



Christian Challenger

Vol. 62

September 16, 2015

NO. 32

A SWEET FIELD TRIP



There's always something new in our midweek youth ministry. On September 9 it was an impromptu field trip to visit FCC beekeeper Kerry Roach. That's the Judge in the center! Read more on page 2.

HURRICANE RELIEF TO STUDENTS FROM DOMINICA

Assistance continues to MSU students from Dominica as their island recovers from a hurricane. On September 11 our brothers and sisters at Sacred Heart served up a fellowship meal for the students. FCC provided transportation and \$20 gift cards to Walmart to help students make ends meet while their families recover from the storm back home. Students reported that regular contact with their families has been restored and debit cards are working again. We continue to pray for these young people and their studies during a trying time.



FEED MY FLOCK!

Under the capable direction of "Executive Chef" Rick Appling, FCC volunteers chopped lots on vegetables on September 12. Feed My Flock is one of FCC's most delicious ministries. Tasty meals are prepared from scratch and frozen so that they can be shared as a blessing to others. This month's main dish was Caribbean Vegetable Stew over rice.

Reflections with Renee . . .

A SWEET FIELD TRIP



Did you know that our beloved elder, judge, and raconteur Kerry Roach is a beekeeper? Eight colonies of bees call the Roach backyard their home. The FCC youth group took a field trip earlier this month to visit the hives and understand the basics of beekeeping.

AMAZING FACT: You can order a colony of bees through the mail. One day a buzzing box will be delivered to your door with 30,000 bees inside.

AMAZING FACT #2: You can also order a queen bee through the mail. Her Majesty arrives in a smaller box with a dozen attendants who have cared for her along the way.

The tour of the Roach colonies was amazing in part because the bees paid little or no attention to the curious teenagers. The bees were focused on their hives. Just as we have heard, they were busy.



Back inside we sampled the honey harvested from the hives. The season determines the color and flavor of the honey since the bees are gathering pollen from different plants.

The Bible tells us that God's word is sweet on our tongues just like honey. When we spend time in the God's word, when we use God's wisdom to shape our lives and

guide the choices we make, then our days and weeks are sweetened, too.

That was the lesson from our field trip. Life is sweet when we live in obedience to God's word. Just like the bee who returns each evening to the hive, we are called back to the Bible again and again for the words of life.

How sweet it is!

Renee

*How sweet are your words to my taste,
O Lord, sweeter than honey to my mouth!
Psalm 119:103*

PLANTING THE SEEDS OF FAITH IN CHILDREN AND TEENS

by Justin Dickey,
Director of Youth & Children's Ministries

Within First Christian Church Children & Youth Ministries, we have a goal to bring young people together in a life of faith, action and fellowship, and address spiritual, emotional, and social needs unique to youth. We want to create a safe and nurturing space for teenagers to gather together and share their joys and concerns with each other and with caring adults.

360 (Grades 6th - 12th Wednesdays at 6:00pm)

Goal 1: *The 360 Youth Ministry works to foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person.*

Goal 2: *The 360 Youth Ministry seeks to draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the faith community.*

Goal 3: *The 360 Youth Ministry empowers young people to become disciples of Jesus Christ who witness to their faith by living and working for justice, peace, and human dignity.*

Young Disciples (Grades K-5th Wednesdays at 6:00pm)

Goal 1: *To provide a safe, secure, loving environment for children to participate in and where parents feel comfortable leaving their child.*

Goal 2: *To help each child develop a lifestyle that is built on his/her relationship with Jesus Christ.*

Goal 3: *To provide children the opportunity and direction to participate in ministry.*

SERVE & Come As You Are (Grades K-5th , 6th - 12th Sundays at 5:45/5:00pm)

Goal 1: *To ensure both children and youth have a secure grasp on what it means to serve others in the name of Christ.*

Goal 2: *To give back to both the church as well as the surrounding community through acts of service and kindness with no expectation of return.*

Goal 3: *To instill a sense of service in all aspects of their lives not limited to the work done during small groups but also in their family, schools, and outside of the church walls no matter where they may go.*



125 Years of Service

1890-2015

REMEMBER our past. RENEW our commitment.
REJOICE IN OUR LORD.

