

The Church Spire

Volume 15, Issue 8

September 1, 2010



Inside this issue:

Adult Ministries	5-6
Calendar	13
Devotion	2
Financial News	11
Kids' News	7-8
Mission News	4-5
Office Schedule Change	3
Rally Day Info	4
Radio Ministry	11
School Kits	4
Staff Changes	3
Stephen Ministry	5
WOC News	12
Youth	9-10

And much more!

Faith under Construction



Rally Day 2010 September 19

8:45 a.m.

Worship in the Chapel

9:15 a.m.

Refreshments under the canopy throughout the morning

9:30-10:15 a.m.

Sunday School Open House

See children's classrooms and meet the teachers

Adult Classes Begin

10:30-11:30

Worship in the Sanctuary

11:45

Potluck Lunch in Fellowship Hall

Invite your friends & neighbors!

Thoughts Along the Way from Pastor Mary Jo

Doors wide open!

My dish of chocolate kisses is almost empty, so that must mean it's time to refill! Not a bad image for how September is here in Athens. We, too, will be replenishing our ministry after the season of vacation. Below you will find some information about changing in the staff-leadership of the church. Don't blink! Things are moving!

Financial Secretary: Joyce Lambert has submitted her letter of retirement effective August 31, 2010. We will be celebrating her long ministry at the Dinner on Rally Day, September 19th. Sharon Fink will be taking over this area, and the changeover is in process.
THANK YOU, JOYCE!

Office Manager: The process to find an Office manager has been completed. The position was offered and accepted by LeAnna Moyer. She begins September 7th.
WELCOME, LEANNA!

Youth Coordinator: We've joined with The Plains and Central UM Churches to have a "Youth Director." Anthony Livoni joins our Staff. He is in contact with our Youth Council and its chair, and they are in process. Because of his full-time job description, Sunday morning presence is limited, yet a full and lively Youth Ministry will be possible as the future unfolds.
WELCOME, ANTHONY!

Director of Wesley Student Center: Rick Seiter has submitted his letter of resignation effective August 28, 2010. Conversations are in process with CHECM (Committee on Higher Education and Campus Ministries) and SPRC (Staff Parish Relations Committee) to be an effective ministry in the current cultural reality.

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT MINISTRY AND IS LOOKING FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE CALLED TO MOVE IT INTO THE FUTURE ... IS THAT YOU? PLEASE CALL JAN SLATTERY 592-6124 OR MARY JO 707-0898.

THANK YOU, RICK!

Children's Choir Director: Peter Jarjisian, Director of Music Ministries, received Michele Hayes' letter of resignation. She had been on a one-year leave, and has chosen not to return. Stephanie Morris will continue.

Housekeeper: Angie Kelley completed her work with us. Greg Bishop has now joined the staff. He first came as a substitute through Nice & Neat II and has now permanently joined the staff.

A Note of Farewell from Joyce Lambert

Time does fly when one is having fun. It's hard to believe I've worked as Financial Secretary of this church for 20 years, because my job has been fun.

It's been fun to grow with the job. Gosh, when I started back in 1990, I hadn't even turned on a computer...poor Sharon! Now I've conquered the computer (more or less) and have skills that will last a lifetime.

It's been fun to work with all the Finance Committees over the years and to see the changes that have occurred. When I attended my first Finance meetings, minutes were never kept. Now, des-

ignating someone to take minutes is the first order of business.

It's been fun to work with a dedicated Staff – to work and play together gave us an opportunity to get to know each other better and to share the joys and frustrations of everyday life.

Most of all, it's been fun to work with all of you in so many different ways and to serve this church and congregation I love so much. Thank you for your support and love during these 20 years. Our paths will continue to cross, just in different ways, so I look forward to sharing new adventures with you.

Church Office Hours Expanding Starting Tuesday, September 7th, our Church Office will be open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. It will be closed on September 6th in observance of the Labor Day Holiday.

Administrative Council Meetings Set for September and October

7:30 in the Fellowship hall

September 13

October 25

Charge Conference – October 23rd at The Plains United Methodist Church – Includes Renown Speaker on Prayer The conference will be held from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. We ask that all members of our Administrative Council be present.

