



# ECHO

Issue 7-11

July-August  
2011

## Worship and Church Picnic

July 31, 2011

10:00 a.m.

Veteran's Park  
(Colligan Lodge)

Drinks and Paper Products Provided

Bring a covered dish to share  
(meat, salad, dessert)

**The Articles for July -August are due August 28**

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

## From the Pastors Desk

Anthony B. Robinson is a well known church consultant and speaker. He has taken the concept of The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Persons and has applied it to congregations. Listed below are his 7 habits of effective churches. Of course, he also gives us his list of 7 habits of ineffective churches.

### **The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Churches**

*Strive for excellence in service to Christ.* Effective churches are churches where people enjoy what they're doing and do it well. Give God your best.

*Cultivate a spirit of innovation and experimentation.* Be open to new ideas that advance your mission. Free people to develop and try new ministries. Just remember, if you're not failing at something, you're probably not trying anything.

*Take the initiative to build relationship with people and groups in the wider communities.* Refuse to be isolated. Get involved in community events. Introduce yourself as a member of church. Invite people to "come and see."

*Accept responsibility for mistakes, learn from them, and in all things, let grace abound.* In the end, and in the beginning, it is about God's grace, not our achievements.

*Always be prepared to give an account of the hope that is within you.* Look for where the love, energy and life are flowing and focus on that. Recognize excuses for what they are: a sign of insufficient commitment.

*Be willing to let people go in order to stay focused on your core mission.* It is more important for your church to be clear and steady about its core mission than it is to make everyone happy. When folks are unhappy, connect, talk, and pray. If things remain stuck, let them go with your blessing, giving priority to your mission.

*Splash it on!* A hospice nurse told the story of an elderly woman home for the final days of her life. Noticing a large bottle of perfume, the nurse asked, "Would you like me to dab a bit of that behind your ears?" Honey, the woman replied, why don't you just splash it on!" God loves cheerful givers. Spend money wisely, well and freely in God's cause.

## **The Seven Habits of Highly Ineffective Churches.**

*Elevate mediocrity to a spiritual discipline.* Figure out where average falls and aim below there.

*Take no risks.* A successful practice of risk avoidance is often best achieved by sending any and all new ideas to a minimum of four Boards or committee who understand that it is their role to say “no”. Avoid any idea that might make the church liable, cost money or ruffle feathers.

*Practice the following evangelism strategy: If they want us, they know where to find us.*

*Blame early and often.* Maintaining dysfunction is made easier if scapegoats are regularly identified. Blame ministers, newcomers and people who don't understand how we do things. If all else fails, blame the conference, the denomination, or Satan.

*Always be prepared to make an account of the excuses that are within you.* Have an all purpose excuse ready like, “I've just been so busy”. Elaborate at great length just how busy you are, implying that no one else is busy.

*Make it clear to all that the job of the pastor is to keep every church member happy.* Think of your church as the Love Boat and the pastor is the cruise director. The job of the clergy is to keep everyone on broad happy. If someone is unhappy, it's a sure sign your pastor is not doing the job.

*Spend as little money as possible.* Even though you may enjoy spending money on personal things like a new car or eating out, you can demonstrate your commitment to modesty and a simple life style at church.

I think it safe to say that FSJ has traits of both highly effective churches and we have traits of highly ineffective churches (most churches do). It's worth our time to ask ourselves; Are we contributing to make FSJ more effective or more ineffective? It's our choice.

Sam



### July

- 4 June Pierce
- 17 Jerri Sullivan
- 20 Doris Conyers
- 22 Heather Rowe
- 23 Marie Wurzbach
- 25 Marie Horstemeier
- 26 Erin Rowe

### August

- 2 Cody Proffitt
- 4 Tammy Proffitt
- 5 Clyde irwin
- 18 Marge Rowland  
Shirley Hartleb
- 19 Harriet Stitsinger
- 20 Kathy Reece  
Elaine Weiss
- 25 Elmer Weiss

## July Prayer Circle



Karen Alfrey  
 Eloise Andrews  
 Vernon Arnold  
 Jan Ash  
 Ada Mae Begley  
 Jack Berling  
 Harold Betz  
 Barb Bogan  
 Gary Booth  
 Sherri Brannon  
 Payton Cauchran  
 Linda Chalk  
 Jim Conyers  
 Jack DuVall  
 Anna Dudley  
 Kyle Phelps  
 Norma Foster

Fred Gaw  
 Rachel Gonde  
 Barbara Hammon  
 Vicki Howard  
 Caroline Kerby  
 Alex Kip  
 Becky Lawson  
 Doug Little  
 Jackie McKinney  
 Susan Ortolf  
 Michelle Schoonover  
 Griffin Shea  
 Marsha Smart  
 Karen Spencer  
 Jim Van Lieu  
 Marie Wurzbach

U.S Armed Forces &  
 Their Families

### The Family of

Shirley Richards  
 James Lawson  
 Randy Hammel  
 Steven Daily  
 Harriett Ingram  
 Virginia Rammler

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.

