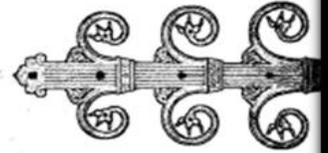


First Church News

First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ • Columbus, Ohio



Sept. 19, 2009
Vol. 157, No. 9



Together: God's Kingdom is Here!

By the Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Minister

In his classic little book of prayers, *Your Word is Near* (1968), Huub Oosterhies offers this prayer along with more than 100 others.

*Lord, God your kingdom is here,
hidden and close to us – Someone to care for and people to live for.
Your will is done on earth everywhere
Wherever men and women live and die for each other.
We pray therefore, that we may gradually accomplish this from day to day
And thus come to know your name and find you, our God for ever.*

I look out on our congregation each Sunday. I marvel at the blessings God has placed before me. Do you see the jewels and the blessings of life all around you? I see men, women, youth and children who love, care, sacrifice and look after one another. I see the struggles and suffering in your faces. I am so fortunate to serve as your pastor, teacher and friend.

We need only to open our eyes to the wonders around us at First Church and delight in God's kingdom that is "*hidden and close to us – someone to care for and people to live for.*"

It is hard to believe we have already spent the first decade of this new millennium together. This autumn we will step into the future and prepare to faithfully serve Jesus Christ in the heart of our capital city for the next decade. From 2010 toward the future, great things will happen at First Church. We are in the heart of a great city and we have the city in our heart. As a result, we will be pioneers in shaping the look and mission of Columbus well into the 21st century.

Together, we will accomplish great things. Together, we will sacrifice and serve and we will be a part of creating a beautiful church and city. I can't wait to step forward into the future with you . . . together!

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Looking Toward the 2010 Stewardship Campaign

By Wayne Piper, Stewardship Chair

For me September has always been a time of both looking backward and looking forward. As a kid, I looked back wistfully on the fading days of summer freedom but looked ahead to new school clothes, new books and new friends.

When the calendar page turns to September these days, I often find myself in somewhat the same position, and this year is no exception – especially when it comes to my participation in the work of First Church.

By again accepting the role of chair of the stewardship campaign, I've taken time to look back on the work the committee did last year and the encouraging support of the congregation that work received. And, with input from staff, committee members and many of you, my fellow members, looked forward to how we can work together to meet the needs of our church in the year ahead. **(Continued on Page 3)**

Go After Your Dreams

By the Rev. Barbara R. Cunningham, Associate Minister



There are many times when someone will tell me that they do not like their job or the way their life is going. There is nothing worse than being stuck in a mediocre place every day. However, that can change if you go after your dreams.

There are many excuses used for staying in the same place – I'm not qualified to do anything else, there is no money in what I'd like to do, I'm too old or too young – and others you can name for yourself. Yes, it takes boldness to go after your dreams, especially when you are exploring uncharted territory.

In her book *Anatomy of the Spirit*, Carolyn Myss warns that when you compromise your dreams and values to live a life that is expected of you, rather than what your heart asks of you, you give the power away and disconnect from your soul. It does take a lot of courage to let go of the familiar and seemingly secure to embrace the new. Yet, there is no real security in what is not meaningful. In movement, there is life, and in change, there is power.

Learning to live fully takes times, and to be aware of what we are doing as we do it. Sometimes we live blindly, not paying attention to the moment. It is imperative that we live each moment, living into the changes that inevitably come.

Susan Smith Jones wrote in *Unity* magazine, "The intense pace and stress of our daily lives can very easily put our peace, happiness and health, not to mention our spiritual lives, at risk. Once we're caught up in the whirl of today's hectic lifestyle, it's easy to forget the truth of our potential. With less time for our own dreams, our standards and values can deteriorate, leading to low self-esteem, and if we feel an inner emptiness, we may be tempted by any 'quick fix' that comes along."

Live your dream.

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

Search Committee Begins Its Work

By Michael Weddle

The work of the Associate Minister Search Committee is well underway. The committee has met six times and plans to meet weekly.

The Central Southeast Association of the Ohio Conference of the United Church of Christ is providing advice and expertise for the search. Profiles of candidates are being reviewed, and the deadline for applications is October 15. The job description, and the church profile, can be found on our Web site at www.first-church.org. Members who know of likely candidates may encourage them to contact the association for the appropriate applications.

The mission statement of the committee is: *With the help of God and using time and space to the best of our abilities, to select and call an Associate Minister for the First Congregational Church who meets the needs of the church as described in the position description, and helps to fulfill the church's wider mission of seeking and applying social justice. Enter to Worship, Depart to Serve.*

The prayer of the committee as developed by member Carrie Keller is:

Almighty and Gracious God, throughout the ages, you have brought to your people leaders who have guided them in times of change and transition and you have formed First Church as a loving and searching community in Christ, dedicated to social justice.

