

## MAY 2011

Senior Pastor: Bradford G. Olson

Associate: Rick Tettau, Deacon

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

**May 1:** Heritage Sunday

"Renew My Heart" Isaiah 6:1-8

Communion – Pastor Brad

**May 8:** Mother's Day

"A Mother's Prayer"

I Samuel 1:27-28 – Pastor Brad

**May 15:** "Dear God"

1 Peter 1:3-9 – Deacon Rick

**May 22:** "God Changes People"

Acts 7:55-60

Confirmation- Pastor Brad

**May 29:** "Three Things You Will Never See" Acts 17:22-31

Memorial Day Weekend

#### Sunday Participation

Date	Worship	S.S.
Mar. 20	258	95
Mar. 27	319	107
Apr. 10	283	110
Apr. 17	337	99

### From Pastor Brad

Easter is more than a day, it is a season. If we take it seriously, Easter is a way of looking at God that changes the way we look at ourselves and each other. Easter faith believes that even in the worst situations we can face there is always hope, there is always faith, there is always life.

There is a variation on the "Footprints" poem that I was recently given. It was sent to me by e-mail. I am not sure who wrote it or how long it has been in circulation. Like the original, it tells of a dream you have of walking

with the Lord Jesus through the sand together. At first the Lord's footprints are steady and consistent, while yours are disorganized. Then the two sets parallel each other. Eventually they become superimposed, your smaller prints inside his larger. Then they become one.

Suddenly, the second set of footprints is back. This time it seems even worse than it began. Zigzags all over the place. Stops. Starts. Deep gashes in the sand. A veritable mess of prints. You are amazed and shocked. Your dream ends.

Now you pray: "Lord, I understand the first scene with zigzags and fits. I was a new Christian; I was just learning. But you walked on through the storm and helped me learn to walk with you."

"That is correct."

"...and when the smaller footprints were inside Yours, I was actually learning to walk in Your steps; I followed you closely."

"Very good. You have understood everything so far."

"...when the smaller footprints grew and filled Yours, I suppose that I was becoming like you in every way." "Precisely."

"So, Lord was there a regression or something? The footprints separated, and this time was worse than the first."

There was a pause as the Lord answered with a smile in His voice. "You didn't know? That was when we danced."

I have often felt that my relationship with Christ has involved obedience, humility, and service. As I have grown in my ministry, I have gained a greater appreciation for the joy, hope, and promise that is involved. I like that idea that it might be described as a dance. In my own relationship I would like to be able to say that I am dancing with the Lord.

## Thank you! Common Cup Staff and Volunteers

*You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was brought to completion by the works. James 2:22*

In the letter written by James, the brother of Jesus, James insists that good works perfect our faith. Good works are not independent of our faith, but rather they are born out of faith. James understands that there isn't anything we can do to earn salvation; this is the free gift of God's grace. His contention is that our actions show people what we truly believe. Why is this important? Many Christians today view faith as a private, individual matter and often neglect any commitment to others. Sometimes they even view worship on Sunday morning with other believers to be unnecessary. James' uncompromising point of view affirms that faith is a matter of practice; a way to live in love and gratitude for blessings received.

I want to thank our Common Cup staff, volunteers, and teachers for showing us what you truly believe about God through your faithful service on Wednesday nights. There is a welcoming atmosphere felt by the gathered community. Visitors quickly pick up on how friendly people are as they move through the food line and into the eating area. Nobody is turned away. We often feed families and guests at a reduced rate or at no charge at all. All are welcome. Growth group leaders work hard to teach the word of God to their students. In so many ways we are about feeding people good food for the heart, body, and soul (John 6:35).

Especially I want to thank Virginia Pinkerton for her leadership role in the Common Cup. She will tell you that the success of the meal begins with a time of prayer. The workers for the evening gather together to pray for the meal,

their guests, and strength for the task at hand. Virginia plans the meal, shops during the week, and coordinates over 100 volunteers with the help of our website team. Thank you Virginia and the hundreds of volunteers who help you during the week and on Wednesday nights!

The countless meals served during the course of the year are a visible sign of your faith brought to completion by your good work.

Yours in Christ,  
Deacon Rick

## Higher Education News

If you have a child graduating from college or high school please contact me Laurie Krakowiak, Chair of Higher Education at [laurielamont@juno.com](mailto:laurielamont@juno.com), or the church office. We will recognize graduates on Sunday June 5. Thank you.



