

FIRST CHRISTIAN TIMES

First Christian Church (Disciples Of Christ)

Monday, January 11, 2010



The purpose of this church shall be as revealed in the New Testament: to win people to faith in Jesus Christ and commit them actively to the church; to help them grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ that increasingly they may know and do His will and to work for the unity of all Christians.

Sunday Schedule:

Chapel Worship	8:00 AM
Contemporary Worship	9:00 AM
Sunday School	10:00 AM
Worship	11:00 AM
Youth Fellowship	4:00 PM

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Website: www.fccburleson.org

Office Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 9:00 am-2:00 pm

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A NOTE FROM PASTOR LAURA

Friends,

Yesterday was such a blessed day. We added new members to our family of faith. We shared a meal together and what a great response we had to the ministry fair. Kudos all around to the ministry team leaders for their efforts and organization in opening up opportunities for ministry and service for all in our congregation!

There are many reasons to be grateful and excited about what is to come. You may remember that back in the fall, many of you participated in a congregational ministry survey. This was an evaluation of how we are doing as a whole and it focused in the areas of worship, fellowship, member care, stewardship, property, grounds, learning and service. In addition, it examined our discernment goals and how well we thought we were accomplishing these. What follows is a summary of the results, and some other pertinent highlights.

In worship, you gave yourselves pretty good marks. From the music, to the diversity, to the flow of the service, overall you thought that was going pretty well.

You also scored yourselves well in member care. You believe that when needs among our members are known, that we do a pretty good job of responding to those needs and reaching out to each other. I believe Bonnie DePratter's heartfelt expression of thanks in our worship service this past Sunday was evidence of that. You also believe that you do a reasonably good job of integrating new members into the full life and ministry of the congregation.

We gave ourselves the highest of marks in Property and Grounds. We take care of and use well what God has given us and do our best to keep it running well and appealing to the stranger and the guest.

There are three areas whose scores indicated that you felt we needed to strengthen these places of ministry. Outreach and Evangelism both had the same averaged scores. You indicated that we need to look for more opportunities for hands-on mission and service and have a wider participation of our congregation when we do. Further, you seemed to see yourselves as not doing a very good job of inviting people into this faith community. You said that the strategies to invite the stranger in were not effective. You did say, however, that once they came in the door that you did a pretty good job of making them feel welcome. With this I would whole-heartedly concur. We do need to look at more effective strategies for inviting the neighbor, the stranger and friend to come and be with us in worship and the breaking of the bread. So, let's share our thoughts and ideas with each other. Brainstorming can become very powerful and productive when there are many people involved in the mix.

The two areas where you gave yourselves the lowest scores were Stewardship and Christian Education. Strangely though, under the category of stewardship, no one left any comments for us to go on. I think that each year we make progress as individuals as well as the body as a whole. I believe that we are growing in our understanding of stewardship (both the sharing of our financial resources as well as our time,

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WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

December 20, 2009 -	
Early	5
Contemporary & Traditional	105
December 27, 2009 -	
Early	4
Contemporary & Traditional	89
January 3, 2010 -	
Early	4
Contemporary & Traditional	98
January 3, 2010 -	
Early	4
Contemporary & Traditional	90

Offering 12/27/09

Gen. Fund	1,702.00
Build. Fund	332.00
Christmas Offering	100.00

Offering 1/03/10

Gen. Fund	3,100.00
Build. Fund	932.00

Offering 1/10/10

Gen. Fund	2,561.00
Build. Fund	515.00
Youth	50.00

Visitors and Guests



Bob Lee & Marlene Baysinger in the early service.

Ariel Jorgensen; Mark Hurt; Alice Swanson; Mark & Melissa Pate; Alex, Kristy & Maddie Philips; Ann Owen; Jim & Dodie Odiorne; Courtney DeWerff & Laura & Rylie Melton in the Contemporary Service.

