

## Lisa's Corner

It is time for cleaning out closets and some rooms at FPC! In doing that, we know many things in the church hold sentimental value, and we want very much to honor that! On July 18th, we will have a "display day" in the Nursery, and you will have the opportunity to look at the items we are not in need of anymore. If there is an item you would like to have, please feel free to take it with you. A donation may be made to the church, if you would like. The items we don't give away will be donated to the YSU re-store and re-use program. See you on July 18th!

Lisa

## "Thank You"

**First Presbyterian Church thanks Charlotte Gelhaar for her generosity in purchasing the beautiful flowers that adorn the courtyard! They are so gorgeous, and we are so thankful for her generosity! We are also grateful to both Charlotte and Pat Hale for using their time and talents to glorify God through planting those beautiful flowers.**

**Speaking of flowers and planting, a big FPC thanks goes out to Dana Christoff and her daughter, Whitney, for volunteering with Lisa Velker for "Streetscape 2010" (see our picture on the bulletin board)! We, along with over 400 volunteers, helped to beautify the downtown Youngstown area; and we had a lot of fun doing it! God Bless you both!**

## First Presbyterian Women Picnic at the Coopers

**Wednesday, July 28th – 6 p.m.**

All women of the church are invited to a picnic at the home of Karen Cooper, 254 Moreland Drive in Canfield. Please bring your favorite picnic foods to share. Our Hostess will be, of course, Karen Cooper, who will also lead us in devotions. It's time for some "**Summer Fun**" including yard and board games. If you are unable to bring "picnic food" please still feel free to join us; there will be plenty to share.

## Congrats to our Clergy

This past Sunday, we recognized and celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Rev. Jim Ray as minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA). We have subsequently discovered that a few other clergy "connected" with our congregation have also accumulated several years of ordained ministry. Rev. Chuck Lundquist has been ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church for 56 years; Rev. Al Shakely – 55 years, PCUSA; Rev. Mager – 41 years, PCUSA; Dr. Victor Wan-Tatah – 33 years in PCUSA plus two years in the Presbyterian Church of Cameroon; and Rev. Cindy Carlisle – 2½ in PCUSA. Dr. Donna Sloan, now a member of our congregation, has been an ordained minister in the Swedenborgian Church for 23 years.

All these years of ordained ministry in our denomination and others is not "trivial," but it is a nice little bit of "trivia" about the First Presbyterian Church family. We celebrate not only these years of ordained pastoral ministry but all the years of ordained ministry of deacons and elders represented in our church family as well.

# STAFF PREPARES FOR A.B.L.E.

Earlier this spring, the Session authorized the Building, Equipment and Grounds Committee (BEG) to approve a contract with the Adult Basic Literacy Education (ABLE) program for their use of the old fellowship hall beneath the Sanctuary. ABLE works with adults who have not completed High School to help them complete a GED. Both Terry and Becky Murray have taught in this program. The ABLE program coming to our facilities in August outgrew available space in their former location at St. John's Episcopal Church.

Our maintenance and custodial staff – Paul Rankin, Jerry Fullum and David Todd – have spent a huge amount of time repairing and refurbishing the old fellowship hall and stage area under the Sanctuary after the closing of the Thumbs-Up Day Care Program which was in our church for over 25 years. And now, the staff will be creating three class rooms in the fellowship hall, and will refurbish the former choir room to provide a fourth classroom for the ABLE students.

The maintenance staff also completely refurbished two other former day care class rooms on the ground floor and transformed them into a new choir room and music office. Members are invited to take a “tour” of the transformed ground floor any Sunday or during the weekdays.

Our thanks to our maintenance staff for all their long, hard and good work. Our thanks also to Lisa Velker for her oversight, vision and steady leadership with all these projects, and for working out details with ABLE for their new home.

## COURTYARD BEAUTIFICATION AND FUTURE USES

Have you noticed the recent transformation of the courtyard area? Do you even know where the courtyard is? Well it is right in the middle of our church facilities and can be accessed from several rooms off the ground floor of our church building, but it can be seen from the Garden Room, the Church Office and the Church Library.

Years ago the courtyard was used as an outside play area for the Thumbs-Up Day Care Center. When they left our facilities, they left behind a deserted and heavily used courtyard area. But thanks to Charlotte Gelhaar, Pat Hale and Lisa Velker there was a new “vision” of how the area could be transformed and used for church activities. Thanks to these women and our maintenance staff, the courtyard is now a beautiful garden area conducive to private and small group prayer and Bible Study, or just relaxing and reflection. Also, Larry Harris has suggested the Courtyard would be a wonderful setting for our next Taizé Service. Thanks Charlotte, Pat and Lisa for your vision.

### **Church Receives Bequests**

First Presbyterian Church has recently received bequests from the estates of Yvette Stanley and Richard Doyle. Mrs. Stanley's bequest was to the church's Endowment Fund and Mr. Doyle's bequest was to the Gifts and Bequest Fund. The Session is grateful for the thoughtfulness and generosity of other former members who have remembered the church in their wills. Our Session is increasingly dependent on our Endowment and other Trust Funds to maintain our ministry and mission.

### ***“In the Loop”***

#### **Presbyterian News Update**

The General Presbyter of Eastminster Presbytery has recently begun a brief newsletter to help keep Eastminster Presbyterians “*In the Loop.*” The newsletter has been passed on to all of our church officers to keep them “*in the loop,*” and our office staff will run extra copies and place them on the tables in the Garden Room and outside the Church Office. Please let Debbie Toman know if you'd like additional copies.