

**First  
Chronicles**  
September 2007  
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**First Congregational Church of  
Evanston**

Hinman and Grove Evanston, IL 60201  
(847) 864-8332

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## FROM THE CHURCH HOUSE

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### **NOW WHAT?**

- by Rev. Dr. James E. Roghair, Interim Minister

*What do we do in the remaining interim time?* About this time in an interim relationship, it all becomes a bit fuzzy. We entered this relationship a year ago. I came with some clarity and enthusiasm. Your transition team worked hard. Now your search process is in high gear. So, what do the rest of us do, now? - besides wait?

I hope to help gain as much clarity and strength for ministry and mission as possible - in preparation for when the new pastor does arrive. She/he will appreciate the work you have done together. So, here is a plan: On September 30<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. Worship will be brief - 30 minutes. Then, everyone is encouraged to be a part of a discussion to make connections between your Mission Statement, your Goals (as presented by the Transition Team and affirmed) and your First Congregational traditions.

Our discussion will be informed by the reading and thinking you are doing. *Christianity for the Rest of Us* by Diana Butler Bass, has hit mainline Protestantism with a power few books have in recent years. Please buy or borrow a copy from the Church Narthex. It will give you a new sense of hope for your church. If you want more, or prefer a shorter book, Paul Nixon's *I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church* (also available in the Narthex) is guaranteed to challenge your thinking.

Please get a book, and plan to be a part of the discussion. Start thinking about how the new ideas you get apply to the reality of who this church is and what it will be in the future.

Now that's a plan. God bless. *Jim*

### **TOWARD AN FCCE OPEN AND AFFIRMING STATEMENT**

Our church community has recently been discussing ways in which we can more fully live out our commitment to hospitality and inclusivity.

One step we can take in that direction would be to make a clear statement of intentional welcome to gays and lesbians, acknowledging that they are fully and unambiguously accepted into the life of our congregation. Other Protestant denominations have designated churches that adopt such declarations as "open and affirming". The open and affirming movement has been a dynamic element in modern church life since the mid-1980s. At our last Congregational meeting, church leadership outlined plans to launch discussions about an open and affirming statement for the First Congregational Church of Evanston.

Some have questioned why such an affirmation would be necessary for our church. After all, they point out, we already have gay and lesbian members and friends who have found a welcoming home at FCCE. In addition, our recent Transition Team report tells us that we think of ourselves as a warm and friendly church that welcomes everyone.

True enough, but experience has taught many in the gay and lesbian community that generic statements such as "we welcome everyone" all too often don't really include them - and silence does not equal acceptance. As one observer puts it, "Gay and lesbian people are so accustomed to being the exception to that stated 'everyone,' that they and their loved ones have to overcome a tremendous internal barrier to take a chance on

being open to a church. A statement makes that barrier much smaller.”

The purpose of this initiative will be to help eliminate the barriers ~ real or perceived ~ that might cause some members to feel safer hiding their true selves in our church. We hope to discuss a statement that will express our collective attitude toward welcoming lesbian, gay, and bisexual persons into the full life and ministry of the church. This process will include not only opportunities for discussion and dialogue, but also Adult Education opportunities sponsored by our Christian Education and Formation Team. All members will be welcomed and encouraged to participate in these activities.

As a Congregational Church, we are, of course, free to develop a statement that accurately reflects the convictions of our community. We will approach this initiative with sensitivity and respect for everyone, and we welcome the thoughtful insight of all our members.

Many in our church believe that this proposed step is a natural expression of the first lines of our Mission Statement that read: “As members of the first Congregational Church of Evanston, we are on a spiritual journey. We strive to be an inclusive congregation. We welcome all faith experiences, all family types and all racial and ethnic backgrounds.” We look forward to this discussion as we attempt to bring those words more fully to life.

## **A SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND REFLECTION**

On September 11, 2001 our world changed. Violence ripped through our country and six years later we continue to pray for victims of that terrible tragedy. We continue to pray as we face tragedies of all kinds every day - in a world that feels a little different to us than it did six years ago. The Bible speaks of peace as something far larger than the absence of war. True peace or shalom includes personal wholeness, political justice, health, safety, happiness and harmony. As Christians we are called to do anything and everything to further shalom within our world. Come join others on September 11th, knowing you have a home of refuge and hope, a place where we can be in

community, feel God's presence and inspire each other to live in shalom.

