



FIRST and ForMOST

July 2007

FROM THE PASTOR

“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” (Isaiah 43: 19)

Listen! Can you hear God speaking to you? ~~~ **Look!** Can you see the Lord?

Those without faith may answer these two questions by saying, “Of course I don’t!”

But, we are people who have been given the precious and free gift of faith by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. And, in Hebrews 11:1, we learn that, “Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

YES! We can hear God speaking to us! ~~~ **YES!** We can see the Lord!

Whenever we praise the Lord through worship...with every word of Scripture that touches our hearts...whenever we are comforted in times of grief by the Holy Spirit...whenever we share our story of faith with one of our brothers or sisters in Christ...wherever we see the sun shining and flowers blooming... whenever we reach out to help those in need...**IN ALL OF CREATION, WE “HEAR” THE LORD SPEAKING AND “SEE” THE ONGOING WORK OF THE LORD...ALL BECAUSE WE HAVE FAITH.**

Now our church stands at the door leading to our future. What will that future be? What will it look like? How long will our church’s future be? What glorious “new things” does God have planned for our church in the next 1, 3, 5, 10, 20, 30, 50 years?

Your Session is taking God’s Word very seriously and will be working faithfully and diligently for the remainder of this year on the formation of a new Vision and Mission Statements for our church. We want to know what “new things” God is and will be doing here. We want to make the effort to “perceive” what God’s Will is for His church so that everything we believe and do relates to a common focus and goal: mainly believing, saying, doing, and serving in a way that is truly in accordance with God’s Will.

It is your Session’s goal to produce new Vision and Mission Statements that will be: 1) Guided by the Holy Spirit; 2) Biblically-based; 3) Forward-looking; 4) Goal-oriented; 5) Representative of ALL our members’ Christ-centered hopes and dreams; 6) Specific in content; and 7) Exciting and motivating.

More specifically, your Session will spend a great time in prayer as these new Vision and Mission Statements are being developed. We realize that if our work is not guided by the Holy Spirit, it will be in vain. Furthermore, we also realize that the development of new Vision and Mission Statements cannot be done without a tremendous amount of consultation with all of the members of our church family. Thus, as part of this process, we will be contacting you frequently to ascertain what your Christ-centered hopes and dreams are for the church.

A good Mission Statement should be short and concise. It should be a statement that can be easily memorized by all of our members. It should neither be too specific, nor too general. It should be a brief statement of our corporate identity...who we are and whose we are. An example of a Mission Statement might be: "Putting Our Christian Faith Into Action" or "Living Out God's Love" or "Following Christ Wherever He Leads."

A Vision Statement "envisions" how the Mission Statement will be carried out. It is longer, more specific, and answers the question: "How will the Mission Statement become a reality...be lived out...be implemented?" For example, if our church's new Mission Statement is: "Following Christ Wherever He Leads", then the new Vision Statement should set out a specific vision and goals as to how we are going to "Follow Christ" in the areas of: 1) Worship; 2) Christian Mission Service; 3) Caring for and Maintaining God's House; 4) Tithing and Giving; 5) Attracting New Members; 6) Planning Congregational Fellowship Events; 7) Teaching the Christian Faith; 8) Building up endowments and special funds; and, much, much more.

The Lord's message to us is crystal clear: "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

Please join your Session in prayerfully and faithfully discerning what wonderful "new things" God has in store for our church in the coming weeks, months, and years.

Thank you.

Your Friend and Pastor, *Dr. Chris Looker*

PREACHING SCHEDULE FOR JULY

July 1, 2007: **Guest Preacher**

July 8, 2007: **"ARE OUR NAMES WRITTEN IN HEAVEN?"**

Luke 10: 1-20

Dr. Chris Looker, Preaching

July 15, 2007: **"LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR, WE ARE TO BE THERE"**

Luke 10: 25-37

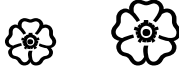
Dr. Chris Looker, Preaching

July 22, 2007: **"CHOOSING THE BETTER WAY"**

Luke 10: 38-42

Dr. Chris Looker, Preaching

July 29, 2007: **Guest Preacher**



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Todd Anderson ~ July 2
Gene Bedsole ~ July 3
Carol Campbell ~ July 6
Jo Hickey ~ July 7
Lauren Parker ~ July 9
Rob Parker ~ July 9
Chris Looker ~ July 12

