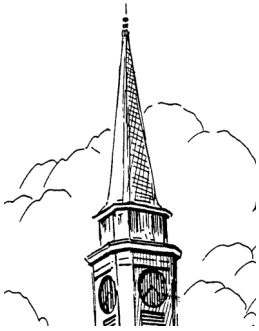


## *Message from the Pastor:*



Volume 55 Issue 2  
THE TOWER

### **PLUGGED IN**

When her granddaughter, Marissa, asked Gail Herrilko what "Installation of a pastor" meant, Gail quipped, "We have to plug her in!" And so you did on January 11. It was a cold and snowy day but many of you braved the weather to come back to church that afternoon for the Installation. I am grateful to all of you. Thank you to the Does and Ken Roddie and Bruce Krejci for clearing the walks and steps. The flowers were beautiful. Gayle Davet, Gail and Rick Herrilko, and Bonnie Williams arranged the reception that followed. Members of the Search Committee participated in the service: Ron Valentine calling us to worship, Ariel Bissell offering the children's sermon, Tom Holzwarth delivering "the charge" to the congregation, and Will Adams leading the prayers of the people. Chrissy Sterling (Music/ Choir Director), Sarah Chen (organist) and the Adult Choir led us in music and song. Association clergy, Curt Ackley, Donna Brooks, and Joan Ishibashi officiated in the Installation. Though weather prevented her being here, the Rev. Jill Harkins-Goodman sent her "charge" to me so that it could be read. I am especially grateful to the church for making possible the presence of friend, colleague, and mentor, the Rev. Jan Davis as preacher for this event. And thank you, Kathy Lessman, for the "behind the scenes" work that goes on for such an event, mailings, a lengthy bulletin and coordination of cleaning. And thank you, Marge Roberts, for all the pictures.

Then last Saturday evening, we invited the UCC churches from Solon and Bainbridge for a spaghetti dinner. Lea Bissell gave a brief history of our church in the sanctuary. Then we moved to Fellowship Hall for dinner. The hall was pleasantly crammed with people (all ages). Food was good. Fellowship was even better and the consensus is we want to continue such gatherings among these churches. Will Adams and Carol Zenisek have been meeting with others from these two churches. They have been having such a good time that they thought they should share this with the rest of us.

We are invited to Solon Community Church UCC for

**WHAT:** a Lenten Mini Retreat on Prayer and Spiritual Growth.

Leader: Judy Bagley-Bonner, pastor at Bainbridge Comm.UCC

**WHEN:** Saturday, February 28 from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Solon Community Church Fireside Room

**HOW:** Sign up at the table in Fellowship Hall by February 23. Please indicate if you will bring a crock of soup (plug in crock pots, please), salad or rolls for the pot luck lunch.

**WHY:** To "get back to basics" and focus on growing in our daily relationship with God.



## REFLECTIONS ON THE INAUGURATION

We have been to the “mountain-top” as Martin Luther King Jr. spoke of it. We have seen and felt what it is to come together in a shared hope—to be caught up in “the audacity to hope” as Barack Obama is inaugurated as our 44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States of America. The hope is yet to be more fully defined. But we know it has to do with access—everyone having access to what is needed, not only to survive, but to enjoy an abundance of life. Access, whether we yearn to be in the sanctuary with the whole congregation for worship, or need adequate food sources and or health care for our family and ourselves, is necessary for abundant life. We have hope that the world might discover a way, other than violence, to address the barriers to that abundant life. We have a hope that the power for life is stronger than the power of death.

We begin this new year in the life of First Congregational Church of Twinsburg United Church of Christ with hope—a hope that is beyond our individual likes and dislikes—a hope that is grounded in the knowledge and wisdom that God is in charge—a hope that celebrates that Jesus the Christ is at the center of all relationships and things—a hope that binds us in solidarity with all of God’s creation.

