

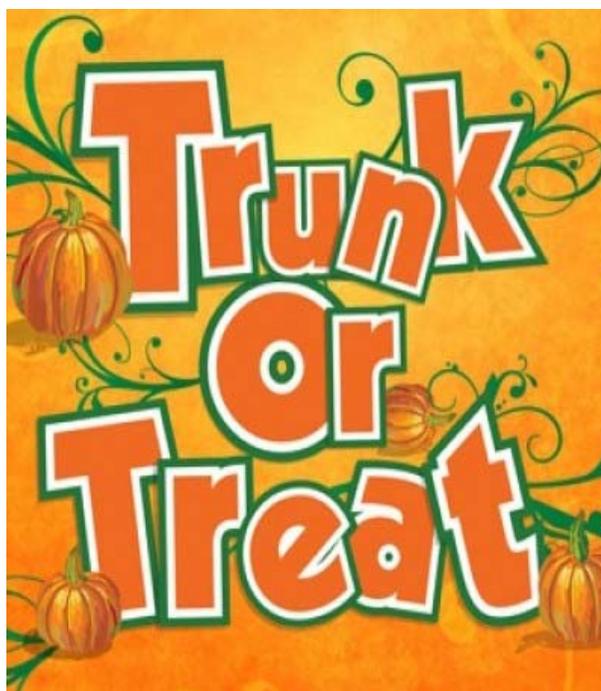


Christian Challenger

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No. 22





Youth Ministry News!

by Josh deSteiguer

Keeping up With the Youth of FCC

We are in the middle of a busy and exciting fall season for our Youth Group. Be sure to stay tuned to the Ministry News on Mondays and the Church and CYF/Chi Rho Facebook pages for all of the fun outings and activities in which the youth will be participating. The youth will be going shopping to fill a couple of the Thanksgiving baskets on Sunday the 15th and I know it will be a great time!

As we go through the fall season I wanted to share with the church as a whole a little bit about what we are doing in terms of spiritual growth and development during our time together on Sundays and Wednesdays. On Sundays during the Sunday School hour as well as during our Sunday night youth meeting we are focusing on what we are calling "Back to Basics". We are using this time to study the landmark events found in Scripture as well as looking for the narrative story of God's love and desire for a relationship with humanity found in every part of the Bible. Our goal with this is to help the youth attain a solid foundation and working knowledge of the nuts and bolts, if you will, of God's word. This "Back to Basics" set of lessons is crucial as everything we will learn going forward as a youth group will be built on this foundation. Thus far we have explored the creation story, the flood, Abraham's call, and are working our way through Moses. I am really excited to see the youth taking an active role in growing their faith and diving deeper into the Scripture.

On Wednesday nights, we are focusing on how our faith effects our day-to-day lives through exploring topics such as prayer, grace, and the role our faith plays in making tough decisions. The youth are doing a great job of engaging these topics and asking some really good questions that keep me on my toes!

As always if you have any questions about what's going on with the youth here at FCC please feel free to reach out to me any time!



Children's Ministry News!

by Claire Baer

As we move into a season of transition and change, it is so easy to get wrapped up in the craziness of holidays and events that we forget to take time to reflect on what this season calls for: Thankfulness. Taking time for reflection is so important in our spiritual lives, and is something that we should be helping foster in our children as they grow in their faith. Over the next month we will focus on what it means to be thankful and to have a grateful heart. Everyday we are bombarded with blessings that can be overlooked. By nature I think that we tend to only focus on the large blessings in our lives, but in reality there is so much more to be thankful for. Through the lessons that we work through and the topics we discuss, I hope to help open your children's eyes to all of the things that we can praise and thank God for.

Children learn by observation and imitation. The best way to teach our children what it means to have a grateful heart is to show them that we ourselves are grateful. Not only can conversations about gratitude take place in Sunday school and church events, but also it can be a great form of reflection at home. Look at the book of Psalms at home and find hymns of praise and thanksgiving. Discuss what it means to be grateful in all seasons of life and share with your child what you are grateful for. You can also make gratitude tangible. Find a jar at home and each day sit with your child and write down something that made you happy that day. At the end of the month go back and look at all of things that you had to be thankful for that month. Thankfulness can be shown in our prayers and in our actions. As we go through this season of Thanksgiving, the focus of our children's ministry is going to be on how to thank God through prayer and worship, but also how to turn our thanks into actions that can bless those around us.



FCC MINISTRY NEWS AND CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



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.

Questions for the Search Committee may be directed to: pastorsearch@firstchristianwf.com or 940-704-2958.

