



Millersburg Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

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

Serving Christ since 1858 — www.millersburgchristianchurch.org

September, 2007

Rev. Fred Erickson, Pastor

September—the time for new beginnings

Perhaps it is because we are accustomed to the school calendar with which we grew up, but as summer begins to come to an end, September becomes the season every year when the time for relaxing, renewal, and re-creating ourselves turns into a time of getting back to work and doing those things that give us purpose and fulfillment.

One of the most important things we can do at this time is to rededicate ourselves to faithful participation in church and worship. Now is the time!

When we get our lives focused in the Kingdom of God, we suddenly discover that we have the time and energy to be doing those things that really matter, that make life meaningful and purposeful, and which bring us peace and joy.

In particular, Sunday morning, September 9, is that moment of new beginnings. This is the beginning of “Back-to-Church Sunday.” The day begins at 9:15 AM with “Super Spectacular Sunday School Sunday.” At that time we will have a time of orientation to the opportunities and

Celebrating with Fred as he retires ...

Reverend Fred Erickson has shared a ministry with Millersburg Christian Church for the past five years and now we will celebrate his decision to retire, even though we will greatly miss his faithful leadership, bringing the message of the scripture to us with a positive and cheerful outlook that gives us all hope.

Fred has scheduled his retirement on his 65th birthday, October 9, 2007, so we will honor him and thank him for his many gifts to us on October 7 with special guests in worship and a carry-in luncheon following.

Pastoral Relations Committee will be organizing the event and more details will follow. Mark your calendar and join us to honor Fred.

Lois Long

offerings of a new Christian Education program of the church—with refreshments. This will be time to learn about the a direction we will be taking with the education program, and how you can fit in.

At 10:30 AM. we will resume the regular fall time schedule for worship. Be present. Get your week started off right. Get your life back on track. Begin all over again.

Congo and Ecuador stories to be shared

Following their mission trips to the Congo and to Ecuador, Fred Erickson and Barbara and Jeff Moran will show pictures, share artifacts, and tell stories of their trip and the work of the church in those areas. A “Mission Connections” fellowship “pot luck” dinner and presentation will be held Saturday, September 22, beginning at 6:00 PM.

Fred went to Congo last year on behalf of the Disciples Amateur Radio Fellowship / United Church Amateur Network (DARF/ U-CAN) to survey the communication needs of the Disciples Community of the Church of Christ of the Congo. DARF/U-CAN will be building a radio network to connect the remote and isolated outposts of the church far up river and deep in the forest. They currently have no means to share emergency messages or routine communication except for weeks-long canoe trips.



Fred Erickson discusses the need for communication with the governor of Equator Province in the Congo.

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September 2007

Sun

Mon

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Thu

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<p>9:15 Sunday School and 10:30 Worship times resume</p> <p>Super Spectacular Sunday School</p> <p>Back-to-Church Sunday</p> <p><i>Danny Rose</i></p>	<p><i>Savannah Bethell</i></p>	<p>Preschool 7-12</p> <p>Elders meeting 6:15p</p> <p>Board meeting 7:00p</p> <p><i>Ralph Rowlett</i></p> <p><i>Samantha Eggleston</i></p>	<p>JOY Choir 6:30-7:30</p> <p><i>Janet Latty</i></p>	<p>Preschool 7-12</p> <p>Preschool Alumni 5-8</p>		<p><i>Betty Berry</i></p> <p><i>Erik Rowlett</i></p> <p><i>John Wilkerson</i></p>																																																																																																																																													
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<p>CROP Walk</p> <p>Callaway County Convention</p>																																																																																																																																																			

Minister announces retirement

I guess I never really thought about retiring. I enjoy ministry. I enjoy what I am doing here, and I feel that good things are happening.

I have particularly appreciated the opportunity to preach and teach with a congregation that enjoyed studying and thinking about the scriptures. Sermon and lesson preparation were two areas in which we grew together.

However, there are good and valid reasons why retirement is the best thing for me to do at this time.

First, there is the clock. I will turn 65 in October. I am five years older than when I first showed up here. I don't quite have the energy I used to have. I had to give up being a camp counselor in our Area's senior high camping program—couldn't keep up. This is a congregation that is doing a lot, and deserves a minister who can keep up.

Secondly, we are in a time of transition. We are trying to develop new strategies to reach out to new people, and to improve participation by some of our current members. This provides an opportunity to find the person who has those special skills.

From the Stewardship and Finance Committee:

We have the askings from each of the church committees, and Stewardship and Finance will put that information together for presentation to members and friends of the congregation for consideration. We ask those members and friends to prayerfully consider what the church means to them when they are asked to pledge in support of the work we do as a congregation.

