



Christian Challenger

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NO. 32



COMMON GROUND BENEFIT DINNER SEPT. 24

Rev. Erin Taylor invites FCC members and guests to join her on Saturday evening, September 24, for a steaming bowl of homemade gumbo made just the way Grandma did when Erin was growing up in Louisiana. The dinner is a fundraiser for Common Ground Recovery Ministries. There will be door prizes, a silent auction, and lots of fun as we support this life-changing ministry.

Funding for Common Ground will end in November without your help. The ministry which is housed at FCC offers weekly peer-led support groups on parenting, anger management, women's issues and substance abuse. Many of the participants are referred by the courts and CPS. In the first six months of 2016, CGRM served more than 150 men and women including 28 who graduated from the program. Operating expenses for the program are \$2200 per month.

Advance tickets to the fundraiser are available in the church office for \$15. Tickets are \$20 at the door.

SERVING WITH A SMILE



Eddie Tucker, Mark Turnbow and Kerry Roach spent last Sunday morning in the church kitchen scrambling eggs and baking biscuits. In honor of Christian Education Sunday, our Christian Men's Fellowship served up a delicious breakfast. More than 100 attended the special event. See the insert in this week's Challenger for a preview of classes and study opportunities available this Fall at FCC.

PASSION FOR MINISTRY



Peggy Fitts proudly poses with her granddaughter, Addison Roberts, guest speaker for the Christian Women's Fellowship luncheon on Monday. This month Addison begins her second year as Executive Director of The ARC of Wichita County. Her call to work with intellectually and developmentally challenged children and adults began early in her life. Addison shared that ARC's former thrift shop has been converted into a wonderful new center to provide daytime activities and support for ARC clients.

Family Game Night

Sunday, September 25th

5:00-7:00pm

Children, youth, young adults, parents, grandparents, couples, singles; ALL are invited to attend!

Please bring your favorite board game and a snack to share!

Contact Justin Dickey (936) 645-1215 if you have any questions!

Across Dave's Desk...

by Senior Minister David Hartman

Shenandoah



Note: This article was adapted from the September 11 sermon.

My father died on September 3, the day before his firstborn's 65th birthday. He was a World War II veteran, a member of the Greatest Generation. He was generous and cantankerous, supportive and demanding. I'm not sure he ever had much confidence in my ability to navigate through life, much less to drive him from Point A to Point B. "I don't think you know where you're going" was a constant refrain, sometimes asserted even as I pulled into the parking lot of our destination. My sister, Linda, and I were always kids to our father, until the afternoon we became orphans.

The last few months of his life, he lived with Linda and her husband, Steve, at their home in Christiansburg, Virginia, a small town in the New River Valley between the Blue Ridge and Allegheny mountains. By the time I arrived, he had become unresponsive. The next day, the local hospice sent a music therapist named Kelly, who softly strummed chords and sang his favorite song, "Shenandoah."

Oh, Shenandoah, I long to see you.
Away, you rolling river.
Oh, Shenandoah, I long to hear you.
Away, I'm bound away,
'Cross the wide Missouri...

As she sang, I mouthed the words. Afterwards, she turned and said, "You can sing aloud."

"My singing voice would drive a dog off a meat wagon."

"That doesn't matter," she said. "Hearing is the last sense to go. He wants to hear his children's voices. What key do you sing in?"

"H-flat."

Kelly laughed, and then sang "Abide With Me." When she finished, she looked around the room. "There are a lot of books here. Did your father like to read?"

"He did," Linda said, "but these belonged to my brother-in-law. He passed away a few months ago and we moved Dad into his bedroom. But our father did like to read."

"What did he like to read?" Kelly asked.

"For some reason, he really liked books about the French Foreign Legion. And also books about Devil's Island."

"What is Devil's Island?" she asked.

"It was a French prison on an island off the coast of South America."

"So he was interested in the French Foreign Legion and a French prison called Devil's Island. Is that because he liked France?" Kelly asked.

"For some reason, he was interested in the people France wanted out of France."

She nodded. "People who were dispossessed."

"Maybe that's it." It dawned on me that maybe that was why our father loved "Shenandoah" so much, beyond the fact that he grew up in the Shenandoah Valley. It's a song about a man who traveled far and was homesick for what he had left behind. Linda and I were raised in Hampton, a city near the coast, in a part of Virginia called Tidewater. Our father always complained about it. The land was flat. It wasn't beautiful. The people were different. He wanted to move back to where he was from. For a man who had been all over the world, he always seemed to be homesick, even at home.

