

MAY 2011 Vol. 76 No. 5

## Mission Connection

By Forrest Krummel

While looking over some old journal entries I ran across some reflections on our efforts to start a home for street boys in Mombasa. By way of update: The home is just north of Mombasa, Kenya. Currently 12 boys and three adult mentors are there. The boys are in the process of being rehabilitated from life on the streets. Eight of them have progressed to the point of being enrolled in the local public school. The program also works with about 100 boys on the streets of Mombasa. New partnerships are being forged each week. Lives are being changed.

In the most recent newsletter from Cornerstone Development, our partner in this faith adventure, one of the adult mentors, Denis Okurmu, wrote: *"My time in Mombasa has been the most recent beautiful event that God has blessed my life with. ... I am learning more each day about God - the way he loves us all, and my personal relationship with Him. I*



Boys in the home Wana Wa Mola which translates from Swahili as 'Children Of God'

*have seen His mighty saving hand reaching out to save many least, last and lost children who were once forgotten, abandoned, uncared for, and above all, unprotected. Every day, the troubled faces of the kids we work with here are filled with smiles because they are always waking up to God's wonderful blessings for their lives in such powerful ways. Seeing them smile, laugh and filled with joy inspires me more, strengthens me more, motivates me more to extend the love of Jesus to the rest of those who are still lost and hurting."*

Through our efforts the work of the Kingdom is going on among the most easily ignored and forgotten people of the world.



A beach outing

Closer to home, the leadership baton for this project is being passed from Donna Haerr to Karl Kuppler who, like Donna, has a great mission heart. We are richly blessed at FFC with excellent Kingdom leadership. If you would like to contribute to this project please contact FFC's Financial Secretary, Lisa Hoepker.

## EDUCATION CONNECTION

- **THE PRODIGAL GOD BY TIM KELLER:** This Adult Education book study led by Pastor Krummel began on April 27th and will continue Wednesdays, May 4th and 11th at 7 pm The Rev. Timothy Keller, called by Newsweek and the New York Times a "C.S. Lewis for the twenty-first century" explores Jesus' most familiar parable. We will meet in the North Campus Board Room. Enter through the south parking lot door.
- **ARE YOU NEW TO FFC? WALK WITH US:** We are happy that you have been visiting our church and we pray that you have found our community one that is worshipful and worthwhile. We believe that membership is a sign of commitment and of a desire to participate more fully in the life of First Federated Church. Come and learn more about FFC and see if God is calling you to walk with us on Saturday, May 21st from 8:30 am until 11:30 am. Breakfast included, childcare included upon request. Please RSVP to Rev. Hofmann at dhofmann@ffcpeoria.com or call 685-5258.
- **BIBLE STUDY:**

The **Women's Bible Study Group** meets each Tuesday morning at 9:30 am in the Fireplace Room on the second floor.

The **Mothers Of Teens Bible Study Group** meets each Thursday at 1 pm in the Bride's Lounge on the second floor.

## WORSHIP CONNECTION

- **MUSIC SUNDAY, MAY 15TH:** We invite all musicians to join in this musical offering, which includes the children's choirs, the handbell choir, youth musicians, and instrumentalists. Interested instrumentalists should sign up on the information table by the reception desk and arrive at 8:30am on the morning of the 15th.
- **MOTHER-DAUGHTER/FATHER-SON CHOIR:** This May and June we will again have a mother-daughter and father-son choir on Mother's and Father's Days. A sign up sheet and a (Mother's Day) CD (to help learn the music) is on the information table. Please arrive at 9:15 am on the morning of May 8. Sheet music will be available at that time.

