

The Archway

November
2008

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Welcome, Rev. Adams

Meet our new Interim Minister!

The Reverend Stephen C. Adams joins Archwood as our interim pastor on November 1st, and will conduct his first Worship service on Sunday, Nov. 2nd. His position with us will be at 20 hours/week.

Ordained in the Presbyterian Church in 1989, he has since served communities in the Western Reserve—most recently as an Associate Minister at Plymouth Church. In his pastoral roles, Rev. Adams has addressed Open and Affirming initiatives, Bible study and educational opportunities for adults and service-outreach programs for youth. He served as a Chaplain for the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, and spiritual counseling at the Ireland Cancer Center and Hospice. He is a member of the Professional Advisory Board at The Gathering Place, where he leads a monthly Spirituality Group.

Rev. Adams is also a Healing Touch Practitioner, and has used this gift both in his ministry and his Spiritual Counseling. He has lectured nationally and internationally on the topics of Spiritual Care, Grief and Loss, Cultural Diversity and Healing Touch.

His self-discernment of his many gifts would have him focus, at Archwood, on worship and pastoral care, within the broader meaning of pastoral care as support of, and interaction with, a congregation to promote healing and wholeness—congregationally and individually. He has visited Archwood and has participated in our Worship as a guest minister during David Bahr's tenure. He speaks well and movingly of Archwood's "awesome" spirit and looks forward to walking with us in our interim journey.

As a musician and trained vocalist he has also assisted in music worship in his pastoral assignments, and sings with Park Synagogue as well as the North Coast Men's Chorus and the Coastliners. He is, as well, an artist who enjoys creating with stained glass and painting.

He lives in Cleveland Hts with his partner, H. Bruce Blonder. Mr. Blonder works with housing development and investments, and also enjoys the hands on work of renovating their home.

Please extend a welcome to Reverend Adams and Mr. Blonder as they come to know our faith community.



New Beginnings: A Note to the people of Archwood

by Rev. Stephen Adams

As we move into the month of November, the month of voting and Thanksgiving, I am thankful to be coming to Archwood as Interim Pastor. I have been aware of Archwood through David Bahr over his time here and am excited to be a part of the life and ministry of this community.

In the past 17 years, my full time employment for fifteen of them has been in end-of-life work as a Spiritual Counselor. Many people think that such work would be depressing and that end-of-life is merely about looking backwards and trying to hold on to what one has had. I've found it to be so much more: people often grow exponentially in creativity, love and spirit, loving more deeply in the weeks and months of their physical decline than in the rest of their lifetime, tapping into skills and abilities that they never realized they have.



I believe Interim ministry is similar. Often, people think of this time as a dormant or even a declining time. Yet it is a time that allows us to listen to God and to our hearts anew and to live more passionately each and every day. An opportunity to let go of what holds us back from being more fully who God is calling us to be, individually and as a community. As well, a time to honor and affirm what God is calling us to carry forward into a new life. As an Interim Minister, I come into the relationship knowing that I'm the one with the shortened life span, so to speak. I will only be with you for a time. Yet I am embracing this time with joy and excitement! I am looking forward to this journey that God has planned for our ministry together. I truly believe that there is yet more life, love and creativity that will be possible as we allow ourselves to be open to one another and the movement of God's Spirit. Thank you for calling me and extending this opportunity to be a part of such a diverse and gifted community of faith. I am blessed to be here.

Prayer for AUCC in Transitional Times

This litany was adapted by Rev. Sue Blain and Linda Grosse and will be part of our worship service as we move into our covenant with Rev. Stephen Adams. In adapting the litany, care was taken to reflect the many lessons of the past months:

*Spirit of the Living God, Spirit of Jesus,
in these last few months you have created
a space for grace among us
here at Archwood United Church of Christ.*

*You have spoken to us in many ways,
and we have found the courage to listen.*

*You have moved among us faithfully,
inspiring, challenging, guiding, encouraging us
to believe in your promise that you are making all things new!
And so we pray:*

For all that has been, Thanks! For all that will be, Yes!

