

THE MESSENGER

225 YEARS OF PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL

Frederick Presbyterian Church • 115 West Second Street • Frederick, MD 21701

The Rev. Dr. Robert W. Jewett, Interim Pastor

Telephone: 301-663-5338 • Fax: 301-663-3786

E-Mail: fredpresb@frederickpresbyterian.org

Home Page: <http://www.frederickpresbyterian.org>

JUNE

2005

CHURCH OFFICERS AND LEADERS REVISIONING RETREAT

- Who:** Deacons and Elders currently serving on Session.
Small group leaders and recorders are encouraged to attend as well.
- When:** Friday, June 3rd, from 6:00 – 9:00 P.M. and
Saturday, June 4th, from 9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.
- Where:** All Saints Episcopal Church, in the Parish Hall.
106 W. Church Street, Frederick, 301-663-5625.
(Parking located off West Patrick Street.)
- Why:** To review the outcome from the small group meetings;
to produce a Vision Statement and a Strategic Plan
for the next two to three years at FPC.

A light supper will be provided on Friday evening, as will a lunch on Saturday.

Please contact Cindy Clement, to indicate your attendance so that plans can be made for meals, or if you have any further questions.

A MESSAGE FROM A CURRENT SESSION MEMBER

As an Elder I am extremely proud that I am able to serve Frederick Presbyterian at the level I have selected to and that I believe God has directed me to. During my 8 years of membership I have served as a Deacon, served on Stewardship and Property committees and of course worked closely with the Cold Weather Shelter.

Even still, I believe it is safe to say that for many FPC members, juggling our meetings, deadlines and paperwork have become a task akin to assembling a nuclear submarine with no instructions. Many weeks in the past year the question on Sunday evening has not been “which night have I committed to church topics this week?” but rather “which nights am I not committed to church topics this week?”

I would be the first to note that I know of no FPC member who has joined any committee or group and is unhappy with their current position, perhaps they are momentarily overwhelmed or frustrated but momentarily is really not what commitment at a higher level is about, at least this is my belief.

In their neighborhood, at the office, on the PTA or in any number of other situations, people tend to gather with people like themselves, or people who are likeminded. We see this at FPC as well. The “Addition taskforce” has a lawyer, a teacher, a construction tradesman and an “I.T.” person or two, the perfect mix of people to oversee this process. The 225th Anniversary taskforce is an enormous and quickly growing group made up of gung-ho “celebrants” and serial organizers, another perfect mix. The current Session is an excellent mix of male / female, older members / younger members, Elephants / Donkeys, current workers / retired folk, jokers / reprimanders and quiet thinkers / vocal idea sorts. And then there is Bob... Our meetings are usually exhausting, sometimes tedious but never, I repeat, never boring. Again the perfect mix for “The Now”.

As we move forward through this wonderful beautiful summer and year of change for the church, I hope others take advantage of all the possible

things they could join. I used to think that there was some “fixed” number of things or groups I should belong to but after seeing how things are so closely linked, how many things hinge on how many others in as tight a group as our congregation has become over the last year or so, now I simply let God decide for me. I don’t think God will ever get me off the hook for mowing the lawn or working on my own home, but I know he won’t over-commit me working on or for the greater glory of his, even if it feels that way sometimes.

The decision to become involved in church activities at a higher level is one which many people struggle with. We have so much going on at FPC it takes literally a huge number of people to keep track of it all and I’ll bet statistically we are pushing 40% of current membership involved in running or belonging to various groups, a wonderful statement about our commitment as a group to the future of FPC. This doesn’t mean we are involved enough, or couldn’t be involved more, just that we are “highly involved” as a group.

God asks us to perform many difficult and arduous tasks during the course of our daily existence but he always has a reason for asking and we are usually not blessed with the grace to understand his reasons. Nor should we be. Our commitment to God is that we will answer the call to the best of our abilities. Not always satisfying ourselves or satisfying those immediately around us but pleasing him by trying our best to see this chaotic world we live in a better place through our efforts. Answering “the call of the committee” may be one of the things you are called upon to do, you may already feel overloaded, you may already feel over committed and you may be exhausted when you are asked. I would encourage all who are asked to *answer to the best of your abilities*. That barbecue may have to be rescheduled or you may have to juggle commitments to add something else but the payback in the short term is getting to know more of your fellow congregants and the payback in the long term is sure to be glorious.

Elder Alexander McPheeters

THE HISTORIAN'S CORNER

I want to write a couple of articles on the story of our church organ. During a recent Prime Timers' luncheon, Bob McCutcheon and I were reminiscing about our church during the 30's and 40's. Living in the Presbyterian Manse as a young child then, I recalled numerous weekends watching Bob McCutcheon accompanying his father, Mr. Robert J. McCutcheon, coming into the church to service our wonderful organ. Bob volunteered to share with us an essay written in 1990 when he and his wife, Doris, had contributed a memorial for the church organ in memory of his grandfather, Mr. William O., his father, Robert J., and his mother, Helen.

