

REACHING
THE
COMMUNITY
FOR JESUS!



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Fairgreen Leaves

A decorative horizontal vine with several green leaves and small purple flowers, positioned below the title.

Volume VI Issue 5

MAY 2008 Newsletter

From the Pastor's Desk...

And so the journey into renewal begins. The **Jeremiah Task Force** has had its initial meeting and has begun to dream dreams and see visions for the changes and the updates that we need to make here at Fairgreen in order for us to move into the future that God has for us. We began with prayer and then we chose our name – **The Jeremiah Task Force**.

Why that name? Well some of us were thinking that Jeremiah was one of the prophets that charged Israel with the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem upon the Israelites return from the Babylonian exile. Since they saw the task ahead of us as rebuilding of sorts they thought that might be a really good name. Well, that really was not Jeremiah's task as one of God's prophets. He instead was just one of the many people that God chose to deliver the news of the impending destruction of the Israelites who had been unfaithful to God. But his call was so much more than that. Even though he resisted and complained and truly did not like the message that he was called to deliver he was faithful to his call from God. Do you remember from our study of Jeremiah that he was the one who, despite the impending destruction of the temple and their exile, bought land as God instructed him to do? That was just one of the times through his God given words and actions that people of God received the word of hope.

My book on *People from the Bible* describes him this way:

Jeremiah, a lonely, anguished man was a reluctant prophet and struggled constantly against the compulsion to prophesy. His message was the bleakest possible: Jerusalem was sinful and its destruction inevitable. When his words were about to come true, however, he saw a more hopeful vision of the future, when Jews would return from exile and a new covenant with God would be established.

Now, before we go drawing too many parallels, you all need to know that we are the **Jeremiah Task Force** because we too have a more hopeful vision of the future for this church and we know that it begins with our listening faithfully to God's direction for this church as we update, remodel, re-purpose this wonderful building that we have been blessed with. We have the opportunity not only to refurbish as we clean out and repurpose our space inside and out, we have the opportunity to modernize and become better stewards of our

Continued on next page

NEXT MONTHS NEWSLETTER DEADLINE ~ MAY 18, 2008

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resources and God's good earth as we install more environmentally friendly fixtures, lights, bathrooms, etc.

As we go about the task ahead of us we will try not to do the same kind of complaining, resisting and whining that Jeremiah was known for (although I am sure that we will offer some negative opinions, some resistance and pray a prayer of lament or two as we proceed.) Instead we will remember the message of hope that God delivered to God's people through the words of the prophet. Words like:

"For I know the plans I have for you," declared the Lord, "Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)

Sometimes when we dwell on what we don't have or think that we can't do, we forget all the ways that we have been blessed and all the things that we can do! We have been blessed with people that are willing and able to step forward and serve on this task force; they have dreams and visions and plans for our church. We have been blessed with people who have faithfully given to our Endowment and Capital Funds for a time such as this. Their giving will allow us to do what we need to do to transform our building and therefore our ministry as we seek to be faithful to God's call not only now but well into the future. And, most importantly, we have been blessed with a relationship with the Triune God who continues to give us purpose; guide us with the presence of Jesus our Christ and empower us with the Holy Spirit to do things that we are only just now beginning to imagine that we can do. We have been blessed to be a blessing to others.

God has the plan! Through prayer, dreams and visions, hard work and a bit of give and take we will take that God given plan and prosper. Hope!

Blessings, Rev. Pat

BITS AND PIECES....

A TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND ~ Have you ever thought about going to the Holy Land to walk in the steps of Jesus as you studied the gospel stories? Have you been already and thought about going again? When I accepted God's call to become a Minister of the Word and Sacrament I promised myself that I would indeed journey to the Holy Land and the time is now right for me to do so. I hope to travel in April next year with a group called EO.TravelWithUs.com. It will be a 10 day adventure called the Holy Land Classic which would take us through Jerusalem, Galilee, Bethlehem, and Jericho leaving on April 21, 2009. I first heard of this trip through Anne Elizabeth Gibson. Her pastor will lead the trip providing for the biblical reflections. If you would like more information please see me as soon as possible. The cost will be approximately \$2400 without airfare to New York and if we register before May 20 we will save \$80.00. Session has given me permission to use this experience as my Study Leave Event for 2009. Would any of you like to join me?



