



The Outlook

University Circle
United Methodist Church

where all are welcome all the time

an edition of
The United
Methodist Reporter

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chalk talk



BY DR. KENNETH W. CHALKER



This is one of my favorite pictures! It was taken in front of the Trevi Fountain on our last night in Rome, Italy several years ago before returning to Cleveland. I like it because of who I am sitting next to! And, I like it because it is photographic evidence that our marriage has been so abundantly blessed with smiles.

We are still smiling! And, while Grace's smile has always been far more attractive than mine, I am just as happy as she is!

Our smiles have been, once again, broadened after the church-wide celebration which our faith family held for Grace and me in recognition of our 40th Wedding Anniversary and the completion of 25 years of parish ministry in the City of Cleveland. So, including a smiling picture of both of us is most appropriate in this space.

Grace and I were overwhelmed by the banquet, the cards and the wonderful evening program here at University Circle UMC. We are so very, very appreciative of many things about that evening; most certainly the tributes by our children, Laura and Wayne, and by the outpouring of love and support evidenced by the attendance of so many of you.

Grace and I are anxious to use every means possible to express our deepest appreciation for the wonderful recognition this growing family of faith has given to us. Certainly using the forum that our church newsletter provides is one of the opportunities we have to express our gratitude and affection. And, we are so grateful for this forum which makes such expression possible.

There is a bit of prose from the novel, *Nicholas*

Continued on back page

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Friends and Family Celebrate Chalkers

Over 200 well-wishers came together on August 17 to help Grace and Ken Chalker celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary and Ken's 25th year of ministry to the city of Cleveland. Following a reception in the church's narthex, featuring hors d'oeuvres and even a harpist, friends and family gathered in the Great Hall to share dinner, a slide show about Mom and Dad compiled by Laura Chalker and a program of recognition.

Emcees Marvin Burge and Dave Hundertmark set the tone for the evening with their tongue-in-cheek introductions of each other and a few barbs thrown in the direction of Dr. Chalker. After Edna Duffy and Diambu Smith offered a moving interpretive dance, Laura and Wayne Chalker spoke directly to each of their parents, sharing their very loving and respectful feelings for both.

Director of Music Nathan Motta and Organist



Grace and Ken Chalker offering appreciation for the evening's celebration; Bishop Judy Craig during the "roast" part of her presentation.

Joanna Li teamed up to offer the Chalkers a tribute with the help of slightly altered hymn lyrics presented in true "lounge lizard" fashion. Not to be outdone, Bishop Judy Craig brought down the house with her roast-style humor and concluding heartfelt expressions of love and appreciation for the Couple of the Evening.

After the event's planning committee presented Grace and Ken with an anniversary gift of \$3,000 given by attendees and others, the honored couple "gave back" in true and unique fashion by singing to each other a song they once sang in college shows together, "If I Loved You" from *Carousel*, which met with a standing ovation.

The bishop's benediction sent everyone on their way, knowing that this had indeed been an evening to remember.

See more event photos on page 4A



Sunday Programming for Children and Youth

It's September, and we look forward to welcoming every child and young "explorer" to our educational program.

While child care is provided for infants, toddlers and preschoolers every Sunday during worship in the child care room on the mezzanine level, September 11 marks the return of Sunday School for children in grades K through 5. We look forward to welcoming children in the Sunday School room on the mezzanine level at 11 am for a time of back-to-church fellowship while their parents and guardians participate in the special 9/11 Service of Remembrance.

On September 18, we celebrate Kick-Off Sunday with a new Sunday-morning format. Children will start out in worship with their families and move from the sanctuary with their adult leaders during the Moments of Fellowship to begin Sunday School, which continues through the end of the

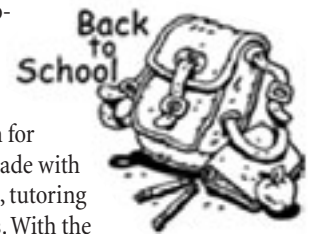
worship service. And this year, we will utilize an exciting "rotation model" as we explore the Bible through art, cooking, movies, games and drama.

Our Middle School Youth Group for youth in grades 6 through 8 begins on September 11. These youth will join their older family members for worship on the first Sunday of each month, but will get together on all other Sundays of the month in the second-floor Youth Room for fellowship and Bible exploration and discussion. Field trips to other places of worship and to Cedar Point are also in the works! Eighth graders in this group will also have special opportunities to prepare for Confirmation in May of 2012.

So, it's an exciting new start to another year of exploration and education as we gather together again this September. And we hope to see each one of our children and youth as our fall season programming expands and grows.

