

MARCH 2011

Senior Pastor: Bradford G. Olson
con

Associate: Rick Tettau, Dea-

Christian Education. & Preschool Director: Lee Rose

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:30 & 11:00 (Traditional in Sanctuary)

9:45 (Praise Celebration in Community Center)

9:45 & 11:00 Sunday School

Worship Notes

Mar. 6: Communion in Pews

Matthew 17:1-9

"The Mystery of Faith"

Pastor Rick Preaching

Mar. 9: Ash Wednesday

Imposition of Ashes

Pastor Rick preaching

Mar. 13: 1st Sunday in Lent

"Jesus' words from the cross:

Father, forgive them, for they
know not what they do."

Pastor Brad preaching

Mar. 20: 2nd Sunday in Lent

"Jesus' words from the cross:

Today you will be with me in
paradise." Pastor Brad preaching

Mar. 27: 3rd Sunday in Lent

"Jesus' words from the cross:

Behold your mother/ I am thirsty."

Pastor Brad preaching

Ash Wednesday

What is Ash Wednesday? It is
the beginning of Lent.

What is Lent? It is the period
that leads up to Easter. It is a time
to take a good honest look at our
lives and ask how we can be more
faithful. For many it is a time to re-
flect, do something differently, or
give something up.

When is Ash Wednesday? This
year it is on March 9th. We will have
a special solemn service at 7:00
P.M. which will include the imposi-
tion of ashes, and the reminder that
we came from the dust, and to the
dust we shall return.

Sunday Participation

Date	Worship	S.S.
Jan. 23	240	102
Jan. 30	283	103
Feb. 6	251	87
Feb. 13	250	96
Feb. 20	278	96

*Jesus said, "... whoever gives
even a cup of cold water to one of
these little ones in the name of a
disciple -- truly I tell you, none of
these will lose their reward."*

Matthew 10:42

Dear Friends:

Who comes to mind when you
think about the word 'evangelist'?
Evangelists share their faith with
other people. In modern times, Billy
Graham is the most famous evan-
gelist. In early Methodism, John
Wesley shared the gospel from the
pulpit, in the coal mines, and at the
jail. In the Bible, the Apostles Peter
and Paul were instrumental in tak-
ing the good news to the lands of
the Gentiles. All of these people
are excellent examples of evan-
gelists. However, one doesn't need to
be famous or speak to a large

group to qualify as an evangelist. Notice the words of Jesus in the scripture above. Giving a cup of cold water in the name of Christ is evangelism. It is a simple act of kindness that meets the needs of one other person done while sharing your faith.

For many years our church has coordinated the Xenia CROP Walk. The CROP Walk is a way for the community to work together at ending hunger by raising awareness and collecting funds. People walk along the bike path demonstrating how most in the world travel just to get food and water. Volunteers from the church offer apples, granola bars, and a bottle of water to walkers as a sign of our support and care. Walking or supporting the ones who do is evangelism. It is a simple yet meaningful way of sharing our faith in the community.

A goal of the Missions, Evangelism, & Hospitality Committee is to offer at least 12 servant evangelism events this year for our congregation. These are opportunities for you to do simple acts of kindness, to offer 'a cup of cold water', while sharing your faith. Here is a calendar of servant evangelism ministries that we encourage you to support this year. Winter – Youth 'Souper Bowl' of Caring, Wright State Pancake Breakfast; Spring – Nothing but Nets Malaria Prevention program, Toward Independence Dinner / Dance, Toward Independence Talent Show, Blanket Sunday, Kid friendly food collection for FISH pantry; Summer – Red Bird Mission trip, VBS mission project, Guatemala Mission Trip, XACT Children's Theatre, Back to School supplies; Fall – CROP Walk, Festival of Sharing, Rake and Dash, FISH food collection, Christmas gifts for families, and St. Paul Christmas tree. Information about each servant evan-

gelism event will appear in the bulletin.

On behalf of the committee thank you for your support and encouragement. We look forward to serving with you. May God bless our servant evangelism ministries this year.

Yours in Christ,
Deacon Rick

Higher Education News

Jon Rose:

Jon is attending Sinclair Community College working towards an Associates degree in Computer Security.

Erin Cochran:

Erin Cochran is attending Sinclair Community College working on an Associates degree in Graphic Design.

