



The Chalice

A Newsletter for Members & Friends of First Christian Church, Conroe



August 11, 2008

Forgiven



From the
Pastor



Dr. Wes Morgan

This week's Gospel Lesson (Matthew 18.21-35) tells of a servant who is forgiven a ridiculously large debt he owes to the king. It also tells of the servant's unwillingness to forgive a ridiculously small debt owed him by a fellow servant. We, as the servant in this story, probably have no more difficult issue to deal with than the issue of forgiveness. The human animal is not supposed to be good at forgiveness. Forgiveness is not some innate, natural human emotion. Vengeance, retribution, violence – these are natural human qualities. It is natural for the human animal to defend itself, to snarl and crouch in a defensive position when attacked – to howl when attacked – to bite back when bitten. Forgiveness is not natural. It is not a universal human virtue. Forgiveness is the peculiar attribute of people who know that they have been forgiven.

So this week's Gospel Lesson begins as you and I begin as Christians – we are those who have been forgiven a huge debt we owed



New Handbell Director Begins Her Ministry

Sherry Hunter began her ministry as Director of Handbells on August 1. She led the handbell workshop on August 9 and is preparing the Chalice Bells to play at our 75th Anniversary on September 21.

Fellowship Luncheon to Honor All Teachers

On August 24, we will be having a fellowship luncheon to honor all of our teachers. This includes Sunday school teachers for both adult and children's classes, Children's church teachers, Day School teachers, public and private school teachers, Home School teachers, and retired teachers. If you are a teacher in any capacity, please phone the church office or email Peggy Schneider at peggys@consolidated.net. Please give us your name, what you teach or have taught, what grade level, and how many years. We want to make sure that we recognize all of you wonderful people that give your time and talent to children or adults. We need the information by Thursday, Aug. 14.

Day Of Vision 3 Set For September 6

Our next Day of Vision will be held on Saturday, September 6 beginning at 9:00 a.m. Everyone is invited to participate in refining the Vision statements created in the June workshop. Please mark your calendar and make plans to participate in this very important workshop.

to God. God did for us what we could not do for ourselves – God cancelled the debt we owed God. Now, we stand in the footsteps of the forgiven servant – **FORGIVEN!** And, like the forgiven servant, we will soon be called upon to forgive another. Which part of this story do we find more difficult: to be forgiven, or to be forgiving?

To accept forgiveness is a very difficult thing to do for several reasons. First, we have to believe that we needed forgiveness in the first place. We are very skilled at rationalizing our behaviors and excusing ourselves. After all, we're only _____. (Fill in the blank). Second, can we really trust the "forgiver" – maybe this is a trap, or some way to make us feel guilty. Third, is this some kind of trick to win our allegiance – "What is this going to cost me? I could go on and on because we are very skilled at defending ourselves.

To forgive another is equally difficult. We have the other person right where we want them – under our thumb. They need to squirm for a while. It's about time for them to get what's coming to them. Besides, this place of superiority feels good.

So these very human responses leave us in the swamp "Unforgiveness". There is a way out of the swamp. I hope to see you in Worship on Sunday so we can continue to think about being forgiven so we can be forgiving.
Love & Blessings,
Wes ><+>

These are the lessons that your Pastor is reading in preparation for the Sunday services. Please read them as a part of your preparation. The ones that are underlined will be the basis for the sermon.

Scripture
Micah 7.18-20
Psalm 51.1-2,10-12
Colossians 3. 1-17
Matthew 18. 21-35



Join The Conversation About Disciples Identity

From July 2007 to March 2008 more than 1,450 people participated in an online survey to review and comment on a statement of Disciples identity and twelve principles of that identity. The identity statement and principles were developed by the 21st Century Vision Team – an advisory group to General Minister and President Sharon E. Watkins – to undergird the work of transformation occurring in the church today. The survey was hugely successful; it helped the team and Dr. Watkins to reflect upon Disciples identity in new ways during this important time. And, neither the identity statement nor any of the principles received combined scores lower than 85% in the Agree or Strongly Agree categories. The survey is now closed, but the conversation continues. www.disciples.org.

