

CHRISTCHURCH PRESBYTERIAN GOOD NEWS

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May 2010

Playground Receives a Springtime Rejuvenation

ChristChurch members and CDC parents pitch in to reverse the effects of the winter freeze

The Child Development Center's playgrounds are designed to help children learn about nature and the world around them. The nature-based learning plan will help children understand that plants attract butterflies, peaches grow from trees, ketchup is made from tomatoes, strawberries are fun to grow, and so many other concepts about nature.

Last spring, beautiful kid-friendly gardens were created for both playgrounds, but many of the plants did not survive the colder than normal winter. We planted three fruit trees, but only one peach tree survived. The soft Zoysia grass planted on both playgrounds was also killed by the winter freeze.

Joey Canahuati, a CDC parent and landscape architect for Moss Landscaping, volunteered to donate some plants and help get the weeds out and new plants in the ground on Saturday, April 24th. I told him that I would send out an S.O.S to church members and CDC parents to see if others would help him. We had a wonderful turn-out of support from the church and CDC.



CDC Student Allie Burnside helping out.

Joey told us what to trim, what to pull, what to keep, and how to plant in order to rebuild a great learning environment for the children. We asked parents to donate funds to help pay for the new plants and mulch and they stepped up to the chal-

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**Newsletter Deadline
May 21**

Vision Statement:
*Trusting in God's guidance,
ChristChurch Presbyterian
invites all to join us as we
Gather joyfully,
Grow spiritually and
Give passionately
in service to Christ,
each other and our
community.*

continued on the back page

GOD IN THE DISTRACTIONS

What does your distraction Diary tell you?



Lacy Sellars
Co-Pastor

Well, this makes the sixth time that I've sat at the keyboard to write my May newsletter article. What shall I say to you this month? When an idea came to me, the phone rang or someone wanted to talk. Where was I, again? Then another idea came to mind that I thought was worth mentioning—but now it's long gone! What do you want to talk about this month?

Any writer recognizes this dilemma. Some call it a writer's block. Others say it's just distractions. But the deadline is here and I must submit something. But you just don't submit a sermon. Sermons are an integral part of worship. The Word written and preached is the Word of God. What's a preacher to do?

Brian Mahan tells me that I need to keep a "distraction diary." He recommends that I keep a small notebook always near me. Whenever I notice that my mind is off the subject, I should write down whatever it is I'm thinking that keeps me from what I want to be thinking. Understand? If I'm day-dreaming or musing about something, I should write it down. If I'm worried about something—write it down. Am I thinking about an upcoming meeting that distracts my attention? Just write it down. I'm already on my second page of notes!

What's Brian trying to tell me? Well, once I've written a distraction, he asks me to take a minute to trace that distracting train-of-thought as far back as I can. If I'm faithful to this task he

promises that insights will occur as to what actually preoccupies my life. If I trace back two pages of distractions, I'm likely to find patterns or layers of thoughts which, if I peel them back, will reveal a bigger issue that is being lived out in my mind.

He's really very clever. Often I think I'm upset about one thing, when that's only transference from another issue. Yet, when I address the bigger issue, along with the energy and emotion it consumes, I find that three other issues on my list dissolve away.

When I trace several distractions to a single pattern, I discover what's really going on in my life.

*If I'm faithful to this task,
he promises that insights will occur as to what
actually preoccupies my life...*

You can even call this exercise a variation on the Prayer of Examen. The Prayer of Examen is a daily spiritual exercise developed by St. Ignatius of Loyola in the 1500s. In a context of prayer, the believer is asked to review their day, recall with thanks God's presence in each activity, and to review even the small and seemingly mundane activities of their day. When you ask for guidance from the Holy Spirit, God will direct your mind and heart to clarify your motives, make decisions that are true to your heart, and allow you serve God in the way that God is calling you.

When Brian Mahan asks us to keep a "distraction diary," he's challenging us to find God's presence in even the mundane and distractive events of our lives. Is God knocking on our door in even the disruptive moments of our day? Trusting in Jesus, how can I reconcile my sins and resolve potential conflicts that I face? In both the good moments and the bad, God is with us, working for reconciliation—with God and with our neighbor.

