

Easter, Heaven and Hell are Here



Dr. Richard Wing
Senior Minister

Too much energy is spent talking about heaven, hell or the return of Jesus.

Rev. Art Sanders, who served this church for over 25 years, was asked: "Do you believe Jesus will return?"

Art said, "I don't think he left in the first place." Jesus said, "Remember: I am with you always."

He is talking now, not as future reward. All of the classics in Christian spirituality affirm Art's declaration. Jesus never left and reveals himself in the work he left for us to do.

I have a new rule about heaven and hell: I will discuss each as long as you limit the discussion to what we experience on earth today.

I have been to hell. Hell is sitting by parents who just lost a child either at birth or 21 years of age. Hell is visiting Tijuana, Mexico in the 1960's where in one shack 22 people lived, 2 of them dying from TB unassisted. I have been in hell in India walking behind Neela Onawale where people live on less than \$1.00 a day. I have been to hell in Guatemala where 23 children shared one egg for lunch and would have no more food for the rest of the day.

And I have been to heaven as I watch parents and adults dare to keep living beyond their loss. I have witnessed heaven when young people and adults choose to build homes in Tijuana rather than hit the beach at spring break. I have seen heaven where this church has dared to create social services and a school right in the middle of the squalor of Pune, India.

(Continued, Page 2)

Discover Sanctuary with Terry Hershey

Spiritual Searcher Weekend at South Campus



"Everyone has a sanctuary, if only in the mind," says Rev. Terry Hershey. "It is a place where we feel grounded, unhurried, and renewed." In this weekend, Terry invites you on a journey—"a journey to create and embrace your sanctuary places." And he adds: "You will be glad you did."

You are invited on this *Spiritual Searcher* journey through the Center for Spiritual Search for any part, or all, of the weekend events, including Terry's sermons at the 9:45 and 11 am worship services on Sunday, April 10.

Registration details for the Friday lecture, Saturday workshops and Sunday wine tasting are found at FCchurch.com/Hershey. You may also register at tables after Sunday worship. Contact Natalia Jones for any further information at njones@FCchurch.com, or 614.488-0681, ext. 151.

"A sanctuary is a place that restores us, replenishes us, nourishes us. In this renewal, we are reminded, once again, of what really is important." — Terry Hershey, *Sanctuary: Create a Space For Grace in Your Life*

Friday, April 8, 7 - 8:30 pm

Why Do We Need Sanctuary In Our Lives?

Saturday, April 9, 9 - 11:30 am

Finding & Creating Your Sanctuary

Saturday, April 9, 1 - 3 pm

Becoming Sanctuary for Others

Sunday, April 10, 3 - 5:30 pm

Spiritual Searcher Wine Tasting Fundraiser with Terry, North Campus

Rejoice in the Choice

New Service Added to North Campus

■ By Michael Barber

Echoing the success of last spring's more relaxed North Campus service, a new alternative manner of worship returns Sunday, April 17 at 11:05 am.

This new service adds to the 8:30 and 9:45 am services already taking place Sunday mornings in Grace Hall.

The 45-minute service is expected to include acoustic guitar, candle lighting, a children's song and a brief homily.

Families are encouraged to worship together with their children as no child care is scheduled.

The service will continue through the end of May with the exception of one Sunday. On May 15, we will all gather in one place, South Campus, to celebrate Block of Wood Sunday.

The 11:05 am service is expected to return in September when our regular fall schedule begins. Sunday services at South Campus remain unchanged at 8:30 and 11 am.

Easter

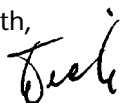
(Continued from Page 1)

I can hear Jesus saying, "Forget about this heaven, hell, return nonsense. I am *here now*, calling you to be agents of resurrection; to make Easter and heaven happen anywhere you see the hell of despair, hunger, suffering and loneliness, which is the worst poverty of all (Mother Theresa)."

Easter is, first of all, here the moment we lift people from their earthly hell toward new hope, which is heaven here and now.

It all happens right here. Where you are. What a privilege!

Peace to your Easter path,



Foundation

■ By Walter Neff

A grant of approximately \$5,600 was approved to support funding the Neela Onawale Retirement Fund. The funding for this grant will be from the Onawale/Huntzicker Fund and will be sent to Deep Griha USA for implementation.

Members of the Heritage or Legacy Society need to save the date of June 2 for the First Community Foundation Appreciation luncheon.

Congress has renewed the charitable IRA provision allowing those age 70 ½ or older to make direct charitable gifts from traditional and Roth IRAs to qualified charities (both First Community Church and First Community Foundation are qualified charities) in a total amount up to \$100,000 free from federal income taxation.

Making gifts from IRA funds that would otherwise lead to increased taxes can be a wise choice for many. This would be especially true for those who must take the required minimum distribution ("RMD") each year. Check with us, your investment advisor, tax advisor or IRA administrator for more details as very specific procedures must be followed.

Search Committee Update

■ By Ginny Barney, *Committee Chair*

The Search Committee has been hard at work since they came together in September 2015 to create a process for the selection of our new Senior Minister. The first phase of our work was in gathering input from you – the congregation. We asked questions and you answered. Over 550 surveys were gathered. Over 250 were completed face-to-face in small group conversations and 320 were completed via the online survey.

