

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
1110 GUADALUPE STREET  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Austin, Texas  
January 2012



### Sunday

9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
10:50 a.m. Worship Service  
12:10 p.m. Fellowship

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

(512) 476-6941 Office

(512) 476-6980 Fax

[www.ccaustin.org](http://www.ccaustin.org) / [staff@ccaustin.org](mailto:staff@ccaustin.org)

Senior Minister  
Director of Christian Education  
Director of Music  
Office Administrator  
Wedding Coordinator  
Mail & Parking Manager

Rev. Peggy A. Edge  
Heidi Bounds  
Dallas Edwin Heenan  
Kirsten Van Meter  
Dallas Edwin Heenan  
Robert Marcott

### VIEWS FROM THE EDGE



*Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come...* So begins John's greeting to the seven churches in Asia in the opening chapter of the book of Revelation. Laden with images that stretch our imagination, the book reminds us that God is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. Physicists are honing in on what they call "the God particle." It has to be true, because I read about it on the internet. A science teacher "liked" it. And I have a cousin with several masters degrees in different forms of physics as well as a doctorate. So I accept it. Actually, one of St. Thomas of Aquinas' great arguments for the existence of God

theorizes that God made the first move. I believe it. Do you?

As we embark on our journey into 2012 it is my hope and prayer that God is still moving. "Moving what?" you may ask, or "Moving where?" may be the better question. Maybe the questions are irrelevant to those indifferent to the faith, but for those of us who believe, the questions are so important. For if we truly hope for God to reign, we had better be tracing God's movements!

Recently I saw the time-lapse photo of the lunar eclipse in early December. Since I had failed to see it with my own eyes, I found the picture to be awe-inspiring. The trailing stages of the eclipse tell the story. Hind sight is often better than foresight, isn't it? Looking back at what was helps us understand what is, which sets our sights on what is to come. Having celebrated again the birth of Christ, we move ahead, deciding whether following the star will lead us to the one who reigns.

Yes, theology is sometimes messy. Our hope and dreams lead to beliefs and a set of truths not recognized by everyone. But the star-gazing, Jesus-followers journey on into the season of epiphany, the season of light. We look back on Christmastide as we put the evergreen wreaths away for another year, casting away the remainder of wax tapers whose light shone bright on Christmas Eve. Lest we use up all of our thanksgivings expressing appreciation for gifts and acts of kindness bestowed by family and friends, join me in giving thanks for this year that is dawning and the opportunities which lie ahead. For the story of Christmas whets our appetite for more. And the one who is to come bids us to accept and live into the love and grace we have in Jesus Christ. Let's get moving!

Grace and peace,  
Peggy

### From the Chair:

I would like to thank the congregation for the honor and faith you have entrusted in me by electing me to serve as your administrative council chair for 2012. One of the things I plan to do this year is to keep the congregation and friends of Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) updated with a monthly column in this newsletter. If you ever have any questions about the administration of the church, please don't hesitate to contact me or any of the other eleven members of the administrative council.

As we begin this year, I reflect back that for the past several years we have been in transition. What a joy it is that many of the uncertainties of transition are now in the past. In 2012, we no longer have a new constitution; we simply have our constitution that we use to govern ourselves. In 2012, we no longer have a new senior minister; Rev. Edge is simply our senior minister who is called by God and affirmed by our congregation to lead us as we seek to be a church that serves and honors Christ in downtown Austin, Texas.

This is not to say we don't face challenges and shouldn't expect change. A vibrant, healthy church is a church open to change and listening for how we can serve the Lord. As your administrative council chair, I promise to work with our leader and senior minister, Rev. Edge, as we journey together this year.

In service,  
James McGuffee



## Ladies' Night Out

Ladies' Night Out will be Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at Heidi Bounds' house. Please RSVP to the church office or to Heidi at 280-8095 by January 10<sup>th</sup>. The menu will be surf and turf, so let us know if you have any special requests. We look forward to a fun evening together!

## Lord, I Want to Be a Wise Man, Too

Lord, I want to be a wise man, too,  
As the three who brought their gifts to you,  
Following a star. Show me where you are;  
Lord, be an epiphany to me.

Shine your light where you would have me see.  
Illuminate each opportunity  
To serve and worship you, In spirit and in truth;  
Lord, be an epiphany to me.

Like you, Christ, let me be a surprise.  
Let someone see kindness in my eyes,  
Love in my embrace, Charity and grace;  
Lord, be an epiphany through me.

Until hunger ceases to exist,  
'Til justice reigns where evil now persists,  
'Til war shall be no more, Peace on earth restored:  
Lord, be an epiphany through me.

- Kenneth Athon  
Fort Wayne, Indiana Disciple

## Central Christian Church presents "Acoustic Sanctuary"



On January 19<sup>th</sup>, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, a special musical offering will take place at 6:30 p.m. Our guest artists will be announced soon on Facebook and via e-mail. Invite your friends and co-workers to come and enjoy great music and the hospitality of Central Christian Church.

