

Disciples Good News



Volume 15, #1

First Christian Church, (Disciples of Christ), McAllen

January 2015

*McAllen's Voice of
Positive Christianity!*

3133 W. Alberta Rd., Edinburg, TX 78539 956/687-8519
www.fccdocmcallen.org Email: fccdocmcallen@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/FirstChristianChurchMcAllen



In a recent discussion meeting in which I was participating, another participant quoted Winston Churchill saying: "Success is not permanent, Failure is not fatal." I thought about that idea and realized how appropriate it is for our church as we end one year and begin another.

In the year we are just finishing we have had a taste of both, success and failure. That is exactly the way it has been for the past 99 years in the history of our church in McAllen, and that is exactly the way it will be in future years. The point is that we cannot live forever on the glories of our successes, nor wallow in our failures; rather we accept each for what it is and continue to move forward. Perhaps a better way to look at it is to give God thanks for our successes and pray to Him to help us overcome our failures.

In this past year we have accomplished much that will bode well for the long term future of this church. We sold our facilities on 10th Street in McAllen at terms that were very favorable to our church. The funds we received will provide adequate funding for our new building AND enable continued investments to provide long term growth and security. We were able to purchase land at a good location that should be favorable to growth in the short, as well as, long term plans.

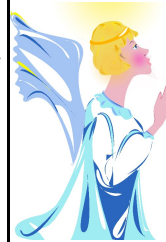
We have seen a growth in new members which is greater than any single year in the last fifteen years, and there seems to be more growth on the horizon. Along with the growth has come increased attendance of children to enable a better Sunday School program and even an occasional choir presentation by the youth. (Another first in the last fifteen years.)

As we give thanks for all that has happened in this last year of 2014 and the 98 other years before, let us continue to pray that God will bless our activities during 2015 to assure that even greater things are on the horizon for the second century of existence of First Christian

Church (Disciples of Christ), McAllen, Texas.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year and Blessings throughout,

PRAYER CONCERNS



Robert Allen
Don & Pat Buehre
Steve DeLeon & family
Ray & Ellie Forsythe



Max Grubb
Jared Leadbetter
Marty Knell
Alice McKenzie
Glenn Trapp
First Christian Church, McAllen

MEMORIAL FUNDING FROM PRIOR MEMBERS

One of the significant sources of income for this church over the last several years has been the money which has been bequeathed in the wills of former members when they have passed away. While it may not seem like much, over the last 11 years, we have been the beneficiary of slightly over \$100,000 which has helped to keep our financial operations "in the black." We have just been notified by a local attorney that another former member has passed away and that we will receive \$15,000 in a short period of time. When that amount has been received the church will make known the name of those donating.

It is quite common for church members to leave a portion of their estate to the church when they pass away to help assure the continued life of the church. Those bequests are truly "gifts that keep on giving."

PASTORAL THANKS

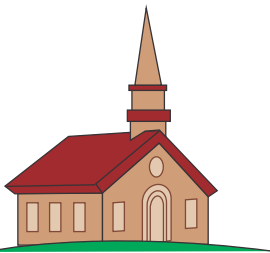


As your Pastor, I have so much to be thankful for at this Christmas time and as the year ends.

Certainly I am aware of how many prayers were offered up in my behalf during my recent surgery. My surgeon and my pulmonary doctor, as well as my family doctor all stated at one time or another that my recovery from the surgery might be questionable. But... they were looking at the medical aspect, and not taking into account the spiritual benefits from prayer. I am not the only one in the church who has benefitted from the power of prayers. Several of our members can give testimony to the fact of the power of prayer.

I am also thankful for the cards and gifts from members during the Christmas Season. Your thoughts at this time are very gratifying.

Another reason for my gratitude is to see the wonderful attitude of everyone as we continue to grow as a spiritual body and a community of faith. Our recent guest preacher, Rodney DeGroot, told me that he "could feel the positive vibes" of the congregation as he preached, and he was so impressed with the quality of fellowship as he was able to greet all of you.



NEW BUILDING NEWS

GROUND BLESSING CEREMONY

During the month of January we will have a special Ground Blessing Ceremony to bless the ground on which the new church will be constructed. A date has not been set at this time, but all will be notified by the weekly bulletin and/or by email. At the conclusion of the ceremony a sign will be installed on the property to announce the church is "Coming Soon."

