

The Chalice News

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

To Make a Long Story Short... *(too late!)*

By Pastor Michael

One of the joys of being able to visit with you all is the opportunity it provides for us to know each other a little better. Everyone has such an interesting background! For me, the fun of life is in the journey, and learning about other people's journeys too. Many of you have asked to know more about my personal path and my professional career. So this article is a quick resume of sorts, a mini-bio which will hopefully connect you and I more deeply through our unity in Christ. And I look forward to hearing more about all *your* life journeys as well.

I've had an *extremely* active life, because I largely just hang on and let God lead me around. This is done intentionally, with prayer and meditation. It's something I learned from my parents, without even realizing that's the way we had always lived.

I was born in Baltimore, Maryland but never lived there. My Mom and Dad and I lived in a house with my paternal grandparents on the south side of Chicago until I was five years old. It was a blast. Some of my best memories are of sitting on that plastic-covered couch with grandpa and grandma, the smell of freshly cooking Polish Sausage gently wafting throughout the entire house, watching the Marx Brothers, or Ed Sullivan.

When I was five we moved to DeKalb, Illinois where I terrorized the neighborhood driving way too fast on my bicycle, and attended elementary school. I also started taking piano lessons there from the same nice lady who had taught my mother. We lived in DeKalb until I was nine. We moved around quite a bit for awhile after that. Dallas, TX for a year, where I fell in love with journalism. Austin, TX for a year, where I became editor of the school newspaper (*Continued on page 5*)



Me and my family in Salt Lake City, 1980-something. How 'bout that mustache?

Youth & Missions Update

By Tony DeLucia

Back to school means much more than just attending a building to learn new things. It also means the start of extracurricular activities, school programs, parent-teacher meetings, etc. Coming up this fall, as a small break from all of that hustle and bustle, we've got some fun stuff for the kids planned. Please stay tuned for some dates for mini-golf, bowling, a volunteer day with Grace Place Ministries, as well as a tour of the Immokalee area and the Immokalee Friendship House (the place where all of the sandwiches we've made over the years go). Also scheduled are some movie nights. Of course, there will be the traditional "stupid youth group games" and some fantastic lessons from scripture to help our little disciples along their journeys. Parents of youth, be on the lookout for the Youth Chalice coming to your mailboxes as well!

Have a wonderful and safe school year!

P.S. I would like to find some volunteers who would be interested in helping the youth ministry team coordinate and help lead events, meetings, etc. If interested, please give me a call at (239) 285-8329.

Peace,
Tony



Mission to Laos

On September 15, Marissa McArdle embarks on a wonderful journey. She has answered a call from the Lord to give her time, talents, and energy on a mission to Laos. She will join the Disciples Global Missions station there, teaching children the English language and helping coordinate children's activities in the school she will be working in. Marissa's airfare was paid out of the FCC Mission Fund. Your generous donations will help support her during her stay in Laos, as DGM only provides a small stipend.

Please keep Marissa in your prayers as she embarks on this adventure. THANK YOU for the outstanding financial support you've shown to Marissa for this missional adventure. The love and gifts from the congregation are greatly appreciated and is a wonderful expression of our mission call to "go and make disciples."



Retirement Assets can be a Tax Burden

By Church Foundation

A retirement account, such as an IRA, 401(k), or 403(b), often comprises a large portion of a person's wealth. Yet did you know they are the most heavily taxed—and a perfect instrument for making a charitable gift at death?

The way in which you distribute the assets in your retirement accounts can reflect your faith and values. By naming First Christian Church of Naples as beneficiary of your retirement account, you can pass on assets you no longer can use, and spare your estate the tax burden affiliated with these plans.

Simply ask the manager of your account to send you a beneficiary designation form, and complete it with the proper legal name of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Naples. Doing so allows the funds to pass tax-free.

Remember to consult your financial advisors on the ramifications of this decision since individual circumstances vary.

If you'd like to learn more about how you can help our church through retirement plan assets, contact the Christian Church Foundation, which is the general ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) designed to help church members create a lasting legacy through planned gifts. Foundation development officers are ordained or licensed clergy who understand the church, financial matters and stewardship. To speak to one, call (800) 668-8016.



Worship at Etudes

By Pastor Michael

It takes incredible teamwork to prepare for Worship at Etudes de Ballet each week. Tony, Patrick McArdle, Grant Scullin and I begin setting up chairs, the sound system, and projection at 7:30am every Sunday (sometimes as early as 7am). Set up teams begin arriving around 8am to prepare the communion and bulletin tables, set up our banners, fix coffee, and take care of details for fellowship time, whether a simple cookie platter or a full blown potluck.

I cannot emphasize enough how much work it is to transform the ballet school into a place of worship. Without the generous assistance of the

setup teams, the sanctuary would never be ready for worship. I am especially thankful for Dave and Cheryl Tanner, Mary Brown, George Cheatham, Rosi McArdle, and others who setup every week. Jim Adams also always jumps in after service to help with teardown.

If anyone is interested in serving on a setup/teardown team, please eMail me at pastormichael@fccnaples.org. It would be nice to have enough two-member teams that we could rotate throughout the year, so nobody has to show up every week.

I know you all volunteer because you love the church, and I am always touched by the passion each of you shows for FCC. Thank you all for the many gifts you so selflessly share with all of us.



2012 Reconciliation Offering this month

The 2012 Reconciliation Offering will be received in congregations on September 30th and October 7th. We continue with the theme from last year, "Seeds of Hope" acknowledging the power of God in us for strengthening the ministry of Reconciliation and our witness on Christ's behalf.