The meeting will be led by Terry Teykl. Dennis Mohler, our District Superintendent, writes, “Terry Teykl's warm, humorous style makes him one of the most sought after speakers and seminar leaders in the country. He was a pastor for 28 years and has been full time in the prayer ministry since 1996. Terry has authored many books on prayer including: Divine Strongholds, Making Room to Pray, Pray the Price, Your Pastor Preyed

On or Prayed For, How to Pray After You've Kicked the Dog, Acts 29, Blueprint for the House of Prayer, Outside the Camp, Praying Grace, and the Presence Based Church. Terry is available to come to your area to hold an area-wide or district-wide Prayer Encounter.

“Sometimes as Christians we wind things up so tight that we break them. But prayer is God's idea. Our responsibility is to participate not produce...He makes it work.” Terry Teykl.

The Spirit is moving in the Foothills District. Make sure and set these dates as Priority Events for your ministry and church.

—Blessings in Our Calling as We Work Together, Dennis”

The Sympathy of the Congregation is Extended to Jo Parsons and family in the death of her father and FUMC member, Paul Brown, who passed away August 11; to Jack and Mary Russell in the death of Jack's mother; to Allene Kilgore in the death of her father; and to Mike Bila in the death of his father.

Hand Sanitizers Added throughout the Building The black, hand sanitizer dispensers are located in all the restrooms and in areas where food is served. The sanitizer is foam, alcohol-free and waterless.

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 September 23 If you have news for the October issue, please be sure to get it to the church by Thursday, September 23.

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.



Rally Day '10 -- Faith under Construction



When: September 19, 2010

Wear: Yellow or Orange or Florescent Green

8:45 a.m. - Worship in the Chapel

9:15 a.m. - Refreshments under the canopy throughout the morning

9:30-10:15 a.m. - Sunday School Open House
See children's classrooms and meet the teachers
Adult Classes Begin

10:30-11:30 - Worship in the Sanctuary

11:45 - Potluck Lunch in Fellowship Hall

Make sure you stay for lunch (*bring a side dish/dessert or two to share. Everything else provided*). We will be giving thanks for some pretty special people and introducing new people of the church family.

Mission News

Collecting School Kits for Rally Day Can you help us prepare one of our all church mission projects — "Gifts From The Heart" kits — for this year's Rally Day? Last year we reaped a bountiful harvest of school, hygiene and baby kits!

After our collection on **Sept. 19**, our kits will be joined with churches in the Foothills District. From here they will go to Otterbein University on October 9 for the conference wide celebration and transfer to a semi-trailer truck headed to New Windsor, MD and the Church World Service warehouse for eventual dispersion to needy children in the USA and around the world.

Here are the total shipments of Church World Service kits for the *first six months of 2010*: 119,995 Hygiene Kits; 32,880 School Kits; 9,270 Baby Kits for a total of **152,875!** WOW - what a ministry!

We really need people to sew the bags for school kits. Please see the flyers location on table in the entry areas for directions (if you sew — you don't fill). Bring your bags to Church and we will pass them out for others who gather the contents.

Our thanks in advance to those who will shop, pack, sew, contribute dollars, and bring kits to our Rally Day. The updated list of contents for each kit is available in the Narthex and outside the Chapel. Let's keep on keeping on!
--Your friends, Bonita and David Maze

FUMC Plans December Mission Trip to Honduras

I am pleased to let you all know about an Athens First UMC mission trip, planned for December 4-11, 2010 to Honduras. You do not need to have any special skills to participate. I have been a part of groups that range in age from the teens to the 80s. I have traveled to Honduras each of the past nine years to perform mission work; most of these trips were in connection with Honduras Outreach, Inc (HOI), a church-related non-

profit organization. HOI works in a high poverty area in rural Honduras through a wide range of projects: educational programs for children, village development, medical/health work, etc.

The first time I went to Honduras in February, 2002, I worked in the small village of Santa Rita. At that time, Santa Rita had no restroom facilities (except for the great outdoors); all of the houses were one-room, often housing as many as 10 members of a family; and there was no school building. When I returned to this village last year, I was struck by the transformation, much of it due to the work of mission groups such as the one I was a part of. Each house had its own latrine; most houses had multiple rooms; and there was a school building in the middle of this small village. Even more dramatic than the physical changes in the village was the warm welcome I received from the people there. Men, women, and children welcomed me and my students, and talked about what a difference the mission teams had made in Santa Rita. The relationships we had built with one another were as rich and important as the physical changes that had occurred there.

