

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

Return Service Requested



The Disciple Contact

Church: (817) 645-4479

e-mail: fcccleburne@gmail.com

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website: <http://www.fcccleburne.org>

WAYNE'S WANDERINGS

Greetings again. What's up? I am watching what is happening here at FCC and am pleasantly surprised. We have been in a transition or pruning time or major change for more than a year. After 3 years of solid growth, in 2009 there started a series of traumas in our church that changed the soul of our congregation. We worked through many crises (one month I did 39 counseling sessions) and lost some wonderful folks and had to seek God's face continually. We had to learn to listen to what God was doing in our lives as a church. The details of the past are not important, because you can't unspill spilt milk. The process of finding a new Vision and Ministry is what is important. As a church we kept asking God what to do next. (You remember that 'Process Theology' is asking God, 'What is my next best decision?') By the leading of the Spirit the Elders kept asking God to direct their personal lives and this church. We committed to Love Each other NMW! We prayed without ceasing. Last summer we made the turn and started out of the tough time valley, though we still were healing from the wounds and disappointments. A new Spirit of Love circled the Elders and then moved into the Board. Some of our folks still needed to move on, but that is part of doing church (remember that when we get a "good new member" they left a church that loved them to come to us.)

So far this year, new folks have been coming in and new ministries are opening up. This summer will be a time of continued growth and planning for the Fall. Pastor Emily is graduating from Seminary and will return to her home state in August. We will hire a new Seminarian as Youth Pastor and a new era will start. I am asking you to start asking God what your part will be in the days, months and years ahead. What can FCC do to "Make God Proud & Jesus Famous"? Let's work on becoming a family of God, sit at different places at every worship and meal. Get to know others. Everyone should be active in a small group, in a ministry and mission project, plus regularly worshipping and being good stewards of your lives. We are starting a new chapter this year and God is the Author. I hope to meet you in church!

Da Rev

ELDERS AT THE TABLE

May 1	Bob Brown & Karen Cowan
May 8	Ken & Susan Ellis
May 15	Chuck Bailey & Perry Anderson
May 22	Jeff Cooper & Alice Finley
May 29	Karen Griffith & Cindy Ashlock

NEW STUDY ON WEDNESDAYS

We wanted something with Bible content in it on Wednesday Evenings that would help YOU think about what YOU were thinking about. We want something with Spiritual Disciplines in it so YOU would grow Spiritually. We wanted something that would help YOU make peace with your past and would develop in YOU the Mind of Christ. Pastor Wayne has put together a 4 week study that is GUARANTEED to help YOU develop a new MIND. It will be fun, one hour, challenging and YOU will learn to unlearn your stinking thinking. Starting on May 4th, it is time for you to be in your RIGHT MIND!

ATTENDANCE & GIVING REPORT

		Attendance	Reg Offering	Other Giving
Mar	27	132	\$3,564.20	\$275.00
Apr	3	129	\$5,012.58	\$429.00
Apr	10	121	\$5,729.00	\$344.50
Apr	17	135	\$2,283.77	\$1,685.50

WEDNESDAY MEALS

May 4 Chicken Enchiladas
 May 11 Baked Potatoes
 May 18 Chicken & Dumplings
 May 25 Tacos

MAY CLASS HOSTING AND COMMUNION PREPARATION

Class Hosting Lost & Found
 (Led by Lynda Hathaway)
 Communion Nelson & Robin Gagne

NEW MEMBERS IN MAY:

Scott Brown joined our church by Confession of Faith. He lives at 720 N. Anglin and his phone is 817-645-2323, he works at H.E.B. grocery, loves Nascar and playing videos, and is best friends with Kelly Blair.



MAY 2011 YOUTH NEWS & NOTES

Attention all Youth and Parents!!!!!!

Come join us this month for Fun and Fellowship

For Jr. High and CYF:

May 1~ Youth 5-7 (Planning Youth Sunday)

May 8~ No Youth (Mother's Day)

May 15~ Youth 5-7 (planning Youth Sunday)

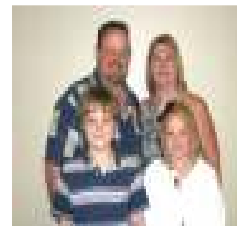
May 22~ YOUTH SUNDAY and Senior Recognition

NO Youth

May 29~ Youth 5-7

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



Steve and Janice Edwards joined our church on Easter by Statement of Faith. Their children, **Trey** and **Tayler** made a confession of Faith and **were baptized**.



They live at 9212 Cherokee Trail in Rio Vista and are both Physical Therapists at the Cleburne Physical Therapy Center. Trey is a 7th grader and Tayler a 4th grader in Rio Vista and their phone number is 817-558-6512.

SERMONS FOR MAY

May 1 – Rev. Karen Griffith

May 8 – “It’s Not Good For Man To Be Alone!”

Proverbs 31:10-31

Rev. Wayne Ashlock

May 15 – Rev. Emily Williams

May 22 - Youth Sunday

May 29 - “Ancient Boundaries Your Father Set”

Proverbs 22:28

Rev. Wayne Ashlock

JOKE FOR MAY



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STUFF WE DO TO MAKE GOD PROUD!

The Lodge - We know that God is proud when we encourage and help those working through life changes here in Johnson County. The Lodge is a special place for those who are homeless and seeking to better themselves in life. FCC feeds them on the 2nd Thursday of each month, wanting them to have a care free evening of great food and fellowship. We cook, pick them up, serve, laugh and love and get more out of the evening than they do. Come be a part of this vital ministry. Also know that we give hundreds of dollars each month to make this ministry happen!

