

The CHRISTIAN





FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Visitor

FCC's Future Story to be presented on January 22!

On Sunday, January 22, our worship service will include the presentation and reception of FCC's long awaited Future Story! The Introduction (below) summarizes the events, processes, and learnings that led us to this exciting point in our congregation's history. Following the 10:00 am worship hour, you are invited to the Chapel Gathering Space where you will have the opportunity to hear about the creative, careful, prayerful, and collaborative process behind the Future Story.

Background and Introduction:

Over the past year and at the board's initiative, First Christian Church has undergone a self-assessment process designed to help us bring into focus a vision for where God is calling us. Rick Morse of Hope Partnership served as consultant. The process, which we named *Strength for Today, Hope for Tomorrow* included:

- An in-depth assessment of our building
- Six appreciative inquiry listening sessions
- Two retreats
- Multiple interviews with community leaders to hear about needs outside our doors

Over 100 people participated in one or more aspects of the process.

From the process, we learned that there is rich opportunity for growth in our spiritual lives and in our engagement with our community. **We have everything that we need to be effective in ministry:** a great staff, good facilities, strong financial resources, a wonderful and faithful congregation, a clear sense of purpose, and our eyes and ears trained on God.

We also learned of some things that will require attention.

- The community around us is changing and as a church we need to be adaptable.
- Parking is an issue that needs to be assertively addressed.
- While weekly worship attendance has declined over the past ten years, attendance patterns among active members have also changed.
- During the past ten years, the congregation has reported decline in General Fund income. However, thanks to solid financial support by participants, FCC is not showing severe economic strain at this time.

(Continued on page 3)

PASTOR'S PEN

One Hundred Years Ago

One hundred years ago almost to the day, our church was, quite literally, the “talk of the town.” You see, on New Year’s Eve 1916, a great crowd gathered at Kirkwood and Washington and watched helplessly as the church building burned to the ground. Ashes and rubble were all that was left of the beloved red brick structure that had anchored the corner for many years.

As the story is goes, on January 1, 1917, the leaders of the congregation met and voted to rebuild in order to become a place of “broader vision and better dreams.” The cornerstone, which remains today, reflects that momentous decision. The next several years, however, were not easy. As a matter of fact, they were disorganized, even chaotic years: lack of funds and building materials, severe loss of membership, multiple construction delays, conflict-born changes in pastoral leadership. With only the community rooms finished by early spring 1919, the weary congregation moved in. The first classes were held in the sanctuary that still had no pews.

Although it took a few years to “stabilize” after the life-altering fire, the reality that we are still here—and in the same building—witnesses to the fact that we hail from a resilient, visionary, and adaptable people with a rock-solid faith that “with God all things are possible.” (Matthew 19: 26).

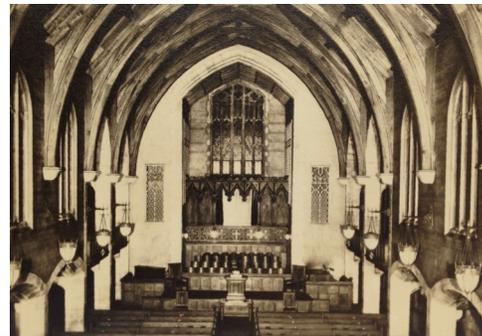
Over the years, as we have sought to adapt in order to remain faithful to our sense of God’s purpose for FCC, we have made multiple creative renovations to almost every space in our building. I walk through our grand facility, and I can’t help but be struck with a sense of awe and gratitude, not just for our “physical plant,” but for the gifts—born of faith—that have made for vital and relevant ministry from this place. God’s presence and power is palpable here, and I give thanks!

See you Sunday!

Pastor Helen

P.S. Please read carefully the important article on page one (Future Story) and make it a priority to be in worship on January 22, when it will be presented.

Stories and quotes are from the book “To Whom Much is Given, The History of First Christian Church,” written by Dorothy Schrodt and published in FCC’s Sesquicentennial Year (1976).



A view of our sanctuary following early renovation (circa 1930)

(Future Story article continued from front page)

- Our church has a great facility that is underutilized by both the congregation and the community; a large percentage of the building is rarely used during the day Monday through Saturday.
- Our building is in a constant state of requiring repair and update. With current income levels and current building needs, maintaining the building is not sustainable. Changes will be required to allow us to remain in our current facility.

