



# The Messenger

February 2010

Solon United Methodist Church

The Messenger, Volume 11, Issue 2

## PASTOR'S PEN

Editor: Sandy Symons

**Deadline:**

**15th of the month**

info@solonumc.org or put in "Newsletter" mailbox in church office.

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### Compass Group Discussion and "Just Walk Across the Room" during Lent

Have you heard of Compass Groups? Shortly after Bishop Hopkins was appointed the leader of East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church, he organized the churches within our conference into groups. Since that time, groups of 6 to 8 similarly-sized churches have met regularly for support, encouragement, learning, and growth. Each group has taken on its own identity and purpose, with some being more effective than others. The group to which our church is assigned consists of churches from Solon to Epworth Euclid in University Circle. A pastor and lay person from each church meet about 6 times per year with our focus of conversation being questions that are given to us from Bishop Hopkins and Rev. Paul White, our Conference Director of Council of Ministries.

At our most recent meeting, the topic of discussion centered around the questions: If we are to take seriously Jesus commission to go and make disciples of Christ, what are we doing to build relationships with people in our communities and invite them to a relationship with God? Also, do we have goals for

the number of people to come to a new or renewed faith in Christ through our church during the next year?

You might already know my response. I believe that we are to be looking for opportunities to make friends with our neighbors, business associates, and people with similar interests or hobbies. Then, as we make friends and our love and respect for people grow, we can't help but have our faith and the difference that Jesus makes in our lives to spill over into the lives of others. Naturally, we will want to share with our friends and those close to us the Source of our strength and peace in our lives. I believe that we should set goals as to our faithfulness as a church. We should have a goal to plan X number of outreach events per year. We should have a goal to train X number of people in our church how to practice faith-sharing. But I don't believe that we should have a goal for the number of people that we bring to faith.

You see, in the earliest church described in the book of Acts, I don't believe that Peter had a goal of baptizing

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February 17

Worship Service at 7:00 PM

## Pastor's Pen Continued

4,000 people that day. I believe that his only “goal” was to be faithful and passionate about the Good News of Jesus Christ as he preached and shared with the people who gathered. The response of those people was completely in the control of the Holy Spirit.

So what should we do? We ought to be praying constantly that the Holy Spirit would fill us so that we might see opportunities to make friends and share with them the most important piece of our lives – our faith in Christ. While sharing at Compass Group, I had the opportunity to tell them what we have planned for the season of Lent. It's called, “Just Walk Across the Room.”

I had heard of “Just Walk Across the Room,” but had never experienced it first-hand until our Saturday morning “Men of Faith” group did this study in December. It was then that I said that we all need to experience it and made the commitment to do it as a whole church during Lent. I was amazed at the response of our Men of Faith, all of whom have been Christians and in the church for many, many years. They said things like: “This is the best approach to evangelism that we've ever seen. It makes so much sense that it's just a matter of paying attention to people and be willing to introduce ourselves. It doesn't mean that someone will come to your church or come to faith right away, it might take a few years. You can't take this all in just doing it once, I think I need to go through this again.”

I'm excited to announce that during the first Lent we will be experiencing, “Just Walk Across the Room.” This will include our worship focus and four sermons leading up to Palm Sunday and Easter. Everyone will be encouraged to join a small group to do the study and learn from the video teaching from Pastor Bill Hybels of Willow Creek Church in Chicago. It all begins Sunday February 21!

What if twenty steps across a room could change *your* friend's forever?

In his newest book, *Just Walk Across the Room*, Pastor BILL HYBELS paints a compelling picture for how a few steps of obedience really can touch eternity.

### JOIN US

for a Four-Week Church Experience that will refresh your appreciation  
for the Holy Spirit's mysterious ways, rekindle your passion for people,  
and revive your belief that the single greatest gift you can give to your friends  
and family members is an introduction to the God who ...

created them

loves them

has a purpose for their every day.

During these four weekends, we'll learn together how to approach our  
sin-scarred world with a relevant, appropriate message of truth - a message  
that is conveyed on the heels of a simple walk across a room.

### SUM Hope Ministry

The SUM Hope Ministry team wants to remind our church family that we are continuously working to bring hope to those who need prayers and to know that someone cares. SUM Hope ministry is not just about grief from the passing of a loved one. We are about sharing love and compassion to anyone who has encountered grief or despair due to loss of a job, through divorce, due to illness in the family, relocation and the need to connect with new surroundings due to a job change.

Please feel free to contact any member of our ministry team should you need a friend to share your concerns. We are always here to listen and assist whenever we can.

