

First News



The Newsletter of

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

San Marcos, Texas

Maundy Thursday



Thursday, April 21
Seder Meal
6:30 PM

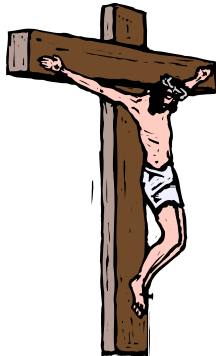
Good Friday

Friday, April 22nd

Ecumenical Service and
Stations of the Cross

Group Tours

12:00 PM



Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 24th

Easter Sunrise Service

7:00 AM

Fellowship Breakfast (8:00 AM)

Children's Easter Egg Hunt (9:00 AM)

Easter Worship Service (10:00 AM)

April 2011

Feeling Lent

April

Sunday, 3rd - 9am Pastor's Class
10am Service, "Compassion"

Wednesday, April 6 - 6pm Dinner
6:30pm Vespers Service, Rev. Jack
Knox on "Judas and Betrayal"

Sunday, 10th - 9am Pastor's Class
10am Service, "Truth"

Wednesday, 13th - 6pm Dinner
6:30pm Vespers Service, rev maggie
mossler on "Mary the Mother and
Sorrow"

Sunday, 17th - 9am Pastor's Class
10am Service, "Sacrifice"
6pm Lenten Choir
Concert, "Come Walk With Me"

Thursday, 21st - 7pm Maundy
Thursday Seder Service, by FCC Youth

Friday, 22nd - Stations of the Cross

Sunday, 24th - EASTER!!!!

7am Sunrise Service

10am Service, "Life"

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Jill's JOTTINGS

It's our FIRST EASTER TOGETHER!!!! How exciting! I mean, we have lots of "firsts" happening between us over the coming years, but this one is, by far, the BEST ONE! Between preparations for the Stations of the Cross, Palm Sunday, the Choir Concert Palm Sunday evening, Maundy Thursday service, Good Friday, then Easter.....wow.....this is the best time for us to be together happy and in love and in good relationship with each other! I know that sounds funny, but isn't that what this is? The beginning stages of a relationship.....a honeymoon....an exciting time where we are just enjoying every moment together as pastor and congregation? So HAPPY EASTER FCC!!!! I love you and am so excited to spend this Easter with you....this Easter....

Where we will praise God for the empty tomb!

Where we will worship the Lord on High for defeating death!

This Easter...

Where we will show up on Sunday excited and positive and uplifted!

Where we will make room for visitors, families, friends to see the Glory of God!

This Easter...

Where we will experience hope and joy unmatched by any other day!

Where we will celebrate the RISEN CHRIST!!!

What an amazing God we worship together! God's mysteries know no boundaries and wow are we amazed and in awe of what God has done and will do!!!! Let us rejoice and praise Jesus for miracles and blessings of new life! Happy Easter FCC!!!!!!

In Christ's Peace,

Rev. Jill

Youth News

The CYF at First Christian has been pretty busy lately. We are preparing for our summer mission trip to the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota, as well as participating in other events and activities. Last month, we sent eight youth and five adults to Spring Rally, including Rev. Jill Sullins who keynoted the event, and Jason Braun who was the director. At Spring Rally, both Taylor Ralph and DJ Warren were elected to serve on the Youth Ministry Council for the Bluebonnet Area in 2011-2012. Congratulations to both of them, as well as Justine Tunnell, Maggie Mossler, and Jack Knox who will be our adult mentor representatives on the council, with Maggie Mossler serving as moderator. The theme for the weekend event was Faith Journey and Jill spoke about things that are important to us as we journey in our faith. Events included a treasure hunt/cake decorating contest, a truck stop diner theme night, and lots of fun games, as well as worship each night.

