

**REACHING
THE
COMMUNITY
FOR JESUS**

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Fairgreen Leaves

Volume VII Issue 8

August 2009

From The Pastor's Desk....

***Sometimes I need
only to stand
wherever I am
to be blessed."***

Those words of yet another Mary Oliver poem have been before me as I find myself once again counting the days until I embark on the final three weeks of my Sabbatical. I have entitled this part of my journey – Traveling the Holy Lands – Part 2. No, I am not going back to Israel to walk that holy place once again. I am instead going to travel through New York and Ohio to retrace some of the steps that I have taken through the holy lands of my life long faith journey. Just as the country, the towns, the people, the geography of Israel shaped who Jesus was and how he lived into his ministry, the country, the towns, the people, the geography of my past, shaped who I am and how I live into my ministry. I am, therefore, going walking yet again. I am going to stand in those places where I have been blessed.

I will spend some time in Perkinsville, the town in which I was born. I will worship with the faith community of my birth. I will also journey to Honeoye Falls, the town in which I raised my children and owned my bakery. I actively participated in the life of that community for over 25 years! While I will not be there on a Sunday to worship, I hope to find some time to just sit in the pews of the First Presbyterian Church. It was that community of faith that encouraged me to grow in my faith, recognized my gifts for leadership and supported me as I answered the call to ordained pastoral ministry.

The second week of my journey will take me to the shores of Lake Ontario where I will continue to read, write, study and rest while feasting on as many sunrises and sunsets as possible. Not only will I spend as much time in and by the water as possible, I will also visit the Wrights Corners Presbyterian Church. They were the first church I served as a pastor and it was that wonderful Body of Christ that helped me to become the pastor I now am. They gifted me with grace as I learned, especially through my mistakes, the things I needed to know about being a pastor that a seminary cannot teach you.

My last week will bring me back to Ohio – into the holy lands through which I am now traveling on this part of my faith journey. My days will be spent in a semi-silent retreat at the Habitat House at the Kirkmont Camp and Conference Center. This will be a study week! I will not only finish my own Spiritual Autobiography, I will put the final touches on the class that I hope to offer to all of you in 2010 – A Life Review: Looking at Our Walk with the Lord. During this year long class, participants will be invited to engage in a similar process of looking at the various stages of their life to see what was learned, how your faith has grown or sustained you, and how you have experienced God's presence in your life.

I will also engage in an intensive study of a resource called: ***Five Practices of Fruitful***

Continued From The Pastor's Desk...

Congregations by Robert Schnase. This is a resource that I will use over the next 18 months with the leaders of our congregation as we look at what God might be leading us to do next! The five practices I will be looking at are: radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking mission and service and extravagant generosity.

Okay – that is a lot to do in just 3 short weeks but I am sure that I will have time to walk through the holy lands of my past while enjoying the gift of each and every day. I will find time to only stand wherever I am so that I will be blessed. As much as I love the things that I do as your pastor, not having to do the day in – day tasks of ministry will give me the time I need to continue my year-long process of renewal. Know that I will continue to lift all of you up in my prayers and I invite you to do the same for me.

I will see you all again on August 30th when our sermon topics will be **Celebrating the Gifts of the Sea! Yes! There will be sand and sea shells so casual beach clothing would be appropriate for worship!**

Blessings, Rev. Pat

Exciting News...Introducing the Rev. Gabriela Horakova...

On June 30th we received the wonderful news that our church had been accepted to host one of ten ecumenical mission partners as part of the Synod of the Covenant Mission to the USA Program. Your session had applied for this way back last April and then waited to see if we would be chosen. We were!

Gabriela comes to us from Jilemnice, a small town in the northern part of the Czech Republic where she is a pastor in the Evangelical Church of the Czech Brethren. Her husband Martin is also a pastor and they have 3 children, ages 9, 7, and 5. Your session will be looking for a member of the congregation to host Gabriella during the 6 weeks of her stay. Anna Jones has offered to coordinate her schedule. While we hope that she will be fully engaged in the life of our congregation (preaching, teaching, etc.) we will want her to share her gifts and her message with others within the Presbytery. We are hoping that many of you will want to be involved. We will be handing out volunteer sheets come the first part of September as we will need to have people drive her to different events as well as invite her to come to your homes and even to take her to some of our cultural activities. Gabriella will be participating in the World Mission Celebration in Cincinnati from October 21-24 and in the Synod Assembly in Maumee from November 6-7. It will be wonderful to have some of us travel with her and experience these events as well. Gabriela will arrive on the 1st of October and be with us through the 11th of November. I know that I look forward to having her with us on World Communion Sunday and I will invite her to do the Lord's Prayer and the Words of Institution in her native language.

