



God is still speaking,

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

# SYNERGY

The Newsletter of the Eastern Ohio and Western Reserve Associations

Volume 6 Issue 10  
November 2011

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#### Eastern Ohio Association Staff (330) 453-8178

- ◆ Rev. Carol Barth (ext. 102)  
Interim Association Minister
- ◆ Rev. Richard Plant (ext. 103)  
Associate Association Minister

#### Western Reserve Assoc Staff (216) 749-3116

- ◆ Rev. Donna Brooks (ext. 102)  
Interim Association Minister
- ◆ Rev. Joan Ishibashi (ext. 110)  
Minister Lay School & Credentialing
- ◆ Ms. Jenei Grigg (ext. 100)  
Director of Gerry's House

#### Shared Staff (EOA & WRA) (216) 749-3116

- ◆ Ms. Margaret Mills (ext. 101)  
Minister for Stewardship & Youth
- ◆ Ms. Carolyn Willis (ext. 108)  
Finance Director/Accountant  
(330) 453-8178
- ◆ Ms. Machel Miller (ext. 101)  
Office Manager/ Search & Call Coordinator
- ◆ Ms. Cheryl McGraw (ext. 100)  
Communications and Admin Support

## What is Your Church Planning?

### Mission: 1



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

What is your church planning to do for Mission: 1? Collecting and donating food? Writing letters to our representatives in Washington? Raising contributions for Neighbors in Need? Whatever it is, we'd like to hear about it and your success so we can include it in the next *Synergy*. Send a brief description of your Mission: 1 effort to [support.center@eoaucc.org](mailto:support.center@eoaucc.org) or to the EOAWRA Support Center, 2560 Clearview Ave., Canton, OH 44718.

## Bless! A National Conference for Worship Leaders

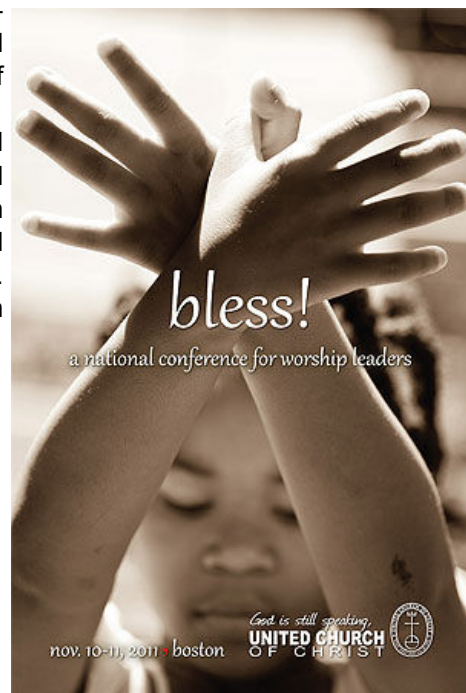
Reclaim the art of blessing and experience the ways in which this ancient rite has breathed new life, energy and vitality into Christian communities.

Join us for a national conference of worship leaders — presented by the United Church of Christ's Local Church Ministries, Old South Church in Boston and the SALT Project — where Old South's clergy will examine and present blessing as theology, ecclesiology and Christian practice; and demonstrate how Old South's vitality is directly related to the learned art and the oft-practiced act of blessing.

The conference will conclude with a national service of blessing for "Mission: 1," the United Church of Christ's denomination-wide mission campaign (Nov. 1-11) to confront hunger and food-related injustice, at 4 p.m. (ET) Friday, Nov. 11. Visit [www.ucc.org/bless/](http://www.ucc.org/bless/) for more information and to register.

Where:  
Old South Church in Boston, UCC  
645 Boylston St.  
Boston, MA 02116

Cost: \$60  
Includes snacks, Thursday evening reception, box lunch on Friday and DVD you can take back to your congregation.



# Moderator's Musings

"Nov. 1-11, 20--...One United Church of Christ on a shared mission for 11 powerful days to feed the hungry and confront food-related injustice."

