

First Family

“... in this community, Christ lovingly transforms us into His image ...”

June 2010

The First Presbyterian Church of Evanston

Vol. 6, No. 17

Deacon Doings Back-to-School Backpacks

For the last five years, members of First Presbyterian have reached out to children in the after-school care program at Family Focus in Evanston by providing school supplies for them before the school year begins.

The program serves children in third through eighth grade at no charge to families who live in Evanston. Many of these children come from single-parent households, with the mothers often poorly educated and unemployed. Families struggle to meet the basic everyday needs of their children, so purchasing new school supplies is often a luxury they can't afford. In Evanston, it is estimated that more than 2,500 of the community's 6,500 elementary and middle school students come from low income homes — homes where people have a hard time with the annual necessity of purchasing school supplies which can cost between \$60-75 per child.

Without our help, these children can often arrive at school with few or none of the required school supplies and thus unprepared to work. Not surprisingly,

Backpacks, cont. on page 4

Simple obedience

Dear Friends,

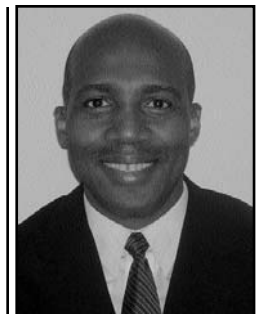
Reading Eugene Peterson's recent book, *Eat This Book*, I was reminded of the importance of reading the bible. His reflections about long distance running helped me understand that I read the bible so that I can obey God.

At age 35 I bought running shoes and began enjoying the smooth rhythms of long-distance running. Soon I was competing in 10K races every month or so, and then a marathon once a year. By then I was subscribing to and reading three running magazines! Then I pulled a muscle and couldn't run for a couple of months. Those magazines were still all over the house, but I never opened one. The moment I resumed running, though, I started reading again.

That's when I realized that my reading was an extension of something I was a part of. I was reading for companionship and affirmation of the experience of running. I learned a few things along the way, but mostly it was to deepen my world of running. If I wasn't running, there was nothing to deepen.

The parallel with reading Scripture is striking. If I'm not living in active response to the living God, reading about his creation/salvation/holiness won't hold my interest for long. The most important question isn't "What does this mean," but "What can I obey?" Simple obedience will open up our lives to a text more quickly than any number of Bible studies, dictionaries, and concordances.

Jesus says it even more succinctly: "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him



**Rev. Dr. Raymond
Hylton, Senior
Pastor**

Hylton, cont. on page 3

Inside: New members

Notes from Session

Summer sermon series

Notes from Session

Gathering April 27 for its monthly stated meeting, the FPCE Session comprised all 18 member elders except for two in health services, excused, plus these invited council directors: Jason Burton, Youth; Connie Floyd, Children; Natalie Richards, Worship; and Caryl Weinberg, Mission. The following Reports to the elders are in the order received.

Stewardship Report

New energy, new ideas, and strong, determined faith are the fuels powering our FPCE Stewardship drive this year. Stewardship Moderator Go Sugiura says the drive's title tells it all — Radical Living, Radical Giving! And the fire to light it all — the giving message — must start with our church officers setting the example of generous giving. So critical is Christian devotion to the spiritual health of our church this year, including giving, says Mr. Sugiura, that the Stewardship Ministry will now give the first quarter hour of each meeting to prayer.

Nominating Committee

Elder Laurie Kaeser of Nominating reported that they already are receiving many nominations from the congregation for capable candidates. In addition, she said, nomination forms are being given to her colleague elders, asking them to do their part by suggesting names.

Leadership Task Force

The LTF is spearheading Session's mission to broaden lay leadership and deepen discipleship in our church. Its moderator, Elder Terry Halliday, noted that questions have arisen about who the changes would affect and how they would be applied. He

explained that the Leadership plan applies only to our large, inclusive FPCE Councils, like Mission and Children, and not to the smaller individual Ministries like Adult Education and Men's Ministries or to the Board of Trustees or other church committees. Session agreed that: (1) Councils will be led by laity, not staff; (2) Members will come to Councils by invitation, not as at-large or volunteer additions; (3) Elder Melody Henrie is the go-to person for inquiries about the Leadership Task Force program. Further guidelines on implementation of the Session plan are being finalized.

