

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

a place to belong

October 2005

a place to become



Come One, Come All



First Christian Church Fall Festival

October 15, 2005 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Fun and Interest for all ages

***Craft and
Gift Shoppe***

***Silent & Live
Auction***

Hay Rides

***Children's
Games &
Activities***

***HomeMade
Frozen
Casseroles***

Sweet Shop

BBQ Lunch

Brisket & Sausage
Beans and Potato Salad
Bread, Pickles, Onions and Sauce

Advanced ticket sales \$5.00 for
take out or eat in
available through October 2nd

Tickets purchased the day of the
event are \$6.00

All proceeds will go to community outreach

The Fall Festival Committee Needs YOUR help...

- Please pick up your tickets, to sell to family, friends, colleagues and neighbors, from Char at the church office during the week or in the Narthex of the Church on Sunday. Remember, advance ticket sales are only available through October 2nd, so we need to act now.
- Please help distribute Fall Festival posters throughout the community. If you own a business or know of a business who will allow us to advertise at their location, please pick up a poster or 2 and help us publicize the festival. Posters are available in the Church office.
- Please let Connie Burke know if you would like to donate items to the craft shop.
- Contact Lenore Bolton if you have items for the silent auction.
- Contact Rick Hardy to help him gather 20 items with a value of \$75 or more for the Live Auction.
- Lastly, please mark your calendars, invite your friends, purchase your tickets and bring some money on October 15th.



From the Desks of James and Steve Senior and Associate Ministers

James

I have now been present with the San Marcos First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for six months. Leading this congregation has been a rewarding experience in teaching, preaching and fellowship. The challenge to assist in restoration and reconciliation has provided opportunities for all of us to nurture new relationships with God and others. We have defined our role as a Christian community. We realize our commitment individually and collectively to fulfill those defined responsibilities. Hence; with innovative zeal, we are implementing new programs that will encourage continued participation and affect creative outreach for all ages in the San Marcos area and the world.

My role as Senior Interim Minister has been to provide Pastoral care, deliver the Sunday morning sermons, offer encouragement for staff, board and others to develop leadership skills and support the church with guidance to continue in a favorable walk with the Lord.

Pastor Steve and I have chosen to complement each other in the ministry of this church. His role by mutual agreement has been to assume leadership of all programs in the church, pastoral roles as assigned or chosen and preaching responsibilities on Sunday in absence of the senior minister or when otherwise arranged.

Steve

I continue to enjoy my work as Associate Minister here at First Christian. I can hardly believe that my family and I arrived in San Marcos more than a year ago. My primary tasks are to support the work of all of the Ministry Departments and to assist in Worship, Preaching, Teaching and Pastoral Care as needed.

James, Char, Andrew and I have a good working relationship which makes ministry here a pleasure. This is a terrific staff with which to be a part. You can hear laughter in the offices as often as you can phones and keyboards. James and I communicate daily about all aspects of the church's work and are fully on the same page concerning our respective duties. I very much appreciate the cooperative effort that we have and the way that each of our strengths can be optimized.

As I head into my second year I am excited about all that God has in store for this congregation. I am committed to open communication so if you have a question or concern I look forward to speaking with you face to face whether it's the good the bad or the ugly! The door is always open.

Youth Happenings from Andrew

We have some exciting things planned for this semester. As always, D-Groups happen every week. The high schoolers are studying Lee Stobel's *The Case for Faith*, an investigation of the toughest objections to Christianity. Ever had questions about evolution ... hell ... the inerrancy of the Bible? This study will delve deep into those hard issues. 5:30-7:00 on Sunday nights. Middle school meets from 6:15-7:15 (note the time change from months past!) on Wednesdays. Our meetings so far have been great. Join us as we study just who Jesus is and how he is relevant in our lives and communities.

TCU Day for CYF is October 15. The deadline to sign up is Friday, September 30. Please let me know you're going and either hand me your sign up sheet, or put it in my box at church. On the 15th, meet at the church at 9:00 a.m. We'll load up in the van, spend the day at TCU, enjoy the game, go to the 5th Quarter Party at University Christian Church, and spend the night at a church in the area. You'll need clothes and sleeping gear for a night on the floor ... don't forget your toothbrush and



pj's. Also bring money for 3-4 meals on the road. We will head back to San Marcos on Sunday morning, getting back to church in the early afternoon (you can use my cell phone to call your parents and let them know when exactly we'll get back).



All Chi Rho students: let's have a lock-in on Friday, October 7th. Meet at church at 10:00 p.m. and have your parents pick you up on Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m. Bring whatever you need to be comfortable for those 10 hours: special clothes, neat games, exciting food, whatever strikes a chord with you.

Relay for Life is on Friday, October 21. More details on this event will come soon, but plan on participating with the whole youth group for First Christian Church.

May God's merciful hand be felt by every one of you.

