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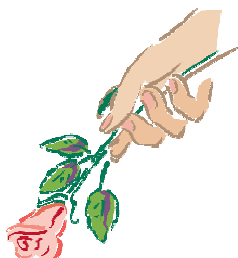


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Submission deadline for the next issue is Wednesday, February 22.

NEW THIS ISSUE

Last Thursday, the EOA Association Council accepted, with regrets, a letter of resignation from Interim Association Minister Carol Barth. Carol has accepted a call to serve as Interim Minister at First Congregational UCC in Lake Mills, Wisconsin. She will be relocating to Wisconsin the last week of March, to begin her new call on April 1. Carol has served as Interim Association Minister here for 2 years. We wish her Godspeed in her new ministry.

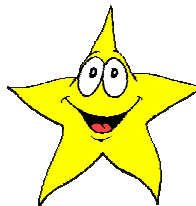


Our deepest sympathies to the family of Don Evans who died February 14. Don was a long time member of Edinburg UCC in Ravenna and was pastor at St. Michael's UCC in Marshallville. Visiting hours will be Sunday, February 19 from 2-4PM and 6-8PM at Bissler & Sons Funeral Home (628 W Main St, Kent). Don's memorial service will be 11AM on Monday, February 20 at First Congregational (266 S Chestnut St, Ravenna).

We extend our sincere condolences to the family of Dale Young who died January 24. Among his many accomplishments was his service as Minister of Visitation at First Grace UCC in Akron. Donations may be made to the Dale and Marguerite Young Endowed Scholarship, Stark State College Foundation, 6200 Frank Ave. N.W., N. Canton, Ohio 44720.

Rev. Glen Shedlock will be installed as pastor at Trinity UCC (8101 Manchester Ave NW, Canal Fulton) on Sunday, March 3 at 3PM. All who are able are cordially invited to attend.

EOA Has Talent! A lot of great performances are lined up for Saturday, February 18, 2012 at Trinity United Church of Christ (3909 Blackburn Rd. NW, Canton). The show begins at 7PM with a range of vocal and instrumental performances, classical to sacred, and will include some interesting info about the EOA. Your generous donation will help support the operations of the Eastern Ohio Association.



Swiss Steak dinner at First Congregational Church UCC., 4022 St. Rt. 44 in Rootstown on Saturday, Feb. 18th from 4 - 7PM. Cost is \$9.00 for adults, \$5 for kids and under 3 are free.

Quick Links

Central Southeast Ohio Association
www.ocucc.org/cse/csea.htm

Eastern Ohio Association
www.eoaucc.org

Northwest Ohio Association
www.nwoa.org

Ohio Conference
www.ocucc.org

Southwest Ohio Northern Kentucky
Association
www.sonkaucc.org

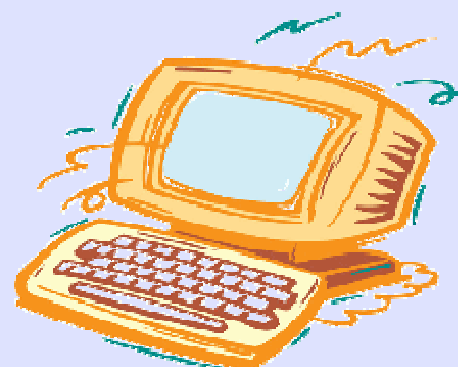
The United Church of Christ
www.ucc.org

Western Reserve Association
www.wraucc.org

Gerry's House Library
www.librarything.com/profile/gerryshouse

Weekly Seeds: A Free Bible Study
www.ucc.org/feed-your-spirit/weekly-seeds/

Your Life, Better
www.ucc.org/feed-your-spirit/your-life-better/





Planting

New Seeds

The theme for the EOAWRA Spring Meeting is *Planting New Seeds-Shovel Ready?* and will be held Saturday, May 5 at Middleburg Heights Community United Church of Christ, 7165 Big Creek Parkway in Middleburg Heights. Join us for breakfast at 9AM, a hymn sing at 10:15AM and worship and study with Dr. Clinton McCann at 10:30AM. Displays will be available for your browsing pleasure. Registration is only \$15. We'll let you know when more information is mailed and posted online. Mark your calendar now!

