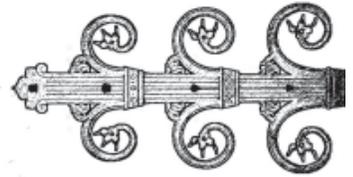




First Church News



First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ • Columbus, Ohio

Volume 157, Number 4
April 18, 2009



Which Wolf Will You Feed This Easter Season?

By the Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Minister

We enter the Easter season in 2009 full of hope and anxiety. On the one hand, we see the coming of spring and blossoms of faith growing out of seeds of prayer and worship. We see slight improvements in the economy while the numbers of unemployed and underemployed persons rise in Ohio and nationally. We see families struggling to pay bills and we see communities of faith supporting one another in prayer and action.

At times like this, I reminded of a story attributed to Cherokee wisdom. The Rev. Sharon E. Watkins shared this story in her sermon at the National Prayer Service on January 21 with President and Mrs. Obama seated in the congregation:

One evening, a grandfather was teaching his young grandson about the internal battle each person faces. *“There are two wolves struggling inside each of us,”* said the old man. *“One wolf is vengefulness, anger, resentment, self-pity, fear. The other wolf is compassion, faithfulness, hope, truth, love.”*

The grandson sat thinking, then asked, *“Which wolf wins, grandfather?”*

His grandfather replied, *“The one you feed.”*

Between Easter and Pentecost on May 31, I encourage you to “feed the wolf” of compassion, faithfulness, hope, truth and love within yourself. I encourage you to take action – personally and as a congregation- to feed the wolf through daily prayer, weekly worship, community service and acts of justice in our community.

I invite you to join me and feed the wolf of compassion, faithfulness, hope, truth and love in these four ways during the 50 days of Easter.

First, I invite you to pray with me. Beginning Monday, April 20, and continuing through May 18, I will be in the chapel from noon to 1 p.m. each Monday holding this congregation in prayer. I am particularly concerned about the growing number of persons who have lost their jobs and who have been deeply affected by the economy. If you are unemployed, depressed, struggling to make ends meet, please come downtown and let us pray together. It is my hope that we have a support group
(Continued on Page 2)

First Church to Welcome New Music Minister in July

By Neal Brower, Music Search Committee Chairperson



By now, you’ve all heard the exciting announcement that the search for First Church’s new Minister of Music has come to a successful conclusion. Indeed, James E. Bobb, or Jamie, will join us the first week in July and play his first service at First Church on Sunday, July 5.

Jamie’s educational pedigree (Bachelor of Music in Piano and Organ Performance from Capital University and two Master of Music degrees from Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y.) and some of his professional accomplishments (director of music at the Church of the Incarnate Word in Rochester since 1994) were shared in the March 30 congregational letter that announced his hiring.

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From the Pastors

Learning from Our Pets

By the Rev. Barbara R. Cunningham, Pastoral Care Minister

Not long ago I read about the role animals play in the lives of many of us, and I felt renewed by the tears that came as I thought about the animals I have known and loved.



When I was a child we had two dogs – one named Blackie (I guess because he was all black), dropped off on the road in front of our house by someone who didn't want him, and one named Boots. He had black hair on his body and white hair on his feet and chest.

Blackie lacked his right front foot, and was so delighted to have six kids loving him that he hopped along beside us wherever we went. When Boots came along, Blackie was aging and not able to move as fast as the new younger dog. Boots had a wide chest, and as a little girl I could sit beside him, tell him all my troubles and then lay my head on his chest and feel loved and accepted. My maternal instincts came out with Blackie – we loved him in spite of his handicap and hardly noticed it after a while.

The deaths of these two dogs were very different. The grief was similar, but the fairness of the deaths was not. Blackie died a natural death, and we, the younger kids and cousins, had a funeral for him. My aunt filmed this auspicious occasion.

But it was different for Boots. He came home very ill one day, and got worse rather than better. The vet told us he had been poisoned with ground glass in food, and he died in our barn with my sister and I taking turns giving him water and holding him. He had been chasing the neighbor's chickens, and the neighbor put the poisoned food out for him.

When my children were growing up we had a wonderful dog named Taffy – a mutt that looked like a collie. She moved with us from Indianapolis to Seattle, and when she died she had lived a long, productive life, giving each of us unconditional love. My cat also loved me through many hard times and I still grieve her loss.

Why am I bringing all of this up now? There is so much hurt and pain around us this past year that I wanted to remind us of places we can find peace and comfort. Animal love is one place, human love is another. Human love can be modeled after our animals in so many ways. We can choose to be devastated by this time in our lives, or we can be grateful for what we have, which is more than most people around the world.

As Vance, my grandson, does when he gets upset – he lies down beside the dog and pets her until he is comforted!

(Rev. Ahrens, Concluded from Page 1)

form for those who are unemployed right now. I know of a number, but I would like for us to be together in prayer, conversation and networking.

