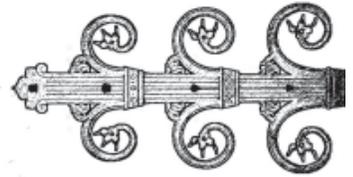


First Church News



First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ • Columbus, Ohio

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“Four Fourteen”

by Reverend Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Minister



One of the underlying principles of life needs to be calling things by their right names. How often have you called something by its wrong name? It can be as simple as calling a club a spade.”

The other day, while sitting with members of the Platt family, I realized I have been calling the property on the northeast corner of Broad St. and Cleveland Ave. by its wrong name. It is not, nor should it be called, “the Byers lot.” It is the William A. Platt Family property, which they refer to as “414 East Broad Street,” or simply “Four Fourteen.”

In 1853, the Platt family began construction on a large brick house at the corner of Broad and Eighth streets (later Cleveland Ave.). In Alfred Lee’s *History of the City of Columbus*, it was described as, “One of the most spacious, sightly, and comfortable residences in Columbus” (1892).

For the next 76 years, the Platts raised their family at 414 East Broad. One of the most frequent visitors through the years was President Rutherford B. Hayes, brother of Fanny Platt. In the winter of 1929 and 1930, the large home was torn down. At that same time our building, “444” was going up.

When we vote August 10, at our congregational meeting whether to purchase the land at Four Fourteen East Broad, I would like us to remember it is NOT at a used car lot, but a parcel of land owned by one of Columbus’ great families. Commercial developers could buy this land and build a tall skyscraper, or we could purchase “414” and return to the words “beautiful, spacious and sightly” as we create a future for our mission and ministry at “414.” It will most certainly be a reflection of the best values, which our congregation and community holds for great spaces.

For me, it is no longer the Byers lot, a place to sell used cars. I now have visions of a family raising children on this land, and of an American president bouncing nieces and nephews on his knee. For me, it is now and will always be “414 East Broad St.”

Personnel Committee on Staffing Issues

by Steve Sterrett, Personnel Committee

The congregation’s nine-member personnel committee has met once or twice monthly since January to consider a full agenda of issues related to the church’s staff. The committee members began the year with a written survey and interviews with church employees and key lay leaders to determine important staffing issues. A draft report on these staffing issues is being circulated among staff members for comments and will be shared with church council.

The committee also has worked closely with the administration commissioner, church treasurer, senior minister and business administrator to monitor payroll and other staff expenses to keep these within the 2008 budget. In a report to church council on April 30, the committee recommended that the interim title be removed for Mark S. Williams and that he be appointed director of Christian education on a permanent basis.

The committee also recommended that the interim title be removed for the Rev. Barbara Cunningham and that she be appointed minister for pastoral care until her successor can be called, but not to extend beyond Dec. 31, 2009. Over the summer, Barb is

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Thoughts To Ponder

by Reverend Barbara R. Cunningham, Minister for Pastoral Care



A few years ago at the Seattle, Washington Special Olympics, nine contestants, all physically or mentally challenged, assembled at the starting line for the 100-yard dash. At the starting gun, they all began, not exactly in a dash, but with an ambition to run the race to the finish and win. All, that is, except one little boy who stumbled on the asphalt, tumbled over and began to cry. The other eight heard the boy cry. They slowed down and looked back. Then they all turned around and went back, every one of them! One girl bent down and kissed him and said, "This will make it better!" Then all nine linked arms and walked together to the finish line. Everyone in the stadium stood and the cheering went on for several minutes.

We all want to live with dignity and respect. These children were living out the dignity and love for that boy who fell, and teaching us all a lesson without concern what anyone thought. It was their natural instinct to be supportive and to work as a team. Oh how we can learn from children!



My children used to watch *Mister Rogers Neighborhood* and, as their mother, I watched it with them. He left the legacy of respect and dignity and taught lessons while entertaining the children. They felt at home with him as he welcomed them into his life. By his actions he told all of us what dignity means.

We try to intellectualize when we hurt, or when someone we love is hurting, to understand why we made that mistake, or what our bodies are doing to us. We do have the capacity to do that, but what makes a lot of sense to me is stopping the race for a minute, turning around and being a team to go over the finish line – even if we have to walk, not run!

"We all want to live with dignity and respect." First Church is a place of support for many people. We are a team, and we are winning the race, one day at a time. We are not without flaws and mistakes are made. Yet we get up after falling and keep on going. Some may want to criticize and point out how we haven't done this or that in the "right way." But we are a mixture of people with a myriad of ideas and solutions. What a gift we give to others when we turn around, kiss them on the cheek and link arms to finish the race, even when we disagree. I thank God for First Church and all the people in and around it. Perhaps we can see life differently when we open ourselves to more than one side of a story.

