

# N A R T H E X

FLOSSMOOR COMMUNITY CHURCH

Where Christ is Central and Diversity is Cherished

Summer 2006

## Promised Land Time to change this fall

Flossmoor Community Church offers a rich diversity of educational programming for all age groups. For the past several years, the church's Long Range Vision has charged the Board of Christian Education with seeking ways to increase family worship, children's participation in worship, and the deepening of our sense of community across the generational lines that have traditionally defined Christian Education.

These prayerful deliberations produced a recommendation, recently passed at Governing Board, to move the Promised Land time for Grades 1-6 from 9 a.m. to the 10:30 a.m. worship hour, beginning on September 17, 2006. It is our deep hope that parents, children and youth will attend worship together at the 9 a.m. hour. Benefits of this change include:

- Children and youth will take an active role in the 9 a.m. service, so that they understand that they are part of our faith community now, not "someday." As ushers, liturgists and worship participants, they will be active contributors to worship, allowing them also to learn the songs, prayers and ways of our faith.
- Families with members participating in Children's Ministries, Youth Ministries, and Adult Education will all be on the same schedule, and able to worship together at the first service.
- Children and youth will be present to experience the fullness of worship – baptisms, reception of new members, praying our joys and concerns, hearing the Word of God, and receiving Communion. Periodically, a Children's Time at the front of the Sanctuary will be part of 9 a.m. worship.
- It will be easier for families to live out our ideal of "Worship Plus Two," in which each person, young or old, seeks to attend worship, participate in some service activity, and in one activity that feeds the spirit.

This summer, the Board of Christian Education will host several "parent meetings," asking all parents and concerned members to gather and explore possibilities for including children and youth in worship. It is the hope and prayer of both the Governing Board and Board of Christian Education that we will work together to make worship a vital part of the faith life of our families. Please watch your weekly Faith Family Matters for dates and times of these exciting glimpses into our faith future together.



Dear FCC Family & Friends,

I am delighted to report that we have received the majority of the commitment cards for the upcoming 2006-2007 fiscal year. The commitments that have been made are the culmination of thoughtful reflection by our church membership. Each year that passes brings us closer to our percentage-giving goal. But, more importantly, they are an indication of our renewed commitment to the mission of Flossmoor Community Church. It's heartwarming to see God's hand at work through the sacrifice of our membership. It is, today, sometimes difficult to answer God's call when there are so many financial pressures placed on our families' finances. Therefore, on behalf of the Stewardship Committee, I thank each and every one of you for accepting, by faith, that your gift will be a source of spiritual sustenance for others and a meaningful personal blessing to you.

For those of you who have not yet returned your commitment card, we hope that you will continue to give prayerful consideration to your gift. In the days to come, the Stewardship Committee will be contacting you personally to answer any questions that you might have and to seek your support regarding your contribution. It is a necessity that we complete our canvassing very shortly, as Governing Board needs to have ample time to finalize and approve the budget prior to the Annual Meeting.

With gratitude and thanks  
for your faithful response,

*Tom Gilley*



**Efforts to take a bite out of hunger!**

The weather on April 30 was not the greatest. In fact, it was somewhat miserable. The **CROP Hunger Walk**, shortened, still occurred. FCC had six walkers: Marcia McConnell, Elsbeth Thilenius, Rochelle Van Vlyman, Sarah Clark, Kim O’Lone and Rosemary Joyce, who raised \$902 for Church World Service and its ministry to alleviate hunger around the world.

The **Spring Food Drive**, supporting the Rich Township Food Pantry, collected 116 bags of groceries and 6 large cases of food items over the two-week period. Shel Keenan, coordinator from the Board of Outreach Ministries, thanks the youth of our church for passing out bags and helping to load the vans.

Normally the first Saturday of each month, a group goes to the **Greater Chicago Food Depository** to help package various food products for purchase and distribution to over 600 food pantries in the Chicagoland area (including Respond Now and Rich Township). Due to a memorial service that involves several of the regular participants, we will not be going June 3. **We will resume July 1 (July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend) and August 5.** Contact Bill Lindstrom (798-8461) if interested in this 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. effort.