Second, I invite you to worship each week. There is vibrant rhythm to life as we worship together at 9 and 11 a.m.. On April 19, my sermon title is "It's not easy being green . . . Just ask God." This "Eco-Justice Sunday," we will also be bringing our recycled computers and electronic gear to church. On April 26, the Rev. John Aeschbury will preach at both services. His sermon title is "Seek ye first." John is the lead organizer for the BREAD organization. The Sundays of May will be exciting times to worship God.

Third, I ask you to serve others through First Church's missions and ministry. We have many missions in our church – all of which need greater participation from our membership. I ask you to contact me this Easter season so that we may connect you to a mission in which your passion for serving others comes to life!

Fourth, I invite you to come to BREAD's Nehemiah Assembly on May 4 at Vet's Memorial Hall on West Broad St. We will host a soup and salad dinner here at the church and carpool to Vets for the meeting. First Church is hoping to have 200 members, friends, neighbors come out for an evening of justice! See Page 3 of this newsletter for more details.

Which wolf wins? Through prayer, worship, service, and action we will feed the wolf of compassion, faithfulness, hope, truth and love. With the help of God and this community of faith united in faith, hope, and love, the battle within will be won.

Annual Gathering, General Synod on the Horizon

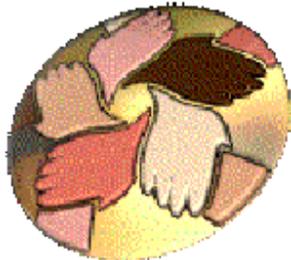
Mark your calendars for this summer's Annual Gathering and General Synod of the United Church of Christ.

The Annual Gathering will be held July 24-25 at Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware. The General Synod will take place June 26-30 in Grand Rapids, Mich. This year's theme is "Immerse Yourself."

For information, go to www.ocucc.org.

Annual BREAD Meeting to be Held May 4

By Pris Endo



Join with others at the annual Nehemiah Action Meeting of the BREAD Organization on May 4 at Veterans Memorial.

Our goal is to turn out 3,000 for the event, with 150-200 people representing First Church. Justice Ministry Network members are contacting our members now asking for a commitment to attend this annual event.

At the assembly, BREAD will update action on its earlier initiatives, payday lending, key truancy campaign, drug court and health care. This year's

initiative is neighborhood blight. Testimony on this initiative will be presented, followed by BREAD's action plan to relieve the suffering in our community caused by the economic degradation of abandoned property.

If you can only attend one meeting for justice a year, this is it! City and county officials are asked to commit to change and will be held accountable by BREAD. Bring your whole family, neighbors and acquaintances. People power makes the process work!

Registration for the assembly begins at 6:15 p.m., and the program is from 7-8:30 p.m. Childcare is available for 3- to 7-year-olds. After a light supper at the church, we will car pool to the meeting at 6 p.m. Parking at Veterans Memorial is free.

(Jamie Bobb, Concluded from Page 1)

But what we didn't include in that letter were very many details about Jamie the person and his many connections with central Ohio and First Church.

A native of Chillicothe, Jamie is the youngest of three boys. His mother remains in Chillicothe, still living in Jamie's boyhood home, and one of his brothers is at home in Dublin. Many other relatives live in Dayton.

While he was a student at Capital, Jamie studied piano under Frank Hussey. He attended concerts at First Church and even played one of his student recitals on the Beckerath organ. Jamie's links to First Church continued when he took organ lessons from G. Dene Barnard, our organist/choirmaster Emeritus, the summer after his graduation from Capital.

Jamie has said that he always admired First Church and our music program as "iconic" and looks forward to getting to know the community of members at First Church. He aims to build on our excellent programs, with an early emphasis on creating additional opportunities for children and teens. For him, the most rewarding aspect of being a church musician is making music for the people he knows and cares about.

Jamie has a 2-year-old pit bull/boxer mix named Tory—short for Praetorius, a 17th century Lutheran composer of church music, including the Christmas hymn *Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming*. He is an avid sportsman and will be seeking a place to do his cross-country skiing in central Ohio. Jamie's birthday is December 21.

Welcome Jamie Bobb!



The First Church softball team, Faithful and Fun, will play these games at Whetstone Park:

April 20 – 6:15 p.m. – Field 1
Clinton Heights Lutheran

April 27 – 6:15 p.m. – Field 1
Clinton Heights Lutheran

April 27 – 7:15 p.m. – Field 1
Karl Rd. Baptist

May 4 – 6:15 p.m. – Field 2
Overbrook Presbyterian

May 11 – 6:15 p.m. – Field 2
Karl Rd. Baptist

May 18 – 6:15 p.m. – Field 2
Summit United Methodist

June 8 – 6:15 p.m. – Field
Clinton Heights Lutheran

June 15 – 7:15 p.m. – Field 1
Overbrook Presbyterian

June 22 – 7:15 p.m. – Field 1
Karl Rd. Baptist

June 29 – 6:15 p.m. – Field 1
Summit United Methodist

Please Bring It Back

The House and Grounds Committee would like to remind members that if you have borrowed utensils or cooking equipment from the kitchen, please return them when you are done. Also, be sure when borrowing other kinds of equipment, that all the parts are returned. Thanks!