For folks who give regularly (e.g., monthly or weekly), it has been pointed out that that can be done via automatic debit from a bank account (as is done with a lot of "bill" payment these days). This option has the potential advantages of being less trouble for both the donor and the church treasurer, as well as helping assure the church of less fluctuation in income from month to month due to people being gone, on vacation, during the summer, etc. If people are interested in this aspect of pledging, it only takes a few minutes to fill out a form and attach a voided check.

Thanks.
Jeff Moran

Third, this will give me the opportunity to do some other facets of ministry on a volunteer basis. There are many needs by congregations and organizations that do not have the means to provide salary support—and which could benefit from the skills I do have.

So, in the end, I guess I don't see myself "retiring." I see both of us moving on to do great and wonderful things in the Kingdom.

Fred

Sunday School resumes Sept. 9

Christian Education Committee is planning "Christian Education is for all ages". We will gather in the basement at 9:15 a.m. each Sunday. On September 9 there will be snacks as we start the year.

Labor Sunday observed

On Labor Sunday, September 2, we are all invited to come to worship in the manner of dress we normally wear to work, or to school, or to do what we do in retirement. Let us celebrate together the contribution we make to our community and to our society.

Also, we are asking everyone to bring an object that symbolizes what we do so that it can be placed up front as a way to honor our offerings to build a constructive world together.



The women and men who helped organize the pie supper show off their aprons worn at the event.



Prayers

Concerns

We lift up Jana Fritz Bush who has been placed on bed rest until the baby comes due to high blood pressure.

Prayers for Ken Bright who has continued health concerns.

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

We rejoice with Elaine Long who received her 30 year pin at the welcome back to school dinner Monday, August 13.

Joy that Luella Randolph has been in worship & fellowship with us!



CFW to plan activities

Terri Collins is inviting all of the women in the church to her home on Tuesday, September 18, for a salad supper beginning at 6:30 PM. Bring a salad to share.

The "program" for the meeting will be the annual planning session to suggest meeting topics, locations, and programs for the year. Come and provide you ideas and input.



Thanks

Dear Fred,

This is a belated note to express our thanks for letting us use your building last month. Please thank those who were inconvenienced by our being there, and please accept the enclosed check [\$100] as a small token of our gratitude.

Sincerely,
Dennis Sweargin

July 07

I want to thank everyone for the cards and prayers. The support was appreciated and it helps with the recovery.

Sincerely,
Terri Collins

Errol and Hazel Pahl express their thanks for the cards, visits and prayers for their family at the time of the death of Aaron McCracken who was the husband of their granddaughter, Crystal.

To my friends,

Thank you for all the cards, letters, and calls during my 8-day stay in the hospital. Thank you also for all of the cards sent for my birthday.

Peggy Rose

September Communion

Elders

Lois Long
Lynn Reynolds

Usher

Beth Haas

Preparation

Vicki Fritz

Bread

Sep 2 – Anna Sue Harmon
Sep 9 – Pat Baumgartner
Sep 16 – Lynn Reynolds
Sep 23 – Vicki Fritz
Sep 30 – _____



Attendance

August 5	24	August 19	24
August 12	32	August 26	31

July finance report

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

	Month	Year to date
Beginning Balance	\$4,404.92	\$10,084.43
Income	\$3,779.76	\$26,821.54
Expenses	\$4,574.43	\$33,295.72
Ending Balance	\$3,610.25	\$ 3,610.25

President's Ponderings

I was saddened at the last Pastoral Relations meeting when Fred announced he had decided to retire. I thought, how can he leave us? Can he really be as old as 65? He doesn't act that old. I thought about what I'd miss most: his good sermons, his warm & caring smile, his sense of humor, his thoughtful Sunday School classes. Fred has done many wonderful things during his career and we have benefited greatly during his ministry at Millersburg Christian Church. So, I guess we'll let him go—on to whatever adventures he seeks during "retirement." A special celebration of Fred's ministry will be held Sunday, October 7. I hope you'll join us to wish him well and thank him for all he has done during his time at MCC.

As provided by our Bylaws, I have appointed the following to serve on the Pastoral Search Committee: Lynn Reynolds, Brenda Rose, Jeff Moran, Elaine Long, Larry Baumgartner, Pat Baumgartner, and Kristen Bright. I'm an ex officio member as Board President.

