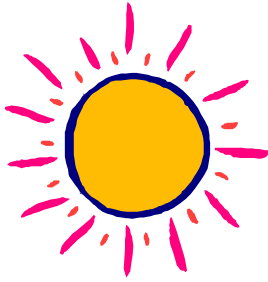


Summer 2008 Newsletter



SPRINGBORO UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

5 West Mill Street
Springboro OH 45066
937-748-1969

Email: springboroucc@sbcglobal.net
www.springboroucc.org
Pastor: Rev. Terry Carlisle
Ministers: The Congregation

IT IS BETTER TO GIVE AND RECEIVE

It has been said by our Pastor that SUCC "does not ask much of its members." So let's think about the subject of giving. A wall plaque seen in the Ole Pottery Barn says "The most beautiful action in the world is to love: the second most beautiful action is to give." Three of our members attended a stewardship seminar on July 23 and have some observations to share.

1. People give to organizations that MEET needs, not to organizations that HAVE needs. How do most of us give? Do we coast along until we "run out of something" and then decide to step up our giving? Or do we anticipate, even trust or expect, our church (pastor, elders, youth leaders, choir, etc.) to be proactive in meeting community or church needs, and so we give to make sure they have the where-with-all to do so when the time comes?
2. Giving is "learned behavior". What giving patterns have you learned: and which of those patterns do you need to reinforce, and which do you need to un-learn? What are you teaching your family about giving and generosity? Have you learned yet that it is truly the giver who receives the most from generous giving? Or do you need to do a "spiritual experiment" and see what happens to you, and your church, when you give with generosity.
3. Which would you rather belong to, a church that nearly always says, about new ideas, outreach projects, or ministries, "can we afford it", or a church that nearly always says, "We have a pastor, or council, or youth leader, or choir, etc. that is working to reach our members and the community, let's be ready to support them at all times"? Another way of saying this is, "shall we be a Christian group that plans our work based on a Theology of Abundance, or through a Lens of Scarcity?"
4. Can we increase giving in ways other than committing regular income? One couple made a rather large 4 year financial commitment to their church, that "they could not afford" out of their income alone. The first year they made the payment to the church due to a tax refund, which had not been expected. The second year they made the payment due to an inheritance gift, also unexpected. The third year, they realized that their children were adults and doing well financially, so the couple cashed in their life-insurance policies to make the payment. The fourth year they gave some stock that was part of a retirement fund, thus avoiding the capital gains tax, and obtaining a tax deduction. So they kept their commitment, they believe, with God's creative help and without dipping into their regular income.
5. Overall, the UCC world-wide, averages a giving percentage of 1.9 percent of each UCC member's income, a far cry from the 10% that many believe is God's wish. Can we raise that percentage?

6. Do you give only when you attend church, or do you set an amount and make sure that the church receives that amount whether you attend or not?
7. Do you have the church in your will? One person put it this way; I have four children to place in my will, the church makes five.

Put another way, if we want a quality youth program, are we willing to give to make that possible, with money for a leader, materials, and projects?

If we want quality public exposure for SUCC, are we willing to give so that it can happen, including media exposure, programs for community members, attractive flyers, etc.?

If we want a quality pastor, are we willing to attract and support that person with salary, benefits and actions?

If we want an attractive, comfortable place to worship and bring friends, are we willing to give to make that happen?

If we want to provide the community with educational, spiritual and social opportunities, are we trying to do so, or do we think we can impact the world around us by spending one hour a week in church?

How are each of us working to make our church known to someone else, or to support the choir, or to let people know that we have grief, domestic violence and youth programs available?

Do we really believe that "the most good that can come by giving is to the giver"?

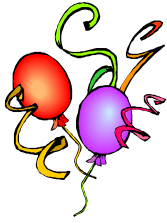
Pastor Terry Carlisle

STRANGERS AMONG US

In the past few weeks, we have had several visitors from the Greenmont Community Church (a United Church of Christ) who are here to create a report to Pastor Carlisle that will describe how visitors are treated and how they perceive our church when they come in unannounced. Pastor Carlisle has also attended their church to return the favor, as Pastor Greg King is also interested in how his church treats visitors. If any of you want to travel to Kettering some Sunday, please let the Pastor know, we have a list of issues created by Pastor King and Pastor Carlisle that we would want you to take with you so that you could "rate" their church for friendliness, ease of finding your way around, parking, worship flow, etc. We will of course be letting you know what their perceptions were of us. Beware, there are strangers among us!



