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WAYNE'S WANDERINGS

Well, the year is a couple of days from over and this is my last newsletter as a full time pastor. I preached my first sermon in 1965 at the Downtown Mission on Lancaster in Ft. Worth; then worked in ministry at Woods Chapel Baptist, Arlington; Direct Baptist Church, Direct, TX; Central Christian, Vernon, TX; FCC, Eastland, TX; FCC, Pauls Valley, OK; Broadway Christian, Council Bluffs, IA; FCC, Lawton, OK and ending here at good old FCC, Cleburne. What a good time it has been. I had a summer when I did 8 Vacation Bible Schools, another summer as a missionary to Crystal City, TX; and in over 30 years of being a pastor I have done over 200 funerals and almost that many weddings. I have had a blast!! I love being a pastor, I have loved being YOUR Pastor, but I am ready to retire. I am worn out.

My plan and prayer is to take a year to get healthy and then hopefully be used by God for another 20 years of doing ministry, doing Interims, mission trips, counseling, and lots of deeds of kindness. I leave as your Pastor, but am staying here in retirement, so will be your friend at all times. As in every town Cindy and I have lived in, a friend is a friend forever, when the Lord is Lord of them. I won't be available for any Pastoral duties but will be around like any friend would be. Start praying for your next Pastor (the Prayer team prays over the Pastor's Chair in the Sanctuary whenever they can). You are to become like what you hope the next pastor is to be. Let me explain. If you want a compassionate, loving, kind, Bible thumping Pastor full of integrity and energy, then you become a compassionate, loving, kind Bible thumping church member full of integrity and energy. "What goes

around, comes around." (Hezekiah 3:8). "You reap what you sow!" (Galatians 6:7) "Commit your ways to the Lord and He shall give you the desires of your heart!" (Psalms 37:5) There is no good reason for our wonderful church to become anything but wonderful. I challenge all of you to rise to the occasion and to fill in the gap and to pray without ceasing and to believe that the same God who brought me here 6 years ago is still working in your favor. In 2012, we shall ALL "Make God Proud and Make Jesus Famous!" Have a great 2012 and make sure you ALL see each other in church.

Wayne



Da Rev

A GRIEF OBSERVED....

It is with sadness we share the passing of Rev. Ken Sickels who passed away Dec. 14th. Ken is survived by his wife of 61 years, Eileen, boys Jim and Fred and many grandchildren. Ken was a pastor at First Christian of Knox City, TX and Lindsey, OK. He was a faithful leader and Elder here at FCC and will be missed by all.



All children grades 4-12 can go to one of the **3 Mid Winter Retreats in February.**



JANUARY YOUTH NEWS & NOTES

What a crazy month. I am currently sitting in a comfy chair in Kansas City and reflecting on what has happened these past few months. I became part of an amazing church family – finished my first semester at Brite – had kidney stones (possibly the most physically painful thing ever) – saw the end of a relationship (possibly the most emotionally painful thing ever)... Yet I still have faith that we serve an awesome God. God is so great – so loving – that I know he will provide if I call on him and do what he asks me to do.

The Christmas party was a hit. We had 11 kids there, and it turned out great! The Christmas program went very well too. We had a little show, and then a certain visitor came and took down the kids Christmas wishes. What is your Christmas wish this year?

Thank you for being such a supporting and amazing church family!

Pastor Steven

A NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

Dear Lord, please give me –

- A few friends who understand me and yet remain my friends
- Work to do, which has real value, without which the world would feel the poorer
- A mind unafraid to travel, even though the trail be not blazed
- An understanding heart
- A sense of humor
- Time for quiet, silent meditation
- A feeling of the presence of God
- Patience to wait for these things
- Wisdom to know them when they come.

~ W. R. Hunt



SERMONS FOR JANUARY

- January 1 “And They Returned By a Different Way!” Matthew 2: 1-15
- January 8 “Joshua, Moses is Dead!” Joshua 1: 1-10; Pastor Wayne
- January 15 Steven Burr
- January 22 Jimmy Finley
- January 29 Raphael Mthombeni

ELDERS AT THE TABLE

- January 1 Adrienne & Perry Anderson
- January 8 Jeff Cooper & Karen Cowan
- January 15 John & Lynda Hathaway
- January 22 Alice Finley & Fred Bennett
- January 29 Bob Brown & Chuck Bailey

LAY LEADERS

- January 1 Wayne Ashlock
- January 8 Robby Owen
- January 15 Gabriela Jackson
- January 22 Becky Hightower
- January 29 George Smithwick

