

Giving at Faith



W O R S H I P
A R E A
O F
F A I T H

Christmas is a special time for giving at Faith UMC. I would like to thank those who provided shoe boxes/gifts to be packed/funds for sending the boxes to children around the world in the Operation Christmas Child project sponsored by Samaritan's Purse. The children at Crestview's Good News Club look forward to this project each year. Without the people at Faith, we would never be able to send 46 boxes to reach out to the less fortunate in our world.

Hopefully you've had a chance to take a gift tag off of the Giving Tree at Faith. In just a few weeks, all of the gifts requested on the tree will

be gathered and distributed to those in our community who are experiencing a hard time this year. Thank you for becoming involved in this local outreach.

Finally, you will have a chance to provide holiday cheer for some of the folks in our own congregation who have trouble getting out and about. On Tuesday, December 21 at 6:00 P.M. you are invited to meet at the home of Connie and Gary Oswalt (252 E. Chesrown Rd.) to go Christmas Caroling. We will carpool to the Mansfield area to sing Christmas carols to these "shut-ins". We will be taking small bags of goodies such as fruit, hard candy, cookies, tea bags, party

mix, etc. to each friend. If you would like to donate an item, please find the sign-up sheet on the table in the foyer. Items need to be brought to the church by Sunday, December 19th. (We will be filling 6 bags.) After we're done caroling, we'll return to our house for a party. We will supply sandwiches and drinks and the carolers are invited to bring a dish of food or chips or dessert to share. If you have questions, call Connie and Gary at 419-524-2029. Connie Oswalt



In past years our church worship area has been decorated with poinsettias for Christmas. The poinsettias have been given by members of the congregation. If you choose, the poinsettia may be in memory of someone who has

passed away or in honor of someone who is living. If you would like to donate a poinsettia that will be used for Christmas Sunday (Dec. 19th), Christmas Eve, and Sunday, Dec. 26, please give a check or cash to Connie Oswalt (419-524-2029) by Sunday, December 12 with an explanation of who is giving the flower and whom you would like it listed in memory of or in honor of.

6 1/2" pots with 5-7 blooms are: \$ 9.00
7 1/2" pots with 10-15 blooms are: \$13

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

I sit here on the day before Thanksgiving contemplating the beginning of the Advent season on November 28th. Originally, Advent was a time that was supposed to embrace two weeks of introspection and two weeks of celebration in the month before Christmas. For two weeks you were supposed to look in the mirror of your soul and ask if you are ready for Christ to come. Then, you were supposed to get right with God through repentance and penance. After these were completed, you were then to begin the more celebratory aspects of the Christmas season.

In recent years, protestant churches have moved away from the original intent of Advent to make it solely a time of celebration. I believe something has been lost in doing this. The longer we are Christians the more likely we are to have the attitude, mostly unconsciously, that we are somehow better than the person who has not yet become a Christian. There is a (mostly unconscious) sense that we deserve grace, which by definition is undeserved.

A friend of mine told me at his church they do refreshments like we do during Sunday school. The longtime church folk who oversee the refreshments make sure people make a donation when they take something, though it is supposed to be free. Two children came from a neighboring low income apartment next to the church. They saw the donuts, and each took one. Immediately one of the volunteers scolded, "Hey, what are you doing? Put that down!"

The little boys dropped the donuts and turned to leave, but ran into the youth director who was coming to their rescue. He squared himself with the volunteer and said over his shoulder, "Boys help yourself

to a donut." They did and the volunteer made a disgusted sound. The youth director raised his hand in a gesture for the volunteer to stop speaking. He turned to the boys who were devouring their donuts and asked, "Are those good?" Both boys nodded as they gobbled down the last bites. The youth director said, "Have another." The boys graciously accepted. The volunteer fumed and the youth director said, "Mrs. Willis will show you to your Sunday school class." Then the youth director turned to the volunteer and said firmly, "How much did those 4 donuts and a drink of juice cost? I guarantee you those boys had no breakfast! I will put \$6 a week in your donation can, and you will give those boys all the donuts and juice they want from now on!"

There is a reason that we Christians have a reputation for being mean... we are. And, we are mean because we are unwilling to gaze at the mirror of our sole. It is because we are unwilling to regularly and honestly look at our own ethical, moral, and spiritual condition that we are self-righteous and judgmental.

