



Tidings

766 Graceland Avenue
Des Plaines, IL 60016
847-299-5561
www.fccdp.net



May 2011

Vol. 70 - No. 5

Following Christ, we Connect a Diversity of People with each other and with God!

Worship Ministry....

May 1 - JYC Musical

9:30am
10:30am
None

Cathy Wiesner

Services of Worship
Coffee Hour – Webster Hall
Liturgist
Scripture Reading
Usher Team

May 8 - Mothers Day

8:00 & 9:30am
10:30am
Katy Berman
Luke 24: 13 - 35
Cathy Wiesner

May 15 - Confirmation and Communion

8:00am & 9:30am
10:30am
Sandy Anderson
Acts 2: 42 - 47
Cathy Wiesner

Services of Worship
Coffee Hour – Webster Hall
Liturgist
Scripture Reading
Usher Team

May 22 - Children's Day

8:00am & 9:30am
10:30am
Children
Acts 7: 55 - 60
Cathy Wiesner

May 29 - Memorial Day Weekend

8:00am & 9:30am
10:30am
Francois DuToit
Acts 17: 22 - 31
Cathy Wiesner

Services of Worship
Coffee Hour – Webster Hall
Liturgist
Scripture Reading
Usher Team

ATTENDANCE UPDATE

For the month of March, church attendance was 735 as compared to 716 last March. Year-to-date attendance was 1,978 compared to 2,019 last year.

ATTENDANCE SHEETS

Effective immediately, you will **not** be asked again during worship services to complete the Attendance Worship Sheets. Our statistics shows that, on average, only 63% of our members complete this and it creates a false sense that we know exactly who hasn't been to church if they miss a couple of Sundays. You are now encouraged to look around you and see who has been missing for a couple of Sundays and give that name to our pastor, Rev. Co, who will follow it up. If you haven't been to church for a while, for any specific reason, please contact Rev. Co. From now on, only visitors will be asked to fill in a Visitor Card!

USHER HELP SOUGHT

Would you like to volunteer and get involved at church *without* a huge time commitment? Our church has three usher teams that would welcome your presence on Sunday mornings! The three usher teams rotate by month and so you would “work” for one month of Sundays and then be off for two months. For further information, contact Jim Foster at 847/824-2957 or speak with Cathy Wiesner or Dan Hill.

NEW PRAYER GROUP FORMED

A new prayer group for church members and friends is underway and open to all. The group will meet at 7:00pm on the first Wednesday and third Monday of each month. The one-hour sessions will include sharing, discussion, prayer and meditation. For more information, contact Jana Haas at 847/297-5111.

From the Moderator – Nancy Douthwaite...

WAYMAN MEMORIAL GARDEN

A special Congregational Council meeting was held to review the choices for the placement of the garden. The motion passed to accept the right side of the Parish house steps as the site and to have Jim Larson come back with a more detailed plan trying to save as much of the existing plantings as possible.

COUNCIL AND MINISTRY APPOINTMENTS

As the end of the church year approaches we are looking for members to be a part of the church council and ministries. Please talk to Nancy Douthwaite if you are interested.

Children’s and Adult Education Ministry...

SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Our UCC conference has two beautiful camps, Tower Hill in Sawyer, MI and Pilgrim Park near Starved Rock State Park in Illinois. Several residential camp opportunities are available throughout the summer for kids of all ages. Most camps cost between \$300 and \$350. But, don’t let the cost discourage you. Our CAE Ministry is now offering full camp scholarships to all children of FCCDP members. Please check out the camp website at www.il-odm.org/home/index.php and then speak with Rev. Co for details.

POP TABS TO BENEFIT RONALD McDONALD HOUSES

Our Sunday School is collecting pop tabs to support the operations of the Ronald McDonald Houses. This popular fundraiser benefits seriously ill children by helping provide a place for them and their families to stay while they are out of town for medical treatment. Recycling the tabs generates proceeds to donate to a local Ronald McDonald House. The tabs do not pay for treatment or night stays - only house operations. One house collected enough pop tabs in a year to put \$8,000 toward operational costs. There are currently 305 Ronald McDonald Houses in 52 countries and regions. Ronald McDonald Houses act as a home away from home so families can stay close by their hospitalized child. These Houses allow families to stay together, helping children heal faster and cope better. Ronald McDonald Houses provide over 7,200 bedrooms to families around the world each night, saving them over \$257 million in hotel costs. Pop tabs are small and convenient to collect. Hundreds of thousands of pop tabs have been collected to benefit Ronald McDonald Houses. We encourage you to check out their website with your children so they have a better understanding of what these houses are. Have your child place your collected tabs on the credenza outside the office. More houses are available for your offices, extended family and friends and schools upon request. See Heather Larson for more details. Thank you for your support of this service project.

NURSERY UPDATE

Every Sunday during the 9:30AM worship service, a volunteer will be available in the church nursery so that parents can attend the service. For further information, please speak with Ellie DuToit or you can email her at elliedutoit@hotmail.com.