You and Me, We're Just Human Beings

by Reverend Laura Tisher, Youth & Young Adult Minister



I recently read one of those books that stays with you and haunts you long after your finish reading it. *The Emptiness of Our Hands: A Lent Lived on the Streets*, by Phyllis Cole-Dai and James Murray, is a collection of journal entries from Lent 1999, when these two middle-class individuals voluntarily chose to spend the 47 days of the Christian season of Lent living on the streets of Columbus, OH. Their reflections are a remarkable look at what it must be like to be homeless in America. The following is an excerpt from the book:

(Downtown) This morning my spirit is fragile, easily wounded. As I walk along Broad Street under a warm sun, resentment surges. One minute I feel like a specimen under a microscope - stared at, mostly from cars. The next minute, being shunned by pedestrians, I feel utterly invisible. Maybe they don't look at me because my appearance disgusts them, or maybe they're afraid I'll beg; maybe they don't want to enter my pain, and one look at me is all it would take. Whatever the reason, they do their best not to see me, while my warped reflection fills their sunglasses:

I'm just a lazy bum. I wanna handout, a free ride. I'm a stupid drunk, a strung-out junkie. I'm violent, I'm schizo, I'm paranoid. I don't care about anybody but me. I'm on the streets 'cause I wanna be. I'm a lost soul ... Maybe I'm many of these things, maybe none at all - what do you really know about me? Maybe my worst flaws and frailties aren't so different from yours. But I'll tell you something. Whatever problems you've got, whatever problems I've got, they're not who we are in our entirety. You and me, we're human beings. It's just that we forget sometimes and need each other's help remembering. (p. 98)

What made this book particularly powerful for me was that I was reading it while on the youth mission trip to Atlanta, GA. Practically every time we left Central Presbyterian Church (where we slept each night) to go to the parking garage and our work sites, we walked past and encountered homeless folks. Each time we saw someone new on the streets, I felt like I was seeing them with new eyes, as the words I had read the night before floated in and out of mind. Maybe we really aren't so different from one another. "You and me, we're just human beings."

Summertime at First Church

CHURCH PICNIC

Annual Church Picnic: August 24

Mark your calendars for this year's Annual Church Picnic on Sun., Aug. 24, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the church lawn. Come and reconnect with individuals from your church membership class and many others. The theme is *Membership Through the Decades* and it will be a day of fun and fellowship filled with music provided by Soul To Soul band, games and food.

Last names beginning with **A to M**: Bring a side dish.

Last names beginning with **N to Z**: Bring a desert.

All: Please bring a cake (if you can) to share for the Cake Walk

Summer Sermon Titles & Cross-Cultural Focus

During the summer, First Church honors the world church by highlighting a different culture each week in worship. Please join us.

July Sermons

July 20: Rev. Tisher Preaching (Recognizing Africa)

July 27: Rev. Cunningham Preaching (Recognizing the Philippines)

August Sermons

Aug. 3: Rev. Tisher preaching

Aug. 10: Rev. Ahrens Preaching - *Reach Out and Grab Hold* (Recognizing China)

Aug. 17: Rev. Ahrens Preaching - *Forgiven & Reconciled* (Recognizing the Middle East)

Aug. 24: Rev. Ahrens Preaching - *Basket Case* (Recognizing Appalachia)

Aug. 31: Rev. Ahrens Preaching - *Where Will You Stand?* (Recognizing Russia)

Summer Sunday Worship Picnics: On Sun., Aug. 3, First Church will host its last after-church picnic at Goodale Park. Meet at the play structure at 11:30 a.m. and bring a chair, blanket and a side dish to share. Plan on attending.

Letting Kids Succeed

by John Matchett, Church Liaison to LKS

For three years now, the Letting Kids Succeed (LKS) program has been an important part of our summer ministry here at First Church. On one of my recent visits to the camp, Linda Slocum, LKS director, was wearing a tee shirt that said, "This is what a blessed woman looks like." My first thoughts was, "You would need to be a blessed woman to take care of 135 kids everyday from 7 a.m. until 6 p.m."

Linda and her staff really enjoy their work each day and want everyone to know that they truly feel blessed to be back at First Church. In addition to many learning activities and field trips going on each week, a special Family Night program took place on July 11. The Grand Finale event will highlight many of "best" parts of camp on the evening of Aug. 7. Both of these events bring together parents, friends and children in celebrations that are always well attended. The camp officially ends on Aug. 15. If you happen to be at church during the week, feel free to stop in and see the great things going on, and you will see once again "what a blessed church looks like."

Good Samaritan Report

by Marty Worth, Program Manager
& Good Sam Director



Welcome Donation: As a result of the *Columbus Dispatch* article about the women preaching at First Church, a friend of Rev. Barbara Cunningham called her. After their conversation, the Downtown Kiwanis Club, of which her friend is a member, made a \$500 contribution to the Good Samaritan Fund of First Church. We are grateful for the donation, as the requests for help have increased dramatically in the past few months. These additional funds will allow us to help more of those who are so desperately in need.

