

The CHRISTIAN

 FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH *(Disciples of Christ)* **Visitor**

FCC Sponsors Habitat CommUNITY Interfaith Build

First Christian Church is among 13 faith based organizations that have committed to supporting this year's **Habitat for Humanity CommUNITY build**. The build will bring together volunteers to frame up a home for a hardworking family in just 3 short days **beginning on March 31**.

This important collaborative project will require volunteers to raise funds supporting the build, and volunteers to swing hammers the weekend of the build. **FCC has committed to raising \$5,000** in support of the build, as well as recruit volunteers to help frame the house that will be built in the Trail View neighborhood.

Please, consider how your talents can contribute toward the success of this build. We will need those who can help raise funds, those who are handy with a hammer, and we'll need donations.

We have already set up a "Community Page" to receive online donations. You can find that webpage by going to **www.fccbloom.org** and clicking on the blue and green CommUNITY Interfaith Build logo found on our homepage. Donations to that link will go directly toward the \$5,000 that we will be raising to support this worthy

cause. If you'd like to donate but would rather write a check, make that check out to First Christian Church with "Habitat Build" on the memo line.

There are other events planned that will support the overall fundraising effort (separate from our \$5,000 contribution) of the build. See details in the story below on a coffee house concert in February.

Contact Mark Knowles for more information on how you can participate, and look for more details in coming weeks on www.fccbloom.org and on Facebook!

Coffee House Concert on February 24 to Benefit Habitat CommUNITY build

Join us at Unitarian Universalist Church on February 24 for Harmony Music Fest to support Habitat's CommUNITY Interfaith Build.

Unitarian Universalist Church
2010 N. Fee Lane
Doors Open at 6:30pm
Music begins at 7:00 pm
Adults: \$10.00
Students: \$8.00

Contact Mark Knowles, if you're interested in volunteering for this event.



 Habitat for Humanity
of Nassau County

Volume 59, number 3/ February 1, 2017

PASTOR'S PEN Next Steps

The Future Story has been told! On January 22, during an inspiring worship service, our Future Story Team held us all in rapt attention as they described a vibrant “night in the life” of FCC in the year 2021. The story introduced us to a number of characters whose lives and faith have been enriched by an authentic experience of God’s love “lived out” on the corner of Kirkwood and Washington. Indeed, as we listened to the story, we received a glimpse of FCC at its best: **sharing the inclusive love of Christ through serving, learning, welcoming and offering spiritual connection** in the name of Jesus. (You can get a copy of the story by calling the church office.)

The Story, which offers a clear vision and unique purpose for FCC, has renewed and increased my enthusiasm and gratitude for what God is doing in and through this church. I have also heard overwhelming support and celebration for the Story’s “givens:”

- We are remaining downtown, where we were “born and raised.”
- Our denominational ties with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) are strengthened, reaffirmed, and maintained.
- Our building is dedicated to the Glory of God for the purpose of worship **and** of service, thus furthering the work of Jesus, strengthening the body of Christ, offering “kingdom glimpses” of grace & beauty, love & compassion, connection & community, justice & peace.
- The architectural integrity and beauty of the sanctuary is enhanced and maintained as we develop ways to welcome others into its sacred space.

- Our facility serves as an “outpost for mission” and “beacon of light” as we strengthen connections with community partners.

Yes, the Future Story has been told. It is **our** unique and original story, for it has come into being because of extensive amount of listening, wide congregational input, comprehensive work, constant prayer, creative thought, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The Story is good, it is faithful, it is exciting, it is inspired by God, and **it is yours and ours to implement!**

What part of the Story excites **you** the most? What do **you** have the offer that will help implement the vision that the Story holds? Starting now, we are putting together teams that will be charged with the implementation of the vision. There are: 1) **Project teams** to oversee sanctuary enhancements, west-wing redevelopment, and living quarters for XPLOR residents; 2) **Services teams** to work on parking, on-site events, and day-to-day operations; 3) **Spiritual growth teams** to expand/support worship opportunities, small group ministries, XPLOR connections, and to pray for the church and the community.

