

Tidings



766 Graceland Avenue
Des Plaines, IL 60016
847-299-5561
www.fccdp.net



January 2011

Vol. 70 - No. 1

Following Christ, we Connect a Diversity of People with each other and with God!

Fasten Your Seatbelt!

In traffic, we usually have to make quick decisions, but today, take a moment to be still and listen for the calm quiet voice of God in your life.

What was the happiest part of this past Christmas season for you? Christmas invited us to look back for a moment and savor the joys of the season. What did you do for others that kindled a warm glow in your heart? Is there someone you forgot? It's not too late. Think back through the year of 2010, count your blessings, and give thanks to God.

New Years dares us to look forward with our hopes and dreams for 2011. What resolutions will you make for the New Year? What challenges are you facing? What accomplishment would you like to achieve in 2011? As you dream about your possibilities for the New Year, be still and listen to what God is calling you to do and be.

Now look backward, look forward, fasten your seatbelt of faith and get ready to merge into the fast lane of life. May God go with you wherever the journey leads you.

With love,

Rev. Co DuToit

Happy New Year to One and All!

Worship Ministry....

January 2

8:00 & 9:30am
10:30am
Jim Gamboa
Matthew 2: 1 - 12
Dan Hill

Services of Worship
Coffee Hour – Webster Hall
Liturgist
Scripture Reading
Usher Team

January 9 New Member Sunday

8:00 & 9:30am
10:30am
Sandy Anderson
Matthew 3: 13 - 17
Dan Hill

January 16

8:00am & 9:30am
10:30am
Katy Berman
John 1: 29 - 42
Dan Hill

Services of Worship
Coffee Hour – Webster Hall
Liturgist
Scripture Reading
Usher Team

January 23 Communion Sunday

8:00am & 9:30am
10:30am
Abraham Haque
Matthew 4: 12 - 23
Dan Hill

January 30

8:00am & 9:30am
10:30am
Joanne Kimball
Matthew 5: 1 – 12
Dan Hill

Services of Worship
Coffee Hour – Webster Hall
Liturgist
Scripture Reading
Usher Team

ATTENDANCE UPDATE

For the month of November, church attendance was 643 as compared to 769 last November. Year-to-date attendance is 7,507 as compared to 7,637 last year. Let's all invite someone to join us at church as we start the new year....we could fill up the balcony if we each brought just one guest to worship with us!

FAVORITE HYMN AND SCRIPTURE READING

Do you have a favorite hymn and/or scripture reading? The Worship Committee would like to hear from you. Please send your favorites to Jim Gamboa either by email, jrgamboa@comcast.net or phone 630-363-6250 or leave a note in the Worship Ministry box in the church office.



News from Children's and Adult Education Ministry...

NURSERY UPDATE

Every Sunday during the 9:30AM worship service, a volunteer will be available in the church nursery so that parents can attend the service. For further information, please speak with Ellie DuToit or you can email her at elliedutoit@hotmail.com.

Growth and Fellowship Ministry...

VISITORS?

We have created "Welcome" gifts for worship service visitors labeled "*Thanks for poppin' in*". They are available in the Narthex and West entrance of the Sanctuary. If you bring anyone to church or are aware of anyone visiting, please offer them a gift. The ushers are aware of this.

SAVE THE DATE!

Our church is planning another *Progressive Dinner* this winter, and **you** are invited! The dinner will be held on Saturday, January 29...details to follow in your Sunday *Tidings* and in *Notes from Co.* Please sign up in the Church Office if you plan to attend.

LOOKING AHEAD TO SPRING...

Our church is sponsoring an outing to the Holocaust Museum in Skokie on Sunday, April 3, and a limited number of tickets currently are available for \$6 (regular price \$12 for adults, \$8 for seniors and students and \$6 for children ages five through eleven). Please see the sign-up sheet in the Church Office for details or to register or contact Bob McCullough at 847/293-3949.

NEWS FROM EVENING CIRCLE

Evening Circle will hold its January meeting at 7:00pm on Tuesday, January 11 in Webster Hall. Hostesses are Nancy Meyer and Kathy Reiten. The group will play Bunko. Also, Evening Circle thanks everyone once again for their support of the 2010 Bake and Craft Sales, which resulted in sales and donations totaling a record \$2,350 available for benevolence giving! This year's beneficiaries are the church's General Fund (\$1,600), WINGS (\$250), Self-Help Closet & Pantry of Des Plaines (\$150), Tower Hill Century Club (\$150), The Harbour (\$150) and New Moms Inc. (\$50) Evening Circle meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00PM, either at church or at members' homes. All women of the church are invited to attend. Contact Kathy Ruedisueli at 847/827-8361 or kgruedisueli@hotmail.com for additional information.

