

firstnews Monthly

614 488.0681

FCchurch.com

July 1 - 31, 2012

Vol. 58 No. 7

Unsung Heroes

■ Story and Photo by Michael Barber

Twenty-nine years ago, Carol Baker saw an opportunity to help those less fortunate. Today, Carol and her band of volunteers serve hundreds of hot meals each month, lovingly prepared in small kitchens around town, as part of the Monday Night Meals program.

“ I’m not the only one who will say that one of the reasons I like being a member of the church is that I can volunteer.”

— Carol Baker

“I haven’t missed a Monday,” Carol said. “We don’t feed 120 men each week by magic. It’s a mission.”

Though no church survives without the help of a volunteer force, those who give their time to First Community Church seem driven, compelled to serve in any capacity.

Carol, a member of the church who has dedicated herself to the Monday Night Meals program since its inception, believes volunteer service is an important part of one’s spiritual commitment.

“If you join the church but don’t join a small group (to volunteer), you miss the message of this important faith journey,” she said.

“I’m not the only one who will say that one of the reasons I like being a



Church member and volunteer Carol Baker enjoys participating in the Monday Night Meals program.

member of the church is that I can volunteer. It makes me feel like I’m living closer to a Christian message, not just words.”

The Monday Night Meals program is in need of additional help. Carol is concerned that potential volunteers may be negatively influenced by assumptions.

“Our volunteers come away with the sense of the normalcy of the homeless population,” she said. “The people we serve are fairly well-educated, polite, just nice. They don’t frighten you.”

Claire Esmond, an active member since 1960, finds great satisfaction in small gifts. She regularly shuttles other members to church on Sunday and assists Youth Choir Director Sally Beske with administrative tasks. “It’s not a service, it’s a joy,” she said.

As part of her volunteer service, Claire often writes uplifting letters to members of the church staff and the Chancel Choir. “I love the choir,” she said. “I write them love letters.”

(Continued, Page 14)

Mission Council Garage Sale Another Success

What a boring headline. It makes the Mission Council Garage Sale sound like a cakewalk. Yes, another success - whatever - people give us their stuff, we sell it, end of story.

Nothing could be further from the truth. This event requires sustained weekly effort, commitment, devotion and enthusiasm year round on the part of so many volunteers.

It is an unwieldy beast that requires constant coaxing, feeding, appeasing and loving to keep it from running amuck.

People have to play well with others and keep their eye on the big picture; vehicles have to work, storage space has to remain available and home furniture pick-ups have to be coordinated all over town.

Knees, hips and backs have to function, graduations and weddings have to be dodged, vegetable gardens and vacations have to be postponed, stamina has to be maintained and getting sick is not allowed.

Once all of this is juggled, we ultimately have to rely on the phenomenon of Garage Sale magic to occur to see it through. Without this "magic", we would be hosed.

An energy and excitement start to brew as the event draws closer and people come together in our church community with a great spirit and generosity. A tsunami of items are donated for us to sell and others generously donate cash or supplies or food. Volunteers jump into the project with such gusto it is as if we are having to sand bag the town before the flood waters arrive.

It is inspiring and heartening to see people's character bloom as they tirelessly do what they can to get this project seen through to fruition. Once we have quickly made a total mess of North Campus, we all know that we are counting on each other to get through to the other side, and likewise, those who will use the money we earn are counting on us to persevere. It is an exhausting, gratifying, aggravating, intriguing and enriching experience from start to finish.

So, yes, miraculously the 17th Annual Garage Sale was again a success.

In the end - including money raised from the sale and generous cash and in-kind donations - we raised a total of \$51,801 (11% will go toward expenses). This is a long way from our first sale in 1996 in which we raised just over \$7,000 (and had no expenses).

Another milestone was reached this year as we topped \$500,000 for gross earnings. Mission Council has been able to send \$485,663 out into the world to help our brothers and sisters who so desperately need it.



Garage Sale in a Minute - During the week of the Mission Council Garage Sale, *firstnews* secured a camera high above Grace Hall and photographed the busy scene every 90 seconds. At the end of the event, we had more than 2,200 images. We have strung them together to create a short time-lapse movie.

It's a fascinating look at the week that was. You can view it on our website at FCchurch.com/2012/06/timelapse or click the *firstnews* E-Edition link on the home page.

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

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firstnews Renamed

■ By Michael Barber, *firstnews* Editor

Initially named *First Community Church News*, the church newsletter has evolved from a weekly piece produced by hand on a mimeograph machine to a monthly mailing distributed as *firstnews* - both in traditional print and online.

Firstnews and its sister weekly bulletin insert known as *firstnews Sunday* have existed in near perfect separation, neither one acknowledging the existence of the other - until now.

Beginning with the July edition of *firstnews* and the July 1 printing of *firstnews Sunday*, the two publications will share a similar appearance and name. The newsletter flag now reads *firstnews Monthly* to better compliment its weekly companion.

Firstnews Sunday will sport a color cover with additional features, making it a publication worthy of a week-long shelf life.

With this change, we benefit from five total opportunities to serve our readers. We are excited for the change.

We hope you are, too.



E-Edition
Same Great Content
Without the Fold
Subscribe today at FCchurch.com

Soundings

Machu Picchu, Peru

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



I am writing this column sitting by a stream with such large boulders that I must call it a river. I just visited Machu Picchu high in the Andes.

Discovered by the modern world in 1911, thousands of people daily trek to these ruins that mysteriously spike toward heaven, and some feel lifted spiritually while standing on the edge of this wondrous place.

While sitting along this raging stream I started counting the holy places I have been. I have been to the Holy Land and stood in Bethlehem where nearby somewhere Jesus was born. I went to the Temple Mount in Jerusalem and saw a rock where tradition says Abraham was obedient to God; where Jesus ascended into heaven and where Mohammad ascended into heaven.

