



The Christian Window
Volume 56 Number 14 - Mid—August 2015
First Christian Church of Kent
 (Disciples of Christ)
 335 West Main St., Kent, OH 44240-2416
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The church picnic will be the Sunday, August 16th. at 11 am at Plum Creek Park, pavilion #1. Bring a large dish of food to share, your table service and a lawn chair.

It will be a **Celebration Party** for Pastor Bill. This will be his last Sunday with us. There will be a basket for anyone who would like to bring a card for him.

"ELDER'S MINI RETREAT"

On October 10th from 9 until noon, we will be attending a retreat, "Dealing with Grief." Held at Guise Park (shelter) in Stow, OH. Cost: free
 Bring food item to share for picnic lunch. Contact Linda Beal if interested.



We are working on a **new directory** for the church with updated emails and addresses to come out this fall. If you have any changes, please let the office know by email

(kentfcc@firstchristiankent.org) or a call (330-673-6634), so we can get the correct information in the directory.

If we do not have your birthdays and/ or anniversaries that need updated, please let the office know.

Do you have your nametag at home? Please bring it back to church so we can wear them when the new minister comes.

Book Discussion group - Monday, August 31
 We will be reading **Firefly Island** by Lysa Wingate for our meeting on August 31 at 2 p.m. in the parlor. Newcomers are always welcome.



It's a month away! Our **first spaghetti dinner for 2015-2016.** It WILL be on Friday, September 4th (Labor Day weekend). The sign-up for workers is posted in the Narthex. I would appreciate it if you can let me know soon so I could fill in the schedule and then post at the church if we need more help.

ALSO we are **cleaning the kitchen** on FRIDAY AUGUST 21, 2015 @ 9 AM. This is important to do BEFORE the first dinner. PLEASE LET ME KNOW ASAP IF YOU CAN HELP. We should be there until around noon-even an hour of extra hands would be appreciated! THANKS, Linda



Bethany Hall and the Kitchen will be out of use from August 12th until Aug. 18th—afternoon. The floor will be stripped and waxed during this time.

Lord's Pantry Sunday is September 6th. There is a real need for food items on the Pantry Shelves this year. Come with needed supplies or monetary gifts.

What's Inside:

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My prayer for you after my departure

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

When you read this, I will have preached my last sermon at First Christian Church of Kent (Disciples of Christ) or be within a day or two of preaching my last sermon. And I will have said, or be getting ready to say, a sad but also hopeful goodbye to all of you.

I am really excited about the future now unfolding for First Christian Church of Kent (Disciples of Christ) and the beginning of the ministry of the Rev. Julie Cory. I think you will be in good hands under her leadership, with Jesus Christ as the head of his church and as its ultimate source of life and blessing.

My ministry with all of you these last 14 months has been a source of great joy for me. And I thank all of you for your kindness, tolerance and grace. I especially thank you for your willingness to look to Jesus in faith as your spiritual anchor and for the written pledge that the majority of you made to pray daily for the Work of Christ at First Christian Church of Kent.

I am convinced that your prayers and God's power has made possible everything positive that has happened in these last 14 months. I urge you to keep up these powerful daily prayers.

The book of II Peter records similar pastoral legacy thoughts about the close of Peter's ministry. In II Peter 1: 12-15 (NRSV), he says this:

“Therefore I intend to keep on reminding you of these things, though you know them already and are established in the truth that has come to you. ... I know that my death will come soon ... And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.”

In this passage, everything flowed out of faith

in Christ. So too, I think First Christian Church of Kent's future fruitfulness, growth and spiritual legacy (and each of our personal spiritual legacies) depend on our continuing faithfulness to Christ.

