

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH
1110 GUADALUPE STREET
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Austin, Texas

March 2011



Sunday

9:30 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 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.cccaustin.org / 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

One of the joys of beginning a new ministry is discovering the way the faithful use their time and talents in the life of the church. Central Christian is blessed with so many diverse leaders. I am so thankful for all who step in to teach, lead, and serve. Please know that there is room at the inn for anyone who wants to get more involved in the life of the church. If you have musical gifts to share, time to volunteer during the week, or interest in starting a new endeavor, don't hesitate to let your interests be known. You never know just how valuable your presence may be!

One afternoon in late spring, I sat in my office in Fort Wayne with the windows open listening to the sounds of the birds in the courtyard. Apparently the mother duck and her brood were just below the window. I heard quite a raucous – the mother duck was squawking and carrying on as furious as can be. I looked outside the window to see a hawk chasing down one of the ducklings. The maternal instinct kicked in, and I yelled at the hawk as I dashed for the courtyard doors. As I rounded the corner of the building, I saw the hawk taking flight with the duckling in his talons. The added weight prevented the hawk from gaining the altitude needed to get out of the courtyard, and I watched in horror as the hawk dropped his prey in the low-lying evergreen shrubs, which I would later learn was the original nesting site for the duckling. The hawk swooped around, searching for his misplaced meal. I let the hawk know that he needed to look elsewhere for dinner.

I could no longer concentrate in my office. I felt compelled to hang out in the courtyard as a sentry for the mother duck, who had the rest of her brood hiding safely under the largest of the shrubs. The hawk did return to sit in the sweet gum tree, and again I shooed him away. My heart was broken as I feared the fate of the little duckling who was nowhere to be seen. An hour or so later, I heard the mother duck again, but this time she was calling out with a long drawn-out "Quack." The second or third time I heard the rhythmic call, I heard an answer, "Peep, peep, peep." Low and behold I made it back into the courtyard in time to watch the reunion at the foot of the cross on the patio. The mother and remaining ducklings made their way to welcome back the little duckling. After a brief "hello" the family returned to the protective shelter to regain their wits about them.

Needless to say, it was difficult for me to leave the church that afternoon. I even stayed overtime to do what I could to protect the brood. After that, I was one of those who always counted the duck-lings to see if the family was still intact. The story was shared from the pulpit the following week, and the whole congregation seemed more diligent in caring for this little family who had taken sanctuary with us.

Sometimes the greatest gift for others is just the gift of presence. So when you are in the vicinity, stop by the church and say "hello." You never know when there might be a special way to make a difference for those whom you least expect to need a helping hand!

Grace and peace,
Peggy



You Are Invited!

Austin Zoo and Picnic – Sunday, March 27th at 1:00 p.m.



We will gather at The Austin Zoo after church for a picnic luncheon. We have reserved a picnic table area. CCC will provide fried chicken, and families are asked to bring a side dish to share. Admission into the zoo is \$5 per person. CCC will pay in advance, so please let Heidi Bounds know if you and your family will be attending. After lunch, everyone is welcome to explore the zoo, and we will also arrange a train ride for all those who wish to join in.

Heidi Bounds
Director of Christian Education

Cookie Capers @ CCC!

Wouldn't it be great to enjoy homemade cookies during our fellowship time after church on Sundays? The goal is to have homemade cookies (as opposed to store bought) at least one Sunday a month. Here's the plan:

Who? Anyone who attends CCC - perhaps YOU!

What? Provide 5-6 dozen homemade cookies

When? One Sunday this year (or more if you love to bake)

Where? Bring them to the kitchen before church starts

Why? To enjoy delicious cookies during fellowship time following worship

How? Contact Ginger Meeks @ vmEEKS1022@yahoo.com or 619-4029 to volunteer!



DISCIPLE WOMEN'S MINISTRY

March 9, 2011

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Place: 2nd Floor Library

DWM has begun a new study "Oh, Say Can You See" by James Moore – it is about spiritual blindness and its consequences. Two of the examples given were the story of the rich young ruler and Judas, the Apostle that betrayed Jesus to the Romans.

We continue to partner with Bethany's Food Pantry requests. We are grateful that our congregation is so giving. Thank you.

We will remember Betty at our March meeting. We ask all of you to continue your prayers for Joye White. She's very special to all of us.

Marolyn

From Behind the Wall

It seems every year before the season of Lent, I write an invitation to those of you in the congregation to join us in singing in the Chancel Choir for a few weeks until after Easter. Once again, I extend this invitation to enjoy a great group of singers who rehearse just for 75 minutes on Wednesday evenings from 5:30 – 6:45. We meet on Sunday morning at 10:30 to brush up on the anthem and service music. During the service, we have the best seat in the church with the best view – the congregation and our beautiful Ascension Window. Have you ever come into the chancel and taken a seat? It is truly awesome.

