

The Chalice News

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

Extraordinary time marks the beginning of God's revelation in Christ

By Pastor Michael

Advent marks the beginning of a new liturgical season for the church (*liturgy*, by the way, means “the work of the people”). The season from Pentecost until Advent is known as “ordinary time.” We have used this season to celebrate the way God empowers us to live the Gospel in our daily lives. The season we are now entering is known as “extraordinary time.” From Advent to Pentecost, we celebrate the extraordinary work God has done to inaugurate a new world through the revelation of the Christ.



The next several months offer us an opportunity to consider what the birth of Jesus and the in-breaking of Christ Consciousness to our world means for our personal spiritual journeys. The birth of Christ is the beginning of a cosmic new age for humanity, an age that began over 2000 years ago, and are just starting to comprehend and embrace in our daily lives.

Spiritual lessons take time to understand (and apparently even longer to implement). The lessons Jesus taught and lived were *radically* different from the accepted “norms” of society, and were just as threatening to the Roman Empire then as they are to our market-driven, material-gain-focused world today.

During this extraordinary season, I hope God inspires us to *listen* to Christ and motivates us to start living in God's new world—a world of racial, gender, sexual, economic and social equality; a world where governments understand their moral obligation to their citizens. A world where large institutions and the wealthiest individuals give freely to support those who are less fortunate. A world where the word “handout” is non-existent, because we all know that every now and then, we *all* need a helping hand, and that ultimately, that hand comes from God. God's world, the new world begun by the birth of Christ, the world Jesus would eventually be murdered for attempting to create, is breaking into reality, right now. Hallelujah!

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Youth and Missions Update

By Tony DeLucia

It's hard to believe it's December already. It feels like school just started and the end-of-school-year blues have yet to set in. Fear not, school-age youth (or teachers), for the summer will be here very soon. In the meantime, here's to a wonderful December, a Merry Christmas and best wishes for a wonderful New Year. Now, for some happenings.

On December 2, there will be a movie night for all ages at the home of Tony DeLucia (3000 42nd Ter SW, Naples) from 5:45 - 8:00pm or so. We'll be trying a "drive-in" style movie so bring your lawn chairs, blankets, etc. as the film will be shown on the side of the house! The movie will be "Elf" starring Will Farrell, James Caan, Zoey Deschanel and Mary Steenburgen, with hilarious appearances by Bob Newhart and Ed Asner. It was made in 2003 but has already become a "classic" contemporary Christmas movie. Please bring a snack to share (drinks will be provided) and we hope to see you there!

THIS HOLIDAY, DISCOVER YOUR INNER ELF



FCC youth and adults will be helping out at Grace Place for Children & Families on December 13th during their annual Holiday Party. Held for elementary school-age children from 3:30 to 5pm, members of FCC Naples have graciously offered to help out with games, face-painting, snacks, etc.

Thanks to Charlotte Davis, Barry & Sharon Ardrey, Vinny Occhhiuzzo, Patrick McArdle, Grant Scullin, and also a recent visitor to the church, Susan Olmo, for volunteering to help!



Coming up...for 2013, FCC Naples will be renewing it's volunteer efforts with Habitat for Humanity. Their current projects are:

Naples

Fall of 2012 and throughout season 2013, Habitat will be working on their rehab initiative in Golden Gate City. Work is ongoing Tuesday through Saturday from 7:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (On Sunday and Monday, the Naples work sites are closed.) For the daily location, please call Habitat offices at 239-775-0036.

Immokalee

Construction is ongoing in Faith Landing. In Immokalee, work is happening Monday through Thursday and on Saturday from 7:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (On Sunday and Friday, the Immokalee work sites are closed.)

FCC will be coordinating with HFH to determine worksites. If you'd like to volunteer but are unable to participate in any actual construction, Habitat is always looking for volunteer help with administrative and office duties. Thanks for volunteering!

What does the Lord Require?

Scriptures tell us to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God (Micah 6:8). Every day Disciples are praying to discern God's will for their lives. What does the Lord require of us?

One idea to consider is to create a legacy with your family finances that will continue ministry beyond your lifetime. You can establish a permanent fund during your lifetime and create signed documents that provide for additions at the time of death.

What ministries do you love? You decide what ministries will receive an annual distribution from your permanent fund each year for all perpetuity.

Once you have considered the ministries that you would like to benefit with a legacy gift, consult your professional advisors and a Christian Church Foundation representative for ideas on how choosing certain assets (especially tax-burdened assets like IRAs or 401(k)s) can increase the overall value of your estate. Changes to your plan can often be accomplished with simple beneficiary designation form changes, without the expense of revising the will or trust documents already in place.

