

The Tower September 2007



Message from the Pastor:

Dear Friends,
I'm one year old: I preached my first sermon here on September 3, 2006!

Perhaps I now know my way around here a little more than I did last September. Nevertheless "Better is a poor and wise youth than old and foolish king, who will no longer take advice, even though he had gone from prison to the throne or in his own kingdom had been poor." (Ecclesiastes 5:13-14)

Let us continue to bow before the majesty of God, who sets the times and the seasons as we await His eternal kingdom!

Pastor Jim

The Fall Worship Schedule will resume on Sunday, September 9th. It will begin at 9 a.m. with a Continental Breakfast in Fellowship Hall. At 9:30 we will gather in the sanctuary for some songs and announcements and then break out into our Sunday School classes for a little introductory time. Worship service will then begin at 10:30 a.m. The Adult Choir will resume singing during the worship service. The Children's Choir will practice in the choir room after the Children's Sermon. They will sing on the last Sunday of the month. Youth group will also begin on September 9 in the evening. Youth group is open to grades 6 - 12. They usually meet at the church.

A PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Opening Day for **YOUTH GROUP!**

September 9th

Join us for food, games, fun,
and fellowship!

Sunday, September 9, 4 - 6:30 p.m. at the first pavilion in Chamberlin Park. Hot dogs, burgers, chips will be provided. All you need bring is your own beverage. Youth and families are invited. Please RSVP to Terri Bissell, Joel Pietrantozzi, Diane Powell, or leave a message with the office. Youth group is open to everyone grade 6 - 12. Come and join in the fellowship and fun.

Tentative Fall Schedule

Sept. 23 - Possible canoeing trip.
More details to follow.

Oct. 7 - Planning for the year and the Halloween Party. Meet at the church from 6 - 8 p.m.

Oct. 28 - Family Halloween Party set-up and party. Decorating times to be announced later.

Harold Munn has moved to Legacy Village. His new address and phone number are:

Harold Munn
9928 Vail Drive, Apt 111, Twinsburg, OH 44087
Phone: 330-405-8011

Bits from Benevolence

With so many worthwhile agencies requesting donations, the Benevolence Committee is hesitant in asking people to direct some of their giving through the church and the committee. A reminder though that funds can be directed through your church giving to agencies that are not necessarily church related. This way you will have a record of the donation provided in the quarterly statement, respond to a need of your choice, and not be on another mailing list. Just note the agency on your giving envelope; the Red Cross and the Salvation Army are examples of two such agencies. Recently, a contribution was directed to "Save the Children", a relief agency that focuses on providing basic care for children in areas of desperate poverty.

Also, by making non-directed donations to Missions/Benevolence, the committee can respond when requests are received. This summer, for example, the church was able help a local young man working on an Eagle Scout project with mailing expenses for items collected for children in Iraq. Thanks for your support!

With the recent flooding in Findlay and Shelby, Ohio, the Ohio Conference of the United Church of Christ has been providing help and relief. If you would like to donate to help the flood victims, just note that on your check, and the money will be directed as requested.

Women's Fellowship News . . .

VOLUME 53
ISSUE 9
THE TOWER

Women's Fellowship luncheon
and meeting begin again
Thursday, September 6, 2007
12:00 Noon
Pot Luck lunch

Bring food to share
and table service

President: Mary Lou Sheller

Hostesses: Dorothy Bascombe &
Vi Downer

Devotions: Marge Roberts

As has been the custom the past few years, the daytime women's fellowship will have a memory luncheon at the September gathering honoring the faithful women from the church's past and in the lives of those in attendance. Members and friends of the church are invited and encouraged to bring a dish to share that has a special memory to you OR a dish prepared from a recipe found in one of the church cookbooks.

Special guest for the luncheon will be Rita Gabrovsek who will share some of her knowledge of herbs and their history. Rita has been instrumental in developing the herb garden that is located near the "stone house" at Liberty Park in Twinsburg.