On January 22nd, Sally Lay was married in our sanctuary. Her father, John, went to 1st grade in Central Christian School several decades ago. He is the nephew of Aline Rogers. John spoke with me at the rehearsal and expressed his love for the church as a boy. I encouraged him and his wife to come back for worship, but they are part of another denomination now.

John gave me an envelope with some money in it. When Aline Rogers passed away, some of her belongings found their way to John. In one of Aline's purses, John found \$23 plus some change. John wanted to give the money to Central Christian, where it will be put in the C.M. and Aline Rogers Scholarship Fund. From in front of or behind the wall, I find this personal memory of a young boy and then a grown man to be quite touching.

Dallas Edwin Heenan
Director of Music



HATS OFF TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!!!

Thank you to all those who help with the sound system for worship services, including Jaime Ortiz, Rod Bowser, Trey Van Meter, Eduardo Portilla, and countless others who make things happen on Sunday mornings.

Also, thank you to all the other volunteers who spend many precious hours at the church during the week including Brad Bounds, Sharon Bowser, Robert Marcott, and Patrick Taylor.



On Sunday, March 6th, the Outreach Committee will be hosting a fundraising luncheon following the worship service with all profits going to CROP WALK, a Church World Service event. CROP monies target food aid and sustainable food practices to overseas communities (75%) and Austin groups, such as Caritas (25%). A modest menu will be offered: "Make your own chalupas" with all the fixings, including tostadas, chicken, cheese, tomatoes, lettuce, onions, sour cream, refried beans, rice, chili con queso, salsa, and more. Price: \$6 for adults and \$3 for children. After the luncheon, CCCers are encouraged to caravan to Decker Lane for the citywide CROP walk event beginning at 2:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Jayne Prewitt at (512) 585-7093.

Musings:

Can you believe it? 2011 is almost 1/4 gone. It only arrived yesterday, and I haven't even started on the list of things I was going to do in 2009. Oh sure, I did get two new paths through my living room so I can walk in without a light. There are other rooms that need lighted paths – they are in my heart. I need more compassion for the homeless, going hungry (try it) makes me weep for the children who have not enough food – so hungry they can't sleep at night.

In a nation with so much food available, no one should starve. There are so many churches around to whom Christ said "Feed my sheep". Why are we not doing more than collecting money that goes who knows where? A food pantry is such a bother, but some of our local churches have them. We should be doing more than we are. A lighthouse to the inner man as well as to his soul.

Bob Marcott





Disciple Women's Ministry Center
Open House & 20th Anniversary Celebration
Saturday, March 26 • 9 am–3 pm • Gonzales, Texas

Join us to celebrate 20 years of ministry and hospitality at the new and improved center located in the Backdoor and Central Plaza Areas of the Central Church (Disciple of Christ) — your church!

If you've never visited before, this is a great event to learn more about how we serve Texas Disciples. From church services and meetings to community events, Disciple Women's Ministry Center offers a "Welcome" to a place for spiritual growth and lifelong friendships and ministries.

We're always creating new opportunities — so to coincide the week's holiday season of a traditional local holiday season (Easter and High School), with unique elements and formal members in Central Texas. Come learn more about it. Bring a friend and see you on March 26th!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

9:00 am–9:00 pm

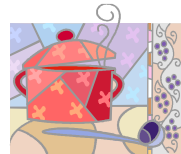

- Breakfast Buffet
- Live 20th Anniversary
- Live Musical Performance
- Class Manager
- Book Signing
- Worship
- Prayer Time (for all)
- Disciple Women's Ministry
- Prayer Laboratory
- Prayer Room
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Ash Wednesday

Join us on March 9th at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary for worship and reflections as we observe Ash Wednesday, the first day of the liturgical season of Lent! One of the special traditions for this service is the imposition of ashes on the forehead or hand of each individual. The ashes are a sign of our mortality and remind us of our sins. We are invited to "repent, and believe the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ." Please invite your friends, neighbors, co-workers, and families to worship with us.

Come early to join us for the **Crock Pot Pot Luck** at 6:00 p.m. Bring your favorite crock pot dish. Corn bread will be provided. If you are able to help with the pot luck in any way, please contact Heidi Bounds.