## FFC GROUP CONNECTIONS

- **MOTHER'S CLUB:** Mother's Club will meet on Wednesday, May 25th at 12:00 noon at Mt. Hawley Country Club. Hostesses will be Pheobe Sommer, Sharon Altenberger, Jan Chapman, Blance Hall, and Nancy Sommer. Devotions will be given by Diane McCormick. The program, 'Nine to Five' will be presented by Donna Bordner, Phyllis Draper, and Gladys Ivey. Please contact Phoebe Sommer for reservations or further details.
- **BOOK CLUB @ APPLES' BAKERY:** Saturday, May 28th at 9 am will be the next meeting of the book club. The book will be Out Stealing Horses, by Per Petterson.
- **PRAYER SHAWL KNITTING GROUP:** The Prayer shawl Knitting Group meets each Tuesday at 8:30 am in the Memorial Lounge, on the first floor.
- **OLD BUDDIES BREAKFAST:** The "Old Buddies" meet the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 8 am at Bob Evans on Allen Road. No reservations needed.

## CHURCH LEADERSHIP CONNECTION



*Please Meet*  
**Theresa Pfeiffer**

Theresa is our Vice Moderator and Chair of the Personnel Committee. Theresa grew up at FFC and is currently the Software Support Manager at Eyefinity.

## CHURCH FAMILY CONNECTION

### BLESSED ADDITIONS:

Zan and David Ransburg announce the birth of their new grandson Alexander Jack Cittadine, the son of Emily (Ransburg) and Andrew Cittadine. He was born on April 2. Congratulations.

### COMPLETED THIS PART OF LIFE:

*Please Remember In Your Prayers*

Steve Siegler, at the loss of his uncle.

Louise Mueller and her family, at the loss of her mother, Ruth Trapnell.

Associate Pastor, Daren Hofmann and his family at the loss of his grandmother, Eleanor Rosser.



First Federated  
Church of Peoria

# Children & Youth Newsletter

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## May, 2011

## theParentLink



### Emphasize Acceptance for All

According to the National Organization on Disability, 54 million Americans have a disability. That's one in every five people. And a significant number of them are children. Many churches now have special-needs ministries, and more kids with disabilities are being mainstreamed into school classrooms. That means your children likely spend time with kids they may consider "different." Use these tips to emphasize everyone's worth:

- Build relationships. Show your children that it's okay to talk to people with disabilities and to treat them as you would treat anyone else. Introduce yourself to parents of special-needs children and discover what types of assistance they could use.
- Clarify misconceptions. Children notice differences, so address their already-established stereotypes and oversimplified generalizations about groups of people. Watch and correct judgmental statements and actions. Be a role model by valuing diversity, celebrating individuality, and respecting differences.

### POWERSOURCE

#### ASK GOD:

1. To help your children look beyond differences to see that God makes everyone in a special way.
2. To give your children compassionate hearts and helping hands for people with special needs.
3. To show how you can assist families dealing with disabilities.

#### RESEARCH INSIGHTS

- About 90% of families with a special-needs child are unchurched. (*pastors.com*)
- According to various sources, divorce rates for couples who have a special-needs child are as high as 75% or 85%.
- In the United States, an estimated 100,000 children are waiting to be adopted, and many of them have special needs.

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES (Birth—6<sup>th</sup> grade)

## SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our "regular" Sunday school routine ends on May 8.

What happens after that?

*We begin our summer schedule of fun!*

This summer we'll mix it up a bit...we'll continue lessons on core virtues but maybe we'll go outside or another unusual spot; and we'll do some service projects around the church. Maybe we'll dig in the dirt, clean some tables, or paint.

But the biggest project will be working on VBS decorations.

**Have kids wear clothes that can get dirty!**

*Let Kim Snarr know if you can help with supervision and activities.*

*It should be a good opportunity to get to know the kids on a small-group basis!*

## NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on Youth Sunday, May 22

Enjoy the worship service developed by the Senior High Youth Group!

## 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

#### Forgiveness

Deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay.

#### Memory Verse

"Forgive the things you are holding against one another. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you." Colossians 3:13, NIV

#### Chapel Offering

##### Friends of the Children of Haiti

Our children's chapel offering this month will go towards our ongoing support for Daryl Jean...a 10-year old boy in Haiti.

