

The Church Spire

Volume 15, Issue 11

December 3, 2010



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And much more!

Christmas Bazaar is December 4

**Come to the Christmas Bazaar
Saturday, December 4
Fellowship Hall
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

The Coffee Shop is open from **9 a.m. to 11 a.m.** featuring coffee cake, pie and sandwiches.

The Luncheon is served from **11 a.m. to 1 p.m.** featuring **soup, rolls and pie!**



Everyone is invited to attend – bring your family, friends, neighbors! Enjoy the fellowship, the food and the shopping (jewelry, plants, baked goods, crafts, fair trade goods and much more) and know that you are helping support our United Methodist Women and local mission projects.

Running the 2011 Budget Race at FUMC

Our Finance Committee is in the final stages of the preparation of next year's budget and is dedicated to presenting a balanced budget for 2011.

Our program committees carefully assessed their ministry needs as they formulated their budget requests for 2011. In order to meet those needs with a balanced budget, our pledged income needs to be \$232,797.

We're so close! As of November 30th, we had received 106 pledge cards for a total of \$201,954. **We need to add just \$30,843** to bring our income to a level that will balance the anticipated expenses. You may not think that your card matters, but every one does!

If you have pledged in the past but haven't yet for 2011, it's not too late. Having your card would be extremely helpful in this process.

If you give regularly but don't routinely pledge, would you consider pledging this year?

We recently sent a mailing that **contained a postage-paid, pre-addressed return card** for your convenience – please feel free to use that to mail your 2011 card. You will also find cards on tables in the entry areas of the church, you can call Sharon Fink at 593-3977 ext 11 or email her at finance@firstumcathens.org

As we're zooming toward the end of this year, we're getting closer to the Finish Line in our race to a balance budget. Won't you help us cross it?

Thoughts Along the Way from Pastor Mary Jo

“Advent” - the season when Christians prepare for welcoming their savior into their hearts anew. – If this were to be taken literally, what would we need to do in these four weeks to welcome the birth child into our lives? Where have we kept Christ out, making it impossible for the fullness of transformation to be experienced? It’s a personal invitation, and it’s a real transformation. And, as we do this work, we stand in a long line of others who have welcomed the changes that happen when God is included.

If it had not been for Mary, where would we be?

Yet Mary was almost rejected by Joseph and dismissed to a life of shame.

If it had not been for Joseph, where would we be?

Yet Joseph allow for God to speak through an angel
and became a father to a stranger.

If it had not been for a stranger, where would we be?

Yet a stranger, having nothing else, offered a manger to a weary family.

The manger has become a romantic symbol for us today - a place of sweet hay smells and gentle lowing cattle. When the Holy Family needed a place to rest, the whole world was rushing around, unable to make room for them.

But the manger was. And, through the centuries it has become the symbol of welcoming God’s transforming power. The manger reminds us to “make room” for the presence of the living Christ – anew and this day!

May God bless each of us and all of the churches with the willingness to be mangers for the living Christ in this Advent season.

Honor and Blessings,
Pastor Mary Jo

A Service for the Long Night – For Those Who Mourn

Losses come in all forms – from the loss of a beloved one to the loss of health, employment, resources...the list is endless. No matter the loss or how long ago it occurred, the grief that accompanies it can be painful, especially during this season of the year.

And, for those who mourn, the nights can be a lonely reminder of the void left by the loss. The longest night of the year is rapidly approaching. We are setting aside a special time for those who have experienced loss to pull away and gather with others for a “Service of the Long Night” on Monday, December 20 in the Chapel. The service will be offered at two times: 12:10 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Pastor Mary Jo, Sharon Fink and our Stephen Ministers invite you to join them as we move through a service that we hope will provide support, comfort and encouragement to your soul for your journey through your Long Night.

Reaching Out to Others Through the Giving Tree

Early December brings those little golden tree to the Narthex, back hall and Chapel, and a time for donations to Athens Social Service Agencies. Our Athens neighbors are facing lay-offs, loss of income, and winter energy bills. Our generosity can help raise their spirits through the holidays. The Salvation Army, Children's Services, My Sister's Place, Good Works, *We Care* and Monday Lunch have informed us how we can brighten their clients' Christmas.

You can help by taking a **card off one of the trees**, purchasing the items listed, and **returning** the gifts to the church by **Dec. 12**, placing them in the baskets or in the room adjoining the office. **Only the gifts for the Monday Lunch Children need to be wrapped**, with the child's name attached. 2010 has brought a time of economic hardship for many, and our Christian concern for our fellow man can be shown in a tangible way by participation in this caring program. If you have any questions, please call **Bobbi Bradford at 593-6357**.





Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve at Athens First

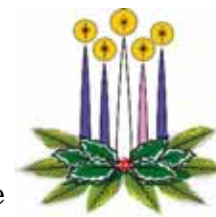
4 p.m. Children-Friendly Service in the Chapel

A service of remembering the first Christmas with Scripture and Carols

Children will dress up as sheep and shepherds and angels (“costumes” provided)

7:30 Traditional Service of Lessons and Carols with the lighting of candles

(Children attending this service will worship in the Sanctuary with their families)



Christmas Eve

Free parking will be available in the City Parking Garage for these services.

On Christmas Morning WATH radio will broadcast the recording of the 7:30 service at 9 a.m.

Athens First Provides Support for Area Storm Damage Victims through \$5,000 Gift

Once again our congregation has responded in faithful and generous ways to help meet the needs of others. There are many who have participated in hands-on ways, but, we also know that there are many needs that can only be met through financial support. It is to that need that we have most recently responded by sending \$5,000 from our maintenance funds to our Foothills District to help rebuild that which was lost on September 16th. This money will be used to purchase building materials used by work groups who are doing rebuilding work in our area.

Thanks to the generous gifts of persons through estate giving, we have an endowment that provides the income needed to meet our maintenance needs, in addition to other related needs like custodial supplies, service contracts, property taxes on the parsonage, etc. Since we have been blessed this year with fewer needs in these areas, we can bless others through a gift from this endowment income. We are thankful for all those who, through the years, have made it possible for us to have this gift that “keeps on giving.”

If you would like to get involved with some of the hands-on needs of the Storm Damage recovery, consider volunteering at the Warehouse recently set up on Columbus Road. They need volunteers to help distribute materials weekdays (except Tuesdays) between 10 a.m. & 5 p.m. Contact Roy Nelson (740-381-7703) for more information.

Monday Lunch’s Christmas Wish List

Dear Church Secret Santas,

We’re writing to ask you to help us make a special Christmas Party on Monday, December 20 from 11 to 1.

The first thing on our list is some more volunteers for the Holidays (now through January 17) – the kind that can help anytime between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. any Monday

The second thing on our list is some of your friends to help us get ready prior to the party – tell them there are LOTS of ways to help BEFORE December 20.

We really liked all the extra help you brought us last year! Hope you can bring some that are as nice as they were. Maybe some of them will help again?!

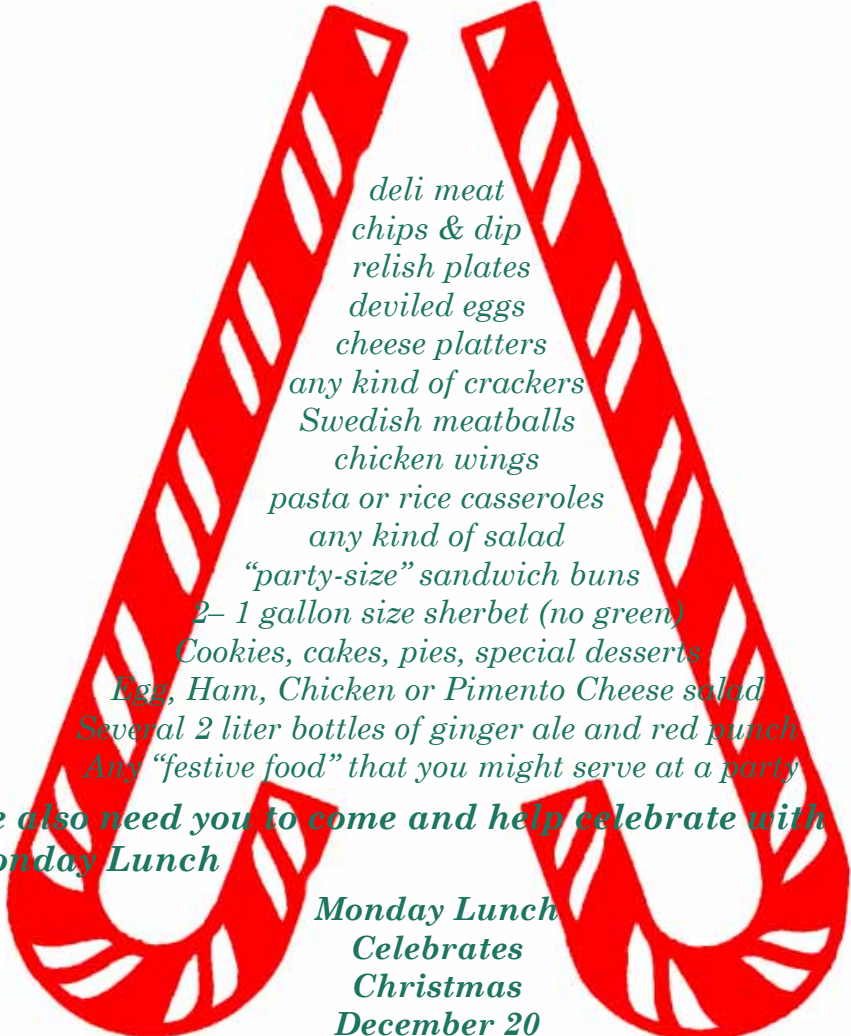
The next thing on our list – can you bring us lots of goodies to eat at our party? We like almost every kind of food, the kind you might eat at any other Christmas party. They don’t have to bring a lot – just enough for 15-20 people.

