

**REACHING
THE
COMMUNITY
FOR JESUS**

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Fairgreen Leaves

Volume VI Issue 10

OCTOBER 2008

From The Pastor's Desk,

Our theme for the fall has been harvest—the church has been decorated for the theme; the Christian Education programs have swung into full gear in anticipation of a harvest of young people and adults growing in the Word of God; we have even traveled to the Erie Farm Market to celebrate God's harvest out-of-doors. Several of our committee chairs have even used the harvest theme for reflection before their meetings. Jeff Skinner, Chair of our Worship Committee, brought us this one which I thought was worth sharing with all of you. It is amazing what one can glean from the writings of others on the internet.

The Six Laws of The Harvest

Law 1: We Reap Much We Did Not Sow.

Stop and think: Much that we reap, we never planted. Somebody else did and we reap the consequences. Sometimes we reap things that are good, but not always.

Let's look at the positive side first. We receive many blessings given to us by God for which we have performed no labor whatever. In fact, the Lord wants us to trust Him that he will provide all of our needs even as God provides for the birds of the air (Matthew 6:25-34).

Law 2: We Reap The Same In Kind As We Sow.

No one will ever sow sweet peas and reap cucumbers. Neither can anyone sow that which is wrong and reap that which is right.

Law 3: We Reap In a Different Season Than When We Sow

Too many believers are sowing wild oats through the week and then going to church on Sunday and praying for a crop failure. The harvest never comes immediately after planting; for, while the earth abides, there is seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter. These shall not cease (Genesis 8:22). There is a time when you plant and there is a time when you harvest, but these are not the same time. The harvest comes in a different season from the planting of the seed. This is just as true spiritually as it is physically; it is just as abiding for each and every person on this earth, as it is for the farmer who tills the ground. Also it is equally true whether you sow that which is bad or that which is good.

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SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE ~ OCTOBER 19, 2008

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Whatever is sown is not reaped immediately. The harvest comes in God's time— God's appointed season.

Law 4: We Reap More Than We Sow

The fourth law of the harvest is one of the most important aspects concerning the harvest there is. If it were not for this fact, there would be no harvest and yet this is not something preached or seen in print.

If it were not for this fact no farmer would plant anything. If he only got back what germinated in the ground, he would be on the losing end of the process. What compensates for all his loss and makes sowing the seed profitable is that some seed reproduces itself 30, 60, and 100 fold. But this is not just true for the farmer; it is true for every person that has ever lived. It is true for the Christian and the non Christian alike. It is true both negatively and positively. When we sow wrongs, we are going to reap more than we sowed. When we sow good we likewise will reap a harvest of good.

Law 5: We Reap In Proportion As We Sow

If we do not sow, we do not reap. If we sow sparingly, we reap sparingly. If we want to reap a bountiful harvest, we must sow in a bountiful way. If the farmer only cultivates one acre, he can only reap what one-acre can produce. However, if he has 100 acres under cultivation, his harvest can be 100 times greater.

If you want to be rich....GIVE!

If you want to be poor....GRASP!

If you want abundance....SCATTER!

If you want to be needy....HOARD!

Law 6: We Cannot Do Anything About Last Year's Harvest, But We Can About This Year's.

Whatever we did last year, last month, last week, even yesterday is over and past. Nothing we do today can in anyway change the record of what was sown and what was or will be reaped as a consequence. Whatever has been produced stands as the record of our lives lived on this earth. The problem with all too many Christians is that they are not forgetting the past and reaching on to what is before (Philippians 3:13, 14). Think about that!

What I can do by the grace of God is to live now so that I produce a full harvest that will glorify the Savior. This is what we all are to do. Regardless of where we are in the Christian life, regardless of how much time we have wasted, regardless of the terrible products we have produced in our lives—we are to go on to maturity. This is the Spirit's exhortation to all of us. (Excerpts from Dean Morgan @ Sermon Central)

*Reaping
And
Sowing*



THE GIFT AND DELIVERY OF SONG By Cindy Smith

The words of the hymn, "When in Our Music God Is Glorified", (#264) are these:

When in our music God is glorified, and adoration leaves no room for pride, it is as though the whole creation cried, Alleluia! How often making music, we have found a new dimension in the world of sound, as worship moved us to a more profound Alleluia! So has the church, in liturgy and song, in faith and love, through centuries of wrong, borne witness to the truth in every tongue: Alleluia! Let every instrument be tuned for praise! Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise! And may God give us faith to sing always: Alleluia! Amen. (Pratt Green and Stanford, 1972/1904)



And I found them on a morning at church in the kind of way that happens so that you can be pretty sure that finding them was supposed to happen in that God-guided way. I don't know the tune, but these were the words I needed. I wrote down the hymn number and borrowed the blue book: it was time to write something.

