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Office Hours: Monday 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. (Closed for lunch) Friday: 9 am– 1:00 pm
402-721-1265



May 2021



Lead Pastor Richard Crooks | Fremont, NE

May 2021 Pastor's Notes

And in the morning, a great while before day, he rose and went out to a lonely place, and there he prayed. -- Mark 6:31 (RSV)

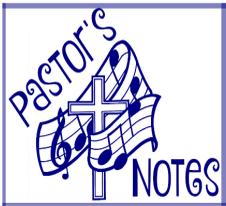
And he said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a lonely place, and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. --Mark 1:35

Shortly before writing this article, several men and myself spent Saturday afternoon out at Moses Merrill working on clearing trails from fallen trees. In preparation for that, we purchased a chain saw to be able to give them, trusting that donations would cover the costs. At the end of last year, our church raised money to remodel one of the cabins at the camp. I have been out to camp speaking at Vespers Services for the mission focused camp for young campers. In case you haven't figured it out yet, I am strongly in favor of our camping program and Moses Merrill. Not only that, but I am privileged to pastor this church, which is filled with people and a history supportive of the camp as well. I have not always had churches as closely connected to our camps as this church is, and it thrills my heart that our church has this relationship.

Each year, our church sends young people to camp, scholar shipping half or sometimes all of the camping cost for them. We are, once again, on the verge of camp season, and I look forward to hearing stories of our young people's experiences there. We have had young adults from our church work at camp in various roles as well. Why am I so strong on camping?

Well, if you knew MY story, you might find it a bit strange that I am so sold on camping, since during my own childhood, I rarely went to camp because some of my camping experiences were less than great. And yet, I have had multiple opportunities to be involved in camp leadership as an adult, and have personally witnessed the marvelous things God does in the lives of campers and camp staff year after year. In fact, studies show that church camp is one of the most effective ministries our churches do in this day and age. Many of our young people come to Christ through camping ministry year after year. Have you ever wondered why?

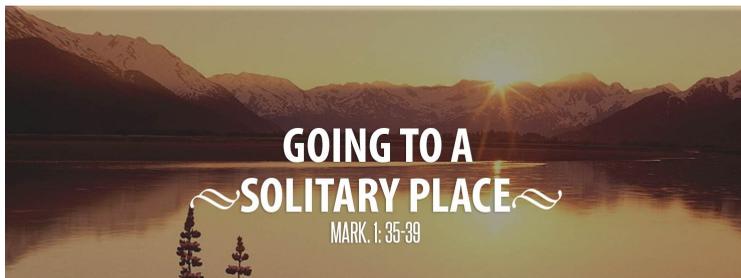
In Jesus's life, he found spiritual refreshment in the presence of God out away from the hustle and bustle of life, out in the lonely wilderness places, including the reference above in Mark. Also in Mark, Jesus encouraged his disciples to develop the same habit, calling them aside time after time. There is something special about being away from our daily lives out



where distractions are minimized and we are immersed in the handiwork of God's creative hand. When that is combined with special focus on God's Word, the experience is unique for our spiritual growth. Moses was shaped in the wilderness. Elijah met God in the wilderness. David spent time in the wilderness, where he apparently wrote several of the Psalms. John the Baptist built his ministry around wilderness experiences. Paul experienced God teaching him out in the wilderness after he first came to Christ.

In this day and age, with all the technology and social media connections, with all the many, many activity opportunities bombarding our young people, making time out in the wilderness to focus on God is becoming rarer and rarer, and as a result, more and more powerfully used of God. With such a beautiful camp as Moses Merrill, and such enthusiastic and biblical leadership, our region is truly blessed with opportunities for our kids, as well as adults. I invite you to consider finding your own ways of supporting this great ministry of our region, whether by praying specifically for the camping program this year, or giving to camp projects as we have been doing, or donating money to help pay for camp costs for some of our kids, or inviting and sponsoring a neighbor or family youth to go. God has truly blessed us with this great facility, and people in our church have personal connections going back to the beginning of Moses Merrill Camp. Just thought I'd put in a good word for it.

P.S. By the way, it's a great place to go for a picnic, or if you need a break or some time away with God on lovely trails. God speaks time and again in many ways and to many people out at Moses Merrill.

May Bible Puzzle

Jesus called an inner circle of followers he designated apostles. There is one Jesus did not appoint himself to be apostle. Who was it, and how did the appointment come about?