And, most of all, can you bring us lots of guests and can a lot of you come and join us so that we aren’t by ourselves? Oh, yes, we need you to bring this BEFORE Christmas Day.

If you need more info, you can call us at Allene Kilgore’s – 592-2122

Please Help Monday Lunch Celebrate Christmas! December 20

Just a Few of Many Ideas.....



- deli meat*
- chips & dip*
- relish plates*
- deviled eggs*
- cheese platters*
- any kind of crackers*
- Swedish meatballs*
- chicken wings*
- pasta or rice casseroles*
- any kind of salad*
- “party-size” sandwich buns*
- 2- 1 gallon size sherbet (no green)*
- Cookies, cakes, pies, special desserts*
- Egg, Ham, Chicken or Pimento Cheese salad*
- Several 2 liter bottles of ginger ale and red punch*
- Any “festive food” that you might serve at a party*

We also need you to come and help celebrate with Monday Lunch

Monday Lunch Celebrates Christmas December 20



Adult Ministries

The View from My Window

Grief and the holidays ...

As we journey through the season of Advent, we begin by lighting the first of 5 candles – the candle of Hope. Hope. What is it that you hope for this season? Do you hope that the grief you carry over the loss of your loved one, a shattered relationship, the loss of a dream, your income, your health...whatever loss you have experienced ... that the grief over your loss will not overwhelm you as you draw closer to Christmas and New Years? Perhaps that the reminders of that loss, which seem to be really in-your-face during the holidays, might be a little less painful this year?

This time of year, for those who are grieving, it seems everywhere you turn there is something to break your heart a little more. Friends can't wait for the special day to arrive, but you can't wait for it to all be over.

So what are some things that you can do to cope with your grief during this time? Let me make a few practical suggestions (from the booklet *Grief and the Holidays; Experiencing the Holidays and Special Occasions without a Loved One*):

Accept Your Limitations:

The number of decisions you need to make during the holidays can be overwhelming. Things like to accept or decline party and dinner invitations; decorate or not decorate; traditions – forget them, try them, or develop new ones...these are just a few examples. Choose a few decisions to deal with at a time so as not to overwhelm yourself.

Care for Yourself Physically:

Exercising reduces stress and can increase your sense of well-being; Eat a properly balanced diet; Get adequate rest

It's OK to Feel Sad:

Even people who have not experienced a major loss can feel the pressures, depression, and fatigue that come with the holidays

It's OK to Feel Good:

Give yourself permission to feel good, to laugh, and even to have fun. Feeling good and laughing is your body's way of letting you relax and regain some strength for a few moments during your grief.

Confide in Someone:

Find someone who will listen without feeling that he/she must come up with answers to your problems, who will let you say the words that are bottled up inside you even if it's over and over again.

These are just a few of the suggestions contained in the 16 page booklet, *Grief and the Holidays; Experiencing the Holidays and Special Occasions without a Loved One*. Copies are available in the entry areas of the church. Please, help yourself.

If you're grieving over any kind of loss during this season of Advent, I hope you will consider joining Pastor Mary Jo and our Stephen Ministers for a very **special worship service on December 20 – *The Long Night of the Soul***. It is our hope that you will find some peace for your grieving heart during the worship service. It will be held in **the Chapel at 12:10 and again at 7:30 p.m.**

Perhaps *you* are fine but know someone who is going through a difficult time and don't know how best to help. Take a look at [*How to Help a Grieving Loved One during the Holidays*](#), a one-page list of suggestions put together by our friends at Hospice.