Chi Rho has also been working on several projects of their own. They are finishing up the designs for coffee mugs for the coffee cup ministry – a project they have started designed to reduce the number of Styrofoam cups we use every Sunday. Be on the lookout for news about the designs and how you can participate. Chi Rho also spent one Sunday in March planting their section of the vegetable garden in the back of the church. They planted tomatoes, sweet peppers, eggplant, squash, radishes, cucumbers and more and will be taking care of the garden in anticipation of sharing their harvest with the church. Chi Rho is also planning a fishing trip for Saturday, April 9th. Gary Swenson's fishing club will be taking them out on the water to go fishing on the Bastrop State Park Lake. If you have a chi rho age youth who might enjoy this opportunity, please contact Mary Braun ASAP.

Our next big youth event is coming up in April as we prepare for the Stations of the Cross and the Maundy Thursday Seder Meal. We hope to see you there!

Young Adult News

The Young Adult group took some time last month to go on a weekend retreat to the Den-Moore Ranch in Concho County, TX. We spent time in fellowship together riding four wheelers, walking around, enjoying God's creation, and shooting skeet. We also spent some time learning about different spiritual disciplines. We had two workshops led by Rev. Jack Knox, one on the Ignatian Examen and Lectio Divina, two disciplines involving seeking God's presence in your daily life or in scripture, and another workshop on different types of prayer, including making prayer beads to help us in our prayer lives. We ate some good food, took time to rest, and worshipped together. Eight young adults went on the retreat, and all of us got something out of it.

Rev. Jack Knox

Maundy Thursday Seder Meal

The Seder Meal is the traditional meal shared by Jews on Passover. It has special meaning to Christians because it was the Passover Seder Meal that Jesus shared with his disciples in Jerusalem in the upper room that we remember during communion each Sunday. You are invited to come and join the youth of FCC as we celebrate the Seder Meal on Maundy Thursday, April 21st at 6:30pm. We will be leading you in a modified version of the traditional Seder Service, one that blends the traditional Jewish rites with our Christian heritage. Our Seder will not be a full meal, but rather a ceremonial one, so plan on eating before or after the service. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex so we can have an idea of how many to prepare for. We hope to see you there!

Calling All Children....

On Easter morning, join us at the church during the Sunday School hour for our annual Easter Egg Hunt! Bring your Easter baskets and see if you can find some colorful, goody filled eggs. Parents (and anyone else), please bring 1 dozen prefilled plastic eggs no later than Palm Sunday. They can be filled with stickers, candy, etc... If you have a nursery or preschool age child fill your eggs with appropriate items for that age, please.

Hosanna! Hosanna!

The children, youth and their parents will continue the tradition of waving palms at the beginning of the Palm Sunday service on April 17. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall before the 10am service to receive palms. Please have your children there by 9:45 so we can be ready for our entrance!

Vacation Bible School....PandaMania

Due to the congregational meeting in March and Easter we will have our next VBS meeting on Sunday April 10. This meeting is for Station Leaders only. We still need Station Leaders so if you are interested, please contact Mattie. If you have already signed up to help with VBS, expect an email from Mattie soon!

VBS is set for the evenings of June 26-30...put it on your calendar!

PandaMania...where God is wild about You!!

Christian Education Meeting

Just a reminder that the monthly Christian Education meeting will be held on April 18 at 5pm. If you have questions or suggestions for the committee, please see one of the members. They are: Sue Cobb, Jeanne McCaffrey, Gregory Ross, Max Schlotter, Jack Knox and Mattie Howard.

Sunday School....there is a class for you!

The Education Committee would like to encourage all of our members to get involved in a Sunday School class. If it has been a while since you have been to Sunday School...come take a look at what we have to offer. Two new adult studies have recently started and as always, you are welcome to jump right in to an existing class.

Our children and youth classes are having fun and learning a lot, bring your children to Sunday School and see what a difference it makes in their life!

JYF and KidTIME for April

JYF and KidTIME will meet in April after the Palm Sunday luncheon. All children in Kindergarten through 4th grade are invited to participate. This month we will meet at the church for fun and fellowship!

