

THE CALLER

The newsletter of First Christian Church of St. Paul, Minnesota.



October 2014



What's Your Story?

Stories are subversive. In a culture that at times doesn't appreciate stories, they are able to teach us about ourselves or warn us of impending disaster and plead for us to repent.

As children, we might have read a Children's Bible with pictures. Most people who encounter the Bible as children encounter it as a book of stories.

As we get older, we are taught to see the Bible in other ways; as the Word of God, a rule book, a book of wise sayings and so on. We stop thinking of it as a story, because...well, stories are for kids.

But stories really do dominate the Bible. Actually, it's not stories as much as it is one story. The story of God and how God related with creation, especially the one creation made in God's image.

Since September 7, we started preaching and teaching from the [Narrative Lectionary](#), a new way of preaching and learning the Biblical text. We will be continuing with the lectionary until May, hearing God's story of salvation. As we read each story, going through the Bible, I hope you can see where your story takes place within this larger story.

Wish You Were Here...

Words from the Pastor

By Dennis L. Sanders



The following is an excerpted adapted letter that the pastor wrote to past members of First Christian Church over the summer. You can read

the full letter at fccstpaul.com.

To the former members First Christian Church:

Hello. My name is Dennis Sanders and since September of 2013 I've been the pastor at First Christian Church-St. Paul in Mahtomedi. Since I'm still fairly new, I wanted to take some time to contact past members of the congregation to share what's been happening at church.

A small group of members have become leaders in the months since the previous pastor, John Johnson, left in June of 2013. While the numbers are small, God has done a great thing with these faithful members. It wasn't easy for them at first; but little by little they stepped up and did what they could to help this congregation thrive. I am quite honored to be their pastor.

A number of changes have taken place over the last year. We are focusing on three areas: faith, fellowship and mission. When it comes

to faith, we are trying new things to foster the growth of Christians young and old. We have a Children's Sunday School that meets 15 minutes during the worship service. We don't have kids every Sunday, but when we do, we have a teacher ready to teach the kids about God's Story. On Wednesday nights we have and Adult Bible Study. We usually focus on the text I'm going to preach on the coming Sunday. I've seen these as very good studies where everyone (including me!) learns a little bit more.

In addition to our renewed emphasis on Christian Formation, our worship services have added live music; something that hasn't been heard around here for a long time. God provided two gifted church musicians: pianist Luke Swanger and organist Chris Wogaman. I can see it on the people's faces how much they appreciate hearing live music.

Fellowship is also being renewed with the relaunching of the Sunday potluck. Each 2nd Sunday, we gather for lunch. It is truly a time of fellowship as we connect with each other.

Mission is our final emphasis. A church isn't a building; is a community gathered by God and sent out into the world to care for the least of these. We work at creating partnerships with various agencies in the St. Paul metro area. The relationship includes the Mahtomedi Area Food shelf and Hope for the Journey Shelter, the only shelter

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Happenings

Life together at First-St. Paul

Lectionary Bible Study

Lectionary Bible Study is back! We meet on Wednesdays at 7PM. Join us as we take a look at the passage that will be preached on that coming Sunday.

Monthly Potluck

It's a Potluck! Join us October 12 after worship in the North Basement.

Needed at the Food shelf

The following items are needed at the Mahtomedi Area Food shelf during the month of October: soups, chili and stews. You can drop off your items in the lobby.

Church Board Meeting

The September meeting of the board of First Christian will meet on Tuesday, October 14 at 5:30. All are welcome to attend.

First Read

One result of the Fall Planning Session on September 7 is a desire to have a book study. We will start having a book study in October. Called First Read, we will have a one-time meeting talking about a specific book. Join us October 16 as we take a look at the book, Making Sense of the Bible by Adam Hamilton. You can purchase the book on Amazon or a local book store. We will meet at Caribou Coffee, 3100 White Bear Avenue in Maplewood starting at 6:30PM.

Trunk or Treat!

First Christian will host a Trunk or Treat event in the parking lot of the church on October 31. First Christian people will decorate their cars, filled with candy to give to local children. More information will be in next month's Caller.

