

# FIRST FACTS JANUARY 2012

## Pastoral Ponderings...

*From our home to yours a Happy and Blessed New Year-2012!*

*As I write this "Pastoral Ponderings" my heart is filled with gratitude to all of you who have served so faithfully on the church board this past year. To our outgoing board chairperson Benny Edwards a BIG THANK YOU from me for what your leadership this past year has done for our church. As Benny has said many times "it takes a team effort, and a lot of prayer." Thank you Benny & Bobbie.*

*I am looking forward to this New Year, new leadership, Chowning Hayes our chair person also the following persons have agreed to serve on your church board in 2012.*

*Lori Tillet-Vice Chair*

*John Brevelle-Receiving Treasurer*

*Suzanne Exley-Worship Chair*

*Trea Madole-Evangelism*

*Dorothy Loftice-Membership Chair*

*Renae Heilman-Education*

*Gary Russell-Secretary*

*Church Board-Outreach*

*Collin Flynn-Finance Treasurer*

*Larry Cooper-Property Chair*

*As you can see we have dedicated people filling places of leadership here at FCCVA. Please pray for them as often as you can. I ask for your prayers also as we begin a new year of service to our Lord Jesus the Christ.*

*The youth of our church put on a fantastic Christmas program thanks to Dorothy Loftice and all our youth leaders. The evening of December the 18th, in our sanctuary, all the children did a super job. Especially a young lady named Easley Smith. She moved this pastor to tears of joy with her singing. Someday we can all say "I knew her when..."*

*My prayer for all of us as we begin a new year together is from 2 Corinthians 3:18, "And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as through reflection in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord, the Spirit."*

*God Bless Us All,*

*Pastor Gary*



A special thanks to my church family for the wonderful gifts presented to Ashton and me. We appreciate everyone's generosity and kindness.

God bless you all

Susan Herring



*A friendly smile a casual touch. These are the things that mean so much.*

*To know you are with us in our time of sorrow, sharing our prayers today and tomorrow.*

*God gives us comfort in the form of good friends.*

*May His peace be with you, His love never ends.*

*By the family of*

*Estelle C Briant*



A big Thank you to Ora Maye Botsford for the lovely new pew cushion on the pew outside the church office in the Mottley building.

It is just perfect. Thanks Again



Congratulations to Pastor Gary & R'Cella on the birth of grandson Gabriel Raymond Gibbs-Abdelnour, on December 18, 2011!

Oh, and congratulations to Tony, Karibeth & Florence also!

Church Members,

In accordance with our constitution and bylaws a congregational meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2012, following worship service to present for approval the 2012 budget.

On January 22, 2012, our congregation will be making a decision to approve the budget for 2012. After discussion, the board decided to submit the same budget as last year. All the committees have kept a tight budget by spending no more than necessary. We still found ourselves short and had to borrow \$5000 from the farm account. While we should finish the year in the black, we have not been able to pay back the amount borrowed. We want to begin this year with optimism. God still has work for First Christian to do and our first step is to trust Him to provide the means. We are a people richly blessed and we pray to use those blessing to help others, in our community and beyond. We hope to be a church that welcomes, that loves and supports each other and provides a safe place for children to grow in faith and knowledge.

*Chowning Hayes-Board Chair 2012*

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*On January 29th we welcome Rev. Laurie Feille to FCCVA, she will be coming to share about a wonderful mission project supported by the Disciples churches, Rice & Beans! You don't want to miss it!*

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*2012 NTA Leader Event– East Dallas Christian Church*

*Speaker: Dr. Tim Hessel-Robinson*

*Tim Hessel-Robison teaches courses at Brite in Christian spirituality and worship, bringing to the classroom a deep desire to integrate the experiential, intellectual, and ethical dimensions of Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for 17 years, he served as pastor or associate pastor at Disciples of Christ congregations in the Kentucky, Northern California, Virginia and the Greater Kansas City regions prior to his arrival ant Brite. Tim joined the faculty in the fall of 2006*

*Saturday, January 2/, 2012*

*“Worship: What Are We Doing and Why?”*

*To members of First Christian Church,*

*As another year (2011) comes to a close, what a year it has been for our church family..*

*I would like to thank the Official Board, Church Staff and all members of First Christian Church. Job well done.*

*We have all been given an important task of serving our Lord & church. Their has not been a time when anyone has failed to respond when asked to help on any program for the church.*

*We all have to be proud of our church now after years of deterioration and constant use, it is now such a beautiful place of worship. Thanks to everyone for making this possible. God has given us so many things and we must continue the good works of His church.*

*Again, I say thanks for all your dedication and willingness to serve when called upon. With your continued support our church will have another successful year and future generations to come. Knowing this and with the Lord's help it will be done.*

*Thanks for allowing me to serve,  
Benny Edwards, Board Chair 2011*

## Old & New Board Members...

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the 2011 members for all their hard work and dedication. Outgoing members are, Benny Edwards-Board chair, Sandi Heilman-Membership, Richard Loftice-Property, Ron Reed-Evangelism.

We ask that you keep our new members in your prayers for God's guidance and wisdom in the coming year. New boards members are,

Chowning Hayes-Board Chair, Lori Tillett-Vice Chair, Dorothy Loftice-Membership, Larry Copper-Property, Suzanne Exley-Worship.



Breanna Buckley, George Elliott, Jolene Elliott,  
 Venable Hammonds, Bill Higgins, Jordan Kerr,  
 Matt Kunkle, Chris Martin,  
 Amanda Maupin, Maxine Pruitt,  
 Monroe & Mary Lou Shelton, Frances  
 Southerland, Sheila Spencer,  
 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

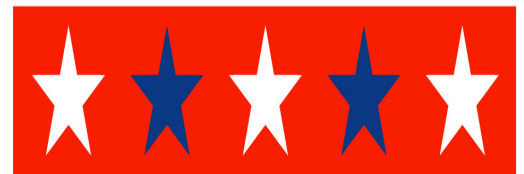
### Meadow Brook Helen Cannon & James Tillett

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, 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, Clayton Tillett, Cody Yates

**PRAY FOR OUR**



**MILITARY**

**WORSHIP SERVING SCHEDULE  
JANUARY, 2012**

<b>GREETERS</b>	<b>Randy &amp; Donna Stieben</b>
<b>WORSHIP LEADERS</b>	<b>Sandi Heilman, Suzanne Exley</b>
<b>SERVING ELDERS</b>	<b>Chowning Hayes, John Brevelle</b>
<b>HOME CENTERED ELDER</b>	<b>Benny Edwards</b>
<b>COMMUNION SERVERS</b>	<b>Randy &amp; Donna Stieben, Ron &amp; Cathy Reed</b>
<b>COMMUNION PREP</b>	<b>Zack &amp; Carolyn Herring</b>
<b>COFFEE FELLOWSHIP</b>	<b>Rachel Smith, Suzanne Exley</b>

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

Worship attendance:	Needed Weekly average <b><u>\$2,207.00</u></b>
December 4: 76	\$2,815.00
December 11: 117	\$3,968.55
December 18: 94	\$1,993.00
December 25:	

See every-  
thing; over-  
look a great  
deal; correct  
a little.

~Pope John XXIII

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(Disciples of Christ)  
Van Alstyne Texas

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## 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 : January 2012

*January 1: Education meeting following worship*

*January 2: Office closed*

*January 2: Board meeting 7:30 p.m.*

*January 14: Men's breakfast 7:30 a.m.*

*January 20: Newsletter deadline*

*January 21: Cooper Reed wedding*

*January 22: Congregational Meeting following worship*

*January 29: Guest speaker, Laurie Feille during worship*