Assist us in the discernment of your will as we seek an Associate Minister for this congregation. Open our hearts and minds, that we might see this process as one that can deepen our sense of community, provide us with spiritual growth, and draw us closer to you.

May you also open the heart and mind of the one you call as Associate Minister, so that we receive a faithful and dedicated pastor, who will nurture and encourage growth in our missions, ministries and faith journeys in the name of Christ. Amen.

Committee members include: Tom Brownfield, Bev Cook, Todd Cunningham, Sandra Geronimo, Ardis Holt, Katelyn Hoffman, Carrie Keller, Jim Kyle, M. Elaine Warren, Rev. Tim Ahrens, Michael Weddle (co-chair), Karen Carpenter (chair) and Melody Leidheiser, moderator, ex-officio.

First Church Donations Help to Sponsor Deep Griha Children

By Fran Panek, Mission Committee Co-Chair

Members of First Church have been supportive of Deep Griha and the Onawale family for many years. Together with members from First Community Church, we have helped change the lives of hundreds of children and parents in Pune, India, and the surrounding countryside.



Earlier this year, our congregation collected over \$939 for Deep Griha. It enabled us to sponsor four children with living needs and educational services for a year at the "City of Child" residential school. If you check the mission bulletin board, you will see photos of our sponsored children, as well as a young lady sponsored privately by one of our member families. They are:

Mamta Banjari is 10 years old. She is in the 4th standard (grade). Her parents are deceased. Mamta enjoys reading, numbers and dancing and is doing well in school.

Suraj Mhamane is 18 years old, and has been associated with Deep Griha since 2003. He currently studies in the 5th standard. He was living with several uncles, an aunt and a cousin when he relocated to the residential property. He enjoys marathi and is doing well in this new surrounding.

Nikhil Mohite is 14 years old. His father is deceased. His mother struggled to provide for him and his two sisters in the family home, so he relocated to the school setting, where he studies at the 7th standard. He enjoys marathi and playing with friends.

Nadeem Nadaf is also 14 years old. He is in the 8th standard, and enjoys studying the Hindi language. His father is living, but has remarried since his mother's
(Continued on Page 7)

East Side Fellowship Meets October 8: All women and men who live, work or attend an institution of higher learning to the east, south and north of First Church, as far as the OSU area, are invited to join the Eastside Fellowship. The group meets from 10 a.m. to noon the second Thursday of the month at the church for refreshments, followed by a program and discussion. We explore many different subjects. Our next meeting will be October 8, and James E. Bobb, our music minister, will be the speaker. Come join us!

Newsletter Going to Email Delivery in 2010

In an effort to save time and money, the *First Church News* is going electronic in early 2010.

Beginning with the January issue, we will be emailing the newsletter to members who have email, rather than sending it through the Postal Service. Those who do not have email can contact the church office (228-1741) and we will continue to mail it to you as we now do.

We have estimated that by eliminating most of the newsletter mailing, we will save nearly \$3,000 a year in ink, paper, postage and time.

In the meantime, don't forget that you also can read the *First Church News* online at www.first-church.org. We also will continue to post the newsletter on the Web site when we make the switch to email delivery.

(Stewardship, Concluded from Page 1)

As the committee began planning this year's campaign, we first took a look backward at what worked well last year and then looked forward to ways in which we might enhance our efforts this fall. The strategy we've chosen to use is best described as a return to the traditional.

While passing the stewardship packets last year worked well in some respects, the process was not without its challenges. This year we hope to best reach members through an informational mailing, personal outreach, lectern presentations and two congregational forums. Our stewardship efforts will tie in with Reverend Tim's series of sermons that will begin in October and conclude on Consecration Sunday, November 8. So as we begin this campaign, a lot of people have already come together to plan the work that lies ahead.

And because that word – together – is the word that continues to hold the key to our success, it will be the theme of this fall's stewardship campaign. As I look back over the challenges and changes of the past year, I am so grateful that members of this church have stood together to face what often felt like an uncertain future. And, looking ahead, I believe that God still calls us to act and that together, giving as best as we are able, we will continue to make a difference in our world, our community, and the lives of each of our members.

Monday Night Lights Features Parenting Classes

By Mark S. Williams, Director of Christian Education



Parenting classes will be offered again this year during the Monday Night Lights program. This program is funded in part by the Dorinda White Endowment and the Alma Keeler Endowment Fund. There is a limit of 20 participants for each class.

