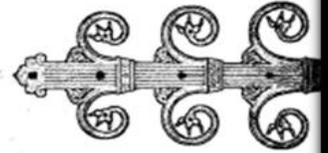


First Church News

First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ • Columbus, Ohio



August 22, 2009
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Making a New Beginning in the Right Direction

By the Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Minister

“Every April God rewrites the Book of Genesis.”

- William Blake -

This time of year always feels like a time of new beginnings. Our children and grandchildren return to school. We have taken the summertime to rest, rejuvenate and recharge. We return to our activities, some of which were on summer break as well. For teachers, the return brings new students. For students, new teachers. We have missed our neighbors, colleagues and friends as we have taken time for family near and far. September is filled with newness.

Genesis and the Gospel of John open with the words, *“In the beginning, God . . .”* But I wonder, how many of us change our direction in this season as a return to God? How many of us seek the grace and peace of our Savior Jesus Christ as we come home again? By this I mean, do we change our ways or simply change directions when we come home?

From the Chasidic texts of Judaism we read this from the lips of the Lekhivitzer Rebbe: *“The Torah begins with the word, ‘In the beginning,’ which can be understood to say, God created the world ‘for the sake of the beginning.’ All the Creator asks is that you make a beginning in the right direction.”*

In the coming weeks, I invite everyone - whether you’ve been in church throughout the summer, or are returning from months away, to “make a beginning in the right direction.” I long to see you all. With Jamie Bobb beginning in July, we have had a taste of the wonderful gifts he is bringing to our music ministry. On September 27, at the 11 a.m. worship, we will install Jamie as our Minister of Music.

Preaching and music themes are weaving together with lectionary texts for the next six months. I will be leading three new book studies: one on Paul (Wednesdays), a large group class on Genesis the third Monday night each month and our interfaith Bible study with Jews and Muslims beginning in October. I also will co-teach Confirmation classes for our eighth graders. **(Continued on Page 2)**

Rally Day on Sept. 13 Kicks Off Program Year

“Rooted . . . growing in God’s love” will be the theme throughout the entire program year at First Congregational Church.



Rally Sunday on September 13, which is the beginning of the year for our Christian Education Department, also will be the kick-off for the 2009-2010 programs for all our ministries. Church school begins at 10 a.m. with classes for ALL ages. Adult education classes will provide in-depth discussions on numerous topics throughout the year. Other educational opportunities are planned during the weekdays and evenings for continued growth in our faith.

Children will be gearing up for the start of Treble Choir and the Chancel Choir will be ministering in the 11 a.m. service. The 9 a.m. service will continue in the Parish Hall with new vigor in the family setting. Both services will observe the dedication of our church school teachers, the church’s 7th anniversary of being open and affirming and recognition and information of the church’s commissioned areas. This is a Sunday you don’t want to miss!

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From the Pastors

What's Good About Being Old?

By the Rev. Barbara R. Cunningham, Associate Minister



As I approach my 70th birthday the end of this month, my thoughts turn to what is good about being old.

Many of us end up talking about our hurts and pains, and all the misfortunes that befall us as we age. How much better it is when we count all the goodness we have in our lives at this time. I am amazed at those of us classified as elderly – the stamina, the health, the wisdom! There is so much giving and talent in this age group in the church.

One man used to say to me, “At least I’m on this side of the grass.” One woman remarked, “What bothers me is the way people react to the normal activities of older people is something remarkable.” So what is it that makes growing older great?

Look at the independence some older people have gained. You can go places if you want to, or refuse to go to parties or other places that aren’t your style. You don’t have to cook dinner for friends – you can bring up any topic you want to talk about and have a great discussion.

Look at the independence some older people have gained. You can go places you want to, or refuse to go to parties.

Another advantage is if you have a cold in your head you can lay in bed, comfortable sniffing, coughing and reading a detective story. You don’t have to pull yourself together, gather a supply of tissues and aspirin and leave home to spend a miserable day at the office (where you should not be any way!).

You can wear what makes you comfortable, sing off-tune, smile at life, dance to your own drummer. Your wisdom is greater, your experience is vast, and your understanding of what it means to love is often held in high esteem. You may not have done everything you wanted to, but have accomplished more than anyone really knows.

