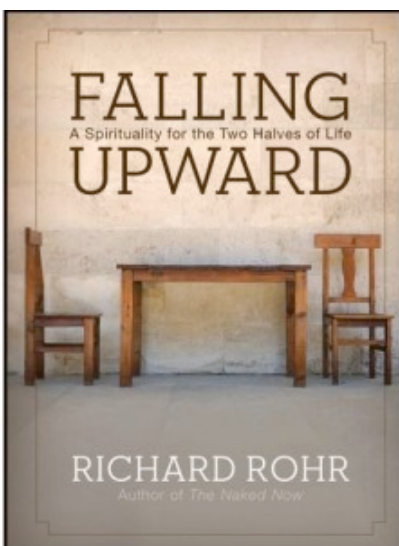
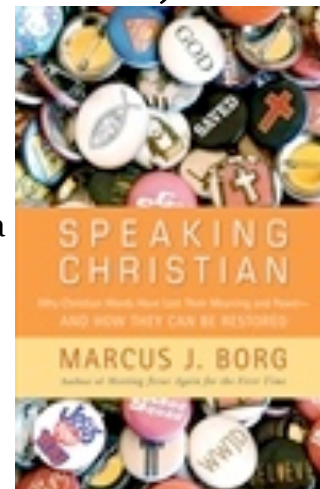


January 26, 2012  
Newsletter **FCC Chalice**

First Christian Church is a member church of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ): [www.disciples.org](http://www.disciples.org)

**FCC BOOK STUDIES: Read, Converse, Interact, Grow**

In the next week and a half, we will be bringing to a close our discussion on “Speaking Christian” by Marcus Borg. There are three online discussion blogs found on the church’s website ([fccnaples.org](http://fccnaples.org)), and Rev. Frogge will conclude a three week sermon series based upon the book this Sunday, January. 29. The sermon will be based upon Mark 10:46-52 and will ask the question: What do I really need out of mercy? And on February 2 (Thursday), John Price will lead a one night discussion of the book. It will be held at John and Joy’s condo, The Esplanade: 4551 Gulf Shore Blvd #705, Naples (whether one comes from the north or south, he/she should go to US 41/Tamiami Trail and Park Shore Dr. and turn west toward the Gulf). Proceed to the end and turn north (right) to 4551.). Our time together will begin at 6pm, and the discussion should last about 90 minutes. Whether you have read the book or not, you are invited to come and share in the conversation.



**Opening A New Book...** Our next book for discussion is Richard Rohr’s, “Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life” (available for Kindle, iBooks, and good old traditional hardcover). Richard Rohr is a Franciscan Friar with the Roman Catholic Church. He is currently serving as the Founding Director of the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Rohr believes we spend the early part of our life answering the questions: What makes me significant? How will I support myself? Who will go with me? These may be necessary questions, but Rohr believes too many people spend their entire lives unaware that there are deeper questions to be asked. This book is for people of all ages looking for a greater sense of purpose, whatever your circumstance.

And our next read will be Phil Gulley’s book, “The Evolution of Faith.”

**WOW...IS ALL THAT CAN BE SAID**

The First Christian Church community needs to take a little bow after its recent demonstration of generosity for Heifer International. The church had hoped to raise \$250, but in fact \$1,000 was raised on Epiphany. The church purchased: A water buffalo, 2 sheep, 2 trios of rabbits, 3 flocks of chicks, 2 goats, 3 flocks of ducks, a hive of honeybees, and an assortment of other life sustaining gifts. Remember, Heifer International is a ministry of empowerment and sustainability for people today and generations to come.



