

Congregational Comments

Vol. 18 No 7: July 2013

Pastor: Rev. Dave Taylor

Prayer Chain: Marsha Mower: 875-0733

Email: m.mower@sbcglobal.net

Playmates Preschool:

Director, Cathi Tavarckzy: 875-7054

Newsletter Editor: Bill Huebner

Telephone: 876-1446 Cell: 855-7677

Email: wshuebner.editor@prodigy.net

Church Contact Information:

3465 N. MacArthur Rd.
Decatur, IL 62526

Telephone: 877-2216 Fax: 877-9665

Email: firstchurchdecatur@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.firstchurchdecatur.com

Office Hours: Mon. –Thursday, 8:00-4:30

Worship and Sunday School Times

9:00 am - Traditional Worship Service

9:15-10:15 am Sunday School

10:00 am - Fellowship Hour

11:00 am - Contemporary Worship
Service

11:15-12:00 am Sunday School



*First Congregational
United Church of
Christ
"A united and
uniting church"*

Our Mission is to worship God,
Welcome all who seek God, and
Express our faith in our actions.



Pastor Dave Taylor

FROM THE PASTOR

*“Remember Who
You Are”*

Bobbie and I first heard the phrase “Remember Who You Are” in a sermon given by my Preaching Professor on the 10th Anniversary of my Ordination. Rev. Dr. Hale Schroer shared that while he was in high school and he was getting ready to head out for an evening of fun with his friends, his father wouldn’t recite a long list of “do’s” and “don’ts” or rules, but simply said, “Hale, remember who you are.”

Those simple words have become part our family. When Christen and Aaron were old enough to go off to activities on their own, Bobbie and I would often say as part of our goodbyes, “Aaron/Christen, remember who you are.” Remembering who they are in relation to our family means that they know they are greatly loved and valued. We encouraged them to live out their family values even when we’re not standing beside them.

It is sometimes hard to remember who we are in a world of peer pressure, advertising bombardment, and unlimited options. We sometimes bow to the pressure to be someone we are not and never can be, or someone we don’t need to be. We need God’s help to live good lives.

Just as family heritage can remind us of who we are, our baptism also tells us in the most profound sense who we are and whose we are. Baptism gives us our true name as daughters and son of God. In the family of God’s belonging, we know we are wondrously loved and greatly valued. *For God so loved the world (us and all people) that He gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.* That ‘s amazing love and we are part of it.

Jesus created a community of faith where people came to remember who they were and to whom they belonged. That community is the Christian Church. You and I gather here at First Congregational UCC to hear again the faith stories of our family and remember how we are part of them...Queen Esther, a woman of courage; David, a shepherd, slayer of evil giants, to name a few. Even when our ancestors messed up big time like the Prodigal Son, we hear how God is merciful, forgiving, and welcoming, offering the sinner another chance at life. These faith stories give us hope and new life in Jesus Christ. It is in his love that we are forgiven and loved, free to grow and become all that God envisions us to be.

Be sure to join us July 21-25 in our VBS ministry, as students, volunteers, donators, “pray-ers” – **everyone is needed!** Come feel the Spirit, Come share the Spirit, **Come be a part God’s story and love at VBS.**

Thank you to all of you for the many ways you find to be living expressions of God’s grace and love here at First Congregational UCC and in the world. Thank you for hanging in there with this sometimes challenging work of being a community of faith. Thank you all. Let’s continue to hold our families, this world, and one another, in our thoughts, prayers, and in our acts of love. Together, we remember, we’re all family of God.

Come join us at First Congregational UCC as you and I come together to “remember who we are.”

We invite you and a friend to join us for worship at First Congregational United Church of Christ on Sundays at 9:00AM for our Traditional Service and 11:00AM for our Contemporary Service. At 10:10AM we have our *faith growing Bible Study opportunities for our adults.* Also at 10:00AM *discover a new friend or renew a current friendship by visiting over delicious refreshments in Fellowship Hall.*

CONGRATULATIONS!

We celebrate the marriage of Stacy Baker and Andy Stickney – united in marriage June 15, 2013. We offer our best wishes for many happy and loving years together in their marriage. May God continue to bless them this day and through out their lives.