Personnel Ministry Council

Next at this April Session meeting came a report on starting action to add an associate pastor to the staff of First Presbyterian. Elder Ray Carmichael, the Personnel Council Moderator, announced this process. [NOTE: Since we are a connectional rather than a congregational church, we are responsible to and cooperate with the other Presbyterian churches in our area organization, the Presbytery of Chicago, as we fulfill our roles as churches of Christ. Each Presbyterian congregation, by its own vote, selects its own pastor(s). At the same time, the senate-like Presbytery receives the called clergy into its body and ceremonially installs the pastor/associate pastor in the calling church.] Mr. Carmichael explained that the associate pastor we select must be gifted in training and discipleship; further, Pastor Hylton noted that the associate pastor may, for example, offer staff guidance but not be expected to manage office operations. Session voted to approve the call, and next our congregation votes whether to approve the call.

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Pastor's Report

An update on the latest work of the Strategic Planning Task Force (current name) was the focus of Pastor Hylton's report on that new body. The goal, he explained, is to understand what the church is doing well, what it can do better, the strengths we now have, the possible threats to our mission.

Session, cont. on next page



Get ready for a life-changing jungle adventure with Jesus!

Who: All children ages 3 -12
 What: SonQuest Rainforest
 Where: FPCE
 When: July 26-30, 9-11:30 a.m., with an Ice Cream Social the evening of July 30

Sign up for the adventure today! Registration forms are available at the Children's Info Desk outside the church library. Have questions or interested in volunteering? Call or e-mail Beth Feeley, (847) 251-7743 or bklfeeley@yahoo.com, or Elizabeth Van Nice, (847) 983-0309 or elizabeth7795@yahoo.com.

WHY ?

First Presbyterian Church: June 13-July 18, 2010

- >WHY BELIEVE IN GOD?
- >WHY TRUST JESUS ALONE?
- >WHY BELIEVE IN THE BIBLE?
- >WHY PRAY?
- >WHY JOIN THE CHURCH?
- >WHY BELIEVE IN HEAVEN?
- >WHY BELIEVE IN HELL?

PURSUING ANSWERS TO LIFE'S BIGGEST QUESTIONS

Hylton, cont. from front page

and make our home with him" (John 14: 23). Our year long emphasis at First Pres. on what it means to be a devoted follower of Jesus Christ is designed to encourage love for Jesus. We seek to become a church in which every member is being transformed into the image of Christ.

Where love and obedience are shown, Jesus promises the reality of

the presence of God and of Christ. The Father and Son together will make their home with his children. No such revelation is possible where love and obedience are absent. May God give us ears to hear and the will to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

IN CHRIST,
 REV. RAYMOND I. HYLTON

Session, cont. from page 2

And that mission is to serve both FPCE as Christ's church and the larger community beyond. To this end, the Task Force is studying a variety of sources — our FPCE Strategic Plans of the 1990s, consultants' reports, recent projects such as the Listening Reports and last year's Renewal program. Other studies, underway by Evanston and Northwestern, will turn to demographics, economics, and the religious makeup of Evanston residents.

Clerk of Session's Report

Clerk Sonia Bodi, an elder of our church, explained the nature of her coming involvement as a commissioner to this summer's meeting of the General Assembly, the highest governing body of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Meeting in Minneapolis, the GA will deal with many issues, three of them particularly "hot" (as noted by Ms. Bodi), revising the form of Presbyterian government, a Middle East report, and ordination

standards and definition of marriage.

Clerk of Session Omnibus Motion

The following resolutions were approved by Session in April: (a) Elder Peg Forbes will now serve as a Session representative to the Budget Ministry Team. (b) Holy Communion will be served May 6 at the Taize Service and on May 16 with the Confirmation Class.

— KEN WYLLIE

Backpacks, cont. from front page

their attitude toward school is adversely affected, and their self-esteem suffers when they don't have the shiny new school supplies like their classmates. Their level of academic achievement often falls short of their potential when they arrive at school with a minimum of basic school supplies.