When asked what contributions she can make to the church and the communities that host her, Gabriella said, "I can share my experience of building up community life in a village; of different styles of Bible work (I lead a bible study with Christians, but also with non Christians who bring with them children who are partly Christians, partly not). I can also share my experience of leading pastoral training of vicars and ecumenical cooperation."

Your Session is excited about this opportunity and we really look forward to getting to know more about her, her ministry and about Christianity in another part of the world. I will email her again and ask her to write an article for the next copy of the Leaves so that we all can get to know her a little better even before she arrives. I know that Gabriela is excited as well. She has already emailed me several times and visited our Web page to get an even better idea of who we are and where she will be visiting. In her last email she expressed her desire to participate in all of our programs as much as possible.

As time gets closer we will share even more information and actually begin a study on her country and the church in which she serves. While she is going to bring a power point presentation with her it will be good for us to know as much as we can before she gets here.

Please continue to lift Gabriela, her family and her church up in prayer as we all prepare our own hearts, minds, and church for her arrival.

Even More Exciting News...Jeremiah Renovations to Continue...

At its meeting on July 21st, your session passed a motion to continue the work recommended by the Jeremiah Task Force and affirmed earlier by your session. The next project to be undertaken will be the sanctuary renovations with a total cost of \$15,000. Beginning on August 3rd the chancel area will be taken apart in preparation for extending the platform, adding a ramp, changing the location of the door, updating the side lighting and the spot lights, reworking some of the wiring so that it is less visible and replacing the carpeting. This total also allows for the purchase of a new Yamaha stage piano to replace the clavinova which we can no longer repair. The bulk of this renovation work will be undertaken by Dan Yeager, John McPherson, and Jeff Wilczynski. Modern Floors will do the carpeting.

In order to accomplish this we will need to dismantle the chancel area, move all the furniture and remove the old carpeting while setting up a worship space in the commons to use for 4-5 Sundays. We hope to be back in the refurbished sanctuary by the 10th of September when our Preschool reconvenes and a few days before Rally Day.

In order for all of this to happen in a timely manner, we will need to start moving sanctuary furniture and all the music and sound equipment out of the sanctuary after worship on the 2nd. If you can help please let Jeff Skinner and Shannon Smith of the worship committee know. While the furniture itself only needs to be moved to the narthex the music and sound equipment will need to come to the Commons where it will be set up for our regular Sunday worship services. We will also need to help the Building and Grounds Committee and the Worship Committee create a "worshipful space" for us to use on Sunday morning. Again if you can help, please speak to Jeff or to Fred King. The more volunteer help that we receive in preparing for the renovation work the lower our total expense will be and the faster the work will get done.

The money for this renovation will again be taken from our investment funds. While we would like to take it out of our operating budget we are not able to at this time. But we, your session, would like to begin to challenge the members of this congregation who are able to engage in "second mile giving" to contribute to the cost of upgrading this wonderful church we have been given by placing an extra offering in the offering plates marked Jeremiah Renovations. One of our elders said that she will begin to look at her monthly budget and if there is any extra at the end of the month she will challenge them to give some of it towards the projects. Thank you for your consideration.

Recently I read yet another one of those remarkable quotes which, while written in relationship to something very different, seems to apply to the plan of action our session has undertaken. The quote:

"There is a path for each of us. When we are on the right path, we have a surefootedness. We know the next right action – although not necessarily what is just around the bend. By trusting, we learn to trust." The Artist's Way, pg. 194

How true this is for our individual lives. But it is also true for us as the church. We as a session feel that we are on the right path, that we are faithfully and prayerfully leading this congregation into our God intended future. It is indeed risky but already we are seeing the blessings of our decisions. We will continue to walk forward asking your support, your prayers, and your input as we go forward.

