



Sabbatical Coverage Support

By Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

First Congregational Church welcomes Marti Baumer and Nancy Livingston as Acting Assistant Ministers into the shared ministry with the staff for July 1 through September 30th. We introduced them to you last month and we wanted to share more of their biographies with you. We are delighted that they will assist the staff and the church leadership through these summer months.

Both clergy have a caring spirit and keen awareness of the needs of the church. Both will assist with worship leadership, including preaching once this summer. They will also assist with Pastoral Care, home and hospital visitation and pastoral emergencies. In emergencies, please call (614) 505-7998. Please take a moment to greet them.



Rev. Dr. Marti Baumer



Marti is an Ordained Minister of the United Church of Christ who retired from teaching at Eden Seminary in St. Louis. Prior to her position at Eden, she had served as the minister of the Congregational Church, UCC, of Amery, Wisconsin, as the organizing minister of the United Church of Santa Fe, as the Conference Minister of Illinois South Conference, and as minister of Windsor (WI) United Church of Christ. Marti is a native of Ohio who grew up in Wisconsin. She holds degrees from Lakeland College, the University of Wyoming, United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, and Eden Theological Seminary. She has served in a variety of positions within the national setting of the UCC and is currently participating in the revision of recommended policies and procedures relating to the authorization of UCC ministers. She is also an adjunct instructor at the Methodist Theological School of Ohio, teaching UCC History & Polity.

During this time, Marti will assist primarily with Nominating and Trustees.

Rev. Dr. Nancy Livingston



Nancy is a retired UCC clergywoman who brings us a variety of ministry experiences. She began ministry in 1962 as an Associate Pastor responsible for Christian Education in a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in southern Illinois. After coming into the UCC in 1976 she served two congregations as Interim Minister before accepting a call to St. John UCC, Wood River, IL, where she served as pastor for 24 years. Since her retirement in 2003, she has been a short-term Acting Associate Conference Minister (Illinois South Conference), an Acting Professor of Contextual Education during a sabbatical (Eden Theological Seminary), the administrator of the LIFE program (Lay Institute for Faith Exploration) for the Illinois South and Missouri Mid-South Conferences, and a supply pastor. Nancy was active in the Illinois South Conference, serving two terms as Chair of the Conference Council and one term as Moderator of the Conference, as well as chairing a variety of other committees, including the most recent Conference Minister Search Committee.

During this time, Nancy will assist primarily with congregational care ministry, stewardship and church growth.

Summer Preaching Schedule

July 5	The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine
July 12	The Rev. Dr. Marti Baumer
July 19	The Rev. Jess Jackson, Disciples of Christ, Minister at East 6th Street Christian Church, Oklahoma City
July 26	Joyce Oyler, student at Methodist Theological School in Ohio
August 2	The Rev. Sarah Reed
August 9	The Rev. Deana Armstrong
August 16	The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine
August 23	The Rev. Dan Clark
August 30	Heather Giffen, Candidate for Ministry in the United Church of Christ
September 6	The Rev. Dr. Nancy Livingston

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Two Year Study of the Bible Taking on an Interfaith Approach

By Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens

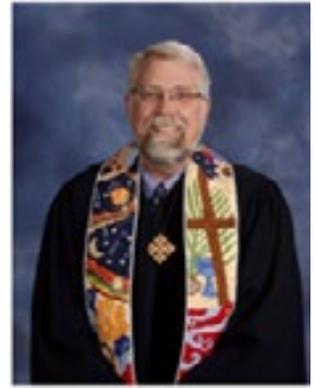
Beginning in mid-October, 2015, I will begin a two-year study of the Bible. I have not offered this class since 2004. In Year One (October 2015-May 2016), we will study the Old Testament or Hebrew Scriptures. In Year Two, October 2016-May 2017, we will study the New Testament or Christian Scriptures.

In the last week, Rabbi Misha Zinko, Senior Rabbi of Temple Israel, has offered to teach by my side as well. I am excited to welcome him and the members of his synagogue as we teach and learn together. The details of this will be worked out this summer. When I know more, you will know more, too.

In addition, Rabbi Zinko and I will lead an interfaith trip to Israel and Palestine and perhaps on to Jordan and other destinations in the Holy Lands in June 2017 following the completion of our study. I would add that you do not have to take the class to go on the trip.

However this amazing journey of study and travel unfolds, I would like for many of us to do this together. 11 years ago, we had over 50 people in the Bible Study Class. I hope we have just as many or more for this study!

Let Amy Wagner (awagner@first-church.org) know if you would like to be in the class. The class will most likely be on Monday nights. Details will follow.



