



The Outlook

University Circle
United Methodist Church

where all are welcome all the time

an edition of
The United
Methodist Reporter



Gingerbread
Baking Day | 8A

No Time for
Status Quo | 8A



Youth Hit the Point | 4A

Two Sections
Section A
909160
Vol. 158 No. 26
October 28, 2011

chalk talk



BY DR. KENNETH W. CHALKER

One of the more sobering days for me each and every year is that day when I pilot our boat to the marina's hoist. Once at the marina, their good staff uses the hoist to lift the boat from the water, clean the bottom from free-loading zebra mussels and algae growth, and then take the boat to the "barn" for the winter storage season.

We are all familiar with the expression "like a fish out of water." It is not a happy condition. But for me, there is another expression that I EXPERIENCE each fall. Indeed, boats, like fish, really look out of place out of the water; particularly mine.

As I look at our boat suspended from the lifting straps of the hoist and being prepared for the storage months, I reflect on those cherished times of the now too-soon-over-and-gone boating season. I can't help thinking, for instance, "I should have gotten out on the lake more. I'll do better come next spring."

The thoughts are not all melancholy or thoughts lamenting missed boating opportunities. I think of the great times out on the lake with family and friends. I can hear the laughter and happy sounds of kids being pulled by me on the tube behind the boat. I think of the times of sitting in my "captain's chair" on the deck reading books while drifting on the lake. I think of fishing—and CATCHING—and all sorts of excursions to favorite places up in the islands. The memories come rolling in like waves.

Continued on back page



The United Methodist Reporter (USPS 954-500) is published weekly by UMR Communications, 1221 Profit Dr., Dallas Texas, 75247-3919. Periodicals postage paid at Dallas Texas, and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to: The United Methodist Reporter, P.O. Box 660275, Dallas, Texas 75266-0275.

New 'Wednesday Renewal' Begins

October introduces our new Wednesday Renewals—weekly opportunities to focus on body, mind and spirit and create your own personal mid-week boost.

From 5:30–6pm, after a long day of work or whatever else, enjoy a light supper in the Great Hall, supported with your free-will offering. From 6–7pm choose to engage in either a yoga class in our newly-renovated gym or a class on a topical subject led by exceptional community leaders (see below). From 7–7:30pm the quiet atmosphere of our sanctuary invites you to experience a time of contemplative spiritual renewal to help carry you through the rest of the week. Child care is provided; attend any of the three time slots you wish.

As you would expect, reservations are needed for dinner and yoga. Then, decide for yourself how many other venues would offer you these exceptional opportunities for renewal this fall:

• October 26—**Inner Visions.** Jan Thrope, activist, author and founder of Inner Visions of Cleveland, presents grassroots stories of truth and hope she has written and photographed from the perspective of people living in some of the most economically challenged areas of Cleveland's east-side urban core. These stories of everyday life in the city are also about neighbors connecting to neighbors to create the life they envision. Some of the extraordinary improvements accomplished by ordinary people include food-producing gardens replacing barren city lots and student mentoring programs helping kids rise high above expectations.

• November 2—**Einstein's Telescope.** Dr. Evalyn Gates, Executive Director and CEO of the Cleveland Natural History Museum, discusses topics from her book, *Einstein's Telescope: The Hunt for Dark Matter and Dark Energy in the Universe*. You need not read the book to participate. Dr. Gates' passion for science and physics also enables her to communicate complex subjects in understandable ways.

OUTREACH IN ACTION

The Outreach Committee thanks everyone who served (or signed up to serve but were not called upon) the Cleveland Foodbank through UCUMC's partnership with HandsOn Northeast Ohio on August 31 and October 12! The repeated response to this local mission is overwhelming.

Also coordinated through HandsOn Northeast Ohio, a group of six UCUMC volunteers worked at the MedWish warehouse, counting



• November 9—**Gray's Anatomy: More Than A TV Show.** UCUMC member Dr. Richard (Rick) Drake is Director of Anatomy and Professor of Surgery at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University and one of the authors of *Gray's Anatomy for Students*, inspired by the famous textbook first published in 1858. Rick's anatomy textbook is widely praised for its innovative and clear illustration style. He will share information about the British anatomist Henry Gray, the significance of Gray's text in medical education and the intriguing story of how Rick's textbook came to be published.

• November 16—**Advent Wreath-Making.** UCUMC flower arranger extraordinaire, John Wheeler, will enable folks of all ages to complete a beautiful Advent wreath of their own creation. Supplies will be provided and donations accepted to defray expenses.

