



The Church of the Present Moment

By the Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Minister



On January 23, I will complete 10 years of ministry as your 15th Senior Minister. The years have gone quickly. It seems like yesterday I preached my first sermon in the pulpit of First Church. Over 10 years, we have experienced the joys and sorrows of life and ministry together. Here are a few statistics that add up across 520 weeks of living faithfully together. I share with you a small part of my annual report, which will be presented at our annual congregational meeting on January 31 at 11 a.m. I have adjusted a few statistics below to reflect the first three weeks of 2010.

Ninety-six babies have been born. We have baptized 130 infants and 44 adults – a total of 174 “new” Christians. I have performed 197 weddings while the church has celebrated 289 weddings in the past 10 years. We have welcomed 590 new members, including 67 Confirmands. We have also memorialized 110 men and women, removed 98 people from our church rolls and transferred 54 members to other churches. I have preached almost 1200 times between two services each Sunday (averaging 43 Sundays of preaching each year), funerals, weddings, special services, guest preaching at seminaries, conferences and Chautauqua Institutions in Ohio, Michigan and New York.

*All things considered we have experienced overall growth in membership from 601 the Sunday I arrived to 935 today. Our children’s numbers have grown as well from 71 in 2000 to 194 in 2010. Adding adults and children, we now number 1,125 in 2010 having grown from 672 in 2000. Worship attendance was averaging 154 following the interim in 1999 and now our annual average is 390. These have been exceptional years of growth for First Church in downtown Columbus - some of our greatest years of growth in our history. **All praise, honor and glory belong to God!***

*An observation as your pastor: As we have grown through 10 years, I am still one person. We have only two pastors on staff and six other full-time staff people in a church that has virtually doubled in size. For the future, we must organize for care of the congregation in which all of us are fully engaged. This staff is too small to do it all. Your hands, your hearts, your care will help us minister effectively. **How will you reach out, touch and care for other members and potential members of First Church?** Please answer this question. (Continued on Page 2)*

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First Church Annual Meeting
January 31, 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary
One Worship Service at 10 a.m. That Day

Issues to be discussed and voted on will include the 2010 budget, the purchase of the 414 E. Broad St. property and a possible capital campaign.

Day care will be provided during the meeting



From the Senior Minister

(Rev. Ahrens, Continued from Page 1)

Other statistics have not been tabulated. For example: how many grammatical mistakes, punctuation errors, bad jokes, and “same old stories” have “blessed” your life? I know some of you have been counting these as well! How many times was I dunked at the church picnic? How many times have I soaked you in the “Baptism of our Lord” service? How many times have I left my microphone on outside the sanctuary or locked myself out of my office (I really don’t need you to tally this number for me)? I am sure you can roast me with some other statistics.

Now we must look forward. All the numbers of the past 10 years are part of our history and not our future. Now our questions are about enlarging our territory and creating more growth for generations yet unborn. Listen to the prayer of Jabez in I Chronicles 4:9-10: *“Oh that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain! So God granted him what he requested.”*

This faithful servant of God, in another time and a distant land prayed that his Lord would bless him and enlarge his territory. He prayed that God would protect him and bring no harm to him as he stepped into an unknown future. I offer you this prayer, believing that our God will do the same and more for us as we are faithful and trusting in God’s hand upon our lives.

Fifty years ago, Dr. Boynton Merrill, our 11th Senior Minister, wrote: *“The church of the past is dead and gone. The church of the future has yet to be born. We are the church of the present moment. God is calling us to be faithful here and now.”* May we faithfully be the church of the present moment. Such a church is needed in downtown Columbus in 2010. Please join me in the ministry and mission calling us forward in this present moment.

Epiphany is a Season to Celebrate Ministry

By the Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Minister

We have entered a new year, a new decade of the 21st century and a new season of the church year. With the 12th night of Christmas and the arrival of the magi in our story of Jesus’ early life, we, in the church, recognize Epiphany. Each January 6, we light the candles and open our eyes to new understandings of God’s love born among us.

I love Epiphany!

