



## World Outreach Week!

Our annual WOWeek, a rich tradition here at First Church, emphasizes our commitment to missions locally and world-wide. The theme this year speaks directly to that commitment: **Across the Street - Across the Sea.** **Who will go?** *"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' 'And I said, 'Here am I, send me!'"* Isaiah 6:8. Congratulations to Anne Judson and Max Robinson for their artwork that illuminates this message.



Paul Sidmore and the Outreach team have put together a marvelous week for all of us to enjoy and be drawn closer to evangelism, at home and abroad. Here are some highlights:

**Sunday, March 1** - Pastor Andrew will share his vision for mission and we will have our "parade of flags" during Sunday worship.

**Tuesday, March 3** - At our Men's luncheon we welcome Doug Gregan of New Brother's Fellowship

**Wednesday, March 4** - Family Night Dinner's menu is international in cuisine this week. After dinner I'll report on my 2014 missions trip to Romania. Our prayer time will focus on our outreach partners.

**Saturday, March 7** - 6:00 to 7:30 join us for a concert by *The Sound of Angels*, an African choir from Portland, Maine. Then we'll fellowship together over our WOWeek brownie sundaes.

**Sunday, March 8** - We host our guest preacher, Elisha Cho from the Church of the Nazarene in Danvers. Our Coggin Room Coffee Hour will feature Abraham Liu, a local Chinese church leader and Gordon-Conwell student.

**Saturday, March 14** (not an official WOWeek event, but an outreach focus on Jews for Jesus) - at 4:00 pm Karol Joseph will lead us in a Passover Seder. . If you would like to help with food preparation, please contact [Marcia Sidmore](#) (978-777-5126). Karol will also join us for our Coffee Hour the next Sunday, March 15.

**Saturday, March 28** - Stop Hunger NOW packaging event begins at 9:00 am. But we need your support in financing the meals for this pragmatic mission outreach. [Click here](#) to donate. Just \$29 helps us purchase 100 meals, so please commit to purchasing the ingredients and then join us on the 28th as we package them for shipment. Any questions, just [contact me!](#)

Plan to join us at as many events as you can to get an appreciation for what God is doing through His people across the street, and across the sea!

## Baby Shower

Not only will March 1 be the kickoff of WOW, but also a time of celebration as we host a Baby Shower for the Haddad's at 4:00 pm. What a great opportunity to

show our love for Mike and Norma and the new baby they are expecting in April. If you have questions or would like to help with munchies, see Doffy Falk or Christina Clark.

## Looking ahead...

The promise of Spring is coming. We get to set our clocks forward before we go to bed on Saturday, March 7th (have you ever forgotten and arrived at church an hour late?) and celebrate Daylight Savings time. Palm Sunday is March 29, followed by Easter Sunday, April 5. Don't forget the wonderful Tri Town Clergy joint Holy Week services that have become so popular. Mark your calendars for the week of March 30 featuring noontime fellowship and worship. For those who are new to our church, you'll find these services to be a good Easter preparation as well as enjoyable fellowship. We will keep you posted on the details as the week draws near.



## sNOw More!

We have managed to keep our schedule pretty much intact in spite of horrific storms and frigid temperatures. Thanks to all who have graciously helped clean up snow around the church facilities. Chuck Wood has done more than his share. Eric Fiske made sure the sidewalk snow was cleared in addition to his other inside duties. Tim Staub does a great job of coordinating it all. Thanks to all who participated during the recent siege of winter storms, not only snow removal but cleaning up after leaks caused by melting ice. On Sunday, February 15, we had 23 hardy souls attending, including musicians Becky James, Carolyn Gould and Jim Winslow, as our choir and others were

snowed in. Thanks to Carl Kuczun and the AV team for such their work in production that allowed those of us who couldn't get out of the driveway to worship online.

The weather has added numerous repercussions to our FCCB operating budget with a "double whammy": added snow removal costs and limited offering plate finances as FCCBers have understandably hunkered down at home on particularly snowy Sundays. If you could bring your pledges and tithes up to date that would be such a blessing to our financial flow. If you are in a position to pay ahead on your pledge this might be an opportune time.

I know we are counseled against the sin of envy, so I report the following with some trepidation. John and Jo Noyes just returned from two weeks of sunny vacation time in Florida. The Roaches and the Kaiters have been to Florida this month as well. The Rushtons are about to embark on a lifetime trip to New Zealand, including a stop at Tahiti on their return.



**Family Night** resumed after the holiday break but took a hit from winter weather with cancellations and reduced attendance. The meals and fellowship are more than worthwhile. We also celebrated the birthdays of Becky James and Mike Haddad early last month. Last week we were delighted to have Deb McGill with us to celebrate her birthday. Please keep Deb in prayer that she continues to gain strength.

Speaking of birthdays, that very same week, Dr. Clement Kuchipudi celebrated his 70th birthday in a touching letter announcing this historic event. Dr. Clement and Sathya plan to spend some time with us this summer. May God continue to bless their work, and watch over them as you keep them in prayer.

