

Family Notes

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with the lowly and outcast. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.

Pastor Mac's sermon, "*Prisoners of Hope*," reminds us that midst all the things that bind us in this world (fear, guilt, anger...), God surrounds us with the gift of Easter hope that forever changes our world and our lives.

The Sacrament today will be administered by intinction. If you are visiting with us and believe as we do that in the Sacrament we receive God's gift of life and forgiveness, if you are a baptized member of the Christian Church, we hope you will join us at the Lord's table. Please note that we also have gluten free hosts.

Our Lessons:

Zechariah 9:9-12. The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God's covenant with Israel, they are designated as "prisoners of hope."

Romans 7:15-25a. Life enslaved under sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be bad. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30. Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.

TYING IT ALL TOGETHER:

What wonderful and comforting images we have in our lessons today. Our first reading from Zechariah, which we often read on Passion/Palm Sunday, tells the people of God that comfort, support and peace will be their gifts. God has claimed the people of Israel (and us) with the very presence of God. God has us captive...with the gift of hope to face the future. Our second reading from Romans is the reminder that the reality of the world sees us bound by our sin. Despite our often good intentions, left to our own devices we lose the battle with our sinful nature. And that is why God's grace is so important. Our salvation doesn't depend us. Thank God. And what a great lesson from Matthew that reminds us of this sinful, griping world and the simple rest and relief that God gives. What guides your life? What surrounds and binds you? Come, be touched by the grace of God today in Word, in Sacrament and in this Family, the Body of Christ that surrounds us each week.

WELCOME

If you are visiting, we welcome you and hope you'll soon return to Faith, and that you'll feel free to share in all that is ours in Christ. Please sign our guest book and a visitor's card which you'll find in the pew. If you are interested in learning more about our community, please speak to Pastor Jim or Pastor Mac, or leave a note in the offering. Please stop by the Information Table in the narthex and pick up materials about our Family of Faith. While we encourage children's attendance and participation in our worship hour, we do provide nursery care for those needing this service. Our ushers will be happy to direct you to our downstairs Nursery.

TENNESSEE BOUND!

Immediately following our second liturgy today, our 37 member Appalachian Ministry Team sets off for a 12 hour journey to Cosby, Tennessee and a week of ministry. Please keep our Team in your prayers this week and check their daily progress on our website.

AA

The gift of healing is shared through our AA ministry each Monday through Saturday morning at 6:30 a.m. We give thanks to God for this healing ministry.



Received into the Church of Jesus Christ through baptism today is Ryan Edward Waters, son of Nancy and Rich. Sponsors for Ryan are Lynne & Chris Melhuish.

We give thanks to God for this gift of new life.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Family of Faith is a Christ-centered servant community that strives to be loving, forgiving, healing and affirming, as it continues to seek new opportunities to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to the world.

Sustained by the Holy Spirit, we worship, serve, learn and grow together by sharing God's gifts of our time, talents and treasures.

COUNCIL AT THE DOOR

If you have questions or suggestions for the Church Council, stop and see the Council Representatives at the door.

Serving today are: 8:00 - Larry Holt
9:30 - Peter McQuaid

Cross lapel pins identify our council members. We give thanks to God for these servants who undergird and

direct our ministry.

Please Remember in Your Prayers:

Diantha Pearson	Vivian Mossberg
Thomas Lange	Ron Waltemyer
John Glass	Sherry Peterson
Nancy Kordistas	Ben Santore
Ruth Bentley	Jan Siberine
Paul Lutz	Lucas Reiling
Constance Burde	Katie Anderson
Curtis D. Kelly	Annie Scherba
Eric Brodbeck	Jim Connaughton
Todd Shell	Julie Floch
Heidi Santore	Joe Auchter
Bob Bell	Eileen Sargent
Carolyn & Art Engelken	PJ Sneeringer
Minet Merritt	Ted Moody
Anne Rogers	Andrew Stofa
Loren Zachau	Rose Ondich
Ann Bueschel	Mike Sargent
Donna Swanson	Jim Mastakas
Anna Mae Glassman	Nancy Wiles
Sven Mossberg	Carl Seastedt
Donna Jaffee	Gertrude Kruger
Rose & Roger Wright	Maggie Hoyer
Raymond E. Smith	Jessica
Carol Lee Tieman	Eunice Neubeck
Tom Kitchener	Ed Breuninger
Joe & Kit Benson	Keith Stribley
Joe Sitko	Shirley Miller
Sandy Olson	Jean Bellone
Glenda Bates	Jessica Spencer
Chris Cramer	Debbie Lewis
Theri Rossol	Walt Bischoff
Bill Wehrle	Linda Szegeti
Catherine Sommo	Tommy Byrne
Pat Bell	Elaine

Tish

To add to or remove a name from the prayer list, please call the church office. Unless we hear otherwise, names are removed after three months.

SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL

The Sunday School stewardship project this year was *Food for Today, Seeds for Tomorrow*. This program provides food and seeds for Zimbabwe. **A total of \$1, 783.66 was collected.**

Music Notes

Join us for summer choir as we meet at 8:45 a.m. each Sunday morning for a short rehearsal in preparation for the 9:30 a.m. service...A good time to participate and sing our summer service...Please meet in the new choir loft! We sing a new setting this summer, Setting 8 in our ELW hymnal.

PASTORAL CARE

Should you need emergency pastoral care this week while the Pastors are in Appalachia and Doris is on vacation, please call Pastor Kriesat at 973-984-9028, Carol MacPherson at 464 1978 or Doris Johnson at 464 6689.

HAVE YOU RETURNED YOUR

TIME & TALENT COMMITMENT?

2011-2012 WORSHIP AND MINISTRY THEME

At their meeting on June 14, our Council unanimously adopted our year-long worship plan for 2011-2012 and with it our theme for the coming year. *STORIES TO TELL, LIVES TO LIVE* will be a wonderful gift to enrich our worship and to lift up our servant ministry. Watch for our new logo and all of our ministry brochures.

PLAN AHEAD

To help us better prepare for worship each week and to provide guidance for daily Bible reading, we publish the following Sunday's lessons each week. Take a few minutes each day to read over these Bible passages in anticipation of our sharing of the Word together. Next Sunday's lessons are:

4th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55:10-13

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Altar Flowers

Our flower chart is currently located on the wall outside the Office. If you would like to donate flowers one Sunday, please sign the chart and turn your check for \$20 per arrangement into the Office.

All flowers are delivered to our shut-ins following the service.

FAITH NURSERY SCHOOL Registration Continues

Faith Nursery School continues registration for the 2011-2012 School Year. Three different morning classes are offered: a class for 2 ½ year olds that meets on Mondays and Wednesdays; a class for three year olds that meets on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; and a Pre-K class that meets Monday through Friday. If you are interested in more information or are ready to register your child, please call Susan Nord, Director, at (908) 542-1252.

REJOICE

Our next New Members' Exploration Group, "Rejoice," will be meeting later in the summer. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about the Lutheran Church in general or Faith in particular, please speak with Pastor Jim or Pastor Mac today or call the Church Office.



New Ministry Opportunity- Community Garden

The HomeFirst Interfaith Housing and Family Services in Plainfield is dedicated to improving the everyday life of individuals and families in the Scotch Plains and Plainfield area. Their newest endeavor is their **amazing new community vegetable gardens**. These gardens enable people in the community to eat organic local produce, which is not available to them otherwise.

Christian Berk is directing the building, maintenance and outreach for the two community gardens in Plainfield and Scotch Plains. There are opportunities available for you to be a part of this new ministry of Faith. Come learn and get your hands dirty! Be on the lookout for

dates coming soon. If you want more information please reach Christian at 908-787-3353 or FarmerChristianHF@gmail.com.

OOPS

Last Sunday there were no new visitors at worship. This means we've now had at least one new visitor at worship for 1269 out of the last 1290 Sundays. Make this week the time to invite a relative or friend to join us for our worship gathering. Share the Family! Share the Faith!



Our Pentecost Celebration was enriched 3 weeks ago as we thanked God for the young people of our community who affirmed their baptismal vows. We thank God for the work of the Spirit in:

**Meredith Bronocco, Katharine Chirichella,
Rachel Chirichella, Abigail Crowley,
Kristina Mueller, Kathryn Remington, Lillian Scott,
Jacqueline Spero**

We also shared thanks for Mark Olson and Dee Tamburro who serve as our lay catechists, our Stitchery group which prepared our Confirmation plaques, and all our Sunday School teachers who shared the Gospel with our confirmands.

9/11 10th Anniversary
Interfaith Remembrance
9/11/11 4:00 p.m.