The Eastern Ohio Association is seeking an Interim Associate Minister. In the remaining months before a General Minister is called to serve the Eastern Ohio and Western Reserve Associations, the Interim Associate Minister will work collegially with the staff team with Acting Association Minister, Richard Plant, as team leader. Deadline for application is March 11. Please visit www.eoaucc.org or www.wraucc.org to see the job description.

Is your church or an organization within your church looking for a mission project? Are you interested in Urban Ministry? Williard UCC, 742 Johnston St., Akron, Ohio is looking for people to staff a Vacation Bible School this coming summer. You would be assisted by members of Williard. If you are interested and would like more information please call Millie McGraw at 330-896-9169. Let's talk! We at Williard are short on people and long on ministry.



The Parish Paper: **How to Manage Change Resistance.** Please see the attached document. *The Parish Paper* is a wonderful resource to which the Ohio Conference has subscribed on behalf of all Ohio UCC churches. With the Conference subscription, we in local churches and the association have permission from the copyright holder to use the material per copyright restrictions. Each issue stands alone as a topic of interest and importance to being a living and growing congregation Please distribute only in its unaltered entirety.

Food for Thought



For the Institutionalized

"Let this be recorded for a generation to come, so that a people yet unborn may praise the Lord."

Excerpt from Psalm 102:12-28

Reflection by Quinn G. Caldwell (Stillspeaking Devotional)

Sooner or later, every churchy person gets sick of the church. They get burned out and wonder whether this is all worth it. If you ask, you will find out that the problem is not with God or faith, but with the church as an institution. It's not God that wore them out, it's being asked to serve on another committee. It's not following the Gospel that did it, it's being the only one that ever mows the lawn. It's too many events, too much email, too many evening meetings.

Many find themselves longing for New Testament times, back when we were a movement instead of an institution. One guy said to me that he would much prefer to have lived under Roman persecution, because dying in the arena for your faith felt meaningful—unlike the church meeting he had that night.

Institutions are a pain. They take lots of work and lots of maintenance. They can suck the life out of you, fast.

Movements are more fun. They are exciting, engaging, enlivening. They also tend not to last.

REMINDERS

Area E Clergy Gatherings:

Feb 21, 10:30AM at St Peter's UCC (Fiat), 10639 Oak Valley Rd, Baltic
Mar 2, 7:30PM at home of Sharon & Don Nichols, 203 Prospect St, Baltic

First Congregational UCC, 4022 St. Rt. 44, Rootstown, will be having a Swiss Steak dinner on Sat., Feb. 18th serving from 4 - 7 p.m. Cost is \$9.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children. For more information, please call 330-325-7429.

Immigration and border issues is the topic for discussion on Saturday, February 18. The WRA Church in the World group will be gathering and are inviting all interested persons to join in our time together. Edie Rasell, Minister for Economic Justice in the national setting of the UCC, will be sharing information on the wider church's role in the issue of immigration. Margaret Mills will be giving a brief overview of her sabbatical on border issues, local church involvement, what does it have to do with me?, and more. We will have a local church participant on how the issue has impacted a community here in northeast Ohio. It should be a rich and important time. Plan to join us from 9:30AM to 11:30AM at Church House, 700 Prospect Ave., Cleveland. For more information, contact Margaret Mills at 440-487-2549 or mmills@wraucc.org.

The Women of Faith Book Club of Sugar creek's First United Church of Christ (526 W Main St) is sponsoring "A Place To Belong A Time to Share" a Women's Mini-



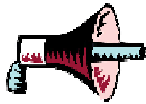
also tend not to last.

