



N A R T H E X

FLOSSMOOR COMMUNITY CHURCH

Where Christ is Central and Diversity is Cherished

January 2012

Please join us in welcoming

THE REV. CARLA JO HOWLETT

as our new Associate Pastor!



We celebrate the call extended to the Rev. Carla Jo Howlett to be FCC's next settled Associate Pastor. Carla Jo was elected at the congregational meeting held on December 11, 2011. She is a native of Evanston, IL who received her M.Div. from Vanderbilt Divinity School and comes to FCC with twenty years of pastoral service ministering in congregational, hospital chaplaincy, and hospice settings. Carla Jo is scheduled to begin serving FCC on **Monday, January 9, 2012**.

As we look forward to welcoming Pastor Howlett, we also are filled with a deep sense of gratitude for the ministry of FCC's transitional Associate Pastor, the Rev. Kim Wood. Over the past two and a half years, Kim has faithfully served our congregation through a season of many changes. Kim's last day of service will be Christmas Eve, and then she will return on **Sunday, January 8, 2012** to preach her farewell sermon, which will be followed by a special reception after 10:30 a.m. worship for us to say good-bye and thanks for her leadership at FCC.

January Sunday Highlights



Sunday, January 1

- Single 10 a.m. All Church Worship Service
- Nursery Care birth - 4 years

Sunday, January 8

- We will return to our regular worship schedule with services at 9 and 10:30 a.m.
- Communion
- Adult Education, Youth Groups & Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.
- Pastor Kim Wood to preach her farewell sermon
goodbye receptions for Pastor Kim following the 10:30 a.m. service

Sunday, January 29

- Mid-Year Congregational Meeting & Potluck lunch following the 10:30 a.m. worship service
(Stay tuned to Family Matters for additional information to come.)



A Farewell message from Pastor Kim



Transition is a word we have used repeatedly during my 2 ½ year tenure with you as your Transitional Associate Pastor. You had two “transitional” pastors, and a “transition” team, we were going through a “transitional” process – and we were always “transitioning” through something or other.

When people hear the word “transition,” in a business or a time of life, and especially in a church, they tend to gravitate toward the negative. I think we do this because we equate transition with change, and as God well knows, we don’t really like change. We tie transition up in a package with “weak” and “vulnerable,” “unstable” and “broken.” We see transition as something we have to “get through.” Transition sure does get a bad rap!

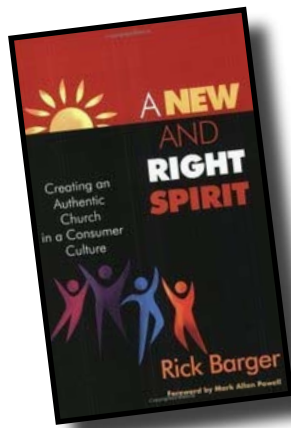
The best synonym I know for “transition” is “journey,” movement from one place, or one thing, to another. When we are driving down the highway and we move from the flat prairies to the soaring mountains by passing through a segue of rolling hills, we are experiencing a beautiful transition. Or when we are playing or singing a piece of music and the composer moves from a segment that is quick and light to one that is bold and majestic, we might first go to a gentle, slow place to break the pace and guide us to something new- a beautiful and well-placed transition. When a person is in a job that isn’t challenging them or doesn’t fit their gifts, or their needs, they may decide to go back to school or into a training program to gain more or different skills so that they can move into a different vocation or a higher level in their current area of interest. To get from one to the other, they journey, they transition.

The reality is that our lives are filled with transitions, and in fact, life is a constant transition. We are always on a journey. We tend to tie the words “successful” and “settled” together, but when our lives are most successful is when we are changing and growing, learning new things, meeting new people, trying out new ideas, exploring new options, stretching ourselves to new capacities!

Ministry, like the rest of life, is meant to be a journey, not a place you land and claim “we have arrived.” When, as the church, we decide that we are going to do certain things in only certain ways, and our focus is to preserve what we are doing, we become stagnant. We close ourselves off to God’s whisperings and, instead, try to control what it is God has in store for our lives. Church, though, is to be a gathered reflection of Christ’s ministry, and if you’ve spent even a few moments reading the Gospels, you know that Jesus was always on the move, always going someplace new, seeing somebody new, inviting people into new things. The one constant was his sharing of God’s love.

