

The COURIER



What's **INSIDE**:

*Voices and Views from
Max Hurlocker, page 2*

*New Member
Paula Harlfinger,
page 3*

*News briefs,
page 3*

UPCOMING Events:

*FCC Board Meeting,
Tuesday, Oct. 20, 7 pm*

*Worship Committee
meeting,
Tuesday, Oct. 20, 6 pm*

*SpringHouse board
meeting,
Thursday, Oct. 22, 7 pm*

Jumble Sale runs Friday, Saturday, Oct. 16-17

It's sale time! Our annual rummage sale is taking place October 16-17. The proceeds from this sale benefit Disciple Mission Fund and another local

organization (not specifically Disciples) to be named later. It is also a benefit to shoppers who can buy items at reasonable prices, and those of us who need to clear some things from our houses. Here's how to get involved:

- Tell your friends and neighbors
- Bring donations and/or help set up October 11-13
- Donate food for the workers
- Work the sale Friday, October 16 (12-6 pm) and Saturday October 17 (9am-1pm)
- Shop the sale
- Help us clean up on Saturday, October 17 (1-13 pm)
- Take leftover items to donation sites – or to your home

You can sign up online at

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10cOd4baba82ea3fa7-jumble>

SpringHouse
Ministry Center



World Communion Sunday truly global



October 4 was truly a global **World Communion Sunday** at First Christian Church. James Petermeier led worship from Sweden through Skype. Nicolas Carter came from Uruguay and played the Paraguayan Harp. We used chalices from Israel and bread baskets from Paraguay. We sang the "Litany for the Healing of the Nations" and mentioned countries around the world. We placed candles on a map of the world for those places that we hold dear in our hearts in prayer. Pastor Laurie's sermon emphasized how "God is with us in ways we can never imagine." Some Sundays we find ourselves reminded of how we are all connected....this was one of those Sundays. Thanks be to God!

October 4 was truly a global **World Communion Sunday** at First Christian Church. James Petermeier led worship from Sweden through Skype. Nicolas Carter came from Uruguay and played the Paraguayan Harp. We used chalices from Israel and bread baskets from Paraguay. We sang the "Litany for the Healing of the Nations" and mentioned

In Our Prayers**Prayers of Joy**

*For Rick Bowman and Anna
Mapala on their recent
marriage*

*For the birth of Carol Walter's
new grandson, Henry*

*For the recent marriage of
Betsy Keno, Salem's former
music director*

Prayers for Sympathy

*For Garry Hesser who lost his
niece*

*For Mary Hurlocker who lost
her stepmother*

*For Anna Bliss and family who
lost their pet of 22 years*

Prayers for Healing

For Ann Antus

For Larry Pray

*For all our homebound
members including Phyllis
Dunlap and Enid Griffin.*

Prayers for the World

*For the families in Oregon
who lost loved ones to yet
another mass murder*

*For the family and friends of
the three children who died
in a fire in North
Minneapolis*

**Voices and Views**

Max Hurlocker

***Perfect! Maybe even a little better!***

Jerry was a truly great technical designer and illustrator. Whether it was a mechanical part needed by manufacturing or a helpful device to offer to the public, Jerry was the go-to guy. And he always had a wonderful, easy-going demeanor, even in the face of demanding timelines. But my favorite thing about Jerry was, when offered a "how ya doing" greeting, his response was invariably "Perfect! Maybe even a little better!" Even though Jerry's response was always the same, it surprised and delighted me every time. Being perfect or even better? How good is that? I was always astounded.

Several years ago, on a beautiful Spring day, I was told that Jerry's son had been killed in a motorcycle crash. Jerry's son was a younger version of Jerry and full of life and optimism. His loss, as you might imagine, was devastating to Jerry.

I didn't see Jerry for perhaps a month. Then, one day we both arrived at the coffee pot at the same time. I was uncertain how to best greet him. Should I offer sympathy? Should I just touch him on the shoulder? Or, perhaps it would be best if I waited for my coffee and came back later, avoiding him altogether. I decided that familiar was best and offered a "how ya doing". I didn't know how Jerry would respond, so I was braced for anything. Would he recite his woes to me? Would he be angry at me for opening a still-bleeding wound? Would I see (mine or his) tears? Would he ignore me altogether? I was floored when Jerry's response came: "Perfect! Maybe even a little better!"

