

Memorial Christian Church

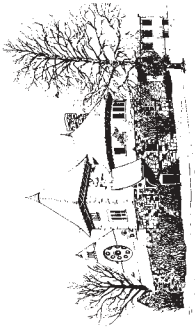
(Disciples of Christ)

730 Tappan~Ann Arbor, MI~48104

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

email= aamcc@provide.net

www.AnnArborDisciples.org



Winter Schedule:

Worship 10:30 am
Coffee Fellowship after service

Office Hours:

Tues., Thurs., Fri. 9:00 - 2:00

THE MESSENGER

December 2009



Annual Congregational Meeting Set December 6

The Official Board has set the date of the Annual Congregational Meeting for Sunday, December 6, following worship. Topping the agenda will be the recommendation from the Official Board that we adopt the strategy of Missional Revisioning and Relocation as a follow-up to our participation in the *New Beginnings* process. The congregation will also determine the amount of the minister's 2010 housing allowance.

Other items on the agenda are as prescribed by the Bylaws and include election of officers; reports by the pastor, financial secretary, treasurer, Administrative Council, and Commissions of Nurture and Mission; and a recommendation from the Board for the 2010 annual budget. Pending Board approval, and appropriate congregational notification, a recommendation for bylaws revision will also be presented for consideration.

This is an important meeting. Please make every effort to be present! If you are going to be out of town and unavailable for the meeting on that date, please notify the church office to see if alternative arrangements may be made for your participation.

Memorial Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

730 Tappan - Ann Arbor, MI - 48104

(734) 662-4245 - FAX: 734-662-3870

aamcc@provide.net - www.annarbordisciples.org

Dr. Irvin W. Green, Pastor

aamccpastor@provide.net

*UJIMA (Collective Work and Responsibility)
December 2009*

More than 2,000 years of human history are referred to with the prefix “AD”. Although I once mistakenly believed this prefix to mean “After Death”, it actually stands for “Anno Domini”. This Latin phrase means “In the Year of Our Lord”. Each ensuing year is thus understood, by Christian tradition, to be another year of our Lord. Some may understand this from a perspective of ownership or dominion (sounds like domini). I choose to see this as a reference to ongoing relationship (100 AD would be the 100th year in relationship with our Lord).

If the aspect of continuing relationship were commonly assumed, each new year would come with the expectation of growth. The relationship would be deeper in year 5 than it was in year 3. This understanding informs my hopes for Advent. As we experience another season of Advent, we have the opportunity to anticipate and work toward a closer and more mature relationship with our Lord. This calls for some work on our part. Instead of impatiently wishing that the season would quickly be completed, we might wish for more time to do this work.

This Advent season prepares us not only for Christmas of 2009, but for 2010 AD. Given that God’s relationship with humankind was remarkable in year 1, we must have reason for confidence as we face the 2010th year in our relationship with Christ. As a congregation, we will face significant challenges and opportunities in the coming year. We can do so, knowing that we are engaged in a relationship that offers depth and assurance. We have work to do, but we can do it without fear. We know Jesus and he knows and loves us.

MCC ANNUAL PEACE VIGIL



~ Peace on Earth ~

The Shalom Committee has decided to re-late this year’s Peace Vigil to the concerns of Week of Compassion. The vigil will take place February 20th - 21st as we begin the season of Lent.

~ Shalom ~

18th Annual

Love of Leadership Event

A one-day event for present and future lay leadership and clergy in the church

Treasuring Gratitude: *Living* the 23rd Psalm

“Because the Lord is my shepherd, I have everything I need.”

**Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. J. Clinton McCann,
Professor of Biblical Interpretation of
Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis**

January 9th, 2010

8:45am - 3:30pm

First Christian Church ~ 1001 Chester Road
Lansing, MI 48912

Love of Leadership is an ecumenical ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), MI Region and the Michigan Conference, United Church of Christ

Register by December 18th.

Flier posted in church has more information.

Jesus will not do our work, but we can do it better, if we let our relationship with the Lord guide us.

