

January 2010

From Your Pastor

What now?

That's what a nine-year-old boy asked his dad leaving the Christmas Eve service in a church I once served.

His dad was sure it signaled a case of terminal disappointment; that the youngster would never be satisfied with the vast array of life's blessings, but would always crave the next big thing.

Maybe. But here at the threshold of a new year, I find myself asking the same question. We have celebrated the birth of our Savior with glorious music and candlelight, promises of peace and joy to all the world, and tremendous generosity to the poor in our community and beyond. *What now?*

A new book that crossed my desk recently offers a surprising response. When author Cami Walker was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, her health and her outlook fell to the depths---until she got an unusual prescription from a holistic health educator. The treatment and her experiences are summed up *29 Gifts: How a Month of Giving Can Change Your Life [DaCapo Press]*.

Ms. Walker gave a gift every day for a month. Sometimes these were tangible items, but just as often they took the form of service to someone else, a supportive phone call or note, for example.. She wasn't cured of illness, but her ability to cope with it grew. She gained mobility and became less dependent on pain meds. *It has given me a more positive outlook on life. It's about stepping outside your own story long enough to make a connection with someone else."*

[from the *New York Times*, Tara Parker-Pope, *Well* column, 1 December 2009]

Stephen Post, formerly of Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, commented: "There's no question that life holds greater meaning when we make this kind of shift in the direction of others and get away from our own self-preoccupation and problems. But it also seems to be the case that there is an underlying biology involved in all this." Hmmmm. Science shakes hands with theology! Our Creator has placed within the human soul (and apparently the body too) a deep connectivity with other humans. Nurturing those connections is good for us---body and soul!

In this new year let's consider the ways we are nurturing our human connections through ministry to one another. How are we serving persons in need? What are we doing to show God's saving love for all people? What might we do to "keep Christmas" all year long? The survey we took a year ago reflects a congregation of active volunteers, serving on charitable boards, offering direct aid, contributing time and skills to strengthen our city. The Outreach Mission Council has ideas too, from some new initiatives including adopting an East Cleveland elementary school library and involvement with urban schools, including John Zitzner's Zealous

Pastor Louise



MEMBER NEWS

Please let us know if you are moving, having children or grandchildren, getting married, etc. Contact the church office (information@fairmountchurch.org or 216.321.5800) with updated information. Please allow us to stay connected to you!

Birthdays

January 2010

- 01/01 Carlton Schnell
Joseph Richey
Peter Adams
William McLaughlin
- 01/02 Mark Harbaugh
- 01/03 Lucien Case
- 01/04 William Swift
- 01/05 Marilyn Bachman
- 01/08 Eleanor Lewis
Daniel Reynolds
- 01/09 Shirley Wolf
- 01/10 Millie Yoder
Frank Porter
- 01/11 Kevin Petru
- 01/15 Marias Hawley
- 01/16 Henry Andersen
Barbara Richardson
Elizabeth English
- 01/18 Jane Brooke
James Bayman
Peg Zitzner
- 01/19 Lee Hall
- 01/20 William Jones
Georgianna Roberts
- 01/21 Elizabeth James
- 01/23 Karl Bruch
- 01/24 Joanne Neville
- 01/26 Carl Withers
- 01/27 Edna Strnad
Mary Ann Taylor
William Kiser
John Vitkus
- 01/29 Ann Gillespie
- 01/30 Ruth Polster
- 01/31 Jenny Withers
Nancy Carpenter
Judith Steehler



Birthdays are listed every five years, beginning with the 40th and then every year, beginning with the 70th.

Anniversaries

- ♥ 1/08 Sarah and Ryan Routh (10 years)
- ♥ 1/10 Marjorie and Tommy Thompson (40 years)
- ♥ 1/29 Maurine and Dick Ruggles (56 years)
- ♥ 1/30 Charlotte and David Miller
- ♥ 1/31 Joan and Dick Bull (51 years)



Anniversaries are listed every five years until the 50th, when they are listed every year.

In Memoriam

Duane Ratliff died November 27, 2009.