Now I have been to Machu Picchu whose gods were the condor, the Puma and the serpent.

I had a teacher in seminary who went on many archeological digs in the Holy Land and elsewhere. I asked him one day, "How has that experience of uncovering shreds of history informed your faith?" He simply said: "Dick, you don't find God in rocks."

Here is the big mystery: we cannot find God by our own efforts. But there are places we can go where God can more likely find us. For the inspiration of visiting Holy Places, I am grateful. But I must say that God has not come to me in these places but elsewhere.

So, where has God come to you Dick? First, God has come to me most real when I surrendered my stubborn desires to whatever God wants of me. Second, God always comes to me in the eyes of the poor, be it on the streets of Columbus or Chinchero, Peru. Jesus said God finds us in these places. I find that promise to be trustworthy and true.

Peace to you,

Dick

Watch First Edition
First Edition features the previous week's service on ONN and WBNS 10.2 via digital outlets each Sunday at 9 am.

For online



Broadcast/Live Stream
go to FCchurch.com.

The Foundation Corner

It Is Time To Renew Your Annual Subscription To Life

— Donald Jameson, *Director of Foundation Development*



Not to the magazine, but rather to your existence. By the time you read this I will have returned from my annual two weeks vacation in a Michigan Upper Peninsula fishing camp. When you cross the Mackinac bridge onto the UP you go back to the 1950s. It is a simpler, quieter, more peaceful place.

If your life requires every day access to cell phones, text messages, heated Olympic swimming pools, express lanes on freeways, a Starbucks within three miles, 143 TV channels and black mulch everywhere there is not grass, don't cross the

bridge. You may never find your way back home.

Sitting in a 14' boat with a small outboard motor hanging on the stern, in a quiet cove, watching a very cautious doe lead her wobbly legged fawn to drink from the lake, while a bald eagle watches intently from the top of a dead tree, hoping they kick up a small animal, is where I do my life planning for the next 12 months. I realize that "the best laid plans, etc., etc." can change your life in a heartbeat, but I have never felt that God placed me here to just jump into a raging torrent and see where it takes me.

My hope is that each of you will take some time this summer to plan your life for the next year and be sure to include some satisfying work, rest, physical activities, meditation and other mental stimulation, and being open to God's love for you and expressing your love for others.



First Community Foundation Gifts

In Memory of:

Louise Hoag

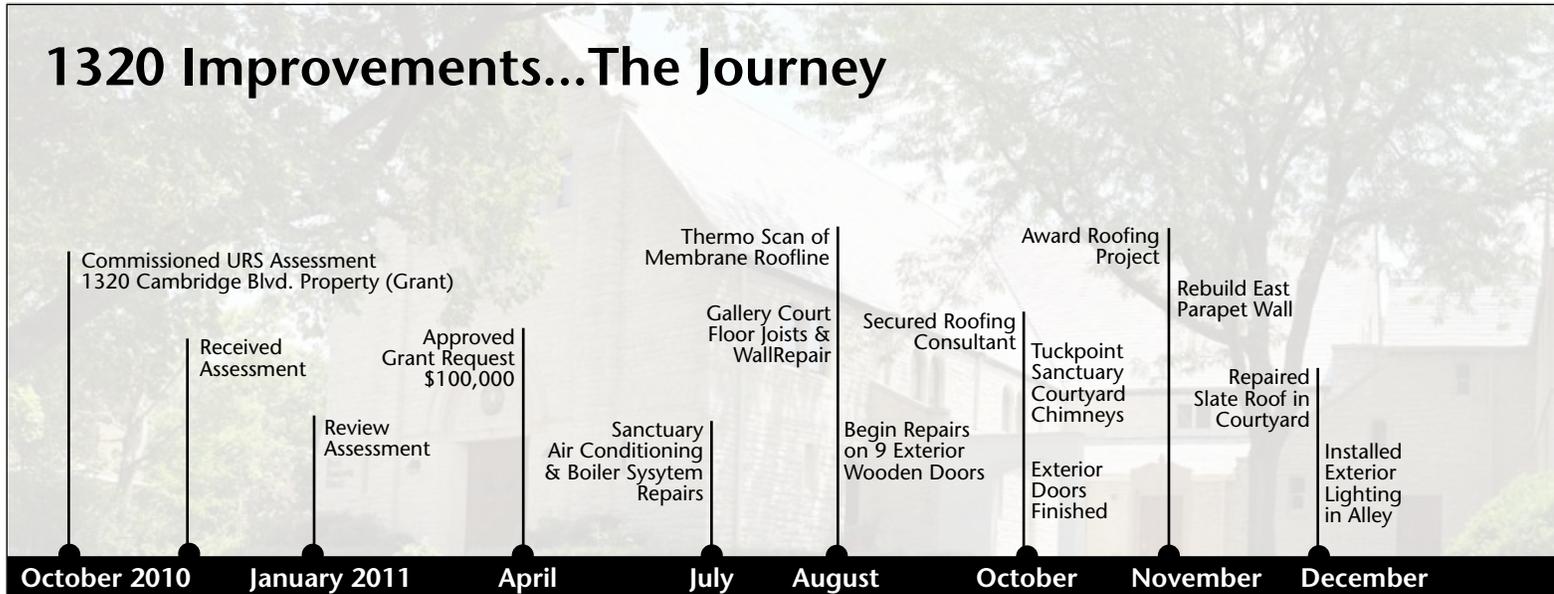
- Wayne & Jo Ashby
- Richard Sims
- Dick & Paula Gordin
- Dan & Kathy Knisley
- Dave & Sharma Knisley
- Doug & Kris Knisley
- Dean & Nancy Knisley
- Michael Sullivan
- Bruce & Joy Allen
- Nancy Casto Benson
- Jim & Jodie Davis
- Peter & Sarah Williams
- John, Linda, Mike & Chrissy Hubly
- Dareth Gerlach
- Tom & Pam Stewart
- Tom & Bette Frye
- Edgar & Nancy Strause
- Jean Brandt
- Bette Millhon
- Suzanne Wilson
- Bill & Diana Arthur
- Thomas Hawk
- Amy Roslovic
- Beth Lightner
- George Deegan
- Jay & Aleusha Gerlach
- Shirle Westwater
- Jack & Barbara Nicklaus
- Jim & Merry Hamilton
- John & Kerry Mongelluzzo
- Relna Wolfe
- Peggy & Donn Miller
- Ralph Fallon
- Martha Grabner
- Larry & Carol Dornisch
- Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company