Before she left, Kelly sang "Shenandoah" again, and added a new verse:

Oh, Shenandoah, *I will return to you.*
Away, you rolling river.
Oh, Shenandoah, *I will return to you.*
Away, I'm bound away,
'Cross the wide Missouri...

The next day, his hospice nurse, Nicole, increased his morphine and said she would return after her next call. In order to make his final hours as serene as possible, Linda had been playing a lot of soft music—hymns on a cello, Gregorian chants and yoga music. Saturday afternoon, it occurred to me that my father never intentionally listened to hymns on a cello, Gregorian chants or yoga music a day in his life. Since the University of Virginia was playing its first football game of the season, I put that on. Our father had heard and seen a lot of Virginia games through the years. The university is in Charlottesville, his hometown. His father was Director of Building and Grounds, and before he was drafted Dad had been a student there. The day after he came home from the war—he spent nearly two years with the OSS in India, Ceylon and Burma—he saw Virginia play Tulane. So I turned the game on, and listened to Virginia get thrashed by Richmond, a much smaller school. Over the years, when my father listened to his alma mater lose in unique and unexpected ways, he'd mutter, "Lord, have mercy." In the third quarter, the Lord did.

Our father's funeral was held at First Christian Church of Hampton. Marcia Fuson, his minister, was loving and gracious. We sang "O God Our Help in Ages Past" and "Abide with Me," and the pianist played "Shenandoah." An Army Honor Guard from Fort Eustis presented the flag to my sister and played taps. The next morning, we took some of his ashes—his remains—to my mother's resting place at Olive Branch Christian Church near Williamsburg. The rest will go to Charlottesville, in the Shenandoah Valley, to the place in all of his wanderings that he forever longed to see.

I believe the Church of Jesus Christ on earth will endure until the Lord returns in glory, even when people move away by relocation, disputation or neglect. The Church will endure because the Holy Spirit kindles memories among those who once abided there: memories of a faith that was taught, of kindnesses that were shown, of songs that were sung, of love that was revealed. In that sense, the Church is also a Shenandoah for Christians.

If we ever leave her far behind, we will long to see her again.

Dave

*Lord Jesus Christ,
we long to see you.
We pray, we homesick people.
Lord Jesus Christ,
we long to see you.
We pray, though far away,
Bring us home, beside you.*

[To the tune of "Shenandoah"]

FCC MINISTRY NEWS AND CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

The **Fellowship Luncheon** scheduled for this Sunday, September 18th, has been postponed and will be rescheduled at a later date.

You are invited to attend the Boy Scout Troop 15 **Eagle Court of Honor** for Joseph Mayfield, Hayden Scheuermann, Brennan Cooper Vandehey, Riley Allen Vandehey, Tyler Webb & Alex Wolf, on this Sunday, September 18th, at 3:00 pm in the Sanctuary. A reception will follow in the Parlor.

Searchers Class Moving! Starting this Sunday, September 18th, the Searchers Class will begin meeting in Room 304.

Christian Woman's Fellowship Group Meetings will be as follows on Monday, September 19th: **Group 1** will meet at 1:30 pm in the Parlor; **Group 2** will meet at 12:00 noon in Rm 405; **Group 3** will meet at 2:00 pm in Rm 405.

September Ministry Meetings: will be this Tuesday, September 20th, as follows: **Evangelism** at 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall; **Education** at 6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall; **Stewardship** at 6:00 pm, Room 310; **Worship** at 7:00 pm, Fellowship Hall. If you will need childcare, please RSVP to the church office, 692-2282, by noon on Monday, September 19th.

Thank You! A great big "Thank You" to my team of cooks (Kerry Roach, Larry Carr, Eddie Tucker, John Buckley, Ted Lauck, Doug Thompson, Jim LaValley) that helped prepare the food and set up tables for the "Fall Sunday School Kick-Off Breakfast" last Sunday! Many thanks and kudos for the good food, good fellowship and successful event!

Mark Turnbow, CMF President

Coats for Kids Fundraiser Sponsored by the Keystone Sunday School Class—You'll have the opportunity to win one of 3 packages for 2 tickets and transportation to see Broadway's longest running show, *The Phantom of the Opera*, on Saturday, October 22, 2016 at the beautiful Bass Hall in Ft Worth. Raffle Tickets will go on sale Sunday, Sept. 4th. Raffle Tickets are only \$10.00 each. Drawing for the 3 packages will be on Sunday, October 2nd. All proceeds will benefit the Mary Sue Winstead Coats for Kids Ministry.

