

The Beacon

October 21, 2009

11:00a.m. WORSHIP

9:45a.m. SUNDAY SCHOOL

info@firstbaptistgranville.org

www.firstbaptistgranville.org

Phone: (740) 587-0336

FAX: (740) 587-2412



FROM THE INTERIM MODERATOR

October 20, 2009

Dear First Baptist Church of Granville Congregation,

During yesterday's board meeting, Staff Relations chairperson Judith Thomas presented a report based on exit interviews the Staff Relations committee did with members who have recently withdrawn from the church as well as other concerns that have been brought to the attention of her committee. Her report highlighted a number of issues that raise serious concerns about the dynamics within the congregation and the direction in which we seem to be heading.

In addition, our pastor Kathy Hurt, in her monthly report to the Board, described the struggles she has faced working with our congregation. She believed that she could no longer help us manage and resolve divisions, work together, finish projects and coordinate a sense of direction. She felt that her strategies for guiding us had been exhausted and therefore was considering resignation. Following conversations with some Board members and guidance from both ABC Executive Minister Alan Newton and UCC Association Minister Forrest Hoppe, another option emerged, namely that of bringing in an outside consultant to listen to our stories, facilitate meetings and offer help.

As a result, the Board voted unanimously to seek help in the form of a paid consultant. A task force is searching, with the help of our ABC and UCC leaders, for possible consultants and the Board will hold a special meeting on Sunday, November 8th, after church, to consider with which consultant to meet.

The work we aim to do, as an entire congregation, will be difficult. However, the passion and commitment shown by the members of the Board during Sunday's difficult conversation leads me to believe that we can move forward and learn and grow together. Many Board members referred to this church as "home" and in that spirit, I hope all of you will take part in the restoration of our home.

In friendship,

Ceciel Shaw

Interim Moderator

WELLSTREAMS TRAINING: If there is anyone in the congregation who would be interested in the process of spiritual direction for oneself, **The Wellstreams Training Program, sponsored by the Spirituality Network**, is creating a pool of directees for the practicum part of the program. FBC member Patti Burkett is a graduate of the program, and members Jan Hoffman and Sheila Lafferty are currently in training. This would be an opportunity to see if spiritual direction is helpful to your spirituality and faith life. There would be one meeting to explain this in more detail before committing oneself to the process. No fees are involved. The commitment would be from January 2010 through February 2011. If interested, please call Carol Ann Spencer at the Spirituality Network (614-228-8867) or e-mail at carol.spencer1@juno.com, by October 23, 2009.

RENEWING THE SPIRIT OF OUR COMMUNITY BY CONSIDERING OUR CHURCH'S NAME

The congregation has been wonderfully responsive in the consensus-creating process by which we're considering the church's name. Our conversations are renewing the spirit of our community.

On Sunday, October 25, we'll be doing the Week V activity, which is to look at emerging name options. Right after worship, for about an hour, there will be a meeting of the congregation during which we'll share our realizations over coffee and determine where we'd like to go from there. It is hoped that people will be ready to commit to coming to consensus on November 1. And, then, we'll adjourn to make sandwiches for people who are hungry.

On Sunday, November 1, in the Week VI activity, we'll be thinking together about our church's long and distinguished heritage and about how that heritage prepares us for our future. We'll honor our community by making a thoughtful decision together using the process of consensus.

Coming to consensus means that everyone's voice is heard and respected. Consensus attempts to create understanding, even when everyone does not share the same view. It can produce compromises in which most get some of what they want. It is different from a "majority wins" vote in that it seeks a solution that as many as possible agree is the best outcome possible.

