



November
2012
Vol. 160,
No. 11

First Church News

First Congregational Church, UCC
Columbus, Ohio

“Enter to Worship – Depart to Serve”

A Time for Joyous, Generous Thanksgiving

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

November will be a month of great celebration in worship! Don't miss a week of worship in this glorious time of generosity, thanksgiving and love.



We begin November with our **Stewardship Sunday/All Saints Celebration on November 4.** We will receive our Stewardship promises for 2013 (see the adjoining article). With our theme **“Circles of Faithful Generosity,”** we will step forward in faith and giving for the coming year.

We also will remember with great love those who have passed away in the last year. We will lift up in song and special remembrance the lives of **Elizabeth Asp, Jason Bishop, Ardis Holt, Jan Kutschbach, Marilyn Koetz, Marian Whitney, Judy Wolff, Gwen Abbot and Laura Barndt.** Each person left a great legacy of love with their families and with our greater community. We will also lift up and remember in love those of blessed memory in each of our lives. We will welcome each family and celebrate their loved ones in our prayers. All Saints Day is a time for us to give thanks to God for all of those who lived and loved well in our lives. Come and celebrate at 9 or 11 a.m. those saints and loved ones who have made a difference in your life. Thanks be to God for all the saints! The sermon will be *“Where You Go.”*

Sunday, November 11, is Veterans Day. For the first time in many years, Veterans Day falls on a Sunday. In honor of this, we will have several special things happening. We will have our annual fall blood drive in honor of the veterans among our friends and family who have served. Please make a blood donation in their honor or in their memory.

Also, our youth will present the sermon in song. I will add a brief reflection on this Veterans Day entitled: *“Rule Number 2.”* Please bring your friends, family and

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‘Turn Down the Noise: Fast, Pray, Vote’

By The Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Minister

On Friday, November 2, people of faith across Ohio are being called upon to have a “fast” from the negative campaign ads running in our state.

Religious leaders of all faiths are calling on everyone to tune-out the toxic and negative election ads that day. We can mute our TVs, radios and computers each time a negative ad comes up. Better yet, we can “fast” from TV, radio, and newspapers altogether for the 24-hour period.

While we are fasting, religious leaders are asking people to pray for all the candidates and their families who are running in this election. We also ask you to vote early. Early voting polls will be open the weekend before the November 6 election. The Franklin County location for early voting is 1700 Morse Rd. The hours are 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on November 2, 3 and 5, and 1-5 p.m. on November 4. Some form of identification is needed (see <http://vote.franklincountyohio.gov> for details).

So, turn down the noise on Friday, November 2. Fast, Pray, and Vote.



*Join Us for Stewardship Sunday, November 4
9 and 11 a.m. Worship
Luncheon after 11 a.m. Worship*

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Table Talk

By the Rev. Dr. Janine Wilson, Associate Minister
(jwilson@first-church.org)

I have started thinking about gathering around the Thanksgiving table. Like many of you, I have some great memories of feasts and fixings. One favorite memory is of the peaches we picked and froze one summer, just so we could enjoy the taste of fresh peaches in autumn, accompanied by fresh baked bread.



This week, though, memories of bread shifted from home feasts to imagining the smell of the fresh bread we receive every week at 9 a.m. worship. I love lifting up the white cloth as the smell of the loaf begins to rise. There is nothing quite like it. The smell triggers memories. It also becomes a point of centering.

By the time we eat the bread we have already welcomed each other and passed the peace; heard God's word read and preached; and taken in the life of the church as the whole people of God. And then ushered in with song, the table becomes our pivot point. We shift from what was, to what can be.

The table is the place we bring our memories and hope; the place where we remember the good and the not so good things. It is the place upon which our lives pivot from what was made possible through Christ, to what can be, as individuals and community with Christ. At the table, God lays out a feast of hope and new beginnings.

This Thanksgiving, I encourage you to add one new question to your table talk. Ask each other what God has done and what mischief you hope God might do next. Then listen to the table as it turns...

May your days be blessed,
Janine

P.S God's table is set every week at 9 a.m. worship.
You are always welcome to join us.

(REV. AHRENS, Concluded from Page 1)

neighbors to our 2012 Veterans Day service. I feel it will be a beautiful reflection in word and song. Also, be sure to thank the veterans for their sacrifice to our nation.

Sunday, November 18 is Thanksgiving Sunday. We will sing the great hymns of Pilgrim faith! But singing is not enough! Sing and bring . . . Bring your spirits of thanksgiving and your canned goods and non-perishable items to give as an offering on this Sunday.

At First Church, we can SEE our neighbors coming to our doors hungry. If we do not serve them, we are not serving our Lord! It is that simple. Recent news reports tell us that locally and regionally we are getting hungrier and hungrier. Ohio still ranks as the nation's sixth hungriest state. Our immediate neighbors are in great need - and it is growing! Once again, the children and youth of First Church will lead us! They have called to us to join them as they lead an effort for mission which will feed the hungry in our midst through the Mid-Ohio Food Bank. I feel so strongly about this effort, I can't say enough!

Here are three immediate ways each and every one of us can respond!

First, bring canned goods to the church on November 18. There will be a list in our Sunday bulletins. This collection benefits Gladden Community House and the food pantry at Broad Street Presbyterian Church. I challenge us to bring 1,000 pounds of canned goods for the hungry in Central Ohio this month!

