



# THE VISITOR



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

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The Church's 141st Year

August 26, 2009 through September 2, 2009

## Membership Committee

A very vital facet of the Christian religion is fellowship. An important part of the membership committee in our church is to stimulate this togetherness. The committee is responsible for social events, bereavement meals, our weekly Wednesday Night Live dinner, and tracking attendance of our congregation. The committee met on Sunday, Aug. 23, and discussed the following:

- Three teams which will rotate for bereavement dinners. Debbie Coates, Becky Burke and Lucie Chapman have volunteered to be bereavement team leaders. It is hoped to have four team leaders that will rotate each week to help plan, prepare and serve the Wednesday Night Live weekly meal. Anyone who would like to help and participate on a team is asked to contact either Linda Morrow (383-1724) email: [gorrow3@verizon.net](mailto:gorrow3@verizon.net); or Sid Graham (382-3325) email: [fgraham@verizon.net](mailto:fgraham@verizon.net).

- Lucie Chapman will help plan activities for college students.  
- Pat Martin will continue her flower ministry to those who are ill or shut-in.

- Linda Morrow and Dixie Smalley are working to update the attendance and membership records in the new software program.

- Fellowship dinners have been set for the Fall. The dates are September 20 (Awards Event), October 18 (Fall Follies), November 8 (Stewardship). The December date will coincide with the Hanging of the Greens.

- Two day trips are being planned. The first is scheduled for October 15 (travel to Ft. Worth to view the wax exhibit of the Lord's Supper and lunch at Joe T Garcia's). The second trip will be to the Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival program held the first week-end of January at University Christian Church in Ft. Worth.

If you would like to join our committee please call Linda Morrow, 383-1724. Everyone is welcome!

## Christian Education Ministry "Kicks Off" Year!

The Christian Education Ministry sponsored several events on Sunday, August 23 to kick off the new Sunday school year at First Christian. The morning began at 9:00 with a sing-along, doughnuts, and juice in the Fellowship Hall, after which Sunday school teachers and students were introduced, then dismissed to attend their respective classes. Sunday School classes currently offered include a new preschool class, taught by Charlotte Stephens; Pre-Kindergarten through Second Grade, taught by Cindy Venables; Third through Fifth Grade, taught by Becky Burke; Chi Rho, taught by Joe Smith; CYF, taught by Emily Tynes; the Rainbow Class for mentally challenged adults, taught by Linda Morrow and Joanne Arrington; and the Sojourners Class for adults, taught by Roy Watson. We also are looking for a volunteer to teach our College/Young Adult Class. Sunday school is offered to all children and adults to foster spiritual development and Christian education.

After the worship service, a "Kick Off" fellowship meal was served in the Fellowship Hall featuring such "football fare" as hamburgers, hot dogs/chili dogs, and nachos, along with a football sheet cake. Charlotte Stephens led the entertainment, which consisted of a contest of listing as many current NFL teams as possible. The contest was won by our Youth, who correctly listed all 32 teams! Also, good sports fans and good sports Hardy Burke, Joshua Mobley, and Joe Smith competed for the "Ultimate Football Fan" designation by answering NFL trivia questions. Joe Smith was awarded a football hat for winning that contest. A good time was had by all! Thanks go to Hardy Burke, master griller; Cindy Venables, Joe and Maggie Smith, and Becky Burke, for cooking, serving, and cleaning up, and to Charlotte Stephens for entertainment and decorations.

## Mark Graham Piano Recital — Sunday, August 30!

I will be participating in a piano competition sponsored by the Chopin Society in Warsaw, Poland from September 6 – 13. In advance of this, I'm going to play some of my competition program here at the church on Sunday, August 30 at 2:00 p.m.. This will be a short program – about 30 to 40 minutes of music, plus I'll talk a bit about the music and about the competition. Of course it is free of charge and open to the public; however, I am not advertising this to the community. I want to keep it casual and spontaneous. If you like the piano music of Chopin, then come hear me play this Sunday at 2:00 PM!

**Mark**

## Out of the Whirlwind

For me these are the “dog days of summer.” I haven’t looked up “dog days of summer” but I think it refers to the hot days when hound dogs find a patch of shade and lie there all day, if possible. This reminds me of an old Justin Wilson story. Let me tell it as best I remember it.

“Way down in da bayou, out round Houma, der were these two old hound dogs tied up under a big old shade tree outside dis old white house with a big old wrap-around porch. It were so hot they had learnt not to move a muscle – just enjoy the bit o breeze when it happin. Suddenly the front door of dat house pop open and spill out ten or eight floppy haired teenagers width a boomer box which were playing music that sound worse that skeeters in heat. All dem teenagers start to jump and bump and gyrate all over da place. One dem hound dogs raise up one his eyebrows, jes a little, look at dem kids, an say, “If we did dat – dey’d sho nuff worm us!”

