

West Farmington
United Methodist Church
THE COURIER – September 2011



West Farmington United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 93
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INK TONER/CARTRIDGES RECYCLE

If you're not sure what to do with your old ink toner or cartridges just bring them into the church and leave them in the collection box near the desk in the Fellowship Hall. We will send them to the District Office where they make sure they get recycled properly.

OLD READING AND EYE GLASSES

Bring in your old reading or eye glasses, so we can send them to "Save a Sight" by way of our District office. There is a collection box at the desk in the Fellowship Hall.

HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Both Hospice of the Valley and Hospice of the Western Reserve are recruiting volunteers to provide care and support for patients and their families in this area. If you can spare even a few hours a month you can make a big difference in the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of a seriously ill person and their family. See Pastor Jim for more info.

Support your local Fire Department!

Don't forget the spaghetti dinner on the fourth Saturday of every month! Meal consists of Spaghetti, Meatballs, Salad and dessert.

All the proceeds go to purchase fire department needs. Please consider joining the ladies auxiliary to help. You could join as a part time helper or a full time member. Remember—Many hands make light work!
Call Laura Walsh at 330 978 9683 Or Kim Largen at 330 889 2964 for details!

MILITARY UPDATES

By Carol Jean Goddard

We have a new member to put on Military Prayer Chain---His name is James Marshall and he is the grandson of Bill List---His mother is Sally List Marshall. He belongs to the Ohio National Guard out of Cuyahoga Falls. He is now in Mississippi for training in preparation of being deployed to Afghanistan in the fall. We shall try to keep you informed of his status until he is home again.



Army:

Josh Berg; Bill Stewart; Lindsey Romack Canete; Felix Canete Jr.; Gregory Clisby; Josh Hall; Philip Lancaster; Mark Mahon; Tammy Rodriguez; Justin Loza; Grant & Haley Crandall, Mark Adams

Navy: Kris Stribling; Tim Walker, Nick Breezio

Air Force: Mychael Bulford; Erik McIntosh; Brian Hray **Air Force Reserves:** A J Musial,

Marine: Phil Rabadeux; Cory Reed; Daniel Nellis Jr. **Marine Reserves:** Ryan Romack;

MI National Guard: Jim Richards Jr.; **Coast Guard:** Alfonso Estades

RAINBOW NEWS

Rainbow Assembly returns from State Convention

W. Farmington Assembly #116 of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls recently attended the Ohio Grand Assembly state convention held at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio. The assembly was honored to have Miss Katie Nevison serving as Grand Confidential Observer, and Haley Spangler, Tina Murray, and Audrey Drago in the Grand Choir.

The assembly brought home several awards including Class AA Scrapbook 3rd place, and a no suspensions trophy for 2010. Several members participated in the ritual competition and received ribbons. For Senior Division written competition 1st honorable mention - Katie Nevison, 3rd place - Caraline Nelson; for Junior Division written ritual competition 2nd place - Haley Spangler, and 1st place - Tina Murray; for Oral Ritual Competition Sr. Div: 6th Honorable mention - Katie Nevison. Jr. Division: 7th Honorable mention - Tina Murray and 1st Honorable mention - Haley Spangler. Other individual awards included: Audrey Dragon - 3rd place GWA theme Costume Contest. Haley Spangler carried the District #5 banner. The state of Ohio collected \$23,721 for the Honor Flights program and will be sending two airplanes of veterans to Washington D.C.

The new Grand Worthy Advisor's theme is Make a Splash with seashells and and dolphins as her symbols. Our state service project will be to raise money for the Make A Splash Foundation and the Wounded Warrior project. W. Farmington Assembly was honored to have several Grand Officers appointed for the 2011-2012 Ohio Grand Assembly year: Katie Nevison - Grand Recorder, Caraline Nelson - Grand American Flag Tribute, and Haley Spangler - Grand Representative to Indiana/Massachusetts.

