

Saints Alive!



www.AvonLakePC.org

Avon Lake
Presbyterian Church
Volume 7, Issue 8
October 2008

Peacemaking Offering, 4th Grade Bibles Sunday, October 5, 2008

Come to church on World Communion Sunday, October 5 and give to the Peacemaking Offering. The offering is given by all who recognize the vision for God's peace in the world. *Read more on pg. 8.*

The fourth grade students will be receiving their Bibles at the 9:30 worship service.

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Beulah Beach, October 11 & 12

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HIV/AIDS Awareness Sunday

Sunday, October 12, 2008

This is the date we will be having only one service at 11:00 am—there will be no Sunday School. Please worship as a family together.

This is also Pastor Appreciation Sunday. *Read more on pg. 6*

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Youth Net

Youth Net is off to a great start! Bring your friends and join the fun!
Sunday, September 28th

Inflatable Sunday on the front lawn of the church

Sunday, October 3rd

Discussion and games in the church parking lot

Sunday, October 19th Bonfire at the Shoemaker's

Saturday, October 25th Halloween party and scarecrow contest

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Stewardship Commitment Sunday

Mark your calendars to attend Stewardship Commitment Sunday on October 26, 2008. *Read more on pg. 4*

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Church office hours:
Mon—Fri
8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Phone: 440-933-6240

**We need
volunteers to
help on
Rummage Sale
Day
Thursday,
October 9
9-4
Call Jackie Day
933-2183**

Message from Pastor Tom

What does the word “stewardship” mean to you?

- ◇ Money?
- ◇ Pledging?
- ◇ Obligation?
- ◇ Weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth over how much to give?
- ◇ All of the above?

Every year, churches everywhere appeal to their members to evaluate how much financial support they can give. This goes under the title of “stewardship,” although stewardship is much more than money. It is the giving of all of our gifts to God, the recognition that we are the caretakers of what we have been entrusted with by a loving and gracious God.

But for most of us, it all boils down to money – “Stewardship,” as in how much money are you going to give to the church this year?

Granted, that is an especially difficult question in light of the way the economy has gone this year. We don’t know what the future holds for us – will we be able to keep our jobs? How secure is our business in these uncertain times?

For me personally, this seems like a rerun of a bad movie. While I was in high school, our family business went through bankruptcy. We lost not only the business, but the car and the house. It was devastating. But I remember something my father said throughout this whole time. He was

determined to maintain our family’s pledge to the church, because that was important. It was our way of saying ‘thank you’ to God for all of the blessings we had received. Blessings in the midst of a bankruptcy? Both of my parents reminded us that we still had our health, we were still together, and we were still part of a church family that supported us. That was something to be thankful for.

We don’t usually think of stewardship as something to be thankful for. But maybe it’s time we did. Stewardship is an invitation from the One who loves us, has provided for us, and who gives to us opportunities to share. Stewardship can be a time when we can declare our independence from our possessions and remember that our gifts are given so we might share in the good news of Jesus Christ.

Our Stewardship Committee this year is inviting us to reflect on stewardship as a time for celebration, to experience “Showers of Blessings.” There will be times during the sermons in October for members of our church to share their reflections on the ways God has blessed them through the sharing of gifts. It is my hope that we will all reflect on ways that stewardship can be a time of blessing, a time of thanks-giving.

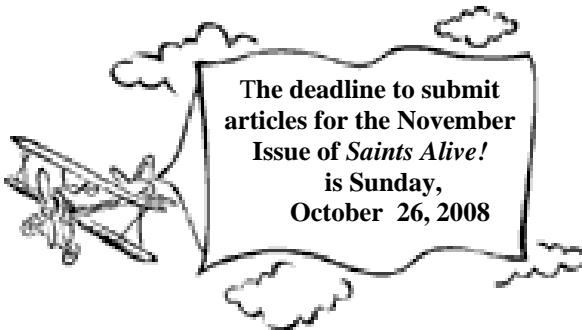
The times may be tough, but the times of our lives are in God’s hands, and that is truly something to be thankful for.