Prayer Shawl Ministry

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY ~ With all that has been going on we have not met to knit together in a while but there are many of us still knitting prayer shawls. Please do not stop the knitting. If any one in the congregation knows someone who is in need of a prayer shawl, please see me. Now that the weather is a bit nicer and the days a bit longer, why don't we get together for an evening of knitting, fellowship and prayer?
Next gathering - Wednesday, May 7 from 6:30-8:30pm.

TATTERED OLD COWBOY

One Sunday morning, an old cowboy entered a church just before services were to begin. Although the old man and his clothes were spotlessly clean, he wore jeans, denim shirt, and boots that were very worn and ragged. In his hand he carried a worn-out hat and an equally worn-out Bible.

The church he entered was in a very upscale and exclusive part of the city. It was the largest and most beautiful church the old cowboy had ever seen.

The people of the congregation were all dressed in expensive clothes and accessories. As the cowboy took a seat, the others moved away from him. No one greeted, spoke to, or welcomed him. They were all appalled at his appearance and did not attempt to hide it.

As the old cowboy was leaving the church, the preacher approached and asked the cowboy to do him a favor. "Before you come back here again, have a talk with God and ask him what he things would be appropriate attire for worship." The old cowboy assured the preacher he would.

The next Sunday, he showed back up for the services wearing the same ragged jeans, shirt, boots, and hat. Once again he was completely shunned and ignored. The preacher approached the man and said, "Thought I asked you to speak to God before you came back to our church."

"I did," replied the old cowboy...

"If you spoke to God, what did he tell you the proper attire should be for worshipping here?" asked the preacher.

"Well, sir, God told me that He didn't have a clue what I should wear. He said, 'He'd never been in this church'".

What more can we ask of the Savior than to know we are never alone. That His mercy and love are unfailing, and He makes all our problems His own. Helen Steiner Rice

FAMILY PROMISE/IHN By Marilyn McAfee

HELPING



HANDS

Friday, April 11, 2008 proved to be an interesting evening at the United Methodist Church of St. Andrew on Heatherdowns Blvd., where the University of Toledo MSW students served three different dinners to approximately 150 people, including Representative Marcy Kaptur, Mayor Carty Finkbeiner, WTOL-Larry Whatley, and various city council members. "What's For Dinner?" consisted of three classes of foods: surf and turf (representing upper-income-families), spaghetti and meatballs, (middle-income) and beans and rice (poverty). While the dinner was part of the students' grade, the event was to raise money and awareness of hunger and all proceeds went to the Feed Your Neighbor program. The Feinstein Foundation, a national organization, has pledged to match all proceeds raised during the evening to help alleviate hunger in the Toledo area. Who ate surf and turf? Current Family Promise guests! You might ask Kim Jensen how he enjoyed the beans and rice! The kitchen crew consisted of students from St. John's High School and Family Promise volunteers from Aldersgate, Collingwood, Fairgreen, St. Andrew, and St. Mark Lutheran congregations.

The week of May 4 is our opportunity to help Pilgrim Church host IHN families. Watch for the sign up sheet in the Narthex. It's sad but true; shelters are full in Toledo and the need for more shelters is growing!

SEVERAL THANK YOU'S TO SHARE

Thank you all:

For Danielle Herren for being there for our children

You who made coffee and tea

You who set up tables and chairs

You who helped clean up

You who brought in scrumptious hot soups

You who added sweetness with yummy desserts

You who prepared bulletins, music, communion and meditations

You who took time in good and foul weather to be with us at the soup suppers and meditations.