Edna Troxell died December 13, 2009.



Wedding

Shawn Miller and Anna Freyre-Diaz, married on December 5, 2009 and officiated by **Rev. Louise Westfall, Rev. Missy Shiverick** and **Rev. Eric Dillenbeck**.

Making the Big Time!

Congratulations to our own parish associate, the **Rev. Missy Shiverick**, who was elected Vice-Moderator of the Presbytery of the Western Reserve at the November meeting! She will serve for one year, followed by a year as Moderator of the Presbytery, and a third year as Moderator of the Mission Council. In their selection of the Rev. Shiverick, the Nominating Committee cited her outstanding service to the presbytery, her sensitive pastoral skills, and her prophetic work with urban churches. We are blessed by Missy's ministry in our congregation and in the wider church.

Turning 20

- 01/18 Eric Fisher; 01/19 Kirsten West; 01/28 Owen Lowrie

Program & Support Staff

- Rev. Dr. Louise F. Westfall – Pastor/Head of Staff
- Rev. Eric R. Dillenbeck – Associate Pastor for Congregational Life and Faith Formation
- Rev. Dr. Richard D. Clewell – Parish Associate – Adult Education & Church Growth
- Rev. Martha (Missy) Shiverick – Parish Associate – Congregational Care
- Betsy Wooster – Director of Children's and Family Ministries
- Kurt Zitzner – Youth Director
- Robert L. Moncrief – Minister of Music
- Amy Carlson – Handbell Director
- Laura Ross – Music Intern
- Angelia Martin—20s/30s Coordinator
- Eugene L. Smith – Church Administrator
- Susanne Knauer – Financial Secretary
- Shawn Miller – Technical Services & Printing
- Donna Evans – Pastor's Assistant
- Kerri Chapman – Office Manager
- Michael Ervin, Leeron Hines, Antonio Bohannon – Custodians
- Sharon Gay – Housekeeping
- Elisha Hooks and Jamie Dreger - Toddler and Infant Care

Fairmount Flyer, January 2010

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Worship Highlights

Sunday Worship at 8:30 & 11

- January 3** COMMUNION ONE SERVICE at 11 AM. Eric Dillenbeck preaching.
- January 10** RENEWAL OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT Louise Westfall preaching "Naming Rights," based on Isaiah 43:1-7 and Luke 3:21-22
- January 17** MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BIRTHDAY COMMEMORATION Dick Clewell preaching
- January 24** Louise Westfall preaching "A Good Offense Is the Best Defense" based on Luke 4:14-30
- January 31** Louise Westfall preaching "C'mon God, I'm Only Human!"

Evening Prayer with Taizé Music

Wednesday, January 6 EVENING PRAYER in the candlelit chapel, with Taize music, Scripture reading, and prayers for healing/wholeness, optional labyrinth walking meditation.

Worship at Judson

Worship with our members who are residents of Judson Park on the third Sunday of each month (January 17) at 11 am, led by **Logan Skelly**, candidate for ministry, **Nana Landgraf** as musician, and our Deacons.

Communion is celebrated for Judson residents on the fourth Monday of each month (January 25), led by the **Rev. Missy Shiverick**.

What Next? (from front cover)

Schools. Please call if you'd like to discuss ways YOU can serve. Here's to a healthy 2010!

Faithfully,



Pastor Louise Westfall

Careers in Transition

The success of the weekly Job Seekers Group has highlighted the need for specialized job seeking services. Fairmount is expanding this ministry to include occasional classes for first-time job seekers, retired persons seeking an "encore career," and those with specific needs.



CAREERS In Transition

Fairmount member **Tom Johnston** will continue to provide leadership for this new initiative. A meeting to plan for the initiation of this ministry will be held at Fairmount, January 9, at 9 AM. If you have human resources experience, a passion to help people with employment, or would like to know more about job transition resources, please join us for this planning meeting. Want to know more? Are you interested in volunteering in this ministry? Contact Pastor Louise.

Faithful Lives Film Series

Celebrating our 14th Year!