Andrew

Wednesday Night Program

The meals have been terrific. The Song of Solomon Study and the Bible Basics classes are going well and will continue until October 12. The Psalm kids are having a great time with active learning experiences and singing. Come this Wednesday and be part of the fun.

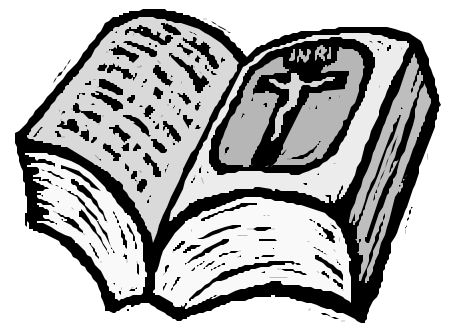
Coming Soon.....

Spiritual Gifts Class: The Membership Ministry Department is sponsoring a 2 or 3 week Spiritual Gifts class beginning **Wednesday, October 19 at 6:15**. This course is for all members and is designed to help you discover gifts that you may never have thought you had and to affirm gifts that you are already using. For some people there is quite a

revelation about what gifts they do have and which they don't. If you have questions about the Spiritual gifts course call Steve 396-1926.

Lay led Bible Study:

This study will not be led by a clergy person, but by one or two of you. In the next few weeks we will



announce both the study and the leaders. We have a number of excellent teachers in this congregation and some who have yet to discover that they have the gift of teaching. Stay tuned. (Also beginning October 19)

CHAIRMAN'S THOUGHTS

Fall is around the corner and we are making progress. Chris Carson presented the financial report. It was detailed, simplistic, and to the point. We are meeting our current commitments and catching up on bills and outreach giving that had been postponed in late 2004 and early 2005. We are on track to be even at the end of the year without any unforeseen expenses.

Chris and team, on the stewardship committee, have already started working diligently on the budget for next year. We will have 95% of our budget figured out for next year by our October board meeting. It will be a conservative budget based on the reality of our past and an optimistic view of the future.

One of the things helping us with our financial situation is volunteers filling the spots of key staff members. Thanks to Kerry Rash (Bookkeeper) and Mike Wood (Choir Director) who are donating their skills and time to make our church whole again.

A new transmitter for the sound system has been ordered and hopefully has been installed by the time you read this newsletter. This should solve the problem for those of you have been disappointed in the poor performance of our hearing devices.

Our interim pastor, James McKibbin, has a contract through May of 2006 and could be here longer if needed. At some point down the road we will start working to select a senior pastor search committee. The good thing is we are not under the crunch of time and as we communicated in the beginning, James' tenure could be 18 months to two years.

Finally I want to say how much I appreciate all of you that have stepped up to the plate to serve in our time of chaos. We have very committed people in key positions and a congregation that is willing to support them with their time and talents.

God Bless

Art Johnson



I want to thank each and everyone that has worked tirelessly for the Worship Ministry. Your act

of giving is very much appreciated. God bless each and everyone of you!

Rae Josey-Bostwick

Worship Ministry Chair

Church Work Day

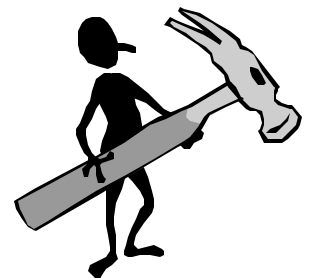
October 22nd – 9 AM till.....

Bring your talents, tools, tattered T-shirts and help make the property shine!

There will be a Pizza supper

at Noon for all workers. Can you help us get 100% participation? Call Joe Bostwick if you have any questions.

Sponsored by the Property Ministry of First Christian Church



Craft and Gift Shoppe Workdays Help! Workers still needed!

Our final workdays to make items for the Fall Festival will be Tuesday, Oct. 4th at 6:30 PM and Tuesday, Oct. 11th beginning at 11:00 AM until we decide to quit. If you are making things at home for the Craft and Gift Shoppe, please let me know what they are so I can begin planning the layout of the room. You may begin bringing items on Wed. night, Oct. 12th when you come for during dinner or Bible study. We will be setting up the room on Thursday and Friday and you may bring items either of those days as well. Please have your things to the church by Friday evening at 6:00 PM. I need people to man the cashier tables in the room on Saturday. If you would be willing to do this, please let me know. I need to get a schedule put together soon. I want to thank those of you who have made the effort to come out and help make crafts. Though you have been few, you have been a great help. We have made many very nice things to have in the room. I look forward to our last work days together. See you all Oct. 15th for a great Fall Festival.