What does your distraction diary tell you? What events in your day take you off course and grab for your attention? Maybe those distractions are actually God knocking on your door trying to give you needed advice or a unique blessing. I encourage you to follow the

events of your day, every day. Pray in thanksgiving for both the easy and the tough situations you face. Trace your faith back to the bigger picture, and find Jesus standing with you to choose the correct path and response.

If you would like an explanation of the Prayer of Examen, let me know, and I'll send it to you. It's a simple but effective exercise that helps you focus on God's gift to you. God is seeking entrance into your life. Let God in!

The Holy Duo

Whaddya Think? Should We Downsize the Trinity?

With Mother's Day and graduations coming in May, and Father's Day on the horizon, we're all running to the store to buy a card for that "special someone." If you bought a Mother's Day card, it's not enough to send a card to your mother; you'll need to send one to your daughters who are mothers, or daughters-in-law, and every female relative who's a mother. Same goes for Father's Day.

And then there's Grandparents' Day" and even "Children's Day. You also have to remember Valentine's Day, and even the workplace has its own days now with "Administrative Assistants Day" and "Boss's Day" kind of canceling each other out. There's even a "Pastor Appreciation Sunday" in October. Ever get a card for that one?

Some have called these days "Hallmark Holidays"! But does that make these ever-increasing card-buying events "holidays" by definition? The very word "holiday" comes to us from "holy day," implying that some kind of religious observance is involved. But other than the "biggies" like Christmas and Easter—the ones that bring out the crowds — most religious holidays don't get a slot in the rack at the card store.

Now, you'd think Hallmark would be all over this holiday. After all, what's not to like? You got your fire, your wind, your speaking in other languages, your birth of one of the great religious movements in history, your built-in holiday spirit — all the stuff that makes for a memorable event. It even lends itself to great slogans like "Hope you get fired up this Pentecost" or "More (Holy Spirit) power to ya!"

But the shelves of the greeting card store are empty of Pentecost cards, and my hunch is that won't have to set up extra chairs in the narthex like Christmas and Easter.

In fact, everyone downsizing, The Onion has reported similar plans in the Godhead. The article quoted God as saying, "Given the poor economic climate and the unclear nature of the Holy Ghost's duties, I felt this was a sensible and necessary decision" to phase out the third Person of the Trinity.

"The Holy Ghost will be given fewer and fewer responsibilities until his formal resignation from Trinity duty following Easter services on April 20." The Onion said that from that date the Father and Son would be referred to as the "Holy Duo."

Should we be making a bigger deal out of this day when the Christian movement was stoked by Spirit fire? Should we be trying to promote another holiday for our people to come back and fill the pews?

Maybe. But then again, maybe the whole idea of Pentecost is less about celebrating the past event and, instead, embracing the present reality. The work of the Holy Spirit was not a one-shot deal.

The coming of the Holy Spirit should remind us that claiming to be followers of the historical Jesus is one thing, but allowing the Spirit of the risen Christ to fully dwell in us is another. The former can be confined to simply knowing a lot about Jesus — marking the Christian holidays — while the latter actually involves representing Jesus and acting



Mark Cooper
Co-Pastor

every day on his behalf according to his model of life and faith.

Pentecost was the catalyst for the explosive growth of the church as the Spirit moved among them. But that same Spirit would move many of those same people into dangerous and deadly situations where they were forced to rely fully on the Spirit indwelling Christ — the only "Advocate" they would have in front of mobs and murderous monarchs. Jesus promised the Spirit, but he didn't promise that life would be easy.

As one seminary professor told an incoming first-year class, "Folks, when God calls you, he's not doing you a favor."

But with the challenge of the indwelling Holy Spirit also comes a promise—the "peace" of Jesus — not peace in terms of the absence of conflict or the false sense of security that the "world gives," but peace born out of the life and love of Jesus himself.

The coming of the Spirit is present, active reality — one that motivates us to work, to act, to represent Jesus to the world. You just can't confine that to one day a year. Sure, we need to gather on Pentecost Sunday and be reminded. But, then again, every day should be a new Pentecost: a fresh wind of the Spirit and a firing up of our desire to serve God with our whole hearts.