May Peoples Puzzle

This member helped an elderly woman living on the second floor solve her problem of accessing mail by arranging a simple rope and bucket method of sending and receiving mail without having to ascend or descend the stairs. (Hint: Our member also has a collection of miniature antique gas pump replicas on display at home.)

April Bible Puzzle

In honor of Easter, there are (at least) a couple of stories in the Hebrew Bible that reflect the death/burial/resurrection of Jesus. One is the "binding of Isaac" when Abraham lays Isaac upon an altar. There is a second that Jesus refers to himself. What is it?

In Matthew 12:38-41 Jesus refers to Jonah in the belly of the fish as a type of his own death, burial and resurrection.

April People Puzzle Answer:

Randy Cash had the unique opportunity to stand in two different salt seas at the same time, with one foot in each. (He had even stood on the soil of 7 countries by the time of high school graduation!)



Nola Crooks		02
Beverly Holmen	402-721-9123	02
Chris Raasch		02
Mary Weldon	402-727-5302	05
Richard Crooks		09
Sharlene Wilkinson	402-753-1408	10
Jessica Schollmeyer		12
Chris Hancock	402-983-6917	15
Adam Schollmeyer		23
Scott Clausen		25
Paul Cash	402-721-6418	28
Frankie McKee	402-624-5745	28

If you know of someone in our church family whose name should be on this birthday and/or anniversary list please call the office at 402-721-1265 to let us know.



Thank you for the opportunity to take communion at home. Also thank you for the cookie goodie bag...God Bless the ones baked them. -Mrs. Norma Luton

I want to thank you so much for all the things you have brought us. I especially enjoyed reading the booklets for Easter. I use the Secret Place and Our Daily Bread for my daily devotions. There were quite a few devotions from Susan Gillies and I enjoyed reading them. Thank you for remembering us. - Beverly Clausen

Thank you for such a great sermon and Easter Service. - Laura Cook

Welcome to the world, Graham Matthew Bates!!!! Born April 16th, 8lbs 9oz
 Congratulations to the parents Paul and Kaitlin Bates.
 Love Grandpa,
 Doug Depue



Our Friends Away From Home

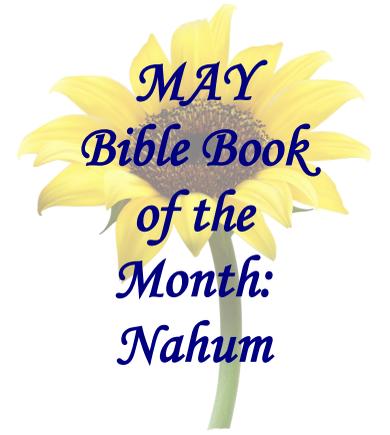
NYE POINTE	
2700 Laverna St,	402-727-4900
Sharlene Wilkinson	Rm 203
NYE COURT	
652 W 21st St.	402-721-9224
Genny Peterson	#213
NYE SQUARE APTS	
650 W 21st St. Fremont 402-721-9224	
Vivian Meyer	402-753-4229 #150
Dalton Benson	402-721-7717 #126
Wes Howe	402-721-4163 #133
Joan Sorensen	402-830-6519 #178
Charlie Wild	402-721-2158 #130
PROVIDENCE PLACE 749 E 32nd	
Dona Laten	#11
SHALIMAR GARDENS	
749 E. 29th St. Fremont, 402-721-1616	
Harlan Waugh (402-753-8046)	#219



Richard & Beverly Holmen
 526 Legacy # 13
 Waterloo IL, 62298



As we wrap up Kids Club and FBY for the summer. We want to take a moment and thank God for the time we were able to gather in person. Also a special thank you to all of those who helped support, and encourage the growth of youth ministries as we went through these trying times together. We will miss all of you over the next couple of months. Stay safe, remember what you've been taught, and we will see you in the fall. God Bless you all!!



ABWM
Thursday, May 6th
1:30

Children | Youth Ministries
YOU'RE INVITED!

WHO: Parents, Youth, Friends, Family etc...

WHEN: May 5th, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.

WHERE: FBC Parking Lot

WHAT: Food, Fun, Fellowship, and Activities!!!

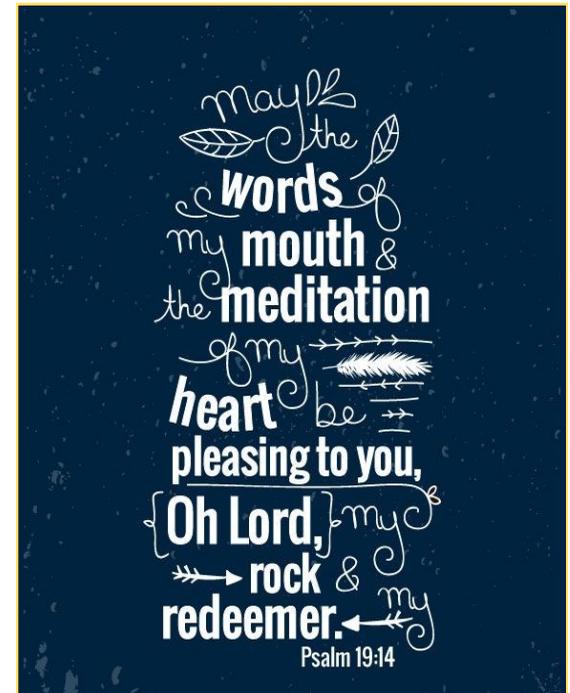
WHY: End of year BBQ BASH!!!



Monthly Meetings
May 10th - 11:30 am
Esther Circle

May 17th - 1:30 pm
Hannah Circle

May 27th - 12:30 pm
Naomi Circle



VISION TEAM MONTHLY REPORT: APRIL 10, 2021

Members present: Pastor Richard, Joel Foreman, Mary Weldon, Shelly Bowen, June Cardwell, Mike Raasch, Eileen Cash, Marcia Hill, Randy Cash, Don Charleston, and Dorothy Charleston.

Pastor Richard opened the meeting with prayer.

Randy reviewed the Balance sheet for March. The bank balance in the checking account was \$16,576.55 at the end of March. The Memorial Fund had \$38,931.10 and Endowment was \$346,709.25. America for Christ balance was \$7,902. It nearly doubled the goal. The parking lot repair fund has reached \$3400, \$10,000 has been pledged. Elevator payment and Utilities were \$3700. March had \$1400 more income than expenses.

Don reported the Endowment has had excessive withdrawal and \$93,000 needs to be paid back. He reported the roof leaks have been repaired and asked if any more ceiling tiles were stored somewhere. He moved that the cost of the handrail in the front of the sanctuary(\$850) be paid from Memorial Funds. Motion was seconded and the vote approved.

The calendar was discussed. The plan for JC Fremont Days hasn't been finalized so future plans will be discussed at a later date. Joel reported the Men made \$65.00 from the Pancake Breakfast. Nola and some friends got together for an Easter Dinner at the church and included some members who would of otherwise spent Easter alone. Pastor suggested that this might be a need worth making an annual project, and suggested we consider that possibility.

Shelly suggested we begin the 5th Sunday Movie nights again. The first date would be May 30.

August 14 has been reserved for Life line Screening at the Family Center.

June reported the last night for Kids Club will be May 5 with a BBQ . Caleb had 13 kids this week at Youth Group. Rachel Adams is the only senior graduating. Scholarships were discussed. They welcome volunteers for VBS at MMCCC on June 11.

Personnel Team reported David Manzer will be given a leave until Mother's Day. He will work 8 hours per week until then. Amity will substitute part time. They are considering options in terms of replacing Kristi's work with the youth, and will be bringing recommendations at a later date.



May

Friendship

Day 1 – Proverbs 18:24

Day 2 – Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Day 3 – John 15:12-14

Day 4 – Proverbs 27:17

Day 5 – Proverbs 17:17

Day 6 – 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Day 7 – Romans 12:15-17

Day 8 – Proverbs 27:9

Day 9 – Job 6:14

Day 10 – Proverbs 27:6

Day 11 – 1 Peter 4:8-10

Day 12 – Hebrews 10:24-25

Day 13 – Proverbs 16:28

Day 14 – Romans 12:18-21

Day 15 – 1 Corinthians 1:1-8

Day 16 – Proverbs 13:20

Day 17 – Luke 6:27-31

Day 18 – Proverbs 27:5-6

Day 19 – 1 John 4:7-8

Day 20 – Romans 12:9-10

Day 21 – Proverbs 22:24-25

Day 22 – Colossians 3:12-14

Day 23 – Philippians 2:1-4

Day 24 – 2 Corinthians 13:11

Day 25 – Romans 15:5-7

Day 26 – John 17:20-23

Day 27 – 1 Corinthians 1:10

Day 28 – 1 John 4:11-12

Day 29 – Romans 12:13-14

Day 30 – 1 John 4:19-21

Day 31 – Ephesians 4:1-6





The ice storm last fall has left an overwhelming amount of damage. A Clean up day was organized. With the help of the electric chainsaw donated by FBC tree branches were cut and trails were cleared of sticks. Since then there has been a need expressed that Camp Moses Merrill could use another electric chainsaw. If you would like to donate to help cover the expense just mark your donation "electric chainsaw".



Pastor indicated that now things are opening up a bit and we are able to do some of the ministries we have done in the past, then we need to begin building and clarifying the way the new structure works. As part of it, the Vision Team was given a copy of sample report and a planning guide for the various Mission Impact Projects, that used the Tables for Two to illustrate how we go about building the guidebook and reporting, and asked Vision Team members to use the model to prepare similar reports for activities that groups in their areas have been doing in the past year, and explain that those doing the projects, are the best able to prepare these materials. The process can help individuals find their "niche" in the ministries of the church and a sense of how God wants to use them.

In addition, he suggested it is time to consider the questions of what as church leaders learned about our church and God's work in us through the experiences of the last year and how it will shape what we do going forward. Pastor also suggested we might consider, for example, a focus of developing a strong senior citizen ministry, because we have seen how hard this past year has been for seniors who have been isolated. Pastor also passed around copies of the current Building Use Guidelines that are in need of being updated for our review, and indicated we will be considering revisions in the near future

Hymnals have been returned to pew racks.

The Biennial will be online the end of June, a change from Puerto Rico.

Mike shared a report of Memorial Funds income and disbursements prepared by Lynda.

Pastor also reported Dick and Bev Holmen will be moving to St. Louis near their son on April 24. He suggested a card shower as they are unable to attend here. Cards are available at the office if you would like one. They will be mailed in a packet to their new address.



The meeting was closed and ended with prayer by Mike.

Respectfully submitted, Dorothy Charleston, Clerk



In Matthew 5:16, Jesus commands His people to let our light shine! We are called to shine so others may see our good works and glorify God. At VBS student of all ages are encouraged to let their light shine for Jesus and make an impact in the world.

**June 11th @ Camp Moses Merrill
Contact the office for a registration form.**

It's always a good idea to verify times and places, Thanks!

May 2021

Prayer Emphasis

**Continued Healing
and
Recovery**

May Van Driver

Bob Marsh
402-459-0621

**Life Choices:
Bottles for Babies Campaign**

This year on Mothers day we be handing out baby bottles that you can take for the month and fill with your loose change. This money will help a mother in need. For more information contact the office or <https://fremontpregnancy.com/>




Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			END OF YEAR BBQ @ 6:30 pm FBC Parking Lot 			1 7:00 am ABM Bible Study 8:00 am ABM Breakfast
2 Communion 9:30 Traditional 11:00 Contemporary *Fill a bottle with coins help a mother 	3	4 7:00 Young People AA	5 5:00 pm Zoom Fellowship 6:30 Kids Club/ FBY Last Day until Fall 7:00 pm Bible Study 8:00 pm Sober & Crazy AA	6 1:30 ABWM	7	8 MEETINGS 8:00 Property Team 9:15 Personnel Team 9:30 Vision Team
9 9:30 Traditional 11:00 Contemporary MOTHER'S DAY	10 11:30 Esther Circle	11 1:30 Hannah Circle 7:00 Young People AA	12 7:00 pm Bible Study 8:00 pm Sober & Crazy	13	14	15
16 9:30 Traditional 11:00 Contemporary	17	18 7:00 Young People AA	19 5:30 Zoom Fellowship 7:00 pm Bible Study 8:00 pm Sober & Crazy	20	21	22
23 9:30 Traditional 11:00 Contemporary	24	25 7:00 Young People AA	26 7:00 pm Bible Study 8:00 pm Sober & Crazy	27 12.30 Naomi Circle	28	29
30 9:30 Traditional 11:00 Contemporary MOVIE NIGHT	31 MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED					