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# Fountain of Life Fellowship Monthly Newsletter

June 2010

## Council Members

### Elders:

Matt Ford  
Scott Clair  
Ed Mirth

### Deacons:

Irmgard Bishop  
Jerry Schoenenberger  
Don Woodhead  
Vince Cabral  
Rachel Stewart

*Grounded in the Gospel,  
we Gather to Grow in the Gospel  
and Scatter to Spread the Gospel  
for the Glory of God.*



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## Pastor's Note by Matt Ford

**Psalm 100:1** Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!  
**2** Serve the Lord with gladness!

Come into his presence with singing! **3** Know that the Lord, he is God!

It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. **4** Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!

Give thanks to him; bless his name! **5** For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

What a God we serve! He has made us, and we are His. And O, how He has cared for us this past year! Truly, the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever.

I want to take a few moments to praise God for some of the things we have seen Him do in the past year here at FOLF.

### 1. God Has Kept the Church Alive

Do you remember last fall? We sent a candid letter explaining that the savings we were rebuilding on was running out, and that, at the present pace, the church had only a year and a half to live. Those were trying times for us – and good times as they got us on our faces before God.

And what did God do? Just an anonymous gift of \$30,000 which we have been able to save because **we've been financially in the black every month since**. That is, quite honestly, a miracle. Seven months black. Thank you Jesus!

### 1. God Has Held Us Up In Suffering

Perhaps even more impressive has been watching the way that God has upheld His people in the midst of some serious suffering. Precious people in our church have experienced hard health news. Others have been jobless for a painstaking amount of time. Even more, some are facing massive difficulties in close relationships. And even so, we have watched these people cling to Christ and know His strength, joy, and peace. That is amazing indeed, and I praise God for it.

### 1. God Has Grown Our Family

This Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, will find us welcoming **thirteen** new members! Praise God. And these are such wonderful folks whose love for Jesus has already made such a pronounced effect on our community. I am so thankful and happy to welcome them officially into our family here at FOLF.

### 1. God Has Given Us the Opportunity To Serve

I'm thinking specifically here of our relationship with World Orphan and the partnership in which we will engage (pending your official approval at next week's Congregational Meeting) with our sister church in Haiti. It is so beautiful that God has 1) linked us to this opportunity wherein we can enable a suffering Haitian church to adopt, serve, care for, and disciple twenty orphans while also 2) providing us with much of the finances needed through a tutoring center renting our building. But most wonderfully, God has 3) put it in your hearts to bless this effort. Your response to this initiative has been outstanding. Not every church who has struggled financially would be so quickly ready to give in such a radical way. I praise God for your faith and generosity.

### 1. God Has Given Us Unity

In so many ways I have seen God work this in us as a church:

- **Colossians 3.2** Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, **13** bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. **14** And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

I praise God for that, for it is precious. I'm also incredibly pleased with the Council and their efforts in this past year.

**CONGRATULATIONS  
to John and Irene  
Van der Eb on their 50th  
wedding anniversary!**



We're far from perfect and some balls got dropped, but God is interested in heart and in character, and this group of people is humble, quick to repent, in love with the Gospel, and passionate for the church. As noted above, we've been through a lot in the past year, and one thing that has remained throughout it all is our unity. What a gift of grace from God! You should know that it is not automatic for the leadership of a church to enjoy unity, and it is so destructive when they do not. God has truly been good. Let's not take it for granted.

So please, praise God with me for His kindness towards us in this past year. He owed us none of it. And if He had given us none of it save our salvation through Jesus Christ, we would still have nothing to offer but thanks and praise.

In that light, will you join me in thanking God for and encouraging those who have served you on the Council in this past year? They have worked very hard and devoted many hours in serving you in countless, behind-the-scenes ways. They are worthy of our honor and thanks

Grateful for you and with you.

Pastor Matt

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## Summer LTG!

