

FAITH NOTES

Faith United Methodist Church
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February 2010



From the Pastor

Summer afternoons on the third floor of our Lincoln Street house would find me voraciously reading Nancy Drew Mysteries. It was afternoon and not evening because as darkness approached my overactive imagination would kick in and I would scare myself into long and sleepless nights with thoughts of ghosts dancing on the lawn below my window. More than once I gave in to the temptation of reading the last chapter first. This would calm my fears and allow me to comfort myself with, "It is just the jealous gardener" as I read the scarier parts of the story.

As followers of Christ, we call ourselves an "Easter People." Knowing the end of the story we then have the courage and hope to dive into the midst of the horror and fear.

As we begin our journey together through Lent, a season of

solemn reflection upon the life and death of Jesus and how we are called to pattern our lives after the one we call Messiah, we know the end of the story. I pray that the courage and hope we receive as a result of the gift of the resurrection will lead us into lives of **further** service so that all may know the Light in their darkness.

We have been a witness to the horrors of the earthquake in Haiti. The overarching theme throughout scripture is that we worship a loving and compassionate God who is saving and redeeming the world through God's own vulnerability revealed to us most profoundly in Jesus Christ on the cross. From this foundation, we can know that God is present with those who are suffering the most, suffering with them, just as he suffered on the cross. We also know that as followers of Jesus



Christ, we are called to be witnesses ourselves through our own acts of vulnerability, compassion and sacrificial love. Finally, as Easter people, we know that Good Friday does not have the last word. Even as we mourn and pray, let us also watch for signs of resurrection. Let us anticipate how we will see God at work in the midst of the rubble. Let us be open to the Holy Spirit that comes breathing new life into weary people shackled in grief giving vision, hope, power and unity.

Peace and Grace,
Pastor Cara

Disaster Relief

On Sunday, January 17 we received \$2,347 to be sent to Haiti through UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) 100% of money will go directly to Haiti. We will continue to receive donations. If you would like to help make your check out to Faith United Methodist Church and make the memo line for "Haiti Emergency." Another option is to

contribute online. You can do this by visiting the Faith Church website at www.faithumchurch.org and click on the Haiti link to make a donation.

On Sunday, January 24, members of Faith Church assembled 120 health kits to be sent to Haiti. The health kits were sent to UMCOR Sager Brown Depot in Baldwin, Louisiana.

Relief for Victims of the



Earthquake in Haiti

For ways in which you can respond to a call to compassion and action in the name of Jesus the Christ please refer to the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist church: www.Gbgm-umc.org

Fair Trade Coffee

Coffee, tea, chocolate, cranberries, baking cocoa and nuts would all make thoughtful Valentine's gifts. Please support all the farmers, cooperatives and UMCOR that benefit from our sales of Fair Trade products.

Faith Church continues to follow the Bishop's encouragement in supporting Fair Trade. It is not our goal to

make a profit on the sales. We have rounded the prices for easier purchasing, sales and bookkeeping (sometimes as little as \$.05 and never more than \$.50). We look forward to your future purchases.

We are happy to order larger quantities. Please contact me with your special orders. Contact the church office for more information (330.499.6040).

Emmaus Walk

Emmaus Walks for this year at Camp Wanake are scheduled as follows:
Men: March 11-14, June 3-6, October 14-17

Women: March 18-21, June 10-13, October 21-24

Contact the church office for more information (330.499.6040).

Relay for Life

Faith Church's **Relay for Life** team is now being formed. This is the third year that we are participating in Jackson's Relay for Life which is scheduled for June 11-12. In the last two years our team has raised over \$8000 for cancer research. Join our team to help find a cure for cancer. There are many ways to participate as a team member besides walking the track at the Relay.

These include working on fundraisers, planning for the Relay,

attending the event, and much more. To register, go to www.relayforlife.org/jacksontwp and click on "Join a Team". Then search for "Faith" and follow the steps to register. If you would like to register but not online, Kevin or Debbie Crowl can help you. Contact the church office for more information (330.499.6040). Registration fee is \$10 per person. Join us in the fight against cancer.

Canton Calvary Mission

Canton Calvary Mission requests **toilet paper** for February. The Mission feeds over 500 families monthly and appreciates all donations of non-perishable foods, personal hygiene and paper products. A marked box is located in the gallery for contributions to the Food Pantry. Thanks for your generous support.



Membership Care

Birthdays

Happy Birthday to:

- Dale Walters who will be who will be 90 years old on February 5th
- Doris Ashley who will be 94 years old on February 22nd

Births

Congratulations to:

- Jerry and Charlene Dombrowski, proud grandparents to Solomon Benjamin, born to Cindi Schmitt and Ben Cooper.

Deaths

We extend prayers and sympathies to the families of:

- Betsy & Tod Gorrell and family on the death of Shirley Deuble.

*God's
Answers
Prayers*

We received thank you notes from Jan Marker, Kathy Myers. The notes are posted on the bulletin board in Robinson Hallway.

