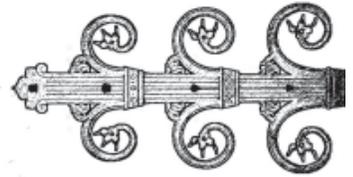


First Church News



First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ • Columbus, Ohio

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May 23, 2009

The Ten Characteristics of a Pentecost Church

By Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Minister



In Acts 2:42-47 we have a lightening summary of the characteristics of the early church. William Barclay in his commentary on Acts points out most of these characteristics of **the first church**. Read through them. As we enter into the season of Pentecost beginning on Pentecost Sunday, May 31, I ask each one of you to consider how we, together, might reflect more fully these characteristics in our trying times.

The first church was: **1. A Learning Church.** The members listened to the apostles' teachings. They were always moving forward and being led by the Holy Spirit to take risks and be bold. **2. A Church of Fellowship.** They liked being together. They were "a band of brothers and sisters." **3. A Praying Church.** These early Christians knew they could not meet life in their own strength but needed the strength of God to get them through. They always went to God in prayer before going out into the world in action. **4. A Reverent Church.** They lived in awe of God - often translated as "fear" of God. They knew the whole earth was the temple of God and they revered the earth and all that is in God's domain. **5. A Church Where Things Happened.** They expected great things from God and great things happened.

The first church was also: **6. A Sharing Church.** They had an intense feeling of responsibility for each other. They could not bear to have too much when their brothers and sisters had too little. **7. A Worshipping Church.** They never forgot to visit God's house. They knew God's spirit moved upon God's people in worship and they worshipped God together whenever possible. **8. A Happy Church.** They were joyful Christians. A gloomy Christian is a contradiction in terms. **9. A Church whose people others could not help liking.** There was a winsome attractiveness about these people. You enjoyed being around them. **10. A Loving Church.** They loved God and one another.

Come to worship May 31 as we celebrate our unity in Christ and the birthday of his church at 9 and 11 a.m. Come to fellowship after the 11 a.m. service as we celebrate Marti Rideout, our interim music minister, as she ends her time with us. Also that day, celebrate our church's mission with a mission luncheon. The season of Pentecost will be a glorious season. How will you and I own and live into the characteristics of a Pentecost Church? We are a Pentecost People. Let's live into this "Holy" Spirit of faith in the season now unfolding.

Marti Rideout: A Legacy of Service and Inspiration

By Tom Stewart



The tenure of Marti Rideout, our interim Minister of Music, comes to an end May 31 and a new tenure begins for James E. Bobb, her successor. On behalf of all our choirs, the Music Committee and the congregation, I extend our thanks to Marti.

Marti came at a dark and troubling hour in the life of our church. She was a spark that rekindled a flame within us to continue our strong musical traditions. She was the epitome of warmth, sincerity and Christian love in her concern for the healing of those in need. Her personal mission was to inspire the members of each choir that they were not just making music, but were called by God to serve the spiritual needs of the congregation.

(Continued on Page 2)

In This Issue

Church News.....	2,3,4,5,8,9
Music.....	4
Confirmation.....	6
Young Adult.....	7
Missions.....	8
Anniversaries.....	9
Birthdays.....	9
Calendar.....	10
Prayers.....	11
Staff & Council.....	11
Back Cover.....	12

2009 Schumacher Award Winners Recognized

By Kathryn Bamberger, Schumacher Awards Committee



Three young women were honored with this year's Schumacher Awards during worship on May 10.

Carleen Wilkes, Angelina McLaughlin and Kenyatta Bosley (shown left to right) were recognized with the annual award, given to young women

between the ages of 15 and 20 who are worthy of commendation for Christian devotion to their mother, father, sister or brother.

Kenyatta Bosley

Kenyatta Bosley is a freshman at Columbus State Community College and a graduate of Northland High School, where she was on the honor roll, and served on senior council and the principal's Leadership Board. In addition to being a full-time college student, Kenyatta works two part-time jobs. She participates in community service projects, as well as choir and Sunday school at the Lee Avenue United Methodist Church. Kenyatta demonstrates Christian devotion by helping her mother, father, younger brother and grandmother. Kenyatta's goal is to become a nurse.

Angelina (Angie) McLaughlin

Angie graduated with honors from Stivers High School for the Arts, where she was involved in band, sports and the math and science Olympiads. Angie has demonstrated Christian devotion to her younger sister and parents, and attends First Congregational Church. Angie is a student at Ohio State University, where she is in the space and aeronautical engineering program, and also works a part-time job. Angie's goal is to earn a degree in aeronautical engineering and become an astronaut.

Carleen Wilkes

Carleen is a senior at the Wellington School, and attends Meredith Temple Church of God in Christ. She has been honored with the American Diabetes Association Committee member award and the Ohio State University Girls' Golf Camp Meg Mallon Award. Carleen has shown Christian devotion by caring for her older sister and her three nieces. Her goal is to bring change to the world through business or government.

This year we had a special guest worshipping with us. Alice Klein, then known as Alice Dillon, received the Schumacher award in 1962 and handed out the medals to this year's winners.

