



Issue No. 8

September 2013



New Member Verna O'Neil

This summer FPC welcomed Verna O'Neil and her children into its membership. Verna drives two hours to church from Phillips, ME, where she lives with her husband Jeremy and children Deidre, Seamus, Adara, Joshua, and Vivienne. Both Jeremy and Verna are certified paramedics, although Verna says the only emergencies she currently handles are parental ones.

As a child Verna's faith in Christ was works based. If she sinned, she thought she would go to Hell unless she asked Jesus to save her again. When she was about 13 she realized that God loved her and her salvation did not depend on her repeatedly asking Jesus into her heart, but on his grace alone. Her desire then was to follow him.

A few years later she got out of the habit of regularly reading God's Word and praying. As a result, her desire to obey Christ faded. She began to live life on her own terms. But God did not abandon her. As she drove to work one day he awakened her to "the horror" of the way she had treated him. With tears she repented and returned to him.

FPC Day Camp

As one parent dropped off her children for our 6th annual day camp held June 24-27 at Camp Shiloh, she said, "They don't know much about the Bible." It is to introduce such children to the

God of the Bible that we run the camp. This year as many as 49 children heard the Word of God each day as Pastor Mike Kooy taught from the book of Genesis. The kids responded with comments like "I hate sin!" as well as questions: "What happens to sin at the end of the world?" "Why did God make pain?" "What happened to Jesus? How did he die?"

Whether drawn by games, water slide, crafts, or Bible hour, campers returned enthusiastically each day. On Wednesday night between 75 and 100 people attended a barbeque where FPC members mingled with campers and parents. After eating, some adults joined still energetic kids for impromptu games on the playing field.

FPC volunteers helped Greg Gordon in the kitchen, registered campers, acted as camp nurse and otherwise contributed to the effort. Given the size and composition of our congregation, however, we could not have held the camp without the staff from southern New Hampshire who assisted director Ken Todd. Carissa and Lindsay Francouer, Ethan Jennings, Katie Mote, and Katherine and Seth Reichl came to help from First Congregational Church, Merrimack and Olivia Reimers from Amoskeag Presbyterian Church, Manchester. We are very grateful for their ministry to our north country children.

Street Fair Outreach

Saturday, July 27, four FPC couples took turns manning the church booth at the Lancaster Street Fair. They gave away Bibles and literature and had some good chats with people. Ask the Lord to grow the seed sown.

Ladies Retreat to Shiloh

Saturday October 14 FPC ladies vacuumed, scrubbed and dusted Shiloh Lodge as part of a retreat there. In the late afternoon Brenda Gordon led a devotional centered on godly behavior for the Christian woman.

A night away, time around God's word, laughter, good food, and donating our elbow grease always make this event a happy one.

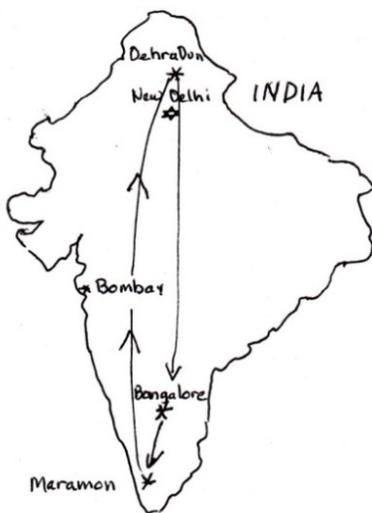
Weekly Worship

By God's grace we have seen an influx of visitors for several weeks. Some of the visitors are from out of town and traveling through New England and others are from our community. Many of the local visitors have continued to worship with us on a regular basis. We praise our Lord for this answer to prayer and ask him to continue to send others to worship him.

Pastor Mike Kooy has just completed preaching through the book of Ephesians and hopes to start a series on the book of Judges soon. The adult Sunday School class has been reading and discussing *Jesus the Evangelist* by Richard D. Phillips. This book has encouraged and challenged many of us to pray about and engage in evangelism. Please pray that the Lord will give us boldness to share the gospel message with the lost in our community. The Children's Sunday School class is studying *How Majestic Is Your Name*, a study for children on the names and character of God by Desiring God Ministries.

Gordons Return to India

Kent and Sandy Gordon are booked to fly to Bangalore, India, October 8. From there they will go by train to Maramon in the state of Kerala where they will assist with the training of Bible translators and Bible translation consultants under the auspices of Wycliffe India. Kent also will check translated portions of Scripture in several languages for faithfulness to the original text. February 7 they are to leave Maramon in the south of India and go to Dehra Dun in the far north to continue checking translations at the Wycliffe India training center there.



They ask prayer for strength and health to do all that will be required of them; also that Kent will be able to spot any mistranslations in the translations he checks.

Budget Update

From January to August the church's expenses exceeded its income by about \$1500. Please pray for this need and consider how you might help meet the shortfall.

Facilities Committee

Our application for a grant from the Tillotson Foundation was denied in June. Continue to pray for the committee in its search for another facility. If the Lord keeps adding members and increasing the number of visitors to FPC, we will need more space.



Church Picnic August 25 at the Kent Gordons'

Prayer Requests

- Spiritual and numerical growth for FPC.
- Boldness for FPC members to share the Gospel.
- Local people to come to faith in Christ.
- The spread of the gospel in Northern NE.
- Fruitful follow-up with contacts from the Day Camp and Street Fair outreaches this summer.
- The Gordons as they leave for India.
- Budget shortfall.
- The facilities committee as it does its work

Prayer Meeting: 2nd and 4th Sundays 4 p.m.

Please send any gifts to this address:

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