First Church Music

Music Notes

By Marti Rideout, Interim Minister of Music



Sunday, April 19, 9 p.m. Compline

Compline will be sung by the the Men of the First Church Choir on April 19. On May 17, the women of the choir will sing Compline. Due to budget restrictions this year,

Compline will not be offered during the summer but will resume in September. If you have never experienced Compline before, come for this musical blessing.

Sunday, April 19, 11 a.m. service

Ohio Capital Winds

Catherine Hope-Cunningham, director

The Ohio Capital Winds, a champion of wind ensemble music, performs classic repertoire from masters such as Holst, Sousa, Grainger, and Ohio's own Henry Fillmore. The musicianship of the ensemble's 30 plus professional and semi-professional players is its hallmark. Under the leadership of Catherine Hope-Cunningham, a member of First Church, the Ohio Capital Winds will provide music leadership at this service.

Friday, April 24, 8 p.m.

The Early Interval

The 29th season of the Early Music in Columbus concert series concludes with the Early Interval in *If All the World Were Paper: Entertainments at the English Court* at First Church. The concert begins at 8 p.m., with a pre-concert lecture at 7:30.

The program will explore the varied music performed at the English court in the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries - the latter portion of which is referred to as the Golden Age of England in music. Included in the concert will be music for Henry V, music from the court of Henry VIII, courtly and country dances, Scottish harp music, music for viol, recorder and crumhorn consorts, sacred and secular songs.

Among the composers represented on the program will be William Byrd, John Dowland, Orlando Gibbons, John Mundy, and Tobias Hume. The members of The Early Interval are Ron Cook, director, Jim Bates, Janice Cook, William Dunlap, Aaron Minnick, Monida Rudy and Tamara Seckel.

Sunday, April 26, 4 p.m.

Eric Plutz, organ

Our final concert of the 2008-09 season will be an exciting recital of organ music by Eric Plutz, university organist at Princeton University and one of the country's finest organists. Mr. Plutz will perform works by Felix Mendelssohn, W.A. Mozart, Ad Wammes (Dutch musician, b. 1953), Johann Sebastian Bach, Antonin Dvorak, Percy Whitlock, Pietro Mascagni and Healey Willan. Mark your calendars now for this not-to-be-missed concert.

Sunday, May 3, 4 p.m. Choral Evensong

The First Church Choir will celebrate the Easter season with Choral Evensong and to give thanks for the many supporters of music at First Church and the Congregational Concerts series. The evening anthem will be Hail, *Gladdening Light* by Charles Wood and the setting of the *Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in B-flat* by Charles Villiers Stanford.

In Gratitude

Our grateful praise and deep appreciation go to all the singers of the First Church Choral Society for their stunning singing of Felix Mendelssohn's *Hymn of Praise* and to the First Church Choir for their offerings of music by Mendelssohn and Johann Sebastian Bach, all under the leadership of Jim Gallagher. To Dene Barnard, organist-choirmaster emeritus, whose musical presence continues to delight all, we offer our unending thanks.

Thank you to all the singers in the First Church Choir, soloists in the choir, choristers of the Treble Choir, ringers of the Gallery Handbell Ringers, and instrumentalists for your extraordinary participation in the services of Holy Week and Easter Day. What you offered brought beauty, dignity, joy and celebration to the telling of the greatest story ever told, and for this we offer our deepest praise and thanksgivings.

New Beginnings . . .

The Minister of Music Search Committee completed their work, the Council of First Congregational unanimously approved their recommendation, and Jamie Bobb accepted the call to serve at First Church.

Jamie has been called out of his comfort zone and will leave clergy and staff, choir members, and parishioners who have, more than likely, become good and supportive friends. For him there will be changes in geographical location and housing, different organs to master, new people to get to know, new staff members to work with, new
(Continued on Page 5)

First Church News

Calling All Arts Festival Volunteers

By Sarah Lange, Arts Festival Committee Chair

The Greater Columbus Arts Festival will be back in our neighborhood this year on Friday, June 5, through Sunday, June 7.

The First Church Arts Festival Committee is busy planning music events and other fundraisers to support Habitat for Humanity, this year's charity. Many hands are needed to welcome our guest musicians and visitors to raise money for this worthy cause. Here are ways to participate in the festivities:

Be an Ambassador: Many of you were a tremendous help last year making sure our visitors were properly welcomed and guided throughout the church. Please consider helping again this year. Plan to spend a day at the festival, including a three-hour shift to meet and greet our guests. Contact Jim or Mary Fewlass at mdfewlass@aol.com or 614-257-0866 if you want to be a part of the ambassador program.



Share Your Artistic Flair: The Arts Festival Committee would like to sell hand-decorated birdhouses as one fundraiser for Habitat. First Church is blessed with so much artistic talent, and here is your opportunity to show your creativity! Purchase a birdhouse and decorate it to your liking then donate it for sale during the festival to help "make a house a home" for someone in need. Contact Jan Wade at granjan19@columbus.rr.com or 614-488-9401 to order your unfinished birdhouse.

