



"Promote the Kingdom of God and Win People to faith in Jesus Christ!"

FIRST CHRISTIAN CALLER

300 North Fifth Street • Temple, TX 76501

www.firstchristiantemple.org

Dr. Don Lynn, Senior Minister

Telephone 254-773-9061

November 30, 2011

Last time I began to share information from Beth Kennett. Here's where we left off.

“Every week churches offer opportunities for individuals to connect through worship services, prayer times, Bible studies, programs and ministry – meaningful life experiences. Yet participation in these particular opportunities has been declining for 50 years. Every week fewer and fewer people, who really barely know each other, are gathering with the intent of making a difference in their lives and in the lives of others.

Those who do gather, sit side by side with people they barely know or know only on the surface. Every week buildings are half-full of people who believe that they do not have the time to get to know each other as anything more than acquaintances. Every week church buildings contain groups of familiar strangers who are trying to function as congregations. Authentic Community is nowhere in sight.”

We must begin now to Transition into a Family of Faith

“The apostle Paul understood the concept of Authentic Community. Throughout his letters to the early churches, Paul repeatedly shares ways congregations can live better as a group, as a church. He speaks of belonging and connecting, of communicating and accepting, of being a place where no one is an outsider. Paul encourages the church to focus on the teachings and actions of Jesus in order to develop into healthy communities of faith. Jesus, before his death, gives a new command to his disciples; he impresses on them the importance of living lives of love. It is in living love – incorporating love into every aspect of our individual lives and the life of our community – that we begin to understand what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. It is through relationship with God and living the teachings of Jesus Christ that we can establish Authentic Community within the church. It is through nurturing communities that we experience healthier living.”

Discussions on Community are becoming more frequent here at FCC. Across age and ethnic backgrounds the issues arise. To be continued ... Dr. Don



MAKE A NOTE ... WRITE IT DOWN

Church Office: 773-9061
Don Lynn: 598-2120
Jeremy Thompson: 493-8455
Taylor Colwell: 718-1618
Rita Morrelli: 773-9076

E-Mail Addresses

1stchurch@sbcglobal.net
dlynn@firstchristiantemple.org
jthompson@firstchristiantemple.org
tcolwell@firstchristiantemple.org
ritamorrelli@sbcglobal.net

Website - www.firstchristiantemple.org

Office Hours

Mon-Thurs ... 8:00am-3:00pm
Fridays ... 8:00am-12:00n

The next *Caller* is Dec. 14 ... listed below are wor-
ship participants for Sun., Dec. 11:

2nd SUNDAY SERVING TEAM

David Vick, Captain
Dean Clifford/Jackie Clifford (GO)
Marjorie Crenshaw/Bobbie Ham (GO)
Don Rohde/Susan Rohde/James Stewart (GO)
(GO = Greet Only)

ELDERS

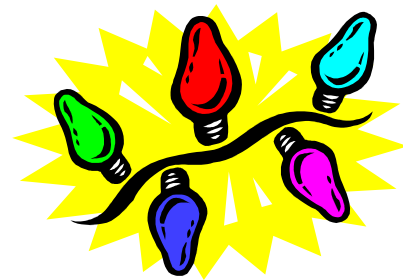
Jerry Jett (cup) ... Ruby Jett (bread)



Marilyn Steinhardt has offered to drive the church bus so folks can
see **NATURE IN LIGHTS** at **BLORA**.

The display is open daily, 5:30-11:00pm, until Jan. 8. She'll make
one trip weekly - either Tuesday or Thursday. Each rider is asked to
donate \$2 to help with the admission fee (\$15 bus load) and gas!

Interested? Call Marilyn (913-5553) and get your name on the list!



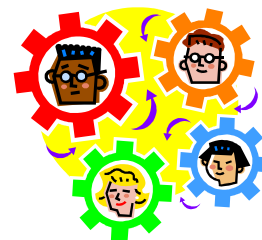
With Christmas coming, we'll continue to collect
items for **CTLC** (Churches Touching Lives for Christ) during
December. Needs include:

- canned goods (vegetables/beans/meats/juices)
- jellies or preserves (no homemade, please)
- Ramen Noodles/soups
- spaghetti/canned sauce
- packages of dried beans/rice
- diapers (size 3-6)/razors/toothbrushes/toothpaste
- canned sweet potatoes/boxed stuffing mix

Donations may be left in the baskets in Kress Hall
foyer.

Are you aware that there is opportunity each Sun-
day morning to chat, catch up and **CONNECT**
with others around the coffee pot?

Anytime from 8:45-9:45 you'll find folks
"checking in" with each other in an informal set-
ting in Kress Hall. You might consider getting to
know them.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

LIFEPOINT GROUP for elementary age kids meets upstairs on Wednesday, 4:30-5:30pm. We're investigating how the church tells time and what are the meanings of the seasons of the church. Our Christmas Party is Dec. 14. Come join in the fun ... and ... bring-a-friend!

On Sunday mornings in December, elementary age kids are participating in an Advent study, **ON THE WAY TO BETHLEHEM**. Join them in Rm 154 of the Education Wing, 9:00-9:45am

WORSHIP & WONDER Storytellers & Greeters are needed! Please call Rita Morrelli (773-9076) or Tobi Bigelow (493-7020) for details. We have a rotating schedule so volunteers usually help out once-a-month. Training provided initially and on-going each Wednesday at 1:30pm in Rm #156 (Preschool hallway). Please spread the word about our exciting Children's Church!

If you need to schedule childcare for Church sponsored events, please call Rita @ 773-9076.

ONE YOUTH

December schedule:

- ★ 7th – 5:30pm Snack Supper
6:00pm Meeting
- ★ 14th – 5:30 *Christmas Party*
- ★ 21st and 28th – Christmas break ... No meetings

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Can you believe December's here and that it's time to order poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas?



