

NEWSLETTER



First Church of Christ, Scientist

Austin, Texas

March 2010

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CALENDAR

[Call 703-8010 - Press 4 for updates]

LECTURE – Ryder Stevens - Sat., Feb 27 – 1 PM
At the Lakeway Activity Center in Lakeway

FELLOWSHIP - 9:15-10:20 AM in the Sunday School
Sundays: Feb 28 & March 14 & 28

LECTURE – John Quincy Adams III
Sunday, March 7 at First Church, Austin – 2 PM

BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, March 9, 5:30 PM

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS
Sunday, March 14

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MEETING
Sunday, March 21, after church



SPRING LECTURE!

Sunday, March 7 at 2 PM

at First Church, Austin – 1309 Guadalupe

John Quincy Adams III, will answer the question

OH BOY, WHAT DO I DO NOW?

All are welcome!. Child Care will be available.

GOD AND COUNTRY AWARD CEREMONY

On Sunday, February 7, Cub Scout ALEX CARTER, a student in our Sunday School, was presented the *God and Country Award* in recognition for his faithfulness to his Scout oath, "I will do my best to do my duty to God." This Boy Scouts of America Award represents Alex's dedication to being a practicing Christian Scientist and his desire to continue growing spiritually. Christi Lupher, Alex's Sunday School teacher and adviser for this project, presented the award. Steve Hains was the host, and Rusty Signor, a member of Third Church and a local Scout Master, offered comments about what this award means.

Alex and Christi worked most Sundays after Sunday School since September to explore more thoroughly the ideas of the Scriptures and of the Christian Science Church. They reviewed the Ten Commandments, the Sermon on the Mount, and the Lord's Prayer with its spiritual interpretation. Alex chose Bible characters to emulate and ones not to emulate. Further, Alex memorized the 23rd Psalm and the Scientific Statement of Being, and he studied Jesus' healings.

Until the 1980's, Scouts who were Christian Scientists could receive the generic Protestant *God and Country Award*. In the late 80's, however, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston approved a curriculum that would allow for a Christian Science Specific *God and Country Award*. Alex's grandfather, Thom Liston, was on the committee that wrote the Award curriculum specifically for young Christian Scientists participating in the Boy Scouts of America organization. Mr. Liston was in attendance for the award presentation to his grandson.

We salute Alex in his achievement and support him in his spiritual progress.



The Reading Room

102 Trinity • 472-8109

M-F 10-2 • Saturday 11-3 • Sunday 12-3

COMING SOON TO THE READING ROOM
"STEP BY STEP - Learning to Trust God"

An anthology of articles from the Christian Science Journals and Sentinels written over the last couple of decades especially for TEENS. This publication is a result of requests from Reading Room librarians for TEEN materials. The book carries helpful, healing ideas on topics such as: Who you are, Relating to others, Tough choices, Studying and performing, Praying about sports, Keeping safe, and How to progress in studying Christian Science. If you have a teen-age son, daughter or friend, let the Reading Room know if we can order one of these books for you.

On the 4th Saturday of each month, the Reading Room will be having a Bible Story Time for young children.

Come anytime between the hours of 11:00am and 1:00pm - and bring a lunch if you would like to.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SUMMER CAMP FUND

The fund for voluntary contributions to help send our Sunday School students to a summer camp for Christian Scientists is growing, and the campers are lining up. As camp applications are now being sent out for the coming summer, we ask that you make your contributions over the next six weeks so we'll know how we'll be able to support our kids. A deadline of Sunday, April 11th has been set for receiving funds and applications.

FELLOWSHIP MEETINGS

The Outreach Committee will host Sunday morning discussions from 9:15 to 10:20 AM in the Sunday School:

All are welcome! Child care provided.

Feb. 28 - What does "fellowship" mean and how can it be expressed through church?

March 14 - Are there things that could make our services more attractive to people, especially new-comers?

March 28 – Topic to be announced.



