

The Dome



First Christian Church Fort Worth, Texas

Volume 16, Issue 5, January 31, 2012



We are disciples of Christ, welcoming everyone to become all God calls us to be in Christ Jesus. Loving, serving and growing together, we worship and study scripture to build God's community.



Ministers Week - Brite Divinity School February 6-9, 2012

Wells Sermon - 7 pm Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday
Rev. Mike Graves, Professor of Preaching at Saint Paul School of Theology in
Kansas City, Missouri and Reg. Minister of Preaching for the
Greater Kansas City CC

Scott Lectures - 9 & 11 am

Dr. Namsoon Kang, Professor of World Christianity & Religion at Brite

Davis Workshop in Ministry - 9 & 10:30 am Wednesday

Dr. Bruce Epperly, Theologian, Pastor, Author and Leader in Faith Formation

McFadin Lectures - 9 & 10:30 am Thursday

Dr. Phyllis Tribble, Professor at Wake Forest University Divinity School

Discipleship Class 2012

Are you Interested in Confessing Faith and Being Baptized?

Our Discipleship Class for children and youth will be held during the Sunday School hour each Sunday in February and March. Please contact Tom or Christy to let them know of your interest. The class is tailored for those mature enough to abstract, but there are no firm age requirements. Most find the class appropriate for their children when they are in the fifth or sixth grade or older. Attendance at every class session is highly encouraged.

THANK YOU

We recently received a "thank-you" letter from Brite Divinity School for our contribution to the Building Fund.

FW 1st provides a nursery downstairs near the Taylor Street entrance for infants through pre-school-age children.

Deadline for newsletter

articles is **Monday**
by noon.

Please submit articles by e-mail, if possible, or in writing.

CALENDAR

REGULAR EVENTS

Sunday *Sunday School*

Worship

Youth Groups

Bell Choir

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Wed *Chancel Choir*

Feb 3-

Feb 5 *Chi Rho Mid-winter Retreat*

Feb 3 *Noon Music*

Feb 4 *Men's Breakfast*

Feb 5 *FCC Wear Red Day*

Feb 6-

Feb 9 *Ministers' Week at TCU*

Feb 17 *Church Women United*

Feb 19 *Cabinet Meeting*

Feb 21 *CWF Meetings*

Feb 22 *Ash Wednesday Service*

Feb 24-

Feb 26 *CYF Mid-winter Retreat*

Feb 26 *Birthday Lunch*

WELCOME NEW VISITORS

Caitlin Jordan

M. Dallas

Mike & Susie Bessonett

January 29, 2012

Sunday School	46
Worship	137
Needed to meet budget	\$5770
Offering received	\$8197
Difference	+ \$2427

The love of God extended through our members:
Priceless.

Tom's Turn-From Here to Better

January is time for re-thinking things, particularly re-thinking the way we are living and beginning to live better. At the beginning of the month, we make New Year's resolutions. In the church we annually take another look at how Jesus was an epiphany, an instance of our seeing and knowing God among us. Also in January we remember our baptisms and how we ourselves are called and pulled and empowered to be just like Jesus. Institutionally, we take January as a time to re-examine how we are doing at this corporate thing called Church, this being the Body of Christ. All of these are the same action—us re-thinking our here and now and moving toward the better.

As a congregation, we have real challenges staring at us. We always do, really. It goes with the territory. God chose to call us—humans—instead of doing God's thing in what I could imagine would be a much less messy way. But that was God's choice, this choice for us, to empower us, to do divine work through us. So the challenges to being our institutional selves, challenges like paying the bills and treating each other right, are part and parcel of who we are. They must not deter our greater mission. But, in truth, they are intrinsic to our greater mission—that work of showing forth the grace and mercy of God in real life.

Ten days ago, forty-one of our leaders met to talk about and to experience how we can move from where we are to someplace better. They took away from that meeting several principles:

- ▲ that by knowing each other more deeply we learn to appreciate each other more fully;
- ▲ that through experiences of deeper communion we ourselves become more alive;
- ▲ that more of us becoming more alive can and should lead to more sharing of the joy and hope of that living;
- ▲ that greater greater sharing of that joy and hope can help those around us deal with the persistent, "Is this all there is?" question; and
- ▲ that deeper and fuller appreciation of each other also leads to concerted efforts to heal the sick, to lift up the broken, to liberate the captive, or, in other words, to do the Lk.4.16ff stuff, the ministry Jesus claimed.

