

Fairgreen Leaves

NOVEMBER 2011

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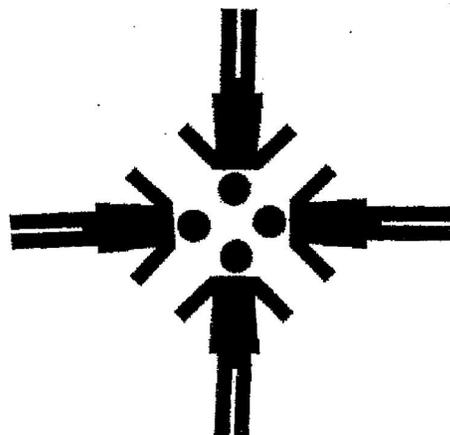
STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

God coined us
in God's image...
We are God's money,
and we should be spent...
Money should circulate,
we should circulate,
money should go from hand to hand,
we should go from hand to hand,...
money should be used,
we should be sued,...
money is going to be worn,
we should be going to be worn,

We should be spent,
we are coins,
God is trying to use us,
to pay off our debts,
to pay off the debts we owe each other
here on earth...

Let us risk being used,
and we will be increased,
and the end will be glory...

Joseph Donders



NEW COMMUNION TABLE By Kay Amendola

Our new communion table was designed and made by Bill Halsey. Special things come with a story. This is Bill's story.

I was the Emergency Management Agency/Homeland Security Director for Lucas County for 20 years before retiring in 2008. I was with the agency a total of 35 years repairing tornado sirens and developing plans for disaster response and recovery, including around Davis Besse. The position did not leave a lot of spare time for hobbies but the one I did make time for was woodworking. In the 1970's I bought a fixer upper and many of the skills I have today were learned the hard way on that house. I have been doing serious cabinet type wood working for about 15 years and while I read a lot of literature related to the hobby, most of it was learned through trial and error. Mostly error.

Two of my great grandfathers were carpenters and cabinet makers, one grandfather was both and my father was a carpenter so I guess the wood working gene is in my body and soul.

We've talked about a table for the church for some time and I recently agreed to the project. My father built a lectern for St. Clements Church in West Toledo in the early 60's and I have often thought about that project and when the chance to do something similar for a church arose I agreed to the project. It has been a challenge to design a project that looks similar to the existing furniture church, yet be smaller in every aspect.

One of my most rewarding projects is making teddy bear rocking chairs for small children. These chairs, with a curved back and teddy bear shape in the middle are a hit with some 40 children in the area. I have made gifts to a few needy children and sold others (although in the wood working hobby little money is ever made.) One chair several years ago went to a 3 year old girl that had had three open heart surgeries.

I am married and have 6 grandchildren, with the newest being a set of 8 month old twin boys that I am sure will want to help grandpa in the workshop when they are old enough.

INTRODUCING ABBY, OUR NEW TCM YOUTH INTERN...

My name is Abby Wasylkowski. I am a junior at the University of Toledo studying Religious Studies. I am involved with Toledo Campus Ministry and the Center for Religious Understanding. I have been involved with my church, Epworth Methodist Church, and the youth program for many years. With that church I have played a variety of roles and have been on many mission trips. I love working with people and doing mission work. I'm looking forward to a great year meeting all of you.

We, too, are looking forward to having Abby with us this year. Abby is one of seven interns placed in six different churches as part of this pilot project between TCM and the local churches. Abby will not only work with our Youth Group but will help with Kids for Christ, Confirmation Classes and worship leadership. Each intern will not only have the support of their peers but both a mentor and the pastor from the local church as they engage in ministry within the local church setting. ~ Rev. Pat

STEPPING UP TO THE PLATE

STEWARDSHIP

During baseball season, the phrase "**Stepping up to the plate**" is often heard. In the light of a baseball game, we all know what this means. However, this idiom is used in more than one way in our conversational speaking. The phrase can also mean to "take on a task with responsibility and the acceptance of a challenge". After contemplation, I would like to add the idea of "giving our personal best" to this definition.

We are in a church season of stewardship. This is the time for us to give prayerful consideration to what we can give as **our best** to God. It is time to envision and imagine what our promises and plans should be in the next year in response to God's faithfulness and love. When we promise our best, we need to recall that God asks us to talk to Him in prayer in deciding how to use our special talents, our daily time, and our monetary gifts to glorify Him.

The stewardship committee has chosen "Stepping up to the plate" as the theme of this fall's commitments. We have chosen Malachi 3:10 as the guiding scripture. In paraphrasing, we would like to share these words, "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse... try me in this says the Lord, see if I do not pour out such blessings that there will not be room enough to receive it."

