



Building Bridges • Transforming Lives

# first touch

This is a monthly publication of First Church of God, St. Joseph, Michigan

## Lead Where You Are

We hope that you have marked your calendar and plan to attend the Global Leadership Summit here at First Church on Thursday, August 11 and Friday, August 12, brought to us via live simulcast from Willow Creek Community Church in Chicago.

A dozen world-reknown religious and business leaders come together to share their secrets of success and their vision. People like Howard Schultz, CEO of Starbucks, Nobel Prize nominee Mama Maggie Gobran, bestselling author Seth Godin, and many more will offer you their insights in a 2-day inspirational event.



**Erwin McManus**  
Mosaic  
Activist; Filmmaker;  
Innovator and  
Cultural Architect  
Los Angeles, California

*"Don't do evangelism.  
Live Christ."*

Whether you are a business or community leader, board member, teacher or ministry leader, volunteer leader, student or even an emerging leader, this is for you! You will gain new insights and learn how to develop your own unique leadership gifts.

As a host church, we can offer those who attend First Church the low rate of \$75 if you register by the 'early

bird' date of July 26 (\$105 after July 26). All registrations are done online. The Host Site Priority Code that you will need to enter when prompted is: 2011GLS (not case sensitive).

You can register and get more information on the speakers by visiting our church website at [myfirstchurch.com](http://myfirstchurch.com). Just follow the link on the main page. PLEASE NOTE: This special rate is



## THE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

August 11-12, 2011 | [willowcreek.com/summit](http://willowcreek.com/summit)

just for those who attend First Church. We encourage all others to register by following the instructions on our church website.

The Global Leadership Summit is a great opportunity for our First Church family to join leaders from all over our community in a top notch leadership development event designed to enhance our own leadership abilities.

We hope to see you there!!

**Howard Schultz**  
Chairman, CEO, &  
President of Starbucks



*"While we are a coffee company at heart, Starbucks provides much more than the best cup of coffee – we offer a community gathering place where people come together to connect and discover new things."*

**DO SOMETHING:**  
Sunday, June 12

**One** Sunday afternoon....

**1,000** First Church people...

**Dozens** of community projects...

We're building bridges and transforming lives!



[FAITH PROMISE IS TRANSFORMING LIVES! SEE PAGE 5 TO SEE HOW YOU CAN JOIN IN.](#)

# Changes to Improve the Look and Quality of First Church

By Greg Gordon

Over the course of the next couple of months, you will notice some changes in our church facility as we work to improve our building.

One thing we have been talking about for a long time is moving the mailboxes out of the Gathering Area. We plan on moving some of them to the lower lobby area just outside the elevator and room five. This will make it convenient for Prime Timers going to Sunday school class just down the hall.

The current mailbox area will be used for ministry booths. It will consist of a counter with areas for several ministries to communicate with others. This will make a nicer presentation than having many tables and displays in the Gathering Area.

Other changes to the facility will be replacing the entrance carpeting and tile. This will not only make the entrances look more attractive, but also make them safer, since people have slipped on the tile from time to time.

We will also clean up the look in the choir room, adding office spaces, painting, stripping and re-waxing floors, and in general, doing a deep-clean of all areas.

We want to maintain God's church facility in an appropriate manner. Please let me know if you have any questions or comments.



Located in the Gathering Area at our St. Joseph campus.

FATHER'S DAY IS COMING!

**Check out these books:**

- *Before the Thunder Rolls*
- *Stock Car Racing Edition* Holy Bible
- *Lessons from a Sheepdog*

*Looking for a cool Vacation Bible School?*



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**SJ Campus: July 10-14 | 6:00-8:30pm**

**BH Campus: August 2-4 (family event - times TBD)**

REGISTER ONLINE: [myfirstchurch.com](http://myfirstchurch.com)

INFO: 269.983.1524



**VOLUNTEER TRAINING MEETING:**

Tuesday, June 28, 6:30pm, SJ Campus Fellowship Hall. All VBS volunteers urged to attend.