Epiphany is the season of the church year in which the story of Jesus’ life and ministry unfolds before us. The texts of the season always include the Baptism of our Lord, the call of Jesus to ministry in Luke, the call of the disciples to follow Him, and the stories of Jesus caring for people. They are powerful stories of God’s revelation through Jesus, discernment of call to serve and God’s compassionate presence through God’s chosen and beloved son and his disciples.

Two weeks of Epiphany have passed. But, there is good news: three weeks remain!

Here is a quick synopsis of the six-week journey: We celebrate Jesus’ Baptism and ours (January 10), The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the ministry of justice (January 17), the call of the disciples to ministry (January 24th - which happens to mark my 10th anniversary), all of our call to ministry - our Congregational Meeting (January 31 - one service at 10 a.m., meeting at 11 a.m., celebration for Rev. Barb Cunningham to follow), Youth Sunday (February 7th - a great time to learn how faith from our teen-agers) and Transfiguration Sunday (February 14). On February 14, we also will formally welcome our new Associate Minister, the Rev. Janine Wilson.

While we celebrate ministry during Epiphany, one minister departs and another arrives.

We also will celebrate Rev. Barb Cunningham with a party and a purse on January 31, after the congregational meeting. If you would like to give a gift for Barb’s ministry, please send it to the church by Friday January 29 at noon marked “Barb’s gift.”

We welcome Janine to our staff as our new Associate Minister (see Page 3 for more). I am so delighted by her choice as our Associate Minister! She brings joy, warmth, gifts for administrati and pastoral care to this position!



Lent Begins

Ash Wednesday

February 17

Services at Noon and 7:30 p.m.

Rev. Janine Wilson Begins as Associate Minister on February 1



First Church will welcome the Rev. Janine Wilson, our new associate minister, on February 1, with a celebration of her new ministry set for Sunday, February 14. In addition to her pastoral work, Janine will be responsible for administration and will work closely with our young adults.

She was selected by the search committee after several months of deliberations and interviews. There were more than 30 candidates from around the country for the position.

Janine was born in Grand Rapids, Mich., and grew up in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. She is a graduate of the University of Central Florida, where she earned her bachelor's degree in psychology.

Janine began her ministry working with hospice programs. Her first church staff opportunity was serving as education coordinator at First Presbyterian Church in Titusville, Fla. After graduation from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Janine's first call was as an interim associate pastor at First Presbyterian Church, a 2,000-member congregation in downtown Tulsa, Okla.

First Presbyterian Church was a congregation in transition. Their head of staff had recently retired and following an old church pattern, the four associate pastors had all relocated as well.

For two years, Janine worked with the interim head of staff in all areas of ministry – with young and old and everyone in between – from worship, pastoral care, weddings, memorial services, confirmation classes, women's groups, teacher training and staff development, small group opportunities for new members, grief groups, families of prisoners – to retreat planning and implementation and coordination of events at Camp Loughridge, a camp and property owned and operated by the congregation.

Since then, she has served in congregations that have been rural and suburban and embraced ministries with all ages, providing worship, pastoral care, education, staff and leadership development and small group ministry. In addition to serving in the congregational

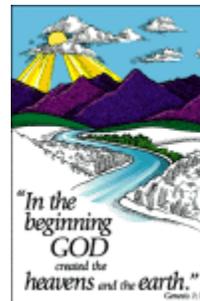
setting, Janine has also served as associate general presbyter (pastor to pastors and educators) in Grace Presbytery, which covers five counties in Texas.

Janine currently is in the Privilege of Call process with the United Church of Christ, anticipating the completion of the committee requirements this month. This is a milestone in her journey of faith. She has chosen to become a pastor in the United Church of Christ in order to live out the connection between faith and life and freely share the gospel.

Janine and her husband, Matthew, are the parents of a blended family of five children and three young grandchildren. (Two boys are still at home and three young adults are "out and about".) They all enjoy camping and hiking, and Janine is having fun learning the art of Dutch oven cooking. She also likes to read theology, mysteries, history and biographies and play with their miniature dachshund, Lacey.

'The Children of Abraham - A Study of Genesis' Returns in March

By the Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Minister



Over 40 Muslims, Christians and Jews finished the opening session of "The Children of Abraham: A Study of Genesis" in late November. Under the teachings of Imam Hany Saqr, Rabbi Michael Ungar and myself, our class delved into the meaning of Genesis 1-12.