FFC's Shellie Coleman visits Haiti twice a year and will speak to the Sunday school kids on May 1st about the current conditions in Haiti.



## Vacation Bible School Sunday, July 17-22 evenings

**Mark your calendar and think about how you'd like to get involved in this fun event!**

Watch for VBS times and registration information in upcoming 1st News, Home Editions and on our Website.

Contact Kim Snarr or fill out a volunteer sheet if you're interested in helping.

(email: [ksnarr@ffcpeoria.com](mailto:ksnarr@ffcpeoria.com) or phone #685-5258, ext. 20)

## CHILDREN'S MUSIC DETAILS

Music Sunday is May 15 when all children are invited to sing along with lots of other music happenings by the chancel choir, instruments, etc. Don't miss out!

There will be No Sunday School that day so we can all enjoy the variety of awesome music and worship!



## YOUTH MINISTRIES (6<sup>th</sup>—12<sup>th</sup> grade)

### SENIOR HIGH YOUTH HAPPENINGS

9<sup>th</sup>—12<sup>th</sup> grades; Contact: Rev. Krummel

#### Sunday Mornings @ 10 am

- May 1st** Alpha 9, "What about The Church"  
(w/Randy & Joe)
- May 8th** Alpha 10, Why And How I Should Tell Others"  
(w/Randy & Joe)
- May 15th** Musical Sunday, Everyone In Worship
- May 22nd** Youth Sunday & lunch after (everyone in worship)
- May 29th** "Bullhorn" Theme: Evangelism  
(w/ Joe)

#### Senior High Youth Fellowship, 5 - 7 pm

May 1st, 8th, 15th, & 29th

Meet in the senior high room for food, fellowship, and friends.

Explore the question: Why am I here?

(From the Senior Highs "Questions I'd Ask God" 3x5 cards.)



#### Vacation Bible School Sunday, July 17-22 Evenings

Planning is underway.

Call (685-5258),  
email (ksnarr@ffcpeoria.com),  
or Facebook

Kim Snarr if you're interested  
in helping.

#### SENIOR HIGH MISSION TRIP 2011

Contact: Rev. Hofmann

Destination: Racine, WI

Dates: June 19—25

Cost: \$250

Final payments are due.

Contact Pastor Daren if you're  
interested in going.

There may still be space available.

#### YOUTH DIRECTOR UPDATE

Amy O'Brien is on a leave of  
absence until August 17.

Her family has remained in St.  
Louis with extended family' in-  
stead of proceeding to Japan as  
they had originally planned.  
They are enjoying a different type  
of "adventure" for now as the  
kids attend school there.

### CONFIRMATION INFO

7<sup>th</sup>—8<sup>th</sup> grades

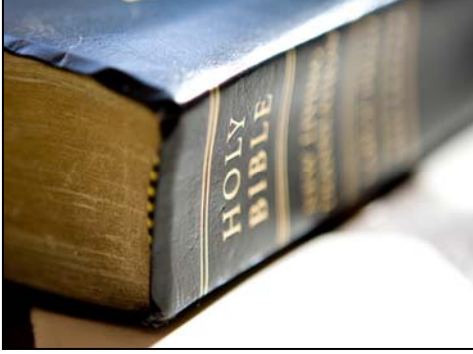
Contact: Rev. Krummel

#### Sunday Mornings

- May 1st** Living Grateful Lives Gary Weber  
*9 am Meet w/ Your Mentor*
- May 8th** You have a Call! Robin Simpson  
*Completed stoles returned*
- May 15th** Music Sunday In Worship
- May 19th** Executive Board Meeting In Commons, 7 p.m.  
*Presentation of Stoles*
- May 22nd** Youth Sunday In Worship
- May 29th** I Will, With God's Help Laura Kowalske  
*Confirmation Service Review*
- June 5th** Confirmation! In Worship  
*Breakfast for 8th graders & Mentors @ 8:45 am  
Worship service at 10 am*

**Reminder to Mentors and 8<sup>th</sup> graders:  
Use the 9 o'clock hour for meeting times.**

# FFC FAMILY MINISTRIES



““The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. ... Our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it. ... Some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary.”  
(1 Corinthians 12:12, 18, 22)

God, our Creator, has a plan and purpose for every life.

