



# ECHO

Issue 11-11

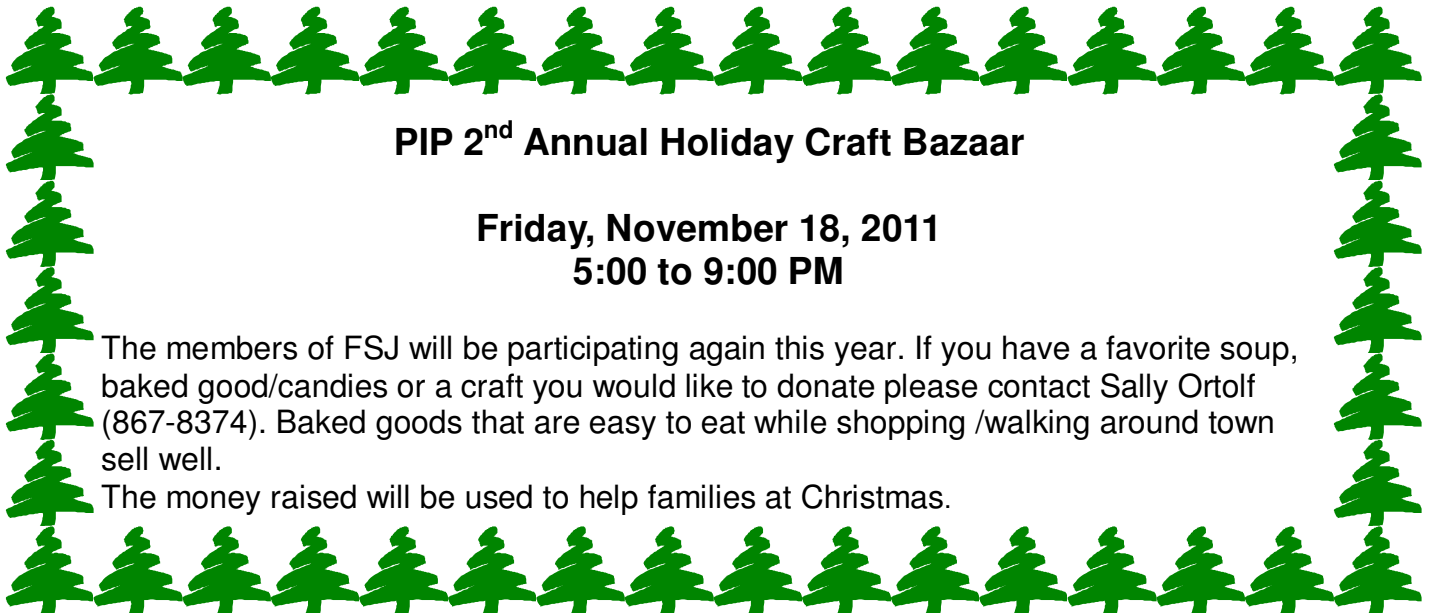
November-  
December  
2011



**Remember November 6, Daylight Savings Ends.  
Move Your Clock Back One Hour**

### Upcoming Dates to Remember

November	6	Memorial Sunday
	18	Partners in Prime Holiday Bazaar from 5 to 9PM
	20	Congregational Meeting after church
	27	First Sunday of Advent and Hymn/ Praise Sing
December	24	Christmas Eve Service – 5:00PM
	25	Christmas Day Service - 10:00 AM



### PIP 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Holiday Craft Bazaar

**Friday, November 18, 2011  
5:00 to 9:00 PM**

The members of FSJ will be participating again this year. If you have a favorite soup, baked good/candies or a craft you would like to donate please contact Sally Ortolf (867-8374). Baked goods that are easy to eat while shopping /walking around town sell well.

The money raised will be used to help families at Christmas.

**The Articles for January-February are due December 22. 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

## From Your Pastor's Desk

In a sermon at Harvard University's Memorial Church on September 23, 2001, shortly after the terrorist attacks, the late Peter Gomes told the story of Ernest Gordon, who was captured on the River Kwai during World War II. "While in a Japanese prison camp, Gordon and his fellow British captives were initially very religious, reading their Bibles, praying, singing hymns, witnessing, and testifying to their faith. They were hoping and expecting that God would reward them and fortify them for their faith by freeing them or at least mitigating their captivity.

"God didn't deliver, however, and the men became both disillusioned and angry. They gave up on the outward display of their faith; but after a while, as the men began tending to the needs of their fellows -- caring for them, protecting the weaker ones and in some cases dying for one another -- they began to discern something of a spirit of God in their midst. They discovered that religion was not what you believed but what you did for others when it seemed that you could do nothing at all. Compassion gave them their inner strength, and their inner strength gave them compassion. (Homiletics. Vol. 24. No. 5)

No doubt about it, we are living in difficult times. Unemployment remains high. Our country is deeply divided. We have members in our church suffering deep grief due to the death of a dear family member. Many, by no fault of their own, are struggling to make ends meet.

