

# CHRISTCHURCH PRESBYTERIAN GOOD NEWS

Volume 11, Issue 08

September 2011

## FALL KICK-OFF HERALDS POSSIBILITIES-NEW PROGRAMS AND A WEATHER CHANGE

Sunday, August 28 the weather outside was HOT! However, the prospects of cooler weather and the fall programs were enthusiastically received by youth and adults during the morning fellowship from 9-10. The 3 G Teams- Gathering, Growing, and Giving promoted in their displays, upcoming activities. Among the events were ongoing programs and previews of special events that included:

**Gathering-** Kirking of the Tartans and Coffee House Concert on October 23rd

**Growing-** Care Givers of the Elderly- Sunday morning elective Oct. 2nd- Nov. 20th  
Horizons Beatitudes Study-Second Tuesday: 9:30-11:15 am  
Presbyterian Women Rm. 1 West Wing;

**Giving-** Among the monthly giving opportunities will be clothing and blankets for the homeless, school supplies for CCP families, Cuba Water Project, and Christmas gift boxes for seafarers.

Jennifer Mitchell, the new Director of Youth and Christian Formation, had the fall Church School curriculum for children and youth available for review and she visited with attendees while Drew Harrison, former Director, was sharing memories and saying goodbyes, as this was his last Sunday before moving to San Antonio where Hannah, his wife, began classes this summer at the UT Med. School.

After worship, a reception was held in appreciation of Drew and Sondra Tucker, Music Director and Organist, who recently resigned to await God's next call.



By: Pam Stoops

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**Newsletter Deadline  
October 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.*

## Introducing ChristChurch's New Director of Youth and Christian Formation, Jennifer Mitchell



CCP is happy to welcome Jen Mitchell as the newest addition to the staff. Jen will be replacing Drew Harrison

as the new Director of Youth and Christian Formation, and is very excited to be working with our children and young adults this year. Hailing originally from the Woodlands, Jen went to Austin College, then Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education where she received a Masters in Divinity and in Christian Education. While in Richmond, TX Jen was a

Children's Worship Leader at a local church, and helped lead the youth as an adult sponsor. Most recently, Jen spent last year in Mansfield, TX as a Chaplain Resident in the Methodist Health System.

We're very excited to have Jen on board, and she brings lots of energy and great ideas to what we're doing here at CCP. She'll be working with all of our children, youth, and families, and also with children at the CDC, and her experience in those areas have prepared her well. In our interviews, she spoke about how the most effective ministry is being involved in the lives of our youth and children. In addition, she looks forward to developing relationships with CCP families. Jen is a great new addition to our staff, and will be a dependable leader for years to come. Introduce yourself to her at worship or one of the other activities that she'll be a part of in the coming year!

## Farewell to Sondra Tucker

On August 28, 2011, ChristChurch bid a sad farewell to Sondra Tucker, who served as Director of Music here for four years. Among Sondra's contributions to the music program at ChristChurch were the Kirking of the Tartans, Christmas Cantata, Gospel Mass, and many original arrangements she composed for the chancel and handbell choirs to perform during worship. Under Sondra's resourceful and creative leadership, both choirs grew in size, ability, and quality. We will miss Sondra and her husband Roger, who also gave generously of his time and talents to the music ministry at ChristChurch

### THANK YOU

Dear Friends,

Roger and I want to thank you so much for the gifts of friendship and love that you so freely shared with us over the past four years. It has been a tremendous blessing to be able to make music with you, and I cherish the fun times with the bells and kids' choir.

Thank you very much for the generous love offering you have given us. I cannot adequately express my gratitude. I hope you'll keep us in your prayers, as we will you.

