



The Disciple

Disciples Christian Church
3401 Hamilton-Mason Road
Hamilton, Ohio 45011

Office Phone:(513) 863-2200

www.discipleschristianchurch.com

Email:disciplescc@fuse.net

Pastor John Longard (513) 889-5087

Email: johnlongard@hotmail.com

June 1, 2010

Disciples Christian Church Mission Statement

“As caring, compassionate followers of Jesus Christ it is the mission of Disciples Christian Church to share the Good News of Salvation. God calls to us to share this Good News with those in the community who have not heard. God calls us to spiritually nurture our church family by actively involving all in inspirational worship, education, fellowship and service to others. God calls us to care for those in need through hands on involvement within our community.”

UP//IN//OUT

UP

IN

OUT

Misc. News

BOARD MEETING AND CONGREGATIONAL MEETING . . . June is Board meeting month. We will have our meeting on **Thursday, June 10** at 7pm at the church. Claudette Thomas will be presenting the slate of officers for the 2010-1011 year. We will be voting on this slate. The Congregational meeting will be held Sunday, **June 20** for the final vote. If anyone else has something that needs to come to the Board's attention for vote, please let me know the topic ASAP.

THANKS!! . . . Dear Church Family and Friends,

It is with a grateful heart that I thank everyone for your loving outpouring of care, concern, and prayers during my recent surgery and continuing recovery. Your cards, calls, visits, and delicious meals have been so greatly appreciated. George and I both feel truly blessed.

God Bless,
Susan Spears

MOWING TIME AGAIN . . . Mowing season has returned and we need your help! There is a signup sheet on the office window, please check and see how you can help! Thanks!

HELP NEEDED . . . With the choir taking its annual summer break, we are in need of help this summer with anthems for worship. If you are willing to help, or you know someone who would share their musical gifts with us, please sign up. Thanks for your help! (Sign up sheet is on the office window.)

NEW SMALL GROUP . . . One of DCC's small groups has just finished a book study on the Serenity Prayer. Living Inside Out by Jan G. Linn helps us see how we rob ourselves of the inner peace God wants us to have. We frustrate ourselves by thinking that we can control situations and change people. Through examples and thoughtful statements, Prof. Linn shows us that when we can acknowledge and accept with serenity what we are not in control of, then we are free to decide what we should do, asking God to help us see the difference. Working the Serenity Prayer, not just saying it, provides us a simple, profound way to position ourselves to encounter God in our everyday lives. Our small group found this book to be so meaningful, that we would like to encourage others to try this in a small group setting.

If you would be interested in being part of a new group to study the Serenity Prayer, please contact Kathy Baughman 777-3698, or meet at the front of the sanctuary after the service today.

CHOSEN . . . We serve our friends at CHOSEN this month on June 9th and 10th. Please check the sign up sheet to see how you can help. Thanks!

CARDS AND PRAYERS . . . Word has come that Diane Schraer is now at the Hospice of Cincinnati, 4310 Cooper Ave. 45242. Cards and prayers would be greatly appreciated. Thanks for caring!

DEACON SCHEDULE --- For June is: Jana Brown, Bev Schmidt, Brian Druley, Susan Spears, George Spears, Ben Longard, Mary Longard.

As I see It

Wow! As I write this I am suddenly aware of how quiet it is around here. Well, it's not completely quiet. Your human preacher will make this loud noise when he sneezes. This is followed by much moaning and groaning, as in, "Oh my noise! I just want to cut it off!!!" Of course, I just roll my eyes. He doesn't see me do it.

Actually, from time to time there are some new, but temporary (if you call at least a year, temporary) sounds of heavy equipment which has begun work on the new intersection and bi-pass 4 construction. It's supposed to be the sounds of progress. "They" (whoever they are) tell us that we'll love the changes that are coming.

So now that school is out and summer is in (ok, not technically), what are your plans for the summer? I know we have some folks around here who are beginning to get excited, aka nervous, because of the mission trip to New Orleans they are about to embark upon. Doing new things can challenge us and move us out of (overused phrase) comfort zone.

Now there's a way to not move out of your comfort zone. Two words: be average. Don't do anything outlandish. Maintain a low profile. Don't disturb the status quo.

For some that sounds pretty good, right? But this old mouse would want more from life than the humdrum.

So, these folks who are heading down south are folks who don't want to be average. And we applaud them for that. And we pray for them that stepping out will bring blessing to them.



Until next time, Freddy

JOHN'S JOTS

Our former General Minister and President, Dick Hamm, recently contributed the following article which takes a long view of small groups and, to a lesser degree, worship.

"In the 1940's and the 1950's, the Builder Generation -- or the G.I. Generation, or whatever your favorite demographer calls those people born between 1915 and 1930 -- was flooding into churches across the United

States. They had been shaped as young people by the national experience of World War II, which left them with a sense of being part of something larger than themselves. Many grew up in small town or rural America, and had experience the isolationist attitudes that were prevalent before the war. By the time the war had ended, they came to love social institutions because institutions gave them a chance to feel connected to something bigger than themselves.