With your input and with the approval of the Governing Board, the top three attributes we feel are important for the spiritual leader we seek for our faith community are:

- *Dynamic Preacher* – an inspiring speaker with a gift for sharing God's love and engaging the minds and hearts of our community, near and far.
- *Pastor* – a loving and faithful spiritual guide who desires to build authentic relationships, care for those in need and lead faith development.
- *Organizational Leader* – a visionary leader with a history of effective organizational leadership and management, development of a staff, fundraising acumen and entrepreneurial spirit; as well as experience growing a ministry in a changing climate.

Look for the full list of rankings for the most important attributes, as well as the key issues facing First Community Church on the website and posted on bulletin boards around the church.

The committee is set to address the Governing Board on March 29 to present the recruiting pieces we will be sending out to potential candidates (including those names suggested by congregants). With Governing Board approval of this phase, we will move forward with active recruitment. Thank you for sharing your thoughts and suggestions with the committee. And thank you for your patience and prayers throughout this search process for our new Senior Minister.

Parent Growth

Parent Growth meets Mondays, 9:30 - 11 am in the Guild Room, South Campus for parents of young children (through elementary school). No preregistration needed. Cost is \$5 per session. Child care available at \$4 per child.

Spring 2016 Topics:

April 4 - *Nourishment for Life & Parenting*

April 11 - *Mindful Play for Parents Lives*
Guest speaker Brandi Lust, Learning Lab Consulting

April 18 - *Children's "Work": Exploring Play Mindfully with Children*. Guest speaker Brandi Lust, Learning Lab Consultants

April 25 - *Relationship: The Source of Nourishment*

May 2 - *How Emotional Intelligence and Resilience are Grown*

May 9 - *Supporting Autonomy, Competence and Responsibility*

firstnews Articles

Include the date, contact person's name, phone number and/or e-mail address with all submissions. Submit to:

email - news@FCchurch.com
fax - 614 488.2763
phone - 614 488.0681

We reserve the right to edit all submissions.

The deadline for all submissions is 12 pm on the 15th of each month.

firstnews is a communications mission of First Community Church, published for church members and the community to share insights, educate and inform.

Editor: Michael Barber
Graphic Design: Tabitha McCleery
Admin. Assistant: Emily Rogers

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God's Love... Our Love

Sunday April 24, 5 pm
South Campus



Donnalynn Holiday Laver, soprano with First Community Church's Chancel Choir will present a one-hour concert featuring sacred and secular classical music.

The program will include selections by Bach, Mascagni, Schubert, Arne, Mahler and Puccini.

Dr. Ronald Jenkins will be at the podium with an orchestra, Robert Griffith at the organ and a chamber choir accompanying. Special selections will highlight members of the orchestra, including Tom Battenberg on trumpet.

After the concert, guests will enjoy complementary light hors d'oeuvres and beverages in the adjacent Brownlee Hall, hosted by First Community Women's Guild Group D. Donnalynn will present the concert in cooperation with The Ohio State University School of Music.

In May, she will graduate with a degree in Voice Performance with summa cum laude honors. Contact Christian Laver at celaver@columbus.rr.com or 614 451.9628 for more information.

Kroger Rewards

April is the month to reenroll your Kroger Plus Shoppers Card in their Community Rewards program. Go to kroger.com/communityrewards, enter your card number and choose organization number 80293 (First Community Church).

All of the proceeds earned through this program go directly to the Heart to Heart food pantry. In 2015, we earned nearly \$8,000 with 266 households participating by the end of the year. It is our goal to earn \$13,000 per year or have 500 participating households.

Heidelberg University Concert

■ By Peggy Johnson

Heidelberg University's Concert Choir and Chamber Singers will perform at South Campus on Tuesday, May 17, at 7 pm. Dr. Greg Ramsdell directs the 55-member choir, part of the University's School of Music and Theater.

The program entitled *Sun, Moon, and Stars* celebrates the rhythm of life from the gift of life each day to reflections on friendship and the wonders and mysteries of the universe. The Worship and Arts Council and Friends of Music have made this concert possible.

Since its inception in 1938, the Concert Choir has achieved the distinction of being one of the premier collegiate choral ensembles in the Midwest. It is open to all students regardless of their major course of study.

Heidelberg, a liberal arts school in Tiffin, Ohio, was founded in 1850 and it is affiliated with the United Church of Christ, as is First Community Church. The concert, part of the choir's annual spring tour, is free and open to the public. A freewill offering will be taken.

Following the concert, there will be an informal reception in Brownlee Hall where host families can meet with the students they will be housing. Students should return to South Campus by 8 am Wednesday morning. Contact Peggy Johnson at 614 459.9186 for more information or to volunteer to host two or more students.

Shout Out to Retired Teachers, Librarians and Book Lovers

If you have a passion for reading and books, the church may have a new ministry for you. Contact Rebecca Wolfe at rwolfe@fcchurch.com or 330 697.6218 for information. Inquiry about this opportunity does not mean a commitment.

Franklin Medical Center Prison

At any time, anyone can be the most important person in any organization.

This motto is from the coveted "Impact Award" presented to First Community Church volunteers Tracy Hoag and Vickie Murphy in 2015 by Ohio Department of Rehabilitation & Corrections (ODRC). FCC volunteers have focused on 2 North, which is the Men's nursing home area, many of whom have been sentenced to life without parole.

