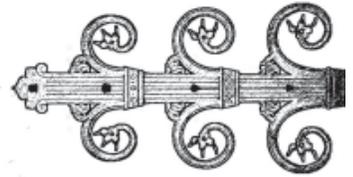


First Church News



First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ • Columbus, Ohio

Volume 156, Number 6
May 24, 2008

Pentecost Letter from the Senior Minister

May 11, 2008



When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Without warning there was a sound of a strong wind, gale force - no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building. Then, like a wild fire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, and they started speaking in a number of languages as the Spirit prompted them. – Acts 2:1-4

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of God our Creator, Christ our Savior and the Holy Spirit, our guiding presence! **The day of Pentecost has come!** Today is the birthday of the church and we celebrate God's gift of the Holy Spirit to the church of Jesus Christ! Pentecost is the day in which the truth of God's word and presence in our lives becomes real through us - God's church! In Acts, the original "First Church," filled with prayerful, yet frightening and beleaguered Christians, was blown away by the Holy Spirit! Empowered by God's Spirit they stood up, stepped forward and began a movement that changed the world. God took the faithful seed of the Christians and planted a mighty band of believers who - beginning in Jerusalem and spreading to all the corners of the earth - became transformers of the world.

I have been praying a lot in recent days about *our* "First Church" and our place in this city. As with our forbearers in faith, I believe God is calling us to a very special mission and ministry in the heart of Columbus, Ohio, for such a time such as this. As God's people in this generation, we are uniquely gifted and prominently positioned to make a difference in Columbus for generations to come. *We stand at a breakthrough point. The question is: How shall we act as God's people to move boldly forward in faith in the days ahead?* Let us take our lead from the very "First Church!" They were a GREAT church! They were a praying church, a worshipping church, a loving church, a generous and giving church, a forgiving church, a visioning church, a growing church, a mission church and a church for all people everywhere. I believe we have all these marks of a great church and even more. I believe, in the power of God's Holy Spirit, we need to name and claim our gifts and step forward in holy boldness.

Before stepping forward in faith, we need to acknowledge the difficulty of the last 16 months. We have experienced key staff changes, the deaths of 25 beloved members and the moves of five key families to other parts of the nation. All these transitions have left a hole in the soul of our personal and collective life. As your Senior Minister, I have eulogized our dead, grieved the moves of beloved members, and have had the responsibility to oversee unanticipated staff investigations and management plans, while also working hard to find, welcome and train new staff to serve our congregation.

Our losses have presented us with challenges and some of you have raised questions or removed yourselves from our community during these difficult times. I invite you to return and help us move forward together. Most of you have been an inspiration as you have stepped up with stewardship, lay leadership and support. You have been a true blessing, and I give thanks to God for you. As we move forward, let's ALL step up and make a positive difference!

Even in the midst of this, God has sent us exceptional new staff and 90 new members - including our largest confirmation class in 20 years! We are truly blessed by our current staff. God's spirit and energy are flowing through these amazing servants of God. Their beautiful collection of wisdom, faith, energy, vision, laughter and love has given me and all of us new hope! In addition to the staff, our newest members remind us that Christ has placed us here to regenerate and recreate his church each day. Our new members are spiritual, prayerful and joyful. They help me see the goodness of God's love and the blessings of this church for our community and world. On this Pentecost 2008, I believe we are poised to step into our own time of greatness in Columbus. I believe we are ready to grow and ready to "glow" again for Christ.

(continued on page 2)

In This Issue

Front Page.....	1
From The Pastors.....	2 - 4
Church News.....	5 - 8
Music	9
New Members.....	10
Christian Ed.....	11
Missions.....	12
Announcements.....	13
Birthdays.....	13
Calendar.....	14
Prayers.....	14
News.....	15
Staff & Council.....	15
Back Cover.....	16

From the Pastors

(continued from front page)

AS FIRST CHURCH - WE NEED TO:

1. **Grow as stewards**, honoring all our pledges for 2008 and growing in our stewardship for 2009.
2. **Grow in our personal prayer life**, our corporate life of worship, and in our personal relationships with God and one another.
3. **Grow in our hands-on mission** and outreach to neighbors in need and our work for justice.
4. **Grow with new members** from the community.
5. **Grow and expand our territory** as we purchase the Byers Lot adjacent to the church and begin to build our dreams for the future.



1. Grow as Stewards

Simply stated, each of us needs to honor our pledge for 2008. We are headed into the leanest months of this particularly lean economic year. Now is the time to catch up with your pledge. You should have delivered 38 % of your pledge by now. While some people have reached 100% already, all too many have yet to start sending their support. My 23 plus years of ministerial experience tell me that if you are this far behind, you can't wait much longer to catch up and get ahead. Having honored our gifts to God through First Church in 2008, let us greet fall with joy as we grow as stewards in 2009!

2. Grow In Prayer, Worship & "Prayer and Care Circles"

We must pray daily and worship weekly. We should reach out in our relationships with God and one another. The greatest growth in Christian faith comes from our relationships with God and one another cultivated in prayer, prayer groups and circles of relationships. The program staff is dedicated to making this happen, but your help is necessary. We know a number of people had great experiences in the Lenten Small Groups and we want to build on that. We have resources from the Spirituality Network and other places that are meant to help us in our prayer life. Please note our offerings, our links on-line and our requests for your help with this. In addition, Rev. Barb Cunningham will be working on connecting us to our fellow members in the areas in which we live. Please contact her to assist in this project, which is called *Prayer and Care Circles*. The larger we become, the more we need to have small groups and interpersonal contact in the church. Please share your ideas with me and respond to those coming forth in the weeks and months ahead. This summer we will all worship together as one church at 10 am. We have an exciting summer planned. Worship and music from the global church will be our delight. We will celebrate communion each week and rejoice that our 9 and 11 am worshiping communities have come together. Picnics, parties and celebrations of our life together will guide our summertime experience. I can't wait until June 1, when it all begins!

3. Grow In Our Hands-On Mission

A theme I hear at Mission Commission meetings each month is the need for people to step forward in mission. With our goal to increase hands-on mission in the church, we truly need your hands! I have been thinking about the young adults of the church serving meals at Faith Mission, building a Habitat House together or finding a way to claim a central mission in the church. I have been envisioning inter-generational mission trips. I have been envisioning tutoring as a church at a Columbus Public School by adopting a school and our future work with Gladden Community House. I envision *Tuesdays*

at *First* combining music and study with a meal that serves all our neighbors - homeless, students, workers and members. I envision a stronger Justice Ministry team working for BREAD and other justice ministries and a human rights letter-writing mission - as well as working to make First Church truly "green." There is so much need in the heart of the city. I believe God is calling our church to find ways to respond. What do you believe? How will you respond?

4. Grow In New Members by Reaching Out To Our Neighbors

We have a vast and growing network of downtown neighbors. Along Gay Street and the Seneca Hotel at Broad and Grant and throughout the Discovery District - people are moving back to downtown Columbus. We should welcome them to our church! Our long-range plan calls for an ambitious goal of 500 new members in five years. Since October 2006, we have welcomed 150 - about 65% of our projections. So, our work is cut out for us. What do you love about First Church? How can you invite family, friends and neighbors to our glorious church? How can you greet visitors with open arms on Sunday morning? How can you be a part of our 11-minute ministry of welcome? We need EVERYONE to embrace our all-inclusive vision of an open and affirming church! One way to help immediately is to volunteer with the *Columbus Arts Festival* from June 6 - 8. It is right on our doorstep! Exciting plans are coming. Let's welcome COLUMBUS to First Church!

