



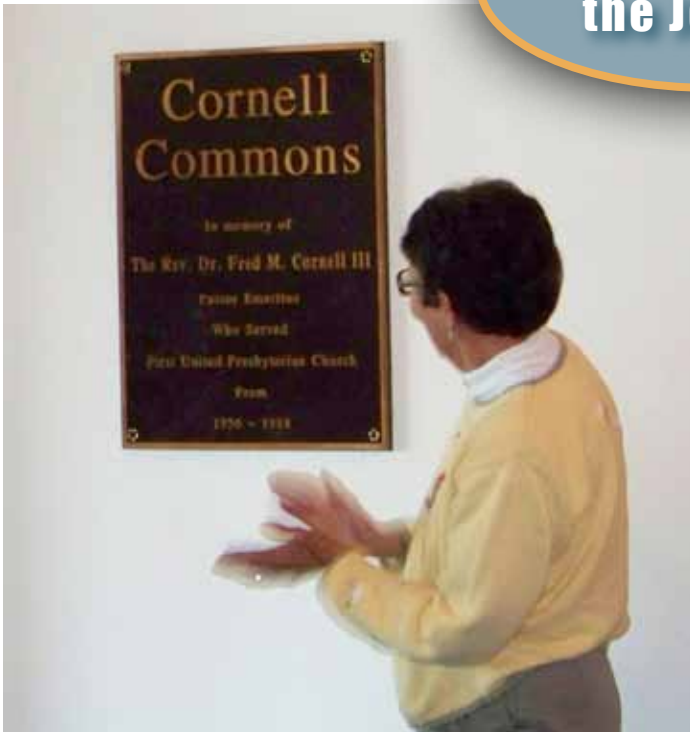
the STEEPLE

a publication of the First United Presbyterian Church

May 2012
Issue 64
Volume 5



Continuing the Journey



Cornell Commons
In memory of
The Rev. Dr. Fred M. Cornell III
Pastor Emeritus
Who Served
First United Presbyterian Church
From
1956 - 1988



www.firstunitedpres.org

First United Presbyterian Church
Called to Feed the Hungry
1303 Royal Heights Road • Belleville, IL 62223
618.233.0295

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

May 6

Fifth Sunday of Easter

The Rev. Conley A. Zomermaand

Celebration of Aging,

Continuing the Journey Kick-Off

May 13

Celebration of the Gifts of Women

Kim Hulen

May 20

Confirmation Sunday

The Rev. Conley A. Zomermaand

May 27

Pentecost Sunday

The Rev. Conley A. Zomermaand

*Cover photos courtesy of
Dede Farquhar and
Stephanie Foltz.*

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Continuing the Journey

Back in the *olden days*, my schedule of events at a track meet began with one leg (of four) on the "880 Relay." I ran 220 yards as fast as I could and then handed the baton off to the next guy who would do the same. That wasn't a bad race – 220 yards is one-eighth of a mile. That got me warmed up and in a competitive spirit. Next was the Open 440 – the dreaded "Quarter Mile." Twice as far as the 220 at about the same speed, but it called for about *ten times* the expenditure of energy. The race often left me crumpled in the infield with stomach spasms that led to.... Let's just leave it at that! I had to pick myself up off the grass, however, because it wasn't long until the best race was run – what we then called "the Mile Relay:" four fellows each running a quarter mile in succession. Competition at its best – except that I was still exhausted from the open 440. "No, not again!" The unofficial Marine Corps motto came into play: "Suck it up and get going!" So run I would, only to find my spot in the infield again after the race. The thought, "Why do I do this?!" frequently floated through my mind. Yet, when the meet was over and we had done our best, we would covenant to show up at practice the next day and work on improving.

A quarter mile sprint does not a journey make, but it was a part of my larger course through life. I think we often come up to those "no, not again" moments. I suspect in many of your minds, our second capital campaign entitled *Continuing the Journey* fits the bill. We've not really had time to lie down in the grass and recover from our successful campaign number one, and our Capital Campaign Committee II is poking us in the side and saying, "Come on, get up. We've got another lap to run!" "Leave me alone!" you are muttering. But we can't. Every month that goes by, we need to pay off \$6,000+ in **interest** on the debt we owe on the addition. Yeah, yeah, yeah: you didn't support the project in the first place. But here it is, \$2.3 million worth of new facility being used to accomplish the ministry to which Jesus has called us. What a blessing the space has already been! And how vigorously it is being used, in proportion and according to the vision that the early "seers" had for it.

So, back to my track metaphor. We're all in this race together. I wasn't the fastest relay team member, but I contributed to the effort as I could. I tried to keep us close so that those with especially fleet feet stood a chance of winning the day. Those faster runners didn't do it all; they relied on me. Then they took the baton and blazed off – while I crumpled. Whether we like it or not, this is one of our primary ministries at First United right now. Let's not only *continue the journey* with this second campaign; let's finish it! Another \$1.1 million or so and we're home free. Thanks to dedicated committee work and generous advance contributors, we've already raised \$242,000 of that total! Take a look at what's inside of you. Back on the track team, we called it "guts." Sorry, but that's what we're talking about, too. Do we have the *intestinal fortitude* to finish this journey? I think we do. Whether you are fast (resource abundant) or not so swift (resource challenged), I hope you will do your best in getting us to our goal.

