

# N A R T H E X

FLOSSMOOR COMMUNITY CHURCH

Where Christ is Central and Diversity is Cherished

May 2006

Dear Church Family Members,

The most recent drawings from our architects, JNA Associates, wonderfully reflect the concern of our membership to maintain the look and feel of our Sanctuary while enhancing our worship space. The initial plans for other spaces under consideration, including entrances, the Narthex, Chapel, Fellowship Hall and Spirituality Center, greatly improve their utility and appearance.

In preparation for this important work, the architects and the Worship Wing and Spirituality Center Planning Committee have reviewed all the church-member surveys, as well as the surveys of every church board and committee. The architects have also interviewed key staff and church members personally. Since hired by the Governing Board, JNA has met with the Committee four times. We have all worked together to be sensitive to the congregation's concerns and requirements, while remaining fiscally responsible. The Committee has insisted that the Master Plan accommodate all of us comfortably.

We are eager to share the Master Plan with you at two Town Hall Meetings:

**Sanctuary – Sunday, May 7  
(after 10:30 a.m. worship service)**

**Sanctuary – Tuesday, May 16, 7:30 p.m.**

It is our hope that you will join us at these meetings to meet with the architect to view these dreams for our future, and to ask any questions you might have.

We look forward to taking this next step with you and, as always, we welcome your input. Please mark your calendar for the Town Hall Meetings and give this endeavor your prayerful consideration as we join together in this exciting journey of faith.

Sincerely,

The Worship Wing and Spirituality Center  
Planning Committee

## *The Greatest Treasure*

*Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.*  
Psalm 73:25, 26 (ESV)

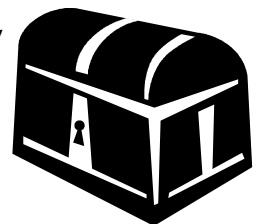
*So Jesus said to the Twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."* John 6:67-69 (ESV)

President Pearson of Miami Christian College, when challenged about the church's habit of asking for financial "treasure" replied –

*You are probably right about our penchant for asking for money. But let me tell you my personal story. I had a little boy – my firstborn. He was a delight to our hearts, but he was always costing me something. He needed clothing, shoes, food, and had special needs that I gladly provided... he was my son. Tragically, he died one day. That is an experience I hope you will never have. He does not cost me a dollar now.*

*Every need is an unfailing sign of life and growth. Body, mind, and soul have their needs and they must be met continually. A ministry that is constantly in need of funds is alive and growing and going somewhere. A dead ministry has no need, and will not bother you.*

Each year after Easter, we are asked to prayerfully consider what we truly treasure. We trust that at the top of your list of "treasures" is your relationship with God and what God is up to in and through our church.



Each May, we set aside one Sunday as a day of consecration, of re-commitment to the ministry of Christ here at Flossmoor Community Church—May 21 this year. We reaffirm our baptismal vows, and offer ourselves—our gifts of time, talent and treasure—all we are and all we have—to the God who made us and redeemed us for fellowship with him.

As we do so, let us remember, as the scriptures stated, just how much we have received, when God gives himself to us. We are of all people most fortunate, most blessed. Thanks be to God! Thus, may God, our "greatest treasure," be the recipient of our earthly treasure.

## Another year of Disciple Bible Study enhances spiritual growth

This month marks the conclusion of the fourth year of *Disciple Bible Study*. There are now over 100 people who have taken the introductory class. It is a journey from Genesis to Revelation, that increases Biblical knowledge, reminds us of the "marks of Christian discipleship," and strengthens our connections with God in Jesus Christ. More than twenty of that group took another step this year by going through a *Disciple II* series, *Into the Word, Into the World*, focusing on Genesis, Exodus, Luke, and Acts.



Specifics about *Disciple* classes next September will be in next month's *Narthex*. Watch for it! Pray about it! See if this may be the time to accept the Spirit's invitation to make this journey with others!

## MorningSong for Women Mondays in May • 9 – 11 a.m.

### *"Making a Place for Love"*

The view we have is sometimes distorted because we've lost perspective. Often we've been so busy that we haven't taken time to reflect to discover God's desire for us to be compassionate and loving as fully human beings. Instead of being open to responding from our deeper selves, in our busyness we've only been able to react out of discomfort, stress, even fear. Let us slow down to take time to discern what steps are next when we follow God's lead. *Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.* 1 John 4:11-12.

