

THE MESSENGER

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a bright red coat and a white knit scarf, is laughing joyfully with her arms raised high. She is throwing a large amount of dry, yellow and brown autumn leaves into the air. The background is a soft-focus field of yellow and green foliage, suggesting an outdoor setting in autumn.

| NEWS FROM FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FORT COLLINS |

**FAITHFUL
TO THE
MASTER**

**THE GIFT
THAT
KEEPS
ON RINGING**

**OPERATION
CHRISTMAS
CHILD**

What's Inside | CONTENTS

- 3 Pastor's Corner: Faithful to the Master
- 4–5 A Gift that Keeps on Ringing
- 6 A Church of Character
- 7 Autumnal Market
- 8 For Sale
- 9 Parents' Night Out
- 10 Library Corner
- 11 Operation Christmas Child
- 12 Autumn Rollerskating Party

From the Editor | AUTUMN BLESSINGS

Autumn is one of my favorite times of year. The earth blooms with yellow and orange and red and brown as leaves change. Each leaf, like a snowflake, is a unique gift from above. I consider each leaf a blessing—a reminder of God's amazing love. One blessing glows radiant yellow. Another gently flutters to the ground. Other blessings samba and spin. Still others crunch symphonies beneath my feet. Some smell of earth and pumpkins and family.

Autumn also brings blessings to First Presbyterian Church. New babies and fun times for children bring life and light, (p. 9 & 12). Generosity flutters in, (p. 3). We celebrate legacy and music, (p. 4–5). New perspectives tumble upon us, (p. 8). What's more, I'd bet you could taste the blessing of pumpkin treats at the Autumnal Market, (p.7) this month.

As I watch leaves fall outside my office window, I will raise my hands in gratitude for autumn blessings at FPC.

—Cathy Richardson

THE MESSENGER

A PUBLICATION OF
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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**

FAITHFUL TO THE MASTER



Recently, for the first time Nicole and I attended the Meeker Classic Championship Sheepdog Trials, held in Meeker, Colorado. And there, on a sun-washed day, we saw Border Collies in their glory, living into what they were created by God to do: to herd wild sheep who had never been in the presence of a herding dog before. It was beautiful in every sense of the word to watch their skills for sure, but even more to see their undying faithfulness and loyalty to their handler, their master.

As a kind of shepherd myself, I marvel and am filled with thanksgiving to watch this same undying faithfulness and loyalty lived out by you, towards our Lord Jesus Christ, the chief Shepherd. One of the primary ways I have seen it is in your response to the New Roads Challenge. As you know, the New Roads Challenge was an invitation to this congregation to match a \$50,000 gift from a kind and generous donor in the congregation during the summer months. The gifts were to be used to give a one-time bonus to our Staff who have not had a salary raise in years; to provide for a pay raise for nursery workers and facilities support staff; to cover costs associated with the calling of a new Senior Pastor; and to provide startup monies for new ministries and projects that are not currently in our operating budget. The results are breathtaking:

The initial total was \$153,917 given by 133 donors for an average of \$1157 per gift. In response to your generosity, the original donor has lavishly decided to match all the gifts. That brings the total to an astounding \$208,917. God is good, all the time. All the time, God is good!

You remind me of those magnificent Border Collies. It is beautiful in every sense of the word to watch your steadfast faithfulness and loyalty to the Lord Jesus in your gift-giving. And what I experience, as the Scriptures promise is true, is that Jesus has great joy because of your giving, and that same joy becomes our experience as a result. Those dogs were overjoyed to do what they were doing.

I am honored to be in the same pasture with you. With much thanksgiving,
—Paul Parsons

Gifts were given to commemorate the following people in donors' lives.

In Honor of:

- Our faithful congregation
- Paul & Nicole Parsons
- Robert & Toddy Pierson
- All Veterans
- Rowan Sick
- Doug and Sara Hunt
- Cleon Kimberling
- Rev. McDermott & Family
- New Beginnings!
- Staff at FPC
- Families Wangaard
- Jesus Christ, the only Son of God

In Memory of:

- Wayne Clegern
- P.L. Shields
- Betty Kimberling
- Fred & Rosie Norstadt
- H.C. Clint Shepherd
- Billie Jean Ackerman
- Marjorie Van Arsdale
- Pauline Martin
- William Graves
- Caroline's brother Bob
- Harry Troxell
- Richard B. Dunlop
- James M. Dunlop
- Maxine & Tuck Howell
- Barbara Smith
- Don Garcia
- Joyce Blome
- My Mother, Father, Sister, Brother, Husband, & Fred Wangaard
- Shelley Ann Steward Anderson
- The Risheill's parents
- Klou Matthews
- John & Jacqueline Michie
- Harry & Eleanor Troxell
- Velma Herkimer

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY
THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON RINGING



For the past 50 years FPC has enjoyed a wonderful gift given in memory of Donald Lewis McMillen in 1965. Mr. McMillen passed on May 24, 1965 and his wife Ethel wanted the memorial gifts to be used to purchase a set of handbells for the church.

