



# ECHO

Issue 2-11

March-April  
2011

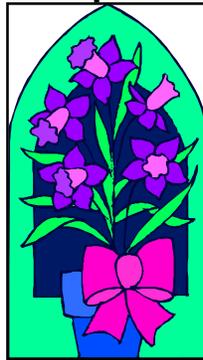
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### The Articles for May-June are due April 24

You can email them to Eileen Fletcher or put them in the Echo box in the hanging folder mail box.

Email address is on back of this newsletter



## No Ash Wednesday or Good Friday Services

**April 17**  
**Palm Sunday at 10:00 a.m.**

**April 24**  
**Easter Sunday at 10:00 a.m.**

## One Great Hour of Sharing is coming!

**Listen** to mission moments.

**Participate** in the fun activity March 27.

**Look** for envelopes in the bulletin.

**Share** your blessings on April 3.

## March 27

Bring your nickels, dimes or quarters for a fun and meaningful activity during worship as we prepare for One Great Hour of Sharing.

## From the Pastor's Desk

***A hospice patient gave this to me. I think you will like it.***

I arrived at the address and honked the horn. After waiting a few minutes I walked to the door and knocked... 'Just a minute, answered a frail, elderly voice. I could hear something being dragged across the floor.

After a long pause, the door opened. A small woman in her 90's stood before me. She was wearing a print dress and a pillbox hat with a veil pinned on it, like somebody out of a 1940's movie.

By her side was a small nylon suitcase. The apartment looked as if no one had lived in it for years. All the furniture was covered with sheets.

There were no clocks on the walls, no knickknacks or utensils on the counters. In the corner was a cardboard box filled with photos and glassware.

'Would you carry my bag out to the car?' she said. I took the suitcase to the cab, and then returned to assist the woman. She took my arm and we walked slowly toward the curb. She kept thanking me for my kindness. 'It's nothing', I told her... 'I just try to treat my passengers the way I would want my mother to be treated.' 'Oh, you're such a good boy, she said. When we got in the cab, she gave me an address and then asked, 'Could you drive through downtown?' 'It's not the shortest way,' I answered quickly...'Oh, I don't mind,' she said. 'I'm in no hurry. I'm on my way to a hospice.

I looked in the rear-view mirror. Her eyes were glistening. 'I don't have any family left,' she continued in a soft voice... 'The doctor says I don't have very long.' I quietly reached over and shut off the meter. 'What route would you like me to take?' I asked. For the next two hours, we drove through the city. She showed me the building where she had once worked as an elevator operator. We drove through the neighborhood where she and her husband had lived when they were newlyweds She had me pull up in front of a furniture warehouse that had once been a ballroom where she had gone dancing as a girl.

Sometimes she'd ask me to slow in front of a particular building or corner and would sit staring into the darkness, saying nothing. As the first hint of sun was creasing the horizon, she suddenly said, 'I'm tired. Let's go now'.

We drove in silence to the address she had given me. It was a low building, like a small convalescent home, with a driveway that passed under a portico.

Two orderlies came out to the cab as soon as we pulled up. They were solicitous and intent, watching her every move.

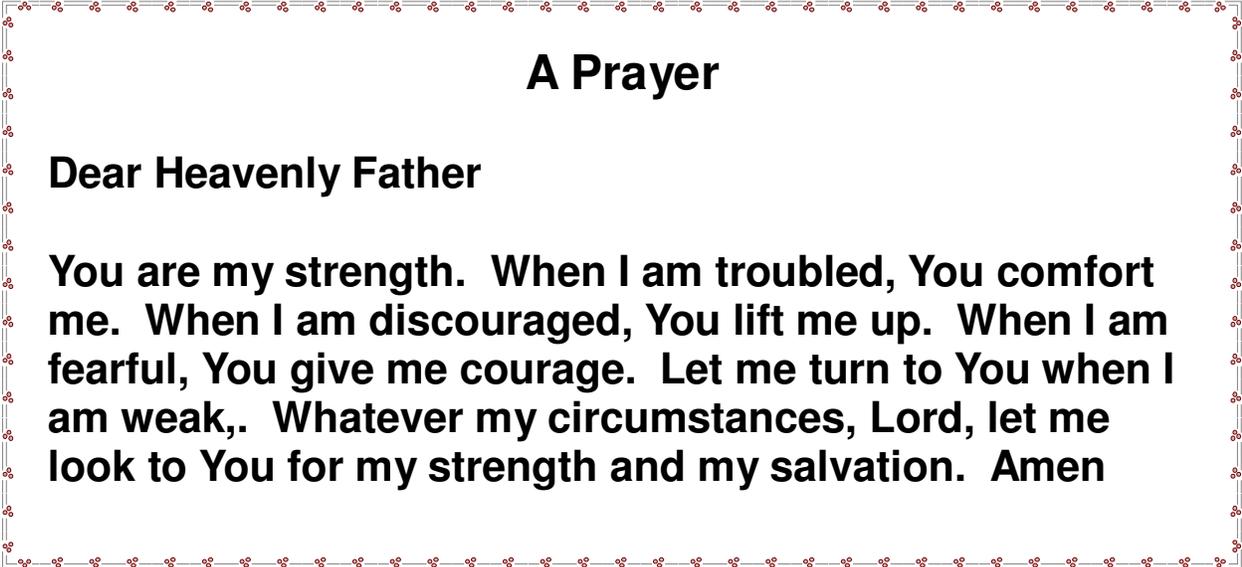
They must have been expecting her. I opened the trunk and took the small suitcase to the door. The woman was already seated in a wheelchair.

