



The Chalice

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



January 16, 2012

NOW



From the
Pastor



Dr Wes Morgan, Pastor

The Worship year of the church, which is quite different from our calendar year, begins four Sundays before Christmas and is called Advent. The next season is Christmas and it continues for twelve days. January 6 (the twelfth day after Christmas) began the next season of the church's Worship year. It is called Epiphany, and it celebrates the early ministry of Jesus and the Light that Jesus brought/is bringing into this world. Here is a meditation I wrote on Epiphany.

(See page 2)

Peg and I thank you for your many kind remembrances. Your cards, calls, emails, and letters at Christmas were wonderful. We also thank everyone who shared in the Staff Gifts. We love you and rejoice in our shared life.

Wes and Peg



Child Blessing This Sunday

Miranda and Matthew will present their twins, Jude and Reed, for the Blessing of Children and the Dedication of Parents this Sunday.

Great Day Celebration will be first Sunday each month

Starting February 6, we will celebrate in the parlor with punch and cake. Please let us know if you would like to furnish the cake and punch on any of the first Sundays of the month.

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.

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 will follow.

Epiphany Meditation

NOW . . .

As the day filters into the night
And the Light subdues the dark
May your Spirit move – in us --
In our world until there is
Only a memory of the dark
Until all is light – light penetrating --
Shining into ever dark corner.

As the light enwraps the creation,
May your love engulf us
Until we can do naught but float
Enwrapped in your all encompassing
Energy of love-light.

As we float supported by that
Of which we dream
May we be deeply connected to you
As the Source in which we have our being.

May we know that you are the Place
From which we come and the Place
To which we return – and the Place
Which we are to recreate here – now
Inviting all to come welcomed as sisters
And brothers of the Light-Love in which
We have been created – and in which we now
Have our being – each one a spark of the Light
Burning bright – joining together until
There is no dark – only You – only Light
Only Love enlightening . . .

I hope to see you Sunday so we can worship and praise
God together, and celebrate the Light from God shining in
our lives!

By Wes Morgan

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

Scripture

Jonah 3.1-5,10

Psalms 62.5-12

1 Corinthians 7.29-31

Mark 1.14-20

Bible Study Begins Thursday, January 19

The Pastor's Bible Study will
resume on Thursday, January
19 beginning at 6:30 pm and
concluding by 8pm. Please
make your plans now to at-
tend and enjoy!

**For the Record
January 15, 2012**

**Worship: 79
Offering: \$3,812**

We are Disciples of Christ, a
movement for wholeness in a
fragmented world. As a part of
the one Body of Christ, we wel-
come all to the Lord's Table as
God has welcomed us." Disci-
ples 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 15, 2012:

MEMBERS: Bill Swan, Donna Smith, Gary Alexander, Marilyn Coyne; Megan Schneider; Bill & Peggy Schneider; Debby Blackburn; Willie Pritzkau

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; Betty & 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

IN MILITARY: Lt Timothy **O’Neil** – relative of G Serrato; Sgt Kenny **Hughes** – grand-

son 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: Bart **Graves** and their entire family – T Massey; Martha **Bissex** – friend of A&L Corley; Dennis **Drenning**, Sandra **Alverson** and family – friend of T Meyers; B **Perkins** – cousin of D Yates; **Ashley** – greatniece of M Caldwell; Sydney **Hilley** – granddaughter of A Twidell; Christy **Schraeder** – daughter of M&H Schraeder; Betty **Wiley** – sister-in-law of T Wiley; Curtis **Taylor**; 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; Mary **Bach**

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



Late Night Musings

The cuckoo bird was turned off and rewound and the lights were turned out and we were in bed when I remembered that the heat had not been turned down. I pretended to be half asleep and hoped that Don would get up out of bed and turn down the heat. When he came back to bed, I mumbled “*I feel sorry for Dagwood and Blondie.*” “What did you say?” Again, “I feel sorry for Dagwood and Blondie.” “WHAT?” “They still have Cookie and Alexander living with them and have had teenagers for 70 years.” That brought on a discussion about cartoon families that never grew up. Don didn’t ask me why I was thinking about teenagers when we haven’t had any around for almost that long, but this is what I would have told him. I had just looked at the facebook page of a young adult and thought “she ought to know better than to put that on facebook.” Then I thought how wonderful it was not to have to worry about teenagers and young adults. Thus “I feel sorry for Dagwood and Blondie.”

(Shirley Taylor)



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.



In the book of Judges, a cycle is repeated many times: The Israelites do "what is evil in the sight of the LORD," God hands them over to an enemy nation, they cry out to the Lord and he appoints a judge, or political/military leader, for them. Under the judge's leadership, the Israelites conquer their adversary and prosper — until they start doing "what is evil in the sight of the LORD" all over again.

Who was *not* one of these judges?

- A. Deborah
- B. Ehud
- C. Esau
- D. Shamgar

Answer on back page Answer: C

The guide

Picture a man stumbling along in a heavy fog, completely disoriented. Then, off in the distance, he sees the light of one small lamp. Its glow is sufficient neither to burn off the fog nor to illuminate the obstacles that might be on the ground between the man and that lamp. Still, it is a steadily burning lamp. Something within the man prompts him to believe that if he heads toward it, he will be going in the right direction. That "something" we can call "faith."

While heading toward the lamp, he finds another lost man whose eyesight is so poor he can't see the lamp. The first man takes the second by the hand and helps him toward the lamp also. The act of reaching out to another we can call "love."

And the lamp that draws him? It's called "hope."

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!



