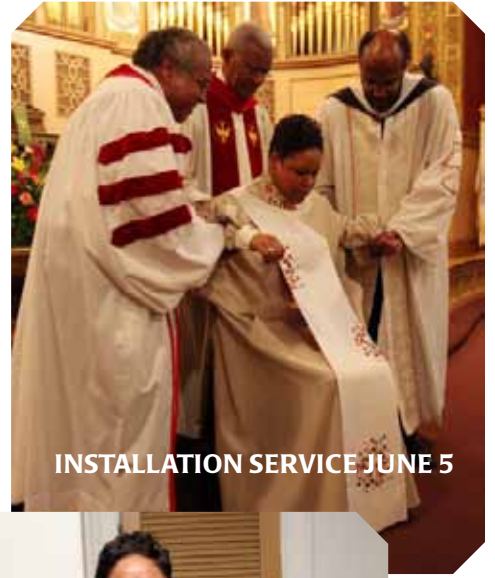
INSTALLATION SERVICE JUNE 5



INSTALLATION SERVICE JUNE 5



INSTALLATION SERVICE JUNE 5



INSTALLATION SERVICE JUNE 5

ALL CHURCH PICNIC - JUNE 12



TIME FOR CELEBRATION JUNE 5



ALL CHURCH PICNIC - JUNE 12



FATHERS DAY - JUNE 19



❖ *The Rev. Carol E. Lytch, a nationally recognized leader in theological education, was selected June 15 unanimously by the Board of Trustees to become the next president of UCC-related Lancaster Theological Seminary. She will assume her role as Lancaster's 11th president in mid-August.*

"I feel tremendously blessed to be given the opportunity to serve the Lancaster Seminary community as president," said Lytch. "I have been aware of the seminary's good work for over 10 years, since the school received grants from Lilly Endowment for innovative programs for pastoral renewal and for youth vocational exploration. I look forward to engaging the United Church of Christ and other churches and the wider public to the aspirations of seminary so that dreams are fulfilled beyond all that we ask or imagine."

Lytch is currently the assistant executive director of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS), where she oversees professional leadership initiatives for seminary presidents, deans, development officers, chief financial officers and student personnel administrators.

A cum laude graduate of Mount Holyoke College, Lytch earned her M. Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary and Ph.D. from Emory University within the department of ethics and society. Her dissertation focused on the faith development of church-affiliated high school youth.

Lytch has also served as coordinator of the Lilly Endowment's Program for Strengthening Congregational Leadership. She was also visiting scholar and researcher-in-residence at Louisville (Ky.) Presbyterian Theological Seminary. A minister in the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., she served early in her career as co-pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Cranberry, N.J., with her husband Steven.

❖ *The Board of Trustees of UCC-related Bangor Theological Seminary announced on June 20 the appointment of the Rev. Robert Grove-Markwood as interim president pending the appointment of a permanent successor to the Rev. Kent J. Ulery, who resigned effective June 30. Grove-Markwood's appointment is effective July 1.*

Grove-Markwood, 63, senior pastor at Presque Isle (Maine) Congregational Church since 1987, will continue to serve the church in a reduced role. "The Presque Isle church is supportive of me as I take on this new challenge," he said. "It is a unique way for them to participate in the church's wider mission."

The Rev. Tim Stohlberg, ordained in the Evangelical Covenant Church, will help lead the Presque Isle congregation throughout the coming year, said Grove-Markwood.

Receiving both his M. Div. and D. Min. degrees from Bangor, Grove-Markwood also served as BTS' director of admissions from January 1985 to June 1987. For the past five years, he has been a member of its Board of Trustees.

Grove-Markwood is a graduate of Oberlin (Ohio) College and received his master's from Bowling Green (Ohio) State University. In addition to involvement with the UCC's Maine Conference and the Aroostook Association UCC, he has been active in several community organizations. He is a past president of the Presque Isle Rotary Club, a Paul Harris fellow, and has chaired the Rotary District 7810 World Community Service committee.

Founded in 1814, BTS is a non-denominational school in the Congregational tradition. It is the only accredited graduate school of religion in northern New England. The seminary has campuses in Bangor and Portland and offers Master of Divinity, Master of Arts and Doctor of Ministry degree programs.

