

The Church Spire

Volume 15, Issue 1

January 7, 2010



Inside this issue:

Adult Ministries	8-9
Altar Flowers	5
Calendar	16
Devotion	2
Financial News	12-13
Kid's News	9-10
Missions	13-14
Monday Lunch	6
Parents' Night Out	9
Radio Ministry	14
Snow Closing Info	3
We Care	4
West Ohio News	11
WSC	12

And much more!

Administrative Council Approves 2010 Budget with Significant Changes

At the Administrative Council meeting on December 28, 2009, the 2010 budget was established. Following is a narrative to explain the significant changes from 2009 to 2010.

The total projected income for 2010 is \$401,367. This is balanced by expenditures of the same amount. The budget thus contains no reserve fund.

Significant changes came in 7 areas:

- 1- The budgets of some areas of church programming have been reduced by 10% for 2010.
- 2- Directors of Children/Youth/Adults will become coordinators [reduction: \$10,718 yet all areas will have guidance].
- 3- Office Manager position will not be filled [reduction: \$12,393].
- 4- Wesley Student Center will reduce costs to match West Ohio's support of \$18,000 [reduction: \$5,373].
- 5- Pastor's expense account decreased [reduced by \$3,245].
- 6- The Church Staff did not receive a cost of living increase for the 2nd year.
- 7- The operating budget for 2009 contained several items, totaling \$4,366, that dealt with infrastructure. The Trustees have taken those items into their budget, thus removing these expenses from the operating budget.

The good news is that all areas of ministry are now fully funded to do their work. This has been made possible by you, your Staff Parish Relations Committee and Finance Committee. It was hard work but by working together, good things will be happening in the name of our Lord.

Forward we go into 2010, thank you and may God bless this work that we do.

--Wendy Merb-Brown, Chair of Administrative Council

Honor Choir to Bless Us with Music January 10 (Weather Permitting) Our Sanctuary will resonate with the sound of 120 additional voices that Sunday morning during the 10:30 Service as members of the Ohio University Honor choir perform. Auditions were held throughout the state, resulting in this fine group of high school students who make up the Honor Choir. We hope you'll join us for worship with this special group of young people.

Thoughts Along the Way

– The Fruits of our Labors

As many of you know, I have returned to the main office several mornings a week since Erin has taken her new position at Ohio University. As I was working on assembling the Christmas Letter for mailing last month, Pastor Mary Jo stopped by and asked how the transition was going. The project I was working on reminded me of a time early in my days here at Athens First.

Late one Friday afternoon, David Griebner, our Associate at the time, came through the office. Noticing a stack of assembled bulletins I had just completed sitting there ready for Sunday, he remarked that it must be nice to be able to see evidence of your work. He went on to say that when you work in ministry, you don't often have an opportunity to view any fruits of your labors.

In relating this to Pastor Mary Jo, I told her that I could now appreciate David's remarks since so much more of my time is now spent working in ministry. Working on projects like assembling bulletins and bulk mailings brings a certain satisfaction to one like myself who likes to check things off the "to do" list. As for ministry-related "work," it's not something to check off the list, but to trust that God will bless to bring about what is needed in the lives of others.

Well, I continued to work on preparing the letter for mailing, and a short while later a woman entered the office. Looking up, I immediately recognized a familiar face. While I couldn't remember her name, I remembered her as one of our very active OU students from an earlier time. What fun to see her after nearly 15 years!

After some time of catching up, she shared with me how much she loved being involved in Kappa Phi and Wesley Student Center while she was a student here and how very special our church was to her then and continues to be now as she realized the impact those years here had on her life.

Tears came to her eyes as she shared what it was like to arrive on campus as a freshman and how overwhelming it was. Her parents brought her that Saturday morning of move-in weekend and left with the parting instructions that she was not to call home until Monday.

Of course, she was immediately very home sick, and decided she would spend some time exploring her new surroundings. She came upon our church and immediately felt a tug, so the next morning she joined us for worship. That morning she knew she had found a place where she could feel at home because it offered so much for college students like herself.

Through her participation in our FUMC campus ministry and worship during those important college years, her faith foundation grew and has continued to grow since. What a blessing to know that we were here for her when she needed us and to receive her thanksgivings for the difference that it had made in her life.

So, occasionally we do get to view the fruits of our labors. As we enter yet another new year, I pray our ministries continue to reach the hearts of those who come through our doors, at whatever age or stage of life.

–Sharon Fink, Director of Adult and Administrative Ministries

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.

