



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

Volume 44, Issue 2

Advent, 2010

## *Christmas Offering for Regional Ministry*

It is the joy of giving that brings life to the darkest days of the calendar. As people of faith, we are blessed to participate in God's gracious nature as we give gifts to those we love at Christmas. In the midst of this, we are reminded of the depth and breadth of God's love for the whole world.

We can give far beyond the reaches of our hearth and home, taking one step toward sharing God's love with the world, when we join with our sisters and brothers to support the Christmas Offering for Regional Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in West Virginia.

This offering will enable our Regional Church to go forward its mission of empowering churches "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." In fact, your gifts to the Christmas Offering - all of which remains in the Region - will sustain a presence that will keep giving back to your church through the coming year.

God so loved that God gave. Out of your love will you give? Help support the development of faith, the creation of community, and the strengthening of the congregations in our Region by giving generously to the Christmas offering this year.



### ***As the Faithful Have Gathered,***

it has become clear that now is the time for a renewed focus on God. This is the time to put away distractions and thoughts that

are not of God or of us.

In these holy days of waiting and preparing we are given the grace of being present to the God of all creation and to one another. Advent gives us breathing room to get it right. We can shed a great deal and let the light in. This light (Christ) illumines our way and warms the cold places of our lives. So, now is the time. It is grace that we are given in this holy season. May the gifts of faith, peace, joy and hope come your way this Christmas; it is time! For the gift that is you and in you, I give thanks to God, and offer you my love.

Your Regional Staff  
sends warmest Christmas greetings  
to you and those you love!



Thad David Kevin  
Joel Mary Pam Dee

**WITH OUR CONGREGATIONS**

**Beckley: First** (*Don Snyder, Pastor*) - Men raised \$204.00 for Cookin' for Mission. Hosted Gospel group, Beyond the Ashes on October 3. [www.BeckleyDisciples.org](http://www.BeckleyDisciples.org)

**Bethany: Memorial** (*Scott Thayer, Pastor*) - College students are leading contemporary worship. Sunday school program is in full swing for all ages. The Connection, ecumenical/interfaith ministry at college, growing in numbers and enthusiasm. [www.bmcdisciples.org](http://www.bmcdisciples.org)

**Bluefield: First** (*Aaron Watkins, Pastor*) - Hosted SWERVE in July. Men, women and youth meet weekly. Crafting happens 3rd Sat. of each month. Global Ministries Alternative Christmas Projects promoted for 2010. *New website:* [www.bluefieldfcc.com](http://www.bluefieldfcc.com)

**Cameron: First** (*Doug Richardson, Pastor*) - The church picnic held in Sept. Youth hayride in October. 2 new Bible studies began in the fall. 20 duffel bags were packed and contributed to the Homeless Women's Project for the YMCA. [www.orgsites.com/wv/thedisciple](http://www.orgsites.com/wv/thedisciple)

**Charleston: United** (*Steven Smith, Pastor*) - A gathering was held at the new property on October 17. The United Golden Oldies have been selling Kitchenette Brooms. [www.uniteddisciples.org](http://www.uniteddisciples.org)

**Cumberland, MD: First** (*Rae Browning, Pastor*) Church provided the city with a massive Christmas tree for display on the Mall.

**Fairmont: Central** (*Joshua Patty, Pastor*) - Pastor has made outreach visit to inmates at Huttonsville. Habitat build was major project in Aug. Members excited about the blending of contemporary and traditional worship styles. Disciples Men's group being explored. Young Adults now meet Weds. [web.centralchristianfairmont.org](http://web.centralchristianfairmont.org)

**Huntington: Central** (*Kevin Snow, Pastor*) - Rev. Snow installed on September 5. Three men attended the Regional Men's retreat in October. Stewardship Sunday Oct. 24. Harvest Dinner Nov. 14. Three children were dedicated on Oct. 24. [www.HuntingtonCentral.org](http://www.HuntingtonCentral.org)

