



From the Pastor:

The other week I stopped by our Western Reserve Association offices and picked up several books from their resource library. One book had a gripping title: “I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church, “ written by Paul Nixon. I was intrigued about the book, and even more so once I began reading it.

The author writes that growing churches share some qualities in common, regardless of their doctrinal basis. These churches are willing to take risks to reach people in their communities that are not currently served well by the church. They are willing to adjust and change in order to reach a changing population. They know and hold fast to certain core beliefs that become their foundation. They do not attempt to be all things to all people, but realize that certain people would be happier in a different church. Growing churches genuinely want new people, and for newcomers to share the spiritual blessings they have received.

The author states that it is essential for a leader to have a clear personal experience of the risen Christ, which becomes the foundation for everything one does in life. How one experiences Christ differs depending on one’s theological bent. One woman related how she saw a homeless man looking for Jesus at a shelter. After that, she saw Jesus often at the shelter, and that encounter was more than enough for her to begin a lifelong process of growth and transformation. The author once was struck profoundly by a blind, paraplegic woman in a wheelchair who was being led through a crowded subway by a guide dog. Was she simply a courageous woman, or one who came to symbolize what Jesus means when he asks us to be obedient to his command to witness to the world?

If you have a foundation of spiritual experience that has given you joy and has changed your life, it will spill over into your relationships with people who are not part of an institutional church. Your spiritual experience will create urgency in different ways –one wishes to keep people from going to hell after death, another wants to keep people from living in hell while they are on earth, or simply to love others because they know they are powerfully loved by God. Though our theology may differ, our urgency for people to know God is what propels us towards action.

I appreciate his words and long for us to grow in urgency. When we know how Christ has changed our lives, and want for another what we have discovered in faith, we will be motivated to share Christ with others. For those who are not comfortable with a “born-again” theology, it is still essential to recapture our passion and joy in faith, so that it may spill over into the relationships we cultivate with those in our various walks of life. May you be reminded of what Christ means to you, why you serve our God of love, and how to share that passion with others.

In Christ’s service

Mary Ellen

May Scripture Lessons & Sermon Titles

May 3	John 10:11-18	“God Our Shepherd”
May 10	John 15: 1-8	“God the Horticulturist”
May 17	Combined Service with Trinity Christian Church	
May 24	1 John 5: 9-13	“God’s Truth in His Son”
May 31	Romans 8: 22-27	“God Works for Good”

Elizabeth Goodin, Director of Christian Education

I can hardly believe it myself, but we are nearing the end of our first year of *Faith Village*, our new workshop rotation model Sunday school program. At this point in time, it seems appropriate to pause and evaluate where we have been, what we have accomplished, and where we are going.

Our goal was to teach Bible stories that would communicate God's truths in ways that were not only memorable and fun, but also spiritually transforming. The children still remember Abraham and the covenant God made with him ("that man with the gray beard who had many sons"). And I think they enjoyed the many games we played and art projects they created (Jacob's Ladder). As for the transformation, only time will allow us to fully witness the impact we have had, but I can testify that I have seen the seeds planted. The children are beginning to know what to expect of God and what God expects of them. In answer to the question of the year, *Who is God?*, I believe that their answers would warm your hearts: God is our creator, God has an ultimate plan for good, God listens to us, God fills us with awe.

As a community, we have come together to make this possible for our children, with over 25 volunteers stepping forward to teach, and others helping with preparation, communication, resources, and of course, prayers. As for next year, we will continue to decorate and create the environment where our children will thrive in their learning, we will form support teams to spread the tasks further, and we will work to reach more children and families with our program.

Allow me to share with you the prayer I have taped to my computer monitor. I invite you to join me in this prayer and help make an even stronger program our mission for next year.

Precious Lord, as WE face yet another YEAR'S challenges, invade OUR thoughts with bigger and better ideas. Grant US the desire to perform OUR work with enthusiasm, Lord, as a sacred duty in honor to you. Amen.



Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Day - Sunday, May 31
All Sunday School Teachers are asked to be present at worship on May 31st. Teachers will be recognized during our worship service.

Good-bye Jim

Our Choir Director, Jim Kotora, has resigned, effective June 7, 2009. This is the last day our choir sings at the service for this church year.

Jim has been with Solon Community Church for about 30 years. He is loved and admired by all our choir members. Jim is a very talented musician and an exceptional director. Jim has inspired all of us with his choices of music and encouraged us to exceed what we felt we were capable of doing. He has provided a large variety of choral music, brought in talented musicians and has worked with other church choirs and their directors to provide special programs.

Jim is adamant about us not having a celebration to honor him, but we hope that between now and June 7th, each of you will stop and give Jim your thanks and appreciation for the time he has spent at Solon Community Church.

Jim, you will be missed. Thank you for your spirit, your hard work and for the talents you have brought to us all!

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, at Grande Village
†Gene Rust
†Lois Grant
†Anna Lou Tomola, at Heather Hill
†Al Varga



May birthday greetings to:

- 2 Rachel Cisar
- 2 Karen Young
- 3 Evan Herr
- 5 George Allison
- 5 Jennifer Hoffman
- 7 Jeffrey Grimm
- 7 Irene Vasichek
- 10 George Loche
- 12 Gary Brown
- 14 Dan Stropki
- 16 Rachel Kelley
- 19 Ralph Linton
- 19 Ryan Pavia
- 20 Robert Kelley
- 21 Gwen Lloyd
- 27 Joy Miller
- 27 Helen Parker
- 29 William McGowan



Rummage Sale—June 18th, 19th and 20th

It's spring cleaning time! Please save your gently used items in good condition for the rummage sale! You can start bringing your items to the church on June 8th.