The past 2 ½ years have been an incredible journey, one that will remain with me wherever I go. You have allowed me to share in your lives, you have received my gifts and willingly offered your own. We have moved from a time when pastors you loved have been called elsewhere, each in his or her own way, to now, when you have already received a new Senior Pastor and are ready to welcome the gifts of a new Associate Pastor. You did not crumble. You did not fall. You are still standing, and I believe the ground is quite solid beneath your feet. I am excited for you, and for all that I know God will continue to do within and through you. On January 8, we will share a last opportunity to worship together, and while it will be difficult to say good-bye, it is with great joy that I know we have successfully transitioned, successfully journeyed. My prayer for you is that, while you are sure in your footing that you do not function as if you have arrived. God has a glorious road set before you, with wonderful pastoral, program and support staff to empower you, and with Christ to lead the way. Thank you for who you are, and for allowing me to share in ministry with you. And may God continue to enrich, stretch and use you in Christ’s name.



The Return of One Book, One Church!

The church is not ours. The church is God's. The story is not ours. The story is God's. We are simply stewards of God's story. God's story tells us what God is up to, and God is up to the work of transformation. Transformation happens in the church not because we are so smart or good at what we do. Transformation happens because God is good and is still at work reconciling the world through Christ. After all, the church's claim is not "He was risen," but rather, "He is risen!"

The passage above is quoted from Rick Barger's *A New and Right Spirit: Creating an Authentic Church in a Consumer Society*, which the Governing Board read and discussed last spring. Barger's call for renewing church life generated such fruitful and meaningful conversation among the Elders that the Governing Board decided it would be a valuable experience to share this book with the congregation using the "One Book, One Church" (OBOC) format. *A New and Right Spirit* is much more of a "why to" book than a "how to" book. Yet it is written with a clarity of insight and vision that spurs further study and inspires action.

Sign up for OBOC will begin on Sunday, January 8. The book will be available for purchase in January at a cost of \$15. Sessions are designed to run for four weeks and will get underway at the opening of February. Please contact Pastor Fred if you have any questions.

Beat that pesky winter boredom!



The Board of Congregational Life will be hosting a

'2-Step Supper'

Saturday, January 21

Step 1:

At 6 p.m., participants (adults only) will gather for potluck dinners hosted in homes. You can sign up to host, and provide an entrée for 10 people including yourselves, or to be a guest and provide an appetizer, salad, starch or vegetable. The dinner will be BYOB so if there is something special you would like to drink, feel free to bring that as well. Once the sign-up is over, BCL will assign you to a host and let you know what type of dish you are to bring. It is our goal to have us all make some new friends through this event.

Step 2:

Everyone should arrive at the Community House between 8 and 8:30 p.m. for dessert and fellowship. BCL will provide the dessert and beverages.

Sign-up now at the Information Desk
in the Gathering Space!

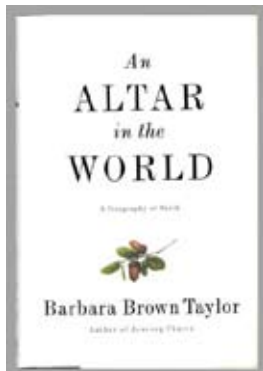
If you are unable to sign up at church, please email Alison Weeks at alisonjweeks@gmail.com and let her know if you would like to be a guest or a host.



FCC Youth Ministries

DISCOVERY FORUM

Sundays at 10:30 a.m.
in the Family Room



The Discovery Forum continues discussion of Barbara Brown Taylor's *An Altar in the World*. Reading the chapters prior to the meeting will enhance the participant's experience but is not required.

January 8:

Chapter 4: Groundedness –
The Practice of Walking the Earth

January 15:

The group will have a book club discussion of *Okay for Now* by Gary Schmidt, a finalist for the National Book Award for Young People's Literature. The book centers on a fourteen-year-old boy who moves to a new town during the Viet Nam era. The book focuses on love, creativity and the power of community.

