

Dear FPC family and friends,

We are back! What an incredible mission trip it was, and it did indeed serve a mission to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those who would listen, as well as increase the faith of those who participated in the mission trip. If you want to see pictures of the trip which we posted in Facebook you can find them here: <https://www.facebook.com/Ignitedstudentministry>. That's the goal, isn't it? Often, we go on these mission trips with a one-way objective which is to bring Christ to those who do not know him. That is a great goal, and one that ought to be pursued.

But from the perspective of being the pastor of FPC, I have another goal in my mind as well. That is to raise up young men and women who know Jesus and want to be a part of His church and be involved in the life and ministry of God's kingdom. I have to say that unequivocally that on this trip all of that happened. The children who came for VBS, probably in all over 50 or so, learned the songs that raised Jesus up as Lord and Savior. They learned from the Bible stories who Jesus was on this earth. From the crafts in a tactile fashion they produced something that reminded them who Jesus is. Recreation, well they just had fun, and that was all part of it as well.

Taking 31 people to Italy and then coming back and being able to tell about it is significant for a variety of reasons. But when you add to it the desire for faith to be increased, that is powerful, really powerful. We saw the hand of God in so many ways. I think what we experienced more than anything on our trip was hospitality. It was the kind of radical hospitality that makes us rethink what we do here in Strasburg for hospitality.

The first morning all the kids had gotten there early, which is not an Italian thing to do, and made signs that said welcome. It was amazing. At Albanella after worship on Saturday evening, we all shared in an Agape that was considered the best meal that we had on the trip. At Villa Cimbrone in Ravello we were greeted by the 97 year old owner and three of her children. We prayed together in the crypt and then came up and enjoyed a time of refreshment. All of this was done without request and with a heart of hospitality. It was incredible.

Every single one of the 8 trips that I have led, from Florida, to Moscow, to here, has been unique and people have grown in faith and there has been real significant growth in our youth. We pray that those with whom we come into contact that they would grow in their faith as well. This trip was the largest and so had the most potential for things to go wrong. The way in which our adults poured themselves into the life of the youth and understood what it meant to be a servant to them and to Christ was incredible. The way the youth understood that their priority was for the children and not their own comfort, was noticeable. At the end of the day a servant heart was revealed in our ministry. That's all one could ever want.

Sooooo, if you have a youth who is going into 6th grade this year and older get them to youth group. Italy 2030 is right around the corner. This is a great week to do it because after every VBS night this week there is a night out with the youth. Get them involved and see their faith grown.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Bob

HAPPENING IN THE LIFE OF FPC...

VBS starts this Sunday at 6: All the hard work is coming to fruition and we can't wait to welcome the children of the neighborhood to hear about Jesus. Come and join us and bring a friend!

Memorial Service for Lois Mellinger: Sunday, July 19 at 1pm we will be having a memorial service for Lois Mellinger here at the church. Join us as we celebrate her life and her resurrection.

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC: Come enjoy fun, food and fellowship on Sunday, August 16th at 12:30pm at Tinney Pavilion. There will be a corn hole tournament, bingo and kid's games! Pulled pork, hotdogs, beverages and paper products provided. Please bring a side or dessert to share!

FAMILY FUN DAY: Join us on Saturday, August 1st from 12-3pm to celebrate 55 Years of Preschool at FPCS! Enjoy bounce houses, balloon animals, face painting, games, food and other entertainment. It's free and open to the public so invite your friends and family! The parking lot will be closed to accommodate the party. Parking has been arranged at the Methodist/ACTS church, Bachman/Snyder Funeral Home, and St. Michael's, all just a short walk to the action!

FPC's Food Pantry is having a Summer Food Drive!: We are looking for volunteers to lend a hand with accepting donations, sorting food and delivering it to our inventory shelves on Saturday, July 25th from 8am – 1pm. Look for the signup sheet in the Well. Let's get our neighbors involved in helping those in our community who are in need. Look for the bulletin insert for more information. Thank you SO much for your continued and generous support of our ministry!

The WELCOME DESK: is looking for someone for Monday mornings as well as a Tuesday morning substitute until further notice. Please contact Pam Johnson with any questions at 717-989-0998 or see me around our church. Thank you for considering!