• November 30—**The Advent of God's Social Network.** Dr. Chalker compares God's relationship with humankind at the time of Christ's birth with current-day relationships through various social media, such as Facebook and Twitter.

Please be in touch with the church office to sign up for these one-of-a-kind classes. Call UCUMC at 216-421-1200.

and sorting medical supplies, on Saturday, October 1. MedWish receives donations and sends large quantities of medical supplies overseas to regions in need. Thanks to those volunteers as well.

To help with future UCUMC events with HandsOn, you must have attended their our-long orientation session. Sign up at www.HandsOnNEO.org if you would like to

Continued on back page

New Members

It's another sign of growth: 13 persons have become members of our church in October. They are: Dorothy Adams, Michelle Brown, Brandi Dobbs, Ann and Kermit Greeneisen, Katie Jagusch, Carl Jones, Jr., Nathaniel Motta, Amanda Nichol, Dee Perry, Eleanor Shelton, Penny Talley and Peter Talley. Photos and more information in next month's issue. To each a very warm welcome!

Fall 'Big Read' Is Star-studded

This season's "Big Read" title is *Einstein's Telescope: The Hunt for Dark Matter and Dark Energy in the Universe* by Dr. Evalyn Gates, Executive Director and CEO, Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

Einstein's Telescope explores the question, "What is the universe made of?"

Dr. Gates writes, "The quest to understand what things are made of—which also helps us to determine where we fit into the grand scheme of things—is one of the most essential, most human of endeavors." A reviewer wrote of *Einstein's Telescope*, "If you wonder what the world is and how it works on the grandest scale, here's your guidebook!" Copies of the book are available through the Cuyahoga County Public Library. You may also purchase the book (\$10) from the church office.

On Wednesday, November 2, 6–7pm, Dr. Gates will be our guest for a discussion about her book and the future of the universe. Everyone is invited; you do not have to read the book to attend. Dr. Gates is passionate about science and has a gift for making complex ideas accessible. Join us to learn and be amazed!



Big Read

Deadline for the next
Outlook issue is
Monday, November 14, 2011, 12 PM
outlook@churchinthecircle.com

KALEIDOSCOPE



Youth group pauses long enough for a photo while at Cedar Point, October 16.



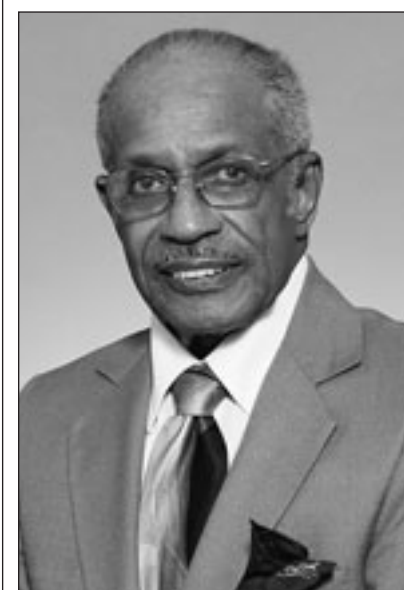
Common Pleas Court Judge Joan Synenberg and her husband, Roger, with Dr. Chalker and Ed Dickson, following her MENS group presentation October 9.



Altar arranged for the October 16 memorial service of long-time member Richard Francies, who survived the Philippines Bataan Death March as a prisoner of war during WWII.



Members of the Chancel Ringers bell choir



CONGRATULATIONS TO CLARENCE WALKER

Clarence, a UCUMC member, received an honorary Bachelor of Humane Letters degree from John Carroll University on October 2. He and others whose attendance at the university was interrupted by their service in the U.S. military more than 50 years ago were presented with this honorary degree. Congratulations, Clarence!



THE UNIVERSITY CIRCLE OUTLOOK

published every four weeks as an edition of
THE UNITED METHODIST REPORTER
for University Circle United Methodist Church
1919 E. 107th St., Cleveland, OH 44106 216/421-1200
www.churchinthecircle.com

Senior Pastor: Dr. Kenneth W. Chalker
Director of Administration: Kay Hogg
Church Office Coordinator: Heather Howard
Financial Secretary: Marina Grant
Property Manager: Chuck Huene
Director of Online Outreach: Doug Craver
Coordinator of Pastoral Care: Rev. Ralph Fotia
Coordinator of Membership and Volunteers:
Judy Sockman
Director of Education: Dr. Amy Wheatley
Director of Music and Arts: Nathaniel Motta
Assistant Director of Music and Organist: Joanna Li
Editor of *Outlook*: Jim Hogg
Photographers: Jeff Day, David Hughes, Brain Misch
Editorial Staff: K. Shamp, E. Prince, C. Day, M. Abele
Contributors: University Circle Staff and Members

Traditional Holiday Pecan Sale

Beginning in November, UMW members will again offer Schermer's Georgia Pecans as perfect gifts for the holiday season. Proceeds help support the group's missions program. Watch for signs announcing this annual fundraising effort.

No Time for *Status Quo*

To maintain the *status quo* is to keep things pretty much the way they are. No big changes. No rocking the boat.

Indeed, an argument can be made for keeping things the way they are; it can be a *good* thing. If we have stock in Apple or Microsoft, for example, and it keeps going up, we'd be nuts not to maintain the *status quo* and leave our investments right where they are. If our small business was growing because of our plan of action, we'd really work to stay the course and maintain the *status quo* to even bigger profits. And if the Browns were actually on a winning streak, fans everywhere would loudly support maintaining the current game plan as the *status quo*. (We can dream, can't we?)

All too often, though, we know that in our society *status quo* is supported by complacency—a lack of forward movement even when improvements are obviously needed. We know that, in our own church family experience, for example, we could just as easily have let the former First Church and Epworth-Euclid churches maintain the *status quo*, which would have most certainly have led to sad ends. *Status quo* would have kept us blind to need, and University Circle United Methodist Church would never have been born.

Instead, these two brave church families stepped out in faith to charter a course through unknown waters, each making sacrifices to enable a new and stronger church to be created. That singular act took enormous courage—a strong belief that, together, we could accomplish much more than we could separately. We rejected the *status quo* and joined together to invest in our future!

Investing in Our Future is the theme of this year's financial campaign, sponsored by the Finance Committee of UCUMC. From October 23 through November 20, we'll learn about some truly exciting programs in education, music and outreach, designed to meet spiritual and intellectual needs in non-traditional, non-*status-quo* ways. We'll receive facts about how we're doing with our church finances and what our budget will be for the new year. And we'll be asked to think collectively and individually about investing in the future of University Circle United Methodist Church. So that, when the 2012 pledge card arrives in our mailbox, we'll know deep down in our mind, heart and soul that this is, indeed, *no time for status quo*.

Make this *your* time to make an even stronger financial investment in the future of *your* church.



SAVE THESE DATES!

- Saturday, November 5 ~ CALLING ALL GINGERBREAD BAKERS! Put on your aprons, haul out your rolling pins and join us on this Gingerbread Baking Day as we bake nearly 900 pieces of gingerbread for use in assembling and decorating gingerbread houses on December 3 (*see below*). Baking Day begins at 9am and lasts until around 1:30pm when the final cookies come out of the oven. Many hands are needed for a variety of tasks. If you baked last year, please come back—we need your gingerbread wisdom! And if you've never experienced the fun of Gingerbread Baking Day, we'd love to welcome you! Please email Amy Wheatley at 4wheatleys@sbcglobal.net or call 216-521-2806 to sign up.
- Sunday, November 6 ~ University Circle UMC is honored to welcome theologian, pastor and civic leader, the Rev. Dr. Otis Moss, Jr., of Olivet Institutional Baptist Church, as our guest. At 9:30am, Dr. Chalker's class welcomes Dr. Moss to speak about his beliefs and life experiences. He'll provide the morning message for our 11am service of communion and worship and join us at our First-Sunday Potluck in the Great Hall at 12:30 pm.
- Saturday, December 3 ~ The Gingerbread House Decorating Event benefitting *Rebuilding Together Cleveland* begins at 10am in the Great Hall; tickets are \$10 (on sale in November).

chalk talk

Continued from front page

I remember late evenings getting in the boat about 8:30 and going out on the lake for a special view of the sunset. The sunset view is particularly "awesome" when one is out on the lake about a mile from the mainland, just west of Kelly's Island and east of Catawba. As the sun dips below the horizon of open water, framed by Mouse Island to the south and the southwest shore of Put-in-Bay to the north, I always experience a profound sense of God's blessings on my life. Gratitude washes over me. For these reasons and more, boats look out of place when they are out of the water; particularly mine.

But the reality is that here along the north shore, if boats were IN the water during the weeks ahead, the result would not be advantageous. Boats would look far worse frozen in the

ice. Spring would be a time of recovering pieces. So, the annual fall hoisting and winter storage is an important protective moment.

