

# The Open Door

November 2011

**L**ove for Truth

**P**assion for Righteousness

**E**nthusiasm for Service



*The door is open at  
First Congregational Church*

*All are Welcome*

**Business  
Edition**

## Wanting Kids to be Happy . . .



Pastor Jamey Nichols

*I recently preached about the folly behind our tendency to pursue personal happiness above all else. In my sermon research, I came across the following article. Although it is not written from a biblical perspective, it echoes the Bible's teaching and augments my 10.16.11 sermon by lending scientifically oriented support of what Scripture has taught all along.*

*—Blessings — Jamey*

### **What's Wrong With Just Wanting Our Kids To Be Happy?**

**—by Kathy Slattengren**

I really do just want my kids to be happy! What can possibly be wrong with that?" The potential problem is that it appears there is a connection between parents focusing on making their kids happy with those children actually being increasingly unhappy.

#### **What does the research show?**

Although it seems that children who have their basic needs met plus enjoy many extras would certainly be happy, this appears to not be the case.

The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention surveyed over 14,000 students in grades 9-12 in 2007. They reported "During the 12 months before the survey, 28.5% of students nationwide had felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for two or more weeks in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities."

#### **How do parents play a role?**

Loving parents can unintentionally raise self-centered, unhappy children. How does this happen? One way it happens is when parents continually give their children the message that the children's needs, desires, and happiness are superior over anyone else's. These children grow up learning to focus on themselves, not others.

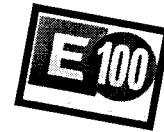
I've heard many sad stories of parents who bent over backwards to give their children everything they could possibly want only to have their children grow into self-centered adults. These adult children often take their parents for granted and rarely pay attention to their parents needs. Instead they focus on their own needs.

One mom sadly explained how her 30-year-old son had flown home for Christmas. Mom had planned a big gathering and was busy with preparations. Her son left in an angry huff before the Christmas dinner complaining that his mom wasn't spending enough time with him!

She reflected that she had always done so many things for him so that he would be happy. She didn't think of asking for his help with dinner and clearly he didn't think of it either. They both ended up being very unhappy that day.

—continued on next page

***We're back*** - The E100 Challenge readings for the month of November are listed below:



***The Travels of Paul:***

November 6, 2011 - #80 - The Trip to Rome (Acts:25:1 - 28:31)  
Sermon title is: "Ahoy Mates!"

November 13, 2011 - Annual Deer Hunt Sunday

***Paul to the Churches:***

November 20, 2011 - #81 - More Than Conquerors (Romans 8:1-39)  
Sermon title is: "Amen, Brother!"

November 27, 2011 - #82 - The Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:16 - 6:10)  
Sermon title is: "Two Lists"

***Pastor Jamey's column continued . . .***

**What should we wish for our kids instead of happiness?**

The answer to this question is discussed in Dr. Aaron Cooper and Eric Keitel's book titled Just Want My Kids to Be Happy! Why You Shouldn't Think It, What You Should Embrace Instead. They analyze some of the negative effects of putting our kids' happiness first and present healthier alternatives.

Based on their review of decades of research on happiness, they suggest there are eight key ingredients to authentic happiness:

- Good mental and physical health
- Closeness to others
- A sense of gratitude
- An optimistic outlook
- A life of meaning
- Acts of loving kindness
- A sense of spirituality
- Gratifying pursuits

They examine how parents can help their children develop in each of these areas. Ultimately building these skills will help our children achieve a lifetime of real happiness.

(This article may be found at <http://www.pricelessparenting.com/Documents/JustWantKidsToBeHappy.aspx>.)

## *Let's hear it for the youth . . . by Pastor Tara*



October has been an extremely busy month for REVOLT. Kicking off the month, we participated in an all-area youth hayride and bonfire with The Fusion Youth Group from Trinity Church along with the Decibel Youth Group from Central Montcalm Community Church and another youth ministry from Vestaburg. Over 140 area teens loaded onto six hay wagons to take a ride out to the Phelps farm where they enjoyed playing football, volleyball, ultimate Frisbee, and a ginormous game of dodge ball followed by food, worship, a message, and a time of prayer. It was an amazing (but frigid) evening for area youth and leaders to fellowship with one another.

Many REVOLT students enjoyed, and attended a few concerts this month, including the Music With A Mission Tour in Muskegon and The Leaving Eden Tour in Lansing (only girls attended this). We hosted only one "overtime/post-game" event in October, but it was our best ever with 46 teens. Kids were playing games in the Fellowship Hall, my office, the youth room, and at the intersection of Camburn and Bradford for some late night basketball. A friendly police officer stopped by to check out what was going on and wished us a safe and fun night. The very next afternoon, we hosted a friendly battle-of-the-foes party for the MSU vs. U of M football game (it was a sad day to be a Wolverine fan in a room crowded with Spartans!).

