

THE MESSENGER

| NEWS FROM FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FORT COLLINS |

**HE KNOWS
MY NAME**

MONEY MATTERS



**I CAN'T
CONTROL
ANYTHING**

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From the Editor | BROTHERHOOD

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

As we celebrate the 239th birthday of the United States this month, I imagine we will hear this song. Like many people, when I hear the stirring melody of "America the Beautiful," I get goosebumps of emotion and pride. We do live in a beautiful, beautiful country.

Yet consider the prayer within the poem: God shed His grace—His ultimate gift—and crown it with *brotherhood*. Brotherhood is defined as the belief that all people should act with warmth and equality toward one another, regardless of differences in nationality, creed, ethnicity, etc. Brotherhood is a society that can overcome differences and live together in harmony, compassion. In Christ, we are all one (Galatians 3:28). Brotherhood is what Christ calls His Church to live and be. What a timely prayer for America and for FPC!

As we celebrate life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, may we continue to seek His grace and brotherhood—from sea to shining sea.

—Cathy Richardson

THE MESSENGER

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PUBLISHING GUIDELINES | THE MESSENGER is a publication for the people, passions, and mission of First Presbyterian Church Fort Collins. The newsletter seeks to inspire, inform, instruct, challenge, and motivate its readers to become engaged in the ministry of FPC. We pray that adult readers in all life stages will aspire to be faithful disciples for Christ.

Articles that support FPC's purpose and mission will be **accepted on the 15th of each month**. All articles must be sponsored by one of the church's five Centers and are subject to the approval of the Editor. Submissions will be edited for length and suitability.

Article submissions will be accepted via e-mail to crichardson@firstpresfc.org. Contact Editor Cathy Richardson for more information, (970)482-6107.



**First
Presbyterian
Church**

PASTOR'S CORNER

HE KNOWS MY NAME

He calls His own sheep by name, and He leads them. Whenever all of His own shall be brought out, He goes before them, and His sheep follow because they know His voice.

—John 10:3b-4

What a richness there is in these simple verses! What hope and comfort they provide for us all!

He knows our name, which means He knows you and me personally. I believe that knowing someone's name is so important. It says to that person that they are valued, respected and known. The good news of the Gospel is that God knows **you** and **me**, (John 10:27).

What's more, He goes before us. This is true for us personally, and it is true for us as a congregation. Whatever the future holds, whatever trial we must endure, whatever battle we must fight, whatever adventure lies ahead, whatever joy awaits us, He goes before us. He leads the way. He knows what He is doing. He is always with us. He can and will do for us the things that we cannot do for ourselves.

And perhaps most amazing of all, He speaks to us. We hear His voice, Jesus says. We hear Him speak, and we know Him through His speaking (John 10:14). We can come to know when it is not His voice, but that of the

thief who comes to kill and destroy (John 10:10). This is experiential language, describing the illumination of the meaning of the Scriptures in our hearts and minds.

During the summer, as we take a little time to catch our breath as a congregation, and take stock of who and where we are, what better season to spend time with God in His scriptures. To know the depths of His love for us personally. To know when He's leading you. To know Him through His voice. To discern the difference between His voice and other voices. All of this takes place in the Scriptures: reading, meditating on, memorizing, studying, hearing the written Word of God. Why not begin with the Gospel of John, which we will study more in depth this fall and winter on Sunday mornings.

