

March 2011 Vol. 76 No. 3

Organ Recitals Coming...

Director of Music Dr. Brian Russell and Organist Steve Sieger announced a six week *Lenten Organ Recital* series which will begin on *Ash Wednesday*, March 9. Each recital will begin at 6:30 pm and precede our annual Wednesday evening Lenten worship services.

FFC organist Mr. Steve Sieger will open the series with a variety of Lenten selections. Future soloists will include Mr. Ryan Klaus, the Organist of the Madison Avenue United Methodist Church in Peoria and the Faith United Methodist Church in East Peoria (March 16), Mr. Keith Williams, Organist and Choir Director of the St. John Lutheran Church in Champaign (March 23), Dr. Sherry Seckler, Director of Music, Roman Catholic Diocese of Peoria (March 30), Mrs. Doris Hill, Adjunct professor of Organ, Illinois Wesleyan University-Bloomington, and Dr. Susan Klotzbach, Organist at First Baptist Church in Peoria.

This organ series of sacred music is made possible by the gifts of First Federated Church. It is open to the public and it is free.

The refurbishing of our 38-rank organ was made possible by the generous gifts of Ben Sommer, an Anonymous Donor, and a matching gift from the congregation's undesignated General Bequest Fund.



Lenten Worship Opportunities...

We will begin our preparation for the event that lies at the very heart of the Christian faith - The Resurrection - with a series of vesper services beginning on *Ash Wednesday*, March 9. These half-hour communion services will begin at 7 pm each Wednesday evening during Lent, following our organ recital series. The services are participatory and family friendly. Make this time of special worship a part of your *Lenten Journey*. For more information you can contact Rev. Daren Hofmann at dhofmann@ffcpeoria.com or 685-5258.

Our Chancel Choir will present J.S. Bach's

St. John Passion. This powerful piece of music depicts Christ's last days on earth from the betrayal to the crucifixion. Experienced soloists will join the Choir, including renowned tenor Drake Dantzier from Detroit, in the role of Evangelist. The service will take place on Good Friday, April 22, at 7:00pm and will feature soloists from the choir and a chamber orchestra of 22 musicians.

... *worship*, as we praise and glorify God;
 ... *mission*, as we embody God's love;
 ... *fellowship*, as we love and care for one another;
 ... *giving*, as we express gratitude to God.

EDUCATION CONNECTION

Adult & Youth Education New Class

30 Days Class: What would it be like live on minimum wage, to be Muslim in America, or to be an illegal immigrant in the country? This class will be exploring differing view points within modern society utilizing the television show *30 Days*. Join us for dinner and discussion the last three Sundays of March (13, 20, 27). We will meet from 5 to 7 in the Commons. You can RSVP by contacting Rev. Daren Hofmann dhofmann@ffcpeoria.com or 685-5258.

Jack and Jill, Bo Peep and Mother's Day Out News

A HUGE THANK YOU to the members of the FFC Preschool Committee for their dedication and hard work on the committee and, most recently, for their work in preparation for Preschool Sunday: Teresa Brown, Angela Chihoski, Kris Jockisch, Clare Seshul, Kim Snarr, Debbie Allen, Jennifer Vandewiele, Preschool Committee Moderator (*Editor's note: Thank you to Jennifer and her team for putting together a wonderful Jack and Jill/Bo Peep video shown in worship on "Preschool Sunday." Also, thank you to the preschool teachers and families outside of our faith community who shared the morning with us.*)

FELLOWSHIP CONNECTION

Remembering Our Heritage...Immediately following our 10:00 AM service on March 20 we will have a chili dinner commemorating the 75th anniversary of the fire instrumental in leading to the federation of First Congregational Church and Second Presbyterian Church. A commemorative video will be unveiled that morning.

MISSION CONNECTION

Habitat House Update (local)...The dedication of our third *Habitat for Humanity* house will be at 5:30 p.m. on March 1. FFC worked with the Bradley University *Habitat for Humanity* chapter in the construction of this house dedicated to the memory of former member and long-time *Habitat* director Fred Kowalske. For more information, please check our web site, *1stNEWS* e-newsletter, *Facebook* page or weekly bulletin insert *Home Edition*.