You might also pick up a booklet for them and encourage them to attend one of the *The Long Night of the Soul* service, or, better yet, offer to bring them to the service.

In closing, I would like to share this quote from the book *The Uncluttered Heart; Making Room for God During Advent and Christmas* by Beth A. Richardson: "The most audacious, enlivening, freeing, joy-creating, humbling, and life-transforming reality of the Christian faith is not that God will be with us, but that God is here, right now. God is here in the midst of suffering, in the midst of joy, in the midst of shortcoming, in the midst of triumph, in the midst of our greatest fulfillment, and in the midst of our brokenheartedness."

--Gregory A Clapper, *When the World Breaks Your Heart*

May you and those you love be blessed with Hope during the journey of Advent this year!

--Sharon Fink, Director of Adult Ministries

One Plus the Power of You – December Readings Now Available If you're interested in following the Lectionary Scriptures for Sunday's worship, the December 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!

Sunday Scripture Texts 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:

Dec 5: Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

Dec 12 Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 1:46b-55; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

Dec 19 Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

Dec. 24/25 Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

Dec 26 Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23

Dec 31/Jan 1 Ecclesiastes 3:1-13; Psalm 8; Revelation 21:1-6a; Matthew 25:31-46

Holiday Office Schedule The Church Office will close at noon on December 24th and will be closed December 27, 28 and 31.

Hand Sanitizers Added throughout the Building The black, hand sanitizer dispensers are located in all the restrooms and in areas where food is served. 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 December 30 If you have news for the December issue, please be sure to get it to the church by Thursday, December 30.rd.

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.

No Children or Youth Sunday School Classes on December 26 or January 2



The Christmas season has always been my favorite time of year. Experiencing the wonder and delight of the season through the eyes and hearts of young children is truly the greatest joy of being an early childhood educator. As you can imagine, this month we'll be focusing on "Symbols of the Season." We'll be exploring everything from reindeer and evergreens to stars and angels. We'll be telling the story of Jesus' birth and remembering the importance of sharing and caring.

Special thanks to Bobbi Bradford for including Growing Tree in the Giving Tree project. We look forward to participating in this very tangible way of reaching out to others.

Special thanks, also, to Kay Taylor for her generous donation of books, puppets and other learning materials to Growing Tree. We really appreciate it!

The Growing Tree family wishes each of you a blessed Christmas season filled with wonder, delight, joy, comfort and peace.

—Cathy Bigger, Director of Growing Tree Preschool

Growing Tree Calendar Dates

December 14—Annual Christmas Program-(see below)

December 17-Last Day of School, 2010

December 20, 2010-January 2, 2011-Winter Break-GT closed

January 3, 2011-Classes resume



You're Invited!

What? Growing Tree Preschool Annual Christmas Program

When? Tuesday, December 14—7:00pm

Where? Sanctuary, First United Methodist Church

Who? The children of Growing Tree will be sharing their Christmas spirit with all of you by performing their favorite Christmas songs and fingerplays.

How Long? If we sing every holiday song and enact every holiday fingerplay we know, the program will last about 15 minutes. (Preschool songs are rather short, you know.)

Why should I leave my comfortable chair on a chilly winter evening to come? Because it's Christmas, because Christmas and children go together, because the Growing Tree children take this program quite seriously and work very hard to prepare and perform, because the children are incredibly cute, because even the scrogiest Scrooge and the grinchiest Grinch will find the light and love of Christmas with us.



WinterCamp 2011 at Camp Otterbein—Open to Grades 3-12—See Page 12 for more info

NATIVITY SCENE POTS

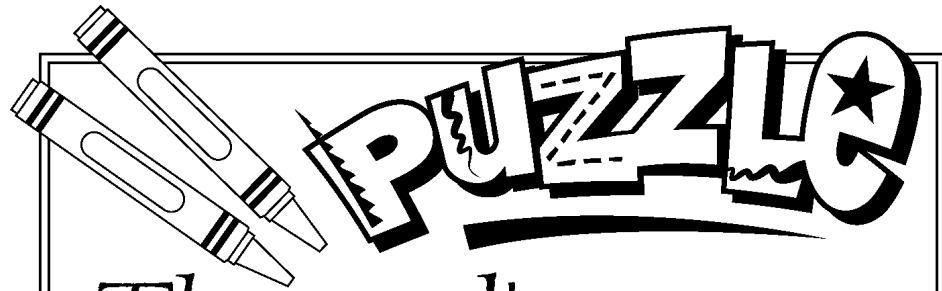
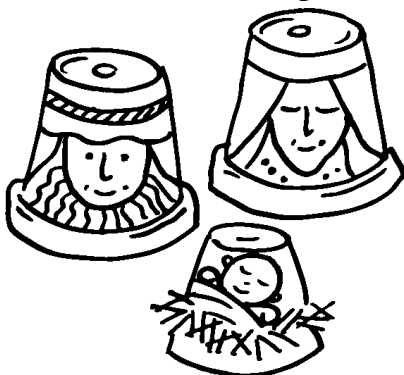
Celebrate the joy of Christmas — and remember Jesus' birth — by making this craft to decorate your home or to give as a gift.

