



First United Methodist

Become a part of God's family at First UMC
225 Ludlow St. Hamilton, OH 45011

513-896-5683

firstumc@cinci.rr.com

firstumc-ham.org

Rev. Peggy L. T. Garrison, Ph.D., Minister

pastor@firstumc-ham.org

*Vision: Hamilton First: a growing extended family sharing Christ's love
in the heart of the city (A United Methodist Congregation)
Mission: To Know Christ and Make Him Known in the World*

July 4, 2010

Dear Friends,

I had the pleasure of going to the Brimner Family reunion this past weekend. It was held on the farm that my mother's family has owned for 5 generations. My cousin has bought the land so that it will stay in the Brimner name for at least two more. He has build a lodge where the family can come and stay with them and have time together. It was a great time to get together and remember.

This reunion started with I was 14. I remember going and seeing all the "old people" that I didn't know and them saying how much I looked like my mother (true). While my uncle was there who is 86, basically my generation is now the "old people." What an amazing transformation in the last 50 years.

As we gathered, of course for food and lots of it, relationships were renewed. We saw the family gathered, like we used to do at my grandparent's house for a celebration. We remembered people who helped form who we are today; and started handing babies around, whom we will form for tomorrow.

This gathering of family around a loaded table created a warm feeling of history and future. It reminded me of what holds each one of us steady on trying to be "good people" and that there is a future, even without us. To me, it was a secular understanding of communion.

When Jesus gathered the disciples at the table, there would have been plenty to eat for it was the celebration of God's act of salvation. He would have been looking to the past and the way his faith was rooted in history. He would have looked at his disciples and seen the future, the future in their hands. He could believe that the message he was given would continue to be lived out in their lives, even if he would not be there. He must have known that he would not be there.

Then Jesus took bread and broke it and gave it to them saying, "This is my body, broken for you, eat and be thankful." Then he would have taken the cup, looked at each of the disciples and said, "This is the blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sin. Drink from this all of you and be thankful. Do this, whenever you do it in remembrance of me." The family gathered at the Passover table did as Jesus requested and from that event, an act of remembrance began that we continue today.

This Sunday, as we celebrate our nation's birthday, we will also celebrate communion. May both events be a time of remembrance and thanksgiving for what we have been given. As you see fireworks explode or hear their bangs, remember what God has done for us in Christ Jesus and be thankful. Remember those who have gone before us in family, in country, and in our faith. We have a wonderful heritage in God through Jesus Christ. Blessings this week and have a wonderful walk with God.

Grace and Peace

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Peggy".

Rev. Peggy