

FIRST and ForMOST

September 2011

GREAT NEWS -- GREAT DREAMS!

As you most likely know by now, Sleepy Hollow Preschool is going to move out from our facilities by the end of June 2012. They had asked us to extend their stay for another 10 years, but Session unanimously voted against it. Though the members of Sleepy Hollow are very nice renters and are doing a fine job with the children, we, as well as our partners, the First Korean Presbyterian Church of Virginia (FKPCV), are desperate to get more space for our own activities. At present, we have only the first floor available; the Church Library used also as “Welcome Room”; Room 105, used for meetings and church school classes; Room 107, which will be turned into the Church Library in a couple of months; next door to it the Nursery; and on the other side of the hallway, the Music Room. That’s all. As soon as we open Room 107 as the Church Library, we will have a “Welcome Room” next to the office, not the ideal arrangement for activities. Where will church activities, involving our young people, retirees, and folks from FKPCV take place? The Korean Church is already making plans – and we will start soon! So, by the 1st of July 2012, our entire building will be OURS!

But this is not our only dream. Our beloved Pastor, Dr. Chris Looker, returned from his Sabbatical with a bunch of great suggestions. Read his own words:

“On my recent Sabbatical, I prayed for guidance from God for the future of the First Presbyterian Church of Annandale, the First Korean Presbyterian Church of Virginia, and the FPCA Urdu-Hindi Presbyterian Fellowship (*hereafter, all together referred to as “First Presbyterian Church” or “FPC”*). The following represents a vision that I received while on Sabbatical and which I would like to present to you at this time. I do so in order that the Word of God may be honored as it is written in 1 John 4: 1: ***‘Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but put the spirits to the test to see whether they are from God; for many false teachers have gone out into the world.’***”

The following are excerpts from the great suggestions Dr. Looker presented to the Session in June 2011, and are still being reviewed. (“I” is our Pastor speaking!)

1. **Show to the world that we are united in Christ under a single identity name:** I would propose that the particular churches and fellowships that are currently meeting in and worshipping at the First Presbyterian Church located on 7610 Newcastle Drive in Annandale, Virginia agree to adopt a single **Identity Name** that represents the unity that we have in Christ as partners in ministry and our common commitment to Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior,

the authority of the Holy Scriptures, and the basic tenets of historic Presbyterian and Reformed Christian Theological Tradition.

I would propose that the name that we adopt be “**The International Presbyterian Center**” or “**IPC.**” I would further propose that adopting this common name be considered as a name for the facility and **not** affect the legal, particular churches and fellowships who agree to operate, worship, function, and meet here. The use of the word “**Center**” is meant to serve as an umbrella name under which the current and future particular churches and fellowships may operate and function together for the purpose of serving the Lord Jesus Christ. I do **not** believe that the next step should be anything that affects or changes the corporate or legal identities of the particular churches and fellowships that collectively use FPC as their “home base” in terms of worship, missions, and ministry. I do propose that we **add** a broader and more descriptive name that denotes and publically states our unity in Christ Jesus, our commitment to be an “**Internationally Welcoming Church And Mission Center,**” our strong belief in the authority of the Holy Scriptures, and our common commitment to the historic Presbyterian and Reformed Christian Theological Tradition. Using the name “**International**” will show those in our very ethnically diverse neighborhood that we welcome anyone from any culture who is seeking Christ in his/her life. Using the name “**Presbyterian**” identifies the common style of polity under which we work and operate. Using the name “**Center**” defines to the surrounding community that, while we may have one, two, three, four, or more particular churches meeting, serving, and worshipping here, there is a common and “Central” place and location that serves as our home base.

2. Proposal for a new Sunday Worship Service Schedule:

I would propose that FPCA and FKPCV take our partnership to the next level by jointly supporting the creation of a new **Contemporary Worship And Praise Service** to be held every Sunday in the **Main Sanctuary at 11:30 AM**, in addition to our current Traditional English Service, Blended Korean Service, and Urdu-Hindi Worship Service. As has been expressed to me, the FKPCV Youth and Young Adult English Praise Service is growing to the point where there is often not enough space for it to be held in the Activities Building every Sunday. Furthermore, this service is highly attractive to a demographic of young adults and youth that are so greatly needed to insure that the future of both FPCA and FKPCV will be one filled with both spiritual and membership growth.