Grace and peace,
Tom



Presbyterian Women Hanging of the Greens Committee

Is looking for a Christmas tree for our church foyer. If you have a tree that you would like to donate, please contact Karen Francy at 933-4230.



Grade XIII

Just a reminder to all the parents of our high school graduates (up to 4 years out of high school) to please provide the church with their child's information so we can include them in our mailings and emails.

A Note From The Music Director



We hope that the gathering music before the worship service on Sunday morning has been helpful to you in centering and preparing for worship. If you have not been there to hear it, we are beginning approximately five minutes before the scheduled time of the service. The idea is to get the congregation into a worshipful mood.

Doug Day, who has been sharing the responsibility with me, would like you to know that he will take requests in advance. Either talk to him or write a note on a blue card found in the pews and put it in the offering plate.

Also, I know that there are other pianists out there in the pews. If you would be interested in taking a turn playing, please contact me.

Muriel Homer

PW Rummage Sale Thursday, October 9th 9-4.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for our semi-annual Presbyterian Women Rummage Sale. Support PW by dropping off your gently used items starting Sunday, Oct 5th. All proceeds go to support our many missions. Jackie Day 933.2183
Susan Bernard 930.8124



Showers of Blessings for Stewardship

Showers of Blessings! This is the theme for the 2008 pledge campaign. Through our faith journeys, God has showered each one of us with blessing. And it takes rain for us to grow! As we grow in Jesus Christ, we remember those blessings, respond with gratitude, and look with hope to the future.

Consider some of the ways we are blessed as Avon Lake Presbyterian Church. We have the privilege to worship each Sunday, attend Sunday school, participate in fellowship activities, receive pastoral care, and are given opportunities to serve others. Through these blessings, we grow in relationship to God and each other.

The Stewardship Committee would like for you to consider your personal blessings and share them by writing them on a piece of paper that will be provided in the foyer and putting them into a blessing bowl. As you remember your blessings with gratitude to God, remember that your financial support of Avon Lake Presbyterian Church is important in continuing the mission of the church and you being able to participate in the life of the church.

Please take a moment on Sunday to look at the bulletin board in the foyer with financial information on how the leaders of the church are being good stewards of your financial support. Commitment Sunday is October 26.

Chris Chase, Dale Griffen, Penny Helbig, Lee Lohr, Carolyn Rudd and Arlene Strauch
For the Stewardship Ministry

Mission Statement

In awe, we Receive
God's Grace and Gospel.
In gratitude, we Respond
with Worship and Servanthood.
In love, we Represent Jesus Christ
as we minister to transform lives
in family, community, and the world.

HAVE YOU NOTICED THE CHANGES IN THE OFFICE?

Much work has been going on in our church office over the past few weeks. New curtains, paint and organization to make our office shine. Thanks go to Cindi Dansizen, Pam Novak, Sandi Ciarrone and Beth Janis to help paint, shop and organize. Thanks to a PW Circle for the donation of the paint. Pam Novak donated the beautiful new window treatments. Thanks to Stephanie Taylor for the expert decorating advice. All of this amazing work was accomplished with the donations of time, talent and financial support of members of our church. Stop by and take a moment to witness this stewardship within our church.

Also..... there are new curtains and updating going on in the other end of our building. Many thanks to *Cornerstone Pre-School* for the donation of the new curtains in the Youth Foyer, Women's Lounge and Bathroom. Watch for the updating of these rooms in the near future, sponsored by Presbyterian Women. All of these projects are welcome additions to the work being done to the outside of our church by the Property Committee.

Library Update



The GIFT for All People – The gift that God, who wants you to be with him, offers to you is the gift of eternal salvation, the gift of grace.

Dropping Your Guard – Learn the value of open relationships in today's world where the most intimate comment we may say in any day is a glib "Have a nice day".

To the Ends of the Earth – Presbyterians have taken the commission to go to all nations very seriously, yet we often don't know we've even done it. Here are mission stories from around the world, collected first hand, for you to enjoy.

Bible Basics – Over 1200 people, places, events, facts, and phrases about the Bible and the church, plus quizzes you can take to test your knowledge.

Handbook of Denominations – An accurate and objective source of information on religious bodies in the United States, with historical background, doctrinal summary, and statistical data on 200 groups.

