



Sabbatical 2010

Taking Holy Steps With ‘The Children of Abraham’

By the Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Minister



In the fall of 2009, I was blessed to receive a \$15,000 grant from the Louisville Institutes for my 2010 sabbatical. The theme of my grant was “Holy Steps with the Children of Abraham.” Rest and renewal among “the children of Abraham” was at the heart of this sabbatical.

I believe as Jews, Christians and Muslims we find common ground and lineage as “Children of Abraham.” From June 7 to September 19, I will regularly worship, pray, live and study among my sisters and brothers in all three faith traditions. I will grow from this enriching experience. As I grow in faith and knowledge of Islam, Judaism and Christianity, I will return to First Church rested and renewed.

My ministry has been a journey of faith, hope, love and exploration with “the children of Abraham.” Now is the time to walk, talk, listen, pray and live with my sisters and brothers in the lands of their origins.

World religions author and professor Huston Smith believed that to understand a religion, one must experience and live in the fullness of that faith tradition. Using the model of Huston Smith, I will live and worship with my brothers and sisters of Abrahamic faith. I contributed to the *Columbus Dispatch* for over 13 years. I will offer a regular blog for our paper during this time. The link will be on the church’s Web site.

In addition to the 11 weeks abroad, I will spend three more weeks close to home resting, reading and writing with my wife and children and worshiping among Muslim, Jewish and Christian friends. This time will allow me to be silent, listen, pray and reflect on my time spent on holy ground with holy people.

Inside this edition of the *First Church News* on Pages 2, 3 and 4, you can find details of my faith journey this year. I hope it provides you insight on why this sabbatical is important for all of us, and, more importantly, why I am hoping it makes me better able to serve my brothers and sisters here at First Church and in the Columbus community.

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It's Arts Festival Time Again!

June 4, 5 and 6 the Columbus Arts Festival will be HERE and all around First Church in the Discovery District. This is *YOUR* opportunity to become an ambassador for our wonderful church by welcoming festival goers to our art exhibition (Large Conference Room and Fellowship Hall) *AND* music events. **Please volunteer (228-1741).** See the complete schedule of Arts Festival events here at First Church on Page 6.



Roots of Three Great Faiths to be Shared in Spain, Middle East

By the Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Minister

One of the joys of my sabbatical beginning in June will be experiencing this journey with my family.

Susan, Luke, Daniel, Sarah, Thalia Lewis, Luke's fiancée, Kirsten Roach, and I will begin in Spain, where we will explore the Roman Catholic roots of St. Dominic and the connections of Jewish, Muslim and Christian



Spanish city of Toledo

community in southern Spain. We will make a pilgrimage to the cloistered Dominican sisters in Caleruega, the birthplace of Dominic. We will visit Osma and Segovia. We will see Toledo, known as "the city of three faiths," where I will explore the relationship of "the children of Abraham." I also will visit Alhambra to deepen my understanding of the Moors and their revolutionary contributions to Islam and the world. We will have lots of fun, too!

Susan, Sarah and I will fly to Israel. We will travel throughout the country. They will return for Sarah to get ready for high school and Susan to return to work. I continue on, working with the Interfaith Encounter Association to have face-to-face and faith-to-faith conversations with members of this organization, spending one week living with and studying through the Interfaith Encounter (IEA) in Jerusalem and on the West Bank.

In its statement, the IEA says that "through interfaith dialogue and cross-cultural study, we believe that, rather than being a cause dedicated to promoting peace in the Middle East of the problem, religion can and should be a source of the solution for conflicts that exist in the region and beyond." (www.Interfaith-encounter.org) I also will live, work and worship on an Israeli kibbutz in the Galilee region.

I then fly to Cairo to spend three weeks living and worshiping in an Egyptian Muslim community during Ramadan. I will live with a friend of a friend who is an Egyptian banker. From my base in Cairo, I will travel throughout the country, fasting and worshiping during the entire month of Ramadan, which ends the second week of September. I will celebrate the end of Ramadan in Egypt before flying home.

Once home, I spend some time in guided prayer retreat with the Dominican Sisters of the Peace at St. Mary of the Springs in Columbus.

Why is this topic important to me?

My life has been one of openness to religious experiences from a wide range of faith traditions. As a child growing up in greater Philadelphia, I encountered many religions. Silence in Quaker meetings, the sensory delight of the Roman Catholic Mass, and regular worship in the German Reformed background of the United Church of Christ all shaped my spirit and heart of faith.