(Marti Rideout, Concluded from Page 1)

Twenty years ago, Marti's daughter, Lissa, a student at Wittenberg University, met Drew Wade, a young scion of the Dale Wade family whose First Church roots go back to the 1940s. They graduated in 1993 and the next year were married, eventually settling in Columbus and at First Church.

Marti and her husband Rob lived in the East and were frequent visitors to Columbus, especially to see their grandchildren, Cameron and Adam Wade. They also visited First Church. Lissa eventually convinced them to relocate to Columbus.

In 2008, Marti responded to our need for a music minister and earnestly to many challenges. First was the healing process she felt was needed to assuage the pain of our grief from the departure of Tim Smith. Next was her commitment to maintain the quality of music in worship established by Dene Barnard and Tim Smith, as well as to broaden the mind of the congregation to new musical experiences.

She was challenged by the effort to maintain the concerts series. Other challenges were organizing the choral and instrumental music library, computer files and contents of file cabinets, CDs, storage bins, archiving concert and organ information, and creating a detailed customary for the next minister of music. Meeting any one of these challenges would have been a worthy legacy. The fact that she succeeded at all of them is remarkable.

When asked what her favorite memories of First Church would be, this is what she said.

"Having the opportunity to play two world-class pipe organs on a regular basis is extraordinary beyond the telling. To perform in a place where music is integral and highly regarded is a joy beyond measure. And hearing the congregation sing connects me with the Divine."

"Being with Lissa in the First Church Choir and Cameron and Adam in the Treble choir is an almost indescribable joy, something I never dreamed would happen in my life. And the boys still call me 'Gaga' when others say 'Marti.' "

"I have enjoyed getting to know this hard-working and caring staff and so many members of the congregation...our superb and valued volunteers, committee members, concert-goers, and parishioners. I will miss seeing them on a regular basis, yet look forward to visiting and seeing them again."

Soon it will be time to say farewell to Marti (her final day is May 31). Parting truly is a sweet kind of sorrow. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of all that she has done for First Church.

A Big Thank You to Bill and Natalie Wright

By Bill Johannes

It takes many people to make First Church the wonderful place it is today, and two of them are Natalie and Bill Wright, who will soon be leaving us.

The Wrights came to Columbus from Wellesley, Mass., in 1977 when Bill was transferred here by his employer, the accounting firm of Deloitte & Touche. Given their Congregational background, (Natalie's mother was the organist at a Congregational church), they visited First Church one Sunday and joined several weeks later at the invitation of the Rev. Chalmers Coe.



Bill and Natalie Wright

Bill and Natalie said Rev. Coe "called on a Friday and asked us to join on Sunday in the same group as Tom and Julie Stewart. In those days, there was no such thing as a new member class."

The Wrights have regularly attended worship ever since, and have been very active in the life of First Church. Both served as moderator of the Church Council and as long-time members of the Budget and Finance and the Stewardship committees. They were deeply involved in the "Aspire to New Heights" capital campaign in the mid-1990s.

Bill was treasurer of the Board of Trustees for almost 20 years and served many years on the National Board of United Church Homes. He currently ushers on Sunday mornings.

Natalie was an active member of the Women's Guild, served as treasurer of the UCC Ohio Conference, and has long been treasurer of Bethlehem on Broad Street. She now volunteers in the office. Recently, she was honored for her community work at a Church Women United luncheon.

Both have served the community too. Bill was one of the founders of the Community Shelter Board in 1986 and served as its treasurer until he retired from the board in 2008. Natalie was active and served as an officer in several community organizations.

Born in Scotland, Bill moved with his family to Massachusetts when he was 7 years old. He and Natalie grew up in the Boston area and now look forward to returning there to enjoy the rest of their retirement years after 32 years in Columbus.

The Wrights said being here is the longest they've ever lived in one place. They added that they can't move until their Bexley home sells.

They've purchased a unit in North Hill, a retirement community located in Needham, Mass., just 15 minutes from their hometown of Wellesley, and only minutes away from two of their five children. They also have a daughter living in Utah, a son in Centerville Ohio, and a son who currently is teaching in China, as well as 15 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Reminiscing about First Church, both fondly recalled the many good friends they have made here. Trips with Betsy Zahn and visits to the lake with Paul Leidheiser, Sr., were quickly mentioned. So, too, was the preaching of Chal Coe and the fund-raising leadership of Bob Tschannen-Moran.

They have been impressed by the diversity of the many fine people attracted to

the church by Tim Ahrens, and the growth in the number of children coming to church, which they feel bodes well for the future.

The day eventually will come when we must say good-bye to these two fine people. In the meantime, please let them know how much we appreciate the support they've given First Church over the years.

We'll keep you in our prayers and hope you have many more wonderful years at North Hill, Unit G209, 865 Central Ave., Needham, Mass. 02492.

Thanks for a Job Well Done

By the Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens,
Senior Minister

The week after Easter in 2008, Marti Rideout joined our church staff as Interim Minister of Music. She stepped into a program that was hurting and in need of healing and direction. With her spirit-filled, graceful leadership, Marti guided our choirs and our program back on track. She offered her wisdom and experience to the search process, which ultimately brought us to the selection of Jamie Bobb as our new music minister.

Marti has exemplified the essence of what it means to minister to choirs and the congregation through music. She embodies the term "minister of music."

