

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Who Is My Neighbor?

Together We Make A World of Difference

One Great Hour of Sharing will be observed on Sunday, May 20. Since 1949, OGHS has been helping North Americans share their blessings with neighbors around the world. Together, our gifts support programs that:

- rebuild communities ravaged by natural disasters
- create sustainable sources of food and water for rural villages
- provide micro-credit for women to start businesses that provide years of income
- teach trades and job skills to people maimed by landmines
- offer children a chance to survive past the age of 5 and attend school...and so much more.

OGHS gives each of us an opportunity to be the Good Samaritan to our neighbors living in disastrous circumstances. Through our gifts, we show the kindness, compassion and mercy to which Jesus calls us. Jesus set a standard that wasn't easy to meet. By giving to OGHS, we show and share God's love—offering a hand to that stranger in need, and making a world of difference in the lives of our neighbors.

The bible theme for 2007 OGHS is based on Luke 10:25-37, The Good Samaritan. Banks are available in the narthex for anyone who would like one. A copy of the giving calendar is included in the Tower.

Benevolence Committee Members

Mary Lou Sheller,
Chairman

Annetta Muir
Shari Schultz

Dorothy
Bascombe

Judy Eisenberger

One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday, May 20

Please join us for the "Around
the World" Coffee Hour after the
service on May 20.

Dear Friends,

Here is your monthly written invitation into fellowship, fellowship with God, fellowship with your brothers and sisters. The Tower is but one of many signs: God is calling us together to shine out with him as the Light of the World. **“Let there be light!”**

God Bless!!

Pastor Jim

Please help if you can!

The U.S.O. is collecting supplies to be put into boxes that will be shipped to our troops in Iraq. There is a collection box in Fellowship Hall that you may put these items in. These items should be small bottles/containers, such as you would get at a hotel. The items requested include:

<u>Ladies Items</u>	<u>Men's Items</u>	<u>Food Items</u>
Deodorant	Deodorant	Tuna
Shampoo & Conditioner	Shampoo & Conditioner	Sardines
Combs & Brushes	Combs & Brushes	Jell-O Pudding Cups
Body cream & lotion	Body cream & lotion	Puddings
Foot Powder & cream	Foot Powder & cream	Hot Chocolate
Small toothpaste &	Small toothpaste &	Wrapped snack cakes, such as Little Debbie's
Wrapped tooth brushes	Wrapped tooth brushes	Snack crackers
Razors	Razors	Gum
Towelettes / Purell	Towelettes / Purell	Wrapped hard candy
New Socks	New Socks	Tic Tacs
New Underwear	New Underwear	Small cans of fruit
New T-Shirts	New T-Shirts	Dried fruits
New Sweatshirts	New Sweatshirts	Individual boxes of cereal
Pocket Calendars	Pocket Calendars	Vienna sausages
Flea Collars	Flea Collars	Instant soups
Small perfumes		Small juice boxes
Tampax		

Bits from Benevolence

A reminder still being collected for Church Women United are:

Used Eye Glasses - They may be left in the narthex or on the shelf to the right just inside the church library.

Pop Can Tabs - Put these in contain on counter being Fellowship Hall and kitchen.

Campbell Soup labels - May be left with the glasses or the tabs.

Thanks for your support!

Thanks for the extra support during Lent in the form of financial contributions and non-perishable foods given for the Emergency Assistance Center.

Along with the thank you from Church World Service for the health kits put together as a joint effort of Women's Fellowship, Vacation Bible School, and the contributions of the congregation, was the report of the numbers of kits and where distributed 2006. This informative report is posted on the hall bulletin board for your reference.

Posted on the Global Ministry Bulletin Board at the bottom of the steps from the narthex is a newsletter from Thandiwe Goble-dale, daughter of missionaries Todd and Ana Goble-dale. Thandiwe, age 22, is serving as a Global Missions intern in southern India.

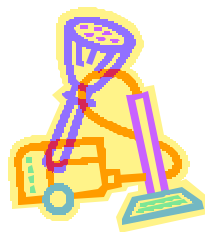
Lockup Trustee for the month of May - Bob Heston

Seekers Prayer Shawl Ministry

The number of prayer shawls/scarfs distributed is close to 250! Many thanks to those who watch for our special yarn to be on sale and then buy and contribute the yarn to the ministry. Also, thanks for the directed donations to the ministry that has allowed a supply of yarn to be available as needed. Also the efforts of Judy Richner and the children in Wiggle Church need to be gratefully recognized for the great job decorating bags for the prayer shawls. A reminder that Seekers usually meets from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the second and fourth Mondays each month with an exception in May as they will not be meeting on the fourth Monday since it is Memorial Day.

APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS AND...

The "opportunity" to help spruce up the church flower beds. An extra effort is made to get the flower beds planted before Memorial Day. The clean up will begin as soon as possible in May to prepare for the planting just prior to the Memorial Day weekend (depending on the weather). Please, if you can help even for an hour, see either Marge Roberts or Mary Lou Sheller.



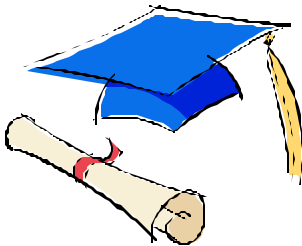
Another "opportunity" to help will be on Monday, May 7 at 7:00 p.m. The Trustees will be meeting to clean up the parsonage. Anyone able to help will be welcome. For more specifics, please see Bob Hewett or any of the Trustees.



The planning process for the 2007 'Great Bible Reef'

Vacation Bible School is underway! The dates are Monday through Friday, June 18-22 from 6-8:30 PM. We

are currently seeking volunteers to help teach and to help with the following: sign-up and registration; arts and crafts; games and activities (which includes a science section this year!); snacks; and decorations. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated! The next VBS meeting will be on Tuesday, April 1 after the Christian Ed meeting which begins at 7:00 p.m. Please contact Debbie Dolfi at 330.405.6916 or dolfi@adelphia.net, or any of the Christian Education Committee members for information. Registration blanks are available in this issue of the Tower or from any Christian Ed member.



The following people will be graduating this year. They will be recognized on Christian Ed Sunday. If anyone has any information about anyone else graduating, please contact the office.

Twinsburg High School

Ashley Bissell	Darren Branch
Caryn Keffer	Sara Lessman
Emily Schmidt	Matt Schultz

Colleges & Universities

Andrea Bissell (Suma Cum Laude)
Michelle Cook
Denice Sheehan

Congratulations to everyone!!

May activities for the Youth Group -

May 6 - Lasers or Whirlyball

May 20 - Digital Scavenger Hunt



Relay For Life Fundraiser -

Don't forget to buy your chances on the Relay For Life items that are available. They include a cooler on wheels, a picnic basket, a rolling duffel bag, and a beach chair. Each chance is \$1.00. The drawing will be held on Saturday, June 2 at the Relay For Life event. You need not be present to win. Make all checks payable to the American Cancer Society. All items are on display downstairs in Fellowship Hall. Members will be available to answer any questions.



You are invited to a **Ladies' Spring Tea** on Saturday, May 5 from 1:30 - 4 p.m. at Christ the King Church on Ravenna Road in Twinsburg.

The program will feature special guest, Deaconess Jeanette Rebeck, director of Discipleship Ministries, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Westlake, Ohio. Please bring an appetizer, dessert or finger food to share along with your favorite tea cup to enjoy your favorite tea. Feel free to bring a friend or relative. Please RSVP to Janet Schiopota at 330-562-6773 or jschiopota@adelphia.net.

Adult Bible Study meets on the 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Thursdays, at 6:30 p.m. in the library. Joel Pietrantozzi is conducting the class. Brown bag dinners are welcome for those coming directly from work.

Women's Fellowship Luncheon
and meeting

Thursday, May 3, 2007

12:00 Noon Pot Luck Luncheon

Bring food to share and table service

President: Dorothy Bascombe

Hostesses: Mary Lou Sheller
& Elsie Peel

Devotions: Vi Downer

Guest Speaker: Jeanette Abell

Discipleship Coordinator

Blessings of Summit & Portage Counties

Women's Fellowship will be sponsoring our next "Super" Supper that will take place on Wednesday, May 16 at 6:00 p.m. The Council meeting will take place afterwards, beginning at 7:30 p.m. These special suppers were started during Lent, but have continued. The great response has not only come from the congregation, but also from the committees sponsoring them. Come and join us for an evening of good food and good fellowship. You only need to bring yourself and possibly a friend.

Evening Women's Fellowship

On May 21st, the Evening Women's Fellowship will meet for dinner at Mavis Winkle's. We will meet there at 6:00 p.m.

Please let Carol Zenisek know if you are planning to attend.

Everyone is welcome to join us.