Being An Elder At First Christian Church, Conroe, TX

Our congregation is blessed with a number of people who serve as the Elders of the church. The current serving Elders of the church are: Marvene Caldwell, Ann Corley, Cathey Costas, Paul Matthews, Duncan McGinnis, Cindy Ortiz, Peggy Schneider, Bob Smith, Donna Smith, Madeline Schraeder and Ann Twidell.

As a church, we believe that every person is blessed with Spiritual Gifts which they are to use in their individual ministries. Therefore, age has very little to do with being an Elder. It is all about the gifts of the Holy Spirit and a person's passion to use her/his gifts to serve God and people.

In our Spiritual Gift Training, we help people to identify their Gifts for serving in the church.

The gifts to be an Elder include a mixture of the following: Administration; Leadership; Wisdom; Teaching; Encouragement; Evangelism; Shepherding; Knowledge; Giving; Creative Communication; Discernment; Prophecy; Intercession; Hospitality; Helps; Mercy; Apostleship and Craftsmanship. I say mixture because there is no one gift that automatically identifies one as an Elder. Rather it is a blend of different gifts, and the willingness to use those gifts which helps others to discern the readiness of a person to serve in this ministry.

The Elders meet monthly for prayer, study, and fellowship and to discuss the concerns of the congregation. Once-a-quarter the Elders have an extended meeting (we call it a Retreat or Workshop). The Retreat is almost always held on a Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until Noon. We use this extended time for in-depth training in the ministry of the Elder and for problem solving and inspiration. In these months, we do not normally have our regular meeting. No Elder is expected to serve until they have had some basic training in the ministry of the Elder.

Each Elder has a Shepherding Group – usually six to ten families. The ministry of the Elder includes establishing and maintaining some form of contact with each family. The Elders use many different forms including, but not limited, to letters, cards, phone calls, face-to-face contact at the church.

The Elders offer prayers in the service on a regular basis. They follow a schedule which they can change if necessary. Usually on the Sundays when an Elder serves in Worship, they take Communion to shut-in members. The time needed to do this varies according to the number of shut-ins.

There are two other duties the Elders perform: (1) Three Elders serve on the Pastoral relations Committee (PRC). The PRC normally meets every other month for an hour or two to serve as a sounding board for the Pastor, and as a channel of communication between the congregation and Pastor. A person does not normally serve on the PRC until they have been an Elder for a while. (2) One male and one female Elder serve on the Nominating Team of the congregation when it is time to select officers for the congregation. This is a volunteer position which is filled in the first meeting of the year.

Weekly Calendar of Events

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

Sunday, January 22, 2012
 10:15 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
 10:45 am - Worship Service
Monday, January 23, 2012
 6:45 - Hand bell rehearsal
Tuesday, January 24, 2012
 9:00 am Hug-a-Bears 1&3 Tuesdays
 9:30 am Soup Kitchen
 6:00 pm Cub Scouts
 7:00 pm Boy Scouts
Wednesday, January 25, 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, January 26, 2012
 6:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study
Friday, January 27, 2012
Saturday, January 28, 2012
Sunday, January 29, 2012
 10:15am - Chancel Choir Rehearsal
 10:45 am - Worship Service

Sunday, January 22, 2012
Sunday School: 9:30 am
Morning Worship: 10:45 am
Sermon: Dr. Wes Morgan
Worship Leader: Peggy Schneider
Elders: Barbara Provencher
 Cindy Ortiz
Sound Manager: Bill Schneider
 Devin Edwards
Video Artist: Jan Lewis
Greeters: Lou Lewis
 Marvene Caldwell
Head Deacon: Johnnie Walker
Diaconate: Nicci Fielder; Jan Lewis;
 Ronnie McQueeney; Jack Bechtel;
 Johnnie Walker; Charlene Speight
Preparing: Johnnie Walker
 Jan Lewis
Acolytes: Cody Davenport
 Julia Massey

Lock Up Schedule

1/1 - 1/7	- Larry Corley
1/7-1/14	-Wes Morgan
1/15-1/21	-Harvey Schraeder
1/22-1/28	-Robert Sanders
1/29—2/4	- Tom Wiley

Worship Leaders

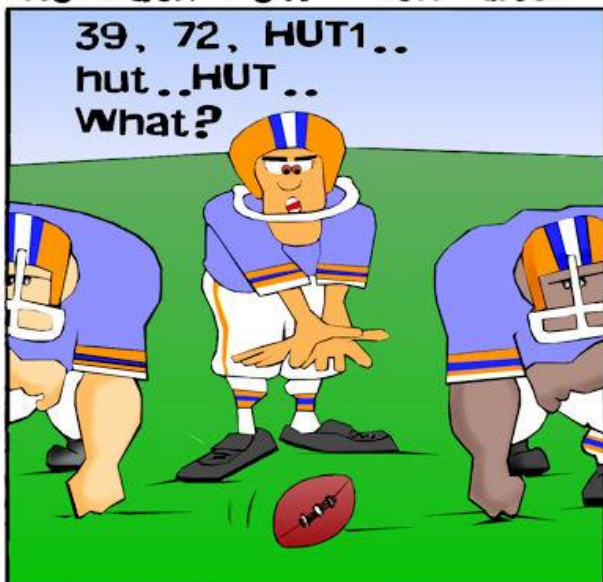
January	- Peggy Schneider
February	- Nancy Joyce
March	- Paul Mathews
April	- Marty Alexander

January Flowers

Jan 1
Jan 8
Jan 15—Marty Alexander
Jan 22
Jan 29

1. Answer: C (See Judges 3-

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



And on that day, a quarterback will be the field waiting for the snap from center WHEN faster than a corner blitz.. the center is gone! **Luke 17:35ish**

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Invite a Friend to Church Sunday