

May 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....*

As we continue through these post-Resurrection days on our journey to Pentecost, we have indeed been busy in the work of the Lord. The Pastoral Search Committee and the Building Committee have been meeting in the wake of our consultation with Church Extension. The Constitution and By-Laws Revision Committee has been selected and will be meeting soon. We've started a movie time for our children and others on a Saturday, painted the church offices, and had a work crew of students from Millstream East school help us clean up the building and landscape the grounds on the United Way Day of Caring.

Following a wonderful Easter season, we continue to blossom as the Spring and the Spirit unfold. I wish to thank all of you who have helped, and continue to help, enrich the quality of our life together as a church family with your good efforts and commitment.

What does it mean for us to be the church in the world today? What does it mean to be the "caring community" we strive to be in this time and place? For one thing, to be caring means to be vulnerable. And the church is very, very vulnerable.

Father William DuBay has said: *"The most human thing we have to do in life is to learn to speak our honest convictions and feelings and live with the consequences. This is the first requirement of love and it makes us vulnerable to other people who may ridicule us. But our vulnerability is the only thing we can give to other people."*

One of the greatest gifts the church has to give to the world is precisely its vulnerability. To be caring means to be vulnerable, and to be in community

means to be together in movement. The church has always been at its best when it has been a movement, not just an institution. From the very first tiny "societies of friends" that gathered secretly in the homes of the faithful in the first centuries to pray and share the Lord's Supper and tell the stories of Jesus, we have been called by Christ into a movement of love in a broken world.

It is, in fact, the only reason we exist. We are not here to turn a profit, or to promote an economic system or a political ideology. We are not here only for ourselves or for the interests of any particular group. We are here for love, because Christ first loved us. And we must never forget that however humble and meager its physical manifestation may be, the church is in fact the institutional expression of the love of Christ in the world—a world filled with incongruities and injustice where love and truth always live in a threatened situation.

The mission of the church, therefore, is to offer some glimpse of the kingdom of God in the midst of us through our life and work for love and peace with justice in the gospel of Jesus Christ around the globe.

We are the church in the world. We are a caring community. We are a vulnerable movement. And they will know we are Christians by our love, as the song goes, or they may not know us at all.

The apostle Paul had it right: *"Faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love."*

- (I Corinthians 13:13)

Happy Eastertide,

**Bob**

## Building Committee Update:

The Building Committee (Heather Kretzinger, Pat Sharninghouse, Bill Peters and Ed Foreman) met for the first time on April 14, 2009. The purpose of the committee is to be the liaison between the congregation and Church Extension as well as gathering information so we, as a congregation, can make an informed decision of how to proceed with the use of our building.

We discussed the various options we have, and have been working with Colleen Robinson to get an estimated realtor's assessment of our property's value. We have already checked with the University and Fort Findlay Playhouse and they have no interest in our property at this time. We toured a smaller church that is for sale in Findlay, and it simply was not feasible for us.

Another idea is to build on or off site to help downsize the space for utilities. It was agreed that borrowing money right now would be done only as a last resort.

We are currently waiting for the Church Extension Report which is due any day.

## Pastoral Search Committee Report

The Pastoral Search Committee met on Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> with Reverend Doctor La Tanya Bynum. Our first task will be to survey our congregation and complete a congregational profile. We will be passing out a congregational questionnaire on both Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. If you do not receive a copy of the questionnaire you can contact a committee member or pick one up at the church office. Your answers will help us to determine what qualities the congregation feels are important in a pastor who can and will lead us through the next few years and the important decisions we need to make. We ask that you return this questionnaire by May 17<sup>th</sup> to any of the committee members, place it in the offering tray or hand it in at the office. We seek your continuing prayer support. – Kathy Brinkman, chair, Linda Pitkin, John Snyder, Carrie Norris, and Patty Koehler.

**SPRING IS HERE!**

## Day of Caring 2009

Have you noticed a fresh, clean look to our church? On Friday, April 24, two groups of Millstream students worked at our church. One group worked outside, raking, sweeping, and spreading fresh mulch. In the afternoon, a group worked inside, cleaning windows, doors, woodwork, and the sanctuary. These students are teenagers who volunteered to work. Snacks were provided to them. Thanks to Tim and Lisa Wolfe, Linda Pitkin and all the people who donated food and drinks. It was truly "a Day of Caring."