We all know someone in need. Those in need don't need our outward display of religion. They need our compassion. I agree with Rev. Gomes, "religion is not only what we believe but rather what we do for others when it seems that we can do nothing at all".

Let us strengthen our faith by showing love and compassion to someone in need. Compassion gives us inner strength and our inner strength gives us compassion.

Sam

## **Update to the First St. John Scholarship Fund Application Process**

The First St. John education and scholarship fund has been in place for many years and has supported numerous congregation members and their family. The purpose of the fund is to assist the Church in providing scholarships and educational programs primarily for members of the Church. Beginning in January of 2012, there are some slight changes to the application process. Scholarship requests can be made at any time during the year. The scholarship applications can be obtained in a number of ways that includes:

- Accessing the First St. John UCC website at the Document link
- Contacting the First St. John church office
- Contacting one of the R&A Team members

### **Scholarship Financials**

The maximum amount that can be applied for and received in a 6 month period is \$750. Applicants can request amounts up to \$750. Applicants can apply twice a year to receive a maximum amount in the calendar year of \$1,500. This is an increase in the maximum amount of \$1,000 that has been awarded in previous years.

### **We Want to Know More About You**

There are some additional fields that applicants must fill out in order for the scholarship fund request to be approved. The additional information allows the R&A team the ability to know a little bit more about the applicant. Some of the additional fields on the new application include:

- Relationship to Congregation Member
- Field of Study and Expected Degree
- Year of Study
- Current Accumulative Grade Point Average
- Expected Graduation Date

As a reminder, we do ask that applicants be of direct lineage to a church member. (For example - Member, Child, Grandchild, etc) Also, scholarship requests are not automatically renewed during the calendar year. Applicants must submit a new request each time funds are requested. Scholarship applications can be submitted through the First St. John Office or to one of the R&A Team members.



## November

- 3 Barb Stitsinger
- 4 Jim O'Dell
- 14 Ann Brown  
Emily O'Dell
- 19 Don Asplan  
Cyndi Hamburg
- 21 Lelia Kinner  
Phillip Reed  
Jeanne Walther
- 22 Bill McCalley  
Dan Robertson
- 24 Jennifer Rowe

## December

- 2 Ginger Vizedom
- 3 Jim Conyers
- 4 Karen Holder
- 5 MaryLou Dickerscheid  
Norma Durr
- 7 Stacy Starr
- 13 Scott Conklin
- 17 Terry Senger
- 18 Wayne Wishart  
Sara Robertson
- 19 Tim Johnson  
Sam Wyatt
- 22 Irene Owens
- 26 Linda Foxbower

## Did you know?

- ◆ The church office is open on a scheduled basis Thursday mornings 8:00-11:00 only.
- ◆ Someone is in the office in addition to the hours above, but times vary.
- ◆ The phone is checked for messages at least once per day, Monday -Friday.
- ◆ The church has a mailbox in Partners in Prime's Business Office (first floor). It is open Mon – Fri 9-5.
- ◆ You can find the Echo on our webpage [www.fsjchurch.org](http://www.fsjchurch.org).
- ◆ You can find pictures of past events and download documents on our webpage.
- ◆ You can still call the church, a council person, or Pastor Sam.

On October 23, we were visited by Power J.A.M. who wanted to say "Thank You" for our support during Operation Serve this summer. The sign indicates a bridge of cooperation between First St. John and Power Source Ministries at old FSJ on Front St.



Dear First St John

Thank you so much for the scholarship! I have been so tight on money lately, but now I can afford my books for this semester, the new calculator I needed, and even have some left over to put on my meal-card.

I can't thank you enough, this money will help me so much

Jessica Kerby



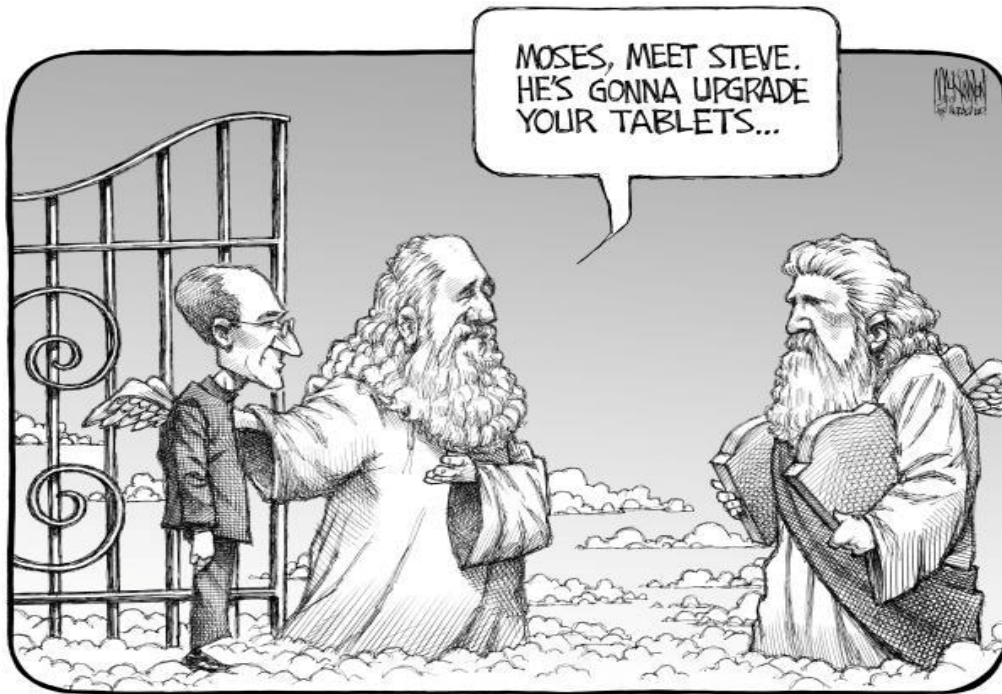
On behalf of the staff and volunteers of New Life Mission, I want to thank you for your recent support of \$1,000. This will greatly help toward maintaining our ongoing operations and future building expansion. Thank you and be assured that your gift always will be used to maximize its effectiveness.