Highlights from the first two years:

- Visited inmates weekly with music, crafts, games & book groups
- Organized two Remembrance Services in which Dick Wing, Kate Shaner and volunteers honored over 200 inmates who have died at FMC
- Upgraded Palliative (Hospice) rooms by painting walls, donating comfortable bedding and hanging quilts created by Prayers & Squares
- Donated a monthly \$100 Giant Eagle Gift Certificate (from Mission Council) to provide special food requests to inmates approaching end-of-life
- Sold crocheted hats (from FCC donated yarn) created by male inmates. Proceeds from these sales are also being used to improve the Palliative Care rooms, which gives inmates a sense of purpose

How you can help:

- Volunteer to join us on Tuesdays at noon or Wednesdays at 5:30 pm. No particular skills required. With more volunteers we can start visiting other areas of FMC, such as 2 South, the Women's Wing where pregnant, cancer survivors & terminally ill female inmates are housed
- Continue to donate yarn, magazines (travel, science & nature are popular...remove address labels) and gently used twin-sized bedding. There are donation bins at both North and South Campuses

Contact Tracy Hoag at the4hoags@gmail.com or Vickie Murphy at vickiejeanm@hotmail.com

Parish Register

We share the joys and sorrows of our church family in our prayers.

As of March 16, 2016

BAPTISMS

William Michael Burnett 3/6/16

Son of Melissa & Brian Burnett

Lucy Jane Evans 3/6/16

Daughter of Michelle & John Evans

Granddaughter of Mary Ann &

Dick Porter

Great granddaughter of Jane

Zartman

Jack Breese Forsythe 3/6/16

Son of Lyndi & Mark Forsythe

Grandson of Linda & Rob Forsythe

Anderson Nicholas Levell 3/6/16

Son of Amanda & Keith Levell

Grandson of Lois & Glenn Zook

Nephew of Mollie & Mike Zook

HOSPITALIZATIONS

Don Cherry

Ann Dickerson

Cindy Hudson

Steven Kellough

Neela Onawale

Lenny Smith

Barb Tingley

DEATHS

Barbara Ullrich 2/24/16

Sister of Mona (David) Hett

Jeanne Irwin Scott 3/2/16

Aunt of Ned (Marti) Timmons

Virginia Claire Wheeler 3/6/16

Mother of Robin (Dan) Conway

Elizabeth (Betty Lou) Frye 3/10/16

Wife of Dr. Timothy Frye

Please send notifications of Weddings, Births, Hospitalizations or Deaths to prussell@FCchurch.com or 614 488.0681 ext 228.

Our Pastoral Care staff is available if you desire a visit or call during an illness, hospitalization or time of need.

Women's Guild Spring Luncheon Offers Unique Fellowship

■ By Jill Eliot

"Celebrate! There's a big, wonderful world out there for you. It belongs to you. It's exciting and stimulating and rewarding. Don't cheat yourselves out of this promise." — Nancy Reagan

Spring is here bringing with it the Women's Guild Spring Event to be held at The Boat House Restaurant Saturday, April 23 at 11:30 am. The Boat House is located at the confluence of the Olentangy and Scioto rivers, offering an unmatched view of the Columbus city skyline.

Janet McCutcheon, Guild Vice-President, asked all Group chairs to promote the event. This year will find us enjoying a sit-down, white table cloth meal for \$28. Groups will be seated together.

The entertainment will be *The Notes*, a retired teachers' singing group. We will have group singing as well. Tickets are available after worship and at the reception desks at North and South Campus through April 17. Group chairs have signup sheets to help with ticket sales. Credit cards will be accepted.

Don't lose the flyer for the event, as it will be the ticket and must be brought with you to the luncheon.

An entrée selection of salmon, chicken or vegan will be made at the time of the ticket purchase. All entrees are gluten free. Each Guild Group will be requested to pay \$25 to help defray expenses. Contact Karen Claussen at 614 316.4311 for more information.

WANTED: SUNSHINE LADY

She will be the person who sends various cards to those ladies who are experiencing life circumstances. Come and "dip a toe" in the water of the Women's Guild. The involvement includes approximately 10 meetings a year and an hour once a week to gather information and to mail the cards or notes. Contact Estelle Scott at emscott2037@wowway.com

Discussion on Sex Trafficking

Are you aware that age 13 is a target age for sex trafficking? Women's Guild Group Q will host a documentary called *The Chosen* and speakers from Shared Hope International, a non-profit organization that exists to prevent sex trafficking of women and children, will be at their meeting April 27 at 1 pm, Brownlee Hall.

Contact Jill at jeliot@columbus.rr.com or 614 278.7745. There is no charge to attend this meeting, but a reservation is requested. There are also volunteer opportunities with this group.

The Bible and Spiritual Well-Being

Sunday Morning Seminar

May 1 – June 5, 9:30 – 10:45 am

Wicker Room, South Campus

Seminary Professors Paul Kim and Fulgence Nyengele lead this special, five-week seminar in utilizing the Bible for spiritual and emotional self-care and the care of others.

Using the Bible and the latest psychological research as lenses, Drs. Kim and Nyengele will explore topics like wholeness (what is a good life?), happiness (what makes life worth living?), grief (what is it?), forgiveness (must we always forgive?), hope (what makes hope possible?), and meaning-making. This class will use dialogue, psychological analysis, the news and social media and the biblical text as resources.

Dr. Paul Kim is a professor of the Hebrew Bible and the Williams Chair of Biblical Studies at the Methodist Theological School in Ohio (MTSO). Dr. M. Fulgence Nyengele is a professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling at MTSO.

During April in our Sunday Morning Seminar, Adult Education Coordinator Walter Watkins will lead discussions on four videos from Bill Moyers' *Faith and Reason* interviews, including those with Buddhist nun Pema Chodron, authors Mary Gordon and Salman Rushdie and philosopher Colin McGinn.

