

The CATALYST Mission Relationship – Don’t Call Us a Project

By Heather Biggers

In Kingston, Jamaica, the people of Southside and the other garrisons are accustomed to foreigners studying them. Frances Madden, director at the Grace and Staff Foundation, says a steady stream of North American professionals come to their door wanting to learn about the community in order to write a book. These people are there not to help the community, but to complete their own projects.

Residents have expressed their fatigue about the constant “foreign” who come and go and do nothing to help the community.

CATALYST is a mission relationship. Don’t call us a “project.” When we first came into the community in 1997, we asked residents, “How can we work with you?” They responded, “Help us educate our children.” We sought out a local respected partner, Grace and Staff, and made a commitment to develop long-term relationships.



The Learning Centre of Central Kingston in Jamaica is supported by CATALYST.

The First Church mission collections on June 19 and 26 will benefit CATALYST.

Today, community people know CATALYST as the foreigners “who help the children!” One CATALYST student said, “Ms. Biggers is tough on us, but we know it’s because she cares.” That caring relationship is what enables us to work with our young people. We plant a few seeds, Grace and Staff waters, and God gives abundant growth. The harvest is not just students getting scholarships to the United States, it goes

beyond that. Our CATALYST students have learned to be strategic in crafting their futures. They are finding mentors, setting goals and teaching the younger students! Wow!

Please continue to support the CATALYST mission relationship. You can give at anytime, just write a check payable to the church and put CATALYST in the memo line. And please lift up the people of Grace and Staff, the CATALYST students and their families in prayer.

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‘The Circle Game’

By the Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Minister
(tahrens@first-church.org)



It is late Saturday and I am writing a sermon as I have done for 26 years. As I pause to piddle, to reflect and pray, I look up on the top of the bookcase. There are all the little cut-outs of Luke in his baseball uniforms from years gone by.

He is so determined in all the pictures. In some, teeth are missing. In others, the bats look bigger than the boy. My favorite cut-out is one in which Luke looks so determined he could hit the ball a mile! Watch out pitchers, this batter is ready to hit!

(Continued on Page 2)

Saying Farewell to a Good Friend and a Great First Church Employee

We've all heard it before, but it's never fun to test out the theory – saying goodbye to a friend is not easy!

We are sad that Bill Beckett will be leaving our staff. He and his team have accomplished an amazing amount of work during his 15 months with us.



Bill has led us in multiple projects of deconstruction and reconstruction, building up and taking down, wondering how and celebrating the moments of wow. He even cleared and opened the pathway (literally) into our Future's Broadening Way.

Bill Beckett

His devotion to do all he can with a good spirit and always serving God to the best of his ability continue. This week Bill is leading us out of darkness (in the Sanctuary where the lights are 65 feet in the air and in need of replacement) and he has made it possible to leave us in the light!

Bill has become someone we as staff and congregation have relied upon day in and day out. We are sad that his health is calling him back to sunny Florida. We will remember him with great joy and keep he and his wife and family in our prayers always.

Bill, we know God has blessed you with countless gifts and skills and you have shared these in abundance with us. We are grateful and wish you the very best each and every day. May God continue to bless you always in all ways,

Rev. Tim, Rev. Janine and all the members of the First Church Staff

*First Church sermons
available online at
www.first-church.org*

(REV. AHRENS, Concluded from Page 1)

All twelve cut-outs remind me of seasons that passed by full of life, love and delight. The summer seasons of our lives have been filled with baseball memories. It seems like yesterday, he, Daniel and Sarah were running the bases and swinging for the fences. Time goes by. They are all growing up wonderfully and well. On June 17, Luke will be wed to Kirsten Roche and a brand new chapter of his life will unfold.

Joni Mitchell's song *The Circle Game* comes to mind. She sings:

*Yesterday, a child came out to wander,
Caught a dragonfly inside a jar
Fearful when the sky was full of thunder,
And tearful at the falling of a star.
And the seasons they go 'round and 'round, and the
painted ponies go up and down. We're captive on the
carousel of time, We can't return we can only look
behind, from where we came and go round and round
and round in the circle game.*

You have blessed all of our children as they have grown up in this community of faith. Our Christian education program, youth groups, and youth mission trips have shaped and formed them as young people with strong moral and ethical values. The music ministry, worship and spiritual life of our church has shaped and informed their growth in faith. Even more, I love seeing them talk to our older members, and discover that you have been following their steps all these years. You tell me things about them that I didn't know - proving once again it really does take a village to raise a child. This village called First Congregational Church has been kind to my children. Thank you!

