

From the Pastor's Pencil



About 14 years ago, when Laurie and I moved from Pembroke Pines, Florida, to Palm Beach Gardens, a little farther up the Atlantic coast, we began looking for a new church family. Laurie's parents, who had been members of a Disciples congregation for several years, suggested that we visit a Disciples church.

I didn't know anything about the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), so I visited the Disciples website (www.disciples.org) to learn a little about the denomination. I appreciated the Disciples passion for freedom of belief, deep Christian spirituality, peace, and justice, and I liked their practice of Baptism by immersion and weekly celebration of the Lord's Supper, so I looked to see if there was a Disciples church within driving distance of our new home.

We found one (less than a mile away!), so the next

Sunday Laurie and I attended our first Disciples worship service at Tropical Sands Christian Church (DOC). (I know that *Tropical Sands* sounds more like the name of a casino or nightclub, but I assure you it was (and still is) a faithful and thriving Disciples congregation!)

Both Jim Burton, the senior pastor, and Joel Tucker, the associate pastor, were spending a long weekend at their *Kyros* prison ministry, so there was a guest minister in the pulpit. An elder explained to us that both pastors were "in jail" that weekend—an interesting introduction to the pastors of Tropical Sands!

That night, Tropical Sands hosted its monthly program of old-time Gospel music called *The Back Door*. Although he was exhausted from a grueling three days of prison ministry, Jim attended the pro-

gram and spent time getting to know Laurie and me.

I was impressed with Jim's dedication and his genuine interest in us as individuals. He didn't focus on trying to convince us to join Tropical Sands or to ascertain our specific beliefs about religion. Jim's active presence at the event despite his weariness and his sincere desire to get to know us as real people—not just as potential members of the church—made us like and respect him immediately.

When Jim visited us at our home for the first time, Jim spoke very openly and honestly about his own beliefs, life, and ministry and listened with genuine interest as Laurie and I talked about our backgrounds and hopes for the future. Impressed with Jim's faith and kindness, Laurie and I began attending Tropical Sands regularly and joined the church a few months later.

We were so blessed and transformed by our experiences at Tropical Sands, that

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August Budget (5 Sundays)

General Budget needed per month	\$23,860.25
General Budget received in August	\$20,704.75
Building Accounts received in August	\$1,050.00

We felt called to devote ourselves to full-time church ministry. We packed our bags and headed to Lexington, Kentucky, for my four years of seminary studies and ordination into the ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

I hope that together we can grow *our* congregation by inviting and welcoming people who are seeking a new church family. To grow our church we need to show our community that, like Rev. Jim, we are the kind of people others will want to walk with on their Christian journey of worship, study, prayer, and service.

Glad to be your pastor, FCC—

Rev. Tom

931-224-3658 (cell)



NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

Nursery is provided during the Worship Service for our infants through four year olds. Barbara Thompson is our wonderful and dedicated Nursery staff person!

September 2014

September 7 Mattie Ray Wiser
 September 14 Kay Young
 September 21 Blaire Cartwright
 September 28 Janie Burke

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP Something new and something old. Each month, children (3 years old through 5th grade) are invited to come to the Children's wing for a time of worship, prayer and Bible Exploration following the Children's Moment. Each Sunday will focus around the story used in Worship and Wonder on the first Sunday of the month. The schedule will be:

First Sunday	Worship and Wonder Story in the Children's Worship center
Second Sunday	Worship time in Rooms 2-4 depending on the adventure
Third Sunday	Worship time in Rooms 2-4
Fourth Sunday	Offering to God and the congregation

SHARING THE JOY!

First Christian Church is happy to announce the birth of its newest member! Miss Clara Kathryn Philpott.. Clara is the daughter of Benji & Amy Philpott and the baby sister of Frank Philpott. Clara's grandparents are Stephen and Elaine Philpott and Barb Sterrett. Clara's great grandmother is Alpha Philpott.

Clara was born on August 25, 2014 weighing in at 9 pounds, 9.8 ounces and 21 1/2 inches long.