Open Flower Dates: If you would like to donate the flowers for the worship service in the Sanctuary, the following dates are open: **September 18, October 2, 9, 16 & 30**. To donate or for more info, call Peggy Fitts, Flower Coordinator, 781-2426.

Women's Fall Bible Study: "More to Your Story" by Max Lucado—Life can feel overwhelming and inconsequential at times. Have you ever wondered if there is more to life than the chaos, confusion, and clutter of daily living? Have you ever wondered where you fit in God's plan? In *More to Your*

Story, Max Lucado writes, "Above and around us God directs a grand saga, written by his hand, orchestrated by his will, unveiled according to his calendar. When you're part of his master story, your life has purpose, you'll recognize your value, and you'll discover your unique path."

In this 6-session DVD study, we will journey with Max through the New Testament in search of God's narrative. Perhaps, in God's story, we will find our own.

Join Sheri Sutton as she leads us through *More to Your Story* beginning Wednesday, September 21st, at 10:30 am in Room 310. Call the church office at 692-2282 to register. Study guides will be available in September.

Attention all Veterans and current Military Members! First Christian Church would like to honor all of those who have served our country, living or passed on. Thanks to all who have already sent in their information. Our goal is to have all completed and displayed on our Military wall close to the Sanctuary in the SW hall by Veterans Day. Contact Debbi Schmidt at 733-9253 or debbims@sbcglobal.net or the church office at 692-2282. Forms are in the office or we'll mail or email them to you. If you have picture we will copy them and return them to you. We are grateful for your Service.

First Time Guests! We are excited to report that the following persons visited for the first time this past Sunday: Kay Johnson.

Member News: *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 an illness or death, please call the church—692-2282. Thanks!*

♥**Hospitalized:** at Hospice is Bertha McCrossan; at Harris Hospital-Ft. Worth is Kerry Roach. Released and back home are George Allison & Darlene Moore.

♥Our sympathies are extended to Anita Mills & Family on learning of the death of her sister, Edith Wright, on September 10th.

♥We extend our condolences to Helen Jackson & Family on learning of the death of her son, James Jackson, on September 12th.

♥Congratulations to Amy & Blayne Berry on the birth of their daughter, Olivia Grace Berry, on September 10th. Proud grandparents are Nancy & Ted Smith and great-grandfather is Rev. Dave Brummett.

New on the Library Shelves. . .
The Wonderful Spirit-Filled Life by Charles Stanley

