

Sept 1st, 2018

DISCIPLE NEWS



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) McAllen, TX

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A Word from Your Interim Pastor

In addition to functioning as your minister this year – preaching, teaching, praying, programming, and pastoring you Sunday after Sunday, week to week, as your Interim I also have a responsibility to help your congregational leadership transition to your next settled pastor.

This involves a process of strategic planning. Your Search Committee functioning as the Transition Team for the purpose of planning, began this process on the weekend of August 10-12. In a retreat at the church we began a process of -

- Developing a Realistic Assessment of our Present Standing and Stature as a Church
- Choosing the Primary Direction for Our Congregational Future
- Studying our Strengths in Relation to the 12 Keys to an Effective Church
 - Relational
 1. Specific, Concrete Missional Objectives
 2. Pastoral/Lay Visitation
 3. Corporate, Dynamic Worship
 4. Significant Relational Groups
 5. Strong Leadership Resources
 6. Solid, Participatory Decision Making

Upcoming Events

Board Meeting Sept 2nd

Following Worship Service

Wed. Sept 12th at 11:30am–

Greet & Eat

Location:

"Cracker Barrel"

3817 W EXPWY 83

McAllen, TX 78503

Ph: [956-683-1874](tel:956-683-1874)

Expressway 83 & Ware Rd



Sun. Sept 16th:

Monthly - Pot Luck

Following Worship Service



Sun. Sept 30th:

Ice Cream day

Following Worship Service.

To celebrate
Birthday's &
Anniversaries



Find us at www.Facebook.com/FirstChristianChurchMcAllen
or visit our site at www.fccdocmcallen.org

Contact us M, W, F 12:30-4:30pm
(956)687-8519

A Word from Your Interim Pastor

- Functional
 1. Several Competent Programs & Activities
 2. Open Accessibility
 3. High Visibility
 4. Adequate Parking, Land & Landscaping
 5. Adequate Space and Facilities
 6. Solid Financial Resources
- Selecting the Keys that will best Advance our Congregational Future

Governing this whole process are “Four Invitational Questions” -

- *Where are we headed?*
- *What kind of future are we building?*
- *What are our strengths, gifts, and competencies?*
- *What is God calling us to accomplish in mission?*

Believing that our best years as a church are still in front of us, pray with and for the leaders of First Christian Church as together we seek the future that God has for us.

DBS +

1 Corinthians

1:26-31

King James Version (KJV)



²⁶ For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:

²⁷ But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

²⁸ And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

²⁹ That no flesh should glory in his presence.

³⁰ But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

³¹ That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

Weekly Bible Studies at First Christian Church

Louis and Bess Cochran called their popular 1969 narrative history of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) – Captives of the Word because, as they put it, “the doctrine of the Movement was based on the Bible, and the brethren should therefore all be “captives of the word of God.” We began as a “back to the Bible” movement, and so we have two Bible Studies each week at First Christian Church –

On Wednesday morning at 10 am we are studying I Thessalonians. I Thessalonians is a book about Christian hope. It’s all about what it takes to get through hard times.

On Sunday mornings at 9 am we are studying the book of James. James is a primer on the Christian life. It is an introduction to some of the most basic questions that we have as Christians.

Join us anytime, these are verse by verse studies conducted in a conversational style, and you would be welcome to join in at any time.

September Sermons – “Count your Blessings”

Sermon Series in the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-11)

The most beautiful church in the Holy Land, if you ask me, is the Church of the Beatitudes that sits high on a hill above the Sea of Galilee where tradition tells us that Jesus preached His Sermon on the Mount. The last time I was there on that holy ground it occurred to me that this is what Jesus intends all His churches to be – beautiful churches of the Beatitudes. This is what Jesus intends First Christian Church of McAllen, Texas, to be - a beautiful Church of the Beatitudes. And if this is so, then it's critical that we understand what the Beatitudes are saying to us, and about us as Christ's disciples, and so throughout September we will continue our sermon series on the Beatitudes – “Count Your Blessings.”

