

February 3, 2010

The Pilgrim Spire

Pilgrim United Church of Christ

130 Broad Boulevard
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221

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Visit our website @
www.PilgrimCF.org

for electronic versions of current and previous Spires, calendars, the Pilgrim Constitution, wedding, funeral and facility use policies, history, and much more!

The Pilgrim Spire is published twice monthly, on the first and third Wednesday of every month.

If you have something you'd like to share with your fellow Pilgrims, please contact the church office by **February 12th** to include your announcement in the next edition of *The Pilgrim Spire*.

We don't want you to miss a single issue! Please contact the office with any address changes, temporary or permanent.



One of the most famous stories of the New Testament is the one about Jesus walking on the water. If there is any gospel story we never tire of hearing, this is it.

The lake is rough. Though several of the apostles spent most of their life in a boat, they're still worried. But when they see a phantom walking towards them on the whitecaps, they get really scared. Then the figure speaks and they recognize a familiar voice—it is the Lord!

Remember the old saying "fools rush in where angels fear to tread?" Well here goes Peter: "Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you across the water." The Lord takes him up on it. "Come!" he says. So Peter gives it a try. The first few steps go great and he's pumped. But funny thing—when the Lord told him to come, he neglected to calm the wind and the waves. And as Peter, far from the security of the boat and the company of his buddies, finds himself buffeted by strong gusts and swirling waves, fear gets the best of him. He begins to sink. Remembering that Jesus is not too far off, he has the sense to cry out "**Lord save me!**"

The Lord fishes him out and then gently rebukes him. Jesus doesn't say that Peter has no faith. After all, he had more faith than the other eleven—at least he stepped out of the boat. But Jesus' statement is telling: "how little faith you have! Why did you falter?"

I think we love this story because we can so easily relate to it, we can find ourselves in it. Either we stay in the boat or we venture out in our lives. Sure, staying in the boat is safer and it is easier, but getting out is the only way we discover the reward. Yes, staying in the boat of safety and agreement means that we will never get wet or have to swim. It also means we will never hold Christ's hand or experience the fullness of his power in our lives.

Faith-filled Christians sometimes end up swimming, but that is alright because Jesus is always their life guard.

I am looking forward to sharing this Sunday with you.

Shalom,

Pastor Kirk

Your Fellow Pilgrims

- Social Hour
- Prayer Requests
- Thank You
- Card Request
- Steeple Lighting

*Greetings Pilgrim Family,
Happy 2010!*

It is a new year and it seems to be more challenging to get people to sign up to host Social Hour. We are all experiencing tough financial times, some more than others. I am aware that some people may not be able to financially cover the cost of Social Hour, but are willing to serve. There are also some who are able to cover the cost of Social Hour, but are unable to serve. I'd like to bring the two groups together under the strictest confidence! If you fall into one of these groups, I invite you to contact me to confidentially discuss your participation in Social Hour.

*Thank you,
Tyra Kremling,
Evangelism Board
330.686.2994*

Please keep the following in your **THOUGHTS & PRAYERS:**

Those currently hospitalized or in recovery:

Arminta Belet, Alter Care; **Nita Snider**, Gardens of Western Reserve;

Those healing at home:

Dave Ewart; Myrtle Glanville; Jo Green; Juli Kump;

Don Neill; Herb Sarrocco; Lou Yanik;

Those mourning the loss of:

Tywla Wagner, Marilyn Freeman's mother;

Those on our visitation list:

Anne Farver; Ellen Jenkins; Ruth Kult; Lawrence Labelle; Yvonne

Labelle; Edith Parker; Rosemary Pitts; John Rey; Irma Rowe;

Margaret Shultz; Vaughn Smith; Jack Truby;

Others in need of extra prayer, love and support:

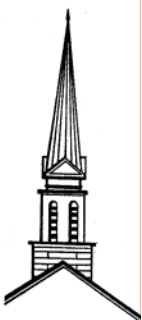
**Michele Cecil; Marilyn Freeman; Maren & Matt Olds;
the people of Haiti**

Note: If you have put someone on the prayer list, please contact the church office at least once a month with updates to keep this list current.

If you need Pastor Kirk's assistance during an illness, hospitalization or emergency, please contact the church office (330.928.4847.) Due to privacy laws, health care facilities cannot contact the church or give information to the Pastor unless you give permission. Due to ethical standards of ministry, current healthcare regulations and respect for individual's right to privacy, Pastor Kirk is unable to discuss anyone's condition unless the request comes directly from the individual or immediate family member. Thank you for your understanding.

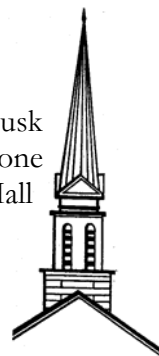
Your OCWM dollars at work: Thanks to all of you for your **GENEROUS** gifts to Our Churches Wider Mission. Jo and I attended a really awesome retreat/seminar at Church House in Cleveland last weekend. The keynote speaker for the annual "It's Your Turn Youth Leaders Lock-In" was Steve Case, author of the "Caffeine for Christ" series for small group Bible studies. Some members of the national UCC staff were also present. We both came away "refreshed"—laughter—networking—worship—new ideas for youth ministry and youth worship. Your contributions help to make this event and others like it possible. So—**THANK YOU**, from Jo Green and Marilyn Freeman.

The card lady would be really happy if you double checked for any unused cards you may have lying around your home. Check your basement, garage or under those couch cushions! **DROP OFF ANY UNUSED CARDS IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.** Whether they are Birthday cards, "Get Well" cards, blank cards, even "Thanks for being the Card Lady" cards, they will all be put to good use for Pilgrim's outreach.



