



# THE VISITOR

*March 2010*

## *Fun We've Had this Winter...*



*Youth/Mentor Retreat*



*Night at the Church*



*Mardi Gras Party*

## *Sundays in March*

***ICU Re-Commissioning, March 7*** During worship we will be commissioning our ICU team members. "ICU" stands for Intentional Caring Ministry which for over 25 years has given support and care to members and families within Christ Church.

***Rabbi Stephen H. Grundfast will be our guest on Sunday, March 14.*** He is with the Beth El Congregation in Akron, a congregation of Conservative Judaism. This is the synagogue which our Confirmation Classes have visited many times in recent years. Rabbi Grundfast will speak from our pulpit at morning worship, with particular teaching about Passover. At the lunch following worship (provided by Consistory), he will join us in an informal time of questions and answers. Mark your calendars, plan to stay for lunch, bring your questions.

***Palm Sunday, March 28*** Worship at 10:15 a.m. recalls Christ's entry into Jerusalem beginning with a procession of palms and festive music. The service then moves to anticipate the coming days of Holy Week with a reading from Matthew's Gospel of the Passion of Jesus.

## March Worship

### March 7

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent  
Holy Communion  
Carol Choir  
Chancel Choir  
ICU Re-Commissioning

### March 14

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent  
Rabbi Grundfast, speaking  
Bell Choir  
Chancel Choir  
"One Great Hour of Sharing"  
Offering  
Luncheon with the rabbi

### March 21

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent  
Carol Choir  
Chancel Choir  
Anointing for Healing & Blessing  
Potluck lunch

### March 28

Palm Sunday  
Palm processional  
Chancel Choir  
Reading of the Passion Story



*The Green Team soup dinner and movie night on February 21 was a tremendous success. Thanks to everyone who helped and to those who participated.*



## Meanderings

Discussing the merits of silent prayer time during the church's Sunday worship, a young person gave this sage comment, "Too long at Silent Prayer might get into things you would rather not get into." Yep.

Thirty seconds of silent prayer together as a congregation can seem everlasting since: a) we are not used to sitting quietly alone without the companionship of TV, computer screen, or ipod; b) we are certainly not accustomed to sitting quietly with others for very long; plus, c) we are not much practiced in prayer that listens and then listens some more, allowing the Spirit to take us where it will. Such prayer is risky. It can open sealed off areas, throw light into well concealed nooks and crannies, and get us into things with God about our lives that we are not eager to get into.

Plumbing is like that, as far as I am concerned. You start out to replace a leaky washer and the next thing you know half of the bathroom is torn up because of what you keep discovering. The same is true with genealogical research: you might just get into things about your ancestors that you would rather not have known or brought to light.

Lent is this odd time which the church marks but the world prefers to ignore. The world likes our Christmas and Easter, both for the fun and the commercial advantages they bring. But Lent sits there untouched. Like an unidentified casserole (turkey?) at a banquet for vegetarians – just rather not get into it.

That also lets us have this Lenten season for what it is, unencumbered by the distractions of elves and stockings hung, of bunnies and colored eggs. Here is a time to be still before God. See Jesus for who he is, and not what we make of him. See ourselves as we are, including those things we would rather not get into. See God at work in those inner protected places with a love and mercy and healing that we could not have imagined.

Lent is our time for daring plenty of silent prayer. Give it a try.

Randy

## Christian Education Matters

### GOT CAMP???

It's time to register for summer camp! Shirley Weyrauch has distributed camp brochures to the Sunday school classrooms, the educational building hallway, and the tables near the sanctuary entrances. There are camps for every age camper every week of the summer camping season, so whole families can be at camp at the same time, but each doing their own thing! The Christian Education committee believes in the value of the camping program and supports every camper from Christ Church with a campership of half of the lowest registration fee up to \$199.50. Additional financial assistance is available based on need. Get more information at [www.ocucc.org](http://www.ocucc.org) by clicking on the Outdoor ministries link. There is also online registration available this year!



*Camper, Laura Scott*

### LENTEN DEVOTIONALS

Lenten devotional booklets are available in the pew racks. Take one for your family to use this Lenten season. The "This Season At Home" lectionary booklets are also available at the entrances to the sanctuary.