This Month in Church History

■ Compiled by Jackie Cherry

Apr 18, 1909 - First Sunday School class organized by Tri-Village residents held at Harding School

Apr 27, 1910 - Grandview Heights Congregational Church chartered by Secretary of State of Ohio

Apr 23, 1910 - Laying of cornerstone for Lincoln Road Chapel

Apr 11, 1926 - Youth Groups renamed Brownlee Society

Spring 1942 - First Sweetheart Luncheon (now Burkhart Luncheon)

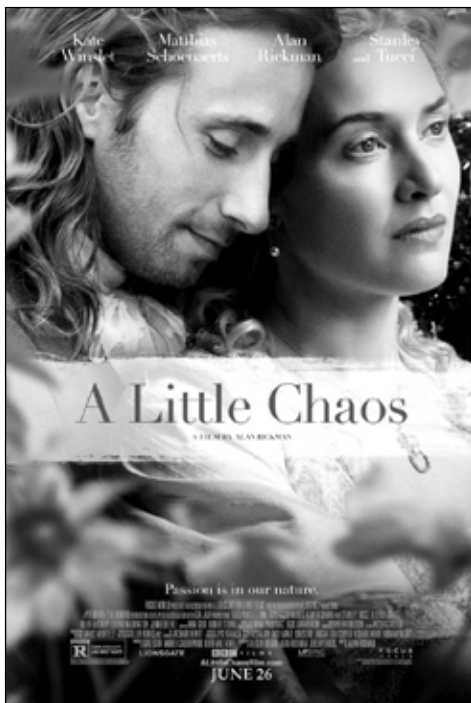
Spring 1944 - First Minister's Seminar

Spring 1950 - A poll of 100,000 clergy conducted by *The Christian Century* named First Community Church as one of the twelve great churches in America

May 14, 1951 - Laying of cornerstone for south education wing at 1320 Cambridge Blvd

May 19, 1958 - Dr. Otis Maxfield installed as Senior Minister

May 17, 1992 - Dedication of Center for Extended Ministry, now known as North Campus - Rededication of 1320 Cambridge Blvd, now known as South Campus



April Film Group

Friday, April 15

Wicker Room, South Campus

6 pm social and pizza; 6:30 pm movie

A Little Chaos, a 2014 British period piece starring Kate Winslet and directed by the late Alan Rickman, is a romantic drama that takes place in 1682. Winslet plays a widow who is a talented landscape designer.

She has been invited to create a garden at the Palace of Versailles. In accepting this task, she must negotiate the dangerous rivalries, court etiquette, and class and gender barriers to win the favor of King Louis XVI and his brother.

As she works through her tragic personal issues, she develops a professional and personal relationship with Andre Le Notre, the King's landscape artist, and together they establish a lavish new addition to the gardens of Versailles.

A Little Chaos is a wonderfully acted film that is a feast for the eyes.

Gail Evans will facilitate discussion of this film. Please RSVP by Thursday, April 14 to Jennie Nickel at 614 529.9930 or jnickel@columbus.rr.com or at FCchurch.com/film-discussion-group

April Readings

These Bible readings are from the Revised Common Lectionary Daily Readings. In general, readings on Thursday, Friday and Saturday are selected to prepare for the Sunday reading; readings on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday are selected to reflect the Sunday lectionary.

| | | |
|----|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1 | 1 Sam. 17:19-32 | Acts 5:17-26 |
| 2 | 1 Sam. 17:32-51 | Luke 24:36-40 |
| 3 | Acts 5:27-32 | Rev. 1:4-8 |
| | Ps. 118:14-29 | John 20:19-31 |
| 4 | Esth. 7:1-10 | Rev. 1:9-20 |
| 5 | Esth. 8:1-17 | Rev. 2:8-11 |
| 6 | Esth. 9:1-5, 18-23 | Luke 12:4-12 |
| 7 | Is. 5:11-17 | Rev. 3:14-22 |
| 8 | Is. 6:1-4 | Rev. 4:1-11 |
| 9 | Gen. 18:1-8 | Luke 14:12-14 |
| 10 | Acts 9:1-6 [7-20] | Rev. 5:11-14 |
| | Ps. 30 | John 21:1-19 |
| 11 | Ezek. 1:1-25 | Acts 9:19b-31 |
| 12 | Ezek. 1:26-2:1 | Acts 26:1-18 |
| 13 | Is. 6:1-8 | Luke 5:1-11 |
| 14 | Ezek. 11:1-25 | Rev. 5:1-10 |
| 15 | Ezek. 20:39-44 | Rev. 6:1-7:4 |
| 16 | Ezek. 28:25-26 | Luke 12:29-32 |
| 17 | Acts 9:36-43 | Rev. 7:9-17 |
| | Ps. 23 | John 10:22-30 |
| 18 | Ezek. 37:15-28 | Rev. 15:1-4 |
| 19 | Ezek. 45:1-9 | Acts 9:32-35 |
| 20 | Jer. 50:17-20 | John 10: 31-42 |
| 21 | Ezek. 2:8-3:11 | Rev. 10:1-11 |
| 22 | Dan. 7:13-14 | Rev. 11:15 |
| 23 | Dan. 7:27 | Rev. 11:16-19 |
| 24 | Acts 11:1-18 | Rev. 21:1-6 |
| | Ps. 148 | John 13:31-35 |
| 25 | 1 Sam. 20:1-23, 35-42 | Acts 11:19-26 |
| 26 | 2 Sam. 1:4-27 | Acts 11:27-30 |
| 27 | Lev. 19:9-18 | Luke 10:25-28 |
| 28 | Prov. 2:1-5 | Acts 15:36-41 |
| 29 | Prov. 2:6-8 | Acts 16:1-8 |
| 30 | Prov. 2:9-15 | Luke 19:1-10 |



REALIZE

With your help, we will realize our \$15 million Capital Projects goal.

