



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



DOWNTOWN ON THE
COURTHOUSE SQUARE

July 2009

A Note from the Pastor ...

Haustafel

There is a wonderful German word, *Haustafel*, literally "house-table" and meaning "household instructions." The word was coined by Martin Luther to designate those portions of the New Testament letters which deal with relationships between family members. Probably the most famous *Haustafeln* are Ephesians 5 and Colossians 3-4, but Titus and 1 Timothy and 1 Peter have extended sections of rules for the house, and almost every work in the NT contains some such ethical directions. (Children, obey your parents in everything; fathers, do not provoke your children, Col. 3:20-21)



These apostolic commands are not limited to the home, but include guidelines on citizenship, and most especially, rules for believers within the community of faith (treat younger men like brothers, older women like mothers, younger women like sisters, 1 Tim. 5:1-2). We may be tempted to say that these rules are simple, wise ways to

get along with one another, but they are much more. *Haustafel* is not just ethical behavior, it is humble, even sacrificial living, based upon a profound theology of Christ's work of redemption and his relationship to the church. (Husbands love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, Eph.5:25)

Haustafel is related to hospitality. We may think a hospitable church is merely a friendly and welcoming one, but "hospitality" is more like "hospital," more like the place where ill and hurt and needy people are cared for.

Let us consider our church to be a place where each helps and loves the other, and where the outsider is readily welcomed into that same tender care; let's continue to make First Christian a place where we gather as friends, with humility and compassion, around the Lord's Table and around the table of fellowship, eating and serving and giving thanks together in the name of our 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

- ◆ July 4: Independence Day Parade



- ◆ July 5: Hot Dog Fellowship
- ◆ July 12: Elders Meeting
- ◆ July 16: Worship Team Meeting
- ◆ July 19: O&E Team Meeting
- ◆ July 20: Salad Kings
- ◆ July 26: Newsletter Deadline

**Want the News-
letter by e-mail?
Contact the
church office to
get your name on
the e-mailing list.**



Christ is the only liberator whose liberation lasts forever.

Malcolm Muggeridge, *Jesus Rediscovered*

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

June 2009



Receipts – \$5695
Expenditures – \$5984

Church Officers

Church Officers for the 2009-2010 church year are:

Moderator: Tom Tapman
Vice Moderator: Kirk Wallace
Secretary: Mylessa Wheeler
Treasurer: Carol Harrison

Just a reminder...

If you are the last to leave the church after an activity, please remember to lock all doors and readjust the air conditioning/heating. *Thank you.*

Words from the Worship Team

On the first day gather branches from magnificent trees — palm fronds, boughs from leafy trees, and willows that grow by the streams. Then celebrate with **joy** before the **Lord** your God for seven days.

Leviticus 23:39-41

Summer is here and the heat has arrived. I hope everyone will have a great and blessed summer.

The choir will be taking a bit of vacation during July and August. They will sing one anthem each month and there will also be some solos and groups doing the special music during those two months. On the Sundays that we do not have special music, a hymn will be added to the service.

We hope everyone enjoyed the "Stand by Me" video that was shown during the service on June 21.

We appreciate those of you who volunteer to be the Worship Leaders every Sunday. Just a reminder... when Jan sends you the reading for the service, please take time to rehearse the reading two or three times. If you run across words you are having trouble pronouncing or if you do not know the meaning of the word, feel free to call the church office and Jan or Mike will be happy to work through the word with you. Again, thank you for volunteering to be the Worship Leader for our services.

Attached to this newsletter is a survey on our worship services. Please take time to read the survey and give us your feedback. There will be a basket on the desk in the foyer where you can drop off your survey or you can give your survey to Mylessa Wheeler. Please do not put your name on the survey as they will be confidential.

Blessings, **Mylessa**

A Report from the Stewardship Team

This month I am just writing down a few things I have read here and there. These are things that have made me start thinking that I am not as good a steward as I need to be. I have begun to pray about this issue in my life and to search my heart and seek God's will to lead me to become the kind of steward I need to be. I want to share these with you and ask you to pray with me asking God's guidance not only for our financial future, but also in making our vision a reality.

"Stewardship is often condensed into time, talent & treasure. Being a good steward has everything to do with our relationship with Jesus Christ. Do we trust Him? Are we willing to obey Him? Both questions will be answered in the way we handle our finances. As a steward it is simply our responsibility to do what God says to do (the outcome is therefore His responsibility). The rich young ruler in the Bible who went away sad when Jesus asked him to give away

his wealth failed to understand that his obedience and trust toward God were all he had to offer—the wealth he 'owned' was already God's! When we give our obedience and trust to God, the doors of blessing open wide, so much so that we will not be able to contain it all. God always does 'immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine' (Ephesians 3:20). People who complain or wish they had what other people have are not being good stewards over what God has entrusted to them."