To light the *Pilgrim United Church of Christ Steeple* from dusk to dawn for a week in honor or remembrance of someone or a special event, please sign the sheet in the Social Hall or contact the church office.

Donations to **LIGHT THE STEEPLE** are \$5.



Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, February 7

YOUTH GROUP invites all youth 6th-12th grade to come ice skating after church (11:40am-2pm). A pizza lunch will be provided before we walk over to the Cuyahoga Falls Ice Rink. Get your permission slips from the church office. RSVP to Jo Green or the church office by Friday, February 5th. Cost is as follows: \$2 for Cuyahoga Falls resident, \$5 for non-residents, \$3 for skate rental.

Tuesday, February 9

Reminder: **THE STEWARDSHIP BOARD** has changed its meeting time to the second Tuesday of the month at 7pm.

Saturday, February 13

Please join the Bruces at their home, 1604 Highbridge Rd in Cuyahoga Falls, from 7-9pm for cake and ice cream. This is an informal open house to **WISH PASTOR KIRK A HAPPY 50TH BIRTHDAY**. Your presence is the only present needed.

Sunday, February 14

"LAST ALLELUIA" SUNDAY: After church pancake and sausage lunch; decorate your own Mardi Gras mask; burn last year's Palm Sunday palms for Ash Wednesday ashes; celebrate the "alleluias" in your life; surprise contest to name the keeper of the "alleluias" which will stay hidden until Easter; Pancake races—so practices flipping those pancakes!

Wednesday, February 17

RSVP in the Social Hall for **ASH WEDNESDAY**, dinner @ 6:30pm, and service @ 7:30pm. Invite your neighbors and friends to enjoy delicious homemade soups, salad and freshly baked bread followed by a short service with readings, special music, ashes and communion. The goal of our Ash Wednesday worship is to shape our time of preparation for Easter.

Sunday, February 21

The Evangelism Board invites you attend **MOVIE NIGHT AT PILGRIM**. The movie *Fireproof* will be showing on the big screen in the Social Hall at 7pm. Bring a bag of microwave popcorn, a beverage to share and a cushion for extra comfort as you enjoy this movie said to "inspire you to put your faith in action." *Fireproof* shares a "simple, but powerful message" about relationships with each other and with Christ. Child care will be provided.

Thursday, February 25

EAT & EARN AT DONATOS (on State Rd) has been moved to the last Thursday of the month. Mention that you are a Pilgrim when you place an order for dine-in or carry out from 5-8pm and a portion of your purchases will be contributed to the church. This program earned Pilgrim \$200 in 2009. We thank Donatos General Manager Billy Harding for offering this program and for his compassion in providing a meal for a healing Pilgrim family.

MARKETING COMMITTEE meets at 7pm. They will be working to implement their 3-part marketing plan to invite more visitors to Pilgrim, encourage these visitors to become new members and to integrate new members into the church. Please contact Amber in the church office if you have any suggestions you'd like to share with this committee.



Other Announcements

- Good Neighbors
- 2010 Mission Trip
- Gift Card Fund Raiser
- Extra Annual Reports
- Stay Tuned

Dear Friends and Supporters of
Good Neighbors,

We wish to send a heartfelt "Thank You" to all who have supported the Cuyahoga Falls Unit of Good Neighbors during 2009 serving Cuyahoga Falls, Stow, Munroe Falls, Hudson, Peninsula, and Silver Lake,

We gratefully thank you for all contributions.

We wish to share with you some of the things we were able to accomplish with your help.

- EMERGENCY FOOD ORDERS provided were 3,324. During the year we spent over \$61,000 on food.
- SCHOOL CLOTHES and supplies were provided to 663 children. A shoe voucher was given to each child total of over \$4,700.
- AT CHRISTMAS we served 659 families representing 1,764 adults, seniors, and children with a food basket, gloves, and 3 or 4 gifts for each person.
- OUR TOTAL CLIENTELE during the year was 1,034 families (1,550 adults and 1,172 children) which, due to your generosity, we were able to help with various needs including clothing, household items, and food. Many of these families were assisted through-out the year.

We want to know that since we are served totally by volunteers, 85% of your donations go directly to our clients.

On behalf of the people we serve, we would like to say,

THANK YOU FOR CARING,

Jackie Wanclovic
Corresponding Secretary

PILGRIM CHURCH IN MISSION! If it's 2010, it's time for another mission trip and we've got on in the works! The PLAN is to leave **Friday, June 11**, travel to Windsor, Connecticut to spend the weekend at First Church in Windsor from "whence we came." After worshipping with them on Sunday, June 13, (other weekend activities are planned, too) we will proceed to Philadelphia and spend the week working with Old First Church UCC engaged in Urban Ministry. We'll add some sightseeing, then head back to Pilgrim on **Saturday, June 19**. Check out the websites of the churches for more information about them and their rich history.

<http://www.firstchurchinwindsor.org>

<http://www.oldfirstucc.org/>

The actual cost/person is \$350.00. Each person who goes will be asked to pay a \$50.00 deposit only. If you are interested in going on the mission trip, would like to make a contribution, or sponsor any portion of our trip, please see Marilyn Freeman.

Looking for an **EASY WAY TO CONTRIBUTE** to Pilgrim? For any shopping you know you're going to be doing, buy a gift card in advance and the church gets a percentage of your purchase. Orders must be paid in full, cash or check is fine. To place an order, please call *Vic Ing* at 330.459.9554 or stop by the church office. Online ordering is also available (ask Vic for details.)

If you were unable to attend the Congregational Meeting and would like a copy of the **ANNUAL REPORT**, please contact Amber in the church office.

Stay Tuned...

for new and improved name tags
and

a new use for the "Minutes Board" posted outside the kitchen. Note: To view minutes from any board or committee meeting, visit our website, or contact Amber in the church office.