



ECHO

Issue 2

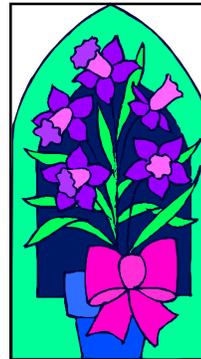
March-April

Upcoming Dates to Remember

March 25th - Casual Service

April 1st - Palm Sunday

April 8th Easter - Communion



The Worship Team with the help of Connie has substitute pastors scheduled until after Easter. We will continue to schedule until we decide what type of pastor we are looking for. We are looking for volunteers to help with our day to day and Sunday operations. If you are willing to commit in keeping FSJ moving forward by volunteering please contact any council member (Bob Fletcher, Sally Ortoff, Virginia Robertson, Karen Dalton or Donna Burnett).

Articles for May-June will be due April 23rd. Put articles in the Echo box at church or email to me. Email address on back of this publication.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

The 2012 theme of One Great Hour of Sharing continues from last year's theme, "Sharing Brings Joy," but adds the focus of bringing joy to others.

Our first thoughts about how our gifts bring joy to others most likely focus on the tangible results of our sharing:

- ◆ A family displaced by a natural disaster or political unrest is grateful to receive food, shelter, and the comfort of a safe place to begin to rebuild their lives.
- ◆ Anyone who had to walk miles to get water for their family, smiles as a well is dug in their community, bringing clean water within reach.
- ◆ A farmer whose harvest succumbed to the storms, is thankful when offered food, water, and new seed, helping her to make it through to the next harvest.

Of course, when we "sow bountifully" by giving to others, we reap bountifully by sharing in the joy that our gifts bring to those whose basic needs are met.

But in Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, he reminds us of another way our giving brings joy to others. In encouraging the Corinthian church to give to the offering for the believers in Jerusalem, he reminds them that when the Jewish believers receive gifts from their non-Jewish sisters and brothers, they will be moved by the gifts themselves, and by the unity in Christ the gifts represent. Knowing there are those who would share willingly with them, they are reminded of who they are: beloved children of the Creator, each one a person of sacred worth.

Across social and economic lines that should have separated them, followers of Christ reached out to support one another. The awareness of another's need allowed them to recognize their own abundance as a gift from God, one they were called to share.

This year, as you make your offering to One Great Hour of Sharing, remember the joy your gift offers others, is hope. Sow bountifully and share abundantly, knowing that you are not only helping change the statistics, you are helping change lives. Please give generously!

March Prayer Circle

Karen Alfrey	Nora Hartley
Eloise Andrews	Vicki Howard
Vernon Arnold	Alex Kip
Jim Arnold	Tamara Kirkwood & Twins
Ada Mae Begley	Keith Lipphardt
Payton Cauchran	Doug Little
Linda Chalk	Jackie McKinney
Bill Coffeyl	Russell Roberts
Jack DuVall	Harold Saylor
Kyle Phelps	Michelle Schoonover
Don Hartley	Marie Wurzbach



The Family of

Arnold Brown
 Dorothy Herold Swartz
 Strunk Family
 Edna Mae Hughes
 Dan Abner

U.S Armed Forces & Their Families

Please leave a message for the prayer circle with Shirley. Include the following information: name of person, illness. Thanks, Shirley M. Lovely, 726-6223. Please check names carefully. If there are any names that need to be removed call Shirley M. Lovely.

4 Harold Marcum	7 Jackie McKinney
11 Mel Baker	Lucile Reed
14 Jim Herold	8 Bob Kerby
20 Mark Lovely	9 Eileen Fletcher
22 Linda Kaeding	17 Shirley Lovely
25 Kathryn Asplan	19 Dorothy Scherzinger
31 Marge Marcum	21 Miriam Kramer
Wayne Kaeding	

Bob Fletcher has contacted Princeton Pike Church of God to ask about the use of the Front St. building for funerals. First St. John members will be able to use the building free of charge for funerals. Arrangements should be made by the funeral director with Princeton Pike.

Dear Friends at First St John

I just wanted to send a note of thanks for all of your support during my time at school. Your prayers and thoughts are so encouraging! I would also like to thank you for the generous scholarship I received. Any financial help is always of great assistance, and I cannot tell you how thankful I am to have receive it! Megan Sullivan



Dear Friends,

The Cookies are so delicious! It was so nice getting them. It makes me happy to know I am lucky to have wonderful friends.

I think of you all many times. I enjoyed many happy year at St. John. May the New year be a great one for all. Love Marion Reed

FIRST ST. JOHN UCC CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 26, 2012

The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the motion made by Bill McCalley and seconded by Susan Hoppe at the January 15th meeting. The motion was to have a special congregational meeting on Feb. 26, 2012, to solely discuss maintaining or dissolving First St. John UCC.

Donna Burnett asked that Jeff Sullivan review with the congregation the options, pros, and cons he had generated and distributed by email to some members of the congregation.

