

FIRST FACTS SEPTEMBER 2011

Pastoral Ponderings...

Webster's New World College Dictionary 3rd Edition gives this definition of the word "CELEBRATE" .

1. To frequent, go in great numbers, honor to perform (a ritual, ceremony, etc. Publicly and formally, solemnize. 2. To commemorate (an anniversary, holiday etc.) with ceremony, happy occasion. 3. To honor or praise, happy occasion. 4. To honor by engaging in pleasurable activity, a religious ceremony.

Our church's birthday is September 8th. It will be one-hundred and sixty five years old. The oldest continued worshipping Disciples congregation in the State of Texas. We will have our celebration on Sunday September 11, 2011. it will be a special day in the life of First Christian Church, Van Alstyne, Texas. The Reverend Dr. Larry Ross North Texas Area Minister will bring the message on that special day. We are planning on having some of our former pastor's take part in our morning worship service. After morning worship we will have lunch in the Mottley building. All of our guest will be invited. We will have our sound system set up for people to share their memories with our congregation & guests (no more than 2-4 minutes). It is going to be a wonderful celebration. Please invite your friends, former members as well as our community of Van Alstyne.

A brief history of our congregation follows:

The First Christian Church of Van Alstyne is recognized as the oldest Christian Church in Texas by virtue of the longest continuously worshipping congregation. These worship services began informally in 1841 in the homes of members, before being founded as The Christian Church in the winter of 1841-1842 by the McKinney family at McKinney's Landing Red River. This pioneer family later moved to Mantua bringing their church family with them. It was here in 1846 that twenty-one members of this group formally organized the Mantua (or Liberty) Church. The charter members were: Collin McKinney, his wife Betsy (Leake) McKinney, Elder W.C. (Billie) McKinney, Margaret (Peggy) McKinney, Polly McKinney, Marcus S. McKinney, Ashley McKinney, Sarah (Sally) McKinney, D. L. (Leake) McKinney, C. M (Mile) McKinney, James S. McKinney, Deacon George McKinney, Nancy McKinney, Elder J. B. Wilmeth, Nancy Wilmeth, and Eliza Milam. Five members of black families were also Charter members: Vina, Polina, Lucinda, Hannah and Anderson. These twenty-one Christian pioneers have been immortalized in the present church with a stained glass window depicting The Last Supper.

These members continued to meet in private homes until a log church was erected in 1850. A larger house of worship was built in 1854 to accommodate the growing congregation; and by 1871 that church had been outgrown and a new one built. With the advent of the railroad in Van Alstyne, Mantua, in effect, migrated to the new community. In 1888 during the ministry of Elder R. C. Horn, the congregation built their first church in Van Alstyne. When the remainder of the Mantua congregation joined this congregation in 1891, the name was changed to The First Christian Church of Van Alstyne.

In 1914, the first brick church in town was constructed by The First Christian Church. This church is noted for its extraordinarily beautiful stained glass windows which encircle the sanctuary. All the windows are dedicated to early church members who contributed so much to the growth of the church. This beautiful building still serves as an inspiration to today's congregation, with many members able to trace their roots back through several generations who have worshipped here. A few have direct ties going back to our beginning in 1831

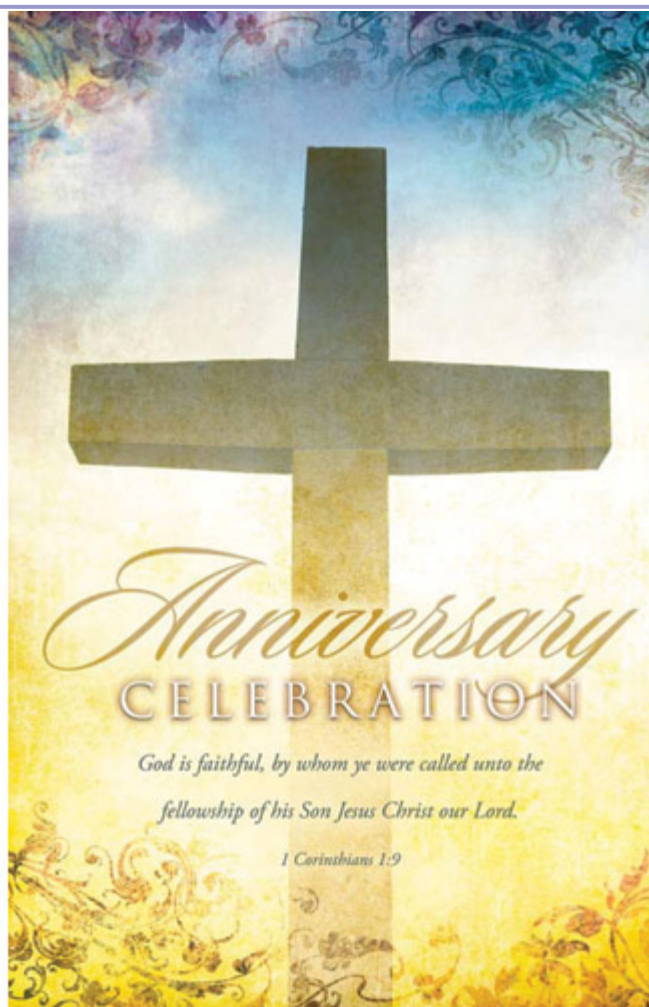
As we approach this time of celebrating our 165th anniversary, let us humbly thank God for His blessings on our church all these many years. I am so thankful that I am your pastor and it is an honor to celebrate this time with you. May our Lord Jesus the Christ continue our work for many more years. As always, to God be the Glory!