### **Belle prière à faire pendant la Messe**

Seigneur, faites de moi un instrument de votre paix.

Là où il y a de la haine, que je mette l'amour.

Là où il y a l'offense, que je mette le pardon.

Là où il y a la discorde, que je mette l'union.

Là où il y a l'erreur, que je mette la vérité.

Là où il y a le doute, que je mette la foi.

Là où il y a le désespoir, que je mette l'espérance.

Là où il y a les ténèbres, que je mette votre lumière.

Là où il y a la tristesse, que je mette la joie.

Ô Maître, que je ne cherche pas tant à être consolé qu'à consoler,

À être compris qu'à comprendre,

À être aimé qu'à aimer,

Car c'est en donnant qu'on reçoit,

C'est en s'oubliant qu'on trouve,

C'est en pardonnant qu'on est pardonné,

C'est en mourant qu'on ressuscite à l'éternelle vie.

*La Clochette, n° 12, déc. 1912, p. 285.*

*Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace;*

*where there is hatred, let me sow love;*

*where there is injury, pardon;*

*where there is doubt, faith;*

*where there is despair, hope;*

*where there is darkness, light;*

*and where there is sadness, joy.*

*O Divine Master,*

*grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;*

*to be understood, as to understand;*

*to be loved, as to love;*

*for it is in giving that we receive,*

*it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,*

*and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.*

*Amen.*

*Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi*

### **A Service of Remembrance and Reflection**

**Date: Tuesday September 11, 2007**

**Time: 6:30-7:00 pm**

**Place: Peace Pole Garden at FCC Church House**

Come to join others united in prayer for our world today. The service is open to all - reach out and bring a friend or neighbor.

If you have any questions or would like to be a lay reader within the service please contact Laura Wilson via phone or email - [LSWilson49@aol.com](mailto:LSWilson49@aol.com)

**rummage AND TREASURE SALE!**

Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> is the day of the sale. Important dates before that are: **Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup> from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.** ("Casual Saturday"). **Sunday, the 9<sup>th</sup> is Rally Day,**

and we are hoping that after the fun subsides, some will join us again at the Church House to continue organizing the donated goods into their selling areas. Sunday,

September 10<sup>th</sup> early morning, we will transfer all the children's things plus the toys and the set-up will start. The adult clothes department fortunately will be set-up in August.

This work will continue daily until the Big Day. We will have added two more departments of tables in the middle of Plymouth Hall. One table will have special vases etc and the other table will have gifts to purchase that are small pieces of art, many frames and related items.

In between all this will be some very pretty small pieces of furniture, couple of dressers rugs, lamps, interesting chairs and more.

The Linens and the China will have their hands full as there is abundant merchandise. It will take quite a bit of time to have it all set up on the tables, attractively displayed and of course all priced.

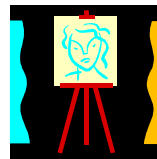
This year Eric Erickson will have the largest amount of art imaginable. Plan to see not only the small pieces of the table, but also the art on the walls. Eric will also have surprises to see and buy on the plaza right off the Children's Department. Nick Tucker will be his right hand.

For the customers we need small and large bags with handles. I have been saving these since February but we will need more. And a thank you

to those people who have donated many decorative bags which are wonderful for the Christmas Department and all other places too.

Please call Joyce Phelps at 847 733 9972 to volunteer.

P.S. The Treasure Room with its wonderful popular jewelry and treasures is still in business.

**AUTUMN 2007  
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH ART SHOW**

Our church is planning an autumn art show, again featuring our talented church members and friends of the church. This one will be held at the end of October or early November. It will open Saturday with a reception and continue Sunday after church. The exhibit will be in the Guild Room.

We encourage both adults and young people to display their works, which can be paintings, photographs, prints, sculpture, fiber art, jewelry, and other art and crafts. You may display up to 15 hanging works. More than 15 smaller works (crafts, jewelry) can be shown. We ask that *all* works be available for sale and that a percentage of each sale be donated to the church. Application forms will be available soon.

