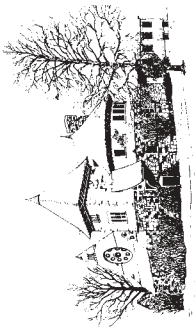


Memorial Christian Church

(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

January 2010



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED MAKE MCC'S ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR A SUCCESS!

Whether you donated goods/services for sale, helped with set up, shopped for this great cause (or, did all three!) - you helped raise over \$950, which will be divided between Friends in Deed and the Kinshasa Women's Project.

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)
January 2010

There are times when doing what you are doing causes you to forget to be who you are. One example of this occurs often near the end of a sporting event. Teams that are trailing badly turn, in desperation to their least effective means of scoring. Weak armed quarterbacks throw long passes. Point guards shoot three point jump shots. Middle infielders swing for the fences. These desperate efforts are understood to be appropriate to the moment, but seldom work. In the end, the greatest likelihood for success is experienced when you are faithful to who and what you are.

Congregations and Christian families live out a behavior that parallels the sports teams and athletes. Whether in dealing with home finances or critical events at our church, we tend to experience significant increases in our meeting schedules. Realizing the burden that we have created for our members, we often diminish the scheduling of worship and special events. At the times when individuals most need a stable worship and community life, we cut back on these things. Our results are likely to be similar to the desperate athletes of whom we spoke.

I am determined to behave differently in 2010. We will make more worship opportunities available to our people. We will schedule game nights, improve, and outings. We will emphasize involvement in mission, in personal ways. We will accept the fact that individuals need to pick and choose activities, to manage their self care, but we will not take away the opportunities to **BE THE CHURCH**.

We must never take away foundational things that allow our members to experience community and hopefulness.

To complete our business, the congregation scheduled another meeting for January 17 after worship. Among the items on the agenda will be consideration of a proposal to adopt new bylaws. This proposal is being forwarded to the congregation by the Official Board.

Latest development is the discovery, around the middle of December, that we have a leak in our boiler, the source of heat in the old part of our building. Unfortunately, this cannot be repaired, and the boiler must be replaced. Faced with sanctuary temperatures in the low 40's, the congregation overflowed the Meeting Room, as we celebrated the fourth Sunday of Advent. The old boiler was being removed on the following day and installation of a new one was scheduled to follow immediately. The hope and expectation was to worship in the sanctuary on Christmas Eve. Praise God!

There is much reason to rejoice as we welcome the light of Christ's birth in these holy seasons of Christmas and Epiphany. May the light we receive illuminate our visioning and plans for relocation in the days ahead!

Blessings—Rosalie Karunas



From the Moderator . . .

A lot has happened around Memorial Christian Church since you received the last edition of *The Messenger*. A fire occurred in our building, just as the December edition was going to press. Around midday on Saturday, November 21, a staff member or student at the University of Michigan School of Business Administration building across the street glanced out the window, alertly noticed smoke coming out of our tower, and reported the fire. We were very fortunate this happened immediately.

Property Chair Tom Neal reports that the fire department responded promptly, gained entry with minimal damage, and put out the fire quickly. Fire was discovered in two places—in the hallway outside the tower room and in the sanctuary. The Ann Arbor Police Department is investigating the cause.

As well as damage to the sanctuary floor, and destruction of some contents, there was some water damage in the old narthex and smoke damage was considerable throughout the building. But it didn't stop us from worshipping in the sanctuary the very next day! Air scrubbing and cleaning began the Monday following the fire. As this issue of *The Messenger* is being prepared, construction firms are bidding on repairs to the building and replacement of damaged contents. These bids are being finalized with our insurance carrier, so that one can be selected and repairs can begin.

In other developments, the congregation made a momentous decision at the Annual Congregational Meeting, on Sunday, December 5. On that day, the congregation voted by a wide margin to accept Official Board's recommendation of **missional revisioning** and **relocation using the strategy of redevelopment**. As you know, this recommendation is the outgrowth of the *New Beginnings* process that we have been undergoing for several months, in consultation with Church Extension.

Matt Rosine, our consultant, celebrates this decision with us and anticipates our working closely with him and with Rick Morse to develop the next steps. Matt Reports that Rick is developing a new program to help congregations recapture their vision, as they relocate. Perhaps we will be able to pilot this program!

Worship, prayer, and occasions of fellowship and service must abound in any congregation that seeks renewal. Meetings and training events are helpful and necessary, but they must not be allowed to become the primary image of who we are. We are worshipping, praying, eating, praising, serving, and giving people. Let us return to our roots.

In Christ,

Dr. Irvin W. Green, Pastor



SERMONS and SCRIPTURES

<i>Jan. 3rd</i>	<i>“Hop, Skip, and Jump” Jeremiah 31: 7-14</i>
<i>Jan. 10th</i>	<i>“Ascribe to the Lord” Isaiah 43: 1-7, Psalm 29 Acts 8: 14-17, Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22</i>
<i>Jan. 17th</i>	<i>“I Do” Isaiah 62: 1-5, John 2: 1-11</i>
<i>Jan. 24th</i>	<i>“Fulfilled” Luke 4: 14-21</i>
<i>Jan. 31st</i>	<i>“Perceived Risk” Luke 4: 21-30</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.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

***CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:** Classes for all ages begin at 9:15am. The Adult Class that meets in the parlor is studying 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.