Here’s the thing: FCC needs, relies upon and trusts that *your* hands, feet, voice, time, gifts, talents, commitment, and faith will be part of the “mix” that will implement the Future Story. So.....what **will** you offer? How **will** you give of yourself as we move forward together? Which team **will** you commit to serving on? What **will** you “let go of” in order to give you the time and energy to help implement the vision?

As the teams are formed, I want as many people as possible to be “on board”...

(Pastor's Pen Continued on page 3)

Towards a Theology of Service: *Blur the Edges*

Mark Errett Knowles

“So, what about your church? Is it Biblical, or do you *blur the edges*?” My second cousin once removed had just described her church requiring all its members sign a new, stringent statement of beliefs if they wished to remain members. She then threw the discussion my way with this question. I laughed. “Yeah, you’d probably say we *blur the edges*.” I elaborated that we wouldn’t say it that way, that we avoid creeds precisely so we can welcome all—including those who might sign such a statement of beliefs, those who definitely wouldn’t, and those who would be shunned by that very statement—and that our focus was on the love of Christ. The look on her face could be described as unmoved, so we turned to other topics, tacitly agreeing to remain family above all. But what I really wanted to say is that the Bible is such a collection of completely different layers that it doesn’t form clean edges, but rather severely jagged edges. And those severely jagged edges can tear apart those pushed up against them. So let’s move far enough away from those edges to a place at the core of the gospel, a place where the distant, jagged edges appear blurred.

Since that family reunion conversation I’ve co-opted that phrase, *blur the edges*, to describe genuine gospel work. It stands somewhat in contrast to a more ingrained (and pernicious) definition of service, where we decide what is wrong with someone and attempt to fix them. But to *blur the edges* means loving, not fixing. It is found in many of the small things we do that I find most exciting, most potentially life-giving. We *blur the edges* when FCC members come

to visit with breakfast guests on a Sunday morning, or when FCC members welcome breakfast guests who come down to our coffee hour and worship service after; we *blur the edges* when we travel to countries that have historically been declared our enemies, or when we welcome people from countries that could be our enemies; we *blur the edges* when the direction of the church and its ministries is driven by lay members with passion, not staff members with vested interests; we *blur the edges* in the very act of collaboration with other faith communities, whether building a house with Habitat for Humanity or sharing in worship.

There really are dangerous, jagged-edge places in the world; there really are people who push others there. Service means going to those edge places, connecting with the people there, and—if they are up for it—being willing to walk with them to the central places where life is abundant. From those central places the edges will appear blurred. So, yes, we *blur the edges*. Because that is Biblical.

(Pastor’s Pen continued from page 2)

—the sooner the better! Please email me—or (better yet) send a message to our dedicated Future Story email address: futurestory@fccbloom.org—and let us know how you might be willing to serve during this exciting time.

See you Sunday!

Pastor Helen

PS: This Sunday, the topic of my sermon will be “Don’t Worry!” I’ll give you some concrete, biblically based suggestions about how to NOT worry, even when life’s circumstances are trying.



Pancakes & Ashes

Intergenerational event on Tuesday, February 28

We will ease into Lent on Tuesday, February 28, an intergenerational Pancakes & Ashes event. We'll begin with a hearty pancake dinner and fellowship in Great Hall, move into a time of congregational reflection, and then finish the evening with several stations encouraging personal reflection and action. The stations culminate with prayer and imposition of ashes in the sanctuary.

Looking for a Way to Get Involved? You can help make this a meaningful evening!

Do your gifts shine in the kitchen? We'll need cooks and dishwashers.

Have 30 extra minutes before or after the event? Join our set up or clean up crew.

Enjoy the spiritual side of Lent? Offer your quiet presence in one of the stations to answer questions and guide participants.

Love kids? Our activity station in Chapel Gathering Space will attract the younger set, and we'll need plenty of helping hands there.

Contact the church office or Connie Myers, director of faith formation and family ministry, to find the right fit for you.

Lent 2017: Fasting AND Feasting

The 2017 season of Lent will focus on ways we—as individuals and church—can truly experience the feast of abundant life by fasting from those things that can get in the way.