- Pat Sharninghouse

## HELP KEATON COMMUNICATE!

As most of you have noticed, Keaton Kretzinger has a developmental delay in his ability to talk. He makes up for this by using some sign language to help communicate to you what he would like to have. To help you understand him better when he jabbars at you and uses his hands to "talk", we are putting up some posters in the nursery and Kelly Chapel with a picture of his common signs. Many of you know that these are primarily around food! He has signs for cookie, cracker, cheese, milk, juice, more, eat, please, and thank you. He will also say "BUP" when he would like to be picked up. He will nod his head yes when you speak the word he's trying to tell you. Please check these posters to acquaint yourself with the signs. And big sister Kendall is also a resource to help "translate" when needed. Thank you for your willingness to give him a voice while he continues his speech therapy. Thanks!

- Robin Kretzinger

## SPECIAL MUSIC DURING WORSHIP MAY 31ST

On Sunday, May 31st, we will be treated during our Worship time to special music featuring both instrumental and vocal music by the daughters and granddaughters of Barb England. Diana England Myers (harpist), her two daughters, Alisa and Amber Myers (violinists), Bonnie England McLaren (violinist) and Linda England will all be here to play and sing for us. It will be a special celebration for both the England family and for us as we enjoy their special talents!

# May

## BIRTHDAYS

- 5—Bob Bowen
- 5—Jane Snyder
- 7—Mary Ellen Byal
- 17—Ron Kirk
- 21—Carrie Norris
- 21—Jane Dietsch
- 24—Cole Wagner
- 27—Marty Hoover
- 29—Kathleen Dietsch
- 30—Anita Wells

## ANNIVERSARIES

- 17—Bob & Tammy Thompson
- 25—Heather & Robin Kretzinger

## IMMEDIATE PRAYER CONCERNS:

- ◆ 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



## **CHANGE IN LAMPLIGHTER MAILINGS: PLEASE READ THIS AND RESPOND!**

Due to a little kink in last month's test of the new mailing system we are again going to both e-mail and mail you May's Lamplighter. To test this system, we will e-mail this Lamplighter to everyone that we have an e-mail address for. If you do not receive this Lamplighter by e-mail as well as snail mail by May 8th, call Diana at the office 419-422-5615. If you receive your Lamplighter by e-mail but you would rather always receive a hard copy, please also call Diana and let her know that. We are doing this to "go green" and save paper for the environment.



<b>Sundays at FCC for April</b>				
	<b>April 5</b>	<b>April 12</b>	<b>April 19</b>	<b>April 26</b>
Worship	74	78	52	61
Sunday School	28	NO SS	12	11
Sunday School Offering	\$6.75	—	\$10.00	\$5.00
Loose	\$19.25	\$12.42	—	\$10.00
Envelopes	\$2,079.00	\$591.00	\$720.00	\$1,296.00
Interest	\$260.84	—	—	\$24.27
Other	—	—	—	—
<b>Total Operating Fund</b>	<b>\$2,369.84</b>	<b>\$1,864.84</b>	<b>\$730.00</b>	<b>\$1,335.27</b>
Other	\$29.00	\$620.00	\$30.00	\$2.00
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>\$2,414.84</b>	<b>\$1,223.42</b>	<b>\$760.00</b>	<b>\$1,337.27</b>

## May 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>April 26</b> 9:30 am-Sunday School 10:30 am-Worship	<b>April 27</b> 11:00 am—Bible Study	<b>April 28</b> 11:00 am—Bible Study	<b>April 29</b> 9:00 am—Taize Prayer Group  6:00 pm—Choir	<b>April 30</b>	<b>May 1</b>	<b>May 2</b>
<b>3</b> 9:30 am-Sunday School 10:30 am-Worship	<b>4</b> 11:00 am—Bible Study	<b>5</b> 11:00 am—Bible Study	<b>6</b> 9:00 am—Taize Prayer Group 10:00-- Hannah Circle Meeting  6:00 pm—Chimes	<b>7</b> National Day Of Prayer	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> →
<b>10</b> 9:30 am-Sunday School 10:30 am-Worship	<b>11</b> <b>No Bible Study</b>  <b>Bob not</b>	<b>12</b> <b>No Bible Study</b>  <b>in office</b> →	<b>13</b> 9:00 am—Taize Prayer Group  6:00 pm—Choir	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9:30 am-Sunday School 10:30 am-Worship Elder Meeting after Worship 2:30 pm- Fox Run	<b>18</b> 11:00 am—Bible Study	<b>19</b> 11:00 am—Bible Study	<b>20</b> 9:00 am—Taize Prayer Group  6:00 pm—Chimes	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:30 am-Sunday School 10:30 am-Worship	<b>25 Memorial Day</b> <b>Office closed BUT</b> <b>11:00 Bible Study will still be held</b>	<b>26</b> <b>11:00 am— Bible Study</b>	<b>27</b> 9:00 am—Taize Prayer Group  6:00—Choir	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<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 11:30 am—CWF Fellowship Lunch & General Meeting 6:00 —Chimes	<b>June 4</b>	<b>June 5</b>	<b>June 6</b>

