

First Church News

First Congregational Church, UCC
Columbus, Ohio

"Enter to Worship - Depart to Serve"

August 2011
Vol. 159, No. 8



Long Range Planning Moves Toward Completion

By John Deliman, Planning Committee Chair

Greetings! The Long-Range Planning Committee met in June, deciding on a format for the document and continuing to review compilations of the responses received from the congregation last spring. With the guidance and hard work of our consultant, Wayne Piper, a rough draft of "goals" and "strategies" was given to the church staff.

Wayne consulted with the staff to guide the writing process of "action steps" for each strategy. The staff developed these action steps and added other strategies, again based on the input received from the congregation. The staff's experience and expertise best enable them to make decisions on the feasibility and time frame for these action steps. Wayne compiled their results into a draft at the end of July, which was sent to all committee members on July 30.

The committee and members of the church staff met August 1 to review the draft for each of the nine areas of the plan. Those areas are: "Worship, Music, and Spirituality," "Christian Formation," "Justice and Mercy," "Congregational Care," "Church Growth in Spirit and Numbers," "Leadership and Lay Staff," "Stewardship," "Long-Term Investments" and "Physical Plant and West Lot." Committee members and staff reviewed the draft, comparing it to the congregational responses gathered in the spring. The committee is constantly checking to assure that the plan best reflects the consensus of ideas, concerns, and suggestions received from the congregation.

The committee will continue to check revisions to this plan during August, resulting in a final document presented for Council approval August 30. Presentation of the Long-Range Plan, with opportunities for your questions and comments, is scheduled for September 11 and September 18 at times to be determined. A special congregational meeting for final approval is tentatively set for September 25.

Members will be receiving a copy of the plan either by regular mail or email.

My continued thanks to Wayne, Long-Range Planning Committee members and our staff for their time and efforts in developing this plan to lead us over the next three years.

Members of the committee are: Heather Biggers; Nancy Braverman; Catherine Cunningham; Francille Firebaugh; Sandra Geronimo; Wally Giffen; Stephanie Koscher; Bob Kutschbach; Lisa Morris; Pavan Peter; Patty Pohlman; Melissa Prendergast; Lissa Wade; Shannon Washington; Charlie Weaver; Tom Worley; John Deliman (chair); Wayne Piper (consultant); David Holt (ex officio); and Tim Ahrens (ex officio).

Don't Forget! First Church Picnic August 28

Be sure to mark your calendar, lace your sneakers, wear comfortable clothes to church and bring your joy to this year's church picnic August 28 starting at noon!



Parish Life will be serving pulled pork and turkey hotdogs, along with baked beans, coleslaw, grilled vegetables, tea and lemonade. We are asking everyone else to bring salads, fruits and veggies, chips and, of course, desserts. Anyone who has something else they would like to have grilled can bring that as well. There is a sign-up sheet in the office. Money donations will also be greatly appreciated.

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'Extravagant Welcome' Begins With All of Us at First Church

By the Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Minister
(tahrens@first-church.org)

Mary Harvey was active in my first church on the west side of Cleveland. She came to worship each week. She taught Sunday school, came to my Bible studies, and sang solos with a beautiful soprano voice and she glowed with God's love. She had been coming to Bethany UCC for 15 years when I arrived. As a Southern Baptist growing up in West Virginia, Mary was biblically grounded and had a deep love of Jesus. But, to my surprise, I discovered that Mary Harvey was NOT a member of my congregation. She had never joined. I asked her "Why?" She answered, "Nobody ever invited me to join." So, I invited Mary to join.



What happened next blew my mind! As a member, Mary got even MORE involved. She began to pledge her tithe of 10%. She took on leadership roles in Christian education and she sang with choir as well as offering solos. Not only that, she brought her children and grandchildren to worship. They came every week, too! Once Mary joined the church, her involvement doubled or maybe even tripled! When I asked her why she was getting so much more involved she answered, "I feel like I really belong now. I have found my home in Christ here at Bethany. Thanks for inviting me to join!"

At First Church and throughout the United Church of Christ, we talk about our "extravagant welcome." We speak of ways we welcome everyone. But, I wonder do we really welcome everyone? Who have you brought to church recently? What family member, friend, or neighbor is lost, alone, seeking fellowship and relationships? Have you brought them to church? Churches grow and flourish when family brings family to church. Churches grow and flourish when members bring friends and neighbors to church. Churches grow and flourish when the people who already belong reach out to those visitors and guests who sticking their "toes in the water" and welcome them with warm and open arms. YOU are the difference. YOU are the deal-breaker. YOU are the person who will grow this congregation with YOUR extravagant welcome – not me or any of the staff. It is YOU!

