

Firestone Park Presbyterian Church

275 South Firestone Blvd, Akron OH 44301
330-724-2740

The Messenger

*News from "The Friendly Church in the Heart of
the Park" ...*

January 2012 Volume XVII

From the Interim Pastor's Desk:

I want to begin by thanking you all for making me feel so welcome in the past several weeks as I have begun my ministry here as your Interim Pastor. You are a very gracious and welcoming congregation! You are also a very active church and it has been a joy for me to begin to get acquainted with all your programs and ministries. I will normally be at the church on Wednesdays and Thursdays and also for special programs and events. As I have said from the pulpit, I have always had an open door office policy, so please feel free to stop in for a conversation about anything from the latest misfortunes of the Browns to theology!

In a personal note, we will be on vacation January 1st through 8th, as we had earlier this fall booked a Carnival Cruise to the eastern Caribbean that week.

The transition period between pastors can be a time of growth for a church as it assesses its past and explores where it wants to go in the future. Two of my favorite verses from Scripture are: Jeremiah 29:11, "I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future." And Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." Those are God's promises to us as individual believers and together as the body of Christ. I look forward to seeing how God will work in us and through us in the coming months.

In Him,
Jim

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

FINANCIAL REPORT - NOVEMBER, 2011

Income	
General Fund	\$ 10,563
Other Income*	\$ 2,363
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 12,926
General Fund Expenses	\$ 9,616
NET INCOME	\$ 3,310

*Includes \$841.00/Paprikash Dinner

Bank Account Balances as of 12/19/11	<u>August</u>
Checking Account	\$12,068.91
Memorial Account	\$ 9,675.99
Capital Improvement Account	\$18,607.09
New Covenant Fund	\$37,518.17 (7/11/11)

The Per Capita amount for 2012 is \$30.00 per member.

Thank you,
Bruce Hukill, Treasurer

GLOBAL MISSION OPPORTUNITY

Now that the new year is upon us, we have only 1-1/2 months left of the **Acme Cash Back Program**. Through November, we earned a total of **\$57.04**, which is well below last year's \$86.95 at this same time. We Acme shoppers can pick up the pace by remembering to bring in our cash register receipts and putting them in one of the Acme bags located in the back of the church and in the hall outside the office.

Remember, this special mission program helps to benefit a deserving student at McGilvary College of Divinity in Payap, Thailand, so please bring in your receipts and ask your neighbors to help too! And, don't forget to buy your Acme cards through our Divine Dollars program.

Thanks to all of you who are participating in this year's program.

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Volume XVI, Issue 1
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UPDATE FROM YOUR PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Your PNC consists of 5 members: Jona Rohrs and Judy Abdallah who will serve as co-moderators, Sam Ewing, Dwight Rutan and Jerry Solosky.

When Session made the decision at November's meeting to hire a part-time *designated* pastor, our committee was free to begin working.

FPPC has never had a designated pastor. A designated pastor is one who is contracted for a specified period of time, usually 2-3 years. It gives the church and the pastor time to try out the relationship and see if it is workable. At the end of the time period the contract can be renewed or converted to a traditional call.

Our initial meeting took place in December with Reverend Dan Schomer, Executive Presbyter of Eastminster Presbytery and Bob Stoble, our Committee on Ministry liason.

The procedure of searching and hiring a new pastor was thoroughly explained. Before we can begin our search, a church information form (CIF) must be completed. The form is not cut and dried and includes some essay questions. It will take much thought and discernment. When it is completed it must be approved by both Session and Presbytery's Committee on Ministry. If either group sees something that reflects poorly or undersells the church, it will be returned to the PNC to rework. After it is approved it will be posted online and hopefully, we will get some responses.

When a minister responds to our CIF, his/her resume and references must go to Reverend Schomer first, who will thoroughly investigate candidate to make sure he/she is suitable and that there are no concealed problems. The PNC will not receive any resumes before this process is completed.

