

REACHING
THE
COMMUNITY
FOR JESUS!



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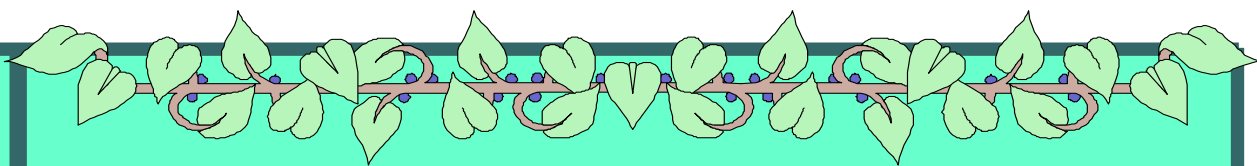
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Fairgreen Leaves

Volume VI Issue 1

January 2008 Newsletter

From the Pastor's Desk...

It was in the early morning hours on Christmas Day that I found myself returning to the church to get a few books that I had forgotten to take with me when I left after worship the night before. I was amazed at just how quiet the church was as the sky began to lighten on that crisp and cold Christmas morn. After weeks of preparation and busyness there was absolute stillness. It was even too early for the new chimes to be ringing although I was tempted to go over and ring them. But I did not. Instead I made my way over to the sanctuary; turned on just the cross light and the tree lights; and sat in the stillness of our sacred space and re-read the Christmas story.

Once again the words from Luke's gospel jumped out at me, "... and Mary pondered all these things in her heart!" After all that had happened, after all the preparation and busyness Mary sat and pondered all these things in her heart! After the visits by angels, after the journey to see Elizabeth, after the journey to Bethlehem with Joseph; after the search for a place to stay; after the birth of her child, God's child; after the visit by the angels; Mary stopped to ponder all that had happened.

As I sat in that silent sanctuary I not only pondered the story I pondered all that had happened in just the few weeks leading up to our joy-filled Christmas Eve celebration. What a journey we, too, have been on, a journey full of activities and events and people. First there was our installation service; then the hanging of the greens; the study on the Handel's Messiah; the weekly unwrapping of the gifts of Christmas even though the weather kept us all home on one Sunday; there was all the practicing of the Christmas programs by our Pre-school children and then there wonderful Christmas programs orchestrated by Terri and her dedicated staff as hundreds of parents and grandparents came to applaud and take pictures; that was followed by our own children preparing for our "Little Drummer Boy Sunday" where we all, from the youngest to the oldest, brought our gifts to Jesus; there was the preparing, the packing and the delivering of the Christmas baskets with all the Angel Tree gifts; and then finally on Christmas Eve there was worship as well as homecoming as friends and family that had not seen one another in some time gathered not only to worship and celebrate the gift of our Savior but to greet and to catch up with each other. Wow! The church was busy day and night for weeks! And then there was sheer silence on Christmas morn. It was a good time, a wonderful time, to ponder and to give God thanks for all the gifts of Christmas that we/that I had experienced during the season.

NEXT MONTHS NEWSLETTER DEADLINE ~ January 20, 2008

You and I know that we should never stop pondering or giving thanks to God. As we journey into the newness of yet another year, I pray that each of us will find time to ponder the gift of the Christ Child that we have been given. But I pray that we do not stop there. As I said on Christmas Eve in order for the gift of Christmas to truly make a difference in our lives and in our world we need to let Christ's love continue to grace us. We need to follow Christ all the way through his life to the cross in order for us to truly understand the gift we celebrate on Christmas Eve. Ponder the gift of manger and the gift the cross; let the gift change your life as you grow into the Spirit-filled faith that we have been blessed with. Don't pack the gift away with the Christmas decorations. Carry the joy and blessings of Christmas with you as your journey into the newness of this New Year.

Blessings, Rev. Pat

Snow Emergencies

SNOW EMERGENCIES – Hopefully we will not need to worry about this again but just a few words about what to do when in doubt on snowy Sunday mornings or wintry meeting nights.

1. If there is a **Level 2 Snow Emergency** in the City of Toledo or Lucas County there will be no church services or activities.
2. If church is to be canceled, the **3 Television stations** will be notified and it will be posted there. (I did this the last time but only Channel 11 actually posted our cancellation; we don't know why.)
3. If you are in doubt call **Rev. Pat at 419-215-2939 (cell) or 419-534-3739**. (I do not mind being called at home as early as 6 pm on Sunday morning. If you call my cell and I am in transit or already at church you will be sure to reach me.

