



Where Christ is Central and Diversity is Cherished

April 2005

Weekday Preschool achieves NAEYC accreditation

The Flossmoor Community Church Weekday Preschool is proud to announce that it has earned accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Director Ginny Hartley, teachers, and parents began the rigorous self-study process in the fall of 2002. After making necessary improvements, the Weekday Preschool was observed by independent, professional validators in November, and the whole study was reviewed by a national panel in January.

NAEYC Accreditation lets families in our community know that children in our program are getting the best care and early learning experiences.



At Weekday Preschool we use a play-based curriculum, *The Creative Curriculum*, which is well researched and prepares children socially, emotionally, and academically while retaining the magic of childhood. Our philosophy states "We believe activities that are the most fun for children also have the greatest educational impact. Childhood is much more than a time for preparing for the future; it is a time to be valued simply for its own delights."

NAEYC is the leading organization of early childhood professionals. It sets the standards for early childhood programs and began accreditation in 1985. Former Preschool Director, Chris Floyd, was always active in NAEYC and purchased accreditation materials before her untimely death in 1997. Ginny Hartley said, "God has blessed us to be able to complete the dream we inherited from Chris."

It's time to register for Preschool and Parent/Toddler classes for fall. Get the word out to family and friends! Call 708-798-1876 for information.



Director Ginny Hartley proudly displays her Certificate of Accreditation from NAEYC. Ginny worked diligently for three years with the Preschool and FCC staff preparing for this recognition.



The Personnel Committee is pleased to announce that **Diane King** has accepted our invitation to join the FCC staff as our new Director of Church Operations (DCO) beginning April 18. Di replaces Lesley Meeks who, in February, "changed hats" and now serves as our Director of Lay Ministries. As DCO, Di assumes responsibility for the planning, direction and day-to-day management of the church as staff resource to the Personnel, Finance, Properties and Communications Committees, along with the Foundation Board. She brings exceptional management skills and a passion to serve our congregation faithfully. Di is an ordained elder and has an extensive list of ministries served, among them, Congregational Life, Personnel, Youth, Chancel Choir, Weekday Preschool, Communications, PEGs and Outreach, all of which have prepared her well for her new role. Di currently sings in the Praise Ensemble and is the elder to the Board of Congregational Life, a position she must relinquish once her new duties have begun. Di and her husband Doug have been members of FCC since 1982. In order to follow God's call to serve her FCC family, Di leaves behind a long career as the billing manager in the world's largest law firm. We look forward to all that Di will bring to Flossmoor Community Church over the years ahead. Welcome, Di!



Board of Lay Ministries to Offer LifeKeys Workshops

The Board of Lay Ministries has begun the process of expanding and enhancing ways in which church members can use their unique gifts and talents in service to our church and God's Kingdom. This process of connecting and equipping members in ministry will become an integral part in the on-going life of our church because it is connected to our church's long-range vision. Part of this vision is to

"develop the spiritual gifts and talents of all members, connect and equip 100% of church members in an appropriate area of ministry." (See: *Flossmoor Community Church 2004-2007 Long Range Vision Highlights*, July 2004)

Our church has hired a full-time Director of Lay Ministries, Lesley Meeks, to work with our Board to develop, coordinate and manage this important area of ministry.

All of us want to make a difference; we're just not always sure how to do it. One goal of our Board is to help church members discover their gifts and find areas in which they can use them in meaningful and purposeful ways. To accomplish this goal, our Board has begun a new and exciting series of workshops called LifeKeys. LifeKeys is an organized self-discovery process to help members discover:

- What they do best;
- Where they do it best (the atmosphere they thrive in); and,
- Why they want to do it (what matters and gives purpose to them).

The LifeKeys process, through a series of exercises, readings and reflection, helps us uncover our life gifts, spiritual gifts, personality type, values and passions. This God-centered approach will help us understand how God wants us to use these gifts so that we may grow in faith and service.

