



# Millersburg Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

“In the heart of the community, with the community at heart”

Serving Christ since 1858 — [www.millersburgchristianchurch.org](http://www.millersburgchristianchurch.org)

June, 2007

Rev. Fred Erickson, Pastor

## How will you spend your summer vacation?

Summer is here! School is out! The garden is waiting! The sun is shining! Dress is informal! There are fewer meetings! Everything is relaxed! What could be better?

As we were growing up, summer became that idealized time when we could take a break from the daily routines of school, and have time for ourselves to play and have fun. What could have been more joyful than the last day of class?

That mood never left us. We looked forward to summer from that time forward. It was the time of rejuvenation and revitalization. As we settled into other routines: work, family, homemaking, church, and community, we still found ourselves looking forward to the “break” that would occur in the summer—and that’s good!

We all need the various kinds of “Sabbath” that can occur in our lives. We get a mini-Sabbath each week as we pause in worship and meditation on Sunday mornings. But we also need those more extensive times when we can make a major commitment to reflect on the awesome majesty of God, the beautiful and bountiful universe God has made for humanity, and the support, love, and companionship we find in the various communities in which we are placed.

Summer is not a time to remove ourselves from the nurturing, encouraging, supporting, and sustaining fellowship of the church. Summer is a gift during which we can reconnect ourselves with the foundation of our faith that gives all of life meaning. Summer is a relaxed time when we have the opportunity to become more involved in the lives of those we love. Summer is the time we are given to reflect on how we can become more Christ-like, and become more involved in those activities that will give ourselves a lift in the entire year to come.

See you in church,  
Fred



The CWF gathered at Moran’s home on Monday, May 14, and made stepping stones. Some of our handiwork is on display in the flowerbed in front of the church. Thanks especially to Jim Baumgartner for mixing concrete! We had so much fun we’re going to try making some more stones again this fall.



**9:30 AM worship begins May 27**



## From the Sesquicentennial Committee:

In answer to the historical questions I posed in the last couple of newsletters, Peggy and Brenda Rose have given me the following information:

Clarence and Leona Kennett donated the piano. There was no organ in the old church; Martha Fisher donated the organ we currently have. Our pews were purchased sometime in the 1960s from another church that was replacing theirs. The communion table and chairs have been in the church “forever”, but were refinished to a lighter color when the current pews were purchased. The pulpit came from the Millers Creek Methodist Church (and our old pulpit went to a church in Auxvasse). The communionware we use was donated in honor of George and Floy Mae Bright. The flags on either side of the communion table came from Reuben Fisher; the lighted cross over the baptistery and the clock in the sanctuary were gifts in from or in honor of Nelson Baker. The glass-fronted bookcase in the mezzanine area came from Charles Crockett. Leona Kennett donated the library table in the narthex, and it was refinished by Clarence when the new sanctuary was built.

Any one of these things taken by themselves

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## Hey, Campers!! It's not too late to sign up for camp!!

Mom and Dad—your child or youth can still come to church camp this summer. Give the gift of sacred time, fun, fellowship, and new experiences at church camp. Call the church office, or the NEOLA Camp Registrar at 573-442-5815 for more information. You can also get forms and information at the Northeast Area website: [www.nearea.org](http://www.nearea.org).

There is still space at camp, so don't miss out!

Special offer for Eighters: You can still register at the discounted rate! This is a new camp in 2007 and we're excited about the response—youth who have completed 8th grade won't want to miss this camp experience.

You can get more information about Northeast Area camps at <http://www.nearea.org>.

Blessings,

Martha J. Jolly

Camp and Youth Minister

Northeast Area of the Christian Church

is not a big deal. But collectively, I think they show how a small country church manages to get by: individuals and groups of people make contributions of significant elements of our worship, and, as in the case of the pews, we don't always need brand new things; the pews, which were someone else's “garage sale” items have served us well for 40 years (and probably will continue to do so for many more years).

This month's question: Are there any volunteers for a reenactment of a baptism in Cedar Creek sometime this summer?

This committee will be meeting after church, Sunday June 24. If any one is interested in joining to help with preparing the history and planning the celebration, please plan to attend. Thanks!

Jeff Moran, Chair  
Sesquicentennial Committee

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Lance Bethell holds his “Teacher of the Year” certificate and T-shirt which he received from Wal-Mart which honored him with this award. The honor was presented by Wal-Mart employee Mary.

