



FIRST News

First United Methodist Church Carrollton

February 2, 2012

www.firstchurch.net

Financial Update

Special points of interest:

- Valentine Banquet
- The British are Coming!
- Fill A Pod—Feed A Bod
- Mission Trips 2012

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Submission Deadline is
Tuesday, February 14
for *First News*
February 16

Also every Tuesday by
4:00pm for a suggested
announcement slide or
Sunday school announcement
for the following Sunday
Send to:
frontdesk@firstchurch.net

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Brian Rose
Chairman of the
Finance Commission

Dear Congregation,

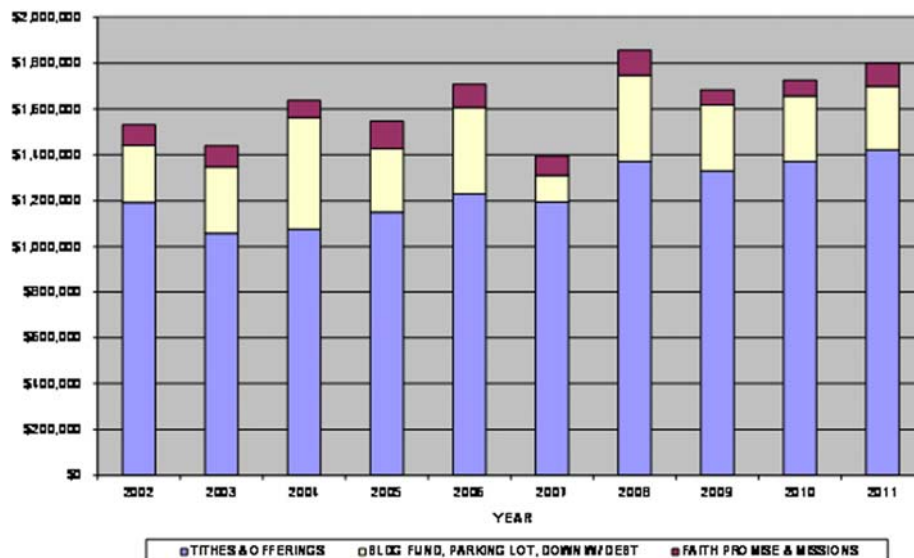
As we have closed out the 2011 year and approved our budget for 2012, as chairman of the Finance Committee I want to take this opportunity to update you on our church finances.

For 2011 we received \$1,422,300 in tithes and offerings against our budget of \$1,415,437, ending the year receiving \$6,863 more than our budget. Mothers Day Out and Preschool revenue was \$548,944 which was \$4,154 over budget. Our total expenses were \$12,892 lower than budget. When combined, this resulted in a total surplus for 2011 of \$23,909. In agreement with our prior commitment to our Phase III building project this overage was applied to Phase III.

The tithes and offerings budget for 2012 was approved at \$1,467,808 and the total church budget including Mothers Day Out and Preschool income is \$2,025,851.

In addition to tithes and offerings, the church is blessed to receive Faith Promise pledges which are used for Missions and "extra mile giving" which is used for our building debt service. The bar graph below represents our last 10 years giving history by category.

FUMCC TOTAL YEARLY GIVING



"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse. Test me in this says the Lord, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have enough room for it." Malachi 3:10

