



Art and Missions - Two for One

■ By Connie Johnston

During the months of October and November, you will have an opportunity to support mission work and get a head start on your holiday gifts.

As a member of the First Community Church family and an accomplished artist, Brian Johnston will display his most recent artwork in Brownlee Hall. Each piece is individual and unique. Every dollar in purchased artwork will go directly to the Mission Council in support of sponsored missions.

Brian finds something of interest in most subjects, looking for the underlying abstract shapes in design in both plain air and studio paintings. While he paints all sizes, he prefers larger oil paintings from earlier studies or sketches to capture a strong composition and color spots with simple shapes.



He is a prolific artist who also values figure work as an important aspect of his art.

A reception will be held in Brownlee Hall on Thursday, October 1, from 6-8 pm. Preview Brian's art, talk with Mission Council members and purchase select pieces for pickup at the end of the show in late November.

Checks and credit card charges can be made directly to the church with designation to the Mission Council.

Kickoff Sunday

We return to worshipping at both North and South campuses Sunday, September 13. Join us as we kick-off our new program year with services at 8:30 and 11 am, South Campus and 8:30, 9:45 and 11:30 am, North Campus.

The new 11:30 am service at North Campus offers an informal, family worship experience.

Eyeglass Mission Gives Sight

■ By Charlie Jacobs

I broke a glasses case in late 2014. I knew I had one in a drawer. When I found the case, I also found a pair of glasses that I hadn't worn in 4 or 5 years. I wondered how many people had glasses stashed away.

I asked my wife, Ann, if the church collected eyeglasses as a mission. She wasn't sure. It took some searching, but I learned that church member Ron Arledge oversaw the effort and he offered to allow me to take it over.

Soon after, Ann had knee surgery. She likes to volunteer, but found her bad knee limited her ability to stand or sit for long periods. She couldn't serve meals or work at the Mission Council Garage Sale. I thought the glasses collection might fill a need for her to volunteer.

We've collected 356 eyeglasses since December 2014 and have donated 51 cases to Tri-Village Trading Post. Recently, we sent 40 readers to Back Bay Mission. I have 55 readers currently that will also go to Back Bay.

Eyeglasses are life changing. Thanks for your support. Collection boxes can be found next to Room 111 and at the reception area, North Campus and in the coat room and Tri-Village Trading Post, South Campus.

Friendvy



Dr. Richard Wing
Senior Minister

My granddaughter, Kate, got me in touch with the quote from Oscar Wilde: "Be yourself. Everyone else is taken."

There is one barrier in being ourselves and that is "friendvy."

Friendvy is how we are supposed to celebrate a friend's good fortune, but don't. We lie and say how happy we are for them and inside we are fuming and saying: "Why him? Why not me? I'm just as smart. Why do they get all the breaks? What is it they have that I don't?"

Friendvy is deadly.

La Rochefoucauld said, "Envy is a fury that cannot endure the good of others." Buddhism suggests "rejoicing in others' good fortune as the antidote to envy."

Psychologists suggest that we need gratitude for what we have, and not concentrate on what we don't have.

Famous people are plagued with envy more than others. "They were invited to Jimmy Fallon's show, and I was not? How can that be? How can I get on there?" How many times have you envied the famous? If you do, remember Princess Diana who found joy only as she gave her gift of hope to the poor. That is the only place she felt fully alive.

How often have the famous envied the lives of the common and even the poor? One rock star said he

would give his fortune if he could "walk down a street unnoticed instead of being mobbed."

Being yourself is only half of the story. All spiritual traditions teach that once you have become yourself, the greatest joy follows only when you give yourself to others without envy.

Sergio Gomez, a minister in Tijuana, Mexico was the epitome of "no envy." I visited his home in Tijuana on a hot day. He was watering a plant outside his modest home. We were both thirsty. He told me *not* to drink out of the hose because the water is not good for drinking. He said they can only drink water that is delivered in big bottles to their home. Then he said, "I know this is same in the United States, right?"

I corrected his information by telling him that all our water in the U.S. is treated both in our homes and in our yard and it is safe to drink either. With ecstatic joy he said, "I am so happy for you! That is very good! I hope that someday we can have the same for us. I am so happy for you!"

The poor have taught me this: having nothing, they rejoice in what I have without envy, jealousy or rage. Jesus said, "the kingdom of God belongs to them." I might add, anyone else, rich or poor, who can rejoice with those who rejoice (like Sergio) and weep with those who weep (like Lady Di).

To each belongs deep joy in a shallow world.

Peace to you,

Looking Ahead

Upcoming Sermons by Dr. Wing:

Sept. 13 - THE PARADOX OF GENEROSITY
(2 Corinthians 9:7-15)

Sept. 20 - UNEXPECTED BLESSINGS
Part 1 – *The Fifty First State* (Matthew 5:3)

Sept. 27 - UNEXPECTED BLESSINGS
Part 2 – *Good Grief* (Matthew 5:4)

Staff Updates

Dawn Costin transitioned out of her position July 1 and Julie Richards is now Director of K-5. As of September 1, Rev. Kate Shaner will be Minister of Mission and Youth, Sarah Keintz will be Director of High School and Middle School and Cindy Larimore will be joining the business office.

Heart to Heart Food Pantry Totals

Heart to Heart offers a helping hand and caring heart in times of need.

Donation Needs for September:
Feminine Hygiene Products

July 2015	Month	YTD
Households	432	1,819
Individuals	1,297	5,624
Children	427	1,875
Adults	679	2,940
Seniors	191	809
Total Meals	11,673	54,013
Pounds from North	60	255
Pounds from South	0	193
Pounds from Annex	0	60
Pounds from MOFB*	2,645	44,775
Pounds from Giant Eagle	0	14,925
Unique Volunteers	0	203

*Mid-Ohio Foodbank

firstnews Articles

Include the date, contact person's name, phone number and/or e-mail address with all submissions. Submit to:

email - news@FCchurch.com
fax - 614 488.2763
phone - 614 488.0681

We reserve the right to edit all submissions.