We made a short video of our work in Santa Rita last year, and encourage you to view it at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C5zyNk71xIA&feature=related>. I also encourage you to check out HOI's website: www.hoi.org to learn more about the work of the organization.

If you are interested in more details, please drop me an email at pete.mather@gmail.com or call me at 740.517.9029. I hope to share this experience with you, and to join you in serving "the least of these."

--Pete Mather

Habitat Plans Several Fund-Raising Events *Sept. 11, Beer, Brats, and Blues*, a fundraiser for Athens Women Raise the Roof (WRTR), will be held at The Market on East State St. Food (and beer, both root and grain) will be served 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Live blues by Magic Mama Latte will begin at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door.

Sept. 19, at 2:00 p.m., 20th Anniversary Celebration of Habitat in Athens at our headquarters (the little Red House on Union). Habitat has built 25 homes for those in need in Athens County.

Sept. 25-26 Cardboard City in the Morton Hall (O.U.) parking lot.

Oct. 23, Fall Rummage Sale from 9:00 to 1:00 at Christ the King Parish Center.

United Methodist Women Plan Fall Rummage Sale Oct 6

Want to clean out your house and benefit the community at the same time?

Our United Methodist Women will hold their Fall Rummage Sale on Wednesday, October 6, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. When you're doing your fall cleaning, don't forget to save clean, gently used items in good condition for the sale. Items may be left in Fellowship Hall after 2 p.m. on Monday, October 4, and all day on Tuesday, October 5. Proceeds will benefit local mission projects. Call Rosemary Cooley (592-4704) if you have any questions.



Adult Ministries

The View from My Window Improving our Listening Skills—Can you hear me now?!

“You’re not hearing me!” Ever think or said that? Remember how frustrating it felt? Found yourself in a conversation and just *knew* by the look on the other person’s face or some other form of body language, they weren’t really listening? How about focusing so much on what you’ll say next, that you forget to listen to the entire conversation? That one hits a little close to home for me. How about when there’s a period of silence – does it feel so uncomfortable that you just *have* to fill it with something?

Listening is a big part of everyday life, and it’s important. Listening is one of the ways we offer the love of Christ to others. Stephen Minister training helps people develop new ears to hear people and new eyes to see people, and I’m convinced, also

helps develop new eyes and ears to see and hear God. I know it has done that for me.

So, if you are a parent, a sibling, a spouse, a “child,” a neighbor, work outside the home or inside the home (or both!), are in a position of leadership or a position of subordination, retired, volunteer regularly, are living and breathing, then you likely encounter people in some way in your life’s journey. Stephen Minister Training could benefit you.

Classes begin October 18, and we’d love to talk with you more about this opportunity and the positive impact it could have on your life and the way you relate to others. Speak with any one of our Stephen Leaders: Pastor Mary Jo, Dick Schelat, or myself. We would love to talk with you about what the training has to offer. After all, we *all* need to listen.

Blessings!!

—Sharon Fink,
Coordinator of Adult Ministries

Women Invited to a Spiritual Retreat Our United Methodist Women invite all women in the congregation and guests to a spiritual retreat on October 19 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the University Estates Club House, located off Rt. 682 just outside of Athens. This *Day Apart* will focus on Prayer and Music and includes lunch. **Reservations:** Please contact the church office (593-3977 or firstumc@firstumcathens.org) by October 10. Questions, please contact Barb Dingle (593-7406) or Bonita Maze (797-2440)

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

Adult Sunday School Classes Start September 19

Trinity Class to Begin Study on *Christianity and Islam*

Christianity and Islam by Ronn Kerr is a unique new study for a unique time. Each of the thirteen sessions in *Christianity and Islam* covers a major area of the world's two largest religions, comparing and contrasting them in a way that brings greater understanding of each. Written for Christian adults and older youth that have little knowledge of Islam other than what they have seen in the news, this study aims at providing a general understanding of the differences and similarities between these two great religions.

