



**A Just Peace, Open and Affirming,
Multiracial and Multicultural Congregation
Intentionally Inclusive... Expect the Unexpected**

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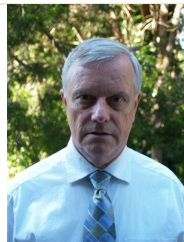
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*From the Interim
Pastor*

Glossolalia

Judging from the New Testament evidence (in I Corinthians and Acts), glossolalia, or speaking in tongues, was a not uncommon experience in the earliest Christian communities, or at least in those with which Paul and Luke were familiar.

Paul discourses at length in I Corinthians 14 about this phenomenon, perhaps because it seems to have been disruptive and even a source of controversy in the worship life of the Corinthian congregation. Speaking in tongues, Paul asserts, can “edify” the speaker, but is of no benefit to the congregation unless someone is there who can interpret the theological or ethical meaning of unintelligible speech.

The “speaking in tongues” with which Paul is concerned fits this contemporary definition of glossolalia: “incomprehensible speech in an imaginary language, sometimes occurring in a trance state, an episode of religious ecstasy, or schizophrenia” (<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/glossolalia>). The word itself was evidently created in the late

1800’s by combining two Greek words: glosso, meaning “tongue” or “language,” and lalia, meaning “chatter” or “babble” (as in the sounds babies make before they’ve learned to articulate recognizable words).

By contrast, in Luke’s account of Pentecost in the second chapter of Acts, speaking in tongues is not “incomprehensible speech in an imaginary language,” but rather intelligible speech in known languages. It is speech that edifies the hearer as well as the speaker. When the apostles under the influence of the Holy Spirit (not under the influence of drugs or alcohol) suddenly start speaking in languages that may not be intelligible to them, but are intelligible to those in the crowd of Pentecost pilgrims, they get the crowd’s attention, to put it mildly. And once the apostles have the crowd’s rapt attention, Peter interprets for the crowd the theological meaning of what they have been hearing.

Both Paul and Luke agree that the primary purpose of ecstatic or prophetic speech in the congregation is to “build up” the faith community (I Cor. 14:5,12). In fact, in the story of Pentecost in Acts, the power of the apostles’ ecstatic speech and Peter’s prophetic speech builds up the faith community by adding three

thousand members in one day: instant megachurch! Both the teaching of Paul and the story of Pentecost show that the gift of the Spirit is not about individual spirituality, but rather about communal solidarity: we are the church together.

Grace and peace,
Doug Clark



News from Around the Parish

by Peg Lorenz

It appears that summer, 2009 may be a most exciting time in the life of First Church. The Pastoral Search Committee is hard at work, interviewing and meeting candidates. There is movement on the redevelopment front. Look for more news from these groups as the summer wears on.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, church members have been deeply involved in family matters. We'll start with TRANSISTIONS. **Barbara Gerlach** sent in news from her family. **Antonio** is graduating from the fifth grade and will be going to Alice Deal Middle School in the fall. **Scott Prentice's** eldest daughter will graduate from high school and will go to the University of Maryland. **Emily Marsh** graduates from Yorktown High School on June 18. **Susanna Brylawski** is graduating from Wilson High School on June 9th and will be attending the College of Charleston in Charleston, SC. **Becka McConnell** graduated in May from George Washington

University with a Masters Degree in Bilingual Special Education. She went to school nights while teaching ESL full time in Hyattsville, MD. Kudos to Becka. **Ben Withbroe** graduates from Takoma Middle School and **Peter Withbroe** graduates from Barnsley Elementary School after a very successful academic year in a program for bright kids with special needs. Straight A's. Good for Peter. **Oley** and **Sally Olson** share this heart warming story of two of their grandchildren. "**Kevin** and **Carl Olson** will be among five students who will graduate on June 6th from the Blue Ridge Educational Center, an alternative school run by their mother and then on June 12 they will graduate from Warrenton County High School where they have been in a special education class as well as members of the Cross Country Team. As many First Church folks know they have been diagnosed with autism since they were two years old. Their father, Eric Olson was in Ernie Newborn's pastor's class back in 1968." Special kudos to Kevin and Carl!

