

# FIRST and ForMOST

June 2011

## FROM YOUR PASTOR

In 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 1:4, St. Paul writes these words to his beloved disciple, Timothy: ***“I long to see you again, for I remember the tears shed when we parted. And I will be filled with joy when we are together again.”***

These were the words written by St. Paul to Timothy. Paul loved Timothy so much that he even called him ***“my beloved child.”*** There is absolutely no evidence that Paul was the biological father of Timothy. Rather, he was using a term of endearment for the younger Timothy, whom he loved as if he were Paul’s son.

These were also the words that kept running through my head while I was away on my Sabbatical. As much as I experienced renewal and rest while I was away, I had never been away from my wife and children for three months. For that matter, I had never been away from the spiritual family for which I was responsible as a pastor for that length of time as well.

The truth of the matter is that I missed my wife and children very, very much. And, when they joined me in Israel, Palestine, and Jordan for 10 days, I acted like a little child in a candy shop. It was such a joy to experience Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter in Jerusalem. It was amazing to see Petra in Southern Jordan. But, being together after being away from each other for 2 ½ months was the greatest gift of all!

Similarly, as wonderful as my Sabbatical was for me, I could not get St. Paul’s beautiful words out of my mind whenever I thought of all of you here at FPCA: ***“I will be filled with joy when we are together again.”***

And, now I am back. And, there’s no other way to say it: I am thrilled to be back together with all of you!

Furthermore, I feel rested and rejuvenated. I also feel as though this Sabbatical has provided me with tremendous opportunities to be renewed by the Holy Spirit.

In other words, I am ready and raring to go!

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Thank you, one and all, for supporting me with your prayers while I was away.

I also wish to shout out a special thanks to Pastor Bob Harris, Elder Susi Ennis, Rev. Tariq Javed, Margaret Whitfield, Dr. Stephen Hiemstra, the Rev. Bill Jokela, and all of the countless others who filled in for me while I was gone.

I am ***“filled with joy”*** to be back ***“together again”*** with you. Thank you so very much for being such a loving and generous congregation. Truly, you are much more than that to me...you are my Christian family.

Your Friend and Pastor,

*Chris*

## PREACHING SCHEDULE for JUNE 2011

**June 5, 2011:** Sermon Title: **"CONSTANTLY IN PRAYER"**  
Lectionary Scripture Lesson: Acts 1: 12-14

*Dr. Chris Looker, Preaching*

**June 12, 2011:** Pentecost  
**YOUTH SUNDAY**

**June 19, 2011:** Father's Day  
Sermon Title: **"GREET ONE ANOTHER WITH A HOLY KISS"**  
Scripture Lesson: 2 Corinthians 13: 11-13

*Dr. Chris Looker, Preaching*

**June 26, 2011:** Farewell Sunday for Our Student Intern, Dr. Stephen Hiemstra

Sermon Title: **"BETWEEN THE PLOW AND THE WHIRLWIND"**

Scripture Lessons: 2 Kings 2:1-14; Luke 9:51-62

*Dr. Stephen W. Hiemstra, Preaching*

## HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

**A father who cares enough to wait and worry, who cares enough to counsel and be concerned, is among the greatest blessings God has given!**

*Richard L. Evans*

*Submitted by Punch Jackson*



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**



Marcella Gooding ~ 06/01  
Norma Muller ~ 06/02  
Rosellen Simon ~ 06/02  
J. Warren Culp ~ 06/07  
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

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS IN JUNE: LISTENING AND CARING SKILLS

Interested in improving your personal relationships? Starting Sunday, June 5, 2011 and running through June, I will lead a discussion of active listening skills using: John *Savage. Listening and Caring Skills: A Guide for Groups and Leaders* (Nashville: Abingdon, 1996). While active listening is taught to most aspiring counselors, anyone in relationship at home or work will find it interesting and helpful.

For me, sanctification has been the most important part of seminary training. How do we best reflect our role model, Jesus Christ? If God is so humble as to speak with a still, small voice, how do we put on Christ's mantle of humility in our own ministry? Learning to listen carefully has been an important part of my journey this year.

Listening is hard for several reasons. First, often we do not care to. Second, language only communicates a small part of the message. Third, the speaker may not or cannot communicate well. Fourth, the speaker and listener may have different objectives. For all these reasons, it is important to understand the communication process and seek clarity when listening. Most importantly, active listening shows that you care.

Who might be interested in attending? Deacons, teachers, and parents are the most obvious candidates for attending this class. However, listening skills are important in any relationship. I tell friends and colleagues in my old office that I wish that I had been trained in listening skills before I began working in the government. How many meetings did I not attend during my 27 year career? How many conflicts did not arise out of misunderstandings about work objectives and team roles? For that matter, how many conflicts in my marriage were not at heart conflicts over things said and not said? The same dynamics apply to students and young people trying to form relationships.