I'm writing here to let you know what's going on for Life Together Groups this summer. Last summer was a blast and we're hoping you'll join us for the fellowship and fun this summer as well.

We'll be studying the book of Colossians together this summer, and we encourage you to start reading through the book in order to get familiar with it. The schedule is as follows:

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| #1: June 24; Colossians 1.1-14     | #2: July 1; Colossians 1.15-23                |
| #3: July 8; Colossians 1.24-2.5    | #4: July 15; Colossians 2.6-15                |
| #5: July 22; Colossians 2.16-23    | #6: July 29; Colossians 3.1-11                |
| #7: August 5; Colossians 3.1-17    | <b>August 12<sup>th</sup>; WEEK OFF (VBS)</b> |
| #8: August 19; Colossians 3.18-4.1 | #9 August 26; Colossians 4.2-18               |

The evenings go like this:

From **5:30 – 6:30 p.m.** we enjoy food prep (Scott will be BBQ-ing!), fellowship, fun (maybe even some volleyball!), and dinner together (we ask \$4 per adult or whatever you can afford).

From **6.30 – 7.00 p.m.** we study the Word together. And from **7.00 – 7.30 p.m.** we conclude with praise and worship together.

**Babysitting is provided from 6.30 – 7.30.** (We ask for a small donation from whoever is willing as payment for our sitters.) So join us! Community life is so important for the church of Jesus Christ, and we trust that this opportunity will enable some good growth together in the Gospel. See you there!

## Shepherd's Corner

contributed by Matt Ford

The elders met Thursday afternoon, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. The meeting included a devotion on “gentleness”, prayer for the congregation, and discussion on LTGs, shepherd-connects, the summer and fall schedule, and a conversation with Maged Dakdouk to encourage him in ministry.

Of note:

Matt and Scott's LEAD team met Thursday afternoon from 1-3 p.m. with Joel Van Soulen and Maged Dakdouk. That time is always so encouraging.

Scott will enjoy a well-deserved vacation from June 14-21.

Matt and Marcia will take off for some backpacking in Yosemite National Park from June 28<sup>th</sup> – July 3<sup>rd</sup> in order to celebrate their 10-year anniversary! Matt's mom will be flying out to care for the kiddos. Matt will be back for the service on the 4<sup>th</sup>, and Ed Mirth will be preaching. Pray that God will bless Ed in his preparation!

We will be attending a Classis meeting on Tuesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### Congregational Meeting

**All members are needed next Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, at our annual Congregational Meeting which will take place immediately following the service. If you are a member, we need you there! If you cannot be there, please make sure to get and fill out an absentee ballot (see Scott). Here is a brief agenda for the meeting:**

- 1. Opening Prayer, Year-In-Review, and Meeting Introduction**
- 2. Presentation of the Budget**
- 3. Questions, Discussion, and Vote to Receive the Budget**
- 4. Presentation of the Council Candidates**
- 5. Vote to Receive Candidates**
- 6. Conclusion and Closing Prayer**

**See you there!**

## Ignition Update

*contributed by Scott Clair*

This last month we finished up our series “Fear and Trembling” by RC Sproul. Throughout this series we focused on the holiness of God and how amazing it is that Christ took on flesh, lived a perfect life, suffered, and died that we might enter into the holy presence of God. For the last three weeks of the school year we are entering into a series about worship. Throughout this series we are looking at the foundations of worship, what it means to worship in Spirit and in Truth, and practical ways in which we can engage in worship. Along these lines, we have introduced a new element of singing and praise to our weekday night. We are looking forward to the Summer and can’t wait to grow in community and most importantly our relationship with Christ.

Ignition’s Purpose:

We exist to glorify God by having and spreading a passion for the **supremacy of God** in all things for the joy of all peoples through Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit.

Ignition’s Mission:

To live a lifestyle of worship by **Growing** in Christ, **Building** meaningful relationships with other believers, **Serving** those who are in need, and **Reaching** those who do not know Christ within our community.

