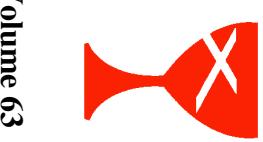


## In This Issue...

- Resolve in the New Year
- There is More Than 1 Way to Do Ministry!
- New Prayer Ministry at FCC



Volume 63  
February, 2012

## ***FOUR CONGREGATIONS, FOUR LANGUAGES, JOIN IN CHRISTMAS EVE***

Worshippers at the Christmas Eve Candlelight service on December 24, experienced worship in four languages, as members and clergy from the St. Luke's [Kenyan] Anglican, the Igreja Pentecostal Restauracao Apostolica [Brazilian] Church, the Iglesia Cristiana Discipulos de Christo [Spanish], and First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), joined together at 5:00 p.m. here to celebrate the coming of Christmas. The forty-five minute service, which culminated by the forming of a large circle around the sanctuary, with people each lighting a candle, and singing *Silent Night*, heard Rev. Mary Kangara bring Christmas greetings in the Kenyan dialect of Kikuyu, Pastors Eduardo Villareal in Spanish, Fernando IUPI in Portuguese, and Rev. Kimberly Russell in English.

"Tonight's service was about as ecumenical as it gets," said Rev. Jeff Shimizu, as congregants were leaving the service. "Four congregations, all in different languages, each which worship here in the worship center of First Christian Church, worshiping together in the unity of Christ."

"Disciples have long advocated unity and ecumenism—fellowship and cooperation among all churches—and tonight, we saw it in action," commented Rev. Jerry Gladson, as the sanctuary was being tidied after the service. "It is nice to see four very different congregations, with different worship styles, come together in this way."

First Christian Church usually plans a Christmas Eve Service. This year, however, the three other congregations—Anglican, Portuguese, Hispanic—were invited to join together in approaching Advent. "I hope this sets a pattern for future years," observed Rev. Donna Kremer. "This kind of cooperation is really historic for us."

These four congregations share the worship center. The Portuguese and Hispanic churches, the latter a part of First Christian Church, share the sanctuary at different times on Sunday. St. Luke's Anglican church meets in the library/chapel.

We are a family worshipping and serving God.  
We accept, inspire and empower for Christian service.

**The HARINGER**

News of First Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ) of Marietta

### Upcoming Sermons

**February 5, 2012**

Rev. Jeff Shimizu

**February 12, 2012**

Guest Preacher

**February 19, 2012**

Rev. Donna Kremer

**February 26, 2012**

Rev. Jerry Gladson



### Conversations (a mid-week Bible Study)

**February 1, 2012**

TRUE FREEDOM

Galatians 2

**February 8, 2012**

TRUE FREEDOM

Galatians 3:1-18

**February 15, 2012**

TRUE FREEDOM

Galatians 3:19-29

**February 22, 2012**

NO CONVERSATIONS

Ash Wednesday

**February 29, 2012**

TRUE FREEDOM

Galatians 4:1-20

### **NEW CHURCH LEADERS TO BE INSTALLED!**

At a special installation during worship on January 29, our new church leaders will be installed.

Jerry Gladson will preach the Installation Sermon, entitled, "Spirit."

### **GET THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE WEBSITE!**

[fccmarietta.org](http://fccmarietta.org) has a new look and is updated each week on Wednesday. If you want something on the website, make sure it is submitted to the church office.

**GO CHECK IT OUT!**



***TRUE FREEDOM*, a new Bible study series, is running January 11-March 28 in *Conversations*, our mid-week Bible Study.**

This series studies the Letter of Paul to the Galatians, one of the New Testament's earliest and most important writings. The studies convene at 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays.

# RESOLVE

## Romans 14:7

"We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves."

### Reflection by Christina Villa

If you've started thinking about your resolutions for the New Year, maybe you've noticed that some of them are depressingly familiar. Lose 40 pounds, take ballroom dancing lessons, get that tattoo removed. Now it's December 31st, and you're no closer to doing any of those things than you were a year ago.

This year, I thought I'd re-focus and make some New Year's resolutions that aren't all about me. You can do the same. Improve yourself by contributing to the common good. Here are some ideas:

- Faithfully call or visit the person you always put off calling or visiting.
- Get involved in local politics.
- Adopt a shelter animal.
- Donate food and clothing when it ISN'T the holidays.
- Volunteer.
- Leave bigger tips.
- Drive a smaller car.
- Follow international news.
- Vote. Register if you need to.
- Join the choir.
- Start fewer sentences with "I."
- Refill the ice cube tray, replace the toilet paper roll, and don't take up two parking spaces.

