

The Church Spire

Volume 15, Issue 4

April 1, 2010



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And much more!

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday • April 1

We remember the mandate of Christ to love one another

Communion Services

12:10 & 7:30 p.m. • Sanctuary

Good Friday • April 2

Community Good Friday Service

in our Sanctuary

12 to 1 p.m.

Journey through the Shadows

Holy Scripture will lead us as we remember and reclaim the power of the Passion of our Lord.

Chancel Choir Presentation of *The Seven Last Word of Christ*

by Théodore Dubois

7:30 p.m. • Sanctuary

Child Care Provided

Easter

The day of the Resurrection

8:45 a.m. • The First Service of Easter

10:30 a.m. • Celebration of the Resurrection

Chancel Choir to Perform *The Seven Last Words of Christ* on Good Friday

Our Chancel Choir will once again perform this hauntingly beautiful sacred cantata by Théodore Dubois **April 2 at 7:30 p.m.** in our Sanctuary.

A recent participant states "This is a beautiful cantata, full of soaring melodies and drama. It's my favorite Easter cantata because it captures the feelings of the people so well — the mob calling for Jesus' death, the two crucified thieves, Jesus on the cross and his mother 'bowed in anguish' at the foot of the cross."

Returning guest participants are Alexandra Damiano, Soprano; Christian Lindsey, tenor; Brad Huffman, baritone; and organist Christopher L. Koon. **Child care will be available.**

Thoughts Along the Way

Blessed is the King who comes...

This is my body, ... This cup... is the new covenant in my blood.
...yet not my will but yours be done.

Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

He Is Risen – He Is Risen Indeed!

What an amazing reality of our faith. We are invited to walk with Jesus into the very death of our beings, that we might be freed to live the gift of life given us by God. Each day we battle the narrowing of the world – the mandates that flood at us. Yet, every day we choose the freedom of the resurrection to define the living of our days. May this be your priority in ALL the days God gives you. May this Eastertide encourage you. And here are resurrection scriptures to encourage you!

Why are you looking for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.

Jesus himself came near...

Were not our hearts burning within us...?

Peace be with you.

Honor and Blessings,

Pastor Mary Jo

(The scriptures used above are from the Gospel according to Luke.)

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Sharing the Blessing

This new ministry at Athens First is growing nicely. We have a wonderful supply of lovingly-created shawls, many of which have already been blessed and distributed. We would like to **increase the number of volunteers who deliver shawls**, so if this is something you would enjoy doing, please get in touch with Sharon Fink soon (593-3977 ext 11). Thanks!!

Thanks, All of You Who Signed Up for a Pictorial Directory Photo Appointment

The Olan Mills photographers and crew will be here in the 1st Floor Lounge on April 9, 10, 16 and 17 for the photo appointments. If you missed an opportunity to schedule your appointment or need to change your appointment, please call them directly at 1-800-866-2263.

Interested in Exploring Church Membership?

If you would like to become a member of First United Methodist Church or have been thinking about that process and would like to know more...

- The next New Member Class will be held on **May 17 at 7 p.m. at the Parsonage**.
- Members will join during worship services on Pentecost, **May 23rd**.
- Pastor Mary Jo would like to **meet with you personally** sometime between now and May 15.

To take the next step, please contact

Pastor Mary Jo: 593-3977 ext 15 or yeakel@firstumcathens.org

Or – Sharon Fink: 593-3977 ext 11 or fink@firstumcathens.org



the family and friends of Janet Biddle in her death on March 4th and to Jennifer Sheets and family in the death of her father on March 25.

Prayer Chain If you have prayer requests, please call 593-7471 or 593-6853 to have your request placed on the church's Prayer Chain.

Church Office Is Closed Monday, April 5

Hand Sanitizers Added throughout the Building You'll notice something new in all the restrooms and in areas where food is served – black, hand sanitizer dispensers. The sanitizer is foam, alcohol-free and waterless.

Hospitalizations – When We Know, We Go With all the new privacy and security regulations, it's more difficult than ever to know who is in the hospital. We encourage you to be sure and let us know when you or your loved ones are hospitalized. Pastor Mary Jo encourages you to contact her directly by calling the church office (593-3977, ext 15) or at (707-0898). She checks both voice mail systems regularly, even when she is out of town.