Exodus – The True Story – Often scholars discount the historicity of Moses, the plagues, and the Exodus. However, new discoveries can help us know when, why and how these events occurred.

From the Presbytery ...

To the best of my knowledge, this presbytery has never emphasized pastor appreciation month. Over ten years ago, one individual raised the idea, “If they have a day for groundhogs, there ought to be a day for the 375,000 clergy in America.” After that observation, the second Sunday in October was set aside as pastor appreciation Sunday. I know that our clergy feel called to their places of ministry and service, but I also know what a lonely and unappreciated job ministry can be. Expressions of gratitude for the work and leadership of your minister are appreciated at any time! None of us needs an event or one day per year set aside to give thanks.

I am writing, however, to encourage congregations to think about how or when they show thanks for their pastor. Most pastors tell me that they do not want gifts or “things” but instead they want to see their people come to worship regularly and live out their faith. They want their people to be involved in the life of the church and use their gifts and talents for God’s ministry in the world. They would rather hear, “This point in your sermon got me thinking about...” than, “Nice sermon.” They would like to know that others pray for them.

Perhaps you will decide to celebrate pastor appreciation on Sunday, October 12 or encourage members to show their thanks at other times. Whatever you do, I thank you for acknowledging and celebrating the work and ministry of your pastor.

Susan W. Holderness
Pastor to Clergy and Their Families

ADULT STUDIES
Sundays at 11 A.M.
Room 3 - Apologetics



This series is designed to introduce you to the discipline of Apologetics and provide each believer with faith building and heart transforming information to assist you in the defense and sharing of your faith. Please join us on any Sunday.

SCARECROW CONTEST

Saturday, October 25th

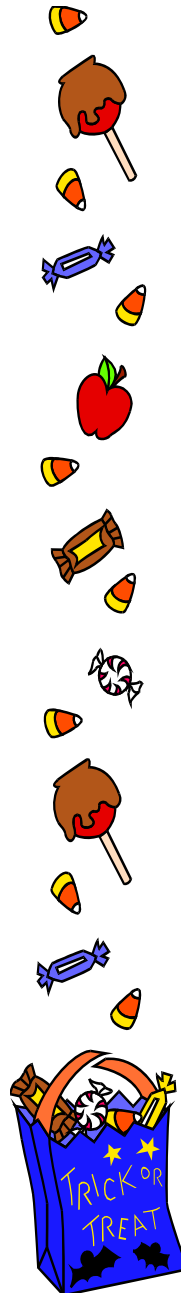


Youth Net will be sponsoring a scarecrow contest this year during the annual Deacon's Halloween Party. Any member or group of ALPC can enter. Entry forms are available in the church office and must be submitted by Friday, October 24th.

- ⇒ First place prize is \$50,
- ⇒ Second place is \$25,
- ⇒ and third is \$15.

All prizes are in the form of a pre-loaded Visa Card. Scarecrows will be put on display for Sunday, October 26th and voted on by church members to decide the winners. Winners will be announced at the end of the 11:00 service on Oct. 26th.

This is an excellent opportunity to show your support for the Presbyterian Women's semi-annual Rummage Sale by purchasing your scarecrow's outfit! **You** can shop the Rummage Sale on Wednesday, October 8, from 5-7 pm. Each group is encouraged to send at least one member to the sale to look for an outfit. After the contest, the groups can take home their scarecrow—or dismantle them and the clothing will then be donated to the local Goodwill. It is all lots of fun that goes to a good cause no matter how you look at it!



The Gobbling Goblins are back!

These hauntingly hungry goblins are dying to get their claws on your leftover Halloween candy!

Want to rid your castle of excess Halloween candy? Then bring your bags of leftover or unwanted candy to church on Sunday, November 2nd – Sunday, November 9th. A “Gobbling Goblins” box will be in the foyer. ALPC will donate your monstrous morsels to Community Resource Services (CRS).

CRS is a community-based network that assesses needs, provides assistance and connects resources for Avon and Avon Lake residents in a compassionate and confidential matter. CRS is a privately run, non-profit organization committed to addressing social service needs on a local basis. In 2007 alone, 336 families were served—912 people in all. Of those, almost half were children.

