



# Christian Courier

First Christian Church of Minneapolis (Disciples of Christ)

February 14, 2009

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## Offering Gives us Opportunity to Share Treasures

Ice storms in Kentucky—war in Gaza—floods in Iowa—refugees fleeing Darfur: the headlines are sometimes relentless. Hurricanes, earthquakes, cyclones, and tsunamis smash communities to bits. Wars and ethnic conflicts shatter the very foundations of life, shoving people out of their homes and transforming them into frightened refugees. Persistent hunger, drought, poverty, lack of education, and ill health shrivel the life and dry the spirit, leaving individuals to crumble from the inside out.

Through Week of Compassion, we gently, persistently, and strongly care for God's treasures. By sharing some of our earthly treasure — our money, our time, our energy — decisive aid can be sent when disaster strikes. Refugees receive help in the long term as they rebuild their lives.

We help people help themselves through education, health care, tools,

seeds, and resources to improve community infrastructure. And the sharing is mutual. When we care for people, we can be transformed by experiencing the presence of God. Seeing what others have lost, we are reminded what matters most in life.

First Timothy 6:18-19a exhorts us “to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up . . . the treasure of a good foundation for the future.” Our treasure is doing God's will, loving God, and loving God's treasured people, so we all “may take hold of the life that really is life” (1 Timothy 6:19b). Jesus said, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21). May you find your treasure, and your heart, by sharing resources and changing lives with a generous gift to Week of Compassion.

Offerings to Week of Compassion will be received this Sunday, Feb. 15, and next Sunday, Feb. 22.

*Adapted from Week of Compassion materials*

### Two Event Reminders

**Refugee Speaker:** Liberian journalist Semantics King will be speaking about refugee issues at the FCC forum on Feb. 15. The Outreach Committee is sponsoring this noontime event.

**Reservations due:** Monday, Feb. 16 is the last day to make reservations for FCC's annual Anniversary Celebration. Call the church office (612-870-1868) to reserve your spot at the Feb. 22 dinner.

## A Look at the Brite Side

# Ecumenical Partnering Times Three



Assuming the Board approves in their meeting on February 17<sup>th</sup>, First Christian Church will become a very busy place on Sundays and some other times.

We have received a formal request from the Spirit of St. Stephen's Community to hold their worship at FCC on Sunday mornings.

After meeting with Tiempo Nuevo and St. Stephen's last week, it was decided that, as an experiment, Spirit of St. Stephen's would hold their worship at 9:00 a.m., and Tiempo Nuevo would move back their service to 10:45 a.m., all of it beginning on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

While worship at our end of the building will not be majorly affected, things like parking, access, special dinners, and people in the hallways will require of us an extra dose of Christian hospitality and patience on our parts and theirs for all of this to work.

Why do this? Well, first of all, there was a need and a ministry: Spirit of St. Stephen's had to vacate their present building by the end of February, and needed a place to land.

Secondly, we have been in regular discussions with them regarding cooperation and partnership, just as we have with Tiempo Nuevo, and part of those discussions was regarding coming into our building anyway; their necessity is turning discussion into fact.

A third reason is that one of the possibilities for FCC's future, as dreamed about by some, is for FCC to move in the direction of ecumenical ministry – partnering with other congregations even, eventually, to the point of putting together an ecumenically based building when the time comes to move.

My own sense of things, though, brings about another reason: This seems to be an opportunity the Holy Spirit is bringing to us to see if we can practice ecumenical community in a real way. Can all three communities do so? Time will tell, but it'll be a worthwhile experience in which to engage, just to see.

I'd like to see YOU on Sunday!

Bob

### *20s & 30s get together on Feb. 28*

Chinese food is on the menu, and talk, lots of talk, is the program for our first 20s and 30s get-together on Feb. 28.

We'll gather at the church at 5:00. See you there!

### *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 comfort to **Phil Kinney** and his family in the loss of Phil's sister; for **Enid Griffin** as she continues her recovery; in joy with **Valerie and Earl Dunham** at the birth of their new grandson, **Reese Richard**, whose parents are **Bruce and Holly Dunham**; for swift healing to **Laura Anderson** who suffered a fall and broken tailbone; for **Susan Morgan** in a time of transitions both joyful and challenging; and for **all people in our community** who face many kinds of difficulties because of the economic crisis.

## Courier Delivery to Change to First Class Mail, E-mail

First-class mail and e-mail will soon be the primary ways for sending out FCC's newsletter, the



*Christian Courier*, to church members and friends.

