



Go where your best prayers take you

Tim and Diane Fonderlin are missionaries completing a four year term in Haiti, working in the same structure as Patrick and Kim Bentrrott did in 2009-2010. If all goes as planned, they will return to this country this fall, and we will host them in Maquoketa on Wednesday, October 26th.

By Diane Fonderlin on March 15, 2016

“Go where your best prayers take you.” - Frederick Buechner



Tim and I were living and working in Asia when the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami tore a path of destruction across many countries in that part of the world. Tim was quickly asked to work with the rebuilding in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, the area closest to the epicenter of the underwater earthquake that set mountainous waves of water in motion. My work with creating partnerships between churches from around the world and churches within Asia and the Pacific took on a more intentional focus as countless congregations joined together in the rebuilding of homes and lives. It was a tremendous time of ministry

and we were especially proud to be a part of Global Ministries' recovery efforts in Banda Aceh.

In the midst of our busy lives, we were taken aback when less than a year later we watched with the rest of the world the plight of those whose lives had been turned upside down by a hurricane called Katrina. Tim and I said to each other “Look at New Orleans and the need of the people in our own homeland!” and we prayed there might be a way that we could help.

We returned to the U.S. in early 2007 for our itineration and as we spoke with various leaders from Global Ministries we learned there was an opportunity to work with the Katrina Recovery in New Orleans. Shortly thereafter, Tim was called to serve with the South Central Conference of the UCC while I was asked

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

to serve with the Disciples Division of Homeland Ministries. Again, Tim and I were grateful to be a part of the Disciples and UCC's efforts in bringing hope to many who felt they had been "forgotten."

Remembering the words of the prophet Isaiah and the prayer we had made so long ago, "Here are we Lord. Send us," we began conversations with Global Ministries about serving in Haiti following the 2010 earthquake which had wreaked such havoc on that island nation. This time, however, rather than building houses our focus would be on helping to build lives through education and projects such as micro-savings and micro-enterprise; developing business plans for pastors involved in a chicken cooperative effort; being invited to share in the celebrations of a ministry that removes children from domestic slavery situations; and introducing short-term mission teams to a Haiti that would capture their hearts.



Our time in mission has held moments of pure joy as well as times of almost overwhelming sadness. There have been occasions when we have seen as well as experienced "ah hah!"

moments of learning. We also realized we needed to hush more and listen better. We went through periods of shaking our heads in disbelief but then reminded ourselves that there are many ways to deal with a given situation.

Has it been worthwhile? Were our actions merciful and conceived in Spirit-filled hearts? Have our lives pointed people to a God who is loving, compassionate, present, righteous, forgiving, generous, faithful, a keeper of promises, holy, sovereign...?

Philip Yancey writes in his book "Vanishing Grace: What Ever Happened to the Good News?" that many people "...view the church not as a change agent that can affect all of society but as a place where like-minded people go to feel better about themselves." He says, "That image of the church stands in sharp contrast to the vision of Jesus, who said little about how believers should behave when we gather together and much about how we can affect the world around us." Yancey goes on to say, "Faith...should have a contagious effect on the broader world" and he describes how Jesus used the images of "yeast..."

when we gather together and much about how we can affect the world around us.” Yancey goes on to say, “Faith...should have a contagious effect on the broader world” and he describes how Jesus used the images of “yeast... causing the whole loaf to rise, a pinch of salt preserving a slab of meat, the smallest seed in the garden growing into a great tree in which birds of the air come to nest.”

Yancey’s message encourages us to answer with a resounding “yes!” Living, learning, and serving with God’s people around the world has been more than worthwhile, it has been life-changing. We are the ones who have come away with a fuller and richer understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ and we hope that as we have shared some of our stories and experiences you, too, have realized that you have been a part of this ministry.

Your congregation’s support of Global Ministries has helped to build bridges between all of us whom God has created and whom God loves. Your prayers have brought comfort and encouragement not only to us but to the people with whom we have lived and served all these years. Truly, “thank you” does not seem adequate but we say it from the depths of our hearts.