Well, the dog days done bit me and I’m having to fight them tooth and nail this week. Either that or it’s the fact that I have given up caffeine and my body still is going through withdrawals! Either way it seems like my brain has gone on vacation and forgot to leave me an emergency contact number!

In spite of my brain’s absence we are up to our eyebrows in planning our Fall programs and activities. I gave Mark a copy of my planned fall sermons. Emily gave me a copy of her fall youth activities. All our committees and ministries are making plans. And I handed out last Sunday a survey about Small Groups for Fall. We have a number of groups we are considering starting if we can get two things -- #1 some interest by the congregation and #2 leaders for the – groups. (Some leaders are already sign up!) The survey was passed around church last Sunday but not many people filled it out. We are not sure if that means folks want a do-little church or they just took the list home to meditate on it! Just in case we are enclosing a copy of the survey in this newsletter with the hopes that you will fill it out and tell us what might be interesting to you! I know I can count on your help!

As you probably know, Phyllis and I took our youngest, Joy, off to college this week and left her there – at the mercy of absent-minded professors, party-crazed students, and the local flirtatious-old-men. So...pray with me! Fortunately Grandma is there and she can still swing a pretty good baseball bat if she gets motivated!

This makes me think about all the college students whose parents are leaving them at the mercy of UNT and TWU and the Denton community. We need to be a stable and welcoming place for students who are here during the chaos of university life. Their parents are depending on us!! I know! So when you see a new face in worship – please undertake to seek that person out, to welcome them personally, and to ask if there is anything you can do for the! You could make all the difference for that person!

See you in worship this Sunday! The sermon will come from Revelation 11: 1-12!

**Pastor John**

## Youth News from Emily

A youth sponsor is a special thing. A sponsor is what makes a group work. They are there to support the group with food, time and with any other need necessary. What does a sponsor do? Well, a sponsor can do many things. There is the food sponsor. This person donates food to the youth after church on Sundays, at youth activities when we have special events, and donuts in the morning. This could be one of the most important sponsors. Then there is the time sponsor. This person agrees to a rotating schedule to spend an afternoon helping me with the youth. They join in on all activities, participate in discussions, and go on trips with the youth. Then, there is the parent sponsor. This person encourages their youth to attend youth group. With out the parent encouragement, the youth would never attend.

I am having a meeting this Sunday after church to discuss these, and many more types of sponsors. I would like to invite you to come to the meeting to see how you can be involved with the future of the church. This meeting is for ALL PARENTS, YOUTH AND SPONSORS! We will meet after church in the fellowship hall. There, you will receive the fall schedule and our major plans for the next year. I ask that you please bring your and your youths schedules. This is a very exciting time for the youth, and I look forward to seeing you there.

Peace,  
*Emily*

## Welcome New Members!



Please say hello and welcome to Dan and Debsanne (debs) English who joined our congregation on Sunday, Aug. 23! Please update your directories with the following:

Dan and Debs English  
198 Private Rd. 4437  
Rhome, TX 76078  
(979) 531-9964

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to Cody Donnelly on his graduation from army infantry basic training in Ft. Benning, GA. Cody is back home in Aubrey and will complete his senior year before returning to the Army.



## Stewardship & Attendance

August 23, 2009

### Stewardship General Fund

Receipts to General Fund \$ 1,115.93

### Other Giving

Outreach—Community Food Center \$200.00  
Pastor's Bike Ride \$100.00  
Wednesday Night Live \$15.00  
Property—Lawn Mower \$120.00  
Memorial \$40.00

### Attendance

Sunday School 43          Worship 87          Nursery 5

## Serving Schedule

August 30, 2009

**Worship Leader:** Charlotte Stephens

**Table Elders:** (Bread) Roy Watson, (Cup) Becky Burke

**Diaconate Serving:** Tony Featherstone, Suzy Holt, Pat Martin  
Janis Tully    **Alt. Server:** Dave Lewis

**Prepare:** Glenna Tompkins

**Clean Up:** Susan Henry, Michael McClung, Kendall Franks,  
Bobby Stephens, Kody Wahlert

**Greeters:** Gene and Judy Gohlke, Hardy Burke,  
Judd and Suzy Holt, Janis Tully

## Health Concerns & Prayer Requests

Irene Bennett, John Creigh, Bernice Croix, Preston Dawson,  
Annalee Duncan, Norma Harrison, A.D. and Jean Hartline,  
Belva Hennen, Earl Jenkins, Oran Nabors, Connie Pack, Carol  
Tiemeyer, Bob Warren, Winnie White, Gina Gohlke Wicker

† Norma Harrison as she continues chemotherapy treatment.