My experience with diversity continued to grow as I was part of an evangelical fellowship and a Dominican parish in Philadelphia after college. At Yale Divinity School, I was in a faith community with 39 different Protestant denominations, as well as Catholics, Jews and Muslims, in which worship was at the heart of our life together.



Dome of the Rock, an Islamic shrine, in Jerusalem

For 25 years of pastoral ministry (June 23, 1985-2010), I have been active with interfaith worship and leadership. I was a founding pastor of BREAD in 1996 and a founder of We Believe Ohio in 2006, an

interfaith effort uniting diverse religious voices to achieve social justice. I have preached and taught in all varieties of Protestant and Roman Catholic churches, synagogues and mosques.

Last spring, I drew together and moderated a community forum at the Columbus Museum of Art in conjunction with their exhibition *To Live Forever* on the ways ancient Egyptians prepared for the afterlife. It brought together a rabbi, an imam, a Protestant pastor and an artist and lifelong Dominican sister to reflect on what we believe about the afterlife. For 10 sessions in the fall of 2009 and the spring of 2010, I taught the "Children of Abraham" class with Imam Hany Saqr and Rabbi Michael Ungar. As you see, I have worked shoulder to shoulder with Jews, Muslims, Roman Catholics and other Protestants throughout my life. It is a natural step for me to move forward with the "children of Abraham" in prayer, study and exploration this summer. **(Continued on Page 3)**

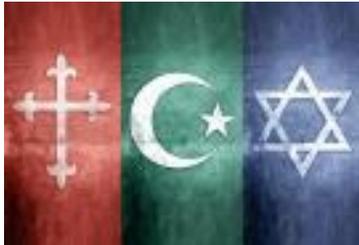
Sabbatical 2010

(REV. AHRENS, Concluded from Page 2)

Why is this topic important to First Church?

A document published Sept. 11, 2002, entitled *Healing the Nation: The Arab American Experience after September 11*, celebrates Christians who stood by the Islamic community in the aftermath of 9/11. First Congregational Church was named as a blessing to Muslims in *Healing the Nation*. We gathered the city for weeping and worship on Sept. 12, 2001. We offered safe refuge to the Islamic community when a mosque was vandalized in December 2001. Imam Hany Saqr, confirmed this recently with a smile and an embrace and the words, "You are true sons and daughters of Abraham."

First Church is one of the most mixed and blessed places in Columbus. We have many members who have spouses or partners who are Islamic or Jewish.



Historically, we have built Habitat for Humanity houses with Jews. The interfaith study we completed in March was an incredibly unique venture. First, we brought together 36 people – 12 from each congregation – for six weeks to study and reflect together on our different interpretations and experiences of Genesis. In the spring, we added another 30 members from First Church to our study. Although we were disappointed by the drop in attendance by our Jewish and Muslim friends, we are overjoyed by the response from our congregation.

For the past 10 years, we have hosted the Spirituality Network of Central Ohio in our building. Founded by Dominican sisters, the network provides spiritual care and direction to people of all faiths and no faith. Members Margene Whittenberg and Jackie Dean are both spiritual directors trained in the Wellstreams program through the Spirituality Network.

First Church is committed to interfaith work and God's spirit moving through all faiths, while staying deeply rooted in our Christian faith. We, as a congregation, will benefit directly from this sabbatical as we receive Rabbi Ungar, Imam Hany, and five Dominican Sisters of Peace into our pulpit and worship leadership. It is my hope and prayer that in October we will host a dinner for "the children of Abraham." I hope this dinner kicks off year two in our studies of the biblical texts of Abraham.

What is the benefit of this sabbatical?

I will benefit immensely from this time apart for prayer, reflection and rest. As your pastor, my days are long and filled with the constant (mostly joyful) demands. The break will be a blessing for all of us. You will be blessed by our guest preachers and teachers and the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Janine Wilson and our staff. I will be blessed by gaining new and refreshing relationships locally and across the globe as I worship, pray, laugh, love and live with "the children of Abraham," from synagogues on Broad Street, to the cloisters of St. Dominic, to the Old City of Jerusalem, to the land and sea of Galilee, to the mosques of Cairo, to the cloisters of the Deseret Fathers.