Shannon, my husband and the music director of Fairgreen, is very shy about singing at home. That music, piano-playing, and singing was so important to him as it is, I didn't know until about the year 2000, after we'd been together nearly ten years! The Nordhoff's offered us an old Rosewood-era piano (God bless you and all the hands who carted it to our house!), and I thought it would be a fun gift for Shannon for Christmas that year, because he often talked about wanting a home that had a piano in it, but I often made faces at that, dreaming instead of a floor loom for weaving, or an art studio (these were the days before quilting had invaded my thoughts as well).

I thought of a piano as a huge piece of furniture that the children were not allowed to touch. This was the way it was at my aunt's house as I spent time with my cousins. My aunt had reason to make these rules about the big piano: her sons were often upstairs showing my sister and me how to melt crayons from the heat of the metal lamp. Or setting leaves to burning with magnifying glass out in the autumn yard. One cousin liked to play with electrical circuitry, and his favorite loops included the use of his braces as part of the conductivity. These were boys who hid large holes in their wall with posters, but hid their bb guns and explosives in the holes. If you've ever seen Toy Story...my cousins were just like that troubled neighbor boy who reconfigures all the toys and likes to blow things up. So I forgive my aunt for never opening the ivories to fingers the likes of ours.

I have a questionnaire sitting here at home. Someone I don't know is doing research on "clergy spouses" and apparently, I count, as the wife of a music director. I haven't filled it out yet, though I've looked it over plenty. It is an interesting spot to be in: being the spouse of a person on staff at this church. I once talked with Bettye Bannister (married to Langston Bannister, retired now from Third Baptist Church, though both of them are still very much involved with the Great Banquet ministry) about what advice she might offer me toward being a supportive, yet out of the way, wife of my husband in his role at our church. I loved what she had to say: she emphasized that the best, most important thing I could do was to pray for the music ministry, the choir, the praise band, and for him. And that I should do so actively on nights during rehearsal time as well as more generally and regularly. It was her experience, as the long-time wife of a minister, that spiritual warfare was carried out most easily through the music ministry of any church because those ministries were a bit more vulnerable in their regular, largely unseen work of the Church.

She was so right. This oversight in my general practice of prayer has been true for me even before Shannon accepted the music directorship at Fairgreen: to me, a choir was part of church on Sundays. Rarely did I consider the work and preparation of the choir in any church, and even more rarely did I think about or pray for the choirs and bands in their individual components of people

Continued on the next page

with lives and service, people with a calling, people for whom practice and worship elementally included the gift and delivery of song.

I don't know about you, but I find it hard to keep my mouth shut when I have thoughts, ideas, and opinions and have decided that someone near me would greatly benefit from hearing them. This has been, without a doubt, one clear avenue where it's been good for me to put up the road blocks against certain invasions of my own tongue at home. And to pray instead. (Shannon would giggle here! He'd say, "You mean you sometimes don't say everything?")

Well, I practice at it. But I do love the truth in the words of the hymn above: God is glorified in our music. And how often music *does*, if we're listening, move us to a more profound place. How amazing, really, that God gives us the faith we sing from. How great a degree our heart is changed when we sit down grumpy in worship and leave lightened, and full of thanks for the people around us. However corny it *is*, when we sing "Sanctuary" at the end of a service, we find we really do mean those words: "Lord, prepare me to be sanctuary..." and that we really do need and want to be bound together "with cords that cannot be broken."

Each of my children knows this even better than I do: as adults, we can imagine ourselves other places sometimes. My children, Emma, Isabel, and Molly, anchor us to Fairgreen maybe more than any other factor does. Molly definitely wants to hear "Song! Song! I want to go for the Song!" by which she means-hope you don't groan!-the beat and the drums and the guitars and the piano, all of which she knew before birth, jiving at the second service. Emma and Isabel are old enough to enjoy their special places as one of the not-many children at Fairgreen, and both of them are glad for our single service, where they can be part of the body alongside friends and surrogate family who have become, over time, part of the core of their lives.