## From Behind the Wall

The Chrismon Tree, Angel Trees, garland, red bows, and a manger on the ledge in the baptistry pretty much tell it how it is. The Christmas season is here, and when you read this, it will be gone. It is a bittersweet feeling to have celebrated the birth of our Savior knowing that we must go on with the church year, on through Lent, then Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. It will soon be time for another celebration – Ascension Sunday.

Our small but talented Chancel Choir sang a delightful cantata by Corelli in December. Sheep and shepherds and angels made for expressive texts, and a violinist, Turner Partain, added a special touch to this Baroque transcription from a Corelli Concerto Grosso. It was truly listenable and enjoyable music. We like Baroque music and it "fits" the architecture of our sanctuary perfectly.

After Christmastide, the Chancel Choir will be more reflective and perhaps even meditative in the music for Lent. There is so much beautiful music to be shared with the worshipers on Sunday mornings. I would hope there may be some worshipers who will want to join us in the chancel, where you can drink in the magnificence of our Ascension Window while sharing your musical talent. I've said it so many times the last 24 years: The singers in the Chancel Choir have the best seat in the house (God's House).

I trust the reader has had a wonderful holiday in December with all good things shared with loved ones and also with those who have so much less. It takes little effort to give love and hope. All of us can do more for each other. May we continue throughout the New Year our sharing and caring which started in December.

Blessings and Peace,  
Dallas Edwin Heenan  
Director of Music



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



### Summer Camp Dates:

CYF Conference – June 17 – 23, 2012  
Eighters' Camp – June 24 – 30, 2012  
Junior Camp – July 9 – 14, 2012  
Chi Rho Camp – July 15 – 21, 2012  
Beginners' Camp – July 25 – 28, 2012

## CHI RHO MIDWINTER PRESENTS:



## God of all Creation

**Special Keynoter:** Kevin Dunn,  
*Disciple of Christ, Father, Camp Small  
Group Leader, and NASA Rocket Scientist  
(no kidding!)*

**Where:** Camp Gonzo

**When:** Jan. 27-29, 2012  
*(arrive Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 pm and depart Jan.  
29<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am)*

**Who:** CHI RHO 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup>  
graders

**Cost:** \$100

### Directors:

**Rev. Cari Fowler**      **Rev. Beth Graham**  
(830) 857- 6244      (512) 465-5759

**REGISTRATIONS MUST BE IN BY  
JANUARY 16, 2012**

**\*\*\*Registration forms must be  
given to Heidi Bounds for  
processing no later than  
January 8<sup>th</sup>.\*\*\***

## CLOTHING DONATIONS AT CCC!

Dear church members,

The clothing bins are installed and ready for donations. The State Hospital of Austin accepts clothing for men women and children (except belts), and even shoes are appreciated. Please make sure all donations are gently used and washed. On behalf of myself and the State Hospital, I thank you.



- Ryan Nolen, Troop 3

## Congratulations!



Nico Ortiz, 7<sup>th</sup> grader at Deerpark Middle School, has achieved the rank of Star Scout. Nico is a patrol leader and member of Boy Scout Troop 146.



Alex Ortiz, a sophomore, has made the varsity soccer squad at McNeil High School. Alex has been playing club soccer for 10 years and is one of only two sophomores chosen.

### Office Hours

During the week, CCC staff members can be found in the church office during the times listed below. Please keep in mind they may also be at meetings, appointments, or visitation during office hours.

#### Rev. Peggy Edge

Monday – Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Also available by appointment

#### Heidi Bounds

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. – 2 p.m.

#### Dallas Edwin Heenan

Monday: Off, *appointment only*

Tuesday: Off, *appointment only*

Wednesday: 1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Thursday: Off, *appointment only*

Friday: 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

#### Robert Marcott

Monday – Friday: 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

#### Kirsten Van Meter

Monday – Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.



## \$\$ TREASURY NOTES \$\$

### General Budget 2012

The 2012 general budget was approved during the December 11, 2011 congregational meeting. Copies of the general budget and budget details are available from the administrative office upon request. Below is the overview of the 2012 budget as presented to the congregation.

#### Expenses:

The total 2012 budget is \$331,191 representing an 11% net decrease of \$39,950 from 2011. Total salary expenses are anticipated to be approximately 15% less than in 2011. No salary or compensation increases have been granted for 2012. Ministers' expense decreased due to expiration of Interim Minister's contract in 2011.

All budgeted expenses categories have been decreased except for Christian Education (\$400 increase) and Pastoral Care Reimbursable Business Expense (\$500 added for Sabbatical Retreat accrual).

Property and administrative expenditures have been reduced by 2% and 14% respectively. New contracts for HVAC maintenance, elevator service, workman's compensation insurance, ATT telephone & Internet, lower copier, printing and postage costs from increase use of email communications have reduced costs in these categories. Cost reductions were made in all sub-categories of Worship and Music where possible. Technology upgrade expenses were reduced \$3100 by deferring replacement of existing equipment. Cost of fellowship activities and luncheons are reduced to reflect the current level of expenditures due to excellent managing of luncheon expenses during the past year.

