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Are You Ready?

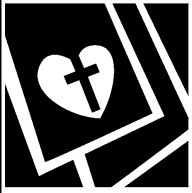
After the encouraging direction chosen by the Outreach Team regarding the new building for the strategic plan, the Evangelism Team had its work cut out for them and they have been very busy this past month. The team's concentration has been focused on the Café. Many programs are being explored that will interact with the community like Youth Jams, Texting tournaments, Wii Olympics, 5th Quarter activities, Barbershop Quartet gatherings, Super-Bowl parties, and much, much more! So get ready Faith! Soon this awesome Evangelistic tool that God has led us to build will put us to task! Are you ready? This is an exciting time to join God in the work He is doing at Faith UMC. Remember, it's in the preparations that some of the most exciting times are shared! If you have a passion for the lost and would like to volunteer with some of the new programming, please contact Dan Davis.

On Saturday, January 30th, a group from Faith met early to travel to Columbus to meet John Scroggins, the business consultant for the Café. The group's mission was to seek out new ideas, strange menus, and to boldly go where no church had gone before! So we thought! As it turned out we learned that there are quite a few churches with a café on the premises. Another thing we learned is that having a Café on church premises works great. Each Café had their own idea of how and what it was used for but they all worked out remarkably. It also became clear to us that all the Cafés had things in common: customized menus, great coffee, warm and fuzzy earth tone décor, but mostly a feeling of fellowship and relaxation.

Recently Sharon Boyce and I spent an afternoon during lunch at Crestview High School explaining to the students and staff what was going on across the street from their school. We set up posters with Café décor choices and a ballot box for the choice selections. While the ballots were being cast the extraordinary thing was the questions and the shock of many when they found out that there was going to be a Café across the street. Questions and more questions and then... the recognition of a place in their very own community where they could go to feel safe and have fun. It was such a delight for Sharon and I to see how much the community is looking forward to the Café.

The Café is just one of the tools we will be using to reach people for Christ. The Sanctanazium is another. In our discussions with the YMCA of Mansfield we really didn't know how it would work as far as reaching the people of our community for Christ. WoW! Were we surprised! Endless possibilities opened to us as we began to explore a whole new aspect of "open door" and "common ground" programming for evangelism. When the YMCA was originally formed it was a Christian program and to this day it remains a Christian based program. Through "The Outlet" we have the opportunity to bring people of the community through our doors with help from Christian and secular programming working together for a common purpose... showing Christ's love by example. Getting them through the door just got easier. It's up to us to do the rest. Always remember that the greatest tool for evangelism is... You.

In Christ Love,
Dan Davis



FROM THE PASTOR

Two weeks ago we began the “To Save A Family Series.” The first week we discussed the importance of giving time and attention to our families in order to cultivate supportive, nurturing, and loving relationships that enhance the quality of life for all involved. In our small groups, we have discussed the cultural changes that have taken place in western societies over the centuries that have diminished the influence of families upon their members.

Whether we like it or not, even in the best of communities the peer groups of children, the internet, media, celebrities, and governmental agencies are having significantly more influence than they ever had in childhood development. In 1996, present Secretary of State Hillary Clinton made a rallying cry in her promotion of the African proverb, “It takes a village to raise a child.” Many claimed she rose the saying to the level of cliché by using it to justify a particular political agenda. Whether you like Hillary Clinton or not, I think she caused a lot of us to realize that we have a great responsibility to the weakest and most vulnerable members of society.

Jesus saw things this way as well. He said, “Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” (Matthew 19:14, NIV) Jesus showed special consideration for the weak, the suffering, the sick, the outcast, the sinner, and anyone else who was being left out or abused or rejected or oppressed. And, Jesus would agree that “It takes a village to raise a child.”

Four years ago, we began to collaborate with the Mansfield Area YMCA. Prior to that - I thought of the YMCA as a place that you went to work-out, swim, or play in an athletic league. Upon beginning to work with them, I discovered that the YMCA was those things and much more. I did not realize how much emphasis they placed upon character development or how much energy and resources that they spend trying to help children and adolescents develop as good citizens. I did not realize how many ways they help families, or care for older adults. Each passing day causes me to appreciate even more

the many ways that they invest in people of all ages to improve the quality of life for all residents of Richland County.