We looked at creation stories, Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah and the Flood, and the Call of Abram. We planted seeds for relationships that hopefully will come into full bloom in March when we re-gather to study Abraham's story during four more Wednesday evenings.

We agreed to open to class to anyone who wants to come. So, mark your calendars for March 3, 10, 17 and 24. We meet in the synagogue, the mosque and First Church. I guarantee you will grow in many ways through this class together with other children of Abraham.

If you have questions, call me 228-1741, ext. 13, or email at tahrens@first-church.org.

Parenting Class February 1, 7 p.m. *Teaching Children Self Control*

By Mark S. Williams, Christian Education Director



Self-control is a skill/attribute that is learned over time, beginning at infancy and continuing throughout life. It's hard for adults to remember and understand the developmental process associated with self-control which, in turn, makes it easy to have unrealistic expectations of our children's ability to develop this skill and behavior.

This workshop will help parents put self-control in its proper context, and learn about behaviors and practices that will help their child learn how to control their behaviors in a variety of settings. This is for parents of children of all ages.

Monday Night Lights, February 1, 7 p.m. *Slumdog Millionaire* Wayne Piper, leading

Often when we go to the movies, we are looking for the opportunity to escape into a world where we can experience the lives of beautiful characters living outsized lives. We want to be entertained; we want to be diverted. But sometimes even the most entertaining of movies also brings us face-to-face with real-world moral issues, with the poverty and hardship in which so many in the world live, with authentic ethical dilemmas, and with new ways of understanding our faith. When such a movie appears, we recognize in it not just a powerful film going experience but also an opportunity for genuine understanding.

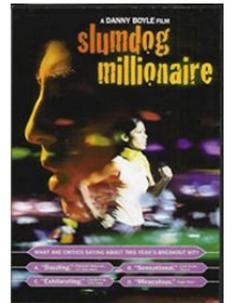
Slumdog Millionaire, a film from British director Danny Boyle shot entirely on location in India, swept the 2009 Academy Awards, winning the prizes for best film, best director, best adapted screenplay, and many other categories. Although it employs several recognizable American film genres (the romance film and the big game, to note two), the movie goes well beyond the usual Hollywood film in showing us the lives of people living on the edge in a place very alien to American viewers.

In telling the story of a slum-born young man who draws from his horrific life experiences to successfully answer questions on the Indian version of the game show *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?*, *Slumdog Millionaire* introduces us to a world most of us have never seen, while reminding us of the power of love and the possibility of moral choice in even the most difficult of

situations. These are issues that have direct relevance to us wherever we are, particularly as we talk about the world growing smaller.

Although some critics suggested that viewers might struggle with the alien nature of the movie's setting, others argued that we needed to know about the lives of the very poor on the other side of the world, while others still insisted that the themes of this movie are universally relevant. So while the world of Mumbai – gleaming skyscrapers growing out of mud and slum dwellings, religious conflict between Hindus and Muslims, millions of poor and need – may challenge us, these are, in a sense, only surface differences. The characters of this film are seeking security, love and meaning in a world as familiar to them as our world would seem alien.

We'll discuss three scenes from the film that show how the two brothers of the film, Jamal (Dev Patel) and Salim (Madhur Mittal) choose different paths through the world of poverty and corruption that encloses them, how love shapes their choices, and how it is never too late to do the right thing. In the process, we'll explore theological and ethical questions as well as social and political ones: What should be done about poverty? What is the nature of evil? What is justice? Can we ever be truly lost? What does it mean to be righteous?



February 7 – Youth Sunday “Into the Deep”

The youth of First Church, grades 6-12, will be leading us in worship Feb. 7 at both services. There are 25 young people planning the worship services with assistance, as needed, from many willing adults. They are planning and delivering the music, the liturgy and the message.

Please make plans to attend one of the two worship services on this very important day in the life of First Church!

Spring Retreat

Mark on your calendar now for the Spring Retreat. This year the retreat is April 23-25 at Templd Hills. More information will be in next month's newsletter.

