



So I told this story to a couple church folks the other day, and they asked me to tell it again when some other people were around, and those people kind of dug it, so I thought I'd tell it to you.

I used to work at Starbucks. And I was really good at my job. I can make you a latte that will make you doubt your allegiance to healthy lifestyle choices. But after I worked at Starbucks for a while, it was clear to me that despite my milk-steaming prowess, my most loyal customers – the people I saw there every single day – were not just coming in for the coffee.

Through casual conversation, jokes, and some occasional heartfelt sharing, I began to realize that for many of our customers, the interactions they had at Starbucks were some of the most meaningful they had all week. I had more than one customer tell me flat-out that I was the nicest person they spoke to all day. And for the record, let me tell you that despite how pastory I can be at church, if I'm working a 4:45 a.m. shift at a coffee bar, I'm not that nice. But suffice to say that many people identified Starbucks as the place they wanted to be, because of the beyond-the-coffee experiences that they had there.

Well, I doubt you'll be surprised to learn that this is no accident – Starbucks carefully sculpts its environment, from the demeanor of the baristas, to the style of the décor, to the books and periodicals on display and the music being played, to encourage people to think of it as the place where their needs for fun, relationship, entertainment and intellectual stimulation will be met. When I was hired there, I was trained with the concept of the 'Third Place,' that Starbucks was intent on being the third most central space in its customers' lives, behind home and the workplace.

When I was introduced to this concept as an employee, I remember thinking, What about church? I for one really believe that the beloved community that is possible in every church has more potential for personal connection and meaningful provocation than any capitalistic endeavor. I believe that opening up to God in church brings opportunities for transformative worship, relationships of depth, illuminating and/or incisive learning, compassionate care, intellectual stimulation and lifestyle challenges, all of which facilitate our living the lives of abundant joy and meaning that we all long for.

And praise God for congregations that realize this and go for it! When we worship together, teach one another and serve side by side, when we are intentional about investing in the life of the church of which we are a part, for receiving as well as giving, we bring ourselves ready to live in the kind of peace and joy that surpass understanding because they come from God.

Let Starbucks strive to be the fourth place.

Rob Leveridge

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There are 11 pages
in this issue.

Transitions

Birth: Alex Barnes, born April 15 son of Michelle and Ted, brother of Anna

Baptism: Lange Baker Peterson, son of Melinda and Drew
Stephen Boardman Faust, son of Sara and Stan, brother of William

Congratulations: Gy and Sylvia Menninga 55th wedding anniversary
Ralph and Beta Balgeman 70th wedding anniversary
Edith Crabbe, Happy 100th Birthday August 1

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Transitions continued

Compassion: Sara Faust
Henry Hulseberg
Mother of Priscilla Sibley
Leanna Stracco
Nancy Masterson
Carole Bergstraesser
Emory Mead

Condolences: Bill Bunkers, father of Bill, grandfather of Hannah, Elizabeth and Christopher
Bobbie Isserman, mother of Don Kuntz, grandmother of Don, Thomas and Jane
Father of Cam Niederman, grandfather of Matthew, Sarah and Tobias

Our Centenarians

— Julie R. Harley

We send out a hearty Happy Birthday to member Edith Crabbe, who turns 100 on August 1st. Her longtime visitors, Kris and Connie Ronnow, will go with Pastor Rob Leveridge to celebrate Edith's birthday at the Presbyterian Homes in Evanston on Aug. 2. Edith lived in Oak Park for years. She is a graduate of Knox College and spent her career as a social worker. She has fond memories of First United, which she joined in 1942.

We celebrated Paul Soderdahl's 104th birthday at church on July 11th. Paul joined our church in 1946 and until about two years ago, he walked to church from his home on Humphrey Avenue. We are grateful to Lee Brooke, Jane Lare and other friends who bring Paul to church almost every Sunday.

Worship in August

Summer Worship Time @ 10:00 am continues through September 5.

August 1 – 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Last Worship and Sermon Talk-Back Aug. 1 Rob Leveridge

Join me in the Chapel for a talk-back session at 11:15 am on Sunday, Aug. 1, to share your responses to today's worship and sermon at First United.

August 8 – 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Hebrews 11:1-16 and Luke 12:32-40
"Stuck in the Slow Lane"

August 15 – 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Hebrews 11:29-12:2 and Luke 12:59-56
"Who's Rooting for You?"