These are the things I took away from that day. These are the things that were underneath the Bible study, inside the group-building, at the core of the exercises through which the group was led.

Next we put those to work. Like the movement of January, we move from re-thinking to better living. If you committed last Sunday to work on Christian Education, how do these five principles impact your thinking and planning for that portion of our church's life? Or if you committed to work on Evangelism and are thinking about growing our membership, what do these principles say to you? And so on, for all of the different avenues through which we do our work together. Where does our re-thinking lead?

I closed Sunday's sermon with a quote from William Sloane Coffin's 2011 book of essays on public morality titled, The Heart Is a Little to the Left. I leave you with the entire passage today in hopes that it will guide your prayers about this matter of moving from here to better.

Tom's Turn [cont.] Coffin said:

The challenge, then, is to recognize that the world is about two things: differentiation and communion. The challenge is to seek a unity that celebrates diversity, to unite the particular with the universal, to recognize the need for roots while insisting that the point of roots is to put forth branches. What is intolerable is for differences to become idolatrous. No human being's identity is exhausted by his or her gender, race, ethnic origin, national loyalty or sexual orientation. All human beings have more in common than they have in conflict, and it is precisely when what they have in conflict seems overwhelming that what they have in common needs most to be affirmed.

It is that affirmation that will lead us to deeper love and to the better.I'll see you and your guests next Sunday. Remember to share a ride when possible, to wash your hands often, and to share God's Good News daily, even if it's only with a smile. To prepare for Sunday, please read Isa. 40.21-31.

Peace,
Tom

Dear Members of First Christian Church,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$137.00 on December 31 to the Ladder Alliance. Your gift ensures that we can continue to provide women victims of domestic violence and low income women with the tools they need to lead self-reliant, independent and successful lives.

I would like to share with you a quick story about one of our graduates. April enrolled in our program last winter. She was a young woman living in a homeless shelter. Apparently her parents had little interest in her and asked her to leave the house when she turned eighteen. April went through our computer skills training program and graduated at the "top" of her class. We just heard from the director of the shelter that April is now the Director of Janitorial Services there and is living independently in her own apartment. Her computer skills are extremely important to her supervisory role. We hear daily of the success of our graduates like April.

Again, thank you for your donation.

Sincerely,
Sarah Plummer Erekson

THE CON-DUKE-TOR

Dear Boys, Girls, Parents, and Friends,

The Orff Philosophy includes singing, dancing, and the playing of instruments. Last Sunday you saw this philosophy demonstrated as the **Choristers** sang and danced "Sing for Joy." Next month they will demonstrate this philosophy again as they sing and play instruments (Orff and Hand Bells) when performing the song "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus." Additionally, we have begun practicing music for Lent and Easter.

The **FCC Youth Chorale** is preparing 2-part Lenten and Easter music as well which includes the following pieces: "Hallelujah" (an excerpt from "Hallelujah Chorus" by Handel, "Da Pacem Domine" (a Latin introit), and "Through Heaven's Eyes" (music from The Prince of Egypt.) Additionally, we are working on other music for general use.

We encourage all FCC boys and girls to participate in one of our choirs. We meet each Sunday morning using the following schedule:

Cherub Choir	4 – 5 years of age
10:00 – 10:20 a.m.	
Youth Chorale	6 th – 12 th graders
10:20 – 10:50 a.m.	
Choristers	Kinder – 5 th graders
11:30 – 12:00 noon	

As always, thank you for your interest and involvement in our music program.

Sincerely,
Jan Shelton



TBA/CWF RETREAT
MARCH 23-25, 2012 DISCIPLES
CROSSING ATHENS, TEXAS
COST IS \$80.00
FOR INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION FORMS, CONTACT SUSAN WARREN csusanwarren@sbcglobal.net
Phone: 817-457-3706. Deadline is Feb 3rd.

Keynoter is Rev. Deborah Morgan Stokes and the theme is "Transforming Women's Ministries."

