



The Drummer

June 4, 2008

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 8: WORSHIP AND SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Worship at 10 AM; enjoy the wonderful sounds of our combined vocal choirs, meet some new friends! Rev. Peters' sermon is, "I Was Healed"; the scripture passage is Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26, one of the healing miracles.

Don't miss the last CrossRoads for June. Anne E. DeChant is back to make a guest appearance. Kelly Peters will share the message. Casual, contemporary worship, at 6:06 PM in the Chapel.

JUNE 15: WORSHIP AND SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL at 10 AM

It's Music Sunday, the last day for our choirs before their summer break. We also are celebrating Father's Day with two brief sermons, one given by Kelly Peters, and one given by her father, Bob Boyte. Both sermons are on the same scripture passage, the story of Abraham and Sarah told in Genesis 18:1-15.

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Summer Sunday School started June 1 for 3 year olds through those just finishing 3rd grade. During the summer we have a Summer Book Club. Each week a different book with a Christian theme or moral is read along with a craft that goes with the theme. We ask for two adult volunteers each week to select a book, plan the activities, and lead the class. Depending on the attendance, we may split up into two groups (younger and older). There is a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center. If you could help one or two Sundays, please sign-up. This is an excellent opportunity for parents who are not able to teach during the year to help out.

CALLING ALL COLLEGE GRADUATES

If you or someone in your family has graduated from college in the last year, please call (933-3241) or e-mail (christianed@thealucc.org) the church and give us the details such as the name of the college or university, degree received and when, major, and future plans. We will share the information in an upcoming *Drummer*. Thank you.

A WORD FROM KELLY

A word about designated giving:

This summer we are reaping a harvest of generosity. Over the past several years, we have received a number of donations from members and friends of the church, each given for a specific project. The landscaping work you see taking place in the front, the memorial garden in the back, and the updating of the senior minister's office are all projects made possible due to designated giving.

I am always happy to talk with individuals who wish to make memorial or endowment gifts; we have many ways to accommodate specific requests and interests. When I see the plans for the front landscaping, I think fondly of John and Charlotte Clarke, two individuals who loved this church and who were here, not just every Sunday, but frequently during the week. When I see the work being done in the Memorial Garden, I smile and remember Art Beam, Debbie Darnell, Art and Jean Loutzenhiser and Julianne Turner, who were all people of faith and people who appreciated beauty. It is fitting that these two projects are being funded in part by their families, as well as by many other memorial gifts.

I know that many worthy institutions ask for our money, both now and in the future in the form of wills and bequests. It always makes me sad when a loyal member of this church dies and does not remember the church in his or her will. People leave money to colleges and universities, and those are places where people spent only a few years. People leave money to hospitals – hopefully places where only a short time was spent. What about the church? It is the place where many of us come weekly, where we explore the deepest questions of life and death, where we celebrate baptisms, confirmations, marriages, and funerals. Sometimes people don't leave money to the church because the church doesn't ask. I want to be sure that you know that this congregation has an active Bequest committee. Each individual's wishes are followed closely. We have an attorney in the church who has offered his services to anyone who has questions about ways to leave money to the Avon Lake UCC. Feel free to contact me to explore this topic.

All of a sudden, it's summer! Well, summer schedule anyway, if not summer weather. One of the joys of our new sanctuary is that we're able to merge our 9 and 11 AM worshiping communities for the summer. Please remember that Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend, our morning worship time is 10 AM.

A word about summer giving:

Please remember that the expenses of the church continue throughout the summer. If you're away on vacation, it helps us if you keep your pledge current. Contact Valerie Tanzilli if you wish to set up an automatic withdrawal plan.

None of the capital projects going on are coming from the operating budget of the church. Pledged giving, in fact, is below what was projected. Boards and staff are working hard to hold expenses. Your regular giving means we can pay our bills on time! If you ever have financial difficulties, please don't let that keep you from worshipping and participating! And let me know how we can be supportive.

A word about Father's Day:

Last year, Bob Fisher approached me with an idea: "Hey, Kelly, why don't you invite your dad here to preach next Father's Day? I think that would be cool!" I learned long ago not to volunteer family members for any church responsibilities, so I said, "Hey, Bob, great idea. Here's his email address. You invite him!" Bob did, and my dad said, "Yes, but only if I share the preaching duties for that day with Kelly." So, on Father's Day, which we're also celebrating as Music Sunday this year, my dad and I will both be sharing short sermons on the same scripture passage. I look forward to this, and thank Bob for his idea.

