

The Church Spire

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A Final Report from Your Finance Committee

Yes, it was a challenge and a privilege to bring together the budget for 2009. As a committee we have brought a balanced budget based on real numbers and estimates that represent our best work. You will understand that this year our budget also found itself responding to the current economic climate.

We want you to be aware of the rationale for our current budget because being a church means that we are all in this together. This is easier to do when we all have this information.

Some information about our pledging:

In 2008, we received 138 pledges. In 2009, we have received 127 pledges. 80 giving units increased their pledges for 2009 (this represents 63% of the total received)

The first draft of the budget represented what all the ministry areas of the church would like to have. In order to bring the level of need to match the level of income, the following cuts were made:

Removal of 3% Lay Staff increase \$5,311
(the pastor was not included in the raise; she had hoped for some extra office support, which became impossible)

Laity Staff Continuing Ed.	\$200
Substitute Pay	\$200
Chimes Choir	\$80
Chancel Choir	\$80
Children's Choir music	\$100
Low Brass Ensemble Music	\$20
Global Missions Committee	\$200
O.V.I.S. Stage	\$800
Adult Ministries	\$1,186
<i>(adults will pay for their own study books with emergency back up of the pastor's discretionary fund)</i>	
Vacation Bible School	\$150
Puppet Ministry	\$200
Spire (going 'paperless')	\$600
Growing Tree Preschool	\$150

With these changes and some pledges that came in after the new year, the budget has been officially "balanced". With gratitude, your Finance Committee sends this to you. Praise God for the ability to do the good work that the Lord has given us to do.

—Your Finance Committee

Mardi Gras Brunch Raises Funds for Mission Trip

Enjoy Mardi Gras with the youth and WSC on Sunday, February 22nd following the 10:30 service in Fellowship Hall. Together, these groups are serving up a hot pancake breakfast

and accepting donations for our Spring Break Mission Trips to New Orleans. If you are not able to attend, donations are being accepted by Keith Rader and Rick Seiter.



The Observance of Lent 2009

We will be starting our Observance of Lent on Sunday, February 22 with the joyous celebration of Shrove Tuesday on Sunday. This event will happen after church with a Pancake Lunch that will double as a fund-raiser for your Mission Teams heading to New Orleans. Once we've been feed, our "Holy Hands Puppet Ministry" will entertain us. They will perform a special show for us to wrap up our celebration.

The follow Wednesday, February 25th, will mark the beginning of our 40 Day journey to the Cross. The imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion will be offered at two services:

12:10 – 12:50 p.m. in the Sanctuary

7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Come, let us mark this moment of focus and intention together. Let us sing and pray and hear the word of the Lord encourage us to make this a Holy Lent.

Thoughts Along the Way

People of Faith in the Midst of REALITY

Dear brothers and sister,

I am often the one who writes these "Thoughts Along the Way". Sometimes other members of your church staff share their thoughts. Today I would like to tell you about your staff. Later in this newsletter you will be able to see that they did not receive a cost of living increase for this year. The process behind that decision was faithful, yet not what was hoped for. Yet I am grateful to serve with them.

We gathered together, this church staff of yours, for the first time this year. After some checking around, I've come to understand that for a church our size with a ministry as large as ours is, a once-a-month All-Staff meeting is amazingly minimal. We even come in with our agendas all worked out, ready to "get to work." One might wonder if we are a business, instead of a

spirit driven community. We have 90 minutes to do our work. There are nine areas of ministry represented at the table. The math tells you that each person has 10 minutes unless the pastor has a pressing need to work with the whole group – and I usually do.

And then it happened. We had plowed into our "work." Everybody was ready for the meeting. And, in 45 minutes the business was cared for. Then we closed with prayer. Each person spoke of what was in their hearts, their concerns, needs, hopes, cares about their ministry area. Before they passed the prayer along with a squeeze of the hand to the next staff person, they prayed for that brother/sister, lifting them into the presence of the loving Lord we all serve. When we made it around the circle and said "Amen", it was 30 minutes later. We had come together to do

work, which we did, but more than that, we walked in the way of Christ and prayed together. There was no doubt that Christ had been with us, and as we dispersed to the next agenda item on our lists, there was a renewed sense of encouragement in our hearts. 45 minutes of work – 30 minutes of prayer – not a bad ratio J.

I tell you this because I want you to know of the faithfulness of your church staff. I am honored to serve with them. And I am grateful for their witness.

God IS Good!

Pastor Mary Jo

Children and Youth Ministry Volunteer Training to be Held at the Church February 8

On February 8th from noon to 3, Youth Directors Kirstin Shrom Rhoads and Jason Rhoads and Director of Children's Ministry Cathy Lee invite all and any who would like to explore opportunities for volunteering for and with youth and/or children to attend this Volunteer Training. We will be providing information on our church's Safe Sanctuary policies, offering some interactive training regarding working with the various age groups of

our "kids", and discussing the many opportunities for positive relationships with our children and youth through volunteering such as Sunday School opportunities, mission trips with youth, hosting youth group, VBS and more. A light lunch will be provided. If at all possible, please RSVP to Cathy Lee by February 6th. If you have any questions, please contact Kirstin, Jason, or Cathy.

Church Newsletter Has Gone Mostly "Paperless"

This is the first issue of our newly remodeled and mostly paperless *Church Spire*. It is always available to read from our web site, and starting with 2009, you also have access to previous editions: (<http://www.firstumcathens.org/>

[newsletter](#)) A few hard copies have been printed and are in the literature racks in the Narthex and by the Chapel entrance.

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.

The Sympathy of the Congregation Is Extended to Larry King and family in the death of his father, to Aline Paxton and family in the death of her husband, Bruce on January 24 and to Hazel Bernard in the death of her daughter, Marilyn on January 25.

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.

Free Parking on Sundays – Elevators Are Available Parking is free on Sundays in the Municipal Parking Garage, located across from the church. Don't like to climb the stairs? The elevators are also available, and parking is usually available close to one of the elevator entrances. **IMPORTANT - If you haven't been given special parking privileges, be sure you park in a space that has a parking meter!!**

March Spire Deadline Is February 20 If you have news for that issue, please be sure to get it to the church by Friday, February 20.

