

Commonplace Press

Summer
2011



Minister's Message

Dear Members and Friends of Faith Des Peres Presbyterian Church,

By the time you read this letter the news of the Presbyterian Church (USA) removing G6.0106b from the Book of Order (known to those of us in the trade as the "fidelity and chastity clause") will be old news. But for those of us who are members of this beloved denomination, it won't be. It's big news. Really big news.

Terry and I, being the church geeks we are, followed the Twitter feed of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area as the commissioners there voted on whether or not to approve Amendment 10-A. (Amendment 10-A will replace G6.0106b). We remember well when the clause was added to the Book of Order because it was the first General Assembly legislation we voted on as newly ordained Ministers of the Word and Sacrament. There have been other votes taken since then, all of which have failed to remove G6.0106b. Most recently in 2008 at the 218th General Assembly, Terry served as the Committee Assistant/Parliamentarian for the Church Orders Committee, which is the committee that oversees any legislation dealing with ordination issues. In 2010 at the 219th General Assembly, I served as a Commissioner and saw first-hand the debate about Amendment 10-A.

I've always been open with all of you about where I come down on the issue of ordaining gay and lesbian individuals. For me, the "issue" of homosexuality has always been a non-issue. For me, what matters most in who we ordain is not their sexuality, but if they are faithful followers of Jesus Christ. With the adoption of Amendment 10-A, we've done just that: restored the long-standing Presbyterian idea that the most important qualifications for ordination are related to faith, not marital status or sexuality. As the new language states, a candidate's (for ordination) "manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel in the church and in the world."

On Tuesday night, when Amendment 10-A was approved, I was very proud to be a Presbyterian. I was proud that this denomination which I know and love has broken down yet another barrier and is standing on the side of inclusivity. But I am also aware that not everyone agrees with my position, and that is OK. One thing I have always appreciated about the Presbyterian Church (USA) is that there is room for a wide variety of opinions. Our church has always been one that is willing to engage diverse viewpoints on complex issues. I am eternally grateful for this because not all churches are willing to do that. We would be a poorer church if we all agreed and were of one mind on all matters.

During this critical time in the church, I ask for your prayers. Prayers for the people who now find the door open to them, and prayers for the people who are deeply grieved by this decision. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us. But most of all, "give thanks for Jesus Christ, our risen Savior and Lord, who called the Church into being and who continues to call us to follow his example of loving our neighbor and working for the reconciliation of the world."

Blessings,
Annie

Congratulations to Jerry & Toy Kircher!

Jerry and Toy celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on April 14. All of their children and grandchildren (and great-grandchild!) joined them for a celebration at their daughter's home in Springfield, Missouri.

In Sympathy

The sympathy of the church family is extended to Jared, Gay and Katy Spears on the death of Jared's brother, William Spears, on February 22 in Chicago.

The TNT Group

The TNT Group (Twenties & Thirties/Forties) has been “lunching it up” the second Sunday of the month. The past few months, we've enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere of Kirkwood's Highlands Brewing Company, where they don't seem to mind if we hang around for a couple of hours to converse! We've had a nice turnout thus far but would love to add to our number. With everyone fighting busy schedules, our motto is “Come as you can!” If you want to dine without the kids, childcare is available for a couple of hours after church in the nursery—just bring a sack lunch for the little ones. Please join us—you won't be disappointed.

In June, we are getting together at the Ludlow's. Details to follow. We'll post our upcoming plans in the bulletin and on the Commonplace Blog, so stay tuned! Have ideas for future gatherings or other questions? Contact Scott McClure at rsmcclure@sbcglobal.net or 314-606-9895.

Children's Education

As summer winds up our Sunday School year winds down. It's been a great year of wonderful adventures with, I'm sure, many more to come. The children sang so beautifully in worship this Spring. Our Middle/High School class has made its way through the Old Testament and will begin the New Testament in the Fall. Our High Schoolers will “graduate” from Sunday School and will join us in worship in the Fall.

Sunday School will start up again in August with the annual Blessing of the Backpacks. Watch for the date to be determined.

I wish to thank all those who helped in the children's ministry this year. All of you who passed the peace on Sunday morning, taught them songs, welcomed them in worship and fellowship, all of you are teachers to our young members. I have to give a very special thanks to the many parents and others who gave of their time on Sunday mornings (not to mention prep time during the week) to teach Sunday School.

