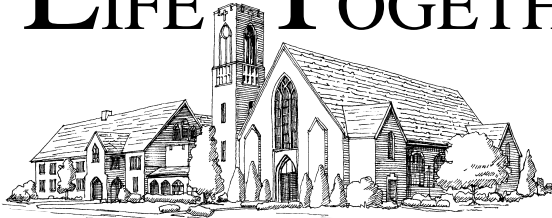




LIFE TOGETHER



First Federated Church
"Making Disciples"

August 2007 Vol. 71/No. 7



VBS 2007 "SUPERHEROES OF FAITH"



What an AMAZING week! Nearly 100 children and 70 volunteers spent 5 evenings learning about heroes of the Bible. Some highlights of the week include:



...nightly meals for all, lots of singing, energetic recreation time both outdoors and in, "brain training" to learn about our Biblical heroes, and the ever-popular "Hands-On Factory" where children made various art projects, drew and painted

their own superhero designs on wood, drove a Superhero car, designed their own driver's license, made "Light Your Fire" candles, witnessed crazy science, tried a variety of fruits and vegetables, and video-taped their team chant.



Along with all the excitement of the activities, there were much subtler things happening that were even more impressive. Throughout the week, you could see:



- Little ones forgetting to look for mom because they were having too much fun
- Normally shy children laughing and dancing uninhibited

- Preteens dropping their initial reserve and "getting into the spirit" of the week
- High schoolers coaching kids, and college students sharing their faith
- Adults leaving their dignity at the door to jump into the fun
- New friendships forming at every level...children and adults alike



A recent quote included in Frosty's weekly eNews sums up the week:

There is no situation so chaotic that God cannot, from that situation, create something that is surprisingly good.

(God) did it at the Creation. (God) did it at the Cross. (God) is doing it today.

—Bishop Moule



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"Be strong and courageous...for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

—Joshua 1:9

For The Record

Baptism:



Madeline May Vlach

Daughter of Megan & Rob Vlach
Born March 19, 2007

Birth:



Ian Jacob Foster

Son of Heather & Jim Foster
Born June 23, 2007

New Member:

Brad Sears



*Welcome,
Brad!*

The Church Triumphant:



Bonnie Linneman

completed this
part of Life on
July 12, 2007.

Please keep her family and
friends in your prayers.

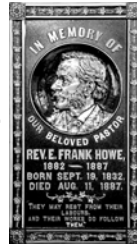
*Blessed in the sight
of the Lord is the
death of His Saints.*

Psalm 116:15

News Around The Church

Rev. E. Frank Howe Memorial Tablet from the FFC Archive by Barbara Meyn

On Monday, July 2, the copper-bronze tablet in memory of the Rev. Elijah Franklin Howe, pastor of the First Congregational Church from 1882 to 1887, was installed in the chapel. The tablet had been in storage since 1936 when it was discovered in the fire wreckage of the First Congregational Church



building. The project was initiated by the FFC Archive Committee. Don Gustin of Joan's Trophy & Plaque Co. arranged for its restoration by Matthews International of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and installed the tablet. The project was financed with FFC Memorial Funds.

DOLLARS Treasurer's Mid Year Financial Report For 2007 **SENSE** from Merv Rennich, Treasurer

Summary

Financially, FFC fared quite well over the first six months of 2007. Adjusted Operating Fund receipts are meeting expenses. The Endowment Fund, while not growing, has maintained its assets while undergoing a change of funds management. A dim spot has been the Heating System Capital Campaign where, after three years, income did not meet expenses. And as a matter of normal course, the Nursery Fund maintained its well-managed income and

expenses while running at capacity. In this rather comfortable position, however, there is reason for concern regarding the rest of the year and 2008. Because the 2007 budget had to be cut back, some programs have not been implemented, missions have been reduced, staff salaries were frozen, and additional staff and program needs will require a higher operating budget for 2008 all depending on a stewardship increase.



Treasurer's Mid Year Financial Report For 2007 continued...

from Merv Rennich, Treasurer

Operating Fund (Year-to-date through June 2007)

Total Receipts	\$ 413,145.45*	Adjusted Total Receipts	\$329,793.45
Total Disbursements	\$ <u>297,159.71</u>		<u>\$297,159.71</u>
Net Total	\$ 115,985.74		\$ 32,633.74

*Includes \$166,704 of pre-paid pledges, escrow account transfers and 2006 carryover.

