

The Beacon

September 23, 2009

11:00a.m. WORSHIP

9:45a.m. SUNDAY SCHOOL

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REFLECTIONS

A traditional story from the Jewish Hasidic tradition says that there were once two rabbis from competing neighboring synagogues who argued continually over correct interpretation of many passages from the Torah, the Hebrew scriptures. Finally one day God grew tired of their constant arguing, so God parted the clouds of heaven and called down to the rabbis,

“Enough of your arguing! Listen, and I will give you the correct interpretation of any scripture you choose. Just no more arguing!”

The two rabbis paused for a moment, looked at one another, then called back to God, “Who asked you to intervene?” And they resumed their arguments.

As we move into a time of significant decision-making about everything from the name of our church to how we govern ourselves, we can look forward to many spirited, hopefully respectful, arguments. May we not forget to invite God to join our discussions on occasion.

Faithfully,
Kathy

NEW CHURCH STAFF MEMBER

We are delighted to welcome Jon White to our church staff in the capacity of Christian Education Assistant, a new position that will have Jon working with our children, youth, and adult Sunday School programs in a variety of ways.

Jon comes to us from Portland, Oregon, having relocated to this area to begin seminary studies at Trinity. Jon had worked for the Intel Corporation for several years when he began discerning a call to enter the Episcopal priesthood. In response to that call, Jon, his wife Nikki, and daughter Zella traveled across country to begin a new life in Ohio.

Jon brings many wonderful gifts to our church: his engineering and organizational skills, training in conflict mediation, and actual experience serving on the vestry (the Episcopal equivalent of our church board) as the Senior Warden (the equivalent of the moderator).

Please greet Jon warmly when you see him, and help him get to know our congregation.

**WE ARE SADDENED TO SHARE THIS LETTER FROM OUR MODERATOR
PRESENTED AT THE SEPTEMBER 20TH FBC BOARD MEETING**

September 20th, 2009

Dear Members of the Board of the First Baptist Church of Granville:

As you may know, Ecolab is closing its plant in Hebron, Ohio. I have accepted a position in Chesterfield, Michigan and will begin work there October 5th. Therefore, I am resigning as Moderator of the First Baptist Church of Granville, effective Sunday, September 20th, 2009.

Ceciel Shaw, Vice Moderator, has agreed to serve as Moderator.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Flynn

PROCESS BY WHICH TO CONSENSUALLY DETERMINE A NAME FOR THE CHURCH

At the September 13, 2009 congregational meeting, church members decided to approach the name change by way of a consensus process set forth by a task force (Cheryl McFarren and Lyn Robertson) appointed by the Moderator. Everyone is urged to participate in the process.

Week I - Brainstorming

- Education segment/handout
- Activity: Word play

Outcome: Working list (“graffiti wall”) to be posted in Chapel and on website for continued consideration and additions

Week II – Deeper Brainstorming

- Activity: Values scales (with recurring terms from word play and mission statement)

Outcome: Share personal values; activity left in the chapel and graphs to be created and posted on the website. We’ll see what’s important to us

Week III – Considering Opportunities and Threats

- Activity: Semi-anonymous sharing of hopes and concerns about a new name.

Outcome: Lists displayed in chapel and on website. We’ll understand what our issues are.

Week IV – Review

- Activity: Word play (round II); having collected information about what we value, what we hope, and what we are concerned about, we’ll revisit the word play activity with new eyes.

Outcome: We will see and share commonalities. Information will be collected and compiled for following week.

Week V – Look at emerging name options

- Worship segment (10 minutes)
- Meeting of congregation after worship: Share realizations over coffee; determine where would we like to go from here
- Commit to formal consensus meeting format for Week VI.

Week VI – Call for Consensus

- Worship: Readings and sermon to reflect on choice-making, honoring the community, etc.
- After worship discussion, open to all who have committed/or commit that day to the formal consensus meeting format.

(In the event consensus is not reached in week 6, weeks 7 and 8 would be on hand to continue consensus building to resolution.)

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 (or even 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)

MISSION MATTERS

MSAC is continuing the Lunches on the Square project. After church on September 27, the congregation will be making 250 sandwiches together to distribute on the Newark Square.

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 as described below.)

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.

Food Pantry

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

- ▶ September: Personal Items (soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, toilet paper, tissues, feminine products, razors, paper towels, etc.)
- ▶ 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

WHATEVER WORKS is starting to plan for the December 5th Candlelight Walk, which will feature our second annual "Homemade Soups in Handmade Bowls" fundraiser. We had a fantastic array of homemade soups last year, lots of great handmade or handpainted bowls to choose from, and many people from the community dropping in to warm themselves with our hospitality.

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.

THE FEMINIST CLASS will be organizing festivities in the chapel to include a bake sale, holiday plant sale, hand-made items and various services. We would welcome all contributions, please contact Karolyn Burkett or Judith Thomas.

NOTE FROM THE TREASURER:

Finances for First Baptist Church are as follows for the end August 2009:

Income = \$16,455.54,

Expenses = \$11,503.35,

therefore for the end of August 2009 expenses exceeded income by \$3,643.58. Thanks for giving your pledges.

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

"Many Hearts, One Community"

Watch for special announcements and a lovely photo book explaining this phrase next month.

BUDDHIST RETREAT AT FBC

For everyone interested in Buddhist meditation, whether an experienced meditator or not, we have a special treat: Saturday, October 24, from 9 to 4 in the Chapel, we will be offering a daylong retreat using the principles of Vietnamese Buddhist monk and Nobel Peace Laureate Thich Nhat Hanh. A longtime student of Thich Nhat Hanh's teachings, Diane Strausser, will lead the retreat. Plans include time for sitting and walking meditation, discussion of forming a Buddhist sangha (community), and sharing experiences with meditation and living according to Buddhist teachings. The retreat is free of charge, though we request that you register in advance to allow planning for materials and refreshments.

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ The Board accepted reluctantly Carol Whitt's resignation as director of Whatever Works and accepted with enthusiasm Nancy Reeb's offer to be interim director.
- ▶ Treasurer Rita Potts reviewed results of a meeting with Jim McGrath, a CPA who is conducting an audit of church finances and financial procedures.
- ▶ Moderator Sharon Flynn announced her resignation due to her job relocation. Ceceil Shaw, as vice-moderator, will assume the role of moderator until the elections in January.
- ▶ Mike Robertson updated the Board on the status of building inspections and the acquiring of updated permits.

The next Board meeting is Sunday, October 18, 2009.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sat., Sept. 26 ABC/RGR Annual Gathering
- Sun., Sept. 27 Communion Sunday (moved to the 4th Sunday of the month)
Lunches on the Square, after worship
- Sun., Oct. 18 FBC Board meeting
CropWalk, 1:30 registration, walk begins at 2pm, Opera House Park
- Sat., Oct. 24 Buddhist retreat, 9-4
- 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

*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*



CROPWALK COMES TO GRANVILLE: Registration is at 1:30pm (walk begins at 2pm) at Opera House Park on Sunday, October 18th. Packets are available in the back of the sanctuary. Contact Deven Rittenhouse at 740-258-7430 or devenrittenhouse@gmail.com if you have any questions

First Baptist Church of Granville
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