Have a wonderful summer and we'll see you again in the fall!

Peace,
Pat Cleeland

Trout Lodge Weekend

The Faith Des Peres family came together for fun, fellowship and a relaxing getaway at Trout Lodge in Potosi, Mo., the weekend of April 29 to May 1.

“This was our 15th year attending Trout Lodge and our largest group ever,” said Rev. Annie Epling.

Armed with ponchos, rubber boots and umbrellas in anticipation of the rain that has plagued previous Trout Lodge weekends, the group was pleasantly surprised by sunshine and clear skies.

“The weather was great ... so great that some of the younger attendees braved the lake and went swimming!” Annie said. “And make sure you ask some of the moonlight-zippers about jumping off the cliff in the dark. That is what I call faith!”

Swimming and moonlight zip-lining were a few of the many outdoor activities the members of Faith Des Peres participated in over the course of the weekend. Friends, family members and newcomers of all ages came together for bike rides, nature hikes, horseback riding, Frisbee golf, archery, an Alpine swing, pontoon boat rides on the lake, rocket launches, and more.

With activities filling the day, the Faith Des Peres family reunited in the evenings for s’mores on Friday night and a happy hour and game night on Saturday. Organized by Leslie Barnes, the group also decorated a commemorative all-church tablecloth with handprints, and the kids made their own T-shirts.

During a brief church service on Sunday morning, two things were unanimously decided: Faith Des Peres will return to Trout Lodge in 2012, and next year, we need to bring along some musical accompaniment to save us from our own voices!

Trout Lodge 2012 is scheduled for the last weekend in April, April 27-29.



Membership & Evangelism

Spring was a busy time for the Membership and Evangelism Committee. We welcomed three new members into the FDP church family—Jaci Kueker, Claudia Weisberg and Scott Weisberg. Both the Adult and Easter Egg Hunt for Children were well-attended. Members of FDP and neighborhood children happily hunted eggs in the rain on the morning of April 23rd.

Plan to attend the Rascals Baseball Game with friends and members of FDP on June 24, 2011. Call the church office to reserve your spot. A buffet supper and soft drinks will be served in our private box. The children will be able to participate in games and other fun activities during the game. This event is always fun for young and old alike!

Printing of this newsletter courtesy of Morgan Press in Bedford, New Hampshire.

Mission and Ministry Committee Update

The Mission and Ministry committee has organized a number of projects recently that we would like to recap for you.

Food Outreach: We again held our “SOUPer Bowl of Caring” this year on Super Bowl Sunday. Our friendly competition pitched the Green Bay Packers against the Pittsburgh Steelers. While the Packers may have won the Super Bowl, the Steelers were victorious in our SOUPer Bowl. Final score: Steelers \$136/76 cans, Packers \$55/62 cans. All the proceeds went to Food Outreach.

We also participated in two food packing sessions at Food Outreach, one in January and one in March. Thanks to all who supported these events for Food Outreach which provides food for those with HIV-AIDS or cancer.

Blankets of Hope: In February, we hosted a blanket making party where we constructed no-sew, fleece blankets for military personnel through the Blankets of Hope organization. The Blankets of Hope team creates unique, handmade blankets to send hope, support and gratitude to America’s wounded and veterans. Used on hospital beds, wheelchairs, and transport litters on medevac flights, Blankets of Hope bring the message that each service member is loved and not forgotten. They are sent to Combat Support Hospitals in the war zones, major medical facilities in Germany and around the world, and selected military hospitals and veterans centers here at home. We made ten beautiful blankets while having a fun evening of fellowship and creativity.

One Great Hour of Sharing: As is our tradition, we took up the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Easter Sunday. This year’s message was “Sharing Brings Joy” with funds going to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, among other agencies. We set a goal of \$1900 and collected \$2,749.11, \$680 of which is designated for Japan earthquake relief.

Lydia’s House: In April, we held our April Showers drive for Lydia’s House. This year we collected items to refurbish a newly remodeled kitchen in one of the apartments. So many wonderful new and gently used items were collected! Lydia’s House provides transitional housing and support for women and their children who are survivors of domestic violence.

