

Memorial Christian Church

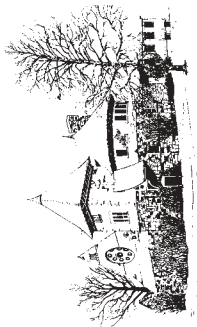
(Disciples of Christ)

730 Tappan~Ann Arbor, MI~48104

(734)662-4245 fax: (734) 662-3879

email= aamcc@provide.net

www.AnnArborDisciples.org



Summer Schedule:

Worship 10:30 am

Coffee Fellowship after service

Office Hours:

Tues., Thurs., Fri. 8:30 - 1:30

THE MESSENGER

September 2009



MCC, MOVING FORWARD !

NEW BEGINNINGS COTTAGE MEETINGS KICK-OFF, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Cottage Meetings begin September 13 at the church. We will have lunch after worship and then each group will meet for its first session.

Several small groups of up to 8 people will meet for weekly sessions to focus on four topics: *Marks of a Vital Congregation*, *Interpreting the "New Beginnings" Assessment Report*, *Discovering Our Options*, and *Navigating Change*.

Every member and friend of MCC who is interested in our future as a congregation is invited to attend. If you have not signed up, please call the office to do so. There are still openings in the following groups: Tuesday evenings, Wednesday mornings/afternoons, Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings/afternoons.

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aamcc@provide.net - www.annarbordisciples.org

Dr. Irvin W. Green, Pastor

aamccpastor@provide.net

Even if you received your copy of the Messenger prior to the end of August, our “Season of Prayer” has largely been completed. For 100 days, we have been called upon to place special emphasis on praying for our congregation and all of our ministries. We have prayed for the regional and general manifestations of our denomination, candidates for ordination, our leaders, and various individuals with special prayer concerns. We have heard testimonies about the power and efficacy of prayer. We culminated this “Season of Prayer” with a “Prayer Summit”, on August 29th. Some of you may be asking “what difference did this make”?

The questioning of the outcomes of our emphasis is fair and to be expected. We entered this season with a long list of concerns, which were understood to be critical to our self understanding and continued viability. We lacked sufficient financial resources to sustain our ministry. We faced a crisis of leadership and vision. Our attendance was dwindling. Our morale was in jeopardy. Even though some of us see signs of hope, in all or some of these areas, it is undeniably true that all of the issues facing us at the onset of our season are still present.

The conclusion of anyone who asks the question, “what difference did it make” will likely be skewed. Even the eternal optimists among us would have to acknowledge that our problems remain. To the optimists and the skeptics among us I say, **WE ARE ASKING THE WRONG QUESTION.** There was never any reasonable expectation that issues that spent years developing would be adequately addressed in 100

Life Begins at Eighty

The first eighty years are the hardest. The second eighty, so far as my experience goes, are a succession of birthday parties. Everyone wants to carry your baggage and help you up the steps. If you forget anybody's name or fail to fulfill an appointment, or promise to be at two or three places at the same time, or spell words wrong....you can explain that you are eighty. If you spill soup on your dress or fail to comb one side of your hair, or if your shoes don't match, or if you take another ladies hat or umbrella by mistake, or forget to mail a letter and carry it around in your pocket for a week - - - well, you are eighty. So, you can relax with no misgivings. You have a perfect alibi for everything.

When you are eighty, nobody expects much of you. If you act silly, it's your second childhood. Everybody is looking for symptoms of softening of the brain, anyhow. Being eighty is a great deal better than being sixty-five or seventy. When you're sixty-five or seventy, people expect you to retire to a little house in Florida and become a discontented, grumbling, limping “has been”. But, if you survive until eighty, everybody is surprised that you can still walk and talk above a whisper. They're even surprised if you can reveal signs of lucid intervals. At seventy, people are mad at you for everything! But at “eighty” ----Ah! they forgive you for everything. If you ask me, --- LIFE BEGINS AT EIGHTY!

CROP WALK SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2009

Annual Walk to raise \$ to feed the hungry in our neighborhoods and around the world.

WE WALK BECAUSE WE CARE!

Mark your calendar, gather your pledges from family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and plan to take part.

If you can't walk, make a pledge to an MCC friend who plans to walk.



days. The “Season of Prayer” was intended to call us to increased and continued reliance upon God, in all that we do. The question that should really be before us is “What next”? Many answers will emerge. The most meaningful one is, KEEP ON PRAYING.

Prayerfully;

Dr. Irvin W. Green, Pastor



SERMONS and SCRIPTURES

<i>Sept. 6th</i>	<i>“Nowhere to Run” Mark 7: 24-37</i>
<i>Sept. 13th</i>	<i>“Trade-in Value” Mark 8: 27-38</i>
<i>Sept. 20th</i>	<i>“Like a Tree” Psalm 1</i>
<i>Sept. 27th</i>	<i>TBA</i>

LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY

Our 10am Thursday morning Bible Study group will continue to meet throughout the summer. We start each session with prayer and sharing news among us. Coffee and snacks are shared as we discuss the lectionary Bible texts. Please join us when you can.



The author of the following is not known to me, but please know that one of our members (who I happen to know is 88) found it to be quite humorous and asked that we share it with all of you:

“80 Years Old & Counting”

Today, dear Lord, I'm 80 and
There's much I haven't done;
I hope dear Lord, you'll let me live
Until I'm 81
But then, if I haven't finished
All I want to do,
Would you let me stay a while...
Until I'm 82?
So many places I want to go,
So very much to see,
Do you think you could manage
To make it 83?
The world is changing very fast,
There's just so much in store,
I'd like it very much to live
Until I'm 84.
And if by then I'm still alive
I'd like to live till 85...
More planes will be up in the air,
So I'd really like to stick around
And see what happens to the world
When I'm 86.
I know, dear Lord, it's much to ask
(And it must be nice in heaven)
But I certainly would like to stay
Until I'm 87.
I know by then I won't be fast
and sometimes will be late;
But it truly would be pleasant
to be around at 88.
I will have seen so many things
and had a wonderful time.
So, I'm sure that I'll be willing
to leave at 89...maybe.

