



Christian Courier

First Christian Church of Minneapolis (Disciples of Christ)

August 15, 2009

Inside the Courier:

- A Look at the Brite Side, page 2
- FCC news in brief, page 3
- Church picnic photos, page 3

On the Web

fccminneapolis.org

[Pastor Brite's responses to "Questions of Faith"](#)

[Aug. 2 sermon by Dennis Sanders](#)

[Flickr photos of FCC](#)



Bring school supplies!

Needs continue at St. Stephen's shelter

For many years, First Christian Church members have supported the St. Stephen's homeless shelter by preparing and serving one meal a month to the guests of the shelter.

We asked Paul Seifert, a shelter advocate, to give us some background information on the guests who stay at the shelter.

According to Seifert, St. Stephens has 44 shelter beds, which are continuously filled. The beds are allocated on a weekly lottery; people can stay for up to 28 days. Approximately 12 beds turn over each week.

During this time period, shelter advocates begin addressing the new client's issues of identification, citizenship, housing and social services. For example, every Thursday a medical team visits to provide guests with comprehensive medical services and consultation free of charge. In addition, a social worker and a psychologist are also present on Thursday evenings.

Seifert said that, generally speaking, men from the shelter have two strikes

against them: mental illness and poverty. "Finding work for the men is really difficult due to their poor work history, lack of continuity in their work and their inability to secure affordable housing," he said.



**SERVING MEALS
TO THE HOMELESS**

Meals are served every evening at 7 pm. Warren and Karen Westphal co-ordinate FCC's volunteer signup for the meal on the third Saturday of every month, and are looking to fill the dates from September through December.

FCC families who have served meals in past months include the Creightons, Halls, Dunhams, Hillestads, Wolvertons, including Karin and Chris, and Hintz-

Mortons. Others who have helped out include Phil Kinney, Richard Schwerinske, Belinda Flanagan, and numerous volunteers from the Spirit of Joy Disciples of Christ church.

Warren Westphal wanted to point out that many of the men are quite friendly and all are very appreciative in thanking us. "There hasn't been one cross word!" he said. Warren added, "This is a ministry of our church to make God's love through Jesus known in this world."

A Look at the Brite Side

Holy Spirit Prods: More Time for Prayer



Pastor Bob Brite

“I don’t know of too many people of faith who don’t wrestle with prayer, who lose focus, or get tired, or distracted.”

The regular “prod” I get from the Holy Spirit these days (Practical Joker that She is – and ask me sometime why I think that that aspect of the Deity is female) is that I need to spend more time in prayer. I think that there is a tendency in each of us humans to both want and fear prayer.

The early disciples went to Jesus and said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray.” These guys, who grew up in the religious culture of the time, were asking the Boss to teach them to pray! My guess is that they, seeing the connectedness of Jesus and the Creator, and more particularly the results of that connectedness, were asking Jesus to share with them the power of the connection. I don’t know of too many people of faith who don’t wrestle with prayer, who lose focus, or get tired, or get distracted.

Yet that connectedness with the

Holy One, particularly in this time and place, is vitally important.

Have you ever voiced the request of those disciples: Lord, teach us to pray? We’re going to try this fall to work at praying, and learning to pray, in our next step of Unbinding the Gospel. From October 11 through Thanksgiving we are going to be asking the entire congregation to devote themselves to prayer and devotion on a daily basis, and meeting in small groups to pray on a weekly basis. We would ask you to pray about this now – both about your openness to it, and your willingness to be open to others in the prayer process.

As God continues to prod me, part of that impulse is to turn around and prod you.

I’d like to see YOU on Sunday,
Bob Brite

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 **Terry Kehoe** and all the family of **Betty Redpath** who passed away last Sunday; for **Mary Lou Norman** and family at the death of **Marvin Norman**; for **Todd Hall** and his family as Todd waits for a kidney transplant; for **David Pyles** as he continues to struggle with lymphoma; for all those in the military and their families who wait and worry, especially those who are training for missions in Kosovo, including **Jay Hillestad’s** brother-in-law and **Nancy Curry’s** co-worker; for **Kip Barker’s** nephew, healing from a motorcycle accident; for the healing of friends of **Karen Kandik** and **Shirley Draine**; in joy for **Sarah Mason’s** brother who is beginning his process of ordination; for all our homebound members, including **Jane Anderson** and **Lois Swenson**

Grande Sale

Grande Sale

Volunteers needed to donate, sort, carry, label, sell . . . and *smile* during Grande Sale week

We kick off our annual Grande Sale, the “garage sale to end all garage sales,” this weekend, as we begin the set up for the sale next weekend.