Permanent funds, such as those held in trust by the Christian Church Foundation, support the ministries of the donor's choosing. We hope you would consider a legacy gift that would support First Christian Church, Naples in your plans.

To learn more about permanent funds through the Foundation, call (800) 668-8016.



FCC Naples needs your generous donations

The Finance & Stewardship committee (Martha Cecere, Norm and Ginny Spradlin, Beverly Krepel and Pastor Michael) meets at least monthly to analyze the church budget, assess needs and create a long-term plan for sustainability. It has become apparent to the committee that both membership and per-member giving must increase substantially if the church is going to continue its important ministries.

The 2012 Fiscal Budget approved by the congregation last year projected a loss of just over \$80,000. To maintain our ministries,

worship experience and outreach programs, we are estimating a \$45,000 loss for next year. We have enough money in reserve, without touching our principle investment from the sale of the parking lot, to cover these losses. The good news is, we've cut our losses in half! The bad news is, we're still losing money.

We have slashed expenses and currently run a very lean organization. But we need your consistent, generous donations to create a foundation for continued sustainability.

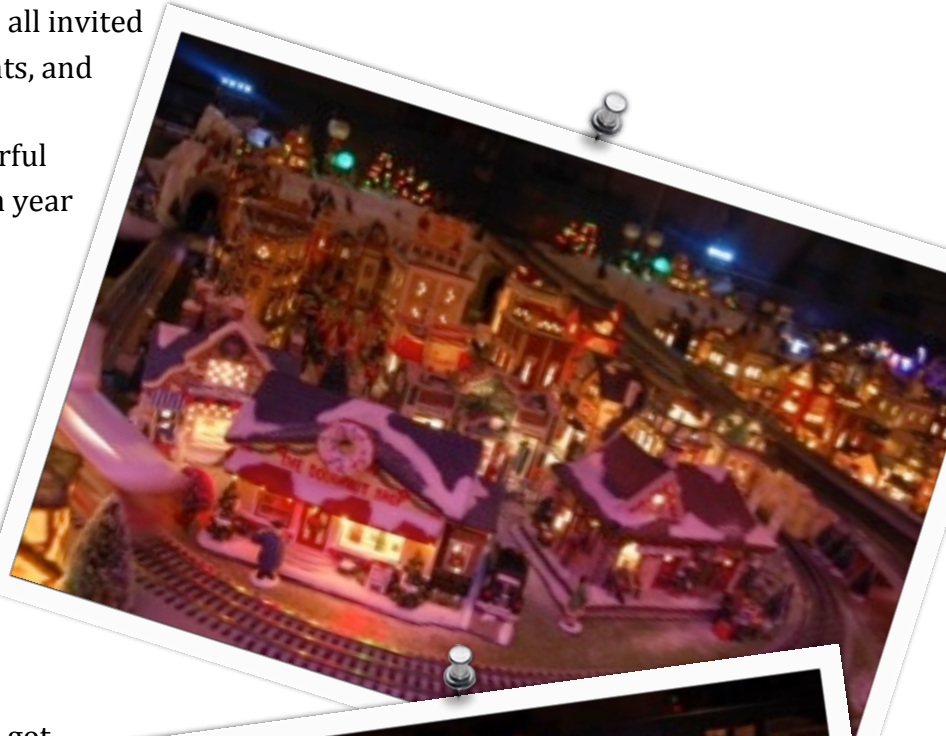
Local

Living in a winter wonderland at the Ardrey's

On December 16, from 5-8pm, the entire FCC congregation is invited to spend some time at Barry and Sharon Ardrey's house on 1507 Vintage lane, in the Briarwood subdivision.

Every Christmas, the Ardrey's create an incredible train display in their garage. As you can see from the photos, it's absolutely amazing! We are all invited for a fun evening of fellowship, refreshments, and model trains.

Sharon and Barry have started a wonderful tradition in their neighborhood, when each year they convert their garage into a miniature winter wonderland. Sharon and Barry say, "Please join us for what promises to be a wonderful evening!" Call 239-435-0771 or 239-253-3289 so the Ardrey's can leave your name at the Briarwood gate.



Can you give one more present this Christmas?

By Ginny Spradlin

It was back in December 1978 when we got a letter from our church stating that the end of the year was approaching and contributions were lagging. Would we consider putting the church on our Christmas list for a gift of \$19.78 to commemorate the past year we had worshipped together?