By providing school supplies before the school year actually begins, we are able to help level the playing field for these children, as they receive the same quality merchandise as that bought for more fortunate children in their classrooms. The excitement the children feel about having those dazzling new pencils, markers, notebooks and folders affects their enthusiasm about the entire school experience.

For more than 30 years, Family Focus has been committed to promoting the well-being of children from birth by supporting and strengthening their families in and with their communities. Located in west Evanston, Family Focus provides afterschool programs for children 9-14, including tutoring and homework help, group discussions and workshops, recreational opportunities (dance, basketball, etc.), and field trips and special events, as well as support and education programs for parents and adult mentors for pregnant and parenting teens.

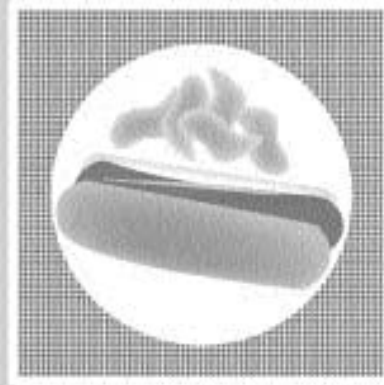
Many children in our congregation eagerly anticipate the annual trip with their parents to purchase their bounty of new school supplies for their return to school in the fall. They load up their shopping carts with pens, markers, notebooks, and folders, and go home to proudly fill up their backpacks, ready for the first day of school.

This year, when your family goes shopping for school supplies, please consider buying for another, less fortunate child as well. If the price tag seems too daunting for you alone, then partner with another family and "adopt" one of the kids from Family Focus. Or, if you are part of a small group, let everyone chip in \$10 and you will be able to fill a child's backpack with new supplies for the coming school year, and put a big smile on his or her face.

Look for our Deacons table at the Hot Dog Social on Sunday, June 13, and please check in with us at Fellowship Hour following the 10 a.m. worship service during the months of June and July. You will receive a list of needed supplies for a specific child. Backpacks in which to put the supplies will be provided by the Board of Deacons. All shopping must be complete and supplies dropped off at the church office by no later than Sunday, Aug. 1.

— KAREN BREGMAN AND ADELA SEAL,
BOARD OF DEACONS

COME "BUN," COME ALL THE 5TH ANNUAL FIRST PRES HOT DOG SOCIAL!



"KETCHUP" WITH OLD FRIENDS' PLANS FOR SUMMER!
"PUT SOME MUSTARD ON" YOUR NEWEST SOCIAL MOVES!!
"RELISH" THE FELLOWSHIP!!!

SUNDAY, JUNE 13, 2010

Join us out on the Church Lawn right after the 10AM service

(Served up "with the works" by your friends on the Board of Deacons)

Blood, cont. from back page

blood pressure as a result.

Most significant for me, personally, was an unexpected but clearly providential relationship with our LifeSource coordinator. Twice in the last six months now, I have run into her while she was in the ER with a family member. Once was a routine ankle fracture, and the second was a far more serious screening. What a perfect opportunity to reach out and pray with and for a new friend. In a busy ER, it is a miracle to ever run into the same person twice, much less someone you know. It truly was a divine appointment and proof that God had a purpose in me being there to meet her. I will always be grateful for the unanticipated relationship — a veritable bond of blood — that came from simply being available to give and help others give at the same time.

Come, friends, and be that kind of stranger: Be part of something far more than a blood donation on June 27.

— DWAYNE DOBSCHUETZ, BOARD OF DEACONS

Stephen Ministry

No one needs to journey alone

One day over 50 years ago, a young petroleum engineer and his wife drove 12 hours from Brush, Colo., to their new assignment in Casper, Wy. Their baby due in six weeks decided to arrive that evening. The birth announcement in the local paper read, "Born to Mr. and Mrs. Norman Rubash of the Uptown Motel, a daughter." This item told it all — transition, new baby, new job, new home yet to be found. It would have been an ideal time for a

Stephen Minister, but such a person did not exist. My life would have been enriched and nourished that first year of motherhood in a new and strange place had a Stephen Minister been there to love and encourage me.