Marjorie Armstrong; Don Peavy, Sr.; Robyn Lively; Robin Strodtz; Juan, Ivelisse, Alanna & Juan Morales; Iris Wilson; Hernan & David Argüelles; Jack Jaspersen; Margie Lile; Ben Fambrough; Spencer & Walker Maxwell; Wiley & Sandy Horton; Rob, Susan Mather & Sam English; Kurt, Sandra, Jacob & Leah Voss; Melissa Graham; Sophia & Laura-Cate Graham-Newton; Michael, Erin & Alexis Drybola; Margaret, Nate & Aleaha Woodall; Juanita Stewart; Jerry Funk; Monti & Sandra Bickers; and our other regular visitors in the Traditional Service.

We were happy that they worshipped with us and trust that they found inspiration, fellowship and love.

JANUARY HARVEST HOUSE

42 Pounds of Food
\$113.00



CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2010

9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study (Foyer)
7:00 PM Choir Practice (S)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2010

6:00 PM Band Practice (S)
7:00 PM Disciples Women Meeting (FLC)
7:00 PM Disciples Men Meeting (C)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2010

8:00 AM Chapel Service (C)
9:00 AM Prayer Group (E)
9:00 AM Contemporary Worship (S)
10:00 AM Sunday School-Joint Adult Sunday School with Guest Speaker, Rev. John Cunyus (FLC)
11:00 AM Worship (S)
4:00 PM Youth Fellowship

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2010

9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study (Foyer)
7:00 PM Choir Practice (S)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2010

6:00 PM Band Practice (S)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 2010

5:00 PM Scrapbooking Fellowship (FLC)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2010

8:00 AM Chapel Service (C)
9:00 AM Prayer Group (E)
9:00 AM Contemporary Worship (S)
10:00 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship (S)
12:00 PM Joint Board/Cabinet Meeting (FLC)
4:00 PM Youth Fellowship

MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2010

9:00 AM Newsletter Published

(E) Education (C) Chapel
(S) Sanctuary (FLC) Family Life Center

**HEY MEN
MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR
FEBRUARY 12, 2010!**



**HAVE WE GOT A DEAL FOR
YOU!!**

SCRAPBOOKING FELLOWSHIP

Saturday, January 23rd
5:00 pm - 12:00 Midnight (Yes, Midnight!)
Family Life Center

Stay as little or long as you like.
Bring your tools, projects and ideas.

Bring a snack to share.

Everyone is welcome to come and bring a friend!





The Power of Prayer

CONCERNS:

Richard Edmonds & Steve Janusch are recovering from knee surgery.

Ryan Odiorne's sister, Kelly, prayers for peace and patience.

Wilma Taylor received a good report on her recent CT scan. She starts a new round of chemo in February.

Travelers

Jim Freeman, Sandy Horton's brother-in-law, was diagnosed with cancer. He is 78 years old, and he and his wife recently moved to Georgetown and do not have a church home yet. He will be starting radiation treatments soon.

Randy Riley, Ryan Odiorne's co-worker, is on the kidney transplant list.

Ky & Tina Gregory left for their new duty station in Ft. Lee, Virginia.

Dick Nash is in physical therapy.

LaDema Motl, Kaye Gregory's co-worker, had hip replacement surgery. Her breast cancer has spread to her hip joint, lungs & brain and other places.

A friend of Bev Sholders passed away.

Iris Wilson's friends have medical concerns.

Valerie Stuart's friend's mother is an alcoholic.

Scott & Hayley Vastine are in Russia to finalize adoption of a daughter.

Brenda Yowell is home recovering from surgery for a ruptured appendix.

All military families separated during the holidays.

Jennifer Mathis, Jack & Kaye Gregory's niece, was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor.

Clint Bourland will have eye surgery this Thursday, January 14th.

Jack Gregory, Sr. has a bad cold.

Two of Chris Cooper's co-workers passed away during the holidays.

James Odiorne has a friend who is dealing with emotional pain.

One of Peggy Johnson's co-worker's wife has lymphoma over most of her body. She's having chemo now, but has developed an infection, and is having a hard time.