### DAY WITH GOD AND SELF

Need a retreat day? Shirley Weyrauch and Janet Burkhart are leading a Day with God and Self at the Prettyman Center at Pilgrim Hills on Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. The retreat includes study time, personal time, and silence. The cost for the day is \$30, and includes lunch at the camp. Check out further details or register at [www.ocucc.org](http://www.ocucc.org)

## Consistory Highlights – February Meeting

- Property committee reports no leaks from new roof on second floor.
- The initial goal of the Renew the Church Campaign was \$250,000. The door and organ estimate was \$81,350. To finish the projects and retire the Phase III debt is \$30,302.49. We need \$10,000 to meet needs for door and organ.
- Motion made and carried to have voicing done on the organ, with money coming from the Memorial Fund.
- Officer Hunt of the OPD, did a walk through of the church and pointed out security issues. His suggestions will be reviewed by security sub-committee.
- Visioning process is on-going. Strategic planning scheduled for March 27.

## Tea Party

Christ UCC Relay for Life team has scheduled their annual Tea Party for Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 PM. Our program this year will be presented by Cherie Graham from Dalton who will be sharing the history of teddy bears. Plan to bring along your favorite teddy bear! Price is \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children ages 2-10, and children under 2 are free.

## ICU Workshop

An ICU workshop is planned for Saturday, March 20, from 9:00-12:00 p.m. The morning will start out with a continental breakfast followed by review of ICU instructional material and a presentation of treatment of Alzheimer's patients. Current and new ICU members are encouraged to attend. It will be an informative time for all.

## Installation Service

The installation service of the Rev. Geoffrey A. Black as General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ will be held on Saturday, April 17, 2:30 p.m., at The Federated Church in Chagrin Falls. A reception will follow at the church. Everyone is invited to attend.



*A big thanks to these guys, and photographer Judy B., for taking down the star and putting the cross back up on a chilly, Sunday afternoon.*

## Youth Corner

### Kid's Club

Kid's Club will not meet on Wednesday, March 3. The cooks and Sharon will be in New Orleans or on vacation. ☺

We will meet March 10, 17, 24 and 31. March 31 will be our last session together until October.

Thank you to everyone who has provided dessert.

And thank you to our cooks – Shirley Scott, Ruth Harrington and Judy Browne; kitchen helpers Laura Scott and Jim Nelson; and special thanks to teachers Richelle Romanchik and Sarah Finney.

### Youth Fellowship

Youth fellowship will not meet March 7. We will meet the other Sundays. Food providers? Please let Sharon know if you are willing and able.

### Miller Avenue Service Project

Members of the 1<sup>st</sup> year confirmation class and other youth will prepare and serve a lunch at Miller Avenue on Saturday, March 20. We'll need another adult driver. Any youth interested in helping need a permission form returned to Sharon by Sunday, March 14.

### H. S. Musicals

Smithville H.S. presents "Hello Dolly" on March 12, 13 and 14.

Dalton H. S. presents "Cinderella" on March 26, 27 and 28.



### Great Lakes Regional Youth Event

Defiance College June 17-20. Open to youth grades 8-12. Cost is \$115 (we pay the other \$110). Registrations are due March 31. See Sharon with any questions.

Download registration materials at:  
<http://www.ocucc.org/YouthYA/RegionalYouthEvent2010.htm>

## Financial Report

January 31, 2010

	Month of Jan '10	YTD	Last Year
<b>Current Fund</b>			
Income	\$22,570	\$ 22,570	\$ 18,484
Expenses	\$21,634	\$ 21,634	\$ 24,446
Net Surplus(Deficit)	\$ 936	\$ 936	\$ (5,962)
<b>Benevolent Fund</b>	\$ 7,672	\$ 7,672	\$ 6,110
Blanket Fund	\$ 1,215	\$ 1,215	\$ 1,069
Pastor's Emergency Fund	\$402	\$ 402	\$ 916

\$495.00 was donated for the Haiti earthquake disaster. \$500.00 from the Disaster Relief Fund was added for a total of \$995.00

## Easter Flowers

Think spring! It will come and so will Easter. We will be using spring flowers again. Below are the ones available with prices. Put your order in the offering plate or take it to the office.

			<u># of plants</u>	<u>\$ total</u>
Daffodils	6½" pot	\$8.50	_____	_____
Tulip	6½" pot	\$8.50	_____	_____
Hydrangea	6½" blue	\$12.00	_____	_____
Hydrangea	6½" pink	\$12.00	_____	_____

Name \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

## Soup Sale

**Christ UCC Relay for Life team will be having a soup & eggroll sale Sunday, March 7th.** Delicious homemade soups (\$6 quart & \$3 pint) and eggrolls (\$7.50 per half dozen) will be available. We would be happy to take pre-orders so you can get the soup you want. To pre-order, please complete this form and give to any team member, drop it off in the church office, call Joanne Burkey at 683-2666, Linda Combs at 683-2057, or send an e-mail to Diana Huffman at dhuffman5@neo.rr.com. Pre-orders are not required but are helpful. This is the last soup sale until fall!