Mission Matters

10-5-08 Peacemaking Offering

On world communion Sunday, Christians throughout the world celebrate communion remembering the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Presbyterian Church (USA) determined that this is a perfect time to remind us of our call to peacemaking as Christians.

One way we may respond to the call to peace is by contributing to the Presbyterian Peacemaking Offering. 25% will go to Genesis House, a domestic violence shelter for women and children in Lorain County. 75% will go to the efforts of various groups designated by the PCUSA. Envelopes are available in the church pews.

Another suggestion is to take a moment each day to pray for peace in a different area of the world. For example Monday-the Middle East, Tuesday- South Africa etc. Perhaps you might take this as a reminder to send a card to a veteran or someone in the military.

10-12 -08 HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

10-19-08 Fundraiser for the library at Estelí Mission church in Nicaragua. Stop at the table in the foyer to see how you can help be a part of this exciting opportunity to provide books for our Nicaraguan neighbors.

10-26-08 2 cents a meal collection. This is a perfect opportunity for families to help children appreciate our blessings by having them donate just 2 cents for each meal they eat. Not only is this a symbolic action but it may help them understand that collectively our pennies can provide food for people in need locally and globally. Of course checks and “folding money” are happily accepted as well.

Mission Matters Committee, Beth Janis 933-5621

Books for Nicaragua

October 19 should be a red letter day on your calendar. That is the day you will have the opportunity to buy a book for the Shalom Presbyterian Church in Estelí, Nicaragua. I, Kathy Leopold, will be traveling to this small town in northern Nicaragua, October 30—Nov. 6, with the international mission team from John Knox Presbyterian Church and will deliver the books in your name. With each \$10 donation, you can sign a book plate (sticker) so our brothers and sisters in Estelí will know exactly who donated that particular book. This wonderful opportunity to support our Nica family will be between services on Sunday, October 19 and after the 11:00 service that same day. You will also be able to buy a book “in honor of” a loved one and/or “in memory of” a loved one. Donations can also be dropped off in the church office at any time. I am hoping you will wholeheartedly support this effort to start a library for the Nicaraguan church. They do not have access to public libraries like we do so this is a great opportunity for all of us to participate in mission work first-hand. See you Sunday October 19!

Big Brothers Big Sisters Children's Mission Project

This year, the children are bringing in their own offering to their Sunday school classes to raise funds for the awesome organization, Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS). It is the largest youth mentoring organization in the United States, serving 255,000 children in 2007. Research has shown that its model of professionally supported one-to-one relationships between young people and their Big Brothers and Big Sisters has had a measurable, positive impact.

BBBS receives 75% of its funding from private donations, so support from individuals like you is vital to provide mentors for children in your community. In fact, 92.2% of every dollar the children give goes directly to making and supporting matches. The remainder covers overall program administration.

Please encourage your children to bring in their offering each week when they come to Sunday school. If anyone is or has been a Big Brother or Big Sister and would like to share their story with a Sunday school class, please let me know and I would be more than happy to talk with you about it –

Carolyn Dzuro @ 933-6240.

Think of how your gifts could make a difference in a child's life.



Faith House Mitten Tree Collection October 14 – November 11

It's time again to turn our thoughts to the cold weather of Northeast Ohio! We all know how important it is for children to have hats, gloves, mittens and scarves to protect them against the elements. Yet, for many families in need, even these items can be a luxury.

For the past few years, the Presbyterian Women Mission Committee has collected mittens for the families that reside at Faith House in Lorain. We'd like to continue our tradition of generosity to these families. Therefore, the Mitten Tree will be placed in the church foyer from Sunday, October 12 through Sunday, November 16.

As you prepare yourselves or your own family for winter, we invite you to pick up an extra pair of mittens or gloves to donate to Faith House. All you need to do is purchase a pair of mittens, bring them in on any day of the week or on Sundays during our collection period, and hang them on the tree. Any items that you can donate would be GREATLY appreciated by the families at Faith House.

Thank you so much for your generosity over the past few years. Let's work together to provide these families with a whole treasure trove of warm items! Hats and scarves would also be appreciated!