**Jack Bertram  
“cutting away”  
in the Gadsden’s  
home!**



**Joseph Carrero working in the  
bathroom**



**Making a Difference in a Day**

The Board of Outreach Ministries would like to thank the volunteers who participated in the Rebuilding Together project on Saturday, April 29. Team captains Ken Disselkoe and Harold Cerveny were assisted by Sue and Jack Bertram, Joseph Carrero, Sandy and Jeremy Cerveny, Francis Fullam, Julie and Eric Haberichter, Barb Johnson, Denny Johnson, Scott Kappmeyer, Tom Sifner, and Donna Wickstrom in a day of fellowship and “restoration” with Mr. and Mrs. Gadsden at their home in Harvey.

How much of a difference can you make in a day? The entire first floor was repainted; all the kitchen cabinets were rebuilt and painted; the bathroom got a new floor, toilet, and vanity; a new kitchen fan and smoke detectors were installed; new flower beds planted; and a front yard spruced up. How did they do it all? Faith and sweat.

**Do you like to cook?**

If the answer is “yes,” we could use your help. Occasionally, meals are prepared for church members and/or their families in time of need. The Diaconate Board has a list of wonderful people, who are willing to cook and deliver a meal to those individuals. Would you like to be on that list? Let cooking be a part of your church ministry. Contact Scott Kappmeyer at 798-7243 or [scottkappmeyer@aol.com](mailto:scottkappmeyer@aol.com), if you are interested in doing this for your church family.

The Diaconate Board



**NARTHEX changes coming this fall**

Beginning with the September issue of the *Narthex*, a new team will be handling editing and layout. Betsy Hanzelin has provided layout and coordination for the last eleven years, and this issue is the last *Narthex* that she will “lay out”. Thanks to Betsy for eleven years of beautiful, amazing newsletters!

The deadline for submissions for the September 2006 issue is at noon on Sunday, August 13. Submissions should be made by email to Dorothy Babcock at [dbabcock@fccfaithful.org](mailto:dbabcock@fccfaithful.org) or by submission of hard copy or disk in her mailbox. Dorothy will coordinate, proof and edit all submissions and then hand the “finalized copy” over to Brooke Parry, who will handle the layout duties. We welcome this new team and look forward to Dorothy’s “eye for detail” and Brooke’s “creative eye” to make our newsletter even better!

## Children's Ministries Summer Schedule

**1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Graders:** Summer Promised Land will be available during our one worship service at 10 a.m. this summer. As always, however, families are encouraged to worship together and practice this vital and joyous skill. We will send out an email to families with a 'heads up' about upcoming services that contain particularly family-friendly elements.

**2's – K's** will meet in Room 6 for a short lesson, snack, and play time.

**Congratulations 6<sup>th</sup> Graders!** We would like to celebrate our 6<sup>th</sup> Graders as they graduate from the Promised Land to Youth Ministries. We will be presenting crosses to our graduates on Commencement Sunday, June 4 at the 10 a.m. worship service. Please meet in the Sanctuary at 9:30 a.m. before the presentation for a brief rehearsal. We hope to see you this summer and wish you God's blessings as you move on to Youth Ministries in September.

**Camp Gray** is right around the corner! Many of you have returned your green medical forms, but please note, we also need a photocopy of the front and back of your health insurance card; so if you've turned in your green form, but not that, please do so immediately.

On Sunday, June 18, the Board of Christian Education invites you to our annual **Teacher Appreciation reception** honoring all of the volunteers, who have worked so hard to bring wonderful programs to our families this year. Weather permitting, we will be gathering in the McAfee Garden after worship. Of course, we are also honoring Dads on Father's Day – and the Dads who were involved in teaching or leading are permitted two pieces of cake! In case of rain, we will move down to Fellowship Hall.

## Sophs Class makes Dig Deep Dinner a HUGE success!

Over sixty people enjoyed an elegant candlelit dinner on May 20 in the Community House, sponsored by the Sophs Youth Group. The "Dig Deep Dinner" was a project that the Sophs worked on for two months to raise funds for and awareness of people affected by the AIDS pandemic in Africa. Youth Ministries has chosen the big goal of \$12,200 to build a clean water well in Africa and "Dig Deep" added **\$5300** to those efforts! We are now about \$1000 away from our goal and we hope to finish over the summer!



