

Clift Notes

May 10, 2009

Clifton United Methodist Church, 3416 Clifton Avenue, Cincinnati OH 45220
www.cliftonumc.com office@cliftonumc.com 513.961.2998

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:30 am Adult Bible Study: Parlor
Youth Sunday School:
Tomer Library

WORSHIP AND CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30AM

SCRIPTURES:

Focus Scripture John 15:1-8
Additional Scriptures
Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31
1 JOHN 4:7-21

PREACHER:

Rev. Suzanne Fontaine

WORSHIP LEADERS:

Julia Novak

HOSPITALITY TEAM:

Bethann Green & Jenny Stevens

WEEKLY CALENDAR

May 13

9:00 AM Book Discussion
9:30 AM Care Team Planning
Committee

May 16

9:00 AM Spring Cleanup

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

5/12 Kelly E.
5/17 Bill G.
5/19 Jonathan A.
5/26 Sam J.
5/30 Shuba M.
5/? Tom B.

**IT'S COMING!!
GET YOUR RED READY
AND WATCH THIS SPACE
FOR FURTHER DETAILS!**

My letter this week is longer than usual, because it's two letters in one.

I hope you'll find some time and space to sit and read the whole letter carefully and prayerfully as it contains some important information.

Two weeks ago, on April 23rd, as Lorri and I were frantically trying to get loose ends tied up so she could leave for vacation and I could be gone for a conference, the call came that Ish was unconscious and had been taken to the hospital in an ambulance. Of course, I left for the hospital immediately, knowing that whatever was left undone was no longer quite so urgent. One of those things was sending the newsletter. Because my letter had some important information I'm including it in this week's issue, and I'll add some new comments at the end.

FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD

by Rev. Suzanne Fontaine

One of my favorite traditions at Clifton is Soup/Salad Sunday. Not only is the food always fabulous, but the conversation is rich and filling. It is a meal much like the Eucharist we've received the week before, because it feeds our souls and nourishes our Body, the gathered community joined together as one. Have you ever noticed that on Soup Sunday there is always enough and some left over no matter how many people show up? That should come as no surprise since it is a communion meal blessed by the presence of God's Spirit.

As we continue through the season of Easter reading the stories of the earliest Christ Community, we are reminded that they lived with a divine mindset of abundant generosity. Whenever they met together, it was their practice to share a meal and then take what was left out into the larger community to share with others. Since that same spirit of abundant generosity is also one of our faith community's spiritual gifts, it seems obvious that we recreate that first community's practice of sharing our abundance of food with our neighbors. Our Congregational Life

Ministry Team has decided to have a food collection on the first Sunday of each month. As we receive the gifts of bread and wine, the reminder of God's presence with us, we will bring our gifts of non-perishable food to be shared with our neighborhood food pantry at Old St. George Church. *Please mark your calendar, beginning May 3rd and each first Sunday, to share from your abundance as we receive from God's abundance.*

I'll be in New York City all weekend and part of next week at a Multi-Cultural Worship Conference, so I'll see you on the 3rd.

Peace,
Suzanne

Our commitment to a food collection has taken on even greater significance since Ish died. One of the things I encourage people to do at a memorial service is to remember the good things done by the person who died and make a commitment to continue one of those things to carry on in honor of that person. I will ask that when we gather this week to celebrate Ish's life. We all know that he exemplified servant ministry. Over and over again, every Sunday and every 2nd Sunday he spread a table before us and simply asked that we show up and spend time together. His ministry of feeding people spread far beyond the walls of the church, however, and so it is fitting that in his memory the that his work of feeding the hungry could continue. What if, in addition to the non-perishable food we bring as an offering on communion Sunday, we also bring an offering on Soup/Salad Sunday? We'll call it the Ish Offering, and as we break bread together we'll honor him by feeding others as well as ourselves.

See you Sunday ...
Suzanne

WISH WE HAD ISH....

Since Ish handled all coffee minutes, including providing the goodies from money out of his pocket, a few changes are going to have to be made:

- A sign up list is on the Welcome Table for host/hostesses to set up, and clean up for each Sunday. If you need to learn how to make the coffee or where things are, just ask Lynn Ahrens. When you sign up, it does not mean that you will have to provide the goodies, unless you want to.
- If you don't want to sign up as a host/hostess - persons will be asked to keep our cupboard stocked. This means you can buy a package of cookies or mini-donuts and put them in the freezer, bake something and put it in the freezer, or buy a couple canisters of presweetened drink mix. If you don't know where to store these supplies, ask Lynn.
- Soup or Salad Sundays are usually the second Sunday of the month, but are often changed when something else is on the calendar. For May, the Salad Sunday will be May 17. Let Lynn know if you will be bringing something. Bread for Salad or Soup Sundays is also welcome.

