

# Congregational Courier

## THOUGHTS FROM BOB LIVINGSTON

### SENIOR MINISTER



Greetings!

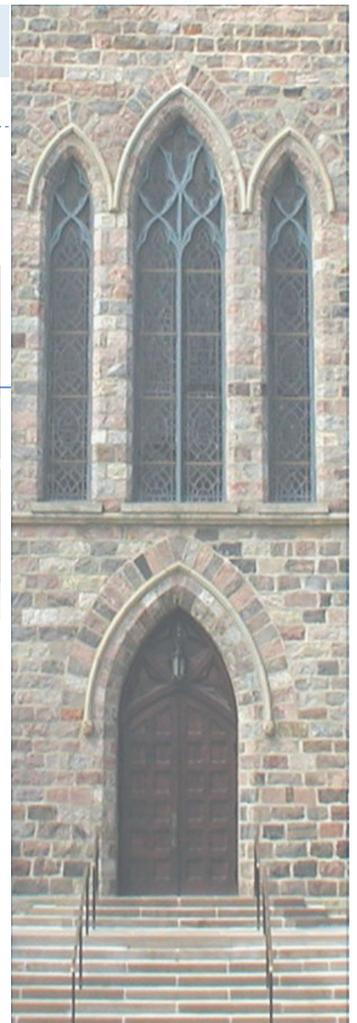
I can't speak for you, but I am so glad November marks the month the political mayhem will finally come to an end. As a boomer, I have seen a good number of presidential races...but I have never experienced a year quite like this one before! At times, through both the presidential primaries and the current presidential balloting, I have been very disappointed by the lack of appropriate behavior the various candidates have displayed. I have especially been thinking about this in terms of what is being modeled for our young people and children. I am afraid a new low bar has been set this year!

All of this made me think of Dorothy Law Nolte PhD, who decades ago wrote the piece titled, "Children Learn What They Live." Perhaps now is a good time for a reminder!

- If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn.*
- If children live with hostility, they learn to fight.*
- If children live with fear, they learn to be apprehensive.*
- If children live with pity, they learn to feel sorry for themselves.*
- If children live with ridicule, they learn to feel shy.*
- If children live with jealousy, they learn to feel envy.*
- If children live with shame, they learn to feel guilty.*
- If children live with encouragement, they learn confidence.*
- If children live with tolerance, they learn patience.*
- If children live with praise, they learn appreciation.*
- If children live with acceptance, they learn to love.*
- If children live with approval, they learn to like themselves.*
- If children live with recognition, they learn it is good to have a goal.*
- If children live with sharing, they learn generosity.*
- If children live with honesty, they learn truthfulness.*
- If children live with fairness, they learn justice.*
- If children live with kindness and consideration, they learn respect.*
- If children live with security, they learn to have faith in themselves and in those about them.*
- If children live with friendliness, they learn the world is a nice place in which to live.*

Vote your conscience and blessings on your month,

*Bob*



#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Darcy.....	2
Sarah Chaffee.....	3
TNS Special Presentation..	4
Advent Workshop.....	4
Scrip.....	5
Youth Ministries.....	5
Stewardship.....	6
UM Tailgate.....	8
Second Sunday Series.....	8
Treasurer's Report.....	9
Small Groups.....	10
Calendar.....	12



## DARCY CRAIN-POLLY

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

### Servanthood

The other day I was late to a meeting (story of my life) and annoyed that I had to wait at the corner of Maynard and William for all of the students who were texting and walking to pass in front of the car. In my newly freed up time of not moving, I looked over and saw Anita Sandretto dutifully pruning our garden area. I was immediately humbled and slapped my spiritual hand for being so impatient. I would've missed that moment, that recognition of the humble servant in our midst.

As I drove to the meeting (late still, but newly aware of purpose and what was really important) I thought about the quiet servanthood that Anita, and truly so many of our members possess. She came in without a sound nor did she ask for fanfare. Truth be told, if there weren't so many texting students I wouldn't have stopped long enough to notice her service.

