



"TIDINGS"



March 2011



ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Many folk ask the question 'Why is the Shamrock the National Flower of Ireland?' The reason is that

St. Patrick used it to explain the Holy Trinity to the pagans. Saint Patrick is believed to have been born in the late fourth century, and is often confused with Palladius, a bishop who was sent by Pope Celestine in 431 to be the first bishop to the Irish believers in Christ.

Saint Patrick was the patron saint and national apostle of Ireland who is credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland. Most of what is known about him comes from his two works, the *Confessio*, a spiritual autobiography, and his *Epistola*, a denunciation of British mistreatment of Irish Christians. Saint Patrick described himself as a "most humble-minded man, pouring forth a continuous paean of thanks to his Maker for having chosen him as the instrument whereby multitudes who had worshipped idols and unclean things had become the people of God."

Saint Patrick is most known for driving the snakes from Ireland. It is true there are no snakes in Ireland, but there probably never have been - the island was separated from the rest of the continent at the end of the Ice Age. As in many old pagan religions, serpent symbols were common and often worshipped. Driving the snakes from Ireland was probably symbolic of putting an end to that pagan practice. While not the first to bring Christianity to Ireland, it is Patrick who is said to have encountered the Druids at Tara and abolished their pagan rites. The story holds that he converted the warrior chiefs and princes, baptizing them and thousands of their subjects in the "Holy Wells" that still bear this name.

There are several accounts of Saint Patrick's death. One says that Patrick died at Saul, Downpatrick, Ireland, on March 17, 460 A.D. His jawbone was preserved in a silver shrine and was often requested in times of childbirth, epileptic fits, and as a preservative against the "evil eye." Another account says that St. Patrick ended his days at Glastonbury, England and was buried there. The Chapel of St. Patrick still exists as part of Glastonbury Abbey. Today, many Catholic places of worship all around the world are named after St. Patrick, including cathedrals in New York and Dublin city.

Saint Patrick's Day has come to be associated with everything Irish: anything green and gold, shamrocks and luck. Most importantly, to those who celebrate its intended meaning, St. Patrick's Day is a traditional day for spiritual renewal and offering prayers for missionaries worldwide.

So, why is it celebrated on March 17th? One theory is that that is the day that St. Patrick died. Since the holiday began in Ireland, it is believed that as the Irish spread out around the world, they took with them their history and celebrations. The biggest observance of all is, of course, in Ireland. With the exception of restaurants and pubs, almost all businesses close on March 17th. Being a religious holiday as well, many Irish attend mass, where March 17th is the traditional day for offering prayers for missionaries worldwide before the serious celebrating begins.

In American cities with a large Irish population, St. Patrick's Day is a very big deal. Big cities and small towns alike celebrate with parades, "wearing of the green," music and songs, Irish food and drink, and activities for kids such as crafts, coloring and games. Some communities even go so far as to dye rivers or streams green! (see page 9).



STAFF

Pastor

Derek Russell
pastor@hillsboromethodist.org

Secretary

Beverly Cinnamon
secretary@hillsboromethodist.org

Financial Secretary

Jane Graves
HFUMC-graves@cinci.rr.com

Choir Director

Marilyn Myers
dmyers3@sbcglobal.net

Organist

Cindy Eigel
crazymusiclady_52@yahoo.com

Contemporary Music Director

Ron Current

Custodian

Tina Breaux



A LOOK AT MARCH WORSHIP

8:00 a.m. - Adult Sunday School

9:00 a.m. - Traditional Service - Sanctuary

10:00 a.m. - Adult, Youth and Children's Sunday School

11:00 a.m. - Contemporary Service - Riber Hall

- March 6** - Message: The Jesus Journey: Feeding the 5,000
Scripture: Luke 8:10-17
- March 9** - Ash Wednesday (Service at 7:30 p.m.)
Message: Repentance
Scripture: Psalm 51:1-12
- March 13** - Message: The Jesus Journey: The Good Samaritan
Scripture: Luke 10:25-37
- March 20** - Message: The Jesus Journey: Woe to You, Pharisees
Scripture: Luke 11:37-54
- March 27** - Message: The Jesus Journey: Don't Worry
Scripture: Luke 12:22-34

“WHAT DOES ‘LENT’ MEAN?”

We are entering the time in the Christian year known as ‘Lent.’ If you are like a lot of Christians, you may have heard the word before, but no one has ever explained to you what it means. Much like Advent before Christmas, Lent is a time of preparation for Easter Sunday. It is traditionally a time when Christians focus on Jesus’ days leading up through His sacrifice on the cross for our sins. The time of anticipation and preparation comes to a climax as we celebrate Jesus’ resurrection.

