

FROM OUR PASTORS

Pastor is the Latin word for shepherd. This word refers to the ordained minister who is charged with the primary spiritual care of a local church.



Over Christmas and New Year's, our church received wonderful greetings from our friends and partners in mission in Russia, Colombia and Ukraine! They reminded us of the personal greetings sent back and forth between churches in the first century. When you read the letters in the New Testament, you get a glimpse into the relationships and concerns of those fledgling churches. Particularly in the first and last chapters of the letters, the apostle Paul, for instance, asks to be remembered to particular people he names. He commends some for the work he has heard they are doing, and asks others to get along better with each other. He tells them he misses them and looks forward to the time he can visit again in person.

Letters to Corinth or Ephesus or Rome, of course, were carried for weeks or longer by people traveling on foot and then by ship on arduous trips. They could never have imagined that we can send letters by email and have them arrive within minutes!

We want to share with you excerpts from some of these greetings.

From Igor, Russia

Pastor Igor is general presbyter of the Chelyabinsk region of Russia and the "first" pastor of First Church, Zlatoust, Russia (his home town). Thanks to Connie Everhart for her willing and excellent translation from Russian to English! Brian Hock also translated one email for us.

December 26, 2009

I was very glad to receive your letter and your wishes for a Merry Christmas! Thank you so much for your good wishes and also for the continuation of our relationship. I also wish you a happy approaching New Year and a Merry Christmas. May the Lord bless you personally, your children and grandchildren, and also the members of your wonderful church! Give everyone my greetings!

Christmas, which is celebrated in Russia on January 7, will be adorned and supplemented by the project "shoes for children." Those in the church of Zlatoust will be very glad about this idea.

We also are in a special time now. Soon it will be the New Year and Christmas. There are all kinds of meetings in the church and receptions. Probably we will be resting the first few days in January. Right now we are in anticipation of these holidays. It would be great if you could come visit us sometime in Russia for these holidays!

I hug all of you and again wish you Happy Holidays! With respect, Igor

January 6, 2010

I would like to inform you of still one more thing: if everything goes well, I will probably be in America in July 2010. I must be at the annual congress of Free Will Baptists (FWB USA). It is possible that I will be with my wife Nonna. For me and for her it would be great to visit the state of Ohio, along with Oklahoma, and my dear town of Oxford! How do you regard this, and what do you think of it? Will this be possible or do you already have other plans? Please write. I hug you, Igor.

January 10, 2010

Thank you, that you have the opportunity to translate my Russian letters! And special thanks to Connie! The fact is that now my translator Alexander is busy and does not have many opportunities to help me. His second child was born, and he wrote a doctoral thesis in the university, so I did not bother him.

So, on our trip to America: We should be in America on July 16. Probably, until July 25, I'll be busy with Randy and his team and the churches at the Congress in Oklahoma and Tennessee. After that, we could go to Oxford and spend some time to communicate with you and the church to support our contacts and communication. I think more specific plans will be closer to the summer. Today we know only these dates.

It would be nice for us to be with all of you and see you all. You are strongly missed. Let us pray for this visit, that it will be pleasant and fruitful for us!

All greetings! Igor

Valentyna, Ukraine

Valentyna was at Miami last year as a Fulbright Scholar. She was active in our church, participating weekly in worship and attending many Bible studies, small group meetings, Time to Dine groups, and First Friday Niters. (There she did a wonderful

presentation with PowerPoint pictures on the history of religion and the current religious landscape in Ukraine). She left a month earlier than expected due to her mother's serious illness.

December 25, 2009

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! May this New Year bring you success, energy and inspiration. Hope you have a fantastic holiday season. I remember that beautiful music evening in the Derickson's house on the eve of the last year's Christmas. It has been wonderful being with you and getting to know you. My best wishes to all people in the church, who remember me. All the best, Valentyna.

January 8, 2010

Thank you for the kind words. I have pleasant memories about my stay in the USA and especially about your church. It was one of the most important parts of my stay in the USA. Many things happened since our last meeting.

When I came back home in the beginning of June my mother was very bad. She recognized nobody. But by some miracle she was getting better. My relatives said that it happened due to my coming. I spent the summer with her. I was really happy that I could do that. But in September mother fell ill with ischemic stroke and passed away in October. She was very wise. We love to remember her, her opinions, her special Ukrainian.

Now I mostly do my research. I am trying to prepare and send articles to the scientific journals. Material that I collected during my stay in Oxford is very helpful. My time there was really productive.

Best wishes for the new year. Valentyna

Colombian Church Leaders

Gina Zabala is clerk of session of our sister church, the Seventh Presbyterian Church of Barranquilla, Colombia. She is also mother to Omar David Bolivar and Mario Bolivar, both of whom have visited our church frequently, preaching and speaking at potluck suppers. Omar was a Santavicca Scholarship recipient, and both of them were counselors at Kirkmont Camp for many summers. Flor Marina Cardenas Munoz is pastor of our sister church.