The Sophs Class takes a minute to relax after hosting Dig Deep Dinner in May!

### Sophs would like to thank ...

- the **church staff** for donations to the Silent Auction.
- the **Coffey** family for donations of food.
- **Savoia** in Homewood for donations of food.
- **Julie Haberichter** for her delicious "One Life" cake.
- **Kathy Kane** for the donation of all linens.
- **Chris Hanzelin, Steve Borchert, Martha Wayne & Rick Hanzelin** (Sophs Lay Advisors) for their love, support and guidance.
- **Dana Coffey** for inciting the passion in the group for this project and keeping us on task!

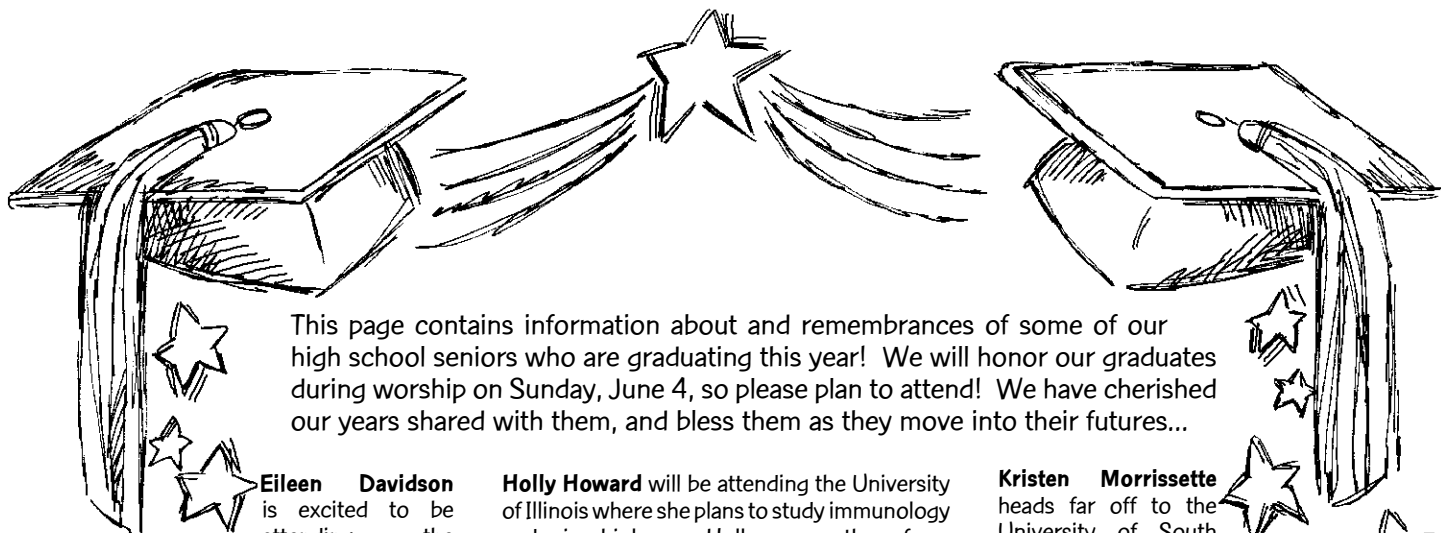
Dig Deep was such a lovely evening AND a financial success ... seeds were planted in many minds for future dinners and projects! The Youth would like to thank the congregation,



*This year's Disciple Confirmation Class gathers on the front steps with their lay advisors, Tom Tozer & Julie Hanzelin, to celebrate their welcome into membership!*



Variety will be the spice of life in the musical line up for this year's summer worship! Among those back by popular demand will be Fred Hanzelin and the Men's Ensemble; Rex and Dot Brown and their fascinating instruments; Mike Rogers; Dennis Wians; Marilyn Pohlhammer; Peter Robertson and Dawn DeVries. We will also be blessed by some newcomers to the summer scene, including Rita Littmann and the Ladies of Note, Judy Kirby and her recorder group, *Renaissance Recalled*, Pam Rodey with some Sacred Harp music, and choral pieces by Willie Dycks. If you would like to be on the summer e mail list to learn of opportunities to sing over the coming months, please contact Lori Tozer at [loripar4@aol.com](mailto:loripar4@aol.com). Let the summer worship begin!