Carolyn Rose
PW Mission Coordinator

The Christian Education

Ministry would like to thank all who were such a big part of making this year's Rally Day both fun and successful! We couldn't have done without the Deacons who prepared all the food, helped us move heavy games, cut Beau's cake, filled water balloons and helped collapse our huge inflatable. Awesome. We couldn't have done without:

† Dave Taylor with his music and running commentary,

† Cindi Dansizen and Sandi Ciarrone who helped to make sure we had the equipment and food we needed on Sunday,

† the youth who helped us run the games so smoothly; Julie Vasu, Adam Ciarrone, Kyle Ciarrone, Megan Dufala, Alayna Bridgett, Sammy Rose, Trent Thompson, Greg Stephens, Hunter Stephens, Juan Valtierrez, Gabe Dzuro, Katy Chase, and Lani Assaf,

† and all the great families that make up ALPC!

You gave us your children for all the festivities, then encouraged and laughed with them.

We hope the whole day was a great memory for all. Let the Glory be God's as the clouds did part to let the gentle sunrays through so we could enjoy Rally Day OUTDOORS.

How to Join Avon Lake Presbyterian Church

If you are interested in joining the church, an opportunity to learn more about the church and what it means to be Presbyterian is just around the corner!

Meaning of Membership sessions will be held on the Sundays of October 19, 26 and November 2 from 10:35 am to noon in the Session Room 3.

For more information, or to register for the class, please call the church office (933-6240) or Mark Bennett (933-9298).

Sunday School Volunteers Needed

I am still looking for a few good men and women to fill some vacant spots I have in the Crib & Toddler room for the 11:00 am service. If you have a youth student and you are looking for him/her to earn service hours, this would be a great opportunity.

I only have about 8 days to fill so if just a couple of people volunteer then it would be covered. I also have a need for a Theater teacher to serve once a month for the Workshops (Gr.3-6).

If you are interested please contact:

Carolyn Dzuro at 933-6240
or cjdzuro@peoplepc.com.



Pedaling for a Purpose

On Saturday, November 22, 2008, Dan and Carolyn Rose will be participating in a “Century Ride” to benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. A “Century Ride” is a bike ride of 100+ miles. On November 22nd, we will ride 109 miles around the city of Tucson, Arizona... all in one day!

While this might sound insane, we are both very excited about the ride and have been training since the spring. We are also honored to participate in this event because it will help raise funds for research to find a cure for blood cancer.

As many of you know, there have been several (too many!) children in our community who have been battling leukemia over the past couple of years. Our participation in this event is our small way of doing something to help.

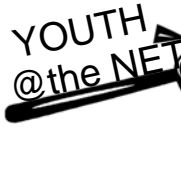
This year, we will wear the names of **Louis Pena**, **Amanda Davis** and **Jeremy George** on our jerseys. We will also be wearing the name of Dan’s brother, **David**, who was diagnosed with leukemia two years ago. Our ride will be in honor of these individuals and their courageous fight against this disease. As we struggle to climb the steep hills of Tucson on our bikes, we will remember the greater struggle that these young people are facing every day of their lives.

If you would like to support this effort with a contribution to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, please visit my website at <http://pages.teamtraining.org/noh/tucson08/crose>. Your support would be greatly appreciated!!

Thank you!
Carolyn Rose
933-0606



There will be a special Pot Luck Supper/Christian Education Night on Tuesday, October 21st at 6 pm, to hear about the meeting of the General Assembly. The General Assembly is the national meeting of Presbyterians held every other year. We will have two special guests, the Rev. Jim Gilbert of Medina Presbyterian Church and the Rev. Francis Miller of Noble Road Presbyterian Church. Jim and Francis were two of the commissioners from the Presbytery of the Western Reserve at GA. We want to have a time when we can thoughtfully reflect on the decisions of GA and where we go from here. In future bulletins we will have a list of which food items we would like for families to bring.