MorningSong includes the study of scripture, movement to music, creative expression, and sharing, if desired. It will meet May 8 and 22. Women are welcome to attend any or all sessions led by Jerri Greer in the Spirituality Center.

## Discovery Forum Celebrates Ten Years

The Forum will discuss "Apocalyptic Figs" in Barbara Brown Taylor's *Bread of Angels* on May 7. The group will not meet on Mother's Day.

On May 21, the group will celebrate ten years of reading, discussing, and learning together. The celebration will include a brunch and discussion of *Broken for You*, a novel by Stephanie Kallos. The book is available in area libraries and book stores.



The group began on September 10, 1995 with a six-week discussion of Sue Bender's *Plain and Simple: A Woman's Journey to the Amish* and a study of the history and precepts of the

Amish faith. During the past ten years the group has read and discussed 65 books including non-fiction, novels, memoirs, and sermons. An annotated list of the books the group has studied is available at the Hospitality Desk. Please contact Trina Hayes at [trina@bookhungry.com](mailto:trina@bookhungry.com) to sign up for the brunch or to obtain a digital copy of the book list. All are welcome.

## Shawl supply needs a boost!

Do you knit or crochet? Is God calling you to knit comfort for others? The Prayer Shawl Knitting Ministry is looking for folks who would be willing to knit shawls to bring comfort. We have one left of those made previously. Instructions are available or you may use your imagination to create whatever you like. Judy Nelson has made some great smaller ones

that have "pockets" that can hold tissues or glasses, etc. Feedback from the recipients is that the shawls do indeed bring comfort each time they are used.

Questions?  
Please call  
Judith Hanzelin  
@ 799-6295.



Flossmoor Community Church Spirituality Center

*Christ Is Risen!*

*Let us rejoice and praise God!*



The Spirituality Center will be open from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. on Mondays (through May 22) for those who would like to begin their week by gathering in silence for prayer and meditation. Come when you can and leave when you must.

You are invited to attend ...



# Dig Deep Dinner

**Saturday, May 20, 2006**

**7 p.m. in the Community House**

**Dig Deep into your pockets and come help us dig deep for water!**

Jesus promised "living water," but did you know that half of all Africans do not have access to clean drinking water? Help provide water that means LIFE for many Africans

An evening of entertainment, dining and other opportunities to "Dig Deep" ... all supporting Youth Ministries efforts to build a well for a community in Africa, with One Life Revolution.

**Cost = \$50/person**

**Tickets are available in the Lobby or by contacting Youth Ministries at [youth@fccfaithful.org](mailto:youth@fccfaithful.org).**



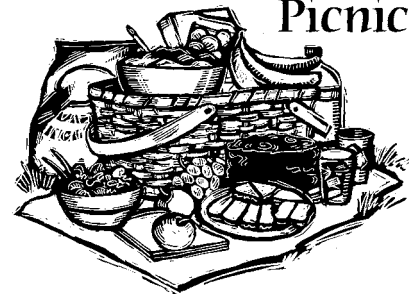
**Promised Land** concludes this month with our study of the Apostle Paul on May 7 and 21. On May 14, we will move to Community House for our Mother's Day craft, while on May 28 we will have All-Church worship. Our deepest thanks go to all the teachers, shepherds, helpers, and Sixth Grade teaching teams who have made this year such a meaningful and fun experience for our children.

Parents of students in the Sixth Grade Promised Land will soon be receiving a letter about our June 4 Commencement Sunday, when Sixth Graders will receive crosses in church as they leave Children's Ministries and prepare to join Youth Ministries next fall. We hope your families will plan to attend this important ceremony as our children continue on their faith journey here at FCC.

**Camp Gray** is right around the corner! We need your final fee payment (usually \$230) by Sunday, May 7, to complete your registration and so that we can purchase needed supplies. Parents, please be sure to watch for upcoming mailings outlining what we still need from you in order for your child to attend camp. Duplicate forms are available on the Children's Ministries webpage at [www.fccfaithful.org](http://www.fccfaithful.org). We will also need bus loaders and chaperones for June 12 and June 16. Please call Phil Courington at 798-2800 x16, or email to [pcourington@fccfaithful.org](mailto:pcourington@fccfaithful.org) if you can help out!

