

Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ

A New Way Is Possible

Go, stand in the temple court and tell the people the full message of this new life. Acts 5:20

The prison of Basse-Terre has been making the French news lately, unfortunately, for the wrong reasons. It was ranked the worst prison of France. Tim Rose, Global Ministries missionary in Guadeloupe says, "I am assigned as both prison chaplain and 'reinsertion' counselor at the prison of Basse-Terre."

Originally built in 1660, as a Catholic convent, it was converted into a prison in 1772. Not only is the prison old and rundown, the prison is extremely overcrowded. Set up to hold 130 prisoners, its current population is approximately 200 and there are only two social workers assigned to work with the prisoners.



The Protestant Reformed Church of Guadeloupe (PRCG) has a prison chaplaincy program and a partnership with a local non-profit organization, "Accolade Caraibes," to maintain a presence in the prison. I accompany the prisoners spiritually, and I help them make plans to re-enter society after their release. Through job training, spiritual support, family counseling, transitional housing opportunities, and acting as a link between the prisoners and the parole board, I try to help prisoners create a new life for themselves.

Obviously the challenges are immense. Through listening, prayer, and helping prisoners find real solutions to their problems, many have come to realize that God's promise of new life is possible.

Please pray for the prison population of Guadeloupe and the work of the Prison Chaplains and the social workers of Accolade Caraibes.

Tim Rose serves with the Reformed Church of France as the Pastoral Assistant for Diaconal Ministries in Guadeloupe and Martinique.



 **It's Time for the Daughters' Dessert!** 

Calling all daughters! Come join us Tuesday, May 3rd, for an evening of desserts and entertainment at the annual Daughters Dessert!

Dessert will be served at 7pm, followed by entertainment from "The Bearded Brass Plus One" and a devotion. Women of all ages are welcome!

Tennyson Center Needs for May

Shampoo
Beach Towels
Tampons
Digital Timers
Plastic Shoe Boxes
Sunglasses for Children
Sunscreen (SPF 30 & above)
Thin & Ultra Thin Maxi Pads
Hair Ties, Bands & Barrettes



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Rev. Tim Bobbitt, Senior Minister

Rev. Linda Harding, Associate Minister

First Christian Church—Called by
Christ's transforming grace and love
to share hope and life in community.

May 2011

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He has made all things new!



A Moment With Tim

**“So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.”
Matthew 28:8**

Now what? Easter is behind us and we move toward the more open days of summer.

First we take a breath. Each year the time of Lent brings a wonderful and important faith journey. It also begins a demanding and intense time in the life of the church. Hopefully you immersed yourself in the reflection and prayer which Lent offers. This year in addition to our Lenten devotionals and any personal faith development you might have been engaged in, we provided a weekly place for prayer in our Prayer Gathering, and we met for soup and spiritual disciplines each Thursday evening. The Thursday gatherings were not the largest we've had, but each provided a wonderful place for spiritual growth, making the series possibly the best we've had in recent memory.

During this same time period we had a great membership and baptism class, we hosted Room at the Inn, and we carried on the other normal activities of the church such as weekly worship, visitations, and Sunday School. We ended the time with a powerful Holy Week. I want to thank everyone who worked to make this time special.

But now what? Pentecost isn't going to rival our Easter celebration. Youth Group and Sunday school are winding down as we move toward our summer schedule.

The reality is that the life of the church always has us looking forward. Vacation Bible School and Church Camp are extremely special events in the lives of many. I am looking forward to my time of Sabbatical. Although to be totally honest, I also am a touch apprehensive. I have total confidence that the congregation will be in good hands with all the great leadership we have; I just have never experienced anything like a sabbatical before. I will have some difficulty completely unplugging from the congregation.

But before we leave Lent and Easter behind, I share with you one hope of the season. My hope is to carry one item with me from the intensity of Lent and Holy Week. That item is the rich prayer and devotional time of the past few months. One of the amazing parts of this busy time is that I have had plenty of time to pray, read the devotional, and seek to grow in my relationship with God. For some reason in years past as the intensity of this time wanes, so does the dedication of my prayer life. This year, in the midst of the change in pace, I hope to keep the intensity and desire for growing in God's Spirit.