During 53 years of marriage and living in more than 20 different homes there were several times a Stephen minister would have been a comfort. Recently my youngest sister lost her battle with cancer in Arizona. Susie's daughters, myself and two siblings were with her in the final two months she spent in hospital and then hospice. Upon my return to Evanston many people were kind, sympathetic and comforting.

Occasionally, someone would say, "I'm so sorry. How are you?" They would take my hand and truly listen to my answer as if there was no one else in the world. In those months after Suzie's death having a Stephen Minister to listen and pray with me would have been a gift of grace and healing. I never thought to ask.

Stephen Ministry is about real people, people like you and me, people who will face both the joys and sorrows of life. None of us need to go on our journey alone.

What does it mean to be a Stephen Minister? First, it means you will have an opportunity to sit down with a Stephen leader and talk about your interest in the ministry, your experience, your faith journey, your time available. You will explore your hopes and dreams about your place in the church and what God may be calling you to do.

Next, if that is your calling, and because all of us can sharpen our listening, praying and caring skills, Stephen Ministers receive 50 hours of training. It sounds like a lot of time but the weeks go swiftly as community is built around the interactive teaching

and learning new skills. After training, you will receive an assignment and you will join the active group of Stephen Ministers for continued education and supervision twice a month. This is the support and encouragement you give and receive as you continue to grow in your skills and experience.

It's often said we use the skills learned in Stephen ministry training more in our every day life than in the

hours with our care receivers.

Henry Nouwen refers to Stephen Ministers and other care givers as "wounded healers" who have come through hard times with greater strength, understanding and empathy.

As set out in Galatians 6:2, "Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." And in I Thessalonians 5:11,

"Therefore encourage one another and build up each other." You could be that person who encourages, builds up and bears another's burden. You could be that person who is truly present in grief and loss, loneliness and despair. Call and talk with a Stephen leader about the 2010 class starting in September.

Or perhaps this is that time of grief and loss, loneliness and despair in your life. Call and have that confidential conversation about what it would mean to have a Stephen Minister with you on the journey.

— ALICE RUBASH, STEPHEN LEADER

In those months after Suzie's death, having a Stephen Minister to listen and pray with me would have been a gift of grace and healing. I never thought to ask.

Milestones

Births

■ Marguerite & Scott Tagawa welcomed Aaron Tagawa on April 21

Baptism — Children

- Abigail Kristine Jackson, daughter of Kelly & Matthew Jackson
- Lilita Marie Nason, daughter of Kimberly & Chad Nason
- Jack Benjamin Rutledge, son of Lynn & Jon Rutledge

Baptism — Adult

- Riadh Hamdane
- Eunice Sapp

Welcome new members!

The Rev. Dr. Raymond & Judith Hylton, Elders, and each New Member Liaison (Connectors) welcomed 25 new members into the Family of Faith on Monday, May 10, at a joyous evening of dessert, fellowship, and shared inspirational journeys of faith. On May 16, the congregation welcomed them during the 9:15 a.m. worship service; a special Fellowship Hour, hosted by the Deacons, allowed everyone an opportunity to greet and meet the 25 new members and their families.



Floor (L to R): Matthew & Kelly Jackson, Timothy Yaw Bediako, Eunice Sapp and Jon Rutledge. **Seated (L to R):** Caroline Grimes, Stefanie Kanzok, Lindy-Lou Bath, Faith Nguru-Bediako, Kimberly Nason, and Kate Starns. **Standing (L to R):** Jeffrey Grimes, Lisa & Zack Weber, David Tilson, Robert & Bonnie Simonson, Sandra & Lorenzo Sanchez, and Sung Jae Shin. **Not pictured:** Stefan Kanzok, Lynn Rutledge, Ji Eun Shin, Alisa Tilson and Gabriela Torruco-Partyka.

