

firstnews Monthly

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July 1 - 31, 2014

Vol. 60 No. 7



Story and Photos By Michael Barber

Donice Wooster accepts warm applause from the congregation, led by Rev. David Hett.

So Long, Farewell

Donice Wooster welcomes retirement with open arms

Donice Wooster, Director of Early Childhood Ministry, has retired after more than 30 years of service to First Community Church. On Sunday, June 22, Donice was recognized during worship.

"This is a moment for gratitude; this is a moment for thanks to the people who built this program, to the church for trusting me with meaningful work that challenged me, to the families that entrusted children to us," Donice said. "Most of all, I'm grateful to the teachers who are truly the heart of the Preschool and the Mary Evans Center and Sunday mornings. My heart is full."



Left: Josie Malhame, 2, enjoys a cookie during a reception in Donice's honor. Above: Becky Harr expresses her gratitude to Donice for her contributions to her family's life.

Garage Sale Total Earnings Rocket Past Half Million Dollars

■ By Beth Hanson

Many of you who labored at the 19th Annual Mission Council Garage Sale (or who are just fans) have been waiting patiently for the results. It takes a while to count and recount the money, but at last we have a total. Our 2014 sale grossed a whopping \$52,081.

The lion's share of this money came from selling our wares in nine and a half hours. However, you might be interested to know that a portion of this year's earnings was raised by selling things at auction, on E-Bay and on consignment, recycling metal and selling gold and silver for scrap. We were also blessed with cash donations from volunteers of almost \$3,000.

The Women's Guilds provided hearty lunches every day of the week. Others donated office supplies, food for our refreshment stand, pieces and parts to repair donations, batteries so that all of our watches were working and hundreds of other wonderful gifts and expertise.

Cheryl Van Deusen got the inspiration for an over-the-door clothing display on which she could hang girl's dresses by looping the hanger through a door-wide piece of mesh. She ran home that night, rounded up materials and sewed her invention so it was ready the next morning.

We had a full day of moving assistance from Two Men and a Truck who moved

our year's collection of donations from storage to the North Campus. Herlighy's Moving & Storage donated four portable storage units for the week, which we used as shops out in the parking lot.

Skip Yassenoff of Rainbow Development has continued to let us use one of his huge warehouses in Hilliard to store our racks and display equipment, plus the donations we collect throughout the year.

Since 1995, due to our stick-to-it-iveness and sense of common purpose, we have raised a total of \$576,222 that has been sent out into the world. We look forward to working together again at Garage Sale #20, May 10-16, 2015.

Foundation Corner

Choices

— Lauri Speight Sullivan, *Director of First Community Foundation*

Recently, someone asked, "Should a gift in memory or honor of a loved one go to First Community Church or First Community Foundation?" Any church without an endowment, a memorial gift would go to the church. The reality is First Community is not "any" church. It does have a Foundation that is in place.

It's important to state that any gift, made either to foundation or church, is a gift to the church. The Foundation exists only to steward long-term funds and gifts that have accrued over time. The church could exist without the Foundation, but the Foundation needs the church to justify itself.

Whether a gift comes to the Foundation or the church depends upon the needs and goals of the giver. Anyone can give a gift of any size to the church at any time for any reason, including honoring the memory of a loved one. In almost all cases, the church will use the gift gratefully and immediately.

Likewise, donations to the Foundation may be of any size, made at any time for any reason, but the money will be invested until used. Additionally, the donor has the opportunity to give to "the discretion of the Trustees" or personalize the gift by selecting a "specific ministry or program," like music, missions or Camp Akita.

The big difference, of course, lies in the timing and methods of how gifts to the Foundation are used. Think of the Foundation as a trust fund designed to protect and grow the assets for the benefit of the church and to control the disbursements of funds in ways that are faithful to its original charter. The Foundation is required by law to release a percentage of its total assets every year in order to maintain its tax-advantaged status as a charitable institution. Release of monies generally requires a written grant request to support a ministry or equipment for First Community Church, adding richness and tangible, lasting elements.

So, if you should have a question about whether to give a gift to the Foundation or the church, you can be assured that it's always a gift to the church. A gift to the Foundation communicates this person means something lasting and permanent to the donor. The Foundation is the place to continue that legacy.

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.

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South Campus Summer Closings

As a part of our commitment to reduce expenses in 2014, we are closing South Campus located at 1320 Cambridge Blvd. 43212, each Friday through August 29.

North Campus will be open on Fridays except for July 4. The church telephone line will remain open 9 am - 5 pm at 614 488.0681

By closing a location we will lower expenses through reduced power and energy consumption and reduced wage expenditures.