That is my hope for you as well. Continue to take time each day to grow in God. It is the not-so-secret secret of life.

Bendiciones (Blessings),

Tim



Summer Schedule

On Sunday, May 29th, we will move to our summer worship schedule. As in years past, we will have one Sunday service at 9:30 a.m. We will not have Sunday school in the summer, although we will continue to have Children's Church during the service. We will return to our regular schedule on September 11.



~ Bereavements ~



Our deepest sympathies are with the family of Herman Hoke.

Herman passed away on March 30, 2011.

We extend our deepest sympathies also to Ed Kadlub and his family in the passing of Marj on April 22, 2011.

Note of Thanks



Margaret Crawford wishes to thank everyone for the cards and hospital visits. She is home now and doing fine.



Baptisms and Membership

During the month of April 2011 we welcomed several new members to First Christian Church. Pachi Stanley entered into our fellowship on April 17th. On April 24th the following new members were baptized: Jessica Wolsey, Becky Boyce, Weston Boyce, Garrett Shirley, Riley Schneider, and Owen Schneider.



A Lenten Thank You

We would like to give a big thank you to all of you who fixed meals, attended, and led our Thursday Night Lenten Spiritual Disciplines! We had some wonderful meals prepared for us and some wonderful presentations on forgiveness, prayer, service, stewardship and fasting. We are grateful for Kris King, Verna Recor, and David Haining, who stepped up and shared their knowledge and gifts with their church community. Thanks again to everyone who made this a special time of learning and challenging us to grow in our faith.

A Holy Week Thank You



Thank you to all who helped make Holy Week a special experience. Many people volunteered time to set-up, serve breakfast, teach, plan worship, bring the gift of music, and take on extra worship duties. With God's guiding spirit, it was a wondrous week.



“FCC Crafting Crowd”



The First Christian Church Crafting Crowd will meet on Wednesday, May 25, at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Our area of study is 3-D Paper Crafting. The group will be making altered note pads, memo pads, stationery sets, gift card holders & composition books. Participants will be able to choose the number of pieces and make as many as they wish, for themselves and for gifts. The cost is once again determined on the number of projects one wants to make. The same topic will be studied at each session. There is no need to attend both sessions.

The group will meet in the "Art Room" in the Education Wing. In order for the instructor to plan properly, sign-up is necessary. Consult the sign-up board in the south hall to learn more.

The primary focus of the FCCC is to encourage all members of the church to explore and engage in creative pursuits. Materials, tools and supplies are provided so people can learn a new skill with confidence and hopefully have a little fun in the process. If this sounds like something of interest to you, and you'd like more information, contact Caren Renee Haining, group "Commander" at 353-7613.



Baby Announcement

We congratulate Sandy Beiser on the birth of a new grandson: Caden Lee Beiser, son of Brian and Erin Beiser. Caden was born on March 9th and was 8 lbs, 5 oz, and 20 1/2" long.

Children's Dedications

If you have a child who has not been dedicated, please speak with Pastor Tim or Pastor Linda. We will plan to do child dedications on May 8th—Mother's Day.



Memorial Day Office Closure

The church office will be closed on Monday, May 30th, for the Memorial Day holiday.

Pastor Linda's Hours

Pastor Linda's hours from now through the summer will be Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00–1:00, with the exception of 4th of July and Labor Day. Pastor Linda will be gone to Chi Rho Camp June 25th through July 2nd; General Assembly: July 9th through July 13th; Mission Trips: July 23rd through August 6th.




Spring Yard Sale

On Saturday, May 21, we will host a Yard Sale at the church. If you have items to donate, please price them and bring them to the church during the week of May 15. There is no need to price clothing as it will be one set price. If you want to volunteer to help out with the sale, contact Jodi Bobbitt at 378-7272. Proceeds will go toward the summer Youth Mission Trips.

