

FIRST CHRISTIAN TIMES

First Christian Church (Disciples Of Christ)
Monday, June 23, 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) 282-0184-Home Phone

E-Mail: pastor@fccburleson.org

Terri Lester, Secretary

E-Mail: terri@fccburleson.org

A NOTE FROM PASTOR LAURA

I've spent a lot of time this past week researching resources to help us live into one of our discernment goals. This material addresses how congregations handle conflict and how they communicate and treat one another. As you recall, it was one of our goals to gain some new skills and strength in this particular area. I've read some very interesting things.

One disturbing but true observation that I read was in Gilbert Rendle's book *Behavioral Covenants in Congregations*. In Rendle's book he writes that we live in a "culture of incivility". His assertion was that our society is in a particularly unpleasant place in a repeated cultural cycle. He says we've been there before, but this culture of incivility is one where people are more self-centered, aggressive and even mean-spirited. The author goes on to write that too often in congregations we default and defer to the behavior of the culture around us as the norm and so that same behavior slips into the church.

He also writes that when we find ourselves in this situation, it is the common reaction within the congregation to look backward to some perceived golden era where King David was on the throne and all was right with the world and that if we just work hard enough, we can get back to that place. That cannot and will not happen. We are where we are in time, in the world and in the culture. BUT - we can choose how we respond.

Rendle writes that it is a time that we as people of faith re-learn our core values, beliefs and commitments and that we let these shape a covenant with one another "to practice new behaviors that are based on our relationship with God". He goes on to say that "Congregations and their leaders need to claim their own space and identity in a culture that is currently living in ways that are somewhat incongruent with faith". He writes that amidst the cultural reality that we cannot hide from or deny, we need to look at the bigger picture and that as people of faith we ground our lives "in the practices and behaviors of our faith".

Rendle writes that when we find ourselves in difficult moments or moments of conflict within the church, instead of personalizing it and asking why I was treated this way, I need instead to ask "Should faithful people treat anyone like this?" It's a good book. Its subtitle is *A Handbook for Honoring Differences*. I am particularly drawn to that word "honor". What a witness we can offer if we learn to handle conflict when it arises with honor, openness and integrity. All the better if we practice it here and then take it out with us in the world where others can see it.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Laura

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

June 15, 2008 - Early	10
Traditional	88
June 22, 2008 - Early	5
Traditional	81

Offering **6/08/08**

Gen. Fund	2,104.00
Build. Fund	479.00

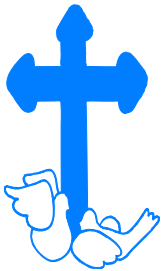
Offering **6/15/08**

Gen. Fund	1,714.00
Build. Fund	712.00

Offering **6/22/08**

Gen. Fund	1,877.00
Build. Fund	372.00
May Recycle	19.38

Visitors and Guests



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

Jessica Eggleston; Carl Burrese; Carl & Betty Ludtke; Gary & Stacey Hay; Len, Diane & Shelby Gerstner; Sam; Bernie, Susan, Brea & Sarah DeSessa; Kurt, Sandra, Jacob & Leah Voss; V.J. Stuart; Robert & Virginia Popiel; & 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.

THANK YOU!

First Christian Church,

Thank you very much for always receiving us with open arms. We're so glad and happy for having a great church to visit every time we visit Burleson. God Bless you and care for all of you today and always.

With Love,
Ivelisse, Juan Luis, Alanna Camille & Juan Diego Morales



Thank you to my church family for the prayers, cards and phone calls. Your caring acts and words helped me through an extremely difficult time.

I love you all,
Needra Womack

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 2008

No Ladies Bible Study this week

6:45 PM Choir Practice (S)

SUNDAY, JUNE 29, 2008

8:15 AM Early Service (C)

10:00 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM Traditional Worship (S)

3:15 PM Youth to the Odiorne's Home

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 2008

9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study (Foyer)

6:45 PM Choir Practice (S)

FRIDAY, JULY 4, 2008

9:00 AM Burleson Fourth of July Parade

Church Office Closed

SUNDAY, JULY 6, 2008

HARVEST HOUSE SUNDAY

8:15 AM Early Service (C)

10:00 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM Traditional Worship (S)

5:00 PM Youth Fellowship

6:30 PM Wellness Ministry Meeting (FLC)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2008

9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study (Foyer)

6:45 PM Choir Practice

THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2008

7:00 PM Disciples Women Meeting (FLC)

7:00 PM Disciples Men Meeting (C)

SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2008

8:15 AM Early Service (C)

10:00 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM Traditional Worship (S)

12:00 PM Sandwich Luncheon (FLC)

5:00 PM Youth Fellowship

MONDAY, JULY 14, 2008

9:00 AM Newsletter Published



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



SAVE THE DATE!

