



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



DOWNTOWN ON THE
COURTHOUSE SQUARE

January 2009

A Note from the Pastor ...

You may be glad just to see the old year go away, and are happy to ring in the new. I would guess we have all needed and wanted at various times in our lives a new beginning or a “do over.” Maybe the New Year gives us a second chance, or the fresh start, we long for. Surely, there are things in 2009 we can do better than we have done this past year: some good things in 2008, but disappointments and even great pains and struggles for many of us, as well. Let us take to heart the lessons from hurt and

loss, and grow together in hope and gratitude for the good things.

Let this be the year we make First Christian a bigger presence in Belton for the good, in particular, by acts of kindness among neighbors, standing for justice when we see wrong, speaking peace to those around, giving credit for the good to God, offering praise and sacrifice and worship to God in Jesus our Lord. We all will be called upon to do a little bit more in these respects. Our church and community need this “little bit

more.”

My prayer for each of you is success in everything you do this year: in loving the unlovable, in giving more than we think we are able, in offering words of hope and peace to those about us, and in rejoicing with brothers and sisters at the immeasurable grace and mercy of our God.

...and may the Lord make you increase in love to one another and to all people, so that he may establish your hearts unblamable in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

1 Thessalonians 3:12-13

~ Mike

Church Staff

Ministers

Members of First Christian Church

Minister

Rev Michael Dunson

Choir Director/Pianist

Marilyn VanSchoelandt

Song Leader

Don VanSchoelandt

Media Team

Dusty Smith

Carol Harrison

Kathy Jordan

Nursery Attendant

Jaime Wheeler



UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ January 4: Chi Rho Winter Retreat registration deadline
- ◆ January 11: Elders' Meeting
- ◆ January 16: Worship Team Meeting
- ◆ January 18: O&E Team Meeting
- ◆ January 19: Salad Kings
- ◆ January 19: Church Office Closed
- ◆ January 23: Chili Day
- ◆ January 24: Trinity-Brazos Area Gathering, Ft Worth
- ◆ January 25: Newsletter Deadline
- ◆ January 30-February 1: Chi Rho Mid Winter Retreat

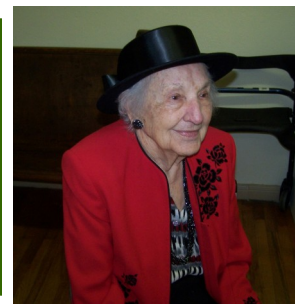
Financial Picture



Financial Picture
November 2008

Receipts – \$3805

Expenditures – \$5607



December Snapshot
Thelma Grammond

We did not have a photo at press time last month and we certainly didn't want you to miss this special lady.

MISSION STATEMENT

First Christian Church is a Christ-centered community of believers who are being transformed by the grace of God:

—to nurture faith through Scripture, prayer and fellowship

—to minister to the whole person, body and mind

—to embrace and share the spiritual gifts of each individual, and

—to magnify the compassion of Jesus through service with dignity.



Thank You

Thank you, First Christian Church and DWM, for your generosity at Christmas. I appreciate the gifts you gave me. You are very special to me and I count you as family. I am glad God has allowed our paths to cross in this lifetime.

God Bless You,
Jan

Three boys are in the school yard bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, they give him \$50." The second boy says, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give him \$100." The third boy says, "I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect all the money!"

Moderator's Memo

Now that the holiday season is winding down, we can look forward to a new, and rewarding coming year. So much has happened in a short time. We've been pretty busy with Advent, and celebrating the birth of our coming savior, and now it is time to start looking forward to getting our church on the move.

I've seen a few new faces in our congregation during the holidays, and would like to see more people find their way to God through our

doors. We're a close and loving group, who share what we have, and try to help others where we can, and this type of spirit, living our lives as I believe Jesus would have us do, is what makes us who we are at First Christian Church. Knowing and loving God is our greatest privilege, and being known and loved is God's greatest pleasure.

Thanks to all who show their love!

Kirk



Words from the Worship Team

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations. – Psalm 100: 4-5

Advent will end on January 5 and Epiphany will begin on January 6. Epiphany is the celebration of the manifestation of God to the world.

Here are the plans for 2009 thus far:

Mike is planning to preach his sermons on Scriptures suggested from you, the congregation. If you have a Scripture or Scriptures you would like to hear Mike preach from, please tell him or send them to him. He has received a few Scriptures but still needs more. You may send as many as you would like.

Also, if you have any favorite hymns, please send the titles to Marilyn VanSchoelandt. More information on this will follow.

We have our Worship Team meetings on a regular basis bi-monthly. Our next meeting will be on January 16 at 6 p.m. at the church.