Thank you so much for the donations. Everything was perfect. The toiletries will be perfect for the emancipated youth and mothers. The children are going to love the books and art supplies. Without people like you and your church members, centers like CFS would not be possible. Thank you for having a generous heart. If there is anything we can do for you please don't hesitate to call.

Jennifer Achterman

The Center for Family Solutions  
513-304-0417

First St John

Thank you for the gift certificate for books on my Kindle. What a great idea. Haven't decided yet which books I want but it will be fun picking them out.

Again thank you  
Kathy



## Care Givers

We haven't had a meeting since May, but we are keeping busy.

Because of the loss of some of our Prayer Circle callers, Shirley L. was able to contact several people and we now have 9 callers.

If you know someone who is ill or in the hospital and was not announced on Sunday you may call Shirley Lovely, 726-6223 this is not a long distance number, or call Karen Dalton, 829-7641 and we will see that the information is sent to Pastor Sam.

The Care Givers continue to visit our shut-in members. The Care Givers would like the members to know that in the event of the loss of a member of the church we are available to provide food if you or a member of the family will be having visitation after the funeral.

Recently Barb Bogan hosted a get-together at her home after the Funeral of her grandson. After calling me I was able to contact 12 of the Care Givers and food was provided for her and her family. We are here to serve our members and when the need arises we want you to call and we will help any way we can

In Gods love,  
Karen Dalton

## Your Mission Dollars at Work

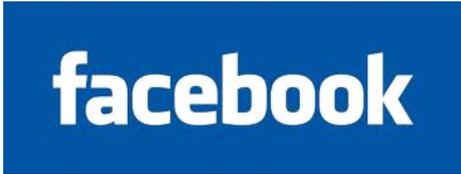
We will enjoy a special presentation on Sunday, August 14 during 10:00 worship. We have financially supported a clinic in Rubate, Kenya which is a partnership between SONKA churches and the Presbyterian Teachers College in Rubate. Together we built a clinic which has grown to hospital status. We will hear first-hand stories about the hospital from local youth who traveled there this summer. Please plan to attend and see how our mission dollars are helping others.



*Kenya's Rubate Health Centre, 'The Clinic that Love Built,' serves nearly 60 patients a day thanks to SONKA generosity.*

## Vote to Win a Car! Thursday, July 28

Partners in Prime is 1 of 5 finalists who have a chance to win a car for their Meals on Wheels program. Toyota will give a car to the organization with the most votes on Facebook on July 28. Go to [facebook.com/Toyota](https://facebook.com/Toyota) and follow the steps to vote in their 100 Cars For Good giveaway. You can vote only once and only on July 28. Spread the word to your friends on



**Did you know that our church has assisted five young adults to further their education by awarding scholarships to them? They will be recognized at the July 31st service. Come and find out how our church is giving to the future.**

*Join us in  
Celebration! of  
Kathy's Retirement*



*Thursday, July 28, 2011  
At  
First St. John UCC  
(Partners in Prime  
Classroom across from  
Church Office)  
12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.*

**Kathy, you will be remembered for all the things you have done for First St. John. Thanks for your 17 years of hard work and dedication. Congratulations on your retirement! You will be missed!!!!**



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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Calendar & Activity Page Kathy Ullrich

Birthdays Lelia Kinner

Sunday Schedule:

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

Church Office: 140 Ross Ave.  
Hamilton OH 45013  
Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.  
Monday-Wednesday-  
Thursday

Office closed Tuesday & Friday

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Music Director Cully Bell  
Office Manager Kathy Ullrich

# July 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Sunday</b> <b>10:00 Worship</b>					1	2
3	4 Independence Day  Office Closed	5	6 9:00 Happy Stitchers	7	8	9
10 9:20 Worship Team Mtg.	11  <b>6:00 Serve City</b>	12  5:30 pm R&A Team	13 9:00 Happy Stitchers	14	15	16
17	18	19  6:30 pm Council	20 9:00 Happy Stitchers	21	22	23
24 Bunker Hill Boys Haven Speaker  After Worship – Just Friends Meeting	25  6:00 Community Meal	26	27 9:00 Happy Stitchers	28 Reception for Kathy 12:30 – 2:00	29	30
31 Church in the Park						

# August 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 9:00 Happy Stitchers	4	5	6
7	8 <b>6:00 Serve City</b>	9 5:30 pm R&A Team	10 9:00 Happy Stitchers	11	12	13
14 Rubate Presentation during Worship	15	16 6:30 pm Council	17 9:00 Happy Stitchers	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 9:00 Happy Stitchers	25	26	27
28	29 6:00 Community Meal	30	31 9:00 Happy Stitchers	<b>Sunday 10:00 Worship</b>		



