

The Church Spire

First United Methodist Church of Athens, Ohio
Knowing, Growing, Showing God's Love

Volume 16, Issue 10

November 1, 2011



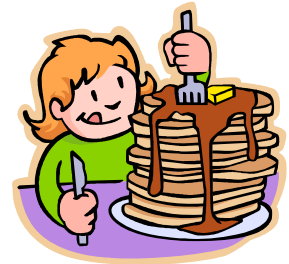
Inside this issue:

Advent Study	4
Calendar	14
Christmas Bazaar	10
Employment Opps	3
Holiday Choirs	13
Financial News	12
Kids' News & Activities	6-8
Monday Lunch	9
Thanksgiving Dinner	3
We Care	11
Word from Wendy	2
WOC News	12
Youth News	5

And much more!

Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser for Honduras November 6

Sunday morning, November 6, the Honduras mission crew will be hosting a pancake breakfast in Fellowship Hall to raise funds for their trip. For a donation, pancakes and sausage (and drinks) will be provided beginning at 8:00 am until 10:30 am (start of second service.) Join the group and be nourished by food and fellowship before your worship service.



Worship in November

The month of November will be one of CELEBRATIONS in worship!

November 6: All Saints Sunday. We will remember the saints of the congregation who have entered life eternal in the past year. This will also be the second opportunity to turn in 2012 estimate-of-giving cards. And we will celebrate Holy Communion.

November 13: Thanksgiving Sunday.

November 20: Christ the King Sunday. This is the last Sunday in the church's liturgical year, a time to celebrate Christ's rule of our lives, contemplate what all that means, and consider how that will be lived out in our lives in the coming year.

November 27: First Sunday of Advent. Early in the church's history, the Sundays before Christmas became a time of repentance and preparation for the celebration of Jesus' coming. In the first segment of "Journey to Bethlehem" we will visit Mary of Nazareth.

Visioning Process - Knowing, Growing, and Showing God's Love

The Administrative Council continues to work on plans to encourage all members of our congregation to progress in their walk with Christ by taking intentional steps through the knowing-growing-showing process.

Our dream is for each church member to be involved with one "knowing" ministry, one "growing" ministry, and one "showing" ministry each week. More details will follow in the coming months, so stay tuned! In the meantime, if you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Pastor Wendy, Steve Sloan (Ad Council Chair), Kim Mather (Ad Council Vice-Chair), Wendy Merb-Brown (Lay Leader), or any member of Administrative Council.

A Word from Wendy...

Windy

It was a Friday afternoon, a Sabbath time for me, and I was sitting in the family room of the parsonage with its two walls of windows. And all I could think was “I’m sitting in a leaf-globe (like a snow globe but with leaves)! The wind was whipping through the trees, coaxing brilliantly colored foliage from tentative tether, bending tree trunks and limbs and leaves to follow its lead. I often stand mesmerized as I watch the wind, or rather watch what the wind does to the landscape over which it blows. Even a gentle breeze or eerie calm leaves its mark.

Observing a blustery day often takes me back to the wind storm in September 2008, when hurricane force winds came through central Ohio and the landscape was so dramatically altered. Just in my back yard: the tree line was changed; a limb in my neighbor’s yard hung vertical to the ground; and a tree in the creek bank adjusted to grow at a 45 degree angle. I see similar and other signs where tornadic winds swept through Athens County: trees cut in half; limbs like matchsticks scattered on the ground.

The wind – invisible, powerful, ever-present.

The wind is a regular participant in the full Biblical story, an agent of God’s creative and redemptive activity in the world. It is active in the account of creation, integral to the receding

of the waters of the Great Flood, and energizing of the waters of the Sea of Galilee. The wind is the hand holding open the waters of the Dead Sea for the Israelites to escape Egypt, the breath of new life to the dead bones that Ezekiel encountered, the announcer of the arrival of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, just to name a few. When the wind blows in Scripture, things are not likely to stay the same.

Indeed these are windy times – not just from a weather perspective, but from the perspectives of the economy, the job market, communities, health care, illness, personal and family situations, even the church. Some days the wind is gusty, some days persistent and steady, others quiet and calm. The landscape is changing. God continues to be at work in the world. To stand still for moments of watching the wind is to draw closer to God and seek understanding, to know God more. To spend time with the details of the daily landscape is to discern where God is at work, to grow in our faith. To survey the resulting scenery is to discern where God is calling us to serve, to show God’s love. Will you let yourself be still long enough to really look?

