

THE MESSENGER

| NEWS FROM FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FORT COLLINS |

**HOUSING FAMILIES:
ONE ISSUE,
TWO PARTNERSHIPS**

**THE IMPACT OF
WORKING
FOR THE
LORD**



**OUR BELOVED
WINDOWS**

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From the Editor | SUMMER STILLNESS

The lemonade days and mosquito nights of summer are back. School's out, and many of us find summer to be a time to take a break, to put up our feet, to slow down, to be still. As a mom of busy kids, I find summer to be just the opposite. While someone sips tea on a patio Adirondack chair with a novel, I rush my taxi (minivan) through the Starbucks drive-through before barely making it to three separate summer camps. While another someone gazes at the cool night sky from a solitary mountain campsite, I make s'mores for the excitedly shouting boys running from corner to corner in my backyard.

This season, FPC finds itself in both types of summer. Vacation Bible School will be a hub of activity, transporting kids to ancient Egypt to meet Bible-times heroes, visit the Egyptian marketplace, and explore firsthand the unique culture of Joseph's world—from prison to palace. Ministry partners in the church and throughout the community will roll up their sleeves to construct, fund, and prepare meals in response to our Housing Families initiative. And the 222nd General Assembly will meet in Portland in a massive effort to gather delegates from around the world to discuss matters facing our larger church.

The other type of summer—the peaceful rest, the stillness—will come in the waiting for news of a senior pastor for FPC. We are all in this time of waiting together, and while we remain active in working with our God for His purposes, we also remain calm in His presence, knowing that He is at work where we are not.

All the busy-ness of summer is goodness and blessing from God. But along the way, God calls us to sit back in His hammock of grace and be still. So early in the morning, before my crazy begins, I will choose to acknowledge God's surpassing control of all those things over which I am anxious, I will allow Him to penetrate my soul with tranquility. I pray the same for your summer.

—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 vision and mission will be accepted. 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. Check www.firstpresfc.org for specific issue deadlines.



LEARNING TO PRAY

Would any of us say that we've "arrived" in learning how to pray? I doubt it. I know that I am nowhere close, and I've been praying for decades. There are two primary places in Scripture that offer particular help to us in developing our life of prayer. One is the Lord's Prayer—Jesus' response when the disciples asked him to teach them how to pray. The other is the Psalms—the prayer book of the Bible. In January 2015, our sermon series focused on the Lord's Prayer. Now, this summer, we will see what we can learn about prayer from the many different kinds of prayers that we see in the Psalms.

One thing I love about the Psalms is that they validate the human experience in all its highs and lows, joys and sorrows. Sometimes, when life is difficult and problems pile on top of one another, we think that maybe we're doing it wrong. We look at other people's seemingly pain-free life and wonder, "Why me?" We wonder if something is wrong in our spiritual life, whether God is punishing us, trying to teach us a lesson, or just doesn't care. Maybe worst of all is the sense of loneliness we feel, as if we have been singled out for this burden and as if no one else could possibly understand.

But when we turn to the Psalms, we find phrases like, "Why are you downcast, O my soul?" (Ps. 43), we hear David describe a season of life as a "desolate pit," full of "muck and mire" (Ps. 40), we read the petition, "Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am in distress; my eye wastes away from grief, my soul and body also. For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing; my strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste away" (Ps. 31). There's something strangely comforting and validating

about finding your emotional state described better than you could describe it yourself. Likewise, the Psalms can precisely capture our sense of joy or anger, our contrition or gratitude.

While our human experience and our emotions are validated in the Psalms, we are also shown what to do with them. The Psalms show a level of honesty that we might not expect in Holy Scripture, and they show us that God is not afraid of our emotional outbursts or troubled by our big questions. We see an example in the Psalms of taking everything in its unvarnished state and pouring it out to God. Fear, anger, despair, grief, shame, arrogance, and even hate are expressed in these prayers. Nothing is held back. And yet, David, the author of many of these prayers, is known as "a man after God's own heart" (1 Sam. 13:14). We learn that the best place to go with our not-so-nice thoughts and our even-less-nice emotions is to God. To acknowledge what we're thinking and feeling to God. God can handle it. When we open ourselves honestly to God, God can work with us and in us in a way that He doesn't when we close off these parts from him.

