



Tidings

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



July 2010 **Vol. 69 - No. 7**

A Word from our minister....actually from King David! (Psalm 42)

David had spent many a day and night alone as a young shepherd boy. Knowledge of the creator's presence and power were expressed in many of his psalms. In pleasant circumstances David's emotions assured him that God was near. But then circumstances changed. David had fled Jerusalem to escape Absalom's assassination plot. Pursued by his son and a band of conspirators, David ran for his life. He was torn away from the temple, separated from family and friends, and finds himself in hostile, pagan territory east of Jordan. The presence of God, which David had sensed back in Jerusalem's temple and under the quiet stars of the pasture, seemed miles away.

David was in a "dry" period of his life. David realized that his feelings of grief and anger could be quenched by being in the presence of the living God. David had taken the ark of the covenant, the symbol of God's presence, with him when he fled. But soon he sent it back to Jerusalem. At that point he could almost have heard the words, "Where is your God?" coming from the mouths of his enemies. But was God's presence in that gold box that was sent back to David's enemies? Of course not! David knew that he could seek God's presence wherever he was.

Were David alive today, he'd probably lead his congregation in worship! David was threatened with losing his kingdom, with all its privilege and power. But more than losing the power of his throne, David grieved the absence of his friends. Leading his nation in praises to God was his greatest joy. In his grief, those memories brought him comfort. Thoughts of thanksgiving and joy that accompanied times of fellowship with other believers flooded back to him. David recognized that being a part of a community of worshipers brought him more contentment than the power and privilege of the throne.

Solutions and spiritual peace don't always come immediately. In these few verses, feelings and faith arm-wrestle. David didn't deny his emotions of aloneness and fear. Neither did he entirely trust those feelings. He would not be crying out to God if he really believed God was not hearing him. That's why, in the end David consigned his spiritual crisis to God. *"Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God."* When all is said and done, the smile on the psalmist's face, the calming of his emotions in this crisis, and his spiritual health all come from God.

It is easy to feel that God is with us when life is going well. But in difficult times we must never let our emotions tell us that God is absent. Like David, we must let our grief tell us that we need to acknowledge that God is still accessible to us. In a time of global anger, with depression and fear on the rise, with family betrayals and broken relationships ever looming, remembering the truth—that God is in control will put things in their true perspective.

With love,
Rev. Co DuToit

News from **Worship Ministry**....

July 4 - Independence Day and Family Worship

8:00am & 9:30am

10:30am

Joe Botte

2 Kings 5:1-14

Dan Hill

Services of Worship

Coffee Hour – Webster Hall

Liturgist

Scripture Reading

Usher Team

July 11, 2010

8:00am & 9:30am

10:30am

Jim Gamboa

Luke 10:25-37

Dan Hill

July 18, 2010

8:00am & 9:30am

10:30am

Lowell Handy

Luke 10:38-42

Dan Hill

Services of Worship

Coffee Hour – Webster Hall

Liturgist

Scripture Reading

Usher Team

July 25, 2010

8:00am & 9:30am

10:30am

Bob Crocker

Luke 11:1-13

Dan Hill

LAY READERS/LITURGISTS SOUGHT

If you are interested in becoming a lay liturgist during the Sunday worship services (no experience necessary), please contact Rev. Co at kelkou@comcast.net. Please note that if you have indicated on the *Time and Talent Pledge* card that you are willing to serve, he'll appreciate it if you can forward your name to him again since it seems that info has disappeared in thin air!

ATTENDANCE UPDATE

For the month of May, our church attendance was 735 as compared with 857 for May 2009. Year-to-date attendance through May was 3,734 as compared with 4,078 in 2009.



News from **Children's and Adult Education Ministry**...

HELP WANTED! FOR OUR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Our church will be hosting a Vacation Bible School for preschoolers through fifth graders this summer from August 2 through August 6, and volunteers are needed to help make it successful. For further information, contact Ellie DuToit at 847/296-3385 or email: elliedutoit@hotmail.com. See insert for more information and registrations.



YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY PLANNED FOR JULY

Attention, all young adults or those who are young at heart you are invited to a new summer Bible Study that is geared toward current events and issues in our world. Whether it's called "Theology on Tap" or "Bibles and Brews" or "Sipping with Scripture," this session is an easy and informal way to discuss what's happening around us and how it relates to our faith. The group will meet on four consecutive Thursdays – July 8, July 15, July 22 and July 29 – at 7:30PM at the "Haas-cienda" home of Kallie Haas, 1163 Van Buren in Des Plaines. Come to renew old friendships or make new connections. Each week will feature a different topic and so you can attend any or all of the sessions. For further information, contact Kallie at 847/297-5111 (h) or 765/744-5268 © or KallieJHaas@hotmail.com.