LifeKeys was presented for the first time at Flossmoor Community Church last fall with the assistance of Pastor Jim Hartley. It was offered to new members in a series of seven sessions on consecutive Sundays. Our plan is to expand LifeKeys so that all church members can eventually participate in this workshop if they choose. A weekend format is being considered as well as the expanded seven-week series. The Board of Lay Ministries plans to offer LifeKeys to the congregation sometime this summer or early fall.

When the opportunity arises for the next class, consider the thoughts of Cristy Auriemma, who participated in the fall series. Cristy says: *"My expectations were that I would rediscover what I already knew about myself. Yes, I did rediscover those things, but found even more. The LifeKeys class made me focus on things about myself that I never considered. I found it to be inspiring and empowering but surprisingly forgiving. I am a mold made by God with many special gifts... I urge each one of you to think about giving yourself the gift of discovering yourself in a very empowering way."*

Watch for more information in future issues of the *Narthex*. In the meantime, if you would like to learn more about LifeKeys, feel free to leave a note in the Board of Lay Ministries mailbox. A Board member will contact you shortly.


As LifeKeys author David Stark says, *"You can find no path more fulfilling than the one that uses your unique gifts as God intended."*



The operations dynamic duo! Lesley Meeks & Mary Ann Bock are ready for action in Lesley's newly furnished office (Room 21 ... please come visit!) Mary Ann returned to staff in February as interim assistant to Lesley in her capacity as both Director of Church Operations and Director of Lay Ministries. Mary Ann has accepted Personnel Committee's invitation to remain on staff, replacing Barbara Kossuth upon her retirement in May.




*Look Who's Having
a Birthday!*



Shhhh ...
It's a secret, but
Lynn turns 50 on
April 12!

Send your best
wishes to her
at [lcheyney@
fccfaithful.org](mailto:lcheyney@fccfaithful.org) or
2218 Hutchison,
Flossmoor, IL
60422



“Can” it be Time? Spring Food Drive

Twice a year the Outreach Ministries Board provides grocery bags for you to return with non-perishable items (canned goods, pasta, cereals, baby food, peanut butter, etc.). The spring drive helps fill the shelves at the Rich Township Food Pantry in Richton Park.



Bags will be distributed after each worship service on April 17 and 24. Marked vans will be out in front on Sundays, April 24 and May 1 for you to drop off your bags.

This is an opportunity for you to finish the statement of Jesus to his disciples in Matthew 25:31-46 (especially vv. 35 & 40)!

Mission grants approved

In Outreach Ministries' continuing effort to financially support and involve people in God's mission in various places of need, grants were approved by the Governing Board for the following:

Diversity Dinners – \$700 to provide meals for 50 FCC members to participate April 21.

Jennifer Fallick Cancer Support Center -- \$750 to provide an ad in the Gala booklet.

South Suburban Action Conference - \$2,000 to support their work of advocacy on social justice issues in the surrounding communities.

United Mission to Nepal - \$2,300 to provide tetanus toxoid vaccinations to men and women which are not provided free by the government.

Pastor's Discretionary Fund - \$2,500 to replenish that fund for emergency needs within and outside the congregation

Obusumi, Ghana -- \$3,215 to transport in a 22' container of educational and school supplies provided by FCC, Weekday Preschool, School District 153, and others to the village where Victoria Aidoo is Queen.



Mission Opportunities

We're seeing the sun more and the days are getting warmer. Outreach Ministries has several outdoor and indoor opportunities for you to share your willingness to meet and help others and let God grow your understanding and compassion a little more:

Saturday, April 2, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Youth and adults gather to sort or box food at the **Greater Chicago Food Depository**. The food is then distributed to over 600 food pantry programs in the Chicago area, including many in our immediate area. By volunteering you give "credit" to Respond Now in their purchase of food from the Depository. Contact Bob Grove at 534-6606. A good family mission activity!

Thursday, April 21, 6 p.m. There may still be openings for persons to gather in homes with persons of diverse ethnic backgrounds to have fellowship, a meal together, and discuss matters of mutual concern. You can be a guest or a host. If the latter, the meal and discussion training is provided. Contact Frank Acuff at 503-1631 immediately!

