

Messenger

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VOLUME LVII - Weekly Publication

April 27, 2009

The Paradox of Our Age

By Dr. Bob Moorehead, former pastor of Seattle's Overlake Christian Church

We have taller buildings but shorter tempers, wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints. We spend more, but have less, we buy more, but enjoy less. We have bigger houses and smaller families, more conveniences, yet less time. We have more degrees but less sense, more knowledge, but less judgment, more experts, yet more problems. We have more gadgets but less satisfaction, more medicine, but less wellness, more vitamins but see fewer results. We drink too much, smoke too much, spend too recklessly, laugh too little, drive too fast, get too angry, stay up too late, get up too tired, read too seldom, watch TV too much, and pray too seldom.

We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values. We fly in faster planes to arrive there quicker, to do less and return sooner. We sign more contracts only to realize fewer profits, we talk too much, love too seldom, and lie too often. We learned how to make a living, but not a life. We've added years to life, not life to years. We've been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet a new neighbor. We conquered outer space, but not inner space. We've done larger things, but not better things. We've cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul. We've conquered the atom, but not our prejudice. We write more, but learn less. We plan more, but accomplish less. We make faster place, but longer lines, We learned to rush, but not to wait.

We have more weapons, but less peace, higher income, but lower morals, more parties, but less fun, more food, but less appeasement, more acquaintances but fewer friends, more effort, but less success. We build more computers to hold more information, to produce more copies than ever, but have less communication, drive smaller cars that have bigger problems, build factories that produce less. We've become long on quantity, but short on quality.

These are the times of fast foods and slow digestion, big men and small character, steep profits and shallow relationships. These are the days of two incomes but more divorce, fancier houses, but broken homes. These are days of quick trips, disposable diapers, throwaway morality, one night stands, overweight bodies, and pills that do everything from cheer, to quiet, to kill. It is a time when there is much in the showroom window and nothing in the stockroom.

Remember; spend some time with loved ones, because they are not going to be around forever. Remember, say a kind word to someone who looks up to you in awe, because that little person soon will grow up and leave your side. Remember, to give a warm hug to the one next to you, because that is the only treasure you can give with your heart and it doesn't cost a cent. Remember, to say, ' I love you ' to your partner and your loved ones, but most of all mean it. A kiss and an embrace will mend hurt when it comes from deep inside of you. Remember to hold hands and cherish the moment for someday that person will not be there again. Give time to love, give time to speak! And give time to share the precious thoughts in your mind.

AND ALWAYS REMEMBER: Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.

Morning Watch

Sundays 9:00 am

Christian Education

Sundays 9:15 am

Traditional Service

Sundays 10:30 am

Fellowship Hour

Sundays 11:30 am

Staff

David P. Turner

Senior Minister

Renita Lewis Whitaker

Office Manager

Anthony Shackelford

Custodian

Sue Taylor

Music Director

Dan Oliver

*Bell Choir Director &
Director of Audio/Visual*

Lois Sutherland

Organist

Jenny Garner

Nursery Care Provider

Serving In May

Deacon Captain: Melissa Moody and Lora Davidson
Deacons Serving: Barbara King, Jim King, Scot Burnet, David French, Jenness Sigman, Mark Sigman, John Corbin, Andrew Green, Don Voyls and Brenda Garybush.
Deacon Prep/Clean Up: Laura Nolan
Acolyte: Aaron Moody
Elders for Communion
May 3rd Charles Bentley, Sr., and Chuck Bentley, Jr.
May 10th Joan Norman and Rex Strine
Lay Leaders
May 3rd James Bond
May 10th Mary Lou Pence
Fellowship Hour
May 3rd Property
May 10th Elders

Wall Calendar

The wall calendar located outside of the church office lists the scheduled activities of the church ministries. To get your activity listed on the wall calendar, please contact the church office.