So often what we see in the Psalms, in the midst of this honest vulnerability, is a focus on God and His goodness, maybe from remembering His faithfulness in the past and drawing strength and hope in the midst of a current struggle. Sometimes there is so much faith expressed in one word: "but." All of this is happening to me, "but it is for you...that I wait" (Ps. 38:15) or "but surely God is my helper" (Ps. 54:4).

Sometimes a given Psalm contains a to-be-continued first part as well as a

concluding second part. In the gap between the parts, God meets the Psalmist and provides help, and so the prayer begins in lament but ends with thanksgiving. One of the powerful questions that I learned from my friends in seminary is the question, "Where do you think God is in this?" They taught me to look for God and look to God in all the ups and downs of life. This is similar to the lesson we learn from the Psalms. Whether we feel it or not, God is there, and part of our prayer can be looking at questions like, "Where is God in this?" or "What do I know is true about God that I can draw upon at this time?" or "What has God shown me when I've been in similar situations?"

I love the Psalms and am excited that we're focusing on them this summer. My hope and prayer is that as we embrace their lesson to be more real with God, we would also learn to be more real with one another. That, in turn, allows us to be sources of support and encouragement for one another and so be the living presence of Christ to one another and to others who come into our midst. I also hope that as we make the connection between our situation and the goodness and faithfulness of God, we will have more stories of how God has made a difference in the everyday challenges of our lives. This helps grow our faith and gives us stories to share with others. My greatest hope is that we would grow as a people of prayer and that by opening ourselves up to God in prayer, the Holy Spirit would strengthen our faith and empower our ministry in ways beyond our imagining.

—Cindy Frost



Housing Families

One Issue, Two Partnerships



In 2016, FPC has identified “Housing Families” as a mission priority, focusing on:

1. Increasing involvement with Faith Family Hospitality (FFH) by making our church a regular hosting site
2. Cosponsoring and building a home for a family with Fort Collins Habitat for Humanity

GET INVOLVED!

Consider getting involved in the Housing Families initiative! Below are FPC’s upcoming involvement opportunities, as well as a list of ongoing opportunities for involvement with these organizations. (*FFH opportunities are in italics. Habitat opportunities are in bold.*)

OPPORTUNITIES CALENDAR

May 29–June 5 at FPC: Volunteer to help host FFH families at FPC by setting up or tearing down rooms, preparing meals, serving as evening hosts, spending the night at FPC as overnight hosts, preparing a warm Saturday breakfast, or doing bedding laundry.

June 13–17 at FPC: Help frame the mock of a small home on FPC property to display during the same week that the VBS mission focus is Habitat.

June 25, 8 :00 a.m., at 6602 Avondale: Support the Bhatti family by attending their Habitat wall raising. (Date is subject to change.)

August 21–28 at FPC: Volunteer to help host FFH families at FPC by setting up or tearing down rooms, preparing meals, serving as evening hosts, spending the night at FPC as overnight hosts, preparing a warm Saturday breakfast, or doing bedding laundry.

Fall 2016: Offer your services for a Service Auction, with profits to benefit either Habitat or FFH. Service examples include babysitting, meal preparation, lessons, etc.

December 18–25 at FPC: Volunteer to help host FFH families at FPC by setting up or tearing down rooms, preparing meals, serving as evening hosts, spending the night at FPC as overnight hosts, preparing a warm Saturday breakfast, or doing bedding laundry.

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer on the construction site or provide lunch for the build days (watch FPC’s Website and Sunday bulletin for dates).

Volunteer at FFH’s Day Center (200 W. Matthews) for two-hour shifts. Hours: MTuTh 9–6, WF 9–5, and Sat 9–4. Help is especially needed on Saturdays. Sign up by calling the Day Center at (970)484-3342, or scan this code for the SignUpGenius link.



April–December: Host your own fundraiser in the community with profits to benefit the Bhatti family’s house sponsorship. Contact Erika Nossokoff (opposite page) for more information about applying for seed money for these fundraisers.

Provide a storage unit, shed, or building to store items donated to FFH guest families who transition into permanent housing. Most of these families lack any furniture or basic items to equip an apartment or house.

Assist with transitional housing. The FFH Transition House (former Crossroads Safehouse) is looking more feasible as they progress with the property inspections and negotiations with the city. Once that situation has been firmed up, FFH will need construction volunteers and donation of housing items like furniture, linens, kitchen items, etc.

Donate gently used household items like beds, tables, chairs, linens, kitchen items, etc. that are generally needed for FFH families transitioning into other homes.

