



The Chalice News

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

Finding Renewal in the Season of Green

By Pastor Michael

Green is typically the color of the Pentecost season, symbolizing renewal, rebirth, and growth. The season after Pentecost Sunday is known as “ordinary time,” in which we celebrate what God does to empower us to live out the Gospel day to day and week to week in the context of our ordinary lives. This season leading up to Advent is a time for us to renew ourselves and grow in faith; to renew our commitments to the church; to grow physically, mentally and spiritually stronger in fellowship with Christ and each other.

These next months are an excellent time to remember the incredible outpouring of God’s energy that happens all the time. This is the season to allow God to fortify us more than any energy drink. I love coffee, but it only keeps me going for a little while. God’s energy, though, God’s constantly renewing, rebirthing energy, propels us through our days with joy and willingness. We are given the opportunity to obey God and to follow God’s lead, rather than running through life like a “Red Bull” in a china shop.



This is a time of spiritual renewal, a time when we do our best to consciously realize that the extraordinary events that occurred from Christ’s birth—through his life, teachings, death and resurrection, started a tidal wave of God’s loving and compassionate energy that continues to shape the world we live in today.

The famous Swedish statesman and United Nations official Dag Hammarskjold once said, “God does not die on the day when we cease to believe in a personal deity, but we die on the day when our lives cease to be illumined by the steady radiance, renewed daily, of a wonder, the source of which is beyond all reason.” May this season after Pentecost be a series of endless opportunities for us to find God’s steady and radiant energy coursing through our lives, inspiring us to a renewed and energetic life.

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Mission Update

By Tony DeLucia

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!" --Isaiah 6:8 (NRSV)

July is finally upon us! You know what that means? That's right! We're Costa Rica bound! A team of nine missionaries will be leaving the church office parking lot on July 21 heading to



Miami International for a flight to San José, Costa Rica, where we practice being the Body of Christ by working with our hands and feet, but also with our hearts and mouths as we share in fellowship and service with our neighbors in Latin America.

At the beginning of any trip, people are nervous, excited, possibly a little afraid of what is to come. Part of that excitement is we don't know exactly what we'll be doing when we get there. Two years ago it was mixing cement by hand. This year? Well, we'll find out when we land in San José!

We invite you to join us on July 15th for worship and a special service commissioning the missionaries who will be traveling overseas.

Many thanks to the FCC congregation for their financial support of the mission team. We as a church are living the commandment of Christ, to "go and make disciples," and we couldn't do it without all of you! Thank you and God bless!



Youth Update

By Tony DeLucia

Save the date! "Rock the Universe" is coming to Orlando September 7th and 8th. This event features 16 big-name Christian bands, a variety of booths and festivities, and of course, all of Universal's theme park attractions.

The event is open to anyone who'd like to attend. Let's get a group from the church together to go have some fun! We need a group of 10 or more to get the group rates.

More information can be found at <http://www.universalorlando.com/Events/Rock-the-Universe.aspx>

Join the FCC Prayer Chain

Being on the Prayer Chain mailing list is an excellent way to participate in the power of prayer, whether you are in Naples or far away. Please visit <http://eepurl.com/kLX2v> to join the prayer chain. Thank you for the incredible support you show each other during both times of joy and sorrow.

Give Back-Fill a Pack!

By Cheryl and Dave Tanner

We are currently having a Back-to-School drive to help [The Shelter for Abused Women & Children](#) here in Naples, provide needed supplies for the children that are in desperate need of items in order to feel comfortable going back to school this August.

At church each Sunday these past few weeks, and continuing through July 29, we are offering people the chance to help with this great cause. We hope those attending church will kindly take one or more of the tags of listed supplies and return the purchased items to church by Sunday, July 29, when we are planning to assemble backpacks full of these wonderful gifts to take to The Shelter.



We want to extend this opportunity to our out-of-town folks by asking you to send any gifts of monetary donations for this fund raiser to the church, if you are able. Some of the tag items are gift cards to Target and Payless Shoes so that clothes and shoes can be purchased for the children to go back to school.

Your generous cash offerings will be greatly appreciated! Remember to mark your checks with a memo to the Women's Shelter, and we will donate your gift along with the many other items that our loving FCC family is providing.

With love and appreciation,

Cheryl and Dave Tanner

Stewardship & Finance

A new committee was formed before the end of season. The FCC Stewardship & Finance Committee oversees financial matters for the church. Martha Cecere and Gerry Leonard are co-chairs. Norm and Ginny Spradlin and Pastor Michael comprise the rest of the committee.

The Stewardship & Finance Committee is tasked with oversight of the church's financial matters, including the investment of church money in interest-earning funds. All investments are being made through Church Extension in Indianapolis.

It is a true blessing to have representatives from the congregation integrally participating in the financial life of the church. Everyone on the team has tremendous business and life experience. Ginny worked directly for Church Extension in Indianapolis. Let us all offer prayers of thanks to God for guiding these helpful people to us.

Submissions Needed for the Chalice Contributor's Corner

The FCC Chalice News would like your stories, photos, art, memories, devotionals, prayers, or



other creative work for the monthly newsletter. Please send an editorial, a thought, a drawing, a doodle, anything that has meaning to you and that you think might also resonate with the

FCC community. This is *your* newsletter, so please submit frequently!