5. Grow and Expand Our Territory

The Prayer of Jabez calls people of faith to "expand their territory." We need to purchase the Byers Lot and build our dreams. We must make this happen soon. I truly believe it will be one of the greatest moves we will ever make. We need funding to purchase the land and funding to make capital repairs to our current ministry space. We need an artistic design for the building mission and ministry space on our west side and making use of our four west entrances. I believe we have all the building blocks in place and we must make this happen.

Today is Pentecost! Today we begin the glorious season of Pentecost - the season of the church's story. May God's Holy Spirit blow into your bones, your heart, your mind, your spirit, your faith today and in the days ahead!

All my love to you in Christ,

Jim Adams

My Thoughts, Here and Now

by Reverend Barbara R. Cunningham, Minister of Pastoral Care



Seventeen years ago when I was diagnosed with breast cancer my heart fell and the questions began: Will I live, will I have to go through chemo, will my life change? The faces of the doctor and the nurses told me nothing, for they had learned to be stoic about living and dying. Even though their words were meant to be reassuring, there was an element of doubt that came through their tone of voice as they replied, "We will do everything we can." As a minister, I had worked with hospice for a long time. In that work we all talked about our feelings about death. We shared our life stories and, in our heads, we figured out that we were okay with our own deaths. We even practiced writing our own obituaries!

The following wonderful prose written by Ralph Marsten helped me live without fear and with hope for each day. Perhaps it will help you as you go through life minute by minute.

Stop for a moment and calm your thoughts. Let go of your anxieties and look around you. What do you see? You see a world filled with beauty. You see a life filled with possibilities. You see dreams being born, being nurtured and being fulfilled. Yes, there are challenges. Yes, there is sorrow. Yes, there is violence and hatred. But more than these there is love, there is goodness, there is joy.

The future is uncertain. And that means there's no limit as to how beautiful and joyful you can make it. Yet what you have is right now. And right now is completely as it should be. It is your time to live. Think of what a precious thing your life is and how truly blessed you are to be experiencing it.

Right now, any anxiety you may have about the future is only an illusion. Let it go. Let it fade away as the beauty and perfection of right now wash over you. The best thing you can do for the future is to live with everything you have in the present. Right now, you are in a position to create real, lasting positive value for the world in which you live. How do you do that? By following your heart. By being the "you" that is really you. You may have wandered away from yourself. Now is the time to come home.

You know in your heart that you're here for a reason. The pain you feel is that purpose, that reason for living, as it constantly aches to break free. When it does, you'll be more alive than you ever could have imagined. Breathe in the beauty around you, the beauty and richness of being alive. It is your gift. It is your fortune. It is your blessing. And it is yours, to live to experience and to fulfill. RIGHT NOW.

The Typical Young Adult

by Reverend Laura Tisher,
Youth & Young Adult Minister



Is there such a person – a typical young adult? Roger Nishioka, associate professor of Christian education at Columbia Theological Seminary, recently led a seminar at Trinity Lutheran Seminary for local leaders in young adult ministry in which he laid out many typical characteristics of young adults. According to Nishioka and his research, young adults:

- Are very capable of holding contradictions with integrity, which tends to lead to the desire for more inclusivity.
- View the world as ethnically diverse.
- Are the most mobile generation ever. (Much more than previous generations.) Young adults today tend to move away from the geographical area in which they grew up.
- Value multi-sensory experiences.
- Are technologically and visually oriented and sophisticated.
- Experience greater class polarities and educational discrepancies than any other previous generation.
- Are performance driven. (Young adults today tend to derive their self-worth from what they do.)
- Seek quality, authentic relationships and theological and ethical vitality and integrity.

Many of these values and characteristics are already at the root of who First Church is, as a congregation. No wonder over 200 young adults have already come to claim First Church as their spiritual home. If we take this research seriously, this information can help the young adult ministry of First Church, and the congregation as a whole, continue to grow in new and vital ways. Our worship, our justice work, our community building and the life of our religious body can most definitely be strengthened by all of these gifts of the typical young adult.



First Church Picnic: Mark on your calendars for this year's Annual Church Picnic on August 24. The theme is **Membership Through the Decades**. This is sure to be a great event with many activities planned.

From the Pastors

Stephen Ministers

On Sunday, June 1, six First Church members will be commissioned as Stephen Ministers, doubling the size of our Stephen Ministry team. Swelling the ranks are **Jerome Dailey, Kelley Gilbert, Anna Jensen, Melody Leidheiser, Marilyn Minter and Virginia O'Neill.**

This hard-working group has completed 50 hours of training on the skills required to function as competent Stephen Ministers and each already possessed the compassionate listening heart that is essential to be of service to members in need.

The myriad of changes at First Church have left some members searching for the opportunity for reflection. With the added strength of these new Stephen Ministers, the Stephen Ministry team is ready to provide just such an opportunity. Congratulations and thanks to our team members.

(Submitted by Margene Whittenburg)

Cabaret Update

The Cabaret was a great success and everyone had a fun time! The food was delicious and the performers were excellent. We all worked hard and it paid off. We did make money for the youth mission trip, even though it was a little short of our goal.

Thanks go to: Janette Hoffman, Mike and Robyn Petras, Melanie Tallent, Linda Reiger, John and Cindy Deliman, Marti Rideout, Jane Leidheiser, Diana Kutschbach, all of the performers, servers and other volunteers who put so much effort into the preparation, planning and execution of this event! We couldn't have done it without everyone's dedicated efforts!

Sunday in the Summer



First Church will be offering one Sunday service at 10 a.m. beginning June 1, and concluding August 31. During the summer we will be honoring the world church, highlighting a different country each week.

In order to honor the tradition of the 9 a.m. service, communion will be celebrated each week.

Summer Picnics

On the first Sunday of June, July and August, we will have an after-church picnic at Goodale Park. Meet at the play structure at 11:30 am.

The first picnic will be June 1. Please bring a lawn chair, blanket and dish to share. Lemonade, water and paper products will be provided.

Care & Prayer Circles

*by Reverend Barbara R. Cunningham,
Minister of Pastoral Care*

As church members, we are scattered all over the city! What a gift we give to each other by joining together, united on a common journey. However, when we live all over the city, being together is more difficult.



First Church is building on a foundation that Rev. Ron Botts laid for us, continuing to connect in Care and Prayer circles by ZIP Codes. We are attempting to make our large church a little more connected. We need leaders in each geographic area, with primary responsibility to check in on their circles about once a month, and perhaps to gather the group together for fun, care and prayer. That person would also help the clergy know of the celebrations or concerns of the congregation, and be able to respond as needed.

I will be in touch with persons in each Zip Code (some divided into two or three) in the very near future about leadership, ideas and training. This is not to add just one more thing to do, but to give us a sense of community and journeying together. I am excited about getting to know you better.



Summer Sermon Titles

by Reverend Timothy C. Ahrens

- June 1: *Communion Meditation - Listening Hearts*
June 8: *Do What's Right*
June 15: *The Race Matters*
June 22: *A Crash Course for Spaceship Earth*
June 29: *Barb Cunningham preaching, Rev Ahrens Preaching in Chautauqua, NY: This One's For You*
July 6: *If I Was A Christian in America*
July 13: *Tell Them How You Made It Over*
July 20: *Rev. Tisher Preaching*
July 27: *Rev. Cunningham Preaching*
August 3: *Rev. Tisher preaching - Rev. Ahrens preaching in Lakeside, Jesus, Messiah of Peace*

August Sermon Series

Jesus: The Peaceable One...

