

# The Trumpet

February 2012 Volume 29 Issue 2

*Firelands Presbyterian  
Church*

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**Reverend Jeanne Gay, Pastor**

**Dr. Jay Mann, Music Director**

**Margaret Mann, Organist**

**William Umlauf, Treasurer**

**Dave Moore, Clerk of Session**

**Karen Crownover,  
Preschool Director**

**Janine Dress,  
Administrative Assistant**

**Mark Owen, Custodian**

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## Musical Arts Series Concerts

Sunday, February 12 — 3:00 p. m.

The Musical Arts Series of Firelands will host the **Westhuizen Duo**—a charming, lyrical and brilliant four-handed piano duo. The event is sponsored by Brands' Marinas, National Bank of Ohio, and MAS. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$15.00 (\$12.00 for Firelands members, free for Students).

## Souper Bowl Sunday Potluck

We will gather after worship on Sunday, February 5 for our annual "Souper" Bowl luncheon. Bring a pot of soup, a salad, a dessert, or a dish of your choice, and let's enjoy a meal together.

Also, on your way in to the worship service, drop off some cans of soup, boxes of cereal, or other items to restock our Food Pantry. The winter months can take a toll on our community members, and we need to be ready to meet the needs of those who are hungry.

Mark your calendars, lunch on the 5<sup>th</sup> of February.

*The Mission Committee and the Deacons*

## Dinner out with Firelands Friends

Looking for an opportunity to fight the winter blahs and get out of the house? Come and have conversation with other Firelands Friends at our Dinner Night Out on Friday, February 17 at 6 p.m., location to be announced. Sign up on the Opportunity Table or contact Janine in the church office to make a reservation.

## WCWA Event

February 16

WCWA road trip to Maumee Antique Mall, 1552 Reynolds Rd., Maumee OH on February 16. We will meet at the church at 9:15 and drive to the shop ... shop until lunch, and have lunch in Maumee. I have also been turned on to an amazing candy shop in downtown Maumee that we should definitely include after lunch. We should be back in Port Clinton by 3:00 unless we are having way too much fun. For more information feel free to call me at work (419-732-3171) or on my cell phone (419-341-0483).

*Lori Madison*

## Seasonal Singers to Begin Practice for Lent

The Seasonal Singers will begin preparation for Lent and Easter on Thursday, February 16 at 7:30 PM. Everyone is encouraged and welcome to join us. We hope to see some new faces. If you have any questions, please contact Jay Mann.



## STATED SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS for January 10

**Devotions:** Jeanne presented the night's devotions, a reading of "The Creation" by James Weldon Johnson.

**Report of the Clerk:** The minutes from the December meeting were reviewed and accepted as written.

**Property Management:** The free energy audit by Larry Hatten is progressing.

Larry is ready to present his report and a date is being scheduled. John

(McIntosh) is attempting to reduce dumpster costs; he is gathering information from vendors and evaluating capacity needs. The request from Jane Benson's daughter to use the church for a birthday party on Saturday, January 21st has been approved, as was Susan Larcey's request to use the building for her piano recital on Sunday, April 29th.

**Treasurer:** Firelands Church's total income for 2011 was \$149,577.15. This was \$14,922.85 less than was budgeted. Our total expenses for 2011 came to \$158,457.11; this was \$5,109.55 less than what was budgeted for the year.

This resulted in a net loss (i.e. deficit) for our church of \$8,858.20. On a more positive note, we made our final payment on our Building/Pavilion mortgage in December.

**Personnel:** Session's and the Personnel Committee's steps to save the church money will include reducing the hours of our custodian (Mark Owen) by 50% and eliminating the paid position of child care supervisor (Jane Benson) during our church services. Church members will be sought to voluntarily donate their time to assist with these tasks to help fill the void created.

Mark has come up with a list of cleaning tasks that he thinks he can complete on a weekly basis and stay within the reduced-hours guidelines imposed by session. He will be monitoring closely over the next month to see if indeed the list is realistic. John Madison and Mark also came up with a list of tasks that must be completed by church members on a weekly, a monthly, and on a bi-annual basis. Between now and the next Congregational Meeting (January 29th) the committee will determine how we will find/assign volunteers for these tasks. This list will be presented to the congregation at the meeting. We also discussed the use of volunteers to provide child-care services during our church services. It was also proposed that we come up with a list of names, including Jane Benson (at her request), that will rotate from week to week. This also will be presented to the congregation at the January meeting.

**Preschool:** The Christmas Program was a BIG SUCCESS! 135 people were in attendance, not including teachers and children. Plus Santa! The pre-school Operations Manual was revised in the Fall of 2011.

