

The Open Door

August 2011

Love for Truth

Passion for Righteousness

Enthusiasm for Service



*The door is open at
First Congregational Church*

All are Welcome

*. . . When he comes and
knocks, they will open the
door for him at once.*

—Luke 12:36b

Changes in the Air



Pastor Jamey Nichols

The month of August welcomes many changes at FCC. If you haven't been around much this summer, you may have missed a thing to two . . . or, three! Let me see if I can make a list that doesn't overlook anything:

- Pastor Adam tendered his resignation effective July 31 and is pursuing a new life in the big city with his new bride.
- *Encompass Magazine* is winding down its three-year run. All of us involved in it have invested many volunteer hours, and fatigue is setting in. Although the ministry has been helpful, pulling off each new issue has been challenging. This latest summer issue is to be its last.
- We are replacing our part-time assistant pastor position with a part-time youth pastor. We've brought on a talented, high-energy young woman to happens to be homegrown. Mrs. Tara Doolittle (CMHS 199?) has been attending FCC this summer with her family and will be taking over the youth program this fall. Be sure to introduce yourself if you haven't met her.
- Our Diaconate and Trustees have added their blessings to a fall trial run of an after-noon character training program. "Splashdown" is the after-school counterpart to "Blastoff" which is the before-school part. "Splashdown" will be aimed at younger elementary kids and will provide for them a structured environment for the balance of their afternoons. At

"Splashdown" kids can get help with homework, hear a daily Bible lesson, have a light snack, and have a mentoring relationship with a Christian adult or teen. This program will offer plenty of volunteer opportunities for people from FCC and the community.

- Gayle Hansen, a recently returned friend of FCC, has agreed to spearhead Splashdown. You'll be hearing more from her about this unique ministry in the days to come.
- The pastor's study is being remodeled. Although the main office was given a makeover when I first came to Stanton, nothing had ever been done with my office. The Trustees have graciously consented for an office makeover. The project is creeping along steadily and will be fully functional by fall. Stick your head in and admire the process.
- The junior/senior high Sunday school room has been getting a makeover in the past months as well. Dawn Wilson has been applying her great skills with some special art work on the walls. The adult class is also getting a facelift with some fresh paint and different furniture. Be sure to wander through.
- After a two-year run with a weekly, Sunday AM radio program, Hope of Glory is officially off the air. It didn't seem like the return warranted the effort it took to produce each week. As with *Encompass*, it was a good run, but, as they say, all good things must come to an end.

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Pastor Jamey's column continued ...

These latest changes at FCC have been welcomed enough, but they need your prayers. In fact, I hope you pray regularly for this church family. My most common prayer is that God would be honored in all that takes place, and that whatever we do here would be a reflection of his desires for us.

—*Pastor Jamey*

A Bit of History ...

The following article submitted by Sandy Main was clipped from a recent *Daily News*:

First religious service at Stanton

S Stanton came into existence in 1860 when, after quite a battle, the county seat was moved from Greenville to a location at the geographical center of the "old county," what is now the east 16 townships.

The new county seat was established in a pine forest, four miles from the nearest neighbor. Clearing was begun at once and a courthouse constructed. The board voted to allow county treasurer Levi Camburn to use part of the courthouse for a dwelling so the county offices could be transferred from Greenville.

The first religious service in Stanton occurred nearly 150 years ago, when the settlement still was only "a notch in the woods." A minister who lived just west of Stanton conducted the service. It was attended by 21 people, two of whom had to travel a long way through the woods for what was described as "a very ordinary sermon."

From the Greenville Independent of July 12, 1905:

"The first religious service that

was held at Stanton occurred in June 1862. It was held in the second story of the building that was first erected for county buildings. The Rev. W.H. Trowbridge, who then resided about a mile west of Stanton on what is now the Dr. Bachman farm, officiated.

"The circumstances relating to it are given in the Independent of an old date by E.H. Jones then of Greenville. There were present 21 persons: the Rev. W.H. Trowbridge, his wife and three children; Martha Smith, a girl employed in his family; Levi Camburn, wife and two boys; Nancy Green, then engaged in teaching school in the same building, the entire school consisting of the children of the county officers and those of the Rev. Trowbridge (she afterwards married Orville Fuller of Greenville); Daniel Cornell, a bachelor, at the time register of deeds; Abe Roosa, his wife and three children; John F. Loase, an attorney at the time practicing in Greenville; E.H. Jones; George F. Case, who resided in the southern part of Evergreen township; and

George Howorth, who resided in Bushnell. These two latter gentleman (sic) came a long distance through the woods to hear a very ordinary sermon.

