



The First Christian Chronicle
First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
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June, 2009

FROM PASTOR PATRICK

It's summer-time again. It is time for ice-cream socials and watermelon under fire-works and new movies and vacations. It's time for summer-camp and the new journeys in faith that will entail, both for campers and for counselors. There is the promise of friendships renewed and old songs remembered and new games learned. It is a time for beginnings.

Within the church, it is also time for beginnings. Pentecost, the birthday of the Church Universal, is just past. A new year beckons us forward. New leaders will take up responsibilities and the church is reaching out in new ways. It is true that "Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end." We bid "Fare well" and "Good journey" to those who will be continuing their walk of faith on paths we are not called to tread. The new year will not be like the last.

Do we face the future with fear or excitement? Do we consider our tomorrows like a narrow bridge over a vast chasm we must traverse in the dark? Or is each morning like a present at Christmas, waiting to be unwrapped? Of course, the answer is not quite as simple as "B only." We have our bridge moments and our

present moments. And, yes, part of what influences that may be what we expect to see when the day is unwrapped – will it be a couple of new rock and roll CDs or a turtleneck sweater? Another part is how well we deal with the realization of how little control we have. Do we trust that God's continued creation will be good? Do we really *ask* for it?

We pray in worship each week for God's will to be done "on earth as it is in heaven." Do we really *mean* that? And do we *expect* it? God is not done with creation. The Wind/Breath/Spirit of God still hovers over the face of the waters. This new day, unfinished though it is, is a gift from someone who knows you well enough not to have to resort to a gift certificate to the Mall at Christmas. And as on those first days, God will find something in the finished day worth declaring "It is good." Will we? Are we looking?

*Shalom,
Patrick*

Scriptures & Sermons

June 7 – Romans 8:12-17;
"What's Next?"

June 14 – Sherry Mullins guest minister – Mark 4:26-34;
"Sowing and Growing"

June 21 – Mark 4:35-41; "Wind & Sea Obey"
June 28 – 2 Corinthians 8:7-15;
"The One Who Gathers Much"

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ELDERS

6/7: Tommy Dobson
6/14: Robert Huber
6/21: Patrick Crocker
6/28: Patt Blackwell

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Church Website

Courtesy of Pastor Patrick we now have our own website at <http://fccalamogordo.weebly.com> So please check it out and feel free to make comments and suggestions.

* * *

God determines who walks into your life ... it's up to you to decide who you let walk away, who you let stay, and who you refuse to let go.'

* * *

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SECOND WEDNESDAY **SUPPER CLUB**

On the second Wednesday of each month there will be a supper club. Those who wish to participate will be dining out Dutch treat at area restaurants. All you need to do is let the office know by the second Monday if you want to attend, so a reservation can be made. We hope you would like to join in. Bon appetit!

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Shine Where You Are

*Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world...
Philippians 2: 14,15*

The atmosphere was vibrant during the celebration of 140 years at Inanda Seminary in Durban South Africa. Headmaster, Mrs. JT Tate felt the school was brilliantly showcased for the glory of God and the work of Jesus. Inanda Seminary was founded in 1869 by the American Board of Missions (ABM) as the first secondary Christian school for black girls in Durban. For 140 years Inanda Seminary has maintained the Christian values and African ethos it was founded upon. It believes in developing and growing the whole child: spiritually, intellectually, socially and physically. Inanda provides a solid grounding for its students and to date has graduated more than 8000 young women, many

of whom have become the core of black female leadership in South Africa. During the Apartheid years, Inanda Seminary continued to educate and motivate black females to rise up against oppression and racism. This continues today in the current climate of crime, violence and HIV and AIDS where infection is highest among women. Inanda Seminary is a school of the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa (UCCSA), and a partner of Global Ministries. Mrs. Tate reported that students and staff had a rosy glow about them for days reflecting the glow of the anniversary celebration.

We share the inspiration offered to us by Inanda Seminary as they are part of the wider church community and a part of the plan that God clearly has for our world.