Is this not food for thought? It has been for me. I'm hoping it will lead me to do more in all aspects of stewardship. Thank you all for your continued faith and all that you do for First Christian Church Belton.

Blessings, **Mattie**

Added food for thought:

"You make a living by what you get... but you make a life by what you give."

Winston Churchill

Worship Survey

We would like your feedback on how we can improve our worship service. Your thoughts and opinions are important, so please take time to complete this survey. Return the survey by placing it in the basket on the desk in the foyer or giving it to Mylessa Wheeler. All responses are confidential.

Your age:

___ under 18 ___ 18-30 ___ 31-45 ___ 46-65 ___ 66 & over

How long have you attended First Christian Church, Belton?

___ less than 5 years ___ 5-10 years ___ 10-25 years ___ more than 25 years

After reading each statement, please place a check (✓) by the ones that you think are true of our worship services.

- ___ The worship service usually starts on time.
- ___ The worship service usually ends on time.
- ___ The worship service flows smoothly from one activity to the next.
- ___ The bulletin is easy to follow.
- ___ On screen visuals are helpful and easy to read.
- ___ A visitor could have trouble following our worship service.
- ___ The temperature for worship is comfortable.
- ___ The lighting for worship is adequate.
- ___ I can hear the minister and worship leader clearly.
- ___ Our church provides an attractive setting for worship.
- ___ Music in our church is of high quality.
- ___ Our church has a healthy balance between traditional & more contemporary music.
- ___ Sermons in our church are of high quality.
- ___ Sermons in our church speak to the issues I face in my daily life.
- ___ Instructions for communion are always clear.
- ___ Children have adequate involvement in our service.
- ___ Our service has enough congregational involvement.
- ___ Lay persons who help with the service have received adequate training.

There are many ways in which greater variety can be added to our services of worship. Please go through the following list of possibilities and indicate your feelings about each using these symbols:

L = *I like this possibility.*

OK = *This possibility is OK with me if it is helpful to others.*

N = *I would prefer not to have this option.*

___ Occasional drama or reader's theater in addition to the sermon.

___ Occasional video in addition to the sermon.

___ More use of contemporary music.

___ More use of simple praise songs.

___ More use of traditional hymns.

___ Having an occasional music team that includes a keyboard and/or other instruments

___ Having a occasional classical music trio, quartet, or quintet.

___ Having a gospel music group on an occasional basis.

___ Having an occasional service that has a very difference format such as a longer drama or cantata.

What changes would you like to see in our worship services?



DWM Dish

The next scheduled meeting of the Disciples Women will be in September. We are taking our usual summer break.

Thanks to all who attended our called meeting to discuss the bazaar we are planning for Friday, November 13th. Your input and ideas were very helpful. We will need lots of arts, crafts, baked goods, homemade jellies, jams, candy, etc. (Some of Max Jordan's delicious homemade pickles would be great). We need a nice assortment of things to be successful, so we need to get started right away. This is not limited to just a small group of women; every man, woman & child in our church is invited to use their creative talent in making something for this bazaar. Your help will be greatly appreciated. For more information contact Mattie Wesson at 939-2186.

Lunch on the Square has been suspended until further notice. We will keep you posted on happenings.

Blessings, *Mattie*

The Mayonnaise Jar and 2 Cups of Coffee

When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day are not enough, remember the mayonnaise jar and the 2 cups of coffee...

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly, he picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous "yes."

The professor then produced two cups of coffee from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

"Now," said the professor, as the laughter subsided, "I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life.

The golf balls are the important things--your God, family, your children, your health, your friends, and your

favorite passions--things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.

The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house, and your car.

The sand is everything else -- the small stuff.

If you put the sand into the jar first," he continued, "there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you.

Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your partner out to dinner. Play another 18. There will always be time to clean the house and fix the disposal."

Take care of the golf balls first -- the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand."

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the coffee represented. The professor smiled. "I'm glad you asked. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of cups of coffee with a friend."