PC(USA)

Five new church developments each receive \$25,000 for new church ministries

Five Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) new church developments will receive \$25,000 each in mission program grants to further new church ministries. Two of the five new church developments are in Pennsylvania; the others are in Florida, South Carolina and Kentucky:

- New Faith New Church Development, Greenwood, S.C. (Synod of South Atlantic), will be the first predominately African-American church in the Greater Greenwood area of Trinity Presbytery.
- Providence New Church Development, Fernandina Beach, Fla. (Synod of South Atlantic), will be the first Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in Yulee, a fast-growing unincorporated area of St. Augustine Presbytery.
- House of Manna Faith Community, Pittsburgh, Pa. (Synod of the Trinity), will serve in Homewood — an urban area in Pittsburgh Presbytery suffering from years of social, economic and spiritual decline.
- Young adult missional community, Harrisburg, Pa. (Synod of the Trinity), will empower young adults to lead

and create new ways of doing ministry in the Carlisle Presbytery.

- New community for college-age adults, Louisville, Ky. (Synod of Living Waters). Young adults from the Mid-Kentucky Presbytery will develop a spiritual community comprised initially of students from the University of Louisville.

Each new church development was selected to further "Grow Christ's Church Deep and Wide" by the new church development team of the Mission Development Resources Committee of the General Assembly Mission Council. Proposals for the next review cycle of new church development mission program grants are being accepted now and are based on Starting New Churches: A Process of Discernment (Version 2.0), developed by the office of Church Growth Ministries of the General Assembly Mission Council.

— PRESBYTERIAN NEWS SERVICE
WWW.PCUSA.ORG

Environmental Stewardship

Walking the talk

1 ½ tons of e-waste collected during recycling event

"You shall not pollute the land in which you live.... You shall not defile the land in which you live, in which I also dwell; for I the LORD dwell among the Israelites."

— NUMBERS 35:33-34

On Earth Sunday, we worshiped together praising God as our maker, asking for His leading as we learn to care for his gift of creation. On Saturday, May 1, 46 First Pres members and their families joined forces to "walk the talk" by participating in the First Annual Household Chemicals and Electronics Recycling Collection in the church parking lot. This event, co-sponsored by the Parish Nurse Ministry, the Environmental Stewardship Group, and FPCE IT

manager Doug Coulter, was a congregational effort to keep e-waste out of our landfills and chemicals out of our waterways.

Moriah Henrie, Parish Nurse Ministry Intern, initiated this event, with Steve Tousey and Judy Cummings of the Environmental Stewardship Group working alongside her, helping to collect and transport chemical waste to the EPA Household Chemicals and Computer Electronics Recycling Depot at Goose Island in Chicago. Doug Coulter arranged for electronics (e-waste) to be picked up and recycled free of charge by COM2 Computers and Technologies, a leading recycler of excess and surplus computers.

Thanks to the more than 50

participants, 3,108 pounds — or more than 1 ½ tons! — of e-waste, 75 pounds of used batteries, and two van-loads of expired medications, light bulbs, paints, and various other household chemicals were recycled.

If you have additional cell phones or printer cartridges, you can drop them off anytime at the church office in care of the Environmental Stewardship Group, attention: Patty Bastian. For more ways to engage in Creation Care, please visit the Environmental Stewardship Group webpage: www.firstpresevanston.org/focus-groups.

— JUDY CUMMINGS, ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP GROUP



L to R: Steve Tousey, Doug Coulter, Judy Cummings and Moriah Henrie with one of the 700 lb. boxes of e-waste collected at the Household Chemicals and Electronics Recycling Event on May 1.

