

# Covenant Courier



December 6, 2009

Volume II

Issue IV

# New Members



Matthew and Heather Marshall

Matthew and Heather Marshall were received into the membership of our church on Sunday, November 8, 2009. They come to us from another evangelical church in the area and have come with the hope of serving Christ in and with our church family. Matthew grew up in Dallas, graduated from SMU in 2002 and owns a Commercial Real Estate Company in Tyler. Heather grew up in Van, attended Texas Tech., and enjoys sewing, calligraphy and interior design work.

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## WEDFEST:

### Winter and Spring Study of the Parables

January 6	Hymn & Pizza
January 13	<b>Introduction:</b> Understanding and Application of Parables
January 20	<b>Kingdom Entrance:</b> The invitation and the invited The Sower & The Wedding Feast
January 27	<b>Kingdom Entrance:</b> The Contrast of the Two's The Two Sons; The Rich Fool; Rich Man & Lazarus; Pharisee and Publican.
February 3	Hymn & Pizza
February 10	<b>Kingdom Entrance:</b> Great Grace Hidden Treasure and Pearl of Great Price; Laborers in the Vineyard
February 17	<b>Kingdom Growth:</b> Growth and Dominion Seed; Wheat & Tares; Mustard Seed and Leaven; Householder
February 24	<b>Kingdom Growth:</b> Judgment Wheat and Tares; The Dragnet; The Householder
March 3	Hymn & Pizza
March 10	Spring Break
March 17	<b>Kingdom Living:</b> Two Religions and Two Reactions Two Foundations; Two Debtors; The Good Samaritan; The Wicked Vine-Growers.
March 24	<b>Kingdom Living:</b> Love and Mercy Two Debtors; The Unmerciful Servant
March 31	<b>Kingdom Living:</b> Repentance or Judgment The Prodigal Son; The Wicked Vine-Growers
April 7	Hymn & Pizza
April 14	<b>Kingdom Living:</b> Seeking the Valuable The Unrighteous Steward; The lost Sheep and Coin; Straying Sheep
April 21	<b>Kingdom Living:</b> Persistence and Perseverance The Unjust Judge; The Persistent Friend; The Barren Fig Tree
April 28	<b>Kingdom Rewards:</b> Rewards The Ten Virgins; The Talents
May 5	Hymn & Pizza

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# TRUTH WRAPPED UP IN LIFE

By Steve Simmons

## —THE PARABLES

In January of 2010 one of our Wednesday Adult Studies will be a study of the Parables of our Savior. These stories are great tools as they teach truth and teach us how to understand truth in the context of our lives—they are wonderfully practical. As you think about these tools of God’s grace there are some helpful principles to take into consideration. Robert Dabney gives four such principles and these seem a good place to start our thinking as we think about understanding the parables. Attending the study or not, these principles will be a help to your study of these portions of God’s Word.

**Principle One:** *Like all other Scripture, they must be expounded “according to the analogy of the faith.” The meaning of one Scripture must be consistent with that of other Scriptures. ...God, being omniscient and infallible, will never truly contradict Himself. Hence if we really get His meaning in two Scriptures, they must be interconsistent.*

**Principle Two:** *Doctrines are to be received primarily, from the literal and didactic passages of Scripture, and not by analogical, human inferences from particular features of parables. The reason is, that the direct, unfigurative, didactic propositions in Scripture were intended by God for nothing else but propounding truths; while the parabolic, like all other figured passages, were intended to illustrate truths.*

**Principle Three:** *Our Lord has Himself given an express and full interpretation of two parables: The sower and the seed (Matt. 23) and the tares and the wheat (Matt. 18). These are the expositor’s models. He should study them, comparing the emblems with the truth intended, until he is thoroughly imbued with their method.*

