

Disciples Good News



Volume 16, #6

First Christian Church, (Disciples of Christ), McAllen
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**McAllen's Voice of
Positive
Christianity!**



For me, the writing of this newsletter, signifies an ending of one "new beginning" and the beginning of another "new beginning." I will celebrate my fifteenth year of ordination on June 10, and the month of June 2016 marks the ending of my fifteenth year in ministry at the First Christian Church in McAllen, and the beginning of my next period of ministry here (however long that may be). July 1st will mark the start of that period. These newsletter notes are intended to be different than others I have written in the past, either educational, inspirational, or informational.

With my most recent hospital stay, as well as some concerns expressed by some of you about my health and ability to continue in service, I feel I should address those concerns and issues. It is true that some of my doctors have expressed amazement that I am continuing to even exist, but it is equally true that I believe attitude has a great deal to do with our level of existence, and even existence itself. Yes, I believe our lives are in the hands of God, but I do not believe that means we simply sit around and wait for the "inevitable." I believe God provided gifts of healing and care to some, and to each of us he gave the responsibility of stewardship. That stewardship includes care of the body and life he has given to each of us. I fully expect to serve you for a long period of time. My way of saying that is that "I expect to be preaching when I am 95 years of age." (Another 12 years.)

In that time I want to continue to build on what I believe God has given all of us. I believe we all want to leave something behind; to be remembered for something, to "leave a legacy." I hope one of my legacies will be a legacy for all of us. The legacy of a vital, growing, enthusiastic ministry to serving ALL of God's children, not just those with whom we affiliate or approve. We Can Do It! And, if we are to answer God's call, we MUST do it!

One way we begin to do that is to be truly "The Voice of Positive Christianity in McAllen." You may not always agree with my theology (or that of one another's), but we can all agree that we are all God's children, and that in our own ways we are listening to, and living by the word of God, as we understand those words. You may not

always agree with the position of the church on social issues, or on who or how we appoint leaders to serve with us, but you can always agree that the underlying goal will continue to be to "love one another."

You can help fulfill my legacy, and hopefully it becomes your legacy, by distributing our nationally published promotional flyer on the Disciples as well as a soon-to-be-published local flyer and by supporting our attempt to increase new and different style worship services. It is not necessary for you to agree with these type of services, who is worship leader, or who those services attract to the church. It is important, however, that we all agree that our mission is to serve God by serving all of his creation.

You can also help fulfill this legacy by supporting the efforts of the church by attending church outreach and social activities like pot-lucks, special educational activities, children's events and helping establish new outreach ministries. But . . . remember . . . it doesn't all have to be done by one person, or even in one day. Even Jesus didn't do it all by himself . . . he had friends and helpers . . . and today . . . WE are his helpers. You only are asked to do what you can do.

My hope is that my message today is that I leave you (at some time in the distant future) with a legacy of someone who really cares about all people, who attempted to provide the word of God to the Christian Community in a positive voice, and that I was somebody who was willing to try other ways to expand the word of God into the community of the world. I hope and pray that my legacy also becomes your legacy. Together let's build a legacy for all of us-for the church-and for God.

Blessings,

PRAYER CONCERNS



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



Alice McKenzie

Carol Fults
Lorene Stebbins
First Christian Church, McAllen

BOARD & CONGREGATION APPROVE CALLING

The Board of Directors and the Congregation have approved the plan outlining the purposes and methods of calling and utilizing the talents of a new person to become Minister of Special Worship and Services. The person is *not* intended as a back-up for the pastor, or as a replacement. They are to serve as outlined in the proposal which you can read on our new bulletin board. The original call is for a probationary period of six months, which hopefully, will be successful and extended. As I write this newsletter, the person who has been approved by the congregation to be called has not agreed to the terms of the agreement. This is due more to my absence in recent days and will be rectified when I return.

The purpose of the agreement and calling is several-fold. The main activities will be: 1) the establishment of new worship services to attract a larger segment of the community to become active members of the church; 2) to provide additional out-reach activities that will help the church grow and become more vital; 3) to assure the continued life of the church; and 4) to add to the income of the church.

