



Issue 03-09  
May/June 2009

**Inside this Issue**

From your Pastor	1 &10
Adopt a Task Update Are you Keeping Up?	2
Echoes from the Past	3
Birthdays for May/June Say Thanks to a Soldier	4
Memories Wanted	5
Thank you	6 &10
Prayer Circle Pictorial Directories	7
Youth Basket Weaving Gift Certificates Movie Night	8
Deacons Update Greeters & Sound System Operators	9
Letter Carriers	11

**From Your Pastor's Desk**

**Survival Secrets:**

In almost any survival emergency, the US Air Force believes two magic numbers can save your life. The first number is 98.6. Whatever you do, they say, protect your core body temperature. Their slogan is simply: Maintain 98.6. Cold Kills. The other number that is hammered into every student's head is the magic number 3. Whether you're an F-15 fighter, or a single mom, taking a walk in the park, or a struggling church, the number 3 will keep you alive. **THE RULE OF 3 STATES THAT YOU CANNOT SURVIVE:**

- 3 SECONDS WITHOUT SPIRIT AND HOPE
- 3 MINUTES WITHOUT AIR
- 3 HOURS WITHOUT SHELTER IN EXTREME CONDITIONS
- 3 DAYS WITHOUT WATER
- 3 WEEKS WITHOUT FOOD
- 3 MONTHS WITHOUT COMPANIONSHIP OR LOVE.

How does this apply to the church? First, whatever we do we must protect our core belief that Jesus is Lord. It is this belief that sustains us in our exodus through the wilderness. **Jesus is Lord** is the spiritual equivalent of 98.6. It only takes a small drop in body temperature for hypothermia to set in and kill us. It only takes a few of us to take our eyes off Jesus for coldness of the spirit to set in and kill the church.

The second number is equally important. It is worth notice that 3 is a holy number and represents the Holy Trinity.

- 3 seconds without hope and spirit - the church is dead.
- 3 minutes without remembering that the Holy Spirit blows around us and through us - the church is dead.
- 3 hours without being sheltered in Gods loving arms – the church is dead.
- 3 days without remembering that only God can quench our thirst – the church is dead.
- 3 weeks without the blessing of Holy Communion (the Bread of Life) – the church is dead.
- 3 months without loving and caring for others – the church is dead.

(continued on page 10)

**Articles for July-August are due to me by June 19.**

You can email them to Eileen Fletcher or put them in the Echo box in the foyer of the Education Building. Email address is on back of this newsletter

**Adopt a Task Update**

**Adopt a Task - Update**

The list is getting shorter! Several Tasks have been Adopted! Thank You!

- Keep trash picked up: back lot, perimeter of parking lot, Front St.– **Connie Wyatt**
- Keep bushes trimmed (front and side)
- Spray Round Up and keep weeds from cracks in sidewalks
- Trim with weed-wacker (string trimmer) as needed
- Maintain landscape along parking lot side of building – **Sally Ortolf and crew**
- Maintain 2 planter urns front of sanctuary – **Don and Rose Weik**
- Maintain brush growth on chain link fence (east side of parking lot)
- Maintain brush growth on chain link fence (south side of back lot)
- Level out ground from old garden beds – **Dan Robertson**
- New landscaping in area left of office porch – **Sally O and crew**
- Repair concrete – ask about small and large jobs.
- Install short section of handrail-left side-at bottom of stairs - **Rodger Hoppe**
- Paint between middle set of front double doors – **Rodger Hoppe**
- Be responsible for a room: dust, vacuum, change light bulbs, clean windows, etc

- Conference room
- Outside Pastor’s study
- Restrooms
- Foyer and stairway of office
- Upstairs- Education Building – **Virginia Robertson**
- Hallway (with hanging folders) and stairs to social room

- Be willing to help with large painting project
- Be willing to help with a possible Rummage sale – **Youth Yard Sale 5/30**

If you can’t physically do the tasks, you may want to help financially for some supplies.

Tell Dan Robertson, Zachary Robertson or Connie Wyatt which of the Tasks you will Adopt.

