

# the Lamp

..as a light shining in a dark place. 2 Peter 1:19



## In This Issue



### Book of the Month

We all need some good reading that will enhance our walk, right?



### Ministry Highlights

Communication is the focus of this month.



### Calendar of Events

A calendar highlights special dates along with listings of special events and birthdays for the month of January.

## MINISTERS

MIKE ROSS, PASTORAL CARE  
JUSTIN BRUNER, YOUTH & FAMILY

## ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE

### SUNDAY

BIBLE CLASSES 9:00 A.M.  
WORSHIP 10:15 A.M.  
CARE GROUPS 6:00 P.M.

### WEDNESDAY

BIBLE CLASSES 7:00 P.M.

### THURSDAY

LADIES CLASS 10:00 A.M.



Charles Kirklin

“After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came he was there alone...and in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them...” Matthew 14:23&25a.

This passage speaks to me of spiritual discipline. Jesus has separated himself from his apostles and is alone for the purpose of praying to God. According to Matthew’s description he got to the place of prayer about evening 6:00 pm and was there in prayer until the next morning around 3:00 am. That is an astonishing amount of time to be spent alone with God in prayer. In the first place, he must have

been tired and sleepy at some point during the evening, but even more how could he pray for such a long time? This is something I have never done. I can pray a few minutes at a time, if I’m not too distracted or physically uncomfortable, but not several hours late at night.

I think this observation answers many questions. How could Jesus be so commanding a figure to the people around him? How could he be so perfect? How could he change the world so dramatically? His relationship with the Father gave him the ability to work wonders. He knew God.

We do not start with the same kind of relationship with God that Jesus had. In order to be able to walk in the paths of Jesus Christ we must develop that kind of relationship with God. That can only be done by knowing God. We can know God only by pursuing him. That takes spiritual discipline.

How do you pursue God? You listen to what he says and you talk to him. This process does not come naturally. It is a discipline to pursue God. It requires a commitment, it takes work and time. You have to spend time every day listening to God and talking to him in order to know him. That seems mechanical, but it is true. You must read the Bible and pray everyday. That is how this process works. There are no shortcuts. The answers are not at the back of the book.

You will see the effects of spiritual discipline in your life. If you have it your life will be better. If you lack it you will suffer the effects of your undisciplined life. You will have problems and trouble and turmoil and confusion but no answers. Discipline leads to order, lack of discipline leads to chaos. Start now to build the spiritual discipline you need to know God.

Charles Kirklin

# Ministry Spotlight



Wayne Vowell

I have always been intrigued by the second epistle of the Apostle Paul to Timothy. It is not the last of Paul's letters in the New Testament, but 2 Timothy is the last letter written by Paul. As the final part of the last letter, the fourth chapter holds a particular fascination for me.

Paul is in chains in prison (2:8), many of his friends have deserted him (4:9), and he knows that his end is at hand (4:6). He notes touchingly that "only Luke is with me." The whole book has an urgency to it because he knows all too well that his time is short.

Chapter 4:6-8 has the familiar reading:

*For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.*

Just after this emotional statement, he makes a request of Timothy. He says, "Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry. And Tychichus I have sent to Ephesus. *Bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas when you come - and the books, especially the parchments*" (4:11-13). It doesn't require much imagination to understand Paul's plight - winter is approaching, and he is locked up in a cold, dank prison cell. He wants his cloak to help stay warm and dry, but you get the feeling that the cloak may just be a means to an end. Notice the last request to bring ... "*the books, especially the parchments*".

We aren't told exactly what the books and parchments contained, but it's reasonable to think they contained at least some of the Scriptures. The picture I get is that if he has his cloak to keep him warm, he would then be able to devote his full attention to his study of the Scriptures. Paul knows that he is nearing the end of his life, yet among his last requests during this dark time in his life is for his books and parchments. Such devotion to the Word of God! Such dedication to his study of the Scriptures!

I wish I had just a fraction of the apostle's dedication to reading the Word of God. However, I am all too easily distracted. I wish I could say I read my Bible regularly, but more than often I do not. I do want to do better in the upcoming year though, and my encouragement to everyone is to follow the example of the apostle Paul to have a deep longing for the deep things of God, which are to be found in His communication to us, the Bible. I want to be included in those of whom it is said, "*Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.*"

Comings ...