'How much do I owe you?' She asked, reaching into her purse. 'Nothing,' I said. 'You have to make a living,' she answered. 'There are other passengers,' I responded. Almost without thinking, I bent and gave her a hug. She held onto me tightly. 'You gave an old woman a little moment of joy,' she said. 'Thank you.' I squeezed her hand, and then walked into the dim morning light... Behind me, a door shut. It was the sound of the closing of a life...

I didn't pick up any more passengers that shift. I drove aimlessly lost in thought. For the rest of that day, I could hardly talk. What if that woman had gotten an angry driver, or one who was impatient to end his shift?

What if I had refused to take the run, or had honked once, then driven away? On a quick review, I don't think that I have done anything more important in my life. We're conditioned to think that our lives revolve around great moments. But great moments often catch us unaware-beautifully wrapped in what others may consider a small one.

**PEOPLE MAY NOT REMEMBER EXACTLY WHAT YOU DID, OR WHAT YOU SAID, BUT THEY WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER HOW YOU MADE THEM FEEL.**



## A Prayer

**Dear Heavenly Father**

**You are my strength. When I am troubled, You comfort me. When I am discouraged, You lift me up. When I am fearful, You give me courage. Let me turn to You when I am weak,. Whatever my circumstances, Lord, let me look to You for my strength and my salvation. Amen**



**March**

- 4 Harold Marcum
- 9 Rose Weik
- 10 Paul Schulheiss
- 11 Mel Baker
- 13 Myra Jean Sandlin
- 14 Jim Herold
- 19 Rick mann
- 20 Mark Lovely
- 21 Sonia Geckeler
- 22 Linda Kaeding
- 25 Kathryn Asplan
- 28 Dwight Dickerscheid
- 31 Marge Marcum  
Wayne Kaeding

**April**

- 3 Fitz Stitsinger
- 4 Betty Ashman  
Vicky Wishart
- 5 Diane Getz
- 7 Jackie McKinney  
Lucile Reed
- 8 Fred Smith  
Bob Kerby
- 9 Eileen Fletcher
- 14 Ray Starr
- 15 Kathleen Kieser
- 17 Shirley Lovely
- 19 Dorothy Scherzinger
- 21 Miriam Kramer
- 23 Lori Ingram  
Bill Ingram  
Donna Burnett  
Hannah Robertson
- 24 Jennifer Grimes
- 25 John Reece
- 26 Bob Andrews
- 29 Marilyn Wilson
- 30 Leo Starr  
Jacque Herold

***March Prayer Circle***



- Karen Alfrey
- Eloise Andrews
- Jan Ash
- Nicky Bauer
- Ada Mae Begley
- Harold Betz
- Sherri Brannon
- Payton Cauchran
- Linda Chalk
- Jim Conyers
- Pat Davis
- Caleb Ditrmer
- Jack DuVall
- Anna Dudley
- Kyle Phelps
- Norma Foster

- Sara Foster
- Fred Gaw
- LaDonna Gerhart
- Rachel Gonde
- Barbara Hammon
- Vicki Howard
- Caroline Kerby
- Alex Kip
- Doug Little
- Jackie McKinney
- Michelle Schoonover
- Griffin Shea
- Marsha Smart
- Karen Spencer
- Marie Wurzbach

U.S Armed Forces &  
Their Families

**Family of**

- Doug Vizedom
- Gordon Padgett
- Bill Nimmo
- Mary Rainey
- Clayton Meyer
- Peg Moore
- Chuck Thornhill

Please leave a message for the prayer circle with Shirley. Include the following information: name of person, illness. Then pass the same message to Carrie so both are informed of the names. Thanks, Shirley M. Lovely, 726-6223 and Carrie Hann, 867-1505

Please check names carefully. If there are any names that need to be removed call Shirley M. Lovely.

Dear First St. John Members

On behalf of the Southwest Ohio Northern Kentucky Association of the UCC I would like to thank you greatly for your kind donation of \$1000 for the summer travel team headed to Rubate, Kenya.

