



# FIRST CHRISTIAN NEWS

January 2024

*We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.*



## MINISTER'S MESSAGE



### UPCOMING events

- January 7  
Board Meeting 9:30 a.m.
- January 8  
Women's Bible Study and  
Lunch 9:30
- January 21  
Adult Bible Class Begins
- February 11  
Valentine's Luncheon following  
services

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To our Church Family,

Happy New Year Wishes!

As we embark on a new year, I want to seize this moment to share some uplifting thoughts rooted in the teachings of the Bible.

It's common to set lofty New Year's resolutions, only to find ourselves falling short. Personally, I've experienced this tendency in the past—pledging to shed pounds, commit to daily prayer and Bible reading, cultivate gratitude, and so forth.

In contrast, the Apostle Paul offers a profound perspective in his message to the Philippian believers. This scripture is often revisited at the start of a new year due to its profound truth.

Philippians 3:12-14 (NKJV)

*12 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*

Paul's central focus was on knowing Christ, and he was willing to endure whatever challenges came his way for the sake of deepening his understanding of Jesus' teaching.

While acknowledging his progress, Paul emphasized the ongoing nature of his spiritual journey and imparted three essential principles encapsulating his commitment to knowing Christ. Let's reflect on these principles as a reminder to remain steadfast in our focus on Christ.

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- **LEAVE THE PAST BEHIND:** Refuse to let past experiences hinder your pursuit of all that God has in store for your future. Learn from the past, but don't be held back by it.
- **EMBRACE WHAT LIES AHEAD:** Approach the journey ahead with optimism, recognizing the joy that can be found in the pursuit of God's plans for your life.
- **STRIVE FOR THE GOAL:** Live not only with the journey in mind but also with an awareness of the ultimate destination. Strive for the goal of knowing Christ more deeply, keeping in sight the eternal reward of being with Jesus.

As we step into the coming year, my prayer is for a year of tremendous victories for you, your friends, and loved ones. While the past year presented its share of challenges, we also achieved significant milestones. I encourage you to persist in supporting the pantry ministry, as it continues to make a positive impact in this and other communities.

Just as Paul's singular focus on knowing Christ had far-reaching effects, remember the words of Matthew 6:33: *"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."*

May your primary pursuit be akin to Paul's—knowing Christ and serving in His likeness.

Happy New Year!  
Pastor Doc & Family



## **MEN'S TOOLBOX DEVOTIONAL**

### **Stepping into the New Year with Faith**

As we stand on the threshold of a new year, let us take a moment to reflect on the journey we've walked so far and the path that lies ahead. As Christian men, our faith serves as an anchor, guiding us through the storms and uncertainties of life. Let this devotional be a source of encouragement as we step into the new year with renewed hope and a deepened commitment to our relationship with Christ.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV) *"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."*

As we ponder the words of Proverbs, we are reminded that our trust in God is not just a fleeting emotion but a deliberate decision to rely on Him completely. The new year brings with it a blank canvas, and our faith is the brush that paints the masterpiece of our lives. God's plan is far greater than our own understanding, and as we submit our ways to Him, we can trust that He will lead us on a straight path.

As men, we often carry the weight of responsibilities, ambitions, and expectations. In the hustle and bustle of life, it's easy to lose sight of our spiritual journey. This new year let's make a conscious effort to prioritize our relationship with God. Just as we invest time and energy in our careers, relationships, and hobbies, let us invest in our spiritual growth.

Consider setting aside specific time each day for prayer, Bible study, and reflection. Whether it's early in the morning or before bed, find a quiet space to connect with God. As you navigate the challenges of the year, remember that you are not alone. God is with you every step of the way, guiding and directing your path.

As you step into the new year, identify an aspect of your life where you need to trust God more fully. It could be a career decision, a family matter, or a personal struggle. Take intentional steps to submit that area of your life to God, trusting that He will make your path straight. Write down your prayer requests and reflections in a journal and revisit them throughout the year to see how God has been at work in your life.

As we embark on this new year, may the peace of God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit be with you, dear brother in Christ.

