



# FIRST and ForMOST

March 2011

## WHO IS GOD TO ME?

By Dr. Stephen Hiemstra

When Moses looked into the burning bush, God reflected back to him the anguish in his own heart. God sent him back to Egypt to release the people of Israel enslaved by the Egyptians. In doing so Moses had to face his own fears and guilt for having murdered an Egyptian forty years earlier (Exodus 3). God reveals Himself to those that are willing, even reluctantly like Moses, to struggle with their own sin.

Our own identities are intimately tied up with our concept of God because we are created in the image of God (Genesis 1). Is our God powerful? Is our God forgiving?

Is our God loving? Is our God present in our lives? Are we strong? Are we forgiving? Are we loving? Are we present in the lives of those around us? When we stretch our concept of God, we stretch our expectations of ourselves.

One view of sin is “to fall short” of God’s standard for our lives. When we sin, a gap arises between our view of God and our actions in this life. Sanctification consists of our efforts to close the gap. Because we cannot do this on our own, confession consists of admitting our gaps to God and asking for both forgiveness and the strength of the Holy Spirit to close the gap.

Frequently, we abridge this process by maintaining a comfortably small image of God. If God is small enough, the gap disappears or at least seems manageable—nothing to write home about! A comment that I heard recently seems pertinent. Jesus was not crucified to redeem your spare time! Have we truly committed all of ourselves to God?

Lent is a season of reflection. How big is your God? How big is mine?

## WHERE IS WALDO? (aka...Dr. CHRIS LOOKER)

Many of you have been asking where our Pastor, Dr. Chris Looker, will be while on his Sabbatical. From Monday, February 14, 2011, through Tuesday, March 29, 2011, Dr. Looker will be studying at the Tantur Ecumenical Institute for Advanced Studies in Jerusalem. While there, he will be learning the latest critical academic advances and finds in the areas of ancient and modern-day Middle Eastern (i.e. Israeli, Palestinian, Egyptian, and Jordanian) theology, archeology, and sociology.

Following this time at Tantur, Dr. Looker will be travelling to Jordan to visit many of the amazing sites in Jordan. He will be visiting Petra, Amman, Irbid, Wadi Rum, Aqaba, Mount Nebo, and many others.

Dr. Looker will return from Jordan to greet his family (Genny, Sam, and Ben) in Israel. Together, they will celebrate Palm Sunday and Easter in Jerusalem. Additionally, they will travel throughout Israel and visit Petra in Jordan.

Following Holy Week, all of the Lookers (including Dr. Looker) will return home to Virginia. Dr. Looker will continue his Sabbatical travelling to Argentina to fly fish in the world-famous Patagonia region. He will first be in the El Calafate region and then fly north to the San Carlos. He is scheduled to return home on May 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> in order to be in church for his welcome home on Sunday, May 8, 2011.

Please pray for our beloved pastor as he and his family are away.

And let us all take the time that this Sabbatical is giving us to prepare ourselves faithfully and prayerfully for what God has in store for us in the next five years of wonderful ministry here at FPCA!

## **PREACHING SCHEDULE for MARCH 2011**

### **March 6, 2011: The Transfiguration of Jesus** (Communion)

Scripture Lesson: Exodus 24: 12-18, II Peter 1: 16-21, Matthew 17: 1-9

Sermon Title: ***“TRANSFIGURED FAITH”***

As we prepare to enter Lent, how might you be open to God’s wonder and power shown in Jesus? How might a new experience of Christ totally change or transfigure your faith?

*Rev. Bob Harris, Preaching*

### **March 9, 2011 Ash Wednesday**

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 51

Sermon Title: ***“WHO IS GOD TO YOU?”***

*Dr. Stephen Hiemstra, Preaching*

### **A Lenten Series –**

Some who encountered Jesus - Pastor Harris will do a Lenten series on some people and characters who encountered Jesus.

### **March 13, 2011: First Sunday of Lent**

Scripture Lesson: Genesis 2: 15-17, 3: 1-7, Matthew 4: 1-11

Sermon Title: ***“THE TEMPTER”***

The stories of the Fall and of Jesus’ encounter with Satan press us to assess our encounters with evil and temptation. Reflect on how Jesus leads us to deal with the tempter.

