

BEACON NEWSLETTER

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A Multi-racial, Multi-cultural, Open and Affirming Congregation December 2011

Pastor

Rev. Courtney
Clayton Jenkins

Minister of Music

Alcee Chriss III

**Director of
Gospel Choir**

Joan Bacon

Church Secretary

Diana Reid

Financial Manager

Jim Rutledge

Custodian

Brian Littles

Director, Saturday Fun

Cheryl Wacasey

Beacon Editors

Kathy Baker
Mary Sherry

Design Editor

Cyndi Henderson

Photographer

Kathie Buckner

Beloved,

The Christmas season is here! In the midst of Black Friday, Cyber Monday and every other sale that is taking place in your local store, I would like to encourage you to remember that Christmas is a holiday that celebrates the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I know that much of the world gets caught up in commercialism and focuses entirely too much on spending more money than they have at Christmas time. As a disciple of Christ, I urge you to be prayerful and exercise wisdom during this Christmas season.

Christmas is so much more than just a commercialized holiday. This is a day that we can remember and celebrate the amazing gift of Jesus Christ and the salvation that He freely gives to all that call upon Him.

John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life." God freely gave Jesus as the perfect sacrifice to remove our sins so that we can have an open relationship with God. What an amazing God we serve!

As we go about our celebrations and festivities this Christmas season, I ask that you remember those who are hurting this holiday season and be a blessing to them. There are plenty of people who are missing loved ones, have fallen into hard times, are depressed, struggling to find a job, and those who are lonely. Ask God to show you who these people are and I encourage you to love them, bless them, pick up the telephone, send them a card and let them know that you care.

Giving at Christmas time is not only rewarding, but very much needed.



God gave Jesus Christ for our benefit. We certainly can give of ourselves for another's benefit. I know there is nothing more gratifying than being a blessing unto others and to be a light of hope for those who are hopeless.

As you thumb through this December Beacon, you will find that Euclid Avenue will offer several different ways for you to be a blessing to others throughout this holiday season. It is my prayer that you will find some place to serve and make the difference in the lives of others.

I pray that you enjoy this holiday season with family, friends, and those who need a helping hand. May you represent God with a bright light here on this earth that someone else might be encouraged to let their own light shine in the midst of darkness.

God loves you so very much and so do I. There is no greater joy than being your pastor during this Advent season.

With Christmas Cheer,

Pastor Courtney Clayton Jenkins

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



DECEMBER- EARLY JANUARY



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The Advent sermon series that began November 28 and that will continue through Christmas is titled "Finding Your Way through Christmas."

Sunday, December 4, 10 AM

- "Finding Your Way through Peace"

Sunday, December 11, 10 AM

- "Finding Your Way through Joy"

Sunday, December 18, 10 AM

- "Finding Your Way through Love"

A Festival of Lessons and Carols

Wednesday, December 21, 7 PM

- A Blue Christmas Worship Service: *a unique worship experience for those who are mourning and experiencing loss at Christmas time*

Sunday, December 25, 11 AM

- Christmas Day Worship Service: "A Fulfilled Promise"

Sunday, January 1, 11 AM

- New Year's Day Worship Service: "Laying a Faithful Foundation"

Sunday, January 8, 10 AM

- A brand new sermon series: "Empowered to Pray."

Please note: The December 4, 11, 18, January 8 and all subsequent services will be at our usual worship time, 10 AM. However, on Christmas Day and New Year's Day, worship will start an hour later than usual, at 11 AM.

MORE ABOUT THE BLUE CHRISTMAS

WORSHIP SERVICE

Christmas is supposed to be a joyous time, but for those who are grieving a loss of a loved one or are depressed for a variety of other reasons, their sadness amidst everyone else's joy makes this time of year especially difficult. Whether you are feeling "blue," have suffered a loss through death, divorce, or illness, or are unable to recover your health, job or identity as you once knew it, the Blue Christmas Worship Service will provide a coming-together of people who understand that life has seasons of sadness, and that grief needs room to breathe in safe places. Music, including a special praise dance performed by all of our youth, boys as well as girls, will be part of the service.

