

(Disciples of Christ)

FIRST FACTS APRIL 2010

Pastoral Ponderings.....

From Luke 23:34 we have these words of Jesus, “ Father forgive them, for they know not what they do.” I had a man ask me one time, “ How far can you push forgiveness?” Indeed, it is one thing to forgive a sister or brother, a friend. To find excuses for the way they act. To try to understand their difficulties, their situation, their blind spots. We are patient and hope they grow.

We are moving into Holy Week, Palm/Passion Sunday and then in one short week to Easter Sunday. Easter Sunday, the day that makes our Christian faith something we can truly celebrate. Jesus the Christ died that we may live in the knowledge that we too can love one another and know that Gods love and grace were made real because of what transpired so long ago on that cross at Calvary. LOVE MAGNIFIED!

Even with those we love, an argument is sometimes hard to forgive. But with people we don ’ t know it can be even more difficult to forgive. This is the magnificent way of freedom that Christ our Friend shows us, the way followed by the first martyr Stephen and a multitude of others. Rather than letting anyone else ’ s ignorance, or even malice, bind our hearts with anger, hate or unforgiveness, we can serenely forgive and expand into loving prayerful concern, conquering malice with love. Jesus wants us to be ever free to enter the joy of communion with Him in the Father “ Father, into your hands I commend my spirit” (L uke 23:46). As your pastor, I pray that we all will once again approach this Holy Season of Easter as a time of deep reflection, spiritually and thanksgiving for the blessings that are ours because of not what just happened on Easter over 2000 years ago, but living in the now and to give thanks that our eternal future is in the hands of the Lord Jesus Christ.

HAPPY EASTER!!

In Christian Love,

Pastor Gary





Thank you to my church family for the cards, phone calls and prayers on the passing of my brother Albert "Tuffy" Phillips. You are all so very special to me.

Sincerely, Joline Elliott

Dear Church Family,

There are no words to thank you for your loving kindness and the expression of sympathy you have shown us during the passing of our loved one. We will be forever grateful.

With our love, Hugh, Debra, Brad & Page Veale

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

2010 NORTH TEXAS AREA ANNUAL AREA ASSEMBLY

"Go Ye Means Go Me"

Guest Preacher: Dr. Larry Ross

Sunday May 2, 2010 3-5 p.m.

East Dallas Christian Church

629 N. Peak St.

Dallas, TX

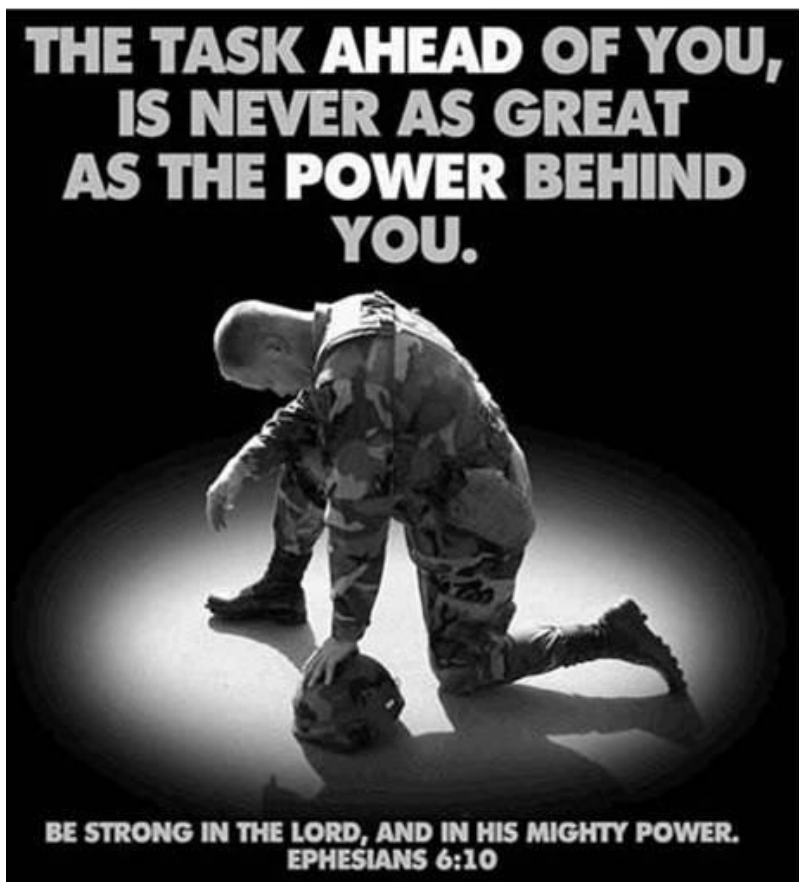
Why attend? To hear special music and message. To take part in the life of the Area church, 80 + Disciples churches in Dallas and 7 nearby counties. To see old friends and make new ones. To hear what is happening in the church beyond the local church!