What you need:

- 3 terra cotta pots (any size)
- Acrylic paints (including one for skin color)
- Paintbrush
- Craft glue (or a glue gun, with an adult to help)
- Brown yarn
- Material swatches
- Straw-colored raffia

What you do:

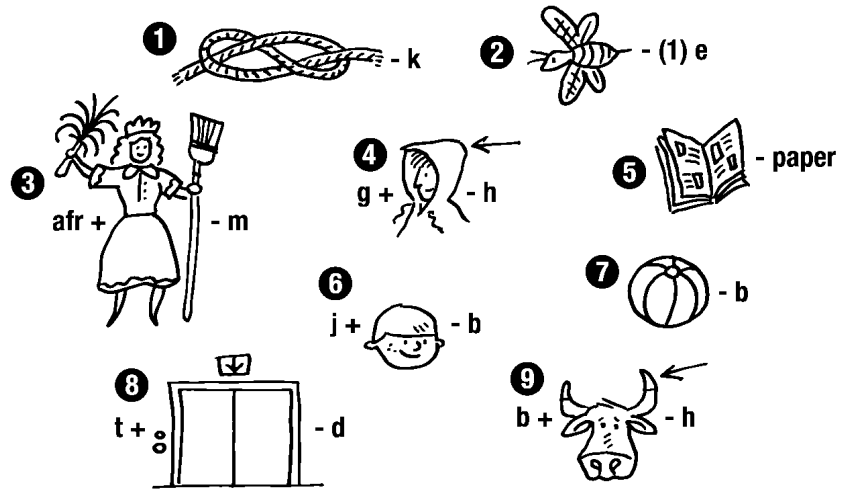
1. Decide which pot will be Joseph, Mary and baby Jesus. Turn each pot upside-down and paint a face on each one.
2. Decorate the pots by painting hair and clothes or by using yarn and material as hair and head coverings.
3. For baby Jesus, glue raffia along the bottom to look like straw in a manger.



The angel's message

On the first Christmas Eve, shepherds were watching over their flocks when an angel suddenly appeared.

Use the picture clues below to find out what the angels said to the terrified shepherds.



“Do _____ 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____. I bring you _____ 4 _____

_____ 5 of great _____ 6 that will be for _____ 7 the people.

Today in the _____ 8 of David a Savior has been _____ 9

to you; **he is Christ the Lord.**” Luke 2:10-11, NIV

“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:10-11, NIV

Answers: 1. knot-k=not; 2. bee-(1)e=be; 3. afr+maid-m=afraid; 4. g+hood-h=good; 5. newspaper-paper=news; 6. j+boy-b=joy; 7. ball-b=all; 8. t+down-d=town; 9. b+horn-h=born

Report of Activities of Troop 71 in 2010
 Hock-Hocking District, Allohak Council
 Athens, Ohio
 Sponsored by First United Methodist Church
 Report by Philip Perry
 November 2009 to November 2010

Troop 71 meets at First Church most Monday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 pm in Room 3 from September through July. Boy Scouts are from 11 to 17 years old and are in grades 5th to 12th. The purpose of Scouting is to help boys become good young men. This is done by learning and following the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Scouts participate in and learn from camping, other outdoor activities, working on advancement, doing character building activities, performing service projects, serving as youth leaders (such as Senior Patrol Leader and Patrol Leader), working together with other Scouts in their patrol and troop, and by having fun.

Currently we have 14 Scouts and 11 registered adults in the troop. Generally we have Webelos who are in the 5th grade and are graduating from Cub Scouts in the spring join the troop. Pack 71, which is located at West Elementary School, is our major source of Webelos. One of our Scouts serves as a Den Chief for Pack 71. Another Scout is Den chief for Pack 52 in Coolville. These Scouts assists the Cub Scout leaders by helping to guide the Cub Scouts in their activities at the monthly pack meeting. The Scouts also helped out at the Cub Scout Pinewood Derby races.

