



# 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)

August, 2007

Rev. Fred Erickson, Pastor

### Old fashioned “pie supper” to benefit HVAC campaign

On Saturday, August 11, beginning at 6:30 PM. the congregation will enjoy the fun, fellowship, and food of an old fashioned “Pie Supper.” Bring a pie or two to be auctioned off. The proceeds from the auction will be used to benefit the Heating Ventilation Air-conditioning (HVAC) fund.

Those who purchase pies may chose to take them home or offer to serve them to those attending the supper.

The Pie Supper is sponsored by the Membership Committee. Beth Haas and her musical friends will be providing special music.

### General Minister reports on “State of the Church”

By Charles Cochran

“DisciplesWorld” contributing writer

FORT WORTH, Texas (7/23/07) — General Minister Sharon Watkins offered an upbeat assessment of the state of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) on Sunday evening, urging more than 5,000 Disciples to “choose life” and to tell the story of their great denomination.

“To paraphrase Mark Twain, the rumors of our demise are greatly exaggerated. There’s more to the story than we’ve been telling,” Watkins said, delivering a formal State-of-the-Church presentation to the General Assembly.

Watkins didn’t speak by herself. At one time or another, more than 50 other people moved onto and then off the stage during a highly choreographed presentation, illustrated with images on three huge screens in the arena at the Fort Worth Convention Center.

Watkins recounted the church’s massive response to hurricanes Rita and Katrina, at one point asking anybody who was directly affected by the storms to stand along with others who went on mission trips, contributed money to Week of Compassion, or offered prayers for hurricane victims. Soon, everyone who was able was standing.

“What an abundance of care!” Watkins proclaimed as the audience remained on its feet. “This is the heart of compassion. This is where



**General Minister and President Sharon E. Watkins urged Disciples to “choose life” during her State-of-the-Church address Sunday evening at the Fort Worth Convention Center. Photo: Adam Frieberg**

transformation for mission begins.”

Even in the closure of a church—like her own University Park Christian Church last year—one finds the seeds of rebirth, Watkins said. *[ed. note: Fred Erickson was Associate Minister of University Park, and was responsible for youth while Sharon was in high school there.]*

“No need to tell a story of demise,” she said. “Instead, let’s tell the story about University Park along with Faith United Christian Church – which

**Cont’d page 3, column 1**

# August 2007

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

<p>July 2007</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p>	<p>September 2007</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>   1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30</p>			<p>1</p> <p>Newsletter Assembly 5:30p</p> <p>Pastoral Relations 6:30p</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:30p Worship Committee</p> <p><i>Ashley Bethell</i></p>	<p>3</p> <p><i>Hayden Long Hollis Long Brent Moran</i></p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5</p> <p>9:30a Worship &amp; Children's Ch.</p> <p>10:45a Missions Committee</p> <p><i>Harold Reisch Glenn Stiers</i></p>	<p>6</p> <p>4:00-6:00p Callaway Electric forum on rate hike</p> <p><i>Sally Erickson</i></p>	<p>7</p> <p><i>Linda Reed Brown</i></p>	<p>8</p> <p><i>David Rose</i></p>	<p>9</p> <p><i>Justin Bright</i></p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Rummage sale for mission trip at Court Street Cabinet meeting with Area Minister 1:00p Old Fashioned Pie Supper 6:30p <i>Rodney &amp; Janet Latty</i></p>	
<p>12</p> <p>9:30a Worship &amp; Children's Ch.</p> <p>10:45a Christian Education Committee</p> <p><i>Randy &amp; Marsha Loyd Bill Bright</i></p>	<p>13</p> <p><i>Mary Alice Bowser</i></p>	<p>14</p> <p><i>Brianna Force John McCray</i></p>	<p>15</p> <p><i>Peggy Rose</i></p>	<p>16</p> <p><i>Frances Bittle</i></p>	<p>17</p> <p><i>Shayla Rose &amp; Scott Gerstenecker Esther Flaigle</i></p>	<p>18</p> <p><i>J.H. Long</i></p>	
<p>19</p> <p>9:30a Worship &amp; Children's Ch.</p>	<p>20</p> <p><i>Walt &amp; Marla Carlson</i></p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p><i>Sherry Hoesch</i></p>	<p>24</p> <p>5:00p Newsletter deadline</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Budget requests due</p>	
<p>26</p> <p>9:30a Worship &amp; Children's Ch.</p> <p>10:45a Stewardship and Finance Committee</p> <p>2:00p baby shower for Jana and Kerry Bush</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Newsletter Assembly 5:30p</p> <p><i>Larry &amp; Pat Baumgartner Danny Forsee</i></p>	<p>30</p> <p>Preschool orientation 6:30p-9:00p</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Lions Club Fish Fry 5-8</p>	<p><i>Anniversaries listed in bold italics Birthdays listed in italics</i></p>	

## From the Stewardship and Finance Committee:

The time is drawing near for the annual “estimate of giving” pledges from members and friends of the congregation of our church.