## Teachable Moments

**1. Lovely Reflections**—With babies and toddlers, hold up a mirror so they can see their reflection. Show them that everyone looks different in a mirror but emphasize that everyone is special—regardless of skin color or appearance.

**2. Role-Plays**—Help children practice what they might do or say in real-life situations. Propose various encounters with children who have different challenges. Then debrief each role-play to point out the positive things children did or said.

**3. Special Friends**—Seek out people in your family, church, or neighborhood who are coping with physical challenges. Spend time with them as a family, providing assistance and companionship. These low-key experiences will show children how much they have in common with people who appear to be different from them.



## Discuss people’s unique needs by using these conversation-starting questions:

Why do you think God made people with different appearances, gifts, and abilities?

How do you feel and react to someone who’s different from you?

What’s the best way to respond when other people point out your weaknesses or flaws?

What types of things can we learn from people who are different from us? How can we get to know them better?

## ***FAMILY EXPERIENCE***



### Learn valuable lessons with these fun activities:

• **In Full Bloom**—You’ll need chenille craft wires and various colors of tissue paper cut into 10x20-inch wide strips. Have family members stack six tissue paper strips and then smooth them flat. Fold the stacks lengthwise, accordion-style, in 2-inch sections, making five folds. Then twist a wire tightly around the center of the accordion-folded paper. To create the blossoms, spread the folds on both sides of the wire and gently pull each layer of tissue paper toward the center. When all the layers have been pulled, a beautiful flower blossom remains. Read aloud Psalm 139:13-14. Ask: “How are all our flowers like the people God made? What would it be like if every flower looked the same or if every person looked the same? What traits or characteristics set you apart from everyone else?”



• **Mixed Together**—You’ll need a bowl of cookie dough, some flour, an egg, a spoon, and a variety of chips and sprinkles. Hold up the flour and egg, and ask: “Who’d like to try these ingredients? How can these ingredients become something that tastes better?” Say: “We need to mix these with other ingredients.” Read aloud 1 Corinthians 12:14-17, 27. Say: “What would happen if we left out an ingredient from our recipe? What would happen if one of us wasn’t part of our family or church?” Hand out cookie dough so each person can add chips and sprinkles. Then bake the cookies. While enjoying them, discuss ways that all of you are important “ingredients.”

