

The Church Spire

Volume 16, Issue 4

April 1, 2011



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And much more!

Pastoral Leadership to Change at Athens First

The season of Lent continues to unfold. This spring brings the beginning of Athens First preparing to make a change in pastoral leadership. On March 20th, I shared the news that I had asked for a change of appointment and would be leaving at the end of June. This request was made after prayerful consideration of how the realm of God would best be served. Now that all is in motion I know that God is in the midst of it all. I promise that I will let you know as soon as possible my new ministry location. Until then we have much to do to get ready and finish our season together well.

Allow me a moment of gratitude. Over the past month I've been learning how to heal a broken leg. What have I learned? That baskets of goodies, containers of soup, boxes of whole meals, many, many cards and even hand written notes go a long way to lighten the load. I do not remember a moment in my life where I felt so drenched with healing prayers. I'm hoping that I will write thank you notes – my mother tried to teach me that sweet habit – but, well, it's still

not a habit. Yet I would have it known that this church family knows how to care.

You will also find on the next page, the announcement Leisa Ostermann shared on March 27th about your new pastor. She also does a wonderful job describing the process of how pastors come and go. With great joy we prepare to welcome Wendy Lybarger.

Prayer Request:

Please remember your church in your daily prayers. Remember that many other churches are in the same season of transitioning work. Remember Pastor Wendy as she prepares for all of these changes. Remember all the District Superintendents and our Bishop. And I would seek your prayers for where God would have me serve come the beginning of July.

And with all that we have, and all that we are – we shall glorify the Lord.

Honor and Blessings,
Pastor Mary Jo

Please visit the next page for news on our newly-appointed pastor and the process by which that happens.

SPRC Announces Pastoral Appointment to Athens First

Since it has been about 10 years since our church has welcomed a new Pastor, I would like to tell you all a little bit about the process.

The first thing that happens is that request is made for a change in appointment. The request can be initiated in 4 ways; by the Bishop, by the District Superintendent, by the Staff Parish Relations Committee, or, as in our case, by the Pastor.

In the United Methodist Church, clergy members are placed with churches by the Conference - our Conference is the West Ohio Conference. The district superintendents throughout the Conference form the "Cabinet". The cabinet, with the Bishop, meets to place clergy in the places where they will best serve.

The District Superintendents then contact the SPRC to set up a meeting with the new pastor and the committee to introduce the new pastor to the group. During this meeting and after a period of introductions and questions, the committee members and the potential pastor are asked if there are any major reservations. If not, an offer is extended and the congregation has a new pastor.

Our District Superintendent, Dennis Mohler, has been working closely with our church Administrative Council for the past several months as we have been going through a Visioning Process to discern where and how it is that God is calling First Church to minister to His people. Through this Visioning Process, he has gotten to know us in a way that has allowed him to bring us a person who is uniquely qualified to lead us in these next steps of our Faith Journeys.

It is my honor, and pleasure, to tell you that we received the call to meet during Spring Break. Because some of our members of Staff Parish Relations were unable to attend due to prior commitments, we also invited key members of our Administrative Council to sit in on the meeting. At that meeting, our District Superintendent, Dennis Mohler, introduced us to the person the Conference Cabinet feels is the best person to next lead us on our faith journey.

I am very excited to tell you about our new pastor:



Her name is Wendy Lybarger, and she is currently serving at the *Church of the Messiah* in Westerville, OH, as their Pastor of Faith Formation. She received her Master of Divinity with a specialization in Church Leadership in 2007 from Methodist Theological School in Ohio. Wendy also has a degree in Computer Science and Mathematics and has almost 20 years of previous work experience at Lucent Technologies, much of it in organizational management.

Wendy served as a Local Church Consultant for the Columbus South District United Methodist Church and continues to serve as a Leadership Coach for the West Ohio Conference.

This is what Wendy has to say about her Call: *I have experienced God's call on my life to be that of providing leadership within the church to make disciples of Jesus Christ, bringing resurrection and new life to persons and congregations, that God's Realm may come on earth as it is in heaven. Having experienced the transformational love and forgiveness of Christ and the call to discipleship to the ministry of all believers, God has called and is equipping me for the ministry of making disciples. I have also been provided with the opportunities to cultivate organizational development skills that offer themselves to the ministry of congregational transformation. I bring gifts and skills in faith formation, worship and preaching; experience in management and leadership; and a creative, artistic spirit that continues to blossom.*

Wendy will be moving to Athens with Tom, her husband of 23 years. They have 3 adult children, a dog, a cat, and 3 grandchildren, and are looking forward to 2 weddings in the next 6 months, one of them taking place in May!