Now we turn to TRAVEL NEWS. **Barbara Gerlach** and her sister are flying to Seattle on June 16 to go hiking in the north Cascades and Mt. Rainier. You have already heard that **Nicole Cacozza** is going to Paraguay. **Phyllis Evans** reports that her granddaughter **Molly**, a high school junior, is planning a trip to Ecuador in July with a service group from Whitman High School. **Joe Lorenz** left May 31 for 8 weeks of community service in Ramallah, West Bank. **Ben Withbroe** will spend his second summer at a camp in Maine' while **Peter** will be attending an out-door

day camp in Maryland. **Tom Lopp** is off to Seattle for the summer. **Jenny Hunt** and **Bob Crossley** spent Memorial Day weekend in Oberlin, Ohio where Jenny attended her 50th college class reunion. Bob explored the town while Jenny enjoyed sharing memories with old friends. **Faith Brightbill** left May 18th for Paris and Provance where she will be visiting a friend. **Ruth Shinn** was delighted to celebrate her birthday the weekend of May 30th with her brother, Roger and his wife. **Randy** and **Jeanne Herrick-Stare** had a long weekend in NYC visiting galleries and enjoying the city. **Mari Castellanos** and **Diane de Molina** spent the long weekend in the Shenandoah Mts. Bird watching and water rafting.

THIS AND THAT: We are pleased to hear that **Irv Gordon** is very much improved and able to resume more activities. A very fine article about **Harry Knox** appeared in the Lancaster Seminary Alumni magazine telling about his appointment to the White House Advisory Council.

Barbara Hayes and daughter **Mary**, who came up from Costa Rica, recently went to Cap Cod to attend the funeral of Mary's grandmother. Mary played her violin at the wake. Here's an offer you don't want to miss. **Dwight Marsh** has offered to convert slides to digital for 25 cents a piece—all the profit going to the church (minus the minimal cost of the CD to record the pictures). Thank you, Dwight. dmarsh@juno.com **Marian Drake** and **Mark Jensen** recently celebrated their 6th anniversary. Congratulations.

From the Worship Commission

During the summer months we know you First Churchers cave to your wanderlust and travel near and far. Worship Commission would like to invite you to collect a natural momento from the places you travel – a vial of water, some dirt, a stone, etc. In the fall at our Homecoming Worship service we will gather together the bits and pieces with one another's.

June Worship Plan

Sunday, June 7, 2009 – Trinity, Year B

Special Notes: Joint Worship, Sunday School, and Fellowship with First Trinity and St. Matthew's, 10:30 a.m. No 1:00 p.m. service.

Preaching: Doug Clark

Praying & Presiding: FTLC & StMtLC

Sunday, June 14, 2009 – Pentecost 2/Ordinary 11, Year B

Special Notes: Church school recognition Sunday.

Preaching: Doug Clark

Text(s) & Title: Mark 4:26-34. From Seed to Harvest: Growing Our Children in the Faith

Praying: Doug Clark

Sunday, June 21, 2009 – Pentecost 3/Ordinary 12, Year B

Special Notes: UCC Anniversary Sunday. Health/Health Care Sunday.

Preaching: Doug Clark

Sunday, June 28, 2009 – Pentecost 4/Ordinary 13, Year B

Special Notes: Doug Clark on vacation. Ron Hopson away.

Preaching: TBD

Report from Book Group

Generously hosted by Karen and Peter Byrne, the book group studying Michael Fine's "The Nature of Health" had three invigorating and insightful discussions. We questioned our assumptions about what health really is, studied why our health system doesn't always support true health, and generated ideas about where we go from here. Regarding First Church, the main conclusion is to foster well-being through community and relationship-building within our membership. This task is not easy during a time when we are all stressed from our "wilderness" challenges, but perhaps it is more important than ever. Within the next few months, we will ask you to think about how our current committees and groups can incorporate ways of nurturing relationships, as well as simple steps that will help us truly take care of each other. The eleven different people who attended the group started us off with three health-promoting times of fellowship, and we hope everyone will be mindful of the health of our church and ourselves this summer.