Thank You By Rev. Pat

THANK YOU – I don't know why I continue to be surprised by the surprising things that you all do but I am! You all touched my heart again with your presence, presents, support, prayers and encouragement on the day of my installation as you pastor. The entire day was wonderful but I was especially touched by all your cards and notes as well as "the gift!" I have indeed ordered a new white robe which should arrive the middle of January. I also purchased a "Fairgreen stole." For those of you who were able to be here on the 23rd of December and Christmas Eve you have seen it. As you know each one of my stoles has been a gift and each one tells a story, many of which I have shared with you. My new Fairgreen stole is an Advent/Christmas/Epiphany stole; it is blue and white with a wonderful dove on one panel; on the other panel there is simply one word – **JOY** – in bright blue letters. I chose this stole as my "Fairgreen stole" because you all, as a church, have helped me to not only re-discover the joy of my ministry, but you have helped me to grow in my faith which has brought an even fuller sense of the joy of my Lord and Savior. You, through your love, support, encouragement and acceptance, have filled my heart with such a wonderful sense of joy. ***How could I not choose a joy-filled stole to represent the journey that we are on together?***

DEACON'S CORNER



What a blessing to be able to pack 32 Christmas Baskets from the Fairgreen Congregation!! Thank you to **all** who purchased "just the right" gift for a child, made hats and scarves, donated food and turkeys, and brought in other items of all kinds. AND thank you to Dee Smale, Anna Jones, Kay Amendola, Agnes McKinstry, Chris Roebuck, Betty Wolff, and Woody Cole who aided the Deacons in packing the baskets on Dec. 20. Not only did the families receive baskets full of food, bread, meat, and produce, but they were able to "shop" for some extra coats, clothing and toys. God certainly graced us with the opportunity to give to the community and to those in need.

A Warm Thank You to all the "angels" who continue to drop off bags of food for the Food Pantry. Grocery bags of vegetables, fruits, soups, crackers, tuna, macaroni and cheese, etc. seem to "amazingly appear" in the Narthex or by the Food Pantry. The weekly need continues to be great; the Deacons are grateful for the extra giving.

The Deacons thank all those who supported the purchasing of Scrip Cards in December. Happily, our sales "surged" and we were able to order even more stock to keep on hand. We have determined that these sales are successful enough to continue selling Scrip in 2008!! The percentage of profits from Scrip go to Deacon programs such as funding for IHN and giving to other Missions and needs.



Fairgreen Women's Retreat By Pat Gibson

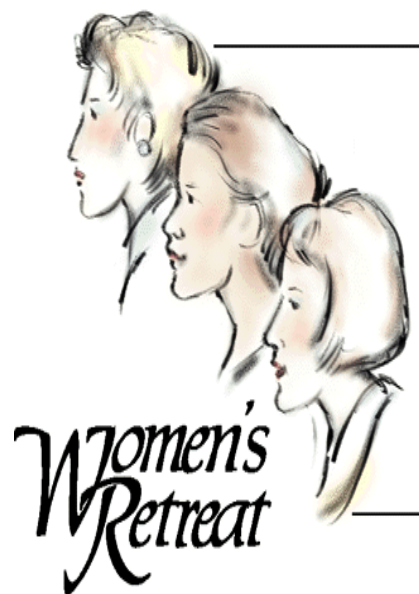
"To Behold the Beauty of the Lord..."
Psalm 27:4
(NRSV)

Come join us for the Fairgreen Women's Retreat
 On Friday, February 22, 7pm to
 Saturday, February 23, 3pm
 At the Lial Retreat Center in
 Whitehouse, Ohio

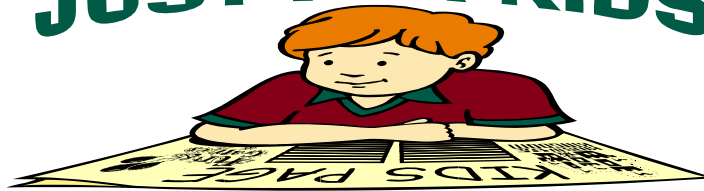
What does the word "behold" mean?
 (We read it several times in the Advent/Christmas scriptures.)
 What do we mean by the "Lord's beauty"?

Where do we find it?
 What do we do with it?
 Why focus on it?

Cost: \$25.00
 Scholarships are available.