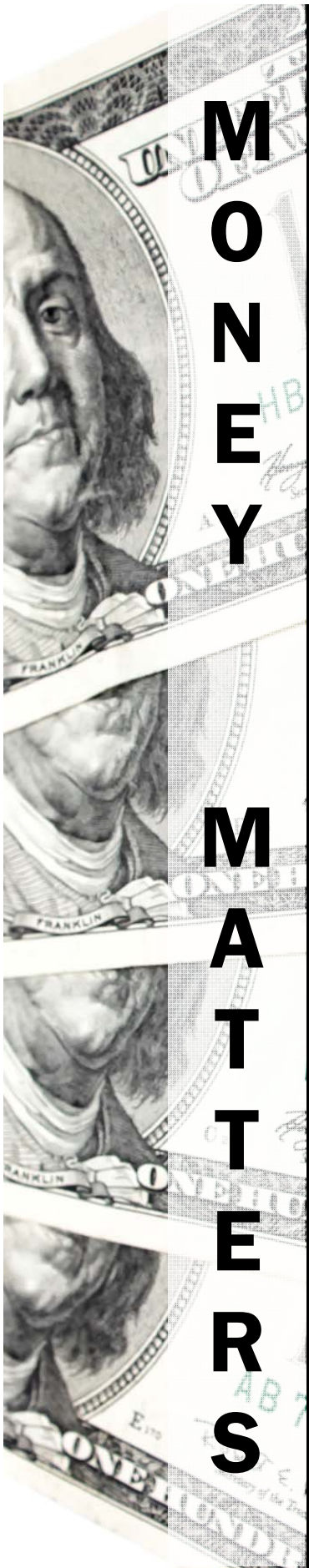
This what I am devoting myself to this summer, and I hope you'll come with me.

—Paul Parsons

FAITH FAMILY HOSPITALITY

HOSTING THE HOMELESS AT FPC

FPC hosted three families between May 24 and 31 in our first-ever hosting experience as part of Faith Family Hospitality. Forty different FPC volunteers along with 15 from Peak Community Church provided seven dinners and a cooked-to-order Saturday breakfast for the families, which included four adults and nine kids between one month and fifteen years. The week went very well, thanks in part to good attitudes on the parts of guests and volunteers. Volunteers were rewarded with smiles, thanks, and hugs from some of the hugging-age kids. Feedback from volunteers was positive and the possibility of hosting again in December is being explored. Thanks, FPC, for your support! —Walt Schuchmann



It is a privilege for me to share with you a host of good news about FPC's finances.

Thanksgiving for Congregational Giving

We have so much for which to be thankful. Our income through May of \$418,000 means we are on track to meet our budget for 2015 for the following reasons:

1. We are growing. We've seen a net increase in the number of people sharing their gifts.
2. We are committed. A majority of people are on track to meet their 2015 pledge.
3. We are sharing. A majority of pledge receipts are ahead of their 2014 gift.

So, to all of you who have taken part in this steady, faithful giving, thank you so very much. You're doing a great job.

The New Roads Challenge

A generous donor in our congregation has come forward with a gift of up to \$50,000 to serve as a challenge to the congregation to match dollar for dollar! The \$100,000 total, if fully funded, would serve the following purposes:

1. A one-time bonus for the Staff which has gone without a raise of any kind for years.
2. Monies to bring our child-care workers' pay up to market standards for Fort Collins, and likewise for our facility's support staff.
3. Funding for the costs associated with searching for a new senior pastor and for moving that pastor here.
4. "Risk capital" funds that can be used to start new ministries, one way in which our congregation can be helped to grow.

We invite everyone to participate in this exciting opportunity. No gift is too small. On the contrary, every gift matters to God and we agree. Our hope is to complete the New Roads Challenge by August 31.

King Soopers Grocery Cards

Another gracious donor has purchased King Soopers' grocery gift cards, placing \$5 on each one. We invite everyone in the congregation to sign up for one, that you might enjoy the \$5 and then refill the card with whatever amount you choose, and

continue using the card for groceries you would have bought otherwise. King Sooper's will then donate 5% of whatever you spend using the gift card to FPC. This is a simple way to create a revenue stream at no extra cost to you. Please join us.

The End of the Administrative Fee

An Administrative Fee on new gifts to designated funds was created in 2015 in order to reflect FPC's true overhead costs required to process designated funds and provide services to those off-budget ministries. The Session in its June meeting voted to eliminate the fee, and to transfer those overhead costs to the budgets of each of the Centers for the remainder of 2015.

The Davis Estate

Jack and Darlene Davis were a part of FPC for much of their lives, and their deep love for the congregation was clearly evident in their decades of faith service. When the new sanctuary was being considered, as a cost-saving effort, they donated the moss rock for which our church is known. The congregation ended up moving over 500 tons of this rock at an extraordinary savings to the church. It was only one of many ways that the Davises blessed this congregation financially.

