

FIRST FACTS JULY 2011

Pastoral Ponderings...

As I write my article for this newsletter, it is the first day of summer. It seems to me & others in our community that summer came early this year! That is the price we pay to live in the *Great State of Texas*. The summer months will be passing quickly & we will be complaining that the weather is too cold. Aren't we human beings something else?

As we approach the 4th of July, we have much to celebrate. I hope that all of us will take the time to give thanks to God for our nation, pray for all our leaders & especially be in prayer for our young men & women who are fighting for our freedom & the freedom of others all over the world. All this is on my mind as we prepare once again to celebrate our nation's birthday.

Changing the subject, I am thankful our young people had a very successful trip to Oklahoma City. The report given this past Sunday moved my spirit & caused me to give thanks not only their success's but also for our church leaders who went the extra mile to make sure our youth once again spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ beyond Van Alstyne. We may be a small congregation, but I see God doing many wonderful things in the life of our church. Praise His Holy Name!!

To let you know in advance, R'Cella & I will be taking some vacation toward the end of July. I will be in the pulpit on July 17, but will leave for vacation on the 18th, will be back in the office on August 1st the Lord willing. The Worship Committee (Chowning Hayes, chairperson) will be engaged in finding Pastors to fill the two Sundays I am gone. We ask for your prayers as we remember all of you while on vacation.

Several years ago when I was serving Bethany Christian Church in Farmington, New Mexico I was one of the people on the board of the Black River Christian Camp in Carlsbad, new Mexico. It was a long drive from Farmington to Carlsbad, nearly 1000 miles round trip. I made the trip four times a year. On one occasion I had the honor to meet my colleague in ministry Rev. Dr. Doug Skinner, at this time he is Senior Pastor at Northway Christian Church in Dallas since 1997. I have had the pleasure to hear him preach several times as probably some of you have. In his book entitled: "At the Lord's Table Communion Prayers for all Seasons" One of the prayers Dr. Skinners wrote in his book was for Independence Day. (By the way his book is in our library).

For freedom Christ has set us free, Liberating God, so help us now to stand firm in it, not submitting again to the yoke of slavery or using it to justify eyes of selfish irresponsibility.

Our bondage to self, rebellion, and death was crucified with Jesus Christ on Calvary's cross so that we could be set free to live in obedience to you. Today as we break this bread in remembrance of how & why Christ died, bring to our awareness the way that, in him, we have indeed died to self, been set free from sin, & are liberated for new possibilities. As we have no hope of succeeding in any of this by our own strength, empower us by Your indwelling Spirit to enable us to walk in the freedom to which we have been called. As freedom is part of Your purpose for us all, let us gladly affirm it, gratefully enjoy it, & diligently seek it in every sphere of life, we pray . Amen. Biblical Allusions— Galatians 5:1, 13; Romans 6:1-14; 8:1-11. Thank you Doug for this beautiful prayer.

Have a Happy July 4th, drive safely and may the Lord Jesus Christ grant us all traveling mercies as we travel on vacations this Summer.

In Christian Love & Peace,

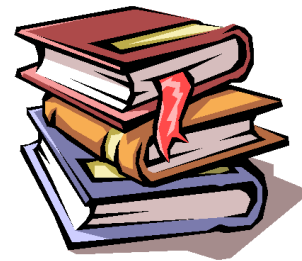
Pastor Gary

LIBRARY NEWS

There are several extra hymnals we wish to offer to church members. These are “old” hymnals used many years ago. Some are from other churches in the area. These will be placed in the South foyer beginning Sunday, July 3rd. Please check these and take as many as you would like. We kept copies of past hymn books in the library.

Again, thanks to all for your understanding and patience as we continue to get all books logged in and ready to shelve. We will have a schedule and guidelines posted later for those interested in book selections.

Thanks,
Happy Reading
Library Committee

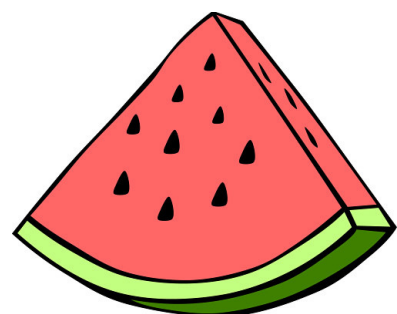


Due to the church clean up day on July 9th, the Men’s breakfast has been moved to July 16th. This will allow our church members the opportunity to participate in this important event.



J.D. Ballard

First Christian Church of Van Alstyne will again be involved in the 4th of July celebration in downtown Van Alstyne. We will be serving ice cold watermelon. Outreach & Evangelism committees will be hosting this event, be sure to stop by our booth & enjoy some melon, meet & make new friends.



