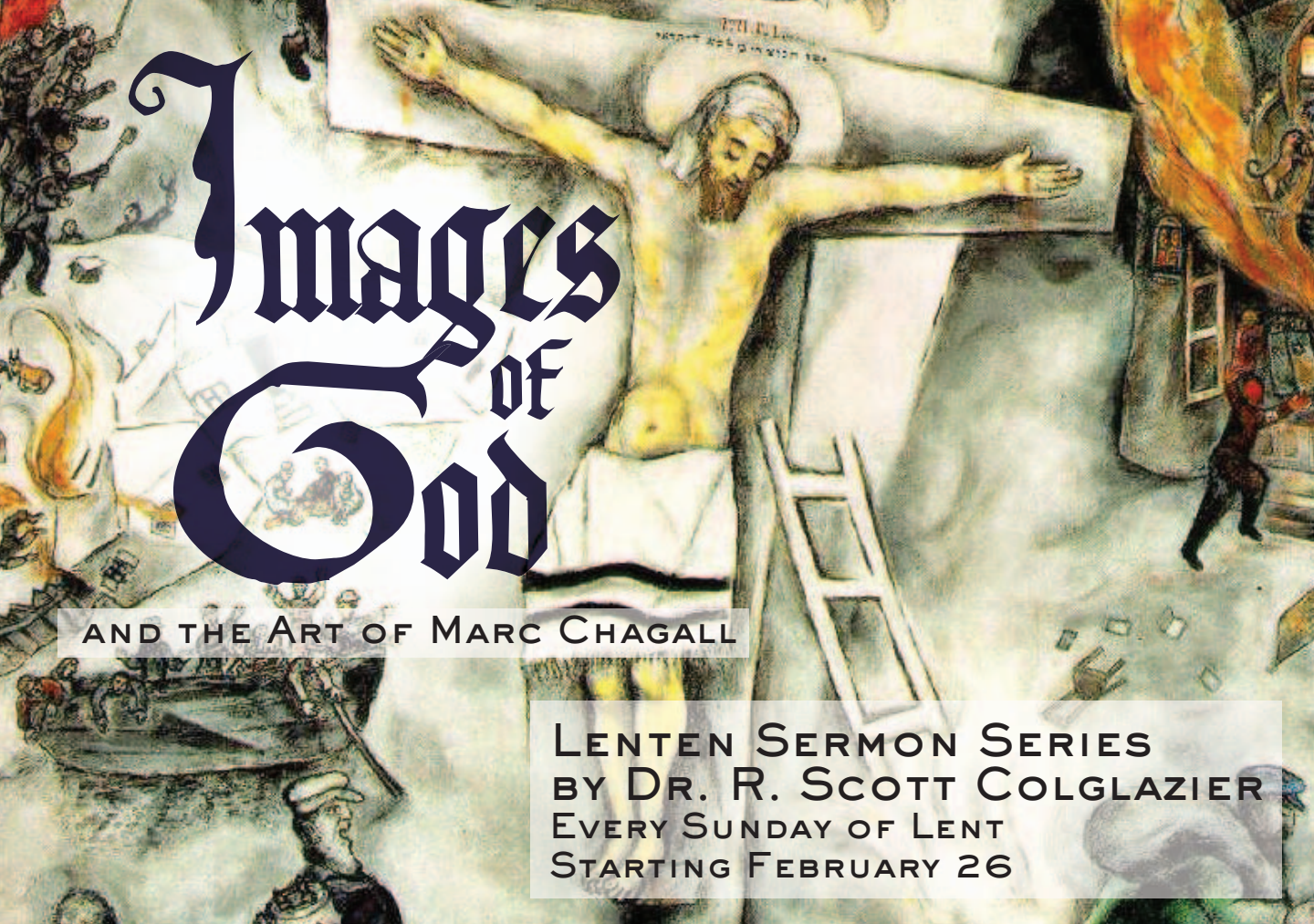


FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
of Los Angeles

the

MEETINGHOUSE

February 2012 • Volume 80 • No. 2



Images of God

AND THE ART OF MARC CHAGALL

LENTEN SERMON SERIES
BY DR. R. SCOTT COLGLAZIER
EVERY SUNDAY OF LENT
STARTING FEBRUARY 26

Celebrating 144 Years of Worship, Education & Involvement

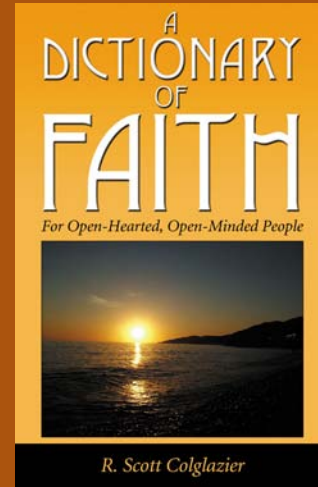
A DICTIONARY OF FAITH: For Open-Hearted, Open-Minded People A new book from Dr. Colglazier

Dear Friends:

I am so pleased to share this announcement about my new book – *A Dictionary of Faith: For Open-Hearted, Open-Minded People*.

This book is my idiosyncratic look at Christianity. It is anecdotal, as opposed to historical. A theology for people without professional theological education. I hope you find it helpful (and humorous). At the same time, I hope you find it maddening in a few places too. Keep in mind that what I offer is not so much definition but invitation – an invitation to enter into the mystery of language itself and, in particular, the essence of Christianity as seen from a liberal, open and progressive point of view.

In many ways, this book is my answer to what I too often observe, namely, a Christianity that is narrow, rigid and judgmental. The language of faith is progressive, and that means we continue to learn and apply faith in new ways. Words still matter to me. I suspect they matter to you too. Enjoy the book. Share it with your friends, families or discussion groups.



To Order *A Dictionary of Faith: For Open-Hearted, Open-Minded People*, or other titles by Dr. Colglazier, go to www.amazon.com.

Or, for personalized, signed copies, email Ms. Heather Priest at hpriest@fccla.org or call her at 213.355.5231.



Dr. R. Scott Colglazier will be signing books on SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19 AT 12:10 PM AT First Congregational Church of Los Angeles 540 S. Commonwealth Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90027

Architectural Tour of First Church

Sunday, February 12 at 12:15PM



Did you know that First Church was constructed in 14 months, employing 500 tons of steel reinforcing within poured concrete? This is just one of many interesting facts that you will learn on our monthly architectural tour. Charles Moore says in “The City Observed” that First Church

architects James and David Allison possessed “an extraordinary capacity to reinterpret vigorously either a historic or a current style, and to whip up maximum drama within the rigid budgetary constraints of the Depression.” The church was dedicated Easter Sunday, 1933.

One Sunday each month, we conduct a guided tour highlighting the majestic architecture of First Church’s neo-gothic cathedral. A group meets right after worship service at the Chancel steps in the Sanctuary. This month’s tour is on February 12. Please join us for this informative event!

Why First Church?