You are invited to bring a framed picture of your lost loved one or some other sign or symbol of your grief or loss. If you know of someone, even beyond our congregation, for whom this service could be meaningful, please submit his/her name and address to the church office by December 15, and the pastor will send out personal invitations.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

The Worship and Arts Ministry is now accepting your poinsettia flower orders for Christmas. See an usher or contact the church office for an envelope. Don't forget to indicate whom the flower is in memory or in honor of. The cost of the flowers is \$5.50 each; a donation would be appreciated. The deadline for ordering poinsettias is December 11.



ADULT BIBLE STUDY

The Adult Bible Study group who meet every Sunday before worship with Al Parks as leader, will be reading and discussing the following Scripture lessons and topics in December:



December 4 . . .A Blessing for All Nations

Genesis 12; 1-9 Devotions: Hebrews 6: 13-20

December 11 . .A Promise to Abraham

Genesis 15: 1-6,12-18 . Devotions: Hebrews 13: 17-22

December 18 . .The Lord Provides

Genesis 22: 1-2, 6-14 Devotions: Philippians 4: 15-20

December 25 . .According to the Promise

Luke 1: 46-55 Devotions: 2 Corinthians 1 :18-22

**HANGING OF THE GREENS – SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 3, 12:00 NOON**



One of EACC's most beloved traditions is the Hanging of the Greens, an all-church event held the first or second weekend of the Advent season. Please join us this year on Saturday December 3rd at noon first to enjoy a potluck dinner (please bring your favorite food), then to help decorate the parlor and create holiday crafts, and finally to sing carols together. Please feel free to bring any extra Christmas decorations that

you have at home. And you also might bring along friends, relatives, and neighbors of all ages.

We would like to place a variety of nativity scenes on the small altar in the sanctuary. If you have a nativity scene, especially one from another country or culture, that you are willing to share, please bring it with you on December 3.

SATURDAY FUN

Saturday Fun, an enrichment group for kids of all ages, has the following activities planned for December:

December 10 – roller skating at USA rink - \$10 fee

December 24 – Christmas party

All Saturday Fun events begin at 3000 Euclid at 10AM.

Refreshments are always served! Call Cheryl Wacasey or the church office to reserve your spot.

THE WELL WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

At several D.I.V.E. sessions and a November workshop conversation, we have talked about the possibility of a second worship service at EACC of a more contemporary style. Whether it would be best for this service to be in addition to or to take the place of our traditional service one Sunday a month has not yet been determined.

The rationale for such a service is found in John 4. Many members feel that a service featuring diverse music and a more relaxed atmosphere would encourage increased diversity and growth in new populations: young professionals, young families, and college students. With such a service we could grow the membership of our congregation, become a more intergenerational church, and try something new. Others worry that a second service might split the congregation into "traditionalists" and "modernists."

Please attend the December Workshop Conversation on Sunday, December 4 after fellowship hour to add your voice and opinion to this discussion.

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Church Women United is having a Christmas Tea on Friday, December 9, 12 noon, at the Church of the Savior, 2537 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights. Bring tea, sandwiches or cookies by 11AM. All women are invited. Please see Jeanette Potts for more information.

MEN'S COUNCIL

At its November meeting, the Men's Council elected new officers for 2012 (Al Parks, president; Dave Buckle, vice president; Dean Sieck, secretary; Claude Brewer, treasurer), welcomed new members (Derryl Harris and Kenny Crawford), planned a Men's Breakfast meeting for Saturday, January 28 at 10:00; announced plans for the men's retreat in late April/early May, and announced that there will be coffee for sale starting on Sunday, December 4.

DECEMBER WORKSHOP CONVERSATIONS **- DECEMBER 3 AND 4**

Come to EACC on December 3 at 9 AM for a discussion led by the members of the New Beginnings Committee, who have been working on plans for building or renovating our next church home. Then on Sunday, December 4, after worship, Pastor Jenkins will lead us in a discussion of our Hopes for 2012.

LAST D.I.V.E. SESSION OF 2011

The final D.I.V.E. (Devotion, Imagination, Vision and Expectation) session of the year will be held on Wednesday, December 14 at 12 noon at 9411 Euclid and at 7 PM at 3000 Euclid. The topic: "Adults and Senior Saints Matter!" Both conversations will cover the same material although your presence at one or another will make a difference in the outcome. Please join us.