The Week Ahead

Sunday, May 3rd	9:00 am	Morning Watch
	9:15 am	Christian Education Max Lucado Class Christianity/World Religions
	10:30 am	Traditional Service Godly Play
	11:30 am	Fellowship Hour
	11:40 am	Bethany Choristers
Monday, May 4th	12:00 pm	Faith Finders/Seekers
	6:30 pm	Chi Rho & CYF
	9:00 am	Quilters
	12:30 pm	Senior Fitness Class
	6:40 pm	Sanctuary Study Committee
Tuesday, May 5th	7:00 pm	Bible Study
	6:00 am	Mont. Co. Bd. Elections
	7:00 pm	All Ministries Meeting Worship Ministry Naomi Group
Wednesday, May 6th	8:00 am	Life Touch Portraits
	12:30 pm	Senior Fitness Class
	7:00 pm	Inventors Council
Thursday, May 7th	8:00 am	Life Touch Portraits
	9:30 am	Prayer Shawl Ministry
	6:30 pm	Laudate Ringers
	7:30 pm	Chancel Choir
Friday, May 8th	8:00 am	Life Touch Portraits
Saturday, May 9th	9:30 am	Scrapbook Ministry
	1:00 pm	Cheers

Attention: Executive Board Members

If you have not turned in your annual report please do so as soon as possible. If you have any questions or concerns, please ccontact the church office.

Annual Meeting

On Sunday, May 31st we will have our annual congregational meeting to elect next year's church officers. Further details and information in upcoming Messenger and bulletin.

Members & Friends

Hospice Care	- Pat Farnsley (Home)
Home Care	Kathy Anderson
	Thelma Harman
	Robert and Frances Mayes
	Earline Grice
	Regina Kempton
	Norma Kirkland
	Marian Herron
	Bob and Jean Thompson
	Merle and Dorothy Ryan
	Doyle Ware
	Lillian White
Autumn Health Care	- June Tate
Harborside Healthcare	- Eleanor McNulty
Liberty Retirement Home	- Ed Bausman
Lincoln Park	- William Warren
Summersville	- Marjorie Barkalow Eugene Griffith
Spring Creek	- JoAnn Reichbauer
Sterling House	- Elwood Byrckett
Sycamore Glen	- Anne Walters
Trinity	- Garnia Moses
Waterford Retirement	- Mary Rothenbuhler

Our Sympathy and Prayers are with the family of Laurence Edlind (*brother of Carol Manda*) who passed away on Monday, April 20th. Funeral service was held on Saturday, April 25th in Jamaica, NY.

Our Sympathy and Prayers are with the family of Richard L. Teare who passed away on Saturday, April 18th. A memorial service will be held at Central Christian (Chapel) on Thursday, May 7th at 11:00 a.m.

Sanctuary Flowers

The sanctuary flowers on Sunday, April 26th were given in memory of Explorers' Class members: Gail, Wanda, Cynthia, Roberta, Don, Floyd, Bob, Ralph, John & Dennie, Harry & Veda, Ray & Bonnie, Clyde & Mae, and our beloved leader Harry E.

A Big Thank You!

A big THANK YOU to Ruth Sempritt, Dan Oliver, Randy Green, and Rob Wheeler for helping make the Youth Sunday services a success. And another big THANK YOU to the family of Sean Green for hosting the CYF and Chi Rho for the wonderful picnic lunch following worship. Each of you contributed greatly and your help is genuinely appreciated!

Worshiping at Central

Sunday, April 26, 2009

Christian Education	21
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Nursery/Godly Play	14
Morning Watch	19
Traditional Service	<u>131</u>
Total Worship Attendance	164

Attention: Youth

CYF will meet this Sunday, May 3rd to plan our Walk-a-Thon. Chi Rho will also meet. Neither group will meet on Mother's Day.

