

FIRST CHRISTIAN TIMES

First Christian Church (Disciples Of Christ)

Monday, December 8, 2008



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:

Early Worship	8:15 AM
Sunday School	10:00 AM
Traditional Worship	11:00 AM
Youth Fellowship	5:00 PM

Telephone:

817-295-4123

Fax:

817-295-0750

Website: www.fccburleson.org

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

Dr. Laura Odiorne, Pastor

(817) 295-5538 - Home Phone

E-Mail: pastor@fccburleson.org

Terri Lester, Secretary

E-Mail: terri@fccburleson.org

A NOTE FROM PASTOR LAURA

This past weekend was kind of a blur for me. I found myself going from one activity to another to another. Perhaps your Christmas season is feeling a bit "full" as well. By Sunday night, I was pooped out. Yet it was a good kind of tired. I reflected on some of the events over the weekend and each one was an example of being church at its best.

On Saturday morning I went to the training for Holiday Friends. As most of you know, Holiday Friends is sponsored by Harvest House and provides a day of festivities, a home-cooked meal with full table service, clothes, gifts and Christmas dinner for members of our community who are struggling financially and might not otherwise have a festive Christmas. We learned that there will be over 300 volunteers to make the event a success. These volunteers come from some 20 churches in the community, across denominational lines to be the love of Christ to those in need.

Then Saturday evening I joined our Wednesday morning Bible Study group who, for the second year in a row, provided hot cocoa and cookies to the parade watchers that gather around our church property. No donations were solicited. It was merely a gesture of love and hospitality to our friends and neighbors in the community.

Perhaps the most amazing feat happened Sunday afternoon. Approximately 30 people gathered in our family life center to assemble the cookie decorating kits that we are providing and serving at the Holiday Friends event next Saturday, December 13. We had to remove cold, hard frosting from 35 gallon tubs, soften it, dye it and then put portions into 2 ounce containers with lids. We also had to put a serving of rainbow sprinkles into 2 ounce containers with lids. We had to put 2 cookies in a Ziploc bag. Then in a larger sack, we put the cookies, a container of frosting, a container of sprinkles and a craft stick for spreading. We did this 700 TIMES!!! That's right, we made 700 cookie kits - in an hour and a half...unbelievable. The cheer and laughter and chatting that was going on made this task, this work seem more like fun. And knowing the cheer it would bring to children in our community made it worth every effort.

I want to say thank you to all who made this busy weekend possible. I pray for a moment of quiet for each of us here and there in the coming days, and the joy of the season to dwell deep within your hearts...and mine.

In Christ,
Pastor Laura



PRAY PRAY PRAY

Use PRAYER to make God a part of your life each day.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

November 30, 2008 - Early	9
Traditional	72
December 7, 2008 - Early	8
Traditional	85

Offering **11/30/08**

Gen. Fund	2,543.00
Build. Fund	847.00
Thanksgiving Offering	20.00

Offering **12/07/08**

Gen. Fund	3,600.00
Build. Fund	1,107.00

Visitors and Guests



Marlene Baysinger; Bob Lee; Helen Ruffin & Austin & Gina Kirscht in the early service.

Iris Wilson; Greta Eller; Beth Gregory; Caleb Estes; Leslie LaLonde; Carl & Betty Ludtke; Robert & Virginia Popiel; Bernie & Mary DeSessa; Ken & Hyacinth Hall; Susan DeSessa; Marjorie Armstrong; Nevil Williamson; Nicholas Williamson; Gabie Williamson; Dea Williamson; Lexis Cook; Mackenzie Williamson & 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.

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2008

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2008

6:30 PM Disciples Women Christmas Party-
Lolly Ellis' Home

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2008

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - JOY

8:15 AM Chapel Service (C)
9:00 AM Prayer Group (E)
10:00 AM Sunday School & Children's Nativity Practice
11:00 AM Choir Christmas Special (S)
4:00 PM Youth Caroling & Dinner Out

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2008

6:00 PM Disciples Men Caroling-Meet at church

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2008

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2008

7:00 PM Board Meeting/New Officers & New Board Meeting (FLC)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2008

9:00 AM Children's Nativity Practice (S)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2008

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - LOVE

8:15 AM Chapel Service (C)
9:00 AM Prayer Group (E)
9:00 AM WINGS Sunday School Class Christmas Breakfast - Gregory's Home
10:00 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship (S)
6:00 PM Children's Pageant & Festival

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2008

9:00 AM Newsletter Published

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

Attention Parents, Children and Youth!!!!

WE NEED YOUR HELP. Sunday, December 21 at 6:00 pm is our Nativity Program and Advent Festival. This Sunday, December 14, we will have a short practice during the first half of Sunday School and then on Saturday, December 20, we will have our dress rehearsal at 9:00 am. We need your presence at both of these times so that we can prepare and share the story of Christ's birth. We are in need of many people to play many parts. Costuming is simple and we will have a couple of narrators who will do the speaking. The rest of the participants create the scene in the stable and manger. We are asking each family that comes to bring a snack dish or a treat to share during the festival. Please make every effort to be present and willing to participate in this special event in our church's life. If you have any questions, please call the church office or e-mail Pastor Laura at pastor@fccburleson.org.



PLEASE REMEMBER TO TURN OFF ALL LIGHTS AND CHECK TO MAKE SURE ALL DOORS ARE LOCKED BEFORE YOU LEAVE. THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL INSTANCES WHEN THE DOORS HAVE BEEN LEFT UNLOCKED AND BATHROOM LIGHTS HAVE BEEN LEFT ON OVERNIGHT. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP IN THIS MATTER.