*Rev. Bob Harris, Preaching*

### **March 20, 2011: Second Sunday in Lent**

Scripture Lesson: Romans 4: 1-5, John 3: 1-17

Sermon Title: ***“THE SEEKER”***

A story about Nicodemus, a leader who sought Jesus and more.

*Rev. Bob Harris, Preaching*

### **March 27, 2011: Celebrate the Gift of Women**

Scripture Lesson: John 4:5-42

Sermon Title: ***“JOIN JESUS AT THE WELL”***

*Candidate for Ministry, Susan Ennis, Preaching*

## ETYMOLOGY OF "LENT"

In **Latin** the term *quadragesima* (translation of the original **Greek** *tessarakoste*, the "fortieth day" before Easter) is used. This nomenclature is preserved in **Romance**, **Slavic** and **Celtic languages** (for example, **Spanish** *cuaresma*, **Portuguese** *quaresma*, **French** *carême*, **Italian** *quaresima*, **Croatian** *korizma*, **Irish** *Carghas*, and **Welsh** *C(a)rawys*).

In the late **Middle Ages**, as **sermons** began to be given in the **vernacular** instead of Latin, the **English** word *lent* was adopted. This word initially simply meant *spring* (as in **German language** *Lenz* and **Dutch** *lente*) and derives from the **Germanic** root for *long* because in the spring the days visibly lengthen.

## SABBATH REST 2011 Lenten Series Studies

First Presbyterian Church of Annandale will again hold the annual Lenten Series. This year we will undertake a 6 week study of Sabbath. The first 4 weeks of the study are a part of a series called "Sabbath as Resistance". During these weeks we will look at the way in which Christians today resist taking their Sabbath Rest and keep going to the point of exhaustion. The final two weeks will look at Sabbath Practices we can use each day as we work toward finding the balance God wishes for our lives.

This year will be different because we will not be meeting on Sunday evenings and there will be more than one opportunity to join in the discussions. First, a group will meet on Sunday mornings following worship at 11:30 pm. That group will meet for an hour or so and will end with the opportunity to stay for a simple soup luncheon. A second group will meet during the week at 3:00 pm on Thursday afternoons. This group will take an hour or so to discuss the material and end with light refreshments. Both groups will be led by Susi Ennis.

The groups will begin meeting the week of March 13, 2011. I hope that you will all prayerfully consider joining one of these groups as together we explore how God can and will renew us when we take the time to experience Sabbath Rest. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact *Susi Ennis*.

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

**We extend a warm welcome to our new members Warren Culp, Kathleen McDermott, Patience Ossom and Margaret Whitfield. We hope to see all them participating in the many opportunities of fellowship and spiritual growth that our church has to offer. It's nice to see Patience already singing with the choir. Encourage them and invite them to join in. We're glad they are here!**



Andrew Lauler	03/03	Matt Fuller	03/26
Benjamin Looker	03/11	Bill Jokela	03/26
Nathan Youmans	03/20	Etha Cook	03/28
Stephanie Berg	03/21	Randy Meli	03/29
Pat Hickey	03/23		

### BOOK CLUB NEWS

New book for March: TRAVELING WITH POMEGRANATES by Sue Monk Kidd  
 Our meeting date will be Tuesday, March 15 at 1:00 PM

### "TURN - TURN - TURN"

SESSION RETREAT  
 January 21/22, 2011

To everything – turn, turn, turn,  
 There is a season – turn, turn, turn,  
 And a time to every purpose under heaven.  
 A time to be born, A time to die, A time to plant, A time to reap,  
 A time to kill, A time to heal, A time to laugh, A time to weep.....  
 To everything – turn, turn, turn,  
 There is a season – turn, turn, turn,

*Adaptation and Music by Peter Seeger*

On the evening of January 21, 2011, we sat around the table in Room 105, singing this adaptation of Ecclesiastes 2:1-8, accompanied by our beloved Pastor, Dr. Chris Looker, playing his guitar.

Thus we began an interesting, enlightening, and fun Session Retreat. Our main theme was to take a Sabbatical on our own while our Pastor was on his Sabbatical, and rest from our hard work during the past months of refurbishing our Sanctuary. But while we were resting, we should listen to God telling us which way we should turn next.