Sermons Broadcast Live on WATH Remember, if for some reason you can't be in worship on Sunday, tune in to WATH (970) at 11 a.m. and hear that portion of our service broadcast live on the radio. Sometimes they begin the broadcast at 10:30 a.m., so be sure to tune in a little early.

Parking on Sunday Mornings Parking in the Municipal Parking Garage is free on Sundays and elevators are available. Be sure to park in one of the metered spaces. If you have an OU Parking hang tag, either faculty/staff or retired, you may park in OU Lot 39 (the lot in front of the School of Music and Seigfred).

The Next Spire Deadline Is Thursday, April 22 If you have news for the April issue, please be sure to get it to the church by Thursday, April 22.

Copies of Newsletter Available at the Church A few copies are printed each month and are in the literature racks in the Narthex and by the Chapel entrance. It is always available to read from our web site.

Church Office Hours The office is open **Monday – Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** and is **not** open on Fridays. Sharon is in the building at other times throughout the week, so if you need her, try looking on the 3rd floor where her office is located or call 593-3977 ext 11 to reach her.

United Methodist Women's Circles Hold Meetings April 27

Miriam Circle, 9:45 a.m. - Home of Miriam Henderson, 2 Cable Lane

Martha-Ruth Circle, 1:30 p.m. – Home of Clarice Squibb, 22 Jacobs

Lydia Circle, 7:30 p.m., – Home of Joyce Lambert, 7 Greenbrier Dr.

Spring Rummage Sale May 5 Want to clean out your house and benefit the community at the same time? Our United Methodist Women will hold their Spring Rummage Sale on Wednesday, May 5, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. When you're doing your spring cleaning, don't forget to save clean, gently used items in good condition for the sale. Items may be left in Fellowship Hall after 2 p.m. on Monday, May 3, and all day on Tuesday, May 4. Proceeds will benefit local mission projects. Call Rosemary Cooley (592-4704) if you have any questions.



Monday Lunch

The On-Going Needs of Serving 150 Each Week Monday Lunch has had a busy winter serving between 100 and 150 people each Monday (usually closer to 150 than 100), as we completed 12 years of service at the end of January. Thanks to the many volunteers, past and present, who have made it so very successful!

Just as winter changes to Spring, changes come to Monday Lunch volunteers' lives. For various reasons those who help need to step back and let others take their place. Will you step forward to full in for them? The following are just some of those ways:

- From 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. we need **3 people to volunteer 2 Mondays/month**
- **Salad Donations** to serve approx 16, 1 Monday a month year round
Examples: slaw, 3 bean salad, fruit salad, 2-24oz containers cottage cheese, potato or macaroni salad, 2 bags of salad mix with tomatoes or cucumbers, 2 bags of slaw mix and a jar of slaw dressing, etc.
- **Dessert Donations** to serve approx 16, 1 Monday a month year round
Examples: 9 X 13 cake, brownies, cookies, 2 pies, 2 angel food cakes, pudding, etc.

Summertime at Monday Lunch

Please keep Monday Lunch in mind when you make your summer plans. OU student volunteers can't help from Memorial Day until well past Labor Day. So Monday Lunch needs help to take their places.

Our regular crew of volunteers will also be taking **their own, well-deserved vacations**. This means we'll need extra help.

Youth are welcome to volunteer as long as they have completed 4th grade and have their parental permission. We ask volunteers to come for as little as an hour anytime between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. or stay for the entire time. Come one Monday or more or all summer long!

Please help serve your church and the Athens Community this summer. Feel free to call Allene Kilgor (592-2122) to volunteer or if you have questions. Please leave a message if you get the answering machine.

Wow! The Kitchen Sure Is Clean!

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of Judy Matthews, Jan Tucker, and Jed Butcher and the inspiration of Vera Smith, the task of organizing a professional, full cleaning of the Fellowship Hall Kitchen has been accomplished. Also, much appreciation is due the Board of Trustees for financially supporting this, as well as the encouragement of the Local Missions Committee.

