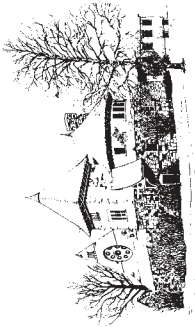


Memorial Christian Church

(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

November 2009



MEMORIAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

Memorial Christian Church is called to celebrate and share God's presence and grace as revealed through the life, teachings, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We are called to understand the needs of our congregation, community and world...and to respond with a loving and nurturing ministry of witness and service to all people.

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)

November 2009

Throughout our lives, we talk about and hear about love. We are taught, and also discover for ourselves, that the power of love exceeds nearly every human emotion. Nations and corporations have been built and destroyed on the basis, and as the result of love or the loss of love. Love is, in brief, a BIG DEAL.

The reason that I am writing about love today is that we may have left too little room for the impact of love, in our expectations of each other. I believe that we allow our personal understandings of love to limit how much we respect and consider the ways that others love, and whom or what they love. It seems that we know so much about it that we have shut off further understanding, as if we have it all figured out.

One of the ways that I have been able to discover and experience an unconventional view of love has been in ministering to pet owners. Since coming to MCC, I have had as many occasions to be present with those who have mourned the loss of a pet as with those who mourned a human loved one. The grieving has varied, from person to person, but has always been clearly real. Some people, including some of my colleagues, would claim that love of a pet is not real love and that ministering to those who mourn the loss of them trivializes REAL love.

A common claim is that love is of persons, rather than things. Nearly all of us have been said to love something that is inanimate, but we tend to prefer to claim that the love is actually for some human relationship that is facilitated by these things. Our cars transport our friends. Our houses contain our families. Still, some places and things touch so many relationships that they can not be fully named. At times like that, we find it easier, and maybe more accurate, to say I love this school, I love this country, I love this church.



New Beginnings Report ADDITIONAL PAGE

This page should be included with Memorial Christian Church's New Beginnings

Assessment Report. At the time of assessment, the church did not provide current data about financial expenditures. Because of that, the information listed on page 27 of the assessment report reflects expenses from 2006. Since the time of the assessment, the church has sent corrected and up-to-date information about church expenses. This information is reflected in the table below.

Current Operating Budget - 2008

		% of exp	% Recommended
Salary support	\$105,365	71.64%	50.0%
Building/office	\$27,900	18.97%	25.0%
Program	\$4,530	3.08%	15.0%
Mission	\$9,279	6.31%	10.0%
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$147,074		

The figures shown above reflect actual expenses from the 2008 church budget year. Please include this information with the New Beginnings Assessment report.

Reflections on the Great Communion

Sunday, October 4, was a glorious day in the life of Memorial Christian Church. Not only did we launch Ministry Appreciation Month in our morning worship, we also celebrated the 40th anniversary of the ordination of Jon Lacey, Regional Minister for the Interim, as he was our preacher of the day.

Jon's sermon, highlighting Thomas Campbell's *Declaration and Address*, provided a helpful historical context for the celebration of the Great Communion later that day. In his document, Campbell puts forth 13 propositions that speak as cogently to our post-modern world as they must have to his contemporaries. The first is probably the most familiar—"that the Church of Christ upon earth is essentially, intentionally, and constitutionally one." Another laments that "division among the Christians is a horrid evil, fraught with many evils."

On this Worldwide Communion Sunday, Jon and several of us MCC'ers also traveled in the afternoon to the Rochester Hills Church of Christ. We joined a congregation of a few hundred to celebrate the Great Communion. Participants came from the three strands of the Stone-Campbell movement—from our host congregation, from Disciples congregations in Flint and Saginaw and Detroit, and from a nearby independent Christian Church.

Our worship, arranged with the help of Rev. Bob Cornwall of Central Woodward Christian Church in Troy, was one of many gatherings across the United States and Australia and Canada and Kenya and other places around the world for this bicentennial observance.