As individuals, we'll be encouraged to consider what is keeping us from experiencing deep and meaningful connections with God, self and others. Then, we'll practice ways of making those connections by letting go of the things that are holding us back.

As church, we'll be fasting so that others may feast. We'll collect money to support the Habitat Interfaith Build, which will allow a hard-working family the opportunity to finally have a place to call home. We'll also share in-kind gifts for different agencies including: food and supplies for MCUM and hygiene kit supplies for Church World Service.

The faith formation commission is pleased to lift up these opportunities for spiritual practice during the season of Lent. Contact Connie Myers (csmyers@bluemarble.net) for information about how you can become part of this season's activities or the ongoing faith formation ministry at FCC.

GAME OF TONES: AN APPRECIATION OF THE CHOIR

PART 4: THE BASSES

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 honor the foundation of the choir – the basses! Many consider them the salt of the earth. They take comfort in the fact that no other parts in the choir sing lower than they do.

Play the matching game by filling in the blanks!

The Basses	Years singing in a choir	Years singing	Occupation	Hobbies	Interests and cool things
1. Jim Beeson	8 ½ yrs	10 yrs (sic!)			
2. Andrew Chybowski	3	1			
3. Jason Filer	0	½ yr			
4. Rivers Hawkins	Not many	2			
5. Tim Jessen	60	1 month			
6. Bob Thrasher	17	8			
7. William D. Vannice	52	3			

CAN YOU MATCH TO THE SINGER?

Occupation	Hobbies	Interests and Cool Things
A. Retired :)	a. Hiking	a. Shalom Community Center Board
B. Minister/Teacher	b. Band	b. Liberal Politics
C. Retired Dorm Cafeteria Manager	c. Gardening	c. Mother’s cousin directs the Vienna Philharmonic
D. Doctoral Student in Wind Ensemble Conducting	d. Grilling	d. In 1973 arrested after motorcycle chase through downtown B’ton;
E. College Student	e. Reading	e. Lived in China
F. Masters Student in Voice	f. Bread-making	f. Teaches Philosophy at Ivy Tech
G. Retired Countertenor	g. Studying	g. Sings with Quarryland Chorus
	h. Motorcycles	h. Immune to “Indiana burns”
	i. Vegetarian Cooking	i. Fiancée works at Habitat next

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

GAME OF TONES

(MATCH THE DESCRIPTIONS BELOW WITH THE SINGERS ON PAGE 5)

Occupation	Hobbies	Interests and Cool Things
	j. Music	j. Minister in KY for 34 years
	k. Watercolors	k. Family
	l. Guitar	l. Dancing
	m. Barbershop	m. Professional countertenor in NYC
	n. Coffee	n. IU Sports
	o. Classic Rock	o. At 4 played piano solo on radio
		p. Wind Band Music
		q. Licensed EMT
		r. Hiked Appalachian trail alone
		s. Plays a mean trombone
		t. Two university degrees from NYC

GAME OF TONES - KEY TO THE BASSES

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



And the Winners Are...

A special **Thank You** to all of those who prepared chili, brought sides and desserts, contributed to the silent auction and worked so hard to make FCC's 4th Annual Lewis Chili Cook-Off the great success that it was!

Eleven chili cooks competed for TOP PRIZE! And the competition was stiff... but when the chili powder, cumin and cayenne cleared there could be only one FCC Chili Champion!

Andy Stafford won **First Place** with his ambitious *Alaskan Bison Chili in Sourdough Cups*. A vegetarian chili (who woulda thunk it) took **Second Place** with Fay McIntyre's *Meatless Chili with Beans and Cabbage!* And Charlie Sinn's "*Smoky Bacon Chili*" came in **Third**, cuz everyone knows that everything's better with BACON! The "**People's Choice**" award went to Erin Martoglio who brought a recipe she's been perfecting over the past 10 plus years.

All of the chili served up at FCC's Chili Cook Off would've made the most seasoned Texas trail drive cook proud! Congratulations to all who entered the cook-off, and to those with the horse sense to come just to eat! But THE REAL WINNER of the evening is the FCC Building Fund. Over \$500 was raised through a silent auction, donations and voting for the best chili! Money raised will help maintain our wonderful church building. Donations are still being accepted in the church office.