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.

Faith Build Coalition Breakfast Raises over \$1000

Many thanks to those who supported Habitat for Humanity's Faith Build Coalition's recent pancake breakfast at Applebee's. Although the final figures are not in, the Faith Build Coalition raised over \$1050 in that event. We hope to make it an

annual event.

Another way you can help the Faith Build Coalition is by taking their *Spiritual Journey of Thanksgiving*, found on page 16.

Monday Lunch News

Monday Lunch Celebrates 11 Years

It's really hard to believe! Monday Lunch celebrated its 11th anniversary on the last Monday of January. It was that Monday in 1998 that the first Monday Lunch was served to around 30 guests.

Not knowing how it would go, we started serving only on the last Monday of each month. We wondered, "Would anyone show up?" That was answered at our very first meal – yes! We agreed then to serve the next meal on the last Monday in February, and with that meal, we began serving weekly the very next month. We have been serving weekly ever since, with only a very few exception. I'm sure that back in 1998 Mary Ann Simpson, Jed Butcher and David Maze didn't have a clue that they would be volunteering almost every Monday for at least 11 years!

With February 2009 we will enter our 12th year. I would love to start naming names of all who helped over the years, but I would never finish. Some of you volunteered for as many as eight years with us, starting with the very first meal. Others started a year or two later and are still helping. Some of you have volunteered whenever you could. And, for some of you, 2009 is the

first year you have volunteered.

So many of you have donated salads and desserts. A few are entering your 12th year doing that. This service has made Monday Lunch quite unique. Letting our guests have the choice of what they can eat means a great deal to them. For many guests, that is their favorite part of Monday Lunch.

We've also had volunteers of all ages. Many of the children and youth of the church have helped during summer vacation and have given up their holidays or snow days when those have fallen on a Monday. We've also gained volunteers when they have retired.

And, of course, we have had a lot of OU student volunteers over the years – some for only one year and others for their entire time at OU. Jill Morrison helped for four years during her undergraduate studies and for two more while she completed her Master's degree. One young man graduated, moved away for a couple of years, returned for his Masters, and is now helping with cleanup most Mondays (we feed him, too!). We often receive Christmas cards from these former student volunteers who want to stay in touch after they

have graduated and moved from Athens.

Of course, all of you have helped in a very integral way. You have prayed for us and thought of our mission and given to Monday Lunch's yearly budget. Through your contributions to support the operating budget, you are also helping to provide the electricity and other utilities we need, plus the wonderful kitchen facility where we prepare and serve the meals.

I continue to be amazed at the continual, dedicated support from you, the Church, for our Monday Lunch mission. I feel truly blessed to be a part of this extended family of support for this mission of service to our guests. And, as is always the case when we give, we receive that blessing back - our Church, FUMC Athens, is blessed by this mission as well. As Tiny Tim in *The Christmas Carol* said, "God bless us every one!" We are doing good.

Thank you for all of your support,

— Allene Kilgore,
Monday Lunch Coordinator

Containers and Plastic Grocery Bags Needed for Monday Lunch Our ministry of providing a good meal for lunch on Mondays doesn't end there. If there are leftovers, we like to send them home with the guests. In order to do that, we need plastic grocery bags and plastic containers with lids - things like margarine, whipped topping, potato salad containers, etc. work nicely as do the new, disposable type of containers that you can purchase. If you'd like to make a donation, please drop them by the church office or leave them downstairs in the Fellowship Hall Kitchen, which is open on Sunday mornings.

United Methodist Women Welcome New Members All women of the church are invited to become members of the United Methodist Women. Those interested may call our U.M.W. President Bonita Maze (797-2440), the church office at 593-3977, or any UMW member.

Circles Plan February Meetings The Miriam and Martha-Ruth Circles will meet for lunch on February 24 at the Ponderosa at 11:30 a.m. The Lydia Circle will meet February 24 at 7 p.m. at the home of Bonita Maze, 112 Circle Drive, The Plains.

Adult Ministry at Athens First

Bible Study that Includes a Scrapbook Project to Start Soon *God's Good Gifts: A Scrapbooking Bible Study* is going to be offered at Athens First starting in February. Once finished, each participant will have made a 24 page devotional scrapbook - a great keepsake and an heirloom that records your family's spiritual journey for future generations. The group will meet 2 times per month here at the church during the evening hours (days & times to be determined based upon the participants' schedules). Plans are being finalized for the Scrapbooking Group, and if you are interested in participating or would like more information, you are invited to attend an **information meeting Sunday, February 1** immediately following the 10:30 service in the **Library**. No previous scrapbooking experience is required. Contact Lisa Dael (594-1739 or dael@ohio.edu) if you have any questions.

Special Studies Offered During Lent Lent is upon us, and we are in the process of exploring several short-term studies written to inspire us during the season of Lent. Watch the bulletin announcement inserts and the Web site for particulars. These will be incorporated into our Sunday morning classes and the Thursday Brown Bag Study Group.

Sunday Mornings:

The Trinity Class meets in the 1st Floor Lounge at 9:30 every Sunday morning. They explore a variety of Christian topics through study books.

The Seekers' Class meets in the Student Lounge on the 2nd Floor at 9:30. They practice what is known as the Taize method - each week they read over a short Scripture passage, followed by a meditation or reflection on the passage. After reading and reflecting on the message, members of the class freely share their own thoughts as they feel comfortable. The class is very casual, and there is no out of class preparation. Just come and listen, think and share.

Women's Study Group meets in the Library on the 2nd floor, and are currently doing a Bible study on Romans.

Weekday Studies on the *Common Lectionary**

The Men's Prayer Group meets for breakfast every Thursday at 7 a.m. at Bob Evan's

The Brown Bag Study Group, meets Thursdays in the Church Library from 12:10-12:50 p.m. Bring your lunch, if you'd like.