Hanging works should be "gallery ready," which means that screw hooks and wire should be attached on the back. Artists displaying sculptures and other non-hanging works of art (such as jewelry) can specify how they wish their work to be displayed or provide their own tables or cases. For this show, we also encourage artists to exhibit and sell note cards or Christmas cards of their works.

In addition to artists, we need volunteers to prepare the show and to take down the works after it is over. We also need volunteers to prepare food for the reception, to play music during the reception on Saturday, to welcome guests, to collect money and record sales, and to publicize the show. If you did not exhibit at the last show, please join us! It is great fun!

Please contact Deb Shamlin or Peggy Tinzmann for more information:

## **GOD DOING A NEW THING A MEMOIR OF JOHN BETTS**

By John Betts and Laura Wilson

Not many FCCE members remember John Betts' role as a cop in "Seven Keys to Bald Pate." In that brief, non-speaking role, John collared a crook in a 1930's production by The Pilgrim Players. However, before and after that inspiring walk-on, John has done a lot of talking and served many years as a devoted member.

No job was too small or too demanding. Whether he painted flats for the Players or chaired the Board of Trustees, John Betts helped keep our church running smoothly. Baptized in the old church building, John attended Sunday School from kindergarten through high school. The church presented a black Bible trimmed in gold to him in 1929 with signatures of teachers, the superintendent and the pastor, Hugh Elmer Brown. Rev Brown served FCCE from 1918 until 1948. "There were 1700 members in 1936," he recalls, "and a Sunday School modeled on the public schools."

When John joined the church in 1936, FCCE was a very different place. "In the 30's, our Christmas pageant was staged by adults. It was presented at a vespers service at four pm. I had a great time in the high school club of twenty members. The late 30's and the years following were times of clubs: twelve women's' circles, men's club, post college club, couples club, to name a few - and a bowling team." John recalls that in the 1920's, Sunday in Evanston was also very different. "There was strict Sunday observance. No theaters, stores, or auto dealerships were open. About the only approved activities were visiting friends or relatives or going to church. The pastor during those years, Hugh Elmer Brown, helped organize a Sunday program at the old Varsity Theater, which used to be on Sherman Ave near Church St. They had wonderful speakers."

Busy with and service in WWII, law school, and work, John returned to FCCE when he married in 1973. He and wife Dede were busy with lively committee work. John gave six years to the Board of Deacons, then went on to serve on The Board of

Trustees. Later, he worked on the Financial Development Team. With his background as a lawyer, administrative matters were his strength. "Now I'm just a happy camper," he said. "I just enjoy attending church." You can often meet John when he ushers on Sunday mornings.

Time have changed. "My mother's life involved family and volunteer work," John reflected. The sheer number of women's' clubs at FCCE before the 70's is evidence of that era. "Now, the reality is that women are in professions, and that has brought about many changes." John has found himself in a new life, as well. A resident of Classic Residence by Hyatt in Glenview, he describes his days as always busy and enjoyable. "There's always someone to talk to; I enjoy the meals with friends, the trips, the atmosphere of my home in Glenview."

We hope John will also regard FCCE as his home. His memories are a rich legacy for us to share. Perhaps God is doing new thing in the community and in our church. Beyond the church walls, there is fellowship and love at Classic Residence and perhaps in new models of faith - from the Peace Pole to mission trips to meals at Hilda's Place. Pastor Brown certainly offered a model for community ministry. We are blessed to have John's memories of what was and his loyalty to our church as it follows the Holy Spirit in this new century.

## **RUG CARAVAN COMING**

September 7-15 marks our annual Oriental rug event at Ten Thousand Villages at 719 Main Street. Dozens of villages all over Pakistan depend on the income from their fairly paid rug producers for livelihood. The rugs are made by fairly paid adults, so the quality is something you won't see anywhere else. These handmade rugs last from 80 to 200 years, so your grandchildren's grandchildren will be enjoying them. One of the sons of the Baptist minister who started this project will be arriving with more than 300 gorgeous rugs on September 7. Amir Youssaf will offer a seminar on the techniques, styles, materials and artisans of fair trade rug making on Friday, September 7 at 7 pm and Wednesday, September 12 at 7 pm. Pakistani treats will be offered, so reservations are required. Call the store at 847-733-8258 for reservations or more information.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

