



Christian Courier

First Christian Church of Minneapolis (Disciples of Christ)

September 26, 2009

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On the Web

FCC Homepage:
fccminneapolis.org

[Flickr photos of FCC](#)

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CROP Walk represents love in action



Hunger and poverty are rampant in our world, are escalating under the current economic conditions, and something can and must be done about them. The Metro Minneapolis CROP Hunger Walk is a great place to start. For a few hours and a few miles, friends and neighbors will be coming together, in the words of I John 3:18, to "...love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action."

On Sunday, Oct. 11, the Metro Minneapolis CROP Hunger Walk participants, ranging from newborns to nonagenarians, will be raising funds to change the world in real and measurable ways -- digging wells that will bring clean water to villages; providing seeds and tools so that people can grow their own food; helping communities and families rebuild after disaster. Whether it's responding

to devastating floods across the central U.S. such as Cedar Rapids, Iowa, or helping to construct a sand dam in Kenya, CROP Hunger Walks are making a difference.

CROP Hunger Walk funds will benefit the overall work and ministry of Church World Service -- working around the world to help those in need help themselves through refugee assistance, self-help development programs, advocacy, and disaster relief. And, it's important to note that 25 percent of what we raise will help the following ministries in their important work here in Minneapolis:

- MN Council of Churches' Refugee Services
- Brian Coyle Food Shelf
- Groveland Emergency Food Shelf Youth Program
- The Youth Farm and Market Project.

So please mark your calendars and come CROP Walk with us! The Walk starts at 2pm on October 11 at Augsburg College. If you are interested in walking please or would like to make a donation, contact Associate Pastor Dennis Sanders or go on-line to: tinyurl.com/no56ne.

And if you can't walk on that day, or just want to broaden your horizon of sponsors, you can walk on the Web with us. Visit cropwalkonline.org to find out how.

Together, we can make a difference: one step at a time.

A Look at the Brite Side

Transition Team wrestles with big questions



Pastor Bob Brite

Our Transition Team, the group set up by the FCC Board to consider the next steps of change in the life of First Christian Church, has met a few times and continues to meet on a regular basis.

The issues facing the congregation at this time are slightly (slightly?) more complex than at the time the Core Committee dealt with the sale of the building. There are a cascading series of interrelated questions that we're working through, including:

- Do we move or close?
- How is the congregation to be restructured to become more vital?
- Assuming we move, do we partner/merge with another congregation or go it alone?
- Do we move into an already established building, or build a new one?

-- Do we stay in the downtown area, or move further out?

Not easy questions to answer, are they? But we're working at it, and hope to have some initial statements to share by the end of the year.

Currently we're trying to put together some visions of what a new FCC might look like in 5 years, while researching such things as property availability, congregational partnerships, and the like.

Please keep Pat Dunlop, Martha Harris, Skip Wolverton, Val Dunham, Bobbie Hall, Tom Curry, Sarah Mason, Dennis Sanders, and myself in your prayers as we work on this.

I'd like to see YOU on Sunday, 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 **Dorothy Stegner**, whose sister-in-law passed away, and who also injured her foot recently; for **Mary Lou Cain** who has shoulder problems; for **David Pyles**; in joy with **Deb Murphy**, as her Art in the Covenant class grows; in thanksgiving for the beautiful music by the **choir**; for our elected leaders that they will find a way to make health care a reality for all citizens; for all individuals and families experiencing the hardships of the economic crisis; for all our homebound members, **including Phyllis Dunlap and Bob Risinger**. Amen.

Andra Moran to keynote Women's Retreat



Andra Moran

Singer/songwriter Andra Moran will keynote the Women's Retreat next weekend in Paynesville, Minnesota.

Ms. Moran recently led the Children's Choir at General Assembly. She has released three recordings, and her songs have been published in *Chalice Praise*, a publication of Christian Board of Publication.

The theme of the 2009 Fall retreat is "Offering" – moving from giving an offering to being a living offering.

The retreat will be Oct. 2 through Oct. 4. Fifteen women from our congregation are planning to attend.

Rev. Candice K. Brown, pastor of Capitol Hill Christian Church in Des Moines, Iowa, will serve as Chaplain. She will lead morning and evening worships and Sunday morning worship which will celebrate World Communion Sunday.

FCC Writers needed for Advent devotional book

With reflections written by members of the congregation, is a new project of the Worship Committee.

Congregation members are invited to select one (or more) of the Advent scriptures and write a brief reflection and prayer for the scripture, to be shared with the whole congregation in a 2009 Advent devotional booklet.

