

APRIL
2008

**Church of the Beatitudes
United Church of Christ**



The Grapevine

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A Few Short Moments

Larry Peers was right. At the Discovery Day of Appreciative Inquiry, some of us did start to vibrate! It was exciting to hear over and over, from every table, that Church of the Beatitudes at its best is an inclusive place, a diverse place, a place that welcomes all people. From every table, it was exciting to hear that Church of the Beatitudes at its best gives outside of its walls to the community, is a part of the larger world, creating justice.

There were other ‘themes’ that came out too. And we will continue to build on those themes at the Appreciative Inquiry Summit on April 4 and 5. You know what a Summit is: “the highest point or part; the top; the highest level or degree that can be attained.”

Our Summit will be bringing together, again, as many people as possible. We will look at the big picture. We will build momentum for acting upon the insights and the directions that are discerned. We will keep that momentum going as people see how their individual contributions, gifts, talents, faith and passions can be brought in.

What better celebration to have in the season following Easter than a Summit where we live out Jesus’ call to compassion? Did you realize that the first Sunday after Easter is about doubting Thomas, that wayward disciple who only gets his act together when presented with the irrefutable proof of a resurrected Jesus and more particularly his hideous wounds? Thomas is not a skeptic in our sense of the word of “doubting.” Rather, the Greek word used conveys a lack of trust in or loyalty toward Jesus. While Jesus’ life was about compassion and grace, Thomas had turned to hard-heartedness. We, too, could turn to hard-heartedness. We, too, could withdraw in fear. We, too, could wait and see.

I believe the best of our past says we are not a wait-and-see congregation. We are a congregation who hears Jesus’ words, “Do not be faithless, but faithful.”

~Pastor Nancy

**Kudos, complaints
or story ideas are
appreciated.**

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SERVICE

Ministry of Service grants \$21,350: Outreach through grants to mission

Grant requests for more than \$100,000 from 15 different agencies were received and reviewed by the Ministry of Service. The Ministry of Service struggled, discussed and ultimately granted \$21,350 to nine organizations.

Many thanks to the MOS members who put the Grant procedure into practice!

AIDS Network of AZ (ANA)—The Mission of ANA is to educate the over-45 population on the prevention of HIV in a culturally sensitive manner. They seek to create an environment that provides access to quality care with confidentiality, while promoting self-respect and dignity. Funds will be used for literature and workshops. Granted \$500.

Beatitudes Age Link—Beatitudes Age Link is our Intergenerational Child Development Center. Grant money will be used to provide scholarship assistance for families who have demonstrated a financial need. Granted \$3,000.

Church of the Beatitudes (COB) Ministry of Education (MOE)—Funding requested will be used for expenses for Vacation Church School, where service will be emphasized. Granted \$1,000.

COB/MOE Heifer—Children saved for the Heifer “Fill the Ark” program during Lent. Funds requested were used to positively reinforce that activity through an Easter Egg Hunt and celebration. Granted \$350.

Family Promise—Family Promise serves homeless families with both parents present, single parents with children, and pregnant moms. Host congregations provide meals, overnight shelter and food for one week four times a year. Funds will be used to expand the number of families served. Granted \$6,500.

Humane Borders—Humane Borders provides humanitarian assistance by erecting and maintaining water stations in remote, strategic desert areas. Funding requested is to be applied to truck maintenance and volunteer training in the Phoenix area. Granted \$1,500.

Interfaith Cooperative Ministries (ICM)—ICM is dedicated to “providing an immediate response to basic human needs.” ICM has been helping the working poor, disabled, and seniors with emergency food, clothing, toiletries, household items and financial assistance for 25 years. Funds will be applied to general operating expenses. Granted \$6,500.

One in Ten, Inc. (1 in 10 INC)—The 1 in 10’s Youth Leadership Initiative will provide an opportunity for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth to improve their lives and their community. Funding is applied to youth leadership training and encouraging youth to participate in 1 in 10 programs and in the community to help eliminate discrimination and intolerance. Granted \$1,000.

