



The Disciples Together Express

News from the Christian Church in the Upper Midwest
(Disciples of Christ)

November 2011



Bill Spangler-Dunning
Regional Minister & President

Congregations were invited to gather together from across the Upper Midwest on October 15 to spend time getting to know each other and to determine what God might be calling us to do as Disciples Together. It was just the beginning of this new way of being Regional Church, but what an amazing beginning it was! The new Operations Council was formed from representatives chosen across the geographical areas of the Upper Midwest. The new ministries for 2012 were discerned.

If you missed the first gathering please accept this as an invitation to the next one and know that we need you! See the 2012 Ministries poster for all the new ministries formed at the Regional Gathering. Call or email the representative of the ministry you want to be in or call the Regional Office at 515-255-3168. These are exciting times for Disciples Together in the Upper Midwest.

Blessings - BSD



Blessing the new Operations Council



Sharon Watkins,
General Minister and
President, installs Bill
Spangler-Dunning as
Regional Minister and
President

Hampton Christian Church Paying it Forward

On March 31st & April 1st, a group of men and women from **Hampton CC** went to Mason City, IA to re-roof a house of a **FCC Mason City** member. The **Hampton CC** raised most of the money to complete one side of the house and also replaced a door. The members of **Hampton CC** went back to complete the 2nd half of the project October 27th & 28th. Photos below of spring re-roofing



Joplin: Where are they now?

Winter is just around the corner for the community of Joplin, MO they are in need of coat drives and Christmas decoration give-a-ways. Then they look forward to the spring so more skilled workers can come and are welcome to help resurrect the homes and neighborhoods in the months ahead.

Hopefully Sunday November 6th the congregation at South Joplin Christian will be able to move back into their restored/repared sanctuary, and by the end of the month their Quonset Hut will house 36 people complete with showers, bunks, and a kitchen/living room area. The Quonset Hut which has functioned as a Youth Center, will now be a Mission Station where groups who come to volunteer in Joplin over the next several years can stay. Mission groups can work with Disciples Volunteering to schedule groups.

So get ready to answer the call. Is God calling you to call and see what financial and belongings are needed for the winter months? Is God calling you to grab a hammer and a saw and head to the here and now that has become a way of life for the South Joplin Christian Church, and the people of South Joplin? God will provide!

To find out how to help, contact Jill Cameron Michel, 417-624-2522

Pastor at South Joplin Christian Church, pastor@southjoplindisciples.org

Around the Region

- **FCC, Vinton, IA** just completed their Winter Warmth Project. Coats, snow pants, mittens, hats and scarves were donated to help keep children in Vinton warm while they play outside during winter months.
- Thanksgiving Eve service will be held at **Spirit of Joy, Lakeville, MN**. They will enjoy homemade pies and memories of past Thanksgivings and the reasons why we continue to be thankful people.
- Fall Festival was a huge success at **First CC, Davenport, IA**. The total amount earned at their first time fund raiser was \$2563.61.
- 40th Annual Turkey Dinner will be held Nov. 5th at **Highland Park CC, Des Moines, IA**. Carry out dinners are available and Holiday nuts for sale!
- The youth at **FCC, Oskaloosa, IA** are going to rake leaves as a service project Nov. 12th for those who would like the youth to rake their yard.
- **Plymouth Creek CC, Plymouth, MN** meets one Friday a month at the church to socialize, scrapbook and work on unfinished crafting projects
- Disciple's Together one-day mission work camp on October 1st to help "Rock the Block" for a Habitat for Humanity home was a huge success! Sponsored by Des Moines Area Cluster 6, around 70 Disciples came together from **Norwalk CC, Norwalk, IA; Runnels CC, Runnels IA; Altoona CC, Altoona, IA; Indianola Heights CC, Des Moines, IA; FCC, Des Moines, IA; Covenant CC, Urbandale, IA & FCC, Adel, IA** to help in this mission day.
- Congregations from all over the region participated in Truck-or-Treat for Halloween! This is a great mission to the community, and hand out treats! Some of the congregations include: **Howard St CC, Colfax, IA; West Des Moines CC, West Des Moines, IA; and FCC, Keokuk, IA; Broadway CC, Council Bluffs.**
- "Before the Turkey" Soup Supper is taking place on Nov 23rd at **FCC, Perry**. The EDGE (Every Day God Experience Youth Group) is hosting a 4 choice soup, dinner rolls, drink and desserts! The meal is a free will offering and all proceeds are going to the Dallas County Sheriff's Association.



- **Regional Question: When is CYF Assembly?** CYF Assembly is November 18-20th at the Christian Conference Center! High School Youth will come together for this year's theme of "Home for the Holidays". For more information or to register visit www.uppermidwestcc.org.

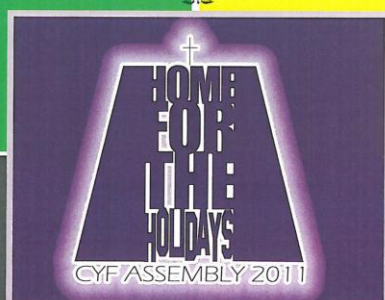
World Café Training at Christian Conference Center

November 9th 9:30-2:00

Cost: \$7.00 for lunch

The Upper Midwest Region recently utilized the World Cafe Conversation model in the October 15th All Congregational Gathering. This was very successful in allowing all voices and ideas, to be heard. This model has been used in many congregations for leadership training, working through conversations that are specific to a congregation, such as 'visioning' for the future, and as a part of the Search and Call process – all to a fabulous response! To register, email cddumw@gmail.com or call 515-255-3168 (Regional Office)

Calling All High School Youth...
Come Home For the Holidays!



CYF Assembly - November 18-20

Go to <http://www.uppermidwestcc.org/category/youth/> for more information!



FCC, Winterset, IA

received an endowment after Charles Taylor's death in 1987. FCC has awarded more

than 1,500 scholarships worth more than \$1.6 million to residents from across the country. This scholarship is for anyone looking for a higher education and is not based on age, color, or if they are Christian or not. The fund awards 25 to 30 new scholarships a year and another 50 awards renewed, ranging from \$500 to \$2000. Nearly a quarter of all Madison County high school graduates receive from this fund.

We want your news! Does your church have an article, story or event for the DT Express? The Region wants to know! Please email your editor Amber Elliott adeumw@gmail.com or call the Regional Office at 515.255.3168 or mail article to CCUM, 5064 Lincoln St., Newton, IA 50208.

*O Lord that lends me life,
Lend me a heart replete with thankfulness.*
-William Shakespeare