Take the focus off yourself and automatically you'll be an improved you. If you also want to cut back on dessert and online poker, it couldn't hurt.

Happy New Year, Devotional Readers!

### Prayer

Help us remember to forget ourselves, at least for a while. Amen.



Rev. Donna Kremer

Faith marches at the head of the army of progress.—It is found beside the most refined life, the freest government, the profoundest philosophy, the noblest poetry, the purest humanity.

-Theodore T. Munger

### Sunday School

9:45 a.m. Sunday

### Worship & Communion

11:00 a.m. Sunday

### Spanish Service

3:00 p.m. Sunday

### St. Luke's Anglican Church

4:00 p.m. Sunday

### AA Meeting

5:00 p.m. Wednesday

### English Bible Study

6:30 p.m. Wednesday

### Spanish Bible Study

7:30 p.m. Wednesday

### Gambler's Anonymous Meeting

7:45 p.m. Wednesday

### Choir Practice

7:30 p.m. Wednesday

### Food Pantry

9 a.m.-12 p.m. Monday

9 a.m.-12 p.m. Saturday

## ELDERS SCHEDULE FEBRUARY

- 5-** **Peter Chung**  
**Brenda Stoyko**
- 12-** **Peter Chung**  
**Donna Kremer**
- 19-** **Barbara Eason**  
**Venn Heerman**
- 26-** **Barbara Eason**  
**Venn Heerman**

**\* Al Rowe will act as Elder when an Elder is unable to serve due to health reasons.**



Faith goes up to the stairs that love has made and looks out of windows which hope has opened.

-Charles Haddon Spurgeon

## MORE THAN 1 WAY TO DO MINISTRY

FCC is currently looking for a minister. Our current ministerial staff signed a two-year contract that ends December 31, 2012. The Search Committee has been intentional in regards to the needs and abilities of the church, but the financial state of the church limits the ministerial options. We have to look at other ministerial options that fit our financial capabilities as well as the needs of the church.

Listed below are brief descriptions of different options the Search Committee is considering. There will be a presentation during the "Souper Bowl" Luncheon in which each of these options will be explained in further detail.

### **One Full-Time Minister:**

An ordained minister with a VOLUNTARY staff.

### **One Part-Time Minister:**

#### **Ordained**

An experienced minister, retired or looking for a church where they can work a minimum of 20 hours a week. Will preach every Sunday. Hiring this minister would meet all the existing requirements of the church's By-laws and Constitution.

#### **Student**

A Seminarian, actively seeking ordination. Varied hours of availability given class schedule. Will preach every Sunday. The church's Bi-laws and Constitution would need revision.

### **Bi-Vocational Minister:**

A minister that has another job as well as the church position. The majority of income will come from other employment and the attention of minister is shared with responsibilities of the other job. The three current ministers are examples of Bi-Vocational Ministers.

### **Shared Minister:**

This minister will be shared with another church/congregation. This would mean that time is negotiated between the two organizations and the salary is shared to make a full-time salary. Worship times and events might need change to accommodate the minister's schedule.

### **Timothy/Pricilla Ministry:**

This option is a new idea formulated by several ministers that have connection with FCC. This church would become an intentional body for shaping and sending out ministers. It would require a part-time mentor (ordained minister) and 2-3 Seminarians that dedicate time to FCC while in seminary.

Plan on attending the "Souper Bowl" Luncheon, Sunday, February 5 @ 12:30 pm. Each ministry will be explained in further detail and there will be time for questions.

## LOOKING BACK ON 2011 WHERE WE'VE BEEN!

**S**atchel Paige, the famous baseball pitcher, once said, “Don’t look back! Someone may be gaining on you!” We won’t follow Paige’s advice here, for we have much on which to look back in the year just ended.

