

BEACON NEWSLETTER

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

Beloved,

In just a few days the Super Bowl will be here. Since returning to Cleveland, we watch the Super Bowl every year at Shiloh Baptist Church during a very fun party in the church's basement (feel free to join me if you like). This potluck party is a wonderful time for everyone to sit around and enjoy food, fun, fellowship and football. But the truth of the matter is that I don't watch the Super Bowl for football, I'm all about the commercials.

In 1984, the company Apple used the Super Bowl to launch a powerful marketing campaign known as "THINK DIFFERENT." Their premise was: Take a thing, anything, and think differently about it. The commercial declared: Be a rebel. Be a troublemaker. Be an innovator. You don't have to invent anything -- Muhammad Ali didn't invent boxing, Gordon Parks didn't invent photography, Jim Henson didn't invent puppetry, Miles Davis didn't invent jazz -- but they each took the existing and made it radical.

Some folks are known for stuff and others are known for ideas. When I think of Steve Jobs, the former CEO of Apple, I am moved by the fact that he was not just an inventor of stuff, but rather a man who took everyday ideas and brought them alive in new and creative ways. In fact, go to the Apple website and Jobs is not talked about as the former CEO, but rather as their "visionary and creative genius." Jobs was willing to take the marketing campaign of "THINK DIFFERENT," and live it out every day of his life.

To "THINK DIFFERENT" is to make a rupture in what has become monotonous. This is exactly where I feel God is calling Euclid Avenue Congregational Church. We ought to be thinking differently about how we do Church. We ought to THINK DIFFERENT about our role in this world, as communities and individuals. Think Different about your career. Think Different about your



relationships. The question behind "Think Different" is simple...How can these ideas change the world or the community around me?

Jesus was a "THINK DIFFERENT" kind of guy. He wasn't out to create a new religion. Further, the life of Christ teaches us to "THINK DIFFERENT" about situations that seem stifling -- "THINK DIFFERENT" about church, "THINK DIFFERENT" about obstacles, even "THINK DIFFERENT" about marginalized people.

The same can be said of the United Church of Christ. We are part of a "THING DIFFERENT" type of denomination. An influx of new and old members, new and old programs, new and old ways of being church, affirms that the Spirit is among us and we are being called to "THINK DIFFERENT." I often think of our dear member Samella Carroll who stated (in our "Through the Fire" video) that historically Euclid Avenue has held great courage to not only "THINK DIFFERENT" but to do different.

Over the next few months we will be challenged to "THINK DIFFERENT." Beginning this month, and every 4th Sunday moving forward, we will combine our two choirs for a Mass Choir. Next month will launch The Well worship service. And our search for a Youth Minister is starting to get underway. Every move we make is about risk, hope, faith and thinking differently.

In truth, we honor our past when we "THINK DIFFERENT." Just like our founders thought different of slavery and segregation, we,

(continued on page 2)

**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

("Beloved," continued from page 1)

too, are being called in this generation to think differently. Every change in worship. Every new program. Every cup of coffee we pour. We are continuously risking ourselves in saying we want to be a people who are compelled by God to change this community and this world.

However, thinking differently can be scary for some. When we are used to the way we have historically done things, we can fear that our traditions are being lost. It is never our intention to disregard those traditions, only to build upon them. As we "THINK DIFFERENT" together, my door is always open to hear from you, even if you are uncomfortable with the thoughts that are coming forward in this season of ministry. If you are a little shy about expressing your concerns with me, please see someone on the Pastoral Support Team and share your constructive thoughts with them. I want to hear from you. We are in this together. We love God together. We want EACC to have a bright future together. So let's keep the lines of communication open.

With faith that we can "THINK DIFFERENT" together,
Rev. Courtney Clayton Jenkins

FEBRUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

February 5, 12 and 19 – "Empowered to Pray" sermon series; Pastor Courtney Clayton Jenkins preaching.

February 5, 12, and 19 - "Empowered to Pray" sermon series; Pastor Courtney Clayton Jenkins preaching. An accompanying devotional guide with a daily Bible-reading plan will be made available early in the month.

February 22 - Ash Wednesday service at 7PM.

February 26 - United Black Christians Sunday with Rev. Al Phillips preaching. Soul Food Sampler following worship.

A new sermon series on forgiveness will begin in March and continue throughout Lent.