And, once SHPS moves out and more space becomes available for all of us, it is my hope and prayer to begin outfitting the Activities Building with computers, coffee machines, soda

machines, and space for students from Annandale High School to relax, do their homework, and just “hang out” in a safe and drug/alcohol free location after school every day. Also, it would be a very good opportunity for our church to actively evangelize to the Annandale High School students, assist them with their school work (tutoring), and encourage them to be in our Youth Fellowship Program.

The proposed new schedule would be:

10:00 am: **FPCA English Traditional Worship Service**

11:30 am: **Joint Praise Service**

1:00 pm: **FKPCV Blended Korean Worship Service**

3:00 pm: **FPCA Urdu-Hindi Worship Service**

3. Prepare the Activities Building to be used as a Youth Center

As SHPC will move out in June 2012, we should begin planning to convert the Activities Building into a Youth Center where all students from the Annandale High School would be welcome to come to receive the love and gospel of Jesus Christ, use filtered computers and the internet to play games and do their homework, receive tutoring in selected subjects from volunteer tutors, drink coffee, “hang out,” play pinball machines and other electronic games, and have a host of other fellowship activities.

In order to do this, I believe that FPCA and FKPCV would have to work together to employ a **Youth Director** to provide the overall leadership for this ministry.

4. Improve Our Master Calendar

Currently, a Master Calendar is kept on a wall in the Main Office in the front of the church. Using better means of communication and computer programs, I would propose that a more detailed **Master Calendar** be prepared **for all IPC churches** at the beginning of every Church Year. This would continue to help us avoid building use conflicts, coordinate events in a more efficient and effective manner, and make the Master Calendar available to any and all members of IPC congregations. This Master Calendar should be published in English, Korean, and Urdu-Hindi.

5. Music and Sport Outreach to Annandale High School and Neighborhood

I would propose that we continue to reach out to Annandale High School in terms of hosting sporting, performance, and fellowship events on our property and wonderfully refurbished sanctuary and rooms (with the proper insurance and safety procedures taken). Such sporting, performance, and fellowship events may include (but not be limited to) cricket, soccer, accompanying musicians and/or choirs, helping musicians to prepare music for public performance in worship services or secular venues, etc.

Your Editor prays and trusts that Dr. Looker’s suggestions are more than dreams!

Your Editor, Marta Strada



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Don Jackson - September 10
John Anderson - September 14
Hugh Iwanicki - September 14
Barbara Matos - September 14
Elisha R Musih ~ September 16
Susan Hanson - September 17
Tariq Javed - September 20

Mary Krause - September 21
Roger Stevenson - September 21
Ed Muller - September 23
Laura Hall - September 25
"Punch" Jackson - September 26
W.C. Hester - September 29

PREACHING SCHEDULES for SEPTEMBER 2011

September 4, 2011 Service of Holy Communion

Sermon Title: **"WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?"**

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 16:13-20

Elder Susan Ennis, Preaching

September 11, 2011 9/11/2001-Tenth Anniversary Remembrance Service

Sermon Title: **"FORGIVENESS IS NOT EASY!"**

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 18:21-35

Dr. Chris Looker, Preaching

September 18, 2011 Christian Education Sunday

Sermon Title: **"TO LIVE IS CHRIST AND TO DIE IS GAIN?"**

Scripture Lesson: Philippians 1: 19-27

Dr. Chris Looker, Preaching

September 25, 2011

Sermon Title: **"WWJD?"**

Scripture Lesson: Philippians 2: 1-11

Dr. Chris Looker, Preaching

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MARY MILLER

Do you remember Mary Miller? She is no longer with us on this earth. June 8, 2011, is the day she passed on, and she is now with the Lord.

Mary, her husband Herbert and their daughter Kathryn had joined our church way back in November 1966, and she was a very active member all the way till she suffered that horrible accident in October 1995. She was an Elder, she sang in the Chancel Choir, and the congregation frequently enjoyed her beautiful soprano voice when she sang solo. These activities only remain in our memories – but her activities as church librarian are still there in the form of books on the shelves of our library. She donated some 120 books, most of them are still sitting there, waiting to be read by our members. Yes, Mary Miller was a precious gem in our congregation, freely sharing with us her time and talents.