Prayer Vigil

A ten hour prayer vigil will be held before, during and after the time of the church-wide visioning retreat "*Faith for Tomorrow*" scheduled for Saturday February 20th. To be on a *vigil* is to be wakeful for a purpose. Let us come together vigilantly in prayer for those involved in the 2010 Faith UMC Visioning Retreat. God calls us to lift up the body of Christ (the Church) our leaders, staff and congregation.

Join us as we pray from **7am - 5pm on Saturday, February 20th**. You are asked to **set aside/sign-up for 15 minutes during this ten hour period in prayer for the retreat, its leaders, and our church**

members as **they come together with ideas and enthusiasm for the vision of Faith UMC for Tomorrow.**



To sign up for a time period please contact the church office or Barb Rich. A sign-up sheet is available in the Gathering Area. Pray from home, work, the church or wherever you feel comfortable. The prayer for our Retreatants is *to be open to the Spirit's leading*. Look for more details in upcoming worship bulletins, the Gathering Area TV and Flyer, and the Church Website.

Partners in Faith

We're getting ready for another *Partners in Faith* Date Night!

Date: Friday, February 5th
6:15 Drop off your kids
6:30 Program in the Chapel
7:00 Go out for a date!
9:30 Pick up your kids

Questions? Contact the church office for more information

Partners in Faith



Service in Mission

The Service in Mission Team would like to thank the church membership and friends for their generous support of the 2009 Christmas Offering. Faith Church is such a giving church. The Christmas offering totaled \$12,571.01.

One hundred percent of this money is distributed to the

seven missionaries; Interfaith Campus Ministries, Faith Kitchen, Vine and Branches Foundation (India), Flat Rock Children's Home, Berea Children's Home, and East Ohio Conference Central Conference Pension Initiative Campaign.

Golf League

Think spring! Think Golf! Watch next month's Faith



Notes for details on our March meeting.

New, fun golfers welcome.

Stewardship

Food Collection Challenge!

Let's make giving a life-time habit! All groups are invited to participate in collecting non-perishable food items and paper products in 2010. The items collected will support the food ministries of Faith UMC including Canton Calvary Mission and our church's food cupboard. There will be monthly contests running from the 14th of one month to the 13th of the next month. The months that your group meets,

encourage members to bring items to your meeting. Place items in the Calvary Mission bin in the Gallery. Tally the number of items. Turn in the number of items along with your group name to Lauralee Stiffler, Coordinator of Lay Ministries, by 5 p.m. the 13th of the month (Faith Notes deadline is the 15th of each month). For example, the current contest is from January 14th – February 13th. Lauralee will publish the name of the group that collected the most

items in Faith Notes each month. So, the group collecting the most items January 14th – February 13th will be listed in the March Faith Notes. We will do this every month through December 13th. In the January 2011 Faith Notes, the group that has participated the most will be listed along with the total number of items collected by all participants in 2010. Contact the church office for more information (330.499.6040).

Volunteer Opportunities

Quilters/Sewers

Tuesdays, 9-11:30am Rooms 5 & 6
Betsy Oby, Chair

Stitchers: Bring handwork
2nd & 4th Thursdays, 2-4pm in the Parlor

Bixler Library

Thursdays, noon to 2pm
Candy Ziegler, Chair

Prayer Shawl Ministry

1st Thursdays, 2-4pm in the Parlor
Barbara Whitacre, Chair

Sewing for Missions

1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30pm, Room 16

Worship in February

7 8:30 Joy Unlimited
9:45 Praise Band
11:00 Cherub & Chancel Choirs
Rev. Cara Stultz Costello preaching

14 Youth Sunday

21 8:30
9:45 Praise Band
11:00 Carol & Chancel Choirs
Rev. Steve Stultz Costello preaching

28 8:30 Chancel Choir
9:45 Praise Band
11:00 Joy Unlimited
Rev. Cara Stultz Costello preaching



Join us for the Monthly Prayer Service on Tuesday, February 2nd at 8am. Rev. Cara Stultz-Costello will be our presenter.

www.FaithUMChurch.org

Mailed January 28, 2010



Worship with Us:
Sunday Services: 8:30, 9:45, & 11:00
Sunday School: 9:45 & 11:00

Get to know Us:
Reverends Steve & Cara Stultz Costello, Co-Pastors
Trudy Jones, Director of Christian Education
Ron Harrison, Director of Youth Ministries
Alina Dorto, Director of Faith Friends




