



*First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
a Sanctuary for Your Soul*

5290 N. Caldwood Drive
Beaumont TX
Rev. Brenda Griffin Warren, Senior Pastor

Press Release

Version 1.3

12-02-2009

Presented by: Mike Wick



Press Release

For release 10:00 am CST December 02, 2009

BEAUMONT CHURCH BECOMES A GREEN CONGREGATION

Pastor Brenda Warren Announces *Caring for God's Creation* Program

Beaumont TX – December 02, 2009 – In July of this year First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) on Caldwood Drive in Beaumont launched a Green Outreach program called

Caring for God's Creation.

“The goal of *Caring for God's Creation* is to joyfully commit to preserving and cultivating God's good earth as our common residence,” according to Rev. Brenda Griffin Warren, the church's Senior Pastor.

Pastor Brenda explained, “Caring for God's Creation is part of the heritage of mainstream Christian worship. There is no break from the Gospel as the core of our faith nor do any ecological liturgies reflect some kind of “New Age” orientation. Christ is at the heart of our celebrations of care. In the outreach celebrated by *Caring for God's Creation* we celebrate



Christ together with creation, we face the ecological crisis with Christ, and we serve and honor Christ in the healing of creation.”

“The Outreach Ministry of our church organized *The Green Team* under the direction of church member Mike Wick to be our action arm in fulfilling our goal,” added Pastor Brenda.

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) thus becomes one of hundreds of Green Congregations located throughout the United States and the world. At the present time, First Christian is the first and only Green Congregation in the Beaumont area.

THE CHURCH/COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Green Team as one of its first actions created a pilot garden project dedicated to providing fresh vegetables for *Some Other Place* in Beaumont.

Team Leader Mike Wick says, “Interestingly enough, there is no lack of food in modern America. The trouble is that the food is not where it needs to be to aid community kitchens like *Some Other Place*. This is especially true of perishable foods such as fresh vegetables.”

To address the situation, the Green Team launched the pilot garden project. A parcel of the Church grounds became a sort of "virtual" farm of small raised-bed plots where vegetables could be cultivated.

About 20 church members took part in building the plots and raising tomatoes, carrots, lettuce, broccoli and other vegetable varieties. Last week, the first of the ripe vegetables were picked and brought to *Some Other Place*.

BUILDING THE FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

POD-STYLE VEGETABLE GARDEN PLOTS

AUGUST 29, 2009



Just Getting Started



Manure Tech James Warren



The Finishing Team



The Finished Garden Pods

The Green Team Workers

Norman Lowery, Mari Kobobel, Earl Gordy, Lorie Hackler, James Warren, Kristy Boswell,

Sid Elliott, Cindy Summers, C.H. Brawley, Robin Summers

OTHER Caring for God's Creation ACTIVITIES

Throughout 2009 *The Green Team* instituted several other activities to First Christian's



THIRD SUNDAY RECYCLE

Green Congregation.



On the third Sunday of every month, First Christian Church congregation members bring recyclable items to the church. The Green Team collects the materials and delivers them to the Recycling Center at 4th and Cedar in Beaumont.

Since July 19, 2009 the members of First Christian Church have recycled 1,700 pounds of paper, 6.7 cubic yards of plastics (a small dump truck load), and most importantly, 5.6 pounds of deadly non-rechargeable dry-cell batteries. A recycling goal of The Green Team is to recycle a TON of paper by January 1, 2010.

“But the important fact is just one small local Green Congregation has eliminated all that “junk” from our Beaumont Landfill,” Wick observed.

“Just imagine what 2 Green Congregations or maybe 200 Green Congregations could accomplish?” he added.

Caring for God’s Creation SUNDAY BULLETIN INSERTS

The Green Team writes a single page article each week that is inserted in the Sunday Church Bulletin. Church members are kept up to date on new green gadgets, events, activities and advice on making households more energy-efficient.



RE-USABLE SHOPPING BAGS:

The Green Team designed a reusable Shopping Bag featuring the First Christian Church logo. The congregation has been purchasing the bags for a donation of \$3.00, and has committed to reusing the *First Christian Church* shopping bags.

Says Pastor Brenda, "These inexpensive bags are an excellent tool for sharing the message of *Caring for God's Creation.*"

SOLAR POWERED SHOWER FACILITIES:

Green Team Member Bill Huffhines has designed a remodeled rest room in the First Christian Church building. The new area will include shower facilities with hot water created by solar power panels; and toilets will have dual-flush water saving controls.

The showers - with hot water anytime - will enable First Christian Church to serve as a Place of Refuge during disaster events that cause extended power outages and for teams that come to our area to help with hurricane recovery.



Caring for God's Creation CLOSING STATEMENT

Pastor Brenda is very proud of First Christian Church for Caring for God's Creation. The Green Team has been a work of the Spirit of God and is a blessing to our church and to our community. This team began from a Bible study in the spring of 2009 centered on God's magnificent creation and how we as Christians are too called by the Spirit of the Living God to care for it. May we as people of God living in the kingdom of God be faithful to work with the Creator Spirit to continually care for and preserve planet earth.

Contact information (press members only):

Mike Wick

For FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

225 268 8482 mobile

409 866 7776 office

wick.cm@gmail.com