



ECHO

Issue 06-09

Nov- 2009

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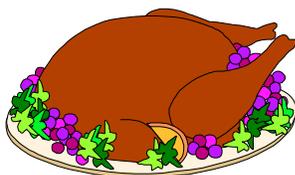
The Articles for January/February are due the 27th of December

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

Everyone Is invited!

Come and share Thanksgiving with your Friends at First St. John United Church of Christ, November 26, 2009, Serving from 11:30 A.M. TO 1:30 P.M.



Donations of Turkeys, Pies or Money and Volunteer Help will be Appreciated.

For Further Details See:
The McCalleys—8633145
Jennifer Rowe
The Robertsons
Or Call the Church Office—863-0793

Please don't forget to cast your ballot on Tuesday, November 3. Your Vote counts.

We are hanging the decorations for Christmas on Saturday, November 28th, 9 a.m. to ? p.m.

All who like to decorate for the Christmas season are welcome. We have a lot of decorating to do for this glorious season. Last year we had everything done by Noon. The church looked great. Come be a part of helping celebrate the Birth of Jesus.



A light lunch will be provided.

*From the
Pastor's
Desk*

“Them is people too.”

Bishop Joe Pinnel was out on the eastern shore of Virginia. He was standing out on an undeveloped piece of property that he hoped to develop into a new church start. The property was bordered by a couple of rather dilapidated houses. But that section of the county had promise for future development. As the Bishop stood there, pondering the future of that piece of property, a little boy came by on his bike. “What are you doing here, mister?” the boy asked. “I’m here checking out this piece of property,” the Bishop responded. “We’re planning to build a new church here,” he explained to the boy. “We’re going to build a church here for people in the neighborhood.” “Good,” said the boy. “And when you get that church, don’t forget about them people up on the hill,” he said, pointing to the dilapidated houses overlooking the property. “Them is people too”.

“Them is people too”, is a profound statement. Sometimes we go through life not noticing the people with whom Jesus valued the most and with who he spent his time. I have to confess; I often become frustrated with the number of people who call the church asking for rent assistance or help paying the gas and electric bill. I find myself explaining to them that our church does not have the money to pay their bills. I become impatient when they tell me the hardship they are enduring. To be honest, most of the time I believe they are lying. I’m probably right, but the important thing to remember is “them is people too”. I may not be able to give them money, but I can be less cynical. I can at least pray for them.

“Them is people too” is a good philosophy for life. Jesus never saw a beggar, a tax collector, a drug addict, or a prostitute. Jesus saw people in need of God’s love. As we approach Thanksgiving and Advent let us all recommit ourselves to seeing the world through Jesus’ eyes. When someone is giving us a hard time, may we remember, “Them is people too”. When the clerk at Wal-Mart is moving too slow, let’s remember, “Them is people too”. When the street person asks us for money, “Them is people too”. When our kids, relatives or neighbors are driving us crazy, “Them is people too”.

When we are driving people crazy - When we are demanding too much from others- when we are only thinking of ourselves; let’s hope those around us are able to see us through Jesus’ eyes and say, “Them is people too”.

Sam

**Thank you
from sol-
diers**

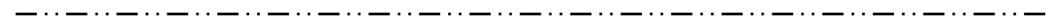


Thank you notes from some of our Soldiers in Iraqi. This were very touching and cried all the while I typed them in. Please keep all our soldiers in your prayers. They are keeping us safe and free.

Church of Christ

I received the two care packages today. Thank you very much. I will be sure to share the items you sent with the other soldiers in by platoon and company. Thanks again. I know the packages will help lift the soldiers spirits Also, thank you for the nice card and for keeping myself and the other soldiers in your prayers. It's nice to know that other people do care and that we are not forgotten.

Thank You.
Sgt Hudnall, Luke



First St. John United church of Christ,

It is another beautiful Iraqi day here in All Asad. Temperature will reach 113 degrees again today and the chance for rain is –100%. The days here run on a fixed schedule. Of course, I cannot say what the pattern is, but as of last week that pattern was broken when I received two boxes from you all. Let me tell you, they really brightened my day. The baby wipes definitely came handy for when we are out working in the sand. You'd be surprised as to where that sand can get, haha. The snacks were a nice treat too. Good choice on the granola bars. Also the Moon Pies were a favorite around here, My partner, SFC Mullings, had not had one of those in long time. I think in a five minute period, she had eaten 4! The books and games really help the time pass too. I just want you all to know that the packages did not go overlooked, taken for granted, or in any not seen as a real treat. Thank you all very much. What is most remarkable is that I do not know of your organizationa a all or who would have given you my information/address. Thank you, thank you, thank you! God

God Bless and have a great day.