That garden area looks beautiful. It looks welcoming. It looks like we care about our church, and we care about our mission. It reflects our core value of caring; in this case, caring for the grounds that surround this beautiful building to which we have been entrusted of its stewardship.

I overflowed with gratitude towards Anita and Pete (who was in a man to man battle with the fountain in the memorial garden) and their quiet and humble servanthood. They expected no fanfare, they asked for no recognition. In fact, I called Pete on his cell phone soon after and asked him to go photograph this moment because it represented something sacred. He graciously agreed. This embodies the kind of servanthood Jesus calls us towards. We all respond in so many ways; through gardening and through folding and stuffing envelopes; through teaching church school and through baking cookies; through our financial giving and our worship and our fellowship. There are so many ways to respond to the life of servanthood that Jesus challenges us to live. May you find your way to respond.



Thank you Anita and Pete. Thank you Pat and Beth and Lou and Marie and Debbie and Chris and ... well, Renee has given me a page limit, so I can't continue forever but to all of our humble servants at FCC, thank you.

*Darcy*

## SARAH CHAFFEE

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### Wrapped in Love 2016

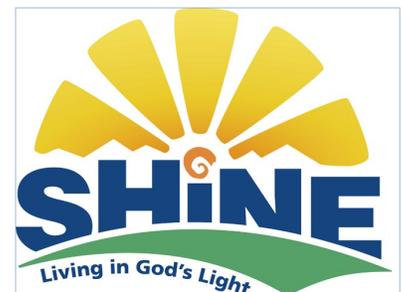
This year at the First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor, we will be hosting our first annual Wrapped in Love event on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

Our vision is to provide a safe, welcoming, dignifying opportunity for local families to be excited about the gift of giving this Christmas. By providing children an opportunity to shop for, buy, and wrap a gift for their parents, they will be able to have a special surprise for their parents on Christmas. We will also provide parents with an opportunity to pick out gifts for their kids at greatly reduced prices.

We hope to accomplish this vision by partnering with our Single Mom's ministry and welcoming members of the community into our church for a meal, followed by an opportunity to "shop." Children and parents will go to separate rooms of the church to shop so that they will be able to surprise each other with the gifts they've picked out. Once gifts have been picked out, they will have the chance to wrap them and make a card or gift tag to go with it. Children and parents will be reunited and will take their gifts home with them to open on Christmas!

We would love for you to be a part of our first Wrapped in Love event. Our greatest need is gift donations. This can be done by donating money or a scrip card to be spent on gifts, or by shopping yourself and bringing the gift by the church. We will also need donations of wrapping paper and bows.

We appreciate your generosity and thoughtfulness and are excited to bring this event to FCC!



*Sarah*

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*FCC Vision Statement: We strive to be a joyous spiritual home, welcoming and valuing all people, embracing God's word and enriching lives.*

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## TNS SPECIAL PRESENTATION

### Waterman Lecture, Tuesday, November 22

On Tuesday evening, November 22, please join us in the Mayflower Room from 7 to 8:30 p.m. for a special presentation on the late UM professor, Dr. Leroy Waterman, by FCC member, David Krause. In the mid-20th century, Waterman was Ann Arbor's own version of Marcus Borg, John Shelby Spong, and Dominic Crossan. This special Tuesday evening presentation will provide an introduction to Waterman's ideas and how they can contribute to a meaningful perspective on the biblical world today. In preparation for the presentation, it may be helpful to read the Wikipedia article "Leroy Waterman." A Leroy Waterman handout will be available before the class meets that night. We hope to see you on Tuesday, November 22!

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#### *Our Core Values:*

*Caring: We are a loving and mutually supportive faith community.*

*Proclaiming the Good News: We believe in a living and loving God.*

*Respect: We embrace openness, diversity, and individual faith journeys.*

*Compassion: We serve and support the needs of others.*

*Fellowship: We celebrate and enjoy life with each other.*

### Single Mom's Ministry

Our single moms tried their culinary hands this past month with Pam Dabbs leading us in meal cooking preparations that moms were able to take home and freeze or refrigerate for a future night. Thanks Pam! We also had a number of clothing and toiletry items donated by Faye Coombe that were distributed to our single moms and received with much gratitude!