A Note of Thanks to the Congregation from Pastor Mary Jo

Dear Athens First family,

Several weeks before Christmas, I shared the news of the changes going on in my Mom and Dad's life in a sermon. The "hard work" of getting old and loving your parents as an adult child was compared to the mountains and valleys of the scriptures. I'm reminding you of this because I've been so touched by cards and prayers and well wishes shared by you with me. Even now there's a smile on my face as I remember. Thank you! Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Each time I reach out to them, I carry you with me. You've given me strength and courage to love them to the best of my ability.

Thank you, and may God bring you such love in return,

Mary Jo

Recent Changes Affect Staff and Hours of Operation As a result of Erin Thompson's resignation and financial considerations, new church office hours have been permanently changed to 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday starting Monday January 4, 2010.

Sharon Fink has graciously consented to assume the duties of Office Manager during these scheduled times, in addition to her duties as Director of Adult and Administrative Ministries. (Thank you Sharon) We ask for understanding from the congregation as we adjust to new circumstances and remain faithful to the mission to which God calls our church.

Respectfully,
Bill Wooddell, Chair - SPRC



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>

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

Being Healthy in Heart, Soul, Mind and Strength - When we greet each other: HAND OVER THE HEART We recognize our need to help keep each other healthy during the season of colds and flu, and so we suggest the option of placing one's hand over one's heart as we greet one another during worship services. This way we can still greet each other warmly and personally, yet responsibly. We have also taken measures to serve Communion in a healthy fashion as well. Even our local medical doctor was thrilled to learn of these changes. He also spoke of how necessary it is for the people to worship together as it actually strengthens the body as well as the soul.

The Sympathy of the Congregation is Extended to the family and friends of Helen Gray in her passing on December 25 and to Harold Laughlin and family in the passing of his wife, Naomi, on December 26.

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



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

The Next Spire Deadline Is Thursday, January 21. If you have news for the February issue, please be sure to get it to the church by Thursday, January 21.

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.

Helping Wesley Student Center Prepare for Next Mission Trip

Wesley Student Center will be returning to New Orleans this spring break, and their most significant fund-raiser is Kroger Rewards. We recently received a check for **\$530.41**. It's very easy to support WSC through your Kroger purchases. You'll find instruction leaflets on tables in the church entry areas. Once you're registered, every

time you use your Kroger Plus Card, Kroger will give a percentage of your purchase to Wesley Student Center. **Note: You do NOT have to use the Internet to participate.** Pick up a copy of the instruction sheets and take it to Kroger – they will help you register.



Pictorial Directory Process Will Begin This Spring If you've been thinking about having a formal portrait taken, then you'll want to make sure you keep some time open on **April 9 or 10, 2010**. That's when Olan Mills Studio will be in our First Floor Lounge taking portraits. You'll be able to view and select that same day. Everyone who participates will receive a **free 8 X 10** and a copy of the pictorial directory. You can even bring your pets. More details available soon.

Women's We Care Group Makes Significant Donation to the Foster Care System Julie Pagan reports that WE CARE's funding situation is looking up this year. She writes, "We pulled off a rather costly donation to the Foster Care system at Christmas thanks to the generosity of members and two donations of \$500.

For our spring trip to Fort Rapids with the foster teens, the First United Methodist Church has supported us by putting gift requests for a one day pass to Fort Rapids on our holiday wish tree. In total, I believe we have 8 youth sponsored!

Our first meeting in 2010 will be toward the end of January. We will be having a meeting with the foster teens to discuss plans to decorate the teen room of the Foster Care center and also to start planning our Fort Rapids trip. More to come on that... Thanks! — Julie"



We have received several expressions of gratitude recently:

From the Hillyer Family We wish to thank everyone for their kind expressions of sympathy with notes, cards, flowers and contributions to the church. We especially want to thank Pastor Mary Jo Yeakel for her prayers, compassion and support before and following the death of our husband and father, Jack Hillyer. –Patty, Joe and Family

On behalf of the United Methodist Women, we would like to thank everyone who made this year's Holiday Bazaar a rousing success! Whether you came by to shop, donated items, or volunteered to work, we appreciate ALL your efforts. Your generous support allowed us to raise \$4,000.00 which will be used to help several community organizations in need.

Christmas Giving Tree Project a Big Success In these times of economic hardship for many of us, our church family has very generously supported this project, donating many gifts and necessities to our neighbors in need! This Christmas season will be much brighter for many, thanks to your overwhelming response to this project. Thank You!

Dear friends at First UMC:

Greetings from all of us here at **Good Works!** And on behalf of us all and our neighbors who are struggling right now, I wanted to write and thank you for your recent gifts! Thank you so much for the generosity extended through the Giving Tree.

As we labor in love to our neighbors in need, we realize that paper towels and soap are not the most glamorous of items, but they are so helpful from day-to-day.

We are grateful for you and your partnership, labor and steadfastness. Thanks for all you are, and Merry Christmas to you all.

Peace in Christ,
Cory Blackwell

On behalf of the residents, clients, staff and Board of Trustees of My Sister's Place, thank you for your donation of new clothing, cleaning supplies, house supplies, hygiene products and toys. These gifts are greatly appreciated and will help us provide needed items and services to battered women and children from Athens, Hocking and Vinton Counties.

--Maryann Stalder, Support Services Coordinator

Altar Flowers for 2010 – Calendar Is Now Posted

Each week we enjoy the flowers that appear on the altar. On some Sundays following worship, the flowers are delivered to our home-bound members or someone recently hospitalized.

If you would like to provide flowers for the altar for the 10:30 service, the **following dates are available:** January 17, 24 31, March 7, 21, 28, April 11, 18, 25; May 16, July 25, August 8, Sept. 19, October 3, 24, 31, November 21, 28 and December 26.

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

office, 593-3977), and one of our Altar Guild representatives will contact you to take your order. **Cost for the flowers is \$34 for one arrangement and \$39 for two.**

In lieu of cut flowers, you may also choose to use one of the silk arrangements in exchange for a donation of \$35 to the Celebration Fund. Earnings from this Fund go directly into our Operating Budget to help pay operating expenses of the church.



Monday Lunch

Monday Lunch Gives Thanks What a joyous celebration of Christmas we had! By your gifts of food, time, prayers, and yuletide wishes, our guests could feel how much you care about them. The contributions from so many people came together to create an atmosphere that radiated the Christmas Spirit

Although I know that I won't remember everyone who helped, I want to try. I think you will enjoy seeing how many people made Monday Lunch a part of their Christmas.

Some people left food donations but didn't leave their name. I know several people who have helped in the past who weren't able to this year. And, many people who were out of town for the holiday were there in spirit.

Please forgive me if I inadvertently left out your name. We want to thank these (in no particular order):

Bonita & David maze, Bob Smith, Jed & Vicki Butcher, Susan Phillips, Judy Matthews, Jan & Joe Tucker, Rick Bongiorno, Chris Knisely, Ida Buck, Karen & Bob Woodworth, June Safranek, Carolyn & Ben Edwards, Bobbi & Paul Bradford, the Sheets family, Deb & Delaney Murray, Traci Miles, the King family (Mindy, Larry, Anna & Ben), Ryan & Eryn Dael, the Ostermann family (Leisa, Shawn, Alexander & Ian), Kristina, Joey & Henry Gerig, Betty & Ashley Ranck, the Magers family (Sue Ellen, David, Tory & Ember), Ouisie Grim, Sirlei Martin, Bob Williams, Miriam Henderson, Beth Lovett, Maureen, David & Turner Matthews, Evelyn & Cliff Houk, Martha Sloan, Donna Slagle, Suzanna & Basil Theodoras, Jenny Klein, Joyce Lambert, Sharon Fink, the VanPattens, the Bogers, Dave & Elaine Dabelko, the Daltons, Channing Olbers, Marcia Ruhling, the Stempels, Sky Cone, Nancy, Debbie, Leiane and her 3 children, the children's Sunday school classes, the Tween's class and Kappa Phi.

A special thanks to Lynda Berman for making the wonderful posters soliciting support for the Monday Lunch Christmas Party donations.

These area businesses also donated. If you get a chance, please thank them for us:

Applebee's	Pizza Hut (E State)
Broney's	Ponderosa
Casa Lopez	Purple Chopsticks
Casa Nueva	Subway
Kentucky Fried Chicken	Little Caesar's
Miller's Chicken	Walmart
Papa John's	

Several **Monday Lunch families** have received your **gifts** through the **Giving Tree**. They would like me to pass on to you their sincere appreciation. This year you have provided for several more families than in the past.

I know the economy has affected so many of our families. But, I also realize that it is also influencing your lives. That is why your generosity of sharing is so very touching.

A special thanks to Bobbi and Paul Bradford for the great job organizing the Giving Tree this year!!

The commitment and joy you showed through your support of Monday Lunch this yuletide season has been a great blessing to share. I experienced and witnessed your excitement and joy as you looked forward to the fun and celebration of our Monday Lunch guests as they experienced what you helped provide. I saw so many church members who were unable to actually be at the party but were still looking forward to the joy of our Monday Lunch guests.

Thank you so much!!!!

