

Glimpse of Grace

Rev. Dr. Forrest Kummel, Jr.

I have a fondness for hollyhocks. It dates back to my childhood. They are scattered throughout the flower beds in our backyard. Some are the descendents of the hollyhocks along the fencerow of my parents' house. Others grew out of the pods that I collected along the roadside of my early morning walks. The last couple of years we have had one very unusual plant. Last year it appeared by a stone walkway along our vegetable garden. This year it grew behind the potting shed. In both cases the hollyhock towered over ten feet tall!

I took a picture of the one this year with its white blooming head nodding in the fall air. Out of curiosity I counted the pods on its massive stem. There were thirty-seven. Thirty-seven seedpods filled with seeds will be the legacy of this one plant! I also got out a tape measure. When straightened out it stands around eleven feet—give or take an inch or two.

As I marveled at its size, two of Jesus' teachings came to mind. (That happens a lot with pastors. We see illustrations everywhere. The wise ones keep a little notebook in pocket to jot down an idea or two.)

The first was from the gospel of John. "I tell you the truth," Jesus said, "unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds." (John 12:24, NIV) This is a message of legacy. My "giant" plant has thirty-seven seed pods. Each seed pod has literally *hundreds* of tiny little seeds with the potential to produce a new plant! As World Communion Sunday (October 2) and Heritage

Sunday (October 30) bookend the Sundays of October, now is a good time to consider our legacy, as individuals and as a congregation. "How will we be remembered?" "Who will remember us?" for that matter. "How many lives did we touch for the better?" "Is the world a better place because we passed this way?" What seeds have we planted?

The other teaching was that of the mustard seed. Jesus said that the Kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed. "Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants." (13: 32a, NIV) The Kingdom of God starts small without bells and whistles, largely unnoticed but it grows into something that no one can miss. It towers over the other garden plants. I have come to appreciate the wisdom of those words of Jesus. God seldom speaks to us detailed plans. When the Israelites left Egypt for the Promised Land they did not know exactly how they were going to get there. They had to take it a day at a time, a stumbling step at a time. They had to learn to trust in the LORD. Someone once wrote that when God wants a thing done the Almighty doesn't send lightening bolts, thunder or earthquakes. Rather, it begins with a small seed, a thought, planted in the heart or mind of someone from an out-of-the-way place. And then God watches it grow, speaks to it, and nurtures it along the way.

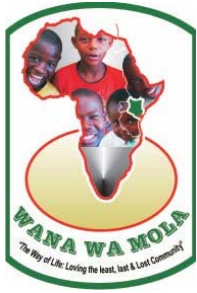
Before I go to sleep in each night I say the Lord's Prayer to myself. The phrase "Thy will be done" has become most meaningful to me lately. "Lord, help me recognize the seeds that you plant in life. Help me be such a seed."



MISSION CONNECTION

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

When you did it to the least, you did it unto me.
(Jesus, Matthew 25:40)



The Mission Committee has designated that this year's World Communion Mission Offering for international mission will go to our mission-partners in Mombasa, Kenya, *Wanna Wa Mola*. Over three years ago our Mission Committee entered into a partnership with Cornerstone Development in Kampala, Uganda to start a home for the "street boys" of Mombasa, also called "choroka" which means "garbage people" in Kiswahili.

Wana Wa Mola, which means "children of God" is a witness of God's love to some of the most vulnerable of God's children. The mission has two components, *The Survivors Den* which is an outreach to the boys who still live in the streets because there isn't enough room in shelters. This program has a monthly budget of \$200. *The House of Jesus* is a residential program whereby the boys study the "50 Principles, Practices and Precepts of Jesus," a *Cornerstone* group study. There are currently thirteen boys living in the home, two house fathers and a house mother. The home has a capacity for seventeen youth. Nine of the children are enrolled in the public school with annual fees running \$500 per child (tuition, uniforms, books). *Wana Wa Mola's* annual budget is approximately \$30,000 per year.



Many of the children who live on the street scavenge the city's dumping site (Mwakirunge).



The children of Wana Wa Mola study the 50 Principles, Practices and Precepts of Jesus with a member of the Wana Wa Mola staff.

1000 CAN GOAL

◆ **FRIENDSHIP HOUSE** Each month we hope to collect 1000 food items for The Friendship House. **YES WE CAN SUNDAY**, the second Sunday of each month, we begin our count. Sunday, October 9th is our next **YES WE CAN SUNDAY**, please join in reaching this goal and bring several canned food items to church each week. Items on the food pantry list includes jelly and jam, great northern beans, cornbread mix, green peas, canned chili, diced tomatoes, canned fruits, Tuna Helper, pasta sauce and spaghetti.



