

Today: 18 January 2015	Next Week: 25 January 2015
<u>Birthdays:</u> Martha Blevins (21)	<u>Birthdays:</u> Thad Leonard Susan Rose Rob Morgan Sarah Maldonado Judy Harkins Brenda Spencer
<u>Anniversaries:</u>	<u>Anniversaries:</u>
<u>Prayer today:</u> Janet Purinton	<u>Prayer next week:</u> Scott Morgan
<u>Speaker this week:</u> Audra Fogle	<u>Speaker next week:</u> Ed Payton
<u>Snacks this week:</u> Sharon Earley Sarah Maldonado	<u>Snacks next week:</u> Andrea Rob Davis Jeanie & Richard Payton

MINUTES of the CLASS

Opened class with prayer at: 9:45

Class recorder was turned on at: 9:58 Off at: _10:40__

Thank you for the snacks and refreshments.

Guest:

Steve Echols from New Mexico...he is starting to dig Tulsa and Maranatha. **Steve you were right, I was wrong; at least I got Jack right!**

"You Make Me Want to Be a Better Man" - **As Good as It Gets Movie (1997)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A75AgrH5eqc>

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FINANCE:

Get your finance request into the Finance committee, first distribution is scheduled for March 2015.

Susie is still working on getting a financial snap shot for 2015, it is a work in progress.

MISSIONS:

13 February: Day Center for the Homeless.

23 February: Please sign up for the Chili Supper. Signup sheet is going around.

*******Socials:**

23 January: @ 6PM, International Progressive Dinner. Angie is passing the signup sheet around. Anyone who hasn't been in class but wants to attend the progressive dinner should contact Angie Dale-McCann (ADale@HallEstill.com). Everyone is but Angie needs to know so that she and her team can make reservations.

Announcements:

Gabrielle is asking if anyone would be interested in forming a book/study group on the side to continue their Christian walk in faith. Please let her know. **Addendum: Gabrielle wants everyone to consider changing the format to be 1) pick a book, 2) read the book, 3) meet and discuss the book. She feels that meeting every week is too hectic and demanding with our busy lives. Please let her know.**

Carol and Dave Grim will be conducting a class titled, "Invitation to the New Testament", day and time to be announced. This is projected to be an eight week course. See attachment for this week for more info.

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Announcements: (continued)

1. Per Ginny LaDoux and on behalf of Joel Panceria. Joel and Susan are sponsoring a Russian family in Tulsa. They need furniture for their apartment and / or a lead on a furnished apartment. Please contact the Panceria's if you have any good leads on this for them.
2. Thanks to Audra Fogle for being our guest speaker...we are creating a new culture of being open to new people and sharing our friendship.
3. A big Thank you goes out to Shari Goodwin for the great "New Members" handout. If you get a chance, look at the hard copy at the Maranatha reception desk.
4. Mark your calendars:
 - A. Rev. David Wiggs will be our speaker for all of February, be there for exciting month. Besides being a great minister, he is a great speaker too. Very funny, serious and informative.
 - B. Dr. Mouzon Biggs will be our speaker for the whole month of March.

CARANATHA:

Lynn Jesse-Russell ask that if anyone has any information about class members to please let any Caranatha member know so that they can check with the family to see if they need anything.

Joys & Concerns:

Charlotte and Roger Rowe are expecting their first grand child this July!!!! Congrats! We are so happy for them. We all wish you peace, health and happiness. YES, Charlotte paid her \$1 Joy fee!

John Sherman is having aches and pains, please keep him in your prayers.

I apologize for not being able to get to Joys & Concerns, we just ran out of time. Please include in your daily prayers for the unspoken concerns and know that we do care.

- Please email me (maranathaclass@gmail.com) any and all Joys & Concerns and I will incorporate them next week.

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Technical Notes (from Barabara M):

➤ **Happy New Year to the Maranatha Class!**

With the new year, please take a new look at our MaranathaClass.org website.

➤ **Maranatha Class Calendar**

- Find Maranatha mission projects
- Find Maranatha class socials
- Find auction item parties
- Find Class speakers and scheduled refreshments/greeters

➤ **The Members Only Page**

- The new password has been posted on the bulletin board for the Maranatha website. Call/email Barbara Meehan if you didn't get it.

- Find the link to the Maranatha Class Calendar
- Access the class Roster and alumni Roster
- Access donation proposal information

➤

➤ **A Reminder About Duplicate Emails:**

- Beginning in late December 2014, as Jim Embrey began preparing for the 2015 year, class news emails were posted to our maranathaclass.org blog, which is a return to the process of 2010 and 2011. With this change, we hope that you will find it convenient to find your information, whether at home or away, by visiting the website, at maranathaclass.org.
- Those of you who have previously signed up to follow the blog have been receiving duplicate class emails in the last few weeks. This is caused by a change in the handling of the class news emails, and will continue because it simplifies getting the class news onto the blog. If you would prefer to receive only the emails that are sent from the maranathaclass@gmail.com account and not the duplicated email from the website, you will want to unsubscribe from the Maranatha Class Website emails using the link provided in the footnotes of each of the those emails.

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Barton-Clinton-Gordey Series

When: Feb 22 – 24, 2015

Where: Boston Avenue United Methodist Church, South Boston Avenue, Tulsa, OK, United States

Description: Usually held during the first weekend of Lent, the Barton-Clinton-Gordey Series features a distinguished religious speaker or scholar delivering four of his or her very best sermons. Over the years, the Series has featured a variety of outstanding speakers, including bishops, professors, Christian pastors, and Jewish rabbis. The Series was originally established in 1963 to honor Dr. L. S. Barton, Boston Avenue's Senior Minister from 1914-1922. In 1987, the Series was also named for Dr. Fred S. Clinton, a pioneer physician who moved to Indian Territory in 1897 and helped to establish Tulsa's first chartered hospital. Then, I. V. and Bona Gordey were named to the Series in 2001. Joining Boston Avenue in 1928, Bona was a beloved Sunday School teacher, and I. V. was a member and goodwill ambassador of the Chancel Choir for over 50 years.