South Campus will open on Fridays for limited hours to cover rehearsals, weddings, ceremonies and special scheduled events.

First Edition
Television Program
11 AM
Sundays
Only On
THE CW
WWHO-TV

Soundings

DUI

— The Reverend Dr. Richard A. Wing, *Senior Minister*



I have known people who have had to spend lots of money on a DUI: Driving Under the Influence. Drunk driving. They feel lucky if they didn't hurt anyone. They are both humiliated and embarrassed, which along with spending tons of bucks is often penance enough.

My three step daughters' Dad was killed by five drunk teenagers crossing the center divide of a highway in California, all of them drunk and going one hundred and five miles per hour. The issue of "Driving Under the Influence" is very close to our

family, and trust me, it is painful.

I have discovered another kind of DUI which kills spiritually. I was listening to a lecture by Cynthia Beaugault entitled "Rebuilding My Church" (words heard by St. Francis of Assisi). She said, "Nothing in the spiritual life can be accomplished by DESPERATION, URGENCY, and INSISTENCE." That is the DUI that all of us should take note of, spiritually speaking.

Many have come to my office saying, "I can't find God." I tell them to forget about it and abandon the search because they can't find God. However, I tell them, there are practices and places where God can find you. I underline that desperation, urgency and insistence are ways we cannot find God, *and* they are sure barriers to God finding us.

Me? I have discovered that God finds me, comes to me, mostly in quiet study, contemplation, reflection and tons of reading. God finds me when I am among the poor who teach me. God finds me in God's time and never on my schedule marked with desperation, urgency or insistence.

Deadlines work for newspapers, but never with God. Let's remember that as we, in the church, lift the accelerator just a little in these summer months, so that God can find us.

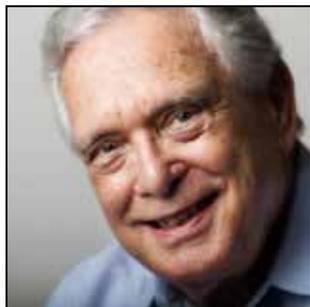
Peace to you,

.....
Dr. Wing is on sabbatical this summer. He is working on a new book and will be preparing four sermon series for 2014 and 2015. Also, at the end of the summer he will enter the Living School of Action and Contemplation with Richard Rohr in New Mexico. This is a 2-year course. Dr. Wing will return to the pulpit September 14, 2014, the fall kick-off Sunday.

On We Go

Charitable Was the Word

— The Reverend Mr. Paul E. Baumer, *Minister to the Staff*



One of my favorite books is Eric Burns' *Infamous Scribblers*. Burns writes about the world of the first newspapers in our nation and along the way you get a good feel for the people who first settled and founded our nation.

What struck me most is his assessment that by and large they were a very charitable people. They appreciated the arts. They were gregarious and loved a good party. They were even fairly forgiving of public drunkenness and bad manners.

"They were well mannered at meals, making up for a dearth of utensils with a multitude of napkins." They were extremely hard working, forming roads and farms and communities where there had only been forest and wilderness.

But most of all, "the first settlers were charitable. They would provide lodging in their homes for orphans, the elderly, and others in their midst who might be in need; for orphans they would try to arrange an apprenticeship or some other form of gainful occupation. They would help their neighbors erect barns and plant crops and, through moneys collected in churches and by various secular agencies, would see to it that almshouses were constructed for the poor of their towns and villages."

It was and is that underlying sense of charity - of caring for the welfare of others - that marked and still marks these United States. We're in danger of losing that foundation trait. We in the church should be first on the line to assure that does not happen. Our church attendance, volunteer time and financial support, and certainly our personal lives and concerns should have at their forefront the mark of charity.

As the people of Jesus Christ, charitable should be the word that describes us, and, hopefully, thanks to our example, our fellow citizens.