The following is from Bob's essay:

"My father tuned and repaired the church organ from 1933 until his sudden death in 1947 at the age of fifty-three. My mother (most often), sisters, brother and I spent many hours with my father being "key people" for him when he tuned or repaired the old Presbyterian Organ. This "key" person would sit in the tiny lighted world of the console at night and watch a shower of shadows that were strangely cut into vertical bars by the big front organ pipes. The shadows marched across the ceiling and the pews as my father progressed with the extension light he carried as he tuned each pipe. I can still hear his voice as he said "next" for me to press the following key. The pipe he was working on would slowly respond to his skillful adjustments, and the throbbing would smooth as it tuned to the pipe one octave below.

I always marveled at his infinite patience as he worked for hours through the hundreds of organ pipes. When I asked him why he would charge only a token fee for his wonderful talent and long hours, he answered, "It is my contribution."

There was always a lull in my duties as my father moved from one chamber of the organ to another. My favorite diversion at this interval was to switch on the chimes and imagine each bell-like note was a tiny silver bar that would float out into the vast, dark universe that loomed behind me in the church, reflecting about the void and finally escaping and

disappearing into the night as the beautiful vibrations ceased. My reverie was always shattered by instructions to, "Pull out the next set of stops, and please try to stay awake!" One of my most cherished memories of my father is of working and being alone with him in the empty, yet strange and mysterious occupied darkness of the church.

Sundays our family occupied the fourth pew back from the front right corner of the church. Grandfather, the elder of the church for many years, sat on the aisle, then my father, mother and five or six of us children filled the rest of the pew. I always felt a personal pride for my father when the organ was played, and by the same token, felt a sudden anguish when a cipher (a pipe that remained playing after the key was released) developed, and Miriam would have to switch to another set of pipes. Dear Miriam always reacted so quickly and skillfully that few people noticed.

The chimes and the solid state switches seemed like meaningful areas for remembrances of my grandfather, father, and mother (a sentimental note here---my father met my mother, a Hood student, while they attended services at the Frederick Presbyterian Church around 1912). Doris, my wife, and I appreciated being able to participate with other members of the congregation in bringing new life to the church organ and thus prolonging its beautiful function in the worship services of our church."

Barbara W. Batdorf, Historian

WOMENS' FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Please come and join us on Saturday, June 18, 2005, at Barbara Fritchie Restaurant for food, fun and friendly conversation. Please RSVP to Vanessa Smith at to say you will be there.

MUSIC HIGHLIGHTS

COME, CHRISTIANS, JOIN TO SING IN THE SUMMER CHOIR!

Beginning Sunday, June 12, and continuing through Sunday, September 4, you have an opportunity to join in providing music for summer worship by joining the Summer Choir. Anyone who wants to sing is welcome! Each Sunday we will rehearse from 9:00 am until 9:45 and sing at the 10:00 am service. The music will not be difficult and you don't have to commit to being here every Sunday. The goal is primarily to provide leadership for the service music, and to sing anthems or hymns as an enhancement to the service when possible. We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity for music ministry.

SPECIAL CHORAL PRESENTATION

SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 10:00 AM

JOSEPH HAYDN'S "MISSA BREVIS SANCTI JOANNIS DE DEO"

Presented by the combined choirs of Frederick Presbyterian Church and Calvary United Methodist Church in our sanctuary. Dan Miller will conduct and Joche Wilmot will provide organ accompaniment, along with a string trio, and our own Jennifer Burgett will be the soprano soloist.

Many composers have written musical settings of the principal portions of the Roman Mass. The *missa brevis*, popular in southern Germany and Austria in the early 18th century, gets its name from the practice of assigning four different portions of certain texts to be sung by four different sections of the choir at the same time. This was done to shorten the time it takes to sing the longest portions of the mass, the Gloria and the Credo. This mass, written about 1777, was dedicated to St. John of God (Joannis de Deo), a Portuguese monk who was the patron saint of a religious order that had been generous to the young Joseph Haydn. It was composed for a tiny chapel of this Order at Eisenstadt, where the small organ loft demanded the use of a small orchestra, consisting of only two violins, cello, and organ.

The Roman Mass, the liturgy of celebration of the Lord's Supper, begins with the Kyrie (Lord, have mercy upon us), followed by the Gloria in Excelsis Deo (Glory to God in the Highest); the Credo (Nicene Creed); the Sanctus (Holy, holy, holy); the Benedictus (here combining a soprano solo and an organ solo) and Hosanna; and ends with the Agnus Dei (Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us).

Please plan to attend this special celebration of music for the church, which will surely enrich your worship experience.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CLERK

We welcome five new members who were previously received by the Session and recognized by the congregation on Sunday, May 15, 2005. They are Glen and Deb Babcock, Peggy Lloyd, Janet Lucia and Justus Benson.