Arrangements were made with a local cleaning company, Nice and Neat II, to clean top to bottom (excluding a strip & wax of the floors), and they have done a great job! Asked to wash only the inside of the windows, they took the initiative to climb down into the outside window well so that they could also wash the outside. They sparkle! They washed pipes, ductwork, light fixtures, all the stainless surfaces, the filter system over the stove, and much more...they were very thorough. The adjacent WSC Kitchen also got some attention.

Next time you are on the lower level, walk through the Kitchen and look around. Many, many thanks to all who took on this long-term project! --Allene Klgore

Have You Visited the Church's Web Site Lately? It's an easy way to keep up with what's happening at FUMC. We try to make sure we have new pages in the photo album shortly after events occur. Wesley Student Center has an extensive site under "Campus" - you can get a taste of what their ministry is all about. A copy of the current newsletter is always available to read, in addition to the weekly calendar of events. Lots more, too. Want your long-distance family and friends to know more about where you worship? Give them the address, too. Here it is: <http://www.firstumcathens.org>

Adult Ministry at Athens First

The View from My Window...

As we prepare to leave the season of Lent and approach Easter, I grow excited thinking about all that is happening in our caring ministries at Athens First.

There are two new **opportunities for growth** that will soon be available for Adults at Athens First: The *Friends of Jesus* Sunday School class for adults with development disabilities that will occur Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. starting April 11 and a study on *Healthy Lifestyles* that will be meeting on Thursday evenings beginning April 8th and will incorporate various ways to live healthier in mind, body, spirit and relationships. You'll find detailed information about both of these in this newsletter.

There are seven Stephen Minister Trainees who recently completed their 50 hours of training to become **Stephen Ministers**. On April 25th, **Cathy Bigger, Mike Bila, Elaine Dabelko, Ken Edwards, Marilyn Martin, Bonita Maze, and Matthew Morris** will be commissioned as Stephen Ministers during the 10:30 service. I am

confident that God will use their training, their personalities, and their relationships with God to reach out to those in our congregation who need a listening ear and a caring, compassionate presence.

My old office is overflowing with **prayer shawls** that have been lovingly made and are ready to be presented as a sign of love and caring.

And last, but certainly not least, I am overwhelmingly thankful for the **help and support** provided in the main office by **Karen Woodworth and June Safranek**, who eagerly give of their time by each volunteering one morning a week, which frees me to attend to the more administrative and ministry areas of my role here at Athens First. This is new ministry in action, too!

I ask you to join with me in lifting these ministries to God in thanksgiving and in seeking God's blessings on the new as well as on the present ministries of Athens First.

--Sharon Fink, Coordinator of Adult Ministries



Living a Lifestyle that is Healthy

Suzanna Theodoras is busy lining up guest speakers to join her in presenting topics around the theme *Living a Lifestyle that is Healthy*. This series will begin **April 8** in the 1st Floor Lounge at 7 p.m. **Each segment in this six-week series will stand alone, and there is no homework.**

Week one's speaker will be Karen Bailey, MS, RD, LD, who will talk about the nutritional daily requirements, what food labels really tell us and how we can use that information to be wise grocery shoppers.

Week two, Suzanna will talk about Spiritual references for a healthy lifestyle.

For weeks three and four, if you are interested in nourishing your child's body and soul, you'll want to join us for an interactive discussion as OU dietetic students share their insights about optimizing your child's nutritional habits while enjoying meals as a family.

Please contact Suzanna if you have questions (592-4649). **Hope to see you April 8 at 7 p.m. in the 1st Floor Lounge!**



Friends of Jesus Sunday School Class

The *Friends of Jesus* Sunday School Class for Adults with Disabilities Begins April 11. We're excited that the plans are moving ahead for this new class for our adults with special needs. The classes will be held weekly in **Room 6 at 9:30 a.m.** The curriculum is titled *Access*, and is specifically designed for adults with special learning needs. Our teachers are Cindy Boger, Erin Eckelberry, and Cathy Lee.

We welcome others to help assist our teachers and to help in other ways. You do not need to be experienced in this field to help – just have a caring heart and a patient and joyful spirit. **If you feel a tug to help in some way**, please contact—Cindy (592-5726 or cindyboger@hotmail.com), Erin (eeckelberry@alexanderschools.org) or Sharon Fink.