Mark A. Alfors 1LT, TC, Platoon Leader

**Letter to
Members
of FSJ**

Dear Members and Friends of First St. John United Church of Christ,

If you are an active member in good standing, you are well aware of the changes that have taken place over the past year and our decision for the future. Because of our current number of active members, we have made a decision to downsize and move to a smaller location that better suits us. We are seriously negotiating with Partners in Prime on Ross Ave to rent worship and office space. We are also in conversation with Princeton Pike Church of God to occupy our current building. Both relationships will be partnerships with a vision to better serve the spiritual needs of the community and members of First St. John.

You may be wondering what will happen to all of the belongings that have accumulated over 172 years from 2 (merged) congregations. Some things will remain with the building, some things will be taken with us and used, and some will be put in storage for future use.

Because this is a large task and an emotional transition time, we ask for your patience during the decision process. We would rather delay a final decision and store an item, than make decisions that we regret later.

Sincerely,
Karen Dalton, Bob Fletcher, Sally Ortolf, Marilyn Wilson (Inventory Team), Connie Wyatt (Ex-officio), Pastor Sam

**Congregation
Meeting**

Annual Congregational Meeting November 15

Be sure and mark your calendar for Sunday, November 15 for the annual meeting and lunch. We will have elections, approve a new (much lower) budget, and vote on an amendment to our bylaws. It is prudent for us to lower our quorum from 50 to 40 members in good standing. After worship, we'll congregate for lunch and the meeting. Please pick up and read the annual report packet prior to the meeting.

**Items to remain with the building
(as of 10/25/2009)**

- All architectural and structural features and components of the buildings including: Pews, altar, organ and pipes, doors, windows, woodwork, lighting fixtures, bells, fireplace screens, plumbing fixtures.
- Outside sign, wrought iron fence, shed, potting urns/pedestals
- Kitchen stove, ovens, double door refrigerator, freezer, steam table, portable steam table, pop machine, 3 deep fryers, white commercial freezer
- 2 upright pianos: Hamilton-outside office, Baldwin-in social room
- All contents of computer room on second floor – 6 older desktop computers, monitors, 2 printers, 7 chairs, desk, cabling and power strips.
- Pastor's desk, blue/gray desk (second floor rear office), wooden desk (second floor front office), conference room table and 8 blue chairs, blue 3 seat/table combination
- Sound system including speakers, and microphones (sanctuary)
- 8' folding tables (15), round folding tables (7), folding chairs and racks (2), gold padded chairs–stackable (36)
- Ping pong table
- Large wooden clergy chairs (3), kneeling bench (wedding), 1 set of flags and stands –USA and Christian
- Various file cabinets, double door wooden choir wardrobe (68"w,68"h,24"d) compartmentalized music rack/cabinet, wooden cabinet outside elevator left of altar, large wooden craft supply cabinet.
- 10' aluminum step ladder (Werner), wooden extension ladder in bell tower
- All window treatments (curtains, blinds)

Inventory

Thank You

Dear Rev Wyatt,

The Butler County Historical Society would like to express our sincere appreciation to you for partnering with us for our September program with Jon Thiem. What a fitting welcome to Hamilton for him and the perfect setting for his historical presentation. It was a night to remember for all involved.

Thank you, again, for opening your doors to us.
The Butler County Historical Society Board of
Trustee



Dearest Friends and Church Family

Words cannot express our genuine thanks for all your gifts, food, and cards. You all are so generous, compassionate and giving. I could go on and on but I would truly forget something or somebody because my words may not come out right. Thanks to Pastor Sam for speaking of Leland's athletic background at the visitation and for the stirring and compassionate remarks of remembrances of Leland at his funeral service.

Most Lovingly
The Leland McKinney Family

Dear Friends,

We are very grateful for your recent gift of \$500 which we understand is meant for our after-school tutoring program and food assistance. Thank you for your continuing support of Washington UCC.

Our Summer Program lasted 8 weeks, with nearly 40 children joining us from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday – Thursday for a mix of meals, worship, Christian education, recreation, arts and crafts, and field trips. We also hosted seven summer "work camps" – young people from churches who spend a week with us working and learning about inner-city ministry.

Homework Club – our after-school tutoring program – is now underway. These outreach ministries could not exist without friends like you. On behalf of Rev. Pam DeFusco and all those who will benefit, we thank you.

