

Community of Christ

Forest Hills Happenings

SUMMERTIME

May/June 2009

Upcoming Events

Sunday, May 17th – Congregational Potluck following the worship Service

Friday, June 5 – Metro Picnic at Forest Hills

Friday, August 7 – Saturday, August 8 – Vacation Bible School at Forest Hills

Friday, Oct 9 – Sunday, Oct 11 – Forest Hills Congregation Retreat at Glenn Wood Hills

Upcoming Mission Center Events

Saturday, May 16th – Glenn Wood Hills Work Day

June 5th – 7th – Grad Camp

June 20th – 26th – Reunion 1

June 28th – July 3rd – Senior High Camp

July 5th – 10th – Junior / Junior High Camp

September 4th – 7th – Reunion 2



Daily Prayer for the Congregation

*Please pray daily as we seek to discover what God is calling us to
at this point in our journey as a community of Christ.*



FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM



From Section 161 of the Doctrine and Covenants:

“Lift up your eyes and fix them on the place beyond the horizon to which you are sent. Journey in Trust assured that the great and marvelous work is for this time and for all time.”

On April 5th President Stephen M. Veazey addressed the church by talking about defining moments. He said, “This is a defining moment in the life of the church! Defining moments occur at the juncture of fear and hope, challenge and opportunity, hesitancy and faithful response.

The church has faced defining moments before. Times when deliberate choices had to be made to clarify priorities in the face of difficult circumstances. Such defining moments brought the best out of us and prepared us for the next phase of our journey with God. What is this defining moment? In general, it can be framed by two questions: Will we allow certain circumstances and issues to divert us from our mission? Or will we clarify our mission priorities and focus on what matters most?”

What really does matter most? This question was brought into sharp focus for me several weeks ago when I stopped by the hospital to visit Tina Dunaway on a Saturday morning. I had just got back into town from several weeks on the road and was very tired. I planned on just stopping by for a few moments to see how she was doing and make sure Christian came through his hip surgery without any complications.

As we sat in the surgery waiting room, it became apparent that Tina needed to talk. She had been so brave and strong for Christian but now the reality of his condition and prognosis was really beginning to overwhelm her. As the tears flowed we talked about life and death and God. She wanted so much to make sense out of this difficult experience but all I could offer was my support – and it was enough. My 20 minute stop turned into four hours and it was sacred time.

As I look back on that experience I realize something significant happened in those four hours. I was open to letting God totally disrupt my agenda!! In that time of sharing and support I was not thinking about everything I needed to get done but was totally focused on Tina. In this sacred time I had listened to the prompting of the Holy Spirit and responded by fully aligning my actions with God’s unfolding purposes for a specific place and time.

The Forest Hills Congregation has been exploring what it means to be disciples and the church in our world today. We have called this a missional journey and are seeking to follow God’s movement into the places where God is seeking to bring hope, new life, and purpose. This is not a discernment process that occurs over a few months and then ends with a mission statement. This process goes much deeper and is about rediscovering a way of being the church that is always listening and responding to God’s Spirit in our individual lives, congregations, and neighborhoods.

The process of discernment and response never ends – it is the nature of being a prophetic people. I believe God is calling the Forest Hills Congregation to become a sacred community that learns and practices prayer, discernment, relationship building, forgiveness, invitation, hospitality, and service to the most vulnerable in our midst. These were the practices Jesus modeled in his ministry and are the practices we are being called to rediscover on our journey as a people of faith.

As we together discern and respond to the movement of God in our individual lives, congregation, and communities, we will discover renewal and purpose. There are many who looking for signs of hope that the peaceable kingdom of God is more than a distant dream. May we in this defining moment embody that hope is my prayer. – Submitted by Ron Harmon

Family Connections



We have been engaged as a congregation in a journey of missional transformation over the past two years. I recognize this journey has at times seemed ambiguous and hard to define, both in terms of process and results. Following the framework for the missional journey, we have engaged in activities to practice shared leadership, deepen our sense of sacred community, encourage each disciple to serve in the areas where they feel called and gifted, practice intentional discipleship formation, and consider our visible response to the gospel, how we share the peace of Jesus Christ through missional experiments..