A recent radio devotion stated the human inclination to live our busy lives in a way that God gets our leftovers. We perhaps schedule our time so tightly with what we deem important that no time remains to "work" for God. We may use up all our energy in endeavors so that when God would nudge us to give of our talents, we are just too tired. Our budgets may be a list of all the bills and necessities and at the end of the list, God gets the leftover amount because that is what can be afforded.

The devotion posed this question, "What if God asked you to buy a gift for someone?" Wouldn't it be such an honor that He asked you? Wouldn't you carve out the time immediately? Wouldn't you tirelessly give attention to every skill you possessed to give this task your best effort? Would you not be so concerned about the cost because it would have to be a very special gift?

God is asking for our best.... every day.... in any way we can give in praise to Him.

Please be in prayer as we make decisions about what we each can offer God in the upcoming Stewardship Sundays on October 30, Nov. 6 and Nov. 13. Please highlight Nov. 13 on your calendar because we will have a Harvest Meal (potluck) together after church service to celebrate our newly made promises. **Please bring a dish to pass and your own place settings.**

Items to bring:

A—D ~ Salads

E—N ~ Potatoes/Stuffing/Veggies

O—Z ~ Desserts



GOD'S SERVANTS AT FAIRGREEN

In our November issue we are featuring Mary Ellen Campbell and she has shared with us about her life here at Fairgreen.

"I was 8 years old when my parents moved from Gary, Indiana to Toledo. We joined Rosewood Presbyterian Church (we knew Rev. Cutler from where he ministered in Gary, Indiana and we could also walk to church). I was unhappy with the new church since I didn't want to move and I didn't know any of the kids at this church. I did a lot of painting. One day Rev. Cutler called me aside and said "There may be a reason for you to be in this church! A few years later (1951) Ken and I were married in Rosewood. My mom was chairman of the Women's Association and a leader in Vacation Bible School. My mom was my model of "life in a church" for me. Ken and I were very active (especially in the Scouts at Rosewood). I've watched many wonderful things grow in our church outreach programs. Five decades ago our main objective at church was to bring people into our church to Hear the gospel. Today I believe our objective is to be aware and help those in our community therefore Spreading the gospel.



At one time in our very active youth group at Rosewood; we wanted to have a dance party in the gym. Dancing in church was a no-no then. We discussed it and gathered our group to ask the Elders with trepidation! To our surprise, a very active and elderly elder stood up in answer to our request. "I certainly would rather see the kids dance here than somewhere else. I'll never forget that change in the church-I could have kissed him."

Our congregation now is the smallest ever but we have more projects for 'reaching out' then ever before. One project happened when I still was teaching. There was one time when one of the young ladies was shy and withdrawn and she wore glasses and the kids teased her and called her four eyes. When our deacons heard this they purchased lenses for her and she was so different, as she was happy and outgoing. That's 'outreach' for God's hands and heart! Interviewed by Carol Yeager

FAMILY PROMISE/IHN OF TOLEDO By Marilyn McAfee

Families cannot escape feeling helpless and hopeless when they have hungry mouths to feed and are experiencing homelessness. That is what many in the Toledo area are feeling today. Family Promise/Interfaith Hospitality Network helps to ease some of the fears by offering a hot meal, a warm bed and a safe place to sleep. Thanks to Jean Burtch, Catherine McCornack, Judy Stuart, Connie Winslow and Carol Yeager we warmed the hearts and tummies of 4 adults and 6 children (three families) at Pilgrim church on September 26. It was perfect timing to have left-over chicken from the Fairgreen Chicken BBQ. As one family left for the bus stop at 6:00 AM the following morning, they said "thank you...you just made our Thanksgiving that we missed last year! EVERYTHING was so good". It's hospitality and caring; a touch on the shoulder, a warm smile, making all feel welcome. Reaching out in mission; so easy and so important! It is the hands and feet of God.

Speaking of feet, thanks to the Ken Campbell's, the Len Andersons, the Durrants and Catherine McCornack for sponsoring me in the **Give them Shelter** fundraiser. I walked the 3.5 miles around Ottawa Park on Saturday, October 8th with my granddaughter Elizabeth and great-grandson Aiden. And who should come **whipping** by just toward the end of the walk was Julie Murray. It was "cool-down" time for her as we chatted the balance of the walk. Thanks Julie and thanks again to Fairgreen for supporting Family Promise of Greater Toledo.

DEACONS CORNER



Fall is here and with it comes the holidays. To get into the spirit, let's fill the shelves in our food pantry. We will be having a "fill the bag" event on the following Sundays: October 30th, November 6th, 13th and 20th. The bags will be in the narthex at the Welcome Center along with a list of items needed. We are starting early so we can work with the sales that the grocery stores have. If you find that you are not able to shop, you can donate money and the Deacons will do the shopping for you.