The Power of Prayer

CONCERNS:

Pastor Laura's Grandmother - comfort following Pastor Laura's grandfather's death.
 Charles Rader, a friend of the Johnson's passed away.
 John Higginbotham has a doctor appointment this week.
 Judy Isom's friend, Patsy - her mom and grandma are in Hospice care.
 Kristie Tableman, Chris Cooper's niece, is pregnant with twins and ordered to stay home.
 The Gunn's have 2 daughters who are ill.
 Prayers for those losing jobs and homes. Prayers for our country and our economy.
 Remember those who have a hard time during the Christmas season.

JOYS:

Juanell Miller, Gina Kirscht's aunt, is in rehab at a nursing home and progressing well.
 Flora Roe has a new great grandson, Ian.
 Tommy Bonds ran the Fort Worth Jingle Bell run in 26 minutes on December 6th.
 Kim Bonds has a new job.

Continued Prayers for

Dick Nash, Steve McGee, Darlene Pettis, Our country's leaders and world leaders

Our own military people:

Staff Sgt. Ky B. Gregory, Lt Col Steve Storch, Wesley Hayley, Brenda Wiegert, Staff Sgt. Matthew Land, Jennifer Ross, Specialist Andrew McGee, Fireman James McGee

It is wonderful to be a part of such a loving caring church family! Disciples Women decided to furnish sweat shirts and pants to victims of crime through the Burleson Police Department Victim's Assistance program, as a special way of Christmas giving. From our group of women and others in the congregation who helped, we collected 26 complete suits. Matthew 25:36 says "I needed clothes and you clothed me..." (score one for the sheep!) Thanks to everyone who helped share God's love in our community!



Barbara Bond
 Service Chair, Disciples Women

The Wellness Ministry will take a short break for the holidays and continue on Sunday, January 4th at 6:30 pm. Please plan on joining us in the new year!!



WINGS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST

If you have been a part of the WINGS (Walking In God's Spirit) Sunday School class this year, you are invited to a Christmas breakfast at our home on Sunday, December 21 at 9:00 am. Bring your spouse and kiddos, too. Let us know if you can come so we'll have enough goodies. Our address is 525 Berkshire Court, Burleson. Our phone number is 817-295-0009 and e-mail is JackGregoryJr@aol.com Hope to see you there.

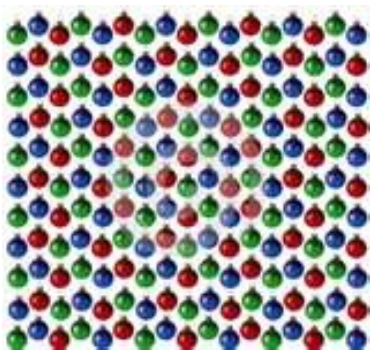
Jack & Kaye Gregory

DISCIPLES WOMEN CHRISTMAS PARTY

All women of the church and their guests are invited to attend our annual Christmas Party on December 11 at 6:30 pm at Lolly Ellis' home, 2020 Trailwood Drive, Burleson. Directions to Lolly's house are: from I-35W southbound, exit Hidden Creek/Briar Oaks, drive south on the service road passing under the Hidden Creek overpass. Turn right on Tarver Rd. (This is the first road after Hidden Creek). Go to the second stop sign and turn left on Ward Lane. Turn right on Trailwood Dr. (the first street), and 2020 Trailwood Dr. is the 8th house on the right. There are lights on the fence and Santa is out front welcoming everyone! If you get lost Lolly's phone number is 817-295-5705.

Lolly and Mary Bryan are the hostesses. Bring a pot luck dish, a \$5 Christmas ornament for our exchange game, and your offering. Because we are not meeting at the church, a nursery will not be provided for this evening.

Part of our short business meeting will be electing officers for 2009. A slate of new officers was presented at the November meeting: President-Kathy Welch, Vice-President-LaVerne McGowen, Secretary-Jane Ann McGowen, Treasurer-Ann Gartman, Worship and Study-Vicki Rubis, Hospitality-Beverly Sholders, and Parliamentarian/Past President-Kaye Gregory.



In order to maximize the safety of the children in the daycare, we ask all FCC members to come to our double doors and ring the doorbell. If we don't hear the doorbell, please knock really hard on the door or please call us to come to the door. Thanks for your help in this matter.



DISCIPLES MEN CAROLING

Disciples Men will be caroling on Tuesday, December 16th. We will meet at the church and leave at 6:00 pm. All men that want to participate are welcome. It's fun and a joy not just for the people we visit, but a real blessing for the carolers. If we have time after the caroling, we will eat at Dairy Twin. Please make plans to join us. If you have any questions, please call Steve Rubis 817-295-8263.



NOTES FROM THE WORLD OF RELIGION

The Pittsburgh Diocese of the Episcopal Church has voted overwhelmingly to split with the Episcopal Church. It is one of the largest defections in a controversy that has split the church in various parts of the country. The largely conservative Pittsburgh Diocese does not believe in the appointment of openly gay bishops. The Pittsburgh Diocese is now estranged from the U.S. church and more in tune with the world-wide Anglican Communion which claims 77-million members.

Our Christmas Offerings support our Regional Ministries. With the gifts they receive, Regional Ministries support congregations through:

- ⇒ Planning, visioning, pastoral care and conflict management
- ⇒ Empowering leaders through workshops, resources and networking
- ⇒ Strengthening ministry through calling new ministers
- ⇒ Licensing, ordaining and maintaining current ministers
- ⇒ Growing faithful Disciples through camps, conferences, youth ministries and ministries to men and women
- ⇒ Providing outreach through establishing new congregations, eradicating racism, sharing in mission with projects and trips, and ecumenical partnerships



Please prayerfully consider giving a Christmas Offering to support our Regional Ministries.