January 22:

Chapter 5: The Practice of Getting Lost – Wilderness

January 29:

Chapter 6: The Practice of Encountering Others – Community

Plan ahead for the February 19 discussion of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's *Half of a Yellow Sun*, a National Book Critics Circle Finalist. The novel illuminates Biafra's struggle for independence in the late 1960s.

Books are available online or in libraries and bookstores. Contact Trina Hayes, trina@bookhungry.com.



In case you missed it featured in the Southtown Star, 70 of our youth shopped with the mission of filling wish lists for a family of nine in need this holiday season for the Christmas Angels program. The group spent \$900 in less than an hour before heading back to the church for sorting and wrapping. Funds were raised by the youth at their Breakfast Bonanza event in early November.

Cold January doesn't slow down our Youth!

After a brief Christmas break, our youth will be back at in on January 8, when youth groups resume at 10:30 a.m. Other January events include:



January 13 – 15

Guys Only Retreat to Tower Hill

January 27 – 29

Sophs Winter Retreat to Tower Hill
Disciples World Religions retreat in Chicago area

January 29

Genesis youth cook for and serve our PADS guests.

For more information on any of the above events, please contact Betsy Hanzelin at bhanzelin@fccfaithful.org.



Children's Ministries

The preschool and kindergarten children enjoyed "Breakfast with the Shepherds" on Sunday, December 11. The shepherds (Chris Riedel and Mark Watson) shared the Luke 2:8-20 story, telling of the night the angel appeared and told them of the good news of great joy for all the people. The children had their picture taken with the shepherds and created a "sheep-sake" frame for their picture. Thank you to Chris and Mark for making the story come to life. An added thank you to the host and hostesses for the morning who were Nona Riedel, Suzzi Fonner, Jordan Watson, Chris & Dana Dolan, and Vanessa Busuttil. Please check the Children's Ministries bulletin board, located in the Preschool Wing, for additional pictures.



DID YOU KNOW?



Congratulations to **Susan Page**, daughter of Maurice and Harold Page, who is the new, and first, U.S. ambassador to South Sudan!

Below are some photos from her recent credentialing ceremony.



*We Celebrate
the Birth of:*

Ethan Robert Marks, born on December 12. Ethan is the son of Kevin and Cindy Marks, and the grandson of Pam and Chuck Marks.



*Our Sympathy
and Prayers to:*

Verna McQuown and family in the death of her mother-in-law, Joyce McQuown, on December 15.

The family and friends of former member, Dick Salisbury (FL), who died December 7.

Doug Anderson and family in the death of his father, Darrel Anderson (NV), on November 25.



Christmas Blessings and wishes for a
Happy and Joyous New Year!

from the FCC Staff

JANUARY

Worship from 9-10 a.m. & 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Adult Education: 10:30 a.m.
Fellowship Time: 10 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.

Youth Groups: 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Promised Land Church School: 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Preschool Groups: 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Nursery Care: 9 - 11:30 a.m.

Sun	01/01	New Years Day Single-Service Worship (SA)	10 am
Mon	01/02	FCC Office Closed	
Tues	01/03	Diaconate (PA) Children's Ministries (A2C) Adult Education (Rm. 23) Personnel (FR) Outreach (Rm. 22)	6:30 pm 7 7:30
Sun	01/08	Communion Pastor Kim Wood's Farewell Worship Farewell Reception (FH)	11:45
Mon	01/09	Pastor Carla Jo Howlett Begins	
Tues	01/10	Finance (LB) Properties (Rm. 23) Lay Ministries (A2C) Christian Education (FR) Worship & the Arts (GS)	6:30 pm 7:30
Fri	01/13	Youth Guy's Retreat departs	
Sun	01/15	Youth Guy's Retreat returns February Narthex Deadline	12 pm
Mon	01/16	Martain Luther King Day FCC Office Closed	
Tues	01/17	Stephen Ministries Peer Support (FR) Stewardship (SPO)	7:30 pm
Sat	01/21	Two-Step Supper (see page 3)	
Mon	01/23	Women's & Men's Association Executive Board Meeting (FR)	12 pm
Tues	01/24	Governing Board (FH)	7 pm
Wed	01/25	Foundation (FR)	7:30 pm
Fri	01/27	World Religions & Sophs Retreat Departs	
Sun	01/29	World Religions & Sophs Retreats Return Mid-Term Congregational Meeting	11:45 am