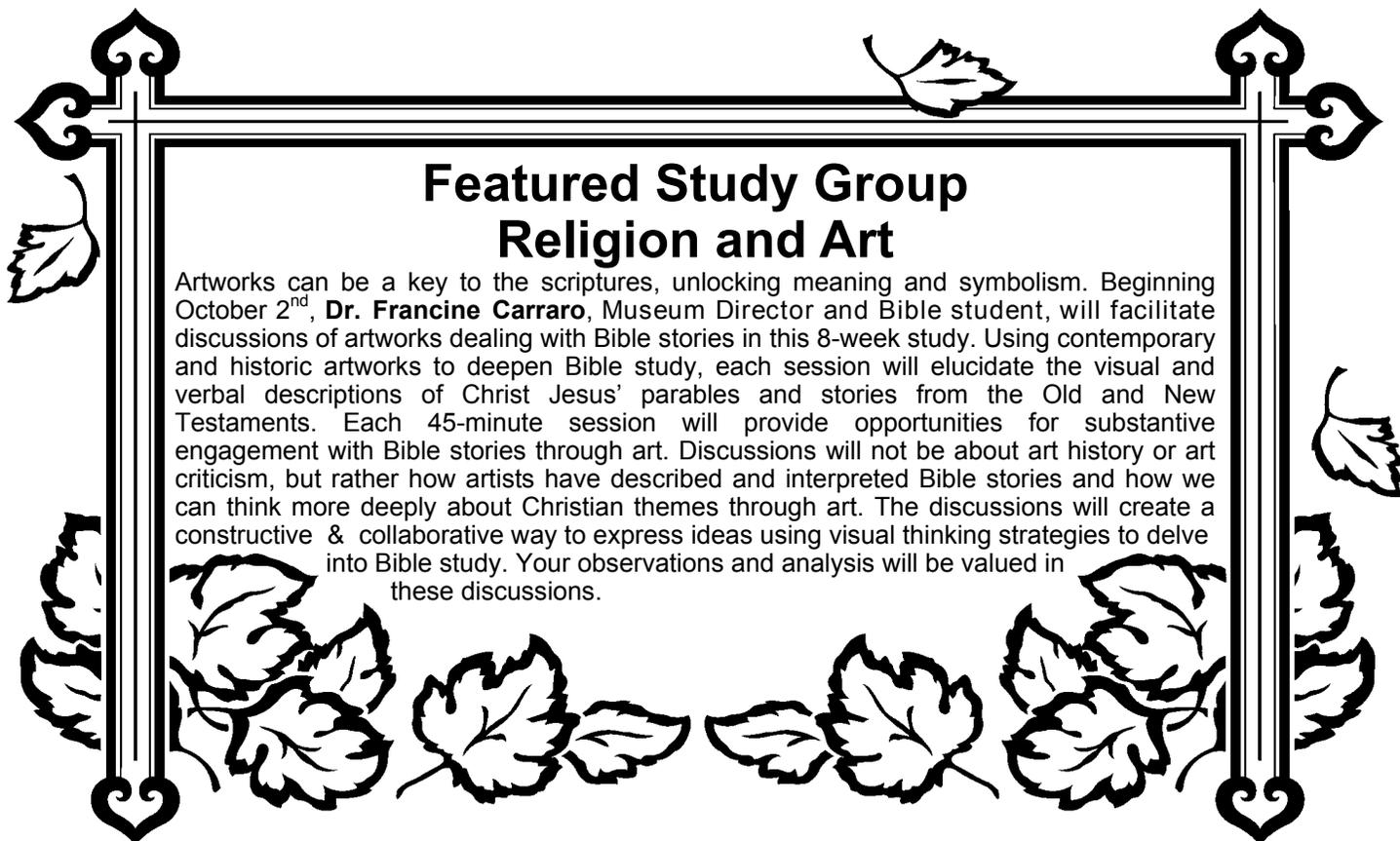
I'm not sure what role this book will play in your pursuit of the Spirit-filled life. I do know that many years ago a man wrote a book about his guest, and it turned me upside down. After I read only a portion of his testimony, God opened my eyes to the reality of the Spirit-filled life. I haven't been the same since. I hope this book will do for someone what that book did for me back in 1964. In that case it will have been well worth the effort.

— Charles Stanley

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

CHRISTIAN STUDY GUIDE

FALL 2016



Featured Study Group Religion and Art

Artworks can be a key to the scriptures, unlocking meaning and symbolism. Beginning October 2nd, **Dr. Francine Carraro**, Museum Director and Bible student, will facilitate discussions of artworks dealing with Bible stories in this 8-week study. Using contemporary and historic artworks to deepen Bible study, each session will elucidate the visual and verbal descriptions of Christ Jesus' parables and stories from the Old and New Testaments. Each 45-minute session will provide opportunities for substantive engagement with Bible stories through art. Discussions will not be about art history or art criticism, but rather how artists have described and interpreted Bible stories and how we can think more deeply about Christian themes through art. The discussions will create a constructive & collaborative way to express ideas using visual thinking strategies to delve into Bible study. Your observations and analysis will be valued in these discussions.

Fall Bible Study –

“More to Your Story” by Max Lucado – Begins September 21

The 6 session DVD study, will journey with Max Lucado through the New Testament in search of God's narrative. The class meets in room 310 beginning Wednesday, September 21 at 10:30 a.m Please call the church office to register. **Sheri Sutton**, teacher.

Advent Study Group –

The Redemption of Scrooge – Begins November 27

Ebenezer Scrooge is a man in dire need of a second chance. Is redemption possible for such a greedy, dark and sad character? The Advent study from author Matt Rawle's "The Pop in Culture" series shows us how the teaching of Jesus can be found in Dicken's Christmas classic. Join us as we explore this familiar story through the lens of faith. This four-week study will be led by **Rev. Renee Hoke** in Room 305. Call the church office early to register so study materials can be purchased.