Friends in Faith

We will have a Friends in Faith luncheon in May to celebrate our first year (and a half) of this program. New friends will be assigned in August 2011. If you are interested in being a Friend to one of our young people at FCC, please see Mattie.

More information about the luncheon will follow in the next newsletter and in Sunday bulletins.

Who Stole My Church?

Perhaps you have asked yourself this question recently as our church changes to meet the challenges of encouraging church membership and participation in our community. You are invited to join the Sojourners Sunday school class as we begin a new study “Who Stole My Church: What do Do When the Church You Love Tries to Enter the 21st Century” by Rev. Gordon MacDonald.



There will be an all church workday on Saturday, April 9th from 9:00 AM- 1:00 PM for Spring Cleaning in preparation for Easter Celebration. Tools and supplies will be provided as will snacks, drinks and a light lunch. A jobs list will be posted in the Narthex on Sunday, April 3rd. You can sign up for a specific job, or just come and we will find an appropriate thing for you to do. You can stay for the whole time or just a portion.

Your Property Department

Fellowship News

April 17th – Palm Sunday

Menu: Ham. Please bring side, salads, and desserts.

April 24th –Easter Breakfast

Menu: Casseroles, fruit, juice and pastries. Just bring yourselves!

May 15th – Graduation Recognition

Menu: Burgers and hot dogs. Please bring sides, salads, and desserts.

June 19th – Summer Fellowship

Menu: Brisket and Beans. Please bring sides, salads, and desserts.

Camp Hope 2011

Camp Hope Summer Day Camp for children from Kindergarten to 6th grade will be held at FCC July 11-20, 2011! This year's theme is "A Three Ring Circus". Camp is \$50 a week per child (\$45 a week early registration) with a \$5 sibling discount. Camp scholarships are also available upon request. To help keep costs down so every family has the opportunity to benefit camp, each congregation is asked to consider donating to the Camp Hope fund. Please prayerfully consider being a part of this ministry. Whether it is registering your children, grandchildren, nieces/nephews, or donating to the Camp Hope fund. For more information, contact Nicci.

Bluebonnet Area/
Lower Rio Grande
Valley District
2011 Area Assembly



“Cristo Rey Fiesta”

First Christian Church
1400 North 10th Street
McAllen, Texas 78501

April 29-30, 2011

Registration Rates

(before April 8TH)

Individual: \$30.00 Family Rate: \$60.00

Late Registration

(after April 8TH)

Individual: \$35.00 Family Rate: \$70.00

Special Activity Fees

Activity Fee for Youth (Ages 12-17): \$10.00 each

Nursery (Infant—11): \$5/day

Assembly Special Events

There are many exciting activities that will make this year's Area Assembly one to remember, such as a festive **Fiesta Dinner** with entertainment on Friday night, two very special Celebration Worship services, twelve fantastic workshops, a special project for the youth, an on-site Mercado offering South Texas and Mexican crafts and products, wonderful music and an assembly that will be filled with the Holy Spirit celebrating the work of the Disciples of Christ many congregations that make up the Bluebonnet Area/Lower Rio Grande Valley District.

For more information

Call: (210) 822-4345

Email: bba@ccsw.org

Visit: bluebonnetarea.org

Rev. Dr. James Duke
Key Note Speaker

We are pleased to announce that **Reverend Dr. James Duke** will serve as the key note speaker on Saturday morning. His address is titled: **The Church for Disciples: Our History as Heartburn & Hope.**

Dr. Duke is the Professor of the History of Christianity and the History of Christian Thought at TCU's Brite Divinity School. He received his B.A. from the University of Maryland and his M.Div. and Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University. He is a recipient of the TCU Deans' Award for Distinguished Teaching and the Catherine Saylor Hill Award for Faculty Excellence. His publications include translations of German theologian Friedrich Schleiermacher, as well as studies in the history of theology in North America, history and doctrine of the Stone-Campbell movement, and theological methodology. He has served as editor of American Academy of Religion publications and at present is on the editorial team preparing *The New Westminster Dictionary of Church History*.