Pledge/Gift Amount.....\$508,720

Number of Pledges/Gifts.....26

In Discussion.....\$1,750,000

Challenge Fund Remaining.....\$1,141,280

Total Commitments/Gifts.....\$9,520,853

**Weekly updates posted at
FCchurch.com/REALIZE
and in firstnews Sunday.**

Upcoming Ulanov, Reiss Events

Sponsored by Center for Spiritual Search

What Can We Do In These Difficult Times?

Ann Ulanov, M.Div, PhD,
Jungian Analyst

C.G. Jung Association of Central Ohio
April 15, 7 – 9 pm;
April 16, 9 am – 1:15 pm
Brownlee Hall, South Campus

Former *Spiritual Searcher* (1992) Ann Ulanov presents a weekend around the themes of suffering and creativity in this event brought to you by JACO, a "sister" organization to our Center for Spiritual Search.

Ann Ulanov, PhD is the Christiane Brooks Johnson Professor of Psychiatry and Religion, Emerita, at Union Theological Seminary. She is a psychoanalyst in private practice and is the author of numerous books.

More information available at
jungcentralohio.org/Flyers/Ulanov_2016.pdf

The 16 Strivings for God

Steven Reiss, PhD, Professor Emeritus of Psychology, The Ohio State University
Safe Alliance of Interfaith Leaders (SAIL)
Sunday, May 1, 3 pm
Dublin Community Recreation Center,
5600 Post Road

The Center for Spiritual Search is co-sponsoring this event, along with SAIL and the Worthington Interfaith Neighbors. Dr. Steven Reiss subtitles his new book as *The New Psychology of Spiritual Experience*.

Refreshments and guided conversations will follow the presentation. Space is limited. Register at safeallianceofinterfaithleaders.org

You will receive an event confirmation by email. Free and open to individuals of all faiths, or no faith. Donations gratefully accepted.

Touched by the Justice System

Talking with the Incarcerated

Monday, April 18, 7 pm
Grace Hall, North Campus

The Center for Spiritual Search presents an intimate discussion of life in prison and the challenges of readjusting to society, featuring Najmuddeen "Naj" Salaam, Community Development Director of Healing Broken Circles.

"Naj" will speak about his experiences behind bars and what inspired him to turn his life around. He will also discuss the challenges that ex-inmates face when transitioning into society.

We will be Skyping in with several people currently in the program from Marion Correctional Institution. There will be an open forum between those individuals and members of the audience with lots of Q&A.

Naj has more than 24 years of experiential knowledge and experience with the justice system. He currently works at Marion Correctional Institution where he was previously an inmate.

Naj leads discussion groups with other ex-offenders, takes care of his children and works on his master's degree from Capella University. Register at FCchurch.com/justice. Contact 614 488.0681 ext 151. Walk-ins welcome.

Parent Connections

Learn about the benefits of outdoor play just in time for beautiful spring weather. Join us for Parent Connections this month.

On Thursday, April 21 from 7-8:30 pm, the Early Childhood Council welcomes Jamy Zambito, former Director of the Mary Evans Child Development Center. She will discuss the importance and benefits of natural play spaces for families and young children.

Connections will meet at North Campus, Room 115.

Youth News and Events

■ By Julie Richards

K-5 Movie Night

Parents are invited to enjoy an evening out while the K-5 team hosts your kindergarten through fifth-grader at a movie night, Friday, April 29 at North Campus, Room 130. The kids will enjoy crafts, snacks and the movie, *A Night at the Museum*. Drop off is at 6 pm and pick-up is at 8:30 pm. Register at FCchurch.com/2016/03/k-5-movie-night

Sunday School Volunteers

Each Sunday morning, the K-5 Ministry offers Sunday school in five rooms at North Campus and two at South. We are extremely thankful for the support of our amazing, dedicated volunteers.

Volunteering in the classroom is a wonderful way to find out what your child is learning in Sunday school while also having the chance to meet your child's church friends. All lesson materials are supplied and no special skills are required. If you are a relative of a K-5 child and are interested in helping with the K-5 Ministry, contact Julie Richards at jrichards@FCchurch.com

K-12 Council

The K-12 Council is looking for parents of K-5 children to join the council starting in September. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month, September through May, at North Campus from 7 to 8:15 pm. Council members support our K-12 programming and share their input about topics that come up throughout the year.

Down on the Farm

The Early Childhood Council welcomes all families with preschool-aged children to Down on the Farm on Friday, April 22 from 6 - 8 pm at North Campus.

Join us for dinner, activities and crafts. See real farm animals. Admission is \$5. Children under age 1 are free.

Mission Council Garage Sale

■ By Beth Hanson

It has begun! In the backseat of my car, you will find six seasonal wreaths, three large shopping bags of Christmas garland, a box of china, a Halloween-themed Mr. Potato Head and a box of books (the one I can see on top being about the history of the Mickey Mouse watch). Along with the recent appearance of the daffodils, this "situation" in my back seat is an indication that spring is nigh, and thusly that the Garage Sale is just around the corner.