- August 10: *The Peaceable Messiah*
August 17: *The Peaceable Prophet*
August 24: *The Peaceable People of Faith*
August 31: *The Peaceable Kingdom of God*

First Church News

The Schumacher Awards 2008 ~ 50th Anniversary

The Schumacher Awards Committee is pleased to announce the 2008 award winners are Maria Boyden, Rhonda Cline and Kelsey O'Day. This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the Schumacher Awards. Each year, they are given in honor of Frederick Schumacher's mother, Mary.

These awards are given annually at First Church on Mother's Day to recognize young women between the ages of 15 and 20 who are worthy of commendation for Christian devotion to mother, father, sister and/or brother.



Maria Boyden is a senior at Amanda-Clearcreek High School where she participates in the National Honor Society, sports and also takes college preparatory classes at Ohio University. Maria's family life changed drastically when a traffic accident left her mother, Sheree, a quadriplegic. Maria demonstrates her

Christian devotion to her family by tending to her mother's daily personal needs. Maria attends Saint Mary's Catholic Church in Lancaster, and her goal is to attend the University of Cincinnati to study biology/pre-medicine.



Rhonda Cline is a senior at Centennial High School where she participates in National Honor Society, sports and student council. Additionally, Rhonda volunteers at Riverside Hospital. Rhonda's mother passed away eight years ago, and her father is legally blind. Rhonda demonstrates her Christian devotion by cheerfully

taking on many responsibilities in the family. In honor of her mother, Kim, Rhonda organized a Walk-A-Thon to raise money for brain cancer research. Rhonda attends Maple Grove United Methodist Church where she volunteers at Vacation Bible School and works in the church nursery. Rhonda's goal is to attend The Ohio State University in nursing.



Kelsey O'Day is a senior at Westfall High School where she participates in the National Honor Society, sports, band, choir and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Additionally, she raised funds for a domestic violence shelter. A few years ago, Kelsey's uncle, Chillicothe police officer Larry R. Cox, was killed in the line of duty.

Kelsey demonstrated her Christian devotion by helping her mother grieve the loss of her brother and endure the subsequent media attention and court proceedings. Kelsey attends Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Grove City and plans to attend Wilmington College to study history and Spanish.

First Church Graduates



Congrats to Grads

CONGRATULATIONS to following First Church graduates.

Frank Cook III: Frank, son of Sue and Frank Cook Jr., is graduating with a bachelor of science in civil engineering from Rennselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY. He was an honor student and was on the swim team.

Leslie McCain: Leslie, the granddaughter of Betty and Ralph Hughes, recently graduated from nursing school and is working at Children's Hospital in Columbus.

Lauren V. Kelm: Lauren, the daughter of Russ Kelm and Pam Kallner, is graduating from the University of Kentucky with a B.S. in Political Science. After a brief tour of Europe with other students, she plans on working on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

Emily Kutschbach: Emily, the daughter of proud parents Diana & Robert Kutschbach, is graduating from Westerville North High School. She has been active in the band as a color guard member and was captain for the past two years. Emily participated with the winterguard team and was its captain this past year. She has also been quite active in First Church youth programs. Emily will be attending Bowling Green State University in the fall, and while her major is still undecided, she plans on continuing her American Sign Language.

Cassie Reid: Cassie, the daughter of proud parents Joyce and Craig Oyler, is graduating from Reynoldsburg High School. She will be attending Heidelberg College in the fall.

Cori Benner: Cori is graduating from CCAD with a major in industrial design. She plans on joining Anchor Hocking Glassware in Lancaster working in production design.

Sarah Welsh-Huggins: Sarah, the daughter of proud parents Pam and Andrew Welsh-Huggins, is graduating from Bishop Ready High School. She will be attending Lafayette College in the fall where she will be studying engineering.

Graduation Submissions - There is still time to put your graduation announcement in the First Church Newsletter. Please list the following information and it will be published in the next issue.

- > Graduate's Name
- > School/Program
- > Graduating Date, Degree, Course of Study
- > Major Accomplishments, Honors and/or Activities
- > Future Plans
- > Parents, Church Family (if applicable)



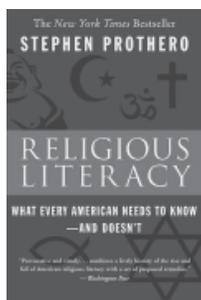
Send your graduation information to Rev. Tisher at ltisher@first-church.org.

Photos will only be accepted electronically by sending to bjensks@first-church.org.

First Church News

New at the Library

by John Martin



The United States is one of the most religious places on earth, but according to Stephen Prothero, it is also a nation of religious illiteracy.

I had the rare good fortune to hear Stephen Prothero talk in Columbus recently on his book *Religious Literacy, What Every American Needs to Know - And Doesn't*.

He teaches religious studies (not theology) at Boston University. He is a delightful speaker and talented writer and admirably honest - even to his own detriment. He advised me to wait a couple of weeks, when his book would be out in paperback.

To develop his theme for the book, he told of the tests he gives to his religion students the first day of class. The wife of Noah? Maybe Joan of Ark? And the Golden Rule may take on a new slant: "Do one to other before they do one to you." The students are more likely to name the four Beatles than the four Gospels.

Prothero also shows a serious side in his chapters on religion in the United States and the development of an anti-intellectual trend toward religion during the Second Great Awakening in the early 1800s. Though fundamentalists attack the Supreme Court of the 1960s for the absence of religion in schools, the momentum for this stems from Horace Mann in Massachusetts, again in the early 1800s. Dogma was not to be included in public education by his standards.

The author is a strong advocate of religious education in schools, both secondary and college, public and private. He was very forceful in pointing out that civil liberties groups and the Supreme Court itself see the need of and favor the teaching, but not the preaching and proselytizing, of religion in education in the United States. He sees a great need for the study of both the Bible and other religions.

Prothero sees the great potential for good to be gained by a religiously literate society and the equally great potential for harm if it is lacking. He asks whether, if those in power in 2003 had known of the differences in Sunni and Shiite doctrine and the potential for internal civil conflict, would we have gone into Iraq?

The editors at the *Washington Post* just named "Religious Literacy" one of their best books of 2007 - one of only two in the Religion category.

In her review in the *Post*, the noted atheist Susan Jacoby called the book "provocative and timely."

Recent Celebration Gifts to First Church

by Bill Johannes and Jane Werum

Given to First Church in celebration of the life of Louise Smith by:

**Mary Weaver
Virginia B. Smith
Margaret Kooistra
Constance R. Johnson
Marge Smith
Minert and Betty Thompson
William and Natalie Wright
Peter and Jane Mykrantz
Harding Evans Foundation
Joseph and Marjorie Davidson**

Given to the Starr-Wingfield Furnishings (Endowment) Fund in celebration of the life of Allan Wingfield by:

Loanne Crane

Given to the Social Concerns Endowment Fund in celebration of the life of Celestine Clarke by:

David and Artis Holt

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 the church office.

First Church News

Discover First Congregational Church Columbus Arts Festival 2008, June 6 - 8

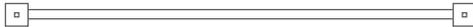
During this year's Columbus Arts Festival, the First Congregational Church will host a variety of exciting events. Don't miss lively concerts, memorable art exhibits and docent-led church tours.



Discover the beauty and history of the church's Gothic Revival architecture, breathtaking stained glass windows, remarkable organs and priceless artwork.

