

February 2010

THE CIRCUIT RIDER



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

First United Methodist Church, Lancaster, Ohio



Just show up and serve, it's family friendly... it's that simple!

Coming Soon!

Beginning in March, an exciting opportunity awaits you!
Mark your calendar now for the **Second Saturday** of each month!

WHO:

Anyone. (Kids included!)

WHAT:

Come and choose from a variety of serving options, from working on a project at Crossroads (family friendly), to going onsite to a nearby location to assist a local community group or organization. Just show up and serve, it's that simple!

WHEN:

Saturday, March 13, 8:30 a.m. – Noon.

WHERE:

Meet at Crossroads where you will hear about the projects for the morning, and you will choose a project right for you.

WHY:

We give and receive blessings by being in community. Encouragement, comfort and hope are possible when we remember that in community Jesus meets us there.

*Learn more about **Second Saturday** from Rev. Robert McDowell during worship on Sunday, February 14.*

Baptism

December 6, 2009

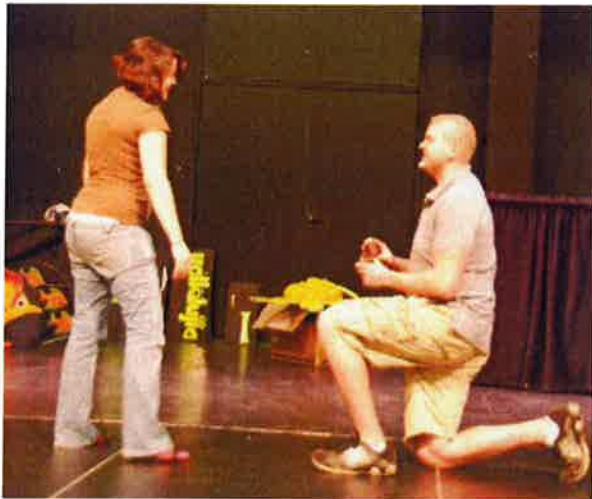
Sophia Marvae Williams

Daughter of Steven & Andrea Williams

Deaths

We express our sincere sympathy to the families of those who have lost loved ones:

- Kate Schein**
- Pearl Durst**
- Jim Morgan**
- Robert Q. Smith**
- Carole Maxwell**
- Joyce Waugh**
- Dorothy Fouch**
- Bill Williams**
- Betty Whitmore**



Proposal at Puppet Practice – a first!

Jessica Lester, daughter of Carolyn Vawter, received a surprise at the January 19th puppet practice when Lance Knox got on his knee and asked her to marry him. She said "yes" to the applause of puppeteers and friends who secretly arrived to witness the event.

Congratulations!



The Hilarious Magic of Sam Sandler

Sam is a dynamic and passionate family entertainer who has combined magic and comedy with jaw-dropping illusions, music and audience participation to create unique and spectacular shows for the whole family.

Mark your calendars and purchase your tickets for this show at Crossroads on **February 13** at 7:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 per person and are available through the church office.



Virtuous Reality to be featured performers at Southern Baptist Conference

Our Virtuous Reality Blacklight Theater team will be heading to Mississippi on February 25th to perform at a creative ministries conference sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. They will be sharing a 30-minute presentation at the conference and John Coen, director of the team, will be teaching seminars on blacklight puppetry techniques. The two-day conference is being held on February 26 & 27th. Best wishes for a safe trip!

The blacklight team is open to anyone age 11 and older and rehearsals are on Tuesday evenings. For details on joining please contact John Coen at Crossroads (653-3320 ext 103)

Need a ride to church?

Currently we have bus service for the 11 a.m. service and if you need a ride, please call the church receptionist at 653-3330 and we will see that you are picked up.

Consider First Community Kitchen for your outreach ministry

Have you ever thought about helping to fix lunch, serve and/or clean up for the First Community Kitchen? We especially need a couple of men on Mondays to complete our crew. You can work every week, every other week, whatever fits your schedule best. We also need people who are willing to sub occasionally. If interested please call the church receptionist at 653-3330 and she will connect you with the right person.

*A Valentine's Day Invitation
to help the children of Haiti and their families*



Grace Children's Hospital (GCH) in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, is one of the many worthy ministries of the United Methodist Church. In the early 1970's Judy Hug (member of FUMC) was one of sixteen youth who raised funds to purchase the former Mexican Embassy in Port-au-Prince, the facility now known as Grace Children's Hospital. The hospital has grown from the leading facility in Haiti for children and youth with tuberculosis to include rural clinics offering vaccinations, treatment and education programs for the poorest people in the Western Hemisphere. Judy's father, Dr. Edward M. Hard, having led numerous mission groups to Haiti, was instrumental in the birth of International Child Care (ICC) whose initial and primary effort is Grace Children's Hospital.