Preschool Openings

The First Community Church Preschool has a few openings for fall, 2014. If you know of a 3 or 4-year-old (or a 5-year-old not going to kindergarten in the fall), we would be happy to give a tour of the facilities, answer questions or register. Contact Patti Link at plink@FCchurch.com

Openings are in these classes, meeting 9 - 11:30 am:
 Monday, Wednesday, Friday for 3-year-olds
 Tuesday and Thursday for 3-year-olds
 Monday, Wednesday, Friday for 4 and young 5-year-olds

Foundation Gifts

- In Memory of:*
Robert Meehan
 Jim and Clare Long
 Walt and Carol Neff
 Gregory and Elizabeth Gerhard
Jeb Magruder
 Circle #47
 Bill Morris
Helen C. Pickett
 Richard and Nancy Pickett
Ann Holland
 Susan Huhta
Robert V. Esmond
 Claire Esmond
Frank Kennard
 Carlile, Patchen, and Murphy, LLP
 Bill and Ginny Ress
 David Freeman
 HQ AFMC/ A5Q
 John Kennard
 George & Terri Lewandowski
Bruce Lynn
 Silvia Gillis
 Bill and Becky Hinga
Carol Doyle
 Betty O'Neil
 Carolyn Warmolts
 Frank Hall
 Diane Niermeyer
 Bob & Shirley Edler
Wanda Ray
 Wayne Rickert
Jane Leifeld Davis
 Jason and Elizabeth Downey
Mary James
 Anne Sheline
Carol Gillespie
 Ferne Arnett
Robert and Joyce DeWees
 Betty O'Neil
Leslie Gardner
 Bob Keidan
- In Honor of:*
Sherry Barger
 Rod and Ann Swearingen
Ron Jenkins and William Davis
 Rod and Ann Swearingen
Donice Wooster
 Burdette Green
 Jeanne Blair
 Ralph and Joan Talmage
 Emily Rogers and Janelle Criner
 George and Linda Norris
 Gregory and Elizabeth Gerhard
Deb Lindsey
 Ferne Arnett
Pam Jameson
 Dick Helland
Heart to Heart
 Doug and Darian Torrance

Church Gifts

- In Memory Of:*
William Rhoades
 Deanna & Eddie Miller
Mary L. Jane
 Stuart & Sue Eagleson
Craig Russell Campbell
 Mary and Ted Schwartz
In Honor of:
Mary James
 Nancy Hull
- Prayers & Squares**
 Women's Guild Group RSZ
 Women's Guild Group Q

(Continued, Page 5)

Church Gifts

(Continued from previous page)

Heart to Heart

Rita Akins
Samuel & Lucy Chu
Ann Knodt
Terrance & Patricia Knott
Women's Guild Group X
Women's Guild Group Y

In Honor of:

Pete and Pidge Diehl

Tuesday at 10 Study Group

Walter Watkins

Tuesday at 10 Study Group

Lamar Graham

Women's Guild Group Q

In Memory of:

Rev. Jeb S. Magruder

Marilyn Hood

Friends of Music

In Celebration of:

MorningSong

Jean Verwohlt
Jim & Ginny Cunningham
Paula Russell
Jane & Jim Ledman
Anne Sheline

Ronald Jenkins

Buck & Nancy Byrne

Missy Obergefell

The Harr Family

In Honor of:

Mary Evans

Annita Meyer

Ronald Jenkins & all the choirs

Scott, Beth & Rachel Ryan

In Memory of:

Frank Kennard

Larry Jameson

Rev. Bill Taylor

Charles & Linda Baldeck

Robert V. Esmond

Claire Esmond

Ken & Marty Fischel, Jeff Keeler

Rick Keeler

Norbert Knies

Judy Ross

John T. Mount

Sonya R. Alberly

Carol Doyle

Peg & Tony Neri

Bob Meehan

Janet Ciccone

Habitat for Humanity

James & Susan Benes
Roma Blair
Andrew Brace
Julia Converse
Neil & Elizabeth Drobny
Claire Esmond
Susan Huhta
William Judy
Betty O'Neill
Jack & Patricia Shuter

In Memory of:

Barbara Boggs

John Boggs

Rafiki

Women's Guild Group Q

In Memory of:

Carol Doyle

Diane Niermeyer

Randolph Balch

Anne Powell Riley

Friends of the Homeless

Women's Guild Group Q

Take Heart

Thank You

— The Reverend Dr. Deborah Lindsay, *Minister of Spiritual Care*



In every way and everywhere we accept this with all gratitude.

Acts 24:3

My column this month is a thank you note to you, the amazing congregation of First Community Church. Thank you for your support and encouragement over the last three years as I worked on my Doctor of Ministry degree. You were there to celebrate victories and when I was tired or discouraged or doubting myself, you reached out to say, "Hang in there; you can do it." I am certain

your prayers carried me along when I most needed them. I am grateful beyond what words can say.

My dissertation is dedicated to my family and you. It says, *To the people of First Community Church, it is a privilege and a joy to be your pastor.*

A special word of thanks goes to my site team: Makenzie Adkins, Pete Diehl, Marcia Early, Justin Fields, Dick Meyer, Laura Wetmore and Lois Zook. They were with me from the very beginning, helping to shape the project and bring it to life.