Sincerely, In His Name  
Larry Gaines  
Pastor and Director

To the Entire First St. John Congregation

Your contribution to my studies is greatly appreciated. Having your support helps my dream of becoming a teacher come true.

Sincerely,  
Meagan Webb



## Open Door Pantry

We are still collecting non perishable items to help replenish the shelves at the Pantry.

**Reminder: Annual Open Door Pantry Concert at Zion Lutheran Church on November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3:00.**

# November Prayer Circle



Karen Alfrey  
 Eloise Andrews  
 Vernon Arnold  
 Ira Ash  
 Ada Mae Begley  
 Jack Berling  
 Harold Betz  
 Payton Cauchran  
 Linda Chalk  
 Bill Coffey  
 Austin Dunn  
 Jack DuVall  
 Kyle Phelps  
 Norma Foster  
 Nellie Garland  
 Fred Gaw

Vicki Howard  
 Karen Jennings  
 Alex Kip  
 Doug Little  
 Jackie McKinney  
 Faye Muddell  
 Viola Murden  
 June Pierce  
 Joe Selkirk  
 Michelle Schoonover  
 Marie Wurzbach

## The Family of

Carl Lindner  
 Ruth Van Lieu

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

## More Things to Recycle

In addition to paper, aluminum cans, dry cell batteries and prescription bottles, you can now drop off your outdated cell phones at PiP. There are receptacles for all items in the first floor stairwell. Just go through the double doors (next to the automatic ramp door). Bob Kerby has graciously been delivering the prescription bottles to Matthew 25 Ministries in Blue Ash for several years. Thank you Bob for this service to the community.



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.

The ECHO is a publication of First St. John United Church of Christ ISSN 383367-25	Church Office: 140 Ross Ave. Hamilton OH 45013
ECHO Staff Members:	Office Hours: Thursday, 8.00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Editor Eileen Fletcher e-mail <a href="mailto:efletchermcnamara@fuse.net">efletchermcnamara@fuse.net</a>	Phone: 513-863-0793 Fax: 513-863-0871 E-Mail: <a href="mailto:firststjohn@fuse.net">firststjohn@fuse.net</a>
Calendar & Activity Page Connie Wyatt	Web Page: <a href="http://fsjchurch.org">fsjchurch.org</a>
Birthdays Lelia Kinner	Pastor: Rev. Samuel Wyatt e mail <a href="mailto:rev.samwyatt@fuse.net">rev.samwyatt@fuse.net</a>
Sunday Schedule: Worship Service 10:00 a.m. Ballroom Second Floor Fellowship Time 11:00-11:30	Music Director Susan Ha Office Manager Connie Wyatt

# November 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Sundays</b> 9:00 Adult Class 10:00 Worship		1	2 9:00 Happy Stitchers	3	4	5
6 Memorial Sunday	7	8  5:30 pm R&A Team	9 9:00 Happy Stitchers	10	11	12
13	14  <b>6:00 Serve City</b>	15  6:30 pm Council	16 9:00 Happy Stitchers	17	18 Holiday Bazaar 5-9 pm Partners in Prime	19
20  Annual Congrega- tional Meeting	21	22	23 9:00 Happy Stitchers	24 THANKSGIVING  PiP Closed	25  PiP Closed	26
27 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent Hymn Sing	28  6:00 Community Meal	29	30 9:00 Happy Stitchers			

# December 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Sundays</b> 9:00 Adult Class 10:00 Worship				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 9:00 Happy Stitches	8	9	10
11	12  <b>6:00 Serve City</b>	13  5:30 pm R&A Team	14 9:00 Happy Stitches	15	16	17
18  Christmas Fund Special Offering	19	20  6:30 pm Council	21 9:00 Happy Stitches	22 Jan/Feb Echo Articles Due	23  PiP Closed	24  Christmas Eve 5:00 Service
25  Christmas Day 10:00 Service	26  PiP Closed  6:00 Community Meal	27	28 9:00 Happy Stitches	29	30	31