



FIRST and ForMOST

December 2009

FROM YOUR PASTOR

(Jesus said), "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." (John 14: 27)

I'm sure that many of you have heard this true story. But, if there is a story worth repeating, this is it.

On Christmas Eve of 1914, in the freezing and muddy World War I trenches of Flanders fields, a young German soldier began singing "Stille Nacht-Silent Night," Soon, one by one, his fellow soldiers joined in, singing in beautiful harmony.

As soon as they were finished there was a reverent pause. Then on the other side of the battlefield, not far away, a young English soldier started to sing "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" and the other English soldiers soon joined in harmony.

Then both sides sang "Silent Night" together in the two different languages.

After a considerable pause, one lone German soldier climbed out of his trench without any weapon and began walking toward the British line. Seeing this, a British soldier did the same. Then the soldiers on both sides slowly walked out to join them both on the battlefield. They all shook hands, hugged, and traded chocolates, cigarettes, photographs, scotch, and cognac.

The Christmas carols resounded throughout the frozen fields of Flanders that night.

But, soon daylight came and with sad farewells they all returned to their respective trenches to continue the fighting.

Peace does not come naturally to human beings. But, when we are influenced and moved by the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, we cannot help but to pray, hope, and work for peace in this troubled world. Sometimes Christ's love and peace so overwhelm us, that we drop everything that we are doing and the peace and love of Jesus Christ completely take over our lives. We drop our **"weapons"**...things like grief, anger, jealousy, hatred, disappointment, frustration, and desires for revenge against our enemies.

And, it is during these precious times, we are truly free! As St. John wrote, **"...if the Son of God makes you free, you will be free indeed."** (John 8: 36).

How many times have you ever felt total freedom through Christ Jesus, our Lord? Free to love unconditionally? Free to forgive your enemies? Free to laugh out loud, not caring who hears you? Free to let go of all your anger?

In response to the singing of “Stille Nacht” and “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen” on that battlefield in 1914, the soldiers laid down their weapons and climbed out of their trenches. They celebrated together, enemies in war, yet One in Christ, because of the miraculous power of Jesus Christ.

In the same way St. Luke tells us that the angel who appeared to the shepherds in the field caused them to drop what they were doing and go to see the Christ Child who had been born in Bethlehem. In chapter 2 of the Gospel of Luke we read, **“The angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing Good News of great joy for all people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord.’”**

I hope and pray that there will be moments during this glorious Christmas season when you will be set free by the wonderful love and peace of Jesus Christ. It is my hope and prayer that all of us will be able to drop whatever **“weapons”** that may be keeping us from the total and joyous freedom that can only be found in and through Jesus Christ.

From all of us in the Looker household (Genny, Ben, Sam, and myself), we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Your Friend and Pastor, **Chris**

PREACHING SCHEDULE for DECEMBER, 2009

December 6, 2009 (10:00 AM)

Sermon Title: **“PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD”**

Scripture Lesson: Luke 3:1-6

Dr. Chris Looker, Preaching

December 13, 2009 (10:00 AM)

Sermon Title: **“A SONG OF JOY”**

Scripture Lesson: Zephaniah 3:14-18a

Dr. Chris Looker, Preaching

December 20, 2009 (10:00 AM)

SPECIAL SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

December 24, 2009

6:00 PM: CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE

8:00 PM: CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

December 27, 2009 (10:00 AM)

Sermon Title: **“THE GREATEST GIFT”**

Scripture Lesson: Luke 2:8-20

Elder Susan Ennis, Preaching

THE STORY OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE

By Marta Strada

When I was a child, I could not imagine Christmas without a Christmas tree. There was no tree anywhere before Christmas, but early in the morning of Christmas Day, I tiptoed into the living room, and there it was – a gift from the Christ Child (Christkindl), with the Christmas present piled up below it. It was always a lovely tree, ornaments glittering in the candlelight – glass baubles, tinsel and garlands, “Salonzuckerln” (candy wrapped in paper – a type of candy I have never seen in America) even little birds sitting on the branches, all covered with fluffy “angel hair” (cotton wool). And on the top of the tree was a golden star shining on all the beauty, the star of Bethlehem. The tree brought us joy and peace, the true Christmas spirit.