SEEDS! SEEDS! SEEDS!

As I write this we are "enjoying" two winter ice storms. February is here and spring is just around the corner -- all right, make it two corners! March is the month our church collects vegetable seeds for our southern Ohio mission's poverty area. Again, we are pleading that in addition to the congregational giving, all Sunday School classes, youth groups, Methodist Men and Women and Common Cup worshipers help us in this endeavor. If you cannot shop for the seeds, please consider making a monetary donation and mark it "seeds". If you mention to your local garden center that this purchase is for FCUM seed project, they may offer you a discount. When you drop your packets in the containers provided, say a prayer that God will bless them with a bountiful harvest. Thank you for caring.-- Peggy Roberts

New Member Class

Have you been attending Faith Community UMC for some time now? Are you interested in becoming a member? Are you curious how we do that around here? Well, we usually have new member classes 2 or 3 times a year. The next group is going to get together on Sunday, March 13 for a light lunch around noon. Pastor Brad and Pastor Rick will be there to talk a little about the Methodist movement in general, and Faith Community in particular. New Members will be received the following Sunday, March 20. It would be helpful if you are interested to give the Church Office a call, so that we know how many to expect, 372-7601.



Stephen Ministry Some thoughts on a difficult question, How are you?

This is a simple question, yet one that is also so much more profound than we usually allow it to be. When used in passing, with no expectation of a real response, it serves as a kind of informal greeting, a way of saying hello without getting down to the nitty-gritty of what's going on in someone else's life. But when asked with a greater degree of care and sensitivity, with a patience that waits to listen carefully to the response, it can be the key that opens the door to deeper understanding between two people, and can, in some cases, even lead to a greater degree of hope and healing for one or both of them.

Certainly, it is a question that can be answered on several different levels. It is important to remember

this, and to try, as much as possible to ask it of those we care about with open ears and open hearts, with readiness to listen intently to their responses and to really care about what they are telling us.

Here are only a few of the many meanings that can lie behind the simple question:

How are you: Physically? Medically? Emotionally? Relationally? Spiritually?

As you can see, "How are you?" can be far, far more than just a trifle exchanged between two people passing hurriedly in a hallway. When we learn to ask "How are you?" in a sincere way, we will be able to provide the kind of loving care that people desperately need. And people will be more willing to tell us about themselves if we take the time to let them respond truthfully while we listen to their answers with our hearts as well as with our ears.

(From Stephen Ministries
Saint Louis website)

Break Out!

Sometimes it's comfortable to do things the same old way: buy the same brand of breakfast cereal every week, drink from a favorite coffee mug every day, or snuggle into that old sweater that's a little too small. But sometimes it's good to stretch into something new. Stephen Ministry may be where God is calling you to **S-T-R-E-T-C-H**. A new training class will be starting in September during evening hours. Contact Brenda Boroff at 453-2485 for further information.

**Deadline for April Faith
Links: Tuesday, March
15**

Interfaith Hospitality Network

IHN, Schneider House of Hope, is having a walk to raise funds to support displaced families. It will take place March 27 at 2 PM starting at IHN and walking along the creek-side trail off Detroit Street. Pets, families, couples and individuals are welcome. You can participate in other events such as a tour of the House of Hope, listen to a praise band, enjoy refreshments and more. For more information call 372-0705 or Laurie Krakowiak at 694-8114. Registration is required. Thank you!

Office Staff Appreciation Month

The Staff Parish Relations Committee has designated March as Office Staff Appreciation Month. We want to recognize Shelly Bullen and Scott House for their efforts in maintaining an efficient, well-organized office; and Elizabeth Johnson and Jenny Larsen for providing nursery care.

Our Business Manager, Shelley, is responsible for much of the day-to-day operation of the office, preparing the weekly Sunday bulletin, coordinating the calendar for building usage, processing and depositing weekly collections, and coordinating a staff of volunteers to assist with answering the telephone and greeting visitors, to mention just a few of her duties.

Our Church Treasurer, Scott, maintains and verifies our financial records.

Our nursery workers, Elizabeth and Jenny, provide a caring and nurturing area for our youngest children while their parents attend church.

As you see these staff members in and around the church please join SPRC in recognizing and

thanking them for their skillful endeavors.