One Plus the Power of You – April Readings Now Available If you're interested in following the Lectionary Scriptures for Sunday's worship, the April readings are now available – visit the tray next to Pastor Mary Jo's Office and in the last window on the Church Street side of the Sanctuary. She asks that you read through the Scriptures as often as possible, preferably each day, for the week preceding its assigned Sunday. Let's see what will happen by the power of the Holy Spirit when we participate in such a discipline. Honor and Blessings to you!



What an educational and fun experience our Sunday school children enjoyed on March 14. We learned a little bit more about Haiti, the needs of the people there, and how we could help in the aftermath of the recent earthquake. We enjoyed a traditional Haitian treat, made from sweet potatoes, banana, coconut milk, raisins and all sorts of fragrant, yummy spices. We also talked a bit about the continuing needs in New Orleans, where members of the teen youth group were going to help during Spring Break. Our craft projects including making Mardi Gras style masks and coloring a picture of a tap-tap, the brightly colored taxis found in Haiti. It was also Noisy Bucket Sunday, so we were happy to be a part of collecting money for our very worthwhile mission endeavors.

The Children's Sunday school program has had a three-week break, with **classes resuming on April 11th.** We hope that the children will all come out and be a part of our study of the Apostle Paul during April.

We are continuing to get revved up about our **Galactic Blast Vacation Bible School**, which will run from **August 2-6.** We anticipate having an "end of VBS" bonfire at the Seiters' homestead again this year. Thanks, Rick and Vicki! There are still **a number of volunteer opportunities** available in the VBS program, so we are counting on the help of the congregation. This is truly an enriching experience for all involved and a true blessing and ministry to our children and the friends they invite, so please prayerfully consider what role you might play in helping to launch this year's "Galactic Blast!"

Also, we want to alert the parents of the younger children that the Council on Children's Ministries has decided not to host any more movie nights during the remainder of this school year. We will be certain to inform the congregation when other special children's activities are planned. Thanks for your understanding.

--Laura Dalton,


Member of Council on Children's Ministries

Children's Council Thanks Sunday School Volunteers Children's Council would like extend a very big thank you to Jan Miller-Fox, Betty Ranck, Laura Dalton, and Greg Van Patten for volunteering to teach the PreK - 4th grade children during February and March. The Council would also like to thank our April volunteers - Joyce Lambert, Susan Phillips, and Julie Pagan for teaching, Chris Hitchcock for volunteering in the nursery during the Sunday School hour, and Janice Huwe for volunteering as a substitute shepherd. We can't make it work without our volunteers, so THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!! We are still in need of volunteers for the first three Sundays in May, so if you'd like to help, please contact Kim Mather at 594-1095 or kpmather@yahoo.com.

From our West Ohio Conference—*Kids and Christ* series launches

The United Methodist Publishing House is teaming up with The United Methodist Reporter to launch a series of articles encouraging readers to respond about the faith development and spiritual care of children and young people in the church. The series, titled *Kids and Christ*, seeks to answer questions such as, "If you're not teaching your kids about God, who is?" and "Is Sunday school dead?" A [Facebook Fan Page](#) has been created to host the discussions. Readers are encouraged to offer their questions, thoughts and comments and the overall standing of the faith education of children and teens.

A colorful CROSS



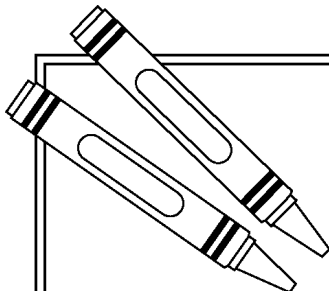
Create a beautiful decoration for your window this Easter. It will remind you that Jesus rose from the dead to save you from your sins.

