



Volume 60
September, 2009
Celebrating our
60th Anniversary
all year long

News of First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ) of Marietta

The HARBINGER

We are an inviting, welcoming, growing Christian community, worshipping God in the Disciples tradition since 1949, where you are a stranger but once.

In 2008 this congregation adopted a plan to take her vision of ministry into the Spanish community. Under prayerful guidance of the elders and the oversight of the pastoral staff, much discussion and prayer took place. The search committee was directed to call a senior pastor that would enable the church to grow and carry on the mission of the church in a pastoral way.

In the spring of 2009, God answered prayer and sent two Spanish Speaking Evangelists, to this congregation to ask for assistance in following God's design for a Spanish ministry at First Christian Church Marietta, (Disciples of Christ). With the wisdom of a task force and a vote by the congregation a pathway was begun towards integrating two bodies into one. Today it is exciting to celebrate the joining of new members into our community of faith. I realize that as we grow our family fears and worries are a part of any families maturing. As your pastor I am well aware of how emotions are highlighted when we perceive we are being left behind in the change. I will continue to walk this faith journey with you and pray that God's word of comfort is heard as we travel down this road together. "Surely it is God who saves us and I will trust in him and not be afraid. For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, and he will be my savior." (Isaiah 12:2-6). Let us all continue to pray for each other and our church.

Some Ponderings for September

As we were preparing for the worship celebration to take place on August 30, 2009, I was struck with an awareness of the leap of faith that this church has taken in just 60 years. Our heritage and history has been inspired by God's spirit. It was through prayer and a time of unrest that God's message has been greeted with open minds and warmed hearts.

Our pilgrimage began with a leap of faith by Clara May Hill placing a small ad in the Marietta Daily Journal. From this simple act a journey was begun. On April 3, 1949 26 people, "came forward and signed a charter and the First Christian Church of Marietta was on its way." (Bruce Nay)

After a huge growth in the 1970s and the 1980s the church began to plateau. Much of this plateau can be attributed to the socio-economic changes in the community. In 1996, again on faith, the church acted: rather than abandoning the church site and moving to greener pastures, church members voted to become a mission to Marietta and stay where the Lord wanted her to be. The sanctuary was revitalized in 2002 with this vision in place.

In order that the vision of the church, to become a beacon of hope in the community, and become one body under Christ, the leadership of this congregation began a spiritual growth and prayer campaign and grew spiritually. A result of this growth enabled the church to incorporate the term "all inclusive faith community" as not just a concept but as part of her culture. A new mission statement was enacted and the bi-laws were enhanced to allow for many to be part of the ministry and mission of the church. These additions at the turn of a new century would set a course of vision, a vision of becoming ethically and racially all inclusive community. This pathway to inclusively was discussed and voted upon ensuring that the Lord's Table will be *always* open without barrier.

← (Con't)

Music Notes from Pam Barksdale

Wow.....summer is almost over, the kids are back in school and Soulfire and the Chancel choir are singing their hearts out! What a dedicated group of musicians! Did you know that in many churches, the choir takes the summer off.....but not at Marietta FCC!

We are blessed with a Chalice Hymnal and Chalice Praise book that contain many wonderful hymns and praise songs. A new favorite is 'I'm Yours', which was sung as an anthem by the choir this summer and then a sung by the congregation a couple of weeks ago! Our congregation sounded great on this new song!

The choir recently sang another new song, 'Firm Foundation' out of the Chalice Praise book. This will be another fine new song for our congregation to learn!

Our Chalice hymnal also includes several Spanish language hymns. These hymns introduce us to a little bit of Hispanic repertory. Let's take a look at the background of a hymn that the choir recently sang as an anthem. This hymn is a Spanish language hymn entitled 'Together (Unidos)'. It is a hymn of brotherhood and sisterhood with all nations and people. It says, let us together strive for love and peace. The author/composer, Benjamin Villanueva, created this piece in 1973. It was not copyrighted and published until 1983.

Benjamin Villanueva, lives in Houston, Texas Let's look at the background of another new hymn that we are singing in our worship service. This is a Spanish language communion hymn entitled, 'Hasta Tu Altar (Unto Your Table, Lord)'. This song was composed in 1991 by Carlos Rosas, who is the music and liturgy coordinator of the San Juan de los Lago Catholic parish in San Antonio, Texas.