BREAKTHROUGH! By Pat Gibson

Breakthrough! What does that word conjure up in your mind? How about when the football team breaks through the paper banner, which the cheerleaders are holding, and everyone wildly cheers as the team runs onto the field. How about one of the "Lightbulb" moments when you finally understand the answer to a given problem. What about when you see the image in a hidden picture, sometimes squinting or almost crossing your eyes to do so.



The theme for all the camps at Kirkmont Center, for 2009, was **Breakthrough!** Our Camp Rejoice youth and adults were challenged at least three times each day (during cabent Bible study, Bible study with Alan on the Croft Center porch and at evening Vespers around the campfire) to listen to the Bible story of the day and to consider how each biblical person's encounter with Jesus was a breakthrough. The youth discussed how the people were transformed and/or changed their way of seeing God, themselves and the world about them. This, then, was taken another step further and each of us, at camp, began looking for how God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit was at work in nature, in other people and in ourselves. Many hearts were broken through. Many experienced Jesus' presence, healing, forgiveness, grace and love in a powerful new way.

For those of you who are intrigued here are the stories which we had:

Jesus Welcomes: Mark 10:13-16, The story of Jesus and the Children

Jesus Listens: Mark 10:46-52, The story of Jesus and the Blind Man

Jesus Shows Compassion: Luke 5:17-26, The story of Jesus and the Man with Paralysis

Jesus Loves: Luke 10:25-37, The parable of the Good Samaritan

Jesus Transforms: Luke 13:10-17, The story of Jesus and the Bent-over Woman

Jesus Invites: Luke 13:12-24, The Parable of the Great Banquet

"Each encounter (in each of these stories) resulted in a breakthrough—a chance to move beyond the present situation into a life-changing experience with the healing grace and love of God."

Look for the breakthrough in each passage and make note of it. Word has it that Pastor Pat is going to have a 5-week sermon series, starting in September, with the overarching theme of **Breakthrough** and that she is going to use the same stories we had at camp!

Meanwhile, pay attention,

be awed and then

tell someone

when you see the wonderment of God's transformation!

THE START TO THE SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR!

YCSD has dates for you to put on your calendar which are:

September 13: Rally Day which will be the official start of both the youth and the adult Sunday School program! We'll be going on an Intergenerational Treasure Hunt!

September 13: Kids for Christ will start, again!

October 23: Wednesday evening 6-8pm, Halloween Party!!

December 5: Saturday, 9:30am-12:30pm: Christmas Bible School!

December Wednesdays: Advent evening program for adults and children.



We are in the process of making more detailed plans for these events, so be watching the Leaves and the bulletin announcements for more information as the dates get closer.

The dates, on your calendar, are a good starting point!!

THE DEACONS CORNER

A Tribute to Dick Bell July 19, 2009

"I don't want anything else to drink because I don't want to spoil the flavor of that last bite of ice cream." Rosemarie offered with a genuine smile as I took her empty dish away during the ice cream social at Darlington House. Certainly, this comment served as the grateful, finale remark to a very special event the afternoon of Sunday, July 19.

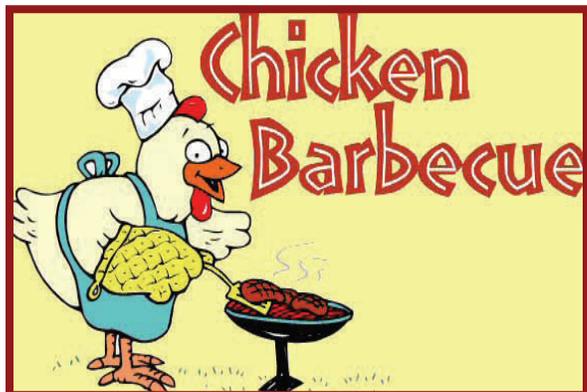
The Deacons were privileged to spread God's love by sponsoring an ice cream social as a tribute to Dick Bell. Dick had spoken to Rev. Pat several times about his visions for outreach. Because the clients at Darlington House never received "real ice cream", Dick hoped Fairgreen could someday sponsor an ice cream social with lots of flavors and toppings.

Thank you to so many of the Deacons who donated all the ice cream, fresh strawberries and blueberries, pineapple, whipped cream, sprinkles, nuts, cherries, and every kind of syrup imaginable. The Deacons also thank Connie Winslow who provided paper goods for the social. Because of so many generous donations, there were no expenses incurred.