Dr. Elizabeth Caldwell of McCormick Theological Seminary recently brought her Christian Education class to tour our Promised Land space and to discuss our programs. One student said it gave her "goose bumps;" and in general, everyone was so impressed with the visible commitment our church has made to our children. Thanks to all who made our first year in our new space such a special burst of growth in the faith formation of our kids.

## Annual Picnic



## Pack-a-Picnic-Potluck

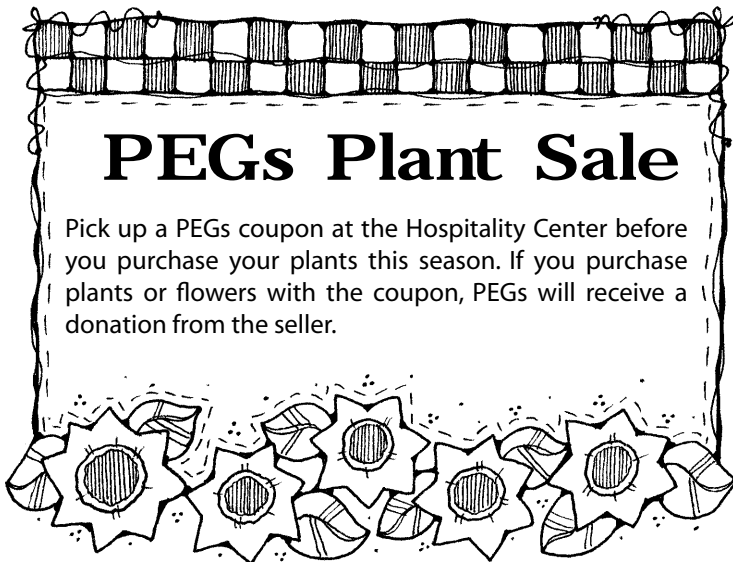
Sunday, May 28, 2006

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

## PEGs Plant Sale

Pick up a PEGs coupon at the Hospitality Center before you purchase your plants this season. If you purchase plants or flowers with the coupon, PEGs will receive a donation from the seller.



## PADS celebrates 15 years of Helping the Homeless

Many of our FCC volunteers started the season early in 2005 by participating in the cleaning and preparation of the Tinley Park facility which was to become State of Hope. An amazing renovation of the building that would eventually house 140 evacuees from Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans was accomplished by hundreds of volunteers over the Labor Day weekend.

Our own thirteen season of PADS began in October. Over the next 26 weeks we provided over 700 bed nights averaging about 30 guests each Sunday evening. That included 2100 meals (dinner, bag lunch and breakfast). A combination of 50 regular volunteers and 25 subs staffed the site, made reminder calls and picked up laundry each week. Donations of socks, towels, sheets and toiletries by church members were also appreciated. (Please note the list of individuals included in these tasks following this article).

In addition to these dedicated persons, dinner and breakfast/lunch teams made sure our guests are well fed. PEGs groups covered six of the breakfast/lunch purchases and the Cervany, McConnell and Howard families plus FCC Stephen Ministers, FCC Seekers and FCC Discovery Forum provided for additional weeks. Dinners were prepared and served by Sprigs (PEGs), Twigs (PEGs), FCC 6<sup>th</sup> graders, FCC Sophs & Exodus youth, Lora Blythe's Girl Scout troop, and the Gilley, Bertram and Toolan families.

PADS is again seeking volunteers who can help staff the summer Interim Housing Program (mid-April – mid-October, Monday – Thursday nights). All of the guests in this program are dedicated to finding employment/ housing and participating in the program's operation. Please call the PADS office (754-4357) if you can volunteer once a month or more.

### 2005 – 2006 Shift, Caller & Laundry Volunteers for PADS at Flossmoor Community Church

Frank Acuff  
Kay & Art Ahrendt  
Betty Baker  
Jack Bertram  
Patsy & Terry Blackburn  
Linda Blakesley  
Patrick Byers  
Dortha Brown  
Rex & Dot Brown  
Carolyn Bury  
Greg Butler  
Barb & Rob Cotter  
Dave Carvalho  
Don & Gail Curtis  
Bob Daffron  
Ken Dedrick  
Ken Disselkoen  
Lee Freitag  
Bruce Flowers  
Pat & Francis Fullam  
Ben GiaQuinta  
Tom Gilley  
Carol Grezlak  
Wendy Gron  
Julie Hanes  
Judith & Fred Hanzelin  
Greg Harris  
Ginny Hartley  
Mildred Hoopes  
Julie Haberichter  
Jim Joyce

