

A quarterly publication of First Presbyterian Church Norfolk

First Impact

summer 2014

RESPECT
REDEEM
RECLAIM
the
FIRE

FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR



In 2001, Drs. Richard and Judith Brown, FPC members and Presbyterian missionaries to Africa, began to provide AIDS services to Nazareth Hospital in Kenya. The Holy Family Center for the treatment of HIV+/AIDS patients started with one treatment room; now it is a sprawling complex.

A few years later, I took my family on sabbatical to Nazareth Hospital and became intrigued by the work the Browns were doing with such limited resources. Shortly thereafter, Tree of Lives was born, its mission to strengthen the African family through the fight against AIDS and poverty.

The first donations raised by Tree of Lives, through this church in 2003, totaled \$6,500. As of January 2014, in excess of \$1,000,000 has been sent to Kenya to fight the AIDS epidemic, poverty and abandonment.

Over the past decade,
through your faithful
support and the grace
of God, the ministries of
Tree of Lives have
expanded to include:

- 100 percent funding for three full-time pastoral counselors at Nazareth Hospital
- Establishment of the Korogocho Cosmetology School to raise young Kenyans out of the slums of Nairobi
- An art therapy program that has addressed the emotional and physical neglect of hundreds of children
- An HPV vaccination program to protect young HIV+ patients from cervical cancer
- Joy Children's Village, a family-model orphanage that has created a home and a place to belong for 40 abused and abandoned children, with 7 more youngsters waiting in the "bureaucratic" wings, soon to join their Joy Village family.

Look how far we've come! And we are not about to stop now. We have two huge announcements to make!

continued on next page

tree of lives

one person one family one community

We have a new website.



Same address, better floor plan



We have a new program.



Sponsor a Child

You can commit to partner with Tree of Lives in providing housing, food, clothing, education and medical care for one of our Joy Village children or for an entire Joy Village family. There are many options available on our website to become a child sponsor, including automatic monthly withdrawals, annual donations and one-time donations.

Please take some time to visit the new Tree of Lives website, explore the Sponsor a Child program, and most importantly, reflect on how far – together – we have come. As the Kenyans love to say, God is good, all the time. All the time, God is good.



*jim wood, jim@fpcnorfolk.org
senior pastor*

respect redeem reclaim

the fire

Gracious God, you invite us to draw near to you, to approach your throne of grace with confidence. Yet in the safety of your presence we sometimes forget who you are—a holy God in whom there is no hint of evil, a righteous God who tolerates no sin, a consuming fire who destroys sin forever. Forgive us for reducing you to something that fits comfortably within our understanding of the world. Teach us to worship you with reverence and intimacy, with gratitude and boldness, with awe and humility.

This summer we will experience the powerful stories of the Old Testament where the Holiness of the Lord is exhibited in fire. Through flames of fire Moses is called, through a pillar of fire the Lord leads the people of Israel in the desert, and Jeremiah speaks of the fire of the Lord that burned in his bones.

This fireside journey in the scriptures will refine our senses to the Holiness of God as we grow deeper in our understanding of Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our ‘God is a consuming fire.’” – Hebrews 12:28-29

*valena hoy, valena@fpcnorfolk.org
associate pastor*

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welcome!

mary vinson

Meet Our New Director of Operations

Mary joined the church in 2012, but some of you may have seen her around the FPC staff last year as she filled in for Jim Gates while he was on sabbatical. She fell in love with the staff and the church so this time she has joined FPC as the new Director of Operations, which is part of the new design for the leadership team. Mary will be responsible for the facility, the preschool, communications (digital and direct), as well as stewardship and budgeting.

Mary spent 23 years in the corporate arena working for Verizon and Sprint. In 2001, while living in Honolulu, Hawaii, God let her know she was to “do more for the Kingdom on earth” and she joined Hawaiian Islands Ministries (HIM), becoming their Executive Director. Even though she moved back to the East Coast in 2005, she continued to work for HIM virtually. In 2006, she added some consulting work for the Christian Leadership Alliance, a non-profit serving ministries worldwide.

