

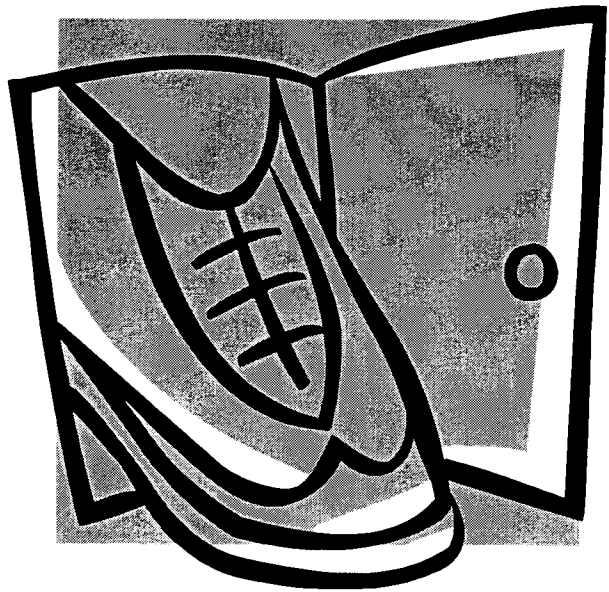
The Open Door

June 2011

Love for Truth

Passion for Righteousness

Enthusiasm for Service



Our graduates will be stepping through many doors of opportunity following graduation. Know that the doors at FCC are always open.

*The door is open at
First Congregational Church*

All are Welcome

*CONGRATULATIONS
CLASS OF 2011*



Wait and See



Pastor Jamey Nichols

Right now, I'm waiting. I'm waiting on several things actually. Just before I proceeded to type these words, I was waiting on a phone call from a guy who is coming from Bay City to look at my boat. By the time the computer was booted and ready for me to begin typing, he called. Now, I'm waiting for him to pull in the driveway in the next five minutes. Before I'm done typing this article, I'll know whether or not he bought it. We'll all have to wait to the end of the article for that.

They say that the second best day in a man's life is when he buys a boat. Do you know the first best day? — When he sells it. I waited a number of years to buy a boat. I'm pretty stingy about stuff like that so I waited—I waited until I had the cash and waited still longer until I found just the right boat at the right price. It was an exciting day. Right now I have to strain my memory to remember how excited I actually was. Seems like the boat I was waiting for wasn't really that big of a deal after all. Lots of things are just like that.

What are you waiting for? Something material, perhaps? Maybe you're waiting for a bit of information about a test result

or a surgery date. I'll bet everyone of you have had a job interview and had the experience of waiting to hear back as to whether or not you got the job. Lots of living includes waiting. If you don't believe me, just wait.

The Bible encourages us in Psalm 27:14 to "Wait on the Lord, be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord." Another Bible passage about redemption. This time it's about redeeming . . . Well, time.

When I was young, I found it particularly difficult to fall asleep on December 24. I couldn't wait for the next day. Every minute that ticked by seemed to do so in super slow motion. I couldn't understand how the clock could be so retarded. On the other hand were the times when I'd really blown it, and I'd stretched my loving mother far beyond the elasticity of any reasonable human. It was at such moments when I was waiting "for [my] father to get home." It didn't matter how hard I stared at the clock, I couldn't slow it down. The second hand flew around the face like the blades of an electric fan. Sometimes it moved like the tortoise, other times it was the hare. Whether our waiting is excited anticipation or anxious dread, King David's words are appropriate.

—continued on next page

The E-100 Challenge continues with the following passages relating to upcoming sermons and the worship schedule during the month of June:



June 5, 2011 - #66 — The Last Supper (Luke 22:1-46)
Sermon title is: "A Meal to Remember"

June 12, 2011—#67 — Arrest and Trial (John 18:1-40)
Sermon title is: "The Big Decision"

June 19, 2011 - #68 — The Crucifixion (John 19:1-42)
Sermon title is: "Paid in Full!"

June 26, 2011 - #69 — The Resurrection (John 20:1-21:25)
Sermon title is: "The Linchpin"

Pastor Jamey's column continued ...

There is a strength that comes from leaning into God. There is a courage we enjoy as we concentrate on the timeless One for whom a day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as a day. With him, there is no impatience. With him, there is no dread. With God, peace is always imminent, and his grace never asks us to take a number. The next time I feel inclined to mark time waiting, I'm going to remember Psalm 27:14 and do something better with my time.

Well, the guy from Bay City came, and he bought the boat. Chalk one up for Craig's List and an ad that lasted less than ten hours. Got my asking price, too. That was cool! Now, if only my old van would sell. It's been next to Stanton Road AND on Craig's List for one long week now, and bupkis. I guess this is where I start waiting on God and quit waiting on some mystery buyer from Bay City. I can't wait too long though, 'cuz I might kill Nona's grass. Just wait and see what happens then!

—Pastor Jamey

Women's Fellowship ...

Yummmm!!!



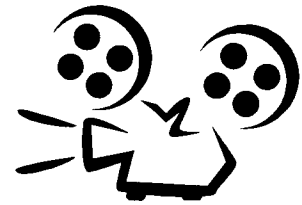
Women's Fellowship will be selling strawberries and shortcakes on Sunday, June 19, after morning worship. More information will be available after their meeting on June 2.

(This announcement is just to whet your appetite!!!)

Their June meeting will be held on the 2nd at 9:30 a.m. the church.

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)

Movie Night for Young Adults ...



Young adults are invited to this summer's Young Adult Veritas Movie Night beginning on June 10. The group will meet at FCC for food, a movie, and discussion beginning at 7 p.m. The featured movie is "Inception."