Snapshot of the Month

Will return in August

Doug & Jody Suhr/Snapshot Editors



JULY SERVICE CALENDAR

	July 5	July 12	July 19	July 26
Communion Elder	Mattie Wesson	Amy Larson	Tom Tapman	Cindy Capps
Offertory Elder	Charlene Tapman	Kirk Wallace	Mattie Wesson	Kathy Jordan
Early Deacon	Tom Tapman	Charlene Tapman	Hope Brown	Hope Brown
Deacon 1	Amy Larson	Kathy Jordan	Terri Holwerda	Mylessa Wheeler
Deacon 2	Judy Wallace	Max Jordan	Mylessa Wheeler	Amy Larson
Deacon 3	Terri Holwerda	Mylessa Wheeler	Cindy Capps	Judy Wallace
Deacon 4	Mylessa Wheeler	Hope Brown	Hope Brown	Hope Brown
Communion Preparation	Mattie Wesson	Tom Tapman	Mylessa Wheeler	Tom Tapman
Homebound Communion	As needed	(Ankenbauer) Charlene Tapman	As needed	(Ankenbauer) Mattie Wesson
Ride for Thelma	Tom Tapman	Judy Wallace	Mattie Wesson	Kathy Jordan
Greeters	Doris Sanders	Jody Suhr	Judy Wallace	Max Jordan
Refreshments	Pot Luck Fellowship	Charlene Tapman	Mattie Wesson	Judy Wallace
Acolytes	Derek Smith	Allyson Mains	Dindy Brown	Darren Smith
Youth & Children's Moment		Terri Holwerda		Mylessa Wheeler
Worship Leader	Amy Larson	Marilyn Andrews	Rita Bartlett	Jaime Wheeler

Prayer List

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

Shelly Chapman's mother
 Tina Chase
 Gladys Cockrum
 Janice Cockrum
 Richard Colpitts
 Heather Cotter
 Wes & Susan Craig
 Richard Donahoe
 'Dad' Elkins
 Todd Erskine
 Melinda Gallagher
 Thelma Grammond
 Haley & Lexie
 Teresa Hernandez
 Kayla Holwerda

Kimberly Jackson
 Mrs. Kollins
 John Kucker
 Pam Lanham
 John Lehmann
 Niece & Stacy McGill
 Helen Meurer
 Brian Moody
 Sharon Moore
 Ants Palm-Leis
 Paul Parker
 Anna Paruzinski
 Patricia's mother
 Gilbert Perez
 Daniel & Candace Perry

Ovella Phillips
 Bob Randall
 David Sanders
 Charline Spears
 Marion Spiller
 Floyd & Joyce Spindle
 Penny Stofer
 Jody Suhr
 Steve Turner
 Deese Vander Bogart
 Butch & Pam Whitlock
 Faye Washington
 Debbie Whitson
 Elsie York
 Tim Yeager

JULY 2009

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<p>Sunday Schedule: 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Fellowship 11 am Worship Service 12:15 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>			1 6pm Prayer Time 6:30pm Bible Study <i>Birthday: Linda Colpitts</i>	2	3 Jan out of the office	4 Independence Day 
5 Pot Luck Fellowship <i>Birthday: Missy Fritz</i>	6	7	8 6pm Prayer Time 6:30pm Bible Study	9	10	11
12 Elders Meeting	13	14	15 6pm Prayer Time 6:30pm Bible Study	16 6pm Worship Team Meeting	17	18
19 O&E Team Meeting	20 6pm Salad Kings Jan out of the office	21	22 6pm Prayer Time 6:30pm Bible Study	23	24	25
26 Newsletter Dead- line	27 <i>Birthday: Allyson Mains</i>	28	29 6pm Prayer Time 6:30pm Bible Study <i>Birthday: E. J. Malone Tom Greene</i>	30	31	

LECTIONARY READING



<p>July 5</p> 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 Psalm 48 2 Corinthians 12:2-10 Mark 6:1-13 Sermon Text: 2 Corinthians 11:16-31	<p>July 12</p> 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19 Psalm 24 Ephesians 3:1-14 Mark 6:14-29 Sermon Text: 2 Corinthians 12:1-13	<p>July 19</p> 2 Samuel 7:1-14a Psalm 89:20-37 Ephesians 2:11-22 Mark 6:30-34, 53-56 Sermon Text: Colossians 3:5-17	<p>July 26</p> 2 Samuel 11:1-15 Psalm 14 Ephesians 3:14-21 John 6:1-21 Sermon Text: Ephesians 3:4-21
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COME AND SEE



First Christian Church

July 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

Fire Crackers

Ingredients:

- 1 box Saltines (all four sleeves)
- 1 1/3 cup canola oil
- 1-2 Tbsp red pepper flakes
- 1 pkg Ranch Dressing mix



Directions:

Put Saltines into a plastic container that seals well.

Mix together canola oil & add red pepper flakes in a microwavable bowl. Let stand for about 30-40 minutes.

Add Ranch Dressing mix to the oil mixture. Microwave the mixture for 30-40 seconds.

Pour the oil mixture over the crackers. Turn over occasionally until oil is absorbed.

These are great to have for get-togethers anytime!
Georgia Seals

2009 General Assembly

July 29- August 2, 2009

Indianapolis, Indiana
At the Indiana Convention
Center

Register online:
www.disciples.org/ga



New Church Ministry Will Present the First Ever Spirit Games During the 2009 General Assembly

Wanna-be athletes and sports enthusiasts from around the country are gearing up for this spirited competition that will raise awareness for the New Church Movement, while raising funds to support New Church Ministry projects nationwide.

Go to www.newchurchministry.org for further information and registration.