Virginia Bennett ~ July 14
Robert "Smitty" Little ~ July 14
Mitchell Youmans ~ July 16
Lois Tichenor ~ July 22
Miriam Houseworth ~ July 23
Charlotte Braly ~ July 24
Margaret Mistretta ~ July 26

YOUTH SUNDAY

On June 10, 2007, the youths from the First Presbyterian Church of Annandale and the First Korean Presbyterian Church of Virginia conducted the worship service. There were special musical offerings from Ben Looker, who played his trombone, and the youth bell choir, who performed an anthem and during the offertory. Tyler Young had a special "Time with Adults" session. Sermons were presented by the two high school graduates, Daniel Metzler and Peter Yoon under the theme "God's Care and Protection." Superintendent Stephanie Berg presented Bibles to Daniel and Peter. She also recognized the teachers who worked hard this year to make the education program a success. The youths did a great job and can now relax for the summer. Thank you, youths and your parents for helping you prepare for the Youth Sunday Service.

Betty Youmans

Young People and Youth Leaders,

A heartfelt THANK YOU from the Congregation for this wonderful worship service. It was a very special event you have offered to God and our church. We thank you all, as well as your leaders Stephanie Berg, Genny Looker and Betty Youmans, who helped you and guided you. We could just see Christ happily smiling at all of you! Let us thank the Lord for his support!

The Congregation

THANK YOU NOTES

Dear Friends,

During the past year I have been extremely grateful to so many of you for your prayers and expressions of concern about my son.

Steve was Editor of the Editorial Page of the Boulder, Colorado newspaper (Daily Camera). He is missed by his family and friends and a great many colleagues and readers who have expressed their appreciation of his writing.

During the last months of Steve's life he compiled a booklet of quotations from many authors he had loved. The last entry was from Dietrich Bonhoeffer:

"I am so sure of God's guiding hand that I hope I shall always be kept in that certainty. You must never doubt that I am traveling with gratitude and cheerfulness along the road where I am being led. May past life is brim-full of God's goodness and

my sins are covered by the forgiving love of Christ crucified. I am most thankful for the people I have met, and I only hope they never have to grieve about me, but that they, too, will always be certain of, and thankful for, God's mercy...."

Thank you for caring. Sincerely

Aggie Jo Millard

During my recent stay in the hospital and rehab, I was deeply moved by the outpouring of cards, flowers, gifts and visits I received from all of you. I am so grateful for the caring way you showed your love and support. Your prayers and best wishes must have helped because I feel like my recovery is going so well. I am a very lucky person to have each and every one of you for a friend. I am very blessed and fortunate for your demonstration of concern and I can not express the comfort it gave me during this trying time. Thank you so much.

Anne Manning

Our sincere Thanks to our Church Family and Friends for the flowers, cards, e-mails and phone calls in celebration of our 50th Wedding Anniversary. You are **ALL** so **dear** and **special** to us and your thoughtfulness will long be remembered.

Love,

Ruth and Ken Hartman

A BIG "THANK YOU"

to ALL who helped make the picnic on Father's Day a big success:

all who helped set up and serve, all who brought food or contributed money, the First Korean Presbyterian Church for all their hard work, Nancy Manning for keeping up with all of the important details, and the donor of the funds for the Moon Bounce. Many thanks!!!

The Congregational Life/New Member Commission



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

STATED SESSION MEETING

May 16, 2007

The Stated Meeting of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Annandale (FPCA), Virginia was opened with prayer and Rev. Dr. Chris Looker led the devotion based on passages from the chapter "The Day With Others" in Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book Life Together.

The following correspondence was presented:

- Certificate of Transfer from Grace Presbyterian Church, Springfield, Virginia for Cara Lauler
- Final Audit Report for the years 2005 and 2006 was submitted by Dennis Matos.
- Thank you letter from Meadowkirk for our \$400.00 gift toward scholarship at Meadowkirk.

- *Letter from Presbytery Council regarding following action: “That the total amount available in the 2007 Mission Budget to fund presbytery mission expenses other than Mission Staff Costs be reduced from \$653,933 to \$497,933, resulting in a 24% holdback to all committees. (The reduction totals \$156,000, which is 24% of \$653,933).*
- Letter from Linda Bryant Valentine, Executive Director, General Assembly Council regarding Presbyterian responses to the Virginia Tech tragedy.
- Office of the General Assembly sent CD containing five papers approved by the 217th General Assembly and regarding Sacraments Study Groups.
- Call from Fairfax County checking to see if we will help again with their Nurturing Parent Program (Parenting Partnership). After checking with all concerned, we will continue.