Children of the Ecole Evangelique de Blanket, Blanket, Haiti

Haiti Happenings

DIRECT RELIEF

As of April 15th, ChristChurch and St. John's have sent \$1,400 to the Evangelical Blanket School (whose children are pictured above) and \$2,300 to the JeLA Orphanage and School at Limbé from "Haiti Relief" funds generously provided by members of both congregations.

We have also sent, in cooperation with Restoration Global, two medical clinic containers with medical supplies and clothing. The key to the second container was handed over to the Director of the Diquini Adventist Hospital in Port Au Prince two weeks ago. Unfortunately, shipment of this container has not yet been fully paid for even though the container has been shipped and delivered. (Christian Alliance for Humanitarian Aid, our shipping agent, needs to be repaid.)

We are hoping to fill a third container but shipment cost for the second must be repaid first. So, the need is ongoing and the schools and orphanages continue to need support because their numbers have swelled due to refugees from the

earthquake. Checks made out to ChristChurch and marked for Haiti Relief will go to these needs.

WATER SYSTEMS

Regarding water systems, a new well has been drilled at JeLA school/orphanage in Limbé, Haiti. This well was paid for by the Bellaire SW Houston Rotary Club. Arrangements for the well were made by St. John's/ChristChurch -- Living Waters for the World team members.

A check for \$5,000 from the Living Waters for the World account has just been sent to JeLA to buy construction supplies for the cinder block building to house the water treatment system that is necessary to make the well water drinkable. This money was provided by the Houston Area Rotary Club.

The building construction labor will be provided by volunteer youth from the JeLA organization. (JeLA stands for Jenès Lenbeyèn an Aksyon which in Creole and means "Youth in Action." The JeLA school/orphanage is operated by Haitian local youth.)

The SJ/CC LWW team is now in the process of raising money for parts for the water treatment system and the solar panels to run the system. We expect the installation trip for the JeLA system to take place sometime in early summer. The LWW team is meeting to plan the trip.

We are told the school at Blanket also badly needs a water treatment system. This is next on our list. Fortunately, expenses will be lower at Blanket because the school already has a working well and a building suitable for housing the water treatment system.

To support our ChristChurch/St. John's water system work checks can be made out to ChristChurch and marked for Living Waters for the World.

Welcome Home Gatwey and Nyanath!

We joyfully greeted Gatwey Yaw when he appeared at our worship service on Sunday, April 11. After months and years of travail in his efforts to unite his family in our country, he arrived here the previous Tuesday with his daughter, Nyanath. Through the years, Rev. Cooper has coordinated the support of our congregation as we have enabled this to happen. It was a more arduous journey than any of us could have imagined.

At this writing, Michael (as many of us know him) is seeking employment and arranging for Nyanath to attend school to begin the process of becoming fluent in English. She is six and will be in a kindergarten class with ESL instruction. It is exciting to contemplate the choices in life that she has now that she is a citizen of the US.



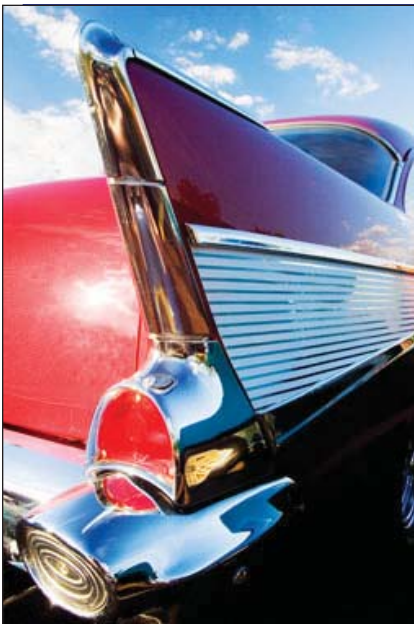
A Special Note of Thanks from Gatwey

To the People of ChristChurch,

I want to say a special thanks to you all for helping to bring my daughter Nyanath to the United States of America. I know that without you, Nyanath can not come to this country – it is not me alone who brought Nyanath – it is the people of ChristChurch who brought her, because Jesus heard your prayers and used your financial support to prepare the way.

In the same way you brought Nyanath to the US, you also brought me back home. As God said, if you help those in need, you help me. ChristChurch Presbyterian is one of the congregations in US who welcome refugees to America, and it is the top one in Texas who welcome the Sudanese, particularly the Lost Boys and Girls of the Sudan.