The seminary will celebrate its 200th anniversary in 2014.

❖ *Culminating seven years of ecumenical dialog, delegates to the UCC's 28th General Synod in Tampa, Fla., will deliberate and potentially vote on a proposal recommending the "Common Agreement on Mutual Recognition of Baptism."*

Forged between the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), the United Church of Christ, Presbyterian Church-USA, Reformed Church in America and Christian Reformed Church – the agreement is being hailed as a milestone on the ecumenical journey.

The USCCB voted 204-11 last fall to approve the agreement. The Presbyterian Church-USA has also ratified the agreement. The Reformed Church in America and the Christian Reformed Church are scheduled to consider the agreement at their respective national gatherings this summer. UCC ecumenical partner, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, has a long-standing common baptism agreement with the USCCB.

"Together with our Reformed brothers and sisters, we Catholic bishops can affirm baptism as the basis of the real, even if incomplete, unity we share in Christ," says Archbishop Wilton Gregory of Atlanta. "Our conference looks forward to seeing all four of the authoritative bodies of the Reformed communities approve the common agreement as we have today."

During the seven years of negotiations there were some rather tough moments. The two primary roadblocks to the agreement centered on language used during the baptismal rite and the manner in which water is used.

Research found that nearly 20 percent of UCC churches were using alternative language for "the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit" for baptismal formula. Catholics don't recognize baptism other than 'in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.'

Gregory says the agreement, after approval by the four Reformed denominations, will "allow Catholic ministers to presume that baptisms performed in these communities are 'true baptism' as understood in Catholic doctrine and law."

"The presentation of a baptismal certificate by Reformed Christians who wish to come into full communion with the Catholic Church, or to marry a Catholic, assures Catholic ministers that the baptism performed by a Reformed minister involved the use of flowing water and the biblical invocation of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit," says Gregory.

❖ *On each of the five days of Synod, Attendees of General Synod 28 in Tampa, Fla., a rocking chair will be in the Rotunda area of the first floor of the Tampa Convention Center. "It's a nice location, looking out over the water. People can sit in a nice chair in air-conditioned comfort," said the Rev. David Schoen, UCC minister and leader of the Congregational Vitality and Discipleship Team.*

The God Is Still Rocking Rock-a-thon for the New and Renewing Churches Endowment Fund will be held each day of Synod July 1-5. Participants will have the chance to sit in a comfortable chair and peacefully rock, donating \$1 a minute for each minute to UCC new and renewing churches.

"We've had walk-a-thons at the past couple of Synods for the New and Renewing Churches Endowment Fund," said Schoen, "But we thought a walk-a-thon in Tampa (in the summer) might not work."

Synod-goers can participate by check or cash on site. Others' donations can be made online at <ucc.chipin.com/rock-a-thon>. Checks can also be sent to: United Church of Christ, God Is Still Rocking, 700 Prospect Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44115. Donations are tax-deductible and will help Local Church Ministries continue to financially support new and renewing churches that are spreading the Stillspeaking word, extending extravagant welcome and changing lives.



JUNE & JULY ACTIVITIES

(see inside for more details)

- 7/9 - New Member Orientation
- Fellowship, Indians game
- 7/9-7/10 - Greater Cleveland Congregational training
- 7/10 - Asian American Recognition Sunday
- 7/13 - Women's Bible Study and Pot-Luck
- 7/16 - Leadership Training
- Beloved Community Dialogue
- 7/23 - Beloved Community Dialogue
- 7/29 - Beloved Community Dialogue
- 8/7 - Ramadan Iftar Dinner
- 8/20 - Leadership Training
- Sacred Jazz Benefit Concert
- 8/23 - Make-a-Wish Walk
- 8/29 - Fifth Monday Meal



**COME DOWN, O LOVE DIVINE,
SEEK OUT THIS SOUL OF MINE
AND VISIT IT WITH YOUR OWN
ARDOR GLOWING.**

**O COMFORTER, DRAW NEAR,
WITHIN MY HEART APPEAR,
AND KINDLE IT, YOUR HOLY
FLAME BESTOWING.**

BIANCO DA SIENA

Translated by Richard Frederick Littledale

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