

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
200 South Nolan River Road  
Cleburne, Texas 76033

Return Service Requested



# The Disciple Contact

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## **SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES IN DECEMBER!!!**

### **Tuesday Evening with Emily...**

This is one of the most creative and beautiful worships we do. You can sing, take communion, make your worship active, find God in a fresh and joyful way. Come join us at 6:30 PM on December 14th.

### **Christmas Eve Service**

Most of you have been to our annual beautiful Christmas Eve Service. We meet at 6 PM, hear the Christmas story, sing, light the Christ Candle, take a special offering for the poor, share in Holy Communion and light our candles, raising them to seek the Christ Child. This one hour beautiful service is a must to make your Christmas an awesome event. Come and bring the family!

### **Day After Christmas Worship...**

We will gather at the church on Dec. 26th for a 9:30 AM Potluck Breakfast, followed by a gentle, beautiful, thought provoking time of worship. Pastors Wayne and Karen will be two angels, the day after, sitting in their angel rocking chairs and reflecting on the amazing event of the night before. Come casual, come with Christmas colors, and come to celebrate God's Great Love for you and I.

## **CHRISTMAS SPECIALS**

\* On **December 9th** you can feed folks from the LODGE, cooking, serving, loving and having a really good time. Meet at the church anytime after 5pm and work away!

\* On **December 11th** you can join a few of us in the Widow Patrol, riding out at 9 AM for a couple of hours of doing random deeds of Kindness in Jesus' name.

\* Also on **December 11th**, the children and parents go to Waxahachie for "Bethlehem Revisited" and "Christmas on the Square". We will leave at 5 PM and enjoy lots of Christmas displays, food booths and a parade. The cost is around \$12 per person, come and join us!

\* Then on **December 17th**, the youth will go to Holiday in the Park at Six Flags. They will leave at 4 PM and you can check with Pastor Emily for more details.

\* On **December 19th**, you will all come for the "Best Christmas Pageant Ever-Cleburne Style", starting at 6 PM, followed by Christmas foods and treats and a visit from one Special Saint! This is always fun for the TOTAL church and we want all of you to bring a snack, grab your family (and Christmas list) and come join us!!!



## ELDERS AT THE TABLE

December 5 Ken & Susan Ellis  
 December 12 Fred Bennett & Karen Cowan  
 December 19 Cindy Ashlock & Bob Brown  
 December 26 Perry & Adrienne Anderson

## SERMONS FOR DECEMBER

During the Advent season we shall have clips from the movie, "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever!"

**December 5 – Rev. Emily Williams**

**December 12 – "Frankincense is Dumb!"**

**Matthew 2:1-12**

**December 19 – "A Baby Changes Everything"**

**Luke 2:21-32**

**December 26 – "The Morning After, So the Angels Said..."**

**Luke 2:8-14**

## WEDNESDAY MEALS

December 1 Brisket & Beans  
 December 8 Lasagna  
 December 15 Mexican  
 December 22 No Meal  
 December 29 No Meal

## DECEMBER CLASS HOSTING AND COMMUNION PREPARATION

Class Hosting Discovery  
 (Led by George Smithwick)  
 Communion Wayne & Cindy Ashlock

## ATTENDANCE & GIVING REPORT

		Attendance	Reg Offering	Other Giving
Oct	31	112	\$4,584.03	\$317.50
Nov	7	135	\$5,016.00	\$134.00
Nov	14	136	\$2,800.80	\$113.00
Nov	21	140	\$2,747.58	\$132.00

## NEW WEDNESDAY STUDY STARTING

The first three Wednesdays in December will feature Perry Anderson teaching the Book of Esther from the Old Testament. This wonderful story of a faithful Jewish young lady will parallel the faith of Mary in the New Testament. Come and enjoy the meal on those Wednesdays and follow the meal with the Word of God taught.

## WAYNE'S WANDERINGS

Here we go again, another Holiday Season. For me, as a Pastor, this makes about 30 years of working and worrying about all the stuff that happens in a church during the Thanksgiving-Advent-Christmas journey. I love it overall, though I am always thankful when it is over. My job is to make it M.T.T.S.O.T.P., not L.T.T.S.O.T.P.! What is that you say? Well the initials stand for being "blessed" - "More than the sum of the parts!" and not "cursed" - "Less than the sum of the parts!" I cannot manage what "parts" a family or person are dealing with but with God's personal Touch, it can be better (MTTSOTP) and without that Touch, a person can try as hard as they please to make the holiday meaning full, but they will come up empty every time (LTTSOTP). Joy is MTTSOTP!, as is Peace, Love and the rest of God's Fruity Touch (see Galatians 5:22-23). If you allow God to Touch your holiday, it will become a Holy Day, and that will be MTTSOTP no matter what you are going through with your "parts". Pick up your Bible and read Matthew 2 and Luke 1&2. Pray God's blessings on your decorations, your home, your meals, your special holiday events and most of all, your Worship. God's Touch can make it more than the sum of the parts, no matter how rough and tough this season's parts are. I plan to see you all in church.



