

May 2008 Vol. 72/No. 4

## *May is blooming at First Federated Church!*

### *May 4 – Psalm Sunday*

Throughout the centuries, Christians have learned to pray by praying the Psalms. On May 4 our Chancel Choir will lead us in worship with their annual selection of Psalms.

### *May 11 – Mother's Day and Pentecost Sunday*



Our Handbell Choir will present music throughout the service. The worship service will close with a special "Gift to our Mothers" presented by violinist, EmmaLee Holmes-Hicks. Help us celebrate Pentecost by wearing something *red* to church on this Sunday.

### *May 18 – Youth Sunday*

Join us in this annual celebration of the gifts that our youth bring to our life together at First Federated Church. Enjoy a worship service filled with puppetry, singing, Sr. High leadership, and instrumentalists.

### *May 25 – Memorial Day Sunday*

During worship we will continue the tradition of remembering those who have fallen in service to their country by the use of music, hymns, and spoken word.



***Throughout the month of May we will continue to have a more relaxed worship service in The Commons each Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock. Special music will be provided at this service by members, family and friends of our congregation.***

### Feature Articles

For the Record	2	Mission News	3	Social Groups	5-6	Calendar	7
News Around the Church	2-3	Christian Education	4-5	Thank You Notes	6	Glimpse of Grace	8

# For The Record

## Birth:



**Matthew William Seshul**  
Son of Clare & Grant Seshul  
Born on March 29, 2008

## Wedding:



**Kirstin Sleeth**  
&  
**Matthew Moore**  
were married on  
March 21, 2008.

## New Members:

*Welcome!*

*Welcome!*

*Welcome!*

Photos are not available on our web newsletter.

**Alice Racine**

**Tracy Roth**

**Katie Wicks & Brian David**

**Rose & Glenn Sunderland**

Photos provided by Norm Meyn.  
Thank You, Norm!

**Melissa & Shad Sleeth**

# News Around The Church



## 4 O'CLOCK WORSHIP

Join us on Sunday afternoons at 4 o'clock in the Commons. The service is very similar to our well attended summer Worship in the Garth. This service currently features light jazz piano and excellent

musical offerings by the youth of our congregation. The afternoon's message is reflective of the morning sermon. This is an excellent way to end your day and begin a new week.

## Join Us in Prayer...

On the second Sunday morning of each month from 9:00-9:30 a.m. you may participate in a prayer group. We pray for members and friends



of FFC, for our community, for the world and for individual concerns. The next gathering will be on **Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup>** in the pastor's study.

## The Church Triumphant:

- Lou Hamilton** completed this part of Life on April 4, 2008.
- Our condolences to **Sarah & Daren Hofmann** upon the death of Sarah's grandmother.
- Mary Jayne "Alex" Iber** completed this part of Life on April 3, 2008.
- Our condolences to **Vicky & George Sales** upon the death of George's father.
- Our condolences to **Dee & Monte Walker** upon the death of Dee's father.

Please keep their 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 continued...

## Christian Education Committee Retreat — Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>

The CE Committee is having a retreat on **Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00 a.m. - noon** at FFC. We will be plan-

ning for the 2008-09 school year. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to the church at 685-5258.

## Preschool News

Registration for next year's preschool classes continues. It's not too late to sign up for Bo-Peep Nursery School, our program for three year olds. We offer two and three morning per week classes and First Feder-

preschool registration



ated Church members receive a reduction in tuition fees. Children must be three years old prior to September 1, 2008. Please call Debbie Allen for more information, 685-5258, ext. 18.

## Family FUNday is Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup> following worship!

Mark your calendar for our annual First Federated ALL CHURCH 2008 Family FUNday on June 29<sup>th</sup>.



Plan to join us for lunch and fun for everyone outside following worship.



## Choirs' Appreciation Breakfast is Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup> in Fellowship Hall at 8:20 a.m.

All choirs—adult, bell, & children's—are invited to the Choirs' Appreciation Breakfast on Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:20 a.m. in

Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP by calling the church (685-5258) or e-mailing (info@ffcpeoria.com) by May 20<sup>th</sup>.

## After a Hundred Weddings and a Milestone Birthday, It's Time.

I am sure many of you realize a church cannot function without the tireless work of members behind the scenes. Our Wedding Coordinator, **Sue Parks**, is definitely one of these people. We have been blessed to have Sue in this role. Wedding days can be hectic in the best of situations. We can be thankful for Sue's calming influence and servant heart. The work is more than "getting the job done." It is an opportunity for the church to extend itself to our members and embrace



the special day. Sue has served First Federated so well over the past years. We are grateful for Sue's service.