Help! We are looking for volunteer parents to help out with Youth Group this year. We have many new kids joining youth group this year, so any help would be appreciated. Even if you can only commit for a few meetings or activities, your help would be greatly appreciated. Please see Terri Bissell, Joel Pietrantozzi or Diane Powell.

The pulpit committee has met nine times since the Annual Meeting in January. We finished most of our preparatory work in spring: defining our church's needs and goals, describing pastoral requirements, learning the search process, consulting with the Western Reserve Association of the UCC, and planning in detail how to proceed. We began receiving and studying the profiles of interested ministers in June, and we have contacted six "possibles" so far.

These steps of the search process are complete:

- √ Surveyed the congregation on pastoral requirements, and compared the results to those from the last search and profile
- √ Collected demographic, financial and statistical information concerning Twinsburg and our church
- √ Reviewed and updated our church profile
- √ Discussed our church profile with our interim pastor
- √ Discussed our church profile, our pastoral requirements, and the roles of our church and the UCC in the search process, with UCC association minister Rev. Curt Ackley
- √ Placed opportunity ads on the UCC Western Reserve Association website and our website
- √ Provided screening criteria for the Western Reserve Association to use in screening ministers' profiles
- √ Selected interview questions for the initial phone interview with promising candidates

These steps are ongoing:

- Receiving and reviewing ministerial profiles from the Western Reserve Association
- Sending our church profile to the ministers we find promising
- Interviewing by phone those ministers who share an interest in us
- Listening to recorded sermons preached by the ministers that we have interviewed
- Visiting the candidate ministers at their current churches, or bringing the candidate ministers to our area to preach in a local pulpit, and interviewing them in person
- Discussing the terms of a potential call with interested candidates

These steps, when the time comes, will be completed by working with the council and congregation:

- ✍ When convinced a minister has a mutual call with us to be our pastor, making a recommendation to the council and congregation
- ✍ If necessary, adjusting the terms of a potential call with the recommended minister
- ✍ Having the recommended minister conduct a Sunday service
- ✍ Voting on whether to call the recommended minister as our pastor

To date, we have received and reviewed eighteen ministerial profiles. Of the six ministers we have contacted, one (so far) has been interviewed by phone. We are awaiting four responses to our church profile.

Progress is reported every month to council. Also, minutes of all our meetings, along with a copy of our profile, are available for anyone's review in the church narthex.

Committee members: Ron Valentine, chair; Ariel Bissell, Terri Bissell, Gayle Davet, Janet Hanzel, Tom Holzwarth, Mike Muir, Joel Pietrantozzi, Carol Zenisek.

September Schedule



September 2, 2007

Gwen Richner

Jason Powell

September 9, 2007

Isaac Link

Sophie Keith

September 16, 2007

Joey Schultz

Kevin Powell

September 23, 2007

Seth Richner

Tara Schilling

September 30, 2007

David Schilling

Robert Hoyt

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

If you are unable to serve on your assigned week, please find a replacement and notify the church office of the change. Thank you!

September Servers

Kenny Prentice

Dan Richner

Judy Turk

Bonnie Williams

Ken Prentice

Carol Zenisek - Bread

Rick Sheehan - Greeters

Mike Muir - Lay Readers



Communion will be

September 9th this month

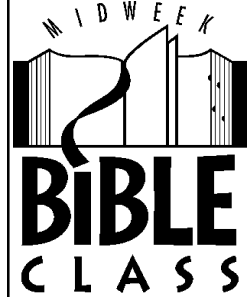
Those attending church who wish to receive communion need to be present in the sanctuary.

