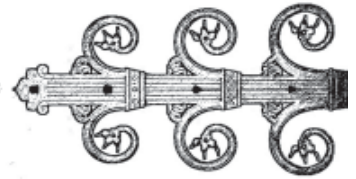




# First Church News



## First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ • Columbus, Ohio

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October 18, 2008

### Honoring Our Legacy, Empowering our Future

By the Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Minister



I love the theme for our 2009 Stewardship Drive: *“Honoring our Legacy, Embracing our Future.”* What I love most about it is that six people who have not been members for very long came up with it! Wayne Piper, chairperson; Cindy Deliman, vice-chairperson; Al Waddell, presenters; Joyce Ward, publications; Joe Daniels, publicity; and Marilyn Minter, team leaders all recognize the power and promise of First Church and our legacy. They understand our past and are investing in our future.

The first hurdle we need to cover in becoming a great church is the one in which people of faith become people who believe in their church. We are surrounded by a growing crowd of witnesses – on earth – who are willing to embrace the future through increasing their stewardship by 1% of income.

What does it mean to increase our giving by 1% of income? It means that if your household income is \$50,000 dollars a year, you will add \$500 to your commitment for stewardship in 2009. If your household earns \$100,000 a year, you will add \$1,000 to your commitment over last year. While this may seem sacrificial, one person I know admits that their household spends at least \$3,600 a year (minimum) eating out. They can cut back on this and increase their commitment to the church in 2009 and they will.

I am happy to step up in stewardship in 2009. Scripture says, “God loves a generous giver.” Since I love being loved by God, I want to increase my giving with great joy!

The other day, I sat by one of our pillars in the sanctuary. I visualized what it must have looked like in the sanctuary as the pillars were being built. I saw men climbing scaffolds and laying stone. It was the heart of the depression in America – 1929 – when our building was constructed. Men, women and children gave generously in times that were more challenging than the times we are weathering. I wonder: Did they have any idea that they were building this for us? For whom are we building? What legacy will we leave? What future will we unfold through our generosity?

Join us throughout November for a month of great celebration as we *“Honor our Legacy and Empower our Future.”*

### Campaign honors past, commits to the future

By Wayne Piper and Joe Daniels, Stewardship Committee

If you’ve been following the news, it seems that collectively our nation is walking through a valley of economic shadows. The news at best is worrisome and most of us are adjusting our spending habits accordingly. It’s only natural that in times like these we become more focused on the needs of our families. But we also need to remain focused on the needs of our church family - both immediate and extended.

As we think about what gifts we can bring to this church of ours, it’s important to reflect on what a gift this church has been to all of us and to consider what we want the future of our church to be. The faith of our church’s historical mothers and fathers is exemplary, as is the dedication of our current membership. For this reason, the Stewardship Committee has chosen “Honoring Our Legacy – Empowering Our Future” as the theme of its 2009 campaign. *(Continued on pg. 5)*

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## Healing Thoughts, Touches and Sounds

By the Rev. Barbara R. Cunningham, Pastoral Care Minister



For several years in a row I was asked to give the invocation at a meeting of breast cancer survivors. These people, mostly women, are a part of a study conducted by Dr. Barbara Anderson and doctors at OSU hospital. Their findings will help all of us who go through breast cancer in our lifetime (which I did 16 years ago). It is inspiring to see so many survivors and hear some of their stories.

We often wonder what we can do for one who has had such a serious illness. We feel helpless, and that makes us stand back and wait to be asked to do something. Perhaps if we just put our heads together with others and come up with some creative ideas, we will not feel so helpless.

When someone is in the hospital or a rehabilitation center, or even in hospice care for long periods of time, we can center our thoughts on positive, uplifting hope. As we reach out to them, we touch them with our hands, giving more than a handshake – maybe even holding one of their hands in both of ours for a few minutes. Perhaps we could even ask if they'd like a hand or foot massage, and let them tell us what would feel good to them. The sounds of music they love also comforts them and helps take the stress of their situation away for a few moments.

When someone is unable to get up and be active, the hardest thing for them is to have little or no control over their own life. What would that feel like to you? The hardest thing we ever have to do is to let someone who is hurt or sick give to us in some way. Yet it is so important for that person to feel that they are still able to give, to love and to care for someone else.

It may not be physical care, but it can be something else. Ask their opinion about something important to you. Ask them about their life as a child, or their career, or their children and grandchildren. Have them share what they think others around them might need. Let them talk to you!

Our greatest gift to another person may not be healing of their body, but comfort for their soul.

In peace and love I share with you, Barb

## Caring and Providing for God's Creation

By the Rev. Laura A. Tisher, Minister of Youth & Young Adults

*You have given them dominion over the works of your hands.*

*Psalm 8:6*

Throughout scripture, the Hebrew word *mashal* is translated as "dominion." A better way of understanding this word, though, may actually be "to care for."



