

Central Southeast News

Central Southeast Ohio Association

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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 will gather on October 16

The Central Southeast Ohio Association Department for Church and Education has planned a Junior High Youth Event for Sunday, October 16 at the **First Congregational United Church of Christ, Columbus** from 2:30 to 7:00 p.m.

The experience is based on the United Church of Christ Statement of Faith that God calls us into the church to be God's servants in the service of others. Youth are invited to come and learn about serving God and helping others.

The planning team has designed segments that help the participants learn about world hunger, experience life as a refugee, play a minimum wage game and assemble Church World Service Health Kits.

The cost is only \$5.00 a person, which includes the evening meal. Registration for the event can be done through our local churches.

Group registration forms are available at www.ocucc.org.

It promises to be an afternoon of fun, fellowship and learning.

Transitions Transitions Transitions

The Rev. Matthew Wilson has been called to serve as the pastor of the **Radnor Congregational United Church of Christ**. Matthew was installed on September 25.

The Rev. Mark Katrick has resigned as the pastor of **Mt. Zion United Church of Christ, Baltimore**. Mark continues to work with the developmentally disabled in Zanesville.

The Rev. Dan Bill has been called to Lees Creek United Church of Christ in the Southern Ohio Northern Kentucky Association (SONKA). Dan was ordained as a minister of the United Church of

Christ on October 2 at **Zion United Church of Christ, Delaware**.

The Rev. Sam Greening has been called to a United Church of Christ congregation in La Jolla, California. Sam served as the intentional interim pastor at **Immanuel United Church of Christ, Zanesville**.

The Rev. Leslie Carol Taylor began August 1 as the Director of Student Life and UCC Minister in Residence at the Methodist Theological School in Ohio. Leslie continues to serve part-time as the designated pastor of **Trinity United Church of Christ, Thornville**.

CSEmail

The Central Southeast Ohio Association sends a weekly electronic newsletter which includes information about upcoming events and activities in local churches.

To be added to the distribution list, please contact the Association office at cse@ocucc.org.

Joined in the Journey — Beyond Hospitality

Fall Annual Gathering

Saturday, October 29

St. John UCC, Newark

The Central Southeast Ohio Association Annual Fall Gathering will be held on Saturday, October 29 at St. John United Church of Christ, Newark.

The theme for the fall gathering is "Joined in the Journey — Beyond Hospitality." The Still Speaking Initiative of the United Church of Christ has emphasized welcoming all people into our worship and the life of our faith communities. The television commercials end with the words 'wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.'

But what happens after hospitality is offered and a welcome is extended? How do we join people on their journey and incorporate them into the faith journey of the church?

Our own Rev. Harold Steindam, senior pastor at Westerville Community United Church of Christ, will be the keynote speaker for the day. Out of his experience at Westerville Community, a growing congregation that extends hospitality and joins people on their faith journeys, Harold will help us explore ways each congregation can move beyond the ministry of hospitality.

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. The cost for the fall gathering is \$20.00 a person and includes the cost of the noon meal.

Musings from the Association Minister

I began to write these "musings" with a stewardship theme and a thanksgiving thread running through it.

Then Hurricane Katrina hit southern Florida and developed into a monster storm that devastated so much of the Gulf Coast. Millions of lives have been totally disrupted, thousands of people have lost their lives and we have not yet begun to know what the economic cost will be.

I began to rethink my musings. There was not much to be thankful about in the horrible news out of New Orleans, Biloxi and the other locations that were so hard hit.

As the events unfolded, though, it became clearer to me that there are stewardship issues and observations in the midst of this tragedy. The first observation is the

generosity of so many people who are responding to the needs of those remaining in the devastated communities and those who have moved elsewhere to seek refuge.

The outpouring of monetary gifts and material goods, the willingness to work with the evacuees to make them more comfortable in their new surroundings, and the willingness to give time to clean up and rebuilding are just some of the examples of the generosity that I am witnessing.

It is a generosity that comes from thankfulness for the abundance of resources that we have and also, I believe, from compassion for those who are hurting so badly and a commitment to the common good. I am thankful for the generosity that has flowed from so many

people and especially from our churches.

Another stewardship observation—the way we use the land and natural resources entrusted to us has consequences. Barrier islands and delta wetlands have a purpose and role in the natural order. Floodplains exist for a reason. When we build on low lying barrier islands, destroy wetlands and channel rivers by building floodwalls and levees, we enhance the probability of the kind of disaster we are witnessing along the Gulf Coast. I believe that the changes that have been made to the natural environment contributed to the devastation caused by Katrina.

Stewardship is about the wise use of the resources God has given us. Will we stop building and altering the natural environment? No, but I believe we must do it with more thought to the long term consequences and costs—not just the initial costs but the long term environmental and financial costs. To do less is to ignore our responsibility to be stewards of God's creation.

As we move through the fall season of financial planning, budget making and the work of securing financial resources to fund the ministries of our church, may we do it as good stewards of all that God has entrusted to us.

May the spirit of generosity and compassion witnessed in the aftermath of Katrina continue to be the reality of our life together in the church of Jesus Christ.

Shalom,

G. Forrest Hoppe



Holiday Open House

The Central Southeast Ohio Association staff, Jill Glass and G. Forrest Hoppe, invite all members of the Association to the annual holiday open house at the Association office. The open house will be Friday, December 9 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.