Each of us is blessed by God to go "round and round and round in the circle game" of life and faith. In the church, we celebrate 52 weeks of seasons in our life together. Pentecost is coming June 12. In the fire of the Holy Spirit, we will spend almost 26 weeks reflecting on how the church lives out our individual and corporate life in Christ. We arrive at Pentecost after 26 weeks of journeying through Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week and Easter. The circle game of life and faith teaches us to look at each season as special and different. Each season is a new reminder that we are blessed to be a blessing in Christ.

I encourage you to embrace all the seasons of your life. In the life of faith that we walk together, may you find solace and comfort in the prayers of the people, the music of the church, in our life together lived most fully in the Word of God. Love, blessings and thanks to you.

Volunteers Needed for Final Arts Festival in Our Neighborhood

The church's Arts Festival Committee is busy planning musical offerings, refreshments and an art exhibit of its own for festival-goers during the Columbus Arts Festival weekend, June 3-5. This is the last year for the festival here in the Discovery District.

The committee also will be looking for members and friends who can help serve and guide our guests that weekend.



Many volunteer hands are needed, and Nancy Burba (476-4148), Mary Day Fewlass (257-0566 or mdfewlass@aol.com) or Anne Hudson (879-6667 or annewshka@aol.com) would love to hear from you that you can help out during the weekend. If they don't hear from you, they have a church directory, and they're not afraid to use it.

Watch for posters around the building for more details about these activities planned by the committee:

Friday, 6/3, 7 p.m. – Progressive Concerts (throughout the building); 5-7 p.m. – Tea Room Open (Parish Hall)

Saturday, 6/4, 7 p.m. – Choral Festival Concert (sanctuary); 4-7 p.m. – Tea Room Open (Parish Hall)

Sunday, 6/5, 10 a.m. – Worship Service (Sanctuary); 1 p.m. - Beckerath Organ Demonstration (Sanctuary); 11 a.m.-1 p.m. – Tea Room Open (Parish Hall)

May and June – Photography Exhibit: The Lesotho Photoshare Project (Parish Hall)

Where is God Calling Us Next?

*Long-Range Planning at First Church
By Wayne Piper*

At the end of the film *On the Beach*, a banner reading "There is still time brother!" waves over a deserted city plaza. If you recall in that film the world's population has been destroyed by nuclear war and the banner is a haunting admonition to the audience to avoid a future holocaust.

I cite the quote for two reasons. First, I'm sure a Congregationalist didn't write that slogan because if one had, the sign at the very least would have read, "There is still time brothers and sisters" or perhaps even "There is still time EVERYBODY!" The second reason I site the quote is that while we're not facing annihilation at First Church, there **is still time for EVERYBODY** to help with the current long-range planning process by sharing your thoughts with the planning committee on five straightforward questions.

Questionnaires are available at the church's Web site, www.first-church.org. Additionally, forms are available at church. The response to date has been encouraging and, as you might expect from our independently-thinking congregants, wide and varied in scope.

You have until May 25 to make your voice heard and to make your ideas count toward the future of our congregation. Don't delay. There is still time.

Softball Team Perfect So Far

The First Congregational Church "Crusaders" took the field on May 1 and won their one and only game 18-11. There was an impressive display of hitting, running and fielding! But we have also had three rainouts.