In the next few weeks and months, we have an exceptional program in education, music, and worship being planned and delivered. We have a Long Range Plan about to be rolled out with your name written all over it. You are being called to bring your family, your friends, your neighbors, your co-workers in to church.

We have a great church that is seeking to become even better in the heart of this city we love. To grow, we need *you* to bring people.

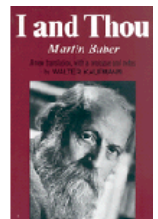
If, by chance, you are like Mary Harvey, I invite you to join. I may have extended this invitation before, but you have declined or walked away without an answer. I am aware of something I heard Billy Graham say years ago during his crusade in Columbus. He said, "If you are looking for the perfect church and you find it and join it, remember, when you join it is no longer perfect because none of us are perfect and we all make up the church." Certainly First Church is not a perfect church. I know, I am a member. But in our imperfection, I really want you to join, to come, to worship, to celebrate, to sing, to pray and to praise God!

If you are already a member and reading this, I want you to joyfully "enter to worship and depart to serve" at First Church! Each one of you is special to me. Each one of you is loved by God and is needed in our life together!

Mary Harvey has died and entered eternal rest. But when I preached at Bethany UCC in Cleveland in May (having left there 22 ½ years ago), her daughter and grandchildren were in worship! Thanks be to God for Mary Harvey! Thanks be to God for YOU!

I and Thou Starts Fall Book Season

On Wednesday, September 7, at 11 a.m. in the church parlor, we will begin a new book study. Everyone is invited to come and bring a friend. The book is Martin Buber's *I and Thou*. Books can be purchased in the church office beginning this week.



Written in 1923, *I and Thou* is a classic. Martin Buber's main proposition is that we may address existence in two ways: That of the "I" towards an "It," towards an object that is separate in itself, which we either use or experience; and that of the "I" towards "Thou," in which we move into existence in a relationship without bounds. One of the major themes of the book is that human life finds its meaningfulness in relationships. All of our relationships, Buber contends, bring us ultimately into relationship with God, who is the eternal thou.

With this teaser, I hope you come and grow in relationship with God and one another. Bring a friend! – **Rev. Tim**

From the Pastors

First Church Stepping Up to Help the Hungry on August 27

By The Rev. Dr. Janine Wilson, Associate Minister
(jwilson@first-church.org)

When is the last time you were hungry? Not just the run of the mill, when breakfast long ago starts your stomach wishing for more, hunger; I mean truly hungry.



For many of us it is hard to imagine. We get a craving and drive through the take out window. We create menus, swing into the grocery store and soon we are slicing and dicing. But what if all that ended? What if the options stopped? For some of our members, friends and neighbors it has already happened. For others, there is a sense of teetering on the brink. I've been thinking a lot about it lately, especially since our Mission Commissioner Bruce Panek introduced me to the Mid-Ohio Food Bank. Here is part of what I discovered:

* Local pantries are faced with 142,000 requests for assistance *each month*. More and more people - people who have played by the rules, worked all their lives, and never thought this could happen to them - are struggling just to get by.

* When bills loom and impossible decisions must be made, food dollars are often the first to be cut. Meals are skipped. Parents go without to make sure a child is fed.

* 57% of the people served have had to choose between food and utilities - 30% more than just 4 years ago.

* 43% have had to choose between paying their rent or mortgage and buying food - 48% more than 4 years ago.

Now, with thanks to the mission commission and our Council, we have the amazing opportunity to follow the gospel plea from Jesus, "*For I was hungry and you gave me food.*" (Mt25:35). On August 27, the last Saturday of the month, we will be setting up the west lot at 8 a.m. and welcoming low-income families to walk through a produce market - at no cost to them or to us. Here is how YOU CAN HELP - There are opportunities for teens and adult young and old:

- ❖ Begin and end the day in prayer for the hungry here and around the world.
- ❖ Bring in empty boxes before August 27 for the market.
- ❖ And/or, call Janine or the church office to:
 - Sign up to set-up: 8 - 9

- Assist the market: 9 - 11
- Sign up to take-down. 11 -12

I look forward to hearing from you. And again, please pray for the hungry here and around the world. It can make a world of difference.

With joy,
Pastor Janine

Attention all Gardeners! – Did you know that you can donate your excess produce to the Foodbank all summer?



This harvest season, help the Foodbank provide fresh produce to hungry families in our community by donating surplus fruits and vegetables from your garden to the Foodbank. Mid-Ohio Foodbank is dedicated to providing nutritious food to those in need, and distributed nearly 10 million pounds of fresh produce in 2010. Our goal this harvest season is to distribute 6 million pounds of produce, but we need your help to get there!

