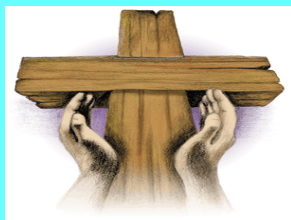


REACHING  
THE  
COMMUNITY  
FOR JESUS!



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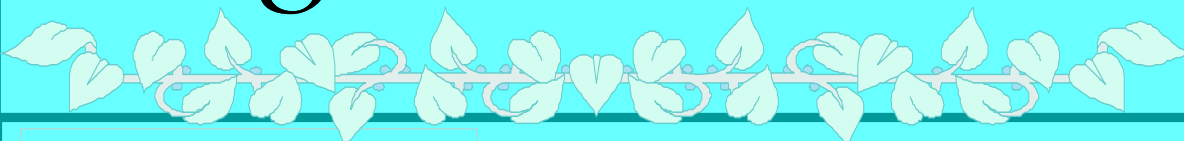
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# Fairgreen Leaves



Volume VI Issue 3

March 2008 Newsletter

## *From the Pastor's Desk...*

### **Lent and Easter Worship Schedule**

As we continue our journey through Lent into the Easter Season there is still a variety of worship and spiritual growth opportunities. It is not too late to be intentional about walking with your brothers and sisters in Christ as together we explore and grow into our relationship with Lord through study, worship and prayer.

Our Lenten Suppers will continue for the next three Wednesdays. We gather at 6:30 pm in the Commons for a simple soup meal (thanks Woody and Jean for coordinating all of this) and then we journey to the sanctuary for a casual worship service during which we explore the symbols of Lent and celebrate Holy Communion. Our remaining schedule is as follows:

March 5  
March 12

The Robe and Dice  
The Nails and Crown

On Sunday morning we have been exploring a variety of texts from the gospels of both Matthew and John looking for God's messages of "Hope Unfolding." Our remaining schedule for our 10:00 AM Sunday worship services is as follows:

**March 2 ~** Fourth Sunday of Lent ~ Seeing Differently  
(1 Samuel 16: 1-13 and John 9: 1-41)

Letting God's Light shine as we marvel at God's surprising ways  
The Geneva Choir will sing.

**March 9 ~** Fifth Sunday of Lent ~ These Bones Live!  
(Ezekiel 37: 1-14 and John 11: 1-45)

How do we rise to the new life that God gives?  
Communion will be celebrated by Intinction and  
the Praise Band will provide the special music.

**NEXT MONTHS NEWSLETTER DEADLINE ~ March 16, 2008**

# **HOLY WEEK** **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**March 16 ~ Palm/Passion Sunday** ~ Growing Conviction (The passion according to Matthew)  
 Welcoming Jesus as we experience the stories of Jesus' last days in Jerusalem  
 A variety of church members will read the scripture; we will have a Palm Parade;  
 Both the Geneva Choir and the Praise Band will participate in the interactive worship service.

**March 20, Maundy Thursday** ~ The Symbols of Lent: The Loaf and Cup  
 Supper at 6:30 pm; Worship at 7:15 pm  
 Holy Communion will be celebrated and  
 there will be a special reading of the Passion Story as well as Special Music.

**March 21** ~ Good Friday Service at Noon  
 Pilgrim Church, 1375 Sylvania Avenue, Toledo  
 Northwest Ohio Cluster Ecumenical Worship Service  
 Watch for additional information in upcoming bulletins.

**March 22** ~ Great Vigil of Easter Service  
 Worship – 7 pm  
 This will be a music-filled worship experience with lots of interaction and participation.  
 Come to celebrate this service of Light, Word, Baptism and Communion

## **Easter Sunday ~ March 23**

**Easter Sunrise Service – 7:00 am**  
 In the Garden at Fairgreen (Weather Permitting)  
 Texts: Psalm 118; Jeremiah 31: 1-6 and Matthew 28: 1-10  
 The Message: When Easter Begins  
 Join us for a simple Easter Breakfast following the service

**Resurrection of the Lord Easter Service – 10:00 am**  
 Texts: Acts 10: 34-43 or Jeremiah 31: 1-6; Psalm 114; Matthew 28: 1-10 or Luke 24: 13-49  
 Our Theme: Hope Unfolded – Joining in the Story!  
 Both the Geneva Choir and the Praise Band will help us glorify the Lord on Easter morning