The deadline for all submissions is 12 pm on the 15th of each month.

firstnews is a communications mission of First Community Church, published for church members and the community to share insights, educate and inform.

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Medicare Advice

■ By Estelle Scott

Beginning Sept 14, I will be available to answer questions about Medicare, Mondays from 10 - 11:30 am in the Older Adult office located on the second floor of South Campus. We will compare the new 2016 Drug and Medicare Advantage plans and help with enrollment issues by appointment. I meet with people and/or their families individually to ensure counseling privacy.

I am also willing to speak with groups to share more general information on Medicare and how to navigate the system. If the above hours do not work for you, please contact me and we can schedule a time that will.

As an OSHIP (Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program) volunteer, I do not sell anything, but I can help you sort through the available options for Medicare and answer questions.

Contact Estelle Scott at
Emccott1037@wowway.com,
614 457.1037 or 614 580.5760

This Month in Church History

■ Prepared by Jackie Cherry

9/03/1910 - Fred Brownlee hired as our first minister

9/12/1915 - Rev. Oliver Weist called as minister

Fall 1941 - Couples Circles organized

9/15/1957 - First Community becomes the only church in Ohio with closed-circuit television

Sep 1973 - Ron Jenkins assumes post of Minister of Music

Sep 1984 - Project Adelphos established. Now known as Heart to Heart

Fall 1984 - Church members took on the mission of providing hot Monday night meals at the homeless shelter

Magic in the North Campus Garden

Vegetables are growing at the Mary Evans Child Center, thanks to the busy gardeners at North Campus. Located within the children's play yard at the northwest corner of the building, our Seeds of Hope Garden is bursting with zucchini, tomatoes, squash, beans and more - all headed to the Heart To Heart food pantry.

Children help our garden crew sow, weed, water, harvest and taste. This spring, they dined on strawberries. Now they pluck plump cherry tomatoes. They line up for turns to water the three large vegetable beds and inspect the pumpkin and squash hidden under big leaves. On August 4, they picked thirteen ears of Silver Queen corn, and as one girl put it, "shoved" (shucked) the husks.

That afternoon, they ate buttery corn on the cob for a special snack. As a surprise for the garden crew, the children made cookies and lemonade to thank the volunteers.

Master gardeners Loren and Cheryl Van Deusen work in the garden just about every day with a growing team of volunteers including Bob Burns, Kathleen Dorcy, Leigh Anne Easterling, David Hothersall, Marilyn Jennings, Jane Ledman, Carolyn Leicht, Kathleen Lennon, Priscilla Mead and Jamy Zambito.



Loren and Cheryl Van Deusen
North Campus Master Gardeners

As the crops ripen and the demand for fresh produce grows at Heart to Heart, every hand is appreciated, regardless of age or expertise. Most volunteers spend about two hours, one morning a week, and then deliver their harvest to South Campus.

A fall task will be to landscape the baby and toddler garden area.

To join this happy project, contact the Van Deusens at 614 824.7870 or the Mission Office at 614 488.0681 ext. 106

Unexpected Blessings

A Sermon Series by Dr. Richard A. Wing
Beginning September 20

Parish Register

We share the joys and sorrows of our church family in our prayers.

As of August 15, 2015:

BIRTHS

Oakley & Huxley Benes Bartlett 4/10
 Sons of Olivia Benes & Evan Bartlett
 Grandsons of Sue & Jim Benes
 Henry McKenzie Lavine 6/5
 Son of Katherine & Noah Lavine
 Great-grandson of Nancy & Ron Long
 Eli Luna 6/17
 Son of Melissa & Justin Luna
 Ezekiel "Zeke" Alan Henkel 7/21
 Son of Nikki & Mark Henkel
 Clara Isabel Claussen 8/3
 Daughter of Carol & Chad Claussen
 Granddaughter of Karen & Bob Claussen

WEDDINGS

Jillian Karem & Andrew Denman 7/25
 Lindsay Cloyes & Calloway Robertson 8/1
 Sara Miely & Brett Patton 8/8
 Daughter of Molly & Mark Miely

HOSPITALIZATIONS

Jack Barger
 Rod Clark
 David Costin
 Don Gepfert
 Ali Steelman
 Mike Taylor
 Mary Weisman

DEATHS

John William Criner 7/15
 Grandfather of Janelle Criner
 (Emily Rogers)
 Lee Solis 8/5
 Husband of Bette Solis
 J. Irene Hammon 8/6
 Grandmother of Jared (Amy) Caskie
 Ivor Young 8/6
 Brother of Sarah (Bob) Reid
 Joan Betz 8/16

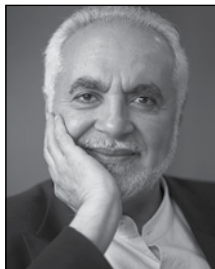
Please send notifications of Births, Hospitalizations or Deaths to prussell@FCchurch.com or 614 488.0681 ext 228.

Blood Drive

Kick-Off Sunday
 September 13, 9 am to 2 pm
 North Campus Parking Lot

Register online at redcrossblood.org and enter our sponsor code: **FCCNC** or contact Paula Russell at 614 488.0681 ext 228 or prussell@FCchurch.com.

Exploring Islam



Imam Feisal
 Abdul Rauf
 Spiritual Searcher

October 2 – 4

The story of religion is really the story of God trying to put on earth a community of faith that may speak infinite languages, that may have different ways of prayer or styles of prayer or modes of prayer, but underlying it all is a

commonality that is the oneness of God and the oneness of humanity. That's the common underlying denominator which defines people of faith.

— Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf

Friday 7 - 8:30 pm

Getting Islam Right: An Interview and Discussion with Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf
 Rev. Dr. Deborah Lindsay, Moderator
 Pre-registration fee Friday only: \$15

A leading voice for Islamic moderation and a renowned teacher of Sufi spirituality, Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf is author of *Moving the Mountain: Beyond Ground Zero to a New Vision of Islam in America* (Free Press, 2012) and *What's Right with Islam Is What's Right with America* (HarperCollins, 2005).