"Abe Roosa at the time was running a hotel in a log shack that had been build (sic) by wood choppers who had cleared a notch in the woods where the county buildings were erected.

"Mr. and Mrs. Camburn were keeping house in the county treasurer's office and the register of deeds boarded with them. All of their beds were surrounded with mosquito netting. At that season of the year Mr. Cornell did his work a register of deeds with a pan of chips burning under his table. The smudge arising from this was the only protection he had against mosquitoes, and in spite of it he was continually fighting them. Blotches of his blood are now of record in the register of deeds office, where he undoubtedly visited dire vengeance upon a well-filled mosquito tat had alighted upon his records."

Greetings from the Moderator . . .

—Dawn Wadle

First of all, let me give you my apology for not following through with my plan on studying the Lord's Prayer. I certainly did not anticipate the brain cancer diagnosis for my brother-in-law and the time involved helping my sister. That's not to say that I don't have thoughts about the prayer, which I will share with you, but that I just haven't made the time to do the extensive studying that I would like to do.



Let me tell you how I normally say this beloved prayer . . .

My Father, who art in heaven, holy is your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Thank you for this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and glory forever and ever. Amen.

You will notice a few small changes. I have learned that to make scripture personal is like saying a prayer that God has already given us. I say this prayer every night before falling asleep, and it brings me great comfort. Sometimes my mind tends to wander during prayer, and I will start over again and emphasize each word so I know it is coming from my heart . . . and just not my lips.

For the September newsletter, I will share with you why saying the Lord's prayer in this way personalizes God for me. Until then . . .

Editor's note:

A cancer benefit for Dawn's brother-in-law, Keith (Hector) Helmer will be held from 4—7 p.m. on August 27, 2011, at the VFW Hall, Six Lakes, MI. There will be food, music, raffles, and auctions. Fees are: \$10/adults, \$5/kids, kids 5 and under are free. The family will appreciate your support!

Summer Worship Schedule ...

Sunday, August 7 - Steve Billock will be filling the pulpit while Pastor Jamey is away at Camp Barakel. The sermon title is: **The Unexpected, The Unqualified, and God Does the Unthinkable**

Sunday, August 14 - 9 a.m. (note time change from previous years) - Our FCC congregation is encouraged to attend the Stanton Old Fashioned Days Community Service in downtown Stanton

Sunday, August 21 - 10 a.m. - Back at First Congregational Church

Sunday, August 28 - 10 a.m. - First Congregational Church

Some paraprosookians ...

OK, so you don't know what a paraprosookian is? It's a: "figure of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected; frequently used in a humorous situation."

- ⇒ Evening news is where they begin with "Good Evening" and then proceed to tell you why it isn't.
- ⇒ To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.
- ⇒ I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not so sure.
- ⇒ You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.
- ⇒ I didn't say it was your fault; I said I was blaming you.

Strangers in the Pew ...



Nate and Tonia Reinke have been together for nine years. They were high school sweethearts and were married May 30, 2009.

Tonia has been attending FCC since she was born and was confirmed as a member in 2000. Her mother, Dawn, and sister, Milinda, are both members of First Congregational Church.

Tonia and Nate enjoy family time which involves kayaking, customizing their S-10, and remodeling their home in Entrican. They currently live right down the road from Tonia's parents and enjoy the convenience of jumping in their pool whenever the heat is unbearable.

Tonia is an aspiring teacher, looking for a "home" after graduating from Central Michigan University in December 2010. She did her student teaching at Central Montcalm and performed reading intervention at Belding Public Schools. Her goal is to become a lower elementary teacher.

Currently, Tonia finds that being the nursery supervisor in our FCC nursery on Sunday morning is a perfect fit for her. This prohibits her from being "in the pew" on Sunday mornings, but she does sneak upstairs for occasional glimpses of the service.

Nate works in the Greenville area as a sales representative for Pepsi and has been with the company for six years.

CHURCH SIGN

*Aspire to inspire
Before you expire.*

Our Church at Work ...