Gina Zabala

Thanks be to God for the love and brotherhood we share with the Oxford church. The service on World Communion Sunday was truly marvelous! Our people were delighted and happy to see the faces of our brothers and sisters and to unite with them in prayer to our good Lord.

Pastor Flor Munoz

God bless you, brothers and sisters of the Oxford Church. We also want to thank you for your partnership with us in the Goel Project. And just as we remember Pastor Mark from his visit to our church, we remember each of you. We are assured that the love of God unites us through God's Spirit on this day and always.

We give thanks for these faithful partners in the gospel in other parts of the world, who enrich our lives so much! And we give thanks for each one of you as well!

Pastors **Mark** and **Barbara**

FROM OUR STUDENT PASTOR

Deb Bolen

It is still winter in Ohio -- it is still cold, and the days are still short. For those who do not embrace winter sports or temperatures lower than 60 degrees, it may seem that winter is longer with each passing year. The earth lies sleeping under blankets of snow, ice, or frozen soil and animals hibernate or forage for scarce food. We ourselves may feel like hibernating indoors, reading beside a crackling fireplace or a warm radiator, huddled under blankets and sipping hot cocoa. What we inevitably find is that whether we spend winter wishing for spring or spend it outdoors sledding, skiing, building snowpeople, or making snow angels, each day lasts for 24 hours no matter what we do. There is no hurrying the passage of time, but neither is there any slowing of it.



There is a silence in winter that I dearly love, when the world is blanketed under snow, there is a kind of hush that makes me want to whisper when I go outside. I find myself basking in these peaceful silences as they seem to carry me through my day. They seem to fill me with a wonder that in turn

causes me to wonder about many things. Perhaps in these times of winter we can ask a question or two – or even three or four. What is hibernating within

each one of us? What might God be seeking to teach us, if we would listen for the still, small voice that waits for us to hear? What opportunities for us are lurking during winter that may be absent during the long days of summer? In our prayer time, do we take the time to listen, rather than do



all the talking?

The silent listening can be so difficult for us, but if we allow a time of silence during our prayers, we might find that God brings something or someone to our minds, perhaps a person we have not seen in worship for awhile, perhaps an old friend from childhood, perhaps someone we saw on television, weeping in Haiti. Do we have the time to drop a note to someone just to say we're thinking of him or her, or that we remember with fondness old cherished memories? Could we pick up the phone just to say "you popped into my mind today and I just wanted to hear how you are"? Do we look for tangible ways we can help the suffering in Haiti and other devastated areas of the world through our monetary gifts or by putting together health kits for outreach agencies? What seems like a very small thing to us – perhaps not even worth doing – may make a very big difference to someone on a day when winter is weighing especially heavy. There is so much that each one of us can do. Please don't underestimate the worth of such seemingly small gestures. We may discover that we have made a difference because we listened on a cold winter day to a Voice in the silence.

Listening in prayer with you, **Deb**

Crist and Elaine Patterson. On Feb. 14, we'll begin "The Creeds". This will be coordinated with our Heritage Sunday March 21.

The Lenten Season begins Ash Wednesday, February 17.

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 17, 2010 a simple supper will be provided (free). A selection of soups, breads, cheese, fruit and cookies.

- o 6:00 p.m. Meal: Seminary
- o 6:45 Half hour informal service: Seminary

Come to begin the Lenten Season with us to share a simple meal, devotions and the signing of ashes.



There will be many special Lenten programs and studies,

including the Sacred Spaces and the Labyrinth. With Lent comes our One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. Learn what our congregation and denomination in cooperation with other denominations is doing about Hunger, Disaster Relief and helping people help themselves through Self Development of People. One Great Hour of Sharing banks will be available February 14. Lenten Home Family Activities will be distributed February 14.

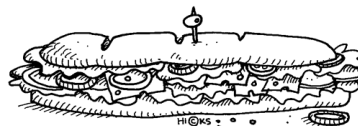
Youth Update:

CONFIRMATION CLASS: This class this year will begin with a lunch Feb. 7 at the Seminary. We are happy to have such a large class.

Supper Bowl Collection Feb. 7: It started in 1993 with a youth minister in South Carolina who challenged his youth and congregation to remember those who did not have enough SOUP to put in their "bowls," on Super Bowl Sunday. We joined the effort in 1995. The effort is now nationwide, interdenominational and raises over \$4 million dollars for causes that our youth identify. \$1 as you leave the service is all that is necessary! Our middle school youth have decided that our collection should be split between the relief effort in Haiti and Habitat for Humanity.

Super Bowl Subs: An order form is included in the newsletter...call the church or send it in right away! Orders will be tabulated Feb.3. **Subs will be**

made before the service Feb. 7 and may be picked up



fresh after the service. The proceeds go to the 2010 Mission Trip expenses. We will deliver

subs if you cannot make it to church on that day.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

(one definition of Christian Education: the cultivation of wisdom and virtue by nourishing the soul on truth, goodness, and beauty)

By **Prue Dana**

Church School News

During February, our Workshop Rotation on Proclamation will conclude. Thank you to **Amy Kraushar, Debbie DeGenarro, Missy Friede, Lindsay**

Other Youth Events:

- o February 12: Fun and Fellowship. Seminary, 7 to 9 p.m.
- o February 26: Fun and Fellowship Seminary 7 to 9 p.m.

