

March 2009

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The Light

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Family Roller Skating
Party
Chagrin Valley Roller Rink
Sunday, March 15th
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
\$8.00 per person includes
admission, skate rental, pizza &
pop
BRING A FRIEND!



YOUTH TAKE THE LEAD!
COME AND JOIN US
MARCH 29TH
10:30 a.m.
YOUTH SUNDAY
OUR ENTHUSIASTIC YOUNG PEOPLE WILL BE CONDUCTING WORSHIP IN A UNIQUE WAY, GUARANTEED TO MAKE YOU SMILE. A SPECIAL MUSICAL PERFORMANC WILL BE JUST A PART OF THIS SPECIAL DAY.
BE SURE TO STOP BY.
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

“Journey to the Cross” Cantata
Christ’s journey to the cross was life-changing for those who witnessed it firsthand and continues to impact our lives today. Enrich your Lenten experience as the choirs and congregations of Solon Community UCC and Bainbridge Community UCC join together in an inspiring cantata that will serve as a powerful reminder of Christ’s love, sacrifice and victory over death.
“Journey to the Cross” will be preformed on two Sundays; March 22nd at Solon Community UCC at the 10:30 a.m. worship service and March 29th at Bainbridge Community UCC at the 10:30 a.m. worship service.
This is a great time to invite an unchurched friend to church! Bring your friends and neighbors to explore faith and reconfirm that the one constant in life is His Love!!



From the Pastor



We are entering the season of the church year called Lent. This is a time when we consider the sacrifice of Christ on the cross, and the sins of humanity that made the cross necessary. It is a time for spiritual reflection and recommitment to God. A week or so ago as I was doing my sermon preparation, I read about a book written by the wife of Billy Graham, Ruth Bell Graham. I picked it up at the library – it's called Legacy of a Pack Rat. Written some twenty years ago, it is a collection of stories and brief writings Mrs. Graham collected over the years from conversations she had with people of faith. I'd like to paraphrase two of her stories, because I think they have relevance to this season.

The first story comes from an uncle of her husband, who was a missionary in China at the turn of the twentieth century, during the time of the Boxer Rebellion. This was a period of history when China was besieged and humiliated by foreigners. The Empress dowager sought to rid the empire of western influences. Many missionaries were rounded up and killed. Ruth's Uncle Jimmy, along with other missionaries, went into hiding. Several weeks later when he ventured north to see if it was safe for them to come out, he got a visitor. This man had a hard face; he was captain of the guard for the governor of Shansi Province, where between fifty and a hundred Christians were executed. He was in charge of the executions. He told Uncle Jimmy that when the Christians heard they were to die, they behaved in the strangest way this man had ever seen. There was no fear. Husbands and wives kissed one another and held their children tight, pointing to heaven and saying, "Yesu." They turned to face their executioners and began to sing. They died singing. This man with a hard face came to find Uncle Jimmy, a foreigner, to learn more about this faith and to ask God's forgiveness. At a time when graves of the faithful were strewn across China, God began a new harvest.

The second story comes from the pastor of a church near where Ruth lived. He told a story from his childhood about his dad, his elderly grandmother who was ailing, and his oldest brother, Robin. His dad took as much time as he could to be at the bedside of his mother, wondering at each visit if it would be his last. One day when he arrived home, he found that his oldest son had come down with a strange fever. This was back in the days before antibiotics and modern medicine. The dad couldn't bring himself to tell his mother about Robby's illness, fearing it would be too great a shock to her. Then suddenly, Robby died – he was only seventeen years old. Following the funeral, the dad hurried to his mother's side, trying to compose his face not to betray the sadness he felt. The family physician was there and said Mom had slipped into a coma. He sat beside her bed. After a while, his mom opened her eyes and recognized him, then closed her eyes again. Sometime later she opened her eyes and had a look of far away wonder on her face. She said, "I see Jesus... Why there's Father, and there's Mother... She paused, and said, "And there's Robby! I didn't know Robby had died!" She patted her son's knee and said, "Poor Bob." Then she was gone.

As we consider the depth of God's love for us all and the death of his son on the cross, may it be the means of our abundant life in him.

Mary Ellen

Lenten Scripture

The theme for our Lenten season is overcoming blindness of one form or another. The Lord of Life wishes to remove the blinders that hinder us from seeing our savior in all his glory. Jesus shares with us secrets about how to honor God, how to meet temptations in daily life and set good priorities, and how to see God in unexpected places. May this season of Lent be a time of reflection and renewal.

