

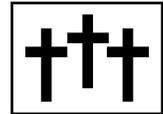


Issue 02-09  
March/April, 2009

**Inside this Issue**

Lenten, Maundy Thursday, and Easter Services	1
From the Pastor's Desk	2
Echoes from the Past	3
Birthdays for March/April	4
Flight School	5
Thank you Weaving a Basket Gift Certificates	6
Prayer Circle	7
Evening Guild Just Friends Youth	8
Trustees	9
Organ Donors Foundation	10
Conservation	11

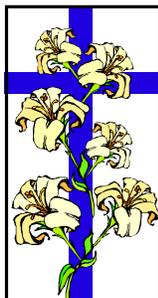
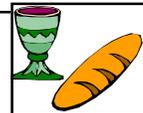
**Lenten Services are schedule for each Wednesday at the Churches listed below**



Date	Host	Preaching
March 4	First United Methodist Church 225 Ludlow St 896-5683	Sam Wyatt from First St. John United Church of Christ
March 11	Faith United Church of Christ 1877 Millville Rd. 863-5367	Peggy Garrison From First United Methodist Church
March 18	Grace United Methodist Church 1200 Main St. 844-1935	Kim Katterheinrich from Redeemer
March 25	First United Methodist Church 225 Ludlow St. 896-5683	Bob Ingram from Grace United Methodist Church
April 1	First St. John United Church of Christ 412 So. Front St. 863-0793	Alan Minor from Faith United Church of Christ
April 8	Redeemer 3431 Hamilton-Middletown Rd. 863-3323	Kim Katterheinrich from Redeemer

**Articles for May-June are due to me by April 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

**Maundy Thursday will be at Redeemer  
3431 Hamilton-Middletown Rd  
863-3323**



**Easter Sunday there will be one Service at 10:30 a.m. we will all come together to celebrate our risen Lord.**

*From the  
Pastor*

## From Your Pastor's Desk,

*We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to purpose.*

*Romans  
8:28*

*What has God done for us? What have we done for God?*

A certified public accountant did something that maybe all of us should do. He decided to open a journal with God. He wanted to write down everything that God gave him and everything that he gave to God. He started keeping a debit and credit book with God. If someone did him a favor, he put it down as God's gift to him. He credited God with the sun, his food, his health, his friends and relatives and thousands of other benefits he received. On the other hand, he put down what he did for God. Finally he gave up saying, "I find that God is indeed my creditor and what I have done for him is next to nothing".

I admire the accountant for his effort. If we are honest with ourselves, most of us never consider all that God gives to us. We are too busy taking credit for our good fortune and too quick blaming others for our misfortune. The scriptures teach us that all good things come from God. The scriptures also remind us that most of our problems are caused by our own sinful behavior. Our current economic downturn is a case in point. During the boom years, most of us were too busy enjoying the benefits of the economy to remember to show our gratitude to God. Now, that the economy has tanked, most of us are too worried about our future to remember that God walks with us during the good times and bad times.

Two thousand years ago God offered his own stimulus plan for his creation. God rescued us from the depression of sin and the recession of greed by sending his son to live with us and to die for us. Does this mean that we are off the hook for our behavior? No! Lent is a time for self-reflection and repentance. The word "repentance" means to "turn and go in a new direction". Perhaps we could all benefit from keep a credit account with God – a type of reminder of all that God has done for us. Can any of us balance our account with God? No! But we can all give a little more; do a little more; pray a little more ; be a little more loving; and show a little more grace to those around us.

I challenge each of us to keep a daily record of God's blessings. At the same time, do all we can to show gratitude to God for the gift of salvation.

Sam

By Harold Marcum

January-March 1940

Thirty-five men attended the Men's Brotherhood meeting which was led by the President, Mr. Charles Schneider and after singing several songs the Scripture was read by Frank Ritter and pastor Fr. C. Kuether led the prayer. The men declared their readiness to attend the Joint Brotherhood Banquet at St. Paul's Church in Middletown on January 23.

Looking ahead, it was also decided to arrange for a George Washington Banquet on February 22. William Kettler, Robert Klaus, William Stitsinger, Charles Schneider was the delegated committee.

The Ladies Aid was preparing to observe the 74 anniversary of its organization at the February meeting and it was decided to arrange for a cafeteria supper and entertainment in addition to conducting the regular business and religious program on that day. Thirty-five ladies were involved in the preparation of the grand event.

Mrs. Mary Ortolf led the prayer at the meeting of the Corner Class and Pastor Kuether gave an address on "Florence Nightingale, the Lady with the Lamp", Miss Geneva Turk, director of the Girl Scout work in our community spoke on the possibility of organizing a Girl Scout group in our congregation.