What our congregations accomplished in 2011 is simply stunning. In upgrading and caring for our facilities, we remodeled the men’s restroom, installed a new sink in the ladies restroom, repainted and remodeled the Fellowship Hall, stripped, sanded, and refinished the entry doors to the Fellowship Hall, re-hung the Disciples paintings in the downstairs hall, remodeled and refurbished the nursery, replaced the ovens in the kitchen, refinished the wooden crosses on the wall in the drive-through, removed the window locks in the downstairs (a security measure), caulked the bathroom window downstairs, repaired the broken pews, made new doorstops, removed brush from the parking lot, tuned the pianos, re-organized the library, repaired the drains in the downstairs restrooms, started refurbishing the original pulpit chairs, which date back to the founding of our church, cleaned the carpet runway in the Fellowship Hall, acquired a new, larger dumpster, and re-landscaped our church lawn., etc., etc.

As far as church projects go, we held an off-site visioning session, inaugurated a “spare change” jar to help the homeless, started a new A.A. group, held a large yard sale, held a Stewardship Emphasis month, developed a new church directory, upgraded and edited our website ([www.fccmarietta.org.](http://www.fccmarietta.org.)), and experienced the first year of our new three-pastor leadership team.

Who did all this? If we tried to mention all the people involved, there isn’t space here. Many members of the congregation, the pastors, the members of Iglesia Cristiana Discipulos de Cristo, St. Luke’s Anglican Church, some who are not members of any of our congregations.

We’re looking back, but no one is gaining on us! Instead, we’re moving forward into 2012.

## NEW PRAYER MINISTRY

**O**n October 30, 2011, our congregation was deeply saddened at the passing of **Lola Bethel**, a member of the church here for 34 years. For many years, Lola led an active prayer minister, at times leading three weekly prayer groups, and editing the church’s published prayer list.

Lisa Harrington recently indicated, “I’d like to take care of the prayer list and start a prayer group, in honor of Lola, a dear friend.” As a result of Lisa’s offer, the prayer list has been renamed “The Lola Bethel Prayer Ministry,” and Lisa has commenced updating and maintaining it. Each week in worship, it is brought forward during prayer and thus made a part of worship.



**Lola Bethel  
(1921-2011)**

If you would like to be mentioned in the prayer list, or have a friend or relative remembered in the church’s prayers, phone Lisa at 678-488-1830 or email her at [Lisa-Marie@live.com](mailto:Lisa-Marie@live.com). You may also phone the church office (770-428-3125).



### Additions and updates to the Prayer List include:

Barbara Eason, The Fain Family, Jim Farris, Tiny Harrison, Venn Heerman, Sue Merritt, DJ Pett, Sondra Rowe, The Taylor Family, Marge Williamson

*You may request a complete prayer list from the office and request to have yourself or a loved one placed on the prayer list.*



The new prayer list is updated monthly and can be requested in the office. To learn more about prayer at First Christian Church, please read the article on page 5, **New Prayer Ministry**.

### ASH WEDNESDAY

February 22, 2012

**Ash Wednesday**, in the calendar of Western Christianity, is the first day of Lent and occurs 46 days before Easter. It is a moveable fast, falling on a different date each year because it is dependent on the date of Easter.

Ash Wednesday derives its name from the practice of placing ashes on the foreheads of adherents as a sign of mourning and repentance to God. The ashes used are typically gathered after the palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday are burned.



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ash\\_Wednesday](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ash_Wednesday)

## MEET THE DISCIPLES—1

"What church do you attend?" People ask me that all the time. When I tell them, "Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)," often they give me a blank, puzzled look. One person commented, "I've never heard of that."

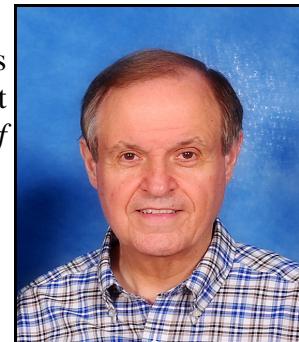
Well, in this series, I'd like to invite our you, the reader to "meet the Disciples." I'm going to try to tell you who Disciples are, something of their history, beliefs, and lifestyle.

Let's start with the name. It comes in two very significant phrases. "Christian Church" emphasizes the "Christian" aspect. We are a Christian church. That is we believe in and try to practice those basic historic, Christian truths common to most Christians. The word Christian first appears in Acts 11:26 ("in Antioch . . . the disciples were first called 'Christians'"), and means, "of the party of Christ," or "partisans" of Christ. It refers to those who follow Jesus Christ. So Disciples are first and foremost a *Christian* church, not a cult, sect, or other odd, fringe group. We identify with Jesus. The word Christian in our name reflects our identification with the worldwide, universal church of Jesus Christ.