Worship Leaders for January:

- January 4 – Rita Bartlett
- January 11 – Terri Holwerda
- January 18 – Mattie Wesson
- January 25 – Hope Brown



May God bless you and may you have a blessed new year!
Mylssa

A Report from the Stewardship Team

In January we Christians celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord Jesus Christ. This season begins with the visit of the Wise Men to Bethlehem to come and worship the King and Savior. Epiphany continues with the baptism of Jesus and His temptations in the desert. The season of Epiphany concludes with the transfiguration of Jesus when he revealed the splendor of His divine glory to Peter, James and John.

Jesus used his divine power to give glory to God and countless blessings to millions of people who would otherwise perish in darkness. In his three-year journey to the cross Jesus put his love into action. He healed the sick, raised the dead and proclaimed the good news of salvation. And then on the cross he made the supreme sacrifice of giving all—even his life—to fulfill God's plan of salvation. From start to finish Jesus, God's chief steward, demonstrated his stewardship perfectly with acts of love.

January is a good time of the year to make some resolutions that honor God and bring blessings to other people through our acts of stewardship. Stewardship begins with a changed heart which results in acts that demonstrate faith and love. As the Apostle John said, "*Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.*" (1 John 3:18)



Epiphany commemorates Jesus showing his love in action. Epiphany is a great time for us Christian stewards to also dedicate all that we are [the children of God] and have [gifts of time, talent and treasure] to bring glory to God and blessings to others. Last month we received \$3,805 in regular tithes and offerings and spent \$5,607. (We borrowed \$2,000 from our investment fund.)

Blessings, *Cindy*

DWM Dish



Thanks to all of the work that we put into the first Craft Bazaar and Stew Lunch, we made a great profit! We have decided to send more money to support the Children's Advocacy Center of Central Texas. Also, we are starting to get ready for the **Chili Day set for Friday, January 23rd** for one of our famous "Luncheon on the Square" events. Tell your friends and family to plan to make it for lunch and fellowship. We'll be needing help on this day, so if you can help, plan to be there!

We will have a church clean-up day after the new year. We will keep you posted on the date.

Thanks for all of your help and support, and we can only pray to reach more people in need of help in 2009.

Your DWM President,

Hope Brown

Snapshot of the Month

Our snapshot of the month for this New Year is the church's Little Angel, Dindy Brown.



Little Dindy was born in Austin, Texas, June 3, 2003 to Blake and Hope Brown. She lived there until she was about 14 months old and then moved to Belton and started attending First Christian Church. She has one brother, Houston, who is 2 years old.

Dindy's grandparents are Max and Kathy Jordan. Dindy says that one of her favorite things to do is to cook macaroni with her "Gi-Gi" (Kathy). Apparently she is a little chef in the making because she likes to cook with her mother while her little brother naps. She especially likes to peel things like carrots, potatoes, cucumbers and apples. She also shows an interest in hair styling, having cut her own hair twice. She

also may be a linguistics specialist; she has made up a language with her little brother and translates for him to the rest of the family.

Her favorite dessert is Strawberry Shortcake and her favorite colors are purple and pink. Her favorite activities are swinging and going to church.

Dindy goes to Mother's Day Out, two days a week, at Covenant Lutheran Church and has found two friends there, Maddie and Avery.

Her mother says that she is very nurturing, smart, and brave. Dindy is not afraid to explore options but will also let you know when she is not interested in what you are doing.

Dindy and the rest of the children of First Christian Church are the future of the Church, and we think the future looks very bright.

Doug & Jody Suhr/Snapshot Editors

JANUARY SERVICE CALENDAR

	January 4	January 11	January 18	January 25
Communion Elder	Mattie Wesson	Cindy Capps	Tom Tapman	Amy Larson
Offertory Elder	Amy Larson	Kathy Jordan	Charlene Tapman	Kirk Wallace
Early Deacon	Hope Jordan	Mylessa Wheeler	Mattie Wesson	Cindy Capps
Deacon 1	Mylessa Wheeler	Mylessa Wheeler	Mylessa Wheeler	Mylessa Wheeler
Deacon 2	Terri Holwerda	Amy Larson	Terri Holwerda	Max Jordan
Deacon 3	Hope Brown	Kirk Wallace	Mattie Wesson	Cindy Capps
Deacon 4	Kirk Wallace	Judy Wallace	Amy Larson	Kathy Jordan
Communion Preparation	Mattie Wesson	Judy Wallace	Tom Tapman	Mylessa Wheeler
Homebound Communion	(Ankenbauer) Charlene Tapman	As needed	(Ankenbauer) Mattie Wesson	As needed
Ride for Thelma	Judy Wallace	Tom Tapman	Kathy Jordan Amy Larson	Mattie Wesson
Greeters	Marilyn Ankenbauer	Max Jordan	Doris Sanders	Hope Brown
Refreshments	Blake & Hope Brown	Mattie Wesson	Judy Wallace	Max & Kathy Jordan
Acolytes	Derek Smith	Aleshia Mains	Darren Smith	Allyson Mains
Children's Moment				