Second, join the Hunger Action Network, which focuses on legislation to feed the hungry in Ohio. Rev. Bob Erickson, a friend of First Church, heads this up. Let us get with the network and make a long-term, lasting impact on Ohio's programs to feed the poor. Here is the online link: <http://www.hungernetohio.org>.

Third, when you and I sit down for Thanksgiving dinner on November 22, let's ask our families to give more to feed the hungry. Take up an offering for the Mid-Ohio Food Bank. Collect canned goods from your family. Bring them to church and share them with the poor in our midst. Let's make this Thanksgiving a memorable one in our efforts to end hunger. My sermon for 11/18 : *"Shining Like the Brightness of the Sky"*

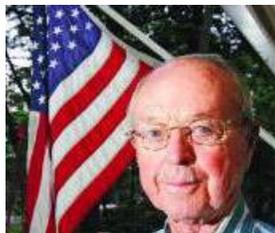
November 25 is the Reign of Christ Sunday. This final day of the Christian year is a great day of worship and praise as we lift high our voices in song and celebration. I have come to love this Sunday for its glorious music a sound of joyful praise! My sermon will be *"What is the Meaning of Life?"* I thought we would end the year with a small topic for preaching. ☺

Come to worship this coming month. Bring family, friends, neighbors and co-workers. Come and celebrate the joyful and generous spirit of God!

Twink Starr to Receive 2012 Lay Leadership Award

By Wally Giffen, Leadership Award Committee Member

On Sunday, November 18, the 2012 First Church award for a lifetime of outstanding lay leadership will be presented to Rupert (Twink) Starr! The award will be presented during the 11 a.m. service with a reception in the Parish Hall during the Fellowship Hour.



Twink Starr

Twink has served in many roles since he joined First Church in 1959. He has for many years been an usher, including assistant chairman (1976), then chairman (1977) of ushers. He was Business Commissioner

(1983), Moderator (1984-1985) and chairman of Trustees

(1988-1989). As a trustee for many years, Twink managed the church's rental properties (yes, FCC was a landlord once) including parking lot weekday leases. Other committee involvements have included Stewardship, Deacons, Personnel and House and Grounds.

One of Twink's greatest loves of service has been the Art Committee, which he has co-chaired. Twink and his late partner of 54 years Allan Wingfield, especially provided professional design talent and personal treasure to renovate the Parlor and other church areas..

Beginning in 2008, we have annually presented this award to a member or couple who have demonstrated a lifetime of outstanding lay leadership to our church, our denomination and/or mission partners. The inaugural recipients in 2008 were Amos and Janice White; in 2009 the award was presented to Bill and Natalie Wright; in 2010 the award was presented to Arlene Reynolds; and last year to Wally and Sarah Giffen.

The lay leader recognition committee this year includes Amos White, Janice White, Arlene Reynolds, Wally & Sarah Giffen, Sue Cook and David Holt.

Kevin Jones is new Minister of Music

By John Deliman, Music Minister Search Committee

After an extensive search that began in mid-April, I am pleased to introduce Kevin Jones as the new Minister of Music at First Congregational Church, UCC, Columbus, Ohio. Kevin was the unanimous choice of our search committee, and was unanimously approved for the

position by Church Council at the October 16 meeting. Kevin comes to us from Hartford, Connecticut, but is originally a Buckeye! He has faithfully served the past six years as Canon Precentor and Director of Music at Christ Church Episcopal Cathedral in Hartford. He hails from Ashland, Ohio, studied organ and harpsichord at Southern Methodist University, and did advanced studies at the Cleveland Institute of Music, earning Masters degrees in both organ performance and collaborative piano. His major teachers at CIM were Karel Paukert, and Anne Epperson. Kevin has also worked under the tutelage of Lloyd Pfausch, Helmuth Rilling, John Rutter and Johannes Somary.

Along with his work at Christ Church Cathedral, Kevin has served in an adjunct faculty position at Hartt School of Music, teaching applied voice, along with English, French, and German diction classes. He holds the post of Dean of the Greater Hartford Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Kevin is also the music director of the 30-voice, semi-professional Anglican Singers based in New London, Connecticut.



Kevin Jones

Kevin was for eight years the music director of the Blue Hill Troupe, Ltd., New York City's Gilbert and Sullivan ensemble. In that post, he trained singers and conducted performances of *The Gondoliers*, *H.M.S. Pinafore*, *Iolanthe*, *"Patience"*, *The Mikado*, *The Sorcerer and Yeoman of the Guard*.

Kevin is well known as a performing organist and harpsichordist, and is highly sought as an accompanist and collaborative pianist, both in the United States and in England. His choral work with both adult and youth choirs is highly regarded, and his choirs at Christ Church Cathedral have twice performed by invitation at various cathedrals in England (2009 and 2012).

Kevin is married to Joe Bellissimo who is a doctor of chiropractic medicine. They will be relocating to Columbus by the end of the year, with Kevin starting as our Minister of Music in early January.

As committee chair, I again want to thank the members of our search committee for their tireless efforts and expertise in screening the 31 candidates who applied for this position. They are: Rev. Tim Ahrens, Gerry Worth, Marti Rideout, Charlie Knerr, Helen Spears, Shannon Washington, Mary Weaver, Judy Smith, Neal Brower, Jim Gallagher and Michael Hopcraft.

