



in-spire-er

NORTH CHRISTIAN CHURCH

January 18, 2012

(Disciples of Christ)

Volume 12, Issue 2

Luke 10 Adaptive Challenge

Go forth to cultivate community from our doorstep to the ends of the earth.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

A Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 22 at 12:00 noon in the auditorium to consider and take action on the proposed Operating Budget for 2012.

CONGREGATIONAL LUKE 10 CONVERSATION MONDAY, JANUARY 23

What is God up to in Columbus, and how can we partner with God in what that is? All members are invited and encouraged to engage that question at a congregational Luke 10 Conversation on Monday, January 23rd from 7:00 to 9:00 p. m, in the Lower Lounge.

This Luke 10 Conversation will take place in a General Board meeting that foregoes its usual business agenda in order to hold this congregational discussion.

Our Luke 10 Adaptive Challenge calls us to “Go forth to cultivate community from our doorstep to the ends of the earth.” In the past year two specific experiments have been designed to address this adaptive challenge: the Community Gardens Project and the launch of our Labyrinth Ministry. Other events in the last year with a Luke 10 focus included the mission trip to Kenya and the hosting of a Community Arts Festival last March. Much has been learned, there is much for which to be thankful, and much work yet to do.

This *Beginnings Conversation* starts Round Two of our Luke 10 process, building on the accomplishments of Round One’s Community Gardens Project and Labyrinth Ministry. The *Conversation’s* focus is listening to God through one another, Scripture, and our context.

Facilitated by NCC member John Burnett, *Beginnings Conversation* is designed to develop greater awareness of our local community, what God is up to in it, and how we might partner with God and neighbors in cultivating community. As the conversation expands and options for new experiments addressing our Adaptive Challenge emerge, there will be opportunities for use of personal and congregational gifts.

Mark January 23 on your calendar, and come one, come all!

FROM THE STAFF

MINISTER'S MUSINGS

Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins, General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has written a prayer for the 2012 new year, and I share it with you below:

O God of infinite creativity . . .

At the beginning of this New Year – winter for so many – the rich brown earth is even now preparing to burst forth with a spring of possibilities and new life.

Though the human eye cannot see it, you continue to bless the earth with new beginnings.

We praise you!

Bless us with new beginnings, we pray.

Where we have lost sight of your Reign breaking in – even now at hand –

Renew our vision.

Where we have faltered in reaching out to our neighbor in love, missing the moment to extend a hand of wholeness,

Renew our courage.

Where we have allowed cynicism to dry our bones and sinews,

Renew our hope.

At this beginning of a New Year, dear God, our arms are still warm from cradling the Babe of Bethlehem.

Help us to keep that memory strong.

Strengthen our arms to welcome your many children into communities of love.

Prepare our hearts to burst forth with a spring of possibilities and new life.

Stir us to be and share your love with the same vulnerability, the same humble expectation that brought you into the world in person.

Help us, your church, your disciples, to be harbingers of your reign of justice and of peace fully emerged.

O God of infinite creativity, at the beginning of this New Year, we know that you are about to do a new thing. Help us to perceive it. And to join in.

In the name of Jesus, your greatest new beginning, we pray. **AMEN.**

Blessings, Lanny

ALONG TIPTON LANE

THANK YOU TO...

Debbie Shaw, Sandy Welliver, Marty Winslow and Trinity for their preparation of the December 21st In-spire-er mailing.

IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS IN TRANSITION:

Persons seeking employment

HEALTH CARE FACILITIES:

Henrietta Owens, Keepsake Village
Jean Prather, United Methodist Home
Emerson Sutton, Columbus Health and Rehabilitation.

HEALTH CONCERNS

Eddie (Baxter) Ellis; Bob Haddad;
Jessica Humpf; Bertha Maple, Chuck
Shaw, Hazel Slaughter

Harry Barnowski (grandfather of David Sims); Mia Bauman; Paul Belcher (brother of Geneva Timmons); Kelli Boka (sister-in-law of Jean Thompson); Mary Bulpitt, (sister-in-law of Charline Bulpitt); Logan Crawford (nephew of Linda Monroe); Gene Wiley (father of Jeri Lynn Kreps)

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Terry Shaw for his recognition by the Cummins Technical Center Community Involvement Team for his service and dedication to help build the Arc Center for Excellence.