Please RSVP via facebook (fbpage Veritas Young Adults) or e-mail Pastor Adam at: awills@fccstanton.org.

Even if you are on the right track, you might get run over if you just sit there!!!

—More Heart Warmers

TEXT DECODED FOR OLDER FOLKS . . .

ATD - At the doctor's
BFF - Best friend fell
BTW - Bring the wheelchair
BYOT - Bring your own teeth
FWIW - Forgot where I was
IMHO - Is my hearing aid on
LMDO - Laughing my dentures out
OMMR - On my massage recliner
OMSG - Oh my! Sorry . . . Gas
ROFLACGU - Rolling on floor, laughing, and can't get up

Strangers in the Pew ...



Al and Pat Buchholz have been married 56 years and have four children:

Craig and Lori of Sidney
Gary and Rhonda of Stanton
Curt and Karen of Cedar Springs
Gailyn and Mike Dagget of Portland

Their family includes 12 grandchildren and 13 (+1 due in July) great-grandchildren.



Al graduated from Stanton High School and has lived east of Stanton his entire life. He retired from the Montcalm County Road Commission. He has enjoyed farming, raising Jake and Dolly (Belgian draft horses), and his restored 1952 John Deere "B."

Pat graduated from Greenville High School and Montcalm-Ionia Bi-County Normal. She retired from the Montcalm County Friend of the Court office and enjoys reading and outdoor activities.

Together they have enjoyed their family's sporting activities—4-H and sheriff posse involvement, camping, and traveling. They now spend time on their back deck watching deer, turkeys, and the birds. Family and friends are an important part of our lives in retirement.

"We feel truly blessed to be a part of the FCC family."

A sure-fire formula for success:

Rise early, work late, strike oil!

—*More Heart Warmers*

Our Church at Work ...

Diaconate Notes/May 2011 meeting

- Plans are underway for Graduation Sunday, June 12.
- The annual Church Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, July 31.

Trustee Notes/May 2011 meeting

- Bids for the ramp repair have been received. Will need to make a decision as to how to proceed.
- The bark has been replaced around the perimeter of the north parking lot. Thanks to Richard Johnson and the youth for helping with this project.

FINANCIAL NOTES	
Income/April 2011	\$ 13,267
Expenses/April 2011	\$ 14,691
Parking lot update as of 05.24.11:	
\$44,383.18	

The pictorial directories have arrived. There are a few copies in the church office yet to be picked up.

Greetings from the Moderator ...

—Dawn Wadle

First of all, let me say a big "THANK YOU" to everyone who prayed us through the tragic loss of my brother-in-law, Joel. We are deeply grateful that our family had strong support during this time. As we go about our day-to-day lives, we realize we must get used to a new normal. However, anyone who has lost a loved one knows this is not an easy process. Since the cause of death was a result of a genetic disorder, the family needs to go through testing so your continued prayers would be appreciated.

Secondly, I would like to remind everyone that a new committee will be forming to look at and make changes to our by-laws and constitution. It has been years since this document has had updates, and since we now have an associate pastor (Adam), we need to at least add this information. Anyone who is interested in being a part of this committee is more than welcomed to join us. Please call the church office, or you may contact Bob Brundage or me. If you just wish to sit in and make comments, we will be posting the dates and times when they have been decided. Please remember that all proposed changes will be noted on at quarterly meetings.



2011 FCC GRADUATES

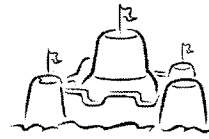
Graduate	Graduating from	Parents and Grandparents	Future Plans
Matthew Bailey	Pewamo-Westphalia High School	Jim/Peg Bailey Beverly Bailey Paul Bailey Jan/Steve Russell (aunt/ uncle)	Plans to attend college
Kristin DeRaad	Montcalm Community College as a medical assistant	Jeri Ritter Dooder/Sharon Ritter	
Zachary Drew	Central Montcalm High School	Pam Drew	
Carrie Hallihan	Montcalm Community College with an RN degree	Wife of Brett Hallihan Drew/Bev Stowell Diane Bannister (aunt)	Plans to continue working for Spectrum Health
Laura Jo Simon	Central Montcalm High School	Tad/Heather Simon	Plans to attend Lansing Community College w/ focus on special education.

Perhaps We'll Never Understand Each Other . . .

Perhaps we'll never understand each other.
Loving doesn't mean that we agree.
If that were so, then I would say, why bother?
But there are things I know I'll never see.
I'm sure your heart knows what I don't yet know:
The pain of loving a reluctant son;
The anger, coming fast and building slow,
Of being helpless to control someone.
You want only that I grow up right,
But you know what right is, and I still don't.
I have to learn to wield my inner light,
And if I follow yours, well, then I won't.
I'm sorry for the anger in the air;
Though we fight, my love is always there.

Vacation Bible School . . .

Will wash up on shore at FCC during the week of June 27 - 30 (a four-day event). Supper will begin at 5:30 p.m. High tide opening ceremonies will follow at 6 p.m. with low tide closing ceremonies at 8 p.m.



Indications are that there will be a treasure island, lakeside lessons, jet ski games, surfs up Crafts, and drop anchor snacks.

Kids are invited and bring your friends for fun and games. Contact Bob Brundage with questions.



This is a community-wide, cooperative effort of our local churches.
See Bob if you would like to help!!!



Once each year the FCC Trustees schedule a **Work Bee Sunday**, and this year that Sunday will happen on **July 10** following morning worship. Please put the date on your calendar and plan to help with this special project.

Many hands make light work!