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL - It's ON!

Summer Sunday School is in full swing for July 11 through August 29. The children are dismissed from worship after Rugtime. The themes for July are: *Promises to Keep*, *Feeling Good About Myself*, and *All Kinds of Families*. Please have your children join us for the fun.

TIME TO REGISTER FOR SUMMER CAMPS

There is still time to attend a camp this summer at Tower Hill or Pilgrim Park. Registration can be completed on-line at www.IL-ODM.org. Camp brochures featuring a complete listing of offerings also are available in the Church Office.



News from **G**rowth and **F**ellowship **M**inistry...

'TIME TO WAKE UP AND SMELL THE COFFEE...

Additional helpers are needed to prepare and serve coffee in Webster Hall after the 9:30am worship service on Sundays. To learn the process, please speak with Ken Walusiak in the kitchen on Sunday mornings or contact a member of the Worship Ministry.

COME TO ENTERTAINMENT IN THE PARK!

Join us for two events at Lake Park (just south of Lake Opeka) in Des Plaines: On Wednesday, July 7th **Dennis DeBondt** will perform a "Very Funny Magic Program" at 7:00 to 7:45, billed as family entertainment. And on the following Wednesday, July 14, the **Banjo Buddies** will be featured. This Dixieland Band is scheduled from 7:00 pm to 7:45 pm...just look for the bright blue First Congregational Church banner! Also, if you are interested in traveling to Park Ridge for free outdoor concerts at Hodges Park, then consider **Hollywood Hits** on Friday, July 9 or **Broadway Bash** on Friday, July 16. Please contact Debbie Walusiak for details at 847/297-0368

SMILING FACES NEEDED

If you would like to assist Growth & Fellowship by becoming a "greeter" on Sunday mornings, please speak with Bob McCullough for details or contact him at 847/293-3949.

THEATRE, ANYONE?

Would you be interested in seeing the hit musical play, "Billy Elliot" at the Oriental Theatre in Chicago with a group of church members and friends? The cost for a Sunday afternoon performance would be about \$80 per ticket. Please email secretaries@fccdp.org or sign up in the Church Office by July 11 or speak with Bob McCullough for details.

NEWS FROM FAMILY LIFE

The children of Family Life will be **collecting soda pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House**. Join in the fun by collecting your own and placing them in the big bucket on the credenza outside the Church Office. Family Life will be collecting at least through *Christmas* and plan to tour the RMH near *Loyola Medical Center* when they have a large collection. Contact Heather Larson if you would like a cardboard house for collecting your tabs. *Family Life at First Congregational Church of Des Plaines is a social and service oriented group of families with infant through grade school aged children. We are always eager to welcome new families to our events. Please join us. Check out our Facebook page for event updates.*

DID YOU KNOW...

*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 **July 15**.*



News from **Mission and Outreach Ministry...**

WHAT'S NEW WITH PROJECT SURVIVOR...

We had two Project Survivor Welcome Pack deliveries during the month of June. The first delivery was to the Kendelo family, an Assyrian Christian family of 4 from Iraq. Both the mother and father were government officials in Iraq. Their 31-year old son was a chemist clerk for an oil company and their 25-year old daughter was a college student when they left Iraq. The second delivery was to Hrang and Hnem He, a Baptist husband and wife from Burma. This family was one of several ethnic minorities targeted by the Burmese government. Their villages are burned, people raped and killed and children are stolen to become child soldiers. The husband is 30-years old and was a farmer and construction worker, and his wife is 26-years old, occupation unknown. Keep Project Survivor in your thoughts as you are out during the summer. Garage/yard sale treasures can help us make up the Welcome Packs for these families. Thanks for your support.

News from **Diaconate Ministry...**

AN UPDATE

The Diaconate Ministry continues to serve our congregation in several ways. In the past month, this group participated in six baptisms, and they will be serving communion on July 18.



News from **Youth Ministry...**

NEWS FROM THE (FORMER) PF...