Mary holds a Bachelors degree from Virginia Tech in Public Administration and a Masters degree in Human Resources from George Washington University. She and Ken spent the first 15 years of their married life in Virginia Beach, so she was very happy to return to the area in 2012, this time as an empty nester in East Beach (except for her English bulldog Bernoulli)! Her two kids are married and live in Richmond and Arlington, so she is blessed to see them often. Ken and Mary love to sail and go to the beach and say come on over and join them at any time!



“We have a big front porch
and would love the
opportunity to get to know
you better!”
-mary



jim and nancy yuan



ross wood



jean warren

in-house missionaries

*jim wood, jim@fpcnorfolk.org
senior pastor*



5

rudy and kate miller



frank drake

jim and nancy yuan
taiwan / asia

The Yuans have been faithful servants and evangelists of young Asian college students on the campus of ODU for decades. They provide these young people access to their home where they conduct Bible studies and mentor them into a relationship with Christ. It is easy to overlook the impact Jim and Nancy are making for God because of their quiet humility, but the Kingdom has been forever altered by their conviction to share God's message of grace and redemption with younger generations from their homeland.

Below are excerpts shared from the journal of their May 2014 trip to Taiwan and China.

"It is done! We are so happy that the Lord has led us and blessed us in the past six busy weeks in visiting and sharing His blessings with many co-workers at various churches in Taiwan.

May 7 – We left for Homei Presbyterian Church (about 40 miles south of Taichung City) to speak to the senior group there about heart diseases – flesh and spiritual. We enjoyed the time with the group and I felt I am one of them.

May 10 – Again we left on high-speed train to Tainan. The one-day workshop was held at Tainan Minch Road Presbyterian Church. This is our last stop in Taiwan and we are grateful to the Lord for His guidance in sharing with church co-workers."

ross wood
south sudan

Ross is working for Samaritan's Purse in Unity State, South Sudan where he manages a refugee camp housing 70,000 people who fled their homes since fighting between government troops and rebel forces erupted last year.

"I oversee the food assistance team that executes a monthly general food distribution for the refugees, a WASH team that provides clean water for refugees

as well as other displaced people, a nutrition team that provides assistance to malnourished people, and a ministry program that reaches out to refugees and members of the local community.

The ability to mobilize is one of the vital elements of humanitarian outreach. Without the ability to reach people in need quickly and efficiently, the team that I work with in Yida Refugee Camp in South Sudan would not be able to provide lifesaving provisions and services. This is the kind of stuff we do in Yida while we're waiting for bombs to drop and bullets to fly elsewhere in South Sudan."

rudy and kate miller
kenya

In 2007, Kate and Rudy miller made their first pilgrimage to Kenya to discover and experience what Tree of Lives was accomplishing in East Africa. Seven years and fourteen journeys later, the Millers are intricately woven into the fabric of the Tree of Lives ministries and into the lives of each person who has been transformed through their work.

"Hardly a trip goes by that our new friendships have not led us to questioning and praying. Will Alice be healthy enough to attend high school? Will John ever begin to grow? Will Chimbeno die before she can enter the Joy Children's Village? Will a certain 11-year-old girl ever attend school? With the passing of the years the names and our list has only grown.

Memorable Kenyan stories are numerous. Just yesterday we spent time with the children at the Joy Village. We were drawn to our 3-year-old friend Katherine. Only six months ago we didn't think Katherine would live. HIV+, malnourished, full orphan, abandoned by her prostitute aunt...not a pretty picture. Yesterday God allowed us to witness yet another miracle. Katherine now has a new Joy Village family and is beginning to heal! We thank God our world view includes the men, women and children of Kenya!"

frank drake
indonesia

Frank is a retired Presbyterian minister. When Frank and his wife Chris were looking for a new home church upon his retirement, FPC was blessed that they made a decision to become a part of our church family. Retirement has not slowed Frank's commitment to share the Good News.

"God's call to me over the last couple of decades has been to grow in my ability to do ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit, and to share what I have learned with others. That ministry began in earnest in 1998 when I started teaching at Dunamis retreats here in Virginia, and then expanded to other places in the US and internationally. The most significant focus of my teaching ministry for the last seven years has been Indonesia.

