



July 2017

New Vision

Vacation Bible School was a huge success this year with 174 children packed into the sanctuary and around the building through 6 stations for 3 hours each day for a whole week.

Deepening our Discipleship

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Rev. Rebecca Luter

Dear Farmington Family,

Chris and I are very thankful to have had the opportunity to travel with our children and my parents to celebrate our 20th Wedding Anniversary. We enjoyed three weeks exploring the ports along the Baltic Sea. Many stories and observations wait to be shared.

Here I share one that I feel is especially timely as summer is a time of moving and the beginning of school is a time people choose to visit churches.

While we were in Helsinki, Finland, we happened to enter a Russian Orthodox Church as a worship service was beginning. There was a sign at the door "No tourists during service." I whispered to my family, "We know how to worship. We will stay." We sat down near the door in an area that clearly was not intended for worshippers so that we would not bother anyone. We watched quietly as people approached an icon in the center of the space and then went in all directions to either icons or a priest. I realized that I didn't know what to do. I felt awkward and out of place.

As I reflected on that experience I realized that we might, without ever intending it, make newcomers to Farmington feel the same way.

Are there things we do or say that a visitor might not know to do or say? Are there assumptions about how we worship that would make a visitor feel uncomfortable or awkward? How can we make sure all who come here are welcomed and comfortable?

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If you are reading this note and are interested but concerned about attending church, I encourage you to email me. My email is rluter@farmingtonpres.org. Let's talk through the service. If you have a friend who doesn't have a church home, invite them not only to come but also to sit with you. Be a guide throughout the service.

At Farmington as we come to worship, we find that we come home. And I look forward to being home in worship with you!

Grace and peace,

Rebecca



FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Save
the
Date

RETIREMENT PARTY
CHARLES BILLINGS

AUG18,2017

WINDYKE COUNTRY CLUB
8535 WINCHESTER RD
MEMPHIS, TN 38125

7PM - 11PM

Retirement Party for Charles Billings

Director of Music

Friday, August 18, 2017

Join us for an evening celebration of 20 years of service to Farmington Presbyterian Church! Please drop in between 7pm - 11pm for hors d'oeuvres, drinks and music.

Windyke Country Club
8535 Winchester Road
Memphis, TN 38125
No RSVP required

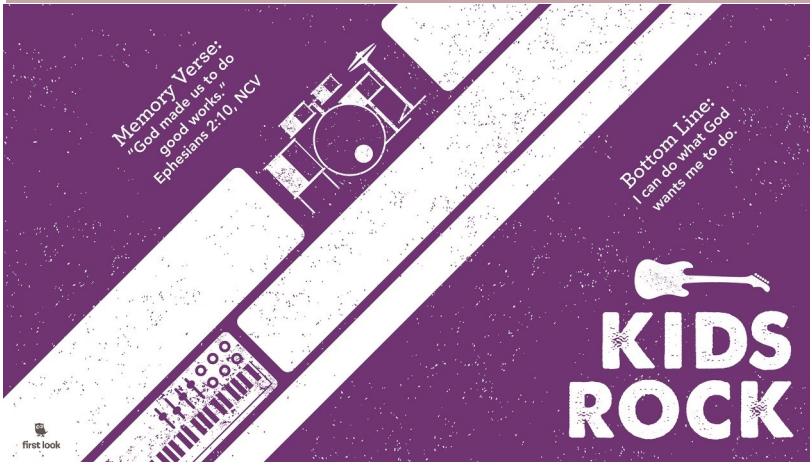
In lieu of retirement gifts please contribute to the Charles Billings Trust Fund by:

- * Check to Farmington Presbyterian Church by August 31, 2017 (Indicate CB Trust Fund in memo field), or
- * Pledge indicated to Trust Fund Trustee Paul King, [901.233.9049](tel:901.233.9049), nomonarch@comcast.net

Contact Paul King with any questions.

A special recognition fellowship hour will be held at Farmington Presbyterian Church immediately following 11am worship on Sunday, 20, 2017.

Christian Education



Throughout the summer, our preschoolers will be introduced to people in the Bible who did amazing things while they were still kids. They rocked because they did what God wanted them to do, and our preschoolers can do that too.

In July, Daniel, Miriam, Josiah, a young boy and his lunch and Timothy will continue to help our preschoolers learn that they can do what God wants them to do.