~ Pastor Zomermaand

Our Thoughts and Prayers

Eunice Anderson (Home)	Dan Heely (Springfield, IL)	Adam Landry (Home)	William Shive (Atrium)
Brandt Ballenger (Home)	Connie Hilgert (The Fountains, Shiloh)	Betty Jo Lowery (Alabama)	Marge Sigler (Our Lady of the Snows)
Edmunda Black (Bethesda Dilworth)	Jeannine Huffer (Columbia	Helen Opperman (Freeburg Care	Tom Stafford (Home)
Dakota Carlyle (Home)	Convalescent Center)	Center)	Carl Stoldt (Home)
Helen Handley Fabre (St. Paul's Apts.)	Lucile Katty (Charles Gardens)	Mary Ellen Pollock (Eden Village)	Roberta Symonds (Home)
Brenda Frazier (St. Paul's Apts.)	Anna Kenney (Freeburg Care Center)	Nancy Reinecker (Home)	Dot Williams (Cedar Ridge)
Trudy Grenia (Oregon)	Dorothy Kimmel (New Mexico)	Keith Russell (Home)	Marvin Wright (Home)

Our Deepest Sympathy

For Carl Stoldt on the death of his wife, **Ruth Stoldt**, who died on April 14 in St. Louis. For Carol Purviance and family on the death of her husband, **Keith Purviance**, who died on April 15 in Lebanon, Illinois. For Dale and Erma Jean Vandiver on the death of his brother, **Victor Vandiver**, who died on April 19 in Crystal City, Missouri.

Birth

Amelia Roustio was born on April 15 in Belleville, Illinois. Amelia is the daughter of Rachel Roustio and the great granddaughter of Ron & Nancy Reinecker.

Ministering to God's People

May 6

USHERING 8:00 am
 Jack & Donna Bock
 Bob & Marti Gibson
USHERING 10:30 am
 Amy Abernathy
 Maggie Baltz (Jr. Usher)
 KC Clayton
 Lorenzo Clayton
 Kaitlyn Fedak
 Tyler Fedak
 Elizabeth Kearns (Jr. Usher)
 Gene & Carolyn Ryken
 Barb Sutton
AMBASSADOR
 Janice Hoenig
PHONE
 Joyce Lied
BUS DRIVER
 Dan Bainter
COUNTERS
 Roger Cox
 Kevin Meder
SOUND OPERATOR
 Mark Vandiver
VIDEO OPERATOR
 Rich Stehnach
NURSERY ATTENDANTS
Crib Room
 Shawn & Leah Lankford
Toddler Room
 Susy Rybicki
 Gigi Cox & Katie Stone
 Jane Stafford & Katie Stone
COMMUNION PREP
 Tom & Nancy Cahoon
 Steve Chaney

May 13

USHERING 8:00 am
 Jackie Bainter
 Jane Bynum
 Claudia Rogers
 Lou Stark
USHERING 10:30 am
 John & Dee Mann
 Charles & Betty Scherrer
 Caroline Smith (Jr. Usher)
 Morgan Smith (Jr. Usher)
 Mitch Stark
 Max Taylor
 Missy Taylor
ACOLYTE
 Alyssa Elie
AMBASSADOR
 Winnie Gibbs
PHONE
 Jane Wilkin
BUS DRIVER
 Matt Hall
COUNTERS
 Bill Beebe
 Kevin Meder
SOUND OPERATOR
 Dan Harres
VIDEO OPERATOR
 Alex Tambala
NURSERY ATTENDANTS
Crib Room
 Doug & Dawn Sitton
Toddler Room
 Billie Chaney
 Jen & Marc DeJong

May 20

USHERING 8:00 am
 Steve & Billie Chaney
 John & Kathy Harryman
USHERING 10:30 am
 Jane Alberter
 Rosemary Ehrstein
 Babs Hill
 Al & Stephanie Kraus
 Anna Kreeb
 Jack Langen (Jr. Usher)
 Madison Langen (Jr. Usher)
 Dave Misselhorn
 Marian Morris
ACOLYTE
 Will Gagen
AMBASSADOR
 Winnie Gibbs
PHONE
 Alison O'Neal
BUS DRIVER
 Dennis Hubbard
COUNTERS
 Bill Beebe
 Kevin Meder
SOUND OPERATOR
 Will Weeks
VIDEO OPERATOR
 Rich Stehnach
NURSERY ATTENDANTS
Crib Room
 Pat Hargrove & Norma Mason
Toddler Room
 Pat Hargrove
 Jane Alberter & Julie Dodge

May 27

USHERING 8:00 am
 Rick & Pat Hargrove
 Dennis & Kim Hubbard
USHERING 10:30 am
 Gigi Cox
 Grace Farinas
 Dan Harres
 Jeff & Meredith Melinder
 Bailey Mokriakow (Jr. Usher)
 Mike Moore
 Donna Nicholas
 Katie Stone
 Alex Tambala (Jr. Usher)
ACOLYTE
 Kirsten Melinder
AMBASSADOR
 Sally Beaird
PHONE
 Linda Gurr
BUS DRIVER
 Cliff Fitts
COUNTERS
 Bill Beebe
 Kevin Meder
SOUND OPERATOR
 Dave Epps
VIDEO OPERATOR
 Alex Tambala
NURSERY ATTENDANTS
Crib Room
 Pat Daye & Sue Perez
 Anne Dulski & Janelle Fitts
Toddler Room
 Claudia Rogers
 Julie Samples
 Nancy & Anna Kreeb

Presbyterian Women



All Women Invited to May Gathering

PW's May Gathering will be an appetizer potluck on May 4 at 11:30 am in Eversull Hall. Dessert and drinks will be provided by the Coordinating Team. Officers will be installed, and the Birthday Offering will be received. The cost of lunch is \$1, and reservations are needed by April 30 either

through a circle or by calling the church office.