Alex Carter receives his God and Country Award.



The Gentle Beam

March Topic:

Renewal =

"...the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing:... Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not:... Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." (Isa 35: 1 the desert, 2 (to :), 3, 4 (to :), 5-6, 10)

"Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness; Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit." (Ps 51: 1,7,8 (to :), 10,12)

We can no longer park in the Country Store spaces east of the church in the alley.

An usher and our organist's cars were towed away from parking spots in the alley just east of the church on Wednesday, Feb. 10 at 11:20 AM. We have communicated with the owner of the property and find that they are now using the Country Store building as an office and need their spaces.

The church spaces in the alley are reserved for Church Officers, Readers and Musicians. Please use street parking when attending church.

on the telephone

- **OUR SUNDAY SERVICE AT 11 AM AND WEDNESDAY NOON MEETING BY PHONE OR THROUGH THE INTERNET VIA SKYPE.**

To join by telephone - dial (201) 793-9022. The conference room number is 4258728.

This is a long distance number and your regular phone carrier long distance toll charges may apply.

To join by Skype - dial +9900827044258728. You will also want to add "CSAustinTX" as a Skype Contact.

- **SENTINEL · RADIO EDITION** • **Press 2**
 - **THE WEEKLY BIBLE LESSON** • **Press 3**
- Dial • 512-703-8010 • available anytime, anywhere
For church information • **Press 4**

TALKS ON CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

Recently our local Assistant Committee on Media, Ron Hill, gave a talk on Christian Science to about 20-25 members of the All Saints Episcopal Church just north of the University. It was scheduled to last about 45 minutes, but because of the sincere interest and questions from the audience, it lasted 1 1/2 hours. This group hears from a different denomination each week, and the Episcopal Church coordinator for this weekly event said the meeting rarely goes that long. The questions ranged from the Christian Science thought on life, death, heaven, and hell type questions to questions regarding practitioners, communion, baptism, funerals, etc., and the usual question such as "are Christian Scientists considered 'pariahs' if they do choose to go the medical route." It was a receptive, and openly appreciative audience. Thanks, Ron!

The procedure on requests for talks on Christian Science is:

1. All requests for talks on Christian Science shall go to the Clerk, who finds out in general: the contact person, purpose of the talk, size and makeup of the audience, format and preferred dates/times.
2. The Clerk forwards the request to an appointed Board Contact.
3. The Board Contact determines whether to proceed and, if affirmative, determines the kind of opportunity:
 - Local opportunity for a short talk on Christian Science by a church member determined by the Board,
 - Lecture opportunity to reply to public topics condemning Christian Science,
 - Committee on Publication opportunity to correct impositions on the public in regard to Christian Science.
4. The Speaker/Lecturer/COP directly contacts the requester, determines whatever else needs to be determined, and makes all necessary arrangements.
5. In case the request for a talk comes directly to the ACOM, he should notify the Board Contact of the talk.

on the web

- **OUR CHURCH WEBSITE**
<http://www.ChristianScience-Austin.com>
- **THE MOTHER CHURCH WEBSITES**
<http://www.spirituality.com> (read wonderful articles of healing, subscribe to the weekly Bible Lesson and MyBibleLesson, subscribe to podcasts, research S&H and the Bible, and more)
<http://www.christianscience.com> (a wonderful resource from The Mother Church with relevant articles, discussion forums and information about our Pastor.)
<http://www.tmcyouth.com> (the Forum has many interesting and open discussions on very current topics including healing, Sunday school, questions, etc. The Sunday School tab has a growing inventory of home-made videos that inspire, support, dramatize or explain Bible stories and/or spiritual concepts.)
- **OTHER INTERESTING WEBSITES**
<http://www.csdirectory.com/resources/index.html#teleconference> (a list of CS churches and societies that have telephone conferencing for their Sunday and Wednesday services. Note that some allow for those on the phone to give testimonies and others only allow callers to listen in.)