UCUMC Sponsors Willow School

Willow Elementary School, which is part of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, has received support from our church for more than a decade with needed supplies, tutoring and special gifts. With the new school year come these needs:



- **TUTORING:** If you are interested in tutoring, please contact our Willow School liaison, Dan Maly, at 440-235-2614 or dnmaly@yahoo.com for more information. He will be meeting with interested tutors on September 11.
- **SCHOOL CLOTHING:** Students, including boys and girls in Kindergarten through 8th grade, dress according to school code each day. New or very clean and gently-used clothing will be gratefully received, including
 - Shirts: White or light blue only. Collars are absolutely required.
 - Bottoms: Pants, shorts, skirts or jumpers in navy, blue or khaki.
 - Shoes: Tennis shoes are required for gym class.
- **SCHOOL SUPPLIES:** Please contribute items from the list in Sunday bulletins or available from the church office; boxes will be placed in the gym and near the office to receive donations.

The children, their families and the staff at Willow School are truly grateful for our support.

Deadline for the next *Outlook* issue is September 19, 2011 at 4 PM
editor@ucumcoutlook.com

KALEIDOSCOPE

Our Wonderful Summer Musicians



The Satori Saxes: Kathryn Trudgen, alto; Ken Mehalko, alto; Dick Ingersol, Jr., tenor; Dick Ingersol, Sr., baritone

More Chalker Anniversary Celebration Photos



Reception



Marvin Burge and David Hundertmark, MCs



ABOVE: Dave Banks, Joanna Li, Shannon Eller, Dave Morgan; RIGHT: Cassandra Clouser, organist; BELOW RIGHT: Brian Misch and Bob Towns



Anniversary cake, a virtual copy of the original, prepared by Kitty Gregory



LEFT: Laura Chalker; RIGHT: Grace and Ken Chalker



LEFT: Wayne Chalker; RIGHT: Diambu Smith and Edna Duffy, dancers



Audience



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The Collinwood home painted this summer by UCUMC volunteers for Rebuilding Together Cleveland



Campers Appreciate the Experience

With the support of University Circle UMC, five of our youth were able to experience a week at one of several United Methodist camps this summer. Campers included Timothy Garner, Deborah Garner, Gwyneth Howard, Brianna McElrath and Tamir Stephens. Their enthusiastic appreciation is evident in these comments:

"I went to Camp Wanake, and I did 'Creative Tornado Week.' This was my third year there, and by far my favorite. I loved it so much I was in tears when we left! We wrote our own musical, and performed it. Camp this year was so much fun!"

—Brianna McElrath

"I had an absolutely wonderful time at camp this summer. We did things such as Bible study, giant swing, mudslide, vespers (Bible message), communion on Thursday and many other things. My favorite part of camp was finding myself in God's love again, through our theme this summer: Faith like a tree."

—Gwyneth Howard

"This was my third year going to Camp Asbury and as usual I had tons of fun! My camp was called 'The Next Picasso' and we did cool art

projects like making pottery on a pottery wheel and painting. At Camp Asbury you get to connect to God but you have fun while doing it. The food is really good and there's a lake to swim in. You go on hikes and if you're old enough, you get to go on the mud slide, big swing and high ropes. I can't wait to go back next summer. It is TONS of fun!"

—Deborah Garner

"I have been going to Camp Asbury for an awesome 6 years, and this 7th year didn't disappoint! My camp was called 'MacGyver It', and it certainly lived up to the name: we built rafts out of empty barrels and rope, shelters out of tarp and twine, and fires with steel wool and batteries. By the end of each day we were toast; but at the same time a lot smarter and a lot closer as friends. For anybody on the line about going to camp, go! It'll be, hands down, one of the best weeks of your summer."

—Timothy Garner

Additional camp reactions will be included in our next issue, but you can sense the deep appreciation the campers...and their parents...feel for the support provided by the members of University Circle UMC.

GRACENOTES

BY NATHAN MOTTA

I can't tell you how exciting it was to see all the energy flowing around the table during the latest planning meeting of our Music and Arts team as we worked through a schedule brimming with new worship experiences for the fall season. We'll have services that help you reflect and contemplate, and others that will make it hard to stay in your seat or keep your toes from tapping! There will be Rossini and Holst as well as Simon and Garfunkel. We'll sing old hymns in new styles and sing new songs in traditional ways. Most importantly, the staff is crafting worship experiences around music and dance that will lift your spirits, move your soul and help you find enthusiasm for living! Here's a sneak peek at what's on tap for this fall:

- September 11 Candlelight Remembrance service
- "Modern-Day Mass" with popular music used to convey spiritual messages
- World Communion Sunday with African drums, Native American flute and more!
- Re-imagined Hymn Sing—old hymns get a face lift!
- "Revival" Sunday—for those who miss a little of that *Ol' Time Religion*

