

CHRISTCHURCH PRESBYTERIAN GOOD NEWS

Volume 11, Issue 06

June/July 2011

What We Believe

Scripture guides us

As we welcome our conclave class of 2011 into the church, it's a wonderful time to take a look at what we are teaching them through the Presbyterian Church and where we find scriptural validation for those beliefs.

The following questions and answers come from the General Assembly Mission Council Catechism web page at <http://gamc.pcusa.org/catechism/all/>.



Question: *What is God's purpose for your life?*

Answer: God wills that I should live by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, for the love of God, and in the communion of the Holy Spirit.

Scripture: 2 Cor. 13:13 "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you."

Q: *How do you live by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ?*

A: I am not my own. I have been bought with a price. The Lord Jesus Christ loved me and gave himself for me. I entrust myself completely to his care, giving thanks each day for his wonderful goodness.

S: 1 Cor. 6:19-20 "You are not your own for you were bought with a price"

Gal. 2:20 "And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

Ps. 136:1 "O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever."

Q: *How do you live for the love of God?*

A: I love because God first loved me. God loves me in Christ with a love that never ends. Amazed by grace, I no longer live for myself. I live for the Lord who died and rose again, triumphant over death, for my sake. Therefore, I take those around me to heart, especially those in particular need, knowing that Christ died for them no less than for me.

S: 1 John 4:19 "We love because he first loved us."

2 Cor. 5:15 "And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them."

Rom. 12:15-16 "Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are."

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| CONTENTS | Page |
|---|------|
| What We Believe | 1 |
| Mo Ranch | 2 |
| John's Musings | 3 |
| Music Notes | 4 |
| June/July Birthdays | 4 |
| Growing | 5 |
| Giving Opportunities | 6 |
| To the Church Triumphant Paul Anderson | 7 |
| Clel Rupert | 7 |
| Christian Education | 8 |
| Adult Ministries | 9 |
| Garage Sale | 9 |
| Chili Cook-off | 10 |

**Newsletter Deadline
July 15**

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 page 2

Continued from page 1

Q: How do you live in the communion of the Holy Spirit?

A: By the Holy Spirit, I am made one with the Lord Jesus Christ. I am baptized into Christ's body, the church, along with all others who confess him by faith. As a member of this community, I trust in God's Word, share in the Lord's Supper, and turn to God constantly in prayer. As I grow in grace and knowledge, I am led to do the good works that God intends for my life.

S: 1 Cor. 12:27 "Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it."

Gal. 3:27 "As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ."

1 Cor. 6:17, 19 "But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God?"

2 Pet. 3:18 "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Eph. 2:10 "For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared before hand to be our way of life."

There are 100 questions and answers on the Catechism page at <http://gamc.pcusa.org/catechism/all/>. Visit it to learn more about the Presbyterian Church and what we believe.

Make Your Mo-Ranch Reservation Now!

ChristChurch to Gather on August 4-7 in the Texas Hill Country

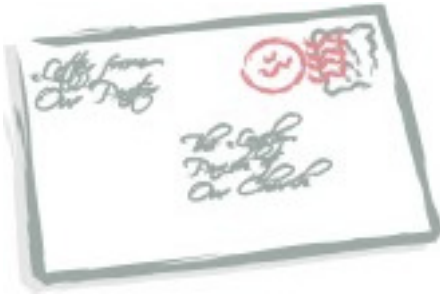


The river slide at Mo-Ranch

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 2011 ChristChurch Mo Ranch Retreat the weekend of August 4-7. 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.



John's Musings



Rev. John Hirling

If you are completely and utterly satisfied that your relationship with God just can't get any better, if you spend every waking hour convinced that you are held close within the warm embrace of God's love, if your spiritual maintenance would not benefit from a 15,000 mile check-up, then there is no reason to read the rest of my musings this month. However, if you sense that there might be something missing in your life and that maybe God has an answer, or that there might be more spring in your step as you walk with the Lord, perhaps Presbyterian Cursillo might provide exactly the opportunity you seek.

Cursillo (pronounced kur-SEE-yo) translates into English as 'short course.' The original full title was Cursillos de Cristiandad: Short Courses in Christianity. The movement grew out troubling times in post-World War Two Spain. The first Presbyterian Cursillo took place in late 1985 near Charleston, South Carolina and has since spread to Oklahoma, Texas, Indiana, Illinois, Colorado, Alabama, Georgia and Arkansas.