Disciples Class – Cooperative Uniform Study Series

The Disciples Class meets in room 308 and is composed of senior adult couples and singles who are using the Bible Studies of the Cooperative Uniform Series. Music and song plays an important part of the Disciples morning worship. Since its beginning in the 1930's, the class has initiated and participated in many projects supporting the programs of the church and is ever receptive to opportunities for service. **Marilyn Vaughn**, teacher.

Discovery Class - “More to Your Story” by Max Lucado

The Discovery Class meets in room 310 and was organized in September of 1987. We explore a wide range of Bible Related Study topics and are contemporary in our thinking. We are very involved with the needs of our church family and community. We participate in various committees, cook meals for assorted groups, host HHH riders by furnishing dinner and pre-ride breakfast along with a place to rest. Where there is a need we do our best to fulfill it. **Susan Buckley**, teacher.

Journey Through Scripture – A New Journey: Jesus and the Gospels

We will take a closer look at how Jesus is presented through the Four Canonical Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) and the Apocryphal Gospels (those not accepted as part of the New Testament we read today). We will consider the Gospels as literary compositions when they were written, why they were written, how they were written, etc.-during the development of Christianity. We will consider how each Gospel leads readers to encounter Jesus. This journey is open to all adults seeking to grow in the Christian Faith. Leader: **Larry Spradley**. You are invited to come along for the journey on Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m. in the Parlor.

Keystone Class

Keystone class meets in room 306 at 9:30 a.m. Sunday mornings. For the next 8 weeks we will use the Present Word Quarterly for lesson material. Current studies are from Isaiah and Hebrews under the heading “The Sovereignty of God”. The class enjoys discussing present day applications of the scripture lesson and related topics. In addition to the lesson, the Class participates in outreach projects such as Coats for Kids and stuffing stockings for needy children at Christmas. **Shared Teaching** responsibilities.

Open Door Class - Study of Genesis

The Open Door class is a gathering of faithful, thoughtful, inquisitive Christians who strive to fulfill the Greatest Commandment, which is “to love the Lord God with all your heart, soul and mind.” Originally consisting of members of Highland Heights Christian Church, and led most recently by the much-beloved Jim Zug, class members strive to love God with their minds by engaging in a serious, thoughtful study of scripture. Debates in class are often spirited, but always in the spirit of Christian love. Joyful laughter is common and guests are always welcomed as longtime friends. Currently taught by **Senior Minister Dave Hartman**, the class is presently undertaking a chapter by chapter study of the Book of Genesis.

Searchers Class - Exploring the New Testament

The Searchers Class meets in room 304 and is composed of a broad spectrum of Christian adults mainly in their 40's+ who are interested in seeking Biblical truths and applying them to their everyday lives. The current curriculum will explore the Gospel of Matthew thru the Book of Revelation. The class selects topics of interest to its members. The informal discussions are led by class members sharing their views, knowledge and opinions. Class members sponsor several community projects throughout the year and have many fellowship activities together to keep their unity strong. **Shared Teaching** responsibilities.

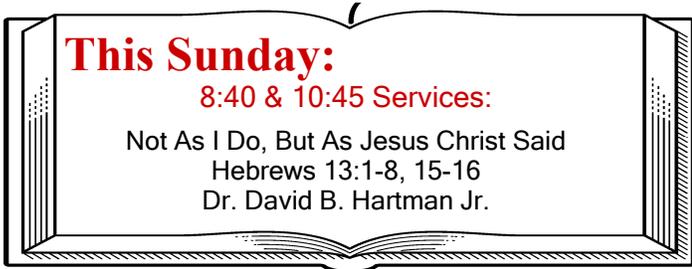
The Wired Word Class

Young Adult/College Age persons are invited to study and fellowship weekly. The curriculum is The Wired Word which delivers a ready-to-use, weekly lesson right to your email inbox. Each lesson includes biblical commentary and discussion questions related to a topic in the news that week. This class meets in the Church Library and **Chris Showalter, Doug & Cary Thompson** have **Shared Teaching** Responsibilities.

Chi Rho & CYF –

Experiencing Hubble: Understanding the Greatest Images of the Universe

Drawing on one noted astronomer's Top 10 list, to take you on a dazzling voyage of discovery that delights the eye, feeds the imagination, and unlocks new secrets of the universe in 12 spectacularly illustrated half-hour lectures **Shared Teaching** responsibilities.



This Sunday:

8:40 & 10:45 Services:

Not As I Do, But As Jesus Christ Said
 Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
 Dr. David B. Hartman Jr.