—Allene Kilgore, Monday Lunch Coordinator

Would You Like to Visit the Holy Land? Through the Christian Travel Ministry of Educational Opportunities, David Maze has details on an exciting opportunity - a **10 day pilgrimage** to the Holy Land **starting March 16, 2010**. This inspirational experience will include Jerusalem, Nazareth, Bethany, Beit Shean, Nazareth, Jericho, Qumran, Caesarea and Bethlehem.

Brochures are available on the table in the Narthex.



Adult Ministry at Athens First

Resolving to Be More Like Jesus in 2010 As I was recently preparing for the last Sunday school lesson in our Advent study, I pulled together a bit of an “inventory” in the form of questions such as “As you think back over the past year, where can you see the hand of God most active in your life? As you think back over your relationship with God this last year, how do you feel about your side of the relationship? What did you do that you wish you had not done? What do you wish you had done more? What was your area of greatest growth?”

I concluded it with this question, “Remembering that our faith-journey is ongoing, ever growing, what aspect of your relationship with God would you seek God to strengthen or transform in this new year? In what ways would you seek to become more like Jesus?”

...and this prayer for those completing it,

“Gracious God, thank you for loving me and for all the ways you are involved in my life. As I look to this new year, show me ways to become more like Jesus. Draw me even closer to you and continue to transform my heart and my life by the power of your Holy Spirit into the person you created me to be, this person you created in your image. Amen.”

The inspiration for the “inventory” questions and prayer comes mainly from Hebrews 1:1-12, John 1:1-14 and Genesis 1:26-27.

I don’t know about you, but I like to use occasions like the beginning of a new year to intentionally review the past and explore what positive steps I might take in the new year that lies ahead. If you’d like to join me in this process, this [link](#) will take you to this little inventory. Blessings to you in the process.

--Sharon Fink, Director of Adult and Administrative Ministries

Looking for a New Opportunity in the New Year?

The new year is here so why not consider doing something new?

- **Volunteer at Monday Lunch**
- **Become a Lay Reader**
- **Get involved in Stephen Ministry or our Prayer Shawl Ministry**
- **Join one of our adult small groups or Sunday school classes** *See Adult Education Opportunities article on the next page for a listing.*
- **Participate in one of our choirs:**
 - Children’s Vocal Choir (ages 4+), Sundays, 11:45 a.m., Chapel
 - *Adult Handbell Choir, Wed., 6 p.m., 2nd Floor Music Room
 - *Chancel Vocal Choir, Wed., 7 p.m., Room 6
 - Brass Ensemble, Sun., 9 a.m., Sanctuary Balcony as needed
 - *Child care is provided during these rehearsals.
- **Join a Committee or Service Group**

This is just a sampling of the many ways you can get involved in the life of First UMC. To learn more, please talk with Pastor Mary Jo or Sharon Fink, look through one of our church brochures, or visit our web site: www.firstumcathens.org

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:

Jan 10 Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Jan 17 Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

Jan 24 Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

Jan 31 Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

Adult Education Opportunities

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. Their next study will be *Jesus' Parables of Grace*: Why did Jesus use parables, and how do we unravel them to discover their timeless and powerful messages? In this book by James W. Moore, readers will examine six of Jesus' thought-provoking parables, parables of grace, to see if we can find ourselves and God's truth for us in these magnificent "truth stories." **Parables studied are:** The Sower, the Seeds, and the Soils; The Prodigal Son; The Elder Brother; The Unjust Judge; The Good Samaritan; and The Least of These. **Cost:** \$9

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. They will meet on Jan 10 to look plan for future studies and resume their study on the **Book of Esther** on January 17.

Weekday Studies:

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

FOCUS (aka 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. (See *Lenten Studies* for detailed information on current study).

Disciple Series Studies:

Studies are offered throughout the year in this short-term Bible study. They include *Gospel of John*, *Invitation to the New Testament*, *Invitation to the Old Testament*, *Invitation to the Genesis*, and *Invitation to the Romans*. Details will be available once the schedule has been set. Contact [Sharon Fink](#) if you are interested in participating or helping facilitate.

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

Church Office Closed January 18 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



New Office Hours at the Church - Just a reminder that the office is now open Monday – Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and is **not** open on Fridays.



The recent advent season was a special joy to share with the children of Athens FUMC. Our youngest friends experienced the re-telling of the Christmas story through fresh eyes. A highlight of the season was once again working with Allene Kilgore and Channing Olbers to create gift bags for our Monday Lunch friends.

Other highlights of the late fall were the mission and munchies Sunday, distribution of Bibles to Kindergartners and Fourth Graders, as well as learning more about the harvest time traditions of the ancient Jews.

We are looking forward to the next Sunday school unit starting on **Sunday, January 10**. Once again, the members of the Council on Children's Ministries wish to express our sincere appreciation for all who are helping with the Sunday school during this program year!