The volume *First Presbyterian Church of Fort Collins, Colorado 1872-1984*, chronicles the use of the McMillian Memorial as follows:

“In 1965, Miss Josephine Waddell was hired as Ministry of Music... She was interested in handbells, the use of which is believed to have started in our church from a Memorial to Don McMillen Fund created after his death in 1965. By late 1965, the church had a bell choir of seven boys. From this beginning, bell ringing became a much-loved part of the church’s music program.” (*First Presbyterian Church of Fort Collins, Colorado 1872-1984*, pg. 48 & 49.)

After the passing of Don, his wife Ethel McMillen McCurdy continued her support of the church’s efforts to develop bell choirs by providing additional funding for the design and construction of handbell tables used by the first bell choirs. This September, I received a note from Ethel’s daughter, Ginger Montgomery, who shared Ethel’s zeal for establishing a bell choir at FPC:

“We have been so blessed to be a part of the family at First Presbyterian Church. It seemed so right at the service for the death of my father that the gifts given in his name would go to begin a bell choir. It was my mom’s decision to honor dad in this way. Mom attended every Christmas Concert until her death. The bells have been such a beautiful part of our life here.”

Ethel passed away January 7, 2009.

The Bells of Christmas Concert premiered in December 1985, under



Ethel and Donald McMillen

the direction of then Director of Music, Anne Chesher. In 2009, an anonymous person purchased a piece for the concert in memory of Ethel and her support of the Handbell Ministry, which will be played again at this year’s concert. Who would have known or imagined in 1965, the enduring impact of Ethel’s gift of bells to First Presbyterian Church?

Since the purchase of the first 3 octave set of Schulmerich Handbells in 1965, and first bell choir of 7 boys, the bell ministry has grown to include ringing ensembles for children (Celebration Ringers), youth (Jubilate Ringers) and adults (Chancel Handbell Choir). Over the years the original three-octave set was augmented by two octaves of bells, creating a five-octave set of bells, a second three-octave set of bells was purchased and a set of five octaves of choirchimes has been added. And, the annual presentation of *The Bells of Christmas* has become an outreach to the community of Fort Collins and surrounding areas.

FPC has been fortunate to have had numerous gifted and talented church musicians over the years to lead the music program, but it is equally important to acknowledge and celebrate the gift of bells given in memory of Don McMillen in 1965 by his wife Ethel. As we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of that gift and the 30th Anniversary of The Bells of Christmas Concert this year, we recognize this has been a gift that keeps on ringing. Truly, a great legacy!

On behalf of the Music and Arts Ministry of First Presbyterian Church, I extend my thanks and appreciation to the McMillen family (Ginger Montgomery and Tom McMillen) and their mother’s gift of bells. It is a great privilege and honor for me to be among those who have had a part in continuing the bell ministry passed down for the past 50 years.

—Marvin Crawford

A CHURCH OF CHARACTER

THOROUGHNESS

The character quality for October 2015 is Thoroughness (versus incompleteness). Thoroughness can be defined as: "Knowing what factors will diminish the effectiveness of my work or words, if neglected." I think an even better way of envisioning thoroughness is that it is a way of carrying out each task you do in preparation for God's personal inspection and approval.

As busy people, we often have a tendency to do our work only as thoroughly as is necessary to pass the inspection of those who assign us the job. However, true thoroughness is motivated by the awareness that each job we do will be personally inspected by the Lord. This is the message of Colossians 3:22–24, which says: "Servants, obey your earthly masters in every way, not as men-

pleasers when working under their eyes, but with unmixed motives out of reverence for the Lord. Whatever you do, work heartily as for the Lord and not for men, for you know that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is Christ the Lord for whom you are working."

