



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

Volume 43, Issue 1

Spring, 2009

Midwinter Youth Explore

Serving God; Serving Others



60 youth and their adult leaders engaged in a weekend of missional conversation with young adult leaders of the region. 28 of our Post-High fellowship also joined in an Amazing Race during the retreat, Feb. 13-15. See our website for more photos.



Upcoming Events

March

- 15-18—Men's Lenten Gatherings
- 3/16—Disciples-UMC Dialogue
- 3/21—Regional Board Meeting
- 3/30-31—Disciples-Catholic Retreat

April

- 4/5—Palm Sunday (Holy Week Begins)
- 4/12—Easter Sunday
- 4/18-20—General Board Meeting
- 4/19-25—Women's Spring Gatherings
- 4/26-28—Christian Church Fnd. Board

May

- 5/1—May Friendship Day (CWU)
- 5/10—Gen. Assembly Promotion Sun.
- 5/18—Disciples-UMC Dialogue
- 5/25—Memorial Day (Reg. Center closed)
- 5/31—Pentecost

June

- 6/13—Regional Board Meeting
- 6/14-19—Chi Rho/Jr. Camp (Cedar Lakes)
- 6/17-19—Kid's Camp (Cedar Lakes)
- 6/21-27—CYF Conference (Bethany Coll.)

and Beyond...

- 7/29-8/1—General Assembly
- 9/11-13—Disciples Women's Retreat
- 9/25-27—Disciples Men's Retreat

Regional Minister Returns from Mission Pilgrimage

Rev. Thad Allen, Regional Minister, has returned from a mission visit to the Dominican Republic and Haiti along with his colleagues from around the U.S. The trip was led by our Global Ministries executive, Bob Shebeck, and offered numerous insights into the lives of our Global Mission Partners and other vital ministries supported through Global Ministries and Week of Compassion.

You can read an archive of his observations on our NewsWire.



Lenten Devotional Guide from Region's Ministers

As Lent continues, it is our hope that you will find encouragement for your journey in our **Lenten Prayerscapes: The Journey Within**. Copies are available through your congregation, or online. Visit our devotional website: prayerscapes.wordpress.com, where you can read the devotions online, or subscribe for email delivery.

Many thanks to those who contributed to this effort to strengthen our spiritual life together across the Regional Church.

The Annual Fund

of the
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
in West Virginia



The Annual Fund

is an extension of the Christmas Offering which opens a way for you to give personally toward regional ministries, throughout the year.

We are thankful for your faithfulness!

Contact Rev. Allen or Rev. Chafin for more information:
(304)428-1681 or plannedgiving@wvdisciples.org



Rev. Allen (center) with Mission Partners
Patrick & Kimberly Bentratt

WITH OUR CONGREGATIONS

Beckley, First (Donald R. Snyder, Pastor) A *Tent of Hope* was placed by the church at the rally in Washington, D.C. Seminary Intern will be hosted in 2009. Youth led the hanging of the greens and Advent worship, and offered a Valentine's Tea. Men were on mission trip with Parkersburg and Princeton churches in Feb. Day of Pancakes is March 22. Visit www.beckleydisciples.org

Beech Bottom, Community (Larry Grimes, Pastor) A soup sale was offered Jan. 31 by CWF. Numerous meals and service opportunities are planned for Lenten season. See the website: www.bbccc.org

Bethany, Memorial Church (David Chafin, Visiting Pastor) Rev. Bob Cueni was thanked for his leadership in Nov.-Dec.. Many from BMC participated in the Relay for Life, raising over \$1000 for cancer research. *Outreach-Palooza* brought many together for numerous outreach projects for the community in Dec. Game nights monthly.

Bluefield, First (Aaron Watkins, Pastor) Youth presented a Christmas play, and a Christmas Dinner was enjoyed in Dec., along with the 2nd Annual Pastor's Open House. Labyrinth walks and workshops scheduled Mar. 20-21. Mardi Gras Pancake Breakfast benefits Union Mission.