In this moment of gratitude, I want to share one of my favorite poems. It's by a Nigerian-born poet, Ben Okri. His writing is influenced by Africa's oral tradition and by his mother's storytelling.

AN AFRICAN ELEGY

*We are the miracles that God made
To taste the bitter fruit of Time.
We are precious.
And one day our suffering
Will turn into the wonders of the earth.*

*That is why our music is so sweet.
It makes the air remember.
There are secret miracles at work
That only Time will bring forth.
I too have heard the dead singing.*

*There are things that burn me now
Which turn golden when I am happy.
Do you see the mystery of our pain?
That we bear poverty
And are able to sing and dream
sweet things*

*And they tell me that
This life is good
They tell me to live it gently
With fire, and always with hope.
There is wonder here*

*And that we never curse the air when
it is warm Or the fruit when it tastes so
good Or the lights that bounce gently
on the waters?
We bless things even in our pain.
We bless them in silence.*

*And there is surprise
In everything the unseen moves.
The ocean is full of songs.
The sky is not an enemy.
Destiny is our friend.*

My favorite line in this poem is, "There are secret miracles at work that only Time will bring forth." I thank God for the secret miracles at work in my life, and I hope you can trust they are at work in your life, too.

Blessings,

Care and Spirit

God and Country

— The Reverend Mr. James M. Long, *Minister of Pastoral Care*

When I was in the fourth-grade, my friend John Livingston, who lived across the street, took a train with me from the railroad station in downtown Columbus to Philadelphia to visit his grandparents in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. We traveled by ourselves in a sleeping car overnight. Our parents put us on the train in the care of the porters who they had "tipped" with the assurance that we would be watched and cared for properly, which we were. We arrived safely and had a wonderful time. However, my father apparently said at the time to Dr. Livingston: "Nory, do you know what

we just did? We put those boys on a train by themselves!"

Obviously, it was an act of faith that the railroad would deliver us safely to our destination and into the hands of John's grandmother and grandfather. They in turn cared for us in their center hall colonial home and showed us the historic sites of Philadelphia and its environs, including Independence Hall, Valley Forge, the Betsy Ross House, the Franklin Institute and the Union League Club. I was very impressionable, and I think my love for American History was kindled on that trip.

I also remember seeing City Hall on the mainline with the statue of William Penn on the top. Of course, Penn was a Quaker, as were John's grandparents. They took us to a Quaker Meeting House for worship. In such a gathering, there is little or no liturgy, with people speaking when moved by the spirit. This was my first experience of worship in another tradition, although I was to have other experiences through "Traveling Freshmen" at First Community Church when we worshipped on Sunday at other churches as part of our Christian education. Thus, at a young age I was exposed to our country's political, military and cultural history, as well as some of its diverse religious history. It enhanced my love of the Fourth of July and stories of our nation's birth. It gave me a sense of place and a certain reverence for the cost of the freedoms we have today.

Also, I was too young to know it at the time, but it exposed me to that mix of faith and politics, which has been a blessing and a source of conflict in our society. Our Quaker friends were known for their opposition to slavery and their pacifism. Our country has struggled with the legacy of slavery and racial discrimination and was born through revolution and war. Thus, we always have known of competing values and loyalties in our lives.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote a book called *Ethics* which was published posthumously after his execution in a Nazi prison camp. In it, he said that patriotism and love of country are important concerns, but they are of *penultimate* rather than *ultimate* value. Our ultimate loyalty is to God and sometimes our love of country must yield to it as it did for him when he opposed Adolf Hitler. Similarly, Paul Tillich said that God is "the ground of our being" and our *ultimate concern*. Thus, we give thanks for our country and love it, but we are ultimately members of the body of Christ, citizens of the kingdom of God. As it says on our currency, "In God We Trust."

Peace and blessings,

Parish Register

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

RECENT HOSPITALIZATIONS

Gwen Carmack
Jinny Frick
Bob Jacques
Katie Mac Ewan
Katie Main
Dick Sims
Mary Thomas

BIRTHS

Gloria Grace Griffith 5/18/2014
Daughter of Abbey & Brad Griffith
Allison Elizabeth Hanhilammi
5/24/2014
Daughter of Jenny & Trevor Hanhilammi
Granddaughter of Cathy & Ed Wheaton,
Karyl & David Hanhilammi and Great
Granddaughter of Jenny Lou Renkert

BAPTISMS

Alexandra Elizabeth Meyer 5/18/2014
Claire Marie Parsley 5/18/2014
Ethan Bradley Howe 6/1/2014
Son of Lauren & Brad Howe
Owen James McGraw 6/7/2014
Son of Kelly & David McGraw