Truly Dick's spirit was present, and so many clients happily remembered Dick! Stories were shared and souls were touched. Smiles melted personal worry as the clients relaxed and enjoyed a time of unconditional love. At the end of the social, Gayle Bell presented a prayer shawl to Marcia and Rosemarie, both clients ...and both seeming to "hang around" to absorb the last bits of happiness. Each lady was wrapped in a shawl and prayed for by a group of Fairgreen members.

Thanks to Gayle Bell, Dick Schroeder, Connie Winslow, and Mike and Barb Roadruck who served so willingly and sacrificed time to be present with clients needing a little joy. We also thank Katie Samson, the aunt of Joyce Koback who joined us. And Michael Bandfield added the natural entertainment and joy of a helpful, exuberant child. Taking into account the Deacons in attendance, we had a "Fairgreen Group" of fourteen sharing the jobs of "scooping", pouring punch, decorating with toppings, delivering with a smile, and listening with a caring countenance.

Lots of pictures were taken; watch for these on the Deacon Board and on the website.



**Sponsored by The Deacons of
Fairgreen Presbyterian Church**

September 19, 2009

**Mark your calendars and save the date.
Invite your friends and family.
More information to come!**

THE CONNECTIONAL CHURCH



The plans happened rather quickly, but at 11:15pm on Saturday evening, July 25th, sixty-two young people with their adult advisors arrived at Fairgreen in a VERY large bus! They were on a "Mystery Mission Trip" this week, with only the adults knowing where they were going and how they were serving!

The group was from Quest Community Church in Lexington, KY. Their assistant Youth Director, Whitney, worked on a Mission Outreach one summer with Emily Main so when it was determined that their mission outreach was in our direction, Whitney contacted Emily.

Because this unfolded in just a few days time, only a handful of our church people were witness to how welcoming our church was the evening they arrived! Those on Session knew, for they had to approve it! This opened the hospitality door for cookie bakers who supplied the evening snack for our guests. Some of Fairgreen's young people were here as greeters and stayed overnight, along with Emily.

All the Quest group asked for was space to put their sleeping bags. We were able to give them that, with pride, in our clean and dry downstairs (for the boys) and the open space of the Commons, (for the girls). As they left on Sunday morning, we had apples, (thanks to the Deacons) granola bars and juice boxes for them.

It was a quick visit which most of you, which I said earlier, didn't even know was happening (!) But it was full of high energy, sincere gratefulness and just another way of experiencing mission as we put into action our connection as Christians.

STEWARDSHIP ASKS MEMBERS...

"WHAT IS GOD'S SHARE OF YOUR WEALTH?" By Tim Eichenauer

Did you notice the question above is not "What is Your Share of the Church Budget?" The reason for that is simple – God has never asked us to meet the church budget. We haven't joined a country club where there are set dues and the threat of expulsion if you don't pay up (and on time).

Instead, as we Christians read and learn more about God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, we come to understand that we have been granted infinite love, blessings and gifts by our Creator and Savior. *The Earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof.* Every tangible asset in our possession is actually a gift from God that we are stewards over.

David wrote in Psalms 116:12, *What shall I render to the Lord for all his bounty to me?* He goes on to answer that he will pay his vows to the Lord in the presence of all His people, and render sacrifices of thanksgiving. In fact, throughout the Old Testament the concept of tithing – returning the first fruits of the Lord's bounty – is a basic tenet for the chosen people's response to the gifts they've received.

By making a cheerful gift of the first fruits of the Lord's bounty to us, we experience that same joy of thanksgiving. Our giving isn't charitable – that would imply that we're giving from our wealth to the needy or the non-deserving. Our giving instead is an act of thanksgiving – returning to the Lord's that which is His in praise and thanksgiving for His gift of first (and all) fruits to us, foremost the gift of His Son to die on the cross for our sins.

STEWARDSHIP CALLS MEMBERS TO A LARGE VISION By Gayle Bell



So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.
2 Corinthians 4:18 NIV

2 Corinthians 4:18 *"So we fix our eyes not on what is seen but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."*

When I read this scripture the words that kept jumping out at me were **"Fix Our Eyes."**

What do I fix my eyes on? I'm seeing things I want that others have. I see the mistakes that others make but forget my own. I can't see the vision that others have received from God but I am often able to point out why their vision is impossible. I know when I'm not fixing my eyes and ears on God; I'm getting the wrong messages. I'm quick to focus on myself and not on the Creator.