Requests For Money During Sunday Worship: The faith community of First Congregational Church, UCC, delights in welcoming people from all walks of life to join us in worship. Sharing the love and doing the work of Christ nourishes all who participate. We have recently witnessed an increasing number of requests for money from individuals joining us for Sunday worship services. This practice is not a viable solution for those in need. If you feel compelled to share monetary resources, we ask that you consider giving to First Church's Good Samaritan assistance program. This established program addresses immediate and long-term needs as it offers assistance with food, utilities, transportation and, on occasion, living expenses. Please consider contributing to this important First Church mission, where your money will be wisely used.

Information To Give: If you are approached for help on Sundays, there are brochures (orange in color) in the office, which feature local resources for those in need. There are also business cards including the church's phone number to call during business hours. Please do not give people cash as it only complicates matters as word gets out that First Church gives cash. I am available to talk to people during the week, assess their situation and help as appropriate.

New At The Library

by John Martin



We have a couple new books at our library. One of the lighter moments of this primary season came when a reporter asked what Jesus would do in a certain situation. One astute politician, ever evasive, answered that he'd be too smart to run for president.

1. Well, last year Todd Lindberg took up this question in his book, *The Political Teachings of Jesus*. He presents a very coherent discussion of the Sermon on the Mount and the Golden Rule, but he encounters some problems in this post 9-11 world when he comes to the teaching about turning the other cheek. Politicians and all others should learn from this book.

2. Another timely addition to the library is *When the Press Fails*. The book shows how the old watchdog press has become the lap dog of its commercial sponsors and sources of news leaks. It is worth your time and concern.

New Members Class

If you are interested in joining First Church, the next class is scheduled to start on Sun., Aug. 10, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The class will meet for breakfast and conversation before attending the 10 a.m. worship service as a group. A light lunch will also be provided.

To register, fill out the attendance pad indicating the membership category, sign up in the church office or email Denny Mahoney at dmahoney@first-church.org. Childcare will be provided - but let us know in advance. The class will join on Aug. 24, during the 10 a.m. service and celebrate afterwards at the annual church picnic.



Spiritual Pilgrimage Planned

In June 2009, Rev. Ahrens is planning to lead a trip of 15 - 20 pilgrims to Iona, Scotland. The Iona Community is a Christian ecumenical community working for peace and social justice, rebuilding of community and the renewal of worship. Participants are expected to live in the faith community on the island for one week but fun and informative trips off island will be added to this 12-day pilgrimage. During upcoming weeks a complete itinerary and more information will be made available. If you have questions, contact Denny Mahoney at 614.228.1741, ext.17 or dmahoney@first-church.org.

Congregational Meeting

Tom Stewart, moderator of church council, is calling a congregational meeting on Sun., Aug.10, at 11 a.m. to vote on a plan to move forward on acquiring the Platt family property at 414 E. Broad St. and initiating a capital campaign. Please plan to attend. Tom will be available for discussion during the coffee hours on July 27 & Aug. 3.

Recent Celebration Gifts

by Bill Johannes and Jane Werum

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

Erich and Mary Hunker
Douglas and Donna Bateman
Sally H. Hoffman
Martha Marcom
Elaine M. Altmaier
Joanne K. Morse
George and Martha McClure
Patricia T. Howland
Patti and Jon Amy
Dorothy and Michael Waller
Sheldon and Rebecca Taft



Given to the Concert Fund in celebration of the life of *Louise Smith* by:

Marianne Minister Interiors

Given to the First Church Endowment in celebration of the life of *William Heer* by:

Sally H. Hoffman
Barbara H. Reed

Given to the Remembrance Fund in celebration of the life of *Amy Allen* by:

John and Suzanne Herner
Anonymous

Given to the *Dorinda K. White Endowment Fund* by:
Ellen Boriin

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



The Music of First Church

by Marti Rideout, Interim Minister of Music

Summer Choir: Come and sing with the summer choir on Sun., July 20. Rehearsal is at 9 a.m. in the choir room on the second floor. If you enjoy singing, can carry a tune, match pitch and would like to be part of the choir on that Sunday, come to the church by 9 a.m. The last opportunity for the summer choir is Aug. 10. If you have questions, contact Marti Rideout at 614.228.1741, ext. 14, or mr Rideout@first-church.org.

Compline: The men of First Church Choir will sing the ancient monastic service of Compline on Sun., July 20, at 9 p.m. End your day and begin your week in a brief time of peace and beauty in a candlelight setting by listening to the men sing psalms and prayers in unaccompanied plainsong chant. The next service of Compline will be sung on Aug. 17, at 9 p.m., by the women of First Church Choir.