Books are being ordered for those attending this class. We will try to make the books available before the class starts to allow people to read ahead. Ideally, we can each come to class prepared to talk about the readings, talk about specific problems people have experienced, and do some role playing.

I hope that you will join us.

*Dr. Stephen W. Hiemstra, Pastoral Intern*

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Proposed Reading</b>
June 5, 2011	Part 1: Basic listening skills for ministry, Chapters 1-3
June 12, 2011	Part 1: Basic listening skills for ministry, Chapters 4-7
June 19, 2011	Part 2: Hearing the story. Chapters 8-9
June 26, 2011	Part 3: Advanced listening skills for ministry, Chapters 10-11.

## THE BANNER

The banner hanging on the front wall of the Sanctuary was designed by the Worship Commission to display our Mission Statement, "An Internationally Welcoming Church and Mission Center" is represented by the circle with "welcome" in different languages spoken by members of FPCA; e.g., reading clockwise, English, Korean Ghanaian, Spanish and Urdu. Due to a lack of space, not all languages could be depicted; thus, the Korean represents other Asian languages and the Ghanaian other African languages as well. Our thanks go to Tariq Javed, Chuck Beekman and Jack Belz for their help, and a special thanks to Tuula Jung who helped design and make the banner.

*Betty Beal*

## SPRINGTIME BEAUTIFYING

**Saturday, June 4, 2011**

It's that time of year when we need a few hardy hands to help make our building, yard, grounds look tip-top! We will start around 9:00 a.m., and you should be home by lunch time. There will be drinks and snacks, so just bring you smiles!

**Any questions? Ask John Fennig (571-344-9826)**

## YOUTH MISSION TRIP

The Youth Mission Trip to Charleston WV will soon be upon us. I would like to encourage all those currently in grades 5 through 12 who have not signed up yet to do so as soon as possible. We expect to have a wonderful time as we work side by side with the youth from 4 other congregations, doing service for the people of Charleston. Please contact me with any questions or to sign up.

*Susi Ennis*

## BOOK CLUB NEWS

The Book Club will meet on Tuesday, July 5 at 1:00 PM in the church library. The group will discuss the novel, World Without End by Ken Follett. Newcomers are welcome.

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

April 27, 2010

Rev. Bob Harris called the meeting to order and led the devotion, based on Chapter 4, Putting Up the Sails, of the book Spiritual Leadership for Church Officers, by Joan S. Gray. Session members discussed whether FPCA was at present, more thinking about “putting up the sails” than putting money into the bank. The Session agreed that under Dr. Chris Looker’s leadership the church was on the way to spread the sails. On the other hand, many of the church members are comfortable with traditions and do not want change. Rev. Bob Harris emphasized that FPCA should think of how the Holy Spirit is opening doors so the church can reach out under the Spirit’s leadership, even to do things members don’t feel very comfortable with. The Session Members were also encouraged to name people they were admiring because they seem to have a close relationship with God. The Session chose Isabelle Fennig as a great example. Following the discussion, The Rev. Robert Harris opened the meeting with prayer.

Rev. Bob Harris handed out a report on the observations he had gathered during the 3 months he had been with FPCA: mainly, that FPCA has much energy and is seeking to become an internationally welcoming congregation; that FPCA is very pastor centered; that more members should participate in handling the sound system; that the website should be updated more frequently.

Elder Susan Ennis reported that the Lenten series held after Sunday Worship went very well; even the class held on Tuesdays was a success. She informed the Session that for May 15, 2011, a homecoming party is being planned for Dr. Chris Looker. There will be a catered lunch after Worship Service.

Reporting for the **Stewardship and Marketing Commission**, Elder Ruth Sutton showed a flyer inviting residents of the community to visit FPCA. She encouraged the Session Members to visit the residences and distribute the flyers. The reaction of the Session was rather negative, pointing out that usually knocking on doors was not very successful, and it was more important to show a warm welcome to strangers visiting FPCA. On the other hand, Elder Susi Ennis mentioned that perhaps other members of the congregation would be doing the visiting, as it does not necessarily have to be done by the Session.

Reporting for the **Worship Commission**, Elder Sandy Mori told the Session that the production of the new church banner was in process; it will contain the mission statement and a welcome in different languages.

Reporting for **Christian Education Commission**, Elder Marta Strada emphasized that, while the Adult Church School classes were well attended, the Church School for the young people of both FPCA and FKPCV had problems and the Commission has to find a way to attract the interest of the young people. The coffee sale had gone quite well. There is a car wash and bake sale planned for Saturday, May 21, 2011.

Reporting for the **Buildings and Grounds Commission**, Elder Jack Belz shared the good news that two dead trees had been removed from FPCA’s grounds.