Sign-up sheets for the particular scriptures are available in the Lounge. The format will be similar to that used by "Reflections on the Word" found in the *Courier*: the Scripture reference, a reflection or meditation of approximately 200 words, and a brief prayer.

Submissions are due by Nov. 1. Nancy Curry is heading up the project.

Prayer and Faith Sharing focus of "Unbinding" groups

Sign up sheets are in the Lounge for "Unbinding Your Heart" small groups. Take this opportunity to explore more deeply your personal faith and help First Christian's journey toward transformation.

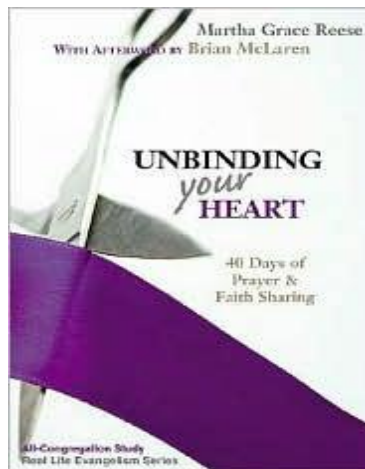
Unbinding Your Heart Groups:



9:15 Sunday Mornings, led by Don Cain

10-11 am Wednesday mornings, led by Val Dunham

6-7 pm Wednesday evenings, led by Warren Westphal

Groups to run 6 weeks, from October 11 – November 22



				<p align="center">Regular Worship Hours 9:15 Church School Classes 10:30 Worship 11:45 Fellowship Time in Lounge</p>		
	CR = small west wing classroom FH – Fellowship Hall	SoSSCC = Spirit of St. Stephen's Catholic Community TN = Tiempo Nuevo		1 9 am Handcrafters 7-9 SoSSCC (CR)	2 3:45 bus leaves for Women's Retreat	3 9 am- Men's Group 9-10 TN (CR)
4 World Communion Sunday	5 7 pm Outloud rehearsal 8pm AA	6 7 pm- Worship Committee 7-9 TN (CR)	7 6 pm Lectionary Group 6:30 Bell Choir 7:45 Choir	8 9 am Handcrafters 6 pm Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus Auditions 7-9 pm SoSSCC (CR)	9	10 9 am- Men's Group 9-12 SoSSCC (FH) 9-10:30 TN (CR)
11 9:15 Unbinding Groups Start 2 pm CROP Walk	12 7 pm Carter Circle @ Dunham's 7 pm Outloud rehearsal (Sanc) 8 pm AA	13 12 n. Disciples Ministers 7 pm Transition Team 7 pm Property 7-9 TN (CR)	14 10:00 Unbinding 5:30 Finance Comm. 6:00 Unbinding Group 6:30 Bell Choir 7:45 Choir 5:30 Dist 18 AA	15 9 am Handcrafters 7-9 SoSSCC (CR)	16 6:30 pm Christian League dinner	17 9 am- Men's Group 10am Laura Lynn/ Naomi Circle 6 pm Dinner for St. Stephens shelter
18 Food Pantry Sunday 9:15 Unbinding 12 n. Elders Meet	19 7 pm Book Group at Westphal's 7 pm Outloud rehearsal 8 pm AA	20 11 am Mpls Retired Teachers 7 pm FCC Board Meeting 7-9 TN (CR)	21 9 am Nikkei (FH) 10:00 Unbinding 6:00 Unbinding 6:30 Bell Choir 7:45 Choir 6:30 SosSSCC	22 9 am Handcrafters	23	24 9 am- Men's Group 9 am Feed My Starving Children 9 am SoSSCC (FH)
25 9:15 Unbinding	26 7 pm Outloud rehearsal 8 pm AA	27 7-9 TN (CR)	28 10:00 Unbinding 6:00 Unbinding 6:30 Bell Choir 7:45 Choir	29 9 am Handcrafters 7 pm SoSSCC (GR)	30	31 9 am Share the Care 9-12 SoSSCC (FH) 9-10:30 TN (CR)

	Elders	Worship Leader	Bus Driver	Diaconate	Greeters
Oct. 4	Skip Wolverton Tom Curry	Karen Kandik	Mike Hesano 651-645-6758	Team 1 Grace Madson.	Martha Harris
Oct. 11	Ann Wolverton Skip Wolverton	Ardie Armstrong	Mike Morgan 612-926-9384	Team 2	Valerie Dunham
Oct. 18	Barb Creighton Dean Creighton	Sandy Morgan	Garry Hesser 612-721-4905	Team 2	Ardie Armstrong Shirley Draine
Oct. 25	Dean Creighton Barb Creighton	Martha Harris	Mike Hesano	Team 2	Karen Kandik