Contact Us:
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February 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Mon. Schedule 8:00 Men's B-ball 	2 Tues. Schedule 6:00 Men's prayer group 9:00 Prayer/Bible Study 9:00 Sewing Group 9:30 Women's Study 9:30 Celebration Bells 12:15 Mom's In Touch 6:30 Women's Prayer Group 7:00 "Living the Questions" 7:00 Boy Scouts 8:00am Prayer Service 5:30 Stewardship 7:00 Youth Ministry 7:00 UMW Board 8:30 Scout Committee	3 Wed. Schedule 6:00 Young Men's Study 9:30 Companions/Christ 5:00 Cherub/Carol Choirs 6:00 Dinner 6:30 FW Friends 6:30 Financial Peace U 6:30 Study of John 6:30 Ask the Pastor 6:30 Divorce Care 6:30 New Members 7:30 Chancel Choir 6:30 Mission Sewing	4 Thur. Schedule 7:15 Retired Men's Breakfast 7:30 Working Women's Brkfst 12:00 Library volunteers 6:30 Volleyball 9:00 Susanna Circle 2:00 Prayer Shawl Min.	5 9-2 AARP In-come Tax 6:16 Partners in Faith Date Night	 6
7 Boy Scout Sunday NO Youth Group	8 Mon. Schedule 9:00 Circle of Faith	9 Tues. Schedule 7:00 Church Board	10 Wed. Schedule 12:00 Lydia Circle 7:00 Confirmation Mentors 7:00 Scout Roundtable	11 Thur. Schedule 9:15 M.O.M.S. 2:00 Faith Stitchers 7:00 HS Bible Study	12 9-2 AARP In-come Tax	13 7:00am Men's Study, IHOP
14 Youth Sunday 3:30 Confirmation 5-8 Youth Group	15 Mon. Schedule FAITH NOTES DEADLINE	16 Tues. Schedule 6:30 Finance Ministry 7:30 Worship Ministry	17 Wed. Schedule 8am-9pm Labyrinth 12 Ash Wednesday Service in the Chapel 6:30 Missions Sewing 7:00 Ash Wednesday	18 Thur. Schedule 1:00 Alzheimer's Group 7:00 Trustees 7:00 HS Bible Study 7:00 "Three Simple Rules"	19 9-2 AARP In-come Tax	20 7-5 Prayer Vigil 9-4 Visioning Retreat
21 5-8 Youth Group	22 Mon. Schedule	23 Tues. Schedule 7:00 SPRC 	24 Wed. Schedule	25 Thur. Schedule 9:15 M.O.M.S. 2:00 Faith Stitchers 7:00 "Three Simple Rules" 7:00 HS Bible Study 7:00 Circle of Love	26 9-2 AARP In-come Tax	27 7:00am Men's Study, IHOP Faith Kitchen
28 3:30 Confirmation 5 - 8 Youth Group						

Education

Lent begins

February 17 marks the beginning of Lent. Today, as in the past, the heart of Lent is inner penitence and reconciliation with God. Reconciliation with God involves sorrow for sins, spiritual growth, commitment, and perseverance. Traditional Lenten practices include fasting, special commitments, good deeds, special giving, prayer and reflection, scripture study and participation in church worship services. Plan now to increase your understanding of Christ's sacrifice and resurrection and become even more committed to your Christian walk.

Church-wide Study for Lent

Since the staff and lay leaders of the church are already involved in the reading of the book *Three Simple Rules for Christian Living*, all members of the church are invited to read this book during Lent. The Education Team will subsidize part of the cost of the books, but we will be asking those who can to pay \$5.00 for a copy. **Pastors Steve and Cara will be leading a study of this book on six Thursday evenings; beginning February 18 at 7:00 p.m.** Books will be available on Sunday, Feb

-ruary 14th if not before. Plan now to study and learn during Lent.



Prayer Labyrinth

Labyrinth

Take time for quiet meditation as you walk the labyrinth on Ash Wednesday, February 17th. The labyrinth walk will open at 9:00 a.m. and be available all day in the Family Life Center, until 8:00 p.m. Come experience the sacred path. Directions for the walk are available at both entrances to the area. Plan about 30 minutes for the walk.

Wednesday Nights

There are still two months left of Wednesday night programming: two children's choirs at 5:00 and dinner at 6:00. At 6:30 FW Friends for kids starts (it's like youth group for elementary aged children), as well as the *Ask the Pastor* class and the *Disciple Study of John*. The topics for the *Ask the Pastor Class* for February

include Baptism (February 3 – pastor to be determined), Worship (February 10 – Rev. Linda Reynolds), Ash Wednesday (attend evening service), and the Bible (February 24 with Jay Althouse). Come and join us!

Women's Retreat

Ladies, after the long, cold winter, it's time for a spring get away to the beauty of nature being reborn! Join us for the 2010 Women's Retreat at the beautiful Salt Fork Lodge.

Retreat: Reflect, Renew, Rejoice!

Leader: Rev. Cara Stultz Costello

Dates: Friday evening, April 23 to Saturday afternoon, April 24

Place: Salt Fork State Park Lodge
Cost: \$75 includes shared room, snack, breakfast, and lunch (scholarships are available).

Pick up a registration form at the display in the gathering area and register before March 22. Participants do not have to be members of Faith Church, so grab a relative or a girlfriend and join us!



Visioning Retreat

All are invited to attend a church-wide "Faith for Tomorrow" visioning retreat at Faith UMC on **Saturday, February 20th** from 9:00am to noon. Join us in the Chapel for a morning session of brainstorming and visioning led

by Reverend Don Lefelar. Bring your ideas and enthusiasm for the ministries here at Faith. Coffee and muffins served from 8:30 to 9:00 in Robinson Hall.

Ministry Council will meet in the afternoon session from 1:00 to 3:00 in Robinson Hall to fine tune the ideas presented

from the morning session and set measurable goals for 2010 and beyond. There will be a light lunch for those staying for the afternoon session so please RSVP. Contact the church office for more information (330.499.6040).