A continued thanks for all of our cooking teams, childcare volunteers, set-up crew, and programming teams that make our monthly single mom's ministry so fulfilling.

This month we will gather on Thursday, November 17th, and Darcy will lead a discussion on gratitude.

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## ADVENT WORKSHOP AND CHRISTMAS DECORATING PARTY

You are invited to this year's Advent Workshop on November 27<sup>th</sup> after the 10:00 a.m. service. Kids will have the chance to make ornaments, gingerbread houses, cards, and care bags of toiletries. Care bags will be distributed during the rotating shelter as an outreach to serve the homeless. Christmas music and lunch will be provided. While kids are doing these activities, adults are invited to help decorate the church for the Christmas season.

The Activities and Fellowship Committee will be hosting the Church Decorating Party while the children are enjoying the Advent Workshop on November 27. The decorations will be labeled and placed for your decorating pleasure. We will need people to work inside hanging decorations and putting up trees and outside hanging the wreath roping. We will end our time together eating pizza and healthy snacks for the kids and singing Christmas carols. The event is open to all! Please join us!

## SCRIP

Many thanks to our very dedicated Scrip table volunteers! They have been a welcoming presence in the Mayflower Lobby selling Scrip cards to fund our mission/work trips. Since 2012, the Scrip program has donated \$8,500 to this important work of our church. Many thanks go to the FCC congregation and friends also! We could not do it without you! With the holiday season approaching, we could use a few more volunteers to help with Sunday sales. It is not a large time commitment – only a half hour after the 10 a.m. service – but it is an important one. Please let our volunteers know that you'd like to try working the Scrip table for a Sunday or two to see if this is something you would like to do. Please contact Jane Thomson for more details, [thomson@med.umich.edu](mailto:thomson@med.umich.edu). Thank you!

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*Our Mission: We are a beacon of God's love, hope, and Christian freedom.*

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## YOUTH MINISTRIES

### Senior High

Our senior high youth group has been enjoying weekly church school during our 10 a.m. worship service. Thanks for your commitment and participation as we delve into important issues of language, roles, expressions, and unnecessary stereotypes. It's been an enlightening journey so far! Please save the date and mark your calendars for our senior high retreat this month, November 12-13, at Wildwood Ranch in Howell. Get ready to un-plug and refill your spirits and try your best at archery while we're at it!

Permission forms and waivers can be found online at [fccannarbor.org](http://fccannarbor.org) under Grow Grades 9-12.

### Middle School

Our middle school youth group has been having a blast getting to know one another this fall. Please mark your calendar for this month's events!

- |              |                                    |
|--------------|------------------------------------|
| Nov. 2 (Wed) | Food Gatherers (bring the family!) |
| Nov. 6 (Sun) | Rake-n-Run                         |



## STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

### November is Pledge Month!

With the start of our annual stewardship campaign, it's time to reflect on our many blessings and consider how we can put them to good work in God's name. Everyone has something to contribute. Even the smallest commitment of time, talent or treasure can make a huge difference when multiplied by the power of FCC.

Your generosity to the annual stewardship campaign helps support FCC's exceptional programming and wonderful staff. Your generosity ensures the upkeep of our beautiful church, an Ann Arbor landmark. From our wonderful music each Sunday to our exceptional Christian Education and Mission & Outreach work, your generosity means lives are being touched and good things are happening at FCC. Let's keep it going!



**NOVEMBER IS PLEDGE MONTH**

“We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.”

Winston Churchill

 The First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor

 **THERE IS GREATNESS IN GIVING!** 

Are you ready to support the FCC Stewardship campaign?

**There are many ways you can help the missions of FCC. Next week, we will be mailing pledge forms to all our church families. Please look for it in your mailbox.**

This mailing will include a Time-and-Talent Confirmation form, listing different ways you can get involved with the church, from being a Deacon on Sundays to serving on an important committee. Everyone with time and a desire to help is welcome.