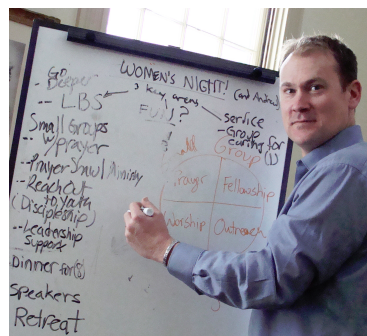
## FCCB Women...

On February 17, Pastor Andrew and Becky led a time for FCCB women to talk about women's ministries - where we have been, where we would like to go in the

future. Pastor Andrew followed this meeting up with an email, summarizing what was said and the shaping of a vision for women at FCCB. We'll keep you posted.



And don't forget, our Thursday morning ladies group, led by Susan Humerian, has been involved in a study called, "Maturing in Christ, Called to Discipleship." Our next study, "Whol-I-Ness With Myself, Others and God" begins in a couple of weeks. Each lesson stands on its own, so if you have Thursday morning available, please stop by. And if you know of someone who could babysit a couple of energetic boys (aka, Luke and Wesley) during the 9:15 to 11:00 time, let [Susan Humerian](#) know. Thank you Susan for your heart for ministry to women!



### FCCB Men...

Twenty five men got together to talk with Pastor Andrew about potential men's ministries at FCCB in early February. Pastor Andrew had lots to offer given his experience working with business men. There were great contributions and we look forward to more stuff for men at First Church. I don't think Chuck Norris or Mr. T will be involved in the near future, but you never know.

### FCCB Youth...



Mike Haddad reports..."The retreat to Camp Berea was an amazing experience for the youth group and the youth leaders. God used this time to draw us closer to Himself and closer to each other. The theme of the retreat was "Upside-Down" which has to do with how sometimes we look at what God values as upside-down when in reality we are the ones who are upside-down and He is right-side-up. So, we discovered more of what God values for our lives and we are continuing to work on how we can live more faithfully to him. We are all counting down the days to when we can go on our next retreat! Thank you for all your prayers and support and thank God that the weather held off so we were able to get there and back safely."

## FCCB Kids...

And while we are talking about Mike, he is doing a very nice job of communicating with our little ones in the Children's Message during the service. Children's Church is on our radar, but we need more volunteers to be able to offer the program each Sunday. At present we have a limited number of children who would benefit, but we know it is a compelling asset to any church. How amazing is this picture of Dylan and Thomas helping each other look up scripture! And how amazing is it to be involved with children growing in Christ.



It is a pleasure for me to work with such an incredible Christian Education team and to see the way Patty Chick has become so comfortable in her new role as Sunday School Coordinator. We are grateful for the new nursery volunteers. Patty could use a few more, and at least one more teacher for lower grades. Please talk with her about the opportunity. And by the way, we encourage parents of kids three years and younger to use our wonderful nursery facilities. Older children will sit with their parents (we've got Bible centered pages for them to engage during the sermon.) Pray for our Sunday School ministry!



And speaking of kids, it is time to start planning for this summer's **VBS**. Christina Clark and Kerry Langlois are heading up this summer's **Jungle Safari**. Please take note of the handouts for Vacation Bible School in your bulletins and see where God would have you serve. There are a number of options, and one or two will most likely fit your gifts and time constraints.

## Coggin Room and Coffee...

The popular "Coffee Hour Guests" program continued on Sunday, February 22 with Doug and Carolyn Gregan as our guest speakers. For added fun, Doug played his saxophone for us. They brought us up to date on **New Brother's Fellowship**, the prison ministry devoted to assisting those on release. Doug will be speaking to our men's lunch group on Tuesday as well. Carolyn Gregan has developed a new recovery division for women. Our own Deb McGill is coordinating the phone prayer portion of the work. Pray for the men and women being ministered to by NBF as they see the need for God's grace and forgiveness.

**Reid Smith** has been through a challenging winter of tests and treatments. As he prepares for possible surgery and more treatments, kindly keep Reid and Marty in your prayers.

**Doffy Falk** is making a nice comeback from a recent accident, as you might expect. Doffy is hard to keep down, but do pray for her complete recovery.

**Food Pantry** continues to serve our neighbors in need. Currently, paper products, detergents, catsup and cereal could use some refilling. Please help if you are able!

Pastor Andrew's message to begin **Lent** was powerful. He reminded us to pray during this season, taking serious matters to our hearts rather than simply going through the motions as "traditions" sometimes dictate. Mark's words regarding Jesus talking about hand washing was used as the illustration for our walk with the Lord. We are talking about a Prayer Night on Friday March 20th for First Church to gather in corporate prayer. We'll keep you posted with the details. By the way, Pastor Andrew's Thursday "eblurbs" are a help in preparing us for Sunday's time in the word, so make sure you are on our [email list](#).

May you be drawn closer to our Lord and Savior during this Lenten Season,



Rick

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. II Cor. 13:14

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