What I can tell you from meeting Wendy in person is that she is a dynamic, enthusiastic woman who loves the Lord. She says that He keeps

Continued on next page

(Wendy Lybarger continued)

opening doors for her - I am very excited that she has stepped through this most recent door which will bring her to us at First Church.

For those of you who are so inclined, Pastor Wendy is on Facebook, you might want to connect with her that way. Just search for **Wendy Lybarger** in the search window and request her as a friend. (Don't forget that little box on the bottom that lets you put in a personal message J)

I know Wendy is excited about coming and has started a "First Church" notebook already and I don't think she would mind if I shared with you that she told me it is Bobcat green...

Pastor Wendy's first "official" Sunday with us will be July 3, 2011.

—Leisa Ostermann, Chair
FUMC Staff/Parish Relations Committee

Holy Week at Athens First



Because We Are People of the Passion and the Resurrection

Passion: the word used to remember the suffering of our Lord Jesus Christ, particularly during the days between the triumphal entrance into Jerusalem and the resurrection glory of the opened tomb.

Resurrection: the word that allows us to remember that we are never again to be bound by sin for the price has been paid and our spirits rise!

Sunday, April 17th at 8:45 and 10:30 Worship Services

Our Holy Week journey begins with Palm Sunday on April 17th. Our worship services will assist us in remembering the joy, and the weight of the work of the week.

Thursday, April 21st at 12:10 and 7:00 pm Worship Services

On the night that Jesus turned his ministry work over to his disciples, he broke the bread and shared the cup. The Lord's Supper will be shared and the Chancel Choir will assist in the leadership of guiding our hearts and minds in the way of Christ.

Friday, April 22nd at 12:00 noon Worship Service

We will join other faith communities in allowing our hearts to be vulnerable to the mortal wounding of our Lord – not for his sake but for ours. Jesus Christ, the perfect sacrifice with whom we join in the living of all our days. (The bulletin will identify the location of this service.)

Sunday, April 24th at 8:45 and 10:30 am Worship Services

The First Service of Easter (8:45) will remember the fear and hope that wrapped around the tomb. The Second Service of Easter (10:30) will welcome the exuberance of 2,000 years of the good news that Jesus LIVES!

Prayer Request:

During this very real Holy Week, may God reveal with current clarity, what is needed for all of the Body of Christ to be filled with faith. –Amen.

The Sympathy of the Congregation Is Extended

to Ann Grover and family in the death of her husband, Tad on March 5, 2011, and to Judy Piercy and Peter Jarjisian in the recent death of Judy's brother.

Congratulations Are Extended to Adrielle and Ryan Van Bibber in the birth of their daughter, Aravis Elizabeth, born March 13. Extremely proud grandparents are Jed and Vicki Butcher, as well as Aravis' three brothers: Alexander, Daniel and Nathaniel.

Dinner and Slide Show to Celebrate Recent Mission Trip

On April 6th at 6:30 the Mission Trip participants invite their families, the youth council and anyone interested in hearing about their experience in Philadelphia to dinner and a slide show at the church. Please let Meg know if you are going to attend

vanpattenfamily@mac.com

Leading Worship at the Appalachian Behavioral Health Care Hospital

This year, April is FUMC's month to share a simple worship service with patients and staff at ABHCH. For many years various members of this congregation have shared prayer, scripture, a short message and many hymns with patients who want to be part of worshipping together with others.

Each Sunday between 6 and 7p.m. we meet at the hospital for a truly joyful and rewarding mission. Please consider joining us. If you would like to ride together, please give one of us a call: Allene Kilgore (592-2122), Jed Butcher (593-5703) or Anne and Guido Stempel (593-8665).



Women Invited to the Lenten Brunch

All women of First Church are invited to our annual Lenten Brunch, April 12, in Fellowship Hall. Registration and fellowship is at 10:00 am followed by the program at 10:30 featuring Mara Giglio of Appalachian Peace and Justice. The delicious brunch is served at 11:00. Reservations can be called to the church office - 593-3977, or Bonita Maze - 797-2440, **by April 5**. We hope you will consider joining us for this event. -- United Methodist Women of First Church.

Updating Our Email Lists – Has Your Address Changed?

We're in the process of updating our list of email addresses. If you've changed yours anytime in the last 6 months, please send us your revised information by contacting Leisa at fristumc@fristumcathens.org Thanks!!

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 April 22 If you have news for the May issue, please be sure to get it to the church by Thursday, April 22.

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.

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.