JUST FOR KIDS

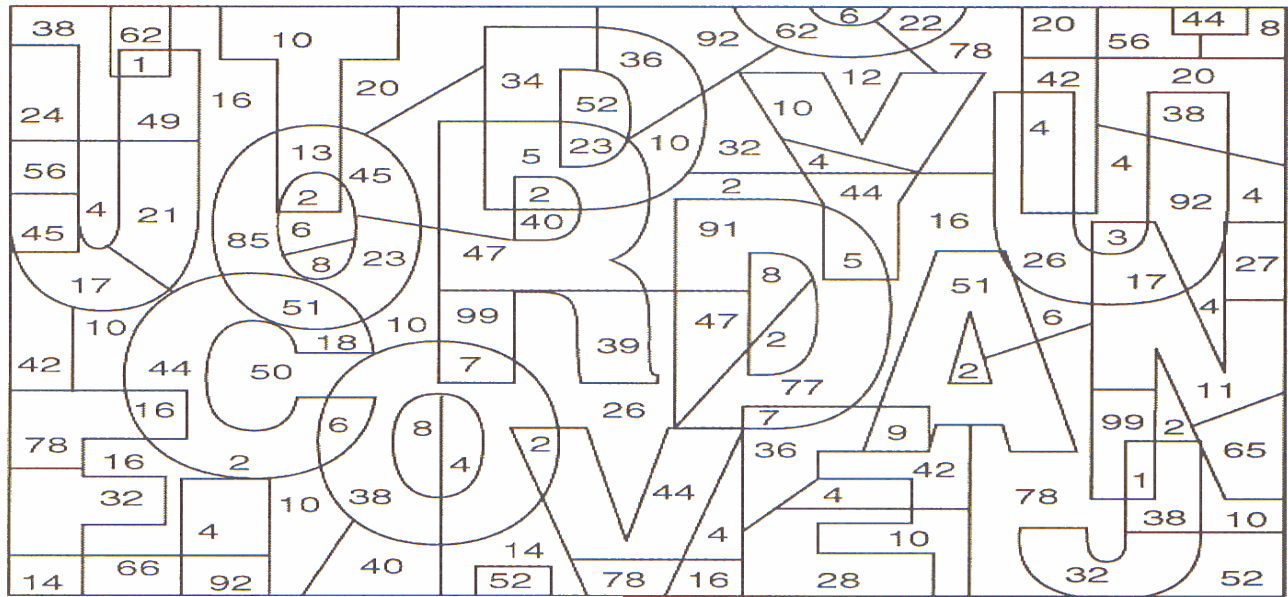


Jesus Is Baptized



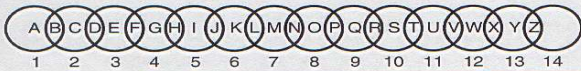
Jesus came from Galilee.
Where was He headed?

Shade in the shapes that have odd numbers.



What happened next?
A voice from heaven said ...

Use the code to find the words that came from heaven.



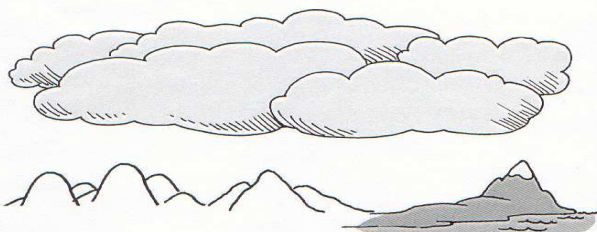
10,11 4,5 5 10 5 10 7 13

10 8 7,8 12 4,5 8 7

5 6,7 8 11,12 3

12 5 10,11 4,5 4,5 5 7 5 1 7

12 3 6,7 6,7 8,9 6,7 3 1 10 3 2,3



Why did Jesus go to the Jordan River?

Find out below. The code is:

Z	Y	X	W	V	U	T	S	R	Q	P	O	N	M	L	K	J	I	H	G	F	E	D	C	B	A
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

7 12 25 22

25 26 11 7 18 1 22 23



25 2

17 12 19 13

7 19 22



25 26 11 7 18 8 7

Family Promise/IHN By Marilyn McAfee



Hello, Happy New Year and blessings to all of you! Family Promise is about to begin another year and to show you how much your continued commitment to this mission means, following is a letter from Elizabeth Tore, Executive Director of Family Promise. "Because of YOU, in 2007 we served 17 families, 20 adults and 37 children – 57 people. 13 of the 37 children were 5 or younger. 15 of the 17 families were single, female head-of household. 3 families remain in the program right now. 11 families moved into permanent housing upon leaving the Network. 3 moved in with family and 3 are MIA.

This is the 15th year of Family Promise, IHN in Toledo, and over these years we have served more than 1,000 people. Statistically, we have been serving fewer people each year, because they are staying in the shelter for a much longer time. In 2006, they stayed an average of 59 days. In 1999, the average stay was closer to 23 days. Today, there is a lack of affordable housing, and an increased need for low-income housing. More people are falling on hard times, and there are fewer jobs and fewer resources to help them. Each day we receive calls from families that we have to turn away because there just isn't enough space to accommodate them all. There are only 4 family shelters in town (not including the 2 specifically for domestic violence) and collectively, we have not been able to fill the need in Toledo this year.