As an extrovert, to walk, talk, listen to, worship and pray with "the children of Abraham" will be a blessing beyond belief. This journey will strengthen and reinforce my calling for the rest of my days.

Summer Learning Opportunity for Children

By Mark S. Williams, Christian Education Director

Hopefully you have all read where Rev Tim will be this summer. Here are some activity suggestions for our families/children and youth:

- * Post a map on the refrigerator where Rev Tim will be with the dates.
- * GoodSearch/Google/go to the library/ research about the locations and find out:
 1. What kind of food they eat.
 2. What kind of games do the children play.
 3. What are some of their religious or faith traditions.
 4. Write down questions to ask Rev Tim about the children and families he met.
 5. Look for crafts to make that represent the area where Rev Tim is studying.
 6. Read as many children and youth books you can find about the different countries that Rev Tim is visiting.

Upcoming Sermon Titles and Texts

May 23 - Pentecost Sunday - Confirmation Sunday
Acts 2:1-21

May 30 - Trinity Sunday (Rev. Wilson) - Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31, Romans 5:1-5, John 16:12-15

June 6 - Pentecost 1 (Rev. Ahrens) – 10 a.m. only - Arts Festival weekend - *The Artzy One* - I Kings 17:8-16, Galatians 1:11-24, Luke 7:11-17

From the Associate Minister

Why a Sabbatical?

By the Rev. Dr. Janine Wilson, Associate Minister

Some people wonder why in the world a pastor would take a sabbatical, and why a church would give their pastor a sabbatical. Isn't it just an extended vacation? No, actually, it's not.



Someone has compared the life of a minister with that of a taxi leaving an airport. The cab gets packed so full, loaded down with passengers and suitcases that the car has a hard time even moving – it gets strained to the point of breaking. So it is with clergy. They bear the burdens most of us don't see: the anguish, pain, worry, anger and hurt of their parishioners 24-7. (That is, 24 hours, seven days a week.)



Rev. Tim's
Sabbatical

As a result, many, if not all, experience to one degree or another, symptoms of emotional collapse, stress related illnesses, and "burnout" adversely affecting the minister's personal, family and parish life, and

greatly diminishing his or her effectiveness and well-being.

For too long, this situation was accepted as an inevitable part of the job, but not here at First Church. We are a sabbatarian people. We recognize God calls all of us to rest and renewal in God's love. "Sabbaticals" have their roots in scripture and in church tradition. In the life of a pastor, a sabbatical is a focused time of renewal, refreshment and recommitment. Our contracts and our personnel policy both affirm the intention of the pastor and church to remain in relationship afterward for at least one year post-sabbatical. Churches have discovered that sabbaticals are good for pastors and good for congregations.

Rev. Tim's sabbatical will enable him, with God's help and ours, to replenish his spirit through the vital pursuit of continuing education, extended time spent in spiritual formation and developing new relationships with respected teachers and leaders. His sabbatical will enable him to return to the responsibilities of the parish with new energy, spiritual vision and new insight.

I hope you will join me in praying for Tim and his family as they complete their preparation. And then we'll pray with them at 10 a.m. in worship June 6 (Arts Festival Day) and wave them on their merry way!

Our Ministry During Rev. Tim's Sabbatical

- * Be diligent and regular in worship, study, fellowship, and stewardship;
- * Call members when you don't see them in worship;
- * Continue to lead and support the ministries of the congregation;
- * Pray for the staff, as they continue to minister to you and with you, and prayerfully take on extra duties in Tim's absence as needed;
- * Pray for Tim and his family as they experience the travel and transitions of being with him and apart from him;
- * Welcome guest preachers into your midst with joy;
- * Join him in his travel, questions and discoveries through his blog on the *Columbus Dispatch* Web site!

Jackie Dean Named to Lead Christian Education Temporarily

As you know, Mark Williams, our Christian education director, will be on leave for a time as he recovers from surgery. Our prayers will be with him as he recuperates.

During Mark's absence, member Jackie Dean will be interim Christian education director. Jackie will be starting June 14 and continue until Mark's return.

Jackie has been a member of First Church for over 30 years. She has served the church in many capacities in educational ministry as well as spiritual care. Jackie is in the process of becoming a commissioned minister for spiritual care. She will work 30 hours a week assisting with the educational programming, and assist Rev. Wilson in offering spiritual care.

