

**REACHING  
THE  
COMMUNITY  
FOR JESUS**

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# Fairgreen Leaves

**Volume VI Issue 12**

**NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2008**

*From The Pastor's Desk,*

## Upcoming Worship and Church Events

### Thanksgiving Sunday ~ Sunday, November 23, 2008 ~ 10:00 AM

Join us as we continue to give thanks to God during this season of Thanks-giving. We will honor our long time members as well as recognize membership anniversaries during worship. After worship we will gather in the Commons for a Pot-Luck Luncheon (Bring a dish to share and your own place setting). As we continue our celebration of thanks-giving.

### Mid-Week Advent Suppers and Worship Services

#### December 3, 10, and 17, 2008 ~ 6:30 PM

Join us for a mid-week gathering of food, fellowship and worship as we prepare our hearts and our church for Christmas. The theme for these gatherings will be ~ What do you really want for Christmas? We pray that these will be as successful as our mid-week Lenten services! We will eat at 6:30pm and then move to the sanctuary for a time of preparation and worship. This is a bring the family and a friend event! ASD, the session and the deacons will arrange for the meals so we invite you to call an elder (Woody Cole) or a deacon (Linda Hoover) if you would like to make a casserole, a salad or a dessert.

### Sunday Morning Advent Services ~ 10:00 AM

#### First Sunday in Advent ~ November 30th

The First Advent Candle will be lit; the Choir will sing  
Our theme ~ God is the potter reaching out to watchful people

#### Second Sunday in Advent ~ December 7th

The Second Advent Candle will be lit; Communion will be served; the choir will sing  
Our theme ~ God is the comforter of repentant people

#### Third Sunday in Advent ~ December 14th

The Third Advent Candle will be lit; the Praise Band will play  
Our theme ~ God is the sender of loyal people

#### Fourth Sunday in Advent ~ December 21st

The Fourth Advent Candle will be lit; there will be special music and a Christmas program including the celebration of Communion by Intinction  
Our theme ~ God journeys to marginalized people

### Christmas Eve ~ Wednesday, December 24th ~ 7:00 PM

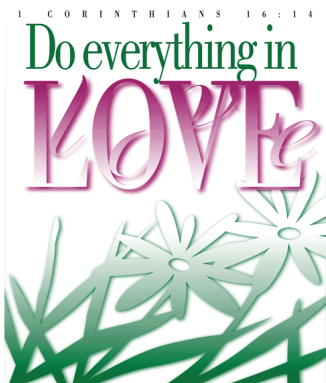
The Christ Candle will be lit; there will be special music and the traditional singing of Silent Night. After worship there will be a Special Coffee Hour hosted by the Worship Committee in the Narthex so that those family and friends who would like to have time to catch up with and greet one another can. If you would like to help provide cookies for this gathering call Jeff Skinner or the church office to volunteer.

## ***UPDATES FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK***

It continues to be a busy time here at the church with a great deal of activity each and everyday. Here are the updates on some of that activity:

- \* The Building and Grounds Committee continues to oversee the work that Session has approved. The last of the new windows have been installed in the basement and they look as wonderful as the ones that have been installed upstairs in the Sunday School wing as well as in the sanctuary. We are better able to control the heat and circulate the air than we have been in the past and we look forward to lower utility bills because of these changes. The basement continues to be dry and, if the session agrees at its next meeting, work on the bathrooms, the new meeting room and the Junior High classroom will begin shortly. As I sit at my desk writing the roofing crew continues with the installation of the new roof. We are thankful that we realized that this work needed to be done. There were soft spots in the roof and there was leaks in the kitchen. We are pleased that this work could be done before the snow begins to fly because there was a great deal of concern that work on the roof could wait until the spring. And when we talk about being thankful, we are truly thankful and blessed that we have the Endowment/Capital Fund that we do. Without this money from the faithful stewards that have gone before us we would not have been able to respond to these needs in such a timely fashion. Yes, we have spent a great deal of money over the last two years—around \$87,000, but it is money well spent as we continue to update and improve this wonderful church we have been blessed with. ***By the way—have you mentioned the church in your will?***
  