Diaconate Notes/July 2011

- The candelabras have been cleaned and repainted. Thanks to Fritz Strautz for overseeing this project.
- Finalized plans for the church picnic on July 21

Trustee Notes/July 2011 meeting

- Met and greeted Tara Doolittle as a youth pastor prospect. Trustees agreed to offer Tara the position.
- Several repair projects were discussed and authorization to get bids on the projects was given.

FINANCIAL NOTES

Income/June 2011	\$ 11,872
Expenses/June 2011	\$ 13,119
Parking lot update as of 07.28.11:	
	\$45,640.31

Plan to attend the Stanton
Old Fashioned Days
Community Worship Service
at 9 a.m. on
Sunday, August 14, 2011

The service begins at 9 a.m.

The community choir will be
singing

Pastor Dennis Ross, Nevins
Lake Church, will be bringing
the message

An offering will be taken
which will be designated for a
motivational speaker for the
Central Montcalm High
School spring assembly



Meet our youth pastor . . .

Sledding down sand dunes at Muskegon State Park; cleaning before 20+ teens arrived in my home (and many more hours after they left); jumping up and down and pumping my fist in the mosh pits at more Christian concerts than I can count; racing to the emergency room to be with the family of a teen that just tried to overdose herself; denying my ever-aging body of the rest it so desires and needs by staying awake for numerous all-nighters with teens and then coming home to three children who need their mommy to feed, clean, and entertain them; spending four days in a hospital in Indiana caring for a teen whose lungs spontaneously collapsed at a youth conference (and whose mother would not drive down to be with him); later, bringing that same teen into our home and family as he finished high school and entered adulthood; speaking to hundreds of teens at aforementioned youth conferences; fundraising and budgeting; meeting with parents who were at their wits end and were looking for any words of advice, guidance, and most of all, encouragement, support, and prayer; praying with local students gathered around the high school flag pole for the national "See You at the Pole Day"; praying with an ever-growing number of high school students huddled together in a tiny conference room before school every day to pray for their concerns, other students, teachers, and faculty; engaging in countless hours of studying, counseling, teaching, planning, emailing, facebooking, writing, and praying; laughing and crying with students and volunteer youth leaders alike . . . and LOVING EVERY MINUTE OF IT (or almost every minute); such has been my life for the last five years as the volunteer youth director and then assistant pastor at Central Montcalm Community Church in Sheridan.

After graduating from Fayetteville State University in North Carolina with a bachelor of science degree in Secondary English Education, my husband (Chad) and I moved back to Michigan to be with family and for me to seek a teaching job at CMPS. (Having grown up in this community, I always knew that I wanted to serve and work with area teens. I assumed the best way to do that was through teaching at the public school.) However, after a great family tragedy, Chad and I went to church at the request of my mother. Soon after, we both gave our lives to Christ and were baptized together in the fall of 2002. After a few years of doors constantly being closed to the teaching field, I fell on my knees before God to ask what He wanted of me. In that moment, I completely surrendered my life to His will and purpose, committing to do whatever He called me to do with all of my heart and soul, even if that meant simply being the best wife and mother I could be. A few short months later, God uncovered His plan for my life. Chad and I began a brand new youth group with a handful of teens at the new church plant, Central Montcalm Community Church.

Although Chad was originally who we thought God wanted to be the leader of the group, He soon showed us a different plan. Both of us realized on our first youth night that being a youth leader was my calling. Three months later, at our first youth conference, God revealed to me in an intimate time of prayer and worship, that he indeed wanted me to teach

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Women's Fellowship ...



Midst the preparations for the dessert auction on picnic Sunday, July 31, Women's Fellowship did have time for a meeting on July 7. In addition to planning for the auction, they agreed to make the school bags for RAVE. Besides monetary donations, they need: crayons, markers, erasers, pencil sharpeners, calculators, folders, glue sticks, blunt scissors, pens, construction paper, and tote bags. The deadline for donations is August 14. Contact Sharon Ritter if you have questions. Their next meeting will be at 9:30 a.m. on August 4, 2011, at FCC.

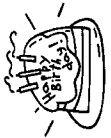
Contact persons for Women's Fellowship are: Janet Brundage, coordinator (989.831.4405) Pam Russell, treasurer (989.831.0867) Martha Turnbull, secretary (989.831.4217)

Continuation of "Meet our youth pastor"...