Sunday, May 13 - Celebrate the Gifts of Women

This Sunday honors women who contribute their gifts to the church and community, lifts up issues of women's rights, and focuses on the role of women in our communities and the world. Here at First United, this event is also a day in which the Honorary Life Memberships in Presbyterian Women are presented. This honor is given annually to a person in recognition of his or her special gifts and contributions to our particular congregation and community.

GIVE-A-MEAL-A-MONTH

*No glass containers, please!
Monetary donations always welcome.*

Menu for May

Complete Chicken Meal
(meat included)
Canned Green Vegetable
Canned Fruit
Pudding or Jell-O
Powdered Milk

Additional Items: Personal Hygiene

Shampoo/Conditioner
Soap
Deodorant

Sponsored by Presbyterian Women

Evaluation and Goal Setting

On June 15 the PW Coordinating Team will meet at the Persimmon Ridge Clubhouse to evaluate the past year and plan for the next program year. All outgoing officers and incoming officers are encouraged to mark their calendars for this important meeting.

Transitory Talk

Taking New Creation Chapel under Our Wings



We affirm that *necessity is the mother of invention*, and indeed it often proves to be true. Another transition is happening among the churches in St. Clair County – and necessity is forcing us to act. The Presbytery is ending the “new church development” status of the New Creation Presbyterian Church in O’Fallon. With a core of committed members, we have been asking how we

might keep a worshipping Presbyterian community in O’Fallon. At the same time, we at First United Presbyterian Church have been examining our options for the future. Similarly, Westminster Presbyterian Church is traveling through a season of transition and wondering what its future in ministry might be. Necessity has descended mightily upon us. How inventive can we be in response to this reality?

Good question. For starters, we are working on a plan that will keep a presence in O’Fallon. The Rev. Christian Boyd, pastor of New Creation, has received a call to a church in Wisconsin beginning in

May. The New Creation leadership team is working with us to staff what we are calling the New Creation Chapel for the next three months. Our Session has agreed to extend Kim Hulen’s contract for three months (May 15-August 15). While she is in the process of searching for a call to a church, she will be available to serve us through the summer. We envision that she will also provide leadership for the New Creation Chapel in addition to the work she does in Belleville. The expenses related to the Chapel will be covered by the funds they have accumulated and the offerings they receive during their worship services. They will continue to “nest” in St. Michael’s Episcopal Church in O’Fallon.

This is an experiment for us in how to “do church” differently. First United will provide primary leadership to the effort. We will evaluate constantly to see if the results point to a continuation of the process after three months. Truth is, we don’t know if the plan will work. *Necessity* has forced us to take a whack at it. You never know: it might just be the start of something big!

~ Pastor Zomermaand

Announcements

50-year Member Recognition

Faith Community is pleased to celebrate the 50-year membership of Norma Croissant and Earlene Voigt. We hope you will join us on Sunday, May 6, in recognizing these faithful servants during the 10:30 worship service and afterwards at the coffee hour. If your name, or a family member’s name, is not listed, please notify the church office as soon as possible. Come and share this day of celebration with these special people who have given so much to our church family. ~ Faith Community Committee

Saturday Monthly Mission

The Neighbors for Renewal house, located at 522 South

17th Street, continues to progress well. Visit www.neighborsforrenewal.org, and scroll to House 14 to see. On our next scheduled workday, May 12, they will be ready to do yard work. Please join us and bring any yard tools you may have. We will meet at the house at 8:00 am for a few hours of work.

The Mission Committee has submitted registration forms to adopt the stretch of Highway 161 along First United to help keep it clean. Watch for more information on this project, and let any member of the Mission Committee know if you are interested. Thanks to all who have helped on the NFR project home. ~ Dee McCarty and Andy Morgan

Adult Life Groups

Adult Sunday School Class for May - Sundays, 9:15 am

The weekly Bible study class *Feasting on the Word* continues in the Conference Room. The May lessons are based on passages from Acts 8:26-40; Acts 10:44-48; Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; and Acts 2:1-21.

MaryMarthas

The next meeting of MaryMarthas, a Life Group for moms, will be Friday, May 11, at 7:00 pm. Please contact Cyndi Langen or Abby Smith for more information.

Helmsmen News

The Helmsmen will have a series of events throughout the summer. On May 1, we will join with the Sand Dollars in hosting the Woodcarvers' Annual Dinner in the Multi-Purpose Room. Also in May, we will go to dinner followed by a play at the Looking Glass Playhouse. In June, we will visit and have lunch at Shaw Gardens. July will find us at the History Museum, lunching, of course; and in August, we will cheer for the Grizzlies at the GSC Ballpark while eating hot dogs and hamburgers. (Can you detect a theme here?!) Guests are always welcome to join us at any of these events. Contact John or Dee Mann, 624-3040.

