

FIRST CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY



WELCOME to First Christian Assembly, an independent church whose mission is articulated by Jesus in Mark 16:15 when he said "...Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature". Following this great commission, First Christian Assembly preaches and teaches the gospel of Jesus Christ. In so doing, we trust that God, working through His Holy Spirit will draw souls to salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Bless the Lord, O My Soul

The Hebrew word translated "bless" in the Old Testament literally means to kneel, indicating the idea of honoring the Lord. We do not add anything to Him when we bless Him, yet we worship Him as our appropriate response to His greatness and His love for us.

In the Psalms, we often find verses that speak of blessing the Lord. For example, Psalm 104:1 reads, "Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, you are very great! You are clothed with splendor and majesty." Psalm 16:7 notes, "I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me."

Psalm 103:1-5 includes the idea of complete worship of the Lord without holding back: "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's." Not surprisingly, such passages serve as the basis for many of today's popular worship songs and hymns.

But does God desire for us to "bless" Him? According to Scripture, He certainly does. From the earliest biblical accounts, God called people to honor Him through acts of worship. The Law of Moses instructed people to worship and bless the Lord. The Psalms are filled with commands to bless the Lord: "Come, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, who stand by night in the house of the LORD! Lift up your hands to the holy place and bless the LORD!" (Psalm 134:1-2). Psalm 135:19-20 adds, "O house of Israel, bless the LORD! O house of Aaron, bless the LORD! O house of Levi, bless the LORD! You who fear the LORD, bless the LORD!"

Some Psalms use the phrase "bless the Lord" alongside "praise the Lord" indicating that the meaning is similar between the two. For example, Psalm 104:35b reads, "Bless the LORD, O my soul! Praise the LORD!" Psalm 115:18 declares, "But we will bless the LORD from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the LORD!"

Come bless the Lord with us, as we continue our studies in the Psalms on Tuesday at 7:00 PM.

Ministry Highlights

Announcements:

⇒ Tuesday service 7PM @ FCA; prayer is at 6:30

⇒ Thursday Bible study 7PM @ PAC; prayer is at 6:00

Stepping Stones

Stepping Stones support group will be offering a 20 part video series entitled 'A House That Grace Built', by Stephanie Tucker. This series of videos will be shown every 4th and 5th Monday of the month beginning July 28th. In this second series we will move beyond the lifestyle of codependence and self-sufficiency to embrace God's plan for love, intimacy and wholeness.

God gave us all the resources necessary to rebuild and redesign a future that aligns with His established purposes. For those of us that have been on the journey of recovery, we have been given the greatest gift of all – truth. Our ability to see things as they are minus the filters of denial and shame allows us to acquire the power of grace. Yet walking into that freedom initially is quite different from walking it out into our daily experiences. *A House that Grace Built* is an application driven process that takes codependence recovery to a deeper level, allowing us to utilize the spiritual resources we need to live this life as God intended.

Stepping Stones support group meets Monday evenings 7-8PM at The Philadelphia Access Center. For further information please contact 215 339 1985.

(FCA) First Christian Assembly, 1900 S. 11th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148
 (PAC) Philadelphia Access Center, 1832 S. 11th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148

215-389-6721
 215-389-1985

The Philadelphia Access Center is a ministry of First Christian Assembly. Our mission is *revealing Christ through compassionate service*. Services available at PAC include social services information and referrals, biblical counseling, support groups, volunteer training, and community outreach. All services are free of charge and available to anyone. To learn more, visit us in person (across the street from FCA) or online at www.philaccess.org or www.facebook.com/philaccess.

WEEKLY SERVICES /MEETINGS

	FCA	PAC
Sunday	9:45 AM <i>Bible Study</i> 11:00 AM <i>Worship Service & Children's Sunday School</i>	
Monday		7:00 PM <i>Stepping Stones</i>
Tuesday	6:30 PM <i>Prayer (Sanctuary)</i> 7:00 PM <i>Worship (Sanctuary)</i>	
Wednesday	6:30 PM <i>Men's Fraternity (on hiatus)</i>	1:00 PM <i>Women at the Well</i> 1:00 PM <i>Coram Deo</i>
Thursday		6:00 PM <i>Prayer Service</i> 7:00 PM <i>Bible Study</i>
Friday		7:00 PM <i>Right Path</i>

- *Coram Deo*: A men's Bible study and Christian fellowship.
- *Right Path*: A Christ centered support and recovery group for people whose lives have been affected by drug and alcohol addiction. In a warm and friendly atmosphere, we provide loving support and fellowship; in genuine confidential sharing, coupled with a Biblical twelve step model of recovery.
- *Stepping Stones*: A Christ centered support group for men and women impacted by a loved one's addiction. In a warm and friendly atmosphere, we provide loving support, fellowship, confidential sharing, and intercessory prayer.
- *Women at the Well*: This group is Biblically based and promotes hope, healing, and fellowship for women impacted and struggling with brokenness.

Looking Ahead



- ❖ *A church picnic is being planned for Saturday September 20, 2014, 12 Noon to 5:00 PM. Details will follow. See Gloria if you are interested in attending.*

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Ministries (present and future) at First Christian Assembly and the Philadelphia Access Center
- Christians around the world being persecuted for their faith.
- Our supported missionaries
- For our Pastor and his family.