We are also asking FCC families to provide a financial pledge if they are able. In 2016, our operating expenses will be in excess of \$700,000, a sizeable amount and reflective of how our church has grown in the community. Going forward, we anticipate operating expenses to be similar.

**It's important to remember the stewardship campaign is different this year.** As you likely know, FCC is adjusting its fiscal year timing and thus we are now approaching a short, "Gap Year"—January through June 2017. Our November stewardship campaign will secure the financial support for the church to operate smoothly during the Gap Year. Our new, 12-month fiscal year will begin on July 1, 2017.

The FCC trustees are working to deliver a responsible budget to maintain our staffing levels and quality programming. Our Gap Year target for the stewardship campaign is \$300,000. Please consider what you can do to help us meet that goal. **Pledging during the campaign month is critical because it helps the FCC trustees prepare, plan and provide for the ministries we all value. Every bit helps.**

As Pledge Month gets underway, please generously support our wonderful church. Share your passion for FCC and encourage others to do the same. Because of you, FCC has been able to do more and make a difference in the lives of our members and the community we serve.

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, thank you for supporting the First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor. Remember: *There's Greatness in Giving!*

If you have questions about the stewardship campaign, please reach out to Stewardship Chair Mark Schirmer. He can be reached via email: [1960bird@gmail.com](mailto:1960bird@gmail.com)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

Mark Schirmer  
Stewardship Chair



**UM FOOTBALL  
TAILGATER  
Saturday  
November 19**

Please join the game day tailgating fun before the UM and Indiana game on Saturday, November 19, at the Project Green office building, located at 513 East Hoover Street, (at the corner of Hoover and Greene Streets). Project Green is located where you can see the team and band walk through to the field!

Darcy and Bob, and Dan and Peg Jacobs, will be your hosts. They will be providing food, drinks, games, and fun! The time of the tailgate will be announced later, after the time of the game is determined, so please watch Friday emails and check your Sunday bulletins for updates. Please stop by! Your friends are also invited to attend with you.

## CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

### SECOND SUNDAY SERIES

#### Water Quality/Dioxane Plume

Matthew Naud is the Environmental Coordinator and an Assistant Emergency Manager for the City of Ann Arbor. The Environmental Coordinator makes recommendations to the City Administrator, Mayor, and City Council on a broad range of environmental issues and staffs the City's Environmental Commission. Current and recent projects include:

- HUD Green Rental Housing Grant
- Michigan Green Communities network development and Gold program award 2012
- ICMA Climate Exchange Fellow - Indonesia 2012
- ICLEI New Delhi Conference on Climate Change 2011 - speaker
- Developing an Environmental Action Plan for the City by identifying goals and measurable objectives for climate change, transportation, energy, air and water quality, and land-use.
- City of Ann Arbor State of Our Environment Report – an atlas of environmental information for Ann Arbor residents.
- Developed an ordinance limiting phosphorus application from fertilizer – several local townships are considering enacting similar ordinances.
- Developing an ordinance to limit idling from on- and non-road engines.

Mr. Naud has 23 years of private and public sector environmental, emergency management, and transportation consulting experience; and 4 years of academic and industry molecular biology research experience. He holds Master's degrees in Biology and Public Policy from the University of Michigan and an undergraduate degree from Boston College. He has been on the Board of Directors for the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, the Alumni Association of the University of Michigan, the University of Detroit High School, and the Ypsilanti Otters Swim Club. He lives in Ann Arbor with his wife and two children.



# TREASURERS REPORT

MIKE DABBS

## TREASURER'S REPORT as of September 30, 2016

Total Actual Revenue: \$523,698	YTD Budget Revenue: \$ 546,156
Actual PLEDGE RECEIPTS: \$287,006	YTD Budget Pledge Receipts: \$333,106
Total Actual Expenses: \$538,006	YTD Budget Expenses: \$544,656

COMMENTS: The pledge receipts are included in the total revenue figures that precede it. You will note that pledge receipts are trailing the pledge receipts budget and this disparity has grown greater since the July report. We urge all members to get caught up on pledge payments in order to lessen the need to draw on investment funds.

