

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

a place to belong

June 2005

a place to become

FROM THE DESK OF JAMES

This past week I received a note from a friend. The front of the note conveyed this information, “congratulations on your move to a new location”! How appropriate, I thought, nothing is included about function, performance or outcome. In other words; “James, make the best of each day with the gifts you have and God will do the rest.” Location is just where it happens when you do the best you can. The message “grow where you’re planted” comes to mind. Therefore, ordinary people doing ordinary things have extraordinary experiences when God is in the equation. The most crucial decision is keeping God in the equation.

There are six (6) things I know at this moment; 1. I am here. 2. You are here. 3. God is here. 4. Good things are happening here. 5. We are having a good time together watching God do His thing here. 6. We enjoy praising, worshipping and working together for the Glory of God here.

Special congratulations to the graduates who are also moving to “a new location (setting) in life”. You too will be challenged to make the best out of your new endeavors. I know you will utilize your Christian heritage, education, experience and skills to pursue new opportunities in life with optimism and success. “Hang in there with God”!

Veterans you are special! You shared your life to keep us free as a nation, thank you!

“Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His Glory with exceeding joy, to God our Savior, who alone is wise, be Glory and Majesty, Dominion and Power, both now and forever. Amen” (Jude 1:24 – 25).

Miracles and Blessings,

James A. McKibbin

James A. McKibbin
Interim Senior Minister
First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) San Marcos

Board Update

I'm excited about the progress we are making at FCC toward getting ourselves back on track. The congregational meeting was very successful and all candidates were voted into their new roles as Deacons and Elders. Charles Blankenship is now officially our new Treasurer, although he has been working in that capacity since February. On a recent Sunday after late service Chris Carson, (new chair of Stewardship), was meeting with Charles Blankenship, (new Treasurer), and Kerry Rash (Bookkeeper) to help decipher exactly where we are financially in the church. At the same time a group of folks were meeting in the fellowship hall discussing plans for an upcoming mission trip for youth. I've heard the buzz about Vacation Bible School from several. Things are happening, people are interested, and people are participating in many different areas of the church.

Working with Pastor James is awesome. We usually meet for breakfast at least one day a week to discuss church issues and to debate some of the great issues in life. I'm grateful for his contributions and leadership in our church and for

the time I get to hang out with him. I believe he is the right man for the right job at the right time. If you have not had the opportunity to visit with him one on one or in a group I encourage you to do so.

I'm very grateful to all of the volunteers and staff of our church that are committed to making a difference at FCC. Your energy, talent, and financial commitment to the church are making a difference in the life of the congregation and hopefully in your own. My involvement as board chair has changed the way I see and experience the church dramatically. Somewhere in the dungeons of my brain I recall reading this phrase, "You can't get more out of something than you put into it." My added involvement in the church has allowed me to know more people and know specific people much better than I ever did before. If you want to get more from Church, I have the answer, I think! Get more involved!!!

Thanks & Blessings

Art Johnson
Board Chair

Updates on the various Ministries of First Christian Church From Steve Thaler, Associate Minister

Election Results: Congratulations and thank you to those elected to positions

Treasurer

Charles Blankenship

Board Elders

Lenore Bolton
Claire French

of service. The following are lists of the new Elders, Deacons, Treasurer and Board Members. Please thank them for their willingness to serve and lend them your prayers and your support.

Non Board Elders

Gayle Morris
Susan Ballard

Board Deacons

Michael Doss
Mary Wasson
W. C. Carson
Crystal Schwake
Kay Stroman
Kelly Casparis

Non Board Deacons

Janet Drye
Jerry Weidman
Katy Clayton
Jeanne McCaffrey
Caddo Sanders
Kristi Hardy
Katherine Carson
Petra Duran
Joye Blankenship
Cindy Casparis
Margaret Jordan Anderson
Sue Diegelman
Charlene Wood

Elder / Deacon Training

On Saturday, **June 4th**, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM there will be training for the *new* Elders and Deacons *and those elected last year*. You will be part of the Communion Serving rotation this summer so it will be important to be present.

Installation of Elders and Deacons

On Sunday, **June 12th** the Elders and Deacons elected this year and in 2004 will be installed during the 10:30 service. This will be a time to surround those whom God has called to special service in this congregation with our love and support.

Thanks to all Sunday School Teachers....