Take in the Sights, Sounds and Savories: Music offerings are still being organized, but groups scheduled to perform Friday night are Magpie Consort, Columbus Children's Choir, Yankee Celtic Consort and Columbus Celtic Dancers. Saturday evening, our musical guest will be Ohio Capital Winds under the direction of our own Catherine Hope-Cunningham. Throughout the weekend, creations by First Church member Becky Taft and her sister, Judy Hazen, will be on display and available for sale. In addition, the tearoom will be offering tea and sandwiches.

Mark your calendar now and include First Church in your plans for the Columbus Arts Festival!

Rev. Ahrens' Advisory Group Meets April 27

The next meeting of Rev. Tim Ahrens' MMRAG group will be Monday, April 27, at 7 p.m. Committee members are Jackie Dean, Carol Hussey, Jennifer Provenzano, Greg Halbe, David Loy and Matt Myers.

The purpose of the committee is to consult with Rev. Ahrens about his pastoral relationship with the congregation. All comments, joys and concerns about Rev. Ahrens' ministry, and about the life of this church are welcomed. The members respect confidentiality when requested, but encourage members to allow them to share the names with the group and Rev. Ahrens to facilitate more direct and responsive feedback.

The committee is in need of two new members and will be discussing this at the meeting. Anyone interested in serving, or who has a member to suggest, should contact a committee member.

(Music Minister, Concluded from Page 4)

responsibilities and challenges. He will seek to meet the known and perceived expectations of staff and congregation, as well as succeed at self-imposed expectations. This is not simply a job change. This is a calling, a vocation.

Changes will take place after the new musician arrives. You will hear differences in the style of hymn playing and in the technique of organ voluntaries and anthem accompaniment. The choir will sing new anthems and old anthems in new ways, and you will probably have more opportunities to sing hymns and service music you have not yet sung. There will be special music offerings unlike those presented in the past. This will be good. All shall be well.

How can you welcome Jamie Bobb to First Church? Make your selves known. Offer your greetings after services, at coffee hour or lunch, at meetings and special music functions, by telephone, letter, and e-mail messages. Repeat your name often. Be patient. It takes a while to learn the customs and style of a different clergy/staff team and a congregation.

Be positive in word and action. Support special music events and concerts with your attendance and financial gifts. Share the good news of what takes place in this community with friends and colleagues, especially those who are without a church home; invite them to attend and participate in the life of First Church.

Jamie Bobb will bring extraordinary gifts to our family. A new blessing begins.

Keep Us In the Loop

If your address, phones numbers or email address changes, please let us know so we can keep our records up to date. Call the office at 228-1741 during the week with the latest information, or email us at home@first-church.org. We appreciate your help!

Notes From Christian Education

By Mark S. Williams, Director of Christian Education

It's Not Too Late for Summer Camp Registration



The early registration deadline has past for summer camp but it is not too late to register for camp! The campers enjoy swimming, hiking, crafts, games, singing and worship. They have campfires, vespers, rest time and make friends that last a lifetime. They learn and grow in their faith.

There are camps for kindergarten and first graders with a grandparent. Weeklong camps are for children who have completed the second grade and older. There are camps for teens and camps with themes. There are camps for adults, and even one for families.



First Congregational Church has always been a strong supporter of the Outdoor Ministries summer camp program by encouraging participation and by offering scholarships for campers. Thanks to the generosity of longtime member Alma Keeler, we are able to offer a 50% camp scholarship on the early registration fee to any First Church child or youth who wants to go to camp.

To take advantage of this scholarship you must do several things: 1) Decide which camp you want to attend; 2) Send in your \$75 deposit as soon as possible with the registration form (found in the back of the catalog) to the attention Mark S. Williams at the church and we will forward it to the Ohio Conference; 3) Complete the campership request form found in a folder in the church office; 4) Send the remaining amount owed to the Ohio Conference at least two weeks prior to your camp; 5) Have a wonderful time!

Due to the increase in the camp registration fee this year, First Church will offer additional scholarships for those families who need extra help. Any child who wants to go to camp should not be stopped due to financial concerns of the family. There are extra camp catalogs in the office or you can get one from Mark S. Williams.

Don't Forget the Book Drive: Parents for Others is currently holding a book drive on behalf of the YWCA Family Center. They will use these books to stock shelves for families to access while they are at the YWCA, as well as a reserve supply they can offer the families to take home. Please donate your new and gently used books to support the drive. The drop box is located outside of the main office. The drive continues through Friday, May 8.

New Members Class to be Held May 18

If you are interested in joining First Church, this information is important. Our next class will be held on Monday, May 18 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

To register, fill out the attendance pad marking "Wanting membership," 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 if you need it. The class will join on June 7 during both services.

In order to say . . .

Thank You!

First Congregational Church
Christian Education Department

Cordially Invites

All the Church School
And Library Time Teachers

To A Teacher Appreciation
Breakfast

May 3, 2009

9-11 a.m.

