

BEACON NEWSLETTER

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

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

January 2012

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

Happy New Year!

I am excited about the beginning of a new year here at Euclid Avenue Congregational Church of the United Church of Christ. I am equally excited to see how this chapter in our church, penned by God & enacted by us, will continue to unfold.

As I look to the future, I can't help but think of the lessons of the past. The two are inextricably bound. Like a finely-spun web that moves from the vibrations of the things that touched it before, our future too is blessed by the events of our past. Yet, God is doing a new thing in us & through us! God is reminding us in this season, "For I know the plans I have for you...plans to prosper you & not to harm you, plans to give you hope & a future (Jeremiah 29:11). In 2011, God did some amazing things in our church & I am expecting that to continue in 2012.

With this in mind, I think it's important that we spend 2012 "Building a Faithful Foundation" as a church family. The foundation of any structure is imperative to its future & its growth. In fact, one of the properties that New Beginnings explored "appeared," to the naked eye, like an ideal place for our church. However, upon further investigation we learned that the foundation of the building was cracking because it was not built correctly & the soil was not strong enough to hold the building.

This is our task in 2012. To explore the foundation of our church & to check the soil that is around us to ensure it's good for growing what God wants to plant. I am reminded of the parables of four soils. You remember, don't you? "A sower went out to sow his seed, & as he sowed, some fell along the path & was trampled underfoot... some fell on the rock & it withered away... some fell among thorns & were choked by them... some fell into good soil & grew, yielding a hundredfold" (Luke 8:6-8).

You will notice that over the next year, we will spend intentional time looking at the



foundation of our church & checking our soil.

We will explore our faith with sermon series that will focus on prayer, forgiveness, doctrine, courage, etc. Additionally, we will begin our mid-week Bible study on Wednesdays at noon & at 7:00 PM.

We will discern our future as a church family by looking at intentional ways we might be able to grow our membership. You will see that we are forming a "Strategic Planning Team." This small group will focus their attention on coming up with an intentional plan for church growth to discuss and present to the church. Additionally, we will have Strategic Planning Saturdays, throughout the year. These Saturdays will be just like the workshops we had in November & December of 2011. They will be an intentional time of dialogue & tangible outcomes relating to our future.

Finally (& prayerfully) we will make a decision about our future church home. The New Beginnings Committee is doing a wonderful job, working hard & trying to help us discern where our future church home will be. It is my prayer that God will reveal to us where we are to reside & that we will have the courage to trust that God knows best.

I am excited to check our foundation & our soil in 2012. This is the year for "Building a Faithful Foundation." Our work will not be easy. However, let us be encouraged by Philippians 4:13, "[We] can do all this through [Christ] who gives [us] strength."

I love you and I love being your pastor!
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

JANUARY WORSHIP

After an 11AM worship service on New Year's Day, with a sermon on "Laying a Faithful Foundation," we will return to our usual 10AM worship time for the rest of the month. On January 8 Pastor Jenkins will begin a sermon series titled "Empowered to Pray." She will be preaching all five Sundays of January.

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY

The Adult Bible Study group that meets before worship every Sunday with Al Parks as leader will be discussing the following Scripture readings and topics in January:



- January 1 God Watches over Joseph**
.....Genesis 39:7-21, 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
- January 8 Joseph Finds Favor**
.....Genesis 41:37-45; 50-52, Genesis 49:22-26
- January 15 ... God Preserves a Remnant**
.....Genesis 45: 3-15, Psalm 81:1-10
- January 22... Joseph Transmits Abraham's Promise**
.....Genesis 50:15-26, Deuteronomy 7:6-11
- January 29... Out of Egypt**
.....Exodus 15:1-3, 19, 22-26, Psalm 77:11-20

MEN'S COUNCIL

The Men's Council will be having a breakfast meeting January 28th 10:00am at the church office. All men of the church are invited

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION
JANUARY 29**

After worship on Sunday, January 29th, members of the congregation will hold the annual meeting of the congregation. As in past years, we will present the annual reports of our various ministries, recognize members who have achieved significant plateaus of longevity, pause to remember members who died the previous year, and elect new officers for the coming year. All members are urged to attend. Child care will be provided.

SATURDAY FUN

- Saturday Fun, an enrichment group for children of all ages, will be enjoying the following activities in January:
- January 14 – sled riding at Cain Park - \$5 fee
- January 28 – TBA
- All Saturday Fun activities begin at 10 AM at the 3000 Euclid. Refreshments are served at every event. Call Cheryl Wacasey or the church office to reserve your spot.



MEN'S COUNCIL

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

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Starting January 25, our Wednesday D.I.V.E. discussions will become Wednesday Bible Study sessions. Each Wednesday, we will have a 12:00 noon Bible study (feel free to bring your lunch) and a 7:00 PM Bible Study. Both will cover the same material and will last approximately 1 hour.