Monday Lunch News

Monday Lunch has had a very busy winter quarter. Each Monday we have served between 125 and 150 guests. Usually our highest attendance is from Mid-November through winter, gradually lessening as summer nears.

Because of this, we are very much in need of people to donate a salad or dessert one Monday each month (enough to serve 16-20 people).

Salad can be, but not limited to: 3 bean salad, jello salad, coleslaw (or 2 bags of slaw mix), fruit or tossed salad (or 2 bags of salad mix with cherry tomatoes or cucumbers), two 24oz containers of cottage cheese, pickled beats, etc.

Dessert ideas: 9 X 13 cake, 2 pies, 2 angel food cakes, cookies, brownies, pudding, rice or bread pudding, etc. (it makes me hungry just listing them!).

Please call if you have questions or to sign up. Thanks!!!

--Allene Kilgore (592-2122)

Monday Lunch Guests Seek Housing

Recently, a very nice young couple who have been coming to Monday Lunch Winter Quarter asked if I could pass on this message: They would like to rent a room, etc., with an American family, a couple or single person, for summer and/or fall quarters. "We are married and are from Sri Lanka. Ranga is 29 and Ramya is 26. We like calm and quiet environments. Not party types. We would be willing to help you out in different ways (walking your dog, cleaning your place, gardening, looking after older people, etc.)."

Ranga Kalvgampitiya;
RangaKalvgampitiya@yahoo.com; Graduate student in the Linguistics Program

Ramya Vithanage; ranvavithanage@yahoo.com;
planning to start graduate school
740-856-1757

Feel free to call me if I can help in any way.

--Allene Kilgore (592-2122)

These United Methodist Women's Circles Meet April 26:

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

Martha-Ruth Circle, 1:30 p.m. – Home of Cheryl Dowler

Lydia Circle, 7:30 p.m. – Home of Tracy Miles, 35 Briarwood



Altar Flower Donation Dates Available

Each week we enjoy the flowers that appear on the altar. On some Sundays following worship, the flowers are delivered to our stay-at-home members

or someone recently hospitalized. If you would like to provide flowers for the altar for the 10:30 service, the following dates are available: May 1, 8, 15, 22,29; June 5, 19; July 24, 31; August 14, 21; September 4, 11, 18, 25; October 2, 30; November 20 and 27.

Please place your name on the flower calendar located in the Sanctuary Vestibule (or call

the church office, 593-3977), and one of our Altar Guild representatives will contact you to take your order. **Cost for the flowers is \$34 for one arrangement and \$39 for two.** *In lieu of cut flowers, you may also choose to use one of the silk arrangements in exchange for a donation of \$35 to the Celebration Fund. Earnings from this Fund go directly into our Operating Budget to help pay operating expenses of the church.*

Adult Ministry at Athens First The View from My Window “Creating Spring from the Inside out”

There are many windows these days that provide me a view. When I look out the window in my study in my new home, I see a lovely array of daffodils in full bloom. As I look out my car windows during my drive to work, I am delighted by clusters of daffodils in unlikely places, cattle with newborn calves, and the occasional chicken trying to cross the road, as well as skunks and ‘possums.

These signs and the calendar remind me that it’s spring, but the days are still gray and the temperatures wintry. This seems to have been a long and difficult winter for many, and it seems as though it just won’t let go.

For me, many days during these past few weeks have left me feeling as though I’m on a treadmill that’s going one or two clicks too fast. What I need to remember is that when I’m on a treadmill, I *can* control the speed, but it’s easy to get swept away in the process and, instead, push to keep up. When I do that, I find that many of the important things in life get short-changed or fall off completely.

Case in point, our *Women of Faith* group that meets during the Sunday school hour, has been on a two-week break. We will gather this Sunday, and, at the present moment, I have no idea what we will study next. Not a good thing as facilitator of the group! God is faithful to show us, but one has to listen in order to hear.

So, over the past few days, I have hit the down button on the treadmill speed control in order to spend some quality time reading through several of the books in my libraries. What a blessing! I wanted to share some of the quotes that have spoken to my heart and have brightened my gray days by helping remind me connect to God in more intentional ways:

J. David Muyskens in *Sacred Breath; Forty Days of Centering Prayer* talks about how he prepares himself for prayer by taking deep breaths. He writes, “As I breathe in, I am aware of receiving God’s love; and as I breathe out, I let go of self.”

Many of you have been reading *Pray the Price* during Lent. I appreciated Dr. Teykl reminding me that “When you work without prayer, you will reap the best of your efforts. But when you pray, you reap the best of God’s efforts.”

