

The Beacon

November 19, 2009

11:00a.m. WORSHIP

9:45a.m. SUNDAY SCHOOL

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHURCH BOARD

The work to reconcile and restore our church began last Sunday. On November 15, the Board met with Dr. Leslie Kern and Reverend Eric Williams, a husband and wife consultant team. The Board wanted to see their leadership and work style in action in order to decide if they were the right persons to lead our congregation in a process of discernment and reconciliation.

Leslie is a clinical psychologist in Columbus, currently working with individuals, couples, and families. For many years, she was with the MidWest Counseling Center, an organization that works with clergy--as part of their ordination process, for career discernment, and for mid-career issues. Eric is the senior pastor at North Congregational UCC Church in Columbus, with ten years of congregational ministry and five years of hospice chaplaincy experience.

The Board was greatly impressed with Leslie and Eric's interpersonal talents, listening skills and leadership style. They established an open, inviting environment in which we were able to be candid with one another. We were also able to relish in our "prouds"—what we love about First Baptist—and our "worries"—the challenges we have with this community. Throughout the meeting, Leslie and Eric helped us see the links among what we were saying as we began to form ideas about some of the prominent issues affecting the Board--and our congregation--today.

Throughout the conversation, they encouraged our awareness of God's presence with us and with our congregation. They expressed appreciation of our church's openness to diversity of all kinds, while suggesting that congregations who don't require members to swear allegiance to a creed nevertheless need to define a covenant that holds members accountable for their responsibilities to one another and to the church.

Overall, the conversation was difficult, heartfelt, and productive. Now the Board would like to invite the rest of the congregation to engage in this process.* We are setting up small group meetings--up to 20 persons at each meeting. Joining a meeting with Leslie and Eric and fellow members and friends will give you the opportunity to talk through challenges you are facing at First Baptist Church, what you appreciate about it, and the hopes that keep you engaged in its life.

The first of these meetings will take place at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 6. Subsequent meetings will be announced as soon as we have the dates. Watch for announcements in the bulletin and on the email listserve. There will be a sign up sheet at church beginning this Sunday, Nov. 22. You may also telephone the church (740-587-0336) or email (info@firstbaptistgranville.org) to reserve a place. You may choose any date, so long as there is available space. Because of space restrictions, we ask that each person participate in only one of the three meetings. If you are unable to attend a meeting you have registered for, please let the church know so that another person may take your place.

During our meeting on Sunday, it was clear that everyone who participated wants our church to blossom and move forward. We also want to affirm and pastor one another. Getting the support and guidance to accomplish these goals is invaluable. Please make the commitment to add your presence and voice to this process.

**The Board has received offers from members of the congregation, who wish to remain anonymous, to cover the consultant fees and any associated costs of this process.*

May Sarton concluded her poem *Gestalt at Sixty* with the following blessing:

*Praise God for His mercies
For His austere demands
For Her light
And for Her darkness.*

To praise God for "blessings" of demands and darkness requires a rigorous kind of faith, faith that can trust, even in the midst of darkness and while struggling under the burden of demands, that God is at work just as surely as in the easier evidences of God that come with mercies and light. As we move towards Thanksgiving time, when we will praise God for the many mercies that we have been granted through the past year, as we glory in the light that God showers around us, I wonder: suppose our lists of blessings included thanks for the difficulties that have come our way? How might those difficulties begin to be experienced differently if framed as God's work?

I hope this Thanksgiving season finds you rich in blessings of mercy and light, of bounty and joy. And for the dark places in your life--may those, in mysterious ways, become blessings as well.

