

Federated Church of Ashland

“The Chimes” - November 2009

A Note From Our Pastor

This fall I am gathering together with a few members for Bible Study. We are studying select passages from the Gospel of Luke. Luke is rich with imagery, teaching, and inspiration for renewed holiness in our lives. I find that Holy Scripture is a profound resource for growing deeper in our understanding of what it means to live in the character of God. One example occurs in the twelfth chapter of Luke where Jesus tells this story. The story is in response to someone from the crowd asking Jesus to settle a sibling rivalry over an inheritance. “Teacher, order my brother to give me a fair share of the family inheritance” (Luke 12:13). In response, Jesus tells the story of a rich man who owns a farm. The farmer produces a terrific crop and decides his barn isn’t big enough. He decides to tear down the existing barn and build bigger barns in its place. Then, being impressed with his accomplishment, says he can retire and take it easy. Then God speaks up and says that tonight the farmer will die and asks the farmer who will get his beautiful barns? This, Jesus tells the man in the crowd, is what happens when you fill your barns with self rather than God.

This passage of scripture causes us to pause and consider, “For what or whom do I spend my life?” In other passages of scripture Jesus challenges us to love God, serve others, and measure our life by what we share and whom we bless, not by what we accumulate for ourselves. Pastoral ministry has placed me in the lives of people at pivotal times in their lives. Death and illness in families are certainly such times and we all become more introspective and self-aware at such critical moments. When any of us face our mortality, we are faced with an assessment of where our heart and soul have been invested, and what becomes of the investment of our lives on earth. In the story Jesus told to the crowd, he reaffirms that some things pass away. This is true. It is also true, however, that some things do not. Our response to Jesus’ story can be renewed consideration of what does not pass away, and then go there with our heart, soul, gifts, and talent.

Jason

Staff Parish Relations Committee **(SPRC)**

The SPRC met Tuesday, October 13th for the following:

- 1 – Committee Elections – Mark Nelson
- 2 – Review the results of the Leadership Retreat at the UCC Center
- 3 – Discuss next committee actions in light of previous contentious behavior

John Ellsworth – Past Chair

From the Deacons

We just love the Fall! It seems that God's handiwork is everywhere. The colors were spectacular this year and some of the most beautiful sights were found right here in Ashland. Did you go by the Mill Pond or to the reservoir on Fountain Street? Our own church is one of the prettiest sights on a bright October Day. We hope that you had time to spend just taking it all in and remembering that God has a purpose for every season.

As for the Deacons, at our last meeting, we were able to elect our representative to the SPRC. Thanks to Henry Carlson for accepting the position. We now have representatives to all boards and they will be attending all the appropriate meetings.

Discussion was held regarding the awarding of scholarships and we have determined that criteria needs to be established and shared with the congregation. We will be working on that and our goal is to have it ready by April 18, 2010.

The Leadership retreat was very successful in the eyes of the participants and by now the church members have been informed of the findings of that meeting. It is the sincere hope of the Deacons that we have gotten everyone as excited about our prospects as we are.

Sadly, we heard from Mark Heaton that he will no longer be available as Head Usher. Fortunately Bob Brown has been willing to fill in but we need to find a permanent Head Usher as soon as we are able. If anyone is interested in knowing more about this position please contact any one of the Deacons for the information. **A BIG THANK YOU** to **Bob** for stepping in to fill the void this summer and fall.

There was discussion regarding the Passing of the Peace during this Flu season. It was decided that this is an important time to greet people, especially new people to the church, to make them feel welcome. Hospitality has provided anti-bacterial hand sanitizer in the pews for those who are concerned about the spreading of germs and will understand if some of you prefer not to shake hands during this time.

In an effort to make the announcements flow a little better it was decided that after a four week period of time we would request that any announcements be given to Linda to be typed up and read by the liturgist before the children are dismissed for Sunday School. By now we have started our new system and hope that it is working well. We recognize that there may still be things that come up at the last minute and will certainly make allowances for those people to have their say.