† Gene Gohlke underwent out patient surgery last Friday for his  
broken wrist.

† Myra Mobley is recuperating well after having elective sur-  
gery last week.

## Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Shirley Jordan and family on the  
passing of her brother, Chuck Jordan on Sunday, Aug. 23.  
Services will be held in Illinois this week.



**Send the flock  
to your friends!**

Contact the church office  
or Emily for additional details.  
940-566-4990 or 903-316-2084

## Notes from the Music Minister

Ah, the perils and pitfalls of being a church musician. I want to share with you an amusing, and slightly embarrassing, "behind-the-scenes" anecdote about last Sunday's service.

One of my favorite books in my music library is a collection of melodies from over one thousand of the greatest classical music compositions. Over a thousand! I often turn to this book for inspiration. I can always find a melody in there to work as a starting point for my Communion improvisations. Last week, I decided to use a theme from the "Polovetsian Dances" by the great Russian composer Alexander Borodin. It is a haunting and beautiful piece of music, and perfect (I thought) to improvise on. So I was completely unprepared for the response after worship. Quite a few of you asked me why I was playing "Stranger in Paradise" from Kismet! I *didn't know* that this melody of Borodin's had been turned into a popular song!

So now you know. I had not forgotten where I was, as some of you might have feared. While you were thinking that "Stranger in Paradise" was an odd choice for Communion, as far as I knew I was improvising on a little-known melody by Alexander Borodin!

It isn't the first time that this has happened. Once, when I played Chopin during Communion, a few people asked me why I was playing a Barry Manilow song. And I don't even consider playing Rachmaninoff anymore. It seems that all of his melodies have been used for popular songs or movie themes. Until I'm aware of every single popular song that is based on a classical composition, I think I'll just avoid that book. Hymns are safer.

It's great to have our newest members, Dan and Debs English, singing with the Sanctuary Choir. They have beautiful voices; I look forward to solos and duets from them.

This coming Sunday (8-30) the Sanctuary Choir is going to sing two selections by J.S. Bach. Don't miss it!

I'll see you in worship.

**Mark**

## Newsworthy!

A moment of silence was observed in the press box at the new Cowboys Stadium to honor Fred Graham at the Cowboys first home game of the season last Friday night. Fred, a member of First Christian who died in February, began working in the Cowboys press box in the 1960s when they still played at the Cotton Bowl. He was on hand with the Cowboys when they moved into Texas Stadium in 1971, and continued working the press box into the 1990s. Statistician Tom Betz, said "Fred meant so much to many of us who knew him from his days at UNT and the Texas Sports Hall of Fame."

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## Our Staff

### Pastor

John Burton  
john.burton@fccdenton.org  
940-566-4990

### Director of Music

Mark Graham  
mark.graham@fccdenton.org  
940-595-7878

### Administrative Assistant

Dixie Smalley  
dixie.smalley@fccdenton.org  
940-566-4990

### Youth Director

Emily Tynes  
emily.tynes@fccdenton.org  
903-316-2084

### Nursery Attendant

Cassandra Morrow

### Custodian

Richard Meyer

## Welcome Visitors

Phil and Sonya Williams

## Community Outreach

Food stocks at the community food center are depleting and the center is making an appeal for donations. Some of the most needed food items are:

**Canned items:** *soup, fruit, tuna, vegetables, tomato sauce, spaghetti sauce, meat, peanut butter, baby food, cooking oil*

**Dry-packed items:** *dried milk, rice, boxed pasta, beans, cereal, sugar, flour*

The first Sunday of each month is Food Sunday at our church. If possible, please remember to bring one of the items listed above with you to church for donation.

## Calendar of Events

### Wednesday, August 26

11:30 AM Parkinson's Meeting (FH)  
6:00 PM Wednesday Night Live  
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, August 27

9:30 AM CIM Science Group

### Sunday, August 30

9:00 AM Sunday School Kick-Off  
9:30 AM Church at Study\*  
10:50 AM Worship\*  
12:15 PM Youth Orientation

### Monday, August 31

6:30 PM Scout Meeting (FH)

### Wednesday, September 2

6:00 PM Wednesday Night Live  
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

*\*Childcare available*

### Please note:

**Aug. 31 through Sept. 5  
Pastor Burton will be out of the  
office on retreat.**