In Christ's love,
Connie Burke, Coordinator
Fall Festival Craft & Gift Shoppe

CASA Fall Training In San Marcos



Join CASA of Central Texas in recognizing child abuse. Volunteer to become a Court Appointed Special Advocate. Advocates are trained

by CASA and then appointed by a Family Court Judge to advocate for children who have been removed from their homes because of abuse or neglect. A CASA volunteer serves as the eyes and ears of the court, and could very well be the only consistent person in a child's life during the court process. Please help us in our mission to provide a volunteer for every abused child in Hays, Comal, Guadalupe and Caldwell counties. Training will be October 17th – November 9th 5:30 to 8:30 PM Mondays and Wednesdays. For those interested in making a difference in the life of a child, please

contact Erin Taylor at 512-392-3578 or 830-626-2272. www.casacentex.org

Help Wanted

Do you love to read? Are you looking for a ministry at the church that meshes with your passion for books? Then answer your calling to help out in the First Christian Church library. Experience not necessary – will train. The rewards are bountiful, and you will have an up-close opportunity to “shop” the library and pick out the next treasure into which you will immerse yourself.

Call FCC Office for details – 396-1926

DivorceCare meets each Monday evening from 7 PM to 8:30 PM at Central Christian Church in Austin. Their last meeting will be December 12, 2005. DivorceCare is a support group for people going through divorce or have been through a divorce. Marco Ortiz and Jackie Baker are co-coordinators and would be pleased to answer any questions you might have.

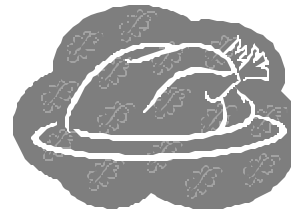
Jackie Baker: 512-796-4496

Marco Ortiz: 512-467-9624

Central Christian Church
1110 Guadalupe Street
Austin, TX 78701
512-476-6941

November Newsletter Deadline

This year is going by soooo fast I find it difficult to type N-O-V-E-M-B-E-R, but it is just around the corner. Please have your newsletter



articles to me by **Thursday, October 20th**, and help me to get the news to you in timely fashion. Email me at charlene@fcc-sm.org – or

call me 396-1926.

Char

THANK YOU



to everyone on our FCC Meals On Wheels team! These folks spent another week delivering meals to the homebound. Great Job!!

October Lectionary Readings & Liturgical Color

Sunday, October 2
 20th Sunday after Pentecost
 Green
 Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
 Psalm 19
 Phillippians 3:4b-14
 Matthew 21:33-46

Sunday, October 9
 21st Sunday after Pentecost
 Green
 Exodus 32:1-14
 Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
 Phillippians 4:1-9
 Matthew 22:1-14

Sunday, October 16
 22nd Sunday after Pentecost
 Green
 Exodus 33:12-23
 Psalm 99
 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
 Matthew 22:14-22

Sunday, October 23
 23rd Sunday after Pentecost
 Green
 Deuteronomy 34:1-12
 Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
 Matthew 22:34-46

Sunday, October 30
 24th Sunday after Pentecost
 Joshua 3:7-17
 Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
 Matthew 23:1-12

mention time spent with some families locally. Thank you so much.

Hurricane Katrina Relief



Please keep in mind that Katrina relief efforts and needs (and at the time of this writing, Rita may be added to the equation) will be on-going for quite some time (months!).

Donations needed will be cash, food, furniture, housing, job assistance, and transportation to name a few. There is a new organization in town - the Starfish Project www.projectstarfishonline.org that is working to help those families that have ended up here in the San Marcos area. We are fortunate here at First Christian Church to be able to offer office space, computer use and phone service to Patty Monical, Project Coordinator of the Starfish Project. Patty recently moved back to the San Marcos area, having most recently lived in the Denver, CO area. She has been coordinating the efforts of donors and those in need. She has been communicating needs of others to members of the community, and she has been making good things happen for Katrina evacuees here in the San Marcos area.



If you have items to donate, please give Patty a call. She can put you in touch with the persons handling your type of donation. There is now a FREE STORE in San Marcos

for use by hurricane evacuees. The current plan is to operate this "store" for a two month period to help people get on their feet while they start their lives over. Your support is very much appreciated.



Hurricane Katrina Special Collection

A big THANK YOU to those of you who donated cash, groceries, house hold goods, furniture, and time for those in need. Special collections brought in approximately \$6,600 for distribution among BBA Responds, Week of Compassion, and local families here in San Marcos. Other donations included food, bottled water, toys, bedding, box spring and mattress, lamps, long distance phone cards, not to

"First News"

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Church Staff:

James A. McKibbin, MA/M.Div, PSY/D _____ Interim Senior Minister
 Steven Thaler, M.Div. _____ Associate Minister
 Andrew Chapman _____ Youth Director
 Char Wood _____ Administrative Associate
 Mike Wood _____ Interim Chancel Choir Director
 Connie Burke _____ Handbell Director
 Margaret Jordan _____ Contemporary Music Coordinator
 Mabel Hall _____ Pianist
 Cecilia Pena _____ Organist / Accompanist
 Rosie Smith _____ Nursery Supervisor
 Lola Bell _____ Nursery Caregiver
 Jennifer Flores _____ Nursery Caregiver