From Tara Nesbit de Cardenas: Were you a member of PF during the 70's? Then, please come to a **PF Reunion** in Webster Hall at FCC at 5:30PM on **Friday, July 23**. As the secretary of the group, I know that at one time, we had 170 people on the list of members and friends! It didn't matter who you were at school - that was a different world. When we came together at PF events, we supported one another and included everyone; we had fun and made a lot of memories! An executive committee was elected each fall to plan the events for the year. There were car washes, dances, overnights, parties, winter retreats at Tower Hill, and lots of excursions. We put on steak and lobster dinners at the church to help pay for the annual Spring Trip. Spring Trip! About 70 kids and some brave chaperones piled into two buses headed south - usually to the middle of nowhere - to camp, commune with nature, get to know each other better, wash our clothes in rivers, meditate on our spiritual beliefs, sing around a campfire, and most importantly, learn about ourselves. We all came back with the obligatory sunburn from the Texas or Florida sun, but that wasn't the only lesson we learned. We came back changed people, with many stories to tell! That was more than 30 years ago. It is time to gather again and reunite with old friends. Several of us will be there from out of town and we'd love to have you join us. Please do pass this information on to anyone who might be interested. If you were in PF anytime during the 70's and would like to join us, please R.S.V.P. to: Tara Nesbit de Cardenas at Taraiggy@aol.com or 512-238-8179. We also have a facebook page: PF Reunion – 1970's. *This is a potluck dinner so bring a dish to share.*

...AND, NEWS FROM THE (CURRENT) PF

The Pilgrim Fellowship youth of our church will be selling refreshments on Saturday, July 3 at the Des Plaines Bike Race in the Villas. Please sign up on the PF bulletin board in the church hallway if you can assist. And, the PF is planning to spend a weekday in July at the summer cottage of Matt Cameron. Please speak with Matt for details or call him at 847/323-2966.

News from Music & Drama Ministry...

CALLING ALL MUSICIANS!

Summer volunteers for vocal and instrumental music (soloists or groups) currently are being accepted for Sunday worship services in July and August. Please sign up in the Choir Room or speak with Charles Moore for details.

ICE CREAM, A BRASS BAND AND YOU...

The Kinsmen Brass Ensemble – including our church's own Marsha Jancsovics and friends - will perform an outdoor concert at First Congregational Church after the 9:30AM worship service on Sunday, July 18. This is a free-will offering event, combined with an ice cream social....sweet! For details, please speak with Marsha or call her at 847/299-4104.



News from Finance Committee...

OFFERING ENVELOPES AVAILABLE

Offering envelopes for Fiscal 2010-2011 are now available for pick up on the credenza outside of the Church Office. If you would like envelopes, but did not request them, call 8470299-5561.

CHECK OUT OUR BULLETIN BOARD OF BILLS!

Help get the new fiscal year off to a strong start. Look for our Bulletin Board of Bills in the hallway leading to the sanctuary. You will find a variety of bills, in varying amounts, that the Church needs to pay during the coming weeks. The summer months are always a slow time for pledges and offerings, but with your help in getting some of these routine bills paid, we'll have the budget dollars needed for our Ministries and outreach programs. It's easy to participate. Just select the bill that you are able to pay. Remove it from the bulletin board and turn it in to the Church Office with your check for the amount due, made payable to First Congregational Church of Des Plaines.

2010 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

We are still missing 33 pledge units or \$44,804 to balance the Pledge Income line on our 2010-2011 Fiscal Budget. If you have not yet had a chance to make your pledge, or if you have never made a pledge before, there is still time. Please give Jana Haas, our Director of Finances/Bookkeeping a call at 847-299-5561 and share with her your estimate of giving for the coming year. Thanks for your support.

CHURCH GENERAL FUND UPDATE

For the month of May, our church's general fund income was \$22,483 with expenses of \$25,544. Year-to-date income is \$327,649 with expenses of \$321,257. Please continue to support your church during the summer months...our expenses don't take vacations.

News from the Pastoral Relations Committee...

ABOUT OUR CHURCH'S PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE....

Its purpose is to support and maintain an open relationship between the minister and the congregation, to serve as a facilitator for the resolution of questions and concerns of the congregation and the minister, and provide a framework for dealing with conflict.

- If you have a question about our church and don't know whom to ask, contact the PRC.
- If you have concerns about, or suggestions for, our minister or church staff, let the PRC know.
- If you're looking for confidentiality with a specific problem or issue, you can feel comfortable talking to a PRC member.
- If you want to share your hopes and dreams for our congregation, the PRC would like to hear them.