I want to challenge you, each one of you, to do some introspection. I want you to stand in front of a large mirror and ask yourself, "Are my thoughts pure? Is my attitude good? Are my words gracious and kind? Is my behavior above reproach? Is my life blessing the heart of God?" Try being honest with yourself, because apart from the saving work of Christ you are hopelessly lost. Then be honest with God as you repent and seek forgiveness for your sins. And finally, be honest with others as you seek to reconcile yourself to people with whom you are at odds. This Advent – search your heart, repent, and prepare for the coming of Christ! Don't skip the introspection, the repentance, the penance on your way to the celebration of Christmas.

Sincerely,
Pastor Mike

Create in me a
 **clean heart,**
O God;
and renew a
right spirit
within me.



Christ
IS Coming!

Psalm 51:10

Keep the Candle Burning

Happy Holidays everyone! These next two months are a couple of my favorites. November brought Thanksgiving, a holiday that we can reflect on the joys in our life and the joy that our life brings to others. A time of acknowledgement and reflection, and as I reflected, I would like to acknowledge my Church Family. You all bring such light into my life and with all the spices that a life should hold. Compassion. Compassion for the community around you and the will and want to enhance it. Giving. The giving of yourselves and your resources in order to offer the love of Christ. Patience. Patience to nurture others into spiritual maturity, even when they rebel against the journey. Forgiveness. The ability to disagree yet push forth to accomplish tasks and goals while working through differences but knowing that you can forgive, just as your Lord forgave you. And finally Love. Hasn't the fruit been sweet? All the new faces and amazing ways we have integrated into the community, schools and hearts of the people we set out to reach? He is there, and He is love. But knowing that He is there as He is everywhere as well

as knowing He is too big to contain in anyone place, He is Love.

As Christmas approaches, I would challenge you all to consider where God is moving in your life, what is He trying to show you, and why is He taking you there. If you would be willing, please write them down, anonymously if you prefer, and give them to an evangelism team member (Dan Davis, Mary Hodgson, Autumn Wichterman) so that we may put together a collage of witnesses. This will help us in the future by considering where people are in their lives that we may bring The Light to those that can't see.

The Crestview Family Christmas Party will be held at The Outlet this year on Dec 7th, at 6:00 p.m. We are inviting all community families to come and bring the little ones. There will be pictures with Santa and his elves, refreshments, crafts and fun. This party is a partnered event with the Crestview schools.

My Friends and Family, thank you for all that you do for our church and community. I hope this article finds you in good health and spirits. However, if you are experiencing bitterness or sadness, please know that you are loved and there is someone right here that wants to help you through it. Just open your heart and let Him heal, forgive and love you. Amen

God Bless, Dan Davis

STATIC News

Many track enthusiasts or swimming competitors will tell you one of the most important things is to get a good start. It is important to get out of the blocks as fast and as under control as possible while still straddling the line of out of control. I feel like November was a month that we have finally got out of the blocks. It sometimes still amazes me how God can work through a little congregation of His people, a brand new building, and a goof ball youth leader who is reminded daily how incapable he is and how capable God is.

STATIC started the month out

by supporting our church and its members by attending the prayer vigil. I'm sure I'm not speaking just for myself when I say the prayer vigil was a unique experience that made me feel more connected to those who I serve and those I serve with. Being able to pray for others in the church, their families, and our leaders in a structured manor compelled me to continue to pray for them. I have no doubt that having others needs and burdens placed on a student's heart to be raised in prayer had a similar effect on them as it did on me.

This past month we had the largest crowd we have ever had at synthesis. Synthesis is our Wednesday night youth service. It is crazy to think that 32 students

would be so excited to play strobe light dodgeball but it was a huge success, and it left us with the need of a shower and stories to tell till the next time.

If there has ever been a time to be proud of our youth it was this past month, we held a STATIC work day that could have been looked at as boring, lame, or too hard but our students pulled together and put in some hard work. We did jobs like; cleaning gutters, moving hay, raking leaves, picking up sticks, and other yard work.

I can't stress enough how thankful I am for those who have been supporting our youth. It is great to know that we have leaders behind our students helping them stay connected to STATIC. ~ Jared



Did you know that when you drink our coffee, you're doing mission work? We purchase fair-trade coffee from Hemisphere Coffee Roasters in Mechanicsburg, OH. Now you're probably asking, "What is fair-trade coffee?" Paul Kurtz from Hemisphere goes directly to a grower and purchases the beans he grows, therefore cutting out the commodity brokers. The

grower gets a better price for his crop. Hemisphere gets a better cost for the beans. It's a win, win situation. The fair-trade buyers then trade beans with each other to offer their customers coffees from around the world. I'll tell you more about the family farm we're helping next month.

There are LOTS of volunteer opportunities in the month of December. Check the lists on the Café counter. We will be open for the YMCA basketball games every Saturday morning and after Crestview's home basketball games.