God has given us the responsibility to care for all of creation – to provide all that is needed for its success. God has given us the responsibility to provide for all creation, including God's church; to do all that we can to guarantee its success in being an agent of transformation - in personal lives and in society, bringing about the radical reality of the kingdom of God in our midst. Deep in our hearts, we know of this responsibility. Deep in our hearts, we also know that we cannot properly bring about the success of the church without giving of ourselves, even though we often like to try to forget this fact.

This need for giving is most definitely evident in both the youth and young adult ministries of First Church. The fellowship, hands-on mission, spiritual and educational activities of the middle school and high school youth groups are heavily dependent on the gifts given from members and friends of this congregation. The gifts of time and talent given by youth ministry team members and youth ministry partners (chaperones) are invaluable to the success of this ministry. The funds provided in the church budget for this ministry are equally essential in ensuring the success of this ministry with our young people. This funding allows the youth of our church to explore their faith, to grow spiritually and to serve those around them.

In the same way, the young adult ministry of First Church is also dependent on the gifts of those supporting and surrounding it. It is quite unusual for the membership of a mainline church these days to include so many people between the ages of 18 and 35 (over 25% of our congregation!). Usually there is a mass exodus from churches among this age group. What a gift we have to celebrate!

Yet this is also quite a responsibility. To care for and provide for the spiritual needs of such a diverse and energetic collection of people requires gifts given not only from those who are themselves young adults, but also from those who surround them with love, care and support. Often times, envisioning programming and ministries tends to be the easy part and the challenges come in living out those visions. Embrace the challenge! Help meet the

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Different Ways to Pay Your Pledge

By Sharon Leidheiser, Business Administrator, and David Holt, Treasurer

There are several ways to contribute to First Church. In addition to checks, money orders, cashiers checks and cash (do not send cash through the mail), consider the following alternative methods of payment:

**Online Bill-Pay:** Online banking is growing in popularity among members as a way to make their pledge payments. Set up the First Congregational Church in your bill-pay payee list so that either recurring or one-time payments are withdrawn from your account and automatically sent to the church in the amount you choose on the day you request. Please indicate in the memo field: Pledge (or other purpose) and your name so we can credit the appropriate account. Contact your bank for more details.

**Direct Deposit through Payroll Deduction:** Many employers will allow you to make a regular payroll deduction from your paycheck. Members find this way of paying their pledge easy because the contribution is made automatically every pay period. Contact your payroll specialist to see if this option is available and have your employer contact Sharon Leidheiser at the church.

**Stock, Bond, Mutual Fund, CD Transfers:** We accept transfers from your investment accounts as payment towards a pledge or other purpose. If you have stocks, bonds or CDs and you want to avoid possible capital gains taxes, you can transfer the security to the church's account at Smith Barney Citigroup. Contact Connie Cordrey, our Smith Barney Citigroup financial consultant at 614-460-2680 for details and indicate you want to make a contribution to the church. You also will need to contact the broker or agent that manages your investment security.

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.

For all forms of contribution, be sure to inform Sharon of your payment method and how you want it applied (pledge, mission partner, endowment fund, etc). You also can designate a contribution in 2008 to prepay part or all of your 2009 pledge.

The church depends on and appreciates your pledge commitment. Please consider these alternative payment methods as you complete your 2008 pledge and make your pledge for 2009. Please contact Sharon or David Holt if you have questions.



## Board of Trustees, Part 5

By Phil Stichter, Trustees Chairperson

The past two articles have described some of the church's more recently established endowment funds and some of its long-standing endowment funds. The purpose of this article is to focus on certain endowment funds that the trustees and church council have created in various categories for your consideration. It also is to re-emphasize and clarify the differences between endowment gifts and non-endowment gifts.

For those wanting to make an endowment gift, the income of which would be to provide support for projects with specific purposes, please consider the following categories:

**Arts:** Support for projects designed to enhance common worship of God through the beauty of music, the visual arts and other forms of artistic expression.

**Building:** Support for projects designed to improve, maintain and care for the buildings, grounds and equipment used by the congregation to carry out the mission of the church.

**Education:** Support for projects designed to increase our knowledge and understanding of our faith through special events, education classes and other activities and programs.

**Church Support:** Support for the church's annual operating budget that is beneficial to the congregation and the mission of the church.

**Social Concerns:** Support for projects designed to enhance our response as a church to social concerns to promote human dignity, caring and justice among all people.

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Music Notes

By Marti Rideout, Interim Minister of Music



### First Congregational Church Concerts

**October 19, 4 p.m..THOMAS TROTTER, ORGANIST**

Thomas Trotter, one of Britain's widely-admired musicians, organist at St. Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, London, organist for the City of Birmingham, will play both the von Beckerath and Kimball Organs, performing works by Handel, Bach, Litaize, Best, Thalben-Ball, Morandi and end with Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture*. There is a suggested donation of \$10 for the concert.

**TUESDAYS AT FIRST** – Join us for a 30-minute concert at 12:15 p.m., followed by lunch in the Parish Hall at 12:45 p.m. The concert is free. The donation for lunch is \$7.

**October 21 – Marti Rideout** will present a program of organ music on the von Beckerath Organ, featuring music by American composers based on hymn tunes of a variety of faiths.

