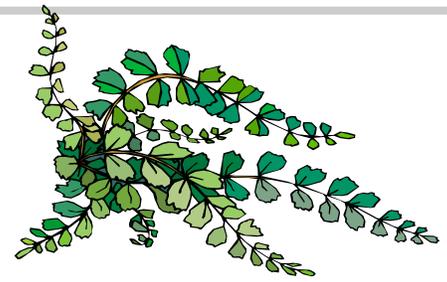




Fairgreen Leaves



Volume 111 Issue VIII

August 2005 Newsletter

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PASTOR'S PAGE

"IVF SNOWFLAKES"

We are told that every snowflake has a unique pattern, all its own, but when we read about the summer discussion of IVF (in vitro fertilization) in Ellen Goodman's article "Snowflakes Personify a Chilling Debate" we could guess that it was not about the weather, although it is about the winds of change. On page 7 (June 13th Toledo Blade) Ms. Goodman writes in response to the news conference of President Bush as he greets a group of 21 children who are wearing T-shirts that read: "FORMER EMBRYO" and "THIS EMBRYO WAS NOT DISCARDED".

Goodman writes, "I don't think I've ever heard quite so much about snowflakes in June. Talk about an odd weather pattern. Could it be the prevailing political winds? This day the weather report began during a photo op of President Bush kissing babies, ...not unusual for politicians except for their printed T-shirts."

These children were dubbed "Snowflakes" by groups that promote what they call "embryo adoption." The photo op followed the House passage of a bill that would let the government pay for research on stem-cell lines derived from leftover embryos stored in fertility clinics. The Senate is expected to pass a similar bill soon, but the President has promised to give it his first-ever veto. The Snowflakes were on hand to show that, in Mr. Bush's words, "there is no such thing as a spare embryo. The alternative is adoption."

...But back to the weather report. Today, there are 400,000 embryos stored in clinics but only 81 "Snowflakes." Photo ops notwithstanding, most couples do not turn to IVF (in vitro fertilization) because they want their genetic offspring to be raised by others (through adoption), and few couples are waiting to be impregnated with others' embryos. Only 4% of the frozen embryos are available for donation—half designated for research and half for infertile couples.

On May 24, 2005 the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill to allow further destruction of human embryos by easing restrictions on human embryonic stem cell research. The 238-194 vote fell far short of enough votes needed to overcome a promised presidential veto. The vote followed some contentious, and at times revealing, debate. In the May '05 issue of the Leaves, I shared an article which was titled "Life and Death Issues" and focused our attention upon national news. Some of you commented on my sharing inputs of a cultural concern, taking a month off from writing about strictly Interim issues. In today's article, I have returned to a theme of national focus, again to raise up a discussion, not to tell you how I believe or how you might choose to believe. Instead I hope we do not miss the debate going on in relation to this "Snowflake" political and social struggle, as it has some input into the national, stem-cell debate, as well. If you would like a copy of Ellen Goodman's article, just ask.

Bob Salmon

Fairgreen Publication Deadlines:

Bulletin—Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. for current week's bulletin.

Newsletter—The 2nd Sunday of each month for next month's newsletter.

THE EPISODES OF EVY GREEN By Deanne Smale



Hi everybody. I'm back. Remember the days when ushers escorted you to your seat at the theater? How we dreaded hearing the words, "You're a little late. Seating in the rear of the auditorium only."

The best seats in the house were always near the front and latecomers had to take the least desirable seating. Now, I'm wondering, why isn't that true in

the church?

Have you ever noticed which part of the sanctuary fills first? I can't tell you it's never the front! We seem to have convoluted thinking. When we're attending a live theater production or a concert, or listening to a favorite speaker, we come early to select the best seats—near front—and we're upset if they're all taken.

In the church however, the opposite seems to be true. The latecomers need to find seating in the front rows. Now, I've been thinking about that. Do you suppose we could make an effort to fill up the front half of the

sanctuary first and leave the back to those who come in late? Wow, what a concept for us as Presbyterians! Imagine when guests attend and see the whole front half of the sanctuary filled! Whatever would they think? Maybe, just maybe, they would think, "Wow, these people are sure excited about their worship service. They want to sit right up front, so they don't miss a thing. I think I'd like to join them."

"Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised...One generation shall praise Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts." (Psalm 145)

FOCUS ON FAIRGREEN AT FORTY By Barb Roadruck

YOU are invited!! Its time to celebrate!

