



The Disciple

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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

“But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.”
(Matthew 6:20)

This verse from Matthew sends us a powerful message, which, In today’s culture, is more pertinent than at any time in the past. We are bombarded by advertisers sending us a consistent message that we are not whole or happy unless we have the latest and greatest car, computer, appliance, home, vacation, you fill in the blank. Probably all of us have fallen prey to this to varying degrees over the last many years.

Some of us have already figured out that the continued quest for happiness and contentment through what we can acquire in our lifetime has not brought about the utopia we so carefully pursued. Others of us continue the pursuit, still hoping that one more thing will be all we need, and then we can relax and be happy. Reliance on financial wealth and accumulations, in the end, leaves us empty and still longing.

I believe the best place for us to turn is to look at the example Jesus sets for us. He had no interest in collecting treasures and working hard to build a nest egg so he could sit back and enjoy his retirement. He was not interested in impressing the Disciples with his fancy clothes or the latest model camel. He simply gave selflessly of himself and made his priority in life to reach out and lift up as many folks as he could with God’s love and healing power.

We have to remember that we are not our possessions. We are not even our bodies. Everything physical will eventually be lost, destroyed, or will die. Through eternal life, we have hope and joy. Only through Jesus' example of reaching out to others will we find true joy and contentment in life. Whether this is accomplished individually or collectively, such as through DCC's outreach opportunities, it is important that we create the right priorities in each of our lives.

Disciples Christian Church has a myriad of outreach opportunities available to you. I would encourage you to find that which grabs your interest. Think outside your comfort zone. Dare to feed the homeless or go on a mission trip, or to join a project to help the military or the victims of a disaster. Follow Jesus' example and live your life with the heart of a giver.

This is not the job of a committee. This is a calling for each one of us. And this isn't just about giving money or working on a project. It's living your life with a whole new perspective, having the mindset of a giver, of reaching out to each other in every way. It's living our lives as if we are all dependant on each other, for in reality, we're all one. Where will you store up your treasures?

Misc. News

NOMINATING COMMITTEE . . . The Nominating Committee has begun it's work. If you know someone that you'd life for the committee to prayerfully consider, please give that name give that name to, either, Claudette Thomas or Pastor John

FOOD TO SUSAN AND GEORGE . . . While Susan Spears is recovering from back surgery, if you would like to help with preparing and taking food for George and her, please sign up on the sheet on the office window.

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!

CHOSEN . . . We serve our friends at CHOSEN this month on May 12th and 13th. Please check the signup sheet to see how you can help. Thanks!

NEW ORLEANS MISSION TRIP SPAGHETTI LUNCHEON . . .

Mark your calendar for May 16th. That's when the New Orleans Mission Trip gang will host a spaghetti luncheon to raise money for their June mission trip. The cost of the luncheon is your generous donation. We still have a couple of openings for the trip. Let Pastor John know if you're interested in going.

OHIO DISCIPLES MENS SPRING RETREAT . . .

The Ohio Disciples Men's spring retreat is quickly approaching (Fri May 21-Sat May 22). Traditionally we have used this retreat to be of service to camp and help Al get things ready for the new season. This year we have an even bigger project though. One of the final tasks to get Camp Christian fully accredited is installing bed rails on all the bunk beds at camp to keep the campers safe. With hundreds of bedrails to install in addition to all the regular work that needs done to get camp ready we've been working with the Ohio Women and Advance Ministries to make Saturday's work project a joint effort between Ohio's Men, Women, and Young Adults. The Men's retreat will begin Friday night, but all are invited to join us on Saturday. We have had several generous donations to cover the food costs on Saturday so there will be no cost for those who join us on Saturday! We just ask that you pre-register so we can buy enough food.

DEACON SCHEDULE --- For May: Phyllis Hurst, Dave Adamson, Abby Williams, Emily Williams, Andrew Williams, Jan Richards, Margaret Adamson, Jill White

As I see it

As I told you last month, I was going to sneak away in your human pastor's car and go with him to New Orleans. And cough, cough, I did. No, I'm not coughing because of my allergies, but from the sanding of dry wall mud. See no one thought about old Freddy. No one thought to purchase a mask for me. It was pretty easy to hide from folks at the work site. The folks who owned the home that "we" worked on, had stored a pretty good amount of things in the house (the house wasn't being lived in), things like a stove, a big metal stand, 2 speakers that were 5 ft. tall and just too much to name. But this was a perfect area for me to hide in and watch your human preacher.

One of the ladies that worked on his team came to him that first morning and asked him to do HER a favor. Would he mind to drive her to a store or a fast food restaurant so she could use the bathroom? Her van had tools in the back of it and if she took it, her husband would need one of the tools and it wouldn't be available. The only thing your human preacher had in his car was the first aid kit for the job site. So, if you're bleeding you would have to wait on them to get back.