Again, I am very glad to bring my daughter Nyanath home and to be home, too. God bless you all!



Too Many Wheels?

Refugee Ministry Looking for Reliable Transportation

Do you have an extra car that you would be willing to part with? We do have an urgent need in our work with Refugee Ministry for safe and reliable transportation.

If you are aware of a friend, neighbor, or family member that might be willing to donate it to the church, or to sell it for a modest price, we would love to talk with you.

Please contact Mark or Betty about the possibilities, mcooper@ccpres.org, or bettyeyh@yahoo.com.

Thank you very much.

Music Notes

To everything there is a time and a purpose unto heaven

During May, several of our musical ensembles will complete their program year.

The Young Singers, ten girls who have been very faithful to their part in the music ministry will have completed a year in which they sang anthems and performed liturgical dance in addition to their grand finale, which is scheduled for Mother's Day: a musical production of the play "Table for Five... Thousand!", a retelling of the Biblical story of the loaves and fishes.

It centers around a young girl, Ruth, played by Audrey Hightower, who gives everything she had to Jesus, who through a miracle feeds the crowd of five thousand who gathered to hear him preach. Also participating are Anna Blome, Stella Carleton, Lydia Eaves, Emma Hightower, Bridget Kennedy, Emily McMahan, Camille Spence, Hannah Stephens, and Rebekah Stephens. Many thanks to the church members who provided lunch for the girls over the course of this year. I hesitate to make a list for fear

of leaving someone's name out, but your work in supporting this ministry of our church is much appreciated!

The Handbell Ensemble will conclude its year on May 16. The ringers attended Feb Fest for Bells in February at the Stafford Centre and played a pre-worship recital before Christmas in addition to ringing monthly in church.

Room at 9:45 each Sunday to learn the day's anthem. We

hope to have a full choir loft and give anyone who wants a view from the front of the church during worship.

The Music Ministry of ChristChurch Presbyterian is dependent upon the faithfulness of the volunteers who



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of the volunteers who present and lead our
music in worship.*

The Chancel Choir usually takes a hiatus in July, but this year is not. We are going to sponsor a "Summer Choir" in July with a pre-worship rehearsal to learn easy anthems, and everyone in the congregation is invited to step in when your schedule allows and join us. No weekly commitment is required – just meet us in the Music

present and lead our music in worship. Please let me encourage each of you to personally thank a member of one of our ensembles for their gift of leadership the next time you see them.



National Day of Prayer

May 6, 2010

12 noon

At the Gazebo Behind

Bellaire City Hall

7008 South Rice

Come and Pray with Us

Education Notes

The Education Committee has been extremely busy during the month of April, and God has blessed us in many wonderful ways. Many of you have met our Interim Youth Director, David Rudd, and know of his faith and dedication to our youth program.

YOUTH MINISTRY

David is preparing the CCP Praise Band for their performance on May 16 as part of our High School Graduation Recognition Sunday. He's also teaching the Youth Sunday School class using a special series on the life of Jesus, an introduction to the Bible, God's Mighty Acts, and Christian Living. We thank Susan Hightower for being an additional teacher in the Youth Sunday School.

SEARCH PROCESS

We are proud to report that the session named the following individuals to

serve on the Search Committee to hire a "Director of Youth and Christian Formation." Committee members include: Mylene Bole, Brad Eaves, Josh Persely, Jamie Townsend, Kiah Townsend, the co-pastors, and a rotating member of the Education Committee.

This new person is called to guide children, youth, and adults to new life in Christ, integrate them into the body of Christ, and send them into the world in mission. This person will initiate and coordinate Christian education, fellowship, and outreach ministries. This is an exciting development in our church.

MISSION TRIP

At a recent youth and parent meeting, it was decided to cancel the mission trip to Nicaragua in June, but to pull out all the stops for the YouthWorks Camp to Birmingham, Alabama July 25-30. We will need two cans plus a trailer to

supply all the volunteers including sponsors David Rudd and Kiah and Kayleen Townsend. Many thanks go to Rebecca McMahan and Kayleen Townsend for their coordination of this mission trip!

