



“The Star Spangled Banner”

This Independence Day, remember the source of all our freedoms & liberties

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Listening Speaks Volumes

By Cindy Currier

It was a special day – June 11, 2011. I tried to imagine who might show up, but really couldn’t begin to guess. I tried to avoid inviting friends because I didn’t want anyone to feel obligated. I did not announce it on Facebook, bring it up at social gatherings, or incidentally mention it in passing at church – or at least I tried not to. I wanted to see who would devote a beautiful, Spring Saturday morning to a workshop about one of the most profound gifts we can ever give another human being – listening.

Mike Langley and I were pleasantly surprised at the turnout. Twenty people came, most of whom I did not personally know. When I asked them who “liked” listening to other people, we were surprised again. We shouldn’t have been; they were from FCC, the church with the mission of developing “followers of Jesus who love God, love people and introduce the world to Christ.” Most raised their hands.

How fortunate to be part of a church where people realize the power of listening to heal and to liberate. We all want a safe place to share our hopes, our doubts, and our mistakes; a place where we won’t be judged, advised, or blamed – where our dark secrets can be transformed by the light of day. A place where we can, as James 5:16 instructs, “Confess [our] sins to each other and pray for each other so that [we] may be healed.”

The positive responses of those who participated in the June 11th workshop, “The Power of Presence: Listening in the context of caring,” speaks volumes. And so there will be more opportunities for those who weren’t able to come. Watch the Forecaster for upcoming events. ■



“The Star Spangled Banner”

This Independence Day, remember the source of all our freedoms & liberties

By: Larry Haake, IV

I'd like to introduce you to the second verse of our National Anthem:

*Oh, thus be it ever when free men shall stand
Between their loved homes and the war's desolation!
Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the heav'n rescued land
Praise the Pow'r that hath made and preserved us a nation!
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto, "In God is our trust"
And the Star-Spangled Banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!*

This coming weekend, we celebrate the 235th anniversary of our independence. More than likely you will celebrate it with a cookout, ball game and fireworks. Every American knows that we are the land of the free and home of the brave. They know that we have rights as a people, freedoms to pursue our own interests and the liberty to make our lives whatever we want. Americans as a whole know that we are a free people. But for many in this nation, they have lost sight about what our freedom means and from whom it came.

We are one nation under God. The very rights and liberties we have as a people come from our Heavenly Father. They were not created by our Founding Fathers in Philadelphia in July of 1776; they were just articulated by them so that we can show the world what God has granted not only to us, but to all His people.

Over the years we as a nation have lost sight of the source of our freedoms. A 235 year old document doesn't make us free; it just declared that we were. The freedoms are given to us by God, but as the saying goes, "Freedom isn't free". They had to be won from the hands of those who seek to suppress and squelch

them from our land. In times past we as a nation have gone to the Lord for guidance and help during times of national trial. Yet today, we seem to have lost our way when it comes to being "one nation under God". We debate whether God should even be included in our national identity. Our money may say "In God we Trust" but our actions as a nation show otherwise. Yet the very words of our national anthem speak of how this nation was founded, "...and this be our motto, 'In God is our trust'".

For whatever reasons we have not passed on the Godliness of our Founders and how heavily they relied on the Lord in the founding of this nation. We have forgotten as a nation that we owe our very existence as a country to our Heavenly Father.

Are we reaping the consequences of a nation who has turned its back to the Lord? I cannot answer that. What I do know is that there are millions of us out there, you and I and so many others who know that the Lord our God is the sole source of our freedoms and we must put our national faith in Him so that He will

guide us through whatever may come in the future.

I can't help but recall the quote from the 2000 film, "The Patriot" when Mel Gibson's character, Benjamin Martin was being consoled and told he has done nothing for which he should be ashamed. His response was, "I have done nothing. And for that I am ashamed." We cannot do nothing. It is our responsibility as Christians to remind our fellow Americans that we are that shining city on a hill, the beacon of freedom for the world because we are committed to the One from whom all freedoms come, freedom from tyranny and freedom from sin: the Lord God in Heaven and His son, Jesus Christ. To do nothing would be a disservice to ourselves, our nation and the world. Remember this and enjoy your Independence. ■

The Church Office will be CLOSED on Monday, July 4th in observance of the Independence Day Holiday.

Time for a Cruise!!!