Youth Rally is scheduled at Kirkmont for **April 9 to 11**. We hope to have some attend. See **Prue** or **Deanna** or **Jenni Roberts** if you're interested.

Mission Trip: 2010: Plans for the Mission Trip are beginning to form. We are registered for 20 youth and adult members of the congregation who are interested in working with the Baldwin County Habitat for Humanity, Foley, Alabama. We'll leave early morning of June 7, work June 8 through the morning of the 12th. Tour the area on June 12 and then drive home June 13.

LOOKING FOR LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE AND LIFELONG FRIENDS? THINK SUMMER!!!! Think Kirkmont! **The Kirkmont Schedule and applications are out!!! See the Bulletin Board by the Christian Education Office.** THERE WILL BE A PACKET IN THE MAIL TO EACH FAMILY HIGHLIGHTING THE CAMPS YOU MAY ATTEND.

SAVE THE DATE!

February 13, 5:30pm. Potluck Dinner followed by ACT: the ALL CHURCH TALENT SHOW A Potluck Dinner will be held at the Seminary followed by children playing the piano, adults reading poetry, displays of art work, funny skits, serious monologues and families singing

together. **All are welcome!** See **Dick Munson** or any member of the Christian Education Committee: **Becky Quay, Sarah Miller, Roberta Crain** or **Greg Hughes** for more information.



DEACONS

The name deacon ("diakonos" in Greek) means "servant" or "minister"

The Deacons are delighted to welcome **Marilyn Curry, Barbara Mecklenborg** and **Sue Wilson** to the board.

For December and January the Deacons helped their Angels with 17 cards, 21 calls, 31 visits and 4

errands. Two prayer shawls were presented to comfort grieving friends.

DEACONS BLOOD DRIVE

Spring Blood Drive

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

The Oxford Presbyterian Church and the Community Blood Center of Dayton, Ohio, will hold their spring blood drive on Tuesday, March 2, 2010, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Seminary building located at 104 Church Street (white church on the corner of Church and N. Poplar Streets).

The Community Blood Center is the sole supplier of blood to hospitals in its fifteen county service. Without your help, the Community Blood Center could not obtain the blood needed every day by patients in our area.

In order to donate blood, you must be at least seventeen years of age, weight at least 110 pounds, and be in good physical health. Each donor will have blood pressure, temperature, pulse, and hemoglobin checked before donation, and must also present a photo I.D. (such as driver's license). A donor must eat a nourishing meal, drink plenty of liquids, and get a good night's sleep prior to donation.

Thanks to Miami University Athletic Department, all donor names will be placed in a box for a drawing to win four tickets to any 2010 home MAC football game. McDonalds has favored us once



again with tickets for their varied products for each donor.

Think about it! One in five of us at sometime in life will need a blood transfusion. That could mean a family member, a friend, or even you. Let's show how much we care. To set up an appointment to donate, call the Oxford Presbyterian Church at (513) 523-6364 or by email, office@oxfordpresbychurch.org. Volunteering can also be done on the Community Blood Center's web site www.givingblood.org. If you have any questions or concerns, call **Dick Nelson** at (513) 523-2246.

I'm not getting married in the morning, but
GET ME TO THE CHURCH ON TIME!

If you **need a ride to Church**, please contact **Elaine** in the church office. She has a list of volunteer drivers who will be glad to pick you up for services. If you can anticipate needing a drive by Friday before, that will help greatly. As of yet, we don't have a last minute contact system.

YOUR KROGER CARD AT WORK

Shopping with a Kroger Rewards Program gift card generates money that is used to support mission and needs within our congregation, and locally in the Oxford area. Just this past year, the money raised was used by the deacons to support our Youth Mission trip, to help send campers to Kirkmont, to buy back to school socks and underwear for children, to help provide needed medical relief, to provide a scholarship to Preschool, to buy "survival bags" for our Miami students during exam week, to buy yarn for our Prayer Shawl Ministry, and to help provide refreshments after Memorial services.

These were just some of the ways that the money generated by you, was used to help others. Thank you for your continued support of this program.

If you would like to get a Kroger card, at no cost to you, or have any questions, please see **Elaine Patterson** in the church office, or call **Debra DeGennaro @ 524-2409**.

THE GENE AND FAYE SANTAVICCA CHRISTIAN MINISTRY SCHOLARSHIP FUND of the Oxford Presbyterian Church

Dr. and Mrs. Santavicca funded this scholarship for the advancement of Christian ministry. Candidates for this scholarship shall preferably be or have been a member or an affiliate member of the Oxford Presbyterian Church. Members who are interested in attending theological seminary should contact **Dick Nelson**, 513-523-2246, or the Oxford Presbyterian Church secretary, **Elaine Patterson**, 513-523-6364.