In Texas, there are active Cursillo communities in Houston, Austin, North Texas (principally Greater Dallas and Longview), and the Palo Duro Presbytery of West Texas. Over 2000 men and women from forty-nine churches in our Presbytery have attended one or more of the 64 Cursillos sponsored by Houston Presbyterian Cursillo.

Well, enough background and statistics! What in the world is Presbyterian Cursillo? How does it operate? Who goes? Presbyterian Cursillo is an opportunity for folks who seek continued growth in their faith journey and commitment. For many, it is a life changing experience. The 'three day weekend' begins Thursday afternoon and continues to Sunday evening. Participants worship, study, and share with one another in small groups. The weekend centers around a series of talks, some given by lay people, others by clergy. Cursillo, itself, is mostly lay driven, though there may be clergy among the participants and the staff includes three clergy who are spiritual advisors. All the staff have previously attended a weekend and received training for their roles.

Participants will likely discover new and exciting approaches to their relationship with Christ.

Linda Kotch who attended HPC 20 had this to say about her experience of Cursillo: "I was skeptical—I had heard tremendous things about Houston Presbyterian Cursillo and didn't believe it could possibly be as friends described. I went—not knowing what to expect and yet open to whatever was going to happen. After all, three days at Camp Allen in the woods, in itself, was a welcome idea to me.

And I received—from a total immersion in community, music, love, praise, prayer, and grace that took me farther than I had ever expected to grow. A meaningful step on your faith journey awaits you, as well, at Cursillo."

Presbyterian Cursillo is not designed to convert unbelief to belief. Rather, it is primarily for those who desire to grow in faith or sense a need for renewal. It is fervently hoped that participants will carry what they discover into every

area of their lives. Cursillo is a fueling station on a life long journey.

The next local Cursillo is October 27-30 at Camp Cho-Yeh. Costs for the weekend are for lodging, meals and use of the retreat centers. So committed are the staff to Cursillo that they pay their own way, just to serve.

Does this sound like something for you? I enjoyed my weekend and would be glad to share my experience. Sondra and Roger attended the Great Banquet, another Presbyterian renewal weekend based on the Cursillo model. They would be happy to share their experiences as well.

To learn more, see <http://www.houstoncursillo.org/>

Grace & peace,

John

Do not be conformed to this present world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may test and approve what is the will of God – what is good and well-pleasing and perfect.

Romans 12:2

Music Notes

To Everything There Is a Season



Sondra Tucker

Ahhh, summer. I hope that our June Choir will be a hit, and that by the time you read this that you'll have seen some new faces up front each week. Maybe you'll be one of those new faces yourself!

We're heading into the time of year that things slow down and we are able to take a well-needed rest. I, too, am excited to be able to take some extended time off in July. I've been working in liturgical music since 1989, and the only lengthy time off I have had was a few weeks when I was job searching when we first moved to Houston.

That works out to twenty-three years of helping to lead weekly worship. It makes me feel old to contemplate it!

Joe Johnson writes, 'For a creative person there comes a time when the noise of everyday life starts to crowd out time devoted to creative endeavors. It tends to be a slow buildup of both worthy and meaningless other tasks and duties . . . At some point, it becomes apparent that you've reached the tipping point where you cannot effectively do the creative work that you want/need to do. At this point, a sabbatical is needed – distancing yourself

from the excess stuff, the noise of life, so that you can do a creative reset and move forward.

"For most people, taking off work for an extended period of time is not practical for reasons of personal finances and job security. A partial sabbatical is the next best thing. In a partial sabbatical, you do your best to move all appointments out for a few weeks, cancel meetings and reduce commitments to a minimum."

I am looking forward to my creative "reset" this July, and wish you all a very blessed summer.