Open Table, Inc.—Open Table is a new recipient of funds from COB. Their mission is to transform persons in poverty and homelessness into those who live in economic stability and wholeness, one life at a time. This is accomplished by training a table of 10-12 volunteers at a faith-based institution who will act as a team to assist a homeless individual reach stability. Granted \$1,000.

Palm Sunday ICM Food Drive

Thank you to all who contributed to the Palm Sunday ICM Food Drive! Your donations of food, clothing and cash are always greatly appreciated.

CENTER DOAR

Sixth Annual Tour de Paradise: Take the Challenge!

Bicycle riders from across the Valley are “taking the challenge” and answering a call for help. Beatitudes Center DOAR is looking for participants in its 6th Annual Tour de Paradise, a charity bicycle ride supporting homebound adults and family caregivers across the Valley.

On Saturday, May 3, the Tour de Paradise bike ride will offer three scenic routes through beautiful north Phoenix. Riders may choose from 12 mile, 30 mile, and 62 mile (Metric Century) rides. Routes include views of golf courses, the north Valley, and beautiful desert scenery. Riders start and finish at

North Canyon High School, 1700 E. Union Hills Drive, Phoenix. All riders will receive goodie bags, SAG support stops and lunch!

Riders can earn prizes by raising funds. The more funds they raise, the more prizes they can earn. Participants can register and ask others to sponsor their ride at www.tourdeparadise.org. Visit the website to register and share ride information with friends and colleagues. Also, you may call Beatitudes Center DOAR at (602) 274-5022.



Have Keys, Will Travel?

If you drive, have you ever complained about our Valley’s increasing traffic? How about the “crazy” drivers? Even with those issues, it is so much easier for us to get from “Point A” to “Point B” than it is for people who no longer are able to drive. Beatitudes Center DOAR, our partner in service, matches elders and adults with disabilities who need rides to medical appointments with caring volunteers through their VICaP Faith in Action program. This is truly sacred work, bringing a sense of peace to people in need. This one-to-one service brings a wonderful feeling to the volunteers as well, as they meet fabulous people with incredible stories to share.

Do you have the gifts of a bit of time and good driving skills? If so, please call 602-274-5022 or visit www.centerdoar.org to learn about the opportunities that await. Even providing a ride once per month would be terrific. You serve when you wish through this highly flexible service. Spending time in your car will never be more rewarding. Or, you could visit, do home repairs, grocery shop, organize paperwork, or teach computer skills with a homebound adult, or provide respite to a caregiver. You choose the service that is the best fit for you.

ADMINISTRATION

Operations Corner

The good news is that our attendance for the first quarter has been steadily trending upward with two of the past three weekends climbing above 300. Unfortunately the same cannot be said for our giving as we continue to fall below the amount we require to meet the budget. We need giving to be around \$12,000 per week to make the budget, and through the first ten weeks of 2008 we have achieved that level only once.

On the operations side we have been very busy working on our campus. This month we engaged a shredding company to help up dispose of old financial and other confidential records. We have installed a new ramp in the back of Nelson Hall to remedy an unsafe situation and have replaced the sidewalk and concrete area behind the Youth Center that had become a safety hazard.

We continue to work hard to make the campus safe and a place of pride for all of our people.

From the Ministry of Administration

Dear Friends,

In recent weeks, as you may be aware, the Rev. Dr. Jeremiah Wright, retired pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, Illinois, has been under scrutiny. Particular portions of sermons have been aired which have been called "divisive," "racially charged" and "views that denigrate both the greatness and the goodness of our nation."

Trinity United Church of Christ, like all UCC congregations, is part of a congregationally structured denomination that is 'covenantal' in nature. The constitution and by-laws of the United Church of Christ read:

"Within the United Church of Christ, the various expressions of the church relate to each other in a covenantal manner. Each expression of the church has responsibilities and rights in relation to the others, to the end that the whole church will seek God's will and be faithful to God's mission. Decisions are made in consultation and collaboration among the various parts of the structure. As members of the Body of Christ, each expression of the church is called to honor and respect the work and ministry of each other part. Each expression of the church listens, hears, and carefully considers the advice, counsel, and requests of others. In this covenant, the various expressions of the United Church of Christ seek to walk together in all God's ways."

