



Photo/Debbie Girbino

“Honk!” for a Fun Time

MyTheatre (the youth of Mayfield Church) presented “Honk!,” a musical retelling of “The Ugly Duckling,” on Nov. 14-15 and 21-22. Above the stage crew poses with props construction manager Tim Stickley (*far right*). Next up: “Out of the Frying Pan” on May 8-9.

Where Was Pastor Bruce?

Man, am I glad that 2009 is here! The end of 2008 was a bit crazy. I was working on paperwork for ordination and was taking a unit of CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) at the Cleveland Clinic. I worked at the Clinic one day a week as a chaplain. On Wednesdays we had our class and then I was on call from 4:30 p.m. until 8 a.m.

This unit was required for ordination. It was most worthwhile, as I learned a great deal about myself and who I am as a minister. During the times on call and making rounds I was available to patients, families and staff. Many of my experiences were with patients and families in crisis. It was revealing to look at which attitudes and judgments I took into situations. One of my goals was to learn to be present in the situations and allow God to lead instead of me.

I ask for your prayers as I am scheduled for my final ordination interviews on March 2. With a successful interview, I will be ordained a deacon at annual conference in June. As a deacon I will continue to specialize in youth and young adult ministry while I serve at Mayfield. — *Bruce Becker*

Where is Pastor Jan?

This winter and spring I am in class three days a week. On Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons, I am studying the religion of Islam at John Carroll University.

I was awarded a \$2,300 grant from a national foundation that has covered all my expenses. I am enjoying the course, which is part of my continuing education as a pastor, and I hope to use the information and knowledge to develop an introductory class on Islam for churches such as Mayfield. — *Jan Fillmore*

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Our Young Adults Have a REAL Faith



The group takes a break after making college care packages on their fall retreat. During devotions, “We talked about how God is our sovereign Lord, even in these uncertain times,” says leader Jacki Soeder. “To be summed up in ‘Blessed be the name of the Lord. . . He gives and takes away. . . Blessed be his name.’”

By Jacki Soeder

What is REAL faith?

I am sure that every one asked would give a different definition.

For us, REAL (Relate-Educate-Aspire-Live) faith is the new Young Adult Ministry at Mayfield. We started out as a Bible study a few years ago. During the last year God has done amazing things within our group. God has brought us new members, he has strengthened us individually and as a whole, and he has transformed the dynamics of the group into a Christ-focused ministry.

We have been very active in the last seven months. We helped sponsor the volleyball tournament in the summer, had a wonderful fall hayride, went on a retreat to Lake Chautauqua, and put on a Sunday morning pancake breakfast. We are looking for new ways to serve the church and grow as a group. (Continued on Page 2)

C’mon and Dance ... And Boy Did We!

Aaron and Amy (*below*) were among the couples who danced the night away at the M.U.M.S. (Mayfield United Methodist Stars) Winter Ball on Jan. 24. Some 80 people enjoyed refreshments and the music of Will Duns in Fellowship Hall. Sandy Pavick directs M.U.M.S., an MR/DD ministry to the community.



Photo/Betsy Virmelson



70 Families Find Bargains at First Clothing Swap

On Jan. 31, Mayfield Church sponsored a Clothing Swap for children and teens.

What is a Clothing Swap? It is when gently used clothes and shoes that children and teens have outgrown can be swapped for other gently used clothes and shoes.

More than 60 families from the church and community donated clothing before the swap. Each person who donated received a voucher for the same number of items at the swap. If the person had no use for the voucher he or she could give it away.

More than 70 families attended the swap.

Clothing and shoes not taken were donated to the City Mission and other charitable organizations.

Start saving items for the next swap which will be this summer!

STEWARDSHIP FACTS: OPERATING FUND CONTRIBUTIONS, \$41,616 (JANUARY); BUILDING FUND, \$12,167 (JANUARY)

Young Adults (Cont'd.)

REAL faith meets Thursday nights at 7:30 at the church. We study the Bible and topics related to faith. We also have social and service events throughout the month.

Do you want to grow in community and in the Lord? Then stop by on Thursday or e-mail jaclynsoeder@yahoo.com to be added to the weekly e-mail update.

Missions: The Spirit of New Orleans

By Jimbo Bertleff

In November, I went on my fifth mission trip to New Orleans with a team from the Western Reserve District. Ten of us worked at two job sites.

At the home of Bertha Davis, I replaced window screens. Sounds easy, right? Well, first we had to remove the iron safety grates before we could get the old screens off and the new ones on. Other team members installed a new front door and shutters, or painted the porch pillars.



Jimbo Bertleff was joined by Mayfield members Nancy and Jerry Dickerson and Linda Smith in November. The next trip to New Orleans will be April 17-26.

That first job took about a day and a half. Then we spent two days at the home of Trina and Ceophus Lewis, where I was mudding and sanding drywall. Mudding (drywall cementing) is hard. You put two pieces of drywall together, you fill the area where they meet with mud, you tape, and you mud again.

I don't usually get involved with the people we help because I'm working so hard. I did with Trina. She came out of her FEMA trailer [in front of her house] so our group could go in and use the bathroom. She didn't have a coat on, and it was cold. I gave her my coat and said, "I think this will warm you up." She hugged me. She didn't forget it, either. The next day when she saw me she gave me another hug.

Going to New Orleans is something I feel does me as much good as it does the people down there.

How has your ministry been proclaiming God's love, justice and mercy to all creation?

