



***First Christian Church*** (Disciples of Christ)

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March 3, 2013

To our good friends on Leesburg Pike,

Salaam, Shalom, Peace! I write this letter of congratulations on behalf of myself and my congregation, the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Falls Church. We have been neighbors and friends since you opened your doors thirty years ago, and though my relationship has been built over the past ten years that I have served as Senior Minister, I revel in the support and understanding we have been able to create among our faith communities.

Our relationship began when you were in search of necessary parking support in order to build your beautiful facility. Our Senior Minister at the time, Rev. Dr. Jack Austin, offered our abundant parking lots a block away and your warm gratitude has been reflected in our growing friendship ever since. In my ten years as Senior Minister, I have appreciated the gracious greetings from many of your members as they park and prepare for Friday prayer, or for an Iftar dinner during Ramadan. I am grateful for the mutual support we have offered one another, especially during challenging times. Today, Dar Al-Hijrah assists our Safe Haven program (a day shelter serving breakfast and lunch on Tuesdays and Thursdays to the homeless and hungry) by providing delicious meals for 150 people once a month! This is a great support to our program and the community we share.

We appreciate your good care of so many needy people in the Bailey's Crossroads area, and the hypothermia shelter you offer during the winter months for homeless women. We are glad we can partner together in serving our community. Your gifts of shelter, food, clothing, and comfort are well recognized among us all.

I especially appreciate your invitation and warm welcome when we brought our youth group over one Sunday after church and Imam Johari offered an insightful and charismatic introduction to Islam for our Middle and High School youth. That was the most highly favored youth program that year!

And so, the First Christian congregation congratulates you on 30 years of ministry and mission in Falls Church and the many lives you have been able to touch and reach for God/Allah. May your next 30 years be rich and abundant in service and may our friendship continue to grow!

Again, Salaam, Peace, and Congratulations!

The Reverend Kathleen Kline Moore  
Senior Minister, First Christian Church, Falls Church