Sabbatical Reflections

By Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens

On July 1, I will begin a sabbatical which ends September 30. During my 15 ½ years as your Senior Minister, I have been blessed with two previous sabbaticals: one in 2004 and one in 2010. Our Personnel Policies and the Call Agreement for Pastors in the United Church of Christ recommend sabbaticals every five years. You have blessed me by honoring this practice. Thank you.

Rev. Emily Corzine is in charge while I am gone. She is ready for this. She will be supported by the entire staff, the entire membership, a host of great guest preachers and half-time Acting Assistant Ministers, The Rev. Dr. Marti Baumer and The Rev. Dr. Nancy Livingston. I hope and pray you come and worship and join with the program life of the church this summer and then return before I do in September to kick-off a great new program year.

As for me I will be exploring Ohio, resting, reading, being with Susan, our new grandchild who is coming into the world in mid-July, and working on the house. We will have some time away planned, but not far away this time. I will also begin two book projects – one on Bill Willis and one on Washington Gladden. This will take me to Williams College in Williamstown, MA, Pennsylvania, Washington DC, and the New York City Area.

Since I am in the central Ohio area for most of the summer, I may see you around. Susan and I will be enjoying EVEN MORE all the great attributes of Central Ohio! But, I will not be stepping foot in the church for three months. I am also not available for weddings, baptisms, funerals or memorial services. I won't be able to make pastoral calls either. I will come back renewed, revived, and reinvigorated for the days and years ahead. With a new long range plan coming together, I guarantee we will be focused on the present and future and move into those times with joy.

May God bless you and keep you while we are apart one from another.

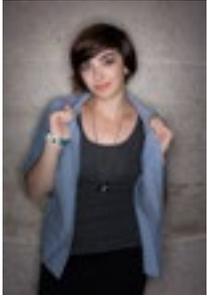
Rev. Dr. Ahrens Co-Chair of Columbus Zoo Levy

Just a note: Dr. Ahrens has accepted the position of co-chair for the 2015 Columbus Zoo Levy. You may see his name in relation to this position included with levy materials.

Education

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

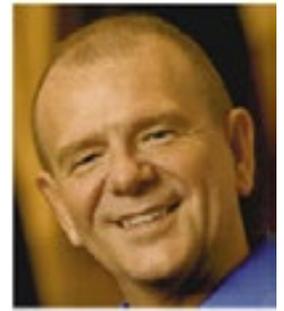
Congratulations Graduates!



Emily Bennett

Emily Bennett graduated from Metro Early College High School. She will be attending Denison University in the fall. Emily is the daughter of Anne and Rick Bennet and granddaughter of Sandy Bennett and Tom and Kathy Brownfield.

Grace Gelpi, daughter of Janet Newcity and Chris Gelpi, graduated from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts high school; Grace will be attending Michigan State University, majoring in Saxophone Performance and Music Education.



Grace Gelpi



Ella Koscher

Ella Koscher graduated from Upper Arlington High School as an International Baccalaureate candidate and served as the Co-Editor-in-Chief for the school's newsmagazine, The Arlingtonian. Ella is attending Barnard College in New York City.

Ministry and Service at Back Bay Mission

The Cross-Generational Mission Trip participants returned from Back Bay Mission with great stories and experiences they want to share with you. Over the next few months, there will be opportunities to hear from them through newsletter articles, presentations and PowerPoint presentations during Fellowship Hour. Below we have included some picture from the week of service. We encourage you to visit the First Church Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/FirstChurchCbus>) to see all the pictures and comments from the week.



From the Minister of Music

By Kevin Jones, Minister of Music

(kjones@first-church.org)



Liturgical Musings – Offertories

What is an Offertory and why do we take a monetary collection during worship? If you've been to worship any time in the past several hundred years, you probably are familiar with the term "Offertory". This is the time in our worship when we take up a collection for our mission offering or for the annual budget. In short, it's a time when we give. There is usually an introduction (the mission invitation), the offering plates are given to the Deacons, there is music of some sort, and then the offering plates with the monies are brought forward to the Communion Table while we sing together an appropriate hymn or song of the church (a Presentation Hymn or Doxology). And then, on non-Communion Sundays, a prayer of dedication is offered. On a Sunday when Communion is celebrated, the elements of communion are brought forward as well. Therein lies the key to what an offertory is – an offering of the best we have, given as a sacrifice to God who has given us all that we are and all that we have. It is a true "thanks-giving".