Our congregation has chosen to name our new church campus “The Outlet”. We have intended for some time to cultivate the idea that it is a community center and not just a church building. It is wholly appropriate that our collaboration with the YMCA would grow from this point. We are currently discussing the possibility of: the YMCA leading many physical and athletic programs and activities for all ages, sharing a staff person, and launching a daycare and preschool in the fall of 2010. Each of these things expand our ability to meet people in the midst of their needs and “connect” them with caring community and a place of nurture, support and love. It does take a whole village to raise a child.

Some of you have expressed concern that the YMCA will take over our facility and the church will not have an opportunity to minister to the people that are involved in YMCA programs since they are a “secular” nonprofit organization. In almost every conversation with leaders of the YMCA, I bring up that subject. Without exception, they have assured me that we will be able to connect with families of the children in the daycare and preschool and participants in YMCA programs. They also remind me in many tangible ways that they are here to help us as much or as little as we desire. I am confident that this collaboration will bear much fruit for the kingdom of God.

Please be in prayer as our leaders discuss the potential of further collaboration with the YMCA and the various initiatives that I have mentioned. Let’s all pray that “The Outlet” would be a place where the love of God is clearly demonstrated in many ways and people connect with God and a community of love, nurture, care and support.

Blessings, Pastor Mike



re: Worship

The book of Genesis describes two people who came to worship God. One person's worship was accepted by God; the other was not. What made the difference?

The answer has been debated for centuries. But one answer is common: The worship that was accepted by God was carefully prepared to be the best offering possible.

So ask yourself: When you come to worship, are you preparing to offer your best? Jesus spoke about the value and benefits of those who prepared for celebrating with him.

The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps.

The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

At midnight the cry rang out: "Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!"

Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out."

"No," they replied, "there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves."

But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

Later the others also came. "Sir! Sir!" they said. "Open the door for us!" But he replied, "I tell you the truth, I don't know you" (Matthew 25.1-12).

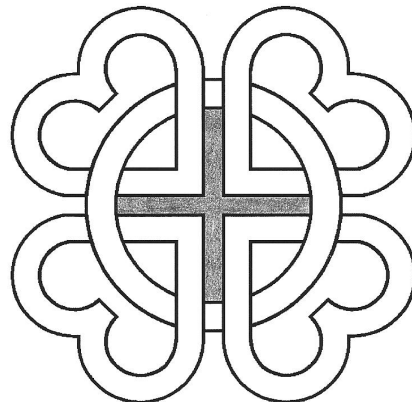
This story describes two kinds of people: those who prepare and those who do not. The wise virgins who prepared in advance were invited into the celebration and got to enjoy the party with the groom. But Jesus described those who did not adequately prepare as foolish. They were not invited into the celebration. They did not get to know the groom ("I do not know you").

Here are some ways you can prepare for worship.
Can you think of others?

- Plan activities the night before to end in time for you to get enough rest before worship.
- Come early so you'll have time to speak with other worshippers.
- Listen to music throughout the week that honors God.
- Pray for your church, community, and pastor.
- Invite God to use your experience in worship as a life-changing opportunity.
- Fully engage your heart, mind, and body in worship.
- Talk with others about the message, sharing what you've learned and felt.
- Read the Scriptures selected for each week to learn and apply more.
- Stay after worship so you can continue to develop relationships within the body of Christ.

Lord, help me to plan carefully so I will be ready to celebrate with you. Make me wise in my preparation. Make me ready when your Spirit calls, "Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!" Let me know you more as I celebrate in worship.

~ Pastor Steve



Faith United Methodist Church Financial Report

New Year, New Treasurer, New Software

The year 2010 promises to be a year of change for Faith United Methodist Church. Preparations for the move into the new facility are well underway. Worshiping in the new building will be a significant change from our current experience, but other less obvious changes also need to take place to ensure that we are able to fully realize the potential the building can provide. One of those changes will be in the way we handle the financial aspects of the church.

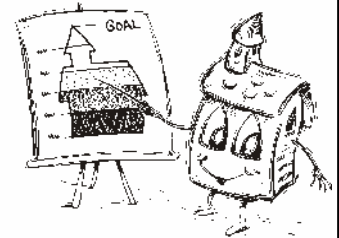
Reluctantly we accepted Marilee Yarger's resignation from the office of Church Treasurer but we were delighted when Cliff Williams willingly volunteered to assume the role. He officially began his duties, January 1, 2010.