1st Bible Study Description: Our first Bible Study will focus itself on "Romans: Extreme Makeover of the Soul." Most people in our church can probably think of things they would like to have renovated. It might be houses, cars, landscaping -- maybe even budgets or 401k's. But what about our souls? We will spend the first 4 weeks of February focusing on what is truly important in our lives. Together, we will focus on vital Scriptures from the Book of Romans and cover the experience of a mature follower of Jesus: justification, sanctification and transformation. It's time for a makeover.

Assignments:

- January 25 – Justification:** A Clean Slate - Romans 5: 1-11
- February 1 – Sanctification:** A Daily Choice - Romans 6:1-14
- February 8 – Transformation:** The Work of the Holy Spirit - Romans 8:1-17
- February 15 – Glorification:** Our Completed Makeover, Will Be Worth the Wait. Text: Romans 8:18-31

There will be a second Bible Study series for the Lenten season.

PASTOR'S BOOKSHELF

Each month in 2012, Pastor Jenkins will be recommending a book to the congregation. We are encouraged to read along each month with Pastor Jenkins. For some of our books, we will have a discussion on them as a congregation. In our efforts to lay a "Faithful Foundation" the first book is a devotional. Contained within our select readings for each day of the year is the hope that our devotional lives might become strengthened by our efforts to meet God daily for a time of education, edification and empowerment. The books retail price is \$15.99

Book Description: Jesus Calling is a devotional filled with uniquely inspired treasures from heaven for every day of the year. After many years of writing in her prayer journal, missionary Sarah Young decided to listen to God with pen in hand, writing down whatever she believed God was saying to her. It was awkward at first, but gradually her journaling changed from monologue to dialogue. She knew her writings were not inspired as Scripture is, but journaling helped her grow closer to God. Others were blessed as she shared her writings, until people all over the world were using her messages. They are written from Jesus' point of view, thus the title Jesus Calling. It is Sarah's fervent prayer that our Savior may bless readers with His presence and His peace in ever deeper measure.

NEW BEGINNINGS REPORT

All the members of the New Beginning Committee and fifteen other members of the church attended an open meeting on December 3, at the East 30th Street Church for three hours. In addition to our verbal presentations, we had posters with pictures of the locations, and examples from architect brochures, and a program poster. There were three subjects: location, architects, and program options. After hearing the presentations, those attending were asked to place first, second and third place color-coded stickers beside the options that most appealed to them. The locations and architects below are listed in the order of the number of first place stickers each received.

Members of the committee, Dean Sieck and Charlene Higginbotham, presented six possible viable location options, indicating that none was perfect, that each came with advantages and concerns.

1. 3000 Euclid Avenue at East 30th (the First Methodist Church building that we are now renting) - We are familiar with the worship space and meeting space, but we toured the school space which has been renovated. Concerns are about the age and condition of the building, major systems such as the roof, HVAC, plumbing, and electrical, and the outside of the building were voiced. Another concern is parking. Investigation is being made of operating costs.

2. 5426 Broadway just north of East 55th (the Broadway United Methodist Church) – This is an attractive neighborhood church that is in moderately good shape and reasonably accessible. Concerns were about the location of the church, changes in the neighborhood, and the real condition of the building. Recent renovations were done to part of the building to house United Methodist District offices, but the rest of the building may need some work, including a new roof.

3. 11910 Fairhill at Martin Luther King Jr. Drive (the Benjamin Rose Institute property parking lot at that corner) – We could build on existing parking areas in collaboration with BRI. It could have a great view over the city, because it overlooks the water treatment plant across MLK. It is near Fairhill Center that now houses a cluster of programs for all ages, and near Kindred Hospital. However the site may be chosen by the Cleveland Clinic which uses the existing parking.

4. 450 East 112th Street, between East 110th and 112th north of St. Clair (Forest Hills Parkway Elementary School) – A closed school on a 5 acre site, near City Park, and near public transportation. However, there is a question as to whether the school itself should be torn down or renovated, and what the relative costs might be; there may be environmental clean-up problems. There are some questions about the neighborhood, but it is largely residential.

5. Coltman Road and 123rd Street - This is an old and very large commercial building once used by RTA as a trolley barn.. It would require complete detoxification and major renovation. It is near Euclid Avenue, close to University Circle and public transportation, including the rapid. There is some new development in the area.

6. Monticello Road at Lee Boulevard in Cleveland Heights – This standing building is the former headquarters of the Medusa Cement Company. It was an office building for executives; the first floor is presently used as an elder daycare center. It is located near both the Cleveland Heights Recreation Center and Forest Hills Presbyterian Church, a flourishing progressive church with a substantial membership.