- \* The Jeremiah Task Force continues to work as well although we are almost done and ready to hand the information that we have collected over to the session for their decision as to what comes next. ***We will have at least one more meeting —Wednesday, November 19, 2008 at 7pm in the church lounge.*** During our time together we have talked about many things although updating and remodeling the sanctuary continues to be one of our many priorities. The first proposal we received was more than we were willing or able to take on so we asked the architect to change it. We are now waiting upon the new estimate for those changes. If you want to see what was proposed please stop by the lounge anytime and look at the drawings on the easel. It is our hope that the session will present this information to the congregation along with a proposal for paying for the changes in the very near future. Again it is the feeling of the Task Force that we can safely use some of our Endowment Funds to pay for the updates. Yet, we need you to be assured that we will be careful and prayerful with our decisions to spend our Endowment and we will always hold enough in reserve because we know that we often have to draw from it for our operating budget. While some of the work can be done by our congregation, the larger projects will need to be undertaken by a contractor. We have also collected information on updating our organ and our clavinova. We may need to have a fund raiser to cover the cost of the replacements. If that ends up being sessions recommendation it will come to the congregation for discussion and a decision. We will also need the approval of the Presbytery if we are to move in that direction. All of the changes proposed for the sanctuary will allow us to better welcome worshippers and to worship the Lord. ***By the way—have you been praying for this committee and your session as we as a church continue our conversations and prepare to make these decisions?***

## MISSION INTEGRATION By Linda Hoover



Who would ever think that two important missions of Fairgreen could be woven together so seamlessly on October 17, 2008?

The Friday Food Pantry was busily handing out bags of groceries at the same time the Women's Great Banquet was underway. These missions happening at the same time is nothing new, but I would like to share the way they "**CROSSED** paths". Is this not the way of the Lord?

A man and a lady, new to the idea of food distribution, wandered into the wrong area of the church on Friday, October 17, 2008. Thankfully, an Agape Team Member, hustling around behind the scenes of the Banquet, came upon the two wandering visitors. Seeing their bewilderment, she asked if she could help, and then directed them right to the doors of the lounge, assuring them that these were now the people that could help them.

A lady, needing some hygiene products, came into the church office in the afternoon of Friday, October 17, 2008. The food pantry was closed but the Banquet was going strong. Darlene Hughes was able to alert the Agape Team of an emergency need and because it was a Women's Banquet Weekend, the church was well stocked with the products this lady so desperately needed. Happily, she was handed a bag, and those who were privileged enough to help her stood in awe of God's perfect timing!!

A local case worker brought a lady to the church after the church office had closed on Friday, October 17, 2008. The Food Bank was also closed up for the day. However, God blessed the Agape Team once again! A team member was at the door/hallway as these visitors entered our church. (On a "usual" Friday afternoon, no one would have been at church at that time of day). After listening to the request of food for the lady, the Agape members introduced the visitors to Rev. Pat, and they were assured that we would try to help her. As the two waited in the lounge, food was bagged up from the Food Pantry. One of our church members had donated, (that very same week), a plastic, orange pumpkin for Trick-or-Treating. One of the Agape Team members spotted that pumpkin on the pantry shelf and ran off with an "idea". When everyone assembled back in the lounge to offer what had been gathered, we shared an amazing realization of grace. Rev. Pat brought a home-cooked meal for the lady, the cart from the pantry held two bags of groceries, and the plastic pumpkin was now filled with all kinds of "kid-size treats" and snacks for her young granddaughter...and where did those treats come from...the Agape Room, the storage area of the "goodies" for the weekend. (God is SO, SO good!)

But there is one more miracle to tell. A Great Banquet Community member, not part of this team, but giving of her time the whole day that Friday, was taking a break in the lounge. Sitting in the corner, she witnessed the events as they unfolded; she too had an idea. Walking up to the lady, the Community member placed a "Footsteps of Jesus" token in her hand, and said, "Go with God". And the lady smiled and cried.

Thank you Lord for Friday, October 17, 2008. May we continue to be graced by your plan.

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## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SCHEDULED

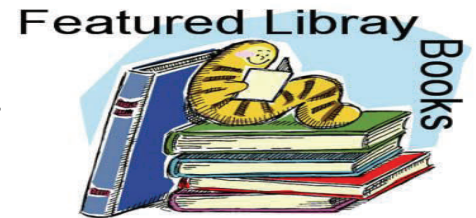
Join us on Sunday, December 7th after the worship service for our congregational meeting held for the purpose of electing Elders and Deacons and for approving Rev. Pat's 2009 Salary Package.



**CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING**



## **LINES FROM THE LIBRARY By Chris Roebuck & Agnes McKinstry**



Once upon a time...these magical words for children young and old. This Christmas month of December share the stories of the Christ Child, Christmas customs and symbols and special holiday things to do with your family. To get you started, here are some books from our library.

**Dargatz, Jan**

### **52 Simple Ways to Make Christmas Special**

Have you ever heard of a Jesse tree or thrown a birthday party for Jesus? That's just two of the ways to celebrate in this book.