Hopefully you are aware of this unique opportunity to participate in a significant way in the mission of the UCC known as Mission:1. The goal is that in 11 days, the UCC will collect more than one million items of healthy food and other household items for local food banks and outreach services. For those that say "lets make sure we support our local groups" this mission opportunity is for you.

The goal is in 11 days, the UCC will make an extra-special push to gather contributions of more than \$111,111 for Neighbors in Need, to assist agencies working on hunger issues and \$111,111 for East Africa Relief. For those that feel we need to do more for families and children in East Africa this mission opportunity is for you. And for those who realize there are agencies that need additional resources this mission opportunity is for you.

*"As you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me."*

The goal is in 11 days, the UCC will offer more than 11,111 letters to congress addressing the growing need for Congress to do more. For those that feel Congress needs to do more to benefit the hungry and poor people who are truly hurting, this mission opportunity is for you.

I encourage each congregation to be part of Mission: 1. If you are excited and can't wait for November first to get here I am excited with you. If you have not made any plans to participate it is not too late. It's never too late to share Christ's compassion for the poor: "As you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me." So what more can we do than we are already doing? Much, much more! That's why Mission: 1 needs everyone and every church's support and prayers. At Chapel Hill Retirement Community, where I serve as chaplain, we are sharing in Mission:1 in several ways. Sunday offerings are designated for Neighbor in Needs and the local community food cupboard. I challenge you to share in Mission:1 as well.

*Sandra Hutchinson, EOA Moderator*

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## WRA Annual Fall Meeting



You are invited to the Annual Fall Meeting of the Western Reserve Association on Saturday, November 5 at Faith United Church of Christ, 575 Richmond Rd. in Richmond Heights.

In addition to conducting the business of the association, we will have as our keynote speaker Pulitzer Prize winning author and columnist Connie Schultz. Ms. Schultz has been a nationally syndicated columnist for *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*. She won the 2005 Pulitzer prize for commentary and was a finalist for the 2003 Pulitzer Prize in feature writing.

We are also asking that you bring any unopened hotel-sized toiletries to donate to Mental Health Services on Payne Avenue in Cleveland.

We're going as green as we can, so please read as many of the documents as you can online at [www.wraucc.org](http://www.wraucc.org) and print out only those you need to. These documents include the annual reports, budget information, and nominations. We'll be using PowerPoint presentations at the meeting in order to cut way down on the

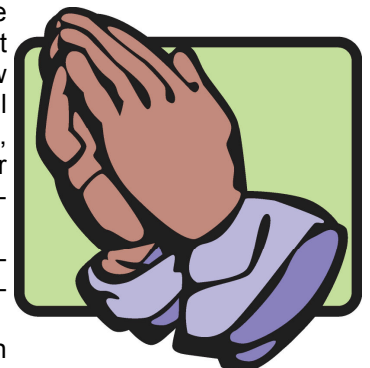
paper. You may want to consider car pooling as a means to save on gas and the resulting emissions.

We look forward to seeing you there!

## Request for Prayers

We are sad to report a theft at Liberation UCC in Lakewood, Ohio. For two years Liberation has been redoing their sanctuary from the ground up. With work almost complete they ordered new chairs through the General Contractor. Unfortunately, the General Contractor never ordered the chairs and absconded with nearly \$10,000. Needless to say the congregation will have difficulty raising those funds again.

Please keep Liberation in your prayers. For information on their unique ministry as a Center for Spiritual Development as well as a worshipping congregation, please contact Rev. Kurt Weiser at [ChaplainKW@aol.com](mailto:ChaplainKW@aol.com); Liberation UCC, 13714 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107.



# Youth & Stewardship

*-Margaret Mills, Minister for Stewardship, Education and Youth*

## Youth Calendar

Date

Event

Please mark these dates on your calendar or post this page on your refrigerator.

They won't be repeated in *Synergy* again until closer to the event. Thanks!