In the Children's Library

Eastside Fellowship To Meet

The Eastside Fellowship will meet at 10 a.m. on May 14 in the parlor at the church. Everyone is welcome to come and get to know your fellow First Church members.

Pub Theology to Host Conference Minister

By Carrie Keller, Young Adult Ministry Team



The Ohio Conference minister will be the guest at the Young Adult Ministry Team's next Pub Theology on May 12 at 7 p.m. at the Red Door Tavern, 1736 W. 5th Ave. in Grandview.

The Rev. Bob Molsberry will lead a discussion of United Church of Christ polity and missions worldwide. All of our young adults are invited to attend and learn more about our denomination. If you have questions about the event, please

contact Carrie Keller at ces@sociology.osu.edu.

Coming Soon: The Young Adult Ministry Team is currently working to produce a newsletter that will be available on the church Web site. We hope to have it online beginning in May. The newsletter will share information about upcoming young adult events and will be updated monthly.

First Church, Art Museum Team Up for Conversations on Death

Death is not an easy topic of conversation, but the Columbus Museum of Art exhibition *To Live Forever: Egyptian Treasures from the Brooklyn Museum* is a wonderful starting point to examine how we prepare for death in the 21st century.

In conjunction with exhibit, the museum has organized these "community conversations," titled *Preparing for the Afterlife*, which will examine different aspects of contemporary life relating to death. All the programs are 2-3:30 p.m.



May 3 - The Role of Hospice – Museum Auditorium

Catherine Chapin Kobacker will lead a panel discussion on the critical role hospice plays in integrating end-of-life into life. Museum Director Nannette V. Maciejunes and Jeff Lycan, president of Ohio Hospice and Palliative Care, will join her in the discussion. Chapin Kobacker also will share clips from her documentary film *Song of the Soul*, an extraordinary film about South Africans who are providing hospice and palliative care that prevents and relieves suffering for the terminally ill and also gives new life to communities and a nation.

May 17: Celebrations and Cemeteries – First Church Parish Hall

Randy Schoedinger, whose family has been helping their neighbors in Columbus care for their dead for over 150 years, will discuss the business side of funerals. In his other role as president of the board for Greenlawn Cemetery, he and general manager Linda Burkey and volunteer coordinator Sandi Lattimer, will explore Greenlawn Cemetery.

May 31 - What We Believe – Museum Auditorium

While *To Live Forever* takes you through the stages of preparation for death in ancient Egypt, Rev. Timothy Ahrens of First Church will explore what we believe about the afterlife today. He will be the moderator of a multi-theological panel of religious leaders from Columbus as they compare what they believe to that of the ancient Egyptians.

Don't Forget the Blood Drive

The Red Cross Blood Mobile will be at First Church on Sunday, April 26, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Donating blood is a good way to support our community as hospitals are in constant need of blood. The blood goes to victims of trauma, cancer patients and people with many other conditions.

Church members who have participated in the blood drive on Sundays find that scheduling is convenient (e.g. donate blood while your child in Sunday school or your spouse is in choir).

You can schedule an appointment time by signing up in the church office, or calling the office at 228-1741.



Graduation is Almost Here



First Church celebrates our graduates. Whether from high school, college or other places of learning, please send us your information by **May 11** and we will include it

- in the *First Church News*. Include the graduate's name, parents, school or program, accomplishments and future plans.
- Photos will only be accepted electronically and can be emailed to Denny Mahoney at dmahoney@first-church.org.

Clean-Up, Planting Days Set for May

By Nancy Burba, House and Grounds Committee

The House and Grounds Committee needs lots of volunteers again this year for our annual clean-up day on Saturday, May 2, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., or until we are done. Please bring your gloves, shovels, rakes, wheelbarrows (if you can), and all your gardening tools to clean beds, shovel loads of dirt for new bedding, trimming, etc.

We will have our planting day on Saturday, May 23, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., or until we finish. Please bring the appropriate gardening tools for planting.

If you can help, please contact Nancy Burba (476-4148) or Denny Mahoney (228-1741, ext. 17), or sign up in the church office. We'd like to have a number so we can plan for lunch.

Special Note: If you have hostas you are splitting this year and would like to drop off your extra plants for the planting day, we would love to add them to our shade beds.

The House and Grounds Committee thanks you for helping out!

Dispose of That Electronic Stuff This Weekend



A reminder that you may dispose of electronic equipment in a responsible way by bringing it to the church this Sunday, April 19, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The youth will unload your car.

The next Sacred Earth Committee meeting will be Tuesday, May 5, 5:30-7 p.m., for devotions, planning a new project and a light supper. All are welcome; please sign the attendance sheet in the office if you plan to come.

Vivian Ripley Exhibition Coming to First Church

By Deb Anderson, Arts Committee

Vivian Ripley, an Upper Arlington resident, will be showing her art work in the large conference room beginning the week after Easter until late May.

She is the recipient of many awards regionally and nationally. Recently Vivian exhibited work at the Lyle Gallery (where Becky Taft and Judy Hazen also showed their work). She also conducts classes and workshops on acrylics, watercolor and pastels.

