

# The Archway

October  
2008

## Inside this issue:

Being Faithful By Judy Schumann	1
Profile of New Interim Pastor	2
Why Another Interim?	3
September Financials Homecoming Sunday Stewardship Update	4
In Memoriam Rev. Otto Communication Workshop Community Meal	5
Building Committee Update Street Sale Pictures	6
October Calendar	7
October Coffee Hour Hosts Birthdays	8



## Living Our Mission

### Being Faithful, not Fearful, in Times of Change

By Judy Schumann

**I**n preparation for communion during church on a recent Sunday, we were reminded to prayerfully consider the past, present and future. I think that sometimes we all forget how important all three parts are to our lives! Our present is rooted in the past, as much as we are now sowing the seeds of the future I was recently saddened to hear again, as I did almost twenty years ago, that some in our faith community feel that our situation at Archwood is dire. Please allow me to share my perspective, as well as some history, with you.

Archwood has weathered many storms in the past nearly-200 years: Financial struggles, building and repairs, conflicts within the membership. Not to mention issues of loss of lives in multiple wars, the Great Depression, and, I'm certain, deaths due to diseases which are now largely eradicated, along with many other difficulties. God has always provided, not necessarily what we wanted, but **WHAT WE NEEDED**.

Twenty-some years ago we struggled with a much smaller active congregation than our current one. Archwood was on extremely shaky financial ground, and pondering how long we could survive financed by our endowment funds. Members were discussing closing, and just giving what was left of the endowment to the Western Reserve Association. But God was not finished with us! At that time we, a nearly-exclusively white, largely elderly, often conservative, middle-class congregation was being called to a new ministry. As unlikely as it would seem, all signs were that God was pointing us in the direction of hiring a gay pastor! We were being pushed in an uncomfortable direction, one that was upsetting to many of our members, but God provided the opportunity for us and gave us the means to do this work. Those of you that are newer to Archwood may not be aware of how we wrestled with spiritual issues during that time.

At present, God has again provided **WHAT WE NEED**. Never before in Archwood's history have we been so blessed with skilled pastoral leadership within our congregation. When we were without an interim minister, God left



# Transform

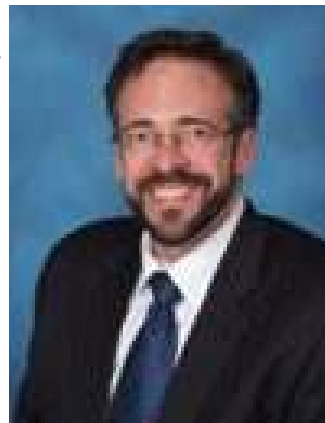
us with the means to solve the problem. That is an incredible blessing! We don't always, and often don't usually, know what the future holds, but we are provided for in the present. God never promised our lives would always be what we think we want, but that we would be provided for. In God's grace and time.

With the hiring of our new interim minister, we go back to the business of discerning Archwood's plan - Archwood's plan in GOD'S eyes. Let us take the lessons that we have learned over the past months, and prayerfully try to discern what God's plan is for us, remembering that we will be provided with what we NEED.

## Joyfully calling an Interim Pastor!

By Terri Hisel

By unanimous approval, the Governing Body, with hearty recommendation of the Interim Pastoral Search Committee, extended a Call to the Reverend Stephen Adams. Reverend Adams will be joining Archwood as our interim pastor on November 1<sup>st</sup>, after completing his current position at Plymouth UCC in Shaker Hts, Ohio. His position with us will be at 20 hours/week. He will be conducting his first worship service on Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>.



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, which has also been in an interim period -and as a Parish Associate at the Old Stone Church. In his pastoral roles, Rev. Adams has addressed O and A 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 remains involved in counseling at the Ireland Cancer Center and at The Gathering Place; in particular End-Of-Life issues that include support and education for the wider community-family and friends as well as medical staff for these organizations.

His self-discernment of his many gifts would have him focus 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. 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.

Rev. Adams is familiar with the Archwood Community, and has visited and led worship here when Rev. David Bahr was serving. He is also familiar with varied worship traditions, Christian and non-Christian, and "lives" in diversity as an openly gay pastor with a partner who is Jewish.

He speaks well and movingly of Archwood as an "awesome" congregation and is excited to walk with us in this interim period. Please join in celebrating his Call to us, and make him welcome as he begins his Pastoral work.

