

Glimpse of Grace

Rev. Dr. Forrest Kummel, Jr.

Our retiring Board members have been the leaders in a time of transition. During their tenure they were prayerful, faithful and dedicated. As a result, they were willing to take cautious risks, try new programs and ways of doing things, as well as enhanced not only our grounds but programs. They advanced the work of God's Kingdom through the hands of First Federated Church. I, and indeed the entire membership, owe them a great deal of gratitude.

Donna Bantis took control of the Worship Committee, brought a renewed sense of vitality and dared to do things that people never thought possible at FFC. I continually stand in amazement at her organizational and people skills as well as the mastery with which she can put together social events. In my 30 plus years of ordained ministry I have never met someone with her ability in creativity, boldness, cooperation and adventure.

Jane Converse always brought a happy smile to our work, a keen understanding of marketing, a clever and often humorous quip, keen insight and a love for not only First Federated Church but for the work of the Kingdom. I remember sitting in her office over a cup of coffee shortly before she joined the Board and picking her brain. It was during our conversation over a wide range of subjects I discovered not only her business savvy but that she not only understood "Church" but that she a great passion for it as well as the local congregation.

Jerry Kirschbaum did some heavy lifting for us--both figuratively and physically. When he first became the moderator of the Building and Grounds Committee, before Bob Disharoon joined us, Jerry would come into my office at least once a week to share with me his discoveries in the bowels and tunnels of the church. He was very systematic and thorough in getting to know the ins and outs of our building, not only the surface, but the places where few, if any, had ever gone before. He put his engineering mind to bear as he laid out a systematic plan to address our most pressing issues. Not only that, but he accomplished quite a bit on his extensive list! He reminded me of my insurance days when I was told to "plan your work and work your

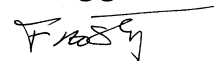
plan." He accomplished more serious things that will benefit the church than people will ever realize. He was also very patient and forgiving.

Mike Predmore was the quiet member of our Board but his love for the ministry of FFC, especially in the area of family ministry is unmatched. He put his shoulder to the wheel and called on help as it was needed. Not only that, but he identified people with talents different than his own and got them to work on major projects in the church. On a more personal note, he has been a recent consultant in our area of local mission as we try to make a difference in the lives of local residents who come to FFC for assistance. With his background he was able to provide insights and wisdom that few could provide.

Karin Terry brought her passions and experience to our Christian Education Committee. But the thing that I remember most--and am most thankful for--is how she instigated our a softball team. Drawing on a wide variety of people both inside and outside of our congregation this fellowship group added a new dimension to our life together. What is most amazing is that she was able to do all of this while being a mom of active kids, helping her husband start a business and following her own career!

Theresa Pfeiffer, our trusted Vice Moderator, a child of the church, whose history of the church is unparalleled in her generation. She knew it as a child and a teen (and can tell stories!!) She brought her business acumen to the position. When the economy first went bad, Theresa was the anchor for a group of people finding themselves in transition. During her tenure as Vice Moderator she has been a steady hand, a wise counsel, and brought a dash of levity. She pushed me when I needed to be pushed. I relied on her wisdom and insight more often than she will ever know.

On behalf of the membership of FFC and myself, "Thank you one and all. May God continue to bless your ministry as well as whatever you set your hand upon and heart toward." Take care, say your prayers and never tire of doing good.



LATE BREAKING NEWS

We have received a letter from the State of Illinois dated December 23rd, 2011 informing us that the State has granted our extended facility tax-exempt status and designated all our property (including the north activity center) as church use. Thank you to Mr. Tom Leiter for filing all of our property, the members of the Guiding Coalition and all of you - for your prayers.

MISSION OUTREACH

In the coming months you have two opportunities to be a part of the mission of FFC outside of Peoria.

◆ **ADULT MISSION TRIP TO BAY ST. LOUIS, MISSISSIPPI:** We are planning another trip to the Gulf Coast this winter. We are heading to Bay St. Louis, Mississippi to work with Habitat for Humanity. The plan is to meet up with First Presbyterian Church, Jefferson City as we did last year. We would love to have you join us. We will be leaving Sunday, January 22nd and returning Saturday the 28th. We will be staying along the bay at St. Stanislaus College. If you would like to know more about costs or work, please contact Rev. Daren Hofmann - dhofmann@ffcpeoria.com or 685-5258.