SEPTEMBER FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON & 125TH ANNIVERSARY MEMORIES PROGRAM

The September Fellowship Luncheon will be this Sunday, September 20th, at noon in the Fellowship Hall. The program will be 125th Anniversary Memories by Dr. Hartman. The menu will be spaghetti, salad, French bread and dessert. Cost is by donation. Everyone is welcome and please make your reservations for calling the church office, 692-2282.

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

CWF Group Meetings will be as follows: on **Monday, September 21st, Group 1** will meet at 1:30 pm at Cathy Biggs' home, 3718 Cedar Elm. **Group 2** at 12:00 noon in Room 405; **Group 3** at 2:00 pm in Room 402.

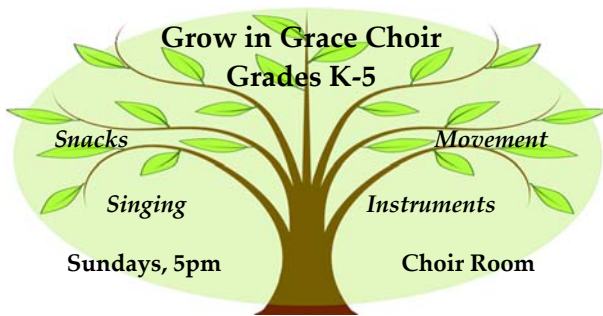
CHRISTIAN MEN'S FELLOWSHIP DINNER

Wednesday, September 23rd
6:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

Speaker: Mr. Kerry Roach on bees & beekeeping

JOURNEY THROUGH SCRIPTURE

It's not too late to join the new journey. We are calling it "Religious Literacy 101". Sundays, at 9:45 AM, in the Church Parlor, we continue to make preparations for looking at 3 of the World Religions--Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Handouts will be given to help new travelers. Come ahead!



OPEN FLOWER DATES

If you would like to donate the flowers for the worship service in the Sanctuary, the following dates are open: **September 20 & 27**. To donate or for more info, call Peggy Fitts, Flower Coordinator, 781-2426.



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

CHURCH LIBRARY USED BOOK SALE

The Church Library will host a Used Book Sale to benefit our library's collection on Sunday, September 27th, during the Sunday School hour, 9:30-10:30 am, in the hallway outside the Library. Books will be sold by donations.

GOLF TOURNAMENT



We're in the last week before the Family "Funfest Golf Outing" to be held on Sunday, September 27th, at 3 pm at River Creek Golf Course, and the weather is getting better for being outside, so sign up at the church office by this Sunday, September 20th. Cost is \$25 for 9 holes, cart & dinner; or \$8 for dinner only.

We will also need some volunteers to watch the putting contest, closest to the middle stripe drive (and I didn't say longest), balls in the net, etc.

We also have some nice prizes and you may be surprised and yes anyone can win. So bring the whole family and come on out and have some fun and a lot of laughs. You'll be glad you did!

For more information contact Gary Cook, 767-4900.



First Christian Church Presents:

Family Game Night

September 27th

5:00-7:00PM

What to bring:

Your favorite board game and a snack to share!

MEMBER NEWS

♥Hospitalized: at URHCS is Carolyn Ford & Jim Hay; at Kell West is Ruth Skoczen; at Windmill Rehab is Sherrie Phillips.

♥Our sympathies are extended to Virginia Krebs & Family on learning of the death of her brother-in-law, Edwin Krebs, on September 12th.

♥Congratulations to Sally & Trey Spiller on the birth of their son, Reed Spiller, on September 14th. He weighed 7 lbs 3 oz and was 19" long. Proud grandparents are Diane & Mike Spiller Jr., and great-grandparents are Dot & James Irl Montgomery.

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: Wanda Jones & Erin Shiner.



SERVING SUNDAY

ELDERS

Gary Ballard, Howard Morris; Rick Appling, Presiding

DIACONATE COMMUNION VISITATION

Philip Dudenhoeffer, Catherine Earley

DIACONATE COMMUNION PREPARATION

Doug & Cary Thompson

SEPTEMBER DIACONATE SERVERS

Fred Gentry, Sandy Hay, Liz Thomas, Tim Thomas, Brandi & Jody Brannon, Donna Long, Travis Ralls, Sherry Tucker, Philip Dudenhoeffer, Catherine Earley, Amy James, Sarah Stewart, Luke Machado, Madi Showalter.