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*For these last months of transition we pray:
For all that has been, Thanks! For all that will be, Yes!*

*For being present with us in tears and laughter, we pray:
For all that has been, Thanks! For all that will be, Yes!*

*For teaching us to depend on you and on each other, we pray:
For all that has been, Thanks! For all that will be, Yes!*

*For engaging us with each other in honesty and openness, we pray:
For all that has been, Thanks! For all that will be, Yes!*

*For revealing gifts of leadership among us that delight and inspire, we pray:
For all that has been, Thanks! For all that will be, Yes!*

*For keeping us diligent in our ministries beyond Archwood, we pray:
For all that has been, Thanks! For all that will be, Yes!*

*We will follow you into this new phase of life together, praying:
For all that has been, Thanks! For all that will be, Yes!*

*We will welcome our new Interim Pastor, Stephen Adams,
and together with him create a new ministry here at Archwood, praying:
For all that has been, Thanks! For all that will be, Yes!*

*We will trust you to guide us all deeper into your justice, peace, and love, praying:
For all that has been, Thanks! For all that will be, Yes!*

*Spirit of the living God, Spirit of Jesus,
you have begun this good work in us, this good, hard work.
We trust that you will bring it to completion in your good time.*

*Until that time, we will give glory to you,
who, working in us,
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, and together we pray:
For all that has been, Thanks! For all that will be, Yes!*

Litany of Thanksgiving and Trust, Archwood UCC, October 26, 2008 Refrain: Prayer of Dag Hammaskjold

With Gratitude: *by Terri Hisel*



As the Editor of the recent Archways, It has been my delight to accept many fine contributions from the diversity that is the Archwood faith community. So you will all allow me, I think, to add an Op Ed of my own here.

As I've gone in search of articles about Archwood, I have been always reminded of the many ways that we all continue to serve God, and each other, in our best talents and gifts. Truly, with amazing grace, courage, and, often, humor: in fact, many people I interview are most humble in even recognizing their contributions as being noteworthy.

I think it very appropriate, then, to acknowledge Rev. Susan Blain, a modest soul, for her leadership in coordinating our worship time these past six months. She offered her gifts to us, and was met with gifts from the congregation; in result we have witnessed many people stepping up to contribute their gifts of thought, prayer, word, or deed to make our worship time renewing and healing.

Our thanks and praise to God for all in the Archwood community who participated in the worship services and gave of their very best.

Transform

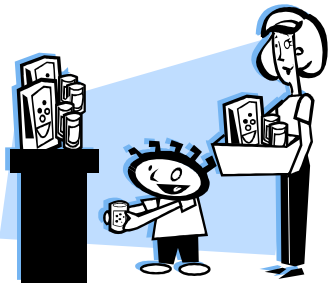
OCTOBER FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

	10/05/08	10/12/08	10/19/08	10/26/08
Offering	\$3,082.50	\$1,472.80	\$1,329.25	\$980.15
Other	437.00	3,617.49	854.00	707.00
Outreach	1,159.50	244.00	297.00	315.50

Please use your offering envelopes. If you must use the pew envelopes please print your first & last name.

Stewardship During Challenging Times

Many of us live our lives around a seasonal calendar. We often plan our activities around weather and holidays, looking forward (or not!) to the next celebration. The church, too, follows liturgical seasons, and each year we know that Christmas will surely follow Advent. For churchgoers, too, our stewardship campaign is an annual event. Whether we are in a period of relative stability, or of change,



the season of stewardship is an annual time to reflect on the ways in which we can give to the church. Sometimes it is easier for us to give: when things are going smoothly in our lives and in the church, when things are more stable and we know what to expect. When we are going through times of transition, when we don't always know what to expect at church or at home, or when we are unhappy or bitter about unwanted changes, it can become harder to give, harder to be stewards of anything other than ourselves. In truth, though, these are the times when our gifts are needed most. It's during rocky times that our family needs us most, and during times of transition and

upheaval that our church needs us most. The expenses and work don't stop at those times, and our mission to carry God's word and to do God's work doesn't stop. We still have a community and world that desperately needs us!

The UCC recently suffered the loss of the Rev. George W. Otto, a pastor and former national church leader who was, most recently, an Archwood member. George was executive director of the UCC Stewardship Council from 1979 to 1992, and saw stewardship as, "the care of the Gospel, of creation, of history and of the church". Looking at it from that perspective, it becomes absolutely integral to the ability to be the body of Christ. George not only believed that where someone is given much, much will be expected, but also urged us to consider our uses of time and money outside of the church. When George came to Archwood, he shared his time and talents with us, even chairing our Stewardship Campaign. Small potatoes for a person with his background, but he was truly living out his faith in his service to our church! George could have chosen any church to be the recipient of memorial donations in his name, but he chose Archwood. He wanted to help us to continue to minister to our members, the community and the world.

Archwood is truly a special place. For all their efforts, not all churches are able to be the diverse, welcoming place that we have become, and are known to be. Yes, we sometimes struggle, but we do so because we have people from so many different traditions and backgrounds committed to working together as one body of Christ. That is an awesome privilege, as well as an awesome responsibility! Help us to continue to be good stewards of this responsibility, to allow our world to grow larger and larger, by supporting the church through your financial contributions and sharing of time and talents.

