



**REACHING
THE
COMMUNITY
FOR JESUS**

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Fairgreen Leaves

Volume VI Issue 9

SEPTEMBER 2008

REFLECTIONS FROM A VISITOR TO FAIRGREEN CHURCH

In 15 years as an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church, I have welcomed countless numbers of visitors to Sunday worship. I have greeted extended family of church members, and families of prospective students from the University across the street. There have been new residents to town who are looking for a new church home and there have been motorcyclists who are passing through on vacation. People have come in celebration, people have come in desperation. Once it was the older divorced woman who had felt ostracized and judged by the church and came saying she was going to give the church 'one last chance.' Once it was a young man who had faced some hard truths about his life of addiction and abuse and woke up Sunday morning seeking a way to start a new life. Once it was an entire debate team in for a competition at the University who were joyful and energetic and blessed us with their enthusiasm. You never know who might walk through the church door on any particular Sunday or what their needs might be!

I came to your doors this past Sunday morning seeking community, hoping to find a place where I might give God thanks for the gift of a new day, where I might be reminded by God's word of the larger purpose of my life, where I might sing and pray with other brothers and sisters in the faith. I found all of that and more!

I was blessed by your warmth and welcome. I was fed by your worship as well as by the bread and cup passed among us. I appreciated your signs helping me to find my way into unfamiliar territory, and I gave thanks for those who went out of their way to make me feel a part of the community. I enjoyed the fact that you seem to like each other! There was humor and acceptance shared among you. I took note of some of your ministries and will take home new ideas as I go: your prayer shawl ministry, the table where you put out cards for folks to sign, your welcome center with information about the church. I was captivated by your stained glass windows in the sanctuary- their vibrant colors, their simple design, their powerful images. I encourage you to find ways to draw attention to them.

Many folks spoke to me, and I want to thank the group who met with me over lunch to talk about "church." Lots of people were friendly to me Sunday but there were three people in particular who modeled a ministry of hospitality- Fred King, Leta Fulkerson and Dick Schroeder. These three went out of their way to engage me in conversation. They didn't just give me directions, they took me and showed me and introduced me along the way. I wish they could come to teach that to some of the folks in my congregation!

A ministry of hospitality is about welcoming strangers into community. I was a stranger and I give thanks for your welcome of me. Diana Butler Bass says that, "Hospitality is central to the practice of Christian faith." Because we were once

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SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE ~ SEPTEMBER 21, 2008

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strangers and God has made a generous place of welcome available to us, we are called to imitate God's welcome with others. You never know who might walk through the church door on any particular Sunday or what their needs might be! My need was for community and I thank you for making a place for me among you, for ministering to me as I take a break from ministering to others. I pray God's blessing on you and your congregation as you continue to make welcome the strangers in your midst.

Shalom,

Rev. Ann Marie Montgomery

Co-Pastor, First Presbyterian Church in Murray Kentucky

BITS AND PIECES AND UPDATES FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK....

Greetings from the Kirkmont Center where I am enjoying the quiet solitude of the second week of my Study Leave time reading, praying, reflecting and resting. This experience is very different from my trip to Washington Island where I gathered with other pastors and elders for a time of directed study lead by Diana Butler Bass. While I am not here by myself – my friend from seminary and colleague in ministry, Rev. Ann Marie Montgomery (see her article on page 1) is here with me, I spend a great deal of my time in silence, alone in prayer and discernment just resting in the Lord as I read the Word, write, and listen. I thank you for the gift of these two weeks. While I know that it is sometimes difficult when I am gone, these days of study and reflection do allow me to refresh myself so that I can continue to faithfully prepare to live into my call as pastor. I look forward to sharing with you the wisdom that I am gleaning from the books I am reading. Would you believe I am actually beginning my Advent and Christmas worship preparations!