Balance Sheet \$ 195,578.65

Endowment Fund (Year-to-date through June 2007)

Total Receipts	\$ 20,325.18		
Total Disbursements	\$ <u>0.00</u>		
Net Total	\$ 20,325.18	Total Assets	\$1,441,628.75

Stewardship

After receiving input from the various church committees and groups, an initial budget for 2007 was set at \$752,388. Following the stewardship campaign in the fall of 2006, the budget was revised downward to \$690,888. It was hoped that the stewardship drive would generate \$671,088 from membership pledges. It ended up being only \$548,545, a shortfall of over \$122,000. This meant cutting the missions and communications budget, and not giving staff any salary increases while maintaining funding for an associate pastor. It also meant transferring undesignated escrow accounts in the amount of \$34,695 to the operating fund along with an endowment transfer of \$25,000 which the original budget did not include. In addition, a general reserve account of \$10,000 was eliminated.

The stewardship campaign for 2008 will again present a formidable challenge for the members of First Federated Church. A number of things that have been put off need to be addressed, like increasing our missions.

Not too many years ago, over 20% of FFC's operating budget was for missions. The intent was for it to grow to 25%. After all, that should be a very great part of what our church is about. Sadly though, the portion of our operating budget given to missions has dropped down to just over 10%.

The Finance Committee has made a commitment not to ask the membership for special appeals or fund-


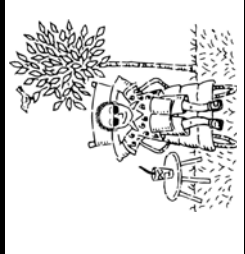

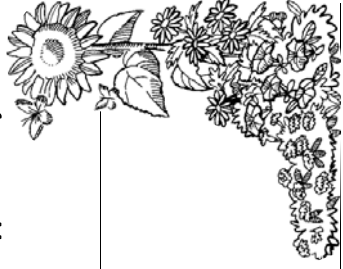
raising other than the four special mission offerings. Special projects will be funded by borrowings from Endowment earnings and paid back from Operating Fund receipts which include pledges. Hopefully, by not having to fund special projects, this would allow the membership to increase their pledge giving.

And instead of tapping the endowment for operating fund shortfalls, we should be able to keep the church running with our pledges and other normal receipts, and, at the same time build up an operating reserve fund. We also need to give attention to our personnel to provide them with adequate salary increases.

What does this all mean? We know that for 2007 a good many members (163 member units) increased their pledge, some substantially, and for that we thank you. At the same time almost a fourth of our member units (105) did not pledge at all. 32 member units decreased their pledge and 120 member units made no change to their pledge.

In several months the 2008 Stewardship Campaign will begin. To meet the church's programs for next year everyone needs to seriously consider this matter. We do not expect those who substantially increased their pledge for 2007 to do so again unless they are able. However, we do ask all others, those who have not pledged, to please do so, and those who can, consider giving substantially more for 2008.

August 2007 at First Federated Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 5 8:00 Worship-Garth 9:00 Adult Sunday School 10:00 Worship, Sunday School 5:00 Sr. High-Scavenger Hunt	 6 8:00 PEO 5:15 TOPS 7:00 Building & Grounds	 7 4:30 Missions	1 8:30 Clergy Bible Study 10:00 Yoga 7:00 Worship Committee	2	3	4
12 8:00 Worship-Garth 8:45 Mustard Seed Task Force 9:00 Adult Sunday School 10:00 Worship, Sunday School	13 5:15 TOPS	14 7:00 Finance	8 8:30 Clergy Bible Study 9:00-1:00 Great Central-Commons 10:00 Yoga	9	10 6:30 Deacons' Picnic at Bantis' home	11
19 8:00 Worship-Garth 9:00 Adult Sunday School 10:00 Worship, Sunday School 4:00 Sr. High-Sailing	20 5:15 TOPS	21 8:00 Old Buddies at Bob Evans-Allen Rd.	15 8:30 Clergy Bible Study 10:00 Yoga	16 7:00 Executive Board	17	18
26 8:00 Worship-Garth 9:00 Adult Sunday School 9:15 Shepherd Meeting 10:00 Worship, Sunday School 11:15 Computer & Preschool Team Meeting 5:00-7:15 Middle School-Bowling	27 5:15 TOPS	28 9:00 Presbytery Council	22 Deadline for Life Together Articles 8:30 Clergy Bible Study 10:00 Yoga	23	24	25 9:00 Women's Book Club at Apple's Bakery
5 8:00 Worship-Garth 9:00 Adult Sunday School 10:00 Worship, Sunday School 11:15 Computer & Preschool Team Meeting 5:00-7:15 Middle School-Bowling	6 8:00 PEO 5:15 TOPS 7:00 Building & Grounds	7 4:30 Missions	8 8:30 Clergy Bible Study 9:00-1:00 Great Central-Commons 10:00 Yoga	9	10 6:30 Deacons' Picnic at Bantis' home	11
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Kids' Kingdom News