CREATIVE CONVERSATION UPDATES

Creative Conversation, our church's "book club," meets next on **January 10** to review *When Cricketts Cry* by Charles Martin. The discussion will be led by Alice Tucker. Creative Conversation's January meeting is scheduled for 9:30AM at church. All are welcome.

BREAKFAST, ANYONE?

All are welcome to attend a group breakfast at Silver Stallion in Des Plaines on most Saturdays beginning at 8:30AM. Formerly referred to as *Spiritual Breakfast*, this gathering has been renamed **FEAST** or Friends Eating And Socializing Together. Check it out!

LET'S NETWORK!

If you have a **networking** item to share with other church members (jobs wanted, jobs available, etc), please submit your news for consideration in the next *Tidings* newsletter by **January 15**.



Mission and Outreach Ministry...

NEWS FROM PROJECT SURVIVOR

We had one Welcome Pack delivery in December. It was to Win Kin, a young man in his twenties who came from Burma.

PROJECT SURVIVOR OPEN HOUSE – JANUARY 23

Want to see more about all your donations at work for Project Survivor? Join us at our Project Survivor Open House on Sunday, January 23 and take a tour of our Project Survivor Room over Webster Hall. Open House will be right after the 8:00 AM service and also during the coffee hour after the 9:30 AM service on January 23.

SOME INTERESTING STATS FROM EXODUS WORLD SERVICE

Exodus World Service is the organization that coordinates our Project Survivor Welcome Pack deliveries and works with a number of other programs for refugees. Here's some great numbers of people that they have been able to help in 2010:

- Created homes for 562 refugees by setting up their apartments with Welcome Packs
- Hosted 166 refugees in homes of volunteers for their very first Thanksgiving holiday
- Eased loneliness of 595 refugees by connecting them with New Neighbor volunteers who visit with them weekly
- Equipped leaders from 23 states and four continents to welcome refugees in their own communities

Thanks again for all the donations we have received for Project Survivor.

CALLING ALL JEWEL SHOPPERS!

If you regularly shop at Jewel and are collecting but not necessarily using the stamps to acquire "free" pots and pans, why not consider donating the stamps to Project Survivor? Just bring your stamps to church in an envelope marked "Project Survivor"....thanks!



Music & Drama Ministry...

THANKS!

Many thanks from our Wholly Ringers handbell choir director, Ellen Alde, to those who helped make Christmas Eve special by ringing bells. "We could not have done the song without you," Ellen says. "God Bless and have a blessed 2011."

...AND, MORE BELL NEWS!

The AGAPE Ringers, Chicago's premier handbell ensemble, will perform at 6:00pm on Sunday, March 20 at our church as part of a Lenten program series. Membership in this ensemble, which has a collective experience of more than 370 years of bell ringing, is by audition only. The AGAPE Ringers have entertained around the world, and they perform on 75 Malmark handbells and 73 Malmark Choir chimes. Tickets will be sold in Webster Hall on Sunday mornings for the March 20 performance. Cost is \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door and \$5 for students. Further information is available at www.agaperingers.org.

PIANIST JIM HENDRICKS TO PERFORM AT FCCDP ON FEBRUARY 6

Pianist Jim Hendricks, professor of music at Chicago State University, will perform during the 9:30am service of worship at First Congregational Church on Sunday, February 6. Hendricks is best known for his recordings of classic tunes, which he has arranged in the styles of Rachmaninoff, Liszt, Art Tatum and Oscar Peterson. For further information, please speak with Charles Moore or a member of the Music Ministry.

"MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE..."

Our church's Joyful Noise singing group invites you to join them! If you enjoy choral music but can't commit to weekly rehearsals, consider singing with this small group. The music is easy to learn, and the folks are friendly! The Joyful Noise performs four times a year during the 9:30AM worship service. For further information, please contact Charles Moore at 847/679-0969.



Youth Ministry...

ATTENTION, PARENTS OF MIDDLE SCHOOLERS...

If your middle school student would like to become involved with our church's Junior PF youth group, please provide your contact info to Matt Cameron, Youth Ministry Director, at 847/323-2966 or matthew_kyle80@hotmail.com

Finance Committee...