The Offertory has been part of the Christian communion service from the early days of common celebration. In the earliest Christian times, the offering of bread and wine was given by the laypeople while the priests and monks offered prayers over the bread and wine. The laypeople's role was to sing a Psalm – originally an entire psalm. (Imagine how long THAT service would have been...) Later, that practice was changed to a portion of a psalm, textually appropriate to the particular day. Thus, the offertory became a part of what are called the "minor propers." 'Minor' because they differ from the readings of Scripture during the service, although still scriptural; and 'proper' because they were particular to that day. (Minor propers in the liturgical church repeat on a one-year cycle, contrasting the lectionary, which is a three-year cycle.) We find these minor propers in our Reform worship even today, albeit in parts: Introit (our opening hymn); Gradual (the space between the first and second readings, often an anthem or a motet for us); Alleluia (our Gospel Hymn); Offertory (an anthem for us); and Communion (our communion anthem or communion hymn). And so we see that the ancient roots of liturgy still tie us together and bind us through the centuries.

But, back to the question at hand, why make a ritual out of an offering? Why not just put a basket at the door and ask everyone to make their contribution that way? When an offering is made, we pray to ask God to accept our offering, bringing to bear not just the financial sacrifice, but also a spiritual sacrifice. It's a ritual of humility and thanks. We put ourselves aside for just a moment and put God at the center. We speak to God in prayer and, as St. Augustine said, "The one who sings, prays twice." This, then, is why the Trinity is invoked through the singing of the Doxology. We make our best offering in our humblest fashion.

The next time we place an offering in the offering plates, let us remember to be mindful of why we do what we do in worship, and also be mindful of the countless community of the faithful who have done so before us. Let us match our prayers to their prayers.

Happy Summer!

Concerts 2015-2016

The new Concerts at First Church season is headed your way. The concert brochure will begin to appear around the church, and the Annual Appeal for concerts will likewise appear in your mailbox. (If you're not on the concerts mailing list, please telephone the office and/or email Marty Worth at mworth@first-church.org, to get yourself added to this list.) If you want a preview of the season, please navigate your web browser to the Concerts website, www.concertsatfirstchurch.org. This newly designed website should be fully operational by mid-July at the very latest. Suffice it to say, please save the date for the opening concert on Sunday, September 27, at 4 p.m. when Minister of Music Kevin Jones will present his annual organ recital on the Beckerath organ. Music of Nikolaus Bruhns, J.S. Bach, Jehan Alain and Joseph Jongen will be presented.

Music News

An Invitation to Choral Evensong

A Bon Voyage Choral Evensong will be held on Thursday, July 23, at 7:30 p.m. This will be time when we wish our touring choir farewell as they depart for England the following week. If you haven't yet had the opportunity to experience the liturgy of Choral Evensong with the First Church Choir, please consider this an invitation to attend. What you will see is exactly what the choir will be doing during their Choral Residency at Gloucester Cathedral. Choral Evensong is basically a service of prayer and meditation – think of it as bedtime prayers, in a way – where the choir takes the lead in directing and guiding our prayers. Evensong, in fact, evolved as an Anglican re-ordering of the daily pattern of prayers and worship that had been established by the old Roman monastics. The service itself was written by Thomas Cranmer in 1549, as part of the very first Book of Common Prayer. It's a service of light and meditation that centers around two readings from scripture, usually one Old Testament and one New Testament, and the responses to those readings, traditionally the "Song of Mary" (The Magnificat) and the "Song of Simeon" (The Nunc dimittis). What follows that central part of the liturgy are a series of prayers beginning with The Lord's Prayer. It's not a lengthy service at all – 45 minutes.

There is a beauty in closing your day with prayer. It's part of a ribbon wound around thanksgiving and prayer to God. It can be a spiritual anchor for each one of us. And so we invite you to come, pray, worship and bid our singers and travelers a fond farewell as they undertake their Pilgrimage to Gloucester.

Concerts at First Church
2014-2015

First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
444 East Broad Street † Columbus, Ohio 43215
614.228.1741
concertsatfirstchurch.org

Bon Voyage Choral Evensong

THUR JULY 23 7.30 PM Freewill Offering

THE FIRST CHURCH CHOIR
EASTER 2015

Choral Evensong includes the "Chichester" Preces and Responses by Kevin Jones; "St. Paul's" Canticles by Herbert Howells; and "Evening Hymn" by H. Balfour Gardiner.
The Choir will be accompanied by James E. Bobb, tour organist.

Music News

The Choir's Pilgrimage to Gloucester, UK is Here!!

Submitted by **Bill Lange**, chair of the Gloucester Committee

On July 31, the First Church Choir will leave the country to be the choir-in-residence at Gloucester Cathedral, UK from August 3 through August 9. They will be singing at each of the Cathedral's daily services Monday through Sunday. There will be 51 travelers, including 33 singers. Why is all of this such a big deal, you ask? To paraphrase from previous Parish News articles, these cathedral choirs are professionals who sing up to eight services in a normal week and represent a steeped tradition in British society. First Church Choir was selected by audition to carry on that tradition while the Gloucester Choir is on holiday. Not only will First Church Choir be filling a musical role, they also will be filling an ambassadorial role – representing ourselves, First Church, the city of Columbus, the state of Ohio and the entire country!