August 22 – 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
Blessing the Animals Service Sunday
Luke 13:10-17
"The Spirituality of Tending"

August 29 – 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Luke 14:1, 7-14 and Hebrews 13:1-16
"Entertaining Angels"

Blessing of the Animals

— Leah Fowler

August 22, 10 am, on the Kenilworth Lawn, bring the four legged, slithering, winged and swimming members of your family as we celebrate God's creatures. We will share the ways pets bless our lives, then offer a special blessing on our pets. If your pet cannot travel or does not do well in crowds, bring a picture or a collar. Pets should be leashed or caged. There will be peripheral seating for pets that like more space, lots of water bowls, and a special treat table.

Deacons

— Carl Nauert

Summer Prayer Project

— Carl Nauert

As part of our vision to move from individualism to intimate fellowship in our relationship with other members of the church community, the Ministers and Deacons are hopeful that the summer prayer project will be a meaningful way for people to connect with someone that you don't know this summer. Over 80 First United Members volunteered on June 6th to participate in this pilot program by filling out an orange volunteer card in the pew pads. The Deacons have paired each member, thus we have 40 pairings.

Each prayer partner has been asked to do the following:

- ❖ Touch base once a week (by phone, email, in person or at church) with their Prayer Partner this summer.
- ❖ Listen to their joys and concerns.
- ❖ Communicate with God through prayer about the joys and concerns of your Prayer Partner. Watch the website this summer, as some Ministers and Deacons will share their approaches to prayer.

Getting to Know You

— Julie R. Harley

If you have a serious problem, how many people can you call for help? If you just got some really good news, how many people would celebrate that joy with you? One of our vision goals is to move beyond isolation to spiritual intimacy. One way you can grow your personal network of support is by attending our annual Spiritual Retreat.

When: 10 am Saturday, Sept. 25 – 2 pm Sunday, Sept. 26

Where: Pilgrim Park in Princeton, IL (about 90 minutes west of Oak Park)

Who: Space for 25 people, led by Leah Fowler, Julie Harley and Marylen Marty-Gentile

What: We will have time for whole group discussions, worship, solo time, rest, prayer, walks, naps, feasting and small group sharing. Our weekend will be inspired by the book "Leading a Life with God" by Daniel Wolpert.

How Much? Cost is \$65 per person. Carpooling will be arranged. Register by Sept. 15. Contact Julie at 708-386-5215 ext. 22 or jrh@firstunitedoakpark.com.

Our Facebook Fan Base is Growing

— Julie R. Harley

We have more than 150 fans for our First United Church of Oak Park Facebook page, and our goal is to reach 300. If you're on FB, please add us to your "like" list! We post photos of what happens at church, share news about people, and help you stay connected. If you're not yet on Facebook, ask a teenager to show you the ropes.

Gathering Day

Gathering Day is September 12

Mark your calendars. Church School resumes on that date at 9:30 am. Seventh and Eighth graders might be a little hungry on that day. Fresh faces will be leading classes on that day. New acolytes will light the candles. Pencils will be fresh and sharp. Glue sticks will be brand new! Rejoice with me as we begin again. Families will get plenty of information ahead of time to prepare.

Remember I said, "Mark your calendar?" I meant, "Clear your calendars!!"

Preparing for Quest 2010-2011

—Marylen Marty-Gentile

Quest is First United's confirmation program for youth in ninth grade or those who have not already participated in Quest but would like to. As the name implies, Quest is a journey, a journey of learning, experiencing and lots of questioning. In Quest we explore various parts of faith and the Christian tradition as youth discern whether to affirm their faith and become adult members of the church. It is a rich experience, led by Art Spooner, Marylen Marty-Gentile and the members of the pastoral staff.

Please contact Marylen (marylen@firstunitedoakpark.com) if your son or daughter will be part of Quest for this coming year or if you have questions about the program.





WIG

The Wildly Important Goal of First United Church is "creating and maintaining a framework that nourishes the spiritual." welfare of the



Out of this World in Washington, D.C. American Guild of Organists National Convention

—Cathryn Wilkinson

Thanks in large part to the gracious generosity of First United Church, I was among 2,126 people attending the national convention of the AGO July 4-8. I stood in the National Cathedral, singing "All Creatures of Our God and King" with colleagues from all 50 states and 16 other countries, accompanied by the 189-rank pipe organ and the 17-piece Washington Symphonic Brass. The sound was so moving that after this one hymn, I felt that I had already received my money's worth. But this was only the opening event, to be followed by many recitals, workshops, lectures, conversations on buses, in lines, and a meals... enough opportunities to require a 236-page book for the week's events.

