



# FIRST and ForMOST

June 2010

## FROM YOUR PASTOR:

**"Making all things new!"**

***"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth....And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be His peoples, and God Himself will be with them; He will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more...'***

***And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.'***

***(Revelation 21: 1-5, selected verses)***

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Well, we're almost there! Your elected FPCA Decorating Committee and Buildings and Grounds Committee have been meeting weekly for the past four months to consider every aspect of the Sanctuary Refurbishment/Renovation Project, the last phase in the Church Improvement Plan ("CIP") that we started almost two years ago. Phase #1 was to purchase and install a new Heating System for the church. Phase #2 was to purchase and install a new roof on the church, which was very generously provided and installed by our brother in Christ, Elder Sam Hwang of FKPCV. And, Phase #3 is about to begin with the renovation our Main Sanctuary!

**"See, (God) is making all things new"** here at First Presbyterian Church! And, none of it could be possible without your generous, prayerful, and faithful support and input. God has given us the faith to believe that we could do this and we have responded to God's free gift of faith with excitement, prayer, joy, love, generous financial giving, weeks and weeks of planning meetings, drawings, plans, expressions of concerns by FPCA and FKPCV members **and** loving and thoughtful responses to those concerns by the elders and leaders of our church, and, most importantly of all, kindness to one another.

So, what is the next step? Currently, drawings are being made that include the colors and patterns of: 1) Tile for the flooring (yes, we are going to remove the old green carpet!); 2) Paint for the walls and ceilings; 3) Fabric for the pews; 4) Accent carpeting for the aisles; and, 5) Wood flooring for the new chancel area. The drawings will be available shortly for members of the congregation.

Additionally, your FPCA Session has voted to award the contract to Commercial Refinishers and Restoration of Salemburg, North Carolina, to reupholster and refinish our pews

**and** custom-make slightly smaller copies of our pulpit, communion table, and baptismal font. This means that our pews, pulpit, communion table, and baptismal font will be removed from the sanctuary and taken to the factory during the week of June 14-18, 2010.

Once the pews are removed, a temporary set-up for Sunday worship services will be made in the back of the church using folding chairs. Seating for 80-90 people will be set up sideways in such a way that the chairs will be facing Newcastle Drive, where a temporary pulpit will be positioned. Thus, while we are worshipping Sunday after Sunday in the “back” of the church, work will be able to proceed in the “front” of the church. It is our hope and prayer that all the work will be completed for Celebration Sunday on September 12, 2010.

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**Truly, God is with us.** God *“dwells with us...we are God’s people and God will always be with us.”*

Because God is with us, there is no reason for us to be afraid of any challenge that we may face in our personal lives or church life. God has always and will continue to ***“wipe every tear from our eyes...take the fear of death away...and remove forever from our lives anything that would cause us to mourn, cry, or experience pain.”***

So, let us rejoice that we are so close to making God’s House more beautiful and functional. Let us rejoice that we have nothing to fear. Let us rejoice because we are a very close and loving family of God. And, most importantly, let us rejoice because we have a Savior who taught us everything we need to know about love, mercy, truth, and faith...and who showed us the way to eternal life through His glorious and miraculous resurrection. Amen.

Your Friend and Pastor, *Chris*

## **CHURCH PICNIC**

The FPCA church pot luck picnic will be held on the church yard on Sunday, June 13, following the Youth Sunday worship service. Look in the back of the church for sign-up sheets so we will know how many people are going to attend and what category of food you are bringing. Plan to come and join in the good time. The moon bounce will be available until 2:00 pm. Strong helpers will be needed on Saturday and Sunday to set up tables.

***Congregational Life/ New Member Commission***

## PREACHING SCHEDULE for JUNE, 2010

### **June 6, 2010: SERVICE OF WORSHIP AND HOLY COMMUNION**

Scripture Lessons: **Galatians 1:11-24 and Luke 7:11-17**

Sermon: **"DYING TO LIVE!"**

*Dr. Chris Looker, Preaching*

**\*\*\*SPECIAL NOTE:** There will be a Congregational Meeting of the FPCA Corporation immediately following the worship service. All FPCA Active Members are strongly encouraged to attend as this is one of the requirements for Active Membership in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Furthermore, the 2009 Annual Reports will be handed out at this Meeting of the Corporation. Thank you.