What is unseen is eternal! God's love, forgiveness and promises are eternal. Other things that are unseen are the warm feeling after a hug...the pleasure felt after giving of yourself...can we actually see that mountaintop experience some of us have felt? We can set goals and attempt to achieve them. We can listen when God is talking and put what we're hearing into reality. We can lift up those attempting to live their lives the way God has directed. All of this will help fulfill someone else's vision if we don't have one.

Stewardship is sharing our gifts with others. He gave His all! We are only asked to give back a portion of what God has blessed us with. By fixing our eyes on what is unseen I believe God always has a vision, a task, and/or a message for each of us. By praying together, we often can receive the same vision. If we replace our fear with trust in God, anything is possible. Continue to pray and don't be afraid to dream!!!

A COUPLE OF THANK YOU'S

Dear Friends of Fairgreen,

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers. They arrived the day after my surgery and when one is hurting. A colorful, cheerful bouquet makes one feel so much better!

I thank you also for the many prayers, as prayers are powerful and also the many lovely cards. Mary Ellen and I have been blessed by Fairgreen (beginning at Rosewood) for many, many years. We sure do love you all.

God Bless and thanks to all of you.

Ken Campbell



Dear Fairgreen Family,

I wish to thank the Lord and the members of this church for the outreach of love shown to the residents of Darlington House in memory of Dick. Whenever I approached anyone asking if they would like an Ice Cream sundae **THEIR EYES WOULD LIGHT UP**. Such a simple thing to use and such a blessing to those who don't have the availability of this cold sweetness. I know Dick was looking down with a smile on his face telling each and every person in that room "Jesus Loves You and So Do I." This also expresses my feelings!! I think this is one of the tasks that Pastor Pat can mark off the list that Dick gave to her to complete.

God Bless, Gayle Bell

SESSION ACTIONS FOR JUNE & JULY By Pat Gibson

- MOTION #1 ~ Approved Pastor Pat taking 3 days of her vacation time from June 29 -July 1 and one day of Compensation time on July 2. No Sundays will be missed during this time. M/S/P**
- MOTION #2 ~ Approved the minutes of the stated Session meeting of May 12, 2009 and of the Special Session meeting on May 30, 2009. M/S/C**
- MOTION #3 ~ Approved removing Sue White from our membership roles. M/S/P**
- MOTION #4 ~ Approved all session committee reports as received. M/S/C**
- MOTION #5 ~ Approved motion to adjourn. M/S/C**

- MOTION #1 ~ Approved up to \$15,000.00 for sanctuary renovations and replacement of the clavinova with a Yamaha Stage piano.**
- MOTION #2 ~ Approved inviting Grace Presbyterian church to celebrate Worldwide Communion Sunday on October 4, 2009 with the Fairgreen congregation at Fairgreen.**
- MOTION #3 ~ Approved the use of the church van on July 23, 2009 for the annual picnic at Oak Openings Park for the residents of Aurora Project, Inc.**
- MOTION #4 ~ Approved COM's request to allow a candidate to preach in our pulpit on Sunday, July 26, 2009.**
- MOTION #5 ~ Approved the Mission Group from Quest Community Church in Lexington, KY to stay overnight at Fairgreen on July 25, 2009.**
- MOTION #6 ~ Approved up to \$50 from a to-be-determined line item in the budget to provide snacks for our 62 youth and adults guest from Quest Community Church in Lexington, KY.**
- MOTION #7 ~ Approved Pastor Pat's 3 days of vacation on August 4, 5 and 6, 2009.**
- MOTION #8 ~ Approved all the Session committee reports.**
- MOTION #9 ~ Approved the Great Banquet sponsored Craft Sale on Friday, November 13 from 9am-6pm and on Saturday, November 14 from 9am-4pm with monies earned going to the Fairgreen Shower Fund.**
- MOTION #10 ~ Approved Alice Cole as Fairgreen's commissioner to the September 15th, 3pm Presbytery meeting in Fremont.**
- MOTION #11 ~ Approved meeting adjournment.**