We had a good group of people: our Pastor Dr. Chris Looker, the Session, Assistant to the Pastor Susi Ennis, and Pastoral Intern Dr. Stephen Hiemstra. Even our Music Director,

Margaret Whitfield, joined the group. The leader of our retreat was the Rev. Bob Harris who is “Temporary Supply Pastor” while Dr. Looker is on his own Sabbatical in the Holy Land. It was a happy get-together – nibbling goodies while preparing our minds for serious thinking and planning.

Pastor Bob asked us to share all of the exiting, good things that happened here at FPCA during the past years; yes, there were many – from the Lord sending us our beloved Pastor Chris to the refurbishing of our Sanctuary. But we also listed facts about which we, as a Session, had concerns. There were concerns about the number of young people taking part in church activities at FPCA as well as FKPCV, and the need for our congregation to grow. Have we lost our balance? Are we tired after this great year of renovation? Then, Pastor Bob asked those present to imagine that our room was a sliding scale, with one end of the room being “those who felt physically and spiritually tired” and the other end of the room for those who felt “spiritually and physically rested and fresh.” The “tired” group was larger than the “rested and fresh” group. Why?

We imagined two kinds of churches: one is a “rowboat church” – they go only as far as the oars will carry them, and the rowers (i.e. members) become frequently exhausted; the other kind of church is the “sailboat church” –their sails catch the wind of God’s Holy Spirit and the trip is always exhilarating. Is the First Presbyterian Church of Annandale a sailboat, blown by the wind in doing mission work, stewardship, personal involvement in the work of the church, or is it a rowboat?

We also talked about “polarity management” when leaders go from one “pole” to the other, when we are either acting or resting. This is the time of resting – but our minds can stay active, to discern which way we should turn next. With this our Friday session ended.

After a good night’s rest, we assembled again to eat a delicious breakfast provided by dear Susi Ennis. Then we fed our minds.

What is the Sabbath? It is not a day of rest when we do nothing; it is not a day of doing routine chores! So, what is Sabbath? We based our thinking to a selection of Bible quotes, starting with Genesis 2:1-3: *“<sup>1</sup> Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. <sup>2</sup> By the seventh day God had finished the work He had been doing; so on the seventh day He rested from all His work. <sup>3</sup> Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it He rested from all the work of creating that He had done.”* If God rested, we could rest. Even Jesus rested, according to Luke 5:15-16: *“<sup>15</sup> Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. <sup>16</sup> But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.”* Yes, Jesus rested, but while resting he prayed!

When we rest and pray, and listen to God, our future, the future of FPCA, will develop. Our Sabbatical is like a tulip bulb. Tulip bulbs are planted in the fall. During winter they do not grow or bloom above the ground. But the roots develop underground, so the flowers can grow in the spring and beautify their surroundings. Is this happening to our soul during our Sabbatical?

Then, we spent some time by ourselves, each of us sitting or walking around the church, thinking about the Scripture passages Bob had handed out, imagining that we were in a conversation with Jesus. After about 45 minutes we divided ourselves into small groups and shared with our companions what we had discovered in our quiet time. Is Christ already

working to renew us, renew the church? Have we decided on any new practices that might help us draw closer to Christ and thus experience His renewing power?

Here Susi Ennis took over the lead. We have rested, we have let God take over our minds – what will we do next? Will it be international outreach to our Korean and Indonesian brothers and sisters in Christ? Will we concentrate on evangelism or stewardship? How will we use the space on the second floor when Sleepy Hollow leaves? Will we use it for mission work? The roots developing during our winter’s rest, will have to be strong enough to hold and nourish the plant in spring! During our Sabbatical, let us reflect on what the Holy Spirit will want us to do in the next four to five years. We walked around the room and studied the Scripture passages put on the wall, and shared with the group the ones through which we felt that God was speaking to us.

After a delightful lunch cooked by Susi, Bob reflected on Luke 13:29: *“Then people will come from east and west, from north and south, and will eat in the kingdom of God.”* Isn’t this a picture of FPCA? Quite a few of our members have immigrated from other countries. We are in partnership with the First Korean Presbyterian Church. And, we do outreach ministry to the Urdu-Hindi speaking Christians attending our church. Our mission statement speaks to who we are as a Christian family of God:

*‘Our Mission is to Joyfully and Humbly:*

*Worship, Love ad Obey God;*

*Nurture the Spiritual Gifts of God’s People, and*

*Serve Others in the Name of Jesus Christ.”*

After we read our Mission Statement aloud, we also discussed how we could reach out to our neighborhood, to the people speaking Spanish, and others.