**October 28 – Dr. George Weckman**, Ohio University faculty member, performs works by Ludwig Lenel, Flor Peeters, Paul Hindemith and Sigfrid Karg-Elerg on the Kimball Organ.

**November 4 – Dr. Stephen Jacoby**, emeritus professor of music, Bluffton University, performs works by James W. Bixel, Peter Hurford, Leo Sowerby and Jean Langlais at the Kimball Organ.

**November 11 – Ben Wiant**, pianist and piano technician for the Columbus Symphony, performs music by Debussy, Schubert, Chopin and a transcription by Schumann/Liszt.

**EVENSONG – Nov. 2, 4 p.m., All Saints' Sunday** – This service is offered in thanksgiving for the lives and ministries of the faithful departed from this congregation in the past year and for all those we remember in our hearts, who now dwell in divine light.

Evensong comes from the earliest Christian order of worship, originating as a combination of the offices of Vespers and Compline, two of seven hours of worship in monastery and convent life. A setting of the Psalm is sung near the beginning of the service. The Song of Mary (*Magnificat*), telling of Mary's confident faith and joy in serving God, follows the first reading, and the Song of Simeon (*Nunc Dimittis*) follows the second reading.

The First Church Choir sings in this ancient service, in a candlelight setting on an occasion marked by remembering all the blessed saints.

**THREE CHOIRS FESTIVAL – Nov. 9, 4 p.m., at Broad Street Presbyterian Church, 760 E. Broad St.** – Our First Church Choir will join the choirs of St. Joseph Cathedral and Broad Street Presbyterian in a program of anthems by Ralph Vaughan Williams, Herbert Howells, C.V. Stanford, Gilbert Martin, Gustav Holst, John Ireland, Dominick Argento and more. Ample parking behind the church; more information, phone 221-6552.

### COMPLINE – Oct. 19 and Nov. 16, 9 p.m. –

The evening service of Compline will be sung by the women of the First Church Choir on Oct. 19 and by the men Nov. 16. The church is illuminated by candlelight and the choir sings unaccompanied plainsong chant. The 30-minute service concludes with a quiet organ improvisation.

**TREBLE CHOIR** – The Treble Choir now has 15 choristers and is looking for more. This is an exciting opportunity for young people in grades one through eight to learn music skills and improve their voices. Rehearsal is Sunday, 9-9:45 a.m. Contact Marti Rideout for more information.



### Blood Drive November 23

By Nancy Loy

The Red Cross Blood Mobile will be at First Church on Sunday, Nov. 23, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. This will be our fourth blood drive, and we have been successful meeting our goal (25 units of blood) every time!

Donating blood is a good way to support our community as hospitals are in constant need of blood. The blood goes to victims of trauma, cancer

patients and people with many other conditions. Most people are able to donate blood (for information go to [www.bloodsaveslives.org/donate/blooddonor](http://www.bloodsaveslives.org/donate/blooddonor)).



Church members who have participated in the blood drive on Sundays find that scheduling is convenient (e.g. donate blood while your child in Sunday school or your spouse is in choir). Those who want to help by bringing cookies and sandwiches or greet donors, please contact Nancy Loy at [nloy@columbus.rr.com](mailto:nloy@columbus.rr.com), or 436-8084.

Call the church office (228-1741) to schedule an appointment time.

# First Church News

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## Investment In A Legacy

By Mark S. Williams, Director of Christian Education



The news of our country's financial crisis has come with a mixed bag of ideas on how to protect your personal investments. One consistent comment I have heard in the media is to stay put with your long-term investments. "Stay focused on the long-term."

Now, I am not a financial expert, but it made me stop and think about how we "invest" here at First Church, specifically in Christian education.

I think of Alma Keeler who was focused on the "long term" here at First Church. Granted, she gave an endowment to the children and youth of this church, a gift that continues to give and grow each year. But her long-term focus was Christian education, giving special attention to the foundation of learning with the children.

But we also know that Christian education is not just about the children. It is for all ages. We are all traveling on a faith journey, and regardless of our age, we need help along the way.

As we pray about our giving for next year, let us focus on the long term. Let us be aware that the seed planted now will grow far beyond this calendar year. Let us stay focused on the long-term investment.

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## Reflections on Dr. William Sloane Coffin

By the Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Minister

On October 14, I received the William Sloane Coffin Award for Peace and Justice from Yale Divinity School. It was a great honor bestowed upon me by my peers from the divinity school from which I graduated in May 1985. Of particular joy and honor was joining with two earlier recipients in becoming just the first pastor honored by this award. Dr. Coffin was first and foremost a pastor to students at Yale University and then as Senior Pastor of Riverside Church in New York. It was his pastoral ministry which sparked his prophetic witness for social justice.

If I had not been your pastor, I would not have had the opportunities to lead and speak on issues of social justice as clearly and directly as I have from such a powerful pulpit over the past nearly nine years. I am part of a legacy of pastors, teachers and preachers at First Congregational Church, Columbus, that allows the freedom and the place to address power with truth spoken in love. Thanks to you, I am honored by Yale.

