

FIRST CHRISTIAN TIMES

First Christian Church (Disciples Of Christ)
Monday, November 24, 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

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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

This Sunday we begin our observation of the season of Advent. It is a time when we prepare our hearts to receive the Christ anew. Our God is a God of blessings and surprises. God seems to have an affinity for the unexpected. After all, who would have expected God to choose a young unmarried girl of a modest family to be the one to bear the Son of God. No royalty, no family or person of influence living in a big city or metropolitan area - but rather God chose to send the King of Kings and the Prince of Peace into the most humble of circumstance. And yet through that humble, quiet beginning began a revolution of love that would forever change the world.

As you and your loved ones begin this season at home, I encourage you to find ways to honor the Christ. Amidst the decorating, the parties, Christmas programs and concerts at school, find a place and time to pray together - to think and wonder what it must have been like for that Holy family to know that God wanted them (humble ones that they were) for a very great purpose and mission. What mission and purpose might God have for you, for your family, for this congregational family? Remember, God likes to work in unexpected ways.

This season, open your mind and your heart to the unexpected. Who knows, you just might hear the call of God in your life, and you might also hear angels singing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to all people."

Advent Peace,
Pastor Laura

JUST AROUND THE CORNER....

The new year will be here before you know it. And with it comes new opportunities to serve. In January at the congregational fellowship meal, we will have a ministry fair. Each of the ministry teams will have a simple display highlighting some of their different ministry activities and places where you can serve. But even before that, the incoming and outgoing Board Chair will be working with the pastor to find persons to lead those ministry teams. Please be in prayer that if you are asked to serve, God will give you the heart to say yes; and then trust that God will give you what you need to serve effectively and with joy.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

November 16, 2008 - Early	8
Traditional	73
November 23, 2008 - Early	7
Traditional	73

Offering **11/16/08**

Gen. Fund	1,412.00
Build. Fund	747.00
Thanksgiving Offering	40.00

Offering **11/23/08**

Gen. Fund	2,229.00
Build. Fund	427.00
Thanksgiving Offering	220.00
October Youth Recycle	74.66



Visitors and Guests

Marlene Baysinger & Bob Lee in the early service.

Iris Wilson; Carl Burrese; Harue Yokeley; Marjorie Armstrong; Greta Eller; Julie Lucido; Jeanie Ingram; Robert & Virginia Popiel; Carl & Betty Ludtke; Caleb & Donnie Estes; Lucas Wallace; Bernie & Mary DeSessa; Imogene Cottman; Eddie Lile; Sandy Brown Wallace; Lucy Brown; Donna & Morgen Wall; & 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, NOVEMBER 26, 2008

No Ladies Bible Study

No Choir Practice

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2008

HAPPY THANKSGIVING - Church Office Closed

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2008

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - HOPE

8:15 AM Chapel Service (C)

9:00 AM Prayer Group (E)

10:00 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM Worship (S)

4:30 PM Youth Holiday Treats & Movie (FLC)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2008

9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study (Foyer)

7:00 PM Choir Practice (S)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2008

9:00 AM Prayer Group Meeting (E)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2008

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - PEACE

HARVEST HOUSE SUNDAY

8:15 AM Chapel Service (C)

9:00 AM Elders' Meeting (E)

10:00 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM Worship (S)

12:00 PM Congregational Meeting (S)

4:00 PM Assemble Cookie Kits (FLC)

6:30 PM Wellness Ministry (FLC)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2008

9:00 AM Newsletter Published

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

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SET FOR DECEMBER 7TH FOLLOWING THE 11:00 AM WORSHIP TO:

Approve 2009 Proposed Budget
Elect 2009 Board Members and Deacons
Approve tithe of Gas Lease signing bonus



PRAY PRAY PRAY

PRAYER takes us into God's presence, shows us His will, and prepares us to obey Him.



The Power of Prayer

CONCERNS:

Dana, Bonnie & Doyle DePratter's daughter is having a medical procedure.

Angela Kaker's co-worker had her car stolen. The car was found but her wallet was gone.

Mary Beth Brookins, Kaye Gregory's aunt, has Alzheimer's complications.

Carl Burress' youngest daughter who is in college in Massachusetts is having her wisdom teeth removed.

Theresa Bosma, Ann Gartman's daughter, is recovering from mononucleosis.

Bill Sholders had a stint put in his heart.

Arthur Kirby, a co-worker of Ryan Odiorne, prays for Arthur's mother who is recovering from surgery for colon cancer.