Parents should note that there will **not** be a **Kid's Movie Night** during January. Please

stay tuned for details on the upcoming events later this winter and into the spring.

The Council on Children's Ministries is also pleased to assist in promoting camping opportunities at Camp Otterbein. It's not too early to start thinking about the 2010 camping season. Experiences for a wide range of ages and interests are being planned and some scholarship aid is available. If you are interested in scholarship assistance for your camper, please speak to Joyce Lambert.

As we move into a new year, we give God the praise and glory for all that we have experienced, and we ask you to continue to be in prayer for the ministry to the children and youth of our congregation.

--Submitted by Laura Dalton,
Member of the Council on Children's Ministries.

Children's Choir - Calling all boys and girls! If you are in grades K - 6, now is the time to join Children's Choir here at FUMC. **We meet in the Chapel from 11:45 - 12:25.** Rehearsals resume **January 24**. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Morris, director, at 740-594-8068.

Parents, Need a Night Out? Wesley Student Center has an offer for you – bring your children to the church Nursery on Friday, January 29th between 5:30 and 9:30 p.m., and, for a donation, they will take care of your precious little ones. No reservations needed, but they will have paperwork for you to complete before you leave. Questions? Contact Keith Rader (593-3977, ext 16 or wscdir@firstumcathens.org).

News from Growing Tree Preschool At Growing Tree, we're excited to be together again after Christmas Break. We'll be spending the first part of the month re-acquainting ourselves with the daily schedule, routine, expectations and one another. Then we'll be traveling to prehistoric eras to explore a unit called "Dinosaurs and the Land before Time." We'll be learning to recognize and identify different types of dinosaurs, investigating fossils and the work of paleontologists and speculating about what might have happened to the dinosaurs. It promises to be an exciting month!

We are still in need of someone who is interested in **making a few minor repairs** to some of our **child-sized wooden chairs** as well as **our piano bench**. A warm woodshop is a good place to spend some time on a cold winter day. Please see Cathy Bigger if you're willing to help with this need.

Stay warm and, as always, thank you for your encouragement, support and, most of all, your prayers for Growing Tree Preschool.



JINGLE BELL TAMBOURINE

To ring in 2010, make a joyful noise with this musical instrument.


What you need:

- 2 plastic plates
- Hole punch
- Pen
- Beads or beans (or other small items that will make noise when shaken)
- Tacky craft glue
- 6 pieces of ribbon (each about 5" long and 1/4" wide)
- 6 jingle bells
- Stickers
- Markers



What you do:

1. On the bottom of each plate, write, "Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth" (Psalm 100:1, NIV).
2. Punch six evenly spaced holes around the rim of one plate. Mark the holes with a pen and then punch six matching holes in the second plate.
3. Pour the beads or beans into one plate and then squeeze glue around the rim of that plate.
4. Place the other plate on top, aligning the holes. (Make sure the Bible verses are on the outside.) Let it dry.
5. Thread one ribbon through one hole and through one bell, and then tie the ribbon. Repeat five more times, once for each hole.
6. Decorate the instrument with stickers or markers.
7. Play your tambourine when you sing your favorite songs.




Make a joyful noise

People often gather with noisemakers to celebrate the promise of a new year. Be thankful and joyful for the many blessings in your life.

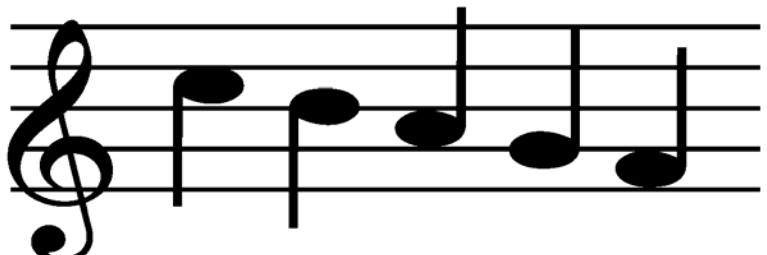
Using the musical note code, write the words of Psalm 100:2 (NIV) in the correct order below.