By: Rick Raines

Last week, Betsy and I enjoyed a wonderful 25th Anniversary vacation – my first cruise. (Thank you, by the way, for all the kind, gracious anniversary wishes!) When Betsy arranged this cruise a couple of months ago, the itinerary was pre-determined by the cruise line. We knew it would start in Montreal and it would end in Boston. We knew that we would have ports of call in lovely places like Quebec City, Halifax, and Bar Harbor. We got on the ship with a plan in mind and set sail on a beautiful, warm, late-spring day. It didn't take long, though, for a few things to change. Weather conditions created alterations to our itinerary – not to mention alterations to our walking ability! Rocky seas and high winds prevented our docking in one of our destinations, Sydney, Nova Scotia. But the trip moved on. And on Saturday, we docked, as planned, in Boston and came home. Our wonderful celebratory cruise had come to an end. (And sadly, so did the ice-cream lunches.)

Last week, the Elders and staff presented to our congregation the annual proposed budget for 2011-2012. It gives a picture of a wonderful itinerary of ministry. As we continue to accomplish our mission here at Fairmount – loving God and loving people – it takes the financial commitment of our entire church family. We have bold, exciting ports of call. The next fiscal year will witness a major Christmas production, more community-wide outreach events, deeper commitment to world missions, and opportunities to create more space for more people to hear more about Jesus. Come this time next year, we will have reached more people with the Good News of Jesus – both here in Mechanicsville and around the globe. We will have helped people who are hurting and people who are hungry. We will have stepped closer to the largest



facility expansion in Fairmount's history. It will be, with God's leadership, a year of unparalleled ministry and blessings.

We know, too, that plans will change. There will be some ports in which we won't be able to dock. Our 2011-2012 budget is a *guideline* for ministry – it is not a hard and fast, chiseled-in-stone commandment. We know circumstances will dictate changes in strategy. But be assured, the mission will never change. The goal – reaching our community and the world for Christ – will never alter.

The budget format is a bit different this year. Our staff wants to continue to present a more "departmental" picture of ministry. You will see just about every budget line falls under some staff member's ministry – and we have listed them in that particular ministry along with the name of the staff member who has ultimate oversight over that ministry. I think it helps us to better understand and more quickly get answers to questions we may have.

Last week, at every port of call on our cruise, folks would disembark and go on their various excursions – some planned by the cruise line and others personally planned. Each morning, the cruise director would get on the public address system and firmly remind everyone what time they needed to be back on the ship and what time the ship would be sailing again. I was extremely curious what would happen if someone didn't

show up. What would the cruise line do? What was their responsibility? What would it be like to be walking down a city street and see the cruise ship heading out the channel? "Oops – I think we missed the boat."

Friends, don't miss the boat. Fairmount is headed in an exciting direction. We are guided by a Great Captain who has a wonderful destination for His family here on Creighton Road – both now and for eternity. Don't miss the boat.

And don't stay in your room. I can't imagine being on a cruise ship and hanging out in my room the entire cruise. You could do that. The kind stewards would bring you your meals and you could watch TV or play on the computer all day. But that's not why you cruise. That's not what our church should be like either. Get involved. Get excited. Make friendships. Get out of your comfort zone. Volunteer. Help where you can.

The cruise on Christ's ship is the best. ■



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The mission of Fairmount Christian Church:

To develop followers of Jesus who:

Love God,
Love People and
Introduce the world
to **Christ**



The Forecaster is
best viewed online @
www.fairmountchristian.org

Our Church: June 26, 2011

S.A.L.T. Opportunity - Haiti Medical Mission Trip, Feb. 25 - Mar. 2, 2012 - Informational Meeting on July 10th at 3pm in Room 106.

If you are serious about going, a \$200 deposit will be due at that time. For more information, contact Connie Davis at 730-2393.

Attendance & Giving.

8:15 Worship Service: 159
Children's Worship: 10
9:30 Worship Service: 402
Children's Worship: 47
11:00 Worship Service: 197
Children's Worship: 91

Total: 906
Bible School: 553

Budget Requirements: \$34,405.00
Budget Receipts: \$28,208.25

There will be no edition of *The Forecaster* published next week.



Sermon Series continues.

Your Church Staff:

Rick Raines - Senior Minister
Chris Santasiere - Associate Minister
Mike Langley - Associate Minister
Tracy Thomas - Worship/Music Minister
Mike Campbell - Youth Minister
Rose Williams - Children's Ministry Director
Larry Haake, IV - Child Care Program Director
Jef Powell - Facilities & Grounds Manager
Barry Will - Technology Director
Veronica Brewster - Office Manager
Bob Massey - Business Administrator