...for their dedicated service this past year. The kids and the church appreciate your efforts and willingness to serve. We want to give the children's teachers a break this summer so **we need volunteers** to be with the combined elementary class June 5th – August 21st. **If you are willing to cover a week or two, please contact Petra Duran (353-2790) or Steve Thaler (396-1926).**

The Education Ministry Department

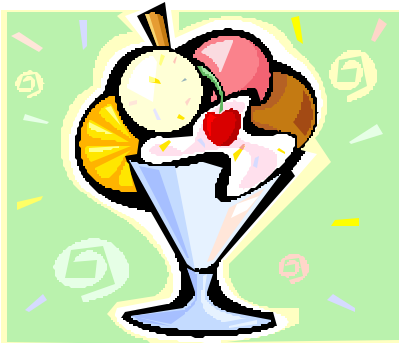
The Education Ministry Department will meet Sunday, June 12th in the Fellowship Hall immediately following 10:30 worship. We will divide into a Children's Team and an Adult Team and begin to brainstorm about what our Christian Education will look like in the year ahead. This will be a time to think creatively about how we can provide terrific opportunities for children and adults to develop as disciples of Jesus. If you have not signed up for the Education Ministry Team you are still welcome to join us and give your input. Food and drinks will be present.

VBS for Adults

We will have an exciting adult VBS program this summer so put June 26 – 30 (5:30 pm to 8:30 pm) on your calendar and plan to be eating and having fun with us whether you have kids or not.

Featured Ministry Departments

This month we are spotlighting the work of the **Worship and the Stewardship/ Finance Ministry Departments**. A huge thanks to **Rae Bostwick** for her incredible work in organizing the Worship Ministry. Rae has assigned 25 people to specific responsibilities that are all important for ensuring that worship is a meaningful experience. Rae is an organizational machine and she and her team are doing terrific ministry at FCC. **Chris Carson** has taken the reins of the Stewardship / Finance Ministry Department with enthusiasm and a strong desire to ensure accountability. I can tell you that we are blessed to have Chris and a very competent team working with **Charles Blankenship** (Treasurer) and **Kerry Rash** (Bookkeeper) to ensure that our finances are on a stable footing and that we are being good stewards of all that God has entrusted to us. Please thank all of these folks for their ministry at First Christian Church.



Ice Cream Bonanza!!!

On Wednesday, June 8th at 6:30 PM we will kick off our summer programs with an incredible Ice Cream eating frenzy. Bring your favorite Ice Cream and toppings or Pie (James wants Pie) and we'll see if we can top Baskin Robbins' 31 flavors. Kids can wear swim suites and bring water guns for a cool time outside. We will finish the evening with a short **Vesper Service** in the front under the circle of trees at 7:30.

Communication Seminar

Our summer program continues on June 15 and 22, 6:15 – 7:15 with a two week series on Communication by Rev. James McKibbin. In July we will meet on the 13th, 20th and 27th with a program to be announced.

COMMUNICATION OBJECTIVES

- DEFINE COMMUNICATION
- CONTRAST/COMPARE COMMUNICATION VARIABLES
- ANALYZE PERSONAL COMMUNICATION SKILL
- DEVELOP COMMUNICATION SKILL
- ROLE PLAY FOR FAMILIARITY

COMMUNICATION

COMMUNICATION IS VERBAL /NON VERBAL IDEAS OR ACTIONS (BEHAVIOR) EXCHANGED THROUGH/BY INTERACTION TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND/OR CONSOLIDATE PROCESS PROVIDING OPPORTUNITY FOR COMPREHENSIVE CONCESSION.

Updates from Andrew

Congratulations on finishing another school year, everyone! Summer is here at last! Finally you've got all the time in the world to do all that stuff you've been meaning to do, like . . . uh, reading, and playing golf. If you get bored and need ice cream or want someone to go to the movies with, give me a call!

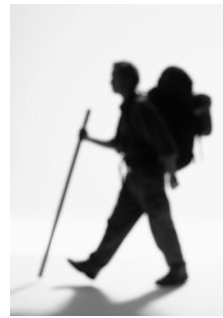
There won't be D-groups throughout the summer. We're taking a break, and we'll kick those back up in the fall. But don't let that get you into a rut; there's still plenty to do around the church.



Senior Sunday is June 5. If you're a graduating senior, please be at the 10:30 worship service for us to recognize you, and stick around afterwards for a special somethin'.