This page contains information about and remembrances of some of our high school seniors who are graduating this year! We will honor our graduates during worship on Sunday, June 4, so please plan to attend! We have cherished our years shared with them, and bless them as they move into their futures...

**Eileen Davidson** is excited to be attending the University of Notre Dame in the fall. While at H-F, Eileen was a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish NHS, National Art Honor Society and the swimming and water polo teams. At church, she was an active staffer for GenEx

and Disciples. Eileen writes, "Youth group is an awesome mix of teenagers that get up, grudgingly early on Sundays and hang out with people that they never could have met outside such an amazing place. I'm thankful I've had these people to get me through the past four years of high school."

**Spencer Fullam** is our resident DJ, comedian, dance master and brainiac! He was named to the National Honor Society, the Science Olympiad, the Scholastic Bowl and Mavajo Funk. Spencer plans to attend the University of Illinois at Urbana and become a Material Science major.

**Jamie Hansen-Lewis** is ALWAYS busy! How she managed to squeeze in a little time to be a Sophs staffer and a Camp Gray counselor is a mystery! At H-F High School, she was a member of the tennis team for four years, the National Honor Society, President of French NHS, and was named a National Merit Commended Scholar AND AP Scholar with Distinction. Jamie is heading off to Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania where she says she has "no idea what I'm going to study!" Jamie writes, "Youth group provided me with a unique opportunity to build my leadership skills and serve others. I can't express how grateful I am for the time the adult leaders donate to this program. It has continually rewarded me and countless others."

**Holly Howard** will be attending the University of Illinois where she plans to study immunology and microbiology. Holly was another of our overly busy youth. She was Captain of the Varsity Tennis Team, a member of National Honor Society, French NHS, Viking TV station manager, Student Director for H-F Christmas Angels while managing to be named to Honor Roll all semesters, a Distinguished Scholar and Illinois State Scholar. At church, Holly has participated in the Disciple Adult Bible Study and was a member of the Guatemala trip. She shares, "One of the most difficult parts about going off to college for me will be trying to find a church I love as much as FCC. Lynn and Jim are irreplaceable as well as all the friends I have met through Disciple and the Guatemala trip."

All the Lay Advisors are sad that **Kari Loekle** is our last "Loekle" to go through Youth Ministries! Kari was always an energetic and cheerful addition to all the GenEx and Disciples staffing teams! Kari kept busy at H-F as a member of the National Honor Society, the Cheerleading Squad as well as maintaining a job at Flossmoor Station. Kari says, "The people you meet here in youth group are people you cannot get anywhere else. The connections you can make with these people are unbelievable."

**Allison Meeks** excels as a scholar and a person of strong faith. During High School she was a member of the National Honor Society and served as Administration Manager for the entire Broadcasting Program (and is favorite babysitter to many of the church children!). Sophs were blessed by her dedicated leadership as a staffer this year, and she returns for her third year as a Camp Gray Counselor in June. Allison will continue to succeed at the St. Mary's College! Allison writes, "Youth group has been one of the best experiences that I've had throughout high school. I've had the most fun being a staffer and also a Camp Gray Counselor. It has helped me to further my faith, learn leadership skills and also practice being a Christian."

**Kristen Morrisette**

heads far off to the University of South California to pursue a BS in Biological Sciences with a Pre-med emphasis and a minor in Business! Her choice of study is indicative of Kristen's pursuit of success in all areas of her life ... at H-F she participated in tennis, soccer, swimming, cheerleading, National Honor Society, Christmas Angel Organization, Mock Trial, Mu Alpha Theta, Viking Choir, S.T.A.R.S. program leader/tutor and was thrilled to travel to Europe with the H-F Music Department over Spring Break. During the summer, Kristen works as a lifeguard at OFCC and recently received the USC Alumni Club Scholarship. And here at FCC, she managed to be a Disciple staffer too! Kristen writes, "I love that our church is so welcoming to everyone in the community. Everyone is treated like family and welcomed with open arms. I think that the youth program at our church is very important. It helps children discover themselves and figure out what they want from their faith. The staffers and leaders are there to help guide them and really make things so much easier through stressful times."

