

# East Columbus United Methodist Church

## A Church for Everyone!

2012 March Newsletter



### A reminder for the Lent season:

*“That is why the Lord says, “Turn to me now, while there is time! Give me your hearts.*

*Come with fasting, weeping, and mourning.*

*Don’t tear your clothing in your grief; instead, tear your hearts.”*

*Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and Merciful. He is not easily angered.*

*He is filled with kindness and is eager not to punish you.”*



*Joel 2:12-13*



In the mid 80's, Judy and I went for several years to John's Island, South Carolina, for mission work. We were helping to build churches and working with some of the wonderful Christian people. We learned a valuable lesson there about the privileges the church enjoys in our nation.

At the end of the Civil War, many of the newly freed blacks could find no where to live, so thousands of them traveled to the coastal islands in the South. These were not places anyone would choose to live in the 1870's. It was hot and swampy and a breeding ground for mosquitoes and disease, but the people who moved there made homes and lives.

Simple farming and fishing was the way they made their living and they passed the land down to their children and grandchildren. In the 1970's and the 1980's, the islands were much different. Many of the swamps had by back breaking work been drained. Air conditioning and electricity made the climate tolerable, and the big hotels moved in. They bought up the coastal properties and the tax rate soared. Hundreds of families who had been on the islands for over 120 years were kicked off of their land because they could not afford the property taxes. The ones who lived on the interior side could not take their boats to the sea for fishing because the beaches had all been closed off by the hotels, except for one small sliver of land owned by the United Methodist Church. A camp called "Esau Jenkins". Even though the hotels offered the church millions of dollars the camp stayed open because of the vital ministry it gave. And the government could not take it like it did from so many private citizens, because it was tax exempt. The power to tax is the power to destroy. Our founders knew that fact and gave the various churches tax exempt status so they would not be under the control of government. We have taken religious freedom for granted for too long, thinking it only means we can do what we want in our buildings. Forgetting what it really means is the church is not controlled by the government and the government has no right to destroy the various churches by their taxes or policies.

That freedom today is under a heavy assault. The President with his "health care policies" is now telling some denominations that against their deeply held religious principle they have to supply not only birth control but also have to supply the drugs that cause abortions as part of their health care coverage. This is outrageous! We who consider abortion as murder know the internal anger this causes as we must choose between our God and conscience or our government. But in our nation where this kind of strong arm, manipulation by our government is forbidden by the very Constitution the leaders of our nation have promised to defend, it is inexcusable. I hope you will join me in expressing our outrage to our senators and congressmen. Also, let us join in prayer against those who by governmental polices cause people to accept and to participate in sin. These policies cannot stand and those who propose them must be removed from office at the next election.

—*Pastor Charlie*



## *A Note from Terry Snyder*

After the big Christmas cantata last year, people needing a break, and the somewhat early Easter this year, we are not doing another prepared cantata per se for Easter. What we are doing is pulling some of the best songs from previous cantatas or pieces we have used for cantatas I have prepared (in part). These are some of the best of the best. But, Lord willing and if things work out, there will be some new things too and some differences in the songs we are doing again. A look at the songs should tell people they are some of the best of the best: “Cornerstone”, “Behold the Lamb”, “It’s All About the Blood”, “Rise Again”, and “He’s Alive”. The first two have been done numerous times over the years, but only once before with the accompaniment tracks. The third was done twice over the past several years, but with different soloists than the one who Lord willing will do it this time. “Rise Again” was done with piano the last time and was done in a more truncated form than we plan to this year as well as with a different soloist. The version we are doing of “He’s Alive” was only done once several years ago, so it should be pretty fresh, too.

Two songs will have different soloists than before which changes things (one of these soloists hasn’t sung here since before Charlie came). The two new songs will be done by groups in combinations that haven’t sung together in that exact configuration before. I could likely count on one hand the number of people here who have even heard these songs. A few might have on the gospel station (and I suppose maybe more than I suspect is possible). These are two songs that I really love. One is a song I have wanted to work in for many years called “The Key”. It likens Christ as the key who was hung on the nail and how the key unlocks sin’s prison. This will have a soloist that has sung solos here, but never sang in a quartet here before. This talks about Christ’s reasons for giving His life even when He knew what it would take. Both of these songs were unavailable in sheet music form (although “The Key” was available in a hymnbook type arrangement that doesn’t do the song justice). “The Key” was written by Phil Cross, who has written many great songs over the years (some we have sung and others I want to work in) such as “Champion of Love”, “I Am Redeemed”, “Welcome to Heaven”, “Bells of Heaven”, “Grace and Glory”, “One Holy Lamb”, “When I Get Carried Away”, “Yes I Am”, “Hope Has Hands”, “Glorious City of God” and “They Can’t Take that Away from Me”. There are others I am sure I am forgetting. This song is covered under our CCLI license, so I can put it on paper for us to do.