Adult Choir practice resumes on Thursday, September 6. Practices are held on Thursday evenings beginning at 7:30



**Scrap Booking Friday
September 14, 2007**

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



Adult Bible Study

will resume once Sunday School has started. The regular schedule will be on the 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. in the library. Joel Pietran-tozzi will be conducting the class. Please RSVP to the office if you are interested in attending the class. You will be notified of the exact starting date for this class. Any questions, please contact the office.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday School Worship Service

July 29 th	None	65
Aug 5 th	None	59
Aug 12 th	None	67
Aug 19 th	None	N/A
Aug 26 th	None	90

Knitwitter Update - Second Quarter 2007

Donated to the Metro Health Preemie Unit :

6/15	YTD	Item
32	290	Preemie Hats
86	212	Preemie Blankets
22	62	Pairs of Booties

Donated to the Blessings of Summit & Portage Counties :

6/11	YTD	Item
4	27	Crocheted Baby Blankets
3	15	Tied Quilts
20	20	Receiving Blankets donated by Millie Frieling

Donated to the Cancer Unit at VFW Ladies Auxiliary Convention in Akron :

6/17	YTD	Item
5	5	Crocheted Lap Robes

Donated to the Hospice of Western Reserve :

6/15	YTD	Item
11	68	Lap Robes

Donated to the Cancer Units at Cleveland Hospitals (donated by Lynn Holman) :

6/17	YTD	Item
11	11	Lap Robes
41	41	Soft Toys made by Millie Frieling

Donated to the U.S.O. Service for Families :

6/15	YTD	Item
5	5	Tied Quilts

The Knitwitters meet on the first and third Thursdays every month from 10:00 am until noon in Fellowship Hall. They are very busy ladies. All knitters and crocheters are welcome. If you would like to learn, they can teach you.

U.S.O. Donations Update

On August 7th, the U.S.O. sent a van to pick up the items that the Ladies of the VFW Auxiliary, Post 4929, had been collecting. The church was part of that collection. I would like to thank everyone in the congregation for those donations. Along with other groups, **we were able to send over four thousand items for our troops.** We will continue to collect donations for the troops. The boxes for these items are in Fellowship Hall. The boxes are decorated, and the list of items needed are on the boxes. There are four young men from our area who have parents or grandparents in our auxiliary. There are two young men that have ties to our congregation. Thank you, thank you, thank you for your generosity. Please continue to keep our troops in your prayers and on your shopping list.

Louise Jackson



No one likes to think about facing grief; however, it comes with the experiences of life. Therefore, there is a special collection in the church library dealing with grief. There are books for all ages and situations including:

Listening with the Heart - Designed to bring healing and hope to those who grieve.

Waiting for the Whales - Looks at the cycle of life and nature focusing on a special relationship between a grandfather and grandchild.

Talking with Children about Loss - Words, strategies, and wisdom to help children cope with death, divorce, and other difficult times.

Dying and Death - A resource designed to help one give witness to faith in the face of death.

Beyond Widowhood - The author, a widower, examines the difficult time emerging from the death of a loved one.

When a Friend Dies - Offers comfort for those who has lost a friend.

Funeral Services - A recent donation to the library, this book is not only for pastors but for persons facing an especially difficult funeral or time of loss.

On a brighter note, for persons who enjoy a light, easy read based on true life experiences, there are two books in the library: *Bryson City Tales* and *Bryson City Seasons*. Written by Walt Larimore, M.D., the stories in the first book tell about how his first year of medical practice in the Smoky Mountains shaped his practice of life and faith as a young doctor who found he had a lot to learn from those with whom he came in contact. The sequel takes the reader through the seasons of another year of Dr. Larimore's experiences with the people and events in Bryson City, North Carolina. Yes, there really is a Bryson City and Dr. Larimore is a real doctor who will delight the reader who join him on his journey of growth including his faith and spiritual growth as a doctor.

Christian Women's Fellowship Retreat Camp Asbury—Shaw Retreat Center **September 21-23, 2007**

It is hard to believe, but it is that time of year again. It is time for our wonderful annual retreat at Camp Asbury in Hiram, Ohio. The theme is **Weebles, Wobbles and Faith**. "*Give your worries to the Lord, and He will take care of you. He will never let good people down.*" Psalm 55:22 (NCV) Some of the topics to cover related to the theme will be "In the beginning - the basics", "I'm wobbling and it's so dark", and "I'm upright, alright and Yours!" It should be an outstanding time of prayer and praise for our Lord and Savior. The total cost is \$77.00, which includes 5 meals and 2 nights lodging. Everyone must prepay! The registration deadline is September 9. Send registration fees and forms to: Dana Flenner, 11977 Waywood Drive, Twinsburg, Ohio. Registration blanks and information are available from Marge Roberts. Any questions, please see Marge Roberts or email Dana Flenner at flenner@roadrunner.com.