As we have continued this journey, I have been intentional in my prayers on behalf of the congregation. I have prayed, in response to Ephesians 3:20, what is it that God wants to do among us that is abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine? And how is the Forest Hills congregation uniquely called to share the peace of Jesus Christ in our community in a way that no one else is currently doing?

A missional experiment that has emerged through this process is **Family Connections**. **Family Connections** is being developed as a result of the influence of the Holy Spirit as the congregation has sought God's direction in how we can share the peace of Jesus Christ in our community. Part of our missional journey calls us to a visible response to the gospel: *"How do emerging insights, experiences, and new experiments in mission inform how we invite, gather, and send one another to share the peace of Jesus Christ?"*

When I was in Independence the first weekend in February for a Co-Missioned Pastor Initiative (CPI) retreat, I woke at 2:30 am on Saturday with a leg cramp. I was fully awake after that, and in those moments of awakesness, thoughts began to pour into my mind around the idea, "We need to adopt the Ronald McDonald House."

The idea for **Family Connections** came as a result of getting to know a family from the Tri-City congregation near Paducah. A phone call asking me to visit a young boy with brain cancer in Kosair Children's Hospital led to a relationship with not just the boy but also his mother and baby brother as they struggled to find their way in the midst of a difficult crisis. They were away from home, away from their other children and siblings, away from support of church and extended family. In between treatments, they stayed at the Ronald McDonald House, and in my visits with them, I also had opportunity to meet other families who were away from home and hear their stories.

The purpose of **Family Connections** is to provide an extended family of support and love in an unfamiliar place. In addition to providing a supportive presence, **Family Connections** will provide opportunities for distraction from the worry of treatments by engaging in Louisville community life.

Currently Ronald McDonald House provides a wonderful environment and supportive community. **Family Connections** will expand this community of support to include individuals and families in the community who will develop an ongoing relationship with Ronald McDonald House families. This extended family of support will provide a link to the local community and help persons feel more at home as they make repeated trips back to Louisville for treatment. As families come and go at Ronald McDonald House, **Family Connections** will provide continuity and familiarity with an extended family of support over time.

As I laid awake in the Olive Branch Inn that morning in February and the thoughts for this ministry flooded my mind, I was made particularly aware of the words of Doctrine and Covenants 163:2 a: *"Jesus Christ, the embodiment of God's shalom, invites all people to come and receive divine peace in the midst of the difficult questions and struggles of life."* The thoughts that overwhelmed my heart and mind in those moments were, where is there more struggle with the difficult questions of life than in the midst of dealing with a critically ill or dying child? Where is there more need for someone to represent the peace of Jesus Christ?

I ask that you would be prayerful about this ministry. We will have an opportunity to share about and discuss **Family Connections** at a congregational meeting on Wednesday, May 6, following the Fireside Meal at 6:30. In addition, the proposal that was submitted to and accepted by Ronald McDonald House will be sent by email prior to the meeting for you to review. (If you prefer a paper copy, please contact me and I will mail you one.) I encourage you to review this proposal and the suggested next steps. If you are unable to attend the meeting on May 6, please share your thoughts with me by email or phone.

Family Connections is one missional experiment that will provide us an opportunity to share the peace of Jesus Christ. Others will emerge as each person in the congregation engages individually and corporately in the journey.

In Christ,
Barb

God's Mosaic Picture

Henri Nouwen, in his book *Can You Drink the Cup?*, writes the following.

“Community is like a large mosaic. Each little piece seems so insignificant. One piece is bright red, another cold blue or dull green, another warm purple, another sharp yellow, another shining gold. Some look precious, others ordinary. Some look valuable, others worthless. Some look gaudy, others delicate. As individual stones, we can do little with them except compare them and judge their beauty and value.