CODE: before come gladness him joyful LORD songs the with Worship

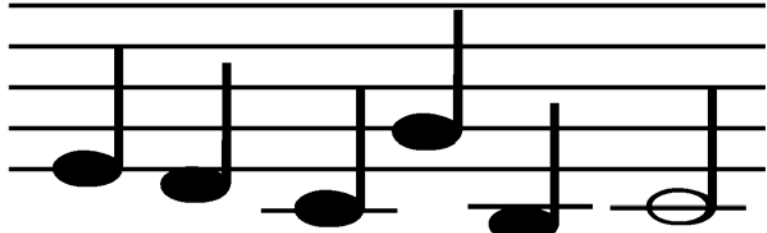


* * * * *

_____ the _____ ;



_____ .



Answer: Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

Report of Activities of Troop 71 in 2009

Hock-Hocking District, Allohak Council
Athens, Ohio

Sponsored by First United Methodist Church

Report by Philip Perry

November 2008 to November 2009

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 9 Scouts and 10 registered adults in the troop. We had 4 boys join the troop in the spring, but 3 did not continue. 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. This Scout 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 April and September. These meetings are where the

Scouts are awarded the ranks and merit badges they have earned. We had 9 Scouts earn 10 ranks this year. The ranks earned are as follow: 2 Scout, 1 Tenderfoot, 1 2nd Class, 1 1st class, 2 Star, 2 Life, and 1 Eagle. Andrew Dewald earned his Eagle rank, the highest in Scouting. He built with the help of the other Scouts a bridge on a trail at Camp Rotan off Longview Heights Road. Andrew is Troop 71's 31st Eagle Scouts since troop began in 1968. In the past year the Scouts earned a total of 45 merit badges, of which 27 were earned at summer camp.

Activities this past year included 8 camping trips, 3 other trips, and 12 service projects. Our most important outdoor activity is a one week summer camp at Chief Logan Reservation in Vinton County. Eight scouts attended. 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.

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.

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:

During the holidays, the news service takes a bit of a break. Even though these events occurred early in December, I thought you would still enjoy reading about this:

Prayer Breaks the Way – Russia Prayer Vigils For two days in December, churches across Russia engaged in continuous prayer and fasting to strengthen the vitality and witness of the United Methodist Church in Russia.

Hans Växby is Bishop of the Eurasian Area, composed of Russia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Moldova, Belorussia, Kyrgyzstan, Tadjikistan and Uzbekistan.

As the United Methodist people of Russia begin to envision the next 5 years and beyond, they want to pause for a time of prayer and fasting.



News from the Center From Keith Rader Our WSC Director

www.firstumcathens.org/campus

The Wesley Student Center will start off the winter quarter with with a bang! January will be a busy month with a pizza party to include the CHECM committee on January 6. On January 10 the Wesley student center will host the honors choir meal to help the honors choir students become a little more familiar with Ohio University, and on the 17th we will have an adopt-a-student meal. On the 22nd we will host the midnight breakfast. And on the 29th who will have Parents night out.

Along with these calendar activities The Wesley Student Center will be planning its annual spring break mission trip. This year the plan is to go to New Orleans along with some of the youth from the church. We will return to the same place we were last year and continue to help the great need that still exists after hurricane Katrina. We will be looking for support and possibly chaperones for this trip. As always keep us in your prayers.

The adopt-a-student program is still looking for **two families or individuals** to adopt students. This program is designed to

help the First United Methodist Church connect with students from Ohio University. The responsibility of the families or individuals varies from student to student, but the important part is that the students feel connected to the church. This can be done by as little as attending the quarterly adopt-a-student meal or as much as having regular conversations, e-mails, texts, twitter, and Facebook connections with your student.

The honors choir meal will require approximately **12 people** to act as **hosts** for the lunch on January 10, 2010. We are looking for **students and faculty or staff** of Ohio University to help answer questions and initiate conversations at the dinner table about the life at Ohio University. **If you would like to join in this event as a host**, please contact Keith Rader at wscdir@firstumcathens.org or sign-up in the sanctuary on January 3, 2010.

--Keith Rader wscdir@firstumcathens.org



\$ 42,894.52	Income for November
32,197.09	Expenses for November
10,697.43	Net gain for November
\$ 14,081.19	Net gain for the year

Just a reminder that the **financial books** will **close Friday, January 8**. Contributions received after that date will be credited to your 2010 giving. Sorry, but dates on checks and envelopes won't matter at that point.

Second Mile Giving Reported through December 31

Food Pantry – Goal \$2,000 - received \$2,272
 Habitat for Humanity – Goal \$3,500 - received \$1,590.72
 Hope and Possibilities – Goal \$1,500 - received \$1,040.86
 PET Project - \$1,798.35 – enough to buy **nine** PET machines

While we currently do not have a covenant relationship with Herbert and Mary Zigbuo, our missionaries in Liberia, we continue to support them. So far we have received \$950.48.

More financial news on the next page...

Thanksgiving and Christmas Offerings Received Our Thanksgiving offering totals \$2,618. The goal was \$2,000. Our Christmas offering totals \$3,874.80, and the goal was \$5,000. Many thanks for your thoughtful giving, which will serve the church's mission of spreading God's word and love.

