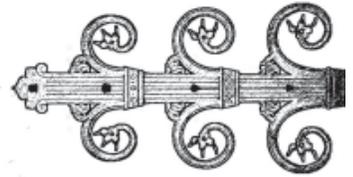


First Church News



First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ • Columbus, Ohio

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Get Ready for Two Super Sermon Series

By the Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Minister



Each summer for the past nine years, I have presented an August sermon series. Among others, the topics have covered the Lord's Prayer, the Beatitudes and critical topics of the day. Beginning August 2, I will present TWO sermon series, each lasting three weeks.

The first series will be on **"Super Heroes of Faith."** The second series will be on **"Earth Prayers."** I encourage you to bring friends, family and neighbors. We will worship at 9 and 11 a.m. each week. Our prayers, our music, our liturgy and our praise will reflect these two themes through six weeks of celebration. August will be fun and full of joyful preaching and music. I hope you are with us each Sunday.

"Super Heroes of Faith" – August 2, 9, 16 – My son Daniel is an artist and expert on super heroes. Several months ago, he and I were talking about Superman, Batman, Spiderman, Ironman and other super heroes. As I listened to him speak about the powers they possess and the qualities they bring to comics and the big screen, I realized their powers mirror those of the characters in scripture as well. This series is for the young, the young at heart and any person of faith who is willing and able to turn their perspective upside down and inside out to examine the power of faith.

August 2: "Moses and Batman" - Texts: Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15, John 6:24-35
August 9: "Satan and Arch Villains"- Texts: I Kings 19:4-8; Mark 3:20-30
August 16: "Jesus and Superman" - Texts: I Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14, Luke 24:1-12

"Earth Prayers" – August 23, 30, September 6 – When I left for college in the summer of 1976, I was intending to begin a career as an environmental lawyer. My passion was earth care and the law. My intent was to stop lawbreakers from destroying the environment. Along the way, God grabbed me and pointed me to ways of grace and peace, but I have never lost my passion for the earth. In recent years, my abiding love of the earth and concern for her future has reawakened in a multitude of ways. I dedicate this small sermon series to the Earth.

August 23: "Creation Stories and Beginning Again"- Genesis 1; John 6:56-59
August 30: "Prayers for Mother Earth" - Matthew 6:5-15; James 1:17-27
September 6: "Earth Care Blessings" - Psalm 146; Mark 7:24-37



Church Picnic Coming Up August 16

Please join us for the annual First Church picnic on Sunday, August 16, from noon to 4 p.m. There will be fun for the whole family with games, raffles, prizes and much more!

All proceeds from the raffle will go to support the Good Samaritan Fund, a cause which is in great need this year.

The event will be a potluck, please bring a dish to share according to last name: A-M bring a side or salad; N-Z bring a dessert

Parish Life will be providing the meat. Please sign up in the church office so we can get an accurate count of attendance. We hope to see you there!

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In Search of Good News

By the Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Minister

I am in search of good news! I find myself getting up each morning yearning for some good news. Instead I find too many stories of death, destruction, decline and deadlock. So, I have begun a more earnest search for Good News .

I read books. This morning I read through Anne Rowthorn's book, *Earth and All the Stars*. Anne is the wife of our 2006 Gladden Lecturer, Bishop Jeffery Rowthorn, and an author of six books and teacher of theology. She is also a long time friend. She has explored the connection between the Earth and faith. I love her spirit and writing style.

I read the Bible. I especially enjoy reading Eugene Peterson's version of the Bible called *The Message*. Peterson breaks down the texts in ways that everyone can understand. As many of you know, I also have become a huge fan of the Green Bible. The Green Bible is a teaching Bible and learning Bible filled with practical ways to care for the earth as a person of faith.

I lift up in prayer and celebration the 200 children of First Church. Spending seven days with 13 teen-agers of First Church filled me with so much hope and delight. We have amazing children and youth in this congregation. If you do not know them, you need to take time and get to know them. They are incredible.

From the youngest to the graduating seniors, we are blessed! All the college and graduate students and young adults are ALSO amazing! Our kids are bright, energetic, creative, artistic, poetic, athletic, loving, caring, knowledgeable, great actors and actresses, singers and dancers, musicians, thinkers, scientific inventors, and all around great people! We have some of the best swimmers, track athletes, lacrosse players and performers on stage in the entire state of Ohio!