Starting in September, we are going to start our 13 month celebration. That is a lot of cake! We will Focus on Fairgreen's Past, Present, and Future. We are looking for opportunities in sharing Fairgreen's Photos, Memories and Fellowship over the coming "year."

We Need Your Help. Get involved, get connected, get inspired. Help us by sharing your time, talent and fellowship. So dust off your photo albums and share with us. Dust off your typewriter (??) and drop us a line or two of memories of our Fairgreen Family.

To get "inspired", look at our photos online at www.fairgreenchurch.org and <http://homepage.mac.com/chemroad/History>.

Time Line

DATES	EVENTS	LOCATION
March 7, 1965	First Service	Hiawatha Elementary
September 19, 1965	Ground Breaking	Corner of Fairgreen & Laskey
July 3, 1966	First Sunday	Church at present location
October 2, 1966	Dedication Service for the Organ	Fairgreen Church
October 7, 1966	Letter of greetings and best wishes from Governor	From State House in Columbus
October 9, 1966	Dedication Service	Fairgreen Presbyterian Church
Late Spring, 1986	Ground Breaking	Addition to Fairgreen

INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK (IHN) NEWS By The Bennett's



Thank you very much to all who helped in any way with Fairgreen's Host Week, June 19-26. We hosted three families, Pat and Melissa who are expecting a baby in October, Anna and 7 month old Thomas, Ronne and 6 year old Lonasia or "LaLa". Pat and Melissa will be leaving the network shortly. Pat has gotten a job and they have an apartment rented. Another family has come into the network, a mother and 17 year old son.



Don't forget our fundraiser coming up in August. IHN's 6th Annual Golf Scrambles will be held on August 27 at Bedford Hills Golf Course. Lunch is at 12:00 noon and tee time is at 1:00pm. The cost is \$85.00 per golfer or \$320.00 for a foursome. Contact Doug Wiemer at 419-531-6325.

IHN is looking for individuals who have a truck and would be willing to transport donated furniture to our storage facilities. Let us know if you are available.



Fairgreen's next host week is coming up fast this time. It will be August 7-14. We had a delay before the last host week because of the Great Banquet weekends. So we will need volunteers to sign up for various responsibilities.

Congratulations

Congratulations are in order for our director, Karen Swartz who recently married on Saturday, July 9th and will be taking a week off. The Family Center will be staffed by volunteers while she is gone.



Remember, if you shop at Kroger's, see Jan Anderson for Kroger Cares certificates.



IT'S A NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR ADULTS! By Pat Gibson

In April, a group of you met to evaluate our Wednesday evening Yah-Way program. There was both interest and excitement about having adults attend Yah-Way, too! Thus, an invitation is now extended to all adults to come for dinner on Wednesday evening (6:00-6:40pm) and then to meet, in the lounge, for fellowship and Bible/book study

time. (6:40-7:45pm) The children and youth will be joining you from 7:45-8pm for prayer and song.

You are asked to give \$2.00 an evening to cover the cost of the meal. If you are interested in taking part, please contact Darlene Hughes, in the church office, or talk with Pat Gibson by Sunday, August 28 so plans can be made.

Keep in mind that this is a growing-in-Christ opportunity for the whole Fairgreen family with the added extras of not only having good fellowship but of not having to cook meals, at home, or do the dishes!

Yah-Way
Adult Bible Study

MOMENTUM FAMILY DAY AT THE VINES



Fairgreen Presbyterian Church has been invited to join other churches

for a day of fun at the Vine Camp, which is located on Samaria Rd. The event will take place on Saturday, July 30th at 8:00am.

The activities will include swimming, hiking, sand volleyball, hay rides, basketball, skits, food, and did

I mention WORSHIP!

We will have live Worship Music ALL DAY LONG. So come out and join us. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for kids. And if you are a YMCA MAX member, then it is Free.

STATEMENTS OF FAITH

EMILY CRISSMAN

I really wish I was able to share some incredible eye-opening, enlightening moment in my life when I truly first accepted and knew Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior but unfortunately, I don't. For me, it was gradual.

Church was never a big deal until this year! I mean, yeah, I went Christmas Eve and occasionally on other Sundays. As years progressed, I went with a friend every so often until finally I was taking part in youth activities and I began going every Sunday.

I don't see why I wouldn't be a faithful member of the congregation, so, I would give as much of myself in the church as the church has done for me.

After I went to church every Sunday, I made the decision to get

confirmed. Honestly, I didn't truly know what it meant until that first meeting and I knew it was going to be so much bigger. I mean, I know being confirmed meant I was going to join the church but I had no idea it was going to affect me this much as a person.

