

THE TIE THAT BINDS

January 2016



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
204 E. Graves St. / P. O. Box 872
Burnet, Texas 78611
Phone: 512 756-2223

Rev. BJ Tapley
Church e-mail: fccburnet@fccburnettx.org
Church website: www.fccburnettx.org
Office hours: Monday–Thursday 9:00a–3:00p
Emergency contact: Bennie Clark 830 613-0395

From the Pastor . . .

12/22/15

What an amazing year it has been; both for me and for our lives together as a congregation with a new pastor in his first ministry setting. It has been quite the learning process for all of us. When I look back at the last year, I graduated from Brite Divinity School with my M.Div., received a call to serve as your Pastor, packed everything I owned (spread out in two cities) in a week and moved to this great town which only three months prior I was unaware even existed. I leaped headlong into serving as your Minister, while trying to figure out how exactly one ministers to a congregation while living in the same community.

The year has been filled with indescribable joys and nearly soul-crushing sorrows; and throughout the rollercoaster ride that is each of our lives, and our collective life as a congregation, I know I am blessed to be able to lean on such a wonderfully faithful, and faith-filled, congregation and I pray that I have made as much of an impact on each of you as you have on me.

There have been deaths of beloved congregants and family members. There have been births of new children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews. There have been health scares and almost miraculous recoveries. Folks have lost jobs and gotten new ones. There have been birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, and seasons. These are but a few of the many, many milestones which mark yet another year in the books.

I think it is quite appropriate that we celebrate the four Sundays of Advent in December, beside our preparation for Christmas, because Advent marks the beginning of the church year just in time for the new calendar year. As we look ahead to 2016, we do so in hopeful expectation that next year will be a year of blessings. We pray hope-filled prayers for enough; enough money for our way of life, enough food to feed our families, enough time in the day to spend with those on our hearts.

We pray for peace. We pray for peace in a world filled with violence both locally and across the globe. We pray for peace in our relationships. We pray for peace in our dialogue with one another. We pray for peace in our own hearts and minds. We pray for this peace knowing that peace does not mean there won't be disagreements, but so that we can disagree while not attacking the other. We pray God's peace which surpasses all understanding will permeate ~~through~~ our lives, even in times of distress.

Building Relationships; Growing Faith; Welcoming All in Jesus Christ

We pray joyfully; recounting the blessings we have received, knowing that in the grand scheme of things, even when things seem utterly hopeless, God remembers the promises made to us as children of God. We remember Mary's prayer from Luke chapter 1: "My soul gives glory to the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my savior for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed for the great things he has done for me—holy is his name!"

Finally, we pray for love; love that is radical, extravagant, even wasteful. The 'love' word used most often in scripture is a love that is self-sacrificing, unconditional, and all-encompassing. It is a love that is utterly God-filled. It is a love that is given *because* it is undeserved and can never be repaid. It is a love whose very presence requires the presence of God because "God is Love."

For some, the past year has been filled with more joys than sorrows while others have faced more sorrows than joys. But no matter what 2015 brought, 2016 is destined to have a mix of both joys and sorrows. There is a baseball saying that goes something like, "Every team will win 54 games and lose 54 games, it is what each team does with the remaining 54 games that matters." This is really what each year is about as well. 2016 will have joys and sorrows to be sure; what matters is how we handle not only the extreme highs and lows, but the 'normal' plains in life as well.

My prayer for each of us individually, our family and friends, our congregation, our community, and world is that 2016 be filled with Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love each and every day!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Grace and Peace,



A moment about Giving

As we begin a new year, we would like to remind each of us of the need to continue our faithful giving to the ministries of First Christian Church. With that thought in mind, I came across this message about stewardship I wanted to pass along:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came in being" The Gospel according to John, Chapter one verses one through three. Did you hear it? With God ALL things came into being: earth, food, you, me, everything. God asks us to return such a small portion of all God gives us, and we sometimes struggle to do so. Yet without God, what would you have?