Of course, he didn't mind to do her a favor, because in reality, it was a win-win situation. His driving Ms. Lori gave him the opportunity to go, too. And they chose a Winn Dixie to go to and, of course, your "wonderful" human preacher didn't want to use their water and their paper towels for nothing. He would buy something from the store so the store could make money that would cover what they used in water and paper. What a guy! I especially loved seeing him buy cookies one day (ok, at least they were sugar free, not calorie free).

I know one of the things that did make your human pastor happy that week, we getting emails and seeing how you all responded to Susan and George Spears that week, and beyond. The caring community that exists here does not exist in every church. It is a wonderful strength of this church.



Until next time, Freddy

JOHN'S JOTS

"How will God break into my world?" I posted that question on my Facebook page the morning I left for New Orleans. I knew God would be speaking to me during this trip, but what would God say and, more importantly, what would I do about it?

As many of you know, I was joining up with a group of United Church of Christ folks for the work. I stay with them at St. Paul's United Church of Christ in New Orleans (this was the same place that Susan and Carl Enfield stayed in March). It was a group comprised of UCC (and one Methodist)

from the Canton, Ohio area. All of them, except one UCC fellow, knew each other. For two of them, it was their first trip. Several of them had been there many times, in fact, one of them had been there with the Red Cross in the early days of recovery. Interestingly, I was the only minister in the group, so I was asked to pray for “important” meals, like the one that the ladies of St. Paul fixed us that week.

On Wednesday we only worked for a half a day. The purpose is to go out in the afternoon and tour the area. I had told the group about meeting Pastor Charles Duplessis last fall and how powerful his story was. I related to them how last fall just a few short hours before I met Pastor Charles, I was eating lunch with one of our team members from W. Kentucky. I shared with them how he carried with him the baggage of growing up in the rural South with all of its prejudice. I told them how after hearing Pastor Charles tell their story, he was moved so deeply that when Charles had finished, he jumped up from his chair and hugged Pastor Charles. Those in our group last fall, who hadn’t heard Charles’ story was moved by it.

I was hoping the group that I took there was moved by what they heard. As far as I know, none of them were moved. All I kept hearing from them was, “Thanks for introducing him to us. It was interesting.” I was disappointed.

But what God taught me from this experience of God’s breaking into my world was this: the power of the story is greatly influenced by the position of the listener. If you think you know the story and, especially, if you discredit the story tellers’ version of the story, then it won’t be powerful for you. In this case, they didn’t really believe that the oppression of racism in the South was as real as what was being told them. If you don’t believe in the pervasiveness of racism, then you won’t believe the story. Perhaps it was that way for this group because they had never lived in the middle of it and didn’t know it to be true.

So, what does God want me to do about this experience? I think God is speaking to me about how I hear the stories of others. I believe that God wants me to pay closer attention to their stories and my reaction to them.

My hope is that there was more going on there than what I saw and heard. Hopefully, some of the more quiet ones, who didn’t say anything, were moved by it.

One of the things that I learned from the UCC folks is that their money for rehabbing and rebuilding is running out. Right now, they only have

available \$10,000 per house and that money will run out next year. What they are hoping for is that when their money runs out they will begin to get government grants to continue the work. They asked for government funds a year ago and they are still waiting for it.

I know that we Disciples only have 1 mission station down there and our money is running out too. I know that recently the Week of Compassion put on their Facebook page a posting about the work we're doing down there, but how many see those postings. So God asked me what I am going to do about it. The first thing I've been able to do about it was to send an email to the Week of Compassion asking them what are our plans to finish the work. Basically, they are going to keep on putting periodic postings on Facebook and charge everyone who stays at our mission station \$75. A portion of that money, apparently, goes to the work. They asked me write some reflections on my trip and I did. A part of what I wrote is on our office window.

But here's what I wrote that they didn't use:

When I was young, during the summer we would visit my paternal grandparents in Wisconsin. I will never forget the year their neighbors started remodeling their house. I remember how the week we were they removed part of their siding. My grandparents told us they were going to brick their house.

The next year when we returned, we saw what they had accomplished. They had brick part of one side of the house about three feet above the foundation. We were expecting to see the completion of the work, but it was not to be. Why? They had run out of money.

As a kid, that seemed pretty funny to me. But kids, you know, can be cruel. I don't remember how many years we would return and all we saw was the same amount of progress.

I'm sure the situation was a good source of conversation and consternation in the neighborhood.

My grandparents have long since passed away and I have not been there since my high school years. But I have long wondered if they ever finished the work.

I just hope and pray that we won't run out of money for the work that remains in New Orleans.

*Shalom,
Pastor John*

PRAYER LIST

May 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.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

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

Name	Day
Tad Adams	7
Nancy Ayers	7
Ari Whitt	8
Thalen Kuckuck	9
Jayme Richards	11
Frankie Ittel	18
Helen Scheffler	21
Claudette Thomas	23
Margaret Adamson	27

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