Finally, I look around and give thanks to God for the staff, volunteers, lay leaders, and 900 plus members of First Church. On a daily basis I see the good news of your lives. I see your energy and compassion; your love and kindness; your thoughtfulness and consideration for others in these trying times and I give thanks that we share a church community in common. I thank God for each one of you. I am grateful to God for your beliefs, your actions, your passions, your presence in the lives of others. Thank you for the blessings you bring, the meals you cook, the time you give to lift up and care for others in the world around you.

If you are searching for "Good News," look to books, to the Bible, to our children, to your sisters and brothers in faith at First Church. You will smile and may be surprised by joy.

Many Ways to Remember First Church

By Phil Stichter, Trustees Chairman

Last month's article featured the use of bequests in wills as a flexible and convenient method of making gifts to the church.

The trustees administer those funds given to the church that arise from bequests, but also from trusts, life insurance, other methods of planned giving, or just outright gifts. These contributions are not part of the annual stewardship campaign to support the church's annual operating budget, but are special gifts. The trustees invest these funds and insure that they are used in accordance with the instructions of the donors.

Typically, the donor's instructions for the use of their gifts fall into three categories. The first category is an **endowment gift**. This means that the donor has specified that the principal of the gift remain intact in perpetuity and that only the income generated by the principal of that gift is to be used. The donor has the option of either identifying specific purposes for which the income can be used (income restricted), or of indicating that the income can be used for any purpose appropriate for the church (income unrestricted). Gifts may be made to existing endowments or the donor may wish to establish a new endowment.

The second category is a **restricted gift**, which means that the principal of the gift can be used in its entirety, but only for those purposes articulated by the donor. Those purposes can be identical to purposes already specified by other restricted gifts or the purposes may be newly created.

The third category is an **unrestricted gift** where, once again, the principal can be used in its entirety, and there is no restriction on the use of the funds. Donors who make gifts without any instructions regarding the use of principal and interest are unrestricted gifts.

Obviously, the use of unrestricted gifts or restricted gifts or the use of income from endowment gifts must be consistent with the purpose of the church as set forth in our church's constitution. It states: "The purpose of the church is to provide for the worship of God and the spiritual enlightenment and improvement of the people of God; to further Christian fellowship among its members and all people; and to promote, through its services and work, the practice of Christian love and discipleship."

We hope this article is informative and will enhance your interest in making a special gift now or in the future. In the meantime, if you have any questions or wish to consider making a special gift, please contact a trustee or an advisor to the trustees. The currently elected trustees include Joyce Canfield, Wally Giffen, Randy Hoffman, Matt Lazar, Patty Pohlman, Phil Stichter, and our moderator, Melody Leidheiser. Advisors to the trustees include our treasurer, Bill Johannes, our legal counsel and secretary, Mark Knueve, and senior minister Tim Ahrens.

Missions Luncheon to be Held 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 following the 11 a.m. worship on August 30. Two types of summer soups will be offered, along with an assortment of salads, crackers, and bread.

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



But did you know that there are numerous opportunities for personal involvement? Several of our local mission partners would love to have more volunteers and the Missions Commission can help you connect with one!

The Missions Commission also supports much that goes on within the life of the church. For example, the Sacred Earth Committee began as an idea in a commission meeting. The group has grown and now works to help raise awareness of ways the congregation can live in more green and energy efficient ways, at home and in the community.

One project Sacred Earth supports is the refurbishment of our casement windows at the church. Our wonderful House and Grounds Committee members have outlined several ways we can improve the working of these lovely windows to make them more functional and secure. The simple act of cleaning, lubricating and replacing broken hardware will allow our windows to serve many years longer. Proceeds from the canvas tote bags we have been selling since the Columbus Arts Festival help to fund projects such as the window overhaul.

Mark your calendars and plan to join us after 11 a.m. worship on August 30. 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!

Sign-up sheets are in the office. Please sign up before August 24 so we know how much soup to make. If you can't sign up in person, email Anne Hudson (annewshka@aol.com) or Fran Panek (franpan2000@yahoo.com) by August 24 and we will add you to the count. At the lunch, a free-will offering will be taken to help support the refurbishment of the church windows.

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.

Nursery Workers Needed

First Church is hiring nursery workers. Applications are available in the church office. If you have questions, contact Mark S. Williams at 228-1741, ext. 15, or mwilliams@first-church.org.