Initial reports to us were that GCH was still standing but was severely damaged. ICC posted an update within a week after the earthquake announcing that the hospital sustained extreme structural damage causing evacuation of the buildings. The children, sick with tuberculosis, are living outdoors in the courtyard adjacent to the hospital. They are in desperate and immediate need of water, food, and medical supplies. This situation sadly exists throughout the capital city area for thousands and thousands of Haitian children and their families.

Judy's father died in early 2010 in North Carolina. Judy, along with her sisters and mother, invite you to please consider a donation to Grace Children's Hospital, International Child Care, or another relief effort for Haiti in memory/honor of someone that you love or have loved this Valentine's Day. If you are a member of a civic or social organization that might want to donate, please contact Judy Hug (653-0892) regarding a speaker from this area. Please contact www.internationalchildcare.org and donate to Haiti relief today!

*Haiti Relief
Offering*

Our church is receiving financial gifts which will be sent to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to help with the relief efforts in Haiti following their recent earthquake. Our contributions to UMCOR go directly to the relief efforts and not to administrative costs.

Checks may be made payable and sent to First UMC with "Haiti Relief" on the memo line.

Interested in joining FUMC?

Beginning on Sunday, February 28, our church will be offering three new member class lunches for those interested in becoming members of First UMC. Each session will begin with a lunch and we will cover topics related to the mission and core values of the church.

- **Sunday, February 28**, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in Room 22 at the church, 163 E. Wheeling St. Topic: History & Theology
- **Sunday, March 7**, 12:30 to 2:30 at Rising House, 131 North High St. (across from the church) Topic: Ministries of the Church & Spiritual Gifts
- **Sunday, March 14**, 12:30 to 2:30 at Crossroads, 2095 W. Fair Ave. Topic: Meet the Staff

RSVP to Sandy Roberts (740-653-3330) or sandyroberts@lancasterfumc.org by Monday, February 22.

Lent & Holy Week Schedule

- February 17** – Ash Wednesday Services
6:30 p.m. at Crossroads, 2095 W. Fair Ave.
Noon & 7:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary, 163 E. Wheeling St.
- February 21 to March 28** – Lenten Sunday Worship Services
(8:15, 9:45, & 11:00 a.m.) "The Crosses of Jesus" Sermon Series
- April 1** – Maundy Thursday Services (Holy Communion)
Noon & 7:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary, 163 E. Wheeling St.
- April 2** – Good Friday Services
7:00 a.m. (Ecumenical Service/Breakfast) at the YMCA, 465 W. 6th Ave. To reserve a \$6 breakfast, RSVP to the YMCA, (740-654-0616) by March 30th.
Noon & 7:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary



Research shows that date nights are an important part of strong marriages.

**Couples Night Out – February 27
(4:30 – 8:30 p.m.) @ Crossroads.**

Meet for a brief time of fun & fellowship, and then head out on your date without the kids! Childcare is available @ \$5 per child – dinner for the kids is included. Please register by February 15 – registration forms available online or in the parlor. If you have any questions please call Pam Barnett 653-3330.

Created By God

This class is designed for children in grades 5-7 and will address many of the questions that girls and boys have about their physical development and growing awareness of sexuality. Its biblical foundation affirms sexuality as a gift from God – a gift we are to express responsibly. The class affirms parents as the primary sex educators, and strives to support parents as they talk with their children and serve as important role models. This resource addresses issues such as social stereotypes, peer pressure, the influence of the media, and the consequences of irresponsible sexual behavior. It also speaks to some issues that young people will face within the next several years and to the importance of learning to make sound decisions.

**Parent Orientation: @ the church (Room 22)
Sunday, February 7 @ 12 p.m.**

**Class for students: @ Crossroads (3-5 p.m.)
Sundays February 21, 28, March 7, 14 & 21**

Registration forms available in the parlor or online.



Wednesday Evenings

@ Crossroads 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
*8-week series through March 8 for
kids in grades 1 – 6*

**THE
PLANE
TRUTH**
*The Journey of
Your Life*

Interested in doing a little acting?