This Sunday:

8:40 & 10:45 Services:

"Irresistible Community:
Messy Ministry and Dirty Towels"

John 13:3-17

Rev. Renee Hoke

5:14 CGRM Worship Service:

Rev. Dave Brummett

OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, September 20, 2015

- 8:40 Worship (Chapel)
- 9:30 Sunday School
- 9:45 Journey Through Scripture (Parlor)
- 10:45 Worship (Sanctuary)
- 12:00 Fellowship Luncheon & 125th Anniversary Memories Program (Fellowship Hall)
- 3:45 Chancel Ringers (Stratten Hall)
- 5:00 Grow in Grace Choir (Grades K-5) (Stratten Hall)
- 5:00 Come As You Are (Grades 6-12) (Rm 403C)
- 5:14 CGRM Evening Ministry (Fellowship Hall)
- 5:45 Young Disciples Group (Grades K-5) (Rm 309 & 311)
- 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, September 21, 2014

- 7:30-6:00 Children Come First (M-F)
- 9:00-12:00 Young Ages School (M-F)
- 10:15 FCC Staff Mtg (Office)
- 12:00 CWF Group 2 (Rm 405)
- 1:30 CWF Group 1 (3718 Cedar Elm)
- 2:00 CWF Group 3 (Rm 402)
- 7:00 125th Anniversary Committee Mtg (Rm 402)
- 7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, September 22, 2015

- 2:00 Library Committee (Library)
- 6:30 Executive Council Meeting (Rm 402)

Wednesday, September 23, 2015

- 7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Rm 402/Chapel)
- 10:00 Women's Fall Bible Study (Rm 310)
- 5:00 Mid-Week Communion Service (Chapel)
- 5:30-6:00 Feast Fellowship Meal ()
- 6:00-7:00 Young Disciples Group (Grades K-5) (Rm 309 & 311)
 - 360 (Grades 6-12) (Rm 403C)
 - Adult Bible Studies:
 - "Too Busy Not To Pray" (Rm 310)
 - "What We Talk About When We Talk About God" (Rm 402)
- 6:30 Christian Men's Fellowship Dinner (Fellowship Hall)

- 7:00-7:15 Feast Communion & Prayer ()
- 7:15-8:00 Feast Open Gym
- 7:30 Chancel Choir (High School-Adults) (Stratten Hall)

Thursday, September 24, 2015

- 1:30 Knit Wits (Parlor)

THE CHURCH STAFF . . .

Church Number 940-692-2282
Dr. David Hartman, Senior Minister 692-2282
Rev. Renee Hoke, Associate Minister 692-2282
Cheryl Appling, Business Administrator 691-7265
Jeanette Showalter, Director of Music Ministries 763-8515
Justin Dickey, Director of Youth & Children's Ministries 936-645-1215
Rev. Erin Taylor, Director of Recovery Ministries 337-304-3038
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
Web Page: www.firstchristianwf.com Church e-mail: susan@firstchristianwf.com
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936-645-1215

337-304-3038

687-2231

692-3640

Tina Williams, Financial Secretary

Debbie Watson, Organist

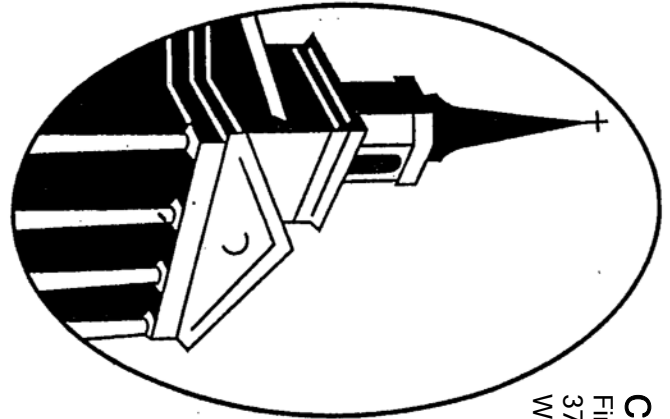
Church e-mail: susan@firstchristianwf.com

FOR THE RECORD . . .

Sunday School	106
8:40 Worship . . . 47	10:45 Worship . . .197
Total Worship	244
CGRM Evening Ministry	37
Sunday Receipts Needed Per Week	\$16,698.52
Sunday Receipts for 9/13/15	\$9,359.50
Through Sept. 30: Income \$526,535.19	Expenses \$544,430.58

PERSECUTED CHURCH PRAYERS THIS WEEK ARE FOR:

Pray for Christians in rural areas of China
where persecution is worse than in cities.



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.