UPCOMING EVENTS

UNDERSTANDING OUR NEIGHBORS SPIRITUALLY

First Baptist Church, 330 Fairlawn Drive, offers a four session study, *Understanding Our Neighbors Spiritually*, beginning Wednesday, January 25th at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel at 3300 Fairlawn Drive. Guest leader will be Dr. David Carlson, Professor of Philosophy and Religion at Franklin College. Subsequent class sessions will take place on Wednesday, February 1, 8, and 15. Class sessions are open to the public.

Columbus residents live in a diverse community with multiple nationalities, ethnicities, and religious traditions represented. Our political and social climate is one in which fear and suspicion are rampant, and differences sometimes build walls between people. This class is an effort to promote greater understanding of those from religious traditions that differ from our own, as well as help Christians learn how we are perceived by others as their fellow citizens.

Dr. Carlson will share an introductory session on how Christians can fairly and without prejudice encounter persons of other religious traditions. The next two sessions will feature interviews of representatives of Muslim, Jewish, and Buddhist traditions by Dr. Carlson. The concluding session will look at some other new religious movements and serve as a wrap-up week looking to the topics of interfaith cooperation and Christian response.

COMMUNITY AND WORLD OUTREACH



14TH ANNUAL EMPTY BOWLS SATURDAY, JANUARY 28TH

The 14th Annual Empty Bowls will take place Saturday, January 28th at 5:30 p.m. at Central Middle School, 725 7th Street.

Soup and Soul will include dinner, a raffle, and a concert featuring a performance by Tom Roznowski.

Empty Bowls raises money for the food banks in Hope, Love Chapel, Eastside Community Center, and Human Services, Inc. *Soup and Soul* is open to everyone and offers a delicious and entertaining way to combat hunger in our community.

The cost for all-you-can-eat soup, bread and a drink is \$ 10 for adults and \$ 3 for children (under 10). Dessert is available for \$ 2 each. For \$ 20 an Artisan Keepsake bowl or breadboard is included with the meal. Advance tickets can be purchased at Viewpoint Books at 548 Washington Street. Tickets are also available at the door. For more information, contact Erika Miller at 812-350-1175 or columbusemptybowls@gmail.com.

To volunteer to make soup, bread, or dessert, contact Sarah Drybread at sb.drybread@gmail.com or 812-343-3588.

Upon receipt of your food pledge, she will send you instructions. If you'd like to volunteer for the night of the event, please contact Sarah Grey at sarahgrey@att.net or 812-376-8102



ECUMENICAL ASSEMBLY ANNUAL MEETING INVITATION

The Ecumenical Assembly cordially invites you to its annual meeting on Tuesday, January 24th from 6:00 to 8:30 pm at The Rock Church, 3990 Rocky Ford Road (previously Rocky Ford Free Methodist Church).

Agenda for the evening includes:

Installation of Officers for 2012 (in the sanctuary)

Meal (in auxiliary building)

Annual meeting

Program: IU **MBA NFP Project** Presentation

Meat and drinks will be provided; please bring something to share (vegetable, salad, starch, dessert).

Please R.S.V.P. by January 22 at lovechapeldirector@columbuslovechapel.com or 812-372-9421 (Elizabeth or Jane).

YOUTH NEWS



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

On February 5th the Youth will collect funds for hunger relief in the Souper Bowl of Caring. They will have pots at the door and you are invited to give donations. All donations will go to Love Chapel for local needs. For more information contact Joy Lawler at 314-2436.

NORTH CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

850 Tipton Lane

Columbus, Indiana 47201

Sunday Schedule

8:00 a.m. Morning News Class
9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
10:00 a.m. Fellowship & Refreshments
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
11:45 a.m. Fellowship & Refreshments
(Handicap Accessible ~ Childcare provided)

Contact Information

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Church Staff

Dr. Lanny C. Lawler Senior Minister
David C. Sims Director of Music
Deana Bode Office Manager
Brenda K. Smith Weekly Custodian
Clint Imel Sunday Custodian
Jannis Smith Childcare Provider

About the Inspirer

The in-spire-er is published bi-weekly by the North Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); editor. Send address changes to 850 Tipton Lane, Columbus, IN 47201. Email articles to office@northchristianchurch.com. The editor reserves the right to edit articles for grammar, spelling, length, and content.

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