Chi Rho Mission Trip - June 5 will also be the date the Chi Rho students will be commissioned to go on the mission trip, which will start on Monday June 6th and go through Friday the 10th. It's not too late to sign up for this trip, but let us know quickly so we can plan for you! If you've been taking Spanish in middle school and have been wondering, "What's the point of this?" well, here's your chance to put your second language to use. If you don't know what to say, just smile and mutter, "Necesito un taco."



Colorado Backpacking Trip

- If you're in high school and you're going on the Backpacking trip in July, be at our two **pre-trip meetings on June 1 and June 20**, both at 6:30 at the church. Come with

questions, and do everything you can to get your forms and money turned in by that June 1 meeting.

By the way, we're going backpacking! I don't know about you, but I'm ready to lace up my boots!



Vacation Bible School

is going to be great, and there will be plenty of things for middle schoolers and high schoolers to do.

From June 26 to June 30, come up to church in the evening for some good clean fun!

Don't forget about **summer camp**! June is the month for the CYF Conference and Eighters Camp, so get pumped up if those camps are calling your name.

I look forward to seeing all of you around. Again, give me a call if you need a friend to hang out with. I'll make time for you. God's blessing on you all,

--Andrew

.....from Maggie Mossler

Beginners Camp

June 20-22

William Brown
Valerie Eastwood
Luke Johnson
Amber Thaler
Derek Wigley

Caleb Casparis
Kelsey Hendrix
Hudson Krebs
Kevin Thaler

Eighter's Camp

June 26-July 2

Sarah Brown
Felicia Mossler
Diana Schlotter

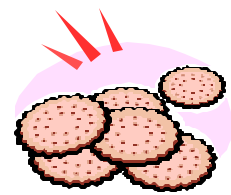
Layne Cape
Jessamyn Plotts
Keith Shimek

If mailing, send your mail to:

(Camper Name)
BBA - (Camp Name)
Disciples Conference Center
637 Private Road 3381
Gonzales, TX 78629

Speaking of mail..... some folks have been asking how to get hold of members Roy & Ruth Wilbern since they moved to Austin. Please feel free to call or drop them a note. They would love to hear from you!!

Roy & Ruth Wilbern
rwilbern@austin.it.com



Cookies for Chi Rhos!

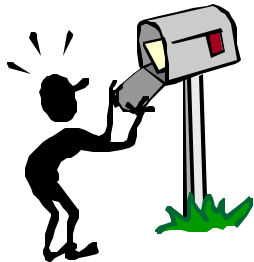
Looking for something that you can contribute to the Chi Rhos Mission trip? How about cookies!! We

would like for you to be a part of our mission trip, and one thing we do need is cookies!! We will be serving lunch two different days to about 100 people. Cookies would be a great dessert. They would need to be brought to the church by Sunday, June 5th. Thank you for your support!

--- the Chi Rhos ---

Summer Camp Request

We have lots of FCC kids attending camp this summer. One of the fun parts of summer camp is getting mail!! You can help! Write a note, your favorite quote, a postcard, or an inspirational greeting and mail it to the camp by Tuesday of the camp week. Or, you can drop your mail off at the church office by Tuesday, and Pastor James will take your letters and postcards to camp on his visit! So put your pen to paper, 'cuz here is the list of June Camps and Campers:



CYF Conference

June 12-18

Conner Altenhoff
Brad Breed
Joshua Floyd
Rikki Hardy
Ashley Stone
Justine Tunnell
Larkin Williams

Kelsey Altenhoff
Kelsi Cervenka
Kristi Hardy
Kevin Shimek
Trey Stone
Gordon Williams

THANK YOU FCC CHURCH FAMILY!!

Joe and Brigid Eliaz and family (Lilly, Brenna and Claire) would like to thank everyone for their prayers, love, support, meals, gifts, etc. for the family during the time of Lilly's accident.

Vacation Bible School 2005

Come and be part of the adventures at the Circle G Ranch



Where God is at the center
and the love never ends

Vacation Bible School will take place on Sunday, June 26th through Thursday, June 30th, from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM. This year's VBS program is based on the Bible verse from Mathew 7:7.

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you".

Children of all ages (preschool thru adult) are invited to come and have fun. Dinner will be served from 5:30 PM to 6:15 PM. The fun includes Bible stories, singing around a campfire, arts and crafts, various activities and games including pony rides, barrel racing, horse-shoe pit, and much more!

