

firstnews Monthly

614 488.0681

FCchurch.com

August 1 - 31, 2012

Vol. 58 No. 8



Angie Weber and Ray Bostic of Heart to Heart stand with a tent and campfire they'll use to help simulate homelessness during the *One Night Without a Home* event.

Another Man's Shoes

Event Aims to Raise Awareness of Homeless Challenge

■ Story and Photo by Michael Barber

Lenny spent nearly 27 years of his life homeless. His makeshift shelter, located beneath a Columbus overpass, was surrounded by pieces of wood strategically placed to keep him safe and dry. He kept a couch by the river and befriended the rats that shared his living space.

Heart to Heart coordinator Angie Weber and staff member Ray Bostic

found Lenny while working in homeless camps. After weeks of aiding Lenny with food and vital supplies, their mission opened the door to his new life which now includes a small apartment and a weekly allowance.

"I sat with Lenny and helped him file for Social Security benefits," Angie said. "I accepted personal responsibility for paying his rent with those funds and

distributing the remainder to him for food and living expenses."

"Shortly after helping Lenny move into his new home, he invited me into his bathroom," Angie said. "He pointed at the tub, smiled and said 'look how dirty I was.'"

Angie said it's great to see Lenny from time to time, still using his street name "Hood", yet wearing black, fuzzy slippers. "I hug him and love him," she said.

The conditions in which one must live on the streets are never ideal, a point the people of Heart to Heart hope to convey during an upcoming event called *One Night Without a Home*. The experience is meant to raise awareness of the plight of homeless people in central Ohio while suggesting ways to help those in need.

Participants are invited to spend the night in tents on the lawn at North Campus beginning at 3pm August 4. Guest speakers will be on hand to give a true picture of what it's like to be homeless. The event will conclude after the 10:30 am service the following day.

One Night is part of a new effort to inform the public of Heart to Heart's good deeds and erase the stigma attached to their homeless "friends" all while making a push for new financial gifts.

Also in the works is an event to be held at North Campus on October 4, which they expect will include dinner, a band and a short program.

(Continued, Page 7)

Worship at First Community Church

Beginning Homecoming Sunday, September 16
(Two services at each campus)

South Campus	North Campus
<p>8:30 am in Burkhart Chapel Service of Holy Communion with sermon given by members of the clergy staff.</p> <p>11 am in the Sanctuary Service of Worship with sermon by Dr. Wing and music by the Chancel Choir, Ronald Jenkins, Minister of Music & Liturgy; Robert Griffith, organist. This service will also have the Whitechapel Ringers, the Cherub and Junior choirs on a rotating basis.</p> <p>Sunday School for Kindergarten through 5th grade Child care for infants through pre-K Adult Education at 9:30 am</p>	<p>8:30 am in Grace Hall A shorter Service of Worship with sermon, delivered by Dr. Wing, music led by Sally Beske, Assistant Organist.</p> <p>10 am in Grace Hall Service of Worship with sermon by Dr. Wing, with a variety of music. Ronald Jenkins, Minister of Music & Liturgy; Sally Beske, Assistant Organist and Director of Youth and Children's Vocal and Bell choirs.</p> <p>Sunday School for Kindergarten through 5th grade Child care for infants through pre-K Middle School Crossroads High School Crossroads at 11 am following the service.</p>



firstnews Monthly

E-Edition
Same Great Content Without the Fold

Subscribe today at FCchurch.com



Akita Sunday is the greatest Akita celebration all year. If you went to Akita as a camper, are a parent or family member of a camper or just love Akita, this service is for you. We will be showing a video recap of the summer. You will hear all the great camp songs you know by heart. Many of the Akita counselors will be there to re-live all the great memories formed this summer. We invite everyone to come celebrate the place we all love so much, Camp Akita.

In the July edition of *firstnews Monthly*, it was reported that Monday Night Meals volunteer Carol Baker had worked with the program for 30 years. In fact, Carol took the reins 17 years ago from Joel Hawley. Monday Night Meals will celebrate 30 years in 2013.

firstnews Articles

Include the date, contact person's name, phone number and/or e-mail address with all submissions. Submit to:

email - news@FCchurch.com
fax - 614.488.2763
phone - 614.488.0681

We reserve the right to edit all submissions.

The deadline for all submissions is 12 pm, on the 15th of each month.

firstnews is a communications mission of First Community Church, published for church members and the community to share insights, educate and inform.

Editor: Michael Barber
Graphic Design: Tabitha McCleery

First Community Church *firstnews* (USPS 196-300) is published monthly by First Community Church, 1320 Cambridge Boulevard, Columbus, OH 43212-3200. Periodicals postage paid at Columbus, Ohio. Subscription rates — U.S. First Community members - \$1/year; non-pledging members and non-members - \$25/year. Canadian or foreign subscriptions must be paid in U.S. dollars. For non-U.S. rates, call the *firstnews* office. Postmaster: Send address changes to First Community Church, 1320 Cambridge Boulevard, Columbus, OH 43212-3200.

Become a Sunday Morning Greeter



There are a few spots open for Sunday Greeters. Sign up for one Sunday a month, September through December. That's only 4 Sundays and there are no meetings.

Be that important welcoming presence as members and visitors come through our doors on Sunday mornings. This is a good way to meet people and an opportunity for singles, couples or parents and their children to get involved.

If you are interested in greeting at either the 10 am service at the North Campus or the 11 am service at the South Campus or would like more information, contact Robin Taylor at rtaylor@FCchurch.com or 614 488.0681 ext 226.

Watch First Edition

Features the previous week's service on ONN TV and WBNS 10.2 via digital outlets on Sundays at 9 am.

.....
For online Broadcast/Live Stream
 go to FCchurch.com.

Soundings Crazy Busy

— The Reverend Dr. Richard A. Wing, *Senior Minister*



Tim Kreider is the author of *We Learn Nothing*, a collection of essays and cartoons.

The main thing we “learn nothing about” is busyness, says Kreider. When asked, “How’s it going?”---the normal expected response is “I’m so busy.” If the conversation continues, it accelerates: “I’m busy---I’m very busy---I’m crazy busy!” And again the normal response is, “Well, good problem to have. Better than having nothing to do.”