SPECIAL WEEKLY RECURRING EVENTS

Tues	Bazaar Workshop (MP) Yoga with a Spiritual Vein (SC) Staff Meeting (FR) Bazaar Workshop (MP)	9 am 9:30 am 11 am 7 pm
Wed	Chair Yoga (SC) Yoga with a Spiritual Vein (SC) Cherub Choir (FR) Jubilate Choir (CP) Youth Leadership (CP)	11 am 12:30 pm 4 7:30
Thurs	Chancel Ringers (RRB) Chancel Choir (CP) Yoga with a Spiritual Vein (SC)	6:30 pm 7:30 pm 7:30 pm
Fri	Yoga with a Spiritual Vein (SC)	9:30 am
Sat	Men's Church at the Train Station (CATS) - Flossmoor Station Restaurant	8 am
Sun	PADS (FH)	6 pm

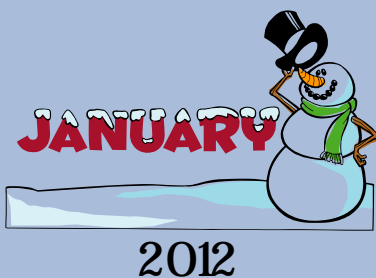
CALENDAR CODES

A2C	Acts2Crew (Rm. 10)	GS	Gathering Space	OAS	Oasis (Rm 11)	SPO	Sr. Pastor's Office
CP	Chapel	GE	Genesis Room	PA	Parlor	TR	Tower Room
CH	Community House	LB	Library	PEGs	Parent Education Groups	TP	Temple (Room 12)
CS	Creation Station (Rm. 15)	MPT	MasterPeace Theater (Rm. 14)	RRB	Rehearsal Room B	WMA	Women's & Men's Association
FR	Family Room	MPR	Multipurpose Room	SA	Sanctuary	WPS	Weekday Preschool
FH	Fellowship Hall	NU	Nursery	SC	Spirituality Center	YC	Youth Crossings

FROM FRED

January 2012

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FLOSSMOOR
COMMUNITY CHURCH
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2011 was a great year at FCC, and I look forward to new beginnings for our community of faith as we head into 2012. I would like to highlight two important opportunities for us to get the upcoming year off to a good start.

First, on **Sunday, January 29, we will have a Mid-Year Congregational Meeting.** The purpose of this gathering is to celebrate the ministries and mission carried out at FCC, with the Governing Board reviewing highlights of the first half of the church's year and previewing hopes for the second half. This gathering will be held after the 10:30 a.m. worship service, and will include a potluck lunch. The Governing Board is committed to keeping the congregation well-versed and up to date on the many programs we support through the commitment of our talent, time, and treasure. It will be a time for getting more information about the Christian life we share together, gearing up for ongoing service, and having some good fellowship in the process. Please plan on attending!

The second opportunity is to participate in the "One Book, One Church" program that is scheduled to begin in February. I hope you will participate, because the book—Rick Barger's *A New and Right Spirit*—greatly corresponds to the Long Range Vision for FCC that has been adopted by the Governing Board. ***Please take note of the announcement about "One Book, One Church" on Page 3 of this month's Narthex.***

In addition to highlighting the two events above, I add a note of welcome and a note of thanks. I look forward to welcoming the Rev. Carla Jo Howlett as FCC's new Associate Pastor. She brings gifts for pastoral care and a heart for social justice that not only match FCC's job description for her position, but will also open our hearts and minds to deepening our spiritual lives and discovering new possibilities for discipleship.

And I give thanks for the ministry of the Rev. Kim Wood through an extended season of transition here at FCC. In ways both obvious and subtle, Kim has done much to prepare FCC for new ways of being church together as we move into the future that God has in store for us. I particularly appreciate the great help Kim gave me getting settled into my own ministry here. I pray that Kim will experience all the best and Christ's peace as she continues to serve God and future communities of faith with gladness.

As the New Year opens while it is still the Christmas Season, I pray we all enter 2012 with the Spirit of the Christ Child growing in our hearts and through our actions.

Godspeed and Peace,