



# The Chalice

A Newsletter for Members & Friends of First Christian Church, Conroe



February 6, 2012

## God Call Us



From the  
Pastor



**Dr Wes Morgan, Pastor**

**Many strange conversations take place in hospitals room and hallways. Usually the tones are soft – quiet – hushed – almost reverential. At other times there is gasping and shouting – maybe moaning and groaning. Occasionally there is cursing and shouting.**

**Sometimes the sentences are filled with hope and confidence – sometimes with fear and anxiety. Many times there is despair and wishful longing – other times there is hope and expectancy. The hallways have heard it all – from the cursing to the rejoicing – from the dismay to the wonder. Every word which can express either the heights or the depths of the human soul has been uttered within these confines. And always – always lurking is the laid-bare soul of a mother or a father – a grandparent or a child – a friend or a stranger.**



### **Feeding the Hungry**

We are thankful to the Boy Scouts for the donations of food for the Souper Bowl of Caring that will help fill our pantry.

During January our Soup Kitchen served 474 people at the Salvation Army. Our food ministry of the Soup Kitchen and the Food Pantry goes on every week on Tuesdays and Wednesdays to help feed those in need.

### **Pastor's Bible Study WILL RESUME This Week**

The Pastor's Bible Study WILL RESUME meeting this Thursday from 6:30—8:00 p.m..

### **Updating Pictorial Directory**

We will be updating our Pictorial Directory over the next several weeks. If you would like to have your picture updated, please see or call Peggy Schneider. Have you gotten a new look, have your kids grown, or perhaps you are just tired of the picture in the directory that has been there since 2008. Get a new picture made! Have you been attending FCC for a long time and still are not in the directory? Call Peggy and get a picture made! New address, phone number? Let us know. We are updating and we want you and all correct information in our new directory.

Each is now at a place they had either anticipated or evaded -- the place of life and death.

Many of us think of this place in terms of either/or -- either life or death -- either healing or pain -- either beginning or ending. In reality this place is each of these and every variation along the continuum.

For when words have been uttered our minds race for their meaning. Sometimes there is shock -- shock so deep and scary that no word can be found -- much less words! Sometimes there is relief -- relief so complete that it is numbing. AND always there is the next moment. It may take awhile to arrive -- but it comes and it brings the next question.

For many the question is, "Why?" "Why me?" "Why now?" "Why this?" "Why?" "Why?" "Why?" "Why?" As if there has to be some answer which would explain everything -- or make everything all right -- or bring some magical response which would at least make something better.

In reality there is no real answer to the question, "Why?" There is only one answer to "Why?" -- "Why not?" And every attempt to answer the "Why?" restarts the cycle all over again, "Why?" "Why not?".

Fortunately there is a ques-

tion which can lead us to another place -- a place from which we can think, plan, pray and respond. That question is, "What now?" "What now, that this has happened?" "What now, with God's help?" As we struggle to gain knowledge about options, processes and possibilities, we begin the process of co-creation. We accept the invitation to participate in this season of our living. Now we are saying, "Yes!" to the possibilities and potentialities inherent in every moment.

This is not to say that there will or will not be a miraculous physical healing. It is, on the other hand, to declare that at any moment and in every conscious circumstance, we can choose to participate in the decisions of that moment. And this is the victory -- that we can be alive -- aware -- and choosing our life -- choosing to live in the mystery of the Holy Now -- the Living Moment -- the all that is possible right now!

I look forward to our gathering in Worship on Sunday so we can praise and thank God together and think about our answers to the question, "What now?"

Love & Blessings,  
Wes <+><

These are the lessons that your Pastor is reading in preparation for the Sunday services.

Scripture

2 Kings 5.1-14

Psalms 30

1 Corinthians 9.24-27

Mark 1. 40-45



**For the Record  
February 5, 2012**

**Worship: 88  
Offering: \$4,442**

We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As a part of the one Body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us." Disciples of Christ Identity Statement.

***The Mission Statement of  
The First Christian Church,  
Conroe, TX***

Our mission is to serve and praise God by sharing our love with all people as Christ taught.



***“Praising God – Reaching out – Teaching love –  
Serving God and people!”***



Visitors for Sunday February 5, 2012:

**MEMBERS:** Bill Swan, Donna Smith, Gary Alexander, Marilyn Coyne; Megan Schneider; Bill & Peggy Schneider; Debby Blackburn; Willie Pritzkau; Gary and Marty Alexander; Katie Youngblood; Wes Morgan

**CONTINUING PRAYER FOR RELATIVES & FRIENDS:** Edward **Schraeder** – brother of H. Schraeder; Bryce **Stevenson** – relative of B. Harris; Robert **Stevenson** – brother of B. Harris; Jace **Sandoval** – friend of R. & B. Harris; Sydney **Curtis** – daughter of K. McQueeney; Charles **LaCarter**; Norma **Herron** - mother of A. Corley; Terry **Files** – friend of P & B Keyser; Jennifer **Clark** & family – daughter of M Alexander; Mary **Gentry** – sister of M Schraeder; Maddox **McNear** – grandson of G Serrato; **McTighe** family – Relatives of A Twidell; Sharon **Blackburn** – daughter-in-law of M Caldwell; Bettye & Jim **Johnson** – parents of A Twidell; Paige **Johnson** – friend of P Schneider; Peggy **Gunderson** – friend of M Caldwell; Ed **Smith** – son of B Smith; Lindsay **Gillaspie** – granddaughter of P Keyser; Dennis **Caldwell** – relative of M Caldwell; Bo **Whitener** – son of D & D Whitener; Amy **Milam** – friend of P Keyser.