Donations can be dropped off at the foodbank **weekdays between 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** If you are unable to transport your donation to the Foodbank, please email info@midohiofoodbank.org to set up an alternate drop off point.

Read Sermons Online at
www.first-church.org

Thanks for the First Church Welcome - And the AC is Working Again!

By Tom Luff, Building Manager
(tluff@first-church.org)

Let me begin by thanking God for opening the door to me here at First Congregational Church and to the congregation and staff for such a warm welcome. I've enjoyed getting to know the church and its people and look forward to the journey ahead of us.

We have an extremely capable and committed staff, which I am proud to have joined, all of whom have been incredibly helpful as I transition into my role as building manager. During these first weeks on the job, I've been encouraged and inspired by the enthusiasm of our volunteers and the extensive mission work of the church. I want to do whatever I can to be engaged with the congregation and to help facilitate the church's missions and I welcome any ideas, comments, questions. You can reach me at 228-1741, ext. 22, or by email at tluff@first-church.org.



In future issues of the newsletter, I will make an effort to keep the congregation informed about ongoing projects, future plans and issues of concern or interest. While I'm still getting my feet wet, there are a few items that already come to mind:

* As many of you know, we have had some issues recently with the air conditioning. By the grace of God, we've been able to remedy these in short order, so you should expect to find the Sanctuary and Education Wing to be pleasantly cool – if not, please let me know.

* We are in the process of assessing the exterior of the church in effort to begin tuck-pointing. For the uninitiated, tuck-pointing is a process by which the mortared joints between the exterior stonework is repaired by removing loose or deteriorated material and relacing it with new mortar. In the case of our church, the need for re-pointing is significant, as indicated by some of the interior damage to plaster, windowsills, etc. While this interior damage is cause for concern, we are focusing our efforts and resources on repairing the exterior first. Once the major issues are addressed, we will begin focus our efforts inward.

We recently had Durable Restoration do an exterior survey of the church and we expect a report back in the coming weeks. During the interim, I've been working with Wally Giffen and Rick Sayre to compile a list of the known problem areas inside and out. We've tried to be

as thorough as possible, but if anyone notices water leaking in or new damage, please don't hesitate to contact me.

* If anyone has any interest in volunteering for landscape work, your help would be greatly appreciated. We need weeding and planting, so please let me know if you're willing and able. There is no shortage of need (or weeds).

* I briefly sat in on the Sacred Earth meeting the other day and enjoyed meeting the members. There seemed to be a consensus that we could/should do better on the recycling front. While we don't currently have arrangements for bottles, cans or plastics, we're looking into costs of contracted recycling versus a volunteer effort. For now, please continue to use our paper recycling dumpster on the northwest corner of the church property and keep your eyes open for expanded recycling in the future.

Let me close by thanking you all once again for welcoming me into your house and I look forward to our future together.

'Allah: A Christian Response'

Two Sermons By Rev. Ahrens

With 1.3 billion men, women and children who claim faith in "Allah" currently experiencing Ramadan, it is a great time to look at Islam and Christianity.

As you know, Ramadan is 30 days of fasting, which is a pillar of faith in Islam. Each day, from the time when "the sliver of the sun" appears on the horizon (around 4:30 a.m.) until sunset (8:30 p.m.), Muslims do not take anything into their mouths, not even water.

Having experienced Ramadan (and having fasted only 14 of the 30 days) in the hot sun of Egypt in 2010, I believe there is much we have to learn from Muslims as people of faith who also worship ONE GOD. I preached a sermon on Islam and Christianity this past Sunday and will offer a second on August 28. It is only a start. But in this time when so many across the globe are fasting, it is good place to start. – **Rev. Tim**

‘Mission 1 + 1’ Spruces Things Up at Gladden Community House

By Fran Panek, Missions Commissioner

On July 31, five members of First Church participated in the first “1 + 1 mission” activity at our longtime mission partner Gladden Community House in Franklinton.

John and Francille Firebaugh, Pat Patterson and Bruce and Fran Panek spent two hours weeding, pruning and planting day lilies along the north side of the parking lot of Gladden.



First Church members help clean up Gladden Community House.

The weather was hot, but Megan Neubauer, the volunteer coordinator at Gladden, provided cold water and good conversation to us while we worked. We also met and conversed with two other staff members who came to lend morale support and assistance where possible.

Although a drop in the bucket of congregational involvement, we made a start, and all five of us who participated enjoyed good company, conversation and a sense that we could do it again and grow into a better relationship with Gladden.

Contact a member of the Missions Committee if you would like to be involved in a fall Gladden adventure!

First Church Blood Drive a Success!