READING BUDDIES

◆ **Just One Hour** If you could spare just one hour a week, come and join other First Federated members in the Reading Buddies Program at Thomas Jefferson School. By working one on one with another child or in small groups, you can truly make a difference in a child's life. Sign up sheets are located at the table across from the reception desk or contact Karen Calder to answer any of your questions.

Update on Tax Status of the North Campus: On July 22, 2011 we filed our application for Religious Property Tax Exemption for the Great Central Property. Included in the application were the remaining properties owned by the Church on Florence Avenue. This represented a significant milestone in the furtherance of the project. As required by law significant documentation was included with the application and included a description of the properties, photographs, history of acquisition, copies of various legal documents and evidence of the church's existing uses. At the same time, certified letters were sent out to all taxing districts which will be affected by the granting of the exemption. The purpose of the notices to the taxing districts was to allow them an opportunity to appear at the hearing before the Board of Review to express any objection which they had to the tax exemption. On September 14, 2011 Frosty Krummel and Tom Leiter appeared before the Peoria County Board of Review and presented evidence to support the tax exemption. It was encouraging that none of the noticed tax districts appeared to object. Evidence was presented at the hearing and questions from the Board were answered. Among the key questions were inquiries relating to the existing uses and whether the property was rented. Fortunately we were able to respond that the property was not rented and was being put to exempt religious uses including the use of the recreational areas by the Peoria Christian Center. At the conclusion of the hearing the Chairman of the Board indicated that the Board of Review would approve our application and recommend approval to the Illinois Department of Revenue in Springfield. The next step in the process is a review of the application by the Illinois Department of Revenue which has the final authority on the application. We believe that a credible and persuasive case was presented in support of the exemption and we are cautiously optimistic that we will receive favorable treatment from the Illinois Department of Revenue. A final decision however may not be known for several months. As additional information is obtained, it will be provided. If anyone has any questions concerning this process please feel free to contact Tom Leiter.



the Parent LINK

Children's Ministry Edition



October 2011



First Federated
Church of Peoria



POWERSOURCE

ASK GOD:

1. To help you keep the “end goal” of eternity always in mind.
2. To guide your important work of raising children who love and serve God.
3. To grow and nurture your children's faith—and your own.

Maintain an Eternal Perspective

Many parents live in survival mode, being pulled from all directions and juggling ever-increasing responsibilities. In the rush of school, work, and household activities, it's easy to lose our focus on what really matters: the eternal future of our children and ourselves.

How can you be more tuned in to this “end goal” of spending eternity in heaven? Talk with your pastor or a valued friend to brainstorm what your kids need to know about God and when. Plan ways to incorporate Jesus into everyday life—and on an everyday basis. Make sure everyone's on the same page. Talk to your spouse, family members, and caregivers about your spiritual priorities, even if you think they already know them.

Then be intentional with your choices. Arrange your plans around the big-picture goal. If activities start to interfere with what's really important, reevaluate and rework your family's schedule. When faith becomes the top priority for your family, it'll also become the top priority for your children.

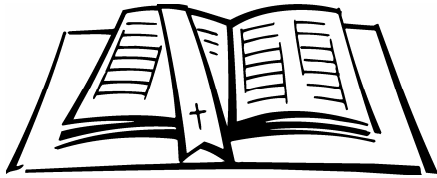
INSIGHTS

- 85% of parents of children under age 13 say they believe they have the primary responsibility for teaching kids about religious and spiritual matters. (Just 11% said their church is primarily responsible.) Yet a majority of those parents “do not spend any time during a typical week discussing religious matters or studying religious materials with their children.”

- Most people become Christians by age 12 or 13.

(Barna Research Group)

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



BIBLE DEDICATION

will be **Sunday, October 9th**
*All 3rd graders will receive
Bibles during worship*

BIBLE WORKSHOP FOR FAMILIES OF 3RD GRADERS OCTOBER 9TH

Following worship and lunch, 3rd graders and their parents will have the opportunity to learn more about their new Bible in a hands-on workshop.

THIS MONTH IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

- ◆ **Virtue:** Creativity - Using your imagination to do something unique.
- ◆ **Bottom Line:** You were created, so you can be creative.
- ◆ **Memory Verse:** "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." *Ephesians 2:10, NIV*
- ◆ **Kids' Chapel Offering:** *Operation Christmas Child*
This month, our children's offering will support *Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas*. See additional details for related special programming.
- ◆ **Special Note:** There will be **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL** on **Sunday, October 2nd**, so that families may all worship together on World Communion Sunday.

WELCOME TO OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL SMALL GROUP LEADERS!