These persons will represent us all in the task of seeking a new minister for our congregation. They have made a significant commitment in accepting this appointment and will need your support, prayers, and input. The Search and Call process of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) takes nine to eighteen months from beginning to end. Over this time they need you to be patient; to trust the process; to trust them to represent you fairly; to let them work confidentially and without rumors and probing; and to keep them and the church in your prayers and concerns.

The committee also needs your input into the

Supplies appreciated

Jeff and Barbara appreciate the donations of supplies to take with us on our mission trip to Ecuador. The project we will be involved in is the construction of a non-denominational church in a mountainside slum in Quito. The supplies that have been asked for are to support a day-care center on the site where the church is being constructed. This kind of a trip is often a life-changing experience from which you receive as much (or more) than you are able to give. We will tell all about the trip at the church event on the evening of September 22.

Jeff and Barbara Moran



process. In October, the committee will ask you to participate in a self-study designed to help get a clear picture of how we see ourselves and the ministry goals and expectations we have for our future together. This input will help define the ministerial leadership the committee will seek to bring to us.

The Search

Committee met recently to outline the process ahead of us and discuss a transition ministry by an Intentional Interim Minister. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, September 19. Periodic updates on the work and progress of the committee will appear in future issues of the newsletter.

Lord, bless us in our work together,
Barbara



Larry Baumgartner served as auctioneer for the pie supper

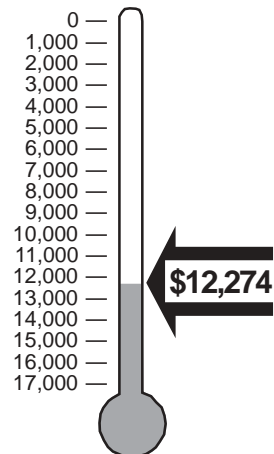
Sign up to help food bank

A sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board for volunteers who would like to help out at the Central Missouri Food Bank re-packaging bulk food for distribution to food banks in Central Missouri.

The Central Missouri Food Bank collects food from large vendors and processing plants and re-distributes it to food banks which make the food available to persons in need. They provide this food free of charge, so volunteer assistance is needed to help make this outreach possible.

It is hoped that a convenient time can be selected when a group from the congregation can do this together, so when you sign up, indicate on the sign-up sheet your preferred date and time.

HVAC campaign getting the temperature down





Old Fashioned Pie Supper A Success!

For those of you who couldn't join us you not only missed a fun evening, but LOTS of delicious pie as we sampled the purchases of the evening with 33 members & guests coming together raising \$666.00 for our HVAC fund! We appreciated everyone who donated the 26 pies & those who bought them during the auction! Those who baked pies were invited to wear an old fashioned apron to help us "step back in time & get in the spirit" of the evening.

In addition, local Millersburg businesses The Owl Creek Grill & Millersburg Feed & Trade donated food gift certificates & Socket Internet in Columbia who hosts our church website for

free each month, donated 2 gift certificates for 6 months of dial up or 3 months of high-speed Internet service so we thank each of these businesses for their generosity!

Thank you notes have been sent to these businesses but the next time you're doing business with one of these establishments, please extend your thanks to them too!

The evening started off in a nice quiet manner but then some furious bidding began between Rev. Fred, former pastor Larry Brown & Tom Haas for Hazel Pahl's pecan pie when it was discovered that in addition to be delicious to eat, the special pecans in it would actually promote "hair growth"! Tom Haas ended up being the high bidder paying \$31 for Hazel's miracle pie! Not to be outdone, Fred bought several pies & Larry bought June Russell's "Out Of This World" pie. But the evening ended with our auctioneer Larry Baumgartner volunteering to take a "pie in the face" if we would raise \$50 for the last pie. The dollar bills came out & sure enough the money was raised but alas the bidders decided the pie looked too good to waste so we opted to enjoy it instead! If you weren't able to donate a pie or join us for the evening we are still taking contributions, we'd love to raise another \$334 to make it a \$1,000 fundraiser.

The near perfect evening ended with Beth Haas entertaining us on piano with a medley of favorite songs & with several of us gathering around the piano for a "sing along". "If I had a hammer" was one of the favorites, oh the good ole days!...

Rita Adams



Many beautiful and tasty pies were donated for the pie auction.

Long time members transfer

It is with both sadness & joy that we received notice of Cheryl & Jim Pardue & Kim Adams Force transferring their memberships elsewhere. Although the decision was hard for both families each has moved further from the Millersburg Community. We will miss their regular participation and presence in worship with us but celebrate that they have found a new church home closer to where they live. Come back & visit us anytime you're in the neighborhood!

[editorial comment from Membership Co-Chair Rita Adams: As a church family we've really suffered several loses the past few years and having member transfers highlights the need for us all to be active "fishers of men, women & children".]