This is being funded through a major project grant, and was approved by the Executive Committee and Church Council, in consultation with the Personnel Committee.

To contact Jackie, call 228-1741, ext. 15, or email her at jdean@first-church.org.

Help Mission Trip, Buy a Mile

By Mark Williams, Christian Education Director

Buy-a-Mile is helping the youth make their way across up-state New York as they head for Massachusetts on this year's mission trip.

They are asking for donations of \$7 a mile to make it to Heifer International Overlook Farm in Rutland, Mass., June 13-19.



So far, they have enough donations to get to Buffalo. There is a giant map in the Parish Hall that tracks the donations on the route to Rutland. Each week, members will get an update on how far they are on the trip.

Heifer's primary mission is to send animals to families in need. But Heifer involves so much more: cottage industry, education, teamwork, land management and nutrition, to name a few.

The group will spend a week this summer engaged in hands-on stewardship of the earth and its people and bring back a great gift to share: the principles and practices of a just and balanced global community.

Thanks for helping to get the mission trip on its way!

From the Music Office

By Jamie Bobb, Minister of Music

It's hard to believe we are completing our first season together! The past 10 months seem to be a blur, yet it's the kind of joyous energy you perceive when looking at an impressionistic painting at too close a range. All you see is the fury of individual brush strokes. Ironically, it's when you back away that you begin to perceive the content, the meaning, the gestalt of all those individual gestures.



At many points through this season it felt as though I was only a month, a week, a day, or one step ahead of the calendar. Looking at all the detail very closely can hinder one from seeing the big picture. Now, as summer approaches, I can step back and see more of the big picture. And it fills me with gratitude for the kind, generous, and responsive welcome you all have shown me; for the support and guidance of the staff; for incredible musicians who have opened their hearts in

trust and dedication; and for all our opportunities to shape the body of Christ through passionate worship.

Getting some perspective on the past also can inspire us to work for the coming year(s). This is where the summer months can be so valuable. Pastor Tim embarks on a uniquely enriching sabbatical, one that will certainly impact his life and ministry in profound ways. I hope each summer can be a microcosm of that for other areas of ministry, too.

I look forward to this time to get perspective and do the kind of long-range planning that are not possible the first year in a new position. I look forward to building new relationships, as with the youth mission trip. I look forward to conversations about new ensembles, such as might meet the needs of teen musicians. I look forward to new conversations about existing ensembles, such as might inspire new enthusiasm, new repertoire, new learning experiences and deeper spiritual commitments. I look forward to researching old and new ideas for our worship life, such as will keep us committed to word, sacrament and justice in our public witness.

The practice of reflection and renewal is a gift of the summer months. Thank you for gifts of encouragement, support and prayer; let us continue to hold one another up in these ways as we step into a uniquely challenging summer.

Help us, Lord, to persevere in prayer
with minds awake and thankful hearts,
that we may share the secret of Christ
with those we meet on our earthly pilgrimage,
our Master and our Friend. Amen.

*The Pilgrim Prayer is based on Colossians 4:2-4
by the Rev. Canon Derrick Walters*

Twink Starr to be Honored June 6

The First Church Art Committee will honor long-time member Twink Starr on June 6 for making the Parlor restoration possible through his generous contribution. Twink will be recognized after 10 a.m. worship, the only service that day. It will take place in the Parlor, where Fellowship Hour will be held.

Plan on attending to honor Twink, who has given so much to First Church. Then stay around to enjoy the Arts Festival, which concludes that day, and be sure to attend the concert by our own Jamie Bobb and Dene Barnard in the Sanctuary at 1 p.m.

First Church News

First Church Honors Three with 2010 Schumacher Awards

By Katherine Bamberger, Schumacher Committee Chair

Danielle Hanlin, DeMeeshia Marshall and Kara Snyder are the winners of this year's Schumacher Awards, given annually at First Church to recognize young women between the ages of 15 and 20 who are worthy of commendation for Christian devotion to her mother, father, sister or brother.

The young women, chosen by the Schumacher committee, were honored during worship on Mother's Day, May 9.

Danielle Hanlin



Danielle is a senior at Westerville Central High School where she is in the National Honor Society, and is a pole vaulter on the track team. Danielle demonstrates Christian devotion to her family, and in particular, helps her sister and grandfather.

Danielle attends Xenos Christian Fellowship, and participates in the youth group Young Life. Danielle will be attending Otterbein University to study to become a teacher.