**IN MILITARY:** Lt Timothy **O’Neil** – relative of G Serrato;

Sgt Kenny **Hughes** – grandson of L Lewis; T **Thorsen** (Africa) – nephew of D Yates; Michael Daniel; Sr Mstr Sgt. **Scott** and Mstr Sgt. **Heather Ransom**- nephew and niece of W Fick.

**NEW PRAYER REQUESTS:** Terry **Smith** – brother of B Smith; **Helen** – mother of D Blackburn; Willie **Martin** - mother of C Speight; Zayne **Schoppa** – cousin of M Meador; Theresa **Woodard** – friend of M Schraeder; Jeremy **Spurgeon** – friend of C Costas; Marilyn **Schneider** – aunt of B Schneider; Sharon & Austin **Bouchor** – grandparents of N Fielder; Patty & Bill **Costello** – friends of D Smith; Brian **Hargraves** – son of TL Hale; Bill **Bartlett** – friend of B Harris; C.J. **Evens** – grandson of D Yates; Pattie & Bill **Costello** – D Smith; Pamela **Ebenshade** & family – daughter of C Jackson; Jainia Belle **Owens** – relative of M Caldwell; Sloan Crofford; Virginia **Pelouquin** —relative of P Morgan; Jaden **Renshaw** – relative of P Schneider; Marynell **Walker** – sister of K Youngblood; **Watford** family – friend of B Provencher.

**HOMEBOUND:** Gerry Kincaid; Wilma Lehman; T.C. Harvill

### **Twinkles are not free**

For a good while my computer at home has been really slow. In fact, I could go pop popcorn while waiting for it to finally take a command. Well, maybe not quite that bad, but pretty bad. Sometimes it would work slow, but acceptable. So I have been watching the commercials that claim to speed up your computer and/or fix it. Finally Saturday I decided it was time to try it. First you decide which commercial to trust and then you go to their website. Easy enough. Then you click on the Free Scan Download. Low and behold the free scan found 32 fixes it needed to make. It is now ready to fix my computer and I will be running 100% faster. Oh, just one more thing before the fix starts. The scan was free, but the fix is not. For a reduced price from \$139.00, they are giving me the special offer of \$49.99. Three downloads of something to fix it with. No thanks. Then a message comes up that the Technology Service people had a discussion and would offer it to me for only \$39.99. Still no thanks. But now I have a little problem. They have disabled my anti-virus software, we have to take the program off our computer, but the computer won't shut off, so we have to do a system restore to get it back the way it was before. The next time you are tempted by a twinkle in the eye, or an offer to max your speed, remember that there is a price to pay for seduction. (Shirley Taylor)

## “O Love that will not let me go”

O Love that will not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
That in thine ocean depths its flow  
May richer, fuller be.

George Matheson (1842-1906) wrote the words to this much-loved hymn while feeling intensely lonely and afraid.

Years back, his fiancé had broken their engagement upon learning he was going blind. Despite that challenge, Matheson had followed God’s call to a fruitful pastoral ministry – with his sister’s assistance. Now his sister was getting married, and Matheson worried about who would take care of him and if anyone would ever want to marry him.

Amid such despair, Matheson later shared, God gave him all four verses of this hymn in five minutes. It’s a poignant reminder that God’s love sustains us even when human love falls short.



### 40

This number appears many times in Scripture, often indicating a time of trial or testing, or simply marking something significant. It rained 40 days and nights during the Great Flood. Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. Jesus fasted for 40 days and was with the disciples for 40 days between his resurrection and ascension. Taking this symbolic number to heart, the Christian church has long observed 40 days of Lent (not counting Sundays).

### Employment Opportunity In Conroe

There will be a new Firehouse Subs restaurant opening in Conroe in February. It will be at Teas Nursery Road and I-45 next to the Olive Garden. They are now accepting reservations and will be hiring between 25-30 people of all ages. “If you are friendly, energetic and like to work in a fast paced environment, apply with us” is what they say. The manager is from First Christian Baytown and stopped by to let us know of the hiring opportunity. If you are interested or know someone who is, the applications will be on the door at the restaurant. Fill it out and put it in a box and they will be picked up daily.

Sign on Laundromat next door to a church: Here’s where cleanliness really is next to godliness!

Church Notes: Please put your donation along with any suggestions in the correction basket.

There’s no bigger boxing fan than Father O’Conner. He always calls his favorite about hell “Don King’s Inferno.”

