



# ECHO

Issue 1/12

January-February,  
2012

## From Your Pastor's Desk

This is the last time I will be writing a letter to you as your pastor. After five years it is a strange feeling to sit down to write knowing it is the final time. What should I say? A flood of things come to mind. It has been a privilege to serve as your pastor. You are a great church and a wonderful people. I love you and will miss you. I will pray for you to continue to grow in faith, spiritual life, and service. You have some wonderful things in the process of development. I will pray for them to bear fruit. First St. John has a tremendous influence for Christ in the city of Hamilton as you share His love, a stronger influence than you sometimes think.

I want to thank each of you for your love, prayers and support. We have gone through some very difficult days together. We have also celebrated many wonderful occasions. I will always have special memories of First St. John UCC.

I look forward to maintaining our friendship. I will always be glad to hear from you. I am embarking on a new phase in my ministry. I have accepted the position of interim minister at Phillipus UCC in Cincinnati. Please keep me in your prayers. I am sure I will see many of you at future Sonka events.

Sincerely,

Sam

**The Articles for January-February are due February 17. This date is chosen so if anything is going on the first of the month everyone is informed and can make a note about it.**

You can email them to

Eileen Fletcher or put them in the Echo box in the hanging folder mail box.

Email address is on back of this newsletter

## Meeting for the Future of First St. John

There will be a meeting following worship on January 15 for those interested in discussing the future options of the church.

EVERYONE has an opinion. Please attend if you are able.

## Worship Team News

The New Year brings more changes for First St. John with Pastor Sam's resignation as of December 31<sup>st</sup>. After his announcement at the annual Congregational Meeting a motion was made to form a committee to evaluate the future of First St. John. The committee met with Ruth Brandon (Association Minister) in December. She gave us information to look over and many things to think and pray about. Their next meeting will be held January 15, 2012 after church. Anyone interest may attend.

We will be having guest worship leaders until a decision is made on the direction in which God wants us to follow.

Thanks to all that donated cookies and delivered 'Goodie Bags' to the shut-ins. We have received many calls of appreciation.

Dates to remember:

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of month is Communion

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of month is Casual Service

February 22, 2012 – Ash Wednesday

I wanted to let you know how we had decided to spend the balance of the gift you had given us this year for the kids. Since we receive more than enough for Christmas, we have decided to use the rest - over \$500 - for the next Operation Serve in 2012. Had we decided to use it for Christmas, we would definitely have invited everyone to participate so they could enjoy watching how the kids receive it. It is a blast and will be happening tomorrow.

Pastor, please remind your congregation again of our desire to fellowship with them and include them in what we do. I know we've told you this before but it bears repeating - Power Source and First St John's are a team and your generosity helps us to reach this community for Christ.

We love you and pray blessings continually on St John's. Together, in 2012 and beyond, we'll work until Jesus comes.

Have a blessed Christmas and we'll see you in the new year.

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Dear Friends

I have no words to express what it meant to us to receive greetings from First St. John. A real shot in the arm! We miss many things in Hamilton-Fairfield, but the only thing I actually cried over was leaving our church family. We attend a Methodist church. The UCC is totally unknown here. A bunch of health problems has convinced us we did the right thing at the right time in moving nearer our daughters. We see Barb once a week and Ginny comes from Pa. monthly. In times of real stress they are HERE. We are OK – not fine, not really good, but OK. Condo living is great for us. Jim no longer drives, but I wheel us around in the third 'our last new car'. We are 87. Maybe I can set a record for the 'last new cars'. We don't eat regular meals, just sort of graze and whisk things from freezer to microwave. Our car is recognized at most of the drive-thru windows in town. Whatever it takes... Jim's 2 hip surgeries (same hip) were really traumatic for him mentally and he no longer is the person you all knew. But, he knows me and we are making it. We really enjoy receiving The Echo each issue. I read it to him and talk about each name he used to know. Our best wishes to each of you and thank you, thank you, thank you for thinking of us.