**"Do a job as if you will never have another chance to do it right."
—from *The Power of True Success: How to Build Character in Your Life***

Ephesians 6:5–8 tells us much the same thing: "Slaves, obey your masters; be eager to give them your very best. Serve them as you would Christ. Don't work hard only when your master is watching and then shirk when he isn't looking; work hard and with gladness all the time, as

though working for Christ, doing the will of God with all your hearts. Remember, the Lord will pay you for each good thing you do, whether you are slave or free."

As Christians, if we realize that we are actually working for the Lord and not just for an earthly employer, we will want to do a job consistent with God's character and standards, which no doubt will be higher than those of any employer. Therefore, if we keep in mind that we are working for the Lord, no matter what it is that we are actually doing, the results are certain to be pleasing to our employer.

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

As the Pastor Nominating Committee continues to examine candidates more closely, please continue to hold them up in prayer. Included here is the prayer that Pastor Paul prayed after his sermon on 9/6:

"Lord God, we don't know what you have in the coming years for this church. We know that it will embody the very things of Ephesians 1, but exactly, specifically how that will look, we're not sure. What we do know is that you have all things in hand, that you can be trusted with the specifics. All we've done today is treated our imagination to just some possibilities. But Lord, we pray that your desire would be done and that it would be lived out in highly specific ways here and that you would use a new senior pastor in the most wonderful ways to help this church dream a bigger dream than its ever had. To that end, Lord God, we pray for that person, whoever she or he might be, and wherever they are in their life right now. And we pray that you would bring all things together in perfect timing that your will would be done and it would be the beginning of more and more of people in this region keeping coming back. We pray all of this in the beloved name of Christ Jesus, Amen."

Thank you for your continued support in prayer.

—Pam Pierce

AUTUMNAL MARKET

A Craft & Vendor Show

SATURDAY

Oct. 10
9am - 4pm

FREE ADMISSION

Sponsored by MOPS of
First Presbyterian Church of Fort Collins



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FORT COLLINS
531 South College Ave, Fort Collins
FACEBOOK.COM/MOPSAUTUMNALMARKET

Although Fort Collins does not currently have many For Sale signs up in yards, one can't help but observe one or two signs as you drive through town on any given day. You see a For Sale sign, you might look at the price if you are interested and move on.

That use to be the case for me...but that changed at age 24. My parents entered into a difficult divorce, and in two days, we had packed up the house and moved them both to their new individual surroundings. I worked hard packing up memories, and wiping away tears. We left that home in two days... never to live there again. I went back by the house at the end of that week to see it "one more time" and sat in shock as I pulled up front and saw the For Sale sign—in front of MY home and MY life! I could imagine people driving up and down that street seeing a For Sale sign and thinking "That's a nice house." They had no idea of the love and sorrow that had gone on in that home. I grieved for days, and weeks, and months—and yes, for years. Hope was in short supply for me in those times. To this day I never drive by a For Sale sign in a yard without wondering what has happened there in that home, in their lives. Was it a divorce? A death? A job move? It would never be a simple sign for me again.

I had brought my own context to that

For Sale sign. It was different for me than it was for anyone else. I realize now that we also bring our own context to church when we come on a Sunday morning to listen to Paul or to Cindy preach. We bring joy, sorrow, worries, and disappointments. What happened to us during the week cannot help but come with us. It comes as easily as it came to those For Sale signs for me.

I think it would be a fair assumption to say that all pastors—because they are human— come to a pulpit with baggage and colored lenses as we do. We then sift the message they deliver through the filter of our own baggage and lenses, and we each take something uniquely different with us when we go home. This I know too though, that the words being delivered are concentrating on Jesus Christ, and that they are sharing the power of God rather than human wisdom. They pray for that Holy Spirit to work powerfully among us as we leave those doors. They know that we have "sifted" that message through our own experiences, but they know too that regardless of what context or perspective that we brought with us, we can still go out and discover God's grace together.

I struggled when mourning that For Sale sign, because I did not have God's perspective on the life that was

happening before my eyes. I was not listening to God's Word, that "in all things God works for the good of those who love him," (Romans 8:28). I clearly applied my own knowledge and my own feelings in those miserable days, and not God's wisdom. I would guess that I'm not alone in slipping into the habit of going down the path, and not reaching out for God's perspective.