In *FOCUS, Living the Lord’s Prayer*, Tyrone Gordon writes that “we pray not to get God’s attention, but so that God can get our attention.”

Lastly, Maxie Dunnam’s latest workbook is titled *The Workbook on Abiding in Christ*. Years ago I worked through his *Workbook of Living Prayer* and was blessed by that journey of faith, and I am enjoying my journey through his latest work.

As I close this writing, I would like to leave you with this thought from Mr. Dunnam. At the end of Day 1, Week 1, he asks that we reflect on this thought throughout the day: “There is a place in God’s heart that only I can fill.”

The more I think about that, the more blessed and special I feel, to know that God has made a place for me and for you in His heart. We are that important to God! When I think about that, somehow the days seem a little lighter and the daffodils a little brighter, and hope grows.

May you find blessings and hope to create spring from the inside out.

—Sharon Stoltzfus, Director of Adult Ministries

NOTE: If you are interested in any of these books, they are available through your favorite bookstore, including Cokesbury: www.cokesbury.com Copies of *Pray the Price* are still available at the church.

Women of Faith begin New Spring Study *Jesus, the Man Who Loved Women: He Treasures, Esteems, and Delights in You* by Bruce Marchiano is the title of the book that will be the next study for the *Women of Faith* group that meets Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the Church Library on the 2nd Floor.

In this book, readers explore Jesus’ heart and compassion for every woman - giving them undeniable value and significance. Based on Jesus’ encounters with women during the time of his ministry, this tender book uncovers how time and again Jesus went against the traditional conventions of his era by treating women with respect and love, showing the world what a vital role they play. Jesus lived in an era where women were considered property and of little value as significant individuals. But by following Jesus’s example, readers will see how women should be cherished and uplifted.

Each chapter touches on Jesus’ interactions with a specific woman, their conversations, and the gifts he bestows upon her. Through these women, we see his love and compassion for every woman, and we watch as he lifts us all out of our ordinariness into the sublime intentions he planned for us since the beginning of time.

Books will be distributed on April 10 and cost \$12. Contact Sharon Stoltzfus (593-3977 ext 11) if you have any questions.



The Council on Children's Ministries has been busy at work making plans for the Spring and Summer. We are beginning a new Sunday school unit this Sunday, April 3rd. It is a joy to watch the children learn and grow as they experience the living power of God's Word through the different types of learning moments our Sunday school curriculum provides. Whether it's art, games, storytelling, or science, the kids get to have fun, feel the love of God and their church family, and hopefully grow in their own ability to be a witness for Christ in their day to day world.

On Sunday, March 13, we learned more about the Youth Group Mission Trip and created hand-printed aprons for the youth to give to workers at the several soup kitchens where they were going to serve. It was a great "hands-on" experience for all.

It's already time to start looking ahead to summer, and so we are excited to announce that this year's Vacation Bible School curriculum has been selected. Get out your apron and your appetites—we are planning for Shake It Up Cafe: Where Kids Carry out God's Recipe. Mark the first week of August on your calendar, because that's when we're going to get cooking! We need volunteers to help with decorating, to serve in a

variety of roles during the week, and we are especially hoping to recruit some of our teen helpers to act as "sous chefs" (assistant shepherds) for the various age groups each morning. More details will be forthcoming, but start planning now!

In February, we shared some reflections on Winter Camp from Kaeden Saunders. This month, Eryn Dael shares these thoughts about her camp experience:

"I like going to Winter Camp at Camp Otterbein because we do so many activities, like we got to play laughing statues and we painted mugs to drink the hot chocolate. We also went on a hay ride. That was my favorite part. At the end of every day we did worship. That was fun because I love singing."

Camping makes such a difference in the lives of children and young people. If you'd like to learn more about United Methodist Camping and Camp Otterbein, contact Kristen Schrom-Roads. (Sharon, please check spelling of name and add her phone number. I don't know what her office number is! Thanks)

-- Laura Dalton, Sunday School Superintendent
at Athens First

Sunday School for Grades Pre-K - 4



Unit: The Symbols of Holy Week

Teachers:

Storytelling--Deb Murray for Apr. 3 and 10, Jan Miller Fox for April 17
 Art-- Cathy Lee for Apr 3 and Meg Van Patten for Apr. 10 and 17
 Science-- Shawn Ostermann

Schedule:	Pre K	Grades K,1& 2	Grades 3 & 4
April 3	Art (Room 4)	Storytelling (Room 2)	Science (Room 3)
April 10	Science	Art	Storytelling
April 17	Storytelling	Science	Art