**Dunbar, Joyce**

### **This is the Star**

Little ones will love this rhyme which follows the style of "The house that Jack Built". Could become a bed time favorite.

**Haidle, Helen**

### **The First Christmas Tree**

A legend for little ones from long ago of how we got the Christmas tree.

**726.6 MacAulay, David**

### **Cathredal**

Built in France, in the 12th century, this is a step by step picture of how the cathedral of Chutreaux was built with simple tools and much faith.

**225 Zobel-Nolan, Allia**

### **Lift the flap Nativity**

Littlest ones will love to lift the flap to discover what is underneath in this Nativity tale.

**394 Weems, Anne**

### **Kneeling in Bethlehem**

A book of poems to share at a Christmas coffee or just a quiet time with a friend.

**Wenning, Elizabeth**

### **The Christmas Mouse**

A neat little story of how guitar music came to the church services.

You can find these books on the book cart, just

**CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING** inside the library door.



**WE ARE CONNECTED AS  
GOD'S PEOPLE -- WE ARE  
CHRISTMAS JOY PEOPLE.**

The history of the Christmas Joy Offering dates back in the 1930's.

This year we will receive the offering on December 21 and 24, 2008. There will be special envelopes placed in the pew racks the week before (12/14) and will be available for two weeks after the official date (until 1/4/09).

It is our opportunity to reach out beyond our own community to the broader church that we are connected to and help in many ways. Our contributions are allocated by the PC(USA) for 50% to given to the Board of Pensions' Financial Assistance Programs. The Christmas Joy offering recognizes the faithfulness of current and retired church workers by providing funds to help them through difficult times.

The other 50% supports Presbyterian-related racial ethnic education through the National Ministries Division

## SEVERAL THANK YOU'S



I thank God for the understandings and awakenings He has laid upon my heart this past month. He has allowed me to deeply experience one of life's most cherished words...Blessings. I share with you my new definition:

**Blessings...God's messages of steadfastness and His host of surprises within the daily realm of life's worries and difficulties.**

Any kind of recuperation seems to challenge the patience within us. However, God's healing is not on a time schedule; instead, we are to surrender our "doing", task-oriented selves" to His plan. Along with that surrendering, the slowing down of one's spirit, comes the time to truly savor the blessings God sends in the form of others.

And so I humbly thank you, my church family, for the cards, the phone calls, the emails, the visits, the meals and the flowers sent to my hospital room. And to all the Fairgreen Faithful...all those who send up prayers from the moment of surgery through the days of healing...the ways you have lifted me up to our Lord settle deep into my spirit, and "It is well with my soul."

I praise God for your blessings! Linda Hoover

Dear Fairgreen Family,

I love you dearly and thank you with gratitude that words cannot describe. You all are a wonderful blessing to me for you have lifted my name up to God in prayer for healing. Through your many visits, physically and by phone you have allowed me to share of my discomfort the first 48 hours, yet share my joy in being repaired. Your cards of well being timely delivered through out my convalescence have cheered me up. God bless you all and may these blessings be as wonderful for you as His blessings have been for me.

Peace, Fred Nordhoff

Dear Fairgreen Family,

You are appreciated. The flowers are absolutely beautiful! Thank you! Thanks to you all, for the prayers, visits and cards. Fairgreen is the greatest family anyone could have.

Carol Yeager

## CHANGE THE WORLD WITH A "PENNY" By Carol Yeager

The Youth Mission Program was to send a goat to Uganda, Africa (in honor of a former visiting minister; Percy Mabo and his family).

We started two and a half months ago and we now have one goat and 3/4 of a goat! We are using a goat puppet and two youth every two weeks to collect "loose" change. We have started a "Youth Mission" bulletin board to recognize the youth and their efforts. Watch for the upcoming future projects and also the bulletin board. These youth are our Future! Thank you all for your prayers and support.

P.S. ~ Leta was glad we were not able to get a live goat. She would have lost her pretty hat!



## FAMILY PROMISE/IHN By Marilyn McAfee



Volunteers from Fairgreen Faithfully served dinner at Pilgrim Church on Monday, October 13 to two families in the Network. Thanks of appreciation for the support of this ministry go to Jean Burtch, Joyce Koback, Judy Stuart, Nancy MacPherson, Connie Winslow and Carol Yeager. Many hands make small work serving homeless moms and kids who thanked us for their meal. Our next time to help Pilgrim as a support congregation is the week of December 14. Because this is the week before Christmas and a very busy time for all, Pilgrim has asked us to serve two meals that week. As time draws near, a sign-up board will be posted.