First Christian Church
612 Throckmorton
Fort Worth, TX 76102

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**Serving for
MORNING WORSHIP**

February 5, 2012

Senior Minister, Tom Plumbley

Old Testament: Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm: Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
Epistle: I Corinthians 9:16-23
The Gospel: Mark 1:29-39
Sermon Focus: When we're weary,
feelin' small

Elder Loaf: George Brady
Elder Cup: Debbie Brady

Deacons: Karrin Atkinson, Barbara
Batts, Jesse Burns, Chris Gonzales, Tina
Gonzales, Jimmy Johnson, Wini Klein,
Sarah Murphy
Communion Preparation & Clean-up:
Karrin Atkinson and Barbara Batts



**Sunday Schedule
February 5, 2012**

<i>Elders Meet</i>	9:00 am
<i>Sunday School</i>	9:30 am
<i>Cherub Choir</i>	10:00 am
<i>Youth Chorale</i>	10:20 am
<i>Worship</i>	10:50 am
<i>Choristers</i>	11:30 am
<i>Youth Groups</i>	12:30 pm
<i>Hand bell Choir</i>	2:30 pm
<i>Prayer Shawl Ministry</i>	4:00 pm

CHURCH STAFF

Tom Plumbley, Senior Minister

Dr. Ted Klein, Associate Minister

*Christy Suggs, Director of
Youth Ministries*

*Charles E. Duke,
Senior Minister of Music*

*Jan Shelton, Minister of Music
for Children and Youth*

*Mary Mason, Director,
Burnside Handbell Choir*

*Peggy Grogan, Secretary
Roberta Williams, Bookkeeper*

George Clemons, Custodian

*Church Office -- 817/336-7185
Church Fax -- 817/332-2979*

E-mail: ftwfirst@sbcglobal.net

Web Site: fccftw.org



**CHURCH WOMEN
UNITED**

**“Agreed to Differ, Resolved to Love,
United to Serve”**

Church Women United will have its
first meeting of the year at 10:00 am on
Friday, February 17, at University Christian Church.
Come join Christian women from many denominations
in the witness for Christ in our community.

*Don't forget to wear red on Sun-
day, February 5, to show support for
women's heart health. Put on a favorite red
dress, red shirt, red tie, or Red Dress Pin. To-
gether, we will continue to urge women to
protect their hearts, as heart disease is the #1
killer of women.*



SUNDAY SCHOOL

All Adult Classes for All Ages



Loyal Fellowship, meets in Chapel on ground floor
Study of Acts

Teacher: Ted Klein Contact: Frank Harris

Round Table Discussion, meets in the Library
Study of the Great Courses series on the
New Testament

Seekers, meets in Philathia Room, ground floor
Study of *"Historical Jerusalem"*
Contact: Kristy Keener

Sojourners, meets in room off Anderson Hall North
"Five Practices of Faithful Living"
by Robert Schnase
Contact: Barbara Batts

Faith Keepers, meets in southwest corner room,
2nd floor
Study of *"The Shack"* by William P. Young

Children and Youth

Preschool, meet in classroom at 9:30, class 9:30-10:00,
choir 10:00-10:20

Teacher takes children to class-Marsha Stallard

K - 5th Grades, meet in Disciple Road Temple 9:30
Shepherd (Carey Roberts) takes children to class
Disciple Road, Rotation model Sunday School
Parents pick up children at 10:30

Junior High - Chi Rho, Senior High - CYF
meet on 2nd floor, Chi Rho Room,
Christy Suggs, Teacher

Alberta Atchison	Bagley family	Jennifer Choate
Tonya Huggins	Jimmy Johnson	
Carroll Keen	Mary Louise Long	
Marilyn Millican	Lois Marie Morrison	
Alexis Nelson	Dean Robbins	Nancy Sears
Jan Simcox	George Stephens	
Mattie Lou Westfall	Mary Wilcox	Margie Wilson
The unemployed within our congregation		

NEW CONCERNS

Suzanne Wolford (D. Lochtrog friend);
David Frank; Nick & Chelsea Padilla (Gonzales friends);
Lily Rollins; Family of Mary Sue Terry (Armstrong friend);
Lynn Gardner (W. Gardner brother); Jeanie Johnson;
Brandy Dickey (Atkinson friend);

American Airlines employees	Sukie Bagley
Paxton Baker	Deborah Besadesky
Bob Brower	Brian Brown
Jim & Martha Creecy	Carl & Selma Cunningham
Luke Davis	Scott Dickerson Clelia Finch
Dannie Gilbreath	Jonathan Godi Sharon Graham
Marcus Grogan	Mark Grogan, Jr.
Amanda Hicks	Col. David Hoang
Fred Huggistone	Harriet Hunt Floyd Hunter
Floyd Keen	Chris Kowalski David Lee
David Leshber	Shirley Logan Randy Long
Lugo family	Carol Morrison Garry Morton
Christopher Omar	Chris Owens Mecca Robbins
Jason Russell	Ruth Shipp Sue Sistrunk
Shannon Skripka	Grant Story Miles Suggs
Crystal Uhyrek	David Wakefield Susan Walker
Katherine Wilson	Alan Young

FW1st, for God's will to be done and not our own

Names will remain on our printed prayer list for two weeks
unless we receive an updated request



**65th Annual
Tri Area CMF
Spring Retreat
"The Church Has Left the
Building; Now What?"
May 18—20, 2012
Disciples Crossing Retreat &
Conference Center
Athens, Texas**

Call the church office for registration forms.