Donate to FFH or Fort Collins Habitat for Humanity directly or

via FPC. If donating directly to these nonprofits, please indicate that your donation is related to FPC. If donating through FPC for these projects, please indicate whether your donation is for FFH, Habitat, or wherever the need is greatest.

GET INVOLVED by contacting FPC's Project Leaders:

FPC FFH Project Leaders:

Tom Christen, (970)449-2547

t.christen@comcast.net

Janet Schuchmann, (571) 212-1698

jlsnv@aol.com

FaithFamilyHospitality.org

FPC Habitat Project Leaders:

Erika Nossokoff, (970)488-2606

ENossokoff@FortCollinsHabitat.org,

Gene Iley, (970)204-9946

the.ileys@yahoo.com

FortCollinsHabitat.org

LATEST NEWS

Save the date for this fall's Service Auction Dessert Party: Sunday, October 23, 6:30–8:00 p.m. Start thinking of what service you might want to donate (four hours of babysitting, lawn work, cooking, etc.) and what service you might want to bid on. All proceeds benefit FFH and Fort Collins Habitat for Humanity.

What's that playhouse doing on our church's property? Starting in June, FPC youth, in conjunction with VBS, will be building a playhouse to represent FPC's mission priority of Housing Families. The playhouse will serve as communication to the local community and will then be auctioned during the Service Auction.

Purchase "bricks and sticks" for the Bhatti's Habitat home. We are hoping to raise \$15,000 through these donations equivalent to various home items (windows, siding, etc.). You can make checks out to First Presbyterian Church and write "Habitat" in the memo line, or to Fort Collins Habitat for Humanity and write "First Presbyterian Church" in the memo line. You can give your donation through the church office or place it in the Habitat box on the Housing Families table in the Grand Hall.



GROUND BLESSING: The Bhatti family, future Habitat homebuyers, at their home's ground blessing with home cosponsors from FPC and LifePointe Church.



HEAVENLY: Thanks to Marv Crawford, the Sanctuary Choir, and the Festival Chorus for *Homeward Bound: The Music of Heaven*, a concert that raised \$2,557 toward the Bhattis' Habitat home.



TRANSITION: 321 S. Sherwood, the former Crossroads Safehouse, will become FFH's Transition House. (Fun fact: Jim Fischer lived in this house as a child!)

OUR BELOVED WINDOWS

SANCTUARY STAINED GLASS TELLS A STORY OF SYMBOLISM AND FAITH



The great window in the chancel is a work of art filled with symbolism of the Christian faith. The symbols, both in form and in color, are repeated in the window itself and the side windows.

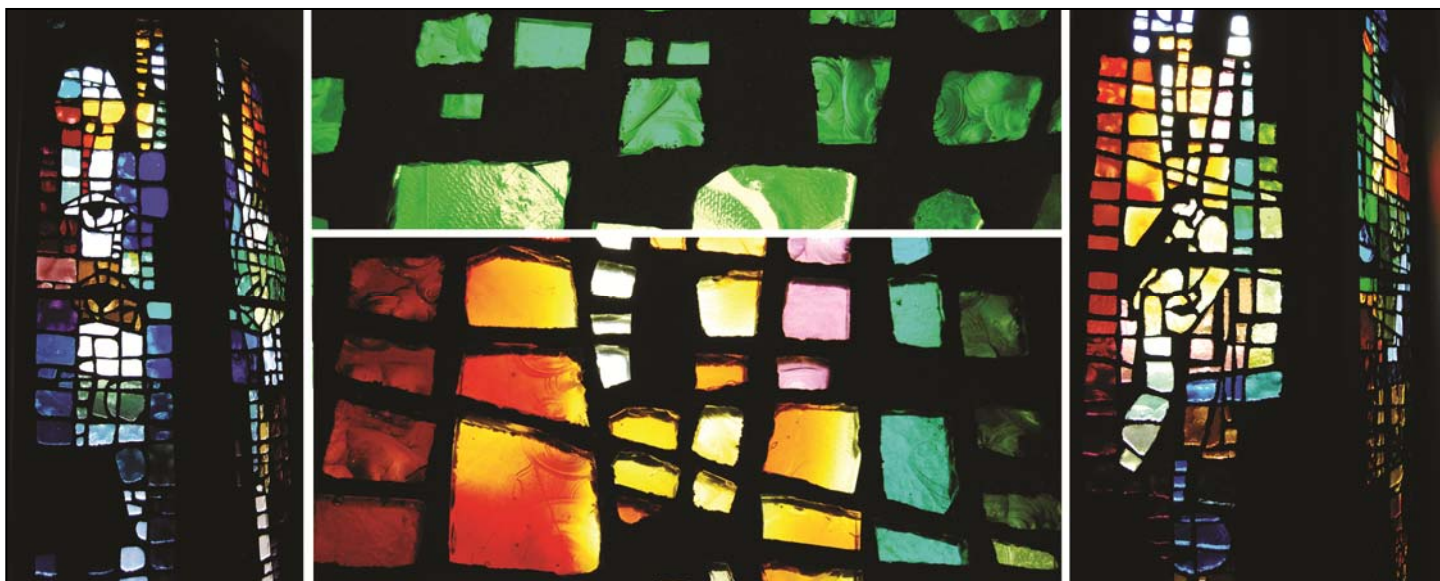
the main window is a Trinity window. The large red circle in the upper center symbolizes God the Father, the Creator, the omnipresent and perfect One. We see the circle repeated through all the glasswork, showing God's presence everywhere in our lives. The vivid red symbolizes God's love.