Blessings, Wendy

Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. [Isaiah 40:31]

Daylight Savings Ends November 6 at 2 a.m. Just a reminder that it’s Fall and time to “fall back” and get an extra hour of sleep (or activities). Be sure to set your clocks back an hour before you go to bed November 5th. See you in church!



DAYLIGHT-SAVING TIME ENDS

The Next Spire Is the December Issue - Deadline is Tuesday, November 22.

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

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

Employment Opportunities at Athens First:

Part-Time Director of Children's Ministries - 15 hours/week. Successful candidate will be well-grounded in their own faith, have the ability to inspire spiritual development in children (pre-school through sixth grade), have exceptional communication abilities, especially with young children, and strong organizational and administrative skills. Bachelor's degree in a related field and/or minimum 2 years proven effectiveness working with children. Resume to: Steve Sloan/Kim Mather c/o First United Methodist Church 2 South College St, Athens OH 45701. A full job description and responsibilities are available at www.firstumcathens.org/employment

Part-time Director of Youth Ministries - 15 hours/week. Successful candidate will be well-grounded in their own faith, have the ability to inspire life-long spiritual development in teens, have exceptional communication abilities, especially with teens, and strong organizational and administrative skills. Bachelor's degree in a related field and/or minimum 2 years proven effectiveness working with children/youth. Resume to: Steve Sloan/Kim Mather c/o First United Methodist Church 2 South College St, Athens OH 45701. A full job description and responsibilities are available at www.firstumcathens.org/employment

Thanksgiving Dinner November 13 You are all invited to our annual Thanksgiving Dinner, Sunday, November 13 in Fellowship Hall immediately following the 10:30 service. The turkey, ham and beverages will be provided. We ask you to please bring a side dish or dessert to share. We are inviting our friends and neighbors from Good Works and Monday Lunch as our guests to share in our blessed feast, so please bring generous portions. Everyone is encouraged to attend, especially college students, whether you bring a dish or not. There is always plenty for everyone!

News from the Congregation

The Sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family and friends of Howard Stevens in his passing on October 6.

Congratulations is extended to Adam and Maria Grim of Huntsville, Alabama in the birth of their son, Thane Allan September 7. Proud paternal grandparents are Bill and Ouisie Grim.

Troop 71 Boy Scout Earns Eagle Rank Jonathan Baker of Troop 71 has earned the Eagle rank, the highest rank in Boy Scouts. Jonathan is the son of Allison Batchelor and Thomas Baker. Troop 71 is sponsored by First United Methodist Church and meets every Monday evening at the church.

Jonathan's Eagle project was the collecting of used DVDs from donations to expand the size of the Athens branch of the Athens County Public Library DVD collection. He organized the construction of four collection boxes which he had place in four locations around Athens.

There were 449 DVDs collected. With guidance from the library staff, Jonathan processed the DVDs by checking content and quality, re-boxing them in library cases, cataloging, and labeling the DVDs. The library then made them available for lending to the public.

In addition the Eagle badge requires earning 21 merit badges. Jonathan exceeded that number and earned 40 merit badges.

The Eagle ceremony for Jonathan will be held Sunday, November 6 at 7:00 pm in the Chapel with a reception in the Fellowship Hall after the ceremony. Members of the church are welcome to attend.

News from the Congregation (Continued)

Note of Thanks from United Methodist Women Special thanks to all of you who donated your time and/or items to the church rummage sale to help raise a net profit of \$850.00 and help many in the community buy very reasonably priced items. As we are so richly blessed, getting rid of our unneeded stuff can be a blessing to others.

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).

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.*

Adult Ministry at Athens First New Advent Study Offered



Join us for a Journey to Bethlehem: Advent at First UMC

The season of Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas Day. It is a time of reflection and preparation to greet the new-born Savior on Christmas Day.

During Advent this year, we will embark on "A Journey to Bethlehem", following the Biblical texts leading up to the birth of Jesus.

Each week in worship we will meet the people and visit the places along this journey. We will also consider what these teach us about the nature of God and the child whose birth we celebrate, and what it means for us today.

On the Wednesday prior to worship, Pastor Wendy will lead a corresponding Bible study of the Biblical text, including the viewing of video and commentary filmed in the Holy Land in the places where these occurred. This begins November 23 and will be held from 12 to 1 p.m. and again from 6 to 7 p.m. in the 1st Floor Lounge.