Troop 71 held two Court of Honors this year in May and October. These meetings are where the

Scouts are awarded the ranks and merit badges they have earned. We had 7 Scouts earn 12 ranks this year. The ranks earned are as follow: 5 Scout, 4 Tenderfoot, 1 1st class, and 2 Eagle Palm. Andrew Currently Jonathon Baker has had his Eagle proposal approved and will be completing it in the next few months. He is going to collect used DVD's for the Athens Public Library. In the past year the Scouts earned a total of 48 merit badges, of which 14 were earned at summer camp.

Activities this past year included 7 camping trips, 3 other trips, and 6 service projects. Our most important outdoor activity is a one week summer camp at Chief Logan Reservation in Vinton County. It was attended by 10 Scouts. The Scouts live in tents, eat at a dining hall, participate in campfires, and earn merit badges. The older Scouts can participate in the Frontiersman program, which requires more advance outdoor skills. The National Boy Scout Jamboree, which is held every four years, was at Fort A. P. Hill in Virginia this year. It was attended by 4 Scouts from Troop 71.

Service projects are a very important part of the Troop 71's activities. Projects performed for First Methodist Church includes helping at the Holiday Bazaar, participating at the service on Boy Scout Sunday, and cleaning up trash from the church parking lot.

Snow Closing Information In certain weather conditions it may become necessary to cancel worship services and other events. These are *always* cancelled if a state of emergency has been declared for Athens County. At other times it is done at the discretion of the leadership involved. In any event, cancellation information will be provided to WATH (970), WXTQ (105.5) and WOUB-FM (91.3) radio stations and will be posted on our answering system, at extension 3 or 15 and when possible, on our Web Site at this address: <http://www.firstumcathens.org/calendar>



Youth News

www.firstumcathens.org/youth

Youth Sunday School Welcomes Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads Dec. 12 & 19 The current study, Being *The ME God Wants Me To Be* - concludes December 5th.

December 12 & 19 Kirstin Shrom- Rhoads will be leading the group through Christmas topics. On the 19th, we will have a Sunday School class Christmas party. We will provide the food - you provide the fun. Please bring a item under \$10 to exchange that begins with the letter "P". It should be a fun white elephant exchange, so don't take yourself too seriously.

Sunday School will **NOT** meet on December 26th.

Youth Group Christmas Party Dec. 19

The youth group will meet the evening of the 19th for a combined youth group Christmas party here in Fellowship Hall. Details will be emailed when they are available. The party will be at FUMC.

Mark Your Calendar - The FUMC youth are **hitting the slopes again in February**. We are in the beginning stages of planning a day at the slopes on February 26th. Mark your calendar for a day of fun.

WinterCamp 2010 - See **page 12** for more information.

Mission News

Mission Kits Reach Those in Need

Matt Stevens, regional director for Church World Service, reports that First Church's school, health, and baby kits were transported from Otterbein University on October 9 to the CWS Center in New Windsor, Maryland. In a rare coincidence David & Bonita Maze were part of a mission work team the last week in October and while working in the warehouse in Maryland saw the semi truck which had come in from Ohio and was ready to be processed into new boxes for shipping around the world. This year's truck weighed in at a remarkable 34,000 plus pounds and thus continued the tradition where Ohio provides _ of ALL the kits going to Church World Service from around the country. Our thanks to the generous folks from First Church that prepared 50 school, 7 health, and 6 baby kits.

In addition to the tremendous kit collection Otterbein University men and women students constructed new playground equipment for Church of the Savior UM Church on the outskirts of Westerville. They are in a new location and have begun a ministry

to children from a mobile home park directly across the street from their sanctuary. There were also a significant collection of 1200 pounds of potatoes.

Helping out again this year were Bishop Bruce and Char Ough who consistent supporters of the Festival of Sharing. We are grateful to United Methodist related Otterbein University that again provided their student center, security, and buildings and grounds personnel at no charge to the Festival. Especially helpful were the members of the campus fraternity, Sigma Delta Phi, who worked tirelessly both Friday and Saturday in the unloading of cars, vans and trucks and the systematic stacking of all the boxes in the semi-trailer.

All of these heart warming results come about through the year round work of the Conference FOS Committee under the leadership of David and Bonita Maze. Note - next year's conference event is tentatively set for Saturday, Oct. 1 at Otterbein. We know that First Church will once again be an active participant.

—Bonita & David Maze

News from the Habitat Faith Build Coalition The **scrap metal drive** generated about 4 tons of ferrous materials, for which we received about \$700. The other truck, which had aluminum, copper, and brass, brought in about \$300 for a total of a little over \$1,000 for the scrap metal drive. Thanks to all who helped!