The abstract cross centers in the circle as a symbol of Christ, the Son of God, crucified. The empty cross reminds us that the power of death was here defeated. The cross and circle repeat lower in bright gold, representing the Christian's faith in life eternal.

From the top right hand corner as you face the window an expanding shaft of clear or light colored glass descends to intersect with the cross at the center of the orb. This, rather than the conventional dove, represents the continuing presence of the Holy Spirit's presence in our world.

As your eye moves toward the bottom of the window, the green colors of Creation become more evident and the viewer looks beyond the window into the ultimate symbolism of God's power and love, nature and the cross.

The North Garden symbolizes the Church worshipping and living in the world beyond its building. The vegetation and the cycle of the



seasons remind us of God’s absolute power in the world while the Celtic cross reminds us of His particular love and sacrifice for us mortals.

Flanking the large window are windows symbolic of the two sacraments which Presbyterians recognize as instituted by Christ. On your left, the sacrament of water, Baptism, is shown in the blue shades which are also symbolic of our spirits, the droplets of water falling into the river running below and the presence of the Holy Spirit in the clear area at the center.

To your right, the sacrament of bread and wine, Communion, is represented by the cluster of grapes and the circular wafer of bread, while the clear central area again indicates the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Elsewhere in the main window you may find many shapes and colors in which, because of the abstract nature of the design, you may see meanings which are your personal message from this work.

This also holds true in the windows on the east wall, with the added symbol of one of the Beatitudes represented in each of the eight lower panels.

The first, furthest north on the east wall, represents “Blessed are the poor in

spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.” We see purple, the traditional color of royalty, in a pale flowing shape representing the robe which we associate with life in the Kingdom.

The eye shapes and falling teardrops of the second panel suggest “... they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.” The meek next are seen inheriting the earth as the globe is delivered into their waiting hands.

In the fourth panel, the standing and kneeling figures are under a conical figure, as “...they that hunger and thirst after righteousness ... shall be filled.”

The merciful, who shall receive mercy, are symbolized in the opposite panel by the scales of justice.

Of the last pair of panels, the first shows an abstract lily for purity as “...the poor in heart ...shall see God”; and a somewhat abstract peace symbol reminds us in the other panel that “... the peacemakers ... shall be called the Children of God.”

At the last panel, the long sojourn of those who “... are persecuted for righteousness’ sake” is shown by the traveler, knapsack on back, whose ultimate home is the Kingdom of God.

The Willet Studio of Philadelphia used

two new techniques in designing and creating these windows. Most of the area is done in faceted glass, a process by which glass up to two inches thick is chipped into shape, with facets like gemstones on the exposed surface adding sparkle and brilliance.

Farbigem, used in the lower portion of the great window and elsewhere, is a chemical lamination enabling sheets of glass larger than ever before to be used as party of a stained glass window. It also allows overlays of different colors and, with the use of Plexiglass, a translucent clear area can be created.

Even as the materials and processes are of recent invention, so the abstract design is also contemporary, deriving much of its symbolism from nature. We invite you to spend much time studying these windows as they will continue to speak to you as you do so.