In July 2007 I was invited by one of Indonesia's regional reformed denominations to introduce their pastors and church leaders to the Biblical teaching on the Holy Spirit and to equip them to minister in the Spirit's power in their churches. During two trips annually since 2007 I have had the opportunity to train more than 1000 Reformed pastors in that denomination and perhaps 100 more in three other Indonesian Reformed denominations to minister in ways they did not study in seminary, such as listening to the voice of God, praying for healing, and dealing with the power of witchcraft.

In addition to the ministry in Indonesia, I have had opportunities to teach and minister in South Korea, South Sudan, Canada, the United Kingdom, and various places in the US. God is obviously in the business of transforming people's lives!"



jean warren
kenya / africa

As this edition goes to print, Jean, 88 years old, is wrapping up a pilgrimage to Kenya where she is completing missionary work alongside her son Larry and his wife Mary. Larry and his family have been in Africa for over 30 years, sharing the Good News of Jesus and growing God's Kingdom.

"Well, I just love it here. The weather is perfect all the time, the people are the nicest in the world and God is just blessing me by being here. Now I wasn't even going to come but Mary convinced me that I could serve by going with her to the baby orphanage and holding the babies. There are so many babies that need love. I just sit on the blanket in the grass and the staff brings the little ones to me to hold and play with. Such beautiful, sweet orphans needing love and affection to thrive before they are adopted. I'm praying they all get adopted. But I'm more blessed than the babies to be able to love on them and be loved back so sweetly!

In between loving the babies and encouraging the old folks, I've met many of the pastors and church leaders that are in training through Larry's ministry. I have been to a graduation of one of the big classes of pastors, 60 men and women, that trained for two years to better lead their churches and communities. I've been to a school of 800 at risk street kids and orphans. I've been to another school built in shipping containers.

I've been asking, "Why I'm still here on this earth after 88 almost 89 years?" Mary says it's because I'm supposed to pray and pray. And I am. I'm so thankful to be here and it has helped other missionary couples think again about bringing their older family members to the mission field. If I can come to Africa, anybody can!"

a day in a life group

*jim gates, jimgates@fpcnorfolk.org
transitional executive associate pastor*

Sunday nights I pick up a friend at 6:45pm and drive over to the FPC Center for Prayer. We make a pit stop at 7-11 to pick up some healthy snacks for the group - Oreos, NutterButters, Doritos, etc.

When we arrive at 7 p.m., there's already a few guys hanging out on the porch of the house, talking and catching up. We head in, gather cups and water, and go upstairs. Around 7:30 p.m., there's 12 of us and we go around the room doing introductions for the benefit of the newest member. There's almost always someone there for the first time.

Then we open our book, *The Good and Beautiful Life*, and start talking about the gospel and the problem of sin. At some point, we move from a conversation about sin as a list of problems in our life, to the realization that we are the problem when we choose to address only our symptoms and not our core selfishness.

One guy speaks up and shares a part of his story that most of us didn't know. It's vulnerable and courageous. We're silent for a moment. No attempt is made to fix the problem or the person. Then another guy speaks into the silence with his own secret sin. It's no better than any of ours, but it takes guts to share. We transition smoothly back to the main idea - although some of us are more afraid to admit it than others, we all have the same brokenness inside

“That was the best
two hours of my
week. Again.”

LIFEGROUPS
living in faith everyday



us. Someone mentions a third century theologian whose name I half-remember from seminary and I'm impressed. Another guy speaks up and talks about being a brand new Christian, and I'm more impressed. Near the end of the conversation, yet another man gets choked up when sharing how much this community of brothers has shaped his life and faith in only a matter of months. I'm awed and thankful.

We collect prayer requests and pray for one another. Then we hang out for a few more minutes, finish off the Oreos, and head out.

As I leave, I think to myself, “That was the best two hours of my week. Again.”



LIFE Groups meet weekly for prayer, fellowship and study. Groups are always open to new members, male, female, or co-ed. To learn more or get involved, contact Dorothy Hood at dorothy@fpcnorfolk.org.

an enduring legacy of leadership

celebrating sheryl wood and lucy gates



Sheryl Wood joined our staff in 2006 as our Mission Outreach Coordinator. She has spent the last eight years leading and challenging our congregation to engage more deeply in mission. Sheryl's exceptional heart for the poor and sick is exceeded only by her ability to find solutions and mission partners for the most pressing challenges of our community and world.

