

Disciples Good News



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April 2016

*McAllen's Voice of
Positive
Christianity!*



BUSY TIMES!!! The month of March was a busy month, but so was February and January. In January we were busy moving from our temporary facilities to our new Church

Home. February was a time of "settling-in" and getting used to worshipping in the new location, as well as organizing our activities associated with our dedication services. During March we were engaged with Lenten services; hosted the Rotary Club for breakfast, and conducted Holy Week services. We also saw the usage of our new baptistry for the first time. April will be more of the same with the Rummage Sale on April 8 & 9, our first Pot Luck on April 17, our first "Parent's Night Out" ministry on April 30.

Do busier times coincide with more participation in worship by more people and more volunteers becoming involved? So far...the results say yes! Our average weekly attendance in worship has increased from 58 per week last year to 81 per week this year. New members are also stepping up to the plate and fulfilling needed activities for the church. We pray that these trends will continue in the same direction. The test for us will begin in April as our Winter Texan's leave for the summer.

Blessings,


PRAYER CONCERNS



Robert Allen
Helen Baumeister
Pat Buehre
Steve DeLeon & family
John, Dolly & Linda Jackson



Alice McKenzie
Carol Fults in the loss of Philip Salvati
Lorene Stebbins
First Christian Church, McAllen



**Coffee with God...
Early Morning
Worship**

9:00 a.m.

CONGRATULATIONS, JEFFERY!

On Easter Sunday morning during the 10:30 a.m. service, Jeffery Edward DeGroot was baptized by his grandfather, Reverend Rodney H. DeGroot. Jeffery is the son of Jeffery E. and Sharon DeGroot. Reverend DeGroot is a retired minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), having served in congregations in several areas including Mission, Texas, for many years.

Jeffery will always have the distinction of being the first person to be baptized in our new church building, as well as in our new portable baptistry. The baptistry was donated as a memorial by Gene Percival in honor of his wife, Jan, and his daughter, Cheryl.

Grandmother, Kathy DeGroot, did a great job, as usual, with the reception in the Fellowship Hall following worship to celebrate Jeffery's baptism.

RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE



Our first fund-raising effort in our new church will be on April 8 & 9 with our two-day Rummage and Bake sale. Many of the items to be sold are from a several year accumulation of usual and unusual items at the church which have been in storage. These items include: furniture, silverplate items, dishes, housewares, lots of childcare items, pictures, mirrors, lamps, jewelry, home decor items, some church furniture & office equipment, and a motorized wheelchair.

Members are encouraged to participate in a variety of ways for this fund-raising effort to be successful. They may contribute items to be sold in the sale (No Clothing); they may bake items to be sold as baked-goods; they can volunteer to prepare for the sale during the week of April 4-7; they can volunteer to help during the two days of the sale (April 8 &9) and they can pray for success. We can use a major effort to provide some needed funds.

Sale times are: Friday, April 8, 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and Saturday, April 9, 9:00 a.m to 12:00 p.m.

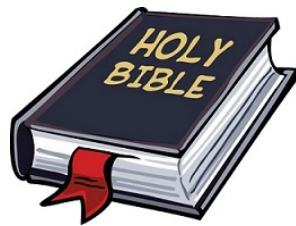
Sign-up sheets are available at the church. Please join with Pat Schroder as she leads this important activity for the church.



Sarairis Slusser has announced that our first Parent's Night Out will be held on April 30th from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. In a promotional "flyer" Sarah has indicated that the program provides: "fun for the kids, and a night out for you! 3 hours to yourself to go shopping, go on a date, go to a movie, or simply just relax on your couch while your kids have fun and unwind with our First Christian Church (DOC) family.

There will be a \$5.00 per child charge with a limit of \$12.50 per family. All members-and non members of the church are welcomed to enjoy plenty of fun activities and snacks. To participate, children must be 2 years and up.

BIBLE STUDY BEGINS



The weekly Bible study is on Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m. It is open to all and conducted as a reading/discussion study program to learn from the readings and from one another. In true Disciple tradition, interpretations are many and they provide great avenues of discussion.



TRIBE OF DAN The Ministry of Creative Embellishment

The Easter season is over and the Tribe got a good start in finding their way around our new sanctuary. We thank it was a good season and appreciate Marty Risley's great contribution in getting our new screens up and running with service info and Tribe enrichments.

Now it's time to organize and decide what to keep and what to sell.

<http://www.fccdocmcallen.org>
<http://www.facebook.com/firstchristianchurchmcallen>



GREET AND EAT

Greet and Eat, our Fellowship, Food and Fun time, will meet on April 20 at 11:30 a.m. at the Corner Bakery at 10th and Nolana. Please join us.



