

SCC NEWS

Spreading the Good News from
Santiago Community Church

November 2014

WORDS FROM FRED MILLIGAN, OUR PASTOR AS OF DECEMBER

A Parable about Pastoral Transition

A certain actor, with experience and training, was offered a most challenging test by a wise director.

The actor was informed that he was to remain in the dressing room until the middle of the second act of a play he had never read or rehearsed. On cue from the director, he was to walk on stage and begin to act.

At the appropriate time, the cue was given, and the actor entered stage left. At first the scenery bore a slight resemblance to a set in which he had played a starring role. He immediately assumed that role, but the other actors on stage seemed confused and even irritated. He soon fell silent. He then noticed that some of the actors appeared to be dressed in a costume similar to that used in another play in which he had had a major role. As he assumed that role, one of the actors left in disgust and another looked at him pityingly. After trying two or three other roles, familiar to him from the past, he concluded none of them quite suited the set, the costumes, or the lines being offered by the others on the stage.

He then "stepped out of character" and asked one of the actors if he could be told what was going on. The other actors gathered round and each told him something of what had been the play's action to the point of his entrance. "Well, what were you going to do when I came on stage?" he asked. "That's the strange thing," they said, "we didn't have any more script. The story wasn't ended but we didn't know what was to happen next." "Well, what am I supposed to do?" asked the actor. One of the members of the cast suggested an answer. "Perhaps with your experience and training you could help us find a satisfactory conclusion to the second act."

They then began to work at their new ask, and the curtain remained up. They went back over the story as it had unfolded in the first act. They laughed and enjoyed the pleasure of remembering the mistakes they had made and the deeply emotional moments in the scenes that had led up to the arrival of the new actor. They examined the scenery and the staging plan and decided that there were some clues in the context to suggest

some future direction. The experienced actor reminded them of some of the major themes of love, reconciliation, justice, peace, compassion, forgiveness, judgment and grace. The actors then took account of the people on stage and decided how they would continue to perform with some reshaping of their roles.

They suggested lines to each other, and together they began to interact to the delight of everyone.

The curtain fell to end the second act.

*When the curtain went up again, all the actors were on stage except the one who had entered in the middle of the second act. The cast seemed puzzled and a little disorganized, and then there appeared from stage left another experienced and well-trained actor. At first she assumed the character of a number of roles she had played elsewhere, but the cast seemed confused and slightly irritated. Eventually, however . . . [pp. 66-67, William Bud Phillips, *Pastoral Transitions: From Endings to New Beginnings*, Alban Institute, 1990].*

This parable, from the conclusion of Bud Phillips' little guide to pastoral transitions, resonates with my own 25 years' experience of leading congregations as both an "Installed" as well as "Interim" Pastor of every size, from struggling, historic inner city mission church to large, affluent small town and suburban congregations to "tall steeple" "cathedral" churches and another 10 years of service to the wider church as a member of two different denominational stewardship staffs and as an independent stewardship and organizational development consultant.

As I prepare with great excitement for the beginning of my ministry with you in Santiago, I want to say a special word of thanks to Brett and Carol for their brief but very important appearance on the SSC stage in the second act. Just as they have shaped and been shaped by you, I expect much of the same kind of experience as we get to know each other and find our way into the third (but by no means final) act of ministry at SCC.

So I pray for your patience even as I also pray for your energy to engage this process which will, no doubt, see many bumps and miss-steps as we find our way forward. And I pray for all of us to maintain a sense of perspective, grace and forgiveness and through it all, a sense of humor, lest we take ourselves too seriously. But most importantly, I pray for the presence of the Holy Spirit to inspire and sustain our relationship in ways beyond our imagining or hoping that we might glimpse the coming Kingdom of God in our midst.

As I come to your pulpit on the second Sunday of Advent, I look forward to "travelling with" you through the Christmas season, as much a participant as a leader, as I learn about

your congregation's culture and the local traditions of this very special season. But as I said in the sermon I preached during my visit back in August (available on the church's website), I hope, always, to be more the fellow traveler than the spiritual expert so that my ministry among you might be more one of accompaniment of a fellow pilgrim than instruction from a position of superior spiritual attainment.

I can't wait for December 7 to begin the journey!