Marti has been a stable and loving presence on our staff. She has helped us laugh and cry; listen and learn. We have all grown from her presence among us. She has blessed us with her kindness and clearness. She has given us all a sense of purpose and worshipful care.

On behalf of the entire church staff, I lift up a doxology of praise and thanksgiving for the ministry of compassion and musical mastery that Marti Rideout has gifted each of us with at First Church. Thanks be to God for Marti Rideout!

Music Notes

By Marti Rideout, Interim Minister of Music

Summer Schedule



G. Dene Barnard, organist-choirmaster emeritus of First Church, will serve as organist during the month of June. Jamie Bobb, our new music minister, will begin his service here July 5.

There will be three opportunities to sing in the **Summer Choir**: July 12, August 9 and August 30. The choir is open to those in the First Church Choir, First Church Choral Society, youth singers and others who can sing and desire to do so. Rehearsal takes place at 9:45 a.m. for the 11 a.m. service that day.

Thanks to Our Volunteers

Special thanks to Jim and Mary Day Fewlass, Victor John and Sharon Walquist for their work in the music library, emptying and filling choir folders, helping to organize the choral, handbell, major choral works and instrumental libraries, compiling email addresses for concert advertising, and to Bert Cook for his assistance in updating computer equipment.

The offering of your time and talent has been invaluable and words of gratitude seem insufficient. I give thanks for the fine work of the Music Committee in making the Congregational Concerts happen with such grace and hospitality, and the vision and dedication of the Minister of Music Search Committee, and to all those who have given of themselves in any way, large or small, in making music, worship and church life happen so well here at First Church. Thank you.

Thank You From Marti Rideout

My time with you as your Interim Minister of Music comes to an end May 31.

After almost 15 months of getting to know and enjoying time with the terrific people of First Church, building wonderful relationships with the staff, directing the fabulous singers of the First Church Choir, ringing handbells with the talented and fun-loving Gallery Handbell Ringers, teaching the precious choristers of the Treble Choir, practicing and performing on the world-class organs in this church, leading the concert series, accompanying our fine soloists and instrumentalists, working with the incomparable musicians Dene Barnard and Jim Gallagher, and preparing for the arrival of the next Minister of Music, I leave with joy in my heart, remembering worship shared, music offered and friends made. Thank you for your support, encouragement and your love.

I am ever grateful that our spiritual journeys were interwoven in this space and time. After awhile, I will return upon occasion to attend concerts and worship with you. I look forward to seeing you then.

Rev. Ahrens Book Study: Rev Tim Ahrens' Wednesday book study group is now doing a "green" Bible study. Using *The Green Bible*, it is studying a variety of scriptural texts related to our sacred earth. It began May 20, and meets from 11 a.m.-noon. It will meet on June 3, July 1, August 5 and August 19. On September 16, a study of John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg's recent book on the Apostle Paul. If you are interested, please let Rev. Ahrens know. Books will be ordered this summer.

Youth Mission Trip Scheduled

The youth of First Church will go on their summer mission trip to the Appalachian South Folklife Center in Pipestem, W. Va., in June.

There are 13 youths in grades 8 through 12 and five adult chaperones traveling June 14-20 to the 38-year-old Workcamp Program. The group is selling stock-options as a final fundraiser for the trip. Those interested in purchasing and supporting this group should contact a youth member or Barb Poppe.

The mission trip will provide much needed assistance to local individuals, communities and the Appalachian South Folklife Center. In addition, the week will provide an opportunity for the youth to learn about the cultural, historical and recreational aspects of Appalachia. The types of projects include home repair, painting, maintenance, yard work, cleaning etc. Many individuals served are low-income senior citizens who have no other source to provide the needed assistance.

The congregation will commission the group on June 14 during the 11 a.m. service before their departure. Please keep them in your prayers.

BREAD Tackles Health Care, Drug Court, Neighborhood Blight

By Priss Endo

"We are one city, not two cities!" proclaimed the BREAD organization at its 12th annual Nehemiah Action Assembly on May 4. The 2,480 people attending the assembly were presented with three issues that are currently part of BREAD's agenda: Expansion of health care, Franklin County Drug Court and neighborhood blight.

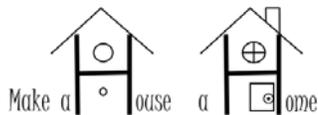
BREAD leadership challenged its members to secure a \$1.5 billion federal stimulus package to build new facilities for neighborhood health care centers. Health care center advocates told the assembly that existing centers provide medical care for low-income families, but inadequate facilities limit the number of patients that can be served.

Guy Reece, administrative judge of the Franklin County Common Pleas Court, said
(Continued on Page 7)

First Church News

First Church Again to be an Arts Festival Host

By Sarah Lange, Arts Festival Committee Chairperson



The Columbus Arts Festival will be in our backyard in a few weeks, June 5, 6 and 7. There are ways to help make sure First Church is a stop for many who visit the Discovery District during the Festival.