Should qualified candidates not be found within our membership, consideration may be given to qualified candidates of other congregations of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

MISSION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

REPORT ON CHRISTMAS MISSION PROJECTS

Our congregation gave generously to three special projects in December:

- \$2,255 was given to the Wished For Gifts project, to help needy families in Oxford provide Christmas gifts for their children. \$40 per child provided toys and warm clothes (with extra discounts offered by Wal-Mart for recipients of this project). That means our congregation provided for 56 Oxford children, out of the 348 children served by this program).
- \$1,945 was given to the Christmas offering, to help provide scholarships for students in need at our Presbyterian racial/ethnic colleges and secondary schools, and to support retired mission and church workers in need.
- \$1,800+ was given to the "Shoes for Children" project to help our Russian partner church buy a new pair of shoes or boots for each orphan in the orphanage in their town (to whom they minister) and to other needy children if there is enough left over. At approximately \$12 U.S. for each pair of shoes, our offering provided over 150 pairs of shoes!

MORE INFORMATION ON THE "RUSSIAN SHOE PROJECT"

Presbyterian Mission work is about working with our sisters and brothers around the world. It is not about telling them what to do—

Presbyterian Mission work is about helping. The "Russian Shoe Project" is about helping. For the past four years the congregation of the Oxford Presbyterian Church

has been greeted with sketches of bare feet on a large poster board. The feet represent the feet of orphans in the city of Zlatoust, Russia. Our sister church in Zlatoust is working to overcome the years of government policy and cultural tradition that places children in holding institutions for as much as a third of their lives. The First Church is not trying for an overnight solution to this practice, they



are simply trying to make tomorrow better than today. The Oxford Presbyterian Church has been asked to help them in this effort, to join with them for the long haul. Each year the goal is sixty pair of slippers, shoes, or boots to cover 120 bare feet. For the past four years that goal has been exceeded. Since 2007, including the 2009 total of over \$1800, over \$5700 has been sent to The First Church of Zlatoust to help with their orphanage mission work. With this effort tomorrow may be a better day for the orphans of Zlatoust.

LOCAL MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

The Mission and Outreach Committee will start providing information to our congregation each month about opportunities for volunteer service in our community as a way of encouraging our members to become involved in mission. As a church we need to find ways to reach out to those in need. One such volunteer opportunity is the following:

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

Beyond a monthly meeting requirement of one hour, I find myself involved in a variety of other Family Resource Center projects that have varied time commitments. Over the past 6 months I have assisted in the preparation of the Community Garden (4 hours), the organizing of the Thrift Store (4 hours), the August Yard Sale (4 hours), and currently am working with two students at Talawanda High School in the development of a promotional DVD (so far about 12 hours) to be used to educate all who will listen about the value of the Family Resource Center. My guess is I give about 8 hours a month to the Family Resource Center. I believe in the need for an organization like the Family Resource Center to help individuals in our community that need assistance. I enjoy working with director **Diane Ruther-Vierling** and staff, as well as other members of the board. Contacts: **Steve Dana; Tom Holmes**

MUSTARD SEED INVESTMENT GROUP

The Mustard Seed Investment Group was formed in March 2006, for the purpose of investing in stocks, bonds and securities in order to raise money for the church's mission. This group reports to the Mission and Outreach Committee of the Session. Currently there are nine contributing members in the group.

Investments, which must be approved by a majority of members, are made on a quarterly basis. Earnings are reinvested, or moved into the Group's cash account at Charles Schwab, Inc.

The initial contribution of each member is \$100. A quarterly contribution of \$50 is due to the treasurer on or before the regular quarterly meetings, which have traditionally been held in members' homes.

The current value of our portfolio is \$9,415 with \$490 in additional cash. The profit portion of the portfolio varies from day to day, but currently averages about \$500. We agreed shortly after formation that we would distribute to mission as soon as the total value reached \$10,000. This means we will distribute to mission this year! As members join and principle grows, we look forward to enlarging the mission impact this group can have.



The portfolio weathered the challenging economic times of 2008-2009

fairly well and the Group took opportunities to buy General Electric and Bank of America at very depressed prices. Other companies owned include Wells Fargo, Sysco, Yum Brands, Canadian Natural Resources, Duke Energy, and the very first investment, Colgate Palmolive.

This group of people not only support the mission of the church but also learn about investing and the market from each other. If you have an interest in increasing contributions to the mission of this church, adding to your own knowledge, and sharing fellowship at meetings please consider becoming a member. You are welcome to attend a meeting before joining to get a sense of the group and commitment. Contact **Joe Simpson**, 523 -8363, simpsojc@muohio.edu or **Bill Fisher**, 524-4504, fisherwf@muohio.edu.

FELIZ AÑO NUEVO! HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM COLOMBIA!

Adios 2009, Bienvenido 2010...