## Educational Assistance

Educational Assistance may be available to graduating high school seniors who are contemplating entering a college or technical school in the fall of 2011. FCUMC's Educational Assistance grants are a **one-time only** award for graduating high school seniors. Guidelines and application forms are available in the community center, narthex, and the church office. The deadline for the completed applications is **April 30, 2011.**

The General Board of Higher Education Ministries also offers scholarships and loans to undergraduates and graduate school students. Visit their website at [www.gbhem.org](http://www.gbhem.org).



## Stephen Ministry



Stephen Ministry Responds to Life's Jagged Lines.

**The Stephen Ministry symbol contains three elements: a broken person, a whole person, and the cross between them. The cross symbolizes Christ as the mediator whose healing love transforms broken people into whole people.**

Stephen Ministry is all about responding to the jagged lines in a person's life. The jagged line can be any of the worst experiences of life—death of a child, bitter divorce, devastating disease, drug addiction, loneliness—or other difficult experiences—caring for aging parents, losing a job, relocating. Life draws those jagged lines. No one has to go through them alone. Stephen Ministry responds to those jagged lines with Christ's healing love. It involves a one-on-one relationship of care receiver to care-giver, a relationship that is really one-on-one with Christ.

Named for the account in the Acts of the Apostles when the deacon Stephen and six others were commissioned to care for members of the Church, Stephen Ministry began in 1975 after Missouri pastor and psychologist Dr. Kenneth Haugk realized that there were many more hurting people in his congregation than he alone could even try to help. Drawing upon his ministerial experience and education in clinical psychology, Dr. Haugk trained nine members of his congregation to provide one-on-one care. Today, this ministry has

spread to over 11,000 congregations in 150 denominations with more than 500,000 trained lay ministers providing care, 12 who are members of Faith Community. More than a million individuals have received care in formal one-to-one relationships, and millions of others have received care from Stephen Ministers in informal ways.

Training is required for participation in Stephen Ministry as a caregiver. The training is about being a Christian with the skills to support others in times of need—skills such as listening, feeling, assertiveness, and confidentiality. Likewise, Stephen Ministers are trained to recognize when a person's needs are beyond the ability of a Stephen Minister to meet and how to help the care-receiver access a higher level of care.

Once a Stephen Minister is trained and commissioned at Faith Community, Brenda Boroff, a trained Stephen Leader, links the new Stephen Minister with a care receiver, a member of the congregation or community who is in a time of need. Women work with women. Men work with men. Generally a Stephen Minister is the partner for one care receiver at a time and meets with that person once a week. Individuals who complete the 50-hour initial training process make a two year commitment of active service in the ministry after their commissioning. Stephen Ministers also meet monthly for supervision and continuing education.

Most of the current Stephen Ministry care-givers at Faith Community have served for more than two years. Their training makes it very clear that being a Stephen Minister is not about trying to become a professional counselor, psy-

chologist, or social worker. Instead, it is about trying to understand what another person is facing and caring enough to truly appreciate what that person is experiencing. It is not about telling someone what they should or should not be doing. It is about walking along beside them and reassuring them that they are not alone. It is ultimately about showing up and being there.

As one Stephen Minister has recently expressed: "Jesus reached

out to those who were in need and whose spiritual illnesses were not immediately known or obvious. He was empathetic, and our goal is empathetic companionship in a relationship that has Christ in the middle, joining the two edges and healing the jagged line."

If you are interested in learning more about either receiving care or in training to become a Stephen Minister, call Brenda Boroff at 453-2485



## **Missionary in Need**

One of our missionaries, Dr. Elma Jocson, is currently serving as one of two surgeons at Ganta Hospital, in Liberia, in northern Africa. She is one of three global missionaries that Faith Community supports, in partnership with other United Methodist congregations. In her ministry, she often performs life saving surgeries for people in desperate need who have no money to pay. "Doc Elma", as she likes to be called, has lost the use of her laptop computer, which can be very important for keeping in contact with the outside world, and for doing medical research.

We are collecting donations to enable us to send her a new com-

puter. If you would like to help, please make your check out to Faith Community, and write "Doc Elma fund" in the memo. If donations exceed the cost of the computer, the remainder collected will be used for medical supplies in Liberia.

Please have your donations in to the church office by May 15th.

## **Markays to Assume New Responsibilities**

Dear Friends at Faith Community,

In August of this year we will take on new responsibilities in the Sheffield-Brunswick and Hoyland circuits of the Methodist Church in Britain. As we conclude our fifteen years of service as missionaries with the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries, our hearts are very grateful for all you have done for us.