June Birthdays

June

| | |
|------------------|----|
| Aileen Fleming | 6 |
| Emily McMahan | 9 |
| Amy Speer | 12 |
| Craig Wooten | 13 |
| Kevin Watson | 14 |
| Valerie Okoro | 16 |
| Elizabeth Bettis | 17 |
| Louise Kelly | 17 |
| Hakem Obou | 18 |
| Melanie Becker | 20 |
| John Becker | 20 |
| Elizabeth Cupitt | 21 |
| Audrey Hightower | 22 |
| David Phillips | 22 |
| Tommy Fleming | 23 |
| Sondra Tucker | 23 |

Becki Van Compernelle 24

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Betty Kent | 25 |
| Sandy Levesque | 25 |
| Barbara Buckley | 26 |
| Virginia Husband | 26 |
| Priscilla Kennedy | 26 |
| Allison Shely | 28 |

July

| | |
|------------------|----|
| Debbie McCartney | 2 |
| Jo Chelf | 3 |
| John Shely | 4 |
| Haddison Lobe | 5 |
| Alex Taban | 7 |
| Glen Risley | 8 |
| Orieji Oji | 14 |
| Beryl Fisher | 16 |
| Peggy Wells | 16 |

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| John Broadhurst | 17 |
| Donna Fraser | 17 |
| Emma Hightower | 17 |
| George Bobbitt | 18 |
| Margaret Rodgers | 20 |
| Pam Spencer | 20 |
| Amy Gremillion | 22 |
| Tona Obou | 22 |
| Gordon Neville | 26 |
| Bob Young | 26 |
| Bridget Kennedy | 27 |
| Madison Townsend | 27 |
| Nana Anane-Sekyere | 28 |
| Judy Rice | 28 |
| Bette Bobbitt | 30 |
| David McMahan | 30 |

Growing

Saying good-bye to our beloved Director of Youth and Christian Formation, Drew Harrison, and hello to the next chapter in the life of ChristChurch

Drew Harrison, our current Dynamic Director of Youth and Christian Formation, will be moving to San Antonio in August, as his wife, Hannah, will begin med school at the University of Texas Medical School – San Antonio in the fall. The Team was looking forward to Drew continuing with us for a second year, but alas our plans were not God's plan. On behalf of the Session and congregation we wish Drew and Hannah well and pray they will be blessed in many ways as they begin yet another chapter in their careers and life together.

Thus the team in May initiated the Search process after Session approval. We now ask you to join us through your prayers and by helping us find our next Director.

Director of Youth and Christian Formation

Could God be calling someone you know? Do you know someone who would be interested or has the gifts we need?

ChristChurch Presbyterian, an inner-suburban multicultural community in Houston, is seeking a creative, high-energy candidate who is passionate about youth ministry and educational ministry to our congregation.

We are looking for a person who has a dynamic relationship with God; a bachelor's degree preferred; experience in teaching, organizing, administering and leading church programs for children and youth ministries; and who can work effectively with people of all ages both within and outside our church community.

ChristChurch Presbyterian provides a variety of mission and ministry opportunities, as well as a competitive salary and benefits package.

The position description is posted at <http://www.ccpres.org>.

To contact us directly about this position, send email inquiries to director-youth@ccpres.org

Flower Dedications

The Chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and in celebration of Keith and Sue Cox's 50th wedding anniversary by their family.

By William and Pat Peril



Giving

There are many ways to participate in giving at ChristChurch Presbyterian.

The Giving Committee is proud to announce projects for 2011. If you would like to give, participate in the committee or simply have questions, please contact Karen Persley at krp111154@sbcglobal.net.

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Schedule: June | Seafarers Boxes |
| July- Sept | Back to School Drive Shoe Collection School Supply Money for CCSC School Supplies for CCP Families Needed Teaching Supplies for the Cuba Water Project in November |
| Oct- Dec | Blankets, Warm Clothing, Towels, Soap - Star of Hope Mission Salvation Army Women's Shelter |

FOOD for HUNGRY KIDS

By Amy Gremillion

ChristChurch has amazing givers. Over the last two weeks we have delivered over 200 lbs. of fresh produce to CCSC as well as purchasing produce and chicken for the food pantry at St. Giles from our loose plate offering. Summer is a particularly difficult time for hungry families because children are home from school. With the economy getting worse and new job layoffs by the city and school systems, this summer promises to be even more difficult for area food banks. Monday, when I delivered over 130 lbs. of fresh food CCSC was astonished, but the greater gift for me was the joy on a young mother's face as she said, "Banana for my baby!" We found out that the items which are most needed include: meat based soups, canned fruits with pop tops, macaroni and cheese, dried beans, granola bars, toilet paper, bar soap, and fresh fruit and vegetables which are not fragile such as potatoes, green bananas, carrots, onions, peppers, oranges, apples, squash, etc. CCSC also needs brown paper grocery sacks with handles and can openers. If you want to donate any of these items, please bring them to the Sanctuary and we will deliver them on Monday.