In various spots in my house, I am parking all-things-fragile so they don't get damaged in the storage unit. The wreaths qualify and so do the seven boxes of china that I have tucked hither and thither. It's a pretty junky state-of-affairs in the Hanson household, but after so many years of doing this, it has just become a fact of life. I suspect that many of you have a junked up corner in your basement or garage where you are now in the habit of stockpiling things you are going to give to the annual Garage Sale.

Last year was our most profitable sale ever raising \$54,875. The majority of this is from what we sell. However, a significant portion is also raised from eBay and consignment sales, our first-ever grant from the Foundation, sale of scrap gold and silver (broken jewelry), sale of metal at the recycling facility, generous cash donations and loose change found in donated purses, pants pockets and books (apparently people use dollar bills as bookmarks).

Although we raised more money than ever, our expenses were also more than ever, so cash and in-kind donations really help us give more of what we raise to the many worthwhile missions that our church helps support.

Since our first sale in 1996, we have netted \$622,490. Look what tenacity, common purpose, the bonds of friendship and good senses of humor can accomplish.

We would love to have you join in this exhausting-but-rewarding project. We

need people to do all kinds of tasks, including sorting, organizing, pricing, repairing, lifting (furniture), washing, assembling, measuring, polishing, sizing, cashiering, arranging, directing traffic, assisting customers and cleaning up at the end.

Or perhaps you would consider donating supplies such as shopping bags, zip lock bags, masking and packing tape or food for our refreshment stand (such as pop or homemade baked goods). We are also grateful for cash donations to help defray our expenses (for postage, tents, tables, advertising, printing and security).

Here is the Garage Sale Week schedule:

Wednesday, April 20

Last day to schedule home furniture pick up (however, storage space may be full before then at the rate we are going)

Sunday, May 8

1:30 pm: Start setting up tables at North Campus. Strong volunteers are also needed to move furniture out of classrooms.

2 pm: Donation drop offs begin in North Campus lobby

Monday, May 9

8 am – 5 pm: 20+ volunteers are needed to help Two Men & a Truck move furniture from storage to N. Campus. (Pick-up trucks, trailers & vans are also welcomed.)

Wednesday, May 11

12 pm: No donations accepted after this time.

Friday, May 13

6:30 – 9 pm: Special Preview Sale (Admission is \$3; prices doubled)

Saturday, May 14

8 am – 3 pm: Garage Sale (Free Admission, Prices as Marked)

3 pm – 8 pm: Clean Up. We really need help with this! It is wonderful when fresh volunteers show up at the end to help those of us who are out of gas.

For more information and volunteer sign-up sheets, look for the Garage Sale table after worship services in April and May or visit FCchurch.com. If you have questions, would like to volunteer, or need to schedule a home pick up of large items, contact Beth Hanson at 614 488.6526 or bethhanson@wowway.com

Burkhart Legacy Project

■ By Missy Obergefell & Priscilla Ratliff

The Older Adult Council is initiating a project to preserve the legacy of Dr. Roy Burkhart, who served our congregation as Senior Minister from 1935-1958.

There are still over 200 members who were in our congregation at the time of Dr. Burkhart's ministry. Imagine the wealth of stories, pictures and memorabilia these people could make available to us.

One aspect of this project will be compiling oral histories. If you were impacted by Dr. Burkhart and have a story you're willing to share, please contact us to make arrangements for an interview.

Some questions we may ask include:

- How would you describe Dr. Burkhart to someone who never knew him?
- What is your fondest personal memory(ies) of Dr. Burkhart?
- What do you think was his greatest contribution to the church, the community and the world at large?
- Why do people still talk about him?
- How could his theology/philosophy help us today, more than 50 years after his death?

Additionally, we are interested in receiving books, articles, photos and letters by or about Dr. Burkhart that you would be willing to donate to help establish a permanent Burkhart Legacy Collection in the First Community Church Library and Archives.

If you have materials you wish to share but keep, let us know about those, too. We are interested in as full a picture of his life and ministry as possible. This project will require funding. Donations to support this effort are appreciated.

If you are interested in participating in the Burkhart Legacy Project, contact Missy Obergefell at 614 488-0681, ext. 246 or mobergefell@FCchurch.com

Volunteer Spotlight



Our Volunteer of the Month for April is Peggy Wible.

Peggy has been a member of First Community Church

for over 30 years. She and her two grown sons cherish the experiences from the programs and opportunities at the church. For the last six years, she has been a member and past chairperson of the Spiritual Searcher Committee; a cornerstone of Religious Life and Learning at First Community Church.

Peggy is also a member of the Steering Committee for the Center for Spiritual Search. The Center encompasses the current Religious Life and Learning Programs and endeavors to ensure their sustainability, while expanding both programming and outreach.

As a volunteer, Peggy says she “has experienced genuine supportive community as well as cutting edge master teachers who have nurtured the well-being of my soul. My service has been rewarded by continued and profound blessings.”

What Rev. David Hett, Minister of Religious Life & Learning has to say about Peggy: Peggy has been such an important part of our ministry over her years with us as vice-chair, as chair of the entire committee and as project chair of events like the very successful and powerful John Dominic Crossan weekend. And now she serves as our marketing and communications consultant with our new Center for Spiritual Search as a valuable member of the steering committee.

Peggy’s a natural-born team player, an empathic listener and creative problem-solver. But her quiet strength also makes her an effective leader. Most importantly for us is her depth of spirit, her desire for spiritual growth and her devotion to the Beloved—Peggy introduced me to one of my now favorite resources, *Love Poems from God*.