Advent Resources and Activities Available from Christian Education

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

Advent resources for children, families and adults will be available beginning Sunday, November 18, at the entrance to the worship space and in classrooms. An Advent children's activities calendar and teen's calendar will be available and is perfect to display on a refrigerator or a family bulletin board. *Welcome a Mighty Savior* is a booklet of **family** prayers, scriptures and reflections for each day of Advent. *Jesus Beloved Son* by Henri Nouwen is an **individual** devotion booklet for the days of Advent. Please pick up a copy at either service or in the church office.



Each Sunday of Advent, several activities sheets will be available for the children that relate to our children's time in worship. The activities sheets will be available for the 9 and 11 a.m. services. Sunday afternoon, December 23, there will be several activities available at the door for the younger children during the service of Lessons and Carols because they remain in the Sanctuary for the entire time.

Kids' Christmas Play Rehearsal to Begin

Apple cider in the stores, Halloween costumes on the shelves, and the NHL in a lockout. Yes, it's that time of year again: Christmas Play rehearsals are just around the corner!

This year's play, "Lights, Cameras, Christmas!" will be performed on Sunday, December 16, 6-7:30 p.m., in Parish Hall. Practice begins the first Sunday of November during Education Hour for grades 2-5, and continues each Sunday until the play. There will be a dress rehearsal from 1-3 p.m. on Saturday, December 15, in Parish Hall.

As always, 2nd graders will introduce the play, and 3-5th graders will have speaking roles in the performance. The marvelous "Mistletoe Marchers," for children pre-K/1st grade, will kick everything off with their annual parade to the stage and carol performance. All are welcome and all interested will get a role! Unlike the NHL, no one will be denied a chance to play! Contact Andrew Welsh-Huggins at awhcolumbus@hotmail.com with questions.
– Andrew Welsh-Huggins



Annual Cabaret is November 11

It's Cabaret time again at First Church!

The First Church adults and youth will take the stage on Sunday, November 11, at 6 p.m. in the Parish Hall. There will be amazing acts to entertain every age, and lots of food and fun. Proceeds from the night will benefit the Youth Ministries 2013 summer mission trip.

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

Food Bank is Fall Mission Project

The Mid-Ohio Food Bank is the fall mission project for our children and youth. This is part of the quarterly local campaign mission project. We have given each child/youth an envelope to collect donations. We also have included a "grocery list" and a "kids' kit list" for donated items that are accepted and needed by the Food Bank. The project will be conducted through November 18.

Food and item donation boxes are at entrances of the church. We feel that it is very important for our children and youth to participate in hands –on mission projects and is part of our Long Range Plan. Please feel free to contact Mark if you have questions.

Nursery Worker Needed

First Church is hiring a nursery worker. Applications are available in the church office. Questions? Contact Mark S. Williams at 228-1741, ext. 15, or mwilliams@first-church.org.

**First Church’s 2012 Ornament
Now Available for \$18**

By Mark S. Williams, Christian Education Director

First Church is continuing our exciting program in celebrating the history of the church through an ongoing keepsake ornament project. Each year, one of our beautiful stained glass windows is featured as a keepsake ornament. The 2012 collectible features the top panel of the Rose Window.



This series started five years ago. The first ornament (2007) was the “Shepherd Window” that is located in the Gladden Chapel. The 2008 ornament was “The Light of the World” window, located in the sanctuary in the Parable Windows. The 2009 ornament is “Jesus Blessing the Children” panel from the Jeffrey Window, which is located above the Chancel. The fourth keepsake ornament (2010) was the “Evangelists” from the Jeffrey Window. All the keepsake ornaments are still available in limited quantity at \$10 each or you can purchase all the previous four ornaments for a discounted price of \$35.

This year’s ornament is here and will go on sale November 4 at the conclusion of the 9 a.m. service and during the Fellowship Hour in the Parish Hall after the 11 a.m. service. It also will be available for purchase during the week in the church office. The 2012 ornament is \$18. Contact Mark S. Williams, (mwilliams@first-church.org) for more information.

Deacons, First Connections Forming Bereavement Committee

By Elaine Warren, Senior Deacon

In August I experienced the gracious hospitality of the members of Eastview Methodist Church as the Bereavement Committee served a luncheon to the family and friends of Eleanor Nance following the memorial service celebrating her life.

Eleanor’s younger sister, Nancy, was my best friend in high school and has continued to be a life-long friend so I had known Eleanor for a good number of years, seeing her two or three times a year when my friend would

return to Ohio from California to visit family and friends. For my friend and I, Eleanor’ death was a major transition for us. Both of our parents had died and Eleanor, who was 16 years older than we, was almost like a second mother to my friend and represented the passing of the “older” generation for me.

Following the service, many gathered in the Banquet Hall for a meal. Family members were present -- Eleanor’s two daughters and their families, as well as my friend’s daughters, and other extended family. Many non-church friends attended and many church members also attended, as Eleanor was a church leader.

We were all comforted by the loving presence of so many people as we shared a meal and shared stories about Eleanor and what she had meant to us. Our Long Range Plan calls for us to be a caring congregation and one of the ways that we can show our care for one another at a time of loss is to provide the comfort and solace that a shared meal affords following a funeral or memorial service. It is one way in which we can show our love and support for a member of our church family who has suffered the death of a loved one.