**Are You Keeping Up?**

It’s easy to stay informed about council and team meetings. Here’s how:

- A copy can be sent to your email. Send a note to Connie Wyatt at [wyatt11550@yahoo.com](mailto:wyatt11550@yahoo.com)
- Request a paper copy by calling Connie @ 772-8062. It will be in your hanging folder.
- Read the copies posted on the bulletin board in the lower hallway.

*I will sing of the Lord’s great love for ever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.*

*Psalm 89:1*

By Harold Marcum

May, 1940

Mr Edwin Vizedom, recording secretary, wrote that the Church Council met in regular session in the church office and the meeting was called to order by Mr. Charles Walther, President, and the opening prayer was given by the Poster, Rev. Kuether.

The Pastor presented the application for membership in our church of the following: Ruth Elaine Henly, Mrs. Edward Rothermel, Jr., Mrs. Nora Lee Hysinger, Miss Ruth Donges, Miss Katherine Donges, Miss Mary Jane Wilson, Miss Kathryn Birch, Mr. E.J. Kautz, Mrs. Frances M. Kautz, Mr. Homer Sumser and Mrs. Emma Sumser. By vote of the Church Council all were granted membership by Confirmation and Baptism or by transfer of membership.

A special committee reported that additional information regarding the proper lighting of the Art Windows at the side of the Altar had been obtained and asked for more time to study the problems involved.

The Church Council voted to grant the Pastor a vacation during the summer months extending over a period of 10 to 12 weeks. The Deacons were to consult with the Pastor regarding proper supply of the Pulpit during that period.

May, 1950

The special committee in matters of obtaining services of the Youth Worker reported that Miss Ann Blasberg, a graduate of Eden Seminary and at present serving in the Student Center at Madison, Wisconsin, had declared herself interested in a service proposed to her by the commission. The committee reported that a satisfactory conference with Miss Blasberg had been held and that they recommended to the Council that negotiations with Miss Blasberg be entered into by our congregation in the near future. In order to enlist in the effort to obtain a Youth Worker and assistant in Church work, a special Congregational meeting was planned for the purpose of bringing to decision the matter of the application of Miss Blasberg to serve our church.

Mr. Rudolph Theim served as Toastmaster and Mr. William Overbey welcomed about 175 men and boys to the Father and Son Banquet and voiced the wish that more men of the church might take an active part in the service of the Brotherhood. Rev. Victor Schoen served as song leader and Mrs. Carl herold and her daughter Audrey rendered dinner music on piano and marimba.

The members of the Ladies Adult Bible Class met in the Social Rooms with Mrs. Thelma Getz presiding. Mrs. Hilda Brown served as pianist for a song service. The group voted to make arrangements for a rummage sale then following adjournment enjoyed games and refreshments.

A beautiful program of worship and re-dedication was carried out on Palm Sunday evening in the Sanctuary of "Old St. John's" after the 113th class of confirmands had been formally received into communicant membership of our church.

Echoes From the Past

*Let now debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another.*

*Romans 13:8*

**May/June Birthdays**



*Jesus said,  
"My Father  
is glor-  
ified by  
this, that  
you bear  
much fruit  
and be-  
come my  
disciples."*

*John 15:8*

May		June	
2	Dorothy Rawlings Bob Bretland	4	Don Ortolf Rodger Hoppe Nathan Richardson
5	Courtney Fletcher	5	Ford Sandlin
9	JoAnn Bennett	8	Marion Reed Dan Hartleb
10	Karen Dalton Wendy Weaver Harold Betz	9	Roy Horstemeier
11	Betty Reidinger Connie Wyatt	12	Mary Gamstetter
12	Ruth Vanlieu Zach Robertson	14	Kathryn Linder Debbie Ingram Wendy Calihan
15	LaVada Fletcher	15	Doris Seeger
22	Melissa Gettler	16	Barb Bogan
23	Edward Mangan	17	Donna Halcomb/Miller
25	Joe Mann	21	Ella Calhoun
		24	Megan Sullivan
		25	James Thompson
		29	Bob Fletcher
		30	Virginia Kurtz

**Say  
Thanks to  
a Soldier**



**Got Freedom? – Say Thanks!**

From Memorial Day until July 4<sup>th</sup> the Elders will be collecting items to be mailed to troops stationed overseas. We need your help in obtaining names and addresses of soldiers currently serving overseas, collecting items, and contributing postage. Postage for one box is \$11.95. The list of recommended items will be in the display case outside of the sanctuary. Please give the names and addresses of soldiers stationed overseas to the Elders or to the office. . Let 's say thanks for our freedom.

