

(Disciples of Christ)

FIRST FACTS JUNE 2011

Pastoral Ponderings...

We all have so much to be thankful for. All we have to do is turn on the television and see how events in the world effect all of us, as followers of Jesus the Christ we have hope for a better world, even though at times in our human condition we forget to whom we belong. The following is an article from years ago I recently came across. It says what I want to express to you...

We are bombarded with countless images in our fast-paced, technology based world everyday. Some images of joy & light;

~Children splashing in a pool

~Teens volunteering to help others

~ The reunification of a father & mother to a son or daughter

~Bands playing music as others tap their feet to the beat

~Easter lilies & flowers blooming in the spring

But then there are other images that bring fear & are tough for us to see & process:

~The devastation after a tornado, a hurricane, a tsunami, or other natural disaster

~The images of war & conflict

~The images after 9/11

~ Images of the ravages of wildfires

~Images of bullying & fights in the alley behind a school

Our minds & our lives are crowded with images , with pictures of our world & how it interacts & journeys along with love, peace, forgiveness, and connections as well as images of hate, violence, selfishness, & power.

But what is it that we do with these images?

Do we take a quick look & delete? Or is it that we can't get enough, & we get stuck looking at the same images over & over again.

We can all get stuck in the midst of the images that are hateful, that portray revenge, conflict, war & terror. We can get fascinated watching the demise & tragedy of others, like slowing down when we pass a car wreck.

But are those the images we are called to stare at, or are those the images that we are called to respond to with a new understanding & vision for our world? A world that needs us to celebrate & help create new images where revenge is not the answer; where differences are in dialogue; where opportunities are created for all; that all have what they need to live & flourish; & that love replaces hate, & peace replaces fear. Images that are life giving & encourage us to reach out to one another across the human barriers we tend to create & cling to.

Images that will take risk, strength, & courage to help change. Images that will bring light & love to lives lived our all over God's earth. Images made in the image of our loving God.

As your pastor let us remember to whom we belong and to whom we follow always. Have a blessed and safe summer.

Faithfully,
Pastor Gary

Another spring has come and gone so fast that I almost cannot believe it. With Easter late this year, Mothers day and graduation, getting the garage sale together was a real challenge. Just when I think we cannot possibly get it all together, people step in to help. It was a great day. The high school youth were there at 8 a.m. to get it started and stayed thru the day. Many of the junior high came to help also. The high school boys had an additional job during the day as well to help with financing mission trip. I would say the day was a great success! And God shows me once again to stop worrying and rely on the One who is in control! We are headed to Oklahoma City on June 12, staying at Crown Heights Christian Church. We'll return the following Friday. Our primary job will be to work with a group called Rebuild Oklahoma, most likely scraping and painting, whatever they need. We are also scheduled to spend a day helping at a homeless shelter. Many of the youth will return just in time to leave for CYF camp at Athens the following Monday.

A special thanks to all of you who helped by providing jobs and sponsoring our youth for camp. Most of them would not be able to go without your help. We have 4 going to Chi Rho and 5 for CYF.....and Christian & I are going to Gran Camp....Keep that one in mind grandparents-great time to spend with your grandchild ages 4– 10. All of us who work with our youth are very thankful to be a part of such a loving and supportive church family.

Chowning Hayes



**Christian
Youth
Fellowship**

“First Christian Church Gainesville will be leading a group of church members on a cruise tour to The Lands of the Bible. The departure date will be November 9, 2012. I would personally like to invite all the members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to join this group of pilgrims. I will be available to present the trip to any congregation that would like to have me come and give a presentation. We are planning this well in advance so those who desire to join us will have the opportunity to make plans and save their money for this beautiful trip to the Holy Lands.

The trip is coordinated through Educational Opportunities Tours and offers Christian tours to all faiths and denominations. The cost does include the airfare, all transfers, hotel on land, tour directors, speakers and a lot more. There is an additional cost to fly out of DFW which is around \$400.00.

FCC Gainesville has been planning this trip for quite some time and would like all of our sisters and brothers to join us if they are able. This is an ecumenical tour so all family and friends are welcome to join us.

For additional information you can visit the website at www.eo.travelwithus.com.

Our tour number is #53456 for information on the tour we have scheduled.

I pray this is not too much to ask so others can benefit from this great opportunity.