For all of you we give thanks! Indeed, it takes a whole church to have a successful Lenten Series.

Thank you all!

Jean Burtch and Woody Cole



Thank you so much for the beautiful flower arrangement I received when I was in the hospital for my recent knee replacement surgery. I continue to progress very well. I would also like to thank Pastor Pat for her visits and also others who visited, called, and sent cards. The many prayers were also greatly appreciated.

God Bless,

Janet Kadesch

Dear Members of Fairgreen,

We are so grateful for the way you all have surrounded our parents with love over the past several weeks. Your love has been expressed through phone calls, meals, visits, transportation, prayer, and countless other ways. They (and we) have been encouraged by your constant willingness and desire to do whatever it takes to help things go smoothly. You live out your beliefs by showing the love of God each day, and we are truly thankful to have grown up in such a body of Christ. We treasure each one of you.

With love and many thanks,

Joan and Betty Jean (the Sattler "girls")



This is a wonderful Fairgreen Church family. Have you heard? Ask the Sattler family who has been overwhelmed with expressions of the love given to us by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Words of thanks to individuals would not be enough because of the possibility of missing a special one. We the Sattler family are overwhelmed by the love of Christ shown by our Fairgreen congregation.

Art and Leone Sattler

DEACON'S CORNER By Sharon Durrant



THANK YOU: Thank you to everyone who helped with and attended the Palm Sunday Breakfast! Your wonderful support and generous contributions will go toward keeping the Fairgreen Food Pantry full and help with other areas of outreach. The free will offering after expenses was \$296.00.

FATHER'S DAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST, Sunday June 15th (Before and after Worship Service at 8:30am-10:00am and 11:15am - 12:30pm). If you liked the Palm Sunday Breakfast, please come again to the special Father's Day Breakfast! The menu will include pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausages, fruit and coffee cakes. There will be an assortment of beverages: coffee, tea, hot chocolate, milk and juices. The money collected will continue to go toward food for the Food Pantry and contributions to IHN (Family Promise).



"BRING A BAG OF DRY GOODS TO CHURCH MONTH": The Deacons have been busy buying food items for the food pantry. For the month of May, your donations of dry goods would be greatly appreciated! Items needed are: toothpaste, bar soap, toilet paper, laundry detergent, tissues, shampoo and deodorant.

SCRIP CARD SALES: With Mother's Day, Father's Day and Graduations coming up, please consider purchasing scrip gift cards. A portion of the money goes to support Fairgreen Deacons. Thank you!



FOOD PANTRY UPDATES By Carol Yeager

We have served seventy families of which 82 were children and 39 were seniors. We have fed a total of 243 people; 11 meals each and taxables! Our pantry is filled by Seagate Food Bank, some help from Salem's Agape program and by YOUR generous giving. The Toledo area needs are growing and so is God's grace to us. We try to never waste anything, as we put unusual items such as sardines in a special box for guests to pick through for anything they can use.

We had two cans with lamb and rice in them so I put them aside for a Lebanese family to get the next time they came in. Linda Hoover was browsing through the shelves and asked what I was saving these two cans for and I told her I thought this family would enjoy them as they contain lamb. She then showed me the label on the can and it was dog food! OH! OH!

Another time, the food bank gave us some items from a closed drug store and I put them in the hall for people to browse through. They were weird items such as hair dye and lice shampoo. That morning a grandmother came to get some food for herself and I mentioned the box and she went over to look. She began to cry and said that her daughter had called her that very morning upset because her four children had head lice and she couldn't afford to buy shampoo for the children. There were exactly four bottles of shampoo in that box. Can you believe God even know when we have head lice?

Thank you ALL for your constant support for the past forty two years!

Your Food Pantry Committee: Kay Amendola, Connie Winslow, Dan Yeager, Linda Hoover, John MacPherson, Carol Yeager and our Deacon's.