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Plans are underway to staff summer Sunday School in both the adult and children's departments. Fred Cook will be starting a new adult class this summer, so make plans to come at 9:00 am in the West Wing starting in June.

A great big thank you is given to Pam Stoops for her tremendous leadership during this time of transition along with her committee members Priscilla Kennedy, Janice Schessler, Susan Hightower, David Rudd, the co-pastors.



Contact Kayleen Townsend
to sign up for the
YouthWorks Camp
Birmingham, Alabama -
July 25-30, 2010

The Faces of Our Nation Immigration Sunday School Class Continues

Our adult Sunday School series on immigration will conclude with our final two classes on May 9 and May 16. Don't miss these two opportunities to hear about real stories from our congregation and opportunities for reform.

The Real Story, 5/9/2010

Experiences of immigration and the

consequences of not being documented will be shared by neighbors from the community and our congregation.

Proposals for Reform, 5/16/10

Experiences of immigration and the consequences of not being documented will be shared by neigh-



bors from the community and our congregation.

Make Your Mo-Ranch Reservation Now!

ChristChurch to Gather on August 6-8 in the Texas Hill Country



The river slide at Mo Ranch.

What's your favorite part of the ChristChurch annual retreat to Mo Ranch? Is it the exhilarating cascade down the Mo Slide into the Guadalupe River? Would it be relaxing in cool rapids on a hot afternoon? Could it be the inspiring vespers service sponsored by the youth on Saturday evening or the Sunday morning worship overlooking the entire ranch from the Chapel on the Hill? Or is it simply sitting on the porch of Wynn and Flato Halls with your church family, giving thanks for God's beautiful creation?

Mark your calendar for the 2010 ChristChurch Mo Ranch Retreat the weekend of August 6-8. Susan and Tim Hightower will soon be taking your reservations for rooms and meals. You may contact them at nshightower@comcast.net for more information. And remember that the best part of our annual retreat is making memories that keep you coming back year after year.

Need to Know What's Happening?

Visit the newly redesigned ChristChurch Presbyterian Web site at www.ccpres.org and the Child Development Center Web site at www.ccpcdc.com.

Visioning Transformation Team

The Visioning Transformation Team (VTT) has been hard at work developing a new governance framework to better align ChristChurch Presbyterian with its vision.

Specifically, the VTT has been mapping current church activities to either a Mission team (Giving, Gathering or Growing) or a Supporting team (Finance, Personnel and Facilities). This exercise helped the group to identify efficiency opportunities and better ways for team members to work together.

The next step for the VTT is to test the proposed new design under specific scenarios to identify and document the infrastructure we will need to support our new framework. This testing period

will help ensure that the right processes and communication channels are in place before we implement any changes. The group is discussing issues such as common meeting schedules; how to best communicate within the new structure; roles and responsibilities for teams; and how teams can collaborate on projects. Another priority for the VTT is to make it easier and more efficient for our congregation to participate in the life of the church.

Once tested and ready, the VTT will then present its proposed new framework to Session for their feedback, review and approval. VTT is hoping to have something ready to present this summer.



VTT has turned the corner and is starting to see the ideas take shape into a real working model. Although it is a slow process, it has been exciting and hopeful knowing that this will help the church move toward achieving its vision.

New Sanctuary Entrance Dedication on May 30



New sanctuary doors

The Session and Building and Grounds Committee are proud to announce the official dedication of the new Sanctuary Entrance. The plaque affixed to the wall inside the new doors will read:

THE SANCTUARY ENTRANCE

Given to the Glory of God
In loving memory of
Ralph Rhodes "Pop" Reamer
and
Luna M. Reamer
2010

This gift was made possible through the generosity of Ruby Reamer (Mrs. John) Gideon in memory of her parents who worshiped at Bellaire Presbyterian Church and whose Christian joy exemplified the welcome of Christ in our church.

Ruby is grateful to ChristChurch for this memorial to her parents and is scheduled to be present at the dedication, health permitting, along with her brother and sister-in-law, Gene and Marilyn Reamer.

To God be the glory for this new entrance into our house of worship!

Pastoral Leadership

Reverends Lacy Sellars and Mark Cooper will be leaving ChristChurch Presbyterian on July 4, 2010 as the church moves to a single pastor model.