DeMeeshia Marshall

DeMeeshia is a senior at Fort Hayes High School where she is in the National Honor Society, choir and the drill team, in addition to working part-time. DeMeeshia attends the City of Zion Church and participates in the church dance team, praise team and choir. DeMeeshia has won numerous singing competitions. She demonstrates Christian devotion to her family, particularly her mother. DeMeeshia will be attending Kentucky State University to study music performance and music education.



Kara Snyder



Kara is a senior at Westland High School where she is in the National Honor Society, band and choir. Kara plays the flute and sings, and has received top ratings at various musical competitions. Kara attends Maranatha Baptist Church, and teaches

Bible study to neighborhood children. Kara demonstrates Christian devotion to her family, particularly her sister and mother. Kara will be attending Cedarville University to study elementary and special education.

First Church Schedule Arts Festival 2010

FRIDAY, JUNE 4

CHARI-TEA ROOM in Parish Hall, 5-9 p.m. – Gazpacho, tea sandwiches and cookies, iced, decaf and regular tea, lemonade. Proceeds will benefit Habitat For Humanity-Haiti

Art Exhibition and sale by congregants, their family members and friends. Benefitting Habitat-Haiti.

7 p.m. – EARLY INTERVAL MUSIC IN THE SANCTUARY – Medieval & Renaissance selections from England, France, Italy and Spain performed on period instruments along with vocal works.



SATURDAY, JUNE 5

CHARI-TEA ROOM – 4-9 p.m.

3 p.m. – OHIO CAPITAL WINDS IN THE SANCTUARY - Bring the family! Catherine Hope-Cunningham will again conduct this champion wind ensemble.

7 p.m. – MAGPIE CONSORT IN THE SANCTUARY - "All Aboard For Haiti!" including these performers: **Capriccio!**, **Kata Bomba Drummers**, **OSU African-American Voices Gospel Choir**, and from the Columbus Museum of Art, the **Columbus Complaints Choir**.

SUNDAY, JUNE 6

ONE SERVICE – 10 A.M. – SANCTUARY

CHARI-TEA ROOM – 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

1 p.m. – BACH TO GERSHWIN – James Bobb and G. Dene Barnard give a light-hearted recital tour of all four keyboard instruments in First Church's nave: Bechtel harpsichord, Steinway piano, 1931 Kimball organ, 1972 von Beckerath organ

You will be given parking passes on May 23 and 30 for the June 6 service. See you here!

BREAD Gets Commitments From Officials at Annual Gathering

By Priss Endo

About 2,600 members of BREAD exercised their strength as “people of faith building power to do justice” at the 2010 Nehemiah Action on May 3 at Veteran’s Memorial.



One-hundred and eighteen members of First Church heard Dr. Gene Harris, Columbus City Schools superintendent, commit to ending the practice of suspending students out of school for truancy and to try to expand Project KEY (a successful truancy

reduction program). BREAD requested \$200,000 for Project KEY expansion.

BREAD asked city and county officials to move ahead with the County Land Reutilization Corporation by the end of this year.

The corporation would be used to address vacant and abandoned housing in Franklin County. City and county officials promised to determine if the corporation would work in Franklin County, but they were not certain six months would be enough time to develop a plan for the county.

The third issue presented at the meeting was closing loopholes in the payday-lending law championed by BREAD two years ago. State representatives Dan Stewart and Ted Celeste pledged their support for House Bill 486, which would strengthen the current law.

5k Run/Walk Set for June 12

The Sacred Earth Committee invites First Church members to join in an all-terrain 5k run/walk at the Shepherd’s Corner Farm and Ecology Center on June 12 starting at 9 a.m.

This race offers a course that surveys the diverse landscape of Shepherd's Corner, which is supported by the Dominican Sisters of Peace. You will run alongside organic gardens, across meadow trails and through wooded paths as you support the preservation of each of those landscapes!

Shepherd's Corner is located at 987 N. Waggoner Rd. in Blacklick. Course maps and information can be found at www.shepherds corner.org/5k.

First Church Again to Host Letting Kids Succeed

More than 200 young people will be keeping things busy at First Church this summer each weekday as the Letting Kids Succeed program celebrates its sixth year.