SATURDAY PRAYERS

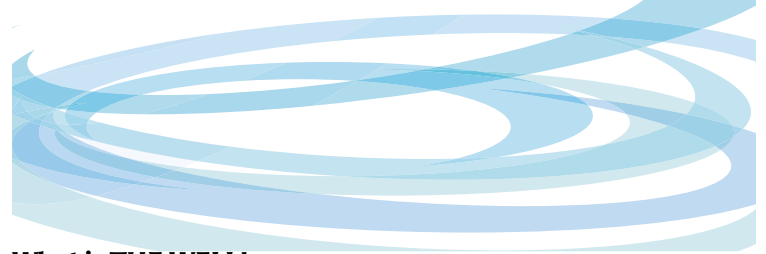
Every Saturday morning from 9-9:30AM our sanctuary is open to those who would like to join with Pastor Jenkins and each other in prayer. Members of the community as well as EACC members are welcome.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST WOMEN'S WEEK

UCC Women's Week will be observed February 5-11. The Current issue of Common Lot magazine features articles for each day from women around the country, writing about women of the Bible and women today reflecting on this year's theme, "Sustaining Ministry."

Reference materials will be on display in the parlor.

THE WELL WORSHIP EXPERIENCE



What is THE WELL!

Scripture is full of imagery concerning wells. Wells were a place of sustenance, community and remembrance. In John chapter 4, the well represented a place of encounter for a broken Samaritan woman, and there we also find one of Jesus' most memorable teachings on worship. He said "an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth."

The Well Worship Experience aims to provide and create that kind of source for worship in the city of Cleveland. To gather together and be refreshed, connect like-hearts with like-callings and to remember what God has done and is able to do in the lives of everyday people. We believe something incredible happens when worshipers gather together with "spirit and truth" in mind. We are excited to encounter the presence of God together and dive deep into the well of worship.

Beginning March 25th, and every 4th Sunday, at 12:00 noon The Well worship service will be a new venture for EACC. A new way to think differently about worship.

Helping out THE WELL!

This month, we will need your help as we prepare for The Well worship service. Over the last few months, through the Pastor's Vision Fund, we have purchased a synthesizer and a drum set. However, there are other start-up costs that are necessary to make The Well successful. We will need to purchase a Portable Sound System (approx. \$1700), stools for our musicians, music stands, banners for worship, marketing materials, etc.

On Sunday, February 19th, during our worship service we will be lifting an offering for supplies for the Well Worship Service. It is our hope that we might be able to collect enough funds to finish purchasing all of the necessary supplies for our launch next month. You can place "The Well" on the memo line of your check. On that day, we will also have a volunteer drive. We will need ushers, runners, greeters, information gatherers, etc. At that time you will be able to also donate your time.

Meet us at THE WELL!

We seem to be generating a great response from people around the city regarding our new service. There are approximately 8 folks from EACC on our planning team. Next month we will launch a marketing campaign to tell people about our new service. If you know of folks who might be interested in a worship experience like The Well, please offer their contact information to the office so that we might be in touch. We sure do hope to see you, and them, at The Well on Sunday, March 25th at 12:00 noon.

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY

The Adult Bible Study group that meets before worship every Sunday under the leadership of Al Parks will be discussing the following Scripture readings and topics in February:

Feb. 5 - Justified by Faith in Christ

- Galatians 2:15-21; Devotions: Luke 18:9-14

Feb. 12 - Freed from Law through Christ

- Galatians 3:1-14; Devotions: Matt.19:16-23

Feb. 19 - Heirs to the Promise - Galatians 3:15-18, 4:1-7:

Devotions: Romans 4:1-8

Feb. 26 - Fruits of

Redemption - Galatians

5:22, 6-10;

Devotions: 2 Peter 1:3-8



WEDNESDAY DAYTIME AND EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday Bible Study began at the end of January. Each Wednesday, we will have an 11:30 AM Bible study (feel free to bring your lunch) and a 7:00 PM Bible Study. Each will last approximately 1 hour.

1st Bible Study Description: Our first Bible Study is focused 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 401Ks. But what about our souls? We will spend the first 3 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.

Wednesday, February 1, 2012 – Title: Sanctification:

A Daily Choice; Text: Romans 6:1–14

Wednesday, February 8, 2012 – Title: Transformation:

The Work of the Holy Spirit; Text: Romans 8:1–17

Wednesday, February 15, 2012 – Title: Glorification:

Our Completed Makeover, Will Be Worth the Wait; Text: Romans 8:18-31

Wednesday, February 22, 2012 – Ash Wednesday service at 7 PM – no Bible study

2nd Bible Study Description: The season of Lent is a season for searching the soul. As we study Matthew 26–28, we will search our own souls through the lenses of the people closest to Jesus in his last hours. The last three chapters of Matthew are a juxtaposition of stories. This seven part series will address Communion, Jesus' deserters, his submission to the God the Creator, and his crucifixion. While the theme of rejection runs through these chapters in Matthew, there is good news: joy of the resurrection that you can experience with new eyes.

