

February 2009 Vol. 73/No. 1

FFC Mission 2008... A Look Back and a Look Forward

Mission at First Federated Church means giving our time and our resources to better the lives of those in our community and world. This is a year of celebration and gratitude for the Mission Committee, thanks to your generosity and kindness. Two years ago the Mission Committee decided on a new approach to our Christmas offering – the Christmas Catalog. Each agency is guaranteed \$1,000. In 2007 we offered a choice of five local non-profit agencies and your response was overwhelming, contributing a little over \$8,000, a far greater response than had ever been seen before in the Christmas offering. This year we presented seven agencies, and with the downturn in the economy, there was concern about what the response might be, but that was needless concern. The Spirit of God touched your hearts, and you as a congregation contributed \$12,656*—this represents a 50% increase. Your generosity truly touched the hearts of all of the members of the Mission Committee. You have genuinely shown God’s love to those who are most in need of His love.

2009 is going to be a very exciting year for the Mission Committee and First Federated Church. We will continue our outreach to local charities, but we are very excited about an international mission project that we have been investigating and studying for two and a half years—the Mombasa Street Boys project.



Dr. Fred Hoy, Dr. John Nixon and Pastor Krummel left January 25 for a trip to Africa to visit the Cornerstone Leadership Academy. This is an established missionary program in Kampala, Uganda, which is looking for ways to extend their street boys projects to Mombasa, Kenya. Additionally they will visit the Youth Corps Home Project in Addis Abba, Ethiopia as well as visiting the city of Mombasa with representatives from the Cornerstone Leadership Academy.

You will be receiving additional information about this project in the next month through Mission moments and printed material.

The Mission Committee believes that there will be challenges, but by working with Africans that are God-driven in their commitment to their country and its youth, we at First Federated Church can make a profound difference. Thank you for your continuing support to the Missions Committee!

(Excerpts from Mission Chair Marylee Bales’ comments given to the congregation during the January 18 Worship service.)

*Christmas Offering Recipients:

• Thomas Jefferson Primary School:	\$ 2,354.97
• P.A.R.C.:	\$ 1,275.09
(Peoria Assoc. for Retarded Citizens, Inc.)	
• Choices Youth Program:	\$ 2,543.44
• Friendship House:	\$ 1,584.12
• American Red Cross**:	\$ 942.46
(Central Illinois Chapter)	
• The Center for the Prevention of Abuse:	\$ 1,012.46
• Bel-Wood Nursing Home:	\$ 2,943.46
	TOTAL \$12,656.00

**The Mission Committee is giving an additional \$57.54 to the American Red Cross in order to donate \$1,000.

Feature Articles

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For The Record

Births:



Gavin Russell Ahearn
Son of Laura & Nathan Ahearn
Grandson of Mindi & Craig Samuelson
Born January 5, 2009



Hayden Noelle Sleeth
Daughter of Melissa & Shad Sleeth
Granddaughter of Carol & Randy Sleeth
Born December 17, 2008

Hayden was Baptized on December 28, 2008.



The Church Triumphant:



Our condolences to the family of **Lee Morgan**, who completed this part of Life on January 21, 2009.

Please keep his family and friends in your prayers.

Blessed in the sight of the Lord is the death of His Saints. *Psalm 116:15*

News Around The Church

“Meet Your Deacon” Fellowship Hour **Sunday, February 8**

Following Worship on Sunday, February 8, come and enjoy the musical talents of our church youth, and get to know your Deacon while enjoying tasty



homemade treats during this special coffee hour in Fellowship Hall.



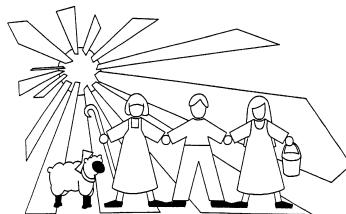
Wednesday Evening Lenten Vesper Service Starting On Ash Wednesday

Starting on Ash Wednesday, February 25, and continuing for six weeks, we will have a

Lenten Vesper Service at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday evening in the Commons.

Preschool News from Debbie Allen, Preschool Director

It's time to register for next year's preschool classes! First Federated Church members may sign up **beginning Monday, February 9 at 8:30 a.m.** We have two choices for Jack & Jill Preschool for four year olds. Our morning classes meet five days a week from 9:00-11:30 a.m.



The afternoon class meets three days, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, from 12:00-2:30 p.m. Three year olds may attend Bo-Peep Nursery School either Tuesday/Thursday or Monday/Wednesday/Friday

mornings from 9:00-11:30 a.m. First Federated members receive a deduction in tuition.

To obtain more information about the preschools, please contact Debbie Allen at 685-5258 or dallen@ffcpeoria.com. A registration packet can be mailed to you, or you may arrange a tour of the classrooms. Please pass the word to friends and neighbors who may be searching for a program for their preschool child.