Nursery Volunteers Needed The nursery corps is in need of a few more folks. Here's what's involved: approximately one Sunday per quarter, you will be in the nursery with Christina Johnson, our staff nursery attendant, to guide, watch over and have fun with our youngest worshipers (age birth through five years.) Plan to be in the nursery from about 10:20am until about 11:40am. Ideally, it's best to have two volunteers plus Christina on duty each Sunday. Couples, friends, parents and their teenage children make great nursery "teams." We especially encourage those whose children or grandchildren use or have used the nursery to consider taking a turn. Contact Cathy Bigger (bigger@firstumcathens.org or 593-3977, ext. 14) for more information or to volunteer. The time commitment is brief, the blessings, boundless! Thank you.



Growing Tree Preschool

April always seems to be a super busy month at Growing Tree and this year is no different. Besides focusing our attention on themes ranging from "Building and Construction" to "Happy Easter" to "Spring Weather," we have scheduled visits from some special grown-up friends, class photo days and parent/teacher conferences. Let's hope we don't stub our toes or we may miss something fun and important!!

There will be no regular class sessions on April 7 and April 8. Parent/ Teacher Conferences will be taking place on those days during school hours and child care will be provided.

Growing Tree will be closed on April 22 in observance of Good Friday.

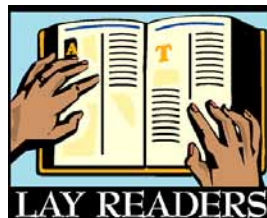
Enrollment for Fall, 2011 is progressing quickly. As of this writing, both the M/W/F and T/TH class sessions are nearly full. If you or someone you know has been meaning to fill out an application, we would encourage you to do so as soon as possible. We will be keeping a waiting list for enrollment and, since our enrollment does tend to fluctuate a bit over the

summer, it's possible that a position will become available. We are grateful and humbled that Growing Tree seems to be a place where young parents want their children to be, knowing that, at Growing Tree, they will be safe, comfortable and respected and honored as the unique children of God they are. Thank you for your support and encouragement of the ministry of Growing Tree Preschool.

Happy Easter!
Cathy Bigger, Growing Tree Director

Lay Readers Needed for 10:30 Service

We are looking for people to participate in the 10:30 service as lay readers. No experience needed. Depending upon the number who volunteer, you may only be needed about once every three months, scheduled on a Sunday that is convenient for you. If you are interested, please contact Leisa Ostermann in the church office (593-3977, ext 10), email her at firmc@firstumcathens.org or write a note on the pew registration card this morning.



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!

HOT CROSS BUNS

Make this traditional Easter recipe to remember how Christ gave his life for you.

What you need:

- 1 can (12 oz.) evaporated milk
- 1 stick (½ cup) butter, melted
- ½ cup sugar
- Pinch of salt
- 1½ Tablespoons yeast
- 1 egg, beaten
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon nutmeg
- 5 cups flour
- Icing
- An adult to help

What you do:

1. In large bowl, combine the first eight ingredients.
2. Stir in flour, one cup at a time, to form soft dough. Knead on a floured surface until smooth and elastic (about five minutes).
3. Place in a greased bowl, turning once to grease top. Cover and let rise until doubled (about one hour).
4. Knead out air bubbles. Form six two-inch balls.
5. Place two inches apart on a greased cookie sheet. Cover and let rise until doubled (about 30 minutes).
6. Bake at 375 degrees until golden (13 to 15 minutes). Cool on wire racks.
7. Add icing in a cross shape. Enjoy!



FIX YOUR EYES ON JESUS

Remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection helps us live with gratitude every day.

Use the picture and number code to fill in the blanks for Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV.

1. Jesus	5. cross
2. weary	6. endured
3. endured	7. scorning
4. opposition	8. shame

1. Jesus	5. perfecter
2. lose	6. him
3. pioneer	7. faith
4. sinners	8. hand

1. eyes	5. right
2. us	6. grow
3. joy	7. God
4. heart	8. throne

“... fixing our 1 on 1, the 3 and 5 of 7. For the 3 set before 6 he 3 the 5, 7 its 8, and sat down at the 5 of the 8 of 7. Consider 6 who 6 such 4 from 4, so that you will not 6 2 and 2 4.” HEBREWS 12:2-3, NIV

Answer: “...fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.” Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV

Youth News

www.firstumcathens.org/youth

Summer Missions Trip for Youth Due to our wonderful success last year and the willingness of the organization, our summer missions trip is going to take place with Awaken the City. This ministry is located in Cincinnati and is an offshoot of Hyde Park UMC. This ministry is a staple in the community of Cincinnati that they minister to, and they need people to come and do missions work there. There is fundraising that needs to be done, commitments that need to be made, and lots of details left to plan. If you would like to minister in any of these areas, please let me know what you can do. If you are a student, you should be going on this missions trip. Awaken the city hires interns to work with them and be the guides for the groups who come to Cincinnati. These interns love the people they work with, and it is evident in their labor. Each student will have an opportunity to serve the community, see real people while they work, and even minister directly to people in the community. This opportunity has changed people's lives and given new perspective to those who have gone in the past. I know it definitely impacted me. **The dates** of the mission trip are June 26th through July 2nd. We still need transportation, leaders, and other detail planning. If you want to go on this trip as a leader, please contact

me as soon as possible. If you are a student and want to go, please contact me as soon as possible too. If you're sure you want to go, I am asking that you lay down a monetary deposit of \$50 by April 17th. This will secure your position on the trip. This deposit is non-refundable.

—Anthony Livoti

White Water Rafting Trip Save the Date June 17 & 18

June 17th and 18th the youth will be heading to Ohiopyle, PA for a white water rafting



adventure. We will drive up on Friday afternoon, spend an evening at the Holidome in Ohiopyle and then hit the rapids Saturday morning. We will return that evening. Come experience the fun and the beauty of God's world with us. Price will be determined by number of people going, so join in early! Please let Wendy Merb-Brown (merbw@ohio.edu) or Meg Van Patten (vanpattenfamily@mac.com) know if you are interested. Five families have already reserved their spaces!

Youth Experience Communities of God's Love in Philadelphia What do Caroline, Keanu, James, Emma, Kirstin and Anthony have in common? We are the youth delegation from First UMC Athens that spent spring break in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania supported by the gifts and prayers of this church!

Many, many thanks for your support in this trip. My goal for the group was to give them a wide view of the city and to work with many ministries so that they could meet many people whose lives are changed in positive ways by the day to day life choices of God's people.

In all the ministries where we volunteered, one love was consistent. All people are beloved Children of God. Many things can bring a person into a poverty situation and many people we met this week were willing to share their story. We met people doing everyday things...eating a meal, playing checkers, jumping rope, and shopping the free-store for clothes.

We also experienced the sights and tastes of the city from traditional cheesesteaks to Puerto-rican family style dinner, to eclectic styles of West Philly, variety of Reading Market and our own concoctions. Our youth are good cooks! We bought transpasses for subway and bus travel and the youth led us on a photo trip through the city of art, history, and culture.

Each day our home was a hospitality house with a ministry called the Simple Way. Each morning some of us had a time of prayer with staff in that ministry. We found ourselves a home for the week and in the midst of many evident life challenges of people around us, we were able to both give and receive the simple blessing of love.

Keanu challenged us to give and live and love without fear...and I pray that we continue to find in ourselves the courage to do so!

-Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads; Director, Camp Otterbein



News from the Center From Ally Ballentine, Our WSC Intern

www.firstumcathens.org/campus

Hello, everyone! All of us at WSC are very excited to be back in Athens and are looking forward to what will hopefully be a fantastic quarter!

We are currently studying the book *Pray the Price* along with other members of the church. This is a wonderful variation to our normal routine, and it is great to be able to spend time with

and get to know members of the church. Sharing stories and views during this study has been very beneficial in broadening and comparing our thoughts with those of others. We are all very excited to keep studying and learning. We continue to pray that God moves through us individually, WSC, and the church, and we continue to give thanks for everyone who supports us!

It's Time to Renew Your Kroger Rewards that Benefit Wesley Student Center

April is the month when subscriptions to the Kroger Rewards system that benefits Wesley Student Center are due for renewal. If you don't renew, your purchases will not count.

You will need to return to the Kroger Community Rewards site:

(<http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com>),

log in with the user name and password you created last year when you established this, then follow their instructions. **Be sure to wait until after April 1st.**

This program continues to benefit the ministries of Wesley Student Center. **The quarterly check we received in December was \$631.01, and the one we just received was \$552.64.**



Think Habitat When You Do Your Spring Cleaning

1. Habitat is starting a Re-store in The Plains! It won't be open until later in the spring when the building has been "spiffed up," but you can start donating your building materials, appliances and such by calling 592-0032. Please see the Habitat flyers.
2. The Spring Habitat **rummage sale** will be at Christ the King April 30th from 9 to 1. Donations accepted Thursday evening and Friday before the sale.
3. A **scrap metal drive** is being organized for early June.
4. Habitat is **starting a house** with the Habitat for Humanity Student Chapter at Ohio University. Stay tuned for volunteer opportunities.
5. **Taste of Athens - Battle of the Chefs** was so successful, the room almost burst at the seams. Next year the organizers promise a larger location.