In addition to our regular Monday night youth meetings, REVOLT students enjoyed another Christian skate night at Rainbow Gardens. Bible studies are solidly underway at both CM middle and high schools during lunch on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The Sunday morning fellowship group is growing, and some of the teens are hanging around in Fellowship Hall after worship to get to know the FCC congregation. With some nerves and trepidations, these teens have accepted the challenge to make some new connections. PLEASE take time as adults of our friendly church family to reach out and get to know these fine young people as well.

Please continue to pray for me, the other youth leaders, and REVOLT. Specifically, please pray for:

- Non-Christian students to walk through these doors and discover their need to embrace Jesus as Savior and Lord.
- Our Christian students to continue to be challenged, to grow in their faith, and to reach out to others.
- Hurting teens and their families who are suffering due to broken relationships, job loss and financial hardships, the possibility of having to relocate to another state, and troubles with trying to keep and show their faith among non-Christian peers and family members.

## ***Our Church at Work ...***

### ***Diaconate Notes/October 2011***

- John Bookwalter enlightened the Diaconate re: the Endowment Fund
- Hanging of the Greens and potluck are scheduled for Sunday, November 27.

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### ***Trustee Notes/October 2011 meeting***

- The north service ramp is being completed. A great addition to the building.
- Loie Simpson will represent the trustees on the Nominating Committee

#### **FINANCIAL NOTES**

Income/September 2011   \$ 11,935

Expenses/September 2011 \$ 16,300

Parking lot update as of : 10.26.11

\$46,497.63

## ***Calling all kids ...***



Plans for the annual Christmas Musical are underway. The title this year is: Camel Lot (Don't Miss the Manger).

A schedule for rehearsals is printed weekly in the church bulletin. Phyllis Wells is coordinating/directing the program this year. She would appreciate some help with snacks for rehearsals, and if you are so led to help, give Phyllis a call at 989.560.5666 or 989.831.5550.



***Appreciation and praise  
are the lubrication that  
makes life more  
enjoyable to us  
and others.***

*—The Complete Book of Zingers/Croft M. Pentz*

## ***Stranger in the Pew ...***



One will usually find **Bill Crawford** sitting about four pews up from the back of the sanctuary on the south side. He and his wife, Janis, became members of FCC in 2004. Janis served in several areas of the church. She battled cancer and died on March 11, 2010.

Bill enjoys hunting and watching the wildlife that comes into his yard on Hillis Road. He is a NASCAR fan—his favorite driver used to be Johnny Benson whom he has met several times. He also helps son Bill with his race car—a miniature sprint car, Z-250 Honda, which can get up to 115 mph.

After retiring from construction, he bought a semi-tractor/trailer and was an over-the-road driver with son, Bill.

Bill also has a daughter, Jill, and six grandkids—four boys and two girls. He has lived on Hillis Road for forty years. He recently had a knee replacement and is convalescing at home. Give him a call . . . , or better yet, stop in to say hello!!

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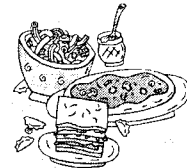
## ***Fellowship Feast . . . Get to know our church family of Christ!***

*Word has it that some of our folks are hankerin' for a potluck supper. A couple people have become serious enough to get the ball rolling. So . . .*

*The first Fellowship Feast will be held at 6 p.m. on Sunday night, November 6, 2011. This is an opportunity to get to know our FCC friends and families and to have some good food fixed by our fabulous FCC cooks.*

*Bring a dish to pass and table service. Beverages will be furnished.*

*The thinking of the organizers is that we could have these three or four times each year. Let's give it a try . . .*



During these tough economic times, we thought it might be appropriate to inform our FCC congregation and friends of those within our congregation who have businesses in our area. We would encourage your support of these enterprises when you have need for their goods/services. If we missed anyone, please let us know.

