



The following email excerpt is from Ray Michel. Ray was with us in January and March. Each time he greeted the congregation with a big smile or hug, then offered an uplifting sermon:

“The reason I went into the ministry in the first place was a response to my evaluation of religion. I have always considered the fact that services are too repetitious. Variety is the spice of life I believe. Then too, what I understand from the evangelists who gave their opinion of Jesus mainly in the gospels, was the main ingredient for religion was to love God and others as well as oneself. As I see it, religion, therefore, amounts to offering of kindness and caring to all others including oneself. It is impossible for me to look upon anyone as a sinner. A person is born to be who she or he IS, not as someone else expects them to be.

As for sermons, as I view it, a sermon is to be uplifting and encouraging in order to live a happy life. Each of us is unique and I believe we should be who we are while being motivated to being as good as is possible to all creatures including humans. We are here to see one another through and not to see through one another.

You got it. My aim is in offering kindness to others, is to offer encouragement and not negativism to all such as scolding.”

Ray

Articles for July-August will be due

August 26th. Put articles in the Echo box at church or email to me Eileen Fletcher.

Conyers 65th Wedding Anniversary

James W. and Doris W. Conyers recently observed their 65th wedding anniversary with a celebratory family luncheon at the Ohio University Inn, Athens, Ohio. James Conyers and Doris Wuest were married at St John Evangelical and Reformed Church (now First St. John United Church of Christ) in Hamilton, Ohio on May 3, 1947, where they have remained lifelong members.

After working 37 years for CSX Transportation, Mr. Conyers retired in 1985. Mrs. Conyers is a homemaker and for many years was active in community service in Hamilton and Fairfield.

Formerly of Hamilton and Fairfield, Ohio, they moved to Athens, Ohio in December 2007.

They are the parents of two daughters, Barbara Gaskell of Athens, and Virginia Vayda of Greensburg, PA. They have three grandchildren: Sarah Gaskell of Athens, Susan Merryman of Columbus, and David Gaskell of Newport News, Va.

Jim and Doris Conyers
601 Altamonte Drive

May



- 9 JoAnn Bennett
- 10 Karen Dalton
Harold Betz
- 11 Connie Wyatt
- 12 Zach Robertson
- 15 LaVada Fletcher

June

- 4 Don Ortolf
Roger Hoppe
- 8 Marion Reed
Dan Hartleb
- 14 Kathryn Linder
- 16 Barb Bogan
- 24 Megan Sullivan
- 29 Bob Fletcher
- 30 Virginia Kurtz

May Prayer Circle

- Karen Alfrey
- Eloise Andrews
- Vernon Arnold
- Jim Arnold
- Ada Mae Begley
- Barb Bogan
- Mel Brown
- Payton Cauchran
- Linda Chalk
- Bill Coffey
- Jack DuVall
- Rachel Gonde

- Kyle Phelps
- Don Harley
- Vicki Howard
- Roger Hornsby
- Alex Kip
- Tamara Kirkwood & Twins
- Keith Lippardt
- Doug Little
- Jackie McKinney
- Tristan Robinson
- Harold Saylor
- Michelle Schoonover
- Marie Wurzbach
- Nana Wuerst



The Family of

- Ralph Irwin
- Clinton Brown
- Marie Horstmeier
- Russell Roberts

U.S Armed Forces & Their Families

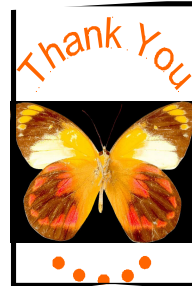
Please leave a message for the prayer circle with Shirley. Include the following information: name of person, illness. Thanks, Shirley M. Lovely,

726-6223. Please check names carefully.

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

Dear First St. John UCC

On behalf of Butler County Children Services we would like to thank you, your staff, and congregation for your generous donation made to the Foster Child Enrichment Council for Butler County families. Your commitment to helping the children and families in Butler County is sincerely appreciated.



