

The COURIER

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



What's INSIDE:

*Voices and Views,
Dan Adolphson, page 2*

*Youth News
from Jon Bates,
page 3*

*New head of MN Council
of Churches,
page 3*

UPCOMING Events:

*FCC Board Meeting,
Tuesday, Jan. 16,
7 pm*

*FCC Annual
Congregational
Meeting,
Sunday, January 21*

*Brews & Views,
Monday, Jan. 22
7 pm*

Bold Hope in the North: an Interfaith Event

Join others from the Twin Cities faith communities on January 28 at Westminster Presbyterian Church for an interfaith gathering to benefit the Emergency Rental Assistance Program of Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness.



This official event of the Super Bowl Host Committee, highlighting Minnesota's national leadership in interfaith dialogue and cooperation, aims to raise \$250,000 for families at risk of becoming homeless. Free and open to the public, 100% of the free-will donations at the event will go to the highly effective Emergency Rental Assistance Program (80% of families who received this assistance have remained housed after six months)

The event starts with a 2 pm program featuring J.D. and Fred Steele, Amwaaj Middle Eastern Ensemble, the Alliance and Street Song Choirs (homeless or formerly homeless persons and their allies), spoken word teen artist Kaaha Kaahiye, the Klezmer Cabaret Orchestra, (and members of the NFL Gospel Choir). Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey will emcee, joined by senior clergy from the downtown congregations and former NFL star punter Greg Coleman.

After the program, a free community reception will start at 3 pm with delicious food from Holy Land Restaurant. Attendees will be invited to assemble dignity bags consisting of hygiene products, socks, hand warmers, food, etc. for people who are homeless. Pastor Laurie is hoping that at least 10 FCC people will be there to assist those packing dignity bags.

300 spots of free parking will be available onsite (first come, first served). The event is being publicized on these websites:

www.mnsuperbowl.com/events/event-detail/Bold-Hope

www.westminstermpls.org/event/interfaith-gathering-bold-hope-in-the-north/

In Our Prayers. . .**Prayers of Joy**

For Melinda Nickerson doing well on teaching tests

For Athena Carlson on her return to Minnesota

For Lu Griffin's sister Fran on her new granddaughter Lisa

Prayers of Concern

For Laurie Feille recovering from a back injury

For Mark Carlson's brother-in-law Dennis Swenson who is in long term care

For those who have been ill including Mike Vasich, Skip Wolverton and Mary Hurlocker

For all our homebound members Elaine Moe and Bev Singewald.

Prayers for the World

For the families of people killed in home fires and wildfires

For the people of Puerto Rico struggling without electricity for many weeks

For the homeless needing shelter and safety in the winter

**Voices and Views**

Pastor Dan Adolphson

**The Gift of our Imperfections**

As I headed out into the bright, glorious (and dare I say *balmy*) sunshine after worship yesterday and headed to the first VocalPoint rehearsal of the new season, my mind was still chewing on one of the thoughts from the children's sermon – *what gifts will we bring to God this year?*

Gifts. My mind wanders back to my childhood, and especially to 8th grade, when my best friend's grandmother gave me for my birthday an Ocean Pacific (OP) sweatshirt from The Crescent, THE premier department store in downtown Spokane (part of the former Marshall Field's chain of stores). I had never seen such exquisite wrapping paper, and the bow – *that bow* – was beyond amazing. All for a self-conscious, on-the-fringe, coming of age boy. I felt like a regal prince that day.

The first song that we began to work on was *Finally On My Way to Yes*, by Twin Cities composer Elizabeth Alexander, using the poetry of the late Pasha Joyce Gertler, Seattle's first *poet laureate* (2005) and an internationally renowned poet and writer. We read through the text, and the following leapt into my mind: we always try to be thoughtful, to give the *most perfect gift* to the recipient. What if, in 2018, one of the gifts that God is asking us to bring this year is our imperfections? How many of us have said time and time again, either out loud or in the quiet of our heart, when God calls to us to do "x" or "y", we say "I'm not good enough" or "I don't have that skill" or "why don't you ask so-and-so, they're much more suited", or "because of "z" I couldn't possibly do that for you God". God calls to us to do God's work as we are, not as a perfect being with the perfect resumé and skill set. Think about that as you read this poem and ponder your gift for God in the coming year.