However, things change and after a hundred weddings and a milestone birthday Sue has told us she would like to retire from the Wedding Coordinator role. **We will recognize her ministry during our fellowship time following the 10 o'clock worship service on May 25.**

"Be sure to thank Sue for her ministry among us."

— Ralph Schoen, Vice Moderator  
— Frosty Krummel, Moderator

## Is God Calling You to This Ministry?

With the retirement of Sue Parks as our Wedding Coordinator at the end of May, we are looking for someone (or more than one) to minister in this role. A job description

and more information are available by contacting the Senior Pastor.

— Forrest "Frosty" Krummel

## 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

## Rebuilding Together Peoria — Christmas In April by Jim Dallmeyer, Missions Committee



Over two dozen stalwart members of First Federated gave up their Saturday morning this past April to *Rebuilding Together Peoria*. Members of our congregation led devotions, supplied coffee and donuts, and brought their paint brushes and rollers as

we successfully tackled this year's project: the Salvation Army's gym on West Nebraska. Special thanks to everyone who helped in this mission and fellowship adventure. Together we are making a difference in our community.

## Easter Offering Supports One Great Hour of Sharing

The Missions Committee thanks each of you for considering the *One Great Hour of Sharing* special offering.

Through your generosity we will send \$2,060 to OGHS to support the efforts that have gone on since 1949.

# Kids' Kingdom News

## What's Happening in Kids' Kingdom this month...

**Bible Story:** Elijah & the False Prophets of Baal  
**Scripture:** I Kings 18:16-46  
**Memory Verse:** "You were shown these things so that you might know that the Lord is God; besides Him there is no other." Deuteronomy 4:35 NIV

\*\*\* Please help your child learn his/her verse each rotation. \*\*\*



**Kingdom Korner Store**  
 Will Be Open On May 4<sup>th</sup>



**Kingdom Kids' Choir**  
 Sings On  
 May 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>



## Worship Exploration for Children


This summer presents an exciting opportunity for children to learn more about worship in a way that makes sense to them. Each Sunday the children will be invited to come forward for a brief children's message immediately before the particular act of worship we're learning about. Additionally, children may leave during the sermon time so they can further explore this particular part of our service. We hope you'll join us as we explore worship this summer!

As  
 Vacation  
 Time  
 Approaches...


## FFC VACATION BAGS AVAILABLE

As summer vacation plans get made, plan to check out an "FFC Vacation Bag" to take on your trip so that your church family goes with you "in spirit." This bag will offer a devotional book, a journal for sharing your adventures, postcard stamps, pencil/pen & paper, some fun, and maybe a treat or two. All ages are welcome to use. Just see Kim Snarr to reserve a date to check out your "FFC vacation bag."

**Christian Education**  
**Leader**  
**Appreciation Sunday**  
 is Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>  
 at 9:00 a.m.  
 RSVP to Kim Snarr at 685-5258.



**VACATION BULLETIN BOARD**  
 needs your contribution!




We're doing a "vacation bulletin board" where you can mark where you traveled on a map and then post the church bulletin from other churches you visit while traveling. It'll be fun to see where FFC travels this summer!

# Junior High News


**Worship Expressions**  
 (5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Graders)

- May 4 Puppet Practice
- May 11 Puppet Practice
- May 18 Puppets take part in the Youth Service.



**Jr. High Youth Group (6<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> Graders)**  
**Charter Oak Park Potluck Dinner • Sunday, May 25 • 5:00-7:00 p.m.**  
 (5802 Orange Prairie) Families are welcome. Bring a dish to share and your own drinks. Plates and utensils will be provided. Grab a ball, frisbee, deck of cards, or game. Come and enjoy Memorial Day weekend with our church families!



 **Confirmation (7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Graders)** continues to meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor on Sunday mornings.

- May 11 8<sup>th</sup> graders need to return their stoles to class. The confirmands will present the stoles to the class.
- June 1 Executive Board meeting and present their stoles to a small group of members. Confirmands and Spiritual Mentors are invited to a breakfast in the Bride's Lounge.
- May 15 (Thursday) All confirmands will attend the

# Senior High News (9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Graders)

## Sunday Mornings

- **May 4:** **Worship** (Sr. Highs can sit in the balcony together.)
- **May 11:** **Sunday School**
- **May 18:** **Youth Sunday** Gather in the Sanctuary at **9:00 a.m.** **DON'T BE LATE!** We will lead the congregation in a wonderful service framed around the story of *The Lost Sheep*.
- **May 25:** **Sunday School** (Begins Summer Sunday School. Sr. Highs will be leaders. See Kim and Amy for details.)