Martha Kohr

- Ohmer & Pat Crowell
- Janet McCutcheon
- Mary Munsell
- Jeff & Amy Brown
- Jim & Merry Hamilton

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1320 Improvements...The Journey



FARMER'S MARKET
August 19, 2012

fruits • vegetables • pies
breads • jellies • plants • flowers
anything home-grown or homemade!

Calling All Green Thumbs!

We are looking for home gardeners to share produce and baked goods at our Farmer's Market to be held on August 19 at North Campus.

If you would like to sell or donate, contact Nancy Ewing by July 31 at (614) 486.1275 or weenan@att.net.

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

July 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 (Sunday)	2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27 Psalm 130	2 Corinthians 8:7-15 Mark 5:21-43
2	1 Samuel 23:14-18	2 Corinthians 8:16-24
3	1 Samuel 31:1-13	2 Corinthians 9:1-5
4	1 Chronicles 10:1-14	Mark 9:14-29
5	2 Samuel 2:1-11	1 Corinthians 4:8-13
6	2 Samuel 3:1-12	2 Corinthians 10:7-11
7	2 Samuel 3:31-38	Matthew 8:18-22
8 (Sunday)	2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 Psalm 48	2 Corinthians 12:2-10 Mark 6:1-13
9	2 Samuel 5:1-10	2 Corinthians 11:16-33
10	2 Samuel 5:11-16	James 5:7-12
11	2 Samuel 5:17-25	John 7:1-9
12	Exodus 25:10-22	Colossians 2:1-5
13	Exodus 37:1-16	Colossians 4:2-18
14	Numbers 10:11-36	Luke 1:57-80
15 (Sunday)	2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19 Psalm 24	Ephesians 1:3-14 Mark 16:14-29
16	2 Samuel 6:6-12a	Acts 21:27-39
17	2 Samuel 3:12-16	Acts 23:12-35
18	2 Samuel 6:16-23	Luke 7:31-35
19	1 Chronicles 11:15-19	Colossians 1:15-23
20	1 Chronicles 14:1-2	Acts 17:16-31
21	1 Chronicles 15:1-2, 16:4-13	Luke 18:35-43
22 (Sunday)	2 Samuel 7:1-14a Psalm 89:20-37	Ephesians 2:11-22 Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
23	2 Samuel 7:18-29	Hebrews 13:17-25
24	2 Samuel 8:1-18	Acts 20:17-38
25	2 Samuel 9:1-13	Luke 15:1-7
26	2 Samuel 10:1-5	Colossians 1:9-14
27	2 Samuel 10:6-12	Colossians 3:12-17
28	2 Samuel 10:13-19	John 4:31-38
29 (Sunday)	2 Samuel 11:1-15 Psalm 14	Ephesians 3:14-21 John 6:1-21
30	2 Samuel 11:14-21	Philippians 4:10-20
31	2 Samuel 11:22-27	Romans 15:22-33

January 2012

- Interior Roof Drains
- Exterior Lighting for Annex
- Radiator Repairs Begin

March

- Roofing Project Complete
- Tree Removal/Trimming
- Installation of New Wooden Door

June

- Rewire & Reset Rooftop Units & Controls
- Replace Floor Joists/Supports in West Hallway Courtyard
- Installation of New Dome Skylight
- New Gutters & Downspouts
- Replaced Metal Fencing around Playground
- Sealant on Exterior Sanctuary & Courtyard
- Interior Plaster Repairs

We Need Your Support to Continue

- Replace Gables along Cambridge Blvd.
- Replace Sidewalks
- Replace First Floor Carpeting
- Replace Windows

If you are interested in supporting our journey, please send your donation to the Business Office or contact Pam Jameson at 614 488.0681 ext 232 or pjamson@FCchurch.com.

Thank you for your support.

Take Heart

Simply Summer...

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



Just the other day I had a tuna salad sandwich for lunch and it brought back a rush of childhood memories. My mom made tuna salad sandwiches (on white bread of course) for my lunch during summer vacation, served with lemonade and Oreos for dessert. It was a wonderful change from the peanut butter or bologna sandwiches that went in my

lunchbox during the school year.

It seems many of summer's pleasures are the little things that are easily missed when we are rushing around doing the business of life. So in the interest of keeping it simple, this month I offer you a reading from Nan Merrill's book, *Psalms for Praying; An Invitation to Wholeness*. This is her adaptation of Psalm 144.

