



Newsletter
of the
First Baptist Church
of Pittsburgh

October 2010

20 YEAR PERSEPCTIVE

PASTOR GARY DENNING

Sunday, October 3 marks my 20th year at FBC. I have met some amazing people during that time, some within our church, some through connections with our church, some because of connections in the city. It is that word “connections” which I would like to lift up to you as what I see to be our greatest possibility and our greatest challenge ahead.

At the close of our services we join hands and sing “Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love. The fellowship of kindred minds, is like to that above.” When I look around at new people being encouraged to join a cluster of people preparing to sing, I am amazed at how the surprise most often turns to a smile and what may have seemed a little strange at first gives way to a sense of familiarity.

Paul encouraged Gentile Christians to see themselves as part of the family of faith with these words: Ephesians 2:19-22 So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

I see in Paul’s words a strong guide for us. We want those who come our way as strangers and sojourners to become fellow citizens and members of our particular household of God. We want to have a strong foundation - that is why we preach from the writings of the apostles and the prophets, and that is why our focus is always Christ Jesus. He must be the cornerstone of our worship, our preaching, our outreach; everything we do must point to Christ. But it always remains an

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ongoing challenge to become truly joined together and to grow into that holy temple where others will want to be built into it as well.

Forming a strong connection with new people may begin with knowing who we are, but it grows to include who they are. What do they think? How do they feel? What is on their minds and in their hearts? The hand to which we reach out on Sunday morning may not want to reach back at first. But the more we let that new person know we value their ideas and want to address their needs and concerns, the better we present ourselves as giving people and not just receivers who wish people would come to us. This is less about the right program or the right training to learn how to attract people. It is more about being attractive people, where the Spirit of God is visible, and where trust can transform a stranger into a member of the family. The words of Psalm 122 say, "I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord." "Let us" is about building connections.

Build a connection with the next person you see for the first time at FBC.

MARRIED COUPLES LUNCHEON, OCTOBER 17, 12:30 PM.

Sunday October 17 Pastor Denning is hosting a luncheon after church for couples whose marriages he has officiated plus some who are associated with our church, but may not have been married here. Young married couples were conspicuously absent from our congregation when he first arrived in October, 1990, and while we have had a few with children from time to time, we have never been in a position to create stable, ongoing children's programs. We hope through a series of luncheons and other events to create some friendship circles that will begin to expand our outreach to young families. Robert and Somy Jackson, who were his first married couple in 1991 will honor us with their wonderful cooking skills.

NEWSLETTER OF THE FIRST BAPTIST
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You can get a preview of the Sunday Bible Study discussion and the sermon. Go to the FBC website, first-baptist-pittsburgh.org>Sunday>What's On This Sunday. Choose the date you want.

CHRYSTAL WILLIAMS CONCERT

Sunday, October 24, 2:00 pm.

We had promoted this for September 26, but Chrystal's schedule did not permit her coming at that time. Now she has made travel arrangements that allow her to come on October 24, and it will be exciting to hear her once again. Chrystal recently graduated from Yale University School of Music, New Haven, CT, with a master's degree in Opera Performance where she studied voice with Doris Yarick-Cross. She earned her bachelor's degree in voice performance from Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, May 2008, where she studied voice with Susanne Marsee. And of course, we know her from our choir at FBC.

In 2004, Chrystal founded the Chrystal E. Williams Scholarship to help students wishing to pursue a career in the performing arts. This scholarship is funded in part by her annual concert, An Evening with Chrystal E.

Chrystal E. Williams has participated in such festivals as the Opera Theatre and Music Festival of Lucca, Lucca, Italy, the University of Miami Frost School of Music at Salzburg, Salzburg, Austria, as well as the Aspen Music Festival and School, Aspen, Colorado.

Chrystal attends the Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia, PA where she studies voice with Dr. William Stone.

Her accompanist will be Lucas Wong, from Hong Kong, who has accompanied her during her study time at Yale.

See more about Chrystal Williams on page 6



Third Saturday Prayer & Praise

Saturday, October 16, 1:00 pm.

We just celebrated our 14th anniversary in September. Sr. Butler would like to focus our October meeting on a love for what we have been taught by generations who raised us, much like Paul's words to Timothy about holding on to the faith he learned from his mother and grandmother. The theme will be called "The Amen Corner: Bring Back the Old Landmark", and guest speaker for the day will be her son, Minister Daniel Butler. We are always delighted to share food together after the program.



Jean Hedenburg

April 25, 1927-September 4, 2010

REMEMBERING JEAN

A wonderful friend and beautiful lady left us on September 4, 2010. The picture above was taken at a church picnic in the summer of 2008. We all looked forward to Jean's contribution to picnics and dinners. She made such wonderful dishes. Jean was very creative, note the comment below about Jack's ties. She and Verl Richards provided great center pieces for tables at our dinners.

