

# Disciples Good News



Volume 16, #7

First Christian Church, (Disciples of Christ), McAllen  
1201 E. Fern, McAllen, TX 78501 956/687-8519

July 2016

*McAllen's Voice of  
Positive  
Christianity!*

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**W**e are in the seventh month of the year which might have some significance as the number seven was a very significant number in biblical times. It is more

important for us today as it is the month in which we celebrate our Independence Day on July 4. I remember with great joy many of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July days as a young boy, shooting off fireworks during the day, watching the parades, going to a very large community picnic, going to the municipal pool and seeing the fireworks at night. It was truly a day of happiness and celebration. As an adult, today's celebrations are somewhat muted compared to childhood, but they are still good days.

When we celebrate the joys of independence day and freedom any day can be a good day. We can think about how fortunate we are to be able to choose where and how we live, to freely express our opinions, to experience peace of mind, to love and be loved as we choose, and to proclaim and grow in the faith of our choosing.

Our political freedom and our religious liberty were both won as a result of tremendous sacrifice by others, and if they are to be maintained and defended it is up to us to continue to be vigilant.

One writer gives us a wonderful expression of faith and freedom. He writes,

"I once stood in that old frame church in Richmond, Virginia, with its old fashioned boxed-in pews. I shut my eyes and hear a man say again, 'Give me liberty or give me death,' and I thought how fitting it was he said it in a church, for that's where it was born - not on a battlefield nor Valley Forge nor Philadelphia. You see its beginning was back in Egypt, where Moses, believing in the living God and that man was made in His likeness, set out to make his people free. 'Let my people go.' The fierce spirit of liberty has always been at the core of Hebrew-Christian faith."

Let us remember, as we celebrate our political and religious freedom the ideas expressed by Martin Luther-

King when he proclaimed,

"Free at last, free at last, thank God almighty,  
we're free at last!"

That expression means for us that we are all free only when all of us are truly free. In God's kingdom, if one of us is hurting, if one of us is not free, then all of us are hurting.

Blessings, Max



## **PRAYER CONCERNS**



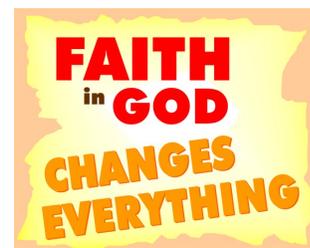
Robert Allen  
Don & Pat Buehre  
Steve DeLeon & family  
Max Grubb  
Alice McKenzie

Lorene Stebbins  
First Christian Church, McAllen

## **PING PONG ANYONE???**

We have a new Ping Pong Championship level table in the fellowship hall courtesy of Chris Pederson. Chris has a vision that some of our members may get joy out of playing ping pong, and he stands ready to welcome any challengers. He also thought we might use this activity along with others to begin to attract youth from the area to come to the church.

We might sponsor a ping pong challenge tournament for the young people, as an example. If needed, another similar table is available for use during that kind of an event.





## A WORD ON THE SHOOTINGS

We can have a mighty debate surrounding shootings and their causes. I wish to take a short moment for all us to realize that killing one another for any reason, by any method, is not God's plan for us. Loving one another, as expressed by Jesus, is the plan that God has for us.

We should condemn the killing of anyone and not justify those killings for any reason. The only way to peace is for each one of us to pray for peace, to support those who work for peace and to renounce any who would try to justify any such shootings. Guns are not made for peaceful humans to use against other humans.



## GOALS ESTABLISHED

In order to be able to report on and evaluate the progress of our new worship services the Congregational Committee on Ministry has adopted some goals. These goals have been approved by Pastor Max, and have been agreed upon by Joel Pereira.

1. Attendance Goals:
  - a) Spanish Language Service: Average Weekly Attendance-15 new persons in attendance;
  - b) Alternative Worship Service-15 new persons in attendance;
  - c) Praise, Prayer & Pizza Service, 10 new persons in worship.

If these goals are achieved, we will average 40 new persons worshipping each week at First Christian in addition to those who are new to the 10:30 am service. Income growth on the projected goals will be an additional \$800 per month. The goal is to have instituted all three of these new worship services within the 6 month period.

2. Additional Goals: The following are additional goals established for the new minister during this period:
  - a) Be enrolled in District Mentoring Program by July 1, 2016;
  - b) Begin Disciple 101 training with Pastor Max;
  - c) Assist with development of program to attract youth to church;
  - d) Lead efforts to establish praise music for new worship and occasional use at 10:30 service;
  - e) Participate in regular committee review/evaluation

meetings as called.