The Power of Three

By: Sue Wilson, Mt. Zion Presbyterian Church

Recently, three churches in central Illinois gathered for a day of Worship, Recreation, Bible Study and Family Time with the theme, "The Reality of LOGOS." Our churches have all had LOGOS for many years - Mt. Zion Presbyterian (27 years), First Congregational (12 years), Westminster Presbyterian (10 years) - so we decided to hold a day of sharing our experiences and to build relationships among the churches. Representatives from each church spent many hours planning the day. Our goal was to re-energize the volunteers and to remind us why we are doing this ministry. As churches with this kind of longevity, it is easy to fall into the rut of doing the same things each year and often forgetting the most important goal, "To bring children and youth into a right relationship with God through Jesus Christ." After all, that is the *most important* thing a church will ever do. We designed our day to include:



- Experiencing each of the 4 parts, goal of each, and how they all fit together
- Calling people to serve
- Why we do the ministry
- Discipline
- GenOn Ministry Realities and Convictions

We finished our day with the ministers from each church leading us in worship and sharing communion together. During our worship, we included the activities we learned in our Worship Skills section (interpretive movement to The Lord's Prayer and Freeze Frame). Our high school youth from each church provided the childcare, giving them an opportunity to get to know each other, as well as the attenders of the event. It was a wonderful day with 40 people in attendance! The responses we heard were very positive. We came away from the day with the conviction to do this again, and to share more events throughout the year. We are making plans to do mission work in our community together as well. We are energized, full of new ideas, have some new friends, and feel ready to plan for a new and exciting year of LOGOS in our churches





FIRST CHURCH
FOODS RESOURCE BANK
GROWING PROJECT

It's time to start our 2013 FRB growing project!

Can you believe this is our 8th year to be a part of the Foods Resource Bank program?

As in past years, a church member has donated 5 acres of farmland for the project and has volunteered the equipment and labor to plant, care for, and harvest a corn crop for our project. Now church members have the opportunity to "sponsor an acre" by giving cash to cover the cost of the input expenses of our corn crop. The proceeds from the harvest will be sent to a Foods Resource Bank sustainable food program in Kenya. One hundred percent of the money that we send is passed on to the program that we have selected. Nothing is held out for overhead.

This year's cost of planting our project is \$430.50 per acre. The breakdown per acre is:

\$ 139.00 for seed
202.00 for fertilizer
32.00 for herbicide
25.00 for fungicide
22.50 for diesel fuel
10.00 for crop hail insurance

Therefore, the total amount needed to plant our corn crop this year is \$2152.50. Our current crop is about 12 inches tall and is receiving its second spraying of herbicide to kill weeds in the field.

If you would like to make a donation to help pay the cost of planting this crop, donation envelopes can be found on the bulletin boards and in the pews and may be placed in the offering baskets or delivered to the church office. Please make your check payable to First Congregational UCC, and indicate that it is for our FRB growing project.

THANK YOU

Dear Pastor:

Thank you for allowing us to host Mon's Celebration of Life Service at 1st Congregational Church. Mon and I had many fond memories of our years there. May God continue to flow in & through you and your congregation.

The family of Hilda Esh Cox



MAY 2013 FINANCIAL REPORT

	<u>May 13</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budget Income	\$17,568.17	\$87,840.85
Budget Expense	\$17,685.50	\$88,427.50
Income	\$19,677.00	\$83,012.02
Expenses	\$18,902.25	\$79,498.09

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The rummage sale held by Women's Fellowship was very successful. A **BIG** thank you goes out to all who worked so hard to make it a success. Some of those who helped are Charlie Tribout and his crew who set up the tables for us, all those who baked all the great food items, the many people who contributed items to sell, all the ladies who worked so hard sorting, pricing and selling, and last but not least were Dave Carpenter and Dave Mahr who delivered all of the leftover items to Blessingdales. Our new custodian, Tina, was a big help also. I know I have probably forgotten others who worked so hard to make this a success and I apologize if I missed someone. There were 19 ladies present for lunch on Wednesday. We couldn't have done it without all of the help.

