



Message from the Pastor:

Dear Friends,

I am not yet history; I am with you for a longer time than we had come to expect. Well, let me declare that I remain glad for you and rejoice with ever greater joy at the privilege of your fellowship as we walk together. Let us celebrate all the signs of the Living Lord who walks among us and before us as He makes His way through history and calls us to follow Him, signs which we ourselves, as His witnesses, raise us for one another and for the world so that His path may be made clear to all, so that all may give thanks that He Himself is the way, the truth, and the life. Let us remember that every hymn we sing, even when we say "I", remains a "We." Let us lift up our hearts to the Lord, and let us follow Him into the depths of human existence, hearing His loving, living and abiding promise: "Lo, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

God bless you all!

Pastor Jim



Can You
Spare
A Drop?



Tuesday, February 26th

2-7 p.m.

Bring valid
photo ID.

**There is a blood emergency! Please plan to
donate if you can.**

From the Gobledales. . .

In the December/January United Church news, there is an article written by Thandiwe Gobledale, daughter of Todd and Ana Gobledale. It talks about being a child of missionaries in southern Africa. It is very interesting reading. The article is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway downstairs. Stop by and take a moment to read it.

Bits from Benevolence



BLANKET SUNDAY - February 17 has been designated Blanket Sunday at First Congregational and provides an opportunity for our church to reach out to those less fortunate in two ways:

(1) Bring in new or very gently used blankets or bedding, which will be distributed locally where it is decided the items can be used the most – a homeless shelter, battered women home, or the Emergency Center. The items may be brought to the church any time through February 17.

(2) Monetary donations to the Church World Service Tools and Blanket program. Through this program, our church joins 8000

other congregations and groups across the U.S. to provide more than \$3.7 million dollars to help people in some 80 nations, including the U.S. The right tool at the right time can make a world of difference in the lives of children and families faced with an emergency or struggling to keep food on the table. The multi-purpose CWS blanket (see the sample in the sanctuary) is often the only source of protection and warmth as a wrap, tent, or bed for thousands of people facing the elements due to poverty and or natural disaster.

Either way, your gifts are greatly appreciated!!!



CHRISTMAS FUND THANK YOU -

Thank you for your generous response to the Christmas/Christmas Eve offering. The total of \$1159.23 allowed \$385 each to be directed to Church World Service Disaster Relief and the UCC Christmas Fund (formerly Veterans of the Cross). The balance \$389.23 allowed our church to reach out to 2 different families/friends of the church who needed help with their utility bills over the holidays.

LETTERS FROM PALDEN AND TENZIN –

See the latest pictures and letters on the bulletin board from the two children sponsored through Global Ministries. Even though Palden (now 18) is no longer eligible for sponsorship, he responded to letters sent by the Junior High Sunday School class. The class has also written to Tenzin, the 12 year-old girl living in the same Tibetan refugee camp in Darjeeling, India, who we are now sponsoring.

LENTEN FAST - The Benevolence Committee again suggests for those who are able to fast during Lent. This may be done by giving up one meal a week, an evening snack, a favorite food, etcetera and turn the “giving up” into a “giving of” not only with extra time spent in meditation and reflection but with an extra gift of food for the Emergency Center or a monetary gift for a hunger center. As always, the non-perishable food items may be placed in the container in the hall by the kitchen.

From the Church Library. . .

The church library has been fortunate to have several books donated recently and are featured on the library cart. A special gift is the book, *Katherine's Guilt*, a warm and loving story about what matters most in life; home and family. Of particular interest to this congregation is that a music CD to accompany the story is included with the music written by Sharon (Lippitt) Kazee, who is now Dean of the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities. Sharon, daughter of Dottie Lippitt and the late Richard Lippitt, grew up in this church and is also the granddaughter of the Reverend Austin Lippitt, a former pastor at this church.



Other works of fiction donated include:

Christ the Lord by Anne Rice, a historical fiction and mystery, which presents Jesus as nature mystic, healer, prophet, while still being a young boy struggling to understand his gifts.

