



February 2010

The Messenger

Garfield Park United Church of Christ Indianapolis

Pastor Tom as he retires

Full of hope as well as thanksgiving

As Susan and I enter the month of our 32 year old daughter Sarah's wedding to Nathan Hass - and you are all invited to the wedding and light-reception at the church where she's a pastor, Friedens United Church of Christ, 8300 South Meridian, 2 PM, Saturday February 6th - I am full of Hope as well as Thanksgiving.

From Pastor Tom In fact my last three Messages, God willing, before my retirement at the end of the month, will be about Faith, then Love, and then Hope. Those of you sharing Experiencing God with us at GodSpace, 9:15 a.m. each Lord's Day, -and that class is open to newcomers!- will not be surprised that God has not yet revealed the specific ways that Jesus can use my "retirement" years. I have some plans, and we'll just have to see where God changes them and adds to them.

God also has plans and changes for all of you, and our church, as we are given days and months in this life! I am absolutely thrilled with the changes that have evolved for God-Space as well as the new dimensions of music added to our beloved 10:30 a.m. Worship hour.

After Feb. 28 my formal ministry as your pastor will conclude. I will continue to love all the people God has brought into our church family to love! I will expect God to continue to refine and evolve the unique and great ministry of our church! I will pray for all of you to continue to be loyal to the place God called you to Worship, love, and serve! I will not be the pastor as I was previously, but as long as you are clear in your vision to whomever God Calls to be your pastor to succeed me - I will be happy to be your friend in Jesus' Faith and Love. Your commitment to the new pastor will be one of my great concerns and prayers.

I am so thankful for each of you - and all the saints as well who have passed on from serving God in and through Garfield Park United Church of Christ! What a precious opportunity to be your pastor for almost a quarter of a century!

(Continued inside)

★
★ Retirement Celebration & Luncheon ★
★ Honoring Pastor Tom & Susan ★
★ Sunday, Feb. 28 - 10:30 a.m. worship plus lunch & party after ★
★ Watch for more details in the bulletin this month. No 8:15 a.m. service that day. ★

OUR PURPOSE: By faithful lives in Jesus' community
We strive to lead everyone to know and love God

Lunch & dance fill month for Teens

Feb. 7 right after church we will have lunch and Youth Fellowship. We will be making our final plans for the Valentines Dance.

Teen's Team for Christ

The Dance is planned for Sunday, Feb. 14 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. I'm hopeful that we might be able to meet sometime on Saturday the 13th for some decorating, so it won't be so rushed on Sunday. However, that's not for sure, so we will just have to notify you later if we are able to do that.

Hand held treats are needed like always. The theme is Pirate Valentine's Dance, should be a great time for everyone.

Love Don & Sandy Young

p.s. Trust in the Lord with all of your heart, and you will be Blessed.



Pastor Tom continued from the cover

You are, besides my family, the greatest blessing of my life! Thank you!

I am thankful for all God has Called to leadership through these years. I think of one person especially who for years has always stayed late at (the many!) meetings we've had, to make sure we both left the church safely - so many incredible kindnesses that could only come from God. I am thankful that you have shared our vision that God needs the witness of strong churches not only in the suburbs, where there are plenty of them, but also in the heart of metro Indy. How about those who teach our children, and adults, sing year after year in the choir, our volunteer praise band leader and players, the "mighty men," those on boards and teams, the many generous givers, .., a list that could go on such a lo-o-n-g time!or those who keep track of our budget and spending, or who put together this Messenger, and ...!

This has been a great place for Susan and me to be married for 24+ of our 37+ years! and to raise Sarah and Samuel - to see them matured and married - and to have shared the life of our four parents - along with the death of three of them. I have never doubted that for us Garfield Park UCC was the perfect church for these years, just as I have always believed that Susan was the perfect wife for me all our years together!

I am thankful to God for such a great and loyal staff - I think of Paul Frankenfeld's over fifteen years as our loving associate pastor, talented organists like Wayne Lundberg, and our recently resigned choir director Becky Morris. Our present alignment of staff is something only God could do to bless me and us: Dana Seitz, who has served all my years so consistently and loyally, can read my writing - usually, and keeps me out of trouble second only to my wife and mother. Youth minister and friend Don Young, who has adjusted so well to such a variety of children and youths God has brought our way through the years. Caring "care-takers" these past years Ann & Richard Downing, walking well the fine-line between being members and being staff. As fine a combination of giftedness and personality in an organist as I've known, Richard Perry. Our brilliant new choir director Geraldine Christie. My present great colleague in ministry Mark Radke, well-studied and thoughtful, always working to align himself with my designs for leadership, with his dynamic wife and co-servant Debra and their exuberant children. Bruce Simon as a God-Called teacher in the years of our Praise Worship, and continuing to ask where to serve. And how about that woman who's been volunteering as the once-paid staff in the nursery, so well and so lovingly for many years too!