Our hearts soared with the warm words of welcome, uplifting music, and leadership from participating congregations. Contributing joyously were The Singing Preachers, which include two of our Detroit Disciples pastors—Rev. Eugene James and Rev. Rufus Lewis. In our differences, it was inspiring to be gathered as one at the communion table. May we have many more of these celebrations!

—Rosalie Karunas



It may be that one of the most loving things we can do for each other is to understand, or at least make room for the ways that each of us experiences love.

In Christ's Love;

Dr. Irvin W. Green, Pastor



SERMONS and SCRIPTURES

<i>Nov. 1st</i>	<i>"Give Your All"</i> <i>Mark 12: 28-34</i>
<i>Nov. 8th</i>	<i>"No Magic Formula"</i> <i>Mark 12: 38-44</i>
<i>Nov. 15th</i>	<i>"TBA"</i>
<i>Nov. 22nd</i>	<i>"We Remember"</i> <i>Joshua 4: 19-24</i>
<i>Nov. 29th</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.



PASTOR'S REPORT
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL -10/13/09

In preparation for our annual stewardship pledges, I will begin preaching a series of stewardship sermons on October 25th. These sermons, like the 2 that precede them, will come from the Gospel of Mark. The sermons will be entitled:

“Take Time to Give Time” (10/25)

“Give Your All” (11/1)

“No Magic Formula” (11/8)

The messages will address the principal aspects of stewardship (time, talent, and treasure). Testimony will be addressed in all three sermons.

Sadly, the decision has been made, by the Guild House board, to surrender the property. The conditional deed that was granted to Guild House calls for ownership to revert to the United Christian Missionary Society. The transfer of the property has raised many questions for the UCMS board, as well as the Guild House board. The actual transfer and subsequent disposal of the proceeds will be determined as these questions are answered.

I have been asked, by Dr. Sharon Watkins, to serve on a task team, in order to address the requirements of a resolution passed at the Indianapolis General Assembly. Resolution 0922 is intended to provide a mechanism for revising our current Order of Ministry. Among the changes will be providing means for ordination by way of demonstrating competencies that are comparable to those acquired in seminary programs. I will be serving on the task team that is charged with defining those competencies.

We have received word from the Lilly Endowment that my sabbatical grant application has been approved. The grant, in the amount of \$50,000 will be given to the church to provide funds for my sabbatical activities as well as covering expenses of the church. In the coming months, we will formalize the plans for covering the pastoral duties and for several activities of the congregation. Betty and I are looking forward to this respite, which will take us to destinations on four continents.

In Christ;

Dr. Irvin W. Green, Pastor

May you recognize in your life, the presence, power
and light of your soul.

May you realize that you are never alone,

That your soul in its brightness and belonging

Connects you intimately with the rhythm
of the universe.

May you have respect for your own individuality
and difference.

May you realize that the shape of your soul is unique,

That you have a special destiny here.

That behind the facade of your life

There is something beautiful, good and
eternal happening.

May you learn to see yourself with
the same delight, pride,

And expression with which God sees you
in every moment.

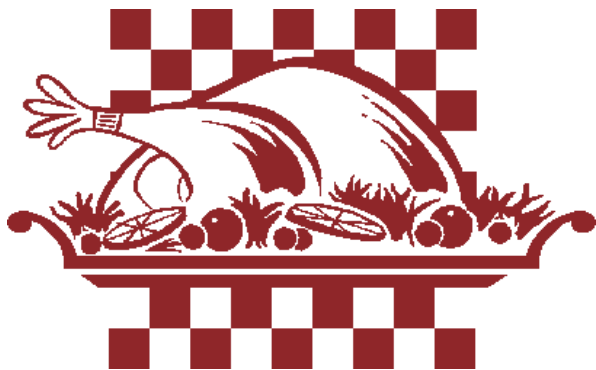
John O'Donohue (1956-2008)

From Anam Caral

Thanksgiving

Join us for our annual Thanksgiving meal on Sunday, November 22nd after our 10:30 worship service.

If you are able, we invite you to bring a dish to pass. Turkey will be provided!