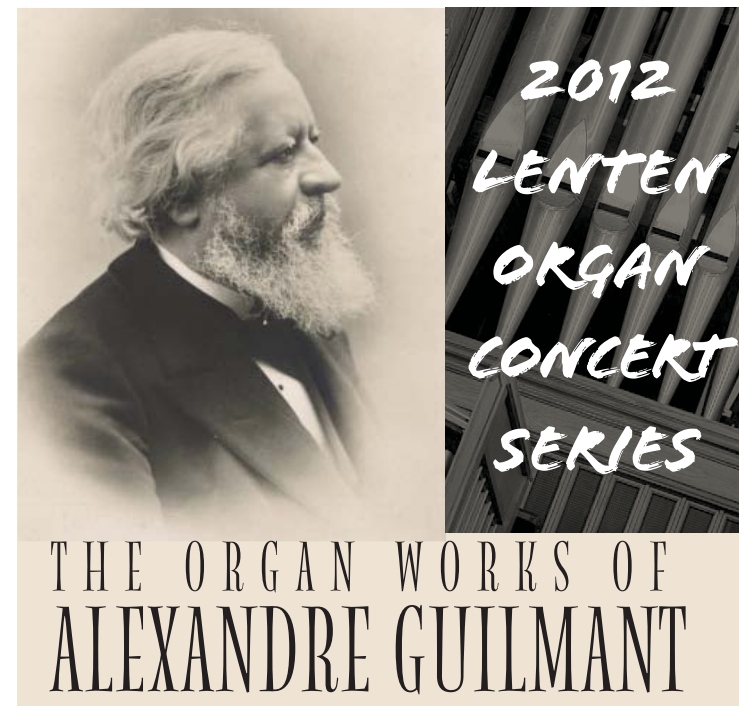
In 2010, the crushing grief of a personal tragedy split me completely open. Rising from the ashes, I began to identify some negative internal messages that weren’t working for me anymore. One idea I had carried for fifteen years, after a traumatic fundamentalist upbringing, was that I couldn’t attend church without sacrificing my intellect. Then by chance, while reading LA Weekly, I saw First Church’s ad for its Easter Sunday service. A tiny voice inside me, that prior to my painful year I would have derisively dismissed, suggested I try it. Having attended organ concerts at FCCLA, I guessed that its Easter music would be just as delightful. I was right. Then, as I steeled myself to endure the sermon, the unexpected happened. Dr. Colglazier



said, “Although we do not take the Bible literally, we take it seriously.” And the rest, for me, is history.

What a joy it is to have found a place where I don’t have to check my brain at the door! With its angelic choir and musicians, a world-class organ, and inclusive values, First Church has allowed me to reclaim my religious heritage in a life-giving way. Ultimately, I’ve been challenged to rethink my skepticism. What if my reaction against my fundamentalist upbringing, though legitimately damaging, had become a convenient excuse to opt out of engaging with the Divine? My entire experience, from heartbreak to homecoming, has brought me closer than ever before to believing in such a thing as God’s grace.

— HOLLY HOFMANN



Every Thursday

February 23 to April 5 at 12:10PM

Assisted by Organ Scholar Jaebon Hwang, Organist-in-Residence Stewart W. Foster will present the complete Sonatas, nos. 1–8, of the French composer Alexandre Guilmant over the 7 week period of Lent. These sonatas are grand, multi-movement works that will show the majesty and beauty of the Great Organs of First Church. Each Thursday at 12:10PM, one or two of these sonatas will be paired with other organ music suitable to the Lenten season. Mr. Foster will start the series with a lecture on Thursday, February 23, at 11:00AM in Shatto Chapel, during which time he will play excerpts from the sonatas and discuss the thematic material and other interesting musical points about the eight sonatas.

GENEROSITY MOVEMENT

I'm really pleased to share with you the results of our 2012 Generosity Campaign. We have received 74 pledges and our total is more than \$38,000 over our 2011 pledges. Thanks to each of you who made a giving commitment this year and thanks for the faithfulness of all those who make regular gifts each and every week.

In a season when so many churches are having to deal with decreased offerings, we should give thanks that First Church is thriving in this way. We still have a long way to go to reach our goals of being more self-sustaining, but we are making great strides, thanks to so many of you. The numbers of new and increased pledges is a testament to your gratitude and recognition of God's activity in your life.

Throughout the year, we'll be sending giving statements to those individuals who have pledged. We want to be able to say thank you on a regular basis for your commitment to the ministries of First Church. If ever you have a question with yours, I hope you won't hesitate to contact me.

We also have many of you who chose to utilize our e-offering. That opportunity is still available, should others want to take advantage of that in the future. Just let me know if you're interested, as you can sign up at any time. As a reminder, we will be processing those offerings on the 15th of each month, or the first business day thereafter.