Do you know a volunteer that should be featured? Contact Kathy Tagliaferri at kmtaglia@gmail.com

Weekly Adult Learning Groups

Classes are free except where noted and open to the public. For information on books, registration or financial aid, contact Natalia at njones@FCchurch.com or 614 488.0681 ext. 151 (voicemail only).

For more details, visit FCchurch.com/adult-learning

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Sunday Morning Seminar Join us in April for a video series of thought provoking programs centered around a set of Bill Moyer’s PBS interviews with engaging thinkers and writers. When religion and the secular meet the result can often be confusion and/or misunderstanding. Moyers engages various personalities about the regions between rationality and belief. Buddhist nun Pema Chodron, authors Salman Rushdie and Mary Gordon, plus philosopher Colin McGinn discussed.</p> | <p>Sundays 9:30 – 10:45 am Wicker Room, SC</p> |
| <p>Tuesday at Ten In April, the group will continue the study of comparative religions based on Stephen Prothero’s book <i>God Is Not One</i> and will focus on Hinduism, Yoruba, Judaism ending with Daoism. In most cases, we will have a dialogue partner from each religion to help our understanding. Full schedule at FCchurch.com/tuesday-at-10</p> | <p>Tuesdays 10 – 11:30 am Wicker Room, SC</p> |
| <p>Men’s Study Group We continue reading and discussion of <i>Christianity After Religion</i> by Diana Butler Bass. Contact Price Finley at 614 361.6567 or price.finley@gmail.com, or Craig Sturtz at 614 481.9060 or craig.sturtz01@gmail.com</p> | <p>Wednesdays 7 – 8 am Wicker Room, SC</p> |
| <p>Wednesday Morning Fellowship Presentations and discussion of leading-edge topics.</p> | <p>Wednesdays 7 – 8 am Brownlee Hall, SC</p> |
| <p>Women Living the Questions Explore in a safe environment any aspects of the spiritual life. We share and discuss books and videos and occasional guest speakers. Currently, we are viewing the videos of Richard Rohr and James Finley, <i>Following the Mystics Through the Narrow Gate</i>. Contact Linda Baldeck at lbaldeck927@gmail.com</p> | <p>Wednesdays 9:30 – 11:30 am Wicker Room, SC</p> |
| <p>Wednesday Evening Bible Study The group will be studying 2 Corinthians. This Bible Study is led by the Reverend Jim Long.</p> | <p>Wednesdays 7 – 8:15 pm Conference Room, NC</p> |
| <p>Contemplative Way Group 1 A time of sacred reading—Teresa of Avila’s <i>Interior Castle</i>; 30-minute meditation time; reflection & discussion. Facilitated by Rev. David Hett and other spiritual directors. Free-will offering.</p> | <p>Thursdays 11:45 am – 1 pm Wicker Room, SC</p> |

Welcome New Members

Joined on February 21, 2016

■ By Bobbi Mueller

Stacy Fabbre is joining First Community Church, already active as a regular North Campus Sunday School teacher in the K-5 ministry. Employed by the Dublin City Schools, Stacy stays busy with family activities, camping, sports, crafting and is an avid reader. She enjoys illustrating children's books and has painted murals for businesses and residences. She is currently writing a woman's fiction book. She and her husband, Rob, have two daughters, Delaney and Jillian.

Anne Klie chose FCC because she feels at home in this church family. She particularly likes the church's outreach and emphasis on helping those in need in Columbus and around the world. In addition, she feels the choirs are "amazing" and the educational programs match her interests. Anne is an experienced marketer with experience in public relations, writing and communications and is currently employed by Aetna. Born and raised in Cleveland, Anne has two grown children.

Betsy Morrison learned about our church from friends and has been attending for 14 years. Originally from Watertown, MA, Betsy attended Boston University and taught physical education and coached rowing at Wellesley College. She and her husband Craig have three adult children and three dogs. She loves to work out and read. Betsy attends the 9:45 am North Campus service.

David O'Dell and his wife Rebecca are transferring their church membership from a United Church of Christ church in Florida. Now retired, David enjoys many hobbies, including problem solving and serving others. He is looking forward to opportunities at FCC that are centered around teaching, small group leadership and adult learning classes. David and Rebecca attend the 11 am service at South Campus.

Rebecca O'Dell is joining the church with her husband, David. She is retired from Northwestern Mutual Financial Network, and comes to this church family with a recent faith background with the United Church of Christ and The Disciples of Christ and as a child, the Baptist faith. Rebecca enjoys a long list of hobbies, some of which include crafting, gardening, painting, quilting, reading, storytelling and writing.

Maryann Rinsch became acquainted with FCC through her neighbor, Michelle McClure. Confirmed as a youth as a member of The Colonial Church of Edina, of the Congregational Church denomination, Maryann has also developed her faith background through the Christian Scientist church and the Congregational Presbyterian/



Stacy Fabbre



Anne Klie



Betsy Morrison



David O'Dell



Rebecca O'Dell



Maryann Rinsch



Greg Russell



Jen Russell



Tricia Simpson



Cathy Sycher



Darryl Sycher

Methodist church. She is a retired Occupational Therapist, who enjoys crafting, photography, reading and teaching.

Greg Russell grew up in Upper Arlington at FCC and he is joining with his wife Jen. Greg is also connected to the church through his mother, Paula, who is the Director of Congregational Care. Even without the connections he has to the church, Greg would have chosen First Community because of the open and accepting belief system. He loves running, technology and just about every sport.