1995 was a hard year for Mary. In June her husband Herb passed away, and in October, driving to a circle meeting, she collided with another car and suffered bad back injuries which left her bound to a wheel chair for the rest of her life. She still stayed in her home on Gaylord Drive not far from Annandale High School till October 1997 when she needed more care. So she moved to Charlottesville, Virginia, to live with her beloved daughter Kathryn.

Now Mary is gone physically – but her spirit is still with us. We can only thank her that she was such a loyal, precious member of the First Presbyterian Church of Annandale.

MEET OUR NEW CHOIR DIRECTOR, RON FREEMAN

The music of the church has always been a cornerstone of my life. I grew up going to church where my mother accompanied the choir each Sunday, and when I was in High School, I formed a gospel quartet which performed in all the churches in town. Then I went on to the University of Alabama where I majored in music and found myself leading the hymn singing at my church there. I have also been music director at First Christian Church and Arlington Forest Methodist for forty years. After spending thirty years in The United States Army Chorus, I appreciate all types of music, but I am most interested in religious music.

My goal is to continue presenting good music every Sunday and also have special music for Christmas. I am currently looking for that special Christmas music that will fit our choir and the many talents in the church. I am very interested in meeting and hearing all instrumentalists in the congregation that would like to play in services. I also am very interested in anyone who would like to sing in the choir. I believe that music is an integral part of the church, and I look forward to working with Dr. Looker and the whole congregation.

Ron Freeman

THANK YOU NOTE FROM STEPHEN HIEMSTRA

June 27, 2011

Dear Chris,

Thank you for your generous support this year. Many people and many churches are unwilling to extend this grace to seminary students and I am truly grateful.

Thank you also for the gift certificate. I have used it to purchase a print of Rembrandt's "Storm on the Galilee." The painting speaks to my ministry.

Yours in Christ,

Stephen

THANKS FROM MARIANNE ARTHERTHOLT

I thank everyone for all the love, prayers and support in my Mom's recent illness and death. I really appreciate it and miss everyone at FPCA.

Love, Marianne

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

June 15, 2011

Dr. Chris Looker called the meeting to order with prayer. He led the discussion based on Spiritual Leadership for Church Officers, by Joan S. Gray, Chapter 6, Working With Others. The Session shared thoughts about reactive and proactive, task oriented and people-oriented, directive and democratic, managerial and initiative-based leadership, and their strength and weaknesses. Elders expressed their opinions about what kind of leaders they thought they were, and how FPCA was being led. Dr. Looker closed the devotion with the statement that the authority Session has been given was based on God's trust; FPCA is God's church, therefore to God be the glory.

Elder Marta Strada shared with Session that she and Dr. Chris Looker had worked hard on putting together the pictures for the cover and first 6 pages of the new Picture Directory published by Olan Mills. She mailed the CD and the printed pictures to Olan Mills on June 15, 2011.

Dr. Chris Looker presented a special request to establish a special fund to which the members of FPCA, FKPCV, and the FPCA Urdu-Hindi Christian Fellowship could donate to help Sarah Angelina Javed with her college education costs. Deacon Representative Joyce Simmons suggested that FPCA establish a scholarship fund, using the money for special cases. It will need further work to specify the manner in which the money will be distributed to students. Sarah Javed could be the first recipient. A motion was made to establish a scholarship fund for members of FPCA and affiliates. Further details still have to be worked out. Session approved the motion and empowered Pastor Looker to set up a 3 member commission by July 1, 2011.

Dr. Looker also presented the Session some Post-Sabbatical Suggestions. You can read about them in the chapter Great News – Great Dreams on the first page.

Elder Susan Ennis volunteered to review the church calendar starting September 2011, fixing dates and removing activities no longer taking place. She encouraged Elders and Commissions to submit any known plans, including the plans of Sleepy Hollow Preschool.

Deacon Joyce Simmons reported that the deacons were working on the list of active / inactive members.

Reporting for the **Marketing and Stewardship Commission**, Elder Ruth Sutton mentioned that the Commission recommended a Yard Sale, but so far no plans had been made.

