

The Open Door

September 2011

Love for Truth

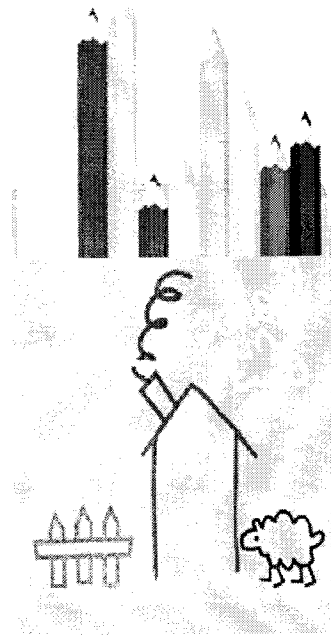
Passion for Righteousness

Enthusiasm for Service

*The door is open at
First Congregational Church*

All are Welcome

A dOOr of
OpPpoRtuNnity



“The fear of the Lord is
the beginning of
knowledge but fools
despise wisdom and
instruction.”

—Proverbs 1:7

Confessions of a Preacher Man



Pastor Jamey Nichols

Do you ever wonder if the preacher sins? Some folks (those that live in a Pollyanna paradise) say, "Good Heavens! Not the preacher. He's a holy man!"

Others (those a little more on the cynical side) say, "Yeah, of course the preacher sins! Why, he probably sins worse than anyone at the church!" If you build your world-view on the principles of the Bible, you will soberly recognize that everyone is contaminated, even the preacher, with a clear propensity towards selfishness, pride, and unholy impulsivities.

As you may have heard me mention, carpentry is an enjoyable hobby of mine. A few years back I devoted a number of hours toward my hobby as I embarked on the construction of a shed where my kids can park their bicycles and big wheels, and where I can store junk that's too valuable to throw away. If I do say so myself, it turned out pretty well (there's the pride). As I worked away, my task-oriented nature took over from time to time, and it didn't matter that I was married or that I was a father. All that mattered was that I was in the middle of a project of cosmic importance. Kids? . . . What kids? . . . Wife? . . . What wife? . . . Nothing else mattered. I was on a mission of my own making and nothing was going to stand in my way (there's the selfishness).

At one point of the process I found myself sufficiently frustrated that building materials were not obeying my wishes. It seemed no matter how many times I cut a

board it was still too short. After one mis-measure, miscut, and pinched finger too many, I heard my hallowed lips utter an explicative thoroughly unfit for any Christian, preacher man or not (there's the unholy impulsivity).

As one would hope, I immediately confessed and repented of my sin and proceeded with a renewed perspective on how I had become too impatient and how unimportant my task actually was. I blushed at the thought I would behave in such a carnal, pagan manner. After all, I'm a preacher man. We're not *supposed* to do such things.

They say confession is supposed to be good for the soul, but not too many of us are rushing out to strengthen our souls. It's not easy to admit failure and most of us spend a lot of breath defending our innocence rather than admitting our shortcomings. Fact is, we spend far more energy trying to manage our image than admitting the simple theological fact that we're all really screwed up and that we'll stay that way unless we get seriously involved with Jesus.

I heard one preacher suggest that if everyone would write their three worst sins on an index card and go to church wearing that card pinned to their lapel, spiritual revival would break out in the congregation. I think I agree. We'd all instantly realize that everyone needs grace and forgiveness and that, at the core, none of us is much better than the next person. What do you think? Doable? Ok, you go first.

Pastor Jamey

Our Church at Work ...

Diaconate Notes/August 2011

- Mid Jensen, Missions Committee chair, gave an overview of the work of the Missions Committee.
- A preview of the Splashdown program was presented and discussed.

Trustee Notes/August 2011 meeting

- An update was given on the progress of pastor's office renovations
- Bids were submitted for carpet cleaning in Fellowship Hall. Carpet will be cleaned on August 29.