The season of Lent is a time when we prepare our hearts, minds, and souls for the sacred observances of Christ's death on Good Friday and his resurrection on Easter. In Lent, we recognize we are simply dust and ashes without Christ, we confess our sins to God, and we follow Christ to the cross, where we are made whole again. In the early church, the six weeks of Lent were a time of training and instruction for converts to Christianity who were preparing to be baptized on Easter. The English word "Lent" is derived from the Germanic root for "long," because Lent occurs in spring, when the days lengthen.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Sundays are excluded from the counting of the 40 days because they still remain "little Easters" even during this solemn season. The number 40 is significant because, at the start of his ministry, Jesus spent 40 days fasting, praying, and resisting temptation, as we are called to do during Lent. (from "A Look at Lent" compiled by Mark Zimmerman for Creative Communications for the Parish).

Unbinding the Gospel

Last year our church made plans for our future. As a congregation we decided that one of the best ways to organize and provide ministry is through small groups. I'd like to share with you some information about a small group that will be meeting in March and April and to ask everyone in the congregation and all of the friends of Central to pray for this group over the next two months.

Under the leadership and guidance of our senior minister, Rev. Peggy Edge, I will be leading a small group of people as we pray, reflect, and study the book *Unbinding the Gospel: Real Life Evangelism* by Martha Grace Reese. This book is the Church Leaders' Study for a series that seeks to unbind old preconceptions about the nature of evangelism and explore the why and how of faith sharing.

If you have questions about this group, please feel free to ask me. However, I'm mainly asking that you keep Rev. Edge, me, Doug, Kathy C., Phyllis, Kathy H., Patrick, Eddie T., Jill, and Russell in your prayers as we meet over the next two months.

James McGuffee

Heartfelt Sympathy

We extend love and sympathy to the family of Gary Hayslip (Ginger Meeks' brother-in-law), who passed away January 15, 2011 and to the family of Sytha Spradling (Alton Taylor's mother), who passed away on February 23, 2011. We will lift these families in our prayerful thoughts.

Staff Retreat

The staff will be on a retreat on Tuesday, March 15th, and some volunteers will be answering the phones. We will not have access to e-mail and will respond to all messages the next day. Please keep the staff in your thoughts and prayers during the retreat.



New Members!

Please be sure to welcome our newest members, Ben Meinke and Bethany Dougherty!

Lent Devotionals

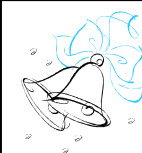
Be sure to pick up your copy of "The Sanctuary for Lent, 2011", available March 6th, on the table just outside of the community room. This booklet contains a devotional reading for each of the 40 days in Lent plus Sundays, beginning with Ash Wednesday and ending on Easter. Each reading contains a message, a short scripture reading, a suggested scripture reading, and a prayer.

DONATIONS NEEDED

Garage Sale benefitting the 2011 Youth Mission Trip is now gathering goods! Feel free to start bringing your goods now. Garage Sale will be on April 1st and 2nd, so start your spring cleaning now and donate to help fund our youth mission trip!

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Souper Bowl of Caring was a wonderful success! Thank you to everyone for donating canned goods and other food items which were delivered to Bethany Food Pantry! CCC, ASVPA, and LHC together collected 1,022 items to help feed local families! ASPVA students helped deliver and stock all of the goods at the food bank.



Weddings



Best wishes to Garrett and Liz Wilson, who were married here on February 19th.

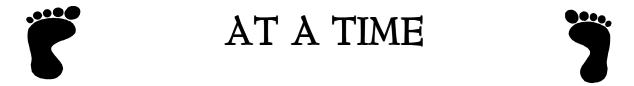
Exciting News!

Judye Moore is a grandmother again! Her daughter and son-in-law, Courtney and Tom Villalta, are proud parents of a 6 pound, 10 ounce baby boy. Ben was born February 16, 2011 at 8:03 a.m. Congratulations!!!

Family News:

Just a reminder that children's bulletins and activity packets are available at the entrances to the sanctuary each Sunday morning before the service. These materials are related to the scriptures and can help make the worship service more meaningful for your children.

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME



Join us after church on Sunday, March 6th for CROP Walk! Youth and adults will join together to raise funds and awareness to end hunger. All youth that are interested, please see Heidi Bounds for an information packet. This is also the CANDY meeting for March.

CYF SPRING RALLY

CYF Spring Rally will be held March 4th – 6th in Gonzales, TX. CCC will have five youth attending – Collin, Molly, Rachel, Teddy, and Terrell. We pray that each of them enjoys their time together and growing closer to Christ!

Member Information Updates

We are implementing a new database for our membership contacts. We're making every effort to clarify our membership and contact list. If you think the information we have on file may be incorrect, please contact the church office. It is important that we keep our information as current as possible. Thank you!

DWM/OUTREACH

Thanks to everyone who contributed over the past several months for items needed by Bethany Church. They distribute volumes of items for a small church membership. We will be asking for donations from our congregation again to help them. Please continue your support by bringing any canned good during the month of March. We are proud of our CCC membership for their loyal support of the DWM project. Thanks again.



- DWM