James and Martha Bratton Scholarship Available to Area Students

Athens First Presbyterian Church is pleased to announce the availability of this scholarship. It will be awarded to a student attending or planning to attend a college or technical school. The amount may vary, not to exceed \$2,000. Applicants must be members

of any Christian church of Athens County and must have a grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale. **Application Deadline is April 15, 2011.** Application blanks are available in our church office or contact 1st Presbyterian Church at 593-3351.



\$ 26,345.57 Operating Income for February
 26,623.78 Operating Expenses for February

(278.21) Net loss for February
 \$ 3,104.68 Net gain for the year

Thank You for Your Faithful Giving While it's too early to report on our March figures, I know you all responded to our encouragement to keep up with your giving even if you were traveling. It appears that in spite of having 3 payrolls to meet in March, we will finish the month with a positive balance. That's always a blessing!

Watch the mail for our annual **Easter letter**, which should arrive later in April. This year, in addition to meeting our budgeted goal of \$2,000, which is needed to meet certain ministry needs, we will be sharing any we receive above that equally with our four *Second Mile Giving* ministries.

—Sharon Stoltzfus, Director of Administration

Second Mile Giving Ministries The following figures are through March 30, 2011.

- Food Pantry –Received so far - \$785
- Habitat for Humanity – Received so far - \$10
- Hope and Possibilities – Received so far - \$17
- PET Project – Received so far - \$0

Youth Mission Trip Fully Funded *THANK YOU* to all who helped make, serve and EAT the pancakes at the Youth Pancake PARTY on March 13th. Between the offering at the meal and the noisy bucket collection during the service, the

youth mission trip was fully funded when they departed on March 20th. The youth mission group greatly appreciates all of the support from the congregation and their fellow youth. Blessings to all!

Donations to Assist Japan Continue to Grow

Since we began collecting donations for this on March 20th, we have received \$1,433. If you would like to support the recovery efforts, you may make a contribution through the church. Make checks payable to *First United Methodist Church* and be sure to indicate *Tsunami Relief* on the memo line of your check.

Memorial Contributions Recently Received

We would like to publicly thank the following for their recent contributions **in memory of Tad Grover**: Al & Clarice Squibb; Mr & Mrs. Richard Essex; Robert & Shirley Williams; Jimmy & Judy Matthews; Max & Kathleen Evans; Alan & Sandra Geiger; Arthur & Bonnie Savage; Rick & Joyce Steinbrink/Kevin & Sarah Deibert; Mike & Wanda Moore; John & Martha Tipton; Atmaram & Sushila Gawande; Frank & Lorraine Myers; Cruse W & Virginia Patton Moss; Bob Imboden; Richard & Naomi Mayer; Skip & Judy Billups; Robert & Rene Glidden

Sunday Scripture Texts for April As Pastor Mary Jo prepares the worship services and her sermons each week, she will select the Scripture readings from these passages. We offer these to you as you prepare for your worship experience:

April 3: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

April 10: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

April 17: Matthew 21:1-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66 (27:11-54)

Apr21: Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10), 11-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; I Corinthians 11:23-36; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Apr22: Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1-19-42

April 24: Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-18

**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:

West Ohio Missionary in Tokyo When the earthquake hit Japan on Friday, Paul Shew was in a meeting at Aoyama Gakuin University where he serves as a UM missionary. Although the school is over 200 miles from the epicenter, Dr. Shew says that between the main quake and the large aftershock that occurred about 30 minutes later, "the shaking continued so long that I actually got a bit of motion sickness." [More](#)

UMCOR Donors Work to Restore Sudan Independence for South Sudan will mean rebuilding a country where both people and structures have been worn down by several decades of war. The **United Methodist Committee on Relief** - through its nongovernmental organization, a variety of donor partners and church members from Sudan and around the world - has already embarked on the rebuilding effort by constructing schools and providing for water and sanitation needs. [More](#)



Lilies and Spring Flowers for Easter Morning, April 24 You are invited to help decorate the Chapel and Sanctuary on Easter morning with wild flowers/branches, garden flowers, and potted lily plants. Please bring cut flowers to the church by 5 p.m. on **Good Friday**, (April 22). As with poinsettias, lily plants can be purchased through the church for \$7 per plant. You may indicate your desire to give one or more lilies below. Checks should be made payable to **First United Methodist Church** and the Altar Guild will order the lilies for you.