The last word: email updates and Drummers

A reminder that we can stay in touch with you in a variety of ways. We would like you to let us know what's best for you:

1. You may receive the Drummer by regular mail.
2. You may receive the Drummer by email.
3. You may receive occasional updates from the church by email. (I send an update the weeks in between Drummers. I'll also be sending updates from my sabbatical time in Chicago this summer.)

You may choose any combination of the above options. If you have an email address and are not currently receiving the Drummer or updates, and would like to, please email me at pastor@thealucc.org and let me know your preference. Thank you!

"WHEN WORK IS DONE THERE'S READING FUN"

Thanks to our many friends who have donated books to our library. The following books were all gifts/donations from members and friends.

DVD – The History of the Bible in English

The Great Awakening – reviving faith & politics in a post-religious right America

Blindsided By Grace – entering the world of disability

Tour De Faith – a cyclist's lessons for living

Family First – video

God's Politics

Girl Meets God – a memoir

Just Like Jesus – a devotional

The Celestine Prophecy

Lobster Chronicles – life on a small island

Leaving Church

Ordinary Heroes – a novel

Running with Scissors

Affirming Faith

Miss Lea's Bible Stories for Children

PANCREATIC ACTION PURPLE STRIDE 2008

The Pancreatic Action Network Cleveland Affiliate Announces Purple Stride 2008, a 5K run and a 2 mile walk on Saturday, June 21st at 9AM. It will start at Cahoon and Wolf Roads in Bay Village. You may pre register at www.pancan.org/purplestridecleveland. Volunteers are also needed to help the day of the race. If you are able to help in any way please call Lois Davis 440-933-9057

SUMMER ADULT EDUCATION

Based on feedback from our recent survey, there will be two different opportunities offered this summer for adult education. On June 29, July 13, and July 27 at 9:00 (before the Worship Service) **Politics and Religion** will be led by Marilyn Sommer. This timely class is designed to help participants learn how to listen and how to be heard with understanding and respect. It will provide an opportunity to better understand how faith and political experiences can shape our lives and actions. It will provide information along with stimulating discussion in an atmosphere of understanding and compassion without judgment.

On June 22, July 6, and July 20, Bob Reich will lead three Bible Studies using the UCC phrase **God Is Still Speaking**. This group will meet at 11:15 until Noon after the Worship Service (bring your coffee into the Family Lounge). Bob's schedule is: June 22 – Acts 10: 34-48 – “What Does the *Still Speaking* phrase mean to us today?” July 6 – 2nd Corinthians 4: 3-6 – “How do we interpret scripture today?” July 20 – John 2: 1-11 – “Are we preparing for something better or worse?”

There is no registration or cost for the classes—just plan to come and join in the discussion and fellowship. If you have questions, contact Marilyn Sommer at 933-3241 or christianed@thealucc.org or Bob Reich at 930-5370 or bjreich@oh.rr.com.

BIKE AND BUILD RETURNS TO ALUCC ON JULY 7-9!!

Once again, it is our honor to host and house the Bike and Build riders as they bike across the northern US, raising awareness for Habitat for Humanity. This year's group consists of 32 college students from across the USA, leaving New Hampshire on June 18 and arriving in Vancouver, Canada on Aug. 24. On their stop with us, they will be participating on a build in Lorain County!!!!

Tentative plans include a pot-luck dinner on Monday, June 7, housing in host homes for one and/or two nights, breakfasts on Tuesday and Wednesday, July 8 and 9, providing lunch for them at the build site on Tuesday, and a barbeque dinner on Tuesday, July 8!

How can you be involved?

1. Sign up to host some riders. This involves picking the students up after dinner and the program, providing laundry facilities and beds for them and returning them to the church for their build and breakfasts.
2. Come meet the students, share dinner with them, and hear their stories at one or both dinners on Monday and Tuesday nights.

If you would like to help in any way, please call the church office (933-3241) or Patty Greene (933-6637). Sign up sheets will be available following church services at the Welcome Center.

MASSAGES BENEFIT CHURCH! Karen Wirtz will be offering massages with all the proceeds benefiting the church. The next date is Sunday, June 29, at 1:00 PM, 2:15 PM or 3:30 PM, in the Bride's Room. For an appointment and to discuss the various massage options, call Karen at 930-4396.

ALUCC PRAYER LIST: We update this list at the beginning of each month. Please contact the church office by phone (933-3241) or email (pastor@thealucc.org) to send an update or to add a name.