**Christian Nurture:** The Christian Nurture Committee has been formed; members include Joyce Jagucki, Connie Brand, Jay Mann, Maxine Wilson, Marsha Bordner, Harold Brown, Heather Stouffer, Ernie McCullough (along with Bob Black, the Chair of the Christian Nurture Committee). Women's Day will be held this year in the spring; watch the Trumpet for more details.

**Mission:** The Christmas Joy offering this year totaled \$373.44. The Mission Committee remains involved in serving meals the first Wednesday of every month at the Church of the Nazarene. Volunteers are needed to help with this project. The Mission Committee served refreshments for the Preschool Christmas Program on Dec. 21. We had a successful drive to collect toys and clothing for the Holiday Bureau during the Christmas season; we also engaged many members in ringing the bell for the Red Kettle campaign through the Salvation Army. The Souper Bowl potluck luncheon will be held on Feb. 5 following the worship service; everyone is encouraged to bring items for the food pantry. Looking ahead: Cleaning of the kitchen will be held soon, watch The Trumpet for details; and OGHs (One Great Hour of Sharing) is coming up during Lent.

**Report of the Pastor:** A "Healthy Congregations" seminar will be held at Montreat (Asheville, NC), April 16-18. Jeanne is planning to go to this workshop, which is based on the family systems work of Peter Steinke (internationally known expert on systems in churches). Janine will also be attending, so for several days the church office will be closed.

**BUILDING UP/HEALING THE CHURCH:** Many suggestions were offered about how our church might initiate the process of healing itself. Five suggestions were chosen for immediate implementation;

1. Institute a "Give someone the (Blessed) Silent Treatment" program. Devote a period of silent prayer to one person-either during the service or as an assignment for the week. This will be done for one month, changing the chosen individual each week. Suggested by Karen Coffin.
2. Work together-hold a Spring Clean-up Day where everyone pitches in and gives the church a good clean-up. Suggested by Kaye Elliott.
3. John Madison suggested Lay-written letters to the

*(Continued on page 3)*



congregation about how Presbyterian churches work.

4. 4. Hold a "Movie Night" for the National Geographic special featuring Harold Brown.
5. 5. Session will be calling members of the congregation by phone to help improve communication (sometime in February).

Prayer Concerns were voiced and Pastor Jeanne closed the meeting with Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

*Dave Moore, Clerk of Session*

## Terra Community College Program

**Friday, 2/10, 9:00-11:00 AM**

On Friday, Feb. 10, 9:00-11:00 AM, at Terra Community College, Marsha Bordner will facilitate a session on Poems of Spirituality. She has asked Pastor Jeanne to attend and participate/add to the discussion. This will be a low-key conversation about some of the great poets: John Donne, George Herbert, John Milton, and Shakespeare. It will cost \$5 for members of the ElderCollege and \$10 for those who are not members. You can register by calling Marsha Thiessen at 419-559-2255. Hope to see some of you there!

*Jeanne's Note:* I see that Terra's ElderCollege is also offering a six-week course on the history of the Bible. If you're interested in this Wednesday morning course, call the number above for more information.

## MAS Jazz Combo Concerts

**Saturday, February 25, 2012**

The Musical Arts Series at Firelands sponsors concerts each winter at area retirement centers and nursing homes. This year the performers will be jazz combos from Terra. You are welcome to any of these—and they're free because of a grant from the Ottawa County Community Foundation. The date is Saturday, February 25: 2:00 at Riverview Health Care Campus (8180 W. State Rt. 163. Oak Harbor) and 3:30 concert at The Vineyard on Catawba (3820 E. Vineyard Village Dr., Port Clinton)

## New Address for Clara Maag

Clara Maag has a new address: Otterbein North Shore Retirement Community, 9400 North Shore Blvd., Rm. 210, Marblehead, Ohio 43440. She can be reached via her cell phone (419-937-0131 ) or through the Otterbein office (419-798-8203).

## Events at Otterbein Northshore Retirement Center

Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup> 1-3 pm: Open House

Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> noon-2 pm: Valentine Day Concert and Lunch. Harp Concert by Karen Westgate and RSVP to 419-798-8203 by February 7.

Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup> 1-3 pm: Open House

Wednesday, February 29<sup>th</sup> noon-2 pm: Leap Year Lunch and Learn, "Leaping Into an Organized Life". Lunch by Chef Ryan Duffy.

For Questions and reservations please contact Robyn Karbler at 419-798-8203 ext. 108.

## Quilting Begins for the New Year

Linus Quilters will meet at Brands' on Tuesdays, Feb. 14th and 28th at 9 a.m.

## Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes are available on the counter outside the sanctuary. Please pick yours up! If you are out of town for the winter and want them mailed to you contact Janine at secretary@firelandschurch.org or 419-734-6211.