Please welcome new member: Del Findley • 1815 Valero • Friendswood, TX 77546 • 281 996-8808

and Goings ...

Paul & Sandy Wells are making their long anticipated move to the country. We wish them well in their move and want to thank them for their many years of service to this church family.

Their new address is: 3410 F.M. 2237 • Muldoon, TX 78949

CONGRATULATIONS

On the birth of  
JOSEPH SCOTT KIRKLIN

To proud parents  
Lindsay and Jeff Kirklin

December 21st

7 lbs. 7 oz., 21 inches

# January 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM <b>7</b> <i>Fusion SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE</i>	8	9	10	11	12	13
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM <b>14</b> <i>Fusion 316 @ WINDSONG</i>	15	16	17	18	19	20 10:00 AM LADIES DAY BRUNCH
2:00 P.M. BABY SHOWER FOR <b>21</b> JUANITA THOMAS 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM <i>Fusion SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE</i>	22	23 6 – 7:30 A.M. COMMUNITY PRAYER BREAKFAST @ FHS CAFETERIA	24	25	7 P.M. <b>26</b> <i>Fusion BOYS HALO FEST</i> <i>Fusion GIRLS REFLECTING GLORY</i>	27
<b>28</b>	29	30	31			
M E A L S • O N • W H E E L S						

- 3 - Sandy Wells, Jeffrey Berger, Mackenzie Bradshaw  
4 - Laura Turpin, Dalila Bailey  
5 - Lori Veatch, Timothy Berger  
6 - Bruce Belk, Elsie Scott  
7 - Anna McDaniel  
9 - Heidi Meurer  
11 - Todd Smithgall

- 12 - Celeste Ross  
19 - Logan Van Pelt, Mike Bouley  
20 - Chad Adair  
21 - Amanda Duncan, Matthew Veatch  
22 - Betty Dillon, Jeannie Womack  
23 - Gary Harris, Joshua Kovitz, Steve Kirklin

- 24 - Ed Walters  
25 - Joe Don Gamble, Lisa Sullivan  
26 - Jerry Warren,  
28 - Pam Smithgall  
29 - Seena Khonsari, Kim Van Pelt  
31 - Anna Duron

## \* Announcements \*

*Ladies Day Brunch – Jan. 20th @ 10 a.m. ....* Ladies please join us for fellowship, encouragement and an inspiring message from our own Dawn Uceda.

*Baby Shower for Juanita Thomas and Baby – Jan. 21st, ...* Ladies you are invited to a baby shower honoring Juanita Thomas and Baby Boy on Sunday, January 21st at 2 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Juanita & her baby boy are registered at Babies-R-Us.  
Hostesses: *Lorena Counterman and Patti Scott.*

I would like to thank everyone for the cards & prayers through my father's illness and death. God was with us through everything. *Glenda Duncan & Family*

Thank you for the many prayers, visits, phone calls and food during my recent surgery. *Carl Dillon*