Generally, the various committees have their “askings” to the Stewardship and Finance committee by the first of September. This information is then distributed to the congregation along with a card on which folks estimate their “givings” to the church. Those cards are returned to the Stewardship and Finance committee and used to prepare a final budget for board and membership approval (the latter occurring at the annual congregational meeting in November). As you are no doubt aware, over the last several months, church expenses have exceeded church income by about a thousand dollars per month.

We know that much of the decreased giving is due to recent deaths among our church family and other families transferring membership elsewhere. Nonetheless, we ask each of you to prayerfully consider what the church means to you as an individual and to the community at large and pledge to the church according to those considerations.

Thanks, Jeff Moran



Casey Baumgartner standing at her cabin door at M\*A\*D (Music, Arts, Drama) Camp at Rickman Center sponsored by our Northeast Area camping program.

### “General Minister” from page 1

shared the same building—dispersing their assets to strengthen other ministries and scattering their members to be leaven in other congregations.”

Watkins acknowledged that times are tough, with some ministries shutting their doors due to lack of funds. “Our head count is down. Our giving is not up enough to do ministry the way we’ve always done it,” she said. “...Even with all of that, the struggle to choose life is real.”

Disciples can admit the anxiety they feel about their church, she said. “There is lamentation over loss. We need to express that. There is injustice to be railed at. We have to express it. But we will only find the strength to do so if we immerse ourselves in the resurrection story of our faith,” Watkins said.

“When we believe in new beginnings, when we tell the story of new life, when we witness the transforming power of God to revive us again ... then we become the good news.”

One example of that good news: 11 new missionaries who joined Watkins on stage and were commissioned on the spot.

And another: 13 ministry partners from places as diverse as Mozambique, the Philippines, and rural China — people who practice ministry oftentimes at great personal risk.

“These brothers and sisters know what it means to choose life in circumstances where it would seem that death has the upper hand,” Watkins said. “They have heard Jesus’ urging, ‘You give them something to eat.’

“They have placed themselves into Jesus’ hands and found something to give. They are daily choosing life.”

When ministries falter and fade away due to lack of funds, “it is difficult to choose life—sometimes,” Watkins said. “...But the very root of our faith tells us: with endings can come new beginnings. We serve a God of resurrection. A God of life.”

One of the Assembly’s few unscripted moments occurred near the end of Watkins’ speech. She said, “Christ is risen,” and she had intended—according to an advance transcript—to follow up with “Christ is risen indeed.”

Instead, a lone male voice, audible throughout the vast arena, responded from the audience: “He is risen indeed!”

Two more times Watkins proclaimed, “Christ is risen!” Each time, more members of the audience joined in impromptu response. By the third time through, most of the people in the arena were engaged in the call and response.

“Disciples!” Watkins concluded. “Let’s choose life!”



## Prayers

### Sympathy

Sympathy for the family of Aaron McCracken who died July 24. His wife, Crystal, is the daughter of Cindy Pahl Quick and granddaughter of Errol and Hazel Pahl.

Sympathy to Marilyn Bettenhausen whose mother Ruth Roschke passed away July 7th.

### Concerns

Prayers for Ruth Forsee who is receiving therapy on her shoulder that was dislocated from a fall.

Prayers for Ken Bright who has continued health concerns.

Prayers for Marsha Loyd who has been diagnosed with arthritis.

Prayers for John Reynolds' mother who has been hospitalized.

Continued prayers for Barbara Dexter who has complications from emphysema.

Continued prayers for Cindy Baumgartner.

Continued prayers for Pat and Richard Shores.

Continued prayers for Pam Brady and family.

Prayers for Shirley Martin's sister who is undergoing treatment for cancer.

Prayers for service men and women and their families.

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

### Joys

Peggy Rose who was hospitalized with hip pain is home and much improved.

Lewis Baumgartner is able to leave the hospital and continue therapy at home.

Casey Baumgartner attended Music Art & Drama Camp at Rickman Conference Center. The camp is through the Northeast Area of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

We rejoice with Terri Collins whose father is now cancer free.

Angie Schermerhorn who recently passed her nursing exam and is now an RN working on the oncology floor at Boone Hospital.