I wish God’s best for each of you, my co-laborers.

In Christ;

Dr. Irvin W. Green, Pastor



SERMONS and SCRIPTURES

<i>Dec. 6th</i>	<i>“God Sent” Malachi 3: 1-4, Luke 1: 68-79</i>
<i>Dec. 13th</i>	<i>“God, Among Us” Zephaniah 3: 14-20</i>
<i>Dec. 20th</i>	<i>“The Gift” Isaiah 9: 2-7</i>
<i>Dec. 27th</i>	<i>TBA</i>

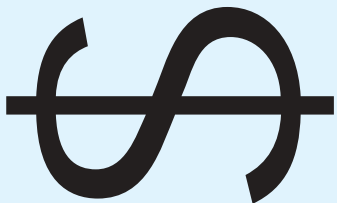
LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY

Our 10am Thursday morning Bible Study group continues to meet. 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.



Financial Report 1/1/09 – 11/15/09

Line Item	Received to 11/15/09	Budget Requested to 11/15/09
General Fund Offerings	\$99,558.03	\$71,622.00
Building Needs Offerings	\$275.00	\$506.00
Designated DMF		
Offering/Special Days	\$10,054.26	\$7,498.00
Designated Local		
Mission Outreach	\$477.50	\$1,150.00
Other Receipts (Parking, etc.)	\$18,275.17	\$5,178.00
Total to date	\$128,589.96	\$135,954.00