Sincerely,
Laurel Humes
Church Council President
Washington UCC

November Prayer Circle



**Prayer
Circle**

Eloise Andrews
 Ada Mae Begley
 Susan Birches,
 Brother
 Bill Coffey
 Barbara Dietz
 Ron Dulli
 Norma Durr
 Jack DuVall
 Fred Gaw
 LaDonna Gerhart
 Rachel Gonde
 Betty Gregory
 Barbara Hammon
 Vicki Howard
 Caroline Kerby

Miriam Krame
 Dave Mann
 Jackie McKinney
 Doug Pietsch
 Lynn Rainey
 Claudia Rust
 Marsha Schlichter
 Betty Stewart
 John Trent
 Anita VanLieu
 Barb Warfield
 Marie Wurzbach
 U.S Armed Forces &
 Families
 Charlotte Wrackmen

The Family of

**Leland McKinney
 Thorton Sexton
 William Lakeman
 Flora Mae Smith
 Tony Mambuca
 Gladys Landwehr
 Robert Rainey
 Roger Brown**

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

There will be a December Echo. It will give you information about what is happening in December and to mark your calendars for the coming year.

If you have an article you would like to include or just some thoughts on Christmas and the coming new year please e mail them to me or put them in the Echo box in the Education building foyer. Articles should be submitted to me by November 29th.

Thank You
 Eileen

**December
Echo**

Shoe Boxes

Operation Christmas Child—Shoe Boxes

We will be collecting items for shoe boxes again this year.

Items need to be to the church by November 8. Pamphlets will be at the back of the church beginning in October.

Some items needed are:

Toys: Small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals

School Supplies

Hygiene Items: Toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap and wash cloths

Other: hard candy, gum, socks, T-shirts, books

Nearly 8 million shoe boxes were collected in 2008

November Birthdays



- 1 Keith Lipphardt
- 3 Arlene Smith
- Barb Stitsinger
- 4 Jim O'Dell
- 6 Marge Arvay
- 7 Laura Mangan
- 14 Peg Moore
- Ann Brown
- Emily O'Dell
- 16 Peggy Arndt
- 19 Don Asplan
- Cyndi Hamburg
- 21 Lelia Kinner
- Phillip Reed
- Jeanne Walther
- 22 Bill McCalley
- Dan Robertson
- 24 Jennifer Rowe
- 25 Lily Brahm

**Habitat
Report****Building a Community with Habitat for Humanity
by Rodger Hoppe**

Whirlpool Corporation provides a refrigerator and range for every Habitat for Humanity house built around the world. In that sense, and more, Whirlpool is a Habitat for Humanity (HFH) partner. About 3 years ago, Whirlpool decided to sponsor an annual "community" build. This year it was in Atlanta.

Around the first of the year, Whirlpool accepts applications to help with their "block" build. This year they had about 250 volunteers in Atlanta. Fortunately, my application was accepted and I got to go.

There were eight houses being completed the week I went. Each of the houses was already completely framed, the electric was run and most of the plumbing completed by professionals. We (the volunteers) put the decking and shingles on the roof, siding, fascia, soffits, porch railing, and aluminum capping over the soffits. We installed the insulation in the interior walls, painted the house inside and out where ever needed, and put down the landscaping (sod, trees, shrubs and mulch). There were about 20 volunteers working on each of the houses, and each had assignments given to them by the house leader. I worked on houses 4 and 5. The partner families worked right alongside of us each day. (Cici on house 4, and cousins Chaquetta and Erica Rutledge on house 5.) Each evening, after the volunteers were finished, a crew of drywall hangers would come in and hang the drywall, mud the seams and sand it.

At 6 am each day, we were bussed from the downtown Hilton to the site. We had breakfast, started working around 7 a.m., had lunch at noon (both meals provided by Whirlpool), and finished working around 5 or 6 pm. By the end of the week, all 8 houses were 95% complete. The last chores to be completed were flooring, carpeting and installation of the HVAC and water heaters which would be done by professionals.

One of the most significant things I can say about the experience, is that we were able to build not just houses, but homes within a community for deserving families. I feel that the "community" aspect of the build was the greatest thing about what HFH and Whirlpool was creating. These families not only had the support of HFH and Whirlpool, but they had each other as a support network in a community of very nice homes.

Rodger

Fruit Baskets

The Elders will be selling Fruit Baskets again this year. The price will be \$15.00 as they have been in the past. There will be a sample basket and order forms in the lobby as you go down to the social room starting on Sunday December 6th and on Sunday, December 13, 2009. Please complete our order form and include a check or cash for your order. If you are writing a check, make the check payable to First St. John and mark on the memo line Fruit Basket.

The deadline for order in fruit baskets we be Sunday, December 13, 2009 and pick up will be Sunday, December 20, 2009.

Thank you in advance for your order.





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.

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| Birthdays | Lelia Kinner | e mail | rev.samwyatt@fuse.net |
| | | Music Director | Cully Bell |
| | | Office Manage | Kathy Ullrich |
| | | Sunday Schedule: | |
| | | Adult Bible Study | 9:15 a.m. |
| | | Worship Service | 10:00 a.m. |
| | | Sunday School | 10:00 a.m. |
| | | Fellowship Time | 11:00-Noon |