Grounds Maintenance for 2011

Believe it or not, it will soon be time to start cleaning up the grounds and beds around the church. Last year there was a fantastic turnout to help with the first cleanup. I am hopeful that I can count on many of you again this year. As always, we need not only help, but trucks or trailers to haul away the limbs, grasses and other clippings. The youth have been a major help in past years and I am hoping I can count on them again this year. However, they cannot do it alone. I am looking for adults, kids, grandkids, families and anyone else who might be interested in spending a couple of hours on a Saturday morning helping with this project. As always, we will try to get this done before Easter. I am tentatively looking at Saturday, April 9th with a rain date of April 23rd. If you would be interested in helping with this project, please call me at 937-768-4503 or e-mail me at mstidham1950@woh.rr.com and put the dates on your calendar.

In addition to this big cleanup project, I will once again be looking for some people willing to help with getting the beds ready for the summer. I have had a very loyal group of 5 or 6 people for the past few years, but could use a few new faces. The time commitment is not great and can be very flexible. This is another way you can serve the church. If you would like to help out over the spring and summer, just let me know and I will contact you when we get ready to start. As always, your support is appreciated.
--Margaret Stidham

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UMW Circles

Mary Rebecca – March 8,
1 P.M. – Church Parlor

Dorcas – March 15, 1 P.M. -
Church Parlor

Lydia – To be determined

Priscilla – No meeting in March

Mother's Day Carnations

Lydia Circle will sell carnations beginning Sunday, April 3. Watch for more details in April Newsletter

Mother-Daughter Banquet

Friday, May 6, 2011, 6:30 P.M.
Tickets will go on sale beginning
Sunday, April 3. More details in
April newsletter.

Women's Prayer Breakfast

We are having our annual Women's Prayer Breakfast on March 12 sponsored by the Priscilla Circle of United Methodist Women. Tickets are \$5.00 and will be available through March 6. Guest speaker will be Mrs. Patsy Gaines portraying the life of Susannah Wesley. We think this will be a program you won't want to miss.

United Methodist Men

Monday, March 28, 6:30-9 P.M.,
Fellowship Hall

Pancake Breakfast

Faith Community and the United Methodist Men will host a pancake breakfast fundraiser for the Ignite campus ministry at Wright State University on Saturday, March 5 from 8 AM to 10 AM. Suggested donations are: adults - \$5.00; children under 12 - \$3.00; family ticket - \$12.00. Menu includes pancakes, sausage, fresh fruit, coffee and juice. Hope to see you there!

Field Trip to Islamic Center

You are invited to join the Confirmants on a field trip to the Islamic Center in West Chester, just north of Cincinnati, on Saturday, March 5. We will meet at FCUM at 11:00 A.M. and return by 3:00 P.M.

Prayers and Sympathy

To Ruth Anna Allen, Doris (Wayne) Eakins, Betty Thayer and Albert Verba on the death of their sister and sister-in-law, **Barbara Allen**; address: Ruth Anna Allen, 1036 Ormsby Dr., Xenia;

and to Jim McPeek on the death of his father, **Ross McPeek**; address: 428 S. Detroit St., Xenia

Thank You

Faith Community Church,

Thank you very much for allowing us to use your facility for our son's birthday party! We are so thankful for all you do.

Kristin, Douglas &
Kingston Doyle



Dear Friends,

Thank you for your prayers, cards, visitations and phone calls.

We are doing well having physical therapy at home. I hope to be out and about soon. Gene will be a little later inasmuch as he had heart surgery (4 bypasses). He is doing fine but it will take time to get his strength back.

Hope to see all of you soon.

Sincerely – Marcella &
Gene Helgeson

◆Help Needed for FISH Pantry◆

Do you know anyone who may have a couple of hours a month to donate working in the FISH PANTRY? We especially need people who can lift boxes and load sacks of groceries into carts. Of course, desk jobs are also available. We are overwhelmed with clients and can use help. If you are interested please call Mary Jane Short at 767-1654. It is rewarding work and the community depends on us.

Spring Common Cup Bible Study will begin on March 2 in Room 6 on Wednesday nights at 6:30 P.M. We will study various letters of the New Testament. Please come to class prepared to discuss Jude. All are welcome. Each class will conclude by connecting our study to the missional work of the church.