The word Lent comes from an Anglo-Saxon root word, “lencten,” which means lengthen. Lent happens during the time of the year in which the daylight hours are lengthening. Lent did not originally have a set period of time, but ever since the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD, Lent has lasted for forty days (minus Sundays). The time period of forty days has many biblical parallels. The most obvious one is Jesus’ fasting and praying in the wilderness for forty days. Likewise, Moses fasted on Mt. Sinai for that same length of time when God gave him the ten commandments. Elijah the prophet fasted on the way to Mt. Horeb for forty days. Also, the people wandered in the wilderness for forty years after their escape from slavery in Egypt.

In the Early Church and in the Middle Ages, Lent was used as a time to prepare converts to Christianity for baptism. It was a time of intense spiritual teaching and training, learning the scriptures, and practicing the disciplines of prayer and fasting. Imagine the joy of the Church on Easter Sunday as hundreds of people who had gone through this time of training came to be incorporated into the Body of Christ! Nowadays, many people choose to make some significant sacrifice during the period of Lent to remind them of the price that Jesus paid for them on the cross. (see page 3)

CHURCH OFFICE

Monday - Thursday

8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Closed for Lunch

12:00 - 1:00

Friday

8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Phone

937-393-2981

Fax

937-393-0025

Web Sites

www.hillsboromethodist.org
www.hillsboroyouth.org



TIDINGS

Please submit articles to the church office by email or in person no later than the 20th of the month.

Jill Reffner, Editor
wjreffner@sbcglobal.net

LENT (continued)

Lent starts on Ash Wednesday, March 9. We will join with Christians all over the world in experiencing the imposition of ashes on the forehead, a symbol of our repentance and reminder of our mortality. You are invited to join us in the sanctuary at 7:30 p.m. for this special service. As we draw closer to Easter, we will experience Palm Sunday on April 17, a day that we are reminded of the triumphal entry of Jesus into the city of Jerusalem. That begins a period we refer to as Holy Week. The Thursday of Holy week is named "Maundy Thursday" when the Church focuses on Jesus' last night with His disciples. The following day is Good Friday, the day we remember in detail the torture and agony that Jesus went through on the cross. We will have open communion on that night followed by a special service.

If you attend the Traditional service, you may notice that the color at the front of the sanctuary is purple during the season of Lent. That color is symbolic of our repentance as well as sorrow for Jesus' suffering. As we come together for Good Friday, the color turns to black, representing the somber sacrifice of Jesus on our behalf. On Easter morning, the color changes to white, representing the joy and life we have in Jesus' resurrection. I hope you will find the season of Lent thought-provoking and spiritually challenging and enriching as we journey to the cross together.

Blessings, Pastor Derek

THANK YOU

Here's a huge thank you to all the wonderful nursery helpers this past fall and winter. The nursery now has Barb Colthar as the full time nursery person, but she will need one helper each Sunday. It will be greatly appreciated if you could stop in at the nursery and sign up for a Sunday or two. Thanks again to all. Suzanne DeVore

THANK YOU

A big thank you to Ed and Helen Hiestand for their work on our new pictorial directory. Many hours have gone into this project: gathering information on each member, taking photographs of members, the layout and design of the book, proofreading, printing, folding, and much more. Thanks Ed and Helen for your dedication to this project. The directory is wonderful! Copies of our new pictorial directory are now available in Hiestand Hall. One directory per family please.

REMEMBER OUR FRIENDS**AT HOME**

Sally Barrere
Joan DeHaas
Jean Head
Mary Hiestand
Herbert Hottle
Paul and Janie Johnson
Mary Levo
Don McCoppin
Janice Saunders
Mary Wharton
Katie Wilkin
Jean Wilson

**REMEMBER OUR FRIENDS IN
CARE FACILITIES**

Heartland/Hillsboro - Wanda Bridges and Jim Hapner

Laurels/Hillsboro - Kathy Bowman,
John and JoAnne Walker

Crestwood/Hillsboro - Bill Conley

Xenia - Marjorie McCreight

West Union - Jean Sapp

SYMPATHY

Our sympathy to Linda Welder and family. Linda's mother, Florence, passed away on February 15th.

Our sympathy to the family of Catherine Hottle. Catherine passed away on February 15th.

FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Our financial results for January continued the trend of the last half of 2010. Our income (giving and interest) totaled \$29,583.10, while our expenditures were \$21,178.47. This gave us an \$8,404.63 gain for the month which was realized after we met all commitments and paid 100% of our district and 50% of our conference apportionments as we had planned. Our Sunday giving for the month was \$29,475.23 which is almost \$10,000 more than our January 2010 receipts, and exceeded our January 2011 budget target of \$27,422.31. Although it is very early in the year, our results so far are most encouraging and have made us optimistic about our ability to grow our church ministries as we have planned. Tom Watkins, Chair Finance Committee



ACOLYTES

- 3/6 Micah Pinney and Spencer Rudy
- 3/13 Allie Branscome and Chloe Harless
- 3/20 Ty Alexander and Steven Burton
- 3/27 Jacob Lerch and Micah Pinney



SCRIPTURE READING - 9:00 AM

- 3/6 Steven Burton
- 3/13 Carrie Combs
- 3/20 Josh Clark
- 3/27 Kara Russell



ALTAR FLOWERS

- 3/6 Linda Welder
- 3/13
- 3/20 Nick and Sue Thompson
- 3/27



USHERS

David Grover (Captain), Glenn Armstrong, Don Edenfield, Nick Thompson, Will Wooden



CARE & CONCERN

Pat Roads: 393-4768

COLLECTIONS REMINDER

Toothbrushes are the collection item for Samaritan Outreach for March. Collection boxes are in Hiestand Hall for all of our donation items.



COFFEE/HOSPITALITY

- 3/6 Pam and Rebecca Pinney
- 3/13 Don and Suanne Edwards
- 3/20 Pat Meranda
- 3/27 Dan and Kristin Walker

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Contact the people listed below if you are interested in any of the volunteer opportunities on this page:



COMMUNION STEWARDS

- 3/6 Jean McKenzie and Barbara Tira

Acolytes	Leslie Lerch	288-9808
Altar Flowers	Church Office	393-2981
Care and Concern	Suzanne Devore	288-2352
Greeters	Ruth West	764-1176
Home Communion	Donna Summers	393-9676
Hospitality - 9 am	Jill Reffner	927-2760
Hospitality - 11 am	Warren Bridges	695-0053
Liturgist	Jill Reffner	927-2760
Nursery	Suzanne Devore	288-2352
Our Daily Bread	Anna Spilker	402-4543
Saturday Soup/Sand.	Anna Spilker	402-4543
Scripture Readers	Jill Reffner	927-2760
Ushers	Margaret Horst	393-3390

HOME COMMUNION

- 3/6 Tom and Martha Watkins
- Joe and Ruth West
- David and Lois Williams



GREETERS

- 3/6 Alan and Beth McKenzie, Pat Roads
- 3/13 Virgil and Mary Gibler, Judy Ferguson
- 3/20 Don and Diana Carey, Catherine Meade
- 3/27 Dan and Michelle Clark

HELP WANTED !

We are in need of help to rebuild the sound system in the sanctuary. Also, we need several people who would be willing to be trained to work the sound system in the sanctuary. If you are interested, please contact Kent Yochum at 402-7442.



LITURGIST

- 3/6 Steve Vance
- 3/13 Donna Armstrong
- 3/20 Judy Ferguson
- 3/27 Maggi Horst



SUNDAY, MARCH 13 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

Remember to set your clock ahead one hour !

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3/2 Eric Rhoads
 3/2 Jared Saunders
 3/3 Christine Eigel
 3/3 Ron Jandes
 3/4 Will Foley
 3/8 Opal Armstrong
 3/8 Marjorie Byrd
 3/8 Kristy Hopkins
 3/8 Bill McCreight
 3/9 Myrna Hudson
 3/9 Evi Kangro
 3/9 Judy Rudy
 3/9 Gordon Russell
 3/10 Suzanne Hopkins
 3/10 Eleanor McCreight
 3/11 Mary Hiestand
 3/13 Jessica Armstrong
 3/13 Sandra Barger
 3/14 Debbie Burns
 3/14 Chris Sexton
 3/16 Don Edwards
 3/18 Tiffany Hopkins
 3/18 Sam Rudy
 3/18 Cindy St. Clair
 3/22 Richard Bowman
 3/22 Peggy Edwards
 3/25 Shay Colliver
 3/27 Don Saunders
 3/28 Morgan Price
 3/28 Donald Rhoads
 3/29 Charlie Griffith
 3/31 Chelsie Ferrell

**MARCH****WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

3/17 Tim and Sandy Shoemaker
 3/19 Jeff and Maureen Wood

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

May 2 - 4 Set up for UMW Rummage Sale
 May 5 & 6 UMW Rummage Sale
 May 7 Mother/Daughter Banquet
 May 8 Mother's Day
 May 8 Chapel in the Woods Begins
 May 14 Rally in the Valley
 June 5 - 9 West Ohio Annual Conference/Lakeside

REMEMBER WHEN?