Sand Dollar News

If you are interested in a good meal and Christian fellowship in a relaxing atmosphere, join Sand Dollars at our next meeting on May 4 at 6:30 pm in Eversull Hall.

Friends Dine Out

For the month of May, we will dine out at the 17th Street Grill at 1711 West Highway 50 in O'Fallon, Illinois. Come join us at 6:00 pm on Monday, May 7. Call for reservations, Alison O'Neal, 235-2077, or Marcia Mellone, 398-9895.

Faith in Fiction Life Group

Join this book group on Wednesday, May 9, at 9:00 am for a discussion of *Day After Night* by Anita Diamant. Contact Susy Rybicki, 235-4805, if you have questions.

Merry Mates

Merry Mates will meet on Friday, May 11, in Eversull Hall. The evening begins at 6:30 pm. All are invited! Contact Lorenzo and KC Clayton for more information.

Quilt Camp

Would you like to learn to quilt? The First United Quilters will offer two sessions of Quilt Camp from June 19 to 22.

Both sessions are for all ages: the morning classes will be from 9:00 am to 12 noon. The afternoon classes will be from 1:00-4:00 pm. Call the church office and sign up for either the morning classes or the afternoon classes; the deadline is Tuesday, June 12.

The quilters will teach you to cut, piece, and construct a small lap quilt. If you have your own sewing machine, bring it and they will teach you on your machine. You will need 5 different fabrics (¾ yard of each, color and design to your taste, 100% cotton, 45 inches wide) and 1 spool of good white thread (Dual Duty). For questions, contact

Billie Chaney or Susy Rybicki.

Trustee Notes

The Board of Trustees has recently undergone reorganization. This change has divided the Board into three groups with specific concerns: administrative, internal, and external. The Administrative Concerns group delivers the monthly report to Session, focus on budgets, investments, legal issues, communications, facility use requests, and other special projects. Trustee members are the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Finance/Investments, and other Trustees who fulfill commitments, such as participation on the nominating committee. The Internal Concerns group is focused on all areas within the walls of the church building: cleanliness, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems. The External Concerns group is focused on all areas outside of the church building: transportation, lawn care, paved areas, sewer, roofs, and snow removal. Members of the Internal and External groups also open the building on Sunday mornings on a rotational basis.

In addition to the reorganization of duties, the Board is moving away from the usual break and fix budget model and moving toward a more project based approach. This includes a long-term, prioritized, phased implementation, planning approach to the maintenance of our building and grounds. The first plan we are working on is a "10 Acre" outdoor plan. Our campus covers about 10 acres and has many unique outdoor areas. We are working with landscaping professionals to develop a plan covering the entire church grounds. The 5-year, phased plan will cover all 10 acres, with unifying designs, and low maintenance plantings.

With the building's interior, there is a drive to bring the "old" section of the building back to life. This will be accomplished by developing plans for renovating the Chapel and Vista Room as well as Eversull Hall and Library areas. The 3-year plan will include new carpet, paint, and window repairs. Both indoor and outdoor plans will be ready for review in October. Once the plans are approved, phasing, prioritization, and budgeting can begin.

In the meantime, now that warmer weather has returned, the leak above the Music Director's office can be repaired and expansion of the crib room will soon follow. Other improvements that you can expect to see this year are additional outdoor "clean-ups" and a continuation of the "deep cleaning" project. Please see Linda Hangsleben or me for more information or to pledge time or treasure toward any of these projects. ~ Shawn Lankford, President



PHOTO BY STEPHANIE FOLTZ

Calendar of Events

SUNDAY

Pizza Night

The next Preschool Papa John's Pizza Night will be Friday, May 18. Simply call the North Belt

West Papa John's, 257-1000, and mention the Presbyterian Community Preschool when you place your order. Then 20 percent of your order goes to support the Preschool. Thank you for your support!



MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

9:00 am Deacons' Meeting **1**
 9:30 am Staff Meeting
 9:30 am Quilters
 6:00 pm Woodcarvers Dinner
 6:30 pm United Bells

8:15 am Celebration of Aging **2**
 8:30 am Men's Bible Study
 5:00 pm PYC
 5:30 pm KIX
 6:00 pm TIM
 6:00 pm Youth Appreciation Dinner
 7:00 pm Lydia Circle

Recognition of 50 Year Members & Celebration of Aging Honorees **6**
 8:00 am Worship
 9:00 am Coffee Hour
 9:15 am Sunday School
 10:30 am Worship
 11:30 am Coffee Hour
 12:00 pm KIX/TIM Sabbaths

5:30 pm Softball Ministry **7**
 6:00 pm Friends Dine Out
 6:30 pm Metro East Chorale
 7:00 pm Trustees
 7:00 pm Woodcarvers

9:30 am Staff Meeting **8**
 9:30 am Quilters
 6:15 pm United Bells
 6:30 pm Session Dinner
 7:00 pm Session

8:30 am Men's Bible Study **9**
 9:00 am Faith in Fiction
 10:00 am Library Committee
 5:00 pm PYC
 5:30 pm KIX
 6:00 pm TIM & Youth Supper
 6:30 pm Wednesday Night Live