Now the updates

The **Jeremiah Task Force** will meet on Wednesday, September 3, at 7 pm to hopefully receive the preliminary report from the architect as well as the reports from the other small sub-groups that have been gathering information on organs and landscaping throughout the summer months. I have seen the first of the drawings and I am excited. While it is expected that all members of the Task Force will be at the meeting, you do not need to be a member to attend. All are welcome. Once the Task Force has had a chance to discuss the plans they will share the information with the session who will then set up some times for Congregational Conversations as to what is next!

Now that our summer break is over, the **Thursday Pot Luck and Lectionary Study Group** will once again gather. Beginning Thursday, September 11, we will gather for lunch (bring a dish to share) at noon and then start our study at 12:45 pm. Again, all are welcome for either lunch or for the study or for both. During our 75 minute study time we explore the lectionary bible texts that will be preached the following Sunday as a way of preparing ourselves for worship as we engage in a time of discussion, study and fellowship. **If there are folks who would like an evening Bible Study talk with Rev. Pat as to when you would like the study and just what you would like to study.**

It is also time to once again begin our **Confirmation Classes**. We will start on Sunday, September 28th after worship meeting during the Sunday School time in Room 106. Be sure to bring your bible. October confirmation class dates will be on the 5th (Room 106) and the 12th (travel with Rev. Pat and your parents to Wildwood for study and discussion). As this period of instruction and decision making begins once again, we would ask the congregation to keep these young people in your prayers.

And finally a word of thanks! What a blessing you all gave me with your surprise **Lemonade on the Lawn** celebration in honor of the 15th anniversary of my ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. You really pulled it off! Once again you have gifted me with your love through the celebration itself as well as all the cards and notes of blessings, the gifts and your very presence in worship and at the celebration on the lawn. You have really touched my heart once more. Do you know that you have thrown me more parties and gifted me with more gifts than any other congregation that I have been blessed with serving? (Yes! I know that we are not supposed to compare!) Thank you!

THANK YOU EVERYONE By Kay Monroe

I thank all of the prayer warriors who have been praying for my dad and the rest of our family. I could feel your prayers surrounding us. My dad was able to have the other two stents put in on August 11, 2008. The next day he was discharged to go home instead of back to the nursing home. He still has a long way to go to try to get his health back, so I am asking that you continue to lift us up in prayer.



I would also like to thank you for all the prayers surrounding the surgery on my hand and arm on June 23rd, 2008. And a special thank you to Linda Hoover, Pat Gibson and Connie Winslow who came to the hospital before my surgery and prayed for me just before I was wheeled away. They even sat and waited wondering where I was before the surgery. I gave them directions to the building I would be in and they were there in plenty of time. Unfortunately my daughter Barbie and I went to the WRONG building and sat there wondering where my friends were. I finally asked someone if we were in the wrong place as my surgery was scheduled to start in 10 minutes.

Anyway I thought I would share this with the rest of you in hopes you get a good laugh out of it as we did.

Between Barbie, Linda, Pat and Connie I was kept in STITCHES while waiting for the surgery. Yes there is a pun intended there. My recovery is going very good, however I still have several months before it will be healed completely. Thank you for everything.

In Christ's love, Kay Monroe

"HARVEST" RALLY DAY 2008!

Our 2008 Sunday School Rally Day Kick-Off is Sunday, September 7th! You and your friends are invited to celebrate the start of a new Sunday school year together as "a family of believers." We will begin with Sunday worship at 10am. The theme of this Rally Day is "HARVEST" -Doing

good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." With this in mind there will be a "Harvest" offering. There are two ways in which you can "do good for others."

1. Bring a nonperishable item for our food pantry.

2. Write your name and phone number on a piece of paper offering a gift of service (raking leaves, one hour of free tutoring, running a few errands, etc.) We all have special talents, so be creative!

These services will then be placed on a bulletin board and can be taken by those who need them. "As we have opportunity, let us do good."



After this special service, join us in the Commons for a light lunch after worship. YCSD will provide the hot dogs and beverages. They invite you to bring salads and desserts. Following the lunch, we will travel to Erie Orchard's Apple Fest! There will be pony rides, hayrides, inflatable toys for children, a petting area, music, and you can even pick apples to take home.