Be an Ambassador for First Church – Using the form provided in the Sunday bulletin, sign up to be a host or hostess to our visitors. We want to be sure our visitors are properly welcomed and guided

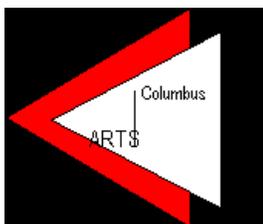
throughout the church. You may also contact Jim or Mary Fewlass at mdfewlass@aol.com or 614-257-0866 if you want to be a part of the ambassador program.

Display Your Artistic Flair - Purchase a birdhouse and decorate it to your liking then donate it for sale during the festival to benefit Habitat for Humanity and to "Make a House a Home." Using the form provided in the Sunday bulletin, indicate your interest in this fun and charitable activity. You may also contact Hope Hacker at hackerh22@yahoo.com or 614-589-9117 to get involved.

Share the Sights, Sounds and Savories - The Arts Festival Committee is busy putting together a schedule of events that members and friends of First Church are sure to enjoy:

Daily

- * Works by First Church member Becky Taft and her sister Judy Hazen will be on exhibit and available for sale in the Parish Hall.
- * Birdhouses hand-decorated by First Church members and friends will be for sale in the Parish Hall. Proceeds will benefit Habitat for Humanity.
- * Missions will be serving free-trade teas and more in the Parish Hall. Proceeds will benefit Habitat for Humanity.



Friday

4-7 p.m. Tea room open (Parish Hall)

7 p.m. Celtic Festival - If you like folk music, don't miss this toe-tapping, heart-warming feast of Celtic music by four Columbus groups performing separately and together: the Yankee Celtic Consort (www.yankeeceltic.com), the Magpie Consort (www.magpieconsort.org), Columbus Children's Choir (www.columbuschildrenschoir.org) and Columbus Celtic Dancers (www.geocities.com/columbusceltic). The program includes folk songs from Scotland and Ireland, step-dancing and traditional music by the four-piece Yankee Celtic Consort. The event is kindly sponsored by the Greater Columbus Arts Council. For further information, contact Sheena Phillips, Artistic Director, at 268-6295.

Saturday

5-5:30 p.m. Organ recital by our own G. Dene Barnard

2:30-7 p.m. Tea room open (Parish Hall)

7 p.m. The Ohio Capital Winds - Under the direction of our own Catherine Hope-Cunningham, the Ohio Capital Winds is a champion of wind

ensemble music, performing classic repertoire from masters such as Holst, Sousa, Grainger, and Ohio's own Henry Fillmore. Concert programs appeal to a wide range of tastes.

Sunday

10 a.m. Worship; Denny Griffith, president of CCAD, will speak about "Faith & Art."

11:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Tea room open (Parish Hall)

2 p.m. Showcase of Young Central Ohio Musicians - This is an opportunity for up-and-coming performers to be seen and heard. Slated to perform are James Predovich, harpist and instructor; Tim Gartner, tenor; Matthew Vaughn, concertmaster, Columbus Symphony Youth Orchestra; Kohei Yamaguchi, string bass, Upper Arlington High School Symphony Orchestra; Steven DeNiro, concertmaster, Upper Arlington High School Symphony Orchestra; a string quartet from Hilliard Davidson High School; and a violin/viola duet from Upper Arlington High School.

Admission to all performances is free, although we suggest a donation of \$10 to benefit Habitat for Humanity and the performing groups.



The First Church softball team has won two of its first four games. The remaining games are:

June 8 – 6:15 p.m. – Field 1 – Clinton Heights Lutheran

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

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

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

Confirmation 2009



We congratulate this year's confirmands. Shown above, left to right, front row, are Andrew Smith, Aryn Mason, Emma Henderson and Emma Welsh-Huggins. Back row, left to right, are Charlie Roach, Katie Kutschbach and Thomas Welsh-Huggins. Here is a little about each:

Aryn Mason – Aryn is 14 years old and comes to First Church from Groveport, where she lives with her sister, brother, mother and her mother's partner. As an eighth grader, Aryn plays first chair flute in the school band. She says learning is important for her, but she also likes having fun with her friends. Each summer she looks forward to her time at Tempel Hills, the UCC camp. Much of Aryn's spiritual faith is drawn from the love and closeness of her family. Her family comes first in her life. – **Sandra Geronimo**

Emma Henderson - I have known Emma since she was a newborn. I have watched her grow physically and spiritually over the past 14 years. It seems like yesterday that she came to my house after my daughter was born. Emma was 2 then, and she folded all of my dish towels for me and put them away. Wow, how time has flown! Since Emma's family and my family have been so busy during the past several years, I have not spent as much time with Emma or her sister, Rachel, as I would have liked. Since becoming her confirmation mentor, I have had the chance to spend many wonderful hours with a very bright, mature and focused Emma. I may shed a few tears at the confirmation service, but it is my pride in Emma and happiness for her as she takes this next step in her faith journey. – **Stephanie Koscher**

Katie Kutschbach – Katie has been attending First Church all her life with her parents and sisters. At church she is active in the middle school youth group. Katie is currently in the eighth grade at Walnut Springs Middle School in Westerville where she is involved choir and is an honors student. In addition, she also participates in the high school winter guard and color guard programs. After completing confirmation, Katie will be traveling with the youth group on their mission trip to Pipestem, W.Va. In the future, she is looking forward to the opportunity to serve on various committees. Katie is ecstatic about the contributions she will make to the life and missions of First Church. – **Kelley Gilbert**

