

FIRST NEWS
The Newsletter of
First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ), San Marcos, Texas

a place to belong

January 2007

a place to become

Janus



FROM THE DESK OF JAMES -- JANUARY 2007

In Roman mythology, Janus was the god of gates, doors, doorways, beginnings, and endings. His most apparent remnant in modern culture is his namesake, the month of January. Janus was frequently used to symbolize change and transitions such as the progression of past to future, of one condition to another, of one vision to another, of young people growing up, and of one universe to another. Hence, Janus was worshipped at the beginnings of the harvest and planting times, as well as marriages, births and other beginnings. He was representative of the middle ground between barbarity and civilization, rural country and urban cities, and youth and adulthood.

A historical sketch of Janus as related to January provides an interesting description that offers meaning for life in progress. January is a time to look back and count our blessings. It is a time to look forward with anticipation and recognize the opportunities for new beginnings. It is the time to “look both ways”. Forward and backward! It is time to make God and the Church a most important part of our lives. It is a time for commitment to new ventures that exceed old ones. It is a time to acknowledge that “rearview vision” is twenty – twenty. Therefore, looking both ways will make a difference in the way we approach the New Year. We won’t need to make the same mistakes again this year if we wisely view our past mistakes as opportunities for better decisions and relationships in the coming year.

The following poem by S. H. Payer, an Irish countryman, may best express the way to live properly in the New Year.

Live Each Day to the Fullest

Live each day to the fullest. Get the most from each hour, each day, and each age of your life.
Then you can look forward with confidence and back without regret.
Be yourself...but be your best self. Dare to be different and follow your own star.
And don't be afraid to be happy. Enjoy what is beautiful. Love with all your heart and soul.
Believe that those who love you, love you.
Forget what you have done for your friends, and remember what they have done for you. Disregard what the world owes you and concentrate on what you owe the world.
When you are faced with a decision, make that decision as wisely as possible...then forget it. The moment of absolute certainty never arrives.
And above all, remember that God helps those who help themselves. Act as if everything depended on you and pray as if it depended upon God.

Be a living expression of God's kindness. ~Mother Teresa (1910-1997)

Miracles and Blessings,

James

Board Update



January will be my last board meeting and this will be my last board update for the newsletter. A couple of “lasts” that mark a place in time for me where my church life changed forever. I feel compelled to thank some people who I’ve worked with and watched over the last 18 months.

Charles Blankenship and Chris Carson have done a great job of getting our financial picture clearly defined and setting the sails to help move forward. In November we had a solid black number at the bottom of our financials which should improve in the month of December.

Chris Carson, with feedback, did all the work on our permanent fund which is now in place and a foundational piece of our future financial security.

Kay Stroman has done an extraordinary amount of work getting our personnel management system in place. She had a personnel committee, but she has done the heavy lifting.

Lenore Bolton and Mary Wasson have consistently been folks I’ve leaned on when there was a committee to be named by the board chair to get extra things done. Lenore was the driver on the church directory all the way through the project.

WC Carson has been an excellent Vice Chairman and supporter on the board. He kept me in check and challenged the board with recommendations from his vision committee.

Tom Ballard, Joann Schlotter, Claire French, Jackie Cable and the other committee members helped write the new Constitution and Bylaws. Thanks to all of you for your time and energy.

Personally, I have a sense of security and well being when Tom is at the back of the church on Sunday morning making sure we Deacons are doing what we’re suppose to do.

Joe Bostwick has been relentless in his maintenance and repair of our building.

Mike Wood has been very consistent with our music ministry.

Thanks to Char who has helped keep me on the ball and for her exceptional office administration.

Thanks to James McKibbin who has taught us the Bible with his sermons and cared for us all.

There are many of you that make a difference for our youth and other critical areas of the church. Thanks to all of you. Thanks to the congregation for your support of the board and me personally.

Blessings, Art Johnson

Energizers!

In 2007, our **Energizers** will just "keep on going and going". We can all be thankful for that!! On January 18th (third Thursday) we will gather at FCC Fellowship Hall at 6:00. We have a splendid program planned. Fried Chicken and drinks will be furnished. Please bring a side dish or dessert, if possible.

HAPPY 2007!!



Caring for Children? Discussion group

9:15 a.m., Blue Room, First Christian Church

Sundays, January 7- February 25

Pre-register in order to provide adequate materials.

Improve your home environment with fewer loud outbursts from kids or adults.

Become more warmly connected with the children in your life.

Find time and learn how to share with kids the life skills you know they need.