At the closing retreat, participants were asked to take our learnings and assimilate them into a “future story” about FCC five years from today.

Four people (plus Pastor Helen) volunteered to receive the varied and imaginative stories and were tasked with weaving together a “FCC Future Story” that will help us to begin thinking about new possibilities. This small team has been meeting regularly since last May. A number of meetings included talking with outside experts (i.e. developers, social service providers, denominational leaders, professional consultants, etc.) who offered their experience, expertise, and guidance.

While the story you will hear is ambitious, our God is ambitious. The story captures a sense of what is possible when FCC is at its best: Indeed, as we proclaimed at the retreat, “FCC exists to share Christ’s inclusive love through serving, welcoming, learning and offering spiritual connection.”

The story you will hear on January 22 is a story of vision and possibility. While its characters and dialogue are fictional, the vision behind it is very real. As you listen, you will be encouraged to recognize yourself in the story and can picture what we might look like 5 years from now.

Future Story Team Members: Terry Daugherty, Amy Hoover, Craig Paiement, Betsy Watson (plus Pastor Helen).



Shared Dreams

Fourth Annual Interfaith Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Commemoration and Celebration

Sunday, January 8, 4-5 pm

Reception follows

St. Mark’s United Methodist Church

100 State Road 46 Bypass

This year, First Christian Church is one of the sponsors of the fourth annual interfaith Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration. During the service, which will include an interactive art project for children, representatives from many communities of faith will name and offer their dreams for this community and the world. If you would like to help shape the wording of the “dream” that FCC will offer, please see Pastor Helen.



An "Official" Welcome!

In a spirit-filled moment of grace, Jennifer Moore reaffirmed her faith in Jesus Christ and was baptized by Pastor Helen in a small ceremony on December 20, 2016. On behalf of the congregation, Connie Daugherty and Jennifer Fettchenhauer witnessed this act of baptism as "an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace." Many of you already know Jennifer as one who is deeply appreciative of this congregation and its ministries of outreach, worship, and service. She has been worshipping with us for a little over a year. Please send cards of welcome and encouragement to Jennifer at 1038 N. Summit Street, Bloomington, IN, 47404.



We are so very fortunate to have the opportunity to serve the FCC community! Your love and support of the church staff is overwhelming and much appreciated. Your support allows us to explore new ideas that create opportunities for spiritual growth and renewal here at FCC and throughout the community and our world.

Thank you for supporting us, for giving us this wonderful opportunity to serve.

Thank you also for your generous gifts.

Your Staff

Andi Connie Eve Gabby Helen Jan
Jennifer John Mark Lily Nicole

In Our Prayers

Please keep **Jerry Spore** in your prayers as he mourns the unexpected and sudden death of his son, Dan. Cards and notes may be sent to Jerry at 4499 E. Janet Drive, 47401.

Also, hold in your prayers **Patricia Goodall** (married to Scott), whose mother Jeanette Wilson passed away December 22. The Goodall's address is 2019 S. Ramsey Dr., 47401.

In addition, two other FCC members have recently passed away. **Jan Deckard** died on December 22. Services were on December 28. **Shirley Pace** passed away on Sunday, January 1. Services will be on Saturday in Plainfield. Unfortunately, we do not have contact information for Jan or Shirley.



Thank you to the church staff for the lovely flowers, and to everyone who supported me with prayer, cards, hugs, and kind words upon the death of my father. I truly appreciate the love and support of my FCC family. --Eve Schultes-Ridge

Keeping Christmas in Ordinary Time

By Connie Myers

The decorations are coming down this Sunday after worship, and Christmas will officially be over. Packing up the ribbons and trees always leaves me feeling a little down. Now, life goes back to normal...short days, long nights, and no colorful lights to cheer things up. Indeed, the stretch of Sundays between now and Ash Wednesday is often called “ordinary time.” But to Christians who have once again borne witness to the birth of Christ into a desperate and needy world, how ordinary can it be?

Ordinary Time is a time for growth and maturation, a time in which the mystery of Christ is called to penetrate ever more deeply into history until all things are finally caught up in Christ.

This is the time of conversion. This is living the life of Christ.¹

Not so ordinary after all.

It’s true that we do special things as a church during Advent and Christmas to help us live out the season’s meaning. It is also true that those same types of things happen all through the year, without much fanfare or celebration.