Habitat for Humanity (national)...Our work crew returned home from their Habitat build in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi.

CHURCH FAMILY CONNECTION

Completed This Part of Life:

- Helene Easton, January 27, 2011
- Marjorie Stever, February 10, 2011
- Jane Benjamin, February 22, 2011

Blessed in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints (Psalm 116:15, KJV)

Baptism

- Brianna Rachelle Cox & Evan Daniel Cox, the children of Wade and Jennifer Cox, February 20, 2011.

New Member

- Anna Krummel, by letter of transfer from 1st Presbyterian Church, Burlington, Iowa, February 17, 2011.

Dr. Robert Gillogly is now home. You may send him cards at his home address.

FFC GROUP CONNECTIONS

- **Sunday Supper Club** will meet on Sunday, March 6 at 5:30 p.m. Dean Johnson of the Forest Park Foundation will present "Our Illinois Valley Woods and Animals." This is a potluck.
- **FOB** (Frosty's Old Buddies) meets the 3rd Tuesday each month at Bob Evans on Allen Road.
- **Book Club @ Apples' Bakery 9 am March 26th:** This month's selection is Markus Zusak's The Book Thief. April's book is The Other Wes Moore by Wes Moore.
- **Mothers' Club:** will meet on March 22 @ 12:00 pm in The Commons. This is the annual "salad luncheon." Please bring a salad to share.
- **Prayer Shawl Knitting Group** meets each Tuesday at 8:30 am.
- **MOSAIC (Mothers of School Age and Infant Children)—Movie Night.** Save the date for Thursday, March 31st. We'll do a girls' night out with a 7pm-ish movie and dessert afterward. Movie title to be determined as time gets closer. Sign up at church if you are interested and we'll contact you with specific details.



March 2011 Children & Youth Newsletter



**First Federated
Church** of Peoria

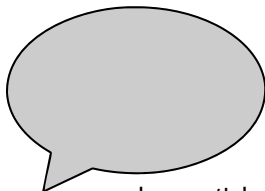
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Help Kids Use Positive Language

As the Bible describes in James 3, the tongue may be small, but it can do an awful lot of damage. Unfortunately, name-calling, cursing, bickering, whining, and putdowns find their way into most homes. Yet our words also have the power to heal, mend rifts, encourage other people, and praise God. Proverbs 25: 11 (NIV) compares well-chosen and well-timed words to “apples of gold in settings of silver.”

This month’s newsletter explores ways to get your children talking in positive, God-pleasing ways. Use these tips to get started:

Walk the walk, talk the talk. Kids are listening, so watch your own language and model appropriate talk—even when you think little ears aren’t listening.



Teach children how to apologize. Hurtful “unsaid,” but people can offer heartfelt apologies and change their ways. Offer examples of how to say sorry, and remember to seek children’s forgiveness when you mess up.

Listen up! Proverbs 10: 19 contains valuable advice that often goes unheeded: “Be sensible and keep your mouth shut.” Help children understand the importance of stopping to think before you speak. When in doubt, it’s always better to seal your lips rather than say something you may regret.

Praise God throughout the day. Talk frequently about how good God is and thank him for his many blessings. Share favorite Bible passages, pray with one another, and brainstorm ways you can serve God and other people. When we focus on God and good words, our mouths and lives will bear good fruit.

Say What?!

The use of profanity among young children is on the rise, according to researcher Timothy Jay. Kids no longer learn curse words from peers at school; instead, they hear them at home. Nearly two-thirds of surveyed adults said that despite prohibiting their children from swearing at home, they break their own rules regularly. This double standard confuses and irritates kids, most of whom say they’re frightened when their parents curse.

(www.livescience.com, www.findarticles.com)



Ask God:

1. To help you and your kids use positive, God-pleasing words.
2. To guard your tongue from temptations to curse or use his name in vain.
3. To help your family members use words that uplift one another.

