



BEACON NEWSLETTER

Worship
E.30th and Euclid Ave.
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A Multi-racial, Multi-cultural, Open and Affirming Congregation

October 2011

Vision Conference - September 13, 2011



Homecoming - September 18, 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

**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 SCHEDULE

October 2 – Neighbors in Need donations received

Traditional Communion served
Congregational Meeting

October 9 – Gospel Choir sings

October 16 – Youth Sunday – worship led by our youth

Youth Praise Dancers
Introducing Alcee Chriss, our new Minister of Music

October 23 – Pastor Jenkins’ 1-year anniversary

Music by the Oikos Ensemble

October 30 – Visiting preacher TBA

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

In October, under the leadership of Al Parks, the Adult Bible Study Group who meet in the fellowship room every Sunday before worship will be reading and discussing the following Scripture readings and topics:



October 2 An Ordered Life

Proverbs 29:16-27 Deuteronomy 1:9-17

October 9 The Superiority of Wisdom

Ecclesiastes 9:13-18 Psalm 33:13-22

October 16 . . . Wisdom for Aging

Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:1-7 12:13 . Psalm 71:1-12

October 23 . . . Tradition and Love

Song of Solomon 4:8-16 5:1 . . . Genesis 2:18-24

October 30 . . . Living as God’s People

Matthew 5:1-12 James 5:7-11

**CHILDREN AND YOUTH
PIZZA PARTY**



Attention all children and youth. Pastor Jenkins would like to “hang out” with you and have pizza on Saturday, October 15 at 12 noon at 3000 Euclid. We will spend this time preparing for our Youth Day on Sunday, October 16. The theme for Youth Day is “Rise and Shine,” Matthew 5:16.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OCTOBER 2

The congregational meeting originally scheduled for September 25 will be held instead on Sunday, October 2, immediately following worship. The purpose of the meeting is to elect a committee responsible for nominating church officers for 2012, to hear a report from the New Beginning Committee on the work they’ve done over the summer in their search for a new home for our church family, and to learn from the 9606 Negotiation Team about the progress made in negotiating the sale of our former church property.

MEN’S COUNCIL

In honor of Pastor Jenkins one-year anniversary as the pastor of Euclid Avenue Congregational Church, Men's Council will be sponsoring the Oikos Ensemble on Sunday, October 23rd, to provide music for the service.

We will be electing new officers at our November meeting.



WOMEN’S ASSOCIATION RESUMES

The Women's Association has resumed its weekly meetings at the Church office space, 9411 Euclid Ave. The group meets at 10:00 AM on Tuesdays and works on various service projects. About 12:30 they stop for lunch—brown bag or take-out. Current projects include creating lap quilts, wheelchair tote bags and making a memory quilt. They are also exploring the possibility of making small dresses from decorative pillow cases for children in Haiti or Africa. All women of the church are invited and encouraged to join this group and enjoy some service and lively conversation.

SATURDAY FUN

Saturday Fun, an enrichment group for children of all ages, will be sharing in the following activities this month:

October 8 – pizza party

October 29 – Healthy Connectors

All Saturday Fun events begin at 3000 Euclid at 10 AM and include refreshments. Please call the church office or Cheryl Wacasey to reserve your spot.

ALCEE CHRISS, EACC MINISTER OF MUSIC

The Worship and Arts Ministry is proud to announce that Alcee Chriss, "organist/choir director and praise leader," as he describes himself, has accepted the position as our new Minister of Music. He is currently employed by another church in that capacity, but has already started rehearsing our Chancel Choir and will be serving as our organist, pianist and choir director for the first time on Sunday, October 16. Alcee is a student at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music with many years of organ and piano study to his credit, as well as music director and assistant music director positions in numerous churches. Please welcome him to EACC, and read more about him in next month's Beacon.

