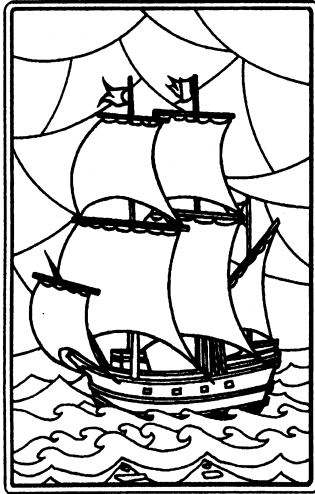


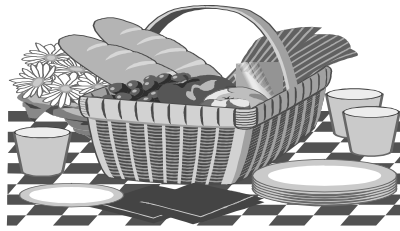
THE PILGRIM VISITOR

First Congregational Church of Royal Oak
1314 Northwood Boulevard, Royal Oak, Michigan 48073
Phone: 248-288-4220 • Fax: 248-288-9029 • Web Site: www.fccro.org
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September, 2011-Vol. 36, No. 8



FALL FLING PICNIC

September 18 immediately following worship service.

Join us in the Social Hall for an all church and friends celebration to come together and socialize.

Your Board of Deacons will be acting chefs, preparing the typical fare of hot dogs and chips.

We ask you to contribute a salad or dessert to share and place settings for your group.

ALL FAMILIES AND FRIENDS ARE INVITED



**Senior
Minister's
Minute by
John
Miller**

September 11, 2001.

9/11.

An iconic name now, so much more than just a date in history. Our elementary school children have never known a day without it.

9/11.

It has been almost ten years now and in some ways the jarring disruption of that day can still seem close.

This year, those who lost their lives will be remembered again, as they should be.

This year, people will recount stories of where they were, how they found out, who they knew and how they reacted, as we need to.

This year, the new memorial will be dedicated and become a destination for both its poignancy and its beauty.

9/11.

I have been working this summer as part of an ongoing effort to transform that day into a day of new steps forward in addition to our important times of looking back. I have invested my time in looking deeper into our national grief to find new ways to commemorate, remember and relate to 9/11.

Last year, we took a group of people from FCC down to Detroit on September 11 to participate in an Acts of Kindness (A-OK) day of service. We were joined there by some of our youth who were attending the Michigan Pilgrim Fellowship Fall Retreat.

Our youth headed off in one direction and most of our adults headed in another. We met a youth group from Ann Arbor and partnered up to clean, paint, rake, shovel, and more in southwest Detroit.

On the one hand, we repainted a building that was covered with vulgar graffiti. It was satisfying to see 'many hands make light work' as we stood to admire the now pink walls. A woman from the neighborhood came out to thank us. People honked.

On the other hand, we finished the day in an alley, in the pouring rain, soaked to the skin, hauling trash out of a seemingly never-ending pile that had been dumped there by the neighboring business and many others. We worked and worked, far harder than we had in the morning, and we did not seem to make a dent. The young man who had been trying to remove it all himself thanked us and shook his head. No one honked or waved.

I'm glad we had both experiences. It is important to know that we can make a difference, but it is also important to know how limited we can be.

This year, our youth will attend A-OK again, gathering at Focus:HOPE, a community now grieving the loss of Eleanor Josaitis. With her commitment to community in mind, we will once again set out to clear, clean, cut, paint, feed, clothe and serve. We will be joined by Christian, Muslim and Jewish youth from around Detroit.

Some things will go well. Others will be left incomplete. There will be much more that will be untouched. We will begin to plan to gather again.

That night, we will gather at St. John's Episcopal Church at 12 Mile and Woodward for a community commemoration. We will remember, and we will look forward. We will share about the work of our youth from the day. We will sing and pray. We will work on new paths to take for the future.