For me personally, since I have taken sentimental turn in the first place, I give deep thanks that God reaches *me* so regularly through the music at Fairgreen: God's reach, through the music here, clears the fierce concrete, the layers of softer cobwebs, the yellow caution tape surrounding a vulnerable soul (that part of myself, ourselves, that I suspect we all keep cordoned off limits to all but God). I am sure of it: there are parts of us that can only be reached with notes.

So thank you to the choir members, each one, and to the members of the band, each one, and to our Pastor and each of the other staff members of Fairgreen, and to those at the sound board and computers, and both a personal and a public thank you to my husband, Shannon, for listening, hearing, singing, playing, and obeying, over and over again. I'm grateful to each of you for your faith and commitment to Thursday nights and Sunday mornings, and I'm grateful for the way God accepts your praise and uses your voices in our worship. I hope all the congregation will join me in praying regularly for the ministry of music at our church-Thursday nights from 6:30- about 9pm, and any other ol' time you think of it. "Let all rejoice, who have a voice to raise!"

THE FAIRGREEN TECH TEAM By Shannon Smith

The Fairgreen Tech Team needs you! We would like to have a team of young or young-at-heart people scheduled to help with Fairgreen's "electronic ministries." Right now, the computer projection system in the sanctuary is operated by just three people on a regular basis. We need folks who are trained to run the computer during worship services so that this important part of the service is always available. The program is not difficult to operate, and the training could be done in one or two sessions. We can even set the software up on your own laptop so that you can practice at home! If you have an interest in computers and would be willing to be trained to help, please contact the Director of Music, Shannon Smith, at 419-893-3426 or fairgreenmusic@sbcglobal.net



WE NEED JOYFULLY NOISY PEOPLE! By Shannon Smith



The Geneva Choir has begun its fall season of practice and singing during worship. The choir has a long tradition of vibrant musical presence in worship, and you can be a part of keeping this tradition alive and growing. Please consider occasional or regular membership in the choir; we especially need men's voices (Calling all Tenors!).

Right now we are a three-part choir with Soprano, Alto and Bass present on a regular basis, but many great pieces of choral music in our library call for four or more parts, and we'd like to sing some of these anthems occasionally. For example, at some point during the fall, we'd like to sing Natalie Sleeth's anthem "Joy in the Morning," but it is written for at least four full sections (SATB). We can sing it without tenors, but it's just not the same.

You can commit to as few as one rehearsal and one Sunday or join us for an entire year of singing. Folks with basic musical training can practice on a Thursday evening and sing on a Sunday with no advance notice to the director needed; just climb the steps to the loft at 6:30pm on any Thursday evening (except Thanksgiving). Questions or need for additional prodding and pleading? Call Shannon Smith at 419-893-3426 or email him at fairgreenmusic@sbcglobal.net

THE DEACON'S CORNER

We are making the final plans for our Election Day Luncheon and Sale. Because of an expected huge voting turn out, we are hoping to offer a little bigger luncheon and bake sale. When you are "out and about" that Tuesday, come join us at church for coffee and an early morning baked good, or for a delicious lunch offering soup, sandwiches, and desserts.

The Deacons would greatly appreciate donations of baked goods for Tues. Nov. 4. We can use an assortment of cakes, brownies, and cookies for the luncheon desserts. (These can be delivered to church from Sunday, Nov. 2 to the morning of Nov. 4)

If you donate to our very popular bake sale, please consider rice Krispies treats, chocolate chip, peanut butter, or sugar cookies, cookie bars, or small breads. It also would help us if you would package the items in small baggies. These items may also be dropped off the weekend ahead of the sale, (with an extra note indicating your name and intended use, please).

The Craft and Book sale will be set-up in the lounge. If you have items, you would like to donate, please bag or box up with your name clearly identified. (to assist the Deacons, would you please include a suggested sale price for craft items.)

Please do not pile items in the lounge; please see Darlene in the office on weekdays or Jan Anderson on Sunday, Nov. 2 for convenient storage placement. It would help us greatly if items are not brought for church storage too soon. We will begin our set-up organization on Friday, Oct. 31 so that is a suggested beginning drop off date. We desperately need workers for Tuesday, Nov. 4...from early morning until after dinner time. If you could give us a couple of hours to work in the kitchen through lunch time, or if you could help sell items for the sale, we would deeply appreciate your blessing of time. Please see or call Jan Anderson, Sharon Durrant, or Linda Hoover.