*Blessed are You, O Radiant One,
You, who are hidden within our hearts,
even as we are hidden in your heart!
You invite us to participate in the Divine Unfoldment,
as we Awaken from our long sleep and
give birth to creativity.
Open us that we might recognize the
Divine in every person,
and become sensitive to all we meet along the path.
For You are the Breathing Life of all,
the infinite and eternal within our hearts.
Evoke the Child in our souls,
that purity and grace might flourish.
Let us sing a new song to You, O Beloved;
with drums and flutes let us express our joy!
Gratitude and inner peace will abide in
every tranquil soul,
blessing the universe that lovingly cares for us.*

Take heart; your spiritual discipline this summer can be a simple one. Drink some lemonade, listen to the birds sing, smell the freshly mowed grass, let these sacred words wash over you and remember the Divine unfolds each moment in you and your life.

Blessings,

Women's Guild

■ By Jill Eliot

What a fun time was had at the Annual Women's Guild Spring Luncheon held Saturday, May 12 at Brookside Country Club. Ninety-five women were in attendance celebrating "Bouquets of Friendship" and the Women's Guild 100th year.



Our guest speaker was Douglas Kridler, President and CEO of the Columbus Foundation. He spoke about his many years at CAPA and told amazing and funny stories about the many famous stars with whom he had the pleasure of working. Some of the celebrity stories included stars such as Julie Andrews, Jessye Norman and Yo-Yo Ma. Doug provided the ladies with many laughs and surprises.

In addition, we enjoyed our time together celebrating friendship and service. Many ladies donated toiletries to Heart to Heart for the ending service project of the year.

Save the Date

■ By Rose Kandel, *Women's Guild President*

The Women's Guild will be kicking off the 2012-2013 year with a pot luck dinner and installation of new officers on Wednesday, August 29 at North Campus. All women of the church are invited to attend. More details will follow.

As we build on our 100 years of friendship and service, we invite you to join us, become our friend and travel along with us in our faith journey. If you are interested in becoming a member of this special organization call Joy Plassman at 614 459.1454. We would love to meet you and give you our gift of friendship.

Stewardship Corner

Push-Pull-Click-Click Offering

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



Somewhere back in the ancient days when I was younger, I remember a razor blade commercial that used the phrase “Push, pull, click, click,” proclaiming the ease with which one could change razor blades with the newly-developed razor.

Sometimes it feels like our giving to First Community

Church is sort of “push, pull, click, click.” Well, sometimes it is. Many of us don’t use checks or offering envelopes anymore. We set up electronic funds transfers from our bank accounts to the church’s bank account, as Jan and I do, and once each month, push-pull-click-click (well, maybe it’s just click-click) and our monthly pledge to the church is given.

In fact, there are several ways that happens for us as we support the work of our church. Credit card purchases of books, grocery certificates, tickets to events, giving to the church or one of its events; kiosk transactions when we get to church on Sunday and realize we forgot our offering but can hit the kiosk as we arrive or leave. All of which leaves the offering plates on Sunday morning a bit sparse. And that’s okay. But it raises a problem – how do we celebrate our giving when we do it outside of the actual worship service?

God wants us to celebrate our giving. Any number of Old Testament texts say our giving is an action of joy and celebration, and New Testament texts remind us it’s a basic part of our Christian witness and mission. Our African fellow Christians make it a major part of their worship services with the congregation joining in procession to the communion table or altar and giving their offering. And all the while there’s a lot of dancing and singing going on. The emphasis is not on how much they give but on the joy of giving and the proclamation of one’s faith in God and commitment to the fellowship of Jesus Christ.

Your clergy are working on and evaluating how we do our offering each Sunday so we can wrap up all the above in our time of giving. Be patient as now and then we try something different. Let us know your thoughts and reactions. And continue in whatever way you choose to joyfully bring your offering. Keep that push-pull-click-click busy.

A Month of Sundays

1	(C)
10:30 am • Sanctuary, SC - Rev. Lindsay preaching	
8	(A)
BAPTISM SUNDAY	
10:30 am • Sanctuary, SC - Rev. Lindsay preaching	
15	(B)
10:30 am • Sanctuary, SC - Rev. Lindsay preaching	
22	(C)
10:30 am • Sanctuary, SC - Rev. Lindsay preaching	
29	(A)
10:30 am • Sanctuary, SC - Rev. Ms. Shari Prestemon, <i>Executive Director of Back Bay Mission</i> preaching	
<p><i>Check the website for the most up-to-date information.</i></p> <p>For additional information:</p> <p>Click: FCchurch.com</p> <p>Email: info@FCchurch.com</p> <p>Call: 614 488.0681</p> <p>Visit: The Welcome Center at North or South Campus</p>	

(A) indicates Usher assignments.

Welcome New Members



Amy Anderson



Kyle Anderson



Michelle Aro



Amy Becher



Brian Becher



Joel Crist



Molly Crist



John Evans



Mark Henkel



Nikki Henkel



Sheryl Kovach



Lola Lanaman

Amy Anderson and Kyle are the parents of Daniel (14), Kate (6) and Ava (1) and attend the 10:25 am service (NC). Amy is a teacher with South-Western City Schools and enjoys traveling, outdoor activities and being with family.

Kyle Anderson, son of a Reformed Lutheran pastor, says the 10:25 am service is "a dynamic service that the entire family enjoys". He and Amy join for the infant, K-5 and youth programs, worship and music and the inclusive theology. Kyle is in corporate communications with State Auto Insurance Co.

Michelle Aro, daughter of members Dick and Mary Ann Porter, is engaged to new member John Evans. They join because of the worship experience, adult programs and to meet new people. Michelle is in Development at The Buckeye Ranch.

Amy Becher, a registered nurse with Nationwide Children's Hospital and The Physicians Free Clinic, is in the process of becoming a Family Nurse Practitioner. She is interested in yoga, spirituality and knowledge, with a passion for serving those with limited resources.