At our MCUM family shopping event, 32 people helped shop and wrap gifts for two families (four parents and four kids), and we certainly had fun doing it. But more people brought canned food and household supplies each week of December for the children to lay at the manger. And even more people bring those supplies all through the year, to keep the shelves at MCUM stocked.

Eleven hearty souls braved cold weather to share carols with eight FCC members who don’t get out much, especially during the winter. But many more people regularly send cards or make phone calls or visits, regardless of the calendar.

At our 5:30 Christmas Eve service, twenty children recreated the traditional nativity scene on the Chancel. But every day—in the ways we live and love, provide food and shelter, speak truth and bear witness to grace—all of us are recreating the Body of Christ.

That’s how we keep Christmas in Ordinary Time. No bells or whistles (or wreaths) required.

¹ from the website of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/ordinary-time.cfm>)

CHOIRS NEED YOU! YOU NEED CHOIRS!

Now is the time to make that New Year's Resolution to join one of the choirs
at First Christian Church.

Rehearsals begin again Thursday, January 12th

Handbell Choir – Thursdays 5:30-6:15

Age Requirement: High School to age 100.

Skill Requirement: Be able to count to 4 (or sometimes 6). Some music reading ability helpful but not necessary. A jovial cooperative spirit.

Commitment Requirement: 45 minutes of good willed camaraderie each week to do your part! Play in church service once every 6 weeks or so!

Personal Benefit: Your music reading skills will improve. You will become a significant part of music making instead of a passive listener - even if you never thought you could be a contributing musician. You will be contributing to the worship experience of the congregation. You get to be led by an internationally acclaimed organist who is also fun. You will enjoy the camaraderie!

Sanctuary Choir – Thursdays 6:15-7:45

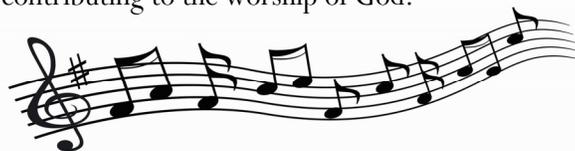
Age Requirement: High School to *no one's asking*.

Skill Requirement: Be able to match a pitch. Be able to read words. Be able to count to 4 (or sometimes 6 or more). Willingness to work on your vocal skill with lots of expert help. Simple audition to determine your voice part. A jovial spirit of camaraderie. A desire to contribute to the worship experience of the congregation.

Commitment Requirement: Ability to cheerfully attend rehearsals on time each week.

Willingness to participate in worship most Sundays. Responsibility to take music home when necessary to review what happened in rehearsal for a few minutes each week.

Personal Benefit: According to research, singing in choirs is one of the healthiest guarantees to longevity and clarity of thought and well-being. An improvement of your musical ability in a non-threatening setting. The opportunity to share with others the experience of the encounter with great music. Proving your elementary music teacher or relative wrong when they said you couldn't sing. Becoming a part of the total worship experience on Sunday mornings. Knowing your music has made a difference contributing to the worship of God.



**GAME OF TONES: AN APPRECIATION OF THE CHOIR
PART 3: THE TENORS**

Do you know who is singing in devoted service to provide music for worship each week? What do you think you know about them? This week we're featuring the high flying men who boldly go where few men have sung before.

Play the matching game by filling in the blanks!

The Tenors	Years singing in a choir	Years singing	Occupation	Hobbies	Interests and cool things
1. Carter Adams	1 ½	1 ½			
2. Terrence Chin-Loy	Around 20 years	First year			
3. Joe Lee	7?	7?			
4. Mark Knowles	8	4			

CAN YOU MATCH TO THE SINGER? (ANSWERS BELOW)

Occupation	Hobbies	Cool Things and Interests
Illustrator	a. Building Computers	a. Chinese and Jamaican by heritage
B. IU Student – Music Education	b. Reading	b. Has a marimba in his living room
C. Church Employee	c. Reminding Jan of Anglican hymns we need to sing	c. In two book groups at FCC
D. Political Cartoonist	d. Performance with his “Cirque du Jolais” and “Jungle Joe’s Flea Circus:	d. Sang famous aria with 9 high “C’s” in front of hundreds of people first month at IU (doesn’t tell many people that though)
E. IU Student studying Tenor	e. Model trains	e. Plays a pretty good mouth trumpet.
F. Part-time at Bloomington Township Trustees	f. Cooking	f. Passed Fats Domino a butter dish at breakfast
G. Writer		g. Traveling
		h. Winter shelter volunteer
		i. Music intern at FCC.
		j. Interested in soccer; college football
		k. Competitor with Jo Weddle for the most children’s messages at FCC.
		l. Shook hands with a man who shook hands with a man who shook Abraham Lincoln’s hand.
		m. Campbellite Sunday School
		n. Interested in music of Verdi and Mozart
		o. Work appears on B’ton’s trash stickers
		p. Has difficulty thinking of things he is not interested in.
		q. Not actually a tenor

(Answer Key can be found on page 9)



ALL-CHURCH Game Night!