Sheryl's gift for seeing a need and then meeting it is extraordinary and has led our congregation to care for international students at ODU, local residents with AIDS, women at the Crisis Pregnancy Center, children drinking dirty water in Nicaragua, and orphans in Kenya, just to name a few.



Lucy Gates came on staff in 2000 as our Preschool Director. Since that time, she has had a leadership role in the Preschool, but has also variously had responsibility for everything from FPC's Children's Ministries to our evangelism and assimilation process.

In the last fourteen years, she has touched the lives of thousands of children and their parents. Her ministry has strengthened the ties between the church and the preschool, and also dramatically increased the Christ-centeredness of our weekday preschool and classes. Thanks in large part to Lucy, the kids in our Preschool know Jesus, and that's eternal.

Lucy and Sheryl have been pillars of our church staff and exemplary leaders in our congregation. They are already missed on our staff.



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transitional executive associate pastor*

teap...

what is it?

transitional executive associate pastor

For several years, FPC had a position called the "Executive Associate Pastor." This was a role designed to free Jim Wood, our Senior Pastor, from the day-to-day operational responsibilities of the church. The Executive Pastor reported to Jim, and the rest of the staff in turn reported to the executive pastor.

In March, the Session decided to return to our Senior Pastor/Executive Pastor model, with one important difference. Instead of one direct report to Jim Wood, there are now two positions who report to our Senior Pastor: the Executive Pastor and the Director of Operations.

In addition to these exciting organizational changes, I am also anticipating some personal changes this year. My wife and I LOVE FPC but we have been intending to move closer to her family in Minnesota even before we first moved back to Norfolk in 2005. Our original plan of staying three to five years has grown to over nine, but we are now actively searching for churches in Minnesota.

I know the role as Executive Pastor offers great challenges and opportunities, but I felt that accepting a new role, while also looking for a calling in Minnesota, was a disservice to the church. At the same time, the Session felt that filling the role of the Executive Associate Pastor was critical and needed to occur immediately.

So, after much prayer, the Session agreed on the following plan:

In March, I stepped into the job as the Transitional Executive Associate Pastor (aka "the TEAP"). At the next congregational meeting, an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee will be elected to begin a search for a permanent Executive Pastor. If I am still on staff when that person arrives, I will take a step back and report to them as an additional Associate Pastor.

Everyday I'm reminded of what an awesome privilege it is to serve this family alongside our elders and staff. Please keep all of us in prayer during this exciting and new season as we continue together to Seek Christ and Share His Love!



This Lent we collected donations to send Bibles to refugees in the Yida refugee camp in South Sudan. 70,000 people in 18,000 families live in this camp - our goal was to provide at least 5,000 Bibles for those families.

So, with your generous help,

we were able to raise over:

\$42,000

(offering Year to Date)

thank you!



5000 bibles for yida



In January 2014, Ross Wood, an FPC missionary who is currently leading the efforts of Samaritan's Purse to provide water, food, and other critical needs to the 70,000 refugees in the Yida refugee camp in South Sudan, asked our church for Bibles.

Most of the residents of Yida are Muslim or animist, and are completely unfamiliar with the Bible. However, learning English is considered both a path to opportunity, and also a means of differentiating from the oppressive Sudanese government. So, the folks from Samaritan's Purse made a simple decision; they would teach English, using the Bible.

Facing some budget cuts, Ross asked if we could provide some English Bibles and ship them to him in Yida. We set a huge goal of delivering 5,000 Bibles. On Easter Sunday, we took up a collection for this purpose. Astonishingly, we raised \$42,000 in cash and pledges! This allowed us to surpass our goal;

instead of shipping 5,000 Bibles, we are now sending 15,000! That's approximately enough for one Bible for every family in Yida. Moreover, we had enough funds left over to also help pay to setup additional classrooms for the Bible/English Literacy program, so that more people can be exposed to the Scriptures more quickly.

