

# Leaves from My Journal

Rev. Dr. Ron Buck

This summer much of our attention has been focused on mission. That's not a bad thing. We have taken two mission trips with our youth, promoted Family Promise and Stop Hunger Now for August, while still supporting on-going efforts like the Collierville Food Pantry and Memphis Union Mission. In my sermon for July 17<sup>th</sup> ("Keeping Martha out of the Kitchen") I commend Martha for the work she does to make Jesus feel welcome in their home, but I also applaud Mary for not forgetting the "better part."

You see, our discipleship is not exclusively about what we do. It is also about what we believe, what we learn, and how we grow spiritually. If we neglect the better part, our spiritual lives, we miss the point and ultimately our service and ministry will suffer.

This year our Adult Christian Education ministry, chaired by Jim Walther, has adopted the theme "Connect, Learn, and Grow." Their emphasis will be on spiritual growth through individual learning as well as classes, workshops, and small groups. When we allow our lives to become so busy that we don't make time to feed ourselves spiritually our discipleship suffers, no matter how active we are in service. Martha's mistake was not preparing a meal for her guest. It was being distracted by many things and thus missing the opportunity to sit quietly at the feet of Jesus and learn from him.

As a busy summer draws to a close, make time for daily prayer and devotion. Read a good book on prayer, or faith, or finding God in the world around you. Find time for bible study – either on your own or in a class or small group. Discipleship is a lifelong endeavor and no matter where we are in our journey there is still room for spiritual growth. Continue to serve and be faithful, but whatever you do, don't be guilty of neglecting the "better part."

Grace and Peace,



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## Chi Rho in St. Louis: "Out of the Chalice and into the Community"

During the week of June 27 through July 1, the Chi Rho youth from CCC traveled to St. Louis to take part in the 2016 Disciple Summer Mission. Rev. Carol Walther, Linda Strong, and Dr. Ron Buck were the adult sponsors. The middle school youth who participated were Mallory Hacker, Claudia Linder, Sylvie Steinhausler, Jack Jones, and Jeb Wells. Our group joined with over 200 other Disciple youth and sponsors from around the U.S. who stayed at Washington University and spread out into the city to work in a variety of ministry settings. This year's t-shirts were emblazoned with the slogan "Out of the Chalice and into the Community" and that is truly what the volunteers did.

Projects included food pantries, an urban community garden, residential facilities for at-risk families and children, and much more. The CCC group worked primarily at Doorways, an apartment complex, doing everything from washing windows and cleaning playground equipment to spending time with children, playing games and doing crafts.



Another of CCC's contributions to the trip was preparing and serving the evening meal for all 211 mission participants. We were able to do that thanks to the generosity of this congregation and our Christian Men's Fellowship group. Of course, there was also time for a little recreation and fun, including a trip to the City Museum.



## Youth Mission trip—Piedras Negras, Mexico



### Annual Ministry Planning (AMP) Set for Sunday, August 7

All members are encouraged to attend the third Annual Ministry Planning event at Collierville Christian on August 7, immediately following the Sanctuary Service. Lunch will be provided. Each of our ministry areas will present and the various ministry teams would love to have your input and participation.

The goal for AMP is to sketch out the entire year of 2017 and to schedule most of our important events. This planning session offers the opportunity to review our current year and to make changes and improvements as needed. It also gives us a chance to add new events to our calendar.

So please mark your calendar now and attend the 2016 AMP on August 7!



CCC will once again host Family Promise from Sunday, August 14 through Sunday, August 21. This time we will be assisted by New Direction Christian Church, Collierville Campus. But we still need plenty of volunteers. Soon you will see sign-up sheets for overnight hosts, evening hosts, volunteers for move-in and move-out and more. We also ask for your prayers and your financial support for this vital, life-changing ministry. Watch bulletin inserts for more information. Morgan Stanford is the Family Promise Coordinator for Collierville Christian.

## Stop Hunger Now

Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup> @ Collierville Christian Church  
Volunteers Needed!

*For Samerah Joachim, a 7th-grader in Haiti, school means life & hope for a future. But not just because of the education she will get there, attending school also means she will eat. More than 40% of Stop Hunger Now's meals are distributed to school feeding programs around the world. These meals encourage school attendance & help put children & their families on a path out of poverty.*

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

August 27<sup>th</sup> we, along with Kingsway Christian Church, will package 21,000 meals.

We still must raise \$2,000.00 (+) for this event.

Please consider contributing money and/or your time for this worthy cause. Let's help make sure children get the nutritious meals they need to grow & succeed.

Set up begins at 8am & packaging will begin around 9am.

The more volunteers we have the faster we will finish!

*Together we make a difference!*