Do you see why I feel so God-blessed as I look back on the opportunities, mercies, and challenges God has given us these years? As blessed as are you! whom God continues to call here to love and serve here.

So: Another month ahead and more, where Jesus' self-giving Love is to be lifted up: Let's do it, *in Jesus' Faith,*
pastor tom

PS - Note - on February 28th, the last Sunday with Tom as our pastor, the 8:15 Worship time will join with the 10:30 a.m. Worship to celebrate the transition at hand. There will be no 8:15 a.m. Worship that day, but Pastor Tom will be leading the Experiencing God at 9:15 a.m..

THOUGHTS: Faith doesn't get us out of trouble; faith gets us through it.

- Anonymous

See what's new at the library

New items have been added to the Church Library. You will find the books on the Library Table in the Welcome Area during the month of February.

Thank you to all who have donated to the Library.

- Books for children – Holy Bible-NIV Children's Edition by Zondervan, Jail House Rock by Glynis Belec, Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate DiCamillo, and Christmas Carols for a Kid's Heart by Bobbie Wolgemuth and Joni Eareckson Tada.
- Books for adults – Holy Bible- NIV Large Print by Zondervan, Bible Games by Edith B. Allen, Luke's Story: By Faith Alone by Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins, Tortured for Christ by Richard Wurmbrand, Good News about Injustice, and Terrify No More by Gary A. Haugen.
- DVDs – Abe and the Amazing Promise by VeggieTales, The First Valentine by Gateway Films/Vision Video, and Stuart Little 2 by Columbia Pictures.



Missing items – check the list...

Help is needed to find these missing items from the Church Library. Check your book shelves, CD cabinets and under your kid's beds.

- Books – Being Bossy by Joy Wilt Berry
Oliver Button Is a Sissy by Tomie DePaola
The Crippled Lamb by Max Lucado
The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein
Welcome to Narnia by Jennifer Frantz
- CDs – North Country by The Rankin Family
Women of Song by Celtic Voices

Return items to the Library located downstairs in the Church lounge. The return box is on top of the filing cabinet.

Reshaped by the Recession

The Great Recession has impacted all of us. For some, the impact has been painful (think job losses). But the financial downturn also seems to be fostering widespread personal changes that, if they stick, have the potential to improve

Good Sense our lives. U.S. News & World recently summarized some of the key recession-induced changes that researchers and trend watchers have noticed. Among them:

We're becoming less reliant on credit. Numerous studies have shown that people who pay with cash tend to spend less than those who use credit. And it's never a good idea to carry a balance on credit cards.

We're becoming more resourceful. More of us are learning how to cook or opting for home-cooked meals over restaurant meals. We're spending less on travel overall, but more on camping gear. We're going back to school, either to shore up existing skills or to learn new ones. And we're taking up gardening.

We're becoming less brand loyal. In many product categories, our family uses private label products. However, in some ways the recession has actually made us more loyal to brands whose products hold up over the long haul.

We're doing less window-shopping and more closet shopping. I recently read a report that said the average person most often wears about 20 percent of the items in their closet. That sounds about right, which means the next time you think you absolutely need to buy some new article of clothing, it would be wise to first take a good look at what's already hanging in your closet.

We're decluttering. For some, it's about raising funds by selling unneeded stuff. For others, it's about simplifying our lives.

We're redefining success. The recession has helped many people realize that the thirst for more is unquenchable and often only leaves us with less – less time for our most important relationships, less time to take care of ourselves, and less time to enjoy some of the simpler pleasures of life.

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THE WORD: Live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. — Ephesians 5:2 (NIV)



For
Kids!

* A JAR OF *

Love and Appreciation



Sometimes we forget to show love and appreciation to people who are closest to us. Use this fun craft to let everyone in your family know how much you care.

What you need:

- Plastic jar with lid
- Heart-shaped foam pieces
- Heart-shaped stickers
- Glue
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Pencil or crayons

What you do:

1. Decorate the jar and lid with heart-shaped foam pieces and stickers.
2. Cut out 2" or 3" heart shapes from the construction paper.
3. On each paper heart, write what you appreciate and love about your family and each member. Have all family members do this, too.
4. Place the heart messages inside the jar. Fold them in half, if necessary.
5. On each day in February, pull out one heart and read the message aloud to the family.
6. Notice the changes in your family when everyone feels loved and appreciated!