God revealed to me in an intimate time of prayer and worship, that he indeed wanted me to teach youth; but, He wanted me to teach them about Him, not English. And so, my journey began. As I learned about youth ministry in an online program through Indiana Wesleyan University, I also learned through hands-on experience while leading Outer Limits Youth Ministry. I spend five fabulous years working with that particular group of students and graduated with my Master of Arts in Ministry with a youth ministry concentration last August 2010. Everything was sailing smoothly on the course that had lain before me; and then, suddenly, God turned the ship. My time with CMCC had come to an end. Lost and broken, I did the only thing I knew to do: pray and wait, and then pray and wait some more. Now, nine months later, God has opened a new door to serve the teens of the Central Montcalm community once again as the youth pastor at FCC. My husband, three children (Brendan, Aubrey, and Angel), and I couldn't be more thrilled, excited, thankful, and hopeful with this new chapter in our lives and all the blessings we are sure will come with it. We look forward to getting to know each and every one of you and thank you for this opportunity.

Following in His Footsteps,

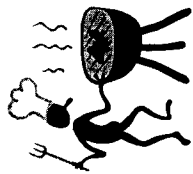
Pastor Tara Doolittle



- 01 Elizabeth Swanson
- 04 Jane Basom
- 04 Cindy West
- 05 Charles Miel
- 05 Randy Reese
- 07 Dale Brown
- 10 Andrea Rockafellow
- 12 Aubrey Billock
- 12 Ken Bunting
- 13 Delta Fike
- 13 Devin Wells
- 19 Ryah Buck
- 19 Gordon Cannon
- 19 Chad Thornburg
- 21 David Simpson
- 22 Gavin Hansen
- 22 Charlie Jørgensen
- 23 Kim Ritter
- 23 Jerry Shoer
- 23 Warren Wells
- 25 Elton Baldwin
- 25 James Probyn
- 26 Cody Hanson
- 26 Sara Jørgensen
- 27 Sharon Borton
- 27 Braelyn Rose Bunting
- 28 Gale Parr
- 29 Norm Brummeler
- 29 Sara Wadle
- 29 Andrew Johnston
- 30 Heather Simon

Anniversaries

- 01 Dave/Linda Swanson
- 02 Tom/Deb Koepke
- 03 Shad/Janelle Morgan
- 05 Dave/Jennifer Vander Schuur
- 06 Dooder/Sharon Ritter
- 08 Deane/Jane Gage
- 12 Dave/Jane Nelson
- 16 Ed/Carol Drobish 61 yrs.
- 16 Rob/Janet Baldwin
- 19 Rick/Christa Baldwin
- 19 Don/Dawn Wilson
- 27 Marv/Doris Cannon 63 yrs.
- 27 Robert/Dottie Olsen
- 28 Don/Heather Guelzo
- 29 Chuck/Karen Hazekamp



August 2011

First Congregational Church of Stanton
 Worship Service: 10 a.m.
 Phone: 989.831.5240
 Email address: beverlyb@fccstanton.org
 Website: www.fccstanton.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
If you look like the photo on your passport, you really are not well enough to travel!! <i>—Heart Warmers</i>	1 5:30 - 8:30 pm OFD Committee	2 Two-By-Twos 12 noon	3	4 9:30 am Women's Fellowship 12 n Rotary	5	6
7 10 am - Morning Worship	8 5:30 - 8:30 pm OFD Committee	9	10 YOUTH TO UNITY FEST/ MUSKOGON ← LV 10 am → RE approx. 3 p.m. → 6 pm Diaconate Board	11 12 n Rotary	12	13
14 9 am - Stanton OFD Community Worship Service/Downtown	15	16	17	18 12 n Rotary 6:30 - 9 pm MAARC	19	20
21 10 am - Morning Worship 11:15 am - Board of Trustees Mtg	22 7 pm - OFD Committee OPEN DOOR DEADLINE	23	24	25 12 n Rotary	26	27
28 NOISY CHANGE SUNDAY 10 am - Morning Worship	29	30	31	<i>Better to eat a dry crust of bread with peace of mind than have a banquet in a house full of trouble.</i> <i>—Proverbs 17:1</i>		