Again, sincere thanks to the volunteers and the Deacons from Elizabeth Tore, Director of Family Promise/IHN, Pilgrim Church and me for your faithful and loving support of Family Promise/IHN.

Fresh, 22 inch, Fraser Fir Wreaths! Wreaths are still only \$20 each—No bows. The price includes a \$9 tax-deductible donation to Family Promise/IHN. Fairgreen people may pick up their wreaths BEFORE Thanksgiving if they wish. Pick-up days are Tuesday, November 25, 9-10am and 4-6pm and AFTER Thanksgiving on Saturday, November 29, 9-11am. They may also pick them up on Sunday, November 30 before or after church services.

Orders will be taken Sunday, November 16 in the Narthex or by telephoning Marilyn McAfee at 734-847-3100. We have a limited supply available so don't miss out. Your generosity helps families right here in the Toledo area by providing stability and safety during a difficult time in their lives.



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## WOMEN'S RETREAT By Pat Gibson



Fairgreen Women's Retreat is on the church calendar  
(so be sure to put it on your home calendar!)

For  
Friday, February 6 (7pm) to  
Saturday, February 7 (3pm)

It will be at the Lial Retreat Center in Whitehouse, Ohio.  
The overnight cost will be \$25 plus a food item  
to share for either breakfast, lunch or evening snacks.

Watch for information in the next issue of the Leaves  
and for the bulletin announcements.

Sign up will begin on January 18th.  
Scholarships are available.  
Pat Gibson is the contact person!

## THE DEACONS CORNER

**CHICKEN BBQ:** Whether you came to eat, came to work, or baked brownies, thank you for making this year's BBQ a success. Carol Yeager's homemade coleslaw, BBQ sauce, and hot fudge sauce were wonderful and Dan Yeager and John MacPherson's chicken was great. The proceeds of almost \$800 will help fund the food pantry, Caring Cupboard, IHN, flower fund, and other Deacon projects.



**ELECTION DAY LUNCHEON AND SALE:** Thank you to all the cooks, bakers, crafters, readers, and workers who shared their time and talents to support the Deacons. The poll workers, voters, and shoppers appreciated the goodies, lunch and merchandise. The proceeds of over \$700 will help to fund the various programs and projects.

### SCRIP CARD GIVEAWAY:



For every \$50 of Scrip cards you buy during the month of November your name will be entered in a drawing for a \$25 gift card from your choice of P.F. Chang's or Texas Roadhouse. The winner's name will be drawn Sunday, December 14th. The more you buy in November the more chances you have to win. See Julie Murray at the Welcome Center on Sundays or Darlene Hughes in the office during the week.

### THANKSGIVING SUNDAY AND POTLUCK:



Thanksgiving Sunday  
And Potluck

Please prepare your Thank Yous for November 23rd. During worship and coffee hour you will have the opportunity to give your thanks to those people who have made an impact on your life. Write a short or long note, make a scrapbook page, draw a picture, or create your own. Contact Jan Anderson by November 16th or drop off you thanks in the Deacon's mailbox. There will also be an opportunity for impromptu thank yous that morning. Join us in the Commons following the worship service for a potluck. Bring a dish to share, your table settings, and enjoy a meal with our church family.

### CHRISTMAS BASKETS:



DEACON'S CHRISTMAS  
BASKET PACKING

We are looking for volunteers to help pack baskets on Friday, December 12th from Noon to 6pm. If you are able to deliver a basket or two please contact Carol Yeager or Linda Hoover.

### ANGEL TREE:



The Angel Tree will be ready on Thanksgiving Sunday, November 23, 2008, so that you can take advantage of all those early Christmas sales the day after Thanksgiving. How can you help fill a Christmas wish? Choose an angel with an item listed, purchase it, wrap it and return it to the church with the angel attached. Let's see all those gifts piled under the Angel Tree by December 7th.



## YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS, OUTSTANDING INVOICES AND PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT

Any 2008 offerings to Fairgreen (operating budget or for any other purpose) must be received into the church office no later than Monday, December 29, 2008, in order to be recorded as a 2008 contribution. All offerings received on this date, are considered to be for 2008, unless you specify on your envelope that it is for 2009.


If you have any outstanding invoices, you need to have them approved and into the church office no later than Tuesday, December 30, 2008.

The year 2009 per capita apportionment is \$26.80 per person. There will be a per capita giving envelope in the offering envelope packet that you will receive. We ask that you wait until after the first of the year to pay your per capita. Thank you.