Sunday, April 24, 1 p.m. The **CROP Hunger Walk** this year is in the Homewood-Flossmoor area (in fact FCC is a rest stop). There is both a 2-mile and 10K route to choose from. Sign-up and sponsor envelopes are available in the lobby each Sunday or from Marcia McConnell at 957-9189. If you can't walk, sponsor someone else who is! All proceeds go to Church World Service to deal with hunger issues in this country and throughout the world.

Saturday, April 30, 8 a.m. **Rebuilding Together** is a one-day effort to improve the housing situation of persons in a neighborhood of Chicago and in the south suburbs. This year it is Harvey and FCC has taken on the house of Willie and Rutha Tenny. Our hope is to put the home of this elderly couple in better shape to serve them as they grow older together. We are looking for 20 or more volunteers covering a full range of skills (patching walls, painting, carpentry, light electrical, yardwork, etc.). Painting supplies are provided, but some may need to bring tools. Contact Jeff Taylor (481-4284) or Francis Fullam (798-0954) for further information.

Movie Night



April 10

Due to an overwhelming popular demand, Movie Night is back! Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 10! The Adult Ed Committee is proud to sponsor a viewing of the film "Spitfire Grill", a 1996 movie. Themes of redemption and rebirth,

revolve around a young girl whose arrival in the small town of Gilead, Maine, brings about profound change in its residents. Starting time is 6:30 p.m., in the Parlor, and after the movie and popcorn and pop, Gary Sattler will lead a discussion. We'll save you a seat!

Foundation Focus

Our church is a place we come to feel close to God, to worship Him and praise Him. A place where we learn the teachings of Jesus. A place to celebrate births, weddings and to say goodbye to loved ones and friends. As we use this magnificent facility, how many of us stop to think about how it got here. For most of us, it is a legacy left to us by the giving and hard work of those who founded and built the church.

If it is to continue to serve us, it must be preserved and enhanced as a vital facility and institution in the community. This, along with enhancing the church's benevolence and outreach, is the purpose of the Church Preservation/Enhancement and Benevolence Fund.

To this end, the Flossmoor Community Church Foundation Board is committed to increasing the endowment through education about the purpose and use of the fund. The Foundations explains opportunities to leave your legacy through estate planning, wills, trusts and annuities. We will soon announce a page on the church website which explains the options and lets you produce "what if" giving scenarios from the privacy of your home.

If you have questions, or would like assistance with legacy giving, feel free to contact Foundation Board Chairman Terry Blackburn.



Adult Education

Sunday Classes

Christian Spirituality: Building Bridges from the "there & then" to the "here & now". April 3, 10 & 17 in the Parlor

Led by the Rev. Dr. Gary Sattler

Each of us in some way would like to deepen our spiritual life. But how can such practices fit into our lives? We'll look at how the practices developed in the early church and apply them to our own "everyday" lives as women and men.

Discovery Forum

10:30 a.m. in the Parlor

Led by Trina Hayes

We will return to reading and discussing Barbara Brown Taylor's *Bread of Angels* on April 3 (John 8:52-53) and April 10 (John 12:3-5). On April 17 we'll discuss Khaled Hosseini's novel *The Kite Runner*. This tale of atonement, love, and self-knowledge illuminates the struggles and differences inherent in growing up in Afghanistan. On April 24 we return to *Bread of Angels* and begin discussing Taylor's sermons leading to Pentecost (Acts 2: 1-2).

The Fourth Annual Adult Retreat, originally scheduled for April 30-May 1, has been rescheduled for Saturday-Sunday, September 24-25. It will still be held at Pilgrim Park Conference Center in Princeton, IL. Watch for more details in the summer Narthex coming out the end of May.



As part of our mission outreach, Flossmoor Community Church members and friends have participated in the Church World Service CROPWALK for the last several years.