(Childcare by reservation-call 972/272-2900)



PRAYER CONCERNS

Mike Akins, David Austin, Bob Balch, Hayden Darwin, Charles Duty & family, Ellen Earnhart, Richard Fifer, Wanetta Hammock, Joel Hartman, Astrid Holland, Jessie Huerta, June Judkins, Amanda Maupin, Dwight McCabe, Estelle O'Briant, Allen Price, Debbie Reid, Isaiah Sebastian, Betty Samuels, Joyce Sopich, Bernie Tate, Tommy Tannery, Wallace Tooley



*SERVING IN THE
MILITARY*

Isaac Abeyta, John Bull, Josh Bolden, Wesley Brown, Josh Clay, Gage Colson, John Gondol, Luke Goplin, Matt Hall, Brandon Harris, Thomas Herrea, Walter Hill, Teresa Vaught Hurley, Landon Jones, Daniel Kelly, Kevin Martin, Zack McClellan, Cory Neil, Orlando Orozco, Daniel Purdom, Jarod Rock, John Owens Scarborough, Kevin Paul Smiley, Jacob Smith, Daniel Smith, Will Stone, Clayton & Ryan Tillet

APRIL 2010 WORSHIP SERVICE LEADERS

Greeters	Gary & Sandy Russell
Worship Leader	Nancy Boatman
Elders serving at the Table	Charlesene Hulse, John Brevelle
Home Centered Elder	J.D. Ballard
Communion Servers	Allie McTee, Audrey Slack, Gary Ballard, Curtis Hicks
Communion Preparation	Carolyn Herring, R'Cella Gibbs
Coffee Fellowship	Sandi Heilman

LOST AND FOUND!

We have accumulated quite a collection of dishes in the Mottley building from the last few months, please come and check to see if any of them belong to you or someone you know. They are in the south west corner by microwaves.

Thanks!



When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say, "I used everything you gave me."
 ~Erma Bombeck

Attendance & Giving's for the month of: March 2010

Sunday School attendance:	Worship attendance:	Needed Weekly average \$2425.00 :
March 7- 26	81	\$3,403.16
March 14-35	88	\$2,577.90
March 21-snow day!	snow day!	\$20.- snow day!
March 28		\$

WORSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

The Committee met on March 15th. Final plans were put in place for **Holy Week** services. **Sunday, the 28th**, will be recognized as **Palm Sunday**. The service will begin with a processional of music and the children bringing in the palms. Thursday evening **April 1st, at 7:00 p.m. the Maundy Thursday service** will be held in the church sanctuary. This service is a remembrance of Jesus and the disciples observing their last meal together with Jesus instituting the Lord's Supper. We will receive the communion emblems during this time. We encourage everyone to attend this meaningful service. The **prayer vigil** will take place on **Good Friday, the 2nd**. Thanks to all those participating in this day of prayer.

The church Elders will lead a **Sunrise Service** on Easter morning at **6:45 a.m.**, at the **Van Alstyne Cemetery**. The time may seem early, but this is a special service to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord & Savior. Please make plans to attend.

This Sunday, the 28th, will be the deadline to order Easter Lily plants. Please complete the form with your payment and place in the offering plate or bring to the church office. We have pre-ordered 30 plants to be in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday.

First Christian Church Van Alstyne
(Disciples of Christ)
Van Alstyne Texas

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WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday 9:45 Sunday School
10:30 Coffee Fellowship
10:50 Worship
5:00 Pastor's Bible study

Monday 8:15 Walking Group

Tuesday 9:00 Walking group
9:30 Angelic Threads

Wednesday 8:15 Walking group
6:30 CYF
7:30 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday 8:15 Walking group
6:00 Women's prayer/
study group

Friday Church Office Closed
8:15 Walking group

Saturday

Events : APRIL 2010

April 1: Maundy Thursday Service 7 p.m.
April 2: Prayer Vigil 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
April 4: Sunrise Service 6:45 a.m.
April 5: Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.
April 11: EDU meeting following worship
April 17: Young Adults Get together 6 p.m.
April 18: Spring Pot Luck Lunch following worship
April 19: Committee meet 6 p.m. Elder meet 7 p.m.
April 20: Newsletter Deadline
April 24: Madole Baby Shower 10:30
April 28: OPALS 11:30 a.m.



Don't Miss