Our Lady of Peace New Providence
A time to remember the lost...
A time to support survivors...
A time to give thanks for first responders

THE MINISTRY CENTER

Your special mailing last month invited your prayerful and generous gift to further fund all the work on our Ministry Center. Over \$2,000,000 has been pledged and received and now we find ourselves with almost half a million dollars in final expenses that will have to be covered by our construction loan unless we receive sufficient gifts in the coming days. Incurring this debt will impact our ongoing ministries and so we pray for your sacrificial support.

If you have previously made a commitment and have been waiting to share your gift, NOW is the time.

If you have not yet made your commitment, please contact our Capital Campaign Chairs Theri and Fred Rossol (732-534 5350).

If you need assistance with stock transfers, please call the Church Office.

And as you feel blessed by this ministry that we share, we invite your special gift at this time.

"Back to Basics"
Backpack Drive



Our Family of Faith is collecting backpacks to deliver to our mission partners in Newark and Plainfield, and to local children through the Community Service Association and our hospitality program.

Please bring in a backpack filled with the following items: **6 pack of pens (blue or black ink), 6 pack of no. 2 pencils, 12 ct. crayon box, one package of lined notepaper, one package of construction paper, a toothbrush and tube of toothpaste**

The backpacks will be on display in the chancel until they are delivered in time for school. Please bring in the items no later than Sunday, September 4.



SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE Continues

Today we continue our Summer Worship Schedule. Each week we worship with a SPOKEN EUCHARIST at 8 a.m. and then at 9:30 we gather for our SUNG EUCHARISTIC LITURGY. And each week at 8:45 our Summer Choir rehearses for the 9:30 liturgy. This is a great opportunity for you to share in our music ministry for a short time on a week by week basis with no long term commitment. If you would like more information, please contact Dr. Girvin.

It's Summer Time!

As we head into the lazy days of summer, the activities at Faith wind down with Vacation Bible School and our mission trip to Sunset Gap. These are two of the many examples of how your stewardship commitments support the activities and outreach ministries here at Faith.

From June 27-30, over 50 kids gathered at Faith for a Big Jungle Adventure with Kiki the antelope, Humphrey the hippo, Bobo the mountain gorilla, Flash the cheetah, and Rubi the Rwenzori turaco. The Vacation Bible School was orchestrated through the hard work of Lynne Melhuish, Pastor Jim, Dr. Girvin, and the rest of Faith's dedicated volunteer crew. Every day, the children were taught about all of the different ways that God protects us and leads us safely into His Kingdom. Daily activities consisted of songs accompanied by a video, fun crafts and a stuffed animal.

Today, 37 adults and peer leaders will climb aboard the bus for the 12-hour trip to Cosby, Tennessee. Bright and early Monday morning, they will open the doors to welcome 50 youngsters for five days of Bible camp. At the same time as the Bible Camp, the Work Crew heads out to work on houses in need of repair.

Be sure to be in church on November 6 when Tennessee Tales will be the subject of Adult Forum. A number of Faith's volunteers will share their stories about this year's trip and provide preliminary plans for next year's trip.

The Stewardship
Committee



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School had a rich week of ministry with over 50 pupils enrolled. We give thanks for our teachers and all our little ones as they gathered for this special, learning experience. Special thanks to Lynne Melhuish who again coordinated our program this year.

TIES THAT MATTER



Donate your old ties in the container outside the

Office for this ministry that recycles old ties into handbags providing jobs for women in need and money to support services for the homeless. Learn more at www.tiesthatmatter.com.

DID YOU KNOW...

...Today we worship on our summer worship schedule...our Appalachian Ministry Team leaves for a week in Tennessee today...our Pentecost worship was enriched as 8 of our young people affirmed their faith...our backpack collection is now underway...our Membership Exploration Group will be meeting later in the summer...AA meets Monday through Saturday mornings...Faith Nursery School is now registering for the 2011-2012 school year...we've had at least 1 new visitor 1269 out of the last 1290 weeks...a special welcome to all who are visiting with our Family today...check next week's lessons...we continue to have a host of new visitors - welcome...why not bring a friend to Worship next Sunday...2010-2011 calendars are now available at cost in the narthex ...see you in church next week!