Cathy Qureshi sent this tribute to Jean, "Mrs. Hedenburg was a lovely lady. I remember once when I was pregnant with Max, I was gushing about my nephew or possibly some other child. She chuckled and said "just you wait, there is NOTHING in the whole world like having your own child." She was so right and I often think of that sentiment so well and simply expressed. She was also very beautiful and always so well put together. An elegant lady!"

Petroula Zoll wrote this: I have had the pleasure of getting to know Jean during Sunday School, where I'd see her sitting next to Jack. Jean was always dressed prettily and I admired her handiwork on Jack's ties. What always struck me about watching them was how he took care of her: getting her coffee, or waiting for her to exit the bathroom before going into church for the service. While I did not know Jean as well as I would have liked to, I appreciated her warm greeting every morning in the church office, her quiet way of helping, and her gift of making unique desserts such as zucchini pie, spaghetti cake, and her famous pineapple dessert. She definitely made fruit and vegetables fun! I have also had the pleasure of seeing Jean and Jack at Giant Eagle in Waterworks, and it was so wonderful to see them together. Jack would have Jean's "honey-do" list (which always made me smile), and even though wheelchair-bound, Jean would direct him to help her find the next item on her list. She must like pineapples because the last time I saw them she was buying one, and handed me a coupon when I mentioned I had started to like them. While it was hard to see her suffer and be in and out of the hospital, Jean was a fighter and stayed strong, even though she was frustrated. She definitely was a model of perseverance and faith. Having had the chance to look at old pictures of Jean and her family, I feel I have missed knowing a wonderful woman. All the same, I greatly appreciate Jack and Jean's testimony of Christian love, marriage and service. Jean will forever be a big part of First Baptist Church. Rest in peace, Jean! You will be missed!

Welcome Back
Sonya Stewart

The students have returned and the fall Bible Study has begun once again with a Serendipity study on the book of John. Although we miss those who have left us for the military, graduate school or work life, each week we welcome visitors and enjoy the new faces among us. These transitions are a part of living in the university and hospital communities. On September 18th, Joe and Marilyn Cosetti hosted a group for dinner that included Mary, Ed, Richard, Sonya, Angie, Beth, Uttam, Keith, Megan and Petroula. To the college student, the only thing more treasured than the words "free food" is when it turns out to be provided in such an elegant way with such welcoming hosts. The menu consisted of a prelude of drinks and h'orderves followed by chicken from the grill, fresh corn, green beans, cranberry sauce, Mancini's bread, cookies and sundaes that could be topped with fresh strawberries or a hot fudge sauce to die for. Many thanks to Joe and Marilyn for such an unforgettable late summer evening first under the sun and then under the stars! Upcoming activities include a hike at McConnell's Mill on October 9th, a service activity at Global Links in November and Christmas caroling in December.

The Wednesday evening study of John has already begun to provide insight into our day to day lives. The name given to Jesus in the first chapter is the Word or "logos". Verse 11 addresses Jesus coming to his own and not being received. We discussed the pain of this type of rejection and how it feels to us and to others when we fail to reach out in welcome. We feel hurt, a lack of appreciation, angry, disappointed, "uncool", insecure and like we have wasted our time and effort. Jesus must feel the same sometimes as He stands outside our hearts waiting for us to receive Him. If we think of our relationship with others and with God in terms of what rooms they are welcomed in our house, we get a visual of exactly how intimate those relationships are. Do we let Jesus past the fence or the front door? Into foyer, the living room, the kitchen, the bedroom or into the bathroom of our hearts? Is our relationship one where we wave to Him as a friendly neighbor or do we welcome him into our lives as we would a family member? As we grow in Christ, the places where we welcome Him become greater and our joy becomes deeper.



Visit us at <http://fbcpg.org/YoungAdultGroup.aspx> or join us on Facebook to see pictures and stay connected with the happenings and upcoming events. We welcome all Young Adults to consider joining us for Bible Study, social and ministry opportunities.

Row 1: Richard, Uttam, Beth
Row 2: Joe, Marilyn, Ed, Mary, Megan,
Angie, Keith, Petroula

Baptist Women News
Petroula Zoli & Paula Hall
FBC-Women's Group

The Lord has truly blessed me with our newly-founded Women's Group at FBC. Not only do I have a new spiritual friend and mentor, Eleanor Anderson, but the dynamic of our group seems to be that I get to fellowship with different women at our meetings: no meeting is the same! Case in point: at our September meeting, we not only had Eleanor Anderson, Margot Quirin, Mary Floyd, Ellen Price, Sonya Stewart, Gwen Sharpf, and Paula Hall (we missed you Gussie Boss!), but Beth Hocking returned to us, and Dewi Wong joined our group! How exciting! It was so good to praise God during our time of music led by Margot, where we sang "Precious Lord, Take My Heart" and "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms." Then, Eleanor read from the gospel of Peter and gave an interesting and very moving devotional about persecuted girls in Burma, reminding us to keep such girls in our prayers.