◆ **WANA WA WAMOLA:** Kenya: Fred Hoy, Norm Meyn and Pastor Krummel will visit our mission partner in Mombasa, Kenya, Wana wa mola (Children of God), in early February. If you would like more information contact Fred Hoy or the church office.

LEADERSHIP CONNECTION

◆ **WELCOME!** With the beginning of 2012 we would like to welcome the new members of our Executive Board and Board of Deacons. Our thanks go to the Nominating Committee for their hard work and the new Executive Board and Deacons for answering their call.

Nominating Committee, Class of 2013

Susan Kirschbaum (PCUSA)
Mike Predmore (UCC)
Beth Schlicksup (PCUSA)
Nancy Snowden (UCC)

Executive Board, Class of 2013

Sally Fenner (UCC)
Carol Sleeth (PCUSA)
Mike Verkuilen (UCC)

Executive Board, Class of 2014

Karen Henderson (PCUSA)
Kent Kowalske (UCC)
Karl Kuppler (PCUSA)
Todd Snarr (PCUSA)

Clerk of the Congregation, Class of 2012

Ray Williams

Board of Deacons Class of 2012

Margie Selburg

Board of Deacons Class of 2014

Kristen D'Alfonso
Betty Debord
Chuck Dykhouse
Laura Johnson
Marianne Klisares
Carol Peterson
JoAnne Richardson
Jody Ryan
Ron Silver
Lynne Watkins

FFC QUICK NOTES

◆ **BECOME A GREETERS, USHERS OR FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOST** If you would like to serve FFC in a meaningful way, become worship service support person on Sunday mornings! Greet old friends, meet new people, welcome visitors, help worshippers settle in with what they need or host the after worship gathering. The sign-up sheet for Greeters and Hosts is at the reception desk. If you are interested in being an Usher contact the office and we will let the Usher Captain know of your interest.

◆ **FAIR TRADE COFFEE SALES ARE BACK!** The 2nd Sunday of each month, Fair Trade coffee from Café Campesino will be available for purchase during Fellowship Hour for \$12/lb. Both regular and decaf in whole beans and ground are available. These purchases directly help the families who grow and harvest the coffee beans we enjoy here in the U.S. For more information, you can go to their website: www.cafecampesino.com.

◆ **SOUPER-BOWL SUNDAY** Save the date for Souper-Bowl Sunday! Mark your calendars for **February 5, 2012**. More information and signup sheets will be available in the weeks to come.



the Parent LINK

Children's Ministry Edition



January 2012



First Federated
Church of Peoria

Make Faith-Friendly Resolutions

The beginning of a new year offers the promise of a fresh start. Many people celebrate by resolving to make changes, often related to how they care for their bodies.

This year, take time to reflect on what you can do differently in your home to strengthen your family—and each member's faith in God. Use these ideas to transform your family in 2012:

Begin the day with music. Mornings are hectic in most houses. Play some soft Christian music to wake everyone up and to set the tone for a calm, God-directed day.

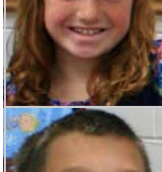
Reclaim mealtime. Eat together as often as possible. Research points to all kinds of child-development benefits from this practice. But family meals also help you get to know one another better—and provide opportunities for faith growth. For example, ask specific, open-ended questions, such as “What’s the best thing that happened to you today? the worst?”

Make devotions fun and active. Bible reading should be a social, bonding opportunity, not a dry discipline devoid of purpose. Use resources such as the “Family Night Tool Chest” series by Jim Weidmann and others (Chariot Victor), the “Not-So-Quiet Times” devotion series by Tracy Harrast (Standard), and *52 Fun Family Devotions* by Mike and Amy Nappa (Augsburg Fortress).

Develop a family mission statement. As a family, pinpoint your worthy purposes, worthy visions, and worthy values. A mission statement will unite you because everyone gives input into your family’s “big picture.” And God will be placed at the center of your home on purpose, not by chance.