The theme of the evening is: "Transforming 9/11: Remembering, Reflecting, Responding". Amen

John Miller



**Impressions
from ...
The Director of
Family Ministries**

Although many of us certainly have enjoyed happy days during vacations or other summer activities, the past several weeks have been stormy in many ways. We welcomed the rain that made our lawns turn green, but the storms that were not part of nature have been troubling and discouraging. Much of the news we receive from television, radio, computers, and printed media has been about disturbing national and international financial problems or violent human behaviors.

How do we cope when so much alarming information is coming at us from all sides? Where can we turn when we feel overwhelmed? A good place to start might be exactly where our Sunday school students will be focusing their attention in September. We will turn to Genesis 9:8-17 to learn about "The Covenant of the Rainbow" which includes the challenges that were encountered by Noah and the animals on the ark.

As we study this classic story, we will learn that a covenant is an agreement or promise between two or more people. God's promise to never again flood the earth with water was a covenant because the people agreed to take care of the earth. God created the rainbow so that everyone, then and now, would remember his promise every time they saw it.

Another way we can find comfort and courage during challenging times is to look carefully at our own FCC covenant, which reminds us that we "have joyed ourselves into a church estate, in the fellowship of the gospell..." Let's gather together often this fall to remember that we have "the Lord assisting us" during good times as well as hard times.

Dianne Kruzman



**From the Director
of Pastoral Care
Ministries**

"Hi Grandma, this is Tracy. I'm in trouble and I need help," said the caller. Confused because it didn't sound like her granddaughter, Tracy, she started asking questions. Finally, the caller hung up, leaving her shaken and wondering who would do such a thing and how the caller knew that she had a granddaughter named Tracy. I'm thankful that my mom didn't get 'taken' by this scam. Sad to say, others have not been so lucky. According to the Federal Trade Commission, consumers lose more than \$40 billion a year to telemarketing fraud alone.

To improve your financial literacy and learn ways to protect yourself against financial exploitation, plan to attend two panel discussions with FCC member, Judge Bill Richards, Attorney Paula Zimmer and a representative from Comerica Bank who will present....

IF IT SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE...

...IT PROBABLY IS!

DATES: Sunday, September 25 and
Sunday, October 23

TIME: Noon with light lunch provided

PLACE: Fellowship Room

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS (80+)...

6—Phyllis DeWitt

9—Onnalee Ahrens

11—Richard Huebner

24—Barbara Kennedy

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY (50+)...

Louis and Cynthia Bindle (Sept. 2)

George ('Cal') and Ethel Green (Sept 5)

Peter and Virginia Breniser (Sept. 25)

Joseph and Corrine Sundell (Sept. 27)

ON THE MEND...

Florence Huebner; Peggy Joye; Tom Lootens;
Jean Sherman; Sally Simon; Corrine Sundell;
Ronald Walters

Barb Deiss

PARISH REGISTER

Birth

Easton Liska son of William & Casey Liska-
July 25, 2011

Death

Anita Keefer Sane-July 21, 2011
Loretta Williams-August 4, 2011

It's That Time Again!

Fall Rummage Sale October 14-15

Sponsored by Women's Fellowship

Please bring your donations for the Rummage Sale to the Social Hall Stage anytime after September 17th. (Books to the Library)

We are unable to take bowling balls, paint, large exercise equipment, or equipment that is not in working order.

Workers are needed to staff the sale and we will begin that list in September.

Questions to Dot Harrington or Cindy Bindle.

Thank you

Women's Fellowship Meeting:

We want to welcome back everyone for our first Women's Fellowship Luncheon. Our program will be Bob Muller, Royal Oak Nature Center, Our luncheons meet the fourth Tuesday of the month. NOTE - this month will be on Wednesday, September 28th at 12:30 p.m. Reservations may be made at the office by noon on September 27th.



Pictorial Directory

Our last pictorial directory was published in 2006 and there have been many changes in our church family in the past five years. Sadly, we have lost twenty-seven of those pictured. Many new babies have joined us and we have gathered new families into our congregation. It's time for us to create a new directory!

Photography will take place in the Fellowship Room just before Thanksgiving. The dates will be Thursday, November 17 through Wednesday, November 23 (with the exception of Sunday, November 20.) We will begin making appointments in October.

