

(Disciples of Christ)

FIRST FACTS MAY 2011

CLASS OF



Congratulations to all the graduates!

We are very proud of you!

GRADUATE'S PRAYER

Father, I have knowledge, so I pray you'll show me now

How to use it wisely

and find a way somehow

To make the world I live in

a little better place,

And make life, with its problems,

a bit easier to face...

Grant me faith and courage

and put purpose in my days,

And show me how to serve Thee

in the most effective ways

So all my education,

my knowledge and my skill,

May find their true fulfillment

as I learn to do Thy will...

And may I ever be aware

in everything I do

That knowledge comes from learning -

And wisdom comes from You.

Pastoral Ponderings...

Praise God, what a wonderful Easter! Thanks to Chowning Hayes, worship chair and her committee and others who prepared the sanctuary for Easter Sunday. The "Flowering of the Cross" was an added touch this year. I've heard nice and positive comments from members of our church family. I am sharing an article from Ron Degges who is President of Disciples Home Missions

Dr. Samuel Johnson (1709-1784), poet of a day long past, has written some verse that can, if we allow it, guide us along our Disciple way. He wrote: "Curiosity is one of the permanent and certain characteristics of a vigorous mind." I do pray that your curiosity this Easter is peaked and that you will venture out into resurrection pathways unusual for you and your congregation to travel. I pray this because it is usually those least traveled roads we traverse that give us the most pleasure and learning. After Easter is a great time for you to return to church ready to share your new post resurrection experiences and vigorous learnings.

*Dr. Johnson also offered his readers a principle to live by: **Clear** your mind of cant. According to Harold Bloom in his book, How to Read and Why, "cant in this sense is speech overflowing with pious platitudes, the peculiar vocabulary of a sect of coven." There are all sorts of pious platitudes (cant) that we need to clear both our speech and our minds of, particularly those that set us apart as insiders and make everyone else outsiders.*

*But as I write during this Easter season, I cannot help but rephrase Dr. Johnson's admonition to this: **Clear your mind of can't!** Can't is that literary contraction of the word, cannot. How many of us give up before we even begin because we say we can't? And if we believe we can't, we never will do anything of worth or value. Can't is a word that may never be excised from the English vocabulary, but it must be removed from our theological vocabulary and imagination if we are truly to be a post resurrection people. Is not all life for us in the Christian faith gauged as either before the resurrection (BR) or after the resurrection (AR)?*

I think those who hide behind the cant's of this life are cheating themselves of potentially great accomplishments that can create a better life for all people. More importantly, they are cheating God by not using the gifts they were uniquely given. Instead of responding to a request for help by saying, "I can't," let me challenge you to practice saying, "I can." If you do, your entire community of faith will be inspired to say, "We can, too!" Then before long another of Dr. Johnson's sayings will guide us along our way: "To a poet nothing can be useless." You'll find everything about you is useful to someone at some moment in time. You'll also find your reason for being.

Cant-less-ly and Can't-less-ly yours,

Ron

Easter has passed, the celebration goes on, and the work to build God's church continues—indeed we can say as God's people “Yes, we can!”

Peace & Christ's Love,
Pastor Gary

CASA VIEW CHRISTIAN CHURCH PRESENTS:

“How to be a Blessing to Your Children”

A Positive Parenting Seminar on: how to instill self-worth and emotional well-being

Led by the Rev. Dr. Larry Ross

Area Minister for the North Texas Area of the Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

Come hear timeless truths about positive parenting. Learn five essential elements:

- ~ Meaningful touch
- ~ A spoken message
- ~ Attaching high value
- ~ Picturing a special future
- ~ An active commitment

May 21 from 1-3 p.m.

Registration begins at 12:30 p.m.

Snacks & childcare provided

(ages infant to 12 years)

Please RSVP if you are bringing a child



Class of 2011



Dacia Jeanette Stieben

**Has graduated from the University of Arkansas
With a Bachelor's in Communication Disorders**

**Join us for the Commencement ceremony at Bud Walton Arena on
May 14, 2011 @ 4:00 p.m.**

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.