Other graduates include **Abby DePeder, Mike Escalante, Kevin Hill, Kaylin Maanum, James McCoy, Kolin Pound, Andy Smith, and Lee Williams.**

WE WELCOME OUR  
NEWEST MEMBERS  
WHO JOINED  
MAY 21, 2006



Donna & Jack Allord  
18700 Halsted St., Glenwood  
708-754-7209



Carla & Bill Hildreth  
1229 W. 187th St., Homewood  
708-799-5820



Ross Blythe  
18442 Morris Ave., Homewood  
708-922-1521



Lori & Doug Anderson & Kyle  
2222 McDonald Ln., Flossmoor  
708-798-9635



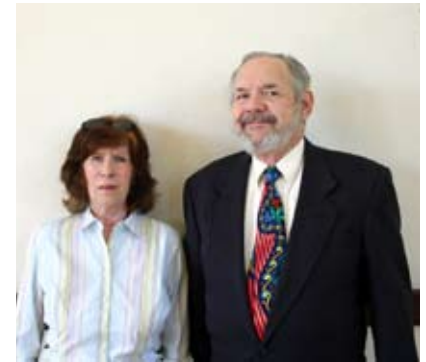
Don Jones  
276 Shea Dr., Flossmoor  
708-756-1915



Mary Brady  
1247 Heather, Homewood  
708-647-6608



Sam & Rob Hartmann  
18847 Juhlin Dr., Homewood  
708-799-7392



Lynn & Keith Shafer  
2717 Turtle Creek, Hazel Crest  
708-798-5514

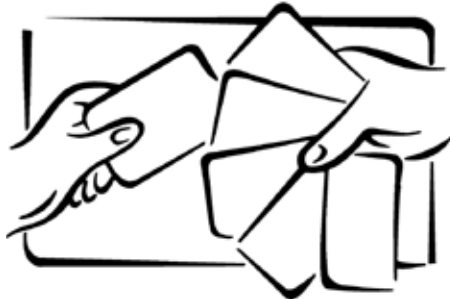


Emma, Cynthia & Chip Gdalman  
1826 Evergreen Rd., Homewood  
708-798-6416



Mary & Jim Van Swol  
794 Brookwood, Olympia Fields  
708-747-2492

## Bridge Anyone?



New **Women's and Mens Association** afternoon Bridge Marathon groups will be forming in the fall. If you are interested, please call Margaret Clayton for further information at 798-6410. If you would like to join the Couples Bridge Group, please call Marge Romweber, 748-1962.

### **Our sympathy and prayers to**

Mary Bingham on the death of her grandmother, Helen Rosiak, on April 3.

Phyllis Royster and family on the death of her brother, Alfred Douglas Morgan, on April 21.

Carol Rossell-Griffin and Matt on the death of her husband and his father, Jack Rossell-Griffin, on April 30. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, June 3 at 11 a.m. A reception will follow in the Community House

Linda Wold and family on the death of her mother, Dena Turner, on May 4.

Mari Kelly and family on the death of her sister, Nancy McLinden Carr, on May 7

Lauren Crescenti and family on the death of her mother, June Ludbe, on May 7.

Barb Kossuth and family on the death of her father, Rev. Corneilus Van Leeuwen (N.Y.) on May 10.

**Congratulations** on the adoption of **Megan Jemma Coffill** from Korea. Megan is the daughter of Mark and Noel Coffill, sister of Jacob, and granddaughter of Bernice Coffill.



**Bargain Box Volunteers.** Mark your calendar! July 26 has been set as the date for a Bar-B-Que luncheon at the Community House. This will be an afternoon of fun and fellowship and a way of saying "Thank you" to all who help to make the Bargain Box a successful venture. A special invitation will be coming soon.

In addition, please take note that the Bargain Box will be closed for vacation from July 24 thru August 7. No donations can be taken during this time. We will re-open on August 9.