August Food of the Month
Macaroni and Cheese
for the food pantry

How to Report a Problem in the Church Building

Marty Jeffrey, who is the Encourager for Campus Oversight, has developed a procedure for reporting any problems with our buildings and grounds. Marty requests that we call the church office (936-756-3554). Shirley, our Secretary, will email Marty and he will deal with the problem. We thank you for your help in following this procedure.

Thou shalt not try to dominate or possess others, for each person is responsible to God.

Bible Study Will Start in August

"Growing Spiritually", which normally meets each week, will NOT meet until August. In August the Bible study will focus on The Gospel According To Matthew. Beginning Thursday, September 4 the study will focus on The Revelation.

For the Record August

Early Service: 31
Late Service: 117
JAM: 15
Offering: \$2,725

Please help us update our Prayer List. If we have left anyone off who should be on this list, please let us know. Also, please let the church office know when we can remove a name from the list.

“Praising God – Reaching out – Teaching love – Serving God and people!”



Visitors for Sunday, August 10, 2008:

MEMBERS: Barthlynn McCoy; Rosie Joyce; T. C. Harvill; Jacque Frazier; Margaret Lum; Preston Hopper; Alice Smith

CONTINUING PRAYER FOR RELATIVES & FRIENDS:

Margaret T. **Cole** – mother of J. Cole; Edward **Schraeder** – brother of H. Schraeder; Bryce **Stevenson** – relative of B. Harris; Susan **Perkins** – relative of D. Yates; Jean & Roy **Harris** – relative of S. Harris; Robert **Stevenson** – brother of B. Harris; Lene **Velasquez** – friend of the Keyzers; Jace **Sandoval** – friend of R. & B. Harris; Jeff **Adams** – nephew of P. Keyser; Sydney **Curtis** – daughter of K. McQueeney; Charles **LaCarter**; Norma **Herron** - mother of A. Corley; Michael **Burns** – father of A. Burns; Terry **Files** – friend of P & B Keyser; Fred **Hartman** – nephew of A. Smith; **Jaden Renshaw**, **Jordan Ann Renshaw** (his mother), **Jenny Renshaw** (his grandmother) – relatives of P. Schneider; Mary **Marberry** – mother of Dandy Whitener; Caleb **Smith** – nephew of Whiteners.

IN MILITARY: Operation Love and Comfort for Soldiers; Justin **Keyser** – grandson of P & B Keyser; Sean **Kellenberger** (Iraq) – friend of P. Kelly; Christine Bowden

NEW PRAYER REQUESTS:

Susanna – daughter of P. Kelly; Nick **McFadden** – friend of H. Pottorff; Jeremy **Moore** – friend of H. Pottorff; Justin **Bailey** – friend of H. Pottorff; **Family** of Edith Kelly – friends of B. Provencher; **Father** of a friend – Brent Cave; **Karol** – daughter of P. Kelly; **Family** of Blaine Brandon – classmate of Rylie Elsmore; Michelle **McPherson**, Mary **Woods**, **Seth Woods** – requested by M. McPherson; Martha **Danforth** – friend of A. Smith; Fred **Strelow** – father of T. Hale; Patsy **Clifton** – relative of C. McGinnis; Dr. Bob Gordon's family – M. Lum; Cindy Ortiz' **Mother** and John **Norman** – C. Ortiz; Alejandro **Klurfan** – friend of S. Wilson; Neely **Meyers** - niece of J. Rascoe; Daisy **Swanner** - friend of M. Lum.

HOMEBOUND: Margaret Ferguson; Jeane Shearer; Ruth Wilson; Mary Carr; Mattie Curry

An elderly farmer was finishing his haymaking one Sunday afternoon when his pastor drove by. "I noticed you weren't in church this morning," said the pastor. "Don't you know that the Creator made the world in six days and then rested on the seventh?" "Yes," replied the farmer, as he looked uneasily at the rain clouds gathering in the sky. "I know all about that. But he got done and I didn't."

