

The COURIER



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UPCOMING Events:

*First Saturday Family
Partnership, Saturday,
December 5, 6 pm*

*FCC Board Meeting,
Tuesday, December 15,
7 pm*

2015 Advent Outreach to Refugee Services

In light of the world-wide refugee crisis that has been in the headlines these past few months, our Mission & Outreach Ministry has chosen the Minnesota Council of Churches Refugee Services as the recipient of our 2015 Advent outreach.

Once again, the worship team will provide the poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary during the season. Members of the congregation are asked to make a monetary or gift donation to the Refugee Services of the Minnesota Council of Churches.



MINNESOTA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
Refugee Services

Monetary gifts should be placed in the green envelopes provided in worship bulletins and put in the offering plates (make out checks to FCC and write "Refugee Services" on memo line). Fill out the "In Memory/Honor of" sheet indicating who the donation is honoring; those names will be in the December 20 bulletin. Items from the list below (unwrapped, please) can be placed under the tree. As you bring your gifts, place a paper ornament created by the children on the tree. You can also put a candlestick sticker on the banner tree.

Call the church office if you would like to participate in this Advent Outreach, but are not able to be in worship.

Kitchen Items: •Tableware, dish setting, or glasses and mugs (for 4-5 people)
•Stovetop pots/pans •Baking dishes •Food storage containers with lids
•Mixing/serving bowls •Set of kitchen utensils •Can opener •Dish rags/ Dish towels
•Potheolders •Beverage pitchers.

Cleaning Supplies (New): •Dish soap •Bathroom/kitchen cleanser •Sponges or cleaning rags •Vinegar, club soda and baking soda •Laundry detergent •Mop or broom •Trash bags

Toiletries (New): •Toilet paper •Shampoo •Soap/Deodorant •Toothbrushes & toothpaste

Infant/Baby Items: •Diapers (all sizes) & wipes

Linens: •Towels (bath, hand, wash)

Clothing: •Adult socks •mittens/gloves, hats, scarves

In Our Prayers



Prayers of Joy

*For Lu Zang on passing his
doctoral oral exams*

Prayers for Health

*For Jen Krengel's grandfather
For Don Cain
For Fern Risinger*

Prayers of Concern

*For Spirit of Joy church as
they face closing
For all our homebound
members including Ruth
White and John & Phyllis
Takekawa*

Prayers for the World

*For peace and justice in the
city of Minneapolis
For victims of the shooting in
Colorado Springs
For refugees seeking safety
and shelter around the world*



Voices and Views

Karen Kandik



A Collision of Church Life and Professional Life

A collision of church life and professional life—something I never saw coming.

As many of you know, most of my professional career was spent working in the field of child protection, both as a social worker and as a supervisor. It isn't a job I ever talked much about with most people as most really don't want to know details of a painful life event in someone else's life. (This includes me now that I am retired!)

However, the recent happening in one of our fellow churches made me think long and hard about how I would respond if that had happened in FCC. I do not know the man who is the subject of the accusation but that does not mean that I do not know the anguish in that congregation—or, in a small way, the anguish in the accused's heart. I think logical first responses are: "He couldn't have done that" or "How do I talk with him again without that getting in the way?" or "He did it and how can we have him in our congregation?" I was so impressed with the way that the church powers handled the immediate concern: safety of children. Having another adult present with the individual when at church protects any possible future victims and also protects the adult himself from future allegations.

But how do I, as a child of God, welcome another child of God who may or may not have done something like he is accused of doing? I gave this much thought and prayer and came to the conclusion that, thankfully, my job as a church member is not to judge OR to forgive. Those are left to other systems, people and God. My job is to recognize the divine in that person. Like anyone, he is *not* only what he may or may not have done; he is a whole person who has a job, who has friends, enjoys hobbies, has a relationship with God. He must already feel like an outsider now; my hope is to let him know that he is welcomed by me into the sacred spaces of church and relationship, no matter what. That is my job now..