By Janette Hoffman

Thanks to everyone who participated for helping to make the July 24 “Power in the Blood” drive successful. We just met our goal of 20 donors, and would like to extend appreciation to those who weren’t scheduled, but stepped forward at the last minute to donate and help First Church meet that goal!

Maintaining a safe and adequate supply of blood is an ongoing process. It’s important to realize that even if someone was turned away this time, don’t let that be a deterrent. You can try again in the future!

Thanks also to those who were not available to donate that day, but indicated that they would give blood at another site during the month. There continues to be a critical shortage of blood in the Central Ohio region, so please consider giving sometime during August. Individuals can donate every 56 days. For those who are unable to give blood, please encourage a family member or friend to donate.

About 650 donations a day are required to meet patient needs in our area. To find a donation site near you, visit the Red Cross Web site at www.redcrossblood.org/centralohio and click on “Make a Blood Donation Appointment” in the upper right hand corner.

First Church would like to sponsor another blood drive in the fall, but a coordinator is needed. Please contact Denny Mahoney in the church office (228.1741, ext. 17) if you are interested. This is a great short- term mission project and no prior experience is needed! Thanks again to everyone for their support - and remember that one blood donation can save up to three lives!

Confirmation Meeting Planned

By Mark Williams, Christian Education Director (mwilliams@first-church.org)

An informational meeting will be held August 28 for those invited youth and their parents interested in Confirmation. We will meet in the church parlor at 10 a.m. prior to the 11 a.m. service.

High School Youth Group Parent Meeting

The high school youth group parents will meet August 28 in the Education Wing Room D to discuss ways to volunteer throughout the year with the high school youth ministry. The meeting will be held at 10 a.m.

Celebration Sunday is September 11

September 11 will be Celebration Sunday, with the education hour starting for all ages at 10 a.m. This year’s theme is “Life and Faith.” More information will be in the September newsletter, on the Web site and on our Facebook page.

Chinyere Newsum Joins Our Nursery Staff!

We welcome Chinyere Newsum to our nursery staff. Please stop by the nursery and give her a warm welcome!

Youth Mission Trip Helps Give New Look To Retreat Center

By Abby Salak

For our First Church youth mission trip this year, workers went to Sunset Shores Retreat Center, owned by First United Church of Christ, Congregational, in Vermilion. It wasn't just youth; this year we had a one-to-one ratio of adults and youth. Tim Ahrens, Susan Sitler, Jonathan Miller, Cindy Deliman, Wally Giffen, and myself made up the adults who attended. Jess and Allison Peacock, Jamie Bobb and Mark Williams made short visits to come help and see the great work being accomplished. The young people attending were Katie Gies, Steven Deliman, Michael Warrick, Reel Chaudhri, Morgan Shaw and Sarah Ahrens.



Putting up dry wall inside was part of the crew's job.

We were welcomed warmly by the congregants of First United Church. They provided us with a lovely cookout upon our arrival, tokens for ice cream and putt-putt, discounted tickets to Cedar Point and, most importantly, Jon and Bud – who, with Wally Giffen, kept us on track and gave us instructions for our various tasks.

Our tasks for the week were to build an outdoor worship center, to clear and define the fence line, install drywall on the walls and ceiling of a room in the main house, and to stain the deck. We all rotated through the various tasks, although some stayed in specific areas for the whole time. We accomplished a good portion of what was set out before us.

The worship center crew dug holes 36 inches deep and 9 inches across for the poles that would support the benches; after a day and half of digging, a ton of time and labor was saved with the rental of a power auger! Once the auger completed the holes, they were back to work placing the poles in the ground, using a sledgehammer to get them at just the right depth and then marking the poles for cutting. By the end of the week, there were four rows of benches, and the cross had been moved to the front, creating a beautiful worship space facing Lake Erie.

The fence line crew had a quite a job! They were responsible for removing old rusted fence and poles, tearing up weeds and growth, digging out roots and stumps and establishing the correct property line. As they removed the old, they also installed new fence posts. This involved accurately placing the post and keeping it level as someone pounded it into the ground. The fence line crew was able to clear the area as far as was needed and placed poles all the way down. All that was left was attaching the fencing to the poles.

Inside, Wally led the drywall crew in installing drywall in the front room of the main house. This was a dirty, dusty and tiring job. The drywall crew did an amazing job. By the time we left, it had come a long way- Wally stayed after us to complete the mudding and get the room even further.

We accomplished a lot during the week we were there, but one of the best parts was the fellowship. We got to know one another well and had so much fun working together. Susan implemented a program early in the week called "secret friends." Each day we chose a name; throughout the day we would do kind things for that person – bring them water, give hugs, say nice things, find lovely stones or shells for them, or make them a necklace from stones or shells. We spent time in the water, led devotionals, cooked and ate together. It was wonderful week of work and love and we are grateful to have had the chance to be there together.

Please check out the bulletin board for photos of our week!



Building an outdoor worship center was part of the work done at Sunset Shores.

UCC Web Page Helps Congregations Commemorating September 11

United Church News

In preparation for the 10th anniversary of September 11, the Rev. Geoffrey A. Black, general minister and president of the United Church of Christ, has released a pastoral letter calling for people of faith to leave behind fears and prejudice and chart a new course towards peace, reconciliation and understanding.

The letter, which is part of a special 9/11 remembrance page, urges the United States to turn to God in "beginning anew our work toward God's just and peaceful realm" on earth.

"My prayer is that we recognize that our national understanding of and response to terrorism have been inadequate thus far," Black said in the letter. "My hope is that we use this anniversary as an opportunity to reflect on these 10 years . . . and begin to chart a new direction."

In addition to the pastoral letter, the new Web page — "9/11 plus 10: Between



memory and hope" — contains worship and educational resources for Sunday, September 11, resources from the UCC's ecumenical partners and prayers and reflections on the aftermath of September 11.

"The 9/11 remembrance page has resources aimed at helping UCC members create worship services, and explore the many issues related to a just peace that have arisen in the decade since September 11," said Florence Coppola, the UCC's executive for national disaster ministries.

The new 9/11 Web page can be found at www.ucc.org/911remembrance/.

Good Sam Comes Through Again

By Marty Worth, Program Manager

Even though we did not have a specific Good Samaritan Day in July, the work of this ministry continued throughout the month.

Through the generosity of the members of First Church, we avoided an eviction and kept a family in their home.

This was accomplished by working together with the Compass program at Broad Street Presbyterian and Catholic Charities. Lights are on and water is flowing in a number of households as Good Samaritan paid on utility bills. The Kroger gift cards have helped put food on the table and bus passes have provided transportation to a new job or to look for one.



A big thank you to the congregation for the contribution of personal hygiene items, such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, soap, razors, etc. We had a nice little shopping area for our clients on our August 8 Good Samaritan Day, with those attending choosing several items for themselves.

The need is ongoing and the next mission Sunday for Good Samaritan is August 28. We appreciate the generosity the congregation shows for this ministry.

On Friday, August 5, the staff was treated to a pizza lunch by one of our Good Samaritan recipient. His new job is at a pizza restaurant and his boss agreed that we deserved lunch for the help we had given his new employee. It was delicious – and doubly so because it was given with a grateful heart.

Missions Offering Schedule

In September, the undesignated loose offerings will benefit the following missions that First Church supports:



September 4 - Columbus Coalition for the Homeless

September 11 - Italian Children's Mission

September 18 - Good Samaritan Fund

September 25 - United Church Homes

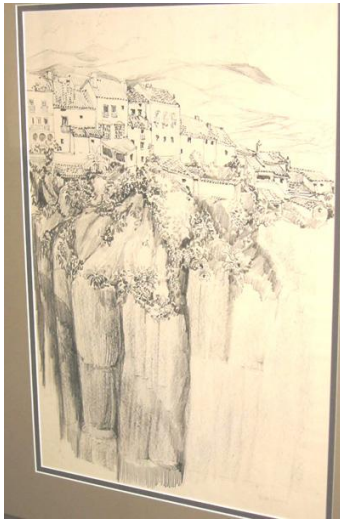
Read the First Church News Online
at www.first-church.org

A Matter of Gifts

By Rick Sayre, Archivist

It is with much appreciation that we have received a beautifully-framed and matted graphite and paper sketch, *The Cliffs*, circa 1940, by Ralph Fanning, a gift to First Church from Deborah Anderson. It is hung on the east wall of the large conference room. The church's Fanning watercolor collection can be seen in both conference rooms, the parlor and church office.

Ralph Fanning, American, (1889-1971) was born into one of the original settler families of Long Island in the town of Riverhead. As a youth he attended the Friends Academy, Locust Valley. He later studied architecture at Cornell University and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Five years later he took a master's degree in history from the University of Illinois.



The Cliffs

A pacifist Quaker, he volunteered during World War I for the Friends ambulance unit in France. Fanning received a leg wound and was hospitalized for a time. He then worked for the Societe des Amis, a French Quaker relief organization. From 1919 -1920 he sketched many French villages to provide a guide for reconstruction.

Fanning returned to the University of Illinois and received a master of architecture degree in 1920. At 32, he was invited to join the art faculty of Ohio State University. He was an active member of the Columbus art community. As associate professor, he taught art history and architecture and became a full professor in 1925. He was a member of the First Congregational Church. In 1949, the Church Council announced the newly formed Art Committee and Fanning was appointed chairman. The purpose of the committee was to provide advice and counsel on aesthetic matters related to the newly constructed building.

