



- from the DISCIPLES TOGETHER Task Group

The Christian Church in the Upper Midwest is introducing a new Vision/Mission: **"Disciples Together Sharing in the Fullness of God's Table For the Blessing of All."**

Through 2007, each component of this theme will be introduced and specific actions and opportunities will be offered. In the years 2004-2005, a task group will be noting how WE as a Region are **"Disciples Together."** The aim is to catch the attention of each member and friend comprising the CCUM as an introduction (or reminder) of how we accomplish more together.

Gather four hundred or more CCUM (Christian Church in the Upper Midwest) Disciples in an educational setting, and what do we have? A **School for Congregational Leaders!** (SCL) For almost thirty years, Drake University was the setting and the first weekend after Labor Day was the time for singing, studying, sharing, and worshipping. In 2003, Valley Southwoods Freshman High School in West Des Moines became the new site for a new time. The Christian Church in the Upper Midwest (**THAT'S WHO WE ARE!**) responded in a big way, challenging the capacity of the lunchroom and filling the classrooms with enthusiastic and curious participants! Practical approaches to ministry, both for clergy and lay people alike, have always been a major focus for the sessions. Subjects like-**"Help! I'm an Elder or Chair of the Congregation"** to **"Including You in Youth Groups"**, have always been popular classes. Other sessions appeal to the individual or to the congregation seeking ideas for spiritual direction or new ways to worship.

A sampling of the fifty sessions offered at the School for Congregational Leaders in 2004 and focused on the theme: **"Cornerstone Construction,"** made class selections difficult to narrow down. Session leaders brought a wealth of skills, knowledge, and practical experience to share, whether they themselves were laypersons, clergy, or Regional and General Disciples of Christ staff. Keynote speakers have always enlivened the day with perspectives to challenge and to encourage. Most recently, Ryan Hazen, from Church Extension, urged participants to welcome & accessibility of our buildings and to reflect on our own personal faith.

The SCL has become a model for other Regions to emulate. What "we" do at the School for Congregational Leaders is made possible only because we are truly **"Disciples Together!"** Please, make the School for Congregational Leaders a priority for yourself and for others in your congregation in 2005. (**Saturday, August 27th!**) A carload is a great way to go!

ESTHERVILLE INSTALLS NEW PASTOR



Don Hiscox, Doug Burton & Norma Beaver, Board Chair

The congregation at FCC, Estherville, IA welcomed its new pastor, Doug Burton, with a service of installation and a fellowship brunch this summer!

Over the years, Doug had filled in on many Sundays giving the sermon when the settled pastor was on vacation. During the Search and Call process, Doug sensed God's call, interviewed with the Search Committee, and then started the Licensed Ministry Education Program to nurture him in this new venture!

Becoming a pastor was always in the back of his mind, "I have thought about [becoming a minister] in the past, but it is like with anyone who thinks about quitting their job and going back to school to learn something completely different!" Thanks be to God that Doug heard God's call!

Doug and his wife, Beth, have two children and two grandchildren.

Marshalltown Youth Share Mission Work in Kentucky



The Chi Rho & CYF Groups of Central Christian Church, Marshalltown, IA, took 17 youth and 10 adults on a mission trip to Kentucky. FCC, Bowling Green, KY were their hosts and provided accommodations for them during their work week!

Monday thru Thursday they worked alongside Habitat for Humanity. Friday they had some fun visiting the Corvette factory and Beech Bend amusement park.

Mission trip t-shirts were in the memory of George Rowe, a member of the congregation. His family designated funds from his memorial for this purpose.

Those participating included: Kelly & Robin Anctil; Katie & Daniel Abens; Secily & Allison Sherman; Cassie & Beth Campbell; Jessica & Nolan Brisson, Melia Cook, Hannah Cameron-Cruz, Derek, Robert, James & Paul Dalluge; Rollie Danner; Renee & Whitney Phillips, Emily Visser, Adam Murphy, Ken Fiscus, Ramona & Jim Osgood, Marcia & Jim Gossett & Interim Pastor Mark Gustafson.

Thanks be to God for the opportunity for these folks to share mission & ministry with our neighbors!



ALL ABOARD!?

The Ark is about to sail! There is still time to climb aboard the Regional Service Project to "Fill an Ark". The following churches are on board: Luther CC, Luther, IA; FCC, Shenandoah, IA; Plymouth Creek CC, Plymouth, MN; Lake Harriet CC and FCC, both in Minneapolis, MN; Disciples Women's Retreat, Minnesota; Oakland CC, Oakland, IA; United Christian & Baptist Church of Kalona, IA; FCC, Ottumwa, IA; FCC, Burlington, IA; Norwalk CC, Norwalk, IA; College Avenue CC and Glen Echo CC, both in Des Moines, IA; FCC, Davenport, IA; and FCC, Fort Madison, IA.

Our Ark will depart soon, setting sail right after December 31, 2004. To date we have **\$5, 135.69** which fills our Ark to overflowing.

Working through the Heifer International, we will be helping families in all parts of the world have a better quality of life. Through the Ark we provide, livestock and training will be provided to 30 families. But it doesn't stop there!

The gift keeps on giving as the first female offspring is given to another family in the village to begin their own herd, and that family again gives the first female offspring to yet another family in the village. The number of families we can help with just one Ark of animals will continue to grow transforming the lives of many, many of our world neighbors!



SPIRITFEST '05 DATES ARE SET!

The Spirit Fest dates are set for the spring of 2005! Disciples Women across the Region are encouraged to put them on your calendar now and save the date of the event nearest you! The theme for Spirit Fest 2005 will be **"Searching for God's Direction"**.

Dates of the events & Locations are:

4/16/05 FCC, Creston, IA

Davis Street CC, Ottumwa

4/23/05 Altoona CC, Altoona, IA

Clear Lake CC, Clear Lake, IA

4/30/05 Woodlawn CC, Lake City, IA

Noelridge CC, Cedar Rapids, IA

Each event will feature a Keynote speaker, music and singing, worship, learning, lunch, and fellowship. Blessing Box offerings will be received and dedicated. Plan to make this a "Ladies Day Out" opportunity by getting a group together and enjoying each other's friendship and a fun-filled day together!

Watch for later details in **The Christian News**, monthly *Infopak.doc* and the CCUM website at www.uppermidwestcc.org.

**God @ Center
Retreat Cycle
January 7-9, 2005
Christian Conference Center
For Youth Ministers & Sponsors
Randy Kuss, Keynote Speaker
More info:
www.uppermidwestcc.org
Click "Ministries" & "Youth"**

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P. O. Box 41217, Des Moines, IA 50311-0504

Dani Loving Cartwright, Editor

(515)255-3168 Fax (515)255-2625 E-mail: dlc@uppermidwestcc.org

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Upper Midwest

Regional Ministry Staff

Richard Guentert, Regional Minister & President

Dani Loving Cartwright, Deputy Regional Minister

Emily Guentert, Don Hiscox, and Bill Spangler-Dunning

Associate Regional Ministers

Shirley Bassett & Deb Duez, Regional Support Staff