SESSION ACTIONS FOR APRIL By Patti Nordhoff

Motion #1 ~ To approve the request of Rev. Pat Shafer to accompany the church on the upcoming Mission Trip, June 15-20, 2008. (this doesn't include Sunday) Also to approve that Rev. Pat Shafer be allowed to serve as a counselor for Camp Rejoice July 12-19, 2008. (this doesn't include Sunday) M/S/P

Motion #2 ~ To approve the request of Rev. Pat Shafer to take Study Leave to go to Washington Island from July 23-28, 2008, to attend a conference led by Diana Butler Bass, "The Practicing Congregation and Christianity for the Rest of Us". Also to approve five day Study Leave for a silent retreat at the Kirkmont Center from August 25-31, 2008. (This is 6 days and includes one Sunday). M/S/P

Motion #3 ~ To grant permission to Rev. Pat Shafer to use \$300 of this years Study Leave money to put a down payment on her trip to the Holy Land next April, 2009. She will not be using all of this years Study Leave monies in anticipation of next years trip, and will be asking that the Session allow her to roll over the unused portion of that line item for the trip. M/S/P

Motion #4 ~ To approve the request of the ASAH Congregation to use the building for several upcoming events to be held in the Sanctuary beginning at 7pm on the following dates: April 10-11, 2008; May 18, 2008, and June 12-14, 2008. M/S/P

Motion #5 ~ To approve the minutes of the stated Session meeting held on March 11, 2008, as corrected. M/S/P

Motion #6 ~ To approve opening a Money Market Checking account at Huntington National Bank with Tim Eichenauer, Karen Herren and Gardy Bandfield as authorized signers. Also to approve consolidating our two existing accounts at Huntington National Bank into one and thereby closing the other. M/S/P

Motion #7 ~ To approve the request of the Building and Grounds Committee to replace the windows in the education wing as soon as the Preschool is out and working around the schedule of the Great Banquet weekends. The funds for this shall come from the Capital Fund not to exceed \$15,500.00. M/S/P

Motion #8 ~ To approve all Session Committee reports as received. M/S/P

Motion #9 ~ To elect Gardy Bandfield as the May commissioner to MVP, with Fred King being the alternate. M/S/P

Motion #10 ~ To adjourn the meeting. M/S/P

FINANCIAL SUMMARY By Peg Winslow

Year To Date Income as of 3/31/08 **\$47,763.81**

Year To Date Expense as of 3/31/08 **(\$53,344.63)**

Operating Loss as of 3/31/08 **(\$5,580.82)**





Let your light shine!
Matthew 5:14-16

Great Banquet Meetings for May

#4 Team meeting 9-12:30pm ~ Saturday, May 10th

#5 Team meeting 9-12:30pm ~ Saturday, May 17

Gathering 6pm ~ Sunday, May 18th

Men's #33 Great Banquet Weekend ~

Thursday thru Sunday, May 29-June 1

Women's #34 Great Banquet Weekend ~

Thursday thru Sunday, June 5-8

4th Day 7pm in Commons ~ Thursday June 12th



FELLOWSHIP, PRAYER, STUDY

Come join us in the lounge on Saturday, May 10th 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).



Senior High Recognition
is scheduled for
Sunday May 18th during the service.

Those being recognized are:
David Eichenauer, Rachel Nordhoff,
Stacy Skinner, Emily Crissman and
Jodi Swartz

Congratulations to All!



**ALL CHURCH
WORKDAY**

Come out and join us on
Saturday, May 24th
From 9-?
For our All Church Clean Up
& Work Day
Lunch will be provided



**Lectionary
Bible Study**

Join us on Thursday May 1, 8 & 15 for
a potluck lunch at noon followed by a
Lectionary Bible Study at 12:45pm in
the lounge.

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

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sbcglobal.net

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



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Children ages 3 & 4
For information call:
419-475-5367
Terri Turner
Director

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For surely
I KNOW THE
plans
I have for
YOU,
says the
Lord...
TO GIVE YOU A
future
WITH
Hope.
Jeremiah 29:11, NRSV