As it turns out, the Davises chose to keep on giving beyond their own lives. Upon Darlene's passing this last year, the Davis estate gifted the First Presbyterian Foundation nearly \$500,000. These monies will be kept in an endowment within the Foundation, and the church will have access to the interest earned on the funds annually. This is an extraordinary gift, one which will provide a basis for worship, discipleship, and mission for years and years to come.

We give thanks, humbly and with profound gratitude, for such generosity. May the example of the Davises also encourage others to create ways in which their inheritance might bless others in future generations.

Thanks to every one of you who has taken part in this good news and is taking part in it today.

—Paul Parsons

STONE SOUP HOME GOES UP

FPC HABITAT FOR HUMANITY TEAMBUILD WAS A GREAT SUCCESS



The June 13 First Pres Habitat for Humanity Team Build was a great success. God provided us with good weather and willing attitudes. We all were able to meet Irma Gonzales, the future homeowner of the Stone Soup home.

Twelve of us met at 7:45 a.m. for orientation and a prayer. After that, we were divided into several groups to begin our tasks for the day. These included erecting scaffolding, building supports for the edge of the roofs, setting the bottom band for future siding, and other miscellaneous framing. Not all of us were able to work on Irma's home, so we also worked next door on the Women Build home. After a lunch provided by Habitat, work continued until about 3:30 p.m. We were all tired and hot, but left with a feeling of real accomplishment, knowing that we had helped at least two families toward their goal of home ownership.

Several people said that they wanted to come back and work again. There is no need to have a special Pres Build or Team

Build day for members of our congregation to volunteer to help. Anyone can register anytime on the Habitat website and volunteer to work: both male and female. Anyone can organize a few friends and/or family and volunteer as a group. As a long-time Habitat supporter and Stone Soup contributor, FPC can, and will still encourage volunteers to continue the contribution of their time to this worthy organization. Habitat for Humanity is but one of several local Mission Programs that FPC supports thanks to the generosity of this congregation.

—Jim Fischer

Pictured L–R: Jim Pierce, Austin Pierce, Jim Fischer, Doug Hunt, Dale Preston, John Nick, Irma Gonzales, Mark Nossokoff, Kylee Willer, Ranae Willer, Walt Schuchmann, Janet Schuchmann. Not Pictured: Dale Lake

PER CAPITA

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

We believe it is important for our congregation to understand more about what the “per capita” is. The topic has aroused curiosity and some anxiety. Please take a few minutes to educate yourself by reading these FAQ’s. If you have further questions we will try to answer those as well.

1. What is “the Presbytery”?

Our denomination, the PC(USA), has delegated its governance into 16 Synods, within which there are a total of 172 regional groups called Presbyteries. Ours is the Presbytery of Plains and Peaks and it includes 38 churches in northern Colorado and western Nebraska. Each presbytery coordinates a variety of services for its member churches and pastoral staff. Representatives (ordained pastors and a few elders from each church) meet quarterly to manage these services and jointly plan presbytery business.

2. How are Presbyteries funded?

Each presbytery develops a budget approved by its membership (each of the churches) and asks that each member church make a contribution to that budget. The contribution requested from each church is proportional to its membership.

3. What is included in the Presbytery budget?

There are many services that support the work of the member churches. Five groups of services are:

- 1) Pastoral Care
- 2) Preparation for Ministry
- 3) Congregational Ministry
- 4) Highlands Camp, and
- 5) Administration

We have taken advantage of these services in our current pastoral search, access to Highlands Camp, and the use of training materials and workshops. Many of the presbytery's services are critical to the smaller churches that couldn't survive without support from the broader church.

4. What is Per Capita?

The total income for the Presbytery of Plains and Peaks (\$306,300 for 2015) is divided among the total membership of the presbytery (currently 7,125 people) and that apportionment" (\$43 for 2015) is called the "per capita." With FPC's current membership of 760 people, we have been asked to submit \$32,680 to the presbytery for its 2015 budget.