November 18-20	<b>Senior High Fall Youth Event</b> at Pilgrim Hills. Theme is <i>Let Justice Roll</i> . Register online by Nov. 11 at <a href="http://www.ocucc.org/YouthYA/FallYouthEvent.htm">www.ocucc.org/YouthYA/FallYouthEvent.htm</a> and for more details. Contact Margaret Mills for information at <a href="mailto:mmills@wraucc.org">mmills@wraucc.org</a> .
January 27-28	<b>It's Your Turn: EOA/WRA Youth Leaders Lock-In.</b> "YOUth". Taking the emphasis off youth and putting it on YOU. A time for Taize, journaling, massage, quiet reflection, learning ways to take care of ourselves in the midst of busy youth group schedules. We'll be back at the Radisson and Church House in Cleveland. Watch for details.
March 3-4	<b>EOA/WRA Junior High Retreat</b> at Pilgrim Hills. Theme is <i>Let Justice Roll</i> .
March 16-17	<b>Ohio Conference Educators Retreat</b> at Temple Hills.
April 26 10AM to 2PM	<b>EOA/WRA Educators Gathering.</b> WRA will host.
July 10-13	<b>National Youth Event</b> in Purdue IN. For more details go to UCC Youth on Facebook or the UCC website at <a href="http://www.ucc.org/youth/nye/">www.ucc.org/youth/nye/</a> .
July 28-August 4	<b>Kentucky Immersion and Work Experience.</b>

If you have events you would like posted on our Youth & Stewardship Page,

please send them to Margaret at [mmills@wraucc.org](mailto:mmills@wraucc.org).

## Margaret Mills, Schauffler Award Winner (from *UCC Connections*)

Margaret Mills '67 (Religious Education) received the Schauffler Legacy Award at this year's Homecoming festivities. Margaret has served as Director of Christian Education at Old South Church in Kirtland, Ohio prior to joining the Western Reserve Association as Christian Education Associate in 1977. Margaret has served churches in Lorain, Cleveland, and Lakewood. In 2004, she joined the staff of Eastern Ohio Association in Stewardship, CE and Youth Ministry and serves EOA and WRA in a combined staffing position. She received the Excellence in Teaching Award from the UCC and the Robert L. Johnston Award from the Great Lakes Association of United Church Educators. Margaret is also a Partner in Education in the Ohio Conference of the UCC.



## God IS Still Speaking *-Esther Lucas*

As most of you know Suffield UCC (where I am a member) is a church in transition. The help of the EOA, particularly Carol Barth, has been invaluable in helping to get us through the process and search for a new pastor. This is one of the ways that our OCWM contributions provides help to our local churches.

As part of the process, one of the first steps was finding an interim minister who could help us meet the challenges of this transition. Pastor Wally Scofield has been just the right person. He has provided excellent leadership, especially in our stewardship campaign earlier this month. He introduced us to Herb Miller's *New Consecrating Stewards* program. We followed the instructions right down to the letter. As a result, our church's commitments increased about 10%. Due to this additional income, we will be able to do better in supporting OCWM and support of other missions. We know God IS still speaking.

## Golf Outing Raises Funds

On September 26th, EOA golfers gathered at Zoar Golf Course for the fall golf outing with the threat of rain looming the entire day. The rain clouds held off until the last twosome of Don Miller and Rev. Barry Bordenkircher sank their final putts. The tournament director felt all the participants were winners as they braved the elements and supported the day. The true winner was Disaster Relief as \$64 was raised by the mulligan purchases.



### **GOLF** **Fundraiser**

Rev. Arnie Klaiber and Rev. Eric Walch played 9 holes with Eric's 40 taking the day. The official scorer, Don Jenkins from the Baltic church, attended the pin and directed Rev. John Bertsch to a good round with the only birdie registered for the day. Reverends Jeff Shultz and Wally Scofield played a strong 18 rounded out to the middle 80s score for each. Rev. Dave Zerby and Rev. Don Nichols got their money's worth as they tied for the over the meadow and through the woods award. The Women's division was won by Sandra Meyers whose husband Rev. Bill Meyers tried to keep pace. Rev. Meyers and Rev. Walch (thanks to a mulligan) won closest to the pin. All had a good time and look forward to the spring.