Don't Forget First Church Forum on August 2

There will be a congregational forum on August 2 after the 11 a.m. worship to discuss some important issues facing First Church.

Church leaders will answer questions and present information about the staffing models, the church budget, our vision, plans for 414 East Broad (Byers' Lot), a capital campaign and other issues that council has been covering in recent months.

Also, the First Church constitution recently was emailed to members, and copies are available in the display case outside the church office or on the church Web site, www.first-church.org.

Those wishing to comment on possible changes in the constitution may email comments to Carol Gallagher, council secretary, at cgal0444@yahoo.com.

Associate Minister Search Committee Formed

The Search Committee for the Associate Minister has been formed and it will begin its work soon.



Members include Tom Brownfield, Karen Carpenter, Bev Cook, Todd Cunningham, Sandra Geronimo, Katelyn Hoffman, Ardis Holt, Carrie Keller, Jim Kyle, Elaine Warren, Mike Weddle and the Rev. Timothy Ahrens (ex-officio).

The job description has been written and we will be posting the position as soon as possible. We will prepare a congregational profile and begin receiving profiles for candidates soon. We will post the profile and job description online. Please keep your eyes open for more coming shortly!

Jamie Bobb Arrives With Fireworks!

By the Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Minister

With a brilliant rendition of *Stars and Stripes Forever*, Jamie Bobb started his tenure among us as our new Minister of Music during worship on July 5.

A large, wonderful crowd gathered for Jamie's first day. We were joined by Jamie's mother and brother and members of the Bobb family from around Central Ohio. It felt like a homecoming to conclude a great weekend of national celebration.

We look forward to years together as Jamie leads our choirs, our congregational worship and our growing music program with his many gifts.

We are planning a formal welcome and installation of Jamie on Sunday, September 27, the date of our church's 157th anniversary. Jamie will open the 36th annual Congregational Concert Series with a 4 p.m. concert on September 27.

Don't forget to join the summer choirs rehearsing at 9:45 a.m. on August 9 and 30 and singing to the glory of God in worship both weeks at 11 a.m.



To the Congregation and Staff:

I am thrilled to finally be with you. Thank you for the warm, generous welcome on July 5 and in the many personal interactions we have already shared. The church united in worship is such a powerful witness to the community and a powerful ministry to those engaged in that worship. I felt that deeply in our first worship together and I look forward to much more.

In Christ,
Jamie Bobb

Holy Lands Pilgrimage Planned for June 2010

By the Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Minister

Plans are being laid for a trip to Israel and the Holy Lands for June 2010. I will lead this trip of members, friends, family members, and others who would like to explore the places where Jesus, Peter, Paul, Abraham, Sarah, Moses and David walked and served God.

We will spend 10 days in Israel seeing sites in Jerusalem, Nazareth, Bethlehem, Tel Aviv, Hebron and the Dead Sea area. We will stop at the site where Jesus grew-up and taught and healed along the Galilean seaside. We will explore Masada and the Jordan River area where he was baptized.

Having led such a trip with members and friends in February, 2001, I bring my passion and love of the Holy Lands to this pilgrimage of faith. Please contact me if you are interested. We need 14-21 people to make this trip come alive. Participants need not be members. We welcome everyone. My number is 614-228-1741, ext. 13 and tahrens@first-church.org.

Four Students in Training From First Church

By the Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Minister

Our congregation has been blessed throughout the years by men and women called into ministry. Currently, four people are "in-care" from our congregation: Charlie Knerr, Heather Giffen, Jackie Dean and Tom Brownfield. Charlie and Heather are in-care to be ordained in the UCC. Tom and Jackie are in-care for commissioned ministry.

Charlie Knerr is a 2008 Master of Divinity graduate of the Methodist Theological Seminary (METHESCO) in Delaware, Ohio. Charlie is a practicing therapist, and she and her husband, Michael, have three children, Jordan, James and Mikayla. They live in Worthington. Charlie was our student intern from the fall of 2006 to May 2008. Charlie has taken this past year to discern God's call to ordination.

Heather Giffen is a 2008 graduate of Muskingum College in New Concord, Ohio. She will begin her theological training this fall at United Theological Seminary in New Brighton, Minn. Heather grew up at First Church and is the daughter of Sarah and Wally Giffen. In a meeting in May, Heather was received into care in the Central Southeast Association of the Ohio Conference of the United Church of Christ. She has a passion for Native American studies and hopes to connect with the Lakota Nations and other Indian tribes on the great plains in Minnesota. She will pursue a Master of Divinity Degree, a three-year course of study.