With a break in the weather, we hope to take the field again this Sunday. Come cheer us on. Bring your lawn chairs. We will play every Sunday afternoon (except Memorial Day, and the Fourth of July) until July 10. Games last one hour or until we run rule the other team. Our games are on Field #6 at the A. Busch Softball fields just off Olentangy River Road (north of Henderson and south of Bethel - just west of 315). If you are coming from Henderson Road, it is the first set of fields to the right. From Bethel, take the second left into the fields. Field #6 is in the NW corner of the four fields. Upcoming games include:

May 22 – 3 p.m. - Aspen DD Destroyers vs. First Church

June 5 – 2 p.m. – First Church vs. Aspen DD Destroyers

June 12 – 4 p.m. - India Oak vs. First Church

June 19 – 3 p.m. - Foul Balls vs. First Church

June 26 – 3 p.m. – First Church vs. Hudson Street Dagers

July 10 – 2 p.m. – First Church vs. ORI

4 Young People at Deep Griha Supported by First Church

By Fran Panek, Missions Co-Commissioner

Most First Church members are aware of the longstanding connection between our church and Deep Griha in Pune, India. Through our periodic mission offerings, certain joint ventures with First Community and Dublin Community churches, and the visits from Neela and Baskar Onawale, many of us have come to know much of the excellent work carried out by the "lighthouse" in Pune.

What some may not know is that for the past three years, members of First Church have sponsored four students at the **Aadhar Kendra Sponsorship Programme** (City of Child), a residential facility located in the country beyond Pune. Here, students whose families lack the basic needs of food, family, clothing and shelter can find a safe haven where they can feel comfortable and loved. They also get an outstanding education and medical care.

The cost to sponsor each child is \$220 annually. We took one offering in February, which yielded slightly over \$500. On May 8, a second offering was solicited, and brought in approximately \$475. This is wonderful news because it will allow us to continue our commitment to these four young people for another year.

Our children are three boys, Hrithik Mhetre, 12, Nadeem Nadaf, 16, and Suraj Mhamane, 19, and one girl, Mamta Bajantri, 13. Check them out on the Missions Board in June. I am sure each of them joins me in extending a very warm and profound "thank you" to all the members of First Church.

Annual Gathering Registration Opens

Registration is under way for this year's Annual Gathering of the Ohio Conference of the United Church of Christ at Heidelberg University in Tiffin, Ohio, on June 10 and 11. The registration deadline is May 25.

The keynote speaker will be the Rev. Tony Robinson, an ordained UCC minister, who has served four congregations. His present ministry is a multi-faceted one. He travels throughout North America as a speaker, teacher, preacher, consultant and coach serving congregations and their leaders. He has taught at



Tony Robinson

several schools, including Emmanuel College/ Toronto School of Theology, Seattle Pacific University, Seattle University and Vancouver School of Theology.

Tony is the author of nine books, the most recent *Changing the Conversation: A Third Way for Congregations*, published in 2008. He is at work on two new books, one on preaching and leadership, the other on scripture and ethics.

The schedule and registration information for the Annual Gathering can be found at www.ocucc.org.

Knight Perry Fund – Helping Our Members

By the Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Minister

I would like to thank those who have contributed to the Knight-Perry Fund since an article appeared in the March *First Church News*.

The Knight-Perry Fund serves as a zero interest church loan for members in emergency situations. Over the years, it has aided many members of First Church. As senior minister, I administer these funds. In the recent years, given the economic recession, many recipients have had difficulty repaying the fund. As a result, the Knight-Perry Fund has been seriously depleted. It is so low at this point, that we have stopped sharing its resources with others in our membership.

Unfortunately, the need for emergency relief remains. If you would like to make a contribution to this fund, please send your gifts to the church office in care of the Knight-Perry Fund. Thank you.

Upcoming Sermons

May 22 - Fifth Sunday of Easter
"Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled"
Acts 7: 55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; I Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14



May 29 - Sixth Sunday of Easter - Memorial Day
"Put Flowers on their Graves"
Psalm 66: 8-20, I Peter 3:13-22, John 14: 15-21

June 5 - Seventh Sunday of Easter (10 a.m. only)
Arts Festival Weekend
"TAMBO: That All May Be One"
Acts 1:6-14, Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35, John 17:1-11

Youth Getting Ready for Summer Mission Trip to Vermillion

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

The First Church youth mission trip is scheduled for July 10-15 at Sunset Shores Retreat Center UCC in Vermillion, Ohio. While this is a retreat center, the youth will be working hard, as it needs some maintenance and beautifying. They will end the week with a day at Cedar Point before returning home.