**Principle Four:** *Our fourth rule is most important in this respect, that it is most frequently violated. The detailed features of the parable are not to be forced to teach truths other than those contained in the sacred writer’s avowed scope. ...The real purpose of the parable is to present a vivid word picture which may assist in teaching and better apprehension of some main truth (sometimes with a few connected truths). Therefore the sacred speaker may add features for the sake of giving resemblance to his picture; nothing more. [Example: the parable of the unjust judge does not teach us that we can worry God into doing what we want but only to press us to perseverance in prayer.] If this way of interpretation be once allowed, there is not limit left to the corruption of religious beliefs, except the possibility of the wildest human fancies.*

Dabney, Robert L. *Discussions by Robert L. Dabney*, Vol. V. Pages 159-169

## Ministry Opportunity

Brenda Orbaugh

Fellow Fifth Streeters,

In the past, the women of Fifth Street have provided Christmas gifts for needy students at my school at our Christmas luncheon. This year I would like to recommend that we focus on a special group at Dixie. One of the teachers at Dixie, Wheeler Jones, sponsors a group of fourth and fifth grade boys called Boyz 2 Men. He is an ordained pastor and because the group meets after hours at Dixie, it is a very Christ centered group. The boys are lacking a positive male role model and Wheeler sees this as a real ministry. He raises all of the funds to support this group through private donations and takes these guys fishing, to high school football games etc. Other Dixie teachers chaperone, provide snacks etc. Instead of just WIC participating I would like to open this up to the whole congregation.

Wheeler has identified about 10 boys who are the most needy of his group. If you would like to help, you can do so in several ways. First, pray for Wheeler and his group. Second, you can volunteer to help wrap gifts that are donated. Third, you may purchase and wrap your own gift and lastly you may want to volunteer to shop for someone who would like to help but doesn’t want to fight the crowds. Please reply to borbaugh@sbcglobal.net and let me know if you would like to help and how you would like to help and I will give you more information. Wheeler is asking the boys to come up with a wish list on Thursday at their meeting and he and the boys are very touched at the thought of total strangers caring for them.

I am thankful for the opportunity to serve Him by blessing others.

Brenda

# Youth Group Update and Invitation

*Kent Travis*

The youth of Fifth Street recently met to make ornaments for our shut-ins and to shoot each other.

Do I have your attention? I hope so, because this is news for everyone. We have many members of our church who cannot attend corporate worship services due to illness or lack of mobility. For this reason, the youth committee and the youth of the church have decided that we will reach out to these members of the body of Christ. This year, we met at Ken and Jami Brumfield's home on November 23 to make Christmas ornaments for our shut-ins. All across the Brumfield's living room and into their library we had youth of all ages painting, pressing, and producing ornaments. Along with the ornaments, each youth filled out a form that told about themselves, their families and their interests. When all the crafting was done, the stack of ornaments and miniature bios was quite a happy sight to see.

Then came the shooting. After we finished the ornaments, many of us went to the woods that line Cascades and had an Airsoft war. Don't worry; none of us were really angry with each other and we didn't use real bullets. Airsoft guns shoot small plastic BBs, which don't really hurt that much if you're wearing proper protection (which we were). Anyway, we divided up into teams and spread out through the woods and then attempted to, well, shoot each other while not being shot ourselves. As usual, it was quite an adventure, with many lessons to learn. For instance, automatic weapons don't always trump pistols. Also, staying in one place and being quiet and PATIENT and waiting for an opportune shot is almost always better than running

head-on into enemy fire and screaming, "Ding dong the witch is dead." We ended our day of ornament making and Airsoft warring with many, many slices of pizza.

What's the point of all this? Well, we had fun together, but not only that, we were taking steps toward reaching out and pressing into the lives of the people in our church. We plan to meet again on Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM at the church to make cookies. Then, on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> we will hand-deliver the cookies and ornaments to our shut-ins, singing Christmas carols and wishing them a happy holiday. This is our way of showing the love of Christ, and, hopefully, reminding our fellow members of the hope the birth of Christ brought and continues to bring to mankind.