Increased cost for waste management services, building cleaning services contract, property general and liability insurance and the possibility of Austin Energy rate increases are included or expected for 2012.

#### Income:

Total pledge support for 2012 is up more than 6% from 2011 however the total number of pledges received is down 21% from 2011. A positive outlook for 2012 unpledged offerings and gifts is based on the 10% increased giving in 2011 and which we anticipated to continue through 2012.

We continue to rent the parking lot, the sanctuary and the educational facilities to individuals and groups. We receive income from wedding rentals of the sanctuary by non-members of Central Christian Church. Rental income from the Austin School for the Performing

and Visual Arts will continue in 2012. Lake Hills Church cancelled their lease of our sanctuary under terms of the lease in September 2011 when they acquired deed to another downtown Austin property. This was a substantial reduction in rental income, which had contributed to the accumulation of undesignated reserves and are expected to be about \$66,000 on January 1, 2012.

We plan to meet the 2012 budget expense by drawing a maximum of \$42,529 from this reserve accumulated from past rentals of our sanctuary and educational building. We shall endeavor to minimize the use of reserves to fund the general budget. The actual amount drawn from reserves will be reduced if undesignated contributions and other gifts exceed expectations. No additional Trustee funds are required to meet our operational expenses in 2012.

J. Preston James  
Treasurer, Central Christian Church

### Parking Lot News

As many of you know, CCC offers parking privileges on a contract basis during the work week. After many years of keeping the parking lot fees to a minimum for our contract parkers, the Administrative Council decided to raise the fees to \$100 per month effective February 1, 2012. When you are at the church during the week, please park in the spaces facing east into the hedge nearest the church. Our contract parkers know that these spaces are reserved by the church for our daily use.

### *Appreciation Luncheon/Reception*

**Sunday, January 15**  
Following the Worship Service

We'd like to host a special luncheon to honor all those who served in leadership positions (Administrative Council and committee chairs) in 2011. We will also be formally announcing all the committee chairs for 2012. Social and Fellowship will provide a main dish. Please bring your favorite side dish or dessert.

### Administrative Council Nominations

At the Congregational Meeting on December 11, 2011, the nominations presented by the Nominating Committee were unanimously accepted by the congregation. Our deepest appreciation goes to those who've said yes to being servant leaders in the new year.

## Volunteers Needed

We need a couple of volunteers to help prepare communion. We need help for four months – you can pick your month, and there is flexibility in case you have to miss a Sunday. Volunteers need to be at church on Sundays by 10:15 or at least 15 minutes before Sunday School begins to be sure communion is ready on time. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Kathy Huffaker at [kathyhuffaker@austin.rr.com](mailto:kathyhuffaker@austin.rr.com).



## Christian Women's Fellowship

January 11, 2012

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Place: 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Library

Behold a new year - a new beginning. A time to study. We are studying the book "Oh, Say Can You See" by James W. Moore. The lesson #3 is "The Blindness of Arrogance". Our scripture is Mark 9: 30-37.

Two scholarships were presented by the Christian Women's Fellowship to the Council of Central Christian Church on December 14, 2011. One scholarship fund is dedicated to the memory of Mrs. Georgia Smith, the Sewing Bees and in the honor of all women who have faithfully served and actively supported the whole mission of the Church of Jesus Christ. The second scholarship is given in partnership with Luther and Marjorie Bailey. This scholarship was made possible by a gift to CWF by Marjorie. We are pleased to honor these two people for their love of our Fellowship and Central Christian Church. The two scholarships will be available to students as administered by the Trustees of Central Christian Church.

The Christian Women's Fellowship has a long history in this church. It has been a great privilege to be a part of church history. Our story hasn't ended. We continue to serve our Lord, Jesus Christ and this church in ways that are meaningful and reflect the ideas of our Christian faith.

Marolyn

## SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

We will be collecting goods for the Souper Bowl of Caring beginning on January 17<sup>th</sup> and end with the wrap-up party on February 5<sup>th</sup>. This is a joint venture with CCC and ASPVA. Please help support the cause! Bethany Food Pantry will be the recipient of all the canned goods that are collected. Please bring canned goods and place them on the display in the community room. We will move all the cans into the sanctuary for the February 5<sup>th</sup> service. We will also have a soup luncheon following the service on that day. Please start searching for your favorite soup recipe. Details coming soon!



## Tableau Assistance Needed

We need volunteers on Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. to help take the tableau down. If you are able, please contact Brad Bounds at [bradheidi1@yahoo.com](mailto:bradheidi1@yahoo.com).

Thank you!

Many thanks from all of us for the generous Christmas bonuses! May the year of 2012 be a blessed one for CCC!

Peggy, Heidi, Ed, and Kirsten