Navajo Work Trip 2011

Plan now for our mission trip to the Navajo Nation on September 21-25.

We create connections with fellow workers from many churches, along with some of the Navajo people. We also enjoy the opportunity to respond to our calling as servants of God who know that Jesus calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves. This opportunity is priceless in our culture, which typically focuses on self-gratification in a consumer society. Thank God we can provide improved housing and personal caring for people who need a lift of love and friendship.

Registration forms are available in the hallway outside of Fellowship Hall. Talk with Connie Harbert  for more information.

For Future Reference

General Assembly—July 9-13, Nashville, Tennessee

CRMR Women's Renewal—Sept. 16-18
Glen Eyrie Retreat Center, Colo. Springs

Pastor Linda's Ponderings

I have been reading Ezekiel for my own personal study. It is a tough book to read in some ways because the people cannot see or refuse to see how God is at work in the midst of their pain and devastation. During this time the Israelites were in exile; they were taken by Nebuchadnezzar away from their land to another distant land. Ezekiel tries to explain to the people that even in the midst of losing everything, God is at work and is using this overwhelming situation to create a new people of God. In the midst of turmoil, Ezekiel is sharing the hope of God.

I found chapter 18 to be most interesting – Ezekiel shares with the people this idea that God does not keep a list of all that we have done wrong and also does not keep a list of all that we do right. So why is it that we think God does keep a list of our wrong and right actions? Why do we keep a list of the bad and the good that people have done to us? I believe that keeping lists either of the wrong or the right prevents us from seeing how God is at work in our lives and in the world. Keeping a list of wrong actions of our fellow brothers and sisters never allows us to grow; it never allows us to see the goodness in all people. Keeping a list of the right actions is just as problematic – because we learn to rely on our own goodness and the goodness of others, we think that if only we could have more control, everything would be alright, rather than relying on the goodness and sovereignty of God. We fail to trust that God can and will act in our best benefit.

Therefore, may we all let go of our lists, the wrongs and the rights that others have done to us as well as the lists of what we have done to others. May we learn to forgive – ourselves and others just as God has forgiven us. May we look for God in every situation, may we know that God can and will act in our best interest and the best interest of those around us.

Youth News for May

Unity and Diversity in the Body -

"Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many." 1 Corinthians 12:12-14

We selected this scripture as part of our theme for Youth Sunday because we wanted to convey the idea that we need community in order to live out our faith. We acknowledge that we each have different gifts to share, but we also acknowledge that we need to work together as one. And it is not just in ministry that we do this—we live out every part of our lives working together—supporting, encouraging and sharing our joys and sorrows. I am so grateful for the ways that our youth have grown over this year in their love for God and their love for others! I look forward to our adventures this summer as we continue to grow at camp and on our mission trips.

May Events:

1st - Youth Sunday and Ice Cream Social - No Youth Group

8th - Mother's Day - No Youth Group

15th - Youth Group 4:30-6:30 - Mission

22nd - Youth Group 4:30-6:30 - End of the Year Celebration and Water Fun!

29th - One Service at 9:30, **Mission Trip forms due with deposit!**

Summer Events:

Mission Trip Meetings with youth and parents:

CYF - June 5th right after worship at FCC.

Chi Rho - June 5th 6:00 p.m. at Heart of the Rockies Church in Fort Collins.

VBS - June 6th through the 10th.

CYF Camp - June 19th through the 25th.

Junior Camp - June 19th through the 25th.

Discovery Camp - June 24th through 26th.

Chi Rho Camp - June 26th through July 2nd.

CYF mission trip to Fort Worth, Texas - July 23rd - July 30th.

Chi Rho mission trip to Alamosa, Colorado - July 31st - August 6th.

Guide



Summer



Servants



Christian Women's Fellowship

The final general meeting for this year will be May 5th at noon. Lunch will be catered by the PVHS Catering Class and will cost \$4 per person. Please sign up on the board by May 1st. Connie Harbert will conduct the installation of officers. We will also present next year's calendar.