continued on page 2

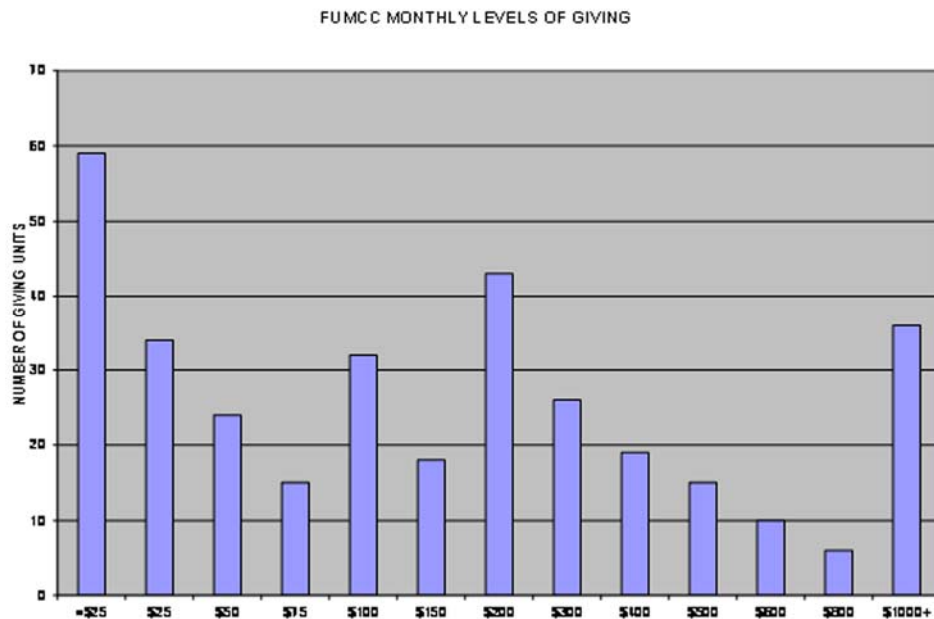
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Your church is committed to teaching you the whole truth of God's Word. One area that is extremely important in our faith is the principle of tithing. *Tithing - v' - giving 10% of your income to God.* Jesus taught more about giving than any other subject. This principle of giving is a life changing truth that will take you to a deeper place than you have ever been with Jesus. This is because it involves faith and trust. Hebrews 11:1 says "Without faith it is impossible to please God."

For us to see the vision of God fulfilled here at First Church and in our individual lives, it is important that we become "tithers." First Church operates on weekly tithes. As a part of our worship service we have an opportunity to give our tithes... as an act of worship. When we give our tithes it is a way to say *Thank You* to God for His faithfulness in the past and His provision in the present. We take this time very seriously and truly believe this is a way we worship and honor God.

As we are committed to teaching you the truth of tithing, we are not a church that will continually speak about money and press you to give. Ultimately it is between you and God. I am confident that as you pray over the principle of tithing God will speak to you and you will follow His leading.

The next graph represents various levels of monthly giving by our members for 2011.



I would encourage you to find where your giving level is on this graph and prayerfully review your personal stewardship commitments and challenge yourself to "step up to the next level of giving" in 2012.

By the numbers:

902 Number of members on the rolls at First Church.

337 Number of tracked giving units (families or individuals giving over \$1/week).

While the graph above represents the financial portion of your commitment to the church, I remind you to also **step up to the next level of time commitment and prayer support** for your church. There are countless hours of time put in not only for meetings, but for visiting guests, making coffee, facility repairs, setting up for communion, ushering, music, worship decoration, VBS, missions, local ministries and a host of lay supported ministries (just to mention a few). Each of us has been so blessed with different gifts and talents. Are you tithing of your time and sharing those talents with God? Please find a way to plug in **your** gifts and talents and also step up to the next level of time and prayer commitment! Where can **you** serve? You know you **want** to...you know you **need** to...you know you **should**...you know you have **procrastinated** too long...if you don't **just do it**, you will never get around to it...so just **step up!**

Brian Rose



[WWW.FIRSTCHURCH.NET](http://www.firstchurch.net)



February 12-19

Missions week is coming! This year, we will be revisiting our church's vision for missions and looking at how every member can be involved. Through a daily devotional book and Jeff's sermon at the end of the week, we will explore six different ways to participate in missions, including learning, praying, going, sending, welcoming, and mobilizing. As we did last year with the Koreans, we will be hosting an international mission team during the week. Rev. Sean Adair will be bringing a team from England and preaching in Sunday services on February 12. Midweek activities will include a time of fellowship and prayer during the potluck dinner on Wednesday night. We are also collecting food all week with the Fill a Pod, Feed a Bod initiative. Come be a part of the week and find your place in what God is doing at home and around the world!



Rev. Sean Adair

All-Church Missions Potluck
Wednesday, February 15
6:30pm

Meet the team from England at <http://bit.ly/zB2rOK!>



Mom's Day Out & Preschool

Registration is now in progress for our Mom's Day Out & Pre-school programs for this coming summer and next school year. Classes are available for children 6 months through 5 years for the school year program and 6 months through 4th grade for the two day a week summer program. Forms are available on the church website under children. You can also email or call with questions or for more information to glawler@firstchurchnet or 469-568-1250.