Kreider says, “It’s not as if any of us wants to live like this; it’s something we collectively force one another to do.”

As a minister I try to help people when they say, “Dick, I wanted to call and talk with you, but I know you are so busy, so I did not.” My response is this: “I am paid a salary along with my colleagues to be available to you with whatever you want to talk about.” Often they look at me with stunned disbelief.

Our culture is over scheduled. Our kids are over scheduled. And the result is tiredness and total exhaustion. The most common request on youth retreats at First Community Church is for the kids to “do nothing” for a change but just “hang out and talk with each other.” A girl in our church wanted to show me her senior project that was inspired by a sermon I gave. Her mother apologized that it would take 3 months in order to work in an hour with her daughter! Her daughter was just “so busy” she said.

Kreider says, “Our frantic days are really just a hedge against emptiness.” Our addiction to busyness is a hedge against the deep feeling that what we do is not important or meaningful. We go from “busy” to “crazy busy” on the off chance that turning up the dial will finally satisfy our deep hunger for meaning. The result: we are not just tired; we are crazy tired.

I dropped the “busy” mantra in my life the day I read this from Eugene Peterson: “Busyness is essentially laziness” and the enemy of spirituality. Busyness is doing the easy thing rather than the hard work of discerning what is truly important.”

Peace to you,

Looking ahead

Dr. Wing is preparing the following sermons:



August 5
SO, WHAT DO YOU KNOW?
 John 9: 1-41

August 12
HOPE IN THE DARKNESS
 Jonah 3: 1-3

The Foundation Corner

An Active Foundation Summer

— Donald Jameson, *Director of Foundation Development*



The world may have slowed down a bit for summer but First Community Foundation is still moving at full speed. The Board of Trustees approved six grant requests, listed below, at its meeting of July 17th, for a total of \$95,047. All of these requests have been recommended for approval by the Church Governing Board.

Donice Wooster and the Early Childhood Dept. requested \$6,452 for renovation work, including replacement of the cushioned surface, at the South

Campus playground. Funding will come from the Early Childhood Fund.

The Church Mission Council requested \$1,900 for the purpose of partially funding a University Scholarship in Ecuador for Silvia Cotacochi, an 18 year old Quichua Indian from the village of Peguche. Funding will come from the Project Amigos Fund which is designated for Ecuador projects.

Camp Akita requested \$13,900 for the immediate replacement of four non-functioning HVAC units at the Camp. Funding will come from the Akita Maintenance Fund.

The Church requested \$2,795 for the installation of a Handicap Operator on an egress door at the North Campus. This will give handicapped persons better access to Grace Hall and other rooms. Funding will come from the Dr. Roy Burkhart Fund, an undesignated fund.

Camp Akita requested \$40,000 for a survey and specifications to replace the sewer system at Camp Akita. The current system is 50 years old with a 40 year life span. This grant will provide for an existing site survey and system coordination and layout, as well as an estimate of anticipated cost for a new system. Funding will come from the Akita Maintenance Fund. Funding for the cost of a new system will be a separate issue which will be acted upon by the Church when anticipated costs have been determined.

Rev. Susan Smith, Senior Minister at Advent United Church of Christ, in Columbus, requested \$30,000 to work in partnership with the Children's Defense Fund, (CDF), to operate a summer program that is part of the CDF Freedom Schools movement to increase literacy of disadvantaged children. Funding will come from the Beulah Van Wagenen Memorial Fund, a fund designated to assist the disadvantaged in the Columbus Area.

The Beulah Van Wagenen Fund was established in 1990 by an estate gift from the donor. The Akita Maintenance Fund was established in 1962 by an anonymous gift. Whether First Community Foundation will be able to support grant requests of the size shown above, for future generations, will depend in a large part on the decisions you make now concerning your estate plans. Please call us for information on how you can help.

First Community Foundation Gifts

In Memory of:

Lois Graber

- Lillian Bernhagen
- Stuart & Sue Eagleson
- Barth & Barbara Falkenberg
- Myrna & Gary Floyd
- Guild Group One
- Dean & Judy Reinhard
- Dave & Charlotte Search
- Anne Sheline
- Elizabeth Tracy
- Sandra Kirkbride
- Betty O'Neill
- Oly Prout
- Tom & Kathie Jones
- Jim & Helen Randels
- Clyde & Mary Pinkley
- Penny & Larry Laudick
- Helen Wood
- Barbara Brehmer
- Brenda McCoy
- Paul & Helen Weaver
- Mary Lou Nack

Harley E. Rouda

- Jenny Lou Renkert
- Jim & Jodie Davis
- Dick & Norma Sims
- Don & Donna Gepfert
- David & Jeanne Schoedinger

Wyn Shimer

- Ralph & Joan Talmage

Alvan L. Clark

- Terry Jo & David Williamson

William Parrish

- Tom & Kathleen Jones

Sam Beaty

- Jeanne & Herb Johnston
- Hilda Neff
- Larry Woods & Annita Meyer

Louise Hoag

- Paul & Marie Gerwin
- Margaret Postle

Bettenelle Miller

- Nancy & Roger Baker
- Hilda Neff
- Larry Woods & Annita Meyer

Martha Kohr

- Ralph & Joan Talmage

Vi Sanders

- Barbara Leighner
- Mary Ann Krauss

Art & Vi Sanders

- Charles & Carolyn Takos

In Honor of:

Janice & Morris Meyer's 50th Wedding Anniversary

- Fred & Mary Ellen Lancia

Susie Wilson's Birthday

- Jane Rector

Jane Hurst

- Dr. Charles & Nancy Stienecker

First Community Church Gifts

In Honor of:

John & Nancy Snyder Liefstinck

- Jim Long

Seeds of Hope Garden

In Memory of:

William Joseph Parrish

- Tom & Kathleen Jones

(continued on page 7)

Financial Report – 2nd Qtr 2012

— Cindy Harsany, *Director of Finance and Operations*



As of June 30, we are at the mid-point of the 2012 fiscal year. From a financial perspective, we have cause for celebration. We also have challenges to overcome. The good news is our pledges are up 3.8% from last year's giving. However, we continue to be challenged in meeting our pledge budget, which is still approximately \$70,000 short.