Blessings in Christ,

Marylyn Phillips”

940-736-9538

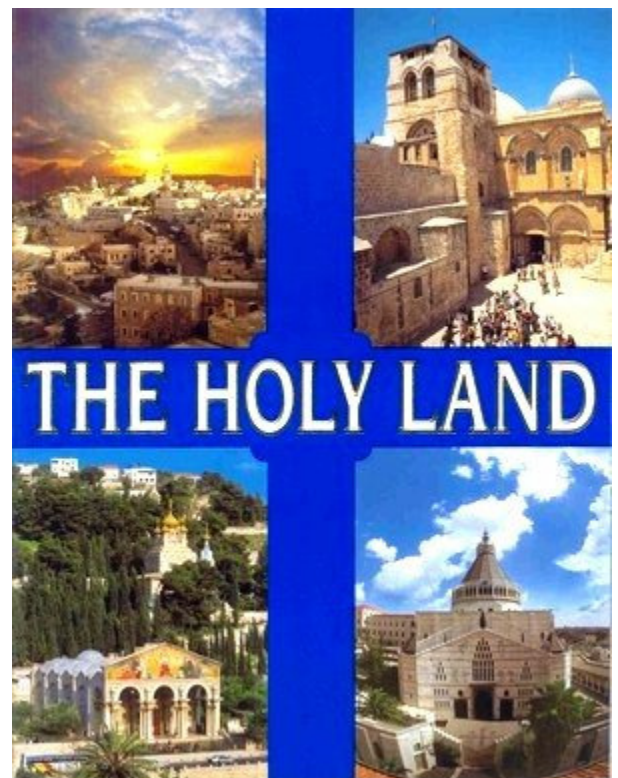
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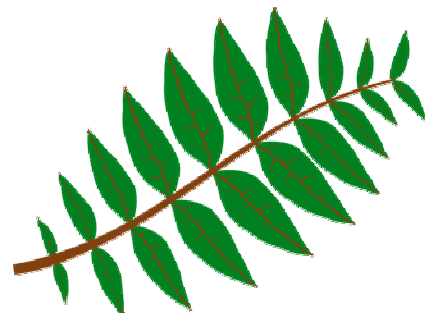
To my Church family,
 Thank you for the Bible. I appreciate you
 thinking of me.
 Many thanks again,
 Austin Rodgers

Announcing the graduation of Sarah Elizabeth Edwards Kelsay, Sarah graduated from the University of Houston on May 13, with a BS in Biology, Cum Laude. Sarah is the granddaughter of Chuck & Audry Slack. Congratulations Sarah!



*Dear People of First Christian Church of Van Alstyne,
 It was a joy to share worship with all of you at the North Texas Area Assembly in Plano on May 1. Planting this new church in Prosper, Texas is a true adventure in faith, and I am glad I could share a few of the ways I see God already at work. I feel so blessed by all of your prayers and support. I am particularly grateful for the gift of \$171.00 that First Christian Church of Van Alstyne made at the assembly toward the new church in Prosper. Thank you for your generosity. Thank you for your confidence in this new ministry. Thank you for following faithfully where God is leading. I am grateful for your support, and if there is any way that I may be of support in your ministry, please don't hesitate to contact me.*

Peace in Christ, Doug Kriz



Financial Peace University is off to a great start we have 16 people attending the class. Seven members of the group are from outside the church. I think this is going to be a great class. If you missed this class but are still interested we will hopefully offer another class in the Fall. The church is providing childcare which is a blessing to many attending. We have had about 11 kids in a wide variety of ages. If you might be willing to volunteer 2 hours on a Sunday afternoon to help with this, please let Renae Heilman or Chowning Hayes know.

Thanks for your support of this program.

Renae Heilman



There has been some decorating done in the basement. To make the Chapel more handicap friendly, the antique secretary, mirror and church pew were moved to the area between the library and the elevator. Thanks to Dude and Zack for getting this done. Special thanks to Ora Maye for the donation of two chairs to compliment this area. Please take a look and it will be convenient for visitors to the library.

Youth 2011 Tri-Area Summer Camps Dates

Young Adult Retreat May 19 – 22
 Discovery Camp May 27 – 29
 Grand Camp 1 June 3 – 5
 NEA CYF Conference June 6 – 11
 TBA CYF Conference June 13 – 18
 Chi Rho 1 Camp (NTA) June 13 – 18
 NTA CYF Conference June 20 – 25
 Chi Rho 2 Camp (NEA) June 20 – 25
 JYF 1 Camp June 27 – July 1
 Chi Rho 3 Camp (TBA) June 27 – July 2
 Grand Camp 2 July 1 – 3
 Niners Conference July 4 – 9
 Eighters 1 Camp (TBA) July 10 – 16
 JYF 2 Camp July 18 – 22
 Eighters 2 Camp (NTA/NEA) July 24 – 30
 Discovery and JYF Camps will again be staffed by all three Areas. There will be only 1
 Discovery
 Camp next year.
 Christian Youth Leadership Seminar is scheduled for June 27 – July 2.