SUM Hope Ministry Team Members: Alice Craig, Gene Elliott, Jim Morrow, Gail Panik, Sue Lumpkins, June McCandless, Duann Semik, Carol Taylor



### Faith Night Winter Term

Tuesdays, January 12<sup>th</sup> thru March 23<sup>rd</sup>

6:30 - Carry-in meal and fellowship

7:00 – Study and Faith Development

(you are welcome to arrive at 7:00 for the study)

#### Jan 12-Feb 16 “Becoming a Good Samaritan”

If you haven't done so, please feel free to join the discussion about “Becoming a Good Samaritan” in today's world.

#### Feb 23-Mar 23 (during the season of Lent) “Just Walk Across the Room”

Join us for an All-Church Experience that will refresh your appreciation for the Holy Spirit's mysterious ways, rekindle your passion for people, and revive your belief that the single greatest gift you can give to your friends and family members is an introduction to the God who ... created them...loves them...and has a purpose for their lives.

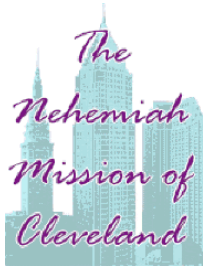
You'll learn how to:

Develop friendships with people far from God.

Discover the stories behind their life's journey.

Discern what “next steps” will help point them to faith.

Pastor Bill Hybels of Willowcreek Church in Chicago will present via video with discussion times interspersed. Pastor Scott will be preaching and focusing our worship toward “Just “Walk Across the Room” during Lent.



## 2010 Leadership & Church Retreat

**“Growing in Mission - Growing in Christ”**

**April 9-10, 2010 at Nehemiah Mission (6515 Bridge Ave. Cleveland)**

**(You are encouraged to attend both days, but a couple of people have expressed interest in the option of attending just on Saturday.)**

Join us for fun, fellowship, worship, prayer, and time to grow individually and as a church. We will seek God’s heart for us as we continue to be called to meet people’s needs like Jesus would. How do our Core Values shape us? How is God calling us to make a real, practical difference physically, spiritually, and emotionally in the lives of others?

To top off the weekend, Jim Szakacs, Director of the Nehemiah Mission will preach at our church on Sunday morning April 12<sup>th</sup>. Cost is \$15 per person to help cover the cost of housing and food. Look for sign-up sheet on bulletin board in hall outside of sanctuary.



## The City Mission

Every fourth Saturday of the month, SUMC serves the evening meal to homeless men at The City Mission. The main course and bread are donated. Complete information and a sign-up sheet can be found on the Missions bulletin board or contact Bill Rafalski. If you are unable to travel to The City Mission, contact Bill or Terri Betts to find out how you can support this mission in other ways. You may be able to bake cookies, slice vegetables for the salad or provide the lemonade mix.



## Books and More Books!

Thank you for your overwhelming response! Our Tutoring Ministry asked our congregation for books for the elementary children with whom they read. We found out that many of the children in the school don’t own books to read at home. With this news, your generosity was extravagant. We had hoped to give each child in the school a book. As it turned out, we gave each of the 300+ children 2 or 3 books. What a joy to report that our tutors and our church is making an impact on these students!

## Employment Resources

Peace with Justice and SUM Hope have joined together to assist those who are looking for employment. We hope the lists of assistance groups that are printed in our newsletter and on our web site and also found on the Information Table outside of Fellowship Hall will be of help. Our prayers and support are here for you.

Employment Connection	Bruce Campbell	440-338-5575	rhcg948@aol.com
Hudson Job Search	www.hudsonjs.org	Joseph Rusnak	330-653-5322
Job Search Group	Ken Vaughan	440-248-9814	kvaughan44@aol.com

## In the Family of the Church

### The Ladies Tea Group



The Ladies Tea will be Feb 11 at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Bobbie Schroeder. Anyone interested in good

conversation with coffee, tea and treats, please call Bobbie for directions. No reservations are required. Please join us.

### SUM Friends

When: Saturday, Feb. 20  
Where: Glenwillow Grille  
29765 Pettibone Rd.

SUM Friends will meet for dinner and conversation at the Glenwillow Grille at 6:00PM.



Thank you to Clyde Ostberg for delivering the non-perishable food items collected to the Emergency Assistance Center.

### SUPER BOWL PARTY

Date: Sunday, Feb. 7th  
Time: 6:00 PM until end of game  
Place: SUMC  
Cost: \$5



Watch the game on our 7' x 6' Jumbo Screen with Surround-Sound Stereo.

Pizza, chili-dogs, wings, ice cream, soda and more provided.



*Invite friends to watch the game, or play video games, pool, air-hockey, cards, and more.*

There are instances when we have extra copies of the Upper Room devotional guides. If you know of someone or some organization that could use these guides, please contact Sandy in the church office.

### *Just a reminder:*



The church office will close at noon on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday office hours will remain 9 AM to 3 PM. If you need access to the church, it is always a good idea to call the office at 440-248-1573 to be sure someone is available to let you in the building.

