

February 2009
Edition

First Christian Church
620 N. Main St.
Findlay, OH 45840



The Lamplighter



"You are the light of the world...no one after lighting a lamp puts it under a bushel basket...let your light shine before others..."

Matthew 5:14-16, NRSV

From the Interim Pastor,

Plan to stay after worship this Sunday, February 8th, for our "State of the Church" meeting. This is an open congregational meeting to take a look at where we are in the life of our congregation, and where we want to go from here. This is important to consider and discuss before we form our constitution revision committee and our pastoral search committee for a permanent pastor. Please plan to attend and participate; bring your ideas, dreams and visions for the future for our church.

Also, we will be needing volunteers to serve on the pastoral search committee and the constitutional revision committee in the near future; and we need volunteers to help with the coffee hour after worship right now! If you would like to help, please contact Heather or Robin or Bill Pitkin.

This is a very special month in the denominational calendar for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. This is the time of year when we celebrate the Week of Compassion—a principal outreach program of our church which helps people in need in this country and around the world. Please take time to consider enclosed leaflet and special offering envelope, and think about what you can do. Please keep this important program, and those in need whom it serves, in your prayers in these special days.

The theme of the Week of Compassion celebration this year is: "Where is your Treasure?" (Matthew 6:19-21), which is really the same as asking "Where is your heart?" Each new day of our lives provides another opportunity to respond to God's love and grace in your life by giving of yourself, your time, talent and what you have. Invest where you want your *heart* to be..... because it *will* follow.

In Christ,

Bob



Where is Your Treasure?

"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" Matthew 6:21

If you were searching for God's treasure, you'd find it in people. Every person, in every nation on earth, is treasured by God! Yet for many people, life can be very tough.

The Week of Compassion joins our hearts with God's by providing aid when disaster strikes and by helping refugees rebuild their lives. Your gift strengthens struggling communities with basics like education, health care, tools, seeds, and wells.

When we care for God's treasured children, we ourselves are transformed. We see more clearly what matters most in life and are inspired to live courageously. Our hope rises as we realize new life is possible.

Our treasure is in honoring God, doing God's will, and loving God's treasured people. May you find your treasure, and your heart, through sharing resources and changing lives with a generous gift to Week of Compassion.

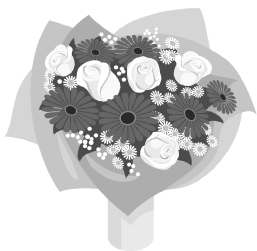
Martha Stoner's 90th Birthday Reception



Our own dear Martha Stoner will be celebrating her 90th birthday this month. In order to give this special lady the recognition she deserves, a birthday celebration will be held this Sunday, February 8th in the Kelly Chapel from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm in the afternoon. Everyone is welcome to come and celebrate with her but please do not bring gifts!

CHANGE IN ALTAR FLOWERS POLICY

A change has been made in the altar flower policy for those who would like flowers at the altar in honor of a birthday, anniversary, or memorial for a loved one. Instead of someone from the church purchasing the flowers and you reimbursing the church, you will now purchase your own flowers, bring them into church on that Sunday. You can bring enough flowers in for two vases or for just one vase if you would like. You may use your own vase(s) or there are vases in the cabinets in the room at the top of the stairs where the Clearing House used to be. Then please place them at the Alter. After Worship, you may take your flowers home to enjoy. Please continue to mark the calendar so the information can still be in the bulletin and/or Lamplighter. It is felt that this will make for a better arrangement as you will know better what kind of flowers your loved one would like.



Week of Compassion Minutes for Mission



Mission is always about a face. The Week of Compassion—in addition to its support of Disciples volunteering at eight mission stations across the gulf in response to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav and Ike — contributes to the Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries in its work with the ‘poorest of the poor’ on both sides of the border in south Texas.

More than finances, we know that our church’s mission is always about faces— about the families and individuals who are being served in response to Christ’s command to “love one another.”

We look into the face of the Peruvian refugee who came with his family to the United States seeking freedom from religious persecution. As a pastor and evangelist in the mountain region of his country, he was threatened with death by guerrilla forces “simply because of his faith.” Once in Los Fresnos, Texas, he was offered immediate gifts of shelter, food, clothing, legal aid and the support of the Hispanic Disciples congregation. Today the family has established a new life—their oldest son attends TCU.