A little more than 2½ years ago, the choir voted to embark on this Pilgrimage. Since that time, there has been a flurry of behind-the-scenes preparation, planning and coordination. A Gloucester Committee made up of choir members has been meeting on a monthly basis to work through the trip details such as recruiting travel agents, planning the itinerary, communicating with travelers and the congregation, organizing fundraisers and much more.

The biggest of these undertakings was the fundraisers. We sold hams and candles and even worked a beverage booth at two Columbus Arts Festivals. We sponsored two major “reservation only” events (which would not have been possible without the hospitality and generosity of Al Waddell and Alan Baker). We held a Cabaret Pasta Dinner and silent auction in the Parish Hall that was a sell out! The Choirs sang eight Evensong services over the last two years to help prepare us for the England worship experience.

It has taken tremendous effort by so many to accomplish our financial and artistic goals. There has been unceasing graciousness and generosity in terms of time, talent and treasure. There are so many people to thank who have pulled together and made this dream come true. Thank you, all, for helping this pilgrimage materialize and come to fruition. Through it all, the Choir has grown and discovered its *raison d'être* – its true purpose. They've discovered spirituality in themselves as a choir, they've witnessed it in others who have helped with fundraisers or in those who have attended Evensong and it is felt every Sunday in worship – a place where ministry, mission and singing come together. The voices in the choir are a true gift from God to be used as instruments of peace and to share the Good News here and across the ocean!!

Every day of the trip, we will be blogging so that you all can follow us day by day if you wish. Watch the Parish News and the website for more information on how to access this blog. When we return in the fall, we will organize a slide show presentation so that we can share our experiences and visits with the entire First Church community. Watch the newsletter for more information.



New Members

Christy Carlson

Christy Carlson found First Church online a few years ago and became interested in the music program. She attending service on Easter this past year and found that First Church reminded her of the church in which she she grew up. She stayed because she didn't have to compromise her moral beliefs. She is thrilled to have found us.

Christy is a psychotherapist in Columbus. She is a fan of literature, reading a lot of American and British fiction. She and her husband, Jim, enjoy their rather random back yard flower garden. She is learning the game of hockey which Jim loves. They relocated to Ohio from California three years ago. Christy has started to sing in the choir.



Johaun (Joe) Cheng and Anita Babu, their daughter Amelia Rachel Cheng

Johaun (Joe) and Anita found First Church online and after a lot of research came to find it to be a place of honesty and integrity. Joe grew up in Dayton, attending Westminster Presbyterian Church. Anita grew up in the Episcopal church in India. After finding First Church online, they both have said, "The church really spoke to us." Joe is the Marketing Coordinator for APS Materials, Inc. They have a two-year-old daughter, Amelia, who will be baptized here at First Church later in July. They enjoy cooking and tennis, and anything that Amelia is into.



Lauren and Scott Clark Hamman, their daughter Harper Ana Hamman

Scott and Lauren were married in this church in July of 2012. Scott is a farmer and farms with his family outside of Mt. Sterling, Ohio. Lauren is a physician, who is a graduate of Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine. She began her Residency in Family Medicine at Doctors Hospital last month. They have a four-month-old daughter, Harper. They live in Grove City.



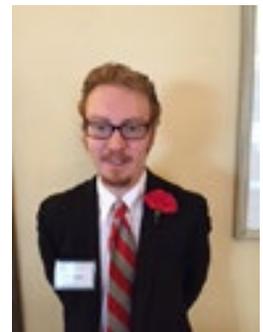
Candia (Candi) Hitchcock

Candia Post Hitchcock knew Rev. Ahrens at North Congregational 20 years ago. She finds her way to join us at First Church. We are delighted she is here. After many years as a hospital/school based psychologist, author and counselor in an urban parochial school, Candi has the opportunity to return to her early goal as a young adult, which is to go to seminary and become ordained. She grew up in the church and has many fascinating stories about justice and service in this country and around the world. She begins her seminary training this fall at Methodist Theological School in Ohio. She loves reading, her two rescue dogs, cooking, travel, music and "garage sailing." She is interested in BREAD's efforts to bring a Clubhouse to the Columbus area.



David Nassau

David Nassau is a recent graduate of Earlham College with a Bachelor of Arts in History. He grew up in an UCC church in Illinois. He lives in Bexley. He loves Cinema, Literature and following the news. He is employed at Kroger.



Church News

Thanks to Our Cookie Bakers!

In response to the request from the Central Southeast Ohio Association for snickerdoodle cookies for General Synod, Bruce and Fran Panek invited members to gather for a baking session on Saturday, June 20. Twelve people participated in this cross-generational hands-on baking activity.