Meet our newest members: Kathy and Ana



On November 14, FCC (formally and joyously) welcomed **Kathy Hintz** back! Kathy chose to re-commit herself to FCC, even though she never changed her membership when she left for Tacoma years ago. Kathy was a very active participant at FCC (Elder! Outreach Committee! Deacon! Book Group founder! Women's Retreat Treasurer!) before she moved. Kathy was raised in many different countries because her father was an executive with the Peace Corps. Kathy is a social worker currently working with dialysis patients. She has two children: Luc, a Peace Corps volunteer in Senegal and Amy, who lives on NYC and has a master's degree in Art and Politics. Those who knew Kathy from before are delighted at her return; those of you that don't know her are in for a treat! Be sure to get to know her!



Rev. Ana Miller joined FCC on November 22 – a day after moving from Arkansas to Minnesota! Ana is a minister with the Disciples of Christ denomination; she was ordained by her then-pastor Laurie Feille at Azle Christian Church in Texas. Ana and her husband Bob adopted four children who now range in ages from 14-22. Over the years, Ana served in youth ministry, chaplaincy, and congregational leadership as Senior Minister. Her favorite type of ministry is pastoral care where she cares for the “least of these.” She is currently serving as a staff chaplain at Mayo Clinic in Rochester. Welcome, Rev. Ana!

Advent Brunch this Saturday, December 5

All are invited to FCC's annual Advent Brunch at 10 am on Saturday, December 5. The menu includes egg and meat strata, fruit, caramel pecan rolls and beverage. Our SpringHouse Youth minister, Pamela Cook, is providing the program. Childcare will be provided. Please join us!

Advent Study continues Sundays, Tuesdays, Thursdays

The Advent Study based on the video series *The Journey* continues, with multiple dates and times to fit busy schedules. All are invited to come to Sunday morning sessions at 9:15, Tuesday evening sessions at 7:15, or Thursday morning sessions at 10 am. Pastor Dan Adolphson is leading the sessions.

Library News: Check It Out!

Stop today at the SpringHouse library to check out the adult and children's Christmas books and the newly donated copies of *Archaeology Today*.

FCC Board Notes

Seventeen people were at the November 17 meeting of FCC's General Board. Highlights from the meeting include the following:

- The board voted to approve the proposed SpringHouse budget for 2016. Each member church will contribute \$39,666 towards the overall budget.
- Pastor Laurie spent some time going over reasons for the recent decision by the SpringHouse Personnel committee to adjust the salary and job description of the Building Maintenance Manager
- Music Director Leah Siltberg-Froelich is resigning at the end of the year to spend more time with her family. Adam Conrad will become Music Director, and a pianist is being interviewed. During Adam's absence which will begin Dec. 26 until Feb. 8, section leader Tom Stevning-Roe will do the directing of handbells and choir; there will not be a section sub for him
- Treasurer Pat Dunlop reported that \$9,119 was received as general offerings in October. Year-to-date general offerings are currently \$10,720 short of year-to-date projected offering income.

*Sundays at First Christian Church
Worship at 10:30*

Before Worship

Children's Classes, 9:15 am

Hearthstone Class, 9 am

Adult study on "The Journey" 9:15 am

After Worship

Fellowship Time 11:45

**Narrative Lectionary Text
for Sunday, December 6
Isaiah of the Exile**

Isaiah 40: 1-11



Painting by unknown
artist in National
Library, Paris

*First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis,
is a partner church at SpringHouse Ministry Center*

Reflections on the Word

Isaiah 40: 11 He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

This beloved reading from Isaiah begins, "Comfort, O comfort my people" and continues with poetic and treasured words about God's love and God's promises. No commentary can equal the power of the passage itself: we invite you to read for yourself.

Holy Lord, a voice has been heard in the wilderness preparing the way for your son to arrive in this world. Prepare our hearts to receive your son and help us to prepare for his coming. Amen.

*A Welcoming Community of
Faith in the Heart of the City*

Ministry Team

Dan Adolphson, Associate Pastor

Julia Andrix, Faith Community
Nurse

Rick Bowman, SHMC Building
Manager

Serena Chial, Nursery Attendant

Adam Conrad, Director of
Ensembles

Pamela Cook, Youth minister

Laurie Pound Felle, Senior Minister

Nate Lien, Child Care worker

Leah Silberg Froehlich, Music
Director

Martha Harris, Courier Editor

Deb Murphy, Office Manager and
Director of Spiritual Formation for
Children & Youth; SHMC Building
Use Coordinator

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