Last year, the program was conducted in a series. This year each class is a stand-alone topic. The classes will begin at 7 p.m. and end at 8:30. The classes will be present by Action for Children. This is the same organization that produced "The Art of Positive Parenting" last year.

A mini-vacation Bible school will be conducted for children grades K-5 and child care will be provided in the nursery. To register for the classes, please contact Mark S. Williams at mwilliams@first-church.org or call 228-1741, ext. 15.

The schedule includes:

October 5 - Responsible Children: Everyday Situations Teach Lifetime Skills. Every parent wants their child to learn responsibility – for their actions, their choices, their own well-being. And it's completely normal for a child to resist learning those things. The good news is that everyday situations are the best way to teach your child about responsibility – and they may not even know that's what is happening. Join us to learn tips to use with your child. For parents of children of all ages.

November 2 - Stress/Mental Health: Taking Care of YOU

January 4 - You Don't Have To Do It All Yourself

February 1 - Teaching Children Self-Control

March 1 - From Idols to Loser: The Real Story about TV

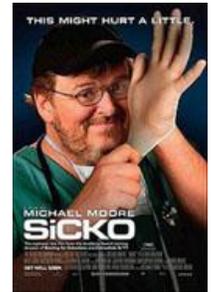
April 5 - Bullying Prevention: New Strategies for Parents and Caregivers

Monday Night Lights Movies Are Back

Join us for the first Monday of each month, except December, for a great night of programming. There will be opportunities for all ages. The program begins at 7 p.m. with a short worship service and then breaks out to different interest and program offerings. Offerings will include a movie series and parenting classes. A mini-vacation Bible school will be available for the children and childcare will be provided for infants and toddlers.

October 5 – Sicko

Michael Moore's film on the American health care system has already inspired fervent debate, from admirers and critics alike. But for people of faith, this debate should expand beyond capitalism, or socialized medicine because Moore, a practicing Catholic, actually structures *Sicko* around a series of questions that should resonate with people of faith: Does how we treat "the least of these" illustrate our moral commitments? If so, how are we doing? Are Americans indeed a good and generous people?



Upcoming movies

November 2 - Babel

January 4 - Doubt

February - Slumdog Millionaire

March 1 - Earth

April 5 - Saved

Women's Retreat 2009

"Come to the Well . . . Strengthen by the Spirit Within"

Nov. 13-15 at Templed Hills Church Camp

All women of First Church, and their guests, are invited to attend the Women's Retreat at Templed Hills, located one hour north of Columbus. The camp provides twin beds (five to a room), a comfortable gathering space and all of our meals.

"Come to the Well...Strengthen by the Spirit Within," the theme for the retreat, will be led by the Rev. Barbara Cunningham. As we look at the Spirit within, we are getting a better understanding of God's creative imagination within ourselves. We will explore the best things about life, laugh and play together, and weave into our lives the precious love that surrounds us. We are asking for donations of empty shoeboxes for this retreat.

The retreat begins at 7 p.m. Friday with arrival and unloading. The program begins Saturday morning after breakfast, and will include devotions, discussion, quiet time and a chance to enjoy the grounds. We will wrap up the weekend by 11 a.m. Sunday.

The cost for the weekend is \$90, which pays for all the food and lodging. Registration forms and brochures are available in the church office and on the church Web site. Deadline to register is October 18.

(More Christian Education, Page 6)

Music Notes

By James E. Bobb, Minister of Music



As we say goodbye to summer and organize our schedules around a new school year and a new season of ministry at First Church, I want to share some thoughts about music ministry in the lives of children.

The benefits of the church's children's music program go quite a lot deeper than may at first be obvious. Certainly, choristers develop skills in music reading, singing, working as a team, and becoming worship leaders. But they also learn scripture and prayer, build up personal character, and shape their life-long habit of commitment to service.

Whether you are a parent of young children or not, we can all encourage the children we know to consider worship their home, and to get involved. Pastor William Tully, rector of St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church in New York City (a historic parish that has experienced a great rejuvenation in recent years) asserts that in his experience, kids who participated regularly in worship, i.e. as acolytes or choristers, are the ones most likely to become dedicated adults in the church.

Our lives are certainly busy. But consider Treble Choir, or the newly forming choir (see below), to be an important thread in the rich fabric of our life together. It's probably just the company I keep, but I have not yet met the 60-something-year-olds who are still playing football. I have, however, met lots who are still singing . . . and still in church.