Celebrate the Gifts of Women **13**
 8:00 am Worship
 9:00 am Coffee Hour
 9:15 am Sunday School
 10:30 am Worship
 11:30 am Coffee Hour

5:30 pm Softball Ministry **14**
 6:30 pm Metro East Chorale
 7:00 pm Preschool Board
 7:00 pm Woodcarvers

8:00 am STEEPLE DEADLINE **15**
 9:30 am Staff Meeting
 9:30 am Quilters
 1:00 pm Lamplighters
 5:30 pm Worship Committee
 6:00 pm Christian Education Committee
 6:30 pm United Bells

8:30 am Men's Bible Study **16**
 9:30 am Loaves & Fishes
 11:30 am Hannah Circle
 11:30 am Eastside Presbyterian Pastors' Meeting at First United
 6:30 pm Stephen Ministries

Confirmation Sunday **20**
 8:00 am Worship
 9:00 am Coffee Hour
 9:00 am Blood Pressure Screening
 9:15 am Sunday School
 9:00 am TIM Breakfast Out
 10:30 am Worship
 11:30 am Coffee Hour
 11:30 am Blood Pressure Screening
 6:30 pm Youth Ministries Committee

5:30 pm Softball Ministry **21**
 7:00 pm Woodcarvers

9:30 am Staff Meeting **22**
 9:30 am Quilters
 6:30 pm United Bells

8:30 am Men's Bible Study **23**
 9:30 am Prayer Shawl Ministry

Pentecost **27**
 8:00 am Worship
 9:00 am Coffee Hour
 9:15 am Sunday School
 10:30 am Worship
 11:30 am Coffee Hour

Church Office Closed **28**
 5:30 pm Softball Ministry
 7:00 pm Woodcarvers

9:30 am Staff Meeting **29**
 9:30 am Quilters

8:30 am Men's Bible Study **30**

May, 2012

THURSDAY

10:00 am Prayer Quilters **3**
 10:30 am Parish Nurse Available
 1:00 pm Prime Chime
 5:30 pm Youth Band Rehearsal
 6:00 pm Illinois Heat Volleyball
 7:00 pm Chancel Choir

10:00 am Prayer Quilters **10**
 10:30 am Parish Nurse Available
 1:00 pm Prime Chime
 7:00 pm Chancel Choir
 7:00 pm Evangelism and Membership

Presbytery Meeting at First Presbyterian Sullivan, Missouri **17**
 10:00 am Prayer Quilters
 10:30 am Parish Nurse Available
 1:00 pm Prime Chime
 5:30 pm Youth Band Rehearsal
 7:00 pm Chancel Choir

10:00 am Prayer Quilters **24**
 10:30 am Parish Nurse Available
 1:00 pm Prime Chime
 6:00 pm Mission Committee
 7:00 pm Chancel Choir

10:00 am Prayer Quilters **31**
 10:30 am Parish Nurse Available
 1:00 pm Prime Chime

FRIDAY

11:30 am PW Gathering **4**
 6:30 pm Sand Dollars

6:30 pm Merry Mates **11**
 7:00 pm MaryMarthas

Preschool's Papa John's Fundraiser **18**

7:00 pm Branches **25**

SATURDAY

9:00 am Merry Mates Plant Pick-up **5**

8:00 am Saturday Monthly Mission with Neighbors for Renewal **12**

9:00 am Clean the Sanctuary with Worship Committee **19**
 1:00 pm Confirmation Practice
 6:00 pm Helmsmen

26

Cross Fire to Present Program on June 6

Cross Fire, a relational music ministry team sponsored by Youth Encounter, will present an interactive program of cross-cultural Christian music and personal sharing for the whole family on Wednesday, June 6, at 7:00 pm. Cross Fire visited the youth in November before spending three months ministering in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.



SAVE THE DATE

June 6
 Cross Fire Program

June 17 - 23
 TIM Mission Trip
 Racine, Wisconsin

June 19 - 22
 Quilt Camp



June 30
 KIX and TIM
 Sabbath
 to Cardinals' Game

July 9 - 14
 KIX Summer Trip
 Great Escape

July 17-19
 Vacation Bible
 School

July 21-22
 TIM Sabbath
 to Lake of Egypt



August 11
 KIX & TIM Sabbath
 to Six Flags

Children & Youth Life Groups



PHOTO BY S. FOLTZ

Bible Discovery

On April 22, ten students received *The Children's Illustrated Bible*, a gift from you, members of their First United family. The first, second and third graders attended a two-week class with a parent or grandparent. The students were Amaya Canale, Aaron Epps, Greg Epps, Delaney Giles, Katherine Hall, Grace Kearns, Amber Lankford, Annika Melinder, Gabby Mokriakow, and Zack Tambala.

FaithQuest in May

FaithQuest students (K-5) will conclude their study on "What Do I Believe?" and begin the rotation, "Pentecost and the Early Church (Peter and Paul)." Students meet in the Sanctuary at 9:15 am for a brief opening and then move to different workshops.

Children in Chapel

During May worship times, children ages 3 through 3rd grade will hear the stories of The Good Shepherd and The Lord's Supper, Jesus Commissions the Disciples, Ascension, and Pentecost.

