

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"...*

February 2012 Volume XVII

From the Interim Pastor's Desk:

As we started to take down Christmas, Kathy said "I can't believe the holidays are over and we're back from our cruise already. Where did the time go?" I responded "Yeah and in three weeks we'll be saying it's Memorial Day, where did the last five months go?" I can remember when I was growing up time seemed to drag by forever (especially the winter and school five days a week until Easter vacation.) Now the older I grow the more quickly time flies! The Scriptures say quite a bit about time and its passing.

"I trust in you, O Lord I say, 'You are my God'. My times are in your hands."

Psalm 31:4-15

"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Psalm 118:24

"He has made everything beautiful in its time."

Ecclesiastes 3:11

*"... be careful how you walk not as unwise men, but as wise,
making the most of your time..."*

Ephesians 5:15-16

We can succinctly sum up what Scripture says about time this way: All time and its passing one is God's time and we are to use it for His glory!

It often seems to churches that the transition time between pastors is an anxious time. I believe God gives congregations transition times for a purpose. As the PNC searches for your next installed pastor we will solidify things we do well. We may do some things differently, and maybe even try a few new things. Above all we will use our time together to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(continued)

Speaking of time and its passing, February has three special days: Valentines Day - a day for love, Presidents Day - when we honor our two greatest (in my opinion) Presidents, Washington and Lincoln, Ash Wednesday - when we begin the spiritual journey with Christ to the Cross and beyond to the empty tomb on Easter. Picking up the theme of these days, I will be preaching a sermon on "love growers" on February 12 - ways we can grow in love, "Lincoln's Pilgrimage" February 19. Lincoln's life and especially his spiritual journey and beginning on February 26 and continuing through Easter a series of sermons on the "I Am" statements of Jesus as we recorded in the Gospel of John. I hope you will join us in worship each Sunday.

In Him,
Jim

UPDATE FROM YOUR PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Your PNC is meeting weekly. We have been working on the narrative questions which we are required to answer and add to our church information form (CIF). The questions require a lot of thought. As we mentioned last month, once we finalize all of our answers, they must be approved by both Session and Presbytery's Committee on Ministry.

We are meeting weekly. We estimate it will take us 3-5 more meetings to complete these questions, and then we will proceed with filling out the rest of the form, which is more or less standard information. Once the form is completed we will be asking Session for approval.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact one of us.

Jona, Judy, Sam, Jerry and Dwight

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SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

FINANCIAL REPORT - DECEMBER, 2011

Income

General Fund	\$ 11,728
Other Income*	\$ 3,081
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 14,809
General Fund Expenses	\$ 19,494
NET INCOME	\$ -4,685

Bank Account Balances as of 1/17/12

Checking Account	\$ 3,665.67
Memorial Account	\$12,616.43
Capital Improvement Account	\$15,496.71
New Covenant Fund	\$33,858.47 (9/30/11)

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

Thank you,
Bruce Hukill, Treasurer

Partnership for a Stronger Community

November ushered in cold weather and it kicked off our hats & gloves drive for the elementary school. Once again we rose to the challenge. In December, 128 pairs of gloves, 86 hats, and 12 scarves were delivered to children in need. The next week, Sally Wilson met children that received our gifts along with one whole classroom that was warmer thanks to us! The kids were so excited to show off their blessings.

Patti Lou Judge and her group will be knitting hats for another classroom at Firestone Park this winter. So more children will feel our love. It just keeps on going. Thank you to everyone for reaching out to the children.

Chris Tilenni for
Acts 16:5

Global Mission Opportunity

WINDING DOWN

We're close to the end of another Acme Cash Back Program (**February 11, 2012**), so please round up all those receipts you have been collecting and put them into one of the Acme bags (outside the pastor's office or on the table in the back of the church). They may be turned in through Sunday, February 19. Through December we had earned **\$147.00**. With a big finish, we can perhaps get close to last year's total of \$330.00.

For those of you who are not Acme shoppers but would like to be part of this special global mission, we would welcome monetary contributions in the form of cash or checks. If you write a check, please make it out to the church and write "Bill Yoder" in the memo line. Cash and checks may be given to Kitty Johnson.

As you know, the monies from this important program go toward scholarships for deserving students at McGilvary College of Divinity in Payap, Thailand, a program we support through Rev. William Yoder. Please take a few moments to read his Christmas letter in this month's Messenger.

Thanks again to all of you who continue to support this special global mission.

Food Pantry

The FPPC Food Pantry is currently serving five families who have been referred to us by Firestone Park Elementary School. The families are very grateful for the support they receive. Pantry supplies are low. Donations of peanut butter, jelly, soup, canned vegetables, canned fruit, tuna, macaroni and cheese, cereal, crackers and spaghetti noodles are urgently needed. Personal items such as tooth paste, toilet paper, shampoo, deodorant are also needed. Donations may be placed in the shopping cart that is located in the hallway outside of the pastor's office. Cash donations are also welcome.