2008 CCSW REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
REFRESH & REJOICE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2008
University Christian Church & TCU
Fort Worth, Texas



PRAY PRAY PRAY PRAY

PRAYER is the way to stay in love with God!



The Power of Prayer

CONCERNS:

Flooding & tornado victims in the Mid-West.

Mary Medwick, Mike Rubis' sister, passed away. Please pray for the family.

The Gregory family is so grateful. Jeremy Mitchell, nephew and Jack Sr.'s grandson, and his family are safe following a car fire. They were beginning their vacation to Arkansas and here. Everything they had with them burned, but everyone got out safely.

Cash Austin Alumbaugh, the son of good friends of the DePratter's, passed away following a motorcycle accident. He was 18 years old. Please pray for his family and friends.

Jane Ann McGowen's mom is through with her cancer treatments and is hoping for good test results.

Loree Lewis, Juanice Wichterich and Ann Gartman's sister, is having colon surgery.

Pastor Laura's grandfather is hospitalized in Colorado, and he is improving.

Kim Lenz, Flora Roe's daughter will have a cyst removed on Friday. Prayers for swift healing and a good report.

Penny Enoch's cousin - heart surgery

Penny Enoch's friend's son needs a lung transplant.

Our Youth at Youth Camp

Judy Isom's friend's son has kidney cancer.

A classmate of James McGee committed suicide. Prayers for classmates and the family.

JOYS:

Congratulations to Leah Voss - A+ average for the year, A Honor Roll and Top Reader!

"Joy to be a father when you have a family like mine." Steve McGee

Bryson Bonds won 1 place and two 2nd place ribbons, and Bethany Bonds won three 1st place ribbons at a swim meet. Both Bryson & Bethany have qualified for the state swim meet in July.

Jack & Kaye Gregory leave Wednesday morning for Okinawa. They will be gone 3 weeks. Prayers for a safe journey.

Continued Prayers for

Jerry Yowell, Dick Nash, Steve McGee, Donna Jenkins, Nelda Bruce, Our country's leaders and world leaders

Our own military people:

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

YOUTH SWIM PARTY SUNDAY, JUNE 29TH At the Odiorne's Home



We will go to the community pool for swimming and have a cook out.

Bring your sunscreen, towels, etc. and as always friends are welcome. An RSVP by Wednesday, June 25th would be helpful so that we have enough food for everybody. You can call the church office or send an e-mail to terri@fccburleson.org.

We will meet at the church at 3:15 pm and return about 7:00 pm.

The following quote came from
Sojourners Magazine:

"Of the Seven Deadly Sins, anger is possibly the most fun. To lick your wounds, to smack your lips over grievances long past, to roll over your tongue the prospect of bitter confrontations still to come, to savor to the last toothsome morsel both the pain you are given and the pain you are giving back - in many ways it is a feast fit for a king. The chief drawback is that what you are wolfing down is yourself. The skeleton at the feast is you."

-Frederick Buechner
Wishful Thinking

On Memorial Day Sunday, some were disappointed, hurt or even angry at the lack of recognition for our men and women in the armed forces who have given their lives to protect our freedom. While our musicians played some very rousing and lively music to recognize the occasion, we had no congregational singing on that theme and it was not mentioned during our congregational prayer time. It came to my attention before and during the last Pastor Parish Relations Committee meeting that some folks were upset. I want to address two things.

The first is I want to say I am sorry I hurt or offended anyone by my omission. I want to let you know that it was by accident and not by intention. I care very deeply for our soldiers. Some of you may not know this but about 5 years ago I even began the process of becoming an army chaplain. I was disqualified for medical reasons. I was very disappointed at the time, but can see where God has blessed me by bringing me here. I guess what I'm trying to tell you is that I have enormous appreciation and gratitude for those who go and serve in our nation's military and place themselves in harm's way for you and for me. I also want you to know that I am making some slight changes to the way I use my planning resources so that I won't overlook those important occasions in the life of our nation that may not show up on a church worship planning calendar.

The second observation I want to make is that only one of the people who was upset about it actually came and talked to me directly. Others went and told someone else. So any real knowledge of who I upset is limited and I cannot apologize to anyone directly. Those who relayed the feelings and concerns to me can attest to the fact that I was receptive, I listened, and willingly admitted my mistake and willingness to learn from it. I am disappointed that we are not yet in a healthier pattern of communication where we can all be honest with each other and speak the truth in love. This is key to congregational health and something we must begin to practice. Even though time seems to move on, it would mean a lot to me if those of you who were upset would come to me and tell me. It would be a good exercise in honest, face-to-face Christian reconciliation.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Laura

DISCIPLES WOMEN MEETING

All women of the church and their guests are invited to attend the next Disciples Women meeting on July 10 at 7:00 pm in the Family Life Center.