PYC Youth (3rd-5th grades) News

Presbyterian Youth Club (PYC) will meet two more times this program year. On May 2, PYCers will meet at 5:00 but will go until 7:15 pm. The schedule on May 9 will be the regular time, 5:00-7:00 pm.



PHOTO BY STEPHANIE FOLTZ

PYC Mystery Day at Purina Farms

Confirmation Sunday

Both worship services on May 20 will be led by this year's confirmation class. During the 10:30 service, the students will be publicly recognized and welcomed into membership of First United by their profession of faith in Jesus Christ. These students have worked with mentors since January, exploring what it means to be disciples on their journeys of faith.



PHOTO BY DEE MCCARTY

Confirmation Work Day, 2012

The confirmands are Alex Abernathy, Erica Campbell, Bailey Guinn, McKenna Hulen, Jack Langen, Maddie Langen, Nicole Lonsdale, Morgan Smith, Sam Taylor, and Emily Winland. Their mentors are John Mann, Mandy Guinn, Jen DeJong, Myrna Stine, Lorenzo Clayton, Abby Smith, Dee McCarty, Cyndi Langen, Dan O'Saben, and Joy Baltz. Following the 10:30 service, the congregation is invited to join with the confirmands, their families, and mentors at a reception in Cornell Commons.

KIX Youth (6th-8th grades) News

May 2, Wednesday: Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

May 6, Sunday: KIX Sabbath will head to Everett Moody Park at Longacre for a picnic lunch and games.

May 9, Wednesday: Last KIX of the school year

May 10, Thursday: No Youth Band rehearsal

May 20, Sunday: Confirmation Sunday

TIM Youth (9th-12th grades) News

May 2, Wednesday: Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

May 6, Sunday: TIM Sabbath will meet after the 10:30 worship service for an afternoon at Forest Park. Please bring a brown bag lunch. We will return to church at 4:00 pm.

May 9, Wednesday: Last TIM of the school year

May 10, Thursday: No Youth Band rehearsal

May 20, Sunday: TIM Breakfast Out will be cooked by Brenda Fedak and served in the youth room at 9:00 am.

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

On Wednesday, May 2, all youth are invited to the Youth Ministries Volunteer Appreciation Dinner and Program. Join the Youth Ministries Committee in saying "Thank You" to everyone who has made this youth program year a success. PYC, KIX and TIM will still begin at their usual times. Dinner will start at 6:00 pm in Eversull Hall, and the program will follow from 6:45 to 7:30 in the Chapel. We hope all the youth will help us celebrate this amazing year and our awesome volunteers. ~ Youth Ministries Committee

A Big Thank You

The 2011-2012 youth year is coming to a close. This year would not have been possible without the help of the following people.

Youth Sponsors: PYC—Stephanie Foltz, Diane McHugh; KIX—Bill Beebe, Dennis Hubbard, Kim Hubbard, Jen DeJong; TIM—Brenda Fedak, Joe Fedak, Doug Bridges

Sunday School Teachers: Abbey Croissant, Dan O'Saben, Doug Sitton, Cyndi Langen, Ed Langen, Dave Misselhorn, Sheila Misselhorn, Cliff Fitts, Marci Fitts

TIM Toolbox Leaders: Jen and Marc DeJong

Sabbath Coordinator: Kaitlyn Fedak

Bus Drivers: Jim Nicholas, Bob Samples

Wednesday Dinner Coordinator: Jessica Mokriakow

Wednesday Dinner Manager: Cyndi Langen

Wednesday Night Tech Team: Loren Elliott

Major Events Coordinators: Brenda Fedak, Dennis Hubbard, Mandy Guinn, Nancy Lonsdale, Bob Samples, Dawn Sitton, Abby Smith, Karen Thompson, Diane Winland

The Youth Ministries Committee and especially the Youth appreciate your commitment and energy. This has been a busy year full of fun and fellowship because of all of you!

High School Senior Recognition Sunday

The Youth Ministries Committee will recognize our graduating high school seniors during the 10:30 am worship service on Sunday, June 3. A cake reception will follow the service.

Summer Youth on the Move

Not ready for youth group to end? It doesn't have to! This summer, both KIX and TIM will meet together on Monday nights for Youth on the Move from 7-8:30 pm, starting June 11 at the Langens' house. The location will change each week so stay tuned!

With May comes the close of my second program year at First United. As I look back and reflect, I am pleased to see the work of the many hands and voices which contribute so much to the music ministry of this church. The members of **Chancel Choir** are my faithful companions around the organ during the 10:30 service of almost every Sunday of the program year. I really enjoy making choral music, and rehearsals with the Chancel Choir are definitely a highlight of each week for me. I'm particularly pleased with the choir's dedication in preparing *Tapestry of Darkness* for Holy Week last month. As president of the choir, **Ann Smith** does a fantastic job, providing the additional behind-the-scenes leadership required to make the Chancel Choir work so well. A lot of her work for the choir is so behind-the-scenes that even I am not exactly sure what all she does. However, I do know that practically all of the little details necessary for a well-functioning choir are taken care of each week by Ann *et al* without my asking, leaving me free to focus on making music as much as possible. I am very grateful for this leadership. Thank you, Ann!