**Church Office:** 1660 Trade Center Way, Suite 5 Naples, FL 34109

**Sunday Morning Worship Space:** 3285 Pine Ridge Road (Etudes de Ballet)

**Phone:** 239-514-5002 **Website:** [fccnaples.org](http://fccnaples.org) **Email:** [fcc@fccnaples.org](mailto:fcc@fccnaples.org)

## YOUTH UPDATE

Howdy, folks! Just a quick youth update. While the CYF prepares for another mission trip, the JYF (Junior Youth Fellowship) and Chi Rho have been getting to know a few stories about Jesus since Advent. Following our One Room Sunday School curriculum, the kids have been engaged in learning the story of Christ from before His birth to last Sunday when we talked about the calling of the first Disciples. We'll continue on this journey through Easter. Heading into the summer months we'll shift focus to the early stories in the Old Testament. The youth meetings have been exciting and fun. With a concentration on team building and engaging the youth in activities that gets them to work, play, and think together, my hope is that we're building a new generation of people excited about God, excited about church, and excited about working with each other. On behalf of the youth, I want to say thank you to all who have shown their support, either through participation or in financial participation to help ensure the kids have fun together, learn together, and grow together.

On Behalf of the Children and Youth,  
Tony

## Mission Trip Update

The Mission Team is well on it's way towards making the upcoming trip to Costa Rica a reality. Airfare will be purchased by the end of January and the preliminary itinerary has been made. If you can't tell by looking at any of the Mission Team, we're very excited about it! We found that we'll be going to the same church, Iglesia del Divino Salvador, or Church of the Divine Savior, that we served in 2010 (see picture below). This time it looks like we will be working a bit more with the children in the surrounding neighborhoods, much to the delight of the team who went last time. Some familiar faces will be traveling to Central America including Luis Occhiuzzo, Kelly McCumber, Marissa McArdle, Vinny Occhiuzzo, and Sebastian Arago. We'll be bringing some new faces to the team, Chase McCumber and Dominic Occhiuzzo will be the youngest members traveling with us, along with Patrick McArdle who will be going with us as well. All will be a welcome addition to the team and the adults who are going are looking forward to teaching and leading the youth on a very rewarding and educational experience. Currently, we're about 75% of the way towards our goal in our fundraising efforts. The monthly brunches have been successful and the Mission Team thanks all who have attended for your support and encouragement. More info to come and we still have some slots open if you want to go, just let either Kelly, Luis, or myself know.

Peace,  
Tony



**IMPORTANT IMPORTANT IMPORTANT IMPORTANT**

*Please Read*

**This coming Sunday...** First Christian Church will participate in its first ever Covenant Renewal Service. The idea of Covenant Membership comes from Rev. Jan Linn, a recently retired Disciples of Christ pastor, who wrote about it in his book, "Rocking the Membership Boat".

In too many churches, membership has become nothing more than a civic duty or "I need a *Get to heaven ticket* just in case this Christian stuff is right". Connecting to a faith community should be understood with much more depth, for it is a spiritual discipline... not simply one's signature on a list of attendees. You don't do a spiritual discipline once and then all is well and good. It must be practiced and reworked, always seeking times of recommitment. The covenant with one another is something we practice in the same way we practice our covenantal relationship with God. There are struggles, insights, growth, set-backs, and more struggles that will lead to insights and growth.

In a healthy marriage, the relationship is not stagnant. It is in constant motion as two people attempt to live in the tension of holding together two independently moving entities.

At First Christian Church of Naples, we wish to help in the creation of a living and active faith among each person. We do so by being in covenant (a loving relationship) with both God and one another. The essence of God does not change, but how we view and understand God is in constant flux. We could either hold our own and simply allow the gulf to widen, or we could seek to strengthen and elevate our relationship. We understand and strengthen this covenant with God by living in covenant with one another. As we read in scripture, God said, "I will be your God, and you shall be my people."

This coming Sunday, you will be invited to fill out a Covenant Renewal Card (one is enclosed). The Covenant itself is found above. It helps us define what it means to be Disciple at First Christian Church, and then invites people to commit themselves to God and our sisters and brothers with whom we are in mission and service. If you choose not to fill out the card, you are welcome to remain fully involved in the congregation. You are still welcome to share in worship, partake of communion, attend Fellowship gatherings, participate in mission, call upon the pastoral staff in times of crisis, etc. The Covenantal Renewal is the regular spiritual discipline of saying, "These are people with whom I wish to explore my faith and come to better understand what it means to live in relationship with God."