I don't know Jerry's faith journey, but I'm confident that he is Christian. To show such grace in such heart-wrenching circumstances can lead me to no other conclusion.

This has been a difficult year for Mary and me. My sister-in-law died unexpectedly in March, and Mary's stepmother died in September. Experiencing these losses and the reactions and responses of family and friends has reinforced and strengthened my faith. I often wonder how people, absent faith and the support of a community of faith, can endure tragedy with at least a modicum of grace and, ultimately, peace. Neither Jerry nor I will ever know the answer to that question.

Workers needed for Feed My Starving Children

FCC has reserved a service spot at the Feed My Starving Children in Chanhassan for Saturday, November 7, from 4:30 to 6:30. We have 15 spaces to fill. Call FCC's office if you are interested in signing up to pack meals that will help people around the world.

New Brooklyn Center location for Avenues



Avenues for Homeless Youth is one of the local organizations FCC supports. We collect items for this group at Christmas and other times during the year. Avenues for Homeless Youth opened a new housing facility in Brooklyn Center last February. A recent story in the Sun Post stated: "In

the first six months the Brooklyn Avenues youth homeless shelter opened, 48 young people have stayed at the 12-bed facility, and 73 percent of those who have left moved to a stable living environment." To read the whole article and learn more about Avenues for Homeless Youth, go to <http://post.mnsun.com/2015/09/most-who-stay-at-new-bp-youth-shelter-move-to-stable-housing/>

Home Hosts needed for GLAD council members

First Christian Church will be hosting the annual GLAD Alliance Council retreat October 22-25. There is a need for host homes that weekend for 4-5 people. This is a great opportunity to get to know people who are helping Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) be a place of grace and welcome to the LGBTQA community. If you are able to host or have questions, please talk to Pastor Dan – who is starting his new position as Moderator for GLAD.

Health Care Directive Workshop on Oct. 18

You can have help and guidance in actually filling out a Health Care Directive on Sunday, Oct. 18 in a workshop led by Julie Andrix, our Faith Community Nurse. The workshop will be held following worship at noon. An advance health care directive, also known as living will, personal directive, advance directive, or advance decision, is a legal document in which a person specifies what actions should be taken for their health if they are no longer able to make decisions for themselves because of illness or incapacity.



New Member Profile



We welcome **Paula Harlfinger** as a new member of FCC! Paula moved here from Richmond, VA, where she was a member of a Disciples church for the last 25 years. (The same church where Pat Carter's sister attends!)

Paula moved to Minneapolis to be with her sister and help with her sister's young children. Paula has four adult children. She has a master's in English and creative writing and has been employed in the editing and education fields.

Paula was raised a Lutheran but changed to be a Disciple when she realized that Disciples are not political, are congregationally run and are Scripture based. This is in line with her grandfather's beliefs; he was a Lutheran pastor in Poland in the 1930's who wrote and preached on passive resistance to the rising Nazi regime. He was actually killed because of his beliefs.

Paula states that she is grateful for FCC because it is warm and welcoming. Please take a moment to introduce yourself to Paula and show her how warm and welcoming we are!

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

Before Worship

Children's Classes, 9:15 am
Hearthstone Class, 9 am
Adult study 9:15 am

After Worship

Fellowship Time 11:45

**Narrative Lectionary texts
for Sunday, October 11**

Hear O Israel

Deuteronomy 5: 1-21, 6: 4-9



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

Reflections on the Word

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 Hear O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. These verses are known in the Jewish faith as the Shema. Jesus himself probably prayed the Shema twice daily as observant Jewish people did then and do now. Incorporating these sacred words into our daily prayer life can enrich our private, personal prayer and connect us with a worldwide community of believers. God of our Ancestors, Help us embrace with all our hearts these foundational words you gave us. Amen.

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

Ministry Team

Dan Adolphson, Associate Pastor
Julia Andrix, Faith Community Nurse
Pamela Cook, Youth minister
Rick Bowman, SHMC Building Manager
Serena Chial, Nursery Attendant
Adam Conrad, Director of Ensembles
Laurie Pound Feille, Senior Minister
Leah Siltberg Froehlich, Music Director
Martha Harris, Courier Editor
Deb Murphy, Office Manager and Director of Spiritual Formation for Children & Youth; SHMC Building Use Coordinator
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 is October 24.

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