“They joined institutions by the millions, and when so many of them moved to the cities and suburbs, they built their beloved institutions as well -- churches, lodges, social clubs, YMCA’s, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, little leagues. Many American social institutions were created or grew rapidly during those twenty years from 1945 to 1965.

“For these folks born between 1915 and 1930, personal sharing in small groups was not so important. It was the larger group experiences they craved. They typically looked for a new church by coming first to worship. If they liked that experience, then they would gradually begin to attend a smaller group; most often a Sunday School class for young people their age. If the class was very small, they delighted in helping it grow bigger. They defined the success of such small groups by their ability to become big groups.

“The bigger the Sunday school class became, the better they liked it! When their class was growing, they felt spiritually successful and closer to God. If their class shrank, they became uncomfortable and felt less successful and more distant from God. As the institution grew and prospered, so did their perception of their relationship with God. As the institution shrank and became diminished, so did their perception of their relationship with God.

“We still see these characteristics in the G.I. Generation, even though they are in their 80’s and beyond now. We also see it in the generation that followed them, the so-called Silent Generation, now 65 to 80 years of age. The point is that the G.I. and Silent generations gladly entered institutions through the big front door. They started with the largest gathering of the church and then got more deeply involved through the small groups.

“For people under 60 (Boomers, Generation X and Generation Y), the process is often the opposite! People under 60 aren’t really sure they want to be part of institutions at all. They don’t trust institutions. This lack of trust is a product of the 1960’s and 70’s when so many institutions so effectively proved themselves unworthy of much trust. These younger folks

are more inclined to trust individuals and their relationships with them than they are to trust an institution as a whole.

“Thus people under 60 are more likely to be drawn into institutional life through some small group or other. If that goes well and they come to trust the people in that small group, then they may venture into worship or other larger expressions of the institution. But the small group is where their real loyalties lay.

“For example, we see megachurch worship gatherings that may number several hundred or even thousands, and most of the people drawn there are under 60, or even under 40. But do not be fooled! It is not the worship that holds most of them. It is the small group experiences.

“While a megachurch looks to traditional churches like a huge worship center, it is in actuality a place where scores of small groups of every description are developed. And when these small groups grow beyond 15 to 20 participants, group members often begin to feel uncomfortable and to resist or even resent newcomers to the group. Why? Because too many members destroy the sense of intimacy and trust that is craved by the younger generations.

“For many, it is after they have become comfortably connected to a small group that they venture to regularly attend a worship service. For others, they are first drawn to the worship service which, in churches featuring contemporary worship, may have a certain kinship to the rock concerts they often frequent (even if the worship style and music is fairly traditional, it’s BIG and the “production values” are high).

“The lesson here for congregations that were either started by or reshaped by the G.I. Generation—which is about 90 percent of the congregations in existence today—is this: if you have a traditional worship service only and want to attract younger people, you need to provide meaningful small group experiences, which can eventually lead them to worship and other engagement in the body as a whole. If you offer contemporary worship services (editor’s note: our service is a blended service. Hymns from a hymnal, unless modified in a more contemporary style, aren’t found in a contemporary service), you may find that many young people come first to worship and then work their way into small groups: but you will need to involve them in small groups soon if you are going to hold them and deepen their commitment and participation.

“When it comes to attracting and keeping younger people in our churches, the small group definitely plays a role either in first drawing young people to church or in deepening their involvement and commitment. Of course, not everyone acts their age, your mileage may vary, and both the large group experience has to be excellent as well as the small group experience. However, quality small groups are essential whether to first draw or to hold younger people. These small groups may be primarily about the nurture of faith, or about hands on mission, or any other number of purposes.

“A core question for a church seeking to reach out to younger people is, ‘How strong is your small group ministry?’ But the strength of your worship service is also important.”

So how do you reach out to those folks and bring them into your small group? Well, who likes you? Who do you believe thinks well of you? Who respects you and listens to what you say? Those are the ones, the friends of yours who don’t attend a church; those friends of yours who may even be far from God. Just tell them what your group means to you and invite them to check it out.

*Shalom,
Pastor John*

PRAYER LIST

JUNE 2010

Lois Johnson – Shut In

Kim Vangen – her new hip has become dislocated.

Vada Lee Accirido – Lois Johnson’s sister-in-law, has cancer

Hershel Estridge – Lois Johnson’s cousin, dealing with health issues.

Lynn and Tad Adam’s Grandmother -- ill at her home.

Ron Hurst – dealing with kidney issues.

Chosen-Prayers for the will of God in the lives of the staff and guests.

Those who lives have been affected by job loss and financial uncertainty.

Susan Spears – at home recovering from back surgery.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Disciples Christian Church Family would like to wish members with a birthday in June a “Happy Birthday” with lots of happiness and warm memories in the year to come.

Name	Day
Jonathan White	2
Terry White	6
Lois Johnson	5
Tobi Richards	8
Jeff Kinner	8
Susie Enfield	11
Dave Adamson	12
Andrew Williams	13
Cody Vangen	17
Shirley Grathwohl	22
Patty Elwell	23
TK Richards	23

If we have forgotten anyone, please let Pastor John know. Thanks!