References: Ross Campbell, William Glasser, Rudolf Dreikers, Karen Pryor, the Holy Bible

Call Margaret Jordan for more information. 396-8872 before 8pm

ALTERNATIVE GIFTS CHRISTMAS MARKET

On December 3, FCC participated with 3 other San Marcos churches in the Alternative Gifts Christmas Market. At this year's annual event, donations of over \$3,500 were raised for eight local organizations. In addition, eight international organizations also received a total of over \$3,000. These are Gifts of Hope! What a beautiful thing to give at Christmas time. Thank you to all who were involved and who donated.

Special thanks to Gayle Morris, Sue Diegelman, Janet Drye, Brad French, Linda Vettters, Charles Blankenship, Malcolm Rash, and Jackie Cable and Lenore Bolton.

Fellowship News!!

A week before Christmas the children at FCC were treated to a special "Breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus". Parents, Sunday school teachers, and children enjoyed a special menu of waffles, fresh fruit, and hot chocolate with LOTS of marshmallows while they waited for Santa to appear. Many thanks to the many who helped make this a memorable Sunday for our youngsters and a special thanks to Santa and his lovely wife.

Later that same morning the Fellowship Hall was filled with the smells of tamales, Spanish rice, pinto beans, and tacos as we celebrated with a Mexican Christmas meal. The food was muy delicioso and enjoyed by many.



KID Time (Kids In Discipleship)

KID Time is a fun time for children in grades K – 5 to spend in Christian activities on Wednesday afternoons from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m. The new semester will begin January 17, 2007. Registration forms are available in the Church Office. There will be thirteen sessions running from January 17 – April 25. We will meet every week except for the Wednesday during Spring Break. We are looking forward to having more children involved in **KID Time** this semester. It's a fun time for everyone!

Mark your calendars for a "Souper" Dinner scheduled for January 28 following the 10:45 service. Everyone is asked to bring his/her favorite; homemade soup, or chili, or chip/dip, or cornbread. Invite friends to church and then ask them to stay for a good hot meal!

If you're looking for a place to serve the church . . . how about joining the Fellowship Committee? We're always interested in having new friends join us in the kitchen! If you're interested contact Char and she'll put you in touch with someone from the Fellowship Committee.

CYF

January 2007 SCHEDULE

Jan. 4 - 7 PM - Youth Council meet for Lutheran, St. Mark's, FCC, meet at FLC.

Jan. 7 - Noon meeting. Also, notarized camp forms are due to the church with a check for the Jr./Sr. Reunion.

Jan. 14 - Noon meeting.

Jan. 19 – 21 - BBA & CPA Jr./Sr. Reunion weekend at Gonzales.

Jan. 21 - Noon meeting.

Jan. 28 - To be announced.

This is not a complete schedule, as at our Jan. 4 & 7 meets we will probably change something. We'll keep you posted!

We are still collecting old cell phones and used up ink cartridges! Please see below how you can help with this project...



Help CYF Raise \$\$ for their Next Mission Trip

Our high school kids continue to collect old cell phones and used-up ink cartridges. They are raising funds to help offset the cost of mission trips and other activities. Please remember to save these, bring them to church and place them in the plastic container in the Fellowship Hall. Think of our youth the next time you renew your cell phone plan and get a new phone or the next time you replace your ink cartridges in your printers. Help them turn trash into cash!!

Dear Church Friends,

Your cards, calls, visits and most important, your prayers have helped me to adjust to a different way of life after falling.

The visit from the Chancel Choir brought the spirit of this season into my apartment to be enjoyed by Charlotte Overall and me.

With your prayers and therapy, I hope to be back with you soon.

Sincerely, Mercy Miller

Chi Rho News....

There will be **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL** on **NEW YEARS EVE** day! Cindy and I will both be out of town, so sleep in or join one of the other classes if you would like. We'll be back in full swing on the 8th.

It looks like we will be planning only **one Chi Rho meeting for January**. It will be on **January 21st 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the Church**. We will be making some decisions about the best time to have Chi Rho on a regular basis. If you would like to give us some feedback on this, simply send us an e-mail. Options are:

- o Sunday 5-7 pm
- o Sunday following 10:30 worship
- o Wednesdays 6:00 pm (Cindy and I are not available at this time, so someone else would have to step in to help Denise.)
- o Every other week as opposed to weekly

Let us know your thoughts. We will focus this semester on some fund-raising and outreach projects.

Mid-Winter will be the following weekend, **January 26-28**. Parents, please let us know if you can volunteer to drive the kids to or from Gonzales. We are relying on each of you to take care of your **MID-WINTER** registration yourselves. You can get it notarized wherever it's most convenient, or bring it to the church for Char to notarize. Forms are available at the church office. You should also have received the forms via e-mail. ***Absolute deadline is Sunday, January 7th***.