WEDDINGS

Sarah Roberts & Grant Speakman
5/17/2014
Larissa Lown & Matthew Handford
5/31/2014

DEATHS

Austin Wildman 5/12/2014
Father of Andrew Wildman
Leslie Gardner 5/20/2014
Daughter of Bob Gardner &
Daughter-in-law of Tanny Gustafson
Carol Doyle 5/21/2014
Wife of Patrick Doyle
Justin Kriska 5/25/2014
Brother of Brian Kriska
Robert DeWees 5/30/2014
Mary James 5/30/2014
Mother of Patti Heintzelman
William H. Baumer 6/2/2014
Brother of Rev. Paul Baumer &
Brother-in-law of Jan Baumer
Joyce DeWees 6/4/2014
William Keating 6/11/2014
Father of Caren Wildman
Francisco Agbunag 6/12/2014
Brother of David Agbunag
Helen Moore Hawkins 6/13/2014
Mother of Cathie Hickin
David J. Palagyi 6/10/14
Brother of Maggie Tressler

Shrimp Bring Massive Relief

■ By Karyl Hanhilammi

This year's Shrimp Boil will be held at the North Campus on Friday, July 25, from 6-8:30 pm. Please join the Mission Council for all-you-can-eat shrimp, beans and rice, coleslaw, rolls and homemade fruit cobbler.

There will be Zydeco music, live entertainment, a fish pond for the children and an auction for two personal shrimp boils in homes of the highest bidders.

The Choirboys, a four-man musical group originally from Illinois, will sing selections from a variety of musical genres, including barbershop, pop, sacred and secular pieces. They sang together in high school, then reunited in 2007 and have since performed in many local churches and other venues.

A video and special guests will highlight the importance of this mission.

This event is a fundraiser for the Back Bay Mission, one that is very important to First Community Church. A team of workers from the church travels to Biloxi, MS, each year to provide service to this important mission. Workers of all skill levels and ages are welcomed and offered meaningful work to do at Back Bay Mission sites.

The Back Bay Mission trip offers multi-skill, multi-age opportunities to advance the Mission's goal "to eradicate the sting of poverty and its effects on individuals and communities." An information table will be available for those interested in learning more about how to become part of this mission team. Tickets for this popular event go quickly and seating is limited. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children under 12. Tables for 8 are available. Tickets will be sold after worship on July 6, July 13 and July 20.

They are also available online at FCchurch.com/shrimp-boil and at the North Campus reception desk.

Are You Eager To Love? Live Webcast with Richard Rohr

Tuesday, July 15, 7 – 9 pm
Room 130, North Campus

In this talk, Franciscan Father Richard invites us to experience one of the most accessible and appealing doorways to the divine using the timeless message of St. Francis and St. Clare. Francis and Clare knew the essential truth about God, that there is no separation between matter and spirit. Knowing our true identity—being one with God—frees us from fear of death and allows us to let go of our unneeded, partial and small self to live more fully as embodied love.

This event supports Spiritual Searcher: \$10 suggested donation. Register and donate online at FCchurch.com/2014/06/are-you-eager-to-love or at the door. For more information, contact Rev. David Hett at hettlds@FCchurch.com.

July Daily 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 Kings 18:36-39	1 John 4:1-6
2	Isaiah 51:1-3	Matthew 11:20-24
3	Genesis 25:19-27	Romans 7:1-6
4	Genesis 27:1-17	Romans 7:7-20
5	Genesis 27:18-29	Luke 10:21-24
6 (Sunday)	Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67	Psalms 45:10-17
	Romans 7:15-25a	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
7	Genesis 27:30-46	Romans 1: 18-25
8	Genesis 29:1-14	Romans 3: 1-8
9	Genesis 29:31-35	John 13:1-17
10	Exodus 3:1-6	Romans 2:12-16
11	Deuteronomy 32:1-10	Romans 15:14-21
12	Isaiah 2:1-4	John 12:44-50
13 (Sunday)	Genesis 25:19-34	Psalms 119:105-112
	Romans 8:1-11	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
14	Micah 1:1-5	1 Thessalonians 4:1-8
15	Jeremiah 49:7-11	Ephesians 4:17—5:2
16	Obadiah 15-21	Matthew 13:10-17
17	Isaiah 44:1-5	Hebrews 2:1-9
18	Ezekiel 39:21-29	Hebrews 6:13-20
19	Exodus 14:9-25	Matthew 7:15-20
20 (Sunday)	Genesis 28:10-19a	Psalms 139:1-12, 23-24
	Romans 8:12-25	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
21	Genesis 32:3-21	Revelation 14:12-20
22	Genesis 33:1-17	Galatians 4:21—5:1
23	Genesis 35:16-29	Matthew 12:15-21
24	Genesis 29:1-8	1 Corinthians 4:14-20
25	Genesis 29:9-14	Acts 7:44-53
26	Genesis 29:31—30:24	Matthew 12:38-42
27 (Sunday)	Genesis 29:15-28	Psalms 105:1-11, 45b
	Romans 8:26-39	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
28	Genesis 30:25-36	James 3:13-18
29	Genesis 30:37-43	Ephesians 6:10-18
30	Genesis 46:2—47:12	Mark 4:30-34
31	Isaiah 14:1-2	Philippians 4:10-15