Brian Becher and Amy are the parents of Mia (11 mos) and join for the inclusive theology. They look forward to getting involved and meeting others. Brian enjoys cooking, learning new things and family, and has followed his passion as a self-employed glass artist.

Joel Crist and Molly are the parents of Clara (4). Joel is the Service Manager for Center City International Trucks. He and Molly attend the 10:25 am service (NC) or watch the live webcasts. Both originally from Ashland, Ohio, they look forward to getting involved and meeting new people.

Molly Crist, sister of member, Mindy Gabriel (Adam), is a nurse with OhioHealth. She enjoys health and fitness, sewing, cooking and gardening. Molly and Joel join for the worship, music, inclusive theology and adult and infant programs.

John Evans is the grandson of Jane Zartman and nephew of Jim Evans, both members. He went on the Youth LaVida trip and was an Akita camper, LIFEGuard and counselor. John, a Brand Planner for Engauge, enjoys skiing, fishing and travel. He and Michelle Aro attend the 11 am service (SC).

Mark Henkel and Nikki just returned from their honeymoon in Jamaica. Mark is a business professional with JP Morgan Chase and enjoys travel, sports, the Columbus Crew and playing soccer. He and Nikki attend the 9:15 am service (NC).

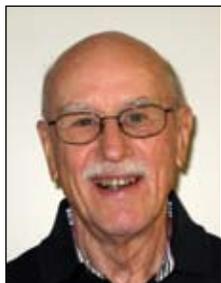
Nikki Henkel and Mark heard about the church from members, David and Julie Rickert. They join for the inclusive theology, worship experience and to be a part of a faith community and meet others. Nikki teaches English for Hilliard City Schools and enjoys running, reading, cooking and her pugs, too.

Sheryl Kovach is taking time off as a social worker and is currently volunteering in our Heart to Heart Food Pantry. She enjoys reading, gardening, canning and playing with her 3 grandchildren. Sherry attends the 9:15 am service (NC) and joins for the worship, music and desire to meet new people.

Lola Lanaman recently moved to Columbus to be near family. Her daughter is Ginny Barney (Marshall) and granddaughter, Joy Barney, longtime members of First Community Church. Lola attends the 11 am service (SC) and enjoys the worship and music.



Jolene McCabe



Gary Wolfe



Rebecca Wolfe



Shrimp Boil

Friday, July 27, 5:45 pm Grace Hall, North Campus

Jolene McCabe and husband Chris are the parents of Kyle (12). Jolene heard about us from members, Soozie Hamilton and her neice, Angela Weber (Adam). She attends the 10:25 am service (NC) and joins for the inclusive theology and youth programs. Jolene is a registered nurse with OhioHealth, Riverside Methodist Hospital and is from Washington Court House.

Gary Wolfe is retired and enjoys sports, travel and family. He learned about the church because of his connection to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). He and Rebecca attend the 10:25 am service (NC) because of the informal worship and music.

Rebecca Wolfe is a retired school principal and enjoys reading, writing, travel and babysitting their 2-year-old grandson. She and Gary join for the worship experience and look forward to getting involved and meeting others.

The Mission Council is hosting a shrimp boil to benefit Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi. This will be a very special evening, featuring great shrimp, salad, beans and rice, bread and butter and homemade cobbler. The evening includes live entertainment and a live auction for a personal shrimp boil.

Shari Prestemon, Executive Director of Back Bay, will attend the event. She will also be preaching on Sunday, July 29 at South Campus. Shari will be sharing news regarding the 90th anniversary of Back Bay Mission. Honoring the anniversary, Shari and the board have requested that the 9 larger UCC churches around the country, including First Community Church, follow our lead by having a shrimp boil and additional fundraisers in their own congregations with a goal of raising \$90,000 (or \$10,000 each).

Mark Hollinger, a member of First Community Church and past president of Back Bay, is the 90th anniversary chairperson. He has been asked to provide the other 8 churches with our "template" to host a shrimp boil.

Many in our congregation have participated as a group to assist the staff in building and repairing homes for the disadvantaged in the Biloxi area. Back Bay's mission is to serve the marginalized, displaced and homeless families in Biloxi Mississippi by providing a welcoming place to do laundry, take a shower, have a meal or just get away from the oppressive heat of the day.

Back Bay also builds affordable homes for the poor and has an ongoing effort of home repair and building for the community. The staff assists in job placement and has a food pantry for the hungry.

Please join us. Tickets are limited to 240, as that is the capacity seating at North Campus. Tickets will be available at the Mission table after church services beginning in July. Keep in mind that all July services are at South Campus. You can also purchase tickets at FCchurch.com or by visiting the North or South campus offices. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$8 for children.

Care and Spirit

The Bridge is Love

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



“Even now,” she thought, “almost no one remembers Esteban and Pepita, but myself. Camila alone remembers her Uncle Pio and her son; this woman, her mother. But soon we shall die and all memory of those five will have left the earth, and we ourselves shall be loved for awhile and be forgotten. But the love will have been enough; all those impulses of love return to the love that made them. Even memory is not necessary for love. There is a land of the living and a land of the dead and the bridge is love, the only survival, the only meaning.

The Bridge of San Luis Rey
Thornton Wilder

The late John Neff, a friend and member of our church, was my sophomore English teacher in high school. I remember many of the books he assigned, including the one I never quite finished: the Pulitzer Prize winning novel, *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* by Thornton Wilder. I recently read this book for my book club and now know the reason John assigned it these many years ago.

The novel is about five people who die when a suspension bridge collapses in 17th Century Peru. All five have loving relationships in which they give more than they receive. As the stories of each unfold, the reader naturally struggles with the question of why these five in particular died on that bridge. Are they simply to be forgotten? Is there purpose or meaning in their lives? You can almost hear the question: “Where is God in all of this?”