As you can see, the process is a lengthy one. Most likely, we are a few months away from seeing the first resume. In the meantime, we are committed to keeping the congregation informed and updated.

If you have any questions, please speak with any member of the committee. In the meantime, please keep us in your prayers.



FPPC Food Pantry

The FPPC Food Pantry is currently helping five families who have children in Firestone Park Elementary School. Thank you for your generous donations. The families were very happy to receive food gift cards in addition to bags of food, personal and paper products. Your contributions mean a lot to these families and their children. Please continue to support the pantry with your donations of goods or money. The pantry needs sugar, peanut butter, jelly, macaroni and cheese, soup, noodles, spaghetti sauce, tuna fish, cereal, canned fruit, canned vegetables, toilet paper, paper towels, tooth paste, deodorant and dish soap. Donations may be deposited in the shopping cart in the hallway outside of the pastor's office.

Good Neighbors

The new year of 2012 is with us. A new beginning and a chance to continue doing Christ's work – helping thy neighbor.

In 2011 you were simply great in supporting the Good Neighbors cause. At Christmas time, the seven units took care of over 3800 people. This was all thanks to you. We truly appreciate all that you give and hope that you will continue to give as the need grows and grows. Please remember that Good Neighbors does not charge anyone who comes to us for help. What you give is being a Good Neighbor. Jesus said "The poor will always be with us." Hopefully so will you. Please remember to give what you can.

Barb Stevic

Good Neighbors Representative

P.S. Thank you for putting the clothing in smaller bags as it is easier to handle.

FPPC BOOK CLUB

Looking for a good book to read on a cold winter day? You might want to read one of the books that the FPPC book club is discussing this winter. The group meets on Jan. 29 and Feb. 26 at 6:30 p.m. in the Heritage Room.

Empire of the Summer Moon by S. C. Gwynne traces the history of the Comanche Nation and its encounters with white settlers. Gwynne details the combative relations between the two groups as the Comanche tried to halt the advance of settlers into its territory. Gwynne focuses on the Comanche's most famous chief, Quannah Parker who was the son of a Comanche and Cynthia Ann Parker. Cynthia had been kidnapped as a child and grew up with the Comanche. Karen Babri leads the discussion on Jan. 29 at 6:30 p.m.

Unlikely Disciple is the story of the semester the author, Kevin Roose, spent at Liberty University, the Reverend Jerry Falwell's "Bible Boot Camp" for young evangelicals, a 10,000 student training ground for the next generation of America's Religious Right. The book chronicles the fascinating, entertaining, thought-provoking experiences the author had during that semester. Kitty Johnson leads the discussion on Feb. 26 at 6:30 p.m.



Youth Group News 2012

Lock-In

Friday January 13, 2012 8:00 p.m. to
8:00 a.m. Saturday January 14, 2012

Super Bowl Sub Sandwiches

Prep: Saturday February 4, 2012 at 10:00 am
Pickup: Sunday February 5, 2012 after Worship



The Youth Group is sponsoring the annual Super Bowl Sub Sandwich Sale for Sunday **February 5, 2012.**

Orders for a delicious, Italian submarine sandwich may be placed by filling out the following form, and returning it to the church office or by placing it in the offering plate by Wednesday, February 1, 2012.

Cost of a sub sandwich is \$4.50 each - payable when you pick up your sandwich order on February 5th, following the Worship Service.

Thank you for your continued support!!!!

Name	Number	Cost	Total Amount Due

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

CHILI COOKOFF

5th Annual

Firestone Park Presbyterian Church

Saturday, January 14th

3:30 – 6:00 PM

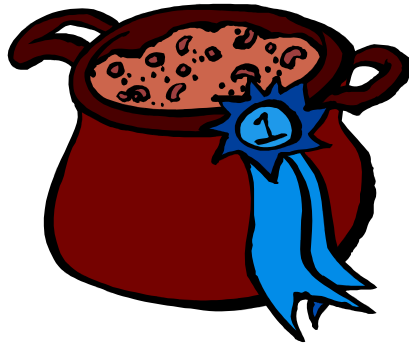
Donation: \$6.00

Menu: Chili

Sandwiches

Dessert

Beverage



Deposit your ticket
To vote for your favorite
Winner receives a special prize!!

