



Christian Courier

First Christian Church of Minneapolis (Disciples of Christ)

October 24, 2009

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On the Web

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fccminneapolis.org

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Insights from *Unbinding Your Heart* study

Faith sharing is first step in evangelism journey

Recently, members of one of the *Unbinding Your Heart* study/prayer groups were discussing their journal reflections about Genesis 12, which tells the story of how Sarah and Abraham were called by God to leave their old home and start a journey.

Mary Lou Cain, a member of the study group, shared her insight about this passage: “What this passage says to me is the way to be what you’re going to be is to leave what you know.”

“The way to be what you’re going to be is to leave what you know.”

Her statement sums up the challenge facing First Christian Church. In the coming years, we have to leave a building that we know. More importantly, we may have to leave some of the “ways of being church” that we know in order to “be where we want to be” in meeting the needs of the spiritual seekers who frequently join us in Sunday morning worship or in our daily lives.

Learning to share our faith with others is one step on the journey to

something new. A main purpose of the *Unbinding* small groups is to give people a place to talk about faith and to pray together.

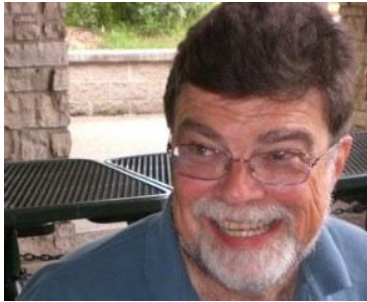
In Chapter One of *Unbinding Your Heart*, author Martha Grace Reese outlines the importance of mainline churches embracing evangelism, which she defines as “anything you do to help another person move closer to a relationship with God, or into Christian community.” (p. 13) As Reese says, the “pitcher” of our faith life can be filled up by growing faith, by thinking about other people, by encouraging each other to learn how to talk about our faith, by talking about what we believe.” (p. 24)

Unbinding groups are meeting on Sundays, Wednesdays and Saturdays (see calendar on the back page of this newsletter for times). New participants or part-time participants are welcome.

THE PRAYER WALL IS UP

Outside of the north wall of the sanctuary, a prayer wall has been set up in the hallway for use during this *Unbinding Your Heart* time, following the theme of the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem. In both the Wailing Wall and at FCC, you have the opportunity to leave prayer concerns for people of the community, and especially our UnBinding Prayer Team, to pray over. Please look at and use this wall, and pray with others over the concerns listed.

A Look at the Brite Side



Pastor Bob Brite

Ah, the struggles and challenges of life! My favorite youngest daughter Katie is dealing with the tragedy of some friends dying and being severely injured in an Illinois car crash over the weekend (on top of the adjustments to college life). My favorite eldest daughter Corrie is having to adjust to somewhat lowered expectations due to a somewhat lower second-time-around LSAT score than she was hoping for. My own expectations of life and living, somewhat tied into theirs, has me on this day muttering “Bummer” under my breath while (as I said in my sermon on Sunday) God has been

whispering in the still, small place of my soul to continue practicing patience, and working what I’m working on. Such involves losing weight, getting out with people beyond the friendly confines of FCC more, working with folks here at FCC on “Pieces of the Future” and, most importantly, praying more in the context of this Unbinding Your Heart thingie. (I’ve told you before, I love the word “thingie” – it has so many uses!)

One of the things I’m trying to do this week is to pray the neighborhood. I’m walking around about a four block area, praying for the folks in the apartment buildings, businesses, and agencies, praying that their souls might be open to the love of God. One of the “front burner” issues that Dennis and I are wrestling with (and which will come before the Board when it meets this week) is the starting of an alternative worship service to see if we can attract some-to-many

of the 20- and 30-somethings in this neighborhood to our community. I’m praying for the souls of the neighborhood to be open to that, among other things.

I have to work at prayer – listening to the promptings of the Spirit in a way that seems to be faithful. Sometimes it feels like stumbling in the dark through a room full of rocking chairs; you know there’s movement, but you’re not sure where the movement is coming from or where you are to go. While I know that the ministry and people of FCC are progressing towards some decisions, we do not yet know what those decisions will be. That is occasioning a lot of reflection and prayer.

Are you praying, my brothers and sisters?? I hope you are. (By the way, check out our prayer wall outside the sanctuary; you can leave prayer concerns there!)

Grace and peace,
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 **Grace Couture**, now in hospice care; for **Katie Brite’s** friends involved in a tragic auto accident; for the continued improvement of **Todd and Mary Hall**; for **David Pyles** and his family; for **David Whitaker’s** grandmother as she moves into assisted living; for those leading the “Unbinding Your Heart” study and prayer; for the power of peace to be present in the midst of bombings and wars around the world, and the practice of civility in the controversies of our culture; for all those suffering the effects of H1N1 virus; for all our homebound members including **Stanley and Elaine Moe**, Amen.

Gettin' Dirty for Jesus: Mission Project Notes

I am starting a new column called "Gettin' Dirty for Jesus," where I will lift up Mission taking place in the life of First Christian Church.

For this first column, I wanted to thank people for donating to the CROP Walk. We raised close to \$650 to help combat hunger across the world. Part of the money will go to help a local charity that we have supported in the past, Groveland Foodshelf's Youth Program.

On October 24, a group of folks from First will go to Feed My Starving Children in Coon Rapids to make food packets that will be sent to feed hungry children around the world. First has gone to FMSC on several occasions and most who have gone have had great experiences. There are still a few spaces available to for the 9-11am shift. If you are interested, please contact me.

On November 14, we will go to Community Emergency Services located in the Phillips Neighborhood from 10am to 12:30 to help them stock their foodshelf. CES was started back in the 70s and is a multi-service agency helping people in the area with food and shelter. CES has had a history with First Christian primarily through the pastors, but First is not about just the pastors, it's about the entire faith community.

While we have supported CES financially this year, we also want to express our support by...yes, getting our hands dirty for Jesus. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Lounge.



Also, please remember that on the third Saturday of the month, First Christian is responsible for making meals at the St. Stephen's Shelter. It has been a wonderful experience for those who have taken part. If you want to take part of form a team, please see Warren Westphal or call the church office.

I am working at reconstituting the Outreach Committee in the wake of Kathy Hintz's departure. I am working primarily with the Deacons since biblically and historically, it was the deacons that provided for the "widow and the orphan." The Outreach Committee has long been a vital ministry of the church and one of its main responsibilities is setting our mission budget which is given to various ministries.

If there are three deacons that have a passion for justice and/or good money skills, please contact me. We would only meet a few times during the year.

That's all for now. Go and be Church.

Dennis Sanders
Associate Pastor
associatepastor@fccminneapolis.org

Updates from the Disciples News Network:

Relief for Samoa and other places struck by storms

Week of Compassion, the relief and development fund of the Christian Church (DoC), has responded to many emergencies in the last week. A destructive tsunami that washed over parts of the Samoan Islands, a typhoon that caused severe flooding in the Philippines, Vietnam and Cambodia, earthquakes that rattled Indonesia and flooding in the state of Georgia were among a spate of disasters that Week of Compassion was closely monitoring.

Thanksgiving Offering helps future leaders

Scores of students will benefit from your generous support of the 2009 Thanksgiving Offering. The Thanksgiving Offering, which will be received on Nov. 8 and Nov. 15, supports Disciples institutions of higher education. The offering will directly benefit 14 colleges and universities and seven seminaries, divinity houses, and theological foundations.

One of those future leaders of the church is Minkook Um, who said, "I am empowered to study for ministry. Your gifts to the Thanksgiving Offering make it possible for students like me to attend seminary." Some of the students come from Christian youth fellowships, while others have found their calling from regional church camps or careful guidance and nurturing from some dedicated adult mentor at their church.

November, 2009				Regular Worship Hours 9:15 Church School Classes 10:30 Worship 11:45 Fellowship Time in Lounge		
1 9 am Unbinding Groups Daylight Savings Time Ends	2 8 pm AA (FH)	3 Election Day Polling in Fellowship Hall	4 10 am, 6 pm Unbinding Groups 6:30 Bell Choir 7:45 Choir	5 9 am Handcrafters 7 pm Worship Committee	6	7 9 am- Men's Group 10:30 Unbinding Group
8 9 am Unbinding Groups Thanksgiving Offering	9 7 pm Carter Circle @ Bobbie Hall's 8 pm AA (FH)	10 7 pm- Property Committee	11 10 am, 6 pm Unbinding Groups 5:30 Finance Com 6:30 Bell Choir 7:45 Choir	12 9 am Handcrafters 7 pm Transition Team	13	14 9 am- Men's Group 10:30 Unbinding 10-12:30 Community Foodshelf workday 12-4 Whittier Alliance Green Fair
15 9 am Unbinding Groups Thanksgiving offering Food Pantry Sunday Elders' Meeting	16 7 pm Book Club at Westphals 8 pm AA (FH)	17 9 am Mpls Retired Teachers 7 pm FCC Board Meeting	18 10 am, 6 pm Unbinding Group 6:30 Bell Choir 7:45 Choir	19 9 am Handcrafters	20 6:30 pm Christian League dinner	21 9 am- Men's Group 10am Laura Lynn/ Naomi Circle 10:30 Unbinding Group 6 pm Dinner for St. Stephens shelter
22 9 am Unbinding Groups Thanksgiving Sunday 12 N. Church Dinner	23 8 pm AA (FH)	24	25 10 am, 6 pm Unbinding Groups NO CHOIR	26 THANKSGIVING DAY	27	28 9 am- Men's Group 10:30 Unbinding Group
29	30 7 pm Transition Team 8 pm AA (FH)			CR = small west wing classroom FH – Fellowship Hall		