Well, today I know that the Christ Child does not bring the tree from heaven. It grows in the woods and is cut down and sold to families and business companies. Has this always been the case ever since the first Christmas when Jesus was born? Let’s look a little into the Christmas tree’s history.

This special tree’s roots go back to the pre-Christian era, when the pagans of northern Europe celebrated the return of the sun, known as winter solstice, decorated their homes with evergreens and green trees. Legends tell us about Thor’s Oak, an ancient tree sacred to a Germanic tribe, the ancestors of today’s Hessians. It was the tree of Thor, a much revered god of the ancient Germanic people. Thor’s tree was still revered at the time Christianity was spreading in Europe. There is a story about Saint Boniface, who, in the 8th century AD, wanted to convert the pagans who sacrificed under this magnificent tree. He cut it down, but, behold, a fir tree grew up at the base of the oak! Saint Boniface told the people that the oak tree, symbolizing pagantry, is now dead – and a new tree, symbolizing Christianity, is leading them into the future. Legend also tells us that he used the triangular shape of the fir tree to symbolize the Holy Trinity.

Does this story explain why the custom of erecting a Christmas tree originated in Germany? We don’t know – but it is a fact that this custom does go back to 16th century Germany. There seems to be a record that the earliest decorated pine tree was put up in Germany in 1521. In the 18th century the custom spread through the upper Rhine region and rural areas. First it was used mainly by Protestants, but slowly it was also adopted by Roman Catholics.

By the 19th century the custom had spread into other countries too. Royalty put up Christmas trees in their palaces. It has even spread to the court of Russia. Their Princess Henrietta of Nassau-Weilburg, a German aristocrat, brought it to Vienna in 1816. The Christmas tree’s German background brought it to England by George III’s Queen Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, at the time of her personal unity with Hanover. First the custom did not spread beyond the royal family, but at the time of Queen Victoria (whose husband Albert was German) the custom spread through Britain. Victoria was a popular queen – what was done at court was imitated by her subjects.

Americans saw the first Christmas tree in 1777 when a Hessian soldier put it up in Windsor Locks, Connecticut; in 1816 German settlers put up a tree in Easton, Pennsylvania; by 1821 a tree was erected in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. More and more immigrants brought along their customs from their homeland and set up Christmas trees. Clevelanders are still proud that in 1851 Rev. Heinrich Christian Schwan, a German immigrant Lutheran pastor, set up the

first lighted Christmas tree in Zion Lutheran Church, thus helping to spread the tradition across America.

Christmas trees are decorated in many different ways. The first decorations were apples, strings, candy canes, even pastries in the shape of hearts. But soon glass baubles became popular. They were made in a town in Germany, and slowly spread everywhere where Christmas trees were put up. By the end of the 19th century they were mass produced, and imported to the United States. They were not only baubles, but bells, birds, and other pretty things, all made of glass. I still have some, sent to me from Germany by relatives and friends. Of course, candles have been replaced by electric lights which are safer and can be left on. But they do not have the aroma of candles, and do not send the message of little living flames pointing towards heaven.

Yes, the Christmas tree is not just a pretty thing standing in our living room, or in a shopping mall, or at the White House. It brings a message to all of us – a message that Christ was born to save us all for eternity.

*O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum,
Dein Kleid will mich was lehren:
Die Hoffnung und Beständigkeit*

*Gibt Mut und Kraft zu jeder Zeit!
O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum,
Dein Kleid will mich was lehren!*

(third verse of the famous song “O Tannenbaum” (O Christmas tree) which translates as

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, your looks teach me something: hope and perseverance give courage and strength at any time!}

Yes, Christmas trees are here to remind us of Jesus Christ’s birth – the Son of God who brought us hope and strength!

HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS!

  **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**  

Margaret Anderson ~ December 2
Sterns Lott ~ December 2
Rose May Dodd ~ December 3
Lynette Kwaku ~ December 3
Betty Beal ~ December 4
Bob Paukert ~ December 4
Jane Rottier ~ December 4
Lois Little ~ December 7

Sandra Malone ~ December 10
Sandy Mori ~ December 10
Irma Jackson ~ December 14
Elsie Salyer ~ December 17
Art Gose ~ December 19
Christina DeVera ~ December 28
Trilby Belz ~ December 24
Tom Rockett~ December 31

MEET THE CONFIRMATION CLASS

The 2009 Confirmation Class met throughout the months of October and November. During this time, five young people met with Susi Ennis and Dr. Looker to explore what it means to be a Presbyterian, what it means to follow Christ and what it means to join a particular church. On November 18 the members of the class along with their families had dinner and met with the session. Each student presented his/her Statement of Faith and answered questions from the elders. The session voted to receive these 5 young people into membership at this meeting. On November 22 the students were recognized during morning worship.