Which way will we turn? Where is our next step going to lead us? With our Sanctuary being restored, we should be renewing ourselves, our way of thinking. We hope to find ways to attract more people, get our members more involved in Commissions and Committees, and work even closer with FKPCV by inviting one of the FKPCV elder to attend our monthly session meetings?

This is our Sabbatical – let us pull back, let us listen to God, and let Him fill our sails with His Holy Spirit as we decide which way to turn next.

We closed our thought provoking and fruitful meeting with prayer and singing, accompanied by Pastor Chris playing his guitar.

Let me close this report with the words of our Music Director and new member, Margaret Whitfield, who wrote the following in an e-mail message to the Session:

*"The retreat was a time in which I learned a lot. It was a time in which I experienced deep spiritual renewal. It was a time I could even more fully comprehend your spirituality and love for each other and the church.*

*During the closing time, when everyone was singing, I was in awe as I looked around the table at each of you. I sensed what kind, devout and good people you are. How fitting that there was an especially warm bond that united us all at the moment of closing."*

I trust that all of us went home with a similar impression, thanking Dr. Chris Looker, Rev. Bob Harris, and Elder Susi Ennis for leading us through this marvelous Session Retreat.

*Marta Strada, Clerk of Session*

## **SHROVE TUESDAY = PANCAKE DAY = FAT TUESDAY = MARDI GRAS**

What do you call this day before Ash Wednesday? Do you celebrate it? Where did the tradition originate?

"Shrove Tuesday" is the last day for celebration and festivals before Lent starts, the time of fasting and repentance. Its name derived from the word "shrive," meaning to confess and receive absolution. The name denotes a period of cleansing, wherein a person brings his/her lusts and appetites under subjection through abstention and self-sacrifice.

The custom of celebrating "Shrove Tuesday" goes back to the Middle Ages. As consuming food items like meats, fats, eggs, milk, and fish during Lent was considered a grave sin, food had to be saved from being wasted. Big feasts with fun and plenty of food would solve this problem! Similarly, the English tradition of eating pancakes helped to use up as much milk, fats, and eggs as possible before Ash Wednesday. In France, the consumption of all fats and fatty foods on this day coined the name "Fat Tuesday" or *Mardi Gras*.

Originally, this celebration lasted for three days! Only by the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century did they start celebrating only on the day before Ash Wednesday. It became associated with "Carnival", the Spring Equinox celebration practiced by the Romans and ancient tribes in Europe. The word "carnival" comes from the Latin *carne(m) levare*, meaning "to take away the flesh." However, in the New Orleans and Rio de Janeiro celebrations, public revelry and carousing have become the tradition which spread all around the world. It was mostly the result of the Carnival celebrations that the Church restricted the observance to a single day.

**Happy Shrove Tuesday!**

*Marta Strada*

## SPECIAL REQUEST

THE ACCOUNTING TEAMS HAVE A FEW REQUESTS TO HELP THEM REDUCE THE TIME SPENT IN COUNTING AND RECORDING YOUR DONATIONS ON THE FPCA RECORD SHEETS.

1. IF YOU USE CHECKS, PLEASE USE A SEPARATE CHECK FOR EACH DONATION (GENERAL FUND, IMPROVEMENT FUND, MISSION FUND, FLOWERS, ETC. ) THIS WILL ENSURE THAT YOUR WISHES ARE PROPERLY RECORDED ON THE APPROPRIATE FPCA RECORD SHEET.

2. IT IS ALSO VERY HELPFUL SINCE WE HAVE ONE ENVELOPE WITH 2 SEPARATE LINES, IF YOU WRITE THE CONTRIBUTION AMOUNT ON WHATEVER LINE IS APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION. THE TEAM HAS TO DO THIS IF YOU DON'T BEFORE THEY CAN BEGIN ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES.

3. IF YOU DO NOT USE AN ENVELOPE, PLEASE WRITE YOUR CONTRIBUTION DESIGNATION ON THE MEMO LINE OF THE CHECK WITH YOUR ENVELOPE NUMBER, IF YOU HAVE ONE. THIS WILL SAVE THE TEAM THE EXTRA TIME IT TAKES TO LOOK UP AND FIND YOUR NUMBER.

