

SUNDAY WORSHIP
9:00 Traditional Service in
Sanctuary
10:15 Sunday School
11:16 Praise Service in
Disciple House

Church Office Hours
Monday-Thursday
8:30 – 4:00
Friday
8:30 – Noon

**CHURCH OFFICE
CLOSED**
Monday,
January 18, 2010



FCC STAFF

DR. RICHARD C. EMERSON
Senior Minister

DR. JAMES H. LEWIS
Associate Minister

REV. GALA STRUNK
Minister of Music/Organist

REV. DAVID FARMER
Minister of Outreach

LYN BLOUNT
Dir. of Children's Ministries

TYLER LOPEZ
Dir. of Youth Ministries

CHERYL MCNULTY
P.R.E.P. School Director

ALICIA FARR
Financial Secretary

MICHELLE FRITZ
Office Coordinator

GEORGE TERRELL
Facility Coordinator

BETH GRANT
Childcare Coordinator

The Long View

First Christian Church, 720 N. Sixth St, Longview, TX 75601 903.753.7611 www.fcclongview.org
Volume 44 Number 1 January 15, 2010



Kim and I were talking about the importance of church the other day. We both lamented at how we could do so much more as a church if the people who are members were all active. As the pastor of our church I am privileged to know our total membership. Let me be frank: We have a lot of church members who are not active. Why is that?

Falling out of a routine is easy to do. I must confess that on Sunday, December 27, 2009 the Emerson family did not go to church anywhere. It felt very weird! I can count on one hand the number of times my whole family wasn't in a church worship service since Emily was born eleven years ago. On vacation we even attend worship. For me, it is hard to imagine facing a new week without having first worshipped God. Otherwise, the upcoming week just doesn't seem "right" if not in the presence of the Holy.

Of course, as the pastor of the church there is an expectation that I show up on Sundays. After all, it's my profession – which I love. However, I am a husband and a father, too. Church is a family affair I am not willing to let slide. When we worship "the Spirit" does something to us and for us that Kim and I don't want to miss, nor do I want my girls to miss.

Church is important for many reasons. Therefore, worship has always been our weekly priority. Kim and I try to model a positive example for our daughters, giving them something to hold onto spiritually that will last their entire lifetime. If it were as simple as handing over my personal faith to them I would. Since it doesn't work that way, I can only help place Emily and Hannah in settings where they might catch the faith for themselves and then nurture their own faith.

As a parent, I will admit, getting children ready for church is a challenge, but well worth the effort. I remember each Saturday evening (to minimize the Sunday morning argument) we would remind the girls to get their offering ready and the girls would choose what Sunday outfit they would wear to church. If choice #1 was decided against early Sunday morning then outfit #2 was readily available. Kim and I learned that planning and prioritizing made for a simple routine we all could enjoy.

I am not a perfect parent but I try to model for my kids what I believe to be of great importance in my life – a relationship with God and a practicing faith. If Kim and I can pass something on to the girls it would be the importance of a strong and active faith. What would you pass on to your family?

I'll see you in "the Spirit" place Sunday – families and all.





Monday, January 18 @ 7:00pm – General Board Meeting in the Cornerstone Hall.

Monday, January 18 after General Board Meeting, Elders will meet briefly in the Sanctuary.

Sunday, January 31 – 2nd Annual Chili-Cookoff at 6:00pm. Get your recipes ready and come join the fun. More details in Sunday School Classrooms.

Each Thursday at 6:00pm is Praise Band Rehearsal.

CALLING ALL DIACONATE

There is a meeting for ALL Diaconate with Dr. Emerson on January 18, at 6:00pm in the sanctuary. This is one hour prior to the General Board Meeting. We will meet together to have a run through for teams serving communion and preparing communion trays for Sunday worship services.

Very important for ALL to attend this first 2010 meeting for the diaconate.

Thanks to all of you,
Ann Owings

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Contributions (December '09)	67,679	53,833
Year-to-date	656,617	646,000
Expenses (December '09)	62,067	52,083
Year-to-date	626,326	646,000

Building Fund

Donations Received	19,436
Loan Payments	17,676

LIHN UPDATE

Dear FCC Family and Friends:

We are at the one and a half year mark of our involvement in the LIHN program for homeless families. We have more than 40 volunteers now and most of them are engaged every time we host. We clock somewhere around 130-140 hours each time we host for one week. In addition to the wonderful volunteers who host and cook and set up and take down beds, drive and take care of the laundry, we have a super team of coordinators which oversees the areas of food, hosts, drivers, and week-end hosts at the Day Center. We certainly count those of you who so generously make donations to our LIHN fund and who pray for our program as part of our team also. And of course, we have the staff and custodians of the church who step in to help us in many ways. In short, we invest a great deal in this program, and we see excellent returns on our investment. Knowing that we are sharing some of the bounty that God gives to us with families who turn to us for help is reward enough, and spending time face to face with these parents and their precious children is a bonus!