In the 1950s, Fanning experienced increasing health problems. His leg injury from the war slowed him down. He experienced a worsening tremor of his right hand. Originally thought to be Parkinson's disease, it was determined to be essential tremor. Katherine Hepburn

gave the disease a public face. Essential tremor can be worse for an artist because the more careful the effort, the stronger the tremor. The effects can be seen in his later work, which has less detail, larger and more loose brush work.

This gift adds an important but previously missing dimension to the churches' significant collection of Fanning watercolors. Fanning was rarely seen without his sketchpad. On campus, it was said that he could complete a sketch in the 12 minutes between classes. His "sketch pad" lectures routinely delighted the University Women's Club. He was in demand in the community as a teacher and lecturer on art history.

History Matters - Volunteer Needed to Help Preserve it and Make it Useful

Significant progress has been made on the First Church archive and volunteer help is needed to continue that progress.

Sorting, categorizing, recycling materials in preparation for scanning, cataloging and boxing are currently the primary activities. Schedules are flexible, there are no meetings to attend, only specific projects to work on. Future projects will include entering data in the collection management software and scanning materials for long-term storage and accessibility.

To volunteer or ask questions, e-mail rsayre@columbus.rr.com or call 614-444-7766.

All Invited to Celebrate Elise Faith's Wedding

First Congregational members and friends are invited to join Barbara Poppe and Bill Faith at the August 27 wedding of their daughter, Elise Faith, and Stephen Cribb. The custom of open church will be celebrated for the ceremony, along with a reception afterward in the Parish Hall.

Elise is a lifelong First Church member and was active in youth activities, church school, both as a student and teacher, and coordinated the nursery while attending Ohio State University. Elise and Stephen will make their home in the Washington, D.C., area. The wedding will be at 4:30 p.m. on August 27. No RSVP is needed.



Applications Being accepted For UCC Outdoor Ministries Registrar

Application deadline is August 26

To apply, please send:

1. Resume
2. A 1-page document stating:
 - * What you believe are the registrar's three most important qualities
 - * How you would approach your first month in the position

Send by August 26 to:
Joyce Oyler
Executive Director, Outdoor Ministries
Ohio Conference UCC
6161 Busch Blvd., Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio 43229
joyceo@ocucc.org

Recent Gifts to First Church

By Bill Johannes and Jane Werum



Given to the Remembrance Fund in celebration of the life of Julia Hadley by:

**Gleva Stephens
John and Betsy Zahn**

Your gifts, payable to the First Congregational Church, are very much appreciated. Celebration Gifts may be designated to the Remembrance Fund or an Endowment Fund and given in honor of a particular moment in the life of friend or family member. The gold-colored Celebration Gift folders can be found in the church pews and in the church office.

Newsletter Publication Date Changing

Beginning in September, the *First Church News* will publish on the 1st of the month, rather than the third Wednesday. The deadline for submitting articles for the September issue is August 22 at noon.

Member Happy September Birthdays

- | | | | |
|-----|------------------------|-----|-------------------|
| 2: | Diane Cole | 22: | Alex Weaver |
| 4: | Marilyn Koetz | 23: | Victor John |
| 5: | Chris Bonito | 23: | Stan Lange |
| 5: | Elisa Batchelor | 24: | Wayne Piper |
| 6: | Katie Kreimer | 26: | Elizabeth Allen |
| 6: | Alice Panek | 26: | Gerry Hudson |
| 7: | Dave Proctor | 26: | Daniel Ahrens |
| 7: | Vince Papsidero | 27: | Bernie Bouman |
| 7: | Christen Coyle | 27: | Ron Reiger |
| 8: | Sallie Danneberger | 27: | Pavan Peter |
| 9: | Steven Ferris | 28: | Tom Kuhn |
| 9: | Kosby Carrico | 29: | Betsy Zahn |
| 10: | Amy Nicholson | 29: | Pauline Fritz |
| 12: | Bob Fowler | 29: | Cassie Reid |
| 12: | Linda Reiger | 30: | Robert Lucas |
| 12: | Matt Lazar | 30: | Carolyn Pettigrew |
| 13: | Lucille Kropp | 30: | Janine Wilson |
| 14: | Doug Zimmerman | 30: | Cami Curren |
| 14: | Meredith Knueve | | |
| 18: | Christopher Washington | | |
| 18: | Deena Bowers | | |
| 19: | John Bachman | | |
| 15: | Richard Grieser | | |
| 16: | Charles Hire | | |
| 19: | Tom Daniels | | |
| 19: | Caroline Sanders | | |
| 20: | Jim Gallagher | | |
| 20: | David Mondiek | | |
| 20: | Jonathan Hoffman | | |
| 21: | Shannon Washington | | |
| 22: | Bill Kutschbach | | |
| 22: | Janette Hoffman | | |

