



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



DOWNTOWN ON THE
COURTHOUSE SQUARE

September 2009

A Note from the Pastor ...

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

Old Papers

The other day I was searching for some Very Important Papers, and I discovered other Papers, Very Important for a different reason. These latter documents were drawings and notes from the students at the grade school where I had substituted for nearly 15 years, composed on the occasion of my



leaving to move here. I read through them, laughing at the "Mr. Dunson" stick-figures and the uninhibited spelling, and feeling a little moved all over again by the innocent sentiments: "We will mourn your going away"; "Good buy, Mr. Dunson," and "Farwell"; "I hope that your next job is sweet and fun and everyone is nice to you." I recalled the fun I had with those children, like "Hawaiian Shirt Wednesday" in 5th grade, and the times kids would ask how old I was- I always gave them a birth year (1918, 1937, etc.) and said, "Figure it out!" And their amazement, "Wow, you're 84!"

I began to have another thought, too, and a sense of sad-

ness, like the boy who had written, "See you later," and then crossed out "later" and wrote "never." And it was strange that suddenly I couldn't put faces to the names on the cards and posters. I thought about the many entrances and exits people make in our lives, the relocations, forgotten friendships, the bruises and scars and broken hearts. It saddens

me to think how easily we lose the connection with people and places that give us such pleasure, that build us up, that make us a part of the real world of happiness and disagreements, of politics and worship and shopping and work, and longing.

Even so. What makes it worthwhile is the giving and receiving, sharing the joyful and the painful times. And then remembering when they are past, and being thankful.

--- **Mike**

Thou dost show me the path of life; in thy presence there is fullness of joy.

Psalms16:11



UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ September 6: Sunday School begins
- ◆ September 7: Labor Day, Church Office Closed
- ◆ September 7: DWM Meeting
- ◆ September 10: Worship Team
- ◆ September 13: Kitchen Dedication and Fellowship Meal
- ◆ September 20: O&E Team Meeting
- ◆ September 21: Salad Kings
- ◆ September 27: Newsletter Deadline
- ◆ September 27: Stewardship Team

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



Sunday School for all ages
begins on Sunday, September 6.



Item from the Chairman

These months roll around very fast and now it is time to publish the September newsletter. I am happy to report that the kitchen project is complete. On August 22 the final touches were done on the kitchen. Most of you have seen the kitchen and we have had many positive comments. I think the ladies (Kathy Jordan, Charlene Tapman and Mattie Wesson) did a superb job of designing the cabinets and selecting the stove, microwave, and faucets. We are all proud of you.

Next week we will test the kitchen on August 30 when the church family and guests celebrate the Spindles 60th Wedding Anniversary. That should be a big bash. We are so proud of Joyce and Floyd for all they have done for the church. They put their knowledge and money where it is needed. We ap-

preciate you and I know the church family realize what you are doing for us. You are very generous.

Pastor Mike is back (I don't think he really left) and seems rested and ready to pick up where he left off. We had some excellent fill ins for Mike. I thought Bill Muske gave us an outstanding sermon. He is a natural. Mylessa Wheeler prepared for weeks on her sermon and I appreciate all her hard work. I must admit that the Bible Class on Wednesday nights pumped her up. Maybe we should take credit for her sermon.

We have many new goals for our church and, at the next board meeting, we will concentrate on Sunday School.

God Has Been Good To Us,
Tom Tapman

Words from the Stewardship Team

Being a part of a stewardship team is a challenge. Stewards are persons in charge of affairs, supervision, management and administration of finances and property. As a small church we are often challenged by unexpected needs which require us to ask for financial help. A few examples are, when mortar was crumbling between our exterior stone walls and we had water leakage, when we needed a new roof and (the latest) when we had water damage and other damage beneath our kitchen floors which required the removal of cabinetry which led to a necessary and much needed update to our kitchen.

It is not particularly a pleasant feeling to feel it necessary to ask for money, but at times you just have to swallow your pride and do what is necessary. What I want to reflect on is how the Lord has blessed us with the caring people within our church and those outside our church who are always there for us in time of need. I hope you know how thankful we are to you and how much we appreciate all you have done.

"Your giving heart will be rewarded by a giving God!"

—Mattie

Worship Team Memo

Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;
In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your paths.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Summer is almost over and school has begun! Football season is upon us as well. Advent is a few short months away and soon we will be preparing for the season!