### **June 13, 2010: YOUTH SUNDAY and FPCA PICNIC SUNDAY**

**\*\*\*SPECIAL NOTE:** Immediately following the Youth Sunday Worship Service, there will be a Potluck Picnic for all members. In addition, there will be a Moon Bounce for the children and other games and special activities. Please bring lots of tasty food for everyone to enjoy! Thank you.

### **June 20, 2010: FATHER'S DAY**

Scripture Lesson: **1 Kings 19:1-15**

Sermon: **"LISTENING FOR GOD"**

*Candidate for Ministry Susan Ennis, Preaching*

### **June 27, 2010:**

Scripture Lesson: **Galatians 5:1, 13-25**

Sermon: **"WORKS OF THE FLESH VS. FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT"**

*Dr. Chris Looker, Preaching*



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**



Marcella Gooding ~ 06/01

Norma Muller ~ 06/02

Rosellen Simon ~ 06/02

Mary Helen Hester ~ 06/07

Jan Reitman ~ 06/14

Carroll Thompson ~ 06/17

Tuula Jung ~ 06/24

Betty DeAtley ~ 06/25

John "Jack" Belz ~ 06/26

Kay Bedsole ~ 06/27

Helen Sanders ~ 06/29

Ed Houseworth ~ 06/30

Theo Mulvey ~ 06/30

## BOOK CLUB NEWS

**The Book Club will meet at 7:30 pm on Monday, June 21, in the church library. The book chosen for discussion is Father Joe by Tony Hendra. Newcomers are welcome. The Fairfax County Public Library system has 11 copies of this memoir.**

*Randy Meli*

## HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

This year, June 20 is the Sunday when we celebrate our father. Will we give him a present, the traditional tie? Will we cook him his favorite meal? Will we have a party for him? Or will we just send him a card, make of phone call, or send him an e-mail message? No matter what we do, we will remember him and show him that we love him.

Perhaps, Father's Day has been established so dad does not feel neglected when we celebrate our moms on Mother's Day? Whatever the reason, our fathers deserve to be celebrated!

Its origin has something to do with Mother's Day. In 1910, in Spokane, Washington, Mrs. Sonora Smart Dodd listened to her pastor preaching on Mother's Day, emphasizing the sacrifices a mother makes for her children. She thought of her own father, William Jackson Smart, who had raised her and her five brothers on his own after his wife had died in childbirth. In Sonora's case it was the father who should be celebrated! She proposed a local celebration in town, and her suggestion was welcomed by the ministers and members of the local YMCA. She first wanted to celebrate it on her father's birthday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, but as the local ministers needed more time to prepare, it was settled on June 19, the third Sunday of the month.

Slowly, but surely, the custom spread. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson observed the day with his family, and in 1924, President Calvin Coolidge suggested that the states should celebrate Father's Day if they wanted to do so. The day was observed more and more. In 1957, Maine Senator Margaret Chase wrote: "Either we honor both our parents, mother and father, or let us desist from honoring either one. But to single out just one of our two parents and omit the other is the most grievous insult imaginable."

In 1972, more than 60 years after it was first suggested, President Richard Nixon established it permanently. Welcome, Father's Day!

The United States is not the only country where Fathers are honored this way. This wonderful custom has spread all over the world. Other countries may celebrate the day in different months, but they do celebrate. Yes, fathers do deserve to be honored, as the following poem expresses.

*Marta Strada*

## WHAT MAKES A DAD

God took the strength of a  
mountain,  
The majesty of a tree,  
The warmth of a summer sun,  
The calm of a quiet sea,  
The generous soul of nature,  
The comforting arm of night,  
The wisdom of the ages,  
The power of the eagle's flight,

The joy of a morning in spring,  
The faith of a mustard seed,

The patience of eternity,  
The depth of a family need,  
Then God combined these  
qualities,  
When there was nothing more to  
add,  
He knew His masterpiece was  
complete,  
And so, He called it ... Dad.

*Author*

*unknown*

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

**April 14, 2010**

Youth Elder Kyle Hanson opened the meeting with devotion by reading from the book *Lord, Have You Got a Minute?* by Kenneth Wray Connors, dealing with the power of prayer.