New Choir

We are considering starting a new intergenerational choir at First Church. The First Church Choir has nearly filled the available seating in the gallery to the limit. We also have young singers who are beyond the Treble Choir age. One of the great social aspects of church, and music in church, is that it crosses generational boundaries and can create opportunities for fellowship that other social and educational experiences discourage. If you are ninth grade or older, contact Jamie Bobb (jbobb@first-church.org) to learn more.

Treble Choir

The Treble Choir has started up again for the year. This choir is open to all children and young people in grades one through eight and provides an opportunity to receive musical training, participate fully in the worship life of this congregation, and learn the songs of our faith while building lifelong habits of service, fellowship, and

teamwork. Rehearsals are Sundays, 9--9:50 a.m. Contact Jamie Bobb for more information.

Congregational Concert

September 27 at 4 p.m.

James E. Bobb, our new Minister of Music, revels in the symphonic grandeur of Charles-Marie Widor's Sixth Symphony on the Kimball organ. The second half of the concert, on the von Beckerath organ, includes music of Johann Sebastian Bach and Vincent Persichetti's turbulent chorale prelude on his own hymn tune *Give Peace, O God*.

Compline

Plan to join us for the evening service of Compline, offered the third Sunday of each month, except December, at 9 p.m. This 30-minute service of unaccompanied plainsong chant is illuminated by candlelight. It is a beautiful, peaceful, prayerful way to end the Lord's Day and provide a reflective oasis before the week begins anew. Compline will be held September 20, October 18 and November 15.

Tuesdays at First

The four Tuesdays in October feature artists from as close as Columbus and as far away as Switzerland. The 12:15 p.m. recitals are preceded by a book study at 11 a.m. and followed by a homemade lunch (\$5 donation) at 12:45.

October 6 – Soprano Elizabeth Phillips from Rochester, N.Y., and pianist James Bobb

October 13 – Organist Nicole Keller from Cleveland

October 20 – Pianist Ben Wiant from Columbus

October 27 – Organist Douglas Bruce from Arlesheim, Switzerland

Pet Blessing set for October 3

First Church will hold its second annual pet blessing service on Saturday, October 3, at 11:45 a.m., near the 9th Street entrance to the church. In case of rain, the service will be held the following Saturday, October 10, at 10 a.m. (note the earlier time).

Please come and bring any and all pets. Invite friends and neighbors with pets as well. We only ask that the animals are on a leash or restrained, as necessary.

We look forward to having the Treble Choir, led by Jamie Bobb, as part of our pet blessing service. Donations are welcome and will be given to Heifer International.

We hope to see you and your pets here!

First Church Again an Integral Part of Arts Festival

By Sarah Lange, First Church Arts Festival Committee Chair

The Greater Columbus Arts Festival returned to the Discovery District in early June, and First Church welcomed visitors with sights, sounds and savories of its own! By the end of the weekend, dozens of volunteers saw 488 visitors and 355 performers come through our doors to raise \$1,965 for Habitat for Humanity. With that, we can change our motto from "Make a House a Home" to "Made a House a Home!"

Woodcraftsman Herm Gellings, a Westerville resident, built 40 pine birdhouses in three different shapes and sizes. Purchased by members and friends of First Church, the houses were cleverly and skillfully hand-decorated, donated back and sold during the festival as a fundraiser for the cause. The efforts raised \$700 for Habitat!

Music offerings throughout the weekend brought in crowds, which contributed to the cause: A "Celtic Festival"; an organ recital by our own G. Dene Barnard; a performance by the Ohio Capital Winds (directed by our own Catherine Hope-Cunningham); and a showcase of young central Ohio Musicians that brought singers, string players and a harpist from area high schools and colleges, many with ties to First Church.

The Parish Hall was a bevy of activity. Along with birdhouses sales, Habitat also benefited from the sale of tea, sandwiches and soup in the tearoom. Artwork by Becky Taft and her sister Judy Hazen were displayed and sold. Postcards, music CDs, Christmas ornaments, canvas shopping bags and free-trade teas and coffees were sold to support other First Church programs and missions.

None of this would have happened without the dedication of many. The Arts Festival Committee (Deborah Anderson, Jim Fewlass, Mary Day Fewlass, Anne Hudson, Sarah Lange (chair), Jan Wade and Mark Williams) appreciates the support and cooperation of the following people and groups: ad hoc members Nancy Burba, Dawn George, Hope Hacker, Jane Leidheiser, Marti Rideout, Rick Sayre; the entire church staff; council; and the House & Grounds, Church Growth, Missions and Sacred Earth committees.

The committee also would like to thank the many volunteers, too numerous to name individually, who answered the call to help keep First Church open, clean, inviting and safe for our visitors.