Pastor Mike is back from vacation. We would like to thank Bill Muske for his sermon while Mike was away. We would also like to thank Sharon Moore for filling in for Mike at communion.

If you would like to volunteer for a Children's Moment, please sign up on the Service Calendar sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

Blessings to All,
Mylessa

Next Worship Team meeting:
September 10 at 6 pm - Fellowship Hall

DWM Dish



Hi everyone... Remember our next meeting on Monday, September 7, at 6 pm. This will begin the 2009-2010 year. We will have a meal followed by a short devotional and our business meeting. Please try to be present if possible. We will be discussing our service projects for the year as well as the upcoming Bazaar & Stew Luncheon scheduled for November 13.

Our garage sale, which was a project of the church to benefit the kitchen renovation fund, was quite successful. We made \$1406.

The kitchen project is complete and the kitchen looks wonderful. We will have a dedication service and fellowship meal on Sunday, September 13, to celebrate our new facility which is so much a part of our ministry. Thanks again to all who gave financially and of their time & talent to make this much-needed project possible. I did omit one person from the list last month of those who contributed to labor on this project. Tony Fritz, a friend of Max & Kathy Jordan and a friend of our church, is always willing to help in our time of need. We will be sending him a special "thank you" to let him know how much we appreciate him.

Ladies, we'll see you at 6pm on September 7.

How blessed we are, *Mattie*



**Attention choir members
and choir member wanna-
bes!**

**Choir Rehearsals begin again on Sunday,
September 6,
following the Worship Service.**



Financial Picture

August 2009

Receipts: \$5062 Expenditures: \$6721.95

(Since January 1, 2009 we have transferred \$5100 from our investment fund to cover our deficits.)

Snapshot of the Month

Doug & Jody Suhr/Snapshot Editors

Our Snapshot of the Month for September is Marilyn VanSchoelandt.

Marilyn was born on September 17th to Bob and Allevia Leat in Kansas City, Kansas. She had one brother, who is now deceased. She spent her entire life in Kansas and at the age of approximately 6, started taking piano lessons, and as a teenager, began playing at her Church.

She met Don (whom we know as Van) while both were working for the Corps of Engineers in Kansas City. In 1970, they moved to Germany where Van continued to work for the Corps of Engineers and Marilyn became a stay at home housewife and in her spare time gave piano lessons. They have celebrated 42 years together and have 2 children, one son and one daughter with 3 grandsons and 2 granddaughters. Marilyn also has 3 lovable little dogs, Scooter, Lola and Tipper.

One very interesting thing that I learned from Marilyn is that she (and Van) has a passion for minia-



ture houses. They have recreated a 1930's Georgian Mansion, with 27 rooms of unbelievable furnishings. Each room has a different décor and furnishings. Most of the furniture was made by Van (the detail is unbelievable) with area rugs: (these are amazing) made by Marilyn. The mansion even has lighting. Words cannot express the amazement of this room.

Soon after Desert Storm, while playing at the Military Chapel at Ft Hood, a friend told Marilyn that First Christian Church in Belton needed a pianist/Choir Director. She was interviewed by The CWF ladies and subsequently was hired as the FCC pianist/Choir Director. As we all know, this was a very wise choice as we watch her enthusiasm and dedication to the Church each and every Sunday.

Music is an important part of the Worship Service and adds immensely to the enjoyment of the service. Marilyn has made the worship experience for First Christian Church most enjoyable and memorable each Sunday.

AUGUST SERVICE CALENDAR

	September 6	September 13	September 20	September 27
Communion Elder	Cindy Capps	Kirk Wallace	Mattie Wesson	Amy Larson
Offertory Elder	Kathy Jordan	Mattie Wesson	Tom Tapman	Cindy Capps
Early Deacon	Hope Brown	Hope Brown	Kirk Wallace	Mattie Wesson
Deacon 1	Mylessa Wheeler	Mylessa Wheeler	Mylessa Wheeler	Mylessa Wheeler
Deacon 2	Judy Wallace	Judy Wallace	Cindy Capps	Kirk Wallace
Deacon 3	Hope Brown	Hope Brown	Max Jordan	Terri Holwerda
Deacon 4	Kirk Wallace	Amy Larson	Amy Larson	Diane Pressley
Communion Preparation	Tom Tapman	Hope Brown	Mylessa Wheeler	Kirk Wallace
Homebound Communion	(Ankenbauer) Betty Malone	As needed	(Ankenbauer) Mattie Wesson	As needed
Ride for Thelma	Mattie Wesson	Tom Tapman	Judy Wallace	Kathy Jordan
Greeters	Max Jordan	Doris Sanders	Kathy Jordan	Marilyn Ankenbauer
Refreshments	Judy Wallace	Fellowship Meal	Mattie Wesson	Charlene Tapman
Acolytes	Darren Smith	Dindy Brown	Derek Smith	Darren Smith
Youth & Children's Moment				
Worship Leader	Betty Malone	JoEllen Strunk	Sharon Moore	Kathy Jordan

