

The Z-Disciple

FEBRUARY 2012

First Christian Church

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Rev. Dawn Remster, Sr. Minister

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My Time in India

Aaron B. Phillips

On December 26th I had the opportunity to embark on an incredible trip. As part of my schooling at Methodist Theological School in Ohio (MTSO) I am required to participate in a Cross Cultural experience. There were a few options that I could pick from during my time at MTSO but I choose to experience India. Participating in a trip that required me to travel halfway around the world into a culture that was different than ours gave me a mixed bag of emotions. On the one hand I was excited and could not wait to see, smell, taste, and experience India and on the other hand it was hard to leave family and friends to venture into the unknown.

During my stay in India we had numerous opportunities to experience the many aspects of Indian culture. We had opportunities to speak with professors at the Tamil Nadu Theological School, where we spent our first week in India. In these conversations we got to hear about life in India, about faith in India, and about the challenges that face the people of India. We learned about the caste system and how it affected people in their attempts to make it in the world. We talked about Dalits, who are a group of people who do not even have a caste, so they are lower than the lowest caste, and the challenges that they face in their quest for respect. We also had an opportunity to spend an evening talking to local pastors where we got to hear their stories and to learn from them about the challenges that they face in their ministries in India. Our trip was not only about classes and lectures we also had the opportunity to see some of the traditional tourist sites. We visited palaces, mosques, Hindu Temples, the Taj Mahal, forts, and churches.

I frequently had to remind myself that we were not on a mission trip but were on a cross cultural trip which meant that we got to experience the side of the culture that helps a person to understand why India is on the rise in the world and is headed towards being a world leader while at the same time being reminded that they too struggle with meeting the needs of all of their people.

As I travelled through India I found myself thinking about home frequently. This was not because I was homesick, but was because as I looked at the issues that faced the people of India I realized that we here in the United States are facing many of the same issues. We too face the need to help those who are less fortunate, we too need to focus on feeding the hungry, we too need to work with the oppressed, and we too need to work to live out the call in our lives to be followers of God.



FAITH + FULL + FEAST

**Join us during Lent as we feast together on
nourishment for body, mind & soul.**

Each Sunday during the season of Lent we will gather as an intergenerational community of faith (that means men, women, teens, children, singles, couples, families, members, friends—everybody!) to share a simple meal and time of centering worship before heading into small group studies to take a closer look at the prayer Jesus taught us. Our small groups will include music and activities for elementary school aged children, activities and study for Chi Rho & CYF Youth Groups, and a *revolutionary* study for adults all centered around *The Lord's Prayer*. Childcare will be provided for preschool children.

The evening schedule will look like this:

- 5:00 p.m. Gather and enjoy a simple meal together
(no cost for the meal, we will take turns with preparation & clean up)
- 5:45 p.m. Share in a centering worship experience
(this will include a rich variety of music, prayer and worship experience)
- 6:00 p.m. Break into small groups (age & interest appropriate, challenging & renewing)
- 7:15 p.m. Head for home nourished and refreshed

Invite your friends & family and join us for a life changing Lenten journey.

Help us plan for food and materials: If we can plan on you to attend the feast, please contact the church office 453-3437 or zvillefcc@sbcglobal.net or sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway at church.

See you there!

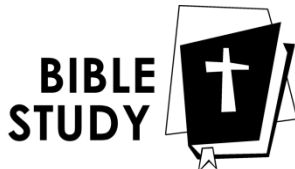


The Z-Disciple

FEBRUARY 2012

Lent Begins on February 22nd.

Join us for an **Ash Wednesday Service** with our brothers and sisters at Immanuel UCC on Wednesday, February 22nd at 7:00 p.m. Immanuel UCC will host us this year. Our hand chime choir will participate in the service. Join as we mark the beginning of this holy season with ashes and communion. All are welcome.



Bible Studies Continue

Companions in Christ meet every week at noon on Wednesdays. We are studying the Psalms. Bring your lunch and join us.