Parenting Insights

These guidelines from *Children’s Ministry Magazine* describe how profanity affects children:

Ages 2 to 5

Preschoolers simply repeat what they hear, so try to limit media exposure. Don’t react to foul language with shock or anger; calmly explain that those words hurt people’s feelings.

Ages 6 to 9

Explain that words are “bad” when they’re used to hurt others. Also explain that misusing God’s name is disrespectful. Tell children we can use God’s name to praise him or pray to him.

Ages 10 to 12

Preteens use profanity to get a reaction from adults and to impress friends. Let them know that obscene language and gestures aren’t acceptable, and teach them discernment to censor their own language.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES *(Birth—6th grade)*

Teachable Moments

"Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them."

Ephesians 4:29

Words are powerful. God tells us to use language to build people up, not tear them down.

Teachable Moments

1. **"Cheer"ful Words**—As a family, come up with catchy cheers or cheerful words for each other.
2. **It's All in the Delivery**—When speaking, watch your tone and delivery. Say some words short, or staccato, and draw out others. These changes will keep your words interesting to children and just plain fun. For older kids, help them notice how their tone and delivery can affect how others react to them...both positively and negatively.
3. **Sign Up**—Children love to learn sign language, so use motions to reinforce Bible lessons. Check out a library book or video about sign language. Learn how to sign phrases such as "Jesus loves me" or "Jesus is our healer."
4. **Out-of-This-World Names**—Help children come up with creative names for God that describe what he's done for us, such as heart-fixer-upper, happily-dappily-loveful, sunny-joy-rageous.
5. **Non-verbal Words**—Don't forget to emphasize the importance of carefully considering the words expressed electronically... texting, facebook, emails. These words are easily misinterpreted.

This Month in SUNDAY SCHOOL

Each week we talk about important core virtues, or Christian values, by examining stories in the Bible and how to apply these virtues to our own lives.

Our structure: Children join their family in worship at 10am. After a children's message, children are led to the chapel for offering and announcements. Shepherds then guide the children through the rest of Sunday school time where the virtue and Bible story are presented in fun, dramatic, musical, and activity-based ways.

Virtue

Courage—being brave enough to do what you should do even when you're afraid.

Memory Verse

"When I am afraid, I will trust in you." • 1 Samuel 17:1-50

Chapel Offering/BABY SHOWER

Crittenton's CRISIS NURSERY

Bring in new baby supplies (diapers, formula, etc.)

For 30 years, Crittenton's Crisis Nursery has provided *free* 24-hour, 365-day childcare for families in crisis situations. The child who stays in the Crisis Nursery is safe, well-cared for and comforted for up to 72 hours. The child's parents are likewise supported by a caring environment in which they may ask for—and receive—help.

There are many reasons why families look to the Crisis Nursery: parental stress or other form of home crisis; medical care needed by another child in the family; domestic violence; mental health issues; homelessness. Whatever the reason, when a child comes to the Crisis Nursery, family stress is reduced... and the potential for child abuse or neglect is abated.

SHEPHERD SUNDAY is MARCH 27

During Sunday school, children will do a variety of Lenten-based activities with their shepherds...including making homemade pretzels.

Be sure your kids don't miss out on a chance to have a better understanding of what Lent is all about!

CHILDREN'S MUSIC DETAILS

All Sunday school children spend a bit of time each week in music learning songs. Then ALL children have an opportunity to sing during worship.

Mark your calendar for these REVISED singing dates....

March 6

Kindergarten—6th grade

April 17 Palm Sunday

ALL children sing

May 15 Music Sunday

ALL children sing



YOUTH MINISTRIES (6th—12th grade)

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH HAPPENINGS

9th—12th grades; *Point Person: Rev. Krummel*

Sunday Mornings

- March 6** No Sunday school—At Stronghold
March 13 “How Can I Be Sure of my Faith?” (w/Randy & Joe)
March 20 “Why and How do I Pray?” (w/Randy & Joe)
March 27 “Why and How Should I Read the Bible?” (w/Randy & Joe)