Member Happy September Anniversaries

- | | |
|-----|--------------------------------------|
| 1: | Melinda and Jon Anderson |
| 1: | Janice and Amos White |
| 1: | Betsy and John Zahn |
| 6: | Elisa and Andrew Batchelor |
| 9: | Diane and Kent Rambo |
| 10: | Elizabeth Drotleff and Eric Chambers |
| 12: | Lisa and Scott Warrick |
| 13: | Dayna and Michael McCrary |
| 16: | Lisa and Andy Thomas |
| 16: | Bev and Bert Cook |
| 18: | Peggy and Doug Buck |
| 19: | Jennifer and Michael Weaver |
| 19: | Marilyn and Ed Koetz |
| 20: | Queenie and Tony Lee |
| 21: | Suzie and Bill Rhoads |
| 24: | Leslie and David Fulford |
| 25: | Susan and Matt Walton |
| 30: | Kelly and Matt Allen |

OOPS! If we miss your birthday or anniversary, contact Denny Mahoney at 228-1741, ext. 17, or dmahoney@first-church.org.

Calendar

Sunday, August 21

9 am – Worship – PH
10 am – Stewardship – LC
11 am – Worship – San
12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH

Monday, August 22

6:30 pm – Stephen Ministers – Adult Library
7 pm – Budget and Finance – LC

Tuesday, August 23

12 PM – Card Care Ministry – LC

Saturday, August 27

9 am – Produce Market
10 am – Parents of Preschoolers – West Lawn

Sunday, August 28

9 am – Worship – PH
10 am – Confirmation Meeting – Parlor
10 am – Youth Ministry Parent Meeting – Ed Wing, Room D
11 am – Worship – San
12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH
1 pm – Church Picnic – Church Lawn

Monday, August 29

6 pm – Budget and Finance – LC
6:30 pm – Stephen Ministers – Adult Library
7 pm – Long Range Planning – PH

Tuesday, August 30

7 pm – Personnel – PFR

Sunday, September 4

9 am – Worship – Sanctuary
11 am – Worship – San
12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH

Monday, September 5 (Labor Day)

Office and Building Closed

Tuesday, September 6

5:30 pm – Sacred Earth – LC
7 pm – Deacons – LC
7 pm – Mission Committee – PFR
7 pm – Education Committees – Ed Wing, Room D

Wednesday, September 7

11 am – Book Study
6 pm – Book Study – Parlor

Thursday, September 8

2 pm – Art Committee – Parlor
6:15 pm – First Church Ringers – Gallery
7:30 pm – First Church Choir – Choir Room

Saturday, September 10

10 am – First Church Quilters – LC

Sunday, September 11 (Celebration Sunday)

9 am – Treble/Teen Choir – Choir Room
9 am – Worship – PH
10 am – Education Hour – Rooms C and D
11 am – Worship – San
12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH
12 pm – Long Range Planning Presentation
6 pm – Sonreir – PH
6 pm – Middle School Group – Middle School Room

Monday, September 12

7 pm – Trustees – LC

Tuesday, September 13

12 pm – Card Care Ministry – LC
6 pm – Music Committee – Parlor
7 pm – Executive Committee – PFR

Thursday, September 15

4:30 pm – Parents of Preschoolers
6:15 pm – First Church Ringers – Gallery
7:30 pm – First Church Choir – Choir Room

Saturday, September 17

9 am – House and Grounds – PFR

Rev. Ahrens Preaches at 2 UCC Churches

As part of our covenantal connection to other United Church of Christ congregations and as a leader within Ohio, First Church and Rev. Timothy Ahrens are called upon to step up and serve in many different ways.

This year, Rev. Ahrens has gone out twice to preach in other churches. On May 22, he returned to his first church in Cleveland, Bethany UCC, and led worship and baptized a young child. On August 21, he will go to Trinity UCC in Columbus as guest preacher at the 10 a.m. service. His sermon will delve into Joshua and the liberation of Israel entering Canaan after their wondering 40 years in the desert. Please hold Rev. Ahrens in prayer as he brings God's word to other sisters and brothers in our denomination.