Organ Demonstration: Marti Rideout will give an organ demonstration on the Beckerath Organ in the Gallery on Sun., July 20, following the service. **Everyone** is welcome to gather around the organ console and discover the sounds of this superb instrument.

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-Broad Street Presbyterian*

Dec. 21.....*Christmas Lessons and Carols*

Feb. 22.....*Handbells Columbus*

(Featuring 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!



Music Minister Search Is Under Way

by Neal Brower, Committee Chair

The minister of music search committee has begun its work and is seeking the congregation's input. A survey will be released in late July, both in electronic and paper forms, and the results will be used to generate criteria for evaluating candidates. The search committee values your opinions and urges every First Church household to share your thoughts with us.

Our church's last search for a minister of music took 10 months and we don't expect this one to be any quicker. The timeline includes posting and promotion of the position early this fall and the first-round consideration of candidates in November and December. We plan to invite the top three applicants back in February and March to interview and audition. With the committee's recommendation, the church council and senior minister will extend an offer to the top candidate before the end of April 2009, and will welcome our new minister of music by the end of the summer.

We're extremely grateful to Marti Rideout for her talented and generous leadership of the program during this transition.

Members of the committee include; myself; Andrew Batchelor; Jean Byerly; Nell Cole; John Deliman; Ben Faith; Jim Gallagher; Sarah Garbe; Kelley Gilbert; Frank Hussey; Charlie Knerr; Bob Kutschbach; Tom Stewart; Sharon Walquist and Dan Ward. Rev. Tim Ahrens and Tom Stewart are ex-officio members.

Staffing Issues *(continued from front cover)*

meeting with church members to determine more clearly what the needs of the congregation are for pastoral care and how well the staff and laity are meeting those needs. Her evaluation of pastoral care needs can help inform the job description for her position with the hope that the budget will permit a search for her successor to begin in early 2009. The committee is currently evaluating the process for the annual performance review of all staff and hopes to have the process in place by early this fall.

Serving on the committee are Peggy Alexander, Neal Brower, Sue Cook, Carrie Smith Keller, Nancy Loy, Steve Sterrett, Elaine Stewart, Scott Warrick and Mary Weaver. Randy Hoffman, administration commissioner, is an ex-officio member, and the Rev. Tim Ahrens is the staff liaison.

Christian Education

Notes From Christian Education

by Mark S. Williams, Director of Christian Education



EXCITING NEW FALL PROGRAMMING

Committees and staff have been busy planning for the next program year and are proud to offer an informative and fun lineup of programs. You will **"GLOW"** with excitement as the details unfold!

Mark Your Calendars for Monday Night Lights: It's time to pull out your calendars and mark off the first Monday of each month (except December) for a great night of programming at First Church. There will be many opportunities for all ages. The program begins at 7 p.m. with a short worship service and then breaks out to different interest and program offerings. Offerings will include a movie series, discussion groups and presentations. A mini-vacation Bible school will be available for the children and child care will be provided for infants and toddlers. More details will be posted on the church Web site and in next month's newsletter.

Children's Book Return

All children's books from the First Church Children's Library need to be returned by July 26. This needs to be done prior to the renovation in August.

Monday Night Lights

A monthly gathering for enlightenment and fellowship.

Dates to Remember

- September 8, 7 p.m.
- October 6, 7 p.m.
- November 3, 7 p.m.
- January 5, 7 p.m.
- February 2, 7 p.m.
- March 2, 7 p.m.
- April 6, 7 p.m.

Schedule

- 7 - 7:15 p.m. - Brief Worship
- 7:15 - 7:30 p.m. - Fellowship
- 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. - Programming Options

Clip and put on your refrigerator door.



Sunday School Teacher/Helper Opportunities

The Christian education department will be hosting the Sunday school teacher training on Sun., Aug. 17, starting at 8 a.m. for pre-school through high-school age classrooms. The training will begin with breakfast and quickly move into the many wonderful activities and curriculum we have planned for this year. Our teachers will break for the 10 a.m. service and then continue with lunch and curriculum training after the service ending at 2:30 p.m. Please contact Mark S. Williams if you are planning to attend.

Our teachers are encouraged to teach only two quarters, giving them the opportunity to attend adult education classes for at least one quarter. The quarters usually run approximately 12 Sundays and there are always two teachers in each classroom.

Maybe you can only commit to one quarter or be on the substitute list. Any way that you can help will be great!

Please pray for those teachers who will be sharing their talents with our students and ask God how **YOU** can help in teaching, substituting or assisting in the classroom this year. This is such a wonderful opportunity to watch and be a part of the growth of our church's children.

GLOW SUNDAY:

The kick-off for Christian education programming begins on Glow Sunday on Sept. 7. GLOW (God Lights Our Way) is the theme for this year's education programs.

This theme is based on Psalm 119:105, *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.*

Be sure to be "enlightened" on all the great programming opportunities being offered for all ages.