News Around The Church continued...



Financial Report - Operating Fund as of December 31, 2008

	<u>Month-To-Date, December 2008</u>	<u>Year-To-Date, December 2008</u>
Receipts	\$ 67,388	\$ 731,530*
Disbursements	\$ 87,738	\$ 717,615
Net Total	\$ - 20,350	\$ 13,915

*Includes \$158,801 of prepaid pledges, 2007 carryover, and the annual Endowment transfer.

Mission Notes

Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least, you have done it unto me. Jesus, in Matthew 25:40



Thomas Jefferson's "Reading Buddy" Program has an Opening

We have an opening for a Reading Buddy at Thomas Jefferson Primary School on Tuesdays from 12:30-1:30 until the end of the school year. No special skills are required - just

reading with enthusiastic 2nd graders! If you can help us out by taking this time slot, or if you would like more information about Reading Buddies, please contact Anne Heppner at 243-8864 or at alohep@mchsi.com.

A Mission Abroad... Mombasa, Kenya from Donna Haerr, Mombasa Task Force Chair

Beginning with a sermon given by Pastor Krummel in 2006, the Mission Committee has looked at various ways to expand our mission project into the world.

In 2006 the Pentecostal special mission offering was designated for Anni Krummel who worked as a missionary in Mombassa, Kenya. She spoke to the congregation about her work with the *STREET BOYS*.

Following this presentation, the Mission Committee established a Task Force to investigate the problem of the Street Boys and how First Federated might help. Working with World Vision which became our facilitator, we met with Eric Fellman, the associate director of the Fellowship Foundation, a 501 c (3) non profit in Washington D.C.

Eric Fellman recommended Tekle Selassie, an Ethiopian who has established this type of ministry in Addis Abba. Mr. Tekle, on a trip to Washington D.C., extended his stay with a visit to Peoria where he made a presentation to our congregation.

The Task Force continued its investigation of other projects in Africa which would be able to help us es-

tablish a program for Street Boys. Eric Fellman recommended the Cornerstone Leadership Academy in Kampala, Uganda. The Academy had established Street Boy projects in Rwanda and Tanzania and they were interested in doing a project in Mombassa. A member of their team traveled to Mombassa and agreed that there was a huge need that could be met. He prepared a report suggesting that by working together we could begin to address this problem.

Two congregation members, Dr. John Nixon and Dr. Fred Hoy, indicated an interest in going to Africa to assess the situation and the proposed project. The Mission Committee felt it was important to have Pastor Krummel join them. They left January 25 and will travel to Kampala, Addis Abba, and Mombassa. Upon their return after February 10, the Mission Committee and Task Force will hear their recommendations and decide if this is a doable project. Then, the Task Force will report to the congregation the plans for this mission project

Kids' Kingdom News

This Month In Kids' Kingdom Sunday School...

Bible Story: We'll explore how "disciples SERVE" as we talk about *Jesus washing the disciples' feet.* (John 13:2-15)

February 15th: Valentine Treats to Buehler Home

All children in Kindergarten - 6th grade will go to Buehler Home to deliver Valentines to the residents during Sunday School time. We'll leave after *Time with the Growing Church* so be sure kids have their coats. Parents can meet their children back in the chapel at the conclusion of worship. Preschool Palace will meet as usual.



Kids' Kingdom Choir will sing in worship on February 8th.

Get ready for the next

**CELEBRATION
SUNDAY**

in Kids' Kingdom!



Sunday, March 1st during Sunday School

Kids and shepherds will look more carefully at LENT with some fun, thoughtful activities. Don't miss out!

Sacraments Workshop Sunday, March 29th

This workshop will be held from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. and is geared toward children in 2nd grade and up **and their parents or grandparents.** Together you'll share a meal plus learn more about Baptism and Communion and what it means to you. Please call the church to sign up at 685-5258. See Kim Snarr for more information. This is a great introduction before the kids experience their *first Communion.*

Youth Ministry News (5th - 12th Grades)

Confirmation (7th - 8th Grades)

Meets on Sundays at 10:15 - 11:15 a.m. on the 3rd floor following "Time With the Growing Church."

- **February 1:** "Story of the Presbyterian Church"
- **February 8:** "Story of FFC" with Barb Meyn
- **February 15:** "Church Service of Worship" with Ken Selburg
- **February 22:** No class. We will be gone on our retreat.

Spiritual Mentors and Confirmands should hopefully be halfway through their book. If not, there is still time! Schedule your visits for February & March. Feel free to use the 9 o'clock hour on Sunday mornings.