Vivian is a member of many art societies, including the Ohio Watercolor Society, Ohio Plein Air Society and the Degas Pastel Society. Her work can be seen on these Web sites: www.lylegallery.com, artinview.com and ohiopleinairsociety.com. She is a member of the National League of American Pen Women both as an artist and musician (she plays the piano).

Recent Celebration Gifts to First Church

By Bill Johannes and Jane Werum

Given to the G. Dene Barnard Endowment Fund by:
Kevin Ayres



Given to the Music, Arts, and Heritage Endowment Fund in celebration of the life of Ben Bechtel:
David and Karen Carpenter

Given to the William and Natalie Wright Church Support Endowment Fund by:
Holly Reed

Given to the Jackie Owen Memorial Music Endowment Fund in celebration of the life of Jackie Owen by:
William Owen

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.

Book Club Starting Up Again

It's spring, so it must be time once again for the book club to meet.

The club will get together the first Wednesday of the month, beginning on May 6 at 7 p.m. The discussion will be about *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver. All are welcome, and feel free to bring a friend! Contact Jackie Dean at 868-0485 if you have questions.

Fellowship Hour Beverage

Sales: Coffee and tea sales will be available on May 3 and 17 during fellowship hour. This is a UCC coffee project initiative and your participation is greatly appreciated. If you miss the regular sale, call Nancy Burba on Wednesdays in the church office at 614.228.1741, ext. 28.





First Church Featured in Stained-Glass Lecture/Tour

By Rick Sayre, Arts Committee

As most of you know, the windows of First Church are the work of some of the finest stained-glass artists and studios of the past century.

On May 21, we will again have an opportunity to share this great legacy of ours, when First Church and Kenyon College host the Charles J. Connick Stained Glass Foundation LTD tour of exceptional 20th-century Ohio stained glass.

Distinguished stained-glass expert Peter Cormack of England will headline the program, which begins at First Church at 9:30 a.m. with his lecture. Afterwards, Cormack will lead a tour of the church's windows, where Connick's 1931, 1937 and 1966 stained glass can be seen in the context of work by his contemporaries, Nicola D'Ascenzo of Philadelphia and Oliver Smith of Bryn Athyn, Penn.

At 11:30, the group will drive to Gambier, where lunch will be provided at the Kenyon Inn from 12:45 to 1:45 p.m. Transportation between venues is not provided. Afterward, Cormack will offer a tour of Connick's spectacular series of windows at Kenyon, made in 1929.

Registration for the May 21 events may be done online at www.cjconnick.org, or by sending a check, payable to the Connick Foundation, 37 Walden St., Newtonville, Mass. 02460. The cost for the lectures, lunch and tour is \$28, and \$15 for the Columbus lecture only. The registration deadline is May 10 and enrollment is limited.

Rev. Cunningham Advisory Group Set

An advisory group for the Rev. Barbara R. Cunningham has been formed. The group normally will meet the second Saturday of each month.

The members of the group are John Martin, Wayne Piper, Gerry Worth, Diana Kutschbach, Marcy Essig and Marilyn Minter (chairperson). Feel free to contact any of the members with your concerns and/or compliments. All discussions are confidential.

Spare a Tree! Help Save \$\$\$!

The *First Church News* is available online at www.first-church.org. If you would like to read the newsletter online and discontinue mail service, call us at the office, 228-1741, or email us at home@first-church.org

Member Happy May Birthdays

5/1:	Allen Baker	5/20:	Mike Weddle
5/1:	Nate Rodriguez	5/21:	Carol Gallagher
5/2:	Aimee Cerny	5/21:	Martha Loy
5/3:	Dan McCarty	5/22:	Val Stichter
5/3:	Matt Stevens	5/22:	Connor Thomas
5/5:	Marc Danneberger	5/23:	Guy Cole
5/5:	Mark Losinski	5/23:	Alex Heer
5/5:	Matty Provenzano	5/24:	Justin DeWolfe
5/5:	Rick Sayre	5/24:	Robert Farquhar
5/6:	Eddie Anderson	5/24:	Madison Gray
5/6:	Nick Boriin	5/24:	Gill Kirk
5/6:	Robyn Petras	5/24:	Dorothy Vish
5/7:	David Amy	5/24:	Chase Wagner
5/7:	Cameron Mailer	5/25:	Tim Brownlee
5/7:	Grant Paullo Jr.	5/25:	Brian Cave
5/8:	Steven Delliman	5/26:	Luke Ahrens
5/9:	Cheryl Hoskinson	5/26:	Adam Ghose
5/10:	Anne Hudson	5/26:	Bill Heer
5/11:	Marilyn Minter	5/26:	Grant Paullo
5/11:	Marie Pfeiffer	5/27:	Sandy Bennett
5/13:	Bill Wirsching	5/27:	Charlie Roach
5/14:	Alex Double	5/28:	Bill Johannes
5/14:	Jakob Rosati-Yoos	5/28:	Jessia Rannow
5/14:	Allyson Wharton	5/29:	Kay Metz
5/14:	Carol Woodard	5/29:	Arleen Reynolds
5/16:	Greer Aeschbury	5/29:	Neil Swinger
5/16:	Elias Ewing	5/29:	Eric Van Gorden
5/16:	Ardis Postle	5/29:	Nancy Williams
5/17:	Kirstin Harr	5/29:	John Zahn
5/18:	Nancy Burba	5/30:	Mike Petras
5/18:	Kyle Danneberger	5/30:	Peter Worley
5/19:	Betty Powell	5/31:	Kathryn Ward
5/19:	Dave Wharton		
5/20:	Todd Cunningham		
5/20:	Aliah Dean		
5/20:	Matt Myers		