The program, founded by Linda K. Slocum, helps children ages 5-15 to get ready for the next school year by working on academic areas where they have difficulty. It also fosters self-respect and confidence to help the young people be responsible. The day-long program includes fun activities and field trips.

Letting Kids succeeds begins June 7 and concludes August 13. For information and registration forms, go to www.lettingkidsucceed.com.

Mothers for Others Makes its Return

By Catherine Kennedy

Parents for Others is up and running again under the new name Mothers for Others!

Because of more complicated schedules, we are now meeting only once a quarter. At each meeting, the moms coordinate a service drive, which will be opened to the First Church congregation for a period of two to three months. The children complete their own service during the meeting (or play around, depending on the age of the child).

If you are interested in joining our group, please contact Catherine Kennedy at cskennedy1981@yahoo.com. Our next meeting will take place Friday, August 20 at 4 p.m. The meeting place is to be determined.

Also, beginning this month and running through August 31, we are collecting cell phones, prescription glasses and sunglasses. So, clean out your drawers!

The cell phones will benefit the organization Cell Phones for Soldiers (www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com). The glasses and sunglasses will benefit the organization One Sight, which is committed to providing clear vision to those in need around the world. The collection box will be located outside the main office.

First Church News

Recent Gifts to First Church

By Bill Johannes and Jane Werum



Given to the Building Endowment Fund in celebration of the life of Barbara Heer by:

David and Ardis Holt

Given to the Dorinda White Youth Endowment Fund by:

Jim Kyle

Given to the Barnard Music Endowment Fund by:

Kevin Ayres

Given to the Mission Endowment Fund by:

Phil and Valerie Stichter

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 pews and in the office.

Co-Founder of Deep Griha Dies

Bhaskar Onawale, who with his wife, Dr. Neela Onawale, founded the Deep Griha Society in 1975, passed away May 2 in Pune, India. He will be missed by thousands around the world who were blessed to know and to love him.



Bhaskar Onawale

Bhaskar was a quiet and gentle spiritual leader, who led not only with words, but also by example, reaching out with caring love to everyone, without regard to gender, status, race or religion. He was retired principal of

United Theological Seminary of Maharashtra and chairman of the board and a volunteer at Deep Griha.

Members of First Community Church will gather to celebrate the life and honor the memory of Bhaskar at the 11 a.m. worship service at South Campus on June 13. A fund in memory of Bhaskar has been established to cover his medical bills and provide for Neela's retirement. Contributions should be sent to First Community Church, Bhaskar Onawale Memorial Fund.

Neela will continue as director of Deep Griha, which provides medical, education and other services to help the very poor in the slums of Pune, and to improve the

lives of children in nearby rural areas. More than 57,000 of India's poorest were served by Deep Griha in 2008 and 2009.

Young Adults Are in Demand!



Are you between the ages of 18 & 35? Would you like to meet other young adults – some single, some married, some with children and others without children? Are you a searcher, seeker, or doer? Do you like to read, explore, play, pray, or

engage in mission? Does time to explore your faith, study the Bible, discover and discuss books, theology, daily life or science appeal to you? Are you getting ready for college or looking forward to enjoying your break away from college?

If any of these ideas are of interest (or if you have an interest you'd like to share with others not on the list), then please contact Rev. Janine Wilson at: 614 228-1741, ext. 21, or jwilson@first-church.org. Young adult ministry opportunities are on the horizon. We hope you will be part of this new beginning!

Calling All Graduates!



If you or a family member is graduating from high school or college this year, send us some information including name, school the person is graduating from, degree and possible future plans. We'll run a listing in next month's newsletter. Send the information to dmahoney@first-church.org. You also may include a photo (electronic image only).

Mission Offerings Schedule

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

June 6 - Neighbors in Need – UCC ministry supporting justice initiatives and service projects.

June 13 - Catalyst – College scholarship support for Jamaican high school students.

June 20 - Catalyst

June 27 - Central Ohio Darfur Solidarity Network – Supports new refugees



Church Has New Brokerage Account

By Sharon Leidheiser, Business Administrator

In 2010, First Congregational Church's brokerage account changed. Below is an explanation for transferring funds to the new account:



First Church welcomes transfers from your investment accounts as payment towards a pledge, capital fund campaign donation or other purpose. If you have stocks, bonds or CDs and you want to avoid possible capital gains taxes (please consult your tax advisor), you can transfer the security to the church's brokerage account at Morgan Stanley Smith Barney.