**First Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)**

**Our Congregational Covenant**

By the grace of God revealed in Jesus Christ, I joyfully commit myself to the community known as First Christian Church:

A community that is...  
boldly seeking,  
fearlessly loving  
and fundamentally inclusive.

In the coming year, I will give...  
my time in attendance,  
my energy in ministry,  
my attention in prayer,  
and my money in support.

I offer these gifts to help build up the body of Christ. I commit to come alongside others within this community, and through the help of the spirit, we will grow in our ability to love God and love others as Jesus did.

## Men's Breakfast

The FCC Men will meet for breakfast this Saturday, Jan. 28, at 8:15am. Our gathering place will be the Skilletts on the NW corner of Pine Ridge Rd and Airport. On Feb. 25, we will meet at Grace Place, have breakfast, and participate in an hour of mission work.

## Get Your Pictures Taken

Last fall, Isla Wilson took pictures of those who call FCC home. She will continue the photograph sessions for snowbirds and others on Sunday, February 5. Take a moment and get your picture taken. These will be used in our own homemade pictorial directory.

## Chili Cook-Off...don't miss it!

On Sunday, Feb. 5, a number of FCC members will show-up to church with a pot of homemade chili. You are invited to stay after worship, enjoy some good chili, and give a few dollars to support the Mission Team preparing for Costa Rica.

## The Dorcas Circle

The women of Dorcas Circle will meet on Monday, February 13, at noon. It will be hosted by Charlotte Davis, and it is open to all women. There will be study, fellowship and food.

## Lecture: Christian/Jewish Dialogue

On Thursday evening, Feb. 16, Naples UCC (5200 Crayton Road) will host a lecture entitled, 'Church & Synagogue: Rivals or Partners?' The event will begin at 7:00pm. It is open to the community, and tickets are \$10. You can call the church office or buy them at the door.

## Care Team Ministry

Care Team meeting is schedule for Wednesday, Feb. 8, at noon (note the change of date). They will meet at the home of Isla Wilson.

## Potluck Picnic

Put on your calendar a family potluck picnic on Sunday, Feb. 12. We'll be at Golden Gate Community Park starting at 4:30pm. Hotdogs, buns and drinks will be provided.

## Upcoming Events

- Jan. 29** Sunday School at 9:00am  
Worship at 10:00am  
Fellowship Time at 11:00am  
Forum to discuss the New Bylaws at 11:10am
- Jan. 31** Online Book Study/Conversation  
Choir Practice at 6:30pm
- Feb. 2** Book Discussion at 6:00pm (home of John and Joy Price)
- Feb. 3** JYF and Chi Rho
- Feb. 5** Sunday School at 9:00am  
Worship at 10:00am  
(Installation of our Elders)  
Chili Cook-off for the Mission Trip to Costa Rica at 11:00am
- Feb. 7** Choir Practice at 6:30pm
- Feb. 8** Care Team at Noon
- Feb. 10** Immokalee Farmworker's Protest of Trader Joe's...Time to be Announced  
CYF at 5:45pm
- Feb. 12** Sunday School at 9:00am  
Worship at 10:00am  
Fellowship Time at 11:00am  
Potluck Picnic at 4:30pm
- Feb. 13** Dorcas Circle at Noon  
Elders' Meeting at 6:00pm
- Feb. 14** Online Book Study/Conversation  
Choir Practice
- Feb. 17** Keenagers at 11:45am
- Feb. 17-18** Rev. Frogge at Regional Board Meeting
- Feb. 19** Sunday School at 9:00am  
Worship at 10:00am  
Potluck Brunch at 11:00am  
Congregational Meeting at 11:15am
- Feb. 21** Online Book Study/Conversation  
Choir Practice at 6:30pm
- Feb. 24** CYF at 4:00pm
- Feb. 25** Men's Breakfast at 8:15am
- Feb. 26** Sunday School at 9:00am  
Worship at 10:00am  
Fellowship Time at 11:00am
- Feb. 28** Online Book Conversation  
Choir Practice at 6:30pm
- Feb. 29** Book Study Gathering at 6:00pm