	Elders	Worship Leader	Children's Talk	Bus Driver	Diaconate	Greeters
Nov. 1	Earl Dunham Valerie Dunham	Val Dunham	Dennis Sanders	Mike Morgan 612-926-9384	Team 2 Becky Whittaker	
Nov. 8	Valerie Dunham Earl Dunham	Mike Hesano	Jay Hillestad	Garry Hesser 612-721-4905	Team 2	
Nov. 15	Russ Griffin Martha Harris	Karen Kandki	Bob Brite	Mike Hesano 651-645-6758	Team 2	
Nov. 22	Garry Hesser Russ Griffin	Max Hurlocker	Pat Dunlop	Mike Morgan	Team 2	
Nov. 29	Arlene Hillestad Jay Hillestad	Dean Creighton	Elaine Tucker	Garry Hesser	Team 2	

FCC News in Brief: Concerts, Thanksgiving dinner, and more

James Barnett, our pianist and one of our section leaders, has put together a series of concerts under the heading of “**American Art Song Festival.**”

One of these concerts featured Laura Anderson at the MacPhail Center for Music on October 20, and the last of the concerts, featuring our alto Julia Engel, will be here at FCC on October 29. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. Please come for an enjoyable evening of art music!

Come help us celebrate Thanksgiving at First Christian Church! You are invited to a *potluck dinner* after worship in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, November 22. The meat, potatoes, bread, and beverage will be provided for \$5.00 per person or a maximum of \$15.00 per family. Everyone is asked to bring their favorite vegetable, salad, or dessert to share. For those unable to bring food, a contribution of \$8.00 per person is suggested. **Please make reservations** by marking your attendance sheet on Sunday, Nov. 8 or 15 or by calling the church office no later than Monday, Nov. 16. A nursery will be available by reservation only.

Share-the-Care is Saturday, Oct. 31. Work begins at 9 am with breakfast treats available.

Writers are still needed for the **Advent Devotional Booklet** being sponsored by the Worship Committee. Sign up in the Lounge.

Mark your calendars for the annual **Handcrafters Sale** coming up the first Sunday in December (Dec. 6th). Check the next Courier for more details.

Amahl and the Night Visitors will be presented Friday, Dec. 18.

A Correction: **Ali Hesano** recently turned 19! We incorrectly made her a year younger in the last Courier. Sorry, Ali!

Mosaic by Milo Shoop finds its way back home



The “new” mosaic portrait of FCC hanging in the Fireplace Room reaches back many years in FCC’s history.

Lucille Donohoo commissioned artist Milo Shoop to create the artwork as a birthday present for her husband Paul Donohoo. Both Milo and Paul were leaders in the Portland Avenue Christian Church, and were instrumental in the drive to build a new church called First Christian at 2201 First Avenue.

According to Marcia Donohoo Wallace, daughter of Paul and Lucille, the mosaic was in the Donohoo family for many years. Pat Shoop, daughter-in-law of Milo, recently visited Paul’s other daughter Ginny, and saw the mosaic hanging in her home. The two decided that the artwork really belonged at First Christian, so Pat brought it to the church and presented it to Pastor Brite.

Bi-Weekly Calendar

Sunday Worship at 10:30 am

Before Worship (9:15 am):

Art of the Covenant Class	Hearthstone Class
Bible Study Class	Prayer Circle

After worship: Fellowship Hour 11:45 am

This Week at FCC

Sunday, Oct. 25

Unbinding Study Groups 9:15 am

Wednesday, Oct. 28

Unbinding Study	10 am, 6 pm
Bell Choir	6:30 pm
Chancel Choir	7:45 pm

Thursday, Oct. 29

Handcrafters	9:00 am
Barnett/Engle recital	7:30 pm

Friday, Oct. 30

Items for next Courier due

Saturday, Oct. 31

Share-the-Care 9 am

Next Week at FCC

Sunday, Nov. 1

Unbinding Study Groups 9:15 am

Daylight Savings Time Begins

Tuesday, Nov. 3

Election Day Polling in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, Nov. 4

Unbinding Study	10 am, 6 pm
Bell Choir	6:30 pm
Chancel Choir	7:45 pm

Thursday, Nov. 5

Handcrafters	9:00 am
Worship Committee	7:00 pm

Sat. Nov. 7

Men's Group	9 am
Unbinding Study	10:30 am

Reflections on the Word

“Jesus said to her, ‘I am he, the one who is speaking to you.’”

-John 4:26

This is perhaps the most astonishing moment of this encounter: The woman actually meets the long-awaited Messiah. Jesus may seem distant, intellectualized, “up there somewhere” or “long gone.” Take this moment of encounter into your imaginative soul, and hear these words as though Jesus is speaking to you in the present moment.

Present God, grant us moments of clear encounter with the living Jesus, our life and our peace. Amen.

--Chris Wogaman

*A Thoughtful Church in the
Heart of the City*

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