Youth News

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

November Youth Fellowship

November 6th	Murder Mystery and Dinner	6:00 – 7:30
November 13th	Is that Donkey Talking to Me?	6:00 – 7:30
November 20th	A Fishy Story	6:00 - 7:30
November 27th	NO YOUTH GROUP	

Bowling at Rollerbowl Lanes – We will meet at Rollerbowl Lanes on November 6th at 6:00 to bowl a few frames and share some pizza as we head into the second half of our semester.

Spooky, Strange and Just Plain Weird Stories from the Bible Continues – Join us as we continue to explore some of the more unusual scripture in the Bible.

November 13th “Is that Donkey Talking to ME?” – Are we talking about Mr. Ed’s cousin or a tragic biblical character? Join us for dinner and fellowship as we explore this theme.

November 20th “A Fishy Story” – dinner and games involving everyone’s favorite – DOUGH-NUTS! Who can guess what story we are delving into?

November 27th – No Youth Group. Enjoy your Thanksgiving Holiday with your family. We’ll see you in December.

Youth Sunday School - Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM in the youth lounge. In November we will wrap up our Dr. Seuss study and begin our Journey into the Advent Season. The lessons for both studies are stand alone, so feel free to join us whenever you can.

Another Year of Acolyte Service Has Begun. Thank you to all of the youth who serve as acolytes during the school year and over the summer. We appreciate you taking on this important role in our church service each week. This year's acolytes are:

Emily Brown	Caroline Van Patten
Eryn Dael	Delaney Murray
Ryan Dael	Ian Ostermann
Henry Gerig	Xan Ostermann
Joe Gerig	Eric Pagan
Daryl Holm	Nathan Rickey
Peter Hayes	Bailey Thompson
Emily Mather	Caroline Van Hook
Sophie Mather	Chase Van Patten
James Van Hook	Ellie Van Patten

Children's Ministries



The VBS theme we experienced this past summer--“Shake It Up!”-- seems to have carried over into Sunday school this fall. We shook things up by trying a new model for our opening moments of Sunday school: gathering in the sanctuary along with the tweens and youth. A variety of circumstances led us to shake ourselves back to the familiar model of meeting in Fellowship Hall with the younger elementary grades, while the tweens and youth gather upstairs with their respective classes for the entire Sunday school hour. Part of learning is trying new things, embracing the changes that work and being willing sometimes to say, “I'm glad we tried that, but it didn't work for us!” That was one of the learning experiences we've had so far this year.

The children completed a unit on “The Burning Bush and other Images of God in mid-October. Many thanks to our teaching helpers for this unit: Wendy Merb-Brown led games, Meg Van Patten taught the science station, Deb Murray was our storyteller, and Betty Ranck helped the children with art.

This unit was followed by a “Mission and Munchies” Sunday. The children learned about the Dr. B.T. Cooper Methodist Academy in Kenya, and the Noisy Bucket offering collected that day will go to help the children who attend that school. Thanks to Cathy Lee for all her research and preparation to share about this important ministry.

During November, we will be finishing up a unit on Time and Money. Our teachers for this unit have been Matthew Dalton and Shawn Ostermann for Science, Linda Berman and Lara Pickett in Art, Chris Hitchcock leading games, and Kristin Kerwin serving as our Bible storyteller.

Another Mission and Munchies Sunday is coming up before Thanksgiving. Watch your bulletin for details as they become available.

We will be recruiting for the final unit of Sunday school for 2011 in the near future. If you would like to help teach the children of FUMC about the Good News of the Advent of Christ, and if you can commit to three Sundays during the Advent Season, please let me know!

-- Laura Dalton, Sunday school Superintendent

Holy Hands Puppeteers Are Having Fun They rehearse Sundays 12:30 - 1:15. Where? On the Fellowship Hall Stage; Who? Any youth who is in 4th grade or above! Come one come all to learn the art and creativity of puppetry while providing leadership in worship! If you have any questions about the puppets, feel free to contact Kamile Geist 740-707-6267 or at geistk@ohio.edu.

Staff Nursery Attendant Update Interviews for the position of Sunday Morning Nursery Attendant will have taken place by the time you receive this and we hope to have our new staff nursery attendant on board this month. Please keep this process in your prayers.



Growing Tree News

By Cathy Bigger, Growing Tree Director

KNOWING, GROWING and SHOWING GOD'S LOVE at GROWING TREE!