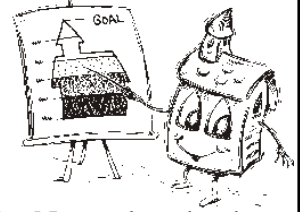
If you are interested in volunteering and missed the Café training sessions, please see Alaine or Sharon to schedule a time for one-on-one training.

In His Service,
Sharon Boyce

Faith United Methodist Church * General Fund * October Report

Income					
	Year	Jan-Sep	Oct		YTD
	2005	115,627.00	15,470.00		131,097.00
	2006	133,216.15	16,754.63		149,970.78
	2007	132,639.20	10,230.33		142,869.53
	2008	129,645.19	11,199.70		140,844.89
	2009	123,416.29	13,115.93		136,532.22
	2010	132,574.32	20,838.41		153,412.73
	Average	127,853.03	14,601.50		142,454.53
Expenses					
	Year	Jan-Sep	Oct		YTD
	2005	115,926.00	13,179.00		129,105.00
	2006	117,247.93	16,220.37		133,468.30
	2007	119,371.08	12,109.95		131,481.03
	2008	131,229.44	13,075.91		144,305.35
	2009	126,537.53	12,915.38		139,452.91
	2010	137,191.82	15,883.14		153,074.96
	Average	124,583.97	13,897.29		138,481.26
Note:					
	2010	General Fund Year to Date Income			153,412.73
	2010	General Fund Year to Date Expenses			153,074.96
					337.77

SCRIP Report



Thanks to everyone for responding to our SCRIP sales. We have a great SCRIP report for November thanks to sales and orders on the 28th. We received \$241.71 from November SCRIP sales, added to our Kroger quarterly check for \$208.01, bringing November's total to **\$449.72**. Our grand total (beginning 6/2006) donated to our Building Fund to date is **\$18,793.63!**

I intend to have a good selection of gift cards still available on December 19th for any late shoppers. I will plan to be at the office window after Sunday services the following week or two to sell what is left from the Christmas gift card supply. A list of available cards will be posted each Sunday at the office window. Please check the list to see if there are any gift cards you could use after the holidays.

Our hope is that you will continue to use SCRIP cards regularly for your every day shopping needs. Let's continue to utilize this available free money to reduce our new building loan. Thanks so much for your support of the SCRIP program.

Marilee Yarger

Faith UMC Country Food Pantry

Month Nov.	Families Helped	Non Perishables	Perishables Food Cards	Food Donations	Monetary Donations	Grocery Receipt	Treasurer's Balance
Week 1	7	Yes	1 @ \$50 1 @ \$60	No	\$900.00	\$68.00	\$771.23
Week 2	3	Yes	1 @ \$20	Yes	No	\$303.92	\$447.31
Week 3	5	Yes	1 @ \$20	Yes	\$55.00	\$327.41	\$154.90
Week 4	3	Yes	No	Yes	\$709.00	\$345.15	\$518.75
Other	26 Food Boxes for Thanksgiving					\$45.00 For Shelving	\$473.75

December Birthdays & Anniversaries & Lection



- 1 Dallas Cremeans
- 1 Bobby Rhea
- 2 Ed McQuillen
- 5 Justin Gross
- 6 Rachel Pfeiffer
- 8 Danielle McQuillen
- 8 Jared Bohley
- 11 Jordan Brown
- 11 Carole Humbert
- 13 Rachel Artrip
- 19 Cindy Shoup
- 21 Tiffany Boyce
- 21 Don Eggerton
- 22 Rick Crowl
- 23 Doug Plaster
- 24 Bob Stimpert

- 25 Jesus
- 27 Amy Shaffer
- 30 Brian Betts
- 30 Cindy Kenyon

Dayspring Residents

- 1 Howard Whisler
- 18 Marna Nead
- 19 Donna Davis
- 19 Maxine Trapp
- 24 Betty Yeager
- 26 Bob Mathias



- 3 Daniel & Wendy Gallaway (7)
- 26 Don & Jane Eggerton (64)
- 27 Scott & Kathy Osborne
- 30 Rex & Marilee Yarger (38)

December 5
 Celebration Service
 Combined Worship
 10:00 a.m.

December 12
 858 Psalm 146
 Isaiah 35:1-6, 10
 *Luke 1:47-55

December 19
 801 Psalm 80:1-7, 14-19
 (1st response)
 Romans 1:1-7
 *Matthew 1:18-25

December 26
 861 Psalm 148
 Matthew 2:13-23
 *Hebrews 2:10-18

***Denotes Sermon Text**

Prayer Opportunities For the Congregation

Beginning in January 2011, our congregation will have an opportunity to learn more about the power of prayer. "Acts 29 Prayer Encounter Video Series" will guide us as we discover the importance of applying the discipline of daily prayer in our lives. We experience God in a personal way when we are in prayer with Him throughout our day.