Thank you for your generosity! Now, we ask that you pray that the Father uses these Bibles, and the pastors leading this English Literacy program, to bring many more men and women to Christ. Pray also for Ross and all those working with him as they share Christ's love with those whom the world has forgotten.

family and children's ministries

easter egg hunt, holy week



The rainy weather couldn't keep the annual Easter egg hunt from being a huge egg-stravaganza this year!

Hundreds of children and families piled into our church building with their baskets, umbrellas, and rain boots, ready to hunt for over 10,000 eggs. Children searched high and low to fill their basket with eggs, under the church pews, around the hymnals, in book cases and doorframes. Nowhere was off limits!

After the children finished counting their eggs, they strolled out to Andy's Garden to enjoy a petting zoo, complete with a horse, pig, donkey, sheep, bunnies, and ducks. After filling up on donuts and a great time, children left with egg-filled baskets along with a scriptural keepsake to reinforce why we really celebrate Easter.

park place mission blitz

**MISSION
POSSIBLE**

On a snowy Saturday morning on the first of February, over 300 people of all ages from our church met at Ghent United Methodist Church in Park Place, to help out the area ministries that operate from their church building.

Our FPC family united together to paint, clean, organize, and repair thousands of square feet inside GUMC, which are used daily for awesome ministries such as Park Place School, Park Place Child Life Center, and Project Light.

In less than six hours, our church gave Ghent United Methodist a huge makeover. But the experience gave our church a whole lot more as we finished the icy day filled with warmth, knowing we had a great time working together. It was a privelege to support these ministries which will continue to impact the community for years to come. We are excited to continue expanding our partnerships and missions to Park Place community, and it is obvious that together we can do extraordinary things!



the joy jar goes to st. patrick's school



The Complete Joy Kids' Club took their current fundraising activity outside the walls of First Presbyterian Church and into a local school. Caroline Burton, third grade Joy Club founder, presented the students at Saint Patrick's Catholic School with the "Joy Jar" concept.

Kids from FPC have been collecting their coins and working together to fill the jars at church, helping to make "change" around the world at our Joy Village in Kenya. Money raised will go to support the many educational needs of our children at the orphanage. Saint Patricks students were quick to help out and adopt the "Joy Jar" project, by making it their school-wide fundraiser. Children at SPCS collectively raised \$750, which will make a huge educational impact on our kids at the Joy Village. *Thank you, Saint Patrick's!*

workshop of wonders: VBS 2014



July 14-18, from 9:00am-noon daily, nearly 200 preschoolers through rising sixth graders will take part in our annual Vacation Bible School. At this year's "Workshop of Wonder" VBS, kids will discover how the ordinary becomes extraordinary with God.

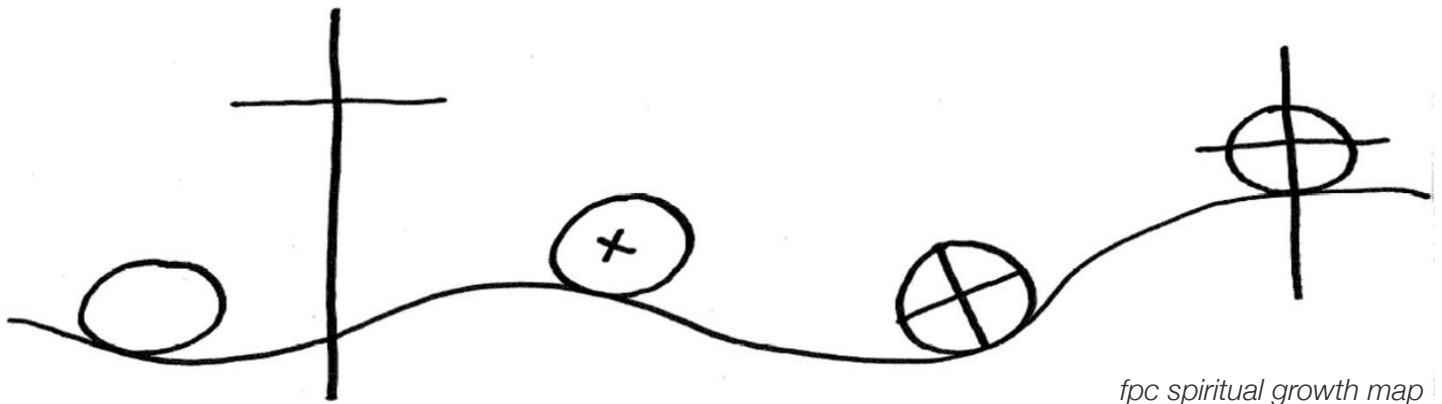
They will experience the love of Jesus and use their imagination and creativity to build their faith through Bible lessons, drama, games, and crafts. We would love to have your family join the fun! To place your child on the wait-list as a VBS camper or to find out how you can be involved through volunteer opportunities and supply donations, contact Hunter Johnston at hunter@fpcnorfolk.org.