For more information on how you can join this premiere character building & service organization for girls age 11-20 please visit our website at: www.mastermason.com/WFarmington116 or contact our Mother Advisor, Roxanne York, at (330) 240-5116.

KIDS KLUB restarts Monday, September 12, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

at the West Farmington United Methodist church--1st floor.

Classes will meet for 14 weeks and end on December 12, 2011.

We have many new activities planned--more fun games, music and crafts plus snacks.

Bible lesson and homework assistance to be held at the end of Kids Klub.

There will be qualified adult teachers and several teenagers to assist. Sincere steps have been taken to insure the safety of each child. We hope everyone had a safe summer. Watch for the

Kids Klub notice in our September Courier for more info.

See you soon,

Kids Klub Staff

Liturgists for Sept:

9-4 Sharon VanDervort

9-11 Pastor Jim

9-18 Carol Goddard

9-25 Joyce List

GREETERS:

9-4 Bill & Joyce List

9-11 Dave Shook & Marcie Rester

9-18 Willis & Susan Miller

9-25 Mike & Betty Rowland

Mark your Calendar for Sept:

- 1 - Worship Team meeting 2:00pm at the church
- 4 - Communion Sunday
- 6 - Windsor House Nursing Home Ministry 10am
- 7 - Nominations Committee meeting, 7pm
- 10 - District Lay Speaker Training
- 11 - Rally Day at Cleer's lake - Outdoor Worship 10:30am - Picnic - Games - Hay Ride
- 11 - Pastor Parish Relations (PPR) meets with District Supt. at 4pm
- 12 - Kids Klub, 3:30-5:30pm
- 13 - Windsor House Nursing Home Ministry 10am
- 14 - United Methodist Women (UMW) meeting at 10am at the church.
- 16 - "Cropping" - Denise McDowell, 5-10pm at the church
- 17 - "Cropping" - Denise McDowell, 9:30am-9:30pm at the church
- 17 - District Lay Speaker Training
- 19 - Farmington Festival Committee at 6:30 pm at Village Hall
- 19 - Kids Klub, 3:30-5:30pm
- 20 - Windsor House Nursing Home Ministry 10am
- 25 - Noisy Collection Sunday - For Someplace Safe
- 26 - Kids Klub, 3:30-5:30pm
- 27 - Windsor House Nursing Home Ministry 10am
- 28 - W. Farmington UMC Annual Charge Conference, at Windham UMC, 7pm

Please Remember our Shut-ins:

Dorothy Anthony
6931 Hennig Dr.
Cirtus Hts, CA 95621

Richard Petrick
Cortland Healthcare
369 High St.
Cortland, OH 44410

Betty Fluharty - Sheila Hornsby
7615 Silver Sands Rd.
Keystone Hts., FL 32656
352-473-6813

Marjorie Heil
5600 Larson Rd. W.
W. Farmington, OH

John Fluharty
1140 S. Main St. SW
Warren, Oh 44085

Our Friends in Need of Prayer:

David Albrecht, Issac Atkins, Esther Burr, Matt Chandler, Slater Chaplain, Ed Cleer, Michael Cleer, Shirley Cross, Haley Dorshock, Joyce Eckart, Emily Estades, Jackie Gingerich, Kathy Granados, Dona Hites, Ronald Hoffman, James Hungerford, Emily Hunt, Patsy Hurst, Jesse Jilg, Margret Klinger, Jen Knepper, Stephanie Liptak, Blanche Marcello, Leann Miller, Rick Padavan, Sandy Perkins, Chris Petrovic, Bill Petterson, Robert Pierce, Kyle Quinn Jr., Kim Roseblossom, Traci Sabbattis, Dakota Snowden, Elise Sprong, John Steinmetz, Julie Sternagle, Debbie Swindler, DeAnna Vicich, Roberta Wildman, Bernie Woods, Justin Woodworth, Kate Woodworth, Richard Yocum, Beth (Silvernail) Young

To put someone on the prayer list please let Pastor Jim know their name, status/condition and your name. Cards are in the pews. You can also email any prayer requests to: jgeorge004@neo.rr.com. Also, Please let Pastor Jim know any updates or names that can be removed.

