

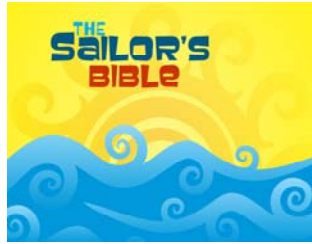


Christian Challenger

Vol. 64

May 3, 2017

No. 9



MAY MINISTRY: LET'S CELEBRATE

8 SIGHTS, SOUNDS & TASTES OF THE CARIBBEAN ON MAY 8

Every two years the May meeting for Christian Women's Fellowship moves to the evening and becomes something of a party for the whole church. Join the fun on Monday evening, May 8, at 6:30 pm, as our Fellowship Hall is transformed into an island paradise. The décor, menu and entertainment will celebrate the Caribbean. Dr. Randy Glean is our guest speaker, and will bring stories of the international students at MSU. The MSU Pan Ensemble will serenade us. Tickets are \$10 each and on sale now.

10 CHILDREN'S MUSICAL "THE SAILOR'S BIBLE" ON MAY 10

The story of the Apostle Paul's adventures on the high seas will be set to music on May 10. Our Grow in Grace Choir (kindergarten through fifth grade) have been rehearsing for months and hope you will be on hand for their premiere. To make the evening even more special, Red River Hot Dogs will be on site, serving from 5-7 pm. The musical performance is at 6 pm in Fellowship Hall.

14 MOTHER'S DAY WORSHIP ON MAY 14

We're planning a special time in worship on Mother's Day as we thank God for the women in every generation who bless our lives with their love, care and encouragement. Please bring your Mom to worship on May 14. Our talented handbell ensemble will fill the Sanctuary with music during 10:45 worship. It's the third annual Bellapalooza—always memorable.

21 GRADUATION SUNDAY ON MAY 21

God bless our graduates! On May 21 we celebrate a major milestone in many young lives. At 10:45 our high school graduates will process in their caps and gowns and share with us their plans and dreams for the future. We will also recognize those in our church family who are graduating from college, graduate school, or a professional school. If you have a graduate in your family, please call the church office so we can add the name to our list. The whole church is invited to lunch following worship and a special video presentation about our grads.

SENIOR MINISTER SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS

by Cindy Hernandez, Board Chair



Left to right, seated: Caitlin Hartman, Sandra Ross, Colleen James; standing: Robert Hernandez, Doug Thompson, Judy Muir, Mike Spiller, Diane Spiller, Jerry Johnson, Keith Wineinger and Craig Reynolds. Not pictured: Sarah Cook.

The following committee, representing a wide range of ages, interests, and church school classes, has been named to the Senior Minister Search Committee: Sarah Cook, Caitlin Hartman, Robert Hernandez, Colleen James, Jerry Johnson, Judy Muir, Craig Reynolds, Sandra Ross, Doug Thompson and Keith Wineinger. Mike and Diane Spiller will serve as co-chairs for the committee. The committee will begin its work in September. I am grateful to Mike and Diane for their leadership.

Our first priority as a congregation is to honor the outstanding ministry of Dr. David Hartman over the past 16 years. Please plan to be in church as much as possible this summer to enjoy Dave's sermons during these remaining months. Planning is already underway to celebrate Dave's ministry with us. Watch for details in coming weeks. Dave's final Sunday in the pulpit will be Sept. 3.

Any FCC member wishing to suggest candidates to be considered for Senior Minister may place their recommendation in the Search Committee mailbox in the church office.

by Senior Minister Dr. David B. Hartman, Jr.

The Benedict Option ? *Part I*



St. Meinrad Archabbey. Photo by Chris Light

In the winter of 1997, another Disciple minister and I were returning to Kentucky from a church conference in St. Louis. While driving through Indiana after dark, we were enveloped in a blinding snowstorm. I wanted to pull off at the nearest exit and hole up in whatever Motel 6 wasn't already stuffed to capacity with other refugee drivers. My fellow cleric, whom I had long suspected couldn't visit a parishioner without fishing in the sofa cushions for loose change, insisted we plow on until we reached the town of Ferdinand, where there was a Benedictine monastery named St. Meinrad Archabbey. "We're going to die in this blizzard if we don't get off this road," I yelled. "But they'll let us stay at the monastery for free!" he yelled back. "Just how cheap are you?" I howled. "I'm looking for a Motel 6, not Mar-a-Lago!" [Note: *I'm very mindful that "Just how cheap how are you?" is a question not easily answered under duress. I'm also quite sure that I didn't say "Mar-a-Lago," because I never heard of it until Donald Trump was elected President. I might have said "Caesar's Palace," but, twenty years on, I'm not sure*]. I started envisioning my car spiraling out of control on the glacial highway and the perplexed expressions of rescue workers when they discovered the frozen remains of two preachers, with the ice-encrusted fingers of the driver clamped around the passenger's petrified blue neck. But then, mercifully, the exit sign to Ferdinand appeared. We slid down the off-ramp and edged our way onto the grounds of St. Meinrad. When we arrived, I was stunned. The snow was deep on the ground, but the night sky was starting to clear and a bright moon was beginning to cast its glow. It had been a long time since I had seen a place of such serene beauty. A clock glowed in a tower. "It's Narnia," I murmured. "I guess you were right."