Jackie Dean is seeking to be commissioned as a minister for spiritual care. Trained as a spiritual director through the Well Streams program of the Spirituality Network, Jackie has developed into a wonderful spiritual director. She would like to share these gifts with the larger church and commissioned ministry would allow her to do so.

Tom Brownfield is seeking to be commissioned as a minister for social justice. He is active in BREAD and many justice ministries. As he moves forward in the process, he will continue to "do justice."



Natalie and Bill Wright receiving the Lay Leadership Award on June 14

The Wrights Thank First Church For Award

Dear Friends:

We want to thank you so much for honoring us with the Outstanding Lay Leadership award for 2009, for the kind words of our friends, and for the lovely reception afterwards. It truly was a wonderful day. The

beautiful crystal cross is safely displayed in our armoire where we can see it every day.

We have finally emptied all the boxes except for one with books, so we feel quite settled. Moving is quite a job, and we wouldn't recommend it as a "fun" thing to do.

We went to our "old" church the last two Sundays and met several people we had known before. Summer services are not as well attended as in Columbus, and we have bus service right to the door and back.

We miss all of you very much and send best wishes for a warm and happy summer.

Natalie and Bill Wright

Bob Kutschbach of First Church Becomes Moderator of the Ohio Conference



First Church's Bob Kutschbach will become the new moderator of the Ohio Conference of the United Church of Christ during the Annual Meeting on July 25. First Church joins in celebrating Bob's leadership for the wider church. It is a great honor for one of our own to lead the conference.

This is a two-year commitment and it is a great honor to be chosen from the thousands of members from more than 400 churches in Ohio. Bob has served as moderator of First Church and the Central Southeast Association of the Ohio Conference. He becomes only the second member of First Church to be conference moderator, following in the footsteps of Amos White.

Read the First Church News Online at www.first-church.org



Clippers Outing Set for August 9

The First Church young adults are planning a tailgate and game outing to see the Columbus Clippers on August 9.

The game against Buffalo begins at 5 p.m. at Huntington Park Downtown, and a tailgate party will be held in the church parking lot prior to the game. It is open to anyone.

For more information, contact Cori Rowley at cori.rowley@gmail.com.

Book Club Has 2 Dates Left

The Wednesday night book club will meet two more times this summer from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

On August 5, *The Color of Water* by James McBride will be discussed. The series will close out Sept. 2 with a discussion of *Left to Tell* by Immaculee Ilibagize, followed by a viewing of the movie *Hotel Rwanda*.

The book club meets in the Parish Family Room and is open to everyone. Refreshments are provided.

Classes on Genesis, Paul Scheduled

By the Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Minister

I will be teaching two classes on Genesis this fall, as well as one on St. Paul.

Marcus Borg on Paul: We start with our Wednesday morning book study group on Sept. 16 at 11 a.m. Rev. Ahrens will lead a study of Marcus Borg's book on Paul, the most influential Christian in history. How do we read his writings? What do we know about the man himself? Borg opens our eyes to Paul: his successes and failures; his foibles and gifts. The class will meet throughout the fall on the first and third Wednesday each month.

Genesis Bible Study: Beginning Sept. 21, Rev. Ahrens will begin a congregation wide Bible study on Genesis. The class will be held the third Monday night of each month (except December) until May from 7 to 9 p.m. Come and explore the first book of the Bible. This class is open to everyone. It is time to study, pray together and build community. Class has open enrollment.

The Children of Abraham: An Interfaith Study of Genesis: Muslims, Jews and Christians join together in this six-week study of the opening section of Genesis. Beginning Oct. 14 and ending Nov. 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 the Rev. Tim Ahrens, 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.

Because we can only have 12 people from our congregation, we are asking interested people to fill out applications by mid-September. Applications will be available in the office and online at www.first-church.org beginning Aug. 1.

Adult Ed Meeting Set for July 29

The Adult Education Committee will be meeting July 29 from 7 to 9 p.m. to plan for the next program year.

The committee will look at many topics that relate to the three-year cycle of sacred conversation areas. Those areas are race, open and affirming, environment, poverty, immigration and world religions.

Requests for presentation must be submitted to the committee for review. A review application is available from Mark S. Williams.

