

# eCHRONICLE

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**TOGETHER WE** use our spiritual gifts to  
**WORSHIP** and praise God,  
**GROW** in Christ,  
**EQUIP** our members for ministry, and  
**REACH OUT** in the world to help others  
**KNOW JESUS.**

eChronicle Editor: Laura Johnson [echronicle@christlchurch.org](mailto:echronicle@christlchurch.org)

**JUNE 2010**

## DON'T MISS THESE JUNE EVENTS

*The June 2010 Calendar of Events is sent along with the eChronicle as a separate .pdf file.*

### REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

LEARNING HOUR 9:00 A.M. (AGES 4 TO ADULT) THROUGH 6/6  
WORSHIP 10:30 A.M.

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 6/12 | YOUTH GROUP CAR WASH   |
| 6/13 | WORSHIP AND CHURCH PICNIC IN THE PARK 10:30 A.M. AT<br>CHAGRIN RIVER PARK ON REEVES ROAD IN WILLOUGHBY |
| 6/20 | COLLECTION FOR WILLOUGHBY FOOD PANTRY  |

## **SAYING "YES" TO GOD ALL YEAR ... STEWARDSHIP FOR ALL SEASONS**

by Laura Johnson, Stewardship Chairperson

Last fall our congregation spent a few weeks thinking about and discussing what it means to be a faithful steward who is accountable to God. "We Say Yes" was the theme of our stewardship drive, and it featured the following verse from Paul's 1st Letter to the Corinthians: *"Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy"* (1 Cor. 4:1-2). Each week of the drive had a focus question related to saying "Yes" to God:

1. "Where Are You?"
2. "What Have You Done?"
3. "Where Is Your Brother (/Sister/Neighbor)?"
4. "Who Do You Say I Am?"

These questions are quoted directly from Scripture. The first three are from the stories of Adam and Eve, and Cain and Abel (see Gen. 2-4). The fourth presents the question Jesus posed to his disciples in the Gospel of

Matthew (see Matt. 16:13-20). All these questions serve as a reminder of our accountability to God and present us the challenge of fully living out our relationship with our Savior, Jesus Christ, including the decisions we make regarding our financial resources.

Being a faithful steward is not something to think about for just a few weeks in the fall during a stewardship drive. We are called to practice good stewardship throughout the seasons of the year, giving back to God generously as a sacrificial act of worship.

### **What About Those Commitments?**

On Commitment Sunday, November 8, 2009, about 80 percent of the families/households who regularly attend church turned in a commitment card indicating their plans for financial giving through 2010. To date, actual giving has been on track with the amount committed by the congregation. Together all who committed said "yes," and together we have been faithful servants of Christ. Let us remain trustworthy and accountable during the second half of 2010 and may our giving glorify our Father in Heaven.

Those who have given to the church this year should have received the first quarterly giving statement in April. The purpose of quarterly statements is twofold: (1) to ensure that the financial secretary has an accurate record of each household's giving, and (2) to remind members what they have given in relation to what they committed. I believe that most of us turn in commitment amounts we fully intend and *want* to meet -- if not exceed. Hopefully, our annual commitments also challenge us to grow in our generosity toward God by setting a goal to give more each year -- a higher percentage of our income -- perhaps moving toward tithing (giving at least 10 percent of income).

There can be many reasons why we fall behind in our giving, and the quarterly statements are an opportunity to recognize where we stand and perhaps to come up with a plan for "catching up" so that we can achieve our commitment goal. During the summer months, many families travel and miss worship. Unfortunately, giving tends to decline in the middle of the year. Of course, personal circumstances (illness, loss of employment, etc.) can also have an impact on giving, but members should be assured that the church understands, supports, and prays for you during difficult times. Members are encouraged, but never required, to speak to the financial secretary if they feel they will be unable to keep their financial commitment to the church. Also, Pastor Dave and I are always willing to talk with members in confidence and answer any questions and concerns about stewardship. Please don't hesitate to call on us.