We will kick the evening off with some Ice Breaker games lead by our MOPS group. Then, choose from a variety of games for all ages! Oh, and did we mention **pizza and snacks!** So, join us for a FUN night of playing games and making new friends (and eating pizza)!

Do you enjoy scrapbooking? FCC is looking for a volunteer to help document our history through scrapbooking.

If you would like to help with this project, please contact the church office.

**It's time to take down
the decorations.**

**Please, consider helping out
on Sunday, January 8th
following worship.**

UPCOMING EVENTS...

- January 8
(following worship) Christmas decoration take down
12:15 pm - Elders meeting
4:00 - 5:00 pm MLK Celebration at St. Mark's UMC
5:30 pm - All-Church Game Night
- January 9, 7:00 pm
Women's Arts & Crafts
- January 10, 6:00 pm
Outreach and Service Commission
- January 12, 5:30 & 6:15 pm
Handbell choir rehearsal
Sanctuary choir rehearsal
- January 13, noon & 5:30pm
Executive committee meeting
Listening to God meditation
- January 15, noon
Board meeting



**MCUM
Challenge**

Let's start off 2017 with continued support of MCUM

January Items Wanted:
canned tuna, chicken, etc.,
canned fruit, laundry detergent

*Thank you for showing how
much you care.*

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

01/01	Victor	Gasana	4199 Innisbrooke Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47408
01/05	Nicole	Simental	1610 S. Dorchester Dr., #12	Bloomington	IN	47401
01/07	Eric	Griffin	3830 Woodhaven Drive	Bloomington	IN	47403
01/09	Judy	Schmid	2327 Winding Brook Ct.	Bloomington	IN	47401
01/09	Olivia	Werner	4950 White River Drive	Bloomington	IN	47404
01/09	Kathy	Deckard	1813 Arden Drive	Bloomington	IN	47401
01/11	Chip	Welch	930 W. Second Street	Bloomington	IN	47403
01/13	Taylor	McAfee	3830 Woodhaven Drive	Bloomington	IN	47403
01/14	Loretta	Orr	1105 E. Regency Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47401
01/16	Crystal	Howell Beck	880 E. Sherwood Hills Drive	Bloomington	IN	47401
01/17	Maia	Duffy-Paiement	260 S. Lori Lane	Bloomington	IN	47401
01/17	Cormac	Duffy-Paiement	260 S. Lori Lane	Bloomington	IN	47401
01/20	Don	Davis	4216 Sheffield Dr.	Bloomington	IN	47408
01/23	Jake	Allman	907 E. Vixen Drive	Bloomington	IN	47408
01/24	Holly	Biddle	9456 N. Ingram Rd.	Solsberry	IN	47459
01/28	ViEva	Thrasher	2508 Cedarwood Drive	Bloomington	IN	47401
01/28	Jetta	Norris	3194 N. Dahlia Lane	Bloomington	IN	47404

If you have a birthday that is not listed, please let us know so we can update our records.

GAME OF TONES – KEY TO THE TENORS

Singer	Occupation	Hobbies	Cool Things and Interests
1	B	b, e, f	b, g, i
2	E	a	a, d, n
3	A, D, F, G	d	c, f, k, l, m, o, p
4	C	c	c, e, h, j, q

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Coffee Fellowship Treat Schedule



*Don't Forget to Bring
Goodies!*

January 8: Emmaus Interpreters
Class

January 15: Cambellite Class

January 22: Book Bunch & Men's
Book Club

**Scripture Readings
for Sunday Worship**

January 8

Matthew 2:1-12

January 15

Matthew 3:1-17

Psalm 2:7-8

January 22

Matthew 5:1-20

Psalm 1:1-3

January 29

Matthew 6:7-21

Psalm 20:7