



The Chalice

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



January 29, 2012

God's Care - Our Ministry



From the
Pastor



Dr Wes Morgan, Pastor

I preach a message of God's grace, personal and global, and God's evolving care for the world, wherever I go. I do this because this is the message Jesus brought to us – and it is the message he lived – and it is the message I believe.

Mark 1. 29-39, the Gospel Lesson for this week, presents a "day in the life" of Jesus. Jesus has just preached at the local synagogue. He gains notoriety not only for his message but his healing of a demon possessed man. He then retires with his inner circle for dinner. Jesus is still "on duty" – but does Jesus find rest at Simon's house. (Jesus is still "on duty")

Simon's mother-in-law is sick with a fever and unable to fulfill her vocation as hostess and hospitality-giver. Jesus raises her up, and she responds by serving her guests. This is not a



Souper Bowl Of Caring

On Sunday we will receive a special offering for the Souper Bowl of Caring. The offering, which will be received by the Scouts will help fund our Food Pantry. Please be a generous as you can. Sunday is Boy Scout Sunday and we are pleased to honor the troop that meets at FCC.

Pastor's Bible Study Will Not Meet This Week

Due to Wes' surgery, The Pastor's Bible Study will NOT meet this Thursday. Please join us again the next week, February 9, for the next Bible Study. Child care is provided for those who need it, and everyone is always welcome to come and join in.

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.

matter of sexism or women's roles, but vocation in that time and place. Our vocations are always contextual, rooted in our time and place. They are constantly evolving both personally and culturally. Healing is never solely for our personal aggrandizement, it aids reclaiming our vocation or discovering our calling for our unique time and place. We receive God's healing touch so we can share in the healing of others!

The passage concludes with a description of Jesus at prayer. Jesus has worked late in the night -- healing ailments of body, mind, and spirit. He has restored both bodies and social standing. He has transformed outcasts into insiders.

As morning dawns, Jesus retreats to a solitary place for a time of prayer and meditation. Jesus' ministry involves the rhythm of action and contemplation. His healing power and personal authority come from "waiting on God" (Isaiah 40). In silence, Jesus claims his vocation as a teacher and healer. His disciples seek to limit his mission, but out of the depths of his relationship with God, he moves forward to other communities. He follows his calling, yet remains in pastoral relationship with his followers.

Healing takes many forms. It involves touch that trans-

forms cells and intimacy that transforms souls. No issue is too small for God's healing care. While we may understand healing differently than Jesus' first followers, we are called to a our own healing ministry in our time. All that we -- prayers, actions, and rituals can truly activate divine energy to make persons and communities whole.

I look forward to worshipping with you on Sunday so we can praise and thank God together for our healing -- and think more about our shared ministries.

Love & Blessings,
Wes <+><

Dear Pastor,
I think a lot more people would probably come to your church if you moved it to Disneyland.
Lauren

Special dates

- African-American History Month
- Boy Scout Sunday, February 5, 2012
- Valentine's Day, February 14, 2012
- Transfiguration of Our Lord, February 19, 2012
- Presidents Day, February 20, 2012
- Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2012
- First Sunday in Lent, February 26, 2012

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

Scripture

- Isaiah 40.21-31
- Psalms 147. 1-11, 20c
- 1 Corinthians 9.16-23
- Mark 1. 29-39



For the Record
January 29, 2012
Worship: 85
Offering:

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 January 29, 2012:



DEARLY BELOVED

No this is not about weddings. Even though I have an invitation to two weddings that I have to get presents for, and today would have been my parents 87 wedding anniversary, the *dearly beloved* that we hear today comes from across the waters. This is the way many spam emails begin. I am sure you get them, too. They are probably from Nigeria. I am sure they don't speak that way to each other, but I wonder if they think that we say that when we address our friends and relatives. Then I wonder who on earth is taken in by a *dearly beloved* email and sob story and promises of great wealth if only we do certain things. Most of these emails have very bad grammar, as was pointed out in today's Houston Chronicle, and the spelling is not so good either. This past week I received an email from one of the poorest countries in the world, Burundi. They have a group of 7 people who want to travel to Houston, Texas, for a one day conference that I am involved with. They have the combined fee of \$280 ready to mail if only we say the word. Haven't answered them yet, but I am sure that their offer to pay for the conference is just the tip of the iceberg and getting involved with them would have us lying on our side like the Costa Concordia. (Shirley Taylor)

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

CONTINUING PRAYER FOR RELATIVES & FRIENDS: Edward **Schraeder** – brother of H. Schraeder; Bryce **Steven-son** – 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: Betty **Wiley** – sister-in-law of T Wiley; 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; Marilynn **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. **Evans** – grandson of D Yates; Pattie & Bill **Costello** – D Smith; Pamela **Eshenshade** & family – daughter of C Jackson; Jainia Belle **Owens** – relative of M Caldwell; Virginia **Peloquin** —relative of P Morgan; Jaden **Renshaw** – relative of P Schneider; Mary-nell **Walker** - sister of K Youngblood.