## Congratulations Lance Bethell!

Lance Bethell, a Fulton High School Science Teacher, received a surprise visit recently from several Wal-Mart employees. Lance has been named the Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year! Along with the special recognition comes a \$1000 award for the FHS Science Department, and a \$100 Wal-Mart Gift card for Mr. Bethell. Several of Mr. Bethell's students nominated him for the award.



## Prayers

### Concerns

Prayers for Darrel Schermerhorn who is at home with hospice care.

Prayers for Eddie Forsee who has had surgery for blockage in a carotid artery.

Prayers for Barbara Dexter who has complications from emphysema.

Prayers for Wayne Latty who is now at Churchill Terrace, 120 Hospital Drive, Fulton, MO 65251.

Continued prayers for Jean Bryant.

Continued prayers for Cindy Baumgartner.

Continued prayers for Pat and Richard Shores.

Continued prayers for Pam Brady.

Prayers for service men and women and their families.

Prayers for Peace in our homes, communities, nation and the world.

Prayers for Don Racinowski who was in a serious motorcycle accident.

### Joys

We celebrate with Angie Schermerhorn who just graduated from Nursing School.

Congratulations to Ashley Bethell who has graduated from University of Kansas with a Master of Science in Education (MSE) with an emphasis in Sports Studies.

Congratulations to Margaret Stephens on her promotion to Lieutenant Colonel. She serves in the Air National Guard and will be leading her second training mission to Panama with responsibility to train personnel in emergency response. She is also the Rural AED (Automated External Defibrillator) Coordinator for the State of Missouri with the Department of Health and Senior Services.



Joy for Lance Bethell being named Wal-Mart teacher of the year

We celebrate the joy experienced by Allen Bright who participated in his graduation services. at William Jewel College.

Prayers for Carolyn Bethell's mother who is facing surgery.

## Teachers honored

We honored our Sunday school teachers during worship on May 20:

Linda Cassidy: ages 4-1st grade,

Lois Long: 2nd - 3rd grades (and substituted for the younger class),

Elaine Long: 4th-6th grades,

Kim and Lance Loyd: 7th-12th grades,

Fred Erickson: Adults.

We celebrate their teaching ministry over the past year. We haven't had tests in Sunday school to measure learning success, but we know they have made a difference. The seeds sown during Sunday school may take many years to bloom, but we know our teachers help our faith grow. Thanks!

Barbara Moran

## June Communion

### Elders

Ken Bright

Elaine Long

### Ushers

Sherry Hoesch

### Preparation

Anna Sue Harmon

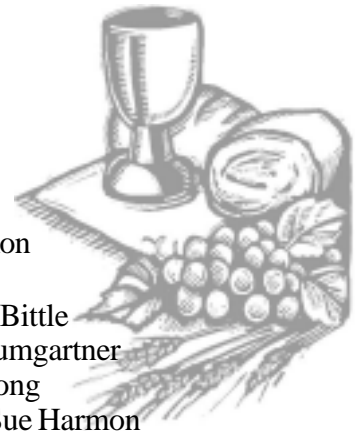
### Bread

Jun 3 – Frances Bittle

Jun 10 – Pat Baumgartner

Jun 17 – Lois Long

Jun 24 – Anna Sue Harmon



## Attendance

May 6 ..... 40    May 20 ..... 31  
 May 13 ..... 45

## April finance report

We need to receive \$4,824 each month to meet our budget

	Month	Year to date
Beginning Balance	\$9,049.32	\$10,084.43
Income	\$4,453.71	\$16,793.94
Expenses	\$6,903.48	\$20,278.82
Ending Balance	\$6,599.55	\$6,599.55

## President's Ponderings

It was a pleasure to work with some of our youth in preparing the Youth Led Laity Sunday. What an earnest and talented bunch of kids!

The school year is winding up, and on May 27 our "Summer Hours" start with worship at 9:30 AM. Our dedicated Sunday School teachers will take a break from classes. Children's church (for those who haven't started Kindergarten yet) will be held in the basement after the Children's Sermon.

Of concern to many has been the lack of children in Sunday School classes. It is hard for Sunday School time to compete with all the pressures of the secular world. Please share any ideas you have regarding Sunday School with a member of the Christian Education Committee. How do we make Sunday School time to learn about God and our faith a priority for children and their parents?

CWF was a hoot. Relaxing, eating, visiting, and creating artwork (that's what I'm calling it) made for a great evening.

