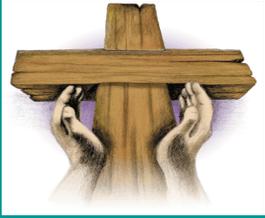


REACHING
THE
COMMUNITY
FOR JESUS!



Fairgreen Leaves



Volume V Issue 12

December 2007 Newsletter

From the Pastor's Desk...

I know that I always say this as we transition from Thanksgiving to Advent but I do not think that I am alone in thinking like this so I will say it again – it can't possibly be time to start a new church year! It can't possibly be the First Sunday in Advent but I do know that it is and I know that this Sunday does indeed herald a new year in the life of the church. I also know that one of the reasons that I like this season of the church year, even though I am never thoroughly prepared, is because it not only gives all of us a chance to remember the gift of Jesus our Christ whose birth we remember and we celebrate it gives us a chance to start over. It gives us a chance to read the old familiar stories as we re-dedicate ourselves to the Triune God who gifted us with Jesus and it gives us the opportunity to continue to prepare are ourselves for the time that Christ will come again.

Our theme for the Advent/Christmas/Epiphany season this year will be the **Gifts of Christmas**. During the weeks ahead the children will be invited to find a special gift each Sunday and then sit with me as I unwrap the gifts as we explore the various gifts of the season. The various gifts that we will explore during worship in Word and music are:

Sunday, December 2 ~ Christmas: the Gift of the Word

Installation Service for Rev. Pat; the Rev. Encie Stevens will preach

Texts: Psalm 122, John 1: 1-18

Communion will be celebrated; the Choir and the Praise Band will both participate

Sunday, December 9 ~ Christmas: the Gift of Hope and Comfort

Texts: Isaiah 40: 1-11, John 10: 1-8; The Praise Band will provide the music

Sunday, December 16 ~ Christmas: the Gift of Life

Texts: Haggai 2: 6-9, John 6: 35-59

Communion will be celebrated by Intinction; the Choir will sing

Sunday, December 23 ~ Christmas: the Gift of Gifts

See article on page 3 for the details of this service and the ways you can participate with your gifts

Monday, December 24 ~ Christmas: the Gift of Light

Texts: Isaiah 9: 2-7, Matthew 1: 18-25

This will be our traditional Candlelight Service of Word and Music

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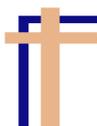
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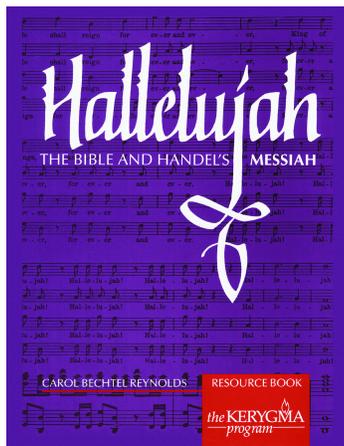
NEXT MONTHS NEWSLETTER DEADLINE ~ December 16, 2007



*Maumee Valley Presbytery
cordially invites you to
join the celebration as
Rev. Pat Lawrence Shafer
is installed as
Pastor of
Fairgreen Presbyterian Church
on Sunday, December 2, 2007
at 10:00am
3220 W. Laskey Rd.
(Secor Rd. at Laskey)
Toledo, Ohio 43613
419-4754436*

**Coffee Hour following the service*

New Advent Study-Hallelujah: The Bible and Handel's Messiah



Many of us have both listened to and sung Handel's *Messiah* over the years. How many of us have truly taken the time to reflect upon or to study the words of one of the best-loved musical compositions of all time? We are offering you the opportunity to do just that with a new Advent/Lenten Bible study which will be lead by Rev. Pat. In this study we are going to take advantage of our love of this music and use it as an avenue into the biblical texts on which *Messiah* is based.

This Kerygma course is designed to deepen our appreciation of both the words and the music of Handel's *Messiah*. Because it is primarily a Bible study curriculum, our focus will naturally be on the Bible. Yet it would be a waste of resources to concentrate only on the biblical texts without some attention to how they are interpreted musically in *Messiah*. So, we will be exploring both. The good news is that you do not have to be an expert in either music of the Bible to benefit from this course.

We will start this new study the very first Sunday of Advent, December 2nd. Since this will be a busy Sunday what with Rev. Pat's installation and the coffee hour we will not begin our class until 12 noon. The other 3 weeks of Advent we will begin at 11:15 am and go until 12:15 pm. We will continue with Part 2 of this study during the season of Lent beginning on Sunday, February 10th.

Little Drummer Boy Sunday By Cindy Smith

Please join our congregation at Sunday worship Service on December 23rd at 10:00am, the 4th Sunday of Advent. We're having a quiet participatory worship service with special children's music. It's a service in which all can take part by bringing "gifts" for the Baby Jesus to place around the chancel.

You can choose to take part in several ways that morning, according to your preferences:



Christmas

Bring a baby shower gift to church that morning. Donate a package of diapers, infant chew toys, bath items, receiving blankets, etc. These gifts will be donated to charity after Christmas to bless local families with need. Items should be new and in original packaging. You may deliver your gift to the chancel before or after service that day, and there will also be an opportunity during the service for you to come forward with your shower gift.

