

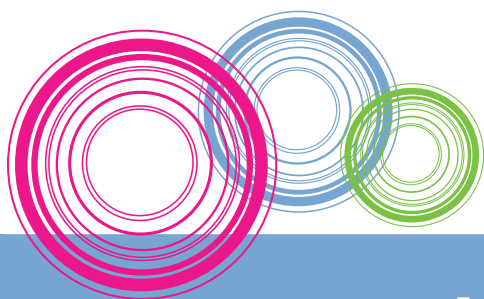


# Churchalive

**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA**

new-born of Spirit • healing

The First Church of Christ, Scientist

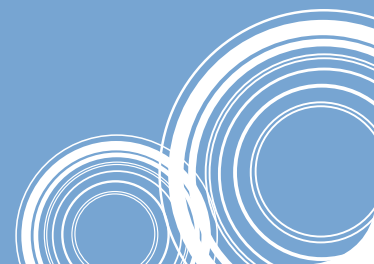


**June 4, 2011**

Florida Gulf Coast University

**SUGDEN HALL**

[www.SWFLChurchAlive.com](http://www.SWFLChurchAlive.com)



## Mission Statement

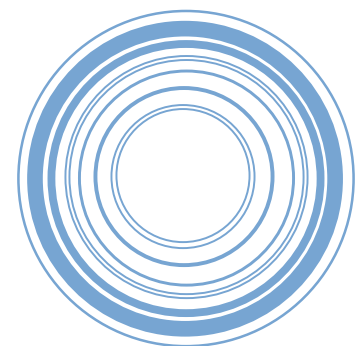
To explore fresh and practical expressions of Church that reach well beyond material structure and that shine with the same vibrant and loving spirit Christ Jesus urged throughout his healing ministry.

*Adapted from Message from CSBD/Clerk, September, 2010*

## Motive

Love for our fellow humans, gratitude for this revelation and what it means, less a sense of self and more a sense of openness—by these, our Church will grow.

*Comments by Nate Talbot, Clerk of The Mother Church*



# SWFL Church Alive Workshop Schedule

## MORNING

- 8:30** Registration, muffins, fruit, juice
- 9:00** Opening the Day  
Church Alive Intro Video  
A Church of Healers Workshop w/Break-out Group Sessions (30 minutes for discussion and 15 minutes for wrap-up, with 2 folks moving to their right to the next table during a stretch break)
- 9:30** **Q1:** How *alive* is our spiritual idea of Church?
- 10:15** Break
- 10:30** **Q2:** What are the challenges of living church more fully and how can we heal them?
- 11:30** **Q3:** How can we better live it and engage the community?

## AFTERNOON

**12:15-1:15**

### LUNCH

- 1:15** Report “golden nuggets” from morning session
- 2:00** Tips on Talking with Others
- 3:00** Break
- 3:20** Boston Church Alive Video Webcast: “Church Alive Now” welcome from Bill Warrick, Manager of Church Alive.  
  
Second, a fifteen minute conversation with the Christian Science Board of Directors on being “Moved by the Spirit of Church.”  
  
And third, a forty-five minute visit with Sandy Sandberg and Marian English, current Readers of The Mother Church, who will be discussing “Church Services that Heal: Inspired Reading & Listening.”
- 4:30** Closing: Hymn 196

## Workshop Question #1

### How *alive* is our spiritual idea of Church?

A. Are we/am I...

- “affording proof of its utility”?
- “elevating the race”?
- “rousing the dormant understanding”?
- apprehending the spiritual ideas of ourselves and others?
- “healing the sick,” demonstrating the Truth?

B. How can I/we...

1. Use fresh ideas on Sunday and Wednesday so that our services *consistently* sing, soar, comfort and heal?
2. Focus less on the mechanics of church and work through prayer for growth in healing?
3. Support the collective responsibilities and demonstration of its members?

**“Church. The structure of Truth and Love; whatever rests upon and proceeds from divine Principle.**

The Church is that institution, which affords proof of its utility and is found elevating the race, rousing the dormant understanding from material beliefs to the apprehension of spiritual ideas and the demonstration of divine Science, thereby casting out devils, or error, and healing the sick.”\*\*

\*\*All quotations are from *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy

**NOTES:**

## Workshop Question #2

**What are the challenges of living Church more fully and how can we heal them?**

- A. How are today's challenges different from 50 or 100 years ago?
- B. How can a church congregation understand the different views between the more informal members and the more formal members?—sometimes viewed as younger, newer, older, experienced?
- Are we acknowledging/allowing different motives or different approaches to our work? Name some examples.
  - Are we believing in the difficulties of cliques, isolation or group insiders? How do we address these?
- C. How can we pray to face down aggressive systems of thinking that would appear to build invisible walls around our church to stifle the rich message of salvation and healing?
- Materialism—a sense of separation from any spiritual need
  - Dwindling and or “seasonal” attendance
  - Medical, pharmaceutical and scientific breakthroughs
  - Fundamentalism in various forms
  - Procrastination/distractions in our lives and our church life; priorities, time management
- D. Am I acknowledging my God-given dominion over my consciousness when facing a physical challenge, which may be accompanied by different pressures to choose material solutions?

# NOTES:

**1. Examples**

**2. Examples**

**3. Examples**

## Workshop Question #3

### How can we better live Church and engage the community?

- A. The world/mortal consciousness is in urgent need of healing. Are there positive ways for us and others to join in prayer together for major world issues?
- B. How is our community benefited as we lift up the Christ in our consciousness in genuine fellowship with one another?
- C. As a church of healers, are we doing our part for our home, church, school, work, regional and world communities? Are we ready and willing to do more?
  - How can Sunday School, Reading Room, and Lectures better support this effort?
  - What practical ideas can I be doing to respond to “honest seekers for Truth”? \*\*

\*\*All quotations are from *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy

# NOTES:

**1. Examples**

**2. Examples**

**3. Examples**

# Tips for Talking with Others about Christian Science

## What is it that we are sharing?

Internalize and become familiar with why you believe what you do.

- Why are you a Christian Scientist?
- What have you gained from its teachings?
- How has it blessed you?
- Why do you pray?
- What do you love about this Science?
- What's been your greatest blessing?

Communicate this feeling of love in your heart

Your words may not be remembered...

the **love** others feel when you are talking WILL

## 6 Quick Tips:

1. **Pray** – (bring the presence of the Christ to your consciousness)
2. **Listen** – (your spiritual intuition knows that love is here)
3. **Be concise** – (simple honest answers)
4. **Speak from your own experience** – (your love, your healings)
5. **Don't be defensive** – (love the person you're talking with)
6. **No one right answer** – (it's the feeling they will remember)

## Interactive Role Play:

Think of a question you've faced and would like to explore.

Or choose from the questions below.

1. What is Christian Science?
2. You're the group that Tom Cruise belongs to, right?
3. If you don't get vaccinated, don't you put others at risk?
4. You're the church that doesn't allow its members to go to doctors, right?
5. Who was Mary Baker Eddy?
6. I've heard about those horrible faith healing deaths of children in the country. What do you think of that?
7. Isn't Christian Science simply mind over matter, positive thinking?

# NOTES

**\*\*\* Would you participate in an expanded workshop on this topic in the future? \*\*\***

# NOTES

## Vision

No other church on earth is bringing the kind of scientific spiritual healing that our Church brings to mankind.

*Video Highlight from CSBD/Clerk, Sept, 2010*