Thornton Wilder provides an answer in the words of the Abbess who reflects on these questions. The bridge between the living and the dead is love. All impulses of love return to the ultimate love that created them. It is not necessary that the people be remembered. It is their love that survives and has ultimate meaning.

Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom quoted the reflections of the Abbess when he came to New York City to remember the victims of 9-11. It is perhaps only such faith that can give meaning and purpose in the face of such tragedy. The bridge is love and it is enough.

Peace and blessings.

Save the Date

Fall Trip to Akita

Wednesday, October 17

Open to all church members, families and friends. Sponsored by the Older Adults Council.

Cost is \$35 through July 31, then \$40. Includes transportation and meal. Visit FCchurch.com to make reservations and for more details.

Parish Register

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

RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED

Patsy Harmon
Gwen Carmack
Wayne Redenbarger

WEDDINGS

Susan Liston & Dennis Kerr 5/19/12
Jordan Gerlach & Jim Luzecky 5/19/12
Pamela Edwards & Mike Hollinger
5/26/12
Jessica Graham & Daniel Riffle 6/2/12
Emily Riddle & J. Michael Farber
6/16/12

DEATHS

Wyn Shimer 2/5/12
Memorial Service, 6/25, 1:30 pm
Sanctuary
Lois Graber 6/17/12

*Call the Pastoral Care Office at
614 488.0681 ext 239, for family
births, deaths, weddings,
hospitalizations and birthdays of
100 years or more.*

First Community Foundation Gifts

(continued from page 4)

Vi Sanders

Susan Brooks
Jim & Merry Hamilton
Harry Sanders
Elizabeth Galbreath
Patty & Bill Mielke
Janet McCutcheon
Jim & Ginny Cunningham
Virginia Frick

Sam Beaty

Brian & Connie Johnston

Joe Yearling

Jane Stone

Karen Lee

Jane Stone

Keith McVey

Dick & Julie Helland

Dorothy Peppe

Jim & Merry Hamilton

Maxine Meagher

Guild Group One

In Honor of:

Jim Long

Group Y

Ron Jenkins

Jim & Merry Hamilton

Kay Graf

Lee Burges

Kurt Smith

Friendship Circle # 66

(continued on page 12)

Resources for Male Victims

■ By Cynthia G.H. King, Church Member

Although hearing about the Sandusky Trial at Penn State is upsetting to anyone, for some men, hearing about it can re-open their own personal trauma. At least one in six men has been sexually assaulted either as a child or as an adult. In the past, sexual assault has been assumed so pervasively as only a woman's problem, that few male victims ever tell anyone or ask for help and those who did were usually turned away or their stories dismissed.

Fortunately, this is now beginning to change. Last month, The Ohio State University provided a screening of the film *Boys and Men Healing* by film producers Simon Weinberg and Kathy Barbini. This was followed by a discussion of male sexual abuse by Howard Fradkin, a psychologist and expert in this subject.

There are now two support groups in central Ohio for men who have been abused. Following are other resources available locally and nationally that are committed to assisting men in healing from their abuse in a respectful environment.

The Sexual Abuse Network of Delaware and Morrow County

provides 24/7 live support
Phone: 1 800 684-2324
Website: helplinedelmor.org.

Affirmations is Howard Fradkin's Psychology practice which specializes in male victims of assault with counseling for men and the people who love them and providing survivor weekends of healing.

Phone: 614 445.8277
Website: affirmationstherapy.com

1-in-6 The mission of 1in6 is to help men who have had unwanted or abusive sexual experiences in childhood live healthier, happier lives. It also serves family members, friends, and partners.

Website: 1in6.org

SARNCO is the Sexual Abuse Response Network of Central Ohio, which has committed to supporting male victims as well as women.

Phone: 1 800 656.HOPE
Website: ohiohealth.com/sexualassaultresponsenetwork

Male Survivor provides understanding of issues of male victims of assault and provides monitored discussion forums, chat rooms, and assistance in finding a local health care provider who understands the situation.

Website: malesurvivor.org

BRAVO specializes in serving the gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender community and advocacy and assisting people who have been victims of violence or abuse.

Phone: 1 866 862.BRAVO (7286)
Website: bravo-ohio.org

The Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence provides advocacy and a method of finding assistance in any county in the state and national resources.

Website: oaesv.org

The Ohio State University site for assisting people who have been sexually assaulted is <http://bit.ly/LWYozM>



August 4-5, 2012

North Campus:
3777 Dublin Road, Columbus, 43221

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

Event begins at 3:00 pm and concludes after the 10:30 am worship service the next morning.

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

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

Heart to Heart

Food Pantry Totals

For May 2012

Households served 508
Individuals served 1,113
Children served 305
Adults served 717
Seniors served 91
Meals provided 10,017

Year-to-Date

Households served 2,312
Individuals served 4,716
Meals provided 42,444

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

The Infinite Quest Acknowledging What Is

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



I was walking with my darling 2-year-old grandson, Sam, on a greenery-shrouded path toward the gorilla habitat when Sam pipes up, "I hear birdies!" Sure enough, I opened my ears to hear a cacophony of chirping and birdsong.

"They're singing!" Sam smilingly proclaimed.

Until that moment, even that cacophony had not distracted me from my "mission" to see the gorillas. Even the "music of the spheres" could not detract me from my goal. It took someone immediately in

the moment to bring me back to the only life that really contains "aliveness"—the here and now. No wonder Jesus said, "Become like little children."

Even with years of spiritual practice in mindfulness, it is so easy to let a conscious or unconscious agenda take over a present-moment experience, and thereby miss the beauty and grandeur of *this* moment, and then many moments until an entire lifetime has vanished.