Cottage Meetings Leaders “Set the Table”

To “set the table” for helping Memorial Christian Church anticipate the changes described in our *New Beginnings Assessment Report*, the Cottage Meetings Leadership Team met in early

October. They gathered to shape a recommendation for the congregation, based upon the consensus that had emerged from their small-group conversations in September. Almost immediately evident in this discussion was the variation from group to group in how we as a congregation understand our mission. Comments ranged from “we no longer have a mission” to “our contextual relevance depends on our mission” to “our mission is not clear.”

This lack of clarity coupled with consensus in several areas—moderate passion/energy and low contextual relevance and resources—led the Leadership Team to add **missional revisioning** to the change model recommended by the *New Beginnings Assessment Report*. The report recommended redevelopment by the **strategy of relocation**. According to the report, “Redevelopment recognizes that the congregation’s ministry is not sustainable *as is* and must adapt to provide a vital Disciples of Christ witness in the community. The strategy of relocation has the congregation selling its facilities and using the assets to relocate to an area in which the congregation has more affinity. This strategy is effective in right-sizing a facility to the congregation as well as improving affinity.”

The change model of “missional revisioning” calls us to urgently strive to realize what God has called us to be and to do, as we undertake a spiritual, systemic, and strategic journey. Missional revisioning acknowledges the need for all congregations to refocus their mission from time to time to adapt to the changing missional opportunities of their communities.

Do you think we are at the end of our journey, simply because we have completed a series of four cottage meetings? No, I believe we are closer to the beginning than to the end! Our challenge is to **continue the holy conversations started** in the small groups whenever we are face to face with one another.

As one possible starting point for these conversations, I recommend the article appearing in the “Faith” section of the October 15 issue of ANNARBOR.COM entitled, “New technologies draw younger members to church.” * The article tells the story of a campus-area congregation that sold its building about a year ago and recently reopened in what appears to be a commercial location, with a different focus and a different name, Grace Ann Arbor.

Can the experience of that congregation inform us in our journey? I invite you to respond to that question and to continue our holy conversations, as the Official Board prepares to receive the Leadership team’s recommendation this month. May we urgently strive to define our mission and to clarify our vision, that we may realize what God has called us to be and to do!

Blessings—Rosalie Karunas, Moderator

*If you do not receive the print edition, go to “annarbor.com newspaper” on the Internet. On the home page, type into the search engine, the words “faith—sung kim.” You will be directed to the appropriate article, only it will have a different name—“New churches planted to reach special niches, new members.”

**INTERFAITH ROUND TABLE
OF WASHTENAW COUNTY**

15th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration
Sunday evening, November 22nd, at 7 p.m.
Zen Buddhist Temple, 1214 Packard Road, Ann Arbor.

Join us as we give thanks with readings, music, meditations and other unique presentations from a wide variety of faith traditions. Donations accepted for non-perishable food or turkey money to help those in need in our community. 2010 Interfaith Calendars also available. For more information, call Rev. George Lambrides (424-1535) or Laurie Gailunas at 662-3654.



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. For November the evening group will change or cancel their meeting due to the Board Meeting scheduled. Look for information on upcoming meetings in the weekly bulletin.



**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).

M I S S I O N

GIVE TO WOC

Supplies are desperately needed, and we can help! Throughout November we are collecting items to put together Clean-up Buckets to help people who have endured hardships due to flooding or other natural disasters. **Can you help?** Following is a list of needed items:

- One 5-gallon bucket with resealable lid
- Five scouring pads
- Seven sponges, assorted sizes
- One scrub brush
- Eighteen cleaning towels (reusable, like Easy Wipes)
- One 50-78 oz. box dry laundry detergent
- One 12 oz. bottle liquid concentrate cleaner (like Lysol)
- One 25 oz. liquid disinfectant dish soap (like Dawn)
- Fifty clothespins
- Clothesline, two 50ft. or one 100ft.
- Five dust masks
- Two pairs latex gloves (like Playtex)
- One pair work gloves
- 24-bag roll of heavy-duty trash bags (33-45gallon)
- One 6-14 oz. bottle of insect repellent (drops or lotion)

Please purchase all liquids in plastic bottles. Donations can be made to offset transporting buckets to IN or distribution costs, or for the purchase of materials to fill the buckets. Donations can be made to MCC with a notation that it is for emergency clean-up buckets.