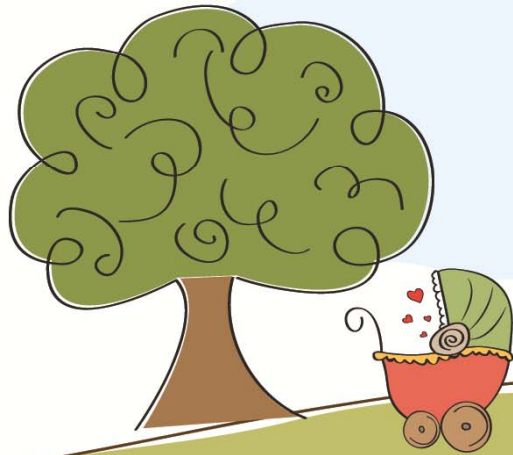
Perspective *is* important. We live our lives based on how we see things. Yet it's important to change our perspective on things at times. If I enjoyed flying, I think there would be great joy in life in being a pilot. I think of the things that I could see from the sky that aren't so apparent from the ground. What a wonderful opportunity that would be!

So... while working on expanding my perspective on things, I will work, too, on this most important fact: the Spirit of God works through our circumstances, through our choices. and through the things that happen to us. That assurance helps me keep a healthy perspective to view my own life and those whom I walk along side on this earthy journey. I want to work at seeing life through God's perspective as I know that He is calling me to be nothing more than who He had created me to be

—Marge Rice



welcome little one



Announcing a special new arrival:

Winnie Ann Gangestad
daughter of Trista and Jamie Gangestad
born September 4, 2015

Parents'
Night Out



kid-Tested
Parent Approved

* Every Third Friday * This month: Oct. 16, 6-9 p.m. *

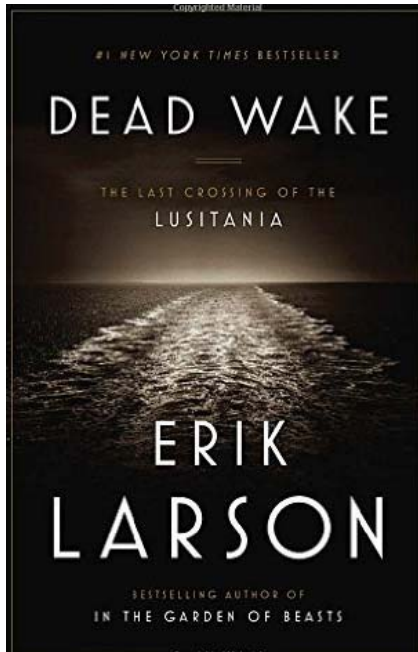
Ages 0-10: Come fed and in your PJs for snacks, games, and movies.
Cost is \$12/one child; \$5/additional child (\$25 maximum/family).

Middle School/High School Students:
Come ready to hang out for games and fun. No cost!

Fun for Kids = Free-Time for Parents
Register online by October 15: firstpresfc.org

LIBRARY CORNER

THE WORD SOURCE



The assassination of Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie in Sarajevo on June 28, 1914 is credited for precipitating World War I. However, many historians believe the assignation was predicated upon the First Balkan Crisis of 1908-1909 and the growing Slavic nationalism. Also churning in the crucible were the strong disagreements, envy, and rancor among the three first-cousin monarchs of Britain, Germany and Russia – George V, Kaiser Wilhelm II and Tsar Nicholas II, along with France’s search for revenge with Germany for taking Alsace and Lorraine, and the socio-political impact of militarism, alliances, imperialism and nationalism (MAIN)...all surrounding the insatiable drive for economic and geo-political supremacy.

During the first part of World War I, United States President Wilson held tenaciously to the policy of neutrality and most Americans supported this policy. He believed that the United States could strengthen its economy by allowing merchant ships to transport food and supplies to the European countries. And if the United States acted with impartiality, Wilson believed that in time the US would earn the right of

Intermediary in the peace process. The European powers, including Germany, permitted merchant ships and passenger liners to fly the flag of neutrality...at least for a time. As the war raged, Germany had a growing suspicion that the US was sending war contraband to Britain under the supposed neutrality. Into these turbulent socio-political waters sailed the Lusitania.

Erik Larson begins *Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania* (found in the FPC Library) recounting the notice placed in the shipping pages of New York’s newspapers by the German Embassy in Washington reminding its readers that any “ship flying Great Britain’s flag or any of her allies entering the *war zone* (designed by Germany as the seas surrounding Britain) would be liable to destruction and that passengers travel at their own risk.” It was this ad, positioned next to Cunard’s ad for the upcoming luxury ocean liner, the Lusitania’s, voyage from New York to Liverpool, England that set the ominous tone for the entire trip, with passengers “thinking, dreaming, sleeping and eating submarines.”