I would like you to meet the members of this class. **Sam Looker** is an 8th grade student at Thoreau Intermediate in Vienna. Sam is musically talented, playing the piano, the bass and guitar. He is a regular contributor to *FIRST and ForMOST* by drawing cartoons. **Sarah Metzel** is a 7th grade student at Frost Middle School in Springfield. Sarah enjoys hiking and being outdoors. Sarah has been able to participate in the past 3 mission trips with her father, John Metzel. **Joshua Musih** is an 8th grade student at Poe Middle School. Josh is the quieter of the two brothers in this class. If you were able to attend the Youth Worship service this past June, you know that Joshua plays a trumpet. **Elisha Musih** is also an 8th grade student at Poe Middle School. Elisha has a great sense of humor and can be counted on to bring joy and levity to any gathering. I have had the pleasure of hearing Elisha provide drum accompaniment to the congregation of the Urdu Hindi Fellowship during their worship singing.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

October 21, 2009

Before the official part of the Called Session Meeting opened, the Session welcomed two members of the National Capital Presbytery Committee on Ministry as they had come to FPCA for their triennial visitation as prescribed by the Book of Order. They spent 45 minutes asking questions which included the Session's opinion of the worship service, the three most effective things that happened to our church during the past 3 years, as well as things that could be changed. They departed with a good impression of how our church is functioning today.

The meeting was attended not only by the current members of the Session, but also by the elders elect.

Youth Elder Tyler Young reported that the Movie Night on Friday, October 16, went very well. The youth are also working on a way to raise money for the Heifer project, like a bake sale.

Dr. Looker reported that Betty Youmans is willing to serve as treasurer in 2010. The job will be less demanding as most responsibilities of the treasurer will be contracted out to ADP, Inc.

Assistant to the Pastor, Susi Ennis, reported that this year the elder retreat will be held on November 7 at our church, and will focus on our goals for the next three years.

Chairperson of Deacons, Randy Meli, reported that the Deacons were working on updating the active list of members.

Elder Ruth Sutton reported for the **Marketing and Stewardship Commission** that the Commission was assembling the Stewardship Package contain a letter, 2 cards for each

member plus envelopes; one pledge card is for the operating budget, the other for the Church Improvement Fund. The pledges will be celebrated during worship on November 22.

Elder Susi Ennis reported for the **Mission Commission** that she, as well as Dr. Looker, had attended the first Sunday afternoon worship service Rev. Tariq Javed was leading for the Urdu and Hindi speaking fellowship. She thought it was quite successful.

Elders Barb Matos reported for the **Buildings and Grounds Commission** that an architect looked at the Sanctuary to discuss structural issues in association with renovation. He is working on a pro bono basis.

Elder Sandy Mori reported for the **Worship Commission** that preparations for the upcoming Community Thanksgiving Worship Service here at FPCA on November 25, 2009 were making progress, also the plans for the Living Nativity on December 21.

Elder Cara Lauler had e-mailed the **Congregational Life and New Member Commission** report to the Session; now she stressed that the walk around the neighborhood to invite people to visit FPCA went very well. She also informed the Session that at the time of the Living Nativity, members will be caroling and handing out flyers to visitors. The Commission is planning a craft party for children, and to revitalize the visitors' package by preparing a small statement about the commissions' activities.

SESSION RETREAT

On Saturday, November 7 members of the session along with the newly elected elders gathered for the day to spend time reflecting upon where God has been leading FPCA. We then took time to look ahead over the next three years. This was a time for the members of session to get to know each other in new ways. We worked hard and spent time in prayer and reflection as we developed our goals. We began the day by studying Scripture through Psalm 34. It is important to remember that we must continually praise God for what we have received and for what we will receive. Susi Ennis emphasized that no matter what we do, it is for God's glory and not our own. God surrounds us with love, mercy and guidance and we should remain at the center of God's love for us in all that we do.