Wednesday, February 29, 2012 - Title: Lavish on Jesus;

Text: Matthew 26:1-16

MEN'S COUNCIL

Men's Council is alive and well at EA-UCC. In fact our numbers like the church membership are slowly but surely starting to grow! At our last meeting we welcomed back Ken Crawford. Ken had been living in California and has now returned to his church home and thankfully was ready to get back involved with the Men's Council. We also were blessed with the addition of new church member Derryl Harris, who has become very involved with the life of the church, and has also stepped up and decided to join the Men's Council. At our first meeting of the New Year, held on 1-28-12, we kicked off what we hope will become part of the tradition of the Men's Council. We had in addition to our regular meeting a Men's Council Breakfast, a hearty meal prepared by the men of the church with a big helping of fellowship. The new slate of officers (Al Parks, Chairman; Dave Buckle, Co-Chair; Dean Sieck, Secretary and Claude Brewer, Treasurer) assumed their duties at that meeting. As we have in the past, we will continue in 2012 to sell Fair Trade Coffee. This promises to be an innovative and exciting New Year for the church and Men's Council

Respectfully, Al Parks, Chair



SATURDAY FUN

Saturday fun is a ministry that operates within and beyond the walls of Euclid Avenue Congregational Church. It serves as a means by which youth can experience various aspects of life in a fun and loving environment. We will meet at the church for all events at 10:00 AM unless noted; all events are free except as noted. Please call by Wednesday to reserve your spot.

February 4 – Baking Valentine cookies and telling "Jesus Loves You" stories

February 18 – Monsters vs. Rochester hockey game
- \$10 – registration required



SOUL FOOD SAMPLER – FEBRUARY 26

COME * SHARE * TASTE

The Annual Soul Food Sampler will take place on Sunday, February 26, after worship.

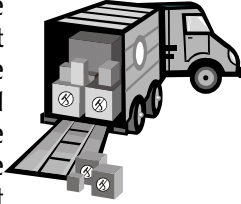
EACC has concluded Black History Month Celebrations with this favorite food fellowship for at least the past 15 years. Look for sign-up sheets in the parlor so you can share your special "Soul Food" dish (of whatever nationality or culture) with the rest of the congregation.

Members will also have an opportunity to win prizes for their table by identifying persons and events in the UBC/ UCC Black History Word Puzzle. First to submit the correct answers, wins!!

Charlene & Cloggie, Coordinators

CHURCH OFFICE ON THE MOVE

From March of 2010, right after the fire that destroyed our church building at 9606 Euclid, until February of 2012, the Cleveland Clinic has generously allowed us to use 9411 Euclid as our church office rent free. The rent they were to have started charging us this month was out of our price range, however, so we have found less costly office space at 3047-2 Prospect, Cleveland 44115, a few doors down from the rear entrance of our current worship space at 3000 Euclid.



The move was accomplished on January 31 with the help of many church members and of course the hard-working office staff. Beginning February 1, all of the "handy" people of our church are urged to come and help us assemble our newly purchased office furniture (up until now we have been using the office furniture provided by the Clinic.) The boxes cannot be unpacked until the furniture is in place; we anticipate that we won't have the office put back together until Friday, February 3. If you are able to come help please park on the street as we have limited parking at the office.

Our phone number will remain the same, 216-791-5200, and began ringing in our new office space on February 1. However, getting our internet service in operation will take longer, so the best way to contact the church office until further notice is by telephone.

Meanwhile:

Beginning February 1, 2012, the Women's Association will be meeting in the parlor of the 3000 Euclid church on Tuesdays from 10:30 AM-1:30 PM. Women who are attending this time of fellowship and outreach will be allowed to park in the parking lot of the church, along the west gate only. Your cars must be in the gate by 11:00 and cannot be moved until after 1:30, since the children of the school with whom we share the building will be in recess. Should you need to arrive later that 11 or leave before 1:30, you will need to park on the street.

Similarly, beginning on February 1, 2012, the daytime Wednesday Bible Study will be held in the parlor of the 3000 Euclid church from 11:30 AM-1:30 PM. You are encouraged to bring your lunch. Please park along the west gate only. Cars must be in the lot no later than 11:30 and cannot be moved until 1:30 because the school children will be having recess in that lot. Cars that need to move in between the designated times must park on the street.

Please be patient during this transition time! As soon as we can we'll extend an invitation to a New Office Open House.