Grace and Peace,
Fred

PASTORAL TRANSITION

This congregation was blessed by the ministry of David and Kathi Bubb. Their departure after 11 years created a sense of loss and concern about the future. The ministry of Brett and Carol Younger was very different in style to that of David and Kathi but the humour of Brett and the gentleness of Carol has removed that sense of loss and concern for our future. They were unknown to us when they arrived but are now greatly loved by the congregation. As with David and Kathi we will be sad to see them leave. The work that they have done for us should not be underestimated. We are truly grateful for their ministry to us and we wish them every success as they return to Atlanta.

Transitions are hard both for the people arriving and the people receiving. It is like waiting for the birth of a child. Full of expectation but not quite sure what the characteristics of the child will be. Fred Milligan is neither a David nor a Brett. He brings his own gifts to us in terms of ministry. He will be faced with a multinational, multidenominational congregation which is different from what he has experienced previously. He will also be faced with a new language and a new culture both within our church and in the community at large. We have a reputation of being a welcoming congregation. I would expect us to welcome him as we have welcomed all our previous pastors with friendship, kindness and understanding as we continue our journey of faith with this new guide and pastor. He deserves nothing less from us.

Yours in Christ
Victor Hawkins

HOW TO WELCOME YOUR NEW PASTOR

Fred Milligan will bring a variety of good gifts with him. Your search committee found a strong pastor who will offer new perspectives

and creative ideas. How can you best welcome him? What do I wish someone had said to churches when I was about to become the new pastor? You need to recognize at least these three things.

1. Fred wears a robe. He is a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He has been set aside by God and the church for ministry. Almost every decision a pastor makes will alienate someone. Pastors are called upon to act, decide, and lead, but every decision to lead includes the risk that someone will be angry. He is not deciding against anyone, but is trying to do what through prayer and consultation, he feels is best. Do not make the decisions he makes or the opinions he holds a test of friendship. Fred has a high commitment to faith. If he says something in a sermon you do not agree with and your conscience just will not let you sit on it, talk privately with him about it and then let it go. If your pastor is leading in love and truth, you should try to follow.

2. Fred wears a robe, but he does not wear a cape. Fred is not Superman. He cannot fly or deflect bullets. Even the best pastors do not do everything well. Ministers are generalists in a culture of specialists. Some of you are administrators. Some of you are public speakers. Some of you are caregivers. Some of you are teachers. Some of you are committee chairs. Fred will be all of these, and he will not be completely exceptional at everything, because he is not Superman. Living as the church, living in a community as close as SCC, means you will disappoint each other from time to time. In those moments, God calls you to keep loving one another.

3. Fred wears a robe. He does not wear a cape. And he carries a passport. The passport is a reminder that he had a life before he came here and that his life is not completely consumed by SCC. He is faithful to God and the people he loves who are not a part of this church as well as to this church. The demands of ministry are insatiable. There is always more to do. Nothing in ministry is ever finished. There may come a moment when you should call Fred and say, "Pastor, you're always welcome at our committee meetings, but unless someone brings brownies this next one is routine. You may want to stay home" or "Thank you for your concern, but you don't need to make a big deal of this. I've had plastic surgery lots of times."

I have every confidence that I did not need to write any of this. You know that you need to treat your new pastor with kindness. Love him lavishly. Forgive him graciously. Follow his caring leadership.

Grace and peace,
Brett

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

November 16
Holy Communion
Mark 8:27-29
“Who Jesus Is”

November 23
Morning Worship
1 Chronicles 16:1-3, 7-12
“Remembering Santiago Community Church”
Brett’s last sermon to us

November 30
Advent 1
Morning Worship
Mark 13:24-37
Victor Hawkins preaches
“The Gift of Hope”

December 7
Advent 2
10.30 am: Holy Communion
First Sunday with Fred Milligan
“Receiving Gifts”

December 14
Advent 3
Children’s Christmas Pageant

December 21
Advent 4
Holy Communion
“Mary’s Message”

10.30 am: Holy Communion
8.00 pm: Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

December 24
11.30 pm: Christmas Eve Service with
Holy Communion
“Sharing Our Stable”

December 25
10.30 am: Christmas Day Service with
Holy Communion
“Sharing Our Best”

December 28
Morning Worship
“Two Turtle Doves”

SPRING IS HERE!

“Despedida” for Brett and Carol
Friday November 21, 7.00 – 10.00 pm
Come along to a reception for Brett and Carol in appreciation of their time with us and to give them a good send-off. See the sign-up sheet in the hall to let us know what you’d like to contribute food-wise.