That’s the really BIG HOPE! And most of our living happens in the smaller places. But it is the big hope that keeps us going. Some years ago, John Westerhoff III and Carolyn Hughes co-authored On the Threshold of God’s Future. In the chapter, *Good News*, we are reminded that God’s future comes to us. “We are not asked to build it or to bring it in, only abide in it...The future embodies unimaginable new gifts and unbelievable grief”. Our faithful response is to stand in the midst of that tension—that threshold. God gives us the power to live there through Jesus Christ. Our challenge, our mission is to name the ways we “abide or live in God’s future now, where we are”. What does that look like for us at First Congregational Church of Twinsburg U.C.C.?

Blessings, Kay Krejci

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## From the Church Library. . .

**HANDYMAN NEEDED...**A child’s old school desk has been donated to and is in the church library. It needs a little TLC and to be cleaned up. A volunteer who enjoys restoration and who would be willing to tackle this project for the library would be greatly appreciated--just let Kathy know in the church office.

**WINTER NIGHTS...**A good time to spend with a “warm fuzzy book” and you will find several fiction and mystery series in the church library. They will be featured on the library cart during February. A reminder that the check-out policy is just to take the book, enjoy it, and **return** the book to the library. To remind you that the books are part of the library collection, a label is on the cover of each book.



# Bits from Benevolence



**BLANKET SUNDAY** will be observed at First Congregational on February 15 and the congregation has an opportunity to participate in three ways:

- Those friends/members of the congregation who have received prayer shawls from the Seekers are encouraged to wear them during worship that Sunday.
- Bring in new or very gently used blankets and bedding which will be distributed locally through the North Summit County Emergency Center.



- Monetary donations to the Church World Service **Blankets** (\*formerly called Tools and Blankets program) for which giving envelopes will be in the pew racks on February 8 through February 22. Through this program, our church joins 8000 other congregations and groups across the U.S. to help people in some 8 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.

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU** to the congregation for your support of the church through the Benevolence Committee. Please review Benevolence Committee financial report in the Church annual report to see how YOUR gifts were disbursed. Despite tight money times, YOU have been very generous in mission outreach through the Benevolence funds.

**LENTEN FAST** - As the season of Lent approaches, the Benevolence Committee again suggests for those who are able to fast just ONE meal or snack a week and turn the “giving up” into a “giving of” mission 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 church kitchen.

**EQUAL EXCHANGE COFFEE PROGRAM** – The Benevolence Committee is in the process of investigating how our church can support the UCC Coffee Project, which will allow us to join hands with communities in the developing world as we buy coffee that is fairly traded. Through this project, farmers and their families gain more control over their lives, earn a fairer share of income, have access to credit and technical support, and gain a trading partner they can trust, a fair trade organization called Equal Exchange.

Saturday, February 7, 2009

Christ the King Lutheran Church

10285 Ravenna Rd. Twinsburg, OH 44097

330-425-7377

**Date:** Saturday, February 7, 2009

**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 5, 2009

12:00 Noon Pot Luck luncheon

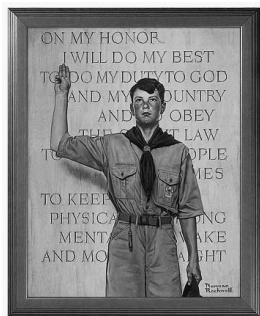
Evening Women's Fellowship meeting

Monday, February 2, 2009

7:00 p.m.—Fellowship Hall

Bring food to share and table service

**Sunday, February 8 is Scout Sunday.** The scouts will be participating in the service. They hold their meetings at the church on Tuesday evenings. Below is the Scout Law. Please remember to thank the scouts for their outstanding service.



**Trustworthy**—A Scout tells the truth. He keeps his promises. Honesty is part of his code of conduct. People can depend on him

**Loyal**—A Scout is true to his family, Scout leaders, friends, school, and nation.

**Helpful**—A Scout is concerned about other people. He does

things willingly for others without pay or reward.

**Friendly**—A Scout is a friend to all. He is a brother to other Scouts. He seeks to understand others. He respects those with ideas and customs other than his own.

**Courteous**—A Scout is polite to everyone regardless of age or position. He knows good manners make it easier for people to get along together.

**Kind**—A Scout understands there is strength in being gentle. He treats others as he wants to be treated. He does not hurt or kill harmless things without reason.