Present a personal offering: a short piece of music, a poem to read, an artistic rendering to place on the chancel. These gifts will be integrated into the order of service, so see Cindy Smith by Thursday, December 13th regarding your interest in participating in this way. This would be a wonderful way to honor the Child.

Offer a private gift of thanks or dedication: in the offertory that day, place a piece of paper (these blank papers will be on the pew seats that morning) with a particular gift or talent of yours written down that you wish to offer in praise of God and thanks for His Son in the coming year. These may be anonymous notes and intentions. These notes will be prayed over, shredded, and mixed with potting soil to be used in the gardens and plantings around the church so that these written thanks and wishes may "flower".

Please be in prayer about the ways you would like to bring your gifts before the Lord that morning as we await Christmas together.

Tent City Receives Socks By Julie Murray

October 24th, 2007 was a hilariously haunting time here in the Commons of Fairgreen... There was boogieing everywhere with the smooth moves of DJ Jeff Skinner-and the creepy cuisine created by Cook Carol Yeager, hit the spot while the bubbling brew fashioned from Witch Julie was spellbinding in itself...this has become an annual event! But on to the most important part, as admission, we asked people to bring new socks for the homeless population in Toledo. We collected 72 brand new pairs of socks and they were delivered to people in need at the Tent City homeless recognition celebration held in Downtown Toledo on November 2nd. I am sure you know how important our feet are, especially when one is homeless. Thanks were plentiful for Fairgreen who was recognized there also!





DEACON'S CORNER

We appreciate everyone who took their time and volunteered to help as well as those who came out to support our recent events.

- ✓ Our Election Day Bake/Book/Craft/Lunch Sale earned \$356.
- ✓ The Silent Auction earned \$1,624 to be used for our food distribution programs-baskets, pantry, and Caring Cupboard monthly dinner distribution.
- ✓ The net proceeds of the Pasta Dinner were \$601.



We have increased the stock of Scrip cards. Please stop by the Welcome Center on Sundays or contact Darlene in the office during the week. If we don't have it in stock we can usually get it for you within the week.

The Angel Tree is now up in the Narthex. Please choose an angel listing an item needed for Christmas gifts to accompany the food baskets. On the writing pad at the Welcome Center please sign your name next to the listing of the item you took. Please return the wrapped gift, with the angel attached, to the Narthex by Monday, December 10th. We will also be wrapping gifts on December 13th and 14th. Volunteer wrappers are welcome.



DEACON'S CHRISTMAS BASKET PACKING

Christmas baskets will be packed on Thursday, December 20th beginning at noon and continuing all afternoon and also basket delivery will be on Friday, December 21st. Volunteers are needed for packing and delivery of the baskets.

Several Special Thank You's To Fairgreen Church

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers. I would also like to say thank you for the beautiful flowers, cards, and the arrangements that were made to get Sandi (my cock-a-poo) groomed. Sincerely, Kay Monroe



Once again this Fairgreen loving family has been there when I needed them. My heartfelt thanks for the many kindnesses shown to me the last six or more weeks after I broke my wrist. Thanks for the cards, calls and homemade meals. However, despite what Dan Yeager might have told you, my fall was not the result of dancing on the table. Although, it now seems to have been a task that could have waited until the morning light--to find a dropped earring. I shall always be grateful that I am so fortunate to be a member of Fairgreen Church and one of the most caring church families anyone will ever know. Sincerely, Marj Heaton

The family of Sam Tippin would like to thank the Fairgreen Congregation for all the support and love that was given to them during Sam's illness. The funeral dinner that was provided by the Deacon's was much appreciated. Thank you all and God Bless. Sincerely, Dolores Tippin and Family

Mountaintop Great Banquet Thanks Fairgreen By Mike Roadruck

The Mountaintop Great Banquet Community thanks the Fairgreen Presbyterian Church and it's members for once again opening their hearts and facilities. The October Banquets reached 24 new members opening deeper relationships with our Lord Jesus Christ. We recognize the sacrifice and impact especially upon the adult Sunday School classes the fall banquets these two weekends involve. We pray that you will receive God's greatest blessings as these souls, both team and guests, reach ever closer communion with almighty God.



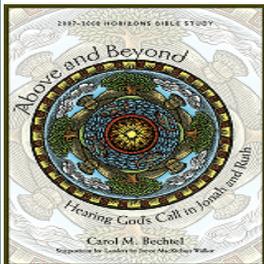
Let your light shine!
Matthew 5:14-16

Evangelism is the joyous witness of the people of God to God's redeeming love, which urges repentance and reconciliation to God and each other through faith in Jesus Christ--who lived, died, and was raised from the dead.

Through renewal with Jesus, believers are empowered by the Holy Spirit and incorporated into the church for worship, fellowship, nurture, and engagement as disciples in God's mission of evangelization and liberation within society and creation, signifying the Kingdom that is present and yet to come.

(Official definition of evangelism, adopted by American Baptist Churches USA in 1984) If this sounds like a call which God is placing upon your heart contact Mike Roadruck, chair of the ASD committee at 419-536-1231.