Church of the Beatitudes with its half century history in social and community leadership, racial and ecumenical cooperation values both the local autonomy of each local congregation as well as our covenantal ties. "When one part of the body suffers, we all suffer together." (1 Cor. 12: 26)

The Ministry of Administration wants to affirm the most recent mission statement of our congregation:

"Church of the Beatitudes is a faith-keeping and faith-seeking people grounded in stories and truths contained in the scriptures. We are open to insights and interpretations of God revealed to us through new experiences, different faiths, and diverse cultures. Our purpose is to provide opportunities for the formation of Christian disciples through worship and spiritual enrichment, to offer the education and training for this discipleship and to encourage the practice of this discipleship in the world."

Lou Jennings
President, Church of the Beatitudes United Church of Christ

NURTURE

It's good to buy organic — sometimes

More than two-thirds of health conscious Americans purchased organic foods and products last year. Many did this to reduce their exposure to pesticides, chemicals and hormones, and also to be eco-friendly, to reduce pollution and conserve soil and water. The challenge most people face is that eating an organic diet can be 2-3 times the cost of conventionally raised foods so many people have to pick and choose which foods to buy. So, how do we decide what to buy and not to buy?

Fortunately for us, the US Department of Agriculture has done studies that identify conventionally grown foods that contain high and low residues of pesticides (even after washing). Based on these results, here are some tips for shopping:



Best to buy organic — peaches, apples, bell peppers, celery, nectarines, strawberries, cherries, lettuce, grapes, pears, spinach and potatoes.

Foods that measured lowest in pesticide residue — asparagus, avocados, bananas, broccoli, cauliflower, sweet corn, kiwi, mangos, onions, papaya, pineapples and sweet peas.

Organic meats, poultry, eggs, cheese, and milk are preferable. These foods are free of growth hormones and antibiotics which have been linked to increased antibacterial resistance in humans.

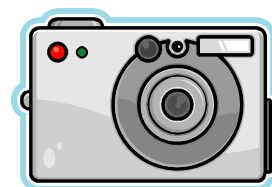
Read labels carefully. Don't confuse "All Natural" foods with organic. Only those labeled "USDA organic" are organic.

Canned, boxed and processed foods may be labeled organic, but may not be as healthy. Some may contain added sugar, salt and fat and calories.

Seafood labeling is misleading. It can be labeled organic and still have high levels of mercury and PCBs.

Get the picture?

Invite your family, friends and neighbors to a Sunday celebration of Mother's Day, Pentecost and Christian Family Day on Sunday, May 11. To celebrate, the Ministry of Nurture is gathering your family photos, which will become part of a display of the Beatitudes family. On Sunday, we'll share a Mother's Day breakfast, worship, and pose for a church family portrait. Be part of the bigger "picture" and take part in this family reunion. Watch for details soon.



April Is Domestic Violence Month

The Area Agency On Aging has requested our help for needed food to be donated for their DOVES program. This program is targeted directly to elderly abuse victims. Older victims of domestic violence face unique challenges in attempting to protect themselves and leave their abusers. The DOVES program offers emergency and transitional housing and services for seniors affected by domestic violence. On April 19 and 20, please donate non-perishable food for this important program. More often than not, the elderly have no place to turn and do not have the resources to live on their own. Please remember the dates...April 19 and 20, and bring your food donations to Church with you. Your generosity brings hope.

Flynn Property

The Ministry of Administration has voted to demolish the house on the Flynn property. Doing so will beautify the neighborhood and reduce the Church's liability with vandalism and transients. The existing trees will be kept intact, and a park-like setting with grass will be created. The wall between the parking lot and the property will be taken down, so the property will be integrated into the Church's campus.

WORSHIP

I lost an hour last month

And I'm going to miss it. It was taken away by daylight savings time. It was that hour that let me get to class on time every Wednesday when I would leave Phoenix at 3:00 a.m., make the five-hour drive to Claremont, California, and still be able to freshen up before the 8:30 a.m. class bell. That extra hour always hit me like a bonus hour. But now — it is gone. I have to be more “on time.” I cut conversations short, leave thank-you notes for another day, and delegate little things I don't enjoy doing, for other people — like dirty dishes and ironing! When I get really stressed or really tired, I ask myself if this commitment to Claremont School of Theology is worth it. It is expensive. Is it selfish? It's hard work. But then, I go to class. I think about church and us — our congregation. I'm in a church leadership class, and it seems as if every chapter I read is written about us. I'm also in a class about preaching. Last week we looked at 23 different ways to approach a sermon. Can you imagine? In my weekly field study class we are looking at problematic case studies and real situations in someone's church life, and we walk through it together. It is a great example of how to live out the gospel.