Karen, Linda Cronenberg's sister, recently had a pulmonary embolism caused by her chemotherapy treatments, but she is doing better now.

Pat Worrell is taking chemo, but is having blood count problems and also a new problem with her lungs.

JOYS:

Robby Owen's new job starts in January 11th.

Anne English's sister had triple by-pass surgery in Houston and is doing well.

James Odiorne got to play in "Tuba Christmas".

All the Gregory boys and their families were together this Christmas for the first time in 3 years!

Heinz Wichterich, Juanice's husband, celebrated his 75th birthday on Dec. 12, 2009.

Mary Bryan's friend's cancer of the tongue has not returned.

Wiley & Sandy Horton's 43rd wedding anniversary was on December 27, 2009.

Steven Burr's Christmas Eve service at home in Missouri was a blessing.

We had a wonderful Christmas Eve service despite the Burleson Blizzard!

A New Year - time for renewal!

Bev Sholders brother is in remission.

Sunday, January 10th was Onita Holton, Juanita Stewart & Richard Bryan's birthdays!

Judy Isom will still be working. Prayers for those who were not given assignments.

Anne English's brother & sister are feeling better.

Bernice Williams' friend, Cheryl Amos, had triple by-pass surgery and is doing well.

LaVerne McGowen's brother & sister-in-law are home safe after a trip.

Congratulations to Mark & Melissa Pate! Their new daughter, Melanie, was born on December 31st. Melanie weighs in at 7 lbs., 14 oz and is 19 and 1/2 inches long. William is the new big brother!

Steve McGee's co-workers are helping each other.

Continued Prayers for

Dick Nash, Darlene Pettis, M'Lee Turner, Our country's leaders and world leaders

Our own military people:

Staff Sgt. Ky B. Gregory, Lt Col Steve Storch, Wesley Hayley, Brenda Wiegert, Jennifer Ross, Specialist Andrew McGee, 3rd Class Petty Officer James McGee

THANK YOU!

Thank you, thank you, thank you -
As a congregation, your generosity never ceases to amaze me. I want to thank you on behalf of my family and myself for the generous Christmas gift you gave us. It was well used and Christmas was merrier and brighter because of you. Thank you for your ongoing love and support.

Pastor Laura Odiorne



Dear FCC Church Family,
I would like to thank you for your generous bonus this Christmas. It means so much to me to be able to work with such nice, loving people in such a great Christian atmosphere. Your generosity is deeply appreciated!

Your Secretary,
Terri Lester



My Loving Church Family,
Since my surgery, I would like to thank everyone for all the cards, visits, phone calls, prayers and food. It's wonderful to belong to a loving church family. A late Merry Christmas to you all and hope to see you soon.

Bonnie DePratter

Thank you to the Nominating Committee, Peggy Johnson -Chairman, Don Welch, Angela Kaker, Mary Bryan & Collin Gregory, for all their hard work this year to find people to fill the openings for the Board and new Deacons. I also want to thank the people that accepted the positions and are willing to serve this year. It has been an honor serving the church this past year as your Board Chair. Thank you for all of your support!!

Love,
Michelle McCrory

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST STAFF MEMBER!

This article is a little slow in coming, but in November we had a new addition to our staff here at FCC. Elizabeth (Liz) Cain accepted the part time position as our nursery care worker. This is such an important part of our church life as this is the first welcoming place families with small children may encounter. Liz is the mother of two boys (Joey and Josh). Her husband, Jason, is a Cardiac ICU nurse. Liz is a stay at home mother and active volunteer at North Joshua Elementary School. Even if you don't have any little ones, take the time to go back to the nursery and say hi. Welcome Liz!



YOUTH CORNER

Dear Friends,

The youth have been having so much fun lately! January is the perfect month to start a program of having themed months. Our theme for this month is New Beginnings. Since January is the month for making New Year's resolutions and trying to lose bad habits to pick up healthier ones, it seemed like the perfect theme for the youth to follow. This month we are making resolutions, having Bible studies (both led by myself and by the youth) and also having a lot of fun along the way!