Women's Long Race

It is hard to imagine today's Olympic games without women participating. But women were not allowed to participate until 1900, and then only in selected games. The first woman to win a gold medal was Charlotte Cooper of Great Britain in Paris at the Olympic Games



when she won the Ladies Singles competition in tennis. In the first modern Olympics of 1896, even though women could not participate, a poor Greek woman who became known as Melpomene found a way. She ran a race all by herself the day after the men's race. The final lap was completed outside the stadium as she was refused entry to the stadium. After her marathon run, athletics officials couldn't remember her name so they labeled her *Melpomene*, who is the Greek muse of Tragedy. Her name was Stamata Revithi, and they saw tragedy, not the extraordinary feat in what she did. In the 1920s, women set up their own Olympic Games because they were so frustrated at the lack of acceptance. In 1928 in Amsterdam, the first women competed in 5 athletic events. The successful women's athletic team from Great Britain chose to boycott the Olympics because they believed women should have been allowed to compete in more events. *As we watch the Olympics in Beijing, remember that while China values its women athletes, their girls are just another commodity, and they sell them through adoption.* (Shirley Taylor)

LOOK at THIS!

Wanted: Addresses

If you know how to reach these former members, please let us know so we can send them an invitation to our 75th Anniversary Celebration.

Sue Bruce
Stan Hale
Fay Heaton
Margie Rodriguez
Bob and Ave Shipley
Harry and Marie Hope
Phyllis King
Bob and Rosie Ware
Oliver Bergeron, III
Ken and Sue Cox
Angie Cox
Fay Jordan
Catherine and Mike Kelly
Jeanne Luttrall
Eileen Lohrenge
Matt and Collins Haynie
Wayne Hickman
Darlene Bates
Shannon Maloney
Mildred Adair
Sherri Williams
Dane Dees and Family
Lynn and Ann Barkley
Ashley and Jennifer Walton
Dick and Barbara Conti
Marleta Herndon
Buck Anderson
Darlene Brown
Gary and Mary Laughlin
Heather Shaw
Jennifer Jones Duncan
Sarah Wood

New Beth Moore Study

A new Beth Moore study, *The Patriarchs*, will begin Thursday September 4, led by Margaret Lum. It will begin at 9:00 a.m. in the Builders Sunday School Classroom. Please let Margaret know as soon as possible if you want to be part of this new study as she will need to get the materials soon. Margaret's phone number is 936-537-7655.

The Patriarchs: Encountering the God of Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob by Beth Moore is full of twists, turns, redemption, revelation and mystery. This study of Genesis 12–50 keeps participants captivated by the God who stars in it! Throughout 10 weeks of exciting, engaging intrigue, participants will plunge into the heart of Genesis, to God's remarkable pursuit of relationship and to the unfolding of His earthly plan: that through one nation—and ultimately, one man—all people on earth will be blessed. Many of the most profound and enduring concepts in the whole counsel of God's Word are initiated in this marvelous book of beginnings. Participants will explore concepts such as blessing, covenant, and promise, and the bearing each has on a New Testament believer's life today. Group members will also explore the Hebrew names of God introduced on the early pages of Scripture.



August Work Day

We are having another church workday. It will be Saturday, August 30 from 7:00 am until 2:00 pm. Childcare will be available. Please contact Cindy Ortiz or Johnnie Walker if you need childcare.



Senior Fraud Expo

Monday, August 18, 2008
9:30 am to 11:30 am
Lone Star College/Montgomery
Theater/Bldg D
3200 College Park Dr
Conroe TX 77384

Free Admission

Come and learn how to:

- Protect your identity
- Choose a home remodeler
- Fight Medicare fraud
- Hang up on telemarketers
- Protect yourself from financial exploitation
- Not be a victim of a sweepstakes scheme

The Better Business Bureau, AARP, Lone Star College-Montgomery, and Texas AgriLife Extension Service are the sponsors. There will be refreshments and door prizes. For more information contact: 936-273-7446.

Children's Summer Activity

End of Summer Family Swim

It's time for the last swim! August 17th at the KOA we are having our end of summer swim party. It starts at 2p and ends around 6p. Bring your swim suit and for those that want to fish you can bring your fishing poles. Come and join us for a great time of wet fun and fellowship. There will be a sign up sheet in the parlor Sunday, let us know who and how many are coming and what your family would like to bring, ie, sandwiches, sodas, chips, etc.