Youth & Young Adult Ministry

"Membership Through the Decades" Picnic

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



The parish life and church growth-evangelism committees have been working hard to plan and present this year's annual church picnic on Aug. 24, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The theme is *Membership Through the Decades*.

This year's picnic will be a grand celebration honoring our members. Whether you have been at First Church for a long or short time, we invite and welcome you to come together and celebrate the life of our church.

Young Adult Dinner Group: First Church young adults will gather for dinner on Sat., Aug. 2, 6:30 p.m. at the Cheesecake Factory at Easton (3975 Townsfair Way). Please RSVP to Rev. Lori by July 31. Contact Rev. Lori if childcare is needed or if you want to carpool.

Ohio State Fair: First Church young adults will be going to the Ohio State Fair on Sun., Aug. 3. Meet in the First Church parking lot at 2:30 p.m. Please RSVP to Rev. Lori by Aug. 1.

Welcome Back Party for Neighborhood Students

First Church will provide a party in the church parking lot for CCAD students and other students in the neighborhood on Sat., Aug. 23 and Sun., Aug. 24, from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Hot dogs, chips and other snacks will be provided. If you are interested in helping with this event, contact Rev. Lori.

Confirmation Class Scheduled: The 2008 - 2009 confirmation class will begin meeting in September for youth, age 14 or older. Classes are held on Sunday after the 11 a.m. worship. The new confirmands will be welcomed into the church on Sun., May 17, 2009.

Youth Online Survey: First Church middle and high school youth can help plan activities for the upcoming year. Vote on your favorite activities...

Middle School Survey for those entering 6-8 grade:
<http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB228259P25ZS>

High School Survey for those entering 9-12 grade:
<http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB22825N62D>

Survey closes July 31. Make your voice known.

**For information or for registration
Contact Rev. Lori at 614.228.1741, ext 21
or ltisher@first-church.org.**

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 meets 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:

Meeting Dates

Friday, August 8
Friday, September 12
Friday, October 10
Friday, November 7
Friday, December 12

If you are interested in participating, contact Catherine Kennedy at cskennedy1981@yahoo.com or 614.578.6762. We look forward to hearing from you!

Congratulations Confirmands

Congratulations to the following two First Church confirmands, who were not featured in last month's newsletter.

Ben Faith: Ben has many interests including piano, guitar, tennis and the YMCA. His concern for church activities is clearly shown by his participation on the search committee for a new minister of music, in the youth group, at Temple Hills Outpost Camp and the mission trip to Atlanta. Ben shows every sign of a youth committed to the work of First Church and confirmation vows.

*Parents: Barbara Poppe & William Faith
Mentor: Carl Miller*

Taimur Chaudhri: Taimur is 14 years old and will be starting St. Charles Preparatory School this fall. Taimur's interests are many and include music, travel, learning about other countries/cultures, sports, reading, trying new kinds of food and hanging out with friends. Taimur is great friends with his grandmother, Connie Johnson, and spends many weekends with her. Taimur loves First Church for its history, location, youth group and the many friends he has made. Through First Church, his immediate and extended family and travels, Taimur has developed a great appreciation for all religions and faith practices.

*Parents: Grace Johnson & Rick Yerkes
Mentor: Dirk Orr*

Missions

Possible Steps for the Green Church Initiative

by Dawn George



The Sacred Earth Committee at First Church is requesting your dedication in helping us green our church and homes. For your reference, the following initiatives have already been launched by clergy, members of the congregation and commissions. Please consider joining us in this commitment to our environment.

1. Senior Minister Makes a Public Statement of Commitment:

On June 22, Rev. Ahrens preached about the imperative of "living in the right relationship with all creation." He made his personal commitment to the initiative and suggested the Web sites of earthcare.ucc.org and churchesgogreen.org for ideas. Other church leaders were asked to follow his lead.

2. Individual Members Make Commitments: The missions bulletin board lists helpful green tips from our members. Ideas vary from giving up red meat to carrying canvas shopping bags. *Hint: If you choose a goal that is beneficial to yourself, you'll be more apt to stay with it.*

3. Commissions Set Goals: Each commission and/or group in the church is encouraged to choose a goal for their group, which will contribute toward First Church being an environmentally responsible congregation. *Example: Sacred Earth and Missions have committed to moving toward the distribution of the newsletter via the Web site rather than through the postal service. (The newsletter will always be available by mail, but members, who are able and would like to read the newsletter online, are encouraged to do so by emailing the church at bjenks@first-church.org.)*

A closing thought from Henry David Thoreau's, *Huckleberries 1861*, "**Nature is doing her best each moment to make us well... Do not resist her.**"



Columbus CROP WALK - Save the Date

Crop Walk organizers have set Oct. 12, for the 30th annual walk for hunger relief. The walk will begin and end in the Riverfront Amphitheater in Genoa Park (next to COSI). The CROP Walk will feature "new and improved" walking routes along the lower Scioto Trail. The CROP Walk Committee wanted to make the walk more kid- and family-friendly, so special activities have been planned for the kids, including face painting, games and pre-walk treats. For more information, visit their blog at <http://Columbuscropwalk.blogspot.com>, or call 614.481.4416.