*hunter johnston, hunter@fpcnorfolk.org
director of childrens and families ministries*

spiritual growth

changing from the inside-out



fpc spiritual growth map



embraced by love

-anonymous

Like most people, my journey with God began as a result of my parents' faith walk. I grew up in a local Methodist church, but as the years passed, I became increasingly disconnected from my God.

Then when my husband tragically died in a car accident fifteen years ago on Christmas Eve, my relationship with God became very strained. Since that time, I have struggled with anger, disappointment and overwhelming sadness.

"Does God love me? Why did he let my husband die?"

My good friend knew of my struggle and invited me to attend First Presbyterian's Healing and Wholeness Service last December. She nudged me forward to receive prayer and a prayer shawl.

As the prayer shawl was placed on my shoulders and I received prayer, I felt a transcendent love and embrace. When I wear the shawl, I feel safe and secure. I was sharing this feeling with my friend and she told me that these shawls were blessed by the congregation with the prayer that whoever wore the shawl would feel enrobed by the love of Christ. As this was articulated, I realized that I truly feel God's love when I wear the shawl and have begun to search for opportunities to rekindle my relationship with God. Thank you for the prayer shawl ministry of FPC!

hearing God's voice

-yingying liu

“Does God really talk to us?

Can we really hear God's voice?”

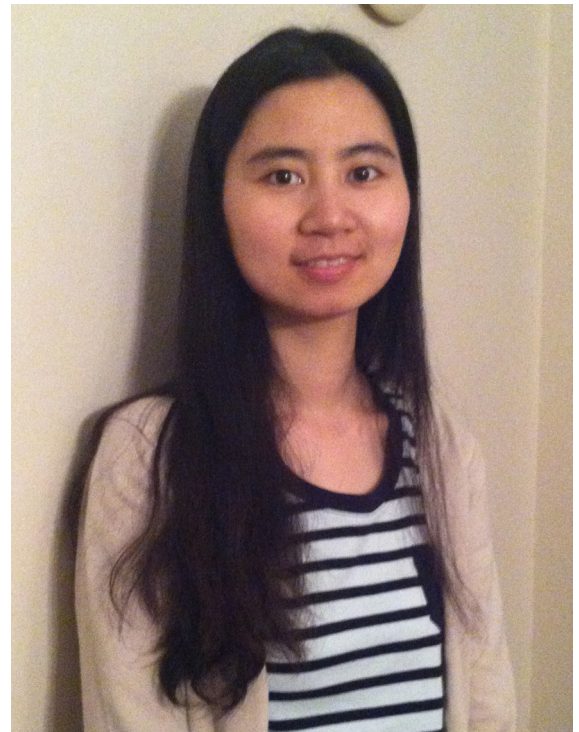
-yingying

In January, I began to read Richard Foster's book, *Celebration of Discipline* and was shocked and moved by the following quote, “A man prayed, and at first he thought that prayer was talking. But he became more and more quiet until in the end he realized that prayer is listening.”

If we become quiet and listen, will we hear God's voice?

Since I needed some discernment for some important life decisions, I signed up for Spiritual Companions to help me learn to experience God's presence and hear his voice. During the Spiritual Companion meeting in March, we meditated on the passage about Bartimaeus receiving his sight. As I entered into the story, I became the blind man, and I said to Jesus, “Rabbi, I want to see!” When I encountered the love of Christ, my eyes became open to some of my spiritual and emotional “blind spots” that were not pleasing to God. Jesus revealed that these “blind spots” prevented me from being closer to God.