This year we will have 3-person teams at each age group that will be responsible for leading our children in discussions and activities during Sunday school time. *Additional parents are needed to help "shepherd", or be a 2nd set of hands, to each age group. See your Small Group Leader to sign up for a few Sundays.*

Preschool Palace: Rachel Bloch, Amanda Donald, and Clare Seshul

Kindergarten & 1st Grade: Fiona O'Laughlin, Karin Terry, Jennifer VandeWiele

2nd & 3rd Grade: Elizabeth Allen, Vicki Lavick, Matt VandeWiele

4th & 5th Grade: Heather Cenek, Kim McCormick, and Jody Ryan

There are many other opportunities to get involved on special Sundays throughout the year so see Kim Snarr if you're interested in being part of this exciting time in Children's Ministries!

SHOEBOX SUNDAY SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30TH!

Kids will be packing shoeboxes for *OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD* during Sunday school. Following an all-church lunch, we'll have a special "Family Experience" where the whole family can learn more about where these shoeboxes go and the children who will benefit from them. This will be a fun, hands-on event so be sure not to miss it!



- ◆ **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.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Shoe Boxes: About 75 needed

Wrapping Paper: Any fun paper for wrapping shoe box

Personal items: Toothbrush/paste, bar soap, lip balm, flip flops

Small toys & hard candy: Stuffed animal, flashlight/batteries, mini-balls, pens & notebooks, crayons, etc.

Please don't include: Anything that spills, oozes, melts, is expired, or can be a weapon.

On October 30th, the Sunday school children and youth will be packing & wrapping shoeboxes for children around the world through Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. Our goal is to fill 75 shoe boxes. Please help us out!

Please drop off your supplies in one of the specially marked boxes located at the church entrances.

YOUTH MINISTRY

CHRISTMAS WREATHS FOR SALE

The Senior Highs are selling Christmas Wreaths to raise funds for the 2012 Mission Trip. You may stop by the receptionist desk to sign up, e-mail your order to info@ffcpeoria.com or call the church at 685-5258 with your order. Wreaths are \$18.00 each or \$30.00 for two.

All wreath orders must be received by October 23rd.

Pick-up will be November 27th and December 4th.



◆ **THANK YOU** from the VandeWiele and the Resnick Families for your support of JDRF! Our "pocket change" Sunday was a huge success and your words of support and encouragement meant so much to us. We feel very lucky to be part of the FFC family.

Habitat For Humanity Mission Recognition



We will have an all church luncheon Sunday, October 9th. We will recognize our church's long-time relationship with Habitat for Humanity and renew our calling to this ministry. Rena Webster, the recipient of our first Habitat House will be joining us. All are invited to come up to the fellowship hall following the 10 am service. You can sign-up for the lunch at the reception desk. Come and enjoy this time of fellowship and renewal.

Heritage Sunday Celebration is October 30th

Just a reminder that we will be holding our annual Heritage Day Dinner in Fellowship Hall, October 30th following our 10:00 AM Worship Service. Watch for details and sign up sheets.

Donna Bantis, Worship Committee Chair



OCTOBER 2011 AT FIRST FEDERATED CHURCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 7:30 am Peoria North Kiwanis
2 WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY 8 am Worship 9 am Community Garden Mtg. 10 am Worship 5:30 pm Sunday Supper Club	3 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality 10 am Design & Decorating Mtg. 12:15 pm P.E.O. - FB 7 pm Orpheus 7 pm Buildings & Grounds Mtg.	4 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality 8:30 am Prayer Shawl Knitting Group 4:30 Mission Mtg. BULLETIN DEADLINE	5 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality 8:30 am Clergy Lectionary Group 10 am Staff Mtg.	6 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality 9:30 am Spiritual Exercises 10 am Clergy Colleague Group 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	7 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality	8 8:30 am Church Workday
9 Bible Dedication Sunday 8 am Worship 10 am Worship 11 am Bible Workshop 11:15 am K-3 Choir Rehearsal Habitat Mission Recognition Luncheon YES WE CAN SUNDAY!	10 Columbus Day - Schools Closed 7 pm Orpheus	11 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality 8:30 am Prayer Shawl Knitting Group 9:30 am Women's Bible Study BULLETIN DEADLINE	12 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality 8:30 am Clergy Lectionary Group 10 am Staff Mtg.	13 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	14 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality 5 pm Wedding Rehearsal	15 3 pm Wedding LIFE TOGETHER ARTICLE DEADLINE
16 8 am Worship 10 am Worship 11:15 am K-3 Choir Rehearsal	17 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality 7 pm Orpheus	18 8:00 am Old Buddies Breakfast 8:30 am Prayer Shawl Knitting Group 9:30 am Women's Bible Study BULLETIN DEADLINE	19 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality 8:30 am Clergy Lectionary Group 10 am Staff Mtg. 1:45 pm North Peoria Women's Club	20 8 am Ill. Valley Round Table P.E.O. Mtg. 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality 6 pm Membership Mtg. 6 pm Finance Comm. Mtg. 7 pm Executive Board 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	21 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality	22 9 am Book Club @ Apple's Bakery
23 8 am Worship 10 am Worship 11:15 am K-3 Choir Rehearsal Deadline to order Christmas Wreaths	24 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality 7 pm Orpheus	25 8:30 am Prayer Shawl Knitting Group 9:30 am Women's Bible Study 10 am Presbytery Committee On Ministry BULLETIN DEADLINE	26 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality 8:30 am Clergy Lectionary Group 10 am Staff Mtg. 12 pm Women's Club Mtg.	27 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality Preschool Halloween Parties 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	28 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality	29
30 HERITAGE SUNDAY 8 am Worship 10 am Worship 12 pm Shoebox Family Experience Heritage Sunday Luncheon	31 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality Preschool Halloween Parties 7 pm Orpheus					