## Communion Stewards Needed

For the months of April, May, June, September and November, volunteers are needed to be communion stewards. If you want to know what this job entails, and are interested in helping out, please contact Sally Wahlers (419-734-9680 or drw@roadrunner.com). Thank you for your willingness to help!

## Shhh! Lent Is Coming

We're making plans for Lent this year, with a few changes. The Wednesday Study+Lunch+Prayer series is moving to the Vineyard on Catawba, with Bible Study led by Pastor Kurt Borows at 10:30, lunch at 12:00, and worship at 12:30. It will begin on Ash Wednesday (Feb 22)

Ash Wednesday evening we will have a service at Firelands at 7:30. The remaining Wednesday evenings in Lent will bring a Bible Study at Firelands—topic to be determined. (Stay Tuned.)

And then there's the "Silent (Prayer) Treatment," which we'll be debuting on the first Sunday of Lent, February 26.

Come and prepare, come and worship, come and Love.



## Preschool Tidbits

The month of January has blown by. We studied Martin Luther King, snowmen, and Chinese New Year, and we continued working on letters, sounds, numerals, and number values. This was again a busy month! We ate fresh oranges to bring us good luck on Chinese New Years. One of our families gave us new community helper outfits, they are very cool.

Our attendance has been good and we have added two new students. One of them is from Hawaii! Can't imagine leaving Hawaii for Ohio, but dad is deployed to Afghanistan and this is mom's home town. We are glad to have them. The other new student is a home town boy who just got ready to come. We welcome them both.

We have started to build our igloo. If you have gallon milk or juice bottles, we need them. If you have small glue sticks or see some at a really good price, we need those also.

We made bird feeders and hung them in the trees outside our window; the birds had a regular celebration and ate it all over one weekend. We will replenish soon.

We now have a military dad to send goodies to, but if you know someone protecting our county that we can make smile, let me know!

*Karen Crowover*



**Play time**

**Who do you  
want to be  
when you  
grow up?**



## Lectionary Texts for February

### Sunday, February 5

#### *Epiphany 5*

- ◆ Isaiah 40:21-31
- ◆ Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
- ◆ I Cor. 9:16-23
- ◆ Mark:1:29-39

### February 12

#### *Epiphany 6*

- ◆ 2 Kings 5:1-14
- ◆ Psalm 30
- ◆ 1 Corinthians. 9:24-27
- ◆ Mark:1:40-45

### February 19

#### *Transfiguration of the Lord*

- ◆ 2 Kings 2:1-2
- ◆ Psalm 50:1-6
- ◆ 2 Corinthians. 4:3-6
- ◆ Mark 9:2-9

### February 22

#### *Ash Wednesday*

- ◆ Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
- ◆ Psalm 51:1-17
- ◆ 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
- ◆ Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

### February 26

#### *Lent 1*

- ◆ Gen. 9:8-17
- ◆ Psalm 62: 5-12
- ◆ 1 Corinthians 7:29-31
- ◆ Mark 1:14-20

**If you're interested in daily lectionary readings, go to <http://www.pcusa.org/devotions/> —part of the Presbyterian Church (USA) website. You can read the texts online, subscribe to an email list to receive them daily, print out a reading list, or listen to them read out loud.**



## PASTOR'S PAGE

## Puffed Up or Built?

***This month in the Trumpet I'm sharing the sermon I preached on January 29, on the text of 1 Corinthians 8:1-13.***

A number of years ago, I was in small group meeting, and one of the men there started complaining about an elder in his church. "On Communion Sundays," he told us, with more than a little agitation, "he carries the, the whaddayacallit, the wine glass thing for the grape juice?"

"The chalice"

"Yeah, he carries the chalice around during coffee hour and drinks the leftover grape juice right in front of everybody! Someone needs to talk to him! That's just not right!"

Well, in the Presbyterian Church, that actually is all right. Some other churches believe that the grape juice or wine is actually turned into the blood of Christ ... and it is thus sacred and not to be drunk down by just anybody, as if it was a glass of punch. In the Presbyterian Church, though, we believe that the grape juice remains grape juice—and the bread, bread—and thus they can be used for just about anything. In this church we often give the leftover bread to the preschool. Some pastors have been known to stuff their Thanksgiving turkey with leftover communion bread.

Someone in that meeting explained all this to the man who was so upset, but it really didn't calm him down. "It's just not right," he kept muttering. And I don't think it made him feel any happier about that grape juice guzzling elder in his church ... and it didn't make him feel any better about the Presbyterian Church as a whole, either.

There's "right" ... and there's the right thing to do. And they're not always the same.