From the Music Office

By James E. Bobb, Music Minister



On Thursday, January 21, at 7:15 p.m., the First Church Choral Society will begin rehearsals for the March 7 concert. If you are interested in joining, contact the Minister of Music for more details at jbobb@first-church.org

On February 7 at 4 p.m., Congregational Concerts continue with the Ohio State Men's Glee Club. Don't miss this exciting concert under director Dr. Robert J. Ward.

The Ohio State University Men's Glee Club is a brotherhood that commits itself to excellence through artistry, achievement in academics, and outreach to the community. The Men's Glee Club has been sharing music with the OSU campus, community and around the world since 1875.

Church Council OKs Procedures For Making Decisions

By Phil Stichter, Trustees Chair

In order to increase the efficacy of the decision-making process of council, to make the best use of limited resources of time by volunteers and staff, to record its efforts for the benefit of and use by those who in the future will serve the church, and to enrich the archives with the work of council, its committees, and those groups represented on council, council adopted the following procedures to be implemented as soon as possible:

1. Items that require action by council or requests for input from council are submitted to the moderator prior to the meeting of the executive committee to assist in developing the agenda for the forthcoming council meeting.
2. The meeting date of the executive committee takes place one week before the scheduled meeting of council in order to give everyone more time to submit items or requests as outlined above.
3. The executive committee circulates prior to the council meeting an agenda, including those items requiring action by council and requests for input from council, and any materials relevant to those items and requests.

4. Information reports are prepared in writing and circulated ahead of or at each council meeting by the officers of the church, the senior deacon, the chair of the trustees, the chair of the nominating committee, the commissioners, the committee chairs, the ordained ministers and professional staff, and others who wish to provide information reports to council.
5. A period near the beginning of each council meeting is set aside for the purpose of reading and reviewing the information reports, including time for questions and responses regarding those reports.
6. A period near the end of each council meeting is set aside for the purpose of identifying matters to be addressed at the next or a subsequent meeting of council.
7. An ongoing list of unfinished business is in the agenda for each council meeting.
8. A continually updated list of all committees, their chairs and members, and their terms is maintained by the secretary (or someone designated by the secretary) and made available at all times to council members, staff, and the congregation.
9. Each committee maintains a charter for itself, which includes its purpose, composition, and responsibilities, as approved (including subsequent amendments) by council.
10. Council maintains an ongoing list of standing resolutions that continue in effect from year to year for the purpose of preserving institutional memory and for the ongoing guidance of current and future councils.
11. Copies of the minutes and reports emanating from the committees, the deacons, the trustees, and other organized groups of the church are provided to the secretary (or someone designated by the secretary) for the benefit of future members of these groups as well as for archival purposes.

Looking for a Sermon?

Go online to
www.first-church.org

First Church News

Helping to Boost First Church Finances Can Be Easy

By David Holt, Treasurer

Here are three easy ways to provide additional financial support to First Church:

* Dine at Black Creek Bistro (51 Parsons Ave.) on Tuesdays and tell your server that you are with First Congregational Church, and 10% of your bill will be donated to First Church. Proceeds are used at the discretion of Church Council.



* Use www.goodsearch.com as your Internet search engine and specify First Congregational Church Columbus as your designated charity. Approximately one cent per search is donated to First Church for use towards Youth Mission Trips.

* Shop at Kroger and make direct contributions to First Church.

Attention Kroger Shoppers!

First Church is enrolled in Kroger's Community Rewards Program which will link purchases made with your Kroger's Plus Card so that a portion of the sale is donated back to First Church.

Follow the instructions below to sign-up as an online or bring your Kroger Plus Card to church on Sundays and look for a sign-up table in the Parish Hall during fellowship hour after worship.

A portion of your qualifying purchases will be donated to your choice of the following:

First Congregational Church #84966 – Proceeds from this will be used for church needs as determined by council.

First Congregational Church Choir #81813 - Proceeds used to support choir activities

To sign up, follow these steps:

* Please register your Kroger Plus card online at krogercommunityrewards.com.

* If you don't have a Kroger Plus card, they are available at any Kroger customer service desk.

* Be sure to have your Plus card handy and link your card number with one of the two First Church numbers (**81813 or 84966**) after you sign up.

* When you get to the krogercommunityrewards.com Web site, if you are already an online Kroger customer click on Sign In/Register.