Love,  
Sondra

# John's Musings



Yesterday (as I write this), the east coast of the U.S. experienced a 5.8 Richter scale earthquake. So rare are east coast earthquakes that some folks thought they were experiencing a terrorist attack rather than a burp from Mother Nature. (Aside: What does it say when terrorist attacks are more expected than earthquakes?) Fortunately, there were few injuries and most of those, minor. By and large, people were just 'shaken.' Earthquakes on the west coast are quite common. In fact, there have been three in the last ten hours (again, as I write this). Their magnitude was, however, so small that they probably went unnoticed by anyone not monitoring for tremors. But east coast earthquakes are quite rare. The west coast experiences a significant earthquake about once a year; the east coast, about once a century. Earthquakes in the church are even rarer. The Christian faith began with an earthquake. Of

some impact was the physical earthquake at the crucifixion (Matthew 27:51b). Of much greater importance was the global shift that Jesus, himself, brought with his radical message of grace, love and commitment to living in God's will.

A second earthquake shook Christianity in the 4th century when the religion moved from being persecuted to being the dominant religion of the Roman Empire. From that time forward, Christianity and governments have been tangled to a greater or lesser degree with no clear borders of where one begins and the other ends.

We Presbyterians owe much of our understanding about God and God's will to the third upheaval: the Reformation: The Reformation. The reformers protested the doctrines, rituals and ecclesiastical structure of the Roman Church and sought more biblically based tenets and practices. That 16th century movement produced a 'universal church' marked by great diversity of understanding and practice.

Over the last four hundred years the church has

experienced tremors and shock waves: the Enlightenment – first and second, the rise of Pentecostalism, the Charismatic movement, liberation theology, religious pluralism – to name a few. Some suggest we are on the cusp of another major tectonic shift.

Americans continue to self-identify as 'deeply religious.' 83 percent of Americans claim to belong to a religious denomination, 40 percent claim to attend services nearly every week or more, and 58 percent claim to pray at least weekly. I question those statistics, particularly since "the percentage of American adults who identify themselves as Christians dropped from 86% in 1990 to 77% in 2001 . . . The percentage of American adults who identify themselves as Protestants dropped below

50% about the year 2005. Confidence in religious institutions has hit an all-time low. There appears to be a major increase in interest in spirituality among North

**No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is [faithful](#), and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.**

**1 Corinthians 10.13:**

Americans but this interest has not translated into greater church involvement. Interest in new religious movements (e.g. New Age, Neopaganism) is growing rapidly. In particular, Wiccans are doubling in numbers about every 30 months. The influence of the central, program-based congregation is diminishing as more cell churches are being created. Many Christians have left congregations and formed house churches - small groups meeting in each other's homes." My readings suggest that those statistic are even greater among young adults.

There may be some comfort in learning that our experience is not so different from the overall trends. A more faithful response might ask, "What would God like to do through us to buck the trends?"

I have some idea but I'd really like to hear yours. Maybe we can shake things up a bit on our own. Grace & peace,

John



# Flower Dedications



*The Chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and in celebration of Anna Blome's thirteenth birthday.*

*Given By: Robert & Pamela L. Blome*

*The Chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of all of the Sunday School Teachers past, present and future!*