**SERMONS AND TEXTS FOR DECEMBER**

Date	Sermon Title	Main Scripture	Additional Scriptures
1-07	Which Soil Am I On?	Matthew 13:1-9	Matthew 13:18-23
1-14	Praying Like a Disciple Maker	John 15:5-17	
1-21	Engaging the Lost	2 Corinthians 5:17-20	John Chapter 4
1-28	Once I've Found Someone to Disciple	Luke 5:1-11	Luke 9:28-36, Matthew 16:13-18, John 21:15-19

**FINANCIAL REPORT - November**

**Income**

Sunday Offerings: \$7,000.00  
 Memorial Gift Fund: .00  
 Special Offering: .00  
 Building Fund Offering: 3,500.00  
 Miscellaneous: 5.27

**Expenses**

Salaries: 1,600.00  
 Utilities: 406.46  
 Supplies & Food: 86.17  
 Insurance: .00  
 Taxes: .00  
 Maintenance: .00  
 Miscellaneous: .00

**Total Income:**

\$10,505.27

**Total Expenses:**

\$ 2,222.63



Please keep the following in your prayers for strength, healing and comfort: Heather Carter, Jeannie Greenwald, Louis Cave, Daisy Nicodemus, Sandra Zimmerebner, Jerry Smith, Laura Latham, Janet Rippy, Sharon Olson, Clark and John Neill and family, Amy Davey, Mary Smith.



01/09 Tralyn Hendrix  
 01/13 Scott Franklin  
 01/18 Danielle Chamberlin  
 01/26 Emma Dimock

01/20 Jake and Tina Ramer

**ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**





**First Christian Church of Weston**

100 Chicken Street  
P.O. Box 7  
Weston, TX 75097

Email: fccwestontx@gmail.com  
Facebook: First Christian Church,  
Weston, Texas  
Website: firstchristianweston.com

Service: Sundays 11 a.m.  
Adult Bible Class: 10:15 a.m.  
Children's Sunday School: during  
Service

Dr. Damon "Doc" Gardner, Pastor  
Cell: 469-417-8431  
Email: dagardnersr@gmail.com

Karen Chilton, Secretary  
Cell: 972-849-9084  
Email: kdchilton85@gmail.com

**Newsletter Information Needed**

To make the newsletter more personal,  
please send pictures or information on  
achievements, births, awards, or anything  
else of interest to Karen Chilton at  
kdchilton85@gmail.com.

**Women's Bible Study and Lunch**

For the month of December, we met at the home of Brenda Lambert. We enjoyed delicious food, crafts, gift giving and wonderful fellowship with our church sisters.



Our new study is starting January 8. We will use *The Love Stories of the Bible Speak* by Shannon Bream to guide our bible study. A book was purchased for every woman in our congregation. If you have not received a book, please contact Brenda Lambert or Karen Chilton. We meet on the second Monday of the month at 9:30. After our bible study, we have lunch together at various locations. We hope you make it a point this coming year to be a part of this special time to grow in God's Word and in fellowship with the women of our congregation.



Love is at the heart of the Bible. From the moment Adam declared Eve "flesh of my flesh"...to the sacrificial love of Joseph for Mary...to the deep friendship of David and Jonathan...to the abounding and never-changing love of God: The Bible is a love story. But it also redefines the way the world tells us we should think about love. The Bible reveals not just butterflies and broken hearts. In Scripture, we see God's beautiful design for the partnership of marriage. We witness friendships that cross all boundaries. We watch as families navigate the many seasons of life. Our guiding example for them all is the deepest, most abiding, foundational love ever known: God's unconditional love for His people. In *The Love Stories of the Bible Speak*, Shannon Bream draws lessons from the good, the bad, and the ugly of Biblical romances, friendships, and families. She shows how God's love is often very different from ours, turning upside down our assumptions about life, relationships, and each other. *The Love Stories of the Bible Speak* reminds us that, no matter where we find ourselves, God's unwavering love will sustain and guide us. These insights into biblical relationships will uplift and encourage you, and reveal new dimensions to the most central Christian duty: to love God and your neighbor.

**MONTHLY PANTRY ITEM FOR JANUARY - SOUP**



We collected 22 pounds of pasta during the month of December. Thanks to those who donated. You are a blessing to others who are in need of food.

**MICHAEL STRANGE MEMORIAL CLOTHING DRIVE**

Several large bags of clothing were collected and donated to the Samaritan Inn in McKinney.