We invite ALL members of Fifth Street to join us in our reaching out to our members this holiday season. If you would like to participate by baking cookies or some other tasty baked treat, PLEASE DO SO. See Pastor Bowen, Cheri, Lisa Sharpless or Kent Travis if you would like to contribute. Also, if you would like to join us for caroling, we will be meeting at the church Sunday, December 20 at 4 PM to break up into groups. We will then leave to carol and deliver the baked goods and ornaments. Around 6 PM we will meet at the Sharpless's home for a time of fellowship.

We look forward to seeing you there.

*Kent Travis*

## Ladies

*Esther Circle Lunch @ Cotton Patch* Tue.  
Dec. 8 @ 11:00 am

*Ladies' Night Out.* Dec. 10 at Coyote Sam's @  
6:30 Christmas Ornament exchange party.

## *Please Note:*

Worship on December 13

There will be no Sunday School on December 13. We will be having our annual extended Advent Worship service beginning at 10:30 am which will include a few additional choir numbers with the addition of several instruments to aid us in worship.

*You are cordially invited by the Youth Group to join us for...*

## **CHRISTMAS CAROLING**

**Our plan is to meet at the church at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>.**

**We will divide into groups and head out to visit various members of our congregation. We will take goody baskets and sing Christmas carols. Afterward, we will meet at the Sharpless home for a party. If you plan on attending the party, please bring an appetizer/dessert to share with your friends.**

**Hope to see you there!**

### **Directions to the Sharpless Home**

**11175 Fox Trail**

**Flint, TX 75762**

**(903) 894-3744**

**From Loop 323, turn south onto Old Jacksonville Highway (FM 2493) and follow approximately 6.5 miles. Make a right on CR 139 (Spruce Hill) and follow .3 miles. There will be a flashing yellow light at this intersection. Make a left on CR 140 (Burkett Rd.) and follow .5 miles.**

**Turn right on Hunter's Trail and follow until it dead ends into Fox Trail. Turn right and we are the second house on the right.**

*Ephesians 5:19b -20*

*"Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

# December 2009

		<b>1</b>  <b>Chris Wiesinger</b>	<b>2</b>  7:00 pm Choir Practice	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  <b>Ronald Steed Karen Hopkins Jeff Dillman</b>
<b>6</b>  9:30 am Sun. School 11:00 am Worship  <b>Joe Roach</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  11:00 am Esther Circle Lunch- eon 7:00 Deacon Meeting	<b>9</b>  7:00 pm Choir Practice  <b>Norma Cady Ray Copeland</b>	<b>10</b>  6:30 pm LNO Christmas & Orna- ment Exchange Party	<b>11</b>  6:00 pm Small Group W/Ken Brumfield  <b>Jean Barlow</b>	<b>12</b>     <b>Jane Neff</b>
<b>13</b>  10:30 am Christmas Cantata 11:00 am Worship 6:00 pm Small Group W/ Pastor Simmons	<b>14</b>  7:00 pm Christian Ed Meeting	<b>15</b>  7:00 pm Session  <b>Fletcher Smith</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  10:00 am Youth Baking for Caroling  <b>Bill Wakeham</b>
<b>20</b>  9:30 am Sun. School 11:00 am Worship Caroling Party	<b>21</b>  <b>Emma Miner</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  <b>Robert Kanewske</b>	<b>24</b>  7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve. Service	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>  9:30 am Sun. School 11:00 am Worship 6:00 pm Small Group W/ Pastor Simmons	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  <b>Sawyer Flanders</b>	<b>30</b>  <b>Lisa Spiller Bill Dougherty</b>	<b>31</b>		

**The Covenant Courier** is a production of 5th Street Presbyterian Church. Our goal is to promote extensive communication within the body so that all may more thoroughly enjoy the benefits of Christian Fellowship.

For questions, comments, and/or informational submissions, please contact us at [news@5thstpc.org](mailto:news@5thstpc.org)