As an undergraduate 40 years ago, my first spiritual teacher was Alan Watts:

The art of listening is neither careless drifting on the one hand nor fearful clinging on the other. It consists in being sensitive to each moment, in regarding it as utterly new and unique, in having the mind open and totally receptive.

Spiritual agendas also distract us from the immediacy of the moment. Whether I'm trying to experience Divine Union or just to be a better person, wanting to get somewhere moves us away from what "is."

Likewise, wanting to escape from something also rejects the present moment. The "utterly new and unique" moment might be something we prefer never to experience or see at all.

However, by resisting our experience we are rejecting the arising of God-ness in that moment. The increased capacity to accept, embrace and explore "negative" states moves us more fully into the realm of true spiritual experience.

Continually inquiring into what is arising in our consciousness brings us to eventual awareness of the emptiness and impoverishment of the ego-self. Yet, this awareness "is the beginning for the student of tasting the absolute depth of her Being," notes my current teacher, A. H. Almaas. "The helplessness and hopelessness of ego-deficiency signals that she is approaching" none other than God.

This is the state the Christian mystics called "mystical poverty," an absolute necessity for spiritual transcendence. St. John of the Cross saw this state as that of the soul being penetrated by the light of God, cleansing the soul completely.

The moral: smell the roses and hear those birdies!

Shalom,

First Community Church Gifts

(continued from page 10)

Early Childhood Scholarship

In Honor of:

Donice Wooster

Greg & Elizabeth Gerhard

First Community Church Preschool

in memory of:

Helen Simcox

Lynn Parker

Mary Williston

Donice Wooster

Rafiki

Bryan and Sally Beske

In Memory of:

Alvin Clark

Terry Williamson

Frank Lanaman

Iola T. Lanaman

Frances Stull

M. Stull

In Honor of:

Rev. Deb Lindsay

Michelle McClure

Dylan and Skyler Trent

Lori Trent

John Nganga

Lynne Ayres

Dick and Katherine Rohrer

Kurt Smith

Hyacinth and Larry Macintosh

The Rafiki Kids and John Nganga

Connie Heatt

Deep Griha

In memory of:

Bettenell Miller

James and Virginia Cunningham

Janet McCutcheon

Jeanne Blair

In honor of:

Kurt Smith

Friendship Circle 66

Heart to Heart

In memory of:

Bettenelle Miller

Patty & Bill Mielke

In honor of:

The Women's Guild

Douglas F. Kridler and the Kridler Family Fund of The Columbus Foundation

Friends of Music

In memory of:

Martha Kohr

Sara L. Flohr

Jim & Madeline Lakin

Sallie E. Davis

Bill & Dottie Seibert

Robert Esmond

Claire Esmond

Save the Date Women's Retreat

October 5 - 7

Camp Akita

Mark your calendars! Plan to stay for the entire weekend, one night or simply attend the events on Saturday. More information will be available soon.

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 A History of Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years This six-part DVD series is hosted and narrated by Diarmaid MacCulloch, Professor of the History of the Church at the University of Oxford. Facilitated by members of the Adult Learning Council. July 1: <i>The First Christianity</i> July 8: <i>Catholicism: The Unpredictable Rise of Rome</i> July 15: <i>Orthodoxy: From Empire to Empire</i> July 22: <i>Reformation: The Individual Before God</i> July 29: <i>Protestantism: The Evangelical Explosion</i></p>	<p>Sundays, 9 - 10:30 am July 1 - 29 <i>Wicker Room, South Campus</i></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@squiresandders.com.</p>	<p>Wednesdays, 7 - 8 am <i>Wicker Room, South Campus</i></p>
<p>Men's Wednesday Fellowship Members and invited speakers discuss a wide range of topics.</p>	<p>Wednesdays, 7 - 8 am <i>Brownlee Hall, South Campus</i></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 <i>Wicker Room, South Campus</i></p>

Personal Spiritual Deepening: Living in God

Please join Spiritual Director and First Community Church member Nan Weir and Spiritual Director Nancy Nikiforow for an 8-month journey of personal spiritual deepening with the Shalem Institute (Shalem.org).

This program is for anyone who feels drawn to contemplative spirituality and who:

- Desires a deepened relationship with God, and to live out of that relationship;
- Wishes to develop or deepen a consistent spiritual practice;
- Seeks to engage with an authentic spiritual community;
- Is eager to learn within a broad ecumenical Christian framework, enhanced by the wisdom of other traditions;
- Is willing to stretch their current understanding by reading classic and contemporary authors and experiencing a variety of prayer practices;
- Longs to be a transforming presence in the world.

The program includes an Opening Overnight Retreat at the Procter Camp and Conference Center, 6 monthly Saturday Morning Sessions (Seminar Topics: Listening, Spiritual Community, Discernment I, Discernment II, Earth Awareness, and Sacred Activism) at First Community Church - South Campus, and a Closing Retreat Day at Shepherd's Corner Ecological Center.

Cost is \$775. Registration Deadline is August 20. For more information or to request a program brochure and application, contact Nan Weir at 614 538.1153 or nnaaann@yahoo.com

Quest Singles

July 5, Thursday at 6:30 pm
 Dinner at Cameron's American Bistro
 2185 West Dublin-Granville Road

July 12, Thursday at 6:30 pm
 Dinner at The Big Fat Greek Kucina/
 Feta Express
 2816 Fishinger Road

July 15, Sunday at 5:30 pm
 Book Discussion of Deborah Moggach's
The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel
 MCL Cafeteria

July 19, Thursday at 6:30 pm
 Dinner at Milestone 229 Restaurant
 229 South Civic Center Drive

July 26, Thursday at 6:30 pm
 Dinner at The Brazenhead
 1027 West Fifth Avenue

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

Richard Rohr's Seven Spiritual Themes

Saturday, July 21, Noon – 2:30 pm
North Campus, Room 130

In this first live webcast of the contemplative mystic, Richard Rohr, to be shown by Spiritual Searcher, Father Richard presents the seven spiritual assumptions and the lineage that allow him to teach as he teaches.