Marion Keenan  
Aileen Krala  
Bill & Julie Lindstrom  
Pam Marks  
Karl Maass  
Rich Mannum  
Randy Madderom  
Marcia McConnell  
Don & Mary Jean Meulbroek  
Craig Nelson  
O'Malley family  
Dave Owens  
Gil Parsons  
Mary Ranlett  
Jackie Riffice  
Bob Rodey  
Barbara Roth  
Erin Ruff  
Ted & Ginny Sampson  
Gary Sattler  
Rae Simpson  
Dick Smith  
Max Strathman  
Darla Swanson  
Elsbeth & Otto Thilenius  
Wade Thrall  
Paul & Linda Uzureau  
Gary VanKempema  
Bruce Watson, jr.  
Ryan Wright  
Craig & Sheila Yoder

## WOMEN'S & MEN'S ASSOCIATION AN AFTERNOON AT THE THEATER

**O**klahoma (where the wind comes sweepin' down the plain) has blown into the Theatre at the Center in Munster, Indiana, and is just 'fixin' on thrilling all those who hold tickets for its matinee performance!

The play, set in Western Indian territory just after the turn of the century, revolves around the high-spirited rivalry between local farmers and cowboys. This also provides a perfect setting for a sweet love story. With a lyrical score by Rodgers and Hammerstein, this Broadway blockbuster is considered one of the best musicals of the twentieth century.



Don't miss this wonderful day on Wednesday, May 10. Lunch (catered by Villa De Bruno) will be served in a lovely room at the Center at 12:15 p.m., and the show will commence at 2 p.m. Purchase your tickets in the Lobby and enjoy a day at the theatre! Prices are \$39.50 for the meal and show, \$24 for the show only. Rides will be available for all by calling Kay Sue Nagle at 747-8682.

**Our sympathy and prayers to** Michelle Bacon and family on the death of her grandmother, Althea Johansen, on April 2.

Joan Hardy on the death of her aunt, Betty Farley (IA), on April 3.

Phil Courington and family on the death of his mother, June Courington, on April 11.

# MAY 2006 † CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE THRU MAY 14

**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.

Tues 5/2	PEGs Bazaar Workshop (stage) WPS Auxiliary (FR) Church Staff Meeting (FR) Board/Committee Gathering Time (CP) PEGs Bazaar Workshop (stage) Board & Committee Meetings	9 am 9:15 1:30 pm 7 7 7:30	Thur 5/18	PEGs Day Grads at Lindstrom's Ladies of Note (RRA) Chancel Choir (RRA)	12:30 pm 1:30 7:30
Wed 5/3	Cherub Choir (FH) Jubilate Choir (RRA) Chancel Ringers (RRB) Youth Leadership Meeting	4 pm 4 6:30 7:30	Fri 5/19	Prayer Shawl Ministry (SC)	10 am
Thur 5/4	Ladies of Note (RRA) Chancel Choir (RRA)	1:30 pm 7:30	Sun 5/21	Consecration Sunday - <b>Worship at 10 a.m.</b> New Members Received Mulch Sunday	11:30 am
Fri 5/5	Prayer Shawl Ministry (SC) WPS Teacher Appreciation Luncheon (FR)	10 am noon	Tues 5/23	PEGs Bazaar Workshop (stage) Church Staff Meeting (FR) PEGs Bazaar Workshop (stage) Governing Board (FR)	9 am 1:30 pm 7 7
Sun 5/7	Communion Sunday Spring Food Drive Inquirers' Class (CH) Fellowship of the Tortilla (FR) Town Hall Meeting (SA)	10:15 am 11:45 noon	Wed 5/24	Foundation Board (FR)	7:30 pm
Tues 5/9	PEGs Bazaar Workshop (stage) PEGs Sprigs (off-site) Church Staff Meeting (FR) Board/Committee Gathering Time (CP) PEGs Bazaar Workshop (stage) Board & Committee Meetings	9 am 9:30 1:30 pm 7 7 7:30	Thur 5/25	Ladies of Note (RRA) Chancel Choir (RRA)	1:30 pm 7:30
Wed 5/10	PEGs Evening Teens at Cilantro WMA Luncheon (off-site) Cherub Choir (FH) Jubilate Choir (RRA) Chancel Ringers (RRB)	noon 12:15 pm 4 4 6:30	Sun 5/28	Pack-a-Picnic Sunday Worship	10 am
Thur 5/11	Ladies of Note (RRA) Chancel Choir (RRA)	1:30 pm 7:30	Mon 5/29	Memorial Day - church offices closed	
Fri 5/12	Prayer Shawl Ministry (SC)	10 am	Tues 5/30	PEGs Bazaar Workshop (stage) Food for Life (KI) Church Staff Meeting (FR) PEGs Bazaar Workshop (stage)	9 am 9 1:30 pm 7
Sun 5/14	Confirmation Service <i>Narthex</i> deadline for Summer issue	10:30 am noon			
Mon 5/15	PEGs Council Brunch (FR)	9:30 am			
Tues 5/16	Church Staff Calendar Retreat (FR) PEGs Bazaar Workshop (stage) Church Staff Luncheon (off-site) Stephen Ministry Supervision PEGs Bazaar Workshop (stage) Town Hall Meeting (SA)	9 am 7 pm 7 7:30			
Wed 5/17	Chancel Ringers (RRB) Youth Leadership Dinner @ Hanzelin's PEGs Twigs/Sprouts at Fresh Starts	6:30 pm 7 7			