As a treat this year in Children's Church August 31st we are going to have water play. We will talk about some of the Bible stories, and talk about the living waters that Jesus provides us, then we will have wading pools and water hose play. So children from 3 years to 8 years come to Children's Church (which is during the 10:30 service). Wear play clothes that can get wet and bring a change of clothes and a towel. Moms, make sure everything is marked. Any families that want to stay after church and play a little longer, bring brown bag lunches.

At the Hop

September 6th, 7p-9p, we are having an old fashion Sock Hop. This is for families of all ages and sizes. The theme will be Dancing thru the Ages. We are looking for people who know how to Ball Room Dance, Charleston, Jitter Bug, Swing Dance, The Twist, Mash Potato, Country Dancing or any other types and including Break dancing. If you are interested in participating in this event or want to help there will be a sign up sheet in the parlor. Does anyone know of a good DJ? More information later.

Children Activities Schedule

August 17 - 2p-6p Family Swim End of Summer Party at the "KOA"

August 24 - Children's Sunday School Promotion Sunday

September 6 - Dance through the Ages 7p-9p

October 4 - 9a-12p Safety Saturday and Trike-a-thon

October 18 -31st - Pumpkin Patch (Children's Program and Day School fundraiser)

October 26 - 12:30-5:30p Pumpkin Patch Family Fair

November 22 - 10a-4p Advent Workshop for Children

December 14 - Children's Christmas Pageant

December 18- Family Caroling



75th anniversary of FCC will be September 21

Pictures needed ASAP

If you have pictures of people doing church activities (Easter egg hunt, Sunday school parties, Children's Advent party, camp, etc.) please get them to the church office ASAP so that Shirley can scan them into the computer. These pictures can be from past (or way in the past) activities to the present. Please put them in an envelope with your name on them so that they can be returned to you. We are going to use some of these in a slide presentation for our 75th anniversary celebration.



Everyone is invited
to the
Family summer swim party

When?

Sunday, Aug 17 2p-6p

What to Bring?

Sandwiches, chips, sodas, Drinks, etc.
(Put on the sign up sheet what your family
would be bringing)

Where?

Haven's Landing/
Lake Conroe Koa Camping
19735 Hwy 105 W



Heifer Mission Project

Our VBS Kid's Mission Project for 2008 is Heifer International. "Heifer International is a non-profit organization working to end world hunger by giving cows, goats, and other food-and-income-producing live-stock to impoverished families around the world. Our goal this year is to purchase an Ark. An Ark is a gift that contains the following animals:

Gift Ark – Prices of Animals and Training in Their Care

- 1 Heifer and 1 Bull (\$1,500.00)
- 2 Sheep (\$240.00)
- 2 Camels (\$850.00)
- 2 Oxen (\$640.00)
- 2 Water Buffalo (\$500.00)
- 2 Llamas (\$300.00)
- 2 Hives of Bees (\$60.00)
- 2 Goats (\$240.00)
- 2 Donkeys (\$150.00)
- 2 Trios of Ducks (\$40.00)
- 2 Trios of Rabbits (\$120.00)
- 2 Trios of Guinea Pigs (\$40.00)
- 2 Flocks of Geese (\$40.00)
- 2 Pigs (\$240.00)
- 2 Flocks of Chicks (\$40.00)

The price of an Ark is \$5000.00. We have almost reached our goal of purchasing an Ark; we only need to raise \$762.41 by the end of the year. This would be the second Ark that FCC has purchased; we purchased an Ark in 2004! If you would like to help us reach this goal, please make a check payable to FCC with Heifer Project in the memo line. Thank you.



Ladies Retreat

Ladies, mark your calendars for our annual Ladies Retreat!