Note that this “Presbytery per capita” includes amounts that support the Synod to which our Presbytery belongs and also the General Assembly, or national governing body, of the PC(USA). Of the \$43 per member we are asked to contribute to the Presbytery for 2015, \$6 will go on to the Synod and \$7.40 will go to the General Assembly. This will leave just a bit less than \$30 to support the work of our Presbytery.

5. Does FPC pay per capita? What is “opt-in” and “opt-out”?

Until 2011 FPC paid its full per capita. In 2011 session voted to suspend a portion of the per capita and in 2012 we suspended the full payment. At the same time we created a mechanism for members to voluntarily pay their per capita. We call this an "opt-in" payment of per capita. The

voluntary payments from FPC members since 2012 have amounted to about 15% of what we were asked to pay.

The session has considered, but has not adopted, an "opt-out" treatment of per capita. This means the financial office would first calculate FPC's full per capita (our membership times the per capita apportionment). Any church members who do not wish to support presbytery would notify the office that they do not wish to be included in per capita (we call this "opt-out"). The financial office would subtract that amount from the total payment and send the remainder to the presbytery.

Do you have more questions about per capita? Great! Find an elder and have a conversation, send an email to session@firstpresfc.org or drop a written question off at the office. We will post this FAQ with additional questions as they come to the church website at <http://firstpresfc.org/percapita/>.

—Bill Julian, Sara Hunt
and Jennifer Clegern

LIBRARY CORNER

Due to the recent surge of interest in the novel *Wolf Hall*, by Hilary Mantel, the library is reprinting Wayne Clegern's review from the July 2012 issue of *The Messenger*.

ONE OF THE IRONIES OF HISTORY

Among bizarre aspects of the European birth of Protestantism, perhaps none exceeds the dramatic tragedy of the wives of Henry VIII of England. One aspect was the ego of the King, related to his murderous brutality in casting aside both ministers and wives in search of a male heir. This tragedy was a decisive chapter in the outcome of the European Reformation. Henry awakened English nationalism by defeating the Pope and declaring himself head of the English church—all so he could marry as he wished.

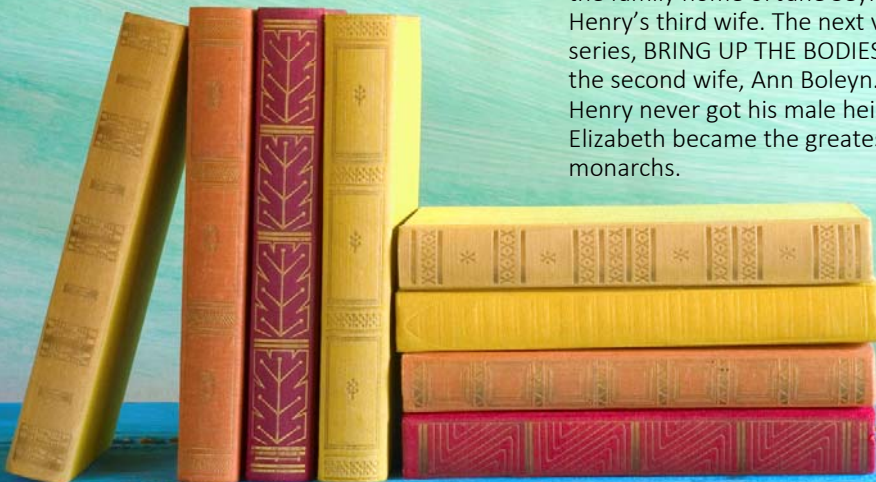
Thomas Cromwell, the son of a blacksmith, was a lawyer not a priest. Yet he served Cardinal Wolsey, then the King's chief advisor. He survived the fall and execution of Wolsey, and subsequently himself became King Henry's chief advisor. *Wolf Hall, a Novel* (Hilary Mantel. Henry Holt, 2009. 532 pp.) provides a careful analysis of Cromwell's character showing it to have been admirable, thus flatly contradicting his previous literary reputation. Elegantly written, it does demand close attention because unattributed dialogue frequently ignores the names of those who are speaking. This is a difficulty until the reader gets the rhythm of the narrative.