Then to top it off, I have a class on UCC polity — history of the United Church of Christ, and who we are, and what we have done. It seems we are people made up of risk-takers and pioneers; a faithful people who have been empowered to push the “God



envelope,” and go beyond ourselves to stand up when those around us couldn't or wouldn't. Then, all of a sudden, it is all worth it again when I return to Phoenix every weekend, and participate in a wedding, enjoy Saturday worship, and refill someone's coffee cup on Sunday morning and see a very lively group of people I care a lot about. Though we (the congregation) are not always in agreement, we are oftentimes excited about a new mission or project. We sign up for multiple ways to donate time and talent, and we can be caught greeting visitors that are wondering where the 10:30 service might be. Though we are often clustered in small groups after a class or presentation, and sometimes riled, sometimes transformed, it's a good hub-bub; we are a thinking congregation. We are a life force. We are full of passionate energy wanting to express, connect and communicate. Our lives set off sparks in all directions, sometimes igniting flames in others, sometimes just giving a flickering flame a little more reason to exist. And sometimes we are the one needing to be lit.

We don't give up. We keep coming back. We keep telling our stories. We keep listening to others. And I will keep going to Claremont. I will lament my lost hour. I will suck it up. And when the reading gets tough and deadlines get closer, I will meet them head on because I know I have a group of people back home urging me to do so. Thank you for that urging.

~Michele Mellott

It's good to be green

Turn your car's engine off if you're likely to be parked or stationary for more than a minute. If you're not moving anywhere, you're just wasting fuel and creating emissions by keeping your car running at zero miles to the gallon. Whether you're stuck in stationary traffic or backed up waiting for a short time, switch the engine off until it's time to move again. It's a good habit to get into. Go to www.biggreenswitch.co.uk for more “green” tips.

LIBRARY

Life comes at you fast!

God is still speaking in my life, for certain! At the very end of February, I was contacted by the Dean of the Phoenix program for Claremont School of Theology and asked if I was interested in a part-time job. They needed someone to serve as a local representative of the school. I said yes and four days later started to work for Claremont! This is tremendously exciting for me on a number of levels. First of all, it won't take a lot of time which is good because homework takes LOTS of time. Secondly, I can fit it around my job at the Campus. Third, it pays money — not a lot, but every bit helps toward tuition and books. Fourth (and this is the most important, I think) it will give me a close association with school administration and faculty.

Part of my responsibilities will be to help recruit people for the Phoenix classes. (If you know anyone interested in seminary, send them my way!)

In other news, I'm almost finished with the two-year course in Spiritual Direction. I'll be graduating in May. It will be nice to have one less class to attend and fewer books to read!

And finally, thanks go to our sister denomination the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for again granting me a small book scholarship for this semester. God is still speaking in my life; I hope the Spirit is moving in yours as well. ~*Judy Green-Davis*

Library News...

Follow-Up to Crosswalk America

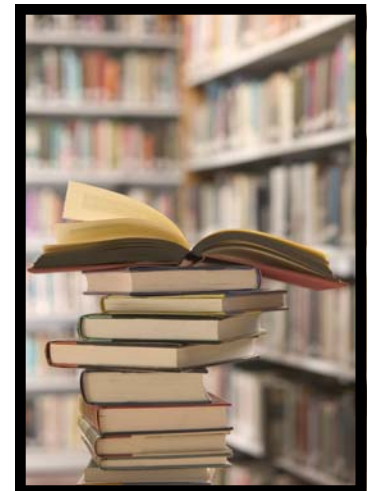
Not quite two years ago on Easter Sunday, Crosswalk America was launched at Church of the Beatitudes with an auspicious worship service that included the preaching of Dr. James Forbes. We met Crosswalk America's co-founders, Dr. Steve Elnes and Rebecca Glenn along with many other walkers. This group plus many guest walkers completed their 2,500 mile trek to Washington, DC in September 2006.