LIST OF BUSINESSES OWNED/OPERATED BY FCC FRIENDS		
Name of Business	Type of Service	Owned/Operated By
Anderson & Girls Orchards/Stanton 989.831.4228	Fresh fruits & vegetables, petting animals, ice cream shop, baked goods, gift shop, etc.	Terry/Gwen Anderson Amy/Alan Laper
Baldwin Quarter Horses/Stanton 989.944.3212	Training, lessons, showing, sales	Rick/Chris Baldwin
Bookwalter Motor Sales Inc./Stanton 989.831.5271	New/used automobiles Full automotive services	John Bookwalter/Gale Parr
Carson City Center for Women's Health Care/Carson City/989.584.3107	Obstetrical and gynecological services	Michelle Becher, DO Janice Russell, NP
Damon Davis/Stanton 989.831.5419	Computer technician	Damon Davis
Gatesville Painting/McBride 989.672.5016/989.304.1797	Painting, wall papering, specialty paints, ceiling textures, borders	Trevor Hinton/Deb Hinton
Heart of Michigan Alpacas/Stanton 989.328.2606	Alpaca yarn, mittens, hats, scarves	Jon/Elaine Muilenburg
Jorgensen's/Edmore	Super Market	Jorgensen's Inc.
Jorgi's Marketplace/Greenville 616.225.9570/616.788.2182	Specialty foods/hot deli/full meat dept./pizza/cheeses/beverages/fuel (diesel)	Jeff/Cindy Jorgensen Smith Jorgensen's Inc.
Kitchenmaster Insurance Agency 989.831.5575	Insurance for educational employees	Lou, Joyce, and Anne Kitchenmaster
Long LP/Sheridan 989.261.4373	All propane and home heating	Steve Long/Kevin Long/Mark Long
Main Street Music & Dance Studio Stanton/ 989.831.8384 or 989.560.5666	Lessons in piano, violin, voice, guitar, ballet, jazz, tap, zumba aerobics, creative movement, and tutoring	Phyllis Wells
Rainbow's End/Stanton 989.328.2606	Fruit, Christmas trees, wreaths, garlands	Jon/Elaine Muilenburg
Save-A-Lot/Stanton 989.831.8345	Super Market/Save up to 40%	Jorgensen's Inc.
Shear Image/Stanton 989.831.8080	Hair care, tanning, manicures	Shelley Belt, Karen Hicks, Tammy Doolittle
Simpson Family Funeral Homes Stanton/989.831.4000/Sheridan/989.291.3611	Funeral and cremation services <a href="http://www.simpsonfamilyfuneralhomes.com">www.simpsonfamilyfuneralhomes.com</a>	Bill Simpson Sr./Bill Simpson Jr.
Stanton's Hair Studio/Stanton 989.831.5668	Hair care, hair products, spray tanning, nail care, latest in hair coloring	Lisa Case
T.J.'s Music Factory/Stanton 989.560.4848	DJ services—specializing in weddings, birthday parties, dances	Todd Wells
Tift's Carpet Center/Stanton 989.831.4641	Flooring sales and service	Claud Tift, owner Karen Gyger, manager
Tony Sleet/Sheridan 989.287.2235	Computer maintenance/program familiarity/instruction/virus removal	Tony Sleet
Wells Communications, U-Haul & Storage Stanton/989.831.5666	Verizon phones and accessories, computer repair, bill pay, U-Haul equipment, and self-serve storage	Brian/Todd Wells
Wells Photography/Stanton 989.831.4848	Photography—specializing in weddings, seniors, babies, families, and sports pictures	Todd/Kylie Wells
Wilson Electric/Great Lakes Spas/Stanton 989.831.4117	Electric/new and repair, hot tub repair, generator installations, pool and hot tub supplies, water toys, hot tub sales new/used	Don/Dawn Wilson

Isn't it amazing—I have been writing down my thoughts in these articles for almost a year. As I go back and read over some of those thoughts, it takes me back to my original goals. Some of those have not materialized like I had planned, but that's the point. It isn't my plan at all . . . but God's.

I'm not sure why it sometimes surprises me that God meets my needs when I sometimes don't even realize that something is necessary. I have experienced this time and time again in my life, and it amazes me every time. Sometimes, I have to remind myself that "it's not about me" . . . it's about how I let God work through me. It is the little things in life that can most influence and help us. Writing these articles has been an outlet for me. I always try to write from my heart, and if anything I have to say ultimately helps someone else, then I know I am letting God do His work.

I want to thank everyone for letting me write these thoughts of mine. It really does surprise me that what ultimately gets said maybe isn't where I was going . . . but isn't that how God works???

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## 10TH ANNUAL DEER HUNT SUNDAY . . .

November 13, 2011 - 11 a.m. Worship Service



**Wear your hunting togs, but leave your guns and ammo home. If you have a deer mount you would like to loan for display, please drop it off during the week of November 6. The office is open from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Monday through Thursday.**

## **Women's of the Church . . .**

Times are a'changin!!!

The Women's Fellowship (now called Women of the Church) have reorganized as a service group. They will be meeting four months during the year (January, April, July, and October) instead of monthly, but may add some additional meetings from time to time.

They will continue doing funeral luncheons, the cookie walk in December, visitations, and other special occasions such as spring luncheons.

Donna Jorgensen and Martha Turnbull will be co-chairing the events.