Larson’s work is unlike others about the Lusitania with his in-depth research about the passengers themselves: the reason for their voyage, the hopes of new beginnings, the reunions with family, clandestine romantic rendezvous of an American millionaire set for London, a book publisher bound for London with original drawings and a first edition of Dickens’ works, of pregnant mothers with small children, and an older couple returning to the motherland, of seamen and crews, of a female architect, and a US President gripped with grief and in hot pursuit of a new wife. Larson also gives the reader insights about the hunted and the hunter and their thinking from the war journals and war logs of both Captains:

Captain William Thomas Turner of the Lusitania, and Walter Schwieger, Captain of the Unterseeboot-20 (U-20).

Larson also engages the reader by describing Britain’s central intelligence Room 40, and Britain’s King George V asking Colonel House (private attaché to President Wilson), “Suppose they should sink the Lusitania with American passengers abroad?” as if there was secret intent to draw the US into war. Larson rotates the chapters through the personal lives of the passengers, Room 40, the British Admiralty, German High command, descriptions of a submarine and its workings, descriptions of the luxury ocean liner, the Lusitania and the reason for a second explosion. He walks the reader through the passengers’ personal telling of surviving a sinking ocean liner, of lifeboat catastrophes, of human loss, and all the agonizingly small details that could have made the difference.

Larson’s research for writing the Lusitania came from primary source: archived telegrams, intercepted wireless messages, survivor depositions, secret intelligence ledgers, Edith Galt’s love letters—all from trips to the Library of Congress, the US National Archives, the National Archives of the United Kingdom in Kew where Larson actually held the codebook, the SKM obtained by the Russians and given to Room 40 in 1914. He researched in the Hoover Library at Stanford University, and the Archives in London, Liverpool, and Cambridge...and much more.

In the words of Larson himself, “I give you now the saga of the Lusitania, and the myriad forces, large and achingly small that converged one lovely day in May 1915 to produce a tragedy of monumental scale, whose true character and import have long been obscured in the mists of history.”

—Bethany Fisher

The power of a simple gift.



SHOEBOX-PACKING EVENT & LUNCH CATERED BY CANINOS

SUNDAY, NOV. 15
11:00 AM-1:00 PM.
IN ROOM 103

**SAVE THE DATE FOR THE
BLESSING OF THE BOXES
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18,
DURING THE MX
WORSHIP SERVICE.**



GIFT IDEAS

TOYS

SMALL CARS,
BALLS, DOLLS,
STUFFED
ANIMALS,
KAZOOS,
HARMONICAS,
YO-YOS, JUMP
ROPES, SMALL ETCH A SKETCH,
TOYS THAT LIGHT UP OR MAKE NOISE
WITH EXTRA BATTERIES, SLINKY,
ETC.



SCHOOL SUPPLIES

PENS, PENCILS AND SHARPENER,
CRAYONS OR MARKERS, STAMPS
AND INK PAD SETS, WRITING PADS
OR PAPER, SOLAR CALCULATORS,
COLORING AND PICTURE BOOKS, ETC.

HYGIENE ITEMS

TOOTHBRUSH, TOOTHPASTE, MILD
BAR SOAP IN A PLASTIC BAG, COMB,
WASHCLOTH, ETC.

OTHER

HARD CANDY AND LOLLIPOPS
PLEASE DOUBLE BAG ALL CANDY,
MINTS, GUM, T-SHIRTS, SOCKS, BALL
CAPS; SUNGLASSES, HAIR CLIPS, TOY
JEWELRY, WATCHES, FLASHLIGHTS
WITH EXTRA BATTERIES

A PERSONAL NOTE

IN A SEPARATE
ENVELOPE, ENCLOSE A
NOTE TO THE CHILD AND
A PHOTO OF YOURSELF
OR YOUR FAMILY.

QUESTIONS?

CONTACT THE CHURCH
OFFICE, 970-482-6107.





Periodicals Postage

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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.



FPC CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

AUTUMN ROLLERSKATING PARTY

OCT. 17: 10AM-12PM

@ ROLLERLAND



Cost is \$5/skater + a treat to share. Children 5th grade and younger must be accompanied by a parent. Friends are welcome!! For more information, contact Alice Crawford, acrawford@firstpresfc.org.