PROPOSED NEW MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES STATEMENTS

Please read over the words below and let Pastor Jenkins know if you have any questions about them or suggestions for changes. The congregation will vote on their approval at the December 11 congregational meeting.

MISSION STATEMENT (GPS)

Euclid Avenue Congregational Church exists to:

- Grow a diverse and faithful community committed to Jesus Christ;
- Pursue the joy of discipleship
- Serve humanity as we engage in ministry and mission.

VISION STATEMENT

The 5-fold Vision of Euclid Avenue Congregational Church:

- Reach Up! (to Worship)
- Reach In! (with Discipleship)
- Reach Out! (in Mission)
- Reach Across! (for Diversity)
- Reach Beyond! (with Imagination)

VALUES STATEMENT

Welcome to Euclid Avenue Congregational Church, United Church of Christ. You've come to join us at a unique time in the life of our church. We are in the process of "becoming," and we hope you might want to join us on the journey. Here is what we value in this church:

Boldness: there is authentic joy in gathering to worship the triune God and power in discovering that our lives working together can serve and change our community and this world with Christ as our example. We value God's Word and believe that its message of hope, call for justice and promise of new life is available to all.

Relevance: the message of the Bible connects to the real world and helps us live our Monday through Saturday life, where beliefs aren't rigid boxes to be checked off but springboards to imagination, meaningful action and being a disciple of Jesus Christ. We value your life experience and believe that this life of faith can intersect with your reality far beyond Sunday morning.

Inclusiveness: absolutely everyone – seeker and Bible thumper, Democrat and Republican, gay and straight, young and old, rich and poor, women and men, coffee drinker and tea sipper – has a real place at the table. When we say all, we mean all! We value grace and love over judgment and condemnation. Everyone is welcome here.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING DECEMBER 11

A meeting of the congregation will be held immediately after worship on Sunday, December 11. The purpose of this meeting will be to approve the proposed 2012 budget, to vote upon the above Mission, Vision, and Values statement, to discuss the continuation of the position of Vice-moderator, and to present to the congregation the finalized terms of the selling of the property at 9606 Euclid.

GCC ASSEMBLY TO SUPPORT CLEVELAND STUDENTS DECEMBER 8

Greater Cleveland Congregations, a coalition of 40 religious congregations and community organizations committed to working together to make Cuyahoga County a more just and prosperous place, urges us to attend an assembly of its members on Thursday, December 8, from 7-9 PM at Olivet Institutional Baptist Church, 8712 Quincy Avenue. Congregations from all over the city will be there in large numbers to protest cuts to the Cleveland schools that would eliminate bus passes for high school students, early childhood programs, summer school and sports activities. We will not be there to take sides, the school board or the teachers' union; we are on the side of the children and their families. Our goal is to demonstrate that many Clevelanders, many people of faith, care about these children. Please plan to join us; see Kathy Baker to sign up.

Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC)

(the former Charles Orr School, now located at Mary B. Martin school)



The ECDC (pre-K through 3rd grade) is alive and well! We are resuming the Dolphin Depot incentive program on a monthly basis instead of every 2 weeks. More details to follow. Let me know if you want to volunteer: only once a month, from 2:30-4:00 pm!

We will also be doing our much-needed coat drive for the students. This year the teachers have determined the coat sizes and gender of coats that are needed. They need 55 coats! If you wish to purchase a coat, the greatest need is size 6-7 and size 8-10.

If you wish to donate money that would be very helpful. We will shop for the coats sizes that we do not get through coat donations. Make out your checks to the church with "ECDC coat drive" on the memo line.

We're getting started with the coat drive a little late this year, so please get your donated coats or checks to me no later than December 11.

Ann Drysdale 216-481-4778

CHRISTIAN ENLISTMENT

"Count Yourself Blessed" as you consider your pledge to EACC for the coming year. By now you should have received your pledge card, which you are asked to fill out and return between Sunday, December 4 and Sunday, December 18. If you have not yet received a pledge card or have questions about our financial needs for 2012, please see a member of the Enlistment Committee listed below.

John Baker	Karol Harris
Leon Bibb	Julia Haynes
Mary Jane Cariens	Charlene Higginbotham
Fannie Cockfield, Chair	Rev. Courtney Clayton Jenkins

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

We learned that contributions from members in the first ten months of the year had risen to 102% of budget – hooray! We discussed a couple of housekeeping matters, including having the carpeting in the sanctuary at 3000 Euclid Avenue cleaned, and the hiring of a consultant to survey the sanctuary sound system and make recommendations to correct its deficiencies. In the future, the only person authorized to make changes in the sound system will be Adrienne Brockway, and the only person authorized to operate it will be Al Parks.

John Baker, secretary

WORSHIP AND ARTS MINISTRY

Worship and Arts ministry is focusing now on getting a handbook ready for the members of that ministry who will assume their responsibilities in 2012. In particular, those preparing and serving Communion will need to know all the procedures involved. This ministry has been in discussion with Pastor Jenkins about the possibility of a separate group of specially trained EACC members assisting not only with Communion but also with visiting the sick, shut-in, and bereaved. A second "praise" service has also been under consideration. They are delighted to have our permanent Minister of Music, Alcee Chriss, with us at last!

CHURCH IN THE WORLD MINISTRY

This Ministry recently received good news. Dolphin Depot, the retail reward service to the Early Childhood Development Center, will continue in 2012. Volunteers will tend the store on a monthly basis and assist the children as they decide how to spend their reward dollars. What a joy! More about this in another Beacon article from Ann Drysdale, who coordinates this project. Ann is also heading up our coat drive for the children of ECDC this year; information about that is in the same article.

Members of our congregation took part in a round table discussion with Khalilah Worley, Organizer for Greater Cleveland Congregations, on November 13. GCC is a coalition of some 40 Cleveland congregations who work together to build power for social justice. Many questions were answered with the result that the involvement of EACC will officially provide financial support under this ministry's "New Initiatives" outreach. Currently we have two of our members who are involved in two of the teams of GCC; Charlene Higginbotham works with the Sustainable Food action team and Kathy Baker with the Criminal Justice one.

The New Beginnings Committee will be presenting at the December 3 Workshop Discussion. It is the intent to discuss our current and future programs and how they will impact our decisions to build or renovate our next church home.

Eleanore Dees and Judy Sieck, Co-Chairs

Kathy Baker, Linda Brewer, Jewell Green, Linda Huston and Yulanda Jackson Powell, members

MINISTER'S BENEVOLENCE FUND

If you are a member 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 Fund." Thank you!

THANKSGIVING GIFT BAGS

The day before Thanksgiving, 30 EACC members gathered in the church office to stuff 41 bags with nonperishable food items. These bags were handed out at Shiloh Baptist Church at a Thanksgiving Day worship service, which 10 EACC members attended. It was a wonderful way to connect with the community; at least two people who received bags of food showed up at worship Thanksgiving Sunday!

Circlefest - Sunday, December 4

1:00-5:30 p.m. - Activities at University Circle's Institutions

1:00-7:00 p.m. - The Rink at Wade Oval

5:30 p.m. - The Cleveland Museum of Art's Winter Lights Lantern Procession

Start off the holiday season with a trip to the 18th Annual Holiday CircleFest. Many of University Circle's renowned museums, gardens, galleries, churches, and schools open their doors and offer an afternoon of activities, food, and shopping.

One of the most highly anticipated activities of Holiday CircleFest is the opening of The Rink at Wade Oval. Admission to The Rink is free, and skate rentals are only \$3. After visitors have finished skating, they can warm up with a cup of coffee or hot chocolate from the Wade Oval Information Center.

Holiday CircleFest and The Rink at Wade Oval are the perfect way to experience all that University Circle has to offer, free of charge.

ECDC Coat drive!

See Beacon article for more details!