March 1	Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18	"Secret Service"
March 8	Matthew 4: 1-11	"What Part of "No" Don't Your Understand?"
March 15	Luke 14: 16-23	"Making Excuses"
March 22	John 4: 5-42	"Through the Lens of God"
March 29	John 9: 1-41	"Sight for Blind Eyes"
April 5 (Palm Sunday)	John 12: 12-16	"Sometimes You've Got to Shout!"
April 9 (Maundy Thursday)	John 18:28-19:1	"Pilate Pops the Question"
April 12 (Easter Sunday)	John 21: 15-19	"When Jesus Comes Looking For Us"

Elizabeth Goodin, Director of Christian Education

It is exciting to witness the engagement and understanding that has developed in our Sunday school children as they rotate through the stories that teach them about the nature of God. They know the people and the events, but I believe they are hearing the messages: God is our creator, God keeps His promises, God takes care of us, God works for ultimate good, God sees everything, God helps us. A light bulb moment occurred recently during a Jacob lesson when the children realized, "Ours is the same God" who made promises to Abraham and communicated with Jacob in his dream. God hasn't changed, and He is working in our lives as well. Knowing how precious we are to God can give us the confidence and perseverance we need to face all of life's challenges. This month, the children will be learning about God's ultimate gift to us, His son Jesus Christ, who gave his life so that we might have the relationship with God that He always intended for us, in this world and ever after. In small steps, our children are forming their own relationships with their Creator. What better testament is there than that to this month's message, He Lives!

Thank You from Jeff Schug -

Dear Mary Ellen, Gloria, Members of the Choir, and the Entire Congregation,

First and foremost, I want to personally thank each and every one of you for the part you played and everything you did for our family when my father passed on. There is no possible way for me to have been able to truly celebrate dad's life with such a beautiful service without all of you working so hard to make it happen in such a short amount of time. Your love and support at a time when we needed it the most was humbling. Your kind words, notes of sympathy, the memories shared, and the reflections of all of our individual experiences with dad, were easily the most cherished moments of the week leading up to his service. Again on behalf of my entire family, and on a very personal level, I want to thank all of you for being what I fully expected you would be; loving, supportive, caring, and all the while very sad. My Dad was my hero in every sense of the word. I miss him terribly.

- NOTE: The complete note from Jeff is on the bulletin board outside the office, our prayers and love go out to the Schug family. MEH

From the Diaconate

The annual Deacon's Valentine Brunch for the church was held February 15. Dale Mitchell and John Carlson manned the griddles after the French Toast batter was prepared by members of the Diaconate. As always the sausage patties were a big hit, and were "gone" quickly. This event is always well attended. As we always say, "if you feed them, they will come."

Spring Fling Luncheon

Ladies Luncheon with a Christopher & Banks Fashion Show

Saturday, May 2, 2009 at 11:30 a.m.

Tickets are \$15.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children 12 and under

Each board is asked if they could provide a gift basket for the raffle

Carolyn Parent will have tickets beginning on March 1st

Sponsored by the Social Committee



On Our Extended Prayer List

Prayers for the health and well being of our older members

†Dee Varga, at Stratford Commons
†Rosie Golias
†Tom Billheimer, now living in Bryan, OH.
†Jim Byer, at home.
†Jean King, living in Beavercreek, OH.
†Evelyn Schultz, in St. Petersburg, FL.
†Virginia Fentress, at Breckenridge Village in Willoughby.
†Margaret Steele
†Gene Rust
†Lois Grant
†Anna Lou Tomola

Blood Mobile

Let us know if you would be interested in having a Blood Mobile here at the church. We need at least 25 donors or 20 units of blood minimum. Call, (440) 248-4180, or email, scc4180@sbcglobal.net, the church, if you would be interested.

Cleveland Food Bank

Monday, March 9th - from 6 to 8 p.m.
(meet in the church parking lot at 5:30 p.m.)

Saturday, March 21 - from 9 a.m. to 12 noon
(meet in the parking lot at 8:30 a.m.)

Call Carol Telljohann, (440) 248-8756, for more information.
The Confirmation Class should make an effort to come and help on one of the above dates.

All are welcome to participate in this worthy mission project.



March birthday greetings to:

- 2 Eugene Rust
- 3 Edith Knowles
- 4 Mark Allison
- 5 Tom Billheimer
- 6 Alice Cellura
- 7 Michael Moore
- 8 Charlotte Zahl
- 11 Mike Steininger
- 14 Debbie Goetz
- 16 Jason Gerber
- 17 David Goetz
- 19 Andrew LePorte
- 21 Paul Gerber
- 21 Dean Reemsnyder
- 21 Shirley Yost
- 23 Susan Daley
- 23 Joan Mitchell
- 25 Paul Cellura
- 25 Cassandra Gwiazdowski
- 27 Jack Miller
- 31 Vinny Verbiar

YOUTH NEWS

SUNDAY, MARCH 8 - 11:30 a.m. Confirmation Class in Pastor's Office

SATURDAY, MARCH 14 - 3:00 p.m. Planning Meeting at the Church

SUNDAY, MARCH 15 - 5:30 p.m. Roller Skating Party at Chagrin Valley Roller Rink

SUNDAY, MARCH 29 - Youth Sunday

SUNDAY, APRIL 26 - Confirmation Sunday

LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU—FRIENDS ALWAYS WELCOME!



