



Christian Challenger

Vol. 62

July 8, 2015

NO. 24



VACATION BIBLE
SCHOOL

July 27-31

9:00 am - 12:00 Noon

Ages:
4 Years to 4th Grade

PHOTOS NEEDED FOR 125TH ANNIVERSARY

Cheryl Smiley needs photos that anyone might have that shows what our FCC members have done to help others such as pictures from mission trips, Feed My Flock, Coats for Kids, Habitat for Humanity, etc. They'll be going up on the boards in Fellowship Hall under the slogan "Making A Difference Then and Now." Photos may be emailed to Cheryl at smileyca60@att.net or dropped off in the church office.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY - JULY 18-22, 2015 Columbus, Ohio

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) General Assembly occurs every other year. It's an opportunity for Disciples from across the U.S. and Canada to gather and worship and learn together. The General Assembly features preaching by renowned pastors and theologians and provides a space for ministers & lay leaders to share their experiences and ideas for mission and creativity, and includes a business meeting, where Disciples vote upon resolutions put forth by committees or redraw regional lines. Please visit www.disciples.org/ga for more information.



WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

It was a joy to welcome Rev. Renee Hoke into our membership this past Sunday by transfer of membership from Cypress Creek Christian Church of Spring TX. Rev. Hoke has joined our staff as Associate Minister. She may be reached at 2406 Ellingham, 76308, 692-2282, or renee@firstchristianwf.com.

WELCOME BACK, MISSION TEAM!



CHALLENGER TO BE EVERY TWO WEEKS NO CHALLENGER NEXT WEEK!

During the month of July the "Challenger" will be published every two weeks and will return to weekly publication on August 5th.

The deadline for articles to be placed in the "Challenger" is 5:00 pm on Mondays. Articles may be dropped off in the church office or emailed to Susan at:

susan@firstchristianwf.com.

This Sunday:

8:40 & 10:45 Services:

"God, Our Creator"

Genesis 1:1-2:3

Dr. David B. Hartman, Jr.

5:14 CGRM Worship Service:

Rev. Dave Brummett

Longing to Belong



My most recent journey in ministry has given me a profound appreciation for what it means to belong. For three years, I worshipped in a different church every Sunday. It was a privilege to visit each congregation, to preach or install a new pastor or celebrate an ordination. I was always warmly welcomed as an honored guest. But as time passed, I found myself longing for “home base” on Sunday mornings. I missed having a church family of my very own—a particular group of saints and sinners who knew me inside out with all my faults and loved me anyway.

I will never forget walking to the altar last Sunday to join First Christian Church. How wonderful it is to *belong* again. My family moved a lot when I was growing up. My dad was a government employee—Department of Agriculture—and was assigned to county seats across Texas where he would serve as County Agent, providing support for local farmers and ranchers. But as we unpacked boxes, my dad would scout the neighborhood searching for the church we would join. Belonging to a local church gave my family roots as we settled in to each new location.

What does it mean to you to *belong* to First Christian Church? What were you searching for when you found this wonderful congregation? What would you miss most if, like me, you spent three years without your church family?

The Personnel Committee has given me a couple of assignments as I begin my ministry with you. One of the priorities is evangelism. I’ve been thinking about what it means to *belong* to a church and how we might invite folks into our community. Our culture has experienced a sea change since the days that I was growing up in the church. The team of church members who went out on Monday evenings to visit prospects in their homes would be turned away at the door today. What do we have to offer busy men and women? How can we bless families with crowded calendars and competing commitments?