On Saturday morning, October 27, 2001, seventy five members of our church family gathered in Robison Hall. The purpose was to distribute smoke alarm batteries to all of the homes in Hillsboro. The group was divided into 22 teams and each assigned to a specific geographic area. A plastic packet containing a 9 volt battery and a brief greeting from the First United Methodist Church was then hung on each doorknob, as a random act of kindness. Much effort was necessary for success including the planning, purchasing, preparing the packets and eventually distribution. This project, an activity of the evangelism committee, was not only to remind the community to service their alarm, but to also remind the community of our love and care.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that there are two wheelchairs available for use by persons attending worship services or other activities at Hillsboro First United Methodist Church? The wheelchairs are located at the north end of Hiestand Hall, readily accessible to the reserved handicapped parking in front of the church on Walnut Street. Our church is handicap accessible with a front entrance without steps, and a ramp at the back entrance by the kitchen/Robison Hall. There are also two elevators to access the sanctuary. Also available at worship services are hearing aid devices that can be obtained from the ushers.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Do you remember as a member of the United Methodist Church you took these vows:

- You renewed the promise and vow that you made, or that was made in your name, at your baptism.
- You confessed Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and pledged your allegiance to his kingdom.
- You professed the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament.
- You promised according to the grace given to you to live a Christian life and always remain a faithful member of Christ's Holy Church.
- You pledged to be loyal to the United Methodist Church and uphold it by your prayers, your presence, your gifts and your service.

Note: In the next issue of Tidings we will continue to recognize people for various "behind the scenes" tasks including Chapel in the Woods volunteers.

TUESDAY, MARCH 1 **FRIENDLY HELPER'S CIRCLE**

The first meeting of 2011 for the women's Friendly Helper's Circle will be held on Tuesday, March 1st at 7:00 p.m. at the church. All members please try to attend this organizational meeting so we can all get started off together planning for a busy year. If you are interested in joining the Friendly Helpers Circle, we welcome you and invite you to attend this meeting. We are a service organization and sponsor such events as the Father/Son Palm Sunday breakfast and the Advent children's evening, along with support for several mission causes. If you have any questions please call Martha Watkins at 840-0112.



TUESDAY, MARCH 1 **OUR DAILY BREAD**

The first Tuesday of every month is HFUMC day at Our Daily Bread. Each month, on HFUMC Day, we need eight to nine desserts. Please call Peggy Edwards if you would like to sign up to donate a dessert.

In addition, on this day, March 1st, Our Daily Bread would like to invite you to our one year celebration lunch! We will have a short program starting at 11:00 a.m. with refreshments and lunch at 11:30 a.m. Call the church office at 393-2981 or 402-4543 to let us know if you will be attending.

FRIDAY, MARCH 4 **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER (WDP) is a worldwide ecumenical movement of Christian women of many faith traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year on the first Friday in March. It is a movement initiated and carried out by women in more than 170 countries and regions. It brings together women of various races, cultures, and traditions in closer fellowship, understanding, and action throughout the year.

Throughout the entire day, we collectively pray all over the world, beginning with the first sunrise and ending at the last sunset. Our prayers follow the sun's path around the globe. WDP's motto is "Informed prayer leads to prayerful action".

Through World Day of Prayer, women affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have

immeasurable influence in the world. During the past decade, the ministries of Churches Uniting in Christ (CUIC), the National Council of Churches, the World Council of Churches, the World Methodist Council and the Pan-Methodist Commission, all partners with the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund (ICF) have expressed a common concern for four major areas: violence against women, economic justice, racism, and the need for greater participation in the life of the church.

Join the 2011 World Day of Prayer Committee in Chile as they invite you to enter a process that draws us into the Bible, into the context of Chile, and into the real situations of our lives and communities. The theme is, "How Many Loaves Have You?" This year's Bible studies come from 1 Kings 17: 8-16 and Mark 6: 30-44.

A World Day of Prayer celebration will take place on Friday, March 4th, at 7:00 p.m. at Marshall United Methodist Church. Everyone is welcome.



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9 **ASH WEDNESDAY** **SERVICE AT 7:30 P.M.**

ASH WEDNESDAY. Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. It is a day of penitence and remembrance of our sins of the past and our ultimate mortality. It marks the beginning of a period of reflection. In the Bible, sprinkling oneself with ashes was traditionally a sign of one's sorrow for having committed sins. In the Christian tradition, Ash Wednesday also marked the beginning of preparation for the understanding of the death and resurrection of Christ.