Additional Offerings We Have Received throughout 2009

One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 181.00
World Communion	120.00
Student Day	135.00
Human Relations Day	10.00
Peace with Justice	15.00
Native American Awareness	115.00
Indonesia Emergency	745.00
Shipping for Festival of Sharing	59.00

Total **\$1,380.00**

Gifts Received for the Celebration Fund We would like to publicly thank these donors for their recent contributions to the Celebration Fund:

A gift in memory of Barbara Wiseman from her sister Elizabeth Scheide.

Donations from the following families in memory of Jack Hillyer:

Calvin and Betty Jane Devol
Kathleen and Max Evans
George and Cindy Klinger
Kelly and Sheila Wagner
Terri Wagner
Chris Wagner

Jane Helen Linscott
Pat Tabler
James and Jan Leonard
Roberta Bunting
Greg and Carol Wasko

Join Good Works Annual Walk for the Homeless January 16

Good Works, Inc. will hold their annual *Walk for the Homeless* on January 16th. Registration for the WALK begins at 8:30 am at the First United Methodist Church. There is free parking on the top two floors of the parking garage. This year, we are planning 6 simultaneous WALKS (including a mini-walk for people who find it difficult to walk) all intended to be educational and inspirational for adults and children of all ages.

This is their major fund-raiser, and they hope to reach their goal of \$50,000. If you are not able



to participate in the WALK but would like to contribute towards the WALK goal, you can do so on their web site under DONATE NOW (www.good-works.net

<<http://www.good-works.net>>). Just indicate it is for the WALK.

For more information on the types of walks and to down-load registration forms, please visit the walk web page:

<<http://www.walkforthehomeless.net>>

Ministering at the Appalachian Behavioral Hospital in February Next month is February and time 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.

Breakfast at Applebee's Benefits Habitat Faith Build Coalition Saturday, January 16, members of the Faith Build Coalition will be serving breakfast t Applebee's from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. to raise funds for their next building project. For \$5 you will get 2 pancakes, 3 sausage links and your choice of beverage. Tickets are available in advance (592-4064 or 592-3828) or at the door.

Christ Lutheran Church Hosts Dinner and Silent Auction to Benefit Honduran Orphanage Please mark your calendars for Saturday, February 13 at 5:30 p.m. and plan now to attend to support the program at Montana de Luz, the orphanage in Honduras for children who are HIV positive.

Last year they raised \$3,000 for this very worthy ministry. We are hopeful to increase that total this year. They plan to serve dishes based on Honduran recipes, and request a minimum donation of \$10 per person for dinner. For more information, contact them at 593-3144 or visit their website: <http://www.clcathens.org/>

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>

Have You Visited Other portions of 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>

Radio Ministry Needs Sponsors 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 are traveling. Those we know who 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 for 2010 is \$150, and full or partial sponsorship are always welcomed. To ease the impact of a full sponsorship, why not consider donating an extra \$15 per month for the next 10 months? Whatever you decided to give, just know what a blessing this ministry is to those who use it!



Yes, I/we want to participate.

Amount \$ _____

Memorial/Dedication (optional) _____

Name(s) _____

Youth News

From Kirstin and Jason

www.firstumcathens.org/youth

YOUTH EVENTS WINTER 2010

JANUARY

Second Sunday: January, 10, 2010 - Honors Choir Sunday - Dinner and Bowling

Youth will meet during the Sunday school hour to help prepare a dinner for the Ohio Honors Choir. Under the direction of Rick, the youth will prepare, serve and then help clean up dinner for the visiting choir. This is a great time to have fun with your friends while helping to serve our guests.

After the work is done, we will walk to RollerBowl for a few frames of bowling. Please bring money \$10 (preferable cash) for this activity. Parents can pick up youth at the bowling ally at 3:00 PM.

January 17, 2010 - Confirmation Commitment Sunday. Those going through confirmation this year will meet their mentors during the 10:30 worship service this Sunday and be presented to the church.

January 17, 2010 - New Orleans Spring Break Mission Trip Interest Meeting

We will meet after church in the first floor lounge to discuss this year's trip to New Orleans. Please remember that you must be 14 to participate in the New Orleans trip.

January 31, 2010 - Skiing deposit due (see below)

FEBRUARY

February 7, 2010 - Tailgate Fundraiser for New Orleans Trip

More information to come, but please mark your calendar for this after church fundraiser for the youth heading to New Orleans.

