

March 2010

# THE CIRCUIT RIDER

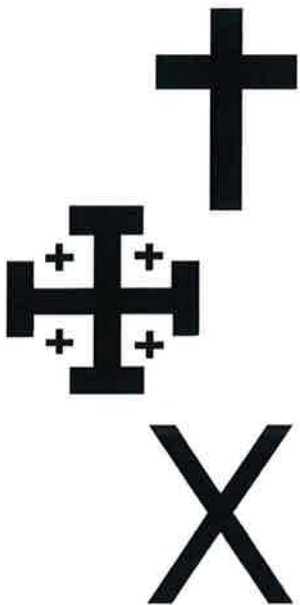


Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.  
First United Methodist Church, Lancaster, Ohio

## *Exploring the Crosses of Jesus – A Lenten Journey*

During our Sunday worship services in the Season of Lent, we have been exploring a different type of Jesus' cross each week and its corresponding theological theme. Each theme gives us an opportunity to reflect on what it means to be followers of Jesus Christ. For our first two weeks of Lent we have focused on the Latin Cross: Simplicity and the Jerusalem Cross: Evangelism.

Join us for the remaining Sundays in Lent as we explore the meaning of the St. Andrew's Cross: Humility; the Celtic Cross: God's Eternal Love; the Tau Cross: Healing; & the Crucifix: God's Presence in Our Suffering.



## *Lent & Holy Week Schedule*

Sundays in Lent - **March 7, 14, 21, & 28**

(8:15, 9:45, & 11:00 a.m.) "The Crosses of Jesus" Sermon Series

Maundy Thursday Services (Holy Communion) - **April 1**

Noon & 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary at the church

Good Friday Services - **April 2**

7:00 a.m. (Ecumenical Service/Breakfast) at the YMCA, 465 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Ave.

To reserve a \$6 breakfast, RSVP to the YMCA, (740) 654-0616  
by March 30<sup>th</sup>.

Noon & 7:30 p.m. Worship in the Sanctuary at the church

***Educational-Travel Opportunity***

The Oberammergau Passion Play is presented once every ten years by town residents of Oberammergau, Germany as a thank you to God for sparing their city from the plague 370 years ago. An exciting "Alpine Wonders" tour is taking place through our West Ohio Conference that will offer the passion play experience.

Pastor Larry and Kelly Brown are hosting a group that includes a number from our congregation. The trip is July 20-28, and deadline for registration is March 20. If you would like more information please contact Rev. Brown at [larrybrown@powellumc.org](mailto:larrybrown@powellumc.org), or 740-503-3494.

***Interested in Studying Scriptures for Upcoming Sunday Worship?***

Two weekly bible study groups meet each week to discuss the scriptures of the upcoming Sunday worship services with the pastor who will be preaching. Join us!

- Young Spirits – Every Thursday, 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. in Spirit Café of Main Building (Except on 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays)
- Wednesday Group – Every Wednesday, 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. in Conference Room at Crossroads, 2095 W. Fair Avenue.

***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 1<sup>st</sup>, with "ingathering" on Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. Items should be dropped off at the front door or the back garage door on Friday.

Please help support the youth missions 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.

***Birth***

**Bailey Ann Bennett**

born February 1, 2010

Daughter of Chris & Holly Bennett

Granddaughter of

Denise Bennett & Jerry & Becky Clark

**Adrienne Mae Pruitt**

born February 13, 2010

Daughter of Ben & Stephanie Pruitt

Granddaughter of Skip & Cindy Smith

Great-granddaughter of Betty Lucas

***Deaths***

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

**Charles Drinkle, Jr.**

**Dan Alspaugh**

***Next New Member Class –***

***Summer***

Our summer new member classes/lunches will be held Sundays, 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m., August 1, 8, & 15 and the receiving into membership will be on Sunday, August 22. To register, contact Sandy Roberts at 740-653-3330 or [sandyroberts@lancafterfmc.org](mailto:sandyroberts@lancafterfmc.org).

**ARTICLES FOR  
THE APRIL 2010  
CIRCUIT RIDER  
ARE DUE  
MARCH 22**



**Mark your calendar now for  
Saturday, March 13, 8:30 a.m. – Noon**

**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!

**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.

'Thank you' to everyone who put coins in the offering plates in 2009. These monies went to 12 different local outreach programs and truly made a difference in our community.

**2009 Coins for Christ  
contributions totaled  
\$7,343.79**

*Latvia - Lithuania  
Mission Initiative*

Coming to Crossroads on **April 23 and 24** will be the Latvia/Lithuania Mission Initiative. The Mission Initiative is an annual meeting of churches and individuals who have partnered with churches and church projects in Latvia and Lithuania.