Prayer List

Unity in the Church
 Those serving our country
 Helping Hands Ministry
 Robert & Marianne Ammerman
 Bill & Marilyn Ankenbauer
 Tot Avant
 Rita Bartlett
 Lucille Booth
 Cindy Capps
 Daffy Carpenter
 Becky Chafin & family
 Shelly Chapman's mother

Gladys Cockrum
 Janice Cockrum
 Richard Colpitts
 Heather Cotter
 Wes & Susan Craig
 Dr. Lynn & Judy Curry
 Shannon Eric
 Todd Erskine
 Thelma Grammond
 Haley & Lexie
 Darlena Jones
 John Lehrmann
 Ruby Llewelyn

Niecie & Stacy McGill
 Helen Meurer
 Sharon Moore
 Ants Palm-Leis
 Anna Paruzinski
 Patricia's mother
 Ovella Phillips
 Richard Shigut
 Charline Spears
 Floyd & Joyce Spindle
 Penny Stofer
 Jody Suhr
 Faye Washington

Debbie Whitson
 Elsie York
 People of Darfur
 People of Zimbabwe



JANUARY 2009

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<p>Sunday Schedule: 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Fellowship 11 am Worship Service 12:15 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>				<p>1  Church Office Closed</p>	<p>2 Birthday Ovella Phillips</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4 Chi Rho Mid Winter registration due</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 Birthday Derek Smith</p>	<p>8 Birthday Charlene Tapman</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 Birthday Harvey Strunk</p>
<p>11 Elders' Meeting</p>	<p>12 Birthday Sharon Moore</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 6pm Worship Team Meeting</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 O & E Team Meeting Birthday Brett Jordan</p>	<p>19 Church Office Closed 6pm Salad Kings Birthday Terri Holwerda</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 Chili Day </p>	<p>24 TBA Gathering</p>
<p>25 Newsletter Deadline CYF Mid Winter registration due</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 Birthday Kevin Saylors Jaime Wheeler</p>	<p>29 Birthday Cindy Capps</p>	<p>30 Chi Rho Mid Winter Retreat through February 1</p>	<p>31 Birthday Bob McGuyer</p>



LECTIONARY READING

<p>January 4</p> <p>Jeremiah 3:7-14 Psalm 147:12-20 Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1: (1-9), 10-18 Sermon Text: Luke 15:1-24</p>	<p>January 11</p> <p>Genesis 1:1-5 Psalm 29 Acts 19:1-7 Mark 1:4-11 Sermon Text: Luke 15:25-32</p>	<p>January 18</p> <p>1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20) Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 John 1:43-51 Sermon Text: Psalm 23</p>	<p>January 25</p> <p>Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Psalm 62:5-12 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20 Sermon Text: ! Corinthians 14:26-40</p>
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COME AND SEE



First Christian Church

January 2009

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fccbeltonjan@sbcglobal.net (Ministry Assistant)

The Will of God never takes you to where the Grace of God will not protect you.

Recipe of the Month

Texas Cabbage Slaw

Ingredients:

1 large head of Chinese Cabbage
1 bunch green onions
2 pkg crushed chicken-flavored Top Ramen soup noodles
2/3 cup slivered almonds
1/2 cup sesame seeds

Directions:

Chop and mix cabbage, onions, and bell pepper.
Refrigerate until ready to mix.
Brown crushed noodles, almonds, and sesame seeds in butter.
Cool mixture in refrigerator until ready to use.
Sprinkle with dry chicken soup packets and stir all into noodle mix.
Combine well with greens.

Dressing:

"A.S.A.P."

A Special Poem - Author Unknown

There's work to do, deadlines to meet;
You've got no time to spare,
But as you hurry and scurry-
A.S.A.P. - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER

In the midst of family chaos,
"Quality time" is rare.
Do your best; let God do the rest-
A.S.A.P. - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER.

It may seem like your worries
Are more than you can bear.
Slow down and take a breather-
A.S.A.P. - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER

God knows how stressful life is;
He wants to ease our cares,
And He'll respond to all your needs
A.S.A.P. - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER.