



Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in West Virginia **NEWS**

Volume 42, Issue 4

November-December 2008

2008 Christmas Offering

"GOD Has Done Great Things"

Luke 1:47-55



All of your giving to the Christmas Offering, through your local congregation or the enclosed envelope, will support, bless, and encourage the ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in West Virginia.

We thank you for your faithful stewardship, and look forward to seeing what great things God will do in 2009!

Hope - Peace - Joy - Love

*May the gifts
of this Advent season
sustain you in
faithfulness
throughout the
coming year!*

*With love from
Your Regional Staff:*

Thad Allen, David Chafin
Mary Uhl, Joel Potts
Andrea Brownlee
Kevin Snow, Ken Hardway
Tom Lemon, Carol Robinson,
Brenda Keyser, Dee Kapple

Advent Devotional Guide a Gift from Our Clergy

As Advent approaches, please accept our gift to you and your loved ones: a brief guide for your Advent devotions.

Your congregation will receive the writings for inclusion in their worship bulletins for each week of the season prepared by some of our pastors. You may also read the devotions or subscribe online by visiting our website.

Youth leaders: Please take note of the Disciples Youth Ministry Commission's Advent Bible Study, which can be downloaded at www.discipleshomemissions.org (click "Youth" in the drop-down menu). Jennifer Allen was one of the commission members who created the study.

WITH OUR CONGREGATIONS

Beckley, First (Donald R. Snyder, Pastor) A Summerfest was celebrated in July. Congregation created a "Tent of Hope" for Darfur. Began a 40-day journey of prayer and faith sharing.

Beech Bottom, Community (Larry Grimes, Pastor) Congregation is "Raising the Roof" for an October renovation. Blood Drive and Shoe Box outreach, along with food pantry collections, are gearing up for winter. New study on Psalms and Prayer have begun.

Bethany, Memorial Church (Robert Cueni, Visiting Pastor) Dr. Peter Morgan served as Visiting Pastor, followed by Dr. Robert Cueni. Both ministers led an Adult Sunday School class on the stories of hymns from the Chalice Hymnal, "Pilgrimage to the Table." Lynne Morgan unearthed historic treasures in the church tower, and Hibernia House has been renovated and blessed. New website: www.bmcdisciples.org.

Bluefield, First (Aaron Watkins, Pastor) Bible study continues on Thurs. "Bring a Friend Sunday" was Oct. 12. Disciples Men held a baking contest. Support for Bluefield Union Mission and Abel Center, and Autism and Surviving Spouse support groups continue.

Cameron, Big Run & Fork Ridge (Andrea Brownlee, Pastor) Big Run Picnic was Aug. 10. "Goal Sunday" at Big Run was Oct. 5. Fork Ridge Bible Studies are Sunday evenings, and Homecoming Sunday was Oct. 12; church is now wheelchair accessible.

Cameron, First Dr. Walter McNutt's ministries were celebrated in June. Disciples Women are creating gifts for homeless women of Wheeling. Church dinners and youth bake sales continue monthly.

Charleston, United Disciples of Christ (Steven Smith, Pastor) Congregation surpassed its goal for the Habitat build. Plans were made for a Spiritual Gifts class, the 5 Love Languages class, and Disciples class. A "Rotation Learning Hour" has been developed for Sunday School.

Clarksburg, Central (Earl Klein, Interim Pastor) New interim pastor, Dr. Earl Klein, was welcomed in July. The congregation celebrates its 103rd Anniversary with a luncheon, Nov. 2.

Cumberland, MD, First (Rae Browning, Pastor) Congregation continues to grow and expand its ministries to the community. Visit the church's new website: www.CumberlandDisciples.org.

Fairmont, Central (Joshua Patty, Pastor) "Seeds of Faith" began as a Sunday School alternative on Wednesdays. "Faith and Film" series continues. Bus trip to Oglebay Park is planned for Dec. 7. A new web video is being created; visit www.centralchristianfairmont.org.