THE COUNTING TEAMS WILL APPRECIATE YOUR HELP WITH THESE REQUESTS.  
THANK YOU SO MUCH.

*ADMIN & FINANCE COMMISSION*

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

**January 19, 2010**

Dr. Looker called the meeting to order with prayer. Assistant to the Pastor, Susan Ennis, led the devotion, based on Spiritual Leadership for Church Officers, by Joan S. Gray, Chapter 1, Elders and Deacons Are Spiritual Leaders. Gray defines Spiritual leaders as persons "whose way of life is centered in a relationship to the God revealed in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit." Based on this definition, Elders and Deacons will be good leaders of the congregation, overseeing them jointly with the Pastor. The author emphasized that God has given each Elder, Deacon, and Pastor spiritual gifts to use for the good of their church.

Dr. Chris Looker reported that he was getting ready for his Sabbatical which is lasting from Monday, February 14 to Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011, with a Welcome Home Party and Worship Service. Elder Susi Ennis will lead Lenten Study from March 13 through April 17, 2011.

As Elder Judi Reitman's and Youth Elder Kyle Hanson's terms on Session are coming to an end, Dr. Chris Looker thanked both warmly for their great service.

As the Session discussed who will be the liaison to the various commissions and committees, the question was raised whether it was worth keeping up the New Member and Congregational Life Commission, as members of the congregation do not participate any longer. The Session decided that the Commission should not be abolished, but the congregation should be encouraged to join it so it can keep up its good work for the Church.

As our excellent Executive Assistant, Susan Hanson, has found a full time job, she is going to quit her office work at FPCA in the near future. The Personnel Committee recommended that Rev. Tariq Javed be her successor. Dr. Chris Looker and two members of the Personnel Committee, Elders Sandy Mori and Marta Strada, had interviewed him and were convinced that he would be doing a fine job. Session approved the decision wholeheartedly.

As the amount pledged for 2011 is still lower than needed, the Session decided to make an announcement about a Second Stewardship Campaign for the Operating Budget. Both Elder Cara Lauler and Elder Paul Malone volunteered to speak to the congregation on behalf of the Session during worship service to encourage the Congregation to reconsider their pledges.

Reporting for the **Worship Commission**, Elder Sandy Mori presented the following motions of the Worship Commission:

- \* to allow FKPCV to divide room 107/108 with a wall, the position of which to be approved by the FPCA librarian. They will outfit room 108 to be the new nursery for both congregations, and install a TV so that worship services may be viewed. Room 107 will become the new space for the library

- \* to hire Fits and Starts Productions to assess the new audio-visual system, educate both FPCA and FKPCV sound teams on its use, and produce a manual for future reference. The cost will be shared equally by both congregations, pending approval by the FKPCV Session as well.

Session approved both motions unanimously.

Elder Sandy Mori also reported that workmanship on the pews was not as good as expected, as there are still problems found. The baptismal font had to be sent back for more repairs, and the pulpit also had to be returned as the work done was unacceptable.

Reporting for the **Christian Education Commission**, Elder Marta Strada stressed the fact that it was necessary to find a way to attract the young people to Sunday School and church activities.

Reporting for the **Congregational Life and New Member Commission**, Elder Cara Lauler told the Session that the Soup Group has moved to meeting quarterly; and a meeting is planned for February 3. Plans for a Pancake Supper, usually held on Shrove Tuesday, are still uncertain, but Session voted to support it.

*Marta Strada, Clerk of Session*

## YOUTH NEWS

by Genny Looker

### **March Madness & Mission Month!**

On Sunday, *March 6*, the Sunday School time period will be devoted to discussion of the coming **Youth Mission Trip**, slated for July 3-8, 2011. All students, parents and prospective leaders are welcome to attend and learn more about this trip to Charleston, WV.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month (*March 20<sup>th</sup>*), Sam Hwang leads FKPCV and others in a local **mission project to feed the homeless** in downtown DC. Meet at the church at 2 p.m. to participate in the Wilderness Mission event this month—return expected around 5:30 p.m.

FKPCV Youth meet every Friday night: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday are fun activities, the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays are Bible study times.

Finally, the Youth Sunday School classes will have a **mystery mission project in class** on Sunday, *March 27<sup>th</sup>*. Let's see what you can do to help others.

