



# Celebration Times

Fairlington Presbyterian Church, 3846 King St., Alexandria, VA 22302 September 2006

## VBS Photos



## Greetings members of FPC!

The summer is coming to an end, and with it this year's Vacation Bible School. It was an amazing week! Over 30 children and over 20 adult and youth helpers spent the week singing, dancing, making crafts, learning Bible stories, digging in the dirt and playing games as they learned the promises that God has made to them: to love them, know them, treasure them, forgive them and be with them. A huge thank you goes out to all the helpers involved: Dana Andy, Jojo Bennett, Jennifer Blakeney, Leah Crosby, Amanda Curcio, Bryan Eckerson, Genevieve Griffin, Angela Huebner, Ben Lyon, Libby Lyon, Jay Lyon, Jordan May, Lisa Miller, Meghan Moroney, Bonnie Nasr, Tom Pyle, Tina Reynolds, Emily Seman, Matt Seman, Karen Tokarsky, and Alison Trimble!

But this time of year is not only about an end, it is also about a beginning – the beginning fall, and more specifically for us at Fairlington, the return to regular church programming. There are many new opportunities starting this fall. To get the word out, there will be tables set up in the parlor after worship on Sept 10. You can find more information about these things as you leave worship and head to the neighborhood cookout!

## Fall Educational Opportunities

**Adult** – Starting Sept 17th, Sunday mornings 9:30-10:30 am:

- *Mickey Effird Bible Study* – This course, led by various FPC members and taught by Professor Effird, a professor at Duke Divinity School, will examine a book of the Bible, chapter by chapter. Dr. Effird has many great things to share about the social context and enduring meaning of the books of the Bible.
- *Raising Spiritual Children* – This course, taught by Pastor Jan, is geared toward parents of children (0-10 years old). We will talk about ways of dealing with life issues in the context of the Christian faith. Topics will include rituals, death, money, self-esteem, prayer, and "bad guys."
- *CS Lewis' Screwtape Letters* – This course, taught by Rob Ross, will examine one of CS Lewis' most loved books. The Screwtape letters are a series of 31 short letters written from a senior demon to a junior one. The book presents an upside down world (the devil is called Our Father Below and God is called The Enemy) that sheds light on how we often view God, ourselves and the world we live in.

**Youth** – Starting Sept 10th, Sunday evenings 6-7:30 pm:

- **Youth Group** –the youth (8th-12th grade) will meet from 6-7:30 every Sunday night. We will play crazy games, plan service projects, study the Bible, check in with each other, and just hang out.

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To submit articles for Celebration Times:  
e-mail office@fpcusa.org or dellinger@virginia.edu

## **Opportunities, from pg. 1**

**Children** – Starting Sept 10, Sunday mornings 11:15-12:10 pm:

- **Godly Play** - This worship experience geared towards children takes place during the 11 AM worship hour after the Time for Children.

## **Fall Fellowship Opportunities**

**Neighborhood Cookout** – Sept 10, 12:15-2 pm. Invite your neighbors for a fun time after worship. We'll have free food, music, games and a final chance to relax before the craziness of fall begins.

**Small Group Meetings** – Starting the week of Sept 17th, groups of 6-7 people will meet to study the scripture for the coming Sunday and share their Christian journey together.

**Young Adult Retreat** – Sept 22nd-24th. Ropes course, silly games, serious study of Christian themes, great worship, s'mores, and much more will be found on this retreat geared towards 20 and 30 somethings getting to know another better and sharing their faith with one another.

## **Fall Service Opportunities**

**Youth Group leaders needed** – We need 2 adults to join Rob and the youth on Sun evenings from 6-7:30pm. We will have a ton of fun as we support one another on this journey.

**Godly Play helpers needed** – We are looking for 2-4 adults to help out with Godly Play. The time commitment is one Sunday every 4-6 weeks, during worship. Please contact Katherine Stickers at pghkath@yahoo.com or 703-548-5102 .

**Local Habitat Build** – Look for more information on Sept 10.

**Trip to the gulf to work on hurricane houses** – Look for more information on Sept 10.

*Thanks so much!*  
**Rob**

## **Choir and Bell Choir Groups Reconvene This Month**

Have you been thinking about joining the Choir or Bell Choir? Now is a great time to join either of these talented groups at FPC. The Choir will start practice Thu., Sep. 7 at 7:30pm; Bell choir rehearsals will begin on Thu., 14 at 6:30pm. All are welcome to participate regardless of musical background.