An ordained minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Dr. Duke has served on the Theology Task Force of Churches Uniting in Christ (CUIC), the Theology Commission of the Council on Christian Unity, and the Disciples-Reformed and Disciples-Roman Catholic dialogues.

Chalice Dove Lenten Devotionals

The Chalice Dove Lenten Devotionals: Journey of Love: To the Cross and Beyond, are available online at www.chalicedovemin.org beginning now through Easter, Sunday, April 24th. The author of the devotionals is Connie Burke, licensed minister with the Christian Church (DOC) and an Elder in this congregation.



New Member Spotlight

On Sunday, March 6th and March 21st we welcomed new members to our FCC

Family!

Joe and Teresa Bullock, joined the church March 6th by Letter of Transfer from the First Christian Church in Stephenville, Texas.

Sarah Bower attends school here at Texas State. She also joined on March 6th.

Scott McKinney and Emily Glasgow joined the church on March 21st. Scott joined by Letter of Transfer from Crossroads Baptist in Rotan, Texas. Emily joined by Letter of Transfer from Emanuel Baptist Church in Clute, Texas. Scott and Emily are planning to be wed here at FCC on July 30, 2011.

Pictures and information on our New Members can be found in the back of the church. Please make sure to stop and introduce yourself.



Earth Day

Celebrate the 41st Anniversary of Earth Day by recycling! Bring all your newspapers, catalogs, magazines, old mail and school & office papers to the Paper Retriever recycling bin here at FCC!



Callan Kae Blair arrived at 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 17, 2011. Parents are Shanna & Ryan Blair. Grandparents are Ray and Kathy Scott. Great grandparents are Malcolm and Mildred Scott. Aunt is Kristen Scott.

Welcome to the world Callan!



Dear Friends,
Thank you for
your cards,
visits, phone
calls, and

especially for your prayers during and after my recent surgery. Your thoughtfulness means so much, and it is a blessing to be a part of such a loving church family.

Sincerely,
Rose Skaggs

Dear Church Family,
The lovely meal you served following John's memorial service was so appreciated. A great show of Christian spirit and a tribute to him. Not only did you feed everyone at noon but you sent enough good home with me to feed my out-of-town relatives for the evening meal.

I appreciate all you have done and are still doing. Thanks for everything.

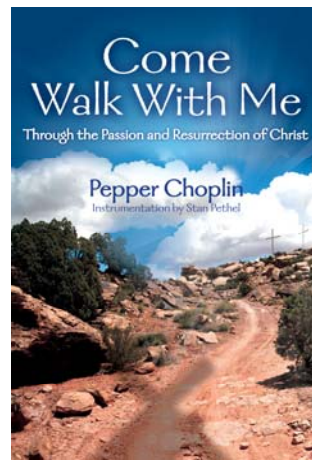
In Christian Love,
Alice Ballard

To my wonderful friends who lifted my family up by your prayers in the loss of my son.

For the delicious food, sweet cards, and a special thanks to those who came to the Canyon Lake service. What a blessing it was for me to see your lovely faces.

A special thanks to Charles and Joye Blankenship for all they did to help us.

Thank You and God Bless,
Frances Mitchell and Family



The choir will be performing our Lenten cantata "Come Walk With Me" on Palm Sunday, April 17th at 6:00 PM. Please join

us for what is sure to be a memorable performance to help us begin Holy Week!



Alternative Worship...

What's been going on
with Alternative
Worship...

In March, The Stage Connection- A Youth Praise, led the service. It was an awesome group of kids! A HUGE thank you goes to Margo Gregory and all of her help with the sound and video, and to Jackie Cable for her help in food prep and clean up. You guys were the angels for the day!

Next planning meeting is Wednesday, April 6 at 7pm. We will be planning a drama for the future as well as a Pet Blessing service for May!!! If you are interested in drama or animals, please let me know or just show up!

