



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.

FAITH

Hebrews 11:1 tells us that faith is "being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." Perhaps no other component of the Christian life is more important than faith. We cannot purchase it, sell it or give it to our friends. So what is faith and what role does faith play in the Christian life?

Where does faith come from? Faith is not something we conjure up on our own, nor is it something we are born with, nor is faith a result of diligence in study or pursuit of the spiritual. Ephesians 2:8-9 makes it clear that faith is a gift from God, not because we deserve it, have earned it, or are worthy to have it. It is not from ourselves; it is from God. It is not obtained by our power or our free will. Faith is simply given to us by God.

Why have faith? God designed a way to distinguish between those who belong to Him and those who don't, and it is called faith. Very simply, we need faith to please God. God tells us that it pleases Him that we believe in Him even though we cannot see Him. A key part of Hebrews 11:6 tells us that "he rewards those who earnestly seek him." This is not to say that we have faith in God just to get something from Him. However, God loves to bless those who are obedient and faithful.

According to the Bible, faith is essential to Christianity. Without demonstrating faith and trust in God, we have no place with Him. We believe in God's existence by faith. Most people have a vague, notion of who God is but lack the reverence necessary for His exalted position in their lives. These people lack the true faith needed to have an eternal relationship with the God who loves them. Our faith can falter at times, but because it is the gift of God, given to His children, He provides times of trial and testing in order to prove that our faith is real and to sharpen and strengthen it. This is why James tells us to consider it "pure joy" when we fall into trials, because the testing of our faith produces perseverance and matures us, providing the evidence that our faith is real (James 1:2-4).

Ministry Highlights

Announcements:

- ***Next Men & Women's Fellowship will be the Operation Christmas Child shoebox party. In preparation for that, please note the collection box in the back of the church. Donations in that box will be used for purchasing the items for the boxes and the per box fee requested by Samaritan's Purse for shipping and handling.***

Missionaries - Philippines

A HEALING TIME-OUT from living in difficult places. The 3 weeks I had in helping teach the 6-week English Intensive Training at the LRF (Life Resource Foundation) to the 21 national missionaries, some alumni of the school, was really good. I worked with the beginning English speakers while the volunteer teachers from a church in California worked with the other classes and eventually the beginners. The students were very appreciative but more importantly, the time on campus gave the young families a **healing** break from living in community, a time to talk and pray with fellow workers, and a place where their kids could play in a large yard. I praise God for their commitment to serve.

PRAY:

- Colin Carroll, a retired fireman who majorly serves the teams and drives the mobile clinic was in a motorcycle accident and broke bones in his left lower leg on 10/3. The fracture was fixed with 3 screws. Pray for his rehab and full mobility.
- Preparing and teaching mother classes in Bason and Dilab for Nerlene, Lea, Susana, Grace, and I. For Noel as he relates to the fathers.
- We will also be working on DBS lessons.

To be continued...

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

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 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.



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.

This and That

From: Voice of the Martyrs

Sep. 04, 2015 / Middle East: Pray for a Church Ministering to Syrian Refugees

A church in the Middle East that ministers to Syrian refugees has grown so much that it needs additional space. The church currently seats about 200 people and holds three services, but many must now stand outside the building. The church hopes to rent a new building so it can hold worship services in an area where many refugees live. This new space would also be used to host Bible training classes and aid distribution.