Family Prayers

We continue to pray for ALL those whose lives have been forever affected by the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, especially the over 6400 service personnel who have been killed. Today we pray by name for the families of allied service personnel who have died in both wars. Please pray for the families of the following, all of whom died recently:

Maj. Philip Ambard, 44, USA, Washington
Maj. Jeffrey Ausborn, 41, USA, Alabama
Maj. David Brodeur, 34, USAF, Massachusetts
Tech. Sgt. Tara Brown, 33, USAF, Florida
Lt. Col. Frank Bryant Jr., 37, USAF, Tennessee
Spc. Preston Dennis, 23, USA, California
Maj. Raymond Estelle II, 40, USAF, Connecticut
Lance Cpl. Ronald Freeman, 25, USMC, Florida
Staff Sgt. Matthew Hermanson, 22, USA, Wisconsin
Lance Cpl. Joe Jackson, 22, USMC, Washington
Cpl. Adam Jones, 29, USMC, Ohio
Capt. Nathan Nylander, 35, USAF, Texas
Capt. Charles Ransom, 31, USAF, Virginia
Pfc. Jonathan Villanueva, 19, USA, Florida

IRAQ/AFGHANISTAN

We continue to pray for all the people affected by the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. Our website offers prayers for these folks and affords the opportunity to list service personnel serving there. To include a name, please see Pastor Mac. Today we pray for SPC Joe Ellis, a member of our Family, who is on active duty at Camp Drum after a year in Afghanistan. We also remember Lt. Christopher Wilk, a friend of the Daniels.

We remember Scott Farrell in our prayers. Scott is a relative of the Novaks, who is recuperating at Walter Reed Army Hospital after being wounded in Afghanistan.

RESPONSE TIME

If you are a bit behind on your commitment, if you could share your gifts in the next few weeks it would be a great help to our cash flow as we move in to summer. Your early response will make the work of our financial ministry team much easier. If you need an updated status of your gifts and commitment please contact Paul Mossberg our Financial Secretary. Paul's emails are pmossberg@iso.com and pmossberg@verizon.net.



PLAY BALL!

We have an outing to the Somerset Patriots Baseball game on Sunday, July 31 planned. They are playing the Bridgeport Bluefish at 5:05 and tickets are \$10. If you are interested in joining us, please send your check made payable to "Faith" and marked "Patriots"

or "baseball." We encourage your early response as we have a very limited number of tickets available and our partners from Advent will be joining us. (And yes, this year our seats are behind the protective netting!)

UPCOMING –

July 3 – Waters Baptism
3-9 – Appalachian Ministry Week
9 – Soup Kitchen
10 – Anderson Baptism
31 – Patriots Game
Aug. 13 – Soup Kitchen
18 – Knit, Purl & Pray
Sept. 8 – FNS Parent/Child Orientation
10 – Soup Kitchen
11 – 9/11 Liturgy – 7:00 a.m.
11 – RALLY DAY –
New Orleans Jazz Eucharist – 8:30 & 11 a.m.
11 – Interfaith 9/11 Liturgy – 4:00 p.m.

CHECK OFF

As we move to the final stages of construction on our Ministry Center, the following are the remaining items underway. Check them off each week as we winnow down the list and watch the wonderful blog KW has prepared at www.flc-mc.blogspot.com.

Choir Loft Flooring
 Choir Loft Railing
 Chancel Flooring
 Outside Soffits
 Narthex Furnishings
 New Doorways/Windows from Narthex to Sanctuary
 Library Furnishings
 Bathroom Sink Cabinets
 Cornerstones
 Chancel Lighting
 Handicap Access Door
 Organ Delivery and Installation (beginning July 31)
 State Elevator Inspection
 MC Rededication September 25



Dear Friend in Christ,
On behalf of the palm harvesting communities in Guatemala and Mexico, we present you with this certificate of appreciation to thank you for using Eco-Palms for Palm Sunday this year! We hope you will proudly display this certificate on a bulletin board or other public place to let the members of your congregation know the difference they have made.

Because of you, we celebrated our most successful Palm Sunday yet. More than 815,000 Eco-Palms waved jubilantly this year, with 340,000 of those in the hands of Lutherans across the U.S.

Because of you, more than \$40,000 will go back to the palm harvesting communities to provide scholarships to local children and improve their ability to manage the palm program.

Your simple act is making a big difference.

FRANKLIN NELSON SCHOLARSHIP

This morning, Treasurer Darryl Novak, who serves as a trustee for the Franklin and Elsie Nelson Scholarship, will present \$1000 awards to Jane McCready as she prepares to return to her studies at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia for her middler year, and to Courtney Auchter as she prepares to return to her senior year at Susquehanna University.