Along the way the walkers met and spoke with many people about progressive Christianity. As might be expected, not everyone welcomed their message with the result that the walkers experienced both joy and some hardships in their efforts. Highlights of their story were captured on film, and can be viewed on a DVD entitled: *The Asphalt Gospel*.

This DVD as well as *The Phoenix Affirmations*, an outline of the message the walkers sought to publicize, is available at the Library checkout desk. The borrowing period for these materials is *one week*. Please leave your name and contact information on the wait list if the materials are checked-out when you arrive. We'll get back to you when they're again available.

Library Book Sale

While it's no small task to bring this event to fruition, the profit realized from the Library Book Sale was due to your wonderful participation, dear congregation. You may look forward to many more interesting titles for your reading pleasure. Whether you donated books, helped in preparation/clean-up/sales, or purchased books, the Library Committee offers gratitude beyond a simple thank you. Remember, the Library is only a few steps from the Sanctuary. How easy can it be to drop in to peruse our shelves? Not only will you encounter more variety, but courteous attendants will lend a hand when questions arise. Again, Thanks to all.



SERVICE

It's Time To Clean Out Those Closets!

On April 5th and 6th you have the opportunity to help the homeless and make room in your closets. The first weekend in April is the time to get ready for summer and bring clothing you no longer use to Church for our semi-annual Clothing Drive. This is a great opportunity to help those who are on a very low income level by donating clothing that you no longer use. We need men's, women's, infants and children's clothing. Shoes are needed as well. Please help us help others – those that need help the most.

Refugee committee need help

Our latest refugee family, the Gebremedhins, are doing well. Alexander and Aster continue to like their work. Helen and Tirhas continue to do well in school. Our refugee committee is concerned about those still waiting for help. We'd like to sponsor another family in the fall of 2008. If we do so, it would be better weather to move furniture, clean the apartment and do the start-up transporting that is necessary.

Some members of the current committee cannot continue, including the chair. The commitment is for about three months of fairly intensive service, once a week or so with the family. Then most families begin to do more for themselves. If you can help in October 2008 through January 2009, contact Roger Zollars at 602-995-7243 or zollarsrs@juno.com.

Coming up...

Immigration Public Forum Panel

The issue of immigration is complex, involving humanitarian concerns and legal concerns. Rev. Delle McCormic, executive director of Borderlinks and others will be part of a panel on immigration on Wednesday, May 7 at 6:00 p.m. Watch for more information.

Youth Stock Sale

Senior High Youth are going to the National Youth Event in July 2008. We will be joining more than 3,000 youth to participate in this grand gathering. To help defray the cost of the trip, we ask that you invest in their quest. Purchase a "youth stock certificate" from any of our youth, who will be selling the stock during the Sunday worship services.

It is called youth stock, because you are investing in the future of our young people. The National Youth Event will be an amazing learning and bonding experience, and the youth will come back recharged and forever changed.



Playing at the Inclusion Coffee House

The **Ted Goddard Quartet** featuring **Jack Radavich** (bass) and special guest **Neal Seroka** (guitar) will perform on April 20 at 6:30 pm at the Inclusion Coffee House at Church of the Beatitudes. Ted Goddard, a professional guitarist since 1974, performs as a solo guitarist, leads his own jazz ensembles, backs top-name entertainers and jazz musicians, and plays touring Broadway shows. Admission is \$8 for adults and \$5 for students. Call 623-933-7202 for further information.

SERVICE

Family Promise

It's comforting to keep in mind the ministries of the Church of the Beatitudes. The Ministry of Service (MOS) gives us a wonderful monthly report on what we do money-wise, time-wise and love-wise for Christian help in our faith-community and beyond. Consider the Family Promise Ministry. You may know it was started in 1986 in New Jersey to help homeless people, and Church of the Beatitudes joined "the family" in 2000. Children are especially unsafe and vulnerable in traditional shelters. Therefore, host congregations like ours can provide a safe and homelike setting as a springboard for recovery. Families with children are the fastest growing demographic of the homeless population, and in Maricopa County the estimate is that 8,000 people are without shelter every night — 60 percent of Family Promise guests.