Plans are in the works for a **pancake breakfast benefit at Applebees on January 22nd** for Habitat. Keep tuned for details!

Save the date - February 26th - A Taste of Athens ~ Battle of the Chefs at The Inn at Hocking College.

Habitat is actively looking for a site **supervisor** for its next build, which they are committed to finishing by next June. If you have building skills and want to know more, call the Habitat office at 592-0032. Please spread the word about this critical volunteer opportunity.



\$ 43,399.70	Income for October
27,943.82	Expenses for October
15,455.88	Net gain for October
\$ 37,862.29	Net gain for the year

The income figure may seem a little high for October because it contains over \$5,000 in donations and fees collected for the mission trip to Honduras. Expenses for the trip were paid in November and will be reflected in next month's report.

Thank you for your faithful support of the ministries of Athens First United Methodist Church! In order to determine how we will do ministry in the coming year, our Budget Sub-committee is in the process of formulating an Operating Budget for 2011. The Pledge Cards play a key role in that process and are a tremendous help as we calculate our income. If you plan to pledge but haven't yet submitted your card, please get that to us ASAP. Thanks!

Second Mile Giving Funds reported through November 24:

Food Pantry – Goal \$2,000 – received \$2,815 - **Goal Achieved!**

Habitat for Humanity – Goal \$3,500 – received \$843.46

Hope and Possibilities – Goal \$1,500 – received \$1,126.31 (plus \$381 from Easter offering) – **Goal Achieved!**

PET Project – Goal \$2,000 – received \$510

Since last month's report, we have exceeded our goal for Hope and Possibilities as well as the Food Pantry and have received \$510 to purchase Personal Energy Transportation devices (PET Project). If you'd like to learn more about the P.E.T. project, visit this section in our photo gallery:

<http://www.firstumcathens.org/wheels/>

This year a portion of our **Christmas Offering** will be used to complete our church's financial work and a portion will benefit the **Faith Build Coalition of Habitat for Humanity**, so please keep that in mind when you receive our Christmas letter this year.

Noisy Bucket Offering Helps Honduras Mission Trip Those buckets were very noisy on November 14th as the children circulated among the congregation collecting donations for the Honduras Mission Trip. The offering brought in \$253.70, and the kids had a great time!

Honduras Contributions as of November 29 total \$3,278.70! Because of your generous support, people from this congregation will have the financial support needed to participate in this exciting mission trip. Thank you, First Church Family, for your generous responses to this mission! Our Mission-ers are in Honduras from December 4 to 11. Please keep them in your prayers.

What You Need To Know As Our Financial Year Comes To A Close The church's **financial books** will close **Friday, January 7, 2011**. Any contribution received after that date will be credited to your 2011 giving record. If a contribution is mailed, it must be **postmarked no later than December 31** to count as a 2010 gift. The postmark is the determining factor and not the date on your check.

There was an occasion once when we received a check on January 14 after the books were closed. The envelope was postmarked December 30, and the check was of the same date. Sometimes things get delayed in the mail, so if you don't want to risk it and can't get out, let us know and we'll make arrangements to stop by and pick it up for you.

Beginning December 12, **offering envelopes** will be available for pick up in the Narthex (College Street main entrance). Address labels on the boxes will be arranged in alphabetical order by the recipient's last name. If you do not find a box and want one, Sharon will be delighted to prepare one for you. **Please wait until January to use your 2011 envelopes. Thanks!!**

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:

Kindness Explosion in Reynoldsburg On an October Saturday, residents living and working in Reynoldsburg were treated to a "*kindness explosion.*" More than 150 volunteers from the twelve participating churches - including two West Ohio UM churches - gathered at eleven strategic locations within the city to envelope the community of Reynoldsburg in love. This city has seen its fair share of "urban flight" but church leaders saw this event as an opportunity to spread a Christian message in tough times. [More](#)

Hey, 3-12th graders – Join us for Winter-Camp 2010 at Camp Otterbein Celebrate Christmas Traditions from around the World together this year at WinterCamp 2010 December 28 – 30. We will have lots of fun, creative activities and meaningful worship as we explore how People celebrate Jesus in other cultures and nations. Favorite activities like Ice-blocking, Reindeer games, hot chocolate and stories will be joined by new Multi-cultural Christmas games, Christmas tree archery, and Winter Care Projects. Crafty snacks will include gingerbread houses and edible fires. YUM!