The Grande Sale has long been a ministry to the Whittier Neighborhood and the proceeds go to fund mission projects that will make a difference in the lives of people both here in Minneapolis and around the world.

Members of the Spirit of St. Stephen’s Catholic Community

are joining us this year in collecting items, setting up and selling.

The hours of the sale are as follows:

- Thursday August 20: Noon to 7 pm
- Friday, August 21: Noon to 7 pm (Half Price Day)
- Saturday, August 22: 9 am-1 pm (\$1/bag Day)

Unlike past years, we do not have space or people to store and

sort through items in the weeks before the sale. We have one week only this year to get everything ready. That’s why Women’s Ministries is hoping that an “all hands on deck” spirit will bring out a big turnout on Sunday, Aug. 16 to get the set up underway.

Volunteers are also needed on Monday through Wednesday, Aug. 17-19, to continue with the set up, and on the sale days (see above).

School is just around the corner . . . at FCC

After a hiatus, a new children’s Sunday School program will be coming this fall.

Deb Murphy will be teaching a class where kids will learn about faith through the arts.

The class will begin on Rally Sunday, September 13.

If you have a child under the age of 12 who is interested, please contact the church by phone at 612-870-1868 or contact Associate Pastor Dennis Sanders at:

associatepastor@fccminneapolis.org

Thanks!



Aidan Whitaker enjoyed his hotdog, while others found good things to eat at the church picnic on Sunday, August 9.

School Supplies Still Needed

There are still two more Sundays to take part in the School Tools Drive to benefit Whittier Park Elementary. You can drop off donated items either in the baskets near the lounge or in the narthex.

We are looking for the following items: Scissors – Crayons - Watercolor markers – Glue - Construction paper - Index cards (any color) - Back Packs –3 ring binders – Pencils – Rulers - Notebook Paper

Bi-Weekly Calendar

Summer Sundays at First Christian Church

Prayer Circle 9 am (Library)
Worship at 9:30 am
 Fellowship Hour, 10:45 am
 Bible Study, 11:00 am

This Week at FCC

Sunday, Aug. 16
Food Pantry Sunday
 Elders Meeting 11 am
Grande Sale set up 11 – 4

Monday – Wednesday
Grande Sale Set up

Monday, Aug. 17
 AA 8pm

Tuesday, Aug. 18
 FCC Board Meeting 7 pm

Thurs. – Sat, Aug, 20-22
Grande Sale

Friday, Aug. 21
 -Article deadline for next Courier

Next Week at FCC

Sunday, Aug. 23
 Bible Study 11 am

Monday, Aug. 24
 AA 8pm

Wednesday, Aug. 26
 Lectionary Bible Study 6 pm

Thursday, Aug. 27
 Handcrafters 9 am

Sat. Aug. 29
School for Congregational Leaders,
West Des Moines, Iowa

Reflections on the Word

Lectionary texts for Aug. 23

“take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day...stand firm.”

--*Ephesians 6:13*

We are called to stand against evil and the devil, dressing up as knights to fight against what strives to bring down the whole of God’s creation. Evil does exist. But instead of battenning down the spiritual hatches and strapping on armor, what positive imagery can you think of to meet evil with love, and heap burning coals on the devil’s head (see Romans 12)?

Gracious God, protect us from evil and send your love to us and through us, to nourish us and all of your creation with your deep goodness. 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
Martha Harris, Courier Editor
 Telephone: 612.870.1868
 Prayer Phone: 612.870.0984
 Website: fccminneapolis.org
 E-mail: fcc-mpls@qwest.net
 Fax: 612.870.1860

Christian Courier is published bi-weekly. Send items and ideas to the FCC church office or to Martha Harris: harrismartha@mac.com by **Fri . Aug. 21** for next issue.

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
OF MINNEAPOLIS
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
2201 1st Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55404**

Address Service Requested