New on the Prayer List: Jack Barthels, diagnosed with colon cancer. Diane Bayley, recuperating at Lutheran Hospital after double knee replacement surgery. George Horst, awaiting surgery on June 4. Gene Rearick, recuperating after surgery. Catherine Cable (Pat McDonald's sister), health issues. Ken Funkhouser (Lynn Miller's brother-in-law) recuperating from triple bypass surgery. Heather Jones (Kathy Nicol's sister-in-law) diagnosed with colon cancer. Tom Johnstin (Dorothy Moldenhauer's nephew), diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

Updates on the Prayer List: Peg Ebner is in rehab at Towne Center. Eleanor Munroe is in rehab at Community Health Partners. Katie Updegraff Lopez requests prayers as she awaits her baby's birth.

Members Receiving Treatment for Cancer: Jeremy George, Kay Griggs, Dottie Haines, Marlene Roesch.

Friends and Relatives of Members Receiving Treatment for Cancer: Craig Behrend (friend of Jane Sheard), Mara Stifter Evans (friend of the Poplsteins, receiving treatment for cancer), Jane Laird (friend of Mary Lee Tyndall), Jack Langseder (nephew of Jack and Jennifer Gould), Arthur Nunn (Fran Brand's brother), Michael Sparkman (classmate of Arielle Schraff).

Friends and Relatives of Members: Rena Reich (Bob's mother), health concerns.

Serving in Iraq: Joseph Loar (Gary's nephew).

Sympathy to Bob Case on the death of his father, Richard.

Please remember our members who are homebound and in rehab or nursing home care.

REMINDER: If you or a loved one are in the hospital and wish prayers or visits from the church, please call the church office. Otherwise, we may not know you're there!

Parish Nurse Hours: Wednesday, 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.; Evenings by appointment. Cheryl can be reached through the confidential voice mail, 930-4766; the church office; or by email: cherylupdegraff@oh.rr.com

GROUNDS BEAUTIFICATION

Thursday mornings from 9:00 – 11:30 a hardworking group of gardening enthusiasts are weeding, transplanting, mulching, pruning and having fun in the existing gardens around the church. Come join us! No professional credentials needed, just a desire to be good stewards of the little piece of God's earth He has entrusted to our care. Bring garden gloves and tools and a happy heart. Soon we will see beautiful results.

MAJOR LANDSCAPING PROJECT TO BEGIN

Lifestyle Landscaping, Inc. will soon begin installation of evergreens and flowering trees and shrubs on the Electric Blvd. side of our new sanctuary. The unique feature of this landscape plan includes a shadow cross in the lawn. A poster of the plan is on display in the Welcome Center. This project has been made possible by a generous donation from the Clarke family in memory of John and Charlotte. The Landscape and Gardening Committee has worked closely with the landscape architect to meet the desires of the donor family, to design a sustainable landscape, and to be esthetically pleasing. The plan has received the unanimous approval of both the Board of Trustees and Church Council. Weather permitting, installation of phase I of the plan will begin the week of June 9th. Should you wish to be a part of this new beginning, additional donations are being accepted to plant more trees.

GARDENING AND LANDSCAPING COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP.

The ad hoc committee for gardening and landscaping is a group of twelve people who have become the steering committee for grounds beautification around the church. We have learned that the job description of the custodial staff does not include care of these areas, nor does the budget of the church underwrite its maintenance. Committee members have been generous with hours of labor, donations of lawn waste bags, planters, fertilizers, benches, weed killer, mulch and compost. Could you help? Specifically, we need someone to fertilize and put weed killer on the lawn areas, several people who would be willing to come to church and water during the summer, the use of a pick-up truck and several people with shovels to transport free mulch and compost from the city service center to our gardens, and, of course, donations for supplies to support the effort. Please call or e-mail Lyn Wilhoite if you can help, (933-0872), LWILHOITE@aol.com.

MARKET DAY SALE

Community Resource Services will be holding their 5th Annual Summer Market Day Sale with two sale dates to benefit CRS. Order forms may be picked up at CRS, located directly behind the Post Office or the Avon Lake Public Library. Orders may be placed on-line at www.marketday.com using the account 21628 – Community Resource Services. The deadline for ordering for the June sale is June 19th at noon with pickup on Tuesday, June 24th from 4 – 5 PM at the Avon Lake Presbyterian Church, 32340 Electric Blvd. a second sale will take place in August with a pickup date of August 12th. Please call Lori Magyar at 933-5639 with questions.