Senior High Youth Fellowship

- March 4-6** Stronghold Retreat
March 13 from 5-7pm 8th –12th graders & Parents
“30 Days: Minimum Wage” with Pastor Daren
March 20 from 5-7pm 8th –12th graders & Parents
“30 Days: Muslims & America” Pastor Daren
March 27 from 5-7pm 8th –12th graders & Parents
“30 Days: Immigration” with Pastor Daren

CONFIRMATION INFO

7th—8th grades
Point Person: Rev. Krummel

Sunday Mornings

- March 6** Stronghold/No Confirmation Class
March 13 “Shaping Up”; Teacher: Carrie Wahlfeld
March 20 “Surely God is Here”; Teacher: Laura Kowalske
March 27 “Walking Wet”; Guest Teacher: Rev. Frosty Krummel

Service Day at Midwest Food Bank On Saturday, April 2nd from 9:30—11:30 am

Current 7th, 8th, & Mentors will have first opportunity to serve at MFB. Then we will open this event to previous confirmands and their mentors as a reunion day. Make plans to join us. There are 20 spots available. Contact Carrie Wahlfeld or Rev. Krummel with questions.

Reminder to Mentors and 8th graders:
Use the 9 o'clock hour for meeting times.

YOUTH DIRECTOR UPDATE

Amy O'Brien will be on a leave of absence from March 7 — August 17. Rev. Hofmann and Rev. Krummel will divide the major areas of Youth Ministries. The assigned pastor will act as the point person for that area. Please offer your support, time, & energy to making this structure serve the ministry to our youth!

STRONGHOLD RETREAT

March 4—6
Proverbs 21:23

Please keep us in your prayers as a group of 8th—12th grade students celebrate the wonder of God, the beauty of the outdoors, and the joy of each other while exploring how we can “guard our tongues from trouble.”

MISSION TRIP 2011

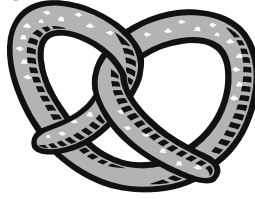
Point Person: Rev. Hofmann
Destination: Racine, WI
Dates: June 19—25
Cost: \$250

A \$100 payment was due on February 15. The next \$100 payment will be due March 15. Turn your money in to Pastor Daren to keep your spot!

FFC FAMILY MINISTRIES

PRETZEL/PRAYER SUNDAY

Our annual Pretzel/Prayer Sunday has been moved to Sunday, March 27. Be sure you don't miss this great opportunity to reflect on the meaning of Lent.



SACRAMENTS WORKSHOP

For 2nd graders & older PLUS family members

Sunday, March 20

11:30 am—1:00 pm

Lunch included

Join us for this educational milestone as you *and* your child learn more about baptism and communion. Then plan to join us at **7pm on Wednesday, March 23** when we'll celebrate their new understanding of Communion during our Lenten Vesper Service.

SAVE THE DATE!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

will be Sunday—Thursday, July 17-21



GREAT CENTRAL INPUT SESSIONS

We want the input of families as we *dream* about the potential for the new FFC property next door. Come share your great ideas or just listen to the possibilities. Plan to attend one of the following sessions in the Brides' Lounge:

Sunday, March 13 from 11:15-noon

or

Sunday, March 20 from 11:15-noon

*Nursery will be available
plus supervision in Starbright Theater.*

UPCOMING

At First Federated Church

Throughout March

Bring baby supplies to church for Crittenton Center's Crisis Nursery

Friday-Sunday, March 4-6

Senior Highs at Stronghold

Sunday, March 6

Kindergarten—6th sings in worship

Sunday, March 13 at 11:15am

Great Central Input Session

Sunday, March 20 at 11:30am

Sacraments Workshop

Sunday, March 27 at 11:15am

Great Central Input Session

Sunday, March 27

Shepherd Sunday & Pretzel Sunday

Saturday, April 2

Go & Serve at Midwest Food Bank for Confirmation Students & Mentors

Sunday, April 17 at 9:20am

Children prepare for Palm Sunday processional & singing



Sunday, April 24 EASTER

No Sunday school

Sunday—Thursday, July 17-21

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!!!!