EACC SHOPPING BAGS STILL AVAILABLE

If you didn't get one last year, don't worry - there's still some left. They are eco-friendly and a great witnessing tool. Proudly display our church name and logo as you shop. Place your \$5 donation for one bag in an envelope marked "tote bag." Bags will be sent back to the church via interoffice mail or you may stop in the church office to pick them up.

CHURCH-WIDE SERVANT LEADERS' ORIENTATION FEBRUARY 18

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, February 18 for a very important Church-wide Servant Leaders' Orientation. If you are serving on a ministry in 2012 or a member of the Constitution Revision Committee, your attendance and participation is required. If you are a member of the congregation, you are welcomed and encouraged to join us as we discuss and prepare for an exciting new year of ministry. Registration forms will be located outside of the sanctuary. Please complete these forms and return them to Al Parks.

FELLOWSHIP FRIDAY MARCH 2

When: Friday Fellowship March 2

Where: 6:15-8:30 pm in the cafeteria at 30th Street.

Want to relieve stress? Energize your creativity? Reconnect body and spirit?

What if it were easy to do all of these things?

For March 2nd's Friday Fellowship, Ruth Garwood will lead a evening of InterPlay, a wellness and creativity practice that builds community through forms of story-telling, movement and vocalizing. It's a way for adults to remember how to play while providing a way for people to get to know each other and themselves.

For supper, a main dish will be provided; please bring a dessert or beverage to share. Please let Ruth Garwood know if you plan to attend or if you have questions. rgarwood@att.net

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY

During Black History Month, the youth of the church will be preparing a skit to be presented to the younger children during the Words to Young Worshipers on February 26, UBC Sunday.



Parents of children who went to camp last year are asked to contact Cloggie Crowder for information about camping opportunities in 2012. Please start setting aside your registration fee and watch for a camp rally to be held March 18.

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

We heard the good news that our congregational giving for 2011 had exceeded the budget by 4%, and that the amount given for the year exceeded last year's (2010) giving by 9.3%. More good news came from the Christian Enlistment Committee who reported that as of January 28, the Christian Enlistment campaign for 2012 had reached almost 90% of the budgeted goal. We have received 39 pledges from members, with amounts totaling \$115,107. Most of the time in our January meeting was spent in reviewing the schedule for the move to our new office on January 31 and for approving purchases of required furniture, equipment and supplies to outfit the new office. We thanked departing members Kathie Buckner and John Baker for their three years of service to the ministry. John Baker, secretary

ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 29TH

The Annual Meeting of the congregation of Euclid Avenue Congregational Church was called to order, after a chili and cornbread lunch, by Moderator Adrienne Brockway. Members found 2011 Annual Reports and a draft of a new Policy and Procedure Manual on their tables, and were urged to read both at their leisure. Members of the ministries were recognized and thanked for their service during the year.

Membership Report:

During the year, three deaths, one transfer of membership, and 17 new members brought our membership total to 161. Moments of silence were observed for Calvin Humphrey, Constance Kellon, and Anthony Kellon, who had died during 2011.

Updates:

A Constitutional Revision Committee whose members include Ruth Garwood, Ruby Brooks, Dave Buckle, Juanita LeFloria and Al Parks will begin meeting this month. The New Beginnings and Negotiations Teams elaborated on the information about their work contained in the Annual Report.

New Officers for 2012:

The following officers were nominated and elected to these offices and ministries:

Moderator - Charles Williams

Vice-Moderator - Al Parks

Clerk - Charlene Higginbotham

Christian Education and Faith Formation:

Eleanore Dees • Robyn Nordstrom • Manuel Roderick

Fellowship and Community Life:

Selina Hopper • Stephanie Paulson

Stewardship: Derryl Harris • Juanita LeFloria

Church in the World: Joan Southgate • Viveca Williams

Worship and Arts: Jesse Paulson • Noreen Roderick

WRA Representatives: Nathaniel Martin and Alma Mozley

Ohio Conference Representative: Joan Southgate

InterAct Representatives: Kathy Baker and Charlene Higginbotham

During a general discussion period that followed the end of the business portion of the meeting, questions were raised about expenses that have emerged since the 2012 budget was passed in December.

- The \$1800/month rent that we will be paying for our new office space will come from the Fire Proceeds Account. We were assured by Dave Buckle and Dean Sieck that the income from that account exceeds this amount and other expenses such as new furniture and moving costs, and that we will not be spending money intended for our new church on office expenses.
- We are being asked to pay property taxes on the 9606 property on the theory that it is no longer worship space so should no longer be tax exempt. This is being appealed.
- A security guard is being hired during for Sunday mornings.

Vice-Moderator Al Parks accepted the gavel for recently elected Moderator Charles Williams, who was out of town, from past Moderator Adrienne Brockway. Pastor Jenkins thanked her for her year of leadership and the congregation gave her a standing ovation.

