

FIRST NEWS
The Newsletter of
First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ), San Marcos, Texas

a place to belong

May 2005

a place to become

A Note from the Interim Senior Minister

I am elated, excited and motivated to accept the call to be your interim senior minister at the first Christian church of San Marcos. I look forward with eager anticipation to share the "good news" of Our Lord Jesus Christ with you, as well as to help you discern your mission, message and ministry for the Church and community.

I will be available for you to come and share your personal and/or collective thoughts with me by appointment. Feel free to call anytime! See you in worship and as is convenient for you!

I personally invite you to come visit with me in the fellowship hall of the church at 10:00 am or 6:30 pm on May 4th, 11th or 18th, 2005. These meetings are designed to provide opportunity for sharing your ideas concerning church ministry. I want to meet each of you and get better acquainted.

"The Lord Jesus Christ be (is) with your spirit. Amen". (Philemon 1:25)

Miracles and blessings,

James A. Mckibbin
Interim senior minister
First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) San Marcos, TX

A Short Bio:

Interim Senior Minister James McKibbin joins First Christian Church of San Marcos with a long history of study and devotion to Christ.

He has an undergraduate degree in science and philosophy (BS) from Manchester University, and a graduate degree in theology and Christian education (MDIV). He studied at the Associated Mennonite Seminaries in Elkhart, IN, (Psy/D). In Galveston, TX, he obtained a fellowship in the Pauline Letters; at the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN, a residency in clinical pastoral education; at the Farmington State Hospital, Farmington, MO, a proctorship in small groups and evangelism.

In Fort Wayne, IN, he had an internship in reality therapy, later becoming a licensed Reality Therapist at the Reality Therapy Institute in San Bernadino, CA. He became a trained grief loss therapist Vitas Health Care Corp, Miami, FL and a ordination with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). His extensive experience includes being a pastor, educator, clinician and national motivational lecturer.

James resides in Austin with his wife Betsy and have 4 children and five grandchildren.

Betsy is the Vice President of Management and Program Support for Lutheran Social Service of the South located in Austin, TX.

First Christian Church Welcomes the following new members:

Tricia Boyd

James & Tracy Cape

Layne, Caitlyn, Aidan & Matthew Brutcher

Melissa Cruz

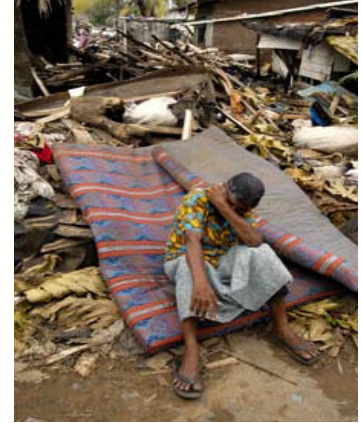
Sue Diegelman

Johnson Ross Perez and fiancé Paige Buckley

Chiara deFranchi and fiancé, Jason Pape

Hildegard Harper (mother of Karin McArdle)

WEEK OF COMPASSION EARTHQUAKE TSUNAMI RELIEF



Photos from Week of Compassion Website by Paul Jeffrey – left from Sri Lanka, right from India

It has been over 4 months since the 9.0 earthquake in Southeast Asia and the devastating tsunamis which left over 150,000 people dead and at least 5 million people destitute, homeless, without a livelihood, grieving for family and friends and facing starvation and imminent epidemics from unclean water and contaminated earth. The news media have moved on to other things and our minds have left this need in the press of other concerns. **Although much has been accomplished, the need is still great!** Most disasters have an initial relief phase of a few days to a few weeks. This disaster relief phase will last months and the recovery phase will last years! **We must not stop our efforts just because we are no longer bombarded with news about it on all sides!**

Week of Compassion, our Disciples agency for disaster relief has been a major part of the relief efforts. More than \$2,000,000 in relief has been given from Disciples churches around the nation. For more information about Week of Compassion and updates and stories about the relief efforts, go to www.weekofcompassion.org. **Our church family has been a part of this effort.** One of our own young people, Rikki Hardy, enlisted the help of the San Marcos High School National Honor Society in the medicine box program and through them 3 more medicine boxes and the money to go with them, \$1,088 has been sent. **Including this help, we have sent 80 health/hygiene kits, 7 medicine boxes, and \$3,280.10 to Week of Compassion for Tsunami Relief, bringing the value of our efforts to \$6,040.10 to date!** Although our major efforts are concluded, we are not finished with this important relief effort. At the Bluebonnet Area/LRGVD Assembly, April 29-30 Johnny Wray, the director of Week of Compassion spoke and gave a wonderful presentation of slides from his recent trip to Indonesia. The youth collected many empty printer ink cartridges during the Assembly raising more funds for Week of Compassion. Please continue to keep the victims of this disaster in your prayers and remember that the relief efforts will continue for many years to come. The collection jar will remain in the Narthex for continued relief efforts. Thank you for your compassion.