Date: Saturday, September 13, 2008

Location: Brenham, TX

Scheduled Activities: Lunch at a Brenham Bed & Breakfast and Shopping

Time: Leaving FCC @ 7:00AM

Cost: The cost of your lunch

Child care will be provided at the church. You must make reservations for the retreat and for child care--the deadline is August 31, 2008. **Please remember that this is a church function, but is not funded by the church. There are a limited number of scholarships available for those who need one.** Please contact Cindy Ortiz or Johnnie Walker to make your reservations.

First Christian Church



Shaping the Future
One Child at a Time

Our Day School is opening September 2
There is a 10% discount for all children of parents and grandparents that are members of our church

Now enrolling for year 2008-2009

12 months thru Pre-K

**We offer small classes, great teachers,
and a quality education with Christian values
for young minds**

Monday thru Thursday, 9:00-3:00

Call 936-756-3521 for a tour appointment

Weekly Calendar of Events

Sunday, August 17, 2008

8:30 am Service of Hope
 9:00 am Chancel Choir Practice
 9:25 am Children's Sunday School
 9:30 am Adult Sunday School
 10:45 am Worship
 2:00 -6:00 pm End of Summer
 Swim Party at KOA
 2:00 pm Venture Crew

Monday, August 18, 2008

6:45-8:00 pm Chalice Bells

Tuesday, August 19, 2008

9:00 am Hug-a-Bears
 9:30 am Soup Kitchen
 7:00 pm Boy Scouts

Wednesday, August 20, 2008

9:00-12:00 Food Pantry
 2:00 pm Alzheimers Group
 4:00 pm - Guitar
 6:30-8:00 - JAM
 7:00 pm - Choir /The Foundation
 8:00 pm Al-a-teen

Thursday, August 21, 2008

6:30 pm - Bible Study

Friday, August 22, 2008

Saturday, August 23, 2008

Sunday, August 24, 2008

8:30 am Service of Hope
 9:00 am Chancel Choir Practice
 9:25 am Children's Sunday School
 Children's Promotion Sunday
 9:30 am Adult Sunday School
 10:45 am Worship
 2:00 pm Venture Crew

Sunday, August 17, 2008

Church School: 9:30 am

**Morning Worship: 8:30 am &
 10:45 am**

Sermon: Dr. Wes Morgan

Worship Leader: Donna Smith

Elders: Harvey Schraeder
 Madeline Schraeder

Sound Manager: Bill Schneider

Video Artist: Candy Wolfe
 Jan Lewis

Greeters: Claudia Bonds
 Marvene Caldwell

Head Deacon: Jarrod Walker

Diaconate: Johnnie Walker; Jarrod
 Walker; Tee McNearney; Betty
 Williams; Jacque Frazier; Bill Frazier;
 Cindy Ortiz

Early Service: Tammy Conner
Preparing: Betty Williams

Claudia Bonds
 Jake DeHaven
 Raphael Wolfe

Acolytes:

Parlor Stewards
 Jim and Judy Hopper

JAM Hosts
 August 13
 Madeline Schraeder

First Christian Church

3500 North Loop 336 West
 Conroe, TX 77304

Church (936) 756-3554

Pastor (936) 203-4089

Day School (936) 756-3521

www.fccconroe.org

Email: fccconroe@consolidated.net

FCC STAFF

Pastor: Dr. Wes Morgan
 Secretary/Newsletter: Shirley Taylor
 Dir. Children's Ministries: Jean Harvill
 Student Ministry: Robert & Vicki Hill
 Police Chaplain: Pete Kelly
 Choir Director: A.J. O'Pry
 Accompanist: Jan Cole
 Sound Manager: Bill Schneider
 Day School Director: Jean Harvill

Office Hours

Mon - Thurs 8:30 am - 2:30 pm

Deadline for Newsletter
 Monday



Lock Up Schedule August

8/3 - 8/9 Wes Morgan
 8/10-8/16 Robert Sanders
 8/17-8/23 Bill Keyser
 8/24-8/30 Pete Kelly
 8/31-9/6 Steve Wilson

August Flowers

August 3 - Open
 August 10 - Vicki Lunog
 August 17 - Jeff Mathews
 August 24 - Johnnie Walker
 August 31 - Open



Invite a friend to church next Sunday