



2012

This year, Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Here are a few ways we are inviting you to engage in the Lenten season:

**Ash Wednesday Service:**

Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7pm, Sanctuary

**Wednesday Lenten Services**, beginning Feb. 29, 6pm. These will include a soup supper in Paterson Hall and then a simple worship service in the Lounge.

**Lenten Devotionals** can be picked up at the church starting February 12<sup>th</sup>.

(More details inside)



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**Weekly Schedule:**

**SUNDAY**

**9:15am Church School**

**10:30am Worship Service**

**11:30am Coffee Hour**

**Wednesday**

**12:00N Bible Study**

**Thursday**

**8:00PM AA & Al-Anon**

**ANNUAL MEETING**

February 12, 1012

Immediately following Worship Service



Bring a dish to pass and your own table service

We will be voting to change the Constitution so that the Moderator will serve a one year term instead of two.



You can find Pastor Jon's blog at [www.pointplaceucc.com/blog](http://www.pointplaceucc.com/blog).

Here are some of January's highlights. Please take a moment to share your own thoughts either online or with Pastor Jon:

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Dec. 30, 2011 *Holidays and Holy Days* "We like the idea of having 'Christmas in our hearts all year,' but as human beings, God knows that we need specific times to focus and return to him and to the life to which he has called us."

Jan. 19, 2012, *Don't Hate, Integrate!* "It is easy to hate and reject information that makes us think or challenges our assumptions. But such knee-jerk reactions keep us 1) from the general revelation insights we might learn from others, 2) from developing a spirit of humility and openness, and 3) from being able to connect and interact meaningfully with anyone who is not "like us." Integration can be a rigorous process. But it is one that is essential if we are going to live in this world in a meaningful way while also being transformed by God's Spirit."

General Fund		
2011	DECEMBER	Year-to-Date
Expenses	\$16,954.97	\$137, 669.57
Income	\$17,583.15	\$125,597.27
Difference	\$ 628.18	(\$12,072.30)

## FROM THE Pastor

After living in their house for 30 years, a couple decided it was time for a change. They had grown tired of their bedroom with its outdated light fixtures, scratched furniture, and uncomfortable mattress. They wanted a room that conveyed beauty, warmth, peace, and a sense of modernity. So, they cleared out the room, even pulling out the carpet, but not being the most handy or design-oriented, they called in a well-known designer to create their dream room. They told her how they wanted the room to feel, described some of their favorite colors, presented her with some cherished decorative pieces, and even suggested some ideas for themes. They loaded up the car and spent the next week in a hotel while the designer and her team worked.

After what felt like a month, the couple pulled into the driveway and met their beaming designer on the doorstep for the big reveal. She guided them through the house with their eyes closed, opened the door, and told them to open their eyes. The couple laughed with delight at the gorgeous room. The designer had clearly listened to their ideas and sense of style. The room was thoughtful, modern, and beautiful. They spent the day exploring the different features of the room and admiring how different times of the day shed light on different aspects of the room's atmosphere.

Begrudgingly, they realized it was time to go to bed. They changed into their pajamas, brushed their teeth, and were all ready to hop into bed when they stopped...

petrified. There was no bed! For that matter, there were no alarm clocks, no blankets, and no curtains that could shut out the morning light! The room was filled with wonderful pieces of furniture and lovely decorations, but now there was no space left for a bed.

The man picked up his phone to give the designer a piece of his mind, when—again—he stopped. In all of their conversations with the designer, neither he nor his wife had ever told the designer what kind of room she was designing, that this was a BEDROOM! They had never given her a clue that the primary purpose of this room—above anything else— was to provide a comfortable place to sleep and wake. The designer had not been aware that at the very least, this was a room for a bed.

Churches easily get caught up in all kinds of “good things.” We hear of opportunities to serve and programs to implement and ideas to attract new people; and sometimes we forget to take the time to stop and ask ourselves: What is our purpose? What is at the core of who we are? What needs to be a part of this community to the extent that without it, everything else is pointless?

This past Fall, a number of this congregation’s leaders gathered on two different occasions to think, pray, and talk through the purpose of God’s Church generally and a vision of this local church specifically. Through that process, we developed a “Vision Statement.” While our Mission Statement (“To care for others as God cares for us”) focuses on what we do, a Vision Statement is meant to focus on who we are. The goal is to have something that will help us to stay focused on the core purpose of this community and help us to structure our congregational life together. We are not yet officially “adopting” this as our Vision Statement. We want to spend some more time filling out what

these phrases mean and get some feedback from you. So, in Paterson Hall you will see the following statement hanging up underneath our Mission Statement as well as packets that detail some of our conversation that brought us to the Vision Statement. We’d love for you to ponder it and offer any feedback that comes to mind as we continue in this process. And if you’d like a copy of the conversation notes via email, just let me know.



*“We are striving to be a Gospel Community:  
Glorifying God in worship,  
Growing as disciples by word and Spirit, and  
Reflecting Christ in our neighborhoods.”*



## MOMENT WITH THE MODERATOR

St. Valentine's Day is one of my favorites. It's kind of a no pressure holiday. There's no major meal involved, I don't have to shop till I drop or my credit card explodes. I can send a card, if I want or not – the world does not come to an end if I forget. But the beauty of the day, for me, is that I usually don't forget because I want to send a little card to remind the people I'm close to that I love them. Sure, Hallmark and the Post Office love it when I do; but Valentine's Day is less about them and more about the way I feel.