Chicken Noodle	____ Qt	____ Pint	Chicken w/Wild Rice	____ Qt	____ Pint
Potato	____ Qt	____ Pint	Broccoli Cheese	____ Qt	____ Pint
Ham & Bean	____ Qt	____ Pint	Mushroom Barley	____ Qt	____ Pint
Cheeseburger	____ Qt	____ Pint	Eggrolls	____	1/2 dozen

## Thank You

We want to thank Randy, Julie and the ICU members for their support and prayers while I was in Dunlap and Glendora. I'm back at Shady Lawn Oaks and doing so much better. Thanks again.

Catherine Miller  
Zola Craver

I would like to thank everyone that made phone calls and sent cards after my recent surgery. Thank you to Pastor Gehres for coming to the hospital, and to the Merry Cooks for the wonderful meal. Your thoughtfulness was truly appreciated.

Billie Bottomley

Again, thank you, all you kind and thoughtful people who remembered me in another difficult time with calls, cards, and in-person words of sympathy. I have needed you and you were there—so comforting.

Maryalice

Thank you to Christ Church. During the past months the tremendous support from Christ Church has been greatly appreciated. The many get well cards, phone calls, visits with Randy and numerous church members, and the countless prayers for healing have meant so much.

The scheduled six chemo treatments have ended and we are now undergoing testing procedures to determine the status of the cancer. Thanks again for your outstanding support.

Bob & Jess Hershey

## One Great Hour of Sharing – Special Offering, March 14

In his final moments with his disciples, the Good Shepherd asks Peter, "Do you love me?" "Yes," Peter replies. Then, "Feed my lambs," Jesus tells him. "Tend my sheep." Three times, Jesus passionately repeats his instruction, pressing his followers: If you love me, take care of the people I love. (John 21:15-19)

The members of the family of God including those in parts of the world we may never visit, are God's flock, the sheep of God's pasture (Ezekiel 34:31). Yet, God's flock is often forcefully scattered as people are chased from their homes and livelihoods by brutal expressions of war, or as communities are blasted by natural disasters, or as societies and countries are ground down by unrelenting hunger, disease, and poverty.

On March 14, you'll have an opportunity to offer your gift to One Great Hour of Sharing, empowering the United Church of Christ to offer disaster relief and refugee aid, meeting basic needs in Christ's name throughout the world. Soon, each of us will have the opportunity to decide how to participate in an offering that helps strengthen people to improve their own lives and communities.

Through One Great Hour of Sharing:

- \* disaster victims quickly receive shelter, food, water, and medical supplies
- \* local communities develop secure sources of food and clean water
- \* minds and bodies grow stronger with new schools and medical clinics
- \* refugees receive housing and long-term help to construct new lives
- \* women and communities are empowered through micro-credit loans and community development opportunities.

In challenging times, we often wonder how much we can afford to sacrifice to help feed Jesus' beloved sheep, when our needs remain pressing. Perhaps only through prayer can we decide how to respond to Jesus' call to feed His Sheep. Remember the feeding of the 5,000: when Jesus asked the disciples to feed the hungry crowd, the disciples despaired (Mark 6:34-44). The five loaves and two fish seemed insignificant compared to the massive need. Yet when each gave sacrificially from what they had, through God's blessing, their gifts turned into a miracle of compassion for all. ©www.ucc.org/oghs/resources/2010-resources

## Parish Nurse Information – Alzheimer's and You

©www.parishnurses.org

### Alzheimer's Disease Quick Facts

5.3 million older Americans have Alzheimer's

Every 70 seconds, a patient is diagnosed with Alzheimer's

Alzheimer's can not be cured but treatment may slow the disease process

You have more options for treatment with an early diagnosis

### About Alzheimer's Disease

#### Early Signs and Symptoms

- Forgetting newly learned information
- Difficulty with problem-solving
- Unable to find the right word
- Disoriented to time and place
- Loss of judgment
- Difficulty with familiar tasks
- Changes in mood/personality

#### Risk Factors

- **Age:** after age 65, risks double every 5 years until age 85 when risk is 50%
- **Family History:** Risk rises if diagnosed in parents or siblings
- **History of serious head injury**
- **Vascular Damage:** heart disease and diabetes damage blood vessels which can impair blood flow to the brain