The second is a song called “Mercy, Grace and Love”. This doesn’t exist on paper and isn’t covered by CCLI. However, the songwriter has graciously given me permission to put it on paper. He also emailed me a stripped down track for it (he didn’t have the full version). I am still waiting on the group manager (the songwriter no longer sings with them) to send me the full version (which he said he would do). This will have a soloist who has only sung one solo here, and not sung in a quartet or ensemble here before. He will have solos and sing the lead on this one.

It is possible that one of these two mentioned songs will be done as an offertory. Another possibility is my having Testify sing a song called “Adonai” which was recorded originally by the group Avalon (whose song “Testify to Love” is the source of Testify’s name years ago when Sam Chizmar started the group and I was the bass singer). Since two of Testify’s members are singing in the two songs above, it will be dependant on the time we have to practice. If not, I do want them to sing it in the future. They have sung a few songs here, and of course are our praise team when they are all here.

So, if things work out, there will be 7-8 songs in this cantata (which I will probably name “Mercy, Grace and Love”). There will likely be no narration this time around, but plenty of music.

—Terry



*by Pastor Charlie & Judy Aigner*

**THANK YOU!** All4One teens want to thank everyone who came to the Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper. We made \$593. and counting. We had fun decorating the basement and getting ready for the evening! Thanks to all the parents who helped us and donated all the supplies.

We finished painting our room in February, and Billy Bettner, the artist in our group, will be putting on the finishing touches. An “open house” is planned when it is completed.

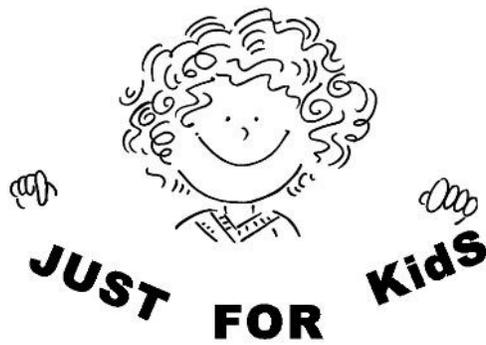
On Sunday evenings we are continuing to study the book of James. We are having a great time during AfterALL, and we so appreciate those who have opened their homes to us this past month: Rob and Debbie Lilly, Mark and Melissa Voils and Tony and Donita Barringer. AfterAll for March will be at Kathy Henry’s home on March 4 and Bob and Brenda Hodler’s home on March 11.

Due to spring break, we will not meet on March 18 and 25. We will close out the month by going to Winter Jam in Indianapolis at Banker’s Life Fieldhouse. Think Tank will be joining us. Thanks to Bob and Diana Fear and Larry and Darla Cox for accompanying us, since Pastor Charlie and Judy will be gone.

**To continue helping everyone get to know us better we’ve included another profile:**

**Hello, my name is Katie Prall.** I am an 8th grader at Northside Middle School. I am very active in my school. For example, I do video announcements at my school which is every Monday. I plan to take photojournalism class at North High School next year. Then I plan to become a photographer later on. I play on a fast pitch travel softball team called Nitro; which is usually in the summer.

<b>East Columbus United Methodist Church</b>	<b>Charles Aigner, Senior Minister</b> <b>Carol McIntosh, Adm. Assistant</b> <b>Terry Snyder, Music Director</b> <b>Pastor Charlie &amp; Judy Aigner, Youth Directors</b> <b>Dereck Fields, Custodian</b> <i>Volume 22, Issue 3, A Monthly Publication, March 2012</i>
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by Paula Turnbow



Hey, Kids!

Get ready for our “Beach Party” on Sunday, March 11 from 6-7 p.m. in the Youth Center. Come and bring a friend! Wear or bring something that you would see at the beach. We will have food to eat and too much fun!

### **It’s time to start planning for Vacation Bible School!**

Anyone interested in helping with Vacation Bible School in any way, please attend a meeting Tuesday, March 6, 6 p.m. in the Information Area. Call Paula if you have questions (376-0732 home) or (378-5288 Youth Center).