"You make a living by what you get; you make a life by what you give."

~Sir Winston Churchill

All the volunteers seem to agree it's a good feeling to be a greeter and meal preparer, a clothes washer/dryer, or an overnigher, or a setter-upper/taker-downer for one or two days a week every four months to help these families in our Youth Center. After a week at our place, with transportation to and from the intake shelter downtown, then the family is picked up by the next host congregation.

There are 119 affiliates throughout the country, and we have 16 Host Congregations here in Phoenix. Only families with children are screened and accepted, and substance abuse has zero tolerance. Help is offered to find housing, work and

employment skills at the intake center/daycare facility on Osborn and Third Street. The average success rate is a whopping 75 percent. Think about volunteering. It feels good. Call Curt Spotts 602 264-1211.

Passover Seder with Rabbi Jack

Join us on Sunday morning, April 20, as we relive the Last Supper of Jesus. There will be a live demonstration of the Passover Seder meal, including an explanation of all the traditional Seder elements and rituals, and how they all point to Christ as the fulfillment.



Teaching will be conducted by Messianic Rabbi Jack Zimmerman.

Securing the Church

The Ministry of Administration has approved the contracting of a professional security service to conduct a security check of the Church property every night beginning April 1. A uniformed officer will do a walk-through of the property, and ensure all doors and entrances are locked. This service will be accomplished within the approved budget.

National Youth Event
July 24-28, 2008
University of Tennessee
Knoxville, Tennessee

The UCC National Youth Event (NYE), held every four years, provides an opportunity for more than 3,000 youth (ages 13 to 18) to gather for worship, workshops, faith, fun and fellowship. If you are interested in being part of this dynamic event, please see Pastor Ted.

YOUTH

Confirmation Retreat

The Confirmation Class of 2008 will have its final retreat and overnight on Saturday, April 19, starting at 2 p.m. at Church! Please get a permission slip from Dana Bender for this event or download it from the Church website at www.beatitudeschurch.org/pubs. Other confirmation dates to remember include:

Thursday, May 1, 6:30 p.m. in the Youth Center, Confirmation rehearsal dinner

Sunday, May 4, 9:00 a.m. worship service, Confirmation Class joins the church.

Arts Camp 2008 is coming! June 9-13, 2008

This camp is open to children entering 1st grade through 9th grade. The time for the camp is 9 a.m. until 12 noon, with a culminating activity starting at noon on the last day. This year's theme is "Planet Quest: Creating a Green Future." Children can sign up for three classes ranging from drama, dance, pottery, and much more. Pick up a brochure from the church office in April. Cost for Church members is \$45, non-members \$50. For further information, contact Dana Bender at the Church.



Volunteers needed

Get involved with kids, the future of the Church! We are looking for leadership and general help in the following areas: nursery care, Kid Zone on Wednesday nights, Church school on Sundays, Junior High Youth group, and Senior High Youth group. If you have an interest in any of these areas, short or long term, special projects or ongoing events, please let Dana Bender or Pastor Ted know.

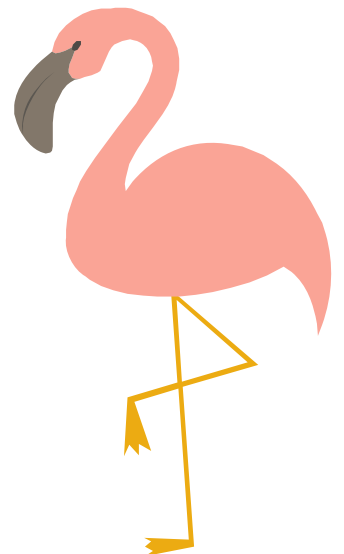
Southwest Conference UCC Camp 2008 "Touch Earth Gently"

The camp's spiritual theme and activities will strive to help campers see our earth home with new eyes and hear its whispers with new ears. As our society begins to awaken to the vital importance of treating the earth with more gentle care, we will help camp participants become more sensitive to the environmental impact they are making, their responsibilities as God's children and to simply experience a deeper relationship with nature.

