

The

Northern

Light

Featuring the people and events of First Congregational Christian Church of Anchorage

October 2016

Inside

Page 1	Minister's Message
Page 2	Moderator's Message A Very Important Date
Page 3	Ministries – What Are They and What Do They Do?
Page 4	From Your Outreach Ministry Welcome New Members
Page 5	October Calendar
Page 6	Just for Kids
Page 7	Puzzle Answer "What's Old Is New Again"

Minister's Message

"We don't have to agree on anything to be kind to one another"
Lori Deschene

The above quote instantly reminded me of the spirit and character of our church. FCC is made up of members and friends who believe deeply in respecting the views, understandings and beliefs of others. Folks here are not only respectful of your belief systems, but will defend your right to have such a belief system. This means we have a wide spectrum of belief systems within our church. There is much freedom in living and practicing this kind of tolerance and respect. There is also a fair degree of tension. I often ask, "How do they do it?"

I've received many responses to that question – all valid – yet it is the quote above that gives me the answer. The folks who attend this church are nice. People are caring. The kindness I have received has been fully authentic. The forgiveness I have been shown has been swift and full. I know I am where I should be.

Obviously, there is space for us to learn and grow. We are not perfect; we don't have all the answers and the universe is full of things that we just don't understand. When I say "I don't know," it is with a sense of glee. I know I'm not alone.

But, while we know that we don't know, and we think the way that we think, what is it that we believe if we don't all believe? Who, what, where, when and how? Starting Friday, November 4th continuing on the 11th and concluding on the 19th (in tandem with our Intentional Transition Church Retreat), we will be holding a new social/educational evening, "The ABC's of Our Church."

This is for everyone. Refresh your understanding of Congregationalism, learn about the history of the National



Association of Congregational Christian Churches (not a denomination) and meet some new people. Speak to any member of the Fellowship Ministry to find out more and/or come to church to find out how you can attend all three sessions for free!

Blessings,

Rev. Johnathan.

Intentional Interim Minister

revjj.fccak@gmail.com



Moderator's Message

The Hug

I want to learn to hug the way Ron Sims, a guy I went to high school with, hugs. Now that may sound odd, so let me explain. Ron and I didn't really know each other back then for a variety of reasons: he was popular, I wasn't; he was a guy, I was a girl; he was black, have you noticed that I'm lily white? And we lived in a community where there may not have been overt racism, but it was there all the same. So, no we did not travel in the same circles.

Fast forward 50 years. Over time things changed as they are wont to do, and somehow our paths crossed on Facebook. I wondered who this incredibly wise, articulate guy was. He managed to mirror my thoughts and feelings on things so often. So I googled him and sure enough he was the same Ron Sims with whom I had gone to school. Not only that, but he went on to be Under Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for President Obama, among many other accomplishments.

He was coming to our reunion, so I determined to let him know how much I appreciated his writing. What I didn't expect was to be wrapped in a hug that sent an indescribable wave of...warmth...love....I can't even describe the feeling, but I will never forget it, and I want to learn to hug that way to let people know that they are appreciated, accepted, forgiven, missed, but most of all loved.

Shalom,

Claudia Kniefel,

Moderator

A Very Important Date!

Saturday, October 15, 2016. Rev. Johnathan will be our guide for an **Intentional Transition Workshop** from 10 am to 4 pm in Cary Mead Hall. This may sound like a stuffy, formal affair, but it will actually be the next step on our exhilarating journey into the future of our faith community. Transitions can be a major turning point for all kinds of communities, and if we hope to move through ours smoothly, we must work together to create an intentional process that includes the emotional, spiritual, cognitive, and physical aspects of our unique situation.

Before we gather for the Workshop, please take some time and reflect on the following:

- As a spiritual community, are we able to look back on our past and feel pleased by all that we have experienced.
- As a spiritual community, are we clear as to what our church stands for (core values) and why our community exists (mission)? And do we have a clear sense of where our congregation is wanting to go (shared future)?

This workshop is an important phase in our process of creating a value for the sacredness of transitions. We need the perspective of every member, so please try to reserve this time to bring your contributions and your supportive presence.

Our Ministries...What Are They? What Do They Do?