Overall, we are \$12,038 below the budgeted amount. We will continue to monitor the budget closely as we move through the year. We appreciate all of you who are willing to give to First Community Church in helping us live our Vision Statement, "A diverse community of individuals, each actively seeking to make Christ's example of God's love for every person real in our world through service, study, worship and giving."

May God Bless,

Our Media Ministry is also in need of contributions to help us sustain this special program that reaches across the globe through local programming and the Internet.

Budgeted Financial Statement for June 30, 2012 Summary Statement of Activity

50.00%

DESCRIPTION	ANNUAL BUDGET	YTD BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	VAR\$	Budget%
REVENUE					
Gross Regular Pledges	\$ 2,204,000	\$ 1,142,400	\$ 1,136,091	\$ (6,309)	52%
Less: Unpaid Regular Pledges	(65,520)	-	-	-	0%
Net Regular Pledges	2,138,480	1,142,400	1,136,091	(6,309)	53%
Prior Year Payments	14,000	10,000	29,252	19,252	209%
Total Pledge Revenue	2,152,480	1,152,400	1,165,343	12,943	54%
Sanctuary Offerings	100,000	49,800	40,386	(9,414)	40%
Fee Supported Ministries	1,663,573	891,510	909,649	18,139	55%
Education Ministries	39,530	15,645	22,231	6,586	56%
Facilities & Administration	2,100	1,050	829	(221)	39%
Other Ministries	241,788	84,395	78,193	(6,202)	32%
Foundation Annual Gift	52,000	52,000	49,000	(3,000)	94%
Supplemental Gift	42,240	4,620	4,371	(249)	10%
Other Revenue	69,400	18,000	15,597	(2,403)	22%
Grand Total Revenue	4,363,111	2,269,420	2,285,600	16,180	52%
EXPENSES					
Fee Supported Ministries	1,400,941	670,002	695,944	25,942	50%
Education Ministries	68,418	31,413	35,268	3,855	52%
Facilities & Administration	812,604	409,843	405,642	(4,200)	50%
Other Ministries	510,598	255,871	257,692	1,822	50%
Program Salaries & Benefits	1,570,550	788,988	789,788	800	50%
Grant Total Expenses	4,363,111	2,156,116	2,184,335	28,218	50%
Net Revenue & Expenses	\$ -	\$ 113,304	\$ 101,266	\$ (12,038)	

Take Heart

An Interest in Pinterest

— The Reverend Ms. Deborah Lindsay, *Minister of Spiritual Care*



True confession: I've been doing something new in my spare time this summer, Pinterest. For those of you who have not yet been bitten by the Pinterest bug, it is a website, much like a digital bulletin board, where you "pin" items that interest you. My son William tells me it is a "girl thing," which makes it the only computer/technology activity that I know more about than he does!

Pinterest covers art, decorating, craft projects, cooking, fashion, organizing; you name it. It is pure fun. Much like on the bulletin board at home,

people also pin inspiring quotes. Following are some of my favorites. (Most are anonymous, but those with sources are noted.)

Progress is impossible without change and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything. (George Bernard Shaw)

You can't use up creativity; the more you use the more you have. (Maya Angelou)

A year from now you will wish you had started today. (Karen Lamb)

Let your faith be bigger than your fear.

Surround yourself with people who build you up, even when it would be easier to tear you down.

It always seems impossible until it's done. (Nelson Mandela)

I already am; I always was and I still have time to be.

The art of being happy lies in the power of extracting happiness from common things. (Henry Ward Beecher)

Once you choose hope, anything is possible.

Go ahead. Judge me. Just remember to be perfect the rest of your life.

The best thing about the future is that it comes one day at a time. (Abraham Lincoln)

To live a creative life, we must lose our fear of being wrong. (Joseph Chilton Pearce)

I was going to close this column by apologizing for the lack of theology, but as I look over the list I realize God is still speaking here, too. So, take heart; you will find words of the spirit almost anywhere if you're open to the messages.

One more thing: don't forget to be awesome.

Blessings,

heart to heart

NIGHT WITHOUT A HOME

August 4-5, 2012

North Campus

Spend a night with us to gain a perspective on homelessness in our area and support Heart to Heart ministries.

Event begins at 3 pm and concludes after the 10:30 am worship service the next morning.

If you cannot come for the night, please join us for as long as you can.

\$15 per person/\$45 per family (includes dinner and breakfast)

Register online at FCchurch.com.

For more information or to sign up, contact: Angie Weber at hearttoheart@FCchurch.com or (614) 488-0681 ext 203.

Heart to Heart

Food Pantry Totals

For June 2012

Households served	479
Individuals served	1,078
Children served	286
Adults served	693
Seniors served	99
Meals provided	9,702

Year-to-Date

Households served	2,803
Individuals served	6,046
Meals provided	54,414

Heart to Heart offers a helping hand and caring heart in times of need.

First Community Church Gifts

(continued from page 4)

Tandana
In Honor of:
Clare and Jim Long
 Bill and Susan Napier
Joan Talmage
 Lynne Ayres
In Memory of:
Jack Hesler
 Joan Hesler
Evelyn Gillespie
 Brian Gillespie
In Celebration of:
Anna Taft
 Jane Ledman

Media
In Memory of:
Ruth M Hoskins
 Nancy Amberg and Susan Parker

Friends of Music
In Honor of:
The Whitechapel Ringers
 Anonymous

Heart to Heart
In Memory of:
Frank Steinbarger
 Patti Hambley

'Tis a Dinner, a Gift and a Ceremony of Honor

■ By Jill Eliot

The 101st year of the Women's Guild will kick-off Wednesday, August 29 from 6 - 8 pm in Grace Hall at North Campus with a festive potluck dinner, a baby shower for the Church Women United layette project and a Ceremony of Honor.

The dinner is an old-fashioned potluck where all types of food are welcome. Appetizers are not encouraged.

Regardless of whether the baby is a girl or a boy, the baby has needs that must be met. All types of layette items are welcome. The layette coordinator is Ginny Culver. Gently used and clean items are welcome as well as new things.

The evening will close with the beautiful and traditional Ceremony of Honor - the installation of the Women's Guild officers and Group Chairs for the 2012-2013 program year and the honoring of Guild women who have passed away this year.