Again, congratulations on a successful campaign! It's never too late to make a pledge. We are always glad to add you to our growing list of those making giving commitments. Your offerings make a difference in the lives of so many people.

Blessings,
Rev. Shanna Steitz

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

THE SEASON
of
Lent

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2012
12:10PM
SHATTO CHAPEL

Additionally, ministers will be available from 5 to 7PM to perform the imposition of ashes for those who cannot attend the service.

Seeking Reception Hosts

We are seeking hosts for our Sunday morning Coffee Fellowships. This social time has become an important opportunity in the life of our congregation, as it offers a chance to visit with old friends and to make new ones. Hosts can provide the actual treats (generally about 300-350 pieces), or they can give a monetary donation (\$100) and First Church staff will take care of the rest. Joining with others to co-host is also an option. If you're interested in participating in this way, please contact Rachel Garcia, Programs Coordinator, at 213-355-5245 or rgarcia@fccla.org, or, simply sign up at the Welcome Table on Sunday mornings.

Flower and Candle Dedications

Each week, the beautiful flowers gracing our Altar and the Chancel Arch are gifts by members and friends of First Church who wish to dedicate them in honor or memory of family, friends or loved ones. Overseen by the Altar Guild, the Altar Flowers are \$80, the Chancel Arch Flowers are \$60, and the Altar Candles are \$35. If you would like to dedicate flowers or candles, please contact Kay Murakami at kaymbach@att.net, or by signing up at the Altar Guild Table during our Sunday coffee fellowship.



Spiritual Life Retreat

Passion & Gifts for the Journey

Co-Led by Rev. Shanna Steitz and Rev. Ryan Steitz
Saturday, February 25 – 10AM to 3PM

Using the book *The Element: How Finding Your Passion Changes Everything* by Ken Robinson (<http://sirkenrobinson.com>) as our starting point, participants will explore, name and own those things they are most passionate about. Together we will also explore the concept of spiritual giftedness and how using and sharing our particular gifts not only draws us nearer to God, but also best informs our commitments to the church.

Reading *The Element* is highly recommended, but NOT required. (Available in paperback or as an e-book.) A spiritual gifts inventory will be emailed/mailed to all who RSVP, and should be completed prior to attending. RSVPs are appreciated by Sunday, February 19 to Rachel Garcia at rgarcia@fccla.org or 213.355.5245. A suggested donation of \$15 will cover the cost of lunch and materials.

Women's Association

LUNCHEON

Thursday, February 9 | 12:30PM | Barnum Room

Come join us for an afternoon of fun, friends and fellowship when First Church's Women's Association holds their monthly luncheon. It will be a Valentine's Day program called "Musical Ways to Say 'I Love You.'" Reservations are a must, so please RSVP to Rachel Garcia, Programs Coordinator at 213.355.5245, or email her at rgarcia@fccla.org by noon Monday, February 6th. Cost for the luncheon is \$10. We'd love to see you there!

BOARD MEETING

Thursday, February 23 | 10:30AM | Room 119

SAVE THE DATE

Yale Glee Club

Sunday, March 4 at 3PM



For a century and a half, the Yale Glee Club has represented the best in American collegiate singing. Come hear one of the Ivy League's great choirs give a wonderfully varied concert of different types of repertoire. Jeffrey Douma conducts.



FEBRUARY 2012

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH *of Los Angeles*

540 SOUTH COMMONWEALTH AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90020
WWW.FCCLA.ORG
MAIN PHONE: 213.385.1341
MUSIC LINE: 213.385.1345
PILGRIM SCHOOL: 213.385.7351
SR. MINISTER'S ASSISTANT: 213.355.5231