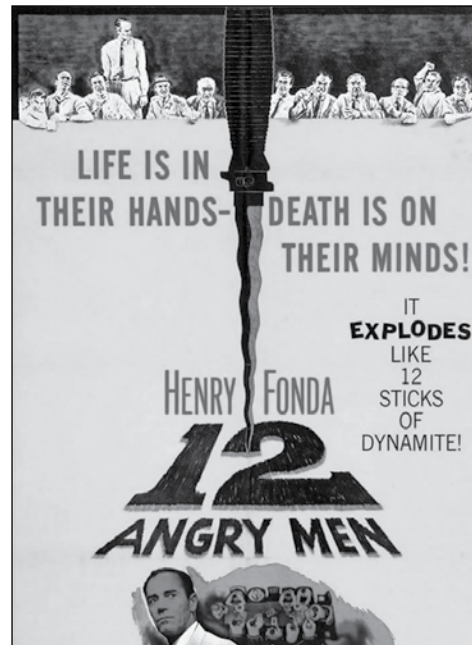
Saturday, 9 am – 12:30 pm

Exploring the Spiritual Dimension of Islam: Sufi Teachings and Practice
 Pre-registration fee Saturday only: \$45
 Full-weekend preregistration fee: \$50

Imam Feisal leads a morning of teaching and practices to deepen our experience of the Holy through the wisdom of the Sufi spiritual tradition.

Sunday, October 4, Imam Feisal will be the guest preacher at 9:45 am North Campus Worship and 11 am South Campus Worship.

Visit FCchurch.com/imam, write info@FCchurch.com or call 614 488.0681 ext. 151



Film Group

Friday, September 11
 6 pm social & pizza; 6:30 pm movie

The Adult Learning Council Film Group returns to a Friday night schedule for September's film '12 Angry Men'.

This 1957 movie classic about the importance of standing up for one's beliefs centers around the jury room considerations of 12 jurors seeking to reach a unanimous verdict in determining 'beyond a reasonable doubt' whether a Puerto Rican youth is guilty of knifing his father to death.

Eleven of the jurors vote for conviction while the twelfth, played by Henry Fonda, works to persuade the weary jurors to re-examine the evidence. Through discussions and confrontations, we learn the background of each juror and see insights into their thinking about this case.

In 2007, *12 Angry Men* was selected for preservation in the United States National Film Registry by the Library of Congress as being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant".

Spiritual Director, Dave Nickel, will facilitate the discussion following the film. Please RSVP by Thursday, September 10, so we know how much pizza to buy. Contact David or Jennie Nickel at jnickel@columbus.rr.com or phone 614 529.9930



Our new Toyota Hilux with Paul Hammond, Regi Rivette (our driver) and Tracee Laing.

Healing Art Missions

■ By Jane Ledman

Healing Art Missions exists to support those in need around the world. Since 1999, First Community Church has supported the people of Haiti in the areas of health, nutrition, education, housing and social justice.

Through a 16-year partnership, we have seen vast improvement in the health of the community.

The Centre de Sante de Dumay Haiti, our main project, has 15,000 patient visits a year and offers primary, eye, surgical and cholera care along with lab, pharmacy, vaccines, family planning, nutrition and 2 clean water programs.

We partner with the remote mountain community of Demier, Haiti to offer clean water and community health programs that include vaccine clinics. In Port-au-Paix, Haiti, we pay the teacher's salaries in the Charles Salomon school, teaching over 289 children ages 3-15 and offer literacy classes to 50 adults.

Running these programs requires reliable communication and transportation. We relied on a donated Ford Ranger from 2008 until it completely died in 2014. Roads in Haiti are rugged and poorly maintained.

In 2013, our brakes failed during a mountain ascent, causing us to drastically restrict the truck's use and our team's mobility.

In 2014, we were able to purchase a new Toyota Hilux from a local dealer with trained staff and readily available replacement parts. Now our staff can travel where and when they are needed. We were able to travel to Port-au-Paix for the first time in several years to check on the school we support.

Sunday School

Sunday school will return to its normal schedule on Sunday, September 13 with classes being offered during the 9:45 am service at North Campus and 11 am service at South Campus. If you have not yet done so, please register your child for Sunday school at FCchurch.com/K-5

Fourth-Grade Communion

Each year, our fourth-graders participate in First Communion. As children mature, they are given the opportunity to participate more fully in their faith through experiences. These include receiving communion and staying in worship with the the congregation on communion Sundays.

Fourth-grade communion will take place on Sunday, October 4 at both 9:45 am and 11:00 am services. In preparation for this day, we will do lessons about communion in the fourth and fifth-grade Sunday school classes on September 20 and 27. Being present for these lessons will make the experience of communion more meaningful. Fourth-graders should plan to attend a dinner at North Campus with Dr. Richard Wing and the K-5 team on Tuesday, September 29 at 6 pm. Following dinner, the children will be given information and instructions about communion Sunday.

Midweek Missions

Midweek Missions will kick-off Wednesday, September 16. This program coincides with the children's choir schedule. Midweek Missions is an opportunity for children to put their faith into action by doing projects to support groups in need within our church and the greater Columbus community.

Register before September 16. A pizza dinner is served each Wednesday evening at a cost of \$4 per person. We ask that you prepay for pizza online at FCchurch.com/k-5

September Readings

These Bible readings are from the Revised Common Lectionary Daily Readings. In general, readings on Thursday, Friday and Saturday are selected to prepare for the Sunday reading; readings on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday are selected to reflect the Sunday lectionary.