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I remember another time from some years ago, when I encountered a woman who had just started attending our church, in tears after worship one day. "What's wrong?" I asked.

"Oh," she said, "it's all this God the Father business. He, he, he. Father, Father, Father!"

"Okay ..." I said.

"I know the Bible talks about God the Father a lot," she said, "but you've got to understand that my dad was a drunk, and when he wasn't beating my mother and us kids, he was off who knows where, leaving us with almost no money. Every time someone talks about God the Father with one of those big

sappy grins on their face, I feel like throwing up! I don't want God in my life if God's a father!"

The Bible does talk about God the Father a lot. It's how Jesus referred to the Creator—in a way that said, see, we can have an intimate relationship with God; God is like our Daddy. The Bible also refers to God in feminine terms a fair amount—God is like a mother nursing her children, God gives birth to God's children, God is like a woman searching for a lost coin.

Is it right always to refer to God in masculine terms? Is it right to refer to God sometimes in feminine terms? Which is right? And what is the right thing to do?

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Paul wrote about a situation like these in the church in Corinth. Now remember that the Corinthian church was the very first dysfunctional church. They had a lot of issues with each other. This one had to do with eating food offered to idols. There were apparently a number of people in Corinth who were sure that, as followers of Christ, they should not eat food that had been offered to the various gods worshiped in the city—to idols. Paul takes a very practical approach to the issue: it's not a big deal, because "no idol in the world really exists ... there is no God but one." So if the idols are figments of our imagination, it doesn't matter if food has been offered to them.

Not everybody in the New Testament felt the same way as Paul. Acts 15 tells us that when James said that gentiles didn't need to be circumcised, he still said that they were to refrain from eating meat sacrificed to idols. And in Revelation, two churches are condemned for—among other things—eating such meat. This was a very real issue in the first century church!

Paul, however, has a much more important point to make about this business of eating meat offered to idols. He reiterates that "food will not bring us closer to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do." But he also recognizes that this is a huge problem for some people. Some people, he writes to the Corinthians, "have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol." Their entire lives have been spent in a culture that worships multiple gods, that sacrifices meat to those idols, and they may not be able to get past all those culturally-

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(Continued from page 5)

enforced beliefs. As *The Message* translation puts it: “An imagination and conscience shaped under those conditions isn't going to change overnight.”

So instead of showing off that you can eat the meat that's been sacrificed to idols, Paul says, consider what this may do to the faith of some of your fellow Christians. “Take care that this liberty of yours [this freedom to eat that meat, in this case] does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.”

“Take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.” For if they see you eating this meat, they may feel that they can eat the meat as well—but to them eating this meat means rejecting the one true God. “So by your knowledge,” Paul continues—by your knowledge, your ‘superior understanding,’ “those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed.”

“When you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ.”

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The elder in that church who paraded around coffee hour sipping from the chalice? His theology was “right”—his knowledge was superior—but I think Paul would say that he was sinning against members of his family. What they took from his actions was that communion was not holy ... and if communion is not holy in the church, what is? The risk there was that by his knowledge, those weak believers for whom Christ died were destroyed.

The church that used only masculine language to talk about God? They could argue with anyone that they were using ‘right’ Biblical language. But were they sinning against a member of their family who heard something very different in that language? By their knowledge, were they destroying a fellow believer for whom Christ died?

Some church leaders, of course, have moved to using feminine language for God when their members were not ready for it and thus made them feel that God was being trivialized, or that somehow they were now to worship both God and Goddess. And thus the church leaders sinned against members of their families whose understanding of God was being destroyed.

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I cannot read this passage without thinking about our experience here at Firelands Church over the last half of 2011. We have people on very different sides of the issue of ordaining gays and lesbians who absolutely knew that they were right.

Those who feel that ordaining gays and lesbians is the right thing to do have said, in effect, that it's not important to follow every particular rule in scripture, even rules that the culture has supported for years and years (like not eating meat dedicated to

idols) because Christ has freed us. And what some others have heard in this is that all the rules can be thrown away, that nothing is sacred any more, that the faith they have known is being called invalid.

And those who feel that ordaining gays and lesbians is not the right thing to do have said, in effect, that God cannot possibly have called gays and lesbians to leadership in the church. And what some others have heard in this is that the church does not love and honor all of God's children... which means that God does not love everyone either.

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By our knowledge—our sure belief that we are right, no matter which side of that issue we have found ourselves on—we have sinned against members of our family. We have become stumbling blocks to each other. By our knowledge, people in this church, in this community, in this nation, in this world—people who have struggled to believe—those believers for whom Christ died have been destroyed.

