

May/June 2011

THE CIRCUIT RIDER



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

Faith Forward



to the Finish Line!

First Lap of New Crossroads Fund Drive Begins Sunday, May 15!

Imagine this: five years from now, in the spring of 2016, our church will be crossing the finish line of paying off our Crossroads facility mortgage. What a great time of celebration that will be! And this race to victory all begins on Sunday, May 15 on Commitment Sunday!

On May 15, we will be offering our completed "Faith Forward to the Finish Line" financial commitments for the first lap of our five-year fund drive. The first lap is from June, 2011 to May, 2012. For each of our five laps (years), we will be invited to make a new financial commitment to move us on to victory.

Since early March, several videos have been shown during our worship services to help us see how our Crossroads facility is a valuable resource in our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of our community and world. To view these videos online, go to my web blog at www.pastorrobert-nikos.blogspot.com and on the left hand side, click on "Crossroads Campaign."

The videos highlight some of our many Crossroads events which include bible studies, worship, Second Saturday outreach, Creative Ministries, Wednesday Fellowship Dinners, emergency shelter for displaced families, Vacation Bible School, community organization and United Methodist district and conference events, funerals, wedding receptions, concerts, Easter egg hunt and activities, speakers, recreation, weekly youth ministry, and partnering with Grace Church.

As we consider what our financial commitments will be for the first lap of our final five-year fund drive, I invite us to pray this simple prayer each day: "Lord, what would You do through me to accomplish Your will in my church?"

Start your engines!

Pastor Robert

Key Dates

- Week of May 9 – Congregational Mailing of Commitment Cards
- Sunday, May 15 – Commitment Sunday (Offering Our Commitment Cards)
- Sunday, May 22 – Celebration Sunday (Sharing of Commitment Results)

*Congratulations to
2011 Scholarship Recipients!*

The Scholarship Committee is delighted to announce the recipients of scholarship awards for the 2011-2012 school year. The scholarships awarded are:

The Glenna & Lucille Stout scholarship for students attending Ohio Northern University is awarded to **Brittany Sisson**.

The Josephine Donnelly Mills Memorial scholarship for those majoring in nursing is awarded to **Allie Barnhart, Maria Horton and MacKenzie Smith**.

The Donna Petersen scholarship for those majoring in elementary education is awarded to **Kayla Smith**.

The Edward E., Laura R, and Gladys M. Shaeffer Memorial Fund scholarship for incoming freshman attending a university or technical school is awarded to **Austin Kern**.

The Robert K. Fox scholarship for those majoring in public education or a medical field is awarded to **Allie Barnhart, Eric Horton, Maria Horton, and MacKenzie Smith**.

These students also received general scholarships to pursue their educations:

Brittany Albanese	Rebecca Hug
Lauren Baker	Cheyenne Jepsen
Jackie Barnett	Alex Koksai
Ashleigh Bope	Brandon McKenzie
Kyle Burgess	Daniel Moore
Nathan Cheek	John Polinski
Nicholas Cirivello	Brittany Sisson
Andrew Garrett	Andrew Slater
Emily Hargrove	Samantha Slater
Andrew Hargrove	Kayla Smith
Eric Horton	MacKenzie Smith
Maria Horton	Garrett Warner

Congratulations to all of you and we wish you many blessings on your educational journeys!

Births

Alexander James Schmelzer, born April 4, 2011
Son of Kris & Ashley Schmelzer
Grandson of Bill & Gina Pressler

Azlyn Grace Munyon, born April 14, 2011
Daughter of Patrick & Aimee Munyon
Granddaughter of Bob & Sandy Roberts

Colin James Miller, born April 14, 2011
Son of Adam & Beth Miller
Grandson of Libby Hensley

Deaths

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

Nancy Gardner
Melanie Musser
Robert Nicholson
Millie Hart

Welcome New Members

Joining FUMC on April 10, 2011
Charles, Denise, Stu & Lauren Baker
Heather Baskin
Cory Brown & Tiffany McClellan
Paul & Misty Goodyear
Ned & Laura Hinton
Jay Johnson & Lora Donham-Johnson
Mark & Jennifer Johnston
Tony & Heidi Redd
Teresa Sandy
Michael & Wendy Travis
Chris Walton

Next New Member Class
Summer 2011

Our summer new member classes/lunches will be held Sundays, 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m., July 31, August 7, & 14 and the receiving into membership will be on Sunday, August 21. To register, contact Sandy Roberts at 740-653-3330 or sandyroberts@lancasterfumc.org.