Sunday Mornings: Adult Sacred Conversations

The Christian Education theme for the year is **Rooted – Growing in God's Love**. As a church, we have agreed to a three-year process of sacred conversations on race and immigration; poverty; being open and affirming to all people regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity; the environment; and other world religions. These conversations are centered on our belief that God calls us to a responsible and giving faith. This is the second year and we are focusing on practical and theological responses in each of these areas.

In adult education, we focus on answering this question: **O Mortal, what does God require of you regarding [topic]?** We have drawn this question from Micah 6:8. In that passage, the prophet asks us, "God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does God require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

Weekday Opportunities for Adults

Wednesday Morning Book Study: Rev. Ahrens will lead a study of Marcus Borg's book on Paul, the most influential Christian in history. How do we read his writings? What do we know about the man himself? Borg opens our eyes to Paul: his successes and failures; his foibles and gifts. The class will meet throughout the fall at 11 a.m. on the first and third Wednesday each month.

Monthly Bible Study – Genesis: Rev. Ahrens will begin a Bible study on Genesis. The class will be held the third Monday of each month (except December) until May from 7 to 9 p.m. Come and explore the first book of the Bible. This class is open to everyone. It is time to study, pray together and build community.

Tuesdays at First

Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27 – 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Join us for a stimulating study on "*Our Father's World: Mobilizing the Church to Care for Creation*" by Edward R. Brown. Environmentalists have pleaded with Christian leaders to take up the challenge of caring for the environment. How should Christians respond to the environmental crisis? What does the Bible have to say about creation care and the responsibility of Christians? "Our Father's World" is filled with ideas that students, churches, mission agencies and all concerned Christians can implement at home and around the world.

Donations Can Be Made from IRA

By Phil Stichter, Trustees Chair

The Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 extends for calendar 2009 the "IRA charitable rollover" provision. This provision allows taxpayers aged 70½ or older to make tax-free contributions of up to \$100,000 in 2009 from either traditional IRAs or Roth IRAs (but not from 401(k) plans) to the church or to other qualified charitable organizations. Contributions must be made by December 31, 2009, to take advantage of this enhanced tax benefit. It is not expected that this benefit will be available in 2010.



The contribution must come to the church (or to some other charitable entity) directly from the IRA account. Donations from these IRAs are not treated as an itemized deduction but are excluded from taxable income, even if you take the standard deduction. Also, the amount contributed from your IRA is not included as part of your adjusted gross for tax purposes.

Donors who itemize their taxes are prohibited from deducting more than 50% of their adjusted gross income (AGI) for the purpose of making charitable donations. But, donations from IRAs are excluded from this AGI 50% limitation, thus allowing individuals who have reached that limitation to give more if they wish to do so.

Certain states, including Ohio, do not allow itemized tax deductions for charitable contributions. On the other hand, by making a charitable contribution through an IRA, Ohio taxpayers exclude this amount from their state income and from state taxes.

Certain members of First Church have already taken advantage of the IRA charitable rollover provisions by making contributions to various endowment funds, including the "Church Expansion Fund". It was established for the purpose "of acquiring and developing property adjacent to the church's principal place of worship at 444 East Broad Street."

We encourage additional contributions to this fund (or to other funds that have been described in past newsletter articles) from those members who can take advantage of the IRA charitable rollover provision by December 31 of this year. We also encourage members to consider making charitable contributions to this fund or to one of our endowment funds, regardless of whether you can currently take advantage of the IRA charitable rollover provision.

If you have questions or wish to consider making a special gift, please contact a trustee or an advisor to the

trustees. The trustees include Joyce Canfield, Wally Giffen, Randy Hoffman, Matt Lazar, Patty Pohlman, Phil Stichter, and our moderator, Melody Leidheiser. Advisors to the trustees include our treasurer Bill Johannes, our legal counsel and secretary Mark Knueve, and our senior minister, Tim Ahrens.



Face painting was part of the fun at the August picnic.

First Church Family Enjoys Annual Picnic

By the Parish Life Committee

First Church congregants and their guests had a real picnic this summer. The entire August 16 event was outdoors and made complete with grilling hamburgers and hotdogs, delicious side dishes and salad and scrumptious desserts.

Active games occupied children, as well as adults, while Rev. Tim, enviably, got to cool off in the dunking tank! All were able to eat in the shade, linger over conversations and make and re-new friends.

A big thank you goes out to committee members Amy Fulton, Elizabeth Bockbrader, Julia Myers and Anne Hudson for providing planning and supplies to make this happen!

(Deep Griha, Concluded from Page 3)

death, and has no contact with him.