Encouraged by a nudge from Pastor Julie, I took time to hunt through a few hundred exhibits in search of organ music from nonwestern cultures, coming home with several new items to add to my collection. I look forward to exploring this unfamiliar territory and introducing this music on our Casavant organ during worship services over the next few months. The AGO has pro-actively worked to become more inclusive of nonwestern traditions and premiered a newly-commissioned work at the opening convocation, "Theme and Variations on Le P'ing." Le P'ing, a Chinese folk tune, is the basis for this beautiful new music by the AGO/Holtkamp Organ Composition Award winner Michael Bedford.

For someone who loves organ music as much as I do, a week full of world-class performers playing exceptionally grand organs is nearly too good to be true. Some other highlights were:

- ❖ Latvian composer Rihards Dubra's "Rejoice in the Lord," an anthem for choir, brass, timpani and chimes
- ❖ French composer Paul Paray's Mass for the 500th Anniversary of the Death of Joan of Arc
- ❖ Music from Taize, France presented by my Oak Park colleague and acclaimed worship leader David Anderson
- ❖ Premiere of music based on a Dutch folk tune by Lebanese-born composer Naji Hakim, "To Call My True Love to My Dance"
- ❖ And the soothing lush sounds of Canadian composer Rachel Laurin's First Symphony

The music of the church and for the organ offers so many possibilities that even one intensive week such as this cannot do it justice; you would have to reach "out of this world" to embrace it fully. I am grateful for the opportunities I have, such as this one, to revel in even small glimpses of the glory and beauty of great music. I have more to report from this wonderful experience to be shared in next month's Messenger Bell.

2011 Budget Process Underway!

— Julie O'Shea

It's budgeting time of the year again. Committee chairs and anyone who has specific budget requests for 2011 should have attended our budget kick-off meeting on July 20. We discussed the budget planning process and laid the groundwork for creating a document we can use to compare our financial needs and requests to our church's vision. In order to do this, all budget requests for 2011 need to be turned into Julie O'Shea at the church by September 2. The Finance Committee and Council will then work to develop a draft budget to present at a budget breakfast meeting planned for October 17, 8-9:30 am. The final congregational vote for the 2011 budget is scheduled for November 21. If you have any questions about the process or other financial related questions, please feel free to contact Rick Pollock, the Finance Committee chair (richard@pollock.net) or Julie O'Shea (financial@firstunitedoakpark.com).

PrimeTime Fun 'n' Games in August

— Janet Haisman

Join your PrimeTime friends at an end-of-summer games party on August 21, 5:30 – 8:30 pm, at the home of Joanne and Ted Despotes, 7757 Van Buren Street, #516, in Forest Park. Games could be anything from Scrabble, Monopoly, Trivial Pursuit, and Whad'Ya Know? to Artifact, Jenga, Perquacky or any that you choose to bring. (Dominoes or Mah Jongg, anyone?) Ham and dessert will be provided, and we'll ask you to bring salads, appetizers, or your favorite drinks – all this for just \$5 at the door! Please call or e-mail our co-host, Marilyn Palmer, to let us know you'll be coming: (708)386-6742 or mrlnplmr@sbcglobal.net. Come help us say "good-bye to summer" in style!

New Orleans, LA (NOLA) – Rebuilding Homes, Rebuilding Hope

— Joanne Despotes



Did Constance, the owner of the house we worked on in NOLA, realize what would happen when she applied to become part of the U.C.C. Disaster Response Ministry? Here we were, a (mostly) rather crusty group of volunteers from First United Oak Park coming to work on her home while she was living there and going on with her life. One day she had to leave for renal dialysis and other medical appointments before we got there and we had to leave before she returned. We were the 4th group to work on her home in the 5 weeks since the work got started. She is having the opportunity to meet people from all over the country and we are having the opportunity to get to know her and her family and a little bit about the devastation Katrina caused and is still causing in NOLA. We washed, scraped, painted, knocked down and replaced an interior wall, replaced a window and found out what it was to sweat profusely while sitting absolutely still. It was really hot and muggy (102F on Friday at 4:45PM) but we persevered and accomplished an amazing amount. Constance was a model of strength and serenity in the midst of the chaos and she is so grateful for all our efforts.