Bible Exploration may be any one of the following or combination on any given 2nd and 3rd Sunday: music, prayer, drama, puppets, Bible games, arts and crafts, cooking, making banners, memorization and more...

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children's Class: September's Focus :Adventures of Abraham using GROUP's Hands On Curriculum filled with activities

We meet in Room 2-4 depending on activity involved for that Sunday.

God is in control of the future (Genesis 2:1-7)

God forgives us when we do wrong (Genesis 20:1-17)

God protects us when we are afraid (Genesis 21:8-21)

Cross & Chalice, Facilitator: Wilma Beam

Our class will again study the *Standard Lesson Commentary* for 2014-2015. The study is broken in to 4 quarters. The first and fourth quarters are in the Old Testament. The second and third quarters are in the New Testament.

Our class is a cross-section of attendees. It is a free-style discussion based on the lesson for the day. Come join us—we have plenty of room!

SUNDAY SCHOOL *cont'd*

Caring & Sharing, Facilitator: Wayne Schumann

Our Class is doing a video study, *The Power of Prayer*, narrated by Jim Cymbala, Pastor of Brooklyn Tabernacle in New York City. After watching the video, the class answers and discusses the lesson questions that are asked. We are a diverse group and would love to have you join us!

Older Adult Class, Facilitator: Ruth Cartwright

We meet in the Parlor. Our class is currently studying a two part serious book, *Jesus, His Powerful Life*. Each lesson consists of reading four to five scriptures at home. Sunday morning the facilitator asks five or six questions about the scriptures, followed by group discussion.

CHILDREN'S WEDNESDAY HAPPENINGS

White Shirt Night for 4 year olds through 5th Grade

WHEN: September 10, 17, & 24 6:00-7:00 pm

WHAT: Each child is to bring an old short sleeve white shirt to wear as they explore God's World and Word through science.

WORSHIP AND WONDER

On Sunday, September 7 following Children's Moment, children 3 years old through 5th grade will meet in the Children's Worship Center.

THE BIG TEN: *The Ten Best Ways to Live* will be the story and orientation to Worship and Wonder. Children may be picked up in Fellowship Hall following worship.

STEVEN JORGENSON, Kathy Reed's nephew is currently serving overseas with the Army. We are sure he would enjoy receiving cards from his church family.

PFC Jorgenson, Steven
1176th TransCo
APO AE 09355

SHEETS NEEDED

The Worship Committee is in need of any old sheets you would like to donate. They will be used to cover things to keep them neat & clean. Please bring to the office. Thank you!

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS:

CHILDREN'S MOMENT: Do you have a children's moment you would love to share with the children? Please let MJ know

Storyteller for Worship and Wonder

Leadership assistance for Children's Worship

Sunday School teachers

Assist on Wednesdays September 10, 17, & 24
6:00-7:00 pm

A Children's Ministry opportunity you are willing to lead...endless possibilities

PRAYER CENTER : Celebrating our Ministries

Come celebrate our various ministries here at First Christian Church. A photo viewer is located on Prayer Center Table to show each other and visitors what's happening at our church. If it is turned off, the switch is on the back. Photos can be seen as long as flash drive is inserted. If you have photos to add, please give to office so they can be added.

Thank you for helping us communicate and celebrate the different ministries and how we are using our gifts and talents to spread God's love others.

FUNDRAISER!

Last Chance to Donate Shoes!



Do you have shoes, in any condition or size that you need to get rid of? If so, I have a solution for you! J.D. and Heather Beam are raising funds for the adoption of their daughter, Christine. This is a win-win for everyone. You get rid of old shoes and they receive a contribution to defray costs of Christine's adoption. Please bring your unwanted shoes to the church office.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you to those who have already donated shoes. We will continue to collect shoes through the end of September.

In Christ's love, Wilma Beam

Disciples Women (CWF)

The Women's Group next meeting will be September 9. Beginning at 9:30 am with Helping Hands (need lots of help to catch up).