Mother's Day Flowers

*In memory of or honor of
any special woman
in your life!*

Please place this order form and your check made payable to the church into the offering plate or drop it off at the office by May 7th. Please note "Mother's Day flowers" on your check. It would be appreciated if you could order early so we can get some idea of how many to order.

Number of pots: _____ x \$12.00 = _____

In Memory Of: _____

In Memory Of: _____

In Honor Of: _____

Presented By: _____

Sponsored by the Fellowship Committee

DIRECTIONS TO OUR FATHER'S HOUSE

Make a Right onto Believeth Blvd.

Keep straight and go through the Green Light, which is Jesus Christ.

There, you must turn onto the Bridge of Faith , which is over troubled water.

When you get off the bridge, make a Right turn and Keep Straight.

You are on the King's Highway - Heaven-bound.

Keep going for three miles: One for the Father,

One for the Son, and One for the Holy Ghost.

Then exit off onto Grace Blvd.

From there, make a Right turn on to Gospel Lane .

Keep Straight and then make another Right on Prayer Road .

As you go on your way, YIELD NOT to the traffic on TEMPTATION AVE.

Also, avoid SIN STREET because it is a DEAD END.

Pass up ENVY DRIVE, and HATE AVENUE .

Also, pass HYPOCRISY STREET, GOSSIPING LANE , and BACKBITING BLVD.

However, you have to go down Long-suffering Lane,

Persecution Blvd. and Trials and Tribulations Ave.

But that's all right, because VICTORY STREET is straight ahead!

AMEN!!!!!!

Life is God's gift to you.

The way you live it.....is your gift to God.

Sent to the church by Bob Hewett

Thank you, Bob.

Save these dates on your calendar. More details will be in the Tower next month and also in the Sunday Bulletins:

Sunday, June 10 - Christian Ed Sunday and All Church Picnic. The picnic will be at the Park this year. There is a sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall for what you wish to bring. Drinks, meat, buns, will be provided.

Sunday, June 17 - Father's Day Manly Man's Breakfast - sponsored by Fellowship Committee. There is a sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Dad's eat free. Donations are accepted.

Saturday, July 7 - Church Night for the Akron Aeros game. Fireworks following the game. See Gayle Davet if you wish to order tickets.

Happy Birthday to:

Jessie Prentice	05/02/07
Cassie Pietrantozzi	05/02/07
Eddie Martinez	05/08/07
Amanda Murphy	05/08/07
Madeline Maynard	05/08/07
Lauren Bissell	05/11/07
Katie Smeallie	05/12/07
Melissa Felixson	05/13/07
Ray Kriedman	05/13/07
Jennifer Prentice	05/13/07
Marian Murphy	05/15/07
Mark Miller	05/19/07
Katie Prentice	05/19/07
Joey Schultz	05/20/07
Kelly Piaser	05/31/07



In Remembrance of -

CAROLYN W. CROUSE (nee Wirsch), age 90, of Twinsburg, beloved wife of Charles E.; dear mother of Dr. C.B. (Doreen) Crouse Ph.D. and Carole (Brian) Kowell; loving grandmother of Janine Zaucha, Colleen and Valerie Griffin, Kristen and Brian Crouse; sister of Eleanor Gromen and the late William Wirsch. She passed away on Easter Sunday, April 8. The funeral services were held here at the church on Thursday, April 12. She will be sadly missed.

Mary Miller, mother of Mark Miller, passed away. She had been ill for some time. Funeral Services were held in Washington, Pennsylvania on Saturday, April 14. She will also be sadly missed.

News has come via Rev. Philip Hunt that his father, Kenneth, passed away December 29th in Alliance Community Hospital. A memorial service was held at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Alliance on January 6, 2007. He & Deloris had been faithful members of our church prior to moving, and we are saddened by the loss.

Congratulations to -

David & Yvette Schilling and their family, Tara, Melissa, and David. They became members of our church on Sunday, April 15. Please welcome them into our family. They reside at: 8490 Ravenna Road, Twinsburg, Ohio. Welcome to our family!!!

Happy Anniversary to:

Kevin, Sr. & Vera Murphy, 5/4/1996
Steve & Kathy Lessman, 05/10/1986
Tony & Veronica Roberson, 5/16/1981
Wilfred & Joan Terrill, 05/17/1997
Richard & Chia-Wen Paponetti, 05/17/2003
Bob & Gayle Davet, 5/22/1982
Mike & Emily Hoy, 5/30/2004

If we missed your birthday or anniversary, please call the church office so we can update our records.