**ARTICLES FOR THE SUMMER ISSUE OF THE CIRCUIT RIDER
(JUNE/JULY/AUGUST) ARE DUE BY MAY 27!**

There will be a youth summer planning meeting at Crossroads on May 16 at 7 p.m. Come help plan the summer fun! Bring your ideas! Youth & adults welcome.



Get ready to be flocked! The youth mission team will be "flocking" during the entire month of May! Join in the fun!!! All monies received support our summer mission trip to WV. Send a flock to a friend or neighbor to mark a special day, or just for fun! (don't forget to ask about flock insurance.....) Forms on back of insert sheet or in parlor.

Congratulations to the Confirmation class! Having prepared since September, these students will confirm their faith on Mother's day: Kristen Appleton, Austin Kaiser, Mckenzie Huff, Hannah Yerian, Gabby Smith, Morgan Smith, Jordan Gilbert, Brad Nameth, Aaron Lawson, Jared Thomas, Noah Steele, Annie O'Dell, Allison Romans.

We will recognize our high school graduates Sunday, May 29, at all worship services. Be sure to join us as we celebrate their achievements and wish them well as they embark on the next exciting phase of their lives



Youth Breakfast continues at the Rising House. Join us Thursday mornings at 6:30am, while school is in session, for a delicious home-cooked breakfast. Just \$1.

Youth group continues to meet Sunday evenings at Crossroads from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Enjoy engaging, relevant bible study & discussion, followed by a time of fun & fellowship.

May Worship Themes

- May 1 "Happy Birthday King James Version!"
- May 8 "Every Time I Think of You – Your Work of Faith"
- May 15 "Every Time I Think of You – Your Faith Known Throughout the World"
- May 22 "Every Time I Think of You – Your Growth Through Adversity"
- May 29 "Every Time I Think of You – Your Seal of the Holy Spirit"

West Ohio Annual Conference Lakeside, OH (June 5 – 9)

Our West Ohio Annual Conference in which lay and clergy delegates representing approximately 1,200 churches will be gathering in Lakeside, Ohio along Lake Erie June 5 to 9 and will be presided by Bishop Bruce Ough. Scott and Regina Gottliebson will serve as lay delegates and Pastor Cheryl and Pastor Robert will serve as clergy delegates.

The purpose of Annual Conference is to discuss and vote on church legislation, adopt a 2012 conference budget, ordain Deacons and Elders, worship, and celebrate our connectional ministry as United Methodists.






Rev. Chuck Imhoff will be available for pastoral care/emergencies during the week of conference.

Financial Office Procedures

For the last year, the Business Office at First United Methodist Church has operated under the changes in its daily operations established by the Finance Committee last year to better serve the congregational members of First Church. Separation of duties, along with cross training of job responsibilities, has allowed both Jill Warner, Financial Secretary and Deb Silvia, Church Treasurer, to work more efficiently and effectively and provide more accountability of our church's financial resources. An outside third-party review of the bank reconciliations has been done on a monthly basis by Terri Thomas, former FUMC Financial Manager and Penny Wasem, CPA, to help ensure confidence and faith in the financial operations at our church. The Finance Committee also elected a team to perform the internal review required by the United Methodist Church. The review was completed on March 12 with just a few minor areas found that need addressing. These concerns have already been shared with the Finance Committee. Thank you for all the kindness and consideration you have shown to Jill Warner and Deb Silvia as they have gone through this process together. Please know that our financial staff is working diligently every day to account for the gifts and treasures faithfully given by our members. The staff welcomes you to stop by at any time if you have questions or concerns.