What you need:

- 8½" x 11" sheet of paper
- Pencil
- Clear transparency sheet (or clear report cover)
- Permanent marker
- Scissors
- Colored tissue paper
- Paintbrush
- Glue
- Scotch tape

What you do:

1. Draw a large cross that takes up most of the paper.
2. Put the transparency over the paper and trace the cross onto it with a permanent marker.
3. Cut the colored tissue paper into 1" x 1" squares.
4. Using a paintbrush, spread glue onto the tissue paper squares and then place them on the cross. (Add a few drops of water to the white glue to make it more spreadable.)
5. After the glue is dry, cut out the cross. Then tape it in a window and enjoy the beautiful colors.



Just for KIDS

SYMBOL OF SACRIFICE

At this time of the year, we see many crosses draped in purple, black or white cloth. They remind us of the loving sacrifice Jesus made for us — and that he rose again.

Use the code in the big cross to complete 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, NIV.

“

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Answer: Christ died for our sins ... he was buried ... he was raised on the third day.

News from Growing Tree Preschool

We're excited about all the fun things we have planned at Growing Tree this month. See below for weekly themes, letter of the week and special dates.



DATES	THEME	LETTER of the WEEK
March 29-April 1	EASTER PREPARATIONS	"Ee"
April 5-9	SPRING, PART I (focus on weather and planting)	"Kk"
April 12-16	SPRING, PART II (focus on insects and spiders)	"Ii"
April 19-21	TEACHER CHOICE	--
April 26-30	ERIC CARLE	"Nn"

Special Dates

April 2--Growing Tree closed in observance of Good Friday

April 4--HAPPY EASTER from Growing Tree!

April 8 and 9--Class Photo Days

April 22 and 23--Parent/Teacher Conferences-No class sessions

Fall Enrollment Update We have begun accepting enrollment from new and returning students for fall, 2010. Both class sessions (M/W/F and T/TH) are filling rapidly. If you or someone you know is looking for a quality early childhood educational and social experience, rooted in a Christian atmosphere, for a three-, four- or five-year-old child, please contact Cathy Bigger for an application and more information.

Thank you for the continuing support, encouragement and prayers for Growing Tree Preschool. It is our privilege to serve as part of the outreach ministry programming of this great church.

--Cathy Bigger, Director

All Must Re-Enroll for Kroger Rewards Program to Benefit WSC

Wesley Student Center has been told by Kroger that ALL folks who are currently enrolled in the Reward Program must re-enroll **beginning April 1st**. It's been brought to our attention that even those of you who just signed-up, as late as March, must again, re-enroll.

You CANNOT re-enroll by going to the customer service counter at Kroger's. RE-ENROLLMENT CAN ONLY BE DONE BY INTERNET: <http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com>

The Wesley Student Center account number is: NPO #83759 Please be patient with this process. It's because of you, being a part of this Rewards Program, that Wesley Student Center has been able to provide help for those in crisis through the WSC Mission Trips. **The most recent check from Kroger was for \$483.15 received on March 8.** Please help us continue to receive these by re-enrolling after April 1st.

--Blessings, Rick WSC Interim Director

Echoing Meadows Sponsoring Walk-a-Thon

Echoing Meadows Residential Center, a non-denominational Christian based health care facility serving the developmentally disabled, is sponsoring their first walk-a-thon fundraiser on April 24th of 2010 at 10:00A.M. They hope to raise funds to upgrade their air-conditioning system and improve energy efficiency.

Registration forms are available on their website at www.echoinghillsvillage.org or call Dea or

Calendar Information Available 24/7

Remember, if you need to check on dates and times of church events, that information is available on our web site (www.firstumcathens.org/calendar) and also on the automated portion of our phone system (extension 3) - *available seven days a week, 24 hours a day.*

Youth News

From Kirstin and Jason

www.firstumcathens.org/youth

Confirmation Process Includes Retreat Eight youth have been journeying through the confirmation process and will be on a retreat at Camp Otterbein starting at 8 PM on Thursday, April 1, and ending on Saturday, April 3 at 9 AM. Parents should pick up from Camp Otterbein.

Confirmation Sunday is April 11, 2010. On April 11, Ian Boyd, Elisa Bergmeier, Daryl Holm, Hannah Klein, Delany Murray, Danny Pagan, Nathan Rickey, and Chase Van Patten will complete the confirmation process and be confirmed as members of Athens first.