The Deacons, with the help of First Connections, would like to form a Bereavement Committee soon to make such meals following a funeral or memorial service available, if they so desire, to our church family members who are suffering the loss of a loved one. We will have inserts in the church bulletin giving everyone the opportunity to sign up to serve on the Bereavement Committee and/or provide food such as a casserole, or other food item on the day of the service.

We think that First Church can do as well as Eastview Methodist in providing gracious and compassionate hospitality at this critical juncture in people’s lives.

Donate a Gift Basket – The Cabaret is November 11 and the youth will be auctioning themed baskets during the event. Please consider donating a themed basket from your committee or family. Here are some ideas; an Italian dinner basket; OSU basket; gardening basket; chocolate lovers basket; kitchen tools basket; children’s summer fun basket; music lovers basket; family emergency weather basket; children’s books basket; and cookout basket. We know there are many more great ideas out there for a gift basket. Be creative and join the fun! We hope that all baskets will have a value around \$50. We would like to display all the baskets during Fellowship Hour on November 11. Please contact Mark Williams (mwilliams@first-church.org) if you choose a theme and are willing to donate.

What Does a Minister of Music Do?

By Marti Rideout, Interim Minister of Music
(mrideout@first-church.org)

First Church has called Kevin Jones to be the next permanent Minister of Music (MoM), a position that is extremely important in the worship life of the church and one that is not always fully understood. There are visible and invisible times involved in the job. Choir rehearsals, Sunday morning and other special worship services, staff and worship planning meetings, and practice time on the organs make up the visible time. Yet there is so much more that the MoM does in this ministry.

As organist the MoM must have a thorough understanding of the organs. Between the Kimball Organ (Chancel) and the Beckerath Organ (Gallery) there are 134 ranks (colors/sounds) and 8,216 pipes. The organist must know the sounds that best support congregational singing, accompany anthems, and demonstrate the historical perspective of organ literature. The organist performs preludes and postludes that reflect the texts of the day and liturgical season, enabling people to move into the divine for worship and depart desiring to serve. Hymns are studied, registered and practiced to call attention to the text and encourage congregational singing. Practice time is essential.



As director of the choirs, the MoM studies scores to know all the choral parts to assist the choir in singing their best. Conducting techniques need to be practiced, both for unaccompanied singing and conducting from the organ console, allowing for one hand to be in the air directing while the other hand and two feet cover 4-6 parts of music in the score. Anthems are selected months in advance and rehearsals are planned carefully to ensure confidence and healthy singing.

In addition to being a performer, the MoM serves as pastor, listens to the concerns of choir members and parishioners, prays with and for the choir at rehearsals and before worship services, encourages developing spirituality through music, caring, and leadership. As teacher, the MoM trains the adult, children's, youth, and bell choirs in music-reading skills and teaches new music to choir and congregation. The musician writes articles for publications and leads classes in the parish.

Administrative duties include working with the senior pastor and worship planning staff to determine music and liturgical detail. The MoM selects hymns and service

music, researches and/or writes portions of the liturgy (call to worship, invocation, confession & words of assurance, litanies.) Also, preparing music selections for bulletins, overseeing finances/budget for the music department, communicating with choirs and congregation, attending staff, worship planning, and music committee meetings, maintaining the choral library preparing music, schedules, liturgical notes, and handouts for the choir, ensuring the tuning and maintenance of the organs and pianos, setting up for rehearsals and services, moving equipment as necessary, and more.

The Congregational Concerts and First Tuesday concerts require fund raising, acknowledging contributions, engaging artists, overseeing publicity, hospitality, and programs complete with selections to be performed, biographical information, and music notes. Many weddings take place at First Church, which require music consultations and a commitment on Saturdays. Because First Church is widely known for its incomparable instruments, organists journey to Columbus and ask for demonstrations or opportunities to play the instruments; hospitality is shown. Local musicians and clergy rely on the MoM at First Church for information, music consultations, workshop leadership, teaching and participation in local universities.

Kevin Jones will arrive in early January. You will be immeasurably pleased with his talent, vision, mind and personality. This position is an enormous responsibility. It will take time for Kevin to learn names, the history of First Church, and get in sync with all the activities. Support him as you can. At the very least, keep him in your prayers. And, if there are some who have daytime hours to offer, he might appreciate help with the music library and administrative needs.

May you long enjoy and support Kevin's tenure at First Church, and may the music you make together glorify God in the finest and fullest ways possible.

Concerts at First Church

Tuesday, November 6, 12:15 p.m.

Marti Rideout, organ

On this Election Day, so soon after Halloween, All Saints' and All Souls' Day, Marti will present a program called "Spooks, Saints, Souls, Sinners & S'Elections." A soup and salad lunch (\$5) is offered in the Parish Hall at 12:45 p.m.

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(MARTI RIDEOUT, Concluded from Page 6)

Sunday, November 18, 4 p.m.
Christopher Marks, organ

This is the second in the Congregational Concert Series. Christopher Marks, Associate Professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where he teaches organ, music theory and performance practice, has been hailed for his "style and assurance" in performance. He is rapidly gaining a reputation for creative and friendly programming. His diverse stylistic interests include new music commissions, American organ music of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and the classic and standard organ repertoire. He holds a D.M.A. in organ from the Eastman School of Music and has won top prizes in organ competitions throughout the country. Each year, we try to include a young American musician in the series and Christopher will provide a most enjoyable afternoon of music-making on our two exceptional organs.