We ask prayers for:

- the people Haiti as they make decisions about the leadership of their country in future elections
- wisdom for those in Haiti who work in education, medicine, agriculture, water purification, engineering, the arts, development, local markets, tourism and business and as they strive to build a strong nation
- pastors and church leaders in Haiti as they minister, teach and disciple believers
- safekeeping and good health for Tim and I in our daily activities

In Christ’s Peace,

Tim and Diane Fonderlin, members of Howland Community Church, Warren, Ohio, are serving a 4-year term with the National Spiritual Council of Churches of Haiti (CONASPEH), beginning July 1, 2012. Tim works as a Sustainable Community Development and Micro-Credit Consultant and Diane is teaching theology at St. Andrew Theological Seminary and is also Co-Administrator of the Seminary. Their appointment is made possible by your gifts to Disciples Mission Fund, Our Churches Wider Mission, and your special gifts.



Your continued generosity to the Maquoketa Community Cupboard is greatly appreciated. Your monetary gifts are invaluable in helping to supply the Cupboard. In April we served an average of 128 families each week and an average number of people of 379. In May the number of families rose to 153 and people to an average of 444 each week. With 2 weeks in June gone there have been about 120 families and 365 people each week. If this summer is like past summers, the numbers will rise until children go back to school in the Fall.

Through the generosity of community members, visitors to the Cupboard have been receiving \$5 vouchers which can be used at the Farmers' Market. People seem very appreciative of these gifts and are taking advantage of them.

Thank you from the clients and the volunteers for helping meet this need.

A Giant Thank You to the elves who tend the flowers around the church. Some are known, some are unknown. If you feel an urge to participate, please do so. There is no test to belong, only a willingness to make things a little nicer. These are your flowers and we all appreciate your help! Thank you.



Women's Fellowship

OVERVIEW OF WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

We meet each month—excluding July & August, on the 2nd Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. in the Belva Duncan Fellowship Room. Refreshments and coffee are served by various members each month. Followed by a business meeting and program prepared from ordered material.

We also designate and oversee monthly service committees to serve funeral meals as needed, visit shut-ins and send cards. At each meeting we donate \$2 from each member—\$1 to our treasury and \$1 to the Local Emergency Mission Fund. We also donate to our mission trips and various other happenings.

At this time, we have 10 to 15 active members. For the last 25 years we have overseen the Cookie Walk & More the 1st Saturday of December.

We welcome new members!

July 2016

Maquoketa United Church of Christ

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
3 10:00 a Worship 11:45 a Super Qigong 2:00 p Frances Willey 90th birthday open house	4 6:30 p Karate Club	5 12:00 Ladies Alcoholics Anonymous 7:30 p Yoga	6 7:30 a Centering Prayer 10:00 a Worship Committee 5:30 p Potluck 6:15 p Centering Prayer 8:00 p Alcoholics Anonymous	7 8:00 6:30 7:30
10 10:00 a Worship 11:45 a Super Qigong	11 10:00 a Worship Committee 6:30 p Karate Club	12 12:00 Ladies Alcoholics Anonymous 3:00 p Music Committee 5:30 p Council Meeting 7:30 p Yoga	13 7:30 a Centering Prayer 5:30 p Potluck 6:15 p Centering Prayer 8:00 p Alcoholics Anonymous	14 8:00 6:30 7:30
17 10:00 a Worship 11:45 a Super Qigong	18 6:30 p Karate Club	19 12:00 Ladies Alcoholics Anonymous 7:30 p Yoga	20 7:30 a Centering Prayer 5:30 p Potluck 6:15 p Centering Prayer 8:00 p Alcoholics Anonymous	21 8:00 6:30 7:30
24 10:00 a Worship 11:45 a Super Qigong	25 6:30 p Karate Club	26 12:00 Ladies Alcoholics Anonymous 7:30 p Yoga	27 7:30 a Centering Prayer 5:30 p Potluck 6:15 p Centering Prayer 8:00 p Alcoholics Anonymous	28 8:00 6:30 7:30
31 10:00 a Worship 11:45 a Super Qigong				

Service Committee

Bonnie Schwenker & Chris Tubbs

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 Maquoketa, IA 52060
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	Fri	Sat
	1 Return from Leech Lake mission trip	2 7:00 p Narcotics Anonymous
a Morning Prayer p Karate Club p Centering Prayer	8	9 7:00 p Narcotics Anonymous
a Morning Prayer p Karate Club p Centering Prayer	15	16 Departure for West Virginia mission trip 7:00 p Narcotics Anonymous
a Morning Prayer p Karate Club p Centering Prayer	22	23 Return from West Virginia mission trip 7:00 p Narcotics Anonymous
a Morning Prayer p Karate Club p Centering Prayer	29	30