"SUPERHEROES OF FAITH"



First Federated's Vacation Bible School was once again a wonderful week of fun and learning! We hosted around 90 children with the assistance of a HUGE number of volunteers.

THANK YOU to our FFC friends and family listed below who helped out in some aspect of VBS!

Margit Alderson	Heather Foster	Jill Koch	Dan Moore	Ann Rude	Matt VandeWiele
Todd Alderson	Dale Glatz	Drew Kowalske	Carol Nelson	Brittany Schaefer	Carrie Wahlfeld
Tony Beal	Matt Goldhammer	Alyssa Kowalske	Claudia Northrup	Maureen Schoen	Hadley Wahlfeld
Stacey Carlson	Heather Hanson	Judy Lowd	Lauren Northrup	Ann Schoen	John Wahlfeld
Joyce Dalton	Mark Hanson	Caitlin McCormick	Brian Northrup	Chase Snarr	Jill Wahlfeld
Ralph Dalton	Kirsten Hanson	Cameron McCormick	Fiona O'Laughlin	Karmin Stevens	Julie Walder
Bo Driscoll	Barb Hein	Sarah Mooney	Sean O'Laughlin	Karin Terry	Dee Walker
Pam Elwood	Dana Hobson	Michelle Mooney	Tracy Pogue	Jo Tucker	Andrea Wiebmer
Heather Engler	Debbie Howard	Susan Moore	Kim Predmore	Jennifer VandeWiele	Carol Williams
Cory Foster	Kris Jockisch	Cindy Moore	Cheryl Resnick		

Bible Dedication is September 16, 2007! All preschoolers and 3rd graders will receive Bibles.

Please return your postcard indicating the full spelling of your child's name (for engraving purposes) as soon as possible. If you have



not yet received a letter and postcard, please contact Kim Snarr at 685-5258 so we can be sure to include him or her on this special day!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

At FFC, we are looking for caring, Christ-centered teens & adults **of any age** to serve in a variety of areas. As you look ahead to the coming school year, please prayerfully consider how **you** can serve...

SHEPHERD MINISTRY

Meeting Date: Sunday, 8/26, at 9:15 a.m.

Team Leader: Cindy Morris, Ph 688-4266
Skills/Traits Needed: Caring, nurturing personality & love of children
Commitment: Semi-regular attendance at Sunday school shared with 1 or 2 others. Occasional corre-

spondence with your assigned children.
NO prep work is needed... just nurture and build relationships with a specific group of children. (You are NOT the teacher.)

COMPUTER TEAM

Meeting Date: Sunday, 8/26, at 11:00 a.m.

Team Leader: t.b.d./Kim Snarr, Ph 685-5258
Skills Needed: Very basic knowledge & an interest in computers

Commitment: ONE planning meeting on August 26 after worship; periodic Sunday School teaching throughout the year.

WORKSHOP LEADERS (a.k.a. Sunday School Teachers)

Contact Person: Kim Snarr, Ph 685-5258
Skills Needed: Varied... art, science, storytelling, cooking, carpentry... any interest you have that can be shared with children and related to faith in Je-

sus. All lesson plans are provided.
Commitment: Four consecutive weeks of teaching the same lesson plan to different age groups.

Middle School Youth Group (6th-8th Graders)

Bowling at Landmark Lanes on August 26th at 5:00 - 7:15 p.m.

The cost is \$6/person. Included is pizza, soda, shoe rental and 2 hours of bowling. Please meet at

Landmark Lanes. Be there or be square!