Meeting participants will include District Superintendents, Pastors and individuals from Latvia and Lithuania as well as their partners from the United States along with the United Methodist Bishop of the Nordic and Baltic Episcopal area - Bishop Christian Alsted. Additionally, personnel from the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries will facilitate the meeting.

Events will include worship, sharing and testifying to the acts of God, encouragement and reports from representative areas. After the fall of the Soviet Union, Methodism was only reestablished in the 1990's so our partners face many struggles. But with God's help people are once again being called Methodists and being an example of God's presence in the world. This meeting is a wonderful opportunity to give your Mission spirit a boost. Please don't let this opportunity pass you by.

We could use your help in rolling out the red carpet for our guests. You could help by transporting people to and from the Columbus airport, preparing and serving lunch and/or dinner, being at our information desk, or you could come to attend the meetings and hear first hand the mighty and wonderful acts of God.

If you wish to volunteer to help or have any questions please contact Tim Binkley at 740-681-1614 ([tbink1@columbus.rr.com](mailto:tbink1@columbus.rr.com)) or Kathy Halverson at 740-653-3556 ([katinthehat@columbus.rr.com](mailto:katinthehat@columbus.rr.com)).

## *Creative Ministry News*

### **Virtuous Reality selected as Featured Performers for Pittsburgh Puppetry Festival**

Virtuous Reality will travel to Pittsburgh on March 19-20 to perform for the One Way Street Spring Puppetry Festival. In addition to presenting a blacklight show, John Coen will be teaching classes on blacklight puppetry and hospital clowning.

Congratulations puppeteers!

### **Volunteers and donations needed!**

We need plastic eggs and individually wrapped candies to use at our Easter Egg Hunt at Crossroads on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. A donation box is in the church parlor and at Crossroads for anyone wishing to provide these. Please bring donations by March 28<sup>th</sup> (Palm Sunday).

In addition, persons are needed to help make this event a success. Craft & Game leaders, Egg Hunt leaders, hiders, and assemblers are required to create the fun! Please contact Chris Nicholson (503-7600) if you are able to volunteer. This is a great way for our church to connect with the community!

### **The Good News Clown Crew heads to Dublin!**

The Sunday before St. Patrick's Day, the clowns head to Dublin (Ohio, that is) to do a program for an Upward Basketball Banquet. Clowning is a fun way to share the gospel. If you would like to be a clown please contact John Coen for details (653-3320 ext 103)!

**Easter Egg Hunt**  
At Crossroads  
Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 p.m.  
Preschool through age 12  
Games - Crafts-Magic show - Eggs!  
Open to the community  
Admission is FREE!



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### **Health Kits for Haiti**

Throughout 2010, our congregation is encouraged to donate Haiti health care items to support the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) effort in Haiti. Items on the list may be dropped off at our main building any day or at our Crossroads facility on Wednesday evenings. You may purchase items or donate money (approx. \$12 per kit). Please make checks payable to First UMC and earmark: Health Kits. All items included in kits must be new. See display in the parlor or contact Joe and Becky Clark at 654-8766 or Kathy Halverson at 653-3556, Global Missions, if you have any questions.

- 1 gallon-sized Ziploc bag
- 1 hand towel 15" x 25" up to 17" x 27" (no kitchen towels)
- 1 washcloth
- 1 comb (large and sturdy, not pocket-sized)
- 1 nail file or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers)
- 1 bath-size bar of soap (3 oz. and up)
- 1 toothbrush (single brushes only in original wrapper, no child-size brushes)
- 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages
- \$1 to purchase toothpaste (DON'T BUY TOOTHPASTE)
- \$1 to cover UMCOR's cost of shipping

If donating one of each item, place items in the gallon-sized Ziploc bag and bring to the church. Otherwise, bring any quantity of items separately.

## *Memorial Gifts*

Our congregation regularly receives memorial gifts, lovingly given by family and friends, who have lost loved ones to death. For information about contributing to our Memorial Fund, please contact our church business office at 653-3330.