Homeless Stand Down Needs

InterAct's Homeless Stand Down will be in January this coming year, so it isn't too soon to start saving and sending donations. Monetary donations are much appreciated; make out checks to "Homeless Stand Down" and mail them to HandsOn Northeast Ohio, P.O. Box 91183, Cleveland Oh 44101. Other items you can start collecting, buying and saving:

- Men's winter coats
 - large sizes
- Men's hooded sweatshirts
 - large sizes
- Men's winter boots
 - sizes 10-13
- Winter hats
- Men's athletic sox and boxer briefs, sizes M and L



Thanksgiving Bag Stuffers

WREN needs

WREN (Women's Re-entry Network, serving women who are currently incarcerated and those who have been recently released) would appreciate donations of women's gloves and sox, gift cards from Dave's (please include balance receipt) and/or checks made out to Women's Re-Entry Network. Kathy Baker will deliver your donations.



Brenda Patterson

You may have seen in recent news of the fire that destroyed homes on the west side of Cleveland. One of those homes was where our friend Brenda Patterson, who works at the Chicago Deli Restaurant, lived. She has lost everything. Our staff sees Brenda often because we often eat at her restaurant, and our hearts go out to her. We would like you to help in donating items to her that she desperately needs from December 4-18, so that we can present these to her for Christmas. Our church knows what it's like to lose everything to a fire. Let us stand with her now, as many have stood with us. Place your new and gently used items in the box located in the sanctuary.

• Brenda and her family need:

Sheets (full-sized), towels and household items, women's clothes size 14, and clothing for a 13-year-old boy and girl, a boy age 9, a girl age 6 and a newborn. Gift cards would also be appreciated.

LOOKING AHEAD

Homeless Stand Down 2012

InterAct is partnering with HandsOn Northeast Ohio this year in order to continue sponsoring the annual Homeless Stand Down, despite budget cuts and staff reductions. It will occur on two days in 2012, Sunday, January 22, at the Masonic Auditorium, and Saturday, January 28 through the Homeless Stand Down CareVan which will bring goods and services to those in transitional housing facilities throughout the community.

Carolyn Smith's Epiphany Party

Carolyn's annual Epiphany Party to which the entire church is always invited will be on Sunday, January 8, 2012, FROM 3-9 PM. Save the date!



*** JOYS ***

Leon Bibb was awarded a citation from the Broadcasters' Hall of Fame in early November, for his years of service as a news anchor on WEWS Channel 5. He has conducted many interviews over the years, but perhaps the most memorable one occurred this past June when he was invited to interview President Barack Obama in the White House on the state of the U.S. economy. Leon spent the day in the White House and also met with Bill Daley, President Obama's chief of staff.



Ruby Brooks' first great-grandson and second great-grandchild, **Landon Riepi**, was born on June 27 in Chicago. Landon is the son of Angelica and Eric Riepi, who are also the parents of Landon's 3-year-old sister Kayla.

Brenda Bagby, whose work has her traveling a great deal, has emailed the following news about her three children: **Heather (Lavender)** has relocated back to Baltimore and is working as a nurse in the Medical Intensive Care Unit at Johns Hopkins University.

Jared (Lavender) was traded to the Quad City Mallards in September so he is currently playing hockey out of Moline, IL and living across the Mississippi River in Bettendorf, Iowa.

Melissa (Logan) has her first post college job as a legal assistant for the Cleveland immigration law firm, Margaret Wong and associates. She's getting to use her Spanish, hopes to get to use her Portuguese and loves the job in general.

Karol and Derryl Harris, Tammy Cunningham, Patricia Steely and Natasha Fitch all officially joined EACC during our November 20 worship service. Welcome, new members!

Paul Sherry is no longer in jail. Read more details in an article by **Mary Sherry**.

Diana Reid opened the office door recently to several Cleveland Clinic nurses who brought in box after box of toiletries for us to donate to Women's Re-entry Network. This is the third time they've made such a donation. Seems they watched our church burn down, were deeply touched, and found opportunities for giving on our church website. The women of Women's Re-Entry were most appreciative.



INTRODUCING PATRICIA STEELY

New member Patricia Steely has been attending EACC off and on for 4 years, but only recently felt inspired to join. Her 4-year-old son David Johnson was baptized in the 9606 building. David is the nephew of Loretta and James Weems, who first brought Patricia to church with them.