Whew! October was, as always, a busy, fun month at Growing Tree. We were disappointed that the weather cancelled our field trip plans but hope to be able to visit Mrs. Calentine's farm in the spring. November is shaping up to be a very special month for our children and families. The focus for the month will be: "THANK YOU, GOD!" Here's what's in store.

We will KNOW God's love by:

- gathering together as a class each morning
- listening to stories focusing on thankfulness, gratitude, blessings, family and friends
- hearing and learning songs and fingerplays that reflect God's love and care for each of us

We will GROW in God's love by:

- experiencing small group activities in the curriculum areas of art, science, math, communication skills, social skills and movement which focus on the theme of the month
- learning from our peers as well as our teachers
- forming closer relationships with peers and teachers through small group interaction

We will SHOW God's love by:

- being thankful and grateful to God
- being a good friend
- being respectful and obedient

Special calendar dates for the month include:

November 10 and 11--Parent/Teacher Conferences--No regular class sessions
November 24,25,28--School Closed--Happy Thanksgiving!

As always, thank you for your ongoing support, encouragement and, most of all, your prayers for Growing Tree Preschool.

"Let the children come to me. Do not hinder them. For to such belongs the kingdom of God."

SIGN OF THANKFULNESS

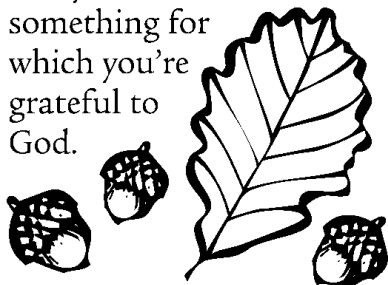
Create this festive sign, which will serve as a yearlong reminder to be grateful.

What you need:

- Hole punch
- Large piece of cardboard or cardstock
- Twine
- Twigs
- Glue
- Acorns, leaves (real or silk) and raffia

What you do:

1. Punch two holes in the top of the cardboard.
2. Thread twine through the holes and tie it in a knot (for hanging).
3. Using twigs, spell out "Be Thankful," "Thank God" or a similar phrase about gratitude. Glue the twigs onto the cardboard.
4. Decorate the sign by gluing on acorns, leaves and raffia.
5. Hang up your sign. Whenever you see it, think of something for which you're grateful to God.



Give Praise

Solve this puzzle to read a Bible verse about praising God for all his blessings.

Directions: In each group, underline the word that doesn't belong. Then write the underlined words on the lines below.

1. Give Take Grab	2. peanut praise pear	3. temple house LORD	4. proclaim past present	5. name boy lad	6. ruin destroy make
7. pine acorn known	8. train nations bus	9. done donut muffin	10. Sing Sleep Yawn	11. she him girl	12. sun praise moon
13. tell fast slow	14. red all blue	15. horrible dreadful wonderful	16. acts sisters aunts		

" _____ to the _____, _____ his _____ ;
 _____ among the _____ what he has _____ .
 _____ to _____, sing _____ to him; _____ of _____ his
 _____ . " PSALM 105:1-2, NIV

Answers: 1. Give, 2. praise, 3. LORD, 4. proclaim, 5. name, 6. make, 7. known, 8. nations, 9. done, 10. Sing, 11. him, 12. praise, 13. tell, 14. all, 15. wonderful, 16. acts
 Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name, make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him, tell of all his wonderful acts. (Psalm 105:1-2, NIV)

Monday Lunch News

Allene Kilgore, Monday Lunch Coordinator

Monday Lunch for the Holidays

Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and, just around that corner, is Christmas! Monday Lunch's biggest tradition in November and December – MORE GUESTS!! So, of course, we need more help from you.

With the increased number of guests, especially November 21 (our Thanksgiving Dinner), and the year-end tightening of Monday Lunch's financial belt, your help is needed with one, or more, of the following:

Provide a salad or dessert for 16-20 people for a Monday or more, in November and/or December. *Anything* you would serve as a salad (or buy at a cafeteria line). Extra of these are always needed but even more so on November 21. Of course, everyone looks forward to those special holiday salads and desserts this time of year. Believe me, everything is greatly appreciated and enjoyed, so you can't go wrong!

There are also items you can purchase that would give our budget some extra room for the special holiday traditions. Things like coffee, fresh produce and other similar things are wonderful. If you're out shopping and see a good buy you don't want to pass up, go ahead and get it – we'll use it somehow – it won't go to waste!