GREATER CLEVELAND CONGREGATIONS

- CANDIDATES FORUM Feb. 20

At a Delegate Assembly meeting on January 26, Greater Cleveland Congregations voted to support a get-out-the-vote campaign for the upcoming March 6 primary, on which ballot will appear a renewal of the Health and Human Services levy and the election of a new County Prosecutor, both vital to the overall health and fair treatment of members of the Greater Cleveland community.

At this meeting the Criminal Justice Team emphasized the tremendous impact the County Prosecutor has on how our criminal justice system operates, and how important it is that GCC tells the candidates what our concerns and expectations are at a forum to be held Monday, February 20, at 7 PM at Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple (23737 Fairmount Blvd. in Beachwood). We cannot endorse one candidate over another, but we can ask the five candidates (Subodh Chandra, James McDonnell, Tim McGinty, Robert Triozzi and Stephanie Hall) to make specific commitments on how they will run their office if elected.

The Health Care Team described the millions of dollars in cuts that our health care, education, criminal justice, jobs and food accessibility programs would suffer if Issue 15, the renewal (not an increase) of the current Health and Human Services levy, were to fail.

EACC is pledged to bring at least 15 people to the February 20 Candidates Accountability Forum, to encourage at least 30 members to send in and application to vote by mail, and to get all of our eligible voters either to vote early or to get to the polls on March 6 to vote on these two important issues. Please see Kathy or John Baker to sign up to attend the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Candidate Accountability Forum on February 20, and to receive a vote by mail application.

As we did on December 8 when the pressure of the numbers of Greater Cleveland Congregations supporters helped restore cuts in funding to the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, let's once more demonstrate that people of faith joining together can work wonders.

*** JOYS ***



Yaniah & Kalib

Check out **Yaniah Powell** as she appeared with her partner **Kalib** at the **Whitney Young Ballroom Dancing Competition** at the **Marriott East Hotel**. She had a wonderful time, and everybody came home a winner!

Stephanie and Jesse Paulson, Barbara and Joe Watkins, Selina Hopper and Leona Zimmerman officially became members of EACC during worship on Sunday, January 22. Learn more about **Stephanie, Jesse, Barbara and Joe** in the January 2012 Beacon; see articles about **Selina and Leona** in this issue.

Kathy and Myron Stoll, longtime members of EACC, have the following to report about their children, who grew up in our church: **Vinnie** is in **Drug Discovery** at **Abbott Labs** as an **X-ray Crystallographer**. He makes crystals of cancer, for example, and crystals of drugs in development to see how well they match to be effective. He has also established a website for all scientists at **Abbott Labs** to share information among themselves to facilitate their working together. **Sarah** is on the **Chemistry** faculty of **Georgetown University**, and this year spent a 4 month sabbatical in **Paris** doing research, and will become a **visiting professor** next year. She was part of a partnership between **Georgetown** and an **Institute and University in Bangladore, India**, giving lectures on her research in **inorganic chemistry**; she is also manager of studies in the **integration of science and public policy** at **Georgetown**. **Heather** is **Executive Vice President of Public Affairs** at the **Sisters of Charity Foundation** here in **Cleveland**. Her husband was the coach of the **Laurel School soccer team** that won the **State Championship** this year in their **Division**.

Hallie Jones recently sent this letter to the congregation: "Members of **Euclid Avenue Congregational Church**: **Poinsettias** are beautiful! To receive this beautiful white poinsettia I've been blessed. God is good. I do wish to thank you for your thoughtfulness and kindness. Love you all, **Hallie K. Jones**. God bless all of you this year 2012."

Nancy Nigosian would like to remind us that "Sorrow looks back, worry looks around, but faith looks up. So look up!"

Joseph Burkett writes: "On Saturday, January 17th I moved from **Cleveland** back to **Columbus**. However, I wish to share a message with the church and **Pastor Jenkins** about my time at **Euclid Avenue Congregational Church**. From being at EACC, I have learned to live again. I came with nothing but I am leaving with a new found faith in God. I made friends at EACC. I found help in a dark place in my life and I learned to live again... For all of this, I want to thank God and the members of **Euclid Avenue Congregational Church**. What is so great about EACC is that no matter your race or where you come from, you are accepted. I was accepted. From the bottom of my soul I want to say thank you. I want to leave one final message with you. This is my motto and my dream and I would leave it to the church: 'Look to the future and not to the past. For the future is brighter and better than the dark of the past. Keep on moving forward, even in darkness, because at the end of the journey is a bright light and a wonderful tomorrow.' Thank you and please take care. ~Joe Burkett



Cheryl Wacasey received the following e-mail from a young lady that is now 17 and came to **Saturday Fun** when she was younger.