The congregation wholeheartedly thanks Rev. Cooper and Rev. Sellars

for their dedication to both Braeburn Presbyterian Church and Bellaire Presbyterian Church, and together to ChristChurch Presbyterian. We also wish them the very best as they move on to the next chapter in their lives.

Session met on Monday, May 3, 2010 to learn more about our pastoral leadership options, and updates will be communicated to the congregation as progress is made.

2010 Session

ChristChurch Presbyterian

Class of 2010

Jay Bole, Judy Bucher, Liz Gentry,
Karen Persely, Pam Stoops, Remi
Van Campenolle

Class of 2011

John Becker, Amy Gremillion,
Priscilla Kennedy, Woody Speer,
Roger Tucker, Craig Wooten

Class of 2012

Homer Borgstedte, Sue Cox,
Brad Eaves, Aileen Fleming,
Rebecca McMahan

Clerk of Session

Sidney Holderness

Co-Moderators

Mark Cooper & Lacy Sellars

Visioning Transformation Team

Fred Cook, Aileen Fleming,
Keith Cox, Anita Bettis, Betty Har-
rison, Robert Reed, Laura Shely,
Priscilla Kennedy, Pam Stoops,
Dick Akkerman, Amy Gremillion,
Craig Wooten, Jay Bole, Dana
Barkley, Gretchen Sparks

Facilitators

Diane Prevary & Jim Bushong

Building & Renovation Task Force

John Becker
Sue Cox
Ed Janes
Amy Gremillion
Bill Harrison
Dick Akkerman
Robert Reed, Chair
Woody Speer
Mark Cooper & Lacy Sellars

Adult Ministry

Men's Breakfast

Men's breakfast usually meets on the first of the month and is a time for the men of the church to get together and hang out. The next Men's Breakfast is May 1 at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank Goodness It's Friday

TGIF is being hosted on Friday, May 14, from 7:00 – 10:00 pm at the home of Craig and Gayle Wooten at 5516 Grand Lake! Co-hosts are Borgstedte and the Lynchs. Free child care is provided at our Child Development Center starting at 6:45 pm. Grab a friend and join us for the fun!

Friday Night Bridge

The church bridge group will meet on Friday, May 21 in the home of Lowell Heinz at 7:00pm. Contact Sue Cox for info at 713-774-6915.

Parents' Night Out

Do you need a night out? Take advantage of our Parents' Night Out. Drop the kids off at the Fellowship Hall where they'll enjoy dinner, movies, and games, while the parents get to spend the evening together. The next Parents' Night Out is May 28 from 6-9:30 pm. Please advise by the 26th if your child is attending. Contact Sue Cox or Barbara Buckley for more information.

Tuesday Evening Bible Study

Our Tuesday Evening Bible Study meets from 5:30pm-7pm in West Wing, #5, and we're studying "Joshua: A Journey of Faith." This is a ten week study led by Pam Stoops, elder and 2009 Presbyterian Women's Bible and Prayer Coordinator for New Covenant Presbytery. For more information contact Janette Hearne: janettehearne@gmail.com or phone: 713-772-1258 or Janice Schessler: janice-schessler@att.net or phone: 713-666-3209.

Presbyterian Women's Circle

All women of the church are invited to our last circle meeting of the year this-coming Tuesday, May 11, at 9:45 am. We will hold our meeting in the Gathering Space so that Revs. Cooper and Sellars may lead us in a service of Reaffirmation of our Baptismal Covenant. The meeting will be followed by a luncheon. We thank Pam Stoops for leading our study of Joshua this year.

Day Literature Circle

The Day Literature Circle meets on the third Tuesday of the month. Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 16th at 10:30 am.

Book Club

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, May 4th at 7:00pm at Betsy Barkley's house 5242 Imogene. We will discuss the *Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* by Stieg Larsson. If you have any question please don't hesitate to contact Lucy Seward at lucyseward@msn.com or Mylene Bole mbole@swbell.net

Youth Ministry

GRADUATING TO BIGGER AND BETTER ACHIEVEMENTS

May 16 is a special day at ChristChurch Presbyterian when the Praise Band will make its debut under the leadership of David Rudd and we will honor our graduating High School Seniors. We have three graduating seniors this year, and each one has special plans for their future.