The first walk was held in 1968. Since then funds have been raised each year to feed hungry people here at home and in over 80 countries around the world. This year's date is Sunday, April 24, and the walk steps off from St. Andrew United Methodist Church in Homewood at 2 p.m. Adults, youth, kids in wagons, and dogs are all welcome to complete the walk. The ambitious walkers can opt for the 6.2 K route while others may prefer the 2.2 K walk. The first rest stop will be at Flossmoor Community Church and Jones Center will provide refreshments. Other recipient agencies include PADS, Respond Now, the Rich Township Pantry, and Hazel Crest Community Church Pantry. The Outreach Committee will be recruiting participants in the Lobby on April 3, 10, and 17. Sponsor someone who is walking, or even better, join us in the walk with sponsors you have recruited. For further information, call Marcia McConnell (957-9189).

You've got One Life ... Do Something!

JUMP!

Youth Ministries
Jump a thon
April 30, 2005



The Jump Returns!

Youth Ministries is committed to raising funds again for One Life Revolution and we need your help. A 12-hour jump-a-thon is happening from 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. on Saturday, April 30. Here is how you can help ...

1. **Sponsor** a youth!
2. Sign up to **jump yourself** ... any volunteer jumpers are welcome! We are asking a \$5 donation for anyone who wants to jump! Sign up for a time slot or just show up to jump! You can also "**CHALLENGE**" someone else to jump ... last year 2 husbands challenged their wives to jump for \$100!
3. **Pray** ... that we raise lots of money and no one gets hurt!

One Life Revolution is an organization that provides direct aid to families affected by the AIDS crisis in Africa. Last year, funds raised by FCC built a new house for a family, educated 2 children for a year, provided food for a year for a mother & child, bought harvest seed paks for 2 families and bought 2 blankets! This year we hope to do even more!

Upcoming Stuff

April 16 ... Lay Advisors and friends will be attending "THE CORE," a training day for youthworkers. Youth Specialties sponsors the event at Christ Church in Oakbrook. It will be a day of inspiration, energizing and renewal for our hardworking Adult Lay Advisors!

April 22-24 ... Disciples & Sophs go on Retreat to Pilgrim Park. Disciples Confirmation Class is nearing the end of their journey this year with the "Statement of Faith" Retreat. Sophs will be studying Leadership and Faith.

May 1 ... Confirmands Interview with Elders



April's **Promised Land** rotation is called "Three Women of Faith," and tells the stories of Dorcas, Priscilla, and Lydia and their contributions to Peter, the Apostle Paul, and the early church.



Our **shoe drive** for Share Your Soles continues the first two weeks in April, followed by a wonderful family volunteer opportunity on Saturday, April 16. At 10 a.m., families will leave FCC, and head up to the Share Your Soles warehouse at 5619 W. 115th St. in Alsip to present our shoes, see a short video on Share Your Soles, and spend an hour and a half helping to sort and process shoes. This is a great opportunity for our children to see where their donations are going, and for families to spend time together making a difference.



For more about Share your Soles, visit www.shareyoursoles.org. More donations of lightly worn shoes are welcome in Bell Chapel or outside the Children's Ministries office up until our morning work trip on April 16.





Women's Association

All Church Event

Theater and music lovers take note! The Chicago area premiere, **Jolson & Company**, will be presented at the **Theatre at the Center** in Munster, IN on Wednesday, April 13 at 12:15 p.m. This musical play is a celebration of the "World's Greatest Entertainer, Al Jolson." Set in 1949, it also is a story of American music, featuring old favorites like *Swanee*, *You Made Me Love You*, and *Toot Toot Tootsie Goodbye*. Beginning with a delightful luncheon and followed by the matinee, this theater trip has become one of the most popular events of the year. Mark your calendars, make plans, and watch for ticket sales (\$38.50) in the Lobby! See you there!



Save the Date!

Pack-a-Picnic-Potluck

Sunday, May 29, 2005



Fellowship & food following the 10 a.m. worship. Bring some food & serving utensils for the potluck tables. Plates, dinnerware, napkins, cups & beverages will be provided.