Gifts received since our last edition of the Circuit Rider:

**In memory of Carole Maxwell:**

Phil & Jan Kiger  
Del & Jane Bontrager  
Edmond & Dollie Spangler  
Keith & Opal Kistler

**In memory of Ruby Johnson:**

Judith Boyer  
The Windsor Co.  
Kent & Judy Bradford  
Thomas & Deborah Kose  
Mark & Cindy Hurless  
Helen Campbell

**In memory of Jim Morgan:**

Parry & Judy Norris  
Dale & Shirley Fisher  
Edward & Davia Bennett  
Ned & Alberta Whittington  
Dan & Sandy Walton  
Charles & Diana Eversole  
Larry & Debbie Swanner  
Mary Anne Theller  
William & Louise Vantongeren  
Sue (Theiss) Stottmann & Family

**In memory of Jim Morgan (continued):**

Amy Peirano  
Thomas & Janet Schwieterman  
Columbus & Franklin County Metro Parks  
Samuel Hurley, III  
Betty Whitmore  
Ronald & Deborah Randolph  
James & Janet Lawton  
Charles & Diana Eversole  
Robert Sarber  
Gregory & Deborah Calhoun  
The FUN Bunch  
Jerry W. Detwiler, DDS  
Daniel & Margaret Ruggiero  
Harmon Middle School Staff  
Ray & Debby Baskin  
Paul & Gert Young  
Steven Reed  
Joe & Becky Clark  
David & Sara Watts  
Charles & Janet Wagner  
Mary Jane Clark  
MU Chapter—Phi Beta Mu  
Edson & Carole Yetters

## *UMW News Corner*

Preceding the luncheon on February 3, the Executive Board of United Methodist Women (UMW) met to set the tone for the year. New members of the board were welcomed and we were happy to see Marie Stapp, Secretary, return after a long medical leave of absence. With monies earned through fund raisers (i.e. Pecan Sales, nativity Christmas cards and the Annual Cookie Walk) we decided on a list of local mission projects to support. Over \$2000 was distributed among the following:

Children's Advocacy Center	Methodist Children's Home	House of Carpenter
FUMC First Community Kitchen	FUMC Youth Mission	Salvation Army
Foundation Dinners	The Lighthouse	Good Works
Lutheran Food Pantry	Maywood Mission	Pastor's Discretionary Fund

We are currently preparing a special UMW Membership Booklet to be available to new church members and those who may be interested in learning more about our activities. It will feature each of our four circles and what they have to offer, plus information on the unit itself. Hopefully, through this monthly column some of our agenda will become known.

See page 9 for information on the March Women's Luncheon.

## THE CIRCUIT RIDER

### To Eleuthera with Love

Our First United Methodist congregation has many stories of Christ followers who serve daily, loving God and doing His will loving their "neighbors." This is another one of those stories.

In the early morning hours of January 24th, 12 members of our congregation (Larry and Sharon Aebersold, Norma Bagby, Denise Bennett, Tim Binkley, Joe and Becky Clark, Kathy Halverson, Dolly Hillberry, Beth Mohler, Pearleene Reffitt and Vicki Tauer) left Lancaster to fly to the Bahamian Island of Eleuthera. It was late in the afternoon when we arrived where "KP", our Bahamas Methodist Habitat (BMH) driver, met us. We were also met by the warm tropical sunshine and gentle breezes of the Caribbean Sea.

We boarded an old Boy Scout school bus for the 15-minute ride to our final destination, Camp Symonette, one of the permanent BMH camps on the island. We met LaDonna and Todd Urick, and their two daughters, Lily (8) and Emma (5), who are long-term volunteers from Albany, Georgia and our hosts for the week.



Our days began with breakfast and devotions before heading off for our work sites. At the end of each workday we went to the beach to relax, enjoy the beautiful blue-green water, and collect shells and sea glass. We had the beach to ourselves, as it is "too cold" this time of year for the natives – about 75 degrees. Then we returned to camp for showers, dinner, an evening activity and devotions. In the evenings we enjoyed the stars and moonlight, which was bright enough to light our way, before collapsing in bed.

Our team was divided into two groups; seven of the women went to Ms. Ella's house where a new door and two new windows were installed, another door was sanded and refinished, the exterior of the house was scraped and painted, a rotted portion of exterior wall was replaced, and two interior rooms were painted. KP, a native islander with construction skills who works for BMH, oversaw the work at this site. The house was small and simple, but with a view of the Caribbean that any resort would pay millions for. Ms. Ella was in awe that we were not getting paid to do the work. She continually verbalized her gratitude to the Lord for the teams' work and loving conversation. Dolly expressed what many of us thought, "I get so much joy as I think about our experience."



The other group of three men and two women worked on a new home being built for Mrs. Pinder. This group's work leader was Manex, who like KP, was a native skilled in the building trade. Mrs. Pinder's new house was being built next door to her present home which was a two-room shack. Having no electricity and no water, she had to carry her water from a spigot and each day she would hang her laundry on the tree limbs next to her house. There were no screens on the square openings in the walls that passed for windows. Each day when she passed by her new house, she would say, "I love ya Jesus, I love ya Jesus." Most of the work at Mrs. Pinder's house was inside; putting up molding, redoing drywall, scraping the concrete floors and doing wiring. Larry said, "It's amazing where Mrs. Pinder is living now and where she will be living."