Reporting for the **Mission Commission**, Elder Susan Ennis moved that the Session reaffirm FPCA’s support of the hydroelectric project at Lubondai, Democratic Republic of the Congo. By doing so, Elder John Metzger is authorized to apply to national Capital Presbytery for a Global Partnership Grant, requesting a grant of \$5,000.00 for the year 2011. The Session approved the motion unanimously.

**As Church Librarian**, Elder Marta Strada presented her detailed plans for moving the Library to Room 107, accompanied by layouts of both the old and the new library, and recommending that the move take place by the end of July, after the Mission trip.

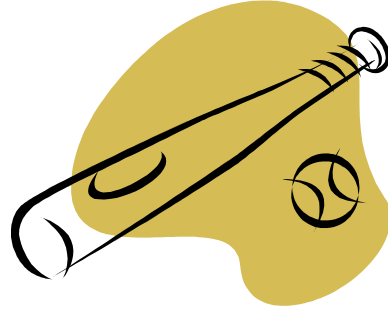
*Marta Strada, Clerk of Session*

# YOUTH NEWS!

*Genny Looker*

**Youth Sunday!** We will be planning for Youth Sunday on June 12<sup>th</sup>. Please let Genny Looker know if you would like to participate in speaking or providing any special music on that day.

**Baseball Anyone?** Shall we meet and go to a National's baseball game sometime this summer? Let's discuss! This could be open to any church member or friend who wishes to join us!



## Acolyte Schedule

6/12/2011    Mariam T. Javed  
6/19/2011    Ben Looker  
6/26/2011    Joshua Musih

7/10/2011    Sam Looker  
7/17/2011    Mitchell Youmans  
7/24/2011    Elisha Musih  
7/31/2011    Garrett Youmans

## MUSIC NEWS

Many heartfelt thanks to all of you, who gave of yourselves so extensively to make our Holy Week so meaningful and memorable! Our church is truly blessed to have so many willing and able musicians and actors, in addition to all of those who volunteer, in so many ways.

Many thanks to our sopranos: Lois Nashorn, Nancy DeVera, Genny Looker and Joan Johnson; our altos: Sandy Mori, Patience Ossom, Randy Meli and Sarah Javed; our tenors: Danny DeVera and Marta Stada; our basses Stephen Hiemstra, Ruth Sutton, Bill Jokela, Joshua and Elisha Musih.

Many thanks to our actors: John Fennig, Bill Jokela, Tom Martin, Stephen Hiemstra, Susi Ennis, Jack Belz, Scott Ennis, Tariq Javed and Sarah Javed.

Many thanks to our stage hands: Joshua and Elisha Musih, and to our Sound Technicians: Susi Ennis and Susan Hanson (who was so loyal to come the night of the Good Friday performance, even though she had been very sick, throughout the day!)

Palm Sunday began with a festive mood as palm branches were waved during the piano solo "Triumphal Entry." Lois Nashorn sang "Ride on, King Jesus," followed by the choir's anthem "Hosanna to the King."

On Maundy Thursday, our choir sang a haunting arrangement of "Lonesome Valley."

The Good Friday service was truly remarkable! How thankful we are to all our choir members and our actors, who rehearsed so many hours to prepare the presentation of "For Such a One as This." Great effort was made by all of us to feel what was happening in the story. Just prior to the service, all of the cast, as well as the choir joined in the choir room for ten minutes of silence as we spent special time to meditate, in our own special way, on what happened to our Lord. We spent "time at the cross" in order to prepare ourselves to make the worship service as meaningful as possible, for all of those who attended.

Together our actors and singers portrayed, the most terrible and amazing day when Jesus gave up His life for us. The choir sang such words as "What shall we do, if what they say about Him are true?"

John Fennig, clad in sandals and workman's clothes, portrayed Judas so realistically and masterfully. The noose he pulled from his pocket made us shiver. It was so realistic and threatening! Thank you, John, for such a realistic performance. You even threw coins on the stage as you exited!

Bill Jokela, clad in fisherman's clothes, took us so well through the self-questioning Peter experienced. Thank you so much, Bill for taking us through his thoughts so carefully. From somewhere came the sound of the cock's crow! Twice!

Danny DeVera sang "Will You Keep Watch?", the words that Jesus asked His disciples. Danny's voice so well expressed the sorrow and pain that Jesus must have felt. Such an expressive performance, Danny! The way you sang shows your own depth and gentleness, traits that Jesus had.

Tom Martin skillfully portrayed Pontius Pilate as well as Jesus. I was so impressed how Tom made the scene so real as he questioned Jesus, looking at the place where he was imagining Jesus standing. He asked Jesus a question. When Jesus did not answer, Tom, portraying Pilate, asked angrily and harshly "You don't answer? Don't you know I can TAKE YOUR LIFE?" Then when Jesus did speak, Tom used a completely different tone of voice. Incredible acting, Tom!