Please join us following the 10:30 worship that day for a cake and punch reception in the first floor lounge to congratulate the confirmands.

Second Sunday Event April 11 - Hiking at Strouds Run Youth will journey to Strouds Run for an afternoon of food, fun games, and hiking. Youth can catch a ride from church after the Confirmation Reception or if they prefer, they can go home and then meet us at Strouds Run Shelter House at 12:30. We will have lunch and then spend the afternoon in the great outside. We will go to an alternate site if it rains. If you are going straight from church, remember to bring a change of clothes.



News from the Center From Rick Seiter Our Interim WSC Director

www.firstumcathens.org/campus

This month we welcome two student interns to Wesley Student Center: Ally Ballentine and Jessica Powell. We've asked them to share a little about themselves to help you get to know them a little better:

Jessica writes, I'm a senior this year at Ohio University majoring in Nursing Home Administration and Health Care Administration. My family is me, my parents, and my younger brother who is a freshman and a football player at Ohio Northern University. I'm from Findlay, Ohio and in grade school I was involved in various activities; softball, 4-H (raising rabbits), show choir, dance, gymnastics, choir, and marching and concert band.

I'm extremely excited to graduate, become licensed and start my career because caring for and being an advocate for the elderly and disabled is a great passion of mine.

But what I'm most excited about lately is helping to spread God's love and friendship on this campus as much as I can before I leave in June. I'm pretty new to the Christian faith; I gave my heart in the spring of my freshman year at OU, just before the death of my grandfather, so I'm always ready to absorb and learn more of His love. I have also been a member of Kappa Phi since fall of my freshman year, having served on the cabinet as Co-Social chair, Secretary and as this year's President of the chapter. Kappa Phi is what brought me to WSC and showed me the amazing things WSC does.

I have an extraordinary boyfriend, Casey, of just over a year who I love with all my heart and we have a 1 ½ year old pit bull "son" named Rocko. Also, I'm a bit of a clean freak, I love country music, watching football, traveling, being creative and being outside. I pride myself on being very approachable and friendly, so if you want to get to know me better just ask!

Ally writes, Hi! My name is Ally Ballentine. I am nineteen years old and a freshman creative writing major. I am from Loveland, which is about twenty-five minutes northeast of Cincinnati. My fish, Benny, lives with me at OU, however, when I am home, I live with my mom and dad, my younger sister, and my two cats and dog.

My favorite activities are reading and writing (obviously), but I also enjoy music. I play piano and viola and I listen to music almost every second that I am awake.

My church at home is Epiphany UMC. There I have been involved in youth group, choirs, and other various events.

I am so excited to be one of the new WSC Interns here at First UMC and cannot wait to get to know the members of the church!



\$ 46,770.50 Income for February
 32,476.13 Expenses for February

 14,294.37 Net gain for February
 \$ 19,131.37 Net gain for the year

Many thanks for helping make ministry happen. Your faithfulness allows us to pay bills on time and to pay our well deserving staff. Thanks!

Successfully Noisy Buckets Accumulate nearly 50 pounds Noisy Bucket Sunday was fun for all and brought in \$373.78. Of that amount \$228.78 was in coins and weighed about 50 pounds. Amazing!

This special offering will be sent to the conference to benefit hurricane victims in either Haiti or Chili. Since the youth's income for their New Orleans trip exceeded expectations, they generously said to use the entire Noisy Bucket collection for hurricane relief. Thank you, youth!



Second Mile Giving Reported through March 21:

Food Pantry – Goal \$2,000 – received \$530.00
 Habitat for Humanity – Goal \$3,500 – received \$60.00
 Hope and Possibilities – Goal \$1,500 – received \$98.00
 PET Project – Goal \$2,000 – nothing received yet

Although Herbert Zigbuo has completed his term of service in the missionary field, his wife Mary continues to serve in Liberia. Your donations will support her in her work there.

2009 Tax Credit Available for Haiti Contributions In case you are still working on taxes, the following information might be helpful.

Through an *Income Tax Incentive Act*, it is possible for donors to get 2009 tax credit for donations made to Haiti Relief between January 12 and February 28, 2010.