### Acolyte Schedule

3/13/2011 Ben Looker

3/20/2011 Joshua Musih

3/27/2011 Sam Looker

4/10/2011 Garrett Youmans

4/17/2011 Elisha Musih

4/24/2011 Sarah Metzler

### A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY

Imagine being in a foreign country and not being able to communicate with people there. It must be not only confusing but terrifying. Here is a chance to help. The **Literacy Council of Northern Virginia** has a long list of people who would love to learn to speak English or to improve their English so that they can become productive members of society, but they need volunteers to teach them. Sessions are held in a public place convenient to you. This is an opportunity to serve the community, help give others a new lease on life and have a very rewarding experience. It is a real thrill when your student says that he/she is no longer afraid or embarrassed to try to talk with native born Americans. You don't even need to speak their language. Classes to enable you to learn ways to teach them will be held at the Lee Center, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church (2 blocks from Route 50) April 2nd, 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:30am - 3:00pm. Volunteers are also needed to teach English speaking people who need help with reading and writing. Basic Tutor Training will be held March 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:30am - 12:30 pm. If you have an hour or two a week to tutor, call today, 703-237-0866. You will have an enjoyable and satisfying experience getting to know your student and learning about another culture.

*Betty Beal*

# *The trauma of war, poverty and violence*

## *The human price in Sudan*

**Guest Speaker**

**Milcah Lalam**

**Milcah Lalam** is a peace building development specialist with special expertise in trauma healing, drama as therapy and story-telling. Living in countries experiencing the trauma of war, poverty and violence, she works closely with women, children, youth, victims of rape and abuse, displaced persons, development and human rights workers in post-war contexts. She has worked for five years in various capacities in the peace building field with RECONCILE in Sudan. She has facilitated peace building interventions with women and children and led reconciliation and trauma recovery processes initiated by women for women between communities experiencing inter-ethnic violence.

To learn more about the work of Milcah Lalam, visit the following website to view the

video: *Reconciliation - Women's Peace Building in the Sudan.*

[http://missioncrossroads.ning.com/video/reconciliation-womens-peace.](http://missioncrossroads.ning.com/video/reconciliation-womens-peace)

***Plan to attend this important presentation:***

**First Presbyterian Church of Annandale**

**March 5, 2011**

**2:00 p.m.**

**If you have questions, please call**

**Margaret Anderson at 703-256-1207 or Sandy Mori at 703-876-4991**

**Bill Andress of the Sudan Mission Network says of Milcah Lalam: "Milcah is one of my heroes; she goes when it is not safe to try to build peace and make it safe. Wisely, she combines her intimate knowledge of the culture of the people with her strong Biblical knowledge and belief. Significantly, since she and her team have intervened in the conflict between the Murle and Nuer in Jonglei state, conflict has dropped from a routine event to being quite unusual.**

**REGISTER NOW for**  
**"Development, Security and Economic Justice:**  
**What's Gender Got to Do with It?"**

*Give her a share in the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the city gates.*

Proverbs 31

As women and men of faith, we can be a formidable force for change in the treatment of women around the world and, as Proverbs teaches, the recognition of their vital contributions to social, religious, and family life. In homes and communities, out in fields and marketplaces, along borders and in areas of conflict, violence, poverty, and other social evils disproportionately affect women and girls, keeping them from attaining their full potential and impacting the wholeness and vibrancy of the full community. Prepare now to hear from internationally known policy experts, stimulating theologians and inspiring preachers -- along with Administration officials, Congressional aides and advocacy specialists.

**The cost of Ecumenical Advocacy Days (EAD) is \$160 (until February 19, \$175 thereafter), and includes all sessions, two lunches, and a Sunday reception. Full details of the EAD program are available at [www.advocacydays.org](http://www.advocacydays.org). Brochures and flyers will be available in the back of the sanctuary.**

Call or email Margaret Anderson 703-256-1207 or [meanderson@aeitv.net](mailto:meanderson@aeitv.net) if you have questions.

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**CHANGE IN YOUR DIRECTORY**

ALCANTARA, Oscar: Cell phone: (571) 505-2874



***Deadline for the April issue of FIRST and ForMOST is March 17, 2011. Please e-mail your announcements and reports to the Editor, Marta Strada, [LUXI7777@aol.com](mailto:LUXI7777@aol.com), or put them in the FIRST and ForMOST drawer in the church office. Thank you.***