Rummage Sale Round-Up

Please keep us in mind when the weather gets better and you're doing your spring clean up. We're hoping to have our best Rummage Sale ever this June and we can't do it without your generous donations. If you have items such as furniture that need to be picked up or stored, please feel free to contact us.

Thank You, The Benevolence Committee

March 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:30 Worship/ Communion/ Sunday School 11:30 Benevo- lence 12:30 Trinity 3:30 SAI	2 9:30 Work It Out 6:00 HSKYD 7:00 Deacons	3 9:30 Adult Study 10:30 Music Together 12:30 Music Together	4 9:30 Work It Out 6:00 Trinity Bible Study	5 10:00 Solon Charity 6:30 Trinity Choir 7:30 Choir	6 9:30 Work It Out 7:30 Congrega- tion Tree of Life	7 9:00 HSKYD
8 10:30 Worship/ Sunday School 11:30 Confirma- tion 12:30 Trinity 3:30 SAI	9 9:30 Work It Out 6:00 Food Bank 6:00 HSKYD 6:30 Trinity Women's Group 7:00 Trustees	10 9:30 Adult Study 10:30 Music Together 12:30 Music Together	11 9:30 Work It Out 6:00 Trinity Bible Study 6:30 HSKYD	12 10:00 Solon Charity 7:00 Christian Ed. 7:30 Choir	13 9:30 Work It Out 7:30 Congrega- tion Tree of Life	14 9:00 HSKYD 3:00 Youth Planning Mtg. 7:00 Hubs
15 10:30 Wor- ship/Sunday Sch. 11:30 Spring Fling Meeting 12:00 Cantata Rehearsal 12:30 Trinity 3:30 SAI 5:30 Roller Skate	16 9:30 Work It Out 6:00 HSKYD	17 9:30 Adult Study	18 9:30 Work It Out 6:00 Trinity Bible Study 6:30 HSKYD	19 10:00 Solon Charity 6:30 Trinity Choir 7:30 Choir	20 9:30 Work It Out 7:30 Congrega- tion Tree of Life	21 9:00 HSKYD 9:00 Food Bank
22 10:30 Worship/ Cantata/Sunday School. 12:30 Trinity 3:30 SAI	23 9:30 Work It Out 6:00 HSKYD 6:30 Trinity Women's Group 7:00 Council	24 9:30 Adult Study Light Deadline	25 9:30 Work It Out 6:00 Trinity Bible Study 6:30 HSKYD	26 10:00 Solon Charity 7:30 Choir	27 9:30 Work It Out 7:30 Congrega- tion Tree of Life	28 9:00 HSKYD 7:00 HUBS
29 Youth Sunday 10:30 Worship 10:30 Cantata at Bainbridge UCC 12:30 Trinity 12:30 Trinity 3:30 SAI	30 9:30 Work It Out 6:00 HSKYD	31 9:30 Adult Study				



Scrapbooking Anyone?

Our friends at Twinsburg UCC have invited us and our friends to get together for an evening of scrapbooking. You are equally welcome as a beginner or to bring your favorite project to share. Please plan to bring your own supplies, photos, etc. The group meets at the church every third Friday of the month from 6 to 9 p.m. Join us for a night of fellowship and fun!

Concert

Bill Gaither and the Gaither Vocal Band will be coming to Cleveland State's Wolstein Center on Saturday, April 18, at 6 PM, which is a gospel music production. He has won three Grammy Awards for his music, and has produced over 100 Homecoming albums and tapes. In 2002 he and his wife Gloria were inducted into the International Gospel Music Hall of Fame. The cost is approximately \$43.00 per ticket with a group rate. If you are interested in attending this event as a group, call the church office. We could carpool together or make arrangements for group transportation.

News from Solon Historical Society

The Solon Historical Society proudly announces new hours for public viewing of the museum. Starting Sunday, March 8th, 2009 The Historical Society will be open on the 2nd Sunday of each month from 2pm – 5pm. The museum is located on the corner of Bainbridge and S.O.M. Center (Rt. 91) Roads. For more information, call Museum President Bob Shimits 440-248-3586 or Museum Curator Joe Baumann 440-248-6419. There is no charge for admission but donations and membership are encouraged.

Solon Community Church

33955 Sherbrook Park Dr.

Solon, Ohio 44139



March