Also, beginning in January, you will have an opportunity to make a 3 month "Prayer Commitment". In the bulletin there will be an insert which will contain 7 different areas in which you can commit to prayer for, or you can choose just 1 or 2. The idea is that you are making a commitment to pray for the next 3 months. You will then sign the insert and place it in the offering plate. Throughout the next 3 months all of the signed inserts will be lifted up during prayer time. Please pray for this vital ministry of our church. Remember that God "rejoices" when His children spend time with Him in Prayer.

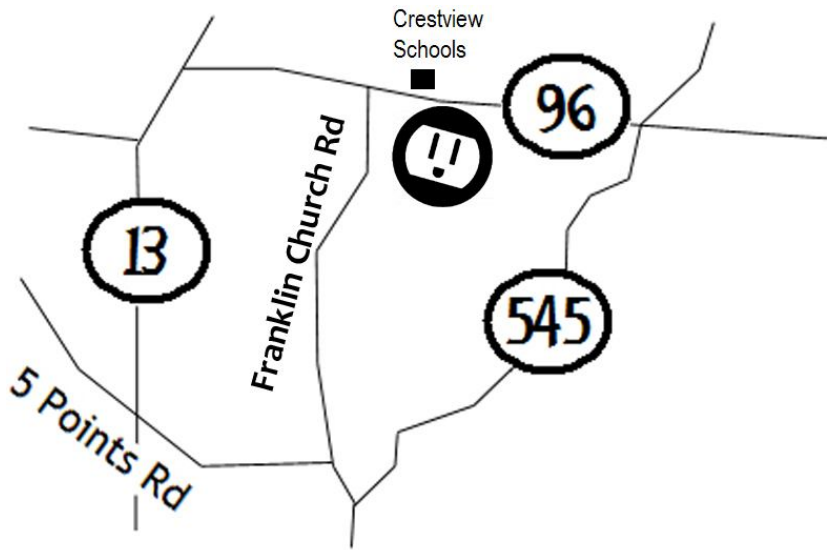
Blessings, Pastor Gloria

Whatman Auctioneers will be auctioning the Franklin building and it's contents on December 7 at 5pm. If you have any items you would like to donate to be auctioned please contact Rachel Yarger (419-522-9096). All proceeds will be going to the New Building Fund. Thank You! Rachel Yarger

December 2010

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1 STATIC Synthesis 6:30p Band Prac 7:00p	2 Good Neighbors Lunch 12:00 p Girl Scouts 6:00p	3 5th Quarter BB	4 YMCA BB Games 8a - 1p Choir Prac 10a Fire Dept. Christmas 6:00p
5 Celebration Service 10a (combined wor- ship)	6	7 Franklin Auction 5:00p Crestview Fam- ily Christmas Party 6p	8 STATIC Synthesis 6:30p Band Prac 7:00p	9 Lay Minister Orientation 6:30p	10	11 YMCA BB Cookie Walk 9a Choir Prac 10a Family Movie Night 6p STATIC Girls all-nighter 9p-9a
12 Prayer Minister Training 9:45a	13	14 Finance & Staff Parish mtg. 7p	15 STATIC Synthesis 6:30p Band Prac 7:00p Lifetree Roots 7p	16 Girl Scouts 6:00p	17 5th Quarter BB	18 YMCA BB Games 8a - 1p Choir Prac 10a
19	20 Trustees 7:00p	21 Oswalt Caroling Party 6:00p	22 STATIC Synthesis 6:30p Band Prac 7:00p	23	24	25 
26	27 5th Quarter BB	28	29 STATIC Synthesis 6:30p Band Prac 7:00p	30 5th Quarter BB	31 STATIC <u>Winterfest</u>	



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP:

8:30 a.m. Traditional Service
11:00 a.m. Contemporary Service

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

9:45 a.m. For All Ages

Mission Statement

**The Mission of our church is to make disciples for Jesus,
in our church, community, and throughout the world.**

Vision Statement

**Through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit we will:
boldly love each other into spiritual maturity;
serve our neighbors sacrificially;
and spread the Good News of Jesus Christ!**



**1574 St. Rt. 96
Ashland, OH. 44805**

**Phone: 419-895-1011
Fax: 419-895-1011
Email: UMCFaith@aol.com
Website: umcfaith.com**