Missouri Budget Workshop: Save the day! On July 17th, in conjunction with Metropolitan Congregations United, we will be holding a Missouri Budget Workshop. It will focus on the theme, “Some Things ARE Sacred” and will lead us in a simulation and discussion on the Missouri budget crisis. We will conclude the afternoon with a simple pot luck dinner. More to come, but mark your calendars now.

Budget allocation: There has been some interest in understanding how our mission dollars are spent and therefore the following graph was created to illustrate how they are being distributed this fiscal year. The total amount budgeted for Mission and Ministry for the current fiscal year was \$8500.

Come Grow With Us!

Community Gardens: This year, we have expanded our Garden project that was initiated last year by offering garden space to our surrounding community. A large garden area was plowed over and individual 5 foot by 10 foot plots have been designated. We have received considerable interest and are very excited about getting to know our neighbors while we garden together. We are also continuing our garden that supplies fresh produce to area food pantries. If you are interested in joining the gardening team, let Pastor Annie or Joanna Gerst know (joannagerst@gmail.com).

Come grow with us!



Happy Anniversary!

Eric & Sarah Ludlow (June 4)
Eric & Lori Peterson (June 8)
Bill & Pat Malkemus (June 20)
Rufus & Judy Sisson (June 25)
Chris & Pat Cleeland (June 29)
Scott & Claudia Weisberg (July 1)
Jared & Gay Spears (July 20)
Scott & Becky McClure (July 28)

Happy Birthday!

Mary Sinclair (June 1)
Leslie Barnes (June 6)
Tola Olayefun (June 7)
Stephanie Newcomb (June 13)
Pat Malkemus (June 14)
Chris Cleeland (June 15)
Lori Peterson (June 17)
Claudia Weisberg (June 17)
Eric Peterson (June 18)
Tommy Epling (June 20)
Don Emery (June 20)
Meg Glenn (June 23)
Drew Weisberg (July 2)
Zain Peterson (July 6)
Sarah Ludlow (July 6)
Maggie Cleeland (July 6)
Rufus Sisson (July 7)
Toy Kircher (July 8)
Steve Becker (July 9)
Suzy Standley (July 18)
Samantha Edney (July 19)
Judy Sisson (July 20)
Isabel Fenoglio (July 21)
Tiffani Edney (July 27)
Bill Bowersox (July 29)
Stasha Wyman (July 31)
Pat Cleeland (Aug. 1)
Elizabeth Pribor (Aug. 10)
Margaret Onken (Aug. 14)
Domenic Fenoglio (Aug. 14)
Jared Spears (Aug. 15)
Nathan Ridley (Aug. 21)
Elias Klein (Aug. 24)
Katy Spears (Aug. 26)
Gwendolyn Emery (Aug. 30)
Matt Glenn (Aug. 31)

Elders

Buildings and Grounds

Jim Gerst

Care Team Liaison

Sarah Ludlow

Endowment/Finance

Barbara Abbett

Fellowship

Leslie Barnes

Membership and

Evangelism

Terry Baker

Mission & Ministry

Joanna Gerst

Personnel

Will Ridley

Sunday School and

Young Adults

Sarah Ludlow

Scott McClure

Website

Sean O'Rourke

Clerk of Session

Joe Morris

Commissioner to

Presbytery

Dorcas Case

Treasurer

Kathy Sherrick

Baptisms

Our church family has been blessed to celebrate two baptisms in recent months.



On April 10, we welcomed Jonathan David Newcomb, son of Dave and Stephanie Newcomb.



On May 8, we welcomed Samantha Grace Edney, daughter of John and Tiffani Edney.

Summer Music at FDP

Although many of us take life a little easier in the summer, the music program at Faith Des Peres won't be slowing down! Our dedicated FDP adult choir will sing "Lay Up Your Treasures in Heaven" at the service on June 5 and "Living Spirit, Holy Fire" for Pentecost, June 12. The choir will also sing on July 10 and August 14.

Our section leaders Samantha Stout, Daniel Mortimer, and Kevin Hester will share their musical talents with solos and duets throughout the summer. Pat Cleeland and Gay and Jared Spears will sing in July, and Bob Wyman will play the guitar at the Old Meeting House in August.

We'll also have some special guest musicians this summer. The Unity Singers will provide music on July 17. Mary Poshak will sing on July 24. Mary is a longtime Kirkwood resident, music teacher, and co-founder of the Kirkwood Children's Chorale.