Tuesday, December 4, 12:15 p.m.
Steven Secan, oboe

Sunday, December 23, 4 p.m.
Lessons and Carols

November Music Notes

November 4 All Saints' Sunday

November 1 is All Saints' Day and commemorates all saints, known and unknown. The day can be celebrated within the octave. Those who observe this day believe there is a spiritual connection between those who are in heaven and those living an earthly existence. In some traditions the word *saints* refers to all Christians, all baptized people, as well as the deceased. The First Church Choir will sing *In paradisum* from Gabriel Faure's *Requiem*, *Souls of the Righteous* by T. Tertius Noble, and *Brightness, Verdure, and Repose* by Pam Welsh-Huggins, which includes the singing of the names of the faithful departed in this past year. *For all the saints* and *Ye watchers and ye holy ones* will be just two of the songs of the congregation.

November 11 Musical Sermon and Veterans Day

The choristers of the Treble and Teen Choirs might be small in number but they are mighty in spirit, and they will present in song and narration the sermon *Five*

Loaves and Two Fishes by the composer John Horman. It is a familiar story told in a new way. The old and wise disciple Andrew recounts the story of Jesus and the crowd, the teaching and healing, and the miracle of five loaves and two fish being enough to feed many. The liturgy for this day also reflects Veterans Day, marking the end of World War I on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918; this day celebrates the service of all U.S. military veterans, not to be confused with Memorial Day, for those who died in service to our country. The First Church Choir will sing *When I survey the wondrous cross* by Gilbert Martin. The text reflects the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and our response to that gift: *Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small; Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all* (Stanza 4).

November 18 Thanksgiving Sunday

The First Church Choir will sing Felix Mendelssohn's *Heilig (Holy, holy is God, the Lord of hosts! All the nations are filled with Thy renown. Hosanna sing on high)* for double choir and *The Old Hundredth Psalm Tune* by R. Vaughan Williams to give thanks to God for our many blessings. The Teen Choir will join the adult choir on this occasion. The liturgy will include texts appropriate for Thanksgiving Sunday and an annual food collection to assist those who will not feast on Thanksgiving Day. The congregation will sing *Come, ye thankful people, come* and *Now thank we all our God* to rejoice on this occasion.

November 25 The Reign of Christ

On this last Sunday after Pentecost, we celebrate the Reign of Christ. Through the long season from the end of May, we heard stories of his time with the disciples, preparing them for a future without him, teaching, healing, establishing a foundation for believers. On this Sunday, we look back acknowledging the One whose reign proclaims liberation, service, peace and justice. Then we turn and face the new year which begins the next Sunday, Advent One, looking for the One who will come again. The First Church Choir will sing *Let all mortal flesh* by Gustav Holst and *E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come*, honoring both the divinity of Christ and the anticipated return. It is a liturgy of great celebration from the opening hymn *Crown him with many crowns* to the closing *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus*.

Contact Marti

614-487-9970 (home); 614-228-1741, ext. 12, (church)
martirideout@gmail.org; mrideout@first-church.org

Council Summary October 2012

A review of the first draft of the Constitution revisions and the result of the Minister of Music Search Committee were the focus of the October council meeting.



John Deliman, chair of the Minister of Music Search Committee, addressed the group and announced that the committee had completed their work. John recommended to council that Kevin Jones be hired as the new Minister of Music and the Council approved unanimously. Kevin will join the staff in early January. Francille Firebaugh reviewed the recommended changes to the constitution and requested input as she went over the proposed changes. After all revisions are complete, the constitution will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting in January. Council approved funding from major projects for the following:

- Purchase of a new refrigerator for the kitchen
- Support for the Deacons to begin a bereavement program
- Financial support for the new intern

Other motions approved by council included

- Alma Keeler grant to purchase rugs for three classrooms
- Mission Endowment request to support Rosemary Pawandiwa-Priore so she may return to Zimbabwe to see her dying mother, and an additional amount to support an orphanage in Zimbabwe where children are living with and dying from HIV/AIDS.
- Formation of the 2012 BOBS committee, to include: Arlene Reynolds, chair; David Holt, treasurer; and committee members Nancy Burba, Chris Farquhar, Jim Fewlass, Mary Day Fewlass, Bill Wirsching and Paul Flocken.

David Holt reported that income for the Capital Campaign was very good in August and September and several projects are under way. The boiler project is close to completion and the schedule for restoration of the Jeffrey Window is set for December. Charlie Weaver gave a progress report on the West Lot stating that pavers leading to the West entranceways will be in place soon and new sod around the parking lot should be down by Thanksgiving.

The next meeting will be November 20. – **Submitted by Bev Cook, Secretary**



You Can Make a Difference! Eco Tips from Sacred Earth Committee

The average home spends about \$2,000 on energy bills every year. As the cooler weather approaches, start saving money and energy immediately by adjusting your thermostat. Lower the thermostat by at least 10 degrees when you are not at home and when you sleep. Use a mattress warmer or an electric blanket; they are cheaper than heating an entire house!

One of the new compact fluorescent bulbs (CFL) uses 1/4 of the energy of an incandescent bulb, will pay for itself within 6 months and lasts six times longer than an incandescent bulb. Start small by installing Energy Star rated CFLs when a light bulb blows out, or make a big change by installing CFLs in all of your lights. Our daily routines can have an impact on the earth, so consider how you can make a difference.