The reason you know anything about the faith is that once upon a time, somebody in the Jesus movement realized they needed to set up a system to pass the faith on to the future. They poured themselves into the resulting institution. They did it not for their own gratification, but so that YOU would find out the truths they lived by. They measured "what was worth it" not only by their own sense of fulfillment, but by their hopes for you.

I'm not saying every committee meeting the church has ever held mattered; most of them didn't. I'm saying that all institutions are annoying, AND that the church is the one that brought your faith to you. So when you're feeling ground down by yours, right after you refuse to chair another task force, but before you decide to quit forever, just remember this: the work you're doing is at least as much for your grandkids as it is for you.

Prayer

God, save us from committee meetings. And even when I can't see it, grant that the work I do today might introduce you to future generations tomorrow. Amen.



Announcing!

A Periodic Support Consultation, "Pastoral Leadership in Anxious Times", will be held Tuesday, April 24 at Fairlawn West UCC (2095 W Market St, Akron). Authorized ministers who attend will have an opportunity to reflect with one another on what it means to lead anxious systems, how to practice self-care and to share experiences. This workshop satisfies the requirements of a Periodic Support Consultation which all authorized ministers are required to attend once every three years. Please see the attached flier and registration form. Deadline for registration is Wednesday, April 16.

Don't forget! Your yearbook form data is due to be entered online and copies sent to the Support Center by Friday, February 24. If you have any questions, please contact Cheryl McGraw at 330-453-8178 x100 or cherylm@eoaucc.org.

Please plan to lift up theological education and the UCC Seminaries during worship on February 26 (or any Sunday that fits the worship schedule for your congregation). Liturgical resources are available on the CUE (Chicago, United, Eden) Seminaries Website: www.cueseminaries.org. If you would like worship bulletins, offering envelopes, or a 5-minute DVD about Chicago, United, and Eden Seminaries that can be shown during worship, please contact CUE Seminaries Director, Kiely Todd Roska, kiely@cueseminaries.org or (651) 255-6121.

Do you have a large (1600 ft) take-up reel for 16mm film? Perhaps squirreled away with your filmstrip projector? Stephen Gifford, Trinity UCC, Canton is looking for one. Call him at 330-492-3383.

Let Justice Roll: the theme for the Junior High/Middle School Retreat at Pilgrim Hills on Saturday, March 3 from 10:00AM to Sunday, March 4 at 11:30AM. Keynote speakers and musicians include Andra Moran and Stephen Daniel King. The theme and format are following that of the Ohio Conference Sr. High Fall Youth Event. There will be small groups, free time, games, worship, and music. The cost is \$80 per person which includes all meals, snacks, lodging and program. For information contact Margaret Mills at 440-487-2549 or mmills@wraucc.org. Registration forms will be on the web site by Monday, Feb. 6th. Financial Assistance Requested. This retreat has some exciting things happening but we want to make it possible for all youth interested to be able to attend. Many churches aren't able to assist their youth in these events. If any of you out there have a desire to help fund this event to bring the cost down, we would be most grateful. Please contact Margaret Mills for information.

Day with God & Self, Sat., March 10, 9:30AM to 5PM. An opportunity to retreat from the noise and stress of the everyday. The day includes worship, an introduction to a spiritual discipline and plenty of time for silently experiencing God in the atmosphere of The Prettyman Center at Pilgrim Hills camp. Cost is \$30 for the day. Add \$40 if you would like to come the night before. You can register online at www.ocucc.org or call the Ohio Conference at 800-282-0740. For more information call Janet Burkhart at 330-682-3791.

Information can contact Barbara at 330-652-6161.

Trinity UCC in Akron is looking for a dozen or more used Cherub Choir robes in good condition for its youngest music ministry. If you have some and would like to donate them, please contact Rev. Sharon Alberson at sharonalberson@sbcglobal.net.



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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