We will be sharing refreshments with the Disciples Men.

The study and worship will be presented by Betty Wheeler.

The business meeting will follow. Remember to bring feminine products for Harvest House, cancelled stamps for St. Francis Village (cut out with only 1/4" envelope around the stamp) and your offering. If you have a July birthday, bring a penny for each year.

In addition, we are collecting blessing box money. The blessing box is an over and above offering given out of gratitude for blessings and collected yearly. These offerings are given to the Department of Church Women and are earmarked for Basic Mission Finance.

If you need a nursery, call Diane Chilton at 817-426-6194 before that night so arrangements can be made.

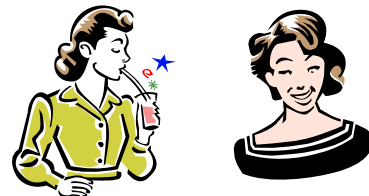
LOOKING AHEAD:

August 9-10 - Vacation Bible Camp

August 14 - 6:30 pm Next Disciples Women meeting: A swim party and pot luck at Onita Holton's home

September 14 - Dessert Auction (Noon)

October 31-November 2 - Our Retreat in Athens



NOTES FROM THE WORLD OF RELIGION

The internet encyclopedia Wikipedia is sponsoring a free-wheeling version of the Bible, using volunteers from around the world in translating the Bible's source texts. For example, a seminary student in Australia has taken on translating the 13th chapter of First Corinthians. Some of the translators claim to be trained in classical Hebrew and Greek, but others say they are without qualifications of any kind. The translation is expected to take a few years. But critics say it took 20 years for scholars to come up with the New Revised Standard Edition, and one scholar says he already has found errors in the Wikipedia translation of Genesis, and that the process will be a biased mess.

Bart Ehrman, a professor of religious studies at the University of North Carolina, says that in the middle ages someone added 12 verses to the Gospel of Mark, not in the original source material.

The project promises to be a bitter battle among theologians.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

7/3 Ky Gregory, Jr.
 7/4 Mindy Luck
 7/7 Dottie Huddleston
 7/9 Natalie Rubis
 7/13 C.J. Stevenson
 7/17 Jack Ellis
 7/17 Sharon Matzner
 7/18 Richard Edmonds
 7/19 Bernice Williams
 7/19 Denise Kramer
 7/21 Jean Rubis
 7/21 Darlene Pettis
 7/25 Leann Maxwell
 7/26 Barbara Bond
 7/28 David Pulliam
 7/29 Tommy Kaker
 7/30 Caden Vastine



JULY HONORED TO SERVE

Worship Leader: Richard Bryan
Greeters: Richard Edmonds, Michelle McCrory
Acolyte Attendant: Michelle McCrory
Communion Preparation: Judy Isom
Attendance Books: Clint Bourland
Children's Sermon:
 06 Mary Bryan
 13 Diana McGee
 20 Rodger Isom
 27 Dorothy Nash
Scripture Reading:
 06 Richard Bryan
 13 Judy Isom
 20 Jerry Hay
 27 Cyndy Garrett
Deacon Team: Bill & Carol Gunn,
 Chris Cooper, Michelle McCrory
Serving at the Table: Faye McLaren, Burt Bond
Children's Church:
 06 Ann Gartman
 13 Bobby & Suzanne Barton
 20 Kim Bonds
 27 LaVerne/Jane Ann McGowen

DISCOVERY CONFERENCE REPORT - STRATEGIC ISSUES

(Challenges/Opportunities)

This is an important moment in the life of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest. Our regional transformation journey - *New Day, New Direction* - is helping us hear God's call to ministry for this time!

Through congregational Bible study, clergy dialogue, one-on-one interviews with clergy and lay leaders throughout the Region, twelve Discovery Conferences around the Region, much prayer and much shared conversation - the following list of four key strategic issues emerged. There are challenges(!)...and there are amazing opportunities.

We encourage you to lift up these strategic issues - both the challenges and the opportunities - in thoughtful prayer with leaders in your congregation. Now is the time to begin imagining the shape of the rich future towards which the Spirit calls us to move! We look forward to hearing from you as we continue in this process!

Challenge and Opportunity One: Vision, Purpose, Goals, Identity

Across the CCSW, it was clear: there is confusion about the Region's vision, purpose and goals, as well as confusion about the identity of CCSW. Is it a place and staff? A vendor of religious services and goods? Or a covenanted community called by God for mission?