FINANCIAL NOTES

Income/July 2011	\$ 15,608
Expenses/July 2011	\$ 18,155
Parking lot update as of 08.23.11:	
	\$45,708.17

Back in the loft . . .



The choir will be back in the loft on Sunday, September 7. There will be a huge welcome for those in our congregation who have wonderful singing voices and would choose to join the choir, and another welcome to those who have faithfully sung with the choir for many years.

The choir practices at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday morning. Loie says one doesn't have to make a commitment to be there every single Sunday as she usually plans in advance so if a Sunday practice is missed, one can still catch up.

Please consider helping us make a joyful noise to the Lord (at least most of the time).

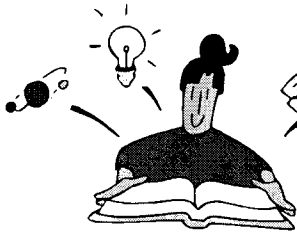
REVOLT MINISTRY . . .

Our youth are revolting!!! That's what one may think when hearing/seeing their new name! Actually, they're getting in shape for their fall program.



Many plans are underway, and times and places will be noted in the Sunday bulletin and on the website.

Keep in touch!!!



Beginning Tuesday, September 13 . . .

Steve Billock will lead us in an eight-week Bible study on the **Book of James - Faith—It Works!** The study will begin at 7 p.m. at First Congregational Church. Bring your Bibles, a notebook, yourself, your spouse, and your friends for an interesting opportunity to study and fellowship with the FCC family and our community churches.

Growing in Faith

It seems I have always loved gardening. I come by that love most likely because, as a child, I watched my father and grandmother garden. In fact, when I think about any of my relatives, they were all gardeners. When our families got together, the topic of discussion was, "How is your garden coming along?" One wonderful fact about my gardening heritage was the great sharing that occurred as everyone's garden began to yield a harvest. My relatives shared, not only with each other, but with the entire neighborhood. And, there was more than just the usual cucumbers, beans, and squash to give. There were homemade jams and jellies, zucchini bread, dill pickles, onion bread, and more! Garden bounty was canned, frozen, baked, then traded and shared with everyone. Anybody who had a need received something. Gardening and sharing were always done with great joy and, for me, was simply a way of life.

When I felt God prick my heart about starting a garden ministry, I knew I wanted to do it in the tradition in which I was raised. I wanted to grow and to give to anyone with a need, and, to do it with that same great joy I knew as a child. Many of you in our congregation were kind to donate some time and resources. Thank you. I can report that this ministry has been a wonderful success. I hope you share my joy knowing that there was a need, and we did more than just pray about it—we got involved.

Involving ourselves in each other's burdens is what biblical Christianity is all about. Genuine faith compels action. To know about a need and send that need upward in prayer is only one part of Christian faith. Faith must also be alive with good works. James, the brother of Jesus, states this clearly in James 2:14-17:

"What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has not deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, 'Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

This fall, I hope you will join me in the community-wide study on the Book of James. This man, James, is believed to be one of the half-brothers of Jesus. History tells us he was a brother who didn't support Jesus at first. Eventually, however, James went on to become part of the Jerusalem Council and penned his great letter to the church which teaches about the practical aspects of Christian faith. I intend to make this class fun, full of laughter, learning, and sharing. James gives us a sort of road map to faith, and I look forward to traveling this road with you as we learn together.

—In His service, *Steve Billock*

We're back - The E100 Challenge resumed on Sunday, August 21. The readings for the month of September are listed below:

The Church is Born:

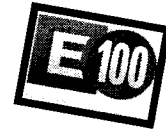
September 4, 2011 - #73 - The First Martyr (Acts 6:8 - 8:8)
Sermon title is: "Seeds in the Wind"

September 11, 2011 - #74 - Sharing the Word (Acts 8:26-40)
Sermon title is: "Unsung Hero"

September 18, 2011 - #75 - Good News for All (Acts 10:1 - 11:18)
Sermon title is: "The Rainbow Coalition"

The Travels of Paul:

September 25, 2011 - #76 - The Road to Damascus (Acts 9:1-31)
Sermon title is: "The Only Question That Matters"



DVD AND BOOK OF THE MONTH . . .