You can leave perishable items in the big refrigerator in the big kitchen (all the way on the far left or far right sides; produce freezes in the middle section). Or, you can leave it in the small downstairs kitchen's fridge.

Non-perishables can be left on the counter in either kitchen. If possible, please mark for Monday Lunch. You can drop off items at your convenience, but, please try to have it there by early Monday morning at the latest.

I'll be providing updates for December in the next Spire and up-coming bulletins.

You Can Also Help By...

Starting in early November and hitting hard the Monday of the last week of classes at OU, Monday Lunch will be losing our OU student

volunteers until January 9. **Monday Lunch will need a lot more volunteers, especially with the increased number of guests – Any or all Mondays between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m..** Please call ahead, at least by 8 p.m. the Sunday before (592-2122) so we don't have everyone showing up at the same hour on the same Monday.

Can't Help on Mondays? Here are some other ways you can help...

Help do some of the shopping before Nov. 21 and/or Dec. 19. Someone can go with you if you'd like, or go alone, whichever you prefer. Saturday, Nov. 19, meet at the church to start preparations for our Thanksgiving Dinner – chopping celery, roasting turkey, making stuffing, etc. Lots of things at any skill level. What a great opportunity to visit with your church neighbors!

In closing, I want to thank everyone for their continued support of Monday Lunch. Ministry happens because of you!

New Rubber Ducky Boxes for Soap Bubble Ministry

Hope you'll check out the new Rubber Ducky collection boxes for those toiletry items you collect from your travels. One is located outside the office by the Food Pantry collection box and the other in the Narthex. All donations will go into the Monday Lunch Christmas gift bags.

Also, if you are getting ready to toss notepads or greeting/Christmas cards, please consider bringing them to one of the boxes in the Fellowship Hall Kitchen. Monday Lunch sends Christmas cards to our guests, and also makes them available for the guests to send to others. Thanks!

Missing Dish Towels! The Fellowship Hall Kitchen seems to be missing some dish towels. By any chance did you take some home to launder and forgot to return them? Or maybe you brought them to the church and they didn't make their way down to Fellowship Hall. Will you help reunite us with our lost towels?

Bazaar Time is Near - The First United Methodist Church Annual Christmas Bazaar will be Sat., Dec. 3, 2011 from 9 am until 1:30 pm.

We need the help of the congregation to make it another successful event. Please sign up to donate ingredients for our soup, quart canning jars, baked goods, plants, gently used jewelry, and/or jewelry boxes.

Sign up sheets are in the Narthex after church or you may call Martha Sloan (592-4142). All soup ingredient donations need to be in the church kitchen before Wed., Nov. 30th. All other donations can be brought to the Fellowship Hall Friday, Dec. 2 or baked goods can also be brought before 9 am on the day of the bazaar.

We will take advanced orders for our quarts of chicken noodle, vegetable beef and vegetarian vegetable soup by signing up after the service in the narthex or calling the church office (593-3977). Each quart will be \$4.50 and you can pay for it when you pick up the soup at bazaar.

This is one of three U.M. W. fundraisers (2 rummage sales too) that support our missionaries worldwide (\$5800.00) along with local and regional ministries (\$1000.00) including Good Works, Habitat for Humanity, Athens County Food Pantry, scholarships for Growing Tree Preschool, Methodist Youth Fellowship, Kappa Phi, Appalachian Peace and Justice Network, Athens County Visiting Nurses, and Community Development for All People (formerly called South Side Settlement).

We thank you for all your support in giving your donations of time, food, and purchasing the goods sold at the bazaar.

Lydia Circle Members will meet at 7 p.m on November 29th in the home of Sherri Bossart, 505 Adena Drive, The Plains, to work on projects for the upcoming Christmas Bazaar.

News from Habitat for Humanity

Excavation has started on Habitat's next house, which is in Nelsonville (308 Oak St.) and Habitat needs volunteers. Please visit the Athens Habitat website (www.athenshabitat.org) or email Ed Baum (ed@athenshabitat.org) to sign up.

The hours are: Fridays, 9-2, Saturdays, 8-4, and Sundays, 12-7.

