

# The Beacon

JANUARY 13, 2010

11:00a.m. WORSHIP

9:45a.m. SUNDAY SCHOOL

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JANUARY

## REFLECTIONS

The last Sunday of this month, our congregation will gather, as we have so many times before, for the annual meeting, at which time volunteer positions will be filled and a budget for the coming year will be adopted. But the meeting will diverge from customary business in some significant ways: first, many volunteer positions remain unfilled, which results in the church board being reduced in size and some committees having no designated leader and no board representation; second, the budget comes with a deficit and no possibilities for further reductions without painful choices.

Given these prospects, it could seem that our annual meeting is likely to be one filled with anxiety about the future of the church (or at least the future of the church for the coming year). I confess to feeling that anxiety, wondering what solutions we can possibly come up with, wondering how much longer our congregation can remain viable, wondering what God is asking from us at this moment on our collective journey.

Viewed from another perspective, however, unfilled positions and a budget with no places to trim can be seen as opportunities: we have long talked of revising our governing structures so that they more accurately reflect our size and preferred decision-making processes, and a smaller board with fewer committees makes that happen with no action being taken. Fewer financial resources can give us permission to stop doing some things, to take a break from business as usual, to focus only on those things that matter most.

Ultimately both the anxiety and the opportunity are present at this moment, in this situation. We can use the anxiety to spur us to take needed action, to rouse us from complacency about our church. And we can seize the opportunity to clarify our purpose, to return from the distraction of doing everything to doing a few things well.

Several years ago, I spent some time working with a therapist who had a small sign in his office that read, "There is no solution: seek it lovingly." Because I wanted specific answers to my life challenges, I found the sign disconcerting. Yet I came to see the truth in its observation, that growth—growth through therapy, growth in a spiritual community, growth as a church in the larger world—is not a program with specific markers and a defined path. What matters is that we continue growing, that we continue our journey, and that we do all that we do with love.

Faithfully,  
Kathy

## Come Brainstorm with Us!

During the December Board meeting, the Board discussed the proposed 2010 budget. Since it was quite short, many options were presented by various members. Please come to an informational meeting on Thursday, Jan. 14 at 7pm to review ideas which will change the life of the church. No ideas have been voted on, approved or adopted by the Board. This is a meeting to share information and consider how to change our functioning in order to have a balanced budget for 2010. There will not be voting during this meeting. Again, this is simply a space for us to consider new ways of thriving as a church community.

In friendship,  
Ceciel Shaw  
Interim Moderator

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## Kroger Community Rewards Program

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When you shop at Kroger and use your Kroger Plus card, you can help our church youth group raise funds for missions and outreach. Once you have selected First Baptist Church as your recipient, Kroger will donate 5% of your purchase totals to our church.

We've been able to use Kroger income to support the Nicaragua teams, fund chaperones for Baptist Youth Camp, and to provide supplies for Peace Vigil signs (income has totaled \$2647.49 since 2006!)

Here's how you can help:

- If you do not already have a Kroger Plus card you can get one at any Kroger customer service desk.
- Register online at [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com) (Have your Kroger Plus card handy when you go to the website)
- Click on "Sign In"—If you are new to the website, click on "Sign Up Today."
- Follow instructions and Kroger will send you an e-mail message.
- Click on the line within the body of the e-mail to return to the Kroger website.
- Click on "My Account," then click on "Edit Kroger Community Rewards Information" and input your Kroger Plus card number.
- Update or confirm your personal information.
- Enter "First Baptist Church of Granville" or our organization number 83408

If you use your phone number at the checkout and do not know your Kroger Plus card number, call Kroger at 877-576-7587 to obtain your number. You will still be able to use your phone number for purchases, and our church will be paid your 5%.

If you prefer to skip the website, call 800-837-4483 and Kroger will send you a SCANBAR letter to take to your local customer service desk.

When you have completed registration online, your future purchases should indicate "First Baptist Church" at the bottom of every receipt.

THANK YOU for contributing to our youth ministry in this way!!

Julie Reiswig and High School Youth

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### UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUTH...

- January 24: Lunches on the Square
- February 7: Birthday Potluck
- February 11: Rancho Ebenezer Team leaves for Nicaragua
- February 28: Lunches on the Square
- March 28: Lunches on the Square
- April 10: Poverty Workshop
- April 16 - 18: PeaceJam trip to meet the Nobel Peace Laureate in Kalamazoo, Michigan
- April 25: Lunches on the Square
- June 28 - July 2: Baptist Youth Camp at Laurel Ridge, North Carolina

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## What's a BIRTHDAY POTLUCK?

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The church youth would like to reinstate a favorite tradition at First Baptist Church by having a Birthday Potluck on February 7 after worship. There will be 12 tables set up in the gym, one to represent each month of the year. You simply bring a dish to share, and then sit at the table assigned to your birth month. You get to meet new people and find out how much you have in common! We might even play some games...

We need you to volunteer to decorate a table (for your own birth month or any other). Sign up sheets will be at the next few worship services.

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## RANCHO EBENEZER MISSION TRIP

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The 2010 Rancho Ebenezer Mission Brigade leaves for Nicaragua on February 11th and will return on February 20th. This year we have 12 members of First Baptist joining the brigade, which will have about 43 in all....Morgan Oxenrider, Zachary Dobbelaer, Maggie Burkett, Leah Dobbelaer, Mike Robertson, Seth Dobbelaer, Anna Burkett, Rachel Dobbelaer, Jack Esslinger (we still need to reserve his ticket), Dan Dobbelaer, Nancy Dobbelaer and Lyn Robertson, who along with another Denison professor is bringing 10 Denison students. This year's brigade will be doing more painting and electrical work along with helping out with farm chores. New aspects of this year's trip will be a sewing project where we will work with 15-20 women who want to learn to make various things including school uniforms for their children and the group from Denison will be spending time in one of the local schools.

