



# FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



DOWNTOWN ON THE  
COURTHOUSE SQUARE

May 2009

## A Note from the Pastor ...

### The Interior Life

For God knows the secrets of the heart.  
Psalm 44:21

In some ways this is the contemplative season: the National Day of Prayer comes soon, May 7, and the Prayer Vigil here at First Christian on May 8. This newsletter each month provides a prayer list, names of those in need whom you may lift up to God in your devotions, as well as lectionary readings for each Sunday to direct your thoughts to the Lord who loves you. And the month ends with Pentecost- a Sunday to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit. But unfortunately, it is an arrival which we sometimes misunderstand, we may consider the Spirit an internal gift from God, something we may think is God's gift to guide us into devout personal holiness.

But the interior life is more than the piety of prayer times and bible-reading. It is not dependent upon our ability to draw near to God.

Think of the times our Lord has come so unexpectedly, and without our help: when he appeared to Mary mourning at the tomb; when he came to the disciples while they were hiding or fishing; when he appeared to Saul of Tarsus in the midst of his campaign of terror. If the Lord comes in these strange times, perhaps he knows the interior of us, the parts even we can't get at. God comes at his own time- which he must know is also the best time to



reach us.

The purpose of an interior life is to make us aware of God when he calls to us, and comes to us; and to make us humble enough to see that interior faith directs us to outward service and love and forgiveness and fellowship. We are called into a community (And the Holy Spirit is present most especially *in Community!*), so that we may love one another and, together, offer praise to God and serve a broken world that doesn't know Lord Jesus.

--- 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



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ May 3: Fish Fry
- ◆ May 3: Odyssey Healthcare Memorial Service
- ◆ May 7: National Day of Prayer
- ◆ May 8: Prayer Vigil
- ◆ May 10: Elders Meeting
- ◆ May 10: Mother's Day
- ◆ May 16: DWM Installation
- ◆ May 17: Church Council Meeting
- ◆ May 18: Salad Kings
- ◆ May 22: Lunch on the Square
- ◆ May 24: Newsletter Deadline
- ◆ May 25: Memorial Day; Church of- fice closed
- ◆ May 28: Worship Team Meeting
- ◆ May 31: Pentecost

It is easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one.

### 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



April 2009

Receipts — \$6983  
Expenditures — \$7147



### Moderator's Memo

Hello again, just a few notes to let everyone know of our upcoming council meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup>. We will nominate the new officers for this year's board, which will take over in July. Let me take this time to thank all those who helped in the readings in our Good Friday service and prepared food for our brunch on Easter Sunday. Both were very enjoyable and made the celebration of our Risen Christ one to remember. Any time people can gather, and can have fellowship with one another, you can almost feel the presence of the Lord there.

I would also thank all who took part in our Lunch on the Square, April 24<sup>th</sup>. We sold out all the food and all had a good time. I know how much work there is when preparing such an event and my hat goes off to all those who took the time to make it a success, rather it be from cooking, preparing, hosting, serving, or cleaning up. I for one appreciate it. Our church is full of good people that can be called upon when needed, and are willing to serve.

I thank you, **Kirk**

### Words from the Worship Team

I will walk in freedom, for I have devoted myself to your commandments.

*Psalm 119:4*

Lent has passed. We celebrated a joyous Easter and we rest in the comfort of knowing that our Lord Jesus Christ has risen and is sitting at the right hand of the Father. We are now in the Eastertide season.

On May 31 we will move from Eastertide to Pentecost. On Pentecost day, after waiting together in prayerful unity, Jesus' followers were given the gifts of power by the blessing of the Holy Spirit. Thus the Church began and it continues.

May God Bless You All, **Mylessa**

### A Report from the Stewardship Team

April was a busy month for our church. The Good Friday service was an emotional and heartfelt experience for me, remembering the great sacrifice of our Lord, Jesus Christ, that we be forgiven of sin and have eternal life. I'm sure others had the same experience.

Easter Sunday followed in joyous celebration of the risen Christ. You couldn't have left that day without feeling greatly blessed by God. We also shared in an Easter brunch before Worship, joined by family, friends and visitors. Sharing in fellowship is always wonderful.

Our Lunch on the Square on April 24, was a success. It takes a lot of work to prepare and serve, but is worth it. People brag about the good food and it's enjoyable seeing those who come to eat.

All these things remind one how blessed we are to work as a family to make things happen here at FCC Belton. I feel that we are all, in some way, stewards of this church, tending and take care of God's house.

Thank you for sharing all your gifts.

God Bless, **Mattie**

#### Food for Thought

A prayer from "Light for my Path"

May my satisfaction never be with things, Lord. I don't want to come to the end of my life and find I have nothing to show for it. Remind me that money and property do not translate into heavenly rewards—those are found in a giving heart and love for You.



Dear Church Family~

This has been such an awesome year for the DWM group. I have grown as a "church lady" by leaps and bounds through the continued support of each one of you. I want to offer my humble thanks and appreciation for the stories, laughs, tears, and work that we have shared.