Church School Teacher/Helper Opportunities

By Mark S. Williams, Director of Christian Education

The Christian Education Department will be hosting the church school training Aug. 23 starting at 8:30 a.m. for pre-school through high school age classes.



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!

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

New Members Class to be Held Sept. 19

The next new members class will be held on Saturday, Sept. 19 from 9 a.m.-noon. Those interested in joining should sign up in the church office.

The class will join during worship on Oct. 4.

New Address, Phone Number or Email?

Be sure to let the office know if you have moved or have changed your phone number or email address.

Help us to keep you informed by keeping us informed.

General Synod Delegates Urged To 'Rock the Boat'

By the Staff of United Church News

The UCC's 27th General Synod came to a close June 30, with a celebration of five days of worship and work in Grand Rapids, Mich.

In her concluding sermon, the Rev. Patricia E. de Jong recalled Matthew's Gospel story of Jesus and the disciples and the Sea of Galilee. While Jesus walked on water in the Sea of Galilee, it is Peter who provides the drama. Will he or won't he step out of the boat and walk with Jesus?

"Are we ready to take the risk and step out of the boat? Are we willing to go where Jesus is standing?" she asked.



The senior pastor of First Congregational UCC in Berkeley, Calif., de Jong also reminded visitors and delegates that "anybody who rocks the boat takes a tremendous risk. Water is mighty powerful, and it can also be impersonal and downright mean."

As General Synod ended, delegates and visitors had much boat-rocking to remember from their time together.

The Rev. Geoffrey Black (shown above), who has served for nearly a decade as minister of the UCC's New York Conference, was elected to succeed the Rev. John Thomas as general minister and president of the United Church of Christ. Thomas was ineligible for an additional term.

In brief remarks, the new general minister and president thanked the delegates and spoke of his high expectations of working with other members of the UCC's five-person Collegium of Officers. Echoing his remarks at the time of his nomination, Black affirmed, "We are in this together."

Longtime health-care reform advocate Rep. John Conyers of Michigan visited with UCC members and made the case for a single-payer health care system during a workshop.

Conyers, a 22-term congressman and a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus, said he admires the UCC and has friends in the church. He expressed appreciation for the denomination's stands on civil and human rights issues.

During the synod, about 200 delegates marched to City Hall to demonstrate their commitment to universal health care

Leading the 15-minute walk was Mayor George Heartwell, a UCC pastor, and the demonstration organizers, the Rev. Bert Perry of the Florida Conference and the Rev. Peter Wells, an Associate Conference Minister from Massachusetts.

Resolution actions called for solidarity with the people of Iran, support for Iraqi refugees, a continuation of "Sacred Conversations on Race" and advocacy regarding a single-payer health care solution - among many others.

GLBT Director Removed

United Church News

Citing a need to improve internal working effectiveness, the UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns has removed the Rev. Ruth Garwood as executive director. Garwood served in the position for more than three years.

Kathy Church, moderator, said the decision was made because the relationship between Garwood and the board "was not the right relationship for the coalition at this time."

The First Church Summer Choir: The choir will sing again on Aug. 9 and 30, with rehearsals at 9:45 a.m. in the Choir Room. The choir will sing at the 11 a.m. worship those days. Call Jamie Bobb (228-1741, ext. 14) to sign up.

Fall Women's Retreat: Planning is under way for the First Church women's retreat, which will be Nov. 13-15. Those who would like to help in the planning should contact the Rev. Barb Cunningham or Mark Williams. A planning meeting will be held later in the month. If you are interested, please contact Mark (mwilliams@first-church.org or 228-1741, ext. 15) as Barb is still recuperating at home.

Check Your Mailbox for Statements!

Second quarter pledge statements for donations given through June 30 are now available in your church mailbox.

Please help us save postage by picking up your statement. If you have any questions or corrections please contact Sharon Leidheiser at 228-1741, ext. 11, or sleidheiser@first-church.org.



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CATALYST Doing Valuable Work in Jamaica

By Heather Biggers

CATALYST is the mission relationship between First Church, the communities of downtown Kingston, Jamaica and the Grace and Staff Foundation.

Downtown Kingston is home to many wonderful families living in extremely poor and violent communities. These families, our brothers and sisters, have asked us to help them educate their children. So CATALYST assists students who use Grace and Staff's homework center and the Learning Centre of Central Kingston (LICK).