There are still 50,000 homes that have not been repaired or reopened (in a city of 400,000 residents)! On each street in the upper and lower ninth ward we saw some homes repaired and in use or available for purchase or rent, others that were still in process of becoming habitable and still others that were untouched – often with scary looking vines growing OUT of the chimneys from inside the house. We can only imagine what they are like inside! It seems there is no mechanism for getting rid of these derelict homes even almost 5 years after Katrina. Everyone we met was gracious and thanked us for our efforts on behalf of their neighbors. In the end, we realized that we could only do a small part of what needs to be done and had to make our peace with that. The pictures show the house at 3126 Marais Street post Katrina before any work was done and while we were there in June.

We are very grateful to our host congregation, Little Farms UCC, which provided VERY comfortable, cool, lodging and also fed us dinner one night. We are grateful to Julie's friend Carolyn who transported us, lent us a car and also fed us another night. And we are grateful to CMA and First United for making the trip possible. The Disaster Ministry has 200 homes on its repair roster and has rebuilt 43 so far. Homeowners participate by paying for materials and chipping in with labor when they can. You can read more about the Disaster Recovery Ministry (newsletters, articles and resources) at — <http://www.ucc.org/volunteer/hurricane-updates.html> and see a video at <http://www.ucc.org/oghs/national/ucc-response-to-the-gulf.html>. Pictures from the trip are also on the First United website photo gallery page and we will be doing a presentation at Evening Division on October 7, 2010. We hope you can come and let us share our experience with you.

Sam Dammers Joanne Despotes Ted Despotes Julie Harley
Connie Henderson-Damon Gy Menninga Adam Wilson
Roger Dart (*Chicago Metropolitan Association-United Church of Christ*)

Walk-In Ministry

—Christy Harris

WIM needs adult bikes to help clients get to work. WIM also needs Saturday morning and Wednesday afternoon/evening volunteers. Please call 386-1946.

Clothing Closet

The Closet at Calvary is stocking up for fall. Please donate rugged, durable, new or gently-worn, clean clothing for men and women, especially larger sized coats, athletic shoes, boots, socks, underwear (new only), long underwear, pants, tops, gloves, hats, belts, and also backpacks and duffle bags. Donations can be dropped at Calvary Memorial Church (931 Lake Street in Oak Park) during business hours.

Gifts That Continue to Give

— Claudette Zobel

Sometime after 1975 when First Presbyterian Church of Oak Park and First Congregational Church of Oak Park united to form the First United Church, the former women's organizations in the two churches created a group known as Women of the Church. The Women of the Church has not been active for a number of years as women's work patterns have changed and new women's groups have been created to meet new needs.

Nevertheless, the assets of the Women of the Church have remained, unused, in the church endowment. At the present time, 35 years later, these assets total approximately \$58,000. The original source of these funds is unclear but it is presumed that when the churches merged the women's organizations joined their separate treasuries under their new rubric Women of the Church.

The Finance Committee, having recently decided to disperse these funds, reconstituted the Women of the Church by creating a committee of women representing First United's current women's organizations. That committee agreed, under the leadership of Cindy Palombi and Priscilla Sibley, to issue an invitation to all the women currently active in the congregation and to invite them to attend a meeting to suggest the appropriate distribution of these funds. That meeting was held in April of 2010 and all who attended the meeting agreed to the distribution that follows:

*PCC Austin Family Health Center	\$6,000.00
*The Children's Clinic of Oak Park	\$5,000.00
*Sanja Women's Fund	\$2,000.00
*Sister House	\$2,000.00
*Kan Win	\$2,000.00
Deacon's Fund of First United	\$3,000.00
Evening Division Scholarship Fund	\$5,000.00
Evening Division Program Fund	\$2,000.00
Reserve fund for possible washer/dryer	\$3,000.00
First United Building Loan payment	\$28,000.00

In discussions it was assumed that the original donors intended that these funds used for the mission and betterment of the church and it is the belief of those involved in the decision making that the suggested distribution is faithful to those intentions.

**Each of these organizations is currently or in the recent past has been supported by the Faith and Action Committee of First United or is an organization in which members of First United are currently active.*

CPR Training offered on Sept. 15

— Julie R. Harley

Our church has an AED unit in the Lounge and we want to offer training to church members who will learn Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation and how to use the AED. This course will allow us to respond to children or adults who may have a cardiac arrest at church. Harriet Udelson will lead one-hour training sessions for up to 12 people on September 15 at 10:30 am and 6:30 pm. In order to complete the training, each person will need to take a 90-minute online training course in advance and pay \$20. To participate, please contact the church office, (708) 386-5215, by Sept. 1st.