Diaconate Ministry...

SHUT-IN LIST

We are collecting names of members that are no longer mobile and able to attend church on a regular basis. Once we have established and finalized this list, each of our ministries will use this information to reach out to them. Some of you have already contributed some names. This list is now on the Diaconate Ministry Bulletin Board:

Leonard & Edith Beverly	Fiona Calder	Eileen Ensign	Doris Evans
Art Henrikson	Dorothy Kuersten	Fern Lewis	Ruth Peth
Eunice Sackrison	Margaret Sakakeeny	Henry Sayad	Bill Schwarz
Evelyn Tuttle	Margaret Wells		

Please make sure to add names or contact the church office if you would like to remove your own name if you don't want it on.

Music & Drama Ministry...

JUNIOR YOUTH CHOIR PRESENTS SPRING MUSICAL

Our church's Junior Youth Choir (JYC) will present *No Church in Churchville*, the spring musical, on Sunday, May 1 during the 9:30am worship service. **A reminder that there will be only one worship service on this date!** The JYC is directed by Frank Potempa and features children in second through eighth grade. The group has been rehearsing since February...please come to church and support them on Sunday!

Growth and Fellowship Ministry...___

WELCOME, VISITORS...

We have created "Welcome" gifts for worship service visitors labeled "*Thanks for poppin' in*". They are available in the Narthex and West entrance of the Sanctuary. If you bring anyone to church or are aware of anyone visiting, please offer them a gift. The ushers are aware of this.

CALLING ALL GARDENERS!

Our "Green for Green" fundraiser will return in May so get ready, gardeners! How are **your** perennials coming along? There will be a meeting at church after the 9:30am worship service on Sunday, May 1 for all those interested in participating in this year's effort. What kind of plants would you like to add to your garden this year? What plants might you be willing to share from your garden? For more information on this plant exchange, contact Louise Whisler at 847/296-4960 or glouisejw@gmail.com or speak with Cathy Wiesner or Sue Almerigi.

CREATIVE CONVERSATION SAYS "THANKS"

A big thank you to everyone who supported the recent Creative Conversation Book Sale held prior to the Second Time Around Sale by donating and/or purchasing books. As a result, we were able to raise approximately \$600, which will help fund various church activities and programs. Extra special thanks to Flo Hoffman, longtime church member and local realtor, whose client generously donated over 50 boxes of books because Flo told him about our sale! Kudos also go to the Wednesday Work Crew for all their help and usual "cooperative spirit." Thanks again to all and, until our sale next year, please continue to "take a look at the Book Nook" and consider joining Creative Conversation this fall for some lively discussions of interesting books. We meet at 9:30am the second Monday of each month, September through May.

COME TO SPRING DANCE ON MAY 14!

Our church is hosting an all-ages Spring Dance in Webster Hall on Saturday, May 14. The event runs from 7:00pm to 11:00pm and features **Kenny Maiden** as DJ. Admission is \$2 per person and \$5 per family, with proceeds benefiting Japan Earthquake Relief efforts. Refreshments will be sold. For details, contact Sue Almerigi at sewnspark@sbcglobal.net or 847/299-0520.

NEWS FROM EVENING CIRCLE

Evening Circle's next activity is a luncheon at Bravo in Glenview. This outing is scheduled for 12:00pm on Saturday, May 21. Evening Circle meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00PM, either at church or at members' homes. All women of the church are invited to attend. Contact Kathy Ruedisueli for details at 847-827-8361 or kgruedisueli@hotmail.com.

BREAKFAST, ANYONE?

All are welcome to attend a group breakfast at Silver Stallion in Des Plaines on most Saturdays beginning at 8:30AM. Formerly referred to as *Spiritual Breakfast*, this gathering has been renamed **FEAST** or Friends Eating And Socializing Together. Check it out!

FELLOWSHIP IS GOOD, BUT...

Some of our Chancel Choir members have respectfully requested that congregation members who arrive early for the 9:30am worship service please try to keep your voices down a bit more when visiting with friends as the choir often is finishing rehearsal at this time and needs to focus on the music...thanks!

'NEED A LIFT?

If you or someone you know would like to attend church on Sunday but need a ride, please contact the Church Office and we will try to match your request with a church member who has offered to be an occasional driver. Likewise, if you would like to **offer** your services as a driver, please leave your contact information with the Church Office (847/299-5561). For further information, please speak with Debbie Walusiak.

LET'S NETWORK!

*If you have a **networking** item to share with other church members (jobs wanted, jobs available, etc), please submit your news for consideration in the next Tidings newsletter by **May 15**.*

Mission and Outreach Ministry...

DISASTER RECOVERY MISSION TRIP 2011

Where: Nashville, Tennessee

What: Torrential rains on May 1-3, 2010 caused major flooding in the Nashville metropolitan area. Over 2,100 building permits have been issued to homeowners to repair/rebuild their homes. Many of these homeowners do not have the means (insurance or funds from FEMA) to restore their homes without help from volunteers. Many have not had a safe place of their own to live since the floods occurred.