Church communications

One recent change to the Sunday 10:30 service involved the elimination of announcements. While I expect there will be rare exceptions (such as quiet moments for departed members, or when our bylaws require us to announce a business meeting), we can no longer rely on that time as an avenue for making announcements, whether planned or spontaneous.

From Pastor Mark

In the past, most of our announcements have been promotions of upcoming events. Such events are just as important as they've ever been, whether team/committee meetings, Bible studies, church-wide events, etc. So it becomes even more important now that we pay close attention to our ten or so already-established avenues of communication:

1. **The Weekly Bulletin** – You need to get an announcement to our secretary Dana Seitz by Thursday if you want it to run in that Sunday's bulletin (unless she's going on vacation, and needs to print even further in advance).
2. **The Pastor's Mid-Week Email** – Not everyone in our church uses email, but this is still one major avenue of communication.
3. **The Monthly Messenger** – Lesley Weidenbener is the editor of The Messenger. If that's to be mailed out at the beginning of the upcoming month, Lesley needs information by the 24th of the current month. Sometimes we combine months (July-August). This is one of our broadest modes of communication.
4. **The Website** – Jim Jensen is our webmaster, and our website is www.gpucc.org. Jim regularly updates our website with audio sermons and calendar items.
5. **Phone Reminders** – For some meetings our secretary Dana Seitz makes phone calls within a day or so of the meeting.
6. **Video Announcements** – Before the 10:30 service, Jim Jensen and our A/V team scroll announcements on the big screen. Recently, these same announcements have also been put on a computer in the narthex. With our matching grant money, we purchased a larger monitor for that, which will eventually be mounted on the wall.
7. **8:15 Announcements** – Announcements are still given verbally during the 8:15 service.
8. **9:15 Announcements** – We will probably have some announcement time during adult classes.
9. **Bulletin Boards** – There are bulletin boards all over the church.
10. **Your Calendar** – If you serve on a team or committee, it's normal that a meeting ends with the setting of the date of the next meeting. That means you should know when the next meeting is. If you miss a meeting, call someone who was there.

No single avenue of communication reaches every person every time. But in combination, these are sufficient to communicate times and dates in our church life.

THE WORD: Hatred stirs up dissension, but love covers over all wrongs.
— Proverbs 10:12 (NIV)

Ways to help in Haiti

For the last few weeks, we've been collecting contributions for Haiti relief, which we are forwarding to World Vision.

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian charity organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. The group already had operations in Haiti and is now helping with earthquake relief.

You can still help by dropping a check — identified as Haiti relief — into the offering. Or, go directly to World Vision on the web at www.worldvision.org.

Other options for giving:

- One Great Hour of Sharing through the UCC. Go to <http://www.ucc.org/disaster/haiti/>.
- The Red Cross. Text the word HAITI to the number 90999 to donate \$10 to Red Cross relief efforts. It'll show up on your cell phone bill. Or donate online at RedCross.org.
- Heifer International is collecting funds for its programs for the Haiti recovery. Go to www.heifer.org.

February Birthdays!

2 John Martin	18 Megan Camden
3 Rita Corya	19 Zachary York
Joe Downing	20 Sarah Hull
5 Daniel Smith	21 Jaunny Luta
6 Larry Darland	Nicholas Scott
7 Ginny Moore	22 Norma Huber
8 Joshua Mann	24 Barbara Bruce
11 Ethan Scott	Jim Granneman
12 Margaretta Kaufman	28 Breanne Murphy
Marge Kemp	Dawn Stout
13 Jon Morris	Maurice Stout
16 Kylie Seitz	

Anniversaries!

14 Brian & Elleen Laughlin
16 Jon & Rebecca Morris
17 Pat & Bob Strohmeyer
Tom & Cheryl Dalton
24 Lee & Pat Downey

Congregation notes

You are invited...

Mr. and Mrs. Tom and Susan Blossom
together with

Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey and Susan Haas
invite you to the marriage of
Sarah Blossom
and

Nathan Haas

Saturday, February 6th at 2 p.m.
Held at Friedens United Church of Christ
Dessert reception at Friedens
immediately following.

No gifts please. Your presence is the gift.
Friedens UCC is at 8300 South Meridian.

Eagle Scout luncheon

Casey Laughlin will have a fundraiser lunch on Feb. 21 for his Eagle project. The project will be at Merom.

Casey's troop will prepare the food — spaghetti, salad, bread, dessert lemonade, or ice tea.



Do you have someone to thank? A note, event or sentiment you'd like to share with the congregation?

Let me know by emailing me at lweidenbener@yahoo.com or putting a note in The Messenger mailbox by the choir room.