Join us as we renew friendships and begin writing a new symphony of the Women's Guild.

Please RSVP to your Group chairpersons by Sunday, August 26th or contact Rose Kandel at rk930@sbcglobal.net or 614 442.9020.

Quest Singles

August 2, Thursday at 6:30 pm
 Dinner at Shish Kebab
 Mediterranean Grill
 1450 Bethel Road

August 9, Thursday at 6:30 pm
 Dinner at the Rusty Bucket
 1635 West Lane Avenue

August 16, Thursday at 6:30 pm
 Dinner at Plank's Beer Garden
 888 South High Street in German Village

August 19, Sunday at 5:30 pm
 Book Discussion of *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky
 MCL Cafeteria in Kingsdale Shopping Center

August 23, Thursday at 6:30 pm
 Dinner at Moretti's of Arlington
 2124 Tremont Center

August 30, Thursday at 6:30 pm
 Dinner at Windchimes
 5742 Frantz Road

Contact Nancy at 614 771.4869 or ndunn4346@sbcglobal.net to confirm details before attending an event.

All-Guild Potluck "Baby Shower" and Ceremony of Honor

Wednesday, August 29, 6 - 8 pm
 Grace Hall, North Campus



Please RSVP to your Group Chairs or contact Rose Kandel at rk930@sbcglobal.net or 614 442.9020 by Sunday, August 26.

Another Man's Shoes

(Continued from Page 1)

Angie said these creative efforts are needed as recent economic issues have caused a spike in requests while donations to the program have declined.

"We have seen a five-fold increase in people asking for assistance," Angie said. "We now purchase and distribute nearly 4,000 pounds of food each week and have been forced to discontinue our financial assistance program."

Ray Bostic finds the urge to help the homeless constant and wants others in the community to help champion the cause. "Every time we drive past little patches of woods we have to remember there are people living in there," he said. "We should think about what they've had to go through the last few days. There are certain days of the week there are no resources available to them."

For more information about *One Night Without a Home and Heart to Heart*, visit FCchurch.com and click the Heart to Heart logo.

Stewardship Corner

90 Years and Counting

— The Reverend Mr. Paul E. Baumer, *Minister to the Staff*



At our Shrimp Boil, July 27, we celebrated Back Bay Mission's 90th Anniversary and had a wonderful evening with Shari Prestemon, Back Bay Mission Executive Director. Mark Hollinger, a member of our congregation and Past President of the Mission's board of directors, challenged us to join the

anniversary celebration by raising \$9,000 for the Mission.

Mission direct services include emergency assistance - food, school supplies, prescriptions, counseling, utility relief and case management support, plus financial counseling, literacy training and employment training.

Housing recovery includes hosting over 40 work camps per year and helping Biloxi respond to the over-whelming need, thanks to Hurricane Katrina, for housing restoration. Working with low income families, the Mission commits to completing the projects which may require everything from mold abatement to electrical and plumbing work and roofing. When needed, the Mission cooperates with Habitat for Humanity in building a new house. Grants from Biloxi, the United Church of Christ, congregations and some corporations help the Mission restore houses for home owners who lack financial resources to do the projects on their own.

Thanks to the Mission's leadership, Biloxi has a Head Start program, a battered women's shelter, an Interfaith Disaster Task Force and hospitality network, family counseling, the Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen, an AIDS task force and a network of seven medical and dental clinics. Home At Last (HAL) helps disabled homeless persons find and maintain their own apartments. A new initiative is to address the homelessness within the military veteran population on the Gulf Coast.

Through work camps and generous contributions, our congregation is part of that mission. Needless to say, I trust we'll be able to gather a significant amount to send to Back Bay Mission to celebrate 90 years and continue this incredible mission in strength. With your help, the most important service is yet to come.

We have a \$9,000 challenge. On we go!



August 19, 2012 North Campus
Following the 10:30 am service



Proceeds to benefit the Heart to Heart Food Pantry and Friends of the Homeless.

For more information contact Nancy at 614 486.1275 or weenan@att.net.

Red Cross Blood Drive



The Red Cross does not need your blood, but many friends and members of First Community Church do.

Every day of every year, lives depend on volunteer donors like those sitting among us at First Community Church. During any of the 5 blood drives we host, you're likely to see smiling faces such as Dave and Sandra Hammond, Amy Day, Rose Konrath, Dave Markworth, Sandra Anderson, Ralph Talmage, Barb O'Brien, Paula Nutini, Tom Jones, Bob Wandel and Rev. Jim Long - to name just a few.

The list is long, but not long enough. When you become a blood donor, you join a very select group of life savers because only 3 out of every 100 people donate their blood. There is no substitute for you. The most common reply when asked, "why not donate your blood?" is "no one ever asked me before!"

We are asking you now to give on Akita Sunday to help save lives with your blood. Come celebrate life, the spirit of Akita, and honor those among us who have had transfusions.

Schedule your donation now for September 9, Akita Sunday at North Campus from 9 am - 2 pm. Contact Cara Shary at 614 459.3691 or carashary@columbus.rr.com for information. Visit redcrossblood.org and use our sponsor code: **fchurchnorth**. Your blood recipients thanks you.

A Month of Sundays

5	COMMUNION	(B)
10:30 am • Grace Hall, NC - Dr. Wing preaching		
12	OFFERING: HABITAT FOR HUMANITY	(C)
10:30 am • Grace Hall, NC - Dr. Wing preaching		
19		(A)
10:30 am • Grace Hall, NC - Rev. Shaner preaching Farmer's Market following the service		
26		(B)
10:30 am • Grace Hall, NC - Rev. Shaner preaching Kindergaren Reception following the service (<i>see Page 15</i>)		
<p><i>Check the website for the most up-to-date information.</i></p> <p>For additional information: Click: FCchurch.com Email: info@FCchurch.com Call: 614 488.0681 Visit: The Welcome Center at North or South Campus</p>		

(A) indicates Usher assignments

We Want Your News

Firstnews is dedicated to providing readers with quality news and features each month. We are particularly interested in receiving information directly from members regarding their participation in church events and programs.

We invite you to submit story ideas, completed stories and photographs for consideration. Contact Michael Barber, *firstnews* Editor, at mbarber@FCchurch.com.