We will also need your help in sorting and setting up for the sale.

Watch for a sign up sheet in the foyer!

Spring Clean-Up Time is Coming! May 30, at 9:00 a.m.

We will meet at the church at 9:00 a.m. Our to-do list includes raking, cleaning up around the building, and planting flowers. Cleaning our storage sheds and putting away the old roof tiles. Scraping and varnishing the cross and pillars (weather permitting).

If you would be willing to donate flowers, please let us know by Sunday, May 17th. The Building and Grounds Committee will be planting grass seed in May. If you have any seed or straw to spare, contact Jeff Sedlak or Ralph Linton.



Turbans of Love Ministry

...will meet on Tuesday, May 12th, at 2:00 p.m. We would appreciate anyone who can help to join us cut, sew and package our turbans for delivery to the hospitals. Remember - you don't have to be an accomplished seamstress to help, so join us and enjoy the fellowship. Need information? Call Gloria Herr at (440) 248-4263.

Help Wanted

It would be a blessing if someone would volunteer to stop by the church every day or two and make sure things were secure — windows and doors closed and locked, lights off, thermostats turned down, no water left running.

Occasionally perform simple maintenance such as changing light bulbs and furnace filters. Please let the office or one of the Trustees know if you are willing to help with this!

May 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<i>1</i> 9:30 Work It Out 4:00 Spring Fling Set Up 7:30 Congregation Tree of Life	<i>2</i> 9:00 HSKYD 11:30 Spring Fling 1:00 Sameepya 4:30 Yoga Class
<i>3</i> 10:30 Worship/ Communion./ Sunday School 11:30 Benevo- lence 12:30 Trinity 3:30 SAI	<i>4</i> 9:30 Work It Out 7:00 Deacons	<i>5</i> 9:30 Adult Study	<i>6</i> 9:30 Work It Out 6:00 HSKYD 6:00 Trinity Bi- ble Study	<i>7</i> 10:00 Solon Charity 6:30 Trinity Choir 6:30 Music Com- mittee 7:30 Choir	<i>8</i> 9:30 Work It Out 7:30 Congrega- tion Tree of Life	<i>9</i> 9:00 HSKYD 1:00 Sameepya
<i>10</i> 10:30 Worship/ Sunday School 12:30 Trinity Trinity CLC Brunch 3:30 SAI	<i>11</i> 9:30 Work It Out 6-8 Food Bank 6:30 Trinity Women 7:00 Trustees	<i>12</i> 9:30 Adult Study 2:00 Turbans	<i>13</i> 9:30 Work It Out 6:00 HSKYD 6:00 Trinity Bi- ble Study	<i>14</i> 10:00 Solon Charity 7:30 Choir	<i>15</i> 9:30 Work It Out 7:30 Congrega- tion Tree of Life	<i>16</i> 9:00 HSKYD 1:00 Sameepya 3:30 Luncheon Set Up
<i>17</i> 10:30 Combined Worship w/Trinity 11:30 Pot Luck Luncheon 3:30 SAI	<i>18</i> 9:30 Work It Out 7:00 Christian Education 7:00 Council	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i> 9:30 Work It Out 6:00 HSKYD 6:00 Trinity Bi- ble Study	<i>21</i> 10:00 Solon Charity 6:30 Trinity Choir 7:30 Choir	<i>22</i> 9:30 Work It Out 5:30 Wedding Rehearsal 7:30 Congrega- tion Tree of Life	<i>23</i> 9:00 HSKYD 1:00 Sameepya 4:30 Goetz Wed- ding
<i>24</i> 10:30 Worship/ Sunday School 12:30 Trinity 3:30 SAI	<i>25</i> Memorial Day Office Closed	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i> 9:30 Work It Out 6:00 HSKYD 6:00 Trinity Bi- ble Study	<i>28</i> 10:00 Solon Charity 7:30 Choir	<i>29</i> 9:30 Work It Out 7:30 Congrega- tion Tree of Life	<i>30</i> 9:00 Spring Clean-Up Day 9:00 HSKYD 1:00 Sameepya
<i>31</i> 10:30 Worship/ Teacher Recogni- tion Day/Sunday School 12:30 Trinity 3:30 SAI						

Congregational Self-Assessment

We have compiled the surveys we've received to date. Here's a high-level summary:

- 35 surveys have been received and reviewed. If you have not yet completed a survey and want your voice to be heard, please pick one up in the office (or call the office and have one mailed to you) and return it to a Council Exec ASAP.
- Strengths include Facilities, Sharing Faith and Inviting Others, Sense of Belonging, Lifespan Religious Growth, Leadership Support and Training, Worship, Clarity of Expectations and Assessment, and Stewardship.
- Opportunities include Sense of Direction, Community Involvement, Newcomers and Numerical Growth.
- Our Young Adult Ministry and Involvement is Deficient.

Council Execs are reviewing the written comments, evaluating how they align to the numerical results, and determining how to address the Opportunities and Deficiencies. **We will provide an update by the next Council meeting (5/18).**



Mother's Day

Solon Community Church

33955 Sherbrook Park Dr.

Solon, Ohio 44139



May