A Global Mission Event

October 2-5, 2008

Downtown Cleveland Hilton Garden Inn

All friends and members of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) are invited to the fourth biennial Missionworks event which blends global culture, learning and fun for growing mission awareness.

Registration Deadline: AUGUST 29, 2008

For more information, visit www.globalministries.org

Mission Offerings Schedule

In July and August, the undesignated loose offerings will benefit the following missions that First Church supports:

July 20: *Darfur* - The Save Darfur Coalition raises public awareness about the ongoing genocide in Darfur and mobilizes a unified response to the atrocities that threaten the lives of people throughout the Darfur region.

July 27: *Faith Mission* - Provide meals to homeless individuals at the Faith Mission Shelter.

August 3: *Good Samaritan* - First Church offers help for food, utilities, prescriptions and other needs of those who come seeking aid.

August 10: *CWS - China Relief* - Relief for those in China suffering from the recent earthquakes.

August 17: *UCC Global Ministries/Iraq* Assistance for those suffering in Iraq.

August 24: *Neighbors in Need* - UCC commitment to ministries of justice and compassion in the U.S. and Puerto Rico.

August 31: *SARA* - A non-profit organization of the UCC that fosters good health care procedures in several nations with inadequate health services.

Fellowship Hour Beverage Sales



Coffee and tea sales are available on Sun., Aug. 3 and 17 (the first and third Sundays of the month) during fellowship hour. This is a UCC coffee project initiative and your participation is greatly appreciated.

If you miss the regular sale, you can call Nancy Burba on Wednesdays in the First Church office at 614.228.1741, ext. 28. *Submitted by Nancy Burba.*

News & Announcements

News You Can Use >>>

The Columbus Museum of Art: Our neighbor, the Columbus Museum of Art, has several exhibits opening this fall that will offer something for a variety of tastes.

Sept. 26 - *Objects of Wonder from The Ohio State University.* This exhibition includes items from the university's vast collections, ranging from pigeons to paintings, cartoons to costumes. Closes Jan. 18. **Sept. 26 - *Murray Jones: Unfolding Vision.*** Jones was a student at the Art Institute of Chicago, taught at Ohio State and Michigan State universities and was a world traveler. His works stress his proclivity for the spiritual and his willingness to experiment with various art techniques. Through March 18.

UCC Events Planned: The Ohio Conference of the UCC has several events scheduled for the fall where all are welcome. The weekend of Sept. 19 - 21 the *Lantern Fellowship* retreat for adult women will be held at Pilgrim Hills Camp near Brinkhaven, Ohio. UCC women have been gathering for the weekend of quiet inspiration since 1928.

A work day will be held at Pilgrim Hills on Sept. 20, and at nearby Templd Hills on Oct. 4. The day is spent sprucing up both sites and normally is held 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Volunteers are asked to bring tools. Lunch will be provided. For details, visit the conference Web site at www.ocucc.org.

Computer Technician Volunteer Needed!

The First Church business office is looking for a volunteer to help manage its 2003 small business server for the church. This person would help with updates, determine the needs of the server, monitor activity of viruses and malware and work closely with the business administrator. If you have the skills and experience of working with a server and can help the church, we want to hear from you! If interested, please contact Sharon Leidheiser at 614.228.1741, ext. 11, or shar@first-church.org.

First Church Quilters: The First Church quilters met and discussed possible projects for the church and shared tips and ideas. The next meeting is scheduled for Sat., Aug. 9 at 10 a.m. at the church. All stitchers are welcome. Contact: Marilyn Minter at 614.855.7945, mlminter@insight.rr.com, or Gleva Stephens at 614.258.5940, gleva@copper.net.

Washington Gladden Presentation: On Tues., Aug. 26, 10 a.m. - noon. Rev. Ahrens will be delivering a presentation about the life and work of Washington Gladden at the Martin de Porres Center at St. Mary of the Springs, 2320 Airport Dr. To register, call 614.287.5858. The cost is \$15.