Upcoming Sermon Titles



August 21 – Rev. Elaine Fennell guest preaching, Rev. Ahrens' preaching at Trinity UCC, Columbus

August 28 – “Allah: A Christian Response” – Part II of II in the sermon series “Christianity and Islam”

September 4 – Communion Sunday - “To Work and to Love” - Matthew 20:1-16

September 11 – “Gearing Up!” - Genesis 50:15-21; Matthew 18:21-35

September 18 - “To Progress in Joy and Faith” – Philippians 1:21-30, Matthew 18:15-20

September 25 – 159th Church Anniversary – Special service at 10 a.m. Guest Preacher: Rev. Kate Huey.

September Fellowship Hour

September 4: Jeremiah
 September 11: Kings
 September 18: Leviticus
 September 25: Micah

September Acolyte Schedule

September 4: Will Zimmerman and Ben Allen
 September 11: Luke Zimmerman and Ben Allred
 September 18: Jansen Allred and Courtney Batchelor
 September 25: Annie-Rose Cook and Anna Rambo
 (Schedules online at www.first-church.org)

Prayer Request: Please let us know of a prayer concern for yourself, a family member or other church member by calling the Rev. Timothy Ahrens at 614.228.1741, ext. 13, by using prayer request cards found in each pew or by emailing tahrens@first-church.org.

Please pray for those who continue to walk through grief and loss, for those battling illness and addictions in their families, for all serving in Iraq and elsewhere and for others in need. Please offer prayers for those who are lonely, lost and hurting. Pray for our nation as we face all too much anxiety, fear and uncertainty with faith, hope and love. May God bless you in your giving and in your living in Christ's love and grace. Amen.

Births

Isabella Mikayla Kirker, daughter of David and Christina Kirker – August 1

Weddings

Aimee LeCron and Curtis Hallstrom – July 23
 Lindsey Franklin and Maneesh Mehra – July 30
 Cara Pizzurro and Michael Rosenberg – July 30
 Kristin Sanders and Kenneth Pietsch – August 6
 Katelyn Carr and Christopher DeLong – August 13
 Christina Wetterman and Brian Holt – August 13

Fellowship Hour Beverage Sales



Coffee and tea sales will be available on September 4 and 18 during Fellowship Hour. This is a UCC coffee project initiative and your participation is greatly appreciated.

~ Remember Your Loved Ones ~
 With a Dedication of Flowers

Contact Marty Worth at 614.228.1741, ext. 14,
mworth@first-church.org

Worship CDs Available: We provide copies of worship services on CDs. The CDs are available in the literature rack outside the church office after worship. A \$1 donation for the CD can be left in a container on the church office counter.

Church Staff

Timothy C. Ahrens.....Senior Minister
 Janine Wilson.....Associate Minister
 James E. Bobb.....Minister of Music
 Mark S. Williams.....Director of Christian Education
 G. Dene Barnard.....Organist/Choirmaster Emeritus
 Sharon Leidheiser.....Business Administrator
 Martha Worth.....Program Manager
 Denny Mahoney.....Office Manager
 Thomas Luff.....Building Manager
 Kelvin Murphy.....Custodian
 Frank Wall, William Lee.....Custodians
 Nikki Boop, Rosemary Pawandiwa.....Nursery
 Chinyere Newsum.....Nursery
 Linda Mumford.....Wedding Coordinator
 Jane Chavers.....Wedding Coordinator
 Fran Panek.....Wedding Coordinator

Church Council

David Holt..... Moderator
 Gerry Worth..... Vice-Moderator
 Judy Smith, Bev Cook..... Secretary/Assistant
 Jim Fewlass, Cindy Conn..... Treasurer/Assistant
 Sandy Bennett, Neal Brower..... Administration/Assistant
 Melissa Prendergast..... Church Growth
 Tanya Miller..... Education
 Wally Giffen, Charlie Weaver... House & Grounds/Assistant
 Fran Panek, Bruce Panek..... Mission/Assistant
 Jackie Dean, Abby Cave..... Parish Life/Assistant
 Mary Weaver..... Senior Deacon
 Elaine Warren..... Deacon
 John Deliman, Jim Gallagher... Music, Arts, Heritage/Asst.
 Melody Leidheiser..... Nominating Chair
 Sheldon Taft..... Trustees
 Emma Welsh-Huggins..... Member-at-large
 Tom Brownfield..... Member-at-large

The First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
444 E. Broad St.
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3821

DATED MATERIAL - VERY IMPORTANT

Please Deliver By: Monday, August 22, 2011

TO:

[Empty dashed box for recipient information]



The First Congregational Church, UCC

444 E. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: 614.228.1741 FAX: 614.461.1741
Email: home@first-church.org Web site: www.first-church.org
Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Closed Major Holidays

“An Open & Affirming Faith Community”

SUNDAY WORSHIP HOURS

Worship at 9 a.m. ~ Parish Hall
Worship at 11 a.m. ~ Sanctuary