

FIRST CHRISTIAN TIMES

First Christian Church (Disciples Of Christ)

Monday, January 12, 2009



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

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Website: www.fccburleson.org

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

Dr. Laura Odiorne, Pastor

(817) 295-5538 - Home Phone

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Terri Lester, Secretary

E-Mail: terri@fccburleson.org

A NOTE FROM PASTOR LAURA

Your Opinion is Wanted...

Many of you are aware that back in the Fall I wrote a letter to the editor in response to a regular column in the Burleson Star. In that particular column, I found areas that seemed to me to be fostering animosity between people and yet doing so under a Christian perspective.

Usually when I disagree with something, I do so privately and move on. That time, however, I felt compelled to respond. What you don't know is that the editors of the Burleson Star, in less than two hours from receiving my letter by e-mail, they invited me to write a regular column for the paper. They offered me the option of weekly, twice or once a month, whatever I chose. I told them I would give it consideration. I met with them, learned of their rules and guidelines for what subjects are to be avoided in regular columns and told them I would probably accept their offer.

But then, as I reflected on the varied responses that came in (some directly and some indirectly) from members of my own congregation, I began to have some reservations. My initial positive response to the offer was in thinking what a good opportunity for exposure for the congregation, through my writing, to the larger community. Then I began to ask, "Will I have to face scrutiny and criticism from within with every article I write?" "Will I have to be so very careful when I write that it becomes laborious for me and not something I enjoy?" If that were the case, then my energy is better spent elsewhere.

So, what I need to know from you, my church family, is this: Do you want this opportunity for exposure for the church? Are you willing to accept that I will follow the rules of the newspaper and avoid inflammatory subjects, but also accept that you may not agree with me 100 percent on every thing I write in a column? And can you be okay with not loving everything I say without feeling the need to complain about it every time we might disagree?

I need your honest answers. Call me. E-mail me. Write me a note. Send a carrier pigeon. It's your choice and your chance to weigh in. Let me know how you feel. Your opinion is important to me and I don't want to make this decision without it.

In the love of Christ Jesus,
Pastor Laura

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

December 28, 2008 -	Early	8
	Traditional	72
January 4, 2009 -	Early	5
	Traditional	76
January 11, 2009 -	Early	8
	Traditional	83

Offering **12/28/08**

Gen. Fund	2,651.00
Build. Fund	907.00

Offering **1/04/09**

Gen. Fund	1,909.00
Build. Fund	332.00
CLOTH Fund	25.00

Offering **1/11/09**

Gen. Fund	2,849.00
Build. Fund	935.00
Memorial-John Barr	25.00

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2009

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2009

7:00 PM	Board Meeting (FLC)
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SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2009

8:15 AM	Chapel Service (C)
9:00 AM	Prayer Group (E)
10:00 AM	Sunday School
11:00 AM	Worship (S)
6:30 PM	Wellness Ministry (FLC)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2009

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2009

8:15 AM	Chapel Service (C)
9:00 AM	Prayer Group (E)
10:00 AM	Sunday School
11:00 AM	Worship (S)
TBD	Joint Board/Cabinet Meeting (FLC)

MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2009

9:00 AM	Newsletter Published
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(E) Education (C) Chapel
(S) Sanctuary (FLC) Family Life Center

Visitors and Guests



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

Leslie Lalonde; Harue Yokeley; Greta Eller; Imogene Cottman; Iris Wilson; John Canyus; Robert & Virginia Popiel; Roy & Linda

Cronenberg; Bernie & Mary DeSessa; Caleb Estes; Kenny, Jane & Molly English; John & Mary Tableman; Juanita Stewart; Marjorie Armstrong; Stephanie Preston & 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.

PRAY PRAY PRAY



Your only job is to let Jesus love you, do the best you can pretty much of the time, and be willing to Listen - PRAY!

A change in Location -

Starting Monday, January 12, Pastor Laura will try working from home on Mondays. She will try this for about six weeks and then evaluate its effectiveness. It is her hope that with that quiet day at home she will get a lot of her reading and writing preparation completed for sermons and Sunday School lessons and other writing projects, thus leaving her other days in the office more flexible and more available for visits both in and out of the office. So if you stop by the church on Monday, know that you won't see the pastor in her office, but she will be working - just from home. You can still stop by Tuesdays through Thursdays and probably catch her in if you want to sit a while and visit.

JUST A REMINDER...

Please turn off the lights when you leave a room/bathroom even if you are not the last one in the building. There have been several instances in the last few weeks where the lights have been left on all night particularly in the bathrooms. So please help us be good stewards and remember to turn off the lights when you leave!