The imposition of ashes on the foreheads of Christians is an ancient Christian practice, going back at least to the 10th century. Biblically, ashes are a symbol of purification and penitence (see Numbers 19:9, 17; Hebrews 9:13; Jonah 3:6; Matthew 11:21, and Luke 10:13). In the early church, people who had been separated from the church because of serious sins might seek to be readmitted to the fellowship by observing a formal period of penitence during Lent. These people were generally sprinkled with ashes or given rough garments sprinkled with ashes as a sign of their sorrow for their sins.

(continued on next page)

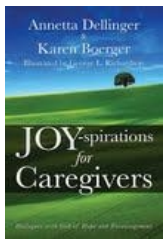
ASH WEDNESDAY (continued)

Beginning in the tenth century, the observance of Ash Wednesday became a general rite for the church. The ashes, which were a symbol of purification in the Old Testament, remind us that we are mortal. In many churches the ashes are made by burning the palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday. Ashes are placed on the forehead, usually in the sign of a cross, in a ritual known as the Imposition of Ashes. The ash cross is an outward sign of our sorrow and repentance for sins. As the ashes are placed on the forehead, words such as these are spoken: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return," recalling God's words to Adam in Genesis 3:19. This practice has become a part of Ash Wednesday services in many United Methodist churches. **Copied from A Dictionary for United Methodists and the Upper Room.**

SATURDAY, MARCH 19 PAMPERED CHEF FUNDRAISER

Join us for a Pampered Chef Fundraiser on Saturday, March 19th, at 1:00 p.m. in Riber Hall. This fundraiser will support Got Forgiveness, Inc., (GFI) a local non-profit organization that helps families with food, utilities and eviction prevention. As of March 12th, GFI's new location will be in the basement of our church! Contact Nancy Burton at 402-4276 with any questions.

SATURDAY, APRIL 9 CAREGIVER'S PROGRAM



Are you one of the 65 million exhausted people? According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, more than 65 million people provide care for chronically ill, disabled, or aged family members or friends every year. "These people are exhausted, overwhelmed, frustrated, and unappreciated heroes," says Annetta Dellinger, a Christian author, public speaker, and former caregiver. She is passionate about giving support, encouragement, and hope to caregivers across the country.

Teaming with Annetta is her friend, Karen Boenger, a retired educator, and founder of Caring Hearts Ministry. The two have co-authored a book to give strength and hope to family caregivers. They have designed their newest book, JOYspirations for Caregivers, with the

time-stressed caregiver in mind. These advocates now travel the country giving seminars of hope and comfort to caregivers.

Annetta and Karen will be coming to Hillsboro on Saturday, April 9th, to present their program, "The Heart of Caregiving, the Emotional and Spiritual Side." This community sponsored program will take place at the Hillsboro First United Methodist Church from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person. For further information on this exciting opportunity to network with other caregivers and experience true encouragement and support, or to make a reservation, contact Bev at 393-2981.

SUNDAY, APRIL 10 CHOIR LENTEN CONCERT



Our Chancel and Bell Choirs will present the cantata, "Who Do You Say That I Am" beginning at 4:00 p.m. After the concert, dinner will be served by our youth in Robison Hall.

SUNDAY, APRIL 17 FATHER/SON BREAKFAST



The first Father/Son Palm Sunday breakfast was held on March 17, 1978. Rev. Roland Fierce and the Administrative Council spawned it from an idea to honor fathers and sons. The ladies had already been having a Mother/Daughter dinner. Council member Mary Ellen McCarty agreed to chair a group of ladies to prepare and serve the meal. The men's prayer group, which met each Friday morning at 6:30 a.m., agreed to be responsible for the program. For several years David Myers arranged the program.

Originally the breakfast was held in Riber Hall. Upon the completion of the Cornelius Life Center, the event was moved to Robison Hall. When the Friendly Helpers Circle started, Mary Ellen asked them to take charge of sponsoring this annual breakfast and it has been their project since that time. This year marks the 33rd year for this annual event.



APRIL 29 AND 30 WOMEN OF FAITH COLUMBUS, OHIO

Hundreds of thousands of women are meeting up in 29 cities across the U.S. for one-of-a-kind weekend events filled with laughter, music, drama, heart-tugging stories, and more. You're in for a wonderful time. Some even call it life-changing. Escape from the everyday at a Women of Faith weekend and be refreshed, encouraged and inspired. Because the God who loves you can do far more than you can ever Imagine.