“Buy-a-Mile” starts the mission trip on its way. The youth are asking for donations of \$7 a mile to make the trip to Sunset Shores.

There is a giant map in the Parish Hall that will track our donations on our route to Vermillion. We have collected enough thus far to get us to Delaware, Ohio. Thank you for a great start to our mission trip. Each week we will give you a report on how far we are on our trip.

Don't Forget! Cabaret is This Sunday



First Church adults and young people will take the stage this Sunday, May 22, at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall for the annual Cabaret. There will be amazing acts to entertain every age, and lots of

food and fun. Proceeds from the night will benefit the summer mission trip.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. They can be purchased in the office, during Fellowship Hour, with your offering or at the door. Come celebrate the talent of First Church – and have a great time, too!

If you like to perform, we are still looking for cabaret acts. Do you sing, dance, play an instrument, tell jokes or read poetry? Individual and group acts are welcome. We need you! Please contact Pam Welsh-Huggins at ms_pamjoy@yahoo.com or Stephanie Koscher at sykoscher@hotmail.com. But do it soon!

What in the World is ‘OCWM?’

By Wally Giffen

Every annual budget time, as well as on several Sundays a year, we hear about “OCWM giving.” Our Church’s Wider Mission (OCWM) offerings go to the Central Southeast Ohio Association of the Ohio Conference of the United Church of Christ for support of a variety of missions and services provided by association, conference and national levels of the UCC. We used to give 10% of our annual member pledge receipts. Now it is closer to 6%! Shame on us.

The portion of OCWM funds allocated to the Central Southeast Ohio Association include:

- Facilitates and encourages the discernment process of 20+ persons called to authorized ministry
- Nurtures 110 active and retired authorized ministers
- Coordinates the involvement of association churches with Iglesia Mission Christiana, our partner church Association in Nicaragua
- Builds vitality to 39 local churches in times of transition or conflict
- Nurtures the development of new UCC congregations
- Engages Association members and congregations in opportunities for social justice witness and advocacy
- Builds ecumenical relationships with other denominations especially the Disciples of Christ
- Creates and implements quality programming for youth including camps
- Fosters coordinated and efficient solutions to common church dilemmas

At the state and national levels OCWM, allocations go to wider missions such as:

- The church’s Executive Council
- The Office of General Ministries
- Justice and Witness Ministries
- Local church ministry support
- Wider church ministry support
- The General Assembly
- Pension boards
- Coordinating response to natural disasters and feeding the hungry

Looking for some summer fun? There are UCC camp opportunities for all ages. Go to www.ocucc.org for information and registration forms.

Suffer the Children

By Jim Fewlass, Treasurer

I have always thought that the translation “suffer the children” is one of the worst bungles of the King James Version of the Bible. Granted English of that time had another nuance for “suffer,” but nevertheless many churches have been “suffering the children” ever since.

First Church is not one of the “suffering the children” churches. Children are welcomed at both services, serve communion at the 9 a.m. service, participate as choir members and acolytes at 11 a.m., joyously disrupt our solemnity with hushed questions and giggles and take part in a variety of activities, including the Christmas play and pageant. One of my fondest memories is of an Academy Award-winning sheep at the 2009 Christmas play.



When I first took on entering contributions into First Church’s financial computer program under the gracious and detailed guidance of Natalie Wright, one of my first puzzlements was #68 Mission Sundays. Having nothing to do with the weekly mission offering of the church, Mission Sundays is the computer category under which children’s offerings in the church school are recorded. These contributions were recorded anonymously for the most part. I noticed that some children (or their parents or church school teachers) recorded their names on Mission Sunday envelopes. I began recording their contributions by name in the church’s computer financial program.

Our church’s children’s stewardship education took a little step forward. The intention was to have the children and youth receive contribution statements just like the adults. With Mark Williams’ illness- enforced absence, the transitions in the church school, increased participation in the 9 a.m. service, the stewardship of our children and youth once again fell into anonymity.

Mark is back. Mission Sunday envelopes are being recycled and prepared for use. September Celebration Day will mark the beginning of Mission Sunday envelopes for all our children and youth. Parents are encouraged to talk with their children and teens about giving to the church. Encourage children and teens to write their names on the envelopes. Last names will help, but we’ll figure out who the first name only ones are. They are important stewards now and in the future.