Nov. 5(Sat.) Subfloor insulation, wall plates, layout	Need 15 volunteers
Nov. 6(Sun.) Wall framing	Need 17 volunteers
Nov. 12 (Sat.) Sheathing	Need 15 volunteers
Nov. 13 Sun.) Truss installation	Need 17 volunteers

Volunteers are also needed for the Re-Store in the Plains (740-677-4042 or re-store@athenshabitat.org). You can also contact the store manager, Molly, to schedule pickup of donations for the store.

Upcoming Habitat Events:

Nov. 5 (Saturday). 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. **Scrap Metal Drive** at the Athens County Fairgrounds.

Nov. 5 (Saturday). Noon. **Run for Cover**, a 5k run sponsored by the O.U. Student Habitat Coalition with all proceeds going to their next build. Registration is at 11:30 a.m. at the Ping Center on campus. It is \$15 to enter and all participants receive a t-shirt. The contact person is Erin Coyle, ec313408@ohio.edu.

March 10. Second Annual Taste of Athens. More details later... but rest assured that we will have sufficient space to seat, comfortably, all those who buy tickets. Reserve a complete table now (for eight people) for \$250. Only four left.

And Recent Successes:

Cardboard City Brings in \$6,000 Athens County Habitat for Humanity's Cardboard City event on September 24, with co-sponsorship by the Ohio U. chapter, went well again in 2011.

The event attracted approximately 200 individuals in 26 teams willing to spend the night in the temporary village. The award for most money raised went to the Athens Catholic Teens group. First place for best construction went to the OU Women's Crew Team and second place went to Team Twenty-one and a Half. Habitat raised approximately \$4,500 from the event itself and nearly \$2,000 in in-kind donations. After all the bills were paid, the net amount cleared was over \$6,000.

Women's We Care Group will Reach out to Big Brothers/Big Sisters Participants Over the Next Few Months WE CARE met last Month and to learn about Big Brothers/Big Sisters and to decide on a few projects for this year. Tara Gilts, the executive director of BB/BS was our speaker and gave us lots of ideas for projects. We think it is going to be a really fun year!

BB/BS has approximately 200 kids, ages 5-18 who are partnered with a big brother or big sister. Most are from Athens County, but some are from neighboring counties. In order to be selected as a "little" sibling, most children are recommended by a school councilor, but families and friends can recommend children as well. Most of the children come from "untraditional" households (single parents, foster parents, grandparents usually below the poverty line) and many bounce from one place to another. The sibling can provide a source of stability in the child's life. WE CARE is planning on helping in several ways over the coming school year.

IDEAS:

Nov: OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: WE CARE members can choose to buy a gift for a little sib by taking a ticket on the Christmas tree at the service desk of Walmart. Tickets will be available starting on Nov. 7. Here is a message from Tara:

"Typically we don't receive as many gifts for our older kids as we need, so sometimes we are scrambling at the last minute for teen-appropriate items. Our older kids love items like: fun pillows, picture frames, lotions and body washes, hair accessories, bracelets, sweatshirts and t-shirts, CDs from top-40 artists and country artists, arts/crafts kits, jewelry, DVDs, popular books, magazines, hunting or sports gear or clothing, gloves/scarves/hats, nail polish, diaries/notebooks, drawing pads etc."

Dec. 2: Meet at BB/BS and help wrap all the gifts that were donated from the community (people who buy gifts from the Walmart tree deliver them unwrapped to BB/BS)

Bring 2 rolls of wrapping paper and one roll of tape
Directions and more info. to come later

Dec. 10: This is the big BB/BS Christmas party on a Saturday. WE CARE is thinking about setting up a booth where kids could stop by and do a fun activity. A couple of ideas are decorating *either a tote bag or decorating cookies*. ***Please email me if you have a preference for either of these or have a different idea as we should start planning this activity.*** For this, we would take shifts manning the booth. Our kids are welcome to come. It is a very fun event.

Jan: planning session for treating "bigs" and "littles" to an OU basketball game

Feb: OU basketball game event planned by WE CARE

March: WE CARE forms bowling teams for "Bowling for kids' sake" event and starts raising funds for event

April 1: Bowling for Kids Sake event

May: WE CARE sponsors zipline and climbing wall day(s?) at The Ridges for teens

Sounds like a fun-filled year! Women, please feel free to jump in and out of activities as the year goes on depending on when you are available. For more information, please contact Julie Pagan at 593-6334 or paxton@ohio.edu

Financial News –

\$ 28,290.90 Operating Income for October
 -25,782.39 Operating Expenses October

2,508.51 Net gain for the month
 \$13,178.05 Net gain for the year

Our financial picture for October is much brighter than it was at the end of September. If you recall, September showed a net loss for the month of \$11,018.48. October shows a net gain of \$2,508.51, and a Year to Date net gain of \$13,178.05. The YTD figure includes our Carry Forward of \$16,652.00.