Children and Family Ministries is looking for a few good actors/actresses for the Sunday Shop (an upbeat multimedia experience using music, actors, and puppets to present the Bible lesson). Volunteers are needed as little as once every few months to several times a month – we will work around your availability. Rehearsal takes place on Sunday mornings from 10:45 – 11:30 a.m. with the production taking place from 11:30 a.m. – noon. Please contact Pam Barnett for more information – pambarnett@lancasterfumc.org or 653-3330.



Upcoming Short-term Class Opportunities

How To Enhance, Advance And Influence Your Children's Relationships

Parental Guidance Required

Of all the assignments God will give you during your time on earth, none may be more sacred than the task of raising children. This six-session study will encourage you to look at the relationships in your children's lives and ask the important questions:

- Am I developing a quality relationship with my child that will go the distance?
- Am I striving to control the influence that friends have in my child's life?
- Am I nurturing a healthy eternal perspective that will help my child to weather the storms of life?

Asking the right questions is the key to helping you assess your family's needs and ensure that the influence you have is one that will last a lifetime.

Make Your Marriage Even Better – And Have Fun In The Process

Building Your Marriage

This 7-session small group study is designed to bring husbands and wives closer to each other, closer to God and closer to the other couples. You will study God's Word, share in your challenges and successes, and build a marriage that will last by learning to:

- Increase intimacy and rekindle romance**
- Grow together spiritually**
- Develop meaningful friendships with other couples**
- Apply biblical truths to your marriage**
- Understand and appreciate each other even more**

Dates and times for these classes will be determined based on convenience of those who wish to participate. If you are interested please complete and return the form below indicating your interest.

Names of people interested: _____

Phone # _____ Email: _____

Which Class(es)? Parental Guidance Required _____ Building Your Marriage _____

Days/Times that work with your schedule:

Afternoon: Sunday
Evenings: Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday

Return this form to the church office by Feb. 28. Thanks!

pamb

Youth need your "junk"

Start saving your old clothing, your old furniture, your used toys and your boxed up knick-knacks. The youth are raising money this year with a spring rummage sale at Crossroads to help fund the older and younger youth Summer Mission Trips.

The Spring Rummage Sale takes place on Saturday, May 1st, with "ingathering" on Friday, April 30th. Items should be dropped off at the front door or the back garage door on Friday.

Please help support these trips by bringing your items. The trip to Mexico (for older youth) will cost more than usual, and we'd hate for a lack of money to stop anyone from being able to participate in this meaningful, powerful experience.



Flamingos are coming once again to Lancaster

Have you ever seen a flock of pink flamingos resting in a yard? Well, this spring it will be a usual thing to see as the youth take up the Flamingo Fund Raiser once again.

People will be able to send a "flock" of ten flamingos to the home of their choice for just \$10 (and \$1 more per bird if more are ordered). The "flock" will stay at that address for one day, moving on to the next house as the orders are taken.

The money raised will help youth to take part in the summer mission trips in July. Homes can also purchase "flamingo insurance" for \$10, assuring them not to get "flocked" during the fund raiser.

The flamingos arrive April 5th and usually stay for about a month. If a youth can get an order a day, that comes to about \$300 per youth, which will go towards the cost of that youth's mission trip.

Fellowship Dinners

Wednesdays
5:00-6:30 p.m. at Crossroads

February 3

Chicken & Noodles
Mashed Potatoes/Gravy
Capri Vegetable Blend
Fresh Garden Salad
Fruited Cole Slaw
Pumpkin Cake

Kids

Bacon-Cheeseburger Calzone
Seasoned Green Beans
Pudding Parfait

February 10

Roast Beef
Mashed Potatoes/Gravy
Seasoned Green Beans
Fresh Garden Salad
Sauerkraut Salad
Valentine Cookie/Ice Cream

Kids

Ham & Cheese Crescent Roll-Up
Assorted Chips
Fresh Veggies
Grapes & Oranges

February 17

Ham w/Honest Abe Pineapple Sauce
Baked Potatoes
Buttered Broccoli
Fresh Garden Salad
Carrot Corn Salad
Bread Pudding w/Vanilla Sauce

Kids

Spaghetti/Chicken Parmesan
Garden Salad
Magic Marshmallow Crescent Puff

February 24

Savory Meat Loaf
Au Gratin Potatoes
Glazed Carrots
Fresh Garden Salad
Broccoli-Cauliflower Salad
Winter Dessert

Kids

Pizza
Tossed Salad
Buttered Corn
Cookie