***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:

February 1: Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; I Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

February 8: Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; I Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

February 15: II Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30; I Corinthians 9:24-27; Mark 1:40-45

February 22: II Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; II Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

Stephen Ministers Serve as Golden Parachutes

Many of us go through difficult times in our lives, such as the death of a loved one, a divorce, unemployment, or a health crisis. We may experience stress from serving as a caregiver to others, or from trying to make ends meet financially.

The current state of our economy has us all feeling uncertain, wondering how our families and our nest eggs will make it through the next few years. We see the government providing golden parachutes in the form of bailouts to big businesses--but what about *you* and *me*? Who is going to help us through not only our financial troubles, but also the other difficult challenges we face?

As Christians, we know we are not alone. God loves us and listens to our thoughts and prayers, but sometimes that does not feel like enough support because we cannot see or hear Him. When we're feeling stressed out, alone, lost, or in serious need of tangible comfort and sup-

port, we need someone here on earth to listen to our concerns and to physically be with us through our challenging times.



To fill our need, God provides Stephen Ministers to act as our golden parachutes. So when you feel like you've been pushed out of an airplane and you don't know where or how you're going to land, a Stephen Minister can help you glide to a safe landing in a peaceful place. All you need to do is ask for one.

Stephen Ministers don't try to solve or fix your problems. Instead, they skillfully listen to you, pray for and with you, and care deeply about you for as long as you need. If you're in need of a golden parachute, or you'd like to learn how to become a golden parachute for others, contact Sharon Fink (593-3977 ext 11 or fink@firstumcathens.org) or Pastor Mary Jo.

Youth News

The Youth Ski Trip, March 6th We'll meet at the Church around 5pm and head to Winterplace Ski Resort in West Virginia. We will spend the night at a Days inn just a few miles from the Resort, ski all day Saturday, and be home around 11ish Saturday night. The cost per youth is \$100, which covers the cost of skiing and lodging. We will provide transportation and food. If Youth want a Skiing Lesson, please bring an extra \$25



for a 1.5-2 hour lesson. **Deadline to sign up is Feb 20th.** Money can be paid to Jason or Kirstin or a check can be given to Joyce Lambert with *Ski Trip* in the Memo Line. **Money must be turned in by March 1st.**

Service Project at the Last Chance Corral, If you're planning to be in Athens during Spring Break and would like to be a part of a one-day service

www.firstumcathens.org/youth

project, then join us on March 21st when we will go to the Last Chance Corral. We will meet at the Church at 8:30 am and head over to the LCC where we will help care for horses in different ways, as instructed by the Last Chance Staff. Work clothes are appropriate as well as boots - plan to get dirty.



Event Sign Up Sheets are Posted on the Youth Lounge Door

Ministering at the Appalachian Behavioral Hospital

February is the month for First UM Church to minister at the Appalachian Behavioral Hospital. Every February and October a small group from this congregation meets and shares in an informal church service on Sunday evenings at 6 p.m., involving a short devotional and hymn sing. Those who have participated in the past report coming away feeling blessed having shared God's love

with others in a very integral way. If you would like to help the leadership team, please contact Jed Butcher (593-5703) or Allene Kilgore (592-2122) for more information.



For all of those called to work with God's children and youth—don't forget the Volunteer Training for working with children and youth on February 8th. This will be taking place in the First Floor Lounge from noon to (at the latest) 3 pm. This training will refresh experienced volunteers and encourage new ones as we discuss our church's Safe Sanctuary policies, stages of faith development in children and youth, and the many opportunities for volunteering for and with our children and youth. Please RSVP to Cathy Lee.

God's Great Adventure (Sunday School) has much in store for kids in February!

February 1st—We will end our first unit of 2009—**Love Your Enemies**—children (and teachers and shepherds, too) have been challenged to be nice even to those who aren't easy to be nice to. We don't think it's a coincidence that this unit happened around Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday—someone who showed that this kind of living can change the world.

February 8th—M and M Sunday (Mission and Munchies) Hannah Rickey, Emily Fox and Rick Seiter will be sharing stories and talking about their upcoming trip. Kids will be making their own houses of hope as a symbol that we are all participants in this mission experience.

February 15th – Fourth Graders Learn How to Use Their New Bibles

David and Bonita Maze will be once again teaching this special class for all fourth graders. Fourth graders received a new Bible in November, and now's their chance to begin to learn how to make a lifelong friendship with God's word. The class will meet in **ROOM 6** starting at 9:30 until 10:15 (regular Sunday School time) starting

on February 15th through March 15th. Fourth graders should go directly to room 6 rather than joining the other children in Fellowship Hall on these Sundays. Contact David and Bonita Maze or Cathy Lee for more information.

February 15th--Pre-K through 3rd grade--There will be a special **Valentine Sunday School program**. Don't miss it!

February 22nd-March 15th—The children's Lenten Bible Study, *Mary of Bethany Anoints Jesus*, begins. The scripture focus is "Love one another...outdo one another in showing honor" (Romans 12:10). If you haven't taught Sunday School before, this is an ideal place to start! There will only be two sessions of each "station" (Games, Art, Storytelling, and Science) since the 4th grade class will be in the Learning to Use My Bible Class during these weeks. Interested? Contact Cathy Lee to volunteer. Thank You!

Child care is available for infants and toddlers in Room 1 and Tweens (fifth and sixth graders) meet in the Library on the second floor for Sunday School each Sunday.

Kids Movie Night Scheduled for February 6

Kim Mather and Jess Fulmer will be the hosts to this fun monthly event for our children. From 6 to 8 pm on Friday, February 6th, kids (preschool through 6th grade) are invited to come to the 2nd Floor Lounge to watch the movie *Finding*

Nemo with "God eyes" and discuss what truths we can learn from God as we watch this movie. As always, children are welcome to bring a friend, to bring a sleeping bag and pillow...even to come in their pajamas! Parents are welcome to stay

and enjoy the movie or drop them off and enjoy a little "child-free" time. Kid's Movie Nights are planned for the first or second Friday of each month during the school year, so stay tuned for each month's special evening! See you there!