Listen Again, or for the First Time.

fccstpaul.com/sermons



THE CALLER

The Newsletter of First Christian Church of St. Paul, Minnesota

650 Wildwood Road
 Mahtomedi, MN 55115
 (651) 779-3033
fccstpaul.com

Staff

Dennis Sanders: Supply Pastor.
 Chris Wogaman: Interim Musician.
 Luke Swanger: Interim Musician.

First Christian Church-St. Paul is a Christian community centered in faith, mission and fellowship.

Happenings

Life together at First-St. Paul

Mission Sunday

Fourth Sunday is always Mission Sunday at First. Please bring your loose change to support one of our Mission Partners. On October 26 the offering will go to support Hope for the Journey Family Shelter in Oakdale.

Volunteer at Hope for the Journey Shelter in 2015

The 2015 dates to volunteer at Hope for the Journey Shelter have been set. The five church coalition that includes First will volunteer the weeks of January 12, May 4 and October 5. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Janice Paulson.

for homeless families in Washington County. We are part of a five church coalition that takes a week to volunteer at the shelter. Each fourth Sunday we have a loose change offering that goes to a local non profits.

This summer, Luke our pianist, offered to hold a concert with a friend who was a violinist. The two held a wonderful benefit concert at the church that brought over 60 people in the community out to hear great classical music on a warm summer evening. The concert raised over \$800 for Hope for the Journey Shelter.

There is a lot more I could tell you, like our joining with two other Disciples churches in the area to host a booth at the Twin Cities Gay Pride Festival. Or maybe the plans for a "Trunk or Treat" event on Halloween. Or even the long-range planning event that took place in mid-September. Or how the congregation offered support to a new visitor who was grieving the loss of an adult child. I could tell you a lot of things, but I only have so much time and space.

What I can tell you is that when most other congregations would have closed, this church wanted to be...church. While we haven't grown much numerically in the last year, we have grown in profound ways, ways that aren't so easily quantifiable. And most important, I can sense of the Spirit of God moving within this community.

I hope you will take the time to pray for us. First Christian has some challenges as it seeks to re-engage with the wider community. Your prayers of support will remind us that God is with us as we continue to be a witness in the St. Paul Metro. We would love to have you visit us and see for yourselves the wondrous work God is doing here at First Christian.

Thank you for your time. I hope to meet with you all sometime in the near future. May God bless us all in our faith journeys. Godspeed.

Dennis Sanders, Pastor

Tree of Light & Remembrance

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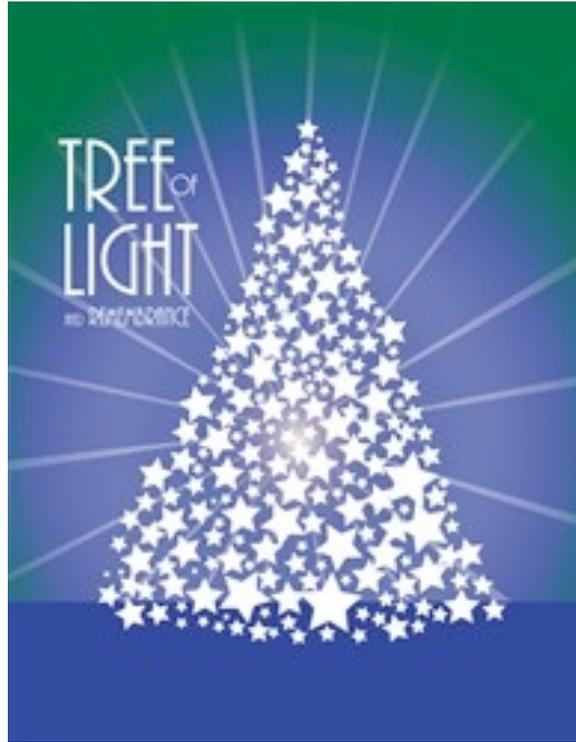
Help illuminate the Tree of Light and Remembrance and the lives of those in need in our community

With the ever present plight of Minnesota families living in poverty, hunger is closer than we think, and the need for food shelves is greater than many people realize, even in the Mahtomedi area.

As the Mahtomedi Area Food Shelf continues to fulfill its mission to serve families in the community, we are grateful for how you have always responded to your neighbors' needs.

The Food Shelf, along with local civic groups, businesses, churches, our school

district, community education and many volunteers, is proud to sponsor the Tree of Light and Remembrance, the Food Shelf's biggest fundraiser.