GENERAL CHECKING ACCOUNT

October 31, 2015 Balance		\$36,030.51
Nov 2015 Deposits		
General Fund	\$7,899.87	
Designated	\$1,519.86	\$9,419.73
Nov 2015 Disbursements		
Budgeted/General Fund	(\$10,374.87)	
Other Fund/Pass-Through	(\$1,799.10)	(\$12,173.97)
November 30, 2015 Balance		<u>\$33,276.27</u>



AT A LOSS FOR WORDS!!!

I'm thinking that no one in the church would ever believe that I was short of words but once again it's happened.

This is a very important time of the year for our church as we shape our our future through the election of the 2016 board officers and as our committees and chairs come together. As I asked for advice from some and asked others to serve in many different ways, the response I received was always positive, encouraging and "Yes, I will". For this I thank each and every one of you!! I enjoy each and every day working alongside a group of people as wonderful as yall in the goal of serving our Lord.

We currently have opportunities to serve in Monday's Kitchen-please contact myself or Lisa Nance for further details. I would also like to take this opportunity to applaud the men's group for volunteering to help with Mondays Kitchen.

Each new day I am awed by something done by a member or group of folks to help someone in need.

When I witness this much giving by a small church (small only in numbers) that is the only thing that can shock me into being short of words!!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all,

Grover Howell
Moderator

Guest Preacher January 10th



Please join us for worship on **Sunday January 10th** and help us welcome our guest preacher, **Rev. Caroline Hamilton-Arnold**, the Associate Director of Week of Compassion. Caroline's

passion is connecting people with the creative, re-creative power of the living God through stories and faithful action, and she believes a life of faith is about becoming part of God's ongoing work in the world. Inspired by the poet Ranier Maria Rilke's image of wholeness cascading into many shapes, Caroline celebrates the varied shapes held in ourselves, our communities, and God. She holds a Master of Divinity from Claremont School of Theology and a BA from Texas Christian University, where she studied English, religion, and political science. Before joining the staff of Week of Compassion, she served as Transitional Associate Minister at Newtown Congregational Church (UCC) in Newtown, CT, where her emphases were in faith formation and outreach.

A native of Texas, Caroline now lives with her husband, Jeremy, in New Haven, Connecticut.

Mark your calendars...

Fri. Jan. 1		New Year's Day 2016 - church office closed
Sun. Jan. 3	after worship	Un-decorate/Christmas Clean-up
Mon. Jan. 4	4:30p	Monday's Kitchen resumes
Wed. Jan. 6	10:00a 5:30p	Bible Study resumes Choir
Sat. Jan. 9	9:00a	Disciples Women's Breakfast
Wed. Jan. 13	5:00p 6:00p 7:00p	Choir (note earlier time) Elders & Deacons meet before Board meeting Board meeting
Sat. Jan. 16	8:00a	Disciples Men's breakfast
Tues. Jan. 19	7:00p	Compassionate Friends
Fri. Jan. 22		Chi Rho Midwinter Rally through Sun. Jan. 24
Sun. Jan. 31	3:00p	Country Oaks Worship



A big "Thank you" goes out to Yvonne Evans who graciously opened her home for our Christmas party. The food and fellowship was great. Yvonne led us in two fun

games which highlighted some "spiritual gifts" It was amazing to find out what we didn't know about the birth of Jesus.

It was decided that we won't use the next "Just Women" study. Those who want to host a meeting will choose the topic of their choice. A sign-up sheet is on the DWM bulletin board. The next meeting will be on **Saturday January 9th at 9:00am.**

Marilyn Petrick
DWM Representative



Backpack Buddies Report

We had 111 individual servings donated! Thanks for supporting this program and giving some extra weekend food to hungry children.



*Mark your calendars
as we begin a new year!*

I would like for both groups to meet on **Wednesday, January 13th at 6:00 p.m.** The Elders will gather in the Parlor and the Deacons in the Sanctuary to discuss leadership and plans for 2016. At 6:30, there will be a combined meeting in the Parlor and new Care Group lists will be available at that time. Please make every effort to attend. The first Board meeting of the year follows at 7:00 p.m.