A monthly gathering to watch movies and discuss contemporary themes, the Faithful Lives Film Series meets in the Upper Room, the second Friday of January through May at 6:45 P.M.

Our first movie, coming up on Friday, January 8 at 6:45 pm, is **FROST/NIXON**, a dramatic retelling of the post-Watergate television interviews between British talk-show host David Frost and former president Richard Nixon. (R).

PIZZA - POPCORN – BEVERAGES

FREE WILL OFFERING

Childcare will be available with advance notice. Please call Bryan Seekely at 440.461.4264 for more information.

Future movies to be scheduled include:

- * A River Runs Through It
- * The Great Debaters
- * One Night with the King -The story of Ester
- * The Soloist

Open Doors Serves New Communities

Open Doors Academy has taken extraordinary measures to open its doors to three new communities in the Greater Cleveland Area and we would like to celebrate our success with those who have supported us along the way! Join us with Pastor Louise on Friday, January 29th, 2010, at 7 p.m. at the Manse to celebrate, enjoy some wine and light hor d'oeuvres, and learn more about the growth of Open Doors, our new sites, and our continuing commitment to Fairmount Presbyterian Church. Please RSVP at 216.229.1900.

Faith Matters

This adult education group meets on Sunday at 9:30 am in the Chapel and is open to all. Its focus is on current issues which challenge Christians to be faithful and respond in meaningful ways. We provide various perspectives on issues from newspapers, periodicals and informed speakers.

- * Sunday, January 3 – No Class
- * Sunday, January 10 – Final Session – “First Light: Jesus and the Kingdom of God” with John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg. Segment 12 – “America as the New Rome,” DVD and discussion
- * Sunday January 17 – “Challenges and Hopes for Cleveland, Dr. Sharon Milligan, Associate Director on Urban Poverty and Community Development, CWRU
- * Sunday, January 24 – Mayor Gary Norton of East Cleveland – “Hopes and Vision for East Cleveland and the N.O.A.H. connection.”
- * Sunday, January 31 – “Vision and Plans for Outreach Ministry – 2010,” Outreach Ministry Council Presentation.

Beyond Acceptance

This support group is for individuals and families who are dealing with issues of gender and sexual identity and the Christian church's acceptance of gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgendered persons will meet on **Tuesday, January, 26** at 5:30 PM in Chilcote North. A presentation, “Second Guessing Grandma,” will be shown and discussed. You are welcomed to explore related questions or problems in a safe place assuring confidentiality and positive Christian support. For further information, contact **Dick Clewell** at 216.321.5800, ext. 109.

Men's Breakfast Forum

the Christian faith in response to daily living. This group is always open to new participants. Articles for discussion this month:

- 📖 Wednesday, January, 6 – “This American Mess – Where is Reinhold Niebuhr When We Need Him?” by Andres Finstuen - (*Christian Century*, December 1, 2009)
- 📖 Wednesday, January, 20 – “Immigration Forum: Loving Neighbors, Even Undocumented?” by Erin Dunigan - (*Presbyterian Outlook*, November 30, 2009)

Articles for discussion are posted on Fairmount's website (<http://fairmountchurch.org/mens-breakfast-forum.asp>) as well as reprints being available in the church office.

Fairmount Women's Retreat

The 2010 Women's Retreat is scheduled for January 30-31 – what a perfect way to spend the end of the first month of the New Year! Once again, we will be at the Red Maple Inn in Burton – a stunning bed and breakfast best described as a “peaceful destination.” Imagine yourself high atop a hill overlooking the rolling farmlands and forests of Geauga County while smelling the aroma of a hearty Amish breakfast.

Our program plans have changed a bit. Renie Smith has arranged for Jan Kious, founder of the Enneagram Institute of Cleveland to lead us in the retreat. The Enneagram is an easy to learn, yet sophisticated tool for understanding human personality. Through identifying our deepest fears and desires, as well as the characteristic ways we try to get what we want from life, the Enneagram provides a guide for making changes when our habitual life strategies aren't working.