Sponsored by the Board of Congregational Life

Our sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of former member, Mary Carroll, who died February 15.

Frank Nichols and family on the death of his wife, Marion Nichols, on February 21.

Betty Anderson on the death of her sister-in-law, Anna Louise Stringer (New Mexico), on February 27.

Bob Litchfield, family, and friends on the death of his father, Herb Litchfield, on March 5.

CONGRATULATIONS

on the marriage of...
Karen Lazarus to William (Bill) Richardson on February 10.

on the births of...
Duncan Brennan De Profio, born February 6. Duncan is the son of Shannon and Chris De Profio, grandson of Patti and John Flanagan, and great-grandson of Loraine Mix.

Luke Williams Van Voorhees, born February 19. Luke is the son of Ben and Donica Van Voorhees, and new baby brother of Kira, Lexie and Christian.

Mary Holmberg Weatherred, born February 11. She is the daughter of Jane and Dr. Tedd Weatherred (Augusta, GA.) and granddaughter of Jody Scariano.

Remember ...



Clocks ahead
April 3

When you call FCC, chances are you will hear the friendly voice of **Dorothy Babcock!** One of Dorothy's passions is working with the Chicago Heights Drama Group. She was recently awarded the **100 Show Award**, which celebrates her participation with 100 productions of the Drama Group. She doesn't appear "on-stage" but she has served on the Board as well as in the prop department and ticket sales. She is a highly valued and appreciated member of the Drama Group Team! Thank you Dorothy, for this valuable contribution to our community!



April 2005 Calendar of Events

Sunday Morning Schedule

Worship from 9-10 a.m. & 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Adult Education: 9 & 10:30 a.m.

Fellowship Time in Fellowship Hall: 10 a.m.

Youth Groups: 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Promised Land Church School: 9 - 10:15 a.m.

Children's Activities: 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Nursery Care: 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

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|-----------|---|-----------|---|
| Sun 4/1 | Daylight Savings (Spring Ahead!) Communion Sunday/Nametag Inquirers Dinner (CH) 6:30 pm PADS (FH) 7 | Fri 4/15 | WPS Rummage Sale (CH) |
| Mon 4/4 | Women's Assc. Executive Board (PA) 9:30 am | Sat 4/16 | WPS Rummage Sale (CH) |
| Tues 4/5 | PEGs Bazaar Workshop (stage) 9 am Church Staff Meeting (FR) 1:30 pm Board/Committee Gathering Time (CP) 7 PEGs Bazaar Workshop (stage) 7 Board & Committee Meetings 7:30 | Sun 4/17 | Spring Food Drive Inquirer's Class (CH) 10:15 am |
| Wed 4/6 | WA Fine Arts Circle Meeting (YC) 1 pm Cherub Choir (FH) 4 Jubilate Choir (RRA) 4 Chancel Ringers (RRB) 6:30 Chancel Choir (RRA) 7:30 Youth Leadership Meetings 7:30 | Tues 4/19 | PEGs Bazaar Workshop (stage) 9 am Leadership Staff Meeting (SPO) noon Church Staff Meeting (FR) 1:30 pm Stephen Ministry Supervision (PA/FR) 7 PEGs Bazaar Workshop (stage) 7 |
| Sat 4/9 | WPS Playground Clean-up 10 am | Wed 4/20 | Cherub Choir (FH) 4 pm Jubilate Choir (RRA) 4 Chancel Ringers (RRB) 6:30 Chancel Choir (RRA) 7:30 Youth Leadership Meetings 7:30 |
| Sun 4/10 | Spring Food Drive Inquirer's Class (CH) 10:15 am <i>Narthex</i> Deadline for May Issue noon PADS (FH) 7 pm | Fri 4/22 | Disciples & Sophs Retreat to Pilgrim Park thru Sunday |
| Tues 4/12 | PEGs Bazaar Workshop (stage) 9 am WPS Committee (FR) 9:15 Church Staff Meeting (FR) 1:30 pm Board/Committee Gathering Time (CP) 7 PEGs Bazaar Workshop (stage) 7 Board & Committee Meetings 7:30 | Sun 4/24 | Spring Food Drive Inquirers' Class (CH) 10:15 am |
| Wed 4/13 | Luncheon Trip to Show 12:15 pm Cherub Choir (FH) 4 Jubilate Choir (RRA) 4 Chancel Ringers (RRB) 6:30 Chancel Choir (RRA) 7:30 Youth Leadership Meetings 7:30 | Tues 4/26 | PEGs Bazaar Workshop (stage) 9 am Church Staff Meeting (FR) 1:30 pm Governing Board (FR) 7 PEGs Bazaar Workshop (stage) 7 |
| | | Wed 4/27 | Cherub Choir (FH) 4 pm Jubilate Choir (RRA) 4 Chancel Ringers (RRB) 6:30 Chancel Choir (RRA) 7:30 Youth Leadership Meetings 7:30 Foundation Board (PA) 7:30 |
| | | Sat 4/30 | Youth 12-hour Jump-A-Thon noon |