*On April 30, twenty-one members of the Disciples One classes took a field trip to the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago. Drs. Ted and Paula Hiebert, Old Testament scholars, provided a personalized guided tour which highlighted the artifacts, maps and information the group had studied in the Old Testament.*



Eric Brotheridge, son of Cindy and Dale Nelson, writes *Please extend my "thank you" to the FCC congregation; one of their own is moving into the ordained ranks!! Blessings and grace, Eric*

We celebrate with Eric, who will be ordained into the ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) on Saturday, June 3, at Eastgate Christian Church in Indianapolis, Indiana. Congratulations may be extended to Eric at 5921 Oak Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46219-7220.

# Sunday Morning Summer Schedule

• *Worship from 10 - 11 a.m.*

• *Children's Activities & Nursery Care from 10 - 11 a.m.*

• *Fellowship Time in Lobby or on Porch following worship*

• *No Adult Education or Youth Groups*

## JUNE

Sat 6/3	Jack Rossell-Griffin Memorial Service (SA)	11 am
<b>Sun 6/4</b>	<b>Pentecost</b>	
	<b>Commencement Sunday / Communion</b>	<b>10 am</b>
	6th Grade Crosses presented	
	High School Seniors recognized	
	Fellowship of the Tortilla (FR)	6 pm
Mon 6/5	WMA Year-end Luncheon (FR)	noon
Tues 6/6	PEGs Bazaar Workshops (stage)	9 am
	Church Staff Meeting (FR)	1:30 pm
	PEGs Bazaar Workshops (stage)	7
	Meeting Gathering Time (CP)	7
	Board & Committee Meetings	7:30
<b>Sun 6/11</b>	<b>Worship (SA)</b>	<b>10</b>
	Camp Gray Staff leaves	
Mon 6/12	Camp Gray kids leave!	
Tues 6/13	PEGs Bazaar Workshops (stage)	9 am
	Church Staff Meeting (FR)	1:30 pm
	Meeting Gathering Time (CP)	7
	PEGs Bazaar Workshops (stage)	7
	Board & Committee Meetings	7:30
Fri 6/16	Kids back from Camp Gray	around 4
<b>Sun 6/18</b>	<b>Father's Day! / Camp Gray Presentation</b>	
	<b>Teacher Appreciation Reception</b>	
	<b>Worship (SA)</b>	<b>10 am</b>
Tues 6/20	PEGs Bazaar Workshops (stage)	9 am
	Church Staff Meeting (FR)	1:30 pm
	PEGs Bazaar Workshops (stage)	7
	Stephen Ministry Supervision (FR/PA)	7
Sat 6/24	Music at Millennium Park	
<b>Sun 6/25</b>	<b>Worship (SA)</b>	<b>10 am</b>
Tues 6/27	PEGs Bazaar Workshops (stage)	9 am
	Church Staff Meeting (FR)	1:30 pm
	Governing Board (FR)	7
	PEGs Bazaar Workshops (stage)	7
Wed 6/28	Foundation Board (FR)	7:30 pm
Thurs 6/29	ELDERFEST	7:30 pm

## JULY

<b>Sun 7/2</b>	<b>Communion</b>	<b>10 am</b>
Mon 7/3	Personnel Committee (FR)	7:30 pm
Tues 7/4	Offices Closed - 4th of July Holiday	
<b>Sun 7/9</b>	<b>Worship</b>	<b>10 am</b>
	<b>Guatemala Commissioning</b>	
Tues 7/11	PEGs Bazaar Workshops (stage)	9 am
	Church Staff Meeting (FR)	1:30 pm
	PEGs Bazaar Workshops (stage)	7
	Properties Committee (Rm 23)	7:30
Fri 7/14	Guatemala Trip leaves	
<b>Sun 7/16</b>	<b>Worship / Disciple Sunday</b>	<b>10 am</b>
	<b>Annual Meeting of the Congregation</b>	