Discussion time will be facilitated by the Rev. David Hett and the Spiritual Searcher team. These seven themes provide the basis of the curriculum for The Rohr Institute: A Living School for Action and Contemplation, opening Spring 2013.

The Center for Action and Contemplation published the following list of Father Richard's "Seven Underlying Theological Themes" in 2011:

- If Jesus is the face of God, it is a benevolent universe. God is not someone to be afraid of, but is on our side.
- Scripture as validated by experience, and experienced as validated by Tradition, are good scales for one's worldview.
- The path of descent is the path of transformation. Darkness, failure, relapse and woundedness are the primary teachers, not ideas or doctrines.
- There is only one reality. Any distinction between natural and supernatural, sacred and profane, is a bogus one.
- The human ego is our problem, whereas most religion and most people make the "shadow" the problem. This leads to denial, pretending and projecting instead of real transformation into the Divine.
- Everything belongs, and no one needs to be scapegoated or excluded. Evil and illusion only need to be named and exposed truthfully, and they die in exposure to the light.
- Reality is paradoxical and complementary. Non-dual thinking is the highest level of consciousness. Divine union, not human perfection, is the goal of all religion.

Open to all, a free-will offering will be taken to support this project and the ministry of Spiritual Searcher. Registration is requested online at FCchurch.com, or by contacting Natalia at njones@FCchurch.com, 614 488.0681, ext. 113.



Showing Our Pride

Photo by Pete Diehl

Paula Russell, Director of Membership, leads the First Community Church group north on High Street from Downtown Columbus during the 2012 Columbus Pride Parade. The church participated in the annual event to promote unity.

Unsung Heroes

(Continued from page 1)

Claire's philosophy toward service is refreshing. "I've always felt that even though I don't have a lot of money, I can give my time," she said. "It provides a feeling of camaraderie. There's something about doing service with other people that brings them close - that our fellow church members are all on the same path."

This sentiment is echoed by Paula Russell, Director of Membership. "The best way to get to know others and feel connected in this large congregation is to get involved in something," Paula said. "It's very important that you don't wait to be asked."

Members who wish to donate time and talent are asked to contact Paula for guidance. "I love talking with members about ways to get involved," she said. "I encourage them to contact me. I can help them find areas that match their needs, gifts and interests."

Volunteering for these unsung heroes is a life-long mission. "I need to keep busy with Monday Night Meals and many other things," Carol said. "If you wait a year, you can do a story on my 30th anniversary."

North Campus Beautification Day

Saturday, July 21, 8:30 am - 12 pm

Join us as work and fun come together. Help clean our North Campus grounds.

Refreshments will be provided. Bring your own gloves and yard tools.

For more information, please contact Pam Jameson at pjameson@FCchurch.com or 614 488.0681 ext 232.

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 lead by Rev. Dr. Richard 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, as well as 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.

Guest Leaders for July Parent Groups

For Dads Only will meet on Tuesday, July 10 at 7 pm in the Guild Room, South Campus. Rev. David Hett will be the guest leader, and will lead "Exploring Masculine Archetypes".

"We will look at the work of Robert Moore, professor of psychology and spirituality at Chicago Theological Seminary, and his basic masculine archetypes of King, Warrior, Magician and Lover," Rev. David Hett said. "If time permits we will also look at masculine archetypal work by spiritual teachers Matthew Fox, Sam Keen and others."

For Moms Only will meet on Monday, July 16 at 7 pm in the Guild Room, South Campus. The guest leader is Kelly Weed Dahl, co-publisher of Sparrow Magazine online and an advocate for mindful living. Her topic is "Creative Tools for Eliminating Overwhelm."

"As mothers, we are all too familiar with the feeling of being overwhelmed. We juggle children's activities, household tasks, demanding careers, relationships with friends and family—not to mention somehow taking care of our own needs. This month at *For Moms Only* you will learn creative tools for dealing with these demands in a supportive environment with other moms who understand."

WISDOM from our CHILDREN

Profound statements are made in our Sunday school. This feature offers insight from our youth.

This summer, the K-5 children are learning about prayer and the many ways we can pray. In exploring "reasons for praying", third and fourth-graders, Megan, Ryan, Conner and Alicia came up with this list:

"When I'm nervous, when I'm scared, when I'm freaked out about a test, when I'm trying to decide the right thing to do and when I just want to talk to God."

Jack noted, "People just need to remember that God gave us brains, and sometimes we just need to remember to use the wisdom and common sense that God gave us."



Registration is now open for the Music and Arts Festival at Akita held August 24-26.

As our Mission Statement explains, "Our mission is to reunite Camp Akita Alumni and raise money for the benefit of Camp Akita and the Camp Akita Scholarship Fund. By hosting a yearly festival of music, art and entertainment we reunite alumni who have shared with us their music, spirit and much more."

We are also seeking additional musicians to perform and artisans to sell their wares. For more information, visit our website at musicandartsfestivalatakita.org or contact Tom White at twhite57@yahoo.com.

Cigar Boxes Needed



Camp Akita is in need of empty cigar boxes to be used in the craft cabin.

This summer, campers will decorate them and then take them home and use them as memory boxes from their experiences at Akita.

Donations can be brought to the North Campus reception desk any time.

firstnews
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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.



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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)