Faithfully,
Kathy

MISSION MATTERS

(Brought to you by the Mission and Social Action Committee)

LUNCHES ON THE SQUARE: NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

November

November's date is the 22nd. We've moved inside Trinity Episcopal for the winter! In a new twist, Trinity will be serving a hot meal of ham and bean soup and corn bread. We're supplying fruit and 150 sandwich bags for our guests to take home for later and to give to others. Each decorated bag will have one of our delicious protein-packed meat and cheese sandwiches, fruit, a sumptuous home-baked cookie, and a napkin. We're also making canned goods available for the taking. New—and best of all—we'll be giving out brightly patterned and lovingly-made fleece blankets. **Please plan to stay after church to make sandwiches. Anyone who would like to go to Trinity on East Main Street in Newark at 2:00 p.m. that day is welcome to go and help.**

December

December will be very special. The date is the 27th, and we'll be putting on a holiday meal at Trinity Episcopal on East Main in Newark. Trinity will bake turkeys, and we'll be making green bean casseroles, potato dishes, and pies. **Everyone who would like to go serve and eat with our guests is invited!** We also plan to offer fleece blankets, warm gloves, hats, and scarves given by you, our faithful readers! Please tell Lyn Robertson what you would like to contribute.

Thanks, in advance, to everyone!

OUR CONSENSUS PROCESS CONTINUES!

We are grateful to everyone for participating in the consensus process concerning the name of the church. We've read the emails, enjoyed the meetings at church, and heard about interesting conversations. Our congregation is making great progress in talking with one another about this matter. Whatever your opinion, we thank you for supporting the process!

Here's what's next:

We encourage everyone to continue sending emails expressing their ideas and thoughts about the name of the church. This can continue from now through December.

Between December 1 and 31, we invite everyone to "weigh in" with an opinion. Specify opinion 1, 2, 3, or 4, add your name and send by mail or e-mail (info@firstbaptistgranville.org) to the church office. This way we can be sure that everyone has the same chance to be counted in this "straw poll."

Please choose the position that is closest to the way you feel:

1. I am in favor of changing the legal name of our church to United Church of Granville (or Granville United Church) with a subtitle to show our affiliation.
2. I am not presently in favor of changing the legal name of our church. Could we discuss this again in a few months?
3. I do not ever want to change the legal name of the church.
4. I really do not care and will go along with the majority on this matter.

Thank you for your continued participation.

Peace, Cheryl McFarren and Lyn Robertson



THE 2010 RANCHO EBENEZER MISSION

BRIGADE is scheduled for February 11-20. This will be the 8th year that members of First Baptist have traveled to Nicaragua to be a part of this mission

experience. During our 9 day stay at Rancho Ebenezer we will continue with the painting and electrical work that we have done in previous years as well as working with a sewing project in the afternoons. The sewing project's focus is to teach local woman how to sew with the possibility that they can then make their families items along with making things that can be sold. Ask questions of any of the many FBC members who have gone on previous trips and if you are interested in joining this year's brigade please talk to Dan or Nancy Dobbelaer or Mike or Lyn Robertson.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat., Nov. 21 Farm & Craft Market, CE bldg, 10-noon
Sun., Nov. 22 Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service,
St. Luke's, 7pm
Lunches on the Square
Sun., Nov. 29 First Sunday in Advent
Sat., Dec. 5 Christmas Candlelight Walk

*Join in the PEACE VIGILS at Opera House Park
each Saturday, from 9:00 to 10:00am
and each Tuesday from 4:00 to 5:00pm*

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO DECORATE THE CHURCH: If you are interested in helping with holiday decorating, please see Kathy Hurt or contact her at the office number 587-0336 this week.

COME CHECK OUT THE FARM & CRAFT MARKET! It is each Saturday morning from 10-noon in the Education Building. Contact Tom Burkett (587-2128) if you'd like to help out a Saturday or two.

News from Whatever Works Art Space

Can you make soup for the Candlelight Walk?

This is our 2nd annual "Soup and Bowls" fundraiser at the Whatever Works Art Space. Proceeds go to the Art Space and the Licking County Food Pantry. 16 pots are needed. There is a sign up sheet at the church. On Dec. 5, bring your soup to Tess from noon to early afternoon in the Art Space.