Women's Fall Retreat Women and Our Power

October 5 – 7, 2012
Camp Akita

Join us for a provocative program on Saturday with our own inspiring facilitators – Barbara Davis and Bobbie Celeste.

They will guide us to creatively explore the unique and myriad ways in which we understand and use our power as women.

As His Holiness, the Dalai Lama, has said many times – “Western women will (must) change the world.”

What might Dali Lama’s statement mean in our individual lives as western women? How does our own faith tradition support our naming and claiming of our power?

The morning and evening programs will combine discussion and experiential activities centered around questions such as:

- What is power and do you have it? Do you want it?
- Is there a difference between men and women’s power?
- What messages did you receive about your personal power from your family, your religious and spiritual tradition, our culture?
- If you had all the power you wanted, what would you change?
- When have you felt powerful?
- What/who drains your power? What/who helps you engage your power?
- What are your examples of women who are using their power to change their world?
- Where and how do you want to use your power at this period of your life?

For the afternoon, Barb and Bobbie will provide a variety of creative experiential activities such as power collages, power bracelets, meditations, or journal writing.

Reverend Kate Shaner will be joining us for the entire weekend and will conduct the Service at the Lake on Sunday.

There will also be plenty of time to relax, canoe, hike, read, nap or make new friends.

Cost by registration deadline of Sunday, September 30 is \$125 for the full weekend or \$90 Saturday only. A discount of \$20 is applied for early registration before September 16. Limited partial scholarships are also available.

To register, contact Natalia Jones at 614 488.0681 ext 113 or njones@FCchurch.com. You can also register online at FCchurch.com.

Care and Spirit Repent?

— The Reverend Mr. James M. Long, *Minister of Pastoral Care*



To repent is to come to your senses. It is not so much something you do as something that happens. True repentance spends less time looking at the past and saying, "I'm sorry," than looking to the future and saying "Wow!"

Wishful Thinking: A Theological ABC
Frederick Buechner

We probably all at one time or another have encountered a street preacher who called us and anyone within ear-shot to "repent." Such

exhortations can be loud, aggressive, and generally off-putting. The preacher usually offers some variation of a message that we must "turn or burn." This is coercion. I heard Dr. Barry Johnson, a former Senior Minister, once say this was like God putting a gun to your head and saying "love me or else."

Thus, the word "repentance" can have a negative connotation for many of us. It is a problem when traditional religious terms are co-opted by a narrow and often incorrect use. This is one of many things in our faith that may lead to confusion. A more correct understanding of repentance is to "turn around" or "change directions." It's a new way of being.

In his best-seller, *Too Soon Old, Too Late Smart*, Dr. Gordon Livingston wrote: "There is nothing more pointless, or common, than doing the same things and expecting different results." I have heard it said that Albert Einstein called this the definition of insanity. Could it be that what we really need is to repent?

This is why I love Frederick Buechner's definition of repentance. What it means is to come to our senses. It reminds me of Anthony de Mello's exhortation in his book *Awareness* that we simply need to "wake up." This does not involve will power so much as self-observation or "awareness, awareness, awareness." This is what brings about true change. This allows us to turn, to change directions.

Buechner rightly describes this as something that happens to us. In many ways, it is a gift of God to come to our senses, to wake up. It involves looking to the future rather than being stuck in the past. While we may have a genuine need to acknowledge past mistakes and make amends where possible, we do not stay there. We do not wallow in past guilt, but turn and face forward. We change directions and move into the future with anticipation. Repentance brings hope.

Peace and blessings,

Jim

July Parish Register

We share the joys and sorrows of our church family in our prayers.

BAPTISMS

5/27/12

Aevan Wright Sesto
daughter of Erin & Todd Sesto

Wesley Theodore Poland
son of Kristen & Marc Poland

Claire Olivia Shaner 5/20/12

daughter of Kate & Steve Shaner

HOSPITALIZED

Krista Hartman

Jack Barger

Wynn Wiksell

Mary Ann Ewart

Cherry Park

Linda Dorff

DEATHS

Jack Sisto 4/16/12

father of Jaime Sisto

Helen Simcox 5/19/12

mother of Cean Hollenbaugh

Joan Miller 5/20/12

Sam Beaty 5/28/12

Jane Hurst 6/1/12

Marilou Benes Whitmore 6/6/12

sister of Jim Benes

Evelyn Gillespie 6/5/12

mother of Brian Gillespie

Braden J. DeWees 6/9/12

son of Joy & Bob DeWees

Farewell Sunday "Doorkeepers"

■ By Molly Hood

For nearly six years, two Grandview Heights High School students have served as our South Campus switchboard receptionists on Sunday mornings. Brother and sister, Oliver and Katie Rouch, have efficiently handled these duties with style. Their mannerly and dependable service has endeared them to the congregation.

Best wishes go with Oliver, who leaves for his freshman year at John Carroll University, and with Katie who embarks on a semester study in France with Marquette University, where she is a senior.

August Parish Register

We share the joys and sorrows of our church family in our prayers.

BAPTISMS

Landon Robert Forney 7/1/12
son of Keira & Rob Forney
 Ella Grace Walker 7/8/12
daughter of Kelsey & Scott Walker
 Mia Juliet Becher
daughter of Amy & Brian Becher
 Luke Graham Wessel
son of Shelly & Bryce Wessel

WEDDINGS

Rae Jean Nevils & Neil Wolfe 6/16/12
 Nancy Vesper Snyder & John Lieftinck
 6/22/12
 Abby Hambleton & Geoff Goerke
 6/22/12
 Katherine Casamassimo & William Long
 6/23/12
daughter of Dr. Paul & Maureen Casamassimo
 Jessica Powell & Greg Coale 6/23/12
daughter of Susan & Tom Powell
 Jenny Droop & Brian Schneider
 6/30/12
 Carole Chard & Dick Turner 7/1/12

HOSPITALIZED

Dick Sands
 Robyn Tingley Freese
 Margaret Wood
 Sue Potts
 Bill Mielke
 Mary Ann Ewart
 Jeanne Harris

DEATHS

Harley Rouda 6/28/12
 Edith Miller 7/15/12
 Memorial Service:
 Saturday, August 25, 1 pm
 Burkhardt Chapel/Long
grandmother of Jenny Miller Albright
 Jeanne Burkhardt Selby 7/16/12
daughter of Roy Burkhardt
 in Brookfield, Wisconsin

August Daily Readings



These Bible readings are from the Revised Common Lectionary Daily Readings. In general, readings on Thursday, Friday and Saturday are selected to prepare for the Sunday reading; readings on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday are selected to reflect the Sunday lectionary.