FOOD PANTRY FEATURE

What harvests of blessings have been donated to the Food Pantry recently. Thank you to the congregation for the variety of canned goods, school supplies, paper and hygiene selections, and extra giveaways.

Art Sattler's produce selections have been "something special to smile about" for many of our recipients. One mother remarked to her two year old daughter, "Look honey, what they have...cucumbers!!" The little girl picked the biggest cucumber in the box, holding it as a treasure. Her mother said, "I'll go home and peel this, and she'll eat the whole thing. She won't even share it with her siblings...She loves them so!"

One day we had some dish washing soap dropped off as an "extra". As one lady was going out the door, carrying the bags for her family to await transportation at the bus stop, she turned back around to ask, "Do you happen to have dish soap? I could really use some." The answer was YES...thanks to someone; we could help her!

Gina Beauregard brought in bags of school supplies which were donated by one of her co-workers. These have brought a smile of budget relief and gratitude to many of the parents who come on Fridays.

We never know the impact of the ideas God places within our minds and our daily plans. Thank you! Praise be to God!



THANKSGIVING SUNDAY By Jan Anderson



Marcel Proust said, "Let us be grateful to...the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom." Which are the charming gardeners of your life and faith?

Thanksgiving Sunday is for all of us, and it's coming up in November. It's a way we can all mark our prayerful thanks on a particular Sunday morning for those people who have been there at the right place at the necessary time. It's a way we can offer tribute, named or anonymous, for those things people do even if they do not know they do. It's a way we give thanks to God for letting us share a brief bit of lifetime with someone else whose path intersected with our own. It's

even a way to give thanks for someone we see every day. Here's what you might be doing now to be ready for Thanksgiving Sunday:

- * Take note of those people you give silent thanks for throughout your week. Jot down their names and what it was that made you think of them.
- * Attend a memory-jogging hour at church (time to be arranged based on interest) where you'll be encouraged to leave your running shoes at home but bring your pencils and work out the words of a thank-you or two on paper.
- * Put together a "scrapbook" page collage of thanks, keeping words to a minimum if you prefer.
- * Design a "thank you" all your own.

Your symbols and notes of thanks can be delivered to Jan Anderson or left in the Deacon's mailbox by November 1. There will be an opportunity for more impromptu thanks the morning of Thanksgiving Sunday, but your early offerings will help with some of the arranging and planning. If your note is to remain confidential to the person you are thanking, please indicate that clearly. Feel free to contact Jan Anderson with questions, and if you have an interest in the "memory jogging hour" let Cindy Smith know. Thank you for considering how you can participate!

LINES FROM THE LIBRARY, A FALL BOOKLIST

The loose meaning of serendipity is something you discover while looking for something else. Here are some serendipitous discoveries from our church library.



220.9 Nat National Geographic Society. **Everyday Life in Bible Times** A fascinating journey from Abraham's world to Paul's world. Beautifully illustrated with photos and maps.

225.9 Get Getz, Gene A. **The Apostles, Becoming Unified through Diversity** According to the author, Peter was a business man, John was self centered, Thomas was pessimist and Paul was a murderer. Insights into the spiritual journey of a diverse group chosen by God.

242 Cof **Coffee with God** Two page devotions that fit into a busy schedule. Full of encouragement and direction for a spirit filled life. A quick pick-me-up kind of book.

291.4 Bru Brussat, Frederick and Mary Ann. **Spiritual Literacy. Reading the Spiritual in Everyday Life.** Guidance from a collection of authors who teach that gratitude and love, attention and wonder can come from the appreciation of small things. You can choose your examples.

641.8 D'Av D'Avila-Latourrette, Bro. Victor-Antoine. **Twelve months of Monastery Soups.** Soups for all seasons and tastes, even new uses for zucchini.

To find the books, just follow the numbers. They are all on the shelves.
Our Librarians: Chris Roebuck and Agnes McKinstry

FAMILY PROMISE/IHN By Marilyn McAfee



Many, many thanks to all the volunteers who hosted our Interfaith Hospitality Network families at Pilgrim Church in July and special thanks to Carol Yeager and Jean Burtch for pulling everything together.

The Network is short one host congregation so on an emergency basis, we volunteered a dinner on September 11th at Pilgrim Church. Thanks go out to Nancy MacPherson, Carol Yeager, Bev King, Woody Cole, Joyce Koback and Kim Jensen for their support.