### Lowes is Hiring

We received a letter from Lowes in Conroe that they are hiring. You can contact them at [www.lowes.com/careers](http://www.lowes.com/careers) or 936-760-1500. The ad says they are hiring for Full-time, and Part-time positions, also seasonal positions.

### Invest to Bless Is retirement all about you?

With 2012 already here, now is a good time to make financial plans for the new year and the years to come. And, if you’re thinking about how to save for retirement, did you know that there are ways to save for the future, reduce your taxes and benefit churches all at the same time? Visit Retirement Central and IRA Service Center at [www.churchextension.org](http://www.churchextension.org) to find out more about how Church Extension’s Individual Retirement Accounts make it possible for you to benefit your family AND your Church, now and into the future. You may also contact Investor Services Representative Chris Clark, CISP, at [cclark@churchextension.org](mailto:cclark@churchextension.org), (800) 274-1883.

## Light in the darkness

We who claim to be children of God live in a far too violent world. Terrorism, war, random killing and sins too horrible to describe appear all too frequently in the daily news. As Christians what can we do?

In another dark time, just before the outbreak of World War II, King George VI of England went on the radio to offer a Christmas message of encouragement for his people. As part of his remarks, he read a poem by Minnie Louise Haskins entitled "God Knows."

Here's a portion of the poem:

I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year,  
 "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."  
 And he replied, "Go into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way!"

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.  
 He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone east.

We may not always be able to dispel the threatening darkness, but we can walk through it with God for as long as it lasts. Let us remember these words from the popular hymn:

This is my Father's world.  
 O let me ne'er forget  
 that though the wrong seems oft so strong,  
 God is the ruler yet.

("This Is My Father's World" by Maltbie D. Babcock)



## JAMES: MERCY TRIUMPHS BY BETH MOORE

James, Jesus' own brother, started out as a skeptic. See how one glimpse of the resurrected Savior turned an unbeliever into a disciple with Beth Moore's 8-session study *James: Mercy Triumphs*. And, in the process, learn how you can put your own faith into action.

### Beth Moore Study

**"Mercy Triumphs, a study of James" starts February 2**

To sign up, please call Bobbie Harris at 441-3424  
 or Judy Hopper at 539-1339. The study begins at 9:00 a.m.

# Weekly Calendar of Events

## Sunday, February 12, 2012

10:15 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal

10:45 am - Worship Service

## Monday, February 13, 2012

6:45 - Hand bell rehearsal

6:30—Cub Scouts

## Tuesday, February 14, 2012

9:00 am Hug-a-Bears 1&3 Tuesdays

9:30 am Soup Kitchen

7:00 pm Boy Scouts

## Wednesday, February 15, 2012

9:00-12:00 Food Pantry

6:30 pm CYF

2:00 pm Alzheimer's (3rd Wed)

7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal

7:00 pm Debtors Anonymous

## Thursday, February 16, 2012

9:00 a.m. Beth Moore Bible Study

6:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study

## Friday, February 17, 2012

## Saturday, February 18, 2012

## Sunday, February 19, 2012

10:15am - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

10:45 am - Worship Service

## Sunday, February 12, 2012

Sunday School: 9:30 am

**Morning Worship: 10:45 am**

**Sermon: Dr. Wes Morgan**

**Worship Leader:** Nancy Joyce

**Elders:** Duncan McGinnis

Marvene Caldwell

**Sound Manager:** Bill Schneider

Devin Edwards

**Video Artist:** Jan Lewis

**Greeters:**

**Head Deacon:** Marty Alexander

**Diaconate:** Keri Fick; Marty

Alexander; Terry Lynn Hale; Ann

Twidell; Ruth Mancini; Bryan Fielder

**Preparing:** Marty Alexander

Keri Fick

**Acolytes:** Cayden Davenport

Cali Davenport

### Worship Leaders

February - Nancy Joyce

March - Paul Mathews

April - Marty Alexander

### FCC STAFF

Pastor: Dr. Wes Morgan

Secretary/Newsletter: Shirley Taylor

Student Ministries: Nicci and Bryan Fielder

Music Minister: Kerri Edwards

Pianist: Kay Kammerdiener

Chalice Bells: Sherry Hunter

### Office Hours

Mon - Thurs 8:30 am - 2:30 pm

**Deadline for Newsletter**

Monday

### Lock Up Schedule

1/29—2/4 - Tom Wiley

2/5 - 2/11 - Larry Corley

2/12 - 2/18 - Wes Morgan

2/19 - 2/25 - Harvey Schraeder

2/26 - 3/3 - Robert Sanders

3/4/ - 3/10 - Larry Corley

(Family Promise)

### February Flowers

Feb 5 - Smiths

Feb 12

Feb 19

Feb 26



© 1997 Rob Portlyk

PORTLYK

### First Christian Church

3500 North Loop 336 West

Conroe, TX 77304

Church (936) 756-3554

Fax (936) 756-3554 (same)

Pastor (936) 203-4089

[www.fccconroe.org](http://www.fccconroe.org)

Email: [fccconroe@consolidated.net](mailto:fccconroe@consolidated.net)



Invite a Friend to Church Sunday

"Welcome to our first early morning service."