**Huntington: Madison Avenue** (*Jamie Gump, Pastor*) - Training for Worship and Wonder and Acolytes held Aug. 29. Over 50 children and 30 volunteers participated in VBS this year. Quilt of Self-Portraits

**News Support Strong**

*Since the last publication of the News, gifts for its continuation were received from:*

- ◆ Charles Street Christian Church
- ◆ Matoaka Christian Church
- ◆ Proctor Christian Church
- ◆ Joyce & Eugene Aitken ◆ Fred & Karen Alexander ◆ Phil & Vernetta Auten ◆ Jackie Bailey ◆ Rev. & Mrs. Dale Beittel ◆ Betty Blankenship ◆ Ben & Debbie Chambers ◆ Bob & Charlotte Chambers ◆ LaVaughn Coulter ◆ Lindy Curtis ◆ Janet Davis ◆ John & Florence Farnsworth ◆ Reo Gifford ◆ Patricia Harris ◆ Sharon Hinerman-Hall ◆ Lawrence & Elizabeth Hoffman ◆ Harry & Barbara Hunter ◆ Carol Hylton ◆ Don Keeder ◆ Carl Levander ◆ Mrs. Frank T. Long ◆ Arthur & Angela Loy ◆ June Mullett ◆ Charles & Gertrude Mumper ◆ Connie Norwood ◆ Joel Potts, II ◆ Keith Reed ◆ Jolien Robinson ◆ Charles & Rosalie Sensil ◆ Thomas & Lane Simonyi ◆ Donald & Sue Simpson ◆ Holly Snow ◆ Betty Tredway ◆ Louis & Nancy Valles ◆ Jerry & Nancy Wade ◆ Helen Webb

***We give thanks for your faithful encouragement!***

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**Next News Deadline:  
Feb. 15, 2011**

being prepared for the centennial in 2011. Trunk or Treat Oct. 31. Plans being made for improvements to the Educational Building. Chili Fest was Oct. 24.

**Huntington: Vinson Memorial** (*Pablo Gonzales, Pastor*) - Women's Bible Study on the book of Esther is offered. AWANA is being led by Bob McGlone.

**Logan: First** (*Kenny Hardway, Pastor*) - Youth made over \$500.00 on hotdog sale. Trunk or Treat was Oct. 23. Stitchin' for a Mission has begun meeting again each Monday. [www.LoganDisciples.org](http://www.LoganDisciples.org)

**Matoaka: Matoaka** (*Craig Hammond, Pastor*) - David Foley, Jr. is attending school and preaching in the Baltimore area. Pastor honored in the Week of the Ministry for his many years of service to the Matoka Church and community.

**McMechen: First** (*Rodney Hubbs, Pastor*) - A new stair chair and outside sign were recently installed.

**Morgantown: First** (*Richard Howard, Pastor*) - New stoles ordered for the choir. Replacement of the Carillon is being discussed. Neighborhood barbeque Sep. 26 was a great success. Pot-Luck Luncheons continue to be held on each 2nd Sunday. [www.MorgantownWVDisciples.org](http://www.MorgantownWVDisciples.org)

**Moundsville: First** (*Mike Eskridge, Interim Pastor*) - [www.MoundsvilleDisciples.com](http://www.MoundsvilleDisciples.com)

**Upcoming Events**

**November**

- 28 Advent Begins
- 30 College of Regional Mins. thru 12/2

**December**

- 19, 26 Christmas Offering
- 25 Christmas Day

**January, 2011**

- 1 New Year's Day
- 6 Epiphany
- 17 United Methodist Dialogue
- 18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

**February**

- 11-14 Midwinter Youth Retreat

**March**

- 5 Regional Board
- 9 Ash Wednesday—Lent Begins
- 11-13 Ministers & Mates Retreat
- 15 Commission on Ministry
- 21 United Methodist Dialogue