CELEBRATION



On Sunday, August 3 the Pastor hosted a coffee hour reception to acknowledge that August, 2008 was his 30th anniversary of being ordained to the gospel ministry. He highlighted the occasion with a special sermon which traced the history of the principle of ordination in the Bible, and solicited from certain members of the congregation various perceptions of what ordination means to different religious faiths. Among other things, ordination signifies a "setting apart" for special service to God, implying that God will provide success and support for such spiritual service. While those who are officially ordained by an appropriate religious body, usually a national or international church organization, are seen as especially called and equipped to serve, each Christian can and should seek and sense a special calling as well. Such a calling can take the form of service to their local church, a unique ministry to their community, such as work with Interfaith Hospitality Network, Food Pantry, Prayer Ministry, Visitation Ministry, Youth Work, etc. Any one who wants to speak with the Pastor about ways that they may be called to serve should contact him. The occasion concluded with a light pizza lunch, with ice cream treats provided by the "K".

UNDER CONSTRUCTION..

Watch our website for some exciting changes coming soon! In addition to a great new design compliments of David Ferguson, you will soon be able to make donations to our church online. Also, we will have a partnership with Amazon. When you get ready to do your online shopping, just go to our site and click on the Amazon link. Our church will get a percentage of any money you spend with Amazon - a really easy way to help the church and get some great items at the same time.



WORSHIP, MUIC AND MEMORIALS

The WM&M committee is planning a special Door Hanger campaign to promote events between August and Christmas. Promos will include the newly developing Healing Service, the Community Thanksgiving Service, Christmas Eve Services, special worship services, Holy Communion, Youth Programs including Confirmation and MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers), and the Grief and Domestic Violence support groups.

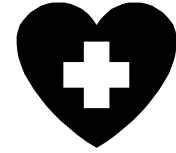
WAXING ELOQUENT

The car/truck detailing project is in full swing. The project is earning money for a large screen rear projection system, hearing enhancement for hard of hearing persons and up-coming youth projects. Call Terry at 371-1803 to make an appointment.



OUR LITTLE CHURCH WITH A BIG HEART

July was a month when Interfaith Hospitality Network of Warren County (IHN) needed lots of help and did our church ever come through!! We had a number of volunteers (including youth) help with the July 4th 5K Walk/Run Benefit. It was cool and rainy but spirits were anything but damp. Over \$11,000 was raised from this event to aid with the programs at IHN.



July 26th was the annual IHN Christmas in July Party. This is when each family who has been in the IHN program during the past 12 months is invited to the party. Each child is given an outfit and underwear, a toy, and a book bag containing school supplies. Each family receives a stuffed stocking. This year each child was also given a gift certificate to Payless Shoes. Jennifer Krietzer, the party coordinator, said that if it hadn't been for our church and one other church, the party wouldn't have happened. All the funds available for the party at the end of June was \$1,300 left over from last year. By the time all the shopping was done, they didn't even need to touch the those funds.

Individuals in our church alone contributed over \$1,500. We weren't done yet! ON Sunday, July 20th, a group of volunteers met at the church in the afternoon and, in about an hour and a half, wrapped all the clothing and toys and gift cards for 44 kids (that's about 90 gifts) and stuffed the stockings. The next week volunteers from our church bought book bags for every child and stuffed the bags with school supplies on Wednesday evening. Everything was delivered to the party on Saturday morning. Our church accomplished a lot. We are known at IHN as " the little church with the big heart"!

Just a reminder - we will host the guests of IHN two more times this year. Please mark your calendars for Tuesday, August 19th and Tuesday, October 28th. As always, volunteers are needed to fix a dish for the evening meal, host and serve the meal, do activities or spend the night. Let Carol Warner know if you can help.

CONFIRMATION

Springboro UCC is planning a Confirmation class which will begin this fall. Anyone in the 7th grade or older is welcome to join. For more information, please contact Pastor Terry.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Special Birthday: Ardella Miller celebrated her 80th birthday on July 25 - birthday party at the Springboro Hardware with all the trimmings. She still works at the hardware store, stop by for a visit!



MUSIC NOTES

The bell choir is taking our "Love Letters from God" program on the road! On August 3, we will be playing at the Congregational Church in Franklin where Jamie Renner is the pastor.



Time to think about CHOIR! Practice will begin on August 27, we will participate in the worship service on August 31, Labor Day week-end. Come join us, help us praise God in song.

Bell choir rehearsals will begin in October - we can always use another ringer!

TEACHERS NEEDED

We need **your** help to make this year's Sunday School Class a success. We are in need of teachers for the fall. We have openings in the Elementary Class and the Junior High Class (grades 6 - 8).

We also need volunteers to be in the Littlest Angels room with our youngest youth (birth thru 1st grade). Please consider signing up for one Sunday a month to help out.

Not sure?

Don't worry. We will give you all the help you need; from finding a teacher to team up with so you can alternate weeks or months, providing you with curriculum and supplies, to obtaining any other resources you may need.

Thinking that you may not know enough to be able to teach?