The second phrase, "Disciples of Christ" identifies that branch of the universal church to which we belong. We are the *Disciples*, a Christian movement that arose in the early nineteenth century in western Pennsylvania and central Kentucky, with the express purpose of trying to bring all the divided denominations of Christianity together. We are "disciples," that is, we seek to follow Jesus. We believe that all Christians are really one, part of the same "body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:12).

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is thus a Christian community of followers of Jesus Christ. We don't tell a person what to believe. We don't require people to act in a certain way. We only want to know whether you believe in Jesus, our Lord and Savior, and desire to be a follower of Jesus.

Next time, we'll delve into the origins of this fascinating, one-million strong movement known as the *Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)*.



Rev. Dr. Jerry Gladson

## RECOVERY MINISTRY

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETING 5:00 PM  
CHURCH LIBRARY

Sunday mornings have changed drastically for my wife and I all because of my mentor and the congregants of the First Christian Church in Marietta. None of the events since 2004 were even remotely in my wildest imagination. I had come from a church where I was an active member for two years. I followed Stan Hickman to his first church in McDonough, GA. One day Stan told me Jerry was at the Marietta Church. So happily we started attending FCC, Marietta.

The next year I started classes at Christian College of Georgia. After two years, I was commissioned as a Licensed Minister. Never was there a specific goal in mind, except to engage in recovery ministry, but I did have the pleasure of doing some celebrations at the Chancel.

Then, in early 2010---out of nowhere---I was asked to interview for the Spiritual Leader in recovery position at Ridgeview Hospital in Atlanta. I interviewed, and a few weeks later was offered the position. I started my ministry there with a talk about principles of a personal recovery program. To hold forth for a hour was a bit much. So after a couple of months, a friend of mine started coming, singing and playing the guitar. This started it all. We then invited folks in the audience to come to the front and perform. The spiritual entertainment was an instant success and it continues to this day almost two years later. What a blessing!

What do we mean by the Disciples mind? It is a way of approaching the Scriptures with a reverent intelligence. This style of professing Christian faith has accepted the reproach of advocating a "head religion" hurled by those who profess a "heart religion."

Emphasizing faith with understanding, the Disciples mind puts the highest premium on rationality and faithfulness in action.

-Ronald E. Osborn,  
20th Century Disciples Theologian



Warren Taylor

## FEBRUARY

### Birthdays

- |     |                  |
|-----|------------------|
| 2-  | Brenda Taylor    |
| 6-  | Melissa Fain     |
| 6-  | Sherwood Smith   |
| 6-  | Brenda Summers   |
| 8-  | Marissa Lee      |
| 8-  | Steven Vannote   |
| 14- | Morris Chung     |
| 16- | Zane Shimizu     |
| 18- | Linc Fain        |
| 18- | Brenda Stoyko    |
| 21- | Kathryn Davis    |
| 21- | Joyce Hall       |
| 22- | Deborah Goodwin  |
| 23- | Daisy Villarreal |
| 24- | Cheryl Everette  |
| 24- | Jennifer Johnson |
| 25- | Tommy Russell    |

### Anniversaries

- |     |                               |
|-----|-------------------------------|
| 17- | Jim and Anita Farris          |
| 18- | Linc and Melissa Fain         |
| 24- | Eduardo and Lupita Villarreal |

If the cross is the measure of God's respect for man's freedom, then we can take new hope that freedom will survive all man's attempts to destroy it.

D.R. Davies:  
The Art of Dodging Repentance



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## Pastoral Staff

John T. Lee	<i>Minister Emeritus †</i>
Harold Doster	<i>Minister Emeritus</i>
Jeff Shimizu	<i>Minister</i>
Donna Kremer	<i>Minister</i>
Jerry Gladson	<i>Minister Emeritus</i>
Warren Taylor	<i>Minister of Recovery</i>
Eduardo Villarreal	<i>Hispanic Minister</i>

## Church Staff

Tommy Russell	<i>Administrative Assistant</i>
Sherwood Smith	<i>Food Pantry Director</i>
Sean Warner	<i>Worship Leader</i>
Wilma Zalabak	<i>Choir Director/Organist</i>