There is the face of Maria, a 12 year old girl who lives at Casa Bethal (a children’s home) in Matamoros, Mexico. She receives special toys and clothing at Christmas from the Mike’s Kids Program; weekly food is provided by the Disciples Rice and Beans Projects; and a special school grant pays for her tuition, uniform, and supplies —continuing her education and shaping her future.

And there is Alfredo, whose wife died of cancer two years ago, leaving him alone to raise 6 children. He works 60 hours a week for less that \$400.00 a month. The family’s home was a dilapidated shack with cardboard siding, a leaky roof, and dirt floor. Through the newly begin Casita Project, a ‘small house has been constructed , providing a safe, dry, and secure dwelling.

Yes, the Week of Compassion and Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries understand that its mission is about more than money— it is always, always, about a face.

February

BIRTHDAYS

- 1—Charlotte Ballard
- 1—Ann Kretzinger
- 2—Shawn Linhart
- 7—Jessie Stahl
- 9—Kassie Stahl
- 13—Dale Yoder
- 13—Nathan Williamson
- 17—Bill Peters
- 19—Andy Koehler
- 20—CarrolleAnne Gessner
- 22—Bill Nicholson
- 25—Deb Kirk
- 27—Martha Stoner



ANNIVERSARIES

- 2—James & Daribel Brown
- 3—Lloyd & Karol Smith
- 17—Steve & Michelle Gessner
- 21 Glen & LaVera Hoover
- 23—Ty & Rachelle Barth

IMMEDIATE PRAYER CONCERNS:

- ◆ For Kathleen Schaffer as she recovers from the surgery she had on Thursday.
- ◆ For Sandy Frantz as she continues to recover at Briar Hill Nursing Home in North Baltimore, Room 112 .
- ◆ For Joe & Jessica Forst and Erma Weist.
- ◆ For us as a community of believers as we journey together through our worship time.
- ◆ For all our service men and women who are defending our safety here and abroad.
- ◆ For our church, that we find a permanent pastor that will meet our needs.

ONGOING PRAYER CONCERNS:

Phyllis Kennedy, Joe & Jessica Forst



Sundays at FCC for January

	January 4	January 11	January 18	January 25
Worship	58	47	55	62
Sunday School	15	15	10	19
Sunday School Offering	\$3.00	\$3.00	—	\$5.00
Loose	\$9.00	\$101.20	\$11.00	\$7.00
Envelopes	\$1,619.00	\$701.00	\$516.00	\$1,387.00
Interest	\$260.84	\$6.00	—	\$24.27
Other	\$35.00	\$32.00	\$2.00	\$4.00
Total Operating Fund	\$1,951.84	\$843.20	\$529.00	\$1,469.27
Other	\$25.00	\$32.00	\$10.00	\$2.00
Total All Funds	\$1,951.84	\$875.00	\$539.00	\$1,469.27

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 am-Sunday School 10:30 am-Worship	2 No Bible Study	3 No Bible Study	4 9:00 am—Taize Prayer Group 10:00—Hannah Circle 6:00 pm—Choir	5	6	7
8 9:30 am-Sunday School 10:30 am-Worship State of the Church Meeting after Worship 3:00-5:00 – Martha Stoner's 90th Birthday Celebration in Kelly	9 11:00 am—Bible Study	10 11:00 am—Bible Study Elders Meeting—6:00 pm	11 9:00 am—Taize Prayer Group 6:00 pm—Chimes	12	13	14
15 Penny Sunday 9:30 am-Sunday School 10:30 am-Worship 2:30 pm-Fox Run	16 11:00 am—Bible Study	17 11:00 am—Bible Study	18 9:00 am—Taize Prayer Group 6:00 pm—Choir	19	20	21
22 9:30 am-Sunday School 10:30 am-Worship	23 11:00 am—Bible Study	24 11:00 am—Bible Study	25 ASH WEDNESDAY 9:00 am—Taize Prayer Group 6:00 pm—Chimes 7:00 pm—Ash Wednesday Service	26	27	28

SERVING SCHEDULE

February 1

Minister: Rev. Robert Bowen
Children's Sermon: Patty Koehler
Organist: Anna Stembler-Smith
Music Minister: Carrie Norris
Greeters: Nancy Peters, Carole Cleary, John Snyder, Martha Stoner
Nursery: Jenny Williamson & Jessie Stahl
Sound: Justin Thompson
Elders: Lloyd Smith & Tiffany Scherf
Deacons: Barb Brown, Patty Koehler, Deb Kirk
Coffee Hour: Team #1: Heather Kretzinger, Kathy Schaffer, Kathy Brinkman
Counter: Robin Kretzinger & Karol Smith