Member Happy Birthdays



8/1:	Janet Stoneking	8/18:	Dennis Secor
8/2:	Helen Spears	8/18:	David Coe
8/2:	Wib Smith	8/19:	Karen Sterrett
8/3:	Lourdes Henderson	8/19:	Nicholas Hoffman
8/3:	Melody Leidheiser	8/20:	Mark Jensen
8/4:	Bill Rhoads	8/20:	Amy Trace
8/4:	Dayna McCrary	8/21:	Keene Lebold
8/5:	Deb Anderson	8/21:	Janice White
8/5:	Ellen Boriin	8/21:	Chris Glaros
8/5:	Heather Grunkemeyer	8/22:	Duan Cannon
8/6:	Julie Vish	8/23:	Lissa Wade
8/6:	Denise Vogt	8/23:	Kenneth Tilger
8/6:	Ashlea Norman	8/23:	Matthew Goetz
8/8:	David Loy	8/24:	Charles Drummond
8/9:	Dan Harkins	8/24:	Tom Stewart
8/10:	Alan Daulton	8/25:	Dan Axt
8/10:	Bill Faith	8/25:	Andreas Klein
8/10:	Kevin Ayres	8/25:	Barb Cunningham
8/10:	Alexander Aeschbury	8/26:	Sandra Valinis
8/12:	Lesley Schaab	8/27:	Sue Cook
8/12:	Ardis Holt	8/27:	Sondra Kesler
8/12:	Mary Weaver	8/27:	Dennis Penfield
8/12:	Robert Loevy	8/28:	Russ Kelm
8/13:	Bobby Carrington	8/28:	Jim Velo
8/13:	Valerie Conlin-Losinski	8/28:	Holly Heer
8/14:	Hugh Allen	8/29:	Rebecca Baird
8/14:	Jerome Dailey	8/29:	Phil Schneider
8/15:	Charles Atkinson	8/29:	Dirk Orr
8/15:	Thomas Ellis	8/30:	Grace Johnson
8/15:	Sandy Crooms	8/30:	Andrew Batchelor
		8/31:	Casey Sears

Happy Belated Birthdays to ~

Sarah Moore Trace, June 24

Member Happy Anniversaries

8/1:	Jessica & Scott Coy	8/20:	Karen & Steve Sterrett
8/6:	Betty & James Powell	8/20:	Joanne & Bob Avers
8/6:	Jennifer & Andrew Middendorf	8/21:	Betty & Ralph Hughes
8/7:	Duan & Reggie Cannon	8/21:	Dana & Hugh Schultz
8/8:	Holly & Bill Heer	8/24:	Alice & Wilbert Boden
8/10:	Roberta & George Lucas	8/24:	Joyce & Dan Ward
8/11:	Amy & Dave Nosse	8/25:	Chris & Tom Farquhar
8/17:	Lee Ann & Thomas Hadley	8/27:	Kathy & Bob Hughes
8/17:	Diane & Larry Dixon	8/28:	Shirley & Donald Calhoun
8/18:	Erin & Seth Gray	8/31:	Tammy & David Wharton
8/19:	Anne & Bruce Aldrich		

Happy 40th Anniversary to ~ Julie & Tom Stewart

Happy 50th Anniversary to ~ Carol & Frank Hussey

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

Church Calendar

Sunday, July 20 (Focus on Africa)

9 am: Summer Choir Practice - Choir Rm
10 am: Worship Service - San
11 am: Fellowship Hour - PH
9 pm: Compline - San

Monday, July 21

8 am - 6 pm: LKS - PH & All Educ Rms
7 pm: Budget & Finance - LC
7 pm: Executive & "414" Comm - PR

Tuesday, July 22

8 am - 6 pm: LKS - PH & All Educ Rms
12 noon: First Church Care Ministry Team - PR

Wednesday, July 23

8 am - 6 pm: LKS - PH & All Educ Rms
9 am: Staff Meeting - LC
7 pm: Adult Ed - LC

Thursday, July 24

8 am - 6 pm: LKS - PH & All Educ Rms

Friday, July 25

8 am - 6 pm: LKS - PH & All Educ Rms
6 pm: Faith Mission Men's Shelter Meals

Saturday, July 26

9 am: Faith Mission Lunches

Sunday, July 27 (Focus on Philippines)

10 am: Worship Service - San
11 am: Fellowship Hour - PH

Monday, July 28

8 am - 6 pm: LKS - PH & All Educ Rms

Tuesday, July 29

8 am - 6 pm: LKS - PH & All Educ Rms
12 noon: First Church Care Ministry Team - PR
7 pm: Deacon's Meeting - PR
7 pm: Trustees - PR

Wednesday, July 30

8 am - 6 pm: LKS - PH & All Educ Rms
9 am: Staff Meeting - LC
7 pm: Sacred Space Women's Book Study - PFR
7 pm: Adult Ed - LC

Thursday, July 31

8 am - 6 pm: LKS - PH & All Educ Rms

Friday, August 1

8 am - 6 pm: LKS - PH & All Educ Rms

Sunday, August 3

10 am: Early Worship Service - San
11 am: Fellowship Hour - PH
11:15 am: Parish Life - PR
11:30 am: Church Summer Picnic - Goodale Pk