Cameron, Big Run & Fork Ridge (Andrea Brownlee, Pastor) Children's Christmas party was celebrated, and a play was presented by them in worship at Big Run prior to the annual Christmas dinner. Men's and Women's groups continue to meet monthly. Fork Ridge offered Christmas lunch, and held a cookie exchange during Advent.

Charleston, United Disciples of Christ (Steven Smith, Pastor) Christmas caroling and a cantata were key holiday experiences. Dennis and Rebecca Sparks offered presentation on Bethlehem. New classes now offered: Spiritual Gifts, and Disciples History. Progress is made toward property acquisition.

Cumberland, MD, First (Rae Browning, Pastor) Bible Study focuses on Luke's gospel and the poor. Disciples Mission Fund presented congregation with membership in Centennial Giving Society for 2007 giving. Congregation made "Cram Exam" packages for Frostburg U. students during exam week. Visit www.CumberlandDisciples.org.

Fairmont, Central (Joshua Patty, Pastor) Youth Christmas program, and an evening of Christmas music from film was presented by Rev. Patty in preparation for the Christmas celebration. Seeds of Faith series on Wednesday explores church history. Visit www.centralchristianfairmont.org.

Huntington, Central (Dr. Gary Patton, Interim Pastor) New hearing assistance devices installed. Christmas drama presented at the all-church Christmas dinner. Congregation went caroling to shut-in members. Lenten studies offered Sun. evenings. www.HuntingtonCentral.org

Huntington, Madison Avenue (Russell Smith, Interim Pastor) Funds are being collected for new choir robes. Youth participated in city Christmas Parade, and hosted a Parents Day Out. Choir offered cantata and a white Gifts and Children's program presented Dec. 14. Yada Yada Book Club continues to meet. Rev. Smith's ministry will be celebrated on Mar. 29

Huntington, Vinson (Pablo Gonzales, Interim Pastor) Men's and Women's fellowships continue to meet. A Christmas Cantata

About our Publications

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. It is our hope that you find this publication meaningful, and will continue to help us improve it.

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 www.wvdisciples.org, for a link to the *NewsWire* to read it online or subscribe by email.

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.

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Next News Deadline:

May 1, 2009

Scott Lectures

Bethany College invites you to attend the 54th Oregon E. Scott Lectures, April 20-21, Celebrating the 200th Anniversary of Thomas Campbell's Declaration and Address featuring lecturers from all three streams of the Stone-Campbell Movement.

Details and reservations:
304-829-7723 or
jpyle@bethanywv.edu

was followed by lunch with Santa.

Logan, First (Charles Wood, Pastor) Live Nativity, teen Christmas play, Advent meals highlighted the season. Lenten Luncheons are served on Weds. Dr. Arabel Hatfield is the new youth leader. Visit www.orgsites.com/w/fccdflogan.

Mannington, First (Lynn White, Pastor) Christmas fellowship dinner and Christmas Eve worship capped the Advent season. Christmas Shoebox ministry was supported. Monthly dinners continue. A new awning has been added to the fellowship hall entry; further improvements are planned.

Matoaka (Craig Hammond, Pastor) Cards and food were collected for the area mission. Sunday School class members exchanged gifts at Christmas. Many enjoyed caroling residents at the senior home. Annual Sweetheart dinner enjoyed in February.

McMechen (Rod Hubbs, Pastor) Church active in advocacy for children, veterans, and domestic violence victims in the past fall. Hosted ecumenical Thanksgiving service, and a Christmas fellowship dinner.

Morgantown, First (Richard Howard, Pastor) A Christmas Cookie Baking Day brought members together for fellowship. Musical and luncheon were enjoyed on Dec. 14. Scouting and chess club continue to meet at the church. Newsletter now to be offered via internet/email. Visit www.morgantownwvdisciples.org

Moundsville, First (Mark Mills, Pastor) All-church Christmas Dinner and Play were enjoyed in Dec. New windows project is complete. Teen Service Ministry Class continues to serve the church. Church sponsors Relay for Life team in June. Dr. McNutt's ministry was honored.

New Martinsville, First (Robert D. Brooks, Pastor) Congregation participated in "Warm Up America" campaign, as well as collected jars of coins for Christmas. New Facebook group page is up and running.