I am grateful for the time and energy that each of you puts into this mission. I know how strongly you believe in Family Promise. I also know how difficult it is to work with those who vocally oppose your church supporting Family Promise, IHN – and every church in our network has a few people like this. Thank you for helping to offer these families your hospitality and giving them hope in such a difficult time in their lives."

Josie, a former guest with 5 children moved into housing on November 13 after three months in our shelter. She was so thankful, that she sent the following note: *"I am very happy that we finally have a home, but at one point, I wasn't sure if I could hold on. But I am glad I did. With God's strength and people he placed around me, it finally happened. Thanks for being there when I needed it!"*

I received a Christmas card and note from Becky, a former guest of several years ago. Becky and Darren with two children found themselves homeless. Darren struggled with alcohol, Becky worked various jobs. Darren, with help, no longer drinks and has a good job. Becky, who had breast cancer three years ago wrote: *"Just to catch you up on things, we are all doing well. I am still cancer free and we had a baby last year on Thanksgiving. We bought a house in February and it is nice; a lot nicer than the one we were renting."* Truly, it is the hands of God touching their lives. Families like Josie's and Becky's are the reason we do what we do. They are the reason we open our church homes to help them through a tough time in their lives.

On October 30, 2007 we prepared and served dinner to four families or 18 people at Pilgrim church. This was the last time in 2007 that we helped host. Thanks go out to Jean Burtch, Connie Winslow, Nancy McPherson and Carol Yeager for extending their love by providing a hot meal and fellowship with the families. Thanks to Kim Jensen for spending the night, giving up a comfortable bed in exchange for a blow-up mattress on the church floor – how great is that! We just learned that the Padua Center will not join the Network as a Host next year. This creates holes in the 2008 schedule. A special committee is being developed to actively approach churches about Family Promise/IHN to secure additional host and support congregations. If you know churches that may be willing to try hosting, please contact Elizabeth Tore or me. Could we, at Fairgreen, host just one week each year? Just a thought!

Thanks again for your participation in purchasing the fresh Fraser Fir wreaths. They are truly a beautiful buy benefiting Family Promise and its mission. Fairgreen had the most sales – 49 wreaths! As we begin 2008, let us not forget that everyone has a home, that all tummies are full and that most families long for the love and understanding from others. Your continued confidence in the work of this mission never goes un-noticed and is always appreciated.

December Session Actions By Peg Winslow

Motion #1: To approve the minutes of the Stated Session meeting held October 9, 2007. M/P/C

Motion #2: To approve the minutes of the Stated Session meeting held November 20, 2007, with one correction. M/P/C

Motion #3: Accepting that it is the will of God at this time, we approved the 2008 Operating Fund budget. M/P/C

Motion #4: To approve the use of the church van for the Sr. High on December 21, 2007. M/P/C

Motion #5: To approve the use of the church van for a Jr. High field trip in December, 2007 (date to be determined). M/P/C

Motion #6: To receive all Session Committees reports received. M/S/P

2008 Per Capita Apportionment by Anna Jones

The year 2008 per capita apportionment is \$26.50 per person. There will be a per capita giving envelope in the offering envelope packet that you have received. We ask that you wait until after the first of the year to pay your per capita. Thank you.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY By Peg Winslow

YTD Income as of 11/31/07	\$ 180,392.29
YTD Expense as of 11/31/07	<u>(\$ 175,703.15)</u>
Operating Income as of 11/31/07	\$4,689.14
Repay 2006 Loan to Capital Fund	(\$20,000.00)
Net Loss after Loan Repayment	(\$15,310.86)



MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

Come join us in the lounge on Saturday, January 12th 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



Installation of Officers

**Ordination and
Installation of
Officer's set for
Sunday, January 13th
during the service.**

2007 Annual Report

All written and financial reports need to be turned into the church office no later than Monday, January 14, 2008.



Let your light shine!
Matthew 5:14-16

**Sunday,
January 20,
2008
Great Banquet
Board Meeting
4:30pm and
Gathering at 6pm**

A New Year's Poem

**Instead of making a New Year's resolution
Consider committing to a biblical solution
Your promises are easily broken
Empty words, though earnestly spoken
But God's Word transforms the soul
By His Holy Spirit making you whole
As you spend time alone with Him
He will change you from within**

-- Mary Fairchild

**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**

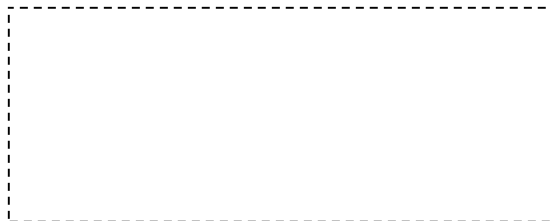
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Terri Turner**

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