You do! One of the best parts of teaching is learning right there along side the students. What a wonderful way for us all to grow in our faith!

Please contact Mike Berlo, Julie Vest or Debbie Grodecki for more information.

SPECIAL TASKFORCE

Recently several of our members attended a conference that SUCC sponsored at Shiloh UCC in North Dayton. The day was spent with leaders from our State office, discussing ways that local church groups could adopt effective programs or processes to enhance the life of their churches. SUCC representatives came back with a challenge for each of us who attended to select 2-3 persons and form small task force groups to brainstorm, choose and execute a unique program or ministry. In this way we hope to see several projects started, projects chosen by people who have a personal interest in the particular task that they undertake, rather than have someone else impose a project on them. One such project has already been started: a small group has begun to re-organize our church library so that it will be more useful to persons who want to look up a Bible topic or do other research. Each SUCC representative to the conference has been asked by the Pastor to invite 2-3 people to help them choose a project, set a meeting time with the Pastor, and embark on their task to in some way support the work of our church. Please respond positively when one of them asks for your help. Those who may be contacting you are: Carole and Bob Warner, Donna and Dane Hanby, Julie Vest, Dee Benbow, Linda Meuleman, Mina Miller and the Pastor.

CHRISTIANESE???

Christianese: (kris'ch nez') n. 1. Language spoken by church goers that is seldom understood by anyone else.

Idol: anything you put before God, including the TV remote

I Don't Feel Called: get someone else

If it be God's Will: don't think God is gonna answer this one

I'll Save You a Seat: if I have to go to church, you do, too



MOPS

Theresa Schneider has researched a national franchise called MOPS, Mother's of Pre-Schoolers" and shared her findings with Council. MOPS is a program that could be based at SUCC, and exists to support moms who want to meet and discuss common interests, learn new skills, develop a deeper spiritual life and make new friends. It involves a minimal cost to the church and may act as an exciting catalyst to help us provide a useful ministry to the mothers who live all around our community. There are chapters of MOPS all around the country and Theresa is continuing to gather information so that we can make a decision to offer this special ministry to our church and the community.

YOUTH NEWS

The Jr./Sr. High started the summer off with an end of school party. We went to Olive Garden for dinner. When we returned to the church for our lock-in, it was transformed into Club OMG. We had a karaoke contest and played games. Some of the youth even tried to teach Ellen and I some of the new dances. Thank you Pastor Terry and Ellen for helping chaperone. Thank you to Amy Stephens for helping chaperone dinner at Olive Garden. Thank you Karen Berry for transforming the church into the "club".

Some of the youth volunteered at the IHN 4th of July walk/run. The hardest part for all of us was to get there by 7:00 a.m. Our job was to help guide the runner/walkers and make sure they went down the right streets. Morgan, Ashley, and Katie Roberts all said it was awesome to be part of.



As this goes to print, we are preparing for our Benefit Concert. We have been meeting every Wednesday preparing for our August 8th Benefit concert to raise awareness for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. The youth has been doing a wonderful job getting donations from the community to support their event. We have a number of local talent that will be performing, plus games for the little ones and food.

UPDATED PICTORIAL CHURCH DIRECTORY

We have been collecting updates from everyone who may have new or adjusted phone numbers, e-mails or addresses for the purpose of making our church directory more effective and useful and to include our new members. To make the project even more inclusive, Carole Zeiter has met with 2 professional photography companies and has selected LifeTouch, which will help us, with no cost to the church, create a new directory which will feature pictures of all who wish to be included. This project will take some time to complete, several weeks at least. So it is even more important that all of us, as soon as possible, get any updated information to the church office. We have some volunteers who will type the information up, then it will go to the photo shop so that we can begin scheduling the picture shooting days. We will likely use 2 days to take all the shots to give our members a choice of when they can come. Persons wishing to purchase extra photos of



PRAYER CHAIN

We would like to have the name, number and e-mail of all persons who want to be included in the prayer chain. Even if you have been on it in the past, please let us know if you want to continue to be notified. Please call the church at 937-748-1969 or email at springboroucc@sbcglobal.net to let us know. If you are in need of someone to pray with you, or you have a name you would like on our prayer chain, please get in contact with either Rev. Terry Carlisle at (937)371-1803. You can also call Mina Miller at (937)748-0751 or Evalyn Harris at (937)748-2148.



Springboro United Church of Christ
5 West Mill Street
Springboro, OH 45066

Christ's Caring Crew News
Mission Youth Group
(Grades K - 5)

SAVE, SAVE, SAVE, SAVE THOSE ALUMINUM CANS!!!!!!

Please keep on saving those aluminum cans for us. The money will help our youth group with mission projects and fun activities.

Age wise our mission youth group may be small, but with your help of saving those aluminum cans and the guidance of God, we can do big things.

Thank you for your continuing support.