VBS MISSION PROJECT INFORMATION FROM CONNIE BURKE

This year at VBS we will be participating in several mission projects. Each night the kids and adults will receive information about some needs both in our community and the world which we can help meet. To give you some advance warning of what we will be doing, I have put this list of projects into this newsletter so that when we call for them at VBS each night, you will be prepared. This list will also be available when you register for VBS.

PROJECT #1 - SAN MARCOS FOOD BANK

Canned food and non perishable foods such as beans, rice, etc. will be collected for the San Marcos Area Food Bank.

PROJECT #2 - CHURCH WORLD SERVICE KIDS KITS - for victims of Tsunami or other victims of disasters and violence around the world

Kids Kits contents are listed below. Bring any of these items to make up Kids Kits or make up a complete Kids Kit, or donate money to purchase needed items and pay for postage to send the kits to Church World Service.

KIDS KIT

Our brand new Heart-to-Heart Kids Kit recognizes that even as faces must be washed and bellies must be fed, laughter must be heard as well. To assemble a Kids Kit you will need:

- One Rubbermaid® Clear Impressions shoebox with lid, 6.5 qt., or other flexible clear plastic 6.5 qt. shoebox with lid
- One small stuffed bear
- One soft small ball
- One harmonica, or other small musical instrument
- One 6" x 9" non-spiral bound pad of regular or construction paper (60-100 sheets)
- One slinky
- One yo-yo
- One 7-foot child's jump rope
- One comb
- One toothbrush
- One tube of toothpaste (4-7 ounces)
- One box of 24 crayons
- One large eraser
- Six new pencils with erasers
- One pencil sharpener
- One 30-centimeter ruler (12")
- One pair blunt child's scissors

Remove excess packaging so that items fit snugly in box. Place all items inside the shoebox, close lid, and tie securely with ribbon. No time to make a kit? Donate \$24.00 to Church World Service for the price of a Heart-to-Heart Kids Kit.

*Processing/shipping: \$ 3.00 per Kit.

PROJECT #3 - CHURCH WORLD SERVICE KIDS KITS - for Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries both for children of refugees and the orphanage in Matamoros

The same list of items listed above for Church World Service will also be collected for the Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries in the valley. This is the same place our Chi Rho youth visit each year on their mission trip.

PROJECT #4 - FOOD FOR THE ANIMAL SHELTER

We will collect dry food and canned food for the Animal Shelter in San Marcos

These projects will be continued through June and early July. If you are unable to attend VBS this year, please help us with these wonderful mission projects to help meet the needs of others and to promote an awareness of our need to be servants like our Savior, Jesus the Christ. God bless you all.

More Notes from Connie.....

CALLING ALL INTERESTED BELL RINGERS



The Joyful Noise Ringers Bell Choir has reorganized and is practicing on Monday evenings from 6:30-8:00 PM at the church. We have a number of ringers already, but would love to have more people to participate. If you have ever wanted to learn how to ring the handbells and have lots of fun at the same time, we would welcome you. Although reading music is a big help, it is not an absolute necessity. We are doing easy to ring music at the present time, so this is a great time to begin. We welcome youth as well as adults and if we get too many people for just one choir, we'll form another, so, come on down to the church on Monday evenings for lots of fun, laughter and music (we hope).



**Choir Notes from interim
Choir Director Mike Wood**

Hi all. I just wanted to let you all know that the choir will be taking its annual summer break during the month of July. This will leave us with five (5) Sundays where we will need special music, July 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31. If you have a favorite song that you would like to sing as a solo, duet, or any other musical configuration on any of those Sundays, please send me a quick email at (mawccps@grandecom.net). I'll put you on the calendar for the date you would like to sing. I will also need to know if you will need piano accompaniment or if you have a CD or cassette tape you will be using to provide your background music.

I know we have a lot of musically talented people in this church and I'm sure that we will have no problem filling these Sundays with beautiful music. Choir will start up again on Wednesday, August 3rd. Like the Marines, the FCC choir is still looking for a few (more) good men. We have a lot of fun and want you to be a part of it. Come join us Wednesday night at 7:15 PM.



Harmoniously,
Mike Wood

Cottage Kitchen Help Needed

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is to serve the lunch at the Cottage Kitchen on Friday, June 24th. This has been an annual event for many years.

Needed: 10 casseroles
 10 desserts
 10 workers to serve the food, wait tables, etc.

Reward: The opportunity to work together in greeting and serving others plus a delicious meal.

Please contact Jackie Cable at 512-353-1258 after June 10th or by email at ercjrc@grandecom.net
Thank You!