Finally On My Way To Yes

*I bump into
all the places
where I said no
to my life
all the untended wounds
the red and purple scars
those hieroglyphs of pain
carved into my skin, my bones,
those coded messages
that send me down
the wrong street*

*again and again
where I find them
the old wounds
the old misdirections
and I lift them
one by one
close to my heart
and I say holy
holy.*

January Annual Meetings set:

First Christian's Annual meeting will be after worship on Laity Sunday January 21. The business to be brought in front of the congregation is the 2018 budget and nominees for trustees, elders and deacons. Nominees for trustees are Skip Wolverton and Sandy Morgan. Elder & diaconate nominees will soon be posted.

SpringHouse Ministry Center Annual Meeting will follow the joint worship service on Sunday, January 28. The 2018 SH budget will be presented, as well other information about SpringHouse operations. A lunch is planned for after the meeting.

Note: Pastor Laurie pointed out that this schedule should be completed in plenty of time for FCC folks to participate in the "Bold Hope" event (page 1 story).

Rev. Curtiss DeYoung new head of MN Council of Churches

Rev. Curtiss DeYoung was installed as CEO of the Minnesota Council of Churches on December 14 at Park Avenue United Methodist Church in south Minneapolis. . The Minnesota Council represents an estimated 1 million faithful and is one of the largest such organizations in the nation.



According to an article in the StarTribune, "He will be at the forefront of Minnesota's clergy response to hot button issues such as immigration and race relations. He'll also be the point person pushing the council's efforts to tear down barriers between people of different faiths, and working toward common goals.

DeYoung was ordained in the Church of God. From 1991 to 2001 he was CEO of the Twin Cities Urban Reconciliation Network.

According to the StarTribune, DeYoung has focused on reconciliation, and his work has taken him to places such as South Africa and Jerusalem. He attended divinity school at Howard University, a historically black university where he was one of a tiny minority of white students. He lived with Franciscan monks while working at a Catholic youth homeless shelter next to Times Square in New York City.

More about his background and work can be found in the StarTribune article <http://www.startribune.com/new-ceo-of-minnesota-council-of-churches-a-true-believer-in-reconciliation/464511133/>.

January 2018 Youth News

Youth Ministry Text and Email Updates

Start receiving texts and/or emails on the news from the Youth Ministry of SpringHouse by texting @db2kc8 to 81010. Or talk to Jon Bates to get yourself signed up!

Youth and Parent 2018 Kick-Off

Sunday, January 21
Lydia Room,
9:15am

Let's check-in with each other, go over 2018's Spring calendar, eat some donuts, drink coffee, and dream together.

Youth Scavenger Hunt at Mall of America

Saturday, January 27
10:30am-4:00pm
Bring money for lunch!

Did you know you can do more than just shop at Mall of America? We'll eat lunch, scavenger around Mall of America, and see God in the midst of the busyness. RSVP by text/letter/email with Jon by Wednesday, January 24.

Jon Bates
Youth Minister
springhouseyouth@fccmpls.org
651-253-8494

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

Before Worship

Children's Classes, 9:15 am
Joint Adult class 9:30 am

After Worship

Fellowship Time 11:45

**Narrative Lectionary
For Sunday, January 14
Wedding at Cana
John 2: 1-11**



Altar at Kéar
Moussa Abbey,
Senegal 1963

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

Reflections on the Word

John 2: 5 – His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

In verse 4, Jesus seems to dismiss Mary's concern that the wine has run out by saying, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me?" Taken alone, this verse makes Jesus sound like nothing more than a smart-aleck and perhaps disrespectful son. But the story that follows suggests so much more: playfulness between mother and son, Mary's understanding and influence, Jesus' rapidly developing sense of his mission. Like Jesus, we can learn to listen carefully and take risks to test our strengths.

God of revelation, Help us to see Jesus among us, and help us know ourselves as we seek to know you. Amen.

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

Dan Adolphson, Associate Pastor,
dan.adolphson@fccmpls.org
Jon Bates, SHMC Youth Minister
Rick Bowman, SHMC Building Manager
Adam Conrad, Music Director & Composer-in-Residence
Laurie Feille, Senior Pastor, pastor@fccmpls.org
Martha Harris, Courier Editor,
harrismartha@mac.com
Deb Murphy, Office Manager & Director of Spiritual Formation of Children and Youth,
deb.murphy@fccmpls.org
& SHMC Building Coordinator,
events_SHMC@fccmpls.org
Maria Thieling, SHMC Child Care
Mike Vasich - Pianist

FCC Office Telephone: 612.870.1868
www.fccminneapolis.org

E-Mail: office@fccminneapolis.org

Christian Courier is published bi-monthly. Send items and ideas to church office or to Martha Harris harrismartha@mac.com

Next issue deadline is Sunday, January 21, 2018

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
OF MINNEAPOLIS
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
610 W. 28th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55408**