Take a look at what church experts say about belonging and the church in the 21st century:

“People come to a church longing for, yearning for, hoping for this sense of roots, place, belonging, sharing and caring.” (Ken Callahan, *Effective Church Leadership*)

“The future of the church depends on whether it develops true community. Unless we sense that we belong to each other, with masks off, the vibrant church of today will become the powerless church of tomorrow.” (Larry Crabb, *The Connecting Church*)

“The biggest challenge for the church in the 21st century is to develop a solution to the discontinuity and fragmentation of the American lifestyle.” (Lyle Schaller at a Leadership Network Conference)

“The development of meaningful relationships where every member carries a significant sense of belonging is central to what it means to be the church.” (Randy Frazee, *The Connecting Church*)

Just like Jesus’ story of the pearl of great price, we have a treasure to offer. For 125 FCC has offered a sense of roots, place, and belonging to the people of Wichita Falls including ME. (Thank you, Lord.) Let’s celebrate this significant anniversary by seeking to understand the shape of evangelism in the 21st century. More on this later.

With gratitude and expectation for the ministry we will share,

Renee

MEMBER NEWS

♥ Hospitalized: at Kell West is Patt Giddings. Released & back home are Mike Craig, Kenn Hill, Paul Stradley.

♥ Our sympathies are extended to LaVeta Kaiser & Family on learning of the death of her mother, Neva Easterly, on June 30th in Enid, OK.

♥ We extend our sympathies to former member, Bill Hinds & Family on learning of the death of his father, William “Bill” E. Hinds Sr. on July 5th in Georgetown TX.

We want to be as inclusive as possible with our Member News, so if you know about an honor someone received, an important event in someone’s life, or about illness or death, please call the church—692-2282. Thanks!



FIRST TIME VISITORS

We are excited to report that the following persons visited for the first time on Sunday, June 28th: Andy & Tabitha Cadle; and John, Loretta, Colton & Cason Cervenka.



YOUNG AGES PRESCHOOL

Young Ages Preschool will continue enrollment for 2015-16 school year through-out the summer. If you know of anyone looking for a morning preschool program for their 3, 4, or 5 year old, please tell them about our school. They can call 692-3640 for more information.

Don’t Forget to “Like Us” on 

AUGUST MSU GARAGE GIVEAWAY

As a member of the world outreach ministry, I have the honor of sharing and reminding our church family about a special Mission Project we have chosen for this fall, to coincide with our church's 125th Anniversary. Every year MSU brings in young college students from all over the world. Many of these come with only 2 suitcases and are placed in apartments with only a bed for furnishings. These students don't have the transportation to go get tables, chairs, desks and sofas even if they came with the funds to do so. We will be partnering with Heritage Assembly of God, who has been helping these students for several years, meet the needs of these students. We would like to ask for all of you to start thinking about what you have that you might be ready to pass on and clean out your kitchen utensils, pots/pans, knives, dishes as well as linens & blankets. They will be provided a Double bed, but larger sheets can still be used. Bathroom towels, any household items that you think someone setting up an apt. could use. I've seen these students sitting in their bathrooms, or on the kitchen counter after dark, as they didn't have overhead lights in these apt. bedrooms or living rooms to study by, so lamps are in much demand. We are making arrangements for storage this summer, so we will let you know where you can drop these things off soon. In the mean time, you have a great reason to "purge" and get organized and help with a mission in our own backyard. It's amazing how God shows us ways we can help people and show God's love right here at home. What if 125 church members helped 125 students in desperate need, in honor of our church anniversary. If you have questions or need help with ways to help please feel free to call me, Sally Hastings, 940-224-4416, or Ann Hunter, 940-631-5661.

Thanks!
Sally Hastings

New on the Library Shelves...

The Origin of Satan by Elaine Pagels

In this book Pagels adds to the discussion something I have not found elsewhere—what I call the social history of Satan; that is, it shows how the events told in the gospels about Jesus, his advocates, and his enemies correlate with the supernatural drama the writers use to interpret that story—the struggle between God's spirit and Satan. Because Christians as they read the gospels have characteristically identified themselves with the disciples, for some two thousand years they often have also identified their opponents, whether Jesus, pagans, or heretics, with forces of evil, and so with Satan. This work is well indexed and annotated.

