



Christian Courier

First Christian Church of Minneapolis (Disciples of Christ)

November 7, 2009

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“How should we pray?” still a vital question

Luke 11:1: He was praying in a certain place, and when he ceased, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.”

How should we pray? Jesus’ disciples seemed to want an answer to this question, as did John’s. Disciples today still are trying to learn how to pray.

People participating in the *Unbinding Your Heart* groups are talking about and practicing how to pray. Each group meeting begins with pairs or small groups of people sharing their prayer concerns and praying for each other. Participants are also using a daily prayer journal.

Even as prayer activities continue to grow (the prayer wall, the weekly prayer concerns, prayers at board meetings, the special Unbinding prayer team), individuals still ask the question, “How should I pray?”

Scot McKnight, author of *Praying with the Church: Following Jesus Daily, Hourly, Today*, suggests that a rich daily prayer life can be created combining private, personal prayer with some of the ancient, traditional prayers that have served people well for centuries.

McKnight recommends incorporating one or more traditional prayers into a daily prayer discipline. Reciting the Lord’s Prayer, a daily Psalm, or the ancient Jewish *Shema* (“*Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one*” Deut. 6:4) provides a meditative framework for prayer, and connects us with the worldwide community of believers who pray these prayers every day. McKnight points out that Jesus himself probably prayed the *Shema* twice daily, the practice of observant Jews then and now.

A Daily Prayer

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and love your neighbor as yourself.”

No matter what prayers you use, just setting aside some time each day to pray is a good place to start if you are searching for your own answer to the question, “How should I pray?”

A Look at the Brite Side



Pastor Bob Brite

*“Starting a new service
is like starting
a new congregation”*

Prayers needed for new Worship Service initiative

I have something more for you to pray fervently about: At the last meeting of the Board, Dennis and I, with the endorsement of the Worship Committee, put forth a proposal, passed by the Board unanimously, to start work on an alternative worship service. The service will NOT replace our current one; it will be another option, geared towards 20's and 30-somethings, to see if we can encourage neighborhood participation (there are lots of 20- & 30-somethings in the neighborhood) in the life of First Christian Church.

Starting a new service is not just a matter of getting folks together to see what happens. In some ways it's like starting a new congregation: It involves a lot of planning, marketing, networking, and tons of legwork around the neighborhood.

It also involves more than just a worship service, but, as well, the matter of linkages into ministry, small groups and the like. We expect to take 4 – 5 months at least in the pre-start phases to see if we can successfully make this happen. It will also involve significant financial commitments, permanent rather than seasonal changes in our current worship time, and possibly some alterations to the sanctuary to create another, different worship setting.

See why this effort needs your prayers? AND, if there's anyone in the church who would like to take part in the legwork, planning, music, and executing of this, please let Dennis and I know.

I'd like to see YOU on Sunday!

Grace and peace,
Bob

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 those whose family members or friends are ill, including **Belinda Flanagan, Bobbi Hall, Lu Griffin, Nancy Curry and Arlene Hillestad**; for those with family or friends struggling with job loss or economic issues including **Janice Brady & Arlene Jorgensen Hillestad**; for **David Pyles** and **Grace Couture**; for all those mourning the death of someone close, including **Ann Wolverton** and **Katie Brite**, and former member **Kay Van Dyke** whose husband **David** passed away Oct. 15; for those with loved ones serving in the military and for the families who wait for them to return; for traveling mercies to **Bob Brite** as he travels this week to see his children; for all or our homebound members including **Emma Armstrong** and **Dorothy Wilkins**.

Board Notes

The official FCC board met Oct. 20 to hear reports, discuss policy and pass motions. The twelve people attending the meeting discussed and passed the following four motions:

- **Rent increase** to begin Nov. 1 for Tiempo Nuevo church to deal with extra building use time
- \$2000 be spent for **deep cleaning** of the kitchen
- \$3000 from Outreach Special Fund be spent to cover **production costs** for the opera being presented in December
- The pastors be allowed to develop an **alternative worship experience** as a new ministry for FCC

Pastor Brite noted that over 50 people are participating in the current "E-vent" using the Unbinding Your Heart program. He also noted that the National Council of Churches convention will be in Minneapolis, and that a dinner for Disciples and UCC pastors will be held Nov. 10.