Cromwell's father had beaten him frequently and without much cause; so the boy had run away at 14. He spent more than a decade on the continent applying himself to various professions: soldier, worker in a rich Italian's business (where he learned accounting), and several businesses in the low countries where he learned several languages. Establishing a number of valuable business connections, he ended as a specialist in the wool trade. When he returned to England that business is where he started. However, he branched into the law and since he was an able agent he acquired a number of wealthy clients, including the Cardinal. He went to Parliament and from there into the King's service. In this capacity he was disliked by the nobility for having risen above his station.

One should have in mind at least a brief sketch of Henry VIII's reign before reading this book. The author contradicts a number of entrenched literary opinions, for instance, that Sir Thomas More was "A Man for all Seasons." She pictures More as narrow and cranky and a snobbish rival of Cromwell. Part of this was that More always remained a Catholic, to the point that it cost him his head. Cromwell was not very interested in the Church except insofar as he enabled his client Henry VIII to break with the Papacy. The author does not picture More as being any more ethical or benign than Cromwell. Cromwell was simply a calm and consistent pragmatist. He was described by one acquaintance as "a wall," a tribute to his customary impassiveness.

This work ends in September, 1535, with Cromwell planning to spend five days in the country at Wolf Hall, the family home of Jane Seymour, who would become Henry's third wife. The next volume of Hilary Mantel's series, *BRING UP THE BODIES*, deals with the end of the second wife, Ann Boleyn. One must note that Henry never got his male heir, but that Ann's daughter Elizabeth became the greatest of modern English monarchs.

—Wayne Clegern



VBS 2015: HOMETOWN NAZARETH

WHERE JESUS WAS A KID



**How many kids came to VBS?
75!**

**How many volunteers helped each day?
47!**



How many Bible verses did children learn? 5!

- “Nothing is impossible with God!”
- “I have called you by name; you are mine!”
- “There is more than enough room in my Father’s house!”
- “Let us go to the house of the Lord!”
- “Serve one another in love!”



God Sighting:
“I saw God in the Farmer’s Market when I visited the turkeys and goats.”



God Sighting:
“I dreamed about God and VBS!”





God Sighting:
"I got to meet Mary
— she's Jesus' mom!"

God Sighting:
"Mom, NOTHING is
impossible with God!"



God Sighting:
On Monday of VBS week, kids decorated elephant banks and took them home to fill with change. On Friday, the collection basket was heavy with their generosity. Their spare pennies, nickels, and dimes added up to \$352.84 and made it possible to provide 88 bibles for children in Thailand.



How blessed is this church? Beyond words! Praise to Jesus who was a kid like us in Nazareth!

A CHURCH OF CHARACTER

ENTHUSIASM

“Maintaining enthusiasm requires continuous fellowship with the Word of God and the Spirit of God.”

-- from *The Power of True Success: How to Build Character in Your Life*

The character quality for July 2015 is enthusiasm (vs. apathy). Enthusiasm can be defined as “Expressing joy in each task as I give it my *best* effort.” It can also be defined as “God’s energy in my spirit expressing itself through my mind, will, and emotions.”

“Enthusiasm” is a dynamic success quality as well as a very interesting word. It is actually formed from two Greek words: “en” = *in*, “*theos*” = *god*. So enthusiasm literally means “in God.” For the Christian believer, this is a very important life message. Whatever we do, if we feel that God is in the task, we want to give everything we have to that task! In fact, it’s a Scriptural principle: “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might,” -- i.e., enthusiasm! (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

But how do we generate enthusiasm?

First, as Christians, we are “indwelt by God,” so the first source of energy for a task is simply knowing that God wants you to do

it, or knowing that God is in it, and you will have a tremendous amount of energy to accomplish His will! Consider Paul’s enthusiasm in telling people about Jesus and in writing letters to the new churches.

Second, if you are convinced your cause is just, enthusiasm springs to your aid. Martin Luther King, Jr. persevered against great odds because he knew his cause was just. Consider for a moment, the enthusiasm contained in his “I have a dream” speech! His enthusiasm for what he was doing often landed him in jail, but it also aided him to help our nation actualize the freedom we all hold dear.