For those needing a ride or who would like to carpool, please meet in the church parking lot at 12:30pm. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex. If you will be joining us for lunch and/or the trip to the orchard please sign up with how many will be in your group.

Here are the directions to the Erie Orchard leaving from Fairgreen Presbyterian Church: Fairgreen Dr. turn left on W. Laskey Rd. then turn left at Douglas Rd. then turn right at W. Alexis Rd. then turn left on Telegraph Rd. (entering Michigan) then turn left at E. Erie Rd. go down 0.6 miles and Erie Orchards & Cider Mill 1235 E. Erie Rd. will be on your left hand side.

COME TO THE PARTY!



Sunshine or clouds, Fairgreen's Semi-annual Fun and Fellowship Party (Clean-Up Day) is coming September 20 at 9am to ?. Don't clean yourself up, just come as you are and bring a friend. There'll be plenty of food provided by our parents (deacons) and lots of games such as Wash the Pews. You can choose the game you want to play. You can even bring your own toys (cleaning supplies). Doesn't this sound like fun? See you there!



THANKSGIVING TRIBUTES By Jan Anderson



Are your thank you's up to date? Thanksgiving Sunday, November 23rd, is your opportunity to thank anyone that has made an impact on your life. Place your written message, long or short, in the Deacon's mailbox. Contact Jan Anderson with any questions.

ADDITION AND CORRECTION! By Pat Gibson

As we reflect back to our Fairgreen 2008 Mission Project, we are grateful to Ben Nickloy's friend Cleveland Brown, to Jesse Murray and his friend Nate Miranda along with Stacy Skinner and her friend June Haverstock who, in addition to the others listed in the July/August Leaves, gave of themselves in working here at church in June.

HANDLE WITH CARE (CAMP REJOICE THEME) By Pat Gibson



HANDLE WITH CARE

With Majestic Hands,
He formed it...
With loving hands,
He loaned it...
With careful hands,
We must protect it.

*"Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good."
Genesis 1:31 NKJV*

Camp Rejoice this summer, had for its overall theme: Handle With Care. The tent Bible Study, group Bible Study and Vespers, along with crafts and music followed the scripture lessons of caring for our relationship with God, our relationship with each other and our relationship with creation.

David Eichenauer, Tyler Gill, Emma Bosley-Smith, Ben Nickloy, Andrew Watkins and Kayla Gotha were the youth that attended. The adults from Fairgreen, who served on the camp staff were Tim Eichenauer, Keith Watkins, Paula Watkins, Rev. Pat Shafer and Pat Gibson.

If you have never gone to Camp Rejoice nor visited Kirkmont Center, near Bellefontaine, where the camp is held...plan to do so! Its hills and trees and wildlife make it one of the more beautiful places in Ohio and a place where God's presence can be seen and felt.

THE DEACON'S CORNER

A Blessing as Small as a Jelly Bean:



The Fairgreen Food Ministry hopes to bring nourishment to the body and to the spirit of others. How do we nourish the spirit of others souls, the affirmation of each person's worth in their world and to God? God helps us to understand that we truly can "feed others" in lots of small ways with great love.

While patiently waiting for his food to be packed one recent Friday, a visitor turned down the refreshments offered. But then he nervously added, "Do you have any of those jelly beans left? You had them here before." Indeed we happily had some left from a generous "fun" donation given by a Fairgreen family. The congregational family thought that any children who came with parents may enjoy the "treat".

But there is that "child" in each of us who still relishes that surprise moment and that surprise treat. This man finished off the jelly beans, and we smiled with wonder to think that God could work a blessing through a jelly bean.

Prayer Shawls:

Thank you to all Fairgreen members and friends who faithfully crocheted and knitted prayer shawls for distribution. This ministry has found a new, Spirit guided outlet. The Deacons (and other church members) are delivering these special treasures to residents of the St. Francis Care Center on Holland-Sylvania Rd. Through a contact with Sister Jordan Schaffer, we make appointments to visit and to walk room to room to **surprise** the residents she has selected as needing such a gift. Prayers are offered as the resident is wrapped in the love of knowing others care. Five shawls have been delivered to four women and one man and his wife. The next visit will be the last week of August. Please contact Linda Hoover or Connie Winslow if you would like to **WRAP and PRAY** with one of our next, honored, St. Francis Fairgreen Friends.