Yes, there are complications in growing older. Outlook on life, friends who respect you, family who love you, and a lot of humor make life better. I would be pleased to have you share your life experiences with me.

Associate Minister Search Begins

By the Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Minister

The search for a new associate minister began this month, with a committee of 11 lay people, the senior minister and moderator (ex-officio) working to find the best candidate for the congregation.

The Personnel Committee and Executive Committee, in consultation with staff and the Council, have been working on the job descriptions for the staff and they are nearly complete. The primary focus in recent months has been on the Senior Minister, Associate Minister and Director of Christian Education positions.

Our church budget cannot afford the position of a full-time Youth and Young Adult Minister right now. It is my hope, and the hope of many others, that this position comes back in some way in the coming years. Until that time, Mark S. Williams, as our Director of Christian Education, will organize and give staff leadership to the youth ministry program. The young adult ministry will come under the leadership of the Rev. Barbara Cunningham, associate minister.

The primary change in the job descriptions for Senior Minister and Associate Minister come under the leadership for spiritual care of the congregation and administration. As of September 1, the Senior Minister will assume oversight and leadership for spiritual and pastoral care. **(Continued on Page 3)**

(Rev. Ahrens, Concluded from Page 1)

On September 13, our Rally Day kicks off with the theme “Rooted.” Our stewardship campaign this fall is called “Together.” You will see the exciting new approach in the early days of October.

On September 26, we celebrate our 157th anniversary. We hope to present a new long-range vision that is coming together for your approval in the early days of our 158th year of serving Christ in the city. The plan is called “To Worship and To Serve.” Based on the belief that our action grows out of our worship and spiritual life, the plan will take a 24-month approach (as opposed to 3-5 years) to step into goals and objectives in youth, education, young adult ministries, mission, worship and outreach.

In the beginning, God created. I look forward to your creative energy, vision, hope and joy as we enter the fall and “make a new beginning in the right direction.”

Genesis and Paul Book Studies Set for This Fall

By the Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Minister

There will be three book studies beginning in the fall. Here is the line-up:

***The First Paul: Reclaiming the Radical Visionary Behind the Church's Conservative Icon* – By Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan. – Begins Wednesday, September 16, 11 a.m.**



Paul is second only to Jesus as the most important person in the birth of Christianity, yet he continues to be controversial even among Christians.

How could the writings of Paul be used to inspire both radical grace and endorse systems of oppression? Come and explore Paul in this book study, which meets for one hour on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. We will meet for five classes, ending November 18.

***Genesis – A Year Long Study* – Begins September 21, 7 to 9 p.m.**

The first book of the Bible is filled with stories of creation, faith, deception, intrigue, sacrifice, floods and the family. We will meet the third Monday night of each month from September through May (eight sessions altogether). In these sessions we will cover the 50 chapters of Genesis.

***The Children of Abraham: An Interfaith Study of Genesis* – Begins Wednesday, October 14, 7 to 9 p.m.**

Muslims, Jews and Christians will join together in this six-week study of the opening section of Genesis. Beginning October 14 and ending November 18, 12 members of First Church, Congregation Tifereth Israel and the Noor Islamic Cultural Center in Dublin will study the texts of scripture in which we have our origins as faith communities.

Led by myself, Imam Haney Saqir and Rabbi Michael Ungar, the 36 people will gather each week in different settings – the temple, the mosque and our church. We will study the texts together and find time for table fellowship and prayer.

This is a first-time experience of intentional study with our three congregations. Therefore, we are beginning this journey with a small group to help in the learning
(Continued on Page 6)

Newsletter Going to Email Delivery in 2010

In an effort to save time and money, the *First Church News* is going electronic in early 2010.

Beginning with the January issue, we will be emailing the newsletter to members who have email, rather than sending it through the Postal Service. Those who do not have email can contact the church office (228-1741) and we will continue to mail it to you as we now do.

We have estimated that by eliminating most of the newsletter mailing, we will save nearly \$3,000 a year in ink, paper, postage and time.

In the meantime, don't forget that you also can read the *First Church News* online at www.first-church.org. We also will continue to post the newsletter on the Web site when we make the switch to email delivery.