Dear First St John's UCC,

Hi this is coming to you from Michelle Dresch, Michael Dresch's oldest daughter, son of the former Reverend Lester Dresch. First let me say it was a pleasure to share the first Sunday of this year with you. It was very humbling walking into a place that my grandfather, Papa as we called him, had preached for so many years. You had the privilege of walking with him for longer than I ever did. I think we figured up that he had pastored there for 18 years. He passed away when I was just 17. Visiting was very emotional for me as my pastor now is praying for his kids and grandkids to have more of an impact than he could ever hope to have. If my grandfather was praying that too, then I have a lot to live up to. Not to mention that many prayers were prayed for me well before I was ever born or thought of. I know Lester was a great man with a desire to share peace and love with the world.

He was at the height of his ministry when he was there and I would welcome any stories you would like to share, whether it be memorable moments, special messages or occasions, marriages, revivals, passions, interests, fou pahs, etc. I would also enjoy to read stories of his kids, Stephen, Michael and Elsa as well not to mention my grandmother Lenore. Depending on the response I may look into publishing them, if not I may just put together a nice scrapbook for my family. If for some reason you would not want your story shared with the public, please note that on your correspondence.

Here is how you can get in touch with me.

Michelle Dresch

email: revdresch@live.com -- created just for papa stories and correspondence

cell phone: 865-386-6918, I have free mobile to mobile with anyone on AT&T.

mail: 427 E Oldham Ave,  
Knoxville, TN 37917.

Facebook: Michelle Dresch

MySpace: www.myspace.com/godschick2

Thank you in advance for all of your stories and may you continue reaching Hamilton and the world for Jesus!

Michelle Dresch, granddaughter of the late Rev. Lester Dresch  
Now serving Jesus in East Tennessee!

If you have memories you would like to share with Michelle send them directly to Michelle Dresch. Please DO NOT send them to the church office, they will not be forwarded to her.

## Memories Wanted

*God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.*

*2 Corinthians 9:8*

**Thank You**

To our friends at First St. John

Many thanks for your prayers and cards of sympathy we received in the passing of our sister Virginia McNamara and brother in law Don Ondreyko.

The Fletcher Family



A very sincere THANK YOU to all that helped to make this years Fish Fry a great success. The Youth and Just Friends could not have pulled it off without your donations of desserts, hours of cooking, selling tickets, busing tables, serving, washing dishes, setting-up and cleaning up and all the other preparations jobs. We can always count on the members of First St. John to come through. Thanks.



**First St. John has received several thank you notes for donations made to various groups. Following are excerpts from those notes.**

Dear Congregational Members:

Thank you for your generous contribution of \$125. Your support enables us to help our area's families that are in need of a simple, decent place to live. We believe that God did not intend for any of his children to live in substandard conditions.

Over the last six years, our affiliate has successfully completed eighty-three homes with partner families. It is because of caring people like you that TriState is able to continue building affordable homes with God's people in need.

Again, thank you for your generosity.

Respectfully yours,  
William W. Mountsier  
Board President, TriState Habitat for Humanity

# May-June Prayer Circle



## Prayer Circle

Eloise Andrews  
 Ada Mae Begley  
 Frieda Bower  
 Barbara Deitz  
 Ron Dulli  
 Jack DuVall  
 Paul Freels  
 Fred Gaw  
 Betty Gregory  
 Barbara Hammon  
 Tom Herold  
 Caroline Kerby  
 Miriam Kramer  
 Tom Laytart

Dave Mann  
 Jackie McKinney  
 Leland McKinney  
 Marsha Schlichter  
 Cindy Smith  
 Tom Theiss  
 Marie Wurzbach  
 U.S Armed Forces  
 & Families

### Family of

Virginia McNamara  
 Deanna Herring  
 Jerry Storck  
 Jean Saylor  
 Don Ondreydo  
 Jim Parler

*Your word is a lamp to my feet and light for my path.*

*Psalm 119:105*

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

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

## Pictorial Directories

Our pictorial directories are here. Check your hanging folder. If you are unable to get to church to pick it up please call Sally Ortolf (867-8374). For those that didn't have their pictures taken or wish a second directory, we have extra books at a cost of \$3.00 each. If you are interested in one contact the church office (863-0793) or Sally.