Volunteers: There are still many openings for volunteer support during this event. Opportunities are in 3-hour blocks and can fit most schedules and abilities.

Information: For more information about volunteering during this event, contact the church at 614.228.1741.



Daily Events ...

Liturgical Art: Features a portion of the Liturgical Art Guild's traveling collection.

Chair-A-Tea: Sale of hand-decorated Bentwood chairs & tea.

Tea Room: Enjoy delicious iced teas and light refreshments for purchase (1 - 5 pm).

Arts & History: Tour of historical First Congregational Church each afternoon.

Friday, June 6 - Music Offerings

Lively Music for a Lively Friday - 2 pm: Julia Richardson at the Beckerath organ.

Music of Bach - 5 pm: G. Dene Barnard at the Beckerath organ.

Choral Festival - 7 pm: Spirituals and other choral selections from five Columbus choirs, plus Missa Luba (African-style mass by 100 singers).

Saturday, June 7 - Music Offerings

Romantic Music - 2 pm: James Hildreth at the Kimball organ.

Music of Louis Vierne & Others - 5 pm: G. Dene Barnard at the Beckerath organ.

Ohio Capital Winds - 7 pm: Selections include classic repertoire from the masters. Directed by Catherine Hope-Cunningham.

Sunday, June 8 - Music Offerings

Worship Service - 10 am

Dances and Lullabies - 2 pm: Choral performance by the Magpie Consort. Directed by Sheena Phillips.

Parish Hall Chairs and Tables

by David Holt, Treasurer

Last fall the church purchased 100 new chairs and several tables for the Parish Hall. Many of our old tables and chairs were deteriorating, and we had several all-church dinners approaching. Donations were requested of \$50. We lost focus during the stewardship drive and subsequent holiday season on this fund drive. The chairs and tables cost a total of \$5,000. We have raised \$2,300 and need another \$2,700.



Honor your family with the gift of a chair.

For a \$50 donation, a tag will be placed on the back of a chair honoring you, your family or someone you choose. Donations are being received in the church office and during Fellowship Hour. You may send your contribution to the church or place it in the offering plate during worship. Your check should state **Chair Fund** in the memo line. If you are dedicating this donation, please submit that information

Note: Please do not confuse this with the separate Arts Festival Chair-A-Tea fundraiser.

In Remembrance

Amy Abbott Allen: First Church member of 33 years, volunteer and friend Amy Allen died on April 20. She was 94 years old. Amy was born in Beverly, Massachusetts, in 1913, graduated with a BA from Salem State College and a Masters from Columbia University. She was a professor of Education at Ohio University, pioneering work for those who had disabilities and special education needs. For many years, Amy sang in the First Church Choir - until her hearing loss grew worse. As Amy grew older, she became a valued member of the newsletter folding team and was a regular at Sunday worship until recently. Amy Allen was an inspiration.

Reverend William Barndt: Rev. William Barndt, father of First Church member Kathy Brownfield and a well known United Church of Christ minister and activist, died April 28, at age 93. A memorial service was held at Dublin Community Church.

Rev. Barndt served in several churches and was the association minister for the Ohio Conference of the UCC before his retirement 30 years ago. Since that time, he was deeply involved in mission work around the world.

First Church News

The First Congregational Church Council

Minutes of Meeting, March 18, 2008

Church Council Members Present: *Sandy Bennett, Amy Beymer, Harrison Campbell, Duan Cannon, Bev Cook, Carol Gallagher, Randy Hoffman, David Holt, Barb Hunt, Bill Lange, Kay Metz, Craig Oyler, Tom Stewart, Phil Stichter, Al Waddell, Drew Wade.*

Church Council Members Absent: Pam Kallner, Stan Lange.
Staff Members and Guests Present: Rev. Tim Ahrens, Steve Sterrett, John Hartranft.

Moderator Tom Stewart called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and determined that a quorum was present. He lit a candle to remind us all that we are in God's house doing God's work. He then introduced Bill Lange who led us in devotions.

Separation Agreement: John Hartranft and Steve Sterrett presented a motion to authorize the moderator to sign a severance agreement with Timothy E. Smith. The motion made by the Personnel Committee passed unanimously. The Council wants to commend the Personnel Committee for the outstanding leadership concerning this matter.

Minutes Approved: Phil Stichter moved and David Holt seconded the motion. Council members voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2008 meeting.

Treasurer's Report: David Holt presented the treasurer's report and responded to questions.

Commission Reports:

- Bev Cook presented the Proposed Mission Offering Schedule from April to June 2008. Barb Hunt, moved, and Phil Stichter, seconded to accept this list. Council voted to accept this schedule.
- Tom Stewart said he would like to thank many people for assisting the music program over the past few weeks including Mark Williams, Jim Gallagher, Marty Worth, G. Dene Barnard, Gerry Worth, Robyn Petras, Denise Ivory, Kelley Gilbert, First Church Choir and the men of FCC for singing *Compline*. All of their efforts have helped with a difficult transition.

Arts Festival: Plans were discussed concerning use of the parking lot, pamphlets and budgets during the Arts Festival. The Council feels this is a high priority because of the high visibility for the church. Bev Cook moved that a general appeal go to the congregation for anyone who would want to contribute to the ad campaign (Festival Guide Publication). David Holt, seconded. Motion carried.

Byers Lot: No new activity. This will be a focus of discussion at the Summit Meeting, April 7.

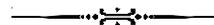
Endowment and Fund Raising Activities: Phil Stichter reported that there would be a dinner on April 29, sponsored by the trustees to encourage the congregation to become Friends of the Society for the Endowment.

Website: Barb Hunt reported that Jeanne Haber would mail out a letter next week addressing issues with the system (www.first-church.org).

Reconstitution of Church Committees:

- David Holt, treasurer, reported that the Budget and Finance Committee members would include Jim Kyle (at-large-member term expires Jan 2009) and Kay Metz representing the deacons.
- Amy Beymer presented the Parish Life Committee members: Elizabeth Bockbrader, Amy Beymer, Sharon Leidheiser, Lori Tisher, Kathy Brownfield and Ann Hudson.
- Al Waddell reported the Church Growth members as: Darla Lubbe, David Holt, Carl Miller, Pamm Greene, Chuck Kelley and Pavin Peter.

Tom Stewart asked members to vote to accept the above names on the reconstitution lists. The names were accepted by unanimous vote.



Ohio UCC Conference: The Annual Gathering of the Ohio Conference of the United Church of Christ will be held June 8 to 10, at Heidelberg College in Tiffin. The keynote speaker will be the Rev. Kenneth Samuel, founder of Victory for the World Church in Stone Mountain, Georgia. He is a graduate of the Candler School of Theology in Atlanta and United Theological Seminary in Dayton, and the author of *Solomon's Success: Four Essential Keys for Leadership*. Samuel was ordained in 1982 at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta.

Leading a workshop on multimedia worship will be the Rev. Michael Piazza, Dean of the Cathedral of Hope in Dallas, Texas, the world's largest church with a predominately gay membership. First Church's Rev. Laura Tisher will lead a youth workshop entitled: *Youth Speak Out: Open and Affirming & Growing*. To register for the meeting, go to www.ocucc.org. The registration deadline is May 27. For information, call the conference office at 614.885.0722 or 800.282.0740.



First Church Music

The Music of First Church

by Marti Rideout, Interim Minister of Music



"The aim and final reason of all music should be nothing else but the Glory of God and the refreshment of the spirit." More than 250 years since the death of this author, Johann Sebastian Bach, these words still ring true.