Elders John Metzler, Sandy Mori and Judi Reitman will attend the Presbytery Meeting on May 22, 2007 in Vienna, Virginia.

Elder Tyler Young reported that the youth of FPCA and the FKPCV met May 4, 2007, to go bowling. They plan to go bowling again.

Red and white flowers were prepared on May 7, 2007 and given to people on Mother’s Day.

Elder Young will meet with youth to continue planning of Youth Sunday June 10, 2007.

Session will begin work on new Vision and Mission Statements.

Update on the planning for the Celebration of the Family/Father’s Day Worship Service, Picnic and Festival on June 17th.

- There will be a joint service for FPCA, FKPCV, and Emmanuel Indonesian PC at 11:00, followed by the Family/Father’s Day event to which the Sleepy Hollow Preschool and the neighborhood will be invited.
- There was a discussion regarding financing this event and it was indicated the expenses would be covered.
- Advertising for the event will appear in newsletters, bulletins and flyers.
- On June 1 the following motion was offered as an addendum to the Session Minutes and approved by an email vote.
 - I move that Margaret Anderson, Clerk of Session, be authorized to sign the contract on behalf of the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Annandale for the Hop On Pop Moonbounce. Respectfully Submitted, William Johnson

Rev. Looker indicated that FPCA has the opportunity to be a Teaching Church for Susan Ennis, a Candidate for Ordination under care of the National Capital Presbytery. She will work approximately 10 hours per week beginning in August or September and running through the school term. Her focus will be Evangelism, Pastoral Care and Youth Ministries.

The following motion was approved:

- Move that First Presbyterian Church of Annandale become the 2007-2008 Teaching Church for Candidate for Ordination, Susan Ennis.

The Emmanuel Indonesian Church has requested that their congregation be able to worship at First Annandale once a month and hold their Session meetings here. Discussion included the time of their worship service and the amount they would pay for using the building. The following motion was approved:

- Move that the Emmanuel Indonesian Presbyterian Church be allowed to use First Presbyterian Church facilities once a month for worship and Session meetings.

Deacon Randy Meli gave an update on members needing prayer.

Christian Education Commission indicated Church School would be over June 10, 2007. Church Nominating Committee continues to seek people to fill leadership positions that will become available.

Being no further business before the Session, the meeting was closed with prayer.

Margaret Anderson, Clerk of Session

MEET YOUR DEACON

Etha Cook

Etha Cook is one of our newest members of the Board of Deacons. She joined FPCA in 1984 and is visible to the congregation as a loyal member of the choir.

Etha is also an ordained Elder and has served on our Session. Over the years she has served on Christian Education, Worship, Music Search and Nominating Committees. She has assisted several summers in the Vacation Church School.

Etha was born and raised in Hampton, Virginia, and as a child she lived for 6 or 7 years in a log cabin. After college she was a technical editor for NASA. She and Larry were married in 1964 and live in Springfield.

Etha has been a member of the Fairfax Choral Society since 1974. Besides singing, she enjoys needlework, golf and observing nature.

We are pleased that Etha is continuing her service by becoming a Deacon.

Randy Meli

A WORD OF WISDOM

Fear imprisons, faith liberates;

Fear paralyzes, faith empowers;

Fear disheartens, faith encourages;

Fear sickens, faith heals;

Fear makes useless, faith makes serviceable. *Harry Emerson Fosdick*



COMMISSIONS' ACTIVITIES

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMISSION

The Commission was happy about the great job the young people did on Youth Sunday. The Mission Trip to Cumberland is planned for July 22-27 and will be advertised. A car wash is planned to help finance the trip. The youngsters also plan another bowling night. A special meeting will be held Aug. 22 to plan for the Sunday School curriculum in Fall.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/NEW MEMBER COMMISSION

VISITORS PACKETS: The new visitors packets have arrived and are ready for distribution to visitors seeking a church home. If you are seated next to a visitor who has not received one, please help us by asking the ushers for one to give to him or her. We want to tell our visitors about our programs and activities and invite them to become a part of our church family. Thank you for your help..