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
EVERY SUNDAY 8:00AM CATHEDRAL CHOIR REHEARSAL 9:30AM FIRST KIDS FIRST 9:30AM ADULT EDUCATION: <i>Seekers Class</i> 10:30AM ORGAN PRELUDE 11:00AM WORSHIP SERVICE 11:15AM FIRST KIDS FIRST						
			1	2	3	4
10:30AM ORGAN PRELUDE 11:00AM WORSHIP SERVICE 12:15PM OUTREACH NETWORKING EVENT: WHO'S WHO & WHAT DO YOU DO?		10:00AM WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING 1:00PM HR & COMPENSATION COMMITTEE MEETING	8:15AM TAPPS MEETING	8:00AM FCC MEMBER PHOTOS 12:10PM MIDDAY ORGAN CONCERT 12:30PM 	8:00AM FCC MEMBER PHOTOS	8:00AM FCC MEMBER PHOTOS 9:30AM KIDSNET LA TEEN ACADEMY
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8:00AM FCC MEMBER PHOTOS 10:30AM ORGAN PRELUDE 11:00AM WORSHIP SERVICE 12:15PM ARCHITECTURAL TOUR 12:30PM BOARD OF DEACONS MEETING 12:30PM YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP: LUNCH AND CONVERSATION		9:40AM ALL-SCHOOL CHAPEL		12:10PM MIDDAY ORGAN CONCERT		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10:30AM ORGAN PRELUDE 11:00AM WORSHIP SERVICE 12:15PM <i>DICTIONARY OF FAITH</i> BOOK SIGNING AND COFFEE FELLOWSHIP	CHURCH & SCHOOL CLOSED		12:10PM ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE 5:00PM ASH WEDNESDAY BLESSING AND IMPOSITION OF ASHES	10:30AM  12:10PM LENTEN ORGAN CONCERT SERIES		10:00AM SPIRITUAL LIFE RETREAT
19	PRESIDENT'S DAY 20	21	ASH WEDNESDAY 22	23	24	25
10:30AM ORGAN PRELUDE 11:00AM WORSHIP SERVICE 12:15PM SERMON TALKBACK 1:00PM BASSETT, BRITTON AND READ MEMORIAL SERVICE 5:00PM WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB 5:00PM MOVIE CLUB						
26	27	28	29			

First Kids First

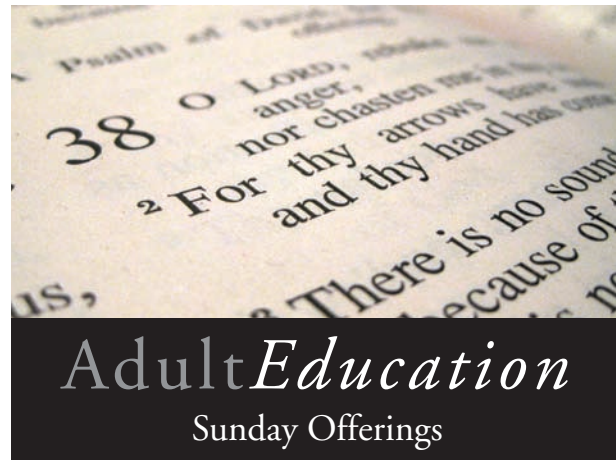
First Kids First is doing so many cool things, having so much fun and growing so fast we can hardly keep up! Not only are we welcoming new children every Sunday during worship, but new kids are also coming for the 9:30 hour that is full of depth and exploration. In addition to all the fun and creative ways kids are learning about God's love, First Kids First is excited to sing in worship again on February 19! As always, our Manager of First Kids First, Ms. Julianne James, is ready to answer any questions you may have. Contact her at jjames@fccla.org or 213.355.5259

Join us for these exciting Sunday morning topics throughout February:

- 2/5 Serving and Praying: Children will explore meditation and make a prayer wheel for home.
- 2/12 Jesus' Caring Touch: We will learn about compassion and empathy using Mark 1:40-45 when Jesus healed the sick. Valentine's crafts of love and compassion will be made.
- 2/19 Puppet show! Using puppets that we've made, we're hearing and telling stories of Jesus' life.
- 2/26 Season of Lent begins, and we will hear the story of Noah and the Ark. To remind us of God's promise of renewal, we will make rainbow posters to take home.