Why Christianity Must Change or Die

by John Shelby Spong

"Has the Church got a future? And can a bishop be interesting? Yes—and Bishop Spong is the proof. He is unstoppably energetic and courageous, always in controversy, and always on the side of the angels. He is just what the Church needs.

*Take advantage of and enjoy your
First Christian Church Library and
its contents any time the church building is open.*

SOLDIER SHEPHERDING

This service is still alive and well. We are blessed with no one being deployed at this time. If you are a member or have a close relative who is deployed, please contact Debbi Schmidt at 940-733-9253 or email debbims@sbcglobal.net. We will be honored to send a box to them each month while they are overseas.

Spotlight on Members

Our 125th Anniversary is coming in October. We would like to honor each of our members with a profile of their families and a family photo or photos (can be returned, if needed). We are hoping everyone will participate so we can learn more about each of us. Please complete the questionnaire and return it by mid-August.

Names of family members:

Year of church membership:

Occupations (optional):

Brief summary of family members:

Hobbies and interests:

What drew you to First Christian:

Interesting milestones or life events:

Trivia information: interesting facts that many people might not know about you (holes-in-one, parachuting, pilot, interesting trips, contest winners, unusual jobs, theatrical or musical accomplishments, author, athletic skills, honor student, etc.):

Information and pictures can be left in the office, mailed to me at 4426 Prince Edward Dr., WF, TX 76308; emailed to debbims@sbcglobal.net. If you have questions you may text or call me at 940-733-9253

Thanks,
Debbi Schmidt

SERVING SUNDAY ELDERS

7/12: Susan Buckley, Mike Spiller Jr.; Cindy Hernandez, Presiding
7/19: Roma Prassel, Harry Tonemah; Kenn Hill, Presiding

DIACONATE COMMUNION VISITATION

7/12: Dottie Westbrook, Curtis Sullivan, Vicki Kunkle
7/19: Cary Thompson, Jerry Caraway, Shirley Craft

DIACONATE COMMUNION PREPARATION

7/12: Dottie & Curtis Westbrook
7/19: Vicki Kunkle & Melody Jennings

JULY DIACONATE SERVERS

Ashley & Richard Barker, Jessica Morris, Mike Murdock, Curtis & Dottie Westbrook, Kay Jackson, Melody Jennings, Vicki Kunkle, Curtis Sullivan, Cary Thompson, Jerry Caraway, Claudine Farrell, Caitlin Hartman, Jim LaValley, Carly Westbrook, John DeVilbiss, Gracie Reynolds.

SUNDAY ELDER COMMUNION VISITATION

The Elders will be happy to take communion to anyone who can't come to the worship service. Call the church office and your name will be added to our list.

SERMONS

Each Sunday the previous week's sermon is available in print form in the Narthex of the Chapel and Sanctuary. Sermons are also available on our website, www.firstchristianwichitafalls.org, under the "Worship" tab.

PERSECUTED CHURCH PRAYERS THIS WEEK ARE FOR

Pray for Brunei, that restrictions on Bibles and Christian materials will be lifted..

OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, July 12, 2015

8:40 Worship (Fellowship Hall)
9:30 Sunday School
10:45 Worship (Fellowship Hall)
5:14 CGRM Evening Ministry (Chapel)
6:00 Common Ground Recovery Ministries Support Groups:
 Anger Recovery (Rm 304)
 Chemical Addictions Recovery (Rm 305)
 Parenting (Rm 306)
 Women's C.A.R.E. (Rm 307)
 Family Challenges (Rm 310)

Monday, July 13, 2014

7:30-6:00 Children Come First (M-F)
10:15 FCC Staff Mtg (Office)
7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, July 14, 2015

2:00 Library Committee (Library)

Wednesday, July 15, 2015

7:00am Elders' Breakfast (Rm 402/Chapel)

