

First Family News

From Brandon & Alyson Chitwood:

FCC of Chicago, Thank-you so much for your generous gift towards our ministry with Cru. We are so grateful, and appreciative of you choosing us for your Christmas offering. We appreciate your continual support of us!

From Blackbox International:

Thank-you so much for every single gift you send to partner with us. We are grateful for your faithfulness. I was recently given the opportunity to go to the Dominican Republic and see our home first hand. Our friends working on the ground there, caring for the boys get to do what they do because of partners like you.

Prayer Needs

Health Concerns: Julia Conners (recovery from knee surgery), Tommy Boyd (back), Paul Schille, Mary Dunlap (recovery from car accident), Jim Shive (heart), Elizabeth McInerney (brother in law's recovery), Brenda Murray' (mother's health), Susie Ammons (dementia), Loretta Bradley (arthritis and daughter Yvette's health), Glendora Brown (heart), Hubert Hartin, Caldonia Mitchell (hip), Ruth Snyder (Alzheimer's), Laverne Stewart-Tillman, Lunye Chambers (shoulder), Linda Vaughn.

FCC Military Family: Jamiyah Braggs, Jonathon Chapman, Timothy Chapman, Justin Priestman, Cole Clayton

Job Security/Employment/Housing: Jacqueline Porter, Charlotte Turner, Yvette Smith, Theresa Hodges, Raynah Coleman

Local/National/International Situations: Violence in Chicago, U.S. Government, Victims of Sexual Misconduct, Abuse & Exploitation, Nationwide School Shootings, Human Trafficking, Persecuted Christians, Mental Illness

Birthdates and Anniversaries

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!	15-Geneva Hartin
1-Clifford Russell	25-Rachel Crespo
10-Love Pierre	28-Jeremiah Brock
11-Rick Baldwin	28-Elijah Haney

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

25-Maurice and Erika Morrison

Event Announcement

GOD LOVING ON WOMEN
PRESENTS
REVIVING Naomi

"DESTINY REVEALED THROUGH SUBMISSION"

The Glow Gathering

Dr. Linn Williams Pastor Cheri Hartsfield Tiffiny Martin

Prophetess Chiquitha Mayberry Portia Brock

JUNE 22 & 23, 2018 10AM

•WORSHIP •LUNCH •SPEAKERS

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO
3600 W. 79th St. Chgo, IL 60652
To Register go to <https://theglowgathering2018.eventbrite.com/>

Contact Us! Admission \$20

GLOWON2K17@GMAIL.COM

ATTENTION MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS AND MEMBERS

If you are part of a ministry that requires supplies of any kind—please monitor your inventory regularly and let the office know 2 weeks in advance of your event if there are items that need to be ordered.

Thank-you.



**MAY 2018
MESSENGER**

Straight Talk from Steve

If you have been present for Worship Celebration during the month of April, you will have noticed that we have been going without name tags. This has not been an oversight. We are attempting some new things.

There are a couple of reasons for this change: 1) We are attempting to reduce some costs, like the purchase of name labels, wherever we can; 2) Labels are not the most efficient way to track Sunday attendance since a large number of attenders don't use their name tags; 3) Visitors who do not have name tags, surrounded by FCC members who do have name tags, could feel like they are outsiders and do not belong.

We understand that name tags did have their advantage, such as giving us a quick visual reminder of a person's name. As I have not been the greatest at remembering names, I can appreciate this value. However, that could also be an excuse for relational laziness as well.

Paul and his team will still be greeting at the door. They just won't have to worry about passing out name tags. They can simply concentrate on welcoming everyone who comes through our doors.

We are now using tablets to take attendance as people arrive. Please be patient with some of the new people who will be helping with the check-in process. They don't know everyone and may ask you your name.

Also, in addition to asking guests to fill out Connection Cards located in the pews, guests will personally be given a Connection Card after they enter the building and will be asked to fill the card out. We think this approach will help us get a greater response.

For the rest of us, if you don't know someone's name, just ask. And please don't be offended if someone asks you your name. As we remove the shortcut, it will be up to us to engage one another, enter in conversation, and even ask one another for a reminder of each other's names. If we can't learn each other's names, how can we really learn to love and serve one another effectively?

Heart to Hartin

My family and I moved into a house in Oak Lawn about two and a half years ago, and after finishing out the school year at Hometown Elementary, Tori and Geneva started attending the local elementary school in our new community the next fall. The school is about a twelve-minute walk from our house, and the girls and I decided that I would walk with them to school as much as possible. Tori now attends the local middle school, and she walks with a friend on most days, but I still walk with Geneva to the elementary school on most mornings.

These walks through the neighborhood have helped me connect with several people in the community, including Joe and Kara, whose daughter is now one of Tori's best friends; Bob, a paleontologist who lives right down the street from us; James and Sarah, who have visited FCC a few times with their two sons; Paul, who is the superintendent of District 123 schools; Joe, a retiree whose wife died a few years ago, who works as a crossing guard during the school year; Becky, whose son Billy is in a mentoring group that I meet with once a week at Geneva's school; and a man whose name I don't yet know, who walks his two dogs daily and has a grandson who lives in Las Vegas.

These are all people whom I'm getting to know as a result of choosing to walk with my girls to school during the week. The interactions I have with these individuals have helped me to feel more connected to the community in which I live. More importantly, these interactions give me opportunities to extend the love of Christ into the lives of my neighbors.

When was the last time you went for a walk in your neighborhood? In the hustle-and-bustle of our daily lives, we can become so busy that simple things – like taking a walk – seem like luxuries that we can't afford. But what if that's the exact opposite of the approach that we should be taking? What if we can't afford *not* to go for walks, or make other changes to our routines so that we can connect with people who live next to us? It is through these connections that we can share God's love with the communities in which we live.

Spotlight On Faith Promise



This Month

Benevolence

“You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.” (2 Cor 9:11)

I believe this verse expresses the kind of heartfelt appreciation that Dorothy McCullough has for the generous blessing that the FCC family has bestowed on her following the passing of her husband, and our dear brother, Mike McCullough.

The church family gave in excess of \$3600.00 through the “Go-Fund-Me” account. Another \$4300.00 was collected during the month of March through Benevolence offerings for over \$7900.00.

Thank you for your generosity. It is in demonstrations like this, the generous outpouring of money to care for the needs of one another, that the church is indeed the church.

Leadership Meeting

The quarterly Leadership Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 20 from 1:00-3:00PM. All Elders and Ministry Team Leaders are urged to be in attendance. Lunch will be provided.

The plan for the meeting is to share updates on each of our Ministry Teams, and to complete calendar planning for 2018.

You will be receiving an email with a link to a new report format that we are asking everyone to complete. Your completion of a written report is essential for good communication with the ministry. If you are unable to complete it you can expect an interview call from one of the Elders or Ministry Staff so that we can complete the form on your behalf.

Finally, we ask that you come prepared with any ministry dates that you need to add the calendar for events or training.