*Given By: Gretchen Sparks*

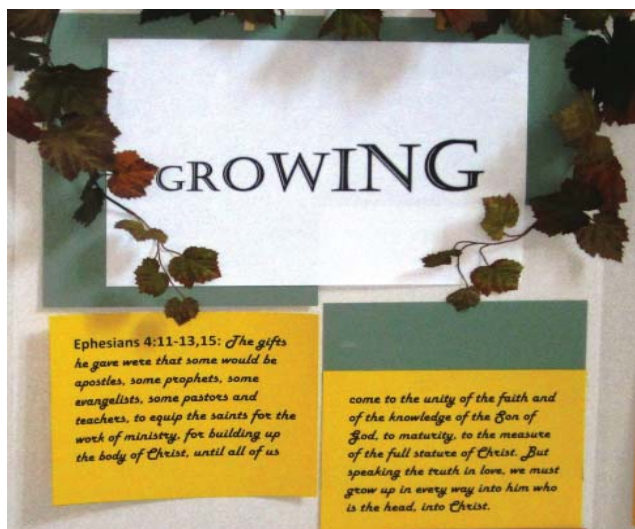


## September Birthdays

- |    |                    |    |                 |
|----|--------------------|----|-----------------|
| 1  | Michael Broadhurst | 27 | Paul Emerson    |
| 1  | Linda Maher        | 28 | Frank Needham   |
| 2  | Leila Rouse        | 29 | Lena Akkerman   |
| 3  | Moneka Obou        | 29 | Susan Hightower |
| 4  | Kofi Anane-Sekyere |    |                 |
| 4  | Ed Janes           |    |                 |
| 4  | Elaine Schroller   |    |                 |
| 5  | Bill Tabb          |    |                 |
| 6  | Bob Reed           |    |                 |
| 8  | Anna Blome         |    |                 |
| 8  | Louise Kennon      |    |                 |
| 11 | Larry Kelly        |    |                 |
| 11 | Alexandra Townsend |    |                 |
| 12 | Martha Biar        |    |                 |
| 13 | Daniel Taban       |    |                 |
| 16 | Andrew Eaves       |    |                 |
| 17 | Dana Townsend      |    |                 |



# KICK-OFF SUNDAY



# Youth Mission Trip



# 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](mailto:krp111154@sbcglobal.net).

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	Spaghetti and Sauce Drive to benefit United Campus Ministries
Nov- Dec	Blankets, Warm Clothing, Towels, Soap - Star of Hope Mission Salvation Army Women's Shelter

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# Gathering

**FOCUS is coming up on October 1st. and will be held at St.Philip Presbyterian from 10am to 3pm. FOCUS will include an evening Coffee House Concert featuring Ed Kilbourne at Christ-Church at 7:30pm as well as a gathering for youth on the following day, Sunday October 2nd held at Pines Presbyterian.**



## 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, Priscilla Kennedy,  
Fred & Julia Cook, John Hirling,  
and Pam Stoops

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:** Library

**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

# Adult Ministry



## 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 September 10th at the home of Lucy Seward. We will discuss *The Kitchen House* by Kathleen Grisson. If you have any questions, please contact Lucy Seward at [lucyseward@msn.com](mailto:lucyseward@msn.com) or Mylene Bole at [mbole@swbell.net](mailto:mbole@swbell.net).

## Friday Night Bridge

Friday Night Bridge is back. Join us Friday, September 16th at 7:00pm at the home of Keith and Sue Cox. Contact Sue for more information.

## TGIF

The older adults meet on the first Friday for fellowship and refreshment. We will meet at the home of Fred and Julia Cook along with Linda Dole as the co-host on September 9th at 7pm.

## Better Bunch

On Thursday, September 8, we will tour the 1940 Air Terminal Museum at Hobby Airport. Cost for the trip is \$5.00 plus lunch. Central Texas BBQ near the airport is our lunch destination. The bus will leave the church at 9:30 am. ALL are welcome to join us.

Sign up forms will be in the Gathering Space or contact Barbara Buckley at 281.498.0483 or [wtbuckley@juno.com](mailto:wtbuckley@juno.com).

If you have somewhere you would like to go/do/see or to eat, please let Barbara Buckley know.

## Men's Breakfast

The men will gather in the Fellowship Hall on Sat., Sept. 10th at 8am for breakfast. Come share your summer experiences with the group.

*Good News* is a monthly publication of Christ Church 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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All articles for submission should be sent to [church-admin@ccpres.org](mailto: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.

## STAFF DIRECTORY

### John Hirling

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### Brittany Clay

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713-668-9869

### VIC-SW

Volunteer Interfaith  
Caregivers SW  
713-772-8181

### Website

[www.ccpres.org](http://www.ccpres.org)

### Presbytery of New Covenant

713-526-2585  
[www.pbyofnewcovenant.org](http://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.



CHRISTCHURCH *Presbyterian*  
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Bellaire, TX 77401

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**Join us on Sunday!**  
*Christian Education 9:00 am*  
*Worship 10:15 am*

Address Label