At the time of this writing, the GBGM has not yet appointed a missionary to serve in Italy. We hope you will consider establishing a covenant relationship with GBGM missionaries Ut To and Karen Vo-To who serve in Vietnam. The West Ohio Conference Office or GBGM Mission Support Liaison Rachael Barnett (tel. 212-870-3716; email: [rbarnett@gbgm-umc.org](mailto:rbarnett@gbgm-umc.org)) can provide you with more information. The missionary biography page on the GBGM's web site ([gbgm-umc.org](http://gbgm-umc.org)) may also be helpful.

Faith Community UMC will always hold a special place in our hearts for its connection with the Chiles family. Kristin was baptized in Xenia when her father, Bob Chiles, served there as a pastor. Years later, it was a special privilege for both of us to return to Xenia on itineration

visits, and to be accompanied by members of the Chiles family. David will remember your casual coffee worship and the Mission Sunday he spent with you in 2007.

Your mission giving, especially during difficult economic times, is a testimony to your commitment to spread Good News within and outside your community. Please know

that the many ways you have supported us in ministry -- your financial support, prayers, letters, birthday cards, and your hospitality to our family during itineration visits, have all sustained us in ways you cannot imagine. We trust that together, we have planted seeds for the Gospel.

Peace in Christ,  
The Markay Family  
Address: Chiesa Evangelica  
Methodista di Milano,  
Via Porro Lambertenghi, 28  
20159 Milano, Italy



## **GUIDE BOOK & DIRECTORY**

We have contracted Guide Book Publishing to publish a Guide Book & Directory for our congregation that will be updated and delivered directly to your homes annually. This book will be the Who, What, Where, When, Why and How of our Church. The book is being provided at no cost to our Church. Local businesses are being solicited to advertise in the book. If you own or manage a business and would like to find out about advertising in our book please call the Church Office at 372-7601



## **UMW Circles**

**Mary Rebecca** – Tuesday, May 10,  
1 P.M. – Parlor

**Dorcas** – Tuesday, May 17,  
1 P.M. – Parlor

**Lydia** – Wednesday, May 11,  
7 P.M. - Parlor

**Priscilla** – Monday, May 16,  
7 P.M. – Parlor

## **Mother-Daughter Banquet**

Friday, May 6, 6:30 P.M. Cost is \$7.00 for adults; \$3.50 ages 4-11; no charge for children 3 and under.

Jason Mahan's Cedarville High School jazz band will provide the entertainment. Tickets will still be available in the Narthex and Community Center Sunday, May 1 and in the office until April 29. We are unable to take reservations over the phone.

## **Father's Day Carnations**

Lydia Circle will sell carnations on Sunday, May 22, May 29, June 5 and June 12 for \$1.00 each. Watch for the tables in the Narthex and Community Center. Please complete the order form when you purchase your flowers. Order blanks will also be available in the office beginning Monday, May 23 and ending on Wednesday, June 8. All flowers must be purchased at the church. We are unable to take phone orders.



## **United Methodist Men**

The Miami Valley District United Methodist Men are initiating a mission projection called "**Love Packages.**" Basically it involves gathering old bibles, Sunday School materials, Christian books, Christian

sermon tapes, music, DVD's, Bible School materials, and old devotional books. The Faith Community United Methodist Men have placed a collection container marked **LOVE PACKAGES** in the Community Center beneath the coat rack where items may be dropped off.

We encourage all members to participate in this mission project. Materials will be picked up and shipped to third world countries. It is hard for us to believe that in these countries they have very few books and even pastors lack bibles.

Let us be a part of this mission project to spread God's word and in this way "MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST." For more information contact: John Sherer- 372-2204.

The next Miami Valley District United Methodist Men's meeting will be held May 24th at the Russell Road UMC, 340 Russell Road, Sidney, Ohio. Registration, fellowship and snacks begin at 6:30 PM with the program at 7 PM. **The keynote speaker will be our District Superintendent Dr. Chris Heckaman** and 30 minutes of music by the First UMC, Sidney men's chorus.

The Van will leave the church parking lot at 5:30 PM. We will return by 10 PM. To RSVP a ride in the Van contact John Sherer at 372-2204 or e-mail him at [sherer-jw@aol.com](mailto:sherer-jw@aol.com).



## Prayers and Sympathy

to Jack Gresham and family on the death of his wife, **Marcella Gresham.**



## Thank You

We wish to thank all those who sent cards and joined us for our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary celebration on Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. You made our day very special.

In His Love,  
John & Sharon Sherer

Dear Faith Community,

I would like to thank Pastor Rex Robinson and the Stephen Ministers for the visits after my recent surgery in Kettering. You were all such a blessing to me. God bless you all. Betty Mason

Thank you for your calls and cards following my recent knee surgery. Your kindness and prayers were greatly appreciated.