The amount stuck in my mind at the time, but I did nothing about it. Then nearer Christmas, as I was doing the last minute survey of gifts for the family, I decided I needed to buy one more gift: a new hot-lather shaver device for Norm. He hadn't asked for it, but it was advertised to be a hot new item on the market. So over my lunch hour I trotted across the street to a small appliance shop. Yes, they had the newest and latest shaving device! I got the last one! I was so excited until I went to write the check and the clerk said, "That will be \$19.78."

Oooow! That hurt.

I know the gift went under the tree, but I can't remember another thing about it. Did Norm like it? I can tell you that it was not among the clutter we purged when we moved here. But I do remember that we also wrote a check to the church that Christmas. Wouldn't it be great if we would all put FCC Naples on our gift list this season? Perhaps an additional check for \$20.12?





Church world service provides “water for all”

Church World Service works with partners in the U.S. and around the world to build interfaith and intercultural coalitions to eradicate hunger and poverty and promote peace and justice. The organization supports sustainable grassroots development, disaster relief, and refugee assistance.

In the United States, they help communities respond to disasters, resettle refugees, promote fair national and international policies, provide educational resources, and invite you and others to join a people-to-people network of local and global caring through participation in [CROP Hunger Walks](#), the [Blankets+ program](#), and the [CWS Kits program](#).

More than a **billion people worldwide lack clean water**, and more than 2.1 million people, most of them children, die each year from waterborne disease. Water cannot be taken for granted. Some experts predict that by the middle of this century people in over 60 countries could face water shortages. At the heart of the threat to future water supplies is the destruction of ecosystems. For example, over half the countries in Africa are “water-stressed.” Lack of access to water affects the life of vulnerable populations, making the simple task of collecting water a tremendous burden.

CWS supports communities in obtaining and managing their own potable water supplies and watershed sources. They regard water as a responsibility of public service, not as a resource for the few who can afford to pay. This means preventing policies that narrow the range of available options such as trade rules that

encourage inappropriate privatization and commercialization of services and promoting the ability of local communities to develop their own solutions.

Water for health: Church World Service

programs improve health and meet basic needs by providing safe and sufficient water and improving sanitation

conditions and hygiene practices.

Water for food: Church World Service programs help secure food supplies with 1) efficient irrigation; 2) use of under-utilized natural water resources (groundwater, rain



harvests, rivers, lakes, and lowland collections); and 3) mitigation of risks by improving water management in communities that suffer chronic drought and/or flooding.

Water for the future: Church World Service programs protect watersheds. The natural purification and sustainability of water resources requires ecosystem-based management.

CWS water ministry

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Programs integrate traditional water development with environmental education and land/water use management.

Water for peace: Church World Service programs support the peaceful sharing of water resources. Water resource governance brings together the uses of water (drinking, food, domestic, enterprise, environment, energy) and users of water (neighbors, communities, administrative regions, and countries). When conflicting demands arise, Church World Service supports equitable and efficient water sharing and resource management.

Reprinted from <http://www.churchworldservice.org>



December Serving Schedule

December 2 Greeter: Lynn & Jamie
Elders: Dorothy & Rosie
Communion Prep: Dorothy
Counting: Mary Brown

December 9 Greeter: Beverly & Joe
Elders: Rosi & Kelly
Communion Prep: Martha
Counting: Mary Brown

December 16 Greeter: Helen
Elders: Rosi & Kelly
Communion Prep: Dorothy
Counting: Mary Brown

December 23 Greeter: Grace
Elders: Rosi & Helen
Communion Prep: Charlotte
Counting: Mary Brown

December 24 Greeter: TBD
Elders: Tony & Mary
Communion: Mary
Counter: TBD

December 30 Greeter: Dorothy
Elders: Rosi & Helen
Communion: JoAnn
Counting: Mary Brown



December Birthday Celebrations

Dec 2 - Rhett Langston

Dec 19 - Bill Worstell

Dec 6 - Irene Jones

Dec 21 - Ethan Patterson

Dec 7 - Mary Brown

Dec 22 - Ginny Spradlin

Dec 7 - Ellen Patterson

Dec 29 - Christi Chambers

Dec 12 - Dayna DeLucia

Dec 30 - Sara Hardman

Dec 12 - Sydney DeLucia

Dec 30 - Dennis Turman

Dec 15 - Kenya Occhiuzzo

Dec 17 - Helen Carpenter