Da Rev

## Mission Trip for 2011 is Changed!

We will be going the same week (March 12-18), but we will not go into Mexico for anything. We plan to travel to Los Fresnos on Saturday, worship with Inglesia Ebenezer Cristiana on Sunday, go to the beach on Sunday evening, then work for 4 days in Texas building a Casa Bogar (a 700 square ft. house with plumbing and electricity) and painting a house or two for folks in Feliberto's church. We will have a "Man's Night Out" and a "Ladie's Night" and the youth will always have special things to do and see. The cost of this 7 day trip is \$150 and it will be safe, fun, and full of deeds of kindness for those who go. Sign up if you want to go!!!

## REMEMBER TO THINK OF OTHERS!

Our excellent Outreach Committee has continued to take serious the story of Matthew 25 where Jesus said to feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, minister to the sick and visit those in prison. We have given thousands in your name lately, all because you the church says for us to share 10% to others in Jesus' name. In the days ahead, we need you to give to the Crisis Center Project, to give to the Special Other Projects, to be a blessing as you go out in the public during this season. If you or your family want to be a special blessing to someone this Christmas season, talk to Pastor Wayne or Chairperson Jane Silvey. Thanks!!!

## NEW STUFF....

**Study in Healing Prayers** - come to the church every Sunday evening at 5:30 PM and learn to pray for healing in a profound and powerful way.

**Holiday Singers** meet at 6:30 PM on Dec. 5th and will sing a special on Dec. 12th. Come and be a part of the Holiday Singing group!!!

**Church Growth Committee meeting** in December - Come to the Dec. 8th Planning Meeting as we plan to be the lovingest, greetingest church this side of Heaven. This meeting starts at 5 PM and you are needed!!!

## JOKE FOR DECEMBER

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



Thanks to Wilma Melendez (See Luke 2:1-16) 12-25-2009

WELCOME TO THE STABLE ... PLEASE LEAVE ANY KNIVES OR WALKING STICKS WITH THE HORSE, IF YOU SMOKE WE ASK THAT YOU PLEASE DO SO OUTSIDE. FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED INSIDE THE MANGER ROOM ...



## DECEMBER YOUTH NEWS & NOTES

Attention all Youth and Parents!!!!!!

Happy Holidays~ The Count Down Has Started! Come join us this month for Fun and Fellowship

### For Jr. High and CYF:

December 5~ Youth Group 5:00-7:00 PM

December 12~ Youth Group 5:00-7:00 PM

December 17~ Holiday in the Park 4:00-close

December 19~ Children's Christmas Play and Party!

December 26~ NO YOUTH. Happy Christmas!

### For 1st-5th graders:

December 11th we will be heading to Waxahachie for a festive time. We will leave the church at 5:00 PM and be back after the Wise Men Parade. Please let me know by DECEMBER 5th if you and your child will be attending!

December 19~ Children's Christmas Play and Party!

If you have any questions Please Call Me at 309-267-1588 or email me! If you want to help with any activity please call or email as well. Thanks and PEACE~ Emily



## THIS 'n THAT for HERE 'n THERE.....

...you can sign up to provide Chancel Flowers for 2011, or call and tell Tammy and she can see if your preferred spot is open.

...enclosed in this newsletter are the Board nominees and the proposed budget for 2011. Look at them and be ready to vote at the Congregational meeting on Dec. 5th.

...what about planning to go with Pastor Wayne and Cindy to the General Assembly in Nashville, TN. The dates are July 9-15, 2011.

...bring food for Operation Blessing on Dec. 12th, blessing others with food...

...no Cabinet meeting this month...

...Elders do meet on the 20th, 6 PM, followed by Board meeting at 7 PM.

...No Wednesday events on the 22nd or the 29th...

...Friday Prayer time is always, no matter what the day or the weather!

...as soon as we get the nursery painted, we will put down new carpet!

...we have two ladies going to the Emmaus Walk in January, with room for more and LOTS of room for the men to go on the Men's Emmaus walks...

...Go GOD!!! - a program to get your house and God's House in order...

*I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet,  
Their words repeat  
Of Peace on Earth, Goodwill to Men.*

*The Bells of Christmas, adapted from  
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*



## TRINITY-BRAZOS LEADERSHIP EVENT!

First call for our Area's annual training event that aims at helping our churches to have excellent Education programs. This January 29th event will be held at FCC, Arlington and goes from 10 AM-2:30 PM. The Resource Leader is Rev. Dr. Eddie Hammett, a certified Professional Credentialed Coach with the International Coaching Federation. He is a popular speaker and retreat and seminar leader who goes across the country working with over ten denominations. He is the author of five books dealing with preparing the church for a more effective ministry in the 21st century. Join our Pastor in going to this January 29th event!



### *A Christmas Prayer*

*Loving Father, help us remember  
The birth of Jesus, that we may  
Share in the song of the angels,  
The gladness of the shepherds  
And the wisdom of the wise men.*

*Close the door of hate and open  
The door of love all over the world.*

*Let kindness come with every gift  
And good desires with every greeting.*

*Deliver us from evil by the blessing  
Which Christ brings, and teach us to  
be merry with clean hearts.*

*May the Christmas morning  
Make us happy to be Thy children,  
And the Christmas evening bring us  
To our beds with grateful thoughts,  
Forgiving and forgiven,  
For Jesus' sake. Amen.*

*Robert Louis Stevenson*