Judy Schumann

2008 Stewardship Campaign Chairperson

Transform

So sweetly do we bring our Stewardship gifts!

Yes, you read that right. Pie sales as fundraising, pie charts to enable us to plan our 2009 Budget, pies to make to serve at the upcoming Community meal at Bethany. The idea of "pie" seemed to...wedge....itself into our collective consciousness so firmly that, rather than a Potluck we will hold a 'Pie-luck' to celebrate our Stewardship Campaign. Please join our Faith community after worship on Sunday, November 16th as we gather for coffee and pie. That's all to keep it real, and REALLY tasty, as we recognize the sweet success of being good Stewards!



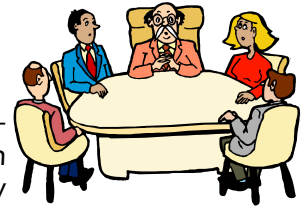
GB Update: Calling a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 7th

The Governing Body will begin to solicit nominations for leadership positions on the Governing, Programming Bodies and the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee for the 2009 calendar year. Please prayerfully consider whether you would serve in any of these positions, or might suggest a candidate from our congregation. As well, we will be presenting a slate of those individuals nominated for the ad-hoc Settled Pastor Committee for affirmation by our community. The nomination process will begin in November, and culminate in the election or affirmation process that will occur at this Congregational meeting. Please plan on attending this important meeting.

Opportunities to Serve our Faith Home and Community

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee is looking for people to count on Sundays and after special events such as the Street Fair and Steeple Vigil. This position requires an ability to categorize transactions in a simplified accounting system, confidentiality and reliability. Training and ongoing support will be provided. The process takes approximately 1.5 hours. As Archwood transitions and our giving gets larger and larger, we need your help. Please see Natalie Clark or send an email to nclark1222@sbcglobal.net for more details.

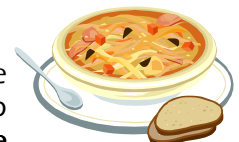


Building Committee

There will be another "Workday" on Saturday, November 8th, from 9-12 (at least). We will have volunteers from Baldwin-Wallace College to come and help us with cleaning, repairing and refurbishing our church home. We'd love to have members of Archwood also be here to help with those repairs and building maintenance tasks that we are able to do ourselves. A plus, too is that you might, even if you don't know "how" to do something, learn it from another and be able to then do a small repair in your own home! So think of this as the opportunity to gain skills that are useful in many ways! Please contact the church office if you have questions. (216) 351-1060

Community Meal

Archwood will help at the community meal on November 2nd, from 3-6pm. The meal will be hosted by Bethany UCC. We need at least 10 people from Archwood to volunteer for set up, serving, and clean up. We also will need at least 10 pies, as we are responsible for dessert. Please contact Virginia Daly if you have any questions or wish to volunteer.



Transform

Fundraising: Pie and Dessert Sales

Again this year Archwood will be participating in a "Pie sale". The sale of pies for the holidays will benefit Archwood-and we'll get 30% profit from each dessert item sold! That means, for those, like me, who are math challenged, that Archwood will receive \$3.00 of the cost of a \$10.00 tub of cookies-a good deal for all involved! This year there will be, in addition to the traditional favorites of pumpkin and sweet potato pie, frozen cookies and diabetic/low sugar pies and baked goods. So you can fill your stomach and be reasonably healthy, too! ORDERS and PAYMENT are due to Joletta Akemon by **Sunday, November 9th**, and the pies or desserts will be delivered by Sunday, November 23rd, a week before Thanksgiving. Please contact Joeletta Akemon to order the pies and baked goods, and thanks to her for again coordinating this fundraiser.



A Moment for Health: Read those Labels!

Knowing how to read a nutrition label can help you make better food choices. The first thing to do when reading a label is to read the serving size and the servings per container at the top of the Nutrition Facts label. The amount of calories, fat and other nutrients on the label are only for one serving. For example, if you buy a bag of potato chips that has 7 grams of fat in it, there are 7 grams of fat in one serving. If there are three servings per bag and you eat all the chips in the bag, then you would be eating 7 grams of fat x 3 servings = 21 grams of fat for the whole bag.