The Daughters' Dessert will be May 3rd at 7:00 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by "The Bearded Brass Plus One." Bring all the women in your life to celebrate with us!

Blessing Box money needs to be turned in by the end of May, so be sure to bring any money you've collected to your May group meeting. Our study book for next year will be "Have You Ever Seen a Hearse Pulling a Trailer?" by James W. Moore. The CWF has purchased one book for each group, but each person is responsible to get her own copy. Any new contact information for the yearbooks is due by the end of June.

The CWF Board will meet on May 12th at 9:30a. Joy Group will meet on the 10th at 1:15p. Kindness and Peace groups will meet on the 26th at 9:30a and 1:30p respectively.

Christian Men's Fellowship Group

The Christian Men's Fellowship group will meet on May 14 from 8 to 9 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. All men from the church, neighbors, friends & relatives are invited to attend. It is a great way for someone to more informally get to know our church. Current plans are to have breakfast, fellowship, and a program. If you are able to provide the breakfast or program, please contact David Haining at 353-7613 as soon as possible.

Need help from the men!

The annual Daughters' Dessert will be held May 3rd. As has been the tradition, the men of the church honor the women by helping with the event through serving and cleaning up. Look for a sign-up sheet to volunteer. It only takes a couple hours of your time and is a great way to show your Christian love and appreciation to those who play such an important part in our lives.



Elder's Message

A mother is a precious gift from God to us, his children. She is the one who not only nurtures her children, but also loves them unconditionally. She is the truest friend we have! The Bible tells us that we must honor our mother and care for her so that we may live long in the land.

In these days before Mother's Day, we are searching through the greeting cards, or through our hearts, to find just the right words to express our love for her. Others have expressed these thoughts about mothers:

No gift to your mother can ever equal her gift to you...life.

Motherhood is a partnership with God.

God could not be everywhere, so he created mothers [a Jewish proverb].

When it comes to love—"mom's" the word.

A mother's arms are made of tenderness, and children sleep soundly within them.

Without good mothers, civilization is doomed.

Motherhood is the most important of all the professions, and they are paid in pure love.

In their children, mothers give birth to the future.

The best medicine in the world is a mother's kiss.

Motherhood is the most beautiful of all the arts.

A joyful mother makes happy children.

If I had a flower for every time I thought of my mother, I could walk in my blooming garden forever!



Gerre Tjardes, Elder

2011 CRMR Men's Conference

May 13-15 at the Estes Park YMCA

Registration begins Friday at 4:00 p.m.



Life After Fifty-Five



On Thursday, May 12, the LAFF Group is invited to the Kress Cinema, 817 8th Ave., for "Painting a Landscape of Aging Through Film." I have 10 free tickets for a 90-minute showing at 2 p.m. Designated free parking, light refreshments and free tickets (required for entry). If we need more tickets, I'll call for more. A sign-up sheet will be posted for those who want to attend. See Hazel Gibson if you have further questions about this event.

FCC Book Club Update

The Book Club will meet at the church on Wednesday, May 4th, at 6:00 p.m. We will discuss For One More Day by Mitch Albom. You are welcome to join us!



Generally In-between Fifty & Twenty

Traditionally, the GIFT Group does not plan an activity in the month of May, due to numerous other activities vying for our attention. Stay tuned for future postings!



Baby Layettes

Collecting New & Gently Used Items (size 12 months & under)

Crib Blankets	Bibs
Receiving Blankets	Bottles
Disposable Diapers	Outfits
Onesies or Undershirts	Caps or Hats
Sleepers or Pajamas	Socks or Booties
Jackets or Sweaters	



The collection box will be in Fellowship Hall throughout the month of May.



Baby Bottles Donated



Thank you for all your suggestions regarding the missing baby bottles used for our special Mother's- Day-to-Father's-Day offering. The church was searched high and low, including the garage.

