

THE TIE THAT BINDS

December 2015



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

Rev. BJ Tapley
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From the Pastor . . .

11/24/15

As we enter into the “holiday season” I always try to prepare myself for it. And yet it never fails that at some point I start to get overly anxious and over-extended with all of the wonderful goings on between Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, New Year’s, and all the traveling that goes along with it. It can be difficult to find time, and to make time, to rejuvenate our own spirits and let go of the anxious tension which can build in our hearts.

Some of us cannot shake the holes in our hearts left by loved ones who are no longer with us; either for the first time or after many seasons. Some cannot help but feel intense gratitude for health, safety, and security; especially when we hear of natural disasters and terrorist attacks. Some find the family visits especially difficult because of family dynamics. Some don’t like the whole visiting thing because visits come to an end and we must once again say goodbye.

For me, personally, leaving is the hardest part of my holiday travels. I either do not want the celebrations to end at all, or I want to just walk away like I am going for a walk from which I do not return. Neither of these are feasible, and I never know for how long we will be separated, and it makes me anxious. In this feeling of anxiousness, I came across Acts 20 which is where the apostle Paul says goodbye to the church at Ephesus. He says, “Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up.” The author of Acts tells us that after Paul had said his goodbyes, “He knelt down with all of them and prayed. They all wept as they embraced him and kissed him.” Paul and the Ephesians grieved especially because Paul had said they would never see each other again face to face.

Did you know that the word ‘goodbye’ is actually a contraction for the phrase “God be with ye”? It is a wonderful sentiment to remember during this time of year especially when we see so many people we do not normally get the chance to be around. It is a phrase that says even if I cannot be with you God will be. It is a phrase which conveys hope, peace, joy, and love; all of which are sacred prayers we lift up for those we love.

‘God be with ye’ conveys the hope for those who put their hope in the Lord because it renews their strength allowing them to soar on wings like eagles. ‘God be with ye’ is a prayer for God’s peace which transcends all understanding to guard each of our hearts, minds, and souls in Christ. ‘God be with ye’ is a prayer that we all will rejoice in the Lord for all the blessings with which we have been entrusted. ‘God be with ye’ is a prayer of love in all its forms that above all we each will know that we are loved, valued, wanted, and perfect in our imperfections. ‘God be with ye’ is a prayer which says no matter how long we are apart or the circumstances we face, that we will be filled with the hope, peace, joy, and love of God and that we might spread those blessing to all those we meet.

Building Relationships; Growing Faith; Welcoming All in Jesus Christ

When we say goodbye, whether it is for special occasions or just because we head off to work this morning, we expect that we will see our loved ones again. That is what I like about saying 'goodbye'. Saying 'goodbye' can be a prayer that until we see each other again, whether it is later today or not until we both get to Heaven, that God will be with each of us.

I pray that we have wonderful, safe, and memorable holidays. I pray that we each will be intentional about finding time to take care of ourselves and restore our own spirits. Happy Thanksgiving. Merry Christmas. So until I see you, may God's hope, peace, joy, and love be with each of you. Goodbye.

Grace and Peace,



A moment about Giving

If you are anything like me, there are folks in your family that seem almost impossible to figure out what to get them for Christmas. They have everything they need. They don't seem to want anything. When they do come across something they want, they just go ahead and buy it themselves. It can be nerve-wracking to figure out what to give them. Maybe you are the one who has everything you need and you end up picking up whatever you want when you find it.

Over the past few years, I have begun donating money to various charities in honor of those in my family for whom giving 'stuff' is unnecessary and figuring out what to give is difficult. I tend to go one of two ways: I either give to an organization I support or an organization they support. I will then send them a card they will appreciate informing them of the gift I have given in their name.

I would invite each of you to consider giving to FCC, or another worthy charity of your choice, instead of buying that person who already has everything even more stuff. I invite you also to ask your family to donate to a cause you hold dear rather than giving more stuff.

We are immensely blessed, here at FCC, let us share of the blessing we have received with those without enough.

GENERAL CHECKING ACCOUNT

September 30, 2015

Balance **\$38,488.95**

Oct 2015 Deposits

General Fund \$6,965.59

Designated \$1,367.19 **\$8,332.78**

Oct 2015 Disbursements

Budgeted/General Fund (\$9,279.86)

Other Fund/Pass-

Through (\$1,511.36) **(\$10,791.22)**

October 31, 2015 Balance **\$36,030.51**

Our annual **Congregational Meeting** will be held
Sunday December 13th immediately following worship.

Your attendance is important as we will vote on 2016 leadership nominations and budget.