You will notice that our actual revenues are trailing our budget, which is a concern. Fortunately, expenses are less than the budget. To date, our church has a net income loss of \$14,308. We have taken investment funds' distributions of \$193,000 of the budgeted \$299,000. It is the trustees intention to not exceed this budgeted distribution.

An updated Investment Policy Statement with target ranges for each asset class has been approved by the trustees and has been reviewed with our investment advisors. The five-year metrics have been achieved though recent performance is down. The investment firm has taken action to modify the asset allocation to adhere to our updated investment policy. The Investment Committee will continue to closely monitor the future performance.

Thanks everyone for your help.

## POSSIBLE INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE TRIP IN 2017

We are happy to announce that the Intergenerational Beacon of Hope Service Ministry Trip may be happening again in 2017! We are currently looking into places of service, however the date will be later than usual this time. Since Ann Arbor Public Schools are no longer having their February winter break, we are looking at the week of spring break, April 1 – 9, 2017. The week not only offers us an opportunity to help and serve others, but also gives us a chance to spend time with other FCC children, young people, and adults. During the week, we eat together, play together, worship together, and work together. What a wonderful experience this trip offers! Please think about your potential of joining us next April. We will keep you informed through future Couriers.

## SMALL GROUPS—KNIGHT’S LUNCH CLUB

Please join us on the FOURTH Monday of the month for monthly lunch get-togethers with Bob Livingston and other FCC friends. Our lunch gatherings are highly informal and lots of fun, with welcoming and wide-ranging conversations. We will meet at Knight’s Restaurant, 2324 Dexter Avenue, at 11:30 a.m., on Monday, November 28. Everyone is welcome! We hope you will be there with us.

## SMALL GROUPS—TUESDAY NIGHT SERIES (TNS)

Want to try a small group but don’t want to commit to something for months on end? Then our Tuesday Night Series is for you. We meet on Tuesday evenings from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Mayflower Room. At TNS, we view and discuss a variety of relevant and interesting theological issues. The series often last 5 to 8 weeks, with scheduled breaks between series. Everyone is welcome! Questions? Please contact Bob at [bob@fccannarbor.org](mailto:bob@fccannarbor.org). We will continue our fall series on Tuesdays through November 22nd with a DVD series by John Dominic Crossan titled, “Violence Divine: Overcoming the Bible’s Betrayal of Its Non-Violent God.”

## SMALL GROUPS—TEXT BREAKFAST

We gather informally with senior minister Bob Livingston every Wednesday morning at 8:30 a.m. at the Classic Cup Café (4389 Jackson Road) for lively discussion. We discuss the scripture for the upcoming Sunday sermon, sharing our understanding, insights, and our questions. We wrap up our morning about 10 a.m. We look forward to seeing you!

## SMALL GROUPS—MIND AND SPIRIT BOOK GROUP

The Mind and Spirit Book Group meets in the Mayflower Room on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 10:15 a.m. Our group is open and welcoming to all. We share our joys and sorrows as well as review a variety of books throughout the programming year. We will begin discussing *Radical Remission: Surviving Cancer Against All Odds* by Kelly A. Turner, PhD. on November 2, 2016. Please bring a copy of the book with you. If you would like us to order a book for you, please contact Nancy Sauve, [nancy@fccannarbor.org](mailto:nancy@fccannarbor.org), 734-926-0560. See you in November.

## SMALL GROUPS—20/40 GROUP

We are a group of people in our 20s through 40s who are interested in trekking through the terrain of young adulthood, relationships, parenting, grad school, and more in a faithful community setting. We are single, married, and parents, and we have a blast together.