### RETHINK CHURCH

North Coast District Leadership Academy  
Saturday, Feb. 6, 2010 8:30 AM — 3:00 PM

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Ken Carter  
30+ Workshops

*See flyer on bulletin board. Look for registration and workshop information on the Information Table. Contact the church office if you wish to car pool.*

## In the Family of the Church



### Fishdance & GIFT Youth Groups

Friday, Feb 26 – Sun. Feb 28  
5:00 pm Friday – 12:30 pm Sunday

A tradition here at SUMC . . . it's time once again to fast for 30 hours and raise money for and awareness of global famine.

Needed: sleeping gear, change of clothes, toiletries, medications and Permission slips. See Michael (Bud) McLaury with questions.

*World Vision's 30 Hour Famine is a worldwide movement of students. For 30 hours, participants get a taste of hunger by not eating. Please support our youth's effort to raise funds to fight hunger.*

#### Upcoming Youth Events:

March 20	8:30 AM — 5:00 PM	Collide-East Ohio Youth Event
March 28	12:30 — 2:00 PM	Build-A-Basket for Easter
April 16	5:00 — 11:00 PM	North Coast Jam

### Trustees

**Thank you** to Chris Vaidean for your time and service as Chairperson of Trustees. Chris will continue to work with the youth but has resigned from Trustees. Charlie Purdy has agreed to Chair the Trustees team. The Trustees have a wide range of responsibilities and work hard to keep our building functioning and looking beautiful. The next time you see a member of Trustees, you may want to say "Thank you".

**Have you visited [www.solonumc.org](http://www.solonumc.org) lately?** Thank Dave Granger for the new look which includes a video of Pastor Low inviting our neighbors and friends to SUMC.

Dave designs our website to invite and inform but he needs your help. If you're planning an event, contact the church office or Dave with the information. When visitors are asked how they found SUMC, some have listed the "internet". Your event may just be the reason someone seeks out SUMC.



Dave now has a mailbox in the church office or you can e-mail him at [dgranger@windstream.net](mailto:dgranger@windstream.net).



## In the Family of the Church

### PRAYER LIST

Please use this list as a guide for your personal prayers.

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**From Our Congregation:** Deb & Dan Gallagher & Family, Mitch Pollock, Maxine Stillings

**Family & Friends of SUMC:** Victims of the earthquake, missionaries and aid workers in Haiti.  
**Pansa Family** (Deb Gallagher); **Nina & Family** (Kim Leius); **Susanne, Amy, Brittany** (Karen Novitsky);  
**Michael Walter** (David & Lynne Granger); **Laura Redman & Family** (Dan & Chrissy Mercer); **Pete Bongiovanni** (Herb & Nancy Unhold); **Family & Friends of Kyle Kolinke** (Bonnie Vaidean); **Delores** (Carol Taylor); **Webb Family** (Chris Vaidean); **Greg Michl** (Tracy Foster); **Dale** (Jan VanderNeut); **Tejasvi Pasupneti** (Gail Panik); **Robert & Madeline Brouse** (Lynne Granger); **Tom & Leanne May** (Annemarie Mockler); **Kylie Lovalley** (Ray & Carol Niles); **Rittgers Family & Orchard Path Church**;  
**Carolyn Ayers** (Lisa Woodard); **Ken Koenig, Helen Darch** (Ed & May Rylander); **Charlie Emory** (Carol Neumann); **Dean Shumaker, Barb Schrock, Jan Champa** (Bob & Nancy Ewing); **Those Serving in the Military; Unemployed Friends & Neighbors.**

### SERVING IN February

#### Liturgists

Feb. 7	Ruth Marquart
Feb. 14 & 21	Chris Vaidean
Feb. 28	Dan Mercer

### February BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday

- 3 Charlotte Freil
- 6 Nicollee Hammer
- 8 Bonnie Vaidean
- 9 Ray Symons
- 10 Gene Elliott
- Don Heiman
- Jared Miller
- Samuel Ours
- 11 Elizabeth Balraj
- 13 Arianna Vara
- 22 Scott Freil
- 23 Duncan Vaidean
- Dan Mercer
- 25 Brianna Razzante
- Lydia Miller

### ATTENDANCE

Dec. 6	130	
Dec. 13	137	
Dec. 19	148	(Music Program)
Dec. 20	134	
Dec. 24	194	
Dec. 27	117	



### Financial Report - January

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Capital Campaign</u>
<b><u>Beginning Bal.</u></b>	\$34,458.16	\$12,918.36
Income	28,932.62	4,234.00
Expense	24,033.45	6,494.45
<b><u>Ending Bal.</u></b>	<u>\$39,357.33</u>	<u>\$10,657.91</u>