Thanksgiving Dinner

Thursday November 27, 7:30 pm

Join us for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner (from the USA) – turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy – even pumpkin pie! The cost is \$4.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children, plus a contribution of one item (hot vegetable side dish or appetizer). All are welcome, but there is limited seating. Contact Janis Fuentes (228844683) if you could bake a pie – pumpkin provided!

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

Christmas Music

The choir is preparing music for the upcoming season. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings at 6.30 pm and Sunday mornings at 9.30 am.

Advent Workshop

Sunday November 30, 5:00 - 6:30 pm (or perhaps Saturday, Nov. 29 – depending on the preference of those who sign up!)

Gather with your church family to start off the Advent season by making crafts for church and home. We’ll have a brief service at 6:00 pm. Bring a snack to share. All ages are welcome!

Teacher Training Lunch

Friday, December 5, 12:30 – 2:00 pm

All Sunday School teachers, helpers and others interested in our Sunday School program are welcome to attend this luncheon. Contact Brooke to make your reservation - brookewelborn.scc@gmail.com or 99979959.

Ladies Guild Christmas Bazaar

Saturday, December 6, 10:00 am - Noon

This is the biggest sale of the year, with used books, woolies and other handcraft items, marmalade, chutney and other delicious goodies, a white elephant sale – you’ll want to bring the whole family! If you have books or baked items to donate to the sale, or if you can help that Saturday or with the set-up on the Friday, it would be much appreciated! Contact the church office.

Children’s Christmas Program

Sunday, December 14, 10:30 am

Rehearsals have begun for our production of “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever.”

Service of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 21, 8:00 pm

This beautiful evening of carol singing and choral performances is a great service to which to invite a friend!

Christmas Eve Service and communion

Wednesday, December 24, 11:30pm

Christmas Day Service and communion

Thursday, December 25, 10:30 am

SCRIPTURE VERSES OF THE MONTH

November 16

"But what about you?" Jesus asked. "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Matthew 16:15-16

November 23

Look to the Lord and God's strength; see God's face always. Remember the wonders God has done. 1 Chronicles 16:11-12

November 30

"If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'" Mark 13:36, 37

December

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

Be sure to post the verse where you see it daily. Say it together with family members at prayers, meals, etc. Memorize the location of the verse in the Bible, as well.

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Weddings:

04.10.14	León Illanes Fontaine and Andrea Álvarez Bazley
04.10.14	Nigel Penny Cheng and Lucía Allende Ferrada
04.10.14	Paul Watson and Christine Filshill
01.11.14	Gavin Weir and Stephanie Daer
08.11.14	Andrés Contreras Chacon and Marlene Diaz Vives

Funerals:

27.09.14	Dorothy Orrego
19.10.14	Joyce Henderson
09.11.14	Luis Sutherland Aldridge

Farewells:

Johannes Siahaan, Romana, Felicia, Fidel

Prayer Concerns:

Betty Scott
Pat Gomez
Jackie Donoso

UPDATE FROM DAVID AND KATHI

We bring you greetings from cold Ohio, where the temperatures have turned down a bit after lovely fall. The changing colors of the leaves have been a real highlight for us! We continue

to settle in to the Mifflin Presbyterian Church here in Gahanna, with a priority on getting to know the church members. Some of you may remember our "Bubb Gatherings" which we offered our first and fourth years at SCC, when we invited small groups into our home. We are doing that here (except at the church, not our house) and are enjoying getting better acquainted with the folks here. Like you, we are turning our thoughts towards Advent and Christmas celebrations. Mifflin does not have a Christmas Day service, but we DO have three services on Christmas Eve, plus several special music programs, mission projects and social events. Our families are doing well - Kathi's parents made the drive over for lunch a few weeks ago, and we enjoyed going to Indiana to see our niece as Maria in The Sound of Music. We will go there again next weekend for an early Thanksgiving dinner, and will be with David's mom, along with his brother Terry, on the actual day.

We think often of our wonderful church family at SCC, and have been delighted with the reports of Brett and Carol's good ministry. We know that you will be in good hands with Fred, as well!