CHURCH FAMILY CONNECTION

JOYFUL UNIONS

- Wendy Gossett married William Garnant September 10th

BLESSED ADDITIONS

- Bob & Jacque Flint are the proud grandparents of Carly Lyn Morris, born August 2nd. Daughter of Ryan Morris and Lisa Flint-Morris of Raleigh, N.C.

BAPTISMS

- September 25th Will Robert & Amelia Grace D'Alfonso, children of Nick & Kristen D'Alfonso.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

- Dean & Betty Miller
- Ben Miller
- Betty Christopher
- Chris Dallmeyer
- Judy Cain
- Joan Pollitz

COMPLETED THIS PART OF LIFE

✝ Our prayers are with the **The Fanta Family** as they mourn the passing of Carmen Fanta.

FFC CLUBS & GROUPS

COMMUNITY GARDEN GROUP will meet **Sunday, October 2nd at 9 am** in the **Fireplace Room on the 2nd floor**.

SUNDAY SUPPER CLUB, **Sunday, October 2nd at 5:30 pm** in the Commons. The program will be on the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and will be delivered by Jon Neidy of Bradley University.

PRAYER SHAWL KNITTING GROUP meets each **Tuesday from 8:30 to 9:30 am** in the **Memorial Lounge**. All are welcome - any experience levels. Contact Alice Racine at maracine@comcast.net for more information.

"**Spiritual Exercises Offering Moments of Grace**," will conclude on **Thursday, October 6th, 2011, at 9:30 am** in the Commons, coffee will be available at 9:10 am.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY begins **Thursday October 11th at 9:30 am** in the **Fireplace Room on the 2nd floor**. The book to be used is "Wisdom for Today's Women," which many class members have already purchased. If you don't have a book or will be new this year, contact Susan Kirschbaum.

OLD BUDDIES BREAKFAST The next gathering of the "Old Buddies" will be **Tuesday, October 18 at 8 am** at Bob Evans on Allen Road. No reservations needed.

FFC WOMEN'S CLUB (formerly Mother's Club): We are so happy to welcome 2 more new members to our group: Barbara Hendrick and Joyce Smith! Ladies, thank you for joining us! Our **Wednesday, October 26th** meeting will feature a wonderful speaker, Attorney Karen M. Stumpe, who will speak to us about Estate and Retirement Planning. We will start at **12:00 Noon** with a light lunch. Please feel free to bring a guest. Questions? Contact Susan Kirschbaum.

The **BOOK CLUB @ APPLES' BAKERY** will meet **Saturday, October 22nd at 9 am**. October's book is Complications: A Surgeon's Notes On An Imperfect Science by Atul Gawan

SCHEDULED COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Design & Decorating Committee, Monday, October 3rd at 10 am, Triebel Study

Buildings & Grounds Committee, Monday, October 3rd at 10 am, Commons

Missions Committee Meeting, Tuesday, October 4th at 4:30 pm, Commons

Membership Committee Meeting, Thursday, October 20th at 6 pm, North Campus

Finance Committee Meeting, Thursday, October 20th at 6 pm, North Campus

Executive Board Meeting, Thursday, October 20th at 7 pm, North Campus

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



Check out the Garth Progress in our 1st News Weekend update & on Facebook. You will be amazed!

Garth Gator

Please remember to add your name to the volunteer list for our next Church Work Day, Saturday, October 8th at 8:30 am.

The GUIDING COALITION

will host a presentation on plans for the Great Central Insurance Building (North Campus).

Beginning Sunday, October 9th. The presentation will follow both worship services, in the North Campus Boardroom, at 9 am and again at 11:15 am. Watch the calendar for future presentation dates.

LEADERSHIP CONNECTION



Please Meet Karin Terry

Karin is Chair of the Christian Education Committee and has been a member here at First Federated for 5 years.



First Federated Church of Peoria

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

WELCOME TO FIRST FEDERATED CHURCH

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