Family Snow Day: Cancelled

Unfortunately, the Family Snow Day was cancelled due to circumstances beyond our control. An alternative First Kids First family outing is being planned and will be announced as soon as possible! Please contact Manager of First Kids First Julianne James at jjames@fccla.org or 213.355.5259 with any questions.



Lenten Study

Begins Sunday, February 26 at 9:30AM

The Seeker's Class will begin a Lenten Study on Sunday, February 26 using the book, *A Clearing Season: Reflections for Lent* by Sarah Parsons. (Available thru Amazon and other retailers in paperback or as an e-book.) Weekly reading and suggested activities will be necessary for full participation and growth at weekly class sessions at 9:30 in the Amanda Scott Room. As always, new members are welcome and encouraged to come! Contact Rev. Ryan Steitz at rsteitz@fccla.org or 213.355.5232 for more information.

Mark: The Writing That Forever Changed The World...

Through February 19 at 9:30AM

Join the Seekers Class for an in-depth look at the revolutionary Gospel of Mark. Whether you've been reading and studying the Bible for years, or have never opened a Bible before, you are sure to be welcomed and enlightened. Contact Rev. Ryan Steitz at rsteitz@fccla.org or 213.355.5232 to find out more.

Sermon Talk-Back

Sundays, February 26 – April 1 at 12:15PM

Every Sunday throughout Lent (Feb. 26-April 1) you are invited to join Senior Minister Dr. R. Scott Colglazier for a time of conversation. Lasting no more than 45 minutes, participants will join in Mayflower Courtyard after worship to reflect on that day's sermon and artwork.

YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP

SEX: The first thing you don't talk about at church

Lunch and Conversation

Sunday, February 12 from 12:30 – 4:00PM

Over the years three things have been off-limits for conversation at church—money, politics and sex—but we're about to change that, one topic at a time! Join with other young adults for an open, honest conversation about sex and sexuality with other God-seekers. All participants are encouraged to read the book "Oh God, Oh God, Oh God! Young Adults Speak Out About Sexuality & Christian Spirituality" in advance. (Available through Amazon and other retailers in paperback or as an e-book.) RSVPs are appreciated but NOT necessary to Rachel Garcia at rgarcia@fccla.org or 213.355.5245. Contact Rev. Ryan Steitz at rsteitz@fccla.org or 213.355.5232 with any questions.



To keep up with the latest planned and impromptu events "like" us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/FCCLAYoungAdults.

Movie Club: Albert Nobbs

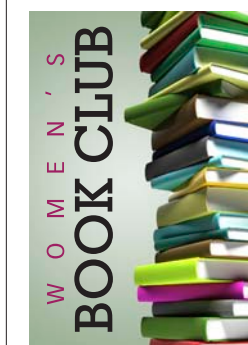
Sunday February 26 at 5:00PM

You are invited to join co-leaders Michael Dennis and Rev. Ryan Steitz for an evening of conversation,



growth and community around the movie *Albert Nobbs*, in theatres January 27. Glenn Close plays *Albert Nobbs*, a woman passing as a man in order to work and survive in 19th century Ireland. Some thirty years after donning men's clothing, she finds herself trapped in a prison of her own making.

You are welcome to view the movie at your convenience or, Michael and Ryan will be gathering with a group the night of Thursday, Feb. 23 at a theatre yet to be determined. If you would like to join the screening please call or email Rachel Garcia at rgarcia@fccla.org or 213.355.5245 to be put on the contact list.



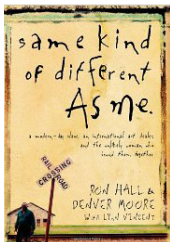
Sunday, February 26

5:00PM

Barnum Room

We meet the last Sunday of each month and the book for February is *Same Kinda Different as Me*

by Ron Hall and Denver Moore.