1	2 Chronicles 9:29-31	Mark 6:35-44
2	Exodus 32:19-26a	1 Corinthians 11:17-22
3	Joshua 23:1-16	1 Corinthians 11:27-34
4	Judges 6:1-10	Matthew 16:5-12
5 (Sunday)	2 Samuel 11:26—12:13a Psalm 51:1-12	Ephesians 4:1-16 John 6:24-35
6	2 Samuel 12:15-25	Ephesians 4:17-24
7	2 Samuel 13:1-19	1 Corinthians 12:27-31
8	2 Samuel 13:20-36	Mark 8:1-10
9	2 Samuel 13:37—14:24	Romans 15:1-6
10	2 Samuel 14:25-33	Galatians 6:1-10
11	2 Samuel 15:1-13	Matthew 7:7-11
12 (Sunday)	2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 Psalm 130	Ephesians 4:25—5:2 John 6:35, 41-51
13	2 Samuel 15:13-31	Ephesians 5:1-14
14	2 Samuel 18:19-33	2 Peter 3:14-18
15	2 Samuel 19:1-18	John 6:35-40
16	1 Kings 1:1-30	Acts 6:8-15
17	1 Kings 1:28-48	Romans 16:17-20
18	1 Kings 2:1-11	John 4:7-26
19 (Sunday)	1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14 Psalm 111	Ephesians 5:15-20 John 6:51-58
20	1 Kings 3:16-28	Acts 6:1-7
21	1 Kings 7:1-12	Acts 7:9-16
22	2 Kings 8:1-21	Mark 8:14-21
23	1 Kings 4:20-28	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
24	1 Kings 4:29-34	Romans 13:11-14
25	1 Kings 5:1-12	Luke 11:5-13
26 (Sunday)	1 Kings 8:[1, 6, 10-11] 22-30, 41-43 Psalm 84	Ephesians 6:10-20 John 6:56-69
27	Song of Solomon 3:6-11	1 Timothy 4:6-16
28	Song of Solomon 5:2—6:3	1 Peter 2:19-25
29	Song of Solomon 8:5-7	Mark 7:9-13
30	Exodus 32:1-14	James 1:1-8
31	Exodus 32:15-35	James 1:9-16

The Infinite Quest

The Quest for the Historical Jesus Community

— The Reverend Mr. David S. Hett, *Minister of Religious Life and Learning*



My summer reading thread started when several congregants led me to biblical scholar/archaeologist James Tabor's *The Jesus Dynasty* followed by his more recent *The Jesus Discovery*.

Tabor's work reminds us how little we truly know about Jesus or the Jesus Movement, particularly its first and most important leader, Jesus' brother James. *The Jesus Discovery* follows the *Dynasty* as an archaeological detective story probing Jesus' "family tombs," giving a new understanding of what resurrection might have meant (hint: nothing

to do with a resuscitated corpse).

Searching for Christian origins led ultimately to (skimming!) Robert Eisenman's 963-page study of *James the Brother of Jesus: The Key to Unlocking the Secrets of Early Christianity and the Dead Sea Scrolls*. The Dead Sea Scrolls "have changed everything," he says, including how "'the Messianic movement in Palestine,' as it would perhaps be best to call [the early Jesus Movement], was transmuted into something entirely different..."

On the way to Eisenman, I strolled thoroughly through *Jesus vs. Christianity: The Myth of Heaven and Hell* (not recommended), Michael Wise's excellent *The First Messiah: Investigating the Savior Before Christ*, and Marvin Vining's curious *Jesus the Wicked Priest: How Christianity was Born of an Essene Schism*.

From all these works, however, a real gem arose: *How Jesus Became a Christian*, by Canadian religious studies professor Barrie Wilson. In a well-articulated argument he comes to the provocative conclusion:

What we have in Christianity today is Paulinity. It is the religion envisaged and vigorously promoted by Paul and given a respectable history by the Book of Acts. It is a Hellenized religion about a Gentile Christ, a cosmic redeemer, and it is through that perspective that the later gospels are read. It is not the religion of the Jewish Jesus, the Messiah claimant and proclaimer of a Kingdom of God.

Still, Prof. Wilson's most important contribution is *Recovering the Human Jesus*, as one subheading reads. The earliest and true followers of the Jesus Way thought Jesus was fully human, born in the usual way, and:

They held that Jesus, like all who are holy and righteous, was resurrected (cf. Tabor above)...[but] they did not see Jesus as a divine being. He was like you and me, human in all respects, feeling our pain, joy, sorrow, and gladness...In a way no other individual of his time managed to achieve, he dredged up end-time expectations and made them appear real, giving people hope and providing an alternative to the Pax Romana.

Shalom,

Spiritual Salon: The Jesus Dynasty: Exploring Earliest Christianity

Wednesday, September 5, 7 pm
Room 128, North Campus

A salon is "a gathering of people... held partly to amuse one another and partly to refine taste and increase their knowledge of the participants through conversation," according to that Internet know-it-all, Wikipedia. Rev. David Hett will start this conversation regarding the alternative themes explored by scholars James Tabor, Robert Eisenman, Barrie Wilson and others about what the earliest Jesus Movement might have been. The intention is to make this the first of an irregular series of "salons."

Free and open to the public, but registration required by August 31, by going online or contacting Natalia at njones@FCchurch.com, 614 488.0681, ext 113.

Richard Rohr Webcast: Practicing Contemplation and Facing Paradox

Date, time and location to be determined.

In this third Spiritual Searcher broadcast from the home-base of contemplative mystic, Father Richard Rohr, he illustrates why and how paradoxical thinking is at the heart of contemplative faith.

Register online or at the door. An offering will be taken to support the Spiritual Searcher Ministry.