Wow! Youth Net got off to a blustery start two Sundays ago! We had an excellent turn out – nearly 30 kids when all was said and done! We had some fun with the water balloon launchers until the meeting was cut short due to the windy conditions. We are looking forward to the upcoming meetings – “Inflatable Sunday” out in front of the church on September 28th, a regular meeting with games and fun on October 3rd, bonfire at the Shoemaker’s on October 19th, and the Halloween party and scarecrow contest on October 25th! So much to do! There will be no Youth Net meeting on October 12th because we will all be getting back from Beulah Beach, where I will be teaching the youth lesson! What fun! If you haven’t signed up yet – time is running out!

Do you have any fun and creative ideas for Youth Net? If so, I’d love to hear them! Any topics you would like to discuss? Pass them along! There are certainly a multitude of topics we can touch on throughout the program year. Should we play “capture the flag”? “Nerf competition”? I’m all ears! Send your ideas to YouthattheNet@yahoo.com.

There are many ways to worship the Lord, and some of the youth have suggested a more contemporary theme. If anyone has any ideas for a contemporary, youth-centric worship service, please pass those ideas along as well!

I look forward to seeing you all this Sunday!

God is Phenomenal! Amen!

Beau Dansizen
Interim Youth Director

Reminder:

There is no Sunday School or Confirmation Class on October 12 because we’ll all be at Beulah Beach, right?

Cornerstone Preschool will be selling “Kids Stuff” coupon books. In the book, you will find many great savings for your family. The coupons are valid until December 31, 2009! The books will be available to purchase or order on October 5 after each worship service in the church foyer. If you cannot purchase or see the book on that Sunday, there will be some available to view for the next two weeks in the church office. Any questions, please contact Nancy Bruder at 933-7646.

Presbyterian Women

PW Coordinating Team Meetings

September 23 — 7:00 pm in the church Session Room
 October 16 — (E-mail meeting)
 November 20 — 7:00 pm in the church Session Room
 January 15 — (E-mail meeting)
 February 19 — 7:00 pm in the church Session Room
 March 19 — (E-mail meeting)
 April 16 — (E-mail meeting)
 May 21 — 7:00 pm in the church Session Room



Calendar of Events for 2008/2009

<i>October 9</i>	Fall Rummage Sale 9:00 – 4:00 pm
<i>October 11</i>	Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering St. Andrew's Church in Olmsted Falls – 20 Years of Purpose
<i>Oct. 12 - Nov. 16</i>	Mitten Tree
<i>November 2 & 9</i>	Gobbling Goblins
<i>November 23</i>	Potluck & Hanging of the Greens – 5:00 pm
<i>Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14</i>	Giving Tree
<i>Dec. 7 & 14</i>	Ham Sale (pick-up Dec. 23 – 5:00 – 6:30 pm)
<i>Dec. 6 or 7</i>	Women's Christmas Tea – 11:00 – 1:00 pm
<i>March 22 & 29</i>	Ham Sale (pick-up April 8 – 5:00 – 6:30 pm)
<i>April 23</i>	Spring Rummage Sale 9:00 – 4:00 pm
<i>April</i>	Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering
<i>May 2</i>	Spring Program
<i>May</i>	Plant Sale

Session Highlights

September Meeting

Learned that:

- 169 persons received communion in September
- The outside painting of the church is complete and new microphones for the sound system are being purchased
- Fall Work Day will be Nov. 2
- Beau Dansizen has begun his work as Interim Director of Youth
- The Stewardship Campaign will be September 28 to October 26
- World Communion/Peacemaking Sunday will be October 5

Heard:

- The quarterly report on the work of The Transformative Leadership Coalition
- Concerns about the lack of storage space at ALPC

Discussed:

- The necessity for all members of the congregation to be passionate but loving in their discussions with each other about the upcoming national election

Approved:

- A Family Night Potluck Supper for Tuesday, October 21 at 6:00 pm; the program for which will be a discussion of the actions of the 218th General Assembly

Will continue:

- Its discernment and study regarding the next steps in the transition period following Nick Yoda's departure

Shirley Hook, Clerk of Session

Small Groups

Circle of Smiles (Karen Francy)

Wide demographic in ages – 30 year span
Meet 2nd Tuesday of the month with a
potluck in December

(alternate homes/discussion leaders)

Book for 2008-2009 is

Bad Girls of the Bible

Friendship and fellowship

Mission: basket for Faith house

Circle of Love (Kathy Navarro)

Ages range from 50's – 80's.