A kindly monk arranged guest housing. Since the grounds also contained a seminary, there was a student center with a pub in the basement called "The Inferno." True to its name, there was a roaring fire in the fireplace, hot pizza was on sale, and the kinds of beverages one finds in pubs were on offer. The repast, especially after the ordeal in the blizzard, had a near-sacramental quality about it. Afterwards, my colleague wanted to go back to the room and read something soothing, like a financial statement. I wanted to explore. That night, the

Benedictines held Compline—night prayers—in the apse of the abbey. I stood in silence and watched. The next morning, Lauds was held at dawn. It was followed soon after by a hearty, meatless breakfast, and the monk who invited us to sit at his table was funny and engaging. Our room was free of charge, but donations were gratefully received. I left more than I thought a Motel 6 would have charged. It was well worth it. Desperately seeking refuge, we had found it in a place of light, order and kindness. The Benedictines are the most hospitable of monks.

Each of the Roman Catholic orders has a particular ethos. Dominicans are scholarly. Jesuits are worldly. The Sisters of Charity, founded by Mother Teresa, are devoted to caring for the poorest of the poor. Franciscans, founded by Francis of Assisi, are humble, compassionate and famously fond of animals. The Benedictines (named for Benedict of Nursia) are the oldest of the existing orders and are renowned for hospitality. There is a reason for that. But in order to adequately tell the story, we have to go back before Benedict, to the days of Constantine the Great.

For nearly 250 years after the resurrection of Jesus Christ, there were sporadic eruptions of officially-sanctioned violence against Christians in the Roman Empire. The atrocities inflicted upon included public crucifixions, burnings, and dismemberment by wild beasts (the old stereotype of Christians being fed to lions was based on fact). Though notably non-violent, Christians were perceived as singular threats to the Empire because they refused to declare that their ultimate allegiance was to the state, especially the state as exemplified in the Emperor. They would pray for Caesar; they would not worship him. The onslaughts were finally ended by the son of a Roman officer named Constantius and a Christian woman named Helena. The son's name was Constantine, who became an acclaimed general and won the throne after a series of battles with rival claimants. According to his friend and counselor, the Christian historian Eusebius, Constantine attributed his victory in the decisive battle of Milvian Bridge in 312 to a vision in which he was told to make the Greek letters "Chi Rho" the sign for his numerically inferior forces. *Chi* [X] and *rho* [P] were the first two letters of the Greek word for Christ, and superimposed upon each other had become a symbol for the persecuted believers. In his vision, Constantine saw the words, *In hoc signo vinces*: "By this sign, you will conquer."



Against heavy odds, conquer he did. (*To be continued*)

Dave

Prayer: Almighty God, may we learn from whence we came, so that we may know whom you would have us to be. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

FCC MINISTRY NEWS AND CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS



8TH ANNUAL CAR SHOW ON MAY 6

After a postponement due to inclement weather, the Cruisin' for Christ Car show is on for May 6. Car enthusiasts from several states will converge on FCC for the day, competing for trophies and enjoying the day together. Our youth group benefits from this event each year. All the proceeds are used to fund the summer mission trip. This year our youth will be part of the Disciple Summer Missions program in Baton Rouge. Youth groups from dozens of Disciple congregations will converge on Baton Rouge to assist with flood recovery and spend each evening in worship together.

GRANBURY DAY TRIP PLANNED FOR JUNE TO ATTEND "SOUTH PACIFIC"



Come with us to the South Pacific on Saturday, June 10. The Prime Timers are organizing a day trip to Granbury to attend the 2 pm live performance of this Rogers and Hammerstein musical. It will be a day of fun including meals, shopping and an ice cream break. If

you are interested in more information, please call the Church Office this week and add your name to the list. We'll be in touch soon with additional details.

The **Challenger** is biweekly, so NO Challenger next week!

Pantry Sunday for Interfaith Outreach Services will be Sunday, May 7th. Items for collection will be cereal, canned fruit & paper sacks. Also, if you travel and have any unopened hotel toiletries, Interfaith Outreach Services would love to have them for their care sacks. Interfaith and World Outreach appreciate your gifts to this project each month.