According to II Peter 1: 3-10 (emphasis mine below), here is what will keep us from being ineffective and unfruitful:

“His divine power has given us everything needed for life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. This he has given us, though these things, his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may escape from the corruption because of lust, and may become participants of the divine nature. For this very reason, you must make every effort to support your **faith** with goodness, and **goodness** with knowledge, and **knowledge** with self-control, and **self-control** with endurance, and **endurance** with godliness, and **godliness** with mutual affection, and **mutual affection** with **love**. For if these things are yours and are increasing among you, they keep you from being ineffective and unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For anyone who lacks these things is nearsighted and blind, and is forgetful of the cleansing of past sins. Therefore brothers and sisters, be all the more eager to confirm your call and election, for if you do this, you will never stumble.”



Notice that we already have at our disposal the building blocks of everything we will need for life and godliness through Jesus Christ during the pastorate of the Rev. Julie Cory.

Notice, as well, that in order to be fruitful and

Continued page 3

effective going forward, we need to build out from the foundation of faith in Christ. Faith is foundational, but we need to keep building on that foundation.

First, we need to build out and build up goodness. In other words, our faith must bear practical and positive fruits in our individual lives and in our life together as a church. To study more about the goodness of applied Christianity, I recommend a careful reading and application of the entire book of James – especially James’ uncomfortable emphasis on social justice within the church.

Then comes knowledge. Many of us took part in the wonderful march Aug. 2 against racism in Kent. But we need more knowledge about how the American original sin of racism works and what sustains and fuels it. As you have opportunity, I would recommend seeking out and participating in anti-racism training, individually and as a church. A good place to build up and build out our knowledge of applied Christianity would be a careful and prayerful reading and consideration of the resolutions on this topic passed at the July General Assembly of the Christian Church. (See disciples.org/ga)

This build-out of knowledge will allow us to more effectively take to Kent and to the world Jesus’ good news of redemption and reconciliation and restoration of all things, and all persons, to right relationship.

(A good example of opportunities right now for knowledge building (and faith and fellowship building) is the Disciples Men’s Fall Retreat at Camp Christian on Sept. 18-20. It will focus on discussing how Disciples men can become agents of Anti-Racism and Pro-Reconciliation in the church and in the world. Cost is a mere \$100 for all three days. On Friday night, the group will see the movie “Selma.” Men’s discussion workshops on Saturday will be led by Dr. Timothy James. He is administrative secretary for the National Convocation of the Christian Church and formerly served as the high-energy pastor of Fifth Christian Church in Cleveland. For complete details, visit ccinoh.org.)

Next comes self-control. I recommend a thorough reading and study of the fruits of the flesh and fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5. This also involves maintaining healthy boundaries.

Next we add endurance. This means that we keep on keeping on, and that we don’t shrink back from Jesus, from the radical demands of his Gospel or

from standing along side with our brothers and sisters.

This means we consistently live our faith in all contexts, at all times. We don’t put our hand to the plow and look back at the comfort and privilege we have left behind. We make a lifelong commitment to Christ and keep that commitment. We don’t neglect meeting together for worship, study, prayer, fellowship and Communion, as is the habit of some. A good study on this virtue is in Hebrews 10 (which sets up the discussion of walking and living by faith in Hebrews 11) and also in Luke 9 and 10.

Then we build godliness: We begin to replace human nature with God nature, via openness to the transformative work of the Holy Spirit. Paul uses several different terms to express this. He calls this the “mind of Christ” in I Corinthians 2: 16 and Philippians 2: 5. And in Galatians 3: 27, Paul speaks of putting on or clothing yourself with Christ. Ephesians 4: 24 and Colossians 3: 10 speak of putting on or clothing yourself with the new man, or the new self, depending on your Bible translation.

Indeed, a good study of this is the entire chapter of Philippians 2, where Paul quotes the ancient hymn about who Jesus was. (Philippians, by the way, is also a legacy document for Paul’s ministry.)

The introduction to this ancient hymn, in Philippians 2: 2-5 (NRSV), urges us:

“Make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.”