PAUL BETTIS will be graduating from Bellaire High School with tassels representing his membership in the National Honor Society. Spring is always a busy time for Paul as he is a pitcher for the varsity baseball team. Bellaire High School has already won their district tournament and is now their way to the state and national tournaments. Paul will attend the University of Texas at San Antonio his Freshman year and is looking at a degree in finance or accounting. Congratulations to his parents, Jim and Anita Bettis and his sister Lizzy!



ALEX LASU is graduating on May 30 from Bellaire High School. His favorite subject is history. Alex has a special gift with computers and video equipment. For the past two years he has been the head person running the PowerPoint and sound system during worship. He's only missed one Sunday during the past year, and that was to go to Youth Conclaves. Don't worry, Alex will still be helping out with the PowerPoint as he attends Houston Community College, seeking a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Congratulations go to Alex's parents, Alexander Taban and Margaret Kungu, and his brothers, Robert and Daniel!

ORIEJI OJI is graduating from Taylor High School in the Alief School System where she served as Secretary of the Student Council for 2009 – 2010. She helped publish the newspapers and other school publications. In her free time she was a drummer in the Taylor Marching Band. This fall, Orijei will be attending Texas State University in San Marcos seeking a degree in Biochemistry in preparation for Medical School upon graduation. If anyone can accomplish all this, Orijei can! Congratulations are also extended to her parents Godwin and Francies Oji.



JOSH PERSELY will also be graduating from Bellaire High School where he plays the French Horn in the marching and concert bands. He will also play the guitar in the CCP Youth Praise Band in their debut concert on May 16. If you're driving around Bellaire, he's always on his bicycle heading to the soccer field or wherever the action is. This fall Josh is heading to Paraguay with AFS where he will spend a year teaching English to Spanish students. Then he will attend the University of Houston in Victoria looking toward a degree in Communications. Josh's "Mom and Dad" are Karen and George Persely, and we've enjoyed getting to know his exchange student Ricky this year!

Be sure to mark May 16 on your calendar to hear the Praise Band and a message from our graduates during worship at 10:15 am. Hold them in your prayers that God will direct their future growth and ministry.



CHRISTCHURCH
Presbyterian

Good News is a monthly publication of ChristChurch Presbyterian, and is sent to members, visitors, and friends.

POSTMASTER: Send changes of address to:

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Bellaire, TX 77401

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USPS #105.

All articles for submission should be sent to churchadmin@ccpres.org. Issue deadlines are the 20th of the month. All material is subject to editing for space and content; every effort will be made to include all articles.

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VIC-SW

Volunteer Interfaith
Caregivers SW
713-772-8181

Website

www.ccpres.org

Presbytery of New Covenant

713-526-2585
www.pbyofnewcovenant.org

Playground Clean-up

-continued from the front page

allenge. We were able to pay for the entire cost of plants and mulch with donations received from parents and church members last week.

Volunteers from the church included Amy Gremillion, the chairman of the CDC Committee, and her daughter, Rachel, Sue Cox and Karen Persely, members of the CDC Committee, Bob Reed, a member of the Playground Taskforce, and his wife Anne. Dick Akkerman, a member of the Playground Taskforce, transplanted an orange tree he had donated last year to the school to a wonderful location on the playground. It was too big for the pot it

had been growing nicely in near the CDC entrance. Anita Bettis arrived with her daughter, Lizzie, and three of her friends.

These girls were great at moving mulch with a wheel-barrow, digging holes for new plants, and doing lots of work that took lots of stamina and strength!

Several CDC parents and staff volunteered to help, too. It was a beautiful day and everybody seemed to enjoy themselves. Thanks to all for helping prepare the nature-based learning environments for children!

At ChristChurch Presbyterian, we

believe that young children should experience an enriched environment of plants and other natural elements as they play. My thanks go out to ChristChurch Presbyterian members for providing state-of-the-art playgrounds which now include outdoor, nature-based learning experiences for children!

Linda Weise

CHRISTCHURCH *Presbyterian*
5001 Bellaire Boulevard
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Join us on Sunday!
Christian Education 9:00 am
Worship 10:15 am

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