Next worship is SUNDAY, April 17 at 6pm! The choir will be blessing us with a wonderful music experience!

Having fun serving HIM! maggie,
Alternative Worship Minister.

7TH AND 8TH GRADE GIRLS NIGHT

We're having a slumber party for the 7/8 grade girls and all the women of the church are invited to come and hang out with them and do girl stuff like scrapbooking and beading. We are also going to pow wow about how to survive this really awkward time of life with school, girlfriends, boys, etc.

Call Maggie if you would like to lead a craft or a talk.

M&M Moment

The FCC M&M (Mary and Martha) group meets the fourth Saturday of every month from 9:30 – 11:00. Food and fellowship begins at 9:30 with a program following. Our guest speaker during the month of February was Roya Williamson, Victim Services Coordinator for SMPD. Roya explained what her job entails and the important role volunteers play in providing care and services for victims of crime. Three of our church members are currently volunteers for Victim Services. For more information or to find out how you can help, contact Roya Williamson.

During the months of March, April, and May our own Jill Sullins will be leading us on creating a spiritual timeline and helping us to discover what Jesus really means in each of our lives. We are also collecting donations each month for the Women's Center as an ongoing service project. So far we have collected bars of soap, bottles of hand sanitizer, shampoo and conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, Chapstick, baby wipes, and various other toiletry items. For a complete list of wish list items for the Women's Center, please go to www.hcwc.org. You may bring your donations to the M&M meetings or contact Teri Stapp or Marla Johnson.

April Birthdays...



Carol Schauer	April 2
Derek Wigley	April 2
Jody Doss	April 3
Janet Schlotter	April 4
Donna Burke	April 5
Aubrey Ellison	April 6
Felicia Mossler	April 6
W. C. Carson	April 7
Hannah Pape	April 7
Catherine Shellman	April 7
DJ Warren Jr.	April 7
Caleb Casparis	April 12
Adam Jester	April 12
Joni Van Reenan	April 13
Scott McKinney	April 13
Scott Davis	April 15
Kay Stroman	April 16
Petra Duran	April 17
Caddo Sanders	April 17
Thomas Pfeiffer	April 20
Torrie Blake Martin	April 21
Nancy Roberts	April 24
Kathy Scott	April 28
Paige Sutphen	April 29
Ruth Mullins	April 30
Kerry Rash	April 30

Please note that I continue to update data in the church membership database. If you find an error in a birthday or anniversary date or if you are left off the list, I offer my sincerest apologies. Please email me or call the office and let me know so the database can be corrected. Thanks! Nicci



April Anniversaries...

Charles & Joye Blankenship	April 1
Tom & Susan Ballard	April 16
Anne & Dylan Bederman	April 17

Have a wonderful celebration!!

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

3105 Ranch Road 12, San Marcos, TX 78666

512-396-1926

FAX 512-393-3496

Church Staff:

Rev. Jill Sullins	Senior Minister
Rev. Jack Knox	Youth & Young Adult Minister
Rev. Maggie Mossler	Alternative Worship Minister
Nicci Lesak	Church Secretary
Mattie Howard	Director, Children's Education
Rae Bostwick	Treasurer
Randy Ayers	Board Chair
Britney Richey	Bookkeeper
Anne Weaver	Music Leader
Mabel Hall	Pianist
Cecilia Peña	Organist / Accompanist
Rosie Smith	Nursery Supervisor
Rachel Greenwood	Nursery Caregiver
Kate Garvin	Nursery Caregiver
Mary & Johnny Wasson	Custodians

Jill's # (816)914.9694 (cell)

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
3105 Ranch Road 12
San Marcos, Texas 78666

(RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED)