A Few Funnies From Random Emails

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!" His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?" The son replied, "I do know!" "Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?" "That's easy, Daddy..." the young boy replied excitedly,
It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'

Sunday after church, a Mom asked her very young daughter what the lesson was about. The daughter answered, "Don't be scared, you'll get your quilt." Needless to say, the Mom was perplexed. Later in the day, the pastor stopped by for tea and the Mom asked him what that morning's Sunday school lesson was about. He said "Be not afraid, thy comforter is coming."

September Birthdays

Sept 5 Tiffany Boyk
Sept 8 Ed Rowland
Sept 9 Dave Svoboda
Sept 11 Jack Mitton
Sept 12 Larry DeFabrizio Sr.
Sept 12 Matthew Zabrosky
Sept 14 Page Davenport
Sept 14 Bill Hickox
Sept 15 Wilma Satterlee
Sept 17 John Fluharty
Sept 19 Kevin Bontrager
Sept 19 Caden Boyk
Sept 19 Jim Spangler
Sept 20 Jeanne Saxion
Sept 21 Bob Gorman
Sept 22 Chuck Lobenthal
Sept 29 Brian McDowell

September Anniversaries

Sept 17 Mark & Heather Herakovic
Sept 23 Ron & Jeanne Saxion
Sept 27 Alan & Judi Karr

Which Church Size Is the Best Size?

by Dr. Mark J. Key

There are some interesting changes taking place among churches across the country relative to size. In "The Congregational Life Survey" of 300,000 worshipers from 2,200 churches all over America, the following discoveries were made:

1. Fifty percent of all congregations — the smallest ones — have only eleven percent of the total number of worshipers in a given week.
2. Ten percent of U.S. congregations — the largest ones — draw fifty percent of all worshipers each week.

The study further noted some of the challenges facing smaller churches:

1. Decline in funding and financial resources.
2. Supply of clergy.
3. Christian education resources.

I would add to that list some other challenges:

4. People to do programming.
5. Resistance to change.
6. Difficulty in assimilation/inclusion.

The truth is that most churches are small churches. The average size of all United Methodist churches is 231 in membership. The average worship attendance in United Methodist churches is 97 or 42 percent of the membership.

What should you do if you are a small-membership church? First, recognize that most people, if they grew up in a church, most likely grew up in a smaller church. Remember that many people prefer a smaller church. They want a church that is small enough to experience the care and concern and friendliness that everyone needs. They want a church where they can be involved.

Second, focus on what small churches do best. If familiarity is the primary characteristic, make familiarity happen for the newcomers. Give them a church roster and history of the church. They will need to know the family and its traditions, histories, rituals, and funny peculiarities. Be interested in and listen to the newcomers. Find out their interests, experiences, and associations. Watch for significant contact points with other church members.

Third, find a special vocation in the community where the church can make a significant contribution. Many people are drawn to a small church because of its reputation for serving its neighbors or community. One of the most successful mission statements for smaller churches comes from Christ's command to "love your neighbor as yourself."

Fourth, team with other churches to do programming. Prospective families are still going to expect programs for their children and youth. A joint program with several churches that can put together twenty youth for a youth program will be a lot better than a single church trying to do youth ministry with only three or four youth. Vacation Bible schools, children or youth choirs, handbell choirs, mission trips, softball teams, can all be done collaboratively and successfully with other churches.

So, which church size is the best size? Every size is the right size. The problem is not the size. The goal is to be the very best with what God has blessed us.

by Dr. Mark J. Key, Director of Congregational Development, Western New York Annual Conference

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The above article fits us here at WFUMC, too. Our membership runs around 120 with an average attendance of 55 (45%). Are we too small? Not according to the above suggestions. We need to prayerfully examine our purpose as a church and latch onto that "significant contribution" and "be the very best with what God has blessed us."

Pastor Jim