Thanks to the participants in FPCE's Household Chemicals and Electronics Recycling Collection:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| ■ Tom and Janet Alrich | ■ Cole Joice | ■ Savoy |
| ■ Patty and Bob Bastian | ■ David and Rochelle Jones | ■ Bob Sefton |
| ■ Jean and Robert Bell | ■ Tom and Laurie Kaeser | ■ Judy Slagle |
| ■ Doug Coulter | ■ Patrick Lezark | ■ Tom Stamos |
| ■ Claude and Judy Cummings | ■ Sally Lim | ■ Maryanne and Robert Strain |
| ■ Ron Ehresman | ■ Sally Lynch | ■ Marguerite Tagawa |
| ■ Marsha Ettema | ■ Martha Mackin | ■ Steve Tousey |
| ■ Sonia Evenstad | ■ Al Manning | ■ Dave and Laura Urban |
| ■ April Hedman | ■ John McClelland | ■ Aran Van-Nice |
| ■ Moriah Henrie | ■ Marcia Neuhart | ■ Andrew and Melissa Warden |
| ■ Steve Gallat | ■ John Palmer | ■ Ruth Wenzel |
| ■ Jolene Grube | ■ Jane Pranga | ■ Jim Wildenradt |
| ■ Dave and Sally Ivaska | ■ Sherryanne Robertson | ■ Don Wilkins |
| ■ Doug and Susan Hood | ■ Clark and Peggy Robinson | ■ Larry Wilson |
| | ■ Trudy Ronnel | |
| | ■ Leah and Kon | |

Water for body and soul

Water is important to all living things — physically it is the most abundant substance on the earth and in our bodies. Next to air, water is the element most necessary for survival. Our bodies are 60 percent water. We and all other living things need a large amount of water to function and grow properly.

Most of us, unless your doctor tells you otherwise, need approximately 8 glasses (8 ounces in size) of water every day. Your intake should be spread throughout the day and evening. It may feel as if you are constantly running to the bathroom, but your bladder will adjust and the benefits are plentiful. What does all that water do for you?



Julie Ruchniewicz

- Removes waste products effectively
- Assists in digestion and metabolism
- Helps regulate our body temperature
- Lubricates our joints
- Assists in breathing
- Helps maintain our fluid balance
- Helps with weight reduction

So if you don't drink sufficient water, you can impair every aspect of your body.

It is very common practice for people to wait until their mouth is dry to signal their body needs water. It is assumed if your mouth is not dry then you have enough. A dry mouth is the last outward sign of extreme dehydration. Damage occurs at persistent lower levels of dehydration. Because of a gradually failing thirst sensation, the body becomes chronically and increasingly dehydrated. Signals of dehydration can be (but not necessarily) any of the following symptoms:

- Heartburn or stomach ache
- Non-infectious recurring or chronic pain
- Low back pain
- Headache
- Mental irritation and depression
- Water retention (ironically)

There can be problems if this thirst sensation is quenched with soda, coffee or alcohol containing beverages instead of water. While these beverages contain water, they are actually dehydrating fluids. They can actually cause you to lose water from your body's reserves.

Just as we need a certain amount of water to


On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me as the Scripture has said, streams of living water flow from within him."

— JOHN 7:37-39

keep our body's healthy and strong, we need to quench the thirst of our spirits. In the Bible, the reference to living water is usually understood to mean the gift of the Holy Spirit. We need to "drink" in by better understanding and applying God's word to our everyday actions. This helps replenish our souls. We can do this by giving of ourselves, our time and our resources. If we don't we can become spiritually dehydrated. Our soul can become numb, make us bitter or even cause us to be unable to see our true selves.

Water restores health and preserves life. It can be water that we drink in daily to satisfy our physical need or the living water that we "drink" in daily to keep us spiritually hydrated. Either way, when we drink, something remarkable happens, even if we don't know it at the time. We are taking care of ourselves.

— JULIE RUCHNIEWICZ, RN,
PARISH NURSE

 Advocate Health Care

Stewardship

How is your dash?

The evening before this year's National Prayer Breakfast attendees gathered by region for dinner. The speaker at our dinner began his talk showing a slide with the words "How Is Your Dash?" His next slide showed a tombstone with the birth date and date of death separated by a dash highlighted in red. The audience's attention was riveted by this graphic illustration.

Later, I was telling our oldest son about the presentation and he said "Oh, that's from the dash poem" ["How You Spend Your Dash," by Linda Ellis]. Selected verses follow:

*I read of a man who stood to speak
At the funeral of a friend . . .
He notes that first came her date of birth
And spoke the following date with tears,
But he said what mattered most of all,
Was the dash between those years.*

*For that dash represents all the time
That she spent alive on earth . . .*

*For it matters not, how much we own;
The cars, the house . . . the cash,
What matters most is how we live and love
And how we spend our dash.*

*If we could just slow down enough
To consider what's true and real . . .*

*So when your Eulogy's being read
With your life's actions to rehash
Would you be proud of the things they say
About how you spent your dash?*

This is a poignant way to consider how we are living — particularly in our fast paced and demanding existence on the North Shore.