The group baked 750 cookies – 62 and 1/2 dozen, during the 3-hour period! In fact, they were so efficient that they used up all of the ingredients in the first hour and had to replenish their baking supplies. Thanks to all who participated in this group baking effort and to those members who baked cookies at home in support of the General Synod and its attendees.



Book Study Group's Next Book Selection

While Rev. Tim is on sabbatical, Rev. Mary Kay Beall Carter has offered to lead the Book Study Group. The book selected for study in July and August is "Teaching a Stone to Talk" by Annie Dillard. A collection of 14 personal essays on themes of spirituality, exploration and discovery, this memorable book helps us to explore the natural world through the light of a spiritual lens. Books are available in the church office for \$12. The group will continue to meet throughout the summer on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. If you are not currently a member of the Book Study Group, please let the office know if you would like to attend.

Arlene Reynolds Receives Alumni Award for Community Service

While celebrating with her family and classmates at her 70th reunion from Northfield Mount Hermon in June, member Arlene Reynolds received an Alumni Award for Community Service for 30 years of coordinating Bethlehem on Broad Street, Habitat for Humanity, Church Women United, World Service's Refugee Resettlement, and her advocacy work in Diversity and Social Justice. Arlene donated the \$500 award money to the newly formed Endowment Fund for the Diversity and Social Justice at the prep school.

Mark your calendar for the Bethlehem on Broad Street Planning Meeting on Monday, July 25 at 10 a.m. in the Large Conference Room - kicking off BOB's 30th year!



Ruth Allred Visits Congregational Care Ministry

On June 2, the Congregational Care Ministry hosted a potluck luncheon for member Ruth Allred, who was visiting Columbus from Kyle, Texas, where she now lives.

Ruth, her daughter, and her grandchildren Ben and Jensen enjoyed a variety of delicious dishes which the Care Ministry members provided.

Update on Earnings at Clippers Games Concessions

As of June 12, the volunteers who have diligently worked at the concession stand at the Columbus Clippers games have made a total of \$3,483.54 in earnings!



Church Council News

Church Council

by Elaine Warren, Moderator

Every month, except July, Church Council meets to conduct the business of the church. Members of Council are the Moderator, Moderator Elect, Senior Deacon and Deacon Representative, Chair of Trustees, Secretary (and Elect), Treasurer (and Elect) plus Commissioners and their Elects (Administration, Church Growth, Education, House & Grounds, Justice and Mercy, Music, Arts & Heritage, and Church Vitality). In addition, there are two At Large members, one adult and one youth. The immediate past moderator serves as nominations committee chair, and the ordained ministers serve ex officio. If all are present, there are 28 church leaders gathered together. Moreover, anyone who wants to attend Council meetings may do so, although only council members may vote.

The monthly Council meetings provide a wonderful opportunity to keep abreast of all the activities of the church. Since each board member and commissioner reports to Council, everyone present has some knowledge of what is happening in every area of the church's life and come to know each other, as well, and the part each plays in the life of the church.

Highlights of May Council

- Met for a half hour with representatives from the Long Range Plan Committee.
- Ad hoc committee formed to look into the refinancing of the West Lot (David Holt, Tom Worley, Russ Kelm, Sheldon Taft, Melody Leidheiser, and Executive Committee members, Elaine Warren, Brian Cave, Joe Baszynski, Cindy Conn, and Frank Cook. The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens is an ex officio member.
- Approved Major Projects grants for Living Faith Awards and a new amplifier for the Parish Hall sound system.
- Program Manager position changed from nonexempt to exempt status to acknowledge the duties and responsibilities attendant to that position.
- Church's eligibility policies for medical and dental benefits changed to conform to the eligibility policies of the UCC Pension Boards.
- Approved \$1,620 from the Alma Keeler Fund for summer camp scholarships.
- Approved \$2,019.50 from the Alma Keeler Fund for Spring Retreat costs for children and youth.
- Approved \$420 from the Dorinda White Fund for the Confirmation Class year-end luncheon.
- Congratulated Scott Jones for being named Teacher of the Year 2015 at OSU.

Highlights of June Council

- Received a report from Rick Sayre about the church archives and the Gladden material housed at the Ohio History Center.
- Fund Raising Ministry Group reported revenue from Clippers concessions at \$3,483 as of May 21. 30 games remain.
- Approved financial support (\$300 from UCC Involvement Fund and \$300 from Major Projects) for our General Synod Delegate, Joyce Oyler.
- Approved a slight raise in custodial pay to be more in line with what other downtown churches pay.
- Approved \$1,200 from the Alma Keeler Fund and \$1,200 from the Dorinda White Fund for the Celebration Sunday Block Party (September 13, 2015).
- Approved money from the Dene Barnard Fund to be used in conjunction with a gift for the restoration of the White Chapel handbells.
- Approved sending a letter to the congregation concerning the BREAD Investment Drive.
- Instructed staff and deacons to establish a fee schedule for small weddings to be presented to Budget and Finance and then to Council for approval.
- Discussed ways to generate income from the use of our parking lots during the Columbus Museum of Art's Grand Opening October 22, 23, 24, and 25.