We took in \$1,121.75 for the rummage and \$250.80 from the baked goods. After paying for our newspaper ad, we had a net profit of \$1,330.83. We gave \$500 to the youth for their mission trip and \$500 to Property Ministry for the new lawn mower from last year's sale.

We plan to have lunch at an Amish home on August 9th and all the women from the church are invited to go with us for this fun event. We did this several years ago and it was a very enjoyable experience. More details will be available soon. We will need pre-paid reservations for this event.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
Church Services 9:00 Traditional 11:00 Contemporary Worship	1	2 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 AA: Al-anon 8:00 AA	3
7	8 6:00 Worship/ Music 7:00 Super Monday	9 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 AA: Al-anon 8:00 AA	10
14	15 7:00 Church Council	16 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 AA: Al-anon 8:00 AA	17
21 VBS	22	23 1:00 God's Busy Hands	24
28	29	30 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 AA: Al-anon 8:00 AA	31

Thu	Fri	Sat
<p data-bbox="139 164 160 191">4</p> 	<p data-bbox="426 164 447 191">5</p>	<p data-bbox="706 164 727 191">6</p>
<p data-bbox="139 444 178 472">11</p>	<p data-bbox="426 444 466 472">12</p>	<p data-bbox="706 444 745 472">13</p> <p data-bbox="706 483 921 639">All day, Adult Program 5:30 Men and Boys Night</p>
<p data-bbox="139 725 181 753">18</p> <p data-bbox="139 807 423 878">1:00 Book Club in Lounge</p>	<p data-bbox="426 725 466 753">19</p>	<p data-bbox="706 725 745 753">20</p> <p data-bbox="706 764 937 836">1:00-5:00 Birthday Party</p>
<p data-bbox="139 1006 181 1034">25</p>	<p data-bbox="426 1006 466 1034">26</p> <p data-bbox="426 1088 676 1159">Rehearsal Christen Taylor</p>	<p data-bbox="706 1006 745 1034">27</p> <p data-bbox="706 1045 979 1159">2:00 Christen Taylor/Kelly Cantrell Wedding</p>
		



VBS 2013

July 21-25

Sunday through Thursday

6:00-8:30 p.m.

**All Children age 3 through completed 5th
grade are invited to attend!
(preschool children have the option of
leaving at 8:05 p.m.)**

It's almost time for VBS 2013 at First Church. We will have an amazing experience that will help kids (and adults) explore God's incredible love for his children. This is a church-wide endeavor and we always have room for anyone that would like to help out!

Our theme is *Kingdom Rock – Where Kids Stand Strong for God*. We will meet Truman, Duke, Swift, Sir Valiant and Victoria as they help us with our daily Bible Point, Story and Key Verse. The dates are Sunday, July 21 – Thursday, July 25 from 6:00-8:30, with the preschool children having the option of leaving at 8:05 and dinner available for the volunteers at 5:15 (\$3 per person, per evening).

Plans are moving right along for another action-packed, fun-filled week. Many of you have volunteered to be a part of our staff, but we still have a few spots to fill and need help to make this another successful year. Our current staff list includes Missy Boldizar, Mindy Bunselmeyer, Sharon Burbes, Stacey Carter, Jeanette/Mark Flenner, Christina Huckile, Katy Koyak, Devon/Joe/Malone Moretti, Erica Moster, Marsha Mower, Heather/Luke Puckett, Kathy Richardson, Carol Robertson, Robert Ruehrup, Maureen Ruski, Joe Seitz, Katie Slingerland, Terry Stoa, Dave Taylor, and Chuck Zweck. In addition, Children's, Evangelism and Outreach Ministries will be helping out. Please continue to think and pray about this opportunity to be involved and take time to contact us NOW to add your name to our staff list.

Primary areas of need include sound/projection, crew leaders and helpers for preschool and registration. We will also need help with set-up and take-down and bulletin boards.

Monetary donations are always a blessing to help defray costs. The past few years, we have served an average of 50+ children and 40+ volunteers. There is no charge to attend VBS, but the cost runs approximately \$25 per week (\$5 per day), per child. We want to provide for any and all children who wish to participate, so we encourage you to sponsor a child (or children). Checks should be made payable to First Congregational Church, with a memo for VBS 2013 scholarship.