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

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 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, (800) 274-1883.

Annual Women's Retreat Saturday, February 18, 2012

The Annual Women's Retreat will be held at Cypress Creek Christian Church on February 18. Keynote speaker is Rev. Dr. Judith Allen, Pastor of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Pasadena, Texas. The Retreat title is "Be Transformed". It starts with the transformation process of Bees and Butterflies, and continues the metamorphosis process to bring an exciting message for all women. Registration information is in the church office..

Great Day Celebration begins February 5

Just a reminder that the Great Day Celebration begins on the first Sunday of February. On the first Sunday of each month we will celebrate in the parlor with punch and cake. There is a sign up sheet for those wanting to provide the refreshments and serve. Please remember that if you would like to celebrate a particular birthday or event on a Sunday that is not the first Sunday, you can sign up for that also on the sign up sheet.

Open Invitation

Did you resolve to learn a new skill in the new year? Well, the Chalice Bells are offering an open invitation to all adults in the congregation (and in the community, if you know of someone) to join our group on Monday nights for rehearsal in the sanctuary, from 6:45 pm to 8:00 pm, each week. We ring once a month in worship, typically the second Sunday of each month. We are looking for people who have some or limited musical knowledge and would like to learn to ring. Please contact Sherry Hunter at 281-367-0868 or sherryhunter@comcast.net if you are joining us!

Ring
with
us!



In the Same Boat

The portion of the church building where the congregation sits is called the nave or boat. It reflects the understanding that the church is the ark of salvation, offering life in Jesus Christ to all who will receive it. Often in stained-glass windows one can find a picture of a boat, sometimes with a cross as the mast to symbolize the church. As you sit in worship on Sunday look around you. We're all in the same boat!

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.



**February 2, 2012
Groundhog Day**

If Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow on February 2, what does that have to do with what happens in Conroe? Nothing!

Old enough to serve

In a worship-committee meeting, much debate occurred about the minimum age for acolytes. "If kids can't reach the pulpit to place the Bible, then they shouldn't be allowed to carry it," some said. Others complained that young participants didn't carry the cross straight enough or that their childish delight seemed irreverent.

The conversation seemed to overshadow the central question: "Who gets to serve?" Does God's calling have limits? Shouldn't our faithful, joyful hearts, not our talents or abilities, define the quality of our service?

Perhaps we can learn from the child standing eagerly in the back of the sanctuary, clutching a Bible to his chest and asking, "I help God?" I don't want to be the one to tell him no.



Walking with God

The essence of the Christian life is knowing God and walking with him. It's about sticking with him when the sky is blue and also when it's filled with clouds or choked with smoke. It's about walking with the Lord through thick and thin, and pressing on through every heartache and trial that happens to come our way.

—Greg Laurie



**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 5, 2012
 10:15 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
 10:45 am - Worship Service
 Coordinators Meeting
Monday, February 6, 2012
 6:45 - Hand bell rehearsal
 6:30—Cub Scouts
Tuesday, February 7, 2012
 9:00 am Hug-a-Bears 1&3 Tuesdays
 9:30 am Soup Kitchen
 7:00 pm Boy Scouts
Wednesday, February 8, 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 9, 2012
 6:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study
Friday, February 10, 2012
Saturday, February 11, 2012
Sunday, February 12, 2012
 10:15am - Chancel Choir Rehearsal
 10:45 am - Worship Service

Sunday, February 5, 2012
Sunday School: 9:30 am
Morning Worship: 10:45 am
Sermon: Dr. Wes Morgan
Worship Leader: Nancy Joyce
Elders:

Sound Manager: Bill Schneider
 Devin Edwards
 Jan Lewis

Video Artist:
Greeters:

Head Deacon: Marty Alexander
Diaconate: Keri Fick; Marty Alexander; Terry Lynn Hale; Ann Twidell; Ruth Mancini; Bryan Fielder
Preparing: Ruth Mancini
 Bryan Felder
 Atticus Walker
 Eli Edwards

Acolytes:

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)

Worship Leaders

February - Nancy Joyce
 March - Paul Mathews
 April - Marty Alexander

February Flowers

Feb 5 - Smiths
 Feb 12
 Feb 19
 Feb 26



"The board wants to know if this is coming off your conference time or your vacation."

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 Pastor (936) 203-4089

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Invite a Friend to Church Sunday