Walk-A-Thon

On Sunday, May 17th the CYF will help host a Walk-a-Thon to benefit Cleveland Children's Home. Fellow CYF'ers from Summit and Middletown Christian Churches will join us. We'll meet at Cox Arboretum at 3:00 p.m., to walk and fellowship. This is something we learned about at the CYF State retreat back in March and, as we aren't able to travel to Cleveland to participate in the 'official' walk, we're hosting our own. Central's CYF youth will have pledge sheets in upcoming Sundays. Please consider supporting this worthwhile cause.

This Summers Parade's

Our first outing participating in a parade was successful! The Bellbrook Sugar Maple Festival Parade went off well and we had a lot of Fun...we could have used a few more people through. Our next parade is Oakwood's "That Day In May," on Saturday, May 16th, followed by Centerville's "Americana Parade," on July 4th. CYF and Chi Rho'ers we could really use your help. Also all families and adults who wish to have a fun time are invited to participate. Keep watching your Messenger for further notices on assistance needed. Don't forget the new CCC t-shirt! For more information, you can contact John Brown at 439-0727 or jojocen@aol.com.

It's Our Father's House Capital Campaign

Most of you have received a letter, pledge card and return envelope for "It's Our Father's House," a capital campaign aimed at funding the replacement of our sanctuary and chapel roofs (already completed!) and also the ongoing upkeep and maintenance of our church building. Your pledge/gift to "It's Our Father's House" is one way you can help us to be good stewards of the building that is the home of our worship, study, fellowship and so much more. It is also a way of investing in the future of Central Christian Church – of showing confidence in God's ability to use us in serving his purposes and his people in the years ahead. Please prayerfully consider your part in preparing for our future. You can mail your pledge card, place it in the offering plate, or pick up an extra one in the narthex if you have misplaced yours. Thank you.

Volunteers Needed

The church has a need for qualified volunteers to do some basic chores. If you have do-it-yourself skills in gardening, plumbing, electrical, painting, etc., please leave a note in the Property mailbox, email lynncr@woh.rr.com, or call the church office at 254-2649. Especially in these troubled economic times, your volunteer service time is a necessary part of church stewardship



Thoughts for the Week

You can elect to change the thoughts that hurt.

In the middle of every difficulty lies opportunity.

Things do not change –we change.

Attention: Campers and Conferees

Here are important dates for camps and conferences scheduled for this summer at Camp Christian

Otter Camp for those who have finished 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades is scheduled for June 14 - 20, 2009. Several of Central's own serve as counselors so if you have questions or concerns about sending your child away for a whole week for the first time, please talk to Doug Pence who serves as a counselor and Matt Pence, Alexis Garybush, or Sean Green who serve as CIT's (counselors in training).

Wilmington Conference is scheduled for July 26th through August 1st. Students who have finished 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grade are eligible to go. Our own Monica Bentley will be serving as girl co-president this year. If you are unable to attend Wilmington Conference, please consider attending an alternate conference. Ask Sarah Wilhoit, Alexis Garybush, or Matt Pence who all attend other conferences.

Camp Miami Chi Rho Camp is August 2nd through 8th. Student who have finished 6th, 7th, and 8th grades are eligible to go.

Advanced Conference is August 9th through 16th. It is for college through 29 years of age young adults. Our own Ryan Turner is serving as an advance officer this year and David Turner will be returning as faculty.

Applications for all camps may be downloaded from the Christian Church in Ohio website (www.cccinohio.org). Central will pay one half of each youth's application fee. If you don't have access to a computer, call the church office for a paper copy. All camp applications and a check made out to 'Central Christian Church' for your half of your fee are due to the church office by **MAY 8th**. If your check is not with your application, it will not be sent on to Columbus. Scholarships are available for financial assistance with your fees. Check the state website or call the church office for details. No one will be denied access to go to camp!!! Questions – please call either Renita in the church office or Mary Lou Pence (434-8157). Renita will assemble everything and send applications and payment on to Columbus.