To the Church Triumphant

"Death is swallowed up in victory ... Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." -- 1 Cor. 15:54-57

Paul Anderson

Paul Clair Anderson, 89, a longtime resident of Memphis and Houston, died Monday, May 25, 2011. From 1946 to 1981, Mr. Anderson was comptroller at Rhodes-Jennings in Memphis and later an accountant with Coopers & Lybrand. He was married to the late May Hill Overton for 61 years. Mr. Anderson grew up in Clear Lake, Iowa, graduated from Northwestern University, and served as a lieutenant in the Navy during World War II. For many years, he was an elder at Second Presbyterian Church in Memphis. His favorite activities were duck hunting and the church.

He is survived by five daughters: Mayhill Fowler, Monte Sereno, CA; Paula Nickels, Kingsport, TN; Karen Anderson, Houston, TX; Julia Cook, Houston, TX; Nancy Anderson, Seattle, WA.

Mr. Anderson also has seven grandchildren: Mayhill C. Fowler, New York City; Caroline Fowler, Amsterdam, Netherlands; John Mark Nickels, Chicago, IL; Claire Cook, Austin, TX; Karen Cook, Washington, DC; Mary Anderson, Houston, TX; Nadia Anderson, Seattle, WA.

After a service at Christ Church Presbyterian, Mr. Anderson was interred next to his late wife at Forest Hill Cemetery in Memphis. A few of his ashes will be scattered, at his request, in his favorite duck blind.

The family requests that memorials be sent to either Christ Church Presbyterian at www.ccpres.org or to Ducks Unlimited at www.ducks.org/how-to-help/memorial-gits/memorial-gifts



Paul Anderson

Cleldon (Clel) Francis Ruppert

Cleldon Francis Ruppert, 96, of Houston, Texas, and Des Moines, Iowa, passed away Sunday, May 29, 2011, in Johnston, Iowa.

Clel was born on August 27, 1914, on a farm on the outskirts of Iowa City, Iowa. He served in the Army Air Corps in the Pacific during World War II. He married Betty Caroline (Boudier) Ruppert in 1944 and raised four children.

Clel worked for the Prudential Insurance Company as an actuarial research analyst for 40 years, first in Newark, New Jersey, and then in Houston.

Clel enjoyed his family

and friends. Clel's lifelong passion was gardening. When they retired, he and Betty began spending half the year in Texas and half in Iowa so that he could garden year-round. He was a Master Gardener in both states, and he was never happier than when he was digging in the dirt or sharing plants with friends.

Clel was preceded in death by his wife Betty, his parents, his sister Rosamond, and his brothers Charles, Richard, Ralph, and Albert. He is survived by his children, Carl, of Grimes, Iowa; Barbara, of Houston; Nancy (Fernando Alves), of John-

ston; and Karen Siebrasse (Chris) of Stuart; his granddaughter, Mia Siebrasse, of Stuart; his sister Katherine Hogan, of Midway, Arkansas; his brothers Herman of Richland, Washington, and Robert (Maxine), of Tiffin, Iowa; his cousin, Cris Watt, of Iowa City, Iowa; many nieces and nephews; and many, many friends. He was dearly loved and will be greatly missed.

A memorial service was held at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Des Moines, on June 3, 2011. A memorial service will be held in Houston at a later date. Online condolences and

memories can be shared at www.johnsonfamilyfuneralhome.com or at www.facebook.com/clel.ruppert.



Cleldon (Clel) Ruppert

2011 Session

ChristChurch Presbyterian

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, Karen
Persely

Class of 2013

Richard Bell, Mylene Bole, Fred
Cook, Anne Reed, Gretchen Sparks
Youth Elders: Matthew Bole,
Lubna Obou

Clerk of Session

Janice Schessler

Moderator

Rev. John Hirling

CCP Good News Contributors

Barbara Buckley, Brittany Clay,
Sue Cox, Aileen Fleming,
Amy Gremillion, John Hirling and
Sondra Tucker.

Editors: Aileen Fleming and
Brittany Clay

Christian Education

Pre-school to High School Sunday School

Pre-school to 5th Grade

Where: Education Bldg. Room 205

Middle School

Where: Education Bldg. Room 222

High School

Where: Education Bldg. Room 211

Adult Sunday School

Wired Word

Where: West Wing, Room 6

When: Every Sunday at 9am

Teacher: Fred Cook

Women's Bible Study.