Reporting for the **Buildings and Grounds Commission**, Elder Jack Belz shared with the Session that garden work needed to be done, as the bushes were growing very fast. Dr. Chris Looker thanked Elder Belz for all the time he spent doing the garden work; the roses were beautiful.

Reporting for the **Nominating Committee**, Elder Tom Martin informed the Session that it was time to put notices in the bulletins, encouraging the congregation to nominate elders and deacons for 2012.

Reporting for the **Mission Commission**, Elder Susi Ennis informed the Session, that some youngsters had signed up for the Mission Trip that will take place in July, all from FPCA. Both Dr. Chris Looker and Elder Susan Ennis planned to participate.

Reporting for the **Personnel Committee**, Elder Marta Strada shared the Commission's plans to hire a choir director as well as an organist/accompanist. If financially possible, it would be better to hire two individuals.

Marta Strada, Clerk of Session

YOUTH MISSION TRIP 2011

by Susi Ennis

On Sunday, July 3, following the morning worship service; Chris Looker and Susi Ennis loaded 5 youth from FPCA into the van and headed off for Charleston, West Virginia. We were on our way to join youth from three other churches for a YouthWorks mission trip. This trip would be different from our four previous trips. On those trips we had done home repairs and construction work; for this trip we would be providing services for the people of Charleston. We arrived at the Canaan United Methodist Church in time for dinner. There we met those people we would be serving with. The other groups were from the First Baptist Church of Mocksville NC, The Christian Church of Fabius NY and Kent Presbyterian Church of Kent Ohio. We also met the YouthWorks staff, four faithfilled, energetic and compassionate young adults; Jen Pare, Erin Holden, Eric Passe and Devin Blanch.

The YouthWorks staff divided the youth and adults into six "families" for the week. Each family was assigned two of the adult leaders and 5 to 8 youth. From our group Chris Looker, Sam Looker and Elisha Musih were assigned to the Fisher family with some of the people from North Carolina. Susi Ennis, Ben Looker, Mariam Javed and Joshua Musih were assigned to the Gandee family, also with some of the North Carolinians. We were given our assignments; Chris and his group would be spending the week visiting residents in a local nursing home in the morning and helping run an Extreme Sports Camp in the afternoons. Susi's group would be spending all day at the Charleston Boys and Girls Club run by the Salvation Army.

Since Monday was the July 4 holiday some of us were not able to go to our work assignments, but that did not stop us from serving. Chris took his group off to the nursing home where the group would begin visiting residents. Susi and her group went off to pick up trash on one of the main streets in downtown Charleston. At lunch time all of the groups joined the YouthWorks staff at a local park for the Olympics. We ate lunch and then played some crazy games, worked on family cheers before going to swim at the pool. When trophies were awarded for the games, Chris' family group were the winners. Monday evening we were taken to Capital Street in the downtown area and given a photographic scavenger hunt to complete. This gave our youth the opportunity to see some of the sights of the city. (Pictures from the scavenger hunt can be found on the Charleston YouthWorks facebook page).

Tuesday found us all going to the sites where we would be working for the rest of the week. At the Charleston Boys and Girls Club; Susi, Ben, Mariam, and Josh were assisting with their summer camp program. This is a program for low income families in the area. Each family paid a

minimal fee for the 8 week program which included a lunch. For some of these students, this was the only meal that they would eat that day. Our students worked with children of all ages from 4 years old to teenagers. We played board games, helped with arts and crafts time, supervised them on the outdoor playground and in the gym. It was an amazing chance to just be with children who all too often just don't get attention from the adults in their lives.

At the nursing home Chris, Sam and Elisha met some really wonderful residents. They had the chance to visit with a man who collected baseball cards and talked about baseball with the guys. They met a woman whose family cannot come and visit her at all and so our guys were a joy for her. For these young men they learned the value of a visit for those who are lonely. Every day after the nursing home, the group would go to the Sports Camp where they helped children play sports and games.

Each evening following dinner there were special events for us. Tuesday evening members of the Canaan United Methodist Praise Band hosted a program of music, West Virginia trivia and fun. Wednesday evening we attended a worship service at a local Baptist church. The pastor of that church has worked with YouthWorks to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to participate in the worship service. Thursday evening members of Canaan UMC held a cook out for us complete with dutch oven cobblers that were exquisite.