Music is an integral part of our worship, and in the liturgy we glorify God with every part of our being, with the best we have to offer – our participation, our voices raised in song, our gifts of time and our treasures. Music should not be viewed as a decoration or an ornament to our worship services. Instead, it should be considered a part of the whole human communication within the liturgy, a celebration of spiritual beings seeking a closer relationship with God during this human existence.

The word *liturgy* comes from two Greek words, which translate to *the work of the people*. The theologian Kirkegaard said, "God is the audience. Those who are seated in the pews are the participants. And those who are vested are the prompters." All aspects of worship are active, not passive, from singing hymns to receiving the elements at communion, from confessing our sins to receiving the assurance of pardon, from active listening to lessons read and sermons preached to active listening to God's response in the moments of silence, from receiving choral and instrumental offerings to lifting our voices in congregational song.

There is hardly anything more joyful than a congregation expressing its faith by singing hymns. Hymns are our take-home theology. When a loved one passes on and family members gather to plan a service, choice hymns are selected, hymns that were meaningful to the departed or that help those remaining cope with their loss. Imagine Christmas Eve without singing *Silent Night* or *O Come, All Ye Faithful*. Imagine Easter Day without singing *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*. Hymns assist in telling the story and developing our faith. They express joy, sorrow, contemplation, peace and every known human emotion. Music has a wondrous power to heal, convert, strengthen and arouse the faithful.

The organist selects prelude music that will help people set aside their earthly concerns and draw them into a sacred time. The postlude sends them into the world rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. The choir supports congregational singing and teaches new hymns by their leadership, offers appropriate and inspiring anthems and adds an element of beauty and joy that transcends and transforms. Instrumentalists add their unique gifts to the liturgy. Singing children and young people share their growing spirituality through music, their freshness and delight and a dimension of present and future that is amazing to behold.

Jeffrey Rowthorn, bishop, theologian and hymn writer, wrote this prayer: "O God our Father, we thank you for music and its wondrous power to touch and heal and strengthen; under its spell the closed doors of the human spirit are unlocked and our hearts are moved to respond to you in worship." Amen.

High Praise



First Church and the music department would like to thank the many people who shared their appreciation for the recent concerts featuring the amazing talents of Ben Bechtel, Edward Parmentier, Clive Driskill-Smith, the First Church Choir, Dene Barnard and Ben Wiant. Your support makes the hard work all worthwhile. The following excerpt from a recent letter helps describe the appreciation.

... I just had a really nice conversation with my Dad - who made it down from Cleveland for our concert yesterday (just a point of reference - Dad has been playing & directing in church for about 55 years now, so he knows his stuff.) "Dad said that he had never heard the choir sing so well and so musically, especially since we had a lot of complex music (can anyone say, Stravinsky?)" He especially raved about the second half and called our soloists (Leo and Pam) "gifted artists" and said Jim conducted with "incredible nuance"... Then Dad continued to rave some more about all of our fine accompanists and finished by asking me to send his thanks and praise to everyone involved for sharing such incredible musical gifts and putting all of the time and energy in preparing this music...

2008-2009 Congregational Concerts

Looking ahead, the music department is putting together an exciting 2008-2009 season.

Congregational Concerts will feature:

Sept 21: *The Mainstreet Brass*

Oct. 19: *Organist Thomas Trotter*

Nov. 9: *Three Choirs Concert at Broad Street Presbyterian Church*

Dec. 21: *Christmas Lessons and Carols*

Feb. 22: *Handbells Columbus (featuring the premiere of a commissioned piece for handbells and organ)*

March 29: *Choral Society and Organ*

April 26: *Organist Eric Plutz*

Additional information will appear in summer newsletters, epistles, bulletins and letters. Your presence is always welcome and appreciated!

Welcome New Members

March & April 2008 New Members



Christina Gladysz: Christina lives in Lewis Center and works at the Nationwide Children's Hospital caring for infants to 3 year olds. She and fiancé, David Kirker, are planning an April 2009 wedding. David is serving in the military, training in Texas for eventual deployment to Kuwait. After visiting FCC's Web site, Christine felt FCC would be a good fit for them.



Dick & Jane Ward: The Wards have been married for 15 years and live in west Worthington. Jane recalls that her graduation from CSG was in our sanctuary. She is a retired stockbroker and runs her own consulting company. She moved back to Columbus to help care for her mother and that is when she met Dick. Dick is a retired orthopedic surgeon who is "obsessed with learning things." He established the Teaching Company. After attending First Church with friends, they decided to investigate FCC further and eventually joined. Both are avid birders, gardeners and have friends at First Church.



Wayne Henry & Shawn Dingus have been partners for eight years. Shawn grew up in Kentucky and Wayne in Grove City. Their home is in the Westgate neighborhood of Columbus. Shawn is an attorney - you may have seen his name recently on an election ballot. He was raised a Methodist, but has been apart from the church because of its non-acceptance of all of people.



Lukas Irons is from Bellevue, Ohio, where he was raised in a UCC Church. His church membership has been inactive for a number of years and he believes that FCC is the right place to start again. He just started a new job in the Columbus area, and his first day at the job was the same day his new members class began! Lukas is an avid train enthusiast and joined First Church by baptism.



Barbara Knox: Barbara is married to Dave. They live in Worthington and have two grown children. Barbara was raised a Methodist and both of them formerly were members of the Congregational Church. Her career was in speech pathology and she works as a docent at the Columbus Museum of Art. Barb is drawn to FCC because of its friendliness.



Jackie Lowery Jackie came to Columbus from Silver Springs, Maryland, to investigate a new school for her grandson. She is an independent consultant with interests in community organizing, health, education and social justice. She grew up in New York City, where she was a member of Riverside Church. Fredrick Swann played for her wedding at Riverside. Jackie lives in Bexley and joined as an Associate Member.



Gerhard Wolff grew up in WW II Germany and was confirmed in the Lutheran Church. He came to the USA in 1949, went to the University of Iowa and worked for DSCC before his retirement. Gerhard was a member of First Church more than 30 years ago. Recently he was looking for a church and came back to FCC because of its traditional services and excellent music program. Gerhard and his wife, Judy, have six grandchildren.



Sadie Al-Fayez: Sadie grew up in Dublin, graduated from Dublin Coffman HS and attended Meadow Park Church of God. She and her fiancé, Brian Oldham, are planning a March 2009 wedding. They both love OSU football and playing with their labradoodle.



Tom Bishop: Tom lives in Westerville with his wife, Trish, and is the CEO of Central Ohio Primary Care Physicians. He formerly attended the Church of the Messiah in Westerville and had been visiting First Church for a little less than a year. Tom says he really thought First Church looked and felt like a church. Tom likes riding his bike and his son owns a bicycle company.

Trish Bishop also joined First Church in April. She grew up in the Methodist Church. Before joining, Trish visited a number of churches but returned to First Church. Trish and Tom bring their two grandchildren to church every Sunday. Trish makes quilts.



Hugh Schultz: Hugh lives in Dublin with his wife, Dana, and started visiting First Church four years ago. He grew up as a Lutheran and is retired from the United Methodist Church Publishing House. Hugh said he immediately felt at home at First Church and liked the openness and has participated in the Choral Society. He has three grandsons, likes to read, play golf and bike.

Bobby Carrington: Bobby lives in the Devonshire area of north Columbus. He is a retired school teacher and is currently a fulltime substitute. He is an avid walker and volunteered for BOBS seven years ago before joining FCC.