(Search, Concluded from Page 2)

Our Associate Minister will provide more leadership in the administration of the church. I am excited about this shift in responsibilities and focus.

The search committee is preparing the church's profile right now. When completed, it will be posted on our Web site. The job descriptions, once approved by the Council on August 18, also will be available in the church office and online.

On August 31, the Rev. Forrest Hoppe will bring the search committee the first batch of profiles from the United Church of Christ. We know that 12 candidates have responded thus far to the listing of the position in the United Church of Christ job postings.

We have set October 15 as the deadline to receive profiles. We hope to interview candidates in the fall and extend the call to someone before Christmas. Our hope is for an early 2010 arrival of the new minister. We will keep you posted on the progress of the search.

Besides myself and Melody Leidheiser, moderator, the committee members are: Katelyn Hoffman, Mike Weddle, Bev Cook, Karen Carpenter, Todd Cunningham, Ardis Holt, Tom Brownfield, Sandra Geronimo, Jim Kyle, Elaine Warren and Carrie Keller.

Get Out Your Calendars for This Year's Retreats!

By Mark S. Williams, Christian Education Director



We don't go anywhere without our calendars. We all have busy lives and we need to get the calendars ready for the great programming of our church as well. So pull out those calendars and mark down these dates. You will not want to miss these great opportunities!!

Women's Retreat Set for November

OK Ladies of First Church. Put your foot down and clear your schedules so you can attend the annual women's retreat at Temples Hills camp **November 13-15**. This year's theme is "**Come to the well . . . God meets our needs.**"

This time away from family and work has become important to participants because it renews and refreshes just before the craziness of the holiday season. You have been given fair warning of the dates, so no excuses.

The Rev. Barb Cunningham will be leading the retreat. Brochures and registration materials will be available in the church office and on our Web site on September 1. Deadline for registration is October 18. Please contact Rev. Cunningham or Mark S. Williams if you would like to help in the planning.

Family Spring Retreat

Join the First Church family as we head toward the hills – Temples Hills that is. The spring retreat will begin Friday evening, **April 23, through Sunday morning, April 25, 2010**. Please mark your calendars and plan to bring the family – or just yourself.

The weekend will include hiking, nature talks and activities, devotions, basketball, fishing, a folk dance for all ages, a campfire with s'mores, crafts, singing and worship at camp Sunday morning.

All First Church children and youth are able to attend at no cost, thanks to an Alma Keeler grant requested by the Parish Life Committee. Confirmands will be attending and their mentors are encouraged to attend as well.

Monday Night Lights Returns

Join us the first Monday of each month, except December, for a great night of programming that will appeal to all ages.

Monday Night Lights begins at 7 p.m. with a short worship service and then breaks out to different interests and program offerings. Offerings will include a movie series and parenting classes. A mini-vacation Bible school will be available for the children and child care will be provided for infants and toddlers.



Movie Series Schedule

September 14: Ray
October 5: Sicko
November 2: Babel
January 4: Doubt
February 1: Slumdog Millionaire
March 1: Earth
April 5: Saved

For more information, go to our Web site, www.first-church.org, or contact Mark S. Williams at 228-1741, ext 15, or mwilliams@first-church.org.

The parenting classes also begin at 7 p.m., ending at 8:30. This program is funded in part by the Dorinda White Endowment and the Alma Keeler Endowment Fund. There is a limit of 20 participants for each class.

Last year the program was conducted in a series. This year each class is a stand-alone topic. The classes will be presented by Action for Children. This is the same organization that produced The Art of Positive Parenting last year. Child care is provided. To register for classes, contact Mark Williams.

The schedule includes: **Sept. 14** – Sibling Rivalry: What Do I Do?; **Oct. 5** – Responsible Children: Everyday Situations Teach Lifetime Skills; **Nov. 2** – Stress/Mental Health: Taking Care of YOU; **Jan. 4** – You Don't Have To Do It All Yourself; **Feb. 1** – Teaching Children Self Control; **March 1** – From Idols to Losers - The Real Story about TV; and **April 5** – Bullying Prevention - New Strategies for Parents and Caregivers

Music Notes

By James E. Bobb, Minister of Music

New Choir



We are considering starting a new intergenerational choir at First Church. The First Church Choir has nearly filled the seating in the gallery to the limit. We also have young singers who are beyond the Treble Choir age. One of the great social aspects of church, and music in church, is that it crosses generational boundaries and can create opportunities for fellowship that other social and educational experiences discourage. If you are ninth grade or older, contact Jamie Bobb to learn more.