Marta Strada, Clerk of Session, reported that the church had received a letter from National Capital Presbytery, stating that, based on the total of active members, FPCA is entitled to one (1) elder-commissioner, and as part of the equalization process, FPCA is entitled to elect one (1) additional elder-commissioner. Consequently, beginning with the April 27, 2010 meeting, and ending with the January 2011 meeting, the total number of elder-commissioners the Session of FPCA may send to presbytery meetings is two (2).

On March 20, 2010, Dr. Chris Looker held a Memorial Service for Charlotte Braly, who passed away February 27, 2010, and was buried in Texas March 2, 2010. Dr. Looker reported that Dr. Stephen W. Hiemstra, Inquirer for Ministry in PCUSA, needs to do internship and will occasionally participate in worship.

**Update of the Sanctuary Refurbishing Project**, presented by Elders Paul Malone, Susan Hanson, and Andrew E. Schiefer, President of Architects Group Practice Ltd.

Elder Paul Malone handed out a list of bids received from companies for the various tasks. He recommended, and the Session approved, bids presented for the sound equipment, the floor finishing in the stage area (carpeting and tile), and painting of walls and ceiling. The contracts with the companies carrying out these projects are ready to be signed the following week. Bids for the stage, pulpit, baptismal font, lighting, pews, etc. are still being received, and the final decision has not yet been made.

Due to the fact that in April the Session had switched their meeting day with the Commissions, there was no official Commissions meeting. Only the following commissions reported some activities:

Reporting for the **Worship Commission**, Elder Sandy Mori told the Session that

- so far no volunteers have proposed to work on the sound system during worship service; consequently, personal invitations will have to be sent out to select individuals.

- May 23, 2010, Pentecost, was chosen as New Member Sunday; Deacon Randy Meli will arrange for a New Member Class preceding Pentecost.

Reporting for the **Buildings and Grounds Commission**, Elder Susan Hanson shared with the Session the following:

A) According to contract, **Sleepy Hollow Preschool (SHPS)** can no longer occupy rooms on the first floor after July 1, 2010, and plans are being made for the move.

- June 5, 2010 – knock down wall between SHPS office and Room 209
- June 12, 2010 – clean up and moving day;  
SHPS moves everything to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
FPCA moves the choir room (room 201) downstairs to room 109 (present

nursery)

- Pianos have to be tuned
- FKPCV has to be notified

B) New cleaning service has to be hired. Applicants have to present their bids based on detailed schedule which the Session inspected.

**National Capital Presbytery's  
Global Mission Network  
invites you to  
*Pray for our Mission Partners*  
in  
South, Southeast and East Asia,  
India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines,  
Sri Lanka, Thailand, North & South Korea**

**India:**

Work in India is supported by Heritage PC, Kirkwood PC, Providence PC, United Parish—Bowie, and Western PC..

**Indonesia:**

Work in Indonesia is supported by Heritage PC, Taiwan Washington, UCP Reston, United Parish—Bowie, and Vienna PC.

**Pakistan:**

Old Presbyterian Meeting House supports The St. Thomas Church, the center of Islamabad's minority Protestant community, serves Christians in the poorest areas of the city through the Community Health Network, the Literacy Project, and the Taxila Christian Hospital (known for prevention of blindness and restoration of sight, the largest eye-service hospital in the world), sponsored by the Presbyterian Church of Pakistan. Bradley Hills supports the Forman Christian College and Mission Co-Worker there. Western, Providence, Heritage, Arlington, and Little Falls PCs also have supported projects in Pakistan.

**Papua New Guinea:**

Lewinsville PC helps support Helen and Brian Chapaitis who work with Wycliffe Associates, in Papua New Guinea doing Bible translations of local languages and made a special gift of a new microscope for diagnostic medical work. Helen is a medical doctor. Neelsville supports Steve & Kim Blewett, also Bible translators for Wycliffe, & Shirley Killosky, Kids Alive International, who directs schools in Hauna Village.

**Sri Lanka:**

New Hope PC has supported work here.

**Thailand:**

Lewinsville PC helps to support missionaries Andy and Ellen Collins serving the Christian Communications Institute (CCI) at Payap University in Chiang Mai. CCI presents the Gospel in the context of contemporary social problems to students, villagers, and the general Thai population through traditional and modern art forms. Hope and Vienna PCs also support projects in Thailand.