1	Song 5:2-6:3	1 Pet 2:19-25
2	Song 8:5-7	Mark 7:9-23
3	Prov 1:1-19	Rom 2:1-11
4	Prov 4:10-27	Rom 2:12-16
5	Prov 8:1-31	Matt 15:21-31
6	Prov 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17 Ps 125	Mark 7:24-37
7	Prov 8:32-9:6	Heb 11:29-12:2
8	Prov 11:1-31	Heb 12:3-13
9	Prov 14:1-9	Matt 17:14-21
10	Prov 15:1-17	Heb 11:17-22
11	Prov 19:24-29	James 2:17-26
12	Prov 21:1-17	Matt 21:23-32
13	Provs 1:20-33 Ps 19	James 3:1-12 Mark 8:27-38
14	Prov 22:1-21	Rom 3:9-20
15	Prov 25:1-28	Col 3:1-11
16	Prov 29:1-27	John 7:25-36
17	Prov 30:1-10	1 Cor 2:1-5
18	Prov 30:18-33	Rom 11:25-32
19	Ecc 1:1-18	Matt 23:29-39
20	Prov 31:10-31 Ps 1	James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a Mark 9:30-37
21	Prov 27:1-27	James 4:8-17
22	Ecc 4:9-16	James 5:1-6
23	Ecc 5:1-20	John 8:21-38
24	Esth 1:1-21	Acts 4:13-31
25	Esth 2:1-23	Acts 12:20-25
26	Esth 3:1-15	Matt 5:13-20
27	Esth 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 James 5:13-20 Ps 124	Mark 9:38-50
28	Esth 4:1-17	1 Pet 1:3-9
29	Esth 5:1-14	1 John 2:18-25
30	Esth 8:1-17	Matt 18:6-9

Board Update

■ By Erik Clark, *Governing Board Chair*

Kickoff Sunday, the start of the church's program year, is almost upon us, and the Governing Board has plenty on its plate as we look forward to a great year. Here are a few of our priorities:

In late July, Dr. Al Winseman visited our church to help with our continued engagement efforts. He is author of *Growing an Engaged Church* and Senior Learning and Development Consultant at Gallup. One takeaway was that we as a church can improve engagement by setting clear membership expectations. What does it mean to be a member of First Community Church? What are the basic expectations of members and what can members expect from the church in return for their membership commitment?

The Board will be working on providing a clear answer to this question in the coming months.

As Dr. Wing's departure draws closer (August 2017 or earlier if a new Senior Minister is ready to start sooner than that), the Board will be working with the newly-formed Senior Minister Search Committee to identify the essential and identifying characteristics of the church. At this moment, who are we as a church? What distinguishes us from other churches, non-profits, and service organizations? How concise and focused can we be in answering this? We will use this answer to guide our search for our next Senior Minister and to present our church to potential Senior Minister candidates.

Finally, the Board will determine next steps for our capital projects. The quiet phase of the Capital Campaign continues its steady progress and we're eager to launch the public phase, hopefully around the start of the new calendar year.

While this notion may be overused at times, I believe it's fair to say we're at a pivotal moment in the history of our church. We not only welcome your input and participation; we need it. If you have thoughts to share with the Board, please contact me. I would love to talk with you. erikjclark@gmail.com

Fall Women's Retreat

■ By Cynthia King



On an airplane, they have a rule about oxygen masks: Take care of yourself before helping those around you. You may be someone whose to-do list is so full of care for others, you forget to replenish your spirit. Remember how summer camp used to replenish your spirit?

The Fall Women's Retreat is a chance to get away from responsibilities and *breathe*. Like any summer camp experience, there will be vespers, soulful workshops, arts and crafts. There will be singing, hiking and campfires, along with morning yoga and a lake full of canoes. The chairs on the back deck will be full of women laughing with friends they've never met before. We would like you to be one of them.

The retreat runs from 4 pm, Friday, September 25 until 10:30 am, Sunday September 27. The cost is \$130 for the weekend or \$110 for one night only. There are discounts for signing up before September 14 and for those 75 or older. There will be a massage therapist who will do massages for an additional charge.

You can sign up at Sunday tables on August 30, September 6, 13 and 20 before and after services or at FCchurch.com/fall-womens-retreat

Football Fan Alert

■ By Rebecca Wolfe

All of us have our favorite OSU Buckeyes shirt, mug or sweatpants. We also have those things that hang around our house because they are scarlet and gray, but we never use or wear them.

As always, one person's cast-off is another's treasure. OSU items are big sellers at Tri-Village Trading Post. Can you help us out by making a decision to part with just *one* of your least favorite collegiate items?

Quest Singles

Thursday, September 3, 6:30 pm
Dinner at Tucci's
35 North High Street, Dublin

Thursday, September 17, 6:30 pm
Dinner at Cap City Diner
1299 Olentangy River Road, Grandview

Sunday, September 20, 5:30 pm
Book Discussion
To Kill a Mockingbird and *Go Set a Watchman*, both by Harper Lee
MCL Cafeteria, Upper Arlington

Thursday, October 1, 6:30 pm
Dinner at Trattoria Roma
1447 Grandview Avenue, Grandview

Thursday, October 15, 6:30 pm
Dinner at Red Lobster
6091 Sawmill Road

Sunday, October 18, 5:30 pm
Book Discussion
Title is not yet decided.
MCL Cafeteria, Upper Arlington

We singles enjoy meeting new people. Most of us are in our fifties, sixties and on up, but we welcome all ages.

We communicate primarily via email, so if you are not on our list, contact Nancy Dunn at ndunn1975@gmail.com or call 614 771.4869 to verify current plans. If you have an idea for a fun activity, let Nancy know.

Youth Choirs

Beginning Sunday, Sept. 13
Middle School Vocal Ensemble:
10:45-11:30 (following Crossroads)
High School Vocal Ensemble:
12:15-1 (following the 11:30 Service)

Beginning Wednesday, September 16
Kindergarten Choir: 5:30-6
Cherub Choir (Grades 1 & 2): 6-6:30
Junior Choir (Grades 3, 4 & 5): 6:30-7:15
Bell Choir 1 (for beginners): 7:15-7:45
Bell Choir 2 (advanced): 7:45-8:30

Visit FCchurch.com/youthchoirs to register. For further information, please contact Sally Beske at sbeske@FCchurch.com

How Jesus Became God

Sundays beginning September 13
9:30-10:45 am

Wicker Room, South Campus

Thursdays beginning September 17
7-8:15 pm

Room 115, North Campus

Our Sunday and Thursday adult learning groups will base their fall discussions on popular Biblical scholar Bart Ehrman's video lecture series as it tackles one of the most significant historical questions for Western civilization: *How did Jesus become God?*

Adult Education Coordinator, Walter Watkins, will facilitate discussions following each 30-minute lecture as participants address some of these questions: Did Jesus' early followers consider him God from the beginning?