Choir Camp to be Held at Camp Otterbein March 6-8 for 4th -7th Graders

Choir Camp is an annual camp for kids who want to sing and perform in a fun, Christian environment. Come with a friend or come on your own and make friends at Camp Otterbein! Learn 6-8 songs to sing and other ways to share the joy of music together! Take part in a traditional Talent Show and Dance night. Perform on Sunday afternoon for parents and friends. Interested? Call the camping office at 1.800.437.0028 or visit the website at <http://www.westohiocamps.com>

Growing Tree News

Happy February! At Growing Tree, it's always a relief to see the long, gray month of January come to an end. February brings with it plans for lots of fun and interesting activities and events at Growing Tree. We'll be spending the first part of the month preparing for Valentine's Day. All of our books, act projects, games and learning activities will focus on family love and friendship and will be underscored by God's love for each of us. We're looking forward to our valentine parties on February 12 and 13. The second part of the month will be devoted to a study of "Foods that Begin with the Letter 'P.'" It's amazing how many foods begin with the letter "p"—everything from peas, peaches and pears to potatoes, popcorn and pretzels! We'll be doing lots of cooking activities as well as enjoying a Pancake Breakfast with our



moms and dads on February 19 and 20 and a field trip to a pizza restaurant on February 26 and 27.

Growing Tree sends a great big "thank you" to Brandon Saunders for bringing his BIG telescope to school and allowing the children to do some "star gazing" in Fellowship Hall. It was a wonderful and exciting finale to our unit on Space and Space Travel. Thanks, Brandon!!

Remember—Growing Tree is *your* school. It is part of the outreach ministry programming of First United Methodist Church. As such, we welcome and are so grateful for your support, encouragement and, most of all, your prayers. If you are interested in volunteering at Growing Tree, please contact Cathy Bigger. We promise you will be greatly blessed!

Have a super month!



News from the Center From Keith Rader Our WSC Director

As February begins, the **Wesley Student Center** is looking forward to a great month. The excitement of the trip to New Orleans is building, and the students are making final decisions as to who will go and be a part of this great trip.

As the director of the Wesley Student Center, I look forward to gathering with the seniors in these last two quarters and challenging them to be great leaders for the underclassmen so that they will take up the responsibility in the years to come.

One event that is always exciting to me is gathering with other faith groups. This month we will have the opportunity to meet with the Newman's from the Catholic Church.

The Global Café was a great success in January, and we look forward to even greater things. The February Global Café will meet on the 12th and 26th here at the Church.

The guitar group is gearing up for a worship service following our spring break trip, and they are beginning to learn new

songs to present at that worship service. It's an exciting time.

As always we will have Midnight Breakfast on February 13th. Midnight breakfast is a great outreach into our community and a mission with the donations going to local missions.

The Wednesday evening group is still studying Revelation. Several students are taking turns leading the discussion on the Book of Revelation, and the students are listening to the book together on CD.

Do You Shop At Kroger? Help WSC Raise Funds for Spring Break Mission Trip

Your on-going support of WSC through the Kroger Gift Card program helps make these mission trips possible. Joyce reports that we recently received a check for \$318.25 easy to help WSC by using the gift card. WSC gets a 5% kick-back from whatever you spend for groceries and gas at Kroger...just by using the gift card. If you would like to purchase a card, contact Chris Knisely (592-3183).



\$ 41,319.28 Income for December
41,604.36 Expenses for December

(285.08) Net loss for December
\$ 29,085.09 Net gain for the year

We ended the year with all bills paid and a healthy carry-over. Your faithfulness, the extraordinary efforts by the staff, and generous end-of-year giving made this possible. Thanks to all.

Second Mile Giving - A New Year with New Goals As you know, we reached all of our goals for 2008. But now we are on to a new year when the needs will be extraordinary. Let's aim to reach our goals again and dig deep into our pockets so we can best serve those in need.

Using Offering Envelopes Is Very Helpful Please pick up your offering envelopes in the Narthex (College Street entrance). Using the envelopes is so helpful to those of us who work with the offering. Call Joyce Lambert, extension 28, if you don't find envelopes and want some.

Christmas Offering Exceeds \$4,000 Our Christmas offering totaled \$4,143.38 and will serve the needs of the church. Thanks for your generosity at Thanksgiving and Christmas. You have done an outstanding job!

Year-End Giving Statements Have Been Mailed Fourth quarter statements were mailed January 22. Please examine your statement carefully, and call Joyce Lambert, extension 28, if you have questions.

Gift Recently Made to Our Celebration Fund We thank Joyce Lambert for her gift in honor of the hard working church staff and in appreciation of the faithful 2008 Monday Morning Volunteers – Bob Sympson, Marilyn Martin, Debbie Edwards, and Mary Day.

Village Association Forms to Support Senior Citizens

Senior citizens can age while living independently if they have help with some services they can no longer do for themselves. "Village Associations" have been formed in many areas to accomplish this on a cooperative basis.

A group of Athens resident is working to develop the "Athenian Village", and association of Athens area residents over 60, to help members to age well independently. The association plans to provide a mix of volunteer services and those

paid for directly by members, in the categories of transportation, personal care, household repair and maintenance and assistance with technical services. The "village concept" is in use in several locations outside Ohio, including examples in Boston MA, Washington DC, and Princeton NJ. Each one is designed according to the needs and requirements of its members.

A Steering Committee (Max Evans, Norman and Peg Cohn, Sue Foster, Ted Foster, Lyle McGeoch and Ellsworth

Holden) has been formed to research services desired and those available through various existing agencies.

A Public Meeting for anyone interested in the concept is scheduled for Saturday, February 7 at the Athens Community Center, Room C, at 2 PM.

If you have questions, please contact Peg Cohn (592-4074 peggy3331@earthlink.net)

Trustees Provide Much-Needed Care Throughout 2008

As we reflect on 2008, we realize that the Trustees have, as usual, been busy caring for the on-going maintenance needs of our church building and the parsonage. Here are just a few of the projects they cared for in 2008:

Time was spent during the quite winter months examining, evaluating and prioritizing a number of projects around the church and parsonage. The major projects during the winter were the installation of a new circuit board on the first floor, rewiring of the 1st Floor Lounge Kitchen, and installation of wiring and a window air conditioning unit in Sharon Fink's office.