FACEBOOK IMPROVEMENT

Have you noticed the increase in the number and quality of facebook entries on the www.Facebook.com/FirstChristianChurchMcAllen facebook page? Sarairis Slusser is responsible for the improvements as she is adding many items of information about the church and our activities. The Facebook is an excellent source of promotion for the church. We have "boosted" the reach of information to add additional people who are able to receive the facebook on at least two or three occasions. "Boosting" means increasing the area for spread of information in McAllen and Edinburg. In the first three days of boosting, we added over 4,000 people who received our notifications. Thanks to Sarairis for a wonderful job!

If you haven't looked at our facebook, now would be a good time because you can see at least 24 pictures of Easter services including the Baptism, Reception, Easter Egg Hunt, Sunrise Service, and our 10:30 a.m. worship. To see as many children as were present for the Easter egg hunt is truly exciting and maybe a good harbinger of things to come.

GOOD THINGS TO LEARN

I've learned that hatred is like acid. It destroys the vessel that holds it. Age-56

I've learned that people are more influenced by how much I care than by how much I know. Age-54

I've learned that most people resist change, and yet it's the only thing that brings progress. Age-66

ELECTRONIC SIGN "UP AND RUNNING"

The new sign in front of our building is up and running with a variety of messages. We have the ability to change the message on an hourly, daily, weekly, monthly basis, whatever we need. At our Sunrise service we were pleased to greet five visitors who attended service as a result of seeing our sign. Two other persons came to the Sunrise service as a result of our facebook page, while several attended our 10:30 service for the same reason. We pray that technology continues to advance the interests of the church.



KUDOS FROM ROTARY & CITY OFFICIALS

The Church played host to the McAllen North Rotary Club on Thursday, March 24, at 7:00 a.m. The Rotarians who attended were very impressed with our new facilities as one of our objectives for hosting was achieved-to expose our new facilities to a broad segment of the public. We continue to hope that increasing our visibility within the public will have positive results in increased attendance at worship and growth as a church community.

Commissioner Richard Cortez from the City Commission of McAllen, Texas, and Assistant City Manager, Michelle Leftwich, presented a program to the Rotarians describing the reasons the Commission voted to move ahead with the installation of a median on North 10th Street from Trenton to Hwy. 107. This has been a somewhat controversial topic and the presentation was well received by Rotarians. Even those who were opposed to the project congratulated the church on arranging for an excellent program.



VOLUNTEER ANYONE???

Volunteers are needed in a variety of ministries and work areas of the church. In particular volunteers are being requested to:

- 1) Join the Tribe of Dan,
- 2) Take newspapers to the animal shelter for the "Papers for Paws" ministry;
- 3) Assist one night per month with the Parents' Night Out, and



- 4) Join the "Clean-Up Brigade" to tidy up the church each week, or once a month.

We can also use some musically inclined individuals to help develop and increase a music program. With both Rexanne and Chris being retired, we can expect more travel time in the future which means less on hands music. Our choir takes a serious hit in numbers after Easter as four of the current 8 members return to their home base. All that is needed is to enjoy singing and being able to practice as a choir.



APRIL CELEBRATIONS

☺ Birthdays ☺

- 4/2 Roda Grubb
- 4/7 Pat Schroder
- 4/16 Rexanne Pederson
- 4/18 Rev. Max Grubb

If we don't have your birthday or anniversary, please write it down and put it in the basket for Blanca to add to the list. Thank you.

♥ Anniversaries ♥
None this month





EVENTS

- 4/4-7 Set up for Rummage Sale**
- 4/8 Church Rummage Sale, 9 to 5:30**
- 4/9 Church Rummage Sale, 9 to Noon**
- 4/17 Potluck, Bobby Hawley, after church**
- 4/20 Greet & Eat, Corner Bakery, 11:30**
- 4/24 Board Meeting**
- 4/31 Parents' Night Out - 5:30 to 8:30**

NOTE: (Any Questions? Check the website during the month for calendar additions or changes-www.fccdocmcallen.org)



- Ministers. The Congregation**
- Pastor. Max G. Grubb**
- Board Chair. Phyllis Whittaker**
- Organist. Rexanne Pederson**
- Choir Director. Helen Baumeister**
- Children's Sunday School Teacher. Oskar Lam**
- Coffee with God Service. 9:00 a.m.**
- Children Sunday School 9:00 a.m.**
- Sunday Morning Worship. 10:30 a.m.**
- Choir Practice. At Rest**