Much love and good wishes, David and Kathi

SCC FINANCES

Total Expenses through October 2014	84.715.738
Total Income through October 2014	87.037.252
SURPLUS	2.321.514

STEWARSHIP UPDATE

Stewardship Sunday was early this year – on October 26th. This is where we stand so far: We have received 12 Stewardship forms from Sunday School children and 45 forms from the adults. A total of \$ 41.574.520 and USD 5000 has been pledged for the year of 2015 so far. Several forms include offers to read, usher, bake etc. These forms are being processed and you will be added to our rosters accordingly.

If you haven't yet had the opportunity to send us your Stewardship form for 2015, we invite you to pick up a blank form from the back of church one Sunday, to prayerfully consider how you might like to support your church next year, to fill it out and bring it back to us on another Sunday or post it to us at: Santiago Community Church, Casilla 16144/9, Santiago.

CHRISTMAS PRESENT COLLECTION FOR OUR CHURCH CHARITIES

As each year, Moira will be organizing a Christmas present collection for children up to the age of 12 from Hogar La Granja, Youth for Christ and a poor congregation in Renca. If you'd like to contribute a gift, look out for the Christmas tree at the back of church on Sunday, Nov. 30th, which will be covered in tags. Please then take as many tags as you'd like to and bring in a nicely wrapped gift (not more than \$ 6.000 each) suitable for the age and gender indicated on each tag. We will be receiving these gifts up to Sunday, December 16th at the latest. Please make sure that the tags are FIRMLY attached to the parcels.

FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP FUNDACIÓN CRESCENDO

1 – IAC Christmas Bazaar at Prince of Wales Country Club, PWCC, Tuesday, November 18th. Crescendo will have a table at this event, as in previous years.

2 – #Giving Tuesday on Tuesday, December 2nd. Crescendo is participating again in #Giving Tuesday, as they did last year. Global Ministries (General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church) also participates by matching every online donation made that day, dollar for dollar. That means that 200 percent of every donation will come directly to the work we do with adults who have intellectual disabilities at Fundación Crescendo. Last year we were able to raise US\$8.000. Further details can be obtained from Solange at Crescendo – solange@crescendo.cl – or from Neil Walbaum – nwalbaum@walbaumchile.cl cel. 09 7899 3577.

3 – Raffle organized by the families of Fundación Crescendo. This will be drawn on December 5th. Raffle tickets @ \$ 1.000 each are available from Neil Walbaum. Last year, one of our church members was the lucky winner of a bicycle at this annual raffle.

Neil Walbaum

LIGHTHOUSE LIBRARY AND BOOKSTORE

Have you checked out the library and bookstore in the church hall lately? There are several new books in the library, including two books on The Lord's Prayer and one by South African Trevor Hudson on the Holy Spirit, PLUS SCC cookbooks for sale – they make great Christmas presents!

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Sunday School:

Our Sunday School classes for age 2 – age 5 will continue with our new curriculum "Feasting on the Word" for November and December, while our older children (grades 1-8) will begin work on the Christmas Program to be presented in worship on Sunday, December 14. Younger children will sing several songs on the 14th in worship but will not be in the program.

Youth Groups:

Saturday, November 22nd, 5:00 – 9:00 pm
The Open Circle Social: Burgers, Baking and Board Games at the Hamann's house in Lo Barnechea

Friday, December 5th, 6:30 - 9:30 pm

Cross Connexions & The Open Circle meet to open their prayer capsule, eat dinner, worship together, prepare for the pageant (CC) and discuss their Big Questions (TOC).

Saturday, December 13th, 2:00 – 5:00 pm
The Open Circle Social: Cookout & Swimming Location will be announced soon.

Sunday, December 21st, 12:15 - 3:00 pm
Cross Connexions lunch & Christmas Caroling

Please contact Brooke Welborn, at brookewelborn.scc@gmail.com with any questions about our Children & Youth Programs.

ONLINE PHOTO DIRECTORY

Have you checked it out lately? New photos are regularly being added. Help yourself put names and faces together in our church community!! E-mail the church office to ask for the updated link. Please remember that the link is only for SCC friends.

CHURCH INFORMATION

Council Chair – Victor Hawkins

Vice Chair – Neil Walbaum

Treasurer – Gordon Yorston

Secretary – Tessa Too Kong

Other members: David Cobb, Mary Oldfield, Bunny Yeomans, Janis Fuentes, Joel Araujo, David Madison and Arina Lewis

Office hours: 9:00 am -1:00 pm (Mon. – Fri.)

Office staff: Audrey Wilsdon

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