Start a Parenting Revolution

According to research by the Barna Group, fewer than 10 percent of parents who regularly attend church have consistent family time with God. George Barna’s book *Revolutionary Parenting* applies modern-day research to show that parents who faithfully apply God’s instructions for family life raise spiritual champions. Unfortunately, most people parent “by default” or use “trial-and-error parenting,” according to Barna.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

by Kim Snarr

"WINTER RENEWAL" RETURNS to Sunday School

Join us in Sunday school this month as we take a break from the usual and spend our time creatively! Children will use "self-control" to paint beautiful silk artwork and cook some inspired culinary creations.

Dress casually &

*INVITE YOUR FRIENDS
for a different kind of learning in January!*

THIS MONTH IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

Virtue: Self-Control

- choosing to do what you should do, not what you want to do.

Memory Verse:

James 1:19, NIV

"My dear brothers and sisters, pay attention to what I say. Everyone should be quick to listen. But they should be slow to speak. They should be slow to get angry."

Kids' Chapel Offering:
to benefit
Midwest Food Bank

VBS 2012 planning begins in January!

A VBS committee will meet on Sunday, January 22, at 11:30am.

If you're interested in planning this awesome event, contact Kim Snarr at ksnarr@ffcpeoria.com.

SPECIAL Children's Ministry THANK YOU'S TO . . .

- Tracy Pogue for chairing a wonderful Gingerbread House Party.
- Carol Nelson for continually keeping our kids' worship bags updated.
- Heather & Peter Cenek for organizing the pizza party after our Pageant rehearsal.
- High school students Michelle Mooney, Grant Stevens, Jordan Morris, Ben Willadsen, Drew Kowalske, Claire Goldhammer, Danielle Snarr, and Hannah Bechtold for supervising children during the Christmas pageant rehearsals and performance.
- Jody Ryan for costuming
- Helen Peterson for costume construction of camels, shepherds, and wise men.
- Michael Schneider for directing our pageant
- Andy Braun for audio/visual during pageant rehearsal

No Sunday School on January 1st - New Year's Day and January 8th
children can join their families to celebrate Epiphany and watch Amahl and the Night Visitor. Be sure you bring your kids to one of these presentations for a great, family-friendly 1-act opera.

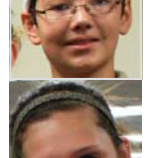
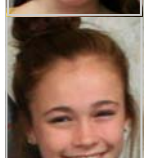
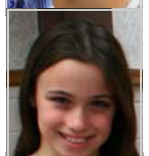
• **BOX TOP COLLECTION** Look on the top of your cereal boxes or other dry goods for the "Box Top for Education" coupons. By clipping these coupons and bringing them to church, Thomas Jefferson School can use the proceeds to purchase much needed supplies for the school. Your help in clipping these coupons is greatly appreciated.





YOUTH MINISTRY

by Amy O'Brien



CONFIRMATION
Sunday, January 15th
Confirmation
Afternoon Retreat
11:30 - 4:00 pm
Theme: "Fellowship"

8th grade & Mentors join us in the Christian Education room in the North Campus. The Brown Family will host our lunch. The Confirmation team is creating another engaging experience.

Jr. High & Sr. High Event

January 15th - 16th
MLK Lock-In & Experience
Sunday 4 pm to Monday 2:30 pm
Cost: \$25

Evangelical United Church of Christ (EUCC) will arrive at FFC for an engaging 22 hour experience.

Sunday Night: Games, Dinner, Free Time, MLK movie, & Sardines

Monday Morning: Volunteering at Dream Center

Monday Early Afternoon: Attend Emmett Smith's Speech at the Civic Center

Jr. High Fellowship (6th-8th)

Sunday, January 29th
Peoria Palace Roller Skating
Hosted by the Brown & Silver Families
Join us at the rink from 2-4 p.m.
\$5 includes skating & skates. Bring money for snacks.

Sr. High Youth Fellowship (9th-12th)

Sunday, January 8th
Sr. High & Alumni Epiphany Party
5 pm
Gather at the Bechtold's home for finger foods & punch

6:30 pm
We'll progress to the Predmore's home for desserts and games.

8 pm
Pick-up at the Predmore's Home
(If a youth drives to the Bechtolds, they may drive their own car to Predmores. Otherwise, adults will transport youth.)