### Don’t Miss This!

That means our annual summer trip is upon us! We’ll be spending a week (July 12-18) jet-skiing, wakeboarding, boating and whale watching. The cost of this trip is **\$230** and is guaranteed to be a blast! Speak to Scott to sign up.



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## 2:42 Update

*contributed by Scott Clair*

This last month we enjoyed our second “Dinner and Theology Night.” This night was filled with great food, conversation and a sermon by John MacArthur. The sermon was called “Becoming a Better You” and dealt with the false teaching that our best life is here and now. Through the sermon, John MacArthur took us deep into scripture and showed us that our best life is not now, but rather saved for us when we enter the unshakable kingdom of God. We also continued in our study in the book of John. This month we looked at the life of Judas Iscariot and saw that Judas was history’s greatest example of blown opportunity and wasted privilege. We were convicted when we looked at the opportunities and privileges we have to grow deeper in our relationship with Christ, and yet so often we waste them away.

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” Acts 2:42 (ESV)

# Thankful Again!

Contributed by Matt Ford

Last week I wrote this:

- 1 Corinthians 1.4 reads,
- I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus
- Notably, Paul is recognizing something wonderful in the Corinthians: the grace of God. He sees evidence of the active love of God at work in their lives, and he wants praise to rise to God for this grace and encouragement to flow to the Corinthians that God's grace is evident in their lives.
- We should most certainly learn from and put into practice this godly pattern. It should be our joyful, humble habit to 1) recognize the evidence of God's grace in one another's lives 2) voice it out to God for His praise, and 3) one another for our encouragement. A church with a culture of thankfulness is going to be a place of joy, encouragement, and bring much glory to God! So let's get going!

There's more people to thank!

**Ken Cameron** – Just off shoulder surgery, Ken has spent several days repairing our picnic tables. Thank God for Kenny's constant service, and encourage him for his work!

**Ed Mirth, Todd Szilagyi** – The servant-hearted men have given hours and hours and evening after evening in order to lead our Life Together Groups. I am SO thankful to God for their labor. Thank them as well for their service!

**Tracy Mirth, the Woodheads, the Schoenenbergers** – These heroic folks have volunteered the homes and hospitality week after week in order to host our LTGs. That is serious service. Thank God for them, and encourage them for their service!

**Marcia Ford** – This woman is amazing. She has joyfully hosted LTG in her home nearly every week for the last nine months. There is rarely a Saturday evening when she is not working hard to prepare things for Children's Worship and Nursery, which she continues to build and oversee with excellence. She is constantly serving and mentoring others, with no complaint or need for praise. I'm in awe and so thankful to God for her (for these things and obviously a HOST of others). If you appreciate what God has done for our kids at FOLF or in your own life personally, encourage her for her work!

## Samantha Mirth is Graduating!

The Mirth family would like to invite you to celebrate in the graduation of their daughter and sister, Samantha Mirth.

**When:** Friday, June 18th at 6:00 pm

**Where:** The Mirth House  
9101 Columbine Ave.,  
Fountain Valley

**RSVP:** 714-855-8962 by June 14th



## Prayer Guide for June

**June 6-12:** ; Pray for our new members, that God would richly bless us all as we follow Christ together. Pray that they would feel welcomed and enfolded in the life of the congregation.

**June 13-19:** Genesis 26.34-27.46; Pray that we would recognize God's sovereignty over all events, and have the peace that comes from knowing that all things are in His hands, and He is good.

**June 20-26:** Genesis 28.1-22; Pray that we would have a fresh knowledge of and appreciation for Jesus Christ and how He bridges the chasm between a Holy God and sinful men.

**June 27-July 3:** Genesis 29-30.24; Pray that God would shine His light on the darkness in our hearts, and that we would find cleansing in the cross of Christ and the sanctifying work of the Spirit.