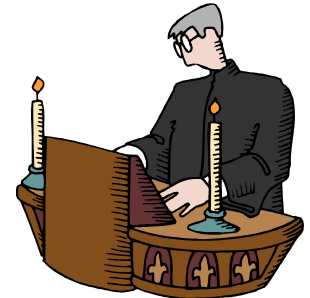
*The Archway (USPS)  
0545-760 is published  
monthly except bi-monthly  
in July/August by  
Archwood United Church  
of Christ, 2800 Archwood  
Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio  
44109.*

*Periodicals postage paid  
at Cleveland, Ohio.  
POSTMASTER:  
Send address changes to  
The Archway  
2800 Archwood Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44109*

## Why Do We Have to Have An Interim Minister?

By Michelle Hintz

I've heard that question from a number of folks lately. In my work in the national setting of the UCC, I have learned a great deal about interim ministry, and I have seen the amazing growth that can happen within congregations when they take the time to slow down, evaluate themselves and their ministry, and invite God to walk that journey with them. It is out of this experience, that I believe calling another interim pastor will be the opportunity for us to move forward in a way that helps us authentically look at who we are and what we need in our next settled pastor.



Interim ministry is the ministry provided to a local church during a pastoral vacancy. While approaches to interim ministry vary somewhat in the United Church of Christ based on a number of factors, there are some expectations during the interim period that are considered to be “norms” – practices and beliefs shared throughout the church. Among them is the expectation that interim ministry is time-limited, affording the congregation the time and space to examine its history and traditions, mission, and its own unique ministries. By examining its ministry, governance, relationships, and programs, a congregation can address issues that need to be addressed before beginning a new relationship with a settled pastor.

What I hope we will remember during this interim time is that the process of calling a pastor to be in ministry with us is very different from hiring a person to minister to us. While it may seem on the surface that it would be easier and more efficient to simply hire someone to serve as our pastor, I would invite us to consider that the process of calling a pastor is one that asks the search committee and the congregation to prayerfully consider who God might be sending to us. This is a process that often takes more time than simply running an ad and interviewing candidates. This is a process that asks us to invite God into the process – to invite God to lead us during the process, to guide our steps, and to help us listen for the voice that will whisper to us (or shout to us!) when the right candidate emerges.



By allowing the congregation to take a breath and look at its ministry and ask itself whether or not we're all still heading in the right direction, the interim time and the interim pastor can help us invite God into this holy time in a deep and significant way. In the interim time, with the help of an interim pastor, we will have opportunities to think about, talk about, and evaluate all that we have been and all that we want to be in the future. The interim time can help us highlight our unique and special gifts and give us an opportunity to refocus them if needed. The interim time will help us “know” the kind of pastor we want to invite into a long-term relationship with us as our settled pastor.

When we engage in the interim process in a meaningful way, with openness to each other and to God's leading, we will be rewarded with healthier relationships and a deeper understanding about who we are as Archwood United Church of Christ. We will have a clearer understanding of what we are called to be about as the Body of Christ in this particular place, at this particular time. God is still speaking, and I believe that Archwood is still listening. If Archwood is still listening to the still speaking God, then we can use this next phase of our interim time learning about each other and our mission and ministry. This prayerful time can then inform our search for our next permanent pastor.

Why do we need another interim pastor? I believe we need another interim pastor to lead us in the spiritual and prayerful disciplines that will enable us to move forward in our search and reinforce our understanding of ourselves as a community of believers that is multi-cultural, multi-racial, open and affirming, and a place that welcomes all.

# Transform

## SEPTEMBER FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

	9/4-5/08	9/07/08	9/14/08
Offering	0	\$1,543.50	\$1,222.56
Other	2,625.28	584.95	855.00
Outreach		264.00	136.00
	9/21/08	9/28/08	
Offering	\$1,306.45	\$1,181.00	
Other	1149.98	55.00	
Outreach	217.00	164.00	



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



## Homecoming Sunday- October 5

**I**t takes ALL of us to "make the rainbow" that is Archwood. Come for a homecoming celebration on October 5 for an all-church photo and a potluck lunch! Bring your favorite ethnic or family favorite food and wear bright colors to make a rainbow on the front steps for the picture. If you've been busy, gone over the summer, or traveling elsewhere, drop in this Sunday to see what's new and visit with old friends. Bring new friends too! Our preacher this Sunday will be Meredith Webb, long time member of Archwood who has been attending Seminary and comes back to share her talents with us. See you then!-Christy Trudo on behalf of the Programming Body

## Stewardship Update

Dear Friends,

Now is the time of year to begin thinking more directly about the ways in which we can be faithful stewards of Archwood Church. Our annual stewardship campaign is beginning, and Stewardship Sunday is approaching in November.