Each month the Elders are picking an entity in our community to pray for. This month it is **those in our church family grieving loss...** Please keep them in your prayers.

Always blessed to serve with each of you
Grover



Eight devoted Disciples Men had their monthly breakfast on December 19th. During the meal we had a short devotional concerning all the hatred in the world but that we should always remember to take time to celebrate and

have joy for the birth of Christ. We discussed a proposed outreach project of handling the complete meal preparation, serving and clean-up for Monday's Kitchen one week each month. Generally, all were in favor of doing it and many made commitments to the project. We felt that the Monday after our monthly breakfast meeting held on the third Saturday would fit best into our schedule. We will be working with the Outreach Chair to schedule. The **Bluebonnet Area Disciples Men's Retreat** is scheduled for **February 19 and 20, 2016** at Disciples Conference Center – Gonzales, Texas. Registrations are in the church office and the information center. The General Conference of Disciples Men have announced a date change for every four-year event "**Sessions 2016**" at the TCU campus. The schedule **has been changed to July 8-10.** Many plans are being made with top notch Keynoters and Workshops catered to MEN. The Theme is "**YOU ARE CALLED BY NAME**" Isaiah 43:1-2.

Our next Men's meeting will be on Saturday January 16th at 8:00am.

Ron Petrick



One thing I keep reminding the choir (and myself) is that we don't sing because we can; we sing because we are called. Singing is the way God has gifted us to bring His message and share His love with others. And He expects us to use that gift.

Now, tell me what gift you have been given to share. Is it hospitality? Parenting? Organization? Working with your hands? Your imagination? Don't tell me you don't have a gift. I'll find a dozen people who will tell you what it is if you don't know!

And here's the challenge. No matter how many others have the same gift as you, no one can do it like you. We must not compare ourselves to others. We each have a different place to serve, be it a neighborhood, in a family, or somewhere else in the world.

So, are you standing up and using your gift? Or are you hanging back trying to be modest but secretly wishing for the courage to try? If you are waiting for permission, it's been given! This season reminds us that God is love, and the world's greatest gift was given so we could know that love, and pass it on. It's your turn now to "Go Tell It on The Mountain" - or to your friends, or in your town. Go share the gift of God's love, with your own personal touch.

Susie Rodgers



OUTREACH MINISTRY REPORT

As always, it is a blessing to serve with each of you. The generosity of time, talents and money that is shown through the various outreach opportunities this season has been truly awesome.

Noisy Offering was collected on December 6th in the amount of \$178.81. The Christmas Offering was collected on Dec. 13th and 20th in the amount of \$141.00. From Dec. 7th through Dec. 21st Monday's Kitchen served 148 meals and donations of \$125.50 were received.

We wish our church family a merry, special and meaningful Christmas.

Lisa & Michele

*The Church Office
will be closed on*

**Thursday Dec. 31, 2015
for New Year's**

For emergencies you may contact
Pastor BJ at 806) 317-6494.

PRC meeting

The next Pastoral Relations Committee meeting will be scheduled soon.

2016 Committee members:

Walter Selcer	Charolette Collie
Ronda Hostetter	Jim Nance
Susan Clark	Brenda Williams

MONDAY'S KITCHEN SCHEDULE OF WORKERS JANUARY 2016

January 4, 2016

Set Up:		Celeste Bruton
Cook:	1)	Michele Darling
Bake:	1)	Michele Darling
Serve:	1)	Celeste Bruton
	2)	Linda Guess
	3)	Karol Shepherd
Clean-Up:	1)	Michele Darling
	2)	Lisa Nance

January 11, 2016

Set Up:		Sharon Childers/ Celeste Bruton
Cook:	1)	Lisa Nance
Serve:	1)	Sharon Childers
	2)	Maedel Hearn
	3)	Karol Shepherd
	4)	Linda Guess
Clean-Up:	1)	Lisa Nance

January 18, 2016

Set Up:		Celeste Bruton
Cook:	1)	Susan Clark
	2)	Bennie Clark
Bake:	1)	Celeste Bruton
Serve:	1)	Janie Howell
	2)	Celeste Bruton
	3)	Linda Guess
Clean-Up:	1)	Dave Bowmaster

January 25, 2016

Epicenter

**Our Un-Decorating & Christmas Clean-Up will be held on
Sunday January 3rd after worship**

Join us on **Sunday, January 3rd after worship** to help us take down all the decorations and transport them back to the attic. The Worship Committee would appreciate all who can help!