## January

4	Mildred Engler June Landis
9	Brittany Halcomb Helena Thompson
13	Virginia Robertson
15	Jean Stitsinger
16	Dennis Dalton
19	Lisa Johnson
20	Walter Kurtz
23	Kathyn Cameron
27	Jan Baker
28	Dorothy Popst
29	Susan Saylor
30	Patty Marcum
31	Rosalee Jones

## February

4	Donna Henderson
5	Rachel Senger
10	Wanda Senger
11	Earl Stumpf
12	Rachel Gonde
15	Ed Jones Web Byerline
16	Mel Brown
25	Claire O-Dell
28	Taylor Sullivan
29	Lucille Grimes

Thank you everyone for your cards, visits, prayers and concern during and following my recent surgery. Thanks , too, to Pastor Sam, for his visit to Westover.

I know this support helped me have a speedy recovery.

I wish a Blessed and Happy New Year to all.

Sincerely,

June Pierce



# January Prayer Circle



Dan Abner  
 Karen Alfrey  
 Eloise Andrews  
 Vernon Arnold  
 Ada Mae Begley  
 Payton Cauchran  
 Linda Chalk  
 Bill Coffeyl  
 Austin Dunn  
 Jack DuVall  
 Kyle Phelps  
 Norma Foster  
 Nellie Garland  
 Fred Gaw

Don Hartley  
 Nora Hartley  
 Vicki Howard  
 Alex Kip  
 Keith Lipphardt  
 Doug Little  
 Jackie McKinney  
 Harold Saylor  
 Michelle Schoonover  
 Marie Wurzbach

### The Family of

Judy Lipphardt  
 Karen Jennings  
 Jack Berling  
 Mary Ann Saylor  
 Nancy Kaefer

U.S Armed Forces & Their Families

Please leave a message for the prayer circle with Shirley. Include the following information: name of person, illness. Thanks, Shirley M. Lovely, 726-6223. Please check names carefully. If there are any names that need to be removed call Shirley M. Lovely.

Thank you for the cards I have received from First St. John UCC, and to all who signed them. It is a pleasure to be remembered.

May God Bless all of you and our church.

Your friend in Christ.

Love and Prayers Lucile



# January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00 Worship Ray Michel guest	2 Partners in Prime Closed	3	4 9:00 Happy Stitchers	5	6	7
8 9:00 Adult Class 10:00 Worship Carol Alexander guest	9 6:00 Serve City	10	11 9:00 Happy Stitchers	12	13	14
15 9:00 Adult Class  10:00 Worship Brice Thomas guest Church Future	16 MLK, Jr. Day  Partners in Prime Closed	17 6:30 Council	18 9:00 Happy Stitchers	19	20	21
22 9:00 Adult Class  10:00 Worship Brice Thomas guest	23	24	25 9:00 Happy Stitchers	26	27	28
29 9:00 Adult Class  10:00 Worship Mendl Adam- guest	30 6:00 Community Meal	31				

# February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:00 Happy Stitchers	2	3	4
5 9:00 Adult Class  10:00 Worship	6	7	8 9:00 Happy Stitchers	9	10	11
12 9:00 Adult Class  10:00 Worship	13 6:00 Serve City	14	15 9:00 Happy Stitchers	16	17	18
19 9:00 Adult Class  10:00 Worship	20	21 6:30 Council	22 9:00 Happy Stitchers	23	24	25
26 9:00 Adult Class  10:00 Worship	27 6:00 Community Meal	28	29 9:00 Happy Stitchers			



140 Ross Ave.  
Hamilton, Ohio 45013

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Our Mission:**

To use our individual and congregational gifts,  
talents and resources to communicate the Good News of Jesus Christ,  
and to bring to all His word, His healing, His compassion and  
His forgiveness by being a warm accepting and loving faith community.

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