Charlie Roach – Charlie, whose full name is Charles Patrick Roach, is an eighth grader at Kilbourne Middle School in Worthington. He's no slouch: Charlie runs cross country in the fall; participates in the 100 and 200 meter dashes in spring track as well as throwing the shot; plays baseball in the summer and also runs the occasional 5K race. He's the apple in the eye of mom Ellen and stepdad Pete and dad Tim and stepmom Maile. He's big brother to a sister, Meredith, and brother, Nicholas. He's an enthusiastic fan of Chipotle's, and although it's a somewhat close call, he prefers watching college football over college basketball. – **Andrew Welsh-Huggins**

Thomas Welsh-Huggins – I have been honored to be Thomas's mentor and I appreciate the time we have spent together over the past nine months. Back in September 2008, I first got to know Thomas as a student in our Sunday school class. During my first classroom conversations with this 14-year-old, I realized he was a critical and creative thinker. As our mentor/confirmand relationship grew, I have grown fond of Thomas's spirit, sincerity and energy. Always respectful, Thomas is constantly asking questions about life, science, politics, religion and spirituality. Thomas is the youngest, by an hour, of three children. He has an older sister, Sarah, who just completed her freshman year of college. He also has a twin sister, Emma. Coming from a talented and creative family, Thomas has introduced me to the wonderful theatrical treasure that is the "Davis." Being involved in theatre, music, and home school, Thomas is a well-rounded young man who wants to study marine biology with a focus on giant squid. He also has shown amazing feats of strength by walking 8 miles in sub-zero temperatures, running a 5k under 20 minutes, and giving me a piggy back ride. Congratulations Thomas! – **Matt Myers**

Andrew Smith - I am proud to be the mentor for Andrew Curran Smith. I have never been a mentor before and I have enjoyed every minute of extra time I have spent with Andrew. It is also an honor to mentor a young man I baptized when he was a newborn. Andrew is finishing eighth grade at McCord Middle School in Worthington. Next year he will be at Kilbourne High School. He is an exceptional student and has one of the most creative minds and spirits I have ever known. He is wise beyond his years and intelligent about a wide range of scientific and social issues. He is also very funny. I think he could easily do stand-up comedy some day. Andrew is a fine athlete. He runs track and cross-country. In confirmation, he has shared amazing insights into the nature of God and humanity. He has an active theological imagination. He loved our field trips and our time at Tempel Hills. He also loves leading worship and serving communion at the 9 a.m. service. I can't wait to see how Andrew takes on leadership in the church for years to come. Thanks be to God for Andrew Smith! - **Rev. Tim Ahrens**

(Continued on Page 7)

First Church Congratulates the Class of 2009

First Church will celebrate all those graduating during services on May 31. Our graduates this year include:



Kirstyn Harr, daughter of Julie Roth and Tamara Alexander, is graduating from Central Crossing High School. She has an internship in exotic animal training and will attend Columbus State to pursue a zoology degree.

Kyle Danneberger, son of Karl and Sallie Danneberger, is graduating from Dublin Coffman High School. He will attend Ohio State University.



David Brian Holt, son of David Holt and Ardis Edmondson-Holt, earned an associate of arts degree from Ohio State University in December. Brian attended OSU at its Newark, Marion and main campuses. He is working for UPS and continuing his studies at OSU.

Heather Giffen, daughter of Sarah and Wally Giffen, is graduating from Muskingum College with a bachelor's degree in international studies. She will attend United Theological Seminary in Minneapolis.

Alice Panek, daughter of Bruce and Fran Panek, is graduating from DePaul University with a bachelor's degree in digital cinema/animation. She is seeking an internship in animation and hopes to stay in Chicago for a time.



Mason

Amanda Mason, daughter of Barbara Mason, will graduate from Groveport Madison High School. She will be attending Ohio University in the fall.

Carter Rodriguez, son of Alex and Carol Rodriguez, is graduating from Pickerington Central High School. He will attend the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism at Ohio University.



Hoffman

Katelyn Hoffman, daughter of Janette and Randy Hoffman, is graduating summa cum laude from Olentangy High School. She will attend Ohio State University, with a major in interior design and a minor in music.

Luke Ahrens, son of Rev. Tim Ahrens and Susan Sitler, is graduating from Heidelberg College. He will enter the master's program in student services administration at Bowling Green State University, after an internship at Ashland University.

Daniel Ahrens, son of Rev. Tim Ahrens and Susan Sitler, is graduating from the Linworth Alternative program of Worthington Kilbourne High School. He will attend Ohio University in the fall, majoring in English/psychology.

Susan Cook will receive a master's of science degree in nursing from Capital University.

Stephanie Nicole Matney, daughter of John and Virginia Matney, is graduating from the University of Cincinnati as a psychology/sociology major. She will work as a researcher and attend graduate school.

Alexandra Cole, daughter of Judge and Mrs. R. Guy Cole, Jr., is graduating from the Wellington School. She will attend the University of Pennsylvania this fall.