***Access the regional calendar for the latest at [www.WVDisciples.org](http://www.WVDisciples.org)***

**New England (Washington, Wood Co.): Bethany** (Tom Abbott, Pastor) – [www.orgsites.com/wv/bethanychristianchurch](http://www.orgsites.com/wv/bethanychristianchurch)

**New Martinsville: First** (Jayne Chafin, Pastor) – Held Forty days of Prayer for Children. Love Ladies sold over 700 apple dumplings at the fall harvest luncheon. Safe Sanctuary training was led by Tim Graves as new policy enacted. [www.nmfcc.com](http://www.nmfcc.com)

**Parkersburg: First** – Angelfood Ministries continues to grow, now with 7 churches from Woodsfield to Athens participating. House to Home project for homeless is now being supported. Semi-monthly fellowship dinners and regular Bible studies offered for the parish. [www.movpdoc.org](http://www.movpdoc.org)

**Princeton: First** – 65 children and 45 adults in VBS this year. Bake sale in Sept. support Operation Christmas Child. Men's Bean Dinner on November 14 to fund mission trip. [www.PrincetonDisciples.org](http://www.PrincetonDisciples.org)

**Proctor: Proctor** (Mark Crow, Pastor) - VBS was great success. 18 youth and counselors attended summer camps. Acapella Project concert held in July. Homecoming was Oct. 17.

**St. Albans: First** – Several members made a trip to Cane Ridge on October 30. [www.SaintAlbansDisciples.org](http://www.SaintAlbansDisciples.org)

**Weirton: First** (Kevin Bowers, Pastor) – School supplies collected for children at the Weirton Christian Center. Musical group "Friends" led worship Aug. 29. CWF held a Chocolate Covered Pretzels sale in Oct. Rev. Bowers welcomed home from sabbatical. [www.WeirtonDisciples.org](http://www.WeirtonDisciples.org)

**Wheeling: First** (Magdalyn Sebastian, Pastor) – Outdoor concert on Aug. 15 featured praise band from McDonald, PA. Women sponsored pumpkin patch. Faith Formation Class began on October 3 for youth interested in church membership. [www.BigRoundWindow.com](http://www.BigRoundWindow.com)

**Wheeling: Island** (Judith Bennett, Pastor) – [www.Island-Christian-Church.org](http://www.Island-Christian-Church.org)

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**Online News** from many of our congregations may be accessed from their own websites, which are noted here for our readers' convenience.

## Retreats 2010



*Over 160 women and a couple of supportive men enjoyed a tremendous retreat experience at Cedar Lakes in September.*



*Watch for details of upcoming events and more photos at our website.*



*Nearly 50 of the brothers met at Cedar Lakes for the annual Men's Retreat in October. We are looking forward to welcoming the other regions nearby for a Gathering of "Extreme Faith, Bold Action" in 2012 at Bethany.*



## News of the Ministry

Rev. Don Snyder celebrated his silver jubilee, marking 25 years of ordained ministry, on Aug. 15. Rev. Thad Allen led the celebration marking the day.

Rev. William Pollack has accepted the call as Pastor of the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Princeton, and will begin his ministry there. Bill had previously served the St. Albans First Christian Church, where his Recognition of Holy Orders was celebrated in October.

Rev. Kevin Bowers has returned from his sabbatical travels with wife Diane to the Weirton First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Rev. Magdalyn Sebastian has announced the conclusion of her ministry at the Wheeling First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) on Dec. 31.

Mr. Mike Eskridge is serving the Moundsville First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as Interim Pastor.

Mr. Wesley Howsare, and Mr. Earl Shaw, Elders from the Moundsville First Christian Church continue to serve the Big Run and Fork Ridge congregations.

**As you wrap up your shopping for the season, visit [www.wvdisciples.org](http://www.wvdisciples.org) and click on the Amazon banner there.**

*A portion of all Amazon purchases that begin at our regional webpage will benefit the Christian Church in West Virginia. This means your gift-giving goes farther in sharing God's love with the world.*

*Thank you for supporting regional ministries year 'round through our Amazon store!*



# Return Service Requested

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Online giving through **Network for Good** may be accessed from our website: [www.WVDisciples.org/support](http://www.WVDisciples.org/support).