INFO: Contact Bill Shepard (269.983.1524 x50 / [bill.s@myfirstchurch.com](mailto:bill.s@myfirstchurch.com)).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### First Tuesday

Join the First Church pastoral staff in the Sanctuary at lunchtime the first Tuesday of each month for prayer and fasting. Our next *First Tuesday* is July 5, 12:00-1pm.

### Walk with Us in the Summertime

First Church walkers meet at Grand Mere Park in Stevensville every Monday, Wednesday, & Friday (10:00am) for a brisk walk. Join us!

### Women of the Church of God

WCG will meet Tuesday, July 12 (note date change) at 5:30 pm at the home of Nancy Hemingway for an informal potluck and fellowship. Please bring a dish to pass. Tableware and beverage provided. All women are invited.

### Prayer Shawls

Bring your knitting/crochet needles (and yarn, if you have it) and help us create shawls to bless those who need healing/comfort. We meet Tuesday, June 14, 9:30-11:30am.

### Prayer & Bible Study

Our Wednesday night Prayer & Bible Study meeting led by Pastor Rick Blumenberg is ongoing throughout the summer. Join us in Room 3 at 7:00pm for a short Bible lesson and to pray for our church family requests and your own.

### Military Support Group

There is no military support meeting in June. Contact Mark/Lisa Baldwin for information on the July meeting: 269.429.1930 / [baldwinideaworks@yahoo.com](mailto:baldwinideaworks@yahoo.com)

### Do You Want to be Baptized?

An Adult Baptism Class will be held on Sunday, July 17, 9:30am, in room 6. If you plan to be baptized in Lake Michigan at Jean Klock Park on July 24, you need to attend this baptism class for adults.



# Meet New BHC Intern Colt Slack

Meet First Church at Benton Heights's new intern, Colt Slack...

My name is Colt Slack and I am a resident of St Joseph as of the last three years.

Having lived in Northern and South Central Indiana for most of my life, I am pleased to call St Joseph my home now.

I am going to be entering my last semester of college (fall 2011-2012) as a senior at Indiana State University, in Terre Haute, Indiana. I am currently studying Exercise Science where I will receive my Bachelors of Science in the spring of 2012.

Upon graduating from college, I have plans to continue my education by pursuing either a Master's in Systematic Theology or enrolling in Seminary school. This decision is still within the boundaries of prayer, however, as I have not decided 100% which path the Lord is leading me down. This being said, both inside or outside of the church walls, I have been commissioned to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ and I will be involved in ministry in one area or another.

A huge area of interest for me is music! I have recently released my first Gospel Rap album called "*Off the Chains*," inspired by Romans 8:1-2! (ED. NOTE: This CD is available at The Good Word bookstore) With scripture plagiarized throughout the album, my hope is that the lyrics inspire the believer, challenge the investigator, and enlighten the lost.

I love tearing through scripture, entertaining Gospel conversations, and sharing the Gospel with those who haven't heard it. I also cherish my family and enjoy spending quality time with my mother Sherri, my father Phil, and my big brother Grant.

All in all, I am honored to be a part of this Godly church and I see this internship opportunity with the First Church of God, as a great privilege to determine and aid in my calling to ministry. I am thankful for this position and I look forward to serving the church and the community for the rest of this summer and possibly the future.

**FIRST CHURCH AT BENTON HEIGHTS  
TUESDAY, JUNE 14  
GARDEN PARTY (5:30PM)  
COMMUNITY DINNER (7PM)**

## Head Start Bus Ministry Makes a Splash

By Vicki Fellner

The Head Start Bus Ministry came to a close for the year on May 26. What a great time we had meeting new parents and children from the Benton Heights community!

During cold winter mornings, we would serve hot chocolate and a snack to preschool children and families before the bus picked them up, then again in the afternoon when children were dropped back off. As the season began to get warmer, we served juice and a snack.

From this ministry, one of the student's grandmother is now attending church at First Church at Benton Heights, and bringing her grandchildren.

Another offshoot from the bus ministry is a summer program for children K-12 called. "*Summer Splash/Fun*" and one of the Head Start student's parent is a volunteer.