The suggested time of service for general coordinators is two years, and I will be leaving this position at the end of May 2010. I pray that another among us will hear God's call to this vital mission and will step up soon so that I can help facilitate a seamless transition. It is possible that some of our coordinators will want to pass their responsibility to someone else also, so please contact me if you want to be a part of this successful and important program at First Christian Church. May God bless you and guide you as you pray about your role in His Kingdom.

Love, Jeannie Dykes

GENESIS SINGERS will teach us about Daniel and the lion in the musical "Daniel, Darius and DeLion". This production is scheduled for Sunday evening, May 2 with a dress rehearsal on May 1. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 4 p.m. and are open to all 1-5 graders. If you need a ride from school, let us know!



AGAPE RINGERS (grades 6-12) will begin rehearsals on Sunday, February 14 at 4:15. Rehearsal attendance is very important - scheduled rehearsals are Feb. 14, 28, Mar. 7, 21 and we will play for the 9:00 service on March 28. Please sign up by January 31!



JYF - Road Trip!

12:15 - 5:00pm

Sunday, January 17

We are going to the Discovery Science Place in Tyler. Bring \$6. Pick up in the van parking lot.

2010 Pastor's Class Begins February 7th

For 5th grade and older – (if anyone older than 5th grade is interested in confirmation and Baptism classes, please contact Richard Emerson)

FCC Day Camp 2010

"Pass It On" – June 21-26
(sign up March 1st)



Hey everyone!

Well we have started a new year and a new semester and my prayer is that we will all act intentionally to make this semester the best we possibly can!

- I want to invite all of our middle-school students to participate in Sunday-school at 10:15 as we continue to talk about the basics Christian Faith. We want all of you to be a part of the conversation as we explore God's story!
- Chi Rho will be back to its regular schedule this Sunday evenings (Jan. 17). We will meet in Disciple House from 5:00-7:00 for some games, food, and devotion.
- Youth Bells will begin soon! Rehearsals will be Feb. 14, Feb. 28, Mar. 7, and Mar. 21 at 4:15 in the choir room with Miss Gala and will play in the 9:00 worship service on Palm Sunday, Mar. 28. Please sign up to participate by Jan. 31 on the "Agape Ringers" sheet in the main office. You must attend **EVERY** rehearsal, so please only sign up if you are able to commit to all rehearsals.
- CYF has just begun an exciting study in Sunday-school, going through the book by Lee Strobel, *A Case for Faith*. I want to invite all the high school students to attend Sunday-school at 10:15, and participate in a very important conversation about Faith! We will be talking about some possible options for a mid-week activity for CYF as well.

Some of the other things we have planned for just around the corner are:

- Jan. 31 – Sunday School Chili Cook-off
- Feb. 07 – Super Bowl Party at Ms Lyn's House
- Feb. 19-21 – Chi Rho and CYF Mid-Winter Retreat

More information about these events will be mailed out and also posted on the blog. Go to: www.fclongviewyouth.blogspot.com

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Blessings!

Tyler Lopez

972-896-9556

lopez_ty@yahoo.com



Week of Compassion

3 Million People Affected in Haiti
 Wednesday, January 13, 2010

A 7.0 magnitude earthquake devastated the island nation of Haiti yesterday afternoon. By all approximations, as many as 3 million people have been impacted by this devastating quake. Week of Compassion is responding.

Through Global Ministries, we will be responding to our partner organizations in Port-au-Prince, CONASPEH and the House of Hope. At this time, communication is still very difficult, but we are receiving reports via text messages and social networking sites. There has not been any contact made, yet, with Patrick Villier of CONASPEH. We are holding him, his family and all the churches who are a part of CONASPEH in our hearts and prayers.

To donate to Haiti Earthquake Relief, please go to <https://secure.groundspring.org/dn/index.php?aid=6566>. Thank you to so many of you who have already responded. We are so blessed to be able to come together as a community of faith to respond to the overwhelming needs of our sisters and brothers in Haiti. They are in our hearts and prayers. This is an absolutely desperate situation.

Week of Compassion is sharing resources and changing lives. Thank you for sharing your resources and helping to change lives.

- Amy Gopp

HAVE YOU USED YOUR \$10 YET?

