



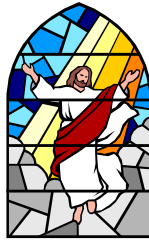
# FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



DOWNTOWN ON THE  
COURTHOUSE SQUARE

February 2009

## A Note from the Pastor ...



Have you ever taken the time to gaze at the windows in the sanctuary and foyer, and ponder the names engraved upon them? When I first came to town, I would look at them and wonder who these people were. But after a while I gave it up, for I never heard the names in conversations at church. I surmised they were Disciples and citizens in God's Kingdom from long ago, without a close relationship to us today at First Christian. I was right and wrong.

There is among us a history buff, who, the past few weeks, has been researching these ancestors in the faith and has discovered many were sons and daughters of the South who moved to Texas soon after the War Between the States; many of them were first generation Texans, born here late in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. These were people who helped settle our city and county; they were merchants and soldiers and farmers, two of them, ministers of this

very congregation. They lived in homes still standing, on Main Street and Penelope, or near Killeen, or Cameron. And they are buried in area cemeteries.

So, yes, I was right, the people in the windows are from long ago, but I was wrong that they have not a close relation to us. We are their children in the faith, bearing the good news of Lord Jesus and carrying on the tradition of charity and service to our community, which they began more than 150 years ago. Thanks be to God for their witness and vision and faithfulness. And thanks be to God for the steadfast love he has always shown his servants here at First Church in Belton.

~ Mike

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

Hebrews 12:1-2

### 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

- ◆ February 1: Souper Bowl of Caring
- ◆ February 7: Church-Wide Cleanup Day
- ◆ February 8: Elders' Meeting
- ◆ February 8: Southern Cluster Gathering
- ◆ February 15: O&E Team Meeting
- ◆ February 15: Brisket Sandwiches
- ◆ February 16: Salad Kings
- ◆ February 22: Newsletter Deadline
- ◆ February 22: Church Council meeting
- ◆ February 24: Belton Ministers' Fellowship Pancake Supper
- ◆ February 25: Ash Wednesday

Prayer:

*Don't give God instructions -- just report for duty!*

### 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.



### Financial Picture



January 2009

Receipts — \$7911  
Expenditures — \$7173

Worrying does not empty tomorrow of its troubles. It empties today of its strength.

--- Anonymous

### Words from the Worship Team

Also I heard the voice of the Lord saying, Whom shall I send? And who will go for me? Then said I, Here am I, send me. *Isaiah 6:8*

At this time we are still in the season of Epiphany and will be until February 25. On February 25, which is also Ash Wednesday, we move into the season of Lent where in penitence and contrition we bring before God the brokenness and evil in our lives, asking for God's forgiveness and healing.

Mike will meet with Don Lynn, the minister of the First Christian Church in Temple, to talk about having joint Maundy Thursday or Good Friday services with our church and theirs. The plan is to have one of the services at one church and the other service at the other. Watch for details.

Kathy Jordan will get the palms leaves for Palm Sunday. Thank you, Kathy. On Palm Sunday the children will bring the leaves into the sanctuary during the service and pass the leaves out to the congregation.

February is Helping Hands Awareness Month. Helping Hands is a faith based non-profit organization focused on meeting the needs of people in the local community in order to share the love of Jesus Christ. A few of their projects are Apple Tree, Benevolence Program, Bundles of Joy as well as grocery assistance, providing food for holiday meals, and emergency needs for people. Mike Bergman is the director of Helping Hands and he will be delivering a sermon to our congregation on February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The Children's Moment name has changed to the Youth & Children's Moment. Volunteers are needed and welcomed. The sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall.

Mike is looking for Scripture suggestions from the congregation. He will take these Scriptures and preach a sermon from the Scripture text. If you have a Scripture about which you would like to hear a sermon, please let Mike know. He will also e-mail that sermon or any other sermons to anyone who requests one.

The February Worship Leaders are:

- February 1 - Diane Pressley
- February 8 - Mylessa Wheeler
- February 15 - Charlene Tapman
- February 22 - Kathy Jordan



May God Bless You All, Mylessa

### A Little Humor



A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to "Honor thy father and thy mother," she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without missing a beat, one little boy answered, "Thou shall not kill."

## A Report from the Stewardship Team

When you ask people about what happens in February they will probably say "Valentine's Day." And that certainly is a day to remember and practice what real love between family members and friends is all about. As the Bible teaches, "how sweet it is when people live together in peace and harmony." Some other people may point out that February includes celebrating Ground Hog's Day, a time when most people hope that "Punxsutawney Phil" will not see his shadow when he peeks out of his hiding hole, so winter will be shorter and spring on the way. On "Presidents' Day" we remember and give thanks to God for good presidents like George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. By God's goodness we are citizens of this great country and thus have an obligation to love, respect and serve our country as good and Godly citizens.

This privilege of being Americans and serving our country with respect and loyalty reminds us of an even greater citizenship, namely that of being the children of God through faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord, and the respect and loyalty that we are to demonstrate as children of the Heavenly Father. Because of what Jesus has done for us we are **"God's redeemed stewards, in partnership with and encouragement from fellow redeemed stewards, who freely and joyfully manage all of life and life's resources for God's purposes."** God has done so much for us in Christ. We can offer only our thanks and praises when we live as God's stewards. Thanks to all of you for sharing your time, tithes and offerings. Last month we received \$7,911 and spent \$7,173.



Blessings, Cindy

## DWM Dish



Well we had a successful Chili Day in January. Thank you to all of the church members that contributed your time and cooking skills.

Next up is the **Brisket Sandwiches Lunch on Sunday, February 15th**. Bag lunch to go that you can pick up after church. Thanks to the Salad Kings for taking charge of this event!

We will have our monthly **DWM meeting February 2nd in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00pm**. Things to bring to the meeting would be items for the current drive for items that women and children can use and need (everyday dishes and utensils, sheets, laundry supplies). Ask Charlene Tapman if you have any questions.

We have the **church wide cleaning day set for Saturday, February 7th**. We will have a pot of coffee going by 9:00am. Join us to do a good cleaning of the church. We will have a good time whether we like it or not. \*smile\*

Thank you all, Hope

## Snapshot of the Month

Our snapshot for this month is one of our "song birds," Amy Larson. Amy was born in Wisconsin to Gerald and Marlys Larson. She is the fourth child in a family of six children having four brothers and one sister.

Amy's dad was in the military so she spent most of her younger years traveling and received some of her education in Washington State, Nebraska, and Spain. Her family moved to San Antonio in 1969 when she was in junior high and graduated from high school in San Antonio.

Amy has been a "song bird" for several years having joined the Sweet Adelines in 1993, some 15 years ago. This association has allowed her the opportunity to travel to



such places as Australia, New Zealand, England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Germany, Italy, and France. It is quite obvious from watching and listening to her on Sunday that she is very passionate about her singing. We are very blessed to have this talent in our congregation.

Amy moved into the area in 1986 and started attending First Christian Church in 1987. Amy officially joined the church in 1989. Amy is a licensed Massage Therapist after attending weekend classes starting in 1999 and graduating in 2000. Her practice is located at First Impressions, South 13<sup>th</sup> and Ave M in Temple. Amy lives in Rogers with her 2 goats and 3 dogs.

Doug & Jody Suhr/Snapshot Editors

## FEBRUARY SERVICE CALENDAR

	February 1	February 8	February 15	February 22
Communion Elder	Cindy Capps	Mattie Wesson	Tom Tapman	Mattie Wesson
Offertory Elder	Kathy Jordan	Amy Larson	Charlene Tapman	Kirk Wallace
Early Deacon	Kirk Wallace	Hope Brown	Cindy apps	Hope Brown
Deacon 1	Mylessa Wheeler	Mylessa Wheeler	Mylessa Wheeler	Mylessa Wheeler
Deacon 2	Kirk Wallace	Kathy Jordan	Cindy Capps	Judy Wallace
Deacon 3	Judy Wallace	Hope Brown	Hope Brown	Hope Brown
Deacon 4	Diane Pressley	Terri Holwerda	Judy Wallace	Diane Pressley
Communion Preparation	Kirk Wallace	Hope Brown	Mylessa Wheeler	Tom Tapman
Homebound Communion	(Ankenbauer) Charlene Tapman	As needed	(Ankenbauer) Mattie Wesson	As needed
Ride for Thelma	Judy Wallace	Tom Tapman	Kathy Jordan	Mattie Wesson
Greeters	Jody Suhr	Marilyn Ankenbauer	Doris Sanders	Max Jordan
Refreshments	Jody & Doug Suhr	Cindy Capps	Blake & Hope Brown	Judy & Kirk Wallace
Acolytes	Aleshia Mains	Darren Smith	Allyson Mains	Derek Smith
Youth & Children's Moment	Tom Tapman	Mylessa Wheeler	Hope Brown	Kirk Wallace

## Prayer List

Unity in the Church  
 Those serving our country  
 Helping Hands Ministry  
 Robert & Marianne Ammerman  
 Terri Anderson  
 Bill & Marilyn Ankenbauer  
 Tot Avant  
 Barbara  
 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






Kayla Holwerda  
 John Kucker  
 Haley & Lexie  
 Darlena Jones  
 John Lehmann  
 Ruby Llewelyn  
 E. J. Malone  
 Niece & Stacy McGill  
 Helen Meurer  
 Sharon Moore  
 Ants Palm-Leis  
 Anna Paruzinski

Patricia's mother  
 Ovella Phillips  
 Richard Shigut  
 Employees of Spansion  
 Charline Spears  
 Floyd & Joyce Spindle  
 Penny Stofer  
 Jody Suhr  
 Faye Washington  
 Debbie Whitson  
 Elsie York  
 People of Darfur  
 People of Zimbabwe

**Sunday Schedule:**

- 9:30 am Sunday School
- 10:45 am Fellowship
- 11 am Worship Service
- 12:15 pm Choir Rehearsal

# FEBRUARY 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Souper Bowl of Caring	2 6pm DWM Meeting	3	4 6pm Prayer Time 6:30pm Bible Study	5	6	7 10am Church-Wide Clean Up Day
8 8:30am Elders' Meeting Southern Cluster Gathering	9 <i>Birthday: Debbie Colpitts</i>	10	11 6pm Prayer Time 6:30pm Bible Study	12	13 <i>Birthday: Betty Malone</i>	14 <b>Valentine's Day</b> 
15 Brisket Sandwiches O&E Team Meeting	16  6pm Salad Kings	17	18 6pm Prayer Time 6:30pm Bible Study	19	20	21 ◀ CYF Mid Winter Retreat through February 22 ▶
22 Church Council Meeting Newsletter Deadline	23	24 Belton Ministers' Fellowship Pancake Supper	25 6pm Prayer Time 6:30pm Bible Study 	26	27	28



**LECTIONARY READING**

February 1	February 8	February 15	February 22
Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Psalm 111 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Mark 1:21-28 Sermon Text: Romans 8:22-27	Isaiah 40:21-31 Psalm 147:1-11, 20c 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 Mark 1:29-39 Sermon Text: Matthew 10:5-10	2 Kings 5:1-14 Psalm 30 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 Mark 1:40-45 Sermon Text: Proverbs 3:1-8	2 Kings 2:1-12 Psalm 50:1-6 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 Mark 9:2-9 Sermon Text: Guest Preacher

## COME AND SEE



### First Christian Church

February 2009

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Pastor: (254) 598-8278  
E-mail: fccbelton100@sbcglobal.net (Pastor)  
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:

1 cup vegetable oil  
2/3 cup sugar  
1/3 cup rice wine vinegar  
1 tsp each salt & pepper  
Blend well and pour over slaw.

--- Beverly McComas

## Helping Hands Ministry of Belton

**February** is Helping Hands Ministry of Belton Awareness Month. Helping Hands is a local food bank located at 2210 Holland Road, Belton. It is a faith based non-profit organization serving low-income families who reside within the Belton Independent School District providing them with food, clothing, and housing assistance along with several other special programs. For more information, visit the website: [www.helpinghandsbelton.org/](http://www.helpinghandsbelton.org/)



Seen in a church bulletin ...

The eight-graders will be performing Shakespeare's "Hamlet" in the church basement on Friday. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.