February 15

Minister: Rev. Robert Bowen
Children's Sermon: Heather Kretzinger (Penny Sunday)
Organist: Anna Stembler-Smith
Music Minister: Carrie Norris
Greeters: Carole Cleary, Karol Smith, John Snyder, Martha Stoner
Nursery: Dale Yoder & Takara Nicholson
Elders: Terry Fancher & Bob Thompson
Deacons: Karol Smith, Angie Wagner, Heather Kretzinger
Coffee Hour: Team #3: Tiffany Scherf & Bill & Linda Pitkin
Counter: Robin Kretzinger & Bill Peters

February 25—Ash Wednesday

Minister: Rev. Robert Bowen
Organist: Anna Stembler-Smith
Music Minister: Carrie Norris
Greeters: Bill Peters, Dale Yoder, Kathleen Schaffer, Ann Kretzinger
Elders: Carole Cleary & Barb England
Deacons:

February 8

Minister: Rev. Robert Bowen
Children's Sermon: Patty Koehler
Organist: Anna Stembler-Smith
Music Minister: Carrie Norris
Greeters: Bill Peters, Dale Yoder, Kathleen Schaffer, Ann Kretzinger
Nursery: Angie & Matt Wagner
Sound:
Elders: Fred Kretzinger & Colleen Hawks
Deacons: Sarah Feller, Nancy Peters, Bill Peters
Coffee Hour: Team #2: Ben & Sarah Feller, Tim & Lisa Wolfe
Counter: Robin Kretzinger & Bill Pitkin

February 22

Minister: Rev. Robert Bowen
Children's Sermon: Beth Linhart
Organist: Anna Stembler-Smith
Music Minister: Carrie Norris
Greeters: Nancy Peters, David England, Karol Smith, Kathleen Schaffer
Nursery: Sarah Clevidence & Mary Fancher
Elders: Bill Pitkin & Robin Kretzinger
Deacons: Dale Yoder, Mary Fancher, Heather Kretzinger
Coffee Hour: Team #4: Bill & Nancy Peters, Karol Smith
Counter: Robin Kretzinger & Terry Fancher

Ash Wednesday Service

February 25—7:00 pm

Rides Provided

We know many of you don't like to drive after dark in the winter. So if you would like to come to the Ash Wednesday Service, but don't want to drive, please call Heather at 419-420-0013 to arrange transportation to and from the service.

And any of you out there that don't mind driving and can help us out with this endeavor, please call Heather or Diana at the church Office (419-422-5615) and volunteer. What a great way to start your Lenten Season!

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Sunday Schedule
9:30am Sunday School
10:30am Worship Service
Followed by Fellowship-Coffee Hour

HELP WANTED:

CONSTITUTION RENEWAL GROUP

Robin Kretzinger is looking for individuals who are interested in updating the Constitution of FCC. If you are interested, please let Robin know, as meetings will begin the first week of February (Exact time has not been decided, but it will be on a night between Saturday and Tuesday).

PASTORAL SEARCH GROUP

If you are interested in participating in the pastoral search process for a permanent pastor, please let Robin know, as this project will also begin the first week of February.

TRUSTEES NEEDED

The church is in need of one (1) new Trustee. A trustee does not have to know how to fix things, rather just be available to help coordinate getting the right people to help. If you are interested, please let Robin know.

If interested, or if you want more details, call Robin after 5:30 p.m. at: 419-420-0013
or e-mail at: robinandheather@woh.rr.com



ASH WEDNESDAY

Service
February 25
7:00 pm

Ash Wednesday will be on February 25 this year and our church will have an Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 pm that evening. Please plan on joining us for this traditional start of the Lenten Season.

Ash Wednesday is the seventh Wednesday before Easter Sunday and the is the first day of the Season of Lent. Its name comes from the ancient practice of placing ashes on worshippers' heads or foreheads as a sign of humility before God, a symbol of mourning and sorrow at the death that sin brings into the world. It not only stands for the mourning of the death of Jesus, but also places the worshipper in a position to realize the consequences of sin. Ash Wednesday is a quiet day of reflection on what needs to change in our lives if we are to be fully Christian.