Please feel free to contact any member of the Pastoral Relations Committee:

Ralph Murdy

Cindie Hoch

Amy Quam

Jim Foster

Kevin Donoghue

Joanne Kimball

Maxine Hubbard

Larry Schimka

Mary Pittman



Thinking of Those That Protect Us

John Flink, son of **Sandy Flink**, is a US Navy Reservist living in Washington, DC and involved in projects in Africa and Europe. His wife, Wendy Snyder, is a Navy Commander serving in the Department of Defense at the Pentagon. She also has served in the Persian Gulf. *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.*

A New Address

Mrs. Martha Jarvis
8975 Golf Rd., Apt. 729
Niles, IL 60714
847/699-8566

Thanks...

"The Family and Friends of Barbara Hartel would like to thank the church family at First Congregational for your love and support for Barb during her long battle with cancer. We know that she felt very much at home at FCC and that her spirit and faith were nurtured in your midst. Thank you for sharing your stories, your warmth and your love as we said good-bye to her and celebrated her "wonderful life." We trust that you will continue to nurture and love Beverly Keena as you have in the past. Than you again for sharing God's Love." *(From Debbie Rickett and Julie Elliott, Barb's nieces)*

"Thank you to everybody from First Congregational Church who contributed to the Elizabeth Grice Team for the Ronald McDonald House Charity walk in Oak Lawn that was held on June 6. Elizabeth's team raised more than \$3,600 and was the #1 Fundraiser for this event! *(From Paul & Sandy Grice and the Grice family)*

Gifts & Memorials

Recent gifts and memorials have been received: ***In memory of Barbara Hartel*** to the Minister's Discretionary Fund by Sue Webber, Phillip & Joan Pryby, Steve & Marjorie Fluder, Virginia Worth and Doug & Donna Koda and to the General Fund by Barry & Jana Haas and to the First Floor Remodeling Fund by the June 2010 Ladies Night Out group and to the Building Repair Fund by Diana Hubert and to Growth & Fellowship Ministry by the Walusiak family; ***in memory of Jo Collins*** to the General Fund by Evening Circle; ***in memory of James Hall*** to the Building Repair Fund by Diana Hubert; and ***in honor of Vivian Rivard*** with special thanks to the Heart of the Church Fund by Wayne & Paula Lenczycki.

From the Community...

Our neighbors at **St. Martin's Episcopal Church** are hosting free community meals on the second Friday evening of each month from May to September. There is an optional worship at 6:00PM followed by dinner at 7:00PM. Dinner is served potluck-style. For details, call Jill Dunn at 847/975-4787. **Trinity Lutheran Church in Des Plaines** also is hosting free community meals, *Five Loaves and Two Fish*. Meals are served from 11:00AM to 2:00PM every other Saturday from June through September.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING PERSONS ON THEIR BIRTHDAYS:

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:

Janet Farrell 7/1
 Jennifer Duffy 7/4
 Joy Cooper 7/6
 Erin Mc Connell 7/10
 Norman Nanstiel 7/14
 Scott Hansen 7/19
 Grace Olsen 7/21
 Amy Eck 7/28
 Emma Bryers 7/29
 Danielle Priester 7/30

William Neil 7/1
 Robert Phillips III 7/4
 Gregory Anderson 7/7
 William Opalka 7/11
 Karsten Hahn 7/15
 Barry Haas 7/20
 Deborah Cribben 7/27
 Robert Hoch 7/28
 Daniel Ruedisueli 7/29
 Margaret Miller 7/31



From our Historian, Nancy Meyer...

First, on Children's Day, Janet Thompson explained why Tower Hill had been this past year's Sunday School mission project. Then our grandchildren reminded us again how really excited they are to return to Tower Hill for Grandparent & Me Camp in a couple of weeks. The icing on the cake was when Diana Hubert walked up to me at the Des Plaines Historical Society annual meeting waving her 8" X 10" photo of Tower Hill church campers July 2, 1948! She and her sister June are in the 3rd row, lower left corner. FCC and Tower Hill just had to be the subject of July's Tidings Historian article, so here goes.