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## **Living in the past has its advantage—it's cheaper!!!**

—The Complete Book of Zingers/C. M. Pentz

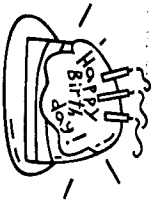
### **DVD AND BOOK FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER . . .**

THE DVD AND BOOK SELECTION IS "FIREPROOF" BY  
ALEX KENDRICK, STEPHEN KENDRICK, AND ERIC WILSON



The Diaconate's selection for November is about a firefighter, Caleb, who lives by the firefighter's adage: Never leave your partner. However, he's having trouble with his marriage at home. Caleb tries a 40-day experiment called "The Love Dare" that is recommended by his father to help repair his marriage. The love dare also will bring his wife and him closer to God. "I (Amy Laper/book reviewer) enjoyed this book and movie. It 's an easy read—you won't be able to put it down."

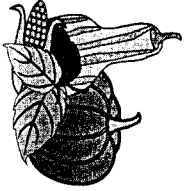
The selections are available for loan for one week and may be checked out through the church office.



- 01 Austin Lapper
- 03 Tom Greenhoe
- 04 Karen Hazecamp
- 05 Julie West
- 07 Bonnie Billock
- 07 Elaine Edwards
- 07 Jeri Ritter
- 11 Lewis Borton
- 11 Jamey Nichols
- 11 Lois Simpson
- 12 Allen Hardy
- 12 George Winchell
- 13 Jared Hansel
- 13 Jeff Sprague
- 13 Denise Thornburg
- 13 Kylie Wells
- 14 Karli Jo Clark
- 16 Rylie B uck
- 16 Karen Engel
- 17 Connor Guernsey
- 18 Karen Gyger
- 18 Marilyn Parr
- 18 Angie Probyn
- 18 Tonia Reinke
- 20 Reese Miller
- 22 Benjamin West
- 22 Zach Zimbelman
- 23 Gayle Hansen
- 24 Tanner Billock
- 24 Red Fisher
- 24 Tony Sleet
- 24 Helen Wilson
- 29 Deb Whisman
- 30 Dale Nelson

**Funfarectives**

- 01 Cindy/Jeff Smith
- 08 Pam/Tom Jeppesen
- 09 Shirley/Fitz Strautz
- 19 Arlene/Tom Greenhoe



# November 2017

First Congregational Church of Stanton  
 Worship Service: 11 a.m.  
 Phone: 989.831.5240  
 Email address: beverlyb@fccstanton.org  
 Website: www.fccstanton.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>God is found in two places—one of his dwellings is heaven, and the other is in the meek and thankful heart.</b></p> <p>—The Complete Book of Zingers/Croft M. Pentz</p>						
<p><b>TIME CHANGE</b>            11 am - Morning Worship            9:30 am - Adult Choir Practice            9:45 am - Morning Fellowship            4-6 pm - Christmas Musical Rehearsal            6 pm - Fellowship Feast Potluck</p>	<p>6 - 8 pm            REVOLT            Youth Ministry</p>	<p>Two-By-Twos            Lunch at Noon            7 pm            Bible Study at FCC</p>	<p>7 pm            OFD Cmte</p>	<p>12 n Rotary</p>	<p>4 pm            Youth leave for Rock 'N            Worship Roadshow</p>	
<p><b>DEER HUNT SUNDAY</b>            11 am - Morning Worship            9:30 am - Adult Choir Practice            9:45 am - Morning Fellowship            12:15 pm - Board of Trustees            4-6 pm - Christmas Musical Rehearsal</p>	<p>6 - 8 pm            REVOLT            Youth Ministry</p>	<p>Fellowship Hall reserved for OQC</p>	<p>6 pm            Diaconate Board</p>	<p>12 n Rotary</p>	<p>9 - 11:30 pm            11-11-11/REVOLT Youth at FCC</p>	<p>MS Girls to Girls of Grace Conference</p>
<p>11 am - Morning Worship            9:30 am - Adult Choir Practice            9:45 am - Morning Fellowship            12:15 pm - Board of Trustees            4-6 pm - Christmas Musical Rehearsal</p>	<p>6 - 8 pm            Christian Skate Night            Rainbow Gardens            REVOLT Youth Ministry</p>			<p>THANKSGIVING  </p>		
<p><b>NOISY CHANGE SUNDAY</b>            11 am - Morning Worship            9:30 am - Adult Choir Practice            9:45 am - Morning Fellowship            4-6 pm - Christmas Musical Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>OPEN DOOR DEADLINE</b>            7 pm - OFD Committee            6-8 pm            REVOLT            Youth Ministry</p>					
<p><b>HANGING OF THE GREENS</b></p>						



Note: Splashdown meets from 3:30 to 6 p.m. daily on regular school days!