Connie Jean Burke
Coordinator, earthquake/tsunami relief

YOUTH REACH OUT TO HELP

Dear church family,

I wanted you to know that we have very caring and concerned young people in our congregation. When I first spoke to bring the needs of the Earthquake/Tsunami victims to the attention of this congregation and what we could do to help, the very first to respond were our young people. The CYF immediately asked if they could donate their mug sale proceeds to the relief effort, the Chi Rho youth put together 12 health kits at their very next meeting and other young people have spoken to me about how they could help. Rikki Hardy took the medicine box program to the San Marcos High School National Honor Society who then adopted it as their service project for this year and have done a wonderful job collecting supplies and money to send three medicine boxes to help. In spite of the turmoil within our congregation, our young people have reached out to help those less fortunate than themselves in a very real and concrete way, as have many of you. These young people represent the future of the church, both here and in other places throughout the nation. We should be proud of them and let them know that they play a great role in the church now as well. Please let them know just how special they are as I do now with this letter. First Christian youth, you are very special to me and I am proud to have you as friends and my Christian brothers and sisters.

Connie Burke,
Coordinator, earthquake/tsunami relief

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THANK YOU, Congregation, for your support of the Sweetheart Cafe! You were wonderful "customers" and we enjoyed serving you. Special thanks to Margo & JD for their music, our parents for cooking and helping, and those that donated toward our mission project. You are appreciated!

signed-The Chi Rho Youth Group

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A new smiling face in the FCC Office

We extend a warm welcome to our newest staff member, Charlene (Char) Wood. Char has started her new ministry at First Christian Church as Administrative Associate. She has been a member of First Christian church since she and husband Mike moved to Texas almost three years ago. Char comes to us with over 15 years of Office Management and Administrative Assistant experience. She most recently worked for Xerox Corp. in San Antonio, and was a Patent Administrator in their legal department in Rochester, New York prior to moving to Texas. Char's leisure activities and hobbies include camping, swimming, boating, reading, motorcycling, SCUBA diving and she even holds a private pilot's license. She is an active member of several community organizations including the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), San Marcos Police Department Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association and the Hays County Sheriff's Citizens Academy Alumni Association. Char is also Vice President of the SweetHearts of Texas, an auxiliary group that supports husband Mike's Heart of Texas Chorus. Please stop in to say hello to Char.

Thanks to our helpers.....

Steve, Andrew, James and Art would like to extend their thanks to all of the office helpers who contributed their time in the office answering telephone calls, taking messages, making copies, preparing for Sunday Worship service, and whatever other tasks they were called upon to do. Your time and efforts are much appreciated!!

Ronel Adkins	Susan Ballard
Lenore Bolton	Joe Bostwick
Bernice Brown	Jackie Cable
Claire French	Joyce Glore
Gayle Morris	Camille Tracy

.....and thanks to Lenore Bolton for coordinating this effort and scheduling all the volunteers!!
Thanks Lenore!!!

Board Update

Over the past few months many stresses and strains have been put on the church and the people in the church. I believe we have held up well and are on a road to putting together a foundation that will allow us to serve God, each other, and our community.

I sincerely appreciate the kind words of encouragement I have received from board members and many members of the congregation. The support has also been fantastic and there has been plenty of grace when I've dropped the ball.

As everyone knows by now we have our interim pastor, James McKibbin on board. He is working by the day until we finalize his contract at our next board meeting on May 12th. This was in line with our promise to receive feedback from church members before making the final decision. I have been in contact with James almost every day. He is one of the few people I know that get up consistently as early as I do. I'm already at work at 5:30 in the morning last week and I get a phone call from James asking if I'm interested in coffee. I know he is working; putting in the time doing his best to be where he needs to be to meet the needs of our congregation.

We had a meeting on Wednesday April 27th with members of the board that could make the meeting on short notice and several leaders in the church who are not on the board. From that meeting we decided to set May 22nd as the date for a congregational meeting. There are several issues which need to be heard by the entire congregation.