Who We Are: Women of Faith is a faith based women's organization encouraging women of all ages and stages in life to grow in faith and spiritual maturity through a relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of God's love and grace. **Our History:** Founded in 1996 by Stephen Arterburn. More than 4 million women have attended over 275 events held in more than 70 cities across North America. More than 350,000 have indicated first time decisions for Christ at a Women of Faith event. **Our Message:** Beyond a shadow of a doubt, God loves you, regardless of where you are in life. **Our Approach:** Humor and honesty. Real women sharing how God helps them deal with real issues. **Our Objective:** To see women set free to a lifestyle of God's grace by offering events, books, resources, and publications. The line up:



Lisa Harper



Angie Smith



Luci Swindoll



Kim Cash Tate



Sheila Walsh



Natalie Grant



Mary Mary



Nicole Johnson



Henry Cloud

What is Women of Faith all about?

Refreshment. Imagine getting together with your closest girlfriends for a weekend. Think of the laughter you'd share, the tears you'd shed, the FUN you'd have. Now multiply that by 10,000 or so. You're starting to get the idea.

Reality without Reproach. We're not perfect. We don't expect you to be perfect, either. Our speakers are real women who share stories from their real lives. We're here to encourage women, not to condemn anyone. Even those who have never set foot in a church feel comfortable at our conferences. You can check your mask at the door. You're welcome just as you are.

Relationships. Connecting with God and with each other. At Women of Faith we believe that God loves you – no matter what your situation in life may be. We also believe that He wants a personal relationship with you. Through our conferences women have indicated decisions to start or renew that relationship. Relationships with each other are important, too. At a Women of Faith conference you'll have the chance to connect with other women – even if you go there alone! Over the course of the conference, you'll have the opportunity to:

- Renew your spirit with messages of hope and humor from the Women of Faith speaker team.
- Recharge your spiritual batteries with drama that tickles your funny bone and touches your heart (at the same time!).
- Rejoice with music from top Christian music artists.
- Reconnect with God and each other as the WOF worship team leads an arena full of women in praise to God.
- Revitalize your life with resources that will help keep the conference experience alive all year.
- Relax in the comforting knowledge that God loves you – right where you are.

This is an awesome opportunity for friendship, fun, encouragement, worship, laughter, spiritual renewal, hope and faith. If you are interested in attending the Women of Faith event in Columbus, contact Nancy Burton at 402-4276. Schedule: Friday: 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Saturday: - 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. We are tagging on with the Church of Christ and have to know by March 6th if you would like to attend. The cost is \$89 plus \$30 for motel plus two meals (dinner and breakfast). Lunch is included both days with the conference.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY **FUN FACTS !**

34 million Americans have Irish ancestry, according to the US Census. That's almost nine times the population of Ireland, which has 4.1 million people.

Some American towns have "Irish" names. You could visit: Mount Gay-Shamrock, West Virginia; Shamrock Lakes, Indiana; Shamrock, Oklahoma; Shamrock, Texas; Dublin, California; and Dublin, Ohio.

The city with the largest population of Americans of Irish descent is Boston (23%). At one time, there were more Irish living in New York City, than in Dublin, Ireland.

The children and grandchildren of people born in Ireland can obtain dual citizenship with the US and Ireland.

The Irish flag is green, white and orange. The green symbolizes the people of the south, and orange, the people of the north. White represents the peace that brings them together as a nation.

The harp is the symbol of Ireland. The color green is also commonly associated with Ireland, also known as "the Emerald Isle." Over 94 million people plan to wear green on St. Patrick's Day.

The ancient Irish used to wear green to show their love for the harvest gods.

The name "lephrechaun" has several origins. It could be from the Irish Gaelic word "*leipreachan*," which means "a kind of aqueous sprite." Or, it could be from "*leath bhrogan*," which means "shoemaker."

Many cities have a St. Patrick's Day parade. Dublin, the capital of Ireland, has a huge St. Patrick's Day festival from March 15 – 19th, that features a parade, family carnivals, treasure hunt, dance, theatre and more.

There has been a St. Patrick's Day parade in Boston, Massachusetts since 1737. Montreal is home to Canada's longest running St. Patrick's Day parade, which began in 1824.

Shamrocks are the national flower of Ireland. In Ireland on St. Patrick's Day, people traditionally wear a small bunch of shamrocks on their jackets or caps. Children wear orange, white and green badges, and women and girls wear green ribbons in their hair.

The shamrock is the traditional symbol because St. Patrick used it to explain the connection between the father, the son, and the Holy Spirit in the Christian religion.

According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the highest number of leaves found on a clover is fourteen!

One estimate suggests that there are about 10,000 regular three leaf clovers for every lucky four leaf clover.

Legend says that each leaf of the clover means something: the first is for hope, the second for faith, the third for love and the fourth for luck.

Over 8 million St. Patrick's Day cards are exchanged in America making today the ninth largest card selling occasion in the US.

Corned beef is strictly an American invention; the Irish don't actually eat it to celebrate the day.