Say "Yes!" to Y.E.S. (Youth Engaged in Service) - *What a wonderful response and a huge success!*

Over 240 hours of volunteer labor was given to our church through the efforts of our 5th-12th graders. 16-20 youth gathered each Monday for four weeks to offer their energy to tasks around the church building. Jobs included: 3rd floor attic clean-up, Sr. High

Room organized, Jr. High room cleaned, Sunday School classrooms moved & set-up, front yard weeding, boulders removed from Columbarium grounds, VBS decorating, children worship bags assembled, and a whole lot more.

Hanna Bechtold	Claire Goldhammer	Drew Kowalske	Caitlin McCormick	Nicholas Schlicksup	Danielle Snarr
Tucker Bechtold	Matt Goldhammer	Matt Long	Jordan Morris	Alexis Skaggs	Hadley Wahlfeld
Ross Brimberry	Megan Koch	Caleigh McCormick	Chris Predmore	Kassidy Skaggs	Jillian Wahlfeld
Brandon Forbis	Alyssa Kowalske	Cameron McCormick	Garrick Predmore	Chase Snarr	Michael Walder
Dakota Forbis					Ozzy Walder

Adult Help: Heather Engler, Carrie Wahlfeld, Sue Parks, and Carol Nelson

Senior High & Junior High St. Louis Trip (Including 6 Flags) September 2 - 3

"Come out, Come out, wherever you are!" It's time to start off the year with your church friends. Gather with old friends and make some new ones. It's the perfect time to join the Junior High or Senior High group!

Who? Junior Highs (6th-8th) and Senior Highs (9th-12th)

What? A Gathering Event for Fall!!!

Where? Trip to St. Louis with a visit to Eden Seminary & 6 Flags

When? Departure: Sunday, September 2nd @ 9:00 a.m.

Return: Monday, September 3rd @ 7:00 p.m.

Cost? \$38/kid

A separate mailing will include all the details. Space will be limited (approximately 25 Senior Highs & 20 Junior Highs). Mark your calendar now!!



Senior High Youth Group News (9th-12th Graders)

Sunday Mornings

Sr. Highs continue to alternate between worship and Sunday School. Every Sunday we will begin in worship. On Sunday School weeks we will meet in the 3rd floor Sr. High Room following the Children's Moment. Our curriculum focuses on such topics as: "Dating Dummies;" "Home Sweet Home;" "Poverty;" "Decision Making;" and "Grace Place."

August 5	Sunday School
August 12	Worship
August 19	Sunday School
August 26	Worship
September 2	Sunday School

Sunday Nights & Weekdays

We have 2 more events for our summer calendar. It would be great to have a large turnout for both. Mark your calendars and we'll see you there!

July 29 No Sr. Highs

August 5 5-7 p.m. Scavenger Hunt Meet at church promptly. Bring \$3 for dinner, we will eat in route.

August 12 No Sr. Highs

August 19 4-7 p.m. This should be *awesome!* (weather permitting) Norm and Barb Meyn have graciously agreed to take the Sr. Highs sailing and pontooning. We will gather at the Illinois Valley Yacht Club at 5102 N. Galena Road. We will make "camp" at the

beach on the north side of the facility. Our hope is to have a bonfire and eat outside. See you there!

August 26 No Sr. Highs

F.Y.I.- Great News... Most weeks youth ask me: "Who is coming tonight?" or "How many will be there?" or "Where is so and so? I haven't seen them in a couple of weeks." Due to this, I would LOVE to be able to give an informed response. I'm not expecting people to RSVP each week. I'm just letting you know it is nice to hear from you. So, if you know your plans for an event, feel free to drop me an email at aobrien@ffcpeoria.com, or call me at the church 685-5258.

Adult Christian Education

Bible Study Series led by Ralph Schoen at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday - 1st Floor Lounge

Through August 26: "Committed to Doing Right"

The Adult Bible Class will be studying the teachings of several Old Testament prophets to understand the application to our lives today.



Included in our study are the teachings of Amos, Micah, and Jeremiah.

Each session is a stand-alone lesson. Therefore, if you cannot attend each Sunday, you are still welcome at any time.

Social Groups

Frosty's Old Buddies by Ned Loar and Phil Withrow

Join us for our monthly breakfast at Bob Evans on Allen Road at 8:00 a.m., the third Tuesday of each month. We will meet in

the back room and order off of the menu. We don't care if you come early or late, but you will enjoy a time of *fellowship*,



food, and FUN. The next breakfast will be on **August 21**. Reservations are not needed, just show up & enjoy!



