

The COURIER

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



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UPCOMING Events:

*Mardi Gras Sunday,
February 7
King Cake!!*

*Child Ministry Team
Meeting, Sunday,
February 7, Noon*

*40-50 Something's Super
Bowl party,
Sunday, February 7,
5 pm*

*Sanctuary Moving Day,
Monday, February 8,
10 am*

Homelessness study is focus for Lent



Pastor Laurie Feille invites us to reserve three Tuesday nights during this year's season of Lent to learn more about homelessness in Minnesota.

FCC will join with Gethsemane Episcopal, one of our partners in the Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness organization, in a special Lenten study on this critical issue.

The first two of these Tuesdays will be soup and supper evenings with a program. The last Tuesday will be an opportunity to share a meal with brothers and sisters who are homeless, and then visit Simpson Housing Services.

So mark your calendar for these dates:

Tuesday, February 23, 6 pm soup supper and program at Gethsemane Episcopal Church

Tuesday, March 1, 6 pm soup supper and program at SpringHouse

Tuesday, March 8, 5:30 meal at Loaves and Fishes followed by a visit to Simpson Housing Services offices where a panel of Simpson Educators (people who are homeless) and Simpson staff will help us understand more about what is happening, what is needed and what we can do to make a difference about Homelessness.

Daytime Lenten Bible Study

Pastor Laurie will also lead a daytime Lenten Bible study on Thursday mornings at 10 am. This study will begin next week on Thursday, February 11 and continue every Thursday until Holy Week. Come for one session or for every session.

Ash Wednesday is February 10. The service will be in the North Sanctuary at 7 pm.

In Our Prayers



Prayers of Joy

For the birth of Thomas Aaron Dunlop, son of Steve and Amy and brother of Wil

Prayers of Sympathy

*For Lu Griffin and all her family on the death of her mother Enid Griffin
For Belinda Flanagan on the death of her 17-year old nephew Joseph*

Prayers of Concern

For all our homebound members including Elaine Glore and Elaine Moe

Prayers for the World

*For the continuing world-wide refugee crisis
For peace in Syria and other troubled spots in the world
For the voters in this election season to have wisdom as we select our leaders*



Voices and Views

Marie Howe



The Star Market

The people Jesus loved were shopping at the Star Market yesterday. An old lead-colored man standing next to me at the checkout breathed so heavily I had to step back a few steps.

Even after his bags were packed he still stood, breathing hard and hawking into his hand. The feeble, the lame, I could hardly look at them: shuffling through the aisles, they smelled of decay, as if the Star Market

had declared a day off for the able-bodied, and I had wandered in with the rest of them—sour milk, bad meat—looking for cereal and spring water.

Jesus must have been a saint, I said to myself, looking for my lost car in the parking lot later, stumbling among the people who would have been lowered into rooms by ropes, who would have crept

out of caves or crawled from the corners of public baths on their hands and knees begging for mercy.

If I touch only the hem of his garment, one woman thought, could I bear the look on his face when he wheels around?

Marie Howe
The New Yorker
January, 2008

Poet Marie Howe was New York State's Poet Laureate from 2012 to 2014. She has published three books of poetry, including "The Kingdom of Ordinary Time" (2008) which she says focuses on her "obsession with the metaphysical, the spiritual dimensions of life as they present themselves in this world."

Ruby at Stepping Stone Theater

In 1960, the front lines of the struggle for Civil Rights ran right up to the front steps of an elementary school in New Orleans. Imagine you're a six-year-old ready to start first grade, and suddenly you're in all the papers, and it seems that half the world wants to stop you from going to school. It would take all the courage you can muster just to get out of bed. But little Ruby Bridges bravely faces the danger. Ruby's true story struggle is an inspiration! We've secured group tickets (\$10 each) for Saturday, February 20 at 3 pm at Stepping Stone Theatre in St. Paul. The bus will leave Springhouse at 2:15 - please let Pastor Dan know if you want to attend!