CHRISTMAS CAN STILL CHANGE THE WORLD

Worship More, Spend Less, Give Presence, Love All

Don't let consumerism steal the soul of Christmas. *Advent Conspiracy* shows you how to substitute consumption with compassion by practicing four simple but powerful, countercultural concepts:

- **Worship Fully**—because Christmas begins and ends with Jesus!
- **Spend Less**—and free your resources for things that truly matter.
- **Give More**—of your presence: your hands, your words, your time, your heart.
- **Love All**—the poor, the forgotten, the marginalized, and the sick in ways that make a difference.

4-Session DVD Small Group and Sermon Series

When: **Tuesdays December 1, 8, 15 and 22**
6:00pm

Where: **in Parlor**

 **ZONDERVAN**
com/ministry



ADVENT CONSPIRACY

CAN CHRISTMAS STILL CHANGE THE WORLD?

RICK MCKINLEY, CHRIS SEAY, AND GREG HOLDER



Happy thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas

As we go into this wonderful time of the year, we will be having large feasts at home and at friends' as well as at churches within our community. Many of us will have nice Christmas presents under the tree and have a good feeling when we buy others gifts. I would ask that we all give to someone, an organization, or just a random act of kindness to a stranger. God has blessed us in many ways, let's share!! If you know of someone in need, someone a little less fortunate send me an email, we can work together to make sure their basic needs are met not only though the holidays but after Christmas when giving can sometimes drop dramatically. I hope and pray that each one of you have a happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas.

Serving together all year
Grover



The church has arranged to purchase Christmas poinsettias to be used in the sanctuary. If you would like to designate one or more plants in honor of, or in memory of someone, please fill out information on the sign-up sheet on the table in the Fellowship Hall. The cost is **\$8.00/plant**, and is **due by December 14th**. Designants will be listed in the worship bulletin on Sunday December 20th.



Welcome New Member



Marjorie Becker joined the church on Sunday Nov. 22, 2015. Please update your directory with her information. 435 CR 118 Burnet, TX 78611. 512) 756-2535

Worship Committee

December is a very busy month for all of us! We are now in the season of Advent, and even though Advent is a time of preparation and waiting for our Savior to come into the world, we rejoice, because we **know** that the **LORD HAS COME!!!**

- As we do every year, we will light an Advent candle each Sunday through Christmas Eve of **Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, and the Christ Candle.**
- We will have our Christmas Cantata on December 20th during worship.
- Be sure to pick up an Advent devotional if you haven't already.
- We will have our Poinsettias in our worship on December 6th.
- Our Christmas Eve service will be on Thursday the 24th at 6:00pm.

Have a very safe and Blessed Christmas Season!

Joy to the World the Lord has come!!!

Susan Clark
Worship Chair



Disciples Women's Ministries

The November meeting has come and gone. We had about 12 in attendance. Charlotte presented the last program of this series. The refreshments were great, including a creation of fruit in the shape of a turkey, created by our talented Sharon Tippie. We will not continue with another study from "Just Women." Programs can be presented on whatever subject the host wants to present. A check for \$100 will be sent to the Elves for the Elderly program.

The group that traveled to the Button and Bows Bazaar in Kerrville had a great time - loved shopping, eating, talking and the scenery around Comfort was truly beautiful. (We kind of forgot to make the right turn, and had all the more time to talk and laugh before realizing we were almost in Comfort).



Marilyn Petrick
DWM Representative

The Christmas party will be Yvonne's house—no program--just fun, food and fellowship. We will meet at 10 am on Saturday December 12th. We will be sharing an array of breakfast and brunch food items. Yvonne has a game planned, but we will not be bringing gifts. See you there. Happy Advent!



Disciples Men's Ministries

Our next meeting will be on Saturday December 19th – more details coming soon. The General Conference of Disciples Men have announced a date change for the 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.

Ron Petrick

Elders Report

The Elders are picking an entity in our community to pray for each month. This month it is **children in need**. Please keep them in your prayers.

As we move into the busy holiday season, the Elders are working on being more intentional about checking on those who have not made it to church. We want to make sure everything is okay and to let folks know they are missed.

If you have any concerns you wish to share please call on one of the Elders or Pastor BJ anytime.

God bless you all.
Harriett Reed
Elder Chair



Backpack Buddies Report

We had the following individual servings donated:

Crackers – 24 Cereal – 10
Raisins – 12 Granola – 16

Thanks for supporting this program and giving some extra weekend food to hungry children.

PRC meeting

The next Pastoral Relations Committee meeting will be held **Tuesday Dec. 21st at 6:00p.**
2015 Committee members:

Susan Clark Art Johnson
Charolette Collie Walter Selcer
Ron Petrick Ronda Hostetter



OUTREACH MINISTRY REPORT

Outreach opportunities abound at this time of year. No one is expected to participate in all of these, but we urge you to prayerfully consider the ones that God is calling you to do. Then, give with a joyful heart!