Good Neighbors

Thank you, thank you, thank you for your support. Please continue to do so. February is represented by hearts. You, the parishioners are the hearts that keep this program going; just as the need continues to grow.

We are now down to six units. The seventh one needs to find a new spot since the building they were using has been sold.

The saddest part in this growing need are the older people who are now seeking help. Please, as you clean your closets from Christmas, remember we take everything. Also, remember that our church has a food pantry. Please help them also because the time has come, sadly to say, that the need grows every single day. Be a good heart and help others.

Barb Stevic
Good Neighbors Representative

FPPC Book Club

The February selection of the FPPC book club is *The Unlikely Disciple, A Sinner's Semester at America's Holiest University* by Kevin Roose. *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.

Just So You Know

As some of you already know - the preschool committee, with the blessing of session, has started to update our nursery. It was last updated in 1986. We have come together in the hope that "if we build it, they will come." We are making changes for our next generation.

Right now the nursery is getting new lights and carpet. We've painted the ceiling, walls and shelves. Soon you will see many changes: baby friendly furniture, tables and chairs, new toys, art work and curtains.

Stop by and see our weekly progress. We'll keep you updated on what is going on.



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

SOUP FOR THE SOUL

Firestone Park Presbyterian Church

Saturday, February 11th

3:30 – 6:00 PM

Donation: \$6.00

Variety of Homemade Soups

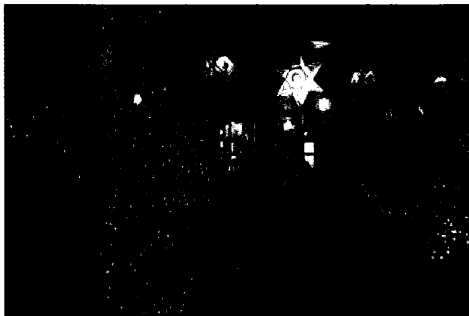
Crackers

Dessert

Beverage



Drawing for those in attendance



(Christmas at Paradeisos 2010)

Dear Family and Friends,

Christmas is here once again. It's quite unbelievable that the year has gone by so very quickly. It has been a very unusual year for a number of reasons. Here in Thailand because of the incredible weather we have had, the horrific floods, particularly in Bangkok and environs, and the political changes that have come to my part of the world. But for me

personally, not having made a trip back to the States in the Fall made this a very different year from those in my recent past. I missed all of you; but it has become economically unfeasible for me to make the trip each year. The cost of air travel, particularly since I need to travel Business Class because of my diabetes is simply too expensive. I'm on a fixed income now, which, by the way, is just about the only way I know that I'm "retired." My work continues apace, but it's now done free. I continue teaching at the seminary one course a semester, although it nearly always manages to end up being two courses. My chairmanship of the Board at Chiang Mai International School has turned into pretty much a full time job without pay. I love the school, and once again ask any of you who are accredited teachers and looking for an overseas adventure to apply. You'll get good pay and lots of perks for a very inexpensive place to work. Just Google us up for our website. It would be a life transforming opportunity for you.

I'm no longer serving on the Board of McCormick Hospital, but still vice chair the E. C. Cort Foundation, named for the Presbyterian missionary who rebuilt McCormick Hospital after World War II. It's an organization which raises money to help those who can't afford to pay their hospital bills – very rewarding work.

I remain much involved in raising funds for seminary students' scholarships and many of you have helped by sending funds through my home church in Canton, Ohio. I will give that address at the end of this letter.

My family is well. Spain loves being Manager of Prince Royal's College and this past week the school hosted the International Hot Air Balloons Association for their annual gathering. Seeing huge, colorful hot air balloons rise heavenward every morning for three mornings was quite a sensation for Prince Royal's, Chiang Mai and Thailand. Tens of thousands of tourists brought lots of needed income for Prince Royal's College. Spain continues on the Board of the bank he left to manage PRC and is an economic advisor to the government. Star continues with Holcimbank, a Swiss firm (not a bank, by the way) and is head of their operations in India

Pom has been appointed Director of Chiang Mai International School by the Church of Christ in Thailand. After years of struggle to make his way in the world, Pom is finally flowering into his own. He's doing an excellent job as well. Banchong has returned to being Associate Director of Bangkok Christian College after four

years as Vice Moderator of the Church of Christ in Thailand. He's back in the place he loves. All of my family of "dysfunctional kids," numbering some 26, whom you all helped to raise, is turning into immeasurable blessings for our church and our society.

When I have time, I continue to tend my beloved Golden Retrievers, my garden, host Saturday Afternoon at the Opera, read, enjoy music and even continue to try to write something worthwhile. I have had one article published this year: "My Pilgrimage in Mission," published in the International Bulletin of Missionary Research, Vol. 38, No. 1, January, 2011. Google it and read about my past if you're so inclined. Many of you may find yourselves mentioned or referred to either directly or indirectly.