FIFTH MONDAY MEAL

Every time there is a month with a fifth Monday in it, volunteers from EACC go to Calvary Presbyterian Church at East 79th and Euclid to feed as many hungry people as show up. On August 29th there were 110 of them, and the 21 EACC folks who set the tables, cooked, served, and cleaned up afterward were none too many! Our last Fifth Monday Meal of the year will be on Monday, October 31, Halloween. We're planning something especially Halloweeny for that meal, and we expect another big crowd and will need many volunteers. So please let Cloggie Crowder know if you're available to help.



MINISTER'S BENEVOLENCE FUND

If you are in need of financial assistance, please speak with the pastor privately. The Minister's Benevolence Fund is available to assist those members who may be in need. Members of the congregation may also make donations to the Minister's Benevolence Fund if they would like to ensure that the church is adequately equipped to handle the needs of members of our congregation. Please be certain to mark your giving envelope or check with "Minister's Benevolence." Thank you!

USHERS MINISTRY

The 5th Sunday meeting will be held on Oct. 30 in the sanctuary from 11:45-12:30pm. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. If you are unable to attend, please let your Team Leader know on or before Sunday Oct. 23 to avoid printing more resources than needed.

All members are welcome and encouraged to consider the ministry of ushering. Speak to a Team Leader (Alma Mozley, Mary Guen, Charles Williams, Dean Sieck or Shkenya James who recruits youth ushers).



D.I.V.E. SESSIONS

Our Devotion, Imagination, Vision and Expectation Sessions resumed on September 28th and will continue on all the Wednesdays of October except for October 26th. They will be held at 9411 Euclid at noon and repeated at 7PM at 3000 Euclid. We will be continuing our discussions and discernment of what God is calling our congregation to be and do. The topics:

October 5 – a second worship service at EACC

October 12 – mission and vision

October 19 – core beliefs

October 26 – no D.I.V.E. session

WORSHIP AND ARTS MINISTRY

This Ministry has been very busy interviewing and auditioning candidates for the Minister of Music position, meanwhile finding substitute organists and soloists for each Sunday until the position could be filled. So it is with relief as well as pride that they announce that October 16 will be Alcee Chriss's first Sunday as our Minister of Music. Until then, Carmen Massaro will substitute as organist on one Sunday, Joan Bacon and her Gospel Choir will conduct the service music on another, and Carolyn Smith will fill in as pianist, choir director, and accompanist as needed. A special thanks goes to Carolyn for her talent and versatility during this interim period.

The Worship and Arts Ministry would like to thank the members of the Whosoever Will Choir who sang on Homecoming Sunday, and also Lavert Stuart for his leadership that day.

CHURCH IN THE WORLD MINISTRY

At a recent meeting of this Ministry, the 2012 budget was discussed. We reviewed current line items and agreed that we want to continue our support of OCWM, InterAct, UpCam, Citizen Circle, and other community and UCC ministries at their current levels. In addition we would like our congregation to start supporting the initiatives of Greater Cleveland Congregations.



FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

The Fellowship Ministry is proposing a new approach to our coffee hour that takes place every Sunday morning after worship. Instead of the Fellowship Ministry members being responsible for coffee hour every Sunday, they are asking that other ministries, groups, families, or individuals volunteer to host coffee hour. Host on your birthday, host on your anniversary, host just because of your generosity and hospitality! Please see Ann Drysdale or John Merritt to sign up for a Sunday of your choice, or look for the sign-up sheet outside the sanctuary.



Did you know Healthy Connectors had a table at Homecoming? We were checking blood pressures and Dr. Madge Potts-Williams was also checking teeth, answering questions and there were "free" resources available. Children participating in exercises (hula-hoop & jump rope) were treated to free prizes. If you missed us this time, you can still check out the resources on the table outside the parlor including a discount card for prescriptions.

The Annual Saturday Fun Healthy Connectors Program will be held on Saturday, October 29. The focus will be on "Healthy Food Choices". A nutritionist or dietitian is being sought to demonstrate how to read food labels, count calories, and create healthy school lunch menus. Of course, Healthy Connectors will be serving up a healthy lunch. All children & teens are welcome. Please contact Cheryl Wacasey by Oct. 23rd to register.