Most persons do not know what vision is guiding the CCSW; there is a lack of clarity of purpose of what the region should be doing and why. This confusion about vision, purpose and goals disrupts the relationships that tie the Region, the Areas and the congregations together. A variety of understandings of church inform our thinking, expectations, and even our behavior. Without clarifying who we are as church - and the CCSW - we lack a crucial foundation for deciding our ministry and structure for the future. What might it mean for this Region to understand ourselves as an expression of church?

- If we, the Region, understand ourselves as a people called by God and sent on a mission - what new vision and structure might flow from that understanding? How would we relate to one another and our world?
- For what does this challenge and opportunity cause you to pray?

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DISCOVERY CONFERENCE REPORT - STRATEGIC ISSUES
(Challenges/Opportunities)
(Continued from Previous Page)

Challenge and Opportunity Two: Changing Context - Destabilizing Effects

Major changes in North American culture and the Southwest, in particular, have destabilized ministry and mission. The following items have changed the cultures and context in which we do ministry, as well as changing the congregations that provide the ministry: a more secular society, race and class issues, immigration, lifestyles and the changing makeup of families, consumerism, changing neighborhoods and work environments, technology and weakened congregations. These are just some of the factors that have destabilized ministry and mission.

To be faithful in ministry, the Region - that is, all those members of Disciples congregations across the Region, as individuals and congregations - need to be adventurous and examine assumptions about what it means to be the body of Christ in this time and place.

- **What are some opportunities for Christian witness in today's culture?**
- **What is one new way you can image being church together for the sake of witness to Jesus Christ in today's culture?**
- **For what does this challenge and opportunity cause you to pray?**

Challenge and Opportunity Three: Connection with One Another

Across the CCSW, in congregations and Areas, we sense that we are losing connection with one another. A "sense of community" is disappearing across the Region; we have lost our understanding of being family. More often than not, congregations are going their own separate ways without considering making connection even with nearby congregations within the denomination. The various ways that autonomy and covenant play out are certainly perceived as contributing factors to this distance.

Yet, when we do gather and create a common story, we find joy in our connection and long for more. As Disciples, we share a commitment to gather around an Open Table, to learn from one another's journeys, to engage in mission, and to celebrate the unity of the church. We find that we are so much stronger together than we are alone.

- **What would bring you joy - and a sense of being about God's work - as you imagine sharing ministry with other Disciples congregations in your geographic area?**
- **For what does this challenge and opportunity cause you to pray?**

Challenge and Opportunity Four: Communication - Central to Our Life Together

Ineffective communication has plagued the ministry and mission of the CCSW, especially in light of its size, diversity and complexity.

The lack of good communication is a common complaint concerning the ministry and mission of the CCSW. Faithful and fruitful ministry in the future will require improved information flow so that this complex Region can work cohesively; in addition, good communication is central to trust and collaboration. How can we embody the unifying ways of the Gospel?

- **What might your role be in rebuilding relationships between the Disciples near you? In your Area and across the Region?**
- **For what does this challenge and opportunity cause you to pray?**

Your *New Day, New Direction* Task Force hopes that you will ponder these strategic issues together with key leaders in your congregation. What we discovered is that most of these issues impact our own congregations, as well. Join us in praying for the mission and ministry to which God is calling us! AND...join us in conversation and imagining!

The *New Day, New Direction* Task Force: Jeff Billings, Todd Boddy, Jimmy G. Cobb, Susan Ellison, Chuck Fisher, Randy Frye, Frank Goldsmith, Neill Grimes, Celinda Hallbauer, Ruby H. Henry, Nathan Higginbotham, Charlotte Hoppe, Laurie Lewis, James McKibbin, Ray Ramos, Doug Roysden, Tony Salisbury, Bonnie Schuler, Brad Stagg, Dale Siemer, Dani Loving Cartwright.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

July 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Regular Sunday Activities: 8:15 AM - Early Worship 10:00 AM - Sunday School 11:00 AM - Traditional Worship Regular Wednesday Activities: 9:30 AM - Ladies Bible Study 6:45 PM - Choir Practice		1	2	3	4 9:00 AM - Fourth of July Parade 	5
6 HARVEST HOUSE SUNDAY 6:30 PM - Wellness Ministry (FLC)	7	8	9	10 7:00 PM - Disciples Women Meeting (FLC) 7:00 PM - Disciples Men Meeting (C)	11	12
13 12:00 PM - Sandwich Luncheon (FLC)	14 9:00 AM - Newsletter Published	15	16 12:00 PM - FCC Friends (Foyer)	17 7:00 PM - Board Meeting (E)	18	19
20 12:00 PM - Quarterly Cabi- net Meeting (FLC) 6:30 PM - Wellness Ministry (FLC)	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Trinity-Brazos Area JYF III Camp July 21-25					
27	28 9:00 AM - Newsletter Published	29	30	31		