Over 41.5 billion pounds of beef are produced each year for St. Patrick's Day, with the majority of it coming from Texas and over 2.5 billion pounds of cabbage are produced with the majority grown in California.

St. Patrick's Day isn't a big drinking holiday in Ireland. In fact, many of the local pubs are closed for the day.

The original Guinness Brewery in Dublin has a 9,000 year lease.

Bailey's Irish Cream which was launched in Ireland in the early seventies, is now the most popular liqueur in the world.

The Oscar was handcrafted by an Irishman, Cedric Gibbons, who was born in Dublin in 1823.

Chicago is famous for dyeing the Chicago River green on St. Patrick's Day. The tradition began in 1962, when a pipe fitters union, with the permission of the mayor, poured a hundred pounds (45 kilograms) of green vegetable dye into the river. On the job, the workers often use colored dyes to track illegal sewage dumping. Today only 40 pounds (18 kilograms) of dye are used, enough to turn the river green for several hours.

According to the Friends of the Chicago River, a local environmental group, more people are likely to view the Chicago River on St. Patrick's Day than on any other day.

LIFE WITHOUT VOLUNTEERS A NIGHTMARE - BY ERMA BOMBECK

(This Best of Bombeck column originally ran June 1975.)

I had a dream the other night that every volunteer in this country, disillusioned with the lack of compassion, had set sail for another country. As I stood smiling on the pier, I shouted, "Goodbye, creamed chicken. Goodbye, phone committees. So long, Disease of the Month. No more saving old egg cartons. No more getting out the vote. *Au revoir* playground duty, bake sales and three hour meetings."

As the boat got smaller and they could no longer hear my shouts, I reflected, "Serves them right. A bunch of yes people. All they had to do was to put their tongue firmly against the roof of their mouth and make an "O" sound. Nnnooooooo. Nnnnnoooo. Nnoo. No! No! It would certainly have spared them a lot of grief. Oh well, who needs them!"

The hospital was quiet as I passed it. Rooms were void of books, flowers and voices. The children's wing held no clowns, no laughter. The reception desk was vacant. The home for the aged was like a tomb. The blind listened for a voice that never came. The infirm were imprisoned by wheels on a chair that never moved. Food grew cold on trays that would never reach the mouths of the hungry.

All the social agencies had closed their doors, unable to implement their programs for scouting, recreation, drug control, Big Sisters, Big Brothers, YWCA, YMCA, the retarded, the crippled, the lonely and the abandoned. The health agencies had a sign in the window: "Cures for cancer, muscular dystrophy, birth defects, multiple sclerosis, emphysema, sickle cell anemia, kidney disorders, heart diseases, etc., have been canceled due to lack of interest."

The flowers on church altars withered and died. Children in day nurseries lifted their arms but there was no one to hold them in love. Alcoholics cried out in despair, but no one answered, and the poor had no recourse for health care or legal aid.

But the saddest part of the journey was the symphony hall, which was dark and would remain that way. So were the museums that had been built and stocked by volunteers with the art treasures of our times.

I fought in my sleep to regain a glimpse of the ship of volunteers just one more time. It was to be my last glimpse of civilization . . . as we were meant to be.



A LETTER FROM COMPASSION'S PRESIDENT

Dear Partners in Christ,

As we closed out Compassion's fiscal year in June, I couldn't help but look beyond the numbers. Behind each number is a precious child, born into poverty and dearly loved by God. Behind each number is a faithful sponsor or donor, often giving sacrificially. And, especially in this past year of economic difficulty, I humbly recognize God's hand of provision that is so evident behind each number. I have often said that God hasn't promised to bless organizations, but He has promised to bless individuals who honor Him. **Compassion has been blessed this past year. And I believe this is largely because your generosity to children in need honors our Father in heaven.** I am overwhelmed with gratitude to God and to you, our ministry partners, as I share the following highlights of the 2009-2010 fiscal year:

- Compassion's worldwide revenue exceeded the half-billion mark to reach \$507 million. This represents a 26 percent increase over last year!
- The Child Survival Program grew by 50 percent and now addresses the needs of 21,298 little ones and their caregivers in 449 locations around the world.
- More than 2,100 promising university students are now participating in the Leadership Development Program across 18 countries. Since its creation, this program has graduated 1,238 students who are now prepared to demonstrate godly leadership in their communities.
- To better equip our church partners around the world who deliver Compassion's programs, 86 percent of our child sponsors agreed to increase their monthly sponsorship rate to \$38. We were once again amazed by your remarkable generosity!
- Our hearts were broken by the devastating earthquake that struck Haiti on January 12. In response, Compassion sponsors and donors worldwide contributed more than \$27 million in relief funds, resulting in the largest disaster response in Compassion history.