## Pictorial Directories

**Youth**

The youth are having a Yard—Bake Sale, May 30 from, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the church.

If you would like to donate ay item(s) to the youth, please bring to church by May 17. Bake goods May 29 or the morning of May 30.

If you would like to set up your own booth that is great. If do this we ask that you donate 10% of your earnings to the churches general fund.

We will need help. We have two shifts 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 and 12:00 to 3:30 p.m. We will have a sign up sheet outside the youth Room for shifts and boothes.

If you have any questions please see

Virginia Robertson  
Donna Henderson  
Annette Sullivan

**Basket Weaving**

**Would you like to learn how to weave a basket?**

Sally Ortolf will be offering another basket making session on Tuesday, may 26th from 3 to 8 p.m. A sample of the basket being made will be in the display case. If interested in weaving call Sally (867-8474) for more information before may 12th..

**Gift Certificates**

**Gift Certificates**

The Youth would like to Thank those that ordered gift certificates this past month. We will be sending in another order on May 18th, so starting thinking about summer birthdays, graduation, up coming weddings or something just for you. If you have any questions, call Sally Ortolf (867-8474).

**Movie Night**

**Movie Night**

Just Friends is having a movie night on Saturday, may 16, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Bring an appetizer to share and lawn chair. Iced tea and coffee will be provided.

## DEACONS UPDATE

On March 31<sup>st</sup>, Jennifer Rowe, Connie Wyatt, and Barbara Bogan participated in a program at the CHOSN homeless shelter called the Serve City Outlet. Elaine Weiss, June Pierce, Barbara Bogan, and Donna Burnett provided cookies for the event. Along with members of other Hamilton churches, Jennifer, Connie, and Barbara enjoyed an evening of games and social interaction with residents of the shelter. All three reported that it was a very enjoyable evening.

The next scheduled social event will be Tuesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 6:30 p.m.. Once again, we will need desserts and volunteers to attend the event. See Donna Burnett if you are interested in participating in any way.

Thank you to all who donated items for the Sherman Manor Easter gift bags. All forty-eight residents received a pretty Easter bag with cookies, candy, and a colorful hard-boiled egg. Special thanks go out to Charlene Van Doren, Bert Jackson, June Pierce, and Miriam Kramer for helping to assemble and deliver the bags. Kudos, also, to Eileen Fletcher for making the cards to attach to the bags with information about First St. John's Easter service.

The 2009 Stewardship Committee has been formed and will begin meeting early in May. Thanks to Don Weik, Karen Dalton, Bob Kerby, Kathy Reece, and Connie Wyatt for accepting the challenge of this very important committee assignment. If you have suggestions for the campaign, please see one of these members.

Our after-school tutoring program continues to grow. If you are available on Wednesday afternoons from 4:00 – 5:00, please feel free to stop in and observe the wonderful interaction between neighborhood children and our volunteer tutors. It is truly a rewarding experience. Help with tutoring, snacks, and general supervision is always appreciated. Thanks to the following FSJ members for their help: Bert Jackson, Miriam Kramer, Harold Betz, Elmer Weiss, Connie Wyatt, Karen Dalton, Dennis Dalton, Greg Henderson, Donna Henderson, Donna Burnett, and Pastor Sam. How about joining us?

First St. John UCC Deacons: Donna Burnett, Bob Kerby, and Jennifer Rowe

We are in need of Greeters and Sound System Operators. These jobs are not hard but they are important and only require you to arrive at church about a half hour early for second service. The only requirement is to arrive early for sound system and greeters need to arrive early and take up the collection. New sound operators are given a few weeks instruction before they are on their own. If you would like to do either of these jobs contact Eileen Fletcher, 738-7271 or e mail her; address is on the back of your Echo.