Member News

Happy Birthday

to:

Elaine Mueller

09/01/07

Nancy Wolff

09/01/07

Chrissy Delgado

09/02/07

Liz Murch

09/03/07

Lea Bissell

09/03/07

Stan Cook

09/06/07

Matt Schmidt

09/06/07

Charla Bissell

09/09/07

Richard Barnes

09/11/07

Kevin Powell

09/13/07

David Schilling

09/16/07

Cory Smeallie

09/19/07

Annetta Muir

09/19/07

Don Irvin

09/22/07

Adda Reihl

09/26/07

Oliver Mayer

09/27/07

Karen Holzwarth

09/30/07

Esther Corbett

09/30/07

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



Happy Anniversary to:

Don & Luvette Irvin
09/01/2002

Terry & Carol Neal
09/06/1971

Dick & Mary Lou Sheller
09/10/1955

Dan & Judy Richner
09/11/1993

Dave & Liz Murch
09/12/1970

Patrick & Erin Hooper
09/14/2002

Will & Marge Adams
09/18/2004

Troy & Debbie Dolfi
09/24/1994



MEMORY WALK

More than 5 million Americans are now suffering from the devastating effects of Alzheimer's disease. Family members and friends must deal with their loved one's confusion, trouble with organizing and expressing thoughts, misplacing things, getting lost in familiar places, and changes in personality and behavior. We've learned most of what we know about Alzheimer's in the last 15 years. There is an accelerating worldwide effort under way to find better ways to treat the disease, delay its onset, or prevent it from developing. **YOU CAN HELP!** Donate to the Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk. Several members of our church will be walking in memory of their loved ones. Please consider making a donation. A donation box is located in Fellowship Hall. Look for the Memory Walk poster.

**Lockup Trustee for the
month of September -
Terri Bissell**

The 2007 Pedal to the Point is now history. On August 18th & 19th over 2500 cyclists participated in the 2007 version of the Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society's Pedal to the Point benefit ride. Nearly all these cyclists rode to Sandusky the first day, a nearly perfect day for biking. Unfortunately the second day was a different story. We left Sandusky at 7:00 am in rain and about 60 degree weather which continued the entire day non stop. At the lunch stop at Lorain County JVS (about 45 miles), they declared that the finish line for the wet, cold cyclists but gave us the option of continuing if we chose, on to the Berea Fairgrounds. The rest were bussed back to Berea. The majority took that option; we did not. Therefore at about 2:45 pm (about 78 miles) we pedaled into the Fairgrounds. Many have asked how long it takes me of actual riding time. According to my bikes computer it was 6 hrs 19 minutes on the saddle. I said "takes me" because many take less time. The difference is lunch and rest stops.



The number of cyclists was up again approximately 100 from last year. Preliminary figures estimate close to \$1,000,000 was raised to promote research toward finding a cure for this dreaded disease. The motto is now "A start to finish MS"

Again, the success of this tour is greatly, not because of the cyclists, like myself, that rode but because of the many people such as yourselves, my church family. You were willing to open up your hearts and purses to lend support, both emotionally, spiritually and financially to make my effort a success. For this I am ever grateful and thank you all so very, very much.

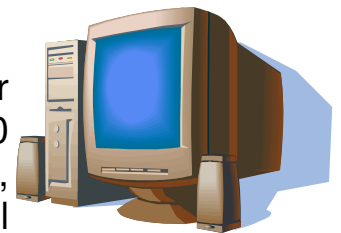
I also want to thank my pedaling partners, my nephews, Larry Verbic who rode the entire ride with me, and also his son Doug. Doug is now 13 years old and is a veteran MS Bike Tour rider. When you see him he really deserves a great big pat on the back. He did a great job.