Deepali Makwana is 15 years old, and studies at the 9th standard. Her favorite subject is marathi, and she enjoys reading. Since her parents are both deceased, she lives with her elderly grandmother on the periphery of Pune. Deep Griha is helping her finish her education.

If you would like to correspond with any of these children, please contact us on the Mission Committee. Deep Griha encourages communication between children and their sponsors, and provides translation services in India.

You can place notes in the mailboxes of Anne Hudson, Tracy Cloud-Thomas or Fran and Bruce Panek. The children love to receive mail!

First Church News

Eat Well and Help Out First Church

Do you eat on Tuesdays? If so, you can do three good things at once: eat healthy food; support First Church; and patronize Black Creek Bistro, an environmentally-conscious business in our neighborhood.

Black Creek, 51 Parsons Ave. at the corner of Oak Street, is an extension of the owners' farm in Canal Winchester, where heirloom-bred animals and heirloom vegetables and herbs are raised. Black Creek's building uses wood salvaged from barns and houses being torn down by developers.



Black Creek Bistro on Parsons Avenue will donate part of your bill to First Church.

and the restaurant will donate 10% of your bill to our congregation.

The goal of Black Creek is to use fresh, local products to make delightful food at affordable prices. The menu changes with the seasons, and sustainable practices are used as much as possible, such as composting food scraps and reclaiming all waste vegetable oil to fuel two farm trucks.

There is ample parking across the street from the restaurant in the lot of the former Columbus Music Hall. Come on down Tuesdays for a great meal and a good deed that helps out First Church!

Mission Offerings Schedule

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

- October 4 - Neighbors in Need**
- October 11 - Outdoor Ministries**
- October 18 - CRIS**
- October 25 - Good Samaritan**

Recent Gifts to First Church

By Bill Johannes and Jane Werum

Given to the Remembrance Fund in celebration of the life of Lillian Brownfield by:

**Mary Margaret Brownfield
Joanne K. Morse
John and Betsy Zahn
Mary and Charlie Weaver
Dave Proctor
Margaret Browne
Charles and Kathe Mueller
Elaine Warren
Cathy and Kevin Martin
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Ehram
Margaret Brooks
Gleva Stephens
Jean Holder**



Given to B.R.E.A.D. in celebration of the life of Jerome Dailey by:

**Joni and David Strickland
Jennifer Severson
Bruce and Julia Reid
Jennifer Terry
Tiffany Valliere and Troy Diamond
Kara Leonino
Jennifer and Eric Bradford
Juliet Jones
Cary and Melissa Grell
Mary Wasson and Lori Lasley
Joseph and Erica Benes**

Your gifts, payable to the First Congregational Church, are very much appreciated. Celebration Gifts may be designated to the Remembrance Fund or an Endowment Fund and given in honor of a particular moment in the life of friend or family member. The gold-colored Celebration Gift folders can be found in the church pews and the church office.

Get Involved in Card Care Ministry

Do you have a bit of time on Tuesday afternoons? If so, perhaps you'd like to join our Care Ministry Team. Each week, beginning at noon, we send cards to those in need and offer our prayers of intention to ask for guidance and healing.

We bring a small lunch, offer a devotion and begin our mission of building a caring community. If you are interested, come to First Church at noon on Tuesdays and join us!



Harvest Party is October 11

This year the Harvest Party will be held on Sunday, October 11, from 4 to 8 p.m. at the home of Tom and Kathy Brownfield, 11935 Winchester Rd. in Ashville.

The Parish Life Committee will provide meat and hot beverages and those attending should bring a dish to share.

There will be games and fun for the entire family. Please join us for hayrides, campfire fun, complete with smores, music and folk dancing, pumpkin painting, corn hole toss, volleyball and bobbing for apples!

If you have a guitar or other musical instrument/talent please bring it along for singing around the campfire!

Totes to be Available Again

The Sacred Earth Committee will be selling tote bags again for \$10. They will be available at the Fair Trade coffee table on Sundays or in the office.

The value of the mission is threefold:

- * Use of cloth bags for shopping decreases the number of plastic bags in landfills.
- * Profit from the totes [\$8 on each bag] is directed to House and Grounds Committee for energy efficient improvements to the building.
- * The logo identifies First Church as an environmentally concerned congregation.