Following the devotional time, Dr. Looker led us through a discussion of the lifecycle of a congregation. This was not a new idea, but one that had been introduced several years ago. We spent time looking at where the congregation was 3 years ago and where it is today. This led us into a brainstorming session about anything we see as a dream for FPCA in the coming years.

The after lunch discussion focused on setting our one, two and three year goals for each of the commissions. Everyone was encouraged to contribute to the discussion as we took each of the commissions in turn and set forth what we feel God is leading us to accomplish. As we go forward into 2010, 2011 and 2012 each commission will be taking seriously the goals set forth by everyone at this retreat.

The session asks that you keep the work of First Presbyterian Church of Annandale in your prayers. Please consider what God is calling you to do as we all move forward to meet the goals that were put together at this retreat.

OUR ELDERS ARE READY TO SERVE IN 2010

During the evenings of the first three Sundays in November, our elected as well as current elders attended training sessions conducted by Dr. Looker and Susi Ennis. After nourishing our bodies with delicious food, we received spiritual nourishment from studying *Serving as Elders*, provided by Presbytery.

The first evening we discussed that when an elder is being ordained, he/she is expected to serve with faith, dedication, and good judgment, and live within as well as outside the church demonstrating the teachings of the Gospel, to lead the church by good example, always based on our trust in Jesus Christ.

The second Sunday's training covered the principles of Presbyterian polity, which you find in the first four chapters of the *Book of Order*, such as the fact that Jesus Christ is head of the church, that the congregation is a local expression of the universal church, that the governing bodies (i.e. the Session) make all decisions after opportunity for discussion and by a majority vote. We also discussed the way session meetings should be conducted, and that elders are not only ordained to serve their congregation, but also the governing bodies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

On the last Sunday of our training sessions we emphasized that it is the Session's responsibility to provide the congregation with the right form of worship, with God being the focus. The Session should also see to it that the church provides Bible study, ministries of care and compassion, evangelism and mission work, as well as the proper stewardship of God's resources.

The Session of 2010 is eager to serve God, the church, and the congregation. .

. . .

THANK YOU NOTE FROM NCP COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

regarding their Triennial Visit with the Session, October 21, 2009

Dear Rev. Dr. Looker and Members of Session,

Thank you for the opportunity to meet and visit with you last week. We appreciated your preparation for our visit and the hospitality you showed us during our time with you.

It is always a joy to celebrate the ministry at our churches in National Capital Presbytery and find ways that we can work together in serving Christ in this place. The Committee on Ministry wants to ensure that the triennial visit is used to advance our shared ministry, and so regards the visit as only one step towards goal. With this goal in mind, you can expect to

** Receive a copy of our report, which is also shared with the presbytery staff and chair of the Committee on Ministry..*

** Hear from presbytery staff on your request for financial assistance towards your mission trips.*

** Get a call from the Committee on Ministry to follow up on our visit and to ensure we are being responsive to your needs and opportunities to serve others in the presbytery.*

With deep appreciation for the ministry of First Presbyterian,

In Christ's name,

Rev. Lisa Henderson

National Capital Presbytery Committee on Ministry

OUR CHURCH WORKS WITH PARENTING PARTNERSHP

The Nuturing Parenting Program in which FPCA works in partnership with Fairfax County is almost finished for this year. There will have been 13 sessions serving 34 people by the end of December. The participants are parents who need to improve their parenting skills by learning methods to deal with conflicts and to develop closer relationships with their children. Members of FPCA prepare the dinner where the parents have a chance to sit down with their children and enjoy a meal. Without the help of many of our members this program could not take place. Our heartfelt thanks to all of those who helped.

Isabelle Fennig coordinated the volunteers; Judy Reitman shopped every week finding bargains; the kitchen crew, Anne Manning, Isabelle Fennig, Betty McCown and Beverly Schubert, came faithfully and worked tirelessly; the servers, Marianne and Jack Smith, Barbara Matos, Stephanie Berg, Tuula Jung, Carey Robertson, Carrie Rodrigues, Larry Dronfield, John Fennig, Sarah Metzel, Alice and Sarah Jared, and Sam Looker not only served but cleaned up swiftly and efficiently. Isabelle Fennig, Anne Manning, Charlotte Braly and Mary Myers came every Monday morning to set the tables that Larry Dronfield had taken time to set up and arrange. When the call when out for help as head cook, Tuula Jung, Genny Looker, Barbara and Dennis Matos, Beverly Shubert, John Fennig, and the Book Club led by Randy Meli, graciously volunteered to be in charge for an evening. This, too, was a tremendous help.