BUILDING TIME-LINE

Our building time line is still an unknown. The architect

is moving on with plans which will be given to our building committee for approval. Members will have an opportunity at that time to express approval or make suggestions for changes in the plans. After final plans are approved by the church, one of the more questionable time periods in the process will present itself. That is the review and approval of the plans by the City of McAllen.

Prayers are desperately needed that this phase will go quickly. Construction contracts and building construction should begin rather quickly following approval by the city. At that time we plan a Ground Breaking Ceremony involving the Chamber of Commerce. Hopefully we will have a large attendance of our members at that event.

FAMILY ADOPTION

We took oodles of food and goodies plus a \$260 HEB Card (100 from the church, 160 from the congregation) to our adopted family. It took 3 of us - Mishka, Karen and Roda three trips to get everything in to the apartment.



Her apartment was clean and neat and the lady and kids appeared to be in better shape than last year which we rejoiced in. When Karen handed her the card, our lady got teary eyed. The church can be proud we did so well in helping make someone else's Christmas brighter.

PERHAPS A NEW CHURCH BUS

The Board of Directors, at its October meeting, approved a study and probable purchase of a church bus. The amount of the purchase authorized was up to \$30,000, however, investigation on the internet indicated that good vehicles might be obtained for as little as \$18,000.



In addition to investigating the availability of a suitable vehicles at a suitable price, the Board requires that some issues relating to purchasing a vehicle be addressed. Cost of insurance, and liability are two of the major issues

along with who will be driving the vehicle, will need to be resolved.

The Board expressed the belief that approaching the issue from a positive point of view that each of the issues can and will be resolved in a positive manner, will see a much needed transportation issue be resolved. As in other matters, we ask for the prayers of everyone that this matter will be resolved in the best possible manner.

Thanks to ChristArt.com for the bus clipart.



GREET AND EAT

December found the Greet and Eaters at Cracker Barrel. Was a grand time to visit, shop and eat some great food.

Thursday, the 15th of January, at 5:00 o'clock will find Greet and Eaters at IHop gathering once again to share food, fun, and fellowship. All are invited.



TRIBE OF DAN The Ministry of Creative Embellishment

The holidays are almost over and we've done pretty good in our new little site.

Thanksgiving Dinner worked well despite no stove. Dinner was delicious.

Finger Food Frolics turned out quite well. People brought all sorts of goodies. Most hung out and visited a spell. Twas truly a breather and chance to enjoy each other during the hectic holiday season.

Now to turn to the new year and see what interesting things the Tribe can get into. If you have any ideas, please speak up.

MOVIE NIGHT

Hopefully, by February, we'll get back on track and get the show on the road, so to speak. Even thinking of having it at the house as a change of pace. We'll keep you informed.

Our website was cyber attacked and it was totally wiped out. We're rebuilding it and hope to have it back on line soon. Thanks for your patience.

Yep, this is the same from last month.
www.FCCDOCMcAllen.com



LINGER-LONGER SUNDAY CHANGING TO ... ● COOKIE CAPERS ●

Perpetual Sunday Cookie Capers. Tag, you're it. Bring in homemade or store bought cookies for the weekly Cookie Capers. We'll eat them or freeze them but at any rate, we won't keep running out of cookies!

We'll still hang-around but instead of having individuals bringing food, we share together by contributing cookies to the cause.



JANUARY CELEBRATIONS

☺ Birthdays ☺

- 1/3 Pat Buehre
- 1/11 Linda Miller
- 1/19 Jazmyn Vasquez
- 1/20 Abel Gonzalez
- 1/27 Jeff Bratton
- 1/29 Daisy Delay
- 1/30 Mayela Gutierrez

♥ Anniversaries ♥

- 1/12/47 Ray & Ellie Forsythe
- 1/17/84 Al & Essie Morris



EVENTS

- 1/15 Greet & Eat - IHop, N. 10th - 5:00 p.m.

1/18 Board Meeting

**Sundays - Cookie Capers & Coffee after church,
bring cookies to keep supply going.
Choir taking January off.**



**FCC Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
3133 W. Alberta Rd.
Edinburg, TX 78539
(956) 687-8519**

**Ministers. The Congregation
Pastor. Max G. Grubb
Board Chair. Dorothy Gates
Organist. Rexanne Pederson
Choir Director. Helen Baumeister
Sunday School Teacher. Gilbert Martinez
Adult Sunday School. 8:45 a.m.
Children Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Morning Worship. 10:00 a.m.
Choir Practice. Off for January**