We also implemented on January 1, the use of new financial software, designed specifically for churches, called Church Windows. This software includes a payroll package and the ability to generate year end reports that will, we believe, save time in creating our required Conference reports. The Finance Committee has been working several months preparing for the transition to the new software, but it still takes time under real conditions to know where all of the bugs are. Fortunately, we have been able to pay bills and meet payroll. Now that we have those essential processes underway we are working on the reporting aspects of the program.

We can tell you the following for January 2010.

General Fund Income	\$15,430.64
General Fund Expenses	\$15,790.77
Balance	(\$360.13)

SCRIP Report



February Proceeds: \$144.78

To Date Total: \$15,638.40

We have had some new SCRIP Card users this month! Thanks to all who are able to use SCRIP Gift Cards to earn money for our Building Program.

The following gift cards are still available from the on-hand Christmas gift cards:

Cheddars, 2 @ \$10, 1 @ \$25;

Outback, 1 @ \$25;

Panera Bread, 1 @ \$10;

Red Lobster/Olive Garden, 3 @ \$10;

Starbucks, 1 @ \$10

If you are interested in purchasing any of these cards, please see me on Sunday mornings.

Marilee Yarger

S.T.A.T.I.C. News

30 Hour Famine Project

March 19 & 20 the S.T.A.T.I.C. Youth Group will be participating in a 30 hour famine. This is a great chance to experience fasting and raise awareness and funds for people who are suffering from extreme poverty, surviving on \$1.25 a day or less. Youth members are accepting pledges that will be sent to World Vision who will use those funds for food, medical supplies and educational supplies. In 2008 World Vision delivered 211,000 metric tons of food (that's 7000 + semi-truck loads) to feed hungry children and families. The following are ways you can help:

- Start praying for the famine and the effort to help others.
- Make a monetary pledge: \$1 feeds 1 child for 1 day! \$30 feeds the child for a month! Contact a member of S.T.A.T.I.C. to make a contribution. Tax deductible receipts given to contributors! Please make checks payable to World Vision!
- Encourage others you know to give (matching pledges)
- Assist with the famine (talk to Tina and you must be current with Child Protection Training)
- Participate in a highly top secret fund raising event (announced March 7)

During the famine S.T.A.T.I.C. will also be doing 2 community benefiting service projects. One will benefit our own Faith UMC Food Pantry. On March 7 there will be a parent meeting after the second service in the Fellowship Hall. I encourage all parents of S.T.A.T.I.C. members to attend to find out the many details of this event. **All teens in 7-12 grades are invited and encouraged to become a part of S.T.A.T.I.C...Students Taking Action Together In Christ!**

The S.T.A.T.I.C. Current (What's happening now)
We're on Face Book! Are You? Check out our page & become a Fan! We meet every Sunday morning in the Youth Room at 9:30 a.m. and we are currently studying "To Save A Life".

S.T.A.T.I.C. Thanks

- The Parents who donated lunch for our "Toadally Sweet Valentine" Project and the families who allowed S.T.A.T.I.C. the privilege of spending the afternoon with their children!
- Pastor Steve Baney for setting up our Face Book page! Check it out to view pictures of the Valentines event!

For more information contact Tina Birchell

Franklin/Weller Township Fire Department & Auxiliary's

4th Annual Pancake Breakfast

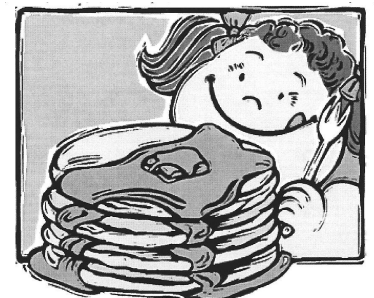
Saturday, March 27, 2010

7:30 - 11:30 a.m.

@ Franklin Twp. Fire Dept.

(on the corner of Ganges 5 Points & Boyce Rd.)

Donations from this breakfast will be used for the continued support and equipment needs of our local Fire Department & Rescue Squad to ensure top quality care in emergency situations. Mark your calendars now so you don't miss the opportunity to join with community volunteers for Great Food & Great Company all the while supporting a Great Cause... our community!