Pictorial Directory Coming Soon!

We are continuing to work with Olan Mills Photography to create a pictorial directory for our congregation. This will be such a helpful tool for all of us to connect names and faces.

We hope you will participate in this all-church effort. We want to include everyone — full-members, associate members, and regular guests.

The remaining dates available for photography are:

February 9, 10, 11, 12. Please make your appointment after church, or you can sign up online at www.signup.olanmills.com. All photographs will be taken at the church. Every participating "family" will receive a free directory and a \$25 portrait gift certificate; however, no purchase is necessary. We will also have the directory on a website with a password protected feature! If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Shanna Steitz at ssteitz@fccla.org or 213.355.5237.

A Place of Spirit

Upcoming Worship

Sunday, February 5

Sermon: "A Lifting-Up Kind of God"

Dr. R. Scott Colglazier

Scripture: Mark 1:29-39

Sunday, February 12

Sermon: "Choose Love; Choose Life"

Dr. R. Scott Colglazier

Scripture: Mark 1:40-45

Sunday, February 19

Sermon: "Bringing God Home"

Dr. R. Scott Colglazier

Scripture: Mark 9:2-9

Sunday, February 26

Sermon: "Images of God: You Can Begin Again"

Dr. R. Scott Colglazier

Scripture: Genesis 9:8-17

the MEETINGHOUSE

To place an upcoming event or article in the next edition of *The Meetinghouse*, please reserve your space by Monday, February 6, and have your content emailed to Kim-Minh Huberwald, Director of Communications, at khuberwald@fccla.org, by Noon on Friday, February 10.

Please Note

If you only wish to receive a digital copy of *The Meetinghouse*, we are glad to save the paper and postage. Just email Jade Hornbaker at Jhornbaker@fccla.org.

birthdays

February 1	Pearl S. Alona
February 2	Thomas S. Strickler, Francesca Morris, Dr. Joe Leckie McNair, Jr.
February 3	Janet V. McElrath, Rachel Garcia
February 5	Kay Murakami, Chris Okpala
February 6	Grayce Niggley
February 7	Louis Johnson, Jr., Julie Hogenboom
February 8	Marjorie McBride, Anne Carstens, Eleanor Moody
February 9	Evalina Bumiller
February 10	Matthew Steven Karp
February 11	Michael C. Karp, Chuck Meyer, Igor Ceshkovsky, Diana Waters
February 12	Juanita Beth Morgan, Joy Huijbregts
February 13	Gloria Eclipse, Anna S. Finn, Sally Bellerue, Franciscus Huijbregts
February 14	George C. Hildebrand
February 15	Vera Ward, Katherine Kennedy, Audrey R. Langer, John William Whitsett
February 17	Charles W. Rea, Jr.
February 19	Stephen Roos, Ruth L. Ballenger, Dr. Val Davajan
February 20	Jean Raleigh, Elizabeth Wright
February 21	Randy Lemons, Bernice E. Mace
February 22	Daniel Gellert, Duane E. Collier, Samantha K. Finch
February 23	Samuel W. Donley, Brenda Kydd
February 24	Dorothy J. Black, Alma Gonzales Thomas
February 25	Erick Weiss, Sylvia E. Miller, Reimi Shuttleworth
February 28	F. Huston Huddleston III, Lowell Ponte

Happy Birthday to all of you from your First Church Family!

Thoughts for the Journey

MY LORD GOD, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end.

Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.

I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.

— THOMAS MERTON, 20TH CENTURY TRAPPIST MONK

Gracious Gifts

Altar Dedications

Sunday, February 5

The Altar Flowers are given by Rev. Donald B. Colhour and Michael S. Hoffer in loving tribute and memory of their parents, **Mr. and Mrs. E. Bruce Colhour** and **Mr. and Mrs. Orla S. Hoffer**.

The Flowers are placed in the Chancel Arch in loving memory of **Al Davies** by Joanie Nester.

