

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
9:00 Traditional Service in  
Sanctuary  
10:15 Sunday School  
11:16 Praise Service in  
Disciple House

**Church Office Hours**  
Monday-Thursday  
8:00 – 4:00  
Friday  
8:00 – Noon



#### FCC STAFF

DR. RICHARD C. EMERSON  
Senior Minister

DR. JAMES H. LEWIS  
Associate Minister

REV. GALA STRUNK  
Minister of Music/Organist

REV. DAVID FARMER  
Minister of Outreach

LYN BLOUNT  
Dir. of Children's Ministries

TYLER LOPEZ  
Dir. of Youth Ministries

CHERYL MCNULTY  
P.R.E.P. School Director

ALICIA FARR  
Financial Secretary

MICHELLE FRITZ  
Office Coordinator

GEORGE TERRELL  
Facility Coordinator

BETH GRANT  
Childcare Coordinator

# The Long View

First Christian Church, 720 N. Sixth St, Longview, TX 75601 903.753.7611 [www.fcclongview.org](http://www.fcclongview.org)  
Volume 43 Number 16 August 14, 2009



As difficult as it is to say good-bye to a relaxing summer, at the same time, I also welcome the anticipation and excitement of returning to a new fall schedule. The church is planning and gearing up once again for our fall ministries. I know you will want to be a participant. Discovering what our Lord has to offer us always seems to intensify when we unite together to learn and serve in Christ's name.

I am excited about a ministry titled "In His Steps" which will be our stewardship emphasis September 13-October 11. Making financial pledges for the 2010 Operating Budget is vital to our church and I know we will continue to be faith-filled stewards. The real reason I am excited about I.H.S. is because we will not only make financial pledges, we will also pledge ourselves as Christ's servants through service, presence, prayer and resources.

The New Testament word for church is *ekklesia*. This comes from a combination of words which mean "called out." The church is a group of people who are called out of society into a special relationship with God and others to serve God and others. First Peter 2:10 refers to people who "were no people but now ... are God's people." The church has its identity because it is called out by God. Before we were "nobody," but now we are "somebody" because God has called us.

The ministry booklet you will receive via mail in September will reveal the numerous ministries FCC Longview offers. We ask that you will pledge yourself to prayer as to where you will serve your great church in 2010. There is a job for everyone. A beautiful, biblical image of how this ministry of each person in the *ekklesia* functions is found in I Corinthians 12. Each member is like a part of the body. Each member has a function to perform. Many people ask: "What does this church have to offer me?" This is a natural question. But genuine joy, faith and satisfaction come when the church helps the person rephrase the question to: "What can I offer in service through the church?" I.H.S. is designed to help you discover where God is calling you to serve.

There are numerous and exciting ministries at FCC Longview. One other thing I am excited about is a Welcome Home Sunday on October 4. Mark your calendars now to be in attendance. I want to see our entire church family gathered together in worship that day. Let's set a new attendance record!

I hope you are anticipating and excited about beginning the fall church schedule just as I am. We are to be about being the church serving in Christ's name. Your presence is important. Here is a little food for thought: If all FCC Longview church members were the kind of church member you are, would the future of FCC Longview be in good hands?

"For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example to follow In His Steps" (1 Peter 2:2).

*Richard*



**August 17 (Monday)** – Elder's Meeting at 7:00pm in the Music Suite.

**August 27 (Thursday)** – 6:00pm Property Mtg. in the Conference Room.

**August 30 (Sunday)** – 10:15am Promotion Sunday, lite breakfast following in Parlor.

Each Thursday at 6:00pm is Praise Band Rehearsal.

The 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month (August 4 and 18) the Prayer Grp meets. Watch bulletin for location.

We will host LIHN the week of August 23-30.

**2009 CCSW MEN'S RETREAT**  
**September 18-20, 2009**  
 Lake Brownwood Christian Retreat  
 (325) 785-5133  
 Theme:  
 "Remembering Our Past, Shaping Our Future"

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Northeast Area Assembly**  
**"Branchin' Out: Doing God's Mission"**

Saturday, September 26, 2009  
 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

First Christian Church  
 Nacogdoches, TX

Contact church office to let us know you will be attending and we can arrange car pooling.



It has been a busy summer thus far...but we aren't done yet!

We have just a few more things to do this summer before our Fall Semester begins..

**August 16** we are going to have a "Back to School Party" at Mrs. Lyn's Lake House.

**August 23** we are providing a pizza dinner for the LIHN families.

**August 30** is Promotion Sunday.

**September 13** we are going to try to do the canoe trip (depending on the depth of the river).

Our fall semester will officially start on September 13. We will try to go on the canoe trip that day but it will depend on how high or low the water is that week. We will not know for sure until about a week before, but we do still want you to sign up for the trip now if you want to go. If we do not go, we will do something else fun that evening. Please check your mail for more information soon.