## **EASTER CELEBRATION**

Saturday, March 31, 10:30 a.m., children of all ages are invited to come for fun and fellowship! Bring your friends, neighbors and anyone who loves to hunt Easter eggs!

We will meet in the Fellowship Hall for the telling of the Easter story and then the “**HUNT**” will begin. If you have questions, please call Paula (376-0732 home) or (378-5288 Youth Center) .



Monetary donations will be appreciated.

### **OUR CHURCH MISSION**

THE EAST COLUMBUS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IS SEEKING TO BECOME A MORE SERVING CONGREGATION UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST AND THROUGH THE PROMPTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. GOD HAS CALLED US TOGETHER TO BE THE BODY OF CHRIST AND TO WORSHIP AND GROW SPIRITUALLY; THEREFORE, WE WILL WITNESS TO THE GOSPEL IN ALL OUR ACTIVITIES FOR THE WINNING OF SOULS TO CHRIST.

# March 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> 6:30 p.m.— Boy Scouts  6:30 p.m. — Trustees Mtg.	<b>2</b> <b>WORLD            DAY OF            PRAYER</b>	<b>3</b>  7 p.m. — Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Zack Mehlek
<b>4 2nd in            Lent</b>  Communion  Regular Services  5 p.m. — UMW Exec. Comm. Mtg.	<b>5</b>  9 a.m. — United Meth- odist Women Service Group	<b>6</b> 1 p.m. — Bible Study 6 p.n. — Vaca- tion Bible School Plan- ning Mtg. 7 p.m. — Miriam Circle Mtg.	<b>7</b> 5:15 p.m. — Handbell Reh.  6 p.m. — Chan- cel Choir Reh.  7 p.m. — Bible Study	<b>8</b>  6:30 p.m. — Boy Scouts	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11 3rd in            Lent</b>  Regular Services  2-5 p.m. — Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Justin Schrelick	<b>12</b>  9 a.m. — United Meth- odist Women Service Group	<b>13</b>  1 p.m. — Bible Study  6 p.m. — Missions Mtg.	<b>14</b> 5:15 p.m. — Handbell Rev.  6 p.m. — Choir Reh.  7 p.m. — Bible Study	<b>15</b>  6:30 p.m. — Boy Scouts	<b>16</b> 6 p.m. — Chrysalis Hoot 7 p.m. — Columbus Community Emmaus Gathering	<b>17</b>  <b>St. Patrick's            Day</b>  8 a.m. — United Methodist Men's Break- fast
<b>18 4th in            Lent</b>  Regular Services	<b>19</b>  9 a.m. — United Meth- odist Women Service Group	<b>20</b> <b>Spring Begins</b>  1 p.m. — Bible Study 6:30 p.m. — Church Council Mtg.	<b>21</b> 5:15 p.m. — Handbell Reh.  6 p.m. — Chan- cel Choir Reh.  7p.m. — Bible Study	<b>22</b>  6:30 p.m. - Boy Scouts	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25 5th in            Lent</b>  Regular Services	<b>26</b>  9 a.m. - United Meth- odist Women Service Group	<b>27</b>  7 p.m. — Ecu- menical Assy. Board Mtg.	<b>28</b> 5:15 p.m. — Handbell Reh.  6 p.m. — Chan- cel Choir Reh.	<b>29</b> 11:30-1 p.m. — CEHS Food Locker Lunch- eon 6:30 p.m. — Boy Scouts 6:30 p.m. — Mary Circle Mtg.	<b>30</b>  All4One/ Think Tank Winter Jam in Indpls.	<b>31</b>   10:30 a.m. - Children's Easter Egg Hunt



## Spring is almost here!

But not long ago while waiting so impatiently at yet another stop light and grumbling about how much time is lost each day sitting at these dumb lights....

I caught a glimpse of winter wonder.

Not just of "winter" wonder but truly the absolute wonder of God's great power!

What floated down onto my windshield was the most perfect, tiny snowflake! It was pure white (as is our hearts when Jesus lives in them) and perfectly symmetrical five points to the flake. It was breathtakingly beautiful in its simplicity!

And, all at once, the frustrations of the day....the worrying about time wasted at stop lights.... they all just melted away! As I sat and just stared at the snowflake in all its beauty, I almost prayed for a little longer wait at that stop light. Anything to be able to enjoy that beauty a little while longer.

And then it hit me....as so many of God's lessons do....the peace of just sitting in the presence of this perfect, tiny snowflake is nothing as compared to the peace that we will all enjoy when we get to heaven and see Jesus!