This is a great opportunity for family portraits. Groups within multiple generational families may wish to make adjoining individual appointments and then have a large group picture taken. Each household photographed will receive a complimentary 8x10 color copy of the picture appearing in the directory. Photographs may be purchased, as well, with a delivery before Christmas.

Those individuals/families who will not be in the area of our church during the photography session ("snow birds," college students, or those serving in the military, for example) have the opportunity to be photographed locally now for inclusion in our directory. Call Kathy Howell 248-288-4806 for information about alternate times and locations.

Amateur photographers are encouraged to take pictures of church people and activities in the months ahead. We will need a variety of photos for the activity pages of the directory.

Remembering September 11th

On September 11, 2011 at 7 pm at St. John's Episcopal Church (corner of Woodward and 11 Mile) there will be a community commemoration on the 10th anniversary of the September 11th attacks. The theme for the evening is **"Transforming 9/11: Remembering, Reflecting, Responding."**

The commemoration is co-sponsored by the Berkley Clergy Association and the Royal Oak Pastors Association, with Jewish, Muslim and Christian leadership participating. There will be special music from "Song and Spirit" (Brother Al Mascia, OFM and Maggid Steve Klaper) and a community choir.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information please contact Rabbi Joseph Klein from Temple Emanu-El (248)967-4020 x207 or Rev. Dr. Thomas Rice from First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak (248)541-0108 x206.



On Sunday September 11th, it will be National Grandparent Day. Please join The Library Committee for Coffee and juice to celebrate this special day. Coffee and juice will be served from 10am to noon. Come and enjoy a book with your favorite grandchildren.

Music Notes



Mark your calendars for October 29th at 7:00 for a delightful evening of folk music with Putnam Smith and Jeff Karoub. Putnam Smith, from Portland, Maine, was selected for the Emerging Artist Showcase at the Falcon Ridge Folk Festival in July of this year. His latest CD, "We Could be Beekeepers" was #2 on the Folk and Bluegrass DJ charts in June. Check him out at putnamsmith.com. This concert is sponsored by the Music Board and the Arden Pryce fund. Donations that evening will benefit the music program at FCC.

The Bells Will Be Ringing...

The fall season is almost here and that means it's time for the Bell Choir to start rehearsing and getting ready for a musical celebration of our faith.

If you think it looks fun— it is!!

We're always looking for new members. We need substitutes too throughout the year so maybe a part-time ringer is more your style. Our first "get-together" will be Wednesday, September 14th at 7:00 pm. Regular rehearsals will follow every Wednesday at 7:00 pm.

Don't be shy! You are welcome to join us and maybe become an FCC Ding-a-ling.

Joyfully yours,
Lori Dixon



...And the Choir Will be Singing!

Just a reminder to let you know September 8th is fast approaching. What is Sept. 8? It's the beginning of Chancel Choir Rehearsal from 7-8:30 pm. I would just like to encourage all of you if you have ever wanted to sing with a group of people. This is a great way to do it. Being in the choir is not a job, it is a way of life. Also you don't need a perfect voice. The beauty of a choir is that is made up of many voices. So come and be a part of our Chancel Choir starting Thursday, September 8 at 7:30. Make a difference.

-Melissa Ambrose-Eidson

BCO update

FCC's July Communion offering will go to East Africa Hunger Relief via our NACCC's Missionary Society. http://naccc.org/CMSUploads/864_E_Africa_Hunger_Relief_2011.pdf

Local opportunities:

- A local organization fighting poverty and creating opportunity is Cass Community Social Services (CCSS). Recently they started a green industry that both creates jobs and reduces the planet's carbon footprint. One business employs formerly homeless men who collect illegally dumped tires from vacant lots and convert them into mud mats, which are then sold to the public. They have gathered over 15,000 tires and converted them to 7,000 mats as of June 2011. http://casscommunity.org/Green_Industries
- - Another local organization, Thrive Detroit, provides a way for those who are homeless to work for a living selling newspapers and learn basic money management skills by selling Thrive Detroit Street Newspapers. <http://thrivedetroit.org/>
- Kiva update: FCC has loaned Over \$3,000 to 32 businesswomen throughout the world since July 2007. Entrepreneurs use the loans to establish or improve their businesses. They are not able to acquire loans locally because of political or financial conditions. The Kiva organization has established KIVA Detroit as it's first city based organization to assist citizens in U.S. cities. BCO will consider loaning locally to KIVA Detroit.