Included in the program again this year is a mission project. We have purchased "God's Love for You" Bible books – a kid-friendly Scripture piece, written in Hindi – that will be sent to children in India. Throughout the week, our VBS participants will interact with the Bible books and during the family craft time on Thursday evening, the books will be personalized.

Special thanks to our entire congregation for their support and prayers. For more information, contact Marsha Mower or Maureen Ruski, 2013 VBS Co-Directors. THANKS!

HELP FEED OUR VBS KINGDOM!

We're gathering snack supplies to feed all the hungry kids who come to our Kingdom Rock VBS. There are also a few items needed for the craft and Bible areas. Next time you're at the store, drop a few of the items listed into your cart, then bring them to the church kitchen (or church office) by THURSDAY, JULY 18. Please sign-up on the supply list on the bulletin board across from the church office by July 14, so we know what items we will still need to purchase. **Your help is much appreciated!**

160 slices of bread**; 80 ounces of strawberry jelly; 240 ½ inch cubes of mild cheddar cheese and turkey or ham; 240 large square croutons; 20 cups (160 ounces) of raisins, mini marshmallows and pretzel sticks or mini pretzels; 80 ounces of regular M&Ms; 40 plain bagels**; 80 ounces of blueberry cream cheese; 80 ounces (10 cups) of fresh blue or raspberries**; 4-5 gallons of vanilla ice cream**; ice cream toppings (5 bottles chocolate syrup, 2 bottles strawberry syrup, 2 bottles caramel syrup, chopped nuts, cherries, sprinkles, gummy bears, mini oreo cookies); 450 plastic drinking cups; 140 (12-ounce) colored plastic cups; 450 paper napkins; 80 9-inch paper plates; 150 paper/plastic/styrofoam bowls; 80 dessert-size plates (paper or styrofoam); 80 snack-sized resealable bags; 260 gallon-sized and sandwich-sized resealable bags; 150 plastic spoons; 6 rolls of paper towels; 6 boxes/packages hand wipes; 4-6 bottles hand sanitizer; 1 small box toothpicks; 65 rubber bands; black plastic sheeting; 3 small bottles of orange or other scented/essentials oil; 1 box of crackers (80 crackers); large brown paper grocery bags; newsprint; canvas sheet; vine wreath.

**check bulletin board sign-up sheet for when to bring these items



*Join the
Youth Group*

Youth Activities

Youth Can Collection Campaign

The Youth are collecting aluminum cans this summer to raise money for Youth Activities. We are going to make it easy for you to help us. All you have to do is drop off your aluminum cans behind the church on Sunday morning, and the Youth will store them until we get enough to take in. Put your cans in a plastic or a paper bag and place them in the designated area behind the church. The Youth will do the rest. We want to thank you in advance for helping to support the Youth of First Congregational United Church of Christ.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

The Youth are now on facebook. Do you want to keep up with what the Youth Group is doing? Like us on facebook to receive updates about all of our upcoming events, projects, missions, and activities! Stay informed and help us spread the word! Find us and like us at [FCUCC Decatur Youth](#) .

Book Time!

The Youth Group is now collecting books for our annual Book and Bake Sale! Collection boxes are now located around the church for the sale in late September. This is a great opportunity to clear out those bookshelves while supporting the Youth.

Adult Program News

Guys' Night Out

Gentlemen, mark your calendars for Saturday, July 13 at 6:00. Our annual men's event will be going to the races. We are holding the First Congregational Pinewood Derby. We will have an official track and give everyone an opportunity to build his own car. Kits will be given out when you buy your ticket. Building a car is an option not a requirement. You can choose to just come and enjoy the competition. We will also be serving dinner. Ticket sales begin Father's Day June 16th in Fellowship Hall between services. Tickets are also available in the church office all week. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for young men 12 and under. Call Alfreda Tribout (877-9896) with any questions.

Ladies' Night Out

A very good time was had by all at the Ladies' Night Out.





God bless you on your birthday and each day the whole year through. May all His blessings bring you joy in everything you do.