First Church Choir and Choral Society

First Church Choir has an exciting year ahead. Rehearsals resume on Thursday, September 10, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. First Church Choral Society welcomes new members and begins rehearsing on Thursday, September 17, 7:15 to 8:15 p.m.

A fall concert on Sunday, October 25, will include Handel's Coronation Anthem *Let thy hand be strengthened* and Mendelssohn's chorale cantata *Wer nur den lieben Gott läßt walten* (*If you but trust in God to guide you*). Contact Jamie Bobb for information.

Treble Choir

The Treble Choir will have their first rehearsal on Sunday, September 13. This choir is open to all children and young people in grades one through eight and provides an opportunity to receive musical training, participate fully in the worship life of this congregation, and learn the songs of our faith while building lifelong habits of service, fellowship and teamwork. Rehearsals are Sundays, 9-9:50 a.m. Contact Jamie Bobb for more information.

Gallery Ringers

If you read music and are looking for an opportunity to make music at First Church that does not necessarily require a year-round commitment or involve singing, the Gallery Handbell Ringers may be for you. We meet on Thursdays at 6:15 p.m., starting September 10, and will work in six- to eight-week periods through the year.

You can ring all year long or commit to one block of time as arranged with the director. It's rewarding, challenging, good exercise and a good fellowship opportunity. Contact Jamie Bobb.

Congregational Concert

September 27 at 4 p.m.

Jamie Bobb will present his first congregational concert as he revels in the symphonic grandeur of Charles-Marie Widor's Sixth Symphony on the Kimball organ. The second half of the concert, on the von Beckerath organ, includes music of Johann Sebastian Bach and Vincent Persichetti's turbulent chorale prelude on his own hymn tune *Give Peace, O God*.

Compline

Plan to join us for the evening service of Compline, offered the third Sunday of each month (except December) in the Sanctuary at 9 p.m. This 30-minute service of unaccompanied plainsong chant is illuminated by candlelight. It is a beautiful, peaceful, prayerful way to end the Lord's Day and provide a reflective oasis before the week begins anew. Compline at First Church will be September 20, October 18, and November 15. First Church coordinates a schedule of Compline with St. Joseph Cathedral, which offers the service on the first Sunday of each month.

Pub Theology Get-Together is Sept. 15

Pub Theology will meet on September 15 at 7 p.m. at the Red Door Tavern, 1736 W. 5th Ave.

Pub Theology is a monthly informal get together sponsored by the Young Adult Ministry team. In September, instead of having a guest speaker, we are beginning the fall programming year with a "getting to know you" session.

Everyone is welcome – not just young adults, but all the young at heart who are interested in an informal venue for faith and fellowship! If you have questions, please contact Carrie Keller at ces@sociology.osu.edu.

Green Summit Planned for October

A faith community Green Summit will be held October 2-4 at the Proctor Camp and Conference Center near London, Ohio.

The summit will include workshops on greening congregations; sustainable living and organic agriculture; and energy efficiency and conservation.

For more information and to register, go online to www.ohipl.org/greensummit.

1999 Schumacher Winner Still Cherishes Award



The Schumacher Committee members wanted to share with the First Church family this letter they received recently from Kristin C. Dillard, a 1999 Schumacher award winner.

(Kristin, left, is seen in this photo with her "little sister" Giana Jenkins). The Schumacher Award is given annually to young women between the ages of 15 and 20 who are worthy of commendation for Christian devotion to their mother, father, sister or brother.

Dear Schumacher Committee:

My name is Kristin Dillard and I was a recipient of a Schumacher Award in March 1999. Ten years have passed since receiving this award, and I'd like to extend another thank you to your committee.

I am so grateful to have received the award. I attended Otterbein College that fall and graduated with a bachelor's degree in psychology in June 2004. I am now director of youth services at St. Stephen's Community House. My agency is a large non-profit that serves the Linden community of Columbus. I am very blessed to have a career that enables me to give back to the community and uplift young people.

The necklace I received at the award ceremony is just as beautiful as it was 10 years ago! I wear it nearly every day, and I am so proud when people ask the significance of it. My mother is doing well, and has been a cancer survivor for 11 years.

I appreciate the impact you had on my life, and I hope you are continuing to bless the lives of the young people in our community. God bless you!

Sincerely,

Kristin C. Dillard

Minister Advisory Groups Are Now Formed

Beginning in September, the Senior Minister, Associate Minister, Director of Christian Education and Music Minister will all have Member Minister Advisory Groups. If you have joys, concerns, questions or celebrations you would like to share about any of these staff persons and would like it done confidentially, please contact members of the committees.

The committees are as follows: **Rev. Timothy Ahrens** (Tom Brownfield, Tom Stewart, Jackie Dean, Jen Provenzano, Carol Hussey and Matt Meyers); **Rev. Barbara Cunningham** (Marilyn Minter, John Martin, Gerry Worth, Wayne Piper, Diana Kutschbach and Marcy Essig); and **Mark Williams** (Drew Wade, Janette Younger, Pam Kallner, Bev Cook, Todd Cunningham and Wayne Henry).

The committee for James E. Bobb, music minister, is being formed and will be announced later.

(Book Studies, Concluded from Page 3)

and growing process of this unique series. Not only are we learning how we study the scriptures, but also we are creating community. To do this, we felt it was best to start with a smaller group.

Because we can have only 12 people from our congregation, we are asking interested people to fill out applications by September 13. All three congregations are using this process. There must be a strong commitment from each applicant to attend all sessions. We do understand that emergency and sickness may occur at any time.

The applications will be reviewed and participants chosen by a three-panel committee. Applications are available in the office and online at www.first-church.org.

Mission Offerings Schedule

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

September 6 - United Church Homes
September 13 - Downtowners
September 20 - Deep Griha
September 27 - Gladden Community House

First Church News

We Can Help Those in Need of Water

By Matt Stevens

Water. All of life depends on water. As Americans we are constantly buying water. Last year we spent over 15 billion dollars on bottled water. In fact, if you are like me, you probably buy the vitamin enriched, flavored water. I prefer the citrus flavor.

Without clean water, we would get sick. 1 out of every 6 people in the world lacks access to safe drinking water. Without enough water we would perish. In the 1990's, the number of children killed by diarrhea—the result of unsafe water and sanitation and the lack of clean water—exceeded the number of people killed in armed conflicts since World War II.



Now think about all of the water that you use in your house -- for cooking, cleaning and sanitation — and imagine putting all of that water on your head and walking it to your house — every single day.

This is an everyday reality in many countries. In many villages around the world, the women and girls walk many miles every day to fetch water. Fetching water is hard and physically demanding work. One gallon of water weighs over 8 pounds.

Because they are walking miles every day for water, girls seldom can attend school. Because they are walking miles every day for water, women have no time and energy left to pursue any livelihood activities that might make life better for their families.

In countries around the world, Church World Service works with our partners to provide families and communities with water that is safe and accessible. For about \$500, Church World Service can help to provide safe water storage units. These safe storage units are close to home, so the women and the children do not have to walk as far for their water.

When they aren't walking for water the children can go to school and the women can help to support their families.

Can you help to provide safe water for a village? If we had 100 people at First Congregational Church

donate just \$5, our church could help to provide safe drinking water for an entire village. That's amazing! Maybe you can give a little more than \$5 or maybe you can give a little less. But every penny makes a difference. So join me and skip that vitamin-enriched citrus flavored water a couple of times this week and help Church World Service provide safe drinking water for people in need.

Checks can be made out to Church World Service, with "First Congregational Columbus" on the memo line. Mail checks to Church World Service, 1335 Dublin Rd., Suite 218 A, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

Church School Teacher Training is Aug. 23

Don't forget that the Christian Education Department will be hosting the church school teacher training August 23 starting at 8:30 a.m. for pre-school through high school age classrooms.

The training will begin with breakfast and move into the many wonderful activities and curriculum we have planned for this year. Our teachers will break for the 11 a.m. service, and then continue with lunch and curriculum training afterward, ending at 1:30 p.m. Please contact Mark S. Williams (228-1741, ext. 15, or mwilliams@first-church.org) if you are planning to attend.

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

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

Janice White Also Was Moderator



An article in last month's *First Church News* failed to mention that member Janice White also served the Ohio Conference of the United Church of Christ as moderator.

Janice was the conference's first woman and first African-American moderator in 1976. Her husband, Amos, was moderator in 1986.

This summer, member Bob Kutschbach became the third First Church member to be elected conference moderator.

Lantern Fellowship to be Held at Pilgrim Hills in September



The Fall Lantern Fellowship of the Ohio Conference of the United Church of Christ will be held September 18 to 20 at Pilgrim Hills near Bellville.

The speaker will be **Bryan Sirchio**, who for the past 20 years has continued with his music ministry, leading worship services and retreats focusing on economic justice and faithfulness from a Christian perspective.

Lantern Fellowship is a time when women, with a general age span of 25 to 80 plus years, come together to enjoy good food, warm and friendly hospitality, and the peaceful, quiet beauty of wooded hills and trails where the spirit can find renewal. The beautiful spirit of fellowship is present the entire time!

The cost for the weekend is \$135. Registration fee includes all meals, lodging and program costs. Registration begins at 3 p.m. on Friday the 18th, followed by dinner at 5:30 p.m. The weekend wraps up after Sunday lunch.

For more information, contact Mary Hart at 440-777-5324 or mrryhrt43@aol.com, Sandy Swafford-Uhl at ssuhl@cox.net or Kathy Henry at 440-235-0322 or khenry1231@gmail.com. Registration form can be found at www.ocucc.org.

Cum Christo Weekend Slated

Are you a man looking for a renewal and commitment to Christ? If so, a Cum Christo weekend may be for you.

Cum Christo brings Christians together in an ecumenical environment to renew their relationship with Jesus and to motivate them to grow as disciples in their church and in everyday life.

The Columbus Catholic Diocese is now accepting applications for an upcoming men's weekend on September 17. For more information, contact Paul Flocken at 403-4910 or by email at arlene@aol.com. Applications can be found online at www.cumchristo.com

Recent Gifts to First Church

By Bill Johannes and Jane Werum

Given to the Remembrance Fund in celebration of the life of Lillian Brownfield by:

Deborah Anderson
Pauline Endo
Joseph Links
Mrs. Richard (Mary) Ross
Bill and Natalie Wright
Frank and Carol Hussey
David and Novella Brownfield
Ms. Margaret Waltz



Given to the First Church Choir in celebration of the life of Jean Byerly by:

Karl and Lesley Schaab

Given to the Remembrance Fund in honor of Bert Cook:
Sarah and Gunter Garbe

Given to B.R.E.A.D. in celebration of the life of Jerome Dailey by:

Patricia Dec
Carolyn Parker
Mary Swenson
Gary Brickner
Darlene Angell
Kandice Collins
Nancy Dunn
Robert and Patricia Hartline
Jerome's United Healthcare co-workers, who contributed \$1,115

Given to the Remembrance Fund in celebration of the life of Frances Gurley by:

Barbara Binau
Velma Lehman
Triangle Chapter OES #592
Juanita and Dick Maxim

Given to the Remembrance Fund in honor of John and Muriel Siddall by:

Sarah and Gunter Garbe

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.

New Members Class

Saturday, September 19, 9 a.m. to noon; Sign up in the office; Members join October 4

Mission Awareness Luncheon Set For August 30

By Fran Panek, Missions Co-Chair

The Missions Commission would like to share some of our ongoing missions and upcoming projects with the congregation by sponsoring a soup and salad lunch in the Parish Hall after the 11 a.m. worship August 30.

Missions will offer a brief slide presentation highlighting many of the missions of First Church. Several of these missions are familiar ones to us while others are less so. The church supports many local, national and global missions through its weekly offerings.

Members of the Mission Commission will be at the lunch to answer questions and offer insight about the current mission activities and future ideas and plans for work in our community. There is something for everyone in missions. Whether you have an hour, a day, or several days a month, we can help you find a niche. Giving back brings so much to life – give it a look . . . you'll get hooked!