—Original window card text contributed by Mr. and Mrs. FW Michael



AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY IN FIVE CHAPTERS

Chapter 1

I walk down the street. There is a deep hole in the sidewalk. I fall in. I am lost. I am hopeless. It isn't my fault. It takes forever to find a way out.

Chapter 2

I walk down the same street. There is a deep hole in the sidewalk. I pretend I don't see it. I fall in again. I can't believe I am in this same place. But it isn't my fault. It still takes a long time to get out.

Chapter 3

I walk down the same street. There is a deep hole in the sidewalk. I see it there. I still fall in. It's a habit. But my eyes are open. I know where I am. It is my fault. I get out immediately.

Chapter 4

I walk down the same street. There is a deep hole in the sidewalk. I walk around it.

Chapter 5

I walk down a different street.

Each one of you who reads this autobiography will have a different interpretation of it. Some of you will nod in agreement that this describes you; others may wonder whom it is talking about. I personally find a lot of me in this depiction—making choices that may not always be good for me, but choices that are hard to give up. I KNOW what the end result will be, but there are times when that hole looks pretty darn attractive, and it's pretty deceiving! I even know people who carry a shovel with them to those holes—to make them deeper! Some of us jump into those holes simply from habit—wanting to change that habit, but fearing that the work is too hard to do it. Some of us are aware that those holes we encounter are a great source of temptation for us—and we search for courage to “go down a different street.” That is often a difficult search. Difficult, but not impossible.

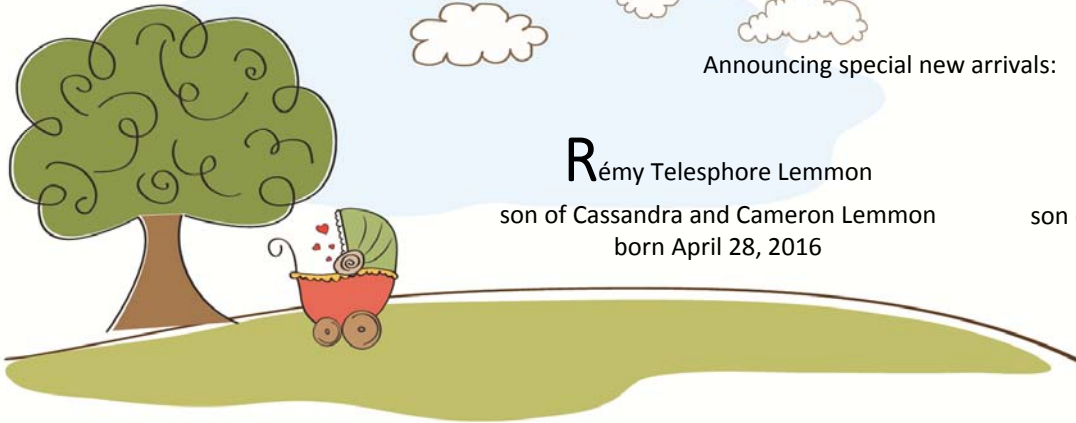
When reading this autobiography recently, I acknowledged that I often try to find that different street on my own, and I contemplated the thought that I

had often not consulted God about it. I turned to the Bible to see what God says about temptation: “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful. He will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it” (1 Cor. 10:13). I like the part about “God not allowing me to be tempted beyond what I am able. It does not say that He will remove the temptation. We have to dig deep down within ourselves and draw on our courage to help fight some of those battles, but I do believe that He is there lighting the way—and perhaps preparing a way to escape. But we must not forget the gift of wisdom that God has given us as well. And we need to carefully and prayerfully choose the streets we journey on through life—every day. And we need to lay down our shovel. SOMETimes, the only answer IS to choose a different street.

Praying that you choose to find smooth streets,

—Marge Rice

welcome little one



Announcing special new arrivals:

Rémy Telesphore Lemmon
son of Cassandra and Cameron Lemmon
born April 28, 2016

Austen David Miller
son of Tammy and Ryan Miller
born May 25, 2016

On Thursday, May 19, McBackpack, Inc. finished another school year of packing and delivering food bags for students dealing with food insecurity across Poudre School District (PSD). Who would have thought that 8½ years after FPC offered us a place to pack and store a small assortment of foods, we would have grown from five bags in our first week to delivering 10,330 food bags to 43 schools in the 2015/2016 school year? We are so grateful for our wonderful home at FPC. Not only has the church provided us space to pack and store food, it has also been willing to grow with us as our needs have grown, from working in the basement with a small cabinet, to working in the hallway with two cabinets, to taking over all of Shephardson Hall and building shelves to store pallets-worth of food. FPC and the wonderful staff have been so good to us!