CHURCH GENERAL FUND NEWS

For the month of November, our church's general fund income was \$23,419 with expenses of \$25,694. Year-to-date income is \$131,330 with expenses of \$131,006. Thanks for your continued support.

FUNDRAISER UPDATES

The final income for **November's Fall Fest** Dinner and Entertainment Fund Raiser is \$2,031. This is in addition to our enjoying some excellent food, great entertainment, terrific raffle prizes, fellowship with other church members and friends, and an informative update from our New Orleans Mission Teams for 2010. Thanks to all who worked so hard to make this event successful. Your efforts are very much appreciated. The **Gift Cards Galore** fundraiser sponsored by Growth & Fellowship netted \$808.32. Thanks to all who participated in this effort.

BUILDING REPAIR FUND UPDATE

Roof repair is now complete at a cost of \$24,635. We will access the home equity loan credit line on the parsonage to cover the roof repairs. The 3rd year of our current Building Fund Drive should repay the balance of the money we are borrowing. In fact, we have already received \$6,170, which includes the \$1,000 from the Foundation, towards this project. Thank you to those who have already contributed to the Building Repair Drive. If you have not made a pledge to this drive, consider making one for our final year. Contact Jana Haas if you need more special envelopes for your contributions or for any questions. Watch the progress of our Building Repair Fund Drive on the chart in the hallway.

SECOND TIME AROUND RUMMAGE SALE NEWS

The next early drop-off date for the 2011 *Second Time Around* sale (April 15 and April 16) at our church is Sunday, **January 9**. *Last year our church raised \$20,000...can this number be beat in 2011?* Drop-offs will take place immediately following the 9:30AM worship service (10:30AM to 11:00AM). Additional early drop-off dates are February 13, March 13 and April 10 (all Sundays). **New this year:** Seniors, shut-ins or others who are physically unable to bring items to church during the regularly scheduled drop-off dates are invited to call church member Brian Farrell at 847/296-6543 for pick-up on the following Saturdays – January 8, February 12 and April 9. Please contact him at least a week in advance with your request. Otherwise, please bring your items on the early drop-off dates to the West entrance near the ramp and volunteers will be available to help you unload your car. Our church pays several hundred dollars in dumpster costs each year so please only bring gently used **working** items suitable for purchase. We will not accept mattresses, pillows, sofa beds, TVs, computer equipment, fitness equipment, VHS tapes, textbooks or any broken electronic items. Do not leave items at the West Entrance as it creates a fire hazard. For further information, contact Heather Larson at heatherml@comcast.net. (*And, last but not least, remember the Holiday department at the Second Time Around sale when you are putting away your Christmas decorations in the days to come!*)

Thinking of Those That Protect Us

Please let the Church Office know if you have a family member in Military Service so that we can list their name in future Tidings. We would especially like to hear about those who are on deployment out of the country so we can keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

News from the Community

Oakton Community College is looking for volunteer tutors to help adults with basic English reading, writing or speaking skills. A three-part training session will be held on January 4, January 6 and February 5. For more information, call 847/635-1426.

Thanks!

Many thanks from church member Pat Polly to all those who called, visited and sent cards and flowers during her recent illness...she says she really appreciates your thoughtfulness.

In Memoriam

Jolyon Schafer (son of the late Wilbur & Frances Shafer)
December 16, 2010
Peoria, AZ

Gifts & Memorials

Recent gifts and memorials have been received: ***In memory of Kemp Huxtable*** by Daniel, Gail and Scott Bunge; in ***memory of Betty Wayman*** to the Minister's Discretionary Fund by Diana Hubert, Henry & Jean Mueller, Carl & Judy Mahr and Michael & Jeanne Wehman; ***in memory of Grace Coash*** to the Minister's Discretionary Fund by Diana Hubert; and ***in honor of the Property Ministry*** to the Property Ministry Fund by an anonymous donor.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING PERSONS ON THEIR BIRTHDAYS:

The Tidings is now publishing birthdays for church members and friends. Please notify the Church Office if there are additions, deletions or corrections to be made. **Also, please note that listed birthdays correspond with the Tidings' monthly publishing schedule.** Congratulations to the following persons on their birthdays:

