



Christian Challenger

Vol. 63

October 5, 2016

NO. 35

NEW SECURITY SYSTEM COMING INTO PLACE



You may notice that our church is currently undergoing two new electronic upgrades. One involves monitors in our hallways that will keep our members and guests apprised of events that are happening in the church. You'll be hearing more about those in the near future. The other thing you'll notice has to do with our new security system.

The safety and well-being of the people who come to our church—especially the precious children who are here on weekdays and on Sundays—rank at the top of our priorities. As most of you know, on weekdays First Christian Church hosts both a childcare center (Children Come First) and a preschool (Young Ages School), which means that more than a hundred children and their teachers are here on a daily basis. In the past year, we have become increasingly mindful that almost every school and childcare in Wichita Falls has a security system in place. With the world having sadly become the way it is, it became clear that we needed to do likewise, regardless of our fortunate location on Taft Boulevard. Within the next month, either a pass card

or a specialized PIN number will be necessary to access the building on school days, except for church-related events like Christian Women's Fellowship lunches. On those occasions, certain doors will be accessible. In addition, those who come to the outside door closest to the church office will be greeted via intercom and may be buzzed in. On Sunday mornings, and on evenings when community events and church meetings are held here, the building will be accessible without the need for a pass card or PIN. In addition, any active church member who requests a PIN will be assigned one.

We trust our members will understand our need to take this step. Rest assured, our church staff will do everything in our power to provide this essential security without inconveniencing our wonderful members. Also, please note that the security system is being installed without placing further strains on our church budget. Half of the funds come from Children Come First and Young Ages School, and the other half from a very generous bequest from the families of Red and Nora Carlton, two beloved members who cherished children, and whose lives were devoted to the nurture and protection of all of God's people.



See page 2 for news about these talented FCC staffers.



SAYING GOODBYE

I've been blessed this past year to work with two talented 20-somethings. Justin Dickey and Erin Taylor have been a gift to First Christian Church. Justin grew up in this church and his energy for children and youth knew no bounds. Erin came to FCC with impressive credentials and served our Common Ground Recovery Ministry with dedication and creativity.

If there is a downside to working with talented young people at the beginning of their professional lives, it is that the truly capable ones often "fly the coop" when a new opportunity surfaces. Such is the case with Erin and Justin. Last week our Executive Council received their letters of resignation. I thought you might like to read them since they express such gratitude for our church family. Erin will conclude her ministry with us on October 10 and Justin ends his ministry on October 19.

May God bless Erin and Justin and their new church family at Riverside Avenue Christian Church. You will be missed!

Renee

To My Church Family,

Over the past 2 year I have graciously been given the opportunity to serve those at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Wichita Falls. Serving this church and those who served me through most of my childhood and youth has been one of the greatest blessing I could have been given coming out of my undergraduate work. Ministry has always been a part of me, especially the camping program, but I never imagined that I would work full-time work within a church after college. Dave Hartman graciously offered the position to me after speaking to him about my future and I decided this would be a good place for me to continue doing what I love, while looking ahead to my true passion, which has always been special education.

These past two years have had their share of up's and down's, but I am truly honored to have been able to serve alongside amazing individuals and connecting with so many others while here. With that being said, it is time for me to continue my education and work towards my goal of working with young children with special needs.

I will be moving with Erin to Jacksonville, Florida, to return to school and start a new life there together. I want to thank every single person who has shown me love over the past two years, and to all those who helped shape me into the man I am today over the last 15 years involved at this church. And once again, thank you for the opportunity to serve our youth and young children as so many served me in that capacity not that long ago.

Respectfully,
Justin Dickey

September 26, 2016

Dear Friends,

First, I would like to thank the wonderful people of First Christian Wichita Falls for welcoming me into your congregation and for entrusting me with the care of Common Ground Recovery Ministries. I have learned a great deal in the past 13 months and am grateful for the community connections and the church relationships that we have been fostered during our time together. I especially appreciate the flexibility and patience that has been graciously given to me as I balanced serving two congregations simultaneously. I truly have enjoyed my time with each of you and I pray that the work of Common Ground continues to impact the community as it has for the past 9 years.