– **Kent Shimeall**

Blood Drive is November 11

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive at First Church on Sunday, November 11, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sign up in the office or contact Denny Mahoney at dmahoney@first-church.org.



Don't Forget! Turn
Clocks Back at 2 a.m. on
Sunday, November 4.

First Connections Feedback Mixed

By the Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Minister

Started in March, the 43 First Connectors have been calling and checking in with members all over central Ohio.

The good news is that we have had some wonderful "first" connections. Our compassionate phone friends have made a number of new friends with you the members of the church. We celebrate the conversations that grown from the talks by phone and some face-to-face follow-ups. Some people have hit it off from the start. Others have gradually been able to make a connection. Some have found emails are also a great way to connect and build relationships.

On the other side, some First Connectors report that they can't reach people by phone. Either folks aren't home or they don't return the phone messages. Some folks have found that people are shy about talking by phone with people they don't really know.

At our meeting on October 22, it was determined that First Connections would support the launch of three efforts which have surfaced from conversations with all of you: Agape Groups, a Bereavement Support Group and Friendly Visitors. Everyone in the church is invited to participate or receive the blessings of these groups. Please read accompanying articles about Agape and Bereavement groups.

The Friendly Visitors will be established as folks who are willing and able to go to the homes of members and meet them in their places of need. We identified a few areas of need: loneliness, cancer (and chemotherapy), grief, chronic pain, hospitalizations, divorce and unemployment or under employment.

If you would like to join with First Connectors in calling on members or supporting these ministries now forming, please be in touch with me: tahrens@first-church.org or 614-228-1741, ext. 13.

Agape Groups Now Forming

Members and friends of First Church are forming Agape Groups once again. Growing out of the First Connections calling for feedback, the Agape Groups plan a launch in mid-November. In the first week of announcements, 30 people have stepped forward to join in.

The word *agape* means "Christian Love." In its plural

form found in the New Testament, *agape* is used to describe a meal or feast eaten by early Christians. In Jude 1:12, and 2nd Peter 2:13, we read that Christians gathered at the dinner table to share a "Love Feast" of fellowship and faith.



Remember 10 years ago when groups of 8-10 First Church members would gather for fellowship? They were called Agape Groups. We are gathering names of those who would be interested in participating in an Agape Group. We would love for you to join in.

Call the church office and give your name to Denny Mahoney, 228-1741, ext. 17. If you have questions, please contact Mary Weaver, 614-476-8728 mw313476@hotmail.com, or Elaine Warren, 614-337-9935 melainewarren232@gmail.com. – Rev. Ahrens

Help Needed for Building/Grounds Projects

We need a few good men and women in the coming months to help with prepping and painting walls in the church; laying sod on the west lot and helping out on the grounds around the building. If you are able to move dirt, plant bushes or help out in any way, please be in touch with me. I will pass on the information to others. We are especially looking for young men and women with strength to lift and move all of the above and more. We are trying to finish a number of projects before winter. In advance, thanks for your help. – Rev. Ahrens



Budget Update

Pledges Budgeted
\$624,223
September Actual Pledges
\$45,637.40

Pledges Needed Monthly
\$52,020.25

September and October Mission Offerings

Legacy Fund	\$734.86
CUE Seminaries	\$316.41
Neighbors in Need	\$381.69
CROP Walk	\$575.00
Re-Member	\$293.50



Don't forget that First Church t-shirts, sweatshirts and totes are available from Skreened, a local company. Go to www.skreened.com/firstchurchbus to order. The proceeds go to Church Growth and Parish Life efforts.

Personal Care Items Needed

By Marty Worth, Program Manager
(mworth@first-church.org)

The next Good Samaritan Day is Monday, November 12. Utility needs are great as people try to catch up with utility payments so they are eligible for assistance going forward. You don't have to wait until the next Good Samaritan Mission offering Sunday to make a donation. You can send a check to the office marked Good Sam or put it in the collection plate.

The requests for help continue to grow as more people and agencies hear about the Good Samaritan Fund. The fund is often the last resort for individuals after checking with other sources of help.

The list of agencies asking for help with their clients increases every month. As we approach the end of the year, the need grows and we strive mightily to help the most people and stretch the funds as far as possible.

A big thank you to the congregation for the contribution of personal care items. They are appreciated. Our supply is very low.



We find the most desired items are:

- Men and women shampoo and body wash.
- Men's deodorant is very much in demand. We have a large supply of women's deodorant.
- We have had members ask their dentists for donations of toothpaste and toothbrushes. We are happy to write a letter acknowledging the donations.
- Disposable razors and shaving cream.

A good source for these items in full sizes are Dollar Stores where everything in the store is \$1. Please leave your donations in the bin outside the church office or at the entrance to the Christian Education wing. Thanks for your continued support of this vital mission.

Office Closed Nov. 21 for Staff 'Day of Thanks'

The 2011 Staff Compensation Report resulted in a resolution that was passed at the 2012 Annual Meeting in January. At that time, a special "challenge" budget was passed to raise the \$55,000 needed to bring five staff members up to an equitable median salary level.

Although the church fell short of raising the full goal, the congregation's generous support of the "challenge" budget allowed the salaries of affected staff members to be raised to within approximately 4.75% of their respective median salary levels.

The recommendations stipulated that alternative forms of compensation would be explored any time salary increases are not possible to implement and equitable adjustments remain incomplete. The Personnel Committee and Council approved an additional paid day off as alternative compensation for staff during 2012 dubbed a "Day of Thanks". The staff chose Wednesday, November 21, as the day off.