Dear Friend,

Dr. Sharon E. Watkins, our General Minister and President, will be in the D/FW part of the CCSW on Sunday, June 12th – and I wanted to invite you to consider joining us for these events, and, perhaps, even sending a delegation from your congregation to be present with us! It is Pentecost Sunday – so I know there are a dozen other things going on – but it will be worth it!! Sharon is an excellent preacher and teacher.you won't want to miss hearing her!

She will be giving the STALCUP LECTURE at 3:00 p.m. that afternoon at East Dallas Christian Church! This is the 11th biennial Joe A. and Nancy V. Stalcup Lecture on Christian Unity – and promises to be an outstanding afternoon! There is a reception following this event, which will give you a chance to greet Sharon and thank her for the ministry she is sharing!

I've attached **A POSTER** about these events for you to share with your congregation. [Please note: There is also a poster that is on the www.brite.edu website advertising the Stalcup Lecture. I would recommend that you use BOTH of them – you can never tell people TOO MANY times!]

In addition, Sharon created **SOME DISCUSSION QUESTIONS** for us to think about in preparation for her lecture. They are attached as well! I would suggest that you might consider using the questions on **JUNE 5th** with your adult Sunday School classes, or for a conversation during the week of June 6-11. In this way, folks will have engaged the material that Sharon will be dealing with in her lecture Sunday afternoon.

Finally, I would commend to you this **YouTube piece**, in case your congregation doesn't know Sharon well. It gives a good introduction to her and will give them some familiarity with her. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cfwj6kb4qy4>

If you have questions, please let me know! It is going to be a **GREAT** time to get to know more about our General Minister and President and welcome her to the Region!

The Rev. Dani Loving Cartwright
Regional Minister & President
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest
www.ccsw.org



The Choir here at First Christian Church will be taking the summer off, they will resume in August. Enjoy your summer!

2011 GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JULY 9-13, 2011 ★ NASHVILLE, TN

Be part of
the story.



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WORSHIP
HELP RECONNECT

HEAR



REGISTER
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Tell It!

Repete yo! • ¡Dilo! • 들려 주어라!

Take advantage of deepest
discounts on registration and
housing until 4/1/2011

www.disciples.org/ga



Charles Cate, Betty Coker, Mary Dent, Ellen Earnhart, Phillip Eddlson, R'Cella Gibbs, Sandi Hale, Scott Herring, Barbara Heath, June Judkins, Amanda Maupin, Hazel Nance, Estelle O'Briant, Paul Purdom, Libby Packwood, Joan Rowe.

All those effected by the recent natural disasters

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 Herrera, Walter Hill, Landon Jones, Daniel Kelly, Captian Holly Killman, Matthew Love, Kevin Martin, Zack McClellan, Christopher Willian Nance, Cory Neil, Daniel Purdom, Jarod Rock, John Owens Scarborough, Kevin Paul Smiley, Jacob Smith, Daniel Smith, Will Stone, Clayton Tillett, Cody Yates

PRAY FOR OUR



MILITARY



“Lily”

Liliana Grace Edwards was born on May 2, 2011 at 5:46 p.m. weighing 8 lbs. 9 oz. 20.5 inches long. Congratulations to the Edwards family!!

WORSHIP SERVING SCHEDULE

J U N E 2011

GREETERS	Larry & Laura Cooper
WORSHIP LEADERS	Ora Maye Botsford Suzanne Exley
SERVING ELDERS	J.D. Ballard Mike Kee
HOME CENTERED ELDER	John Brevelle
COMMUNION SERVERS	Curtis Hicks, Cole Shook James & Gayle Flanery
COMMUNION PREP	Bill & Sandi Heilman James & Gayle Flanery
COFFEE FELLOWSHIP	Patricia Ireland Ann Crook

*Attendance & Giving's for the month of:
May 2011*

**In June, as many as a dozen species may burst their buds on a single day. No man can heed all of these anniversaries; no man can ignore all of them.
~Aldo Leopold**

Sunday School attendance:	Worship attendance:	Needed Weekly average \$2,207.00
May 1- 34	69	\$2,512.00
May 8- 30	94	\$1,895.00
May 15- 26	101	\$1,909.00
May 22- 26	90	

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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
6:30 CYF

Thursday 8:15 Walking group

Friday Church Office Closed
8:15 Walking group

Saturday

Events : June 2011

May 29: Van Alstyne High School Baccalaureate 6 pm FUMC

***June 3: VAHS commencement ceremonies Panther Stadium
7:30 p.m.***

June : Edu & Committees meet following worship

June 6: Board Meeting 7:30 p.m.

June 12: Pentecost Sunday. Mission trip begins

June 18: Young adults gathering 6-9 p.m.

June 19: Father's Day

June 20: Elders mtg 7 p.m. Newsletter deadline.

CYF camp begins

June 22: OPALS luncheon 11:30 p.m.