11:00 am Fellowship

11:30 am Light lunch - provided

12:00 pm Program: Our speaker will be Laura Lapins Willis, author of "Finding God in a Bag of Groceries." Laura lives in Sewanee, TN and is the Director of the Food Panty that serves one of the poorest corners of America. She will also have some of her books to sell. Everyone is invited and we hope to see you Tuesday, September 9th!

Also, a reminder, the **Bake Sale will be November 8, 9 - noon.** Everyone's help will be needed.

Men's Group (CMF)

The Men's Breakfast will be held September 14, at 7:30 am. All men in the congregation are invited and welcome to join us!

Board Meets

The Board will meet, Saturday, September 11, from 9 to 11 am.

Elders Meet

The Elders will meet Sunday, September 21, at 8:00 am.

Circles Meet

Circle I - Tuesday, September 16, at 2:00 pm in the Parlor

Circle III - Tuesday, September 16, at 6:00 pm

Circle IV - will not meet this month

SILENT AUCTION

There will be a Silent Auction of several items which have been in storage for an extended period of time. Items include: several large framed pictures, old small children's chairs and other miscellaneous things. Items may be viewed and bid on in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, September 27 and Sunday, September 28.

Women's Retreat

Join us for the "Loving Well" Retreat with Beth Moore.

We all deal with people who are a joy to love and those who are difficult to love. Come join us for a fun-filled weekend as we learn how to love well. Through video, we will hear from best-selling author and teacher, Beth Moore, enjoy fun fellowship with other women, laugh our heads off, shed a few tears, eat, stay up late, make new friends, and enjoy old friends. It's a weekend you don't want to miss!

DATES: October 3, 4 & 5 Lunch

LOCATION: Sisters of Mercy/Nashville

COST: \$140.00

Hurry as there are only 12 rooms available. Contact Anne to reserve your room!



Worship in Motions meets Wednesday nights at 6 pm in the Sanctuary. Call Shana Pitts or Amy Philpott for more information. We welcome new members! No dance skills required.

Prayer Concerns of the Church



In Nursing Homes or Assisted Living

Celebration Way
Alpha Philpott

Carriage House Inn
Rose Marie Clark
Melba Henry
Mary Lynn Prince

Christian Care Center
Mildred Bobo

Glenn Oaks
Albert Smithson

At Home

Linda Carden
Charlie Coffey
Mai Coffey
Sandy Craig
Terry Craig
Brenda Hancock
Buddy & Virginia Ann Haynes
Miles McCullough
Bo Melson
Curtis Morton
Susan Price
Earlene Stallings
Ted York

September 2014



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 6 pm Prayer meeting Worship in Motion 7:15 pm Choir	4 9:30 am CBS	5	6
7	8	9 9:30 am Helping Hands 11:00 am CWF	10 6 pm Prayer meeting Worship in Motion 7:15 pm Choir	11 9:30 am CBS	12	13
14 7:30 am Men's Breakfast	15 6:30 pm Christian Ed Meeting	16 2 pm Circle I 6 pm Circle III	17 6 pm Prayer meeting Worship in Motion 7:15 pm Choir	18 9:30 am CBS	19 Anne on Vacation	20 9-11 am Board Meets
21 8 am Elders Meet	22	23	24 6 pm Prayer meeting Worship in Motion 7:15 pm Choir	25 9:30 am CBS	26	27 Silent Auction
28 Reconciliation Offering 11:15 am Staff Meets Silent Auction	29	30				

September Birthdays, Elders, and Deacons



- September Birthdays**
- 4 Lisa Lindsay
 - 5 Marvin McBee
 - 7 Ray Smith
 - 12 Mai Coffey
 - 15 Marilyn Lewis
 - 24 Bucker Huffman
 - 27 Charlie Mitchell
Lynette Womble
 - 29 Charlie Coffey

- September Elders**
- Shana Pits
 - Linda Yockey

- September Deacons**
- Sarah Caperton
 - Amy Mitchell
 - Jeff Mitchell
 - Eric Richardson