



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



DOWNTOWN ON THE
COURTHOUSE SQUARE

March 2009

A Note from the Pastor ...

The bread which we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?
1Corinthians 10:16

fee, and enjoying the company of friends.

And of course, we all partake in Holy Communion every Sunday morning, an important part of worship, and an important event in the life of the church. Sometimes it may seem that we come and listen to the reading of scripture, we hear the choir, we listen to the sermon (I hope!), but during communion we *take part*. We share the bread and the cup. It is this sharing, this being and doing together, that makes us church.

It may seem odd to lump together in one newsletter article food and Lent. We normally equate the season of Lent with personal sacrifice, as in, "What are you giving up for Lent"? And the things we are most likely to "give up" are foods: soft drinks, chocolate, ice cream, late-night snacks, meat, alcohol, and sometimes dessert altogether. This sort of self-denial is a good thing if it aids in one's prayer life, or puts us in a more spiritual frame of mind.



But we have the opportunity this Lent to break bread together many times. Our monthly after-church meals, and the Salad Kings and DWM meetings provide occasions for eating together. We will open our doors to the community for the Luncheon on the Square later in March. And some of our best moments of fellowship are the brief periods before worship, eating a piece of fruit, or a pastry with cof-

So this Lent we'll be doing lots of eating. At each meal, let us take part in the goodness of God, remembering that he brings us together to worship our Lord; with each bite let us give thanks that he fills us with his tender mercies and surrounds us with the friendship of sisters and brothers here at First Christian.

Because there is one loaf we, who are many, are one body. (verse 17)

--- Mike

Church Staff

Ministers

Members of First Christian Church

Minister

Rev Michael Dunson

Choir Director/Pianist

Marilyn VanSchoelandt

Song Leader

Don VanSchoelandt

Media Team

Dusty Smith

Carol Harrison

Kathy Jordan

Nursery Attendant

Jaime Wheeler

REMEMBER?

Set Your
Clocks
Ahead!



March 8; 2:00am

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ March 1: Pot Luck Luncheon
- ◆ March 2: DWM Meeting
- ◆ March 7: TBA Board Meeting
- ◆ March 8: Daylight Savings time
- ◆ March 8: Elders' Meeting
- ◆ March 15: O&E Team Meeting
- ◆ March 15: Gideon Speaker
- ◆ March 16-20: Spring Break
- ◆ March 16: Salad Kings
- ◆ March 19: Worship Team Meeting
- ◆ March 22: Newsletter Deadline
- ◆ March 27: Lunch on the Square



A lot of church members who are singing "Standing on the Promises" are just sitting on the premises.

MISSION STATEMENT

First Christian Church is a Christ-centered community of believers who are being transformed by the grace of God:

- to nurture faith through Scripture, prayer and fellowship
- to minister to the whole person, body and mind
- to embrace and share the spiritual gifts of each individual, and
- to magnify the compassion of Jesus through service with dignity.



Financial Picture



February 2009

Receipts — \$8776

Expenditures —
\$10766

Man's way leads to a hopeless end -- God's way leads to an endless hope.

Words from the Worship Team

If people cannot see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves; but when they attend to what He reveals, they are most blessed. Proverbs 29:18

We are now in the season of Lent. Lent, like Advent, is a period of preparation. And also of soul-searching and repentance. During this time let us reflect and take stock of our own lives as we prepare for Easter.

We will be having Good Friday service on April 10. More details will be in the April newsletter.

Thank you to the people who are volunteering for the Youth and Children's Moment. Keep up the good work and for those of you who have not volunteered yet, join the fun! The sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall.