God willing we will be back for the 2008 Tour to which we have already registered. Again thank you all very, very much and God Bless You,

Dick Sheller

Recycle your old electronics!

The computer recycling day to be held on Saturday, September 29th at the Public Works on Ravenna Road from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. They will be collecting used computers, CPU's, monitors, printers, cell phones, electronic accessories, and electric cords. All hard drives will be erased and the computers are restored and given to schools, churches and charities. This provides a safe way to remove old computer equipment and ensures no identity theft. Public works will also be collecting old phone books for recycling on that date.



Taboo Topic

2CO 8¹² For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have.¹³ Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality.¹⁴ At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. Then there will be equality,¹⁵ as it is written: "He who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little."

As 2007 rolls past us in the blink of an eye, the time is arriving when the Church Committees and Council need to start planning for 2008. As such, the Stewardship Committee will start their Fall Campaign of the Pledge drive that will be used as a component for determining the 2008 budget. For the first time in just under 2 years of writing these articles, I feel compelled to discuss the topic of providing financially to the church - a topic that can be a sensitive one for some people.

In contemporary society, it is unfortunate that some people that ask for money from a pulpit, outside of biblical guidelines, have the loudest microphones as their message is shown on television. They preach the 'Prosperity Gospel' and promise that God will bless us and intervene favorably in our lives only if we will send in a donation. Others will imply that our salvation and our very standing with God depend on how much we give to the church. It is no wonder that a few 'bad apples' have turned the very real topic of giving into one that can receive a jaded response from the listener.

However, the topic of giving is a necessary one that we will need to explore together in the coming months. I feel blessed that, as Moderator of the First Congregational Church of Twinsburg, that I can discuss the financial needs of the church with a clear conscience. The annual budget of the church is modest and, coupled with the hundreds of volunteer hours from many faithful servants of the church, I can attest to the fact that the dollars are spent wisely and prudently.

In spite of the gracious giving of time and talents by many members, First Congregational is not raising enough money to cover our operating expenses and, in 2007, this is a condition that appears to be headed in the wrong direction as our deficit of current contributions to cover current expenses grows larger. As such, this is a real issue that we will need to bring before the congregation for review and consideration.

Let us all be in prayer about how we can financially support the church. As Christians, we are all saved only by the Grace of God through our faith in the redeeming work of Christ's sacrifice. We are called to share the 'Good News' of this free gift of salvation with others. Let us come together so that we can support this Commission through the church, glorying God and learning how to be joyful in our giving.

If you have questions or comments on this important matter, please email me at jpietran-tozzi@yahoo.com.

In Christ,

Joel S. Pietrantozzi

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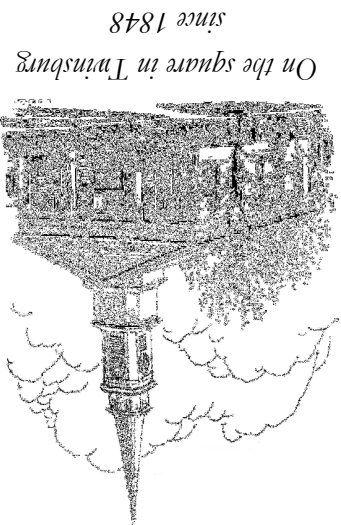
Come worship with us!
Summer Worship Service
 begins at 9:30 a.m.
Regular worship at 10:30
 with Sunday School at 9:15
 resumes September 9th.

Tower Submissions

Articles for the *Tower* may be e-mailed directly to the church at firstcongregational.church@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.

THE TOWER
 ISSUE 9
 VOLUME 53



Dated Material—
 Please Rush!



e-mail: firstcongregational.church@windstream.net

Church: 330-425-2181
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Office Hours:
 Monday through Friday
 9 a.m. to 1p.m.

A Publication of the First Congregational Church

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