Birthdays & Anniversaries



- 1 Mary Johnson
- 2 Mike Baker
- 3 Dave Cardwell
- 7 Stephanie Hodgson
- 10 Ciara Biggs
- 11 Jackie Mack
- 12 Marj Pond
- 13 Rowland Dumm
- 18 Faith Oswalt
- 19 Alexa Finley
- 20 Rex Yarger
- 21 Judy Ringler

- 22 Katy Schoonyan
- 23 Mary Hodgson
- 24 Macie Boardman
- 24 Jed Sauder
- 24 Brian Birchell
- 25 Leo Ringler
- 25 Nick Schoonyan
- 25 Stephanie Boardman
- 26 Sonja (Powers) Meyer
- 26 Audrey Vigneron
- 26 Ken Boyce
- 26 Dave Shoup
- 26 Alice Gurik
- 27 Nathaniel Powers
- 29 Becky Oswalt
- 31 Caity Campbell

Dayspring Resident Birthdays

- 1 Florine Dorn
- 14 Robert Reed
- 15 Mary Jacobs
- 29 Terri Goff



Happy Anniversary!

- 1 Rowland & Kathy Dumm (18)
- 26 Jack & Janet Dyson (55)



Preaching Schedule

March 7

840 Psalm 119:1-8 (1st response)
 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
 *Colossians 3:12-17

March 21

756 Psalm 25 (1st response)
 Matthew 21:28-32
 *Psalm 78:1-7

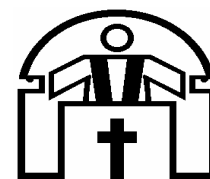
March Lection

March 14

783 Psalm 50:1-6, 16-23
 Luke 12:35-40
 *Hebrews 11

March 28

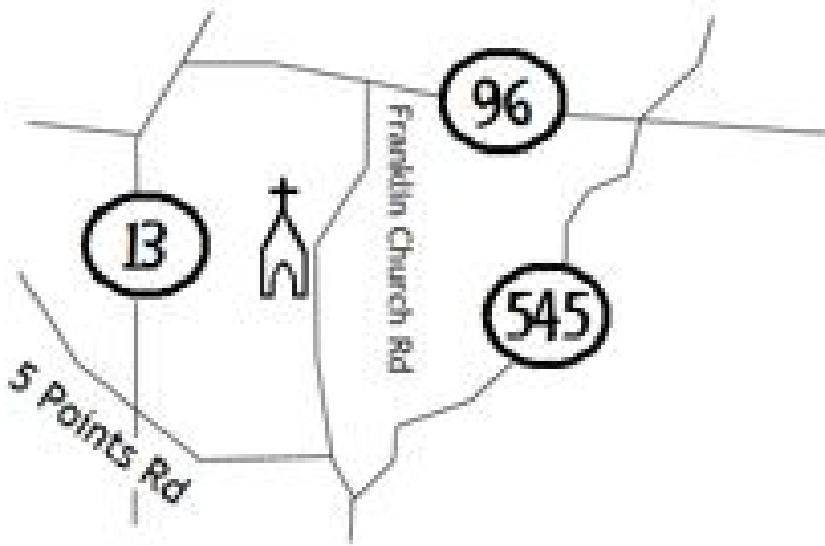
839 Psalm 118:14-29 (1st response)
 Isaiah 50:4-9a
 *Luke 19:28-40



*Denotes Sermon Text

March 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>Trustee Mtg. 7:00 pm</i>	2	3	4	5	6
7 <i>New Member Orientation 9:45 am</i> <i>Youth Group Parent mtg. 12:15 pm</i>	8	9	10	11 <i>Finance Team 4:30 pm</i>	12	13
14 <i>Meet-n-Munch 7-9 pm</i>	15	16	17	18	19 <i>Youth 30 Hour</i>	20 <i>Lock-In Famine</i>
21	22	23	24	25 <i>Good Neighbors Lunch 12:00 pm</i>	26	27 <i>Franklin/Weller Township Pan- cake Breakfast 7:30 - 11:30 am</i>
28	29	30	31			



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP:

8:30 a.m. Traditional Service

11:00 a.m. Contemporary Service

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

9:30 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!**



**3775 Franklin Church Rd.
Mansfield, OH. 44903**

Phone: 419-526-0240

Fax: 419-526-7906

Email: UMCFaith@aol.com

Website: umcfaith.com