The Committee has interviewed four architects. This information was presented by Kathleen Stoll.

1. CITY ARCHITECTURE does a lot of urban planning and neighborhood revitalization. They have done new additions for the Westside Unitarian Church and Forest Hills Church and East Mt. Zion. They formerly did a master plan for EACC and a renovation plan, which included major roof repair. One of their jobs was Intergenerational Housing to accommodate grandparents raising kids and allow aging in place. It is one of two such housing units in the country.

2. MADISON International is a local architect who has done work for local churches, and master plans, and one new church in Michigan. Mr. Madison did suggest the use of a Charente to elicit discussion among the members of the church as part of the early planning process. The firm has done much local work. The firm follows the project from beginning to end—like a conductor.

3. SANDVICK is local architect that specializes in restoration and rehabilitation of churches, including Old Stone Church and the East 30th St. Church. The firm does not appear to have done much new building, but a lot of rehabilitation and repurposing and additions for affordable housing.

4. HCO is a national firm that specializes in churches, and especially new large churches; many of the sites include a whole campus of program spaces, such as family centers, fitness centers, and performance venues. They use state of the art technology. They explained three models for architectural planning: DESIGN/BID, DESIGN/BUILD, and DESIGN TEAM their method which is to work with a local architect through phases of architectural programming, schematic design, and design development, then select a local construction company who will participate actively in the construction drawings and specifications to assure agreement on price.

For the presentation of program options, the committee used as a model a program survey provided by HCO architects, addressing building needs for space for worship, music, fellowship, offices, Christian Education and school age programs, recreation, wellness and other special programs. The purpose was to get a better sense of our program priorities. Members indicated which program options were most important to them, but the analysis is not complete at this time. The survey was prepared and presented by Kathleen Stoll.

The Committee is not prepared to present any specific recommendations at this time, but we believe we should seek some professional assistance from an architectural firm to assist us in evaluating our options and clarifying our programs.

Respectfully submitted, Kathleen H. Stoll

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

For the first time at EACC, we offered "Blue Christmas, a Worship Service for Difficult Times" to our congregation and to the community on the Wednesday evening before Christmas. Through music, the spoken word, and the lighting of candles, worshippers reflected on the losses and griefs that are making it a challenge to celebrate the season with the joy that is somehow expected of us. Many brought forward photos of loved ones they had lost, or some other sign of their sadness, to place on the kneeler below the altar. The service ended with a liturgical dance by our young people, to "Smile" by Kirk Franklin. Photos of the service taken by "the Dark Room Company" below.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING DECEMBER 11

At the meeting of the Congregation held on Sunday, December 11, we voted to extend the position of vice moderator, the proposed budget for 2012 was approved, and the Negotiations Team provided a report, along with our attorney Rick Taft, regarding the sale of the property at 9606. The likely buyer is Cleveland Clinic. Finally the mission, vision and values statements printed in the December issue of the Beacon were accepted.

FIFTH MONDAY MEAL JANUARY 30

EACC will be serving a meal to up to 100 hungry people on Monday, January 30. We need volunteers to shop, cook, set the tables, serve, and clean up. Please see Cloggie Crowder if you would like to be a part of this rewarding experience.



SERVANT LEADERS

In a letter that went out to several members of the congregation in November, Pastor Jenkins wrote, "Over the last year it has become evident to me that we need a group of consistent leaders who will assist in ensuring that our mission remains Christ-centered and that the needs of our members are met. You might have heard me speak of our need to have 'Deacon-like' servant-leaders here in our congregation who will assist the pastor in serving the people of God." In December, the year-long training of the Servant Leaders began. Their responsibilities will include – but will not be limited to – serving Communion and visiting those who are shut-in, sick, or incarcerated. Some of those listed below may decide that Servant-Leadership is not their calling, but they will all be beginning both the training and the serving in the new year:

| | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Kathy Baker | Al Parks |
| Marguerite Bibb | Madge Potts-Williams |
| Linda Brewer | Dean Sieck |
| Dave Buckle | Judy Sieck |
| Mary Guen | Charles Williams |
| Darryl Harris | Karol Harris |
| Helen Humphrey | |

CHRISTIAN ENLISTMENT

This year's Christian Enlistment program began in early November with a letter from Pastor Jenkins outlining the budgetary needs for the coming year. Fannie Cockfield and John Baker presented statements of concern at Sunday worship on two Sundays in December, and December 18 was designated as Pledge-Signing Sunday.

As of Christmas Sunday, we had received a total of 31 pledges totaling \$95,047, or approximately 70% of our budgeted goal of \$134,500. There are still many members who have not submitted their pledges. We hope to be able to report a balanced budget by the annual meeting on January 29.