* If you are a new online Kroger customer, you must click on SIGN UP TODAY in the 'New Customer?' box.

* Sign up for a Kroger Rewards Account by entering your zip code, clicking on favorite store, entering your email address and creating a password, agreeing to the terms and conditions, and selecting whether or not you wish to receive email offers etc.

* You will then get a message to check your email inbox. Go to your e-mail and click on the link within the body of the email.

* Click on My Account and use your email address and password to proceed to the next step.

* Click on Edit Kroger Community Rewards information and input your Kroger Plus card number.

* Update or confirm your information.

* Enter 81813-choir or 84966-youth mission & parking lot and click on confirm.

* To verify you are enrolled correctly, you will see your organization's name on the right side of your information page.

* Purchases will not count for First Church until you register your card.

* You must always use your registered Kroger Plus card when shopping for your purchases to be credited to First Church.

First Church News

BOBS Served Up Christmas Cheer to Those in Need

By Arlene Reynolds, BOBS Coordinator

Bethlehem on Broad Street again had a successful Christmas Day, serving over 900 meals to needy persons at First Church.

At BOBS planning meetings, members have represented 24 different churches and individual families. At the 25th Project Help, the clothing, food, toiletries and toy ministry, over 280 grandmothers came on Saturday, December 5. Sandy Watters-Holley and her board were very grateful for the \$1,500, for volunteers (Mary and Jim Fewlass, Ruth Brown and Arlene Reynolds) and for prayers that BOBS contributed.



On Saturday, December 19, at Broad Street United Methodist Church food box giveaway, nine United Methodist churches brought in over 1,100 food boxes, with gift certificates for the perishables. Throughout the day, volunteers welcomed the families, gave out children's activities bags, took pictures with Santa, provided music and entertainment. BOBS contributed \$1,500 toward this event.

The planning committee was very grateful to Anne Hudson, Diana Kutschbach and Mark Williams, youth leaders, and the young people and parents who came on Monday, December 21, to assist in the preparation of wrapping gifts, cutting up bread, onions and celery for the stuffing, sorting toiletries and baby clothes and designing posters for the shelters.

On Christmas Day, we served about 900 meals in the Parish Hall. The day started with our guests being welcomed in the tent with hot coffee, cocoa and pastries. Advent and communion services, caroling and mime dancing and care dogs took place in the sanctuary and Parish Hall. Children received activity bags to do while they waited for dinner. Then came Santa for the children and gifts, toiletries, poinsettias and free telephone calls for the teenagers, men and women.

The Planning Committee appreciated the many turkeys and pastries roasted by cooks at St. Mary and Pope John XXIII parishes in Groveport and Canal Winchester, Church of the Messiah United Methodist Church, Westerville, and St. Michael Church, Worthington, and our church. Thanks to Westerville Community Church (Lise Wadkins) and St. Michael for the many sock and underwear gifts. Thanks for the toys (including

Immaculate Conception Church Jesus' birthday party) and toiletries. Thanks also to the cars used for transportation, and the beautiful, colorful poinsettias from

DeMonyes and Straders. Afterwards, we took food to Faith Mission, Faith Mission on Eighth and the Holy Family soup kitchen.

We want to thank everyone for the financial donations from our three Sunday offerings and the half of the offering from the offering at Lessons and Carols. This year, we gave most of the men, women and teen-agers' \$10 gift certificates. We had about 635 gift certificates.

Here at First Church, our committee included: Nancy Burba, volunteer and building scheduler, Sondra Kessler, guest hospitality, David Holt, treasurer and purchaser, Stan Parron, custodians' work, Jim Kyle and Bill Wirsching, kitchen Mary Day and Jim Fewlass, gift cards Mary Ann and Herb Goetz, Paul Flocken, sanctuary hostessing, Otto Edwards, security, Bill Johannes, poinsettias, and Arlene Reynolds, coordinator for all events. Matthew Goetz, on leave from the Navy, was Arlene's assistant.

Flowers A Way To Remember Loved Ones

A way of remembering or celebrating loved ones and special events is to provide flowers for the Sanctuary on a Sunday morning.