### **How Can Someone Learn More about Stewardship and Giving?**

This past March, Pastor Dave and I had the opportunity to attend an excellent stewardship program sponsored by the Northeastern Ohio Synod and hosted by our Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. Dr. Mark Allan Powell, a professor from Trinity Lutheran Seminary, gave a wonderful presentation based on his book *Giving to God: The Bible's Good News about Living a Generous Life* (published in 2006 by Eerdmans). I read this book in preparation for the Synod program, and I feel it is thorough, easy to read, and, most importantly, honest and down to earth. It has broadened my understanding of Christian stewardship more than any other resource I have found. If you are interested in reading this book, I would be more than happy to find you a copy.

In the stewardship annual report I presented in February, I wrote the following: "Stewardship was not a ministry I sought out when looking for an area to serve the church, however my involvement in stewardship over the past several years has had a tremendous, positive effect on my spiritual growth, especially in my attitude and habits regarding money and generosity." Frankly, I never would have experienced this if I had not accepted an invitation a few years ago to help with a stewardship drive. Serving in this ministry has never, ever required me to do anything that made me feel uncomfortable -- it's not about asking people for money, I promise. Please consider this your official invitation to join me in planning and carrying out another successful stewardship drive this year. If you're interested in participating or have any questions, please feel free to speak to me at church or contact me at [laurajohnson@earthlink.net](mailto:laurajohnson@earthlink.net) or by phone.

## Conclusion

The stewardship theme “We Say Yes” expresses a positive, eager attitude about giving back to God in thanksgiving for His countless gifts and blessings to each of us. But as “real people” living in the “real world,” we still need to be held accountable for our stewardship and to be reminded what that “Yes” means throughout the year. The following passage from the *We Say Yes* program materials connects this theme to our daily experience of God's unbelievable (**amazing!**) grace:

### Living the “Yes”

By living the way of the cross, we do not gain heaven or earn God's favor. We have already been given those things. We do not gain status or achieve blessings. God gives status and blessings as God chooses. We live God's way, accountable for our time and talents and treasures, because we have said “Yes” to God in Christ—“Yes” by the power of the Spirit. We live that “Yes” as we daily renew our baptismal promise and seek to be who God is calling us to be in the world. In that daily renewal, in response to God's “Yes” to us, we say “Yes” to God, and “Yes” to others. We are the “Yes”-saying people of a “Yes”-saying God.

## PASTOR DAVE ON THE GO...

- June 4-6: attend wedding of his nephew, Tim Pollitz, in Ottawa, Ohio
- June 12: Youth Group car wash at Chipotle parking lot
- June 13: church picnic at Chagrin River Park
- June 18: Dave and Busters Fun Day
- June 19: George Dawson wedding rehearsal
- June 25: Dave Matthews concert at Blossom Music Center
- June 26: George Dawson wedding

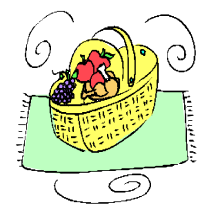
## NEWS AND NOTES ABOUT THE CONGREGATION (AND BEYOND!)

### Change of Email Address

**John Pund** has a new email address. He can now be reached at [pund.john@att.net](mailto:pund.john@att.net). Please update your copy of the church directory.

dishes, and to help out as you are able. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided. Please remember to bring your own lawn chairs and beverages.

### Church Picnic



Church Picnic

Our church worship in the park and picnic will be held on Sunday, June 13, at the Chagrin River Park off Reeves Road in Willoughby. The worship service will begin at 10:30a.m., followed by a picnic lunch and games for kids of all ages. Please sign up in the Gathering Area to attend, to bring potluck side

### Newcomers' Classes

Those interested in possibly joining Christ Church are encouraged to take part in a 4-session quick refresher course on Lutheranism. Learn about Christ Lutheran Church. Find out about your spiritual gifts and make some new friends. There will be a meeting after worship on June 27 to discuss when the group can meet. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Dave.

## Congratulations

**Pastor Dave** was recognized at a special worship service at the Northeastern Ohio Synod Assembly on May 14 for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination.