It is bittersweet news that I share that I've accepted a call to serve as the new Senior Minister of Riverside Avenue Christian Church in Jacksonville, FL effective November 1st, 2016. Though I didn't expect to move so quickly nor to resign from Common Ground Recovery Ministries after just over a year, this is an incredible opportunity and I am excited to see how God will use each of us during this transition.

Again, thank you for patience, support, and hospitality of both Common Ground Recovery Ministries and myself. May God continue to be with the great people of First Christian Wichita Falls and to bless the many ministries that live out our faith in this community.

In Christ,
Rev. Penelope Erin Taylor

FCC MINISTRY NEWS AND CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Here's A New First Christian Church Giving Option For You To Consider. Have you ever thought about making your church donation or tithe on your credit or debit card? We are researching that very opportunity that will work seamlessly with our church software. It has many possibilities such as on-line giving or by text from your smart phone. The Stewardship Ministry would like to know if you might use that service. Please call with questions or let Cheryl know at cheryl@firstchristianwf.com or 940-692-2282.

Church Board Nominations: It is time to make your suggestions for nominations to the Church Board. The term of election is a three year term from January 2017 to December 2019. **Persons on the enclosed listing as Current Members of the Church Board MAY NOT be nominated for ANY position.** Those persons going off the Board in 2016 must be off the Board for at least one year before they may be nominated again for any position. For more information you may contact the church office or one of the following members of the nominating committee: David Hartman, John Buckley, Cindy Hernandez, Jerry Caraway, Mark Turnbow, Cathy Gately, Susan Buckley, Twila Boydston, Harry Tonemah, Chris Showalter. Please return the enclosed nomination form to the church office by **Sunday, October 9th**.

Christian Women's Fellowship: The October CWF Luncheon will be Monday, October 10th, at 11:45 am in the Fellowship Hall. The program will be Kathy Geil with the 50+ Zone. The devotional will be given by Kris Gossom and the service offering will go to the 50+ Zone. Reservations are not required and guests are welcome. Cost is \$5.00 per person. The CWF Board will meet at 10:30 am in Room 310 prior to the luncheon.

Open Flower Dates: If you would like to donate the flowers for the worship service in the Sanctuary, the following dates are open: **October 9, 16 & 30**. Call Peggy Fitts, Flower Coordinator, 781-2426, to donate.

First Time Guests! We are excited to report that the following persons visited for the first time this past Sunday: David & Susan Diebold, Austin & Felicia Laurence & Family, and Peyton Tally.

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 Windmill Rehab is Joe Etoch.

♥Our sympathies are extended to Virgil & Lynda Lee & Family on learning of the death of their sister-in-law, Vera Ida Lee, on September 27th.

♥Our condolences are extended to Janie & Terry Huff & Family on learning of the death of Janie's sister, Yolanda Leal. Services were held in Mercedes, Texas, on October 4th.

Christ's Home Place Ministries presents **Living Life Well for Women**. Join us as author Annie Downs discusses her newest book, Looking for Lovely, on Thursday, October 20th, at the Wellington at 7:30 pm. Meet & Greet-\$75 (includes hors d'oeuvres & event ticket from 6 to 7 pm); Speaking Engagement Only-\$25. To purchase event tickets: call CHPM at 696-0181 or online at www.CHPM-Inc.org. Purchase a raffle ticket-\$10 to win the painting "Hope" by Hallie Eubanks. All proceeds benefit the Fee Assist Program at CHPM.

YOUNG AGES PRESCHOOL

KRINGLE DANISH

FALL FUNDRAISER
OCTOBER 13th - 31st

(Church members may order now)



- Apple
- Almond
- Blueberry
- Cherry
- Chocolate Pecan
- Cream Cheese
- Pecan
- Raspberry
- Cranberry
- Christmas Kringle

(Christmas Kringle is a seasonal delight that is layered with our chocolate cake filling and a touch of peppermint then topped with creamy icing and sprinkled with bits of red velvet cake.)

