

The Chalice News

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Giving thanks for all who have gone before us

By Pastor Michael

November is filled with holidays designed to help us be thankful for and remember those who have gone before us, blazing new paths, often against all odds. All Saint's Day, Veteran's Day and of course Thanksgiving all fall in November. Each of those holidays reminds us of the many and diverse people of courage, faith, and vision who went before us; people who in one way or another stood strong for the timeless principles of justice, equality, and love. People from whom we might learn many things.

The Thanksgiving meals we will share with family, friends and other loved ones this month is an opportunity for communion with our ancestors. We share with those gathered at the table, and we remember those who have gone before, the way we remember Jesus during Sunday worship. We invite God to commune with us, to move through our gatherings offering peace, joy, and inspiration. We give thanks for God's eternal love, and we rejoice.

I think we often consider communion to be a particularly "Christian" activity, something we only do on Sundays. But the ancient idea of communion—the idea Jesus and the disciples would have had about communion—was of a sacred, shared meal.

Every meal can be a symbolic way to invite God into our lives. When two or more gather to share a meal and invite God in, that too is communion. The more communal meals we share with others, the more God's love is spread throughout the world. So as the holiday season approaches and we begin to feast, let us share what we have both materially and spiritually with everyone we greet, friend and stranger alike. Let's take communion out of the Sanctuary and spread it around the world. Let's share our meals and our stories with those in hunger and need, so that we might all be filled physically and spiritually, always thankful for God's eternal, loving embrace.



Wassily Kandinsky's *All Saint's day I*, painted in 1911. More info can be found at <http://www.wikipaintings.org/en/search/kandinsky/1#supersized-search-189252>

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Youth **Youth and Missions Update**

By Tony DeLucia

Sunday, October 28th was a great day with the FCC Youth. First, Sunday morning, the children and youth of the church participated in Youth Sunday, where the majority of the service was prepared and officiated by them. Special thanks to all who participated: Nik Albert (Call to Worship), Alexis Bard (Unison Prayer), Patrick McArdle (Scripture Reading), Vinny Occhiuzzo & Patrick McArdle for the main ideas for the sermon, Dominic Occhiuzzo (Pastoral Prayer), and Grant Scullin and Joseph Krepel for helping to officiate Communion. Joseph did a great job presenting the Elements and the Words of Institution, and Dominic's prayer was great. Special thanks goes to Anwyn Albert who ran projection for the service. She did an awesome job!



Sunday night, we gathered at the Krepel household for a Halloween get together and a movie night. The "grown up" movie was "Young Frankenstein" and the kids saw "Transylvania 6-5000." The costumes looked great, and kudos to the Krepel's for hosting a fantastic evening as well as their Batman-themed costumes. Joe was the Penguin, Beverly was Poison Ivy and Joseph looked fantastic as Two-Face. Thanks to all who came out. Stay tuned for more movie nights in the near future!



Sustaining our church with planned giving

By Pastor Michael

One of the challenges for a seasonal congregation like ours is that we have to plan ahead for the summer months when charitable giving drops precipitously. In order to help the church maintain a more consistent yearlong giving schedule, and to make it easier for everyone to donate, we've added a PayPal Donations button to the FCC website (www.fccnaples.org). Now, anyone can donate from anywhere in the world, anytime.

Samaritan's Purse shoe box drive begins in November

The Samaritan's Purse "Operation Christmas Child" drive begins in November. This incredible ministry provides impoverished and underprivileged children around the world with a Christmas shoe box packed with gifts for a little boy or girl. The Care Team will be assembling gift boxes and sending them along with a \$7 postage donation. These gift boxes are not filled with the latest action figures, dolls or video games. The children that receive these gifts are almost inconceivably in need. When asked what they'd like to receive, they name things like pencils, shoes, school supplies and food.

The Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child ministry is more than a material gift—it's an opportunity that might one day help break the cycle of poverty in many under-developed nations. On their website, OCC representatives

Spread the word! FCC only exists because of generous donations from members like you. We are like PBS, completely member supported. So whether you're a new member or a lifetime member, please give what you can to support the ministries and worship of First Christians Church (Disciples of Christ), Naples. Your money, time, and talent allow us to serve from Immokalee to Laos, and to assemble in worship and thanks every Sunday. Can you give an extra \$5 every month, perhaps?

Thank you all for your incredible generosity, you have accomplished amazing things, and I am always overjoyed to tell people about this amazing community of faith.

write, "With new school supplies, the children will have more opportunities in class. But the shoe boxes don't just offer physical items to make life better for children. The gifts also present an opportunity to learn about the Gospel." The shoe



boxes become symbolic of God's love, a present and a presence that let's them know they are loved. <http://samaritanspurse.org/index.php/OCC/index/>

Local

FCC Care Team's incredible ministry is a blessing

By Isla Wilson

The Care Team is thrilled to **welcome three new members**, Dara Albert, Elena Bazanos and Esther Owusu. I'm sure they will be a great addition to the Care Team. We currently have thirty-one people on our Care List. Some are here in Naples, some are members that are still in the north, and others are friends or members that have moved on to other places.