## Thanks

We express appreciation to David Stine who was the guest speaker on July 22 when Fred attended General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Fort Worth, Texas.

We express our thanksgiving to the Family of Jean Bryant who gave a generous donation in memory of their mother to be used for the heating/air conditioning fund.

Millersburg Church,

Thank you for the use of the church for our mother's celebration of life. We appreciate all the support and hospitality shown to us by the church family.

We hope that these monies will help to pay for the new church air conditioning.

The family of Jean Bryant.

Dear MCC,

Thank you all so much for helping to send me to camp this year. I had a blast.

We sang, I was in photo, we had family groups and got to go swimming.

I made a bunch of new friends and had a great experience.

Thank you all, Casey

## August Communion

### Elders

Ken Bright  
Carol Cox

### Ushers

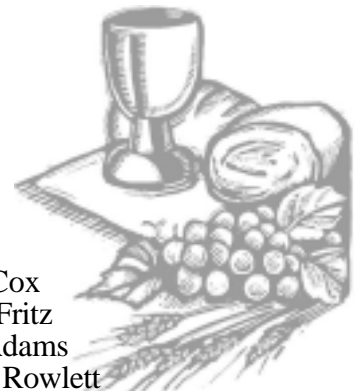
Kristen Bright

### Preparation

Lisa Bright

### Bread

Aug 5 – Carol Cox  
Aug 12 – Vicki Fritz  
Aug 19 – Rita Adams  
Aug 26 – Ralph Rowlett



## Attendance

July 1 .....	29	July 22 .....	21
July 8 .....	36	July 29 .....	19
July 15 .....	33		

## June finance report

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

	Month	Year to date
Beginning Balance	\$5,506.20	\$10,084.43
Income	\$2,882.95	\$23,041.78
Expenses	\$3,984.23	\$28,721.29
Ending Balance	\$4,404.92	\$ 4,404.92

## President's Ponderings

Many of you have noticed that our General Fund balance, reported in our bulletins and newsletters, continues to decrease monthly as we spend more than we take in. At our last Board meeting our treasurer highlighted that at our present rate of income, we will run out of operating funds by the end of October. What do you think about that? What's your attitude? Not my problem? Someone else will deal with it? I can't do anything anyway? Does it make you feel guilty? Angry? Sad? Motivated to act?

You've probably heard the "Attitude" poem by Charles Swindoll about the importance of attitude:

"The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life ... It is more important than appearance, giftedness, or skill. It will make or break a company, a church, a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for the day. We cannot change our past... we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude... I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to

### From the Sesquicentennial Committee:

One "historical" issue that has come up in conversations is what folks 50 (or 150) years from now will want to know about us. Who are we now? What is the membership of our church like? What is our community like? What is our church like? How is it organized? What do we do for music and fellowship? What mission and ecumenical activities do we support? What kind of church services do we have?

Please think about these and other related questions as we approach our 150th anniversary in August of 2008.

No one responded to my question about "time capsules" in last month's newsletter, and so I repeat that question: the "rumor" is that the church youth of the early-1960s created a time capsule and another was created at the time the new sanctuary was built in the mid-1970s. Does anyone have any recollections about the nature and/or whereabouts of these time capsules? Please let Jeff Moran or another of the committee members know.

Thanks, Jeff Moran,  
Sesquicentennial Chair



me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you..."

Christians are positive people. After all, Christ arose! Many stories and phrases from the Bible remind us that all things are possible in Christ who strengthens us. Now that's powerful. We can act together to reach solutions that are right for Millersburg Christian Church. Please participate with a positive attitude and we will accomplish what we need to continue as a community of believers in this place.

A special word to cabinet members: Please make every attempt to attend the special meeting with our area minister on Saturday, August 11, starting at 1:00 PM.

Lord, thank you for the opportunity to serve.  
Respond with the towel of service, Barbara

### A fun way is offered to help feed the hungry.

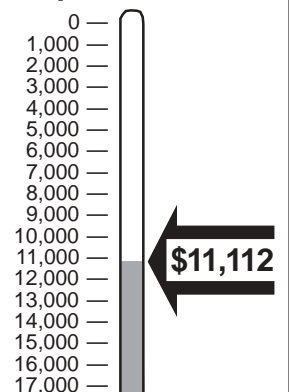
Beth Haas has placed a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for volunteers who would like to help out at the Central Missouri Food Bank. The need is for persons to help re-package bulk food items so they can be distributed to food pantries in central Missouri and then given to persons in need.