GREATER CLEVELAND CONNECTIONS

Greater Cleveland Connections, an organization that brings members of many churches, temples, mosques and other places of worship together is beginning to discuss ways that we might join forces to solve some of Cleveland's most pressing social and economic problems. Several members of EACC are on the various "teams" that have come up with the following vision statements:

Education: GCC imagines a community that works together to provide quality educational opportunities for all children in Greater Cleveland so that each child may develop his/her innate abilities for the common good.

Jobs: GCC imagines a Greater Cleveland with a thriving economy that provides meaningful job opportunities for all.

Health Care: GCC imagines a healthy Greater Cleveland where everyone gets the health care they need.

Criminal Justice: GCC imagines a Greater Cleveland where every citizen experiences restorative justice, is equally protected, and receives fair and just treatment before the law.

Food Accessibility (formerly Sustainable Foods): GCC imagines a Greater Cleveland where everyone has access to healthy, affordable, environmentally friendly food.

UNITED BLACK CHRISTIANS – GREATER CLEVELAND CHAPTER

A fall mailing to members and friends is being prepared. Membership drive information, priorities adopted by the UBC National, a clergy brunch/lunch invitation and suggestions for observing UBC Sunday in November will be included in the mailing. If you would like your name added to the mailing list, please speak to Cloggie or Charlene.



THANKS FROM NEIGHBOURS IN NEED

Dear Friends at Euclid Avenue Congregational UCC,

Thank you so much for your generous gift of \$330.00 to NIEGHBOURS INNEED in 2010! Two-thirds of your NIN offering goes to support Justice and Witness Ministries and one-third to support the council of American Indian Ministry...

Remember – October 2, 2011 is Neighbors in Need Sunday.

This year we are engaged in an exciting new campaign that honors our commitment to be ONE CHURCH – MISSION 1! Between November 1st and 11th we encourage our churches to go an extra mile and collect an extra 1 million healthy food items, an additional \$111,111 for Neighbors in Need designated for hunger action, and 11,111 letters to Congress to support just food policies all over the world...

In Christ's Service,

Paul Osgood, Chairperson

M. Linda Jaramillo, JWM Development Committee
Executive Minister

INTERRELIGIOUS FAIR OCTOBER 23

Go to the Church of the Covenant at 11205 Euclid Avenue on Sunday afternoon, October 23rd from 3-5PM for an Interreligious Fair sponsored by InterAct. Representatives from many temples, churches, mosques and other houses of worship will have set up tables there where they will be handing out literature, food samples, and displaying artifacts particular to their faith community. They will all of course be ready to answer questions. The goal: interreligious understanding and community-building.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY

Church school officially begins on October 2nd. Although we have a small core of dedicated teachers, there is still a need for volunteers to help teach or to be substitute teachers.



AA AND EACC

AA, as well as CA and NA, lost a home when our 9606 Euclid church burned down. But starting in October we will be renewing our relationship with at least one of those organizations. On October 1 from 12 noon to 2, AA will be meeting in our fellowship room at 3000 Euclid, and on October 16 they will be holding a workshop there from 11AM-2PM. Welcome back, Alcoholics Anonymous!

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

The August financial report showed that our members' giving is now at 99% of target -- hooray! The Ministry also put the wheels in motion for preparation of the 2012 budget.

John Baker
Secretary.

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

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| ◆ Rev. Charles Ackerson | ◆ The Knorr Family |
| ◆ Laden Brooks | ◆ Debra Long |
| ◆ LaDoris Dantzler | ◆ Alma Mozley & family |
| ◆ Christine Fant | ◆ Rose Nardi |
| ◆ Jewell Green and family | ◆ Reginald Pullum |
| ◆ Ruthann Hampton and family | ◆ Doris Simmons |
| ◆ Hallie K. Jones | ◆ Barbara Smith Weems |

Please call the church office for additions and deletions

INTRODUCING TAMMY, JAMES AND JASMINE



Actually, these three need no introduction. Theirs have been familiar faces at EACC for 6 years, ever since they were first invited to attend by Sandra Thomas.