LICK is in the midst of some of Jamaica's notorious garrison communities, which are controlled by drug lords, or as they are euphemistically called, "community leaders." Residents of the garrison communities get no monetary benefits from the wealth generated by Jamaica's world renowned tourist facilities and live in the midst of the constant terror of political and drug-related violence.

In the last article, I wrote about the violence of the garrison communities under the grip of the drug dons. When I first began working in Kingston, the average family income was \$300 a month. I wouldn't be surprised if it was lower now because the financial situation of the country has worsened.

A resident of a garrison community in Kingston lives with a little opportunity for education or employment and in constant fear of being a victim of violence. They also are victimized by negative stereotyping from those in other communities.

In the midst of such violence and poverty is Grace and Staff, a non-profit foundation associated with a corporation, Grace Kennedy (www.gkco.com). Both are located on Harbour Street in downtown Kingston, at the very edge of a garrison community called Southside, (Southside, along with the Tel Aviv community, is referred to as Parade Gardens.)

Grace Kennedy is a major Jamaican corporation, best known for the production of food products. Contributions from its employees fund the Grace and Staff Foundation. Unfortunately, Grace Kennedy has laid off many of its employees during the past four years, and fewer employees means less money for Grace and Staff.

The foundation does amazing work with its small staff and very little money. The CATALYST Mission relationship is manifested in Kingston as the Grace and Staff CATALYST program. Within a short walk of the Grace and Staff office is the Learning Centre of Central Kingston, (LICK Centre) home of the CATALYST program. The centre is maintained by a parents group from the community, Parents of Inner City Kids (PICK), a Grace and Staff program.

PICK has worked to remodel the center bathroom and an office. It received money to buy a freezer/refrigerator used to store snacks for the children. The LICK Centre is a place for tutoring, for violence prevention activities, parenting classes, PICK meetings, study groups, SAT and PSAT classes, the photo club, music programs and a place to be with caring adults.

Right now, we are looking for digital cameras that can be used by the LICK photo club. If you have a digital camera with memory card and batteries that you would like to donate, please call me at 759-1550, or leave a note in my mailbox at the church.

Recent Celebration Gifts to First Church

By Bill Johannes and Jane Werum

Given to the Social Justice Endowment Fund in celebration of the life of Lillian Brownfield by:
Ardis and David Holt

Given to the First Church Choir in celebration of the life of Jean Byerly by:
Sarah and Gunter Garbe
Charlie and Mary Weaver



Given to the Remembrance Fund in celebration of the life of Wallace Cannon by:
Garon and Diane Grigsby

Given to the Remembrance Fund in celebration of the life of Jerome Dailey by:
Bert and Bev Cook
Teresa and Shawn O'Brien
Dorothy Henry and Carla Peterson
Barbara Knox
Bill and Natalie Wright
Dawn George
Dave Proctor
Gleva Stephens

Given to the Social Justice Endowment Fund in celebration of the life of Jerome Dailey by:
Ardis and David Holt

Given to the Remembrance Fund in celebration of the life of Henry Hunker by:
Mary Orcutt and R. Stuart Knecht
Dr. Robert Weisenburger
Kurt Hunker
Judge and Mrs. Donald Calhoun Jr.

Your gifts, payable to First Congregational Church, are 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 a friend or family member. The gold Celebration Gift folders are found in the pews and office.



BREAD Prompts Action on Neighborhood Blight

By Priss Endo

Within a few weeks after the Nehemiah Action Assembly of the BREAD Organization in May, city and county officials reported to BREAD representatives about action taken in response to BREAD's 2009 campaign focusing on neighborhood blight.

County Treasurer Ed Leonard, Columbus Development Director Boyce Safford and County Prosecutor Ron O'Brien told BREAD that enforcement action had been taken on half of the 85 "worst of the worst" properties in the city. Tax foreclosure was filed on 12 of the properties and abandoned trailers have been removed from the Mock Road Trailer Park.

Call or write to the above officials thanking them for responding to the demands of the 2,574 members of BREAD who attended the Nehemiah Action Assembly. Tell them we are monitoring their action on the remainder of the 85 "worst of the worst."

More Totes are Coming

The Sacred Earth Committee thanks all who purchased totes. Remember to use them. A second production, inscribed with the church name, is planned. Joe Daniels and Deb Anderson again will contribute their skills to the project. The profit will allow House and Grounds to repair some of the leaks in our building. Totes make wonderful birthday and host gifts. The price is \$10.