### SESSION ACTIONS FOR OCTOBER By Patti Nordhoff

- MOTION #1 ~ To approve the minutes of the stated session meetings held on September 9, 2008 and on Sunday, September 28, 2008. M/S/P
- MOTION #2 ~ To approve the rental of the Sanctuary for the purpose of a wedding rehearsal and wedding of a member of the ASAH Congregation. M/S/P
- MOTION #3 ~ To approve the request of Rev. Pat Shafer to take the following 13 days of vacation:  
November 12, 13, 15, 16 (includes one Sunday)  
November 24, 25, 26, 29  
December 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 (includes one Sunday) M/S/P
- MOTION #4 ~ To approve the request of Adult Spiritual Development Committee to remove the names from the rolls and to move names to an inactive status as indicated on attached list. M/S/P
- MOTION #5 ~ To approve the request of personnel committee recommendations that staff salaries remain where they are for 2009, with regrets. M/D/P
- MOTION #6 ~ To approve request of the Worship Committee to spend up to \$2,000.00 from the Capital fund to update/replace the two Bose speakers in the Sanctuary and to add a suspended speaker in rear of the Sanctuary. M/D/P
- MOTION #7 ~ To approve the request of YCSD to grant permission to the youth group to use the church van on Saturday, November 8, 2008 for a fun night to go bowling. M/D/P
- MOTION #8 ~ To adjourn. M/S/P

### FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Year To Date Income as of 10/31/08		<b>\$144,000.97</b>
Year To Date Expense as of 10/31/08		<b><u>(\$169,886.72)</u></b>
Operating Loss as of 10/31/08		<b><u>(\$25,885.75)</u></b>
Transfer from Capital Fund in August		<b><u>\$40,000.00</u></b>
Excess Receipts over Expenses through 10/31/08		<b>\$14,114.25</b>



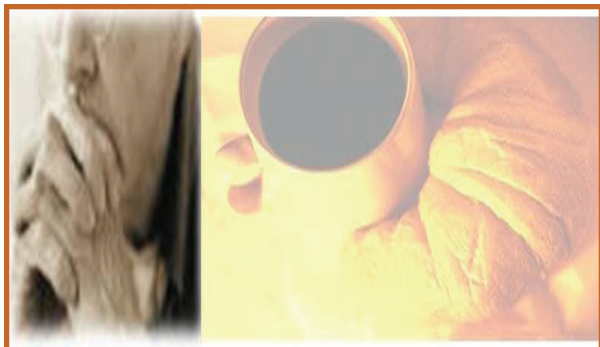


Let your light shine!  
Matthew 5:14-16

## Great Banquet Meetings & Gatherings

**Sunday, November 16, 2008 ~ Board Meeting at 4:30pm and Gathering at 6pm**

**Sunday, December 21, 2008 ~ Board Meeting at 4:30pm and Gathering at 6pm**



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

**MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST—  
SATURDAY, December 13, 2008**

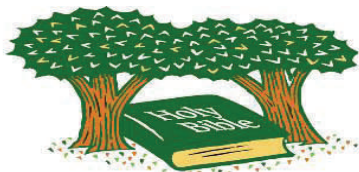


### **DEACON'S CHRISTMAS BASKET PACKING**

Christmas baskets will be packed on Friday, December 12th beginning at noon to 6pm with basket pickup from 6-7:30pm. Then on Saturday December 13th we will have basket pickup from 9am-12pm. Many volunteers are needed in making up these baskets. If you are able to deliver a basket or two please Contact Carol Yeager or Linda Hoover



The Church Office will be closed on December 25 & 26, 2008 and January 1 & 2, 2009. Wishing you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!



### **Elder/Deacon Retreat**

We are asking that you set aside the following dates and times, Friday, January 9th (7pm) through Saturday, January 10th (5pm) to attend the Elder/Deacon Retreat at the Lial Center in Whitehouse, Ohio. It is important that all out-going, currently serving and incoming elders and deacons attend this planning event! Your confirmation needs to be called into Darlene in the church office, before Tuesday, December 30th. The cost is \$25 per person.



There will be a Ordination and Installation of Officers, which will occur during the worship service on Sunday, January 11th, 2009.

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

Rev. Pat Shafer  
Cell Phone  
419-215-2939  
Email address:  
revpat44@sbcglobal.net

Worship Service  
10:00 AM  
Sunday School  
11:15 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)



Cooperative Preschool

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

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
SYLVANIA, OHIO  
PERMIT NO. 34

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



*O taste and see that  
the Lord is Good; happy are  
those who take refuge in him.*

*Psalm 34:8*