The Deacons have voted to purchase 14 new beds for our IHN guests. We will use money that was donated by Stanley Barrows for this worthwhile cause. Our next visit from the IHN is on November 14th and we hope to have the beds for that visit.

In closing, let us just say that the Deacons are very excited about the upcoming events in the church and hope that you will all join us for any or all of them. Don't forget the Fair on November 7th and also keep in mind the Progressive Dinner on November 14th.

Signing off with great hope for the future of our church,

Pam Dunham and Nick Paternostro

Autumn Leaves Fair

Saturday, November 7th

10 AM – 3 PM

That's right! The time has come! The Fair is here...It's time to head to the Federated Church Annual Fair.

Everything is set! All we need now is for **YOU** to come! Bring your friends, relatives and kids and plan to spend the day. No need to even leave for lunch! We'll have plenty of delicious foods to satisfy your hunger pangs; sandwiches, main dishes, desserts and treats. Just head up the stairs to Fellowship Hall ... After you have checked out all the super buys on the 1st and 2nd floors.

This year, a new addition to the Fair, are some of Nora's creations. Yes, Nora remembered her CHURCH and our AUTUMN LEAVES FAIR! Featured this year will be the Psalm 23 Bracelets and Nora's exclusive Serenity Bracelets. The bracelets may be purchased at the Fair or ordered. To place your order, please contact Linda in the Church Office.

The Art Show and Sale will be moving downstairs just before the Food room. So, while you're downstairs, be sure to check out the NU-2-U Room, Country Store, Collectibles, Books, Kid's Room and Thrift Shop. The Thrift Shop will be open 10 AM - 1 PM.

When you first enter, you will be greeted by our Pastor Jason, and get a first hand look at our Silent Auction Items. Make your bid and be sure to stop back before you leave. There will be lots of fantastic buys there. Then move on and continue your shopping at the Boutique, Candy Shop, Theta Phi Delta handcrafted gifts and decorations and our slightly used Jewelry.

Of course, our official Mascot will be encouraging you to come and spend the day!

Wow ... What a full day ... But a Great Day we have planned! **See You At The Autumn Leaves Fair!**

Irene Brown

Thank you!!

Many thanks to **EVERYONE** who helped with the preparation of the apple crisp for Ashland Day.

We sold out and raised \$300+!

Thanks to everyone who bought it and supported our Church, it is greatly appreciated.

Irene Brown
Apple Crisp Organizer

Brown Bag Sunday

As you know, Missions donates **\$100** to the Ashland Food Pantry every month.

Brown Bag Sunday is held the third Sunday of each month.

With Thanksgiving fast approaching many people rely on our contributions, so it is even more important to remember those who benefit from our donations.

Please remember to bring in non-perishable items and leave them in the box in the Narthex.

As always, thank you for your generous donations they are greatly appreciated!

World Communion Sunday

Thank you to everyone who participated in World Communion Sunday. **We collected \$913.25.** Your generous gifts are greatly appreciated.

The Missions Committee

Altar Flowers

As you know, the Hospitality Committee does not have a flower budget. Therefore, we have a **flower sign-up sheet** outside the Parlor. You may sign up to place flowers **or** plants on the altar for a designated Sunday. You may order flowers through Linda in the Church Office. The cost is **\$20** for two bouquets. Your check should be made out to the **Federated Church of Ashland**. **Please be sure to write Hospitality Flower Fund on the memo line!** You may also provide two of your own plants and bring them to the Church and place them on the altar **by 9 AM on Sunday morning**. Flowers are usually given to sick and shut-ins, however, you may choose to take them home with you, following the service **or** you may designate to whom they should be given. *Please call Linda in the Church Office at 508-881-1355 and let her know your intentions, so that your flower information will be listed in the church bulletin on Sunday morning.* Thank you to everyone who has responded to this. The response has been wonderful!

Please Note: Deadline for bulletin information is Wednesday morning @ 9:00!