Don't forget we have two spirit-filled Adult Classes to choose from on Sunday Morning at 11:15am.  
 Faith Sharing Class - Connie Winslow, convener (In the church library)  
 Kerygma, Handel's Messiah - Rev. Pat, convener (In the church lounge)

## GOD SONGS

### God Songs

Rattle of cart wheels, scuffle of feet, beep of the scanner,  
 shuffle of bills and clink of coins at the checkout.  
 Rustle of plastic with the unpacking  
 pineapple, melons, grapes and blueberries.  
 Whack of the knife on the hardwood board  
 hulling strawberries for the retreat.  
 Enough time, enough gas, enough money for food to share  
 one more time

God Songs

Guitar and clarinet,  
 virtuoso fingers flying over the clavino keys,  
 drum and cymbal weaving in and around and supporting the melody.  
 The words, the rhythm and the exalting sets my body and spirit  
 soaring heavenward, reconnected as joy and reverence fills me.

God Songs



The agony of trying over and over to  
 get the music right as written as we willing  
 but less trained geriatrics struggle to get  
     the key, the notes,  
     the timing, the dynamics,  
         the words precise, the cutoffs together,  
         the tempo as marked.

The few well trained voices must sometimes despair.  
 But always Shannon nudges, encourages,  
 endlessly and patiently repeats and guides  
 chooses music to fit those he has to work with.  
 And sometimes it all comes together to God's glory  
 and sometimes it almost does.  
 But God accepts it all as it is meant,  
 a labor of love from less than perfect servants.  
 And all the effort of practice, the struggles, the frustrations  
 and triumphs even the climbing on unwilling legs those  
 steep choir loft stairs are our offering to the Lord.

God Songs

## **A Carpenter And His Glasses** (Food for Thought)



My Mother's father worked as a carpenter. On this particular day, he was building some crates for the clothes his church was sending to orphanages in China.

On his way home, he reached into his shirt pocket to find his glasses, but they were gone. When he mentally replayed his earlier actions, he realized what had happened; the glasses had slipped out of his pocket unnoticed and fallen into one of the crates, which he had nailed shut.

His brand new glasses were heading for China!

The Great Depression was at its height and Grandpa had 6 children. He had spent \$20 for those glasses that very morning. He was upset by the thought of having to buy another pair. "It's not fair," he told God as he drove home in frustration "I've been very faithful in giving of my time and money to your work, and now this."

Months later, the director of the orphanage was on furlough in the United States. He wanted to visit all the churches that supported him in China, so he came to speak one Sunday at my grandfather's church in Chicago.

The missionary began by thanking the people for their faithfulness in supporting the orphanage. "But most of all," he said, "I must thank you for the glasses you sent last year. You see, the Communists had just swept through the orphanage, destroying everything, including my glasses. I was desperate. Even if I had the money, there was simply no way of replacing those glasses. Along with not being able to see well, I experienced headaches every day, so my coworkers and I were much in prayer about this."

"Then your crates arrived. When my staff removed the covers, they found a pair of glasses lying on top." The missionary paused long enough to let his words sink in. Then, still gripped with the wonder of it all, he continued: "Folks, when I tried on the glasses, it was as though they had been custom made just for me! I want to thank you for being a part of that."

The people listened, happy for the miraculous glasses. But the missionary surely must have confused their church with another, they thought. There were no glasses on their list of items to be sent overseas.

But sitting quietly in the back, with tears streaming down his face, an ordinary carpenter realized the Master Carpenter had used him in an extraordinary way.

There are times we want to blame God instead of thanking him!

"People are like teabags, you have to put them in hot water before you know how strong they are."

## DEACON'S CORNER

Everyone is invited to join us for a Palm Sunday Breakfast on Sunday, March 16th before or after the worship service. Breakfast will be served between 8:30am - 10:00am and 11:15am - 12:30pm. There will be pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausages, fruit, coffee cake, coffee, tea, and hot chocolate.



### Looking Ahead At Upcoming Events:

Spring Ladies Tea on Saturday, May 3rd at 1:30pm

Father's Day Breakfast on Sunday, June 15th

New Fairgreen Presbyterian Church Pictorial coming!

## LOOKING AHEAD

### Food Donations:

Thank you to those who have donated food to the food pantry. There is a great need for many this winter and it is very much appreciated. Please continue to bring whatever you can. Some of the items needed for the pantry shelves are: chicken noodle soup, tomato soup, saltine crackers, macaroni and cheese, pastas, canned fruits, canned vegetables, canned tuna and stews, peanut butter, paper towels, toilet paper, tissues, shampoo and other hygiene items.