Several Trustees and other volunteers gathered at the church on June 21st for a work day. Peeling paint under the balcony was removed and the outside window wells were cleaned. The one along the back of the church on the office side was especially bad, with standing water and clogged drains.

Over the summer several projects, planned and unplanned were completed:

The refrigerator at the parsonage was replaced at a cost of approximately \$900. The Chapel heat pump was replaced (unplanned) at a cost of approximately \$6000. The Church Kitchen refrigerator was repaired (unplanned) at a cost of approximately \$840. Several aging window air conditioning units were replaced in church rooms and offices at a cost of approximately \$1200.

It was a very busy fall! Several projects, planned and unplanned, were completed: The parsonage portico was stripped and painted, the vents on the pillars were opened, and the back deck was cleaned and stained, all at a cost of approximately \$2900. Over the Christmas Break,

Sunday School rooms 3,4,5, and 6, the corresponding hallway, and the kitchen dishwasher area floor were painted at a cost of approximately \$2100.

In mid December a portion of the sidewalk in front of the church was replaced, including the handicap ramp, due to safety concerns after a church member experienced a fall. The Trustee's cost was approximately \$1700, and the City of Athens incurred the costs for the ramp. Also in December, the church experienced approximately \$650 worth of damage to electrical components due to a power surge. We are pursuing reimbursement of this unexpected expense.

As we look ahead, the Trustees, with the support and encouragement of the Finance Committee, is in the process of an "energy audit" for the church. It's going somewhat slowly, but the services being rendered have thus far been at no costs. Also, extensive research and work has gone into securing a painting contractor to paint the church Sanctuary, Narthex, and stairways. This was last done in 1984, and, if all goes as planned, will begin just after Easter 2009.

It is through the gifts and bequests that members and friends of the church have made over the years that make up the endowment that the Board manages. The income generated by this endowment makes it possible for the Trustees to accomplish the care of our facilities. As with any committee of the church, the Board of Trustees are members of this congregation. If you have any questions about the work of the Trustees, please feel free to contact any of them: Chair Dick Gail, Treasurer Dave Dabelko, Secretary Debbie Edwards, and members Skip Billups, Pete Good, Janice Huwe, Tim Lutz, Ralph Martin, and Martha Sloan.

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 possibly on our Web Site at this address: <http://www.firstumcathens.org/calendar>

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.*

HEARTS in the morning


Start your morning with heart. Enjoy this special breakfast with someone you love!

What you need:

- Your favorite pancake recipe and syrup
- Pan or griddle
- Cooking spray
- Liquid measuring cup
- One 5-inch heart-shaped metal cookie cutter
- Wooden clothespin
- Spatula
- Adult help

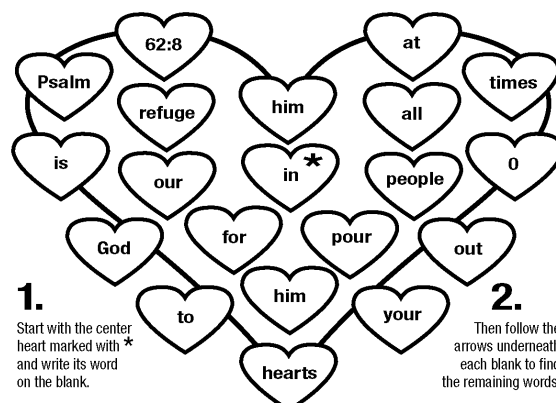
What you do:

1. With an adult's help, follow your recipe to make your favorite pancakes.
2. Spray cooking spray onto your pan or griddle.
3. Pour pancake batter into a liquid measuring cup. (This helps with pouring individual pancakes.)
4. Place the cookie cutter on the pan or griddle. Then clip the wooden clothespin onto the cookie cutter to act as a handle.
5. Pour batter (about 3-4 Tablespoons) into the cookie cutter.
6. Cook until the top is bubbly and the pancake is dry around the edges.
7. When the heart is ready to flip, use the clothespin to lift and remove the cookie cutter.
8. Turn the pancake with the spatula and cook until golden on both sides. Enjoy with your favorite syrup or fruit.



OUR HEARTS

This special Bible verse from the NIV describes what God wants us to do with our hearts.



1. Start with the center heart marked with * and write its word on the blank.

2. Then follow the arrows underneath each blank to find the remaining words.

“Trust _____ , _____ , _____ , _____ , _____ ; _____ , _____ , _____ , _____ , _____ ; _____ , _____ , _____ , _____ , _____ .”

Answer: "Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge." Psalm 62:8

Radio Ministry Needs Sponsors for 2009

Through our radio ministry, much of our 10:30 worship service is broadcast live over WATH am radio every Sunday morning. This ministry reaches countless folks who are unable to leave their homes on Sunday mornings or traveling. Those we know who are unable to leave their homes and listen weekly, are mailed a bulletin so that they can follow along.

This ministry is made possible solely by the

contributions of members and friends of the church. If you would like to participate in this ministry, please contact Joyce Lambert at the Church Office (593-3977, ext. 28). A full sponsorship is \$145, and full or partial sponsorship are always welcomed. To ease the impact of a full sponsorship, why not consider donating an extra \$14.50 per month for the next 10 months? Whatever you decided to give, just know what a blessing this ministry is!

Yes, I/we want to participate.

Amount \$ _____

Memorial/Dedication (optional) _____

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

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

With this new format for *The Church Spire*, we are no longer limited by space. I don't have to choose only one article among several very good articles from the West Ohio Conference news sources. As a result, I have chosen the following two feature articles and have also included a letter from our Bishop, Bruce Ough. May you be blessed and perhaps even challenged by this month's selections:

A Congregational Invitation to Support UMCOR Work in Gaza

Even as we struggle with the effects of a poor economy on our churches, God asks us to acknowledge the reality of even greater suffering around the world. Most recently the humanitarian crises in Gaza, where nearly a thousand of its citizens have lost their lives, is calling out for Christians to act. John Wagner and Brett Kelly, from the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church "Let Justice Roll" team have developed some suggested activities.