Sessions include: The World's Two Largest Religions; Jesus and Muhammad, the Early Years; Jesus and Muhammad, the Ministry Years; Jesus and Muhammad, the Conflicts; Apostles and Caliphs; Schisms and Denominations; The Bible and the Quran; Pillars of Faith; Religious Leadership and Worship; Primary Theological Beliefs; Culture and the Role of Women; Violence and Warfare; The Future of Christianity and Islam.

The study takes neither a "how-to-convert-Muslims" nor a "we're-all-the-same" approach. It provides students with a greater appreciation of both Jesus and Muhammad, both the New Testament and the Quran, and both Christianity and Islam. One of the most common comments from students who have taken the course is that they learned a lot about Islam and just about as much about their own faith!

The class meets in the 1st Floor Lounge at 9:30 every Sunday morning.

Friends of Jesus Sunday School Class Offered for Adults with Disabilities

The classes are held Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in **Room 6**.

The curriculum is titled *Access*, and is specifically designed for adults with special learning needs. Our teachers are Cindy Boger, Erin Eckelberry, and Cathy Lee.

We welcome others to help assist our teachers and to help in other ways. You do not need to be experienced in this field to help – just have a caring heart and a patient and joyful spirit. **If you feel a tug to help in some way**, please contact Cindy (592-5726 or cindyboger@hotmail.com), Erin (eeckelberry@alexanderschools.org) or Sharon Fink.

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 of Faith Class Will Study N.T. Women of Faith

Sunday mornings at 9:30 you will find a group of women of various ages and stages of life meeting around the table in the Library on the 2nd Floor. You'll hear great discussion, laughter, and expressions of "ah-ha" as personal revelations occur.

The class will resume on September 19th and begin a study on *Strong Was Her Faith; Women of the New Testament* by J. Ellsworth Kalas. In twelve chapters, the author looks into the life and times of eleven different women, with Mary the mother of Jesus being the focus of two chapters. Kalas examines the Scriptures to see what we can learn about these women and what we can learn from them, and how each woman is part of and shaped the New Testament story.

Study books (\$11) will be available at the first gathering on the 19th.

Weekly Studies:

A Broad Overview of the Old Testament

Matthew Dalton and Martha Sloan invite you to join them on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. starting **September 9th** as they lead participants through an *Invitation to the Old Testament*. Participants will learn the story of God's calling of the people of Israel and the many ways the Old Testament lays an important foundation for our Christian faith. The term will begin with orientation on September 9 and continue for 8 weeks, 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the 1st Floor Lounge. Please contact Sharon Fink if you have questions or would like to reserve a space in the class (fink@firstumcathens.org).

The Men's Prayer Group - Bob Evans Breakfast and Bible Study

Meets Thursdays at 7 a.m. at Bob Evans Restaurant with facilitator, Rick Seiter. If you desire to follow Jesus' teaching, come check them out. Some are even there by 6:00 a.m. just to visit and catch-up. Need more info: call Rick 740-856-9092

FOCUS (aka The Brown Bag Study Group)

meets Thursdays in Fellowship Hall from 12:10-12:50 p.m. Bring your lunch, if you'd like. This group will resume September 9

For more information about the groups and classes offered for adults at Athens First, please visit our this page on our web site:

Growing Tree Launches Another Exciting School Year

We're excited to begin a new school year at Growing Tree! We're looking forward to seeing old friends and making new ones. This month we'll be focusing on easing the transition from home to school. We'll begin to become comfortable with the school setting, routine and expectations. We'll begin our year-long journey of learning about being a friend, taking turns, sharing, listening and being respectful of ourselves and one another. As teachers, we'll be listening closely to the children, identifying topics that are of particular interest to them and making plans to explore those subjects later in the school year.



We are grateful and humbled to report that Growing Tree is currently full with a waiting list. Enrollment does tend to fluctuate throughout the first month or so of school, so, if you or someone you know is looking for a quality preschool experience, rooted in a Christian atmosphere, please encourage them to contact Cathy Bigger for information.

Growing Tree is your school, and because of your care, encouragement and prayers, is "blessed to be a blessing" to area children and families. Thank you for your continued support of the outreach ministry of Growing Tree Preschool.

--Cathy Bigger,
Director of Growing Tree Preschool

Growing Tree Asks Us to S.H.A.R.E. As I write this, it's the middle of summer. It's hot and sticky outside, the Farmer's Market is full of tomatoes and corn and peaches and the locusts or cicadas or whatever they are, are noisily making their presence known. But, before we know it, fall will be upon us and another school year will begin.