I urge you to give some thought to the ways in which we can share our gifts, including financial gifts, talents and time with the church and our church family. Archwood is our home, and just as we do in our houses, we must pay our bills and keep up with expenses to maintain a home. In this uncertain economy, please give some thought to how you can aid the church financially, but also to skills you may be able to share to help eliminate some of our expenses.

Archwood has been blessed with some very loving and talented people. Let us use all of gifts to support God's work in our community and world!

Judy Schumann

*Chairperson, 2008 Stewardship Campaign*



# Transform

## We Offer Condolences

We offer prayers of comfort and peace to the family and friends of Rev. George Otto, a member of Archwood Church, who passed away on September 24. Services will be in Colorado Springs, Co. Rev. Otto served Archwood well and faithfully, participating notably in our Stewardship campaigns and in an emeritus role in our most recent Capital Campaign as well as leading worship as his declining health permitted. Moreover, he was a gentle man and a gentleman, speaking and witnessing to a broader vision of Stewardship as our whole gifts to the support of our local churches and national Body.

He continues to be a blessing to Archwood, as his legacy-memorial-gift is to direct contributions to Archwood Church. The following link is to a write up of his life and contributions posted on the National Website: <http://www.ucc.org/news/george-w-otto-ucc.html> Condolences can be sent to: Family of George Otto 12900 Lake #1623 Lakewood OH 44107

## Archwood Workshop: “Communication and Connecting Skills in Caring Relationships”

Saturday, October 18, 2008 at Archwood UCC 10am—noon

We will be offering the workshop “**Communication and Connecting Skills in Caring Relationships.**” Dale Lindsey, a member of Archwood UCC, and a counselor, teaches couples the skills to communicate more effectively and the skills to have a more satisfying emotional connection. These skills are useful in any caring relationship. The workshop will be on Saturday, October 18, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. There is no cost, a free will offering will be taken.

The workshop “*Communication and Connecting Skills in Caring Relationships*” is appropriate for anyone who would like to make a caring relationship better. This could be a relationship with family members (siblings, parents, children), friends, or partners in a relationship. Each participant will receive a packet explaining some helpful skills. Other skills will be discussed depending on the interests of the participants. In addition to teaching, there will be some demonstrations using role playing, audience collaboration, and guided self support. If you want to be heard and understood, feel more connected with someone, or stop arguing, come to this workshop.

For more information or to register call the church at 216 351-1060 or Dale Lindsey at 440 734-7797.



## Community Meal



Archwood participates, with other neighborhood churches, to sponsor and serve a community meal to those in need in our area. The need to serve is only increasing, especially in this economic climate. Please consider helping by supporting the meal itself and, most importantly, by supporting our neighbors-in-need by preparing and serving the meal. It takes only part of your afternoon but offers you the chance to bring our message of bold welcome beyond our doors!

Our next meal will be on **Sunday, November 2nd at Bethany UCC**. We will need at least 10 volunteers from Archwood to help with the meal. Please contact Virginia Daly if you can give some time or resources to this effort. 440-871-1255

# Transform

## Building Committee Needs

Small and large projects that involve repair and cleaning have been identified:

- ⇒ *Repainting and re-caulking of the building, specifically entrances to the west and east entryways, and the wall along the walk to the playground.*
- ⇒ *Repair/patch of a wall-hole on the east side stair-well.*
- ⇒ *Tree debris that needs cleaning away-east side of the church*
- ⇒ *The roof over the Headstart area needs re-sealed. It is a flat stretch and is relatively easily accessed but may be a bit too high for some people.*

Serenity House needs-

- ⇒ *Check/repair windows for the coming cold months.*
- ⇒ *Repair ceiling leak-first floor dining room-by stair.*
- ⇒ *Carpet clearing*
- ⇒ *Power-wash the building*



The Building Committee is trying to organize another “Work-Day” event, typically a Saturday in which people can work together to help address these smaller projects. The last one was interrupted by rain. Please contact Bart or Chris if you have any time and talent to use for this effort.