Date: Depart Sunday, June 19 after worship to Saturday, June 25.

Lodging: A local church, or camping facility. All housing has cooking facilities and showers.

Link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=pFjaQoOdJvI

Please contact Rev. Co for further information at kelkou@hotmail.com.

AND, HOW YOU CAN HELP...

Our Mission Team that is going to Nashville in June will conduct a **computer/electronics recycling** fundraiser and also a **metal recycling** fundraiser. The first event will take place from 9:00am to 12:00pm on June 4 and June 11 (both Saturdays). We will take all types of computer equipment, printers and working TVs and VCRs but no console TVs. Minimum donation is \$10. We will then

take all this equipment to a place that rebuilds and donates to schools. For further information, contact Jim Foster at 847/824-2957. Don Cameron will coordinate the second event, a metal recycling fundraiser. Drop-off dates are Sunday, May 22 and Sunday, May 29 at 10:30am. Pick-ups can be arranged for larger items. Bring your aluminum cans, old coat hangers and almost any other metal items on these dates. The metal will be taken to Maine Scrap for recycling. For further information, contact Don at 847/297-0493. Thanks for your support!

RELAY FOR LIFE CANCER FUNDRAISER SET FOR JUNE 24

Our church once again will form a team to participate in the Des Plaines *Relay for Life*, which will be held from 6:00pm on June 24 to 6:00am on June 25. Festivities begin promptly at 6:00pm and peak with the Luminaria Remembrance Ceremony at 10:00pm. You can participate by joining the team, raising money and walking for an hour or two and also by making a donation and/or coming out for the event to support your church team as well as the cancer survivors, fighters and caregivers that will be recognized that night. For further information, contact Chris Thomas at 847/635-5688 or cthomas5688@mindspring.com. Our church team website is <http://main.acsevents.org/goto/fccdp>.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED HOST MAY FRIENDSHIP DAY

All women of the church are invited to attend *May Friendship Day* at Trinity Lutheran Church in Des Plaines on Friday, May 6. The theme of the day is "Great Company of Women Who Proclaimed the Good News." The gathering begins with registration and continental breakfast at 9:30am and continues with an ecumenical worship service. Please bring pennies for the Fellowship of the Least Coin! For further information, contact Vivian Rivard at 847/824-1625.

WELCOME PACK DELIVERY NEWS

Were you wondering why it seemed that we had less Welcome Pack deliveries in recent months? The Department of Homeland Security was conducting a review of the refugee resettlement program, and because of this, many families who were scheduled to arrive early this year were unable to do so. The review is now complete, and we have been advised that a large number of families will be arriving over the next few months. Please keep them in your prayers.

ITEMS NEEDED MOST NOW FOR WELCOME PACKS

Electric alarm clocks	Vegetable peelers	Light bulbs	Manual can openers
Laundry detergent	Casserole dishes	Postage Stamps	

Thanks again for all your support and donations for Project Survivor.

HELP WANTED

Do you have some time to invest with Project Survivor? We are always looking for more people to help with this program. We need people to help put together Welcome Packages, put away and organize donations in the Project Survivor room, shop for groceries and items for Welcome Packages and go on Welcome Pack deliveries. We usually don't get much advance notice for Welcome Pack deliveries, so having a flexible schedule is helpful, and daytime availability is a plus. See Joyce Beets or Jackie Schmitt if you are interested or if you have any questions.

SAVE THE DATES FOR MEALS ON WHEELS

Drivers are needed to help deliver meals to local shut-ins. Our church's turn with this ministry is from May 9 through June 3. If you can help or would like to learn more, please contact Michelle Herrera at 847/414-0582 or mherrera@microthin.com.

LETTER CARRIERS FOOD DRIVE ON MAY 14 TO BENEFIT SHC&P

The Self-Help Closet & Pantry and the Des Plaines Post Office are seeking community volunteers to assist with the annual National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) food drive on Saturday, May 14 in Des Plaines. ***This is the biggest food drive of the year for the Des Plaines food pantry.*** Can you spare an hour or two to sort or transport food? Please contact Debbie Walusiak for details at 847/337-1443.

Youth Ministry...

PF RETREAT COMING UP; FUNDRAISER SET FOR JULY 2

The Senior Pilgrim Fellowship will travel to Tower Hill for the spring retreat May 6 through May 8. The group also is preparing for the summer Boundary Waters canoe trip, with a fundraiser planned for July 2. The PF (kids, parents and all others who are interested) will prepare and serve refreshments during the second annual Des Plaines bike race in the Villas...details to follow...save the date!

ATTENTION, PARENTS OF MIDDLE SCHOOLERS...

If your middle school student would like to become involved with our church's Junior PF youth group, please provide your contact info to Matt Cameron, Youth Ministry Director, at 847/323-2966 or matthew_kyle80@hotmail.com

Finance Committee...