Upcoming Dates For Your Calendar:



September 27 ~ Chicken BBQ 4:30-5:30pm Carry Out
5:00-7:00pm Serving Dinner
Cost: \$8 Adults \$3 Children 10 and under
(tickets same price as last year)



November 4 ~ Election Day Sale
All baked goods, handmade items, and used paperbacks appreciated!



November 23 ~ Thanksgiving Sunday Tribute Day
(More information to come!)

SESSION ACTIONS FOR AUGUST By Kay Amendola

MOTION #1 ~ To elect Kay Amendola as clerk pro-tem for this meeting due to the absence of the clerk. M-S-P

MOTION #2 ~ To approve the minutes of the stated session meeting held June 10, 2008. Approved by Consensus

MOTION #3 ~ To approve a congregational meeting December 7, 2008. M-S-P

MOTION #4 ~ To approve taking \$400, from the General Mission Fund and give to the deacons for caring cupboard and food pantry. M-S-P

MOTION #5 ~ To approve YCSD using the van on September 7, 2008. M-S-P

MOTION #6 ~ To approve taking \$50 from the General Mission Fund to help the Toledo Campus Ministry. M-S-P

MOTION #7 ~ To adjourn. M-S-P

CONSECRATION SUNDAY IS ON THE WAY! By Stewardship Task Force

IT'S COMING! IT'S COMING! IT'S COMING!
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26TH, 2008



Does it seem possible that another year has passed since we last celebrated God's blessings on Fairgreen and her people as we prayerfully considered what portion of His abundance we would return to Him? Look how He has richly blessed us!

Fairgreen's Stewardship Task Force is very excited about this year's CONSECRATION SUNDAY and all the activities leading up to it.

Please mark your calendar with the date of October 26th for CONSECRATION SUNDAY with the Celebration Brunch to follow.

You will want to be sure to be there at 10am for worship on Sunday, September 28th to hear more of the details.

See you there!!

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Year To Date Income as of 7/31/08



\$100,488.29

Year To Date Expense as of 7/31/08

(\$119,021.37)

Operating Loss as of 7/31/08

(\$18,533.08)

Great Banquet Events and Meetings

Saturday, September 6 ~ #2 Team Meeting from 9-12:30pm
 Saturday, September 13 ~ #3 Team Meeting from 9-12:30pm
 Sunday, September 21 ~ Board Mtg. 4:30pm & Gathering 6pm
 Saturday, September 27 ~ #4 Team Meeting from 9-12:30pm
 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



Let your light shine!
 Matthew 5:14-16



Come join us in the lounge on Saturday, September 13th 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).

Roll and butter, brownie and homemade fudge topping

SPirit and BeveragE

SEEKING GOD'S LOVE AND GUIDANCE

Kendy Edinger

(a member of Fairgreen Presbyterian Church and Mountaintop Great Banquet)

is conducting a day retreat on Saturday, September 20, 2008

8:30am—3:00pm

At Christ Presbyterian Church
4225 Sylvania Ave. Toledo, Ohio

\$20 Registration

(Continental Breakfast, Lunch and materials provided)

Reservations due by September 16th



ANNUAL CHICKEN BBQ



**Come join us on Saturday, September 27, 2008
 at Fairgreen Presbyterian Church
 3220 W. Laskey Rd. Toledo, Ohio
 For our Annual Chicken BBQ**

Cost is \$8 Adults \$3 Children 10 and under

Carry-outs from 4:30-5:30pm (Call 419-475-4436)

Serving Dinner from 5:00-7:00pm

**Menu consists of: 1/4 chicken, corn, cole slaw, tomato wedge,
 Roll and butter, brownie and homemade fudge topping
 and beverage**

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
Coffee Hour
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



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

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