Registration forms are available in the Church office or on the Southwest Conference website at www.southwestucc.org. Super Camp (camp for Young Juniors, grades 2-3; Junior, grades 4-6; and Junior High, grades 7-8) will be held at Emmanuel Pines Camp in Prescott on June 15-18 (for the youngest kids) and June 15-20 for juniors and junior high. Senior High Camp is for incoming grades 9-12 and will be held June 29-July 5 at Pine Summit Camp in Prescott. Early registration deadline for Super Camps is April 30 and for Senior High Camp is May 31. Scholarships are available. Dana Bender can show you a video regarding camp. For further information, please contact Dana at your earliest convenience.

Flamingo surprise!

Nothing is more fun than a yard full of pink flamingos. Watch for more information on how the High School youth could surprise you one morning with a magnificent display of flamingos. Find out how you can surprise someone else!



HAPPENINGS

Thursday night at the movies

Movie Night, the third Thursday of each month, meets in the Lounge at 6:00 p.m. You are invited to bring your dinner (or warm it up in the microwave) or a snack, and stay for the movie and a discussion afterward. Suggestions for future movies are always welcome.

On April 17, we will watch *Freedom Writers*, about Erin Gruwell, a new teacher, who comes to a southern California high school bubbling over with naive optimism, but quickly discovers that her unruly classroom isn't easily won over by her good intentions. After a few floundering attempts to connect with her students, Gruwell gives them the assignment of keeping journals about their own lives — an assignment that the class bites into with relish, which eventually bonds them together and pushes racial rivalries aside. *Freedom Writers* draws heavily on the published journals of the students.

Taste & See in April

Taste and See, our Wednesday evening time of food, community, and fun begins with dinner served between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. in Nelson Hall (donations are accepted). At 6:30, there is something for everyone: nursery care, Kid Zone in room 24 for elementary-aged children, youth group activities, and many classes for adults

Pick up a purple brochure from the narthex or church office. Some classes are ongoing and others last just a week or two. Some highlights for April include: Yoga, Swing Dance, Prayer class, "Finding Your Sacred Space" interior décor class, Scrapbooking, and Nutrition 101.

The Ministry of Service is sponsoring a series of public forums on issues that concern you, your family, and your community. Listen to experts on topics related to immigration, health, and others in 'What Matters: Public Forums' coming in May. Watch for details.

The logo for 'Taste & See' features the words 'Taste' and 'See' in a large, bold, black serif font, with an ampersand (&) in a smaller, grey serif font positioned between them.

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Change Service Requested

We're on the web at
www.beatitudeschurch.org

April Book Club

The Memory Keeper's Daughter: by Kim Edwards (432 pages, Penguin)

Please join us on April 24 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lounge to discuss this gripping book.

Publishers Weekly says (paraphrasing): Edwards's assured but schematic debut novel (after her collection, *The Secrets of a Fire King*) hinges on the birth of fraternal twins; a healthy boy and a girl with Down syndrome resulting in the father's disavowal of his newborn daughter. A snowstorm immobilizes Lexington, Kentucky, in 1964, and when young Norah Henry goes into labor, her husband — orthopedic surgeon Dr. David Henry—must deliver their babies himself, aided only by a nurse. Seeing his daughter's handicap, he instructs the nurse, Caroline Gill, to take her to a home, and later tells Norah — who was drugged during labor — that their son Paul's twin died at birth. Instead of institutionalizing Phoebe, Caroline absconds with her to Pittsburgh. David's deception becomes the defining moment of the main characters' lives, and Phoebe's absence corrodes her birth family's core over the course of the next 25 years. David's undetected lie warps his marriage: he grapples with guilt; Norah mourns her lost child; and Paul not only deals with his parents' icy relationship, but with his own yearnings for his sister as well. Though the impact of Phoebe's loss makes sense, the author's redundant handling of the trope (cliché) robs it of credibility. This neatly structured story is a little too moist with compassion. *Publisher's Weekly* is a little snooty in their critique (most literary critics are), but don't be put off; a well-read friend tells me it's a great story. Call Betty-Sue Gage for questions at 602-264-1221.