## September Street Sale

Our deepest thanks to all who volunteered for the September Street Sale on the first full weekend of September. This is an annual event-so mark your calendars-and Archwood's efforts this year netted over \$440.00. Special thanks to: Virginia Daly, Erny Schwarz, Wayne Brass, Chris Brooks and Merry Beth Pietila who helped

with all the hard work of setting up, cleaning up and participating in the event; as well as Debbie McKinney-Morgan, who spent the day cooking and selling food for the event. Thanks to all who worked, and participated!





# October 2008

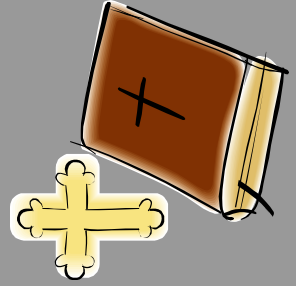
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
			7pm Nueva Vida AA	6:30pm Programming Body & GB Meeting	7pm Nueva Vida AA 7:45pm Recovery Inc	Sewing Group 8pm AA
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<b>11 Worship/Comm</b> 11:15 Sunday School 12:15 HOMECOMING POTLUCK 5:30pm Windsong 7pm OA, Nueva Vida AA	8pm AA, Alanon, Alateen	11 am Steelworkers 8pm Big Book AA	7pm CCCD 7pm Nueva Vida AA		7pm Nueva Vida AA 7:45pm Recovery Inc	Sewing Group 2pm Wedding 8pm AA
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<b>11 Worship</b> 11:15 Sunday School 12:15 Coffee Hour 5:30pm Windsong 7pm OA, Nueva Vida AA Paul/V	8pm AA, Alanon, Alateen	<b>6:30 Finance Comm</b> 8pm Big Book AA	7pm CCCD 7pm Nueva Vida AA	<b>6:30pm GB Meeting</b>	7pm Nueva Vida AA 7:45pm Recovery Inc	Sewing Group 8pm AA
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<b>11 Worship/Comm</b> 11:15 Sunday School 12:15 Coffee Hour 5:30pm Windsong 7pm OA, Nueva Vida AA A/MB	8pm AA, Alanon, Alateen	8pm Big Book AA	7pm CCCD 7pm Nueva Vida AA		7pm Nueva Vida AA 7:45pm Recovery Inc	Sewing Group 8pm AA
26	27	28	29	30	31	
<b>11 Worship</b> 11:15 Sunday School 12:15 Coffee Hour 5:30pm Windsong 7pm OA, Nueva Vida AA Evie/V	8pm AA, Alanon, Alateen	8pm Big Book AA	7pm CCCD 7pm Nueva Vida AA		7pm Nueva Vida AA 7:45pm Recovery Inc	

Office Hours: Tues. thru Friday  
9:30am – 4:30pm  
Phone: 216/351-1060  
Fax: 216/351-9061  
Web: www.archwooducc.org

Office Email:  
archwoodoffice@sbglobal.net

Office Hours: Tues. thru Friday  
9:30am – 4:30pm

Phone: 216/351-1060  
Fax: 216/351-9061  
Web: www.archwooducc.org





## October Coffee Hour

- 4 Homecoming Potluck
- 12 open
- 19 open
- 26 Cynthia & Sharon

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

## October Birthdays

- 02 Loey Powell
- 02 Charlotte Hisel
- 04 Lisa Garcia
- 05 Virginia Daly
- 08 Clifton Holznagel
- 09 Jo Orlovski
- 10 Dana Dusenbery
- 18 Andrea Hladik
- 18 Michael Stachowiak
- 20 Tamila Campbell
- 22 Fantasia Pettis
- 25 Evelyn Albaugh
- 26 David Bahr
- 27 Darrion Campbell
- 28 Kathy Harlow
- 28 Nicole Tekancic
- 29 Kathlin Strobel-McCann
- 30 Sandy Stewart
- 30 Nancy Saunders



# The Archway

2800 Archwood Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44109  
Phone: 216/351-1060  
Fax: 216/351-9061

Email: [archwoodoffice@sbcglobal.net](mailto:archwoodoffice@sbcglobal.net)  
Web: [www.archwooducc.org](http://www.archwooducc.org)

Periodicals  
Postage

**We're on the Web**  
**[www.archwooducc.org](http://www.archwooducc.org)**