Dear First St. John UCC

We would like to thank you for your \$598 to help the Greater Cincinnati-Dayton Region of the American Red Cross. This donation will help in the various programs we offer in the community.

Dear Just Friends of First St. John UCC

We would like to thank you for your \$100 to help the Greater Cincinnati-Dayton Region of the American Red Cross. This donation will help in the various programs we offer in the community.

Dear First St. John

Thank you so much for the scholarship. It has helped me so much in paying for my college education. I am going to the University of Cincinnati for Business and plan on becoming a nursing home administrator. Again thank you so much for your help I cannot tell you how much it means to me.

Thank you

Alexander Vizedom

Dear First St. John

Thank you so much for the \$750 scholarship for my study abroad in Greece. It made the total cost of the trip much less daunting.

Assuming all goes well, I will be traveling in early May. You can definitely expect a few photos and another thank you card telling you how wonderful my trip was.

Thank!

Jessica Kerby

We would like to thank all our friends for their prayers and support during and after my surgery. It's so nice when friends become like family, just knowing you have that support helps so much.

Thanks for being our friends and family

Bob and LaVada Fletcher

Results of April 29, 2012 Congregational Meeting

Donation to Nexus Church

The motion was: To gift \$15,000 to Nexus Church as a mission donation of their ongoing church ministry. The donation is to be made in monthly payments of \$2500 for a period of 6 months beginning May 1, 2012.

The motion needed a majority of those present (27) to pass. It passed 27 for the donation and 13 against the donation.

Pastoral options:

The vote was 34 to have regular subs, (2-4) that would share the Sunday services, and would be paid \$200 per service.. A committee of Marilyn

Wilson, Donna Burnett, Connie Wyatt, Bob Fletcher, and Kathy Reese was appointed to look for pastors that would be willing to come 3-4 months at a time for the year.

A committee to plan for the **175th anniversary celebration on** September 16, was formed. The committee is Ginger Vizedom, Jeanne Walther, NaDeen Hartleb, Marge Marcum. If you would like to help contact someone on this committee.

A **nominating committee for Council** was appointed, Donna Burnett, Dennis Dalton, and Jeanne Walther. If you would like to serve on the council contact one of these people.

May 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 9:00 Happy Stitchers	3	4	5 Clean Sweep 8:00-Noon PiP Parking lot
6 9:00 Adult Class 10:00 Robert Jencks	7	8 5:30 R&A Team	9 9:00 Happy Stitchers P.M. Kristal Bang Recital at UC	10	11	12
13 9:00 Adult Class 10:00 Mark Young Mother's Day	14 6:00 Serve City Burnett- Kramer	15 6:30 Council	16 9:00 Happy Stitchers	17	18	19 Used Book Sale At Miami U. Hamilton Campus Gymnasium 9-5
20 9:00 Adult Class 10:00 Mark Young Used Book Sale Miami U Noon-3	21	22	23 9:00 Happy Stitchers	24	25	26
27 10:00 Brice Thomas Special Offering: Strengthen the Church	28 6:00 Community Meal	29	30 9:00 Happy Stitchers	31		

June 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10:00 Worship	4	5	6 9:00 Happy Stitchers	7	8	9
10 10:00 Worship	11 6:00 Serve City Burnett- Bogan	12 5:30 R & A Team	13 9:00 Happy Stitchers	14	15	16
17 10:00 Worship Father's Day	18	19 6:30 Council	20 9:00 Happy Stitchers	21	22	23
24 10:00 Worship	25 6:00 Community Meal	26	27 9:00 Happy Stitchers	28	29	30

**Annual Used
Book Sale**



Saturday, May 19

9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 20

Noon—3:00 p.m.

Sunday Blowout!! Bag Sale

Miami University

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

The Echo is a publication of First St. John United Church of Christ

140 Ross Ave., Hamilton, OH 45013

Worship Service: 10:00 a.m. Ballroom Second Floor

Fellowship Time: 11:00-11:30

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