**Obedient**—A Scout follows the rules of his family, school, and troop. He obeys the laws of his community and country. If he thinks these rules and laws are unfair, he tries to have them changed in an orderly manner rather than disobey them.

**Cheerful**—A Scout looks for the bright side of things. He cheerfully does tasks that come his way. He tries to make others happy.

**Thrifty**—A Scout works to pay his way and to help others. He saves for unforeseen needs. He protects and conserves natural resources. He carefully uses time and property.

**Brave**—A Scout can face danger even if he is afraid. He has the courage to stand for what he thinks is right even if others laugh at or threaten him.

**Clean**—A Scout keeps his body and mind fit and clean. He goes around with those who believe in living by these same ideals. He helps keep his home and community clean.

**Reverent**—A Scout is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties. He respects the beliefs of others.

New member classes will be held on February 1 and February 8. If you wish to become a member, please plan to attend these gatherings. They will take place after worship in the library. New members will be received on Sunday, February 15. Any questions, please see Rev. Kay.



**Scrap Booking Friday**  
**February 20, 2009**

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

**Lay Reader's Schedule**  
February 1—Dan Richner  
February 8—Mark Holzwarth  
February 15—Ariel Bissell  
February 22—Chrissy Sterling

**Children's Sermon Schedule**  
February 1—Tom Holzwarth  
February 8—Terri Bissell  
February 15—Will Adams  
February 22—Ariel Bissell

If there are any changes to this, please let the office know so that it can be correct in the bulletin.

<b>ATTENDANCE</b>		
<b>Sunday School Worship Service</b>		
Dec. 28 <sup>th</sup>	32	88
Jan. 4 <sup>th</sup>	36	84
Jan. 11 <sup>th</sup>	N/A	89
Jan. 18 <sup>th</sup>	34	65

**Greetings and best wishes for good health and hope for the coming year from former members comes to us from Lucille Fiorelli**

**Georgia Walker** (Murrells Inlet, South Carolina) is always happy to hear news pertaining to Twinsburg area folks. She is well and sends good wishes.

**June Cook**: A variety of pills keep her active at 85 years of age! Her son visited her from his home in Houston. June hopes to visit family in Chicago next summer.

**Elenore Perzesker** now lives in Houston, Texas to be near her daughter, as Ellie's health hasn't been good.

**Joan Terrill** manages to walk a mile each day and joined an exercise group that meets each morning. Her son Bob and Janey visit frequently, and she is connecting with a new set of doctors in Florida. That's the news from Red Bug Lake Road.

**Alma Foster** now lives in the Cleveland area. She remembers friends and events from years ago and received a phone call from Ellie Perzesker. Alma's new address is: 4100 Westbrook Drive, Apt. 202, Brooklyn, OH 44144.

**Rev. Pat Jefferis** and Frank are well and enjoy visits with their children and grandchildren. Frank still sings in their church choir and community groups, and they keep busy and happy.

**Rev. Greg Russell** regularly joins members of Jane McAvoy's family for visits and dinners. Niece Katherine just turned 14 and Elizabeth and Rebecca are 8. Along with a group from his church and 32 people from Australia, he toured Ireland last summer. Alaska is the next vacation destination.

## February Schedules



February 1, 2009

**Kayla Bensie**  
Gwen Richner

February 8, 2009

**Todd Downer**  
Brad Verbic

February 15, 2009

**Kevin Powell**  
Anthony Pietrantozzi

February 22, 2009

**Melissa Schilling**  
Andrew Prentice

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

Rick Sheehan  
David Schilling  
Aaron Mayer  
Ken Prentice  
Judy Turk  
Dan Richner- Greeters  
Bonnie Williams - Bread



*Communion will be*

*February 3rd this month and also  
on Ash Wednesday, February 25*

## Member News

VOLUME 55  
ISSUE 2  
THE TOWER

### Happy Birthday to:

Helen Greene

02/5/09

Doris Turnbull

02/6/09



Andrea Bissell	02/7/09
Vivian Weiss	02/7/09
Victoria Holzwarth	02/7/09
Stephen Doe	02/7/09
Beverly Hegedish	02/11/09
Paul Munn	02/12/09
Kimberly Lacy	02/12/09
Judy Richner	02/13/09
Dan Richner	02/16/09
Betty Tomko	02/20/09
Jim Peel	02/21/09
Todd Downer, Jr.	02/23/09
Walter Sterling	02/24/09
Mikki Pietrantozzi	02/24/09
Brooke Dolfi	02/25/09
Mary Schmidt	02/25/09
Kristen Williams	02/27/09
Gayle Davet	02/28/09