(Continued in next column)

Prayers

The Ministries & Missions of this congregation

The men and women in Military Service

Our governmental leaders

All those who are suffering from illness, injury, and/or loneliness as well as those who are grieving loss.*

Serving the Month of September

Elders:

Sept. 6 &13: Paddy Kern & Joanne Paller

Sept. 20& 27: Joe Kern & Brenda Stoyko

Deacons: John & Jorge Lan:

prepare & serve

Michele & Zane Shimizu

serve & cleanup

Greeters:

Sept. 6 &13: Amy Verner & Marty Cline

Sept. 20 &27: Tommy & Ken Russell

(Continued from Column 1)

It is interesting to learn that the Chalice Hymnal Development Committee held one of its meetings in San Antonio to learn more about new music being composed in Hispanic churches. The committee attended a mariachi mass at the church where Rosas serves. This worthy communion hymn, whether sung in English or Spanish, expands the range of our faith by including those of other cultures and languages

Pam

Dear Church Family,

Thanks to all of you who helped celebrate my 80th birthday.

You made my day complete especially having my family there to see all of you. They were so pleased.

Love to all,
Sue Merritt

Thank you so much for your thoughts and prayers and for those who were able to attend Mom's Memorial Service.

We love you all,
Joe and Paddy Kern

From Our Congregational Health Minister, Rev. Donna Kremer

Make the most of your doctor visit

A recent article in the *New England Journal of Medicine* encouraged doctors to make patient satisfaction an important part of the healing process. Here's how you can do your part during your next appointment, according to the experts at *Consumer Reports Health*:

Do your homework

Jot down your questions ahead of time and prioritize your list. Ask your doctor if you can follow up with e-mail if you don't get to all of your questions.

Get your files ready

It might take some work, but gathering and sending your medical and hospital records to your new physician will help the transition and will allow both of you to focus on the most important issues. If possible, send the originals of CT scans and mammograms.

Use the buddy system

Patients who took a friend, spouse, or other family member to a doctor visit were especially satisfied with their doctor, according to our survey of 25,000 patients on their experiences and satisfaction with doctor visits. Your friend or relative can take notes so that you can focus on what the doctor is saying, and the two of you can confer after the visit to make sense of the doctor's advice. Talk beforehand about what your guest's role is going to be, and be clear on what information you want shared with others.

Don't be shy

There's evidence that patients who ask questions, politely interrupt when necessary, and clearly explain how their symptoms affect their everyday lives have better health outcomes than timid patients.

Focus on the details

If your doctor writes you a new prescription, ask when and how you should take it and for how long. And ask about side effects and adverse reactions.

Question medical jargon

If you don't understand a medical expression, ask for an explanation in plain language. On the other hand, if you know a lot about your disease, let the doctor know that you understand the medical terms.

Give the whole picture

Your medical records will give your doctor the clinical information he or she needs about you—but you need to fill in the blanks. Tell your doctor if, for example, you're experiencing financial problems, fulfilling caregiving responsibilities, or traveling extensively for work.

Use credible sources

Is your first instinct when you feel a strange twinge to turn on your computer and Google it? That's fine, but make sure you're using credible online sources, such as MayoClinic.com, the National Institutes of Health, and Consumer Reports Health.

Pastoral Staff

Robert Mason	Senior Minister
Hal Doster,	Senior Minister Emeritus
John Lee✙	Senior Minister Emeritus
Jerry Gladson	Senior Minister Emeritus
Dotty Lee,	Pastoral Care Associate
Jeff Shimizu	Pastoral Associate
Warren Taylor	Minister of Recovery
	Pastoral Associate
Donna Kremer	Minister of Congregational Health
Eduardo Villarreal	Spanish Church Pastoral Associate
Sherwood Smith	Dir. of Disciples Mission Food Pantry

Church Staff

Pam Barksdale	Director of Music
Wilma Zalabak	Pianist
Tommy Russell	Administrative Assistant
Sean Warner	Youth Director

Services

Sunday School	9:45 a.m.
Worship & Communion	11:00 a.m.
Youth Activities	12:30 p.m. Sundays
Bible Study	6:30 p.m. Wednesdays
Christian A/D Recovery	8:00 p.m. Wednesdays
Recovery A-Live	1:30 p.m. Sundays
Church Office Hours	8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. M-Th
Website	www.fccmarietta.org

You are invited to...

Worship

Sundays at 11:00 AM

Sept. 6: "Be an honest Laborer" Prov. 22:1-2,8-9, 26-27 & Mark 12:1-11

Sept. 13: "Watch Your Tongue" James 3:1-12 & mark 8:27-38

Sept. 20: "Wisdom Extols Greatness; James 3:13-4;4:7-8 & Mark 9:30-37

Sept. 27: "Pray & Accept" James 5:13-20 & Mark 9:38-50



Conversations

(A mid-week Bible study)
Wednesdays, 6:30 PM

Sept. 2-Pastor Rob leads a bible study

Sept. 9- Pastor Rob leads a bible study

Sept. 16- Pastor Rob leads a bible study

Sept. 23- Pastor Rob leads a bible study

Sept. 30- Pastor Rob leads a bible study.

THIS IS TIME VALUED MAIL

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Marietta, GA 30060
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