The donations for the **Honduras Mission Trip** have reached \$5,087.80 as of October 31! We look forward to seeing what the November 6 **Pancake Breakfast** will add to that figure.

A **Thanksgiving Offering** will be collected again this year. Funds that exceed the missional goal set in the Operating Budget will be directed toward our Second Mile Giving to *Hope and Possibilities*, a local ministry that assists those in need in our community who do not qualify for traditional assistance.

Second Mile Giving Reported Through October 31:

Food Pantry – \$2,236.50
 Habitat for Humanity – \$600
 Hope and Possibilities – \$604.54
 PET Project – received \$13

In addition to the above figures, which reflect what has been contributed specifically to them, \$47.25 will be added to each thanks to your response to the Easter Offering appeal.

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

This comes to us through “News.Net” a monthly email publication by the West Ohio Conference, Communications Division:

Praying for 2012 General Conference

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMNS) — When delegates to the 2012 General Conference meet next April, United Methodists around the world will be able to join them in a concert of prayer, seeking God’s will for their decisions. The Upper Room, a division of the United Methodist Board of Discipleship, will provide a prayer guide for delegates, participants and guests at the denomination’s top lawmaking assembly. The guide also will be available free of charge on [The Upper Room website](#) for all 12.3 million United Methodists worldwide. The use of technology will help the entire church surround the elected delegates, Council of Bishops and general church staff with prayer.

[Read Full Story](#)

UM Men Help Inmates Build Gazebo



BOONVILLE, Mo. (UMNS) - Eight inmates from the Boonville Correctional Center worked with men from Nelson Memorial United Methodist Church and the Central Methodist University baseball team to build a gazebo in a nearby park in September. Church members provided daily meals for the team followed by devotions, and the men ate lunch at area churches in the hope they would make one of them their church home upon release. [Read Full Story](#)



Calling All Vocalists and Bell Ringers Interested in a Short-Term Commitment

Many of those who participate in the Chancel and Handbell Choirs leave Athens during the OU break between Fall and Winter Quarters. That's just the time when we have an opportunity to sing and play that wonderful music we enjoy at this special time of the year.

Won't you consider joining these choirs during these next few weeks? It's a great way to celebrate the season! Rehearsals are held Wednesday evenings: the Bell Choir from 6 to 7 p.m. in the music room on the 2nd floor and the Chancel Choir from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in Room 6. Child care is provided (note: if you need child care during the bell rehearsals, please contact Cathy Bigger in advance – 593-3977 ext 14 or bigger@firstumcathens.org)

Our Radio Ministry - Only 1 Slot Remains to Complete the Year

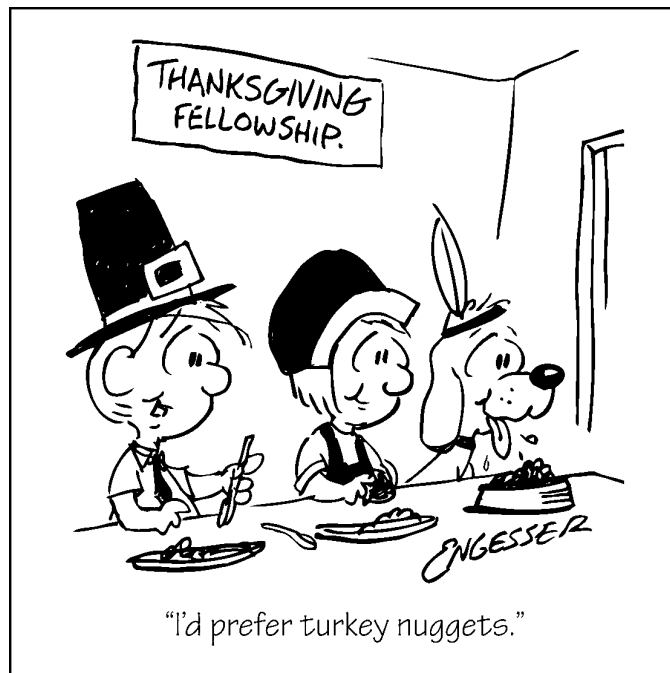
It has been a blessing to watch people respond, enabling this ministry to continue bringing our message to those who are unable to be with us on Sunday mornings. All of our Sundays are now sponsored with the exception of December 25. What a special Sunday to sponsor. Please let Sharon Stoltzfus know if you'd like to care for that (593-3977, ext. 11). A full sponsorship for 2011 is \$155, and full or partial sponsorships are always welcomed.