Mike is looking for Scripture or Bible story suggestions from the congregation. He will take these Scriptures and preach a sermon from the Scripture text. If you have a Scripture or a Bible story from which you would like to hear him preach a sermon, e-mail, call, or tell Mike. May God Bless You All, *Mylessa*

A Report from the Stewardship Team

"Newness and Balance"

In March we observe the beginning of spring, that season of the year in which the plants that lay dormant during the winter begin to grow again. We're already seeing a few redbud trees blooming. The vernal (spring) equinox on March 20 is a day on which there is balance—twelve hours of sunshine and twelve hours of darkness. Spring is a good reminder of these two important things about stewardship—newness and balance! By God's grace in Jesus Christ we are freed from the failures of the past and freed to live in the present with purpose and look to the future with hope. How refreshing a new start is!

Balance is the other important thing associated with wise Christian stewardship. In the United States we focus on getting ahead and building a solid nest egg for the future. These things are good as long as we also show concern for the purposes of God and the needs of others, especially in these difficult economic times.

How can we take advantage of new starts in stewardship and maintain a good balance as we manage the material riches God pours down upon us? One simple plan for keeping balance is to adopt and follow the 1-1-8 principle. This plan involves giving the first 10% to God in response to His great love for us and for the support of His work in this world, then saving or investing the next 10% and finally living on the remaining 80%. Mathematically it adds up perfectly. In practice it can be a real challenge, one that seems

unreachable to many who may currently be trying to live on 100% (or more) of their income.

It may not work for everyone to adopt the 1-1-8 plan immediately, but what joy God's people can experience as they move in that new direction for balance. Oh, by the way, many Christian stewards have learned from experience that they can give more than 10%, save even more than 10% and live very comfortably on less than 80%. Right now there are many needs in our community and in our church. More and more people are relying on 'Helping Hands' and other ministries we support; our land fund is falling short of what it needs to make our payments every month; we'd like to begin new ministry projects that need funding. Please prayerfully consider your support of our church. Search your hearts to see if this Lenten season will mark a new start in your stewardship commitment and in bringing spiritual and material balance into your life.

This will be my last article as stewardship team convener. When we have our next stewardship team meeting immediately after worship on **Sunday, March 29**, Mattie Wesson will step in as our ministry team leader. Please plan to attend this very important meeting.

May God grant to all of us His grace, good judgment and discipline to take advantage of each new start and manage our material blessings in a way that honors Him, blesses others and refreshes us! Thanks for all of your support.

Blessings, *Cindy*

Moderator's Memo

Hello everyone, I'd like to start out by saying thanks to all that attended the Board meeting held Sunday, February 22. I know it's been awhile since we had one, and it looks like we have a lot of ground to cover. We formed a selection committee of Mylessa Wheeler, Mattie Wesson, and myself to look for officer nominees for the upcoming year. If asked, I would hope that each person would consider the opportunity a chance to serve God and their Church.

It was also brought up, that we are not receiving all the monies that were pledged towards the land payments. Each month that we're short, it has to be made up with operating funds, which is putting a strain our budget. Please continue supporting your pledges, and we wel-

come all those who didn't get a chance to offer a pledge, and can now somehow find it in their hearts to support such a monthly obligation.

I know our dreams of our new Church sometimes seem to be only a dream, but dreams do come true. I believe God has his vision, and he will always see to our needs, as long as we continue to pray, and look for ways to help ourselves. Thanks for all the help you give to make First Christian Church of Belton the Church it is today, and the hope of the Church it will be tomorrow.

Kirk

DWM Dish

The DWM ladies are getting ready for spring. Thanks for helping clean the church last month. Thanks also to the Salad Kings for handling the brisket sack lunch last month, too.

We are having a potluck on **March 1st** after church. Bring a dish and some friends, and stay to visit. Our DWM meeting is going to be on Monday, **March 2nd**, at 6pm in Fellowship Hall. We plan to have Frito Pie (if there is a quart of chili meat). Plan to be there since we will be discussing the changing of officers and **The Tetrizzini Lunch on the Sqaure- Friday, March 27th.**

We have a good time together, and we always have a lively discussion. The more the merrier! If you are interested in being an officer next year, please contact Mattie Wesson, Kathy Jordan or Mylessa Wheeler. Thanks ladies! Look for the sign-up sheet and flyers in Fellowship Hall for March 27th.