Words can't adequately describe the joy I felt when this little life lesson dawned on me. I was so full of joy and anticipation that tears formed in my eyes! Tears of joy not sorrow and just as I longed to sit and gaze at that snowflake so do I want to sit and gaze into the face of my Lord!

So we celebrate the coming of spring in just a few weeks, look around and marvel at the perfection that is in each day....a day that the Lord has made....Just for you and just for me!

*Welcoming spring with you and remembering the joy of winter a little while longer....*

*Your little church mouse.....**Timothy***



## HOOSIER TRAILS COUNCIL

## BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

The troop spent the night in the church Youth Center on Saturday, February 11 and started working on camping merit badges. Boy Scout Sunday, February 12, we attended the 8:30 a.m. service and presented the church the Boy Scout charter noting 52 years of sponsoring scouting.

February 25, we attended the council merit badge day in Seymour.

Saturday, March 3, 6 p.m., Zach Mehlek will have his Eagle Court of Honor in the church Fellowship Hall. Sunday, March 11, 2 p.m., Justin Schrelick will have his Eagle Court of Honor in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to join in honoring the two boys as they receive their Eagle Scout Awards.

The March campout is the 9th through the 11th.

If any member of the church is interested in scouting whether you are a boy or an adult we will be glad for your visit and interest. Boys need to be 11 years old to join and less than 18 years old.

Meeting time is Thursday from 6:30-8 p.m. in the Youth Center.

Roger Schaefer, Scoutmaster  
812-342-3584 (H)  
812-350-9707 (C)



### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1....Nancy Rosenberger  
William Voils

2....Jason Warner

4....Julie Adams

5....Scott Ward

6....Don Carey

7....Robert Henry  
Maj. Collis Derek Mayfield

8....George Roberts

9....Dorothy Lane

11....Logan Allen

12....Elsie Champion  
Chaleece Leckron  
Joan Neff

13....Seth Elifritz

14....James Adams  
Matthew Lewellyn  
Cheri Reeves

15....Turner Nichols

21....Tricia Helton

22....Louis Sylvia

24....Karen Lambert

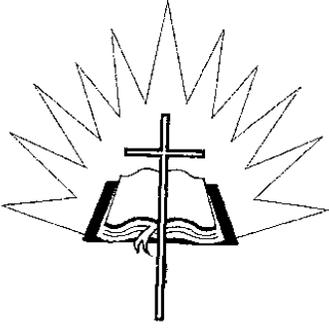
25....Janelle Quasebarth

26....Kevin Johnson  
Hayley Nichols

27....Vivian Thayer

28....Ryan Bozell  
Janelle Rager  
Bonnie Tyree

29....Garry Taylor



## **Applying Bible Principles**

Although we realize that we are only here on this earth for a relatively short time, most of us avoid thinking about the inevitable. Somehow, it is as though we think we'll live forever. Well, in a sense, that's true — we will live forever, only not here. The chapters of our memory book of life which we write each day are but a prelude to our life in eternity.

It's important, therefore, to consider how this impacts our use of the funds and possessions which God has given to us. As we have seen repeatedly, God owns everything. He has never relinquished His title deed to the world. We are stewards who are responsible to use His resources wisely. And part of that usage includes giving to the Lord's work, particularly here at East Columbus United Methodist Church.

Some Christians are saving all that they can for the eventual "rainy day," to the exclusion of giving to God as they should or as God has prospered them. The only problem is that for many of them, their "rainy day" never comes because their life ends much sooner than they anticipated. Then the words of an anonymous poet thunder across time and eternity:

**Not, how did he die?  
But, how did he live?  
Not, what did he gain?  
But, what did he give?**

**These are the merits  
To measure the worth  
Of a man as man,  
Regardless of birth.**

It's true that we cannot "take it with us." It's also true that once we stand on the threshold of eternity, our giving will be over. Doesn't it stand to reason, therefore, that giving here and now should be a priority in our lives? Or as someone said, "You can't take your money with you, but you can send it on ahead."

**It's not what you'd do with a million  
Should riches ever be your lot;  
But what are you doing at present  
With the dollar and quarter you've got?**

# News



From the Mail Box...

Thank you to my church family for everything that you have done for me this past year. It has been very much appreciated. —**Jo Stasney**

I wish to thank all those who visited, called, brought food, etc. when I was ill in December. God bless you all. —**Betty Schaefer**

Thank you “Think Tank” for being so sweet and remembering me on Valentine’s Day with the beautiful card that you made and sent me. You done a great job!! —**Carol McIntosh**

Thank you to the choir for coming and singing Valentine songs to me. I enjoyed the singing and the visit. —**Elsie Champion**

## *In Memory of*

Pauline Doles  
who went home to her  
Heavenly Father  
January 27, 2012.