512-396-1926
Fax 512-393-3496
E-mail: staff@fcc-sm.org
Web page: www.fcc-sm.org



Good Friday Ecumenical Service & Stations of the Cross

12:00 PM
April 22, 2010

April 2011
First Christian Church ~ San Marcos
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>Prayer Coffee—9:30 am</i>	2 <i>Male Call—8am</i> <i>Clergy Leadership Institute</i>
3 <i>Pastor's Class—9am</i> <i>Activity(Chi Rho)/Service</i> <i>Activity (CYF) - 11am</i> <i>Young Adult—5pm</i>	4 <i>Evangelism— 11am</i>	5 <i>Prayer Group— 10 am</i> <i>Staff Meeting—1:30 pm</i> <i>HCWC Parenting Class-4pm</i> <i>Bell Choir— 6:15pm</i> <i>Heart & Soul— 7:15pm</i>	6 <i>CBS—9:30 am</i> <i>Guitar—5:30 pm</i> <i>Dinner—6pm</i> <i>Vespers Service—6:30 pm</i> <i>Choir/AW Planning— 7pm</i>	7	8 <i>Prayer Coffee— 9:30 am</i> <i>Wedding rehearsal—</i> <i>5:30 pm</i>	9 <i>Hockenbrough/Perlier</i> <i>Wedding—5:30 pm</i>
10 <i>Pastor's Class—9am</i> <i>All Church Workday—9am</i> <i>to 1pm</i> <i>Stations of Cross Prep (Chi</i> <i>Rho & CYF) - 11am</i>	11 <i>Evangelism— 11am</i> <i>Finance Committee—</i> <i>6:30 pm</i>	12 <i>Prayer Group— 10 am</i> <i>HCWC Parenting Class-4pm</i> <i>Bell Choir— 6:15pm</i> <i>Butterfly Group—7pm</i> <i>Heart & Soul— 7:15pm</i>	13 <i>CBS—9:30 am</i> <i>Guitar—5:30 pm</i> <i>Dinner—6pm</i> <i>Vespers Service—6:30 pm</i> <i>Choir— 7pm</i>	14 <i>Board Meeting—6:30</i> <i>pm</i>	15 Newsletter Deadline <i>Prayer Coffee—9:30 am</i> <i>7th & 8th grade girls</i> <i>night—7pm</i>	16
17 <i>Pastor's Class—9am</i> <i>Fellowship Ham Dinner—11am</i> <i>SOC/ Seder Meal Prep (Chi</i> <i>Rho & CYF) - 12pm</i> <i>KidTIME/JYF—12pm</i> <i>Lent Cantata—6pm</i>	18 <i>Evangelism— 11am</i>	19 <i>Prayer Group— 10 am</i> <i>Staff Meeting—1:30 pm</i> <i>HCWC Parenting Class-4pm</i> <i>Bell Choir— 6:15pm</i> <i>Heart & Soul— 7:15pm</i>	20 <i>CBS—9:30 am</i> <i>NO Guitar/AW Band</i> <i>FFT Potluck— 5:30pm</i> <i>FFT—6pm</i> <i>Choir— 7pm</i>	21 MAUNDY THURSDAY <i>Seder Meal—6:30 pm</i>	22 GOOD FRIDAY <i>OFFICE CLOSED @</i> <i>Noon</i> <i>Ecumenical Service—</i> <i>Noon</i>	23 <i>Angel Food Distribu-</i> <i>tion—8-10AM</i> <i>M&M Group—9:30 am</i>
24 EASTER <i>Sunrise Service—7am</i> <i>Easter Breakfast—8am</i> <i>Easter Egg Hunt—9am</i> <i>No Meeting (Chi Rho/CYF)</i>	25 <i>Evangelism— 11am</i>	26 <i>Prayer Group— 10 am</i> <i>Staff Meeting—1:30 pm</i> <i>HCWC Parenting Class-4pm</i> <i>Bell Choir— 6:15pm</i> <i>Heart & Soul— 7:15pm</i>	27 <i>CBS—9:30 am</i> <i>Guitar/Potluck—5:30 pm</i> <i>AW Band/ FFT—6pm</i> <i>Choir— 7pm</i>	28	29 2011 BBA Area <i>Prayer Coffee— 9:30 am</i>	30 Assembly