

August 2006
Going Boldly

Dear Theophilus,

Go Boldly. This small phrase, the first of our twelve core values, is reverberating all around me and within me. Go boldly. I can do no other.

Certainly this was part of the fabulous trip that my family and I experienced recently in Australia and New Zealand. Instead of talking about it, or worrying about the cost or the time, we went. (If you have a free day we would love to show you our photographs and tell you some wonderful stories!)

Go Boldly. It's what our Vacation Bible School did for a week in late July. A wonderful week, planned and executed with enormous energy and creativity by many members of our congregation, so that our children and those in our community might know the treasures of our faith. It was the first VBS for Colleen Bloom, our new Christian Education Director (added to her job as Youth Director) and she came through in style!

Go Boldly is a way to describe the revamping of our communications to you. In the coming weeks and months you will see a totally new website, a fresh look to our newsletter, a streamlined Sunday bulletin, and a weekly email to the congregation.

Go Boldly describes the Circle of Life wellness program that begins this Fall. Another article in this newsletter describes the program and invites you to participate. Sharon Naylor and I are trained facilitators and, having completed a practicum earlier this summer with members and friends of the church, we are ready to begin a group or two this fall. Are you interested?

Go Boldly. It is welcoming Chris Hill as our new Director of Music and Organist. It is the start of a new music ministry and I cannot wait to see where she takes us!

Go boldly. It is being on the cutting edge of ministry. We have the opportunity to do great things within our church and outside in the community. "Make no little plans," Daniel Burnham said over a century ago as he envisioned the shoreline for Chicago, "they have no magic to stir [a person's] blood and probably themselves not be realized. Make big plans: aim high and hope and work." It is time to do just that. Instead of continually talking about fixing up the rest of our buildings and worrying about the cost, let's do it. Instead of talking about serving the community, let's do it. Instead of lamenting the loss of people, let's do something to attract more people. Its time to make some big plans. Stay tuned. And keep Go boldly close to your thoughts.

Enjoy the rest of summer!

Harry