In Deuteronomy 6:4, Moses tells the Israelites, “Israel, listen to me. The LORD is our God. The LORD is the one and only God.” (NIrV)

No one is like our God. And God created people in His image. Every single person on earth is unique. We have DNA, personalities, experiences, and relationships that make us different from each other. This makes us uniquely wired and wonderfully made.



NEW for Fall 2017!

As we begin a new school year we will be adding a new curriculum to our youth program. XP3 is a continuation of our preschool and elementary curriculums and therefore strategically expands on the principles already taught in those areas. Come talk to me if you would like to know more or if you would like to serve in any of the educational ministries at Farmington.

All through last year, the youth chronologically explored the Bible through videos, readings, and artistic expression. Last month we finished the Old Testament. The canvases that line the walls in the Youth Room each represent the major events in the Scriptures. This Fall we will continue these lessons into the New Testament.



Water to Fill Family Cisterns and Farmer's Hope

May is the wild card month for the Xpujil, México region's agrarian communities. With immeasurable toil, families have cleared their land and are ready to plant. But sowing seed must wait until the rain returns. So, the farmers wonder. Will soaking rains come in May or in June? The good news is, some rain has already fallen – enough to refill our nearly empty guest house cistern. But more is needed.

Here is a worthwhile prayer: Lord, send the rains that refill family cisterns and farmers' hopes...

So far in 2017, two mission teams have visited in January and another two in February. They built cisterns in Cana Brava (ten), Manantial (five), and La Virgencita (five). The group members represented churches in Missouri, Tennessee, Michigan, and South Carolina. And they came in all shapes and sizes. There were three millennial couples in their 30s taking a break from their kids; a handful of twenty-something single men and women; some retired husband and wife combos; a few gentlemen in their seventies giving their wives back home a breather; and some working empty nester couples in their fifties. To round things out, we had a super-charged teenager and a couple of pastors. It all goes to show that almost anybody can serve through this partnership. So, if you know anyone interested in crossing cultures and experiencing a unique kind of relationship, then let them know that we have a shovel and bucket with their name on it...

We hope to build twenty-five cisterns this summer. To meet this goal our head foreman, Victor Guzman, will be extremely busy as he manages and guides our cistern partners through the complex construction process. He will dedicate more than eight weeks of his time from late May through early August. There is a sacrificial component to Victor's commitment. Aside from being away from his family, Victor



will also be away from his fields. First and foremost, Victor is a farmer. His family's food will come mostly from their own farmland. Victor has worked hard to prepare the soil, but he needs someone to plant and care for his crops during the early phases of growth. The person who will see that task through is Victor's son, Felipe. Thank you, Felipe.

As Felipe helps his dad, there are also those who make it possible for our American partners to have the opportunity to work with us. The three "thirty-something" team members I mentioned above could not have joined us in January without the help from those who took care of their children. It's safe to say that most folks that come to Xpujil are able to do so thanks to sacrifices made by others who stayed behind. Let's thank and pray for those who selflessly give their time and gifts to enable others to participate in our little ministry. These "behind the scenes" people may never step foot in México, but they are a valuable part of this partnership. Thank you.

I hope that all our partners will continue to pray for one another and the work we do in gratitude to our Father who gives us everything.

Muchas gracias,

Todd Luke

Outreach Missionary in Campeche, México

Farmington Cistern Mission Trip

July 11—18 Steve Demaree, Chris Luter, Charlie Smithers, and Jayme White will be headed to Xpujil, Mexico to install cisterns and provide water to families in the area.

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the Farmington VBS Spaghetti Dinner. We raised just over \$1,100 dollars for our cistern-building mission trip to Mexico. This money will go towards the material costs of

building cisterns in rural villages in the Yucatan peninsula where there are no public water systems. At nearly \$1,800 a cistern, our spaghetti dinner has raised nearly 2/3 of the cost of a single cistern. To find out more about this project, please visit <http://www.yucatanmission.com/>.



Day School News

Happy Summer! I can't believe Summer Camp is half way over. What a first half it has been! We have had so



much fun with our themed weeks and different activities. The kids have had the chance to bounce around in the bounce house, eat fresh cotton candy and enjoyed the Weightless Aerial Acrobat Troupe, they have all enjoyed Kona Ice snow cones, pizza lunches and decorated their own cupcakes. The school age kids have had the chance to sign up for field trips which have included, Get Air, Cameron Brown Park, Baskin Robbins, Swimming, Donut Hutt, Dinstuhls Chocolate Factory, Malco Movie and Roller Skating! The month of July is packed with just as much FUN! We will be having Magic Mr. Nick to perform his magic show for the school and the MEMPOP popsicle truck will be making their first appearance here at F.P.D.S. Be sure to be watching for upcoming details about our End of Summer Celebration we will be having on Friday, July 28th.