Council discussed plans for Legacy Sunday on October 4, 2015, at both the May and June meetings. Mark this date on your calendar; it will be a great day! The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens returns on that day from his sabbatical. A luncheon will follow the 11 a.m. worship service.

Our next Council meeting will be August 18, 2015 at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall. The Executive Committee will meet on July 14, 2015, at 7 p.m. and will conduct the business of Council at that time.

First Church Joys and Concerns

CONGRATULATIONS to Thomas and Elsa Santiago on the birth of their daughter, Gabriela, and to Luke and Kirs Ahrens on the birth of their son, Benton Myles! Benton's grandparents are Tim Ahrens and Susan Sitrler.

MEMBERS: Ann Mclsaac; Dr. Will Fernald; Sandy Valinis; Larry Walquist; Jane Carter; Grace Glaros; Keene Lebold; Bernie Martin; Van Barndt; Ray Pendell; Wib Smith; Amos White; and for families and friends who continue to mourn the loss of loved ones.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY: Tom Santiago and family, on the death of his father-in-law, Joe Pizarro; Lynn Kinder, friend of Amy Wagner; Greg, friend of Cindy Conn and Betty Johnson; Rebecca Tumblin, granddaughter of Gleva Stephens; Shirley Graf, sister of Lynn Wallich; Jill Ford, friend of Mark Williams; and Rev. Floyd Starr.

THROUGHOUT THE WORLD: We continue to pray for all those affected by the violence throughout the world, including the members of Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina. We pray for churches around the world who must close their doors because of a shortage of funds or parishioners.

If you have any prayer requests or joys to share, please contact the church office (awagner@first-church.org or 228-1741, ext. 10) or one of the ministers (tahrens@first-church.org or 228-1741, ext. 13 or ecorzine@first-church.org or 228-1741, ext. 21).

Toiletries for Good Samaritan Day

The next Good Samaritan Day is **Monday, July 13**. Last month, due to the generosity of the congregation, we were able to help more people.

Thank you for the contribution of personal hygiene items. They are really appreciated, but our supply is sorely depleted.

We are in need of the following items:

- Men's shampoo and/or body wash.
- Women's shampoo and/or body wash
- Women's deodorant.
- Disposable razors and shaving cream.

A good source for these items in full sizes are Dollar Stores where everything in the store is \$1.00.

Please leave your donations in the bin outside the church office.

Thank you for your continued support of this vital outreach to the community.



Recent Celebration Gifts to First Church By Bill Johannes and Jane Werum

Recent Celebration Gifts to First Church By Bill Johannes and Jane Werum

Given to the Remembrance Fund in celebration of the life of Gunter Garbe by:

Frank and Gwendolyn Mund

Given to the Remembrance Fund in celebration of the life of Chuck Kelley by:

American Advertising Federation and Laurie Loscocco Given to BREAD and the Good Samaritan Fund in celebration of the life of Chuck Kelley by:

Andrew Sterling

Support your favorite ministry by making a gift in honor or remembrance of a loved one by completing the gold Celebration Gift form found in the church pews. And like many who have gone before us, please consider giving a specific amount, a percentage of your estate, or the remainder of your estate to a First Church endowment. For more information, contact Rev. Corzine, your financial advisor, and the Church website at www.first-church.org/EndowmentFunds.aspx

The Endowment Funds of First Church – MUSIC ENDOWMENT FUNDS

by Judy Smith, Trustee

Like many people, the outstanding music program was the first thing that attracted me to First Church. Week after week, we enjoy exceptional music that lifts our spirits, feeds our souls, and transforms our worship experiences. Supporting the endowment funds that are dedicated to the music program helps ensure that this magnificent tradition will continue far into the future.

There are several endowment funds that specifically support different aspects of our music program. For example, the **Jackie Owen Memorial Music Fund** supports music in worship beyond what the church budget can do. Likewise, the **Organ Preservation Endowment Fund** especially focuses on the maintenance and care of the outstanding von Beckerath organ. Exceptional music in worship and magnificent pipe organs are so woven into our DNA at First Church, that it is easy to forget that it really costs money to pay for sheet music and section leaders and instrument repairs. There are several other important music endowment funds, too. The complete list can be found on the church's website at <http://www.first-church.org/ArtandMusic.aspx>. You may use the gold celebration gift form available in the church pews to designate a gift for any of these endowment funds, or you may make a designated gift online. Just go to www.first-church.org/give.aspx.