For all of these people who came willingly and gave much of their time and energy to make this program a success, we are grateful . We are truly blessed!

The Mission Commission

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

WORSHIP GOD ON DECEMBER 27, 2009

When Dr. Chris Looker came to First Presbyterian Church of Annandale, he brought with him the tradition of sharing our gifts in the worship service following Christmas. That tradition will continue in our Worship Service on December 27. Everyone is asked to bring with them the Christmas gift which means the most to them and share it with the congregation during the service. Don't worry; you will be taking your gift home with you when the service is over. This is a chance for everyone to say what is special to them and why that is so and to share in the blessings of others.

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

December 13: Sam Looker

December 20: Garrett Youmans

December 27: Sarah Metzel

CHRISTIAN MISSIONS

Adult Church School Class

January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 at 11:30 in Room 105

“Steadfast Hope”

Elder **William Plitt**, Trinity Presbyterian Church (Arlington, VA) will conduct a presentation on the tense Palestinian/Jewish situation on DVD, followed by discussions.

APPLY NOW TO TAKE PART IN USA MISSION EXPERIENCE IN 2010

The USA Mission Experience in South Dakota will take place September 9-16, 2010. The applications must be received by the Synod Moderator by **January 15, 2010**. Flyers and applications are in the Presbyterian Women's drawer or call Margaret Anderson who will send the information to you.

You can also find information at the following internet site: <http://www.pcusa.org/pw/missionmatters/experience10.htm>. The applications must be sent to the Synod Moderator, **Carolyn Sprinkle, 722 Folger Road, Sparta, NC 28675, sprinkle89@skybest.com**. A copy must be sent to the Presbytery Moderator, also, **Margaret Washnitzer, 3045 Chestnut Street NW, Washington, DC 20015, washnitzer@aol.com**. Please let me know if you have questions and if you plan to apply. Hope some of you will decide to apply. *Margaret Anderson.*

HALF THE SKY

“This stirring book is at once a savage indictment of gender inequality in the developing world and an inspiring testament to these women’s courage, and their struggle for hope and recovery. An unexpectedly uplifting read.” *Khaled Hosseini, Author of The Kite Runner.*

Having read *Half the Sky*, I think it is a book that really needs to be shared with others. If you would be interested in participating in a short-term discussion group based on this book, please let me know. We could do this in the January/February time frame. Margaret Anderson 703-256-1207 or at meanderson@aeity.net.

BOOK CLUB NEWS

The Book Club is not meeting in December. Come for the next meeting at 7:30 PM on Monday, January 18 in the church library. The group will discuss the non-fiction book, *Founding Mothers* by Cokie Roberts.

DECEMBER YOUTH NEWS!

Living Nativity

On Sunday evening, Dec. 20th, we will be having a living nativity scene, including animals. All youth are being asked to participate, and act as either shepherd, king, Mary or Joseph. Please see Genny Looker to arrange times between 5-7 p.m. The event will also include hot chocolate, hot cider, treats, and making Christmas ornaments. All church members and friends are welcome to attend.

Youth Bell Choir

The Youth Bell Choir will be playing on Sunday, Jan. 2nd. If any youth are interested, rehearsals will be held on Sundays, Dec. 6th at 9:15 a.m., and on Dec. 20th at 4:15 p.m. (before the Living Nativity). All youth ages 7 and up are welcome to join us.

Presbyterian Youth Triennium

Applications are now being accepted by the Presbytery for rising 9th graders to graduating seniors to attend the Presbyterian Triennium, held once every three years at Purdue University in Indiana. Activities there include small groups, worship, recreation, global awareness, community life, exhibits and college fairs. Buses from the D.C. area will take youth to this event. The event is held July 20-24, 2010, and an initial deposit of \$100 is due with the application. Please see Susi Ennis for more information.

LIFE IN CUMBERLAND

By Nadine Dingess

With only 8 days notice from my new job offer to my actual starting date, I'm afraid I didn't find the time to tell everyone and say my goodbyes. The move here to Cumberland was very quick. In the back of my mind I figured that one day the actuality of moving would hit me. But the other day, walking up to the church, I realized that I feel like I've lived here all my life.