In order to start making your summer plans, we wanted to let you know that we are considering attending the **NATIONAL Disciples General Assembly**, to be held in Fort Worth this year on **July 22-25**. This is what CYF is planning to do in lieu of a mission trip. This is a **GREAT** opportunity when the National Assembly is this accessible! The projects, services, music, etc. are phenomenal! There are also mission opportunities in conjunction with the Assembly as well as services and activities designed specifically for youth (Chi Rho and CYF). Let us know your thoughts on this as well.

Please remember to bring items to send to Paul Pena and his unit. It won't make Christmas, but the need is always there. We'll be sending letters that we write during Sunday School time. The items Celia mentioned are especially needed are **wet wipes, jerky, nuts, Rice Krispie treats, or anything that is well sealed (the sand is a BIG problem)**.

Cindy, Denise and I really appreciate your patience as we attempt to hold the Chi Rho program together. **PRAY FOR A NEW YOUTH DIRECTOR SOON!**

Blessings, Barrie Breed

RALLY CONFERENCE and CAMP DATES 2007

January 26-28

Chi Rho Midwinter Rally

Fee: \$85.00

March 2-4

CYF Spring Rally

Fee: \$85.00

June 10-16

CYF Conference

Fee: \$260.00

June 17-23

BBA/CPA Eighter's Camp

Fee: \$260.00

June 25-30

BBA/CPA Junior Camp

Fee: \$235.00

July 8-14

BBA/CPA Chi Rho Camp

Fee: \$260.00

July 15-18

Beginner's Camp

Fee: \$150.00

ATTENTION ALL DEACONS

The first Deacon Meeting of the new year will be held on Saturday, January 13th, at 9:30 AM in the Sanctuary. Invited are all Deacons, old and new, for a review of responsibilities and procedures. We will be doing walk-throughs for first and second services, and discussing the role of the diaconate in our church. Please plan to attend this important kick-off meeting of the New Year!

Contact Sue Diegelman or Janet Drye for more information.

E-mail Prayer List



Do you want to be added to the FCC San Marcos e-mail Prayer Request list? This means you would receive e-mails requesting prayers for members who are ill, in the hospital, or are having surgery. If you wish to be added, please send an e-mail to Char at charlene@fcc-sm.org and ask to be added to the Prayer Request e-mail list.

January Birthdays...

Jerry Weidman	January 1
Chris Goode	January 3
Kelly Casparis	January 4
Justine Tunnell	January 4
Andi Shimek	January 5
Kristin Brown	January 7
Rikki Hardy	January 7
Alex Olenick	January 7
Ray Kotowski	January 8
Brenda Brown	January 9
Larry Diegelman	January 9
Sarah Brown	January 10
Hildegard Harper	January 10
Kaiti Anderson	January 11
Taylor Ralph	January 12
Debi Elliott	January 13
Katie Flores	January 13
Dick Stovall	January 13
Mitch Tureaud	January 14
Truman Johnson	January 16
Jennifer Roberts	January 16
Arden Tunnell	January 16
Rocky Stone	January 17
Lee Southwell	January 18
Amber Pacheco	January 19
Mary Scopas	January 19
Lura Brown	January 20
Forest Herndon	January 20
Judy Watkins	January 20
Effie Husbands	January 21
Kim Eastwood	January 22
Claire French	January 22
Matthew Stroman	January 23
Darcy Hardy	January 24
Rick Hardy	January 26
Tyler Ellison	January 27



Katy Rheinlander	January 30
Malcolm Scott	January 30
Susan Ballard	January 31
Gary Campbell	January 31
Maya Duran	January 31
Cole Stapp	January 31



January Anniversaries...

Maggie & Eddie Mossler	January 6
Caddo & Ruby Sanders	January 21
Roemer & Mary Hudler	January 23
Charles & Maxine Jarvis	January 26
Samuel & Lydia Felix	January 30

Please note that I am still updating 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! Char



Coffee Time

Helpers are needed to set up the sweets and drinks at 9:15 AM Sunday Mornings and to be on the clean-up crew. Both these jobs require 15 minutes. Several families have been pitching in as this is something with which our youngsters love to help.

Sign up in the kitchen any Sunday morning! For those of you with busy schedules, this is one small way to pitch in without making a huge time commitment.

New FCC Directories are Here!!