Please see Pastor Michael or eMail him your creative work at pastormichael@fccnaples.org

A Special Thanks from Pastor Bruce

To all my dear friends at First Christian Church of Naples,

I am writing this note from the middle of my living room in Spring, Texas. I am surrounded by boxes and bubble wrap, though I'm sure Donna will have this place whipped into shape within the next 24-hours. It is good to have all our stuff here, but we do miss our many friends in Naples.

Let me say that the Frogge family felt the love at the closing festivities on June 3. The meal was fabulous, the words shared became etched upon our memories, and the gifts were incredibly generous. Throughout my ministry, the churches I have served have always been more generous than I deserved, and FCC was no exception. From the day I arrived to the day I departed, you treated me and my family with grace beyond measure. No words can truly express my appreciation. You are good people who are doing amazing works of love, and though FCC's approach may look somewhat unconventional, maybe the world needs a little more unconventional.



Picture taken our last evening on the beach.

I will soon find myself waste deep in the craziness of Cypress Creek Christian Church, but my memories and love for the FCC family will not be forgotten. You shaped me and my family in very profound ways, and we are better people because of our experiences among you.

Each transition comes with its share of unexpected bumps, and there will be a few for the FCC family. Yet I have the greatest respect for the current Leadership at the church, and both Michael and Tony will continue the work we started (and will begin new works that we never imagined while I was there). I know you will show them the same manifold graces that were shown to me, and from the suburbs of Houston, I will offer prayers for continued faithfulness. Though let me add, I truly believe the reckless love of Jesus is etched in your DNA. For that reason, you will be the faithful community that Naples needs.

Thank you for letting me serve as your pastor these past six years. It has been the greatest of honors.

Love,

Bruce (Donna and Zach)

Improvements made to Immokalee Friendship House

Immokalee Friendship House was founded in 1987 by Sister Marie McFadden, and a small group of caring community leaders. Working in the area, these individuals noticed that many men, women, and children, many of them hard-working migrants, had no place to sleep at night. To address the lack of emergency housing in this farming community of 25,000, the Immokalee Friendship House was created.

Since its inception, Immokalee Friendship House has provided meals, clothing, and shelter to thousands of individuals in Greater Collier County. The shelter is nearly always at capacity, quite often including families with young children.

Abused women and children, migrant farm workers, convalescents, people fighting addiction, and families that recently suffered a loss of income all come through the doors of the Immokalee Friendship House.

Since merging with St. Matthew's House in October, 2008, Immokalee Friendship House has undergone many improvements in its facility, including:



- Screen Installation in Two Areas
- Thrift Store Upgrades
- Upgraded Fire Alarm System
- Security Camera System Installation
- Paperless Resident Management System
- Installation of an extra Freezer/refrigerator
- Upgraded Laundry Facilities
- Landscape Upgrades

The IFH also offers English training for the Migrant Workers Association, bilingual AA/NA meetings and bible studies, and 100% Scholarships to the Immokalee Technical Center. Immokalee Friendship House is located at:

602 West Main St., Immokalee, FL 34142. Phone 239-657-4090.

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Upcoming Events



- July 1 Sunday Worship
Celebration Cookout after Worship
- July 2 **Choir Practice, 6pm**
- July 3 JYF (3rd-6th grade) Swim day at Golden Gate Community Pool
- July 8 **Sunday Worship**
- July 9 Choir Practice, 6pm
- July 11-14 **Pastor Michael out of town**
- July 14 Chi Rho & CYF (7th-12th grade)
1pm, lunch at Red Brick Pizza
- July 15 **Sunday Worship, Mission Sunday**
- July 16 Choir Practice, 6pm
Leadership Team Meeting, 7:15
- July 18 **Care Team Meeting, 12pm**
- July 19 Elder's Team Meeting, 6pm
- July 21 **Mission Trip to Costa Rica**
- July 22 Sunday Worship
- July 23 **Choir Practice**
- July 28 Mission Team Returns
- July 29 **Sunday Worship**
- Potluck Sunday**
- July 30 Choir Practice, 6pm

The Clay That Binds Us, The Potter That Shapes Us

By Pastor Michael

On June 3rd we celebrated Pastor Bruce's time with FCC Naples. After service we shared a fantastic catered meal from Texas Tony's and presented him with a gift from the congregation. Thanks to the Tanners for organizing the catering.

"The Clay Place" is Naples' oldest pottery studio, established by Jim Rice in 1973. Jim is one of Naples' patrons of the arts as well, known to most local artists and musicians.

Jim worked overtime to have Pastor Bruce's chalice set finished before the Frogge's had to leave town. We thank him, and Rosi for her work coordinating the purchase and production of the chalice set.



July Birthday Celebrations

Marie Reader, Berkley and Carter Burchett, Luc Kellum, Toni Kinkead, Wayne Zimmer, Janet Zimmer, Bill Hobbs, John Auer, Madelyn Kellum, Susan Leonard, Kathi Streihler, and Joe Krepel.

May all who celebrate birthdays this month be blessed by the goodness of God, who we join in the celebration of constant renewal and regeneration.