Stephen Hiemstra expressed such a wide variety of emotions, as he portrayed the gentle Simon of Cyrene and the harsh and brutal Centurion. Such a mature and realistic performance, Stephen!! I felt like screaming at the Centurion to stop being so horrible to Jesus. You made the scene so real, Stephen!

Then Susi Ennis came to the stage, barefoot and clad in black. What an amazing performance as she first railed and screamed at God and then became resolved to accept what was happening. I was truly amazed as I watched Susi wipe away REAL tears. When I asked her how she was able to feel her part so deeply, her answer was twofold: "Because I am a mother and because I love Jesus! Being a mother helped me imagine what Mary must have felt, as she watched her son die such a horrible death, and I love Jesus so much." She helped us realize how horrible that must have been for Mary, the Mother of Jesus! Thank you, Susi!

Sandy Mori's plaintive solo "My Life, My Love, My Son" brought tears to our eyes. Her ability to project deep feeling as she sang, reminds us of her mystical presentation of her solo during our Christmas Service. True art, Sandy!

Then our dedicated stage hands, Joshua and Elisha Musih placed three black stands on the stage, to represent the three crosses. How stark, lonely and foreboding the three stands looked. The two thieves came to the stage, barefoot, looking disheveled in rolled up pants legs and old shirts. They took their place behind their black stands.

Jesus, clad in dark pants and a very white shirt, walked solemnly up the ramp and took his place behind the black stand in the rear of the stage. Poetically, the dove was above him, as if looking down, lovingly, at the Son of God.

What a marvelous contrast Jack Belz and Scott Ennis projected as they acted out the two thieves: one, the gentle one and the other, so very, very angry and defiant. Thank you Jack and Scott!

Tariq Javed portrayed Jesus so perfectly. He lifted his eyes and arms to Heaven and spoke Jesus' words. The look of anguish and suffering on his face and the sound of sadness and pain in his voice was a deeply moving portrayal of what our Lord must have felt. Totally amazing and heartfelt, Tariq!

Sarah Javed came to the base of the cross, as she sang with so much warmth and devotion Mary Magdalene's words of never-dying love. You are so young, Sarah, yet so expressive and devout! Remarkable!

Everyone in the sanctuary joined in singing the somber "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded," as we grieved for our loving Savior.

In a remarkably hushed tone, our choir sang the beautiful melody "'Tis Finished! The Messiah Dies!"

The service closed with the beautiful anthem "And This is Love." The words go on to say "And this is love that a man lay down His life for his friends." We all left in silence.

Because everyone sang and acted his/her parts with so much devotion, we could all feel that we had been there, at the base of the cross, on Good Friday so many years ago.

Thank you so very much - all of you who gave the rest of us such an amazing and heartfelt experience. It will remain in my memory forever as something so amazing you have done! What a beautiful gift you have given us all.

And then there was Easter! What a contrast! The service began with "In Paradisum" from Faure's "Requiem." Bob Harris portrayed John the Beloved Disciple and then those of us in the sanctuary experienced a burst of sight and sound as bright lights were turned on and the choir sang joyfully "Sing Out, for the Son Has Risen!" Wow!

Our wonderful Hand Bell Choir, led by their director Betty Youmans, led the Processional as our trumpeters, Joshua and Elisha, and the organist accompanied the choir and congregation in singing "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today!" Truly festive and celebratory! Additional joyous music included "Hosanna and Halleluiah," presented by the Adult and Hand Bell Choir. The service concluded with a congregational hymn "Crown Him with Many Crowns!" accompanied by the Hand Bell Choir, the trumpeters playing from the balcony, and the mighty sound of our pipe organ. Members remained to hear the postlude Vierne's "Carillon."

Thank you, Bell Choir members: Betty Youmans, Director, Miriam Houseworth, Genny Looker,

Tuula Jung, Sarah Metzler, Marta Strada, Barb Matos, Sandy Mori, and Susi Ennis! Once again, thanks so very much to all of you who made our Holy Week so remarkable and memorable. Now we begin to wonder what will be our next wonderful experience!!!!

Devotedly,

*Margaret Whitfield*  
*Director of Music*

## **DO YOU LIKE CHALLENGES?**

### **FIND 30 BOOKS OF THE BIBLE**

There are thirty books of the Bible in this paragraph. Can you find them? This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much; he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving the puzzle so involving; she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or scholar to see them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new sales record. The local papers, The Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight. "Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus, there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found.

*(Source Unknown)*

### **HAVE FUN!**

[Your Editor promises to publish the answers in the next issue]

### **ATTENTION!**

***Deadline for the July/August issue of FIRST and ForMOST is June 16, 2011. 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.***