Weekly Adult Learning Groups

Classes are free except where noted and open to the public. Books for most classes are available at the Furber Book Corner. For information on registration or financial aid, contact the Adult Learning Office at 614 488.0681 ext 113 or njones@FCchurch.com.

For more details on specific classes, go to FCchurch.com, search: adult learning.

<p>Sunday Morning Seminar <i>A History of Christianity</i> DVD series, produced by the BBC and featuring Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch of Oxford University on location throughout Christendom, concludes with its August 5 session <i>God in the Dock</i>, a summation of this fascinating series. The August 5 session will be held at North Campus. Free and open to the public. Sunday Morning Seminars begin again September 16.</p>	<p>Sunday, 9 - 10:30 am August 5 (final session) Room 130, North Campus</p>
<p>Men's Study Group Join us for weekly discussions on a variety of biblical and spiritual topics. The group began a study of Richard Rohr's, <i>Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life</i> at the end of May. Contact Price Finley at 614 488.7978 or pfinley@bricker.com, or Craig Sturtz at 614 481.9060 or csturtz@sqiresandders.com.</p>	<p>Wednesdays, 7 - 8 am Wicker Room, South Campus</p>
<p>Men's Wednesday Fellowship Members and invited speakers discuss a wide range of topics.</p>	<p>Wednesdays, 7 - 8 am Brownlee Hall, South Campus</p>
<p>Women Living the Questions Open to all women interested in the spiritual search in all of its forms. Summer Wednesdays will focus discussions on personal transformation based on the Richard Rohr Enneagram series and Rohr's daily meditations from CAC (cac@cacradicalgrace.org). The group will use these meditations as a base for shared contemplation.</p>	<p>Wednesdays, 9:30 - 11 am Wicker Room, South Campus</p>

Remembering "The Freedom To Become Yourself" A Journey With Roy Burkhart Into Our Times

Mondays, September 17 – October 8, 7 - 9 pm
 Burkhart Chapel, South Campus

This four-week course features the work and vision of Dr. Roy Burkhart, the guiding light of First Community Church's emergence as a nationally-recognized congregation, particularly in the area of psychological-spiritual research.

Daniel L. Davis, PhD and the Rev. James Long are the lead facilitators of the classes which will provide a blending of that we know now in contemporary psychology with Dr. Burkhart's vision. Taken from one of Rev. Burkhart's seminal works, *The Freedom To Become Yourself*, the course will use the outline and direction of this extraordinary manuscript and view it through the lense of contemporary psychological researchers in areas of Positive Psychology, including Cognitive Behavioral Psychology and Existential Psychology, as well as recent developments in Neuroscience.

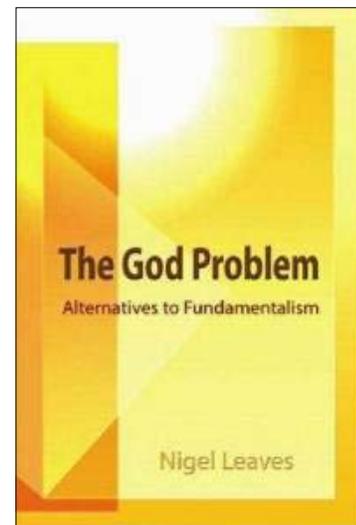
Free and open to the public, but registration required by September 14, by going online or contacting Natalia at njones@FCchurch.com, 614 488.0681, ext 113. (late or at-the-door registrations accepted).

The God Problem: Alternatives to Fundamentalism

Sundays, beginning September 16, 9:30 - 10:45 am
 Wicker Room, South Campus

Grey Austin facilitates the fall kickoff with this new Sunday Morning Seminar. This short book by Nigel Leaves, Warden and Dean of Studies at the Anglican Seminary in Perth, Australia, covers the work of John Spong and others, and includes themes like "The Spirituality Revolution," "Religious Naturalism," "Panentheism," and "The Terror of God." Free and open to the public.

The God Problem by Nigel Leaves will be available at the Furber Book Corner.



Parent Groups

For Dads Only

Tuesday, August 14, 7 - 8:30 pm
Guild Room, South Campus

For Moms Only

Monday, August 20, 7-8:30 pm
Guild Room, South Campus

In both groups, we will do an overview of how children develop socially and emotionally and how the two work together. How do childhood friendships evolve and when? How does a child's criteria for friends change over time? What happens socially when a child or family is stressed? With new school groups on the horizon, join us for this timely topic.

All parents are welcome; no need to register and the groups are open to all. Contact Donice Wooster at donicew@FCchurch.com.

Midweek Missions

Midweek Missions meets throughout the school year on Wednesday evenings to provide first through fifth-grade children with opportunities to learn about serving others through hands-on mission activities.

1st & 2nd Grades **3rd-5th Grades**
6:30 - 7:15 pm **5:45 - 6:30 pm**

Room 115, North Campus

Kindergarten children are welcome to attend the first and second-grade session if they are accompanied by an adult to assist them with the activities. For a small fee, a pizza dinner is provided during the meeting time.

Please note the following Midweek Missions schedule:

- September 12, 5:45 - 7:15pm: Registration for Midweek Missions at the North Campus during children's choir.
- September 19-November 14: Fall session
- January 9-May 1: Winter session

If you would like to receive more information or volunteer to help with Midweek Missions, contact Torre Summers at tsummers@FCchurch.com or 614 488.0681 ext. 113.



First Community Church Preschool

Cares for Children



Preschool Openings

A few openings remain for the start of the school year in September. The Preschool has a 65-year history of excellence for young children and we appreciate your referrals.

For four-year-olds:

- Monday, Wednesday, Friday morning, 9 - 11:30 am
- Monday through Friday (5 days), 9 - 11:30 am
- It is also possible to add the Lunch & Play option, with children bringing lunch and staying until 1 pm.

You can enroll at FCchurch.com or call Patti Link at 614 488.0681 ext. 243 to check availability and to receive registration materials.

Akita Changed My Life

■ By Cat Hiller, Music & Arts Festival Committee Member

If not for Akita, my life would have played out very differently. Being the youngest of 5, my single mother had her work cut out for her. In middle school, I missed a retreat. Dick Flynn asked me why. I was hesitant to tell him we didn't have the money to pay for me to go.