JUNE FINANCIAL SUMMARY By Peg Winslow

Year To Date Income as of 6/30/09	\$91,788.36
Year To Date Expense as of 6/30/09	<u>(\$101,677.77)</u>
Operating Loss as of 6/30/09	(\$ 9,889.41)



Come join us in the church lounge from 8-9am for a Continental Breakfast as we fellowship together and grow in Christ as we study 1st Peter. 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, August 8, 2009**



Let your light shine!
Matthew 5:14-16

Great Banquet Meetings and Gatherings

Speakers Meeting 5pm ~ Sunday, August 9
Board Meeting 4:30pm & Gathering 6pm ~ Sunday, August 16
#1 Team Meeting 9-12:30pm ~ Saturday, August 22
#2 Team Meeting 9-12:30pm ~ Saturday, August 29

**MOUNTAIN TOP GREAT BANQUET
COMMUNITY INVITES YOU TO THE**

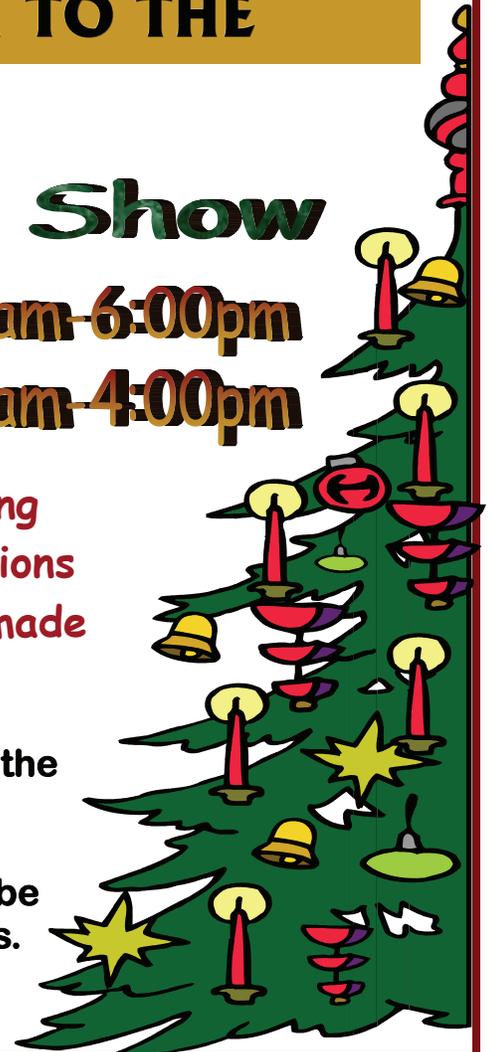
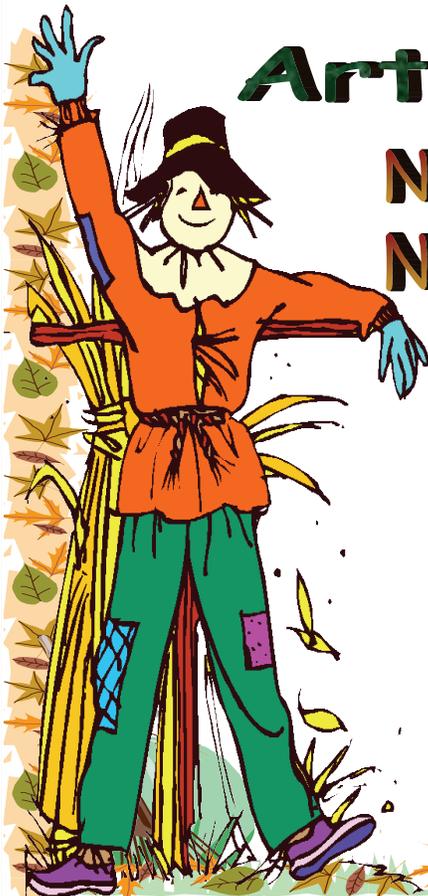
Holiday Arts & Crafts Show

November 13th ~ 9:00am-6:00pm

November 14th ~ 9:00am-4:00pm

Local vendors showcasing
jewelry, art, sewn creations
and other types of handmade
goodness.

Vendors Welcome! Please call the
church office 419-475-4436 to
register and sign a contract.
Space is limited and so it must be
on a first come, first serve basis.



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

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

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