Jeremy Collins: Originally from northern Michigan, Jeremy was raised in the Christian Science Church, where his grandmother was a practitioner. He was divorced in 2001, moved downtown and decided to join FCC. He is an eBay enthusiast, along with biking and cycling.



Shawn Finley - Lives in Vassar Village in south Columbus with her husband and son. She is an architect and was raised as a Unitarian Universalist, but was most recently a member of the Episcopal Church.

Christian Education

Christian Education

by Mark S. Williams, Director of Christian Education



Summer Camp 2008

First Church wishes the following campers loads of summer fun and memories at camp this season.

We have 17 children and youth attending church camp this summer.

This is such a wonderful opportunity for our young people to grow and learn about themselves and their faith through many different activities.

I invite all of you to pray for them and show our support by sending letters/postcards to these youth while they are at camp. Below is the list of campers, the dates they are attending and the addresses of the camps.



Mikayla Knerr: (6/22-6/28) Templed Hills
Emily Cooke: (6/22-6/28) Templed Hills
Breanna Kochheiser-Gibson: (6/22-6/28) Templed Hills
Sarah Ahrens: (6/22-6/28) Templed Hills
Katie Gies: (6/29-7/5) Templed Hills
Emma Henderson: (6/29-7/5) Templed Hills
Rachel Henderson: (6/29-7/5) Templed Hills
Tyler Reid: (6/29-7/5) Pilgrim Hills
Cassie Reid: (6/29-7/5) Pilgrim Hills
Kendra Worley: (6/29-7/5) Templed Hills
Ben Faith: (6/29-7/5) Templed Hills
Carly Kutschbach: (6/29-7/5) Templed Hills
Katie Kutschbach: (6/29-7/5) Templed Hills
Aryn Mason: (7/6-7/12) Templed Hills
Thalia Lewis: (7/6-7/12) Templed Hills
Jayden Martin-Wynia: (7/6-7/12) Templed Hills
Joe Spofforth: (7/13-7/16) Pilgrim Hills
Breanna Kochheiser-Gibson: (7/13-7/19) Templed Hills

Templed Hills

5734 Durbin Rd.
P.O. Box 575
Bellville, OH 44813

Pilgrim Hills

33833 Township Road 20
P. O. Box 337
Brinkhaven, Ohio 43006

Parents for Others

by Reverend Laura A. Tisher, Minister of Youth & Young Adults



First Church stay-at-home or part-time working mothers and fathers who desire to reach out in service to those in need are gathering together every month in a setting that is baby- and child-friendly to work on service projects without having to worry about child care! The group will

meet at 3:45 p.m. in the Toddler Room of the Education Wing (enter the building at the end of the education wing) on the following dates:

Friday, June 13 Thursday, July 10
Friday, August 8 Thursday, September 11
Friday, October 10 Thursday, November 6
Friday, December 12

If you are interested in participating in this group, please contact Catherine Kennedy at cskennedy1981@yahoo.com or 614.578.6762.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Young Adult Dinner Out: First Church Young Adults will be going to dinner at La Chatelaine (1550 W. Lane Ave.) on Sat., June 7, at 6:30 p.m. Meet at the restaurant. RSVP to Rev. Lori by June 5.

Young Adult Zoo Trip: First Church Young Adults will be going to the Columbus Zoo on Sunday June 22, 2008, 2 - 5pm. Children are welcome. Cost: \$10 for adults, \$7 for kids 2 to 9 and free for children under 2. Meet at the zoo entrance at 2:30pm. RSVP to Rev. Lori by June 12.



Sacred Space Summer Women's Book Study Continues

Women are invited to join in reading and discussing three books by Sue Monk Kidd. The book study will be held here at the church, and feel free to come to as many discussions as you can. The dates and books to be discussed are:

- Wed., June 4, 7 p.m., *The Dance of the Dissident Daughter*
- Wed., July 2, 7 p.m., *The Mermaid Chair*
- Wed., Aug. 6, 7 p.m., *When the Heart Waits*

Missions

Mission Offerings Schedule

The undesignated loose offerings will benefit the following missions that First Church supports:

May 25: Catalyst - Catalyst provides educational opportunities for Jamaican youth making the student financially independent so they can make positive contributions to their own communities.

June 1: Gladden Community House Gladden House

June 8: Youth Mission trip to Atlanta (June 15 - 20) - First Church high school youth will be spending a week in Atlanta working with and learning from local, inner-city soup kitchens, senior centers, women's shelters, children's homes and urban gardens.

June 15: Downtowners - Ministry and chaplaincy services to students at seven colleges in the center of Columbus.

June 22: Outdoor Ministries - Outdoor Ministries is committed to the development and maintenance of campgrounds and programs for people to get away, explore nature and respond to God's call.

June 29: UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns - The Coalition provides support and sanctuary to all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender sisters and brothers in the United Church of Christ and their families and friends.

Recycling Project for Earth Day Celebration

by Nancy Gilson Braverman, Sacred Earth Committee



On April 20 and 21, a room in our church's educational wing lived up to its name: Room C was filled with computers ...and old printers, fax machines, copiers, cell phones, battery back-ups and many more technological cast-offs ripe for recycling.

In celebration of Earth Day, the middle school youth group and members of Sacred Earth (the environmental committee of First Church) collected 8,024 pounds of used high tech equipment on that Sunday morning in our church parking lot. Representatives from Ohio Computer Recycling picked up and disposed of it in an environmentally responsible way. All items will remain in the United States and will not become part of landfills.

Sixteen middle school students and one high school student - assisted by youth group advisors, representatives from Sacred Earth and willing members of the congregation - participated with energy and enthusiasm. Thanks to those who organized and worked the event - and to those who recycled! Representatives from Ohio Computer Recycling were impressed with how much equipment we collected and asked us to repeat the program. Both the Sacred Earth committee and members of the youth group are interested in doing just that.



An Energy-Saving Tip from the Sacred Earth Committee:

Watt Works, a neighborhood environmentally-friendly Energy Savings Store offers free conservation seminars in their showroom to learn how to save money by better managing energy consumption. To learn more information about weekly topics or store hours, call 614.458.1162 or visit their Web site at www.wattworks.com.

Coffee For Sale

by Nancy Burba

Please mark your calendar for the first and third Sunday for the sale of coffee at both the 9 AM and 11 AM services. The pricing is as follows:

All Drip Coffee for Home Use

Café Salvador Regular Drip: \$6

Columbian Decaf Drip: \$7

Organic Regular Drip: \$6

Whole Bean for Drip Coffee Makers -

Organic Whole Bean: \$6

Columbian Decaf Whole Bean: \$7

Other Items Now Available

Organic Hot Cocoa: \$5

Organic Earl Grey Tea: \$4

(Tea Grown in India.)

This is a United Church of Christ Coffee Project initiative and your participation is greatly appreciated by the Mission Committee. If you miss the regular sale, you can call Nancy Burba on Wednesdays in the church office at 614.228.1741, ext. 28, and arrange to pick up your coffee on that day. For additional information, contact either Dawn George or Bev Cook.

Blood Drive Update & Thanks: Thanks to all who helped Sunday and the weeks prior to the blood drive. In spite of having few people signed up in advance, we were able to collect 24 units of blood! (Our goal was set at 25). Submitted by Nancy Loy

An Invitation To Make A Difference: Rev. Ahrens recently wrote an inspirational poem about the impact teachers and tutors have in the life of a child. Please consider making a difference in the life of a child by tutoring this fall. To learn more, talk to members who currently tutor and know the value of individual support and attention to a learner. Three church members tutored at Siebert Elementary this past year - Peggy Alexander, Joyce Campbell and Anne Hudson. Ruth Allred assisted an adult who began with the Columbus Literacy Council and I tutored kindergarteners at Fairwood Elementary. Men tutors are an additional support to children who have no adult males who care about them. So ask us about our experiences and plan to tutor in the fall. You will bless and be blessed.