The opportunity for SONKA to have such a partnership and be part of building a health facility in the Rubate community has been, and is a phenomenal experience.



Peace and Blessings  
Lollie Kasulones  
SONKA Global Partnership

Dear Friends,

Than you for the delicious cookies. I enjoyed them very much. They reminded me of when I made the years ago.

It takes a lot of work making them too.

I pray the New Year is a great one for your St. John's.

Miss seeing all

Love ,Marion Reed

January 14, 2011

I wanted so much to express my gratitude for being able to serve First St. John. I don't recall the year it was, but Ken Wyant was the pastor, Charlie Holmes the youth director. I was hired and interviewed by Larry Webb and others. I was awe struck by the beauty.....

Lovingly and God be with you and yours.

Jackie McKinney  
3321 Mabel Ave.  
Covington, KY 41015  
Phone: 859-491-2321

PS Thank you and all for the cards and gifts.



## **A Day with God and Self**

**A Day with God and Self** is a day-long retreat offering the opportunity to re-connect to the Holy Spirit. It will be held four times during 2011 at the Prettyman Center at Pilgrim Hills. Attendees will enjoy a day away from the stress of everyday life devoted to reconnecting with God through silence, worship, and nature.

**A Day with God and Self** offers an opportunity for educators, clergy, and laity for individual and group spiritual guidance. There will be opportunities for personal reflection, silence, corporate worship, relaxation and reflection, individual and/or group spiritual guidance, and encountering various spiritual disciplines.

Most of the camp will be available for personal prayer, meditation and walks. Books on various resources will be on hand. A labyrinth has been constructed near the Prettyman Center and will be available throughout the day. Everything planned for the day is optional depending on your own spiritual needs. Let the Spirit guide you.

Anyone coming from a distance, or who would like extra time, is welcome to come the evening before for an additional cost. Throughout the day, opportunities for individual spiritual guidance will be offered. For those who have not experienced extended silence, there will be an introduction to the use of quiet times following the morning worship. Attend one or as many days as you are able.

The dates for 2011 are Saturday, March 19; Tuesday, May 3; Saturday, September 10; and Tuesday, November 1. Each retreat costs \$30. If you plan to arrive the night before, there will be an additional \$40 charge for lodging. Registration must be received two weeks before the retreat date. Call the Ohio Conference office at 1- 800 -282-0740 to request a brochure. For more information call Janet Burkhart at 1-330- 682-3791.

Because we live in a frantic, fast-paced world, we need to take care of ourselves and to take time to connect with our creator!

**Opportunity May Knock Once, But Temptation  
Bangs on Your Door Forever.**

## Reaching Out

Approximately 200 food items were delivered to **Open Door Pantry** from the generosity of FSJ members at the SOUPer Bowl Tailgate Party. The items were placed in bins as a vote for a favored team. Green Bay Packers were the hands down pick but Open Door Pantry was the real winner.

Our **Twenty-Something** members sponsored a bake sale Feb. 13 in support of 2 families who are experiencing financial difficulty. After hearing the challenges of the families, donations were accepted (totaling over \$400) and we all went home with something sweet for Valentine's Day.

In recognition of **President's Day** and a way to introduce FSJ to the lunch bunch at Partners in Prime, cherry pie was served. Over 60 people enjoyed the treat on Feb. 24. If you are interested in hosting a dessert sometime, contact Connie Wyatt.

Remember your **pill bottles, pop tabs and plastic bags**. Pill bottles are re-used in clinics overseas, pop tabs benefit Ronald McDonald House and plastic bags are crocheted into sleeping mats for the homeless. It's good for people and good for the environment.

On March 24-27, Jeanne Walther, Connie Wyatt and friend of FSJ, Jackie Golay, will travel to Perryville, Arkansas to participate in **Women's Lambing Weekend** at Heifer Ranch. You'll probably hear more about their experience and the work of Heifer International in the near future.

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## Building Walls

If you're at least 5 years old and can hammer a nail, we've got a fun opportunity for you. On Saturday, April 30 at 8:00, you can join over 400 others at Christ Church at Mason to build walls in the parking lot. Each framed wall is part of a home for needy people. You must pre-register for this well organized mission event. Go to [www.ccmason.org](http://www.ccmason.org), click on 'events', click on 'sign up for activities'. You'll enter your phone number, name and email. There will also be a sign-up sheet at our Welcome table starting April 3. This will be a great way to meet new people and share in a common mission (even if you hit your thumb – OUCH!)



First St. John  
United Church of Christ

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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Birthdays Lelia Kinner

Sunday Schedule:

Worship Service 10:00 a.m.  
Ballroom Second Floor  
Fellowship Time 11:00-11:30

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