You may want to dedicate a beautiful flower in memory of a loved one, someone you wish to honor or to give thanks for a particular blessing.

We want to make sure that you have plenty of time to get your information to Gerry and that no one will be left out. The deadline for orders and payments will be Dec. 15.

Thank you in advance.

Fran Farrow - Worship Committee Leader

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS ...

- ♥ Fri., Dec. 9, 6:00pm - Fidelis Class Christmas Party ... bring a gift (\$10 limit) and food to share ... you're invited to join the class in celebrating the Season
- ♥ Sun., Dec. 11, 10:00am - Choir Christmas Cantata
- ♥ Wed., Dec. 14
4:30pm - Life Point Team Christmas Party
5:30pm - One Youth Christmas Party
- ♥ Sat., Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve
4:00pm - Service @ Meridian
6:30pm - Service @ FCC
- ♥ Sun., Dec. 25 - Christmas Day
9:00am - Service @ FCC (no Christian Education classes)
11:30am - Meridian Worship Service
- ♥ Sat., Dec. 31, 6:00pm - All-Church New Year's Eve Game Night - Fellowship Hall

Joel Wagher will lead a class from our *Walk Across the Room* Seminar on **2 MINUTE SHARING**. Interested in learning more on how to share your faith story? Please join him in Fellowship Hall during our Christian Education time, 9:00am, this Sun., Dec. 4.

MERIDIAN WORSHIP is held each Sunday, 11:30am, in the 1st floor Game Room at the retirement center, 4312 South 31st St. All are welcome to attend this service which includes communion open to all believers.

Thanks to Una Forgy, Ed Stephenson, Bill Reeder, Gay & David Vick and Ruby & Jerry Jett for participating the last few weeks. Teams for December are:

- 4th - Bill R/Milton & Jerrie Lentz/Marjorie Crenshaw
- 11th - Una F/Ed S/Mark Short
- 18th - Celinda Hallbauer
- 24th - 4:00pm - Christmas Eve Service
- 25th - Celinda H/Ruby & Jerry J

PRESCHOOL NEWS

The remodeling project is making progress! Painting began this week and the new flooring will be installed starting Mon., Dec. 5. Our desire is to have the children in their new home-base classrooms the week of Dec. 12.

First Christian Church now “owns” the portion of 5th St between Downs & Calhoun. The traffic on this street currently moves pretty fast. We feel the safety of our children & families is very important. Plans are being made to erect some traffic barriers to begin slowing cars down in this area. More information will be sent home in backpack mail soon.

All women of the church are invited to join **DISCIPLE WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP** on Mon., Dec. 5, 12 noon, in the Church Parlor for a festive **CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON** and to have opportunity to honor our Church Staff. The meat will be provided; you’re asked to bring a vegetable, salad, or dessert. See *you* there!



CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

- ♥ \$350 is needed for barricades & signs for 5th Street.
- ♥ Items for 3:11

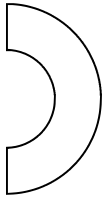
E.O.D. SCHEDULE (Elder of the Day)

December

- 1 - Patsy Posey
- 2 - Susan Rohde
- 3 - Susan Rohde
- 4 - Jerry Jett
- 5 - Ruby Jett
- 6 - Bill Reeder
- 7 - Chuck Ellis
- 8 - Bill Reeder
- 9 - Sam Farrow
- 10 - Fran Farrow
- 11 - Jennie Mathesen
- 12 - John Chlapek
- 13 - Shirley Reeder
- 14 - Mark Short
- 15 - Mark Short

ADVENT CANDLELIGHTERS needed! Your family is invited to contact Rita Morrelli @ 773-9076 to sign up for this meaningful part of our holiday worship. All ages are welcome to participate ... no special skills needed!





Non-Profit Org
 U S Postage
 P A I D
 Temple Texas
 Permit No 157

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Dec. 4

Christian Education (all ages) 9:00-9:45am
 Worship 10:00-11:00am
 Meridian Worship 11:30am

Dec. Communion Prep: Gay Vick
Team: 1st Sunday

Betty Foyt/Betty Hoyle, Captains
 Pat Burkett (GO)/Joe Camp/Jim Keener
 Roxanne Keener/Del Posey/Patsy Posey (GO)
 James Stewart (GO)
 (GO = Greet Only)

Elders: Patsy Posey (cup); Ruby Jett (bread)

SERVING SHUT-INS

Celinda Hallbauer/Ruby Jett
 Betty Hoyle/David Vick
 Joe Camp/Shirley Reeder
 Sam & Fran Farrow

DECEMBER SERMON SERIES

4th: 2nd Sunday in Advent
 Text: John 12:45-47
 Sermon: *Don't Stay in Darkness*

11th: 3rd Sunday in Advent
 Choir Christmas Cantata

18th: Christmas Sunday
 Text: Luke 2:1-20
 Sermon: *In the Presence of Innocence*

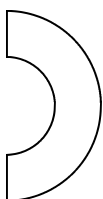
24th: Christmas Eve Service - 6:30pm
 John Van Vactor's *O Holy Night*

25th: Christmas Day
 Text: Matthew 1:18-25

WE COUNT PEOPLE . . .

BECAUSE PEOPLE COUNT!

Worship	136 (11/13)	127 (11/20)	116 (11/27)
Meridian	16 (11/13)	12 (11/20)	13 (11/27)
Evening	---- (11/13)	---- (11/20)	8 (11/27)
Total	152	139	137



First Christian Church
 1st Church Preschool
 300 North 5th
 Temple TX 76501-3108

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