Revs. Susan Valiquette and Scott Couper are missionaries to South Africa under the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa (UCCSA). Susan works at Inanda Seminary and serves as chaplain. Scott serves as a local pastor and coordinates the HIV/AIDS Desk for the UCCSA KwaZulu Natal region.

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LORD PROP US UP...

Every time I am asked to pray, I think of the old deacon who always prayed, 'Lord, prop us up on our leanin' side.' After hearing him pray that prayer many times, someone asked him why he prayed that prayer so fervently.

He answered, 'Well sir, you see, it's like this.. I got an old barn out back. It's been there a

long time; it's withstood a lot of weather; it's gone through a lot of storms, and it's stood for many years. It's still standing.

But one day I noticed it was leaning to one side a bit. So I went and got some pine poles and propped it up on its leaning side so it wouldn't fall.

Then I got to thinking about that and how much I was like that old barn. I've been around a long time. I've withstood a lot of life's storms. I've withstood a lot of bad weather in life, I've withstood a lot of hard times, and I'm still standing too. But I find myself leaning to one side from time to time, so I like to ask the Lord to prop us up on our leaning side, 'cause I figure a lot of us get to leaning at times.

Sometimes we get to leaning toward anger, leaning toward bitterness, leaning toward hatred, leaning toward cussing, leaning toward a lot of things that we shouldn't . So we need to pray, 'Lord, prop us up on our leaning side, so we will stand straight and tall again, to glorify the Lord.'

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The Bible and Your Birthday

Look up your birth date at this website and see what Bible verse corresponds to it. Try it!

<http://WWW.birthverse.Com/my/birthverse.cfm>

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Happiness keeps You Sweet,
Trials keep You Strong,
Sorrows keep You Human,
Faiures keep You Humble,
Success keeps You Glowing,
But Only God keeps You Going

Hi Border Cluster friends,

As some of you know... The Area has decided to close its physical office at Bethany Christian Church, and relocate to my home. I could really use some help sorting, packing, and even moving.

First ---- if you have boxes you can donate, please bring them by the area office beginning Thursday, May 28.

Second --- please consider coming by the office to help sort files and pack boxes during the month of June. Work days will be:

WORK SCHEDULE for AREA OFFICE

June 2-4, Tuesday- Thursday

June 11-12, Thursday - Friday

June 18 - 19, Thursday - Friday

June 22-26, Monday - Friday

June 29-30, Monday-Tuesday

Work hours will be 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM each day

Third --- let me know if we can borrow your truck - you driving of course - and if you can volunteer your muscles, or know of some other muscles to recruit - for the actual moving. A date late in June, hopefully will be the actual moving date.

Please share this with all your friends - and especially your enemies!!! :) -- at your church - spread the word.

It would also be helpful to let me know if you are coming - call 915-525-1209. But if you just drop in on any of the work days, you will not be turned away!!

Thanks so much for your help --- in advance!

Blessings, Charlotte

Rev. Charlotte J. Hoppe
Area Minister/President

Tres Rios Area of the
Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
in the Southwest

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JUNE 2009
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First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ),

2300 23rd St., Alamogordo, NM

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 5:00 PRC 8:00 NA	3	4 8:00 NA	5 8:00 NA	6
7 8:30 Bible Study; 10:45 Congr. mtg 2:00 Cabinet 6:00 NA 7:00 Bible Study	8 7:00 Stamp Club	9 7:00 Rock Club 8:00 NA	10 <i>Supper Club</i>	11 8:00 NA	12 8:00 NA	13
14 8:30 Bible Study 6:00 NA 7:00 Bible Study	15	16 6:30 Elders' mtg 8:00 NA	17	18 8:00 NA	19 8:00 NA	20
21 8:30 Bible Study 6:00 NA 7:00 Bible Study	22	23 8:00 NA	24 7:00 Board mtg	25 8:00 NA	26 8:00 NA	27
28 8:30 Bible Study 6:00 NA 7:00 Bible Study	29	30 Cluster dinner 8:00 NA				