Third, if you are convinced that what you are doing will enrich the lives of others, enthusiasm provides the energy needed to get the job done! Thomas Edison knew what the electric light would do for the farms and small towns of America, to say nothing of its business community. Enthusiasm sustained him through his own long nights and hundreds of failures. He got the job done!

A very helpful life maxim is this truth: “The difference between success and failure, as often as not, depends on what you do when you feel like quitting.” If you can keep enthusiasm for the task at hand, for your job, for keeping your marriage strong and joyful, you won’t quit, and ultimately both you and those around you will be glad that you didn’t!

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

UPDATE

After meeting with Bob Bardeen from the Committee on Ministry (COM) for guidance and direction, the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has begun the process of reviewing the large number of resumes of candidates for the Senior Pastor position. This process will likely take several weeks to ensure that proper attention is given to each resume. God’s guiding hand is key to finding the right fit for the congregation and the PNC welcomes your continued prayers in this endeavor.

If you would like to recommend a person for this position, please have the candidate send his/her resume by mail or email (pnc.firstpresfc@gmail.com) to the PNC. This email is intended for communication with applicants only. The Transitional Mission Study is available to the congregation at www.firstpresfc.org/pnc and in the church office.

Thank you for your continued prayer on the behalf of the PNC.

—Pam Pierce

I CAN'T CONTROL ANYTHING

A LESSON LEARNED IN REMODELING THE YOUTH ROOM

Are you like me? Do you have control problems? Maybe you wouldn't identify it as a problem. I didn't for a very long time, but my wife tells me I have serious control problems. Before you get too concerned about the health of our marriage, the majority of my control issues are in the kitchen. I had the hardest time letting her help me, because I thought I was better at it. And then from time to time, because she didn't want to cook, she would say something like, "I was going to cook tonight, but you are way better at it." Comments like that contributed to my controlling tendencies and get her out of doing something she didn't really want to do (she does the same thing with vacuuming).

I am sharing this because I noticed my controlling attitude came out during work on the youth room. You see I am a carpenter by trade, and I spent 2014 painting homes, inside and out. So when I put 15 students to work in the youth room painting the walls, I started to feel my blood pressure rise. You see the issue wasn't that the kids couldn't do the work (and actually they did a great job). The problem was I knew I could do it better. Fortunately, I caught myself having this feeling and allowed myself to enjoy fellowship with the student painters.

I think about this moment quite often as I think about the Church. We often want our youth and kids to enjoy the programs and activities that we provide as a church, but we don't want their help in planning. I think this comes from a fear that because they are young, whatever they do won't be done as well as if an adult does it. Trust me; there is some truth in that statement. However, we must allow our younger generations to participate fully in the work of the church, in order for them to share in the ownership.

It is scary to think about what might happen if we start asking kids what they want from church. It will be scarier if their ideas are different than current thought and practice. But it will be a beautiful thing, when we watch our younger generations carry the torch that many of us have been carrying alone far too long.

I invite you all to think about a loved one you know that doesn't know Jesus. What would you do to ensure that they know Him the way that you know Him? Better yet what wouldn't you do? I don't think there is anything in the world I wouldn't do, if it meant that my nephew knew the love of Christ the way that I do. I think we all need to let go of the comfort we find in controlling things, and see what happens if we trust that God is directing the steps of our youth the same way He is directing ours.

—Taylor Kiser





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AN EVENING WITH TWO LIBERIAN TI BOYS



Sunday, July 19, 7 PM

COMMUNITY-WIDE EVENT

with dessert

First Presbyterian Church

531 S. College Ave. Fort Collins

to benefit

TRANSFORMATION INTERNATIONAL (TI)

in Monrovia, Liberia

Learn what Transformation International is doing to help Liberians in need:

- 1. PEANUT BUTTER HOUSE:** Providing vitamin-enriched peanut butter (Libenuts) to severely malnourished children
- 2. BEST BRAINS ACADEMY:** Providing teachers and administrators at the school that educates more than 400 children
- 3. TI BOYS AND GIRLS:** Providing residential programs and education for orphans and vulnerable youth

**Sponsored by WADSO (West African Development Support Organization) and
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. For more information: wadso.org.**