Monthly Budget Update

Current Pledges

Annual Budget - \$616,447
June - \$43,826
July - \$32,176
August - \$41,739
YTD Actual - \$392,492
YTD Budget - \$410,965
Behind Budget - \$18,072



August Mission Offerings

Crossroads Children's Home - \$466.60
Church World Service - \$457
Good Samaritan Fund - \$1,861
Lower Lights Christian Health Center - \$400.55
One Great Hour of Sharing - \$326.25
Total - \$3,511.40

Member Happy October Birthdays

1:	Melinda Anderson	19:	Mike Knerr
2:	Craig Oyler	20:	Frank Hussey
2:	Peter Murray	20:	Nancy Bouman
2:	Lauren Glaros	21:	Reggie Cannon
2:	Jon Leidheiser-Stoddard	21:	Gary Leidheiser
3:	Tim Carsey	21:	Jennifer Dean
4:	Charlie Weaver	22:	Alan Miller
5:	Ed Koetz	22:	Carter Rodriguez
5:	Keith White	23:	Betsy Hubbard
5:	Jessica Benner	24:	Sharon Walquist
6:	Andrew Welsh-Huggins	24:	Celeste Feather
6:	Tammy Wharton	24:	Jill Paulus
7:	Gretchen Schneider	25:	Mary Miller
8:	Marian Whitney	25:	Kevin Carrico
8:	Bert Cook	25:	Michael Warrick
8:	Deana Armstrong	26:	Gail Johannes
8:	Aaron Shaw	26:	Kathleine Cole
9:	Dawn George	26:	Heather Biggers
9:	Pam Welsh-Huggins	26:	Barbara Mason
9:	Jennifer Bryant	27:	Mary Ann Goetz
11:	Anthony Lee	27:	Shawn Finley
12:	Harry Campbell	27:	Carl Miller
12:	Mary Day Fewlass	27:	Bryan West
12:	Hugh Schultz	27:	Summer Petras
12:	Barb Poppe	28:	Greg Halbe
14:	Drew Wade	28:	Stephanie Koscher
14:	Andy Hudepohl	28:	Eddie Anderson
15:	Janet Lyons	29:	Rebecca Hess
15:	Kathleen O'Neill	29:	Queenie Lee
16:	David Wyatt	30:	Geoff Dean
16:	Joyce Bishop	30:	Melissa Simpson
17:	Dene Barnard	30:	Mark Knueve
17:	Jackie Dean	30:	Vanessa Coterel
17:	Nicole Baas	31:	Martha Huey
18:	Carol Rodriguez	31:	Michael Bockbrader
18:	Gayle Henderson		

Member Happy October Anniversaries

1:	Walter and Lucille Kropp
5:	William Faith and Barbara Poppe
7:	Steve Brandehoff and Kathryn Bamberger
7:	Christopher and Lauren Glaros
7:	David Losinski and Valerie Conlin-Losinski
8:	Jonathan and Patricia Amy
9:	David and Carrie Ghose
11:	Richard and Janet Kevan
11:	Benjamin and Corrine Rowley
13:	Joe and Amber Lane
14:	David and Priscilla Modiek
14:	Joseph and Jennifer Provenzano
16:	Eddie and Gretchen Fleurant
18:	Scott and Amy Fulton
21:	Tom and Kathy Brownfield
25:	Andy and Amy Hudepohl
27:	Eric and Christa Ewing

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

Church Calendar

Sunday, September 20

9 a – Treble Choir – Choir Room
9 am – Early Worship - PH
10 am – Education Hour
10 am – First Church Choir – Choir Room
11 am - Worship Service - San
12 pm – Fellowship Hour - PH
12:15 pm – Parish Life – LC
12:30 pm – Confirmation Class – Room D
9 pm – Compline – San

Monday, September 21

7 pm – Search Committee - PFR
7 pm – Budget and Finance – Ed Wing Rm D
7 pm – Genesis Bible Study – LC

Tuesday, September 22

12 pm – Card Care Ministry – PFR

Thursday, September 24

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

Friday, September 25

6 pm – Faith Mission Men’s Shelter Meals

Sunday, September 27

9 am – Treble Choir – Choir Room
9 am - Early Worship Service - PH
10 am – Education Hour
10 am – First Church Choir – Choir Room
11 am - Worship Service - San
12 pm - Fellowship Hour - PH
4 pm – Congregational Concert - San

Monday, September 28

7 pm – Search Committee - LC

Tuesday, September 29

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

Thursday, October 1

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

Saturday, October 3

11:45 am – Blessing of the Animals – Front Lawn

Sunday, October 4 (New Members Join)

9 am - Early Worship Service - PH
10 am - Education Hour
10 am – First Church Choir – Choir Room
11 am - Worship Service - San
12 pm - Fellowship Hour - PH
12:15 pm – Parish Life- PFR
12:30 pm – Confirmation Class – Room D

Monday, October 5

5:30 pm – Sacred Earth – PFR
7 pm – Monday Night Lights – LC and PH
7 pm – Search Committee – PFR