If not, when did the transition occur and what prompted it? Why do we get creeds in the 4th Century defining Jesus, God and their relationship?

What was at issue? What was still being debated about the Jesus experience centuries after his death during the reign of Constantine?

Join us for this video series that will explore these and other questions on Sunday mornings in the Wicker Room, or on Thursday evenings at North campus for engaging conversations about some of the ideas that undergird our faith and how early followers' claims about Jesus reflected their social context.

There are differences, even in the Gospels, that we may have merged in our minds. No advance preparation is needed for these sessions and there is no cost.

Chancel Choir

Our new season starts Thursday, September 10. Interested singers can contact Lois Zook at 614 488.0681 ext. 214 or lzook@FCchurch.com

Finding Our Place in the Cosmos

Thursday, September 17
7-8:30 pm

Brownlee Hall, South Campus

Free-Will Offering
(Suggested donation, \$10-20)

Register online at FCchurch.com/solomon or at the door



Dr. Avery Solomon
Spiritual Teacher

Search and The Philosopher's Center.

"New paradigms in both science and spirituality are moving humanity closer to the awakening of a new global consciousness," says Dr. Solomon, author of the forthcoming *The World Inside Out: Healing the Illusion of Separateness*. "Yet many of us cling to the old beliefs: That we are separate bodily beings, that consciousness is a secretion of the brain and that the world exists as an independent reality 'out there.'"

In this talk, says Avery, we will challenge our old habits of thought, propose a new view, and offer exercises to help us align with the Sacred Activity within the Divine Stillness. We will discover how to become "sacred agents" involved in individual transformation in the midst of this great Cosmos in which we love and move and have our being.

Avery Solomon, a retired professor of mathematics from Cornell University, has been a teacher and researcher at Wisdom's Goldenrod Center for Philosophic Studies in Hector, NY for 35 years. He has presented seminars and classes in Europe, India and throughout the United States on ancient wisdom and modern cosmology, spirituality, meditation and healing. Since 2001 Avery has been involved in the dialogue of science and Buddhism started by His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

Philosopher and spiritual teacher Avery Solomon explores the intersection between the universe, science and individual spirituality in this evening lecture and conversation, co-sponsored by the Center for Spiritual

Parenting Connections

■ By Kara Alexander Stearns

The Early Childhood Council would like to invite parents of young children to join us for *Parenting Connections*, a group for support, guidance and fellowship as we strive for purposeful and intentional parenting.

The group will meet the third Thursday each month, September through April from 7-8:30 pm at the North Campus. Our first meeting will be September 17 and will feature a panel of parenting experts to answer our questions.

Spiritual Salon: Multi-Religious America Series

Buddhism & The Practice of Mindfulness
Lama Kathy Wesley, Columbus Karma Thegsum Choling Meditation Center
Wednesday, Sept. 2, 7 – 8:30 pm
Brownlee Hall, South Campus

Join us for our next "Spiritual Salon," when we will learn about contemporary U.S. Buddhism with Lama Kathy as our "Religion in America" series continues. Open to the public, a free-will offering is taken at each Salon to support this program of The Adult Learning Council. Register online at FCchurch.com/buddhism or at the door.

Capital Projects

Our Capital Projects Committee is hard at work to deliver a plan detailing steps necessary to construct a new sanctuary at North Campus while making improvements to South Campus and Camp Akita.

Visit FCchurch.com/vision to see updated renderings, floor plans and overall planning documents. Click on the *The Capital Projects Document Library* link.

Weekly Adult Learning Groups

Classes are free except where noted and open to the public. For information on books, registration or financial aid, contact Natalia at njones@FCchurch.com or 614 488.0681 ext. 151 (voicemail only).

For more details, visit FCchurch.com/adult-learning

<p>Sunday Morning Seminar - Biblical scholar Bart Ehrman's video lecture series tackles one of the most significant historical questions for Western civilization: <i>How did Jesus become God?</i> No advanced preparation needed, and drop-ins welcome as you can make it.</p>	<p>Sundays Beginning Sept. 13 9:30 – 10:45 am Wicker Room, SC</p>
<p>Tuesday at Ten - In preparation for our Fall <i>Spiritual Searcher</i>, Imam Feisal Rauf, we will begin discussing his book, <i>Moving the Mountain</i>. Participants should read the Introduction and Chapter 1 before the first session of the class. Facilitated by Walter Watkins and Pete and Pidge Diehl.</p>	<p>Tuesdays Beginning Sept. 8 10 – 11:30 am Wicker Room, SC</p>
<p>Men's Study Group - The Men's Study Group is watching and discussing a 12 part DVD on: <i>The History of the Bible: The Making of the New Testament Canon</i>. Contact Price Finley at 614 361.6567 or price.finley@gmail.com, or Craig Sturtz at 614 481.9060 or craig.sturtz01@gmail.com</p>	<p>Wednesdays 7-8 am Wicker Room, SC</p>
<p>Wednesday Morning Fellowship - Presentations and discussion of leading-edge topics. Ends promptly at 8 am.</p>	<p>Wednesdays 7-8 am Brownlee Hall, SC</p>
<p>Women Living the Questions - In September we will read and discuss the book by Joan Chittister <i>Essential Writings</i> along with viewing videos of her many topical lectures. Contact Linda Baldeck at lbaldeck927@gmail.com or 614.459.0722.</p>	<p>Wednesdays 9:30-11:30 am Wicker Room, SC</p>
<p>Wednesday Evening Bible Study - A time to study scripture and pray. In September the class will begin study of Paul's Life & Letters. Led by Rev. Jim Long.</p>	<p>Wednesdays, Beginning Sept. 16 7 – 8:15 pm Conference Room, NC</p>
<p>Contemplative Way Group 1 A time of sacred reading Teresa of Avila's <i>Interior Castle</i>; 30-minute meditation time; and reflection & discussion. Facilitated by Rev. David Hett and other spiritual directors. Free-will offering.</p>	<p>Thursdays 11:45 am-1 pm Wicker Room, SC</p>
<p>Faith & Reason - Biblical scholar Bart Ehrman's video lecture series tackles one of the most significant historical questions for Western civilization: <i>How did Jesus become God?</i> Facilitated by Walter Watkins, Adult Education Coordinator.</p>	<p>Thursdays Beginning Sept. 17 7 – 8:15 pm Room 111, NC</p>
<p>Contemplative Way Group 2 Sacred reading of Mirabai Starr's <i>The Showing of Julian of Norwich</i>; 30-minute meditation and time for reflection & discussion. Rose Konrath and Vickie Murphy facilitate. Free-will offering.</p>	<p>Saturdays 10-11:15 am Spiritual Guidance Rm, SC Annex No class Sept. 5</p>