This is a trip that couldn't happen without the support of our church family and this year is no different. We have a number of participants who need help to cover the costs above the plane fare (room and board, translator fees, travel within the country and the cost of the materials that we use for the various projects). We have scheduled a fundraiser at the 21st Street Pizza Hut for January 26<sup>th</sup> (mark your calendars) and we are in the process of setting up a fundraiser at the Bob Evans on Cherry Valley Rd. Our annual "Giving Tree" will go up on January 24th.

Please contact Nancy Dobbelaer or Mike Robertson if you have any questions or if you think that you would like to join us for the trip.

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**NEWS**

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**MEETING WITH THE CONSULTANTS:** The next meeting with our consultants, Rev. Eric Williams and Leslie Kern, will be Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, at 2pm. All are welcome to attend regardless of whether you have attended a previous meeting or not.

**THE ANNUAL MEETING** will be January 31<sup>st</sup>, after the worship service.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- Thu., Jan 14 Congregational meeting, Chapel
- Sun., Jan 17 FBC Board meeting
- Sun., Jan. 24 Lunches on the Square, after worship Meeting with consultants, 2pm
- Sun., Jan 31 Annual meeting, after worship
- Sun., Feb. 7 Birthday Party Potluck, after worship
- February 11: Rancho Ebenezer Team leaves for Nicaragua

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*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*

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**JOIN OUR NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS**

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**Ever feel that Jesus has been kidnapped by the Christian Right?** Well join us as we begin our new series, *Saving Jesus*, a 12 session, small group, DVD-based exploration of Jesus Christ for the third millennium, facilitated by Gini Lohmann Bauman.

We begin promptly at **9:45am** in the **CE building, large upstairs classroom**. Each class will consist of a brief centering and sharing time, followed by the DVD presentation and a lively discussion of the materials which features leading religious voices of our day. Join Marcus Borg, John Dominic Crossan, Matthew Fox, Amy-Jill Levine, James Forbes and a host of other for an exploration of the relevance of Jesus Christ for our time.

Saving Jesus:

- 1) Introduction: Jesus Through the Ages
- 2) Who was Jesus?
- 3) What Can We Know About Jesus (and How)?
- 4) The World Into Which Jesus Was Born
- 5) Jesus' Birth: Incarnation
- 6) Teachings of Jesus: Wisdom Tradition
- 7) Jesus' Program: The Kingdom of God
- 8) Jesus' Ministry of Compassion
- 9) Killing Jesus, Part one: Who Killed Jesus?
- 10) Killing Jesus, Part Two: The Atonement
- 11) The Resurrection of Christ
- 12) Why Jesus Is Worth Saving

**Energy Audit**

Phase I of our energy audit has been completed and Phase II is scheduled for this Sunday. Thanks to Ryan Hottle for doing the audits for us at no charge! Stay tuned for the results.  
Dan Dobbelaer

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**THANK YOU LETTERS**

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*FROM THE FOOD PANTRY NETWORK*

Dear First Baptist Church of Granville Members:

Please accept this sincere thank you for your generous support of the Food Pantry Network. Your donation is greatly appreciated.

Did you know over 43% of the meals distributed are for children who are poor through no fault of their own? In 2008, we've provided over 700,543 meals to 131,067 individuals.

Your support greatly helps us in our efforts to fulfill our mission of "assuring that no one in Licking County goes hungry."

Sincerely,  
Charles S. Moore,  
Executive Director

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*FROM THE CENTER FOR NEW BEGINNINGS*

Dear First Baptist Church of Granville,

Thank you very much for your contribution to New Beginnings. We appreciate your continued support of us as a community mission providing victims of domestic violence safe shelter and services.

Happy New Year,  
Tricia Hufford,  
Executive Director

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*FROM THE LICKING COUNTY  
COALITION FOR HOUSING*

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the LCCH Board of Directors, LCCH staff, and the clients we serve, I want to thank you for your contribution. Your support is greatly appreciated and your generous gift will help LCCH continue to provide housing services to the Licking County community.

For more information about LCCH and our activities, please visit our website at [www.lchousing.org](http://www.lchousing.org).

Thank you for your continued generosity and support for our work. Bless you all in 2010!

Sincerely,  
Deborah L. Tegtmeyer  
Executive Director

*January 2010 Pasta Dinner! New Location*

# FESTA ITALIANA

A Bistro Style Dinner  
To Support  
THE LICKING COUNTY COALITION OF CARE

Saturday, January 23, 2010

## **At: The Southgate Church of Christ**

1075 S. 30<sup>th</sup> Street, Heath  
(Behind the Heath Kroger)

Dinner Served 5:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m.

**Call now for reservations: 739-4131**

(5 or 6 p.m. seating)

**Call for Take-Out: 334-9372**

(The night of the dinner)

*Menu:*

*Antipasto salad*

*Red & White Pastas*

*Meatballs*

*Italian Green Beans*

*Garlic Bread Sticks*

*Spumoni & Brigette's Biscotti*

*Iced Tea, Water, & Coffee*

**Price: \$10.00 per person**

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

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