Friday morning came all too soon for us to depart Charleston and return home. We all piled back into the van, arriving back at FPCA around 3:00 pm. We were tired, but happy. We had an incredible week filled with God sightings all over Charleston. It is good to know that we were able to do our small part to care for the people of God's kingdom.

BULLETIN BOARD

by Mitchell Youmans

My fellow scouts, friends, and I have recently built a bulletin board outside the church. Its purpose is to reach out to teenagers who take the path to Annandale High School, as well as to keep fellow church members informed of our church activities.

This structure took us a few days to complete. The first day we dug the holes and put the posts in, with six bags of cement supporting them. From there we built the A-frames, which are the triangle-looking wood parts that hold the roof. Then, after screwing the roof on, we nailed the shingles onto the roof while others nailed the sidings onto the A-frames to give it a nicer appearance. We also added stepping stones and flowers around the bulletin board.

Volunteers ranged each day, from three to fifteen people. There were seven of us when we had to put the two heavy roofs on, with five people holding one by extending their arms in position for me and another helper to screw it on. Volunteers alone added up to over 130 hours, and a little over 200 hours total for the entire project.

My project was made out of cedar wood, which is really nice looking but expensive. I managed to pay for the costs thanks to the church mission funds and the generous donations from church members. Thank you for all of your support, and I hope it will be beneficial to us all.

SOUND SYSTEM TRAINING SESSION

Have you ever thought about helping with a worship service by being on the Sound/MultiMedia team? You have your chance to learn about doing just that at a special training session on Saturday, September 10, 2011, 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. The session is being led by Fits and Starts, a company specializing in helping churches use their systems in the most efficient manner. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Dr. Chris Looker, Elder Susan Hanson or me.

Elder Susi Ennis

An Article from our Sister Church, the Hungarian Reformed Church in Washington, DC.

Let me share with you an article written by the Pastor of the Hungarian Reformed Church in Washington, DC. The Hungarian Reformed Church is a denomination based on the teachings of John Calvin, and has a similar system as the Presbyterian Church, with the congregation led by Elders (in Hungarian called Presbyters). This church has Hungarian worship service once a month in the Chapel of the Wesley Theological Seminary. The worshipers are Hungarian immigrants; they live in Washington, Maryland and Virginia, and many belong to other churches, like myself. When my husband Frank was alive, I went with him to the Hungarian services, but now I am just too busy at FPCA to do so. I am still receiving their newsletter.

Marta Strada

BRUTAL WORLD

by Judit Mayer

“My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.”

(John 17:15)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

I think, many of us feel, that even for us believers it is getting harder and harder to cope with the problems of today's world. Perhaps, we only notice the increasing speed in which the world around us gets darker and darker, in every aspect: in morals, in financial and sexual problems.

The word “holy” got lost in our everyday language. Most people don’t even understand the true meaning of the word. What does it mean to be holy? They may think of a painting or statue, but that it means a way of living, of moral behavior, that people’s majority does not know anymore. The concept of the purity of soul and body, morality, proper use of their money, are all questions people don’t even think about, or, if they do, they see them in a distorted way. But, in most cases, these questions are not important in the eyes of today’s humankind.

Corruption, or rather destruction can happen intentionally. For certain powers it is beneficial if law and morality are removed from the world. It is easier to fish when confusion reigns, consequently it is good when there is no order, no rule, and even if there are rules, they are not being followed, and are not required to be followed. Here in the United States, we witness daily the trend to remove God, faith and morality from the world. First of all, it is forbidden to pray in or take a Bible to school. Also, the Ten Commandments should be removed from public buildings. Merry Christmas is being changed to Merry Holidays, and “In God We Trust” does no longer fit on coins. In politically correct names and expressions it is easy to lose God’s name. From there only one step leads to the fact that Christmas trees or mangers can’t be displayed in public places. In my eyes it is clear that intentional decay and destruction are going on – but it is unknown who stands behind it. So I don’t have to come up with an intentional conspiracy, I can say that Satan is behind it all. It may not even be important who the people who carry out Satan’s will are. There will always be individuals, groups, who prefer listening to Satan’s call, rather than to Christ’s. Take a moment, and imagine a world from which Christianity has been removed. Imagine that there is no longer a church, there are no Ten Commandments, there is no Bible study. There is no morality, there is no love and forgiveness through Christ. Everyone can do what he/she wants – can steal, lie, murder, live in sexual immorality, and this behavior would not have any consequences. Where will this world end up, if every human passion and desire can be followed freely? We don’t need much imagination to picture this kind of world. Just think of the Biblical example, Sodoma and Gomorra.