Still confused about the Healthcare Reform Act? Come out on January 11 for a free breakfast at 9:30 AM and a program from 10-12, titled "What Does Healthcare Reform Mean to You? Sponsored by Healthwise Connection at the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Health Center—13944 Euclid Avenue, East Cleveland, with parking available in the parking garage. Call and register at 1-877-390-1732.

Put on a couple of pounds from all that holiday eating and making merry? Well maybe you could use a bit of Line dancing for Fun and Fitness! Every Monday, 5–6p.m. at Severance Tower Apartments Community Room, 25 Severance Circle, Cleveland Heights. \$3.00 per class, cash only. No reservations required.

It has been my joy and privilege to coordinate the activities of EACC Healthy Connectors-Lay Ministers of Health for several years. Thanks to every member, Saturday Fun and the staff for supporting the programs and events over the years. 2011 was my last year to serve as coordinator.

-Charlene Higginbotham

UNITED BLACK CHRISTIANS

Thank you for participating in the UBC Sunday celebration on Nov. 20 by donating to the Jos. H. Evans Scholarship Fund, visiting the information and resource displays, taking a "treat bag" and sharing information about UBC Priorities with others. If you have not turned in your membership application for 2012, please give it to Cloggie or Charlene, so your name can be added to the mailing list for 2012 events and programs.



The Ecumenical HIV/AIDS Network of Greater Cleveland is hosting its annual National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Breakfast on Saturday, Feb. 4, 9-1p.m. The keynote speaker this year is Pernessa C. Seele, Founder & CEO, Balm in Gilead. The local chapter anticipates purchasing a table this year. Please speak to Cloggie or Charlene for tickets (\$15.00). Tickets must be purchased by Jan. 27th. No tickets will be sold at the door.

Charlene and Cloggie, Advisory Board Members.

WORSHIP AND ARTS MINISTRY

Worship and Arts continues to work on providing a handbook to the upcoming Worship and Arts Ministry, and by January 15 should have something ready to hand over to their successors. Their responsibilities include serving Communion, providing liturgists, both providing and distributing altar flowers, and finding liturgists and acolytes. They also have been involved in new initiatives such as the Servant-Leader program and the alternative Praise Services which will begin in March.

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

At our December meeting, we learned that congregational giving was at 100% of budget for the first eleven months. Hooray! Much of the meeting was devoted to a discussion of potential new locations for the church office. The Clinic, which has generously given us use of the space at 9411 Euclid Avenue since the fire, has set February 1 as the end of the rent-free period, and set a rental figure that is beyond our means. There are several possibilities for relocation which are being explored and will be sent to the next meeting of COM in early January.

OPPORTUNITIES TO DONATE

Read below to learn more about two funds to which you can contribute to further the work of the church. In either case, make out your check to Euclid Avenue Congregational Church and indicate the name of the fund on the memo line.

The Pastor's Benevolence Fund (Formally the Minister's Fund): The purpose of Pastor's Benevolence Fund is to provide financial aid to individuals who are in need of urgent assistance. The Pastor's Benevolence Fund may not be applicable to all urgent cases, especially for those who have other financial options or for cases which need long term financial support. The church has the right to adjust or deny an individual's request and the church may also consider providing support other than monetary assistance. Monetary assistance cannot be provided directly to the individual requesting assistance.

The Pastor's Vision Fund: Throughout any program year, it is expected that the Pastor of the church will have ideas that help to assist Euclid Avenue Congregational Church to fulfill its vision to be a church that Reaches up, in, out, across and beyond. The Pastor's Vision Fund exists to afford the Pastor opportunities to continue to move the vision of the church toward reality. The pastor, members, visitors or outside institutions may contribute to the Pastor's Vision Fund to support these initiatives.

AND COMING SOON

Cyndi Henderson and Jesse Paulson are working together to update the church website, and are open to suggestions.

The second worship service that you've been hearing about will begin March 25, in the Music Room. A Praise Team is being recruited to consist of 4–7 singers who will lead the music. There will also be a band: keyboard, guitar, bass, drum, and horn. See Alcee Chris or Jesse Paulson if you are interested in joining either the Praise Team or the band, or if you have suggestions for the service.

NEW MEMBERS ORIENTATION

An orientation for new members is scheduled for the third Saturday in January, the 21st at 9 AM. If you are interested in becoming a member of EACC, please see Pastor Jenkins or call the church office to let her know you plan to be there.

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY OBSERVANCES

Many events are being planned around the Greater Cleveland Community to celebrate Dr. King. Please consider what you and your family will do this year to honor Dr. King.