Purchasing a light for the Tree of Light in honor or memory of a loved one is a wonderful way to cherish someone who has been an inspiration to you and your family.

This is the 14th year of the event thanks to Michael McGlinch's wish to serve the community through the Food Shelf. It has grown into a beautiful tradition to support those in need.

You can purchase a light by going to the St. Jude of the Lake website, www.stjudeofthelake.org. Come to the tree lighting on December 5, 6:30PM at Triangle Park in Mahotmedi.

Coming This Fall-
Stewardship Drive

It's still in the planning stages, but there will be stewardship drive at First starting sometime in November. More information will be presented in Sunday bulletins and next month's *Caller*.

first christian st. paul
2014  stewardship drive

Prayer Requests October 2014

In Our Prayers

- Jeff Halseth’s mom, Barbara, has moved to hospice care.
- Vern Stenback has a chronic lung condition, cards to: Johanna Shores, 3220 Lake Johanna Blvd., Room 336, Arden Hills, MN 55112, Phone 697-2314.
- Charles Moore’s nephew, Charlie, treated for cancer.
- Prayers Marlys Larson and family after the death of her son, Michael in September.
- John Paulson’s dad.
- Dorothy Cordes and Edna Lundgren other homebound members.
- Dave Peightal, Tom Knobel, and all driving trucks.
- Missy Stone’s great nephew, Carter.

Are you in need of financial assistance? Do you live in the Mahtomedi School District? The Good Neighbor Club of Mahtomedi & Willernie is available to provide Emergency or temporary financial help and assistance for School District 832 residents. Janet 651-429-7212, Arlita 426-2291, Terri 491-6335. To learn more about the Good Neighbor Club visit them online at mahtomedignc.org.

- For Jeff Halseth’s Sister-In-Law who is being treated for cancer.
- Those seeking work.
- Prayers for David Neilsen, a friend of Charles and Linda Moore who is dealing with total kidney failure.
- Chris Wogaman who is recovering from intestinal issues.

If you have a prayer concern to share leave a message by phone at (651) 779-3033 or by email at fccmahtomedi@gmail.com.

If you have something you would like to have in the newsletter, please contact Pastor Dennis. Submissions can be sent to fccmahtomedi@gmail.com. Please send your items by the 20th of the month.



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First Christian-St. Paul Calendar

October 2014

Wednesday, Oct 1

1:00PM Pastor's Hours until 5:30PM

7:00PM Bible Study

Sunday, Oct 5

9:30 AM Worship

9:45AM Children's Bible Study

Wednesday, Oct 8

1:00PM Pastor's Hours to 5PM

7:00PM Bible Study

Sunday, Oct 12

9:30 AM Worship

9:45AM Children's Bible Study

10:30AM Potluck

Wednesday, Oct 15

1:00PM Pastor's Hours until 5:30PM

7:00PM Bible Study

Thursday, Oct 16

6:30PM First Read Event @ Caribou Coffee-
Maplewood

Sunday, Oct 19

9:30 AM Worship

9:45AM Children's Bible Study

Tuesday, Oct 21

5:30PM FCC Board Meeting

Wednesday, Oct 22

1:00PM Pastor's Hours to 5PM

7:00PM Lectionary Bible Study

Sunday, Oct 26

9:30 AM Worship

9:45AM Children's Bible Study

Wednesday, Oct 29

1:00PM Pastor's Hours to 5PM

7:00PM Lectionary Bible Study

Friday, Oct 31

6:00PM Trunk or Treat

Did you know you can support First with your offerings by giving online? Online giving allows for a specific dollar amount to be deducted automatically from a checking or savings account. You can set up online giving either as a one-time donation or a recurring gift. Online giving is not only easy, it's also safe and secure. This option helps individuals and families remain faithful in their giving even when they are out of town or unable to attend a weekend service.

Try it out! To give online go to www.fccstpaul.com/give.

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First Christian Church of St. Paul

Faith. Mission. Community.

Dennis Sanders- Stated Supply Pastor

Phone: (651) 779-3033

Web: fccstpaul.com

Email: info@fccstpaul.com

Join us for worship
Sunday at 9:30am.



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