Tuesday, October 6

11 am – Tuesdays at First Book Study – LC
12 pm – Card Care Ministry - PFR
12:15 pm – Tuesdays at First Concert - San
12:45 pm – Tuesdays at First Luncheon – PH
6:30 pm – Children’s Education - Ed Wing Room C

7 pm – Church Growth - PR
7 pm – Executive Committee – PFR

Wednesday, October 7

11 am – Book Study – LC

Thursday, October 8

2 pm – Arts Committee – PR
6:15 pm – First Church Ringers – Bell Room
7:30 p.m. – First Church Choir – Choir Room

Friday, October 9

3:45 pm – Parents for Others

Saturday, October 10

10 am – Quilters of First Church – PFR

Sunday, October 11

9 am – Treble Choir – Choir Room
9 am - Early Worship Service - PH
10 am - Education Hour
10 am - First Church Choir - Choir Room
11 am - Worship Service – San
12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH
4-8 pm – Harvest Party – Brownfields’ House

Monday, October 12

7 pm – Search Committee – LC
7 pm – Trustees – PFR

Tuesday, October 13

11 am – Tuesdays at First Book Study – LC
12:00 pm – Card Care Ministry – PFR
12:15 pm – Tuesdays at First Concert – San
12:45 pm – Tuesdays at First Luncheon – PH
6 pm – Music Committee – LC
7 pm – Mission Committee – PFR
7 pm – Pub Theology – Red Door Tavern

Wednesday, October 14

7 pm – Genesis Program

Thursday, October 15

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

Saturday, October 17

9 am – House and Grounds

Sunday, October 18

9 am – Treble Choir – Choir Room
9 am - Early Worship Service - PH
10 am - Education Hour
10 am - First Church Choir - Choir Rm
11 am - Worship Service - San
12:30 pm – Confirmation Class – Room D
9 pm – Compline

Monday, October 19

7 pm – Budget and Finance – Adult Library
7 pm – Search Committee – PFR
7 pm – Genesis Bible Study – LC

Tuesday, October 20

11 am - Tuesdays at First Book Study – LC
12 pm – Card Care Ministry – LC
12:15 p.m. – Tuesdays at First Concert – San
12:45 pm – Tuesdays at First Luncheon – PH
7 pm – Council – LC

Check out upcoming Spirituality Network events at www.spiritualitynetwork.org

October Fellowship Hour

October 4: Proverbs
 October 11: Psalms
 October 18: Romans
 October 25: Ruth

October Acolyte Schedule

October 4: Sarah Ahrens and Alex Heer
 October 11: Michael Warrick and Nicholas Warrick
 (Schedules online at www.first-church.org)

Next Newsletter Deadline

Articles Due: Monday, October 12, by noon
Folding Team: Wednesday, October 21, 9 a.m.

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

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

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

Fellowship Hour Beverage Sales



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

~ Remember Your Loved Ones ~
 With A Dedication of Flowers

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

Church Staff

Timothy C. Ahrens.....Senior Minister
 Barbara R. Cunningham.....Associate Minister
 James E. Bobb.....Minister of Music
 Mark S. Williams.....Director of Christian Education
 G. Dene Barnard.....Organist/Choirmaster Emeritus
 Sharon Leidheiser.....Business Administrator
 Martha Worth.....Program Manager
 Stan Parron.....Building Manager
 Denny Mahoney.....Office Manager
 Kelvin Murphy, Don Bell.....Custodians
 Frank Wall, William Lee.....Custodians
 Linda Mumford.....Wedding Coordinator
 Jane Leidheiser.....Wedding Coordinator
 Fran Panek.....Wedding Coordinator

Church Council

Melody Leidheiser.....Moderator
 Sarah Reed.....Vice-Moderator
 Carol Gallagher.....Secretary
 David Holt.....Treasurer
 Phil Stichter.....Trustee Chair
 Frank Cook.....Administration Commissioner
 Pavan Peter.....Church Growth Commissioner
 Diana Kutschbach.....Education Commissioner
 Bill Rhoads.....House & Grounds Commissioner
 Anne Hudson, Fran Panek.....Mission Commissioners
 Julia Myers, Amy Fulton.....Parish Life Commissioners
 Charlie Weaver.....Deacon
 Kevin Butler.....Deacon
 Shannon Washington.....Music, Arts, Heritage
 Nancy Fields.....Budget and Finance
 Kim Kutschbach.....Member-at-large
 Doug Buck.....Member-at-large

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, September 21, 2009

TO:

[Empty dashed box for recipient address]



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