Making a BIG Difference

■ By Sandy Anderson

When Chet Hawley and his three children, Dr. Phil Hawley, Brent Hawley, and the late Lynn Bryant, decided to establish the Lorena C. Hawley Memorial Fund in the First Community Foundation in 2008 in memory of their wife and mother, they agreed the purpose would be to support worldwide mission efforts.

In May, Phil and his daughter, Lauren Norelli, made their first journey to the Dominican Republic with Rev. Kate Shaner to visit the Dominica School and Orphanage.

Rev. Shaner recommended this particular mission because she knew that the school was operating under severe financial hardship.

Their visit was a life-changing experience for them both. They stayed in the dorms, ate with the children and taught classes. They were overwhelmed by the joyous children at the school who were thirsting for knowledge, friendship and love.

They quickly learned about the history of support and the funding sources that were discontinued. There are nearly 400 children in the school run by Dominica Rosario and over one-third of the children receive all of their meals at the school.

Without a new source of funding, 150 children, between the ages of 4 to 14, could not continue as students.

Phil, his wife, Jody and their three children and spouses – Austin and Jill Hawley, Miles and Lauren Hawley, and Lauren and Andrew Norelli, quickly mobilized an immediate round of financial support for Dominica in June.

The funds were used to replenish the food supply, pay teachers' salary in arrears and eliminate some of their debt. In August, the Hawley family committed to fund a portion of the school's 2015-16 operating budget from the Lorena C. Hawley Memorial Fund and will cultivate new sources of support.



New Member Seminar

Membership Seminars are an opportunity to hear about the history, programs and inclusiveness of the church and become acquainted with clergy and staff through a relaxed atmosphere of conversation and fellowship.

We invite you to join us for our upcoming Membership Seminar:

Sunday, October 11, 12:30 - 3 pm
 Room 115, North Campus
 Lunch is included; childcare is provided.

For information about membership or to RSVP, contact our Coordinator of Member and Volunteer Engagement at 614 488.0681 ext. 161

Write to Us

Any publication worth its weight not only publishes letters from its readers, it encourages them. We want your feedback and look forward to providing you with an open and proper platform.

Send to: Michael Barber, Editor Firstnews
 c/o First Community Church
 1320 Cambridge Blvd.
 Columbus, Ohio 43212
 mbarber@FCchurch.com

Organization Financial Update

■ By Cindy Harsany

Thank you to those who are supporting First Community Church's programs in 2015.

We are truly grateful and hope that your life is being blessed.

Our total budgeted income and expense this year is \$4,676,426. About half of this comes from your pledges, contributions and offerings. The 2015 pledge budget is \$2,118,000. We have received \$2,039,820 in pledges. This shows we still need \$78,180 to cover the cost of programs.

First Community Church Financial Statement

January - July, 2015

	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	(under)/over Difference
Income			
Pledge, Offerings, Contributions	\$ 1,506,992	\$ 1,475,565	\$ (31,427)
Fee Supported Ministries (Akita, Preschools, Trading Post)	\$ 1,394,578	\$ 1,468,419	\$ 73,841
Other Ministries	\$ 148,357	\$ 101,580	\$ (46,777)
Total Revenue	\$ 3,049,927	\$ 3,045,564	\$ (4,363)
Expense			
			(over)/under
Program Salaries and Benefits	\$ 915,427	\$ 884,358	\$ 31,069
Facilities and Administration	\$ 489,111	\$ 506,635	\$ (17,524)
Fee Supported Ministries	\$ 991,754	\$ 1,003,403	\$ (11,649)
Other Ministries	\$ 355,402	\$ 364,532	\$ (9,130)
Total Expenses	\$ 2,751,694	\$ 2,758,928	\$ (7,234)
Net Revenue and Expenses			\$ (11,597)

Women's Guild

■ By Jill Eliot

Dear Lovely Ladies of the Women's Guild,

Celebrate your life by becoming a new Guild member or by enjoying friends in your Guild group as we begin this exciting new program year. I am pleased and honored to serve as Women's Guild President. Election day is coming soon, so start your baking now for the Betty O'Neill Bake Sale.

*Blessings,
Karen Claussen, President*

Karen Robertson writes, "there is nothing more beautiful in life than celebrating the talents, dreams, joys, and accomplishments of another being to see - and call attention to - the best in someone else..."

The following list of ladies have been chosen to be the celebrant of their respective Guild Groups. They will lead the individual groups through 2016.

Group Chairs

Group A: April Howe, Chair

Group C: Karyl Hanhilammi, Chair

Group D: Rose Kandel and Merci Katz, Chair and Co Chair

Group JOY: Hilda Hensley, Liaison to Guild (acting Chair)

Group L: Kathleen Lennon, Chair

Group Q: Meg Wagner, Chair

Group RSZ: Karen Claussen and Harriet Brown, Chair and Co Chair

Group V: Deb Linville and Barbara Wood, Co Chairs

Group WW: Patsy Poe, Chair

Group X: Barbara Hudson and Connie Patridge, Co Chairs

Group Y: Lee Burges, Chair

Group 7: Kathleen Jones, Chair

Guild Board Committee Chairs

Church Women United (Layettes), Ginny Culver

Tri-Village Trading Post Liaison, Rebecca Wolfe

We Love You Luncheon, Loretta Heigle and April Howe, Co Chairs

Guild Groups A, V, L: A Brief History

All About A - Group A, That Is

Group A was formed in 1996 by four women: Jennifer Ress Brulee, Ann Eliot-Naille, Lisa Takos Schoedinger and Laura Diamond Stillman. They chose to focus on friendship and service.