THE DVD SELECTION IS "SOUL SURFER" AND THE BOOK IS *SOUL SURFER*.

The Diaconate will be selecting and promoting a DVD and Book of the Month. This month's selections are listed above. Both tell the incredible story of Bethany Hamilton who lost her arm in a shark attack and courageously overcame all odds to become a champion again through her sheer determination and unwavering faith. The selections are available for loan for one week and may be checked out through the office.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD . . .

The FCC Missions Committee will join forces with Operation Christmas Child again this fall and is asking for your help. The following gift items are suggested:

School supplies: Pens, pencil sharpeners, scissors, markers, glue sticks, stamp and ink pad sets, solar calculators, coloring and picture books

Toys: Small cars, small dolls, small stuffed animals, balls, flashlights, kazoos and harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, small Etch-A-Sketch, Slinkys (please include extra batteries for battery-operated toys)

Hygiene items: Combs, hairbrushes for girls, Ivory soap, washcloths, toothpaste, toothbrushes

Other: Gum, T-shirts, socks, ball caps, sunglasses, hair accessories, toy jewelry, watches.

Not needed: candy, no liquids, or glass items - Plastic shipping boxes will be furnished. Donations are due Sunday, November 6. Look for more information in the Sunday bulletin.

Strangers in the Pew ...



Chad and Tara Doolittle and their children are new to FCC and have only been attending since the end of June. However, they are happy to call FCC their new church home after seeing the community focus of the church, the wonderful children's sermons and kids' programs, and the welcoming congregation. Tara's being added to the FCC staff as the new youth pastor has been the icing on the cake.

Having been married for 11 years (5.05.00), Chad and Tara have three children who will be running around and causing chaos in the pews over the next few years. Brendan, their son, will be turning 13 in September and enjoys playing his Xbox 360, Legos, and cars and loves the Christian hip-hop artist, Toby Mac. Aubrey, their oldest daughter, just turned 10 in July. She loves singing (anywhere and everywhere, including public restrooms), helping others, and is an aspiring nurse (or doctor), carrying her med kit with her as often as possible so that she is ready to fix an injury at a moment's notice. Angel, who lives up to her name, is the baby of the family and will turn eight in December, although Tara swears she is still only four! She loves to pretend, read, bake brownies, and give lots of hugs and kisses.

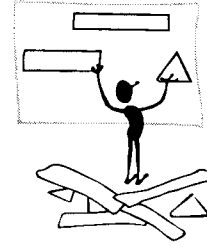
Chad is a truck driver/delivery man for Bareman's Dairy out of Clarksville. He has worked there for eight years and travels hundreds of miles four days a week delivering ice cream to stores. Of course, one of his perks is FREE ice cream for his family and friends. If your freezer is getting empty, let Chad know, and he will see what kind of goodies he can gather up for you. When he's not at work, Chad keeps busy with home improvement projects, going on dates with his wife, playing Xbox with Brendan, and snuggling with his girls. He also loves going to the movies and eating popcorn.

Pastor Tara, highlighted in last month's *Open Door*, is enjoying her new position at FCC and has high hopes and dreams for the future of the student ministry. Previously, she was a youth pastor for five years at Central Montcalm Community Church/Sheridan. She enjoys singing (all the time), camping, reading, and spending time with her family. Tara loves CHOCOLATE, especially dark chocolate, and you will never see her turn down a sweet treat.

The Doolittles can often be found at home enjoying down time with their yorkiepoo, Chloe, at the movie theater catching the newest family-friendly film, or camping at Littlefield Lake in Weidman. Family is extremely important to them, and the Doolittles don't want to miss any treasured moments with their children before they are grown up and move on. They love to visit with friends, old and new, as well, so feel free to invite them over for a visit to get to know your family better . . . Chad might even bring some ice cream for dessert!