Then during April's meeting, God began to speak to me about one of my blind spots. As we were meditating on the passage of Jesus raising Lazarus, I heard “Jesus cried” and compassion touched my heart. I began to ask Jesus what he wanted to bring to the light and he



revealed that I needed to grow in compassion to become more like Him. I had known for a while that I was lacking in compassion, but I did not see the serious hindrance for spiritual growth. Yet, Christ revealed that my response to a co-worker's pain earlier in the day was a poor reflection of his genuine empathy and love. I immediately repented and through the love of Christ, I am growing. I am becoming more sensitive to the pain of others and now I immediately realize when I show impatience and indifference with others.

God speaks and I am eagerly looking forward to what God will reveal during this month's meeting.

Note: Yingying has discerned a call to further her education at the University of Notre Dame and will be leaving us later this summer after she returns from a 6-week trip to visit her family in China.

*kristine rand, kristine@fpcnorfolk.org
director of prayer and spiritual growth*

fpc soup kitchen

a recap from
Holy Week

*jim gates, jimgates@fpcnorfolk.org
transitional executive associate pastor*



perfectly for me. This is exactly what the church is supposed to be – a family who loves each other, and welcomes others into that love.

Every Saturday, our church opens our doors to serve meals to the homeless and the working poor. The huge task of preparing meals for our guests is done with the help of around 50 FPC volunteers.

On April 19, I had the opportunity to help with one of our Saturday teams. I confess that I had forgotten how much fun it was!

That day happened to be the Saturday before Easter. Before the Soup Kitchen, my wife and I took our kids to our church's Easter Egg Hunt, which was both an amazing church family celebration, and a great outreach to our community. Two hours later, I welcomed a family with five children into our Soup Kitchen. It was impossible not to notice the difference between my children's experience gathering Easter eggs, and these sweet children enjoying our chicken and pineapple lunch. And yet in that moment, it all fit

On that Holy Saturday morning, we had 78 guests for our meal. I had the privilege of speaking to several people, including a woman named Cheryl. Cheryl shared that she became homeless two years ago when she lost her job and couldn't maintain her rent payments. Without family in the area to fall back on, she ended up on the streets. Although these past years have been extremely difficult, Cheryl remains hopeful about her future and the faithfulness of her Savior.

In the midst of a Holy Week filled with Holy Spirit moments, one of the most rewarding for me was bringing a plate of food to Cheryl and hearing her wish me a happy Easter.

Might you be called to serve the King? If you are interested in being part of our monthly Soup Kitchen teams, contact jimgates@fpcnorfolk.org.

easter sunday facebook recap

over 36,000 facebook views

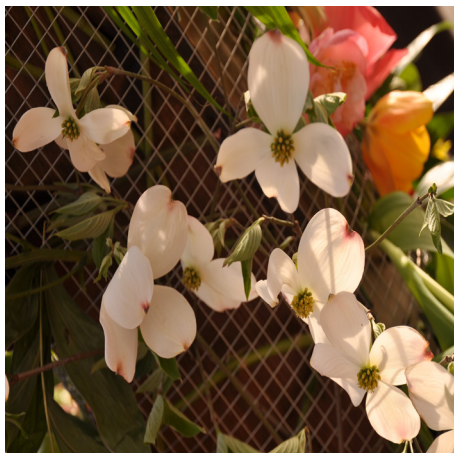
On Easter Sunday, we took photos under the flowered cross and posted them immediately on Facebook for everyone to view.

To view more photos:



Like us on
Facebook

facebook.com/fpcnorfolk.org



confirmation



bearing His image in our youth

*laura arana, laura@fpcnorfolk.org
youth ministries coordinator*

...Be who you were created to be, and you will set the world on fire. - Catherine of Siena

What a privilege it was to be a part of the 2014. FPC Confirmation Class! This year we had a class of 21 youth that began in January and will be confirmed on June 8, Pentecost Sunday. For 5 months the confirmands met each Sunday at 8:30am to learn about a variety of topics including: the Old and New Testaments, Prayer, Worship, the Message of Jesus, Discipleship, Living out your Faith, Church History and many more. They have had homework and quizzes, attended a retreat, met before Session; and each confirmand has also written a Statement of Faith.