Holiday Food and Gift Basket Shopping Event

— Janet Haisman

Over the years, many of us have supported the annual Holiday Food and Gift Basket's "Sponsor a Family" program, coordinated for our church by Sher Spooner. HFGB is having a fundraiser at the Ten Thousand Villages store, 121 N. Marion, 6 to 9 pm, on Thursday, August 5. At this Community Shopping Night, 15% of the store's profits will go directly to the Holiday Food and Gift Basket program (HFGB). Your support that evening will be a tremendous help in providing for food and gifts for needy families at the holiday season, as well as supporting the good works of the Ten Thousand Villages store! For any questions, e-mail the HFGB staff at holidaybasket@hotmail.com.

peace prayers

Prayers
for Peace
On the front
steps of the
church every
Friday evening
at 7pm

InnerPeace
WorldPeace
Saturday at
8:30 am, in the
Conference
Room

All are invited.





On July 20, church leaders and committee members came together to begin planning next years budget. We have been able to implement programs based on our Christian values and faith because of our appreciation for all God provides for us. Our congregation has a thriving spirit of generosity.

Planning a budget is dependent on knowing what we can do for income. We expect our leaders to lead us in worship and to assure that our ministry is based on charity and justice. As stewards, we must support their efforts.

By definition, to be a steward is to be a manager, and in being a manager one must do some planning. This simple concept has caused me to value “pledging.”

Pledging is a method that helps me discern what I have been blessed with, and it provides an effective way to better understand my part in our congregation’s life and ministry. In John 10:10, Jesus sums up his life ministry saying “that we may have life and have it abundantly.” He revealed that all we have is ours by the grace of God.

Stewardship presumes blessing and abundance. It is not about guarding against or overcoming scarcity. It is not about giving to people. Stewardship is about recognizing all we have. It is about helping ourselves and others know and enjoy the abundance of life and love that God provides. It is about blessing and abundance that can be shared right now.

Presbyterian Church USA, General Assembly Report, July 3 – 10, 2010

—Pauline Coffman and Kris Ronnow

Several topics of interest to First United Church were on the agenda at the bi-annual General Assembly held in Minneapolis in early July. We want to tell you about the *Belhar Confession*, the *Colombia Overture*, full inclusion in the church for GLBTs, a just peace for Israel and Palestine, and a six-year period of studying non-violence for the whole church. Those who wanted the *Belhar Confession* added to the *Book of Confessions* said that by voting to do so meant the church “accepted the challenge to work against racism and for reconciliation and justice throughout our church and country” (statement by the chair of the committee that sent the action to the plenary, which adopted it). Now it goes to the 173 presbyteries for ratification before July 1, 2011.

The *Colombia Overture* was a product of our covenant partnership with “Churches in Solidarity with Latin America” or CSLA. The Presbyterian Church of Colombia asked us to stand with them in opposing 7 new military bases funded and operated by the U.S. Government. Kris was the overture advocate; the overture passed by voice vote! (He DID have help from four clergy from Colombia!)

There were two basic issues that related to GLBT concerns; the first was the deletion of a clause from the *Book of Order* that said those ordained to be elders or clergy had to be celibate or married, using the traditional understanding of marriage. The Assembly voted to delete that clause and to judge candidates on the basis of calling, gifts, preparation and suitability (sexual orientation was omitted). This must be ratified by a majority of the 173 presbyteries in the U.S.A. by July 1, 2011. The second was on the topic of Civil Union and Christian Marriage. The assembly voted to approve the report of the Special Committee to Study Issues of Civil Union and Christian Marriage by a vote of 439-208. The assembly then voted to send the report to the larger church for study after a minority report was defeated. Several speakers raised the concerns of pastors who are prevented from performing weddings in states where same sex marriage is legal. The majority felt two more years of “study” was important.