(Confirmands, Concluded from Page 6)

Emma Welsh-Huggins - Emma enjoys reading, hanging out with her friends and playing with her dog, Mikey — and going on long bike rides with her family, especially with Mikey, in the old trailer that she and Thomas used to ride in. The most important activity in Emma's life, however, is the theater: She was in two productions at the Phoenix Children's Theater this year, and is a member of the Davis Performing Arts Center's musical theater troupe, "D3." She is now in her final year of homeschooling and is psyched about starting at Metro Early College High School in the fall. Spending time with Kelly Dodd — who was her first Sunday school teacher at First Church — was her favorite of the Confirmation process. —

Pam Welsh-Huggins

(BREAD, Concluded from Page 4)

at the assembly that he had not lived up to commitments made last year to BREAD to expand the drug court's services. But he said he has instructed Judge Patrick Sheeran to increase the number of drug offenders who will receive rehabilitation through the courts from 50 to 200.

County and city officials were asked to begin an attack on "neighborhood blight," BREAD's new issue, by convening a joint city and county commission to study the best ways to deal with vacant housing, and in the short term to demolish or return to productive use 85 of the 5,200 documented vacant houses in the city.

First Congregational had its largest representation ever at the assembly — 105 members, family and friends, a 62% increase from last year's attendance. We were third among BREAD congregations in attendance.

Everyone present was challenged at the meeting by the words of a civil rights worker, "Don't tell me what you believe, tell me what you have done." BREAD volunteers pledged to do everything in their power to make Columbus "one city, not two" and to be ready to show what they have done at the next assembly on May 3, 2010. Save the date!

News & Missions

Living Kidney Transplant Donors Needed

By Barb Cunningham and Jane Weddle

Have you ever considered being a living kidney transplant donor?

Living donor transplantation is special. A living donor kidney is better than a deceased organ for several reasons. The living donor kidney means the patient is not on a long waiting list for a deceased donor kidney. A living donor transplant has a first-year success rate of 94% and identically matched persons may have greater than a 95% success rate. Ohio State University Medical Center does about 130 such transplants yearly.

There is no preservation time with the living donor kidney. It can be walked from one operating room to another, and 30 minutes later, the transplanted kidney is working in the recipient. A living donor transplant permits planning the surgery, which allows for the best health of the patient and donor.

Who can donate? In order to be a potential donor, you must be in good general health. Your blood type must be compatible with the recipient, and you must be free from high blood pressure, diabetes, cancer, kidney disease and heart disease. Gender and race do not matter; individuals considered for living donation are typically between the ages of 18 and 60, sometimes older depending on their medical history.

Blood compatibility is: Recipient (O)-Donor (O);
Recipient (A)-Donor (A,O); Recipient (B)-Donor (B,O);
Recipient (AB)-Donor (Any).

All donors must go through a series of tests before being accepted as a donor. These tests must be reviewed and approved by the transplant surgeon and transplant nephrologist.

After donating, you will be able to return to a normal lifestyle. Life expectancy of donors is the same as that of people with two kidneys. The single kidney left is able to meet the body's needs very well. There are always possible risks with any surgery; however, these are reduced by the extensive evaluation done for all donors.

The first step in the donor process is to complete a health history form, or call the pre-transplant office at OSU (800-293-8965) to submit a health history by phone. After a nurse has reviewed your health assessment, a representative for the pre-transplant office will contact you to start preliminary testing.

Web sites for living donors include: www.optn.org;
www.livingdonorsonline.org; www.donatelife.net; and www.akfinc.org



Members Going on Medical Mission

By Anne Hudson, Missions Co-Chair

First Church members Sue Cook and Nancy Loy will be participating in a medical mission trip to the Dominican Republic this summer from July 2 through July 11.

The organization they will be with is the Village Mountain Mission. Their travels will take them into poor, remote areas to teach health aides how to care for fellow villagers and how to run five to six medical clinics.

Sue and Nancy are asking for contributions of school supplies for the children of these villages. The Missions Commission has put two boxes out – one by the office and one in the education wing – for congregants to drop off supplies. Let's make an effort to fill each box between now and the end of June!

For more information, check out the Web site at www.villagemountainmission.org.

Recent Celebration Gifts to First Church

By Bill Johannes and Jane Werum

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

Frank and Carol Hussey
Bill and Natalie Wright
Jane Werum
Carol and Richard Hostrup
Martha Huey
John and Betsy Zahn
Joanne Morse
Larry and Sharon Walquist
Teresa M. Bierdman
R.V. Morales
Pamela Dixon Murphy
Donna K. Goodwillie
Earl and Pauline Fritz

Given to the Music, Arts, and Heritage Endowment Fund in gratitude to Bill and Gail Johannes by:

Barbara Johannes Clapham

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.

Fellowship Hour Beverage Sales

Coffee and tea sales will be available on June 7 and 14 during Fellowship Hour. This is a UCC coffee project initiative and your participation is greatly appreciated. If you miss the regular sale, call Nancy Burba at 476-4148.





Tote Bag Sale to Fund Repairs

By Dawn George, Sacred Earth Committee

The Sacred Earth Committee will be selling canvas totes with the Sacred Earth logo inscribed on them, either with a Bible verse or the church name. The cost is \$10. The totes will be sold at the Fair Trade Coffee table and at the Arts Festival.