Sunday, January 22nd
Sr. Highs
5-7 pm

Sunday, January 29th
Sr. High
5-7 pm

FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER

- Stronghold • March 2-4 (8th-12th)
- Confirmation Retreat • March 25th
- Youth Sunday • March 18th
- Confirmation • June 3
- Mission Trip • June 16-24

* A special thanks to Garrick Predmore, Christina Schlicksup, & Anni Krummel for assuming greater roles of responsibility within Jr. High Ministry. Thank you!

January 2012 At FFC

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 HAPPY NEW YEAR! 10:00 am Worship (1 worship service only)	2 Church Office Closed Preschool Christmas Vacation	3 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality 9:30 am Women's Bible Study 4:30 pm Mission Meeting 7:00 pm Finance Meeting	4 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality 8:30 am Clergy Lectionary Group 10:00 am Staff Meeting	5 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality 9:30 am MOTS Bible Study 9:30 am Meditation Spirituality Group 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	6 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality 7:30 pm Amahl & The Night Visitors	7 3:00 pm Amahl & The Night Visitors
8 8:00 am Worship 10:00 am Worship In Fellowship Hall Amahl & The Night Visitors 5 pm Senior High Youth & Alumni Epiphany Party	9 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality 10:00 am Design & Décor Committee 12:15 pm P.E.O. FB	10 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality 8:30 am Prayer Shawl Knitting Group 9:30 am Women's Bible Study	11 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality 8:30 am Clergy Lectionary Group 10:00 am Staff Meeting	12 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality 9:00 am Parent Teacher Conf. 9:30 am MOTS Bible Study 9:30 am Meditation Spirituality Group 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	13 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality 9:00 am Parent Teacher Conf.	14
15 Jr. & Sr. Highs host EUCC - Lock-in 8:00 am Worship 10:00 am Worship Baptism Renewal Installation 11:30 am Confirmation Fellowship Experience	16 MLK Birthday Preschool Closed Jr. & Sr. Highs host EUCC - Lock-in	17 8:00 am Old Buddies Breakfast 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality 8:30 am Prayer Shawl Knitting Group 9:30 am Women's Bible Study	18 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality 8:30 am Clergy Lectionary Group 10:00 am Staff Meeting 1:45 pm N. Peoria Women's Club 7 pm Deacons	19 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality 9:30 am MOTS Bible Study 9:30 am Spirituality Group 6 pm Membership 6 pm Worship 7:00 pm Choir 7 pm Executive Board	20 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality	21
22 Adult Mission Trip 8 am Worship 10 am Worship Winter Renewal 11:15 am Meet Your Deacon Fellowship Hour	23 Adult Mission Trip 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality	24 Adult Mission Trip 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality 8:30 am Prayer Shawl Knitting Group 9:30 am Women's Bible Study 10:00 am Presbytery - COM	25 Adult Mission Trip 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality 8:30 am Clergy Lectionary Group 10:00 am Staff Meeting 12:00 pm Women's Club	26 Adult Mission Trip 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality 9:30 am MOTS Bible Study 9:30 am Spirituality Group 7:00 pm Choir	27 Adult Mission Trip 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality	28 Adult Mission Trip 9:00 am Book Club @ Apple's Bakery
29 8 am Worship 10 am Worship Winter Renewal	30 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality	31 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality 8:30 am Prayer Shawl Knitting Group 9:30 am Women's Bible Study				

CHURCH FAMILY CONNECTION

COMPLETED THIS PART OF LIFE

Our prayers are with the families and friends of:

- ✂ Betty Snyder - November 21st
 - ✂ Joe Chamberlain - November 28th
 - ✂ Lawrence Williams - December 23rd
- as they mourn the passing of their loved ones.

BAPTISMS

- Sunday, December 24th at the 5 pm service Owen Matthew Nelson was baptized. He is the son of Matt & Amber Nelson and grandson of Gary & Carol Nelson.

COMMITTEE CONNECTION

As new committee members meet, please keep the office secretary informed of committee chairs, members and committee meeting times. Committees should meet at least 1 week prior to the Executive Board Meeting (3rd Thursday of the month) and minutes e-mailed to secretary at info@ffcpeoria.com so that action items can be added to the Executive Board agenda. Questions? Please call 685-5258 and ask for the secretary.