Jen Russell and her husband Greg attend the 9:45 am service at North Campus. She was drawn to FCC, not only through the connections her husband had, but because she feels the values of this church align with their personal values and how they hope to raise their children one day. Jen is a fundraiser with The Ohio State University and enjoys crafting, event planning, family activities, problem solving and music.

Tricia Simpson grew up in Cincinnati, but has lived in Dublin for almost nine years with her two sons, Grant and Turner. She first heard about FCC through Bobbi Celeste and Connie Hieatt. She was drawn to join the church because of her appreciation of the perspective on religion and God and feels very like-minded with the church's acceptance of all people.

Tricia grew up in the Methodist faith and has attended various churches. She works in eCommerce and marketing with the Designer Shoe Warehouse and attends the 9:45 am service at North Campus.

Cathy Sycher and her husband Darryl were searching for a more open-minded church and felt very much at home with the services at First Community and the church's statement of faith. They first learned of the church through articles in The Columbus Dispatch, as well as through a friend. Now retired, Cathy grew up with an evangelical conservative faith background. She and Darryl attend the 11 am service at South Campus. She enjoys crafting, problem solving and reading.

Darryl Sycher is currently a social studies teacher at New Albany High School. He and his wife Cathy have a grown son, Alexander, and have been married for 37 years. Darryl finds First Community Church inclusive of all and non-judgmental, which is something he and Cathy find refreshing. He grew up with a United Church of Christ faith background in Allentown, PA. Darryl enjoys a long list of hobbies, and is looking forward to getting involved with Heart to Heart, as well as other service opportunities offered in the church.

ElderWisdom

■ By Missy Obergefell

"How many times have you said, 'If only I knew then what I know now?'"
— *30 Lessons for Living* by Karl Pillemer

In our April ElderWisdom gathering, we will read excerpts from this best-selling book and discuss wisdom gathered from the "most experienced humans"—people who've lived 70 or more years. No pre-reading necessary.

ElderWisdom is a discussion group that meets to explore books and topics that focus on the spiritual aspects of aging. Come with your book suggestions, speaker ideas and other inspirations to help complete the 2016 plan. All ages are welcome.

This month's meeting will be April 28 at 1 pm in the Older Adult meeting space, second floor, South Campus. Contact Lorelei Lanier Lotozo at 614 209.7125 or Missy Obergefell at 614 486.0681 with questions or to add your name to our email list.

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

| | |
|--|------------|
| 3 | (B) |
| 8:30 am • Burkhart Chapel, SC - Rev. Long preaching 8:30 am • Grace Hall, NC - Dr. Lindsay preaching 9:45 am • Grace Hall, NC - Dr. Lindsay preaching Youth Bell Choir 1, Junior Choir 11 am • Sanctuary, SC - Dr. Lindsay preaching Soloist | |
| 10 | (C) |
| SPIRITUAL SEARCHER WEEKEND | |
| 8:30 am • Burkhart Chapel, SC - Rev. Shaner preaching 8:30 am • Grace Hall, NC - Dr. Wing preaching 9:45 am • Grace Hall, NC - Rev. Terry Hershey preaching Chancel Chamber Choir, Youth Bell Choir 2, YV Ensemble 11 am • Sanctuary, SC - Rev. Terry Hershey preaching Chancel Choir | |
| 17 | (A) |
| 8:30 am • Burkhart Chapel, SC - Rev. Baumer preaching 8:30 am • Grace Hall, NC - Dr. Wing preaching 9:45 am • Grace Hall, NC - Dr. Wing preaching Chancel Chamber Choir 11 am • Sanctuary, SC - Dr. Wing preaching Chancel Choir, Kindergarten & Cherub Choirs 11:05 am • Grace Hall, NC | |
| 24 | (B) |
| MEMBERSHIP SUNDAY | |
| 8:30 am • Burkhart Chapel, SC - Rev. Hett preaching 8:30 am • Grace Hall, NC - Dr. Wing preaching Whitechapel Ringers 9:45 am • Grace Hall, NC - Dr. Wing preaching Whitechapel Ringers 11 am • Sanctuary, SC - Dr. Wing preaching Chancel Chamber Choir 11:05 am • Grace Hall, NC | |
| 1 | (C) |
| FOUNDATION SUNDAY | |
| 8:30 am • Burkhart Chapel, SC - Rev. Long preaching 8:30 am • Grace Hall, NC - Dr. Lindsay preaching 9:45 am • Grace Hall, NC - Dr. Lindsay preaching Chancel Chamber Choir, Youth Bell Choir 2, Kindergarten & Cherub Choirs 11 am • Sanctuary, SC - Dr. Lindsay preaching Chancel Choir 11:05 am • Grace Hall, NC | |
| For additional information: (A) Usher assignments. | |
| Click: FCchurch.com Email: info@FCchurch.com Call: 614 488.0681 Visit: The Welcome Centers | |

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Mary Beth Aeh Retires


After two years as Director of Early Childhood Ministries, Mary Beth Aeh has decided to retire at the end of this school year, June 30. Respecting that she's made a healthy decision for her own nourishment and that of her family, we wish her the best.

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| February 2016 | Month | Y-T-D |
|---------------|-------|--------|
| Households | 358 | 801 |
| Individuals | 1,063 | 2,327 |
| Children | 337 | 721 |
| Adults | 567 | 1,251 |
| Seniors | 159 | 355 |
| Total Meals | 9,567 | 20,943 |

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