Fellowship Hour Beverage Sales

Coffee and tea sales will be available on August 2 and 16 during Fellowship Hour. This is a UCC coffee project initiative and your participation is greatly appreciated.



Mission Offerings Schedule

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

- August 2 - One Great Hour of Sharing**
- August 9 - Church World Services**
- August 16 - Lower Lights, Franklinton**
- August 23 - Crossroads**
- August 30 - Good Samaritan**

Member Happy August Birthdays

8/1:	Janet Stoneking	8/18:	David Coe
8/2:	Helen Spears	8/19:	Karen Sterrett
8/2:	Wib Smith	8/19:	Nicholas Hoffman
8/3:	Lourdes Henderson	8/19:	Emma Henderson
8/3:	Melody Leidheiser	8/20:	Mark Jensen
8/4:	Bill Rhoads	8/20:	Amy Trace
8/4:	Dayna McCreary	8/21:	Kenne Lebold
8/5:	Deb Anderson	8/21:	Janice White
8/5:	Ellen Boriin	8/21:	Chris Glaros
8/5:	Heather Grunkemeyer	8/22:	Duan Cannon
8/6:	Jenny Sieck	8/23:	Lissa Wade
8/6:	Denise Vogt	8/23:	Matt Goetz
8/6:	Ashlea Shaw	8/24:	Charles Drummond
8/8:	Dave Loy	8/24:	Tom Stewart
8/9:	Dan Harkins	8/25:	Barb Cunningham
8/10:	Alan Daulton	8/25:	Dan Axt
8/10:	Bill Faith	8/25:	Andreas Klein
8/10:	Kevin Ayres	8/25:	Steve Kennedy
8/10:	Alex Aeschbury	8/26:	Sandra Valinis
8/12:	Lesley Schaab	8/27:	Sue Cook
8/12:	Ardis Holt	8/27:	Sondra Kesler
8/12:	Mary Weaver	8/27:	Dennis Henfield
8/12:	Rob Loevy	8/28:	Russ Kelm
8/13:	Bobby Carrington	8/28:	Jim Velo
8/13:	Valerie Conlin-Losinski	8/28:	Holly Heer
8/14:	Hugh Allen	8/29:	Rebecca Baird
8/15:	Chuck Atkinson	8/29:	Phil Schneider
8/15:	Sandy Crooms	8/30:	Grace Johnson
8/18:	Dennis Secor	8/30:	Andrew Batchelor

Member Happy Anniversaries

8/6:	Andrew and Jennifer Middendorf
8/6:	James and Betty Powell
8/7:	Reggie and Duan Cannon
8/7:	Steven and Catherine Kennedy
8/8:	William and Holly Heer
8/9:	Dan and Jenelle Snyder
8/10:	George and Roberta Lucas
8/17:	Larry and Diana Dixon
8/17:	Thomas and Lee Ann Hadley
8/18:	Seth and Erin Gray
8/19:	Bruce and Anne Aldrich
8/19:	Robert and Georgia Rayburn
8/19:	Michael and Jill Tangeman
8/20:	Robert and Joanne Avers
8/20:	Steve and Karen Sterrett
8/21:	Hugh and Dana Schultz
8/24:	Wilbert and Alice Boden
8:24:	Daniel and Joyce Ward
8/25:	William and Christine Farquhar
8:27:	Mark and Melanie Brown
8:27:	Robert and Kathleen Hughes
8:28:	Donald and Shirley Calhoun
8:31:	David and Tammy Wharton

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

Church Calendar

Sunday, July 19

9 am - Early Worship - San
11 am - Worship Service - San
12 pm - Fellowship Hour

Monday July 20

6 pm - Stephen Ministers - Adult Library
7 pm - Budget and Finance

Tuesday, July 21

12 pm - Card Care Ministry - PFR

Friday, July 24

6 pm - Faith Mission Shelter Meals

Saturday, July 25

10 am - Rev. Cunningham's MRAG group - Barbara's Office

Sunday, July 26

9 am: Early Worship Service - PH
11 am: Worship Service - San
12 pm: Fellowship Hour - PH

Tuesday, July 28

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

Sunday, August 2

9 am - Early Worship Service - PH
11 am - Worship Service - San
12 pm - Fellowship Hour - PH
12 pm - Congregational Forum - San
2 pm - OSU Men's Glee Club - San