In addition, there will be much fun, laughter, good food and companionship! The cost is \$100 which includes lodging, Saturday lunch and Sunday breakfast. We will have dinner at a near-by restaurant. You can make your reservation by sending a check for \$100, made out to Fairmount Presbyterian Church, to Debby Elliott, 2600 Arbor Glen Drive, Apt. 206, Twinsburg OH. The deadline for reservations is January 15th.

Church Administrator's Message

The **heating system** of the church is being reviewed. We want to improve the heat distribution while lowering the cost of providing heat. Knowing how things work and what does not work is a first step.

To help lower the cost of our **electrical bill**, we have replaced Fire Exit signs which used 15-watt bulbs with LED displays. The pay-back period is about 1-1/2 years. The church has around 50 Fire Exit signs.

Donna Evans remains on Medical Leave. If you care to send a card/words of support, please send cards to: 24799 Lake Shore Blvd., #214A, Euclid, OH 44123-4237.

The **2009 fiscal audit** is drawing to a close. We will be announcing the Annual Report Meeting to the congregation, probably in January.

Randy and Barbara Gordon have resurrected some **art work** that had been stored in the Archives Room and have hung several pieces about the church.

Eugene Smith

Meets the first and third Wednesday morning each month at 7:30 AM in the Ganson Room for a light breakfast, fellowship and discussion of



Children in Worship Task Force

Since its inception a few years ago the Faith Formation Council has been wrestling with its call to help the congregation grow in faith. As we have studied the best approaches to encourage faith development we kept coming back to our practice of worship. We were reminded that worship is the central act of the gathered community of God. It is the place where the body of Christ gathers to give voice to its faith and be shaped by the patterns and liturgy. Our *Book of Order*, which is part of the governing documents of our denomination, expresses it this way: "In Jesus Christ, the Church is a royal priesthood in which worship is the work of everyone. The people of God are called to participate in the common ministry of worship." (W-4.003)

"Worship is the work of everyone," the place where Faith Formation is lived and breathed. Children learn faith by participating in the life of the worshipping community and by watching their parents and other significant adults worship the living God. Lucie Barber in *Religious*

Education of Preschoolers supports this emphasis on the inclusion of children by saying, "The worship service is where "faithing" is experienced. Children must have the opportunity to function side by side with adults in the worshipping community if they are to realize their gifts as members of the body."

In recognition of this, the Faith Formation Council put together a proposal which was endorsed by the Worship Council and approved unanimously by the Session. It reads:

Consistent with our constitutional duties and theology, the Faith Formation Council proposes that Session intentionally encourage children, youth, and adults to be present and to participate fully in worship and educational ministries by creating a Christian Education hour which falls between the two morning services starting in the Fall of 2010.

As we were putting together this proposal the Faith Formation council and everyone involved understood that this was a monumental shift in the life of this faith community. We deeply appreciate the worship traditions we have here and believe

"The worship service is where "faithing" is experienced. Children must have the opportunity to function side by side with adults in the worshipping community if they are to realize their gifts as members of the body."

they are just as instrumental as Church School in passing along and nurturing the faith of the children and adults in our midst. This change will not be undertaken lightly. We are in the process of recruiting two Co-Chairs for a Children-in-Worship Task Force who will work, with a group of 10 other Fairmount members, to guide this transition. This task force has been charged with a number of tasks, but its primary task is to provide information for the congregation, including the children, about this change and the opportunity

it holds for the people of faith gathered here.

We strongly encourage each of you to read the full copy of the Children in Worship Proposal that was approved by the Session along with the articles we used as primary resources for our work. The proposal itself is seven pages long and will be available in a number of places. It can be downloaded from our church website: <http://fairmountchurch.org/children-in-worship.asp>.

There will also be hard copies on the racks outside the church office as well as on the table leading into the Sanctuary from Andersen Hall and on the tables in the Narthex. The articles can also be downloaded from the website or picked up with the proposal.

We look forward to discussing this new opportunity for ministry with you at one of the gatherings that will be sponsored by the new task force. If you would like to volunteer for the task force or if you have questions or comments we encourage you to email or call Pastor Eric Dillenbeck (edillenbeck@fairmountchurch.org) who will be happy to talk with you. In the meantime, we covet your prayers for the members of this task force who will be carrying out their important role with prayerful consideration and respect for this congregation and its traditions.