Women's Book Club meets at Apple's Bakery at 9:00 a.m. on the following Saturdays.

Marley and Me by John Grogan
August 25th

Catering to Nobody by Diane Mott Davidson
September 22nd

Light on Snow by Anita Shreve
October 27th

Life Together Short Notes

Common Place's 21st Annual Walk for Reading Saturday, September 8

Registration 8:00 a.m. Event 8:30 a.m.
\$20 individual registration fee/\$30 family fee
Teams welcomed

Get lots of sponsors – there's no limit

Two routes available:

5K "Novel" Walk or 1 mile "Short Story" Walk

Prizes – Silent Auction – Free Brunch – Bake Sale

Registration packets are available at the front desk at FFC.

ATTENTION DEACONS!

Bring your families and join in a picnic!

WHEN: Friday, August 10th at 6:30 p.m.

WHERE: Donna and Ted Bantis' home

BRING: A potluck dish to share.
Meat & lemonade will be provided

NEED A RIDE or DIRECTIONS: Call Barbara Hein

RSVP: To Donna by August 3rd

Hope you can all come for an evening of Swimming, Fellowship, Fun and getting to know your fellow Deacons!



Front Desk Substitute Receptionists Needed

If you would like to occasionally volunteer a half-day (either 8:30-12:30 or 12:30-4:30) during the week, please call Janet Baker-Schoff. The phone system is very simple to learn, plus you can get your reading done, letters written, bills paid, etc. while you help the church.



Habitat Project Back On Track

With recent changes in city codes, the start date for the construction of our Habitat for Humanity house was delayed. Permits have been secured, and we will begin work on the last weekend in September. Co-Coordinator, Kent Kowalske, has set us a special email address to communicate with workers and volunteers: ffchabitat@insightbb.com. Keep up to date with Kent through that address.

*Thank you, Sally Stone, for donating
three large stainless steel
serving bowls for the kitchen.*



GLIMPSE OF GRACE. . . by Frosty

Dear Dr. Krummel,

I wanted to write and thank you for helping me get my own hearing aids. My hearing aids are pink and white. I picked those because they are my favorite colors. I can hear well with them. I can hear everything now. NOW I can take them home and hear my family. When my batteries are dead my hearing aids make a soft beeping noise. Then I know to change my batteries. Thank you so much for helping to buy my new hearing aids. I love them!

Your friend,
(Name withheld)

That was a letter that I received on behalf of our Missions Committee several months ago. It was written by a little girl in one of our public elementary schools. Her family are new immigrants to our great land. It was thought that she was a "slow learner." During routine tests at her school, though, it was discov-

ered that she was actually a very bright young girl. She just couldn't hear!

If you've ever purchased or priced hearing aids, you know that they are *shockingly* expensive. They are not covered by health insurance (they are not considered a necessity). Her family certainly could not afford to buy the much needed aids. In light of the situation, the teachers, counselors, custodians and other school staff began to collect money, hoping to raise enough to help this young child. As the school year drew closer to the end, it became obvious that they would fall short of their goal.

It was at this point in the young girl's story that her plight came to the attention of the Missions Committee. After talking things over, the committee unanimously decided to authorize the Missions moderator to tell the school that we would make up the hearing aid shortfall.

A short time later the Mis-

sions Committee and I received letters and a picture from the little girl. Her smile in the picture said it all. She was excited, and, I believe, God was glorified.

Too often we restrict the work of the Church to the Church. We unintentionally imply that if you aren't doing something through the church, then you aren't doing something in the name of Christ. If this was really what God intended, then Jesus would have neither healed nor taught anyone outside of the Temple setting. But you may recall, that is not what Jesus did.

He taught on a hillside and healed in homes and along the way. That is what we, as a part of the Body of Christ called First Federated Church, are called to do.

Do not neglect to do good, the Letter to the Hebrews advises. There is a big hurting world out there. We are called to minister to that world, to share the love of God found through Christ, to all places, at all times and in all settings.

And that is a *glimpse of grace*.

"There is a big hurting world out there. We are called to minister to that world."

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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
Wayne Macomber	Chancel Choir Director
Richard Tomic	Organist, Handbell Director
Shannon Helms	Cherub Choir Co-Director
Kay Sauder	Cherub Choir Co-Director
Mary Delicath	Choir Section Leader
Karen Henderson	Choir Section Leader
Randy Sleeth	Choir Section Leader

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