

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH
1110 GUADALUPE STREET
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Central Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
Austin, Texas
October 2009

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

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship Service
12:05 p.m. Special Prayer
12:10 p.m. Fellowship

Monday – Friday

New Beginnings (AA)
12 Noon



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

Dr. James W. Van Meter, Jr.
Ed Heenan
Kirsten Van Meter
Ed Heenan
Robert Marcott
Alton Taylor

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A Message from Our Pastor

On the 7th of October, 1959, my father preached my ordination service in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He used as his text the 12th chapter of Romans, focusing on the first verse and the presenting of ourselves as “living sacrifices”, which is our reasonable service. He then held up the life qualities that Paul lists as goals toward which persons involved in ministry should strive. As I approach the 50th anniversary of my ordination, I would like to revisit that passage as a personal reminder of the quality of life towards which I continue to strive and those qualities of life toward which we all seek as a community of faith.



**Romans 12
Living Sacrifices**

¹Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. ²Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

³For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. ⁴Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. ⁷If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; ⁸if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

Love

⁹Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹²Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. ¹⁸If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

My 50 years of ministry can be divided into three segments: 24 years as an Army chaplain, 20 years as the pastor of Royal Palm Christian Church in Coral Springs, Florida, and my 6 years at Central Christian Church. Each of those periods has been uniquely different. The one similarity that has run through each of them, however, has been the opportunity to serve the people. Whether in the military environment, the affluent community environment in Coral Springs, or the downtown environment of Austin, the common thread in each is the people who have touched my life and, through my ministry, allowed me to touch theirs. I cannot express in words my appreciation to the members of Central Christian Church for calling me to this pulpit and to this ministry. There is no place or any other community of faith with whom I would choose to be with at this time than you. You truly make my heart smile. May God bless each one of you.

. . . Pastor Jim

Secret Shopper Volunteers Needed!



Last year, CCC asked our vendors to rate us on everything from the application process, loading and unloading, to the food we served at the show. Happily, we had excellent feedback, and 95% of our vendors said they would return. For the 2009 Christmas Bazaar, we will continue to ask vendors to rate us, and we will begin to rate them. We need 3-5 volunteers who will serve as secret shoppers. You will not be comparing prices, so you do not need to be familiar with products or prices – our customers give us that. You will be asked to rate our vendors, including member vendors, in standard ways, such as evaluating the appearance of the booth, quality of merchandise, and interaction with customers. You must be able to attend the Bazaar for at least 2 visits of about an hour each. We would love to have a wide variety of ages and would like at least one gentleman as a secret shopper. As more and more vendors apply each year, these ratings will be invaluable to whoever decides which vendors we accept year after year. We would like our secret shoppers to evaluate at least two Christmas Bazaars if possible, and will meet for about a half hour with Melody Thomson to learn how to do assessments. Pastor Jim has kindly offered to select our secret shoppers, so please contact him if you would be able to help us with vendor evaluations!

The Church We Want To Be

In November, you will have a chance to formally pledge your time, talent, and money in support of the work of our church for 2010. In October, I ask that you reflect on two questions:

- What kind of church would you like Central Christian to be?
- What are you able to offer in terms of time, talent, and money to make that vision a reality?

Take your time, pray about it, and I'll get back to you with more details in November.

James McGuffee, chair
2010 Stewardship Campaign

Musings:

Rain, rain, life-giving, and beautiful. We need enough to fill our lakes and wells, but not enough to flood. It is a mixed blessing, however. Ask any parent, cleaning mud off the little ones who have joyfully jumped and splashed in mud puddles. Put the mop to the floor and the clothes in the washer, but you can't wash the grins from those little faces. Then, there are the games that are canceled and the picnics called off. Those are really not such a big deal.

The downside of rain is the additional stress, discomfort and misery for the homeless. Not just the people, but the stray cats and dogs, with their human counterparts, must forage for food and shelter.

The decision to say "Get off the porch and into the rain" is a tough one, and today, I kept my own counsel. I know Jesus would have done the same. I used to scoff at the "WWJD" bracelets some people wore, but now I realize that it is a great guide. I have been guided through tough decisions by asking myself, "What would Mother say?" She and Jesus had the same answer.

Bob Marcott

To our CCC Family,

Thank you all so much for everything that you have done to support me and our family and to honor Mike's memory in these past few weeks. I know I could not have made it without your support, prayers, and love. It is such a comfort to know that I will have your support in the difficult months to come. Thank you for the lovely flowers and to each of you who had a part in the beautiful reception in Mike's honor. Thank you so much.

Love,
Judy and family



BBA CYF Fall Rally

November 13-15, 2009
At Disciple Oaks Retreat Center
In Gonzalez, Texas

Early Registration Fee: \$100 (**BEFORE** October 28th)
Late Registration Fee: \$120 (**AFTER** October 28th)

See Ginger if you have any questions.

Congratulations to Pastor Jim!

October 4th will be a very special day for Pastor Jim. He will be celebrating his 50th Anniversary of being in the ministry. Please join us, along with his family, as we recognize and celebrate this momentous occasion. We will have guest speakers and some of Jim's favorite music and scriptures. The Fellowship Committee will also provide a lunch. Let's all support him and show him how proud we are of him and the service he has given to the ministry!



News from BRIC:

I had to remind myself that BRIC is an acronym for "Building Restoration and Improvement Committee", and we are doing just that. Work on the windows will begin this month to clean, restore and waterproof them. The intention of the crew is to have scaffolding out of the sanctuary for Sunday services.

Bob Marcott

CCC Together at Lunch

Our second "CCC Together at Lunch" will take place after church on Oct. 18, 2009, at Central Market on N. Lamar. The weather should be perfect for eating outside. The children can play on the playground while the adults fellowship and make those all-important social connections. All are invited. See you there!

CWF Meeting

October 14th
Time: 10:30 A.M.
Place: Church Parlor



Scripture: Genesis 21: 14 - 21
Memory Verse: Genesis 21: 19

Join us in our new study, "I called, God Answered, I am Changed". Hear Hagar's story and see if it relates to any of your experiences.

We celebrate the beautiful lives of Joye White and Marjorie Bailey. It will be a very special day for very special people.

M. Robertson
CWF

Office Hours

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

Pastor Jim

Monday – Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Friday: Off

Ed Heenan

Monday: Off, *appointment only*

Tuesday: 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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.

October Luncheon will be on October 4th following Pastor Jim's 50th Anniversary in the Ministry Celebration Service.

Chalice Women's Group

Disciples Women's Quadrennial Assembly 2010 – June 23rd through the 27th, 2010 in Greensboro, NC. The theme is "Awake! Awake!" and the service project is Human Trafficking. Visit quadrennial.org for more information.

CCC Outside Work Day

The CCC Outside Work Day has changed to October 24, 2009. We will be cutting bushes, spreading dirt, planting trees and plants, and cleaning out flower beds, so there will be jobs for people of all ages and abilities. We will also need chainsaws, hedge trimmers, etc. Please contact Brad if you will be able to help and/or bring any equipment.



Prayer Requests

The Benthall family, Bonnie and Howard Bounds, Lamar and Ethel Gordon, family of Michael Moore, Dave and Cheryl Schmidt, Carl and Geraldine Schold, and Jeff Udden