Here is the list of items that we will need to fill our Christmas Baskets:

Shampoo, cake mix, juice, canned spaghetti, pancake mix, syrup, Sausage links, cookies, hot chocolate, scalloped potatoes, macaroni & cheese, Deodorant, laundry soap, boneless hams, turkeys, individually wrapped Christmas candies.

So put on your elf hats and join in the fun. Imagine the grins on the faces of the children for their Christmas surprises. We will be packing the baskets on December 8th and 9th.

Harvest Tea



Won't you join us in celebrating the coming of fall on Saturday, October 29th. Rev. Pat and Dick Schroeder will be showing us how to "Dress our beds for Winter: as they display their quilt collection. Sign up at the Welcome Center in the Narthex or call Darlene in the church office. We could also use more goodies for our tea. We will have raffle prizes! Tickets are only \$5.

Scrip Cards

for eating...shopping...or filling your tank
Order Scrip Gift Cards!



With the holidays in mind please remember that you can order your scrip cards from the Deacons, on Sundays at the Welcome Center or in with Darlene in the church office. Recently one of our members bought Christmas scrip cards for \$225 and the deacons will receive \$16.25 which will apply to the Food Pantry. You may want to buy scrip to pay for your medicine at Kroger's or Meijers. This also brings extra monies for the Deacons Missions.



The Angel tree will be up in the Narthex by Sunday, November 20, 2011.

The Angel Tree will once again be decorated with names of children who God has placed in front of our congregation for us to help at Christmas. We would like all gifts wrapped and the "angel tag" returned to church by Sunday, December 4th, please

WHO AM I? By Colleen Ball

I am someone's daughter, sister, aunt, granddaughter, mother, and wife.

I am someone who cries when I am happy.

I am someone who loves Christmas but enjoys giving presents more than getting them.

I am someone who always gives something to the stranger on the side of the road holding a sign that reads "Will work for food".

I am someone who volunteers at a local food bank.

I am someone who has taught your children Sunday school.

I am someone who has passed you in the halls at our children's school functions.

I am someone who has sat a pew behind you during church.

I am someone who has been married for 23 years and has two children.

I am someone who does not drink or do drugs.

I am someone who has stood behind you in line at the grocery store.

I am someone who has hosted a dinner for people who are hungry.

I am someone who goes to work and pretends nothing is wrong.

I am someone who gets down on my knees and prays to God.

I am someone whose faith has been tested.

I am someone who used to be your neighbor.

I am someone

I could be anyone.

I could be you.

I am homeless.



SESSION ACTIONS FOR OCTOBER By Kay Amendola

MOTION #1 ~ Approved that the Deacons budget would become part of the general budget. M/P

MOTION #2 ~ Approved that a free will offering to be taken up for the Toledo Campus Ministry on Sunday, November 13th. M/P

MOTION #3 ~ Adjourn with prayer.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY By Peg Winslow

	<u>This Year</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
Year To Date Income as of 9/23/11	\$114,470.72	\$132,016.32
Year To Date Expense as of 9/23/11	(\$148,283.93)	(\$144,115.65)
Operating Loss as of 9/23/11	(\$33,819.21)	(\$12,099.33)



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA PLANTS

Once again you will have the opportunity to purchase poinsettia plants that will decorate the church sanctuary during the Christmas Eve service and the Christmas Service on Sunday. There will be an insert sheet put in the bulletins on the following Sundays: November 6, 13, and 20th. Turn the insert sheet, along with your money (checks please make out to Fairgreen Presbyterian Church), into the church office or place in Darlene Hughes mailbox by Sunday, November 20th. Thank You!



**MOUNTAINTOP GREAT
BANQUET COMMUNITY
INVITES YOU TO THE**

Holiday Arts & Crafts Show

November 12th ~ 9:00am-6:00pm

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

Please call the church office
419-475-4436 to register and sign
a contract. The cost for an 8ft
table and two chairs for one day is
only \$15. Space is limited and so
it must be on a first come, first
serve basis.

VENDORS WELCOME!



THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK!



Can you hear the applause? Thanks for the help on Clean-Up Day (Week). You may have noticed the garden area has been cleaned up for winter and the bushes trimmed. Even our bodies may be a little bit trimmer due to the work. Anyway, thanks again for your help. You are appreciated!

**Fairgreen
Presbyterian Church
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Toledo, Ohio 43613
419-475-4436**

**Rev. Pat Shafer
Cell Phone:
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**Office Hours
Monday-Friday
8:30—2:00pm
E-mail Address :
fairgreen.church@
sbcglobal.net
Fax: 419-475-6404**

**Worship Service
10:00am
Coffee Hour
11:10am**

**We're on the Web!
www.fairgreen church.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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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Change your clocks back one hour on Saturday, November 6th before retiring.