At Growing Tree, we take time in the summer to think about how we might better serve our children and families in the coming school year. This congregations' generous support of the Growing Tree Scholarship Fund is, to me, the most caring aspect of the Growing Tree ministry. This year the scholarship fund has a new name: the Growing Tree S.H.A.R.E Fund. S.H.A.R.E. stands for:

Success of a child
Hope for a family
Access to education
Response to need
Expression of love

Monthly tuition for students in the T/TH class is \$100, the M/W/F class, \$135 and Five Day students, \$200. We have already received applications for tuition assistance from two deserving families for the coming school year and anticipate several more. Contributions to S.H.A.R.E. may be made on a monthly, annual or one-time-only basis. Checks may be made payable to FUMC with *Growing Tree S.H.A.R.E. Fund* notated on the memo line.

In the coming school year, the children of Growing Tree will be learning much about sharing with and caring for one another. We thank you in advance for your prayerful and generous sharing of resources and love with them.

—Cathy Bigger, Director of Growing Tree Preschool

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:

Sept. 5: Jeremiah 18:1-11; Psalm 139:1-6,13-18; Philemon 1-21; Luke 14:25-33

Sept. 12: Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28, Psalm 14:1-7, 1 Timothy 1:12-17, Luke 15:1-10

Sept. 19: Jeremiah 8:18-9:1, Psalm 79:1-9, 1 Timothy 2:1-7, Luke 16:1-13

Sept. 26: Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15; Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16, 1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31



What a fun adventure we had with Galactic Blast VBS! The Council on Children's Ministries once again thanks our amazing crew of volunteers, all the parents, and especially the enthusiastic and terrific kids who made our Vacation Bible School such a success.

Each day, we learned about a different aspect of space and the wonderful world God has made. Everything from Bible stories to games to crafts to science and snacks related to the day's theme. We shared this experience with about 20 children.


We also brought in items to help fill Church World Service school kits, so it was a meaningful lesson in paying our blessings forward. The week concluded with a bonfire and picnic at the Seiters' home, and we thank them for extending their warm

hospitality again this year.

Now, we are looking forward to Rally Day on September 19th. As a representative of the Council on Children's Ministries, and your new Sunday School Superintendent, I extend the invitation to all children of the congregation to join us for this wonderful adventure in learning.

The council is at work planning the curriculum for this first unit of Sunday school, and we'd love to see every child who is affiliated with our congregation be a participant in this year's program! Please join us at 9:30 AM for a new adventure in learning about God. We look forward to seeing everyone.

--Laura Dalton, Council on Children's Ministries



Just for KIDS

GOD'S INSTRUCTION

The Bible is a guide for how we should live. In Sunday school and at home, we learn how God loves and saves us. Solve this puzzle to find Proverbs 4:13 (NIV), which tells about the importance of God's Word.

First, write the word that means the opposite of the one given. Then write the correct letters on the number-coded lines below.

young 1 2 3 death 2 6 7 8 cold 4 1 5 come 9 1

sweet 10 1 11 12 can't 13 14 15 no 16 8 10 later 15 1 17

"H

4 1 2 3 1 15 5 1


6 15 10 5 12 11 13 5 6 1 15 3 1

15 1 5 2 8 5 6 5 9 1

9 11 14 12 3 6 5 17 8 2 2 7 1 12

6 5 6 10 16 1 11 12 2 6 7 8

"H



Answers: old, life, hot, go, sour, can, yes, now
 "Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life."
 (Proverbs 4:13, NIV)

Youth News

www.firstumcathens.org/youth

Dear FUMC Youth and Parents,

The FUMC Youth Council is excited to inform you about **some changes in our program this year**. As you all know, Kirstin and Jason are now working as members on the Youth Council, and our most recent youth coordinator, Mark Barkett, is starting medical school even as we speak.

These changes in leadership happen to come at a time when the other United Methodist churches in our community were also looking for some new direction. The Plains United Methodist Church and Central Avenue United Methodist Church have invited us to join them in a partnership, which will create a central youth program for our three churches. As part of this partnership, we have joined in hiring an incredible leader, Anthony Livoti. A letter of introduction from Anthony is included below.