At the beginning of this part of his letter to the Corinthians, Paul wrote, “Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.” That's a powerful image. On the one hand, we have knowledge, like a soufflé, getting puffier and puffier. It looks really impressive, but the reality is that most of it is nothing but hot air. And on the other hand, we have love building up. Building up the church, the body of Christ. Building bridge spans and pylons and support beams ... building on the foundation of the love of God in Christ ... building through our love for God and for each other. And love is what we are called to.

Now, we can argue that in Paul's case, he could see clearly that in the overall picture, whether one ate the meat dedicated to idols or not made no difference. Which is why he says, hey, if it'll help, I just won't eat any meat at all! He doesn't seem to have an emotional or intellectual attachment to either side of this issue. And most of us do have attachments to the sides of our issues. But Paul was writing to people who did feel strongly about the meat dedicated to idols issue ... and Paul is writing to us as well.

The issue is not unimportant. But what is far more important is building up the body of Christ. What is far more important is loving and building up our church family ... of supporting each person's growth in faith and love of God. For Christ died for all of us ... and died so that we would be free to love each other.

Thanks be to God. Amen.



## February Birthdays

## February Anniversaries

|                   |    |                 |    |
|-------------------|----|-----------------|----|
| Jessica Howerth   | 10 | Ann Turner      | 20 |
| Matthew Kresge    | 11 | Jason Whitt     | 21 |
| Darlene Rasmussen | 12 | Clay Montgomery | 21 |
| Sarah Hamilton    | 14 | Joyce Jagucki   | 22 |
| Steve Martin      | 16 | John Vardyan    | 22 |
| Joan Heischman    | 17 | Scott Nemecek   | 23 |
| Richard Coffin    | 18 | Jimmy Dubbert   | 25 |
| Jay Viery         | 18 | Jim Dale        | 26 |
| Katie Nemecek     | 19 | Kara Gogolek    | 27 |
| Yolanda Nemecek   | 19 |                 |    |



If there are additions or corrections to the Birthday and Anniversary pages, please contact the church office. Thanks.

# February 2012

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

|                                                                             |                                        |                                      | <b>1</b>                                                                                    | <b>2</b>                                 | <b>3</b>                                         | <b>4</b>  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------|
|                                                                             |                                        |                                      | 6 Dinner at Church of the Nazarene                                                          |                                          |                                                  |           |
| <b>5</b><br>9:30 Sunday School<br>10:30 Worship<br>Noon Souper Bowl Potluck | <b>6</b><br>9 MAS<br>4 WORSHIP & MUSIC | <b>7</b>                             | <b>8</b>                                                                                    | <b>9</b><br>7 30th Anniversary Committee | <b>10</b>                                        | <b>11</b> |
| <b>12</b><br>9:30 Sunday School<br>10:30 Worship<br>3:30 MAS Concert        | <b>13</b>                              | <b>14</b><br>9 Quilting<br>7 Session | <b>15</b>                                                                                   | <b>16</b><br>7:30 Seasonal Singers       | <b>17</b><br>6 Dinner out with Firelands Friends | <b>18</b> |
| <b>19</b><br>9:30 Sunday School<br>10:30 Worship                            | <b>20</b>                              | <b>21</b>                            | <b>22</b><br>12 Ash Wednesday lunch & service at the Vineyard<br>7:30 Ash Wednesday Service | <b>23</b><br>7:30 Seasonal Singers       | <b>24</b>                                        | <b>25</b> |
| <b>26</b><br>9:30 Sunday School<br>10:30 Worship                            | <b>27</b>                              | <b>28</b><br>9 Quilting              | <b>29</b><br>12 Lenten lunch & service at the Vineyard<br>7:30 Lenten Bible Study           |                                          |                                                  |           |