I also wish to commend **United Bells** to the congregation. I hope my leadership of this group has been improving as I've gained experience in directing bells. But I also feel strongly that this ensemble has been making terrific progress in its own right. The green ringers of the group have become seasoned veterans. It has become more and more my pleasure to make music with this ensemble, rather than merely ring bells. If you have also been particularly enjoying United Bells' music-making of late, please don't hesitate to share your appreciation with the ensemble members – and also consider joining us yourself when rehearsals resume in September.

I would like to recognize three women in particular who have contributed greatly to the music ministry of First United during this past program year. **Julia Weeks** continues to perform marvelously as the stalwart director of Prime Chime. I often catch parts of Prime Chime's



Thursday rehearsals and witness the hard work and dedication that members put into their music. I also really enjoy their participation in worship. Julia is the glue and rock of this ensemble, and I am grateful for her continued, excellent leadership.



Leah Lankford has put her whole heart and soul into leading the children's choirs, PreSing and Joyful Noise, at First United. As a certified elementary educator, mother of two young girls, and a very gifted musician, Leah is able to lead these two ensembles much better than I myself could do! All I have to do is show up to rehearse briefly on the Sundays these groups sing, and then have a blast watching the children be so cute, and offer their praise to the Lord. Leah does amazing work in this essential area of music ministry!

Finally, I commend **Kaitie Kautz** to you for her very creative leadership of the music for Wednesday Night Live. Early in Kaitie's tenure at First United I explained to her the limits of my own leadership of the youth in this regard. She agreed to take on the responsibility for programming and rehearsing the Wednesday Night Live music. Under her leadership, youth participation in making music for Wednesday Night Live has expanded dramatically. Each week sees music of a slightly different genre, and with a slightly different ensemble. It has been very heartwarming to see this ministry grow under Kaitie's care.



Reading this article, you just might wonder exactly what it is that I do all week! Rest assured, I too remain very busy tending to the musical needs of the church. Yet as I look back on another program year, I realize that my hands are not the only hands or the most important hands serving the church with music. There are many people involved, and room yet for many more. I wanted to acknowledge this fact as we soon embark on our summer hiatus. As we organists often say (as the motto of the American Guild of Organists), "*Soli Deo Gloria*," "Glorify to God alone!"

Announcements

Bunny Breakfast Thanks

This year's Breakfast with Mrs. Bunny was one of the biggest ever! The "kids" ranged from 2 weeks to over 80, with all having fun. Our big kids are now helping the younger ones. A special thanks to Maggie, Conor, Nicole, Andrew, Kaitlyn and Tyler for assisting us and to Wanda and Dave for the door prizes. ~ *The Sand Dollars*



PHOTO BY DEE MCCARTY

Spaghetti Dinner Thanks

The Preschool Spaghetti Dinner was a success! Thank you to all who attended, worked, and donated. The children and their families, as well as others, had a wonderful time. This year we raised more than ever to support the mission

of the Preschool and look forward to the rest of this year and the coming year. Thank you again and blessings!
~Anne Dulski



PHOTO BY AL KRAUS

Graduate Information Needed

In a future edition of the *Steeple*, the Christian Education and Youth Ministries Committees would like to recognize the accomplishments of all graduates (high school, 2-year & 4-year college, post-high school training program, or post-college). The details needed are the student's name, school, degree, any awards, future plans, and parents' names. Please provide contact information in case there are questions. The deadline is Sunday, June 10. Email the information to sfoltz@firstunitedpres.org, or bring it into the church office for Stephanie Foltz.

Stewardship and Budget

"A checkbook is a theological document; it will tell you who and what you worship." ~ *Billy Graham*

"Examples are few of men ruined by giving." ~ *Christian Bovee*

"A lot of people are willing to give God the credit, but not too many are willing to give God the cash." ~ *A Billboard*

"Real charity doesn't care if it's tax deductible or not." ~ *Anonymous*

"There are no pockets in a shroud and no U-hauls behind a hearse." ~ *Anonymous*

Attendance and Giving

March 2012

Date	Worship Attendance	Pledges & Contributions as of March 31, 2012	
03.04.12	288	Pledges	\$54,871.25
03.11.12	237	Unpledged Gifts	3,106.00
03.18.12	263	Loose Offerings	525.54
03.25.12	275	Per Capita Receipts	814.75

If you have questions, please contact Stewardship and Budget Committee Elders, Danny Halel, 398-8968, or Lorna Stehnach, 398-8375.

Announcements

Thanks to the Cornell Commons Plaque Donors

Members of the congregation suggested, researched, ordered, and donated the wonderful plaque that now adorns Cornell Commons. They have chosen to remain anonymous, but we are pleased to express our gratitude publicly. Many thanks!!

April Session Highlights

- Held a joint meeting with Elders and Deacons.
- Extended Kim Hulen's employment contract from May 16, 2012, to August 15, 2012.

Pastor Nominating Committee Report

The PNC continues to meet regularly and review Pastor Information Forms (PIFs). As of mid-April we have received 30 PIFs and expect to receive many more before moving to the next phase of interviewing potential candidates. We appreciate your continued prayers and support! ~ *Roger Cox, Jen DeJong, Anne Dulski, Tyler Fedak, Babs Hill, Dennis Hubbard, Ed Langen, Sheila Misselhorn, Van Smith, Erma Jean Vandiver, Bob Wells, and Emily Wilson*

Audio Books Wanted for First United Library

The Library volunteers want to add audio book cassette tapes and CDs to the collection. There have been requests to provide books in these formats. If you have any to donate, drop them off in the church office or in the Library.