1. Toni Longstreet
Clayton Flies
3. Nicholas Kelly
4. David Brown
Tammy Stanton
5. Joe Seitz
6. Shirley Kuhn
Nancy Leoucis
7. Robert Blackwell
Jennifer Freeland
Cole Mitchell
Gerald Ruff
Darla Weltmer
8. Connor Gann
10. Ellyn Campbell
Diane Faber
12. Carley Gibson
Will Reininger
13. Christina Clark
14. Jack McGinnis
15. Carl Jacobs
Charles Zweck
16. Albert Wilson
19. Lindsay Malone
20. Stephen Dicken
21. Ellen Whitrock
22. Doris Jacobs
23. Zoey Clark
24. Anna Waller
26. Hayley Bunselmeyer
Robert Cline
Alexis Fankhauser
Juanita Trimmer
27. Sharon Burbes

28. Lois Shelton
29. Mary Anne Logan
Melanie Long
30. Erin Toberman
31. Jonathan Brownfield

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

And may the many blessings that have come from God above fill your hearts with all the joys of His enduring love. Happy Anniversary!

3. Dale & Beverly Capshaw
David & Brandy Kelley
4. Chris & Amy Kretsinger
7. Harold & Sandy Harmison
Jerome & Elizabeth Scherer
9. Christopher & Amy Leman
15. Tim & Donna Druessel
19. Mark & Melinda Bunselmeyer
24. Nicholas & Sally Lauer
25. Robert & Carol Blackwell
Richard & Sheila Mannweiler
27. Tim & Annell Gibson
31. John & Christine Priester

JULY

FIRST SERVICE
VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

JULY 7

LITURGIST: Marsha Mower
FLOWERS: Dave & Pat Mahr
COFFEE: Jim & Jody Baldwin
USHERS/GREETER: Gary & Pat
Weiss, Dave & Judi Carpenter

JULY 14

LITURGIST: Bobbi Taylor
FLOWERS: Rob & Kathy Moore
COFFEE: Carl & Rikki Brady
USHERS/GREETER: Bill & Martha
Crookshank, Dave & Marlene Gant

JULY 21

LITURGIST: Chuck Zweck
FLOWERS: Anna Waller
COFFEE: Bill & Martha
Crookshank

USHERS/GREETER: Tom & Paula
Cordts, Jerry & Liz Scherer

JULY 28

LITURGIST: Paul DeBruine
FLOWERS: Christen Taylor &
Kelly Cantrell
COFFEE: Ted & Darby Mitchell
USHERS/GREETER: Mark & Su-
san Daley & Frank & Shelly Smith

SECOND SERVICE
VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

JULY 7

USHER/GREETER: Sandy
Harmison
REFRESHMENTS: Sandy
Harmison

JULY 14

USHER/GREETER: Ruby
Voyles & Shirley Zimmerman
REFRESHMENTS: Ruby Voyles
& Shirley Zimmerman

JULY 21

USHER/GREETER: Maureen
Ruski
REFRESHMENTS: Maureen
Ruski

JULY 28

USHER/GREETER: Wes Pietsch
REFRESHMENTS: Wes Pietsch



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR 2013

The officers for Women's Fellowship met on March 14th to discuss plans for the rest of the year. The decision was made to schedule as many of our activities for the second Friday of each month as we can. The following schedule is TENTATIVE, but we hope you will mark your calendars and plan to join us. Women's Fellowship is open to all women.

August 9th We hope to have lunch at an Amish Home. We did this several years ago and the food was delicious and our hosts were very accommodating and interesting.

September 13th We will travel to Elkhart, IL to have lunch and shop at the Wild Hare/Horse Feathers restaurant and antique store. This is a beautiful drive in the fall when the leaves are turning.

October 11th – October is Fire Prevention month and we hope to have a presentation by Decatur's Fire Chief.

November 8th – Bette Fankhauser will present a program on the beautiful bells that we are fortunate to have at our church.

December 13th – We will have our annual Christmas tea on this day.

We are always open to new ideas and suggestions. If there is something you would like for the group to do, please share your thoughts and ideas.