

This Is Your Last Chance to Donate to Our Troops

The Youth Groups are **collecting donations to ship to troops in Afghanistan** in the box outside of Leslie's office. Suggested items to donate are: powdered drink mixes that can be mixed with water, Ramen noodles, canned tuna fish, snacks and nuts in small hard containers, cheese crackers, cookies, toothbrushes, lip balm, 100% cotton socks, paperback books, crossword puzzles, Frisbees, yo-yos, and disposable cameras. Youth group members will be showing their cooperation by sending personalized notes and packaging these items on **Sunday, March 15**, so please have all donations in by that time.

2009 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Disciples from across the U.S. and Canada and from around the world will gather **in Indianapolis from July 29 - August 2** for the church's biennial assembly to worship, learn, fellowship and discuss the future of our Church. The 2009 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will center its work around Revelation 22:2 - *And the leaves of the trees shall be for the healing of the nations.*" In choosing this verse as the centerpiece and guiding scriptural reference, organizers seek to complement the Disciples' new identity statement (*We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world*) with a theme of relevance, energy, conviction – and healing. The theme and logo for the assembly select several key words from the Revelation text, which is expressed simply as . . . *For the healing of the nations* . . . The logo depicts dozens of hands representing the many leaves of the tree. Organizers stress the hands are intentional, to represent hands raised in prayer, hands poised for work, and hands used for healing.

Assembly participants are invited to examine what it means to strive to be whole and to bring healing – for ourselves and for all God's creation. The theme of healing will be explored through worship, resource groups, and mission work. Well informed theologians, clergy, scholars and lay leaders will share their insights on the theme and its implications for our work, our witness and our future. In addition, people of all ages will engage in discussions on the church's future and what it means to be a mission-driven and priority focused church in the 21st century.

The theme also underscores the desire to create church-wide events that are "green" and ecologically responsible. The emphasis on "greening" means the event will serve as a model for ways Disciples can create meetings and moments of worship that minimize negative impacts on the environment. Practices learned and shared will assist congregations and individuals in becoming better stewards of the earth. The thousands who will gather will seek to affirm and declare the gospel with faith, energy, and commitment. Attendees will learn spiritual and practical skills that allow each of us to become part of the movement for wholeness in the world.

Hotel space will be in ample supply and attendees will be able to pick from a variety of quality, yet affordable downtown hotel properties, all within easy walking distance of the Indiana Convention Center. The presence of children, youth and young adults will be well-integrated into all aspects of the assembly, with a host of activities and learning options for people of all ages. To register and learn more about the schedule, speakers, guidelines for greening, and the sights of Indianapolis, visit www.disciples.org. **Please Note:** The General Assembly early-bird registration has been extended to **March 31, 2009**. Register online today to take advantage of the registration fee discounts!

Highlights of the General Board Meeting

At its regularly scheduled meeting, 41 members of the General Board were present. We were delighted to welcome our newest and youngest person in the congregation as well – Skyler Hatfield (18 days old!). Occasionally, he gave very positive affirmations for the work being done! :-). Actions taken included:

- * Approval of the January 11 board meeting minutes.
- * Received the Treasurer's report. As of the end of February, the operating budget has received \$46,421 in income and had \$63,371 in expenses versus its two-month proration of \$73,926. Susan Wheeler reported "We were certainly blessed to begin the year with a positive balance in the checking account, which has helped cover some of this short-fall!"
- * Approved four Finance Committee proposed modifications to the NACC Audit Manual and Financial Policies to reflect changes in practice and tabled a proposed "Policy on Gifts of Remembrance" for some further work based on the feedback from the board.
- * Approved for forwarding to the Ozark Lakes Area Office, the Congregational Profile for use in the Search and Call process for a new Senior Minister. This completion will now initiate that office forwarding ministerial profiles for consideration by our Search Committee. Also included and approved was the proposed Position Description developed by the Personnel Committee.
- * Approved (after a first reading in January with time for review and suggested revisions), "Section Six. Clergy" in the NACC Personnel Handbook, as developed by the Personnel Committee.
- * Approved the appointment of Greg Harrell to fill a deacon vacancy.
- * Received a questionnaire from the Constitution Review Committee for board input.
- * During the working/education session, the board engaged in a discussion about its responsibilities for annual evaluation cycle of the Senior Minister as well as the congregation's mission and ministry goals. This included completing an evaluation form on Herb's interim ministry work.
- * Received reports from 15 committees about the exciting work in which they are engaged.

***Because There Could Come A Time
When Any One of Us Could Use A Little Help
Crosslines helps in so many ways:***

Emergency Food Pantry
Clothing Bank
Blankets and Coats
Layettes for Newborns
Prenatal & Children's Vitamins
Rental & Mortgage Assistance
Gas Vouchers & Bus Passes

Disaster Supplies
Voice Mail for Jobs
School Supplies
Cuts for Kids
Thanksgiving Food Baskets
Christmas Food Baskets
Christmas Toystore

Volunteers Needed on the 2nd Mondays to Hand Out Commodities

Crosslines will be giving out commodities only on the 2nd Mondays of each month. This will allow eligible families to receive commodities 12 times a year. As part of our "Fish Church" responsibilities, we need volunteers to sack the commodities in the pantry and hand them out at the window. No monetary commitment is need-ed with the volunteer job and you do not need to provide any food.

Back to Pearlington

The next mission trip to Pearlington, Miss. is being planned for **May 17-24**. Anyone can participate, you only need a willing attitude and a desire to help. If interested, call Scott Zimmerman at 576-0071.

Join the Team!

Join the team for a summer of fun and fellowship. The season is **April 6 - July 24**. If you are interested, please contact Elaina Whitson at 234-2744 or erwhitson@spsmail.org.

We reach out with expressions of love and sympathy to **Nancy Hainline** in the passing of her husband, **Roger**, on February 25. A funeral service was held for him in our sanctuary on March 2nd and he was buried in Macomb, Illinois on March 4th.

Congratulations . .

. . . to **Craig Hacker** on passing all of his tests and achieving membership in the Architectural Institute of America.

. . . to **Olivia Harrell** and **Deanna Sorenson** on winning second place in the state championships for swimming and for several individual honors.

CWF Donates to Sigma House

CWF will be serving the Sigma House (800 South Park) for March. They appreciate anything taken to them and here are some suggestions: fresh fruit, vegetables, popcorn, chips, cheese, crackers, peanuts, peanut butter, cake and brownie mixes, personal items and good reading materials (books, catalogues, magazines). It has been requested that no homemade items or mouth wash be contributed. You can place your items in the box located in Fellowship Hall. **Items will be delivered each Monday in March.**

To Join Rev. Charlie Bahn & Brentwood Christian Church On Their Fellowship Trips

Payment is due in the Brentwood Christian Church office (1900 E. Barataria St.) seven days before an event, (but last minute seats are sometime available). The rental of a 15-passenger van is \$90 plus gas expense. Please make your reservations early. For more information, call Rev. Charlie Bahn (234-6826) or Brentwood Christian Church (881-0144).

Mar. 25 Dinner at Mennonite
Tues. Home, Seymour
Depart at 4:00 pm
Cost \$15 + \$12 van/gas

Apr. 2 Redhead Express
Thurs. Depart at 8:00 am
Show at 10:00 am
Cost \$28 + \$12 van/gas

Attention Board Members:

Please remember to bring your yellow constitution questionnaires to church **this Sunday, March 15**, and put them in the Chest of Joash in the church hallway. More are also available in the church office if you need to still fill one out.

NATIONAL AVE-NUE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

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Newsletter Deadline: Noon on the 2nd & 4th Mondays

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

Worship services at 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. and Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. The **LENTEN GROUP** will meet at 9:30 a.m. in Room 215.

Choir rehearsal will be held in the music room at 10:15 a.m.

Youth groups will meet from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

The **PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE** will meet in Room 213 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 16

The **LENTEN GROUP** will meet in the parlor at 10:30 a.m.

The **ELDERS MEETING** will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the parlor.

TUESDAY, MARCH 17

The **PROPERTY DEPARTMENT MEETING** will begin at 6:15 p.m. in Room 107.

TUESDAY, MARCH 17 (Continued)

The **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE** will meet in Room 217 at 6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

Chancel Bells rehearse at 6:00 p.m. in Room 207.

The **LENTEN GROUP** will meet in the parlor at 6:00 p.m.

Chancel Choir rehearses at 7:00 p.m. in the Music Room.

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

The **CONSTITUTION REVIEW COMMITTEE** will meet in Room 107 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

The **LENTEN GROUP** will meet in the parlor at 6:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 20

The **LENTEN GROUP** will meet in the parlor at 7:00 p.m.