Confirmation Retreat — February 20-22

So far we have 13 youth, 2 chaperones, and 5 drivers participating in the retreat to Pilgrim Park. If you would still like to attend, let Amy O'Brien know.

P.R.I.M.E.T.I.M.E. Hour (5th - 12th Grades)

Our supervised social hour at 9 a.m. continues on the 3rd floor. Feel free to join your church friends an hour before worship and class to just socialize with us! Jordan Morris will challenge you in ping pong. The Confirmation girls are always up for a round of "Apples to Apples" or "Family Feud." Join the fun!

Jr. High Fellowship (6th - 8th Graders) Sunday, February 8th



Ice skating at Owens Center (1019 W. Lake, Peoria) with the Kelley Family. Join us from 3:00 - 4:45 p.m. The cost is \$3 per person. You are on your own for the concession stand.

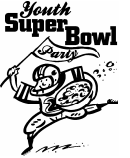
Senior High News (9th - 12th Graders)

Sunday Mornings

- **February 1:** Join us on the 2nd floor for **Super Bowl Sub making**. We will need a few to come at 9:30 and we'll need a few to stay until all the subs are sold!
- **February 8:** Class with Todd Snarr
- **February 15:** Worship with Kim McCormick
- **February 22:** Class with Joe Terry

Fellowship on Sunday Evenings

- **February 1:** **Super Bowl Party** at Amy O'Brien's (2023 W. Casecreek Drive). Join us promptly by 5 p.m. if you want to be there for kick-off. We'll have subs that we made in the morning. Feel free to bring your friends.
- **February 8:** No Sr. Highs
- **February 15:** Come join your church friends for a **Valentine's Surprise** from 5-7 p.m.
- **February 22:** Meet on the 3rd floor from 5-7 p.m. This will be our first **Stronghold** planning meeting.



Stronghold
Oregon, Illinois



Retreat: March 6th - 8th for 8th - 12th graders
Please RSVP by February 8th

Adult Christian Education

Bible Study Series (led by Ralph Schoen at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday - 2nd Fireplace Room)



Through February 22: Commitment to Christ - Studies in Luke and the Old Testament

The Bible Study will highlight individuals who model commitment to God and God's will. The lessons will provide insight into the lives and circum-

stances of people who chose commitment over convenience, action over apathy, and risk over reward.

Come join us. Each session is a stand-alone class, so you can attend any, or all sessions.

The Screwtape Letters (led by Rev. Frosty Krummel at 6:30 p.m. on Mondays starting February 16)

C.S. Lewis, well known for *The Chronicles of Narnia*, is the author of this book of fictional correspondence. Lewis creates a dynamic, frightening and yet thought-provoking dialogue between Screwtape and Wormwood. Take this opportunity to look into the challenges of sin

and evil within our world and the hope and grace that continues to save us.

Join us on **Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m.** in the **1st Floor Lounge starting February 16.**

Christianity 201 (led by Rev. Daren Hofmann at 11:15 a.m. on Sundays starting March 1st)

This class is a course on theological doctrines. We will examine the connection between God and Humans, God and Creation, God in Christ and Reconciliation, and God the Holy Spirit and New Life. We will use *Christian Doctrine*, by Shirley Guthrie, as our primary text. This book is one that has deepened Daren's faith over the

years and he knows it will do the same for you.

If you would like to join us on **Sunday mornings at 11:15 a.m.** in the **Triebel Study starting March 1**, please sign up at the front desk or call the church at 685-5258 so that we can order the book for you.

Social Groups






Frosty's Old Buddies by Ned Loar and Phil Withrow

Join us for our next monthly breakfast on **February 17th** at Bob Evans on Allen Road at **8:00 a.m.** We meet in the back room and order off the menu. We

don't care if you come early or late — you'll enjoy a time of *fellowship*, food, and FUN. Reservations are not needed, just show up & enjoy!