FFC CLUBS AND GROUPS

◆ **SUNDAY SUPPER CLUB:** There will be no meeting in January.

◆ **PRAYER SHAWL KNITTING GROUP:** The Knitting Group meets each Tuesday morning at 8:30 am in the Memorial Lounge. All skill levels are welcome, instructions available for beginners. Contact Alice Racine at maracine@comcast.net for more information.

◆ **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY:** On Jan 10, 2012, we will finish Esther. At the Dec. 13 meeting, we selected a new study, Isaiah, which we will begin around Jan. 17, 2012. We meet Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. upstairs in the Fireplace Room and all women of the church are welcome, as are guests. We enjoy fellowship and grow in our faith as we study and discuss scripture and God's work in our lives. For more information, contact Susan Kirschbaum.

◆ **SPIRITUALITY MEDITATION CLASS:** We will commence on **Thursday, Jan. 5, 2012 at 9:30 am** in the North building of FFC. We will meet for one hour and each participant will conduct a session as we progress over the spring. Suggested material lists will be available and are furnished by Dr. Jackie White, who conducted our fall 2011 spiritual "Moments of Grace" series. Questions? Contact Susan Kirschbaum.

◆ **OLD BUDDIES BREAKFAST:** The next gathering of the "Old Buddies" will be **Tuesday, January 17th at 8 am** at Bob Evans on Allen Road. No reservations needed.

◆ **FFC WOMEN'S CLUB:** We'll meet in the Commons on Wednesday, January 25th, 2012 at 12:00 Noon for light lunch and a most interesting program entitled "Senior Safety" presented by Peoria Police Information Officer Doug Burgess. Join us for food, faith, and fellowship . . . all women and their guests are welcome! Questions? Contact Susan Kirschbaum.

◆ **The BOOK CLUB @ APPLE'S BAKERY** They will meet Saturday, January 28th at 9:00 am. The book for the month will be Winter Garden by Kristin Hannah.

Do you have a group or committee meeting or birth announcement - the LIFE TOGETHER deadline is the 15th of each month.

2011-2012 First Federated Church Concert Series Continues

January 6th (7:30 pm), 7th (3 pm), & 8th (10 am)

Amahl and the Night Visitors

This family friendly retelling of the Epiphany story was the first opera ever written expressly for television in 1961 by American composer Gian Carlo Menotti. Sung in English by an all-member cast, this work tells of the young, crippled boy and his mother who intervene on the Wise Men's journey to see the Christ Child.

Admission is free, but tickets are required for the Friday & Saturday performances.

Call 685-5258 or e-mail info@ffcpeoria.com for information.

The Concert Series continues into 2012 with three additional concerts on Sunday, February 19th, Sunday, March 25th and Sunday, May 6th. Watch the LIFE TOGETHER for further details.



First Federated Church of Peoria

3601 N Sheridan Road
Peoria, IL 61604
309-685-5258
www.ffcpeoria.com

WELCOME

PROGRAM & SUPPORT STAFF

- Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Forrest Krummel
Associate Pastor: Rev. Daren Hofmann
Director of Youth Ministries: Amy O'Brien
Director of Children's Ministries: Kim Snarr
Director of Music: Dr. Brian Russell
Organist: Stephen Sieger
Director of Children's Music: Michael Schneider
Preschool Director: Debbie Allen
Sunday Nursery Attendant: Kirsten Hanson
Administrative Assistant: Lisa Hoepker
Building Manager: Tony Beal
Operations Manager: Robert Disharoon
Secretary: Cecelia Walter

LIFE TOGETHER (USPS 110-900) IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY FIRST FEDERATED CHURCH, 3601 N SHERIDAN ROAD, PEORIA, IL 61604 PERIODICALS—POSTAGE PAID - PEORIA, ILLINOIS POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: FIRST FEDERATED CHURCH, 3601 N SHERIDAN ROAD, PEORIA IL 61604

SUNDAY SCHEDULE 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. Worship
Nursery Available - 10 am Worship
Children & Youth Sunday School - 10 am Worship
(after Children's Message)