As a kid in Brooklyn I remember putting my quarter in the envelope each Sunday. And I also remember receiving the handwritten record from the church treasurer. That helped lay the foundation for my life-long stewardship in churches and the world.

New Sister Congregations Formed in Our Association

By Wally Giffen

First Congregational Church is a member of the Central Southeast Ohio Association (CSEOA) of the Ohio Conference of the United Church of Christ. In the bottom-up structure of congregational polity (where the congregation is king) it is the association that nurtures and ordains clergy and admits and nurtures new congregations. With two new additions, our local association now has 38 member churches.

At the 48th spring annual meeting of the CSEOA on May 7 at Advent UCC in Columbus, two new Columbus church starts were officially admitted to full standing: New Song UCC, pastured by the Rev. Yvonne Gilmore-Essig, and Oasis UCC, led by the Rev. Deb Click. New Song meets mostly on Thursday evenings and features jazz and gospel choir music. Their fantastic jazz group, the New Song Trio, was featured at the spring gathering. Oasis meets on Sunday evenings at the home of Deb Click. Their non-traditional approach to study and worship is pitched to people who have been turned off by bad experiences with “traditional” congregations. Their focus is book and Bible studies that try to find answers to diverse questions of attendees regarding faith and practice.

A third new congregation near Charleston, W. Va., currently is in formation and is called Bridges of Grace UCC with Rev Kay Albright as pastor. They are responding to the need for an open and affirming congregation in that part of the country.

Missions Offering Schedule

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



- June 5 - Good Samaritan
- June 12 - The Downtowners
- June 19 - CATALYST
- June 26 - CATALYST

First Church Honors 3 with 2011 Schumacher Awards

Three young women – Nora Goss, Martha Morlan and Misty Nichols – were honored during the May 8 service as the winners of the 2011 Schumacher Awards.

These awards are given annually at First Church on Mother's Day to recognize young women in the Central Ohio area between the ages of 15 and 20 who are worthy of commendation for Christian devotion to her mother, father, sister, or brother.



Left to right: Nora Goss, Martha Morlan and Misty Nichols

Nora Goss

Nora is a senior at Worthington Kilbourne High School where she plays field hockey and lacrosse. She also attends the Teacher Academy at

Delaware Career Center, and has a full-time job. After graduation, Nora plans to attend Columbus State University, and then transfer to Bowling Green University to study to become an English teacher. Nora attends Xenos Christian Fellowship, and enjoys sports and spending time outdoors.

Martha Morlan

Martha is a senior at Logan Elm High School where she sings in choir, participates in Key Club, serves as secretary of the drama club, and will perform in the school's upcoming production of "Pride and Prejudice". In addition to volunteering at the Jericho Homeless Shelter, Martha is a member of the Laurelville Church of God. Her experience of serving as president of the church youth group, teaching vacation Bible school and several youth group Sunday school lessons has led Martha to pursue a career as a Christian Youth leader. Martha plans to study early childhood education at Ohio University. When she is not working at her part-time job, Martha enjoys singing and playing the piano.

Misty Nichols

Misty is a senior at Briggs High School where she serves as co-president of the National Honor Society, and as a cheerleader. She has won several competitions in cheerleading. Misty is a member of the Briggs Road Baptist Church where she helps with the Sunday school for the pre-school children. Misty plans to attend

Wittenberg University and major in political science. It is her dream to become a political leader to make the country better.

An Easy Way to Help a Lot!

Volunteers who assist with Good Samaritan Day came up with a low cost suggestion that anyone can help with, any time, and often.

The folks who visit our church on the second Monday of the month have small personal needs in addition to the "big" things they are asking for (i.e., keep utilities from being shut off; food for the kids; work boots; bus passes to get to a new job, or to look for a job; etc. etc.) Many of you provide those with your mission checks periodically.

GOOD SAMARITAN



FUND

However, there are "small" things we would like to be able to offer as people leave on that day, as a gift and token of concern. We think church members could help to provide some of those. These would include things such as:

- bars of soap
- toothpaste
- toothbrushes
- shaving cream
- razors (disposable)
- mouth wash
- deodorant
- shampoo
- body wash

These are ongoing items of need, and we would like to "stockpile" such items in order to offer two or three to each person each month.