Patricia is currently a Clevelander, but since her father was in the military she has lived "everywhere," and probably considers South Carolina, or some other warm place, home. She remembers growing up in Cuba, Florida, and Virginia, and finally settling in Lisbon, Ohio, where her father, by then retired from the military, had a farm where they raised horses, pigs, and black angus beef cattle. After graduating from high school there, Patricia went on to Kent State where she received a nursing degree. She is currently between jobs, but would like to be employed in an assisted living facility, a nursing home or a hospice.

Patricia likes bowling, roller skating, amusement parks, horseback riding and movies. David enjoys attending the preschool program at Noble Academy and also the EACC Sunday School.

Both of them feel comfortable at EACC. "That's where I belong," Patricia says. "Feels like home."

Welcome, Patricia and David!

DECEMBER 2011

(birthdays/wedding anniversaries noted herein)

		Event	Special Day
1	Thur.		
2	Fri.		
3	Sat.	9 AM - Workshop Conversation 12 noon - Hanging of the Greens	Dan Southgate
4	Sun.	8:45 AM - Adult Study 10:00 AM - Worship Workshop Conversation 1-6 - CircleFest	
5	Mon.		Bryonna Robinson
6	Tues.	10:00 AM - Women's Association	Cheryl Wacasey Bural Buckner
7	Wed.	6:00 PM Gospel Choir 8:00 PM Chancel Choir	
8	Thur.	7 PM - GCC Assembly	Jayne Ryan Kuroiwa
9	Fri.	12 noon - Church Women United Christmas Tea	
10	Sat.	10 AM - Saturday Fun	
11	Sun.	8:45 - Adult Study 10:00 - Worship Congregational meeting ECDC coat drive deadline	
12	Mon.		
13	Tues.	10:00 - Women's Association	
14	Wed.	12 noon - D.I.V.E. session 7 PM - D.I.V.E. session 8:00 PM Chancel Choir	Mary Sherry
15	Thur.		
16	Fri.		Kenneth Crawford Kate LeFloria
17	Sat.		
18	Sun.	8:45 - Adult Study 10:00 - Worship	
19	Mon.		Yaniah Powell
20	Tues.		January Beacon Deadline: Dec 20
21	Wed.	6:00 PM Gospel Choir 7 PM - Blue Christmas Worship Service 8:00 PM Chancel Choir	
22	Thur.		
23	Fri.		Leon & Marguerite Bibb
24	Sat.	10 AM - Saturday Fun	Cheryl Taylor
25	Sun.	8:45 - Adult Study 11 AM - Christmas Day Worship	Paul Sherry Christine Fant
26	Mon.		Laura O'Neal
27	Tues.		
28	Wed.	6:30 PM Gospel Choir 8:00 PM Chancel Choir	Manuel Roderick Conner Bogard
29	Thur.		
30	Fri.		Pat Murray
31	Sat.		Vivian Taylor Regina Bland

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

- ◆ Rev. Charles Ackerson
 - ◆ Dale Smith (*brother to Barbara Smith Weems and Sandra Thomas*)
 - ◆ Laden Brooks
 - ◆ LaDoris Dantzler
 - ◆ Christine Fant
 - ◆ Teresae Tiller
 - ◆ Hallie K. Jones
 - ◆ Barbara Smith Weems
 - ◆ Doris Simmons
- Please call the church office for additions and deletions*

**EACC MEMBER REV. PAUL SHERRY
ARRESTED FOR TAKING A STAND**

In late July as congress was nearing a decision re: how to fashion a budget, eleven religious leaders entered the rotunda of the capital building to kneel and pray to bring attention to their view of the faithful and moral dimensions of a budget. They especially wished to express that it would be wrong to balance the budget on the backs of the poor and middle classes. They entered the rotunda with the express goal of getting arrested so that there would be more attention and publicity given to their views. After they had been told to disburse three times, they were indeed arrested, taken to jail, photographed, finger printed, and kept in a holding cell for several hours.