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
RL & Billy Faye Brown
Cindy Capps
Jean Carle

Daffy Carpenter
Chad
Becky Chafin & family
Tina Chase
Gladys Cockrum
Janice Cockrum
Richard Colpitts
Heather Cotter
Wes & Susan Craig
Dena's father
'Dad' Elkins
Thelma Grammond
Haley & Lexie
Teresa Hernandez
Kayla Holwerda



Brett Jordan
Wayne Klasinski
John Kucker
John Lehrmann
Paul Mabry
Ona Mae Maddox
Necie & Stacy McGill
Helen Meurer
Brian Moody
Sharon Moore
Ants Palm-Leis
Anna Paruzinski
Gilbert Perez
Ovella Phillips
Sandra Robinson

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

SEPTEMBER 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>		<p>1 <i>Birthday:</i> Mary Margaret Greene</p>	<p>2 6pm Prayer Time 6:30 Bible Study</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6 Sunday School begins for all ages</p> 	<p>7 Labor Day Church Office Closed</p> <p>6pm DWM Meeting</p>	<p>8 <i>Birthday:</i> Joyce Spindle</p>	<p>9 6pm Prayer Time 6:30 Bible Study</p>	<p>10 6pm Worship Team Meeting</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 <i>Birthday:</i> Niece McGill</p>
<p>13 Kitchen Dedication & Fellowship Meal</p> <p><i>Birthday:</i> Anna Marie Richardson</p>	<p>14 <i>Birthday:</i> Marilyn Ankenbauer</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 6pm Prayer Time 6:30 Bible Study</p> <p><i>Birthday:</i> Tony Holwerda</p>	<p>17 <i>Birthday:</i> Marilyn VanSchoelandt</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20 O&E Team Meeting</p> <p><i>Birthday:</i> Floyd Spindle</p>	<p>21 6pm Salad Kings</p>	<p>22 <i>Birthday:</i> Charline Spears</p>	<p>23 6pm Prayer Time 6:30 Bible Study</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27 Newsletter Deadline</p> <p>Stewardship Team Meeting</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 6pm Prayer Time 6:30 Bible Study</p>			



LECTIONARY READING

September 6	September 13	September 20	September 27
Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 Psalm 125 James 2:1-10, 14-17 Mark 7: 24-37 Sermon Text: James 3:1-18	Proverbs 1:20-33 Psalm 19 James 3:1-12 Mark 8: 27-38 Sermon Text: Genesis 1:27-32	Proverbs 31:10-31 Psalm 1 James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a Ark 9:30-37 Sermon Text: James 4:1-10	Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 Psalm 124 James 5:13-20 Mark 9:38-50 Sermon Text: James 5:7-18

COME AND SEE



First Christian Church

September 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

Jiffy Corn Casserole

Ingredients:

- 1 can whole Kernel yellow corn, undrained
- 1 can cream style yellow corn
- 1 (8 oz) carton sour cream
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 box Jiffy corn muffin mix
- 1 stick butter, melted



Directions:

- Mix all ingredients together.
- Pour into a large, lightly oiled 13x9 baking dish.
- Bake at 350 degrees for 55 to 60 minutes.

Great dish for family Thanksgiving!
Jan Muske

CENTRAL TEXAS MASTER Singers

On Sunday, September 27 at 6 p.m. the Central Texas Master Singers will perform at First United Methodist Church in Belton. There will be a free-will offering benefiting Helping Hands Ministry.

The Central Texas Master Singers is a regional faith based community Choir expressing God's word through Christian contemporary choral music. For more information and concert schedule go to:

<http://www.centraltexasmastersingers.com>.