Parkersburg, First (Sanford Downs, Pastor) Christmas Cantata was followed by Christmas Dinner. Silent auction benefited the women's mission commitment with over \$400 raised. Men joined the men of Beckley and Princeton on a mission trip to New Orleans in Feb. www.movpdcc.org.

Princeton, First (Gary F. Lyons, Pastor) Youth supported funding for Operation Christmas Child in Nov. Numerous youth and children's events are planned. Men joined with the men of Parkersburg and Princeton churches on mission trip to New Orleans. www.princetondisciples.org.

St. Albans, First (William Pollack, Pastor) Easter Egg sale is being prepared for sale. Community Bean dinner planned for Mar. 21. Acolytes were installed Feb. 15. Go to: www.saintalbansdisciples.org

Weirton, First (Kevin Bowers, Pastor) Elders call for church-wide prayer emphasis during the stewardship emphasis and Advent. Congregation is sponsoring Haitian children through Global Ministries program. Annual Sweetheart Dinner enjoyed in Feb. Luncheons follow worship weekly in Lent. New website: www.WeirtonDisciples.org.

Wheeling, First (Magdalyn M. Sebastian, Pastor) Weekday morning Bible studies began in Dec. Youth raised \$200 for youth ministries at their Christmas sale. Church is hosting Interfaith Prayer Group. Several Bible studies are being offered, including one on John's Epistles by Rev. Bill Fwelling. Group meetings explore spiritual gifts. St. Baldrick's Day event March 15. www.BigRoundWindow.com.

Christmas Offerings Received

In addition to many gifts received for through Church Finance Council, we have received Christmas gifts from:

Beckley, First: W. H. File, Jr., Hal and Lois Price, Jack E. & Jean Ann Standifur;

Beech Bottom, Community Christian Church: Larry & Carol Grimes;

Bethany, Memorial: Robert and Charlotte Chambers, Sarah Webb, Marjorie T. Carty, Lawrence & Judy Pyle;

Bluefield, First: Mary L. Mash;

Cameron, First: Doris Hunt;

Wellsburg, Chapel Hill: Debbie Archey, Congregation;
Charleston, United Disciples Of Christ: Joe & Betty Beeson, Dolores Marshall, Nicholas Winowich, Mark A. & Joan S. Carey, Don & Ann Hamm, Frances C. Watson, Iva & Kathryn Winter;

Clarksburg, Central: Freda A. Guthrie, Congregation;
Cumberland, MD, First: Congregation;

Fairmont, Central: Douglas & Jane Aspy, Nila Ruth Moody;

Grafton, First: James & Elizabeth Moran;

Huntington, Central: Anna M & Lindy J Curtis, Dr. Dan Martin, Karen & Fred Alexander, Robert & Margaret Vass, C.W.F.-1;

Huntington, Madison Avenue: William & JoAnn Chambers, Willie A. & Eddie Hancock, Reo H. Gifford, Congregation;

Logan, First: Elizabeth Gillette, Dr. Arabel Hatfield, Harry & Barbara Hunter, Marie Ward Vaughan, Congregation;

McMechen, First: Dorothy D Baltz, Rod Hubbs, Art & Angie Loy;

Morgantown, First: Joyce & Eugene Aitken, Edwin & Eleanor Flowers, Thomas & Lane Simonyi, C. E. & Helen Hupp;

Moundsville, First: Walter E. McNutt, Sharon E. Yoho, Phil & Vernetta Auten, Congregation;

Glen Easton, Fork Ridge: Congregation;

New Martinsville, First: C. June Mullett, Jim & Fawn Price, Scott & Kathie Richter, Gilbert R. Robinson, Betty Huggins;

Parkersburg, First: Anna M. & Darrell Adkins, Ralph & Betty Jean Collins, Mr. & Mrs. John Farnsworth, Emogene R. Smith, Wanda Wilcox, Thaddaeus & Jennifer Allen;

Paw Paw, Woodrow Union: Herman & Lois Goede;