Huntington, Central (Dr. Gary Patton, Interim Pastor) Sunday School Kick-off was a great success with congregation and engaged many folks passing by. New listening devices installed in sanctuary. Support of "School Zone" and Cridlin Pantry continues. Fall Festival planned. www.HuntingtonCentral.org

Huntington, Madison Avenue (Russell Smith, Interim Pastor) V.B.S. was great success. Post-college class conducts year-long "Spirit of Giving" project for those in need. Promotion Day was Sept. 7. Rally Day and Chillfest at Heritage Farm was Oct. 26. Worship & Wonder has resumed.

Huntington, Vinson (Pablo Gonzales, Interim Pastor) Youth swim party and "Friend Sunday" held in July. Grandparents Day celebrated with flowers and picnic. Youth Sunday and Harvest Revival held this fall.

Logan, First (Charles Wood, Pastor) Choirs and handbells resumed in Sept. Bible Study continues on Weds. Evenings. Men are

About the News

In an effort to improve all of our regional communications, we periodically request your support for the ongoing publication of the regional **News**. It is our hope that you find this publication meaningful, and will continue to help us improve it.

The **News** is mailed to every known member of our region's congregations, and it's always helpful to know of your changes of address.

Between publications of the **News**, you can follow our online news feed, **The WV Disciples NewsWire**, and even download a widget to keep that feed live on your desktop. Simply visit our homepage, where you'll see a sample of the widget and find a link to the **NewsWire** to read it online. Please submit your congregation's news and photos for consideration, and remember: you are welcome to "opt out" of the paper mailing (send your opt-out request to the regional office: info@wvdisciples.org), and you will be notified when the **News** is posted online.

WEST VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) NEWS

Published by the Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ) in West Virginia,

in the interest of Christ in the

West Virginia Region.

Phone: 304-428-1681 Fax: 304-428-1684

Thaddaus B. Allen,

Managing Editor and
Regional Minister

David T. Chafin,
Deputy Regional Minister

Tom Lemon, Carol Robinson
Receptionist

Dee Kapple
Search & Call Assistant

Next News Deadline:

Jan. 15, 2009

receiving canned food for Salvation Army. Women held a hotdog sale. Visit www.orgsites.com/wv/fccoflogan.

Matoaka (Craig Hammond, Pastor) Picnic and Fall Celebration were planned. Pastor Appreciation Luncheon was held in Oct. Food drive underway for Union Mission. Church family prayer concerns and joys continue to be highlighted in the weekly bulletin.

McMechen (Rod Hubbs, Pastor) Pastor Rodney Hubbs and his wife Linda were honored on Sept. 21. The church picnic was held at the McMechen Park.

Montgomery (James W. S. Smith, Jr., Pastor) The church continues its faithful ministries and outreach of support through Disciples Mission Fund.

Morgantown, First (Richard Howard, Pastor) A new outreach of ongoing ministry to WVU students has begun, in partnership with the Region. South Park neighborhood organization continues to be supported. A new brochure was created for the day. Visit www.morgantowndisciples.org

Moundsville, First (Walter McNutt, Interim Pastor) Ministry of Rev. Kemp was celebrated, and Dr. McNutt was welcomed. Plans underway for Christmas play and dinner. Shoebox Santa project undertaken to care for area seniors. Blood drive will be Nov. 22.

New Martinsville, First (Robert D. Brooks, Pastor) Congregation held a successful capital campaign for the purchase of the property adjacent to the church, including a tremendous structure. It will house numerous events and meetings. Telephone and email prayer chains created. Prayer Shawl ministry continues.

Parkersburg, First (Sanford Downs, Pastor) Mid-Ohio Valley Parish held annual riverboat ride and dinner in Sept. Healthy Living Lecture series continues. Block party in Oct. huge success. Angel Food Ministry continues its work. Visit www.movpdoc.org.