It seems our "little group," as I keep describing it (perhaps because I enjoy books like *Little Women*, where Marmie and her girls gather together to share faith, love and trials), has a big heart and is willing to let God work a good work in our lives (Philippians 1:6; 2:13), and for the good of those at FBC and in the community. While we are still forming our identity, our mission and purpose seems to simply be: to pray and to support the church when we can. Plans are in the works to cook for the choir, possibly help visiting college students with a cleaning project in October, as well as several other outreach efforts. Stay tuned and come join us in fellowship!

Please join us for our October 16 meeting. Meetings begin at 10 am in the library with devotions and will end by noon. Start saving the mornings of the third Saturdays of the month for Women's Group.

More about Chrystal

Chrystal has been featured as a soloist recently in Beethoven's 9th Symphony with the New Haven Symphony Orchestra, and has been featured in *Catfish Row* (Selections from *Porgy and Bess*) and in *Jack Stamps Four Maryland Songs*, both with the Yale University Concert Band, and was featured in the New Music New Haven Concert in October of 2009. She has also been featured in performances of Händel's *Messiah*, the Christmas Oratorio of Camille Saint-Saëns, Pergolesi's *Magnificat*, Scarlatti's *St. Cecilia's Mass*, Mozart's *Coronation Mass*, Christian Kriegeskotte's *Krljavestica* (Premier 2008), as well as Simon Fink's *In Dreams* (Premier 2008).

Chrystal will be featured as a soloist with the American Classical Orchestra in April 2011, and will be featured in a solo recital at the Phillips Collection in Washington D.C. January 2012.

Chrystal has received numerous awards including 2nd place in the Washington International Competition for Voice through the Friday Morning Music Club 2010, 2nd place in the New England Region District Finals of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions 2009, 1st place in the VA/NC Chapter of the National Society of Arts and Letters Career Award in Voice competition 2008, and the Sylvie Derdeyne Award in Voice 2007.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
10 am Bible Study 10 am Japanese 11 am FBC Worship 12 Music Committee	8 am Head Start 9:30 am Japanese 7 pm Spanish Bible	8 am Head Start 9:30 am Japanese 7 pm Spanish Bible	8 am Head Start 6:15 Meal 7 pm FBC Bible Studies 8 pm Glee Club	8 am Head Start 6 pm Choir 7 pm Japanese	8 am Head Start	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 am Bible Study 11 am FBC Worship 1 pm Deacons 1 pm Spanish 7-30 P. Arch	8 am Head Start 9:30 am Japanese 7 pm Spanish Bible 7:30 pm Planning	8 am Head Start 9:30 am Japanese 7 pm Spanish Bible 7:30 pm Planning	8 am Head Start 6:15 Meal 7 pm FBC Bible Studies 8 pm Glee Club	8 am Head Start 6 pm Choir 7 pm Japanese	8 am Head Start	Basement Floor Cleaning
10	11		13	14	15	16
10 am Bible Study 11 am FBC Worship 11 pm Spanish	8 am Head Start 9:30 am Japanese 7 pm Spanish Bible 7:30 pm Trustees/ Council	8 am Head Start 9:30 am Japanese 7 pm Spanish Bible 7:30 pm Planning	8 am Head Start 6:15 Meal 7 pm FBC Bible Studies 8 pm Glee Club	8 am Head Start 6 pm Choir 7 pm Japanese 7 pm Sonya Salon	8 am Head Start	10 am FBC Women's Group 1 pm Prayer & Praise
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10 am Bible Study 11 am FBC Worship 1 pm Spanish	8 am Head Start 9:30 am Japanese 7 pm Spanish Bible 7:30 pm Planning	8 am Head Start 9:30 am Japanese 7 pm Spanish Bible 7:30 pm Planning	8 am Head Start 6:15 Meal 7 pm FBC Bible Studies 8 pm Glee Club	8 am Head Start 6 pm Choir 7 pm Japanese	8 am Head Start	
24/31	1	2	3	4	5	6
10 am Bible Study 11 am FBC Worship 1 pm Spanish 2 pm Chrystal	8 am Head Start 9:30 am Japanese 7 pm Spanish Bible	8 am Head Start 9:30 am Japanese 7 pm Spanish Bible	8 am Head Start 6:15 Meal 7 pm FBC Bible Studies 8 pm Glee Club	8 am Head Start 6 pm Choir 7 pm Japanese	8 am Head Start 6 pm Choir 7 pm Japanese	

The First Baptist Church of Pittsburgh
159 North Bellefield Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

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TIME VALUE

Bible Study 10:00 am



Worship Service 11:00 am