The Infinite Quest At Play in the Pleromatic Abyss

— The Reverend Mr. David S. Hett, *Minister of Religious Life and Learning*



When we relax the “ego-operating system” and allow the deeper, organic soul-GPS to arise--the “divine operating system”—our understanding of who or what is really “doing” *our* doing begins to transform, as the closing 11th century poem reveals. But first, this theological inquiry:

Apophatic theology or the *via negativa* is based on the recognition that “God” is beyond understanding and therefore, one can only say what God is not. In *Giving Beyond the Gift: Apophasis and Overcoming Theomania*, Jewish philosopher

Elliot Wolfson arrives at an “apophatic definition” of “not-God: *“the manifold that is the pleromatic abyss at being’s core.”*

While it might seem difficult to pray to “the manifold that is the pleromatic abyss at being’s core,” on close reading it’s good description of the “God,” as Paul is purported to have said, “in which we live and move and have our being.”

I read “manifold” as the constantly arising totality of existence. The Greek word *pleroma* means fullness (see Colossians 2:9), thus the “full abyss,” the nothingness out of which “God” breathes Creation in and out of existence in each moment.

Bottom line: whatever we do or don’t call “God” is not only what we are made of individually, but the atoms and molecules and space in between of all that exists. The air around us. All that in which we live and move and have our being.

“The entire cosmos has become [Christ’s] body,” says Cynthia Bourgeault, and she shares this poem by the 11th century Greek Orthodox mystic Simeon the New Theologian which speaks of the “wondrous intertwinings of Christ’s being with our own and of the healing love that pours forth from his embrace:”

*We awaken in Christ’s body
as Christ awakens our bodies,
and my poor hand is Christ. He enters
my foot and is infinitely me.*

*I move my hand, and wonderfully,
my hand becomes Christ,
becomes all of Him
(for God is indivisibly
whole, seamless in his Godhood).*

*I move my foot, and at once
He appears in a flash of lightning.
Do my words seem blasphemous?
—Then open your heart to Him*

*And let yourself receive the one
who is opening to you so deeply.*

*For if we genuinely love Him,
We wake up inside Christ’s body*

*Where all our body, all over,
every most hidden part of it,
is realized in joy as Him
And he makes us utterly real.*

*And everything that is hurt, everything
that seemed to us dark, harsh, shameful,
maimed, ugly, irreparably
damaged, is in him transformed*

*and recognized as whole, lovely
radiant in his light.
We awaken as the Beloved
in every last part of our body.*

That is a mantra worth keeping.

Shalom,



Mirabai Starr Presents Interspirituality

Mirabai Starr, teacher of interspirituality, led members and friends of *Spiritual Searcher* in practices from Christianity, Islam and Judaism during her weekend with us June 6-8.

In addition to a teaching on Friday evening and an experiential workshop on Saturday, Mirabai led a practice of *lectio divina* (spiritual reading and meditation) on Sunday morning in Burkhart Chapel.

Well over 100 people were able to experience Mirabai’s calming presence during the weekend as she opened us to heart-centered experience of the divine in our midst.

Mirabai’s Friday evening talk was preceded by a performance of “*Let Nothing Disturb You*” with vocalist Ami Peacock and guitarists Vickie Murphy and Kurt Smith. *Let Nothing Disturb You* was written by Jenny Bird, a musical collaborator with Mirabai Starr, and the words of the song come from Mirabai’s translation of Teresa of Avila’s well-known prayer.

Our next and final *Spiritual Searcher* in this 25th Anniversary Year celebrating this ministry is Celtic Spirituality Teacher, John Philip Newell, the weekend of November 14-16. Watch *firstnews Monthly* and *Sunday* for details.