I remember one night after class. I decided to read some of my Bible. To say my Bible knowledge is limited is an overstatement! However, I came across one specific verse I fell in love with: Hebrews 11:1, "**Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.**"

I pondered over that verse for about half an hour. I thought about what I really have faith in, and it hit me! I have faith in Jesus Christ and I do trust in Him and, of course, I

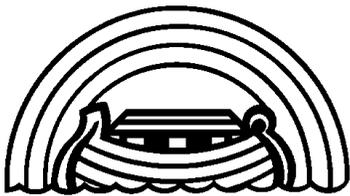
intend to be His disciple, obey His word, and show His love.

In that moment, I finally realized I needed to go the extra mile for Jesus. Who deserves it more than Him?

As I thought about that, I realized this is the most important time in my life, to be able to devote my life to my Lord, to do something so incredible in my life I will never forget; to actually get confirmed!

Now, faith is
being sure
of what we hope for...
Hebrews 11:1

JODI SWARTZ



The rainbow is God's promise to us.

Hi! I'm Jodi Swartz and I know I'm getting confirmed today. I'd like to say how much I love God and believe in Him, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

When I first started confirmation, I didn't really know who Jesus and God

were. What I only knew was that they were the Father and the Son. I figured it out through confirmation class that they were much, much more than that. I mean that, Jesus died for our sins. He sacrificed His life so God could forgive our sins. If it weren't for that-we'd still be unforgiven sinners.

God wants me to know the ABC's:
A-to admit I'm a sinner
B-to believe that Jesus is
God's Son

C-to confess, in faith, that I believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, three in one.

Confirmation has helped me know some stories in the Bible. My favorite is about Noah's ark because the rainbow means God made a promise, or a covenant, to us.

I do want to be a member of Fairgreen Presbyterian Church and I will help out as best as I can.

JUNE SESSION REPORT By Pat Gibson

ACTIONS:

1. To approve Sue Fotoples as our Presbytery Commissioner to the September 20, 2005 meeting in Defiance
2. To approve the Deacon-sponsored "Backpack Project"
3. To approve fund raising from the Deacon-sponsored June 19th Pancake Breakfast and the July 1st Ice Cream Social to be given to the Praise Band to help pay for the registration and lodging at the Praise Gathering in Indianapolis on November 3, 4, 5, 2005
4. To approve the minutes of the Stated Session meeting on May 24, 2005
5. To approve the minutes from the Special Session meeting on June 12, 2005
6. To approve the request of transfer of membership from Fairgreen to Collingwood Presbyterian Church, Toledo, Ohio for Kim Edwards and Marc Savage
7. To approve \$500.00 be donated for Camp Rejoice scholarships (from the Memorial Fund monies)
8. To approve a three-year subscription to The Presbyterian Outlook Magazine, for the church library, in memory of Dick Burtch (from Memorial Fund monies)
9. To approve spending \$300.00 from the Vera Allgower Dennis Memorial Music Fund to fill the request of Shannon Smith, music director, for S-A-T/B (3 part) music for the choir
10. To approve asking individuals to sponsor all or part of a Camp Rejoice camper ship
11. To approve the Treasurer's Reports
12. To approve using the church van from Saturday, July 16 through Saturday, July 23, 2005 for Camp Rejoice transportation with Tim Eichenauer as the certified driver
13. To approve Casual Christian Conversation and fellowship, in the Lounge between services, during the summer
14. To approve Dick Bell to lead a Men's Bible Study-Prayer Group, this summer, using God's Little Instruction Book with details of date and time to be given in regular church communications.
15. To approve meeting adjournment

FINANCIAL SUMMARY By Peg Winslow

YTD Income as of 6/30/05	\$98,204.19
YTD Expense as of 6/30/05	(\$105,837.71)
Operating Loss as of 6/30/05	(\$ 7,633.52)

**A FAIRGREEN CONNECTION By Jean Newton**

To all who have remembered me in their prayers, my name is "Jean from Kentucky". I am Carol Yeager's friend and a former member of Fairgreen. I am doing very well and really appreciate your prayers. I will always have "that connection" to Fairgreen.

**Fairgreen
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419-475-4436**

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Robert E. Salmon
Home Phone
419-537-1948
bobjacsalmon@aol.
com**

**Summer Service Times
9:00 Traditional (Sanctuary)
11:00 Contemporary
(Commons)**

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**We're on the Web!
[www.fairgreenchurch.
org](http://www.fairgreenchurch.org)**



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