By Kate O'Dell

The Worship Ministry

Note: The Worship Ministry members' duties and activities include everything that was formerly the purview of the Diaconate Board and the Music Board. Members of the Worship Ministry are: Chair Sandra Skaggs, Cathy White, Barbara Bowerman, Louise Smith, Verona Gentry, Chris Roe, Darleen Lime, Susan Faith, Greg Stewart, and John Allen. They typically meet on the first Sunday of each month after the worship service.

All First Congregational Church meetings are open unless they are discussing personnel matters, and everyone is encouraged to participate in the work of our Church by attending a meeting and volunteering for a special project, focus group, or ad hoc committee.

The Worship Ministry shall promote the spiritual and devotional life of the Church.

- A. **MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS:** The Worship Ministry shall consist of ten (10) active members. Five (5) of the Ministry members shall be elected each year at the Spring Semiannual Meeting to two (2) year terms, and may serve up to two consecutive terms. No member shall serve for more than two consecutive terms, full or partial, and at least one (1) year must elapse after the second term before a member may be re-elected. Any vacancy that occurs during the year shall be filled by the Church Council, upon the recommendation of the Standing Committee for Nominations. The person filling this vacancy shall serve to the end of that term, and be eligible for a second consecutive full term.
- B. **ORGANIZATION:** The Worship Ministry shall elect its own officers and appoint its own committees. The Ministry shall meet regularly at least once a month unless otherwise decided. A quorum shall consist of a majority of voting members.
- C. **DUTIES:** The Worship Ministry shall:
 - 1. be responsible for the spiritual and devotional life of the Church, including but not limited to arrangement for members to train and serve in roles of liturgists, lay readers, ushers, greeters, and acolytes;
 - 2. serve as advisor to the Senior Minister in spiritual and devotional matters, including service structure and preparation;
 - 3. assist in the services of Communion and Baptism;
 - 4. arrange for chancel flowers and other physical preparations for the worship service; and
 - 5. assist the Minister(s) in pastoral care, including support and care for the sick, homebound, and bereaved.
 - 6. interview and recommend Choir Director(s), Handbell Director, and Organist(s) to the Stewardship Ministry;
 - 7. advise and assist the Choir Director(s), Handbell Director, and Organist(s) in the interviews and recommendations of such other musicians as the Stewardship Ministry shall deem desirable to employ;
 - 8. direct and supervise the Church's music program, in cooperation with the Choir Director(s), Handbell Director, Organist(s), and Senior Minister; and
 - 9. advise and assist the Senior Minister's evaluations of performance of the music staff, including the Choir Director(s), Handbell Director, and Organist(s).
- D. **BUDGET:** The Worship Ministry shall provide to the Stewardship Ministry a budget for the succeeding fiscal year by October 31 of each year.
- E. **REPORTING TO THE CHURCH:** The Worship Ministry shall keep a careful record of its proceedings and shall render a full report to the Church at the Spring Semiannual Meeting and at such times as the Church may, by vote, require.

From Your Outreach Ministry

Got socks? Our Outreach Ministry is collecting socks and gloves for the Brother Francis Shelter during October and November. The Shelter houses the homeless in our community. Please donate new or clean used socks/gloves/mittens in the box in the Narthex. Warm wool socks without seams are the best for tender feet. Thank you!!!



Welcome to Our New Members

On Sunday, September 25, we had the great joy of welcoming Nancy Wozniak and Johnathan Jones (yes, that Johnathan) into the membership of First Congregational Christian Church of Anchorage. Nancy is now a member of the Northern Lights Ringers and the Chancel Choir. She has also volunteered to be the administrator for our Facebook page. Since we installed Rev. Johnathan as our Interim Intentional Minister that same day, our family has obviously gained immeasurably in talents, energy, and caring friendship.