Community Thanksgiving Luncheon at Vanderveer Church of Christ, Thursday, November 26

Helpers and desserts are needed. Please deliver your desserts to FCC Wednesday, November 25. Doors will be open from 9:00-10:00 a.m. Paula Harris is our contact person on this project. Thank you, Paula!

Angel Tree Gift Project – Gifts due THIS Sunday, November 29.

All angels have been adopted. Way to go, FCC! This project benefits foster children in our community and is sponsored by the Burnet County Child Welfare Board.

Respite Luncheons – The First Tuesday, Every other Month beginning December 1

Cooks are needed to assist with the preparation of meals for the Respite program's 20 clients and volunteers. We have the meal preparation covered for the first two months. Consider if you could contribute to this project by baking one cake or making one salad during 2016.

Meals on Wheels – Elves for the Elderly through Sunday, December 13

Donations of money, blankets, socks, hygiene items such as Chap Stick, lotion, Kleenex, etc. are needed. Drop one of the items listed into the collection box or designate your check/envelope and drop into the offering plate. Your donation will benefit Meals on Wheels' clients in Burnet.

Special Christmas Offering – December 13 and December 20

This offering supports the Ministries of our Region. For more information, go to:

<http://www.disciplesmissionfund.org/special-offerings/christmas-offering/>

Ongoing Outreach Opportunities - Backpack Buddies, LaCare, Monday's Kitchen

We continue to be blessed to serve with each of you. Feel free to contact us with questions concerning any of these outreach opportunities.

Lisa Nance and Michele Darling

MONDAY'S KITCHEN SCHEDULE OF WORKERS DECEMBER 2015

December 7, 2015

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

December 14, 2015

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

December 21, 2015:

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

December 28, 2015:

NO KITCHEN

MONDAY'S KITCHEN WILL RESUME
ON JAN. 4, 2016

Noisy Offering was collected on November 1st in the amount of \$85.60. From October 26th to November 23rd Monday's Kitchen served 307 meals and donations of \$191.22 were received. Noisy Offering for November was \$85.60.



It was such a joy to see so many folks gathered at RJ Richey on November 11th to honor veterans on Veteran's Day. Jennifer Engen managed to get a great picture of her son Adam with Ernie Spiekermann at the event.



So many Christmas songs, so little time! If you have a favorite song of the season, please let us know and we'll do our best to sing it for you. On **Dec. 20th**, we will have our **Christmas program** during the service. And don't forget our beautiful Christmas Eve service. We need extra voices of all sizes during this time of year so come and join us as we sing Joy to the world - the Lord has come!

Susie Rodgers

Angel Tree 2015



A BIG THANK YOU...

Words cannot express my gratitude for this congregation and all that yall have done for me during my journey toward my ordination this past month. We had a great celebration here on November 1st where yall presented me with the final 3 volumes of the New Interpreters Bible Commentary series that I needed. Thank yall! Sharon made a delicious cake that looked even more amazing as she decorated it with the designs of each of my stoles. Ron and Marilyn drove up to Lubbock to be a part of the Ordination service both to recommend me for ordination and present me with the Bible as one of the signs of the office.

My heart remains overjoyed by the outpouring of love and support I received, and continue to receive from each of you. Thank you doesn't seem strong enough and yet it is all I have. Thanks again!

Grace and Peace
BJ

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
December 2015
Serving Schedule

Dec. 6	Luke 1:26-38	"Is There Room In My Life for God?"	
Dec. 13	Luke 1:39-56	"Who am I that God Wants Me?"	
Dec. 20		"So, What's Love Got to do With It?"	
Dec. 27	Luke 2:1-20	"Rejoice in the Romance"	

***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.

Date	Elders	Deacons	Jr. Deacon	Multi Media	Worship Leaders	Children's Moment	Counters	Acolytes
12/6	(SM & B) Bennie Clark	Linda Guess Terry Matlock Karol Shepherd Yvonne Evans	Alayna Engen	Bennie Clark	Greg Williams	Jennifer Engen	Art Johnson	Katlyn Williams
12/13	(SM & B) Grover Howell	Celeste Bruton Charolette Collie Susan Selcer Teri Howell	Cheyenne Steve	Walter Selcer	Grover Howell	Marilyn Patrick	Charolette Collie	Haylee Williams
12/20	(SM & B) Michele Darling	Paula Harris Cricket Branon Art Johnson Marilyn Petrick	Alayna Engen	Ron Petrick	Bennie Clark	Brenda Williams	Paula Harris	Adam Engen
12/27	(SM & B) Harriett Reed	Ronda Hostetter Jerry Hostetter Brenda Williams Linda Guess	Cheyenne Steve	Bennie Clark	Jerry Hostetter	Paula Harris	Art Johnson	Katlyn Williams