SERVING DEACONS

- January 1 Susan Smithwick, Ken Chandler, Darla Scott
- January 8 Jerry Scott, Ronnie Boyer, George Smithwick, Ruth Graeve
- January 15 Jerry Scott, Susan Smithwick, Ruth Graeve
- January 22 Rick Blaine, Ken Chandler, Ronnie Boyer, George Smithwick
- January 29 Jerry Scott, Rick Blaine, George Smithwick, Ruth Graeve

WEDNESDAY MEALS

- January 4 Beans & Cornbread
- January 11 Beef Stew
- January 18 Chicken Enchilada Soup
- January 25 Spaghetti



JANUARY CLASS HOSTING AND COMMUNION PREPARATION

- Class Hosting Lost & Found
- Communion Roger & Sharon Ray

ATTENDANCE & GIVING REPORT

		Attendance	Reg Offering	Other Giving
Nov	27	103	\$1482.00	\$54.00
Dec	4	113	\$4968.00	\$279.93
Dec	11	107	\$1964.00	\$71.00
Dec	18	107	\$2578.00	\$219.00
Dec	25	79	\$1216.00	\$145.00

IN THE DAYS AHEAD.....MARK YOUR CALENDARS SO YOU DON'T MISS OUT!

Jan. 1- One hour "Breakfast with Jesus Worship Service", in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 AM.

Jan. 2 - Office Closed for New Year.

Jan. 6- Game night, 6:00 PM we all gather in the Fellowship Hall, bringing food to share and games to play and laughs to laugh, a church that plays together stays together!

Jan. 8 – Reverend Wayne's Last Sunday!

Jan. 8 - Food for Operation Blessing - When we eat, the poor eat too. **The meal in January** will be the **Potluck Breakfast on January 8th.** Bring food for OB!

Jan. 12 - Agape meal, we feed the Lodge (our local homeless shelter) at **6:00 PM**, although if you can help cook, we will need you to start earlier. Call Robby Owen or Beverly Boyer and find out how you can help!

Jan. 13 – P.E.A. will meet at **6:30 PM**

Jan. 22 - Cabinet meets at **4:00 PM**, working on the work of the church, Committee leaders of FCC are expected to be there.

Jan. 23- Elders meet at **6:00 PM** to pray and share concerns of the Body, asking God for insight and vision for leading this church to be what God wants us to be.

Jan. 23-The Board of FCC will convene at **7:00 PM** to hear reports and do the business of the church; this meeting is open to any and all who wish to be there.

Jan. 27-29 – JYF Mid-Winter Camp

VOLUNTEER TO HELP WITH SNACK PAK'S



Just a reminder that FCC sponsors Santa Fe Elementary School in the Cleburne Snack-Pak program. This program provides nourishing snacks for children who are considered homeless. Each week a Snack-Pak is sent home so the child has food for the weekend. Although this is an Outreach program of the church, nothing is taken out of the church funds to pay for it. The \$188.00 spent weekly is all donated money from you, the congregation of this church (making God Proud and Jesus Famous). If you would like to donate to this great program, make sure your checks have "Snack-Pak" written in the memo section. The Snack-Pak's are packed on Wednesday night so if you can help out please come on to the church!

BUILDING FUND It would be great to pay the note in a year or two. We can get that done by ALL of you giving extra to the Building Fund each month. Pick a Sunday and give EVERY month!

PASTOR WAYNE TO RETIRE! LET'S ROAST HIM!

January 8th is Wayne's last day to be in the Pulpit of the First Christian Church here in Cleburne. The Board has decided to have some fun in telling him thanks and a job well done by having a potluck Breakfast on January the 8th. We will gather at 9 AM, starting eating at 9:30 AM and be through by 10:30 AM so we can go worship. **You are to bring a breakfast casserole, bacon, biscuits, fruit and such, with the church providing the drinks.** Dig up a funny memory of Wayne's ministry and be ready to share it. We will have a nursery and a place for the children to meet also.

SIGN UP TO GO ON MISSION TRIP!

It is time to find out who will be going on the Mission Trip to Joplin, Missouri; dates are March 10-16. If you are going you need to put down your \$50 deposit by Feb. 14th so we can get a count and start putting together work teams. We will need laborers, cooks, "go-fers", drivers and pole dancers (Jerry McDearmon will explain this). We think the total costs will be **\$150/ person** plus spending money. This price includes 6 nights, most meals and transportation costs. Any person can come, 6th grade up to 100 years of age (Jerry McDearmon will explain this too). Sign up today!! Call Beverly at 817-558-2434 if you have questions.