Carpooling available.

Meet the 4th Thursday of the month
at 7:30 p.m. (alternate houses)

Format is socializing, studying a
book/discuss with bibles

Book: read one chapter a month

Pick new book in January

Mission: Alternative Holiday Market,
donation to Ovarian Cancer,
also meals for member's surgeries

Circle of Hope (Arlene Strauch)

Wide demographic in ages –
have added a lot of new members recently

Distinguishing feature:
positive attitude and retired

One Wednesday a month from
9:30 am – 11 a.m. at the church

Book for 2008 – 2009 is

Max Lucero's 3:16 – John –

The Numbers of Hope

Format is fellowship with discussion
of Christianity

Mission: basket for Presbyterian

Women's mission

Fifty Day Spiritual Adventure – two groups (Rudd/Cold) (Francy/Kneiss/Taylor)

Co-ed - wide demographic in ages

Started with an intense focus
in deepening faith

Format is socializing, sharing, study

Sarah Circle (Judy McCain)

Distinguishing feature -

Continuity and hegemony

All their kids are in high school /college -

group has been together for awhile

Meets 2nd Wednesday of month at 7 p.m.

(alternate homes/discussion leaders)

Book for 2008-2009 is a "Hop, Skip and
Jump Through the Bible"

Format is socializing, discussion, dessert

Mission: basket for Faith House

Ruth Circle (Carol Nussle)

Distinguishing feature:

all relative newcomers

Wide demographic in ages present

(30 years to 80 years)

Meet 3rd Tuesday of the month at

Carol Nussle's house

Book for 2008-2009 "Hop, Skip and
Jump Through the Bible"

Mission: basket for Faith House

and desserts for the Food Co-op

(continued on page 18)

TLC: Who are These People and What are They Up to Here?

Good question! TLC stands for Transformative Leadership Coalition. It is a group of 16 members and Pastor Tom Robinson who are traveling together on a forty-week journey.

It is a diverse group which is practicing discernment in community and having holy conversations in an effort to answer three questions:

- What is God up to at ALPC?
- What is God's preferred and promised future for ALPC?
- Are we doing the right things?

TLC meets twice monthly. Over the summer, members read N. Graham Standish's *Becoming a Blessed Church* and are currently studying Diana Butler Bass's *Christianity for The Rest of Us*.

Each member is committed to do independent study of a self selected aspect of congregational life. For example; some are doing independent reading and research on stewardship of time, talent and treasure. Others are studying the spiritual practice of healing; one is studying relatedness and communication as a congregational system. Among other topics already selected are; prayer as a spiritual discipline, the multigenerational church, hospitality, the emergent church, and discernment.

The TLC was initiated by Elder Art Hook and was endorsed and supported by Pastor Tom Robinson, former Associate Pastor Nick Yoda, and the Session.

TLC will not be issuing a strategic plan. We hope to share our experiences, our new learnings, and our ideas with the congregation. We also hope to have some "town meetings" with the congregation in 2009 in order to listen to others and share where our journey has led us.

The pilgrims on the journey are:

Chris Benavides, Mark Bennett, Sharon Call, George Dzuro, Muriel Homer, Art and Shirley Hook, Gary and Rae Matthews, Carol Nussle, Sue and Tom Robinson, Lisa Sebold, Paul Selvage, Arlene Strauch and JoAnn Wainscott.

Submitted by Art Hook, Facilitator, TLC

New Offerings at Eighth Annual Alternative Holiday Market

After extensive study, the AHM Steering Team has selected three not-for-profit ministries for inclusion in this years market.

Joining fifteen previous participants for the first time will be One Acre Fund, Engineers Without Borders, and Family Promise of Lorain County.

One Acre Fund attacks the number one health problem in Africa, which is lack of food. Hunger is the number one reason that one in six children dies before the age of five. This institution has seized an opportunity to make a permanent difference. OAF provides a small amount of seed and fertilizer on credit, weekly farm training in the farmer's own fields, and market access. OAF works with the poorest of the poor.