When Jesus said *“My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the Evil One”* (John 17:15), he prayed for his followers, his chosen ones. During Jesus’ time the world was in not much better condition than now. Human passion, corruption was present then too. Perhaps at that time the world did not run into destruction as quickly as it is now, humanity of those days did not have it easy either. But Jesus does not ask the Lord to select his chosen ones -- remove them from the world, take them up to heaven, or protect them on an isolated island - He asks God to protect them from the Evil One.

Jesus asks the Father to protect them, save them in their fight with the Evil, that He should not allow that Satan's power succeed. In the corrupt world of those days, but even more so, in our times, people were and still are needed whom the Father protects from Evil, whom the Father supports in their fight against Evil. When we look around, we can see how much we need fighting soldiers who are willing to stand up for truth, morality, and faith. We need that they stand up like torches in darkness, like lighting towers for God's love, and bear witness for Christian morality and behavior. Now there is a need that somebody speak up, let his/her voice be heard. We, Christians of the 21st century, have to find the forum where we are needed. We can't step aside, remain quiet, climb on the mountain and hide from the world's problems. No. This is not our task. Our responsibility is to recognize the work of the Evil One, his great success.

We too have to work. And, in order that we don't have to be afraid, don't have to march into battle with fear, let us remember that the Lord Jesus Christ had also prayed for us when he asked the Father: "*Protect them from the Evil One.*" Any prayer has strength and power – the prayer Jesus said for us, has even more. Let us keep that in mind – let us think of it so we can be courageous, and face the Evil One bravely.

[Article *Gonosz Világ*, written by the Pastor of the Hungarian Reformed Church of Washington DC, The Reverend Judit Mayer. (September 2011 issue of the newsletter *Egyházi Látogató* (The Church's Visitor). Translated from Hungarian by Marta Strada.]

FPCA LIBRARY CORNER

During the past couple of months, our book collection has grown a little. We received books from various sources.

First of all, your librarian purchased a couple of good books from Ivy Press Book Club, a source she finds quite useful.

Jesus, Paul and the People of God: a Theological Dialogue with N. T. Wright, edited by Nicholas Perrin and Richard B. Hays. Downers Grove, Ill., IVP Academic, 2011. **(232.9 Je)** *According to the publisher, this book includes the New Testament scholar "Tom Wright's two main addresses, from the 2010 Wheaton Theology Conference, one on the state of scholarship regarding Jesus and the other on the state of scholarship regarding the apostle Paul. The other nine essays critically interact with these two major themes of Wright's works... These essays represent the best of critical yet charitable dialogue among serious rigorous scholars on theological themes vital to Christian faith, that will propel New Testament scholarship for the next decade." A serious review of a serious dialogue which is worth looking at.*

The other book purchased from IvyPress also discusses serious matters:

God Behaving Badly: is the God of the Old Testament Angry, Sexist, and Racist? by David T. Lamb. Downers Grove, Ill.: IVP Books, 2011. **(230 La)** *Many see the God of the Old*

Testament as wrathful and angry, even capricious and malevolent, wiping out armies and punishing enemies – on the other hand, other passages show pictures of God’s love, goodness, slowness to anger. The author is making sense of these obvious contradictions. He sheds light on the problematic passages by providing historical and cultural background. He assembles a portrait of God that gives coherence to our understanding Him, both in the Old and New Testaments.