The start of this new year has left us reflective about our time so far, and excited about what is to come. Much of the three months we have been in

Colombia has been focused on getting to know our new home. We have been reading, traveling, and generally soaking things up. We have a lot more to learn, but we have a lot of folks here to help us.

When we were in mission orientation, one of the points that was stressed was to try and find someone who could be your "cultural insider" - someone who could help you figure out what was going on when you just didn't know. We are lucky enough to have moved in beside them! Our new neighbors, the Smiths (no kidding), have been an enormous help to us. From arguing with the furniture people to get them to deliver our bed, to showing us how to cook yucca, we have been blessed by their hospitality and kindness. We have now shared birthdays and tried each other's cooking experiments. Many of you have moved to new communities and know that finding people who can tell you how to catch the bus, where to buy fishing wire (to hang your Christmas decorations), and the best way to kill termites (ick) is invaluable. We are grateful, and we truly feel as if they are a gift from God to us.

Besides settling in to the new apartment, in the past 6 weeks Mamie has had the chance to teach a bible study to young adults participating with the Council for Latin American Churches (CLAI), and Richard has continued to sharpen his language skills. Together we walked an hour and a half to visit a community of displaced people in Piojó and listen to their concerns, experienced the season of Advent and the celebration of Christmas with the church, and much more. We continue to learn what our work will be here, and we are working together with the leadership of the Presbyterian Church of Colombia (IPC) to fashion that role.

We have more stories and pictures on our blog so please check in there as well. <http://www.calledtocolombia.org> As always, we appreciate your support and prayers. Blessings to all of you in 2010, and let us know when you'll be coming down! ;)

Peace~

Mamie and Richard

A NOTE FROM GARY PAYTON

Dear Friends in Christ at Oxford Presbyterian Church,

Warm Advent and Christmas greetings to you from your brothers and sisters in Christ in

Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and Poland and from my family and me!

In this special season, it is my great joy to say "thank you" for your prayers and your financial support of my ministry. It is because of your steadfast support that my mission activity is sustained. Thank you very much!

Even as I write, my planning continues for my 26th trip to Russia in January and February. Despite the cold, it is always a joy to be warmed by the fellowship of those who we "come alongside" in Christ's mission.

I look forward to seeing some of you from Oxford at our annual Russian Mission Network meeting in Denver in the fall of 2010!

May the Lord bless each of you as your faith journey continues.

In Christ,
Gary Payton



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee will be hosting birthday parties, "after services", the last Sunday each month, for children ages 6-12 in our congregation, beginning in February! Special cakes will be served and children will be recognized for their special day each year! (I hope we sing!) Each child will receive a Birthday Card inviting them to their party, and recognizing them as important parts of our church family.

HMM...YOU'RE MISSING YOUR NAME TAG?????

If you lost your nametag, put it through the wash, or the dog ate it...it's okay! You can get a new one by jotting us a note on the member/visitor pads in the pews or by contacting **Elaine** at the church office, 523-6364 or office@oxfordpresbychurch.org.

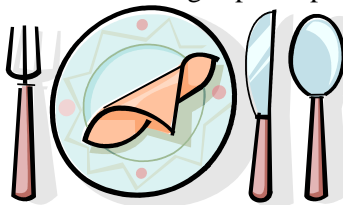
Hard to believe it has been two years since the Membership Committee introduced nametags and **Jack Staberg** built the great kiosk to house them! We think they have worked—helped us remember names and made it easier to greet old and new faces. It is great to see almost everyone using them! But, if you have gotten out of the habit of picking yours up in the Narthex, it is still important to do



so. We are making sure that all our new members and regular visitors have permanent nametags too. We continue to strive to be a more welcoming church, so wear your nametag on Sunday and greet each other by name!

TIME TO DINE!

To foster church unity and provide a place outside of church to get to know each other better, the Membership Committee will sponsor *Time to Dine!* for the fifth year. Over 60 people participated in 2008-2009. Open to all adults in the church, *Time to Dine!* is organized into groups of eight to ten that meet two or three times during the year. The *Time to Dine!* Committee assigns participants to homes of those who



volunteer to host. The hosts are responsible for coordinating the first gathering in the Spring, planning the menu and providing the main dish and beverages. Guests will bring

dessert, salad, or a side dish.

At the first dinner, the group decides when and where to meet next.

This year we also want to include “everyone” by offering an additional “*Family Time to Dine!*”, for all those ‘with young kids’ interested in sharing with other families, rather than the adults only crowd. Families will be paired up with other families to get together, and we will make the Seminary Church available for large groups needing a kids play area. You choose ... *Time to Dine!* Or *Family Time to Dine!*

This has been a wonderful way for singles and couples, and now families in the church to socialize and strengthen our ties. You may sign up in the Molyneaux Lounge after worship services from January 24th through February 7th... We hope you will join us!

Time to Dine! Committee: **Paula Foltz** (chair), **Susan King**, **Diane Sklensky**, **Tom Holmes**.

CARES and



CONCERNS

IN OUR PRAYERS:

Keep these friends in your prayers:

Bonnie Fey, Brian Hitsman, Richard McLaren, Leda Melis, Herb Preston.