## Don't Forget Your Time to Serve!

| <b>DATE</b>      | <b>MINISTRY</b>             | <b>NAMES</b>                                                        |
|------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>All Month</b> | <b>Deacons of the Month</b> | <b>Dan &amp; Deb Barlow</b>                                         |
|                  | <b>Communion Steward</b>    | <b>Lori Madison</b>                                                 |
|                  | <b>Monthly Cleaning</b>     |                                                                     |
| <b>Feb. 5</b>    | <b>Greeter(s)</b>           |                                                                     |
|                  | <b>Refreshments</b>         | <b>Souper Bowl Sunday</b>                                           |
|                  | <b>Reader</b>               | <b>Ernie McCullough</b>                                             |
|                  | <b>Acolyte</b>              | <b>Merissa Jagucki</b>                                              |
|                  | <b>Communion Assistant</b>  | <b>Nila McCullough</b>                                              |
|                  | <b>Servers</b>              | <b>Susan Rogers, Marilyn Umlauf, Heather Stouffer, Lori Madison</b> |
|                  | <b>Weekly Cleaning</b>      | <b>Marilyn &amp; Bill Umlauf</b>                                    |
|                  | <b>Nursery Volunteer</b>    | <b>Sarah Hartley</b>                                                |
| <b>Feb. 12</b>   | <b>Greeter(s)</b>           |                                                                     |
|                  | <b>Refreshments</b>         | <b>Hany</b>                                                         |
|                  | <b>Reader</b>               | <b>Connie Brand</b>                                                 |
|                  | <b>Acolyte</b>              | <b>Merissa Jagucki</b>                                              |
|                  | <b>Communion Assistant</b>  | <b>Dan Barlow</b>                                                   |
|                  | <b>Servers</b>              | <b>Debi Barlow, Sally Wahlers, Dave Wahlers, Jay Viery</b>          |
|                  | <b>Weekly Cleaning</b>      | <b>Alison Falls and Coffins</b>                                     |
|                  | <b>Nursery Volunteer</b>    | <b>Heather &amp; Lily Stouffer</b>                                  |
| <b>Feb. 19</b>   | <b>Greeter(s)</b>           |                                                                     |
|                  | <b>Refreshments</b>         | <b>Dave &amp; Janet Moore</b>                                       |
|                  | <b>Reader</b>               | <b>Susan Rogers</b>                                                 |
|                  | <b>Acolyte</b>              | <b>Lily Stouffer</b>                                                |
|                  | <b>Communion Assistant</b>  | <b>Bob Black</b>                                                    |
|                  | <b>Servers</b>              | <b>Joyce Jagucki, Sally Walter, Fred Hany, Rosemarie Shinde</b>     |
|                  | <b>Weekly Cleaning</b>      |                                                                     |
|                  | <b>Nursery Volunteer</b>    | <b>Nila McCullough</b>                                              |
| <b>Feb. 26</b>   | <b>Greeter(s)</b>           |                                                                     |
|                  | <b>Refreshments</b>         |                                                                     |
|                  | <b>Reader</b>               | <b>Nila McCullough</b>                                              |
|                  | <b>Acolyte</b>              | <b>Lily Stouffer</b>                                                |
|                  | <b>Communion Assistant</b>  | <b>Lori Madison</b>                                                 |
|                  | <b>Servers</b>              | <b>John Madison, Marilyn Umlauf, Dan Barlow, Deb Barlow</b>         |
|                  | <b>Weekly Cleaning</b>      | <b>Ruth &amp; Bill Shannon</b>                                      |
|                  | <b>Nursery Volunteer</b>    | <b>Anne O'Malley</b>                                                |



|                                          | 2011<br>Budget | Actual 12Mo<br>Dec-10 thru<br>Nov-11 | 2012<br>Budget | Notes                                                        |
|------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Income</b>                            |                |                                      |                |                                                              |
| 4000 · Church General Fund               | 164,500        | 149,318                              | 143,500        |                                                              |
| 4500 · Vanguard Interest Income          | 0              | 22                                   | 0              |                                                              |
| <b>Total Income</b>                      | <b>164,500</b> | <b>149,340</b>                       | <b>143,500</b> | 12.8% Reduction                                              |
| <b>Expense</b>                           |                |                                      |                |                                                              |
| <b>Ex-<br/>pen<br/>se 5000 · Mission</b> |                |                                      |                |                                                              |
| 5001 · Denominational Mission            | 2,200          | 1,466                                | -              | Eliminate or pay from our Mission Reserves on Balance Sheet. |
| 5002 · Theological Education             | 500            | -                                    | -              |                                                              |
| <b>Total 5000 · Mission</b>              | <b>2,700</b>   | <b>1,466</b>                         | <b>-</b>       |                                                              |
| <br>                                     |                |                                      |                |                                                              |
| 5004 · Per Capita                        | 4,240          | 4,247                                | 4,240          | Pay monthly instead of annually.                             |
| <br>                                     |                |                                      |                |                                                              |
| <b>5100 · Church Programming</b>         |                |                                      |                |                                                              |
| <b>5101 · Christian Nurture</b>          |                |                                      |                |                                                              |
| 5102 · Adult Nurture&Education           | 300            | 498                                  | 150            |                                                              |
| 5104 · Youth                             | 600            | 448                                  | 150            |                                                              |
| <b>Total 5101 · Christian Nurture</b>    | <b>900</b>     | <b>946</b>                           | <b>300</b>     |                                                              |
| <br>                                     |                |                                      |                |                                                              |
| 5105 · Financial Stewardship             | 200            | 181                                  | 180            | For offering envelopes                                       |
| 5106 · Session                           | 100            | 25                                   | -              | Eliminate                                                    |
| 5107 · Deacons                           | 1,200          | 758                                  | 600            | Donation basket@Sun fellowship                               |
| 5108 · Church Growth                     | 1,200          | 220                                  | 1,000          |                                                              |
|                                          | 2,700          | 1,184                                | 1,780          |                                                              |
| <br>                                     |                |                                      |                |                                                              |
| <b>5109 · Worship &amp; Music</b>        |                |                                      |                |                                                              |
| 5110 · Liturgy                           | 1,500          | 1,205                                | 640            |                                                              |
| 5111 · Music                             | 500            | 372                                  | 235            |                                                              |
| 5112 · Musicians                         | 1,100          | 1,550                                | 850            |                                                              |
| 5113 · Supply Pastor                     | 600            | 724                                  | 650            |                                                              |
| <b>Total 5109 · Worship &amp; Music</b>  | <b>3,700</b>   | <b>3,851</b>                         | <b>2,375</b>   | Per Committee revised request                                |
| <br>                                     |                |                                      |                |                                                              |
| <b>5200 · Office</b>                     |                |                                      |                |                                                              |
| 5201 · Copier Rental                     | 6,136          | 6,201                                | 6,312          |                                                              |
| 5202 · Copier Maintenance                | 2,100          | 894                                  | 1,488          |                                                              |
| 5203 · Supplies/Expenses                 | 3,000          | 2,679                                | 2,500          |                                                              |
| 5204 · Postage/Delivery                  | 1,900          | 1,131                                | 1,000          | E-mail B-Day cards - More e-mail                             |
| <b>Total 5200 · Office</b>               | <b>13,136</b>  | <b>10,905</b>                        | <b>11,300</b>  |                                                              |