Board Meeting Notes

The FCC Church Board met Sept. 15 to hear reports and pass motions. Highlights from the meeting include the following:

- **Treasurer's Report** indicated that in most months, pledges are not meeting the budget, and the deficit is being made up with the interest income from the building sale
- The **Grande Sale** netted \$1975.86, which was split with Spirit of St. Stephens
- 48 pictures were taken for the **Picture Directory**
- The tenant relationship with **Minneapolis Institute of Arts** is going smoothly; our annual \$1 rent was paid at a recent meeting. The former Residence is being used for non-art storage.
- A motion was passed to donate \$4,000 of the Outreach Committee budget to **Community Emergency Services** (CESmn.org), a local service agency. Rev. Sanders is going to explore further ways we can work with this organization
- The pastors are pursuing the possibility of folding the **Outreach Committee** with the **Diaconate**. Outreach is in need of a new chair to replace Kathy Hintz.

"Amahl and the Night Visitors" set for Dec. 18

Laura Anderson will again produce and direct the opera *Amahl and the Night Visitors* at First Christian Church during the Christmas season.

The performance is set for Friday, Dec. 18. Look for further details in upcoming issues of the Courier.

A sincere thank you to everyone at our home church in Minneapolis for the prayers and concerns during my Dad's recent illness and death. It was comforting to know that our church family was with us in spirit as we traveled the road of sorrow and grief.

Gratefully,
Janice and Mike Brady and
Anita Lee

Share-the-Care set for Saturday, Oct. 31

Roll up your sleeves, grab a bucket and pitch in on the Fall Share-the-Care project, set for Halloween morning, 9-1.

Max Hurlocker, chair of the Property Committee, says that leaf-raking and window-washing are among the tasks that workers will be assigned. He urges anyone who sees a need for any other cleaning to be sure and let him know.

The two other congregations that share our building are being invited this year to join with us in the cleaning. Friends are also welcome!

FCC plays a role in current movie "Into Temptation"

Movie star Kristin Chenoweth spent a day in the former FCC Residence last May, filming a



scene for the indie movie "Into Temptation" which is now drawing crowds at the Lagoon Theater in Minneapolis. The movie has been held over for several weeks.

The 2nd floor of the then-empty Residence was transformed for a day into a hospital ward for one

brief scene in the movie. Pastor Bob Brite was an extra in the scene, but alas, his appearance remains on the cutting room floor.

The movie crew also used our parking lot as a staging area for street scenes shot in the Whittier neighborhood.

Patrick Coyle, the Minneapolis writer/director of the film, is hoping for a New York engagement before the DVD is released Oct. 30.

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

Monday, Sept. 28

AA 8:00 pm

Wednesday, Sept. 30

Lectionary Bible Study 6:00 pm
 Bell Choir 6:30 pm
 Chancel Choir 7:45 pm

Thursday, Oct. 1

Handcrafters 9:00 am

Friday, Oct. 2

Women's Retreat leaves 3:45 pm

Saturday, Oct. 3

Men's Group 9 am

Next Week at FCC

Sunday, Oct. 4

World Communion Sunday

Monday, Sept. 28

AA 8:00 pm

Tuesday, Oct. 6

Worship Comm. 7 pm

Wednesday, Oct. 6

Lectionary Bible Study 6:00 pm
 Bell Choir 6:30 pm
 Chancel Choir 7:45 pm

Thursday, Oct. 8

Handcrafters

Sat. Oct. 10

Men's Group 9 am

Reflections on the Word

Pentecost 17, Sept. 27, 2009

I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. —Numbers 11:14

Moses was tired, and the Israelites were cranky. Nobody can shoulder such a large burden alone. Thankfully, God spreads the responsibility for community leadership among many people, so that no one person alone must support a whole community by him- or herself. Even God encourages a "balance of powers"!

Gracious God, send us helpers in every area of our lives, the wisdom for ask help when we need it, and the humility to accept it. Amen.

--Chris Wogaman

*A Thoughtful Church in the
Heart of the City*

Ministry Team

All Members of the Congregation

Robert Brite, Interim Minister

Dennis Sanders, Minister of Diversity and Mission

Chris Wogaman, Office Manager

Bill Stump, Director of Music

Rick Bowman, Building Manager

James Barnett, Pianist

Serena Carlson, Nursery Attendant

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

by **Fri . Oct. 2** for next issue.

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