When transferring securities to the church account, please make sure your broker includes the following information so you will receive credit on your church statement:

Donor Name
Address
Phone Number

Your broker should send the securities to:

Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, LLC
111 Wall St.
3rd Floor
New York, NY 10005
Phone: 877-357-0888
Account Name: First Congregational Church
Account # and DTC # **Important, please contact the church for these account numbers**

In order to make sure your donation is processed quickly, please contact either Sharon Leidheiser or Jim Fewlass to indicate you are making a contribution to the church, and indicate the security you will be transferring, as well as approximate date of the transfer.

Sharon sleidheiser@first-church.org or 614-228-1741 ext.11
Jim Fewlass ovolunteer@first-church.org or 614-228-1741

Be aware that transfers may not happen immediately and market value changes may occur between the time you make your transfer request and when the church receives and sells the investment security. If you are selling a security for a loss, it may be to your tax advantage to sell it outright and donate the proceeds, rather than transfer it directly.

Member Happy June Birthdays

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1: Joe Daniels | 13: Madeline Aeschbury |
| 1: Courtney Lazar | 15: Walter Kropp |
| 3: Julie Vore | 16: Barbara Crevling-Reed |
| 5: Amber Lane | 17: Mike Ponzani |
| 6: Patty Pohlman | 17: Missy Zimmerman |
| 6: Brittney Dean | 18: Lukas Irons |
| 7: Lindy Miller | 19: Shawn Dingus |
| 7: Alton Fennell | 20: Richard Mason |
| 7: Marilee Schneider | 20: Michael Valinis |
| 8: Beth Hunker | 21: Jenny Middendorf |
| 8: Elaine Stewart | 22: Cindy Deliman |
| 8: Peggy Buck | 24: Jan Kutschbach |
| 8: Brian Stewart | 24: Sarah Trace |
| 8: Jeff Lowy | 25: Lynne Keely |
| 10: Pat Patterson | 26: Rhonda Poirier |
| 11: Jan Wade | 26: Lauren Holt |
| 11: Colin Thompson | 28: Wanda Ray |
| 12: Leonard Nienaber | 29: Larry Braverman |
| 13: J.J. Cole | 29: Kathy White |
| 13: Alex Cole | 30: Kathryn Reed |

Member Happy June Anniversaries

1: Mary Day and Jim Fewlass
1: Kathleen and Jason Ferguson
2: Eric and Ashley Messick
4: Megan and James Daniels
5: Kay and Jack Davis
5: Carol and Marc Lowy
7: Kaye and John Martin
7: Janet and Dan Axt
9: Mary and Charlie Weaver
12: Melody and Paul Leidheiser
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: Dale Ann and Gary Gray
15: Julia and Matt Myers
16: Joan and Keene Lebold
16: Debra and Fred Hadley
16: Michael and Jason Bishop
17: Celeste Feather and Peter Murray
18: Valerie and Phil Stichter
19: Deb and Tom Thompson
19: Ann and John Aeschbury
20: Julie and Eric Vore
20: Elizabeth and Hugh Allen
21: Amanda and Matt DeCastro
21: Sue and Frank Cook
22: Gail and Bill Johannes
23: Cosby and Kevin Carrico
23: Lynne and Brad Keely
24: Monique and Dennis Penfield
26: Virginia and James O'Neill
27: Jennifer and Jason Bryant
27: Carol and Alex Rodriguez
28: Courtney and Matt Lazar
29: Pam Kallner and Russ Kelm
29: Jane and Stanford Ackley
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.

Church Calendar

Sunday, May 23 (Pentecost, Confirmation)

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

Monday, May 24

6:30 pm – Stephen Ministers – Adult Library
7 pm - Adult Education - LC
7 pm – Capital Campaign Committee – PFR or PH

Tuesday, May 25

12 pm - Card Care Ministry – PFR
7 pm – Personnel Committee – LC

Wednesday, May 26

12:00p – Arts Festival Committee – PFR
7 pm – Adult Education Committee – LC

Thursday, May 27

6 pm – Nominating Committee – LC
6:15 pm – First Church Ringers – Music Activity Room
7:30 pm – First Church Choir – Choir Room

Friday, May 28

6 pm – Faith Mission Meals

Sunday, May 30

9 am – Early Worship – PH
9 am – Treble Choir – Choir Room
11 am – Worship Service – San
12 pm - Fellowship Hour – PH