Cheryl Whitan



## **Kroger Rewards Program – Remember to Get and Use Your Cards!**

Hello fellow church members. This is just a friendly reminder to purchase and use your Kroger cards to support Faith Community financially with very little inconvenience. We are having great success with the Kroger rewards program. Since October of 2010, we have received \$2300 in rebates from this program. On behalf of the Administrative Board and the Finance Committee, we sincerely thank you.

The cards are pre-loaded and can be purchased only through the church at a cost of \$5. They may be acquired any time at the church office; however, look for them to be made available in the narthex or the community center after church services a couple of Sundays in May. When shopping at Kroger's the card can be reloaded at the service desk or prior to scanning groceries at the checkout with any dollar amount desired. The church receives a 4% rebate for all money spent using these cards at Kroger's.

The last report Faith Community received from Kroger's revealed that only 40 cards were reloaded this past month. Please accept this as a friendly reminder to use your rewards card if you have one. There are over 200 cards in circulation through Faith Community's program. It's important to note

that if your card has a zero balance and you haven't used it for a few months, it may be voided and not work. It will then be necessary for you to acquire a new card. This program has the capability of being a powerful revenue source for our church! Let's all get behind this program with enthusiasm! Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,  
Eric Montgomery,  
Stewardship Chairman



## **REMEMBER TO REMEMBER**

One Memorial Day, some children were asked what the holiday meant to them. "That's the day the swimming pool opens!" answered one boy. What he didn't realize was that he can freely go to the pool because more than one million people have put their lives on the line to preserve America's democracy. Many of them have died so citizens of other countries might also enjoy the privileges of political, social and economic freedom so please remember to honor these heroes on Memorial Day.

**Reminders: \*Deadline for June Faith Links – Monday, May 16**

**\*Last Common Cup Food Court/Programs – Wed., May 11. Back in September**

**UNITED METHODIST MEN'S ANNUAL GARAGE**

**SALE IS SCHEDULED FOR Friday, May 20th and Saturday**

**May 21st.** Many have already responded with items for the garage sale and we are so appreciative of your support. If you are planning on donating significant items, it would be helpful if you would list those items below. Typical items donated are dishes, glassware, pots, pans, electrical items, pictures, games, toys, bikes, clocks, radios, TV's, garden tools, mowers, & etc. Please no clothing, and please make sure electrical items are in working condition or mark otherwise. If you have a garage sale prior to ours and have items left over, call us and we'll arrange to pick up leftover items. Items may be dropped off at the Community Center Thursday, May 19th from 1 to 8 PM, or Friday May 20th from 9 AM -12 Noon. The sale runs from 6 to 9 PM Friday evening and will continue Saturday morning 9 AM to 12 Noon. Pick up of items may be arranged by calling John Sherer at 372-2204. **Please list major items you plan to donate and put in the offering plate, turn into the church office, or give to John Sherer.**

1)\_\_\_\_\_2\_\_\_\_\_

3)\_\_\_\_\_4)\_\_\_\_\_

NAME:\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE\_\_\_\_\_ If pick up needed, check this box ( )

**Your support is greatly appreciated!! Proceeds go for UMM missions and projects.**

**Bellbrook U.M. Quilt Show and Social**  
**Saturday, May 14, 1-4 PM, Bellbrook U.M.,**  
**47 E. Franklin St., Bellbrook, OH 45305**

Featured Speaker/Presenter – Award Winning Bellbrook  
Quilter, Lesa Bame -2 PM **"Modern Twist to Old Quilting Favorites...If  
These Quilts Could Talk"**

Local residents are invited to enter quilts for display.

To register for this free event call: Kim Kuelick 937-848-8416, Nancy  
Pestian 937-298-4674, or Church office 937-848-2909

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## Ham Loaf Sale

Once again Family Outreach will offer ham loaves for sale. There will be 6 Loaves per bag. The cost will be \$6 per bag. **Payment must be made with each order.** Only written orders will be accepted with payment. No telephone orders will be accepted due to pre-payment requirement. Please complete the order blank and return via the offering plate or to the church office by Sunday May 15<sup>th</sup>. Order blanks will also be available in the office.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

# of bags of 6 (ie.1, 2 etc.) \_\_\_\_\_ X \$ 6 per bag =

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed/attached.

Please indicate your pickup date preference.

\_\_\_\_\_ Sunday May 22<sup>nd</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday May 29<sup>th</sup>

Checks should be made payable to Faith Community United Methodist Church and indicate in the memo **Family Outreach.**