These founding women grew up at the church and had mothers who were currently or previously members of a Guild group. Each of them invited women who they knew would be good candidates for membership to join their meetings.

Currently, April Howe, former Women's Guild President, is the chairperson.

The energetic group of ladies is involved currently in varied mission projects, such as serving and making dinner at the Van Buren Center, a new homeless center southwest of downtown Columbus and aiding *Supporting the Girls*, dedicated to increasing the self esteem of disadvantaged girls and women by providing them with new bras and handwritten notes of affirmation: supportingthegirls.com

The group also donates to the Mexico Mission trip and volunteers with Heart to Heart. They have served dinner for Interfaith Hospitality, prepared and served meals at Rebecca's Place, donated to the Rafiki orphanage and have adopted a family during the holidays where they shopped and wrapped gifts for families in need.

Group A meets on the second Monday of the month at 7 pm at member's homes where they share food, drinks and catch up with three or four projects sprinkled throughout the calendar year. They are accepting new members.

Group V - The Good Humor Gals

The Good Humor Gals of Group V have been together for about 24 years emanating from a conference on the healing effects of humor. This group of ladies continues to build with lots of laughter and holds the power of a close-knit group of 17 women who make sharing a priority.

In their early years, they provided wedding gift display tables and sold poinsettia plants. More recently, they made and sold colorful bean soup packages. They are the group that spearheads the *We Love You Luncheon*. The group members continue to be deeply invested in many missions. They want to keep group times together sacred for personal growth and support for each other.

They enjoy exploring the endless resources in Columbus and the surrounding areas. Some of the recent programs include learning about a Muslim doctor's experiences and traditions, an icon specialist, a laughologist, a library director and how to use our libraries.

In addition, programs have included many of the people who work at the church and what they do, travel talks, book discussions, how to write poetry, talks on aging, community support services, keeping our brains healthy, holiday ideas, and how to sing or just sing together.

Group V meets on the 2nd Friday morning of each month in homes to enjoy breakfast together. Members range in age from 70 to 90 plus.

Celebrate the Lovely Ladies of Group L

Group L, one of the newest Guild groups, was established in 2013 with a dual purpose of friendship and service.

The group is small but very active. Since its inception, the ladies have enjoyed dining together at local restaurants and attending Columbus special events. Group L has provided service to the Tri-Village Trading Post and the Mission Council's Garage Sale, prepared soup for the Guild's Soup and Casserole Sale and participated in the Monday Night Friends of the Homeless meals program.

Members of this group are currently involved in various church service activities including Service Board, Mission Council, Heart to Heart, Adult Education Council and the Guild Executive Committee. The ladies meet monthly on a Wednesday evening and welcomes new members. Kathleen Lennon, chairperson.

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

6	(A)
10 am • Grace Hall, NC - Dr. Lindsay preaching Ronald Jenkins, Sally Beske	
13	(B)
KICKOFF SUNDAY & BAPTISMS	
8:30 am • Burkhart Chapel, SC - Rev. Long preaching	
8:30 am • Grace Hall, NC - Dr. Wing preaching Soloist	
9:45 am • Grace Hall, NC - Dr. Wing preaching Chancel Chamber Choir	
11 am • Sanctuary, SC - Dr. Wing preaching Chancel Choir	
11:30 am • Grace Hall, NC - Rev. Shaner preaching	
20	(C)
8:30 am • Burkhart Chapel, SC - Rev. Hett preaching	
8:30 am • Grace Hall, NC - Dr. Wing preaching Soloist	
9:45 am • Grace Hall, NC - Dr. Wing preaching Chancel Chamber Choir	
11 am • Sanctuary, SC - Dr. Wing preaching Chancel Choir	
11:30 am • Grace Hall, NC - Rev. Shaner preaching	
27	(A)
8:30 am • Burkhart Chapel, SC - Rev. Baumer preaching	
8:30 am • Grace Hall, NC - Dr. Wing preaching Whitechapel Ringers	
9:45 am • Grace Hall, NC - Dr. Wing preaching Whitechapel Ringers, Chancel Chamber Choir	
11 am • Sanctuary, SC - Dr. Wing preaching Chancel Choir	
11:30 am • Grace Hall, NC - Rev. Shaner preaching	
6 pm • Grace Hall, NC - NIGHT OF INSPIRATION	
4	(B)
WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY	
8:30 am • Burkhart Chapel, SC - Rev. Long preaching	
8:30 am • Grace Hall, NC - Dr. Wing preaching Soloist	
9:45 am • Grace Hall, NC - Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf preaching; Chancel Chamber Choir, Youth Bell Choir 2	
11 am • Sanctuary, SC - Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf preaching Chancel Choir	
11:30 am • Grace Hall, NC - Rev. Shaner preaching	
For additional information: (A) <i>Usher assignments.</i>	
Click: FCchurch.com Email: info@FCchurch.com Call: 614 488.0681 Visit: The Welcome Centers	

It is with gratitude that First Community Church accepts the following gifts.

Church Gifts

Friends of Media
In memory of:
Herman Nack
Mary Lou Nack

General Missions
Pat Boyd
Bob Burns
Marcia B Early
Brian G Kriska
Betty E O'Neill
In Memory of:
Bill Ewing
Kathleen & J Thomas Jones

Heart to Heart
Jacinta Balch
Mary Jean Bradley
Nancy Dell
Molly Hood
Steve & Rachel Mushrush
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Anne Sheline
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Emily Wilson
In Appreciation of:
Estelle Scott
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Dr. Thomas and Bette Lou Frye

In Honor of:
First Community Foundation
Guild Group 7

Foundation Estate Gifts
Robert & Mary Jane McCormick
Michael McCormick

FIRST COMMUNITY VILLAGE




National Church Residences

Words Unspoken

"We didn't have children. In dealing with my parents' elder issues, I realized we needed to plan for our future.