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

CELEBRATING STEWARDSHIP AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC OF DES PLAINES

The focus of our 2011/2012 Stewardship Commitment Drive is a Celebration. Throughout the drive, members of various church ministries and organizations have been sharing and celebrating some of their accomplishments from the past year. It is through your generous donations of time, talent and resources that accomplishments such as these are made possible every day. Please join us in taking a forward step in giving for the coming year. Although each individual step may be small, when added together they become a giant step forward and will help our Church continue to grow in Christ.

We will be dedicating pledges for the coming year during worship on Sunday, May 8. If you have not yet returned your offering pledge card, we ask that you do so promptly, so that it can be included in the Dedication Ceremony. If you did not receive a pledge card, or if you need another one, please contact the Church Office at 847-299-5561.

Sharon Urry, Chair of Finance Committee

Children and Adult Education Ministry – Paul Whittenhall

When Heather Larson and I agreed to co-chair the Children and Adult Education Ministry, we were both working part time jobs so we can be home for our kids. By the time we started the Sunday school year, we were both working full time jobs.

How in the world were we going to run the Sunday school program, making sure we had enough teachers, finding a new curriculum, and all of the events, like Rally Day, Bible Sunday, Christmas Pageant, Mother's Day, Children's Day, Adult Education, Summer Sunday school and VBS and all of the other things I'm sure I'm forgetting? Well, I'm here to tell you.

The first thing we did was divide the workload. Heather was going to organize the events and I was going to handle the Sunday school. And, I have to say, we have the best volunteers ever! Everyone on the Ministry and the teachers has all stepped up to help out. They found and planned the Christmas Pageant, organized and set up and ran Rally Day, already planning Children's day and Mother's Day. On top of all of this, we are slowly but surely working on going through all the material and paperwork and art supplies and getting rid of items. If any of you have been upstairs, you know how big of a project that can be.

We are also providing information about camps for the kids and the adults and are looking to hopefully run our own camping weekend. I am proud to work with them all. This was a big learning year for us. And we will continue to learn next year so we can continue educating both the children and adults of our church.

Diaconate – Wendy Wallace

The Diaconate makes an effort to touch the lives of the congregants and the community at large (friends, relatives etc).

We prepare and help serve Holy Communion, assist at Baptisms, deliver flowers, set up and serve at Memorial Receptions and write correspondence. The correspondence consists of letters and cards to the ill, bereaved and shut ins. Quite often through the years, the Diaconate has received Thank you notes and donations. It is gratifying to know that this ministry has an impact on the recipients of our correspondence and flower ministries.

Growth & Fellowship Ministry – Ralph Murdy

For the past two years, the Growth & Fellowship Ministry has coordinated a *Christmas Caroling Bus* for church members and friends. The objective is simple: To promote fellowship within the church (involving both the carolers and the "carol-ees" or persons being sung to) and to spread holiday cheer to the community at large. The bus stops at the homes of church members who are shut-ins and also at local nursing homes and retirement communities. Afterwards, the carolers share a meal together - in a restaurant the first year and in a church member's home the second year.

After the first year's event, the grown daughter of a church member who is a shut-in and a "carol-ee" wrote to the church, stating how much her father appreciated the carolers. After the second year's event, the wife of a church member who also is a shut-in and a "carol-ee" stood up in church and shared with the congregation how touched both she and her husband were when two buses containing 36 carolers pulled up in front of their home and everyone piled out and began singing.

Additionally, the shared meal in a church member's home after the second *Christmas Caroling Bus* attracted not only church members and friends but a very enthusiastic member of another local church. And, the chili that was served that evening was so popular that one of our church members asked for the recipe and later shared it with her grown son, who lives in another state and eventually won a "chili cook-off" with the recipe!

Mission and Outreach – Jackie Schmitt and Joyce Beets

Project Survivor is First Congregational's name for its refugee ministry. It was founded here in 2001.

This outreach works with Exodus World Services, a group whose motto is "Helping those who can't go Home." The refugees come here from many countries world wide, having been forced to leave due to religions or political reasons. When Exodus receives notice that a refugee family is due to come to our area, they contact our church. The Project Survivor team then arranges a time to go, recruits personnel and puts together a "Welcome Pack". The Pack consists of household items needed to set up a "home" and some basic groceries. When the family arrives at their apartment, which is usually one or two sparsely furnished rooms, we deliver the Welcome Pack...

The families usually number from one to five - when they arrive all they own is what they can carry in a suitcase or on their backs. They are so very grateful for the Welcome Pack. Following is a letter received from the anchor of a family who recently received a Welcome Pack

To all the saints in the First Congregational Church of Des Plaines

Dear our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Grace, Peace and Mercy from our Lord Jesus Christ and God the Father.

I am writing in behalf of my relatives to thank you for your wonderful gifts and generosity. They received from your church a great thing, a sweet smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice well pleasing to God (Philippians 4:18). Thank you for your wonderful team.