Calendar Codes

| | | | | | | | |
|----|-----------------|------|-------------------------|-----|---------------------|-----|-------------------|
| CH | Community House | K | Kitchen | RRB | Rehearsal Room B | WPS | Weekday Preschool |
| CP | Chapel | NU | Nursery | SA | Sanctuary | YO | Youth Office |
| FH | Fellowship Hall | PA | Parlor | SPO | Sr. Pastor's Office | YC | Youth Crossings |
| FR | Family Room | PEGs | Parent Education Groups | TR | Tower Room | | |
| GE | Genesis Room | RRA | Rehearsal Room A | WA | Women's Association | | |

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Permit No. 4

Dear FCC friends,

From time to time I pull out this little piece that pokes a bit of fun at churches and their struggles with change. I've reduced the list from 50 to 25, but I think you will get the idea.

Why Things Won't Work

Somebody's always suggesting new ideas around the church, like adding on to the building, or switching Sunday School to after worship, or changing the times of services. No sooner than such ideas surface, objections swarm up like spring mosquitoes. In order to proceed in a more orderly and organized manner, why don't we all begin expressing our reasons for why these new ideas won't work by simply citing the objections by number, as in, 'I'm against it because of 7, 11, and 24.' Just think of the time we'd save!

1. It's not in the budget.
2. What we're doing now is working just fine.
3. I know a church who tried it and it didn't work.
4. This sort of thing could cause a reaction.
5. It might work in California, but not here.
6. The older people would never accept it.
7. We've done OK all these years without it.
8. It is too expensive.
9. It could ruin our carpet, walls, etc.
10. The timing's just not right.
11. Some of our newer people won't like it.
12. That's what we hire the pastor for.
13. We'll lose people; why I know several...
14. It doesn't fit the culture of the people around here.
15. Good idea, but we're just not ready for it yet.
16. Our people are already overworked.
17. That would be too radical a change at one time.
18. There are people who will stop tithing if we do it.
19. It's too much change too fast.
20. I think all we need is to do what we're doing better.
21. Something just doesn't feel right to me.
22. Everybody's not on board yet.
23. We tried that 5 years ago and it didn't work.
24. Our people have been asked to give too often.
25. This could be divisive. We don't want to upset ___.

I am glad to be a part of a church that, once all is said and done, is willing to take on the risks and challenges of stepping by faith into new territory. Not every church has such vision and courage – those that don't change, often do not survive. I am mindful that everything old was once new. And, I am grateful for faithful FCCers past who may well have said, 'I'm against it because of 8, 13, and 25,' but recognized that while the change would be difficult, the well-being of the future church depended on it. Change is not a four-letter word!

Grace and peace, Lynn

The Narthex
Flossmoor Community Church
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Flossmoor, IL 60422-1325
708-798-2800

April 2005