The church office will be closed that day to recognize the staff's dedication and hard work. The church remains committed to compensating all staff at a median level or higher and will continue to work toward this goal with the 2013 budget. As families consider how best to be good stewards of the gifts God has provided, please respond with love for our staff. - **Personnel Committee**



Our Church's Oldest Mission

Gladden Community House provides gifts to families who need a little assistance at Christmas. The budget has not allowed for gifts for several years and Gladden must rely on donations. Firefighters provide toys for children but there are no funds for gifts for teens and senior citizens.

The Gladden staff would appreciate \$20 gift cards from WalMart and Target for the teens and seniors. Cards may be left in the office. Thank you for remembering that Christmas is for giving.



Missions Offering Schedule

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

- November 4 - Back Bay Mission
- November 11 - United Church Homes - Brain Injury
- November 18 - Bethlehem on Broad Street
- November 25 - Bethlehem on Broad Street



First Church Faith Mission Serving Schedule

Serving is at the men's shelter, 151 N. 6th St. **Dinners are served the 4th Friday of the month, and lunches on the 4th Saturday of the month.**

Friday Dinners: Serve 6:45 - 7:45 p.m.; Servers need to arrive by 6:15 p.m. **November 23 (Day after Thanksgiving)**

We serve by the grace of God in loving memory of Dorothy Cromartie, Jerome Daily and Karen Carpenter. If you have questions, contact Linda Gieseke at lgieseke@insight.rr.com.

Holiday Baskets For Sale

Sandra Geronimo of Sacred Earth will again create gift baskets for your holiday giving. The baskets make lovely host gifts, and by purchasing these Fair Trade products, you are helping to sustain the environment, support small farmers and defray the cost of fellowship coffee and tea. Baskets may be purchased on 1st and 3rd Sundays in Parish Hall.

Member Happy November Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1: Carrie Ghose | 24: Scott Warrick |
| 2: Kenneth Browne | 25: Jon Thompson |
| 3: Sarah Garbe | 25: Sarah Ahrens |
| 3: Tom Bishop | 27: Bill Boden |
| 5: Caitlin Stewart | 27: Beth Iannarino |
| 6: Michael McCrary | 28: Nell Cole |
| 6: Nate Vogt | 28: Megan Kelley |
| 8: James O'Neill | 28: Reel Chaudhri |
| 9: Brianna Burkett | 29: Dave Ghose |
| 10: Ann Aeschbury | |
| 12: Don Streibig | |
| 13: Melanie Brown | |
| 13: John Aeschbury | |
| 15: Barbara Reed | |
| 15: Sadie Oldham | |
| 16: Barbara Knox | |
| 17: Judy Smith | |
| 17: Joyce Oyler | |
| 18: Sarah Reed | |
| 18: David Hamann | |
| 18: Jess Peacock | |
| 19: Paul Flocken | |
| 20: John Matchett | |
| 20: Schelia Daines | |
| 21: Charlie Knerr | |
| 21: Allison Palmer | |
| 22: Jane Weddle | |
| 22: Chuck Kelley | |
| 23: Bill Wagner | |

Member Happy November Anniversaries

- 2: Allison and Jess Peacock
- 4: Stephanie and Mike Koscher
- 6: Becky and Troy Magaw
- 6: Jennifer and Mark Leidheiser
- 7: Amy Nicholson and Mohamed Obeid-Salim
- 8: Joanna and Janie McWilliams
- 9: Susan Sitler and Tim Ahrens
- 10: Janette and Randy Hoffman
- 10: Lesley and Karl Schaab
- 15: Missy and Doug Zimmerman
- 21: Katie and Dean Mansfield
- 23: Sandra Geronimo and Sarah Reed
- 26: Sandy and Michael Valinis
- 26: Kathie and R. Guy Cole
- 26: Sarah and Wally Giffen
- 29: Janet and Rick Pfeiffer

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

Thursday Fellowship Meets November 8

The Thursday Fellowship will meet at 10 a.m. in the church parlor for refreshments on Thursday, November 8. JoAnne Viviano, the religion reporter of the Columbus Dispatch, will speak to the group. Everyone is welcome.

Calendar

Thursday, November 1

6:15 pm – First Church Ringers – Gallery
7:30 pm – First Church Choir – Choir Room/Sanctuary

Sunday, November 4 (All Saints Day)

9 am – Worship – PH
9 am – Teen/Treble Choir – Choir Room
10 am – Christian Education Hour – Rooms C and D
10 am – First Church Choir
11 am – Worship – San
12 pm – Stewardship Luncheon – PH
12:30 pm – Confirmation Class – Room D
6 pm – Sonreir – PH and Youth Room

Monday, November 5

6 pm – Church Growth/Parish Life – Room D

Tuesday, November 6

12:15 pm – First Tuesday Concert – San
12:45 pm – First Tuesday Luncheon – PH
1:30 pm – Care Ministry – PFR
7 pm – Mission Committee - LC

Wednesday, November 7

11 am – Book Study – Parlor

Thursday, November 8

10 am – Thursday Fellowship – Parlor
6:15 pm – First Church Ringers – Gallery
7:30 pm – First Church Choir – Choir Room/Sanctuary