### Heifer Project:

Please continue to save your cancelled postage stamps and bring them to church! They can be placed in the Deacons mailbox or left at the Welcome Center. Help us stamp out hunger!

## Financial Summary by Peg Winslow

<b>Year To Date Income as of 1/31/08</b>	<b>\$17,560.66</b>
<b>Year To Date Expenses as of 1/31/08</b>	<b>(\$14,683.31)</b>
<b>Operating Income as of 1/31/08</b>	<b>\$ 2,877.35</b>





## MS WALK By Barb Roadruck

**You Are Invited!**

**To Join Kay's Angels from 8am-10am on Sunday, April 6, 2008**

**At University of Toledo Health Education Building**

**For a pleasant 1, 5, or 10 mile walk around the beautiful UT neighborhood.**



walk to  
create a world  
free of MS

Please join us as we raise money for the 2008 Northwestern Ohio Walk MS event.

### Why We Fight MS?



Having multiple sclerosis means that you may not be able to walk when you wake up. Or that you may suddenly have impaired vision. Or that your memory will fail you for no apparent reason. The symptoms of MS are different, and devastating, for everyone - the only certainty is that it will affect yet another person every hour of every day.

### Why We Walk?



We registered for the MS Walk because we want to do something for the people who have been diagnosed - and because we want to do everything to prevent more people from learning what it means to live with this disease. Today, there is no cure for multiple sclerosis, and with a diagnosis occurring most frequently between the ages of 20 and 50, many individuals face a lifetime filled with unpredictability.



### Why You Should Sponsor Us?

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society will use funds collected from the MS Walk to not only support research for a cure tomorrow, but also to provide programs which address the needs of people living with MS today. Because we choose to walk for those who sometimes can't, because we choose to donate to the MS Walk, we are getting closer to the hour when no one will have to hear the words, "You have MS."

The Walk MS event is the signature fundraising event of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. By participating in one of the Walk MS events you can know that you've shared a remarkable achievement with over 250,000 other walkers in more than 700 cities across the country. But most importantly, you'll be making a difference by raising essential funds for research and services for people with MS.

**Don't have the time (or energy) to walk with us?** That's okay.

You can be a sleepwalker. You can fundraise & earn prizes.

Or be a volunteer before and/or after the walk.

Or give a donation for MS Walk to Kay Monroe or Barb Roadruck

**Thank you in advance for your support.**

So put on your walking shoes... Enjoy Sunny, Warm Toledo in April...

You may join our team online from the MS Northwest Ohio Chapter website:

<http://walkoho.nationalmssociety.org>

Or you can download a registration from Fairgreen Church Website:

<http://fairgreenchurch.org> click on the Download MS Walk page.



## FAMILY PROMISE/IHN By Marilyn McAfee



Another year has passed; where does the time go? Thanks to the many volunteers who served Family Promise guests in 2007 by providing food, serving as dinner hosts and/or by spending the night sleeping on an air mattress in a church classroom. When serving as a dinner host you witness first hand the excitement of little children playing, the concern on the faces of the older children coping with daily issues and peer pressure (both home and school) and the adults who are trying to comfort and reassure their families as they work to find a safe, secure permanent home. You are there, not to judge, but to be a good listener and to provide understanding and comfort.

In January we did not take in families. The month of January is typically a slower time for all Emergency Shelters, and this was the case for Family Promise, as well. While evictions still occur, many landlords are less likely to evict in the cold winter months. If the property sits empty, they gain nothing. If a family lives in the property – even if they are behind on their rent – the landlord stands a better chance of recouping some of the lost income.

Another factor affecting emergency shelter use in the winter is income tax refunds. Today, an individual can take their last paycheck from 2007 into a tax/accounting agency, pay a fee, and receive an advance on their expected refund. This gives them a little money to work with, often delaying their impending homelessness.

Finally, when it is cold outside, extended family and friends tend to take a little better care of each other – especially when children are involved.

**Good News** - Updates on past families...former guest Josie Hughes has joined our Board of Trustees. Josie and her 5 children were in the program in the fall of 2007. They secured permanent housing after just 2 months, and Josie has enrolled in classes at Owens Community College. She is very appreciative of the support and encouragement she received while a guest in Family Promise and looks forward to being able to give back to the program through her volunteer activities on our Board.