Sunday Evening Study is exploring the book *What's the Least I Need to Believe and Still Be a Christian, A Guide to What Matters Most* on Sundays at 6:00 p.m.

Price Increase

We have received notification that the price of Pepsi products in our vending machine will increase to 65 cents effective February 1st.



Grand Opening - February 12 at 6pm. College Connection is a new group for our college age young adults. We will be meeting on Sunday evenings from 6-7:30 pm. This is an opportunity for you to join with other college aged adults to gather in fellowship, to share in life experiences, to further your understanding of your faith and place in this world, and to be challenged in your everyday life. If you do not live close enough to join us in person we have the ability to connect with you through a variety of online programs, if you would like to connect over the internet please contact Aaron so that we can be sure to connect with you. You can reach Aaron at 740-704-2412 or email him at aphillips3000@sbcglobal.net. We hope to see you there.

Women's Ministry

WSOS (Women Serving Our Savior)

Will meet on Tuesday, February 14th at 6:30 p.m. We will discuss part 4 of *In the Sanctuary of Women*. See you there.

Coming Next Month: *Heart in Your Hands:* We will hold a special event for all women of the church on Tuesday, March 13th at 6:30 p.m. We will host a guest speaker as we learn about how to keep our hearts healthy. Mark your calendars and join us for information, refreshments, door prizes and fellowship.

Men's Ministry

Men's Breakfast

We will meet on February 18th at 8 am at the Genesis Cafeteria on the Bethesda campus to enjoy breakfast and fellowship. We invite men of all ages to join us for this time together. Come get to know some of the other men of the church.

Xtreme Faith Bold Action:

A Gathering of Disciples Men

July 13-15, 2012

Join men from across the United States and Canada at Bethany College, Bethany, WV, for inspiration, fellowship, education, and spiritual renewal. Please see Aaron for more details.

Valentine's Day Dinner

Once again our Youth will be hosting a Valentine's Day Dinner on February 14th. We will be taking reservations starting on February 3rd. Dinner will be served starting at 6 pm. We invite everyone to join us for this festive evening. Please note on your reservation how many will be sitting at your table; we will have tables for 2 and tables for up to 8 available. Please plan to come and enjoy an evening of delicious food, enjoyable music, wonderful service, and a gym transformed for the evening. The price will be \$12.50 per person. Our menu will include Salad, an Entrée, a Drink, and a Brownie Sunday.

The Z-Disciple

FEBRUARY 2012



Become part of our Sunday Morning Welcome Team

Our Welcome Team helps make Sunday morning an enriching opportunity for visitors and members. Members of our Welcome Team greet those who enter our building with a warm greeting and offer assistance as necessary. They greet our first time visitors with a small gift to help them feel welcome and get to know us better. They may point out where the nursery or Sunday School classrooms are located. They simply provide a sincere welcome to those who come to worship with us. This ministry is appreciated by us all each week. Seven to Eight members of the team are scheduled to serve each month so that our entrance doors and services are covered. Members are scheduled 2-3 months/year. We are looking to add additional members to the team. If the ministry of hospitality is something you enjoy, please let us know. You can contact the church office or Dawn or Aaron. Thank you to all who serve in this important ministry for our congregation.



Presidents Day
February 20

Disciples Coffee Project

The Disciples of Christ Coffee Project, a partnership between Week of Compassion, Disciples Home Missions and Equal Exchange, is a way for our congregation to join hands with independent farmer



communities across the world. You can put your faith into action by using fairly traded coffee, tea and chocolate and by learning about how our consumer choices impact the global community. Through the Project farmers receive fair prices for their crops, affordable credit, and long-term trade relationships with a trading partner they can trust, Equal Exchange. In addition, for every pound of fairly traded products Disciples order through the Project, Equal Exchange makes a donation to the Disciples Hunger Relief and Food Security Fund. For the last two years we served fair trade coffee here at church and have made fair trade coffee available for our members to purchase for use at home or give as gifts. Because of your continuing support of the Disciples Coffee Project we will continue to make it available.

Since September we have served several different blends of coffee each Sunday between the worship services. This ministry is made possible through the faithful efforts of Mickey Spragg, Tim Remster, Dave & Penny Higgins and Janice Fox. Our thanks to them all.

Why not give a gift of Fair Trade Chocolate for Valentine's Day? For the month of February we will have 3.5oz premium chocolate bars for sale for \$3. Varieties include organic; dark chocolate bars, dark chocolate caramel crunch with sea salt, dark chocolate with almonds, milk chocolate with hazelnuts, mint chocolate crunch. Chocolate bars are available from the church office or the Fair Trade display. Your gift will help support cacao farmers and Week of Compassion.

The Z-Disciple

FEBRUARY 2012



Work Trip meeting

If you are interested in participating in a planning meeting for an adult work trip, save the date of Wednesday February 8th. We will be meeting at the church at 6:00 PM to discuss an adult work trip for the spring of 2012. Hope to see you there. If you have any questions, please contact Aaron Phillips or Susie Mercer.

Food Collection

We continue to collect boxed and canned food items for Eastside Community Ministry. Please consider donating a non-perishable food item or two to the grocery cart located next to the elevator in the main hallway. Thanks for your continued support of this vital ministry.

Christ's Table

As has been the tradition the last couple of years, the elders will be serving at Christ's Table for the month of February. Serving at Christ's Table allows the elders to work together, have some fellowship, and work as a group to serve God on a Saturday afternoon. So, if you are an elder, please sign up for this great experience! The day is Saturday February 25th 10:00-1:00. The sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board in the main hallway.

Thanks to all for your continued support of our outreach efforts.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt set for March 31st!



It's still a little ways off, but it will be here before we know it, so mark your calendars for Saturday, March 31st for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt. This action-packed, fun event

will last from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. This event is for all children who are toddler-age through 5th grade. More information will follow in the March newsletter.

Reaching out to our community:

YoungLives Camp in need of volunteers

YoungLives is responding to God's movement to meet dual demands of teen moms -- their need to know Christ and their need for support. We are excited to invite you into this movement!

Each summer YoungLives camps give teen moms and their babies the opportunity to hear about God's hope for their future and have the best week of their lives. In order for these camp weeks to happen, we need hundreds of volunteers to serve as childcare workers. These volunteers will be the hands and feet of Christ at camp and will grow deeper in their faith. We are looking for volunteers the week of June 24-30 for the camp in Hillsdale, MI. For info on how to get involved contact Cheryl Reed, 453-6767 or check out the website at <http://www.younglife.org/YoungLives/CampChildcareOpportunities>

Our camps for teen moms could not happen without teams of dedicated volunteers. Thank you for considering this missions opportunity.

New addresses for our members Jim & Lora:

Jim Hughes
Whetstone Gardens & Care Center
Rm. #136
3710 Olentangy River Rd
Columbus, OH 43214

Lora Lanning
Sunbridge Care & Rehab Center
920 S Main Street
New Lexington, OH 43764-1552

The Z-Disciple

FEBRUARY 2012

Board Meeting Highlights—January 12, 2012

- Meeting called to order by Moderator Mike Whitson, devotions lead by Dawn.
- Committee Reports were received
- Worship Committee has asked the board to approve their decision to hire Kristie Howard as our Sunday morning pianist/organist. Board voted unanimously to hire Kristie.
- Board Reviewed revisions to the church Wedding Policy. Policy was approved unanimously.
Property Committee has worked to patch flat, rubber roof that has been leaking. In order to adequately address the problem, that section needs to be replaced. Board discussed how to finance such repairs. There are other property upkeep concerns coming up as well as our building ages. Board asked that we look into bank financing for such improvements and also talk with Church Extension to see what resources they could offer as we make plans for long term care and upkeep of our building.
- Next regular Board meeting will be held March 8th at 7:00 p.m.

Property Improvement Updates

- Roof repair has continued on the large, flat rubber section of roofing over the narthex, library, north hallway, offices, etc. Bids for replacing that section of roof have been received. Roof replacement will hopefully take place in the spring. Estimated cost: \$36,000.
- Timer was installed on the outside lights at the north door, fellowship hall entrance. Cost: \$15
- Plumbing issue resolved in drain between restroom and classroom in upstairs hallway.

Meet Our New Organist



Kristie Howard

Book Discussion Group

March 6th at 4:00 pm is the date when we will next meet for our book discussion. The current selection is *Running the Rift* by Naomi Benaron. The novel follows the progress of Jean Patrick Nkuba from the day he knows that running will be his life to the moment he must run to save his life. A naturally gifted athlete, he sprints over the thousand hills of Rwanda and dreams of becoming his country's first Olympic medal winner in track.



There will be one copy available in the church library. It is also available for download to your e-reader. Pick up a copy and join us! The discussion is led by Tim Remster.

The Z-Disciple

FEBRUARY 2012



YOUTH GROUPS

CHI RHO – CYF

Sub Making/Ice Skating – On February 4th we are going ICE SKATING. On Saturday February 4th we will be making subs that have been ordered for the Super Bowl. Please be at the church at 10:30 am to help out with this fundraiser to help us pay for our mission trip this summer. We will make subs for our own lunch that day and then following sub making we will leave for Newark to go have an afternoon of ice skating. We will plan to be home by 5pm.

Youth Group Meeting Times

We will be having regular youth group meetings in February on the 12th, 19th, & 26th. Youth Groups will meet each Sunday evening from 6-7:30 pm. Through our youth programs you will get to learn about God, grow in your faith, volunteer to work with those less fortunate, sleep at the church, go on a mission trip, go to camp, go ice-skating, play Giant Croquet, maybe go to a water park, and lots of other fun and exciting things.

Please note that we will not be having Youth Groups on February 5th. Enjoy the super bowl with your family. Please do join us on the 4th for Sub making and Ice Skating.

Mission Trip Planning Meeting

On Tuesday, February 7th at 7 pm, we will hold a meeting for youth in Junior High and High School along with their parents to discuss this year's mission trip. We have tentatively planned our trip for the week of June 17th through the 22nd. If you are interested in participating in our trip this year, please plan to attend this meeting. If you are unable to attend but are still interested in the mission trip or if you have any questions, please contact Aaron at 704-2412.

Camp Schedule

Camps will be here before you know it and we wanted to share the dates with you so that you can begin planning your summer.

Partnership Camp – 3rd – 5th Graders will be held at Camp Christian from June 17th until June 23rd.

Hocking Camp – 6th - 8th Graders will be held at Camp Christian from June 10th until June 16th.

Phyo Conference – 9th – 12th Graders will be held at Camp Christian from July 1st until July 7th.

Advance Conference – 19-29 year olds will be held at Camp Christian from August 12th until August 19th.

Adult Conference – For all adults will be held at Northwest Christian Church June 18th until June 22nd.

Generation NEXT

Hey Youth! We want you to join us for a special time of worshipping God. Come join us as we sing Praise and Worship, as we share in scripture, as we share a message, and join together at the Lord's Table for communion. This month Generation Next will be held on the 3rd Sunday of the month, February 19th, during the 10:30 service. Come to the chapel and let's worship God.

CYF Mid-Winter -

Mid Winter for Phyo Conference will be held from March 23rd to the 25th in Cambridge. This event is for all youth in high school. You will have an opportunity to meet kids you will be going to camp with this summer. Registration will be coming out soon so check with Aaron to get your packet.

JCKids/Kingdom Kids

The next JC Kids & Kingdom Kids meeting will be February 12. We will leave together immediately following the 10:30 service and go to the Beckett House in New Concorde. There, we will have pizza for lunch, and then work with some of the residents to make Valentine wreaths. You must RSVP for this event so that we can make arrangements for food and transportation. Also, please let us know if you can provide transportation for this event. Please RSVP to Kim at [kimdpaul@gmail.com](mailto:kimd paul@gmail.com) or 221-1305, text responses are fine. See you there!