

First Congregational Church  
welcomes new pastor

(Submitted by First Congregational Church of Fruitport)

Reverend Michael D. Scott, the new pastor at First Congregational Church, 3212 Pontaluna Road. assumed his duties on July 26, 2009.

He is a graduate of Trinity International University in Deerfield, Illinois with a Master of Divinity degree, where he was the recipient of his university’s outstanding expository preaching award. He is married to Concepcion “Cony” Nava Scott, a native of Mexico. She is a graduate of the University of Morales in Cuernavaca, Mexico, with a major in business administration and marketing.

Pastor Scott has been working with music leader Pastor Delbert Yoder and with Pastor emeritus Ron DePung as interim pastor. Currently, he is conducting a Bible study in Romans on Sunday evenings at 6 p.m.

Sundays begin with coffee and fellowship at 10 a.m. followed by church services and Sunday School at 10:30 a.m. Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month. The congregation welcomes visitors. A membership class for those interested is offered on the third Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. Women’s fellowship is held on Monday at 6 p.m. and Wednesday at 10 a.m.

For more information, call the church at 865-3822, or call Pastor Scott at (616) 780-9763.●





Things Catholic

by E. J. Lozicki

Who is he?

by E.J. Lozicki

Every day since Obama won the Democratic nomination for President, I have been experiencing the unraveling of the mystery of whom he is and where he is going to take us.

It all started when I saw an article that included a reference to Hillary Clinton, noting that Hillary wrote an admiring essay on Saul Alinsky, who was then well-known to the radicals of the “sixties” and “seventies.” He was known as a professional agitator who was causing a good deal of mischief during those days. What endeared Saul to his radical followers was his teaching that came to be known as the “Alinsky method of Community Organizing,” where organizing was a euphemism for revolution. This teaching was put into two books, *Reveille for Radicals*, which laid out his philosophy of life and governance, and a condemnation of everything that non-radical Americans hold dear; and his second book, *Rules for Radicals*, which was a handbook on how to proceed to change society “from what it was to what they (the radicals) believe it should be.”

A good way to get a clearer idea of what Obama believes is by reading these two books and then reviewing the mess Obama and company have made so far as president to destroy our America.

Two current widely known disciples of the Alinsky Method are Hillary Clinton and President Obama. Hillary wrote an essay in her senior year lavishly praising the grossly radical Alinsky Method. Obama, who received his law degree from Harvard, has said that his serious study of neighborhood organizing gave him a better education than he received



Our physical problems

by Millie Christiansen



Christians are instructed to work!

by Millie Christiansen

Paul’s second letter to the Thessalonians, possibly a year later, continued to deal with Greeks who were not a stolid race, to put it mildly; and their enthusiasm sometimes broke out in riots. Sometimes those early Christians also did so enthusiastically. They had not learned all that being a Christian meant. Among other things, they still had to learn the relationship of Christ to the Father and the Holy Spirit. There was at that time no period of quietness in which their new faith could grow.

There was so much they still needed to understand, principally about the second coming of Christ and the need to keep on working until the Lord should return. Some had even quit working, thinking that if the Lord was going to return soon, there was no need to work. In simple words, Paul exhorted them to settle down, even though holding on to their enthusiasm.

Paul told them again that God had called them, saved them, and would keep them until — however and whenever— He would come for them. When Christ does come again, He will overthrow evil and bring rest and glory to His own. He will give Christians comfort and hope, even during persecution. God is good and will triumph! It is well, however, to realize that others besides persecutors will eventually suffer. That includes those who refuse to know God and reject the gospel.

Paul emphasized that no one except God knows exactly when Christ will return. No one but God Himself knows that day and hour! There will first be a rebellion against the faith. In the end time one will appear to do the work of Satan, opposing God and claiming divine honor for himself. In due course of time, God will do away with the forces of evil.

In the meantime, Paul exhorted the Thessalonians (and us) to work to earn their daily bread and not grow weary in well doing. Although humdrum, Christians should do their work well and live so that others, by following their example, would be led closer to Christ.●

Code Blue — Code Blue!

by Mariann Cooper

Several years ago, my friend “Beachy” was lying in a hospital bed with her husband by her side. She was 33 years old, a Christian, and dying of cancer. She had three small boys, a loving husband, and every reason to live.

When life seemed to be leaving her body, in a panic her husband called the nurses for help. You could hear “Code Blue — Code Blue” throughout the hospital. The doctors and nurses came quickly to resuscitate her.

After “bringing her back,” Beachy asked her husband, “What happened?” Her husband told her what had happened and she reprimanded him, saying, “Don’t do that! The next time, let me go. It was beautiful and I want to go back.”

The next time she started to fail, he let her go, and she died with a smile on her face.

The reason I’m writing this is for you to ask yourself if you’re ready to meet your Savior, or will you be fighting to stay alive?

“...whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in Heaven.” Matthew 10:33 (New International Version)●



Recognizing the truth

by Al Wezeman

Precious

by Al Wezeman

We use the word “precious” to describe that which is most valuable. For example, on this earth we value our life as of greater value than things. We would gladly give up everything for our family. In terms of having eternal life we gladly give up things of this life realizing death ends this life and we can’t take anything with us.