There is an easy way to do this! When you come to church on Sundays (or mid-week for meetings), you can bring a few things and drop them in a bin that will be marked for that purpose. Please bring full size items (not samples). Good resources are weekly coupons in the newspaper and the Dollar Store is a treasure trove for such items. Buy one or several. You have no idea how appreciative our clients are for these small gifts. Thank you in advance, and for all that you do.

Officials Commit to BREAD Initiative to 'STOP Wasting Money and Lives'

By Priss Endo

Over 2,900 people filled Veterans's Memorial on May 2 for BREAD's annual Nehemiah Action. Public officials responded to the call to "STOP Wasting Money and STOP Wasting Lives" by committing to support BREAD initiatives dealing with crime, education, health care and neighborhood blight.



Municipal Court Judge Paul Herbert accepted BREAD's plan to conduct pre-sentence screening for the 30,000 criminal cases seen in court every year to help judges give the most appropriate sentences to offenders.

County Prosecutor Ron O'Brien and Public Defender Yeura Venters plan to reduce the incarceration of juveniles by better addressing the risks and needs of the offenders.

Health care in Franklin County also was on the agenda. Steve Wermuth of the Ohio Health Department promised to work with hospitals to reduce the use of emergency rooms by the chronically ill and to provide care for the uninsured and Medicare patients.

Once again, BREAD asked Superintendent Gene Harris of Columbus City Schools to expand Project Key, which has had tremendous success in reducing truancy in 10 middle schools. She agreed to double the district's investment in the program.

The final issue raised was the continuing campaign for the implementation of the County Land Reutilization Corporation. County Treasurer Ed Leonard has been working on CLRC for two years and hopes to have a Land Bank established by November.

From house meetings held in congregations last fall to the great assembly at Vets, the witness of 88 people representing First Congregational had a great impact on Franklin County officials. Their positive response and our commitment to support and monitor the implementation of these initiatives will ensure that we "STOP Wasting Money and STOP Wasting Lives!"

Recent Gifts to First Church

By Bill Johannes and Jane Werum

Given to the Jackie Owen Memorial Music Fund in celebration of the lives of Bob Roberts and Jean Byerly by:

Drew and Lissa Wade



Given to the Pastor's Fund by:

Christopher Washington

Christopher and Lauren Glaros

Given to the Knight-Perry Fund by:

Jane Werum

Mark Williams

Chestora Dellenbach

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.

Good News for Coffee Lovers

The harvest is in and we again have Cafe Salvador for sale. A big thanks to all who support this mission. It is a mission, not a fund raiser. Selling Fair Trade coffee sustains environmentally sound farming and supports farmers who work to have decent lives. Coffee may be purchased on first and third Sundays in parish hall.

**Help Us Earn Money!
Use the Recycling Bin
on the West Side**



**We can take newspapers,
magazines, catalogs, old mail,
envelopes and school/office paper
Go Green!**



Member Happy June Anniversaries

- 1: Mary Day and Jim Fewlass
- 1: Kathleen and Jason Ferguson
- 2: Ashley and Eric Messick
- 4: Megan and James Daniels
- 5: Kay and Jack Davis
- 5: Carol and Marc Lowy
- 7: Janet and Dan Axt
- 7: Kaye and John Martin
- 9: Mary and Charlie Weaver
- 10: Joyce and Harry Campbell
- 12: Melody and Paul Leidheiser
- 13: Nancy Russell and Carl Miller
- 14: Nancy and Bernie Bouman
- 14: Gayle and Mike Henderson
- 14: Hadley and Brett Bachman
- 14: Shannon and Christopher Washington
- 15: Carol and Frank Hussey
- 15: Karla and Bob Lortz
- 15: Dale Ann and Gary Gray
- 15: Julia and Matt Myers
- 16: Joan and Keene Lebold
- 16: Debra and Fred Hadley
- 16: Michaele and Jason Bishop
- 17: Celeste Feather and Peter Murray
- 17: Tanya and Jonathan Miller
- 18: Val and Phil Stichter
- 19: Ann and John Aeschbury
- 19: Deb and Tom Thompson
- 20: Julie and Eric Vore
- 20: Elizabeth and Hugh Allen
- 21: Sue and Frank Cook
- 21: Amanda and Matt DeCastro
- 22: Gail and Bill Johannes
- 23: Kosby and Kevin Carrico
- 23: Lynne and Brad Keely
- 24: Monique and Dennis Penfield
- 24: Polly and Joseph DeVennish
- 26: Virginia and James O'Neill
- 27: Jennifer and Jason Bryant
- 27: Carol and Alex Rodriguez
- 28: Nancy and Robert Hadley
- 28: Courtney and Matt Lazar
- 29: Jane and Stanford Ackley
- 29: Andrea and Charles Hire
- 29: Pam Kallner and Russ Kelm
- 30: Maggie and Jonathan Leidheiser-Stoddard
- 30: Caitlin and Brian Stewart
- 30: Sarah and Gunter Garbe