Leda Melis is especially appreciative of letters and cards from her friends in the Congregation. Her new address is Leda Melis c/o Rob Melis, 1339 Bentley Way, Carmel IN, 46032.

We keep the family of **Louise Kennedy** in our hearts and prayers as her husband **Charles** and her family and friends grieve their loss and celebrate her life.

We keep the family of **Jeanne Bondhus** in our hearts and prayers as her husband **Hal** and her family and friends grieve their loss and celebrate her life.

BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

We celebrate with the **Saylor** family on the second anniversary of **Brady's** baptism on February 10th. Brady is the son of **Katie** and **Brad Saylor**.

THANK YOU:

Many thanks to the Hock family for their generous and much appreciated donation of a color printer for the church office.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW CHURCH OFFICERS



OXFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WOMEN

Honored Women 2010

The annual Honored Women Award is given to women in the Presbyterian Church who have exemplified caring, communities growth in their for peace both



the qualities of building inclusive within the church, faith, and who work in their local

communities and throughout the world. These qualities have been incorporated into a pin, given to them, that also indicates their honorary life membership in Presbyterian Women of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.

Please recommend candidates for this award by writing a letter, or emailing, detailing your reasons for proposing this person, to **Jane Kelly**, 501 Sandra Drive, jane@donkelly.com or to **Judy Fisher**, 5 Robin Court, fisherrh@muohio.edu.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS MARCH 1, 2010.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON CIRCLE

The Tuesday Afternoon Circle will meet at 1:30 February 16th in the Boardroom at the Knolls with **Sarah Soika** leading the Bible Study. **Barbara Mecklenborg** will conduct the Minute for Mission and **Pat Gifford** will do the Least Coin. Reservations for lunch in the Café at 12 noon are due by February 12 to **Lawretta Clum**. Visitors and guests are always welcome.

EVENING CIRCLE

Evening Circle will meet next on February 2, 2010 at the home of Hostess **Barbara Barnes**. (6181 Vereker Drive)

Co-Hostess: **Nancy Sturgeon**

Program: **Jane Baer**

Devotions: **Nancy Sturgeon**

Yefri: **Janet Ziegler**

OPW COORDINATING TEAM

The OPW Coordinating Team will meet on February 24, at 7:30pm in the Molyneaux Lounge.

NEWS OF THE FAMILY—OUR CONGREGATION

Please share your news with the rest of the family. Let us know about achievements in school and work, news of graduations and engagements, fun events you attended, good reads, trips, plans, whatever. We want to know what's happening in your life. Send news to Elaine or Nancy Moeckel so that we may get to know more about each member of our loving family.

Let's get started by sharing where you were born. Send this information to Nancy Moeckel (moeckenj@muohio.edu or 523-6003). I'll share the

results in the next newsletter. Let's see where we all started!

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO LET ME KNOW YOUR BIRTHPLACE.

This will be a nice icebreaker or conversation starter. Be sure to be included! So far, just 72 people have shared where they were born. Come on, join the fun. So far, Mexico City takes the prize as farthest away birthplace, and of course, Oxford is the closest. Canada is represented too. Where do you fit in?

CONGRATULATIONS to OUR Citizens of the Years

Bill King and **Ken Bogard** each received the Oxford Citizens of the Years award. We are so proud.

From the Oxford Press:

Bill King's passion for historic preservation has benefited the Oxford Community during the years. King helped relocate and restore the 19th century Oxford Twp. House, renovate the township cemetery and has been instrumental in organizing both the Hueston Woods Arts and Crafts Fair and the Apple Butter Festival.

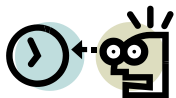
Ken Bogard, Oxford's vice mayor, serves the community both in and outside of City Council chambers. Bogard donates his time to pick up trash along Ohio 732 and mow the grass at the Community Counseling and Crisis Center.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ONE OF OUR OWN WHO SWORE AN OATH.

Mary Jane Roberts took the oath of office on January 4th for her 4-year term as a Talawanda Board of Education Member.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SPORTS FANS

In a recent article in the Oxford Press, **Will** and **Mary Lee Keebler** shared stories about their love of Miami sports. They have been attending games faithfully since 1943, broken leg and all!



Deadline for the March Newsletter is February 20, 2010

COMMUNITY ALZHEIMER CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

meets the third Sunday of the month from 3-4:30 in the Molyneaux Lounge of Oxford Presbyterian Church. The group is an educational/ support group for persons caring for someone with Alzheimer's disease or other conditions involving dementia. Persons throughout the community and surrounding area are welcome. The group is affiliated with the Alzheimer's Association of Greater Cincinnati. **Barbara Barnes** and **Joan Teckman** are co-leaders of the group.