WORSHIP COMMISSION

The Worship Commission discussed the following:.

Old business: The red hymnals will be used for worship services in July. A short sing-along will precede the services each Sunday. Guest pastors will be in the pulpit the first and last Sundays of July, and one Sunday in August.

New business: It is time to evaluate how the Sunday School classes, combined with the Korean Church, are working out. There will be more discussion of this subject soon. Ideas of how to mingle more with the Koreans were shared, including forming a baseball team, or having a retreat together.

A new vision statement, and a new mission statement will be forthcoming. Cara Lauler agreed to work on the latter.

An intern will be coming to the church in September.

YOUTH NEWS

Mission Trip to Cumberland

Our youth are invited to participate in the Mission Trip to Cumberland, Maryland, July 22 through 27. How old should they be? Middle School and High School age. Where will they live? In a church; the cooking will be done in the church kitchen. What will they do? Help repair buildings for people who can not afford it. Yes, there will be adult supervision and participation. And what will they do when their daily work is finished?

There will be fun activities in the evening! The young people from FPCA and FKPCV who went on the mission trip last year, loved it -- and so will **YOU!**

Marta Strada

TREASURER'S REPORT

Through May 2007, we have received \$49,393 from our annual pledges, which means that we are 2.4% points below the goal for the period. New Ministry Pledge continues to lag about 7.5% points below goal.

Jan Reitman

2007 Pledge Status Pledge Goal - \$125,778

	Goal	Actual
Jan	\$10,482	\$9,258
Feb	\$20,963	\$17,892
Mar	\$31,445	\$28,756
Apr	\$41,926	\$39,687
May	\$52,399	\$49,393

2007 New Ministry Pledge Status Pledge Goal - \$24,594

	Goal	Actual
Jan	\$2,049	\$2,003
Feb	\$4,099	\$4,019
Mar	\$6,148	\$5,186
Apr	\$8,198	\$7,101
May	\$10,246	\$8,413

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Ask God's blessing on your work, but do not also ask Him to do it.

K. H. Waggener

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If I can stop one heart from breaking, I shall not live in vain.

Emily Dickinson

INDEPENDENT LIVING

Fairfax County is presenting a program to promote independent living . Sponsors of the program are the Shepherd's Center of Annandale Springfield, the Annandale Christian Community for Action (ACCA)and Ravensworth Baptist Church.

- **JULY 12TH through AUGUST 16TH. FREE exercise classes to improve balance and build strength (a series of six) – THURSDAYS at Ravensworth Baptist Church, 5100 Ravensworth Road, Annandale (corner of Ravensworth and Braddock Roads).**
 - > Beginner class, 12:00 PM – 12:50 PM
 - > Advanced, 1:00 PM – 1:50 PM (awaiting final confirmation from instructor).
- **JULY 17TH. FREE one-hour workshop offering tips to reduce the risk of falling – 11 AM, TUESDAY, Ravensworth Church. This is conducted by the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's Life Safety Education Office.** The Program Coordinator will speak about free meetings in your home with a specialist to help identify potential safety risks and to let you know about gadgets or services you may find helpful.

You must register in advance for the exercise classes as each class will be limited to twenty-five participants. They are designed for adults 60 years of age and older. You must be able to attend a minimum of four of the six sessions. Register by calling Jennifer Edge, Program Coordinator at 703-324-7210. You will find attached a Pre-Participation Screening section. **If you answer yes to two or more questions you will need written permission to exercise from your doctor before starting the class. Fax to Program Coordinator at 703-324-5391, or bring to first class.** Wear comfortable clothes and well-fitting non-slip shoes.

To get more information or to schedule an individual appointment, call the Program Coordinator, Jennifer Edge, 703-324-7210; TTY 703-222-0452. To receive an application form, please contact Betty Beal, 703-698-7475.

File: SCASfallprevention

GOOD NEWS!

**Betty Beal was honored as VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH by the Shepherd Center, because of all the work she was doing for them!
Congratulations, Betty!**

ATTENTION!

Deadline for the August issue of *FIRST and ForMOST* is July 20, 2007. Please e-mail your announcements and reports to Marta Strada, LUXI7777@aol.com, or put them in the *FIRST* and *ForMOST* drawer in the church office. Thank you.