If you plan to attend, please sign up by August 24 by emailing Anne Hudson (annewshka@aol.com) or Fran Panek (franpan2000@yahoo.com). Don't miss this time to celebrate and share. It will be a wonderful way to acknowledge God's presence among us through faith and service.



Dual Authors Produce Top-Notch Biblical Works

It is truly a happy occasion when two outstanding biblical scholars combine their talents to publish their research and analysis.

This is doubly so when they produce two books. *The Last Week* by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan gives readers a day-by-day account of the events leading up to Easter Sunday, and great insight into the meanings of this very important week.

Their other recent work, *The First Paul*, will be the focus of our Wednesday Bible study classes this fall. These authors have made significant contributions to recent studies of the Bible and their works are available in the church library.

Member Happy September Birthdays

5:	Elisa Batchelor	20:	Jim Gallagher
6:	Kate Kreimer	20:	David Mondiek
6:	Alice Panek	20:	Jon Hoffman
7:	Dave Proctor	21:	Shannon Washington
7:	Vince Papsidero	22:	Bill Kutschbach
8:	Sallie Danneberger	22:	Janete Hoffman
9:	Steven Ferris	22:	Molly VanLerberghe
9:	Kosby Carrico	22:	Alex Weaver
10:	Amy Nicholson	23:	Victor John
11:	Julie Parsons	23:	Stan Lange
12:	Robert Fowler	24:	Wayne Piper
12:	Linda Reiger	26:	Elizabeth Allen
12:	Matt Lazar	26:	Gerry Hudson
13:	Lucille Kropp	26:	Daniel Ahrens
14:	Doug Zimmerman	27:	Bernie Bouman
14:	Meredith Kneuve	27:	Ron Reiger
15:	Richard Grieser	27:	Pavan Peter
15 :	Lynn Crevling	28:	Tom Kuhn
16:	Candace Schneider	29:	Betsy Zahn
18:	Deena Bowers	29:	Cassie Reid
18:	Chris Washington	30:	Cami Curren
19:	John Bachman		
19:	Tom Daniels		
19:	Caroline Sanders		

Member Happy Anniversaries

1:	Melinda and Jon Anderson
1:	Janice and Amos White
1:	Betsy and John Zahn
3:	Teresa and Michael Ponzani
4:	Karen and David Carpenter
6:	Elisa and Andrew Batchelor
7:	Jean and Roger Sankey
9:	Diane and Kent Rambo
9:	Traci Cloud-Thomas and Brian Thomas
10:	Elizabeth Drotleff and Eric Chambers
12:	Lisa and Scott Warrick
13:	Dayna and Michael McCreary
13:	Ashlea and Aaron Shaw
16:	Bev and Bert Cook
16:	Lisa and Andy Thomas
18:	Peggy and Doug Buck
19:	Marilyn and Ed Koetz
20:	Queenie and Tony Lee
21:	Susan and Bill Rhoads
24:	Leslie and David Fulford

OOPS! We missed this birthday in last month's newsletter: Mary DeVennish, August 23. Happy birthday, Mary!

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

Church Calendar

Sunday, August 23

8:30 am – Teacher Orientation – Ed Wing
9 am – Early Worship - PH
11 am - Worship Service - San
12:00 pm – Fellowship Hour - PH

Monday, August 24

6:30 pm – Technology Committee - LC

Tuesday, August 25

12 pm – Card Care Ministry – PFR
7 pm – Personnel – PFR

Sunday, August 30

9 am: Early Worship Service - PH
11 am: Worship Service - San
12 pm: Fellowship Hour - PH
12:30 pm – Mission Awareness Luncheon – PH

Monday, August 31

6 pm – Stephen Ministers – Adult Library

Tuesday, September 1

12 pm – Card Care Ministry – PFR
5:30 pm – Sacred Earth Committee – LC
6:30 pm – Children’s Education – Ed Wing Rm. C
7 pm – Church Growth – PR
7 pm – Executive Committee – PFR