3	Samuel Durkes
3	Jane Munro
3	Brock Snider
3	Bernice Valantinas
6	Dorothy E. (Fame) Brooks
8	Thomas Julcher
12	Eric Janicki
13	Daphne Cunningham
15	Ann Campbell Vikner
16	Nancy McKenna
18	Martin Ferguson
18	Mary Margaret Todd
19	Annika DeStefano
19	Peter DeStefano
21	Jeff DiSabato
22	Robert Krause
22	William McKenna
22	Julia Page
24	D.J. Johnson
24	Samuel Menco
25	Brian Connors
29	Michael Fonda
30	Elizabeth Durkes
30	MacDonald Durkes
30	John Lee
30	Sally Miller

## SUNDAY AFTERNOON BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Book selections for fall 2007 through January 2008:

**Sunday, October 14, 2007**

*Reading Judas: The Gospel of Judas and the Shaping of Christianity* by Elaine Pagels

**Sunday, November 4, 2007**

*Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen

**Sunday, December 2, 2007**

*Suite Francaise* by Irene Nemirovsky

**Sunday, January 13, 2008**

*A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini

The Sunday Afternoon Book Discussion Group meets on various Sunday afternoons at 4:00 pm in the Church House. Everyone is welcome to attend these informal book discussion groups.

## "WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND HERE?"

As many of you know Melia and I have been organizing and managing a lot of work in both of our buildings. We are repairing and replacing and sprucing up. The following is a brief outline of projects that have been done and some that are in the works.

**The Church House:** Completed projects - cupola has been repainted, upper roof has been re-roofed and repaired, the patio membrane which provides a roof for the kitchen has been repaired, a broken pipe in the furnace room has been replaced, the boiler has been inspected and certified, the locks have been replaced and the alarm codes set up to track renters, most floors have been stripped and waxed, light switches repaired.

**Projects in progress** - men's and women's room old toilets are being replaced ( as I write this) and the outside water meter pipes in and out are being replaced. All leaking faucets will be repaired. Deb is managing a major painting of walls and halls done by volunteer groups.

**The Sanctuary Building:** Completed projects - the transom windows in the narthex have been re-leaded and secured, old toilets are being replaced in both men's and women's rooms..

Project in progress - For years there has been a leak, at various levels, on the north side of the building by the stairs. Both roof sealing and plumbing work has been done leading to the unhappy conclusion that the built in gutters in that section of the building do not work and cannot be repaired. It appears that the flat roof which they are imbedded in will need to be worked on and the gutters diverted to the outside of the building - as are the other Sanctuary gutters.

We now have a weekly cleaning service to clean both of our buildings. This has provided us with regular reliable care of our buildings as we move toward sprucing up. There are many other people who have tackled projects around our buildings and helped to make us more organized and cleaner and ready. Thanks to everyone! Regards, Carole Schumacher

## THREE COMPUTERS NEEDED

Christian Ed needs three computers in good working order with color monitors. If you have any

extra computers, please bring them to the church office. Thank you!

## **HYMN FESTIVAL SEPTEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup>!**

Mark your calendar now so that you won't miss this opportunity to sing some of our best-loved hymns. In place of the sermon that morning, we will lift our voices and sing some wonderful hymns. Invite your neighbors and friends!

### **CHANCEL CHOIR ANTHEMS**

**September 9**

"With a Voice of Singing"  
Shaw

**September 16**

"Avinu Malkeynu"  
Janowski  
"Sim Shalom"  
Janowski

**September 23 • Hymn Festival**

"Make Our Church One Joyful Choir"  
Crutchfield

**September 30**

"Be Thou My Vision"  
Chilcott

## **COME SING WITH US!**

The Chancel Choir begins another exciting season on Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. Join us that morning at 9:00 in the Chancel to prepare music for morning Worship. Remember - no audition is required, and all are welcome. Please join us!



## **INFORMATION PLEASE**



If you have recently moved, changed phone numbers or changed your email address, call or email the church office with your updated information. We will be printing a new church directory in the near future. Thank you! **Telephone:** (847) 864-8332  
**email:** [firstcongo@mcleodusa.net](mailto:firstcongo@mcleodusa.net)

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