I had the privilege of meeting Bill Coffin and spending time with him on a number of occasions. He once wrote that he researched his "prophetic sermons" for months before delivering them. They didn't just arrive each week, tightly wrapped and neatly delivered. He once told a group of pastors I was a part of, preach with passion the truth of gospel and visit your folks the following week to listen to their response. Bill Coffin was a lover of life. He was one of the most "present" men I ever knew. When you spoke with Bill, it was as if you were the only person that mattered. His smile lit up the room and his embrace was genuine and powerful.

I hope I can honor the legacy of Bill Coffin as I move forward in faithful witness for justice and peace.

*(Stewardship, continued from page 1)*

Many of us were drawn to First Church because it openly welcomed us and included us at a time when other houses of worship chose to close their doors. For others, we were drawn to belong to a church that actively works toward social and economic justice issues (BREAD, fighting poverty and hunger, access to health care, eliminating predatory lending, affordable housing). Still others came to experience our aesthetic spiritual programs – lifting up our hearts with song and music, celebrating God's gifts with color and form through paintings, sculpture, tapestries and magnificent stained glass windows. Through community service, volunteering, mission work, youth programs and education ministry, many of us also have found a place to call "home."

It's time for all of us to carefully consider our finances and commit to a pattern of giving that will keep our church family healthy and our church home thriving. Between now and Celebration Sunday on November 23, you'll be hearing more from members of the Stewardship Committee on what we all can do to ensure a solid future.

All church groups, boards, and committees will be contacted. There will be talks from the lectern each Sunday, and you'll be asked to be a part of an inspirational video that enables you to share your personal stories of how our church has inspired and enriched your life. Additionally, informational packets will be circulated among the members by fellow members asking each giving unit of the church to carefully consider their commitment for 2009.

We are the ones who will with faith and through God's guidance enable First Congregational Church UCC to continue to be the beacon of light and hope that it is to our members, to our community and to our extended family around the world. First Church exists through us, and because of the Spirit that moves us. And because of us, and the love we bring to this church, we will (as we have always done) move beyond these trying times toward a brighter future.

## Notes From Christian Education

by Mark S. Williams, Director of Christian Education

**Monday Night Lights:** Mark your calendars for first Monday of each month (except December) for a great night of programming at First Church. There will be many opportunities for all ages. The program begins at 7 p.m. with a short worship service and then breaks into different interest and program offerings ending at 8:30 p.m.

Offerings include a movie series, discussion groups and presentations. A mini-vacation Bible school will be available for the children and childcare will be provided for infants and toddlers.

### Monday Night Lights

A monthly gathering for enlightenment & fellowship.

#### Dates

November 3

January 5

February 2

March 2

April 6

#### Movie

Hotel Rwanda

Little Miss Sunshine

V For Vendetta

An Inconvenient Truth

Brokeback Mountain

Program starts at 7 p.m. at First Church

♦ **Women's Retreat Set:** Annual Women's Retreat at Templd Hills camp is scheduled for Nov. 7 - 9. This time away from family and work renews and refreshes just before the craziness of the holiday season begins. The cost is \$90 per person. Sign up in the church office.

♦ **Family Spring Retreat:** The Spring Retreat will begin Friday evening, April 24 through Sunday morning, April 26, 2009. Bring your whole family or just yourself. The weekend will include hiking, nature talks and activities, devotions, basketball, fishing, folk dancing for all ages, a campfire with s'mores, crafts, singing and Sunday morning worship. All First Church youth are able to attend at no cost thanks to an Alma Keeler Grant requested by the Parish Life Committee.

♦ **New Member Class:** The next new members class will be held Saturday, December 13, 9 a.m.-noon, in the First Church choir room on the second floor. The class will join First Church as members on Sun., Dec. 21. Those interested in joining the class, should register in the church office or call Mark S. Williams at 614.228.1741, ext. 15. This class is also offered to anyone interested in learning more about First Church and the United Church of Christ.

## Children's Book Drive

### Alma Keeler Children's Library Book Drive Help our G.L.O.W. worm G-R-O-W!



The Alma Keeler Children's Library has been renovated, and it looks beautiful! As part of the renovation, the books within the library were evaluated and many of them had to be thrown away due to wear and tear. We would like to replace the old books with new books through a Book Drive. Our goal is to collect 100 new books!

Donating a book is easy! Just stop by the children's education bulletin board and register to donate a new book to our library. There is a suggestion/sign-up list on the board with reminder tags or feel free to pick your favorite. New hardback books are best (they stand up better to wear), but we will accept paperbacks as well. Very gently used books may be considered as well.

Please place your donation in the box marked with "Alma Keeler Children's Library Book Drive" under the library desk. As books are donated, we will add another part to our G.L.O.W. worm on the bulletin board and watch it grow. Questions? Contact Ellen Boriin at 614.436.0471.

## Tuesdays at First

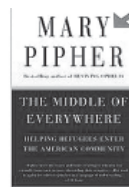
### Fall Book Study & Concerts

October 21, 11 a.m.

November 4, 11 a.m.