...and that's just the beginning! Other news

and notes:

- Join an ensemble! Our choirs, liturgical dancers and combo are always open to new members!
- Chancel and Bell Choirs have their first fall rehearsal on Thursday, September 8. Bells meet at 6 pm, Chancel Choir at 7:15 pm. All are welcome; bring a friend!
- Children's Chimes are coming! Talk to Joanna Li for details.
- Lalene Kay, our new director of Children's Music Ministries, brings her gifts and spirit with our Sunday School!
- At 7 pm on Sunday, October 23, our "Full Circle Combo" presents a benefit concert at Nighttown entitled *Jazz in the Heights 4 Human Rights*. All proceeds go to the Human Rights Campaign. Tickets are \$10 presale or \$15 at the door. Look on our website and in print for more information about this exciting event, and invite your friends!

All of us on the Music and Arts team are looking forward to using music and dance to create an exciting season of inspiring worship experiences, opportunities for important mission in our community and a new and vital vision for the University Circle United Methodist Church family of faith. Join us!

Gay-Straight Alliance to Reach Out

With the third meeting of our church's Gay-Straight Alliance, members discussed the group's mission and future activities that will help facilitate a clearer understanding and acceptance of our human differences.

Specifically, the group is supporting our church's *Jazz in the Heights 4 Human Rights* musical fund-raiser for Cleveland's chapter of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), which supports all aspects of human rights. This super event will happen at Nighttown on Cedar Road, Sunday, October 23, from 7-10 pm and features our church's FullCircle Combo as the musical group. We're asking \$10 for advance ticket sales through the

church office and <http://cleveland.hrc.org>, and \$15 at the door. All proceeds go to the HRC.

Our group's mission is to provide to our church and community a series of educational opportunities that offer:

- an intelligent discussion about and understanding of human sexuality
- a variety of ways to learn to accept different lifestyles
- tangible ways to promote human rights in our daily lives

Plan to attend the Sunday, September 11, potluck lunch and action meeting following worship.

Liturgical Dancers Provide Inspiration

The UCUMC Liturgical Dancers inspire others in worship through the use of body movement and expression in liturgical dance, and all are welcome to become a part of the group.

Weekly sessions are held on Sundays, 9:30-10:40 am and 12:30-1:40 pm, with opportunities to participate in morning worship services. Other opportunities to participate in special calendar

events include most church holidays and a summer dance experience.

New this year: Meditation in Movement (everyone is invited). Come and Sit, Stand, Listen, Observe, Move; In Silence, To Music, To Scripture, To the Spoken Word. Four sessions will be offered: October 9, December 18; February and May dates will be announced.

Hold these dates!

- **Sunday, 9-11**—a Service of Remembrance honoring the tenth anniversary of the loss of American lives at New York City's World Trade Center, the Pentagon and Shanksville, PA
- **Sunday, 9-18**—a Sunday Kick-Off of the fall and Advent schedule with a very special service, followed by a lunch featuring delicious gourmet hotdogs prepared by the MENS group
- **Sunday, 9-25**—a brief seminar following worship, with members of the staff of the Ulmer & Berne law firm, offering ways to gift your family, special interests and UCUMC, with a Q&A session following

Extreme Make-Over...Sunday-School Edition

If you've walked through the mezzanine lately on your way to worship in the Great Hall, you've noticed stacks of boxes with labels such as "cookie cutters", "children's Bibles", "puppets" and "construction paper." Work is underway to give our Sunday School rooms on the mezzanine level a facelift, and we've cleared out space to make room for the painters. Watch as a cheerful transformation takes place during the coming weeks. We are preparing our space for exciting, expanded programming beginning in October, so be sure to check out *The Outlook* for the latest!

chalk talk

Continued from front page

Nickleby by Charles Dickens which I like to quote. The scene is a wedding reception like Grace and I would have had 40 years ago. A toast to the bride and groom includes the affirmation that the couple, Nicholas and his bride, has learned that "family is not just defined as those with whom we share blood; but as those for whom we would give our blood."

These are more than words for dramatic effect. It is an important lesson in life. Indeed, our church family—while we frequently share in

the symbolic body and blood of Christ—is the sacred space in which we also come to know that we are family with whom and for whom we share our life blood of energy, purpose, power and passion. Grace and I learn more and more each year of our lives together how true and wonderful this is.

Grace joins me in thanking you for the joyful smiles generated on so many faces—and most assuredly on our own—because of this wonderful place and faith family called University Circle United Methodist Church.