|                                           | 2011<br>Budget | Actual 12Mo<br>Dec-10 thru<br>Nov-11 | 2012<br>Budget | Notes                             |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>5300 · Property Management</b>         |                |                                      |                |                                   |
| 5302 · Snow Removal                       | 2,200          | 3,464                                | 2,200          | Possibly reduce area plowed?      |
| 5303 · Lawn Care                          | 1,300          | 2,420                                | 244            | Buy rider mower - members mow     |
| 5306 · Equipment Repair/Maint             | 4,000          | 5,288                                | 4,000          |                                   |
| 5307 · Insurance B/C/L                    | 3,050          | 3,242                                | 3,240          |                                   |
| 5308 · Custodian Supplies                 | 2,200          | 1,991                                | 1,600          |                                   |
| 5309 · Electric                           | 8,000          | 6,904                                | 7,000          | Air cond thermo up - monitor/lock |
| 5310 · Communication(Tel,Int,Web)         | 1,000          | 2,982                                | 2,800          |                                   |
| 5312 · Trash                              | 1,000          | 939                                  | 1,000          |                                   |
| 5313 · Water                              | 440            | 361                                  | 400            |                                   |
| 5314 · Gas                                | 2,800          | 5,181                                | 4,000          | Heat thermo down - monitor/lock   |
| 5315 · Church Decorations                 | 200            | 71                                   | -              | Eliminate                         |
| 5316 · Repairs/Maint                      | 2,300          | 1,771                                | 2,500          |                                   |
| 5317 · Maint/Repair Reserve               | 600            | 633                                  | -              | Eliminate                         |
| <b>Total 5300 · Property Management</b>   | <b>29,090</b>  | <b>35,247</b>                        | <b>28,984</b>  |                                   |
| <br>                                      |                |                                      |                |                                   |
| <b>5400 · Pastoral Compensation</b>       |                |                                      |                |                                   |
| 5401 · Salary                             | 39,160         | 40,641                               | 39,160         |                                   |
| - Housing                                 | 14,400         | 12,739                               | 14,400         |                                   |
| 5403 · Reimbursed expenses                |                |                                      |                |                                   |
| 5404 · Professional Expenses              | 2,400          | 1,810                                | 1,600          |                                   |
| 5406 · Continuing Ed                      | 1,200          | 805                                  | 1,000          |                                   |
| 5408 · Pastor Major Medical               | 16,870         | 17,091                               | 17,273         |                                   |
| <b>Total 5400 · Pastoral Compensation</b> | <b>74,030</b>  | <b>73,086</b>                        | <b>73,433</b>  |                                   |
| <br>                                      |                |                                      |                |                                   |
| <b>6560 Payroll Expense</b>               |                |                                      |                |                                   |
| 6561 · Admin. Asst. /Bookkeeper           | 10,950         | 11,051                               | 9,308          | 15% reduction in hours            |
| 6562 · Custodian                          | 10,950         | 10,995                               | 4,400          | Reduce hours/members help         |
| 6563 · Nursery Attendant                  | 1,400          | 1,380                                | -              | Eliminate                         |
| 6565 · FICA                               | 1,455          | 1,435                                | 920            |                                   |
| 6566 · Medicare                           | 329            | 336                                  | 215            |                                   |
| 6567 · Worker's Compensation              | 550            | 283                                  | 350            |                                   |
| 6568 · Church Musicians                   | 6,360          | 6,326                                | 5,895          |                                   |
| 6570 · Preschool Cleaning                 |                | 22                                   | -              | Charge \$1000 to PreschoolRe-     |
| <b>Total 6560 · Payroll Expenses</b>      | <b>31,994</b>  | <b>31,828</b>                        | <b>21,088</b>  |                                   |
| <br>                                      |                |                                      |                |                                   |
| <b>Total Expense</b>                      | <b>164,500</b> | <b>162,760</b>                       | <b>143,500</b> |                                   |