This is **Sheila H**, wanted to tell you that my family and I are fine and we've had a busy year so far. I'm doing well with school and early college. I got into **Phi Theta Kappa**, an honor society at **Tri-C**. I'm still bowling and doing **Girl Scouts**, too. I'm also going to **Europe** in the summer with **People To People Ambassador Programs**. I'm trying to get a job. Mom is doing well. She's been managing our **Girl Scout troop** and taking care of me all the way. She's still looking for a job. The dogs are great, too. They're in good health and still as spunky as ever.

We love you Auntie Cheryl! Have an amazing week! <3 :)

This program is important to the children. They still keep in touch.



Did you see the exquisite slate roof on the **Cozad-Bates House** at the corner of **Mayfield** and **East 115th**? The beautifully restored front porch? Restoration is moving along and **Restore Cleveland Hope** is excited to be working on the **Underground Railroad** programs we will take into the house, and planning a fundraising **Walkathon** on **May 19th**. We hope all of **EACC** will join us. Our congregation has shown wonderful support to our mission and to the historical connection between **RCH** and **EACC**.

Thank you for all of the support this congregation has given. Come join us on the **Walkathon**, it will be fun! If you start training now you'll be more than ready for a fairly short walk in **May** and to show off your gorgeous body on beaches in **June**..

SIGN UP SHEET FOR LITURGISTS AND ALTAR FLOWERS

Please sign up in advance to be a reader during worship services or to donate altar flowers. Note that flowers should be paid for in advance; the cost is \$45 and your check should be made payable to the church. The sign up sheets for each are located downstairs outside the parlor.





HOMELESS STAND DOWN 2012

EACC came through as it always does and donated 50 pairs of men’s waterproof gloves, 50 pairs of warm socks, and 50 winter hats to the Homeless Stand Down. Because financial donations came in over and above the amount necessary to purchase those items, we were also able to contribute more than \$200 for the purchase of bus passes. Over 800 Clevelanders experiencing homelessness attended the Stand Down on January 22, and another several hundred were brought goods and services by the CareVan that visited shelters later in the week.

Thank you for your caring and generosity!



SATURDAY FUN GOES SLED RIDING

DOLPHIN DEPOT

The Dolphin Depot re-opened on January 27 at Mary B. Martin School, where our Early Childhood Development Center has moved from its former home in what was Charles Orr School. The children are awarded “Dolphin Dollars” by their teachers for punctuality, doing their homework, good attendance and other desirable behaviors, and then once a month they come to the Dolphin Depot to cash in their dollars for prizes. EACC funds this project, and staffs it with volunteers. If you would like to join in the fun of helping the children select their prizes, please talk to Ann Drysdale or call her at 216-481-4778. The Depot is open once a month from 1-2:30 PM; the next Dolphin Depot day will be February 24. Mary B. Martin School is located at 8200 Brookline near Hough.



SANTA VISITS SATURDAY FUN



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - JANUARY 29, 2012

FEBRUARY 2012*

(Birthdays/Wedding anniversaries noted herein)

		Event	Special Day
1	Wed.	11:30 AM & 7pm – Bible Study	
2	Thu		Mary F. Guen Cynthia Goard
3	Fri.		Kenneth Crowder
4	Sat.	10 AM – Saturday Fun	Bettie Baker
5	Sun.	8:45 - Bible Study, 10:00 - Worship	
6	Mon.		Raven Baker
7	Tues.	10 AM - Women's Association	
8	Wed.	11:30 AM & 7 PM – Bible Study	
9	Thu.		David Buckle
10	Fri.		Barbara Goard Samuel Nordstrom
11	Sat.		
12	Sun.	8:45 - Bible Study, 10:00 - Worship	
13	Mon.		
14	Tues.	10 AM - Women's Association	
15	Wed.	11:30 AM & 7 PM – Bible Study	Barbara Edwards
16	Thu		Noreen Roderick
17	Fri.		
18	Sat	9 AM – Servant Leaders Orientation 10 AM – Saturday Fun	
19	Sun.	8:45 - Bible Study, 10:00 - Worship & Consecration of 2012 Leaders	Preston Howard
20	Mon.	7 PM – Greater Cleveland Congregations County Prosecutor Candidate Forum	
21	Tues.	10 AM - Women's Association	Loretta Weems
22	Wed.	7 PM - Ash Wednesday Service	
23	Thu.		Sha'Derrick Calles
24	Fri.	1:00 PM – Dolphin Depot	
25	Sat.		
26	Sun.	8:45 - Bible Study, 10:00 - Worship - UBC Sunday - Soul Food Sampler Mass Choir Debut	
27	Mon.		Joy McGhee Nik Southgate
28	Tues.	10 AM - Women's Association	
29	Wed.	11:30 AM & 7 PM – Bible Study	