1) Solicit contributions for "The Middle East Emergency, UMCOR Advance #601740." For a long time the United Methodist Church has been helping support a number of worthy projects in Gaza, including health clinics. One of those clinics was destroyed five days ago by a missile. Help is greatly needed, and will be administered by good people we can trust to handle our money wisely and honestly. We believe it would be a meaningful gift.

2) Share with your congregation a clear and prophetic statement by Bishop Bruce Ough, who is

now president of the General Board of Global Ministries:

(http://gbgm-umc.org/global_news/pr.cfm?articleid=5277).

He outlines long-standing United Methodist positions on the crises in the Middle East and what we expect of all parties.

3) Join the Ecumenical and Interfaith community to pray for those affected by this violence in Israel and in Palestine. Pray that a way forward may be embraced which will bring an end to the violence and bloodshed in the Holy Land.

Political assessments abound as to how best to deal with the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinians, but we're confident we are united in our concern for all suffering people. Let's each of us follow God's leading on this as best we can.

Brett Kelly, Conference Coordinator,
"Peace with Justice"
John Wagner, Chair, "Let Justice Roll"

McMurry Says Church Can be Model for Obama Team

By Kathy L. Gilbert*

Jan. 22, 2009 | WASHINGTON (UMNS)

President Barack Obama is ushering in a time of "great awakening," and faith will play a big role in his presidency, said former White House press secretary Mike McCurry.

"We are rediscovering a prophetic big-based voice on the left, on the center left, to match what I think has

been common on the religious right for some time," he said in an interview with United Methodist News Service. "The Democratic Party and the progressive side of our political movement moved away from religion and politics during the 1970s and 80s."

McCurry served as press secretary under President Bill Clinton and is a member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Kensington, Md. (*Con't next page*)

McMurray Interview (Cont'd)

The United Methodist Church can be a resource for the new administration and serve as a role model for creating an environment in which people from different perspectives can work together, he said. The church is in a position to help as the country faces difficult problems.

"We are about making disciples for the transformation of the world, and you can't transform the world unless you get in the middle of it and roll up your sleeves," he said. "I think The United Methodist Church is prepared to do that."

Testing faith

Obama knowingly took on controversy from both the right and the left when he chose the Rev. Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church, the Rev. Joseph Lowery, a United Methodist pastor and civil rights leader, and Bishop Eugene Robinson, the first gay pastor in the Episcopal Church, to take part in his inauguration.

"I think that shows that Barack Obama is willing to test his faith and test the faith of his supporters and ask people to really reflect and bring new questions into the public dialogue. I think that is very, very encouraging," McCurry said.

The United States has had a partisan, polarized political culture because of a breakdown in trust between the right and left, he said. Obama understands that and is pleading for people to set aside some of their traditional differences.

Offering hospitality

McCurry led a Jan. 19 workshop at Mount Vernon Place United Methodist Church on "the risky territory of politics and religion." It was the holiday honoring the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., which came one day before Obama's inauguration.

Workshops, learning experiences and service projects were sponsored by 40 United Methodist churches in the Baltimore-Washington Annual (regional) Conference as part of the "Be the Change You Want to See" initiative to mark the inauguration.

Professors from Wesley Theological Seminary led other workshops, which covered such topics as addressing racism and creating a color-blind church; how Christians should respond to the new administration; and environmental justice.

During his workshop, McCurry quoted from King's "Letter from Birmingham Jail," written in 1963 to white moderate church leaders. In the letter, King remembered a time "when the church was not merely a thermometer that recorded the ideas and principles of popular opinion: it was a thermostat that transformed the mores of society."

Often today, as in King's time, church leaders are consoled by the church's silence, rather than shaken up by the "God-intoxicated" Christians who disturb the peace and speak truth to power, McCurry said.

Profound challenges

As a senior statesman, McCurry said he has been helping "from the sidelines." He said his advice to Robert Gibbs, the new press secretary for Obama, is "don't take yourself too seriously. Don't forget your sense of humor.

"These are very profound challenges our country faces, but you've got to enjoy the job that you're in and make this a time of joyful and humble servitude to our country," he continued. He added people around Obama seem to be enjoying themselves so far.

One dimension of the inauguration is the "palpable excitement of young people," McCurry said. Young people are excited about the promise of change. They don't consider themselves strongly liberal, strongly Democrat, they are just pro-Obama, he said.

"I think they are very excited by the get-it-done, yes-we-can attitude that they think Obama has brought. I think they will draw a lot on that type of generational change as they tackle some of these problems."

**Gilbert is a United Methodist News Service news writer based in Nashville, Tenn. Melissa Lauber, editor of UM Connection, the newspaper for the United Methodist Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference, contributed to this story.*

A Letter from Our Bishop, Bruce Ough

Dear Friends in Christ,

The joy and hope of this season after Epiphany are expressed by the prophet Isaiah:

Get out of bed, Jerusalem!

Wake up. Put your face in the sunlight.

God's bright glory has risen for you.

Isaiah 60:1 (The Message)

May the Light of the World shine upon you and grant you grace and peace.

The theme for the June 7-11, 2009 Annual Conference session is **Love in Action: Developing Leaders**. This 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 West Ohio Conference calls forth and prepares leaders for the church and the world. We will explore how we can more fully embrace God's promise: "I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding." (Jeremiah 3:15)

In keeping with our **Love in Action: Developing Leaders** theme, we will once again receive a **Love First Miracle Offering** at the 2009 Annual Conference session. I invite each of our nearly 1,200 congregations to begin preparing, even now, to participate in this miraculous expression of our love in action. These are difficult and perilous economic times in Ohio and around the world. The very kind of times that call the Church to give "an accounting of the hope that is in us." (I Peter 3:15)

Our **Love First Miracle Offering** goal is \$325,000. The offering will be used to support leadership development efforts in West Ohio and around the world:

1. \$75,000 will go to support clergy and lay leadership training in our four mission partnerships in Southeast Asia, the North Katanga Conference in the Congo, the Oriental Conference in Mexico and the Volga District in Russia.
2. \$100,000 will go to support West Ohio Conference's Next Generation leadership development efforts. 10,000 school kits for children in the United States and around the world (valued at \$150,000).