## *Our sympathy to....*

....the Family of Pauline Doles at her passing.

....Greg and Cathy Walker and Family at the loss of Greg’s mother, Jean Walker.

## **Pregnancy Care Center Volunteer Training**

Volunteers (men and women) will be trained for peer counselors, receptionists, and/or phone line volunteers. Training dates are March 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 from 6-9 p.m. at Memorial Baptist Church, 7th St., Columbus.

If you have questions, please call Jenny Gardner, Director of Client Services at 812-378-4114, ext. 103.

**Here's what's  
happening!**

**Trustees** will meet Thursday, March 1, 6:30 p.m. in the Information Area.

**World Day of Prayer** is Friday, March 2.

**Church Boy Scout Troop 549** will have an Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Zack Mehleck on Saturday, March 3, 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Congratulations to Zack!

**United Methodist Women** executive committee meeting is Sunday, March 4, 5 p.m. in the Bible Round Table room.

**Vacation Bible School** planning meeting is Tuesday, March 6, 6 p.m. in the Information Area. Anyone that would like to help with VBS, please attend this meeting.

**Miriam Circle** will meet Tuesday, March 6, 7 p.m. at the home of Beverly Greenwood.

**Church Boy Scout Troop 549** will have an Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Justin Schrelick on Sunday, March 11, 2-5 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Congratulations to Justin!

**Daylight Saving Time** begins Sunday, March 11. Remember to set your clock ahead one hour!

**Missions Committee** will meet Tuesday, March 13, 6 p.m. in the Information Area.

**Chrysalis Hoot** gathering is Friday, March 16 at 6 p.m. **Columbus Community Emmaus** gathering is the same evening at 7 p.m.

**St. Patrick's Day** is Saturday, March 17. Wear your green!!

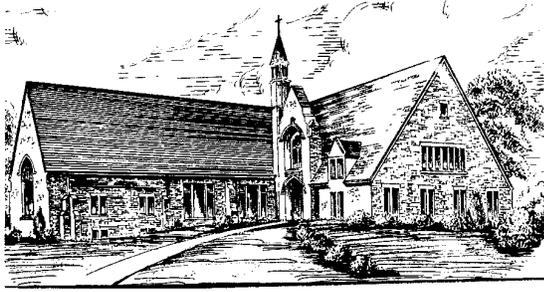
**United Methodist Men's** breakfast is Saturday, March 17, 8 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All men invited!

**Church Council** will meet Tuesday, March 20, 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

**Ecumenical Assembly** board meeting is Tuesday, March 27, 7 p.m. at Love Chapel.

**Food Locker Luncheon** for CEHS students is Thursday, March 29, 11:30-1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

**Easter Egg Hunt** for the children is Saturday, March 31, 10:30 a.m. (See Kids page for more information.)



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## **MISSION NEWS**

Mark your calendar! The Mission Committee is planning a mission focused weekend April 14 and 15. Our **Faith Promise Mission Sunday** is April 15 with Dr. Cameron Gongwer, missionary to Ghana, Africa, through The Mission Society of the United Methodist Church, will speak.

Saturday, April 14, a **Dinner and a Movie with a Silent Auction** is planned. The movie, "Courageous" will be shown. Watch your bulletins and the April newsletter for more details. If you would like to donate items for the Silent Auction or contact a business regarding donations, please contact Judy Strasser at 342-6970. All funds raised through this event will be used to assist individuals who want to participate in short-term mission trips. This year trips are planned for Haiti in June of 2012, Kodiak Mission, Kodiak, Alaska in July 2012 and Red Bird Mission, Beverly, KY, October 14-20.

A **Seder meal** is planned for Maundy Thursday, April 5 at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Tickets are available from Donita Barringer or Pastor Charlie. Ticket prices are \$10 per person or \$20 per family.

The **United Methodist Women Service Group** is collecting items for Africa through Marion Storehouse, Marion, IN. Items such as summer weight clothing (cotton) for all ages is needed, shoes, sewing supplies and eye glasses (including the case).

Items of all kind are collected for Red Bird Mission. Box tops for education are also collected.

If you donate items to the UMW Service Group, please leave them in the mission room (by the east wooden door) or call Betty Schaefer at 376-6978 to arrange for pick up.