July 3

WC Bill Schwenker
 GR Phyllis Rockwell & Phyllis Nissen

WL Bonnie Schwenker

July 10

WC Sarah Hobbs
 GR Caroline & Jerry Bybee
 WL David Manning

July 17

WC Barry & Connie Francois
 GR Marta & Burton Romer
 WL Chris Tubbs

July 24

WC Steve Tubbs
 GR Ann Miller & Joyce Den Herder
 WL Karen McClintock

July 31

WC Jim Dean
 GR Oswald family
 WL Marilyn Deegan



Tom Breuch	July 3
Joshua Francois	July 7
Frances Willey	July 11
Geni Carr	July 12
Dianne Barker	July 13
Mathias Dague	July 17
Caroline Bybee	July 24
Sarah Lichter	July 24
Suzanne Douglas	July 26
Brian Nabb	July 27
Shirley Olson	July 29
Sue Sandberg	July 29
Eric Housley	July 30
Donald Dietz	July 31

Dates to Remember:

July 3 Frances Willey

Birthday open house

Super Qigong Sundays



Council Minutes

The council minutes will be posted on the bulletin board outside Pastor Stephanie's office after they have been approved by the council.



BE THE CHURCH

Protect the environment. Care for the poor.

Forgive often. *Reject racism.*

Fight for the powerless.

Share earthly and spiritual resources.

Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



Come join the Willey family as they celebrate Frances' 90th Birthday, July 3, 2016, 2-4 p.m. at the Maquoketa Care Center.

A program will be held at 4:00 p.m.

Let's give Frances a card shower too.



From the Ed Board

We at the Education Board are committed to supporting any of our church family who wish to go to Pilgrim Heights Camp (Ed Board covers 1/2 the tuition) .

On the hall bulletin board there is information about camp, how to register, what type of camps are available, etc. Please feel free to sign up, participate, explore at Pilgrim Heights this year!!!

VBS fun; Gabe and Daniel Weiler attended the First Lutheran VBS. Fun was had by all.

Thank you to everyone for your generosity at the Ed Board Brunch. \$139 was raised to help us support Tenzin Dhendup, and fund campers.

The Education Board will be sponsoring a Maquoketa River canoe float sometime in the next 2 months...stay tuned!

Bonnie and Delaney have returned from the mission trip to Leech Lake, which occurred June 26 through July 1. Welcome back!

Respectfully submitted

Sarah Hobbs

Please note: The Spotlight guide that was used during our discussion of the movie can be found on our website. On the news tab, click on newsletters and you'll find it listed next to the July newsletter. If you'd like a printed copy, please contact the office.

Dancing About Architecture

Written by **Matt Fitzgerald**

"The Spirit gives birth to spirit ... You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going." - John 3:6-8 NIV

To paraphrase Frank Zappa, "Talking about the Holy Spirit is like dancing about architecture." Some things just have to be experienced. I remember buying our kids their very first Slurpee. It was a hot day. Their thirst was intense.

I said, "You'll love it. It's like a Coke, but its like ice-cream. You eat it with a straw, but the straw has a spoon at the end of it. It's frozen, but its also carbonated. Do you understand?"

They looked perplexed and irritated. Ten minutes later, as the icy, sugary slush hit their brains and cooled their skin while they held that tiny plastic spoon-straw in their teeth - they understood.

We like to explain things in the UCC. But the Spirit is inexplicable. That might be its best asset. Our religion rests upon the knowledge of God that Christ gives us. That's great, but it is good to be reminded that God is also wild and uncontrollable. She goes where she will go. Sometimes like a rushing wind and sometimes so quietly you barely sense her.

The best definition of the Holy Spirit I've ever read is in a poem: "A Light Breather" by Theodore Roethke. I don't understand it. I just feel its power and I know it's beautiful.

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for giving us your Spirit.

About the Author

Matt Fitzgerald is the Senior Pastor of St. Pauls United Church of Christ in Chicago. He is the host of **"Preachers on Preaching,"** a weekly podcast sponsored by *The Christian Century*.



Maquoketa United Church of Christ

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