Another avenue for giving would be to establish your own fund to support a treasured aspect of the church's music program that really speaks to you. This can be a very meaningful way to honor a family member or to remember a loved one who has passed. If you are interested in learning more about establishing a new fund, one of the ministers or a First Church Trustee will be glad to meet with you and your financial advisor as you decide the best way to establish this gift.

The sacred music that we enjoy each week is absolutely essential to the worship experience for most of us. It enhances and challenges the ways that we understand the scriptures and the sermons, and it helps us focus on the messages of love and hope that are vital to our faith. Please consider donating to the music endowment funds to help pass this wonderful legacy on.

MEMORIAL BENCH TO HONOR DOROTHY CROMARTIE

Dorothy Cromartie was a beacon of light for our church. She died at the age of 95 on May 7, 2007. Sacred Earth plans to purchase a bench with a plaque in memory of her to be placed in Weinland Park. A park bench will bring people together in a natural space, a place that Dorothy loved. She was very involved in Weinland Park and the Godman Guild. The cost of this project is \$1,440 and Sacred Earth is exploring all options in raising this money. **A special offering will be held on Sunday, July 5 to raise money for this bench.** If you would like to contribute, please send a check marked "Dorothy Cromartie" to Sharon Leidheiser in the church office.



July Calendar of Church Events

Wednesday, July 1

11 a.m. – Book Study: *“Teaching a Stone to Talk”* – Parlor

Saturday, July 4

4th of July Holiday – Building Closed

Sunday, June 5

9 a.m. – Worship – Parish Hall

11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary

Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall

Monday, July 6

4th of July Holiday – Building Closed

Tuesday, July 7

2 p.m. – Worship Planning – Parish Family Room

Wednesday, July 8

9:30 a.m. – Staff Meeting – Large Conference Room

6 p.m. – Music Committee – Parlor

7 p.m. – Organist/Member Advisory Group – Parlor

Saturday, July 11

10 a.m. – First Church Quilters – Large Conference Room

Sunday, July 12

9 a.m. – Worship – Parish Hall

11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary

Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall

Monday, July 13

9 a.m. – Good Samaritan – Parlor and Large Conference Room

7 p.m. – Trustees Meeting – Large Conference Room

Tuesday, July 14

2 p.m. – Worship Planning – Parish Family Room

7 p.m. – Executive Committee – Parish Family Room

7:30 p.m. – Gloucester Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room/
Sanctuary

Wednesday, July 15

11 a.m. – Book Study: *“Teaching a Stone to Talk”* – Parlor

Thursday, July 16

7:30 p.m. – Gloucester Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room/
Sanctuary

Saturday, July 18

8:30 a.m. – House and Grounds – Parish Family Room

Sunday, July 19

9 a.m. – Worship – Parish Hall

11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary

Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall

Monday, July 20

1 p.m. – Deadline for Newsletter submissions

Tuesday, July 21

2 p.m. – Worship Planning – Parish Family Room

7:30 p.m. – Gloucester Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room/
Sanctuary