1. Election of deacons & elders.
2. Filling the spots of the 7 board members that have resigned. We need 4 Deacons & 3 Elders.
3. Voting on Steve Thaler's (Associate Pastor) recall.
4. Voting in a new Treasurer (Charles Blankenship)
- 5.

Between now and then I'm sure there will be additional business to consider.

Thanks to Dawn Jester, Rae Bostwick, and Tom Ballard for their work on the nominating committee for new Deacons and Elders.

Finally out of our meeting on Wednesday we put more definition on Steve's role in the church. He will be the #1 supporter of our department/committee chairs. Steve will be actively engaged to support, encourage, and measure the progress of our different departments and their programs. I know he is pleased with this clarification of responsibility. If you need help with a committee or simply have a question -- Steve is the man to see.

Thanks for all your support and faith in our church and may you receive many blessings.

Art Johnson
Board Chair

MAY LECTIONARY READINGS AND LITURGICAL COLOR

Sunday, May 15

Pentecost

Red

Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

John 20:19-23

Sunday, May 22

1st Sunday after Pentecost

Green

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Matthew 28:16-20

Sunday, May 29

2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Green

Genesis 6:9-22, 7:24; 8:14-19

Psalm 46

Romans 1:16-17, 3:22b-28, (29-31)

Matthew 7:21-29

Looking for a few good men.... (and women too..)

Choir Director Mike Wood was delighted to have a couple men join our Chancel Choir, but says there is room for lots more – and women too! If you love to sing, or are just looking for some fun on Wednesday nights – come check out a choir rehearsal. We meet in the choir room on Wednesday nights after bible study – about 7:10 till 8:10. We would love to have you join us in singing praises to the Lord at the late Worship service on Sunday.

Visit with the Pastor on Wednesdays....

There is still time to come to one of the “Visit with the Pastor” get-togethers. You are invited to come visit with Rev. James McKibbin Wednesday May 11th or 18th at 10:00 am or 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. There will be light refreshments. This will be a time to chat about anything on your heart and to get acquainted with Rev. McKibbin. If you are unable to attend one of these sessions, please call the office to set up a time to meet with Rev. McKibbin.

Thank you!!

A great big thanks to all the volunteers at the church. We may not even know who you are, but we do want you to know that you are appreciated!

Congregational Meeting Sunday, May 22, 2005

Following each Worship Service. Please plan to stay while we take care of a few pending issues.

Church Family Pool Party Country Estates Pool Sunday, May 22, 2005

Fun, fellowship, and food. Details to follow, but please mark your calendars!!!

June Newsletter Deadline

Please submit articles for June newsletter to the church office by Friday, May 20, 2005. Email to Char – charlene@fcc-sm.org

Updates from Andrew

SCHLITTERBAHN DAY – Saturday, May 14, is Chi Rho's date with America's best water park. All middle school students, we'll meet at church at **9 a.m.** and head to New Braunfels until the park closes at 7 p.m. Entry will cost around \$30, and we'll bring an ice chest loaded with our lunches to cut down on food cost. The church will help anyone in need—don't let cost block you out of this great day!

UNIVERSITY CAMP – CYF will celebrate the end of the school year with an overnight campout at University Camp in Wimberley on Friday, May 20. Meet at church at 5:30 on the 20th. Bring a sleeping bag, any snacks you'd like, your pajamas with booties, and any fun toys you'd like to play with. We'll have a great time together and arrive back at church Saturday afternoon. Bring your friends! It's free!

D-GROUPS end this month. CYF's last D-group will be on May 15...Chi Rho's last meeting is May 18. We'll have something special for our end-of-the-year meetings—don't miss it! Everyone join us as we enjoy fellowship and seek to know God more deeply.

SUNDAY, MAY 15 is another camp registration day at church. Sign up for July camps and the Chi Rho mission trip by this date.

CHI RHO'S MISSION TRIP to Los Fresnos is fast approaching! Get your friends to come...kick off the summer right with this great trip. If you have not received any information on this trip, contact Andrew

Chapman or Maggie Mossler. Get your forms turned in to the church office *by May 15*. Please plan to be at the 10:30 worship service on Sunday, June 5. We will be commissioned to go forth and do the work of our Lord. We will meet at the church on Monday, June 6 at 10 a.m. to load up and move out. We will return on Friday, June 10 around 5:30 p.m. Get ready for a great week!