A good time was had by all who came! So, if you missed this year's Chili Cook-Off, you'll want to make sure you don't make that mistake twice! Just remember the very last words of frontiersman Kit Carson, "Wish I had time for just one more bowl of chili."

I would like to thank everyone for the lovely cards, prayers, calls and visits during my recent surgery. And a special thank you to Pastor Helen for her visit and prayers. I appreciate your thoughtfulness greatly.

Sincerely,
Mary Alice Martin





Week of Compassion News

Promoting Community Health

January 30, 2017

Mrs. Rhoda, a 62-year old widow, mother, and grandmother, who lives in the Zamchiya Village of Zimbabwe described her garden as "liberation." Because her family was identified as nutritionally vulnerable, she was among the first to build a key-hole garden with the help of a cluster of local farmers. Key-hole gardens are an effective tool for increasing household nutrition because they require minimal acreage and use raised vegetable beds that retain water efficiently and protect crops from damage during floods.

When the gardens are built, households receive starter seeds for mineral-rich vegetables such as spinach, beans, squash, and tomatoes. For Mrs. Rhoda, having a ready source of nutritious food for her family "feels like a huge burden has been lifted from my shoulders." By addressing food insecurity, especially among children, lactating mothers, and people living with chronic illness, the community hopes to save resources that would otherwise be spent on purchasing food and treating nutrition-related illness.

As a recent report on the project noted, "healthier communities...are better able to pursue other development." Additionally, the implementation of the nutrition project provides an opportunity for community and leadership development. The gardens are part of a broader program of health education, instituted by Week of Compassion and Global Ministries partner, Christian Care Zimbabwe. CCZ trains local leaders, who assemble community clubs to promote nutrition through dramas, poems, songs, and gatherings as well as through the installation of gardens.

Your support of Week of Compassion helps women like Mrs. Rhoda provide nutritious food for their families so no child goes hungry.

Week of Compassion's 2017 Special Offering - February 19-26



It's time to enroll or re-enroll in the **Kroger Community Rewards** program. If you are a Kroger shopper, this program allows a portion of your purchase price to be donated to FCC. You'll need a Kroger shopping card. **Enrollment can be done online at Kroger.com or by calling 800-576-4377.** Be sure to choose the First Christian Church in Bloomington, Indiana!

Amazon.com also has a shopping program that allows a portion of your purchase price to be donated to FCC. It's called AmazonSmile. Just go to smile.amazon.com to do your shopping, and choose FCC as the organization you want to support.



MCUM Challenge

**Amount Donated: 152 lbs.
2017 Goal: 2,000 lbs.**

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

Thank you for showing how much you care.

UPCOMING EVENTS...

Today, 11:15 am

New book study, "Breathing Underwater" begins in Room 11

February 6

6:30 pm, Jesus Before the Gospels book study

7:00 pm Women's Arts & Crafts

February 9, 5:30 & 6:15 pm

Handbell choir rehearsal

Sanctuary choir rehearsal

February 10

Noon, Executive Committee meeting

5:30 pm, Listening to God meditation

February 13

6:30 pm, Jesus Before the Gospels book study

February 15, 7:00 pm

Men's Book Group

February 16

4:00 pm, Book Bunch

5:30 pm, Handbell choir rehearsal

6:15 pm, Sanctuary choir rehearsal

February 17, 5:30 pm

Listening to God meditation

February 19

Week of Compassion Special Offering

Noon, Board Meeting

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
205 E. Kirkwood Avenue
Bloomington, IN 47408

812-332-4459
fcc@fccbloom.org
www.fccbloom.org
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The Christian Visitor

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Coffee Fellowship Treat Schedule



*Don't Forget to Bring
Goodies!*

February 5: Grades K-12 and
The Sharing Table

February 12: Emmaus Interpreters
Class

February 19: Cambellite Class

**Scripture Readings
for Sunday Worship**

February 5

Matthew 6:24-34

February 12

Matthew 14:13-21

February 19

Matthew 14:22-33

February 26

Matthew 24:24-17:8
Psalm 20:7