Wednesday, July 22

9:30 a.m. – Staff Meeting – Large Conference Room

Thursday, July 23

6:45 p.m. – Gloucester Choir Warm Up – Choir Room

7:30 p.m. – Bon Voyage Choral Evensong – Sanctuary

Friday, July 24

1 p.m. – Cooking for Faith Mission Meal – Kitchen

Saturday, July 25

10 a.m. – Bethlehem on Broad Street Planning Meeting – Large
Conference Room

Sunday, June 26

9 a.m. – Worship – Parish Hall

11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary

Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall

Monday, July 27

7 p.m. – Budget and Finance – Large Conference Room

7 p.m. – Deacons Meeting – Education Wing Room D

7 p.m. – Christian Education Meeting – Mark Williams' home

Tuesday, July 28

2 p.m. – Worship Planning – Parish Family Room

July Fellowship Hour Schedule

July 5 Galatians

July 12 Haggai

July 19 Hosea

July 26 Jeremiah

July Acolyte Schedule

July 5 Chutney Anderson

Eddie Anderson

July 12 Miriam Myers

Samantha Myers

July 19 Erin Murray

Anna Rambo

July 26 Miriam Myers

Samantha Myers

July Offering Schedule

July 5 Community Bench for Dorothy Cromartie

July 12 Camp Scholarships

July 19 CUE

July 26 Montaña de Luz



Member Birthdays in July

7/1 Larry Walquist
Olivia Rodriguez
Ashton Smith
7/2 Samuel Shimeall
Meghan Double
7/3 Laura Hadley
Morghan Smith
Liam Collins
7/4 Cori Rowley
7/5 Nancy Evans
7/6 Janet Newcity
7/7 Kathy Brownfield
7/8 Joyce Campbell
Sandra Geronimo
Mike Rippel
Arstell Washington
7/9 Joan Lebold
7/15 Francille Firebaugh
Kirk Marker
7/16 Steve Brandehoff
Elizabeth Drotleff
Mark Brown
Shelly Gies
Sharon Leidheiser
David Magers
Madeline McWilliams
Twink Starr
7/17 Mary Lightbody
Todd Jacobson
7/18 Michael Hopcraft
7/19 Bev Cook
Betsy Trace
Mariah Watts
7/20 Dale Ann Gray
7/22 Janice Cook
Marilyn Lewis
Eric Chambers
7/23 Jim Kyle
7/24 Linda Gieseke
Hector Gonzalez
7/25 Nancy Braverman
Earl Fritz
Frederick Hunker
Sarah Welsh-Huggins
7/26 Joanne Morse
7/27 Courtenay Gregory
7/28 Steve Sterrett
7/29 Andrea Gonzalez
Jason Bryant
7/30 Fran Panek
Kent Shimeall
David Temple

Member Anniversaries in July

7/1 Larry and Sharon Walquist
Mike and Robyn Petras
7/7 Trisha and Tom Bishop
Lauren and Scott Hamman
Kerry and Rob O'Leary
7/8 Denise and Nate Vogt
7/9 Herb and Mary Ann Goetz
7/11 Alan and Murley Miller
Shelly and Tom Gies
7/12 Cindy and John Deliman
7/13 Julie and Tom Stewart
7/15 Anne and Gerry Hudson
Sarah and Erik Mitchell
7/17 Carol and Jim Gallagher
17 Natalie and Tristan Setty
7/23 Drew and Lissa Wade
7/26 Catherine and Todd Cunningham
7/31 Kelley and Mitchell Dean
Jenny and Lou Flocken



FIRST CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Senior Minister	Timothy C. Ahrens, D. Min. <i>(on Sabbatical)</i>
Associate Minister	Emily Krause Corzine, M. Div.
Acting Assistant Minister	Marti Baumer, D. Min.
Acting Assistant Minister	Nancy Livingston, D. Min.
Minister of Music	Kevin Jones, M. M.
Director of Christian Education	Mark S. Williams, M. Ed.
Commissioned Minister for Social Justice	Tom Brownfield
Commissioned Minister for Spiritual Formation and Direction	Jacquelyn Dean
Nursery Staff	Rosemary Pawandiwa-Priore, Evin Wimberly, Sara Kapp, Simone Ellerson
Organist/Choirmaster Emeritus	G. Dene Barnard

DIACONATE

Senior Deacon	Tom Kiesel
Deacons	Kathryn Bamberger, Sandy Bennett, Kris Brant, Valerie Conlin-Losinski, Sue Cook, Jacquelyn Dean, Alec Dietz, Dean Hafey, Anne Hudson, Paul Leidheiser, Mary Lightbody, Jonathan Miller, Hugh Schultz, Lynn Wallich

CHURCH STAFF

Business Manager	Sharon Leidheiser
Program Manager	Martha Worth
Office Manager	Amy Wagner
Building Manager	Thomas Santiago
Custodian	William Lee
Wedding Coordinators	Janet Axt, Tori Stucke

CHURCH OFFICERS

Moderator	Elaine Warren
Moderator-Elect	Brian Cave
Treasurer	Joe Baszynski
Assistant Treasurer	Cindy Conn
Secretary	Deana Armstrong
Assistant Secretary	Nancy Braverman

COMMISSIONERS

Administration	Kent Shimeall
Administration-Elect	Allison Palmer
Church Growth	Scott Jones
Church Growth-Elect	Kim Hopcraft
Education	Todd Jacobson
Education-Elect	Jennifer Okezie-Watts
House & Grounds	Gary Leidheiser
House & Ground-Elect	Charlie Weaver
Justice & Mercy	Alex Rodriguez
Justice & Mercy-Elect	Tracy Ross
Music, Arts, Heritage	Marti Baumer
Music, Arts, Heritage-Elect	Al Waddell
Church Vitality	Melissa Kulwicki
Church Vitality-Elect	Denise Vogt
Nominating Chair	Frank Cook
Trustees	Francille Firebaugh
Member-at-large	Matt Myers
Youth-at-large	Merry Roach
Senior Deacon	Tom Kiesel
Deacon Council Rep.	Lynn Wallich

TO:



**FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH**

The First Congregational Church, UCC

444 E. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio 43215

Phone: 614.228.1741 FAX: 614.461.1741

Email: home@first-church.org

Web site: www.first-church.org

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Closed Major Holidays

“An Open & Affirming Faith Community”

SUNDAY WORSHIP HOURS

Worship at 9 a.m. ~ Parish Hall

Worship at 11 a.m. ~ Sanctuary