Submitted by Dawn George

News & Announcements

First Congregational Church Men's Softball Team still needs more players to make this the greatest team in the Columbus Church League! The first game against Karl Road Baptist Church was a blowout ending with a score of First Church 16 -7. If you would like to play, check out the schedule of remaining games. All games are played at Whetstone Park, 3923 N. High St.

First Church's Game Schedule:

June 2: 7:15 p.m. (Whetstone - field #1) - vs. Overbrook

June 9: 6:15 p.m. (Whetstone - field #1) - vs. Summit United Methodist

June 16: 7:15 p.m. (Whetstone - field #1) - vs. Overbrook

June 23: 6:15 p.m. (Whetstone - field #1) - vs. Clinton Heights

June 30: 6:15 p.m. (Whetstone - field #1) - vs. Summit United Methodist

Summer Grounds Volunteers: First Church is currently recruiting volunteers who would be interested in planting and caring for First Church gardens and property throughout the summer. Please consider helping us maintain a warm and welcoming look. If interested, please contact 614.228.1741, ext 25, or sparron@first-church.org.

Pledge Statements: If you did not receive your first quarter pledge statements through the mail, they are in the church mailboxes.

Multi-Media Event: *The Heart of the Cosmos: Humanity and the New Story* with Brian Swimme, PhD, as the next Spiritual Searcher event at First Community Church, Sat., June 14, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. The multimedia presentations are at First Community Church's North Campus, 3771 Dublin Rd. For more information and registration go to www.fcchurch.com/featured_searchers, or call Mary Ellen Hett at 614.488.0681, ext. 226.

First Church Room Scheduling: If you are considering scheduling a room for a church meeting or event, please contact Sharon Leidheiser at 614.228.1741, ext. 11, or shar@first-church.org.

Directory Update: If your address, email or phone number has changed, please contact the church office at 614.228.1741 or home@first-church.org.

~ REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES ~
WITH A DEDICATION OF FLOWERS
Contact Marty Worth at 614.228.1741, ext. 12,
marty@first-church.org

Member Happy Birthdays

6/1:	Joe Daniels	6/13:	Alexandra Cole
6/1:	Courtney Harris	6/13:	Madeline Aeschbury
6/1:	Jenelle Swain	6/15:	Walter Kropp
6/2:	JoAnn Brown	6/16:	Hannah Crevling-Reed
6/3:	Paul Swinger	6/17:	Michael Ponzani
6/4:	Bill Wright	6/17:	Missy Zimmerman
6/5:	Marion Guynn	6/18:	Lukas Irons
6/5:	Amber Lane	6/21:	Jennifer Middendorf
6/6:	Patty Pohlman	6/22:	Nancy Fields
6/6:	Brittney Dean	6/22:	Jason McCann
6/7:	Barbara Heer	6/24:	Janice Kutschbach
6/7:	Lynn Miller	6/25:	Frederick Reichel
6/7:	Alton Fennell	6/25:	Lynne Keely
6/7:	Marilee Schneider	6/26:	Eric Boyd
6/8:	Beth Hunker	6/26:	Lauren Holt
6/8:	Peggy Sibila Buck	6/28:	Wanda Ray
6/8:	Elaine Stewart	6/29:	Kathy White
6/8:	Jeff Lowy	6/29:	Chris Mondiek
6/10:	Pat Patterson		
6/10:	Rick Bennett		
6/11:	Ralph Hughes		
6/11:	Jan Wade		
6/12:	Leonard Nienaber		
6/13:	Justin Cole		



Member Happy Anniversaries

6/2:	Ashley & Eric Messick	6/20:	Elizabeth & Hugh Allen
6/4:	Megan & James Daniels	6/20:	Linda & John Hartranft
6/5:	Kay & Jack Davis	6/21:	Martha & Dale Leidheiser
6/5:	Carol & Marc Lowy	6/21:	Sue & Frank Cook
6/7:	Janet & Dan Axt	6/22:	Gail & Bill Johannes
6/7:	Kaye & John Martin	6/23:	Kosby & Kevin Carrico
6/8:	Judy Smith & Ben Bechtel	6/23:	Lynne & Brad Keely
6/9:	Mary & Charles Weaver	6/24:	Mary & Joe DeVennish
6/10:	Joyce & Harry Cambell	6/24:	Monique & Dennis Penfield
6/12:	Melody & Paul Leidheiser	6/24:	Amy & Kevin Cutler
6/13:	Nancy Russell & Carl Miller	6/26:	Christina & Chad Baker
6/14:	Gayle & Mike Henderson	6/26:	Virginia & James O'Neill
6/14:	Shannon & Chris Washington	6/27:	Carol & Alex Rodriguez
6/14:	Nancy & Bernard Bouman	6/28:	Nancy & Robert Hadley
6/15:	Carol & Frank Hussey	6/29:	Pam Kallner & Russ Kelm
6/15:	Dale Ann & Gary Gray	6/29:	Jane & Stanford Ackley
6/15:	Julie & Matt Myers	6/30:	Sarah & Gunter Garbe
6/16:	Debra & Fred Hadley	6/30:	Maggie & Jonathan Leidheiser
6/16:	Denise & Geoffrey Wade		
6/16:	Joan & Keene Lepold		
6/16:	Mary & Jason Bishop		
6/17:	Celeste Feather & Peter Murray		
6/18:	Val & Phil Stichter		
6/19:	Kelley Gilbert & Carl Gelfius		
6/19:	Ann & John Aeschbury		

Happy (late) Anniversary to Linda & Ralph Mumford.
Their anniversary was May 19.

OOPS!

If we've forgotten to list your birthday or anniversary in the newsletter, please let us know by contacting the church office at 614.228.1741, ext. 16, or by emailing bjenkins@first-church.org.

Church Calendar & Prayers

Sunday, May 25

9 am: Treble Choir - Choir Rm
9 am: Early Worship Service - PH
11 am: Worship Service - San
12 noon: Fellowship Hour - PH

Monday, May 26 (*Memorial Day - Office & Building Closed*)

Tuesday, May 27

12 noon: First Church Care Ministry Team - PR
7 pm: Deacons Meeting - PR
7pm: Personnel Comm - LC

Wednesday, May 28

9 am: Staff Meeting - LC

Thursday, May 29

7:30 pm: First Church Choir - Choir Rm

Sunday, June 1 (*Recognition of Graduates*)

10 am: Worship Service - San (*Stephen Ministers Join*)
11 am: Fellowship Hour - PH
11:30 am: First Church Picnic - Goodale Park
12:15 pm: Parish Life - PR

Monday, June 2

6:30 pm: Seder Dinner Bible Study Group - PH
7:15 pm: First Church Softball - Whetstone Park

Tuesday, June 3

12 noon: First Church Care Ministry Team - PR
6:30 pm: Children's Ed. - Ed Wg Rm C
7 pm: Exec. Comm - PFR
7 pm: Evangelism & Church Growth - PR