Pastor Laura's grandpa

T.J. Bransom had a setback

Jean Rubis' niece and nephew had to evacuate their house due to the fires in California.

Connie Mills, Richard Bryan's co-worker, had surgery and will need a 2-3 week recuperation time.

Bobbie Harold, Steve Rubis' co-worker, her grandson committed suicide. She had helped raise him.

Bonnie DePratter has been ill.

Richard & Brenda Land family - keep in your prayers.

John & Darlene Pettis family - keep in your prayers.

JOYS:

Bryson Bonds turned 7 years old on Sunday, November 16th.

Mindy Preston's brother & sister-in-law are in China getting their adopted daughter.

Crystal McGee's cheer squad placed 2nd in competition and earned high point.

Carol Findley & Mary Bryan went to Austin to attend a play put on by Leann Maxwell's class.

A big thanks to all cookie bakers.

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

THANK YOU!

A BIG "THANK YOU" to the ladies of the church for a wonderful "O" birthday party. We are so fortunate to be part of such a loving congregation. Thank you, Needra, for opening your lovely home for us.

God bless you all,
Peggy

Beginning Sunday, November 30, we will be taking our Christmas love offering for our paid staff. This will go through Sunday, December 14th. Please give your offering to Peggy Johnson or put in the offering plate. If you choose the offering plate, please make sure it is designated as "Staff Love Offering". If you have any questions, please contact Peggy or Steve Rubis.

YOUTH CORNER

⇒ November 30th - 4:00 pm Movie and holiday treats at the church

⇒ December 7th - help with the cookie kits for Holiday Friends - please plan to come, we need lots of hands to help!

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. If you need directions, call Lolly at 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.

If you have not given your sweat suit for the victims assistance program with the Burleson Police Department, please turn it in to Barbara Bond by December 1st. Also, remember we need everyone to volunteer for the cookie assembling in the family life center on Sunday, December 7 at 4:00 pm. This project is for the Harvest House Holiday Friends event.

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.



Dear FCC Friends,

During a time of sorrow we learn how much our friends mean to us.

Thank you for your kindness and sympathy to our family during this difficult time.

I know Jerry would have loved the memorial service-with all the laughter and love in the church. He never wanted a sad service, but one that reflected his life. And Jerry did love to laugh and make others laugh.

There were so many people that helped make the service run smoothly-thank you to each of you that helped out.

Also, the meal that the ladies of the church made for our family-it was delicious! Thank you for taking the time to feed our family and friends after the service. And for those who helped clean up afterwards, thank you.

Jeff, Sharon and I would like to thank each of you for the cards, food, visits to the hospital and our home, and for the telephone calls. Your acts of kindness are more appreciated than any words can ever express.

Thank you,
The Yowell Family

THE ABC'S OF THANKSGIVING

Although things are not perfect; Because of trial or pain; Continue in Thanksgiving; Do not begin to blame; Even when the times are hard; Fierce winds are bound to blow; God is forever able; Hold on to what you know; Imagine life without His love; Joy would cease to be; Keept thanking Him for all the things; Love imparts to thee; Move out of "Camp complaining"; No weapon that is known; On earth can yield the power; Praise can do alone; Quit looking at the future; Redeem the time at hand; Start every day with worship; To "thank" is a command; Until we see Him coming; Victorious in the sky; We'll run the race with gratitude; Xalting God most high; Yes, there'll be good times and yes some will be bad; but..Zion waits in glory...where none are ever sad!

DECEMBER HONORED TO SERVE

Worship Leader: Marion Higginbotham

Greeters: Don & Kathy Welch

Acolyte Attendant: Judy Isom

Communion Preparation: Peggy Johnson

Attendance Books: Juanice Wichterich

Children's Sermon:

07 Dorothy Nash

14 Suzanne Barton

21 _____

28 _____

Scripture Reading:

07 Suzanne Barton

14 Vicki Rubis

21 Chris Cooper

28 Brenda Land

Deacon Team: Kim Bonds, Lolly Ellis,

Judy Isom, Ryan Odiorne

Serving at the Table: Jack & Kaye Gregory

Children's Church:

07 Wayne English

14 Mindy Preston

21 Juanice Wichterich/Peggy Johnson

28 Lacy & Stephanie McGee

Bible Force Leader: Ryan Odiorne

First Time Visitor Follow-Up:

07 Laura Odiorne/Wayne & Anne English

14 Mindy Preston/Faye McLaren &

Barbara Bond

21 Kim Bonds/Cyndy Garrett

28 Michelle McCrory/Don & Kathy Welch

NOTES FROM THE WORLD OF RELIGION

As expected, the Fort Worth Diocese of the Episcopal Church has broken ties with the parent church. Members of the diocese last weekend voted to end affiliation with the church and instead affiliate with a branch of the faith headquartered in Argentina.

