

June 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....*

### “Life after Pentecost”

Some years ago when I was on sabbatical in Rome with my family, there was a very old and relatively small church next to our hotel. One morning I arose early and slipped out for a walk while everyone else was still asleep, and I stepped into this crumbling little church for a look around.

As I quietly entered the dark, dank nave of the church in the early morning light, I noticed a young man sitting silently behind a small table with little replicas of icons set up on it. These were small polished wooden blocks with ancient paintings of famous biblical figures or events embossed on their surfaces, very common in Eastern Orthodox churches, but not in the capital of Roman Catholicism. He was selling them for a modest price. I noticed there was no one else around.

I carefully looked them over and purchased one. It had an ancient yellowed picture on it of the twelve disciples standing in an upper room in Jerusalem with little tongues of flame poised over their heads, and the breath of the Holy Spirit blowing into the room like a fresh breeze. It was a portrait of Pentecost—the moment of the birth of the church described in the second chapter of the Book of Acts.

In the Eastern Orthodox Church, icons are used to focus one’s attention in prayer and meditation. And whenever I look at this icon, I am reminded of the fresh breath of God that has blown into my life, called the church. In a world gone stale with declining values and increasing violence, with all its ups and downs and faults and failures, the church remains a fresh breeze of hope and compassion,

caring and justice, even after 2000 years.

Despite all of its drama, Pentecost was only the beginning. It’s life *after* Pentecost that really blossoms historically, locally and globally. The story begins in the second chapter of Acts in Jerusalem, but by the time the book ends we’re in Rome and the church has spread all over the Roman Empire. And the singular flame that fueled its spreading fire was love. As John put it:

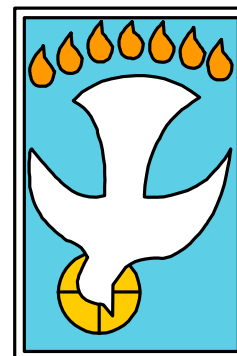
*“Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.”*

I John 4:7-8

As the church continues to unfold on North Main Street in Findlay in the 21st century, we would do well to remember these ancient words of the apostle John, still burning in our hearts. It’s who we are; it’s the way we treat each other; it’s our attitude toward the world and *all* of its peoples; it’s the church.

Pentecost Blessings.

**Bob**



## Building Committee Update:

The Building Committee (Heather Kretzinger, Pat Sharninghouse, Bill Peters and Ed Foreman) has met several times and has discussed various options for our church building including: relocating, building new, and renovating. A consultant came and gave us some free advice for some quick changes that could be done to better enhance our current space while serving the community. We will share these no-or-low cost recommendations on **June 14, 2009 during coffee hour.**

We are currently getting quotes on updating some areas of the church. Once these quotes are in, a complete report of our findings will be presented to the congregation (date to be determined), to allow all the necessary information to be on the table when discussing our options.

## Pastoral Search Committee Report

Last month surveys were distributed to the congregation to help us discern what qualities are needed in a new pastor. The results of that survey have been compiled. The Search Committee is sending the Congregational Profile to Dr. Bynum this week. She will then contact us when she can come visit and bring candidate profiles. We continue to ask for your continuing prayer support. – Kathy Brinkman, chair, Linda Pitkin, John Snyder, Carrie Norris, and Patty Koehler.

## Church Extension Report

If you would like to read the Church Extension Report, there is a copy on the table in the hallway across from the office. If you would like a copy of the report, please ask Diana to make a copy for you.

## Nursery Schedules

Nursery Schedules for June and July are on the table in the Narthex. Please pick yours up if you do not already have it!

## Giving of your time and talents:

If you are being called to serve, we have many opportunities available! Children's time, Sound system, Greeters, Weddings and more! See Heather Kretzinger if you have any interest!

## Reminder:

If you are scheduled to serve, and are unable to make it, please try to find a sub or contact the worship team so a replacement can be found prior to worship.

The nursery is staffed with two people to care for children ages 0-4. There are activity books in the Narthex for the older children to use during worship, if desired. Stay tuned for future **Children's Church** activities!