The Congregational Committee on Ministry has been established specifically to develop guidelines for the new minister and the new worship services, and report regularly to the Board of Directors as to the progress of the over-all program. The Committee consists of: Rev. Rodney DeGroot, Pat Schroder, and Abel Gonzalez Mencio.

## SPANISH LANGUAGE SERVICE BEGINS



Having called Joel Pereira to be the Minister of Special Worship Services, the church is now ready to begin the first worship service of this new ministry. The first Spanish Language Worship service will begin on Sunday, August 7, at 8:45 a.m. It should be understood that, as a beginning new program, the church is doing some experimenting, therefore, the time of worship and or even the day of the week is subject to change with the passing of time. Members of the congregation are asked to include the success of this ministry in their daily prayers.

Remember, the whole purpose of this new ministry is to reach out to the large number of Spanish language people living in this area who have not yet found a church home. That is the first and main goal of calling Joel and establishing the new service. Even though we have established goals for success of the program, they are really secondary to our outreach to another segment of God's children.



## APOLOGIES AND THANKS



We apologize for the late date of this newsletter. Pastor Max has been slowed down (for a short period of time) due to his recent times in the hospital and his slow (for him) recovery. That was also followed by a computer shutdown and other delays.

Thanks are expressed from Pastor Max for all of the prayers and support he has received from the latter part of May through the month of June due to his health issues. Max is not back to full strength as yet, but he has said that, "with your continued support, God's help, good medical care, and a positive attitude, I intend to get back my health and continue to preach as long as

this congregation feels my services are desired.”

**GARDENERS (AND OTHER)  
HELPERS NEEDED**

(Repeated on purpose)



For some period of time we have been going through a transition time from our long-term former facilities to our short-term temporary facilities, to our new permanent home. As a result, we can use help as we continue to settle-in and find our way. Until the church employs outside assistance for all of our landscaping needs volunteer help can be extremely beneficial. Weeds and grass that grow in the planting areas need to be eliminated. This can be accomplished by several people spending just a few minutes each, digging up a few weeds or clumps of grass. This is particularly true of the rose garden area. When that area has been cleared, weed and grass barrier will be utilized along with several thick layers of mulch.

Another area requiring just a little bit of periodic effort is the weekly and periodic cleaning of the building. Just a few minutes of time to empty the trash, do light dusting and cleaning, vacuuming the hallways and sweeping floors can do much to keep the church attractive and reduce the amount of expenditures for maintenance.

**TRIBE OF DAN  
The Ministry of Creative  
Embellishment**



We have received our storage shed and plans are underway to move items into it and free up space around the church or send items on to Habitat for Humanity. Happily Sandy Hendricks took the large murals she painted for our church which we no longer have room for.

They were beautiful and we will be sad to no longer have their beauty but we're glad they have a good new home.

As we free up space and can organize the storage rooms, the Tribe is anxious to see what is left after the dust has settled and we can get back to our ministry and find our way here in our wonderful new home.

Keep watching for you never know what might pop up.

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

**GREET AND EAT**



Since we always need to eat, Greet and Eat is a fun way to get that all important meal AND share Fellowship. This month the restaurant of choice will meet on July 21st at 11:30 a.m. at Mooyahs on the corner of Pecan and Ware Road. We're not an elite group and you don't need to be a member of the church to join us. Simply show up and find the table with the raucous noise. Just kidding. We're well behaved church people, after all!

See you there!

**THINGS TO THINK ABOUT**



Success is not measured by how do you do compared to how somebody else does. Success is measured by how you do compared to what you could have done with what God gave you.

Standing in the middle of the road is very dangerous; you get knocked down by the traffic from both side.

Martha Thatcher

A ship in harbor is safe . . . but that is not what ships are for.

**FROM "LIVE AND LEARN AND PASS  
IT ON."**

I've learned that how people treat me is more a reflection of how they see themselves than how they see me. Age 49

I've learned that love is a great investment. No matter whom you give it to, it returns great dividends. Age 50

I've learned that you shouldn't fight a battle if there's nothing to win. Age 53.

# JULY CELEBRATIONS



## ☺ Birthdays ☺

- 7/13 **Ray Forsythe**
- 7/27 **Rev. Bill Thomas**

*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

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# EVENTS

- 7/17 **Board Meeting**
- 7/21 **Greet & Eat, Mooyahs, 11:30**  
**Wednesdays- NO Bible Study for July**

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

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**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**

**Children Sunday School . . . . . 9:00 a.m.**  
**Sunday Morning Worship. . . . . 10:30 a.m.**  
**Choir Practice. . . . . Out for the summer**