

Pastors attend new church start training

The Rev. Deborah Click and Cutch McAtee will attend the Nehemiah Institute, a United Church of Christ new church planter training event, on August 13-17 at Emory University in Atlanta.

They are part of a group of 60 persons from across the UCC who will participate in a week of intensive training in the latest tools and theories for evangelism and the gathering of new faith communities.

Deb Click is beginning to gather a new United Church of

Christ in the Reynoldsburg/Pataskala area. The working name for this new church is The Oasis.

Deb has begun to post information about this effort at the blog site www.TheOasisUCC.blogspot.com. She includes one very interesting commentary on "sounds more like the name of a bar than a church."

Cutch McAtee has been called by the **First Congregational United Church of Christ in Huntington, West Virginia** to start a new United Church of Christ west

of Charleston, West Virginia.

Tim Dixon, pastor of First Congregational UCC, Huntington wrote, "Did you know that West Virginia is a state of about 1.5 million people that is a largely untapped 'mission field' for the UCC? This is right in the back yard of our Association and Conference.

"I believe in the mission of the United Church and that West Virginia has pockets of people that are primed and ready for the message of a Still Speaking God."

Grace UCC youth group helps fight world hunger



Reprinted from the *Lancaster Eagle-Gazette, Lancaster, Ohio*

By **Nikki G. Bannister**
The Eagle-Gazette Staff

LANCASTER – Outreach for the youth fellowship at **Grace United Church of Christ in Lancaster** doesn't only mean reaching out to the Fairfield County community – it means reaching out across the globe.

Every month, the youth group – students in grades six through 12 – participates in faith-based community service activities throughout the area. They work with local food pantries, humane societies and all those in need.

"If somebody needs some help," said Julie Walter, director of Christian education at Grace United, "We just gather the troops and go."

So it was only natural the "troops" gathered earlier this month to fight world hunger during a five-day stay at Heifer Project International

Ranch in Perryville, Arkansas.

Heifer Project International is a nonprofit organization headquartered in Little Rock, Arkansas, that works to end world hunger and poverty by teaching impoverished communities how to care for the earth and food sources instead of using short-term relief. Heifer provides livestock, training and related services to farmers, while residents harvest and sell organic and natural produce to sustain their communities.

Heifer's mission falls right in line with the mission of Grace United's youth fellowship. Every summer, the group travels to a point in the U.S.—including Puerto Rico—to learn about and provide humanitarian efforts.

The trip to the ranch was not one of relaxation for the group from Grace United. It was about education. The group got real lessons about how to help people who are in need.

"It was really an eye-opening experience to see how other less-

fortunate people around the world live everyday," said Kelsey Jones, 16. "We learned how to take care of livestock, we did a lot of gardening, painting, and clearing out a pine forest."

The group stayed in a makeshift global village that resembled a modern urban slum area. Jones and others had to cook their own food over a campfire and stay in a shelter.

"I definitely appreciate my life so much more now," she said. "I have running water and a good solid roof over my head. If anyone could, they should go down there and experience it for themselves."

Walter was among the five adults who accompanied the youth group. They too, had to live in the global village and work in the community garden, paint fence posts and collect pine needles for mulch.

"It really opened my eyes to our way of life and how much we really do have," Walter said "It also gave me ideas on other ways I could help under-developed areas."

Central Southeast News

Central Southeast Ohio Association

6161 Busch Blvd., Suite 77 • Columbus, OH 43229-2547
614-885-0722 • Toll-free 800-282-0740 • Fax: 614-885-8824
Email: cse@ocucc.org

G. Forrest Hoppe, Association Minister

Jill Glass, Administrative Assistant

Comments and suggestions are welcome. Please send copy to the Association office by the first of the month for publication the following month.

Junior High Youth Event, October 28

Experience God! While on Route 678

"Experience God! While on Route 678" is the theme for the fall Central Southeast Ohio Association Junior High Youth Event. The event will be Sunday afternoon, October 28 at **David's United Church of Christ in Canal Winchester**. The event will begin with lunch at 12:30 and end at 3:45. Please note that this schedule is a shift from the past several years.

Experience God! While on Route 678 will feature workshops on music, art, drama, signing and dance.

Registration information has been sent to each church. The cost of the event is only \$5.00, which includes the noon meal. The Central Southeast Department for Church and Education sponsors and organizes the junior high event.

Association Fall Gathering • October 27

The Central Southeast Ohio Association Fall Gathering will be Saturday, October 27. The meeting, usually held on the first Saturday in November, will be one week earlier to avoid conflict with many bazaars and other events planned in our churches.

Another benefit is that it will be possible for representatives from the Southern Ohio Northern Kentucky Association (SONKA) to participate in our meeting and for representatives from CSEO to participate in the SONKA meeting on November 3.

The model for the redefinition of the Ohio Conference anticipates and encourages greater cooperation between SONKA and CSEO, which is enhanced when we participate in each other's meetings and get to know each other.

The day will include worship, workshops, fellowship and the adoption of the 2008 budget for the Central Southeast Ohio Association.

Calendar of Events

Saturday, September 29 • Recognition of completion of Licensed Ministry Preparation Program of Jill Glass, Alan Hicks and Michael Randolph at **Westerville Community United Church of Christ**.

Sunday, September 30 • 7:00 pm, Installation of the Rev. Deana Armstrong at **St. Michael's United Church of Christ, Baltimore**.

Saturday, October 27 • The Fall Gathering of the Central Southeast Ohio Association

Sunday, October 28 • 12:30 pm, CSEO Junior High Event at **David's United Church of Christ, Canal Winchester**.