**SERVING SUNDAY
 ELDERS**

Bill Jennings, Mike Spiller Jr.; Cindy Hernandez, Presiding

DIACONATE COMMUNION VISITATION

Ben Sabine, Jerry Caraway, Cheryl Caraway

DIACONATE COMMUNION PREPARATION

Linda & Larry Carr

SEPTEMBER DIACONATE SERVERS

Shirley Craft, Melody Jennings, Donna Long, Cary Thompson,
 Jerry & Cheryl Caraway, Larry & Linda Carr, Jim & Karen
 LaValley, Sarah Stewart, Carly & Slate Westbrook, Twila
 Boydston, Sharon Roach, Ben Sabine, Madi Showalter.

OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, September 18, 2016

- 8:40 Worship (Chapel)
- 9:30 Sunday School
- 9:45 Journey Through Scripture (Parlor)
- 10:45 Worship (Sanctuary)
- 3:00 Eagle Scout Ceremony & Reception (Sanctuary/Parlor)
- 3:45 Chancel Ringers (High School-Adults) (Stratten Hall)
- 5:00 Come As You Are (Grades 6-12) (Rm 403)
- NO CGRM Bible Study (Rm 307)
- 5:45 Young Disciples (Scout Hall)
- 6:00 Common Ground Recovery Ministries Support Group:
 - 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 19, 2016

- 7:30-6:00 Children Come First (M-F)
- 9:00-12:00 Young Ages School (M-F)
- 10:15 FCC Staff Meeting (Office)
- 12:00 CWF Group 2 (Rm 405)
- 1:30 CWF Group 1 (Parlor)
- 2:00 CWF Group 3 (Rm 405)
- 7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, September 20, 2016

- 2:00 Library Committee (Library)
- 5:00 Prayer Team for Persecuted Church (Rm 310)
- 5:30 Evangelism Ministry Mtg (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:00 Education Ministry Mtg (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:00 Stewardship Ministry Mtg (Rm 310)
- 7:00 Worship Ministry Mtg (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, September 21, 2016

- 7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Rm 405/Chapel)
- 11:00 YAS Board Mtg (Parlor)
- 5:00 Mid-Week Communion Service (Chapel)
- 5:00-7:30 Family Meal (Fellowship Hall/Food Truck)
- 6:00-8:00 The Neighborhood (Fellowship Hall)
 - (Worship, Young Disciples, Chi Rho & CYF)
- 7:00 Chancel Choir (High School-Adults) (Stratten Hall)

Saturday, September 24, 2016

- 6:00 CGRM Gumbo Dinner & Silent Auction Fundraiser
 (Fellowship Hall)

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
Ann Hunter, Receptionist	Debbie Watson, Organist
Web Page: www.firstchristianwf.com	Church e-mail: susan@firstchristianwf.com
FAX Number 940-696-3085	

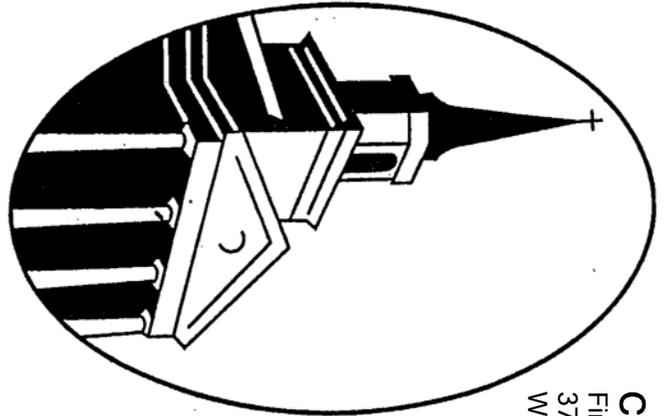
Home Phone Number:

FOR THE RECORD . . .

Sunday School	116
8:40 Worship . . . 34	10:45 Worship . . . 185
Total Worship 219	
CGRM: Sunday Evening Ministry . . . 22	
Sunday Receipts Needed Per Week	\$15,842.23
Sunday Receipts for 9/11/16	\$13,912.00
Through September 12: Income \$494,024.67	Expenses \$559,926.96

**PERSECUTED CHURCH PRAYERS
 THIS WEEK ARE FOR:**

Pray for evangelistic outreaches to the nearly 1 million displaced people in Azerbaijan.



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