**North & South Korea:**

Lewinsville PC supports Sue Kinsler through Directed Mission Support. She travels to North Korea monthly to manage a food operation (soymilk and biscuits) that reaches orphans and disabled recipients. Kinsler has also provided materials for construction and refurbishing a building with vocational shops dedicated to employing the disabled.

## **IN THE MIDST**

**By William B. Plitt**

**In the Midst of the Promised Land, live two peoples:**

**One controlling - one controlled.**

**But, in the end, have lost their souls:**

**One misguided - the other derided.**

**And our God weeps amongst the stones.**

**Within and out of the walls of concrete and steel,**

**Live two peoples - lost in fear:**

**One to feeling within itself -**

**And one who waits for the unknown that lies in some distant way....**

**And, the whole world weeps without knowing why.**

**Who are the children amidst this land**

**Who've seen nothing new for decades now?**

**Within these walls, what they must claim**

**As a future, fades. They steadfastly exclaim,**

**"This is my home, my native land.**

**It's here I've made my final stand."**

**And God weeps and moans for the newest living stones.**

**What lies amidst the hearts and minds**

**Of soldiers who stand by the gates – defined -**

**Which are meant to withstand, contain and resist the threats**

**As soldiers, here and there, raise two fingers in the form of 'V,'**

**In hopes of peace, harmony that might release**

**The guilt, the embarrassment, the regret that they must feel.**

**And, our God weeps beside them.**

**In the mountains, valleys, and the seas**

**Lay those places where the pilgrims come**

**To see the 'footsteps' of one who practiced what he was.**

The stone, the brick, and mortar, too,  
Produce the walls of seasoned tones  
To whispers, prayers, voices, and even a 'harp,' too.  
And our God weeps amongst the chorus.

Find, within the prison of the land itself,  
The settlers surrounding what remains:

A vineyard, a farm, a spirit beyond belief  
That challenges their presence without relief,  
From energy spurred by countless souls  
Who work and weep beside them - the living stones.

*Bill (revised Jan. 08)*

*[Remember? Bill Plitt led the Adult Church School Class in January /February 2010, "Steadfast Love." He is active in the Mission Project of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)]*

## **CONGRATULATIONS, RUTH METZEL!**

Princeton senior Ruth Metzel has been awarded the University's **Henry Richardson Labouisse '26**, which will fund her work with a non-governmental organization to help address environmental issues in Panama.

The Labouisse fellowship provides \$25,000 to support research in developing countries by a graduating senior or a first-year alumnus or alumna who intends to pursue a career devoted to problems of development and modernization. It was established in 1984.

Metzel, an **ecology and environmental biology** major who grew up in Springfield, Va., will work as a staff member with the startup Azuero Earth Project (AEP) to preserve the ecosystem of the Azuero peninsula in southern Panama, protect its biodiversity and promote sustainable development.

"I am very excited about this opportunity," Metzel said about receiving the fellowship. "It is a wonderful chance to translate the conclusions of my senior thesis, written in an academic setting, into practical environmental solutions."

*From Princeton News, May 20, 2010. Contributed by Patti Young*

## YOUTH NEWS!

### **Youth Sunday**

On June 13, 2010, FPCA and FKPCV will celebrate the high school graduation of NINE seniors! The Youth will lead the entire congregation in worship on that day, so please plan to participate with voice and music.

### **Summer Events**

We hope that some youth will be attending the Montreat Youth Conference in Montreat, NC from July 31<sup>st</sup>-August 7<sup>th</sup>.

Also, our best wishes to Sarah Tariq Javed who will be attending the 2010 Youth Triennium at Purdue University in mid-July.

### **Fun Events**

All Youth: Watch for emails on Paintball and/or Amusement Park trips this summer!



*Genny Looker*

### ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

June 13: Andrew Laufer  
June 20: Scott Springston  
June 27: Carrie Rodrigues

### CHANGE IN YOUR DIRECTORY

Patti Young: [carrierose2006@yahoo.com](mailto:carrierose2006@yahoo.com)



***Deadline for the July issue of FIRST and ForMOST is June 17, 2010. 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.***