Installation Invitation

The Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy invites us to share in the Worship of God and the Installation of The Reverend Patty Stone as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Brighton, Illinois, on May 6, at 3:00 pm. The church is located at 402 N. Main Street. A reception will follow.

Guest Musicians on May 6

The SIUE Suzuki Strings Tour Group will offer musical gifts during worship on Sunday, May 6. The Tour Group provides an opportunity for students to perform in an ensemble whose main focus is excellence in performance and educational outreach. The members, including our own

McKenna Hulen, are advanced violin and viola students who participate in the Suzuki Program at Southern Illinois University - Edwardsville. The group is preparing for its upcoming June tour of Ireland.

Clean the Sanctuary

Put Saturday, May 19, on your calendar. We will have a workday to do heavy cleaning in the Sanctuary. If a group would like to do a specific job like wash windows or vacuum pews, you can work together. If you are physically unable to do heavy work, there are some jobs that can be done sitting down with a pencil sharpener or eraser! We will have donuts and drinks available. We will begin at 9:00 am and finish by 12:00, but you are welcome for any time you can donate. Bring your favorite cleaning product and cloths. ~ *Worship Committee*

Preschool Registration

Registration continues for the Presbyterian Community Preschool for next school year. For the Preschool to continue to operate, 30 children must be enrolled by July 1. Please share with friends and neighbors that we have a preschool. For information, call the Preschool, 233-4809.

Notes from the Church Office

- If you "wintered" elsewhere, please remember to let the church office know when you are back in the area. We like to keep our church member database updated, so if you have a change of address, phone number, and/or email please let LuAnn or Kristina know.
- First Quarter statements have been mailed. Contact Kristina if you find any discrepancies; her office hours are week days in the afternoon.

Office & Pastoral Staff Schedules for May

- The office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 to 4.
- Pastoral Care Phone: If you have or know of an immediate pastoral care need and the church office is closed, call this number: (618) 795-3433. This is a cell phone that is in the possession of a First United pastoral care provider after the church office hours.
- Kim Hulen is in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays. She checks email on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.
- Pastor Zomermaand will be in Belleville May 1-27.

Celebration of Aging

The Faith Community Committee is pleased to announce that Bob and Shirley Samples are First United's honorees to this year's Celebration of Aging. The Samples joined First United in 1967. They moved to the Belleville area in 1966 to become educators in local school districts. Both Shirley and Bob were well-known in the teaching community, and highly respected for their love of teaching and their compassion for their students.

Bob has served in so many capacities at First United. A few of his accomplishments are serving as an Elder on Session, serving as a Stephen Minister, driving the church bus, serving as chairman for the 1981 New Sanctuary Fundraising, also serving on the Capital Campaign of 2012, reorganizing the Bus Transportation Ministry several years ago and participating in the actual driving schedule, being an Adult Studies Leader for a variety of classes, and singing in the Chancel Choir for 45 years.

However, Bob says simply, "My heart was always, and continues to be, with the youth!" Therefore, he continues to be on the Youth Ministries Committee. He has been a sponsor of all the different youth groups throughout the years, been a Sunday School teacher at many levels, and for years has picked up kids on Wednesdays for PYC. Since 2003, he has been the chairman of the First United Golf Tournament, raising funds for the youth groups in our church.

Bob and Shirley have been active in Merry Mat since the late 1960s. They have served in most leadership roles in that organization and participated in all the activities for which that organization is well-known.



PHOTO BY STEPHANIE FOLTZ

Shirley has also served our Church in so many ways. She has been an Elder on Session, served as Clerk of Session from 2007 to 2009, and participated in the Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir. She is very active in Presbyterian Women. At the local level, she has served

as the Moderator and has been a longtime member of the Lydia Circle. At the presbytery level, she served on the Coordinating Team. At the national church-wide level, she served as a committee member of the PW Enabler Committee. In that role, Shirley served as an enabler workshop leader at the Synod

of the Mid-Atlantic and at the Synod of Southern California/Hawaii. What wonderful, inspiring and learning experiences those were for her!

Shirley has two passions that have exemplified her volunteering for our church. She loves "leading Adult Study Groups," particularly "appealing to intergenerational groups." Her creativity leads her in her choices for these studies – whether it be Lenten study, book discussions, memory-building classes, to name a few. Her other passion is "God calls me to plan and prepare meals" whether it be for Wednesday evenings, Session meetings, or a VBS celebration. This love has led to her newest "job" of purchasing supplies for the many church fellowship activities.

After 56 years of marriage and 45 years of membership at First United, Bob and Shirley Samples exemplify God's work in their lives and in our church family's life. Congratulations, Bob and Shirley! They will be honored during the Celebration of Aging service at Florissant Presbyterian Church in Florissant, Missouri, on May 2, and recognized during the 10:30 worship at First United on May 6.



**FIRST UNITED
PRESBYTERIAN**

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PLANT PICK-UP



Plants ordered from
Merry Mates will be
available for pick up on
Saturday, May 5, in the gym,
any time between
9:00 am and 12:00 noon.