On a personal note, I had a wonderful Christmas and New Year's and hope that you were blessed with equal experiences. I am taking on quite a few hours this semester at TCU (GO FROGS!) and admittedly have a lot on my plate, but that is exactly the way that I like it! I am looking forward to this year, and I am happy to be back with my church family!

In Christ!
Steven Burr

UPCOMING EVENTS

January Theme: New Beginnings

February Theme: Love

- ⇒ Sunday, January 17th - Youth Fellowship - 4:00 - 6:00 pm
- ⇒ Sunday, January 24th - Youth Fellowship - 4:00 - 6:00 pm
- ⇒ Sunday, January 31st - Youth Fellowship - 4:00 - 6:00 pm

A NOTE FROM PASTOR LAURA - (Continued from Page 1)

abilities and faithfulness) as a spiritual matter of faith and a response to God's greatness. Is there room for improvement in our consistency in giving - absolutely. Can we do more in this area, sure. And we will. It is a growth process, but one that continues to need nurture and care for it to more fully develop.

In Christian education, you expressed wanting more for our children and youth - not just more fun, but more in the way of faith development and grounding in the scriptures. This is something that is growing and a constant work in progress. Along with our Sunday school classes for our children and youth, our minister to youth and children, Steven Burr, has added a weekly Bible study as part of every meeting with the youth. Our children's ministry is expanding with the new children's church for elementary age children, led by Tiffanie Gregory.

The greatest area of concern, and I believe rightly so, was adult education. For whatever reason, you indicated that collectively you do not place a high enough value on biblical education and the continued spiritual growth among adult members of the congregation. You said we don't have enough classes and other study opportunities for growth in those areas. While I do agree with your evaluation, I believe that one of the places to start is for each adult individual in the congregation to recognize within himself or herself that neither has fully arrived at all the knowledge and spiritual depth and wisdom that is needed for this life. Nor are any of us as close in our relationship with God as we could be. Then, it is up to each individual to make a covenant between himself or herself and God - to start anew. We do offer two classes for adults on Sunday morning and there's always room for another class to begin. If you're not in to the Sunday morning classroom, open up your home and lead a group discussion on matters of faith. Find another day or night of the week to begin a study and invite others who might share in that same area of interest with you. The possibilities are only limited by your imagination and willingness to share and serve.

Finally, the discernment goals -

In each of the areas of the 6 identified goals, you felt as though we've really not tapped into our greater potential here. We need to continue to find ways to widen member participation in the ministries and mission of the church. We still need work on being more visible in the community. One person commented that we should have a visible presence at every major community event. I agree. And it will take us working together to accomplish that goal. You did indicate that you felt congregation-wide communication was improving as were increased opportunities for outreach in the community. Yet your scores indicated that these two are areas that need enhancement and further development.

The area of greatest potential as well as challenge is in effective means of reaching out and inviting younger families with children and young adults and bringing them into the life of the congregation and into a deeper faith connection with God in Christ. Bear in mind that you filled out this survey prior to the launch of our contemporary worship service. While this is not the cure all for what ails us, it is a wonderful step in the right direction. It is one that needs your fervent prayers that God will use that service to touch and change lives and bring the stranger in. And pray too for that next step, whatever it may look like, that causes us to grow in our ministry towards folks in these age groups and life experiences.

We shall never (on this earth) reach perfection. Yet we are called to strive toward it each and every day. There are things we're pretty good at and other areas where we really need some work. The same can be said of any church or organization of people. So, now you have the information. Now you know what you said about yourselves as the body of Christ. So, let's start talking, sharing ideas, considering new ways of proclaiming the good news of redemption in Jesus the Christ. I am confident that in so doing, seeds will be planted; and they will be nurtured and take root and grow.

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Laura

P.S. A summary of the scores and comments from this survey will be made available through the church office for anyone who would like to see it.