Profits from the sale will be used to repair windows and doors to make the building more energy efficient; the totes also are a good way to cut down on the use of plastic bags.



Special thanks to Joe Daniels who designed the logo, to Deb Anderson who will heat-transfer the logo to the bags and to committee members who contributed seed money for the project.

High-tech Recycling a Success: First Church celebrated Earth Day by filling large recycling bins to overflowing with high-tech equipment. Thanks to the youth and their parents who did the hard work of unloading the items from cars and storing them. May we all individually continue to celebrate the gift of the Earth.

At the Library: Among the newer additions at our church library is best-selling author Bart Ehrman's latest book, *Jesus, Interrupted*. Following in the tradition of his earlier work, *Misquoting Jesus*, Ehrman delves into early Christian history, questioning, analyzing and finding new significance and meaning in the Gospels and epistles. Come and explore our own little discovery district!

Member Happy Anniversaries

- 6/27: Alex and Carol Rodriquez
- 6/28: Robert and Nancy Hadley
- 6/28: Matthew and Courtney Lazar
- 6/29: Stanford and Jane Ackley
- 6/29: Russ Kelm and Pam Kallner
- 6/30: Gunter and Sarah Garbe
- 6/30: Jonathan and Margaret Leidheiser-Stoddard
- 6/30: Brian and Caitlin Stewart

Member Happy June Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 6/1: Joe Daniels | 6/16: Barbara Crevling-Reed |
| 6/1: Courtney Lazar | 6/17: Michael Ponzani |
| 6/1: Jenelle Snyder | 6/17: Mary Margaret Zimmerman |
| 6/4: Bill Wright | 6/18: Lukas Iron |
| 6/5: Amber Lane | 6/19: Elizabeth Bockbrader |
| 6/6: Patty Pohlman | 6/19: Shawn Dingus |
| 6/6: Brittney Dean | 6/20: Richard Mason |
| 6/7: Barbara Heer | 6/20: Michael Valinis |
| 6/7: Lynn Miller | 6/21: Jennifer Middendorf |
| 6/7: Alton Fennell | 6/22: Nancy Fields |
| 6/7: Marilee Schneider | 6/22: Cindy Deliman |
| 6/8: Beth Hunker | 6/22: Jason McCann |
| 6/8: Elaine Stewart | 6/24: Janice Kutschbach |
| 6/8: Peggy Buck | 6/25: Frederick Reichel |
| 6/8: Brian Stewart | 6/25: Lynn Keely |
| 6/8: Jeff Lowy | 6/26: Eric Boyd |
| 6/10: Patricia Patterson | 6/26: Rhonda Poirier |
| 6/11: Ralph Hughes | 6/26: Lauren Holt |
| 6/11: Janet Wade | 6/28: Wanda Ray |
| 6/12: Leonard Nienaber | 6/29: Loren Braverman |
| 6/13: Justin Cole | 6/29: Katherine White |
| 6/13: Alexandra Cole | 6/29: Christopher Mondiek |
| 6/13: Madeline Aeschbury | |
| 6/15: Walter Kropp | |

Member Happy Anniversaries

- 6/1: Jim and Mary Day Fewlass
 - 6/2: Eric and Ashley Messick
 - 6/4: James and Megan Daniels
 - 6/5: J.B. and Kay Davis
 - 6/5: Marc and Carol Lowy
 - 6/7: Daniel and Janet Axt
 - 6/7: John and Kaye Martin
 - 6/9: Charles and Mary Weaver
 - 6/10: Harry and Joyce Campbell
 - 6/12: Paul and Melody Leidheiser
 - 6/14: J. Michael and Gayle Henderson
 - 6/14: Bernard and Nancy Bouman
 - 6/14: Christopher and Shannon Washington
 - 6/15: Frank and Carol Hussey
 - 6/15: Matt and Julia Myers
 - 6/15: Gary and Dale Gray
 - 6/16: Fred and Debra Hadley
 - 6/16: Jason and Mary Bishop
 - 6/16: Keene and Joan Lebold
 - 6/17: Peter Murray and Celeste Feather
 - 6/18: Phil and Valerie Stichter
 - 6/19: John and Ann Aeschbury
 - 6/19: Carl Gelfius and Kelley Gilbert
 - 6/19: Tom and Deborah Thompson
 - 6/20: Hugh and Elizabeth Allen
 - 6/21: Frank and Susan Cook
 - 6/21: Matthew and Amanda DeCastro
 - 6/22: Bill and Gail Johannes
 - 6/23: Kevin and Kosby Carrico
 - 6/23: Brad and Lynne Keely
 - 6/24: Dennis and Monique Penfield
 - 6/24: Kevin and Amy Cutler
 - 6/25: Mark and Nancy Uher
 - 6/25: James and Virginia O'Neill
- (Continued Next Column)

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

Church Calendar

Sunday, May 24

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

Monday, May 25 (Memorial Day)

Office and building closed

Tuesday, May 26

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

Wednesday, May 27

12:00 pm - Arts Festival Committee - PFR

Thursday, May 28

6:15 pm - Church Ringers - Bell Rm
7:30 pm - Church Choir - Choir Rm
9 am - Faith Mission Family Shelter Lunches