Francois Du Toit	1/1	Lillian Harris	1/1
Heather Larson	1/3	Jane Warda	1/4
E. Ann Grice	1/8	Marian Nelson	1/8
Andy Olsen	1/9	Francois "Co" Du Toit	1/10
Eleanor Shepard	1/11	Courtney Voss	1/11
Emily Wilson	1/11	Jana Haas	1/12
Anne Vasquez	1/14	Kelly DeVitto	1/15
Joan Reilly	1/15	Ava Olsen	1/19
William Grice IV	1/22	Jeannie Johnson	1/22
Martha Jarvis	1/24	Daniel Meincke	1/27
Matthew Cameron	1/28	Melanie Schimka	1/28
Rodney Beets	1/29	Michael Liston	1/30
Patti Fink	1/31		



I REFUSE TO LEAD A DYING CHURCH

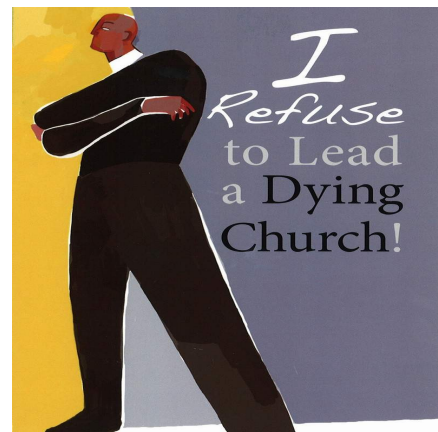
If you agree with this statement, or if **You Refuse to be Part of a Dying Church!**, then you are invited to attend a workshop on Saturday, January 22 at our church.

This workshop is intended for First Cong. UCC church members and staff.

It will start at 9:00am and conclude at noon with a luncheon to follow.

If you are interested in attending, please sign up in the church office on or before Sunday,

January 8. For more information, you can contact either our moderator, Nancy Douthwaite at: ndouthwaite@comcast.net or Rev. Co at kelkou@comcast.net.



PAUL NIXON

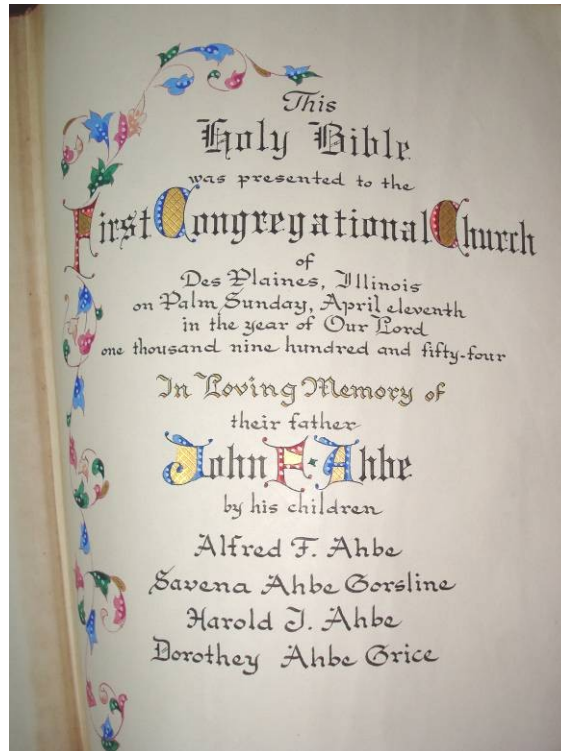
From our Historian, Nancy Meyer

As I was changing the altar cloths from the liturgical colors of purple for the Advent season to white for Christmas and Epiphany, I had to move the bible and its stand. You know, we see that bible every Sunday but I wonder if you realize just how long it has been gracing our chancel and where it came from.

The front page of the bible says it all: “This Holy Bible was presented to the First Congregational Church of Des Plaines, Illinois on Palm Sunday, April eleventh in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and fifty-four In Loving Memory of their father John F. Ahbe by his children Alfred F. Ahbe, Savena Ahbe Gorsline, Harold J. Ahbe and Dorothy Ahbe Grice” The beautiful calligraphy work was done by Alfred Ahbe.

I asked Dorothy Grice if she had any more this story....no, not about the bible itself, realize the screen that can be lowered for movies and slides, as Rev. Co did during a sermon, was donated in memory of her Harold Ahbe by his wife. Also, a set of tablecloths was donated in memory of her Alfred Ahbe by his wife. And do you pew Bill and Dorothy Grice always sit in is family” pew, with its bronze plaque in her mother who passed away before the was dedicated in 1929.

We have many people to thank for all the things in our church we just take for Most of those people are no longer with us, thoughtful gifts live on with us today and grateful.



to add to but did I viewing of recent brother communion brother know the the “Ahbe memory of new church

wonderful granted. but their we are