Tammy Cunningham, James and Jasmine's mother, is a nurse assistant at Vantage Place, a residential treatment center for the mentally ill. She works the night shift, but often makes it to church even when she's been up all night. James (13) and Jasmine (11) Franklin are both students at Garfield Heights Middle School. James loves sports and dancing; all three enjoy reading, listening to music, puzzles, and movies. Tammy, a graduate of James Rhodes High School, collects ceramic bears and has a collection of 200-300 of them, depending on whom you ask.

All three are native Clevelanders. James and Jasmine have been attending Sunday School and Saturday Fun for as long as they can remember, and Tammy has volunteered both at Saturday Fun and the Fifth Monday Meal. If you ask Tammy why she decided to become a member at last, she says it's because Sandra, James, and Jasmine kept asking her. We're glad they did!

GETTING OUT OF THE PEWS

If you are interested in becoming more active at EACC beyond Sunday worship services, you might want to consider joining the Nominating Committee, Enlistment Committee, or Budget Committee. See Pastor Jenkins if you are looking for a way to "test the waters" and be of service.

*** **JOYS** ***

Kenny Crawford is back! He has returned to Cleveland from San Diego, in order to be closer to his grandchildren, friends, and church family. "San Diego has good weather, but that's all it's got," Kenny says. "They're a little crazy out there – they want to party 24/7. Cleveland is truly 'the best location in the nation.'" Kenny really missed us, and hated being so far away at the time of the church fire. He has rededicated himself to EACC. "I grew up in this church," he says. "I owe it a lot for my upbringing."

Stephanie Tester and Jesse Paulson are expecting a baby in April. She/he will be their first child and the first grandchild on both sides of the family. A wedding is planned for October or November. So far Stephanie is doing well but she asks us to keep her and their baby in our prayers.

Kathy and John Baker went to Washington, DC to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Peace Corps the weekend of September 23-25. One of the events they attended involved a parade of the flags of all the countries where the Peace Corps has sent volunteers through the 50 years. John carried the flag of Romania, where he and Kathy served from 2001-2003.

Joan Southgate's daughter Martha Southgate will be in Cleveland on October 20th for a book signing at the Visible Voice in Tremont at 6PM. "A Taste of Salt," her latest novel, has been well reviewed and Joan tells us we should all go out and buy it. It's about a young black woman who is an oceanographer, set apart because of her race and gender. She is from Cleveland, so the book contains many Cleveland references.

Ruth Garwood won't be attending worship at EACC for a while because she'll be working part-time at Federated Church in Chagrin Falls, coordinating their globally-oriented worship service, Alive360, an alternative worship service with global music and a variety of liturgical styles. She began working there in mid-September.

Rhonda Crowder will be a panelist for "Pathways for Aspiring Urban Authors" on Saturday, Oct. 1st, from 1-3PM at the Shaker Heights Library at Lee and Chagrin. Rhonda still works part time as a journalist at the Call and Post, but recently she has also been doing a lot of editing for up-and-coming writers. So far she has edited 12 books by authors from all over the country, and each of these books has been published, no small achievement. Rhonda has a novel of her own, a mystery story in the urban fiction genre titled "Riddles." She is looking for a publisher but she just may self-publish or go the e-books route and see what kind of response she gets. Look for it!

Bob and Cyndi Henderson will be celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary with a two-week trip to Colonial Williamsburg, in Virginia. They have been looking forward to this trip since the last one about 5 years ago.

Bural and Kathie Buckner are proud grandparents. Franklin Garfield Buckner was born on September 26TH in Japan, 6lbs-7oz. The proud parents are Chief Warrent Offer III Craig G. Buckner and his wife Sarah.