Senior Citizen Programs

OPALS Luncheon will be held on July 27th at 11:30 a.m.

Bring your favorite covered dish

Hosting this month will be Zack & Carolyn Herring,

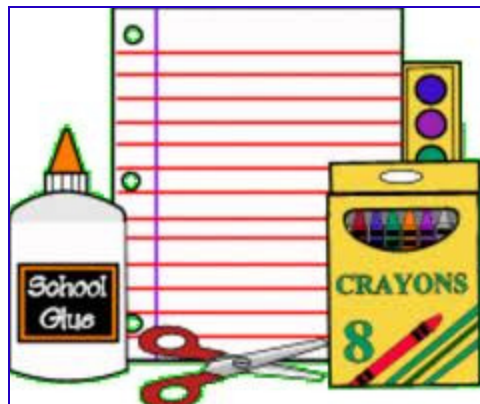
Mike & Jannay Malone

Come join in the fellowship.

School Supply Give Away 2011

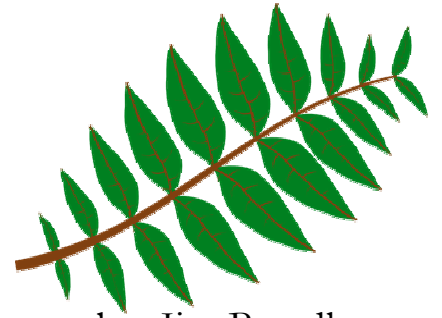
The annual school supply drive will be held August 7, at the gazebo downtown. We hope to begin early getting things in order so... we would like to have a table with some gently used clothes & shoes, games & prizes will be done, hairstylist will be available to do back to school haircuts, health/dental exams will be available & of course school supplies. Last year bicycles as well as smaller prizes were given away. We hope to receive donations so that this year we can have back packs & lunch boxes. DONATIONS, DONATIONS, DONATIONS this is really what is needed. This event is supported by the Van Alstyne Ministerial Alliance, for more information on how you can help, please contact

Tina Sikes @ Greywood Heights Church of God, 903/482-6700



A great big thank you to the volunteer who trimmed the bushes at the Mottley building. We are very grateful to all who keep things in order around here.

Gods blessings to you!



A warm welcome to new member Jim Breedlove, Jim joined our church family on May 15, 2011. For your information & to update your directory

Jims address is
4154 Old Highway 6
Van Alstyne 75495
903/482-0579

His birthday is September 21

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.



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

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the story.



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WORSHIP
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discounts on registration and
housing until 4/1/2011

www.disciples.org/ga



Ona Ballard, Billie Carpenter, Charles Cate, Betty Coker, Carley Mae (Infant), Mary Dent, Phillip Eddlson, George Elliott, Richard Fifer, Jody Marshall, Amanda Maupin, Dwight Munger, Libby Packwood, Paul Purdom, Joan Rowe, Joel, Teagyn Terry & Family, Steve Williams.

Sympathy to the family & friends of Jared Rock of Van Alstyne

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 Tillet, Cody Yates

PRAY FOR OUR

MILITARY

WORSHIP SERVING SCHEDULE

JULY 2011

GREETERS	Trea & Alicia Madole
WORSHIP LEADER	Nancy Boatman
SERVING ELDERS	Charlesene Hulseby, John Brevelle
HOME CENTERED ELDERS	Benny Edwards, Mike Kee
COMMUNION SERVERS	Randy & Donna Stieben Suzanne Exley, Gary Ballard
COMMUNION PREP	Suzanne Exley
COFFEE FELLOWSHIP	Gayle Flanery

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

It is easy to take liberty for granted, when you have never had it taken from you.

Sunday School attendance:	Worship attendance:	Needed Weekly average \$2,207.00
June 5 : 20	74	\$2,609.00
June 12:	89	\$1,649.54
June 19: 24	120	\$1,638.50
June 26:		

First Christian Church Van Alstyne
(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
6:30 CYF

Thursday 8:15 Walking group

Friday Church Office Closed
8:15 Walking group

Saturday

Events : July 2011

*July 4 : Independence Day, celebration downtown Van Alstyne.
Office Closed*

July 9: Work Day here at FCCVA

July 11: Board Meeting 7:30 p.m. Moore Hall

July 16: Men's Breakfast 7:30 a.m.

July 17: VBS kickoff! 6 p.m. VBS 17-21 6-8 p.m.

July 27: OPALS Luncheon 11:30 a.m.