There are those who regularly dedicate flowers. But there are many opportunities to do so throughout the year. We have had flowers to celebrate baptisms, special anniversaries and special events here at First Church.



If you would like to dedicate flowers for the Sunday 11 a.m. worship, please contact Marty Worth (mworth@first-church.org) and specify the date or dates you would like.

Gladden Thanks First Church For Help: Gladden Community House thanks First Church for its ongoing support, especially during the recent holiday season.

Your donations of food and volunteer help for the Gladden food pantry, and your donations of Christmas gift cards for our teens and senior citizens, helped make the holidays a little brighter for our clients. In the current economy, demand at our pantry in particular has been growing steadily, and we are deeply grateful for the continuing support of friends like you. - **Mardi Ciriaco**

Constitutional Amendments Affect the Number of Trustees

By Phil Stichter, Trustees Chair

Prior to the recent constitutional amendments taking effect, the voting trustees elected for four- year terms by the congregation consisted of two trustees elected in the even number years and one trustee elected in the odd number years. These six voting trustees were joined by the church moderator, also a voting member, for a total of seven voting members. During this past year, the voting trustees were Joyce Canfield, Wally Giffen, Matt Lazar, Melody Leidheiser (moderator), Patty Pohlman, and Phil Stichter (trustee chairman).

As a result of the recently adopted constitutional amendments, the congregation will now elect two voting trustees each year for four year terms. These eight voting trustees will continue to be joined by the church moderator as a voting member, for a total of nine voting members.



In order to bring immediately the number of trustees to full complement, at the annual meeting this year one trustee will be elected for a one-year term, another for a three-year term, and then two for a four-year term. Going forward, this will result each year in two trustees being elected, each for a four-year term. The moderator will continue to be a voting member.

During this past year, the advisors to the trustees as set forth the constitution have included Tim Ahrens (senior minister), Bill Johannes (treasurer, elected by the trustees), and Mark Knueve (legal counsel and secretary, elected by the trustees). These named advisor positions remain unchanged.

Sharon Leidheiser, the church's business administrator, has performed our bookkeeping. Denny Mahoney, the church's office manager, has assisted in numerous ways while David Holt, the church's treasurer, has been an invaluable resource to the trustees. Kevin Kale of Manning & Napier has served as our investment advisor, Huntington Bank has maintained our custodial accounts, and John Koetz of the W.E. Davis Insurance Agency has handled our property and liability insurance needs.

The primary responsibilities of the trustees as set forth in the church's constitution are:

1. Respect and carry out the intentions of the donors.
2. Wisely invest and manage funds.

3. Insure the church against liability and our building and contents.
4. Encourage special gifts and contributions to the endowment funds.
5. Coordinate with church council in long-range planning.

The trustees have been fortunate in having the services and expertise of our advisors and those named above in assisting the trustees in fulfilling their responsibilities. The ever changing economic environment continues to create greater and more complex challenges in fulfilling those responsibilities. Thank you for your ongoing support.

New Archives Policy Being Implemented

By Rick Sayre, First Church Archivist

After several months of review and evaluation, it was concluded that First Church is in danger of losing its memory. Several significant situations contribute to this and are being addressed.

There is no record or other evidence that indicates the church has ever had a comprehensive records management program, documented and integrated into the church organizational structure. Records management is the foundation of an archive. It is the source of most the records and documents found in an archive. Appropriate and adequate space is required to perform these management activities. These management activities need the authority and support of a policy.

In recent months, several proposals to the council have been approved that will strengthen and integrate records management practices and the archives into the church structure and daily operation:

1. The name Archives committee has been changed to Archives and Records Management, better reflecting the function. **(Continued on Page 10)**

Mission Offerings Schedule

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

February 7 - Re-Member

February 14 - Deep Griha

February 21 - Lower Lights

February 28 - Summer Camp Scholarships



Recent Gifts to First Church

By Bill Johannes and Jane Werum

Given to the Barnard Music Endowment Fund in honor of G. Dene Barnard by:

**Bill and Gail Johannes
Andrew MacGregor**



Given to the Church Expansion Endowment Fund by:
**Peggy Alexander
Joyce Canfield**

Given to the Bill and Natalie Wright Endowment Fund for Church Support in their honor by:
Barbara Reed

Given to the Paul C. Leidheiser Sr. Endowment Fund for Church Support in celebration of his life by:
Melody and Paul C. Leidheiser Jr.