Taxpayers are not required to claim a 2010 contribution in 2009 but have the option to do so. Please advise Joyce Lambert, 593-3977, ext 28, if you want to make use of this tax incentive.

First Quarter Giving Statement to be Mailed Soon First quarter statements will be mailed in April. Please use this as a time to verify your pledge to be sure Joyce figured it correctly. Also, check that your giving records are accurate. You may reach Joyce at 593-3977, ext 28, if you have questions about your statement.



Bargain Cruise Available in 2011 David & Bonita Maze have just returned from a Caribbean Cruise with Educational Opportunities and have information about special pricing for the 3rd Annual Celebration Cruise NEXT January. With Guest Speaker Bishop William Willimon on board for four hours of worship and inspiration the Carnival cruise ship will travel to Grand Cayman, Isla Roatan (Honduras), Belize, and Cozumel (Mexico). This seven day adventure and fellowship has

cabin rates as low as \$270/person (plus a \$50 discount for registrations by January 31). The dates are January 9-16, 2011. Call the Mazes for more information at 797-2440 – these lower priced accommodations will not last long.

West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church Our Connection to the World

This comes to us through "News.Net" an email publication by the West Ohio Conference Communications Division:

2010 Annual Conference

The theme for the June 6 -10, 2010 Annual Conference session is **Love in Action: Building Bridges out of Poverty**. Ministry with the poor is one of the four missional foci affirmed by the 2008 General Conference. As we gather at Lakeside, we will be celebrating the multiple ways the congregations of the West Ohio Conference are engaged in ministry with those living in poverty. In a variety of teaching sessions we will learn how we can help sisters and brothers build bridges out of poverty.



Rev. Jorge Acevedo

Featured preachers include Rev. Janet Wolf and Rev. Jorge Acevedo. Tuesday offers a choice of teaching workshops focusing on various avenues for building bridges out of poverty. The **Love First Miracle Offering** will be used to support impoverished children being treated at Grace Children's Hospital in Haiti and at our own United Methodist Children's Home in Worthington. Bags of potatoes will be collected and distributed through the Society of St. Andrew to feed hungry people in the West Ohio Conference.



Rev. Janet Wolf

Israel eases Palestinian passage to holy sites

NEW YORK (UMNS) — After asking Israel to lift a ban on Palestinian Christians travel to sacred sites in Jerusalem, the Rev. Michael Kinnamon, top staff executive of the National Council of Churches, says he received a telephone call saying travel restriction have been lifted.

Michael Oren, Israel's ambassador to the United States, said travel restrictions on Palestinian Christians from the West Bank have been lifted for Easter. Oren asked Kinnamon to notify him directly if there are reports from checkpoints that these orders are not being followed.

Churches urged to 'Sleep Out to End Malaria'

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMNS)—The United Methodist Church will mark this World Malaria Day, April 25, with a call to local churches to "Sleep Out to End Malaria" on the weekend of April 24-25. The sleep out events—in which individuals sleep overnight under imitation bed nets—coincide with the denomination's official launch of Imagine No Malaria, an initiative that seeks to raise \$75 million to eliminate death and suffering from malaria in Africa by 2015. The United Methodist Church is encouraging local churches to participate in the Sleep Out to End Malaria as part of a unified action for World Malaria Day in partnership with the United Nations Foundation and the global malaria community. Directions for holding a sleep out are available online at www.ImagineNoMalaria.com.

YouTube Video: [Youth Groups Imagine No Malaria](#)