The Special Offering is used to fund our Church's mission priority to become a pro-reconciling/ anti-racist church through experiential education, inclusive worship and intentional dialogue across racial/ethnic differences. Funds from this offering are providing for leadership development in our camps, our communities and our congregations, as well as providing resources to promote small group study and community-action. Your giving is changing lives and building hope for the realm of God here and now!

Vision

It is the vision of Reconciliation Ministry to build just communities by breaking down the walls within our church which separate us. We claim a new reality in which we live into God's realm by celebrating our unity, affirming the cultural traditions of each member of the body of Christ and working together for justice to ensure radical welcome and access to God's abundant resources. We envision a Church in which all communities are accountable to one another and God.

Mission

Reconciliation Ministry advances the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)'s journey toward wholeness by empowering each expression of the Church to implement structural change to address historic fractures caused by racism and the systems that perpetuate it. It is the goal of our



shared work to foster life-giving community within our church and in relationship with the whole family of God. We accomplish this mission through intentional dialogue, inclusive worship and experiential education.

History

Reconciliation Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was born out of the civil unrest that ensued following the martyrdom of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on April 4, 1968. His murder brought to fore in the life of our church the disease of our living in two separate societies – one which benefits one group of people and one which systemically marginalizes the poor and powerless. Beginning with Resolution 29 of the International Convention in 1968, our Church has persistently pursued ways to address the sin of racism through resolutions and direct action in our congregations and regions.

About Pastor Michael *(cont. from Page 1)*

(and always in the band percussion section and taking piano lessons, no matter which school). We finally settled in Moss Bluff, Louisiana. Moss Bluff is a tiny suburb of Lake Charles, which was better known in the 1940s as the home to Chenault Air Force Base. It is a petrochemical industry town. My dad worked for the large petrochem conglomerate Hercules. It was an awesome place to grow up. Louisiana is spectacular and my education was stellar.

I attended high school in Moss Bluff, where my life pretty much revolved around marching band or other band-related activities. I kept taking piano lessons from a private instructor as well. After high school graduation I attended the local University, McNeese, for a year. After that, I transferred to the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, where I remained on a music scholarship until I graduated in 1986 with a B.S. in Telecommunications and a music minor.

More happened after graduation than I can fit in this already-too-long column, but I had jobs selling Apple computers (Computerland); running and designing Mac publishing technology for one of the first digital press newspapers in the country (The Express), where I also did print design and layout; managing, designing, laying out and editing a newspaper by and for troubled teens (Sparklights); and world-tours as a professional musician on the side (although musician was sometimes my only job). I worked at B. Dalton Booksellers in the Coastland Mall in there somewhere, as well. I love books. For 15 years before being called to ministry, I owned and operated a technology consulting company with my brother, Patrick. Of course, the most important job I've had in the last 15 years is as my son Chance's dad, which brings me constant joy.

It's pretty crazy when I look back, and clearly see God in the course of my life providing me with knowledge and skill after skill—every single one of them useful for my life as your Pastor, whether it's designing and laying out the newsletter, planning songs for worship, or deeply researching Scripture with a journalist's ceaseless thirst for more detail.

All of *your* stories are remarkable and inspiring to me. I remain eternally thankful to God for this wonderful, incredible journey, and to you all for calling me as your Pastor.

Your Generosity is Appreciated

We have received numerous thank you cards and letters from the many missions we support in Collier County and beyond. Grace Place sent us a wonderful note thanking us for the support of their summer school program. The Abused Women's Shelter was overjoyed with the materials, backpacks and gift cards we sent them for their back-to-school drive. Your generosity in support of FCC's mission teams has been overwhelming. Thank you all for sharing each of your unique gifts so selflessly.





September Serving Schedule

- September 2 Greeter: Kenya
Elders: Dorothy & Kelly
Communion Prep: Charlotte
Counting: Mary
- September 9 Greeter: Beverly K.
Elders: Dorothy & Kelly
Communion Prep: Donna B.
Counting: Mary
- September 16 Greeter: Donna B.
Elders: Helen
Communion Prep: JoAnn
Counting: Mary
- September 23 Greeter: JoAnn
Elders: Dorothy & Kelly
Communion Prep: Martha
Counting: Mary
- September 30 Greeter: Dorothy
Elders: Dorothy & Kelly
Communion Prep: Mary
Counting: Mary

Thank You from Lee Miller

Thank you, thank you, thank you FCC family - your send-off was a memorable one I'll not forget soon! Till I'm able to send proper thank you notes please know that your cards, notes, gifts & good wishes were so appreciated, especially all the Care Team did, & the beautiful hand made cross from the congregation (did you even know my living room was blue?).

God bless you all - you'll always be in my thoughts & prayers.

Love you all,

Lee xo♥

Name Tag Reminder

As we had into the winter season, let's make it even easier to greet each other by wearing our name tags. There are lots of new people for our Snowbirds to meet! If you need a name tag, please talk to Susan Owens.



September Birthday Celebrations

- 1st - Sebastian Arago
- 2nd - Dave Tanner
- 6th - Ben Galbraith
- 10th - Donna Botma
- 13th - Rosie McArdle
- 17th - Catherine Broadhead
- 18th - Kay Brown
- 19th - Luis Occhiuzzo
- 22nd - Brad Galbraith & Audrey Gordon

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.