

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FLASHES

636 W Park Avenue Barberton, OH 44203 Office: (330) 745-2161 Fax: (330) 745-2162

Email: churchmail@fpcbarberton.org Web Address: fpcbarberton.org



## *From the Pastor's Pen*

A month or so ago, I quoted in this column from an old hymn that still somehow gets termed "contemporary" called "Pass It On." That was a hymn that I did not like at all when it was first introduced – way back in 1969.

Or I think of another hymn too that I didn't like when it was introduced back in the 1980s – "Shine, Jesus, Shine." Indeed, "didn't like" is a pale descriptor of my negative feelings at the time: I thought it was sacrilegious!

And, taking things further back yet, I remember how I absolutely *detested* "How Great Thou Art" when I heard it debuted at a Billy Graham rally way back when.

Or I could list others just like these – so many new hymns that I simply couldn't stand when I first heard them. But what happened? I began to sing and learn them, and I began to hear others talk about the meaning these new hymns were having in their lives. And, next thing you know, many hymns that I at first didn't like came to be hymns that I actually *loved*!

Not that I want to talk about hymns, especially, in this column. Rather, I want to talk about change – and changes in hymns are one good illustration of church-change in general. As the years have gone by, *church* has changed – and hymns are only one part of it. But change is uncomfortable, and we sometimes have trouble accepting it.

Yet the *world* has changed too. And, in some way or the other, we have made our peace with it. Indeed, what is the alternative – except death or a space ship?

Meanwhile it is comforting to reflect that *God* never changes – an affirmation on which we can base our faith and confidence.

However, God does lead the *church* to change, over the years, because the Gospel must speak to each new and successive generation. Hence the new hymns, the new ways of doing things, the new ideas with which we wrestle, and more.

I wonder what changes God has in mind for us in the future? I have no way of knowing, of course. But what I do know is that I need to be ready – ready to sing a new song, and maybe even learn to like it! As the psalmist urges,

*O sing to the Lord a new song;  
Sing to the Lord, all the earth.*

And I suppose that I – who once even had trouble with "How Great Thou Art"(!) – need to make my peace with it all. Because there seems to be no escape – not even in the life beyond. For guess what turns out to be one of the few concrete things the Bible tells us about heaven? You guessed it. In *Revelation* we read that the redeemed in heaven all "sing a new song!" [Rev. 14:3]

On God's Learning Curve,

*Reford*

Your Pastor



## FLASHES

**May 16,**  
**A.D. 2009**  
through  
**May 30,**  
**A.D. 2009**

---

### Worship Schedule

9:30 a.m.

Adult  
Sunday School  
& Children's  
Computer Lab

10:45 a.m.

Worship  
&  
Children's  
Sunday School

---

### Our Vision

**We are followers of  
Jesus Christ,  
Sharing God's Word,  
Showing God's Love,  
Serving God's  
Creation,  
Striving to Glorify God,  
Always!**

---

### April's Average At- tendance

**Adults: 118  
Children: 14**

# What's in store for May?

## Symbolism in our Church

Tracery of Aisle  
Window

continued □

The POINTED ARCH, typical of Gothic architecture, literally points heavenward in most cases and stands for the aspiration and striving growth in the spiritual life. In its use for the border it points both up and down.

In reading this design, one might say that Christ (the Rose of Sharon) came to the world as a mortal man (plant growing in earth), that he represents the Trinity (the 3-lobed leaf), that the word of his sacrifice for man (Five cross-like blossoms) shall be carried to the four corners of the earth as it is in heaven (the pointed arch, and that he has brought forth the Church (the seed pod).

## Faith Circle

We will meet on Tuesday, May 19 at 7:30 p.m. at Marilyn Curtis' home. All women are welcome to join us! Contact Barbara Bates or Ginny Eicher.

## Usher Team

Capt □ Joe Kendron  
Dave Alexander  
Jim Eicher  
Romeo Protacio

## Charity Circle

We will meet on Tuesday, May 19 in Hubbell Lounge at 9:30 a.m. All women are welcome to join us! Please come by & see what we are all about! For more info about our group contact Yola Chapman.

## Please Remember Our Homebound

Send a card to:

**Jean Swinehart**

686 North Summit Street

Barberton, OH 44203

Brighten Jean's

day with your cards.

Please remember her

in your prayers.

## Lunch Bunch

On Thursday, May 21, we will be going to:

Weaver Farm

Call the church office by Tuesday, May 19 to RSVP! All retirement-age folks are invited!

## B.A.C.M.

Item of the Month

## Peanut Butter

Please place your donations on the table near the parking lot door, the bag provided in the Narthex, or in your Sunday school classroom.

## Coffee Meet & Greet

Coffee Meet & Greet will be held after worship in the chapel & is sponsored by the Membership & Fellowship Ministry. This month's hostesses are Dick & Elaine Hamilton. Come join us for great fellowship & refreshments!

**Member Update:** Deborah & Roy Stephenson have new cell phone numbers. To reach Deborah, call (330) 461-0453 and to reach Roy, call (330) 461-0454.



**To my Friends and Christian Family of Barberton First Presbyterian Church. Thank you for the visits of Rev. Nash while me and my mother were in the hospital. Also for prayers and many cards to cheer us. With Gods help and love, we will.**

We would like to give a sincere thanks to all who sent cards, expressed kind words and offered support in response to the recent passing of Barb's mother. Thank you.