East View, UCC Annual MLK Jr. Essay Contest - Cash prizes by grade level. Contact the Church (921-7673)

Cleveland Clinic Foundation Annual MLK Jr. Interfaith Service, Friday, Jan. 13 at 7:15 AM-8:00 AM Community Breakfast & Program. The Reverend Dr. Marvin A McMickle, PhD, Lifetime of Service Honoree. RSVP by Jan. 6 - diversity@ccf.org or 216.445.7323

All University Circle Museums and Institutions will be open on Mon., Jan. 16th.

Concert at Severance Hall - The Cleveland Orchestra's 32nd annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Concert at Severance Hall, is Sun. Jan. 15th at 7 PM. Tickets are free but must be requested in advance by calling the Severance Hall ticket office, beginning January 3rd. While we won't have anything sponsored by EACC (this year) for MLK, Pastor Jenkins has been asked to offer the invocation at the concert. It will be conducted by Chelsea Tipton and music will be provided by the Central State University Choir and the M. L. King Jr. Celebration Chorus. Pastor Jenkins would love to have members of the congregation come and celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. King with her.



HOMELESS STAND DOWN 2012

The Homeless Stand Down, an annual event where a warm welcome, warm food and clothing and many essential services are offered to Clevelanders who are experiencing homelessness, has been scaled back slightly this year and handed over from InterAct Cleveland to HandsOn Northeast Ohio for management. EACC has been very generous in the past with donations and volunteers, and we hope this year will be no exception. We are pledged to



donate men's waterproof gloves, pairs of sox, and winter hats, 50 of each. We need to drop off these items no later than January 19th, so we need to start collecting them right away. Either bring in your gloves, sox and hats on Sunday January 1, 8, or 15, or donate money so that some of those items can be purchased. Checks can be made out to the church with "Homeless Stand Down" on the memo line. Kathy Baker or Charlene Higginbotham will be in the church parlor with boxes for your donations. Thank you!



Dear InterAct Supporter: **A LETTER FROM INTERACT**

It is with great sadness and heavy hearts that we inform you that after 20 years of bringing together communities for interreligious dialogue, education, and service projects, InterAct Cleveland will be closing its doors as soon as it is practical to do so. This action follows a unanimous vote this week by the InterAct Board of Trustees.

We are extremely thankful for the support, time, and energy that you and other friends and volunteers have invested into a mission that we all still believe is vitally important. We have accomplished much together and it is our sincerest hope and intention that this important work will continue on in the hands of others. Some specifics about that follow, below.

No doubt you are aware that we have weathered a difficult two years. Like many small nonprofits, InterAct has struggled with funding and staffing issues. In the last ten months, however, these challenges have made InterAct's continued existence untenable.

Foundation support has severely declined as these organizations have granted their funds to basic service organizations.

Contributions from member organizations (i.e., churches, mosques, synagogues, other religious groups) have decreased.

Donations from individual members have declined. There have been some successful fundraisers, but despite hard work and best effort, these have not been sufficient to support the organization's activities.

Our difficulty in recruiting and retaining quality staff has largely been driven by the fiscal uncertainty of InterAct.

Over the past several months, the InterAct Board of Trustees has examined and analyzed these challenges. In spite of our

considerable efforts to sustain operations, it is clear to us that our current circumstances do not permit long-term viability. It is time for InterAct to cease operation and find other organizations who will take up our mission.

The Homeless Stand Down is taking place as planned in January 2012, with HandsOn Northeast Ohio assuming the lead role in coordinating and implementing this and future Stand Downs. Donations to InterAct designated to support the Homeless Stand Down are following that program. We ask that you continue to support the Homeless Stand Down and contact HandsOn Northeast Ohio directly (www.handsonneo.org or 216.432.9390) with your inquiries about this program.

Our Community Meals providers are meeting on December 21 to explore continuing operational models without the assistance of InterAct Cleveland. Direct inquiries about this to Denise Horstman at denise.horstman@sbcglobal.net or 216.533.6263.

Our InterReligious Affairs Steering Committee is working with others to maintain and even expand programs devoted to education and dialogue. Spearheading these efforts are its committee chairs, the Rev. Laury Larson and Sensei Dean Williams: llarson@covenantweb.org and deanwms@aol.com.

We extend heartfelt thanks and blessings to all the donors, volunteers, program participants, and staff who have supported us over the past 20 years. As our programs find new homes with other organizations or volunteer coalitions, we will be in touch to share that information and pray that you continue to support these vital efforts.