When, however, all these little stones are brought together in one big mosaic portraying the face of Christ, who would ever question the importance of any of them? If one of them, even the least spectacular one, is missing, the face is incomplete. Together in one mosaic, each little stone is indispensable and makes a unique contribution to the glory of God. That's community, a fellowship of little people who together make God visible in the world.”

The journey of missional transformation is to intentionally create a space where the gifts and insights of God, as revealed in your life, are added to help create a mosaic of mission in the community. So often we might not think our input or presence makes a difference but be assured, your sense of call to mission is important in helping us respond to God's unfolding purposes. Much like the quilt being shaped and knit together by some of the women in the congregation, we are individual panels but by the blessing of the Holy Spirit, we are bound together forming a community of followers of God on a journey. Your presence and participation is important as we listen together for where God is calling us to serve in mission. -- Grace and Peace, Larry

OUTREACH HAPPENINGS

“Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong. And do everything in love.”

I Corinthians 16:13-14

OUTREACH INTERNATIONAL – “Change For Change”

On Sunday April 19th, a plaque was presented to the congregation from Outreach International in honor of our participation in a partnership for Haiti Primary Schools in 2008. Haiti is always one of the neediest areas of the world. Two testimonies were read from students there. All together we sent \$811.53 in 2008 for this project.

Sunday was also our regular Change for a Change in the World collection and the children collected \$51.05 which will go toward our \$500.00 goal for 2009. It's amazing what our change can do. Next collection will be the third Sunday in May. – Marty Sherrard

FOOD BANK

May – Canned Fruit & Toothbrushes

June – Dried Beans, Pasta, Spaghetti & Soap

Any Non-Perishable Food Or Toiletry Item Is Appreciated

MISSION STATEMENT

We proclaim Jesus Christ and promote communities of joy, hope, love and peace.

Fun Tidbits & Other Happenings

“Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again – rejoice! Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon.” Philippians 4:4-5

Colmus Family Update

My family and I travel and share a gospel music ministry as "The Colmus Family". We're grateful for God's rich blessings on that ministry of 26 years! We travel many places to share with others. Last fall we were scheduled at Buck Lake Ranch in Angola, IN. The Monday before that weekend, 3 of the 4 of us, came down with an intestinal disorder. The only member of the group who was spared the sickness was my wife, Edith. The first day of the illness resulted, mostly, in vomiting. The 2nd day the vomiting was gone but there was a feeling of weakness. The 3rd day was better and then it took another day or 2 to get back to feeling "normal." As we pulled into the Motel parking lot on a Saturday in Sept, for the weekend at Buck Lake Ranch, Edith announced to the other 3 members that she was getting sick. Edith is a very important spoke in The Colmus Family music wheel and it would be impossible to experience the true Colmus Family sound, and ministry, without her. Edith spent much of that night in the bathroom with the same sickness the other 3 of us had earlier that week. I administered to her, and held her up in prayer many times that night. My prayers were not, necessarily, for a complete healing but that she would have the physical strength to take part in the 2 music services we were scheduled for the next day (Sunday). As the new day dawned, Edith became stronger and was able to do her part in both the services and was back to feeling normal. We all know she had the same "bug" all of us had earlier that week but yet she only was sick the one night. She was able to eat after the first service, and that was amazing too. The other 3 of us didn't have much desire for food until about the 3rd day of the sickness. The only way her healing can be explained is through the great power of prayer, which we believe in! We encourage all to go to God in earnest prayer for matters of importance and concern and for just the "everyday things of life." Take time to spend with God and it will be of great benefit! Praise the Lord through his son, Jesus the Christ! God's blessings to all! -- Dick Hunt

Hello from the Great White North!

Traveling to other countries always makes me appreciate the good old USA. I'm here in Surrey, British Columbia this week for work. The weather is spectacular, the coastal mountains in the distance are absolutely stunning, and my hotel hangs out over the Fraser River. There are paddlewheel boats nearby, large barges of coal and sand going down the river, and an active railyard next to the hotel. (too active, especially at 3:00 a.m.!)