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 office

First Thursday Fellowship Set For February 4

Happy New Year! The First Thursday Fellowship will have its next meeting on Thursday, February 4 at 10 a.m., at Betsy and John Zahn's house, 2459 Sherwood Villa.

In addition to the regular business meeting, we will have a special guest, Ruth Fullen. Ruth is a regular performer with the Senior Repertory of Ohio and has had a long and rich career in music as a teacher and performer. She will tell us all about her life in the arts and will also sing a song or two. So, please plan on coming and bring a friend!

Statements Available January 24: Giving statements for 2009 will be available after worship on January 24. Direct questions to Sharon Leidheiser at 228-1741 ext. 11, or sleidheiser@first-church.org.

Member Happy February Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1: Charlie Cook | 17: Craig Clay |
| 2: Nathan Bennett | 17: Tyler Reid |
| 2: Sophia Polo | 17: Rachel Henderson |
| 4: Randy Hoffman | 20: Erik Mitchell |
| 5: Ann McIssaac | 20: Erick Gale |
| 5: Anne Morganstern | 21: Joe Lane |
| 5: Debbie Yontz | 22: Charisma Jones |
| 6: Marjorie Smith | 23: Gleva Stephens |
| 7: Jane Carter | 23: Annie Cook |
| 9: Helen Cook | 24: Lola Edwards |
| 9: Tim Ahrens | 24: Alice Boden |
| 9: Jim Griffin | 24: Kevin Cubick |
| 9: Dan Snyder | 25: Samuel Gordon |
| 10: John Matney | 25: Mike Koscher |
| 11: Jazmyn Daines | 25: Julia Myers |
| 12: Mark Leidheiser | 26: Georgia Swinger |
| 14: Bob Kutschbach | 26: William Farquhar |
| 14: Becky Ackford | 26: Matt Fulleman |
| 14: Grace Glaros | 27: Marc Lowy |
| 15: Herb Goetz | 27: Nancy Russell |
| 16: William Owen | 28: Connie Johnson |
| 16: Peggy Alexander | 28: Melva Fisher |
| 16: Dick Ward | 28: Jon Amy |
| 16: Tom Farquahr | 29: Tammy Alexander |
| 17: Jean Moran | |

Member Happy February Anniversaries

- | |
|-------------------------------------|
| 15: Gerhardt and Judith Wolff |
| 17: Mark and Anna Jensen |
| 18: Tom and Sallie Danneberger |
| 19: Thom Smith and Cammie Curren |
| 20: Bill and Jan Kutschbach |
| 22: Roger Fox and Julie Ann Parsons |
| 26: Greg and Janet Halbe |

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

Personnel Committee Looking for Members

The First Church Personnel Committee is seeking one or two new members who would be willing to serve three-year terms.

The Personnel Committee reviews and makes recommendations on policies and practices involving the church staff, oversees the annual performance review process for staff members and advises church leaders on personnel matters. The nine-member committee normally meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.

If you are interested in serving on the committee, please contact Steve Sterrett, committee chair, at 614-262-4586 or sterrett.1@osu.edu.

Church Calendar

Sunday, January 24

9 am – Treble Choir – Choir Room
9 am – Early Worship - PH
10 am – Education Hour
10 am – First Church Choir – Choir Room
11 am - Worship Service - San
12 pm – Fellowship Hour - PH
12:30 pm – Confirmation Class – Room D
6 pm – Youth Groups – PH

Monday, January 25

6:30 pm - Stephen Ministers – Adult Library
6:30 pm – Technology Committee - PFR

Tuesday, January 26

12:00 pm – Card Care Ministry – LC
7 pm – Deacons – PFR
7 pm – Personnel Committee – LC

Wednesday, January 27

7 pm – Adult Education Committee – LC

Thursday, January 28

6:15 pm – First Church Ringers – Music Activity Room
6:30 pm – Youth Team Ministry – Room D
7:15 pm – Choral Society – PH
7:30 pm – First Church Choir – Choir Room