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

Living in my church keeps getting better and better. First I got to go to a birthday party. Millie and I were going out for lunch but instead we ended up at the church for her birthday party. Many more happy years, Millie!!!!




The installation was fun. I especially enjoyed the super refreshment set-up afterwards. It was beautiful. And the best part is that Pastor Kay is now official and one of us.

My favorite event was the dinner at which we invited the two churches from Bainbridge and Solon. I got to make so many new friends. Lea's slide show was interesting. I had never seen it before and was happy to see myself in one of the pictures. See if you can find me Lea. The spaghetti was sensational along with the yummy salads and desserts. I was busy dishing the meat balls. Unfortunately there wasn't much left to save for another day. Mary Lou, Gail, Marge, Caitlyn, Denice and Marissa did a great job in the kitchen. I even saw Dan and Stan washing dishes. They had that dishwasher going full tilt. I found a name tag on the floor with the name Vetski. Who is that?

Now I can't wait to get my sub sandwich from the Youth Group. Be sure to make me a special sandwich kids. I'll eat it while I'm watching the game.

Kathy I want you to know how pleased that you let me live in your office. I thought you didn't like mice but you have been so considerate of me. I like the candy you leave on the desk sometimes. I think you're super.



**Youth Group Lock-in**  
**February 7, 2009**

Bring sleeping bag, pillow and extra blankets.

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

(yes, bring tooth brushes and deodorant)

Subs will be made, movies will be watched and games will be played.

Sleep is optional. Subs will be distributed on Sunday, February 8.

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

Thanks for everyone's support!

**Dr. Jocelyn Bell Burnell**  
*Theme:*  
Science & Religion: A Quaker Astronomer Reflects

Wednesday, February 18th  
Time: 7:30 p.m.  
Lindsay-Crossman Chapel  
56 Seminary Street  
Berea, Ohio 44017 ←

Thursday, February 19th  
Time: 10:00 a.m.  
Lindsay-Crossman Chapel  
56 Seminary Street  
Berea, Ohio 44017 ←

Thursday, February 19th  
Time: 2:00 p.m.  
Strosacker College Union – Sandstone 3  
120 E. Grand Street, Berea, Ohio 44017 ←

## Inside this issue:

Monthly Calendar of Events	Insert
Message from the Pastor	1
From the Church Library	2
Bits from Benevolence	3
Women's News; Scout Sunday	4
News from Friends; February Schedules	5
February Schedules; Birthdays	6
Church Mouse; Youth Group Astronomy Event	7



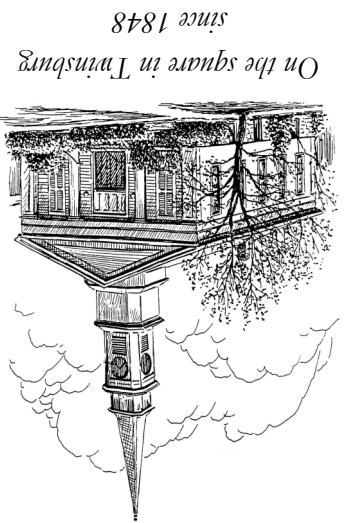
Come worship with us  
and bring a friend!  
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.  
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

## Tower Submissions

Articles for the *Tower* may sent via e-mail directly to the church at [firstcongregational.church@windstream.net](mailto: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 55



Dated Material—  
Please Rush!

We're on the web!  
[www.fcctwinsburg.com](http://www.fcctwinsburg.com)

e-mail: [firstcongregational.church@windstream.net](mailto:firstcongregational.church@windstream.net)

Church: 330-425-2181  
fax: 330-425-1759

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Monday through Friday  
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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