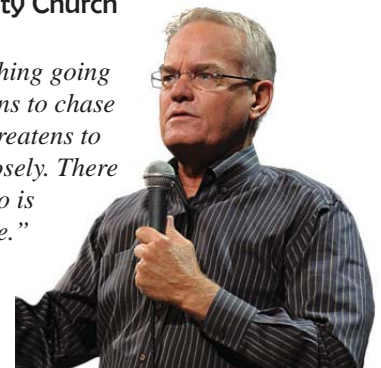
Summer Splash will be held on every Tuesday, 3:00-5:00pm, June 14-July 26. It will be a great way to meet even more parents and children in the Benton Heights community!

To see where God is leading us and being part of his amazing plan is the best feeling I could ever have. God is awesome and wonderful!

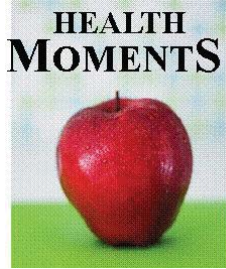
 **THE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT**  
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**Bill Hybels**  
Founder & Senior Pastor of  
Willow Creek Community Church

*"Whenever you see something going well – whenever light begins to chase back the darkness that threatens to engulf our world – look closely. There stands a leader who is holding that candle."*



**HEAR HIM AT FIRST CHURCH!**



Dear Friends and Family,

The first week in June is recognized as International Volunteer's Week and I would like to visit with you about service and the life of a Christian.

## Service & the Life of a Christian

### Blessed to Be a Blessing!

Our Lord created us in His image and enables us to share our gifts with one another (Gen. 1:26-27; Rom. 12:4-8). The word used in the New Testament for service describes a personal commitment, promoting individual and community development and is accomplished by God's power and to His glory! Jesus elevated service from a lowly, powerless state to a lifestyle that reveals God's interest, mercy and involvement in our lives. We are encouraged to live out our love for one another out of gratitude for what Christ has done for us (Mt. 25:35-40; Rom. 12:4-21; 1 Jn. 4:7-21).

### Why Be a Volunteer?

There are many great reasons for including service in our lives. These can also be considered to be blessings of sharing ourselves with others. Some of my favorite blessings are listed below. I would encourage you to share your favorite blessings with me this month at church! Being involved with service allows us to:

- Offer tangible help to others in need
- Share our love for Jesus
- Experience satisfaction that we are able to make a difference
- Feel more connected to other people
- Witness to family and friends what we value
- Offer a positive role model

### Just Do It?

Fifty percent of Americans volunteer two or three hours per week to help others. Much of this volunteering is done through church and related organizations (Gallup, 1994). If you are a volunteer, I would like to thank you for all you do and encourage you to continue to "Be a Blessing". For others who are interested in getting involved in service, I would invite you to consider the following.

- Start with prayer, and ask the Lord to enable you to be a blessing to others
- Consider your knowledge, talents and abilities (these gifts could range from mowing the lawn, basic car care, writing letters, or simply being a friend). Are there any persons you know of that are in need?

Enjoy the benefits of sharing Jesus' love with others! I look forward to ministering with you! For questions or more information, feel free to contact me.

**Beth Fiskars** RN/BSN, Parish Nurse: 983-1524 ext 40 or [beth.f@myfirstchurch.com](mailto:beth.f@myfirstchurch.com)

### Blood Pressure Clinics -



Blood Pressure Clinics are a free service offered by our Parish Nurse Beth Fiskars and her team of medical volunteers.

**The next clinics are Sunday, July 3**

**SJ Campus:** 10:30-11:00am, in Room 5

**BH Campus:** immediately after service in the Fellowship Hall



## Thank You, Barb Freridge

FCOG Pre-school staff says a big THANK YOU! to Barb Freridge. After 21 years of teaching at the preschool, Barb has retired. We will all miss her. She gave so much to instill a love for school to her students. Her dedication, loyalty and love for her students and their families is greatly appreciated.