This is not only an enjoyable thing to do, it is helping those who need help the most. Sign up and give your preference of day and time so that a time can be selected when we can have a group go from Millersburg.

### Mission emphasis changes

We have discontinued church-sponsored service at the soup kitchens in Columbia and Fulton. In lieu of that, we are giving a greater emphasis to support of the SERVE food pantry. For August the item to be donated is canned fruit, but all donations are greatly needed.

### HVAC campaign getting the temperature down



# Week of Compassion reports 2nd quarter assistance

## Africa: [\$146,500]

- 2,000 - Angola, cholera outbreak
- 6,000 - Burundi, relief and recovery
- 6,000 - DR Congo, emergency relief
- 6,000 - Madagascar, cyclone
- 9,500 - Mozambique, earthquake and arsenal explosion
- 100,000 - Sudan, Darfur crisis
- 6,000 - Uganda, refugee assistance
- 5,000 - Zambia, floods
- 6,000 - Zimbabwe, emergency transportation

## East Asia and the Pacific: [\$13,000]

- 5,000 - China, earthquake
- 8,000 - Solomon Islands, tsunami

## Latin America and the Caribbean: [\$30,000]

- 7,000 - Colombia, floods and volcanoes

- 5,000 - Dominican Republic, health emergency

- 18,000 - Mexico, hurricane housing

## Middle East and Europe: [\$6,000]

- 6,000 - Lebanon, emergency relief

## Southern Asia: [\$173,438]

- 3,000 - Central Asia, disaster mitigation
- 114,938 - India, tsunami recovery
- 43,500 - Indonesia, floods and earthquakes
- 12,000 - Sri Lanka, civil violence

## General: [\$6,000]

- 6,000 - Church World Service, Community Arise Project

## Domestic: [\$339,443]

- 250 - Alabama, fire
- 5,000 - Arizona, emergency water relief
- 23,755 - California, winter freeze and food relief
- 17,500 - Florida, tornadoes
- 500 - Georgia, tornadoes
- 10,000 - Kansas, ice storms and floods
- 90,938 - Louisiana, hurricane recovery
- 85,000 - Mississippi, hurricane recovery
- 4,000 - Missouri, ice storms
- 1,250 - Nebraska, ice storms
- 5,500 - New Jersey, floods
- 2,500 - New Mexico, floods
- 5,750 - New York, floods and winter storms
- 1,000 - North Carolina, church fire
- 1,500 - Oklahoma, floods
- 5,000 - Ohio, floods
- 24,500 - Tennessee, hurricane housing project
- 36,500 - Texas, hurricane recovery, floods and tornadoes
- 5,000 - Washington, winter floods
- 14,000 - U.S., CWS spring storms and tornado appeals

## Lectionary Scriptures for August

- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Sun, Aug 5, '07      | Sun, Aug 19, '07    |
| Hosea 11:1-11        | Isaiah 5:1-7        |
| Psalms 107:1-9, 43   | Psalms 80:1-2, 8-19 |
| Colossians 3:1-11    | Hebrews 11:29-12:2  |
| Luke 12:13-21        | Luke 12:49-56       |
| Sun, Aug 12, '07     | Sun, Aug 26, '07    |
| Isaiah 1:1, 10-20    | Jeremiah 1:4-10     |
| Psalms 50:1-8, 22-23 | Psalms 71:1-6       |
| Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 | Hebrews 12:18-29    |
| Luke 12:32-40        | Luke 13:10-17       |



## Cabinet looks at congregation's future

The Cabinet of Millersburg Christian Church will be holding an important meeting with our Area Minister, the Rev. Dr. Kristina Tenny-Brittian on Saturday afternoon, August 11, beginning at 1:00 PM.

This meeting follows considerable discussion within our committees, Cabinet, and Board. There is considerable concern over the lack of participation by our members and friends on the various committees and Board of the congregation, as well as a drop-off in contributions. Ms. Tenny-Brittian has had training and experience helping congregations in our situation.

This is a wonderful opportunity for us to reexamine our mission and purpose. What do we need to be doing to better serve Christ in this place?

All of the officers and chairs of all our committees are on the Cabinet, and are encouraged to be present at this meeting.

## Shower planned

Friends will host a baby shower for Jana and Kerry Bush who are expecting a baby girl. The shower will be held at the church at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 26.



Visit our web site:  
[millersburgchristianchurch.org](http://millersburgchristianchurch.org)  
Web hosting donated by Socket.

