



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.

FULLNESS OF TIME

"But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law" (Galatians 4:4). There were many things occurring at the time of the first century that, at least by human reasoning, seem to make it ideal for Christ to come then.

There was a great anticipation among the Jews of that time that the Messiah would come. Rome had unified much of the world under its government, the empire was peaceful, travel was possible, allowing the early Christians to spread the gospel. While Rome had conquered militarily, Greece had conquered culturally. A "common" form of the Greek language was the trade language spoken throughout the empire, making it possible to communicate the gospel to many different people groups. But we understand that God's ways are not our ways (Isaiah 55:8), and these may or may not have been some reasons for why He chose that particular time to send His Son.

From a Biblical perspective, Christ came when He did in fulfillment of specific prophecy found in Daniel 9:24-27. The timing of Christ's incarnation ties in with this detailed prophecy recorded by Daniel over five hundred years beforehand. Furthermore, from the context of Galatians 3 and 4, it is evident that God sought to lay a foundation through the Jewish Law that would prepare for the coming of the Messiah. The Law was meant to help people understand the depth of their sinfulness so that they might more readily accept the cure for that sin through Jesus the Messiah. The Law did this through its many prophecies concerning the Messiah which Jesus fulfilled.

The timing of Christ's incarnation was such that the people of that time were prepared for His coming. The people of every century since then have more than sufficient evidence that Jesus was indeed the promised Messiah through His fulfillment of the Scriptures that pictured and prophesied His coming in great detail.

Ephesians chapter one speaks of another fullness of times; *That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; [even] in him:* Eph 1:10. Are you ready for that day? Have you trusted Christ for your salvation? *..behold, now [is] the accepted time; behold, now [is] the day of salvation.* 2Co 6:2 KJV

Ministry Highlights

Announcements:

- **CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL** was one of the programs highlighted last week. Children from 1 y.o. to 6th grade may go downstairs with teachers during the worship service (Pastor will dismiss them to go downstairs after music and prayer.).
- Registration will end soon for the new program at PAC: **Christian Families in Recovery**. Please see Wayne, Robbie, or Charlie.
- Please RSVP for the **New Year's Eve** fellowship/dinner to Gloria Felicione.

Philadelphia Access Center

(from PAC's Christmas email)

2015 by the Numbers

- 4** creative team members completed our rebranding campaign and new website.
- \$8,911** raised at our 7th Annual Fundraising Banquet.
- 200** Easter meals delivered to South Philly families in partnership with the Liberty Church network.
- 28** participants attended the Empowerment Training at Liberty Church East.
- 1** new intern and **3** new volunteers served over the summer and fall.
- 210** Thanksgiving meals given to families in need in partnership with United Healthcare and Bethanna.
- 15** families in crisis registered for Christmas gifts through Salvation Army.
- 1,025** guests attended appointments with social services case coordinators.

(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.



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.

From: Voice of the Martyrs

Nov. 27, 2015 | Pakistan: Pray for Christians Teaching Children

Every week, members of a children's ministry travel to different parts of Pakistan to conduct camps and Bible clubs. They engage children through songs and games and teach Christian values and Bible lessons. Many of the children who attend these programs are Muslims. Members of this VOM-partner organization have received threats. Pray for the members of this team as they travel, perform outreach, distribute literature and equip local churches to disciple children.