Wednesday, June 4

Set-up for Arts Festival - All Day

9 am: Staff Meeting - LC

11 am: Book Study Group - PR

7 pm: Sacred Space Women's Book Study - PFR

Thursday, June 5

11 am: Columbus Arts Festival

Friday, June 6

11 am: Columbus Arts Festival

Saturday, June 7

11 am: Columbus Arts Festival

Sunday, June 8

10 am: Early Worship Service - PH
11 am: Fellowship Hour
11 am: Columbus Arts Festival

Monday, June 9

9 am: Good Sam - PH
6:15 pm: First Church Softball - Whetstone Park
7 pm: Youth Ministry Team - Ed Wg Rm D
7 pm: Trustees - PR

Tuesday, June 10

12 noon: First Church Care Ministry Team - PR
7 pm: Mission Comm - PR

Wednesday, June 11

9 am: Staff Meeting - LC

5:30 pm: MMAG(Tisher) - PFR

Saturday, June 14

(*Youth Mission Trip 6-14 through 6-20*)

9 am - noon: Deacon's Peacekeepers Training - PH

Sunday, June 15

10 am: Worship Service - San
11 am: Fellowship Hour - PH
9 pm: Compline

Monday, June 16

7 pm: Budget & Finance - LC
7:15 pm: First Church Softball - Whetstone Park

Tuesday, June 17

12 noon: First Church Care Ministry Team - PR
7 pm: Church Council - LC

Wednesday, June 18

9 am: Staff Meeting - PR

9 am: Newsletter Folding - LC

Saturday, June 21

11:30 am: Building Staff Meeting & Lunch - LC

Sunday, June 22

10 am: Worship Service - San

11 am: Fellowship Hour - PH

2:30 - 5 pm: Young Adult Zoo Trip (*Meet at the Zoo*)



Prayers

First Congregational Church, UCC, holds in prayer all our members, their families and friends.

We pray for those with spoken and unspoken needs within our faith community and around the world.

Prayers Requests: Please let us know of a prayer concern for yourself, a family member or other church member by calling the Rev. Barbara Cunningham at 614.228.1741, ext. 26; by using Prayer Request Cards found in each pew, or by e-mailing bcunningham@first-church.org. We welcome the opportunity to give thanks for your joys and prayers for your concerns.



Good Sam Needs You: Please consider contributing to this valuable mission through your donations, loose offerings or by volunteering. The next Good Sam Day is June 9. There will not be a Good Sam program in May. Contact Marty Worth at 614.228.1741, ext 12.

About the Church

Board of Trustees (Part 2 in the series)

by Phil Stichter, Trustee Chair

The trustees administer those funds given to the church that arise from bequests, trusts, life insurance and other methods of planned giving, including special gifts. These contributions are in addition to the annual stewardship campaign to support the church's annual operating budget. The trustees invest these funds and insure that they are used in accordance with the instructions of the donors.

Typically, the donor's instructions for the use of their gifts fall into three categories.

1. The first category is an **endowment gift**. This means that the donor has specified that the principal of the gift remain intact in perpetuity and that only the income generated by the principal of that gift is to be used. The donor has the option of either identifying specific purposes for which the income can be used (income restricted), or of indicating that the income can be used for any purpose appropriate for the church (income unrestricted). Gifts may be made to existing endowments or the donor may wish to establish a new endowment.

2. The second category is a **restricted gift**, which means that both the principal and income can be used, but only for those purposes articulated by the donor. Those purposes can be identical to purposes specified by other restricted gifts or the purposes may be newly created.

3. The third category is an **unrestricted gift** where, once again, both principal and interest can be used but there is no restriction on the use of the funds. Donors who make gifts without any instructions regarding the use of principal and interest are unrestricted gifts.

Obviously, the use of unrestricted gifts or restricted gifts or the use of income from endowment gifts must be consistent with the purpose of the church as set forth in our church's constitution. It states that, "The purpose of the church is to provide for the worship of God and the spiritual enlightenment and improvement of the people of God; to further Christian fellowship among its members and all people; and to promote, through its services and work, the practice of Christian love and discipleship."

This article is the second in a series of articles about the work of the trustees; the administration, investment, and use of the funds that we manage; and our other activities and responsibilities. We hope this series will be informative and will enhance your interest in making a special gift now or in the future. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you.

Remember:

Summer Worship starts June 1 at 10 am

June Fellowship Hour

June 1: Haggai - Unassigned
June 8: Hosea - Anne Hudson
June 15: Jeremiah - Unassigned
June 22: Kings - Stephanie Koscher
June 29: Samuel - Amy Wagner

June Acolyte Schedule

June 1: Sarah Ahrens & Katie Gies
June 8: Charlie Cook & Carly Kutschbach
June 15: Mikayla Knerr & Ella Kosher
June 22: Emma Welsh-Huggins & Thomas Welsh Huggins
June 29: Sarah Ahrens & Meg Roads

Next Newsletter Deadline

Articles Due: Monday, June 9 by noon

Email bjens@first-church.org

Folding Team: Wed., June 18 at 9 a.m.

Church Staff

Timothy C. Ahrens.....Senior Minister
Barbara R. Cunningham.....Minister for Pastoral Care
Laura A. Tisher.....Minister of Youth & Young Adults
Marti Rideout.....Interim Minister of Music
Mark S. Williams.....Director of Christian Education
Charlie Knerr.....Seminary Intern
Katherine Beckett.....Seminary Intern
Roger Sankey.....Resident In Pastoral Care
G. Dene Barnard.....Organist Choirmaster Emeritus
Sharon Leidheiser.....Business Administrator
Martha Worth.....Program Manager
Stan Parron.....Building Manager
Barb Jenks Triffon.....Communications
Denny Mahoney.....Admin. Assistant to Senior Minister
Kelvin Murphy.....Custodian
Nikki Boop.....Custodian
Bill Wirsching.....Custodian
Chinyere Newsum.....Custodian
Eric Trepkoski.....Custodian
Caroline Sansbury.....Nursery Staff
Elise Faith.....Nursery Staff
Jessica Yaeger.....Nursery Staff
Kelsey Weber.....Nursery Staff
Linda Mumford.....Wedding Coordinator
Jane Leidheiser.....Wedding Coordinator
Fran Panek.....Wedding Coordinator

Church Council

Thomas Stewart.....Moderator
Kay Metz.....Vice-Moderator
Carol Gallagher.....Secretary
David Holt.....Treasurer
Phil Stichter.....Trustee Chair
Randy Hoffman.....Administration Commissioner
Barbara Hunt.....Arts/Music/Heritage Commissioner
Al Waddell.....Church Growth Commissioner
Pam Kallner.....Education Commissioner
Harry Campbell.....House & Grounds Commissioner
Beverly Cook.....Mission Commissioner
Amy Beymer.....Parish Life Commissioner
Craig Oyler.....Deacon
Sandy Bennett.....Deacon
Drew Wade.....Member-at-large
Duan Cannon.....Member-at-large
Stan Lange.....Member-at-large
Bill Lange.....Nominating Chair

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
444 E. Broad St.
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3885

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Columbus Ohio
Permit #586

DATED MATERIAL - VERY IMPORTANT

PLEASE DELIVER: *Saturday, May 24, 2008*

TO:

[Empty dashed box for recipient address]



The First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
444 E. Broad St. Cols., OH 43215
Phone: 614.228.1741
Email: home@first-church.org
Web site: www.first-church.org
Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 am - 3 pm
Closed Major Holidays
“An Open & Affirming Faith Community”

SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS

Beginning Sun., June 1
One Service Only at 10 a.m. ~ Sanctuary
Ending August 31