While we are still working out the logistics of how all of this is going to work, I can tell you for sure three things.

Anthony loves the Lord and loves working with the youth.

The combined youth groups will meet on the fourth Sunday of the month at alternating venues. The first gathering will be at First United Methodist on September 26th so mark your calendars now!

And finally, the FUMC Youth Council will continue to be actively involved in the planning and executing of our youth program. We feel a strong sense of ownership of our youth program and want the youth to feel that same sense of ownership in this new arrangement.

Please watch the *Spire* and the weekly bulletin for information on upcoming events. Along with Anthony's letter, we have included a list of what he has scheduled thus far. Please feel free to call any one of us if you have any questions about what is going on.

Hope everyone is off to a great start to the school year. We will keep all of the youth in our prayers as they embark on another year in their journey through school.

In Christ,

Meg Van Patten on behalf of your
FUMC Youth Council:

Emily Brown, Kevin Dael, Christina DeGraw,
Christine Hitchcock, Michelle Goodman, Kirstin
Shrom-Rhodes, Jason Rhodes, Meg Van Patten

Hi! My name is Anthony Livoti. I'm going to be the new director of youth ministries here at Athens First. Until rather recently, I was a college student attending Indiana Wesleyan University for Christian

Ministries and Religion/Philosophy. It was my intent to learn as much as I could about life, love, God, and ministry. I have learned some, but as you all know, I have much to learn. Fortunately, my journey has not stopped, and has merely begun. Let me tell you how it started.

I grew up in Milwaukee, Wisconsin with my Father, Mother, sister, and brother. I have spent most of my life in a Christian educational institution along with my family, personally spending fifteen years in a Christian school. My entire family attends church and actively participates within and outside of worship on Sunday. They all live in Wisconsin still, and so seeing them has been a challenge since college. I try to see them when I can. My parents are recently divorced, and Mom is going to soon be married to another man who treats her wonderfully and with great respect.

I've always known I've wanted to minister to others. Whenever anyone asked me what I wanted to be while I was growing up, the answer was "a pastor." I feel my entire life has been an obvious set-up for me to go into ministry. You see, people are my biggest passion. I love people with everything inside of me. That means you, reading this. Yes you. I love you. This gift that God has given me was always evident in my life, and continues to be expressed. My call to ministry happened when I was talking to someone about my faith, and God spoke to me (one of two audible times in my life) and told me I was going to be a pastor. I was thrilled, and dropped my pursuit of electrical engineering to apply to Bible School. As per the prodding of my Youth Pastor, I decided to go to Indiana Wesleyan, where I fell in love with the campus and the people there. From there, my call was confirmed over and over again, and I have worked in the church for four years, two as a practicum student, and two as an intern. My youth internship in Cincinnati led me to meet the lovely young lady you see with me, Emma Morehart, who I am currently dating. She attends Ohio University and is studying Journalism.

I am excited to work with you and see where God is leading this ministry. I am so passionate about ministry! I love the idea that students have the ability to change the world not only for them, but for the people around them too. I think that students can get overlooked as "potentials", as if only the future holds any real possibilities. I want to thwart that, and show students that with God, all things are possible.

(Continued on next page)

And I want to show that role models, mentors, come in real people, not in Justin Beiber, Miley Cyrus or Kobe Bryant. Role Models are real people. I know a lot of people in this church have the drive and the know-how to love God and love people. I look forward to meeting you, and may God bless your everyday ministry to all around you.

In Christ,
Anthony Livoti

Fourth Sunday Events Planned for Youth Group FUMC will join with The Plains United Methodist Church and Central Avenue for a combined Youth Group every fourth Sunday of the month. More information will be coming as to the themes of the evenings, but make sure to note the change of venue every month. **FUMC will host the first one on September 26th** so make sure your schedule is clear and you can be here to welcome TPUMC and Central UMC.

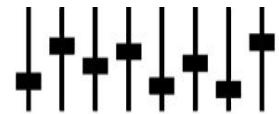
- September 26th - Athens First UMC
- October 24 - Central UMC
- November 28 - TPUMC
- December 19 - Winter Party at Athens First
- January 23rd - Central UMC
- February 27th - TPUMC
- March 27th - Athens First
- April 24th - Easter NO YOUTH GROUP |
- May 22nd - Central UMC

Mark your calendar now for the **Youth Group Fall Retreat, October 15 - 16, 2010**. The retreat will start on the 15th at 4 PM and last until 5 PM on the 16th. Group will meet at TPUMC to experience a weekend away together.