From a mystery series published by Guideposts, *Through the Fire* and *A State of Grace* take place in Copper Mill, Tennessee and are about a minister's wife and her experiences in this charming town nestled in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains.

Many thanks to Andrea Bennett for her work in getting all the church library material labeled, which reminds borrowers to return the material to the church library. As a result, it is no longer necessary to sign items out; just return them to the library cart or the container just inside the library.



Youth Group Lock-in

February 2, 2008 8:00 p.m.

Bring sleeping bag, pillow
and extra blankets.

Movies, board games, snack to
share, clothes for church.

(yes, bring tooth brushes and deodorant)

Super Bowl Subs will be made,
movies will be watched
and games to be played.

Sleep is optional.

Subs will be distributed on

Sunday, February 3.

If you have not yet done so, please pay for
them when you pick them up.

Thanks for everyone's support!

The next meeting of the Relay for Life team is scheduled for Tuesday, February 12 at 7:00 p.m. at the church. We are looking for new members to join our team. Anyone interested should see Marge Roberts or call her at 330-425-4821. The Relay for Life event will be held at the Twinsburg Stadium on May 30th -31st.

**When we help our
neighbors, we
help ourselves.**

Franklin Thomas

Women's Ecumenical Mini-Retreat

Saturday, February 2, 2008

Christ the King Lutheran Church

10285 Ravenna Rd. Twinsburg, OH 44087

330-425-7377

Theme: Fear---good or bad?

"There is no fear in love: perfect love drives out all fear." - 1 John 4:18a

Date: Saturday, February 2, 2008

Time: 8:00 AM (Begins with breakfast) until 6:00 PM

Where: Christ The King Lutheran Church in Twinsburg

What to bring: Bible, mug, food to share and a friend!

The retreat starts with a praise service at 9:00AM. We will then have a time of study, singing, activities, sharing, and food! Any questions, please see Marge Roberts!

Women's Fellowship News . . .

Women's Fellowship luncheon and meeting

Thursday, February 7, 2008

12:00 Noon Pot Luck luncheon

Bring food to share and table service

President: Elsie Peel

Hostesses: Dorothy Bascombe & Vi Downer

Devotions: Marge Roberts

Program: It's a Surprise!

Congratulations !

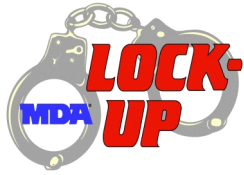
To the Footsteps Team for Relay For Life.

They received their award at the kick
off meeting in January.

Platinum Team - They raised more than \$10,000



Thank You!!



Thanks to everyone in the congregation who contributed to my "bail". Through your generous support, I was able to raise \$900. At the time of my "arrest", I had the third highest bail money raised. It was a lot of fun. I was able to eat "gourmet bread and water" during my incarceration, so I didn't starve to death. The support will mean a lot of help for Muscular Dystrophy.

To the congregation,
Thank you for all of you cards, prayers and well wishes during my hospital stay and recuperation. It was very much appreciated.
The Turnbull Family

To the Knitwitters:
Thank you for your generous gift of a lap robe and booties. My mother (age 101) was a receipt thru the Sospice of the Western Reserve and has used both every day.
Keep up the good work, your ministry is appreciated. (unsigned)

News from Friends far away . .

Greetings and well wishes came from former members now living miles away.

Elenore Perzesker and June Cook (Riverview, Florida) are well, enjoy the sunshine and had no hurricanes this year. June celebrated her 84th birthday. Her grandson, Mark, started college, and his younger brother, Scott, is in the 10th grade.

Georgia Walker (Murrells Inlet, South Carolina) celebrated her 76th birthday, is in good health, and was happy that her daughters were able to join her for a visit.

John Rezabek (Hampton, Virginia) enjoyed a Twinsburg high school reunion week end last summer and keeping in touch with friends here.

Mr. & Mrs. Azibanato C. Emiete (Nigeria, West Africa) Mail safely delivered is never guaranteed, to or from Nigeria. So it was a relief to hear from Azibananto after several months. They are concerned about health problems in the Weaver Family and keep them in prayer. They send their Christian love to all of us, and appreciate our friendship and concerns thru the years.