Not having enough money was something my friends couldn't relate to and something our family did not talk about outside the home. Dick must have seen it in my eyes, read it on my face maybe. From that retreat going forward, Dick told me to hand my camp applications to him and he would help get me thru the scholarship process.

I did not miss a retreat from then on, thanks to the Akita scholarship fund. I continued working as a counselor and owe much of the life I have today to my experiences at camp. I met a nice boy, made lifelong friendships and most of all I learned that God had created me so I couldn't be that bad.

God had good things in store for me. If I were to write my life story, it would be centered around Akita. My husband John proposed to me at the top of Bald Eagle and we named our first child Logan reflecting the place that brought us together. I owe the people who shared the experience of Akita with me a great deal.

I am honored to be on a committee of people who have been equally touched by their Akita experience. Together we are working to make the Music and Arts Festival at Akita an amazing weekend that will benefit the Akita scholarship fund.

Registration for the August 24, 25 and 26 event is now open. Visit musicandartsfestivalakita.org or contact Tom White at twhite57@yahoo.com. Though the church is not directly affiliated with the festival, proceeds will go to fund Akita scholarships.

Youth Choirs Announce Fall Schedule



Megan Gatsch, Youth Choir

Sally Beske, Director of Youth Choirs, announces the formation of Kindergarten Choir beginning this fall to better serve the developmental needs of our youngest choir members.

Open to all kindergarten children without audition, this choir will provide a music experience that is age appropriate while allowing Cherub Choir (grades 1 and 2) to expand their music reading and choral skills at a faster pace with a smaller adult-to-child ratio. The Kindergarten Choir and Cherub Choir will sing together in worship on Sunday mornings throughout the season.

All vocal youth choirs are open to all without audition. Bell Choir 2 is currently full with a wait list. There are openings in Bell Choir 1. Contact Sally Beske at 614 488.0681 ext 107 for further information about all youth choirs.

Parents of Kindergartners

The K-5 Ministry would like to extend a hearty welcome to our new kindergartners. You and your kindergartener are invited to attend a brief reception immediately following worship on August 26.

We will gather in Grace Hall following the 10:30 service to provide you with a brief overview of the K-5 Ministry at First Community Church, including the children's choir, Midweek Missions, and Camp Akita opportunities. Children will have an opportunity to meet their leaders and learn about their Sunday school experience, which will begin on September 16. Please make sure you register your kindergartener for Sunday school at FCchurch.com.

Contact the K-5 office for more information at 614 488.0681, ext 109 or at dcostin@FCchurch.com.

Youth Choir Rehearsal Schedule

Wednesday Evenings beginning September 12
North Campus

5:30 - 6 pm	Kindergarten Choir	Rm 118
6 - 6:30 pm	Cherub Choir for grades 1 and 2	Rm 118
6:30 - 7:15 pm	Junior Choir for grades 3-5	Rm 118
7:15 - 8 pm	Bell Choir 1 for beginning ringers (grade 4 up)	Rm 111
8 - 8:45 pm	Bell Choir 2 for experienced ringers (grade 6 up)	Rm 111

The Middle School Vocal Ensemble will meet for 45 minutes on Sundays following Crossroads in Room 118 beginning September 16.

4th-Grade Communion

Fourth-graders at First Community Church will receive their first communion during worship on Sunday, October 7. Our event coincides with World Communion Sunday.

A communion class for 4th-graders and their parents will be held on Tuesday, September 25, 6 - 7:30 pm at the North Campus, 3777 Dublin Road. A pizza dinner will be served from 6 - 6:30 pm, followed by a class led by Dr. Wing on the sacrament of communion. At the end of the class, each 4th-grader will receive a gift from the K-5 Ministry.

A photo to record this important event for the news, will be taken at this time.

Please visit FCchurch.com to register for 4th-grade communion and the class. Call Dawn Costin at 614 488.0681 ext.109 for additional information.

Ready for an ADVENTURE?

Then You're Heading in the Right Direction...

Big Kid Camp	August 17 - 19
\$85 per camper	Camp Akita

Our new Family Camp geared toward families with older children, single adults, or couples without children.

Details and registration available at CampAkita.org or call 614 488.0681 ext 101 for more information.

firstnews
First Community Church
1320 Cambridge Boulevard
Columbus, OH 43212

Periodical Postage
PAID
at Columbus, Ohio

Dated Material: Do Not Delay

firstnews Submission Information

All news articles and photos for *firstnews* must be submitted to news@FCchurch.com by the published deadline (see page 2). Direct questions to Michael Barber at mbarber@FCchurch.com.



First Community Church

South Campus
1320 Cambridge Boulevard
Columbus, OH 43212
614 488.0681
FAX 488.2763

North Campus
3777 Dublin Road
Columbus, OH 43221
614 488.0681
FAX 777.4098

FCchurch.com info@FCchurch.com

THE PROGRAM STAFF OF FIRST COMMUNITY CHURCH

Richard A. Wing, *Senior Minister*; Paul E. Baumer, *Minister to the Staff*;
David S. Hett, *Minister of Religious Life and Learning*; Ronald J. Jenkins,
Minister of Music and Liturgy; Deborah Countiss Lindsay, *Minister of Spiritual Care*;
James M. Long, *Minister of Pastoral Care*; Katherine H. Shaner, *Minister of Mission
and Youth Ministries*; Sally R. Beske, *Assistant Organist/Director of Youth Choirs*;
Scott T. Binder, *Director of Worship Technologies*; Dawn J. Costin, *Director of
K-5 Ministry*; Andy Frick, *Middle School Program Coordinator*; Cynthia Harsany,
Director of Finance and Operations; Pam Jameson, *Facilities Manager*; Sarah
Kientz, *High School Program Coordinator*; Stacey Kuzda, *Director of Marketing
and Communications*; Scot Nicoll, *Director of Youth Ministry Programming*; Missy
Obergefell, *Director of Older Adult Ministry*; Randall R. Rocke, *Director of Mission
Through Media*; Paula L. Russell, *Director of Membership*; Scott Walker, *Director of
Camp Akita Ministries*; M. Donice Wooster, *Director of Early Childhood Ministry*.



No matter who you
are or where you are
on life's journey, you
are welcome here.

Affiliated with The United Church of Christ and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)