For more information, contact Chris Hatfield at cmh25@aol.com or 703-370-2766.



*Susan Winckler playing the bells during Sunday service on Aug. 6.*

## **FPC Welcomes Two New Members**

**Claudia Jiron-Murphy** grew up primarily in Falls Church, but her parents are in the Foreign Service so she also lived overseas. Claudia is entering her second year in law school at George Mason and is interested in practicing in environmental law. She is the Public Relations Coordinator for the Communication and Outreach Committee, so if anyone has ideas or suggestions, she is all ears!

**Martha Patricia Orozco** (likes to be called Patricia) is originally from Monterrey, Mexico, but came here via Grand Forks, North Dakota. There she taught at UND for seven years. Patricia loves to travel and see things. Her most dearest hobbies are cooking and reading, specially when she can share with others.

## **News from Bonnie Stephens**

I am happy to announce that God has blessed me richly in my student internship as pastoral intern at the First Presbyterian Church of Las Vegas this summer. The pastors were wonderful to work with and the congregation very supportive and enthusiastic. I look forward to seeing them again.

I will be coming to Virginia in October to meet again with my CPM committee, so I should be able to come to church on October 15. Looking forward to seeing all of you!

I experienced many wonderful things this summer, including the beautiful flowering trees and bushes of Las Vegas. Before my internship ended, my friend Benny Canizaro--whom I have known since high school in Austin, Texas--took me to Zion National Park and Bryce Canyon. What spectacular beauty we found there! I took lots of pictures to show you in October. He also asked me to marry him, so we plan to be married in January. I'll provide more on that topic later.

I'll be graduating in May, when I'll plan to move to Las Vegas to await God's call.

*God be with you,*  
**Bonnie**

## FPC Seeks New Building & Grounds Ministry Chair

My name is Karen Tokarsky and I am the Building and Grounds Ministry Chair. I will be giving up this position in the next few weeks but I'd like to tell you a little bit about what doing this has been like for me.

Three and a half years ago a member of the congregation called and asked me to respond to an emergency at the church. Little did I know that "emergency" would keep me occupied for the next several years and would change my life. Being the Buildings and Grounds Ministry Chair has been an amazing experience.

I do not have training or work experience in this field—my degrees have been in psychology not engineering. Yet, what has seemed to be most needed is not formal training but rather asking lots of questions, having patience, perseverance, good organizational skills, and keeping in the forefront of my mind that I am doing this for a larger purpose.

The times this work has gone best have been when I've worked with other church members who care deeply about what goes on in this place. I feel I have become very close to the folks who have shared this work. In addition, the church sexton and office manager assist the B & G coordinator so it's really not hard and doesn't require being here more than a few times per month.

B & G work has tangible and usually immediate results. People see what changes have been made and they either love it or they hate it. Luckily they usually love it. That can be as varied as a new door, a redecorated room, or the removal of a tree from the playground.

Another benefit for me has been meeting contractors and repair people who also care about their work. I have in fact employed some of the same folks who have done work here at the church to do repairs in my own home because they are dependable and I know the quality of their work.

The other benefit I've gained from this ministry was welcome but totally unexpected. I was hired a few months ago as the site administrator by the management company for my townhouse community. I knew when I heard about the position that my volunteer efforts here had prepared me for it. Amazing things happen here every day—keeping the building and grounds open and available for use by us and the community groups meeting here is truly God's work. Please reflect on whether God is calling you to carry on this ministry. I'd be happy to talk more about it, if you're interested.

For more information, contact FPC at [office@fpcusa.org](mailto:office@fpcusa.org) or 703-931-7344 (ext. 10).

computer  
**C.O.R.E.**



## Did You Hear the News?

Deb Roepke, Exec. Director of Computer CORE and Fairlington Presbyterian Church member received the 2006 Non-Profit Leader of the Year by the Alexandria Volunteer Bureau and Alexandria Chamber of Commerce.

One of our June 2006 graduates – Monique Ricks – received a \$500 scholarship to attend Northern Virginia Community College this fall.

90% of our winter/spring term students graduated at the June graduation.