The AAUW (American Association of University Women) will be using our building temporarily while their building undergoes repairs. They will be moving their refrigerator here for a time.

Board members discussed suspending the rules on term limits for board membership and changing the financial year calendar, but no action was taken on these items.

Lots of "good reads" coming up with Book Club – come for one book or for all

Book Club is rolling along and always looking for new members! Meetings are at Karen Westphal's and always start at 7. Come even for one book which interests you. The conversation is always lively, even more so when people have different opinions about the books! We chose the books by consensus so come and bring some suggestions! The next dates and books are:

Nov 16: *Kitchen Table Wisdom*, Rachel Naomi Remen
 Jan 11: *You Can't Go Home Again*, Thomas Wolfe
 Feb. 22: *The Help*, Kathryn Sackett
 Mar 11: *Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress*, Dai Sijie

Handcrafters announce December sale

Just in time for Christmas shopping, the Handcrafters will hold their annual sale on Dec. 6, following worship.

Sorry, we do not have a quilt this year, but we do have two afghans knitted by Ellen, hand knit baby things by Mary Lou C., embroidered tea and kitchen hand towels, and many other items for your use or for gifts. And yes, we will have on display and sale the beautiful handmade greeting cards by Phyllis.

The Handcrafters meet every Thursday at 9 am in the Hearthstone room. You are welcome to join us for a time of fellowship and handwork. We "brown bag it" and leave for home shortly after lunch.

We thank Rick Bowman who picks up several ladies in the church van and also helps us in many other ways.

Advent Devotionals due out Nov. 29

Thank you to many who have submitted devotionals for the FCC devotional booklet, which will be ready for the start of Advent on November 29. If you still need to submit your devotional entry, it must be no more than 350 words long (to fit a preferred format), and must be in the FCC office by noon on November 9th in order to be included. Please call the church office with any questions (format, structure, etc.).

Bi-Weekly Calendar

Sundays at First Christian Church

Before Worship (9:15 am):

Art of the Covenant Class
 Hearthstone Class
 Bible Study Class
 Prayer Circle

Worship 10:30 am

Fellowship Hour 11:45 am

This Week at FCC

Sunday, Nov. 8

Rev. Dennis Sanders, preacher

Monday, Nov. 9

Carter Circle @ Bobbie Hall's 7 pm

Tuesday, Nov. 10

Property committee 7 pm

Wednesday, Nov. 11

Finance Committee 5:30 pm
 Unbinding Groups 10 am, 6 pm
 Bell Choir 6:30 pm
 Chancel Choir 7:45 pm

Thursday, Nov. 12

Handcrafters 9 am
 Transition Team 7 pm

Friday, Nov. 13

-Article deadline for next Courier

Saturday, Nov. 14

Men's Group 9 am
 Community Emergency Service
 Foodshelf work day 10a - 12:30
 Whittier Alliance Green Fair 12-4 pm

Next Week at FCC

Sunday, Nov. 15

Food Pantry Sunday

Monday, Nov. 16

Book Group @ Westphal's 7 pm

Tuesday, Nov. 17

Mpls. Retired Teachers 11 am
Board Meeting 7 pm

Wednesday, Nov. 18

Unbinding Groups 10 am, 6 pm
 Bell Choir 6:30 pm
 Chancel Choir 7:45 pm

Thursday, Nov. 19

Handcrafters 9 am

Friday, Nov. 20

Christian League dinner 6:30 pm

Sat. Nov. 21

Men's Group 9 am
 Laura Lynne/Naomi Circle 10 am
 Serve meal at St. Stephens 6 pm

Reflections on the Word

FCC E-vent Scripture for 11.8

“And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him.” Mark 2:4

The healing of the paralytic in Mark 2 may not have happened at all if not for the ingenuity and persistence of his friends. More than their faith, they took a risk that paid off. Faith is not always about staying safe, but like loving, is sometimes about taking a calculated risk.

God of our lives: Give us the courage to make a way where there seems no way. When we fail, help us start over. When we succeed, give us humility. Amen.

--Chris Wogaman

A Thoughtful Church in the Heart of the City

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Dennis Sanders, Minister of Diversity and Mission

Chris Wogaman, Office Manager

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by Fri . Nov 13, for next issue.

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