The Board of Christian Outreach is looking into bringing in one or more local businesses to our coffee hour at the upcoming Mission Sunday.

Update on the Huynh family

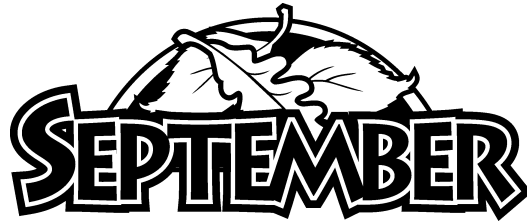
In September 1980, our church took a bold step in a new ministry. The Social Action Committee (a forerunner of the current Board of Christian Outreach) recommended to the Church Council that we help an Indochinese family, caught in a camp where food was scarce and sanitary conditions were almost nonexistent, resettle in the United States. The congregation embraced this project and, under the auspices of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, took on the sponsorship of a Vietnamese family of nine - a father, mother, uncle and six children ranging in age from six to fourteen. We were led by the biblical injunction in 1 John 3: 17: "But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?"

The project was an ambitious one, requiring us to secure housing for the family and jobs for the adults, as well as a commitment of at least \$2500. Those within our church family with special training and skills stepped forward to help. Realtors set about the task of finding a rental home in Royal Oak. A dentist offered to provide dental care. Educators would help to enroll the children in public schools and the parents in English classes. Social workers volunteered to help the family navigate Social Services to obtain health care and other services. Others would help the adults find jobs and provide transportation to and from appointments. Many families donated clothing, food, household furniture, a television, and an electric stove.

In November a group of volunteers from FCC spent many hours preparing the house at 118 Laurel for occupancy, moving furniture and furnishings from several sources. On December 14, several vehicles driven by church members caravanned to the airport to bring the Huynh family to their new home. The children started school in January at Longfellow Elementary and Addams Junior High Schools. The mother began her job of working two days a week at Beaumont Hospital in the laundry, the father did carpentry jobs, and the uncle worked as a cook at Peabody's in Birmingham.

Over thirty years have passed since the Huynh family arrived in Royal Oak to begin their new life. There are now ten grandchildren in the family! The uncle, Nam Van Duan, lives in Texas. The mother, Hoa Doan Huynh, passed away in 1999. The father, Chi Van Huynh, lives in Troy with his oldest child, son Thai Huynh. The other children, in descending order of age, are as follows. Son Thanh Huynh lives in Rochester and owns a hair salon. Daughter Kim Mai Bowhan lives in Port Huron and works in a nail salon. Daughter Kim Cuc Ly, a registered nurse, lives in Orange County, California and is studying for her PhD degree. Daughter Kim Loan Nguyen lives in Sterling Heights and works in a nail salon.

Submitted by Kathy Howell



September 10- Pilgrim Visitor Deadline

September 11- Community Service at St. John's Episcopal Church-7: 00 pm

September 13- Board Meetings-7:00 pm

**September 18- Sunday School Classes Resume
Fall Fling Potluck Picnic after worship
Bring a salad or dessert to share.
FCC Golf Outing-3:00 pm Royal Oak Golf Course**

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

1314 Northwood Boulevard, Royal Oak, Michigan 48073

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Email: fccro@fccro.org Webpage: www.fccro.org

The Rev. John F. Miller, *Senior Minister* Melissa Ambrose-Eidson, *Minister of Music*
Dianne Kruzman, *Director of Family Ministries* Barbara Deiss, *Director of Pastoral Care Ministries*
Patricia Noll, *Administrative Assistant* Lori Dixon, *Adult Bell Choir Director*