## **SERVING SCHEDULE**

### **May 3**

**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 Feller & Mary Byal  
**Elders:** Fred Kretzinger & Terry Fancher  
**Deacons:** Barb Brown, Patty Koehler, Deb Kirk  
**Coffee Hour:** Team #7: Carole Cleary & Dale & Pat Yoder  
**Counter:** Terry Fancher & Robin Kretzinger

### **May 17**

**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 & Barb England  
**Deacons:** Karol Smith, Angie Wagner, Heather Kretzinger  
**Coffee Hour:** Team #2: Ben & Sarah Feller & Tim & Lisa Wolfe  
**Counter:** Terry Fancher & Bill Peters

### **May 31**

**Minister:** Rev. Robert Bowen  
**Children's Sermon:** Kids Sing  
**Organist:** Anna Stembler-Smith  
**Music Minister:** Carrie Norris  
**Greeters:** Dale Yoder, Kathy Schaffer, Barb England  
**Nursery:** Dale Yoder & Takara Nicholson  
**Elders:** Tom Thompson & Fred Kretzinger  
**Deacons:** Barb Brown, Patty Koehler, Deb Kirk  
**Coffee Hour:** Team #4: Bill & Nancy Peters, Karol Smith  
**Counter:** Terry Fancher & Karol Smith

### **May 10**

**Minister:** Rev. Robert Bowen  
**Guest Minister:** Rev. Paul Biery  
**Children's Sermon:** Patty Koehler  
**Organist:** Anna Stembler-Smith  
**Music Minister:** Carrie Norris  
**Greeters:** Bill Peters, Dale Yoder, Kathleen Schaffer, Ann Kretzinger  
**Nursery:** Jenny Williamson & Jessie Stahl  
**Elders:** Carole Cleary & Linda Pitkin  
**Deacons:** Sarah Feller, Nancy Peters, Bill Peters  
**Coffee Hour:** Team #1: Heather Kretzinger, Kathy Brinkman, Kathy Schaffer  
**Counter:** Terry Fancher & Karol Smith

### **May 24**

**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:** Angie Wagner  
**Elders:** Tiffany Brunson & Lloyd Smith  
**Deacons:** Dale Yoder, Mary Fancher, Heather Kretzinger  
**Coffee Hour:** Team #3: Tiffany Brunson & Linda Pitkin  
**Counter:** Terry Fancher & Andy Koehler



**Serve the Lord  
with Gladness!**

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



## Pentecost Offering collected May 24 and May 31

Expanding the Table is this year's theme for the Pentecost Offering. As the Christian Church (Disciples of the Christ), we welcome and embrace with the love of Christ, all who will come to the table. And our Christian table is constantly expanding and reaching beyond social and economic boundaries to extend our witness.

Each year, the New Church Movement is supported primarily by funds raised by the annual Pentecost Offering. This special-day offering provided support for new church planter training, coaching, grants, meetings and additional services to support the New Church Move-

ment of the Christian Church. New Church Ministry seeks to continue to expand the table to reach new mission fields, journey to new frontiers and touch more lives. Support for this special day offering is more crucial than ever.

Importantly, half of the money collected through the Pentecost Offering remains in **YOUR REGION**. The other half represents New Church Ministry to benefit the wider church for recruitment, training and coaching of new church planters.

New Church Ministry can proudly claim that 598 new churches have been formed since 2001. This is good news worth celebrating! Through these churches, this movement is reaching more than 40,000 Disciples and the list continues to grow. What is our goal? Disciples hope to start 1,000 new churches by 2020. By supporting the Pentecost Offering you are expanding the efforts of the New Church Movement.

If you have given in the past, we thank you. Please help New Church Ministry to continue expanding the table to reach more people by bringing God's message to new places and new communities. By Expanding the Table, we share the witness of Christ. This year, Pentecost Offering will be on Sunday, May 24 and Sunday, May 31.