## Found and Forgiven

### Story of the Prodigal Son Retold

*Found and Forgiven*, a musical based on the story of the prodigal son, will be presented Saturday, Nov. 5, at 3PM and 7PM at Trinity United Church of Christ, 915 N Main St., Akron, OH 44310. A spaghetti dinner will be served between shows, 4:30-6:30PM. The Market Path, a

fair trade store supported by First Grace UCC, will offer items for sale, and Williard UCC will offer a basket auction. Program ads may be purchased at [debbierhinesmith@att.net](mailto:debbierhinesmith@att.net) or [jmcmillen1@neo.rr.com](mailto:jmcmillen1@neo.rr.com).

Tickets for the performance and the dinner are available through the EOAWRA Support Center or at [faithmusicals@gmail.com](mailto:faithmusicals@gmail.com). All proceeds from the day will benefit Akron Urban United Churches of Christ: East Market Street, Miller Avenue, Williard, and Trinity.

The musical, *Found and Forgiven*, is written and directed by Rev. Sharon Alberson, Minister of Music at Trinity UCC in Akron. The intergenerational cast includes

35 people from Akron, Cuyahoga Falls, Silver Lake, Stow, Kent, Brimfield, Hartville and Canton.

Please consider purchasing tickets for the musical and dinner. Your purchase of a ticket will provide needed resources to continue important ministries in Akron. Together we are improving lives and shaping a better future for our neighbors, all God's children.

## Area E Mission Fair

The Area E Mission Connection will host its annual Mission Fair on November 6, 2010 at First United Church of Christ, 526 W Main St., Sugarcreek, Ohio. The event, sponsored by area E churches of the Eastern Ohio Association of The United Church of Christ kicks off at 4:00PM. You are cordially invited to attend this inspiring evening. Jerry Hansard will enlighten us with updates on Disaster Response and Bill Jabs will speak about a UCC mission, Camp Washington located in Cincinnati, Ohio.

We will be uplifted by a Mass choir, composed of all area E churches under the direction of Mrs. Sharelle Miller accompanied by Mr. Rick Michel.

We will adjourn to the social hall and pack UCC disaster response kits and also pack food boxes for distribution to Camp Washington. We will end the evening enjoying a free delicious meal. You may browse the many displays of current mission opportunities. We hope to see you there!!! If you have any questions please contact Rich Miller at 330-243-4831.

### Mission Fair



## Evolution and Intelligent Design

The Adult Faith Formation Team at Lakewood Congregational Church will be hosting Dr. Simon Fitzpatrick, Assistant Professor of Philosophy at John Carroll University as he leads an informative discussion about Evolution and Intelligent Design at LCC, 1375 West Clifton Blvd, Lakewood, Ohio 44107 on Wednesday, November 9th from 7:00-8:30 pm in the church Parlor. Dr. Fitzpatrick specializes in the philosophy of science, philosophy of mind, and philosophy of biology. He was educated in the UK, receiving his PhD in Philosophy from the University of Sheffield and an MA and BA from the University of Nottingham. This event is free and open to the public. Call 216-221-9555 if you have questions.



# Installation of New Officers

Churches of the Eastern Ohio Association and the Western Reserve Association are cordially invited to celebrate our shared ministry of extravagant hospitality, continuing testament and changing lives in the service of installation of our new officers called by the Twenty-Eighth General Synod: W. Mark Clark, J. Bennett Guess and James Moos, Executive Ministers of Office of General Ministries, Local Church Ministries and wider church & Global Ministries of the United Church of Christ.

Installation will be at Pilgrim United church of Christ, 2592 W 14th St., Cleveland on Sunday, November 13 at 2PM. A reception immediately follows at Pilgrim church. Those who wish to robe are invited to wear multi-colored or red stoles.