The city of Cumberland is full of old charm, starting with the many brick and stone churches. Church is a way of life here. It's the social avenue for so many. Every week there seems to be pot-luck or spaghetti dinner, a bazaar, a kids function, a talent show or special evening for people to attend. The houses have their special charm as well. There are no new buildings, just homes that were built around the very early 1900's and mostly brick. And the traffic, well that's another story. The only time I have waited in traffic is to be held up by a train passing through. The conductors wave as they pass by. It's really fun to sit and watch the trains.

The road I drive down to Cumberland from my cousin's farm is called "495." We refer to it as the Garrett County Beltway. But the only things I see in the morning are cows and calves, horses and deer. The other morning there was a heavy fog laying low over a field. The fog looked like clouds and you could only imagine that it was exactly what heaven may be like. Then all of a sudden the sun peered over the fog and I saw a silhouette of a deer in the middle of the field grazing. It was spectacular.

The job offer I received and accepted is the Church Administer at St. Luke's Lutheran in Cumberland. A job I thought I may enjoy only through the experiences that I have been so fortunate to have at First Presbyterian. Getting to know all of you and working in the small groups like the Mission Commission and my time on the Session certainly played a major role in my thought process to work in a church. Being in the Annandale area my safe place was when I was spending time in church. I have to say that this job is certainly more enjoyable and more rewarding than I could have ever imagined! The members are so nice and the Pastor is fun to work with.

Time on the farm has been bittersweet. The only cousin living there is Joan who suffered a stroke years ago and is totally paralyzed on her left side. This is the farm where I spent all my childhood summers. There were my Aunt and Uncle and 5 cousins. It was an active dairy farm. The kids showed horses and were active in 4-H. The farm was very alive then. It's strange to be there and see the physical decline, and it's sad to see not much living going on there. There was one 31 year old pony left when I arrived, who died last week and an old dog (sounds like a country song). And there is my cousin who spends most of her time on the couch. On the other hand, when I sit outside on the porch, I see the sun setting over the golden cornfields, the orange leaves on all the maple trees, the same old swing that my cousin Scottie and I use to swing on and talk about life for hours on end, and at night the same stars light up the sky so bright it could lead you wherever you might want to go. The land is alive and most beautiful. Yes, it is bittersweet.

How wonderful is life and the never ending learning these kind of experiences bring. If I sound happy, I am. I do miss everyone and I am looking forward to visits.

NEW OUTDOOR SIGNS AT FPCA

The two new outdoor signs proclaiming our presence to the neighborhood were installed on the week-end of Nov. 14 and 15, under the leadership of Chris Fuller, who is a member of Boy Scout Troop 990 as well as FPCA. This was the culmination of his Eagle Scout project which, by design, must benefit the community and be approved by the Boy Scouts. The members of the FPCA Building and Grounds Commission agreed that new signs would be a valuable contribution to our church grounds. Funds will be taken from their budget to pay for the project and some additional monies will be added from donations that were leftover from the costs of the Eagle project done by Matt Fuller, Chris's older brother, several years ago.

Chris's project included many steps: tracing the letters from the old signs, creating a template and using it to router the letters into the wooden boards, assembling the sign faces, removing the old signs, and then assembling the new signs and painting them. Over the past two months countless hours were

contributed by roughly 15 boys and girls and 10 adults to complete the project. From the FPCA family Jack Smith, Alan Young, Danny DeVera, and Sam Looker all participated to help Chris.

The final step for Chris involves a written report that will be submitted to the Eagle Board of Review for its approval. Then he will have completed the requirements for the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank, that is reached by only one percent of Boy Scouts.

Well done, Chris. We are very proud of you and will be reminded of your achievement as we enjoy our new signs for many years to come.

CHANGE IN YOUR DIRECTORY

Ruth Sutton: ruthsutton@cox.net



ATTENTION!

Deadline for the January 2010 issue of FIRST and ForMOST is December 17, 2009. Please e-mail your announcements and reports to the Editor, Marta Strada, LUXI7777@aol.com, or put them in the FIRST and ForMOST drawer in the church office. Thank you.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU

WHO HAVE HELPED TO CREATE ME IN 2009

**from our Pastor to all who wrote, drew pictures, proofread, folded
and mailed me!**

Your Newsletter, FIRST and ForMOST

Blessed Christmas

and

Happy New Year

to All of You

FIRST and ForMOST