Barb is looking forward to traveling with her retired husband Rick. Best wishes to you Barb, from all of us at the preschool.

Registration for fall classes at FCOG Pre-School is ongoing all summer. Please contact Kathy MacTavish at the pre-school office (269.983.1816) for more information or to register your child.



# Faith Promise/Missions Goal: \$106,000!

Faith Promise allows God to empower our giving so that, working together with him, we can do more for missions than we can do with human power alone.

*Faith Promise* finds money for missions that wouldn't otherwise be available. It is money God wants to give if he can find someone to pass it on when he puts it in their hands. First we pray for God to tell us how much he wants to give through us. As we pray and think about it, an amount often comes to mind. Then we make a "Faith Promise" with confidence God will supply. We promise to give it if and when God supplies.

Many in our congregation tell of making a "Faith Promise" without knowing from where the money will come, then wait for God to supply. When he does, in some unusual or unexpected way, it is usually obvious this is from God. It is fun and awe-inspiring to see God work in your life to accomplish something significant that you know will have a huge, positive impact on someone else's life—someone you may never know!

## 3 Summer Studies Just for Women

*That Makes Two of Us: Lifestyle Mentoring for Women* Have you ever wondered what mentoring is



all about? Join us this summer as we discover how simple it really is. Book discussion will be held at the home of Sandy Mason on two Wednesdays, June 15 & 29, either in the morning (9-11) or evening (7-9). Contact Sandy (269.983.1524 x 22 / [sandy.m@myfirstchurch.com](mailto:sandy.m@myfirstchurch.com)) to let her know you are interested and to order a book (\$11).

*What Happens When We Pray for Our Families* - This 7-week study by Evelyn Christenson will take place Thursday evenings, 7:00-9pm, beginning June 23, at the home of Andrea Kleinschmidt. For more information contact Andrea ([nugatcube@hotmail.com](mailto:nugatcube@hotmail.com) or 201-2551). Books will be available at The Good Word book store.

*For Women Only, What You Need to Know about the Inner Lives of Men*, by Shaunti Feldhahn. Join us on Wednesday mornings, 9:00-11:00am, beginning June 15th at the home of Joyce Shellito. For more info, contact Joyce ([shellito@ameritech.net](mailto:shellito@ameritech.net)).

**The weekend of July 9 & 10 will be Faith Promise Weekend.** Our speaker will be long-time missionary and Global Missions Director, Bob Edwards, who will share good stories about Church of God missions—of which we are a significant part. We are a "Missional" congregation in the best sense of the word and we expect this to be a great *Faith Promise* campaign.



Bob & Jan Edwards

**Our goal is \$106,000.** At this writing our congregation is on target to reach our \$104,000 *Faith Promise* goal. Add a tithe on our local income of about \$200,000 and almost \$59,000 from WCG's Christ Birthday and other special offerings, and it brings our congregational mission giving to about \$366,000 or so annually! I hope everyone in our congregation has a real sense of joy as you think about the generosity of our congregation and how our ministry encircles the globe. I hope too, that every household will participate in Faith Promise-Missions. If you can't give much, please don't think your offering doesn't matter. When given to God, it becomes significant and all of us together, working as God's team, will powerfully impact our world. In God's eyes, your small gift, given in faith, is huge, when multiplied by his unlimited resources.

### WARNER CAMP MEETING: JULY 15-22

SPEAKER: Rev. Gary Ausbun

WORSHIP LEADERS: Jessa & Jordan Anderson

INFO: [WARNERCAMP.COM](http://WARNERCAMP.COM)



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Rev. Dr. Brenda Salter McNeil  
Founder & President of Salter  
McNeil & Assoc.

*"This generation is multi-racial, global, and relational – we must understand and respect this if we are going to reach them with the gospel."*  
**HEAR HER AT FIRST CHURCH!**



## Middle School Ministry. . .

### Lunch Club

Hey guys, we have some awesome stuff going on this summer! Lunch Club is kicking off June 15. Bring your lunch and join us at the church every Wednesday from 12:30-4:30. We will start by eating lunch together, having devotions, serving in the community, then finish off the day doing something fun.