## Thank You

"Pastor Dave,  
You bring me communion every month, regardless of the weather. You listen and help me

resolve any problems. A great big thank you from the bottom of my heart. I'm so glad you're my pastor.

-- Nan Woost"

## Need Carpet Cleaning?

Smart Choice Cleaning will donate 100 sq. ft. of carpet cleaning to the church for every person who has their own carpet cleaned and mentions the church. For more information, contact **Scott Soos** at 497-0197 or 721-7216.

# GROUP HAPPENINGS

## Altar Guild

### Altar Flowers



If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary to celebrate a family occasion, remember a loved one, or give glory to God, please sign up in the Gathering Area. If you need assistance bringing your floral donation to church, speak to **John Pund, Ruth Thielo**, or any member of the Altar Guild.

## Education Committee

Reminder: The Sunday School children will be doing a craft at the church picnic, June 13, in preparation for the following Sunday, when they will help recognize the men of the congregation on Father's Day.

-- Sue Krech

## Men's Group

Six men met on Saturday, May 8, to discuss the following:

- Storage shed #3 relocation and ground leveling by Mark Belich. We will provide sweat-equity and the cost will be greatly reduced by Mark's generous supply of technology and expertise. The cost is estimated at \$800.

- The unisex toilet was replaced earlier in the month.
- The outlet supplying current to the roofing coil will be upgraded to meet city codes.
- The April fundraising dinner made \$288. Thanks to all who participated.
- The Car Cruise-in will be postponed for this year and will be held next year in June.

An addendum meeting was held Sunday, May 15, to discuss the playground area, east sidewalk and drainage project, and shed placement.

The next meeting will be Saturday, June 12.

-- John Pund

## Youth Group

### Rummage Sale Date Approaches

The annual Rummage Sale will be held on July 31. The P.O.D. for your treasures will arrive at the church parking lot on July 2. Please start saving your items for this event.

### Car Washes

Car washes are planned for May 22, June 12, and August 14, to run from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Set-up time will be at 10:30 a.m. Members and friends, please bring your car to the Chipotle/TruValue parking lot, 36200 Euclid Avenue, and support our youth as they begin raising money for their next big trip.

**Dave and Buster's Fun Day**

Meet at church on June 18 at 1:00 p.m. Bring some cash for dinner and games.

**Meeting Dates**

The Youth Group will meet after worship on June 20 and July 4.

**OTHER IMPORTANT HAPPENINGS IN JUNE**

**BIRTHDAYS**

- 9 Angela Thielo
- 12 Peter Winkler
- 15 Kyle LoPresti
- 23 Alyssa Picciano
- 26 Natalie Gibson
- 29 Zachary Hoover  
Shane Segler



**BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES**

- 8 Lisa Butke
- 18 Angela Johnston  
Kyle LoPresti
- 25 Natalie Gibson

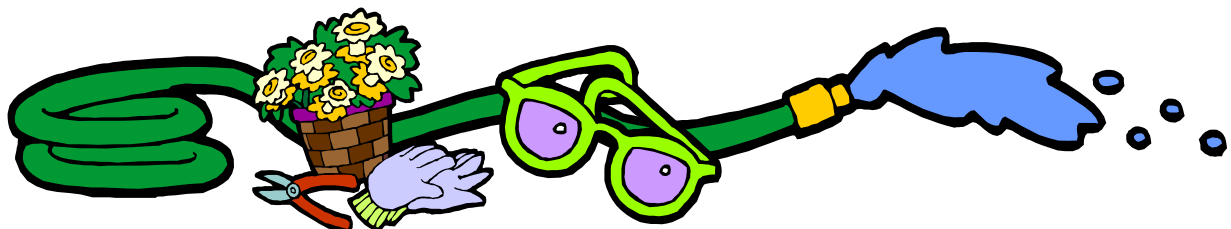
**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**



- 3 Kevin and Maggie Gibson
- 21 Miro and Heather Vokic
- 30 Gary and Sue Krech

**ATTENDANCE**

THIS YEAR				LAST YEAR		
Date	Sun.	Sch. Church	Communion	Date	Church	Communion
04-25-10	25	85	72	04-26-09	75	70
05-02-10	25	71		05-03-09	78	
05-09-10	15	75	61	05-10-09	87	66
05-16-10	24			05-17-09	69	