October 28, 11 a.m.

November 11, 11 a.m.



During upcoming Tuesdays at First, join us for a stimulating study of bestselling author Mary Pipher's book, *The Middle of Everywhere: Helping Refugees Enter the American Community*, as she sheds light on the newest members of the American family - refugees. In cities all over the country, refugees arrive daily. They come with nothing but the desire to experience the American dream. Their endurance in the face of tragedy and their ability to hold on to the virtues of family, love and joy are a lesson for Americans. Their stories will make you laugh and cry, and give you a deeper understanding of the wider world in which we live. Become enlightened as you discover the perspectives of all our global village.

Following each discussion session, members are invited to attend a concert in the sanctuary at 12:15 p.m. and a lunch served in the parish hall at 12:45 p.m. The book is \$13 and can be purchased in the church office.

## YAYA Ministry

By the Rev. Laura A. Tisher, Minister of Youth & Young Adults



### Young Adult Announcements...

**Parents for Others:** The next Parents for Others meeting will be at 3:45 p.m., Friday, Nov. 7, in the Toddler Room of the Education Wing. All parents and young children are welcome. In November, Parents for Others will be doing a coat drive. Please donate! For more information, contact Catherine Kennedy (cskennedy1981@yahoo.com).

**Dinner Group:** First Church Young Adults will meet for dinner at Black Creek Bistro, 51 Parsons Ave., on Saturday, Nov. 1, at 6:30 p.m. RSVP to Rev. Lori (ltisher@first-church.org) by Oct. 30.

### Youth Announcements...

**Faith and Politics Discussion:** Middle School and High School Youth Groups will meet Oct. 26, 6-8:30 p.m. at Gerry and Anne Hudson's house (immediately after the Harvest Party) to discuss "Faith and Politics."

**Fort Rapids Water Park:** The Middle School Youth Group will go to Fort Rapids Water Park Nov. 9, 12:30-4 p.m. Don't forget to turn permission forms into Rev. Lori as soon as possible!

**High School UCC Fall Youth Event:** Nov. 14-16 at Pilgrim Hills Camp. A weekend of worship, music, Bible study, workshops and a whole lot of fun with youth from around the UCC Ohio Conference. Get permission forms into Rev. Lori as soon as possible!

## HARVEST PARTY TIME!

When: October 26, 4-8 p.m.

Where: The Hudson Home

385 Larkspur Dr., Galloway

Bring a side dish

Sign up in the church office

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

(Rev. Tisher, continued from page 2)

needs of the young adults at First Church, and the wider community, by giving of yourselves. As we find ourselves in the midst of the stewardship campaign, remember what the psalmist said – that God has given each of us dominion over the works of God's hands, including God's church. I encourage you to pledge to give to First Church in 2009. Whether you are young and only get a small allowance each week, just starting out in a new career, or are just beginning to build a new family, give what you can – and then give even a little more.

## Christmas Ornament Sales Under Way

First Church is continuing our exciting program in celebrating the history of our church through an ongoing Christmas Ornament project. Each year, one of our beautiful stained glass windows is featured as an ornament. This series started last year and will continue the next 19 years. The first ornament was the "Shepherd Window" located in the Gladden Chapel. It is still available in limited quantity.

Presale of this year's ornament is continuing after the 9 a.m. service and during the Fellowship Hour in Parish Hall after the 11 a.m. service. The 2008 ornament is "The Light of the World" window, located in the sanctuary in the Parable Windows. Both ornaments are \$15 each and payment must be made when placing the order. A sample will be on display.

## Rev. Ahrens' Upcoming Sermon Titles

**October 19:** "Gratitude," Psalm 99, I Thess. 1:1-10; Mt. 22:15-22.

**October 26:** "On the Edge of Promise," Dt. 34:16, 13-17; I Thess. 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-4.

**November 2, ALL SAINTS SUNDAY:** "What Does God Require?" Psalm 34:1-10, 22; I John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12.

**November 9 - DEDICATION SUNDAY:** "Honoring our Legacy, Embracing our Future," Psalm 78: 1-7; Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; I Thess. 4:13-18; Mt. 25:1-13

**November 16:** "What Talents Can You Offer?" Psalm 123; I Thess. 5:1-11; Mt. 25:14-30

**November 23, CELEBRATION SUNDAY:** "Now is the Time, This is the Place!" Psalm 100; Ephesians 1:15-23; Mt. 25:31-46

**November 30:** First Sunday of Advent. First of the sermon series "Gifts Fit For The King."

## Transgender weekend planned

“Called To Be: An Affirming Dialogue with the Transgender Community,” featuring the Rev. Malcolm Himschoot, will be held Nov. 14-16, 2008, at North Congregational United Church of Christ, 2040 W. Henderson Rd.

Friday, Nov. 14, there will be a reception with Himschoot, open only to transgender people; events on Saturday and Sunday are open to all. Saturday’s session begins with registration at 8:30 a.m. and includes a keynote speech by Himschoot, a panel discussion and several breakout sessions. Sunday’s events include a worship service at 10:30 a.m. For information and registration, go to [www.transitioningtogether.org/calledtobe/](http://www.transitioningtogether.org/calledtobe/).