Joys

- ◀ Debby Brady is a hero! Last week's rains were in the process of washing away the footings for a one-lane bridge over which she drives a school bus for Rhome ISD. As she crossed Thursday, the weight of the bus caused the roadway to drop several feet. Debby calmly escorted the children to safety. It made all the newscasts. Hope you saw it. Debby, we're proud!!
- ◀ Welcome our new member Lindsay Smith. Lindsay made her confession of faith last Sunday at the close of worship. You've seen her in worship several Sundays recently. She hangs around with Jeff Wildman. That makes Jeff this week's recipient of the gold star for evangelism. Oh, and we hear Jim Whisenand had a hand in it as well.
- ◀ The PrimeTimers went Sunday afternoon to see Nicole Oglesby's school play. We hear it was wonderful, and our Nicole stole the show.
- ◀ There's a new Glimpse of Reign! The use of our building continues to provide many ways for people in our city to grow and better themselves and God's world. Last Saturday afternoon a new group called The Art of Living met in Anderson Hall. More about them later.



Tuesday, February 21

7:00 pm

Group III

Hostess: Jeri Lewis, 7033 Hardnose Lane,
817/675-0623

Study: Norma Bennett
Group V

Hostess: Emma Gardner, 3705 Ben Creek Ct.
Aledo, 817/244-3260



Our Noon Music performer at First Christian Church, on Friday, Feb. 3, is Nicole McWilliams, soprano. Nicole is in her fourth year as Opera Director at Booker T. Washington High School for the Visual and Performing Arts in Dallas. She has her Master of Music in vocal performance from the

Manhattan School of Music, studying under Mignon Dunn. She received a Bachelor of Music from TCU, studying under Richard Estes. Nicole will be accompanied by Brian Bentley. Brian holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance from Oklahoma Baptist University, and Master of Music degrees in Choral Conducting and Piano Accompanying from Meadows School of the Arts at SMU. He is currently Director of Music Ministry for the Cathedral Shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe in Dallas.

Please join us for this wonderful program, including a light lunch, that will fit into your lunch hour. The program will be in the sanctuary of the church and free parking for 90 minutes is available, if needed, at The Tower garage on Taylor Street., between 4th and 5th Streets, just catty-cornered from the church. Reservations are not required.

Want interesting discussion and good fellowship?

The **Round Table Discussion Class** is starting the Great Courses series on the New Testament. Why not join us beginning **Sunday, February 5** at 9:30am in the library. Each Sunday we will view a 30-minute DVD and then see where our discussion takes us. This study is focused on understanding the New Testament in its own historical context. That's a different approach than we normally take to the New Testament so it should be interesting. If you are not currently going to a Sunday School class, why not consider joining us as we start this new study series.

???Church Craig's List???

Do you have it and no longer need it or want it?

Do you need it and have no idea where you might get it, or how you'll afford it?

Hmmm! Such issues come through the church office more often than you might think. Church staff is most likely to hear of such needs and such over-abundances. But we don't usually have the time, the memory, or the motivation to do the legwork to get the two together. Here's a great volunteer service opportunity for someone. How about putting together a "Craig's List" for the church? Got any energy and skill in that direction?

Currently there's a member who's moving from a furnished apartment to an unfurnished one. He needs a bed and more. Currently there's someone trying to get rid of a sofa and recliner. Examples abound. And if we had this up and running, we're sure we'd be overrun with opportunities for members to help each other.

Call Tom and the church or call the Membership chairs, Jerry and Marlene Tuttle if you'd like to help put this together.



Many, many thanks for the gorgeous, brilliant poinsettia and the shut-in bag of treasures from CWF. How special to be so honored by our marvelous group of ladies! May I wish you a happy and blessed New Year.

Love,

Marjorie Murphy

Dear Sisters of the Women's Fellowship,

Thanks to you Christmas started early for me. This is my third "goodie" bag from you and more than I expected. So many good things. Seven kinds of fruit and the cookies - I couldn't stop before they were all gone.

Thank all of you so much.

Chester Lambert