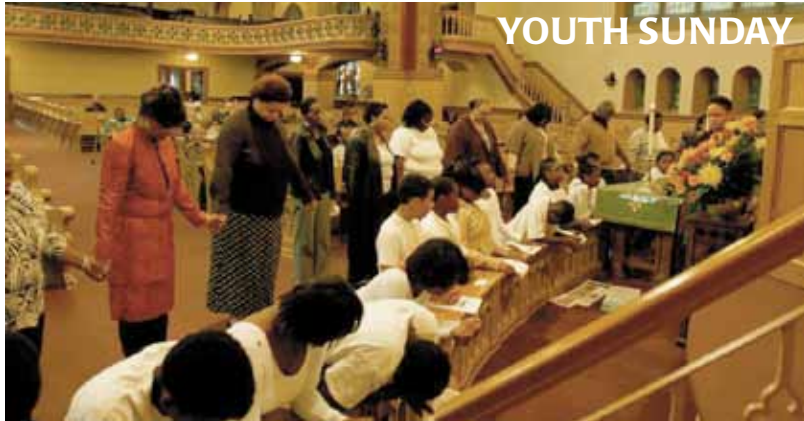
In early September, they appeared before a judge to hear what the charges against them were. Though they had been praying, the main charge was causing a disturbance. They were given several options, involving drug testing, community service hours, pleading guilty or not guilty, and staying away from the capital or serving jail time. The question which made the decision difficult was the meaning of "the capital" --was it all of the capital area (our house could be included), the capital grounds, or just the capital building? If it was all of the capital area, they would go to trial hoping to be found innocent so that they could continue to visit government offices which all of them do frequently.

In November, they went to court again to hear their punishment. In the end, since they had finished the drug tests, they were to stay away from the capital building for six months and are on probation until April 11, 2012.

Mary Sherry

Calendar - Looking Ahead to January

- 1 - 11 AM - New Year's Day Worship Service
- 8 - 3-9 PM - Epiphany Party
- 22 - Homeless Stand Down
- 28 - Homeless Stand Down



❖ After 11 days of red wagons filling up with healthy food, thousands of letters sent to Congress, sermons delivered by cereal boxes and purple hippos, 11-foot rocket ships and peace signs made of cans of food, pastors evicted from pulpits due to growing mounds of food donations, a pumpkin patch of bags filled with food, and monetary donations pouring in, Mission:1 ended successfully Friday, Nov. 11.

Mission:1's goal was four-pronged: to collect more than 1 million food and household items for local food banks; to raise \$111,111 for hunger-related ministries and \$111,111 in online donations for East Africa famine relief; and to advocate for hunger-related causes worldwide by sending more than 11,111 letters to Congress.

By campaign's end, the letters goal had been tripled and the food goal had reached 1.25 million items. The online tote board used to track accomplishments was left online over the weekend so that churches caught in the early winter snows the weekend of Nov. 6 could complete their Mission:1 efforts.

On Sunday evening, Nov. 13, monetary donations received for hunger-related ministries had topped \$91,000 and monies for East Africa relief stood at more than \$94,000. However, tallies of committed funds to the two causes not yet received by the UCC's national offices in Cleveland added up to more than \$130,000. An updated total will be announced in a few weeks.

"It is very clear that we are going to exceed all our goals," said the Rev. J. Bennett Guess, executive minister of the UCC's Local Church Ministries. "Perhaps in the end, we will collect more than \$300,000, \$400,000 — even half a million dollars."

❖ Called to serve at a pivotal point in the history of the UCC, Mr. W. Mark Clark, the Rev. J. Bennett Guess and the Rev. James Moos were installed as members of the five-person United Church of Christ Collegium of Officers at a ceremony attended by nearly 400 people Nov. 13 at Pilgrim UCC in Cleveland.

"Holy One, we are installing leadership that you have called to serve so that in the days and years to come, we can reflect on this moment on when you have called us on this journey," said the Rev. Geoffrey A. Black, UCC General Minister and President, during the invocation. "You have called the leaders among us to serve in your holy ways."

Clark, Guess and Moos were elected last July at General Synod 28 in Tampa, Fla

Guess is the Executive Minister for Local Church Ministries; Moos, Executive Minister for Wider Church Ministries, and Clark, Associate General Minister. They join Black and the Rev. M. Linda Jaramillo, executive minister for Justice and Witness Ministries, in forming the current Collegium.