Finally, to wrap up the summer music season, don't miss out on your chance to be part of the anthem on Labor Day weekend. We will make a "JOYFUL NOISE" as everyone participates in singing a familiar and well-loved hymn in the historic setting of the Old Meeting House.

The choir will resume regular rehearsals in late August. All adults are invited to participate. We would welcome new members! Watch your bulletin for details about choir rehearsals.

I will attend the Presbyterian Association of Musicians Worship and Music conference at Montreat, North Carolina, in late June. It's always a "mountaintop experience" for me as I participate in lectures, classes, rehearsals, and worship, and in simply enjoying God's handiwork in this beautiful place.

Grace and peace,
Gay

Welcome New Members!

Jaci Kueker

Jaci came to Faith Des Peres as her first stop on a church-shopping expedition, and because of the warm welcome and meaningful worship, she never left. Originally from the Chicago area, Jaci is relatively new to St. Louis. She moved here to attend graduate school at Washington University, and she now works as a writer/editor for Scottrade where she manages educational and marketing content for the company. Jaci is a runner and an avid reader, and she enjoys hiking, learning languages and traveling the world.



The Weisberg Family

Scott and Claudia Weisberg have been married for almost sixteen years. Scott is originally from Southern California and Claudia is from Northern California but grew up on the East coast. They met in New York City. Scott is fond of telling people that he had to travel 3,000 miles to marry a Californian. They spent the first fifteen years of their marriage in Minneapolis where Drew (Mitchell Andrew) was born. They are former members of First Presbyterian Church of Maple Plain located in Maple Plain, Minnesota



Scott arrived in St. Louis in October and Claudia and Drew followed in December. Scott has since resigned from the job that brought them here and is engaged in a national job search. He enjoys golf, wine tasting, cooking and reading. Claudia is a community volunteer and is finishing some projects for groups in Minneapolis and has started working with College Bound here in St. Louis. She enjoys entertaining, reading, keeping up with Drew and Scott and community service. Drew is a 5th grader at MICDS. He has played basketball and football, loves swimming and being in and around water. He is taking scuba diving lessons this summer and will attend rock climbing/repelling camp, sleep away camp with friends in Minnesota, space camp and a movie-making camp among many other fun activities.

The Weisbergs are really enjoying getting to know St. Louis. The church has been so welcoming and everyone has been so helpful.

“This Old House”

Have you been picking up some tips for good D-I-Y projects? Why not put that knowledge to use at Faith Des Peres.

Our houses of worship definitely fit the bill with Clayton Road structures past 50, and the definitely “old church” on Geyer Road pushing 180 years! Like any well-used home, the church buildings and grounds are in need of maintenance and repair work. It never ends.

Volunteers to help with cleaning, organizing, yard work, and minor repairs around the church are always appreciated. You can work at times of your own convenience. You can use materials and supplies found onsite. You do not need particular skills. The church has so many jobs that if you throw in two hours of your time, you will certainly hit something you are qualified to do. You can't miss here!

Contact Suzanne in the church office for details about how you can help keep the church in good repair. Call (314) 432-8029 or adminasst@faithdesperes.org.

**Faith Des Peres
Presbyterian Church (USA)**

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*Visit us on the Web at:
www.faithdesperes.org*

Save the Date

September 23 -24 is this year's all-women retreat at the Sisters of Mercy Retreat Center. Also this fall, we will hold our third annual fundraiser at the Sweet Tomatoes restaurant. Watch for more information on these exciting events in your church bulletin.

Presbyterian Women to Study the Beatitudes

The Beatitudes, which means "blessings" in Latin, are perhaps one of the best known teachings of Jesus. Yet we often miss their point because we do not read them within the literary, historical and cultural context of the times.

This fall the Presbyterian Women's Bible study will compare and contrast both sets of beatitudes. Those found in Matthew, known as the "Sermon on the Mount," and those in the Gospel of Luke, referred to as the "Sermon on the Plain." Our aim? To examine these writings as Jesus might have spoken them.

The Presbyterian Women's Bible study is held on the last Wednesday of every month starting in August. All are welcome to join us for fellowship and discussion. Participants are sure to find new meanings in these beloved passages as we relate them to the 21st Century.