Sincerely,

The InterAct Cleveland Executive Committee

GREATER CLEVELAND CONGREGATIONS

On Thursday evening, December 8, 16 EACC members were among the over 800 people who crowded into Olivet Institutional Baptist Church in support of the children who attend the Cleveland Public Schools and their families. 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, sponsored this event. Every member congregation of GCC was urged to send as many people as possible to thank both the Cleveland Teachers Union and the Cleveland Metropolitan School District leaders for resolving their differences so that serious cuts in services will not be required this year, and to urge them to take action so that cuts will not be required in the future. This gathering demonstrated that there is power in numbers, and that people of faith can work wonders if they work together.

EPIPHANY PARTY JANUARY 8TH!

All of EACC is invited to a party on the 12th day of Christmas at the home of Carolyn Smith, 1867 Cumberland Road in Cleveland Heights. Every year she and her family open their doors from 3-9 PM – this year on January 8th – inviting guests to bring a favorite dish for the potluck table; they provide drinks including Andy's Famous Egg Nog. Guests are also asked to bring a bag of nonperishable food to be donated to the Heights Emergency Food Shelter. Come ready to sing or just to listen to the music provided by Carolyn's family and students. See Carolyn or call her at 216-321-8008 for driving directions.



EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER NEWS

We have reconnected with the Early Childhood Development Center, the school that moved this fall from the former Charles Orr Elementary School building at East 97th and Lamont. On December 14 we delivered 55 winter coats to some of the ECDC children who had been specifically selected by their teachers as kids in need, thanks to the generosity of individual EACC members, the Woman's Association and the Church in the World Ministry. Special thanks are also due Ann Drysdale, Dean and Judy Sieck, and Martha Edwards, the shoppers, and John Merritt, the delivery man.

On January 27, we will re-open the Dolphin Depot, our very successful incentive program that we managed for two years in the Charles Orr building. Now we will be at Mary B. Martin School at 82nd and Hough, once a month, exchanging the "Dolphin Dollars" that the children accumulate for good attendance, punctuality, completed homework assignments, and their parents' attendance at parent meetings, for toys and other prizes. If you would enjoy volunteering to help the children make their selections, and you are available once a month from 2-3:30PM, see Ann Drysdale.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to Jesse and Stephanie Paulson, who joined the church in November when they were still Stephanie Tester and Jesse Paulson. A couple of weeks later they were married by Pastor Jenkins and now they make their home in Berea where they are preparing to welcome their first child. The Paulsons both grew up in the Cleveland area and have many family members in town eager to meet this new addition to the family.



Stephanie and Jesse met over a decade ago, but it wasn't until two years ago that they realized that they were more than "just friends."

Stephanie is a server at the Olive Garden Restaurant and Jesse is a graphic designer for the Cleveland State University Recreation Center. Jesse is also a singer and musician who plays guitar, bass, keyboard, and drums. Stephanie enjoys cooking and interior design.

Jesse came to EACC alone the first time, thinking at first that he was attending a Methodist church. He continued attending, and brought Stephanie with him, because he liked Pastor Jenkins' style of ministry and felt welcomed by our members. He also appreciated that they were only gently pressured to join. Already they have become involved with church activities, both of them serving at the Fifth Monday Meal, and Jesse getting involved with updating our website and also working on plans for the Praise Services that will begin in March.

They are grateful that Pastor Jenkins could officiate at their wedding. Jesse says it was a beautiful wedding; "I've been to quite a few weddings," he says, "and this was one of the best!"



Barbara and Joe Watkins, who joined the church in December, are both from West Virginia, where they grew up and went to high school together. They went their separate ways after graduation, and then 20 years ago they met again at a high school reunion, and soon afterward were married.



Today they live in Warrensville where they're active at the local Y, fitness center, and Seniors organization. Joe has retired from Acme Cleveland where he was a machinist and expeditor; Barbara was an operating nurse at Huron Road Hospital. Each has an adult child and between them they have 3 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

They started attending EACC because they had been members of the Shaker Heights UCC where Rev. Jenkins had been pastor. They appreciated her sermons and her youth, and followed her here.

In addition to keeping fit, Barbara and Joe enjoy concerts at Severance Hall and plays at Playhouse Square. Joe also enjoys photography and Barbara loves crafts. Welcome!

|  JANUARY 2012  (birthdays/wedding anniversaries noted herein) | | | |
|---|--------|--|------------------------------------|
| | | Event | Special Day |
| 1 | Sun. | 8:45 AM - Bible Study, 10:00 - Worship | Nathaniel Martin |
| 2 | Mon. | -- | |
| 3 | Tues. | 10 AM - Women's Association | |
| 4 | Wed. | 6 PM - Gospel Choir 8 PM - Chancel Choir | Flocie Goard |
| 5 | Thurs. | -- | Christian Sanders |
| 6 | Fri. | -- | Nicole Buckle |
| 7 | Sat. | -- | Victoria Mitchell Maurio Powell |
| 8 | Sun. | 8:45 AM - Bible Study, 10:00 - Worship 3-9 PM - Epiphany Party | |
| 9 | Mon. | -- | |
| 10 | Tues. | 10 AM - Women's Association | |
| 11 | Wed. | 9:30 AM - Healthy Connectors 8 PM - Chancel Choir | |
| 12 | Thurs. | -- | |
| 13 | Fri. | Martin Luther King Jr. Day events | |
| 14 | Sat. | 10 AM - Saturday Fun Martin Luther King Jr. Day events | |
| 15 | Sun. | 8:45 AM - Bible Study, 10:00 - Worship Bring in Homeless Stand Down donations Martin Luther King Jr. Day events 7:00 - Pastor Jenkins at MLK Severance Hall concert | |
| 16 | Mon. | Martin Luther King Jr. Day events | John Peterson |
| 17 | Tues. | 10 AM - Women's Association | |
| 18 | Wed. | 6 PM - Gospel Choir 8 PM - Chancel Choir | |
| 19 | Thurs. | | Denise Merritt Kathie Buckner |
| 20 | Fri. | | |
| 21 | Sat. | 9 AM - New member orientation | |
| 22 | Sun. | 8:45 AM - Bible Study, 10:00 - Worship | Doris Simmons |
| 23 | Mon. | -- | Cornelius Bogard Ashley Wasburn |
| 24 | Tues. | 10 AM - Women's Association | |
| 25 | Wed. | 12 noon - Wednesday Bible Study 6 PM - Gospel Choir 7 PM - Wednesday Bible Study 8 PM - Chancel Choir | |
| 26 | Thurs. | -- | |
| 27 | Fri. | -- | |
| 28 | Sat. | 10 AM - Saturday Fun 10 AM - Men's Council breakfast | |
| 29 | Sun. | 8:45 AM - Bible Study, 10:00 - Worship Annual Meeting | |
| 30 | Mon. | 5 PM - Fifth Monday Meal | |
| 31 | Tue. | 10 AM - Women's Association | |

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

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

*** **JOYS** ***

Yaniah Powell, daughter of **Yulonda**, will be participating in a ballroom dancing performance on January 21 at the Marriott with other students from the Whitney Young Gifted and Talented School where she is in the 2nd grade. She will be wearing a ballgown and her partner has bought her a corsage.

Randy and Karen Hyvonen came to the official end of their journey through India on December 13. They traveled with other UCC members from various parts of the United States to Church of North India in Delhi, Agra, Bishrampur, Mungeli, Church of South India in Chennai, Saint Thomas Mount, Vellore, Madurai (Tamilnadu Theological Seminary), Nagercoil, Kanyakumari, Koil Vilai and finally, Mumbai, where they met Wider Church Ministries staff, Mohan Luke. To quote from the group blog, "our group had much to contemplate as we reflect on all of the Global Ministries partners and people that we met and the extravagant welcome we received." For a full report on their trip, see <http://globalministries.org/news/sasia/journey-india-1.html>

Madge Potts Williams will become as of January 1, 2012, the secretary of the National Dental Association. She was installed at a meeting in December in Biloxi, Mississippi.

John Baker was applauded in Severance Hall for his 48 years of service as a member of the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus during a concert on December 17. Nineteen of his family members, who were in the audience, clapped the loudest of all.

Craig, Sarah and Franklin Garfield Buckner (3 months old) came all the way from Japan to be with Franklin's grandparents, Kathie and Bural Buckner, and Franklin's aunt and uncle, Brian and Mirta Buckner, who had stopped by on their way from New York to Colombia, for Christmas. Franklin, who was christened while he was here at the church where his parents were married, already has frequent flyer miles.

Rev. Courtney Clayton Jenkins and Rev. Cory Jenkins are featured in an article in the January issue of Cleveland Magazine about the "30 Most Interesting People of 2012." Church members are urged to buy and share this issue with friends to show them the article and also to point out an advertisement with information about Euclid Avenue Congregational Church.

Jerri MacConnell, one of our non-resident members, sent word that she has moved into a Senior Residence in Iowa City. Her new phone number is 319-333-1096. She also sent news about her daughters who grew up in our church school. **Jennifer** is now a Ph.D. Psychologist in private practice close to where Jerri is located. Daughter **Kristen** is teaching and consulting at the International School in Santiago, Chile.

❖ A quarter of a million miles later, UCC participants in the “Three Million Walking Challenge” issued by First Lady Michelle Obama have earned a rest.

But they’ll want to keep their sneakers nearby: Much more movement is being mapped in 2012 for the pavement-pounding component of the First Lady’s national “Let’s Move” initiative.