There are a couple of dates to remember for May. DWM meets on Saturday, May 16, for the Installation of Officers at 11am in Fellowship Hall. Friday, May 22, will be our next Lunch on the Square- with the menu to be decided soon, possibly Sloppy Joe's. We are planning to continue the Lunch on the Square through the summer. If you are interested in helping, please let us know. (We sold out of the King Ranch Chicken with 30 minutes to spare, and had to take the banner down early!)

Please come take part in the coming year with Mattie Wesson as the DWM President-Elect. We can do so much with the support of the church. Thanks for everyone's dedication with our projects this past year.

Thanks for an outstanding year! *Hope Brown*

## DWM Dish

### Stamp Out Hunger



**National Association of  
Letter Carriers  
'Stamp Out Hunger'  
Annual Food Drive  
Saturday, May 9, 2009**

Place non-perishable food items in a bag by your mailbox and your carrier will pick it up  
Donations benefit Helping Hands Ministry

**Prayer Vigil**

**May 8, 2009**

**12 noon to 7 pm**



### Snapshot of the Month

Our snapshot for the month of May is Mylessa Wheeler. Mylessa's journey to us began half a world away. Mylessa was born in Aza, Okinawa, Japan, on the Ryukyu Islands. Mylessa was placed in an orphanage after her parents separated at the age of 2 months, but spent very little time there because at the age of 7 months she was adopted by Sgt. Major Miles Humphus & "Mommy-Ko" as Mylessa sometimes called her mother. Her parents had an older son that was almost grown when they saw Mylessa and fell in love with her. Her father had to extend his stay in Japan in order to adopt Mylessa. She and her parents left Japan when she was 2 years old and moved to Pennsylvania. She obtained her US citizenship at the age of 5 by reciting "The Pledge of Allegiance". Her dad retired and the family moved to Woodville, Texas.

Mylessa joined the Army in 1975 at the age of 18; she met and married Jamie's dad, James Wheeler while stationed at Ft. Sill, OK. They had one daughter, Jamie, (our sweet nurs-



ery attendant). Jamie, as we all know, has given Mylessa two grandsons Michael and John. While they were stationed in Hawaii, Mylessa obtained a degree in Management from Hawaii Pacific University. She was also very active on a committee for the Army Family Conferences, with emphasis on health care for the military family.

In 1997 Melissa was hired by Scott and White Hospital as Program Coordinator for Cardiology/Oncology. It was in 2001 that she visited First Christian Church with member Debbie Colpitts. Mylessa found the church very warm and friendly and felt very welcome. She subsequently joined the church and holds the position of Deacon, Secretary of DWM, Worship Team Leader and is also a member of the Choir.

So we can see that Mylessa traveled a great distance to get to First Christian Church, and we thank God that the Journey ended with us.

Doug & Jody Suhr/Snapshot Editors

## MAY SERVICE CALENDAR

	May 3	May 10	May 17	May 24	May 31
<b>Communion Elder</b>	Amy Larson	Cindy Capps	Sharon Moore	Kirk Wallace	Amy Larson
<b>Offertory Elder</b>	Mattie Wesson	Kathy Jordan	Charlene Tapman	Tom Tapman	Mattie Wesson
<b>Early Deacon</b>	Mattie Wesson	Tom Tapman	Hope Brown	Hope Brown	Mylessa Wheeler
<b>Deacon 1</b>	Mylessa Wheeler	Mylessa Wheeler	Mylessa Wheeler	Mylessa Wheeler	Mylessa Wheeler
<b>Deacon 2</b>	Terri Holwerda	Terri Holwerda	Cindy Capps	Judy Wallace	Terri Holwerda
<b>Deacon 3</b>	Judy Wallace	Mattie Brown	Max Jordan	Hope Brown	Diane Pressley
<b>Deacon 4</b>	Kirk Wallace	Amy Larson	Hope Brown	Amy Larson	Cindy Capps
<b>Communion Preparation</b>	Kirk Wallace	Mattie Wesson	Hope Brown	Hope Brown	Mylessa Wheeler
<b>Homebound Communion</b>	As needed	(Ankenbauer) Betty Malone	As needed	(Ankenbauer) Betty Malone	As needed
<b>Ride for Thelma</b>	Mattie Wesson	E. J. & Betty Malone	Tom Tapman	Judy Wallace	Kathy Jordan
<b>Greeters</b>	Doris Sanders	Max Jordan	Marilyn Ankenbauer	Mattie Wesson	Doris Sanders
<b>Refreshments</b>	Fish Fry	Mattie Wesson	Tom & Charlene Tapman	Judy & Kirk Wallace	Youth Fundraiser
<b>Acolytes</b>	Derek Smith	Allyson Mains	Aleshia Mains	Darren Smith	Derek Smith
<b>Youth &amp; Children's Moment</b>				Hope Brown	Mylessa Wheeler
<b>Worship Leader</b>	Kathy Jordan	Kirk Wallace	Cindy Capps	Terri Holwerda	Dusty Smith