It was asked one time what effect this outreach has on ones faith - Well, after listening to stories of the refugees journeys, we can be assured that God is working in all of our lives.

Project Survivor brings not only material things, but a show of love. Jesus told us that what we do to the least of these, we do also for Him.

Project Survivor is a successful outreach and one to be celebrated at First Congregational Church of Des Plaines.

Music and Drama Ministry – Larry Schimka

Earlier this month, Co asked the different Ministry chairs to share a success story with the Congregation as part of the Stewardship celebration. For me, this assignment was both an honor and challenge as the Music & Drama Ministry had many successes over this past year, and it is very difficult to settle one story that represents the many successes of the whole Ministry.

As I was thinking though this assignment, I began to catalogue the past twelve months in an attempt to identify that one thing or event or group that I wanted to draw out as our success story. You see, we have several outstanding groups that each had their special moments over the past year.

- There is the Chancel Players Drama Group under the direction of Joe Mross and Lowell Handy.
- Or the Junior Youth Choir led by Frank Potempa.
- Then there is the joyous Wholly Ringer Hand Bell Choir lovingly directed by Ellen Alde.
- And then there is the music that Charles Moore brings to us every Sunday either through his wonderful organ and harp playing or through his leadership of the Chancel Choir or the Voice of Inspiration or the Joyful Noise.

As you can tell, selecting one success story from any for these choices is a challenge.

But for my success story, I want to single out how the Music & Drama Ministry chose to share our rich musical heritage with those outside of our Church. Over this past year, we opened our doors and shared our musical gifts with the community by having several groups come here to perform. Some of these performers are:

- The Battle Creek Girls Chorus,
- The Kinsmen Brass Ensemble,
- Jim Hendricks,
- The Chicago Classical Guitar Duo and
- The Agape Ringers.

To me, our reaching out to the community to share God's love through music is our Ministry's success story for 2010-2011.

I want to thank all of you within the Congregation for your help this past year. Without your support, none of this would be possible.

Property – Jim Foster

Do you realize how lucky we are to have such a beautiful building? Do you ever just sit back and look at what we have? Our building is used by so many groups and I'm sure you as a congregation don't realize how much our church supports the community. I would like to give you a 1-week summary in the life of First Congregation Church.

We will first of all start out with us our 2 services Sunday morning 8am and 9.30. When we are done the Dasom Korean Church comes in from 11-3pm, we have an Asian Christian Church comes in at around 5 on most Sunday. But before they come in we have a NA group that meets at 3pm and then another at 7pm. We also have some potlucks and movies that happen about once a month. Well that is just Sunday.

Monday morning we have pre-school from 9am until 4pm all week, we have a women's AA group at 1pm and then the bell practice that evening. We have a ballroom dance class that meets in Webster Hall from 7pm-10pm. Some of the Ministries also meet during the week, some at church some outside the church. Tuesday again the pre-school and then we have Oakton Community College with ESL, English as a Second Language that has classes until noon, council meets on the 4th Tuesday of every month.

Wednesday we have the WWC that meets 9am-noon and the Bible Study at 10am-11. We have an Irish Dance group in Webster Hall in the late afternoon and the choir practices that evening.

Thursday again we have pre-school and ESL, That evening we have two different 12 steps groups that meet and again the Irish Dancers.

On Friday during day is quiet except the pre-school, well I really couldn't say the pre-school is quite but the rest of the building is, but then again that evening we have a 12 step group and the Korean church has a service here in the Sanctuary.

For a long time we have had Saturday as a down day, but starting May 7 we will be having a group from Morton Grove worshipping here on Saturdays, they are the 7th day Adventist Church. I met with them here on a Friday evening to take the elders thru the church to show them what space they would be able to offer. When I brought them into the Sanctuary, they were so taken back by the beauty that we had to offer. They are current using a small church in Morton Grove that will only hold about 125 people. No wonder when they saw this space they were very impressed, they have never had a special place for the choir or even a room that the choir could practice in. For the next 30 minutes, taking them thru the church I only heard how lucky we are to have such a beauty building and how lucky they were that God directed them to us. I guess we don't really know what we have until it is pointed out to us.

All of these groups that use the building make a donation for the use of the facilities, those along with your pledges and donation keep our doors open so we can service the community. That will give you an idea of what happens during the week when we are not here.

Worship Ministry – Jim Gamboa and Jana Haas

The Worship Ministry is the newest of all our church's ministries. It was revived by Reverend Co, with the thought that it would:

1. Be a proactive group that would come up with new ideas for improving our weekly worship, and
2. Be a sounding board for our congregants to offer up their thoughts and ideas.

The members of the committee are Rev. Co, Andre' Deadwyler, Jim Foster, Jim Gamboa, Jana Haas, Joanne Kimball and Ralph Murdy.

One of our functions is to set up the liturgist schedule and coordinate the weekly scripture readings with the liturgists.

We also are responsible for guest speakers and fill-in ministers during Rev. Co's absence.

Last year we wanted to investigate the purchase of new pew bibles. We put a lot of thought and study into the type of bible that we wanted to use, and finally decided on the New Revised Standard Version. These are the new NRSV bibles that are now in the pews. These new bibles were gifts from two different donors and did not come from our committee's limited budget.

Next week our sanctuary will display the palm trees that our ministry purchased. This came from an idea by one of our church members.

Another enhancement to our sanctuary came from another member, and that was the placement of the flowers that grace our windowsills. Jim Foster did an outstanding job in utilizing wood from the Barwick Room renovation to make the shelves that hold these flowers. Thanks to Jim's ingenuity, they did not cost us one penny for this project.

A while back, we requested people to submit their favorite hymns and scripture readings. This request was made with hopes that our members would be made to feel as if they were a bigger part of the worship service. March was the start of the reading of one of the scriptures and also the playing of a favorite hymn. This is something that we will continue throughout the year.

Our current project is our investigation of new Dossal Cloths for the altar area. Ralph Murdy has put a lot of work into this and we will meet soon to discuss replacing our old and faded cloths with new ones.

You may find our bulletin board just to the right of the doorway to the church office. We also have a box in the office, for anyone to submit any suggestions or requests. It is our hope that everyone takes advantage of our ministry. We are always looking for new thoughts and ideas from all of you.

Youth Ministry – Matt Cameron

Our greatest success of the past year was our summer trip to Winter Park Colorado, and "Adams Camp." It is a special needs adventure camp and therapy opportunity. It is a not for profit organization that runs programs all year long, and ends its year with five weeks of summer camp.

Adams Camp was our greatest success because of the difficulty we were having trying to find a new Summer trip, after deciding that our Duvall Home Days in Florida, were done. That trip has been going on for decades, but the cost of the trip, along with the continuing loss of flexibility in actually be hands on with the residence, it was just not working anymore.

The youth Ministry began looking for a new place with a good fit. We found different service organizations, youth camps, but nothing seemed to be what we were looking for. After months of searching, someone stumbled across "Adams Camp." I made some calls, and instantly it seemed like a perfect fit.

Our PF had a chance to work extremely closely with the special needs population, had a lot of fun, and learned a lot. We went not knowing what to expect, we left not wanting to leave. We also had some time for some Colorado fun to finish the week off. As far as I am concerned, we have found the next trip to take us through many decades. It was a great success, in large part due to the youth ministry, and

the hard work of the kids. I would also like to thank the Potempa family for their generosity when it came to accommodations for the end of our trip.

"Tree of Life" - Paul Meincke

Betty Wayman was a remarkable lady - full of life, generous in spirit. When she passed last year, she gave the church a significant sum of money. As we considered ways to best honor Betty for her dedication to the church and her sizable financial gift, we thought that perhaps Betty's generosity might inspire others to give - to the extent they are able. Congregational Council member Larry Schimka suggested that a "Tree of Life" might best capture that spirit. So council member Paul Meincke rounded up some wood and built a seven foot tall tree that is now our First Congregational "Tree of Life". It will be permanently mounted on the wall across from the church office, and will designate by name those church members who make financial contributions in excess of \$5,000 to the church Foundation or various ministries. Names of the donors and the date of their gifts will be engraved on metal leaves that will fill the tree. The leaves are bronze, silver, and gold and will designate various levels of giving. Rules for consideration to be listed on the "tree of Life" have been approved by the church council and are listed in a flyer that will be posted next to the tree.

The intent of the "Tree of Life" is to provide an ever-present reminder that ours is a generous, giving congregation with roots that run deep and branches that spread wide for all.

SECOND TIME AROUND SALE A HUGE SUCCESS!

Many thanks to all those church members and friends who volunteered their time and talents to making this year's *Second Time Around* rummage sale a success. Whether you donated, shopped or worked (or all of the above), your efforts with helping our church's largest fundraiser are greatly appreciated. According to sale chairman Heather Larson, the final tally for 2011 is: Antiques \$2,346.35 Babysitting \$8 Bakery \$448.05 Books \$1,087.50 Clothing \$3,000.20 Friday Door \$1,354 Electronics \$1,324 Furniture \$3,325 Holiday \$667.10 Housewares \$3,225.05 Jewelry \$1,281.65 Outside Food \$979.46 Popcorn and Bag Check \$147.72 Toys \$1,064.45 Financial Donations \$2,355.10 Worker Food \$423 Expenses \$3,004.12 **NET FINANCIAL PROFIT \$20,032.51**

CHURCH GENERAL FUND NEWS

For the month of March, our church's general fund income was \$22,457 with expenses of \$43,170. Year-to-date income is \$243,251 with expenses of \$256,863. Thanks for your continued support.

THANKS FROM THE TILE GUY - PAUL SCHMITT:

Thanks to four additional sales recently, the members and friends of First Congregational Church have purchased **116** tiles for a total of **\$1,119**. There are about 116 tiles left to purchase so get yours soon!