## Disciples of Christ General Assembly July 29 – August 2 Indianapolis, IN

Go to [www.disciples.org](http://www.disciples.org) for details and registration. Note: Robin, Heather, Kendall and Keaton will be attending this year. They would love to see you there!

# June

## BIRTHDAYS

- 3 – Beth Longworth
- 4 – Declan Scherf
- 4 – Joe Byal
- 7 – Mitchell Linhart
- 8 – Kim Fancher
- 12 – Julie Hoover
- 13 – Fred Kretzinger
- 14 – Dick Decker
- 14 – Tom Thompson
- 20 – Sandy Frantz
- 21 – Tom Hiegel
- 25 – Jason Gutierrez
- 27 – Zach Stahl
- 29 – Johnny Dietsch
- 28 – Bonna Scheib



## ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 – Bill & Nancy Peters
- 10 – Ben & Bonna Scheib
- 16 – Joe & Kathy Brinkman
- 18 – Greg & Deb Longworth
- 23 – Dick & Mary Decker
- 24 – Charlie & Charlotte Ballard
- 24 – Scott & Jenny Williamson
- 28 – Johnny & Kathleen Dietsch

## IMMEDIATE PRAYER CONCERNS:

- ◆ For Diana Kuhn and her family as they mourn the loss of her father but especially for her mother as she mourns the loss of her husband of 70 years.
- ◆ For all of us as we discern where God is leading us as a congregation of the Disciples of Christ Church.
- ◆ For the Pastoral Search Committee as they proceed in their efforts to locate a new pastor for our church.
- ◆ For the Building Committee as they continue to discern how best to use our church building.
- ◆ For those who are alone and lonely, that their hearts may find peace and joy in their relationship with God.
- ◆ For all our service men and women who are defending our safety here and abroad.

## ONGOING PRAYER CONCERNS:

Phyllis Kennedy, Joe & Jessica Forst, Sandy Frantz

<b>Sundays at FCC for May</b>					
	<b>May 3</b>	<b>May 10</b>	<b>May 17</b>	<b>May 24</b>	<b>May 31</b>
Worship	67	71	68	48	70
Sunday School	15	15	22	15	16
Sunday School Offering	\$5.00	\$4.00	\$8.00	\$8.50	\$4.00
Loose	\$10.00	\$23.00	\$10.00	\$2.00	\$22.00
Envelopes	\$1,267.000	\$1,390.00	\$802.00	\$885.00	\$819.00
Interest	\$270.50	_____	_____	\$24.27	_____
Other	_____	_____	\$10.00	_____	_____
Total Operating Fund	\$1,552.50	\$1,417.00	\$830.00	\$919.77	\$845.00
Other	_____	\$85.00	\$5.00	\$45.00	\$129.00
Total All Funds	\$1,552.504	\$1,502.00	\$835.00	\$964.77	\$974.00

## June 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>31 Pentecost</b> 9:30 am-Sunday School 10:30 am-Worship	<b>June 1</b> 11:00 am—Bible Study	<b>June 2</b> 11:00 am—Bible Study	<b>June 3</b> 9:00 am—Taize Prayer Group  6:00 pm—Choir End of Year Gathering	<b>June 4</b>	<b>June 5</b>	<b>June 6</b> 4:00—Worship Committee at Heather's
<b>7</b> 9:30 am-Sunday School 10:30 am-Worship 2:00 pm—Constitution & By-laws Committee Meeting	<b>8</b> 11:00 am—Bible Study	<b>9</b> 11:00 am—Bible Study	<b>10</b> <b>NO</b> Taize Prayer Group today  11:30 am—CWF Fellowship Lunch & General Meeting	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9:30 am-Sun. School 10:30 am- Worship  "Welcome Summer" Potluck & Congregational Meeting after Worship	<b>15</b> 11:00 am—Bible Study	<b>16</b> 11:00 am—Bible Study	<b>17</b> 9:00 am—Taize Prayer Group	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9:30 am-Sunday School 10:30 am-Worship Elder Meeting after Worship 2:30 pm- Fox Run Run	<b>22</b> 11:00 am—Bible Study	<b>23</b> 11:00 am—Bible Study	<b>24</b> 9:00 am—Taize Prayer Group	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:30 am-Sunday School 10:30 am-Worship	<b>29</b> 11:00 am—Bible Study	<b>30</b> 11:00 am—Bible Study	<b>July 1</b> 9:00 am—Taize Prayer Group	<b>July 2</b>	<b>July 3</b>	<b>July 4</b> <b>Happy July 4th!</b>