# I Sometimes Know What God is Like

by James & Jayanthi Wilson

I will counsel you and watch over you.  
Psalm 32:8

We are often reminded that it is not our own strength, but God's strength through Christ Jesus, that enables us to meet the challenges of serving as Overseas Mission Partners in Botswana. Through the work and the people we meet, God instructs us in the way we shall go and strengthens us in our moments of weakness. In the process, we sometimes learn a bit more about what God is like.

I can truly say, "I sometimes know what God is like" when staff members at Sedibeng come to work to help disadvantaged youth learn job skills to sustain them in life, even though they, themselves, haven't received a salary in months because of funding issues. Instead they draw



Jayanthi Wilson



James Wilson

strength from God to do what needs to be done.

I can truly say, "I sometimes know what God is like" when my students at Kgolagano College volunteer time in service to God. One student goes each week to the local government hospital to work with the children. Another student who is HIV positive, inspires and organizes other HIV positive women in her local village, helping them to be empowered and to feel God's presence.

I can truly say, "I sometimes know what God is like" when we receive a gracious gift from our North American church partners, through Global Ministries, that enables us to create a special collection of theological books for prisoners that they can borrow through the prison chaplains.

I can truly say, "I sometimes know what God is like" when we hear of the continuing interest of churches in North America towards mission - local, regional and global - with the commitment to help others and so to share the Good News.

Perhaps this is why we are such enthusiastic supporters of mission in the Church ... because through our involvement, we not only make a difference in the world, but we are blessed with the opportunity to learn more about what God is like.

Open our hearts, O God, to the strength and wisdom you share through your servants in Botswana. Amen.

*[James & Jayanthi Wilson have been missionaries for 18 years. They currently serve in Gaborone, Botswana. Jim serves as a teacher of theology at Kgolagano Theological College. Jayanthi serves in community development at the Mabogo Dinku Advice Centre.*

*Jim and Jayanthi visited MCC in September, 2005]*

**August  
food item for SERVE:  
Canned fruit**

## Care package reaches military

Millersburg Christian Church

Dear Members,

One of your members, Rita Adams, is a good friend of my mother. I have met and spoken several times with Rita and her husband, Stan, who is a Vietnam veteran. I am a U.S. Marine Reservist and have recently returned from my second deployment to Iraq. During this tour, I was stationed in the city of Fallujah, in western Anbar province.

Rita and Stan have always been supportive of my mother, and of me. I understand that she has included my name in several prayer groups, and I am also aware of the special remembrance your church held on Veterans Day in November. I thank you for doing that, not only for me and our current Iraq/Afghanistan veterans, but also for veterans from previous times, most especially those from the Vietnam era who did not receive a welcome home when they returned.

Upon my return to Missouri in late April, Rita gave me one of the care packages that your church members had prepared. It became a "welcome home" package for me, and I was glad to have all the special treats that were included. It was very good of you to take the time, make the effort, and show your concern for me in this way.

Thank you all so very much for all of your thoughts, prayers, and actions. I appreciate your caring, and hope that you continue to support service members in these ways.

Sincerely,

L. Cpl. Stephen Webber, USMC Reserves

Benefiting the mission trip to South Africa to be taken by 8 Fulton youth, including Amiria Harper-Rose, to lead a day camp with South African elementary children.

Fundraiser...  
**Rummage Sale**



Court Street United Methodist Church

**Saturday, August 11, 2007**  
6:00 Am to 1:00 Pm

Empty Your Closets and Rent Your Own Booth...



Indoor Booth: \$30.00  
Outdoor Booth: \$20.00  
Or Donate Your Items To Our Booth!

Contact 220-3309 or 220-6090 to Rent a Booth



...Come and Enjoy the Great Deals!



**Concessions Available**



*All Proceeds Go to South Africa Youth Mission Trip 2007*

## Important meetings coming up

**Missions Committee** will meet following worship on Sunday, August 5, at 10:45 AM.  
**Callaway Electric Cooperative** will conduct a forum here at the church on Monday, August 6, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM to discuss the electric rate increase.

**Cabinet meeting** on Saturday, August 11, beginning at 1:00 PM. We will be having an important meeting with our Area Minister, Dr. Kris Tenny-Brittian, to look at the issues we are now facing as a congregation.

**Christian Education Committee** will meet following worship on Sunday, August 12, at 10:45 AM.

**Newsletter deadline:** Friday, August 24, 5:00 PM.

**Budget requests.** All committees need to have their budget requests for 2008 turned into the Stewardship and Finance Committee on or before Saturday, August 25.

**Stewardship and Finance Committee** will meet following worship on Sunday, August 26, at 10:45 AM.



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Millersburg Christian Church



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