We're getting ready for fall . . .

Beginning Sunday, **September 11**, our morning worship will begin at **11 a.m.** Adult choir practice is at 9:30 a.m., and morning fellowship begins at 9:45 a.m.



- ◆ **Nursery care** for children age three and under is provided by Tonia Reinke from 9:30 a.m. through 12:30 p.m.
- ◆ The following morning fellowship groups meet from 9:45 - 10:40 a.m.:
 - Children's Worship Center for children ages three through second grade taught by Janice Russell
 - Grades 3 through 5 will be taught by Bonnie Billock
 - Pastor Tara Doolittle will teach leadership development for grades 6 - 12
 - Dave Vander Schuur and Deb Hinton will facilitate the adult fellowship
- ◆ The adult choir practices at 9:30 a.m. under the direction of Loie Simpson
- ◆ Michelle Nichols facilitates junior church during the worship hour



Opportunity . . .

What we call adversity, God calls opportunity.

No opportunity is ever lost; the other person takes those you miss.

Great opportunities come to those who make the most of small ones.

Opportunity is often dressed up in work clothes.

—The Complete Book of Zingers/Croft M. Pentz

In the August newsletter, I stated that I would follow-up on why I personalize the Lord's prayer, so here goes.

We know that God is our Father and are told to associate this with our father on earth. So, when I pray, "Our Father who art in heaven," I have difficulty because of growing up in a single-parent family. Not to say that my dad wasn't involved in my life, but he was always more interested in his life than mine. That has changed over the years, and while I now have a better relationship with my dad, I still struggle with the "My Father" part.

Holy is your name . . . Hallowed means holy, and it helps me to remember to reverently use God's name.

Your kingdom come; your will be done on earth as it is in heaven . . . This helps me to remember that God's kingdom will someday be on earth, and we should try our best to follow His lead while we are still here.

Thank you for this day, our daily bread . . . Part of praying is being thankful for the daily provisions that God has given me. My prayers can't just be "I want/need" but to be truly thankful for what He supplies.

And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors . . . This reminds me that unless I forgive others, I will not be forgiven. So even though I may not feel like forgiving, it is necessary that I do so. Prayer to help forgive is usually necessary way before I am ready to do it on my own.

I need more understanding on the last part of the prayer—"Lead us not into temptation." I thought Satan tempts and God tests. Am I mistaken or am I reading this too literally? I am not a Bible scholar so sometimes it's difficult for me to understand that I am reading versus what the contents really mean.

Deliver us from evil . . . This part of the prayer definitely comes from my heart. Satan works in our lives and those we love. Not all bad situations are evil. God does His best to work through those times; however, it can be hard to know when it's God at work or Satan trying to disrupt or tempt us.

One would think this prayer would be memorized by everyone, but it's not. Over the years, I have witnessed many who cannot recite this beloved prayer. Maybe they are not believers or maybe they are. I guess it depends on what is important to them. Seems to me when Jesus states, "This, then, is how you should pray," it should be pretty important to know.

Women's Fellowship ...

Women's Fellowship did not meet in August. Proceeds from the Baked Goods Auction held at the annual picnic netted around \$250. Their next meeting will be at the church at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 8, 2011.

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)

To the FCC congregation and friends:

I extend to everyone a sincere warm greeting from the Christian Education Department at FCC. May God richly bless you and yours.

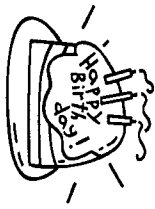
I hope everyone has had a great summer while growing in your love for truth, your passion for righteousness, and your enthusiasm for service. I encourage everyone with the words of our Savior: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:34-35). Also, let these words of the Apostle Paul fill you with joy and peace: "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom" (2 Corinthians 3:17). Wow! We are truly a blessed people when God Himself calls all of us who believe in Jesus His adopted children and not just children but His friend as well. Did you catch that? YOU by faith can be called a friend of God! Wow!