However, even more sobering is the fact that we have another dash we need to focus on with laser intensity — our spiritual dash. In 2 Corinthians 5:10 we read "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad."

But, how can we know how to begin to get our arms

around spiritual growth and maturity? The familiar story of the rich young ruler, I believe, gives us a place to start.

"Teacher, what good things must I do to get eternal life?"

Jesus said, "Why do you question me about what is good? God is the One who is good. If you want to enter the life of God, just do what He tells you."

The man asked, "What in particular?"

Jesus said, "Don't murder, don't commit adultery, don't steal, don't lie, honor your father and mother and love your neighbor as yourself."

The young man said, "I've done all that. What's left?"

"If you want to give it all you've got," Jesus replied, "go sell your possessions, give everything to the poor. All your wealth will then be in heaven. Then come follow me."

That was the last thing the man expected to hear. And so, crestfallen, he walked away. He was holding on tight to a lot of things, and he couldn't bear to let go.

— MATTHEW 19: 16-20

[THE MESSAGE, EUGENE PETERSON]

We may have the temptation to dismiss this story because it is impossible to really fulfill the commandments — and then, the selling of all our possessions is over the top.

On closer examination we notice that Jesus skipped the first four commandments — all relating to loving God "with all our heart, mind, and soul."

Jesus knew that the man's wealth was the most important thing in his life and his source of security. So, while he was doing all the right religious actions he did not love God and was in fact very far from God. The instruction to sell everything was for him only — not a universal requirement for everyone.

As we consider our spiritual dash we need to rigorously and honestly identify all those things — everything — that are taking the place of loving God. And then trust Him completely for meeting all the details of our life and walk with Him.

— ALAN BORG

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

Deacon Speak

Giving blood

Deacons blood drive on Sunday, June 27, before and after worship

Friends, the need for donations of blood remains constant. It is seldom that anyone arrives either in the hospital or the doctor's office that one of the first requests isn't for a sample of blood. Truly, as Scripture says, our life is in the blood. Every sample paves the way for treatment, analysis, and often life-saving help. This fundamental biochemical (and spiritual) insight often provides the key to what a larger medical difficulty may be. When the solution to the problem is a blood product, most likely it comes from the thoughtfulness and kind donation of a stranger, because, in most cases, except for a planned surgery, we have no warning or preparation for our need of blood. At that moment of need, we are so grateful for the kindness of those strangers who have made time for the gift of life-giving hope.

Friends, the time is come to be one of those strangers: Join us Sunday, June 27, in Roy Hall, either before or after the 10 a.m. worship service, in giving that hope for people whose needs for blood in July and August have yet to be discovered. Our friends from neighbor Lake Street Church will also be joining with us for this blood drive.

After our last two blood drives, as an emergency room nurse, I kept track for several months of the stories of recipients of those precious gifts. I wish I could tell you each of their stories and how grateful they were in their treatment. Each person was shocked at their sudden need, at the same time the blood infusion had them well on their way to recovery even as they left the ER.

There are several other interesting stories that come about as a result of blood drives. One of my patients arrived for the placement of a heart pacemaker for an abnormal heart rhythm. I asked if this had been a long-standing problem, and she said, "No, I have been a blood donor for a long time, and during the screening I was turned down for giving because my heart rate was too low. I would never have known about my problem because I was feeling OK. What an unexpected blessing!" Another donor told me that he found out about his high blood pressure through his screening test for donation; he followed up with his doctor and has avoided the danger of high

Blood, cont. on page 4

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First Family wants to publish news from all parts of the church family. The deadline for each issue is the 5th of the preceding month. Contact Catherine Potts with story ideas, submissions and photos: Work phone (312) 464-5517, home (847) 864-4843, e-mail catherinepotts@sbcglobal.net.

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