If you have any questions, please speak with Eve Overmars.

MCC MESSAGES...

***IN OUR PRAYERS:** Betty Baird at Heartland Healthcare Center...Peter Schick at Glacier Hills for rehab...Lloyd Ballard, Wanda Cavello, Judy Hiser and Ted St. Clair with ongoing health concerns... Our homebound members, Jeanne Neighbors and Shirley Smith.

***THANK YOU:** Thank you all MCC'ers for your kindnesses, cards and gift on the 40th anniversary of my ordination to ministry. And for the remembrance and card of my other October anniversary--my 66th birthday October 13.
-Jon Lacey



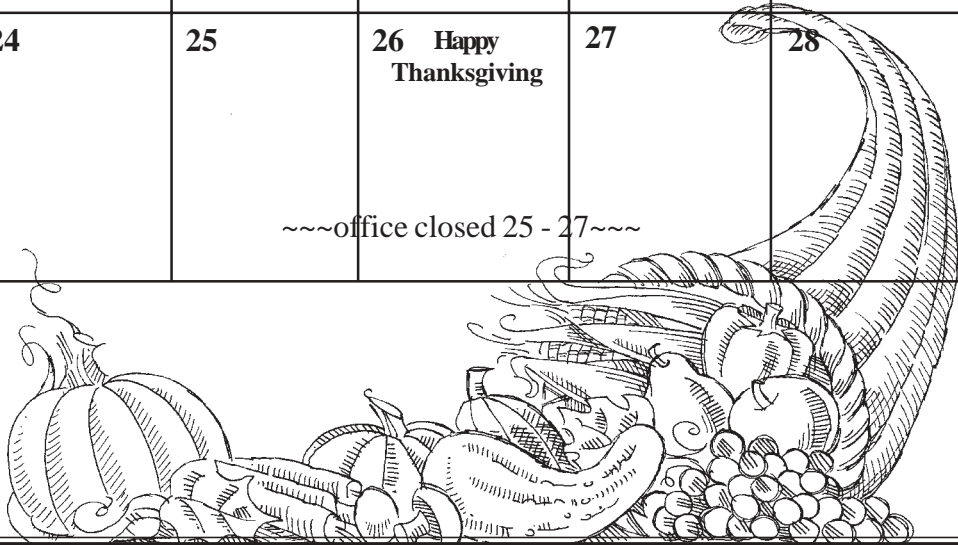
Second Half Improv Group

Join us **November 14th**, 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.



NOVEMBER 2009



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 All Saints Day Sun. School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Fellowship E. Dist. Assembly	2	3	4	5 Bible Study 10am	6 World Community Day	7 
8 Sun. School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Fellowship	9	10	11	12 Bible Study 10am Shalom 11:30	13	14 2nd Half Improv Group 5:30pm
15 Sun. School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Fellowship	16	17 7:00pm Board Meeting	18	19 Bible Study 10am	20	21 
22 Thanksgiving Sunday Sun. School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Fellowship and Feast	23	24	25 ~~~office closed 25 - 27~~~	26 Happy Thanksgiving	27	28
29 Advent Sun. School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Fellowship	30					

Blaire Jenkins	Nov 02
Jacque Perry	Nov 02
Lauren DeWolf	Nov 04
Karen Neal	Nov 06
Amy Nowland	Nov 07
Greg Jenkins	Nov 09
Renee Stevenson	Nov 12
Dee Moore	Nov 21
Brie Overmars	Nov 25
Libby Schick	Nov 26
Robin Dorr	Nov 30
Kit Fuller	Nov 30



Bennie & Jack Walls	Nov 19
Bob & Sharon Ongaro	Nov 25