## **SERVING SCHEDULE**

### **June 7**

**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:** Sarah Clevidence & Mary Fancher  
**Elders:** Lloyd Smith & Fred Kretzinger  
**Deacons:** Barb Brown, Patty Koehler, Deb Kirk  
**Coffee Hour:** Team #5: Barb & Melissa Brown, Patty Koehler  
**Counter:** Robin Kretzinger & Karol Smith

### **June 21**

**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:** Patty & Andy Koehler  
**Elders:** Kathy Brinkman & Robin Kretzinger  
**Deacons:** Karol Smith, Angie Wagner, Heather Kretzinger  
**Coffee Hour:** Team #7: Carole Cleary & Dale & Pat Yoder  
**Counter:** Robin Kretzinger & Bill Peters

### **June 14**

**Minister:** Rev. Robert Bowen  
**Children's Sermon:** Patty Koehler  
**Organist:** Anna Stembler-Smith  
**Music Minister:** Carrie Norris  
**Greeters:** Bill Peters, Dale Yoder, Kathy Schaffer, Ann Kretzinger  
**Nursery:** Linda Pitkin & Zach Stahl  
**Elders:** Terry Fancher & Carole Cleary  
**Deacons:** Sarah Feller, Nancy Peters, Bill Peters  
**Coffee Hour:** Team #6: Angie Wagner, Deb Kirk & Barb England  
**Counter:** Robin Kretzinger & Andy Koehler

### **June 28**

**Minister:** Rev. Robert Bowen  
**Children's Sermon:**  
**Organist:** Anna Stembler-Smith  
**Music Minister:** Carrie Norris  
**Greeters:** Nancy Peters, David England, Karol Smith, Barb England  
**Nursery:** Sarah Feller & Mary Byal  
**Elders:** Tiffany Brunson & Barb England  
**Deacons:** Dale Yoder, Mary Fancher, Heather Kretzinger  
**Coffee Hour:** Team #1: Heather Kretzinger, Kathy Schaffer & Kathy Brinkman  
**Counter:** Robin Kretzinger & Terry Fancher

**Serve the Lord  
with Gladness!**



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

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### The Coal Basket

The story is told of an old man who lived on a farm in the mountains of Kentucky with his young grandson. Each morning, Grandpa was up early sitting at the kitchen table reading from his old worn-out Bible.

His grandson who wanted to be just like him tried to imitate him in any way he could. One day the grandson asked, "Papa, I try to read the Bible just like you but I don't understand it, and what I do understand I forget as soon as I close the book. What good does reading the Bible do?"

The Grandfather quietly turned from putting coal in the stove and said, "Take this coal basket down to the river and bring back a basket of water."

The boy did as he was told, even though all the water leaked out before he could get back to the house.

The grandfather laughed and said, "You will have to move a little faster next time," and sent him back to the river with the basket to try again.

This time the boy ran faster, but again the basket was empty before he returned home. Out of breath, he told his grandfather that it was impossible to carry water in a basket," and he went to

get a bucket instead.

The old man said, "I don't want a bucket of water; I want a basket of water. You can do this. You're just not trying hard enough," and he went out the door to watch the boy try again.

At this point, the boy knew it was impossible, but he wanted to show his grandfather that even if he ran as fast as he could, the water would leak out before he got far at all. The boy scooped the water and ran hard, but when he reached his grandfather, the basket was again empty. Out of breath, he said, "See Papa, it's useless!"

"So you think it is useless?" the old man said. "Look at the basket."

The boy looked at the basket and for the first time he realized that the basket looked different. Instead of a dirty old coal basket, it was clean.

"Son, that's what happens when you read the Bible. You might not understand or remember everything, but when you read it, it will change you from the inside out." That is the work of God in our lives. To change us from the inside out and to slowly transform us into the image of His Son.

Take time to read a portion of God's word each day.