Over 300 adults have now completed the 6 month basic computer skills and career training program? To date, 22% of our graduates have gone on to new jobs, 25% have received promotions/pay increases, 19% have continued in further training, and 5% have started their own businesses.

## **Congratulations to Deb, the CORE staff, and the students!**

Find out more in the Summer 2006 Computer CORE newsletter at: <http://www.computercore.org/news/CORESummer06Final.pdf>

**And save the date:**

**Next Computer CORE  
Graduation: Fri, Dec. 15**

## *From the Pastor...*

My words are short and sweet this month.

SHORT– because our educator Rob Ross is the one with extensive good news to share about upcoming fall programs, and

SWEET – because it's been a sweet summer full of good things:

- An excellent Vacation Bible School program
- Terrific music offered by volunteers and guests on Sundays
- Pews full of visitors

Thank you VBS volunteers, FPC staff and officers, and Rob Ross in particular for a great summer!

Worship begins again at 11:00 AM on Sunday, September 10. See you there!

*Pastor Jan*

### **In Memoriam: Rae Doris Peck**

Deacon and long-time church member Doris Peck died after a long illness on July 17, 2006 at The Hermitage. A memorial service celebrating her life was held on Sunday, July 30th. Doris is survived by two brothers and by her son David and his family who can be reached at: 414 Century Vista Drive Arnold, Maryland 21012.

### ***Worship***

#### **September 3 – Labor Day Weekend**

*The First Three-Day Weekend?* Exodus 5:1 – 6:1

#### **September 10 – Rally Day – Neighborhood Cookout & Info on Fall Classes**

*The Fairy Tale Gospel?* Deuteronomy 15:1-11

**September 17**  
*What Love Can Do OR Who Wants to Change the World?*  
1 Chronicles 16:7-34 & John 3:16

**September 24**  
*Building Plans*  
1 Chronicles 17:1-15

## **Celebrations**

### **Birthdays**

James Chappell (09/02)

Charlotte Ross (09/04)

Rebecca Getachew (09/04)

Ernie Wykoff (09/04)

Mary Jo DiBernardo (09/08)

Ellie Disper (09/10)

Gun Ja Quigg (09/11)

David Foster (09/13)

Lindsay Gillespie (09/13)

Janet Bingman (09/14)

Robert Parker (09/14)

Randy Dragon (09/16)

Wendy Dawson (09/19)

Marnie Brown (09/21)

Laina Garver (09/23)

Chong Ae Chappell (09/27)

Alisa Carrel (09/27)

Mary Olsen (09/28)

Jill DeMella (09/28)

### **Anniversaries**

Raja and Bonnie Nasr  
(09/05)

George and Marie Murdaugh  
(09/10)

Shannon and Susan Harvey  
(09/27)

Robert and Arlis Linder  
(09/29)

***Celebrating the Difference Christ Makes in Our Lives through  
Ministry in Our Church, Our Community, and Our World***

**Ways to Contact Fairlington Presbyterian Church**

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**Ministers**

The Congregation

**Pastor**

Rev. Dr. Jan Edmiston

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Mondays are monastery days.

Day off is Saturday.

**Office Manager**

Gloria Garidel

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Mon.-Fri., 9 AM - 1 PM

**Sexton**

Wesley Mitchell

Mon.-Fri., 6 AM - 1 PM

**Director of Christian Education**

Rob Ross

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Tue: 9 AM - 5 pm; Sun: 9 AM-1 PM

**Building & Grounds**

**Coordinator**

open

**Membership Coordinators**

Emily and David Foster

**Ceremonies Coordinator**

Lisa Dockins

**Elders**

Brad Bennett

Jeannette Davis

Connie Hansen

Brooke Hatfield

David Hoover

Darlene Johnson

Michael Lempke

Elaine Marini

Will Painter

David Stickers

**Trustees**

Joseph Andy

Shannon Harvey

David Siegrist

**Deacons**

Ben Dawson

Susan Fiscus

Pat Keene

Vernette Kukolich

Bonnie Nasr

James Njimbong

Helene Patterson

June Pickard

Charlotte Ross

**Mission Coordinator**

Beth McFarland

**Music Coordinator**

Chris Hatfield

**Director of Choirs**

Chris Hatfield

**Organist**

Michael Dennis

**Worship Coordinator**

Lisa Miller

**Nursery Staff**

Debra Carroll & Zalika Cole

**Fellowship Coordinator**

open

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