

# FIRST FACTS DECEMBER 2011

## Pastoral Ponderings...

*In just 33 days from today we will be celebrating the Birth of Christ. Wow— 33 days. Many say we are into the holiday season and we are, by the time you receive this newsletter Thanksgiving will have passed for 2011. As your pastor, I would say we are moving right into the Season of Advent. It is a season where we tend to rush about and fill our lives to overflowing stress until we feel overwhelmed by all the busy events of this High Holy Season.*

*I would like to suggest that we take the next 33 days and treat them as 33 gifts— gifts that we treat with respect. Gifts that are not torn open and thrown aside— but opened with love and care a splash of gentleness and experienced fully with intentionality and focus.*

*-Focusing on the people that are part of these 33 days.*

*-Focusing on the birth of Christ*

*-Focusing on giving in the Spirit of Christ— not the Spirit of consumerism.*

*- Focusing on God's gifts of love, hope, peace, and joy.*

*-Focusing on that which is life giving in a season of celebration, worship, and preparing for God's coming into our lives once more.*

*33 days? 33 gifts? How will you and I spend them? How will we share them?*

*May God bless our 33 day journey to the Day Christ was Born! Let us share the walk together. My wife and I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Good Health and all God's Blessings for the New Year-2012*

*In the Spirit of This Holy Season, Christ's Love,*

*Pastor Gary*



Merry Christmas, from the staff at First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

Pastor Gary Gibbs

Secretary, Kathy Richardson

Musician Barby Johnson

Custodian Patty Emerton

Nursery Attendant Alicia Madole



*Thank you to the entire church family. Brent & I love our special little Grace & will use your gift wisely.*

*Brent & Brenda Samuels*



To my church family, your prayers, cards and phone calls & visits are my blessings, Thanks to all of you.

Sheila Spencer

### **VAMA Coat & Food drive**

**The Van Alstyne Ministerial Alliance will begin the coat & non-perishable food drive on December 1, running through December 18. Hours of donations are Monday-Saturday 8 a.m.-12 midnight. Sundays 1 p.m.-12 midnight. Our church will be manning the site on December 6, 12 & 18, for 2 hour shifts. There is a schedule posted on the bulletin board in the Mottley building. Please find time to help in this worthwhile event.**

**The donation site for this year will be the old “Lone Star Feed Store” in downtown Van Alstyne, next to Romano’s Pizza. If you have any questions please contact the church office. 903/482-5515**



Breanna Buckley, Charles Cate, Mary Dent,  
 George Elliott, Jolene Elliott,  
 Bill Higgins, Jordan Kerr, Matt Kunkle,  
 Carlinda Lane, Chris Martin,  
 Amanda Maupin, Paul Purdom, Selby Sharkey,  
 Frances Sutherland, Monroe & Mary Lou Shelton,  
 Sheila Spencer, Randy Stieben, Betty Tooley,  
 Linda Wood.

## Please remember these Folks

### Sherman Healthcare Center

Bookie Edwards

817 W Center St, 75092

### Orchard Park-McKinney Margaret Chaddick

3392 Medical Center Drive #136, 75069

### Settlers Ridge-Celina Lee Dunn

1280 Settlers Ridge Rd, 75009

### The Willows-Sherman Harold Purdom

3410 Post Oak Xing, 75092

### Westridge Manor-Plainview Jo Reed

4304 W 2nd, 79072

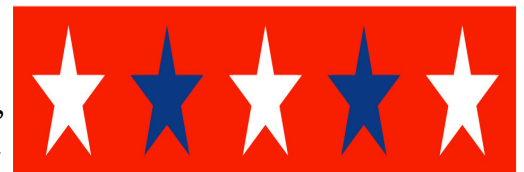
### Meadow Brook Helen Cannon & James Tillett

P O Box 307, 75495

### ***SERVING IN THE MILITARY***

Isaac Abeyta, Cody Alexander, John Bull, Josh Bolden, Caleb Botsford, Josh Bowers, Wesley Brown, Gage Colson, Jocelyn Cupido, John Gannon, John Gondol, Luke Goplin, Brandon Harris, Thomas Herrera, Walter Hill, Landon Jones, Daniel Kelly, Matthew Love, Kevin Martin, Zack McClellan, Christopher William Nance, Cory Neil, Daniel Purdom, John Owens Scarborough, Kevin Paul Smiley, Jacob Smith, Daniel Smith, Will Stone, Cody Yates

# PRAY FOR OUR



# MILITARY

**WORSHIP SERVING SCHEDULE**

**DECEMBER, 2011**

<b>GREETERS</b>	Alan & Theresa Griffin
<b>WORSHIP LEADERS</b>	Ora Maye Botsford Nancy Boatman
<b>SERVING ELDERS</b>	Lori Tillett John Brevelle
<b>HOME CENTERED ELDERS</b>	Volunteers
<b>COMMUNION SERVERS</b>	Renae & Casey Heilman Ginger & Gary Madole
<b>COMMUNION PREP</b>	Ona & J D Ballard Gayle & James Flanery
<b>COFFEE FELLOWSHIP</b>	Debra Veale Dorothy Loftice

Attendance & Giving's for the month of:  
November 2011

Worship attendance:	Needed Weekly average
November 6– 74	\$2,130.00
November 13– 84	\$2,248.32
November 20– 94	\$2,224.00

One of the most glorious messes in the world is the mess created in the living room on Christmas day. Don't clean it up too quickly. ~Andy Roone

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

P O Box 626  
274 S Waco ST  
Van Alstyne Texas 75495

Phone: 903/482-5515

Fax: 903/482-9445

fccva@airmail.net



## WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday 9:45 Sunday School  
10:30 Coffee Fellowship  
10:50 Worship

Monday 8:15 Walking Group

Tuesday 9:00 Walking group  
9:30 Angelic Threads

Wednesday 8:15 Walking group  
6:00 WNWW  
6:30 CYF

Thursday 8:15 Walking group  
7:00 Choir practice

Friday Church Office Closed  
8:15 Walking group

Saturday

## Events : December 2011

***December 4: Caroling 4 p.m.***

***December 5: Board meeting 7:30 p.m.***

***December 6: FCCVA donation site duty***

***December 11: Rededication of Sanctuary during morning worship. Christmas Program 6:30 p.m.***

***December 12: FCCVA donation site duty***

***December 14: Last WNWW for 2011***

***December 18: FCCVA donation site duty***

***December 20: Newsletter deadline***

***December 24: Christmas Eve service 6 p.m.***

***December 25: Morning worship service only 10 a.m.***

***December 26-January 3: Office closed***