Call the church office to us know your special Day

**LOOKING AHEAD**

March 2 – 6:15 PM – Fellowship Friday

April 29th - Tri-C Jazz Fest Worship Service
at EACC featuring the "Oikos Jazz Ensemble"
Mark your calendars for the city-wide event

A 1 year archive of the Beacon newsletter is available on the church website at www.eacc-ucc.org. You can also sign up to receive your Beacon as a digital file, saving paper cost, printing cost and postage.

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

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

**INTRODUCING
SELINA HOPPER**

Selina first came to EACC at the invitation of Shkenya James, her neighbor and sister-in-law. Shkenya had spoken highly of our church, and Selina was happy to find among the folks who welcomed her another relative, cousin Ruth Ann Hampton.

Selina, a native of South Bend, Indiana, has lived in Cleveland since 1994. She has worked locally as a home health aide and is currently looking for employment in that area. Her four children range in age from 8 to 21. Selina has many hobbies, skills and interests: gardening, hair-braiding, eating in restaurants, movies, music, and singing; above all she considers herself a loving person with an open heart and mind, and she is eager to get involved in volunteer opportunities at EACC.

"The first time I visited the church, I was ready," she said. "I felt loved here so I just had to join!"

**INTRODUCING
LEONA ZIMMERMAN**

Leona, a native of Lima, Ohio, has lived in Cleveland for 4 years. She and her 4-year-old son Allen came here one Sunday morning as they searched for a church where they would feel at home. "We walked into another church for a few minutes and looked around – and I told Allen, 'No, this isn't it.' We walked some more and I prayed, 'God, show me where you want me to be'

and He led me here. The service touched my heart. God was saying, 'This is it!'"

Allen enjoys playing with cars, and talking, using big words and long sentences. He loves Sunday School. Leona likes to read, write, and cook; she also appreciates Bible study. She and Allen both are looking forward to getting to know everyone and becoming more involved.

❖ Over the past year, voices across the United Church of Christ have highlighted three distinct values central to the life and mission of the church: God's continuing testament, extending extravagant welcome, and the many ways the UCC is changing lives.

Rather than proscribing a set of beliefs or practices, these values are meant to guide and inform the world about how the "we" in the UCC are living out the call to be disciples of Christ.

"The core values capture the best of the UCC in a way that's very understandable and easy to articulate," says W. Mark Clark, the UCC's associate general minister, about the UCC's intentional commitment to these core values.

Clark also notes that the UCC's Collegium of Officers is crafting a strategic plan for the national setting of the UCC. It will spend much of 2012 testing the "Big Holy Audacious Goals" contained in the plan in a variety of settings of the church, with a vision toward developing the best ways to implement these goals throughout the denomination.

The New Year brings an added emphasis on highlighting the UCC's core values in the stories we tell in United Church News, the pages of StillSpeaking Magazine and the consistent message from the UCC's more than 5,200 churches already living out these principles. Recent examples include the thousands of congregations that participated in Mission:1 and a continued emphasis on stillspeaking congregations and voices.

❖ Exploring the theme "The Church We Live In: UCC Beliefs and Diakonal Ministry," servant-leaders of the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries (CHHSM) will gather at the Crowne Plaza St. Louis - Clayton on March 1-4 for the organization's 74th Annual Meeting.

UCC core beliefs (as noted above) of continuing testament, extravagant welcome and changing lives reflect and inspire the passion of the Diakonic Movement, provoking deep theological reflection on why and how the UCC does its work.

"Our forebears in the faith first established health and human service ministries as a justice response to dire human circumstances," said the Rev. William Johnson, CHHSM vice president. "More than a million people a year – children, youth, adults, the aging, persons with disabilities, those in need of shelter, protection, food or a new start – benefit from the health and human service mission of the UCC. For that we can all be grateful."

Said Johnson, "When CHHSM observes its 75th anniversary in 2013, we will celebrate servant-leaders who have gone before, as well as those who continue to give diakonal service – passionate response to human need in Christ's name, today."

❖ The message going out to more than 2,000 UCC youth expected at National Youth Event July 10-13 on the campus of Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind. is: "Bring it."