Sunday, February 12

The Flowers are placed at the Altar in loving memory of **LaRita Stoufer**, by her husband Walter and daughters Leisl and Jocelyn.

The Altar Candles are lighted and the Flowers are placed in the Chancel Arch by the Board of Deacons in respect for **Robert Read**, past Chair of the Deacons, in memory of his beloved mother, **Malou**.

Sunday, February 19

The Flowers are placed at the Altar in honor of the birthdays of **Kazuo** and **Mutsuko Kunotani**, by their daughter Kay Murakami.

The Altar Candles are lighted in loving memory of Rev. Sanders' beloved father and step-mother, **Clarence W. and Fredye M. Fields**, by the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Columbus Sanders.

The Flowers are placed in the Chancel Arch by the Altar Guild, in appreciation for the progressive Christian values espoused by First Church.

Sunday, February 26

The Flowers are placed at the Altar by Vera Ward in memory of loved ones in the **Bantz, Neuman** and **Ward families**.

The Altar Candles are lighted in loving memory of **Edith C. Knudson** by her daughter, Patricia Hadley.

The Flowers are placed in the Chancel Arch today by the Women's Association, in loving memory of **Mitch Bassett, Lois Britton, and Malou Read**.

Pastoral News

Congratulations to Evan Carlson and Eunhee Park upon the birth of **Hazel Yeona Carlson** on December 28, 2011!

We share our condolences with member **Alicia Murray (Weiss)** upon the death of her mother.

We share our condolences with member Jackie Dudley upon the death of her son, **Theodore Charles III**.

Three long-time members passed in January. We invite you to keep their friends and family in your prayers. They are:

Norma "Malou" Read who died Monday, January 9.

Lois Britton who died Saturday, January 14.

Mrs. Mabel Mitchell Bassett who died Sunday, January 15.

With the assistance of the Women's Association, a combined Memorial Service for all three women has been set for Sunday, February 26 at 1:00 pm. Dr. Colglazier will preside at the Memorial. A reception in the Barnum Room is to follow.

First Church Director of Communications, **Kim-Minh Huberwald**, will be stepping down from her post, completing her responsibilities May 1. We are grateful to Kim for her excellent work, and for the strides that have been made in our Communications Department. Beginning February 1, **Curtis Rhodes**, currently serving as Director of Programs, will step into the Director of Communications position, and will be responsible for developing and implementing our Communications strategy. **Rev. Ryan Steitz** will become Associate Minister and Director of Programs, absorbing some of the responsibilities that will need to be covered as a result of this change, while **Joanna Chong**, our Wedding and Events Coordinator, will come aboard full time, accepting the responsibility of covering special events for the church.



the
MEETINGHOUSE

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TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

OUTREACH

OPPORTUNITIES

Who's Who & What Do You Do ?

*Sunday, February 5 at 12:15PM
Barnum Room*

The Transition Team, a subcommittee of the Outreach Committee, will be sponsoring a networking event for members of First Church: "Who's Who and What Do You Do?" This event is aimed at workers seeking a job or looking to upgrade from a present job. It will also be a great opportunity for those who may have or know of jobs available, and are looking for people to fill them.

"We considered what we could do to help people who are out of work," says Rod Riggs, Transitions Chair. "We soon learned that a lot of us don't know what other members do, or even who they are

the other six days a week." Not a jobs workshop, the program is intended to provide First Church members a chance to meet and learn something about each other's occupation or line of work. "One member may have a skill or talent sought by another who is in a position to hire." Riggs said.

While "Who's Who" will not be promoted outside of First Church, members are encouraged to invite interested friends as their guests to this unique opportunity. Each person attending is asked to bring business cards to exchange. "Who's Who and What Do You Do?" will take place on Sunday, February 5th from 12:15-2:00 in the Barnum Room. A light lunch and child care will be provided. If you are interested in attending this event, please RSVP to Rachel Garcia, Programs Coordinator, at 213.355.5245 or rgarcia@fcla.org.