

The Church Visitor

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September 1, 2010

Promotion Sunday Set for Sept. 12

What could be more important than giving our children a firm foundation in faith? We start a new church-school year September 12 with Promotion Sunday. This year we offer the following classes for 3-year-olds through 5th grade.

- ◆ **3-year-old—1st grade:** We will be using the Hands on Bible Curriculum. It is

lots of fun, interactive, and familiarizes children with important Bible stories.

- ◆ **2nd –5th grade:** If you are not familiar with **Godly Play** we invite you and your children to give it a try. We share the Bible stories, language and traditions of our church in a hands-on way that truly

engages children. Most importantly, the children experience worship in a way that is uniquely their own. We are blessed with a group of experienced and caring teachers.

While your children enjoy a special story on September 12, please check out one of our adult classes.

Metro Ministries Grateful For FCC Generous Gifts

Corpus Christi Metro Ministries is deeply grateful for First Christian's very generous donation; such a sweet outpouring of love for those who are "the least among us." "He who is generous will be blessed, for he gives some of

his food to the poor," Proverbs 22:9.

I thank the Lord for our wonderful church and community. FCC collected \$740 in the special offering for Corpus Christi Metro Ministries.

—Gail Anderson

Prayer Event to Remember 9/11

First United Methodist Church will serve as host for a 9/11 Memorial Prayer Gathering on Saturday, September 11, from 6 to 8 p.m.

This will be the fifth annual gathering in remembrance of the attack on the World Trade

Center in New York, and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. Another attack was prevented when the plane crashed in Pennsylvania.

Prayers seeking God's protection for our nation will be offered.

South Shore Invites FCC To Tee Off

The Christian Men's Fellowship of South Shore Christian Church is teed off—or at least will be.

The group is planning a golf tournament for September and has invited men from First Christian Church to join them.

If you are interested in playing, call John Schmidt, the SSCC CMF president, at 356-6634



CWF Gearing Up for Start of New Year

The Board of the Christian Women's Fellowship will have its first meeting of the new year on Tuesday, September 7, at 9:45 a.m. in the Conference Room.

The Board will discuss plans for the first meeting of both the day and evening groups. The Board will also be assembling the new CWF yearbooks. Since this will be working meeting, lunch will be provided.

General Meeting

The first general meeting of the CWF will be Tuesday, September 21, at 10 a.m. in the Parlor. Bea Hanson, director of the Corpus Christi Food Bank, will be the guest speaker.

Evening Group

The first meeting for the evening group will be Thursday, September 16, at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room. Don Tuttle will be the guest speaker.

Please plan to join one or both groups.

News from the Pews

Congratulations to...Brian Bray on the birth of his grandson, **Grayson Kyle Upchurch**. He was born August 26 in Odessa to **Brian's** daughter and son-in-law, **Donna and Jason...Nancy Rutherford** on the marriage of her oldest daughter, **Kate**, to **Matt Grove**. They married August 1 in Lake City, Colorado, and live in Houston...**Reba and Kenny DuBeau** on the engagement of their daughter **Meagan** to **Major John Marksbury**,

USMC.

Christian Sympathy is offered to...**Vinay Dulip** and his family on the death of his father, **Motiram Kashinath Dulip**, in India last week...and to **David Hiser** and his family on the death of his aunt **Marian Wasson**. She died this week in Illinois.

Please keep in prayer...**J. B. & Betty Clark**, **Lona Bullin**, **Irene Moore**, **Maria & Kenneth Moseley**, **Nancy Isley**,

June Pearce, **Raymond & Ruth Beal**, and **Bob & Billie Sumpter** (all at home); **Theda McConnico** (Trisun), **Kathryn Williams** (Los Angeles); **Paul Giraudin** (Katy); **W. L. Bates** (Holmgren), **Cecil Lloyd**, **Hazel & Bob Andrews** (The Villa), **Frank Whaley**, **Doris Williams**, **Nick Livingston** (Homewood), **Maxine Clanton** (Harbor Place), **Irma Nolte**, **Maxine Rhodes**, **Doraine Concklin** (Trinity Towers).

**Sunday Worship**

9 a.m.
Contemporary
11 a.m.
Traditional

Church School

10 a.m.

Fifth Sunday Schedule

9 a.m. Church School
10 a.m. Unified Worship

Staff**Pastor**

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Visitor Deadline

Monday, August 30, 2010

Debate on Obama's Faith May Clarify Ours

Dear Friends:

If you have not heard, the Pew Research Center released recently a survey that found that 18 percent of Americans believe President Obama is a Muslim. Forty-three percent did not know his religion, and 34 percent identified him as Christian.

Of course, President Obama was a member of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago until about two years ago.

Yet what the discussion regarding his faith reveals is the challenge of defining Christianity. Some history.

In the early church, one became a Christian by proclaiming "Jesus is Lord" and being baptized. But as the church grew that simple affirmation needed sub-

stance. The Church responded by developing creeds—such as the Apostles and the Nicene—to summarize the faith.

After the Reformation, new denominations emerged as did new creeds. The Presbyterians, for example, embraced The Westminster Confession as its statement of right belief.

Of course, it was into that atmosphere that the Disciples were born. Following the lead of those in other fields, our ancestors tried to narrow the faith down to its essence. That is why affirming the Great Confession is our only requirement for membership. But times continue to change. In the years since, Christians have followed two paths—one narrow (more traditional) and the other

expansive (more liberal). But a result has been confusion over just what it means to be "Christian." Does it mean affirming the divinity of Jesus or not? Is salvation through him or another or ourselves? What does God require of us? Must one be baptized? What about participation in a church? How is one to view the Bible—as the revealed word from God or as a record of human encounters with the Divine? Is there a specifically Christian way of life?

If the discussion regarding President Obama's faith has any use maybe it will help us—Christians of every strip—to clarify what we mean by the word "Christians."

—Don Tuttle

Potential Ministries Still Seek Volunteers

The Ministry Council of FCC has endorsed three ministry proposals it would like to see implemented this fall. However all are in need of leaders and team members. The ministries are:

- ◆ A church-wide evening event during the week. The evening would include dinner, Bible or topical studies and a brief time of worship and could provide opportunities for spiritual growth, fellowship and evangelism.
- ◆ A monthly event for newcomers that would con-

sist of a pasta dinner, fellowship and prayer. This time together could help newcomers and potential members get to know each other and members of the church.

- ◆ A wedding ministry in which non-churched couples who participate in a pre-marriage course would receive a reduced fee for use of the sanctuary.

If you would like TO lead or participate in any of these ministries, email Don Tuttle at fcc_pastor1@grandecom.net or call 850-9656.