I enjoy focusing on the art leagues and the Columbus African Violet Society. I'm not worrying about yard work and house maintenance. And the security makes it easier, because we travel a lot."

— Karen Jesko, Resident since 2011



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Get to know your neighbors at
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KICKOFF SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 13

8:30, 9:45 & NEW! 11:30 AM

NORTH CAMPUS Dr. Wing will preach on "The Paradox of Generosity"

SOUTH CAMPUS 8:30 am 11:00 am

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THE PROGRAM STAFF OF FIRST COMMUNITY CHURCH

Richard A. Wing, *Senior Minister*; Paul E. Baumer, *Minister to the Staff*; David S. Hett, *Minister of Religious Life and Learning*; Ronald J. Jenkins, *Minister of Music and Liturgy*; Deborah Countiss Lindsay, *Minister of Spiritual Care*; James M. Long, *Minister of Pastoral Care*; Katherine H. Shaner, *Minister of Mission and Youth*; Mary Beth Aeh, *Director of Early Childhood Ministry*; Michael Barber, *Director of Marketing and Communications*, Sally R. Beske, *Assistant Organist/Director of Youth Choirs*; Tim Carlson, *Director of Camp Akita Ministries and Youth Programming*; Cynthia Harsany, *Executive Director*; Pam Jameson, *Director of Facilities Ministry*; Bobbi Mueller, *Director of Office Operations and Special Projects*; Scot Nicoll, *Executive Director of Camp Akita*; Missy Obergefell, *Director of Older Adult Ministry*; Julie Richards, *Director of K-5 Ministry*; Paula L. Russell, *Director of Congregational Care*; Wendy Wilmer, *Director of Finance*.

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Affiliated with The United Church of Christ and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



Nominating Committee
Governing Board and Diaconate Nominating Form

Guide the Future of First Community Church

The 2015 Nominating Committee is currently in the process of preparing a slate of qualified nominees for positions on the Governing Board and the Diaconate.

First Community Church has been blessed with dedicated members willing to serve in various positions of responsibility and leadership. One important means of assuring a continuation of this tradition is the nominating process undertaken each year by the Nominating Committee elected by the First Community Church members.

The Nominating Committee depends upon your participation in this process by asking you to submit the names of qualified candidates to serve on the Governing Board and as members of the Diaconate. Please help us shape the future of First Community Church by submitting *prayerfully considered candidates* for these important church offices.

Please complete the Nomination Form on the back of this page for any candidate you believe meets the qualifications for these positions of church leadership. Self nominations are welcome. Please fill in the form as completely as possible. If you have additional information, please attach it to the form.

Nominations may be returned to the South Campus reception desk, mailed to Dr. Wing's office, or filled out online at FCchurch.com. The nominations close Sunday, October 4. Late nominations cannot be considered.

Your input to the Nominating Committee will be greatly appreciated.

Nancy Donaldson
2015 Nominating Committee Chair

Governing Board nominees should be committed to the Christian tradition and First Community Church. They must have been a **pledging member** for **at least three years** and actively engaged in church life. We are looking for decision makers with a vision for the future and the ability to lead and support our church.

Diaconate members should be willing to serve the whole church through the many aspects of diaconate work such as the pastoral care calls, communion and baptisms. They should also be **pledging members** for **at least three years**.

Members of the Nominating Committee:

2016 Class

Diana Arthur
Matt Byrne
Nancy Donaldson
Paul Dusseau
David Heigle
David Hogrefe

Rose Kandel
Ryan Nicoll
Julie Osborn
Jodi Patton
Paige Schlembach
Tom White

2017 Class

Dianne Albrecht
Carolyn Barger
Susan Brooks
Gavin Howe
Cindi Klamar
Felix Klebe

Cydney Philbin
Denise Pontious
Tracy Stuck
Sandy Turner
Scott Walker
Jon Welty

Additional forms are available at the reception areas, Welcome Centers, in Dr. Wing's office and online.

Please return nominations to First Community Church, c/o Robin Taylor, 1320 Cambridge Boulevard, Columbus, Ohio, 43212, or submit online. *The deadline is Sunday, October 4.*

2015 Governing Board/Diaconate Nomination Form

This Nomination is for (CHECK ONE): Governing Board Diaconate Both

TO THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE OF FIRST COMMUNITY CHURCH, COLUMBUS, OHIO: I, the undersigned, submit the name of the following person to be considered by the Nominating Committee for inclusion on the slate of candidates to be presented at the Annual Meeting of the church.

FULL NAME OF CANDIDATE _____

CURRENT HOME ADDRESS _____

HOME PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

WORK PHONE _____ OCCUPATION _____

CANDIDATE REGULARLY ATTENDS: North Campus South Campus Both

CHURCH SERVICE INVOLVEMENT:

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Deacons | <input type="checkbox"/> Choir | <input type="checkbox"/> Farmer's Market | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Learning Council |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Governing Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Friendship Circle _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Friends of the Homeless | <input type="checkbox"/> Akita Council |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nominating Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Service Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Garage Sale | <input type="checkbox"/> Early Childhood Council |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foundation | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday Greeters | <input type="checkbox"/> Habitat for Humanity | <input type="checkbox"/> K-12 Council |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Media/First Edition | <input type="checkbox"/> Ushers | <input type="checkbox"/> Heart to Heart | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Council |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trading Post | <input type="checkbox"/> Whitechapel Ringers | <input type="checkbox"/> Mission Trips | <input type="checkbox"/> Mission Council |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Women's Guild _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Prison Ministry | <input type="checkbox"/> Older Adult Council |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> K-5 Midweek Missions | <input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual Searcher |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Middle School Y-Family | <input type="checkbox"/> Worship & Arts Council |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: _____

STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE'S QUALIFICATIONS: *(Specific qualities/skills)* _____

Additional contact who knows candidate well: _____

Telephone: Home _____ Business _____

Your Name *(please print)* _____

Address _____ E-mail _____

Telephone: Home _____ Business _____

Your Signature _____