The next book was sent to us by the Living Water Presbyterian Church in Union Bridge, Maryland, written by their Senior Pastor, Rev. Abraham Park, from Sariwon, Korea:

The Genesis Genealogies: God's Administration in the History of Redemption, by Abraham Park. North Clarendon, VT. : Periplus Editions, 2009. **(222 Pa)** *The author studies the 10 genealogies compressed in the Book of Genesis, which play a significant role in the understanding of the history of redemption. The generations manifest God’s providence of salvation that runs through the Bible. In an accompanying letter from the church, Jay Kim says: “We pray that this book will help to enrich your ministry.” This book is the first in a planned History of Redemption series – it may be interesting to see the future titles too.*

A copy of the text studied in the Church School class for adults, led by Dr. Stephen Hiemstra, has also been added to the library collection:

Listening and Caring Skills: a Guide for Groups and Leaders, by John S. Savage. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1996. **(253.7 Sa)**

This book speaks to pastors and church leaders, stressing that the effective group leader or counselor will be the person who learns how to listen to other people. By employing these listening skills, church leaders will show more compassion, allowing the listeners to feel that their needs are met. Very few members of the congregation have attended Dr. Hiemstra’s class; it would have been very useful for our deacons. Perhaps they will want to take a look at this book.

And there is one more title that joined the library’s book collection. It came to your librarian by mail from the Coral Ridge Ministry in Florida:

The Truth About Marriage: Defending God’s Design for the Family, by Robert Knight. Fort Lauderdale, FL: Coral Ridge Ministries, 2010. **(173.1 Kn)** *In our times of mixed opinions on same sex marriage, this book points out marriage’s core principle designed by God, that of a man and a woman. The author wonders whether our children and grandchildren will grow up in a free, prosperous nation, if America no longer honors God’s premiere human institution. He sheds new light on the most important social institution and shows how marriage, as God made it, is indispensable to human civilization. He makes the reader think what the Bible says about marriage.*

*A copy of the text that will be used in the 11:30 Adult Church School this September/October is also sitting in the library shelf: **From the Nicene Creed to the Belhar Confession: Creeds, Catechisms, Confessions Statements of Faith In Historical Perspective**, by Marta Strada. 2011. **(238.51 St)** It is fascinating to learn that all the creeds and catechisms included in our Book of Confessions were written to keep believers on the right track at times of turmoil, doubt, distractions. To find out more, come to the class, starting September 11, 2011!*

Your Librarian, Marta Strada

BE PATIENT!

We had planned to move our Church Library to Room 107 on August 26-27. Well, that won't happen. It is not possible to borrow book trucks at that date to do the job! And without book trucks we can't carry our books over to the new room! By October the Fairfax Public Library will be able to lend us trucks.....so we have to wait.

I hope I am the only impatient one!

Your Librarian, Marta Strada

YOUTH NEWS!

OAR Project Completed

During the Spring, the youth assembled a total of 50 personal care kits. These kits were donated to OAR (Opportunities, Alternatives, and Resources) a community based non-profit organization for persons involved with the criminal justice system. Those who are being released from incarceration are given the kits as they begin the transition to return to society.

The need for these personal care kits is great. Those donated by FPCA represent about a one-month supply for the program.

Tasha Coleman, from OAR Fairfax, expressed thanks to our congregation for supporting this important program

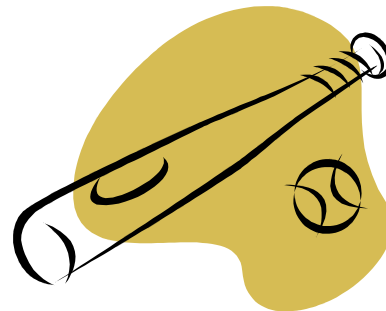
Stephanie Berg

Youth Church School to Begin

On September 18th we will begin our Fall Church School for youth at 11:30 a.m., led by Genny Looker and Cara Lauler. Classes for Grades 6-12 will revolve around current events as we ask: "Where is the Good News?" Please join us in the Library.

Join us for a Nationals Game!

All youth, their parents, friends, and other church members are welcome to meet at the church at noon on Sunday, September 4th to attend an afternoon Nats-NY Mets game in DC. We hope to take the metro in. Bring money for tickets and food.



Genny Looker

Acolytes

9/11/2011 Andrew Lauler
9/18/2011 Scott Springer
9/25/2011 Nathan Youmans

10/9/2011 Ben Looker
10/16/2011 Josh Musih
10/23/2011 Sam Looker
10/30/2011 Mitchell Youmans



Deadline for the October issue of FIRST and ForMOST is September 15, 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.