*Lenten
Devotionals
2012*

AVAILABLE FEBRUARY 19

FILL a POD & FEED a BOD ~ FEBRUARY 11-20

Carolyn Giffen, Lay Ministries coordinator; Camille Johnson, Community Ministries (camillejohnson@msn.com)

How big is your vision? As we approach Missions Week at First Church we realize how blessed we are to have a "mission-minded" fellowship. We will hear stories of lives touched, communities changed, and churches birthed to unreached people groups. We have a lot to be grateful for at First Church. Just for a moment: let's think about how we can reach out to the community where we live, to reach others outside the church, and to meet some needs of those people around us.

We have been challenged to provide food for our local food banks at a time when their supplies are at their lowest. The Metrocrest Social Services Food Bank provides food for Carrollton, Farmers Branch, Addison, Coppell, and surrounding areas, serving 11,000 people in 2011. To bring awareness for this need in our local community we have a **donated POD** arriving on the property, Friday February 10—just in time for a local mission outreach. As the church, we appreciate so much the work of our community. It is difficult for a church and school sharing the same facility to have room to store and distribute food to the hungry. But we can be like the people in Joseph's time of the Old Testament, who were told to gather all the food in their plenty, and *"store up grain under the authority of Pharaoh for food in the cities, and let them keep it."* For a time of need. (Gen. 41:35)

How big is our plan? We are inviting our neighboring churches, our members, our neighborhoods, our members companies, our Preschool and MDO families, to join with First Church & Carrollton Christian Academy to collect enough food over a 10 day period to fill a 8ft X 8ft X 16ft POD, **donated by PODS Enterprises of McKinney**, with enough non-perishable food to fill up our community reserves. **Why does this need to be a part of your plan?** Because this would be a simple first step to begin thinking of the needs of people around us. *Matthew 25:37* tells us, *"Then the righteous will answer him saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you or thirsty and give you drink?'"* "The righteous" - that's YOU, the Church, not because we are so great, but because we are made right through Christ. The "him" they are talking to is the King, Christ. He answers. *"Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me."* *Matthew 24:40*

It is a simple thing to participate. Simply BRING these most needed items, listed below. Drop them at the POD at the designated times, located in the Church Parking Lot, close to the west entrance. It's a POD - you can't miss it! More importantly, you need to multiply your giving by 1) Praying for the project and 2) Asking for your neighbors, your employers, your Sunday School classes, your associates, to FILL a POD & FEED a BOD! How big is your GOD?

Look for the POD @ church entrance FEBRUARY 11 - 20

TOILET PAPER
PAPER TOWELS
PEANUT BUTTER
CANNED BEANS (KIDNEY, BLACK,
REFRIED, ETC.)
CANNED FRUIT
CANNED SOUP or CANNED MEAT
(CHICKEN, CHILI, STEW, ETC)
BAGS OF SUGAR (1 or 2 lbs.)
BAGS OF FLOUR (1 or 2 lbs.)
BAGS OF MASA (1 or 2 lbs.)
PACKETS OF GRAVY, SAUCES, SEASONINGS



DROP OFF TIMES: Before & After School & Sun & Wed Church Times

Saturday - Feb 11 Sunday- Feb 12

1:00pm - 1:45pm 8:45am - 9:15am

2:45pm - 3:45pm 12:00 - 12:15pm

6:00pm - 6:45pm

Monday- Feb 13

Tuesday- Feb 14

Wed - Feb 15

Thursday- Feb 16

Friday- Feb 17

Sunday- Feb 19

8:15am- 9:00am

8:15am- 9:00am

8:15am- 9:00am

8:15am- 9:00am

8:15am- 9:00am

8:45am - 9:15am

2:00pm - 2:30pm

2:00pm - 2:30pm

2:00pm - 2:30pm

2:00pm - 2:30pm

2:00pm - 2:30pm

12:00 - 12:15pm

2:45 pm - 3:15pm

2:45 pm - 3:15pm

2:45 pm - 3:15pm

2:45 pm - 3:15pm

2:45 pm - 3:15pm

Email Camille if you can help!