Monday, May 31

Memorial Day, Office and Building Closed

Tuesday, June 1

12:00 pm – Card Care Ministry – LC
6:30 pm- Children's Education – Room D
7 pm – Mission Committee – PFR
7:30 pm- Youth Ministry Team – Room C

Wednesday, June 2

12 pm – Arts Festival Committee – PFR

Thursday, June 3

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

Friday, June 4

Arts Festival All Day

Saturday, June 5

Arts Festival All Day

Sunday, June 6

10 am – Worship – San
Arts Festival All Day

Monday, June 7

5:30 pm – Sacred Earth – PFR
7 pm – Capital Campaign – PFR or PH

Tuesday, June 8

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

Thursday, June 10

2 pm – Arts Committee – PR

Saturday, June 12

10 am – First Church Quilters - LC

Sunday, June 13

9 am – Worship – PH
11 am – Worship – San
12 pm – Fellowship Hour- PH

Monday, June 14

7 pm – Capital Campaign Committee – PFR or PH
7 pm – Trustees - LC

Tuesday, June 15

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

Saturday, June 19

9 am – House and Grounds – PFR

Sunday, June 20

9 am – Worship – PH
11 am – Worship San
12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH

Monday, June 21

7 pm – Capital Campaign – PFR or PH

Tuesday, June 22

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



*Help
Make*

THE FUTURE'S BROADENING WAY

*First Church's Dreams
Come True*

2010 Capital Campaign

Prayers

June Fellowship Hour

June 6: Haggai
 June 13: Hosea
 June 20: Jeremiah
 June 27: Kings

June Acolyte Schedule

June 6: Victoria Washington and Cameron Wade
 June 13: Luke Zimmerman and Will Zimmerman
 June 20: Jansen Allred and Ben Allred
 June 27: Jaden Martin-Wynia and Katie Wagner
 (Schedules online at www.first-church.org)

Next Newsletter Deadline

Articles Due: Monday, June 7, by noon

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

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

Please pray for those who continue to walk through grief and loss, for those battling illness and addictions in their families, for all serving in Iraq and elsewhere and for others in need. Please offer prayers for those who are lonely, lost and hurting. Pray for our nation as we face all too much anxiety, fear and uncertainty with faith, hope and love. May God bless you in your giving and in your living in Christ's love and grace. Amen.

Baptisms

Aarav Peter – May 2
 Fisher Blaine Ferguson – May 9
 Cindy Conn – May 16

Deaths

Bob Roberts – May 1

Marriages

Laura Browne and Lance Collins – May 8
 Katherine Goggin and Chris Koeneman – May 15

Fellowship Hour Beverage Sales



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

~ Remember Your Loved Ones ~
 With a Dedication of Flowers

Contact Marty Worth at 614.228.1741, ext. 12,
mworth@first-church.org

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, Eric Trepkoski.....Custodians
 Frank Wall, William Lee.....Custodians
 Nikki Boop, Rosemary Pawandiwa.....Nursery
 DeAndree Norris.....Nursery
 Linda Mumford.....Wedding Coordinator
 Jane Leidheiser.....Wedding Coordinator
 Fran Panek.....Wedding Coordinator

Church Council

Melody Leidheiser.....Moderator
 Sarah Reed.....Vice-Moderator
 Trish Bishop, Judy Smith.....Secretary/Assistant
 David Holt, Jim Fewlass.....Treasurer/Assistant
 Frank Cook, Sandy Bennett.....Administration/Assistant
 Wayne Piper.....Church Growth
 Diane Cole, Priss Endo.....Education/Assistant
 Wally Giffen, Vince Papsidero..House & Grounds/Assistant
 Anne Hudson, Patrick Keller.....Mission/Assistant
 Julia Myers.....Parish Life
 Gerry Worth.....Senior Deacon
 Kevin Butler.....Deacon
 Jane Leidheiser, John Deliman..Music, Arts, Heritage/Ast.
 Nancy Loy.....Nominating Chair
 Jordan Knerr.....Member-at-large
 Doug Buck.....Member-at-large

The First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
444 E. Broad St.
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3885

DATED MATERIAL - VERY IMPORTANT

*Please Deliver: **Monday, May 24, 2010***

TO:

[Empty dashed rectangular 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