February 2009 at First Federated Church



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 9:00 P.R.I.M.E. T.I.M.E. Hour 10:00 Worship, Sunday School Super Bowl Sub Pick Up 5:00 Sr. High Youth Group at Amy O'Brien's house 5:30 Sunday Supper Club</p>	<p>2 5:15 TOPS 7:00 Orpheus 7:00 Building & Grounds</p> 	<p>3 4:30 Missions</p>	<p>4 8:30 Clergy Bible Study 9:00 Church Mice 10:00 Yoga</p>	<p>5 7:00 Choir</p>	<p>6 <i>Deadline for Life Together Articles</i></p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 9:00 P.R.I.M.E. T.I.M.E. Hour 9:00 Shepherd Meeting 10:00 Worship, Sunday School "Meet Your Deacon" Fellowship Hour Following Worship 11:15 M.O.S.A.I.C. 3:00 Jr. Highs Ice Skating at Owens Center</p>	<p>9 5:15 TOPS 7:00 Orpheus</p>	<p>10 6:30 Handbells</p>	<p>11 8:30 Clergy Bible Study 10:00 Yoga</p>	<p>12 6:30 Lifelink Meeting 7:00 Choir</p>	<p>13 <i>Deadline for Life Together Articles</i></p>	<p>14 <i>Valentine's Day</i></p> 
<p>15 9:00 P.R.I.M.E. T.I.M.E. Hour 10:00 Worship, Sunday School 11:30 Children's Ministry Team 5:00 Sr. High Youth Group</p>	<p>16 5:15 TOPS 6:30 Screwtape Letters Study 7:00 Orpheus</p> 	<p>17 8:00 Old Buddies at Bob Evans-Allen Rd. 9:00 Presbytery of Great Rivers 6:30 Handbells 7:00 Finance</p>	<p>18 8:30 Clergy Bible Study 10:00 Yoga 11:30 UCC Lunch Meeting 2:00 N. Peoria Women 7:00 Deacons</p>	<p>19 7:00 Executive Board 7:00 Choir</p>	<p>20 Confirmands Depart for Retreat at Pilgrim Park</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 Confirmands Retreat from Retreat 9:00 P.R.I.M.E. T.I.M.E. Hour 10:00 Worship, Communion, Sunday School 5:00 Sr. High Youth Group</p>	<p>23 5:15 TOPS 6:30 Screwtape Letters Study 7:00 Orpheus</p>	<p>24 6:30 Handbells</p>	<p>25 ASH WEDNESDAY 8:30 Clergy Bible Study 10:00 Yoga 12:30 Mothers' Club 6:30 Lenten Vesper Service</p>	<p>26 7:00 Choir</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 9:00 Women's Book Club at Apple's Bakery</p>

GLIMPSE OF GRACE. . . by Frosty

February is traditionally known as the month of love due to the celebration of St. Valentine's Day

on the 14th. My earliest memories of St. Valentine's Day have to do with shoe boxes decorated with wrapping paper and hearts and taken to school. My classmates would bring Valentines—

usually punch-out valentines bought in little boxes of 25. There was always one special Valentine for that little boy or girl upon whom you had a crush. If you got one of those special valentines in return, your heart would sing!

I now buy a couple of Valentine cards and a small gift for my wife—usually chocolates are still in the mix somewhere. Cards are sent to my daughters and grandchildren, usually by my wife. I have a tendency to send e-cards with dancing or singing characters.

As you read this, unless something unforeseen happens, Drs. Fred Hoy, John Nixon and I will be in Africa exploring the possibility of extending our mission program to touch a desperate group of children in a desperate corner of the world.

Most people don't know that the person for whom the day is named is really three people: one was a

priest in Rome, one was a bishop is what is now Terni and one was a martyr in the Roman province of Africa. In the Eastern Orthodox churches there are special feast days.

As you read this, unless something unforeseen happens, Drs. Fred Hoy, John Nixon and I will be in Africa exploring the possibility of extending our mission program to touch a desperate group of children in a desperate corner of the world; to share a bit of love, if you will.

One of the earliest verses that I learned as a child was John 3:16. "For God so loved the world..." Over the years I have studied that verse time and time again. I have concluded that it must be coupled with

verse 17, "For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him," to be fully understood. I have also concluded that God's love is universal rather than limited to a particular people, time or place. While driving from one appointment to another recently I heard a song on the radio by a group called "Casting Crowns." The refrain asked a series of questions. "But if we are the Body; Why aren't His arms reaching; Why aren't His hands healing; Why aren't His words teaching? And if we are the Body; Why aren't His feet going; Why is His love not showing them there is a way?"

We plan to be back in time to celebrate Valentine's Day. And when we return, we will share with you our impressions of what we see and hear. We will also be sharing with you where we think God is leading us. Together I am sure that we will see a glimpse of grace. Keep us in your prayers.

First Federated Church
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First Federated Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Forrest "Frosty" Krummel	Senior Pastor
Rev. Daren Hofmann	Associate Pastor
Kim Snarr	Director of Children Ministries
Amy O'Brien	Director of Youth Ministries
Debbie Allen	Preschool Director
Tony Beal	Building Operations Manager
Lisa Hoepker	Office Manager
Donna Biesinger	Administrative Secretary
Janet Baker-Schoff	Receptionist Coordinator
Kirsten Hanson	Nursery Supervisor
Matt Allen	Computer Technician
Wayne Macomber	Chancel Choir Director
Richard Tomic	Organist, Handbell Director
Colleen McNally	Kids' Kingdom Choir Director
Mary Delicath	Choir Section Leader
Karen Henderson	Choir Section Leader
Randy Sleeth	Choir Section Leader