**BE A PART OF OUR DEMOCRACY!  
BE SURE TO VOTE NOVEMBER 4!**

*(Board of Trustees, continued from page 3)*

Any gift that does not restrict the use of principal does not create an endowment fund; however, the use of that gift must be in accordance with the donor’s instructions, be it for either a specific purpose (a restricted gift) or a non-specified purpose (an unrestricted gift). In either case, the use of the gift must be consistent with the purpose of our church that is set forth in our constitution.

There is one other important distinction that needs to be clarified, which I improperly described in part two of this series. Endowment funds generate income because the principal of these gifts cannot be used, but the incomes generated by endowment funds can be used in accordance with the respective instructions of these donors.

However, income generated by either restricted or unrestricted gifts that have not been completely used is deemed to be unrestricted income under generally accepted accounting principles. The basic reason for this is that these donors are not requesting that the principal of their gifts be preserved in perpetuity to produce income, but rather that their gifts be used prudently and wisely in accordance with their directions.

## Mission Offerings Schedule

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

**November 2: Bethlehem on Broad Street (BOBS)** - First Church’s annual Christmas Day dinner served to the needy of our community.

**November 9: Good Samaritan Fund** - First Church’s monthly assistance program.

**November 16: Crossroads for Youth** - A program that helps kids be successful in life.

**November 23 and 30: BOBS**

## Recent Celebration Gifts to First Church

*By Bill Johannes and Jane Werum*

Given to the Remembrance Fund in celebration of the life of Ben Bechtel by:

**Milton Muelder  
Dorothy and James Burchfield  
Michael and Barbara Herzog  
Russell and Paula Wagner  
Kimberly Fippin Hoessly  
Monika and Thomas Kinstler**

Given to the Harpsichord Fund in celebration of the life of Ben Bechtel by:

**Tom and Jessica Morris**

Given to the Remembrance Fund in celebration of the life of Wally Cannon by:

**Ronald Beach and Kristen Hilson  
John and Muriel Siddall  
Patricia Meadows-Bethel  
Lloyd and Ellen Kohnhorst  
Pauline and Shun Endo  
Iva S. Turner  
Jean Sankey**

Given to the Building Endowment Fund by:  
**The Estate of William C. Heer**

*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.*





## Fair Trade Coffee For The Holidays

The Missions Committee has a green offer for the holiday: fair trade coffee for a Fair Trade Christmas! Give the same great coffee, tea and hot chocolate we serve at Fellowship Hour to all your friends and family this Christmas.



We are selling coffee for \$7 a bag, tea for \$4 and hot chocolate for \$6 a can. For an additional \$1 a package, the Mission Committee team will gift wrap your purchases! Come to the coffee sales table in the Parish Hall the first or third Sunday of the month, or contact Nancy Burba in the church office on Wednesdays, to place your order. All orders must be prepaid. The final date to place an order is Sunday, Nov. 16. Your gift of coffee, tea or hot chocolate will be ready to pick up by early December.

**Coffee Prices Rise:** The Fair Trade Labeling Organization voted in April to raise the worldwide Fair Trade minimum coffee prices. First Church now will pay from \$5.20 - \$6.70 a bag for our selections.

In order to see a small profit, the Missions Commission has set the price at \$7 a bag on all coffees. Hot chocolate was raised to \$6 a can and tea remains at \$4 a box. This small profit helps offset the cost of coffee served at Fellowship Hour and other church functions.

Each purchase allows a small farmer who practices environmentally sound farming to make a living. Thank you for your support of this mission.

**Fellowship Hour Beverage Sales:** Coffee and tea sales will be available on Nov. 2 and 16 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 on Wednesdays in the church office at 614.228.1741, ext. 28.

**Cleaning your closets?:** If you find any fabric you no longer need, consider donating it to the First Church Quilters. We were offered, and will gladly accept, some cotton fabric from a church member. This caused us to wonder whether others might have fabric they're not going to use – but don't know what to do with. Our first project will be baby quilts for our newest members, and we need 100% cotton fabric for these. Pieces of all sizes are welcome. Look for our fabric collection box in the office. If you have any questions, contact Marilyn Minter (855-7945) or Gleva Stephens (258-5940).