Thank You!

Thanks to everyone for prayers and cards at the death of Dan's sister Ginny Marion.

Dan & Goldie Ross

Jay and I would like to thank our many friends who have sent cards and well wishes this past year. Your support means a lot to us. In addition we received some very good news. Jay had his first CAT scan done since his July surgery and there were no new signs of cancer or inflammations. We are celebrating Gods grace this season. Happy New Year to our friends at Firestone Park Presbyterian Church.

Love,

Jay & Nancy Pringle

Dear Church Family,

Jim and I thank you so much for helping us celebrate our 50th Wedding Anniversary in November. Our wonderful children and grandchildren really surprised us with the "party" after church. Our church family is very dear to us, as is, of course our own family. The "best wishes" and "congratulations" were joyfully received.

In Gods love,

Jim & Becky Draper

Thank You!

A huge thank you to all involved in our beautiful Christmas Tea. Our hostesses were:

Julie Barden

Julia Carlson, Jane Kanios, and Ruth Narotski

Lori Eggert

Shelly Ewing

Pat Heit & Laura Ereth

Arline and Bruce Hukill

Joanne and Sheldon Rininger and Mary Kovalchik

Jona Rohr

Kari Solosky

Betty Speight and Debi Secrest

Heartfelt thanks to Sam Ewing and Scott Summers who provided the delightful entertainment!

Remember to circle Sunday, December 2, 2012 for the next Christmas Tea.

FPPC Congregation & Session

Thank you to all for my Christmas gift. You are a very giving congregation who always shows your appreciation. I thank you again and wish you all a very Happy New Year.

Carol Gargus

Note from Mary Cooper:

We have moved to Greenlawn Ave and need a dresser for Mike's daughter. Does anyone have one they don't need?



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Sheldon and Joanne Rininger

1/7/1955

57 Years

Russ and Barb Stevic

1/27/1956

56 Years

*(Russ and Barb were the last to be
married in the original church)*

Lou and Ruth Narotski

1/26/1963

49 Years

January Flower Dedications

Jan 01 Vigar / Vigar

Jan 09 Stevic / Stevic

Jan 16 Open / Open

Jan 22 Rohrs / Rohrs

Jan 29 Woodbury / Open

Reminder...

Payment is due the month of dedication

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1/4 Don Pucak

1/5 Jim Clevenger

Ryan Clevenger

1/6 Bob Vigar

1/17 Chad Rutan

1/25 Jona Rohrs

1/29 Cory Tracy

1/30 Brittany Rohrs



“Happenings” Around Firestone Park Presbyterian Church

January 2012

Worship Service	Sunday Worship at 10:00 A.M.
Adult Education	Following Worship - <i>The Story</i>
Book Club	January 29 th - <i>Empire of the Summer Moon</i> _by S. C. Gwynne
Choir Practice	Thursday Evenings
Deacons	January 24 th @ 7 PM
Hope Homes	Call Lynda Dobbins at 330-877-3718 if you would like to play board games with our “guys.”
Pantry Day	January 19 th - Third Thursday of month
Preschool Board	January 18 th @ 6:15 PM
Session	January 4 th @ 7 PM
Wednesdays with Wanda	January 11 th @ 10 AM

January 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Session @ 7 PM	5 Choir @ 7:30	6	7
8	9	10	11 WWW @ 10AM	12 Choir @ 7:30	13	14 Chili Cook-off
15	16	17	18 Preschool Board @ 6:15 PM	19 Pantry Day	20	21 Orientation for Elders/Deacons
22 Ordination of New Elders/ Deacons	23	24 Deacon's Mtg @ 7 PM	25	26	27	28
29 Coffee Hour	30	31				