Princeton, First: Betty M. Blankenship, Pete Carter, Marvin Carter, Linda Kaluk, Charles H. Foster, Congregation;

Proctor, Proctor: Congregation;

St. Albans, First: Judith D. Hudson, James & Myrtle Wheeler, Congregation;

Weirton, First: Albert A. & Doris Ficca, Nicholas & Wadeanne Nardo, Mel Vorhees, Congregation;

Wheeling, First: R. Roger Smith, James & Lois Drum, Glynda Marie Walker;

Wheeling, Island: Miriam Lydick, Emily Mayer;

Worthington, Worthington: Charlotte A. Jones;

Beyond the Region: Harold E. & Marsha C. Simones, FL; Janet Davis, New Castle, PA; Richard Flowers, Shady Spring; Donald & Nancy Allen, San Marcos, CA

For all who give, we give thanks!

News Gifts Continue to Arrive

Since the previous publication of the *News*, we have continued to receive gifts toward its costs from:

Beckley, First Christian Church: Congregation

Beech Bottom, Community Christian Church: Ethel Haddon

Cumberland, MD, First Christian Church: Margaret Doak

Huntington, Central Christian Church: Bernice Kitchen, Dr. R. Daniel Martin

Huntington, Madison Avenue Christian Church: Brenda Keyser

Logan, First Christian Church: Dr. Arabel E. Hatfield

New Martinsville, First Christian Church: Joel Potts, II, Scott & Kathie Richter

Parkersburg, First Christian Church: Mary L. Hoyt

Princeton, First Christian Church: Karen & Rocky Hedrick

Proctor, Proctor Christian Church: Congregation

St. Albans, First Christian Church: James & Myrtle Wheeler

Shinnston, Charles Street Christian Church: Congregation

Weirton, First Christian Church: David & Jo Ann Morrison

Worthington, Worthington Christian Church: Charlotte A. Jones

Beyond the Region: Rev. Dale R. Beittel, Marietta, OH

Ministry Transitions

The Rev. Dr. Robert Cueni, former President of Lexington Theological Seminary sojourned among us as Visiting Pastor at the Bethany Memorial Church of Christ in Nov.-Dec. The congregation is now being served by Rev. David Chafin.

The Rev. Mark Mills, formerly of the First Christian Church of Iowa Park, TX, has begun service as Pastor of the First Christian Church, Moundsville. The congregation gives thanks for the interim ministry of the Rev. Dr. Walter McNutt.

The Rev. James Gump has been called to serve as the Pastor of the Madison Avenue Christian Church, Huntington. Jamie most recently served as Pastor at the First Christian Church of Mt. Vernon, OH since 1996. The church gives thanks for the interim ministry of the Rev. Russell Smith.

The Rev. Dr. Charles Wood, Pastor of the First Christian Church of Logan has announced his retirement. As the congregation gives thanks for his many years of faithful ministry there, we keep them in our prayers during their upcoming pastoral search.

Great Men's News: Pancake Grant Received

Word has come that the Region has received a grant from the International Day of Pancakes for \$4500 to be used for the building of a playground at Huntington's Prestera Center. The grant, provided from funds received by Disciples Men from around the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in their local pancake sales projects, was announced recently by the General Conference of Disciples Men's Executive Committee. Watch for follow-up info on the project.



As the Faithful Have Gathered,...

I have been impressed by the devotion and love of the Church. This devotion indeed stretches “from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth.” This is our mandate and our calling. Having recently returned from a pilgrimage to the Dominican Republic and Haiti, I am freshly living with the work of the body in parts foreign to many of us. Disciples are doing wonderful ministry around the world, as well as at home, in the name of our Lord. I am embarrassed by the pride I felt when visiting “the least of these” who have been helped by our church through the Disciples

Mission Fund and Week of Compassion. Through these invaluable arms of Christ’s Church the love of Jesus is made known. This is who we are, and what we are to be about.

I continue to be amazed by the devotion and love of the Church. May it always be a fitting reflection of the grace of God.

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 Gifts to the Annual Fund remain in the Region to enable this vital work.

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

Return Service Requested

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in West Virginia**

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