"We're making a push to use technology to spread the word," says Waltrina Middleton, minister for youth advocacy and leadership formation on the UCC Congregational Vitality and Discipleship Ministry Team. "In the past, we might have said, 'Leave your technology behind.' But we're asking them to bring it. The unofficial theme of NYE is 'No matter your gadget, your technology is welcome here.' We want to show that you can use technology as a sacred tool of worship and faith formation."

The official theme of NYE 2012 is "Imagine." More than 50 daily workshops are planned, with large breakout sessions

interspersed throughout. General Synod-like service-projects, in conjunction with United Way, also are on the agenda.

"The National Youth Event is an event of the whole church," said W. Mark Clark, the UCC's associate general minister, and co-convenor of the National Youth Event. "We want all local UCC churches to get involved, by financially supporting youth, by carrying NYE stories on their church websites, and in a multitude of other ways."

Among unique additions for NYE 2012 will be a "literacy labyrinth," said Middleton. "We're asking everyone who is coming, when you pack a bag, pack a book to give. We're hoping to collect 2,000 to 3,000 books to give to a partnership of non-profits. The books will go to foster-care programs, after-school programs, libraries and some public schools."

❖ United Church of Christ and other faith leaders opposed to Keystone XL pipeline proclaimed their support of President Obama's January 18 decision to deny a permit for construction of a 1,700-mile pipeline that would have transported heavy crude oil trapped in tar sands from Alberta, Canada to the Gulf of Mexico for refinement.

The UCC's Massachusetts Conference Minister, the Rev. Jim Antal, and the UCC's Policy Advocate for Domestic Issues in the Washington, D.C. office, the Rev. Mari Castellanos, were arrested on separate days last summer during the organized protest against the pipeline's construction.

"People who love God love creation and today – from Nebraska to New York; from Massachusetts to Monterey – people of faith are rejoicing," said Antal. "President Obama has rejected the lobbyists and their congressional representatives. The President has heard our cry and pondered the testimony of 1,257 witnesses arrested at his front door last August. In rejecting Keystone, he is inviting all of us to push him to keep moving ahead. We must give voice to a vision of a sustainable planet."

Castellanos is jubilant at the decision, but recognizes proponents of the pipeline are looking at other options for its construction. "This was worth getting arrested for," she said. "Even if we have to do it again when they consider the more western route [for the pipeline], at least the sand hill cranes are safe for now."

The permit denial allows the pipeline's owner, TransCanada Corporation, to submit an application with a new route that avoids the sensitive habitat of Nebraska's Sandhills. The administration's decision includes language making it clear that TransCanada can reapply, stating, "The determination does not preclude any subsequent permit application or applications for subsequent projects."

The Rev. John McCullough, Executive Director and CEO of UCC global mission partner Church World Service said, "As a humanitarian organization, CWS and our partners work directly with people who already have been struggling for years to overcome the devastating effects of climate change on their lives, especially in regard to food security. We cannot make their burden any heavier by exhibiting a lack of care for this planet."

"Someday we may look back at this moment as the turning point in the campaign where we turned our backs on dirty and unhealthy energy sources and began to work towards substantial changes in the energy economy," said the Rev. Jim Deming, the UCC's Minister for Environmental Justice. "For now, we can celebrate the moment, but know that the road ahead will remain difficult until we finally say goodbye to those who would foul the air and water for their own personal gain."

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

(see inside for more details)

- 1 – 11:30 AM, 7 PM – Bible Study
- 4 – 10 AM – Saturday Fun
- 8 – 11:30 AM, 7 PM – Bible Study
- 15 – 11:30 AM, 7 PM – Bible Study
- 18 – 9 AM – Servant Leaders Orientation
– 10 AM – Saturday Fun
- 20 – 7 PM – Greater Cleveland Congregations
County Prosecutor Candidate Forum
- 22 – 7 PM - Ash Wednesday Service
- 24 – 1:00 PM – Dolphin Depot
- 26 – Soul Food Sampler
- 29 – 11:30 AM, 7 PM – Bible Study
- March 2 – 6:15 PM – Fellowship Friday

O FOR A WORLD WHERE EVERYONE
RESPECTS EACH OTHER'S WAYS,
WHERE LOVE IS LIVED AND ALL IS DONE
WITH JUSTICE AND WITH PRAISE.

O FOR A WORLD WHERE GOODS ARE
SHARED AND MISERY RELIEVED,
WHERE TRUTH IS SPOKEN, CHILDREN
SPARED, EQUALITY ACHIEVED.

O FOR A WORLD PREPARING FOR GOD'S
GLORIOUS REIGN OF PEACE, WHERE TIME
AND TEARS WILL BE NO MORE, AND ALL
BUT LOVE WILL CEASE.

MIRIAM THERESE WINTER

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OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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