Research shows that teens who had five or more adults from the church invested in them during the ages of 15 to 18 were less likely to leave the church after high school.

(Sticky Faith, Youth Workers edition, Powell and Griffin.)



“faith building experiences”

photos: confirmation retreat at makemie woods

In this same effort to encourage and facilitate intergenerational worship, and “sticky faith”, a deliberate effort was made in assigning mentors to our confirmands. This year, 5 confirmation mentors along with staff attended the Confirmation retreat at Makemie Woods. This was an awesome intergenerational Confirmation experience where ages ranged from 14-77! A great time was had by all as our confirmands and mentors played ridiculous games, received spiritual instruction and participated in small groups. Our mentors facilitated the small groups and the confirmands were able to hear that no matter our age or our spiritual maturity, we all experience spiritual struggles and doubt. The retreat really helped the class bond as a group.

It is my prayer that the bonds formed during the retreat and the Confirmation process remain.

It was very exciting to watch the confirmands grow, both in confidence about their faith and in their relationships with each other.

“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6





Joy Children's Village

an oasis of hope

becky lyle, becky@fpcnorfolk.org
tree of lives coordinator

summer birthdays

June-August



stephen



john



richard



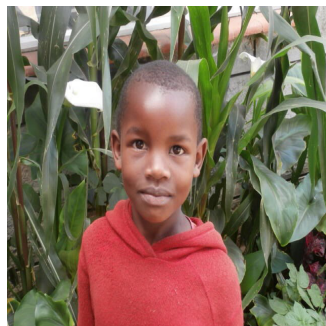
john



burton



malesia



joseph



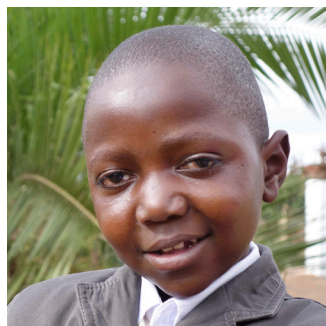
gerald



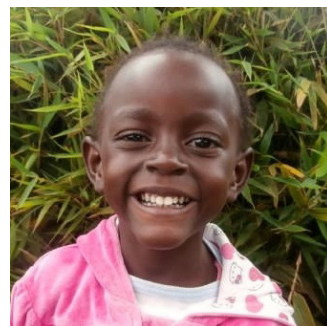
phyllis



catherine



martin



michelle



jacob

calendar

• june

- 1 Complete Joy Club
- 4 Seniors First Luncheon
- 8 FPC 101
- 10 Shoulder2Shoulder
- 14 Circle of Grace Worship
- 15 Fire - New Sermon Series
- 19-22 Pilgrimage Weekend
- 23-27 Olympic Village, Preschool Camp
- 24 Shoulder2Shoulder
- 28 Circle of Grace Worship

• july

- 2 Seniors First Luncheon
- 4 Office Closed for July 4th
- 6 Complete Joy Club
- 7-11 Firefly's & Fireworks, Preschool Camp
- 8 Shoulder2Shoulder
- 12 Circle of Grace Worship
- 14-18 Vacation Bible School
- 19 Kenya Summer Team Departs
- 20-25 High School Camp
- 21-25 Surf's Up, Preschool Camp
- 22 Shoulder2Shoulder
- 26 Circle of Grace Worship

• august

- 3 Kenya Summer Team Returns
- 4-8 Pirates Cove, Preschool Camp
- 6 Seniors First Luncheon
- 8 Nicaragua Team Departs
- 9 Circle of Grace Worship
- 10 FPC 101
- 12 Shoulder2Shoulder
- 15 Nicaragua Team Departs
- 22-24 Middle School Retreat
- 23 Circle of Grace Worship
- 26 Shoulder2Shoulder

weekly events

- Saturday Soup Kitchen
- AA Meetings
- Women's Bible Study
- LIFE Groups



Please note dates and events are subject to change.



First Presbyterian Church

seeking Christ. sharing His love.

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