Way back in 1979, Grand Trunk Railroad transferred Chuck and me from Kalamazoo, Michigan to Toledo, Ohio. We'd only been married a couple of years and bought our first house in West Toledo. After taking some time to get settled we began to look for a Church family. Chuck was working at Lang Yard, in the "Point" and after making a phone call found out that Point Place United Church of Christ was holding an Ash Wednesday Service. We walked into PPUCC and were welcomed like long lost friends. We attended the Church Service the following Sunday and found more of the same friendliness. We fell in love with this Church because we knew immediately that we weren't just members we were friends. People were surprised to find out that we traveled to Point Place from West Toledo when there were closer UCC Churches – it seemed like a no brainer to us – we were home. You see, having no family in the area you all fit the bill for us. And there you have it, 33 years later we're still here. Oh sure, just like any family we've had our ups and downs; but no matter where else we go it just isn't home.

So, I wanted to take the opportunity on this St. Valentine's Day to tell you how I feel. Consider yourselves hugged and enjoy the day.



John 15: 12

*My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.*

## MISSION BOARD

First off, we would like to say a delayed huge .....



...to those who volunteered to serve lunch at St. Paul's back in December. We served about 60 people and had enough food for everyone to have seconds and thirds. Thank you to the volunteers for giving of your time during the busy Christmas season!

In February the Mission Board will be selling Candy Grams as a fundraiser for the Helping Hands fund. During coffee hour in February you can give a friend, relative, co-worker, or fellow pew-member a kind word of encouragement and cheer. Each Candy Gram will cost \$1 and you can select from several styles. Be sure to take a moment to send some cheer to someone you care for!



*Ericka Winne*

## MISSION BOARD

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### **Feed Your Neighbor.**

The theme for the month of February will be “Matches Made in Heaven”. Bring in non-perishable food items that go together – or were made for each other. Items like peanut butter & jelly, spaghetti noodles & sauce, pancake mix & syrup, mustard & ketchup, cake mix & frosting, etc. You get the idea! You may leave your donations in the food cart at the back of the sanctuary. These donations will be delivered weekly to Mustard Seed to help stock their shelves.



### **The Giving Tree**

in February will be a continuation of our collection in January. Since the cold winter months have hit us later this year, we will continue to collect warm winter items such as gloves, hats, and scarves. These items will also be donated to Mustard Seed.

## FEED MY SHEEP NEWS

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In the month of February the Feed My Sheep program would like to extend grateful thanks and much appreciation to its many volunteers and donors. Through YOUR selfless help and generous donations the program continues to serve the community – in December we served

129 ham dinners including meals delivered to our home-bound church members and friends. A rainy, blustery evening saw our diners enjoying ham, au gratin potatoes and all the trimmings! Our volunteers included youth and adults from outside our church; the joy of serving continues to spread! Thank you to all!

In January we've planned a meal of lasagna, fresh garden salad, garlic bread, and assorted desserts. The February casserole meal planned for Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> will include Turkey noodle casserole and Ham and cheese casserole. Mark Feb 28<sup>th</sup> from 5 -7 pm on your calendar and come on down and help or just stop by for a meal. Food donations should be left at the church by Sunday, Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>.

Sign-up sheets are available in Paterson Hall if you are interested in volunteering or donating, or you may call Tina Mockbee 419 276 0637 or Lori Winne 734 848 4120 for more information.

## FEED MY SHEEP

**You can be a part of this program by –**

### **Volunteering -**

- to help set up for the dinner
- to help cook the food
- to serve during dinner
- to help with clean up
- to deliver a meal to a church member's home

### **Donating–**

- food and supplies
- Cash for purchase of meat and perishables.

### **We are in need of donations of**

- bags of egg noodles
- elbow macaroni
- pre-sweetened drink mix
- decaffeinated coffee



**Take-Away Bag** focus for February is Personal Care products– each bag will contain

- 1 – bottle of Shampoo
- 1 – stick deodorant
- 1 – toothpaste

*Please consider leaving a pre-made bag or items for a bag on the feed my sheep donation table. Thank you!*

## FROM THE DIACONATE



### **LENTEN SEASON BEGINS WITH ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE**

Begin the liturgical season of lent by participating in the Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 pm on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Plans for the service are evolving and your help is needed and welcomed. If you would like to help plan this service please contact Pastor Jon.

### **WEDNESDAY NIGHT SOUP SUPPERS AND LENTEN SERVICES PLANNED**



During the month of March Lenten services are planned for Wednesdays at 7:00 pm in the church lounge with a simple soup supper each at 6 pm. Soup makers, warm up your crock pots! Donations of soup are being sought – please contact Tina Mockbee at 419 276 0637 if you would like to donate a pot of soup for one of the evenings (or more than one!) Dates soup is needed: March 7, March 14, March 21, March 28.



## THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH THE (UN)HANGING OF THE GREENS!

The Board of Diaconate thanks those who scrambled about after a warm and yummy soup supper on January 3rd to un-decorate our church. After tasty soups donated by Leslie Geletzke and Tina Mockbee and yummy herbed crackers from Ruby Usher there was much bustling about and packing away. Many thanks to (our elves) Leslie & Chuck Geletzke, David Browning, Jim Armstrong, Alan Montague, Diane Yarrito, Scott Thimmes, Amanda Hartley, Ericka & Lori Winne, Tina Mockbee and Ruby Usher.



## Board of Christian Ed

Will host a family night on Saturday 2-18-12 at 6pm in Patterson Hall. The theme will be Camp. We will have a "bonfire" in Patterson Hall, food, games, and information on our UCC camps. It is for everyone-not just those with youth going to camp. More information will be forthcoming.

## Pledge Cards

Hopefully by now you have received and even turned in a pledge card for 2012. I, Pastor Jon, want to apologize for the confusion and lateness in getting these cards out. Our boards are working hard to be good stewards of what God has given us, and I hope that the mistake with the pledge cards this year does not overshadow that fact or discourage you from sharing in our community's giving. I am already planning ahead so this does not happen in the coming year. Thank you for your patience and grace .