Blessings and Peace,

The Faith Formation Council

Clerks Corner

Peter Gerhart, Clerk of Session

The outward signs of Fairmount's vitality are supported by less visible work that will keep us strong and vibrant far into the future. Let me take you behind the scenes with several examples.

You will recall that last year, unsure of our authority to spend from endowment because of the lower market value for our assets, we took a loan from our endowment, rather than a draw, so that we could assure ourselves that we were not violating the terms under which endowment gifts were given. That led to a study by Trustee Joel Rathbone and an ad hoc committee that has given us a complete historical audit of our endowments funds. As a result, we were able to convert last year's loan to a draw, with a savings of interest on the loan. The complete picture we now have of gifts and restrictions make us even better stewards for money entrusted to us. We promise donors faithfully to follow their wishes, and we do so with great confidence. We promise ourselves to recognize those who have made our work possible, and we know that we can fulfill that promise. Thanks to Joel for great effort on this important project.

As a result of our endowments study, Trustees have set up an Endowment Committee with responsibility to monitor spending from endowment accounts, to faithfully thank those who made the endowments possible, and to gratefully receive and account for new endowment gifts. This too is important infrastructure to support our future by building on our past.

Simultaneously, the Personnel Committee, led by Rob Hilton, is completing work on revising the personnel manual – a comprehensive guide for being faithful to our employees while making sure that their work is aligned with our vision. Documenting our policies and procedures creates an important platform for future growth.

At the same time, we are reaching out to Fairmount members in a variety of ways to welcome their participation in our

future. Louise is recording a video to be e-mailed to our sons and daughters who are either in college or pursuing careers in other cities – encouraging them to stay connected to God through our digital resources. This virtual ministry ushers in a new way of understanding our ability to form a faith community within a dispersed congregation. A group of Elders under the leadership of Lee Sealfon is studying attendance patterns and looking for ways to stay connected to members who worship with us only infrequently. And a recent letter from Louise encourages members who do not regularly make financial pledges to do so. Those who give so much to our mission should know that we are tireless in our efforts to engage others. Fairmount is its people and our work to connect to our members enlists our greatest asset for our future.

Finally, think of what we are learning through our community development projects! Through the work of John Zitzner at E-Prep and Bob and Louisa Matthias and David and Renie Smith (and many others) at Heights Youth Club, through our new partnership with North Church, and through new initiatives in East Cleveland and Garden Valley, we are learning how to revitalize lives and neighborhoods. When the history of Cleveland is written, let it be known that Fairmount and Fairmounters made a difference. Just as important: we are learning how we grow as individuals when we get out of the routine of our lives and experience the world through the lives of others.

As volunteers, we come to meetings tired from the stresses of the other parts of our lives; almost always, we leave the meetings reenergized. The possibilities for this church, and its work in the world, are endless. The rewards of working on God's vision for Fairmount are bountiful.

Children's Ministry on Sunday Mornings

Every Sunday Infant through Preschool Care

Infant & Toddler Care provided from 8:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. each Sunday morning in our infant & toddler room just across from the main church office

3 year and 4 & 5 year old Church School from 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m., one level down from the main church office in the Children's Education Wing in Rooms 1 and 2, respectively.

First – Sixth Grade Church School Schedule

First Sunday of every month 1st – 6th grade children worship together with their families for the entire 11:00 a.m. service and are welcome participants in the sacrament of communion. There is no 1st-6th grade church school on first Sundays.

All other Sundays 1st – 6th grade children attend the first part of congregational worship, and then are invited to leave for church school classes following the Children's Moment. Upon leaving worship, teachers greet the children in Andersen Hall and walk together to their classrooms in the lower level Children's Education Wing:

1st & 2nd GRADERS: (Room 5)

3rd, 4th, 5th, & 6th GRADERS: (Room 7)

Children's & Family Ministry News

For more information on any children's or family programs, please email Betsy Wooster at bwooster@fairmountchurch.org, or call Betsy at the church, 216-321-5800. All questions welcome!