Princeton, First (Gary F. Lyons, Pastor) Ice Cream Social enjoyed in Aug. Annual Church Picnic and Back2School Block Party held in Sept. All ages traveled to Carowinds for Christian Music Day, King's Kids travelled to Blennerhassett Island in October. Homecoming was celebrated. www.princetondisciples.org.

Proctor (Mark Crow, Pastor) The church hosted the A Capella Project and several members of the Moundsville congregation for homemade ice cream and desserts. Three women attended Retreat. Vacation Bible School was a huge success. Homecoming observed October 19th; Tammy Neukirchner and Karrie Toms to sing. Bethany AME Church to be hosted in Nov.

St. Albans (Bill Pollack, Pastor) Congregation welcomed Bill Pollack as its new minister in Oct. Block Party in Sept. was a great success. New website is up and running: www.saintalbansdisciples.org.

Weirton, First (Kevin Bowers, Pastor) Back to Church Rally was held. Weekly Change Collection continues to support important work. Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes are being collected. Plans are well underway to host the 2010 Assembly of the Christian Church in WV. Website is being developed.

Wheeling, First (Magdalen M. Sebastian, Pastor) Jacob Wloer reported on Intl. C.Y.F. gathering at Chapman U. Canoe trip took place in Sept. Children's Sabbath observed in Oct. Bloggers sought for website: www.BigRoundWindow.com.

Wheeling Island (Judy Bennett, Pastor) Youth sponsored an Outreach project for Ohio Co. Animal Shelter. Stockings being filled for troops this Christmas. Church Council has been formed. A five year ministry plan is being developed. Campaign underway for new projector.

Send your church news to info@wvdisciples.org!



Disciples Women on Retreat



Clockwise, from top left:
 Registration=creative chaos;
 Cabinet serenades the staff;
 Judy Bennett gives able leadership;
 Helen Edge keeps 'em in stitches;
 Joyful praise shapes the whole weekend (center)



New Missionary Partners: *Patrick & Kimberly Bentrott*

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in West Virginia is pleased to announce a new relationship with Patrick and Kim Bentrott, Global Ministries personnel who deployed for Haiti in October. The Bentrotts will serve a four-year term with the National Spiritual Council of Churches in Haiti (CONASPEH). Kim will serve as advisor for health care and

diaconal projects and programs. Patrick will serve as advisor for theological education and diaconal projects and programs.

Watch for more information from this new partnership through your local congregation and on the regional website, which includes links to their personal blog and updates on Haiti. We urge you to keep the Bentrotts in your prayers as they enter into ministry in this most distressed region of our world.



Kimberly & Patrick Bentrott



Recent hurricanes leave thousands of the most vulnerable Haitian citizens homeless.



Read *Legacies* Online or in Print

We invite you to read our Region's planned giving news online, or request a copy of *Legacies* from your church office, or by calling 304-428-1681. A new edition will be published in early 2009.

Ministry Transitions

The Rev. Dr. William B. Allen, Regional Minister Emeritus of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in West Virginia, has been called to serve as Interim Regional Minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Pennsylvania. He began his time there in October.

The Rev. Dr. Peter Morgan, President Emeritus of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society and Historian-in-Residence of National City Christian Church, sojourned among us as Visiting Pastor at the Bethany Memorial Church of Christ during Sept.-Oct.

The Rev. Dr. R. Robert Cueni, retired President of Lexington Theological Seminary, will be joining the Bethany Memorial Church as Visiting Pastor from Nov. 1 through the end of the year.

The Rev. Dr. Earl Klein is serving as Interim Pastor at the Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Clarksburg.

The Rev. Dr. Walter McNutt is serving as Interim Pastor at the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Moundsville, following the move of the Rev. Charles Kemp to Kentucky.

Under Care of the WV Commission on Ministry:

Timothy Graves, of the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Wheeling, has begun his first term at Lexington Theological Seminary. Our prayers and best wishes go with him.