Regarding Israel and Palestine, the Assembly affirmed the following:

- ❖ A cessation of all violence, whether perpetrated by Israelis or Palestinians;
- ❖ The end of the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories and diversion of water resources;
- ❖ An immediate freeze both on the establishment or expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and on the Israeli acquisition of Palestinian land and buildings in East Jerusalem;
- ❖ The relocation by Israel of the Separation Barrier to the 1967 border;

continued on following page

General Assembly Report—continued

- ❖ The withholding of U.S. government aid to the state of Israel as long as Israel persists in creating new West Bank settlements.
- ❖ Continuing corporate engagement through the Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment with companies profiting from the sale and use of their products for non-peaceful purposes and/or the violation of human rights.
- ❖ A shared status of Jerusalem;
- ❖ Equal rights for Palestinian citizens of the state of Israel.
- ❖ The cessation of systematic violation of human rights by any party, specifically, practices of administrative detention, collective punishment, the torture of prisoners and suspects, home demolitions and evictions, and the deportation of dissidents; and
- ❖ The immediate resumption by Israel and Palestine of negotiations toward a two-state solution.
- ❖ Israel's right to exist as a sovereign nation within secure and internationally recognized borders in accordance with U.N. resolutions was reaffirmed.

It did NOT vote to divest from Caterpillar and it did NOT vote to declare Israel an "apartheid" state. There was lots of political maneuvering on the M.E. topic with a surprising agreement from all sides that permitted the MESC Report to pass. Two papers, one on Jewish Christian Dialogue and the other on Christian Muslim relations, were presented. The first was rejected and sent back for revisions (I spoke against it). The second was approved. The first will be reviewed by "all the relevant voices" before it is brought back for approval. Palestinian voices, both Christian and Muslim, had not been involved in its creation.

The Presbyterian Peace Fellowship (PPF) brought a recommendation that the whole church study the method and use of non-violence over a six year period and consider adopting it as the official response to war. While this one passed, it was deemed "too costly" and most of its concerns were folded into another overture that is aimed at strengthening the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program (PPP). Prior to 2012, work will focus on preparing new resources on how to become peacemakers.

For 2014, a report with recommendations will be presented to G.A.; and by 2016, final action on its recommendations will be taken.

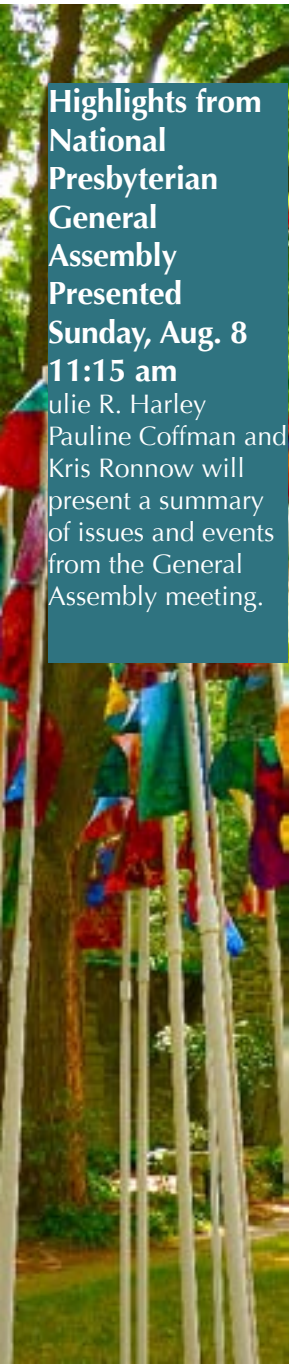
At a breakfast sponsored by the PPF, the main speaker was an Iraq war veteran who chose to become a "conscientious objector."

2010 Annual Meeting of the Illinois Conference

— Joe Powers

I was honored to represent First United Church at the 2010 annual meeting of the Illinois Conference held at the University of Illinois – Chicago in mid-June. If you've never attended a UCC conference or association meeting, then you're missing an opportunity to see how our denomination "runs the store." The UCC is a collection of autonomous congregations bound together in covenant to each other for the purpose of doing God's work; in practice, keeping this covenanted group of independent congregations working together usually looks more like an exercise in herding cats. And yet, it works...The main event at this year's annual Illinois Conference meeting was the confirmation of Rev. Jorge Morales as the new Conference Minister. Rev. Morales has been serving the Illinois Conference as Associate Conference Minister for several years, so he expects to hit the ground running in his new role as Conference Minister.

