



Christian Courier

First Christian Church of Minneapolis (Disciples of Christ)

April 11, 2009

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* [New Posts on Bob's Blog](#)

* [Watkins Inaugural Sermon Transcript](#)

* [Newsletter Archives](#)

HOLY WEEK AT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Come pray and worship, party and celebrate with us as we move towards Easter at FCC!

JOIN US in our prayer vigil from 3 p.m. Thursday to 3 p.m. Friday.

JOIN US for the Maundy Thursday Pastor's Soup Supper at 5:30 on Thursday.

JOIN US for Maundy Thursday Worship at 6:30 on Thursday, April 9.

JOIN US for Good Friday worship at 7:00 on Friday, April 10.

JOIN US for a continental potluck breakfast on Easter Sunday morning, at 9:00.

JOIN US for Easter Sunday worship at 10:30 a.m.

And most importantly:

JOIN US as we share in the resurrection of Jesus in our lives!!!

It was a Good Friday . . .

I wasn't really thirsty.

Did it matter if I was?

I drank my cup

and now I am finished

also



Crucified criminals
together till we die
left, right, and middle



Three living
corpses hanging
three trees
three heads
skulls to be

--C. E. Wogaman, 2006

A Look at the Brite Side



How we proclaim Christ is partially a matter of what culture we happen to find ourselves in, and there is a constant interaction between the faith and

the culture. A lot of Christian tradition over the centuries has borrowed from pagan traditions and observances; the word Easter, for example, is an old-English adaptation of the name Eostre, who was an Anglo-Saxon pagan goddess whose festival was celebrated during the month of April. Our service of communion is an adaptation, done by Jesus, of the Jewish Passover meal. The date for Christmas was borrowed from a high holy day of the Mithra cult, which died out in the 6th century.

To quote the evangelist Tom Skinner, who grew up in NYC street gangs before turning his life around in faith: “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. But that does not mean that the way we talk about Jesus has to be the same yesterday, today, and forever.” Using 17th century theology, 18th century music, 19th century architecture, and 20th century communication techniques might not get the job done in the 21st century. (I paraphrased Skinner in the last sentence.)

What is the Good News that we are supposed to share in this culture, the culture of the Twin Cities at this time of the 21st Century? What sort of resurrection realities are we called to proclaim?

How is Easter Alive in You?

The question “Unbinding the Gospel” asks us to define is: What is our own faith story? What is the impact of Jesus in our lives? Working at this is the central matter for all of us as we move into this resurrection season, both in terms of Easter and the life and ministry of First Christian Church. How is Easter alive in you? In me? In our community?

Christ is Risen!! Alleluia! And I’d like to see YOU Sunday!

Bob



ANYBODY UP FOR THE DoC GENERAL ASSEMBLY?? INDIANAPOLIS JULY 29 – AUGUST 2

The 2009 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana, from Wednesday, July 29 to Sunday, August 2. The theme, “For the Healing of the Nations” uplifts the central reconciling ministries of the church in proclaiming Christ as the source of unity and wholeness in the world.

Registration and housing are available online at www.disciples.org/ga. Patty Case, General Assembly coordinator, is promoting the idea of getting a tithe of people from each congregation to attend. Are there seven to ten people at FCC Minneapolis interested in attending the Assembly? Please let the church office know.

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 the Ronnei family in their loss of Charlotte’s daughter, Micki; Continued prayers for Katie Klevesahl, close friend of Laura Arradondo, still fighting the effects of quadruple bypass surgery and job loss. Prayers for several who are wrestling with unemployment. Joy shared with Pastor Bob Brite for his daughter Katie’s acceptance into Princeton University, and prayers for an internship interview with the Nixon Library for daughter Corrie. Joys and support for Kevin Berkey, who was baptized on the last Sunday in March. Prayers for the world economy and for our military around the world. Prayers for Belinda Flanagan’s, and Ben and Elaine Tucker’s, extended families who are dealing with various issues.

Please Send in your E-mail & *Courier* Preferences!

First-class mail and e-mail are now the primary ways in which First Christian Church sends its newsletter, the *Christian Courier*, to church members and friends.



Currently, the FCC office has received nearly 100 e-mail addresses from friends and members of First Christian Church.

Sending in your e-mail address, and those of your loved ones who may also wish to receive the *Courier*, will save FCC both money and natural resources.

Voluntary contributions to cover printing and mailing costs are welcome, but nobody will be denied the opportunity to receive a paper copy of the *Courier* based on the ability to pay.

Congregational Forum April 19: Taking the Chairs off the Table?

There will be a congregational forum following worship on Sunday, April 19, for the purpose of gathering final congregational input on the subject of changing the seating in the sanctuary from pews to chairs. Congregational members are encouraged to stick around after worship on the 19th to take part in what should be about a 30 minute forum, before the Board decides the question at their meeting on the 21st.

2009 Directories Out Soon

Work is well under way 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.

Your e-mail address will become important as FCC moves toward more electronic communication in the future. Thanks for your help with this important work of community communication!

DID YOU KNOW??

Disciples have had quite a few famous and infamous people in American culture. We've contributed three American Presidents: James Garfield, who was president of Disciples Hiram College, Lyndon Johnson, who taught Sunday School at National City Christian Church, and Ronald Reagan, who attended the Disciple Eureka College. Other notable Disciples include John Wooden, winning coach of the UCLA Bruins, Garfield Todd, early prime minister of Zimbabwe, and Gideon Yu, co-founder of YouTube and recent CFO of Facebook. On the infamous side, include the axe-wielding Carrie Nation, a Disciples pastor's spouse, John Dillinger, burlesque dancer Sally Rand, and Jim Jones of Jonestown, Guyana infamy.

Donations of Clothing and School Supplies Requested

A co-worker of mine is going on a mission trip to Guatemala with his church near the end of April. They are hoping to take clothing (used or new) for children aged 10 and under with them, as well as school supplies. If anyone has any clothing or school supplies they would like to donate, please call me and I'll make arrangements to get the items to Dave and his church.

Thanks!

Deb Murphy
612-807-2287

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.

Holy Week at FCC

Thursday, April 9
Prayer Chain begins 3 pm
Soup Supper 5:30 pm
Maundy Thursday service 6:30 pm

Friday, April 10
GOOD FRIDAY
Office closes at noon
Prayer Chain ends at 3pm
Good Friday Prayer Service 7 pm

Sat. April 11
Men's Group 9 am
Unbinding Gospel group 10:30 am

Sunday, April 12
EASTER SUNDAY
Festival Worship Service, 10:30 am

Highlights for April at FCC (excluding regular events)

Tuesday, April 14
Property Committee 7 pm
Worship Committee 7 pm

Wednesday, April 15
Finance Committee 5:30pm

Thursday, April 16
Carter Circle @ Ann Wolverton's 7 pm

Saturday, April 18
Laura Lynn/Naomi Circle 9 am

Monday, April 20
Book Group at the Westphals 7 pm

Tuesday, April 21
Mpls. Retired Teachers 9am
FCC BOARD MEETING 7pm

Reflections on the Word

From the April 12th Gospel lesson, Easter Sunday

Mark 16:8: So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Reflection: Christ's rising from the dead shocked his disciples and changed their lives, and the life of the world. May their experience of holy fear, which energizes our walk of faith, give you inspiration now and each day.

Prayer: Amazing God, grant us always to see fear in the light of Christ's glorious resurrection, for we are his and safe in your hands, now and forever. Amen.

"A Thoughtful Church in the Heart of the City"

Ministry Team

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