Engineers Without Borders is an international organization assisting communities throughout the world to improve their quality of life through sustainable engineering projects. The University of Toledo has a student chapter of EWB. Like all chapters of EWB, students not only participate in the design and implementation of sustainability projects, but they also have to obtain support from organizations and private companies

Family Promise of Lorain County is the part of the Interfaith Hospitality Network which organizes congregations to provide hospitality (meals, activities, overnight accommodations) for homeless families. Our church has been participating in week-long hospitality, four times each year, for many years.

This, the largest mission project of our church, the Alternative Holiday Market will take place in Hart Hall on Sunday, November 23, from 10 AM to 1 PM.

Please get in the picture and participate by sharing in this ministry together to *transform lives in family, community, and the world.*



Every desirable and beneficial gift comes out of heaven. The gifts are rivers of light cascading down from the Father of Light.

James 1:17

Small Groups of the Church

Cord of Three Strands (Matthews/Knox)

Co-ed - wide demographic in ages
Meets 1st Friday of month at 7:30 pomp
Meet at alternating member's home
Xmas at a restaurant, summer picnic

Care & Share Circle (Lois Bayley)

Ages 60 – 90
Lunch the 2nd Tuesday of the month
Fun, fellowship, and socializing

Serendipity Circle (Beth Janis)

Strengths: member support and mission
Meets last Tuesday of the month
Redecorated the crib room and plan to improve church office



**Join any one of our small
Groups by calling
any of the leaders.
Their phone numbers
are in the
Church directory
located in the church foyer**



Worship Assistants

Oct 5	9:30	Karen Francy
	11:00	Rae Matthews
Oct 12	11:00	Dennis Waggoner
	19	9:30
26	11:00	Beth Shoemaker
	9:30	Shirley Hook
	11:00	Sherry Spenser



Sound Room Technicians

Oct 5	9:30	Jerry Ruffner
	11:00	Gary Uhl
12	11:00	Dave Taylor
	19	9:30
26	11:00	Todd Galloway
	9:30	Craig Young
	11:00	Scott Seipel

**Gary Alshouse (933-5337)
schedules for the sound room.**

Prayer Concerns

Serving in our Armed Forces:

Derek Fabry, Jennifer Homer, Matt Homer, Jeff Leopold, Jamie Waddell, Derek Weeden, Wes Wiblin, Aaron Angel (Scott Hay's niece's husband), Brandon Abrams (son of a co-worker of Marian Conn), Bill Brown III (Sue Tompos' nephew), Ben Donberg (a nephew of the Monjots), Robert Glover (Carol Egna's brother), Patrick Harris (Betty Harris' grandson), Richard Hebert (father of Waverly, Grace and Mallory), Ian Houston (a friend of Scott Simmons), Todd and Brett Kirwan (friends of the Wiblin's), Mike Medvic (friend of Becky Betts), Mark and Cheryl Monjot's nephew, Brenda Reynolds (Sue Mabe's daughter), Kyle Reynolds (Lois Bayley's great nephew), Ryan and Kevin Tinsley (Nancy McBride's grandsons), Adam Usher (Kay Usher's grandson), Brad Wagner, Ryan Randal (friends of Sara Jungermann) and Stephen Yoda (Nick Yoda's brother).



Deaths/Bereavements

The family of Frances Neider, Janet Parker's mom, who died September 22 in Pennsylvania.

The family of William Smith (19), Carolyn Dzuro's brother-in-law's nephew, who was killed in a fight at college on September 21.

The family of Michael Medders, and ALHS 2001 graduate, who was killed in Iraq September 25.

Avon Lake Presbyterian Church
32340 Electric Blvd.
Avon Lake, OH 44012
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Sunday Worship
9:30 & 11:00 am
(440) 933-6240
www.AvonLakePC.org

Pastor	Tom Robinson
Pastor Emeritus	Alfred A. Hart
Dir. of Music	Muriel Homer
Dir. of CE	Carolyn Dzurro
Financial Secy	Sharon Pervo
Int. Youth Dir.	Beau Dansizen