SPRING CLEANUP

Spring Cleanup is Saturday, May 16th beginning at 9:00 AM. Bring your gloves and yard tools to help "spruce up" the church & parsonage grounds. If you would like to donate flowers and/or mulch it would be greatly appreciated. The lawn mowing schedule is on the Welcome table to sign up for your preference.

CATERING WESLEY FOUNDATION LUNCH

CUMC will be providing lunch for students at Wesley Foundation in Cincinnati on Tuesday, May 19. Please contact Cathy Hale at 541-0540 to donate a salad, sandwich makings or cookies/brownies. If you are able, consider joining the students for a meal and fellowship on that day. This is a wonderful opportunity to be involved in the important ministry of hospitality that the Wesley Foundation offers to the UC student community!

POSITION OPENING: CHILDREN'S PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Where: Wesley Chapel Mission Center 76 East McMicken Avenue Over-the-Rhine
 When: Monday - Thursday after school
 Who: Enthusiastic adult who loves Jesus and has experience teaching children
 Start Date: July 15, 2009
 Pay: \$14.00 per hour for 25 - 30 hours per week
 Description: Replace outstanding coordinator who is retiring
 Implement excellent after school program for K - 4th grade students
 Required to be present 2:00 - 5:30 p.m. every Monday - Thursday that
 Cincinnati Public Schools are in session
 Contact: Becky Costello, Director 721-6204 becky.costello@fuse.net

WHEN LIFE THROWS A CURVE BALL: LEARNING TO LIVE ON LESS

May 22, 2009 8:30 am - 12:15 PM
 Corpus Christi Church Undercroft
 2014 Springdale Rd.
 RSVP: Sandy Keiser 241-7745 by May 15, 2009

APPORTIONMENT FUNDS- WHERE DO THEY GO?

Every month we send a portion of the weekly giving, loose change, & building use donations to the Conference and District for administration support and to help maintain the broader outreach of the church. At this time we have paid 100% to the following funds:

North Central Jurisdiction

- Funds are collected for Jurisdictional expenses that the West Ohio Conference obtains through the Jurisdictional Conference each 4 years and yearly apportionments we pay to the jurisdiction.
- This line represents .17% of your total apportionment.

Ministerial Education Fund

- Helps support the 13 United Methodist Seminaries in the United States.
- Helps support Continuing Education/Scholarships for conference pastors.
- Supports Course of Study education for local pastors.
- Helps support programs that encourage men and women to respond to the call for ordained ministry.
- This line represents 4.82% of your total apportionment.

Black College Fund

- Helps maintain the program and ministries of 11 historically black colleges and universities.
- This apportioned fund supports departmental research, libraries, operations and physical plant maintenance.

- It also supports capital expenditures such as new buildings, major remodeling projects and endowments.
- This line represents 1.92% of your total apportionment.

Africa University Fund

- This apportioned fund supports ongoing operations, including building maintenance, utilities, classroom equipment and supplies, faculty and staff salaries and other operational expenses.
- The only United Methodist degree-granting university in Africa that has served and graduated hundreds of men and women from 20 countries.
- This line represents .43% of your total apportionments.

General Administration Fund

- This apportioned fund helps underwrite the legislative work of General Conference held every 4 years.
- Supports and maintains a system of management oversight and fiscal accountability.
- Funds the work of the Judicial Council to adjudicate questions of church law.
- Helps maintain official documents and historical artifacts of the United Methodist Church.
- Designates historical church shrines, landmarks and sites.
- This line represents 1.55% of your total apportionments.

Episcopal Fund

- Helps support the Bishops office operations, subject to approval by the General Council on Finance and Administration.
- 67% of Episcopal residence expenses are returned.
- Pays for Bishops' salaries, pension and health benefits and disability coverage.
- Helps support the bishops' moving and Episcopal travel expenses.
- Provides pension for retired bishops, surviving spouses and minor children of deceased bishops.
- This line represents 3.78% of your total apportionment.

Interdenominational Cooperative Fund

- The Interdenominational Cooperative Fund receives money from this fund to help support the United Methodist Church's participation in national and international ecumenical relief work.
- Provides funding for advocating global peace and justice.
- This line represents .38% of your total apportionment.

Ohio Council of Churches

- Providing funds help to foster interfaith cooperation and dialogue.
- Provides funds to enable the Christian churches of Ohio to realize more fully their essential unity in Christ and thus to counter the divisive forces of our time.
- Funding helps maintain a mutually helpful relationship and to assist in the development of ecumenical agencies in the counties, cities, and communities of Ohio.
- This line represents .22% of your total apportionments.