Introduction to the Old Testament

Wednesdays, July 9 – 30
7 – 8:15 pm
Wicker Room, South Campus

open for discussion. And if you haven't attended a summer session before, this would be a great time to start.

Walter Watkins unpacks the basics of the Hebrew Bible (what we often refer to as the "Old Testament") in this four-week summer series.

This Introduction to the Hebrew Bible continues the opportunity to gain a broad overview of the Hebrew Scriptures, including the types and styles of literature in text. No need to buy anything, handouts will be provided at each session.

If you've attended the "Bible Basics" session or the class on the authority of scripture called "The Bible or Your Brain: Must You Choose?" you have an idea of the interesting ideas that are

Free and open to the public. Registration is suggested online at



FCchurch.com/2014/05/old-testament, or call 614.488-0681, ext. 113. You may also register at the door the first evening of the series.

Weekly Adult Learning Groups

Classes are free except where noted and open to the public. Books used for classes are available at Furber Books. For more information on books, registration or financial aid, contact Natalia at NJones@FCchurch.com or call 614 488.0681 ext. 113

For more details on specific classes, go to FCchurch.com, search: **Adult Learning**.

<p>Sunday Morning Seminars: Coffee with Clergy & Others Share a cup of coffee and informal conversations with "persons of interest," particularly from among our clergy. June 29: Featuring Joe Gentilini, brother of member Anne Cooper, and author of <i>Hounded by God: A Gay Man's Journey...</i> No meeting July 6; July 13: Rev. Dr. Deborah Lindsay; July 20: Rev. Paul Baumer; July 27: Rev. Kate Shaner.</p>	<p>Sundays, 8:45 – 9:45am <i>Wicker Room, South Campus</i> No meeting July 6.</p>
<p>Men's Study Group Men are welcome to join our current study: <i>Paul's Letter to the Romans</i>. Contact Price Finley at 614 488.7978 or pfinley@bricker.com, or Craig Sturtz at 614 481.9060 or craig.sturtz@squiresanders.com</p>	<p>Wednesdays, 7 – 8 am <i>Wicker Room, South Campus</i></p>
<p>Wednesday Morning Fellowship Presentations and discussion of leading-edge topics. Ends promptly at 8 am.</p>	<p>Wednesdays, 7 – 8 am <i>Brownlee Hall, South Campus</i></p>
<p>Women Living the Questions Continues discussing <i>A New Earth</i>, book and video talks by Eckhart Tolle. Composed of progressive, theologically-open women who are engaged in the full range of spiritual exploration, <i>Women Living the Questions</i> might be the answer to those looking for a smaller faith community within the church. Contact Linda Baldeck at lkrbaldeck@yahoo.com or 614 459.0722.</p>	<p>Wednesdays, 9:30 – 11 am <i>Wicker Room, South Campus</i></p>
<p>Contemplative Way Group 1 A time of sacred reading, meditation and discussion. 11:45 am Sacred Reading: Teresa of Avila's <i>Interior Castle</i>; 12:15 pm Group Silent Meditation; 12:45 pm Comments & Reflections. You are welcome to join just for the 30-minute meditation time. Free-will offering supports Psychological-Spiritual Fund. New participants welcome.</p>	<p>Thursdays, 11:45 am – 1 pm <i>Wicker Room, South Campus</i></p>
<p>Saturday Morning Contemplative Way Group Sacred reading of Mirabai Starr's newest book, a translation of <i>The Showing of Julian of Norwich</i>; 30-minute meditation and time for reflection & discussion. Facilitated by Rose Konrath, Spiritual Searcher committee, and Vickie Murphy, Spiritual Director. Free-will offering. New participants welcome.</p>	<p>Saturdays, 10 – 11:15 am <i>Spiritual Guidance Room, South Campus Annex</i> 2nd Saturday: Heart to Heart Community Room, Annex</p>
<p>Introduction to the Old Testament Adult Education Coordinator Walter Watkins unpacks the basics of the Hebrew Bible, the Christian "Old Testament." Handouts provided at each session. Register online or at the door.</p>	<p>Wednesdays, July 9 – 30 7 – 8:15 pm <i>Wicker Room, South Campus</i></p>

Welcome New Members

Joined on Sunday, June 29



Kendra Copenhaver



Rachel Motsinger



Tina Parsley



Chris Peterson



Jennifer Peterson

Kendra Copenhaver is a kindergarten teacher in the Mary Evans Child Development Center. She grew up in Columbus, then moved to the mountains of Colorado for 24 years. Reading, knitting, sewing, gardening and hiking are Kendra's interests. She worships at the North Campus 10 am service and looks forward to being a part of the faith community and getting involved.