Sunday, May 31

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

Tuesday, June 2

12 pm - Card Care Ministry - PFR
5:30 pm - Sacred Earth Committee - PR
6:30 pm - Children's Ed - Ed Wing Rm C
6:30 pm - Technology Ad-Hoc Committee - LC
7 pm - Executive Committee - PFR
7-9:30 pm - Arts Festival Rehearsal - San

Wednesday, June 3

9:30 am: Staff Meeting - LC
11 am: Book Study - PR
12:00 pm - Arts Festival Committee - PFR

Thursday, June 4

9 am - BREAD Clergy Meeting - LC
Arts Festival Setup

Friday, June 5

Arts Festival

Saturday, June 6

Arts Festival
6:30 pm - Young Adult Dinner Group

Sunday, June 7

Arts Festival
10 am - Worship Service - San

Monday, June 8

6 pm - Stephen Ministers - Adult Lib.
6:15 pm - Softball - Whetstone Park

Tuesday, June 9

12:00 pm - Card Care Ministry - PFR
7 pm - Mission Committee - PR

Wednesday, June 10

9:30 am - Staff Meeting - LC
12:00 pm - Arts Festival Committee - PFR

Thursday, June 11

2 pm - Arts Committee - PR

Friday, June 12

3:45 pm - Parents for Others - Toddler Room

Saturday, June 13

10 am - Quilters at First Church - LC

Sunday, June 14 (Father's Day)

9 am - Early Worship Service - PH
11 am - Worship Service - San
Mission Trip

Monday, June 15

7 pm - Budget and Finance - LC
7:15 pm - Softball - Whetstone Park
Mission Trip

Tuesday, June 16

12:00 pm - Card Care Ministry - PFR
7 pm - Council - LC
Mission Trip

Wednesday, June 17

9 am - Newsletter folding - LC
9:30 am - Staff Meeting - PFR
11 am - Book Study - PR
Mission Trip

Thursday, June 18

7:00 pm - Deacons - LC
Mission Trip

Friday, June 19

Mission Trip

Saturday, June 20

10 am - House and Grounds - LC
Mission Trip

Sunday, June 21

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

Monday, June 22

7:15 pm - Softball - Whetstone Park

Tuesday, June 23

12:00 pm - Card Care Ministry - PFR

Wednesday, June 24

9:30 am - Staff Meeting - LC

Saturday, June 27

9 am - Faith Mission Family Shelter Lunches

Wednesday Night Book Club to Start

By Jackie Dean

The Wednesday Night Book Club is up and running and you are invited to join us for light refreshments and lively discussions.

The group will meet the first Wednesday of the month from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Parish Family Room. These are the book selections:

June 1 – *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver

July 1 – *Eat, Pray, and Love* by Elizabeth Gilbert

August 1 – *The Color of Water* by James McBride

September 1 - *Left To Tell* by Immaculee Ilibagiza, followed by popcorn and a viewing of the movie *Hotel Rawanda*.

Mission Offering Schedule

June 7 - CATALYST

June 14 - CATALYST

June 21 - Darfur

June 28 - Faith Mission



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.

Lost and Found in Concert June 21

Lost and Found, a Christian rock group, will perform June 21 at 4 p.m. at Dublin Community Church, 81 W. Bridge St.

Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$10 at the door. For tickets, email LostNFoundColumbus@gmail.com.

June Fellowship Hour

June 7: Samuel
June 14: Zechariah
June 21: Acts
June 28: Amos

June Acolyte Schedule

June 7: Camille Kesler & Jacob Kesler
June 14: Katie Gies & Jayden Martin-Wynia
June 21: Thomas Welsh-Huggins & Reel Chaudhri
June 28: Jensen Allred & Alex Heer
(Complete schedules online @ www.first-church.org)

Next Newsletter Deadline

Articles Due: Monday, June 8 by noon
Email: dmahoney@first-church.org
Folding Team: Wed., June 17, 9 a.m.

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

Church Staff

Timothy C. Ahrens.....*Senior Minister*
Barbara R. Cunningham.....*Minister for Pastoral Care*
Marti Rideout.....*Interim Minister of Music*
Mark S. Williams.....*Director of Christian Education*
G. Dene Barnard.....*Organist Choirmaster Emeritus*
Sharon Leidheiser.....*Business Administrator*
Martha Worth.....*Program Manager*
Stan Parron.....*Building Manager*
Denny Mahoney.....*Office Manager*
Kelvin Murphy.....*Custodian*
Eric Trepkoski.....*Custodian*
Caroline Sansbury.....*Nursery Staff*
Jessica Yaeger.....*Nursery Staff*
Linda Mumford.....*Wedding Coordinator*
Jane Leidheiser.....*Wedding Coordinator*
Fran Panek.....*Wedding Coordinator*

Church Council

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

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

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

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DATED MATERIAL - VERY IMPORTANT
*Please Deliver: **Monday, May 25, 2009***

TO:



The First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
444 E. Broad St. Col., OH 43215
Phone: 614.228.1741 FAX: 614.461.1741
Email: home@first-church.org Web site: www.first-church.org
Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Closed Major Holidays

“An Open & Affirming Faith Community”

SUNDAY WORSHIP HOURS

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