Member Happy Anniversaries

5/3:	Fran and Bruce Panek
5/5:	Natalie and Bill Wright
5/8:	Nancy and Larry Braverman
5/10:	Elizabeth and Mike Bockbrader
5/11:	Lori and Ben Horne
5/11:	Darla Luebbe and Elaine Stewart
5/12:	Sarah and Bill Lange
5/13:	Beth and Joe Iannarino
5/19:	Nancy Loy and Tom Worley
5/19:	Linda and Ralph Mumford
5/20:	Marie and Brett Coffing
5/22:	Alisa and Chris Eikens
5/23:	Betsy Hubbard and Sam Spofforth
5/27:	Candy and Phil Schneider
5/28:	Lola and Bill Edwards
5/28:	Ardis and David Holt

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

Church Calendar

Sunday, April 19

8 am - Recycling Day- Rm C
9 am - Early Worship - PH
10 am - Education Hour
11 am - Worship Service - San
12 pm - Fellowship Hour - PH
9 pm - Compline - San

Monday, April 20

7 pm - Budget and Finance - LC

Tuesday, April 21

7 pm - Council - LC

Wednesday, April 22

12 pm - Arts Festival Committee - PFR

Thursday, April 23

6:15 pm: First Church Ringers - Bell Rm
7:30 pm: First Church Choir - Choir Rm

Friday, April 24

7:30 pm - Early Music Lecture - San
8 pm - Early Music Concert - San
Spring Retreat at Temple Hills

Saturday, April 25

9 am - Faith Mission Family Shelter Lunches
Spring Retreat at Temple Hills

Sunday, April 26

8:30 am - Blood Drive - Rms C and D
9 am - Early Worship Service - PH
9 am - Treble Choir - Choir Rm
10 am - Education Hour
10 am - First Church Choir - Choir Rm
11 am - Worship Service - San
12 pm - Fellowship Hour - PH
4 pm - Congregational Concert - San
5:15 pm - Concert Reception
Spring Retreat at Temple Hills

Monday, April 27

6 pm - Stephen Ministers - Adult Lib
7 pm - Rev. Tim's MMRAG - Tim's Office

Wednesday, April 29

11 am - Book Study - PR
12 pm - Arts Festival Committee - PFR

Thursday, April 30

6:15 pm: First Church Ringers - Bell Rm
7:30 pm - First Church Choir - Choir Room

Saturday, May 2

6:30 pm - Young Adult Dinner Group

Sunday, May 3 - Teacher Appreciation Sunday

9 am - Early Worship Service - PH
9 am - Treble Choir - Choir Rm
10 am - Education Hour
10 am - Parish Life - PFR
11 am - Worship Service - San
12 pm - Fellowship Hour - PH
4 pm - Choral Evensong - San

Tuesday, May 5

5:30 pm - Sacred Earth Committee - PR
6:30 pm - Children's Ed - Rm C
7 pm - Executive Committee - PFR