## Sunday Evenings

- **May 4:** **5:00-7:00 p.m.** Sr. Highs meet to put the finishing touches on Youth Sunday. Bring \$3 for dinner.
- **May 11:** Spend the day with your mother, grandmother, aunt, or role model. Sr. Highs will not meet.
- **May 17:** **(Saturday) 10:00-Noon** Sr. High practice for Youth Sunday. If you have a speaking part, come to practice. We will practice each section individually and out of order. So, at least plan on attending for 30 minutes. This is really a microphone and logistics check. Ushers won't need to practice.
- **May 18:** **Youth Sunday Celebration! 5:00-8:00 p.m.** Sr. Highs are invited to Amy's house for a **Finger Food Potluck Dinner**. Following dinner we'll watch an inspiring movie together!
- **May 25:** **Charter Oak Park (5802 Orange Prairie) Potluck Dinner 5:00-7:00 p.m.** Families are welcome. Bring a dish to share and your own drinks. Plates and utensils will be provided. Grab a ball, frisbee, deck of cards, or game. Come & enjoy Memorial Day weekend with our church families!

## Adult Christian Education

### Bible Study Series (led by Ralph Schoen at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday - 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Lounge)

Continuing through May 25:

**"God, the People, and the Covenant"**

This session will be a study of the Old Testament to look at God's faithfulness to his people.

Through the years, the people wavered between faithfulness and faithlessness. Various prophets and kings led



the way in restoring their covenant relationship with God. The lessons cover the ark of the covenant, the book of Daniel, and the restoration of the Temple.

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

## 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.** on the third Tuesday of each month. We will meet in the back room and order off 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 **May 20**. Reservations are not needed, just show up & enjoy!

### FFC's NEW Young Mothers' Group (Dads are welcome too!)

Join us **Wednesday, May 7, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.** in the upstairs **Bride's Lounge**. Pack a sack lunch for you and your child. We'll begin with a quick mother's devotion and then visit while our little ones play. Feel free to

invite a friend – the more the merrier!

Please contact Kim Snarr at 685-5258 or Megan Vlach (meganvlach@gmail.com) if you have questions or ideas.



### Kupples Klub meets on Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. at Mt. Hawley Country Club

Join us for a delicious brunch on Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. at Mt. Hawley Country Club. The cost is \$14 per person and your check is your reservation. Please send your check (payable to Kupples Klub)




to FFC, 3601 N. Sheridan Rd., Peoria, 61604, in care of Sue Parks. The deadline for reservations is **Wednesday, April 30**.



# May 2008 at First Federated Church



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>4 Psalm Sunday</b> 9:00 C.E. Leader Appreciation Breakfast 9:00 P.R.I.M.E. T.I.M.E. Hour 10:00 Worship, Sunday School 11:30 Kupples Klub @ Mt. Hawley 4:00 <i>4 O'Clock Worship</i> 5:00 Sr. High Youth Group	<b>5</b> 5:15 TOPS 7:00 Building & Grounds	<b>6</b> 4:30 Missions 7:00 Handbells	<b>7</b> 8:00 Clergy Bible Study 9:00 Women's Bible Study 10:00 Yoga 11:30 Young Mothers' Group 1:00 Reading Buddies Mtg.	<b>1</b> 4:30 Communications 7:00 Choir	<b>2</b> 5:30 Wedding Rehearsal	<b>3</b> 9:00 a.m. - Noon Christian Education Committee Retreat 3:00 Wedding
<b>11 Pentecost</b> Mother's Day 9:00 P.R.I.M.E. T.I.M.E. Hour 10:00 Worship, Sunday School 4:00 <i>4 O'Clock Worship</i>	<b>12</b> 4:00-6:00 CROP Packet Return 5:15 TOPS 7:00 Worship	<b>13</b> 6:30 Girl Scouts 7:00 Finance	<b>14</b> 8:00 Clergy Bible Study 9:00 Women's Bible Study 10:00 Yoga	<b>15</b> 10:00 PEO 12:00 Jack & Jill Graduation 7:00 Executive Board	<b>16</b> 9:00 Jack & Jill Graduation	<b>17</b> 10:00-Noon Sr. High Youth Sunday Rehearsal
<b>18 Youth Sunday</b> 9:00 P.R.I.M.E. T.I.M.E. Hour 10:00 Worship, Sunday School 4:00 <i>4 O'Clock Worship</i> 5:00 Sr. High Youth Group	<b>19</b> 5:15 TOPS	<b>20</b> 8:00 a.m. Old Buddies at Bob Evans on Allen Rd.	<b>21</b> 8:00 Clergy Bible Study 9:00 Women's Bible Study 10:00 Yoga 10:00 UCC Mtg.-Lounge 6:30 Rogy Preschool Graduation 7:00 Deacons	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 6:00 Wedding Rehearsal	<b>24</b> 9:00 Women's Book Club at Apple's Bakery 3:30 Wedding
<b>25 Memorial Day</b> Sunday 8:20 Choir Appreciation Breakfast 9:00 P.R.I.M.E. T.I.M.E. Hour 10:00 Worship, Sunday School 4:00 <i>4 O'Clock Worship</i> 5:00-7:00 Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group at Charter Oak Park	<b>26</b>  Church Office Closed	<b>27</b> 6:30 Girl Scouts	<b>28</b> 8:00 Clergy Bible Study 10:00 Yoga 12:00 Mothers' Club at Ivy Club	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 6:00 Wedding Rehearsal	<b>31</b> 3:00 Wedding 6:30 Chiefs Ball Game