Bob & Barb Leasure



**The office will be closed on  
Monday, May 25**  
in observance of Memorial Day.  
We will reopen on Tuesday, May 26.



Worship hours during this summer will remain the same.  
Adult & Youth Sunday School  
is at 9:30 a.m. and  
Worship & Children's Sunday School  
is at 10:45 a.m.



May 17- 4-5:00 p.m. "Cell Group Training- Sr. High small group evangelism"

5-7:00 p.m. "Hoops at the Y" We'll travel to the YMCA for an evening of sports related fun! Bring along your friends while we challenge one another in basketball and volleyball. The more friends you bring, the greater the fun! Meet at the church for supper @ 5:00 and we'll walk to the Y.

May 24- NO Youth-- Memorial Day Week-End

May 29 - May 31- Youth retreat @ JBM, **Let's Go Out And Play** This will be a teambuilding week-end for the Powerhouse Youth of FPC who have been 'forever faithful' in service and mission throughout the year. We'll learn through games and fun team- building exercises how to trust one another more completely and how we can build our youth ministry more strongly upon the rock of Jesus Christ. Cost is \$17.50 per youth.



Mark your calendars for VBS 2009, "Crocodile Dock," coming up July 27-31 6-8 p.m. for children age 3 through entering fifth grade ! This dock rocks, so plan to get swamped with fun! Our church will be transformed into a mysterious, colorful Bayou with a crocodile dock where fearless kids shine God's light. Get ready for an exciting adventure, discovering God's presence, power, love, life and care. Bayou Crews will travel to **Bible Bayou** to learn how *God is with us* through the story of Moses and the burning bush; How *God is powerful* through the story of Egypt and the plagues; How *God does what he says he will do* through the story of the Israelites and the Passover; How *God gives us life* in Jesus Christ through the story of Jesus' sacrificial death and resurrection; How *God cares for us* through the story of Moses and the parting of the Red Sea.

Bayou Crews will also visit the **Snack Shack** for tasty treats; **The Dockside Drive- In** to hear about Chadder and Fraider's mysterious swamp adventures; **Gater Games** for raft races and other Bayou water fun; **Crawfish Crafts** for lots of firefly and gator creations; And of course Bayou praise music at the **Sing and Play Swamp Stomp and Firefly Finale**. Your family won't want to miss the VBS "Crocodile Dock Rocks" Friday Family Fun Night. Come dressed as your favorite character from the Disney movie "Peter Pan" while we enjoy dinner, family games and a movie together following a one hour VBS finale. Bring along family and friends to enjoy this timeless classic featuring "Tick Tock" the croc! Also, don't forget to visit the **Bayou Photo Shoot** to receive your family photo souvenir as a reminder of the fun we enjoyed together at "Crocodile Dock!"

# First Presbyterian Church

636 PARK AVE., WEST  
BARBERTON OH 44203

Phone: 330-745-2161

Fax: 330-745-2162

Email: [churchmail@fpcbarberton.org](mailto:churchmail@fpcbarberton.org)

Non-Profit Organization  
PRESORTED STANDARD

U.S. Postage  
PAID

Barberton OH  
Permit No 190

## May 1, 2009

PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY  
DATED MATERIAL INSIDE  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



First Presbyterian  
Church

## "In The of Barberton"

### Sunday, May 17:

9:30 am Adult/Youth Sunday School  
10:45 am Worship & Children's SS  
12:00 pm Pizza Pick-Up (Kitchen)  
5:00 pm Youth Group

### Monday, May 18:

6:45 pm Deacons' Mtg

### Tuesday, May 19:

9:30 am Charity Circle  
10:00 am Chat Room  
3:30 pm Tutoring  
4:30 pm Soup Kitchen  
7:30 pm Faith Circle

### Wednesday, May 20:

7:00 pm Session

### Thursday, May 21:

11:00 am Lunch Bunch  
3:30 pm Tutoring  
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

### Sunday, May 24:

9:30 am Adult/Youth SS  
10:45 am Worship & Children's SS

### Monday, May 25:

**OFFICE CLOSED**  
in observance of  
Memorial Day

### Tuesday, May 26:

10:00 am Chat Room  
4:30 pm Soup Kitchen

### Thursday, May 28:

4:30 pm Soup Kitchen  
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

### Friday, May 29:

6:00 pm Youth Retreat

### Sunday, May 31:

9:30 am Adult/Youth SS  
10:45 am Worship & Children's SS

Available Dates: May 24- 2 vases, June 7- 1 vase, June 21-2 vases & June 28- 1 vase.

### First Presbyterian Church Chancel Flower Order Form

Flowers are \$22.50. Make your check payable to the church and mark "Chancel Flowers." Please advise if you will pick up flowers after worship. PLEASE PRINT:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Month/Date Desired: \_\_\_\_\_ I will pick up my flowers \_\_\_\_\_

Memory / Honor (Please Circle): \_\_\_\_\_

Return this slip to the church office or June Maier - 330-745-6751.

# DEADLINE

for articles for the next  
issue of the FLASHES is  
Tuesday, May 12- 12 pm.  
The next issue will cover  
June 1 - June 15.