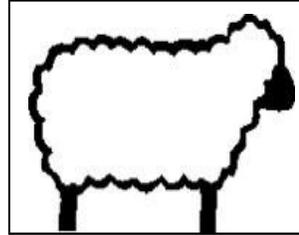
After some discussion, **a motion was made by Bob Kerby and seconded by Dan Robertson that First St. John UCC be dissolved.** Shirley Lovely felt that the idea of disbanding was premature. Sally Ortolf asked how many people present were willing to help. Judy McCalley noted that when Jeff gave his options each one mentioned commitment. When we have these meetings people are willing to commit, but when it's time to do the work people aren't around. We have to volunteer, come to church, give, and do the work of the church.

The vote was by secret ballot. A two-thirds majority was needed to pass the motion. **The number needed to pass was 32. The motion failed with a vote of 29 in favor and 18 opposed.**

There will be another congregational meeting in April to discuss the future of First St John.

For the complete minutes, contact the church office.

**4,800 Quarters = \$1,200.00
= 10 Sheep**



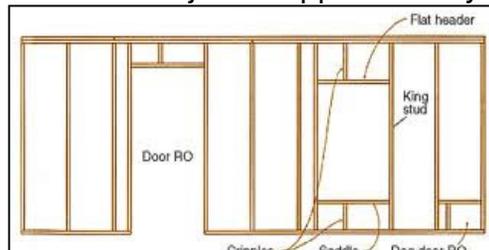
Since mid-April, 2011, our congregation has purchased 10 sheep for Heifer International. As you know, this was done 1 quarter at a time. What a wonderful accomplishment! Each animal that Heifer provides to trained, deserving families has long-lasting effects. Families agree to “Pass on the Gift” of education, training, and basic economics to another family – in addition to an animal.

Build The Walls – April 28

Grab a hammer and a few friends and prepare for a fun and fulfilling morning at Christ Church at Mason on Saturday, April 28. Rough-frame wall sections will be constructed in the parking lot. They are then loaded onto semi's and delivered to Habitat for Humanity (or similar) sites.

Last year, 12 from First St. John joined approximately 400

others to complete walls for 3 homes about 3 hours. It is amazingly organized and orchestrated event that



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unites all ages and skill levels to produce housing for deserving families.

REACHING OUT

Mission to others has always been an important component of ministry at First St. John. Through our five denomination-wide offerings, we join other UCC congregations in ministry in the USA and around the world. We are also supportive of ministries in Hamilton and elsewhere. Some of those ministries include:

- The community meal on the last Monday of the month
- A meal at Serve City homeless shelter on the second Monday of each month
- Delivering Meals on Wheels several times a month
- Collecting food for the Open Door Pantry
- Helping with mailings at Shared Harvest food bank
- Tutoring at a local elementary school
- Sewing quilts for hospitalized children
- Building walls in cooperation with another church
- Buying sheep and other farm animals with Heifer International
- Working with Princeton Pike Church of God on various local projects
- Volunteering with Partners in Prime
- Financially supporting other area agencies

Some of these missions involve physical work, but some are as simple as listening to a child read or stuffing envelopes while enjoying fellowship with other First St. John members and friends. If you think you might be interested in participating in any of these outreach activities, please see Donna Burnett for more information.



140 Ross Ave.
Hamilton, Ohio 45013

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Our Mission:

To use our individual and congregational gifts, talents and resources to communicate the Good News of Jesus Christ, and to bring to all His word, His healing, His compassion and His forgiveness by being a warm accepting and loving faith community.

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Connie Wyatt	Music Director: Susan Ha
Sunday Schedule:	Office Manager: Connie Wyatt
Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.	
Ballroom Second Floor	
Fellowship Time:11:00-	

March 2012

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1	2	3
4 9:00 Adult Class 10:00 worship Ray Michel Just Friends	5	6	7	8	9	10 Just Friends Concert at Ross H.S. 7:00
11 9:00 Adult Class 10:00 Worship Mendle Adams Daylight Savings	12 Serve City 6:00 The Dal- tons	13 5:30 R&A Team	14	15	16	17
18 9:00 Adult Class 10:00 Worship Mark Young OGHS Offering	19	20 6:30 Council	21	22	23	24
25 9:00 Adult Class 10:00 Worship Mark Young	26 6:00 Communi- ty Meal	27	28	29	30	31

April 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 Adult Class 10:00 Worship Joan Allen Palm Sunday	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 9:00 Adult Class 10:00 Worship Joan Allen Easter	9 6:00 Serve City C. Wyatt	10 5:30 R & A Team	11	12	13	14
15 9:00 Adult Class 10:00 Worship TBA	16	17 6:30 Coun- cil	18	19	20	21
22 9:00 Adult Class 10:00 Worship TBA	23	24	25	26	27	28 Building Walls 8:30 am Christ Church Mason
29 9:00 Adult Class 10:00 Worship TBA	30 6:00 Commu- nity Meal					