Welcome Back to a Guest and Friend

This Sunday, we will have a joint adult Sunday School class out in the Family Life Center. We will have a guest teacher, the Reverend John Cunyus. John is an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and is actively involved in a new translation project of the scriptures from the Latin Vulgate (the very first "translation") to English. John will speak in Sunday School on "What is in the Bible?" And for our further blessing, John will preach the morning message in the 11:00 am service. His message is entitled "What Does a Bible Translator Believe?" Let's come, welcome John and learn from his work and experience and faith.



WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY!

This past Sunday, Melissa Graham and her two daughters, Sophie and Laura-Cate Graham-Newton came forward and placed their membership with us. Melissa is an ordained Disciples minister and her husband, Jim Newton, is an ordained Methodist minister. Jim currently pastors the United Methodist Congregation in White Rock. Jim, Melissa and the girls live in Grandview. Welcome! We are so glad to have you.

PRAY PRAY PRAY



January 17 we will begin a study of Evelyn Christenson's book *What Happens When Women Pray*. Won't you join us, once or forever, whenever you please!

We meet weekly for a few minutes of fellowship, a short study and prayer - 9:00 am on Sunday mornings in the old kitchen of the Education Wing.

All are always welcome.

THE SAFEST PLACE

HOW TO STAY SAFE IN THE WORLD TODAY

1. Avoid riding in automobiles because they are responsible for 20% of all fatal accidents.
2. Do not stay home because 17% of all accidents occur in the home.
3. Avoid walking on streets or sidewalks because 14% of all accidents occur to pedestrians.
4. Avoid traveling by air, rail or water because 16% of all accidents involve these forms of transportation.
5. Of the remaining 33%, 32% of all deaths occur in hospitals. SO...above all else, avoid hospitals! BUT, You will be pleased to learn that only .001% of all deaths occur in worship services **in church**, and these are usually related to previous physical disorders. Therefore, logic tells us that the **safest** place for you to be at any given point in time is at church! And Bible study is safe too. The percentage of deaths during Bible study is even less. So - attend church and read your Bible-It could save your life!!



DISCIPLES WOMEN MEETING

Thursday, January 14th

7:00 PM

Family Life Center

All the women of the church are invited to attend the next Disciples Women meeting this Thursday. Disciples Men are invited to join us for a light supper - soup and cornbread.

We will have the installation of officers for 2010. New officers include President, Marion Higginbotham; Vice President, LaVerne McGowen; Secretary, Juanice Wichterich; Treasurer, Ann Gartman; Study and Worship, Barbara Bond; Hospitality, Sandra Hay; and Parliamentarian/Past President, Kathy Welch.

Remember your offering and cancelled stamps for St. Francis Village.

If you need a nursery, call Kathy Welch before Wednesday, January 13.

NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF RELIGION

Four centuries ago, the Inquisition sentenced an Italian to death for suggesting that there may be life beyond the Earth. Now, the Vatican has assembled 30 scientists to study just such a possibility.

A Vatican spokesman says there is no contradiction between a belief in God and the belief that humans might have "brothers" in outer space.



A Sunday School teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to "Honor thy father and thy mother", she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without missing a beat, one little boy answered, "Thou shall not kill."

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH DISCIPLES WOMEN RETREAT



NOVEMBER, 2009 DISCIPLES CROSSING IN ATHENS, TEXAS



The women of First Christian Church, Burleson, along with friends and family, traveled to Disciples Crossing in Athens, Texas for a weekend of study, song and fellowship. Those attending were Barbara Bond, Mary Bryan, Linda Cronenberg, Lolly Ellis, Laurel Fritz, Ann Gartman, Kaye Gregory, Tiffanie Gregory, Marion Higginbotham, Beth Hindman, Margie Lile, Becky Marbut, Michelle McCrory, LaVerne McGowen, Faye McLaren, Mindy Preston, Cobette Riza, Ruth Ann Rosenthal, M'Lee Turner, Juanice Wichterich, and Brenda Yowell.