"HeartStrings" Banquet

February 11 at 6:30pm

Includes dinner, entertainment, and DJ music for your listening and dancing pleasure

This youth fundraiser is a church-wide event for both couples and singles. It enables participating youth to earn funds for Mission Trips, YIM Tour, Retreats, Summer Camp and other Youth activities!

Advance ticket prices are \$18.00 per person.

Childcare is available at the church by reservation only.

To purchase advance tickets thru February 5:

- Sign up during Sunday School
- Sign up before, after or between services in the foyer or fellowship hall
- Purchase tickets online at www.firstchurch.net (\$20 each)
- Contact Tina Beshears at tinabeshears@gmail.com or Rebecca Carpenter at rcarpenter@firstchurch.net.

(Formal wear is not required.)



First Friends Lunch

As a NEW Guest or CONTINUING Guest of First Church Carrollton, you are invited to the **FIRST FRIENDS LUNCH**, on **Sunday, February 12**. Plan to attend the casual gathering, share a meal and meet some new people from First Church. We will also host our visiting mission team from England at the Lunch on the 12th. There is childcare and a KID-Friendly meal available. **RSVP** to Carolyn Giffen at cgiffen@firstchurch.net or through the church website.

We would like to congratulate

Sadia & Aneel Samuel

on the birth of their daughter

Khushi Samuel

January 24, 2012

Proud Grandparents:

Samuel Pashi &

Balquis Samuel



A Note on Stewardship*

by Sharon Goff

It's been a blessing to be the Nursery Director for First Church for a year and a half, and a volunteer teacher of 2 year olds for over 18 years before that. I felt called to be a nursery volunteer as soon as I joined the church. It's amazing how some children still remember me and say, "Hello," and "I remember you being my teacher when I was little."

The nursery cares for infants through 4 year olds, using a curriculum for 2s, 3s and 4s which include a Bible lesson, bible craft and new songs. The nursery uses parent volunteers and volunteers who no longer have children in the program but still love to teach little ones. Infant and toddler rooms are staffed with workers who are there weekly so they can have the comfort of seeing the same faces consistently.

The nursery is always in need of volunteers because things come up from time to time when more staff is needed. If you love children and feel called to join the nursery we have spots available 1st hour, 2nd hour, or both. You can volunteer one Sunday, all Sundays or anything in between. Children are a lot of fun; they love to give love back, and they love to learn the word of God.

A Place for You Luncheon

New members of First Church are invited to attend *A Place For You* Luncheon on Feb. 26, in the Youth Room, sponsored by the Stewardship Team, immediately following the second service. Information will be provided about becoming involved in the life of your church. Contact Marilyn Headley at mkheadley@verizon.net or 972-492-1250 to make a reservation or get more information.

First Notes

Carrollton Christian Academy
"Coffee With the Saints"
Informational gathering
Tuesday, February 7, 9:00am

First Class Membership Class
Find out more about our church
3 weeks beginning February 19 at 11:00am Sundays

First Love Benevolence
Scrip Gift Card
Orders due Sunday, February 5
Orders will be delivered February 12

The Church Office
is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 to 5:00.

Our prayers are with those who have been hospitalized recently:

*Jim Davis
Frances Harrison
R.B. Putteet*

Hannah Warren

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Annette Diffie

Where does God want you to go in 2012?

Mission Trips

Cambodia

March 8-18 \$1,700

Brazil, Rio de Janeiro

March 10-18 \$1,700

We will be going with Charles & Becky Jackson.

Possible rebuilding trip this spring with Steve Niermann and UMCOR.

Germany, Aurich—Baseball Camp

August 17-25 approximately \$1,500

Nigeria—Fall

Ecuador, Quito—Christmas at the Dump

November 26-December 4 \$2,000



If you are interested in making a mission trip go to missions@firstchurch.net and fill out an application, or if you have questions call Sharon Roelke at 972-484-7269.



FIRST CHURCH

A community of faith, hope, love, pursuing intimacy with God, transformation through Christ, and compassion for the world

www.firstchurch.net

WHY NOT? STUDENT MNISTRIES

2201 E. Hebron Pkwy.
Carrollton, TX 75010

Tel: 469-568-1240
Fax: 972-394-6236
E-mail: frontdesk@firstchurch.net

Service Times Sundays:
9:30 a.m.
11:00 a.m.
5:00 p.m. TRUTH Youth-led Service