District Information Available on the Internet There are lots of things going on in our Foothills District. You can find the web site at: <http://www.foothillsdistrict.org>

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.*

Lilies for Easter

I/We will give ___ (indicate #) lilies

I/We will bring lilies to the church by April 22

Optional: I/We want to give lilies in memory of:

 in honor of _____

 for the following reason: _____

Name(s) _____

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>

Please have your order to the church by April 17.

April 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Home 27	28	29	30	31	1 9:00 AM Korean Women's Prayer Group 5:30 PM AA 6:00 PM Korean Students Bible Study	2 6:00 PM AA
3 8:45 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 2:30 PM Korean Worship Service 4:30 PM Korean Bible Study	4 9:00 AM Korean Women's Prayer Group 12:00 PM Monday Lunch 6:00 PM Stephen Supervision 7:00 PM Troop 71	5 12:00 PM AA 6:30 PM Children's Council Meeting	6 9:00 AM Korean Women's Prayer Group 6:00 PM Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Disciple New Testament Class 7:00 PM Korean Worship 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 7:10 PM WSC & Taize	7 Growing Tree Closed for Parent/Teacher Conferences 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 9:00 AM Korean Women's Prayer Group 12:00 PM FOCUS 12:00 PM AA 5:30 PM Kappa Phi 6:00 PM AA	8 9:00 AM Korean Women's Prayer Group 5:30 PM AA 6:00 PM Korean Students Bible Study	9 6:00 PM AA
10 8:45 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 2:30 PM Korean Worship Service 4:30 PM Korean Bible Study	11 9:00 AM Korean Women's Prayer Group 12:00 PM Monday Lunch 7:00 PM Troop 71	12 12:00 PM AA 6:00 PM Widow/Widower Support Group 6:30 PM Children's Council Meeting	13 9:00 AM Korean Women's Prayer Group 6:00 PM Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Disciple New Testament Class 7:10 PM WSC & Taize 7:00 PM Korean Worship 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	14 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 9:00 AM Korean Women's Prayer Group 12:00 PM AA 12:00 PM FOCUS 5:30 PM Kappa Phi 6:00 PM AA	15 9:00 AM Korean Women's Prayer Group 5:30 PM AA 6:00 PM Korean Students Bible Study	16 6:00 PM AA
17 Palm Sunday 8:45 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 2:30 PM Korean Worship Service 4:30 PM Korean Bible Study	18 9:00 AM Korean Women's Prayer Group 12:00 PM Monday Lunch 6:00 PM Stephen Supervision 7:00 PM Troop 71	19 9:00 AM Korean Women's Prayer Group 12:00 PM AA 7:30 PM Finance Committee Meeting	20 9:00 AM Korean Women's Prayer Group 6:00 PM Handbell Choir 6:00 PM WSC & MJ 7:00 PM Disciple New Testament Class 7:00 PM Korean Worship 7:10 PM WSC & Taize 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	21 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 9:00 AM Korean Women's Prayer Group 12:00 PM FOCUS 12:00 PM AA 12:10 PM Maundy Thursday Service 5:30 PM Kappa Phi Upper Room Meal 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service 6:00 PM AA	22 GT Closed for Good Friday 12 PM Good Friday Service (Location TBA) 9:00 AM Korean Women's Prayer Group 5:30 PM AA 6:00 PM Korean Students Bible Study	23 6:00 PM AA
24 Easter No Children's Sunday School 8:45 AM Worship 10:30 AM Worship 2:30 PM Korean Worship Service 4:30 PM Korean Bible Study	25 Office Closed 9:00 AM Korean Women's Prayer Group 12:00 PM Monday Lunch 7:00 PM Troop 71	26 Circle Meetings 9:00 AM Korean Women's Prayer Group 9:30 AM UMW Exec Board 12:00 PM AA 7:00 PM SPRC	27 9:00 AM Korean Women's Prayer Group 6:00 PM Handbell Choir 7:10 PM WSC & Taize 7:00 PM Korean Worship 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	28 Spire Deadline 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 9:00 AM Korean Women's Prayer Group 12:00 PM FOCUS 12:00 PM AA 5:30 PM Kappa Phi Degree of Light 6:00 PM AA 7:00 PM Trustees Meeting	29 Mom's Weekend 9:00 AM Korean Women's Prayer Group 5:30 PM AA 6:00 PM Korean Students Bible Study	30 6:00 PM AA Home

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Editor: Sharon Stoltzfus

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Web Version: [Return to Home Page](#)

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