Thanks for your help!



The Power of Prayer

CONCERNS:

Jane Rudolf is bruised from a car wreck. Her car was totaled.

Nelda Boots has fallen a few times recently.

Bonnie DePratter has been ill.

Jane Ann McGowen's mom has an open wound on her leg that is not healing.

Iris Wilson's son-in-law's brother, Aaron, is having health problems.

Ryan Odiorne's cousin, Michael O'Kelley, had a heart attack. He is 39 years old.

John Barr passed away on January 3, 2009. Prayers for Dolores and family.

The Isom family following the death of Judy's nephew.

Violence in the Gaza area - innocent victims.

Pat Gerstner, Len Gerstner's mother passed away in Hays, Kansas.

Steve & Diana McGee's son, Steven and his wife Patti, are expecting their first child in September.

James McGee is engaged to be married.

Julie Mulson's sister has been placed in hospice. Julie is Judy Isom's friend.

Prayers for Cody Gregory's roommate.

Lauren Bond who gave birth to a still born baby boy last week. Lauren is a teacher at Kerr Middle School.

Sheila Whilte, whose husband was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and given a short time to live.

Lisa LaFleur, whose father died last week.

Darlene Jones, whose brother took his life last week.

JOYS:

The whole McGee clan was together for Christmas!

The current Burleson Now articles about Bernice Williams and Rodger Isom.

Roy & Linda Cronenberg came forward Sunday, January 11th and transferred their membership to our family of faith.

Our General Minister and President, Rev. Sharon Watkins, has been selected to give the sermon at the National Day of Prayer in Washington, D.C. the day after the inauguration. She is the first woman selected to lead the service. She also is the first woman selected to lead the Disciples Church.

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, 3rd Class Petty Officer James McGee

YOUTH CORNER

There was a very productive conversation and ideas shared at the youth meeting on Sunday night. Thanks to those who participated. We would still like to get feedback from those of you who didn't have a chance to come. Look for some form of communication from Pastor Laura and please take the time to respond. There is no youth activity scheduled for Sunday, the 18th, but we will be working hard on getting some opportunities for fellowship, service and more on the calendar, on the website and through other means of communication. Be ready!

THANK YOU!

I wish to thank all who made the Christmas Eve Service special by their participation. Carol for her beautiful "O Holy Night", Tommy and Jack for a memorable "Silent Night", Bill & Carol for a meaningful lighting of the Advent candles, Bill Sholders and Marion for a moving communion, Barbara for an inspiring prayer, Richard for great lighting effects, Genna for wonderful music, and Bethany and James for a smooth handling of the candles. I have had many good comments about the service, and it was all of you who made that possible.

Larry Womack



Thank you for the clothing donation to our victim's assistance program. Victim's Assistance often responds to situations in which people are in need of comfort. We appreciate your support of this important program.

We appreciate your kindness and consideration. Please let me know if we can ever be of assistance.

Sincerely,
Tom Cowan, Chief of Police
Burleson Police Department

Dear Church Family,
Just a note to thank you for your prayers, your love and kindness. We thank you for the spiritual connection we know and feel even when we are apart. A gentle touch, a squeeze of the hand, a genuine hug, you are always there for us. Each week, James and I go to clean and offer up prayers on behalf of all the church leaders and members and little children. We pray for goodness and mercy for all. We are honored by your generosity this Holy Season. Thank you very much.

Our Love,
James & Mary Penney

Members of First Christian Church,

Thank you for the Christmas bonus. I appreciate it very much.

You folks at First Christian are so thoughtful and generous! It's a pleasure to work for such people, and I enjoy the children whom I care for on Sunday mornings.

I pray that God will bless you all,
Lori Kiper

NOTES FROM THE WORLD OF RELIGION

A California court has ruled the dioceses that withdrew from the U.S. Episcopal Church cannot retain title to their churches and property. The ruling could affect other dioceses in Fort Worth, Pittsburgh and Quincy, Illinois, which have also withdrawn from the Episcopal Church. A spokesman for the Fort Worth diocese says he thinks the ruling will have little effect in Texas. The U.S. church has lost members in a controversy over the ordination of a gay bishop and gay priests.

In London, advertisements on the sides of 800 buses are causing a new argument over the existence of God. The advertisements, sponsored by an atheist group, read "There probably is no God. Now stop worrying and enjoy your life". Among a storm of criticism by Christian groups is one in favor of the ads. The Methodist church in England says the ads at least will start a discussion about God, and that's good.