Taking Up Space In A Fish Named Grace



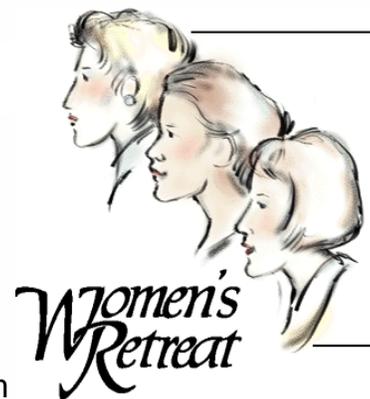
Come on Monday, January 28th from 7-9pm in the church lounge and join the Alpha Omega Bible Study as we study Lesson 4, "Once more, with feeling?" You can ponder the story ahead of time, the lesson is in Jonah, Chapter 3. Just a reminder that we will not be meeting in December.

It's Coming!! What? By Pat Gibson

Thanksgiving? Yes! (But that's not it!)
Christmas? Yes! (But that's not it, either!)
Super Bowl Sunday? (You are right, it is coming, but try one more time!)

The Fairgreen Women's Retreat? (Bingo!! You've got it!!)

Mark your 2008 calendar for Friday, February 22, 7pm through Saturday, February 23, 3pm, at the Lial Center in Whitehouse, Ohio. The cost will be \$25.00. Scholarships are available. There will be more information after the beginning of the new year!





SESSION ACTIONS FOR NOVEMBER By Peg Winslow

Motion #1: To approve Rev. Shafer's vacation request for December 25, 2007 through January 2, 2008. M/S/P

Motion #2: To offer the ASAH congregation use of our Sanctuary for their services and a room for a weeknight Bible study, on a trial period through February 2008, with a fee of \$50 per week. M/S/P

Motion #3: To approve the minutes of the Special Session meeting held October 21, 2007.

Motion #4: To approve the minutes of the Congregational Meeting held November 4, 2007. M/S/P

Motion #5: To approve the recommendation from the Memorial Committee to purchase a Chime Master Silver Millennium Carillon System for a price up to \$9,000. M/P

Motion #6: To approve the recommendation from the Personnel Committee that the hours for the bookkeeper be increased from ten to twelve hours per week and the hours for the custodian be increased from fifteen to eighteen hours per week. M/P

Motion #7: To approve the recommendation from the Personnel Committee that a 3% cost of living increase be given to each employee for 2008 (except Rev. Pat, whose terms of call are set by the Congregation). M/P

Motion #8: To receive all Session Committee reports received. M/S/P

Motion #9: To adjourn.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY By Peg Winslow

YTD Income as of 10/31/07	\$ 163,471.72
YTD Expense as of 10/31/07	(\$ 160,776.34)
Operating Income as of 10/31/07	2,695.38
Repay 2006 Loan to Capital Fund	(\$10,000.00)
Net Loss after Loan Repayment	(\$ 7,304.62)





MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

Come join us in the lounge on Saturday, December 15 from 8-9am for a Continental Breakfast as we fellowship together and grow in Christ as we study the book of Acts. We encourage you to bring your bibles and to invite a friend. If you have any questions call Mike Roadruck at (419-536-1231)



FELLOWSHIP, PRAYER, STUDY



Fairgreen's Hanging of the Greens

Wednesday, December 5th at 6:00pm. Supper will be served at 6:30pm.

**Sunday, December 16th
Great Banquet Board Meeting 4:30pm and Gathering at 6pm**



Let your light shine!
Matthew 5:14-16



God's Greatest Gift Of Christmas

Come Join Us!

Sunday, December 23rd at 10:00am, where we will have special children's music. You won't want to miss this wonderful opportunity of bringing gifts for Baby Jesus. See article inside this newsletter.



Christmas Eve Service

Monday, December 24th at 7:00pm

The Church Office will be Closed on Tuesday, December 25th and Tuesday, January 1st.



Fairgreen
Presbyterian Church
3220 W. Laskey Rd.
Toledo, Ohio 43613
419-475-4436

Rev. Pat Shafer
Home Phone
419-534-3739
Email address:
revpat44@sbcglobal.
net

Worship Service

10:00 AM

Coffee Hour

11:00 AM

Office Hours

Monday-Friday
8:30am —2:00pm

Fax: 419-475-6404

E-mail address:
fairgreen.church@
sbcglobal.net

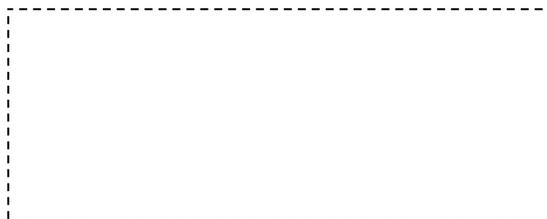
We're on the Web!
www.fairgreenchurch.org



Fairgreen
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3220 W. Laskey Rd.
Children ages 3 & 4
For information call:
419-475-5367
Terri Turner

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O Come Let Us Adore Him
The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among humanity,
To make music in the heart.