What consensus allows: Empowerment of all interested voices (sharing power); Shared ownership of the process and the results; Disagreement in favor of clarifying and understanding another's perspective; Creativity and collaboration; Community building and reconciliation

What consensus isn't (or need not be): About power over others (or majority rules); About producing winners and losers; Sprawling in terms of time

What consensus requires: Commitment; An intentional, multi-faceted formal consensus process; Understanding of the goal and process by which consensus will be reached; Trust; Respect; Deep listening; Unbiased facilitation; Inclusivity and a desire to stand together; Flexibility (give and take)

YOUTH NEWS

On Sunday, Oct. 25, the high school class will help make sandwiches after worship for the Lunches on the Square. Bring a lunch for yourself, or buy one at Subway. Sandwich making starts at 1:00, then we'll drive to the courthouse square in Newark to distribute 250 free lunches. We'll have you home by 3:00.

LAST WEEKEND THREE OF OUR TEENS TRAVELED TO KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN FOR THE ANNUAL PEACEJAM 'SLAM'



Anna, Clare, and Bobbie at PeaceJam 'Slam'

PeaceJam is our Sunday School curriculum, and the Slam is a day long conference for youth all over the Great Lakes region who participate in a PeaceJam program at their school or youth center.

Bobbie Jaquish, Clare Jaquish and Anna Burkett spent their Saturday getting a deeper understanding of complex topics related to "Breaking the Cycle of Violence," then all participated in a neighborhood rally near downtown Kalamazoo, offering free food and asking residents to make a commitment to peacemaking in their own community.

This year we'll be studying Betty Williams who was awarded the Nobel prize in 1976 for her efforts to build peace in Northern Ireland. Next spring we'll have the opportunity to travel back to Kalamazoo to meet her in person!

A reaction to the weekend from one of our attendees: "Peace is not idealistic. It starts in one's inner self, the home, communities, and branches out from there." Amen to that!

MISSION MATTERS

Lunches on the Square Update October, 2009

The first Sunday for Lunches on the Square was September 28, 2008, and we distributed 51 of the 55 lunches we took. That first menu included a turkey or ham sandwich with lettuce, tomato, mayonnaise and mustard; an apple; and two cookies (chocolate chip and oatmeal raisin). Now we supply condiment packets so people can make their sandwiches the way they want them. We're still asking volunteers each month to bake cookies!

Since last November, we've had a partner church, Trinity Episcopal of Newark, whose building is just off the square; they offered to help when their pastor realized that we'd need shelter during bad weather. Trinity members supply beverages and side food such as fruit and macaroni and cheese. When it rains or snows, they open their social hall for the distribution. We are greatly enjoying our fellowship with them.

We've had months when we gave out all we had quickly and months when we took many unclaimed lunches to the women's shelter and/or the Salvation Army. We seem now to be able to give all we take (250 lunches) to people who come. We are generous in suggesting people take more than one portion so they'll have something for the next day. This month, we are also planning to have a large container of canned food for people to take as they wish. We now know better what we're doing and invite anyone who would like to help in a low-key way with the distribution to go to Newark with the food.

The fourth Sunday in December is the 27th, and we've decided to create a holiday meal at Trinity. Trinity will bake turkeys and dressing, and First Baptist will provide green bean casseroles, potato dishes, and pies. We're intending that it be a meal that church volunteers enjoy with the people who come, and we're envisioning the Trinity social hall filled with people having a nice time together.

We want, also, to be able to make hats, gloves, scarves, and other warm clothing available to our guests. MSAC invites everyone to join them in the planning for this. Just email Lyn Robertson (robertson@denison.edu) and let her know you're interested.

MSAC thanks everyone who has been involved in any part of this all-church initiative and reminds everyone that Sunday, October 25, is the next time to stay after church to make sandwiches. Sandwich making will begin about 1:00 p.m., right after the church meeting in which we're considering the name of our church.

MSAC has made a contribution on behalf of the congregation to the Coalition of Care. In return, we have 20 tickets to give to the congregation for free to the Gospel Celebration Concert described below. Please see Lyn Robertson if you would like a free (to you) ticket, knowing that you have participated in its purchase through your contributions to First Baptist! (After the 20 tickets have been given out, you may purchase tickets described as follows.)