Homecoming 2011



OCTOBER 2011

(birthdays/wedding anniversaries noted herein)

		Event	Special Day
1	Sat.	12noon – AA	
2	Sun.	8:45 AM - Adult Study 10:00 AM - Worship Congregational Meeting	
3	Mon.		
4	Tues.	10:00 AM - Women's Association	Millie Copez
5	Wed.	Noon and 7 PM - D.I.V.E. session 6:00 PM Gospel Choir 8:00 PM Chancel Choir	Leon Bibb
6	Thur.		
7	Fri.		
8	Sat.	10 AM - Saturday Fun	Mark Stewart John Baker
9	Sun.	8:45 - Adult Study 10:00 - Worship 11:30 - Fellowship	Bob & Cyndi Henderson
10	Mon.	Indigenous People's Day	
11	Tues.	10:00 - Women's Association	Charles & Madge Potts Williams
12	Wed.	Noon and 7 PM - D.I.V.E. session 8:00 PM Chancel Choir	Hallie Jones
13	Thur.		
14	Fri.		Sidney Stevenson
15	Sat.	12noon - Youth Pizza Party	
16	Sun.	8:45 - Adult Study 10:00 - Worship Youth Day 11:30 - Fellowship	Myron Stoll
17	Mon.		
18	Tues.	10:00 - Women's Association	
19	Wed.	Noon and 7 PM - D.I.V.E. session 6:00 PM Gospel Choir 8:00 PM Chancel Choir	
20	Thur.		
21	Fri.		
22	Sat.	11 AM – AA	
23	Sun.	8:45 - Adult Study 10:00 - Worship 11:30 - Fellowship Pastor Jenkins' 1-year anniversary 3PM - Interreligious Fair	
24	Mon.	-	Kierra Weems
25	Tues.	10:00 - Women's Association	
26	Wed.	6:00 PM Gospel Choir 8:00 PM Chancel Choir	Vincent Weems
27	Thur.		
28	Fri.		Jeremy Murray
29	Sat.	10 AM - Saturday Fun	
30	Sun.	8:45 - Adult Study 10:00 - Worship 11:30 - Fellowship	Susan Weems
31	Mon	4 PM - Fifth Monday Meal	

❖ From Nov. 1-11, 2011 (11-1-11–11-11-11), the UCC goal will be to collect more than 1 million food and household items for local food banks, as well as \$111,111 in online donations for hunger-related ministries and \$111,111 in online donations for East Africa famine relief. The UCC will also ask its 5,300 congregations to advocate for hunger-related causes worldwide via 11,111 letters to Congress. Among the many churches which will participate the following two have set imaginative examples:

1) One day Pastor Dave Jones of Trinity UCC in McCutchenville, Ohio bragged that he could rival the culinary skills of Bobby Flay, the popular Food Network television host by making Bobby Flay meatballs.

The Rev. Robin LaBolt, pastor of the nearby Sycamore United Church of Christ, responded that he couldn't beat her grandma's meatballs, and they began to plan a Throwdown for their congregations.

On Nov. 5. members of the two churches will gather in the fellowship hall of Trinity UCC to raise money and food for the UCC "Mission:1" campaign.

"It will be fun for our churches, our members can have a good meal, and we can benefit a great cause," said Jones. Hopeful of filling the 400-seat Trinity fellowship hall, LaBolt and Jones are publicizing the event in their church newsletters and are seeking local newspaper coverage.

Cost of the meal will be a canned good and a free will donation, said LaBolt. "Our goal is to collect at least 1,111 items of food and raise \$1,111."

2) On September 11, the first of eleven Sundays, the members of Trinitarian Congregational UCC in Concord, Massachusetts kicked off its version of Mission 1 by collecting cans of tuna for hunger programs. This program will culminate on Thanksgiving Sunday.

"We have contacted the local funding program to ask them what they need most," said the Rev. John Lombard, pastor of the church. "We're challenging congregations to one item per week. We asked them to bring tuna fish the first week, macaroni and cheese the second week, and so on."

Lombard noted that learning more about Mission:1 at General Synod in Tampa, Fla., in July is what "catalyzed" his interest in it. "Hunger has an educational component, an advocacy component, a social-justice component and a worship component," he said. "It has an enriched meaning because it's bathed in our faith. That's why I like all these things being drawn together in one place at one time.