Another part of the food label to look at is the ingredient list. The ingredient list is usually below the Nutrition Facts label. The list will show you all the ingredients in a food listed from greatest to least: therefore the ingredients listed first are the main ingredients in the food. This list can be helpful when you are looking for foods you are allergic to or just want to know what you are eating. Next time you are at the grocery store, look at an ingredient list on a cereal box. If sugar or corn syrup is among the first ingredients on the list, that cereal is mostly sugar!

If you have any questions or suggestions feel free to call **Linda Grosse 216-651-9129**

Looking forward to December Events

Gifts for Headstart Children:

Our Advent and Christmas outreach has included purchasing gift bags for the children in the Headstart Program. Many of these children, part of our wider community, would not have Christmas gifts otherwise. Please stay tuned for details as we move into the Holiday season.



Brookside Hunger Center

Hunger is a year-long reality for so many in our wider community. We have, in our recent past, chosen to provide pounds of rice during the holiday season-similar to our pounds of food target in the June Steeple Vigil. One of our wonderful stewards of this outreach, Smokey Matyas, is unable to coordinate this effort owing to his own health concerns. Please consider whether you might step up to help.

Remember the December 7th Congregational Meeting after worship

November 2008

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

1
Sewing Group
8pm AA

2
11 Worship/Comm
11:15 Sunday School
12:15 Coffee Hour
5:30pm Windsong
7pm OA, Nueva Vida AA
3
8pm AA, Alanon, Alateen
4
11 am Steelworkers
8pm Big Book AA
5
7pm CCCD
7pm Nueva Vida AA
6
6:30pm Programming Body
7pm Nueva Vida AA
7:45pm Recovery Inc
7
8
Building Workday
Sewing Group
8pm AA

9
11 Worship
11:15 Sunday School
12:15 Coffee Hour
5:30pm Windsong
7pm OA, Nueva Vida AA
10
8pm AA, Alanon, Alateen
11
6:30 Finance Comm
8pm Big Book AA
12
7pm CCCD
7pm Nueva Vida AA
13
6:30pm GB Meeting
7pm Nueva Vida AA
7:45pm Recovery Inc
14
15
Sewing Group
8pm AA

16
11 Worship/Comm
11:15 Sunday School
12:15 Coffee Hour
5:30pm Windsong
7pm OA, Nueva Vida AA
17
8pm AA, Alanon, Alateen
18
8pm Big Book AA
19
7pm CCCD
7pm Nueva Vida AA
20
6:30pm GB Meeting
7pm Nueva Vida AA
7:45pm Recovery Inc
21
22
Sewing Group
8pm AA

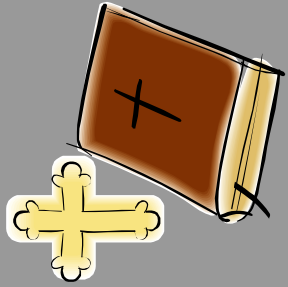
23
11 Worship
11:15 Sunday School
12:15 Coffee Hour
5:30pm Windsong
7pm OA, Nueva Vida AA
24
8pm AA, Alanon, Alateen
25
8pm Big Book AA
26
7pm CCCD
7pm Nueva Vida AA
27
28
7pm Nueva Vida AA
7:45pm Recovery Inc
29
Sewing Group
8pm AA

30
11 Worship/Comm
11:15 Sunday School
12:15 Coffee Hour
5:30pm Windsong
7pm OA, Nueva Vida AA



ARCHWOOD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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Pastor: archwoodpastor@sbcglobal.net
Office Hours: Tuesday—Thursday 9:30am—4:30pm

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November Coffee Hour

- 2 Welcome Potluck
- 9 Morris
- 16 open
- 23 open
- 30 Jaime

Coffee Hour Coordinator is
Susan Squire: 216/671-3677
or 905-2657

November Birthdays

01	Betty	Brown
03	Jackie	Vasquez
04	Lorrie	Pavlik
05	Kayla	Vasquez
06	Michelle	Tekancic
09	David	Fierman
11	Cameron	Wallace
13	Joeletta	Akemon
13	Hayden	Wallace
15	Elaine	Bast
20	Bruce	Jones
21	Dolores	Piper
21	Judy	Schumann
22	Rick	Jaworski
23	Caleb	Strobelt-McCann
25	William	Barrett
25	Erin	Coffey
27	Cheryll	Bryant
29	Hans	Holznagel
30	Vince	Reddy

Standard Time Begins



Daylight Saving Time ends at 2
am Sunday morning. Before
you retire on Saturday, Nov. 1,
turn your clocks **BACK** one
hour.

Periodicals
Postage

The Archway

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Rev. Stephen Adams, Interim Minister

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We're on the Web
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