The LICKING COUNTY COALITION OF CARE will have its second signature fundraising event on **Sunday, November 1, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.** at the historic Midland Theater. In keeping with the collaborative, faith-based focus of the Coalition of Care, this event gathers diverse talent from our local community for a **Gospel Celebration Concert!** The participants are **Christian Life Center Sanctuary Choir, Shawna Corder - Soloist, Denison Gospel Choir, The Frosty Morning Band, Newark High School Concert Choir and Southgate A capella Singers.** This event will support the Coalition of Care's mission to put God's Love into action by helping those in our community with physical and spiritual needs. We hope that you, your family and friends can attend this event. Tickets can be purchased through the Midland Theater by visiting their web site, www.midlandtheatre.org, or by calling 345-LIVE. Contact the Coalition of Care at 670-9700 if you have any questions about this event or the work of the Coalition of Care.

FOR THE LICKING COUNTY FOOD PANTRY



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

- ▶ October: Tuna
- ▶ 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!

PLANNING FOR THE GRANVILLE CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT WALK

WE'RE STARTING TO PLAN FOR THE CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT WALK: The Feminist Class will be organizing festivities in the chapel to include a bake sale, holiday plant sale, hand-made items and various services. Call Karolyn Burkett (587-1550) to find out how you can help. Whatever Works will feature it's "Homemade Soups in Handmade Bowls" fundraiser. We hope you will be thinking of what kind of soup you can make! Or, if you want to paint a bisque bowl or throw one on the wheel, come on down to the Art Space any Friday from 1-7.

“Many Hearts, One Community”

We began our annual stewardship drive last Sunday, with the theme "Many Hearts, One Community," a description of our diverse church home. The Stewardship Committee is experimenting this year with a campaign drawn from UCC materials, based on the use of a "mission plan book."

Over the next three weeks, each pledging household can expect to receive a binder filled with photos, descriptions, and reflections on our church life, as well as data about our financial needs and how pledge dollars are spent. After reviewing the binder, each member is invited to consider prayerfully a financial commitment to the church, record that commitment, and send the binder on to the next household on the list. In mid-November, we will celebrate the results of our stewardship drive.

So watch for the book coming to your door, consider what our church means in your life, and how you can best translate that meaning into a financial commitment.

NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL HOMELESS AWARENESS MONTH. Licking County Coalition for Housing is holding its 8th Annual Shoes on the Square event on the Courthouse Square in Downtown Newark November 4-6, 2009. LCCH will have displays around the perimeter of the Square depicting many personal stories. **You are invited to be a part of the Human Display on Thursday, November at 12:00p.m.** (Their goal is to have one person to represent each of the estimated 1,649 homeless adults and children.) Gather at the Gazebo at noon and, after a short presentation, a circle will be formed around the Courthouse Square, observing a moment of silence to acknowledge the individual struggles of those who have faced or may be facing homelessness in our community. At 7pm that same evening, LCCH will hold a candlelight vigil at the Gazebo to again acknowledge those who have struggled.

NOTE FROM THE TREASURER:

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

Income = \$8,382, Expenses = \$14,615, therefore for the end of September 2009 expenses exceeded income by \$6,233.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sat., Oct. 24 Buddhist retreat, 9-4
- Sun., Oct 25 Congregation meeting during coffee hour; Lunches on the Square
- Sat., Oct. 31 UCC Central Southeast Ohio Association meeting
- Sun., Nov. 1 Gospel Choir Concert to benefit the Licking County Coalition of Care, Midland Theatre, 4-6pm
- Sun., Nov. 8 Special Board meeting, after worship

Join in the PEACE VIGILS at Opera House Park each Saturday, from 9:00AM to 10:00am and each Tuesday from 5:00to 6:00pm

Have you ever wanted to make a pot from clay with your own hands? Whatever Works is offering classes.....

Clay Explorations Tuesdays, 6 - 8:15 p.m.
Ongoing class and includes all clay, glazes and firings

www.whateverworksart.org or call 740-587-7852

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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 35
Return Service Requested
Please Deliver Promptly