William Pollack has been called to serve as Pastor of the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in St. Albans. Bill began his service, Oct. 1.

Gifts Received for Ecumenical Ministries

Recent contributors to the William B. Allen Fund for Ecumenical Ministries include: Amanda Feitt, W. H. File, Jr., Harry & Willie Hancock, Judith D. Hudson, Oscar E. Moran, Mr. & Mrs.

Charles R. Mumper, Wadeanne & Nick Nardo, Jerry & Nancy Wade, Gladys Marie Walker, Nicholas Winowich.

We give thanks for your stewardship as we celebrate the ongoing faithful giving to this vital work of the Regional Church!

Morgantown Gathering

A cohort of WVU students and some of their key supporters were gathered for dinner in Morgantown in early October. There is hope that the network of students there will truly know the loving care of the church during this exciting time of their lives.



Gifts Continue to Enrich Regional Life

Since the previous publication of the *News*, we have received over \$2,200 in gifts toward its costs from:

Beckley First Christian Church

Betty M. Tredway
Madalene Vaughan

Beech Bottom Community Christian Church

Mr. & Mrs. Charles R. Mumper

Bethany Memorial Church of Christ

Mr. & Mrs. Robert M. Chambers
Dr. & Mrs. Duane Cummins
Lawrence & Judy Pyle
Rev. David & Eleanor Rowland
Ruth Tye

Bluefield First Christian Church

Charles & Virginia Hudson
Dollie H. Martin
E. Jack Martin
Irene & Dan Nichols

Cameron First Christian Church

Sarah L. Burge
Doris Hunt

Charleston United Disciples of Christ Church

Janice Fink
Carolyn Scharf
Sue & Jerry Simpson
Iva Winter

Grafton First Christian Church

Ned & Florence Reneau

Huntington Central Christian Church

Karen & Fred Alexander
Robert & Margaret Vass

Huntington Madison Avenue Christian Church

Reo H. Gifford
Willie A. Hancock
Phyllis Kiser
Rocky & Zandra Lawrence

Huntington Vinson Memorial Christian Church

Menis Ketchum
Mrs. Frank T. Long
Helen B. Webb

Logan First Christian Church

Geraldine Smith

Mannington First Christian Church

Mrs. Bertha L. Sponaugle

McMechen First Christian Church

Art & Angie Loy
Ann Shook

Montgomery First Christian Church

Charlotte White

Morgantown First Christian Church

C. E. & Helen Hupp
Charles & Kay Workman

Moundsville First Christian Church

The Congregation

Continued on page 5

Gifts for the News, cont.

Jolien Robinson
 Jerry & Nancy Wade
 Blaine & LaVerne Wayt

New England Bethany Christian Church
 Lorene V. Wigal

New Martinsville First Christian Church
 Betty Huggins

Parkersburg First Christian Church
 Thaddaeus & Jennifer Allen
 William B. & Gwendolyn Allen
 Jim & Eva Benedum
 David & Jayne Chafin

Paw Paw Woodrow Union Christian Church
 Herman & Lois Goede

Princeton First Christian Church
 Sam & Margaret Conner
 Charles H. Foster
 Loretta M. Mooney
 Helen Wimmer

St. Albans First Christian Church
 Judith D. Hudson
 James & Myrtle Wheeler

Weirton First Christian Church
 The Congregation
 Billy & Elnora Davis
 Mr. & Mrs. Don Keeder
 Mrs. S. R. Maze
 Connie Norwood
 John & Carol Skerbetz
 Jack & Kathy Stemple
 Jean B. Verner

Wheeling Island Christian Church
 Mary Emily Mayer
 Nellie O'Hara

Worthington Christian Church
 The Congregation

From Our Friends in Other Places:
 Bonnie Kinsey—Carmichael, PA
 Mrs. Melba C. Crank—Lynchburg, VA
 Janet Davis—New Castle, PA
 Rev. & Mrs. Raymond Oliver—
 Newport News, VA