## Member Happy November Birthdays

11/1:	Carrie Ghose	11/18:	David Hamann
11/2:	Elizabeth Heer	11/18:	William Cannon
11/3:	Sarah Garbe	11/19:	Bob Roberts
11/3:	Tom Bishop	11/19:	Paul Flocken
11/4:	Cynthia Burnell	11/20:	John Matchett
11/5:	Caitlin Stewart	11/20:	Schielia Daines
11/6:	Michael McCrary	11/21:	Charlie Knerr
11/6:	Nate Vogt	11/21:	Brett Zickafoose
11/7:	Matt DeCastro	11/21:	Elaine Hardesty
11/8:	James O'Neill	11/22:	Chuck Kelley
11/9:	Brianna Burkett	11/22:	Jane Weddle
11/9:	David Leidheiser	11/22:	Tom Linn
11/10:	Jean Sankey	11/22:	Amy Cutler
11/10:	Ann Aeschbury	11/23:	Bill Wagner
11/12:	Julia Hadley	11/24:	Sandra Kirk
11/12:	Don Streibig	11/24:	Scott Warrick
11/12:	Alisa Eiknes	11/24:	Elizabeth Clark
11/13:	John Aeschbury	11/25:	Henry Bell
11/14:	Henry Hunker	11/26:	Keith Sarbaugh
11/14:	Amanda DeCastro	11/26:	Katherine Clark
11/15:	Barbara Reed	11/27:	Bill Boden
11/15:	Sara Al-Fayez	11/27:	Betsy Iannarino
11/16:	Barbara Knox	11/27:	Rhonda Daniels
11/16:	David Knox	11/28:	Nell Cole
11/17:	Judy Smith	11/29:	Lillian Brownfield
11/17:	Joyce Oyler	11/29:	David Ghose
11/18:	Sarah Reed		

## Member Happy Anniversaries

11/4:	Stephanie and Michael Koscher
11/6:	Jennifer and Mark Leidheiser
11/7:	Amy Nicholson and Mohamed Obeid-Salim
11/8:	Joanna and James McWillaims
11/9:	Susan Sitler and Tim Ahrens
11/10:	Lesley and Karl Schaab
11/10:	Kim and Kenneth Storey
11/10:	Janette and Randy Hoffman
11/10:	Kathryn and Mark Kriynovich
11/15:	Mary-Margaret and Doug Zimmerman
11/18:	Michelle and Grant Paullo
11/23:	Chris and Robert Rosati-Yoos
11/23:	Sarah Reed and Sandy Geronimo
11/26:	Sarah and Wally Giffen
11/26:	Sandra and Michael Valinis
11/26:	Kathy and Guy Cole
11/28:	Rhonda and Joe Daniels
11/29:	Janet and Rick Pfeiffer

**OOPS!** We forgot Nicholas Mitchell's Oct. 31 birthday in our last newsletter. If we miss your birthday or anniversary, let us know by contacting the church office at 614.228.1741, ext. 17, or by emailing [dmahoney@first-church.org](mailto:dmahoney@first-church.org).

# Church Calendar

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## Sunday, October 19

9 am: Early Worship Service - PH  
9 am: Treble Choir - Choir Rm  
10 am: Education Hour  
10 am: Stewardship Committee - LC  
11 am: Worship Service - San  
12 pm: Fellowship Hour - PH  
12:30 pm: Confirmation Class - PR  
4 pm: Congregational Concert - San  
5:15 pm: Concert Reception - PH  
9 pm: Compline - San

## Monday, October 20

6 pm: Stephen Ministers - Adult Lib  
7 pm: Budget and Finance - LC  
7 pm: New Members Class - Choir Rm

## Tuesday, October 21

11 am: Tuesdays at First Book Study - LC  
12:15 pm: Tuesdays at First Recital - San  
1:30 pm: First Church Care Ministry Team - PR  
7 pm: Church Council - LC

## Wednesday, October 22

9 am: Staff Meeting - LC

## Thursday, October 23

6:15 pm: First Church Handbells - Bell Rm  
7:30 pm: First Church Choir - Choir Rm

## Saturday, October 25

9 am: Faith Misson Family Shelter lunches

## Sunday, October 26

9 am: Early Worship Service - PH  
9 am: Treble Choir - Choir Rm  
10 am: Education Hour  
11 am: Worship Service - San  
12 pm: Fellowship Hour - PH  
4 pm: Harvest Party at Hudson home  
6 pm: Youth Group at Hudson home

## Tuesday, October 28

11 am: Tuesdays at First Book Study - LC  
12:15 pm: Tuesdays at First recital - San  
1:30 pm: First Church Care Ministry Team - PR  
7 pm: Deacon's Meeting - PR

## Wednesday, October 29

9 am: Staff Meeting - LC  
7 pm: Adult Ed Meeting - LC

## Thursday, October 30

6:15 pm: First Church Handbells - Bell Rm  
7:30 pm: First Church Choir - Choir Rm

## Saturday, November 1

6:30 pm: Young Adult Dinner Group - Black Creek Bistro

## Sunday, November 2 (All Saints Sunday)

9 am: Early Worship Service - PH  
9 am: Treble Choir - Choir Rm  
10 am: Education Hour  
11 am: Worship Service - San  
12 noon: Fellowship Hour - PH  
12:15 pm: Parish Life - PR  
12:30 pm: Confirmation Class - Rm D

## Monday, November 3

7 pm: Monday Night Lights - PH & LC  
7 pm: Positive Parenting - Rm C

## Tuesday, November 4 (Election Day)

11 am: Tuesdays at First Book Study - LC  
12:15 pm: Tuesdays at First Recital - San  
1:30 pm: First Church Care Ministry Team - PR  
6:30 pm: Children's Ed - Ed Wg Rm C  
7 pm: Evangelism & Church Growth - PR  
7 pm: Exec. Comm - PFR