**These delicious pastries make great Christmas gifts.
They freeze well and only take a few minutes to
heat up as they are fully cooked.**

\$14.00 each

**(Kringles will be delivered, fresh,
the week after Thanksgiving)**

**Payment is due at the time the order is placed.
All orders, including payment, are due by
Monday, October 31st.**

**Thank you in advance for supporting
Young Ages Preschool!**

SUGGESTIONS TO NOMINATING COMMITTEE

I/We suggest to the Nominating Committee that the following persons be considered for submission to the Congregation for election to the Church Board for a three year term ending 12/31/2019. **(THOSE PERSONS-- EXCEPT FOR THE YOUTH--LISTED ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS FORM CANNOT BE NOMINATED FOR ANY POSITION):**

TRUSTEE - One is to be elected. Please suggest only 1. _____

ELDERS - Six are to be elected. You may suggest any number up to 6.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

DIACONATE - Sixteen are to be elected. You may suggest any number up to 16.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

YOUTH DIACONATE - Six **HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH** are to be elected for a **one year** term. You may suggest up to 6.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

LIFE-TERM ELDER:

_____	_____
-------	-------

LIFE-TERM DIACONATE:

_____	_____
-------	-------

For more information you may contact the church office or one of the following members of the nominating committee: David Hartman, John Buckley, Cindy Hernandez, Jerry Caraway, Mark Turnbow, Cathy Gately, Susan Buckley, Twila Boydston, Harry Tonemah, Chris Showalter. **PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9TH!**

CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH BOARD & THEIR TERMS

Term Ending 12/31/2016

Trustee

Nick Gipson

Elders

Gary Ballard
Gary Cook
Cindy Hernandez
Bill Jennings
Kerry Roach
Andy Wilson

Diaconate

Debi Ballard
Larry Ballard
Jody Brannon
Shirley Craft
Kay Jackson
Melody Jennings
Vicki Kunkle
June Lemmon
Donna Long
Robinsue Miller
James Poole
Travis Ralls
Curtis Sullivan
Billy Thacker
Cary Thompson
Sherry Tucker

Youth Diaconate (Term Ending 12/31/16):

Ainslee Buckley
Luke Machado
Ben Sabine
Madi Showalter
Luke Ward

Life Term Elders:

Bill & Melba Anastopoulos
Mil Dinnin
Virgil Lee
Judy Muir
Jimmie Stodghill
Marilyn Vaughn

Life Term Diaconate:

Sara Anderson
Alvin & Billie Burge
Lou James
Sue Nunn
Elrhea Williams

Term Ending 12/31/2017

Trustee

Ted Smith

Elders

Susan Buckley
Kenn Hill
Ronnie James
Ted Lauck
Mike Spiller Jr.
Eddie Tucker

Diaconate

Cathy Biggs
Brandi Brannon
Jerry Caraway
Larry Carr
Linda C. Carr
Philip Dudenhoefter
Catherine Earley
Claudine Farrell
Caitlin Hartman
Amy James
Kathleen Lauck
Jim LaValley
Michael Pettibon
Sarah Stewart
Carly Westbrook
Sandra Whatley

Term Ending 12/31/2018

Trustee

Jim Hay

Elders

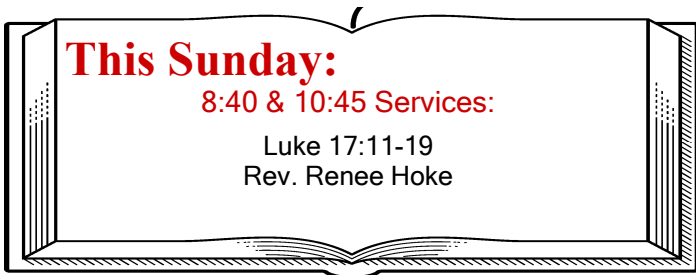
Cathy Gately
Ann Hunter
Craig Reynolds
Cheryl Smiley
Doug Thompson
Polly Tonemah

Diaconate

Andrew Allen
Twila Boydston
Cheryl Caraway
Bob Carlton
Mary Carlton
Lee DeVilbiss
Jill Griffin
Jon Hartman
Colleen James
Karen LaValley
Sharon Roach
Sandra Ross
Diane Spiller
Debbie Turnbow
Mark Turnbow
Slate Westbrook