The Art Space will close after December 18, 2009 and reopen January 15, 2010 for Friday Open Studio.

**FOR THE LICKING COUNTY
FOOD PANTRY**

Items and money are always needed for the Food Pantry. Here's the plan for the remainder of the year:

- ▶ November: Peanut Butter
- ▶ December: Personal items

Just bring in your items and/or checks made out to FBC (write 'Food Pantry' on the memo line) and put them in the basket at the back of the church!

Thanks, everyone!

NOTE FROM THE TREASURER:

Finances for First Baptist Church are as follows for the end October 2009.

Income = \$12,153 Expenses = \$13,420, therefore for the end of October 2009 expenses exceeded income by \$1,267.

SPECIAL NOTE: Louise issues checks every other Friday, so plan ahead for any reimbursements.



THANKSGIVING

*A Community Service
Of Thanksgiving*

Rev. Thom Lamb, Preacher
Associate Pastor of First Presbyterian Church

Combined Choirs of Granville Churches
Stephen Trumbull, Director

Handbells from First Presbyterian Church
Philip Everingham, Director

Brass and Organ
Scott Hayes, Organist

Sunday, November 22 at 7:00 pm

St. Luke's Church

107 East Broadway

- Granville, Ohio - 740-587-0167

The 2009 Granville Jennie-O Turkey Trot

The fourth annual Turkey Trot, presented by St. Luke's in Granville, takes place Thursday, November 26 -- Thanksgiving Day -- at 9:30 a.m. The 5K run/walk begins in front of the Opera House Park. Online pre-registration (strongly encouraged) is \$25 for adults, \$10 for children 6-13. The first 900 paid registrants will receive a Turkey Trot 2009 aluminum water bottle. Walk-in pre-registration will be available on Wednesday, November 25th, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at 118 South Main St.

Race-day registration goes up to \$30 for adults and \$15 for children 6-13, and is available from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. All proceeds from the Turkey Trot benefit the Food Pantry Network of Licking County, which received nearly \$12,000 after last year's Turkey Trot. Organizers hope to have 1,000 runners and walkers in this year's 5-kilometer event. For more information and to register, go to granvilleturkeytrot.com or contact the church's parish office at 740-587-0167. Become a fan of the Granville Turkey Trot on Facebook to help us spread the word and encourage your friends and relatives to join us!





2 0 0 9 C A N D L E L I G H T
W A L K I N G T O U R

This year's Candlelight Walking Tour at First Baptist on Saturday, December 5, will feature a fundraising sale in the Chapel. We will offer three categories of items: food (baked goods and candies), handicrafts, and potted amaryllis and paperwhite (narcissus) bulbs.

Coffee and hot cider will be available free of charge for shoppers.

We need contributions for the following:

1. Baked goods and candies. These can be of any kind, but holiday items are especially good sellers. Food should be packaged to appeal to buyers--e.g., cellophane bags tied with ribbons for cookies, pies with see-through wrapping or in boxes, etc. Any imaginative packaging will be a bonus. Susan Richardson is the contact: richardsons@denison.edu (740-587-4493)
2. Handicrafts. Anything handmade--knitted scarves and hats, quilted hangings or table runners, ceramic goods, jewelry--in short, handmade decorative items of any kind. Contact Barb Klatt: bklatt_2000@yahoo.com (740-507-1994) or Linda Mossholder lindamossholder@mac.com (740-522-6350)

We also need volunteers to help on the day of the sale. Selling will take place from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Please take time to volunteer your talent and time for this once-a-year fundraiser for our church's missions. Put this form into the offering plate or deposit it in the box on the table at the back of the sanctuary.

Name _____

Phone and email: _____

_____ I will contribute

_____ Food. Please describe: _____

_____ Something handmade. Please describe: _____

_____ I will be available to help with the sale (check all that apply)

_____ 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

_____ 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

_____ 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

First Baptist Church of Granville
115 W. Broadway
Granville, Ohio 43023

Non-Profit Organization
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