One smaller bag of bottles was found, but not the big bag everyone remembers. ☹️

Fortunately, the need has now been met, thanks to individuals who donated new bottles. 😊

Excitement of Following FCC's Mission Building With Capital Improvement Vote



On Sunday, April 10, First Christian Church voted with strong support (54 yes, 4 no, 4 abstain) for the needs outlined by the Capital Improvement Committee and to move on to the second phase of planning for capital improvements at First Christian Church. This vote supports FCC's longstanding tradition of trying to reach the unchurched in the community and to continually support the ministry of the church. The next phase of planning will include design and prioritization of specific projects, development of financial plans, and congregational communication. So how can you get involved?

1. Pray that our church can help fulfill God's mission for it
2. Pray for your role in helping the church to achieve its mission
3. Stay open for new ideas which can help the church fulfill its mission
4. Consider how you can contribute by
 - Leading or participating on the planning team
 - Giving financial contributions
 - Attending congregational & ministry input sessions

If you have an interest in being part of the planning team, please contact David Haining at 353-7613 or Rev. Tim Bobbitt. We are in need of several folks to participate in the planning of the improvements. The planning team needs skills around construction and design, financing, and congregational communications. Time commitment can be variable.



May Birthdays



1 Mitchell Moore	12 Jayne Hays	20 Michael Recor	28 Andrew Bishop
6 Kane Shirley	13 Raleigh Newby	22 Katelyn Waldo	28 Ron Shetler
7 Gretchen Howland	14 Betty Jensen	24 Dean Turner	29 Debbie Berg
8 Todd Loschen	16 Nathan Francisco	24 Lauryn Waldo	29 Eleen Nauman
9 Jodi Hartmann	17 Linda Harding	25 Lynn Boyce	29 Maximus Skow

A Prayer

O God, from whose creative imagination the entire universe sprang forth in infinite wonder and endless mystery, we give thanks and praise to you. We remember that from the very moment you called forth life, you provided all that was necessary for your creation to flourish. You are a God of Abundance. Abundant grace. Abundant love. Abundant mercy. Abundant patience. Abundant justice. Abundant provision. You invite us into partnership with you, that your generosity and abundance may extend to all. In this season, we celebrate the disciplines that draw us closer to Christ. We thank you for those who lead us in worship as we seek to praise you. We thank you for those who teach us as we hunger to learn from scripture. We thank you for those who enable us to engage in service to those who are in need. We thank you for those who call us to the faithful practice of stewardship and who have modeled it in their lives. We pray for the Center for Faith and Giving and its vision to create a culture of generosity across the life of our church so that we may indeed be a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. Amen.

~Bruce Barkauer, Minister for Faith and Giving
Center for Faith and Giving, General Church



Church Financial Update

Income 2011	Budgeted Year to Date \$66,859.14
	Actual as of 3/31/11 \$62,339.13
Expenses 2011	Budgeted Year to Date \$66,859.14
	Actual as of 3/31/11 \$64,428.41

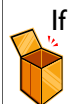


Vacation Bible School



VBS this year will explore grace, joy, love, hope, and peace in **Israel/Palestine, Venezuela, Kenya, Japan, and Greeley, Colorado!** All this exploring will take place June 6-10. If you have had experiences with any of these places or their cultures, please let us know! Our list of needs has grown:

Current needs include: duct tape; large, appliance-sized boxes; cereal boxes; a large container of bubbles; sidewalk chalk; soup cans or plastic frozen juice cans; small, interesting rocks; shoe box lids; 1 bag of play sand (not colored); new or like new white t-shirts (children's and small adult sizes); old copper pennies; small crosses that are made of iron (we need 75); 10 2-litre bottles of diet, clear-colored soda pop; 10 cylindrical packages of Mentos candy; white cardstock; wooden or plastic chopsticks; 1 bottle of rubbing alcohol; and small bottles of glue. A bin for these items has been placed in Fellowship Hall.