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

**Volunteer Needed
to Coordinate
the First Church Blood Drive!**
Contact the Office
at 228-1741

Member Happy June Birthdays

- 1: Joe Daniels
- 1: Mariner Taft
- 1: Courtney Lazar
- 1: Jenelle Snyder
- 3: Julie Vore
- 5: Amber Lane
- 6: Patty Pohlman
- 6: Brittney Dean
- 7: Lindy Miller
- 8: Beth Hunker
- 8: Elaine Stewart
- 8: Peggy Buck
- 8: Andy Cooke
- 8: Brian Stewart
- 8: Jeff Lowy
- 10: Pat Patterson
- 10: Rick Bennett.
- 11: Jan Wade
- 11: Colin Thompson
- 12: Leonard Nienaber
- 13: Carol McLaughlin
- 13: Justin Cole
- 13: Alexandra Cole
- 13: Madeline Aeschbury
- 15: Walter Kropp
- 15: Jan Kinnard
- 17: Julie Delong
- 17: Mike Ponzani
- 17: Missy Zimmerman
- 18: Lukas Irons
- 19: Elizabeth Bockbrader
- 19: Shawn Dingus
- 20: Richard Mason
- 20: Michael Valinis
- 20: Beth Cooke
- 21: Grady Pettigrew
- 21: Jenny Middendorf
- 22: Cindy Deliman
- 22: Jason McCann
- 24: Jan Kutschbach
- 24: Sarah Trace
- 25: Lynne Keely
- 25: Kelly Allen
- 25: Jeremy Collins
- 26: Eric Boyd
- 26: Jonathan Miller
- 26: Rhonda Poirier
- 26: Lauren Holt
- 28: Wanda Ray
- 29: Kathy White
- 29: Chris Mondiek
- 30: Kathryn Reed



Current Pledge Income

Pledges Budgeted - \$529,872
 April Actual - \$35,168.66
 YTD Actual - \$195,001.38
 YTD Budgeted - \$176,624
 Needed Each Month - \$41,268.99

April Mission Offerings

Church World Service, Japan Relief - \$2,158
 Sacred Earth, Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals - \$460
 One Great Hour of Sharing - \$1,209.41
 Good Samaritan - \$3,200.52
 Faith Mission - \$10
 B.R.E.A.D. - \$25

Total Mission - \$7,062.93

Calendar

Sunday, May 22

9 am – Treble/Teen Choir – Choir Room
9 am – Worship – PH
10 am – Choir – Sanctuary
10 am – Education Hour – Rooms C and D
11 am – Worship – San
12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH
3 pm - Softball – Busch Fields
7 pm – Youth Cabaret – PH

Monday, May 23

6:30 p.m. – Stephen Ministers – Adult Library
7 p.m. – Budget and Finance – LC

Tuesday, May 24

12 pm – Card Care Ministry – LC

Wednesday, May 25

12 pm – Arts Festival Committee – PFR

Thursday, May 26

7:30 p.m. – Choir – Choir Room

Sunday, May 29

9 am – Treble/Teen Choir – Choir Rm
9 am – Worship – PH
10 am – Education Hour – Rooms C and D
10 am – Choir – Sanctuary
11 am – Worship – San
12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH
6 pm – Sonreir - PH