May Schedule

May Servers

Ken Prentice
 Carol Zenisek
 Rick Sheehan
 Mike Muir
 Will Adams
 Andrea Bissell - Bread
 Kenny Prentice - Greeters
 Dan Richner - Lay Readers



Communion will be

Sunday, May 6th this month

WANTED - Lay Readers - Every Sunday the Deacons are responsible for having a lay reader in the pulpit to help the Pastor during the service. We are trying to get more people in front of the congregation. Anyone interested in participating, please see a member of Diaconate so that you can get on the schedule. All ages are welcome. There is no pressure, we would just like to get more people involved in the worship service.



Scrap Booking Friday

May 18, 2007

6:00 p.m.—midnight
in the Fellowship Hall

	Sunday School	Worship Service
April 1 st	51	115
April 5 th	Maundy Thursday	50
April 6 th	Good Friday	52
April 8 th	Sonrise Service	125
	Regular Service	148
April 15 th	54	100
April 22 nd	54	110

Wanted! - We need volunteers to run the sound board for the new sound system. The new camera has been installed and can also be run from the sound board. Anyone interested, please see Bob Hewett or let the office know. It is not difficult, and this ensure that everyone has a much nicer experience during the worship service.



Acolytes

May 13, 2007
Sophie Keith
 Robert Hoyt

May 06, 2007
Joey Schultz
 Caitlyn Sheehan

May 20, 2007
Melissa Schilling
 Tara Schilling

May 27, 2007
Kayla Bencie
 Madison Remick

The families of the names in **bold** have Acolyte Coordinator Duty and should light the sticks and assist the acolytes.

Please see the instruction sheet posted on the wall next to the sticks.

If you are unable to serve on your assigned week,

please find a replacement and notify the church office of the change.

Thank you!

I am Tired.

ISAIAH 40 ²⁸ *Do you not know? Have you not heard?*

*The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He will not grow tired or weary, and His understanding no one can fathom.*

²⁹ *He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.*

³⁰ *Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall;*

³¹ *but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength.*

*They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.*

You know what? I am tired. I am sure that many of us feel this way. Whether it is school, work, or even church, tired is a condition that many of us can relate to. However, being tired isn't generally sited as a condition worth mentioning. In our Sunday service, when the Pastor asks the congregation for prayer concerns, no one ever raises their hand and says, "Pray for me. I'm tired." Indeed, I am writing about being tired because I am too tired to think of another topic.

This is not a lament or a complaint. I am not throwing this out there to gain attention to anything that I have accomplished with work or in the church as I enjoy all of those responsibilities. Nope, it's real simple – I'm tired and I have felt tired for a couple of weeks.

Our scripture written in Isaiah serves as encouragement for all of us and reminds us that God does understand and is with us during our trials and tribulations, even the more mundane ones like being tired. As Christians, we believe in a God that took the form of human to walk among His people and provide a message and means of salvation. The Gospels record that Jesus Christ, as God Incarnate, was tired, thirsty, and hungry during His earthly ministry. While Christ endured the greatest of temptations and suffering on our behalf, he also understands the day-to-day challenges of the human condition.

Summer beckons. The consistent good weather is just around the corner, and I am looking forward for new opportunities to spend time with family and friends. In the meantime, if you are feeling a little tired, then join me in a "mundane" prayer of "Lord, I am tired. Renew in me your Spirit". We will find a God who listens, understands, and responds to our prayer.

In Christ,

Joel S. Pietrantozzi

On the square in Twinsburg
since 1848



**Dated Material —
Please Rush!**



e-mail: firstcongregationalchurch@windstream.net

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Fax: 330-425-1759

Office Hours:
Monday through Friday
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

A Publication of the First Congregational Church of Twinsburg
9050 Church Street
Twinsburg, OH 44087

**NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
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TWINSBURG, OH
PERMIT NO. 113**

A Publication of the First Congregational Church of Twinsburg



**Come worship with us
and bring a friend!
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.**

Tower Submissions

Articles for the *Tower* may be e-mailed directly to the church at firstcongregationalchurch@windstream.net. Hard copies, CD's, or diskettes may be dropped off at the office.

Tower deadlines are posted on the monthly calendar and in the Sunday worship bulletin. For questions, or to be added to or taken off the mailing list, please send an e-mail or call the church office at 330-425-2181.

Inside this issue:

Message from the Pastor	2
Bits from Benevolence	3
News from Christian Ed	4
Women's Fellowship, Flower Order	5
Directions to Our Father's House	6
Member News	7
May Schedules	8
Message from the Moderator	9