Next we build mutual affection. This is the Greek word “Philadelphia.” It means brotherly love - - affection for our sisters and brothers in Christ, and for our sisters and brother in the world who have not yet come to Christ. The entire letter of I John is an excellent study of mutual love and affection. In I John 4: 20, we learn: “For those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen cannot love God whom they have not seen.” *Continued page 4*

Another way of saying this is that this mutual affection is welcoming and inclusive -- just like the Jesus whom we follow is.

Then, having built up mutual affection, we begin to build up the crowning virtue, love itself. This is the Greek word "Agape."

This Agape is the very love of God. It is outgoing and is impossible without the infilling of God in our lives. I Corinthians 13 our study text here. Agape is patient, and kind. It is not envious, or boastful, or arrogant. This kind of love is eternal -- because it comes from the eternal God, who is Agape personified.

Another way of saying this might be that the love that comes from God is safe and healing -- just like the Jesus whom we follow is.

So, beginning with your faith in Christ, continue to build out and build up with the building blocks that Jesus gives us. And then finally, we end up with the very love of God built into us and into First Christian Church of Kent (Disciples of Christ).

"If you do this you will never stumble."

The familiar King James Bible translates II Peter 1: 10 this way: "If ye do these things, ye shall never fall." May this be so, for all of us.

"But grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen."

Fraternally, Bill Meyer



Remember in our Prayers:

Healing: Mary Conley, Robert Harig, Brenda Mullens, Brittany Perkins & children in car accident, Gerry Shaffer,

Warren Taylor, Judy Weese, Carolyn Cowgill, Sue & Kerry Wilson, Joan Wilson-Wilt, Dan Wilt, George & Cleo Adelman, Kay Wise, Marian and Don Horner, Arnett Noble. Deanna Tenney.

Sympathy: The family of Shirley Doane who passed away July 29th.

Special Prayers: Those serving in our armed forces and their families. Ryan Oberlin, Afghanistan in Sept. 2014. Heather and Jose Mendez. *Please update us on our armed forces and families needing prayers.*

Balanced Diet in the Library

Looking for healthy body, mind, and soul? We hear a lot about diet and exercise for our bodies, but we also need to pay attention to what goes into our minds and souls. All kinds of media attempt to fill your mind every day. One way to ensure balance is to read books from our church library. I would suggest one a month for adults, and one a week for the children. Even then, balance the content. Use a Bible Study for one dose (#220), a book of fiction for one (F), something inspirational for one (#248), a comforting book from the "Sickness and Sadness" shelf (#155), or a resource pertaining to the committee you serve on (#254 or #265). Children's books also meet those same requirements. Try them. You'll like them.

Louise Neubert, Librarian

New In the Library:

During the time Rev. Meyer has been with us, his message has inspired much thought and conversation. He has added several books to our library to supplement the brief time he has to speak. On August 2 Rev. Meyer told us about Franz Jagerstatter's stance during in WWII and he then donated Gordon Zahn's book, **In Solitary Witness: The Life and Death of Franz Jagerstatter to our library.**



Bill's love of the Disciples of Christ approach to Christianity is apparent in his donation of **Alexander Campbell. Adventurer in Freedom** by Eva Jean Wrather.

Ferguson & Faith. Sparking Leadership & Awakening Community by Leah Gunning Francis may spark ideas of what our next step might be since we've begun a new ministry of reconciliation in our community (and in any event, it is pretty fascinating to read!).

Kenneth L. Teegarden. The Man, The Church, The Time by D. Duane Cummins will help you to realize that God has been very active through the leadership of our church. As I write this I'm on page 39 of the Ferguson book. I think the Teegarden book is next for me, but you are welcome to check it out before I get there.

I want to thank Rev. Meyer for his awesome support of our church library, increasing both the variety of materials as well as encouraging use of these resources in living our faith.