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

Pastor BJ's Ordination Nov. 7, 2015





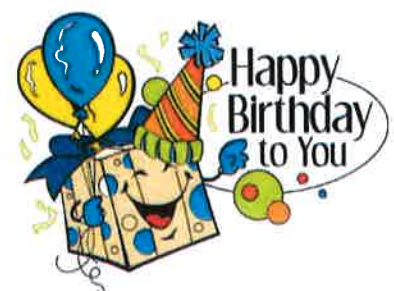
First Christian Church Burnet

December 2015 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 12:00 AA 6:00 Advent Study	2 10:00 Bible Study 12:00 AA 5:30 Choir 7:00 AA	3 12:00 AA	4 12:00 AA	5 7:00 AA
6 <i>Advent-2 Peace</i> 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship, Noisy Offering Fellowship Lunch 2:00 AA Dist. Meeting	7 12:00 AA 4:30 Monday's Kitchen	8 12:00 AA 6:00 Advent Study	9 8:45 LACare Board 10:00 Bible Study 12:00 AA 5:00 Choir 6:00 Elders mtng 7:00 Board mtng 7:00 AA	10 12:00 AA	11 12:00 AA	12 9:00 Disciples Women's Christmas Party at Yvonne's 7:00 AA
13 <i>Advent-3 Joy</i> 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship, Christmas Offering Congregational mtng 7:00 Compassionate Friends	14 12:00 AA 4:30 Monday's Kitchen <i>Last day to order poinsettias</i>	15 12:00 AA 6:00 Advent Study	16 10:00 Bible Study 12:00 AA <i>*Newsletter Articles due today</i> 5:30 Choir 7:00 AA	17 12:00 AA	18 12:00 AA	19 8:00 Disciples Men's Breakfast 7:00 AA
20 <i>Advent-4 Love</i> 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship, Christmas Offering, Choir Cantata	21 <i>*Newsletter goes out today</i> 12:00 AA 4:30 Monday's Kitchen 6:00 PRC meeting	22 12:00 AA 5:00 Choir 6:00 Advent Study	23 10:00 Bible Study 12:00 AA 7:00 AA	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 12:00 AA Church Office Closed 6:00 Christmas Eve Worship Service	25 <i>Christmas Day</i> 12:00 AA Church Office Closed	26 7:00 AA
27 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship	28 12:00 AA No Monday's Kitchen	29 12:00 AA 5:00 Choir	30 10:00 Bible Study 12:00 AA 7:00 AA	31 12:00 AA		

Birthdays in December

Fatima Evans	3	Darrell Selcer	13
Caylee Van Houten	5	Charolette Collie	17
Linda Guess	6	Heather Selcer	17
Katlyn Williams	6	Tina Copeland	19
Richard Dunegan	11	BJ Tapley	19
Melissa Johnson	11	Adam Engen	28
		Brenda Williams	29



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

December 2015

Building Relationships, Growing Faith, Welcoming All in Jesus Christ

2015 Leadership Team

Moderator.....Grover Howell
Vice Moderator.....Michele Darling
Secretary.....Teri Howell
Treasurer.....Bennie Clark
Historian.....Kay Snyder
Education.....Brenda Williams
Faith-Sharing.....Ron & Marilyn Petrick
Membership.....Harriett Reed
Outreach.....Michele Darling, Lisa Nance
Property.....
Worship.....Susan Clark
Disciples Men Rep.....Ron Petrick
Disciples Women Rep.....Marilyn Petrick

Pastoral Relations Committee:

*Ron Petrick Walter Selcer Susan Clark
Art Johnson Ronda Hostetter Charolette Collie

Trustees:

Lisa Nance
Auda Ross
Walter Selcer

Elders:

Michele Darling
Hank Holt
Ron Petrick
*Harriett Reed
Walter Selcer
Grover Howell
Bennie Clark
Susan Clark

Jr. Deacons:

Alayna Engen
Cheyenne Steve

Deacons:

Paula Harris
Teri Howell
Art Johnson
Brenda Williams
Susan Selcer
Yvonne Evans
Celeste Bruton
Jerry Hostetter
Ronda Hostetter
Karol Shepherd
Cricket Branon
Charolette Collie
Linda Guess
Terry Matlock
*Marilyn Petrick

* chairperson

Church Office hours will be flexible during the weeks of December 23 through January 4th. Your emails and telephone messages will be answered in a timely manner. In case of emergency please contact Pastor BJ at (806) 317-6494.