Wednesday, May 6

12 pm - Arts Festival Committee - PFR

Thursday, May 7

6:15 pm - First Church Ringers - Bell Rm
7:30 pm - First Church Choir - Choir Rm

Friday, May 8

3:45 pm - Parents for Others - Toddler Room

Saturday, May 9

10 am - Quilters at First Church - LC

Sunday, May 10 - Mother's Day

9 am - Worship Service - San

9 am - Treble Choir - Choir Rm

10 am - Education Hour

10 am - First Church Choir - Choir Rm

11 am - Worship Service - San

12 pm - Fellowship Hour - PH

Monday, May 11

7 pm - Trustees

Tuesday, May 12

6 pm - Music Committee - PR

7 pm - Mission Committee - PR

Wednesday, May 13

12 pm - Arts Festival Committee - PFR

Thursday, May 14

2 pm - Arts Committee - PR

6:15 pm - First Church Handbells - Bell Rm

7:30 pm - First Church Choir - Choir Rm

Saturday, May 16

10 am - Confirmand Practice - San

Sunday, May 17 - Confirmation Sunday

9 am - Early Worship Service - PH

9 am - Treble Choir - Choir Rm

10 am - Education Hour

10 am - First Church Choir - Choir Rm

11 am - Worship Service - San

12 pm - Fellowship Hour - PH

9 pm - Compline - San

Monday, May 18

6 pm - Stephen Ministers - Adult Lib

Tuesday, May 19

7 pm - Council - LC

Wednesday, May 20

9 am - Newsletter Folding - LC

11 am - Book Study Group - PR

12 pm - Arts Festival Committee - PFR

Thursday, May 21

6:15 pm - First Church Ringers - Bell Rm

7 pm - Deacons - LC

7:30 pm - First Church Choir - Choir Rm

Friday, May 22

6 pm - Faith Mission Men's Shelter Meals

Saturday, May 23

9 am - House and Grounds Clean Up Day

Sunday, May 24

9 am - Early Worship Service - PH

10 am - Education Hour

10 am - Parish Life - PFR

11 am - Worship Service - San

12 pm - Fellowship Hour - PH

Monday, May 25

Memorial Day, Building/Office Closed

Mission Offerings Schedule

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

May 3 - BREAD

May 10 - One Great Hour of Sharing

May 17 - United Church Homes

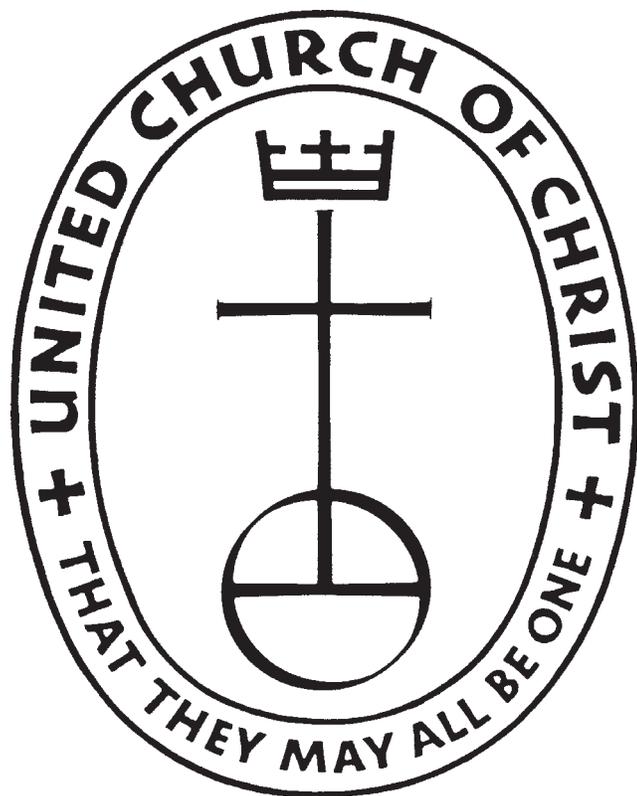
May 24 - Sharing America's Resources Abroad

May 31 - Downtowners

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. 21, by using Prayer Request Cards found in each pew or by emailing bcunningham@first-church.org.

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



May Fellowship Hour

May 3: Numbers
 May 10: Proverbs
 May 17: Psalms
 May 24: Romans
 May 31: Ruth

May Acolyte Schedule

May 3: Thomas Welsh-Huggins & Jensen Allred
 May 10: Sarah Ahrens & Ella Kosher
 May 17: Mlahcel Warrck & Nick Warrick
 May 24: Carly Kutschbach & Katie Wagner
 May 31: Meri Roach & Cameron Wade
 (Schedules also online at www.first-church.org)

Next Newsletter Deadline

Articles Due: Monday, May 11 by noon
 Email: dmahoney@first-church.org
 Folding Team: Wed., May 20, 9 a.m.

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

Church Staff

Timothy C. Ahrens.....*Senior Minister*
 Barbara R. Cunningham.....*Minister for Pastoral Care*
 Marti Rideout.....*Interim Minister of Music*
 Mark S. Williams.....*Director of Christian Education*
 G. Dene Barnard.....*Organist/Choirmaster Emeritus*
 Sharon Leidheiser.....*Business Administrator*
 Martha Worth.....*Program Manager*
 Stan Parron.....*Building Manager*
 Denny Mahoney.....*Office Manager*
 Kelvin Murphy.....*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

Melody Leidheiser.....*Moderator*
 Sarah Reed.....*Vice-Moderator*
 Carol Gallagher.....*Secretary*
 David Holt.....*Treasurer*
 Phil Stichter.....*Trustee Chair*
 Frank Cook.....*Administration Commissioner*
 Pavan Peter.....*Church Growth Commissioner*
 Diana Kutschbach.....*Education Commissioner*
 Bill Rhoads.....*House & Grounds Commissioner*
 Anne Hudson, Fran Panek.....*Mission Commissioners*
 Julia Myers, Amy Fulton.....*Parish Life Commissioners*
 Charlie Weaver.....*Deacon*
 Jerome Dailey.....*Deacon*
 Kim Kutschbach.....*Member-at-large*
 Doug Buck.....*Member-at-large*

~Remember Your Loved Ones
 With A Dedication of
 Flowers Contact Marty Worth at
 614.228.1741, ext. 12, mworth@first-church.org

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

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DATED MATERIAL - VERY IMPORTANT

Please Deliver: Monday, April 20, 2009

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”

SUNDAY WORSHIP HOURS

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