The primary need identified by each of our four mission partnerships is leadership development. One of the primary reasons the focus area of Preparing Leaders for the Church and World emerged in the Council of Bishops and at General Conference is because the fast growing Central and Mission Conferences of the United

Methodist Church are in desperate need for more and better trained leaders. In Russia they yearn for Disciple II Bible Study materials in the Russian language and pastoral care training. In North Katanga they seek scholarship support for the training of pastors and medical personnel. In Mexico they desire support for a newly commissioned Volunteer in Mission Coordinator. In Vietnam and Cambodia they cry out for partners to support local pastors being appointed to the rapidly expanding United Methodist Church. The funding of \$75,000 will enable West Ohio to address many of these leadership development needs. If designated, funds will be directed to the appropriate partnership.

The West Ohio Conference has begun a comprehensive initiative to identify, enlist and train the New Generation of clergy leaders. The funding of \$100,000 will provide funding to expand our two-year Residency program for select post-seminary pastors and the Internship program for sophomores and juniors in college who desire to explore their call to ministry in a healthy, vibrant local church setting. A portion of this funding will also be shared with the seminaries that graduated the 2009 class of pastors being ordained and commissioned.

In 2008, the United Methodist Church produced and shipped 70,088 school kits to children in developing countries or regions devastated by war, famine and natural disasters. It costs approximately \$15 to assemble (including the cloth carrying bag) and ship a school kit. We have a goal of providing 10,000 school kits (valued at \$150,000) to be distributed through the United Methodist Midwest Distribution Center in Illinois. I invite every congregation in West Ohio Conference to assemble and bring to annual conference at least 10 school kits to lay at the altar in Hoover Auditorium during our **Love First Miracle Offering**. Imagine thousands of school kits consecrated to Christ's mission of bringing hope and salvation to children desperate for an opportunity to learn, grow and become leaders in their communities or countries. Here is information about how to assemble a school kit: [SCHOOL KITS](#). For more information visit the West Ohio Conference web site at www.westohioumc.org and click on the Annual Conference 2009 link. The Annual Conference 2009 link will be live by January 30, 2009.

The Love First Miracle Offering will be received during our worship on Tuesday morning, June 9 and again during our Retirement and Ordination Service on Wednesday afternoon, June 10.

(Continued on the next page)

Bishop's Letter (Cont'd)

(I believe in the miraculous power that is released when we put our love for God and neighbor into action. As the author of I John writes, "Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another...; if we love one another, God lives in us, and God's love is perfected in us." (I John 4:11-12) I believe our Love First Miracle Offering for Developing Leaders will be a channel through which we can love our neighbors and through which God's love can be perfected in us. For additional information regarding our 2009 Annual Conference Session and the Love First Miracle Offering please visit the West Ohio Conference web site at www.westohioumc.org and click on the Annual Conference 2009 link. The Annual Conference 2009 link will be live by January 30, 2009.

I thank God for your faithful leadership, bold witness and extravagant stewardship, especially in these days when so many of God's children are in need of help and hope. I pray that the glory of the Lord will continue to rise upon you and work through you to be a blessing to all of God's beloved people.
Yours in Christ's love,



Bruce R. Ough
Resident Bishop

Contact the Staff and Access Information 24/7

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

Also, if you need to reach a staff member, someone "live" usually answers, Mon-Thurs 9 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. and 1- 3 p.m. and Fridays 9 a.m. to Noon.

At other times, you can reach folks through the automated system. Each staff member has voice mail, so please don't hesitate to leave a message

when you don't get an answer:

Pastor Mary Jo, Ext. 15
Cathy Bigger, Ext. 14
Sharon Fink, Ext. 11
Joyce Lambert, Ext. 28
Cathy Lee, Ext. 24
Keith Rader, Ext. 16

Kirstin & Jason Rhoads, Ext. 30
Erin Thompson, Ext. 10
WSC Intern, Ext 17.

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>





FAITH BUILD LENTEN JOURNEY

During the Lenten Season, the Faith Build Coalition of Athens County Habitat for Humanity invites you on a spiritual journey of thanksgiving for the many blessings in your home. For each day of the week we have selected an item that might be in your home. We encourage you to give thanks for them and make a donation to the Faith Build Coalition. We have included some places for you to rejoice especially and offer your own special gifts of thanksgiving.