ATTENDANCE

	Sunday School	Worship Service
Dec. 30 th	31	80
Jan. 6 th	37	94
Jan. 13 th	69	110
Jan. 20 th	43	90



Scrap Booking Friday
February 15, 2008
6:00 p.m.—midnight
in the Fellowship Hall

February Schedules



February 3, 2008

David Schilling

Melissa Schilling

February 10, 2008

Kevin Powell

Jason Powell

February 17, 2008

Kayla Bensie

Anthony Pietrantozzi

February 24, 2008

Justin Doe

Jared Doe

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!

February Servers

Bonnie Williams

Rick Sheehan

Kenny Prentice

Dan Richner- Bread

Judy Turk - Greeters

Ken Prentice- Lay Readers



Communion will be

February 3rd this month and also

on Ash Wednesday, February 6

Member News

Happy Birthday to:

Helen Greene

02/5/08

Doris Turnbull

02/6/08



Andrea Bissell

02/7/08

Vivian Weiss

02/7/08

Victoria Holzwarth

02/7/08

Stephen Doe

02/7/08

Beverly Hegedish

02/11/08

Kimberly Lacy

02/12/08

Judy Richner

02/13/08

Dan Richner

02/16/08

Betty Tomko

02/20/08

Jim Peel

02/21/08

Todd Downer, Jr.

02/23/08

Walter Sterling

02/24/08

Mikki Pietrantozzi

02/24/08

Brooke Dolfi

02/25/08

Mary Schmidt

02/25/08

Lois Gandee

02/26/08

Kristen Williams

02/27/08

Gayle Davet

02/28/08

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

When I was asked to be Moderator for the coming year I came home, thought about it, had some prayer time, then sat down to e-mail Joel and tell him all the reasons why I couldn't. By the time I'd finished, I'd talked myself into it.

Serving God by serving this church has always been more of a privilege than a burden. I've felt God's love and support more through my church family than mere words can ever express.

Each new year brings a host of new opportunities for growth in spirit and strength. 2008 will be no different. This year will see us call a new pastor. We will continue to work hard to maintain and upgrade our facilities and programs. We will move forward. As we move forward we must look forward. It's always best to look the direction you're moving, if you need proof of that just look at the back of my truck.

To those of you who are taking committee positions this year, welcome aboard or thanks for coming back. We've great work ahead, which will be laid on a foundation of great work previously done.

To those who are stepping back to take a breath, thank you, thank you.

Lots of articles and pamphlets, even books have been written about what makes a strong church. I've read lots of them, and even agreed with a couple. In my mind its always been very simple. If you want to see what makes a church strong, look in the mirror. There you will see all the resources we could ever need.

Marge and I will be gone for the first week in February. We're going south to forget about the gas bill and visit daughters and grandchildren. We'll return to the frozen north on Monday the 11th, rested and ready.

Special thanks to Joel and Janet.

Carol, I'm right behind you...

I wish you all God's Love, Peace and Strength

Will

God's love to you
clousseau

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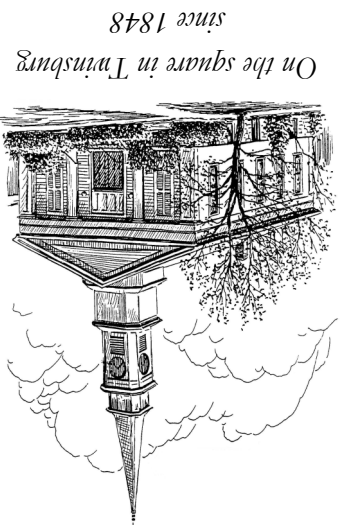
Come worship with us
and bring a friend!
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Tower Submissions

Articles for the *Tower* may sent via e-mail 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 2
VOLUME 54



Dated Material—
Please Rush!



e-mail: firstcongregational.church@windstream.net

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

A Publication of the First Congregational Church

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