First class mailings

will arrive more quickly and reliably than the bulk mail delivery that the church has been using. In addition, fewer copies of the newsletter will need be printed, since bulk mail required 200 copies, although the actual mailing list for the church is closer to 150 addresses.

Congregation members with e-mail addresses should let the church office know if they wish to continue receiving copies by way of U.S. mail as well as e-mail copies of the newsletter.

Archives of the newsletters are available on the church website ([fccminneapolis.org](http://fccminneapolis.org))

The estimated cost of color copies sent by first class mail is \$35 per address, per year. These costs are covered in the church's administrative budget, but voluntary contributions to cover printing and mailing costs are welcome.

## 2009 Directories Out Soon

Planning has begun for the 2009 edition of the FCC membership directory.

Please notify the church office of updates to your mailing addresses and telephone numbers. Also, if you have an e-mail address that you wish included in the new FCC directory, send an e-mail to the church office at [fcc-mpls@qwest.net](mailto:fcc-mpls@qwest.net).

Your e-mail address will become important as FCC moves toward more electronic communication in the future.

## Feb. 22 Banquet Set and Looking for Volunteers



Bobbie Hall (left) and Virginia Lowy (right) are just two of the honorees who will be recognized at the Anniversary Banquet on Feb. 22. Bobbie joined FCC in 1959, while Virginia joined just last year.

Other "new" 50 year members plus new members from the past year will also be honored at the dinner, scheduled for noon.

**Volunteers are needed** to set up tables on Sat. Feb. 21 at 10 a.m. and to clean up on Sunday. Please call Mary Hurlocker at 651-777-6622 if you are able to help with either task.

## Two Notes of Thanks . . .

It's nice to know that one has been missed! During my recent confinement with a broken wrist and being unable to drive, I found out how much my Church Family means to me. I thank all of you for your prayers, notes, phone calls and concern shown to me. I'm very grateful for your words of encouragement since returning to Church. Your friendship is truly a gift from God,

Shirley Draine

## Chefs for the Homeless—WELL DONE!

On behalf of the men of the St. Stephen's Homeless Shelter—well done! And thank you to the following chefs and their assistants: Barb and Dean Creighton, Bobbie Hall and family, Val and Earl Dunham, Mike and Janice Brady with Kathy Merkel, David Grant, Sandy Morgan, Pat Dunlop, and Spirit of Joy Christian Church.

Serving these men is a part of our ministry to our neighbors and to those in need.

If you wish to support this ministry, contact the Westphals @ (612) 926-8995 or the church office. This evening meal is provided by our church on the third Saturday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Homeless Shelter.

Volunteers will be greatly appreciated by the men (and also by the Westphals).

A big thank you, from Karen and Warren Westphal

## Bi-Weekly Calendar

### Sundays at First Christian Church

**Worship** at 10:30 a.m.  
Church School Classes, 9:15 a.m.  
Fellowship Hour, 11:30 a.m.

#### This Week at FCC

##### Sunday, Feb. 15

**Food Pantry Sunday**  
Refugee Forum 12 n

##### Tuesday, Feb. 17

Retired Teacher's Luncheon  
Board Meeting 7 pm

##### Wednesday, Feb. 18

Nikkei 9:00 am  
Bell Choir 6:30 pm  
Chancel Choir 7:45 pm

##### Friday, Feb. 20

Article deadline for next Courier  
Christian League Luncheon

##### Saturday, Feb. 21

Men's Group 9 am  
Laura Lynn, Naomi Circle 9 am (Lounge)

#### Next Week at FCC

##### Sunday, Feb. 22

**"Fat Sunday" service** 10:30 am  
Anniversary Dinner 12 n

##### Monday, Feb. 23

Book Group at Westphals 7 pm

##### Wednesday, Feb. 25

**Ash Wednesday** 7 pm  
with Spirit of St. Stephens  
Fellowship Hall  
Bell Choir 6:30 pm  
Chancel Choir 7:45 pm

##### Saturday, Feb. 28

Men's Group 9 am  
20s & 30s Dinner 5 pm

## Reflections on the Word

*From Feb. 22 lectionary texts  
for Transfiguration Sunday*

*2 Kings 2: 9:* When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit."

*Reflection:* Elisha's bold request made moments before Elijah ascends to heaven in a whirlwind reminds us that transformation can take place while we are still here with our feet on the ground if we will just ask for God's help.

*Prayer:* Sustaining God, Grant us a double share of your loving spirit. Amen.

*"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

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