If we finite, sinful creatures have the concept of precious, then, much more does our infinite, sinless Creator God. We read in God’s Word, the Holy Bible, how God describes that which is of infinite worth to Him.

In John 3:16 it says that, “God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” In that one verse, we sense the love of God for us. We must be precious in God’s

Speaking in tongues

by Rhonda Ison

“How is it then, brethren? When ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.” I Corinthians 14:26

I like the Apostle Paul. He is a straightforward man. He tells things just like they are and he never candy-coats points of the Lord’s doctrine.

As I was working in the yard one summer day, a gentleman stopped by to chat and started talking to me about his church. He told me that he could speak in tongues and that he could speak in tongues louder than anyone else in his church. I asked him, “What do you say?” and he said, “I don’t know. No one knows what is being said, only God.”

I immediately thought of these teachings of Paul in I Corinthians, chapter 14. Paul has been talking about spiritual gifts in the last couple of chapters, and in chapter 14 he talks about the difference in the gifts of speaking in tongues and prophesying. In verses 3 and 4, Paul says, “But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, in exhortation, and comfort. He that speaketh an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church. Paul goes on to explain that if one is speaking in tongues, then someone else must be able to interpret what is being said or the speaking in tongues is worthless (verse 11). Paul says in verse 5 that speaking in tongues and prophesy are both good gifts but prophesy is “the greater gift because the church may receive edifying.” I like the analogy Paul uses in verse 8; “For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?” During battles, the horn would be sounded to go forward into battle, or retreat or some other command. But if the trumpeter would start to play “Mary had a Little Lamb,” the soldiers would not know the direction the battle was headed. If someone is speaking in tongues and no one can understand it and be

at Harvard. He became so good at “organizing” (tactics for achieving a revolution), that he was invited to teach these tactics in schools for radicals in Chicago.

One of the key principles of “organizing” is to remember that it is more important to convince your enemy that you have more power, political or physical, than you really have. This makes the tactics of coercion, confusion, and fear easier to accomplish. Lying also comes more easily.

If you’ve been paying attention to what’s going on with the persons who have offered to save us versus how they’ve continued to make things worse, remember when the Secretary of the Treasury pleaded with us to give billions of dollars to the banks and to his other “friends” or the world was going to come to the end.

This tearful plea represents an application of the Alinsky Method to the Obama presidency. It is also clearly an application of this method to our present government which will be replaced, if we let him “change” to an Alinsky constitution. He is already beginning to form his new changed single form of government. His whole core of beliefs for this new government is a more repressive change where freedom as we know it will be history. His “so-called” health care “reform” is outlined to be a steady peeling away of our freedoms which we announced to the whole world in our Declaration of Independence. Our Constitution itself is at stake.

Remember that he recently told us very clearly, “You ain’t seen nothing yet.” He’s not kidding. I’m convinced, based on what he’s done and what he plans to do, is to eliminate from our founding documents the following: “We hold these truths to be self evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of happiness — THAT TO SECURE THESE RIGHTS, GOVERNMENTS ARE INSTITUTED BY MEN DERIVING THEIR JUST POWERS FROM THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED. So much for deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.●

sight to have such a gift given to us. Imagine! We can have life forever with God because we put our trust in His Son who gave His life so we could have life forevermore!

We know we are precious in God’s sight because we read how precious God’s Son Jesus was to Him. All through the Holy Bible we read God’s love; but God also spoke directly with an audible voice. When Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist God said in a voice from Heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.” (Luke 3:21-22) When God says “love,” it is infinite, precious love! Again, at the transfiguration God spoke: “A voice came from the cloud, ‘This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to Him!’” (Mark 9:7)

The Apostles also tell how great and precious are the promises of God to us. The Apostle Peter in 1 Peter 1:19 tells us that our only hope for eternal life is believing in Jesus’ sacrifice: (only through)”...the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.” Again, we are told in 1 Peter 2:4-7 how precious this one Jesus is in God’s sight, and therefore realizing how precious we are to God. (About Jesus) “...chosen by God and precious to Him...” “...a chosen and precious cornerstone...” “the one who trusts in Him (Jesus) will never be put to shame.”

Is this Jesus precious to you? Put your trust in Him today!●

edified, what worth is it?

In Acts, chapter 2, the Apostles were celebrating the day of Pentecost and verse 4 says, “And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” There were people from many different regions, speaking many different languages, but “every man heard and understood the Apostles speaking in their own language.” The Apostle Peter explained to the people that the Apostles were not drunk, but guided by the Spirit as prophesied by the Prophet Joel.

Paul continues in I Corinthians to explain that if someone is speaking in tongues and no one can understand it, then the congregation cannot give their “Amen,” or acceptance if they have no knowledge of what has been spoken. Paul says in verse 19, “Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue.” Paul teaches us that, “Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret. For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course: and let one interpret. But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God” (I Corinthians 14:13-14; 27-28).

Open your scriptures, dear friends, and let these wonderful servants of God teach you. I encourage you to always pray before and after reading scriptures that the Holy Ghost may edify and enlighten your mind and understanding. I Corinthians 14:20: “Brethren, be not children in understanding; but in understanding be men.” I am so grateful for the wonderful testimonies and teachings of these great prophets and apostles of God. I am grateful for divine tutelage. The Lord desires to teach us from on high each and every day if we will only make time for this wonderful blessing.●