General Assembly is July 29th – August 2nd. At the Indiana Convention Center.

Adult Conference In Ohio

**Our Faith: From Roots to Fruits to Seeds
(Disciples Past, Present & Future)**

The 2009 Adult Conference is June 15 - 19, 2009 at Northwest Christian Church, 1340 Fishinger Road, Columbus, OH 43221. It begins with registration from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on Monday, June 15th and ends on Friday, June 19 at about 1:30 p.m. More information and applications are located in the Narthax. Our journey at this year's Adult Conference is all about faith. We will see glimpses of our history to help us discover what is that makes us who we are as Disciples, so we will have a clear of our identity today. Each day we will learn new ways to nurture our own faith and to be fruitful in our study and discussion sessions. By the time we leave the conference and return to our churches, we hope to have new seeds to sow as we move into the future.

Amen!

The Last Word...

by David P. Turner

In the weeks after Easter, when we read accounts of Jesus' post resurrection appearances, one cannot avoid the story of "doubting Thomas." I have come to believe Thomas was branded unfairly (the name "doubting Thomas" is nowhere the Bible). Of course, he wasn't faultless either. None of the disciples were. Thomas was honest. When he was presented with the incredible story of Jesus' resurrection, he had his doubts – and he wasn't afraid to say so.

Faith wasn't always easy for Thomas – and the simple reality is that it isn't always easy for us either. When the Risen Christ suddenly appeared to the ten disciples and blessed them, Thomas wasn't there. When Thomas joined them later, they explained to Thomas what they had seen – but Thomas was skeptical. Who wouldn't be? Before he believed he needed to see with his own eyes – perhaps even touch the places where Jesus had been wounded.

And the truly awesome thing is that Thomas got his proof. We sometimes miss that fact. Eight days later, Jesus came and stood among the disciples again and invited Thomas to touch his wounds. It doesn't say whether Thomas actually felt the wounds or not. Thomas simply exclaimed, "My Lord and my God!" It was almost as if he were seeing Jesus for the first time.


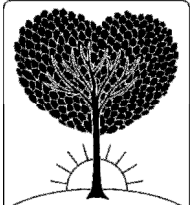


This particular scene led Fred Craddock, the famous Disciple preacher and teacher, to describe Thomas as the "Last Convert" in the Gospel of John. I've always thought that was a pretty good description of Thomas. It didn't matter he was already one of the twelve. Thomas had reached an impasse. Because of his doubt, his faith had ceased to be a living, growing thing. But Christ met him where he was at – doubts and all – and Thomas, the disciple, was transformed into something new.

There's something very comforting to me in the knowledge that Jesus' last convert was already a disciple. That says to me that just because you have already made a commitment to Christ doesn't mean that's where you stop. Contrary to what some people might think, when you become a follower of Jesus Christ, and make your Good Confession, you are not automatically "there."

Faith isn't a decision that you make one time and then put away. Faith is a perspective on life – in which there is even room for doubt. It is a way of approaching life in which every decision you make is tempered in some way by your faith in the living Christ. Thomas doubted – it's true. But it was his doubts that lead him back to faith. Jesus didn't abandon Thomas because of his doubt – he met him where he was at and started from there.

When the Risen Christ comes into your life, you too will change. There's no getting around it. Faith is a two way street. It involves not only seeking a first-hand experience of the living Christ, but also a conscious decision to do the kinds of things that Christ would want you to do. Just as you asked God to come into your life, God asks you to take that same love into the world and into all your relationships.

Thomas was branded "Doubting" Thomas. I personally think Thomas deserves better than that. Tradition tells us that Thomas became the first missionary to India. There are ancient missions there that bear his name. He is also said to have died a martyr. Believing in and serving his living Lord was as natural for Thomas as breathing – and it can be for you as well. Just ask for an awareness of the Living Christ in your life, as he did, and then don't be surprised when it comes. After that, just do what comes naturally.

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