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

<p>At the end of Lent, you may be surprised by the wonderful feeling you receive, knowing that you have made a difference in the lives of your neighbors in need. May God bless you during your journey!</p>			<p>Ash Wednesday Thank God you have a home. Deposit \$1.</p>	<p>For each person who lives in your house, make a special gift</p>	<p>Do you own pets? Deposit 25¢ for each</p>	<p>Thank God for the doors in your house. Add 10¢ for each door.</p>
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday				
<p>It's SUNDAY! You are blessed! Give a special gift of your choice.</p>	<p>Rejoice! You have food in your cupboards. Deposit 50¢.</p>	<p>For each TV in your home, add 25¢; for each HDTV, 50¢.</p>	<p>Deposit 50¢ if you are using a compact bulb, \$1 if you have none.</p>	<p>Give thanks for floors! Give 35¢.</p>	<p>If you have a TV game system, give 50¢.</p>	<p>Thank God for a dry place to live; give 50¢ for your roof.</p>
<p>It's SUNDAY! You are blessed! Give a special gift of your choice.</p>	<p>If you have a sidewalk, deposit 40¢.</p>	<p>If you have a deck, deposit \$1.</p>	<p>If you have a garage, deposit 50¢.</p>	<p>For a source of heat be thankful and add 75¢.</p>	<p>If you have an air conditioner or central air, rejoice & deposit \$1.</p>	<p>Find an item you treasure, give thanks for it, & make a special deposit.</p>
<p>It's SUNDAY! You are blessed! Give a special gift of your choice.</p>	<p>If you have book shelves, deposit 50¢.</p>	<p>Give thanks for your bathroom(s). Give 75¢ for each.</p>	<p>For each tub or shower, give 25¢.</p>	<p>For each cooking grill, praise God & add 50¢.</p>	<p>Do you own a dishwasher? Deposit 75¢.</p>	<p>Do you own a chest freezer? Deposit 60¢.</p>
<p>It's SUNDAY! You are blessed! Give a special gift of your choice.</p>	<p>For each nonhybrid car, give thanks & deposit 25¢.</p>	<p>For each I Pod or MP3 or Wii player in you home, deposit 40¢.</p>	<p>For each lamp give 5¢.</p>	<p>Add 35¢ if you have a washer.</p>	<p>Add 35¢ if you have a dryer.</p>	<p>Be thankful for insulation and give 50¢.</p>
<p>It's SUNDAY! You are blessed! Give a special gift of your choice.</p>	<p>Do you recycle? Yes – add 25¢ No – add 50¢.</p>	<p>For each computer in your home, give 25¢.</p>	<p>For each fan in your home contribute 10¢.</p>	<p>If you have a VCR, DVDR, or record player in your home, give 25¢.</p>	<p>Add 35¢ for each microwave oven.</p>	<p>Contribute 40¢ if you have a power lawn mower.</p>
<p>It's SUNDAY! You are blessed! Give a special gift of your choice.</p>	<p>If you own a camera of any type, give 50¢.</p>	<p>For each cruise you have taken this year, give 75¢.</p>	<p>Give thanks & make a special deposit for each Bible in your home.</p>	<p>Maundy Thursday Please give the amount spent on a typical meal.</p>	<p>Good Friday Please give a special gift for each bed in your household.</p>	<p>Give thanks and \$1 for the freedom to attend the church of your choice.</p>
<p>Resurrection Sunday! Share Christ's LOVE with a special gift for a family in need.</p>						
<p>Thank you very much for participating in Faith Build's Lenten Journey of Thanksgiving. Good bless you for helping us build another new home in Athens County! For further information on how you can help the Faith Build Coalition, please contact Danny Moates at 5924064 or moates@ohio.edu. Please make checks payable to ACHFH Faith Build, 525 W. Union St., Athens, OH 45701</p>						

February 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Member Class 11:45 AM New Orleans Fundraiser Meal 11:45 AM Children's Choir 12:15 PM Puppet Rehearsal 2:30 PM Korean Worship 4:00 PM Korean Dinner 6:00PM Worship @ ABHC	2 12:00 PM Monday Lunch 6:00 PM Stephen Class 7:00 PM Troop 71 8:00 PM Kappa Phi Cabinet	3 12:00 PM AA 7:00 PM Council on Children's Ministries 9:00 PM Greek Bible Study	4 4:00 PM Kappa Phi Prayer 4:00 PM Program Team 6:00 PM WSC Guitar Group 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Korean Worship 7:00 PM WSC Fellowship 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	5 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 12:00 PM Brown Bag 5:30 PM Kappa Phi Chapter 6:00 PM AA	6 Sibs Weekend	7 Sibs Weekend
8 Boy Scout Sunday New Members Received Missions and Munchies SS 11:30 AM Volunteer Training 11:45 AM Children's Choir 12:15 PM Puppet Rehearsal 2:30 PM Korean Worship 4:00 PM FUMC Youth Group 6:00PM Worship @ ABHC	9 12:00 PM Monday Lunch 6:00 PM Stephen Class 7:00 PM Troop 71 8:00 PM Kappa Phi Cabinet	10 12:00 PM AA 7:00 PM SPRC 9:00 PM Greek Bible Study	11 3:00 PM Consumer Empowering Committee 4:00 PM Kappa Phi Prayer 6:00 PM WSC Guitar Group 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Korean Worship 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM WSC Fellowship	12 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 12:00 PM Brown Bag 5:00 PM Kappa Phi - Valentine Tea 6:00 PM AA 7:00 PM Global Cafe	13 11:00 AM Kiwanis Chili Lunch	14 12:00AM Midnight Breakfast
15 Kappa Phi Sunday 11:45 AM Children's Choir 12:15 PM Puppet Rehearsal 2:30 PM Korean Worship 6:00PM Worship @ ABHC 6:30 PM WSC Spring Break Meeting	16 G.T. Closed President's Day 12:00 PM Monday Lunch 6:00 PM Stephen Class 7:00 PM Troop 71 8:00 PM Kappa Phi Cabinet	17 12:00 PM AA 7:00 PM Board of Trustees 7:30 PM Finance Committee 9:00 PM Greek Bible Study	18 4:00 PM All Staff Mtg 4:00 PM Kappa Phi Prayer 6:00 PM WSC Guitar Group 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Korean Worship 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM WSC Fellowship	19 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 12:00 PM Brown Bag 5:30 PM Kappa Phi Chapter 6:00 PM AA	20 Spire Deadline Parents Weekend	21 Parents Weekend
22 11:30 AM Pancake Lunch 11:45 AM Children's Choir 1:00 PM FUMC Youth Group 2:00 PM Singers Rehearsal 2:30 PM Korean Worship 6:00PM Worship @ ABHC 5:00 PM OU Singers Performance	23 12:00 PM Monday Lunch 6:00 PM Stephen Class 7:00 PM Troop 71 8:00 PM Kappa Phi Cabinet	24 Circle Meetings 12:00 PM AA 9:00 PM Greek Bible Study	25 Ash Wednesday 12:10 PM Ash Wednesday Service 4:00 PM Kappa Phi Prayer 6:00 PM WSC Guitar Group 6:00 PM Bell Choir 6:00 PM New Orleans Youth 7:00 PM Korean Worship 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM WSC Fellowship 7:30 PM Ash Wednesday Service	26 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 12:00 PM Brown Bag 5:30 PM Degree of the Pine 6:00 PM AA 7:00 PM Global Cafe	27	28

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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The Church Spire is the newsletter of the First United Methodist Church of Athens, Ohio. It is published monthly August—May with a combined issue for June/July.

Editor: Sharon Fink
fink@firstumcathens.org

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