Wednesday, September 2

9:30 am: Staff Meeting - LC
7 pm : Wednesday Night Book Club - PFR

Thursday, September 3

7:30 pm - First Church Choir - Choir Room

Sunday, September 6

9 am - Early Worship Service - PH
10 am - Education Hour
10 am – First Church Choir – Choir Room
11 am - Worship Service - San
12 pm - Fellowship Hour - PH

Monday, September 7

LABOR DAY

Building and Office Closed

Tuesday, September 8

12 pm – Card Care Ministry - PFR
12 pm – Newsletter Deadline
6 pm - Music Committee - LC
6:30 pm – Church Growth new members cook-out
7 pm – Mission Committee – PFR
7 pm – Pub Theology – Red Door Tavern

Thursday, September 10

2 pm – Arts Committee – PR
7:30 p.m. – First Church Choir – Choir Room

Friday, September 11

3:45 pm – Parents for Others

Saturday, September 12

10 am – Quilters of First Church – PFR

Sunday, September 13 (RALLY DAY)

9 am - Early Worship Service - PH
10 am - Education Hour
10 am - First Church Choir - Choir Room
10 AM – Parish Life – PFR
11 am - Worship Service – San
12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH

Monday, September 14

7 pm – Monday Night Lights – PH
7 pm – Budget and Finance – LC

Tuesday, September 15

12:00 pm – Card Care Ministry – PFR
7 pm – Church Council – LC

Wednesday, September 16

9 am – Newsletter Folding – LC
9:30 am – Staff Meeting – PFR
11 am – Book Study – LC

Thursday, September 17

7 pm – Deacons – LC
7:30 pm – First Church Choir – Choir Room

Saturday, September 19

9 am – New Members Class – Choir Room
9 am – House and Grounds

Sunday, September 20

9 am - Early Worship Service - PH
10 am - Education Hour
10 am - First Church Choir - Choir Rm
11 am - Worship Service - San
9 pm – Compline

Marching Band Needs Your Help

The Ohio State School for the Blind Marching Band will be in the Rose Bowl Parade this coming January and there will be a golf outing to help raise money to send them to Pasadena, Calif. They are short \$30,000 for their goal.

Sponsor: Westerville Lions Club/OSSBPTSO/ and Sean Harrington LTGC member.

When: Monday, September 28, at 11 a.m. Shotgun start.

Where: Little Turtle Golf Club, 5400 Little Turtle Way, Westerville.

Registration: Contact Sean Harrington at buckeyewaffles@insight.rr.com, or call 614-778-1022. Deadline is September 15.

If you have questions, contact Nancy Burba at 614-476-4148 or nancy.burba@yahoo.com.

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.

Fellowship Hour Beverage Sales



Coffee and tea sales will be available on September 6 and 20 during Fellowship Hour. This is a UCC coffee project initiative and your participation is greatly appreciated.

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

September Fellowship Hour

September 6: Kings
 September 13: Leviticus
 September 20: Micah
 September 27: Numbers

September Acolyte Schedule

September 6: Sarah Ahrens and Katie Gies
 September 13: Cameron Wade and Jansen Allred
 September 20: Jayden Martin-Wynia and Reel Chaudhri
 September 27: Katie Gies and Katie Wagner
 (Schedules online at www.first-church.org)

Next Newsletter Deadline

Articles Due: Monday, September 7, by noon
Folding Team: Wednesday, September 16, 9 a.m.

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

Church Staff

Timothy C. Ahrens.....*Senior Minister*
 Barbara R. Cunningham.....*Associate Minister*
 James E. Bobb.....*Minister of Music*
 Mark S. Williams.....*Director of Christian Education*
 G. Dene Barnard.....*Organist Choirmaster Emeritus*
 Sharon Leidheiser.....*Business Administrator*
 Martha Worth.....*Program Manager*
 Stan Parron.....*Building Manager*
 Denny Mahoney.....*Office Manager*
 Kelvin Murphy.....*Custodian*
 Don Bell.....*Custodian*
 Frank Wall.....*Custodian*
 William Lee.....*Custodian*
 Caroline Sansbury.....*Nursery Staff*
 Jessica Yaeger.....*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*
 Kim Kutschbach.....*Member-at-large*
 Doug Buck.....*Member-at-large*

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, August 24, 2009

TO:

[A large dashed rectangular box intended for the recipient's name and address.]



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