Ready for a Wild Adventure?

- New friends  Amazing crafts  Wild games 
Lip-smacking snacks  Wild Bible adventures  Incredible music

- What:** A week-long Bible School where kids discover that God is wild about them.
- Where:** Crossroads Ministry Center
- When:** July 11-15, 2011, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Registration begins May 1 (online at lancasterfumc.org or at the VBS display in the Parlor)
- Who:** For children age 3 (completely potty-trained) through kids completing grade 4.
- Cost:** \$8 if registered by July 1; after deadline, \$10
T-shirts are \$8 if ordered by July 1. T-shirts are not available after the deadline.

TO VOLUNTEER:
Register at www.lancasterfumc.org
Adult volunteers must have completed a background check (social security number is required). Forms are located in the Parlor or can be printed from our website.

You Can Help Today!



You don't have to wait until Bible School to help. Here's an easy way for you to help right now. Stop by the VBS display in the Parlor and select a card with an item(s) to donate or loan. Record your item on the Donation Listing. Next, tape your card to your donation and bring to the church by Sunday, June 26. Items you loan to us will be returned once Bible School is over. It's simple to do, and helpful to us!





Children's Sunday School

Family Worship Sundays

May 29 (Memorial Day Weekend)
July 4 (Independence Day Weekend)
September 4 (Labor Day Weekend)

June 5 – Summer Changes Begin

- 8:15 Nursery through age 2, Room 12
Age 3 through children having completed Preschool, Room 11
- 9:45 Nursery through age 2, room 12
Age 3 through children having completed Preschool, Room 11
Children having completed Kindergarten through Grade 5,
Room 10
- 11:00 Nursery through age 2, room 12
Age 3 through children having completed Preschool, Room 11

Dr. Hank Stringer Appreciation & Welcome to Rev. Barb Sholis

Our Capitol Area South District Superintendent, Dr. Hank Stringer is retiring this year after serving our district the past seven years. A farewell celebration will be held on Sunday, May 22, 4 P.M. at Grove City UMC. Our church is joining other churches in our district in receiving a love offering for Dr. Stringer by Sunday, May 15. Checks may be made payable to "First UMC" with "Dr. Stringer Love Gift" on the memo.

As we say farewell to Dr. Stringer, we also say "hello" to Rev. Barb Sholis who will be our new District Superintendent effective July 1. Rev. Sholis is presently serving as the senior pastor of Newark First UMC.



Keep Up with First UMC Updates on Facebook!

Regular updates on upcoming events and news regarding our church are available on our church's facebook page. On facebook, go to Lancaster First United Methodist Church.

Fellowship Dinners

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

May 4

Roast Beef
Mashed Potatoes/Gravy
Glazed Carrots
Fresh Garden Salad
Broccoli-Cauliflower Salad
Hawaiian Cake

Kids:

Pizza, Fresh Veggies
Apple Wedges & Grapes
Pudding Cup

May 11

Swiss Chicken
Rice Pilaf
Seasoned Broccoli-Cauliflower
Fresh Garden Salad
Pickled Beets
Bread Pudding w/Rum Sauce

Kids:

Corn Dogs, Assorted Chips
Garden Salad, Cookie

May 18

Ham Loaf
Buffet Potatoes
Seasoned Green Beans
Fresh Garden Salad
Carrot Coin Salad
Ice Cream & Cookie

Kids:

Peanut Butter Sandwich
Chips, Ants on a Log
Rice Crispy Treat

May 25

Chicken & Noodles
Mashed Potatoes/Gravy
California Veggies
Fresh Garden Salad
Cranberry Gelatin Salad
Assorted Desserts

Kids:

Hot Dog, Buttered Corn
Chips, Assorted Cookies



Cokesbury Booktable

The selection of books listed below is available from our booktable ministry. Located in the parlor, these books and many others are sold each Sunday morning from 9:15 – 10:45 a.m. The booktable ministry also receives requests for special orders.