JUNE LECTIONARY READINGS AND LITURGICAL COLOR

Sunday, June 5

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Green

Genesis 12:1-9

Psalm 33:1-12

Romans 4:13-25

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Sunday, June 12

4th Sunday after Pentecost

Green

Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7)

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

Romans 5:1-8

Matthew 9:35—10:8, (9-23)

Sunday, June 19

5th Sunday after Pentecost

Green

Genesis 21:8-21

Psalms 86:1-10, 16-17

Romans 6:1b-11

Matthew 10:24-39

Sunday, June 26

6th Sunday after Pentecost

Green

Genesis 22:1-14

Psalm 13

Romans 6:12-23

Matthew 10:40-42

July Newsletter Deadline

Please submit articles for July newsletter to the church office by Monday, June 20, 2005. Email to Char – charlene@fcc-sm.org

FCC Website

Have you visited the FCC website? *You should!* Located at <http://www.fcc-sm.org> the FCC website is full of information, not only about the church in general, but about ongoing events that might interest you.

Do you have a friend who's never been to our church? Refer them to the website for directions, maps and more! *Have an email buddy in another state?* Let them visit the website so they can see where you worship and gain a better understanding of your church home.

When you visit, **don't miss** the "Hot Stuff!" info box on the right side of every page. It will highlight the most important new areas on the site so that you can check out what's going on.

Andrew Chapman always has plenty to say to the Youth of the church who log in - check the Youth News section to see his message. The monthly Newsletter and Lectionary readings are also of interest, as well as messages from the ministers!

The **Current Events section is probably the most informative** for members. Combining many items from the newsletter along with other items collected specifically for the website, you can find information here about church departmental trips (like the upcoming Chi Rho Mission Trip), "thank you" to members who have been especially helpful, updates on donation drives (like the Earthquake Tsunami Relief Update), Board updates, introductions to new staff members, and so much more. Take some time to visit it at least once or twice a month to know exactly what's going on at the church that might interest you or require your help!

If you have an idea for something you'd like to see on the website, please see Char in the office or call her at 396-1926. We're always interested in what you have to say!

Library Highlights

Do you know who wrote over 1,000 songs? Why, Solomon, of course. (1 Kings 4:32) One of my favorite sets of books in our library has 27 pages devoted to Solomon, including 4 pages of beautiful color illustrations by Maurice Bower.

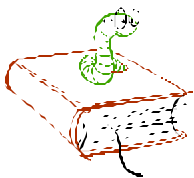
From Aaron to Zuzim, this small set of 16 volumes of The Living Bible Encyclopedia in Story and Pictures is the best set of Biblical reference books I have ever seen.

Copyrighted in 1968 by H. S. Stuttman Co., Inc., this series serves both adult and younger readers. It combines the Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary, stories and narratives from the Know Your Bible Program, a gallery of 480 paintings based on Bible themes and the most fascinating photographs of contemporary scenes and archaeological finds in the Holy Land.

In all, there are 2,132 pages full of information and explanations that will enlighten the reader about anything and everything in the Bible. I highly recommend this set of books to you for study and enrichment.

Next month, James will contribute to this column and Joann Schlotter has volunteered for the next one after that. There are several hundred good books in our library just waiting for you to check them out and enjoy their contents. Don't forget to bring them back so others can also enjoy them.

Camille Tracy



Book Worms.... Anyone???

I would like to see a review of one of the books from our library in the newsletter each month. I have written the first one, and would like to read *your* review soon! If you would like to participate, please let me know at 754-8885 by the 15th of the month preceding publication of the next newsletter.

Thanks,
Camille Tracy

Texas Water Safari Party!! Save the Date! Saturday, June 11th – 10:00 AM



The Bostwicks are hosting a Texas Water Safari party at their home on Saturday, June

11th at 10:00 AM. You are invited to bring a dish to go with hot dogs (they'll furnish the sausages and buns). Come with bathing suit, tube (if desired), towel, and smiles!!



Hats off to our 2005 Graduates!!

Congratulations to the following high school graduates:

Rikki Hardy
Brad Breed
Rachael Mullins
Kaiti Anderson

Justine Tunnell
Kevin Shimek
Ashley Stone

Congratulations to the following college graduates:

Meredith Clayton
Sandy Brown
(Bernice Brown's granddaughter)

Texas State University
Texas A & M

Congratulations to the following seminary graduate:

Ellen Lewis

Brite Divinity School