A THANK YOU NOTE

I am gaining strength, but it is a long pull. The church members have been there for me – cards, prayers, 2 dinners when I got home, calls, rides and visits by ministers and our nurse.
Thanks, Shelley Marsh

THANKS

The students in the 3rd and 4th grade Sunday School class would like to thank all of the members of the congregation who supported our mission project, Baskets for Kids. We received an overwhelming amount of toys, personal hygiene products, art supplies, books and snacks. We spent time each Sunday sorting out our new donations, decorating bags and talking about what it takes to help out people in our community. We were able to put together over 40 welcome bags which were shared with the family who stayed at our church as part of the Inner Faith Network as well as families at the Haven Center. In addition, we had so much that we were also able to donate 2 large rubbermaid totes full of books, personal hygiene supplies, art and craft materials, some small toys and snacks to the Haven Center. We still have toys left which will be given to the Haven Center or the Community Resource Center. Some of the toys we received were too large to be used for our project, so they were donated to the Good Neighbor Thrift Shop. One toy baby stroller was given to the class at Jack and Jill Pre- School who use our classroom during the week. They really were excited to get it. I would also like the congregation for sending the message to my class that their ideas and work are an important part of our church and that their voices matter. That is a lesson that I could not have shared with them without your help.

Char Shryock

Serving in the Middle East: My daughter Christin is leaving for the Middle East this week for a two week tour with the Air National Guard. This will be her third tour of duty in the Middle East and will be there all of June and July. She is a singer and goes over to entertain and give support to the troops, and work with the children in the orphanages. Again she will be going to Iraq, Afganistan, Kuwait, and all the other combat areas. I just ask that we keep her in our prayers that she returns safely. Regards, Jodi Foley

ALUCC BOOK CLUB

The final meeting of the ALUCC Book Club before we take our summer break will be a discussion of the book *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace...One School at a Time* by Greg Mortenson and David Relin. This is the story of Mortenson's move from mountain climber to humanitarian committed to reducing poverty and providing education to girls in Afghanistan and Pakistan and how over 55 schools were built in remote areas of those countries. The Book Club will meet Tuesday, June 17, at 7:00 p.m. Come and join the discussion.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL UPDATE

Plans are going well for a week of VBS on June 16-20. Classes are full and it should be a fun and learning experience for all. The color of the day for Monday, the 16th, will be orange. Wear something orange if you have it. Another note to participants: bring a white, 100% cotton t-shirt that fits you on Tuesday. We will be decorating it that day. Thanks to all who donated our requested supplies.

WANT TO CLOTHE A KID FOR SCHOOL?

Love Inc. needs 600 church families willing to provide new clothes for school age children. If you are interested in helping, please contact the church office, 933-3241, or Jean Grady, 933-4865 by June 27. On or about July 15, you will receive a specific clothing order for a specific child. The approximately value of the order is \$50 - \$75. If this is a problem, you may wish to share an order with another family or make a donation and someone will shop for you.

"YOGA FOR EVERYONE" is a non-threatening way to learn yoga with a teacher who has 20 years of yoga experience. Follow along as the instructor leads you into basic poses incorporating breath with movement. Classes will be held on Thursday evenings from 5:30 – 6:45. Cost is \$60 for 6 classes. Dates are June 5, 12, 19 and July 10, 17, and 24.

HAVE YOU NOTICED THE TWO NEW PLANTERS ON EITHER SIDE OF THE FRONT DOORS? This was a project of the Gardening Committee (they changed their name from Landscaping Committee). If you would like to be a part of this group, contact Ruth Williams at 440-835-4897 or call the church office. Helpers, particularly to water, will be needed in the summer.

HATS OFF TO: all the Sunday School children and teachers for planting the Secret Garden. Thanks also go to Lyn Wilhoite, Dean Henrichsen, and Gerry and Wally Paine for the soil preparation and planting supervision.

DRUMMER SCHEDULE: THE NEXT DRUMMER WILL BE JUNE 18, AND THE DEADLINE IS JUNE 16.

Kelly Peters and Douglas Brill
Invite you
To a Celebration of Music and Love
as We are Married
on Saturday, August 2, at 4 PM
at the Avon Lake United Church of Christ

The wedding will begin with a concert;
we request that everyone be seated by 3:50

Due to the length of the concert,
and in order to provide an uninterrupted atmosphere
for both singers and audience,
this invitation is extended to adults
and youth of confirmation age and above only

If possible, carpool; and if able, park across the street

Dessert reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall

Gifts are not expected