Blessings, Barbara

## Disciples Support Healing Efforts at Virginia Tech

Students, faculty and staff at Virginia Tech continue to struggle to make sense of the horrific events visited upon their campus on Monday, April 16, when a lone gunman killed 32 people, then took his own life. On behalf of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Week of Compassion has made solidarity grants to two special funds—the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund and the United in Caring Fund for the Victims of the Virginia Tech Tragedy. The funds are working together to provide grief counseling, mental health services, funeral expenses, transportation for family members and other related expenses.

WOC is grateful to the Reverend Gina Rhea, pastor of First Christian Church, Radford, VA, for keeping us abreast of developments at VT, and to the Reverend Jonathan Webster, pastor of Snowville Christian Church, Hiwassee, VA, and Chaplain of Carilion New River Valley Medical Center, for his care of injured students and their families.

## NO Choir practice

The JOY Choir has begun its summer break and will resume practice in September.

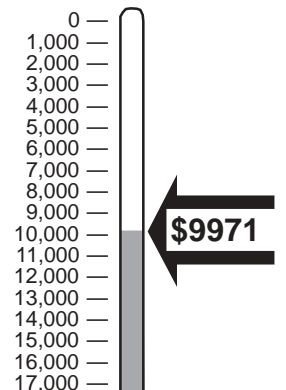


Cody Baumgartner and Jordan Collins help provide leadership during the youth led laity service.

## Mission Trip Planned

Youth who are making a mission trip to South Africa in December include Amiria Harper-Rose. She and others attended services on May 6th and explained how they will join a high school group from South Africa and together lead a Christian day camp for elementary age kids in surrounding townships. The \$200 of mission funds that had been designated by MCC for mission trips has been given to support this effort. A special account has been set up at The Callaway Bank in Fulton for donations. In the months prior to leaving, the eight youth and their leaders will be studying the area where they will be going and will explore their own personal faith as they prepare for the experience.

### HVAC campaign getting the temperature down



## Missionaries need books



Jayanthi Wilson



James Wilson

A recent news release from our Global Partners (or missionaries as some may call them), Jim and Jayanthi Wilson in Botswana, indicated some new and exciting developments within their local ministries. Jim is a staff member of the Kgologano Theological School and like many other international ministers wears several different hats within that community. When not functioning as a Tutor (or professor), he is working on editing the school's newsletter or keeping the computers functioning as the primary IT expert.

Jim, in his latest correspondence, indicates the excitement of new growth and restructure of many of the schools course offerings and curriculum. A push to create classes that will benefit people at even the most basic levels of life has created a need for an improved and upgraded library. Currently, many of the titles are outdated and are not useful to the students of Kgologano.

Just a few short months ago, the school had only one professional journal subscription and that has only grown to three today. After communicating with Jim, we have learned that the redirection of the school has led them into areas rather familiar to us here in the United States. Specific areas of interest such as leadership development, psychology, Bible, children's ministry, pastoral counseling, children's books, and preaching are common in all parts of the world.

A vast majority of us who have our own libraries probably have books on these subjects which have gone unopened for years. As a result, we are suggesting a unique and EASY outreach

program to help the many lives touched by Kgologano. Over the next few weeks we would like for you to consider looking through your books and determining if you have any titles that would fall into the above categories. Then, decide if they are as valuable to you as they would be for the Botswanan students at Kgologano.

The Missions Committee is collecting books on the table in the narthex that will be sent to Jim and Jayanthi at our mission station in Botswana.

This project is being coordinated through the Northeast Area. Bill Nigus, pastor of Central Christian Church, Fulton, is heading up this project.

You will remember Jim and Jayanthi who came to our church and spoke at a missions emphasis evening.

The Northeast Area will be using the less expensive US postal "M-Bags" which will be used to ship these items to Jim and the school, but the cost will still be pretty high. Those who want to make a financial contribution to the shipping may do so.

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### WOC Responds to Cyclones in Madagascar

Since Christmas Day 2006, six cyclones have hit the impoverished African island nation of Madagascar. Heavy rains and floods from the storms have affected 89% of the country's housing units and destroyed thousands of acres of cropland, including 70-80% of the important rice harvest. As a result, a severe food crisis now seems imminent. The Church of Jesus Christ of Madagascar (FJKM), long time Action by Churches Together (ACT) local partner, has targeted 3,750 of the most vulnerable families (10,000 persons). FJKM services include basic food relief through a Food for Work program, provision of seeds and tools to restore agricultural activities, medicines, water purification and materials for temporary shelter.