Monday, August 4

8 am - 6 pm: LKS - PH & All Ed Rms

Tuesday, August 5

8 am - 6 pm: LKS - PH & All Educ Rms
12 noon: First Church Care Ministry Team - PR
6:30 pm: Children's Ed - Ed Wg Rm C
7 pm: Evangelism and Church Growth - PR
7 pm: Executive Comm - PFR

Wednesday, August 6

8 am - 6 pm: LKS - PH & All Ed Rms
9 am: Staff Meeting - LC
7 pm: Sue Monk Kidd Book Study - PFR

Thursday, August 7

8 am - 6 pm: LKS - PH & All Ed Rms
6 pm: LKS Grand Finale - San

Friday, August 8

8 am - 6 pm: LKS - PH & All Ed Rms
3:45 pm: Parents for Other - Ed. Wg Toddler Rm

Sunday, August 10 (Focus on China)

8:30 am: New Members Class - Ed Wg Rm D
9 am: Summer Choir Practice - Choir Rm
10 am: Worship Service - San
11 am: Fellowship Hour - PH
11 am: Congregational Meeting - San

Monday, August 11

8 am - 6 pm: LKS - PH & All Educ Rms
9 am - Good Sam Day - PR & LC
7 pm: Trustees - PR

Tuesday, August 12

8 am - 6 pm: LKS - PH & All Educ Rms
12 noon: First Church Care Ministry Team - PR
7 pm: Mission Comm - PR

Wednesday, August 13

8 am - 6 pm: LKS - PH & All Educ Rms
9 am: Staff Meeting - LC

Thursday, August 14

8 am - 6 pm: LKS - PH & All Educ Rms

Sunday, August 17 (Focus on Middle East)

9 am: Teacher Orientation - Ed Wg Rm C & D
10 am: Worship Service - San
9pm: Compline - San

Monday, August 18

8 am - 6 pm: LKS - PH & All Educ Rms
7 pm: Budget & Finance - LC

Tuesday, August 19

8 am - 6 pm: LKS - PH & All Educ Rms
12 noon: First Church Care Ministry Team - PR
7 pm: Church Council - LC

Wednesday, August 20

8 am - 6 pm: LKS - PH & All Ed Rms
9 am: Staff Meeting - PR
9 am: Newsletter Folding Team - LC
7 pm: Adult Ed - LC

Thursday, August 21

8 am - 6 pm: LKS - PH & All Ed Rms

Friday, August 22

8 am - 6 pm: LKS - PH & All Ed Rms

Saturday, August 23

9 am: Faith Mission Family Shelter Lunches
11 am: CCAD Welcome Back Party - Parking Lot

Sunday, August 24 (Focus on Appalachia)

10 am: Worship Service - San (New Members Join)
11 am: Church Picnic - PH & Outside

Monday, August 25

10:15 am: CCAD Convocation - San

Tuesday, August 26

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

Wednesday, August 27

9 am: Staff Meeting - LC

Sunday, August 31 (Focus on Russia)

10 am: Worship Service - San
11 am: Fellowship Hour - PH

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.

Prayers

Prayer Request: 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 emailing bcunningham@first-church.org. We welcome the opportunity to give thanks for your joys and prayers for your concerns.

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.

Rev. Ahren's Upcoming Schedule

This summer and fall, Rev. Ahrens will be preaching and teaching at different locations. From Aug. 3 to Aug. 9, he will be at Lakeside, OH. In September, Rev. Ahrens will be preaching at St. Paul Community Baptist Church in Brooklyn, NY. For four days in October, he will be at Yale Divinity School in New Haven, CT, where he will receive the school's William Sloane Coffin Peace and Justice Award.



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

August Fellowship Hour

August 3: Romans - Helen Spears
August 10: Ruth - Unassigned
August 17: Samuel - Amy Wagner
August 24: Zechariah - Nancy Loy
August 31: Acts - Joanne Avers

July & August Acolyte Schedule

July 20: Mikayla Knerr & Jacob Kesler
July 27: Anna Rhoads & Meg Rhoads
August 3: Cameron Wade & Michael Warrick
August 10: Allison Lange & Ella Koscher
August 17: Charlie Roach & Taimur Chaudhri
August 24: Reel Chaudhri & Katie Wagner
August 31: Thomas Welsh-Huggins & Meg Rhoads

Next Newsletter Deadline

Articles Due: Monday, August 11, by noon
Email: bjenks@first-church.org
Folding Team: Wed., August 20 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
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
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
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
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Columbus, Ohio 43215-3885

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DATED MATERIAL - VERY IMPORTANT
PLEASE DELIVER: *Saturday, July 19, 2008*

TO:



The First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
444 E. Broad St. Col., OH 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”

SUMMER SUNDAY WORSHIP HOURS

One Sunday Service at 10 a.m. ~ Sanctuary
Fall Worship Hours Resume September 7