HAITI: WHAT YOU CAN DO

As God's people we are called to stand in the "GAP"—**Give, Act, Pray**

-----GIVE-----

Financial gifts are urgently needed to bring relief and continued hope for our brothers and sisters in Haiti. Designate your gifts for Haiti—DR000064

- [PDA Web site](http://www.pcusa.org/pda/) (<http://www.pcusa.org/pda/>)
- (800) 872-3283, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (EST) weekdays
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

The American Red Cross, UNICEF (<https://secure.unicefusa.org/site/Donation>), United Way (<https://volunteer.united-way.org/uwwwdisaster/donate/>), and Doctors without Borders (<http://doctorswithoutborders.org/donate/haiti-share.cfm>) are just a few of the many other organizations involved in Haiti. Donors are urged to be careful and check out an organization before donating, as there are many scams that will imply your donation will go to Haiti relief. www.CharityNavigator.org and www.Give.org are two Web sites that rate charities and provide helpful information to donors.

ABC NEWS: Rick Blake January 19, 2010
At a time when the public image of banks and credit card companies has fallen to an all-time low, the

past week gave them a chance to show their better side. Almost every major financial company appears to have made some effort to help the people of earthquake-ravaged Haiti. By Friday, with relief dollars pouring in via credit cards from all over the world, the major credit card companies, including American Express, Visa, MasterCard and Discover, had all announced they were either waiving transaction fees tied to charitable donations or donating any profits from such transactions to such relief causes as the American Red Cross.

Text "HAITI" to "90999" and a donation of \$10 will be billed through your cellular service provider and given to the Red Cross to help with relief efforts.

-----ACT-----

The Mission and Outreach Committee of our church is sponsoring an opportunity to ACT by putting together **Gift of the Heart Kits**. *These frequently needed kits are a hands-on, tangible way to be involved.*

Here's what you can do: Donate one or more of the items from the list below—any/all that you wish. **Collection boxes** will be located outside the main office and in the narthex. Drop off items anytime over the next two weeks. Collections will end on Feb. 5th. **On Feb. 5th at 6:00 P.M.** (before the First Friday Nitters/Mission & Outreach meeting) we will assemble the kits, and then mail them off to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Hygiene Kit

- 1 — hand towel (approximately 16" x 28", no fingertip or bath towels)
- 1 — washcloth
- 1 — wide-tooth comb
- 1 — nail clipper (no metal files or emery boards)
- 1 — bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
- 1 — toothbrush (in original packaging)
- 6 — Band-Aids® or other adhesive bandage strips

Please **do not** add toothpaste to the Hygiene Kit. Toothpaste that has an extended expiration date will be added to Hygiene Kit shipments just prior to

shipment.

If you wish to assemble a full kit, please seal all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure.

For more information see:

<http://www.pcusa.org/pda/help/goh.htm> or call

Jenny Bailer, 255-6973 or any Mission and Outreach committee member.

-----PRAY-----

Join with others in lifting up the people of Haiti and those seeking to provide aid in this critical time. As the eyes of the world turn to Haiti, let us join our hearts in prayer:

God of compassion, please watch over the people of Haiti, and weave out of these terrible happenings wonders of goodness and grace. Surround those who have been affected by tragedy with a sense of your present love, and hold them in faith. Though they are lost in grief, may they find you and be comforted; Guide us as a church to find ways of providing assistance that heals wounds and provides hope. Help us to remember that when one of your children suffers we all suffer. Through Jesus Christ who was dead, but lives and rules this world with you. Amen.

(Adapted from Book of Common Worship)

Birthdays

Feb. 1	Lucy Ferris
Feb. 2	Ellen Bachem
Feb. 4	Lawretta Clum
Feb. 9	Steve Hawley
Feb. 10	Jenny Bailer
Feb. 11	Carl Vance
Feb. 11	Evan Bader
Feb. 14	Steven Reed
Feb. 14	Katherine Butterfield
Feb. 14	Karen Remley
Feb. 15	Betty Haley
Feb. 16	Virginia Layton
Feb. 17	Sue Siegel
Feb. 18	Susan King
Feb. 21	Mary Lee Keebler
Feb. 21	Leanne Staley
Feb. 22	Jim Haley
Feb. 23	Dave Griffing
Feb. 23	Dave Wilson
Feb. 23	Ruth Keebler
Feb. 23	Tim Richmond
Feb. 25	Kristie Marcum
Feb. 25	Katie Saylor
Feb. 27	Tom Holmes
Feb. 27	Missy Friede

The first page of the following report was mission from some of the 2009 Annual Reports.

**OXFORD PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
2009 Report
Karen Simpson, Moderator**

OPW continues to honor our purpose by being **an inclusive, caring, community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promises of God's Kingdom.**

Our first Gathering of 2009 was in April, the Mother/Daughter Breakfast. Coordinator Ann Hardy recruited Nancy Sturgeon to lead the effort. A terrific breakfast is prepared and served by many volunteers. Jean O'Connell taught the attendees how to make boxes, perfect for small gifts. I wish I had learned how to, but I was washing dishes. This Gathering continues to have our best attendance. Special thanks to Nancy for all her hard work for PW

At the April Meeting: Sue Wilson was elected as Coordinator of Gatherings; Janet Ziegler was reelected as Treasurer; Barbara Mecklenborg was elected as Coordinator of Issues & Action. Sarah Jane Soika was reelected as Coordinator of Studies & Mission Interpretation; Nancy Gates was elected to the Search Committee; Karen Shearer was elected to the Honored Women Committee. Jane Baer continues as our Key Woman for Church Women United. Also, sincere thanks to all who agreed to keep serving on their respective committees. This is a truly caring community of women.