September 2 – “Blessed are the Merciful”

September 9 – “Blessed are the Pure in Heart”

September 16 – “Blessed are the Peacemakers”

September 23 – Guest Preacher

September 30 – “Blessed are the Persecuted”



Prayer Concerns

One of the things I pray every morning is that God would be *“be graciously pleased to take all who are dear to me under His Fatherly care and protection.”* When I pray these words I see in my mind's eye those four friends in the Gospel story who carried their sick friend to Jesus and who wound up letting him down through the roof to get him to Jesus.

Nothing should stop us from bringing our loved ones into the presence of Christ who can make them whole and keep them safe. To get a name on the church's prayer list fill out one of the prayer cards in chairs in the Sanctuary, or call the church office M W F 12:30 - 4:30 pm (956) 687-8519.

Psalms 37:4 “Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.”

We often think this scripture means that God is going to give us anything that we want if we first just simply show Him a little interest.



Buehre, Don
Sept 6th

Tonii, Leadbetter,
Sept 8th

Mary Ellen, Neal
Sept 11

Tomasita, Camarillo,
September 14th

Jared, Leadbetter,
September 14th

Drane, Barbara
September 26th

Phyllis, Whittaker,
September 28th

McKenzie, Alice September
30th



Eileen & Roger Veum
Sept 4th

Pat & Don Buehre
Sept 5th

Rexanne & Chris Pederson,
Sept 7th

Leti & Joel Pereira
Sept 12th

Note: If we don't have your birthday or Anniversary put on the basket to add to the list.

Psalms 37:4 "Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart."

I can remember doing this, in my childhood, with my own father. Attempting to gain his favor, I would be nice to him before asking for something, but he could always figure out my scheme.

Before I even had a chance at my request he would ask, "Why are you so nice and what is it you want?" God, surely wiser than our earthly fathers are, can discern our hidden thoughts.

He knows when we are truly delighting ourselves and when we are attempting to manipulate Him. In Mark 7:6 Jesus said, "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me."

God discerns each chamber of our heart knowing our thoughts better than we do, oftentimes He will not answer prayers only so that He can give us the true longings of our soul. I have asked God for many things that I did not receive. Moreover, I confess that I am very grateful He has not answered all of my prayers.

After walking a few decades with the Lord, I have come to realize how much I am in need of His wisdom. In the Hebrew, the word "delight" used in this scripture translates as "soft and pliable."

If we substitute those words, it would read; "Make yourself soft and pliable in the hands of the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart." As simple clay in the Potter's hands, we must allow Him to mold and make us into the vessel that He has planned for us to be.

We will discover that instead of what we wanted we now delight in what He gives us. He offers his very best when we allow Him to do the choosing and as we center on God's purpose the desire of our heart is truly met.

God's Richest Blessings!

Joel Pereira

Associate Minister &

Spanish Service Minister

In other news:

Pencils and crayons, notebooks and backpacks, bottles of glue and rulers --- for the past four weeks we have been gathering school supplies as a church to share with the children of our community who might otherwise begin the school year with none. On Tuesday afternoon, August 28th, Jerry Leadbetter, Pat Schroder, Carol Fults-Salvati, Doug Skinner, Chris and Rexanne Pederson, delivered these school supplies to the Office of Maria Lorena Anzaldúa, the Director of Services to Homeless and Unaccompanied Children for the McAllen Independent School District, with the prayer of dedication from Sunday in our hearts – ***"Bless the children who will benefit from these gifts... Grant them joy and confidence, a desire to learn and grow and change the world with your help and with your unending love in their hearts."***

DONATION of



School Supplies at Navarro Elementary School



Our new website is up & running! Go and check it out!

Visit us at

www.fccdocmcallen.org



If you have anything you would like to include in our Newsletter please send us an e-mail to

fccdocmcallen@gmail.com