February 26 - 27, 2010 - SKIING

We will be doing the Ski Trip again this year. The Second Sunday in February falls on a holiday weekend so we're going to take this opportunity to move the date and make it our Quarterly Chaos event. Ski Trip anyone? We will head out on February 27th for a day of skiing in West Virginia. This trip will not be an overnight trip this year. Trip will be \$100 per youth. This will cover ski rentals, a ski lift ticket for the day and lunch. Youth should bring money to cover their own dinner. A deposit of \$75 is due on January 31, 2010. Chaperones this year include Jason Rhoads and Wendy Merb-Brown. THIS year we know to wear sunscreen!

MARCH

Second Sunday March 14, 2010 - Ice Skating at Byrd Arena.

Youth will leave after church and walk uptown to share lunch together and then head to the ice rink by foot for skating from 1 - 3 PM. Please bring money for lunch and \$5 to go towards the cost of the skating. Parents can pick youth up from the skating rink at 3 PM. Remember to bundle up!

March 20 - 27, 2010 - New Orleans Spring Break Mission Trip

March 21 - 24, 2010 - Local Spring Break Mission Work

We are looking at doing a three-day mission "trip" in and around Athens County for youth members staying in Athens over Spring Break. We will provide more information as the details are ironed out with the different agencies.

CONFIRMATION

The confirmation process starts for a whole new group of confirmands this winter. Here are some important dates to remember.

January 17th - Confirmation Commitment Sunday during the 10:30 service. After

February - March - Wednesday night meetings in the Youth Lounge.

April 1 - 3, 2010 - Confirmation Retreat at Camp Otterbein

April 11, 2010 - Confirmation Sunday

January 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Home	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 12:00 PM AA 12:00 PM FOCUS 5:00 PM Kappa Phi Potluck	8 12:00 PM AA 5:30 PM AA	9 8:30 AM Flores & Associates Training 6:00 PM AA
10 8:45 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Honor Choir Meal 12:00 PM Youth Group 4 PM Korean Church Meal 4:30 PM Korean Bible Study	11 12:00 PM Monday Lunch 6:00 PM Stephen Training 7:00 PM Troop 71 8:00 PM Kappa Phi Cabinet	12 12:00 PM AA	13 12:00 PM Korean Prayer Group 6:00 PM Bell Choir 6:00 PM WSC Guitar Group 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM Korean Worship 7:00 PM WSC Fellowship	14 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 12:00 PM AA 12:00 PM FOCUS 5:30 PM Kappa Phi 6:00 PM Athens Music Club	15 12:00 PM AA 5:30 PM AA	16 8:30 AM Good Works Walk for the Homeless 6:00 PM AA
17 8:45 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Adopt A Student Meal 4 PM Korean Church Meal 4:30 PM Korean Bible Study	18 Martin Luther King Day Office Closed 12:00 PM Monday Lunch 6:00 PM Stephen Supervision 6:00 PM Stephen Training 7:00 PM Troop 71 8:00 PM Kappa Phi Cabinet	19 12:00 PM AA 7:30 PM Finance Committee Meeting	20 12:00 PM Korean Prayer Group 4:00 PM All Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Bell Choir 6:00 PM WSC Guitar Group 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM Korean Worship 7:00 PM WSC Fellowship	21 Spire Deadline 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 12:00 PM AA 12:00 PM FOCUS 5:30 PM Kappa Phi 7:00 PM Board of Trustees	22 Midnight Breakfast Prep 12:00 PM AA 5:30 PM AA	23 12- 2 AM Midnight Breakfast 6:00 PM AA
24 8:45 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM Children's Choir 4 PM Korean Church Meal 4:30 PM Korean Bible Study	25 12:00 PM Monday Lunch 6:00 PM Stephen Training 7:00 PM Troop 71 7:30 PM Ad Council @ Richland UMC 8:00 PM Kappa Phi Cabinet	26 Circle Meetings 12:00 PM AA 7:00 PM SPRC	27 12:00 PM Korean Prayer Group 6:00 PM Bell Choir 6:00 PM WSC Guitar Group 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM Korean Worship 7:00 PM WSC Fellowship	28 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 12:00 PM AA 12:00 PM FOCUS 5:30 PM KΦ Degree of the Light	29 12:00 PM AA 5:30 PM AA 6:00 PM Parent's Night Out	30 6:00 PM AA
31 8:45 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM Children's Choir 4 PM Korean Church Meal 4:30 PM Korean Bible Study	1	2	3	4	5	6 Home

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2 South College Street
Athens, Ohio 45701

www.firstumcathens.org

Rev. Mary Jo Yeakel, Pastor

Phone: 740-593-3977

Fax: 740-593-7293

E-mail: firstumc@firstumcathens.org

Pastor Mary Jo Yeakel: yeakel@firstumcathens.org

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

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