Goals have been established for the program and for the individual called. A Congregational Committee on Ministry has been created to review the progress and to help achieve those goals for both the program and the minister. It is important to note that the program is designed to add income to the church for operating expenses and ministries and *not to cost additional money.*



ROSE GARDEN PLANTED

Twenty One rose plants have been planted on the north east side of our building and are growing nicely. Twelve of the plants were salvaged from the garden of Patty and Debbie Barrett and will be designated as the Barrett Rose Garden area of the church. Plans call for the addition of "companion plants" in the area like onions, garlic and lavender. These plants provide an additional attraction for the garden and serve as host plants for bugs to protect the roses and other plants in

the landscape. Also planned is the addition of mulch to assist with keeping the area as low maintenance as possible.

The landscape of the church has been planned with plants to not only be attractive for observation of people in the community, but also to have the purpose of attractive significant butterflies. A large area has been planted with milkweed plants to help conserve Monarch butterflies, as well as to attract large numbers of butterflies and hummingbirds. We hope to have our landscape become known throughout the community as an outstanding display of plants and birds.



HAIL TO THE GRADUATES

Graduation Sunday was celebrated on May 29, 2016, as a happy day at First Christian in McAllen. This is the first time in over fifteen years the church has been able to honor young people graduating. Three persons were honored in the service which was arranged by Abel Gonzalez Mencio.

They were: 1) Mercury Alexander Cagley, the son of Jacob and Dyan Edwards-Cagley, who will be graduating from Sharyland Pioneer High School and will attend the University of Iowa to pursue a degree in Computer Science; 2) Leslie Anne Stickle, the daughter of Don and Fran Stickle, who will graduate from Sharyland Pioneer High School and will attend the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley and pursue a degree in English; 3) Jeffery Edward DeGroot II, son of Jeff and Sharon Degroot and grandson of Pastor Rodney and Kathy DeGroot, who has been promoted from Rayburn Elementary School and will begin at Morris Middle School in the fall.

During the worship service, the graduates received a special prayer blessing from Pastor Max, and were given Bibles and Certificates of Achievements by Abel Gonzalez Mencio. Following worship the youth were honored for their achievements with a reception in the fellowship hall which was also organized and decorated by Abel.

(Showing in picture: Rev. Max Grubb, Mercury Cagley, Leslie Stickle. Missing from picture: Jeffrey DeGroot II)



“HOLY” WATERMELONS?

An unexpected gift in our landscape area has been the growth of a “volunteer” watermelon plant that seems to be blooming profusely. The melons are not quite ready to be picked but they show tremendous promise of producing a nice little harvest. As soon as they are ready, some will be picked and the church will enjoy a “Holy” watermelon feast following worship on a Sunday.

GARDENERS (AND OTHER) HELPERS NEEDED



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.

VOCAL BLESSINGS

Our worship services have been blessed in recent weeks by special music from special people. Shelby McKeever, Sharon Chapman, Judy O’Hair and Phyllis Whittaker have all provided the congregation with the benefit of their vocal gifts.



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



Just like the rest of the congregation, the Tribe of Dan is finding their way in our new facilities. Getting organized slowly but surely will insure the ongoing success of the Tribe.

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

GREET AND EAT



Greet and Eat, sharing Fellowship, Food and Fun, will meet on June 16 at 11:30 a.m. at City Café on 10th. Come and join us.

NEW BULLETIN BOARD

A new bulletin board has been installed in the narthex leading into the Fellowship Hall. You will be able to read the current minutes of meetings of the Board of Directors, current financial statements and other notices of importance to the church. Another step to trying to help everyone know what is going on in “your” church.



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.



JUNE CELEBRATIONS

☺ Birthdays ☺

- 6/5 Kitty Thomas**
- 6/9 Sharon Allen**
- 6/17 Mishka Rhodes**
- 6/26 Anita Mabry**
- 6/30 Dr. Nedra Kinerk**

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 ♥

6/4/66 - 50 years! -Jerry & Tonii Leadbetter



EVENTS

- 6/16 Greet & Eat, City Cafe, 11:30**
- 6/19 Board Meeting**
- Wednesdays-10:30 a.m.-Bible Study**

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..... Out for the summer