Thanks be to God for the generosity of God's people! God has so blessed us with Jesus and the gift of Salvation that we absolutely must giggle with glee when we write our checks for the continuing mission and ministry of the church. We hear that laughing is good for our health, and I would posit that "giggling with glee" is good for our souls.

~~~Melba Lacey, Financial Secretary



## Board Approves *New Beginnings* Recommendation, Receives Bylaws Proposal

About 25 people crowded the Meeting Room last Tuesday evening, as the Official Board received and discussed the recommendation from the Cottage Meetings Leadership Team that **Missional Revisioning with Relocation is our greatest opportunity for a ministry strategy.** This recommendation was accepted, and it will be presented at the Annual Congregational Meeting for congregational approval. An action plan presented by Dr. Green was discussed and referred to Nan Bauer and JoElla Coles to develop a project plan.

Proposed bylaws based on a model of small church bylaws, which had been provided by Regional Minister for the Interim Jon Lacey, were received by the Board but not discussed. They will be considered at a future meeting. Working throughout the year to prepare these modifications has been the Bylaws Revision Committee, consisting of Bob Barnsdale, Shirley Martinson, John Overmars, Sara Williams, and the moderator.

In other business the Board set the date of the Annual Congregational Meeting for Sunday, December 6, after worship. The Board approved the moderator's appointment of following persons to the Nominating Committee: Karen Neal, Sharon Ongaro, Diane Smith, and Jack Walls.

The Board received and approved three recommendations from Tom Neal, Property Chair. They are 1) to hire Conklin to provide full-service snow removal for the coming season, including parking lot, walks, and ice melt; 2) to proceed with roof repair at a cost of \$3,900; 3) to follow up the re-keying of our building and office with the installation of an alarm system.

It was inspiring to see the high attendance at Tuesday's meeting, especially to note the efforts Board members made to be present. Their number was nearly matched by the number of other interested members of the congregation who were present. What a joyful and momentous occasion! The Board has taken a tremendous step in approving the strategy of **Missional Revisioning and Relocation.** Are we ready for what comes next? Let us continue in prayer, as we seek to discern where and how God is calling us into new beginnings!

Blessings—Rosalie Karunas, Moderator

CHRISTMAS EVE



Join us for a candlelight  
service on Thursday,  
December 24th at 7pm

**MCC'S ANNUAL ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR,  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13**

An opportunity to shop for unique handmade gifts crafted by artisans from cooperatives in Third World countries and by members of your MCC community. Because all items are donated, every penny raised will be used to support our featured charities:

**Friends in Deed**, an Ypsilanti-based interfaith agency that connects local congregations to those in need, providing direct financial assistance, furniture, minor car repairs, home repairs, transportation to appointments, etc. as well as serving as a clearinghouse to link clients with other social services within the community.

**Women of Kinshasa**, a project close to Michigan Disciples due to our longstanding partnership with the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Kinshasa women help support their families by producing Chalice-themed clothing which is purchased and worn each Sunday by all church members. A very special project currently in progress is the manufacture of the totebags for the 2010 Disciples Women's Quadrennial. Since fabrics must be purchased in large quantities (about \$5,000 US), there is an ongoing need for funds. We will be joining other Michigan Disciples congregations in supporting this worthy cause.

You will also have the opportunity to honor loved ones with direct donations to other charities, such as Church World Service, Disciples Homeland Ministries, etc.

We are accepting donations of original artwork, crafts, home-baked goods, personal services (such as handyman services, home-cooked dinner for two, vacation home getaways, dessert-a-month for a year).

New This Year: Bring a favorite home-cooked dish and copies of your recipe. Shoppers will have a chance to sample your dish for a small donation; if they like it, they can take the recipe home with them!

If you are able to donate services or items for the bazaar, please call the church office (734-662-4245) or Eve Overmars (734-455-7157) so we can plan how best to display your donation!

We hope you will join us for a chance to re-focus your holiday spirit by donating and purchasing gifts that will be memorable to receive and life-changing for those benefiting from your generosity!

EvE O.



Poinsettias adorn the sanctuary each year the week before Christmas. A donation is asked for if you'd like to honor or remember a loved one and have their name printed in our Christmas Eve worship bulletin. The amount is up to you. If you would also like to take a poinsettia home after the Christmas Eve worship service, we ask for a minimum donation of \$12. Please fill out the form below and turn it in by December 13th with your donation.

I / We (circle one) would like to make a donation in honor / memory (circle one) of:

\_\_\_\_\_

from: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you plan to take a poinsettia home?

-6-      \_\_\_Yes      \_\_\_No