#### What You Can Do...

1. Exercise at least 30 minutes, 5 days a week
2. Eat 5-9 servings of fruits and vegetables daily
3. Use your mind: take a class, read a book, do a puzzle
4. Stay socially active with family and friends
5. Wear seat belts, helmets, and fall-proof your home
6. Keep active in your faith community
7. Take time every day to pray

Alzheimer's Association  
1-800-272-3900  
www.alz.org

Alzheimer's Disease  
Education and Referral  
(ADEAR) Center  
1-800-438-4380  
www.nia.nih.gov/Alzheimers

## Applying Bible Principles ©Kenneth L. Williams, *Effective Stewardship*, K LW Enterprises, Swansea, IL

Here's a little true or false test. Be forewarned that the question is somewhat tricky. True or false: A Christian can expect to have all of his or her needs supplied by God.

On the surface, that would seem to be true. After all, Philippians 4:19 says, "And my God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus." But what many people fail to realize is that this promise is a conditional promise. The reason God will supply all of our needs is based on Philippians 4:18 where the Apostle Paul describes how his needs were met by the Christians at Philippi through the sacrificial offering which they had sent to him.

In other words, although those first-century Christians gave to Paul with the desire of assisting him in his ministry to the early church, because of their giving, they earned the "right" to expect that God would fully meet all of their needs. Because of their willingness to share their resources with Paul, as he indicated in Philippians 4:17, fruit would abound to their account. They could then look to God to supply all of their needs. Although they did not "give to get," they would "get" because they gave.

That same principle holds true today. As one person expressed it so well, "We do not give to get, but when we give, we get." That's what the Lord Jesus said in Luke 6:38. He indicated that by whatever measure we give, we will in turn receive.

Jack Hartman, a Christian businessman, said it this way: ". . . the more we give to God, the more this opens the channel for Him to see that we receive abundantly in return. If we withhold our giving, we are actually withholding the blessing that God wants to give us."

Someone described non-essentials in life as ". . . playing Scrabble on the *Hindenburg* or rearranging deck chairs on the *Titanic*." Maybe that's a picture of how you view giving — as a non-essential, something not very important in the totality of life. Could it be that is why your needs are not being met in full?

Think about this: What would happen if you began to place a rightful priority on your giving, even to the point of giving sacrificially? You see, you would then have the "right" to claim Philippians 4:19 with the expectation that in response to your giving, God would meet all of your needs. Your obedience to God's direction in your life to give would then result in having Him meet your needs, even with the same "measure" that you give to Him.

## March Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Birthdays

3/01 David Bachman	Alex Bates
Vicki Anderson	3/13 Pat Keirstead
Jennifer Brown	Jim Marr
Erin Baer	Avery Louanglath
3/03 Bonnie Slicker	3/14 Bonnie Jackson
3/04 James Bates	Barb Stoll
3/05 Kiley Thompson	Heidi Herr
Kyla Hemphill	Rachael LeFever
3/06 Nettie Singer	3/15 Craig Grimes
3/07 Dan Flory	3/17 Mary Schantz
Shirley Weyrauch	3/18 Ginny Maher
Connie Duffy	Lisa Yeagley
Denise Berkey	Claudia Landis
Felicia Luangraj	3/19 Lauren Hostetler
3/08 Bruce Weeman	3/20 Janice Wisniewski
3/09 Roger Williams	Hank Bowen
3/10 Doug Huffman	Carter Orosz
Brandon Bupp	3/21 Logan Lehman
3/11 Hadyn Hostetler	3/22 Ryan Findley
3/12 Craig Schmid	Laura Scott
David Stoll	

### Anniversaries

Melanie Weeman	3/04 George & Maxine Edwards
3/24 Bruce Smucker	3/05 Bill & Connie Duffy
3/25 Elizabeth Wallace	3/08 Noi & Vongseng Luangraj
Nick Yeagley	Erik & Sheri McGrew
Jeremy Hofstetter	3/10 Dean & Sally Perry
3/26 Cindi Clark	James & Linda Madigan
Connie Bowen	3/16 Bruce & Linda Smucker
Cher Thomas	3/18 Charles & Marian Craft
3/27 Scott Musser	3/19 Steven & Carole Hahn
3/28 Robert Boss	3/22 Russ & Anna Davidson
Steve Malcuit	3/27 Michael & Karen Donley
Emelie Schmid	3/30 Gary & Jodi Cassidy
Ryan Abel	
3/29 Pat LeFever	
3/30 Marv Kragt	
Angela Smith	
Richard Moser	
3/31 Diana Huffman	
Geneva Pouly	