Monday, May 30 (Memorial Day)

Building and Office Closed

Tuesday, May 31

7 pm – Personnel – PFR

Wednesday, June 1

12 pm – Arts Festival Committee – PFR

Friday, June 3

Columbus Arts Festival

Saturday, June 4

Columbus Arts Festival

Sunday, June 5

Columbus Arts Festival

10 am – Worship – Sanctuary
2 pm – Softball – Busch Field
6 pm – Sonreir – PH

Tuesday, June 7

5:30 pm – Sacred Earth – LC
7 pm – Deacons – LC
7 pm – Education Committees – Ed Wing Room D
7 pm – Mission Committee – PFR

Thursday, June 9

2 pm – Art Committee – Parlor

Saturday, June 11

10 am – First Church Quilters – LC

Sunday, June 12 (Pentecost)

9 am – Treble/Teen Choir – Choir Room
9 am – Worship – PH
10 am – Choir – Sanctuary
11 am – Worship – San
12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH
4 pm - Softball – Busch Fields
6 pm – Sonreir – PH
6 pm – Middle School Group - Middle School Room

Monday, June 13

7 pm – Trustees - LC

Tuesday, June 14

12 pm – Card Care Ministry – LC
6 pm – Music Committee – Parlor
7 pm – Executive Committee – LC

Saturday, June 18

9 am – House and Grounds – PFR

Sunday, June 19

9 am – Treble/Teen Choir – Choir Rm
9 am – Worship – PH
10 am – Choir – Sanctuary
11 am – Worship – San
12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH
3 pm – Softball – Busch Fields
6 pm – Sonreir – PH
9 pm – Compline – San



Let's go to the Ballgame!
2011 Columbus Clippers

Ready for a great time at the Ballgame?

Group rate! Lots of fun!
Bring your mitt!
Sign up now!
Come join in the fun!

Contact Rev. Janine at 614-228-1748, x21, or
jwilson@first-church.org.

Next Newsletter Deadline

Articles Due: Monday, June 6, at
noon. Email articles to:
dmahoney@first-church.org.
The *First Church News* is published
the third Wednesday of each month.

June Fellowship Hour

June 5: Ruth
 June 12: Samuel
 June 19: Zechariah
 June 26: Acts

June Acolyte Schedule

June 5: Sarah Ahrens and Anna Rambo
 June 12: Victoria Washington and Cameron Wade
 June 19: Joe Spofforth and Dylan Hopcraft
 June 26: Emma Rau and Merry Roach
 (Schedules online at www.first-church.org)

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.

Baptism

Thalia Renee Weygandt – May 8

Weddings

Rachael Wilson and Nathan Rodriguez – May 14

Fellowship Hour Beverage Sales



Coffee and tea sales will be available on June 5 and 19 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. 14,
mworth@first-church.org

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
 Janine Wilson.....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
 Bill Beckett.....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 Chavers.....Wedding Coordinator
 Fran Panek.....Wedding Coordinator

Church Council

David Holt..... Moderator
 Gerry Worth.....Vice-Moderator
 Judy Smith, Bev Cook.....Secretary/Assistant
 Jim Fewlass, Cindy Conn.....Treasurer/Assistant
 Sandy Bennett, Neal Brower.....Administration/Assistant
 Melissa Prendergast.....Church Growth
 Priss Endo, Tanya Miller.....Education/Assistant
 Wally Giffen, Charlie Weaver...House & Grounds/Assistant
 Fran Panek, Bruce Panek.....Mission/Assistant
 Jackie Dean, Abby Cave.....Parish Life/Assistant
 Mary Weaver.....Senior Deacon
 Elaine Warren.....Deacon
 John Deliman, Jim Gallagher...Music, Arts, Heritage/Asst.
 Melody Leidheiser.....Nominating Chair
 Sheldon Taft.....Trustees
 Emma Welsh-Huggins.....Member-at-large
 Tom Brownfield.....Member-at-large

The First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
444 E. Broad St.
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3821

DATED MATERIAL - VERY IMPORTANT
Please Deliver By: Monday, May 23, 2011

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