EDUCATION

The Youth have started studying the Book of Revelation in preparation of Bible Olympics in April. If anyone would like to join us, please let Pastor BJ or myself know and begin looking at Revelation and plan on being on our team (everyone is welcome!).

As we end this Advent season, I would like to leave to my church family with this: "In the tapestry of life, we're all connected. Each of us is a gift to those around us, helping each other to be who we are, and weaving a perfect picture together." -- A.M.

God Bless,
Brenda



THANK YOU to all who participated in our Angel Tree this year. We provided Christmas gifts to 25 foster children in Burnet County.

**First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
Burnet, Texas
2015 Christmas Poinsettias**

IN HONOR OF:

Family
Mabelene Brown
Family

IN MEMORY OF:

Colin Clark
H.K. & Billie Bob
Irene Hostetter
Jim & Lynn Smith
Arthur & Florence Mellinger
Louie & Pearl Culp
Bill Watson
Dwain & Nancy Williams
Clendina & Herman Baker
Rev. Ernie Williams
Will Dean
Veterans
Bill Collie
Mami Cuca
Sam Beale & Donald Howell
Howard Miller

GIVEN BY:

Ron & Marilyn Petrick
Michele Darling
Heather & Darrell Selcer

GIVEN BY:

Bennie & Susan Clark
Ronda & Jerry Hostetter
Ronda & Jerry Hostetter
Ronda & Jerry Hostetter
Wendall & Maureen Culp
Wendall & Maureen Culp
Greg & Brenda Williams
Greg & Brenda Williams
Sharon Tippie
Rev. BJ Tapley
Rev. BJ Tapley
Heather & Darrell Selcer
Charolette & Molly Collie
Family
Teri & Grover Howell
Oletha Miller

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
January 2016
Serving Schedule

***If you are unable to serve on the day you are scheduled, please find a replacement and write the change on the Serving Schedule on the bulletin board by the church office.

"Keeping the Story Alive"
 "Power and Presence"
 "Who Is This Guy That Calms the Storm?"
 "Who Is This Guy That Casts Out Demons?"
 "Who Is This Guy That Raises the Dead?"

Jan. 3 Luke 2:21-40
 Jan. 10 Luke 3:15-22
 Jan. 17 Luke 8:22-25
 Jan. 24 Luke 8:26-39
 Jan. 31 Luke 7:11-17

Date	Elders	Deacons	Jr. Deacon	Multi Media	Worship Leaders	Children's Moment	Counters	Acolytes
1/3	(SM & B) Walter Selcer (CI & W) Bennie Clark	Terry Matlock Karol Shepherd Yvonne Evans Celeste Bruton	Cheyenne Steve	Walter Selcer	Ron Petrick	Marilyn Petrick	Charolette Collie	Haylee Williams
1/10	(SM & B) Brenda Williams (CI & W) Ernie Spiekermann	Charolette Collie James Engen Jennifer Engen Cricket Branon	Alayna Engen	Ron Petrick	Grover Howell	Jon Blankenship	<i>need volunteer</i>	Adam Engen
1/17	(SM & B) Allen Rodgers (CI & W) Grover Howell	Marilyn Petrick George Smith Liz Smith Jim Nance	Cheyenne Steve	Bennie Clark	Ernie Spiekermann	Paula Harris	<i>need volunteer</i>	Katlyn Williams
1/24	(SM & B) Susan Clark (CI & W) Jon Blankenship	Ronda Hostetter Jerry Hostetter Linda Guess Terry Matlock	Alayna Engen	Walter Selcer	Jerry Hostetter	Brenda Williams	Charolette Collie	Adam Engen
1/31	(SM & B) Ernie Spiekermann (CI & W) Allen Rodgers	Karol Shepherd Yvonne Evans Celeste Bruton Charolette Collie	Cheyenne Steve	Ron Petrick	Bennie Clark	Marilyn Petrick	<i>need volunteer</i>	Haylee Williams