We gather at church on Wednesdays from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Childcare is provided. On the last Wednesday of every month, we meet at Wolverine Tap Room (2019 W. Stadium Blvd) for trivia from 7-9 p.m. Questions? Please contact Darcy! [darcy@fccannarbor.org](mailto:darcy@fccannarbor.org)

## SMALL GROUPS—SINGLE MOM'S MINISTRY

Our next Single Mom's night is Thursday, November 17, 6-7:30 p.m. Generally, we meet on the third Thursday of the month for single mom's night out. Beginning at 6 p.m. you will be served a delicious dinner, have the chance to connect with other single moms in an informal setting, and be offered practical parenting programs. Meanwhile, your children will be fed dinner, entertained in a social setting with other kids their age, and given time and tutoring to complete their homework by screened volunteers. The program wraps up at 7:30 p.m. All single mothers are welcome: only moms, divorced moms, widowed moms, and any mom who is raising kids solo. The event is free, but RSVPs are required. Please RSVP to Darcy at [darcy@fccannarbor.org](mailto:darcy@fccannarbor.org)



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**FCC Office Hours**  
**Mon. – Fri.**  
**9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

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*Whatever Your  
Story, You're  
Welcome Here*

## SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- 8:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
- 8:45 a.m. Continental Breakfast, Pilgrim Hall
- 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Service, Pilgrim Hall
- 9:30 a.m. Communion Service, Douglas Memorial Chapel
- 10:00 a.m. Traditional Service, Sanctuary  
(Church School during 10:00 a.m. worship service)
- 11:00 a.m. Friendship Hour, Pilgrim Hall

## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH NOVEMBER 2016 CALENDAR

- |             |            |  |
|-------------|------------|--|
| November 1  | 11:45 a.m. | Men's Luncheon (Knights)                       |
|             | 7:00 p.m.  | TNS (Mayflower Room)                           |
| November 2  | 8:30 a.m.  | Text Breakfast (Classic Cup)                   |
|             | 10:30 a.m. | Mind and Spirit Book Group (Mayflower)         |
|             | 6:30 p.m.  | 20/40 Group (Meeting Room)                     |
| November 3  | 7:00 p.m.  | Missions & Outreach (Mayflower)                |
| November 6  |            | COAT DRIVE BEGINS (Last day Nov. 22)           |
|             | 11:15 a.m. | BOCE Meeting (Mayflower)                       |
|             |            | AFC Meeting (Meeting Room)                     |
|             |            | Middle School Rake-n-Run (11:15 a.m. – 2 p.m.) |
| November 8  | 7:00 p.m.  | TNS (Mayflower)                                |
| November 9  | 8:30 a.m.  | Text Breakfast (Classic Cup)                   |
|             | 6:30 p.m.  | 20/40 Group (Meeting Room)                     |
| November 11 |            | VETERANS DAY                                   |
| November 12 |            | SENIOR HIGH RETREAT (12th – 13th)              |
| November 13 | 9:00 a.m.  | Circle of Friends (Mayflower)                  |
|             | 11:00 a.m. | Contemporary Issues 2nd Sunday Presentation    |
| November 14 | 7:00 p.m.  | Council Meeting                                |
| November 15 |            | COURIER DEADLINE                               |
|             | 12:00 p.m. | Contemporary Issues Committee (Mayflower)      |
|             | 7:00 p.m.  | TNS (Mayflower Room)                           |
| November 16 | 8:30 a.m.  | Text Breakfast (Classic Cup)                   |
|             | 6:30 p.m.  | 20/40 Group (Meeting Room)                     |
| November 17 | 6:00 p.m.  | Single Mom's Night                             |
| November 19 | TBD        | FCC Tailgate                                   |
| November 20 |            | PILGRIM SUNDAY                                 |
|             | 9:00 a.m.  | Deacons Meeting (Mayflower)                    |
| November 21 | 6:15 p.m.  | Trustees Meeting                               |
| November 22 | 7:00 p.m.  | TNS (Special Presentation)                     |
| November 23 | 8:30 a.m.  | Text Breakfast (Classic Cup)                   |
| November 24 |            | THANKSGIVING – FCC OFFICE CLOSED               |
| November 25 |            | FCC OFFICE CLOSED                              |
| November 27 |            | Advent Workshop                                |
|             |            | Church Christmas Decorating & Lunch            |
| November 28 |            | MEN'S ROTATING SHELTER BEGINS                  |
|             | 11:30 a.m. | FCC Lunch Group (Knight's)                     |
| November 30 | 8:30 a.m.  | Text Breakfast                                 |