You're the best! *Hope*

Devotional Scripture: Luke 1:1-80. Memory Verse Luke 1:30, *The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God."*



Snapshot of the Month

Our snapshot for the Month of March is the Elder Statesman of the Church, Tom Tapman. Tom stated that he was born in Rosebud, Texas to which Charlene quickly retorted it was actually Waco. His parents were living in Rosebud at the time of his birth and he lived in Rosebud until the age of 17. Tom has two sisters, one older and one younger.



It was while he was stationed in Bryan and attending a dance, that a young lady dancing with another young man happened to come a bit close and he got "slapped across the face" with a pony tail. Yes, it was Charlene. This was their introduction.

Tom left Bryan to attend pilot training in Florida and received his wings in September 1957. Charlene was in attendance and pinned the wings on this young aviator. He then was posted in Laredo/Bergstrom to be closer to Charlene, who was at the time attending The University of Texas. They were subsequently married in December 1958 while Tom was stationed in Phoenix, Arizona. They have two children and one grandson.

The Tapman's have been attending First Christian Church since September of 1980 after moving to be Belton. Tom at the time was stationed at Fort Hood. Tom has held several positions in the church including; Chairman of the Board, Deacon, Sunday School Teacher and Elder.

Doug & Jody Suhr/Snapshot Editors

After Tom completed high school, he enrolled at University of Texas. As he was completing his junior year, he received his draft notice. He had always been interested in the Air Force since many of the men in Rosebud served in the Air Force during WWII. Tom enlisted in the Air Force in 1953 and eventually entered into navigation training. He was a Group Commander for his class and graduating number 1 in his class, he was expecting to get a choice assignment. To his dismay the top 14 were told they had to stay and instruct. He did, due to his skills, go to Bryan Air Station to instruct in Celestial Navigation. I guess that is why from time to time we catch him staring at the stars.

MARCH SERVICE CALENDAR

	March 1	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29
Communion Elder	Amy Larson	Mattie Wesson	Tom Tapman	Kirk Wallace	Amy Larson
Offertory Elder	Charlene Tapman	Cindy Capps	Kathy Jordan	Mattie Wesson	Sharon Moore
Early Deacon	Mylessa Wheeler	Mattie Wesson	Tom Tapman	Hope Brown	Cindy Capps
Deacon 1	Mylessa Wheeler	Terri Holwerda	Mylessa Wheeler	Mylessa Wheeler	Mylessa Wheeler
Deacon 2	Max Jordan	Diane Pressley	Kirk Wallace	Dinae Pressley	Cindy Capps
Deacon 3	Kathy Jordan	Max Jordan	Terri Holwerda	Hope Brown	Kathy Jordan
Deacon 4	Terri Holwerda	Amy Larson	Judy Wallace	Judy Wallace	Judy Wallace
Communion Preparation	Tom Tapman	Mattie Wesson	Kirk Wallace	Hope Brown	Mylessa Wheeler
Homebound Communion	(Ankenbauer) Charlene Tapman	As needed	(Ankenbauer) Mattie Wesson	As needed	(Ankenbauer) Amy Larson
Ride for Thelma	Mattie Wesson	Judy Wallace	Kathy Jordan	Tom Tapman	Judy Wallace
Greeters	Doris Sanders	Judy Wallace	Hope Brown	Marilyn Ankenbauer	Max Jordan
Refreshments	Pot Luck Luncheon	Joyce & Floyd Spindle	Mattie Wesson	Youth Fundraiser	Charlene Tapman
Acolytes	Derek Smith	Aleshia Mains	Darren Smith	Allyson Smith	Derek Smith
Youth & Children's Moment	Kirk Wallace		Hope Brown	Tom Tapman	
Worship Leader	Marilyn Ankenbauer	E. J. Malone	JoEllen Strunk	Jaime Wheeler	Charlene Tapman