Terrie Oakley, Clerk of Session

225TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

As you know, FPC is celebrating its 225th anniversary this year and the Anniversary Committee is planning many exciting events to celebrate this milestone in our history. Included in the celebration will be “Homecoming Sunday,” the burying of a time capsule, concerts, dinners, special speakers, an anniversary mission project, and, we hope, the dedication of the annex.

The anniversary celebration will begin with "Homecoming Sunday," on October 16, and will culminate on Sunday, November 20. A complete schedule of activities will be coming soon. In the meantime, the congregation can look forward to seeing the newly designed anniversary logo within the next few weeks.

We urge the entire congregation to get involved in the planning process. Some ways you can help:

- Right now, we’re looking for ideas for the time capsule. What do you think should be included?
- Do you keep in touch with former members of the congregation who have moved away? We’ll be trying to contact former FPCers to invite them to “Homecoming Sunday.”
- Do you have a special skill or talent? We’re looking for decorators, people to help with the dinner, anyone who has ideas for a special commemorative item, or who can help with our anniversary publications.
- Do you work in a place that could help us out with printing or publishing or sign making or know someone who does?

Listed below are the projects and the project coordinators. Please contact the coordinator for the project that interests you.

<u>Project</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>
Advertising/Community/Publicity	Jennie Covahey
Banner (s)	Karen Dill
Brochure/Anniversary Booklet	Barbara Batdorf
Decorations for Various Events	Youth Group
Dedication of New Addition	Libby Stauffer, Sharon Greenberg & Property Committee
Dedication Worship Service	Rev. Jewett, Dan Miller
Dinner — Homecoming Sunday	Fellowship Committee
Guest Speakers for Sunday Worship Services	Peggie Bracken, Rev. Jewett
Historic Presentation	Mike Rogers
Homecoming Worship Service	Rev. Jewett, Dan Miller
Invitations to Former Members	Ann Leyh
Logo/Special Memento	Scott & Stacy Najaka

Mid-Week Fellowship
Mission Project
Sunday Afternoon Programs/Concerts
Time Capsule
Web Site
Youth Involvement

Fellowship Committee
Anniversary Committee
Worship Committee, Dan Miller
Jim Blessing
Becky Frasure
Peter Clement

Join us at the next Anniversary Committee meeting on Sunday, June 12, 2005, in the Weaver Room following the "Groundbreaking" for our new addition.

The Anniversary Committee

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

Congratulations to FPC's four new high school graduates this month. Graduating are:

Alexandra – Alexandra will be graduating from Thomas Johnson High School and will attend Frederick Community College while working at a local law firm.

Catherine —Catherine, a graduate of Brunswick High School, plans to attend Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. She will major in education.

Becky —Becky will be graduating from Linganore High School. She will be attending Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland, and studying primary education.

Katie —A graduate of Thomas Johnson High School, Katie will be heading to Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, this fall. She is undecided about her major at this time.

Best wishes to all of you. We look forward to hearing about your future endeavors.

{Note: We'd also like information on any recent college graduates. Please contact the Communications Committee or send an email to jcovahey@erols.com

A WORD OF THANKS AND PRAISE

As some of you know, Tom Barksdale is recuperating from some health problems. Usually he climbs on a ladder and does a thorough spring cleaning of the house, gutters... What to Do? He certainly shouldn't climb around the roofline. We had seen the mention of the Deacons' program, "Handy Hands", in the May Messenger, and we let our need be known. The very next day Dennis Burkhart appeared, ready to clean the gutters. Our thanks go out to Dennis and the Deacons.

Every member of the church should be aware of this program to help with chores we shouldn't try ourselves. The word is out that they would like to be contacted more often and can provide a number of kinds of assistance. Joanne Barksdale

BIRTHDAY CORNER

Birthday wishes to the following who are celebrating June birthdays:

June 12—Catherine

June 14—Kelly

June 24—Ann

If you would like to participate in this monthly honoring of birthdays, please send or give your name and birthday (month and date only, no years please) to the church office or to any member of the Communications Committee (Jennie Covahey, Martha Copeland, Becky Frasure, or Ken Howser). You also can send an email to jcovahey@erols.com.

If we've missed your birthday this year,
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

The Communications Committee

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

When: Sunday, June 12, 2005, 4:00 P.M.

Where: Niblock's "All Seasons Farm Pavilion"

All church members and friends are invited to an afternoon of fellowship, food and fun in the beautiful foothills of the Sugarloaf Mountains.

Drinks and fried chicken will be provided by the church. Please bring your favorite salad, side dish, dessert or bread to share with others. The picnic will be held rain or shine, but pray for a sunny, warm day anyway. Below are directions to the Niblocks "All Seasons Farm". 7130 Ira Sears Road, Adamstown. From Frederick:

Take route 85 South thru Buckystown to Lily Pons Road on the left. Follow Lily Pons Road to intersection with Park Mills Road. Go right on Park Mills to Ira Sears Road on the left. Follow Ira Sears Road until you see signs for "All Seasons Farm" on the left.

Your Fellowship Committee