The Fort Worth diocese is the fourth such group to break away. Some observers believe it is the start of a world-wide split in the church. Fort Worth Bishop Jack Iker championed the break saying the national church has strayed from orthodox ways in ordaining women priests, allowing the blessing of same-sex marriages and having an openly-gay bishop.

Five of the 55 congregations in the diocese plan to remain with the parent church. There remains the problem of ownership of the church buildings and other property. Episcopal officials say the problem probably will be settled by negotiation although in some areas the issue may wind up in court.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/3	Patty Parker
12/5	Nelda Boots
12/5	Beverly Sholders
12/8	Mary DeSessa
12/9	Wes Williams
12/9	Stephanie McGee
12/10	Austin Bryan
12/11	Christal McGee
12/22	Michelle McCrory
12/25	Ralph Marr
12/27	Heinz Wichterich
12/29	Cody Gregory
12/29	James McGee
12/29	Steven McGee
12/30	Wilma Taylor

MORE NOTES FROM THE WORLD OF RELIGION

Religion Writer Lisa Miller says the sacrament of communion underscores the unity of the faithful; "consuming the bread and wine binds Christians with each other and with the saints in Heaven and with the Lord." But she reports on a new communion brought about by streaming video and the Internet. She says on one recent week, people from Minnesota, New Mexico, Sri Lanka, Australia and The Netherlands signed on to celebrate communion together. Miller says in this instance, the concept of community is taking on a radically new meaning. The celebrant was at home in New Mexico. At the various places, husbands and wives served each other the bread and wine. In Minneapolis, the blood was represented by Crystal Light. The Internet communion is designed for people who normally do not attend church. And it has its critics.

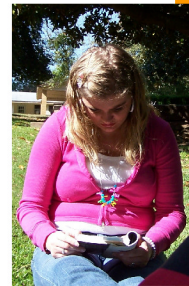
Anne Forest, a Lutheran who teaches at a Roman Catholic University says the whole point of religion is embodiment - the being together, physically, with others and with God. The sacrament cannot be simulated, she says. "If you can't make the time to experience the community then why do you need the sacrament?"

Beautiful weather... precious friends... a perfect weekend!

A gorgeous weekend at Disciples Crossing in Athens greeted 25 women from First Christian Church, Burleson, at this year's annual retreat. Those attending were (bottom row) Kaye Gregory, Ann Gartman, Wilma Taylor, Cyndy Garrett, Onita Holton, Mary Bryan; (2nd row) Beverly Sholders, Rosalyn Wilcox, Dorothy Nash; (3rd row) Karen Parker, Diane Chilton, Michelle McCrory, Vicki Rubis; (4th row) Jane Ann McGowen, Tiffanie Gregory, Kathy Welch; (5th row) Beth Hindman, Barbara Bond, Marion Higginbotham; (top row) Margie Lile, Juanice Wichterich, Faye McLaren, Bonnie DePratter, Lolly Ellis and LaVerne McGowen.



*Thanks to Jack Gregory
for driving the van.*



FCC, Burleson Disciples Women Retreat, 2008





FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

December 2008



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 12/7 Harvest House Sunday	1 9:00 AM - Prayer Group (E)	2	3	4	5	6 9:00 AM - Prayer Group (E)
7 9:00 AM - Elders' Meeting (E) 12:00 PM - Congregational Meeting (S) 4:00 PM - Cookie Kit Assembly (FLC) 6:30 PM - Wellness Ministry (FLC)	8 9:00 AM - Newsletter Published	9	10	11 6:30 PM - Disci- ples Women Christmas Party - Lolly Ellis' Home	12	13
14 9:00 AM - Prayer Group (E) 11:00 AM - Choir Christmas Special (S)	15	16 6:00 PM - Disciples Men Caroling 	17	18 7:00 PM - Board Meeting/New Officers/New Board Meeting (FLC)	19	20
21 9:00 AM - Prayer Group (E) 6:00 PM -Children's Pageant & Advent Festival 	22 9:00 AM - Newsletter Published	23	24  6:00 PM - Christmas Eve Service (S)	25 	26	27
28 9:00 AM - Prayer Group (E)	29	30	31 	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 7:00 PM - Choir Practice	