“As of Dec. 9, the UCC had turned in 256,150 miles, with about 200 churches and 2,600 members participating,” said Barbara Baylor, UCC minister for health care justice, during a “Let’s Move” meeting in Washington, D.C. “We celebrate the fact that the faith community participated in large numbers and is moving forward to continue with ‘Let’s Move’ around the country.”

Bolting from the starting blocks of the campaign, the UCC has played a lead role in getting its congregations up and keeping them moving. Local churches have lifted up in increasing numbers the benefits of regular exercise and healthful eating.

On the national level, visual examples of “Let’s Move” were evident this past summer at General Synod 28 in Tampa, Fla. Dozens of Synod-goers undertook lengthy walks in high humidity to arrive at the Tampa Convention Center. Once there, flash mobs — both inside and out — danced, sang and celebrated the joys of a healthful lifestyle. Baylor did likewise, at one point leading dozens on the General Synod stage and hundreds in the audience in a get-your-heart-pumping aerobic session.

Overall, 2.8 million miles had been reported, making the 3 million goal still within reach after final tallies trickle in, said Baylor.

About 30 people, including several presidents of mainline denominations, attended the Dec. 9 meeting. Among topics were reports of miles walked and a plenary session featuring representatives of diverse faith communities, said Baylor.

Moving into 2012, meeting attendees reached a general consensus on a plan focused on leadership, organization and action.

“We looked at how we can establish wellness as a priority for churches, and leading by example with consistent messaging,” said Baylor. “We are really looking at clergy, how they can take more of a leadership role.”

Identifying “wellness ambassadors” to create and lead wellness councils for individual churches was strongly supported, said Baylor, noting that the UCC has already moved in that direction. She cited “Healthy Connectors,” a program designed to identify and train lay ministers to establish or enhance health ministries in their UCC churches, and passage of the General Synod 28 resolution on “Mindful and Faithful Eating” as examples.

Attendees also discussed launching additional health-improvement programs to complement “Let’s Move” activities in 2012, said Baylor, including:

- Affordable, accessible foods — Increasing churches’ participation in working with local community gardens

and farmers markets, developing feeding programs during summer months

- “Let’s Move” — Continuing the program, encouraging churches to increase youth involvement in the Presidential Active Lifestyle Award challenge
- Mindful and faithful eating — Using the “Just Eating: Practicing Our Faith at the Table.” Created by the Presbyterian Hunger Program in conjunction with Church World Service and Advocate Health Care, the program has gained momentum on the heels of the UCC’s highly successful Mission:1 campaign to fight hunger.
- Healthful eating — Encouraging churches to use the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s “MyPlate” guidelines when preparing community and congregational meals, and hosting nutrition education classes at church.

❖ With funds still being counted on Nov. 28, Thanksgiving prayers were answered as the final goal of the United Church of Christ’s Mission:1 campaign — raising \$111,111 for East Africa famine — was surpassed.

At the close of business on that day, the totals stood thus: 1,438,124 food items collected; 37,443 letters sent to Congress regarding hunger-related concerns; \$119,584 raised for hunger-related ministries; and \$113,271 raised for East Africa famine relief. The totals are expected to climb further as late-reporting congregations send in their efforts.

“Mission:1 was hugely successful because it captured the new essence of denominationalism, which takes seriously local initiative and ingenuity, bridges charity and justice advocacy, and syncs the work of many congregations, schools and agencies in common purpose and direction for a specified period of time,” said the Rev. J. Bennett Guess, executive minister of the UCC’s Local Church Ministries. “We also can’t underestimate the power of succeeding in doing good, which is contagious and produces more momentum.

“Mission 1 shows that we as a community of faith are not powerless, even in the face of a major crisis — we have topped our goal for East Africa famine relief and boldly advocated for food justice,” said the Rev. James Moos, executive minister of the UCC’s Wider Church Ministries. “Because we are not helpless, others need not be hopeless.”



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

(see inside for more details)

- 8 3-9 PM – Epiphany Party
- 11 9:30 AM – Healthy Connectors
- 13-16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day events
- 14 10 AM – Saturday Fun
- 15 Bring in Homeless Stand Down donations
7:00 PM – Pastor Jenkins at MLK Severance
Hall concert
- 21 9 AM New member orientation
- 25 12 noon – Wednesday Bible Study
7 PM – Wednesday Bible Study
- 28 10 AM – Saturday Fun
10 AM – Men’s Council breakfast
- 29 Annual Meeting
- 30 5 PM – Fifth Monday Meal

This year now ending leaves behind us a rich legacy of tasks, and we must seriously consider how to tackle them. Above all else, one thing is necessary; religious-minded people must become more devout; their dedication must be extended and intensified.

~Father Alfred Delp, from his Nazi prison cell, 1944

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