Want to keep up with what's happening with our youth? Then join their Facebook page!

This link should take you there: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/group.php?gid=129023730443340>
Or, if you're already a member of Facebook, do a search for **Athens First UMC Youth** and you should find it!

Want to Help with Youth Ministry? There's always room for more helpers, so if you'd like to help with planning, activities, food, etc., please get in touch with Meg Van Patten, 707-3945 or vanpattenfamily@mac.com



**SOUNDBOARD
OPERATORS**

NEEDED

Have you been looking for a way to be a part of our 10:30 worship services but don't want to be one of the people up front? Then we hope you'll volunteer to be one of our sound operators. If you can operate a cell phone, you can operate our sound system. Experience isn't needed. Brandon is happy to show you how to operate it and will work with you to be sure you feel comfortable before going "solo".

Folks usually serve one Sunday a month on a regular rotation (i.e., the 1st Sunday or the 2nd Sunday, etc.) with the flexibility to trade when conflicts occur. Adding one or two more volunteers to our crew would be very helpful. If you're interested, please note that on the pew attendance card, contact Brandon Saunders (707-4945 or brando@bcsengineering.com) or the church office (593-3977).



\$ 22,694.53 Income for July
 24,800.71 Expenses for July

 (2,106.18) Net loss for July
 \$ 19,398.18 Net gain for the year

Summer has been a little slow financially, but we have stayed afloat. All bills are being paid on time, and we look forward to Rally Day on September 19 and the beginning of an exciting year at FUMC.

Second Mile Giving Reported through August 22

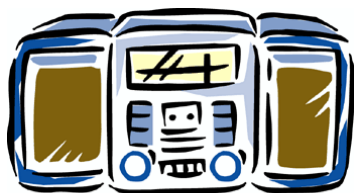
- Food Pantry – Goal \$2,000 – received \$1,659
- Habitat for Humanity – Goal \$3,500 – received \$555
- Hope and Possibilities – Goal \$1,500 – received \$612 (plus \$381 from Easter offering)
- PET Project – Goal \$2,000 – nothing received yet

As you can see, several of our Second Mile Funds could use a boost from you if we are to meet our goals by the end of the year.

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.*

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>



**RADIO
 MINISTRY**

Sponsoring Our Radio Ministry The weekly broadcast of our 10:30 worship service through WATH provides an opportunity for those who cannot leave their homes to join us for worship every Sunday. If you would like to help sponsor this ministry, we welcome your contributions. A full sponsorship is \$150, and full or partial sponsorship are always welcomed.

Yes, I/we want to participate.
 Amount \$ _____
 Memorial/Dedication (optional) _____

Name(s) _____

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:

Alert About Email for Funds for the UMC of Pakistan

We have been made aware that there is an email and letter circulating amongst United Methodist entities requesting funds for the people of Pakistan through the United Methodist Church of Pakistan. **There is no bishop or annual conference recognized as part of The United Methodist Church in the nation of Pakistan.** If you receive this e-mail, please do not respond.

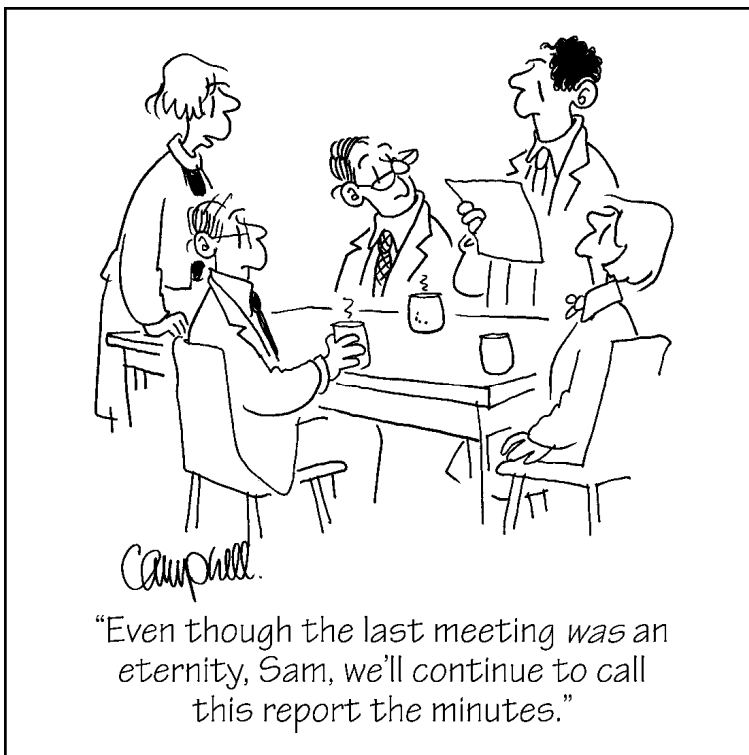
We encourage concerned United Methodists to **support the people of Pakistan through The Advance**, an accountable, designated-giving arm of The United Methodist Church that ensures 100 percent of each gift reaches its intended mission or ministry.