Thursday, July 16, 2015

9:00 CWF Group 3 Birthday Breakfast (IHOP-SW Pkwy)
1:30 Knit Wits (Parlor)

Saturday, July 18, 2015

General Assembly Begins (July 18-22) (Columbus, Ohio)

Sunday, July 19, 2015

8:40 Worship (Fellowship Hall)
9:30 Sunday School
10:45 Worship (Fellowship Hall)
5:14 CGRM Evening Ministry (Chapel)
6:00 Common Ground Recovery Ministries Support Groups:
 Anger Recovery (Rm 304)
 Chemical Addictions Recovery (Rm 305)
 Parenting (Rm 306)
 Women's C.A.R.E. (Rm 307)
 Family Challenges (Rm 310)

Monday, July 20, 2014

7:30-6:00 Children Come First (M-F)
10:15 FCC Staff Mtg (Office)
7:00 125th Anniversary Committee Mtg (Rm 402)
7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, July 21, 2015

2:00 Library Committee (Library)

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

7:00am Elders' Breakfast (Rm 402/Chapel)

Thursday, July 23, 2015

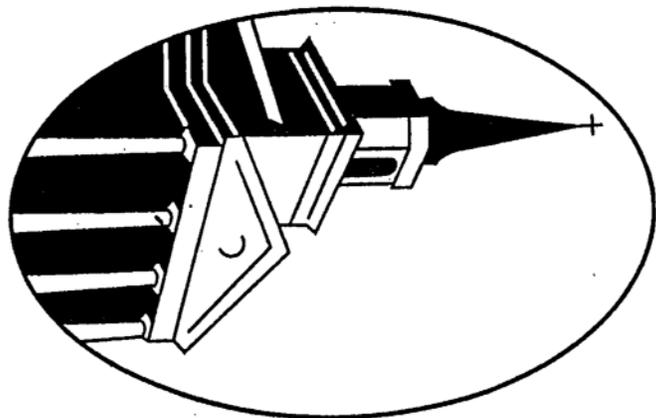
1:30 Knit Wits (Parlor)

THE CHURCH STAFF . . .

Dr. David Hartman, Senior Minister	692-2282	Home Phone Number:
Rev. Renee Hoke, Associate Minister	692-2282	
Jeanette Showalter, Director of Music Ministries	763-8515	
Justin Dickey, Director of Youth & Family Ministries	936-645-1215	
Sarah Cook, Director of Children's Ministries	763-2703	
Cheryl Appling, Business Administrator	691-7265	
Rev. Dave Brummett, Director of Recovery Ministries	613-2112	
Heather Dickerson, Director of Children Come First	687-2231	
Karen Bivona, Director of Young Ages School	692-3640	
Susan Marrs, Executive Secretary		Tina Williams, Financial Secretary
Pam Poulos, Receptionist		Debbie Watson, Organist
Church Number 940-692-2282		FAX Number 940-696-3085
Church e-mail: susan@firstchristianwf.com		
Web Page: www.firstchristianwf.com		

FOR THE RECORD . . .

Sunday School	60	
8:40 Worship . . . 41	10:45 Worship . . . 165	
Total Worship		206
CGRM Evening Ministry	32	
Sunday Receipts Needed Per Week		\$16,698.52
Sunday Receipts for 7/5/15		\$12,255.50
Through July 5: Income \$384,111.86		Expenses \$384,601.61



CHRISTIAN CHALLENGER
First Christian Church
3701 Taft Boulevard
Wichita Falls, Texas 76308

THE CHRISTIAN CHALLENGER
Pub. No. (USPS 559-820). Published weekly during the school year with exception the last week in December. & in June & July biweekly by First Christian Church, 3701 Taft Blvd., Wichita Falls, TX 76308-2315. Periodical postage paid at Wichita Falls, TX. POSTMASTER: Send Address Changes to Christian Challenger, 3701 Taft Blvd., Wichita Falls, TX 76308-2315.