## Wednesday, November 5

9 am: Staff Meeting - LC  
11 am: Book Study Group - PR

## Thursday, November 6

6:15 pm: First Church Handbells - Bell Rm  
7pm: BREAD meeting - PH  
7:30 pm: First Church Choir - Choir Rm

## Friday, November 7

3:45 pm: Parents for Others - Toddler Rm

## Saturday, November 8

10 am: Quilters of First Church - LC

## Sunday, November 9

9 am: Early Worship Service - PH  
9 am: Treble Choir - Choir Rm  
10 am: Education Hour  
11 am: Worship Service - San  
12 pm: Fellowship Hour - PH  
12:30 pm: Youth Group (Fort Rapids Water Park)  
4 pm: Concert (Broad Street Presbyterian Church)

## Monday, November 10

9 am: Good Sam Day - San  
7 pm: Trustees - PR

## Tuesday, November 11

11 am: Tuesdays at First Book Study - LC  
12:15 pm: Tuesdays at First Recital - San  
1:30 pm: First Church Care Ministry Team - PR  
6 pm: Music Committee - PR  
7 pm: Mission Committee - PR

## Wednesday, November 12

9 am: Staff Meeting - PR

## Thursday, November 13

10 am: Eastside Fellowship - Jean Moran's home  
6:15 pm: First Church Handbells - Bell Rm  
7:30 pm: First Church Choir - Choir Rm

## Friday, November 14

Youth fall retreat at Pilgrim Hills

## Saturday, November 15

9 am: House & Grounds - LC

## Sunday, November 16

9 am: Early Worship Service - PH  
9 am: Treble Choir - Choir Rm  
10 am: Education Hour  
10:30 am: Confirmands at St. Dominic Catholic Church  
11 am: Worship Service - San  
12 pm: Fellowship Hour - PH  
9 pm: Compline - San

## Monday, November 17

6:30 pm: Stephen Ministers - Adult Lib  
7 pm: Budget & Finance - LC

## Tuesday, November 18

Noon: First Church Care Ministry Team - PR  
7 pm: Church Council - LC

## Wednesday, November 19

9 am: Staff Meeting - LC

## Thursday, November 23

6:15 pm: First Church Handbells - Bell Rm  
7:30 pm: First Church Choir - Choir Rm

Daylight Saving Time begins

Nov. 2 at 2 a.m.

Turn clocks back 1 hour!

# 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. 22, by using Prayer Request Cards found in each pew or by emailing [bcunningham@first-church.org](mailto: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.*

## November Fellowship Hour

November 2: Hosea - Anne Hudson  
November 9: Jeremiah - Victor John  
November 16: Kings - Stephanie Koscher  
November 23: Leviticus - Martha Loy  
November 30: Micah - Amy Mailer

## October & November Acolyte Schedule

October 26: Ella Koscher & Jacob Kesler  
November 2: Thomas Welsh-Huggins & Alex Heer  
November 9: Sarah Ahrens & Camille Kesler  
November 16: Jayden Martin-Wynia & Aryn Mason  
November 23: Katie Geis & Meri Roach  
November 30: Emma Welsh-Huggins

## Next Newsletter Deadline

Articles Due: Monday, November 10 by noon  
Email: [dmahoney@first-church.org](mailto:dmahoney@first-church.org)  
Folding Team: Wed., November 19, 9 a.m.

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

### Church Staff

Timothy C. Ahrens.....Senior Minister  
Barbara R. Cunningham.....Minister for Pastoral Care  
Laura A. Tisher.....Minister of Youth & Young Adults  
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  
Nikki Boop.....Custodian  
Eric Trepkoski.....Custodian  
Caroline Sansbury.....Nursery Staff  
Jessica Yaeger.....Nursery Staff  
Kelsey Weber.....Nursery Staff  
Linda Mumford.....Wedding Coordinator  
Jane Leidheiser.....Wedding Coordinator  
Fran Panek.....Wedding Coordinator

### Church Council

Thomas Stewart.....Moderator  
Kay Metz.....Vice-Moderator  
Carol Gallagher.....Secretary  
David Holt.....Treasurer  
Phil Stichter.....Trustee Chair  
Randy Hoffman.....Administration Commissioner  
Al Waddell.....Church Growth Commissioner  
Pam Kallner.....Education Commissioner  
Bill Rhoads.....House & Grounds Commissioner  
Beverly Cook.....Mission Commissioner  
Amy Beymer.....Parish Life Commissioner  
Craig Oyler.....Deacon  
Sandy Bennett.....Deacon  
Drew Wade.....Member-at-large  
Duan Cannon.....Member-at-large  
Stan Lange.....Member-at-large

**~ REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES ~  
WITH A DEDICATION OF FLOWERS**  
Contact Marty Worth at 614.228.1741, ext. 12,  
[marty@first-church.org](mailto:marty@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, October 20, 2008*

TO:

[Empty dashed box for recipient address]



**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](mailto:home@first-church.org) Web site: [www.first-church.org](http://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