## GLIMPSE OF GRACE. . . by Frosty

Over the past month two books have really spoken to my spirit. The first book, Everything Must Change: Jesus, Global Crisis, and a Revolution of Hope, is one that I am reading with a diverse group of clergy. It is written by Brian D. McLaren, one of the growing group of authors speaking to “unchurched Christians.” (The term is a bit of an oxymoron but refers to people who are disillusioned by “the church.” As the singer Bono once commented, “I love Jesus; it’s Christians who make me uneasy.”) Early in the McLaren book he recalled a speaker at a conference in Bujumbura, a township near Capetown,

As Mark Twain once noted; “It’s not what I don’t understand in the Bible that troubles me; it is what is perfectly clear that does.”

South Africa. “Friends, most of you know me. You know that I am the son of a preacher, and as a result, I grew up going to church all the time....what may surprise you, though, is to learn that in all of my childhood, in all the church services I attended, I only heard one sermon...that sermon went like this; ‘You are a sinner and you are going to hell. You need to repent and believe in Jesus. Jesus might come back today, and if he does and you are not ready, you will burn for-

ever in hell.’ When I got older, I realized that my entire life had been lived against the backdrop of genocide and violence, poverty and corruption. Over a million people died in my country in a series of genocides starting in 1959, and nearly a million in Rwanda, and in spite of huge amounts of foreign aid, our people remain poor, and many of them, hungry.”

“So much death, so much hatred and distrust between tribes, so much poverty, suffering, corruption, and injustice, and nothing ever really changed. Eventually I realized something. I had never heard a sermon that addressed these realities. Did God only care about our

souls going to heaven after we died? Were our hungry bellies unimportant to God? Was God unconcerned about our crying sons and frightened daughters, our mothers hiding under beds, our fathers crouching by windows, unable to sleep because of gunfire? Or did God send Jesus to teach us how to avoid genocide by learning to love each other, how to overcome tribalism and poverty by following his path, how to deal with injustice and corruption, how to

make a better life here on earth?... Over the years, I have come to realize that something is wrong with the way we understand Jesus and the good news...(The missionaries) told us how to go to heaven. But they left out an important detail. They didn’t tell us how the will of God could be done on earth.”

On the heels of McLaren’s book I’ve also been reading The Scandalous Gospel of Jesus: What’s So Good about the Good News? by Harvard University chaplain Peter J. Gomes. In the book he says that we asked the wrong question. The question isn’t “What would Jesus do?” The real question for Christians is “What would Jesus have me do?”\* Jesus was pretty clear about what he called his disciples to do. And therein lies the difficulty. As Mark Twain once noted; “It’s not what I don’t understand in the Bible that troubles me; it is what is perfectly clear that does.”

Both books have been a glimpse of grace for me as they opened doors to new insights.

\*The sermon series “The Questions of Jesus” explored this question on April 20.

First Federated Church  
3601 N Sheridan Road  
Peoria IL 61604 (309)685-5258

### 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
Wayne Macomber	Chancel Choir Director
Richard Tomic	Organist, Handbell Director
Kay Sauder	Kingdom Kids’ Choir Director
Mary Delicath	Choir Section Leader
Karen Henderson	Choir Section Leader
Randy Sleeth	Choir Section Leader