Exercising Your Soul, by Gary Jansen. This beautiful book is filled with simple how-to advice on jump-starting your relationship with God. Jansen offers straightforward advice on how to begin, or deepen, your relationship with the One who loved us into being. \$14.99

How To Believe in God, by Clark Strand. For practicing Christians and Jews, this book will bring a stunning freshness to your understanding of the Bible. How to Believe in God will open hearts and minds to the profound treasures found within the Bible's parables and lessons. \$24.95

No Act of Love is Ever Wasted, by Jane Marie Thibault, and Richard L. Morgan. Dementia presents major challenges to faith—both for persons with dementia and for their caregivers. The authors present a realistic picture of dementia, and they encourage us to see caregiving and receiving as opportunities for mutual spiritual growth. \$16

Water Bugs and Dragonflies—Explaining Death to Young Children, by Doris Stickney. How can we answer the many questions young children have about death? In looking for a meaningful way to explain the death of a five-year-old friend to neighborhood children, the author adapted a graceful fable about a water bug that changed into a dragonfly. \$18

"Goodbye" and "Hello" mixed with gratitude

Dear Friends at Lancaster First UMC,

In August of this year we will take on new responsibilities in the Sheffield-Brunswick and Hoyland circuits of the Methodist Church in Britain. As we conclude our fifteen years of service as missionaries with the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries, our hearts are very grateful for all you have done for us.

At the time of this writing, the GBGM has not yet appointed a missionary to serve in Italy. We hope you will consider establishing a covenant relationship with GBGM missionaries Ut To and Karen Vo-To who serve in Vietnam. The West Ohio Conference Office or GBGM Mission Support Liaison Rachael Barnett (tel. 212-870-3716; email: rbarnett@gbgm-umc.org) can provide you with more information. The missionary biography page on the GBGM's web site (gbgm-umc.org) may also be helpful.

First UMC in Lancaster supported us when our family was preparing to leave the then Newark District to serve in Lithuania. We will always remember the groups from your church who came to serve in Lithuania, and we are thrilled that your partnership with the congregation in Panevezys continues to this day. Having taken Disciple Bible Study at your church in the early 1990's, we have both used many of the ideas and teaching techniques we learned on East Wheeling Street in our work in Lithuania, and later Italy. In addition, Italian Methodists sing from a new multi-lingual hymnal that you, through a special gift you made, helped make possible.

Your mission giving, especially during difficult economic times, is a testimony to your commitment to spread Good News within and outside your community. Please know that the many ways you have supported us in ministry -- your financial support, prayers, letters, birthday cards, and your hospitality to our family during itineration visits, have all sustained us in ways you cannot imagine. We trust that together, we have planted seeds for the Gospel.

Peace in Christ, *The Markay Family* (Kristin, David, Hannah and Aidan)