Peace & Blessings,
Pastor Gary D. Gibbs



We are so proud of the building improvements that have been underway here at FCCVA, please take time to notice what an excellent job was done by the contractors in making repairs, washing & painting the exterior part of the church. Thanks to B & B Construction for all their hard work during this blistering heat.

Also thank you to the committee and generous donations that made it all possible.



We will be celebrating our 165th anniversary here at First Christian Church on September 11, 2011.

The Reverend Dr. Larry Ross, area minister of the Disciples of Christ will be presenting the sermon for this special occasion,. A luncheon will follow in the Mottley building.



Thank you to all my church friends & family for the Birthday cards & well wishes.

Sincerely,
Ruth Spence



Great Days of Service 2011 Needs YOU!

When: Friday, October 21st & Saturday, October 22nd

Time: 7:30 am-3 pm each day

(Breakfast and lunch will be served)

Where: First Christian Church of Van Alstyne

If you or you know of someone that needs basic home improvements and are not physically or financially able, please complete a Project Application (located on the website) and return to the address listed in application by September 18th. We will not accept any applications after this date.

If you would like to volunteer to help with projects, please complete a Volunteer Application (located on website) and mail it back to address or just show up the day of the event and we will assign you.

If you would like to make a monetary contribution, please mail checks payable to Great Days of Service Van Alstyne and mail to:
Great Days of Service, P O Box 853, Van Alstyne TX 75495.

For information regarding GDOS, see the web site:

www.greatdaysofserviceva.com

Contact: Theresa Auch @ 903-482-1267 or email:

theresa.auch@att.net



Jesse Burk, Charles Cate, Betty Coker, Mary Dent, Phillip Eddleson, Sam & Ollie Edmonds, Jeff Edwards, George Elliott, Richard Fifer, R’Cella Gibbs, Kim Harper, Kurt & Barbara Jolly, June Judkins, Amanda Maupin, Justin Miles, Kay Lynn Monk, Dwight Munger, Libby Packwood, Paul Purdom, Thelma Speer (Pastor Gary Speer’s mother) , Randy Stieben, Linda Wood, ***PRAY FOR RAIN***

Please remember these Folks

Homestead Sherman Estelle O’Briant

1000 Sara Swamy Drive, 75090

Sherman Healthcare Center

Billy Ray & Bookie Edwards
817 W Center St, 75092

Orchard Park-McKinney Margaret Chaddick

3392 Medicaal 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

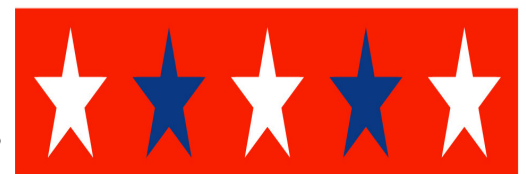
Meadow Brook Helen Cannon & James Tillett

P O Box 307, 75495

SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Isaac Abeyta, John Bull, Josh Bolden, Caleb Botsford, Wesley Brown, Josh Clay, Gage Colson, John Gondol, Luke Goplin, Brandon Harris, Thomas Herrea, Walter Hill, Landon Jones, Daniel Kelly, Captian Holly Killman, Matthew Love, Kevin Martin, Zack McClellan, Christopher Willian Nance, Cory Neil, Daniel Purdom, John Owens Scarborough, Kevin Paul Smiley, Jacob Smith, Daniel Smith, Will Stone, Clayton Tillett, Cody Yates

PRAY FOR OUR



MILITARY

WORSHIP SERVING SCHEDULE

September 2011

GREETERS	Allie McTee, Betty Samuels
WORSHIP LEADERS	Ona Ballard, Suzanne Exley
SERVING ELDERS	Lori Tillett, Benny Edwards
HOME CENTERED DEACON/ELDER	Ora Maye Botsford
COMMUNION SERVERS	Dude & Ann Crook James & Gayle Flanery
COMMUNION PREP	Dude & Ann Crook Patricia Ireland
COFFEE FELLOWSHIP	Dorothy Loftice

It is no use to
grumble and com-
plain;
It's just as cheap
and easy to rejoice;
When God sorts
out the weather
and sends rain -
Why, rain's my
choice.
~James Whitcomb
Riley

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

Worship attendance:	Needed Weekly average <u>\$2,207.00</u>
August 7: 90	\$3,189.02
August 14: 83	\$1,396.44
August 21: 81	\$2,207.00
August 28:	

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

fcvva@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

Friday Church Office Closed
8:15 Walking group

Saturday

Events : September 2011

September 4: Education committee meet following worship.

September 5: Office closed, Board mtg 7:30 p.m.

September 7: WNWW resumes 6 p.m.

September 10: Men's breakfast 7:30 a.m.

September 11: 165th Anniversary celebration & luncheon.

September 17: Young Adults gathering 6-9 p.m.

September 19: Elders meeting 7 p.m.

September 20: Newsletter Deadline