Whatever it is, we'd like to have photographs! Please send photos taken during your group's meetings or projects to Jan Fillmore at jfillmore@mayfieldchurch.org. High-resolution photos — those taken at 300 dpi or higher — are best.

Hunger in Our Midst



Photo/Jan Fillmore

Jan Starrett calls attention to the work the "Foodbank Bunch" team does each month at the Cleveland Foodbank. More than 30 ministries were represented at the Missions and Ministry Fair that took place Jan. 25 in Fellowship Hall.

Women's Retreat: Learning About the Many Gifts in the Body of Christ

By Brenda May

The Women's Retreat of Nov. 21-22 joined 23 women in scripture, song, fellowship and fun. Considering 1 Corinthians 12:12-27, God revealed new aspects of how each of us functions in the Body of Christ and how we must work, live and love together to be a healthy church.



We listened to the Lord speak to us as we sought his wisdom in the Word. We experienced how joyfully God knit us together as we prayed blessings over each other. We considered the variety of gifts in the body as some led us in music, some led us in artistry, others organized and prepared our meals, and still others led us with embracing friendships. We worshipped together in an expression of our parts in the community by each one bringing our gifts to the altar and with each one voicing our reflections on what the Lord had taught us.

Communion was particularly precious having steeped ourselves in the Lord and his teaching on the Body of Christ.

More News ... in Brief



Photo/Paul Rumpke

Last fall, the **World Religions Sunday School Class** traveled to four houses of worship: Shiva Vishnu (Hindu) Temple in Parma, CloudWater (Buddhist) Zendo in Cleveland, The Islamic Center of Cleveland in Parma and Park Synagogue East in Beachwood. At each place, a religious leader gave the group a tour and answered questions about the faith. Rabbi Bernard Frankel (*left*) shows members of the group the Torah during their visit to the synagogue on Nov. 23.

Did you come to Bethlehem? On Nov. 30, everyone in service at 10:30 a.m. went on a **Journey to Bethlehem** complete with donkeys (*below*) that greeted people as they entered the church. The journey wasn't a real one over mountains and through streams but rather a spiritual one that followed Mary and Joseph's emotional trip to Bethlehem. This service was the first in our Family Celebration Services on the fifth Sunday of a month. These special services are a time for members, families and children to worship together.



More than 1,000 people attended Mayfield Church's five **Christmas Eve Services**. Four of the services featured "a walk through the path of light." Each person who attended received the book "Three Simple Rules" by Bishop Reuben Job.



One area youngster received this stuffed monkey from **Angel Tree**, a nationwide program in which congregations provide presents to children who have a parent in prison. Mayfield volunteers bought, wrapped, sorted and delivered 179 gifts to children in the Glenville and Collinwood neighborhoods in Cleveland and in Euclid.

Forty-five young people and adults sang carols and spread **Christmas Cheer** to Mayfield's shut-ins on Dec. 14. Half of the group took cars to Richmond Heights, Euclid, Wickliffe and Willoughby Hills. The other half went to Middlefield, Mayfield Heights and Mayfield Village. As always, the seniors were

appreciative. Daisy Smith, who invited several friends to her Willoughby Hills apartment for the caroling, thanked the group for coming in her Christmas card. She wrote: "It's so nice to see so many young people of that age so interested in church activities. They are the future of the church."

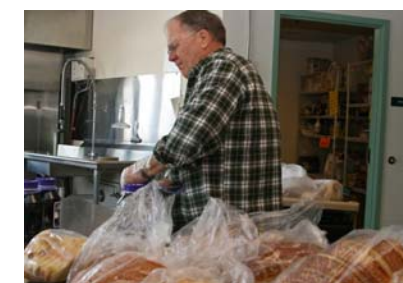
Plain Dealer sports and faith columnist **Terry Pluto** (*right*) spoke on "The Power of a Blessing" on Feb. 1. More than 400 people attended worship, and many stayed for brunch after the 9:30 and 11 a.m. services. After each service, Pluto signed copies of his books in Fellowship Hall.



Photo/Phil Masturzo

The first week in January, Mayfield was host to two families as part of the **Interfaith Hospitality Network** (IHN). The families — two single mothers, one with three children and the other with a baby — enjoyed food, hospitality and fellowship. The first night, the guests joined nearly 40 youth and adults for dinner during Teens 'N Touch. On Tuesday, the Bible study classes shared a soup and chili dinner with the guests. IHN is an important outreach, and it takes a great deal of volunteer support. Some people cook, some serve, some act as hosts, some stay the night, and still others wash sheets and blankets. Thanks to all who helped make it a great week.

Mayfield contributed 64 personal care kits to this year's **Homeless Stand Down** in Cleveland. The three-day event, coordinated by InterAct Cleveland, brought together the homeless for respite, renewal and reconnection. Haircuts, health screenings, massages and hot meals were provided and guests took away sack lunches, bus passes, clothing and the kits. Eight people from Mayfield volunteered at the Stand Down which began Jan. 31 at Pilgrim Congregational Church.



Photo/Betsy Virnelson

The **Stand Down** also received 200 sack lunches. Family and friends of Jan Starrett donated the money for the lunches which included a PB&J sandwich, fruit, pretzels, pudding and cookies. A group of 15 assembled the lunches at Mayfield on Feb. 4 (*above, Deon Good, opening jelly jars for the sandwiches*). The lunches were distributed to guests as they left the Feb. 6 Stand Down at the Convention Center in Cleveland.