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 Forest Weis

Bill and Donna Sampson

In memory of Velma Lutz

Helen Campbell
Paul and Ruth Gilpin

In memory of Rosemary Chatfield

Bill and Donna Sampson

In memory of James Morgan

Pearleene Reffitt
Rob Reffitt

In memory of Herb Wedge

Bill and Donna Sampson

In memory of J. Brooks Gregory

Don and Ruth Allen

In memory of Jane Hussey

Richard and Alyce Giles
Mary Jane Bohlander

In memory of Annie Mary Dowdy

James and Dorothy Carpenter
Helen Campbell

In memory of Jim Hines

Bill and Donna Sampson

In memory of Bob Blackstone

Bob and Charlene Chapman
David and Judy Sheidler
Gene & Sheila Teachout

In memory of Irvine G. & Mary P. Smith

David and Debra Smith
Frank and Dixie Smith

In memory of Patty Daubenmire

Alice Morse
Stephen & Bernadette Erwin
Mary Ann Clover
Grace Ray Moon
Norma Bagby
Larry & Betty Neel
Charles & Diane Eversole
Maxine Rutherford
Jim & Norma Nutter
George Daubenmire
John & Yvonne Bowland
Don & Jane Graf
Raymond Patterson
Bud & Ginnie Hritz
Anne Bartlett
Jo Ann Bainter
Russell & Sarah Cline
Dale & Shirley Fisher
Marie & Joella Stapp
William & Jeannine Cunningham
Robert & Marjorie Buchanan
Creighton & Betty Woltz
John & Patricia McClure
Gene & Nancy Wood
Jim & Sally Morgan
Jim & Peg Parker
Vivian Hughes
Richard & Constance England
Bob & Kathi Herington
John & Mary Echols
Dick & Jeannine Huddle
George & Cindy Wagner
Emma Jean Curtice
Dorothy Burchfield
Edward & Betty Greve
Mark & Jackie Sells
Lancaster Vineyard Church
Helen Neel
Charlie & Linda Burns
Dr. Don Poling
Audrey Faigley
Betty Youst
Dough & Cindy Tenney
Jeannette Longnecker

In memory of Virginia Robinson

Joan Tinker

In memory of Brian Sampson

Dorothy Giles

In memory of Dorothy Lape

Robert & Ruth Valentine
Mike & Sherry Johnson
Jim & Linda Notestine
Mark & Bonita Marsh
Helen Bowers
Jim & Brenda Fry
Brian & Susie Bingham
Herb & Pat Poling
Jim & Peg Parker
Phil & Sue Fisher

In memory of Barbara Mathews

Jim & Brenda Fry
Fairfield Federal Savings & Loan
Bob & Charlene Chapman
Opal Wacker
James & Jan Etta Hussey
Richard & Alyce Giles
Don & Loretta Dozer

In memory of Bettie Kaumeyer

Dave & June Harcum
Norma Bagby
Jim & Peg Parker
Mary Jane Bohlander
Betty Youst
Ann Posey
Donna Davis

In memory of Ron Bauer

JoAnn Creiglow
Patty Anders

Mother's Day Brunch



Saturday, May 7

10:30 a.m.

Fellowship Hall



Cost: \$6.00 – Adult

\$3.00 Child – (age 3-10)

FREE – Child (age 2 and under)

Menu: Egg & Ham Frittata, Fresh Fruit,
Assorted Muffins, Various Beverages

Tickets available on Sunday in the Church Parlor through May 1.
(Prepaid tickets ONLY!)



The Circuit Rider
is the monthly newsletter of
First United Methodist Church
163 E. Wheeling St.
Lancaster, OH 43130

Sunday:

8:15 a.m. – Worship Celebration

9:45 a.m. – Praise Worship

11:00 a.m. – Worship Celebration

Wednesday:

6:30 p.m. – The Gathering (at Crossroads)

We welcome you to worship with us and to
experience the joy of having fellowship
with other people who believe in the love
of God and the teachings of Christ.

Senior Pastor – Robert McDowell

Visitation Pastor – Cheryl Foulk

Telephone – 740-653-3330

FAX – 740-653-4983

Email – church@lancasterfumc.org

Website – www.lancasterfumc.org

Thank You - Thank You - Thank You - Thank You

Dear Rose Ministry,

My sisters and I want to thank you for the beautiful flower arrangement you had at the church for our sister Melanie Musser.

Thanks you, Jean Szewizuk, Susan Englehart, Pat Strawn & Nancy Musser

Dear FUMC,

Thank you so much for being so thoughtful during my chemo treatments and praying for me. The doctor says I'm in remission so God has answered our prayers.

Thanks again, Wanda M. Snyder

Dear Rose Ministry,

Thank you for the rose. It was beautiful.

The Jim Daubenmire Family

Dear FUMC,

We do thank you so much for your gift of Coins for Christ for the Allen Chapel. It was greatly appreciated and we thank you very much.

Sincerely, Alice Saunders

Dear Church Members,

Thank you so much for allowing Delta Kappa Gamma to hold our recent event, Cinderella's Closet, at Crossroads. We were able to provide 87 girls with free prom dresses in a beautiful, spacious setting which made all the girls feel special.