## Comments on 2012 Budget

For those of you who missed our congregational meeting after church on January 29, we have included the 2012 Budget in this edition of the Trumpet. As you can see, the budget had to be significantly reduced from \$164,500 in 2011 to \$143,500 in 2012. If you read down the column of notes you can see what was eliminated or reduced and some of the measures that will be needed to compensate. Examples would be that volunteers will now be needed to sign up to clean the church, mow the grass and be available for the nursery, participants in Bible studies and other classes will be asked to pay for their materials, and mission funding will all come through our mission budget rather than through the general fund.

This is a budget of "faith" in that we were expecting, based on the prior year and current membership, to have 40 pledges. To date, we have received only 29. The "faith" part comes in because we figured this budget on the assumption that those who had previously pledged, but chose not to pledge this year, would still be contributing. Although small, we have a history of being a very welcoming, active church, and we are confident that we will continue to thrive – but to do that we will have to adjust to our current income. Bring a friend to church!

*Bill Umlauf and Alison Falls*

## January 29 Congregational Meeting

The following are highlights of the minutes taken by Dave Moore, Clerk of Session, at the congregational meeting held just before the conclusion of the morning's worship service.

New Trustee elected: Dave Moore was nominated, no other names were put forward, and the vote was unanimous.

Nominating Committee elected. John Madison, the Chair of the Nominating Committee, proposed seven names for the nominating committee: Connie Brand, Susan Rogers, Dick Coffin, Bob Wilson, Heather Stouffer, Dan Barlow, and Ernie McCullough. No other names were brought forth, and these seven were elected unanimously.

Budget Report. Bill Umlauf, our Treasurer, spoke regarding the upcoming budget for Firelands Church. Bill discussed the need to reduce the budget of this church based on a projected decline in total income of almost 13% in comparison to 2011. There are numerous ways that Session proposes to accomplish this (see the General Fund Budget on page 9-10):

- ◆ Eliminate the denominational mission pledge to the Presbytery.

- ◆ Eliminate the theological education contribution.
- ◆ Purchase a riding lawnmower and have members of the congregation volunteer/sign-up to take care of the church property from week to week as opposed to paying a lawn maintenance company to do it.
- ◆ Reduce the pastor's professional expenses.
- ◆ Reduce the church secretary's hours (and pay) by 15%.
- ◆ Reduce payment for custodial services. In order for this to work we will need members of the congregation to step up and volunteer to complete cleaning tasks at the church. Custodial duties for the congregation have been divided into weekly and monthly tasks. We also will be holding bi-annual "Clean up the Church" days. Another option proposed by members of the congregation would be for members sign up for weekly cleaning duties and then arrange to pay our current custodian themselves to complete the tasks. This is being taken under advisement by John Madison and Bill Umlauf; they will work out the details as to how this may be legally accomplished (considering insurance, WC coverage, etc).
- ◆ Eliminate the paid attendant at the nursery for church worship services. At least six individuals must volunteer to provide nursery supervision on a rotating basis. Each individual will pledge to be available for their given service to provide coverage in the nursery if/when necessary.

Many individuals have responded to the letter that went out to parishioners this past week explaining this by offering to re-think their pledges for the coming year. This of course is greatly appreciated; any increase in pledges will help us.

Sign-up sheets were passed through the congregation for nursery supervision and church cleaning.

## New Volunteer Sign-Ups

We have a roster of people willing to take a turn in the nursery when needed. If you'd like to be added to this roster, please contact Janine in the office (419-734-6211).

A number of people have signed up to vacuum and empty trash (weekly tasks) but we need many more for weekly or monthly (dusting) tasks. Please sign up on the Opportunity Table, or contact Janine in the office to choose your week to help.