I hope it brings you great joy to see what the Lord has done through your faithful support. It is a privilege to partner with you in releasing children from poverty in Jesus' name. Sincerely in Him, Dr. Wess Stafford, President and CEO

**COMPASSION LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM UPDATE**

Would you like to help support Ezhumalai as he continues his nursing studies? He has done well these past two years with his schooling and developing his leadership skills. He will graduate in June of 2012. We would like to help him become a leader in India. Please contact Anita Foley at 288-2613 or by email at anitafoley63@yahoo.com.

FOR THE CHILDREN

By . . . Lois Anne Williams

The Treasure Hunt...Part 3

Sara and Kate greeted the other boys and girls when they entered their Sunday School classroom. All of the students recited the verse they had learned by memory and then each told how they had done what the verse said.

“I knew this would be fun,” Jeff said, remembering that last week he had said it would be fun. “I hunted for the gold chest and found it in the Christian Book Store. Here’s the pencil that was given to me when we opened the chest. I did my best to do what the verse says by being more kind to my brother.” “Here’s my pencil. I showed love by running an errand for my neighbor,” Annie said with a happy smile. “I listened to my little brother do his reading assignment and answer the questions in his book,” Peter reported.

When each person had told how they found the chest and the things they had done to show love to others, Mrs. Nye asked, “Did you think you had found any treasure this week?” “Sure,” Joe said. “I found the gold chest and chose a pencil. I found the words in my Bible and I found out what fun it was to obey them and love others.” “Me too,” agreed Jeff. The others all said they found the same things.

Mrs. Nye clapped her hands and smiled. “You have all done a great job on the first step of your treasure hunt adventure. You are ready for the next step. After we sing our music and read our Bible verses for this morning, I’ll give you the clue for your progress in the hunt this week.”

When Sara and Kate and the others left their classroom they held the second clue to the treasure hunt in their hands. They hurried to tell Kate’s parents and Sara’s mother about their morning class. During the worship

service they sang the hymns and listened to the choir. They heard their pastor talk about the good news of God’s love and remind them to share His love with those around them and throughout the world.

On the way home Sara said with a sigh, “I wish my dad was coming to church with us.” “So do I,” her Mother agreed. “He works a lot and he likes to play golf on Sunday. I think he sees how much our morning in church is giving us such joy and he may just want to join us.” “We hope he will,” Kate’s dad said.

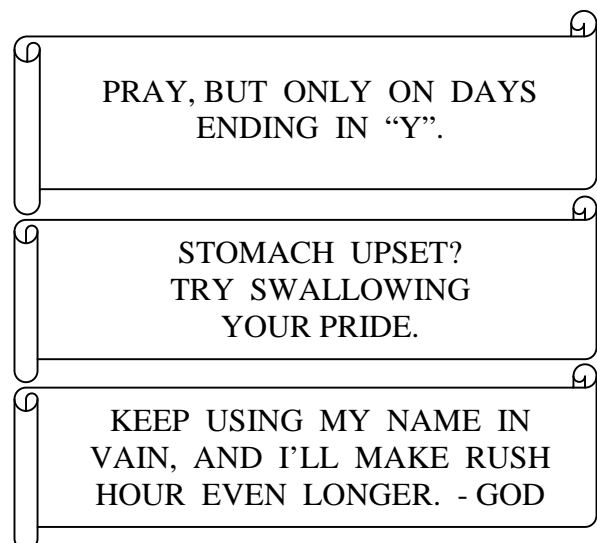
While the adults talked, Sara and Kate opened their clue and read the words there. *Look around you everywhere and see all that God gives us to enjoy. Find or make something to bring to class next Sunday to show one of God’s treasures.*

Sara and Kate looked at each other and smiled. “Where are you going to look first?” Kate asked. “Probably outdoors. I don’t know what I’ll find to take to class.” “Me either,” Kate said with a nod. “We have all week to work on it so I know we’ll find something.”

When Sara and her mother got out of the car they thanked Kate and her parents for taking them to church. “I’ll work hard on our hunt,” Sara said. “And you’ll both succeed.” Kate’s dad assured them. Sara knew he was right. She had just never thought about the things around her as gifts from God. She had always been grateful to her parents for all that she had. Now she was going to hunt for God’s many gifts to everyone. It would be fun. She would begin today. (to be continued)

SIGNS FROM GOD

As seen on billboards, church lawn signs and bulletin boards nationwide.





FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
133 E. Walnut Street
Hillsboro, Ohio 45133

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NUMBER #9
HILLSBORO, OHIO 45133

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