In response to an appeal to ACT alliance members, Week of Compassion has provided an emergency grant from the Compassion Response Fund.

## We're Trying Something New

The second quarterly outreach projects for 2007 are Kingdom Respite Services and Care and HAVEN House.

In June we will start collecting items for "Backpacks of Love" for children in Missouri. These kits are given to children between the ages of 4-10 who have experienced a crisis and are being placed in foster care. These kits will be sent to Festival of Sharing in October.

In June we will collect items for a boy and girl ages four and five, in July items for a boy and girl ages six, seven or eight, and in August for a boy and girl ages nine and ten.

### Thanks

Dear MCC friends and family,

Thank you so much for the wonderful care package I received in April!

I thoroughly enjoyed the lovely variety of snacks and treats—it definitely helped me through my last weeks of classes and finals. I really appreciate you thinking about me during that stressful time.

Thanks again,  
Courtney Moran

Dear Friends at MCC

Thank you so much for the finals care package. It is always nice to know I have my church family supporting me and pulling for me in my academic endeavors. This care package was especially meaningful because this was my last semester of school ever, and now I get to head out into the "real world".

I have accepted a job in Quincy, IL at Quincy Medical Group in the Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine as an athletic trainer. My first day is June 11. I will be working with my fiance, Gary Hackmann, and we will be getting married June 14, 2008.

Thanks Again,  
Ashley Bethell

Jim Baumgartner who has undergone treatment for cancer expressed his thanks for all cards, calls, and prayers.

**June  
food item for SERVE:  
Peanut butter**

In September we may add additional "Backpacks of Love".

Specific items are requested, so we will have you choose items each month.

Below are the items to be included.

- 1 large backpack
- 1 t-shirt (large for sleeping)
- 1 pair underpants
- 1 pair socks
- 1 comb
- 1 teddy bear
- 1 toy suitable for either a boy or girl
- 1 toothbrush (soft and in unopened, original package)
- 1 tube fluoride toothpaste, 6 oz. or more
- 1 coloring book
- 1 box crayons
- 1 notebook
- 1 pencil without advertising
- 1 pencil sharpener

A small quilt or blanket already donated will be added to the kit. All items will be packed the backpack and labeled "Backpacks" and "Boy" or "Girl" and size, "S," "M," or "L." These kits are used by children between the ages of 4 to 10 who have experienced a crisis and are being placed in foster care.

Now with school out and students not receiving breakfast and lunch at school, there will be a greater demand for the SERVE Food Pantry. The item for June is peanut butter. However, all donations are appreciated.

Elaine Long



### Lectionary Scriptures for June

Sun, Jun 3, '07	Sun, Jun 17, '07
Proverbs 8:1-14, 22-31	1 Kings 21:1-10 (11- 14), 15-21a
Psalms 8 (also New Year)	Psalms 5:1-8 Galatians 2:15-21
Romans 5:1-5	Luke 7:36-8:3
John 16:12-15	Sun, Jun 24, '07
Sun, Jun 10, '07	1 Kings 19:1-4 (5-7) 8-15a
1 Kings 17:8-16 (17-24)	Psalms 42, 43
Psalms 146	Galatians 3:23-29
Galatians 1:11-24	Luke 8:26-39
Luke 7:11-17	

## Disciples Pass Halfway Point

Disciples congregations have sent 385 groups on hurricane recovery work trips to the

Gulf South since Week of Compassion and Disciples Home Missions launched the Disciples Hurricane Recovery Initiative September 1, 2006. An important part of the initiative includes sending 750 work groups to hurricane-stricken communities along the Gulf of Mexico—from Florida to Texas—by August 31, 2008. We're now over halfway there!

Next month, Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries in Los Fresnos, TX, will become the newest Disciples Mission Station, as it begins the Los Casitas project to build simple, secure houses for impoverished Mexican families who lost their homes during Hurricane Emily. Open dates for volunteers are now available. Also, the Office of Disciples Volunteering continues to schedule groups for work in our other mission stations in Gulfport, MS; Slidell/Covington, LA; Westside, New Orleans; Lake Charles, LA; and Beaumont/Port Arthur, TX. Groups are especially needed for the upcoming fall and winter as well as the summer of 2008.



Address Services Requested

Millersburg Christian Church  
 4527 State Road J  
 Fulton, MO 65251



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