We have received our new pictorial directories! We received a free

copy for each member family that had their picture taken. If you have not received your copy, please see Lenore Bolton or give her a call.

If you find an error in your information, we are missing your email address, or if you have moved since the directory went to print, please call the office. We will be printing a page of corrections for you to keep with your directory.

Meals on Wheels rolls again.....

The First Christian Church Meals on Wheels team, headed up by Katie Rheinlander, will be out delivering meals to the homebound people in the San Marcos area January 8th through the 12th. Thank you Katie and team for this great service to our community in the name of our church!!

Help Needed.....

Here is an opportunity for a New Year's Resolution... Enhance your Spiritual Life ~~~ volunteer a little time at your church!! There are many committees that are in need of your help. Find one that fits your personality or God-given talents, and donate a little time. From committee work to office work, there is always a need. Call the office to see with which group we can connect you!

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
3105 Ranch Road 12, San Marcos, TX 78666
512-396-1926
FAX 512-393-3496

Church Staff:

James A. McKibbin, MA/M.Div, PSY/D
_ Interim Senior Minister
Char Wood _____ Office Manager
Charles Blankenship _____ Treasurer
Malcolm Rash _____ Bookkeeper
Mabel Hall _____ Pianist
Cecilia Pena _____ Organist / Accompanist
Mike Wood, Dan Kovaly & Anne Weaver _____ Music Team
Rosie Smith _____ Nursery Supervisor
Lola Bell _____ Nursery Caregiver
Jennifer Flores _____ Nursery Caregiver
Fred Villanueva _____ Groundskeeper

January Lectionary Readings & Liturgical Color

Sunday, January 7

First Sunday after Epiphany

Green

Isaiah 43:1-7

Psalm 29

Acts 8:14-17

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Sunday, January 14

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Green

Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalm 36:5-10

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

John 2:1-11

Sunday, January 21

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Green

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Luke 4:14-21

Sunday, January 28

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Green

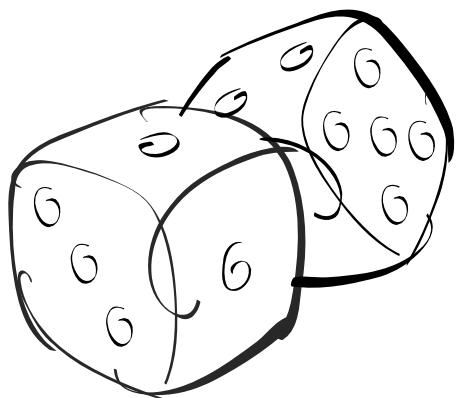
Jeremiah 1:4-10

Psalm 71:1-6

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Luke 4:21-30

Calling all Farkle Fanatics, Fans, Family and Friends...



A Free, Fun, Friendly, Frenzied Family Farkling Festival will be held on the Fourth Friday of February at Five Fifty-Five PM (5:55 PM) at FCC in the Fellowship Facility.

WHAT??? You do not know what FARKLE is? Well, there will be Five Famously Friendly Farkling Facilitators for Fledgling Farklers For Furthering the Festivities (*translation – we will teach you how to Farkle Fabulously! It is a Fantastically Fun game!*)

To Further the Fun and Festivities, there will be Food too! On what would we Feast, you ask? Well, Frankfurters and French Fries of course! The Farkle Facilitators are still Figuring out the menu (and your suggestions are welcome), but Fourteen Fun ideas we have Fancied for the Fabulous Feast are.....

Frankfurters
French Fries
Frito Pie
Fresh Fruit

Frittatas
Flautas
Frijoles
Fudgesicles

Fondue
Fajitas
Fudge
Falafels

And...Flan and Flavorful Fried Fruit Fritters Finishing the Fabulous Feast! (For dessert)

Furthering the Fun, there will be a Fan-Fare Full of Festive Farkling music. Featured artists and Famous songs you might Find yourself Farkeling to could include:

Freddie Fender
bela Fleck & the Flecktones
Freebird
ella Fitzgerald
Fame
Foreigner

Five For Fighting
Foghat
Franz Ferdinand
Faithfully
connie Francis
the Flock

the Four Freshmen
Fogelberg
Fly like an Eagle
Frampton
Footloose

Speaking of “The Flock”, wouldn’t it be Fun and Fabulous if there was a Flamingo Flocking at this Free, Fun, Friendly, Frenzied Family Farkling Festival? If there are any Flamingo Furnishers in this Fabulous congregation at FCC, please let us know if you can Furnish us with Flamingos For the Festivities! More information on this Funtastic Festival will Follow in the February issue of FCC First News...(or *Fone* the office!)