## MCC MESSAGES...

**\*IN OUR PRAYERS:** Betty and Carl Baird have moved to Gilbert Residence where Betty is under hospice care. Their address is 203 S. Huron St., D-45, Ypsilanti, MI 48197...**Peter Schick** is back home and doing well...**Lloyd Ballard, Wanda Cavello, Judy Hiser and Ted St. Clair** with ongoing health concerns... Our homebound members, **Jeanne Neighbors** and **Shirley Smith**.

Join us **December 12th**, for the next meeting of the Second Half Improv group here at the church at 5:30PM. Light snacks will be available, and be sure to wear comfortable clothes. Please call Nancy Zavrel if you'd like more info at 973-8938.



## Christian Women Ministry

All women are invited to attend our morning and/or evening study and fellowship groups. The morning group meets the first Monday of each month at 9:30am in the church. Our evening group meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month in the homes of various members. Look for information on upcoming meetings in the weekly bulletin.

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Adult Class that meets in the parlor at 9:15 is starting to study The highly acclaimed "Living the Questions" materials on Progressive Christianity. The study combines a video with time for discussion.

Living the Questions is an open-minded alternative to studies that attempt to give participants all the answers. Living the Questions creates an environment where participants not only interact with one another in exploring the best of today's theological thought, but together strive to explore what's next for Christianity. Thirty of today's leading religious voices, including Bishop Spong, share thoughts on the video portion of the study.

Several years ago Stephen Miller introduced us to Progressive Christianity but we were not able to find appropriate study materials. Now thanks to Melba Lacey we will be able to study it in an exciting way.

.....

### Partners in Prayer--Advent 2009


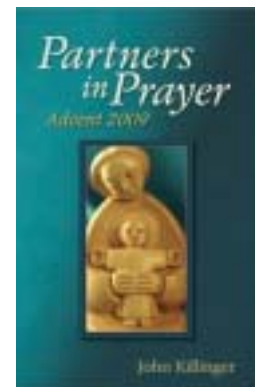
John Killinger compares the reading of scriptures for the season of Advent to the ritual of redecorating one's house each Christmas season. We open the boxes of ornaments, lights, and wreaths, and we display them throughout our homes. We're familiar with each item we use to decorate the tree.

Similarly, we are familiar with the story of Jesus' birth. Yet, over time, these rituals and scriptures can begin to get a little ho-hum. We worry more about getting things done, and miss out on enjoying what we are doing.

In this year's Partners in Prayer, John Killinger takes us through the glorious season of Advent, helping us remember the things we may have overlooked or forgotten about--just like when you hang that old favorite ornament.

Each daily devotion contains a scripture reference to read followed by a spiritual meditation. A short prayer closes each day's devotion. Partners in Prayer is designed to be used in both large and small groups, as well as by individuals.

The suggested cost will be \$2.50



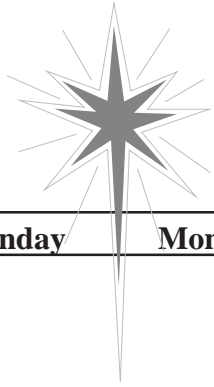
### 2010 Disciples Women Quadrennial Assembly Awake! Awake!

~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.**

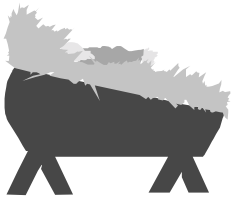
With over 100 workshops already scheduled and awaiting your selection, a myriad of mission opportunities of varying activity levels, the QA choir, a pre-event Habitat for Humanity build, renowned Bible scholars and exciting speakers, the Quadrennial Assembly promises to be one of the best ever!

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 the Disciple website (Disciples.org).



# DECEMBER 2009



| Sunday                                                                                             | Monday    | Tuesday                           | Wednesday | Thursday                                           | Friday                                                                                | Saturday                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                    |           | <b>1</b> World AIDS Day           | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b><br>Bible Study 10am                       | <b>4</b>                                                                              | <b>5</b>                                  |
| <b>6</b> Peace Sunday<br>Sun. School 9:15<br>Worship 10:30<br>Fellowship<br>Congregational Meeting | <b>7</b>  | <b>8</b>                          | <b>9</b>  | <b>10</b> Human Rights Day<br>Bible Study 10am     | <b>11</b>                                                                             | <b>12</b><br>2nd Half Improv Group 5:30pm |
| <b>13</b><br>Sun. School 9:15<br>Worship 10:30<br>Fellowship<br>Alternative Christmas Bazaar       | <b>14</b> | <b>15</b><br>7:00pm Board Meeting | <b>16</b> | <b>17</b><br>Bible Study 10am                      | <b>18</b>                                                                             | <b>19</b>                                 |
| <b>20</b> Christmas Sunday<br>Sun. School 9:15<br>Worship 10:30<br>Fellowship                      | <b>21</b> | <b>22</b>                         | <b>23</b> | <b>24</b> Christmas Eve<br>Candlelight Service 7pm | <b>25</b> Merry Christmas                                                             | <b>26</b>                                 |
| <b>27</b><br>Sun. School 9:15<br>Worship 10:30<br>Fellowship                                       | <b>28</b> | <b>29</b>                         | <b>30</b> | <b>31</b> New Year's Eve                           |  |                                           |

|                   |        |
|-------------------|--------|
| Jack Walls        | Dec 03 |
| Jeanne Neighbors  | Dec 05 |
| Amy Booker-Hirsch | Dec 08 |
| Carolyn Roberts   | Dec 09 |
| SaraLou Williams  | Dec 10 |
| Sharon Ongaro     | Dec 13 |
| Chuck Booker      | Dec 16 |
| RJ Gaines         | Dec 23 |
| Anna White        | Dec 30 |



Sara Lou & David Williams  
Dec 10