Each month the church newsletter will feature hunger information, including a two-sided page with a mix of hunger information, quotations and statistics.

The congregation will participate in the CROP Walk, which should raise over \$40,000, and possibly have 111 walkers, sponsors and volunteers.

In addition, Trinitarian plans to feature a guest speaker from Bread for the World at one of its Sunday services. On another Sunday, Lombard says computer banks will be set up in the parish hall. "We think this will connect our young

people with other young people who want to help us fight hunger via computer."

Hunger will be addressed in worship services, a Bible study and 111 letters to Congress.

"We are excited to work with the UCC with this all-church effort," he said. "It's a wonderful way for the United Church of Christ – too often in the background of religious life – to be in the forefront of making a very positive difference on a variety of levels."

❖ Building on the success of last year's Friend-Raising Weekend, the UCC will hold "Each One Bring One Sunday", Nov. 6, 2011, where UCC members are asked to invite friends and family to join them for worship.

"Once again, we are asking our congregations to get excited to reach out and invite others to worship with them at church," says the Rev. Felix Carrión, coordinator of the UCC's Stillspeaking Ministry. "By celebrating this Sunday together, the hope is that this special effort will become a practice throughout the year. We hope churches will recognize that welcome and hospitality is a ministry in itself."

"Each One Bring One Sunday" falls during "Mission: 1, and offers a great opportunity for our churches to show their involvement in local, national and global ministry to visitors they've invited to worship," says Carrión.

Research suggests that three out of four people attend a church for the first time because they were invited. However, less than two percent of church members will ever invite someone to church. If only 10 percent of the more than 1.1 million UCC members bring a friend to church Nov. 6, some 110,000 additional visitors will be welcomed in church that day.

"This is an occasion to join together in a purposeful effort to share the gift of extravagant welcome," Carrión says. "We need to be intentional, consistent and excited about invitation."

❖ As floodwaters gradually recede in New England, the level of Emergency Clean-up Bucket distribution by UCC ministry partner Church World Service (CWS) continues to rise.

CWS – the primary agency through which the UCC gives support for relief and recovery efforts – has made appeals to congregations to donate 10,000 buckets.

In addition to the buckets, Shenk said CWS has sent 4,050 hygiene kits, 925 school kits, 700 baby kits and 700 blankets to the Vermont Food Bank Distribution Center in Brattleboro, Vt.; Thatcher Brook School in Waterbury, Vt.; the New Hampshire Food Bank in Manchester, N.H.; First Presbyterian of Owego, N.Y.; the Salvation Army of Greenville, N.C.; the Community Food Bank of Hillside, N.J.; and the Chesapeake Region American Red Cross in Baltimore. Information on various CWS kit collection programs is available at <churchworldservice.org/kits>. Information about donating clean-up buckets may be found at <churchworldservice.org/buckets>.

OCTOBER ACTIVITIES

(see inside for more details)

- 10/1 – 12noon – AA
- 10/2 – Congregational meeting
- 10/5 – 12noon and 7PM – D.I.V.E . session
- 10/8 – 10AM – Saturday Fun
- 10/10 – Indigenous People’s Day
- 10/12 – 12noon and 7PM – D.I.V.E. session
- 10/15 – 12noon - Youth Pizza Party
- 10/16 – Youth Day
- 10/19 – 12noon and 7PM – D.I.V.E. session
- 10/22 – 11AM – AA
- 10/23 – Pastor Jenkins’ 1-year anniversary
– 3PM – Interreligious Fair
- 10/29 – 10AM – Saturday Fun
- 10/31 – Fifth Monday Meal

**COME, LIGHT SERENE AND STILL!
OUR DARKENED SPIRITS FILL
WITH THY CLEAR DAY,
GUIDE OF THE FEEBLE SIGHT, STAR
OF GRIEF’S DARKEST NIGHT,
REVEAL THE PATH OF RIGHT, SHOW
US THE WAY.**

**EUCLID AVENUE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
9411 EUCLID AVENUE
CLEVELAND OH 44106 -2044**