Caroline P. Wohlforth Lecture

St. Mary's Episcopal Church (2222 E. Tudor Rd.) is again hosting a series of lectures honoring the educational ministry of the late Caroline P. Wohlforth. Join them for the first in this year's series, "Contemplation and Action: Insights from Thomas Merton," by the Rev. Hugh Grant. The program has three sessions:

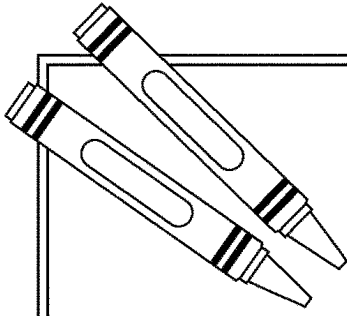
Friday, November 4, 7:00 pm, in the St. Mary's Sanctuary. *The Spiritual Path of Contemplation and Action: Insights from the Life of Thomas Merton.*

Saturday, November 5, 10:00 am-2:00 pm, in the Parish Hall. "Practicing Contemplation and Action: A Quiet Day for Self-Inquiry and Devotion." (Lunch at Noon: A sandwich lunch will be available for \$10.)

Sunday, November 6, 10:30-11:20 am, in the Parish Hall. "Further on the Spiritual Path." The programs are free and open to the public. Parking is available in the lot adjacent to the church. The Rev. Hugh Grant is passionate about being a guide to those who seek deeper wholeness and connectedness, and to those who yearn to manifest love and compassion for all of creation. His learning and experience come primarily from three interwoven threads of study and exploration – Episcopal priest, clinical social worker, and nature lover.

October 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 10-4 FCC Fall Faire 9:00-Noon Organist
2 8:45 Handbells 9:30 Choir 10:30 Worship/ Sunday School 11:30 Fellowship 12:00 Worship Ministry	3 6:30-8:30 Primary Purpose	4 Feast of St. Francis of Assisi 11:30-2:00 OLE Handbells and Recorders 5:30-9:00 Crow Creek Pipes & Drums	5 5:15 Handbells 6:30 Choir	6 12:00- Primary Purpose 6:00 Inner Peace 6:30 Investment Club	7 5-9 AABBA	8 9:00-Noon Organist 9:00-2:00AWSG
9 9:30 Choir 10:30 Worship/Sunday School 11:30 Fellowship 12:00 Life and Learning Ministry 12:00 Outreach Ministry	10 Indigenous Peoples Day Columbus Day 6:30-8:30 Primary Purpose	11 11:30-2:00 OLE Handbells and Recorders 5:30 Stewardship Ministry 5:30-9:00 Crow Creek Pipes & Drums	12 5:15 Handbells 6:30 Choir	13 10:00-3:00 Mabel T. Caverly Social 12:00-Primary Purpose 6:00 Inner Peace	14	15 9:00-Noon Organist 10:00-4:00 Intentional Transition Workshop(CMH) 10:00 Crow Creek Annual Meeting
16 Communion Sunday 9:30 Choir 10:30 Worship/ Sunday School 11:30 Fellowship 12:00 FCC Church Council	17 6:30-8:30 Primary Purpose	18 11:30-2:00 OLE Handbells and Recorders 5:30-9:00 Crow Creek Pipes & Drums	19 5:15 Handbells 6:30 Choir	20 12:00- Primary Purpose 6:00 Inner Peace	21	22 9:00-Noon Organist
23 9:30 Choir 10:30 Worship/ Sunday School 11:30 Fellowship	24 United Nations Day 6:30-8:30 Primary Purpose	25 11:30-2:00 OLE Handbells and Recorders 5:30-9:00 Crow Creek Pipes & Drums	26 5:15 Handbells 6:30 Choir	27 12:00-Primary Purpose 6:00 Inner Peace	28	29 9:00-Noon Organist
30 Contemporary Sunday 9:30 Choir 10:30 Worship/ Sunday School 11:30 Fellowship PF Activity	31 6:30-8:30 Primary Purpose					



Just for **KIDS**

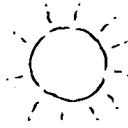
"GROWING"



Peter, Jesus' disciple, wrote these words in about A.D. 67. He was telling how to grow as a Christian. Find the underlined words in the puzzle. The 19 letters that remain will tell you who Peter wrote the words for.