Calendar for June

Wednesday, June 3

5:00 Volunteers at Thrive DC

7:30 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, June 4

7:00 Pastoral Search Committee

Saturday, June 6

Day at the Bay

Contact John Marsh or a member of Care of Parish Commission for details.

Sunday, June 7

10:30 Special Combines Worship, Sunday School, and Fellowship with First Trinity and St. Matthew's Lutheran Churches. Combined Choirs. Lutheran Communion Liturgy.

Monday, June 8

6:30 Finance Commission at Green America.

Tuesday, June 9

6:45 Care of Parish

Wednesday, June 10

7:30 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, June 11

6:00 Christian Education

7:00 Pastoral Search Committee

Friday & Saturday, June 12 & 13

Central Atlantic Conference Annual Meeting, University of Delaware

Sunday, June 14

12:00 Bible Workbench

12:15 Choir Rehearsal

1:00 Sunday Worship &

Church School Recognition

Preaching: Rev. Doug Clark

Second Sunday Offering

2:00 Fellowship Hour

Tuesday, June 16

6:30 Council

Wednesday, June 17

6:30 Worship Commission

7:30 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, June 18

7:00 Pastoral Search Committee

Sunday, June 21

12:00 Bible Workbench

12:15 Choir Rehearsal

1:00 Sunday Worship &

Sunday School

Preaching: Rev. Doug Clark
2:00 Fellowship Hour

Tuesday, June 23

6:00 Community Chorus
Rehearsal

Wednesday, June 24

4:00 Interfaith Worship &
Witness for Health Care Reform –
Freedom Plaza
7:00 Baseball Game at Nationals
Park
7:30 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, June 25

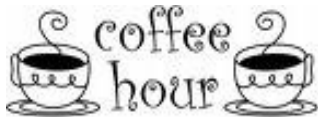
7:00 Pastoral Search Committee

Friday & Saturday, June 26 & 27

United Church of Christ General
Synod 27, Grand Rapids, MI

Sunday, June 28

11:30 Christian Education
12:00 Bible Workbench
12:15 Choir Rehearsal
1:00 Sunday Worship &
Sunday School
Loretta Uzzelle with the
Community Chorus
Preaching: TBD
2:00 Fellowship Hour



Hosts for June

7 Ann Bushmiller, Paul
Bushmiller, Keisa Bennett, Jamey
Moore

14 Barbara Rice, Stefani Filak,
Ellen Bushmiller, Phyllis Gillie

21 Nancy Withbroe, Paul
Smolinsky, Bob Dinkelmeyer,
Polly Gordon

28 Karen Byrne, Peter Byrne,
Priscilla Waters, Sylvester Jackson,
Eric Steiner

June Birthdays



Liz Warren,
Peter Tracey,
Sam Brylawski,
John Marsh,
Randy Jones,
Lin Ludy, Maya
King, Lily

Smeltzer, Cecilia Warren, Raine
Anderson, Polly Gordon, Nicole
Bushmiller Cacoza, Don Bassler,
Karl Limvere, Natasa Keys, James
Robb, Jean Limvere.

Day at the Bay



Care of Parish Commission

plans to reconvene the
venerable First Church tradition
of spending a 'Day at the Bay',
on Saturday, June 6. We will
be guests of Ruth Shinn at her
vacation home on the
Chesapeake Bay near Calvert
Cliffs State Park in Maryland.
Please note the date and be
alert for further information
through the church listserv.

Church Night out at Nationals Park



Those of us who have tickets to
watch the Red Sox play the Nats
can attend the first part of the
interfaith service and give voice to
our faithbased support for health
care reform, then Metro together to
the ballpark for the 7:05 p.m. game.