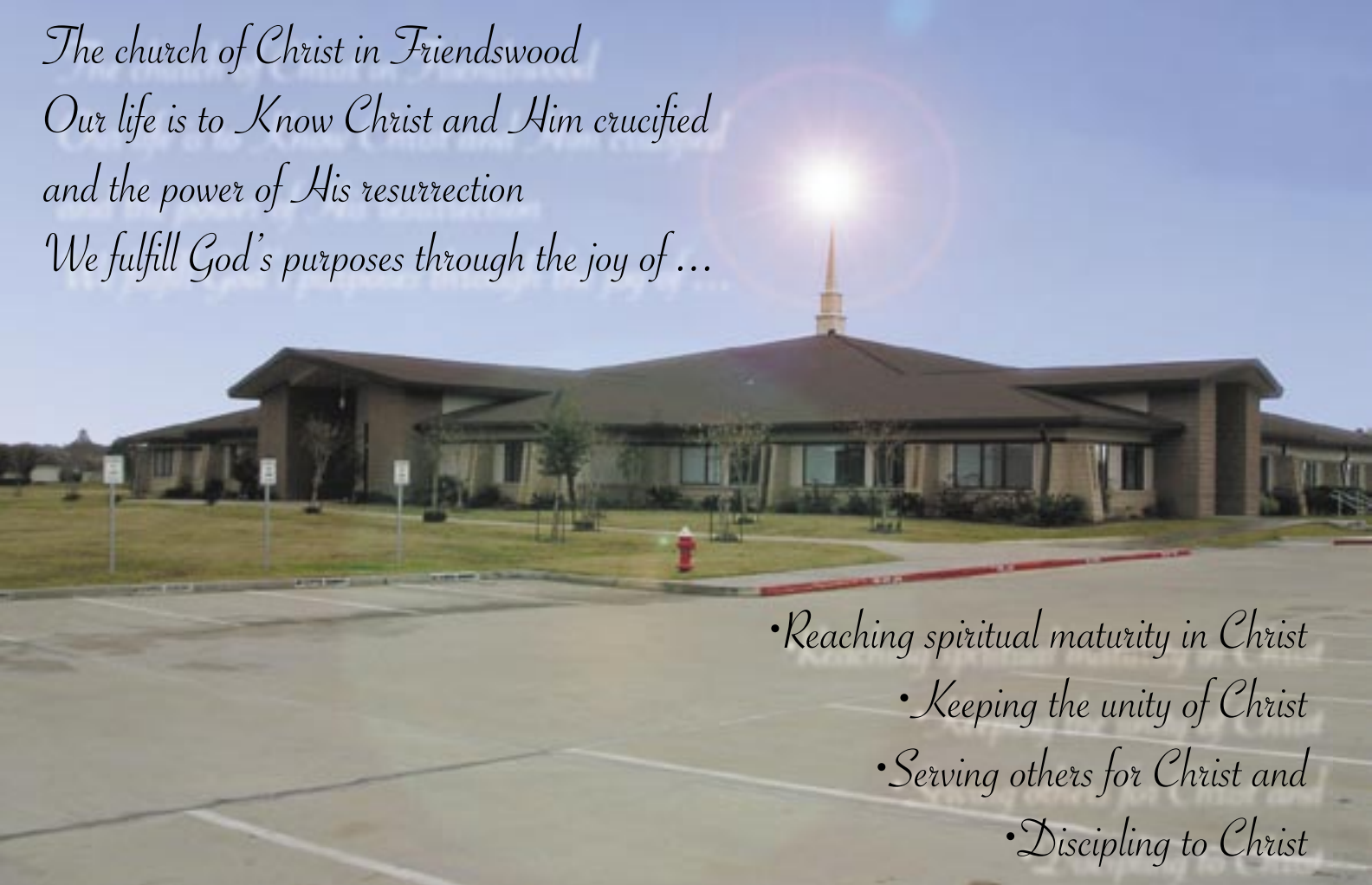
Our sympathy to Lil and family of former member, Ray Holladay, on his passing.

*Communion Preparers*  
The Gambles

*Greeters*  
Tom & Chris Kirklin

Start making it part of your routine to check the new church website for upcoming events and up to date church announcements. Check it now at [www.fwdcofc.org](http://www.fwdcofc.org).

*The church of Christ in Friendswood  
Our life is to Know Christ and Him crucified  
and the power of His resurrection  
We fulfill God's purposes through the joy of ...*

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- *Reaching spiritual maturity in Christ*
  - *Keeping the unity of Christ*
  - *Serving others for Christ and*
  - *Disciplining to Christ*

*Book of the Month • Book of the Month • Book of the Month*

Finding a quality book about Christian living can be a challenge to say the least. However, good reading will be enriching and bring us closer to Christ. Our first recommendation? Let us all make a commitment to go straight to the source and read *The Bible* more. The Bible is the solid foundation and standard for our lives, and anything we read should be measured against it. So pickup your Good Book and enjoy! Find a daily reading schedule, or start at Genesis and end at Revelation. Our encouragement is to read your Bible ... nothing else could benefit you more.



THE CHURCH OF CHRIST  
IN FRIENDSWOOD

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