As always, thank you to all our Summer Staff, Families and most of all the Children! I have smiled, laughed and have been lifted up every day. I am looking forward to July!

Stay Cool,
Gretchen Burch
Program Director



Vacation Bible School

Music



Our largest Vacation Bible School week in years. We included everyone from FPDS Summer Camp and had more children register from outside to make our attendance 174 children. The only way this was possible was with the incredible help from Summer Camp Staff, a host of church volunteers, and a lot of teamwork between the two. A teacher told me on the 26th that children are still singing the songs from June 12-16. Thank you so much for an incredible impactful week.

Science



Crafts



Snack



Bible Story



Games



Upcoming Events



Summer Swim

July 7, & August 4

Summer Pool Parties will be held at the Luter's home on the first Friday of each month: July 7 and August 4. Make plans to attend and bring your friends who might be looking for a church family. The address is 2605 Meadow Run (Germantown). We will gather @ 5:30 pm and grill hamburgers and hotdogs. Bring an appetizer, side dish, or dessert to share, your camp chairs, towels, and pool toys!



Promotion Sunday

Sunday, August 6

Graduation is a special milestone in every student's life as they step into new responsibilities and move up the educational ladder. Promotion Sunday is when we celebrate the new classes being made and the students set to fill them. All children and youth Sunday School Classes will move up to their new grades August 6. Don't miss this special Sunday celebrating the ministry of our Christian Education to children and youth.

Sunday School is at 9:30 am and

Worship is at 11:00 am. Join us!

Children gather in the Sanctuary with music and then proceed to their classroom (A6)

Youth gather in the youth room at 10 am for The Story: Finding yourself in the narrative of the Bible.

Adults choose between Numbers in the *Interpretation Bible Study* in the East Room and a study of *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving in the room closest to the West door.

Feed Fayette Food Pantry

The best way to celebrate our independence is with a plate full of Barbeque. Bring in cans of nonperishable meats and proteins for our monthly donation to the Fayette food pantry. Donation bags are located in the hallway at each end of the building.

Committee Meetings

Congregational Care

10:00 am Tuesday, July 10

Property and Grounds

7:00 am Friday, July 14

School Board

5:30, Tuesday, July 11

Worship

12:30 pm Sunday, July 16

Administration

6pm Monday, July 10

Session Training

12 pm, July 9

Session Meeting

6 pm, July 17

Session Elders Installed

8am, July 23

Christian Education

12:30pm Sunday, July 30

Session Report

At the June 4th Congregational meeting, Rebecca Hutchins, Sandy Wann, and Charlie Smithers were elected to serve in the class of 2020. Tom Moots met with the session to indicate his desire to join the church.

July Birthdays

2	Sherry Knight
2	Scott Hutchins
4	Annette Main
5	Beverly Bivens
7	Stephanie Nagel
12	Paul Bourassa
13	Barbara Taylor
14	Catherine Johnson
15	Elsie Black
16	Vickie Street
17	Charles Billings
17	Paul King
18	Carol Blooding
21	Polly Knight
24	Carolyn Demaree
24	Susan Bryant
27	Jane Egan
28	Barbara Whited
29	Emma VanFrank

If your birthday is not listed, please contact the church office to be added. We would like to celebrate with you.

Acolyte Schedule

July 2	Nicholas Luter
July 9	Natalie Lively
July 16	Camille Hempel
July 23	Meredith Oest
July 30	Olivia Mittag



Staff Extensions

Rev. Rebecca Luter, Pastor, Ext. 3134
Doug Barr, Director of Christian Education, Ext. 3130
Cyndi Bevington, Administrative Assistant, Ext. 3131
Polly Knight, Financial Records Keeper, Ext. 3136
Linda Turner, Managing Director of Day School, Ext. 3138
Gretchen Burch, Program Director of Day School, Ext. 3132
Anthony Jones, Maintenance Technician

Session Members

Administration – Kirsten King
Christian Education – Laurinda Ingram
Clerk – Melanie Oest
Congregational Care – Susan Bryant
Fellowship – Mary Shelley Ritchey
Property and Grounds – Jerry Hosier
School Board – Charlie Smithers

If you have content for the July edition of New Vision, please email Doug Barr no later than July 24 at Doug@farmingtonpres.org



Farmington Presbyterian Church and Day School
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www.Farmingtonpres.org