This year, in line with research showing the importance of reaching younger children, we have worked to include preschool programs throughout PSD in our program. We are also fortunate to have a contact in each school who knows “our” children personally and stays on top of the changing needs at the child’s location. They may be teachers, counselors, or healthcare workers, but mainly, they are PSD employees who care and work closely with us to make sure children are getting the support they need. The stories of the children are moving—family illness, family loss, job loss, loss of a home—and we are so grateful to be able to assist and meet the ever-growing need.

While our volunteers come from all over the county, a good number of them are members of FPC; some have been with us since the beginning. They show up every week; they pack, they deliver, they laugh; and they appreciate the opportunity for fellowship and to help the children of our community.

We cannot thank FPC, Don Genson, Virginia Myers, and so many others enough for their kindness and support. Thank you for helping us feed children in need—it matters so much!

—Gerry Lake and Ann Randall



LIBRARY CORNER

THE WORD SOURCE

2 Samuel (Brazos by Robert Barron Theological Commentary):

According to a Christian Century book review, *2 Samuel* is “crazy good.” Another word describing the book is “eloquent.” John Barron thinks and writes clearly as he travels through the saga of David’s life and family recorded in 2 Samuel with its episodes that are less theological than political and emotional, that involve more family strife and drama than religious instruction.

1 and 2 Samuel were originally one book and still remain as such in the Jewish Bible. They were divided largely as the result of the length of scrolls available to scribes (p. xxii).

The author of 2 Samuel presents David as one of the most pivotal persons in scripture. Themes running through this book contrast the kingly path taken by Saul and that path taken by David. Secondly, Yahweh acts through a bevy of ordinary agents, rather than in a direct interruptive way.

Barron points out that Matthew and Luke knew these Old Testament scriptures and sometimes shaped the way they told the Jesus stories with the stories of David in mind. Often these will make the reader wonder. For example, is there a parallel between Mary’s visit with Elizabeth before Jesus was born and David’s bringing the Ark of the Covenant to the Tabernacle in Jerusalem? Luke thought of Jesus as a son of David, and so it seemed

appropriate to him to draw comparisons between the new David the Savior and the old David the King (p. 61,62). John Barron has thoroughly drenched his Chapter 7 in Davidic themes and the kingship of Jesus: the entry into Jerusalem, the appearance before the Sanhedrin and Pilate, healing Bartimaeus, and Pentecost are a few examples (pp. 75,76,77).

Other books in the church library on David are *Personalities Around David* by Holmes Rolston, II; *Facing Your Giants: A David and Goliath Story for Everyday People* by Max Lucado; *David’s Songs: His Psalms and their Story* by Colin Eisler; and *David’s Secret Demons: Messiah, Murderer, Traitor, King* by Baruch Halpern.

—Jane Rolston

A CHURCH OF CHARACTER

ENDURANCE

The character quality for June 2016 is endurance (versus discouragement). Endurance can be defined as the inward strength to withstand stress and do my best. It can also be defined as experiencing the power of God’s love by rejoicing in trials and tribulations.

It seems that so many opportunities and activities with which we get involved look really great at the start, but then we run into opposition and our resolve gets tested. Often, we fail to persevere because we get discouraged and lose hope. Without hope, endurance is impossible. Wise planning and anticipation of setbacks or resistance of some kind will help keep hope alive when we experience

“temporary failures.” When things go wrong or we experience failure of some kind, it is good to think of such experiences as “wisdom fertilizer.”

“Endurance is focusing on a goal greater than distractions along the way.”
— from *The Power for True Success: How to Build Character in Your Life*

Failures are often important in that they show us the things that do not work as we narrow the search for what does work. Don’t give up hope; success is often the next step along the road after a “temporary failure”!

Commitment to endurance:

- I will not be a quitter.
- I will put my whole heart into everything I do.
- I will not waste myself on meaningless pursuits.
- I will accept both instruction and correction.
- I will bend instead of break.