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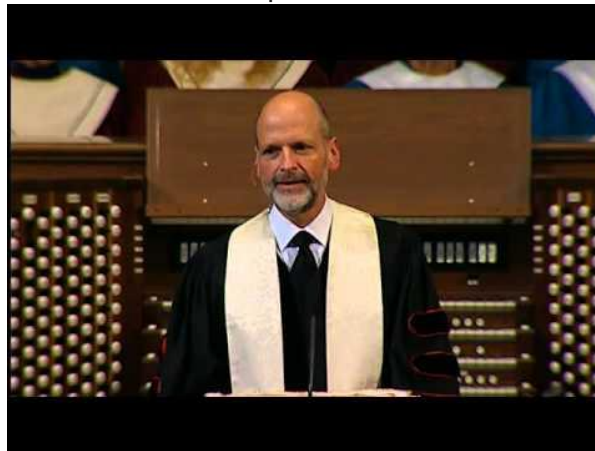


Maranatha Sunday School Class



Dr. Tim Bruster currently serves as senior pastor of the 6,000-member First United Methodist Church in Fort Worth. He graduated *Magna Cum Laude* from Centenary College in 1981 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in religion. In 1985 he graduated *Cum Laude* from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University with a Master of Divinity and went on to earn a Doctor of Ministry degree in preaching and worship in 1991, also from Perkins.

Prior to his appointment to First UMC Fort Worth in 2003, Bruster served seven years as senior pastor of First UMC Georgetown. From 1993-1996, he served as pastor of the Westchase Campus of First UMC in Houston and was responsible for the overall evangelism ministries for both the Westchase Campuses. He served Preaching and Administration at from 1991-1993, and UMC in Tyler from Bascom UMC in Tyler. While a student, he intern/associate pastor Texarkana from 1983-1983, and pastor of the Henderson from 1980-



and Downtown as associate pastor of Program Marvin UMC in Tyler pastor at Noonday 1986-1991 and from 1984-1986. was an at First UMC in 1984, chaplain intern Hospital in Dallas in Church Hill Circuit in 1983.

Beyond the local church, Bruster has served as president of the Central Texas Annual Conference Council on Finance & Administration. He led the Central Texas Conference delegation to the 2008 General and Jurisdictional Conferences and was elected to the 2012 delegation, as well. He serves on the General Council on Finance and Administration of the United Methodist Church, the Board of Trustees of Texas Wesleyan University, the Perkins School of Theology Executive Board at SMU, the Board of Trustees of the Texas Methodist Foundation, the Advisory Board of the Centenary College Christian Leadership Center and the YWCA Racial Justice Committee. He has served two terms on the Board of Directors of Downtown Fort Worth, Inc. and a term on the Board of the Tarrant Area Community of Churches. Tim has been a member of the Downtown Fort Worth Rotary Club since 2003.

He and his wife, Susan, live in Fort Worth and have three grown daughters: Sarah, who is married to Stephen Pepper, Katie and Emily. They are also the proud grandparents of Alice Pepper.

He is a licensed pilot and his primary hobby is aviation. He also enjoys family outings, reading, travel and music.

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Maranatha Sunday School Class



"What does 'Maranatha' mean?"

Maranatha is an Aramaic word that means "the Lord is coming" or "come, O Lord." The early church faced much persecution, and life for a Christian under Roman rule was not easy. The Romans required everyone to declare that Caesar was god. The early Christians knew that there is only one God and one Lord—Jesus Christ—and in all good conscience they could not call Caesar "Lord," so the Romans looked upon them as traitors, persecuted them, and put them to death.

Living under those adverse conditions, the believers' morale was lifted by the hope of the coming of the Lord. "Maranatha!" became the common greeting of the oppressed believers, replacing the Jewish greeting *shalom* ("peace"). The followers of Jesus knew there would be no peace because Jesus had told them so ([Matthew 10:34](#); [Luke 12:51](#)). But they also knew the Lord would be returning to set up His kingdom, and from that truth they drew great comfort. They were constantly reminding and being reminded that the Lord is coming ([Luke 21:28](#); [Revelation 22:12](#)). Jesus taught several parables on this same theme of watching and waiting and being prepared for His return ([Matthew 25:1-13](#); [Luke 12:35-40](#)).

Today, believers in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ live our lives in the light of the knowledge that He can come at any time. We are to be ready when the call comes. Every day we should expect Him to come, and every day we should long for Him to come. *Maranatha* reminds us to keep our eyes on the eternal things of the Spirit. To dwell on material things is to be in constant mental turmoil. Looking down, we see the earth; looking around, we see earthly things. But looking up, we see the hope of the soon coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. To those who are discouraged today, Maranatha! To those who are worried today, Maranatha! To those who are filled with anxiety over the problems they are facing, Maranatha! Our Lord is coming!

Reference: <http://www.gotquestions.org/maranatha.html#ixzz3PD1hciHe>

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Maranatha Sunday School Class



Go in Peace and do good things for others--we are the church!

Jim Embrey

Class President

Maranatha, 2015

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Visit us!

Boston Avenue UMC: <http://www.bostonavenue.org/>

Maranatha Class: <http://maranathaclass.org/>

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