Twenty-two men of the Corner Class met in the social rooms of the church and it was voted to make arrangements for a Father and Daughter banquet to be held in April. Mrs. Grace Suldovsky was to be the chairperson of the serving committee with all members of the class contributing

and helping. The Pastor spoke on the "Suffrage Movement" in America and England.

Juanita Barnes, Secretary of the Intermediate League wrote that a skating party was being planned and that the class of Confirmands would be the guest. Two new members were welcomed to the group; Mildred Elkins and Mary Downey.

January—March 1950

Mildred Stumpf, the Secretary of the Mixer's Club met on January 19 and our President, Mr Kerby opened the meeting with a word of prayer. A very interesting reading was given by Mr. John Reiff on "Flying Saucers". Future plans were discussed concerning the Easter Breakfast.

A set of five films had been reserved for the five Sunday evenings of Lent. Scheduled to be shown were, "Simon Peter, Fisherman", "Stephen, First Christian Martyr", "Conversion", "Years of Apprenticeship" and "Return to Jerusalem".

Mr. Elmer Weik, Secretary of the Church Council reported that estimates for a combination storm and screen door for the main entrance to the parsonage had been obtained.

Mr. Earl McCalley read the Scripture at the January meeting of the Brotherhood and letters of thanks were received from Walter Sipp, Fred Schnitker and the Salvation Army.

Twenty-nine confirmands were nearing completion of their classes and preparing for their presentation for Confirmation on March 26, 1950.

Echoes  
From the  
Past

*This is the  
message  
we have  
heard  
from him  
and de-  
clare to  
you: God  
is light; in  
Him there  
is no  
darkness  
at all.*

*1 John 1:5*

**March/April Birthdays**



**Birthdays**

*We fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*

*2 Corinthians 4:18*

<b>March</b>		<b>April</b>	
1	Emily Proffitt	8	Fred Smith
4	Harold Marcum		Bob Kerby
9	Rose Weik	9	Eileen Fletcher
10	Paul Schulteiss	10	Amy Cameron
11	Mel Baker	11	Bill Hurd, Jr
13	Myra Jean Sandlin	14	Ray Starr
	Jim Herold		Brittany Freels
20	Shawn Halcomb	15	Kathleen Kieser
	Donna Schultheiss	17	Shirley Lovely
	Sonjia Geckeler	19	Dorothy Scherzinger
	Dorothy Boell		Amand Struckman
22	Linda Kaeding	21	Miriam Kramer
23	Keith Lippardt	23	Lori Ingram
25	Doug Wheelright		Nic Rainey
28	Kathryn Asplan		Bill Ingram
31	Dwight Dickerscheid		Donna Burnett
	Marge Marcum		James Cameron
	Wayne Kaeding		Hannah Robertson
		24	Jim Calihan
			Jennifer Grimes
		25	John Reece
			Jacob Adkins
3	Fritz Stitsinger	26	Bob Andrews
4	Betty Ashman	28	Doug Vizedom
	Vicky Wishart	29	Marilyn Wilson
5	Diane Getz	30	Leo Starr
7	Jackie McKinney		Jacque Herold
	Lucile Reed		

Don't forget to order your Easter flowers. If these flowers are as nice as the ones we had at Christmas you are in for a real treat. The Christmas poinsettias were fantastic. The great thing about the Easter flowers is that you can plant them outside when thy are done blooming and enjoy them again next year.

### Postmodernism (News From Flight School)

To be effective in ministry in these times, we must better understand these times. Our goal is to get a glimpse of the shifts of thinking in our society today. We are riding on a tidal wave of change: Postmodernism. To understand this we will need to review progression of Western cultural periods and specific patterns and themes of thinking from the industrial revolution to today.

Enlightenment Period—1700's:

Science opened up:

Tense political, social times

Birth of Industrialism . Social class.

Romantic Period—1800's:

Revolt against enlightenment Still a lot of focus on community over individual

Modern Era—1900-1960

Middle class is well established. Great accomplishment attached to great disappointment.

There are many influences that helped to shape this cultural reality. There was a traditional family structure, ease of communication and transportation. There were technical changes, such as industry, health care, entertainment.

Some of the events were:

- a. Watergate
- b. Equal Rights
- c. Vietnam Conflict
- d. Energy Crisis
- e. Global Warming
- f. 9/11 - Security at home.