Monday, August 3

5:30 pm - Sacred Earth - PFR

Tuesday, August 4

12 pm - Card Care Ministry - PFR
6:30 pm - Children's Ed - Ed Wing Rm C
7 pm - Executive Committee - PFR

Wednesday, August 5

9:30 am - Staff Meeting - LC
11 am - Book Study Group - LC
7 pm - Evening Book Study - PFR

Friday, August 7

3:45 pm - Parents for Others - Toddler Room

Saturday, August 8

10 am - Quilters at First Church - LC

Sunday, August 9

9 am - Early Worship Service - PH
11 am - Worship Service - San
12 pm - Fellowship Hour - PH
5 pm - Clippers Game

Monday, August 10

12 pm - Newsletter Deadline
6 pm - Stephen Ministers - Adult Library
6:30 pm - Technology Committee - LC
7 pm - Trustees - PFR

Tuesday, August 11

12 pm - Card Care Ministry - PFR
6:30 pm - Pub Theology
7 pm - Missions Committee - PFR

Thursday, August 13

2 pm - Arts Committee - PFR

Saturday, August 15

9 am - House and Grounds - LC

Sunday, August 16

9 am - Early Worship Service - PH
11 am - Worship Service - San
12 pm - Fellowship Hour - PH
12 pm - Church Picnic - PH and Front Lawn

Monday, August 17

7 pm - Budget and Finance - LC
7 pm - Rev. Ahrens MRAG Group - Tim's Office

Tuesday, August 18

12 pm - Card Care Ministry - PFR
7 pm - Church Council - LC

Wednesday, August 19

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

Thursday, August 20

7 pm - Deacons - LC

Sunday, August 23

8:30 am - Teacher Training
9 am - Early Worship - San
11 am - Worship Service - San
12 pm - Fellowship Hour
7 pm - Racial Unity Service - Sa

Pub Theology Meets August 11

The Young Adult Ministry team has been pleased to organize the Pub Theology program at First Church.

Pub Theology began in January and has had a small but faithful following. The group meets once a month at the Red Door Tavern in Grandview at 7 p.m. Participants enjoy food, fellowship and a lively discussion of a current event, issue or topic, led by knowledgeable guest speakers.

Previous topics have included global poverty, race, faith and music and environmental issues. Upcoming topics will include social justice, faith and politics, immigration and Christian ethics.

While Pub Theology is organized by young adults, it is not limited to the under 40 crowd. Anyone young at heart and old enough to buy a beer is welcome to attend! Please join us for our next meeting on August 11. We look forward to seeing you!

Glasses, Cell Phones Needed

Parents for Others is looking for donations for two efforts it is supporting: Cell Phones for Soldiers and New Eyes for the Needy.

You can donate your old eyeglasses and sunglasses to help people with eyesight difficulties worldwide. Sunglasses can be non-prescription and are needed in countries near the equator to help protect people's eyes from sun damage.

You also can make a difference for military families and the environment by recycling wireless phones, allowing military families free calls. Before donating your mobile phone, erase any stored information, including your contact list, text messages and listings of incoming/outgoing numbers. Most cell phones use a "master reset" to delete information quickly and easily. Also, verify that your account has been canceled with your service provider.

Glasses and phones can be dropped off outside the office. The drive ends Sept. 11.

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.

Deaths

Frances Gurley - June 30

Baptisms

Madeline Grace McWilliams - July 12
Adeline Atwood Brown - July 12

Marriages

Christy Stoner and Jeff Cooper - June 20
Jennifer Brand and Jason Bryant - June 27
Molly Herzog and Eric Van Gorden - July 18

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

August Fellowship Hour

August 2: Ephesians
August 9: Galatians
August 16: Haggai
August 23: Hosea
August 30: Jeremiah

August Acolyte Schedule

August 2: Jacob Kesler and Camille Kesler
August 9: Michael Warrick and Nick Warrick
August 16: Jensen Allred and Alex Herr
August 23: Katie Wagner and Jayden Martin-Wynia
August 30: Reel Chaudhri and Ella Kosher
(Schedules online at www.first-church.org)

Next Newsletter Deadline

Articles Due: Monday, August 10 by noon
Email: dmahoney@first-church.org
Folding Team: Wed., August 19, 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.....Associate Minister
Jamie 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.....Custodian
William Lee.....Custodian
Don Bell.....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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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