March 2011 at First Federated Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
6 8:00 Worship & Communion 10:00 Worship, Sunday School 11:00 Handbell Rehearsal 5:30 Sunday Supper Club Sr. Hights return from Stronghold	7 12:15 PEO 7:00 Orpheus 7:00 Building & Grounds Committee	1 8:30 Prayer Shawl Group 9:30 Women's Bible Study 4:30 Mission Committee	2 8:30 Clergy Lectionary Group 5:00 Senior High Youth Stronghold Planning 6:00 Parenting with Love & Logic® (Optional dinner at 5:30 p.m.)	3 1:00 Mothers of Teens Bible Study 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	4 5:00 Senior Highs depart for Stronghold 6:00 PEO Chapter CZ	5
13 8:00 Worship 10:00 Worship, Sunday School 5:00-7:00 Senior High Youth 6:00 Adult Christian Education	14 7:00 Orpheus	8 8:30 Prayer Shawl Group 9:30 Women's Bible Study	9  ASH Wednesday 8:30 Clergy Lectionary Group 11:30 UCC HOI Cluster 6:30 Lenten Organ Recital 7:00 Lenten Vesper Service	10 1:00 Mothers of Teens Bible Study 6:30 Lifelink Info. Meeting 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	11	12
20 8:00 Worship 10:00 Worship, Sunday School 11:30 Sacraments Workshop 5:00-7:00 Senior High Youth 6:00 Adult Christian Education	21 7:00 Orpheus	15 Deadline for Life Together Articles 8:00 Old Buddies at Bob Evans-Allen Rd. 8:30 Prayer Shawl Group 9:30 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Finance Committee	16 8:30 Clergy Lectionary Group 2:00 North Peoria Women 6:30 Lenten Organ Recital 7:00 Lenten Vesper Service 7:30 Board of Deacons	17  ST. PATRICK'S DAY 1:00 Mothers of Teens Bible Study 6:00 Membership Committee 7:00 Executive Board 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	18	19
27 8:00 Worship 10:00 Worship—Pretzel Sunday Sunday School 5:00-7:00 Senior High Youth 6:00 Adult Christian Education	28 7:00 Orpheus	22 8:30 Prayer Shawl Group 9:30 Women's Bible Study	23 8:30 Clergy Lectionary Group 12:00 Mothers' Club 6:30 Lenten Organ Recital 7:00 Lenten Vesper Service Communion Celebration for kids	24 1:00 Mothers of Teens Bible Study 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	25	26 9:00 a.m. Women's Book Club at Apple's Bakery
6 8:00 Worship 10:00 Worship, Sunday School 11:00 Handbell Rehearsal 5:00-7:00 Senior High Youth 6:00 Adult Christian Education	7 7:00 Orpheus	29 8:30 Prayer Shawl Group 9:30 Women's Bible Study	30 8:30 Clergy Lectionary Group 6:30 Lenten Organ Recital 7:00 Lenten Vesper Service	31 1:00 Mothers of Teens Bible Study 7:00 MOSAIC—Movie Night 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	Join us <i>Wednesdays starting March 9</i> 6:30 p.m. ~ Lenten Organ Recital 7:00 p.m. ~ Lenten Vesper Service	

A FINAL WORD ABOUT LIFE TOGETHER

We tend to think of people and things as being fixed and permanent. As much as we laud reinvention, our instinct is to see things as they are and imagine that they have always been and always will be that way. In doing this we close off the possibility of new--often better-- ways of doing things. As we enter into 2011 we are trying to make the most efficient use of our staffs' time and our resources. We will be updating our web site and encourage you to make better use of it (www.ffcpeoria.com). If you live out of town or are a shut in, upon request, we will mail you a copy of our weekly Home Edition bulletin insert. You may also be added to our weekly IstNEWS email newsletter list which is sent every Monday. Contact the church office via phone or any of the emails below to make these requests.



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SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Worship
Nursery Available
Children & Youth Sunday School
(after Children's Message)

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