The Care Team has sent out Halloween **Cards** to everyone on the Care List. We've also sent get well cards, birthday and anniversary cards to those on our list. We've provided six **meals** to three different families, **transportation** to the doctor, four Mini-Care Baskets, and lots of calls and **prayers**.

Our Birthday Project for Marissa McArdle, who is on a **Mission Trip to Laos**, raised \$900—enough for a yearlong scholarship for 30 children. Thank you all for your support!

A Carload of Care Team Members took a trip to Sarasota to meet with our good friend **Lee Miller**. She has been such a tremendous gift to our Care Team and our church in the past. She has moved to Largo to be near her family due to health issues.

November is **Pumpkin Bread Month** for those on the Care List. Many Care Team Members will be going to the workshop for **Stephen Ministry** on November 3rd to learn how we can better serve those on the Care List.

We will be organizing the "**Christmas Wish List**" for children through **Grace Place**. We have a list of 30 names and their wishes. You can pick up a stocking and buy a gift, or if you would rather, you can donate \$25 and we will pick up the gift for you. All gifts need to be returned by the first Sunday in December.



December 9th is the Care Team Brunch/ Candy Sale/Country Store. Once a year the Care Team does a fund raiser to help cover the costs of all of the projects and services that they provide during the year. We have been so grateful for everyone's support in past years! We hope you will come out and support us again this year.

December is also time for the **Christmas Care Baskets**, loaded with lots of homemade goodies for those on our Care List! If you are interested in joining the Care Team, please contact Isla Wilson 353-6212.

Grace Place book drive begins

By Dorothy Newton

Grace Place is collecting new or gently used books for children under 5 years of age. Diane Ponton, director of literacy at grace Place says, "Picking up a book with a parent or seeing words associated with images is a great first step toward gaining literacy."

The collection will take place on November 10 from 8 a.m. to noon at Grace Place, 43000 21st Ave. SW. If you will bring any books you want to donate to church before the 10th, Rosie has volunteered to deliver our donations.

Local

What we did on our summer vacation

By Ginny Spradlin

Since 1993 we have spent summer vacations, then after retirement, entire summers at our cabin in Canada, located on Lang Lake, which is part of a chain of lakes that eventually flow into Lake Huron. Our cabin is situated on the south shore of the lake where there is no road access, so when we arrive at the dock, we leave our car, then go by boat about a mile and a half to our camp. We have electricity, and we pump water from the lake to the cabin (we drink bottled water), but we have no septic. Recently satellite TV and wireless internet have become available.

After our daughter married in 2003 we built a small “bunkie” or “sleep camp” out back so that she and her husband can spend time with us during the summer, and they make the trip to Lang Lake from



Evergreen Colorado with their dog and cat.

Other cabins on the lake are owned by my sister and her husband (who were our original partners in ownership of our cabin), my brother-in-law’s brother, and my nephew from Louisiana. We are quick to arrange for pitch-in meals and fish fries with our family and also Canadian neighbors, who seem to love this summer activity.

The nearest grocery store, hardware store, library, bank and McDonalds are in Espanola,

Ontario, about eight miles from the main dock. If we want a WalMart or Costco, we drive to Sudbury, about 50 miles east of Espanola.

Boating and fishing are the two main activities of the lake, but swimming and hiking as well as cliff-jumping are also favorites. From our deck we look out at big cliffs, and we often sit on the deck with binoculars as boats pull up to the cliffs, kids jump out and climb, then make the leap- and we can hear the squeals of delight!

I have always been interested in history, so after I retired in 2001, I started recording the history of our lake chain, and in 2008 I



Summer Vacation

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was able to publish this history entitled "From the Heart of the Whitefish River" which includes articles on the earliest cottagers.



Over the years we've had our older daughter's children with us for a couple of weeks each summer, and we cherish those memories. Our son-in-law's family- nieces and nephews now come with their parents and grandparents, as do other friends and families.

The summer is never dull, and we try to keep ourselves in shape so that we can handle the terrain as well as getting in and out of the boats. All in all this rustic summer life is about as opposite of Naples, Florida, as one could get, but during those few months we absolutely love every minute of it!



November Serving Schedule

November 4	Greeter: Beverly & Joe K. Elders: George C. & Jerry W. Communion Prep: Charlotte A. Counting: George C.
November 11	Greeter: Dorothy N. Elders: George C. & Mary B. Communion Prep: Dorothy N. Counting: Phil C.
November 18	Greeter: Grace W. Elders: George C. & Mary B. Communion Prep: Donna B. Counting: Phil C.
November 25	Greeter: Kenya O. (Helen C.) Elders: Dorothy N. & Mary B. Communion Prep: Martha C. Counting: Mary B.



November Birthday Celebrations

1st - Rev. Rob Mason	24th - Stan Webster
8th - Cindy Hartz	24th - Tanya Hallam
10th - Marissa McArdle	24th - Bethany Gordon
11th - Evelyn Jones	26th - Joy Price
12th - Reeder Miller	27th - George Cheatham
15th - Bill Cline	29th - Dorothy Newton
19th - Charlotte Davis	
20th - Cheryl Tanner	
21st - Jim Meyers	

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.