Where: West Wing, Room 5

When: Every Sunday at 9am

Teacher: Burnette Boyett

Mental Gymnastics

The Voice New Testament and annotated Bible

Where: West Wing, Room 1

When: Every Sunday at 9am

Teacher: Homer Borgstedte

Summer Sunday School Programs

Puppet characters from the creator of Veggie Tales will teach elementary school children about the bible

Our Elementary School class will be trying out a new curriculum titled, "What's in the Bible" from Veggie Tales creator Phil Vischer. This technology-friendly curriculum is designed around puppet characters Buck Denver, Chuck Wiggin, Sunday School Lady, Brother Louie, Captain Pete, and more, who take turns sharing a variety of Bible Stories with the students.

Summer Sunday School will take a brief break over Fourth of July Weekend, and then resume to study stories and characters from the book of Exodus. Everyone in kindergarten to fifth grade is invited to come and learn and play with us in room 201.

Over the summer we will combine the Middle School and High School aged youth classes, which will meet in Room 207 to talk about current issues and voices of our generation.

Adult Ministry



Luncheon

Join us Sunday, July 3rd for our Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall following services.

Wednesday Night Dinner

Join us each Wednesday evening for dinner in the Fellowship Hall. Enjoy an evening meal with your church family and friends.

Ladies' Book Club

The Ladies' Book Club meets the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7pm. Join us July 26th at the home of Wanda Lynch. We will discuss *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows. If you have any questions, please contact Lucy Seward at lucyseward@msn.com or Mylene Bole at mbole@swbell.net.

Friday Night Bridge

Friday Night Bridge is back. Join us Friday, July 15th at 7:00pm. Place of meeting is forthcoming. Contact Sue for more information.

Parents' Night Out

Parents' Night Out is a wonderful opportunity for parents to enjoy a Friday Date Night! On the 4th Friday of the month, bring your children to the Fellowship Hall to enjoy dinner, a movie and fun in a safe environment. We take children from the age of 3 1/2 through 5th grade.

Better Bunch

Sign up forms will be in the Gathering Space or contact Barbara Buckley at 281.498.0483 or wtbuckley@juno.com.

Mark your calendars for the September 8 to see the Painted Churches. If you have somewhere you would like to go/do/see or to eat, please let Barbara Buckley know.

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

POSTMASTER: Send changes of address to:

ChristChurch Presbyterian
5001 Bellaire Boulevard
Bellaire, TX 77401

Bulk mail postage paid at Bellaire, TX
USPS #105.

All articles for submission should be sent to church-admin@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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713-668-9869

VIC-SW

Volunteer Interfaith
Caregivers SW
713-772-8181

Website

www.ccpres.org

Presbytery of New Covenant

713-526-2585
www.pbyofnewcovenant.org



It's never too early to starting thinking about what you can donate to the
October 1, 2011 Garage Sale.

Donations are being accepted and can be dropped off in the West Wing room 4.
Brittany has the key to let you in.

Chili Cookoff a Huge Success!

The Youth Group's Third Annual Chili Cookoff was a huge success this year, raising nearly \$500 to help pay for Christ Church Youth to go to Florida on a mission trip this July. Rebecca McMahan was the prime organizer for the Cookoff, which had more than 12 entries, and saw chilis of every variety. More than 40 people showed up to sample chilis, with more than 15 youth helping to set up, serve and clean up for the event. Upon arrival, everyone was given one bowl and spoon to bring with them as they worked the room, and a few poker chips with which to vote for their favorite chilis.

After tasting all the chilis, the Judges table, which included last year's champions David and Emily McMahan, cleansed their palates and proclaimed the winner: Craig Wooten's "Elk Chili." Craig has earned himself a place at next year's judges table, and his name on the plaque kept in the church office. Tim and Susan Hightower's chili won the fan favorite award (and was remarkably good). Other notable chilis were Dick Akkerman's, a fan favorite that kept people coming back for more, and Julia Cook's remarkable white chili.

Everyone is looking forward to next year, for another chance to come together and celebrate Youth, Community, and good Texas cooking.

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Christian Education 9:00 am
Worship 10:15 am

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