THE CYF BACKPACKING TRIP is looking good. So far (through the first week of May) we have nine students signed up to go. There is still room for one or two more participants, so if you're interested, get in touch with Andrew today! The total cost for this trip is \$315, and if you're going, please have it paid in full by **June 1**, not the original date of June 20. You will be getting more information in the mail, like stuff to bring, medical info, and questions about yourself, and have those filled out and turn them in at our pre-trip meeting on June 20. As always, contact Andrew with questions.

Keep your eyes peeled for special things in the June newsletter. We'll have pool parties, movie nights, barbecues, ice cream socials, sports days . . . all kinds of fun things scattered throughout the summer. Those dates are being worked on, and you'll soon know what's going on with the summer youth program.

Look to Christ in all you do. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. You are loved and are being prayed for.

--Andrew

ATTENTION ALL YOUTH!

Thanks to all our youth for their leadership and participation in Worship Services on Youth Sunday - Mother's Day - May 8th!! What a beautiful way to celebrate The Lord, our youth, and our mothers!!! Thanks to all!!!

Donations needed for Chi Rho Mission Trip

Hi guys! The Chi Rho group will be going on their annual mission trip to the Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries in Los Fresnos, Texas on June 6, 2005. Following is a list of things we are collecting to take with us. We'll have a box in the Fellowship Hall to collect this stuff. Thanks!

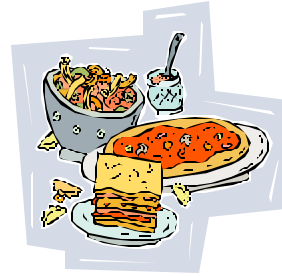
- Backpacks (may be used, but not broken)
- School Supplies (notebooks, pencils, pens, etc.)
- Clothing - CLEAN! children's and adults (size xx and xxx are not needed)
- Shoes/sandals
- Sunglasses
- Band aids
- Toiletries
- Soccer balls, Ball pumps, and needles for the pumps
- Socks
- undies (new)

If anyone would like to help with food or bottled water for this trip, the Chi Rhos would appreciate it. Thanks for your consideration!
maggie

Book Worms.... Anyone???

I would like to see a review of one of the books from our library in the newsletter each month. I am willing to write the first one, but it would be interesting to have a different person write one each month. If you would like to participate, please let me know at 754-8885 by the 15th of the month preceding publication of the next newsletter.

Thanks,
Camille Tracy



Mother-Daughter Luncheon Saturday, May 14th 11:30 - 1:00 pm Fellowship Hall

All women of the church are invited to celebrate – Mothers, Daughters, Sisters, Cousins, Grandmothers, and their guests, with fellowship, fun and good food that will be cooked and served by the most gracious gentlemen of our membership. Ladies, don't miss this opportunity!! If child care is needed, please call the office at 396-1926 and let Char know.

And, please bring plenty of smiles and a joyful heart!!!

Dear Church Family,

We sincerely thank you for the many prayers, cards, visits, and food shared with us during Billy's stay in the hospital and at home recovering. We're grateful for a loving, caring church and family.

In Christian Love,
Billy & Mary Windham

Dear Church Family

We will miss my momma, Martha Philebar, greatly. In our time of sorrow, we have been comforted by your loving kindness. Thank you sincerely for your many prayers, encouragement, fellowship, cards and phone calls which have all provided awesome support. Please know that your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

The family of Lenore Bolton

Time for Action

The Board has asked me to be the point of accountability for all of the working ministries in the church. All ministry departments will be chaired and run by lay persons, so my responsibility will be to coordinate, support and resource them to ensure that each is functioning well and communicating with the board and others as necessary. One board member will be assigned as a liaison to each ministry department to help promote open communication and cooperation.

I am excited about this new responsibility, especially with the tremendous willingness of people to claim a ministry and to jump in and help. Many of you have already signed up and you will be contacted shortly by me or the chair of your ministry department. There are opportunities to serve for everyone, so call the department chair or me and we will find a way for you to be involved. In all we do I will seek to keep our focus on the ministry we are called to by our Lord Jesus. I am excited about what God is doing through FCC. Below are the Ministry Departments with the Chairs that are already in place.

Worship: Rae Bostwick
Evangelism: Mildred Scott
Property:
Grounds:
Outreach: Tom Ballard
Special Ministries: Mary Windham
Men's:

Fellowship: McCafferys and Hardys
Neighborhood Groups:
Welcoming Ministry:
Stewardship: Chris Carson
Women's: Gayle Morris
Education:
Personnel: Kay Stroman

God's blessings,

Steve Thaler