Ruth Beyer
Carolyn Ford
Sam Maynor
Glorie Steele

Gretchen Bridgman
Helen Jackson
Cora Dell Miller
Ann Watkins



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	

SERVING SUNDAY
ELDERS

Ted Lauck, Cathy Gately; Susan Buckley, Presiding

DIACONATE COMMUNION VISITATION

Bob Carlton, Mary Carlton, Ainslee Buckley

DIACONATE COMMUNION PREPARATION

Bob & Mary Carlton

OCTOBER DIACONATE SERVERS

Debi & Larry Ballard, Vicki Kunkle, Robinsue Miller, Curtis Sullivan, Sherry Tucker, Philip Dudenhoeffer, Claudine Farrell, Andrew Allen, Bob & Mary Carlton, Colleen James, Sandra Ross, Diane Spiller, Ainslee Buckley, Luke Machado.

OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, October 9, 2016

- 8:40 Worship (Chapel)
- 9:30 Sunday School
- 9:45 Journey Through Scripture (Parlor)
- 10:45 Worship (Sanctuary)
- 3:45 Chancel Ringers (High School-Adults) (Stratten Hall)
- 5:00 Grow in Grace Choir (Grades K-5) (Stratten Hall)
- 5:00 Come As You Are (Grades 6-12) (Rm 403)
- 5:14 CGRM Bible Study (Rm 307)
- 5:45 Young Disciples (Grades K-5) (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, October 10, 2016

- Children Come First Closed for Staff Training Day
- 9:00-12:00 Young Ages School (M-F)
- 10:15 FCC Staff Meeting (Office)
- 10:30 CWF Board Meeting (Rm 310)
- 11:45 CWF Luncheon (Fellowship Hall)
- 7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, October 11, 2016

- 7:30-6:00 Children Come First (T-F)
- 2:00 Library Committee (Library)
- 5:30 Outreach/CGRM Meeting (Rm 310)
- 6:00 Property Ministry Meeting (Rm 306)
- 7:00 World Outreach Ministry Meeting (Rm 310)

Wednesday, October 12, 2016

- 7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Rm 405/Chapel)
- 10:30 Women's Fall Bible Study (Rm 310)
- 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)

Thursday, October 13, 2016

- Young Ages School Kringle Fundraiser Begins
- 9:15 YAS Pumpkin Patch Field Trip

Friday, October 14, 2016

- 9:15 YAS Pumpkin Patch Field Trip

Saturday, October 15, 2016

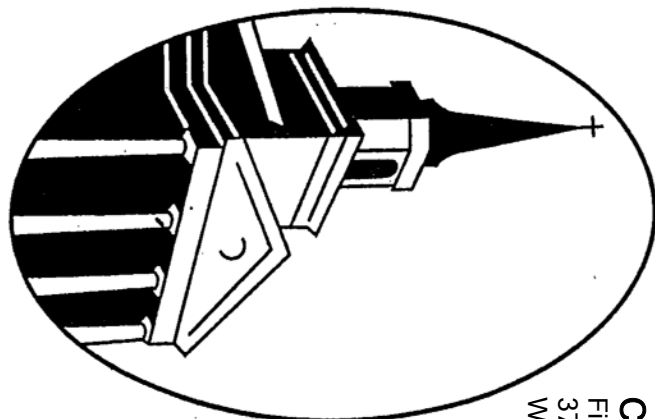
- 9:00 Leave on Young Disciples Mystery Trip (Grades K-5)

FOR THE RECORD . . .

The Neighborhood (Wednesdays)	53
Sunday School	123
8:40 Worship	45
10:45 Worship	186
Total Worship	231
CGRM: Sunday Evening Ministry	29
Sunday Receipts Needed Per Week	\$15,842.23
Sunday Receipts for 10/2/16	\$8,238.00
Through Oct. 3: Income \$529,376.70	Expenses \$601,404.79

PERSECUTED CHURCH PRAYERS
THIS WEEK ARE FOR:

Pray that the local church in Qatar will be blessed with discipleship opportunities.



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.