## JULY con't

Tues 7/18	PEGs Bazaar Workshops (stage)	9 am
	Church Staff Meeting (FR)	1:30 pm
	PEGs Bazaar Workshops (stage)	7
<b>Sun 7/23</b>	<b>Worship</b>	<b>10 am</b>
Tues 7/25	PEGs Bazaar Workshops (stage)	9 am
	Church Staff Meeting (FR)	1:30 pm
	PEGs Bazaar Workshops (stage)	7
Wed 7/26	Bargain Box Volunteer Lunch (CH)	noon
Sat 7/29	Youth Canoe Trip leaves	
<b>Sun 7/30</b>	<b>Worship</b>	<b>10 am</b>

## AUGUST

Tues 8/1	PEGs Bazaar Workshops (stage)	9 am
	Church Staff Meeting (FR)	1:30 pm
	PEGs Bazaar Workshops (stage)	7
	Personnel Committee (FR)	7:30
Sat 8/5	Youth Canoe Trip returns	5 pm
<b>Sun 8/6</b>	<b>Worship / Communion</b>	<b>10 am</b>
Tues 8/8	PEGs Bazaar Workshops (stage)	9 am
	Church Staff Meeting (FR)	1:30 pm
	PEGs Bazaar Workshops (stage)	7
	Board of Christian Education (GE)	7:30
	Properties Comm. (Rm 23)	7:30
<b>Sun 8/13</b>	<b>Worship</b>	
	<i>Narthex</i> Deadline for September Issue	
Tues 8/15	PEGs Bazaar Workshops (stage)	9 am
	Church Staff Meeting (FR)	1:30 pm
	PEGs Bazaar Workshops (stage)	7
Sat 8/19	Music at Millennium Park	
<b>Sun 8/20</b>	<b>Worship</b>	<b>10 am</b>
Tues 8/22	PEGs Bazaar Workshops (stage)	9 am
	Church Staff Meeting (FR)	1:30 pm
	Governing Board (FR)	7
	PEGs Bazaar Workshops (stage)	7
Wed 8/23	Foundation Board (FR)	7:30 pm
Fri 8/25	WPS Auxiliary (FR)	9:15 am
	Youth Leadership Retreat	thru Sun
<b>Sun 8/27</b>	<b>Worship</b>	<b>10 am</b>
Mon 8/28	Food for Life (FH)	9 am
	PEGs Council Dinner (FR)	6 pm
Tues 8/29	PEGs Bazaar Workshops (stage)	9 am
	Church Staff Mtg. (FR)	1:30 pm
	PEGs Bazaar Workshops (stage)	7
Wed 8/30	WPS Parent Orientation (FH)	7 pm

**September 17**  
**9 & 10:30 a.m.**  
**Worship Schedule Begins**

### 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)	RRA	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

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Permit No. 4

Dear FCC family and friends,



Leonard Sweet tells the story of one tribe of native Americans that had a unique practice for training their young braves. On the night of a boy's thirteenth birthday, he was placed in a dense forest to spend the entire night alone. Up until that night, the young boy had never been away from the security of his family or tribe. But on his birthday night, he was blindfolded and taken miles away. When he took off the blindfold, he was in the middle of thick woods. By himself. All night long.

Imagine, every time a twig snapped, the not-quite-brave, young brave probably visualized a wild animal ready to pounce. Every time an animal howled, he imagined a wolf leaping out of the darkness. Every time the wind blew, he wondered what more sinister sound it masked. It must have been a terrifying night. After what seemed like an eternity, the first rays of sunlight entered the interior of the forest. Looking around, the boy saw flowers, trees, and the outline of the path. Then, to his utter astonishment, he beheld the figure of a man standing just a few feet away, armed with a bow and arrow. How glad the boy was to see his own father, who had been there the whole night through.

What a wonderful image of God, who does not generally help us escape difficult times, but is present in them with us whether or not we are aware of it. How often, in moments of difficulty, have I suspected that God had abandoned me, only in retrospect to see that God had been there all along, guiding, encouraging, strengthening, keeping watch. The comforting reality is, there is no place we can go where we will be out from under the watchful love of God. As the psalmist put it, *Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.*

Blessings on your summer comings and goings. May you experience God's ever-present love and grace wherever you are, and every Sunday you are in town, we'll be looking for you at church!

Summer blessings...  
Lynn

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

Summer 2006