Yes, I/we want to participate.


Amount \$ _____

Memorial/Dedication (optional) _____

Name(s) _____



November 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Home 30	31	1 12:00 PM AA 6:30 PM Children's Council 8:00 PM Chi Rho Bible Study	2 2:00 PM University Singers rehearsal 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM Korean Worship Service	3 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 12:00 PM FOCUS 12:00 PM AA 5:30 PM Kappa Phi 6:00 PM AA	4 2:00 PM University Singers rehearsal 5:30 PM AA 6:00 PM Korean Students Bible Study 7:30 PM Concert Choral Union and University Singers	5 6:00 PM AA
6 Daylight Savings Ends 8:45 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 12:30 PM Holy Hands Rehearsal 2:30 PM Korean Worship Service 4:30 PM Korean Bible Study 6:00 PM Youth Group 6:30 PM Troop 71 Eagle Ceremony and Celebration for Jonathan Baker	7 12:00 PM Monday Lunch 6:00 PM Kappa Phi Cabinet Meeting 7:00 PM Troop 71 7:00 PM Admin Council	8 12:00 PM AA 6:00 PM Widow/Widower Support Group 8:00 PM Chi Rho Bible Study	9 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM Korean Worship Service	10 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 12:00 PM FOCUS 12:00 PM AA 5:00 PM Kappa Phi Ceremony 5:30 PM Alpha Phi Omega Thanksgiving Dinner 6:00 PM AA	11 5:30 PM AA 6:00 PM Korean Students Bible Study	12 6:00 PM AA
13 8:45 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM Thanksgiving Dinner 12:30 PM Holy Hands Rehearsal 2:30 PM Korean Worship 4:30 PM Korean Bible Study 6:00 PM Youth Group	14 12:00 PM Monday Lunch 6:00 PM Kappa Phi Cabinet Meeting 6:00 PM SPRC 7:00 PM Troop 71	15 12:00 PM AA 8:00 PM Chi Rho Bible Study	16 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM Korean Worship Service	17 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 10:00 AM Study Hours 12:00 PM FOCUS 12:00 PM AA 6:00 PM AA	18 5:30 PM AA 6:00 PM Korean Students Bible Study	19 6:00 PM AA
20 8:45 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 2:30 PM Korean Worship Service 4:30 PM Korean Bible Study 6:00 PM Youth Group	21 12:00 PM Monday Lunch 7:00 PM Finance 7:00 PM Troop 71	22 Spire Deadline 12:00 PM AA 8:00 PM Chi Rho Bible Study	23 12 PM Advent Bible Study 6:00 PM Advent Bible Study 7:00 PM Korean Worship Service	24  Office Closed 12:00 PM AA 6:00 PM AA	25 Office Closed 5:30 PM AA 6:00 PM Korean Students Bible Study	26 6:00 PM AA
27 8:45 AM Worship 10:30 AM Worship 12:30 PM Holy Hands Rehearsal 2:30 PM Korean Worship 4:30 PM Korean Bible Study	28 12:00 PM Monday Lunch 6:00 PM Stephen Supervision 7:00 PM Troop 71 7:00 PM Trustees	29 12:00 PM AA 7 PM Lydia Circle Christmas Bazaar Project Work Gathering	30 12 PM Advent Bible Study 6:00 PM Advent Bible Study 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM Korean Worship Service	1 Home	2	3

THE CHURCH SPIRE

2 South College Street
Athens, Ohio 45701

www.firstumcathens.org

Rev. Wendy S. Lybarger Pastor

Phone: 740-593-3977

Fax: 740-593-7293

E-mail: firstumc@firstumcathens.org

Pastor Wendy: pastorwendy@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 Stoltzfus

fink@firstumcathens.org

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

Worship Schedule

Sunday Morning Worship 8:45 and 10:30

Sunday School Classes, 9:30 a.m.

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

Child Care Provided During 10:30 Service

Free Parking in the City Parking Garage on Sundays