To register, call the Conference Office at 1-800-437-0028. First UMC will help with camper-ship gifts! Talk with Sharon Fink about this!
Register soon!

Communiversy Band to Present Holiday Concert December 12 Under the direction of Dr. Andrew Trachsel, you'll hear holiday favorites performed by the band as well as members of the Athens Children's Chorus under the direction of Melanie Horne. Santa and Mrs. Clause also promise to make an appearance.

The rehearsal will be held at the Templeton-Blackburn Alumni Memorial Auditorium from 1 to 3 p.m. with the concert to follow at 4 p.m. The band is open to adults and high school juniors and seniors. The concert is open to all.

Questions, contact [Dr. Trachsel](#) at 593-1670



Poinsettias to Beautify the Sanctuary are \$6 each. You may indicate your desire to give one or more poinsettias for this Christmas Season below and place the request in the offering plate, mail it to the church office, or call LeAnna Moyer at the church office (593-3977). Checks should be made to *First United Methodist Church* and the Altar Guild will place your order. **Please have your order in by December 14.** *You are welcomed to take your poinsettia home after the Christmas Eve Service.*

-----Poinsettias for Christmas-----

- I/We will give _____ (indicate how many) poinsettias
- I/We will bring poinsettias to the church by Thursday, Dec. 16

Optional: I/We want to give the poinsettias in memory of _____


_____ in honor of _____,

or for the following reason _____.

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

Please have your order in by December 14

December 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Home 28	29	30	1 9:00 AM Korean Women's Prayer Group 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Korean Worship Service 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	2 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 9:00 AM Korean Women's Prayer Group 12:00 PM FOCUS 12:00 PM AA 1:00 PM Christmas Bazaar Setup 3:30 PM Mentoring Session 6:00 PM AA	3 9:00 AM Korean Women's Prayer Group 10:00 AM Christmas Bazaar Setup 5:30 PM AA 6:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal 6:00 PM Korean Students Bible Study	4 9:00 AM Christmas Bazaar 5:00 PM Wedding 6:00 PM AA
5 8:45 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 2:30 PM Korean Worship 4:30 PM Korean Bible Study	6 9:00 AM Korean Women's Prayer Group 12:00 PM Monday Lunch 2:00 PM Mentoring Session 6:00 PM Stephen Supervision 7:00 PM Troop 71	7 9:00 AM Korean Women's Prayer Group 12:00 PM AA 7:00 PM Administrative Council Meeting with Dennis Mohler	8 9:00 AM Korean Women's Prayer Group 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Korean Worship Service 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	9 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 9:00 AM Korean Women's Prayer Group 12:00 PM AA 12:00 PM FOCUS 3:30 PM Mentoring Session 6:00 PM AA	10 9:00 AM Korean Women's Prayer Group 5:30 PM AA 6:00 PM Korean Students Bible Study	11 10:00 AM Children's Choir/Puppet Rehearsal 6:00 PM AA
12 8:45 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 2:30 PM Korean Worship 4:30 PM Korean Bible Study	13 12:00 PM Monday Lunch 7:00 PM Troop 71	14 12:00 PM AA 6:00 PM Widow/Widower Support Group 6:30 PM Council Child Ministries	15 10:00 AM W -Care Group 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Korean Worship Service 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	16 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 12:00 PM AA 12:00 PM FOCUS 6:00 PM AA 7:00 PM Board of Trustees	17 5:30 PM AA 6:00 PM Korean Students Bible Study 7:00 PM Advent Organ Recital	18 6:00 PM AA
19 8:45 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 2:30 PM Korean Worship 4:30 PM Korean Bible Study 6:30 PM Youth Christmas Party	20 12:00 PM Monday Lunch 12:10 PM Long Night Service 6:00 PM Stephen Supervision 7:00 PM Troop 71 7:30 PM Long Night Service	21 12:00 PM AA 7:30 PM Finance Committee Meeting	22 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Korean Worship Service 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	23 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 12:00 PM AA 12:00 PM FOCUS 6:00 PM AA	24  <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Christmas Eve</i></p> 4:00 PM Child Friendly Service 7:30 PM Christmas Eve Service	25 6:00 PM AA
26 8:45 AM Worship No Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 2:30 PM Korean Worship 4:30 PM Korean Bible Study	27 Office Closed 12:00 PM Monday Lunch 7:00 PM Troop 71	28 Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	29 7:00 PM Korean Worship Service	30 Spire Deadline 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 12:00 PM AA 6:00 PM AA	31 Office Closed 5:30 PM AA 6:00 PM Korean Students Bible Study	Home 1

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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