Jay Bahnsen

Dear FUMC,

Thank you for the use of Fellowship Hall for the YMCA event. It was a perfect fit!

Thanks, Mike

Dear FUMC,

An eggstravagant thank you to everyone who helped with the Eggstravaganza. It was an eggcellent way to teach the community about Jesus and a good way to show off Crossroads. With your help it will get bigger and better every year!

God bless you all, Christina S. Nicholson

Dear Knitters,

Thank you for generously donating your time and talent to Cubs for Kids. The garments you sent last year were greatly appreciated by the children and their families. Last year we sent over 1000 bear cubs to children in homeless shelters across the country. We collect these items all year long, so keep on knitting.

Fondly, Arlene Comora

Family Concerns Ministry serves 300th Funeral Meal

The Family Concerns Ministry recently served its 300th funeral meal. The ministry began in October 1993 and the majority of the meals are served at the Rising House.

The Family Concerns Ministry wishes to thank everyone who has donated food for our funeral meals as well as those who help set up, serve and clean up. Many of the food volunteers have been with the ministry since 1993.

So many of the families who have lost loved ones have expressed their gratitude and appreciation for this ministry.

If any one is interested in joining this ministry as a worker or a food volunteer, please call Peg Parker at the church (653-3330) or at home (654-2100) or Donna Waugh (654-4447).

Music Sunday on June 5

Our choir and bell choir will conclude their choir season on June 5 with our annual Music Sunday. We honor the special place that music holds in the worship life of First United Methodist Church as we praise God with a variety of music throughout the worship times that day. This year our Music Sunday will have an international flavor as we present music from various African countries. This rhythmic music will provide for an exciting and upbeat morning.

We thank our choir and bell choir members, and all the many other musicians who give so freely of their time throughout the year to enliven our worship with music!

Flocking begins May 8

What would you think if you woke up tomorrow morning and found a flock of pink flamingos sitting in your front yard? Would you offer them breakfast? Would you show them the way south? Would you send them on to a lucky neighbor's yard? Join the fun!

Yes, I would like to send a flock of flamingoes...

Your name _____

Who are you flocking? _____

Address _____

When would you like the flock delivered? _____

(Unless otherwise requested, flockings occur in the dark on the evening you request. So, if you wish someone to awaken with a flock in the yard on the May 20, request that it be delivered the evening of the May 19.)

How many flocks? _____ flock(s)/birds
(1 flock of 5 is \$5. Each additional bird is \$1/bird)

I don't want to be flocked. Please add my name to the insurance list (\$10 for insurance).

Name _____

Address _____

Place this form and payment in an envelope and drop off at the church office, attention Sandra Yerian.
Thank you for supporting the youth mission trip!

Make checks payable to FUMC with "Flamingos" on memo line.

Outreach Sewing Ministry

By sewing simple items, this ministry provides help to the Fairfield Medical Center in caring for children.

Comfort Bears - Young patients can be comforted by hugging these soft bears when they undergo unpleasant procedures such as shots or IVs. The pattern is simple, just stitch and stuff with your favorite bear fabric.

Blankets - Infants admitted through the ER often need blankets they can be wrapped in when they return home. All that is needed is for you to select the fabric, cut it out and hem the edges.

If you are interested in getting a pattern and making some bears and/or blankets please contact Peg Parker at 653-3330 or 654-2100. These can be done at your convenience.



May 21 at Crossroads, 7-10 p.m.
Featuring "Live" the Wayne King Band
with Wayne King as Caller

Come out and join the fun! Experienced or inexperienced; young or old; couples or singles: All are welcome!

We will run through all dances before dancing so come on out and learn to Square Dance Eastern Style. Open to the public, so be sure to invite all your friends.

Cost: \$4.00 per person; Kids 10 & under: \$3.00.
All tickets will be sold at the door. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

For more information, contact:
Penny Greene (740-653-1165) or
Sharon Aebersold (740-654-4454).