April 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: right;">28</p> <p>Home</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">29</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">30</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">31</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">1</p> <p>7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 12:00 PM AA 12:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service 5:30 PM Upper Room Meal 7:30 PM Maundy Thursday Service 8:00 PM Confirmation Retreat @Otterbein</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">2</p> <p>Growing Tree Closed Confirmation Retreat 12:00 PM Worship Service 3:30 PM Korean Women's Study Group 5:30 PM AA 6:00 PM Korean Students Bible Study 7:30 PM 7 Last Words Performance</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">3</p> <p>Confirmation Retreat 6:00 PM AA</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">4</p> <p>Easter 8:45 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM CHECM 4:30 PM Korean Bible Study</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">5</p> <p>Office Closed 12:00 PM Monday Lunch 2:30 PM NAMI Peer Education Group 6:00 PM Stephen Supervision 7:00 PM Lay Leadership 7:00 PM Troop 71</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">6</p> <p>12:00 PM AA</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">7</p> <p>12:00 PM Korean Prayer Group 6:00 PM Bell Choir 6:00 PM STE Cabinet Mtg 7:00 PM Korean Worship 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM WSC Fellowship</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">8</p> <p>7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 12:00 PM FOCUS 12:00 PM AA 5:30 PM Kappa Phi 7:00 PM Healthy Lifestyles Group</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">9</p> <p>2:00 PM Olan Mills 5:30 PM AA</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">10</p> <p>9:00 AM Olan Mills 6:00 PM AA</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">11</p> <p>Confirmation Sunday 8:45 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM Dev. Disabled Class 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Confirmation Reception 11:45 AM Lay Leadership 12:00 PM Youth Group 4:30 PM Korean Bible Study</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">12</p> <p>12:00 PM Monday Lunch 2:30 PM NAMI Peer Education Group 7:00 PM Lay Leadership 7:00 PM Troop 71</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">13</p> <p>12:00 PM AA 6:00 PM Widow/Widower Support Group 6:30 PM Council on Children's Ministries</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">14</p> <p>12:00 PM Korean Prayer Group 6:00 PM STE Cabinet Mtg 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Korean Worship 7:00 PM WSC Fellowship 7:00 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">15</p> <p>7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 12:00 PM FOCUS 12:00 PM AA 5:30 PM Kappa Phi 7:00 PM Board of Trustees 7:00 PM Healthy Lifestyles Group</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">16</p> <p>2:00 PM Olan Mills 5:30 PM AA</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">17</p> <p>9:30 AM Olan Mills 6:00 PM AA</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">18</p> <p>8:45 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM Lay Leadership 4:30 PM Korean Bible Study</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">19</p> <p>12:00 PM Monday Lunch 2:30 PM NAMI Peer Education Group 6:00 PM Stephen Supervision 7:00 PM Lay Leadership 7:00 PM Troop 71</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">20</p> <p>12:00 PM AA 7:30 PM Finance Committee Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">21</p> <p>12:00 PM Korean Prayer Group 4:00 PM All Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Bell Choir 6:00 PM STE Cabinet Mtg 7:00 PM Korean Worship 7:00 PM WSC Fellowship 7:00 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">22</p> <p>Growing Tree Conferences Spire Deadline 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 12:00 PM FOCUS 12:00 PM AA 5:30 PM Kappa Phi 7:00 PM Healthy Lifestyles Group</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">23</p> <p>Growing Tree Conferences 3:30 PM Korean Women's Study Group 5:30 PM AA 6:00 PM Korean Students Bible Study</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">24</p> <p>6:00 PM AA</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">25</p> <p>Stephen Commissioning 8:45 AM Worship 9:00 AM Low Brass Rehearsal 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM Lay Leadership 12:30 PM Scrapbooking</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">26</p> <p>12:00 PM Monday Lunch 2:30 PM NAMI Peer Education Group 7:00 PM Lay Leadership 7:00 PM Troop 71</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">27</p> <p>Circle Meetings 12:00 PM AA 7:00 PM SPRC</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">28</p> <p>12:00 PM Korean Prayer Group 6:00 PM STE Cabinet Mtg 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Korean Worship 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM WSC Fellowship</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">29</p> <p>7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 9:00 AM UMW Project Day 12:00 PM AA 12:00 PM FOCUS 5:30 PM Kappa Phi Degree of Light 7:00 PM Healthy Lifestyles Group</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">30</p> <p>OU Mom's Weekend 3:30 PM Korean Women's Study Group 5:30 PM AA 6:00 PM Korean Students Bible Study</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">1</p> <p>Home</p>

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Worship Schedule

Sunday Morning Worship 8:45 and 10:30

Sunday School Classes, 9:30 a.m.

Worship Broadcast on WATH Sundays 11-11:30 a.m.

Child Care Provided During 10:30 Service

Free Parking in the City Parking Garage on Sundays