### Birthdays

- 6.10** Rachel Stewart
- 6.19** Jackson Ford
- 6.19** Don Woodhead
- 6.21** Genevieve Korsiak
- 6.24** Jacob Woodhead
- 6.25** Diane Schoenenberger

### Anniversaries

- 6.3** Scott & Desiree Rustulka
- 6.4** Todd & Heather Szilagyi
- 6.4** John & Irene Van der Eb
- 6.26** Wesley & Carolyn Swenson

## Care for our Shut-Ins

Below is a list of friends & family of FOLF that would appreciate a call, a card, a visit, and prayer.

Please contact Rachel ([Rachel@folfcrc.com](mailto:Rachel@folfcrc.com)) for phone numbers and addresses of those we care for.

**Joe Bakkelo** has moved back into his home in Victorville. He would appreciate calls and cards.

**Hetty De Jonge** is still recovering. We give thanks to God for healing! Hetty still loves to have visitors and cards, and enjoys fresh flowers from your garden.

**Russ Hanff** is in an assisted living home in Whittier. Russ suffers from Alzheimer's; while forgetful, he really enjoys visits and cards (he has no phone). He LOVES to talk about the Angels, and his years of coaching Little League and softball. He recently was able to take a trip to Alaska.

**June Verhoeven** live at the Artesia Christian Home in Artesia. June cannot walk due to a stroke that she suffered a few months ago. She would love to receive cards and visits. She also enjoy home-cooked food and fresh fruit.

**Brian McGuire** is a former member of our church. He lives in Fullerton with his son, Kyle. Brian suffers from advanced effects of diabetes. He would love a call or a card from FOLF friends.



**Daughter's the King  
(Women's Ministry)**

Please join the women of Fountain of Life on June 13th at 5pm for a time of fellowship and a study of a woman of the Bible. It's a great time of getting to know each other better. The more the merrier!

**Andrizomai  
(Men's Ministry)**

Our next breakfast is June 12<sup>th</sup>, 7 a.m. at Carrows (Magnolia, between Heil and Warner). Join us as we enjoy one another's company and continue our study in the Gospel according to Mark. We'll be giving our attention to Mark 4.1-25.

**Ministry  
Schedule**

	<b>Jun 13, 2010</b>	<b>Jun 20, 2010</b>	<b>Jun 27, 2010</b>	<b>Jul 4, 2010</b>
<b>Nursery</b>	Laura Carolyn Samantha	Irene Sally Audrey	Marcia Marshia Niel	Irmgard Gayle Lizzy
<b>Children's Worship</b>	Jacky Cinti	Cinti Frances	Cinti Ann	Marcia Veronica
<b>Hospitality</b>	Vera and Carolyn (June) Ronell and Jannie (July)			
<b>Greeters</b>	Marshia and Ed (June) Ann S. & Anne B. (July)			
<b>Congregational Prayer</b>	Vera	John	Ed	Todd
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Wesley	Scott	Cinti	Lynn
<b>Communion Elements</b>	Ed (July)			
<b>Sanctuary Care</b>	Cinti	Mira	Scott	Rachel

## Budget Update for May 2010

*contributed by Anne Buteyn*

### **Inflow:**

General Fund (offerings, rent):

\$17,160.00

Special offering:

– Spectrum Ministries - \$382.00

### **Outflow:**

General Fund: \$14,290.68

Ministry Shares: \$1,710.05

Total: \$16,000.73

## Introducing HT Learning Center

Recently, we began leasing the education building to an after-school tutoring program based in Fountain Valley called HT Learning Center. They would like to extend a special offer to anybody who's interested in tutoring for students in K-12th. They offer



services in reading, writing, science and math. Please contact Dr. Kris Truong at 714-841-1444 or visit [www.htocl.com](http://www.htocl.com) for a schedule. If you have a teaching credential and are interested in working for this company, they are hiring for summer positions!