Thinking of Those That Protect Us

Please let the Church Office know if you have a family member in Military Service so that we can list their name in future Tidings. We would especially like to hear about those who are on deployment out of the country so we can keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

Our Thoughts Are With You

Church member Marsha Jancsovics is appealing to the congregation for blood donations for her husband, TJ, who recently was diagnosed with leukemia. He is able to receive O negative and O positive blood types although any donations to LifeSource may be made in his name. To donate, call 847/299-7386. Mention Tibor Jancsovics, ID #1627716. His address is 2049 Eastview Dr., Des Plaines, 60018. His date of birth is 8/28/44.

In Memoriam

Doris Vaughan
March 26, 2011

Gifts & Memorials

Recent gifts and memorials have been received: *In memory of Florence Boyer* to the Minister's Discretionary Fund by Karen LaMonica, Doris Wind and Ruth Heath and to the Building Repair Fund by Eunice Sackrison and to the General Fund by Evening Circle; *in memory of Karen Rivard Cronin* to the Minister's Discretionary Fund by Ginny Van Scoyoc, Kathryn Reiten, Carl & Judy Mahr, Edward & Florence Hoffman and Roberta Bruhn and to the Music Board Fund by Marian Nelson; and *in memory of Marian Price* to the Building Repair Fund by Marcia Claus.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING PERSONS ON THEIR BIRTHDAYS:



Congratulations to Fern Lewis on her May 3rd 95th birthday. An Open House will be held for her in the Multi-Purpose Room on the second floor at Bridgeway, 303 E. Washington, Bensenville on Sunday, May 1st from 1PM to 4PM.

The Tidings is now publishing birthdays for church members and friends. Please notify the Church Office if there are additions, deletions or corrections to be made. **Also, please note that listed birthdays correspond with the Tidings' monthly publishing schedule.** Congratulations to the following persons on their birthdays:

Melanie Donoghue	5/1	Ellie Du Toit	5/1
Eric Jancsovics	5/1	Nancy Quam	5/2
Ken Walusiak	5/2	Fern Lewis	5/3
Margaret Sakakeeny	5/5	Izaan Du Toit	5/7
Jennifer Muhr	5/10	Kathy Foster	5/14
Lauren Rust	5/15	Betty Nanstiel	5/17
Debbie Walusiak	5/17	Michael Gray	5/18
Benjamin Cooper	5/22	Andre Deadwyler	5/22
Keith Liston	5/23	David Pittman	5/25
Jeffrey Kaplan	5/26	Amy Quam	5/27
Chris Thomas	5/27		

From Our Historian – Nancy Meyer

The Second Time Around Sale has been everyone's mind and calendar for months. It is now "history" for this year, but some historical questions had been asked of me that I couldn't answer at the time. How long has FCC been having rummage sales? When did we start calling it "Second Time Around" sale?

I located Church Clerk annual meeting minutes from the 1920's and 1930's, but saw no reference to rummage sales. The Social Union did read reports at those meetings, but I haven't found those reports (yet). The earliest reference to rummage sales I've found so far in 'The Tidings' was in May, **1943**, "Don't forget the rummage sale which is to be given the 13th, 14th and 15th of May at 714 Lee St." *That's in the 3-story yellow brick building just north of Prairie Av., maybe an empty storefront then?* In Nov. 1943, "Watch for Rummage Sale SOON", but I found no more references to that sale. However, during 1944, 4 boxes of used clothing were collected for destitute people of Greece, and used clothing was donated to the Leyden House in Chicago where it was remade and repaired for the needy. And in Oct. 1944, the United Nations asked the churches of America to collect 15 million pounds of clothing for people in countries being liberated by our armies....our church participated in that effort.

The first rummage sale at FCC I found with dollar results reported? May, 1946 - **\$424.71**. Leftovers from the 1947 \$450 sale were delivered to the Assyrian Church in Chicago. In 1950 the Social Union reported \$540 with leftovers to worthy social agencies. In 1951 our Constitution's revision renamed the Social Union as Women's Fellowship, who continued to sponsor the rummage sales for many years. The 1955 sale, held Thurs. eve from 7-9pm and Fri., 9-3pm, netted over \$600. The 1960 sale was on Wed., 7-9pm, and Thurs., 10-1pm & 7-9pm. with "French Room" shopkeepers asking for your "better things" in way of dresses, jewelry, hats, etc. Results? Total of \$543, of which \$245 was from French Room. *Seems I remember the 'French Room' being on the stage or in the 2nd floor Bennett Room in those years.*

In 1965 a 'French Room Coffee Break' was held on Monday from 9:30 to noon, with admission being "better rummage". Of the total \$696.35 sales on Wed. & Thurs., \$331.25 was from the French Room. A committee boxed up 53 boxes of unsold clothing and household goods for worthy agencies in ND, KY, MO and several in Chicago. The 1970 Tidings stated the 4/29-30 rummage sale would be the first of 2, but I found no reference to the second one. In fact, as far as I can tell, there were no more rummage sales until 1979. But during that time, FCC was sponsoring many other fun activities and fundraisers. *I'm guessing our "surplus" clothing during those years found a home in the "Self-Help Closet", founded in FCC's basement in 1971.*

In 1979 "**Second Time Around**" sales began, being held in Brehm Hall, just from 10-4pm on Saturday. Requests were for rummage, furniture, toys, books, collectibles/antiques, all kinds of stuff. In 1985, Women's Fellowship reported \$3,685 net profit, which helped purchase new stage curtains, drapes for pastor's study, new card tables, helped toward new Chapel Choir robes, PF summer service project and Bell Choir travel expenses.

Skip to 1996: In January a plea went out from Women's Fellowship... wanted to have a rummage sale, but needed someone to be chairman. I believe this is when the sale really became an "all-church" effort, co-chaired by staff and laypeople. The familiar triangular logo-graphic was introduced. By then we had expanded to many rooms in FCC. Canopy tent, popcorn cart, grilled hotdogs, and babysitting "Drop & Shop" were all advertised... inviting the entire community. Over \$10,000 was netted, going to FCC's general fund. In 2000 we netted over \$13,000, in 2005 \$14,692 and in 2010 **\$20,343**. We've come a long way since the \$424.71 almost 70 years ago!!



Physical spaces used for the sale changed, days of the week and times of day changed, pricing methods changed, ways of displaying 'merchandise' changed, but no matter what year(s) YOU were involved, the 'Thank You' message published in The Tidings by the co-chairmen in 1996 really says it for every year. "The rummage sale exceeded all our expectations! We are grateful to those who volunteered many hours of their valuable time to help out. We are equally appreciative of all the wonderful items that were so generously donated. This cooperative effort raised over \$10,000 for our church. Not only that, it sparked new friendships, rekindled old ones and provided numerous opportunities for outreach in our community, including leftovers to the needy and recruiting new members. We feel fully blessed by our success and thank each and every one of you from the bottom of our hearts."

I should add that, during my research, the names of all the wonderful women (and men) who were willing to take on the daunting task of chairing these rummage sales over the years brought back many memories of those dedicated and generous souls. I wish I'd had the space to mention them by name! THANK YOU!!

**First Congregational Church
of
Des Plaines
766 Graceland Ave**

FREE MOVIE NIGHT

Saturday April 30th

Free bag of Popcorn!

Juice Boxes, bottled water, and glow sticks

Will be available for 50 ¢



Bring your friends and get ready for fun!

Free admission.

All children must be accompanied by an adult. Bring your sleeping bag and pillow. Doors open at 6:45.

Movie starts at 7:00. We expect to be done by 9:00pm.

Questions? Sue Almerigi 847-299-0520

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30am Worship 10:30a Fellowship JYC Musical 3:00p Florence Boyer Memorial Service	2 7:00p Growth and Fellowship 7:30p Wholly Ringers	3 7:00p Children and Adult Ministry	4 10:00a Bible Study 7:00-Prayer Group 7:30p Chancel Choir	5 10:00a Clergy Cluster	6	7 8:15a F.E.A.S.T. CMA – Spring Meeting
8 Mother's Day 8 & 9:30am Worship 10:30a Fellowship Voices of Inspiration	9 Meals on Wheels 9:30a Creative Conversation 7:30p Wholly Ringers	10 12:00p Ministerial Mtg 7:00p Evening Circle	11 10:00a Bible Study 7:30p Chancel Choir	12	13	14 8:15a F.E.A.S.T. 9:00a Confirmation Sunday Rehearsal 7:00p Spring Dance
15 Communion Confirmation Sunday 8 & 9:30am Worship 10:30a Fellowship Tidings Deadline	16 11:00a Pre-School Concert 6:30p Property 7:00p-Finance 7:00p Diaconate 7:30p Wholly Ringers 7:30p-Prayer Group	17 6:30p Pre-School Concert 7:30p Music & Drama	18 10:00a Bible Study 12:00pm Staff 7:30p Chancel Choir	19	20	21 8:15a F.E.A.S.T. Noon-Evening Circle Bravo Restaurant
22 Pentecost Children's Day 8 & 9:30am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 5:00p Potluck and Movie: "Like Dandelion Dust"	23	24 7:00p Council	25 10:00a Bible Study 7:30p Chancel Choir	26	27	28 8:15a F.E.A.S.T.
29 8 & 9:30a Worship 10:30a Fellowship	30 OFFICE CLOSED – MEMORIAL DAY	<h1>May 2011</h1>		Fellowship – Webster Hall Chancel Choir – Music Room F.E.A.S.T.– Silver Stallion Growth & Fellowship – Sandy Fink Diaconate – Jo Reilly Bible Study – Barwick Room		Finance – Jana's Office Property – Little Villa Wholly Ringers – Sanctuary Council – Barwick Room Music & Drama – C&A Ed. – Thomas