A 2006 former guest, Antoinette, who had two beautiful little girls and was expecting a baby boy during her stay in Family Promise...Antoinette is working full time, taking classes at Owens, and was recently approved to purchase her own home. This is a great success story!

Last week, furniture from our storage unit was delivered to Michelle and her family who spent 90 days in our Network but needed additional time and entered an additional shelter. She finally achieved "success" (her words). Through Network Associates she has a full time job and was approved for NPI housing. She too was very appreciative for the support and encouragement she received while a guest in Family Promise.

Fairgreen will be hosting families on Monday, March 3, 2008 at Pilgrim Church. Currently we have three families. We have a single father and his daughter, two single mothers, one with three boys and the other with two.

Starting this year, a Volunteer Orientation program is being implemented. This has long been needed and will ease the concerns of all volunteers. The Orientation is happening every Sunday at the Host Church. Those scheduled to help during the week (Fairgreen on Monday, March 2) are asked to please participate in this informal orientation at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday at Pilgrim. Alina Fuller, LSW, will be on hand to talk with volunteers about what to expect during the week. She will review any special needs the current guest families have and answer your questions. We are confident that this new

weekly meeting for volunteers will enhance guest/volunteer relationships and make for smooth sailing.

Last but not least, the little hands and fingers of second grade artists at Highland Elementary School again poured their hearts into making beautiful soup bowls for the **"Empty Bowls – Full Hearts"** fundraiser benefiting both Family Promise and the Agape Soup Kitchen. Not only did the second graders provide bowls, but also high school students. It was fun to watch these students with big smiles on their faces pour over the bowls and compare theirs with others. How proud, such pride! Great kids! This is the fourth year that Cindy Bandfield has chaired this wonderful outreach program. Cindy is one of our Fairgreen angels for whom Family Promise sings praises. The other is the kitchen wizard, Carol Yeager who made gallons and gallons of vegetable soup. There were others involved in this fundraiser too, but you are the ones we know so well who are always busy, giving and giving...and strangely it's the busiest people who accomplish the most! Thanks Cindy and Carol. God delivered the angels that caused people to dig deep into their pockets in support of these two missions. Family Promise is so grateful for your continued support.

In closing, a letter from Elizabeth Tore, Executive Director of Family Promise is included assuring each of us that steps are in place for screening our guests into the Network.

---

January 30, 2008

Dear Family Promise Volunteer:



Thank you for your commitment to helping families experiencing homelessness. I want to assure you that both our Licensed Social Worker and Executive Director have carefully screened every adult accepted into this program. The screening process includes a background check, mental health assessment, drug & alcohol screening, document verification, and more.

Every adult participates in a phone interview, and two or three face-to-face interviews prior to acceptance in the program. The only time an individual may enter with fewer interviews is when he or she is already working with a Licensed Social Worker who can verify the client's history and status.

These interviews are professional assessments based on extensive training and experience. We know what risk factors and warnings signs to watch for, and ask questions that are specific and purposeful, not just to gather general information but also to test for responses that may be of concern. Any adult who is a risk to the safety of other guests, volunteers or staff will not be accepted into the program.

We have all heard the adage "don't judge a book by its cover." Our guests – male or female – black or white – clean cut or rough around the edges – are all just people. They deserve respect and dignity as they go through this difficult time in their lives. This is truly the most important gift we can give.

Please trust our process and be assured that the safety of all involved – volunteers, staff and guests – is our highest priority.

Respectfully,  
Elizabeth Tore  
Executive Director





**FELLOWSHIP, PRAYER, STUDY**

## **MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST**

Come join us in the lounge on Saturday, March 8th 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).



## **Deacons Palm Sunday Breakfast**

Join us on Sunday, March 16th from 8:30am-10:00am and 11:15am - 12:30pm where we will be serving a scrumptious breakfast. This breakfast includes: pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausages, fruit, coffee cake, coffee, tea, and hot chocolate. A free will offering will be taken.



Let your light shine!  
Matthew 5:14-16

## **Great Banquet Meeting**

**Sunday, March 9 ~  
Speaker's meeting 5pm**



**Friday, March 21  
Pilgrim Church  
1375 W. Sylvania Ave.  
At Noon**



**Saturday, March 22  
Fairgreen Church  
At 7:00pm**



**Sunday, March 23  
Fairgreen Church  
At 7:00am**



**Sunday, March 23  
Fairgreen Church  
At 10:00am**

**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](http://www.fairgreenchurch.org)**



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Terri Turner  
Director**

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