An Emergency Resolution of Solidarity with Immigrants and the Southwest Conference of the UCC was presented to the conference delegates for consideration. The Southwest Conference has adopted a position of non-compliance with the recently passed Arizona SB 1070, which they feel violates biblical principals calling for just treatment of migrants and aliens living among us, and they are asking other UCC conferences to join them in opposing this unjust law. The emergency resolution presented at the Illinois Conference meeting calls on all congregations to prayerfully consider ways that we may oppose the law and put pressure on the legislature to repeal it. This resolution was passed unanimously by the conference delegates, and has been forwarded to our Faith in Action Committee to consider how First United might actively support the efforts of our sisters and brothers in the Southwest.



Highlights from National Presbyterian General Assembly Presented

Sunday, Aug. 8
11:15 am

Julie R. Harley,
Pauline Coffman and
Kris Ronnow will
present a summary
of issues and events
from the General
Assembly meeting.

Living the Vision

—Rick Ashton

As First United Church initiates our financial planning for 2011, the guidance of God's Vision for the next ten years of our life will be essential to all our decisions. The work begins with the leadership of the Finance Committee, the Church Council, and our staff, extends through all our committees, ministries, and work groups, and invites the participation of the entire congregation. For each item of revenue, each area of spending, we will have both the opportunity and the responsibility between now and November to consider the important questions of Vision 2020:

How does this help us move from words to witness in our relationship with God?

How does this help us move from individualism to intimate fellowship in our relationships with other members of the church community?

How does this help us move from charity to changing structures in our relationship with the world?

Blessed by God's abundant love and bountiful generosity, we can embrace the challenges of 2011 by prayerfully preparing, in both our giving and our spending, to do the dynamic and transformative work that God is calling us to do. Thanks be to God.

Camping Anyone?

— Priscilla Sibley

First United Family Camp will take place August 12-16, 2010 at Tower Hill Camp, Sawyer, Michigan. Come for the weekend or plan to stay from Thursday through Monday. Summer is here, so mark your calendar. Questions? Call Don or me at 708- 848-2840.

Midpoint Group

Join the Midpoint Group, at the home of Becky and Don Kuntz, for fellowship on Friday, September 10 at 7:30 pm. Midpoint Group welcomes First United members and friends in their 30's, 40's and a little beyond. We will meet throughout the year in homes and other sites for friendship, service and game nights. RSVP to Becky at bkuntz1@yahoo.com.

**SCARF
CAMP
FUN**



A Great Big Thank You from the FFUN Committee! — Janet Kenealy

We want to thank everyone who set up tables and chairs, served hot dogs, shuttled dirty dishes into the kitchen, organized games, played music and in general pitched in where needed at the Church Picnic. A special thank you to Walter Miller for working the dishwasher long past what was expected.

Sunday, August 1	11:15a	Worship/Sermon Talk-back
Monday, August 2	12:00p	Colombia Trip Returns
Thursday, August 12-15		Family Camp at Tower Hill
Monday, August 16 Church Office Hours 8:00am-4:00pm		
Saturday, August 21	6:00p	PrimeTime Games Night
Sunday, August 22	10:00	Worship-Blessing of the Animals