## Churches in Transition (\* denotes churches receiving profiles)

### Eastern Ohio Association

- Atwater Congregational UCC (Atwater)
- \*Bethel UCC (Beloit)
- Edinburg UCC (Ravenna)
- Emmanuel UCC (Akron)
- First Federated (North Jackson)
- First UCC (Sugarcreek)
- \*Grace UCC (Canton) *Part Time*
- Grace UCC (Uniontown)
- Paradise UCC (Canfield)
- Richville UCC (Navarre)
- \*St. John UCC (Bolivar) *Part Time*
- St. John's UCC (Dover)
- \*St. Paul (Port Washington)
- \*St. Paul's UCC (East Canton) *Part Time*
- St. Peter's UCC (Apple Creek)
- Suffield UCC (Suffield)
- \* Zion UCC (Hannibal)/Immanuel UCC (Clarington)



### Western Reserve Association

- Bainbridge Community UCC (Bainbridge) [On Hold]
- \*Burton Congregational UCC (Burton)
- \*Claridon First Congregational UCC (Huntsburg) *3/4 Time*
- \*Dover Congregational UCC (Westlake)
- \*Federated Church (Chagrin Falls) Associate Pastor
- \*Fellowship UCC (Wickliffe) *3/4 Time*
- First Congregational (Andover)
- First Congregational UCC (Berea) [On Hold]
- \*First Congregational (Lorain) *Part Time*
- Newbury United Community *Part Time*
- St. Paul UCC (Elyria)
- Strongsville UCC (Strongsville)
- UCC Congregational (Vermilion)
- Unionville UCC (Unionville)
- West Park UCC (Cleveland)
- West Side UCC (Cleveland)



## Vital Signs



### EOA Vital Signs

As of September 30, 2011

Total actual income for operations	\$396,936.72
Total actual expense from operations	\$449,596.43
Difference	(\$52,659.71)

### WRA Vital Signs

As of September 30, 2011

Total actual income for operations	\$550,807.68
Total actual expense from operations	\$565,434.82
Difference	(\$14,627.14)

*We wish to thank you for your continued giving to Our Churches Wider Mission!*

# Back Bay Mission

*-Doyle Luckenbaugh*

Over the past several years many of you in the churches in EOAWRA have heard me share the story of the extraordinary ministry of Back Bay Mission, Biloxi, Mississippi at Annual Ohio Conference, EOAWRA gatherings, articles in *Synergy* and personal visits to numerous churches.



The title of an old and favorite hymn of the church, *I Love To Tell The Story* expresses well my love of and passion for this UCC presence among the “least of these” who live along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. It was a love affair begun nearly thirty-five years ago when I led my first work camp to BBM. I have returned seventeen times since then and look forward with anticipation to each return to assist this vital ministry in what ever way they might ask.

Back Bay Mission has gone through many changes over the years though the biblical words of Micah to ‘Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God’ continues to undergird everything they do.

With grateful and heartfelt thanks for your support in the past we encourage your continued support in the future. As you develop plans for your mission dollars for 2012, we ask that you include Back Bay Mission. If you want to hear more about the BBM story, please contact me at

330-309-5253, or [mardoyl@sssnet.com](mailto:mardoyl@sssnet.com). I will be more than happy to “tell the story” of BBM to individuals, mission committees, youth groups, church school classes, women’s and men’s groups or a general gathering of your church during worship.

Find out more about this mission and see their videos at [www.thebackbaymission.org/](http://www.thebackbaymission.org/).



**EOA/WRA Support Center**

**United Church of Christ**

**2560 Clearview Ave. NW**

**Canton, OH 44718**

**(330) 453-8178**



**Visit us online!**

Eastern Ohio Association - [www.eoaucc.org](http://www.eoaucc.org)

Western Reserve Association - [www.wraucc.org](http://www.wraucc.org)

Ohio Conference - [www.ocucc.org](http://www.ocucc.org)