In light of these factors and more, postmodernism is a time of shifting of paradigms. There was the collapse of the western world notion that scientific reasoning was granted unlimited and unending progress. Social unrest in the 1960's brought the collapse of the American Dream. From one truth to many truths, the world became a global community. There was an explosion of information to the world. From the war out there to the war right here, we no longer feel safe at home or secure. There are so many more factors that could be included in how our world has changed, at home and in our churches.

Jesus taught us how to serve each other, to become an example. We are the light and salt of the earth. Jesus served others, and did not ask for recognition. Love others and yourself. What Jesus was anointed to do, is what we are now doing.

There are two groups in the church;

Natives: those who have been in the church, especially in one particular congregation..for along time, know "inside language".

### Flight School

*Jesus said to his disciples, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."*

*Mark 6:31*

**Thank You**

**Dear Congregation,  
 Thank you so much for your gifts, Everyday needs like toothpaste and shampoo ease our pockets to buy Christmas gifts for family**

**The Sherman Manor Tenants' Council**

**We thank you for being a sponsor for our Mercy Franciscan at St. Raphael's Adopt-A-Family program and enclosed is a personal note from the family that you sponsored.**



**The Adopt-A-Family program was a success this year because of your contribution to our clients.**

The fruit was lovely and I enjoyed eating it. I really appreciate it.

With Love, Dorothy Boell

**Thank you,  
 Staff at St. Raphael**

**Below is the note from the Family**

**Thanks so much for everything you gave me, it helps out.**

**Basket Weaving**

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

Sally Ortolf will be offering a basket class for anyone that is interested. The date is to be determined, but afternoon and evening times will be available. There will be a minimal charge for supplies. A sample of the basket will be on display. Watch your weekly bulletin for more details or call Sally (867-8374).

**Gift Certificates**

**Gift Certificates**

Spring is right around the corner, so it's time to think about getting out and about. Orders for gift certificates should be in by March 23, 2009. They will be back in time for some spring shopping, dining out or to put in Easter Baskets. Order forms are in the back of the sanctuary or downstairs on table next to popcorn popper. If you have any questions see any BOCE member (Donna Henderson, Virginia Robertson, Annette Sullivan) or Sally Ortolf (867-8374).

# March—April Prayer Circle



## Prayer Circle

Ada Mae Begley  
 Cindy Bottoff  
 Frieda Bower  
 Ruth Brown  
 Tom Bruns  
 Barbara Conner  
 Linda Cook  
 Jack Davis  
 Mindy Elliott  
 Leanna Faye  
 Joel Fink  
 Fred Gaw  
 Betty Gregory  
 Claudia Heinke  
 Howard Henie  
 Deanna Hering  
 Tom Herold

Tammy Jacobs  
 John  
 Caroline Kerby  
 Miriam Kramer  
 Tom Laytart  
 Judy Lipphardt  
 Dave Mann  
 Larry Miller  
 Leland McKinney  
 Elsie Morgan  
 Mary Jo Myer  
 Samuel Patrick, Jr  
 Jeffrey Roundtree  
 Claudia Rust

Marsha Schlichter  
 Cindy Smith  
 Jerry Storck  
 Lisa Tasso  
 Terrorism in India  
 Tom Theiss  
 Betty Tincher  
 Bonnie Sullivan  
 Marie Wurzbach  
 U.S Armed Forces &  
 Families

*The one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.*

*Philippians 1:6*

Please check names carefully.  
 Jackie is retiring from the Prayer Circle due to Family illness.  
 Please pass your information to Carrie until a replacement is found.

Please leave a message for the prayer circle with Carrie. Include the following information: name of person, illness, etc. Thanks so much, Carrie Hann-867-1505

I received a nice letter from Carl R. Mahder. I will post the letter and the photo he is referring to on the bulletin board at the top of the steps to the Social Room. Note his sister has an address change for those of you that would like to contact her or send her a card.

Hilda Boehler  
 C/o Sunrise at Abington  
 1801 Susquehanna Rd.  
 Abington, Pennsylvania 19001

**The  
Evening  
Guild**

First St. John Evening Guild meets the third Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. We enjoy a delightful dessert and an evening of good fellowship. We welcome all of the ladies to join us.

**Just  
Friends  
Meeting**

Just Friends meet the third Saturday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Their meeting the 21st of February was postponed to the 28th of February due to the weather. Look for information as to whether there is a fish fry in April. Please join us for a good time and fellowship.

**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 any 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 church's 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 booths.