Louise Neubert, Librarian

Blessed to Be A Blessing—July 2015

Disciples Mission Fund	588.90
United Christian Ministries	\$100.00
Lord's Pantry	\$82.80 + 7 bags
Coffee project	made \$ 89.00/ spent \$165.25

Ohio Disciples Men's Fall Retreat

September 18-20, 2015

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Timothy M. James

Building Relationships

As Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation is a priority of the Christian Church in Ohio and given the killing of black men and boys in Cleveland, Beavercreek, and Cincinnati by police, we will discuss around the theme "Black Lives Matter" drawing from our experience at the General Assembly. We will join in a spirited dialogue with one another. Dr. James will share with us how communication, dialogue and critical presence are important for building relations.

Rev. Dr. Timothy M. James serves as the Associate General Minister and Administrative Secretary of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. Prior to serving in this post, Dr. James served as pastor at Fifth Christian Church Cleveland, Ohio for twenty-five years.

He is married to the former Joyce Sizemore of Steubenville. Together they have five children and five grandchildren.

Dr. James is a graduate of United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, Culver-Stockton-College in Canton, MO; and Alameda Community College in Alameda, CA.

He is a third generation Disciples of Christ preacher. He will, however, be the first to say that he appreciates this family lineage and heritage, but he understands, this is not a criteria for salvation. He is glad to be able to say, "I know Jesus for myself." Dr. James' twin brother Rev. Titus James (Avalene) pastors in Wichita, KS while his oldest brother Rev. Eugene James (Sabine) serves as Regional Minister for Michigan. Other siblings include Rose (Lee) Franklin - Indianapolis, IN; Daniel (Renee) - Springfield, OH; Peter (Deborah) - Rochester, NY (all retired) and John (Janice) - Oakland, CA a draft design engineer.

Who Should Come?

1. Men of every age and background.
2. Men who are dedicated to the Ministry of Jesus Christ
3. Men who are looking to have a good time with other men.
4. Men who love Camp Christian!
5. Men who make up the Christian Church in Ohio and Disciples, and Men's groups from churches throughout the Ohio Region.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ (Check appropriate boxes)
Address: _____ Fri-Sat evening @ \$80
_____ Saturday only @ \$60
City, State, Zip: _____ Sat morning – Sun. @ \$80
_____ Entire Weekend. @ \$100
Phone: _____ Under 30 Discount
DOB: _____ (Subtract \$20 if under age 30.)
Email: _____ Late Registration @ \$10
Church: _____ (Postmarked after September 8)

Sponsored by:

*Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ) in
Ohio*

Ohio Disciples Men



Forms available at the church. Please fill out a form for each person coming to the Fall Retreat. Various days to attend. Men 29 & younger may subtract \$20 from the total registration. Registration also available online at <http://www.ccinoh.org>. Make checks payable to Christian Church in Ohio



Dear Friends,

On behalf of the staff, volunteers and recipients of the Lord's Pantry and Hot Meal Program of Kent Social Services, we would like to express our sincere thanks for your recent generous gift to our agency.

There is no way to fully express our gratitude for your loyalty. We at Kent Social Services are continually inspired by the dedication and generosity of donors like yourself who answer the call to give again and again.

Sincerely,

Christie Anderson, KSS Manager

Marquice Seward, KSS Asst. Manager



email: kentfcc@firstchristiankent.org

Website: www.firstchristiankent.org

Office Hours *9am to 1pm Monday through Thursday.
The office is closed on Fridays.*

CHURCH STAFF:

Ministers	All members of First Christian Church
Interim Minister	Rev. William D. Meyer
Minister of Christian Education	Jodi Stillisano
Church Secretary	Vicki Lynn Phillips
Organist	Cathy Steele
Chancel Choir Director	Patricia Wiley
Early Accompanist	Donna Oberlin
Nursery Attendant	Sarah Redman
Custodian	Brendan Redman

Worship Times/Office Hours

*Worship Times at 8:30am & 10:00am
Children Worship during the 10:00am worship
downstairs.*



**Newsletter– Deadline: August 17 for
Sept. & Aug. 31 for Mid-Sept.**