



Christian Courier

First Christian Church of Minneapolis (Disciples of Christ)

May 9, 2009

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fccminneapolis.org

Pastor Bob's NEW blog
[The Spiritual Journey](#)

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Mission Notes from Pastor Sanders

Foodshelf, Pride Fest, Homeless Initiative among many mission opportunities at FCC

As Spring starts (finally) here in Minnesota, I wanted to keep everyone up-to-date on the latest happenings concerning missions and communications here at First Christian:

Thanks to everyone who took part in the Minnesota FoodShare Drive in March. You donated food and also gave generously. You gave \$685 that will go towards Groveland Foodshelf. Good work, all!

Food Shelf Sundays continue

We will continue something that we started during the FoodShare Drive: every third Sunday, during our monthly Food Shelf Sunday, we will bring out the coffee cans that were found in the Narthex and near the Lounge. If you have any loose change, please consider placing it in those cans. We will donate the money to Groveland Foodshelf to help them be able to purchase food for hungry families.

Earth Stewardship sign-up

Thanks are due to Worship Committee Chair Ann Wolverton, as well as to several others who made our first Earth Stewardship Sunday on April 26 a success. You can still sign the Alverna Covenant. A sign-up sheet is in the lounge.

You can also sign online by going to www.discipleshomemissions.org.

Pentecost Offering

On May 31, we will collect the Pentecost offering. This is one of the five major offerings that the Disciples Mission Fund collects during year.

The Pentecost Offering goes to help with the planting of new churches around the country. Disciples in the Twin Cities celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Spirit of Joy Christian Church in Lakeville, and we remember and pray for Korean Dordom Christian Church in St. Louis Park, which was planted in 2006 by Rev. Henkung Choi. Your contributions to the Pentecost offering help new faith communities like Spirit of Joy and Korean Dordom reach new people with the good news of Jesus.

Feed My Starving Children signup

On June 10, we will go to make food packets at the Feed My Starving Children Facility in Eagan. We have 15 spaces available. If you are interested, please sign up at the bulletin board near the Fellowship Lounge or e-mail me at

associatepastor@fccminneapolis.org

Booth at Gay Pride Festival

We are looking into staffing the booth of downtown churches at the Twin Cities

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A Look at the Brite Side



Pastor Bob Brite

Transitions are... a time for celebrating, getting a little soggy with nostalgia, and seeing in them those patterns and forces of that abundant life

Spring Changes: a time to open our souls

Spring is finally in full bloom in Minnesota. It's a time of abundant life and growth, of "spring cleaning" the cobwebs and refuse of winter in homes and yards, of getting the bikes out and fixed (that's on my list this week), of celebrating with energy and yet, at the same time, observing the transitions that are a part of it.

I'm preparing to see my youngest, Katie, graduate from high school and head to Princeton University in the fall; I'm also driving my eldest, Corrie's, car out to California in June so that she'll have transportation while working at her Nixon Library internship.

Thousands of other parents have such transitions; they're a time for celebrating, getting a little soggy with nostalgia, and seeing in them those patterns and forces of that abundant life.

The transitions of First Christian Church are many and varied as well.

There are small transitions, such as getting the new Hearthstone classroom finished (mid-May, maybe?), and larger ones of discerning the next steps for the congregations.

There are, among our people, transitions of job losses and searches, health struggles, and the like. There are lots of challenges, and lots of opportunities.

The important thing in all these matters is taking time to pray, to open our souls up to the Spirit, to be open to change in ourselves and change in the always-adjusting plan of God. It's an exciting time to be alive, and a challenging time.

My prayer for all of us, in all of these changes and transitions, is that we earnestly are in prayer for holiness in the next steps.

I'd like to see YOU on Sunday!

Bob Brite

In our prayers

Gracious God, we lift up these persons in our prayers, asking the blessing of your Grace and outpouring of your Love upon them.

We pray for Lois McWhorter, mother of Mark McWhorter, recovering in Florida from an auto accident; for Mike Collignon, whose mother passed into eternal life on Easter Sunday; for Kevin Berkey's illness and recent hospitalization; for Ellen Aynes, who has recently moved into assisted living in Colorado; for Monica Bulau, who has had recent surgery; for strength and healing for David Pyles; for recent illness and death in the extended family of Mike Hesano; in happiness for reconciliations in Jay Hillstad's family; for all affected by or fighting the outbreak of H1N1 flu around the world; for Chris Morton and Kathy Hintz as they prepare for their family's move to a new job and a new state; for all our homebound members, including Elaine Glore and Karen Hendrickson

*Sanders' mission notes, cont.
from page 1*

Gay Pride Festival the last weekend in June. If you are interested in staffing the booth, please e-mail me (see address below).

Homeless Initiative

Do you have a passion for housing concerns or experience working with homeless populations? The Downtown Minneapolis congregations have started a homelessness initiative and they are looking for a lay representative from each church to take part. If you are interested, please let me know in person.

Two new Working Groups

Finally, we are looking at creating two working groups. The first is a Christian Formation Working Group that would look at reviving and designing a Christian Education/Formation ministry here at First. The second is a GLBT Concerns Working Group that will work at extending hospitality to our gay and lesbian neighbors. *We are looking for people that have a passion for either or both of these working groups.* If you are interested, contact me.