Lectionary Scriptures for September

Sun, Sep 2, '07	Sun, Sep 16, '07
Jeremiah 2:4-13	Jeremiah 4:11-12,
Psalm 81:1, 10-16	22-28
Hebrews 13:1-8,	Psalm 14
15-16	1 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 14:1, 7-14	Luke 15:1-10
Sun, Sep 9, '07	Sun, Sep 23, '07
Jeremiah 18:1-11	Jeremiah 8:18-9:1
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-	Psalm 79:1-9
18	1 Timothy 2:1-7
Philemon 1-21	Luke 16:1-13
Luke 14:25-33	Sun, Sep 30, '07
	Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-
	15
	Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
	1 Timothy 6:6-19

Help needed in interim

The minister did many functions not normally considered a part of the “minister’s job” because we did not have a church secretary. Now we need to make sure that these still get taken care of after Fred retires.

A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board where you can sign up to do one of these functions. Several positions have already been filled:

J.H. Long: pick up the mail
Barbara Moran: type up the worship bulletin
Carol Cox: duplicate the worship bulletin
Elaine Long: duplicate children’s bulletins
Rita Adams: keep the calendar up-to-date
Lois Long: maintain the bulletin board
Lynn Reynolds: duplicate the newsletter

What’s your sesquicentennial question?

I have been trying to put items of historical interest in each of the last several church newsletters. But perhaps there are some unanswered questions. So: does anyone have any questions that have not yet been addressed about the history of the church and the upcoming sesquicentennial. If so, let Jeff Moran know, and those questions will be answered as best he can.

Jeff

Nominating Committee appointed

Barbara Moran has announced the members of the Nominating Committee for 2008. They are: Rita Adams, Kristen Cassidy, Carolyn Bethell, Terri Collins, Carol Cox, and Vicki Fritz. Barbara will serve ex-officio.

If you would like to volunteer to serve on the board, or if you have suggestions for a person to nominate, you can mention it to one of these people.

Shower rescheduled:

Friends will host a baby shower for Jana and Kerry Bush who are expecting a baby girl. The shower will be scheduled after the baby arrives.

Jeff Moran: webmaster

Anna Sue Harmon: purchase office supplies

Brenda Rose: duplicate the annual report

In addition, several “jobs” are still needing a volunteer: keep outside sign updated, write and edit the newsletter, lay out the newsletter, invoice for copier use, and complete annual Year Book report.

**Giddy up,
partner for the
trash
roundup!**



We’re Having a Trash Roundup on Saturday, September 8. Gather up your posse and join us for Cleanup Millersburg. Please sign up for one of the 7 sections of our Adopt-A-Highway section & help keep our community clean & trash free! As always if Saturday is a busy day for you, please do anytime the weekend of September 7-9.

We’ll schedule the MO Highway Dept. to pick up our bags on that Monday If the weather is unbearably hot we will reschedule later for sometime in Oct. Thanks in advance for everyone’s help & we hope we get less than 16 bags of trash like in the spring!

Rita Adams

“Congo” from page 1

Jeff and Barbara are going to Ecuador in early September, and will have only recently returned at the time of the September 22 dinner. They are going as a part of a Methodist sponsored mission trip to help build a church outside the capitol city of Quito. They will be taking school supplies that have been donated by members of the congregation.

**September
food item for SERVE:
Beans (dried or canned)**



Visit our web site:
millersburgchristianchurch.org
Web hosting donated by Socket.

Youth plan activities

On Saturday, September 22 the youth will meet at the church at 4:00 PM to sing songs, play games, help Fred, Jeff, and Barbara set up for

the Mission Connection, and learn more details about their trips to the Congo and Ecuador. The pot luck dinner for the congregation will begin at 6:00 PM, with the Missions Connection program beginning at 7:00 PM.

The youth are planning to participate in "Youth Fest" at the annual Festival of Sharing to be held at the State Fairgrounds in Sedalia, Friday and Saturday, October 19-20. It will start Friday evening for youth 6th-12th grades.

This will be a mini-mission trip, with time in worship, time in fellowship, and time working to meet some practical needs of people by sorting beans, rice and potatoes, and other projects. The Millersburg Christian Church participates in the Festival of Sharing every year by contributing to kits that are shared around the state and country. (This year we are making "Backpacks of Love".) We will provide more details about this later, but save the dates!

Barbara Moran



Youth gathered at the Morans to swim, eat, have fellowship, and make plans for future youth activities. They were briefly terrorized by a giant water snake, which, in turn, was frightened off by the kids.



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Millersburg Christian Church



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