Working for the Lord



The Impact of Serving at FPC

Editor's note: In April, we honored the many volunteer servants who keep our church running. So much of this happens behind the scenes, and many of us are totally unaware of the hours spent serving both our church and the community. We asked one of our volunteers to speak on what volunteering means to her, and she provided such an eloquent statement that we wanted to share it with all of our members here:

I'm not here to share my volunteer history (it is meager in comparison to so many in this sanctuary), but to share my perspective on volunteering and the joy it brings—"serving" as I am calling it—focusing on serving in our church in particular. First, I want to share a verse from scripture: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord and not for human masters" (Col. 3:23). Tuck that away 'til later.

I don't think serving is optional, like a recipe ingredient we can leave out if we choose; it's not something a church member should leave out of their life in the church. God tells us over and over that we are to serve, have a servant's heart, look to the needs of others. In His Son, He sets that example for us.

We share in jobs to be done in clubs and social groups to which we belong. We expect to. Our church is not a club, and it is ever so much more than a social group—we are God's family, our church is the Body of Christ. I'm sure you have heard that we are His hands and feet.

He counts on us to do His work at FPC, and that can take many forms: everything from making decisions to driving a van to making coffee Sunday morning. The list is endless...

Our church family is big and busy. We need many to keep it active and thriving. You are the many who serve—or maybe you have yet to become one of the many. Many hands make light work (to quote my mom). We need everyone's hands. FPC was once called Our One Best Place in a financial campaign years ago. I love that description...so worthy a place for us to be giving God our sacrifice of praise through our service. His temple, our church.

Please don't think that your work or talent isn't good enough. God sees whatever kind of work we do for Him as equally important. Brother Lawrence, a 17th-Century monk, is the subject of a book called *Practicing the Presence of God*. He exhibited that whatever the task is at hand (including such a mundane task as washing dishes), one can offer it up to God in an act of love and worship.

As we grow in love and knowledge of God, His love grows in us and spills over into service and love for others if we allow. God never forces us, but our desire becomes more and more to serve out of love for Him—you just have that feeling in your heart.

I was asked to touch on the rewards of serving. I believe the greatest reward is

knowing it has honored God, glorified God, and helped in His work. The Stephen Ministry revealed to me that I received much more than I ever gave. Hurting-care receivers showed such bravery and courage and taught me a lot. Homebound communion brought special visits and joy of sharing God's love and laughter with sometimes very lonely, confined people. Serving in Faith FFH, helping homeless families, humbles me. To be a small part in helping them move on to a better life brings gladness. The last reward I would mention is the friends you make in our church family as you serve. When we serve with one another, united in God's love, we grow into deeper relationship with each other and with our God.

Serving is a win/win for all. God shines His light on each of us all the time... blessing, giving, loving. We give back to Him. Thank you to the many who serve so faithfully in so many ministries.

If you haven't found your niche, I pray you find your gift and share it—or say "yes" if asked to do a task. Think of it as being a sponge. We come here on Sunday and soak up so much goodness and grace. We need to go forth to be squeezed out each week, remembering the needs of FPC, serving God here. It takes all of us doing something, serving from the perspective I first mentioned in Col. 3:23: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters." Thank you. Have fun. Find joy.

—Linda Wagner



Periodicals Postage

PAID

Ft Collins, CO 80525

USPS No. 562110

531 S. College Avenue | Fort Collins, CO 80524

(970) 482-6107 | firstpresfc.org

'THE MESSENGER' (U.S.P.S. 562110) is published monthly by First Presbyterian Church, 531 South College Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80524. Periodicals postage paid at Fort Collins, CO. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to 'THE MESSENGER', First Presbyterian Church, 531 South College Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80524. The publisher of this periodical reserve the right to edit all material submitted.



summer playdates

MOPS doesn't officially meet in the summer, but MOPS moms still love getting together for playdates! Bring your sunscreen and a picnic lunch for some fun at the park every second and fourth Monday beginning at 10:00 a.m. Moms, preschoolers, and big sisters and brothers are all welcome.

- **June 13** at the Gangestads' Farm
- **June 27** at the Water Valley Beach
- **July 11** at Spring Creek Park
- **July 25** at Spring Canyon Splash Park
- **August 8** at Picnic Rock

For more information, join us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/groups/mopsfortcollins](https://www.facebook.com/groups/mopsfortcollins) or on Meetup at [meetup.com/MOPS-Moms-Next-of-Fort-Collins-at-First-Presbyterian-Church/](https://www.meetup.com/MOPS-Moms-Next-of-Fort-Collins-at-First-Presbyterian-Church/)