Sunday, January 31

9 am – Treble Choir – Choir Room
10 am - Worship Service - San
11 am – Annual Meeting – San
12 pm - Fellowship Hour - PH (Barbara Cunningham celebration)

Monday, February 1

5:30 pm – Sacred Earth – PFR
7 pm – Monday Night Lights – PH

Tuesday, February 2

12 pm – Card Care Ministry – LC
6:30 pm – Children’s Education – Ed. Wing Room C

Wednesday, February 3

11 am – Book Study – LC
7 pm – Church Growth – PFR

Thursday, February 4

10 am – First Thursday Fellowship – Zahn house
7 pm – Choral Society – PH
6:15 pm – First Church Ringers – Bell Room
7:30 p.m. – First Church Choir – Choir Room

Sunday, February 7

9 am – Treble Choir – Choir Room
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
12:30 pm - Confirmation Class – Room D
12:30 pm – Parish Life - LC

Monday, February 8

7 pm – Trustees – PFR

Tuesday, February 9

12 pm – Card Care Ministry – PFR
6 pm – Music Committee – PR
7 pm – Executive Committee – PFR

Thursday, February 11

10 am – Eastside Fellowship – PR
6:15 pm – First Church Ringers – Bell Room
7 pm – Choral Society – PH

7:30 pm – First Church Choir – Choir Room

Saturday, February 13

9 am – New Members Class – Choir Room
10 am – First Church Quilters – LC

Sunday, February 14

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

Tuesday, February 16

12 pm – Card Care Ministry – LC
7 pm – Council – LC

Wednesday, February 17

Ash Wednesday

12 pm – Service – San
7:30 pm – Service – San

Thursday, February 18

6:15 pm – Ringers – Bell Room
7 pm – Choral Society – PH
7:30 pm – First Church Choir – Choir Room

(Archives, Concluded from Page 8)

2. Adequate space necessary to perform records management and archives functions has been designated.

3. Council has approved an Archives and Records Management Policy. An excerpt from the policy follows:

Purpose

This policy defines principles and standards for the management and retention of records which form the foundation for the archives of The First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Columbus, Ohio. It provides a framework for other directives, procedures, and retention schedules that pertain to specific types of Church records and record keeping practices.

Policy Statement

The records of the First Congregational Church, UCC are valuable assets that contain information pertaining to the Church’s mission, initiatives, activities, operations, heritage, and legacy. This information contributes significantly to the Church’s organizational continuity and operational efficiency. Stewardship of information assets is an important responsibility for the congregation and particularly for those who are the Church record-keepers. Records with lasting legal or operational value or those that document the Church’s history and accomplishments must be identified, preserved and made accessible. Other records are to be discarded in an orderly manner when no longer needed.

The entire policy can be viewed at www.first-church.org/News.aspx

Prayers

February Fellowship Hour

February 7: Leviticus
 February 14: Leah
 February 21: Numbers
 February 28: Proverbs

February Acolyte Schedule

February 7: Ben Allred and Carly Kutschbach
 February 14: Jaden Martin-Wynia and Luke Zimmerman
 February 21: Ella Koscher and Victoria Washington
 February 28: Merry Roach and Nicholas Warrick
 (Schedules online at www.first-church.org)

Next Newsletter Deadline

Articles Due: Monday, February 8, by noon

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.

Prayer Request: Please let us know of a prayer concern for yourself, a family member or other church member by calling the Rev. Timothy Ahrens at 614.228.1741, ext. 13, by using prayer request cards found in each pew or by emailing tahrens@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.

Baptisms

Noah Stephen Kirker – January 10

Marriages

Michaëlle Schimmoeller and Ryan Palmer – January 16

Fellowship Hour Beverage Sales



Coffee and tea sales will be available on February 7 and 21 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

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
 Frank Wall, William Lee.....Custodians
 Nikki Boop, Rosemary Pawandiwa.....Nursery
 DeAndree Norris.....Nursery
 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
 Kevin Butler.....Deacon
 Shannon Washington.....Music, Arts, Heritage
 Nancy Fields.....Budget and Finance
 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

DATED MATERIAL - VERY IMPORTANT
Please Deliver: Monday, January 25, 2010

TO:

[Empty dashed box for recipient information]



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