Our scheduled host week is fast approaching-week of October 12. Fairgreen will serve families on Monday, October 13. These are critical times for all of us; homelessness continues to rise as the cost of living climbs. Please watch for the sign-up board in the Narthex to volunteer a food item or to host. Please don't let a small personal comfort zone keep you from sharing your love with moms and dads who work very hard to again establish a home and security for their families.

CONSECRATION SUNDAY IS COMING!

Our Stewardship Committee has chosen to continue our stewardship education by emphasizing the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program*. You may remember that this proved to be a valuable way of learning the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* will encourage us toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?" As we did last year, during morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we will ask our members and friends to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every member and friend who completes an Estimate of Giving Card does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We also urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one will feel personal embarrassment if he or she chooses to not fill out a card.

We will not call upon you in your home to ask you to complete a card. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration ending by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We—the Consecration Sunday team and governing Session members—encourage your participation in Consecration Sunday events. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

It is an exciting time in the life of Fairgreen Church and we are thankful for your enthusiastic participation in the Consecration Sunday events.

The Session Of Fairgreen Presbyterian Church

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Year To Date Income as of 8/31/08	\$112,967.07
Year To Date Expense as of 8/31/08	<u>(\$138,441.69)</u>
Operating Loss as of 8/31/08	<u>(\$25,474.62)</u>
Transfer from Capital Fund in August	<u>\$40,000.00</u>
Excess Receipts over Expenses through 8/31/08	\$14,525.38



Harvest Time by Colin Moffett

It steals along the morning vale
The dewdrops of the autumn mist
And through its curtain the sun shines pale
Along riverbank it will persist

Then softly blows the wind of morn
Over bounteous fields kissed with sun and rain
And whispers in the ears of wheat and corn
Harvest time is here again

It tosses the head of majestic tree
Plucking colored gems from its crown
Where from the branches falling free
The autumn leaves come winging down

And now there is unceasing toil
From morning sun 'til harvest moon
To gather the bounty from the soil
For winter days are creeping soon

And busy hands gather in the wheat
The earthy potatoes from the drill
The fruit of tree so good to eat
For barns of storage are to fill

Back through the mist of years
Jesus walked the harvest field
And gazed upon the golden ears
When mother earth had produced her yield

And watched it fall to reaper swing
The ripened heads fit for harvest now
After days of growing from the spring
When seed were sown behind the plough

Then compared the world to whitened field
Where dying souls are like falling leaves
Who will reap the harvest field?
And carry home the precious sheaves

Who will seek precious souls to win?
Before scythe of death begins to mow
To tell of Jesus who frees from sin
For they will reap what they will sow

Jesus looks to me and calls to you
Who by His blood our sin relieves
His harvest reapers we are few
But let us work to gather in His sheaves

Great Banquet Events and Meetings

Saturday, October 4 ~ #5 Team Meeting from 9-12:30pm

Thursday, October 9-12 ~ #35 Men's GB Weekend

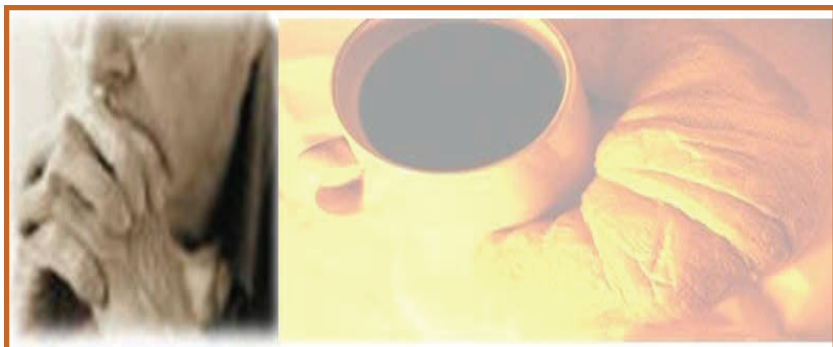
Thursday, October 16-19 ~ #36 Women's GB Weekend

Thursday, October 23 ~ 4th Day in the Commons at 7pm



Let your light shine!
Matthew 5:14-16

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST— SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2008



**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).**

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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



Cooperative Preschool

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

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It is good to
Praise the Lord
and make music to your
name, O Most High.

P s a l m 9 2 : 1