God has been good to me. I remain forever grateful. As we move into the Christmas season and a New Year, 2012, I pray that all of you may be blessed. I also pray that Thailand will find respite after a year of terrible testing.

If you wish to help with Scholarships for seminary students or any of my many projects, please do so through:

Christ Presbyterian Church, Att. Donald Weltlich
530 Tuscarawas Street W.
Canton, Ohio 44702
Phone 330-456-8113

May the Grace, Joy, Peace and Love
Of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.



William J. Yoder (Bill)



From my garden at Paradeisos

Rev. William J. Yoder
296/8 Nong Harn
Sansai, Chiang Mai 50290
Thailand
wjyoder@loxinfo.co.th
Phone: +66.53.499.181

Thank You!

Christmas Families

God Bless Each One of you for all you did to make our Christmas Family Project the success it was. We helped four families have a holiday they otherwise would not have had. Each family had a single mom. We helped four adults and thirteen children. We provided them with a Holiday meal, at least one other main meal and supplies to provide lunch for several weeks. Each person received something they needed and something they wanted. We also helped a family that had taken in the children of one family while mom was taking care of something else.

We were also able to provide a grocery gift card to the four families we have been working with through the Pantry, Your giving and the donations we received from friends of the church and Smuckers, we brought smiles to the faces of these families.

Thank you for sharing with these families. I pray your holiday was better as a result of your caring.

Christmas Family Committee

Thank You

Those are just two small words that I use to express how much my church family has meant to me in the last few months, Your cards, calls, emails and expressions of concern have helped me to get through one of the toughest times I have ever had.

I thought I would have a simple surgery in August to replace a detached retina. All seemed well. Then in October the other side of the same eye detached and tore what was already repaired. The Dr tried to fix it with laser but it was working. I ended up having three more surgeries including a band being put around my eye. I spent about 8 hours a day lying on my side plus all night and not being able to lift or do anything. I spent 8 weeks on the couch. With Larry's help and encouragement of friends and my church family I was able to get through that. I am waiting for the Dr to take the oil out of my eye so I can start to see details.

Thank you for being there. I hope I can be there when you need encouragement. It has meant so much. Thank You!

Lynda Dobbins

We Are All Winners

With two holidays falling on Sunday we were slow in getting ready for the 5th Annual Chili Cook Off, but that didn't stop us. We had 14 Chili Pots prepared for this even this year. We had all the needed ingredients for sandwiches, dessert, beverages, ticket sellers, helpers and smiles to welcome our neighbors and friends on Saturday, January 14th. We made close to \$700 even with snow on the ground. The fellowship in the Fellowship Hall was warm. Thank You to ALL that had any part in this event.

The winners of the Chili Cook Off were 3rd - Pam Tracy, 2nd - Ed Speight and for the 4th year in a row, our winner was Shelly and Sam Ewing. Yet, we were ALL winners with the wonderful food, the funds earned and the hand of fellowship extended to our guests. AGAIN, Thank You for making it a SUCCESS!!!!

Found:

A Visa sale customer copy from Surgical Eye Care on Arch Street, dated 12/12/11 among the Acme Cash Register receipts. If it is yours, please see Kitty Johnson.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/6 Paul Duncan
2/8 Isabelle Garrison
Dorothy LeMasters
Carole Stessney
2/10 Jack Speight
2/16 Andy Oravec
2/18 Geneva Amtsberg
2/23 Kari Solosky
2/24 Jean Garrett

February Flower Dedications

Feb 05 Carr
Feb 12 Hukill
Feb 19 Tracy
Feb 26 Rohrs

Reminder...

Payment is due the month of dedication

NEW ADDRESS:

Ed and Susan Moats
(and Max & Madelyn)
2231 Palo Duro Dr.
Prosper, TX 75078
Email: susanmoats@gmail.com



“Happenings” Around Firestone Park Presbyterian Church

February 2012

Worship Service	Sunday Worship at 10:00 A.M.
Adult Education	Following Worship - <i>The Story</i>
Book Club	February 26 th - <i>The Unlikely Disciple, A Sinners Semester at America's Holiest University</i>
Choir Practice	Thursday Evenings at & 7:30 PM
Deacons	February 28 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	February 16 th - Third Thursday of month
Preschool Board	February 15 th @ 6:15 PM
Session	February 1 st @ 7 PM
Wednesdays with Wanda	February 8 th @ 10 AM

February 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Session @ 7 PM	2 Choir @ 7:30	3	4
5 Super Bowl Sub Sand.	6	7	8 WWW	9 Choir @ 7:30	10	11 Soup for the Soul 3:30 - 6 PM
12	13	14	15 Preschool Board @ 6:15 PM	16 Pantry Day Choir @ 7:30	17	18
19	20 Storytellers	21	22	23 Choir @ 7:30	24	25
26 Book Club @ 6:30 PM Coffee Hour	27	28 Deacon's @ 7PM	29			