Website Updates

I also wanted to let you know some updates that have taken place on the church website.

Twitter added for FCC news

You can follow us now on Twitter, the social networking tool. The address is:

<http://twitter.com/fccminneapolis>



Pastor Dennis Sanders

We will post upcoming events, prayer requests and other announcements on Twitter.

Two blogs seeking readers

Did you know that Pastor Bob Brite and Associate Pastor Dennis Sanders have blogs? Bob's is called the "Spiritual Journey" and can be reached at:

fccminneapolis.org/bobsblog.

Dennis' blog is named "Oscar the Pastor" and it can be found at:

oscarthepastor.blogspot.com.

Follow along while Bob and Dennis share their lives and how they find God in the midst of it all.

Farewell to two key workers for justice

Finally, I want to take the time to thank two people who have been a part of First Christian for over a decade and have been tireless in their work for social justice.

When I first met Chris Morton and Kathy Hintz, Chris was the head of Minnesota FoodShare. Since then, he has had several jobs, mostly recently with the

Minnesota Council of Churches. All the while he has been engaged in working for the hungry, the poor and the forgotten members of society.

While Chris worked outside of First Christian on issues of justice, his wife Kathy has worked within the walls of First, heading up the Outreach Committee, selling Fair Trade Coffee and other merchandise, among many other activities.

Chris is leaving Minnesota to take a job in Tacoma, WA. Kathy will be staying on in Minnesota to get the house sold and then will join Chris. While we will miss these living examples of sharing Christ's love not only in word, but in deed, we wish them well in their new journey and we hope they will continue their work for justice wherever they are. Godspeed to you both.

That is all for now. If you have an idea for a mission project, please feel free to share it with me. Godspeed, everyone!

Dennis Sanders, Associate Minister for Diversity and Mission

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FCC Photo Gallery



Gwen Elmshouser celebrated her 90th birthday with family and FCC friends on April 19.



Top: Good Friday prayer corner
Middle: Bill Stump and Sandy



Elaine Tucker cooked up some Chinese food at the 20s & 30s dinner, as Becky Whitaker and Tristan supervised.



Bottom: New wall hanging by Deb Murphy

Share the Care on Saturday, May 9

All are invited to our Spring Share-the-Care event on Saturday, May 9 from 9 am until 1 pm. We'll freshen up our spaces to keep our environs functional and attractive. Snacks and beverages will be provided. Join us for productive activities and great fellowship!

Words of Thanks

For Support . . .

Thank you for all of your support, prayers and cards. It is a blessing, the love and support from a wonderful church family. Special thanks to Bob.

Sincerely, Charlotte Ronnei and family.

For Flowers . . .

The Worship Committee gives special thanks to all who helped add flowers to the cross for our Earth Stewardship Sunday.



Lu Griffin and Mike Hesano would like to invite all FCC members and friends to celebrate their daughter Ali's high school graduation on Saturday, June 13, from 1-5 PM. Their address is 1380 Keston St., St. Paul, MN. Please R. S. V. P., 651-645-6758.

Special Music events this weekend at FCC

Two special music offerings will fill the building with classical music sounds this weekend.

On Sunday May 10, the choir will present Vivaldi's *Gloria*. This special work will take the place of the sermon, as an alternative way to worship and meditate on God's word.

Saturday May 9, James Barnett, our church pianist, will direct a production of Mozart's opera *Zaide*.

The performance will be in the Sanctuary at 7:30, and will feature five singers including Julia Engel, who is a soprano soloist in our choir.

All are welcome to attend this event.

Bi-Weekly Calendar

Sundays at First Christian Church

Worship at 10:30 am
Church School Classes, 9:15 am
Fellowship Hour, 11:30 am

This Week at FCC

Sunday, May 10

Unbinding Gospel group 9 am
Vivaldi's "Gloria" in Worship service

Wednesday, May 13

Finance Committee 5:30 pm
Lectionary Bible study 6 pm

Thursday, May 14

Handcrafters 9 am
Carter Circle @ Dunham's 7 pm

Friday, May 15

Christian League Dinner 6:30 pm
Article deadline for next Courier

Saturday, May 16

Men's Group 9 am
Laura Lynn/ Naomi Circle
(Lounge) 9 am

Next Week at FCC

Sunday, May 17

Youth Sunday
Food Pantry Sunday
Elders Meeting 12 n

Monday, May 18

Book Group @ Westphal's 7 pm

Tuesday, May 19

Mpls. Retired Teachers 9 am
Board Meeting 7 pm

Wednesday, May 20

Nikkei 9am

Thursday, May 21

Handcrafters 9 am

Sat. May 23

Men's Group 9 am

Reflections on the Word

From lectionary texts for Fifth Sunday in Easter, May 9

John 15: 1-2 I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.

Reflection: What does the Gardener call me to prune? possessions? over-extended time commitments? Pruning can help me find new balance in my life. It can help me find time and space to breathe and be more fruitful, to be a more committed disciple.

Prayer: Dear God, help me hold still long enough for you to prune, so my fruitfulness can increase.

from Disciplines 2009, p. 141

A Thoughtful Church in the Heart of the City

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