### MAY MULCH SUNDAY MADNESS

Although not officially on the liturgical calendar, May 21 has been declared May Mulch Sunday Madness Day! The Properties Committee needs your help in preparing the church grounds for a glorious spring and summer. May 21 will be our first one-worship Sunday. Wear your gardening clothes, bring your favorite garden tools and be prepared to Mulch, Pull, and Plant immediately following the 10 a.m. worship service!

### CALENDAR CODES

A2C	Acts2Crew (Rm. 10)	FR	Family Room	PEGs	Parent Education Groups	SPO	Sr. Pastor's Office
CH	Community House	GE	Genesis Room	RRA	Rehearsal Room A	TR	Tower Room
CP	Chapel	MPT	MasterPeace Theater (Rm. 14)	RRB	Rehearsal Room B	WMA	Women's & Men's Association
CS	Creation Station (Rm. 15)	NU	Nursery	SA	Sanctuary	WPS	Weekday Preschool
FH	Fellowship Hall	PA	Parlor	SC	Spirituality Center	YC	Youth Crossings

Dear FCC family and friends,



The Apostle Paul concludes his letter to the church in Ephesus with these words of hope – *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

We are experiencing God's *immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine* gifts in our life together. Let me explain. In a survey taken earlier this year, many of you offered your invaluable input about what we ought or ought not to do with our sacred space as we prepare it to meet the needs of this and the coming generations. Almost without exception, you articulated something along the lines of *KEEP THE GOTHIC BEAUTY OF OUR SANCTUARY – OREELSE!!* Bob Nickola, our extraordinary architect, heard that message loud and clear and has drafted plans that not only *KEEP* the Gothic beauty but actually increase our Sanctuary's "Gothic-ness!" As well, Bob has been able to see amazing possibilities, not only for our Sanctuary but for the Narthex, Chapel, Lobby, entryways, Fellowship Hall, kitchen, downstairs bathrooms and Spirituality Center. He has been able to envision *immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine* space that we on the Worship Wing/Spirituality Center Planning Team believe you, too, will absolutely love. It will be our privilege to unveil the plans and hear your feedback at Town Hall meetings in the Sanctuary after worship on Sunday, May 7, and Tuesday, May 16 at 7:30 p.m. Please plan to attend and catch the vision for the exciting possibilities on our horizon.

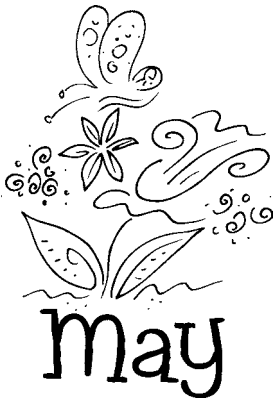
How often in my life I have been anxious and worried about things, only to find that the God who is *able to do immeasurably more than all I ask or imagine* has been at work all along. Trust is difficult for me – I suppose it is difficult for most of us human types – yet, time after time, God proves trustworthy. Again this time, God has proven worthy.

Yours in faith and excitement...  
Lynn

## The Narthex

Flossmoor Community Church  
2218 Hutchison Road  
Flossmoor, IL 60422-1325  
708-798-2800

Non-Profit  
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May 2006

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