In light of starting the fall semester, I will have a Parents Meeting early in September explaining our schedule for the Fall Semester. I will be sending out a letter with the date of the parents meeting.

Another thing to be aware of is Promotion Sunday. It will be on August 30 during the Sunday School hour at 10:15. Please come and welcome all our new youth moving into Chi Rho.

The youth also have some specific needs at this time. We are looking for some adult sponsors who want to connect with and support the youth ministry at the church. I want to make a distinction however...we are not looking for occasional volunteers, we have plenty of people to give time and space when we need it. Instead we are looking for people who want to take on Youth as their ministry at First Christian Church. This is right in line with what we will be doing for "In His Steps."

For more information about becoming a Youth Sponsor please contact me by phone or email.

I am really excited about getting into the Fall Semester...there will be many opportunities for growth and service and I know that God will do something awesome for those who want to take advantage of those opportunities.

Thanks so much & God Bless!

Tyler Lopez 972-896-9556 [lopez\\_ty@yahoo.com](mailto:lopez_ty@yahoo.com)

*Northeast Area Disciples Women's Fall Retreat*

*"I called... God Answered... I've Been Changed"*

**October 2-4, 2009**  
 Disciples Crossing  
 Athens, Texas

Speakers:  
**Irie Session**  
 Senior Pastor of New Life Christian Church, Dallas, Texas  
 Associate Area Minister of North Texas Area  
**Coretha Loughridge**  
 Area Minister of Northeast Area

Beautiful lakeside setting ✿ Fellowship, Funtime, Crafts ✿ Motivational Speakers  
 Spirit-building Activities ✿ Inspirational Singing and Worship

*Reconnect, Relax, Refresh, Refill, Renew*

Call Northeast Area Office at 903-561-7086 or email [neadoc@ccsw.org](mailto:neadoc@ccsw.org) for more information.

## Valley View Elementary Adopt-A-School

School is starting for the 2009-2010 academic year for all of our school children and youth. And before long, our church halls will ring with the voices of our Prep School children excited to be back at school.

Each year, as an Adopt-A-School sponsor we try to provide school supplies and needed items to facilitate the children at Valley View having a great school year. If you go to any of the local stores that carry school supplies, you will find the lists of supplies for each school for each grade. Please help us supply our children at Valley View by bringing supplies or contributing funds to help. They also need socks and underwear for boys and girls of elementary age K-5<sup>th</sup> grade. Bring your supplies or donations to the church office and Pat Terrell will take them to the school for us.

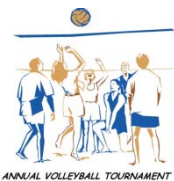
### **Remember to Feed the Hungry**

Please don't forget the Community Ministry food barrels located both upstairs and in Disciple House. Bring non-perishable food items (canned goods, cereal, peanut butter, etc.) and place them in the barrels. As a church, we try to always have food on hand for those who come here in need, and the rest goes to LCM.

Thank you all for making a difference in the lives of so many.

Blessings,  
Rev. David Farmer

**AND THE WINNER IS....**



**Pastor's Disasters**

**Congratulations!!!!**

ANNUAL VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT



The church board has voted to create a committee that will be called Safety and Security Committee. There were some concerns in this regard that needed to be addressed as well as other areas that might benefit the congregation and prep school with proper planning. I have volunteered to chair this committee. There have been several who have expressed interest in serving and I welcome anyone else that might have an interest in this area. I will let you know more about what we are doing in the near future. Steven Wood 903-845-4694 [sfwood@eastman.com](mailto:sfwood@eastman.com)

## The Disciples Yearbook Report

The 2008 Disciples Years Book has arrived and it is always interesting to spend a few hours looking through the reports of the National Church, the Regional Churches, the Local Churches and minister friends. I have a collection of 45 years of Yearbooks and I have kept track of friends and former church over those years. One of the uses of the Year Book is to keep up with new policies, assembly reports and local church reports. Most people are not fond of grazing through mountains of facts and figures, but occasionally it is interesting to compare past reports to see the health of each of the church divisions: National, Regional, and Local Church. Some of my friends call this process a waste of time and others just "bean counting".

This years "bean counting" time has garnered several interesting facts. CONGRATULATIONS to FCC Longview, for we were recognized as number 8 in Baptisms in the category of churches with 500-1000 members. And we were recognized as number 19 in total additions in the same category. In the Southwest Region we were reported as the 7<sup>th</sup> largest church and 12<sup>th</sup> in participating members. And with just a little digging I found we were reported as the 70<sup>th</sup> of 3,714 churches. Now what does this mean? It means that we are a healthy congregation and doing well compared to other congregations in Texas and the Nation. Could we do better??? Sure, we could and should always strive to do our very best for Christ. But every once-in-a-while we need to celebrate our church's good ministry for Christ in Longview, in the NE Area, and the SW Region, and the National Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). But it also might mean that in our humble pride that we might think of inviting a friend to come and experience First Christian, a recognized church of excellence in ministry.

In addition to these facts and figures, we have the joy of having one of our own young people complete seminary and be ordained to ministry- Evan Dolive. We also have two of our young people in seminary at TCU/Brite Divinity School preparing for ministry: Alec Ylitalo and Matt Every.

See what a little "bean counting" might find to say to our congregation "WELL DONE"...Continue the good work for Jesus Christ.

Dr. Jim Lewis



**Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study – Growing God's Disciples** begins Tuesday, September 15 at 3:30-5:00pm.



Promotion Sunday  
Sunday August 30<sup>th</sup> @ 10:15am

We would like all ages to come! Short service in the sanctuary followed by a lite breakfast and on to regular Sunday School. Please come and support our children and youth



ABC Class – Standard NIV Lesson Commentary “Human Commitment” (Character Studies)

Teacher: *Rotating*

ACTS Class – Book of James by Max Lucado

Teacher: *Rotating*

Cornerstone Class – The Present Word “Call Sealed with a Promise”

Teacher: *Rick Shepherd*

GNG Class The Study of Acts

Teacher: *8/16 – George Gibbs, 8/23 Winnie Taylor, 8/30 Nancy Ruff*

Seekers Class – The Book of Acts

Teacher: *Jim Lewis*

Visions Class “The Shack” by Wm. P. Young

Teacher: *David Farmer*

Unity Class - The Present Word “Call Sealed with a Promise”

Teacher: *Dick Hudson and Barbara Lewis*

Young Singles 18-26

Teacher: *Kelly Green, Karen Lowrey, and Kim Emerson*

Members and friends prayer list: **(members in bold)**

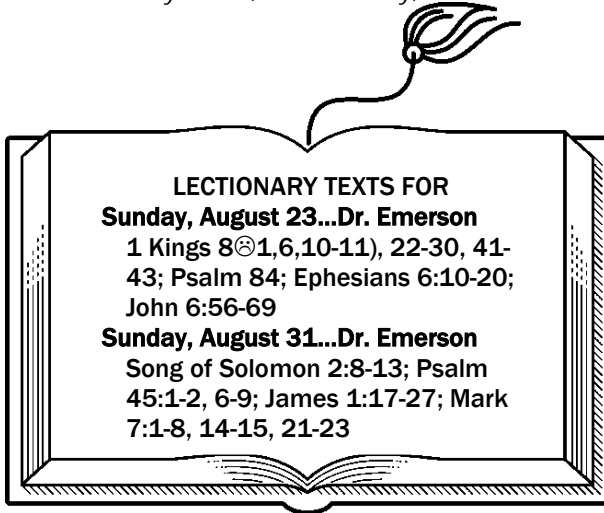


Jane Dickey, Ann Miller, Gloria Fort, Jodie Johnson, Ruth Forester, Dorothy Canon, Tommy Eaker, Sue McGaw, Jennifer Diaz, Betty Crisler, John Henry Russell, Julia Taylor, Martha Nash, Lois Scoggins, Tommy & Lois Kuykendall, Dan Downing, Ed Russell, Sue and Don Stidham, Marilynn & Travis Rieger, Patti Weaver, Jason Suter, Cash Cochran, Myrtie Findley, Marilyn Lamb, Doyal Gipe, **Travis Parr, Bobby Richardson**, and **Our Military Personnel**, Firefighters, and Police.



To Emily and Rob Holloway upon the birth of their son, **Baxter Hitch Holloway** born on July 10, 2009. Proud grandparents are Bonnie Holloway and Bob Holloway. Proud aunt and uncle are Michelle and Richard Holloway and great aunt and uncles are Shirley and Lowell Holloway, Frances Holloway, Claire and Johns Hines and cousins, Holly Hines and Addy Holloway.

The next “The Long View” will be mailed on Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup>. If you have an article you wish to include in “The Long View”, please e-mail it to [mfritz@fclongview.org](mailto:mfritz@fclongview.org). or bring it to the church office no later than Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>.



<b>ATTENDANCE</b>		
<b>WORSHIP SERVICES</b>		
August 2		230
August 9		242

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Contributions (July '09)	61,323	53,833
<b>Year-to-date</b>	<b>389,527</b>	<b>376,833</b>
Expenses (July '09)	55,764	58,283
<b>Year-to-date</b>	<b>366,866</b>	<b>374,934</b>
<b>Building Fund</b>		
Donations Received		30,474
Loan Payments		17,676

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