Beyond February

Upcoming events

- Palm Sunday, March 28
- Good Friday, April 1
- Easter Kids' Event, April 3
- Easter, April 4
- Taylor Youth Conference, April 23-25
- All-Church Picnic, June 13
- Fish Fry 2010, June 25-26
- All-Church McCormick's Creek Retreat, Sept. 24-26



Check Your
Calendar

THOUGHTS: One of the sanest, surest and most generous joys of life comes from being happy over the good fortune of others. - Archibald Rutledge

Ahoy maties! Shiver me timbers...



Valentine's Day Dance - Pirate style!

Everyone is invited!

6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 14

Please bring a handheld treat to share!
Hosted by the Teen's Team for Christ

Watch the big championship game with us!

You know the one we're talking about, the one on Sunday, Feb.

7 that every-
one in Indian-
apolis is going
to be watching
— the one our
friends in blue and white will be
playing! Yep. That's it!



Join us for the annual
Eclipse 3d big-game party.
All ages invited.

Retirement Celebration & Luncheon for Pastor Tom

See details on the front cover!

Published monthly for members & friends of
Garfield Park United Church of Christ
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Sunday Worship Services

8:15 a.m. Early Worship
9:15 a.m. Praise Worship
9:15 a.m. Morning Mission for kids
10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship

Church office hours 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Mon-Fri

FEBRUARY 2010

*Bible studies listed
in italics. See below
for information.*

Sunday Worship Schedule
8:15 a.m. Early Worship
9:15 a.m. Godspace Adult Class
10:30 a.m. Worship

For KIDS on Sundays
9:15 a.m. Morning Mission
10:30 a.m. Jesus'sSpace.com
(after Children's Message)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	1 <i>7:30 pm Renew Bible Study</i>	2 <i>6:30 pm Men's Accountability Group</i>	3 10:10 am Tutoring at School 34 6:30 pm NA meeting 7 pm Choir practice	4 <i>6:45 pm Ladies' Bible Study</i>	5	6 Sarah Blossom weds Nathan Haas 2 pm Freidens UCC	
7 Communion Teens Team Lunch & Visit after 3rd service 7 pm Colts v Saints - Watch with Eclipse 3d Fellowship Hall	8 <i>7:30 pm Renew Bible Study</i>	9 <i>6:30 pm Men's Study</i>	10 10:10 am Tutoring at School 34 6:30 pm NA meeting 7 pm Choir practice	11 7 pm Church Council Call Terry 881-8807	12	13	
14 H2H Art Museum Trip after church Valentine's Dance, 6 pm—9 pm	15 Noon - Young at Heart <i>7:30 pm Renew Bible Study</i>	16 <i>6:30 pm Men's Accountability Group</i>	17 10:10 am Tutoring 6:30 pm NA meeting Ash Wednesday Service Olive Branch Christian Church 7pm (Pastor Mark preaching)	18 <i>6:45 pm Ladies' Bible Study</i> 7 pm Choir practice	19	20 8 am Men's Lenten Breakfast at the Altheim	
21 Fund Lunch for Casey Laughlin's Eagle Scout project - after 3rd worship 6 pm Eclipse 3d	22 <i>7:30 pm Renew Bible Study</i>	23 <i>6:30 pm Men's Study</i>	24 10:10 am Tutoring at School 34 6:30 pm NA meeting 7 pm Lent Service at Pleasant Run UCC 7 pm Choir practice	25 6 pm Spiritual Council	26	27 8 am Men's Lenten Breakfast at Faith UCC	
28 No 8:15 am service! Pastor Tom Appreciation/Celebration event after 3rd service 5 pm H2H	March 1 <i>7:30 pm Renew Bible Study</i>	2 <i>6:30 pm Men's Accountability Group</i>	3 10:10 am Tutoring 5: 30 pm Souper Supper at Immanuel UCC 6:30 pm Life Together mtg 6:30 pm NA meeting 7 pm Choir practice	<table border="1"> <tr> <td> <p>Bible Study Information Renew Bible Study, open to new members, call Susan 882-4016 Men's Accountability Group, closed, call Mark 783-1087 Men's Study, open to new members, call Terry 881-8807 Prayer Group, meets at agreed upon times, call Louella 972-6947 Ladies' Bible Study, open to new members, call Lisa at 882-7264</p> </td> </tr> </table>			<p>Bible Study Information Renew Bible Study, open to new members, call Susan 882-4016 Men's Accountability Group, closed, call Mark 783-1087 Men's Study, open to new members, call Terry 881-8807 Prayer Group, meets at agreed upon times, call Louella 972-6947 Ladies' Bible Study, open to new members, call Lisa at 882-7264</p>
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