### Prayer List

Unity in the Church  
 Those serving our country  
 Helping Hands Ministry  
 Joseph Andrews  
 Bill & Marilyn Ankenbauer  
 Tot Avant  
 Doriss B  
 Barbara  
 Rita Bartlett  
 Lucille Booth  
 Blake Brown's grandmother  
 Cindy Capps  
 Daffy Carpenter

Becky Chafin & family  
 Shelly Chapman's mother  
 Gladys Cockrum  
 Janice Cockrum  
 Richard Colpitts  
 Heather Cotter  
 Wes & Susan Craig  
 Donna Dencklau  
 Richard Donahoe  
 'Dad' Elkins  
 Todd Erskine  
 Melinda Gallagher  
 Thelma Grammond



Haley & Lexie  
 Teresa Hernandez  
 Kayla Holwerda  
 Kimberly Jackson  
 Mrs. Kollins  
 John Kucker  
 John Lehrmann  
 Niece & Stacy McGill  
 Meredith  
 Helen Meurer  
 Sharon Moore  
 Ants Palm-Leis  
 Paul Parker

Anna Paruzinski  
 Patricia's mother  
 Gilbert Perez  
 Ovella Phillips  
 Charline Spears  
 Marion Spiller  
 Floyd & Joyce Spindle  
 Penny Stofer  
 Jody Suhr  
 Faye Washington  
 Debbie Whitson  
 Elsie York



# MAY 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
<b>Sunday Schedule:</b> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Fellowship 11 am Worship Service 12:15 pm Choir Rehearsal						1	2
3 Fish Fry 3pm Odyssey Healthcare Memorial Service	4	5	6 6pm Prayer Time 6:30pm Bible Study	7 7pm National Day of Prayer Rally <i>Birthday: Terry Spears</i>	8 12n-7pm Prayer Vigil	9	
10 <b>Mother's Day</b> 8:30am Elders Meeting	11	12	13 6pm Prayer Time 6:30pm Bible Study	14	15	16 11am DWM Celebration <i>Birthday: Kirk Wallace</i>	
17 Church Council Meeting	18 6pm Salad Kings	19	20 6pm Prayer Time 6:30pm Bible Study <i>Birthday: Marilyn Andrews</i>	21 <i>Birthday: Sandra Robinson</i>	22 11am-1pm Lunch on the Square	23	
24 O&E Meeting <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	25 <b>Memorial Day</b> Church Office Closed <i>Birthday: Darren Smith</i>	26	27 6pm Prayer Time 6:30pm Bible Study <i>Birthday: Rita Bartlett</i>	28 6pm Worship Team Meeting	29 <i>Birthday: Jody Suhr</i>	30	
31 <b>Pentecost</b> 							

**LECTIONARY READING**



May 3	May 10	May 17	May 24	May 31
Acts 4:5-12 Psalm 23 1 John 3:16-24 John 10:11-18 <b>Sermon Text:</b> Luke 5:1-11	Acts 8:26-40 Psalm 112:25-31 1 John 4:7-21 John 15:1-8 <b>Sermon Text:</b> Judges 13:1-14	Acts 10:44-48 Psalm 98 1 John 5:1-6 John 15:9-17 <b>Sermon Text:</b> Mark 4:1-20	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 Psalm 1 1 John 5:9-13 John 17:6-19 <b>Sermon Text:</b> Acts 1:1-14	Acts 2:1-21 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b Romans 8:22-27 John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15 <b>Sermon Text:</b> Acts 2:1-42

## COME AND SEE



### First Christian Church

May 2009

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Pastor: (254) 598-8278  
E-mail: fccbelton100@sbcglobal.net (Pastor)  
fccbeltonjan@sbcglobal.net (Ministry Assistant)

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

## Recipe of the Month

### Key Lime Pie

#### Ingredients:

- 1 reduced fat graham cracker crust
- 1 (0.3 oz) package sugar-free lime gelatin
- 1/4 cup boiling water
- 1 (8 oz) container fat-free whipped topping
- 2 (6 oz each) key lime pie yogurt



#### Directions:

- In a large bowl, dissolve gelatin in boiling water.
- Stir in yogurt with wire whisk.
- Fold in whipped topping.
- Spread in crust.
- Refrigerate at least 2 hours.

A cool treat for hot summer days.

Hope you enjoy,  
Jan Muske

## 2009 General Assembly

July 29– August 2, 2009

Indianapolis, Indiana  
At the Indiana  
Convention Center

Register online:  
[www.disciples.org/ga](http://www.disciples.org/ga)

### Learning Tracks

These learning opportunities focus on a learning community model of education over two days (Friday and Saturday afternoons). That is, while there are leaders to guide the conversation, the group itself brings its own wisdom to the table to share as well.

#### Learning Track Topics:

- Are We Just Neighbors?
- It isn't easy being Green
- Spirituality Takes Practice