Check those financial statements!



Every FCC member who contributed money during 2015 should receive a year-end statement by this weekend. If you have not, call the church office (612-870-1868) to make sure you receive your statement. If you have received it, be sure to check the figures carefully to make sure all contributions have been recorded and put in the correct category. Call the church office if you note any errors or discrepancies! It's important for your records as well as the church's financial records to be accurate.

A Note from Rae Buzzell and Child Ministries:

Thanks to everyone for helping through donations and putting backpacks together for kids in need abroad! Children's Ministry's next intergenerational activity is **February 21** in upstairs gathering space! It's our first Lenten activity, so we will be celebrating Ash Wednesday a little late with Pancakes and getting in the Lenten spirit by coloring Easter eggs. All are welcome (and encouraged) to participate in the Gathering Space starting at 9:15. There will be at least 2 electric griddles going (we'll keep one gluten free) and plenty of hardboiled eggs to color along with some raw eggs for our more adventurous crafters to try making some Pysanka (those colorful Ukrainian eggs). Stay tuned for info about Palm Sunday peep dioramas!

Civil Society Open House, Sunday, Feb. 14, 2-4 pm At SpringHouse Ministry Center

Civil Society was founded in 1996, has its headquarters in St. Paul and serves the State of Minnesota. Its mission is to empower disadvantaged communities to become safe and secure by providing direct civil legal services to crime victims, including victims of human trafficking. Civil Society also provides presentations regarding human trafficking victimization, services to human trafficking victims, and identification and outreach to human trafficking victims. Stop by and learn more.

Black Lives Matter Photo Exhibit & Discussion

All SpringHouse folks are invited to an event on Sunday, February 14 after worship, from noon to 2 pm in the Garden Sanctuary. Angela Jimenez, a member of Lyndale and a photojournalist, will share some of the documentary work she has been doing on the Black Lives Matter movement in Minneapolis and host a conversation about the experiences, ethics and emotions of bearing witness. Mary Martin of Lyndale UCC will be the moderator of the exhibition and discussion.



Photo by Angela Jimenez, used with permission

FCC Board Notes

Eleven people attended the January 19, 2016, meeting of FCC's General Board.

Highlights include:

- **Board Officers:** A new chairperson for the board will be named soon. We have someone who is willing if there is support by way of a 3-person committee that would do some of the work i.e. SpringHouse board meetings, vice-chair, etc. The nominating committee has approached a few people about working on this committee. Martha Harris will continue as Recording Secretary and Pat Dunlop will continue as Treasurer. Karen Bowman will replace Barb Rusinak as Financial Secretary.

- **Financials:** As December ended, our 2015 income was \$330.51 more than our expenses. The board approved the proposed 2016 budget of \$354,462, which is \$1468 less than the 2015 budget. Skip Wolverton pointed out that we have a balanced budget because we take money out of the reserve fund.

- The board voted to have 7 instead of 8 **trustees** for the year 2016. Don Cain's spot will not be filled

- **Mission and Outreach** will streamline activities to avoid overlap. Instead of 4th Sunday loose offering the committee will promote special "gratitude offerings" in August and April that will go toward Dignity Center sandwiches and St. Stephen's meals. The focus in 2016 will be Homelessness issues.

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

Before Worship

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

After Worship

Fellowship Time 11:45

**Narrative Lectionary Text
for Sunday, February 7
Transfiguration**

Mark 8: 27-9:8



**Miracle by Edward
Ruscha, 1975**

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

Reflections on the Word

Mark 9:2 -- Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, Cue the special effects: light, more light, brilliant light. Jesus becomes ... what? An angel? A saint among saints? An light emanating straight from heaven? Transfigured: Jesus? Or us? Lord of light, as you were transfigured on the mountain, your followers were given a glimpse of your glory. Shine your light in our lives so that we will know how truly marvelous you are. Amen

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

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Rick Bowman, SHMC Building Mgr
Serena Chial, Nursery Attendant
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