It almost feels like being in the US, but there's that nagging feeling that something isn't the same. There is a big difference in the health care system, Canada has socialized medicine. There is a months-long wait for any medical treatment you might need, and the doctors aren't paid nearly as much as at home, so there's not as much interest in being a doctor. So, you don't always get the best. Some of my new friends up here will drive down to Washington state to see an American doctor.

Another difference is the political system. Up here, the two main parties working for votes are the Liberals and the Democrats. Finally, the overall pace of things is a bit more relaxed, people aren't rushing around like I'm used to.

Back home, people are in much more of a hurry, whether it's a rush to get to work, or a rush to get home, or a rush to get through the drive-through, or a rush to get to the grocery store. There is a sense of urgency to everything we do, and our systems are set up to make things much more efficient. I didn't see any drive-through pharmacies in Canada.

Next time that I am being tailgated on I-71 in Louisville, I will smile and think, "It's good to be home!" – Jay Rogers

A VERY NOISY PRE-DERBY EVENT

Every year for the last twenty two years Joyce and I have been part of a caravan that sets up the seven pedestals of roses in the winner's circle at Churchill Downs early on the day of the Kentucky Derby. We drive three vans into the area via a long tunnel that goes under the track. A couple of years ago we made a very noisy entrance into the infield.

That year we had one van that was a little taller than normal. John Sheppard was driving the van with me just in front of him. As we entered the tunnel I heard a loud horrible scraping sound that continued through the entire tunnel. It turns out that John's taller van top was being flattened since it was too tall for the tunnel. Sparks were flying everywhere as the van height was being shortened and in turn was removing the dome lights in the tunnel ceiling.

John did the only intelligent thing - he kept on driving since he didn't want the van to block the tunnel since thousands of people needed to go through it in a few hours to get into the infield. The van emerged from the tunnel some six inches shorter and we all had a good laugh and thought it was so much fun that we thought we should do it again the next year. Not. -- Dave Blair

Who Am I?

March's "Who Am I" was Sanna Rogers.

What do you do for a living? Spin Wheels
How many children/grandchildren do you have? 2
What pets do you have? None
What is your favorite sport? Basketball
How long have you lived in the Louisville area? 47 Years
What is your pet peeve? People who don't do what they say they will.
What is a fact about yourself that most people don't know?
I Climbed the Highest Mountain in the Rockies

This person's identity will be revealed in July's Forest Hills Happenings

"Who Am I" is put together by Ashley and Marty Sherrard.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Thank you to all of you who make the Happenings come together with your great articles, stories and testimonies.

The next Happenings will be for July and August. Themes will be July Fourth/Independence Day, Brag on our Kids, and Reunion/Camp Testimonies. When you are at camp think about the moments you can write about to share those stories with everyone in our congregation.

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May 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6 Fireside Meal	7	8	9 Preaching Workshop
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 Glenn Wood Hills Workday
17 Congregational Potluck after the 11:00 service	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 / 31	25	26	27	28	29	30



June

June 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 Metro Picnic at Forest Hills Grad Camp @ GWH	6 Grad Camp @ GWH
7 Grad Camp @ GWH	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 Reunion @ Glenn Wood Hills
21 Reunion @ Glenn Wood Hills	22 Reunion @ Glenn Wood Hills	23 Reunion @ Glenn Wood Hills	24 Reunion @ Glenn Wood Hills	25 Reunion @ Glenn Wood Hills	26 Reunion @ Glenn Wood Hills	27
28 Senior High Camp @ Glenn Wood Hills	29 Senior High Camp @ Glenn Wood Hills	30 Senior High Camp @ Glenn Wood Hills	31 Senior High Camp @ Glenn Wood Hills			



Community of Christ

Come Worship With Us

Sunday Schedule 9:30 am Congregational Breakfast & fellowship
10:00 am Sunday School for ALL Ages
11:00 am Morning Worship in the Sanctuary



Fully Staffed Nursery Provided Every Sunday for Morning Worship

Church Building is All One Level and Mostly Handicap Accessible



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