## Annual Fund Receives Gifts

The Regional Church celebrates the faithful stewardship of those who have given so generously to our Annual Fund:

Donald & Nancy Allen, Thaddaeus & Jennifer Allen, William & Gwendolyn

Allen, Douglas & Jane Aspy, Phil & Vernetta Auten, Jackie Bailey, Richard & Karen Blanc, Audrey & James Breuss, Rex Browning, Marjorie T. Carty, Juanita Chafin, Imogene Chambers, Ralph & Jean Collins, Lindy Curtis, Virginia Dial, Kevin & Cheryl DiGregorio, Frank Dorsey, Mrs. Lois Drum, Albert & Doris Ficca, Charles Foster, Reo H. Gifford, Elizabeth Gillette, Herman & Lois Goede, Larry & Carol Grimes, Willie A. & Eddie Hancock, Pat Harris, Arabel Hatfield, Faye Holley, Judith D. Hudson, Charles & Betty Huggins, Harry & Barbara Hunter, Carol Hylton, Mr. & Mrs. Ron Hypes, Marquis & Susan Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. Menis Ketchum, Rocky & Zandra Lawrence, Carl Levander, Ted Levander, Arthur & Angela Loy, Miriam Lydick, Dolores Marshall, Virginia Marston, Dollie H. Martin, Nila Ruth Moody, Loretta Mooney, Oscar E. Moran,

Charles & Gertrude Mumper, Nicholas & Wadeanne Nardo, Connie Norwood, Lisa O'Dell, Del Parris, Susan Petry, Hal & Lois Price, John & Pam Reed, Scott & Kathie Richter, Don & Jackie Rigenbach, Carolyn Scharf, Charles & Rosalie Sensil, Harold E. & Marsha C. Simones, Thomas & Lane Simonyi, Donald & Sue Simpson, John & Carol Skerbetz, Holly Snow, Bonnie Thurston, Ruth Tye, Robert & Margaret Vass, Madalene Vaughan, Jean Verner, Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Vincent, Jr., Mel Vorhees, Glynda Marie Walker, Frances Watson, James & Myrtle Wheeler, Wanda Wilcox, Iva & Kathryn Winter, Sharon Yoho

## Named Fund Gifts Arrive

for the **Margaret Ann Green Fund** for regional ministry from:

Rae Browning, David & Kim Byard, John & Florence Farnsworth, Patricia Harris, Lawrence & Elizabeth Hoffman, Carol Hylton, Carl Levander, John & Pam Reed, Jerry & Nancy Wade, Aaron & Dawna Watkins

for the **William B. Allen Fund for Ecumenical Ministry** from:

Charles St. Christian Church, Don & Nancy Allen, Patricia Harris, Judy Hudson, Carol Hylton, Carl Levander, Robert & Margaret Vass

for the **Tad Fitzsimmons Youth Ministry Fund** from:

David & Karen Emch, Patricia Harris, Carol Hylton, Carl Levander

## New "All Saints Fund" Established

In November, Mrs. Lois Drum, long-time member of Wheeling First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) gave a generous gift to honor the memory of her beloved late husband, Jim. This gift established the **All Saints Fund**, in which anyone can create a named memorial fund for a loved one with an initial gift of \$25 or more (additional gifts may be made in any amount).

The fund will be managed by the Christian Church

Foundation and the proceeds used for regional ministry. And so, we join in honoring the memory of:

**James D. Drum**, with a gift received from:

*Lois Drum*

**Madison Ann Allen**, with a gift received from:

*Thaddaeus B. and Jennifer R. Allen*

**Margaret Ann Green**, with a gift received from:

*Judie M. Church*

**Nellie Thurman**, with a gift received from:

*Judie M. Church*