Prayer List

Unity in the Church
 Those serving our country
 Helping Hands Ministry
 Robert & Marianne Ammerman
 Joseph Andrews
 Bill & Marilyn Ankenbauer
 Tot Avant
 Barbara
 Rita Bartlett
 Lucille Booth
 Cindy Capps
 Daffy Carpenter
 Becky Chafin & family

Shelly Chapman's mother
 Gladys Cockrum
 Janice Cockrum
 Richard Colpitts
 Heather Cotter
 Wes & Susan Craig
 Dr. Lynn & Judy Curry
 Donna Dencklau
 Shannon Eric
 Todd Erskine
 Thelma Grammond
 Haley & Lexie
 Teresa Hernandez



Kayla Holwerda
 Darlena Jones
 Joe & Bertha Koonce
 John Kucker
 John Lehrmann
 Ruby Llewelyn
 Niece & Stacy McGill
 Meredith
 Helen Meurer
 Sharon Moore
 Ants Palm-Leis
 Paul Parker
 Anna Paruzinski

Patricia's mother
 Gilbert Perez
 Ovella Phillips
 Richard Shigut
 Employees of Spansion
 Charline Spears
 Floyd & Joyce Spindle
 Penny Stofer
 Jody Suhr
 Kirk Wallace's grandmother
 Faye Washington
 Debbie Whitson
 Elsie York

MARCH 2009

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 Pot Luck Lunch	2 6pm DWM	3	4 6pm Prayer Time 6:30pm Bibie Study	5	6	7 TBA Board Meeting
8 Elders' Meeting Daylight Savings Time Begins	9	10	11 6pm Prayer Time 6:30pm Bibie Study	12	13	14
15 Gideon Speaker O&E Meeting	16 6pm Salad Kings	17	18 6pm Prayer Time 6:30pm Bibie Study	19 6pm Worship Team	20	21
Spring Break						
22 Newsletter Deadline	23	24 <i>Birthday Virginia Carden</i>	25 6pm Prayer Time 6:30pm Bibie Study	26	27 Lunch on the Square	28
29 Stewardship Team Meeting	30	31	Sunday Schedule: 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Fellowship 11 am Worship Service 12:15 pm Choir Rehearsal			



LECTIONARY READING

March 1	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29
Genesis 9:8-17 Psalm 25:1-10 1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:9-15 Sermon Text: John 6:25-35	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 Psalm 22:23-31 Romans 4:13-25 Mark 8:31-38 Sermon Text: John 6:41-51	Exodus 20:1-17 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 John 2:13-22 Sermon Text: Romans 12:1-18	Numbers 21:4-9 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 Ephesians 2:1-10 John 3:14-21 Sermon Text: Romans 15:1-15	Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 51:1-12 Hebrews 5:5-10 John 12:20-33 Sermon Text: Isaiah 40:25-31

COME AND SEE



First Christian Church

March 2009

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The Will of God never takes you to where the Grace of God will not protect you.

Recipe of the Month

Sugar Cookies



Ingredients:

1 C powdered sugar	5 C flour
1 C granulated sugar	1 tsp salt
1 C oil	1 tsp soda
1 C butter or margarine	1 tsp cream of tartar
2 eggs	1 tsp vanilla

Directions:

Beat powdered sugar, granulated sugar, oil, butter or margarine and eggs until light and lemon colored. Stir in remaining ingredients. Refrigerate at least 30 minutes.

Roll in small balls; dip in sugar mixed with a sprinkling of nutmeg. Place on a cookie sheet; press with a fork or thread spool. Bake at 350° until very light brown (about 15 minutes.)

*(recipe from First Christian Church Belton Cookbook
– a recipe by Irma Cox)*

2009 General Assembly

July 29– August 2, 2009

Indianapolis, Indiana
At the Indiana
Convention Center

For more
information:
www.disciples.org



Two boys were walking home from Sunday school after hearing a strong preaching on the devil. One said to the other, "What do you think about all this Satan stuff?" The other boy replied, "Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out. It's probably just your Dad."