Save
These
Dates



**FIRST
UNITED
CHURCH**
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Julie R. Harley, Lead Pastor

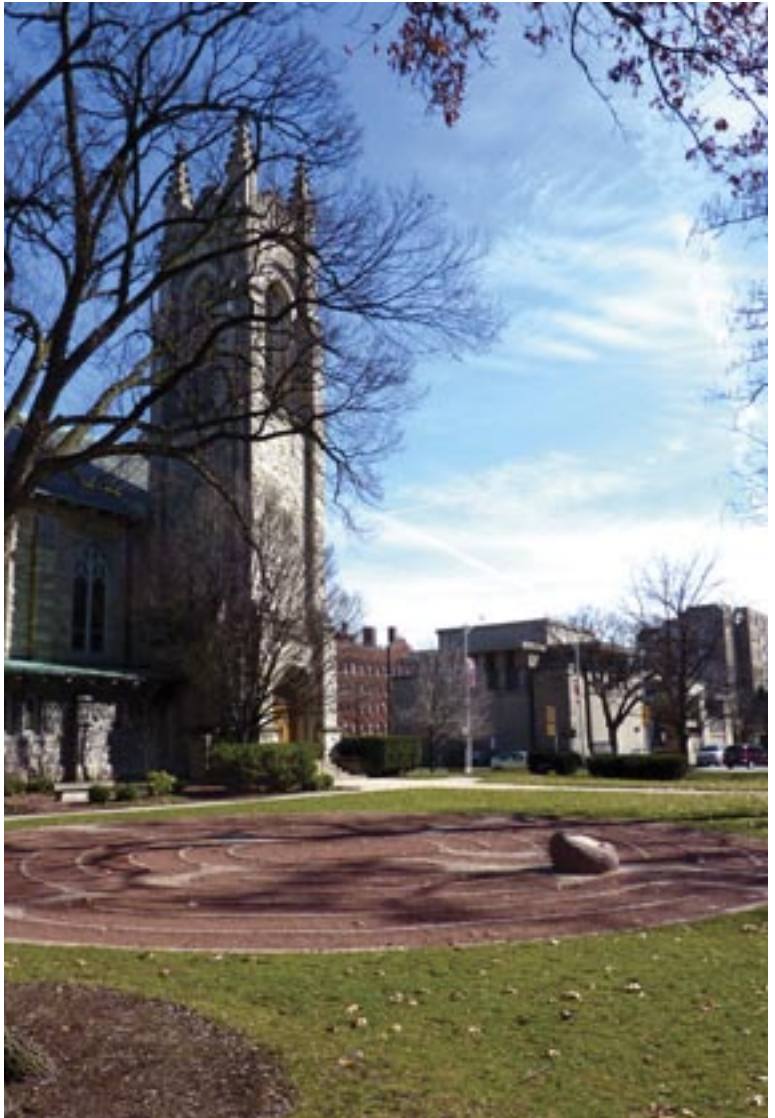
Leah Fowler, Associate Minister of
Youth and Adult Education

Rob Leveridge, Associate Minister of
Membership and Congregational Care

Marylen Marty-Gentile, Director of
Children & Family Ministries

Bill Chin,
Director of Music Ministry

Cathryn Wilkinson,
Organist



Deadline for the September issue 2010 is August 15th.
Please e-mail information or articles for the MB to:

office@firstunitedoakpark.com

6.2010.emorymead



August 2010

Regularly Scheduled Weekly Meetings: Please check with convener if you have questions.

2nd 3rd 4th and 5th and 1st	3:30p 7:00p	Food Pantry Open Food Pantry Open	Kathy Russell/Michele Zurakowski - 386-1324
Fridays	7:00p	Peace Prayer Vigil	Bob Haisman – 383-2035
Saturdays	8:30a 9:00a	Inner Peace/World Peace Food Pantry	Jeff Olson - 383-3154
Walk-in-Ministry	Monday— Saturday 10 to 11am		Susan Zaruba—386-1946

Week of August 1

Sunday 1	10:00a 11:15a	Worship Worship/Sermon Talk-back	
Monday 2	12:00p 7:00p	Colombia Trip Returns Fellowship of Reconciliation	
Tuesday 3	11:00a 6:30p 7:00p	Evening Division Board Library Committee Children's Ministry Committee Adult Education Committee	Carole Ferguson Cindy Palombi Barbara Metric/ Andrea Alter Jim Smith

Week of August 8

Sunday 8	10:00a 11:15a	Worship Presbyterian General Assembly Highlights-Chapel	Pauline Coffman
Tuesday 10	7:00p	Youth Board Deacons Finance Committee	Leah Fowler Carl Nauert Rick Pollock
Thursday 12	8:00p 7:00p	Communications Committee Family Camp (through Aug. 15) Worship, Music & Arts Committee	Ted Despotes/Bonnie Beck Don/Priscilla Sibley

Week of August 15

Sunday 15	8:30a 10:00a	Environmental Stewardship Team Worship	Ann Alexander
Monday 16		Church Office Hours 8:00am-4:00pm	
Tuesday 17	7:00p	Computer Committee Faith in Action Committee	Julie O'Shea Mark Loafman
Thursday 19	7:00p	Spiritual Guidance Groups	Julie R. Harley
Saturday 21	9:00a 6:00p	Directions PrimeTime Games Night	Anna Sadowski Marsha Ashton

Week of August 22

Sunday 22	10:00a 3:00p	Worship-Blessing of Animals PFLAG	Kate Kroker
Monday 23	7:00p	Peace with Justice Forum Personnel Committee	Bob Haisman Al Parchem
Tuesday 24	7:00p	Building & Grounds Committee New Member Committee Youth Committee	Justin Lewis/Russell Brown Susan Saliny Stan Faust
Wednesday 25	7:30p	Church Council Stewardship Committee	Stu Gillette Joanne Despotes

Week of August 29

Sunday 29	10:00a	Worship	
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