# THOSE SERVING US IN JUNE

## ACOLYTES

6 Tim Carroll  
13 worship and picnic in the park  
20 Anna Farrington  
27 Lindsey Dodaro

## ALTAR GUILD

Ruth Thielo

## COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

6 John Pund  
13 worship and picnic in the park  
20 Barb Conell  
27 \_\_\_\_\_

## COMMUNION BREAD

Cheryl Hoover

## COUNTERS

Linda Hazen and Laura Johnson

## GREETERS

6 Mario and Ann Picciano  
13 worship and picnic in the park  
20 John and Patti Pund  
27 Mike and Lois Sbrocco

## NURSERY

6 Heather Vokic  
13 worship and picnic in the park  
20 Becky Fricke  
27 Cheryl Hoover  
snacks provided by the Hoovers

## PRAYER LEADERS

6 Brock Hoover  
13 Sue Krech  
20 John Roeland  
27 Pat Batich

## READERS

6 Betsy Butke  
13 Darlene Carroll  
20 Beth Christopherson  
27 Barb Conell and Caley Bodjiak

## OPEN/CLOSE

6 Whittingtons  
13 worship and picnic in the park  
20 Thielos  
27 Punds

## USHERS

Dave Dodaro and John Pund  
back-up: Maggie Gibson

## FLOWERS

6 \_\_\_\_\_  
13 worship and picnic in the park  
20 Lauri and Alma Johnston, in memory of  
Dorothy DuRand  
27 \_\_\_\_\_

## COFFEE HOUR / FELLOWSHIP TIME

6 \_\_\_\_\_  
13 worship and picnic in the park  
20 \_\_\_\_\_  
27 the Hoovers, for Zach's 12<sup>th</sup> birthday

*If you cannot serve as scheduled, it is your responsibility to arrange for a substitute and let the church office know. If you would like to serve, sign up at the table in the Gathering Area or speak to Beth Christopherson and she'll put you in touch with the person in charge of that ministry.*

# A LOOK AHEAD: THOSE SERVING US IN JULY

## ACOLYTES

4 Zach Hoover  
11 Evan Conell and Larry Vokic  
18 Bob Johnston  
25 Tori Segler

## ALTAR GUILD

Patti and John Pund

## COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

4 Beth Farrington  
11 Brock Hoover  
18 Wendy Johnston  
25 Sue Krech

## COMMUNION BREAD

Sue Krech

## COUNTERS

Art and Evan Conell

## GREETERS

4 Shane and Tori Segler  
11 Ray and Pat Batich  
18 Steve and Velta Winkler  
25 Dave Dodaro and Caley Bodjiak

## NURSERY

4 Barb Conell  
11 Linda Hazen  
18 Heather Vokic  
25 Maggie Gibson  
snacks provided by the Frickes

## OPEN/CLOSE

4 Seglers open, Soos' close  
11 Krechs open, Gibsons close  
18 Whittingtons  
25 Hestons

## PRAYER LEADERS

4 Beth Christopherson  
11 Beth Farrington  
18 Brock Hoover  
25 Sue Krech

## READERS

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
11 Keith Fricke  
18 Beth Farrington  
25 Brock Hoover

## USHERS

John Roeland and Roger Heston  
(backup: Jeff Heston)

## FLOWERS

4 from the Soos', for Marty's birthday  
11 from Council, in honor of Pastor's 25<sup>th</sup>  
ordination anniversary  
18 \_\_\_\_\_  
25 \_\_\_\_\_

## COFFEE HOUR / FELLOWSHIP TIME

4 not available, per Council  
11 Pastor's 25<sup>th</sup> ordination anniversary celebration  
18 \_\_\_\_\_  
25 the Hoovers, for Katie's 10<sup>th</sup> birthday

*Need to look further ahead? Check out the schedules posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall and the sign-up sheets on the table in the Gathering Area.*