### Deacons

*The Lord says,  
"When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your hearth."*

*Jeremiah  
29:13*

### **Greeters and Sound System Operators**

**Thank  
You  
Cont**



Dear Ms. Burnett:

On behalf of the entire staff and Board of Directors of SELF, I sincerely thank First St. John United Church of Christ for the \$200 donation for the "Field of Hope" project.

SELF (Supports to Encourage Low-income Families) is dedicated to assisting low-income families and individuals in overcoming barriers to self-sufficiency through employment and education and helping low-income communities improve the quality of life for residents therein. SELF is pleased to play a supportive role in the "Field of Hope" project, which will provide youth and young adults with recreational opportunities in the Neilan Park area.

Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,  
Jeffrey A. Diver  
Executive Director

Dear Friends,

I am writing to thank you for continuing your partnership with us here at the John Engle Christian Counseling Center. As you know, many of the hurting people who come in to JECCC have little or no money and cannot afford to pay for professional counseling. We are blessed, through donations like yours, to be able to provide excellent, clinical intervention and education. We also hope, through their experience here, hurting souls may experience a little of God's healing Love. Thank you again for helping us to help others in need. May God Bless You Always!

Sincerely,  
Sincerely,  
Leanne J. Myers, M.S.W., L.I.S.W.  
Executive Director  
John Engle Christian Counseling Center

**From Your  
Pastor  
Cont'd**

The media has well documented the decline of Christianity in America. Fewer and fewer Americans identify themselves as Christians. We are living in the wilderness. Will we survive or will we die? It depends on if we protect our core belief that Jesus is Lord and remember the power of three.

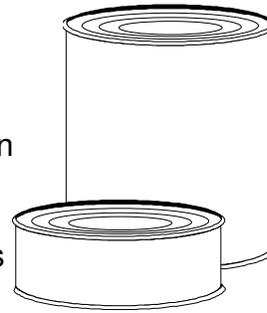
Sam

The Survivors Club. Ben Sherwood



## LETTER CARRIERS' FOOD DRIVE

With unemployment around double digits in some local communities, Shared Harvest Foodbank faces a major challenge this year in providing sufficient food for families who are seeking help from local food pan-



*Mail Carriers' Food Drive*

tries, soup kitchens and homeless shelters.

You can do something to help. Members of the National Association of Letter Carriers throughout Butler County are preparing for the largest one-day food drive in America. The national "**Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive**" takes place **Saturday, May 9.**

Letter carriers will pick up donations while delivering the mail that day. Just set bags or boxes of non-perishable food items next to your mailbox around the time your mail is normally delivered. In addition to pick-ups on city postal routes in Hamilton, Fairfield, Middletown, Monroe, Oxford, and Trenton, rural carriers this year have agreed to pick up food donations on rural routes.

All of the food goes to Shared Harvest Foodbank, which distributes it to soup kitchens, food pantries, homeless shelters and other emergency food programs in Butler County.

Stamp Out Hunger is the largest one-day food drive in America. Butler Countians contributed over 67,000 pounds of food in the 2008 campaign. The food is distributed during summer months when children in need are home from





First St. John  
United Church of Christ

412 South Front Street  
Hamilton OH 45011

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.

The ECHO is a publication of  
First St. John United Church of Christ  
ISSN 383367-25

ECHO Staff Members:

Editor Eileen Fletcher  
e-mail [efletchermcnamara@fuse.net](mailto:efletchermcnamara@fuse.net)

ECHOs from the Past Harold Marcum

Calendar & Activity Page Kathy Ullrich

Birthdays Lelia Kinner

Church Office: 412 S. Front Street  
Hamilton OH 45011

Office Hours: 8:00–2:00 Monday—Friday

Phone: 513-863-0793

Fax: 513-863-0871

E-Mail: [firststjohn@fuse.net](mailto:firststjohn@fuse.net)

Web Page: [fsjchurch.org](http://fsjchurch.org)

Pastor: Rev. Samuel Wyatt  
e mail [rev.samwyatt@fuse.net](mailto:rev.samwyatt@fuse.net)

Music Director Kristal Bang

Office Manage Kathy Ullrich

Sunday Schedule:

Adult Bible Study 9:15 a.m.

Casual Service 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:30 a.m.