Saturday, November 10

10 am - Women's Brunch – Parlor
10 am – First Church Quilters – LC

Sunday, November 11

8 am – Blood Drive – Room C
9 am – Worship – PH
9 am – Teen/Treble Choir – Choir Room
10 am – Christian Education Hour – Rooms C and D
10 am – First Church Choir
11 am – Worship – San
12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH
6 pm – Cabaret – PH

Monday, November 12

7 pm – Trustees – LC

Tuesday, November 13

12 pm – Care Ministry – LC
5:30 pm – Sacred Earth – Parlor
6 pm – Music Committee – Parlor
7 pm – Executive Committee – PFR

Thursday, November 15

All Day – Music Search Committee – San and LC
10 am – Thursday Fellowship – Parlor
6:15 pm – First Church Ringers – Gallery
7:30 pm – First Church Choir – Choir Room/Sanctuary

Friday, November 16

UCC Senior High Retreat – Pilgrim Hills

Saturday, November 17

UCC Senior High Retreat – Pilgrim Hills
9 am – House and Grounds - PFR

Sunday, November 18

UCC Senior High Retreat – Pilgrim Hills
9 am – Worship – PH
9 am – Teen/Treble Choir – Choir Room
10 am – Christian Education Hour – Rooms C and D
10 am – First Church Choir

11 am – Worship – San
12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH
12:30 pm – Confirmation Class – Room D
4 pm – Congregational Concert – San
6 pm – Middle School Youth – Middle School Room
6 pm – Sonreir – PH and Youth Room

Monday, November 19

7 pm – Deacons – LC

Tuesday, November 20

12 pm – Care Ministry- LC
7 pm – Church Council – LC

Wednesday, November 21

Building Closed

Thursday, November 22 (Thanksgiving)

Building Closed

Friday, November 23

Building Closed

Sunday, November 25

9 am – Worship – PH
9 am – Teen/Treble Choir – Choir Room
10 am – Christian Education Hour – Rooms C and D
10 am – First Church Choir
11 am – Worship – San
12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH
6 pm – Middle School Youth – Middle School Room
6 pm – Sonreir – PH and Youth Room

Monday, November 26

7 pm – Budget and Finance – LC
7 pm – Rev, Ahrens' Advisory Group

Tuesday, November 27

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

Thursday, November 29

All Day – Music Search Committee – San and LC
6:15 pm – First Church Ringers – Gallery
7:30 pm – First Church Choir – Choir Room/Sanctuary

Friday, November 30

5:30 pm – Confirmation Field Trip (Tifereth Israel)

Fellowship Hour Beverage Sales



Coffee and tea sales will be available on November 4 and 18 during Fellowship Hour. This is a UCC coffee project initiative and your participation is greatly appreciated.

Next Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submitting articles for the December *First Church News* is November 20 at noon. It will be published November 30.

Prayers

November Fellowship Hour

November 4: Haggai
November 11: Hosea
November 18: Jeremiah
November 25: Kings

November Acolyte Schedule

November 4: Adam Wade and Anna Rambo
November 11: Ben Allen and Dylan Hopcraft
November 18: Luke and Nina Zimmerman
November 25: Victoria Washington and Anna Rambo
(Schedules online at www.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.

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.

Baptisms

Grant Elijah Washington – October 14

Deaths

Marilyn Koetz – October 8
Gwen Abbott – October 13
Laura Barndt – October 24

Weddings

Robin Ridgway and Scott Whipple – October 6
Kayla Entingh and Bryan Thomas – October 6
Elizabeth Mitchell and Trenton Rink – October 27
Amanda Cordingley and Damon Stamper – October 27

~ Remember Your Loved Ones ~
With a Dedication of Flowers
Contact Marty Worth at 614.228.1741, ext. 14,
mworth@first-church.org

Church Staff

Timothy C. Ahrens.....*Senior Minister*
Janine Wilson.....*Associate Minister*
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*
Denny Mahoney.....*Office Manager*
Thomas Luff.....*Building Manager*
Kelvin Murphy.....*Custodian*
William Lee.....*Custodian*
Rosemary Pawandiwa-Priore.....*Nursery*
Summer Petras, Sarah Welsh-Huggins.....*Nursery*
Linda Mumford.....*Wedding Coordinator*
Jane Chavers.....*Wedding Coordinator*
Fran Panek.....*Wedding Coordinator*
Lisa Dean.....*Wedding Coordinator*

Church Council

Gerry Worth.....*Moderator*
Sarah Reed.....*Vice-Moderator*
Bev Cook/Jim Griffin.....*Secretary/Assistant*
Cindy Conn/Ken Salak.....*Treasurer/Assistant*
Neal Brower/Jim Fewlass.....*Administration/Assistant*
Melissa Prendergast/Deb Thompson.....*Church Growth/Asst.*
Tanya Miller/Deana Armstrong.....*Education/Asst.*
Charlie Weaver/Rick Sayre.....*House & Grounds/Assistant*
Bruce Panek/Matt Allen.....*Mission/Assistant*
Cori Rowley/Catherine Kennedy.....*Parish Life/Assistant*
Elaine Warren.....*Senior Deacon*
Betty Johnson.....*Deacon*
Jim Gallagher/Greg Halbe.....*Music, Arts, Heritage/Asst.*
David Holt.....*Nominating Chair*
Randy Hoffman.....*Trustees*
James Knerr.....*Member-at-large*
Lisa Morris.....*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: Saturday, October 27, 2012

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