Coffee & Fellowship

Would you like to donate “**goodies**” for our Sunday morning Coffee & Fellowship? If so, please sign up on the sheet, outside the Parlor. Thank you to everyone who has provided goodies in the past! Your response is greatly appreciated.

Theta Phi Delta Ladies

Our next meeting will be held on **Monday, November 2nd at 7:00 PM.**

Christmas Boutique **And** **Bake Sale**

Saturday, December 5th
10 AM – 1 PM

Handcrafted Items
Ornaments & Decorations
Baked Goods
and
Cookie Walk

Financial Summary **July 1st thru October 19th, 2009**

Income from Pledges \$26,899.13 (Anticipated \$26,908.85)

Income from all other sources \$8,702.60

Total Income 35,601.73, Expenses \$40,977.84

Expenses exceeded income by \$5,376.11 (Loss)

To help avoid a cash flow problem, please keep your pledges up to date.

A Note From Hospitality

“Wow!!!” What else can I say about November at the Federated Church? What an exciting event-filled month. Are you ready? In addition to “The Fair”, Coffeehouse Events and IHN hosting week, Hospitality has a lot to add.

November 14th is our 2nd Progressive Dinner. This year we will be visiting 3 homes. Margot & John Ellsworth’s quintessential farm house. I always feel so warm and welcome there. Peg & Rob Daly’s beautiful home is right out of House Beautiful. Lastly you can venture to the wilderness at Mark & my home. We have a delicious menu planned and cannot wait to welcome you all. Limited to 30 people, so get your tickets ASAP. See any member of Hospitality for tickets or questions.

November 22nd is our Pie Sale to add to your Thanksgiving Celebration. We will be making Blueberry and Apple Pies. 6” Pies are \$6.00 and 9” pies are \$11.00. Order ahead to make sure you get the pies you want!!!!

We will be delivering Fruit baskets on the 22nd as well to some of our Friends of the Federated Church that cannot attend our services or events but to let them know we are thinking and praying for them. If you know of someone who should receive a basket, please call Linda in the church office and leave the information so we can make sure one is delivered.

As always this comes together with tremendous support and enthusiasm from the entire Hospitality Committee. This is entirely a group effort and I must thank the committee for their hard work and devotion to these upcoming events.

Thank You and God Bless,

Nick Paternostro

Melanie Conner, Peg Daly, Margot Ellsworth, Bob Either, Dee Heaton and present in our hearts always,
Nora Guidi.

Pie Sale Order your pies now!

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Pie Sizes are 6” for \$6.00 or 9” for \$11.00 Apple or Blueberry

I would like to order _____

Pies will be ready for pick up on Sunday, November 22nd following the service.

Notes from the Christian Education Coordinator:



Sunday school needs you!

Nursery/Preschool Volunteers Needed

Please sign up on the Sunday School Bulletin Board in the Parlor. A rotating schedule will be emailed to volunteers, and posted in the hall outside the parlor. Please let Chris Taylor or Steve Howard know if you are interested in helping, or have any questions. We only have seven volunteers right now, and can use more. Thank you for being willing to help.

The Christmas Pageant:

**Sign up on Sunday school Bulletin Board.
Rehearsals will begin Nov. 15th. Look for
details and sign ups on Nov. 1st.**



The Christmas Pageant will be held during the worship service on December 13th.

Watch the bulletin and Sunday school board for special activities and events.

PreK - 3rd Grade and 4th - 6th Grade will be using “Rock Solid” curriculum again, which has posters, music, games and other materials to go along with each Bible story that they will be studying. The fall stories are Joseph and his Brothers, and Moses.



7th - 8th Grade will be using “Rock Solid” and Bible stories, puts more emphasis on applying concepts we learn in the Bible to our lives outside of church.

Youth (Grades 9-12) use a discussion-based format, and service based learning. We will be meeting with the youth to decide on format, activities, etc.

See the Sunday School Bulletin Board to:

- Sign up to volunteer
- Register your child
- Sign up for special events
- Get a CE/SS Calendar

Email Chris Taylor at fcoa-ce@verizon.net if you have any questions, or would like to volunteer.