Children's and Family Ministry Vision Retreat.

The Children's and Family Ministry Committee will spend a Saturday together in January to reflect upon our mission. This retreat is intended to create a vision statement for the committee that will ground our work and allow us to focus on shaping our ministry to children from birth to the late elementary years. We ask for your prayers on January 23rd, when we will gather for this dreaming and visioning work, keeping in mind both the traditions of our church, Fairmount's VISION 100 and new possibilities for ministry in the 21st century.

We will be reflecting on several questions as we discern how best to focus our energies for children's ministry in the year to come. Some of these questions are:

- ✦ Who are the children and families we serve, or can serve?
- ✦ What is the church called to be for these children/families?
- ✦ What do we want children and families to encounter in this place?
- ✦ What do we believe God calls them, and us, to be and do?
- ✦ What are our goals for our work together?

If upon reflecting on these questions, you have ideas you'd like to share with any the CFMC committee members before our January 23rd retreat, we encourage you to do so.

Below are listed all those who currently serve on the Children's and Family Ministry Committee:

With Hope and Love,

Amy McAree
Megan Bennett - Chair
Jen Chevraux
Mia Faxon
Bonnie Lindberg

Lisa Mortimer
Sarah Pope
Hallie Stewart
Liz Wright
Staff: Betsy Wooster
and Eric Dillenbeck



CALLING ALL 4th – 6th Graders!!!

We are going to begin a new group just for you! This will be a monthly Youth Group type experience for all of our children in the 4th – 6th grades. We will meet once a month, on the 2nd Sundays, from 12:15 – 2:00 for lunch, fellowship, and fun interactive lessons. Come join us for the first time on January 10th. We hope to see you there because good food, songs, games, and much more await you. Eric Dillenbeck and a few other adults will be leading this group which will meet in the Dining room.



CLUB 426

Children in the 4th – 6th Grades
2nd Sunday of each Month
12:15 – 2:00
Begins on January 10th

Baby Ministries

Did you know that the Fairmount family welcomed TWELVE babies into the world in 2009? It is so exciting to see our young families growing. Recognizing that we do have so many growing families the Children and Family Ministries Committee has recruited Millie Yoder to fill the best job in the church.

We have asked her to help us welcome all of our new babies into the church family by serving as our official Baby Visitor. This means she calls all of our families with new babies to schedule an opportunity to go to their home bearing presents for the children from the Church. Her role is purely to visit and greet the new child and help his/her parents know the many ways this congregation provides opportunities for our youngest members to grow in faith and how much we love and support them as parents.

Thank You To Our Teachers!

We extend a heartfelt thank you to all those teachers who have led our church school classes through December of 2009! Please take a moment to thank these people when you see them:

3, 4 & 5 year old class: Bonnie Lindberg, Steph Washlock, Os Mills, Tim Sheeran, Laura Desmond, Payton Fricke, Abby Sheeran

1st - 3rd grade class: Amy Dillenbeck, Cristina Pereira, Traci Rourke

4th-6th grade class: Catherine LaCroix, Liz Wright, Vanessa Whiting, Anne Richie

Substitute teachers: Denice Benton, Hallie Stewart, Megan Bennett, Mia Faxon

Infant and Toddler Room: Beth & Caitlin Cheverine, Jim and Karen Dakin, Anna Faxon, Melkameyhu Segu, Jan Spalding, Ann Higley, Julie Callsen, Patrick Pohlman, Nancy and Tabitha Gillombardo, Emily Johnson, Renie Smith

**The 2009 - 2010
Fairmount Music Series**



Cabaret

LOVE: LOST AND FOUND

Lisa Litteral, Megan Crews,
Elizabeth Frey, Brent Chamberlin,
Chester Willey, Peter Bush,
Joseph Hamm, Bob Moncrief

In music from Broadway and Opera
Friday, January 22

Prelude at the Manse, Dinner and Show in Andersen Hall
Reservations required

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