Thank you to James & Gayle Flanery for the beautiful Easter Banner given in memory of John & Willa Mae Douglas. We will cherish it for many years to come.

New address for Margaret Chaddick is ...

Stonefield Assisted Living
2701 Alma Rd #12
McKinney, TX 75070
214/491-1710 or
214/335-5065



FCC LIBRARY NEWS

The committee will be logging in books and getting items arranged for shelving next week. Recently, we found many books and the items re-arranged from the memorabilia cabinet. If you visit the library, please do not disturb the books being processed. The RARE editions were donated and must remain in the cabinet. These cannot be taken from the library.

Thanks to all who have recently donated items.

Library Committee



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

Be part of
the story.



SHARE
WORSHIP
HELP RECONNECT



REGISTER
NOW!

Tell It!

Repete yo! • ¡Dilo! • 들려 주어라!

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

www.disciples.org/ga



Betty Coker, Mary Dent, Billy Ray & Bookie Edwards, Ellen Earnhart, Jolene Elliott, Sandi Hale, Barbara Heath, Ethan Heilman, Amanda Maupin, Estelle O'Briant, Libby Packwood, Joan Rowe, Andrew Blaine Russell & family, Paige Veale, Lou Hurst, Jean Paisley, Joan Rowe, Tapia Family, Packwood family, Helen Cannon, Linda Gentry, Melody Ojeda, Those unemployed, Our children and those children suffering from was & abuse here & around the world.

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 Tillet, Cody Yates



Don't miss the 2011 North Texas Area Annual Assembly

“Unashamedly Disciples”

Guest Preacher: Rev. Doug Kriz-New Church Planter

Sunday, May 1, 2011 3-5 p.m.

First Christian Church Plano

813 E. 15th St.

972-272-2900

WORSHIP SERVING SCHEDULE

MAY 2011

GREETERS	Suzanne Exley, Gary Ballard
WORSHIP LEADER	Ona Ballard
SERVING ELDERS	Lori Tillett, Benny Edwards
HOME CENTERED ELDERS	Gary & Ginger Madole, Carolyn Herring
COMMUNION SERVERS	Casey & Renae Heilman
	Mickey & Nancy Boatman
COMMUNION PREP	Gary & Ginger Madole
COFFEE FELLOWSHIP	Cassie Shook, Carolyn Herring

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

**Spring is when you
feel like whistling
even with a shoe
full of slush.
~Doug Larson**

Sunday School attendance:	Worship attendance:	Needed Weekly average \$2,207.00
April 3:27	90	\$2,922.68
April 10:		\$1,644.86
April 17:30	100	\$1,917.25
April 24: 36	128	\$2,456.75

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Van Alstyne Texas

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WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday 9:45 Sunday School
10:30 Coffee Fellowship
10:50 Worship
6:00 Pastors Bible Study

Monday 8:15 Walking Group

Tuesday 9:00 Walking group
9:30 Angelic Threads

Wednesday 8:15 Walking group
6:00 p.m. WNWW
6:30 CYF
7:00 p.m. Choir

Thursday 8:15 Walking group

Friday Church Office Closed
8:15 Walking group

Saturday

Events : May2011

**May 1: Area Assembly, First Christian Church Plano
3-5 p.m.**

**May 1: National day of Prayer, 6 p.m. community
prayer service at Elmont Baptist Church
Van Alstyne**

May 2: Board Meeting 7:30 p.m.

May 7: Youth Garage Sale

May 8: Mother's Day

May 14: Men's Breakfast 7:30 a.m.

May 15: Graduates Luncheon following worship

May 16: Committees 6 p.m. Elders 7 p.m. meetings

May 20: Newsletter deadline

May 21 Young Adult gathering 6-9 p.m.

May 25; Last WNWW for summer months

May 29: Van Alstyne High School Baccalaureate