COLLEGE AND YOUNG ADULT CLASS:

Immediately following worship on **January 3rd, 2010**, college age and young adults will meet. They will share a meal, fellowship and discussion led by Dr. Green. All college age and young adults (20's and 30's) - come and bring a friend! **(Please call the church office to let us plan for enough food!)**

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

To complete the business on our agenda from December 6th, the congregation has scheduled a meeting for Sunday **January 17, 2010**, following worship. At that time, we will hear reports from our pastor, financial officers, Administrative Council, and commissions.



Financial Report (49, #of weeks to date)



	Year-to-date 12/6/09	Needed Year-to-date 12/6/09
General Fund Offerings	104,126.03	\$76,293.00
Building Needs Offerings	\$275.00	\$539.00
Designated DMF		
Offering/Special Days	\$10,499.26	\$7,987.00
Designated Local		
Mission Outreach	\$659.50	\$1,225.00
Other Receipts (Parking, etc.)	\$32,838.55	\$58,607.00
Total to date	\$148,398.34	\$144,651.00

While it may appear that we are "ahead" in our budget, we must recognize that the figures above include pre-payment of parking for 2010 in the amount of \$14,000. So we really are about \$10,000 behind. Please do your best to be current with your giving.

~Melba Lacey, Financial Secretary

From your Financial Secretary: In the Fall 2009 Advocate published by Disciples Home Mission, Ron Degges declares "Difficult economic times can surely test our faith. They can cause us to focus on survival rather than abundance, death rather than life. But we must never lose sight of the fact that we are God's Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. We will not give in to economic anxiety and survival mentalities. You can be sure that we will not give in to death. We are alive with the presence and spirit of Jesus Christ. With God's help we are finding our way through this current wilderness. So, I am not going to tell you how dire things are. You already know all about it. What I am going to say is that there is a new chapter coming in the ongoing saga of God's love for the church. It will be more like that which is fresh and crisp and less like that which is wilted." I couldn't have said it better myself. -Melba Lacey

For New Beginnings

O God,

We thank you for this earth, our home; for the wide sky and the blessed sun, for the ocean and streams, for the towering hills and the whispering wind, for the trees and green grass.

We thank you for our senses by which we hear the songs of birds, and see the splendor of fields of golden wheat, and taste autumn's fruit, rejoice in the feel of snow, and smell the breath of spring flowers.

Grant us a heart opened wide to all this beauty; and save us from being so blind that we pass unseeing when even the common thorn bush is aflame with your glory.

For each new dawn is filled with infinite possibilities for new beginnings and new discoveries. Life is constantly changing and renewing itself. In this new day of new beginnings with God, all things are possible. We are restored and renewed in a joyous awakening to the wonder that our lives are and, yet, can be.

Amen.

--Source: Appleseeds.org

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

Flier posted in church has more information.



Christian Women Ministry

All women are invited to attend our evening study and fellowship group. Our evening group meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month in the homes of various members. The January meeting will be Tuesday, January 19th at the home of Bennie Walls and starts at 6:30pm.



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).

The Interfaith Round Table of Washtenaw County starts a five part winter/spring series on “The Divine Language of Music” with its first theme, CHANTING, on Sunday, January 24, at 7 pm, at the Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd, Ann Arbor. Three outstanding local performers will sing/demonstrate their chanting and then explore their meanings: Norma Gentile, recording artist/soloist; Ann Arbor’s Threshold Choir under the direction of Tammy Corwin-Renner, and a local Sufi chanting group. For more information, call 734-678-5616 or email gbrides@umich.edu. Donations accepted at the door (suggested \$10).

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday is celebrated on January 15th in honor of his legacy to all of the people of the United States. Many of his sermons and letters have been quoted for our learning, and here is yet another statement concerning service.

“Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don't have to know about Plato and Aristotle to serve. You don't have to know Einstein's “Theory of Relativity” to serve. You don't have to know the Second Theory of Thermodynamics in Physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love, and you can be that servant.”

Excerpted from “The Drum Major Instinct”, a sermon by Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., 1968.



IN OUR PRAYERS



Ted St. Clair passed away on Monday December 21st, after nearly 4 weeks in hospice care. His passing came peacefully, while he slept. His body has already been cremated, as there will be no funeral or memorial service. We will have some words of remembrance and a display of photos and other items at our regular service on January 3rd. I have assured Cathy that we, her church, are available however she needs us. Her sister is with her, but it will help if we look in on them...

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...

Lloyd Ballard, Wanda Cavello, and Judy Hiser with ongoing health concerns...

Our homebound members, **Jeanne Neighbors** and **Shirley Smith**.



JANUARY 2010



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="color: red;">Wishing you a happy and healthy New Year!</p>					1 New Year's Day	2
3 Sun. School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Fellowship	4	5 Annual Reports Due (9am)	6 Epiphany Begins	7 Bible Study 10am	8	9 Love of Leadership
10 Sun. School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Fellowship College Age/ Young Adults Meet & Eat	11	12	13	14 Bible Study 10am	15	16
17 Sun. School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Fellowship Congregational Meeting	18 MLK, Jr. Day	19 CWM 6:30pm (Women's group)	20	21 Bible Study 10am	22	23
24 Week of the Laity Sun. School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 31	25	26	27	28 Bible Study 10am	29	30

Rupert de Salis	Jan 01
Bob Barnsdale	Jan 14
June Smedley	Jan 16
Tiana Coles	Jan 16
Pamela Overmars	Jan 18
Joan Bell	Jan 19
Jean Carey	Jan 25
Erin Williams	Jan 26
I nez Briggs	Jan 28



Barbara & Russell Fuller
Jan 16