Widow Patrol - James 1:27 says that pure religion is to take care of the widows and orphans. We have expanded that to also help widowers, single moms, the elderly and ailing. We ride out on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 9am and usually are through working in 2-3 hours. Why not join us on May 14th as we make a difference in someone's life?

Relay For Life Team - "The Eternal Lifers"! You could make God proud by working towards a cure and being an encouragement group for those working for healing from their cancers. We have planned a fundraiser meal on May 1st and you can help, eat and give to it. We also will raise money throughout the month at various endeavors and we pray without ceasing for all connected with beating and defeating cancer.

Dave Ramsey Classes help us learn to be good stewards of our finances and life. Sherry Cooper is doing an excellent job in leading us through new concepts that will free us from financial bondages and cause us up to be helpers for others needing to learn financial freedom themselves. You can attend these classes on Sunday evenings at 4:00 pm.

Tuesday Ladies Group meets on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm, meeting at Cindy Ashlock's home and working through the book, "Sun Stand Still". They do more than book study, praying, encouraging and helping each other to walk the life that God would have them walk.

Sunday Evening "Prayer for Healing" services are times when we cry out to God for healing and for Faith building. We meet NMW at 5:30 pm and pray with boldness, knowing that God will answer our prayers of Faith in SOME WAY EVERY TIME! Every time. No wasted Prayers! Every time God answers our prayers and that makes Him proud and makes us bolder!

The Regional and Area expression of the Body of Christ will gather together at Rush Creek Christian Church on May 1st, from 3-6pm to first honor Dr. Ken Hall, our Area Pastor for the last 11 years. He is retiring as our Area Pastor and has helped our church through many a tangle on the way to where we are now. After the reception for Dr. Hall, we will have a time of sharing with Regional Minister Dana Loving-Cartwright and Chad Cline to discuss the transition matters between the Region and the Trinity-Brazos Area.

For sure our Elders make God proud! They have just gathered at a special retreat time on April 29 & 30 so they might draw closer to God and to each other. In May they will gather weekly to pray before the Worship service and then also meet on May 16th to share the Spiritual needs of the church (6pm). Our Elders know that their lives are to be open before God and they are committed to be faithful leaders of FCC!

And finally, we have a committed group of leaders, working all through the month to keep the Body of Christ functioning. This huge list includes Committee chairs and other elected leaders, deacons, youth leaders, cooks, teachers, musicians, worker bees, helpers and the list goes on. You leaders, remember that the Cabinet meets on Sunday the 15th at noon and the total Board meets on the 16th for monthly Board meeting (7pm). These meetings are open to the whole church, so you can come and "Make God Proud!" any time you choose!

BUT THEN WE ALSO PLAN TO "MAKE JESUS FAMOUS" IN MAY!!!!

Daily we make sure all of Cleburne knows we are full of love and kindness! Every Sunday we send you out to love folks everywhere you go. You are to "Make Jesus Famous!" by bringing words of encouragement and doing acts of love, so you will be the salt of the earth and the light on the hill in Jesus' name.

Game Night is on the First Friday of the month, we gather in the Fellowship Hall and share a meal and then play games, the friendliest folks in town.

On the 2nd Friday, we EMMAUS types gather at the Gathering (meets at _____ Methodist at 7pm), sharing a meal and then worshipping together in Love.

The PEA gathers with Pastor Wayne on May 20th and heads out to Loco Coyote Grill (in Glen Rose)!! We will leave at 6 pm or when Lynda C. gets here and have a yummy time finding the finest foods in the area.

And then there's Spring Fest, May 21st, a day of handing out free coupons for either a free wedding, funeral or counseling session. For real - no catches, a few rules and total love fueling the fact that as Jesus gave freely to us so we give to others. We also will give other things away in our booth that day and will need some of you to help hand things out!

CHILDREN! We now have a Wednesday event for you, plus a meal, plus "YOGA for Jesus" and more! The children will do "Inside Out and Upside Down ON Main Street" with Becky Hightower, starting at 6:30pm, while others do the YOGA and Pastor Wayne will start a new study on "Renewing Your Mind" (Romans 12:1-2)

And finally, did you miss a sermon or did a sermon miss you? We now make copies of each Sunday's sermon for any and all to check out. We also have movies, C.D.s, Study tapes and more, all for you to check out and to help you learn, grow and remember. Talk to Tammy in the office!

CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, MAY 1ST!

Board Chair, Fred Bennett has called for a Congregational Meeting after worship on May first to have you, the Congregation vote to okay the following motion made by the Board:

On April 11, 2011 the FCC Board made the following proposal to come before the FCC congregation for a vote, following a two week notice, with the vote taking place on May 1, 2011.

"1) That the current FCC loan would be renewed at a lower rate of 5.5% on a 5 year balloon note figured on a 20 year amortization schedule.

2) That an amount of \$56,600 be added to the current principle for the purpose of purchasing a "lift" for the education building/fellowship hall and reconfiguring handicap access ramps around the church."

**Motion made by: Chuck Bailey
Second: George Smithwick
Approved by acclamation without exception.**

On May 1st we will present this motion to you and ask that you affirm it. Thanks.

"The church is never a place, but always a people; never a fold, but always a flock; never a sacred building, but always a believing assembly. The church is you who pray, not where you pray. A structure of brick or marble can no more be a church than your clothes of serge [cotton] or satin can be you. There is in this world, nothing sacred but man, no sanctuary of God but the soul."

John Havlik