If you can donate or help in any way, please contact Alicia Loschen, Jodi Bobbitt, or Caitlin Berg.



Sunday Nights in Greeley

The next Sunday Night in Greeley (SNIG) concert will be on Sunday, May 8, at 6:00p at the Union Colony Civic Center with pianist Huntley Brown. Admission is free; bring a friend!

Servers for the Month of May

	May 1	May 8	May 15	May 22	May 29
8:15 Chapel Service					
Elder	(Youth)	Bob Corliss	Carl England	Bob Corliss	Summer Schedule
Diaconate	(Youth)	Colleen Heitman	Colleen Heitman	Colleen Heitman	
Worship Leader	(Youth)	Nita White	Myrna Armes	Sandy Beiser	
Song Leader	Praise Band	Tessa Johnson	Gretchen Howland	Tessa Johnson	
Pianist	Cory Urban	Gretchen Howland	Nancy Kurtz	Nita White	
10:30 Sanctuary Service					
Elder: North	(Youth)	Diane Doyle	Gerre Tjardes	Gerre Tjardes	9:30 Worship Service
Elder: South	(Youth)	Gerre Tjardes	Diane Doyle	Carl England	Gerre Tjardes
Worship Leader	(Youth)	Robert Boyce	Von Prichard	Nita White	Verna Recor
Song Leader	Praise Band	Bill Kehl	Connie Davis	Gerre Tjardes	
Sound Operator	Bruce Waldo	Katelyn Waldo	Caren R. Haining	Gary Ikenouye	Ken Thompson
Van Driver	Jim Ploegstra	Gary Ikenouye	Paul Warntz	Fred Tjardes	TBA
Diaconate	(Youth)	Alicia Loschen ■	Alicia Loschen ▸	Alicia Loschen	Alicia Loschen ±
	(Youth)	Andrew Bishop ■	Andrew Bishop ▸	Andrew Bishop	Andrew Bishop ±
Please have	(Youth)	Emilee Wolsey ±	Emilee Wolsey ■	Emilee Wolsey ▸	Emilee Wolsey ▲
communion	(Youth)	Judi Ring ±	Judi Ring ■	Judi Ring ▸	Judi Ring ▲
ready by	(Youth)	Paul Warntz ▲	Paul Warntz ±	Paul Warntz ■	Paul Warntz ▸
10:00 a.m.	(Youth)	Beth Warntz ▲	Beth Warntz ±	Beth Warntz ■	Beth Warntz ▸
	(Youth)	Tom Teixeira ▸	Tom Teixeira ▲	Tom Teixeira ±	Tom Teixeira ■
	(Youth)	Lynn Teixeira ▸	Lynn Teixeira ▲	Lynn Teixeira ±	Lynn Teixeira ■
Greeters	Jim & Susan Luecht	The Heatherlys	Julie Hoskins	Marilyn Lesser	Helen Stolte
	Ron & Charlotte	White Family	Norma Basey	Kathleen Davis	LaVonne Rogakis
	C & C England	D & D Berg	Marie Caster	Betty Jensen	The McMichaels
Coffee Hour Host	Ice Cream Social	Tjardes, Doyle	Hoskins	Heitman	Need Volunteer
Acolytes	Baylee Brems	Nathan Bobbitt	Weston Boyce	Austin Loschen	Pyper Evans
	Emilee Ploegstra	David King	Becky Boyce	Hunter Evans	Amy Haining
Children's Church	No Children's Church	Ronelle Caldwell	Ronelle Caldwell	Ronelle Caldwell	Ronelle Caldwell
Children's Moment	Lauryn Waldo	Ian Ploegstra	Brady Harding	Lauryn Waldo	Daniel Recor
		Kris King	David Haining	Linda Harding	Connie Harbert

KEY: Preparation = ± Clean Up Sanctuary = ▲ No Extra Duties = ▸ Clean Up Communion = ■

If you are unable to serve on your designated Sunday, please make arrangements for a replacement. Please notify your team leader and the church of any changes.