NOTE: We at Athens First UMC will be giving you an opportunity to contribute through The Advance through our West Ohio Conference where we can guarantee you that the funds will reach the appropriate places! Watch for envelopes in the next Sunday bulletins or you can send a donation to Athens First UMC. Make checks payable to *First United Methodist Church* and be sure to mark *Pakistan Flood Relief Donation* in the memo of your check.

Navigating landscape of hope in Haiti

Over the course of a 70-year history in relief and recovery work around the world, the **United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)** has learned that recovery following a catastrophic event takes time if it is to be effective. This has never been so true as it has been in Haiti. The destruction the earthquake caused is unprecedented, and efforts in relief and recovery also must be unprecedented in terms of creativity, patience and perseverance.

[Read More](#)



September 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Home 29	30	31	1 7:00 PM Korean Worship	2 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 12:00 PM AA 6:00 PM AA	3 5:30 PM AA 6:00 PM Korean Students Bible Study	4 6:00 PM AA
5 8:45 AM Worship 10:30 AM Worship 4:00 PM Korean Church Meal 4:30 PM Korean Bible Study	6 OFFICE CLOSED LABOR DAY 12:00 PM Monday Lunch	7 Growing Tree Classes Begin 12:00 PM AA 7:00 PM Mental Health Support Group	8 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Korean Worship 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 7:10 PM WSC Ice Cream Social	9 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 12:00 PM AA 5:30 PM Kappa Phi Picnic (portico) 6:00 PM AA 7:00 PM Disciple OT	10 5:30 PM AA 6:00 PM Korean Students Bible Study	11 6:00 PM AA
12 8:45 AM Worship 10:30 AM Worship 4:30 PM Korean Bible Study	13 12:00 PM Monday Lunch 7:00 PM Troop 71 7:30 PM Administrative Council Meeting	14 12:00 PM AA 6:00 PM Widow/Widower Support Group 6:30 PM Council on Children's Ministries	15 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Korean Worship 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 7:10 PM WSC Fellowship	16 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 12:00 PM AA 1:00 PM All Staff Meeting 6:00 PM AA 5:30 PM Kappa Phi 7:00 PM Board of Trustees 7:00 PM Disciple OT	17 5:30 PM AA 6:00 PM Korean Students Bible Study	18 6:00 PM AA
19 Rally Day 8:45 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 4:30 PM Korean Bible Study	20 12:00 PM Monday Lunch 6:00 PM Stephen Supervision 7:00 PM Troop 71	21 12:00 PM AA 7:30 PM Finance Committee Meeting	22 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Korean Worship 7:10 PM WSC Fellowship 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	23 Spire Deadline 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 12:00 PM AA 5:30 PM Kappa Phi Rose Tea 6:00 PM AA 7:00 PM Disciple OT	24 5:30 PM AA 6:00 PM Korean Students Bible Study	25 6:00 PM AA
26 8:45 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 4:30 PM Korean Bible Study	27 12:00 PM Monday Lunch 7:00 PM Troop 71	28 Circle Meetings 12:00 PM AA 7:00 PM SPRC	29 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Korean Worship 7:10 PM WSC Fellowship 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	30 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 12:00 PM AA 6:00 PM AA 5:30 PM Kappa Phi 7:00 PM Disciple OT	1	2 Home

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

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