Prime Timers Luncheon will be on Sunday, May 7th, at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall.

Christian Women's Fellowship Group Meetings will be as follows:

Group 1 will meet on Monday, May 22nd, at Jane Ridenour's home in Holliday TX. The Group will meet & leave from the Chapel entrance at 11:30 am. Bring a covered dish; Jane will provide the meat.

Group 2 will meet on Wednesday, May 17th, at 12:00 noon in Room 405.

Group 3 will meet on Monday, May 15th, at 1:00 pm at Applebee's on Kemp St.

May Meetings: will be as follows:

Tuesday, May 9th: **Property** at 6:00 pm, Rm 310

World Outreach at 7:00 pm, Library

Tuesday, May 16th:

Prayer Team for Persecuted Church at 5:00 pm, Rm 310

Membership at 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

Education at 6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

Stewardship at 6:00 pm, Rm 310

Worship at 7:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, May 23rd: **Executive Council** at 6:00 pm, Rm 310

If you will need childcare, please RSVP to the church office, 692-2282, by noon on Mondays, April 10th, & 24th, and Tuesday, April 18th.

Open Flower Dates: If you would like to donate the flowers for the worship service in the Sanctuary, the following dates are open: **June 4, 11, 18 & 25**. Call Peggy Fitts, Flower Coordinator, 781-2426, to donate.

The **2017 Parade of Homes** benefitting Habitat for Humanity will be June 2nd-4th and June 9th-11th. Habitat for Humanity is looking for volunteers to help take tickets at the different homes on the Parade. The shifts are from 6-8 pm on Fridays, 1-3 pm and 3-5 pm on the Saturdays & Sundays. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Carla Dowlen at Habitat for Humanity, 940-716-9300.

First Time Guests! We are excited to report that the following persons visited for the first time on Sunday, April 23rd. Greg Brownfield; and this past Sunday: Angela Coston & David C. Coston.

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 Dallas Methodist is Terry Huff. Released and back home are Judy Clymer & LaVeta Kaiser.

♥Our deepest sympathies and prayers are extended to the Brown Family: Dr. Kurt & Lori Brown, Diane Brown, Kelly Brown, King Brown, and Dr. Mark & Marilyn Brown and their families, on learning of the death of Harrison Brown, Kurt & Lori's son, Diane's grandson, and Kelly, King, and Mark & Marilyn's nephew. Harrison was killed on Monday, May 1st, on the University of Texas campus in Austin TX.

♥Congratulations to Sam & Maria Brock on the birth of their son, Bodhi Alamo Brock, on April 28th. Bodhi Alamo weighed 9 lbs 4 oz and was 20.5 inches long. Proud grandparents are Mary & Rene Brock.

New on the Library Shelves. . .

The Historical Jesus by John Dominic Crossnan

This book reveals who Jesus was, what He did, and what He said. His actual words and actions are placed in a capsule account of his life story. One reviewer has stated: "There is nothing like Crossnan's book for thoroughness, readability, balance, fairness, and clarity. He delivers the goods and avoids projecting current ideologies."

This Sunday:

8:40 & 10:45 Services:

"My Shepherd"
Psalm 23

Dr. David B. Hartman, Jr.

SERVING SUNDAY

ELDERS

5/7: Alice Gordon, Cal Edgemon; Eddie Tucker, Presiding
5/14: Cathy Gately, Debbi Schmidt; Susan Buckley, Presiding

DIACONATE COMMUNION VISITATION

5/7: Karen Burross, Norma Hill, Terry Burross
5/7: Weldon Roberts, John Buckley

DIACONATE COMMUNION PREPARATION

5/7: Claudine Farrell & Sarah Stewart
5/14: Twila Boydston & Diane Spiller

MAY DIACONATE SERVERS

Dave Brummett, Philip Dudenhoefter, Claudine Farrell, Jim & Karen LaValley, Sarah Stewart, Andrew & Elise Allen, Twila Boydston, Jon Hartman, Diane Spiller, Ainslee & John Buckley, Terry & Karen Burross, Norma Hill, Weldon Roberts.

OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, May 7, 2017 PANTRY SUNDAY

8:40 Worship (Chapel)
9:30 Sunday School
9:45 Journey Through Scripture (Parlor)
10:45 Worship (Sanctuary)
12:00 Prime Timers Luncheon (Fellowship Hall)
5:00 Grow in Grace Choir (Grades K-5) (Fellowship Hall)
5:00 Come As You Are (Grades 6-12) (Rm 403)
5:45 Young Disciples (Grades K-5) (Rm 402)
6:00 Youth/Children's Ministers Search Cmte Mtg (Rm 222)

Monday, May 8, 2017

7:30-6:00 Children Come First (M-F)
9:00-12:00 Young Ages School (M-F)
10:15 FCC Staff Meeting (Office)
4:30 CCF Staff Mtg (Rm 405)
6:30 CWF Spring Banquet (Fellowship Hall)
7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Scout Hall)

Tuesday, May 9, 2017

2:00 Library Cmte (Library)
6:00 YAS End-of-Year Program (Fellowship Hall)
6:00 Property Ministry Mtg (Rm 310)
6:00 Common Ground Recovery Ministries Support Groups:
CGRM Office (Rm 307) Women's C.A.R.E. (Rm 304)
Parenting (Rm 305 & 306) Anger Recovery (Rm 308)
Substance Abuse (Rm 309)
7:00 World Outreach Ministry Mtg (Library)

Wednesday, May 10, 2017

7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Rm 405/Chapel)
8:00 Leadership Team Mtg (Renee's Office)
5:00 Mid-Week Communion Service (Chapel)
5:00-5:45 Mid-Week Meal (Fellowship Hall)
6:00-7:00 The Neighborhood Worship (Fellowship Hall)
Children's Musical "The Sailor's Bible"
6:00-8:00 Chi Rho & CYF (6th-12th) (Rm 403)
7:00-8:00 Young Disciples (K-5th) (Rm 402)
7:00 Chancel Choir (High School-Adults) (Stratten Hall/Sanctuary)

Friday, May 12, 2017

2:45 CCF Mother's Day Tea (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, May 14, 2017 MOTHER'S DAY

8:40 Worship (Chapel)
9:30 Sunday School
9:45 Journey Through Scripture (Parlor)
10:45 Worship (Sanctuary)
6:00 Youth/Children's Ministers Search Cmte Mtg (Rm 222)

Monday, May 15, 2017

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

Tuesday, May 16, 2017

2:00 Library Cmte (Library)
5:00 Prayer Team for Persecuted Church (Rm 310)
5:30 Membership Ministry Mtg (Fellowship Hall)
6:00 Education Ministry Mtg (Fellowship Hall)
6:00 Stewardship Ministry Mtg (Fellowship Hall)
6:00 Common Ground Recovery Ministries Support Groups:
CGRM Office (Rm 307) Women's C.A.R.E. (Rm 304)
Parenting (Rm 305 & 306) Anger Recovery (Rm 308)
Substance Abuse (Rm 309)
7:00 Worship Ministry Mtg (Fellowship Hall)

THE CHURCH STAFF . . .

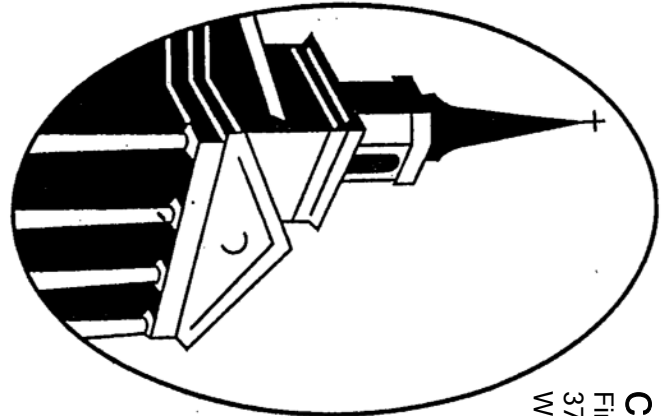
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Rev. Renee Hoke, Associate Minister 692-2282
Cheryl Appling, Business Administrator 691-7265
Jeanette Showalter, Director of Music Ministries 763-8515
Maggie Ross, Interim Sunday Evening Youth Ministries 692-2282
Madi Showalter, Children's Ministries Intern 692-2282
Heather Dickerson, Director of Children Come First 687-2231
Karen Bivona, Director of Young Ages School 692-3640
Laurel Clement, Common Ground Recovery Ministries 642-7021
Susan Marrs, Executive Secretary Tina Williams, Financial Secretary
Ann Hunter, Receptionist Debbie Watson, Organist

FOR THE RECORD . . .

CGRM: (Tues., Apr. 25) 26
The Neighborhood (Wed., Apr. 26) 32
8:40 Worship . . . 46 10:45 Worship . . . 157
Total Worship 235
Sunday School 71
Sunday Receipts Needed Per Week \$15,815.66
Sunday Receipts for 4/30/17 \$13,042.00
Through Apr. 30: Income \$266,113.01 Expenses \$254,235.30

PERSECUTED CHURCH PRAYERS THIS WEEK ARE FOR:

Pray for an end to the kidnapping of Christians for ransom in Egypt.



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