HELP END HOMELESSNESS, ATTEND GIMME SHELTER!

Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) is excited to invite *you* to our 14th annual **Gimme Shelter 2009** fundraiser on Saturday, October 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the Morris Lawrence Building of Washtenaw Community College! This sensational event featuring dinner, a silent auction with more than 100 must-have items and a brief program about IHN is a wonderful evening to join together with your friends and other community supporters to work toward ending homelessness. Tickets for **Gimme Shelter 2009** are \$45 in advance and \$50 at the door. Tickets will be on sale in early September; please look for more details at your congregation or call/email Helen Starman at 822-0220 or hstarman@alphahouse-ihn.org.

Gimme Shelter is the major fundraiser for IHN and Alpha House - our shelter for families experiencing homelessness in Washtenaw County. We serve up to forty families each year at Alpha House and provide ongoing support services to an additional twenty to thirty families in our Home-Based Support Program. Even in these tough economic times IHN has been able to expand our programs to better serve families experiencing homelessness in our community. We couldn't do it without you! The proceeds from Gimme Shelter combined with the tremendous outpouring of donations and volunteers from over 37 local congregations allow IHN to provide the wide array of services and supports our families need to find and maintain stable housing. To learn more about IHN and homelessness in Washtenaw County please visit www.alphahouse-ihn.org.

*It takes a community to end homelessness –
please join us at Gimme Shelter 2009!*



MCC MESSAGES...

***IN OUR PRAYERS:** **Betty Baird** recovering from surgery for a broken pelvis. Betty is now at Heartland Healthcare Center...**Pam VanHeyningen** recovering from back surgeries, also at Heartland...**The Overmars family.** **Hank Overmars** (John's dad) is under Hospice Care at Botsford Hospital..**The Ongaro family** at the death of Bob's mom, Angeline...**Lloyd Ballard, Judy Hiser** and **Ted St. Clair** with ongoing health concerns... Our homebound members, **Jeanne Neighbors** and **Shirley Smith**.

MCC MISSION NEWS

Five of us from MCC set off to help rebuild homes in the 9th ward of New Orleans, still depressed and devastated more than four years after hurricane Katrina made landfall in 2005. A second objective of the adults was to build and strengthen relationships, and for the youth to have fun. It's really too early in the trip to write a final report, more to come on that later, but it's not too early to report that lives have been changed. It's amazing what we learn about and from each other during sixteen hours of driving time!

Stories are told, tears flow, good friends develop stronger friendships, and strangers become friends. Each day we close our time together with a response to the question "Where did you see God today?".

We invite you to talk with us on our return to discover some of our thoughts on the matter.

-Melba Lacey



WIFHL (Women's Institute for Higher Living) Crystal Conference Center, Sept. 19, 2009

We're hoping MCC will have a large group of women (young and older) at this annual, one day event. It will be at Crystal Conference Center (we will travel there on Friday). The theme centers around Woman at Risk International, the "Sex Trafficking Recovery Program". This is a special topic of concern for God's young children and women who are being exploited throughout the world, the U.S., and Michigan. There are several other exciting workshops on Saturday, worship and study opportunities, and lots of singing and fellowship/womenship. Please see the brochure in the narthex with all the workshops, events, and information you will need. Being at Crystal is a spiritual experience, we can slow down and embrace God's presence without responsibilities and deadlines. Thanks be to God for this opportunity.

The registration fee is \$40.00 and needs to be mailed in by Sept. 5, 2009. Our special offering "Lending a Helping Hand", will go to an agency in each District (North, East or West) that will be chosen during Retreat. If you have any questions, please see Bennie Walls.



2010 Disciples Women Quadrennial Assembly Awake! Awake!

~registration is now open~



The event will be held at the Sheraton at Four Seasons Hotel and the Koury Convention Center in beautiful, Greensboro, North Carolina, **June 23 - 27, 2010.**

With over 100 workshops already scheduled and awaiting your selection, a myriad of mission opportunities of varying activity levels, the QA choir, a pre-event Habitat for Humanity build, renowned Bible scholars and exciting speakers, the Quadrennial Assembly promises to be one of the best ever!

So what are you waiting for? Spread the word to your friends and family and start making your plans to attend. Check out more information on Disciple websites.

SEPTEMBER 2009



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 Bible Study 10am	4	5
	6 Sun. School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Fellowship	7 Labor Day	8 7:00 pm Board/Council	9	10 Bible Study 10am Shalom 11:30	11
13 Worship 10:30 <i>Lunch and New Beginnings Kick-Off</i>	14	15 NB	16 NB	17 Bible Study 10am NB	18 Juneteenth	19 NB CWM @ Crystal WIFHL
20 Worship 10:30 Fellowship NB	21	22 NB	23 NB	24 Bible Study 10am NB	25	26 NB
27 Worship 10:30 Fellowship NB	28	29 NB	 “GREAT IS YOUR FAITHFULNESS.” <small>LAMENTATIONS 3:23</small>			

Rod Grambeau Sept 02

Abby Aasbo Sept 09

Adam Avery Sept 17

Ellen Zimmerman Sept 19

Lawrence DeWolf Sept 25

I saac Yallop Sept 25



Irvin & Betty Miller Green Sept 24

Geneva & Lloyd Ballard Sept 28