Now a seasonal change is about to happen for the FCC family. Check our fall schedule elsewhere in the newsletter for great opportunities for people of all ages to help you grow in your faith and relationships with one another. If you are reading this article and have never stepped out to experience a small group fellowship before, I want to challenge you to BE BOLD, get involved, fear not, and take a courageous leap of faith! Trust me—you will be so glad you did.

Also, if you haven't already heard the good news, the FCC family has been greatly blessed by God in sending us the Doolittles—Chad, Tara, and their children—Brendan, Aubrey, and Angel. Tara is the new youth pastor at FCC and is doing a super job serving her Lord in this new endeavor. The Christian Education Department is excited to be able to back Pastor Tara's using every available resource the department has at its disposal! I feel very blessed to be included in this FCC family who is being molded by the Father's own hand.

I close this article by giving everyone a "heads-up" notice that God is doing some foundation work at FCC so He can build something according to His plan. Hang on to your hats and enjoy the ride on God's Grace Train while you continue growing in your love for truth, your passion for righteousness, and your enthusiasm for service. God bless you all!

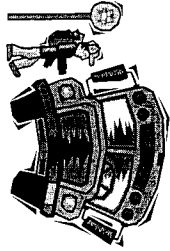
—Bob Brundage, Christian Ed Director



- 01 Christia Baldwin
- 01 Randy Freed
- 01 Jessica Zimbelman
- 05 Mia Morgan
- 07 Gwen Anderson
- 08 Lou Kitchenmaster
- 08 Brookelyn Miller
- 11 Rob Baldwin
- 11 Don Guezzo
- 12 Erin Dadds
- 13 Taryn Mullenburg
- 15 Karen Dadds
- 16 Irene Patrick
- 18 Jamie Munniz
- 19 Esther Hansen
- 19 Irene Hardy
- 20 Brendan Doolittle
- 23 Dick Wenzel
- 26 Deborah Hinton
- 26 Andrea Sprague
- 27 Jane Nelson
- 29 Jacqueline Drew
- 30 Chester Williams

Ofministersaries

- 05 Lou/Joyce Kitchenmaster
- 14 John/Linda Bussell
- 17 James/Angie Probyn
- 22 Charlie/Sara Jorgensen
- 28 Reese/Tanabeth Miller
- 30 Chris/Carol Jorgensen



September 2017

First Congregational Church of Stanton
 Worship Service: 11 a.m. (beg. 09.11.11)
 Phone: 989.831.5240
 Email address: beverlyb@fccstanton.org
 Website: www.fccstanton.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>School is a building that has four walls—with tomorrow inside. The highest knowledge is the knowledge of God. A person who "knows everything" has a lot to learn. —The Complete Book of Zingers/Croft M.</p>						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10 am - Morning Worship		Two-By-Twos Lunch at Noon			9:30 - 11 pm, Youth "Overtime"	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
11 am - Morning Worship 9:30 am - Adult Choir Practice 9:45 am - Morning Fellowship	6 - 8 p.m. REVOLT Ministry (Youth)	7 pm Bible Study at FCC	6 pm Diaconate Board	12 n Rotary 6:30 - 9 pm MAARC	9:30 - 11 pm, Youth "Overtime"	Fellowship Hall Reserved /5-9 pm
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
11 am - Morning Worship 9:30 am - Adult Choir Practice 9:45 am - Morning Fellowship 12:15 pm - Board of Trustees	6:30 - 9 pm Christian Skate Night Rainbow Gardens (Youth)	7 pm Bible Study at FCC		12 n Rotary	9:30 - 11 pm, Youth "Overtime"	
25	26	27	28	29	30	
NOISY CHANGE SUNDAY 11 am - Morning Worship 9:30 am - Adult Choir Practice 9:45 am - Morning Fellowship	7 pm - OFD Committee OPEN DOOR DEADLINE 6 - 8 p.m. REVOLT Ministry (Youth)	7 pm Bible Study at FCC		12 n Rotary		