"...make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

2 Peter 1:5, 3:18



O	A	Y	K	N	O	W	L	E	D	G	E
U	L	O	L	W	L	P	M	A	K	E	E
R	O	U	O	E	O	P	F	A	I	T	H
P	E	R	S	E	V	E	R	A	N	C	E
L	G	E	E	V	E	E	A	D	D	E	C
R	Y	W	E	F	F	O	R	T	N	A	A
G	O	O	D	N	E	S	S	Y	E	N	R
B	R	O	T	H	E	R	L	Y	S	D	G
H	G	O	D	L	I	N	E	S	S	E	R
L	O	R	T	N	O	C	F	L	E	S	E



-----!

Puzzle answer on p. 7 of this newsletter

FCC People

Interim Minister

Rev. Johnathan C. Jones
907-229-1352, 907-272-8363

Revjj.fcccak@gmail.com

Caroline Valentine, Organist,
Director, Northern Lights
Ringers

Lori Wasco
Director, Chancel Choir

June Skinner
Nursery Attendant

Contacts

Administrative Assistant & Editor

Kate O'Dell 272-8363

FCC Church Sexton

Scott McClure 272-8363

Wedding Coordinator

Barbara Widtfeldt 377-1673

Serving the NACCC

Sharon Higgins,
Year-Round Delegate

Serving the PNAACC

Sharon Higgins,
Delegate

Puzzle Answer: All people everywhere.



What's Old Is New Again?

By Anne Curzan

It can be easy to romanticize the state of handwriting back in the day, say the turn of the 20th century, when people were regularly writing letters by hand — and in cursive, to boot. But here is Lewis Carroll lamenting bad handwriting in 1890:

Years ago, I used to receive letters from a friend—and very interesting letters too—written in one of the most atrocious hands ever invented. It generally took me about a week to read

one of his letters! I used to carry it about in my pocket, and take it out at leisure times, to puzzle over the riddles that composed it — holding it in different positions, and at different distances, till at last the meaning of some hopeless scrawl would flash upon me.

His golden rule: Write legibly.

This rule appears in a delightful little booklet called *Eight or Nine Wise Words About Letter-Writing*, which was included with the “Wonderland” Postage-Stamp-Case. On the front of the case is a picture of Alice holding the Duchess’s baby. If you pull out the little book in the case, you find a picture of Alice holding a pig. (Carroll provides explicit instructions about how to find this “surprise” of the baby turning into a pig on the first two pages of the booklet.)

Some of Carroll’s other rules for letter writing remind us that what is old is new again in the age of electronic communication. Are you someone who has put a delay on your email so that you don’t send angry emails too hastily? This is not a new problem. Here’s Carroll on the need to exercise restraint in sending:

Another Rule is, when you have written a letter that you feel may possibly irritate your friend, however necessary you may have felt it to so express yourself, put it aside till the next day. Then read it

over again, and fancy it addressed to yourself. This will often lead to your writing it all over again ...
(16)

Or perhaps you need the delay so that you have time to remember that you forgot to attach the attachment you promised. (The feature in my email program that knows to ask me if I meant to attach something is a little creepy but it has saved me many a time.) It seems like that must be a new problem, because attachments are new, but the underlying issue predates email. Carroll proposed a solution:

When you say, in your letter, "I enclose cheque [sic] for £5", or "I enclose John's letter for you to see", leave off writing for a moment — go and get the document referred to — and put it into the envelope.
(19)

Or, today, pause and attach your attachment as soon as you write "You will find attached ... "

Finally, Carroll brings up the tricky rhetorical situation in which we still can find ourselves:
... if it should ever occur to you to write, jestingly, in dispraise of your friend, be sure you exaggerate enough to make the jesting obvious: a word spoken in jest, but taken as earnest, may lead to very serious consequences. I have known it to lead to breaking-off of a friendship. (18)

We can still use exaggeration, and in texting that often takes the form of exaggerated punctuation. Now we also often rely on emoticons, emoji, or abbreviations like *jk* or *lol* to make our jesting obvious. I know some folks can see these smiley faces and trendy abbreviations as lazy or overly informal or even unnecessary. I think that view is too dismissive. Yes, emoticons and *lol* are informal, and texters should account for that. But informal isn't the same thing as lazy. In the new zippy Wonderland of texting and email, :) and ;) and *lol* offer concise solutions to an old problem.