# MAY, 2011 AT FIRST FEDERATED CHURCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>1 Worship 8 am &amp; 10 am 9 am &amp; 11 am Vision In Action Update - Chapel 5 pm Senior High Fellowship 11:45 am Sunday Supper Club at Mt. Hawley C.C.</p>	<p>2 9:10 am Preschool Committee Meeting 7 pm Building &amp; Grounds Committee Meeting</p>	<p>3 8:30 am Prayer Shawl Knitting Group 9:30 am Women's Bible Study 4:30 pm Missions Committee Meeting</p>	<p>4 8:30 am Clergy Lectionary Group 6:30 pm Bo-Peep Open House 7:00 pm <i>The Prodigal God</i> Adult Education w/Pastor Krummel</p>	<p>5 1 pm Mother's of Teens Bible Study 7 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8  MOTHER'S DAY Worship 8 am &amp; 10 am Last "Regular" Sunday School 5 pm Senior High Fellowship</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 8:30 am Prayer Shawl Knitting Group 9:30 am Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>11 8:30 am Clergy Lectionary Group 11:30 am HOI UCC Cluster Meeting 7:00 pm <i>The Prodigal God</i> Adult Education w/Pastor Krummel</p>	<p>12 11 am Bo-Peep Year End Program 1 pm Mother's of Teens Bible Study 6:30 pm LifeLink Information Session 7 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>13 9 am Jack &amp; Jill Graduation 11 am Bo-Peep Year End Program</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 Worship 8 am &amp; 10 am 5 pm Senior High Fellowship Deadline for LIFE TOGETHER Articles</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 8 am Old Buddies Breakfast 8:30 am Prayer Shawl Knitting Group 9:30 am Women's Bible Study 7 pm Finance Committee Mtg.</p>	<p>18 8:30 am Clergy Lectionary Group 7 pm Board of Deacons Meeting</p>	<p>19 1 pm Mother's of Teens Bible Study 6 pm Membership Committee Mtg. 7 pm Executive Board Mtg. * 8th Graders To Executive Board * Choir Practice</p>	<p>20 9 am Private Memorial Service 5 pm Wedding Rehearsal</p>	<p>21 4:30 pm Wedding</p>
<p>22 Worship 8 am &amp; 10 am Youth Sunday Acolyte Appreciation Sunday 5 pm Senior High Fellowship</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 8:30 am Prayer Shawl Knitting Group 9:30 am Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Rogy's Glen Oak Preschool Graduation</p>	<p>25 8:30 am Clergy Lectionary Group 12 noon Mothers Club Meeting at Mt. Hawley C.C.</p>	<p>26 1 pm Mother's of Teens Bible Study 6 pm Membership Committee Mtg. 6:30 pm Rogy's Candletree Preschool Graduation 7 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>27 6 pm Wedding Rehearsal</p>	<p>28 9 am Women's Book Club at Apple's Bakery 5 pm Wedding</p>
<p>29 Worship 8 am &amp; 10 am 5 pm Senior High Fellowship</p>	<p>30 Church Office Closed In Honor Of  MEMORIAL DAY</p>	<p>31 8:30 am Prayer Shawl Knitting Group 9:30 am Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>For information about any of these events or if you have a committee meeting or church event you would like added to the calendar please call the church at 685-5258 or contact a member of the staff individually by e-mail. An e-mail list is located on the back cover. The deadline for next months LIFE TOGETHER is the 15th.</p>			

GLIMPSES OF GRACE



While helping my wife do some gardening and cutting the grass for the first time in 2011 I noticed some pretty little blue flowers that spread from a flower bed into the lawn. The leaves look like large blades of grass but adjacent to the blade is a delicate flower. After asking a neighbor, who teaches horticultural at Illinois Central College, I learned that the plant is call a Siberian Squill. It is native to Russia, the Caucasus and Turkey, but interestingly enough, not to Siberia! A perennial, after flowering the stems become limp and a small pod forms. Eventually the pod opens and small brown seeds fall to the ground, thus spreading the plant. Supposedly they are ideal to be planted in grass because they die back early in the Spring, before the first mowing.

Mowing is a mindless task that allow thoughts to wander in all different directions. As I cut along the flowerbed border I got to thinking about how those little blue flowers are similar to how Jesus described the growth of the Kingdom of God. He said that the growth of the Kingdom is a like a pinch of leaven that can transform a lump of dough, like a tiny seed that grows into a great tree. If he lived in central Illinois he might well have looked at the tiny blue flowers and said that the Kingdom is like those little flowers that take over a yard, despite our best efforts.

I believe that the Kingdom of God is still growing in our midst today. In our homes, neighborhoods, community and even around the world. We can not stop it, even if we wanted to. Our main concern ought to be to join it, to be a part of it. There is a prayer that I have on my desk. "God, put me in the path of what You are doing in this world. Show me where you are working. Run over me by your Presence and guide my path." It is a part of being a glimpse of grace!



First Federated Church of Peoria

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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
Administrative Assistant: Lisa Hoepker
Building Manager: Tony Beal
Operations Manager: Robert Disharoon
Secretary: Cecelia Walter