If you have any questions please see

Virginia Robertson  
Donna Henderson  
Annette Sullivan

## Adopt a Task

There are many little jobs that the Trustees and our gracious volunteer custodians (Harvey and Doris) do to keep the building and grounds as safe, clean and welcoming as possible. Many little jobs can be overwhelming and don't allow time for the bigger projects. Some of these tasks are indoors, some outdoors, some seasonal, and some are only a one-time project. You can Adopt-A-Task by contacting one of the Trustees. Let us know what you'd like to do to keep First St. John an attractive and inviting place for those who are looking for a church home.

- Keep trash picked up in back lot
- Keep trash picked up around perimeter of parking lot and Front St.
- 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
- Maintain 2 planter urns front of sanctuary (artificial or live)
- 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
- New landscaping in area left of office porch- remove, add and maintain
- Repair concrete – ask about small and large jobs.
- Install short section of handrail-left side-at bottom of stairs (office foyer)
- Paint (including prep work) between middle set of front double doors.
- Be responsible for a room: dust, vacuum, change light bulbs, clean windows, etc
  - Conference room
  - Outside Pastor's study
  - Restroom
  - Foyer and stairway of office
- Upstairs:
  - Sewing room
  - Computer room
  - Restroom
  - Middle (Yellow) room and adjoining room
  - 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

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

## Trustees

*Be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves.*

*James 1:22*

**Organ Donors Needed**

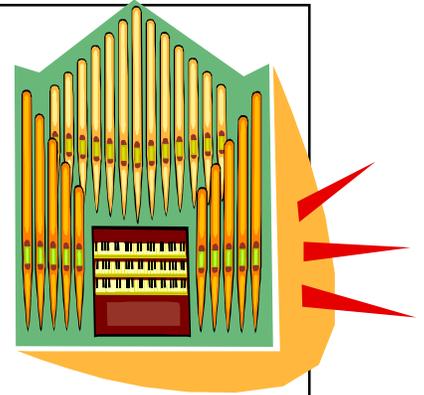
**We Need Organ Donors!**

Our pipe organ is silent until it's blower Motor (manufactured in 1915 is replaced). The cost of the new motor is \$1300.00

Donate by mail or in the offering plate.  
Mark you check or cash envelope "Organ Donor"

Any money donated in excess of \$1300 will be used to repair one of the stained glass windows.

**Organ Donors have Big Hearts.**



**Foundation**

**Foundation Meeting Dates for 2009**

January 8	July 9
February 12	August 13
March 12	September 10
April 9	October 8
May 14	November 12
June 11	December 10

**Flight School (cont from page 5)**

Immigrants: By contrast, come into church and try to understand the language of a congregation which is usually foreign dialect to them. To fit in, they have to tread carefully until they learn sacred words and symbols.

In these groups there are slow and fast deciders, those who are threatened by change and those who lead change. Learn formally, and those who live by discovery-by doing it. There is Linear thinking and Looped thinking, fight against chaos and can live in chaos, visual through books and visual primarily through TV and media.

This was a very informative session. We saw how the world has changed and how it has affected the church's.

## Small Changes for Conservation

Remember the time before Styrofoam cups, plates and bowls for church functions? At the 9:00 casual service, 'real' coffee cups and small fruit bowls are being offered as an option to cut down on cost and trash.

Remember the time before copy machines? How did council function without copies of all the reports and minutes for each member? Minutes were read aloud by the secretary and one official copy was saved.

Starting in January, all committee and council reports are sent by email to all members of the council. Members read the reports on their computer. They can save the report electronically, print a copy at home or hit the delete key. The one official copy is still saved in the office. Approximately 150 sheets of paper, ink and copier use is saved monthly.

If you would like to receive any of the committee minutes as an email attachment, send a note to Connie Wyatt at [wyatt11550@yahoo.com](mailto:wyatt11550@yahoo.com)

We have also replaced some of our incandescent light bulbs that are on 24/7 with efficient compact fluorescent bulbs.

Other small changes you can do at church:

Begin recycling your aluminum pop cans (next to the pop machine) if you don't already.

Begin recycling your pop tabs to benefit Ronald McDonald House (attached to pop machine)

Take home empty 2 liter bottles, milk jugs, and other #1 and #2 plastics for your recycling bin at home instead of putting in our dumpster and eventually the landfill.

Be sure lights are out if you're the last one in the room.

Listen for toilets running and alert someone if you can't fix it yourself. Leaky toilets are major water users.

*Small  
Changes for  
Conservation*

*Each day  
is a good  
day to act  
on God's  
word.*



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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e mail [rev.samwyatt@fuse.net](mailto:rev.samwyatt@fuse.net)

Music Director Kristal Bang

Office Manager 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.