Rachel Motsinger is the daughter of Kendra Copenhaver. Rachel is a student at The Ohio State University studying pre-veterinary medicine. She works as a veterinary technician at Mill Run Animal Hospital. Rachel is also an equestrian, runner and musician. She enjoys watching our live webcasts, the message and music, and looks forward to meeting other members.

Tina Parsley began attending the 10 am North Campus service after an invitation from member Laura Helland. Tina and husband, Mike, are the parents of two daughters – Laura a college student and Claire who joined the church and received her Block of Wood in May. Tina works at Integrated Building Systems and enjoys new restaurants, scrapbooking and outdoor activities including gardening.

Chris Peterson works in advertising at Resource, LLC. He and Jennifer are the parents of Isabelle (Issy) (13), Amelia (Millie) (11) and Harrison (Harry) (9). Chris enjoys cycling, running, skiing and cooking. Our inclusive theology and worship are reasons Chris chose to become a member and he looks forward to being a part of this faith community.

Jennifer Peterson is the daughter of member Jane Campbell (and the late Butch Campbell) and sister to member, Chris Campbell. Jennifer is in retail with Jewell, LLC. She appreciates the adult learning opportunities and youth programs. Her interests are travel, reading, music, movies and being with friends.

Women's Guild

■ By Jill Eliot

A note from Guild President, Kie Seiple: "I would like to thank the women of the Women's Guild, the Executive Board and the Committee and Group Chairs for a memorable and successful program year. Steeped in the tradition of service, friendship and spiritual growth, the Guild continued its garden of accomplishments. Thanks to the Executive Board: Rose Kandel, Harriet Brown, Amy Wentz, Estelle Scott, Priscilla Ratliff, Susan Huhta and Jill Eliot; as well as the Guild Board Committee Chairs: Ginny Culver, Arlene Keethler, Loretta Heigle, April Howe and Staff Advisor, Missy Obergefell.

Further thanks are extended to Group chairs: April Howe and Ann Eliot-Naille (Group A) Karyl Hanhilammi (Group C), Merci Katz (Group D), Hilda Neff (Group JOY), Kathleen Lennon (Group L), Meg Wagner (Group Q), Ruth Gonser and Harriet Brown (Group RSZ), Janice Meyer and Patty Mielke (Group V), Patsy Poe (Group WW), Sue Wilson (Group X), Lee Burges and Marilyn Wenrick (Group Y) and Merry Hamilton (Group 7).

We look forward to our 103rd year.

Coming Attractions:

On July 12 at noon, the Women's Guild Board will serve lunch for the *1,2,3...Akita!* Counselors at North Campus.

August 27 at North Campus will feature the Women's Guild Installation/Potluck dinner from 6-8 pm. All ladies are requested to bring layettes (new or gently used) to the event. We will give the layettes to Church Women United for distribution to mothers in need.

Fall 2014, the Women's Guild will host an open house. The date and location will be announced by Estelle Scott and Susan Brooks. The event will be open to all women who are interested in learning more about the Women's Guild and the various Guild groups.

Women's Retreat Renewal

Saturday, July 26 - 9 am to 12:30 pm
North Campus

Drum Circle and Creating Rhythm Instruments with an Experienced Facilitator, Walking the Outdoor Labyrinth, and a Light Lunch Potluck.

Join us as we keep those precious connections alive created at women's retreat.

Come for fun making instruments we'll use during a drum circle led by an experienced facilitator, finishing with a rhythmic walk on our beautiful outdoor labyrinth. All are welcome, even if you have yet to attend an Akita women's retreat. \$20 fee covers supplies and professional services.

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13 (A)

10 am • Sanctuary, SC - Rev. Shaner preaching

20 (B)

10 am • Sanctuary, SC - Rev. Shaner preaching

27 (C)

10 am • Sanctuary, SC - Rev. Long preaching

For additional information: (A) Usher assignments.

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Shrimp Boil

**Friday, July 25
6 to 8:30 pm**

Entertainment by
The Choirboys



North Campus
3777 Dublin Road
Columbus 43221

Tickets: Adult \$20/Child (under 12) \$10

Available starting June 29 after worship,
at the North Campus reception desk
or online at FCchurch.com/shrimp-boil

Proceeds benefit Back Bay Mission.

For more information please contact
Amy Caskie at 614.488.0681
ext 106 or acaskie@FCchurch.com



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**No matter who you
are or where you are
on life's journey, you
are welcome here.**

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