Sue Wilson coordinated the May Women's Retreat. Barbara Barnes conducted a workshop on the Seasons of Our Lives. Sarah Jane Soika led us in the Dedication of the Birthday Offering. Our leaders were installed. And, the food was good. The event included a light breakfast prepared by the Evening Circle and a catered lunch. We nourished ourselves body and soul. The third Gathering was the Fall Gathering on October 11. Who says Presbyterians can't tolerate change? This new format for our Thank Offering was coordinated by Barbara Mecklenborg. Hostesses were the

Afternoon Circle. **A Hopewell Sampler** was presented by Marjorie Bowers and Cornelia Browne. Sarah Jane Soika led us in the dedication of the Thank Offering. The Christmas Tea, organized by Sarah Jane Soika, was our final Gathering of 2009. I read a Christmas story and Jean Derickson played the piano for our caroling. Great fellowship and cookies too. Our attendance was up 50% from the previous Tea.

2009 saw the Circles conclude the **Jubilee! Luke's Gospel for the Poor** study and begin **Joshua--A Journey of Faith**. Leaders of the Tuesday Afternoon Circle are Lynn Cronk and Lawretta Clum. Leaders of the Tuesday Evening Circle (aka Circle IV) are Jane Baer and Karen Simpson.

Honored Women for 2009 were Lynn Cronk and Donna Imhulse.

Fundraising was conducted in several ways. We had three direct financial appeals: the **Global Mission Letter**, the **Thank Offering**, and the **Birthday Offering**. Lynn Cronk, Nancy Moeckel and Ginny Staberg were responsible for the **Spring Thrift Sale and the Fall Rummage Sale**. Paul Foltz, Lawretta Clum, Nancy Moeckel and Ann Hardy organized the **Cookie Walk and Craft Sale**. Ann Hardy worked on the **Bed and Breakfast** reservations, which has become a lucrative fundraiser. Pris Berry heads the **Mabel Kramer Christmas Stocking** knitters. Most of this money goes toward mission. I encourage you to look at our 2009 budget for the details. It's on our **OPW Bulletin Board**. If anyone has lost our not so unloseable orange Yearbook, please let me know. Special thanks to Elaine who keeps us (and the rest of the church) decently in order.

We remember with affection the following members who died in 2009: Winnie Dolibois, Lynn Wood, Ruth Britt, Jane D. Smith, and, Louise Kennedy.

CALENDAR

**YOUTH FUND RAISER
SUB SANDWICHES
2010**



Order for Super Bowl Sunday, February 7. Your purchase will benefit the Presbyterian Youth Program in their summer plans to participate in the 2010 Mission Trip to Baldwin County Habitat for Humanity, Foley, Alabama (June 7 to 13). Proceeds will be used for food and transportation. The lodging fee will be paid for by the youth. We'll be staying at the Foley Methodist Church.

1. Turn in your order today or any Sunday in the offering plate. (You may call the church and place an order with Elaine Patterson (523-6364) or you may order via email at **office@oxfordpresbychurch.org** by **Feb. 3**.)
2. The Subs will be made fresh on Feb. 7. You may pick them up and pay for them after church on Feb. 7.

Our youth will be working at the Baldwin County Habitat for Humanity Foley, Alabama. Foley is located just east of Mobile, Alabama. In their first 15 years, Habitat for Humanity of Baldwin County built homes in partnership with 63 families. In 2007, they added seven more homes. Because Baldwin county is the fastest growing, most affluent counties in Alabama, the high cost of housing leaves low-income families little money for other basic necessities like food, clothing or health care. One in ten people live in poverty. Unfortunately, there are still hundreds of local families living in substandard housing. Baldwin County wants to double their capacity, allowing them to build homes for 20 more families each year.

Please use the order form on the other side to help support our youth's mission trip.



SUB SANDWICH ORDER all sandwiches \$5.50

<p>BREAD 6" (choose one) W =white Bread WG=whole Grain</p>	<p>MEAT (choose one) T=turkey H=ham RB=roast beef CAP=capacola spiced ham/Italian V=mushrooms</p>	<p>CHEESE (choose one) P=provolone A=American S=swiss</p>	<p>TOPPINGS (choose several) T=tomato L=lettuce BP=banana peppers OL=olives</p>
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Number of Sandwiches	Bread	Meat	Cheese	Toppings	Cost
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBS: _____ TOTAL COST: \$ _____

Name: _____

Telephone/e-mail _____

Address _____