**To all who give,
 please accept our Region's thanks!**

Upcoming Events

11/24 Commission on Ministry
 11/30 Advent Begins
 12/3 College of Ministers

2009

1/19 U. Methodist/Disciples Dialogue
 1/30-31 Disciples Men's Commission
 2/13-15 Midwinter Youth Retreat

The Christmas Offering →

With the gifts we receive, your Regional Church engages in ministries that support your congregation through:

- ◆ Planning, visioning, pastoral care and conflict management
- ◆ Empowering leaders through events, resources, networking
- ◆ Strengthening ministry through calling new ministers
- ◆ Licensing, ordaining and encouraging ministers
- ◆ Growing faithful disciples through camps, conferences, youth and young adult ministries and ministries to men and women
- ◆ Providing outreach through establishing new congregations, confronting racism, sharing in mission with projects and trips, and ecumenical partnerships

Through your Christmas Offering (see enclosed envelope), you fund the ministries offered by your Region. We look forward, with great anticipation, toward the future to which God is calling us, and to bearing witness to the world of what great things God will do!



**Disciples
 Men
 on
 Retreat**



Top left: Gathering for guided conversation and worship, led by Steven Smith (*top right*).
Center: Cooking pros, Jon Bernard (Charleston United) and Ben Brownlee (Princeton First), receive careful supervision and support.
Bottom: Guys being guys, loving and serving together.





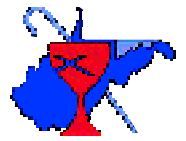
Approaching This Season of Love

Advent and Christmas are indeed special seasons in our lives and in the life of the world. During these days, we begin to see again the glory of God and in doing so, we begin to see again the glory of each other. This is a wonderful time of year to wed the truth that God came into the world and took on flesh with the calling we have to love one another.

Through Jesus Christ we have been reconciled to God. Through Jesus Christ we are called to be reconciled and reconciling with each other. One of the precious gifts of the season is that we are able to show our love to one another a bit more lavishly. We give gifts to others, including the priceless gift of time. During these holy days we are with people in ways that are truly life-giving, for God is with us (Emmanuel).

Why did God come into the world? The answer is simply because God loves us. May we ponder this in our hearts during these precious and holy days. Let us love God as we pour out our love toward one another.

Love,



Our Calling: Through the grace of God, the mission of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in West Virginia is to glorify God by sharing the gospel and love revealed to us in and through Jesus Christ. As people of God we are called to model faithful servanthood and live in the covenant that binds the Church of Jesus Christ together in all of its manifestations.

Our Identity: The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in West Virginia claims and affirms its Appalachian heritage and values in light of the Christian gospel. God continues to bless us as a Region with dedicated leaders, faithful stewards and a variety of human, spiritual and physical resources.

Our Purpose: God calls and directs the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in West Virginia to empower its members and congregations: to make disciples, to grow spiritually, and to develop leaders, in order to: engage in ministries of love and reconciliation, acknowledge sin and oppose evil, promote Christian unity, and minister together in worship, community, and mission.

Your Christmas Offering stays in the Region to enable this vital work.

We give thanks to God for you and your faithful stewardship!

Thanks for Reading Online!

If you'd like to subscribe to be notified of our online posting of the *News*, and/or to be removed from our paper mailing of it, please [email David Chafin](mailto:David.Chafin@wvdisciples.org) and let him know. It will be taken care of before the next news mailing. All other *News* address changes etc. can be made at: info@wvdisciples.org.

If you are still on our mailing list for the paper newsletter, you should receive it by the end of November.

Contributions toward the Christmas offering may be made in your church, or by addressing your gift to "Christian Church in WV" and mailing to 1402 Washington Ave., Parkersburg, WV 26101.

Have a blessed Advent season!