As I sat and watched the news last night and again this morning on the coverage of the Haiti earthquake, all I could think of was... "What can we do to help?" At this time, I think the best way to support the people of Haiti is through monetary donations. Please consider supporting the victims of the Haiti earthquake through Global Ministries of the Christian Church. Make checks payable to First Christian Church of Longview with "Haiti Emergency" as the designation. Thanks for your consideration. Lynda McKanna



G.R.A.C.E. Walks 2010

Men's Walk No. 52
 March 11-14, 2010,

at Disciples Crossing Camp
 Athens

Women's Walk No. 53
 March 18-21, 2010,
 at Disciples Crossing Camp
 Athens

Memorial Gifts		
*Honor or Memory of:	Donated to:	Given by:
* Barbara Lewis	Children's Program	Unity Class
* Dick Hudson	Building Fund	Unity Class
Christi Ann Montgomery	Memorial Fund	Jim Montgomery
Dr. James Willis Booth, Jr.	Building Fund	Betty Kindle
George Ray Fox	Property Fund	Cornerstone Class
Janie Matthews, sister of Sue Davis	Building Fund	Tom & Dorothy Landers
	Property Fund	Betty McNeill
	Property Fund	Cornerstone Class
Jere Ruff	Music Fund	James & Karen Martin
	Building Fund	Charles & Jean Reeves
	Building Fund	Garvold & Donna Farris
	Building Fund	Brigitte Brizius
John Henry Russell	Building Fund	C.F. & Ruth Kuykendall
	Bethany Home	Doyle & Mary Hatt
Mary Jeanene Montgomery	Memorial Fund	Jim Montgomery
Mildred Barber	Building Fund	Unity Class
	Bethany Home	Doyle & Mary Hatt
	Building Fund	Green St. Recreation Center
Rosemary Anderson	Music Fund	Dale & Susan Ellison
	Minister's Aid	Del & Patsy Pfler
	Memorial Fund	Eva Palachek
	Building Fund	Charles & Jean Reeves
	Building Fund	Kathy Hayes
	Property Fund	Betty McNeill
Vivian Cunyus	Property Fund	Betty McNeill
	Property Fund	Cornerstone Class
William & Vivian Cunyus	Cornerstone Class	Family of William & Vivian Cunyus

THANK YOU!
 THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Many thanks to Barbara and Ramona Dickinson, Sue Eubank, Jourdeen Henry, Reba Lilly, Jamie and Jody Velde and Edith Wilson who delivered poinsettias to our members in nursing homes and to our members who are homebound.

Freddie Wood
 Chancel Flower Ministry

Please note that in the Christmas Poinsettia printout under the "Thanksgiving" heading that read "In thanksgiving to our church family" and "In thanksgiving of First Christian Church" were given by Pris and Bob Zboray. We sincerely apologize for the omission.

For those of you who enjoyed Warren Bradley at our Congregational Dinner in 2008, you will be glad to know he has a new CD available for \$10 each; 3 for \$25 or all 4 for \$30. Contact Warren at 903.757.9170 or 903.720.6776 if interested.

"Prayer Does Work"

Prayer can be a very comforting factor in our lives. Prayer has healed many ills in many different ways. First Christian Church has prayer group that meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday evening of each month at 7:00pm. We would like to extend an open invitation to anyone who would like to expand on your prayer experience to come and join us for prayer and fellowship!!

Dr. Jim Lewis meets with us each time. So if you are interested or have a need, please call Dr. Jim at 903.753.7611 and let him know. God bless you all.

In Christian Love,
 The Prayer Group



ABC Class – Standard NIV Lesson Commentary “Christ the Fulfillment”

Teacher: Rotating

ACTS Class – Book of James

Teacher: Rotating

Cornerstone Class – The Present Word “Call Sealed with a Promise”

Teacher: Rick Shepherd

GNG Class The Study of Acts

Teacher: Rotating

Seekers Class – Book of Acts

Teacher: Jim Lewis

Visions Class World Religions

Teacher: David Farmer

Unity Class - The Present Word “Call Sealed with a Promise”

Teacher: Dick Hudson and Barbara Lewis

Young Singles 18-26

Teacher: Kelly Green and Karen Lowrey



Members and friends prayer list: **(members in bold)**

Lucille Hiett, Ann Miller, JC & Gloria Fort, Ruth Forester, Dorothy Canon, Tommy Eaker, Sue McGaw, Betty Crisler, Julia Taylor, Martha Nash, Lois Scoggins, Tommy & Lois Kuykendall, Dan Downing, Ed Russell, Sue and Don Stidham, Travis Parr, Bobby Richardson, Peppy Blount, Dorothy Garth, Rose Pearn, Bob Cearley, Sue Davis, Glenda Land, Charles Wayne and Juanita Brown Our Military Personnel, Firefighters, and Police.



to Barbara Lewis and her family upon the death of her father, James Wise.

to Judy Enlow and her family upon the death of her sister.

The next “The Long View” will be mailed on Friday January 29th . If you have an article you wish to include in “The Long View”, please e-mail it to mfritz@fcclongview.org. or bring it to the church office no later than noon Wednesday, January 27th.

LECTIONARY TEXTS FOR

Sunday, January 24 – Dr. Emerson
Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19;
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

Sunday, January 31 ... Dr. Emerson
Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6;
1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

ATTENDANCE	
WORSHIP SERVICES	
January 3	247
January 10	236



Summer Church Camp Dates

NEA Conference – June 7-12

NEA Chi Rho – June 14 -19

JYF Camp – TBA

If you are unable to attend on any of these dates, other dates are available. Check with Tyler or Lyn.

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