In delivering the sermon, the Rev. Kaji R. Spellman—a UCC pastor serving as pastor of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in New York City—praised the newest members of the Collegium as devoted servants with admirable track records of inclusivity, creativity and trust.

Clark is the former president and chief executive officer of CODAC Behavioral Health Services, a nonprofit managed behavioral health care organization in Tucson, Ariz. As a lay member of the church, Clark has served in numerous capacities

on local, regional and national levels. He chaired the UCC's Southwest Conference Minister Search Committee, served on the Board of Directors of the UCC Office of General Ministries, and served as chair of the Committee of Reference for General Synod 27. Clark succeeded Associate General Minister Edith A. Guffey in October.

Guess was previously Director of the UCC Publishing, Identity and Communication Ministry, and also served as the church's news director. He was a local parish minister for 12 years, including eight as pastor of Zion UCC in Henderson, Ky. He also helped create the Paff Haus Justice and Peace Center. He filled the unexpired term of the Rev. Stephen L. Sterner in August.

Moos came to his national position after serving as pastor of Bismarck (N.D.) United Church of Christ and the Adams County Parish UCC in Hettinger and Reeder, N.D. He is a former Air Force chaplain and former member of the UCC Executive Council and Wider Church Ministries Board of Directors, where he chaired its Finance and Budget Committee. Moos follows the Rev. Cally Rogers-Witte, who retired July 31.

❖ As members of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction, the so-called "Super Committee", struggle to foster an agreement before their congressionally mandated deadline next week, faith groups across the country are joining forces to encourage the Super Committee not to reduce the deficit by placing an undue burden on the poor while shielding the wealthiest from additional sacrifice.

People of various faiths attended a prayer rally at Lafayette Park on Sunday, Nov. 20, at 3 PM EST to pray and encourage Super Committee members to preserve funding for programs that assist the most at-risk families and children in the United States and around the world.

Sunday's prayer rallies in D.C. and across the country were spearheaded by a coalition of leading Christian, Jewish and Muslim organizations affiliated with many of the major religious denominational movements, including the Church of the Brethren; Church World Service; Franciscan Action Network; Islamic Society of North America; Jewish Council for Public Affairs; National Council of Churches; NETWORK: A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby; Presbyterian Church (USA); United Church of Christ; and the United Methodist Church.

The prayer rallies are a continuation of The Faithful Budget Campaign, an effort launched by the religious community in July to lift up faithful voices on behalf of the nation's most vulnerable in order to encourage the administration and Congress to maintain a robust commitment to domestic and international poverty assistance programs.

In July, the campaign organized high-level meetings with policymakers, a Washington fly-in of top religious leaders, daily prayer vigils near the U.S. Capitol Building and culminated with the arrest of 11 faith leaders while praying in the Capitol Rotunda just days before Congress passed the debt ceiling compromise.

Over the past six weeks, The Faithful Budget Campaign has tapped into its network of religious worshipers — flooding congressional offices with telephone calls and letters encouraging them to support the nation's most vulnerable.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

(see inside for more details)

- 12/3 – 9 AM – Workshop Conversation
12 noon – Hanging of the Greens
- 12/4 – Workshop Conversation *(after fellowship)*
1-6 – CircleFest
- 12/5 – “PHILANTHROPIA” *(see Nov. issue)*
- 12/8 – 7 PM – GCC Assembly
- 12/9 – 12 noon – Church Women United
Christmas Tea
- 12/10 – 10 AM – Saturday Fun
- 12/11 – Congregational meeting
ECDC coat drive deadline
- 12/14 – 12 noon – D.I.V.E. session
7 PM – D.I.V.E. session
- 12/21 – 7 PM – Blue Christmas Worship Service
- 12/24 – 10 AM – Saturday Fun
- 12/25 – 11 AM – Christmas Day Worship Service
- January**
- 1/1 – 11 AM – New Year’s Day Worship Service
- 1/8 – 3–9 PM - Epiphany Party
- 1/22 – Homeless Stand Down
- 1/28 – Homeless Stand Down

**GOOD PEOPLE ALL THIS
CHRISTMASTIME,
CONSIDER WELL AND
BEAR IN MIND,
WHAT OUR GOOD GOD
FOR US HAS DONE...**

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