BATTLEFIELD SISTERS HAVE 3 MORE PSALM 91 STUDIES

The Ladies group that meets each Tuesday evening at 6:30 pm has 3 more studies out of the book they are studying. This group of prayer and share ladies is one of the best things we do. You ladies head to the church and start visioning what to study next!

GUESS WHO IS COMING FOR DINNER?

The Outreach is inviting you to come and help cook and serve the guests at Johnson County LODGE. Those at the Lodge are in transition and usually the 35 folks need a good meal and a lot of loving. We cook, serve, visit and encourage, making new friends as we Make God Proud. The next Lodge Meal is on January 12th; we cook in the afternoon and serve at 6 pm. Come and help us help others in Jesus' name.

GAME NIGHT AND P.E.A. IS FOR YOU!

Two fun events we do each month is Game Night on the first Friday of each month (6 PM), and the Professional Eaters Association, timed at 6:30 PM to allow everyone time to get home after work. The Game Night is held in the Fellowship Hall and everyone is to bring a food dish to share and a friend and favorite game. If you want to come but don't want to come by yourself, call the church and we will arrange for someone to pick you up. The P.E.A. (6:30 PM), goes to a great place to eat and the trip, fellowship and food tends to create church members who are more professional at making friends and making God Proud than at their eating.

A CROSS FOR THE SANCTUARY - we want every family to bring a cross for the Sanctuary Wall representing the fact that we are the family of God. Bring your cross and put it on the Communion table. Thanks!

JOYCE MEYER is coming to Arlington, Feb. 23-25! We have some folks who want to go! Call the office if you are interested. Also, remember that we have a lot of Joyce's C.D.s in the office to check out.

WEDNESDAY MEALS AND PROGRAMS!

On Wednesdays we have a meal cooked by one of our members, always simply delicious and economical (\$2-4 per person, but no more than \$10 for any family). The first meal of January will be FREE if you help pull down and pack up the Christmas decorations. We will box everything up and put it away until next year. For the rest of January we will follow each meal with the nursery, a children's event, a Chi Rho meeting and for adults, a special study led by one of our members. Sign up on the Sunday before when you expect to come and join in.

THE RESOLUTION FOR MEN STUDY GROUP

The Resolution for Men is a small group study that encourages men to step up, teaching them how to be the fathers and husbands that God has called them to be, leading their families by the example of their own lives, being actively involved to instill God's principles into their children. It will be a privilege to encourage and lift up one another during difficult and trying times when our spirit becomes weak. This study is promoted by the movie, "Courageous" which has recently been in theaters. This one hour study is scheduled to start on Tuesday January 10th at 7:15 PM and run for 15 weeks. If the Lord has put it on your heart to attend please contact Nelson Gagne at 817-994-9516, or email him at robson.gagne@gmail.com or call the church office and ask for Tamara 817-645-4479.

NEW MEMBERS

We want you to get to know Bob and Darlene Moore who joined our church by their confession of faith. Bob and Darlene live at 5325 Nolan River Road, their phone is 817-648-0848, and their e-address is:

bobmoore215@aol.com. Bob owns a beverage company and his birth date is Nov. 1st. Darlene works at the Courthouse and her birth date is June 17th.

Also joining our church by letter is Mary Warrick. Mary lives at 810 S Ridgeway, her phone is 817-556-0127, and her email is: mmwark@aol.com. Mary is a retired Social Worker and her birth date is Jan. 3rd. We also baptized 4 youth on their confession of faith in Christ as their Savior. Hunter and Garrett Wilson are the sons of Shelly Wilson and the grandsons of Lilly Ewing. Hunter's birth date is 8-20-1998 and he is an 8th grader at Smith Middle School. Garrett's birth date is 03-30-2000 and he is a 6th grader at Smith Middle School.

Then we baptized Nathan and Hailey Odem, children of Leif and Shellea Svendsen. Nathan's birth date is 8-27-1999 and he is a 7th grader at Rio Vista. Hailey's birth date is 7-18-2001 and she is a 5th grader at Rio Vista.

THE UPPER ROOM is an excellent daily devotional that we offer to you for free. Pick one up and read it daily.

We still have **2012 Christmas Jars and Books**. Fill them up all year and then next Christmas Eve, deliver to a door that God directs.

We need you at the **Friday Prayer time (8:30 AM)** and at the **Prayer for Healing Meeting on Sunday evenings at 5:30 PM.**



Happy New Year

*If it didn't bring you joy
just leave it behind
Let's ring in the new year
with good things in mind.*

*Let go every bad memory
that brought heartache and pain
And let's turn a new leaf
with the smell of new rain.*



*Let's forget past mistakes
making amends for this year
Sending you these greetings
to bring you hope and cheer
Happy New Year!*