Dr. Grice graciously supplied historical background about Tower Hill but I can include only small extracts here. (Janet also mentioned this her presentation on May 23.) The Warren family was corset makers Three Oaks, MI. They owned all the land along Lake Michigan that became the Warren Dunes State Park, Tower Hill Camp, and Preachers Hill. The Warrens were faithful Congregationalists with a passion for reform and reaching out to those in need, especially in the cities. With the Chicago Fire of 1871, the city needed to be rebuilt quickly. Directly across the lake were the untouched forests of the Warren family. They sold their timber, carried back to Chicago by a railroad spur or by barge. On one of the large sand dunes, a large tower ("light" or "beacon") was built to guide the boats to the place where they could load up the lumber. The road leading to the "tower" on the sand dune (called "hill" in those days) became Tower Hill Road. With all the money the Warren family made from the sale of their timber to the City of Chicago, they felt truly blessed and wanted to give back to others something of what they were able to enjoy. They donated 155 acres to the State of Michigan to become the Warren Dunes State Park. They donated 55 acres to the Chicago Congregational Conference and the Chicago Missionary Society (which was a part of the Chicago Congregational Conference) for the purpose of provide a "camp" (interpret here 'space to camp' as well as buildings) for inner city children and adults to appreciate the wonders of the eastern shores of Lake Michigan. By donating the larger portion of their estate to the State of Michigan for the Warren Dunes State Park, the Warren family knew public funds would be used to fully develop the State Park, which those at Tower Hill Camp and Preachers Hill (30 acres donated to Chicago Theological Seminary) could enjoy without charge.



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FCC has been associated with Tower Hill Camp over 80 years. As Janet mentioned in her talk, our former member, the late Gil Horn, attended summer camp at Tower Hill during a time when campers still slept in tents acquired as army surplus from World War I. Diana recalls in the '40's they had rustic "cabins": raised wooden platforms (8 beds each) with 3 ft. high walls and screening. Flaps could be lowered if it rained. Toilets and bathing were in a separate building. Dr. Grice says various buildings were constructed over the years, Gammon Hall being the oldest. Cinder-block buildings were constructed by the Michigan National Guard, used for many years for two-week summer maneuvers. I'm sure FCC's MADD campers in the 1980's and 1990's have many memories of fun and frolic in "The Pines" barracks, including my sons. A-frames were built in the 1960's. In 1987, an adult retreat center was built. In 2006, the newest building was added. [Sales of other properties and fund-raising efforts to accomplish all of this, to provide the wonderful facilities and camping opportunities Tower Hill offers to FCC, AND keep it running, could be another article.] As Janet mentioned, FCC has been involved in Tower Hill Camp's Outdoor Ministry in many ways over the years...church campers as Gil Horn, Diana Hubert, Flo Hoffman and many others have been over the years,



counselors, Pilgrim Fellowship retreats, Junior Youth Choir retreats, week-long family camps in the '70's, MADD Camp, Chancel Choir retreat, autumn adult retreats, HUG Camp and Grandparent & Me Camp.

We are a 3-generation TH family. Grices are a 4-generation FCC family (going on 5!) that have shared the wonderful Tower Hill Camp experience! How many generations in your family?!

Rt. 94 E to Exit 12 - Sawyer, MI. Turn rt. off Exit

ramp, going under Rt. 94. In $\frac{1}{2}$ mi., turn right at stop sign!

Spaces are limited – Register Now!



First Congregational U.C.C.

Vacation Bible School



Registration Form

August 2-6 From 9:00am to Noon

Child's Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Street _____ City _____

Zipcode _____

Parent or Legal Guardian _____ Telephone Number (for emergency purposes) _____

Emergency Contact Person _____ Relationship to Child _____

Telephone Number (other than parent) _____

Allergies (especially food allergies) _____

Other Helpful Information (illnesses, medication, activity restriction, etc.) _____

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Fellowship – Webster Hall Spiritual Breakfast – Silver Stallion Council – Barwick Room Growth & Fellowship - Deb Walusiak Diaconate – Jo Reilly Summer Bible Study – Jana Haas Property Ministry – Little Villa				1	2	3 8:15a Spiritual Breakfast 7:00a Des Plaines Bike Race
4 8 & 9:30am Worship Family Worship 10:30 am Fellowship	5	6	7 7:00p Dennis DeBondt at Lake Park	8 7:30p Summer Bible study	9	10 8:15a Spiritual Breakfast
11 Baptism 8 & 9:30am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship	12 7:00p Growth and Fellowship	13 7:00p Pastoral Relations	14 7:00p Banjo Buddies at Lake Park	15 Tidings Deadline 7:30p Summer Bible study	16	17 8:15a Spiritual Breakfast
18 Communion 8 & 9:30am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship Sousa in the Courtyard (Brass ensemble and Ice-Cream social)	19 7:00p Diaconate	20	21	22 7:30p Summer Bible study	23 5:30p PF Reunion (70s members) in Webster Hall	24 8:15a Spiritual Breakfast
25 8 & 9:30am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship	26 6:30p Property Ministry	27 7:00p Council	28	29 7:30p Summer Bible study	30	31 8:15a Spiritual Breakfast Sr. PF Summer Trip

July 2010