Life has its seasons. Each one is filled with blessings which are unique to a particular season's time with us and the time we spend in it. We are always in a cycle of experiences. We are always in a cycle of present-moment opportunities and preparations for others that will come our way as the seasons pass. The important thing is never to be stuck in the ice of ingratitude.

The older I grow, gratitude is more and more a part of every season. To be sure, there are laments about a season's passing. But, most of all there is just reason for thanksgiving... even now as our boat leaves the water to wait for launch once again next spring.

GRACENOTES

BY NATHAN MOTTA
Director of Music & Arts

When I look at the calendar and see that it's only mid-October, I do a double-take as it seems like we've had so many different worship experiences in only a matter of weeks. Coming off a summer where we worshipped together in the Great Hall, we ascended back to the sanctuary for the Sept. 11 service of remembrance. Then, we had a complete change of pace with Kick-off Sunday, followed by a Modern Day Mass which featured popular music expressing spiritual messages of celebration and hope.

In October we had a "We Are the World" communion Sunday followed by a recognition of our reconciling status. Just this past week, we looked to the future of our congregation as we celebrated "New Vision" Sunday as a family of faith. Now, preparations are in full swing for *Jazz in the Heights for Human Rights* at Night-town, a presentation by the Gospel Choir on October 23 and then All Saints Day on October 30 with the dedication of the Jim Whitney stained-glass window. So, what else could we have planned, you may ask? Check this out:

- Sunday, Nov. 6: A service of re-imagined hymns. Come sing old hymn melodies with new words for the 21st century, or sing the original hymn text to some new tunes! We'll also worship with a brand new musical

setting of the communion liturgy featuring our combo.

- Sunday, Nov. 13: Revival Sunday—a Sunday of old-time religion in the revival style that will include choir, bells, combo and some toe-tapping music to move your spirit and your feet!
- Sunday, Nov. 20: Thanksgiving Sunday. We celebrate this special time as a family of faith with word, song and an uplifting anthem by Aaron Copland.
- Advent/Christmas:
 - Daniel Pinkham's Christmas Cantata presented by the Chancel Choir on December 11 featuring brass ensemble
 - A song of the season from our children led by new Director of Children's Music, Lalene Kay
 - Three Christmas Eve services including performances by Gospel Choir, Bell Choir, Chancel Choir, Dancers, soloists, strings and more!
 - Cookies and Carols on Christmas Day! (some of us may still be in our pajamas!)

So, we just keep on truckin' as we head deep into fall and move towards the Advent season. Thank you for your continued support of the Music & Arts program at UCUMC, and please continue to participate in programming through your prayers, attendance and participation in worship!

OUTREACH IN ACTION

Continued from front page

join our 30+ HandsOn volunteers. Doug Blank (dblank3@gmail.com) and Judy Sockman (jsockman@churchinthecircle.com) are always willing to answer questions about UCUMC Outreach.

Additional thanks to everyone who supported the Outreach Committee's fall activities with the United Protestant Campus Ministries (UPCaM). Executive Director Donna Hughes and Case Western Reserve student Nathan Murphy addressed our congregation in September, resulting in members contributing more than \$260 to the organization.

On Wednesday, September 28, several UCUMC members prepared a lasagna meal for 11 CWRU students prior to their evening worship service and a student-led meeting of their spiritual support group. Leftovers went back to dorms to feed hungry friends. A special thanks to Marilou Abele, Susan Achberger, Jennifer Bier, Marina Grant, Barbara McEachern, Mari-

lyn Sutton and Penny Talley for their planning, cooking and desserts!

Besides our continued programming with HandsOn, the Outreach Committee has several upcoming opportunities for community involvement:

- UCUMC's monthly Neighborhood Lunch program needs additional volunteers to serve a meal at the church on the last Sunday of every month. We also always need volunteers to bring food for the meal. Sign up sheets for Neighborhood Lunch are posted outside the Church Office.
- The Outreach Committee will be organizing a clothing drive for Dress for Success this winter. Dress for Success supplies women in need with professional apparel for job interviews and other professional obligations. Details to come.
- The Outreach Committee is organizing an out-of-state mission trip for 2012. Stay tuned for more information.

Volunteers 'Sew Like Crazy'

In support of our United Methodist Women's (UMW) action mission to help clothe African children, a total of 82 little girls' dresses and boys' shorts were sewn by UCUMC volunteers in just three weeks. Member Sue Harden stitched 53 pieces herself! These caring creations will be shipped in mid-November to Liberia, with another 50 planned for delivery next February. Congratulations and thank you to all who gave of their time and talent!