### Warner Camp Info:

Incoming 5th- thru 8th-graders be prepared for the most exciting week of your summer--June 20-24 at Warner Camp. Our theme this year is based on the movie, "Up." Get ready to spend your week swimming, playing schism, and smashing shaving cream in your friends face while growing closer to God in deep, powerful worship sessions. We hope to see you there! You can find registration forms at the church or online at [warnercamp.com](http://warnercamp.com).

### Warner Camp Dates:

**5th-6th grade camp - August 1-5**

**7th-8th grade camp - June 20-24**

*More information about middle school ministries can be found at [www.myfirstchurch.com/middleschool](http://www.myfirstchurch.com/middleschool)*

## High School Ministry. . .

### Do Something:

Come and join the church in a city-wide event, "Do Something" on June 12. Tribe will NOT meet from 7-8:30pm, but instead will meet at 9:30am at the church. We will then truck over to Lions Park Beach for some work, fun, and worship. Lunch is provided.

### Tribe Dates:

Tribe will also not be meeting on June 19, but will be back the following week (June 26) with a brunch from 11am-noon to welcome incoming freshman. Be prepared as we test power and versatility of duct tape with fun, crazy games!

### Warner Camp Info:

CIT (counselors in training) for Warner Camps will be on June 16, 9am-2pm. Check out dates and information below for our awesome camp at Warner, June 27- July 1.

### High School Warner Camp

High School Camp up at Warner Camp will be June 27- July 1. Make sure you mark your calendars, so you don't miss this opportunity! More information to come shortly on the high school website.

*Check out the high school ministries webpage at [www.myfirstchurch.com/highschool](http://www.myfirstchurch.com/highschool)*



 **THE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT**  
August 11-12, 2011 | [willowcreek.com/summit](http://willowcreek.com/summit)



**Steven Furtick**  
31-yr-old Lead Pastor of Elevation Church,  
Charlotte, NC (attendance: 8,000+)

*"I'm out to activate your audacious faith – to inspire you to ask God for the impossible. And in the process, to reconnect you with your God-sized purpose and potential."*

**HEAR HIM AT FIRSTCHURCH!**



**Baptism at Lake Michigan**  
**Jean Klock Park**  
**Sunday, July 24, 7:00pm**

**Baptism Class to be held on**  
**Sunday, July 17, 9:30am**

**2 LOCATIONS**

St. Joseph Campus & General Office

First Church of God  
2627 Niles Ave, St. Joseph, MI 49085  
SERVICES: Saturdays at 6pm  
Sundays at 9:30 & 11AM

Benton Heights Campus

First Church at Benton Heights  
990 N. Euclid Ave., Benton Harbor 49022  
SERVICES: Sundays at 11am

OFFICE HOURS

M-Th, 8-4:30 | 269-983-1524  
recep@myfirstchurch.com

Deadline for First Touch articles

1st Friday of each month  
Send to: teresa@myfirstchurch.com

WEBSITE: myfirstchurch.com

Web Designer: Julie Beam

**PASTORAL STAFF**

**Lead Pastor**  
*David Colp*

**Prayer/Missions**  
*Rick Blumenberg*

**Life Groups/Assimilation**  
*Ryan Carrell*

**Discipleship/Older Adults/  
Pastoral Care**  
*Bob Confer*

**Young Adults, Worship**  
Dan Deitrich

**Executive Administrator**  
*Gregory Gordon*

**Benton Heights Campus Pastor**  
Mary Shawl-Ranke

**Student Ministries**  
*Chris Spitters*

**Advisory Council**

JC Anderson	14
Larry Holben	14
Vance Price	14
John Fozard, Oklahoma	14
Arden Bradley	12
Michelle Kerns, Chair	12
Mark Krenz, Arizona	12
Mitzi Tompkins	12
Gary Bolin	13
Rajean Alexander	13
Dave Eichberg	13
Greg Gordon and David Colp	