CI = Communion Invitation; SM = Stewardship Meditation; B = Prayer for Bread; W = Prayer for Cup
 Preparation of Communion: Marilyn Petrick



First Christian Church Burnet

January 2016 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 New Year's Day 12:00 AA  Church Office closed	2 7:00 AA
3 Epiphany Sunday 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship, Noisy Offering Fellowship Lunch Undecorate/Clean Up 2:00 AA Dist. Meeting	4 12:00 AA 4:30 Monday's Kitchen	5 12:00 AA	6 Epiphany 10:00 Bible Study 12:00 AA 5:30 Choir 7:00 AA	7 12:00 AA	8 12:00 AA	9 9:00 Disciples Women's breakfast 7:00 AA
10 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship, Guest preacher Rev. Caroline Hamilton-Arnold	11 12:00 AA 4:30 Monday's Kitchen	12 12:00 AA	13 8:45 LACare Board 10:00 Bible Study 12:00 AA 5:00 Choir 6:00 Elders & Deacons 7:00 Board 7:00 AA	14 12:00 AA	15 12:00 AA	16 8:00 Disciples Men's Breakfast 7:00 AA
17 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship	18 12:00 AA 4:30 Monday's Kitchen	19 12:00 AA 7:00 Compassionate Friends	20 10:00 Bible Study 12:00 AA 5:30 Choir 7:00 AA	21 12:00 AA	22 12:00 AA <div style="border: 1px dashed gray; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"> Chi Rho MidWinter Rally Jan. 22-24 </div>	23 7:00 AA
24 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship	25 <i>Newsletter articles due</i> 12:00 AA 4:30 Monday's Kitchen	26 12:00 AA	27 10:00 Bible Study 12:00 AA 5:30 Choir 7:00 AA	28 12:00 AA	29 12:00 AA	30 7:00 AA
31 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 3:00 Country Oaks						

Birthdays in January

Susie Rodgers	1	Art Johnson	19
Maureen Culp	11	Susie Hearn	24
Grover Howell	12	Paul Harris	29
		Christina Dunegan	30



*Please let us know if we don't have your birthday listed.
We want to get it right.*

First Christian Church
P O Box 872
Burnet TX 78611

THE TIE THAT BINDS

January 2016

Building Relationships, Growing Faith, Welcoming All in Jesus Christ

2016 Leadership Team

Moderator.....Grover Howell
Vice Moderator.....Ron Petrick
Secretary.....Lana Orr
Treasurer.....Bennie Clark
Historian.....Kay Snyder
Education.....Brenda Williams
Faith-Sharing.....Paula Harris
Membership..... Kay Snyder
Outreach..... Ronda Hostetter
Property.....Jerry Hostetter
Worship..... Susan Clark, Ron Petrick
Disciples Men Rep..... Ron Petrick
Disciples Women Rep..... Marilyn Petrick

Pastoral Relations Committee:

Walter Selcer Susan Clark Jim Nance
*Ronda Hostetter Charolette Collie Brenda Williams

Trustees:

Auda Ross
Walter Selcer
Paula Harris

Elders:

Ernie Spiekermann
Walter Selcer
Grover Howell
Bennie Clark
Susan Clark
Allen Rodgers
Jon Blankenship
Brenda Williams

Jr. Deacons:

Alayna Engen
Cheyenne Steve

Deacons:

Yvonne Evans
Celeste Bruton
Jerry Hostetter
Ronda Hostetter
Karol Shepherd
Cricket Branon
Charolette Collie
Linda Guess
Terry Matlock
*Marilyn Petrick
James Engen
Jennifer Engen
George Smith
Liz Smith
Jim Nance

* = chairpersons