**Staff Missionary:** Joseph Steiner  
*Church of God, Debrecen, Hungary*

**Missionary Partners:**  
Camille Melki, *Beirut, Lebanon*  
Church of God in Paraguay  
Tammie Tregellas, *Malawi, Africa*

# Boomer Picnic & Southwestern Symphony Orchestra Beach Concert

Join us at Jean Klock Park for a fun afternoon and spirited evening on Saturday, July 23. Enjoy a delicious catered dinner from Country Kitchen and a great evening of 60s music as the SMSO joins with leading cast member of the Tony Award-winning smash hit “*Jersey Boys*” (the story of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons) to deliver the sounds of some unforgettable hits. We will hear rock & roll music, do-wop ditties, and Motown melodies, as well as some cool Rat Pack favorites.

Come early and enjoy the beach and water. Our picnic will be served at 5:30pm at the south end of the parking lot. Bring your lawn chair and stay for the *Under the Street Lamp* SMSO concert at 7:30pm.

Our catered picnic will include: Brats, fried chicken, hot dogs, baked beans, potato salad, 3-Bean salad, chips, fruit platter, and pop.

Your cost is only \$21/person, which includes the delicious picnic and lawn chair entrance to the concert. The cost of parking is separate (\$8/car).

It is very important that you register by Monday, July 11, so we can plan for your tickets and the picnic. You can call the church office or sign-up by using the registration envelopes located by the staff mailboxes and dropping it into the silver “*Registrations*” slot.

If you have any questions, please call the church office at 983-1524 (speak with Jennifer or Pastor Bob) or Doug First (471-4936) or email boomerlife.firstchurch@gmail.com.

## BoomerLife Plays Beach Volleyball

Join us the last Wednesday of each month this summer for volleyball at Silver Beach. No need to RSVP (but appreciated) - just show up to play or cheer us on. Bring a volleyball if you have one, and your own beverage. We will play 7-8:30pm on June 29, July 27 & August 31) Questions? Email boomerlife.firstchurch@gmail.com.

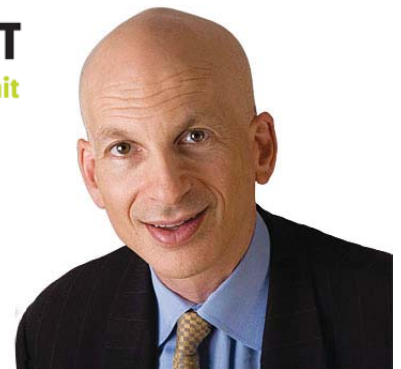


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**Seth Godin**  
Bestselling Author, Squidoo Founder

*“Artists are people with a genius for finding a new answer, a new connection, or a new way of getting things done. That would be you.”*

**HEAR HIM AT FIRST CHURCH!**





## 125th North American Convention of the Church of God June 24–29, 2011



Our own Pastor David Colp is one of the keynote speakers at the 125th North American Convention of the Church of God, June 24–29, in Anderson, Indiana.

The theme this year is “*Permeate*,” focusing on the Great Commandments: *love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself*. Pastor David will be speaking on love for family on Tuesday, June 28, 7:00pm.

The week’s topics will be *Love for God* (Saturday), *Love for Self* (Sunday), *Love for the World* (Monday), *Love for Family* (Tuesday night, with Pastor David Colp preaching) and *Love*

*for the Church* (Wednesday).

We hope you will join us for inspiring worship, powerful preaching, a variety of insightful conferences, and unique programs over these six days.

All services will be held on convention grounds, and most activities occur within close proximity to the pedestrian mall, where you will find food vendors, places for fellowship, and the “Big Tent” for exhibits.

If you’ve never attended, this year is the perfect opportunity to start! Prepare for an unforgettable experience.

Learn more about this year’s speakers and register online! Visit [www.chog.org/NAC](http://www.chog.org/NAC) or call 800-848-2464, ext. 2130.



*Transforming Culture*  
by Being the Body of Christ

2011 North American Convention of the Church of God  
June 24–29, 2011 • Anderson, Indiana