The **Challenger** is biweekly, so NO Challenger next week! FCC Ministry News is sent by email every Monday.

This Sunday, November 5th, is **All Saints Sunday**, and the following members of First Christian who have passed away during the past year will be remembered: Patti Gose, Bill Anastopoulos, George Allison, George Stanley, Dr. Kurt Brown, Elrhea Williams, Ruth "Bert" Armstrong, Jimmie Shirley, Dr. Don Terry, Ewell Cason, Kathy Boren, Exie Nicholas and Terry Huff. If you know of anyone missing from this list, please call Susan in the church office, 692-2282.

Pantry Sunday for Interfaith Outreach Services will be this Sunday, November 5th. Items for collection will be cereal and evaporated or powdered milk. Interfaith and World Outreach appreciate your gifts to this project each month.

Prime Timers Luncheon will be this Sunday, November 5th, at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall.



This Sunday, November 5th!
Remember to set your clocks
back **ONE** hour Saturday night!

The November gathering of **ON HOLD**, our support group for caregivers of all kinds, will be **Tuesday, November 7th, at 2414/2416 Barbados from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm**. Just look for the ON HOLD sign out in front. This informal, come-and-go setting includes a light meal/refreshments and conversation aimed at support and encouragement. ON HOLD is a ministry to women and men who place their own lives "on hold" while they care for loved ones--grandchildren, aging parents, or anyone in between.

Christian Women's Fellowship: The November CWF Luncheon will be Monday, Nov. 13th, at 11:45 am in the

Fellowship Hall. The program will be Charles Campbell with the Museum of North Texas History. The devotional will be given by Renee Hoke and the service offering will go to the Museum of North Texas History. 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.

Group Meetings will be as follows: **Group 1** will meet on Monday, Nov. 20th, at 1:30 pm at Nancy Jolliff's home, 4811 Nursery. **Group 2** will meet on Wednesday, Nov. 15th, at 12:00 noon in Room 405. **Group 3** will meet on Monday, Nov. 20th, at 2:00 pm in Room 405.

November Ministry Meetings: will be as follows:
Tuesday, November 14th:

Education at 6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

Property at 6:00 pm, Rm 310

Outreach at 7:00 pm, Library

Worship at 7:00 pm, Rm 222

Sunday, November 19th:

Membership at 5:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, November 21st:

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

Stewardship at 6:00 pm, Rm 310

Tuesday, November 28th: **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, November 13th, 20th & 27th.

Thanksgiving Baskets! It is time to start assembling Thanksgiving baskets. Our goal this year is 100 baskets. Grocery bags to be filled are available for pick up in the church office or before/after worship services. Filled bags must be returned to the church by Wednesday, November 15th.

Member News:

♥**Hospitalized:** at the Gables is Ruth Beyer, at Health South Rehab is Gretchen Bridgman; at Windmill Rehab is Gayle Salazar. Released and back home are Jane Sterling, Diane Spiller.

♥Our sympathies are extended to Janie Huff & Lou Murdock and Families on learning of the death of Terry Huff on October 22nd. Services were held on October 26th in the Sanctuary.

♥We extend our condolences to Robert Hastings & Family on learning of the death of his father, Willie Hastings, on October 25th.

Persecuted Church Prayers This Week Are For: Pray that God will raise up church leaders to shepherd the growing number of believers in Iran.

FOR THE RECORD...

CGRM: (Tues., Oct. 24)	17	
The Neighborhood (Wed., Oct. 25)	41	
8:40 Worship . . . 31	10:45 Worship . . . 169	
Total Worship	241	
Sunday School	78	
Sunday Receipts Needed Per Week		\$15,815.66
Sunday Receipts for 10/29/17		\$7,991.00
Through Oct. 30: Income \$603,832.46		Expenses \$657,011.07

This Sunday:

8:40 & 10:45 Services:

"An Unlikely Saint"

Luke 10:25:37

Josh deSteiguer



GO & DO
THE SAME

LUKE 10:37

2018 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Sunday, November 5th

Joshua deSteiguer, Preaching

Sunday, November 12th

Rev. Renee Hoke, Preaching

Commitment Sunday, November 19th

Rev. Renee Hoke, Preaching

Thanksgiving Fellowship Luncheon @Noon

With fried chicken, baked chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, salad and dessert.

We hope you'll join us for a great meal
and fellowship!

PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATION TODAY!

PLEASE PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER THE 2018 GROW ONE CHALLENGE TO INCREASE YOUR ESTIMATE OF GIVING TO OUR CHURCH BY 1 - PERCENT OF YOUR ANNUAL INCOME.

Thank you!

JERRY JOHNSON'S STEWARDSHIP MOMENT FOR 10/29/2017

With Dr. Hartman's retirement, we are officially in a time of transition. And in any church time of transition, there's always a fear of lost progress – lost progress in ministry programs and lost progress in the gifts of time, talent and treasure. We've had "good giving" throughout this second decade of the 21st century, despite the economic roller-coaster we've been on. Over the last five consecutive years, your average annual pledge to our church has increased – from \$3300 in 2012 to \$4200 this year. Your stewardship ministry is concerned that we avoid a recurrence of what happened the last time we transitioned senior ministers - in the late 90's, between Kipp Wolfe and Dave Hartman – estimates-of-giving declined 20% over two years.

Your good-giving habit has allowed our ministries to continue to grow and now has provided for the addition of our two new youth ministers – Claire and Josh help us "BE PREPARED" for the future. A wise man once said – "IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME" – and we're building the ministries that will help us attract our next great senior minister. These two children's and youth ministry leaders are what makes this transition so much different from the previous ones. This time, we're not asking a retired guy to simply maintain our ministry. This time, we've got a team planning programming for the present and the future, and we're "ALL-IN" when it comes to planting the seeds of faith in young lives.

Renee is our intentional interim...she's our "Moses or Mos-ette" leading us from Dave to tomorrow. She will provide us an awesome transition. Right now, we don't yet know the time-table for finding our next senior minister, but with your help, we're talking to God about that time-table daily. Working together, we can all help to take our message to the world. In fact, I propose a good cheer to carry us thru this time of transition – I'll say "WE ARE" – and you answer "FCC".

Here's the game plan for this year's stewardship campaign – each Sunday between now and Commitment Sunday on November 19th, we'll bring you a memorable stewardship moment at this same time in the service and they'll be reprinted each week in the Challenger for you to study like calculus. Along the way, Renee's sermons will add to our inspiration to support our church's many ministries. On November the 9th, you'll receive your 2018 estimate-of-giving card in the mail, and we ask that you give prayerful consideration to your ability to contribute your time, talent and treasure to support the ministries of our church before you return that card to the church. Don't forget to make your Commitment Sunday lunch reservations for November 19th, and we'll gather together that Sunday after church to celebrate our success.

As usual – in advance, thank you for your support, and remember –

WE ARE, FCC!!!

FCC MINISTRY NEWS AND CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

CWF Christmas Brunch & Bake Sale

The thirteenth biannual CWF Christmas Brunch and Bake Sale will be held on December 11th. The doors will open for the bake sale at 10:30 and the delicious brunch will be served at 11:30. Rev. Alice Hupp of Park Place Christian Church will provide the program. The bake sale will be filled with delectable home baked items from church members. Tickets may be purchased from CWF members or through the church office. The cost is \$10.00 and seating is limited. Tables of eight may be reserved for persons buying a block of eight tickets.

Proceeds from this fundraiser will be divided between our community and church projects. Please mark your calendars and invite your friends to join us for this festive holiday event!

Thanksgiving Baskets

Again this year we are collecting the ingredients for a turkey dinner with all of the trimmings. Our goal this year is 100 baskets. Pick up a bag and shopping list in the church office or before/after worship services. Return the bag filled with food items to Room 310 (Discovery Classroom) no later than Wednesday, November 15. We will add a turkey and roasting pan, and will have everything ready for delivery on Saturday morning, November 18.

If you can help deliver Thanksgiving baskets, sign up now by calling the church office, or Polly Tonemah at 224-8132. Arrive at the church at 9:45 am on Saturday, November 18. We will provide a delivery route, and a delivery partner if you do not have one. Plan to spend an hour on deliveries, and to be richly blessed.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

SIGN UP EARLY to be a delivery volunteer by calling the church office, or Polly Tonemah at 224-8132.

- Now: Pick up your bag and shopping list, and start filling it with the listed items
- Wednesday, November 15: Deadline for returning filled baskets
- Friday, November 17 at 3pm: Assemble baskets in Room 310
- Saturday, November 18: Meet at 9:45 in Fellowship Hall to deliver Thanksgiving Baskets.

Compassion

There are so many reasons to celebrate the generosity of our congregation. Here's one:

The church budget for Special Day Offerings represents a guess on the part of the Outreach Ministry as to how much members will give to the six annual offerings. This year the estimate was \$8,000. The 2017 year-to-date giving has already exceeded that number; we have collected \$9,067 already and there are still the Thanksgiving and Christmas offerings left this year. The reason is that after Hurricane Harvey hit Houston, gifts totaled \$4,529 to assist folks there through Week of Compassion. There were many ways to give to hurricane relief, and this is only one. But your response is a mark of having heard Jesus' message of compassion and responding generously.

New on the Library Shelves. . .

These new titles have been recently added to our library collection!

Idioms In The Bible Explained and A Key To The Original Gospels by George M. Lamsa

World renowned Bible translator and commentator George M. Lamsa explains nearly one thousand crucial idioms that will enrich reading of the Old and New Testaments for students and general readers alike.

Lamsa, who was raised speaking Aramaic in a community that followed customs largely unchanged since the time of Christ, offers fresh, accurate translations of important idioms metaphors, and figures of speech found in scripture and provides clear explanations of their meaning in the biblical context.

The First Christmas - What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Birth by Marcus J. Borg

In The First Christmas, two of today's top Jesus scholars, Marcus J., Borg and John Dominic Crossan, join forces to show how history has biased our reading of the nativity story as it appears in the gospels of Matthew and Luke. They help us to see this well-known narrative afresh by answering the question, "What do these stories mean?" in the context of the first century and the twenty-first century. They successfully show that the Christmas story, read in it's original context, is far richer and more challenging than people imagine.

See Me by Nicholas Sparks

Colin and Maria, the main characters in Nicholas Sparks new novel, encounter each other on a rain swept road and the course of their lives are altered. Unexpectedly, love take hold between them and they dare to envision what their life together would be. Rich in emotion and fueled with suspense, See Me reminds us that love is sometimes forged in the crises that threaten to shatter us and that those who see us for who we truly are, are not always the ones easiest to recognize.

1. Jesus As They Saw Him by William Barclay
2. Jesus For Children by William Griffin
3. Paul: An Illustrated Documentary by Paul Drane
4. Praying With Body and Soul by Jane E. Vennard
5. Picturing the Bible – The Earliest Christian Art
6. Dead Sea Scrolls and the Bible by Gary Loveless

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

Our Website

Be sure to check our website for information on events and resources offered by First Christian Church! The more the website is visited the more popular the site becomes on the search engines allowing for individuals to find the site easier! Let's make our church one that is easily located both in the community and on the web!

<http://www.firstchristianwf.com/>



Wish These Friends a
"Happy Birthday!"

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1 Tim Irons | 10 Paul Gill
Bruce Harris
Tom Pettibon | 23 Tyler Koch
Amanda Opela
Polly Tonemah |
| 2 Bettye Beavers
Colleen James
Tres Ward | 11 Debi Ballard | 25 Billy Bumgarner
Peggy Fitts
Frances Williams |
| 3 Emily Ramirez
Katie Tonemah | 12 Andy Jennings
Nancy Newsom
Candice Salas
Matthew Sartin
Glenda Tate | 26 Everett Berry
Jude Berry
Connie Cannedy
Taylor Showalter
Janice Tull |
| 4 Todd Berry | 13 Mike Spiller Jr. | 27 Jon Hartman |
| 5 Shelly Dalton
John Ferguson
Kathryn Ferguson | 14 David Gately
Mark Turnbow | 28 Ainslee Buckley |
| 6 Miriam Hardie
Lynda Lee | 15 Caitlin Hartman | 29 Patt Giddings |
| 7 Catherine Earley
Allen Hooper
Sharon Roach
Bill Tanner | 17 Marc Cannedy
Shanen Jarmakovitz | 30 Jerry Caraway
Larry Spradley |
| 8 Tate Conrady
Jonathan Opie
Mike Street | 22 Sheila Barrett
Joan Mapes
Charlotte Shepherd | |

& ANNIVERSARIES

- 8 Leann & Doug Elder
- 11 Nancy & Ted Smith Jr.
- 14 Charlotte & Barnett McNeely
- 15 Kate & Andy Jennings
- 18 Diana & Doug Collins
Shirley & Mike Wilson



If we are missing your birthday or anniversary, please help us complete our records by calling the church office, 692-2282. We want to include all our members on this list!

OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, November 5, 2017

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY / STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN /
PANTRY SUNDAY / DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS
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)
3:45 Chancel Ringers (High School-Adults) (Stratten Hall)
5:00 Nominating Committee Meeting (Rm 310)
5:00 Grow in Grace Choir (Grades K-5) (Stratten Hall)
5:00 Chi Rho (Grades 6-8) & CYF (Grades 9-12) (Youth Rm/Gym)
5:45 Young Disciples (Grades K-5) (Rm 402)

Monday, November 6, 2017

7:30-6:00 Children Come First (M-F)
9:00-12:00 Young Ages School (M-F)
10:15 FCC Staff Meeting (Rm 222)
6:30 Sr. Minister Search Committee Meeting (Rm 405)
7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, November 7, 2017

11:00 Whirlwind Cluster Ministers' Mtg (FCC-Iowa Park)
11:30-1:30 "On Hold" Caregivers Support Group (2414/2416 Barbados)
2:00 Library Committee (Library)
6:00 Common Ground Recovery Ministries Support Groups:
Substance Abuse (Rm 304) Parenting (Rm 305 & 306)
Rebuilding from Broken Relationships (Rm 307)
Women's C.A.R.E. (Rm 308) Anger Management (Rm 309)

6:45 CGRM Meal (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Rm 405/Chapel)
5:30 The Neighborhood Meal (Fellowship Hall)
6:00-7:00 The Neighborhood Worship (Fellowship Hall)
6:30-7:00 Young Disciples (Grades K-5) (Rm 405)
7:00-8:00 Youth Activities (Grades 6-12) (Youth Room/Gym)
7:00 Chancel Choir (High School-Adults) (Stratten Hall)

Friday, November 10, 2017

Leave for CYF Fall Retreat (Nov. 10-12) (Athens TX)

Sunday, November 12, 2017

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN / BLESSING OF THE COATS

8:40 Worship (Chapel)
9:30 Sunday School
9:45 Journey Through Scripture (Parlor)
10:45 Worship (Fellowship Hall)
3:45 Chancel Ringers (Stratten Hall)

Monday, November 13, 2017

Sort & Deliver Coats (M-F)
7:30-6:00 Children Come First (M-F)
9:00-12:00 Young Ages School (M-F)
10:15 FCC Staff Meeting (Rm 222)
10:30 CWF Board Meeting (Rm 310)
11:45 CWF Luncheon (Fellowship Hall)
6:30 Sr. Minister Search Committee Meeting (Rm 405)
7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, November 14, 2017

2:00 Library Committee (Library)
6:00 Education Ministry Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
6:00 Property Ministry Meeting (Rm 310)
6:00 Common Ground Recovery Ministries Support Groups:
Substance Abuse (Rm 304) Parenting (Rm 305 & 306)
Rebuilding from Broken Relationships (Rm 307)
Women's C.A.R.E. (Rm 308) Anger Management (Rm 309)

7:00 World Outreach Ministry Meeting (Library)

7:00 Worship Ministry Meeting (Rm 222)

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Rm 405/Chapel)
12:00 CWF Group 2 (Rm 405)
5:30 The Neighborhood Meal (Fellowship Hall)
6:00-7:00 The Neighborhood Worship (Fellowship Hall)
6:30-7:00 Young Disciples (Grades K-5) (Rm 405)
7:00-8:00 Youth Activities (Grades 6-12) (Youth Room/Gym)
7:00 Chancel Choir (High School-Adults) (Stratten Hall)

Thursday, November 16, 2017

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

SERVING SUNDAY ELDERS

11/5: Kenn Hill, Eddie Tucker; Robert Hernandez, Presiding
11/12: Cheryl Smiley, Debbi Schmidt; Craig Reynolds, Presiding

DIACONATE COMMUNION VISITATION

11/5: Shirley Craft, Weldon Roberts
11/12: Dave Brummett, Philip Dudenhoeffer

DIACONATE COMMUNION PREPARATION

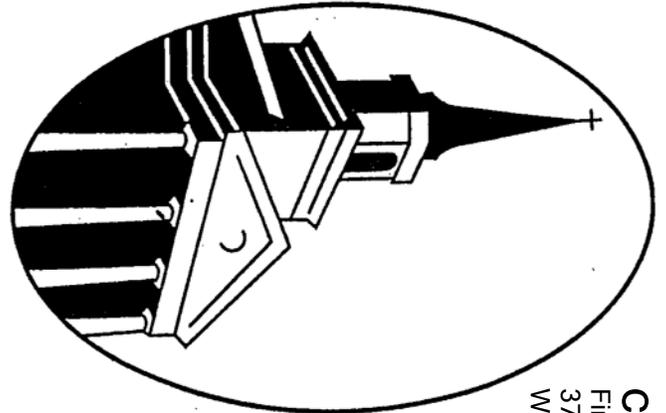
11/5: Claudine Farrell & Twila Boydston
11/12: Norma Hill & Weldon Roberts

NOVEMBER DIACONATE SERVERS

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

THE CHURCH STAFF...

Church Number	940-692-2282	FAX Number	940-696-3085
Web Page:	www.firstchristianwf.com	Church e-mail:	susan@firstchristianwf.com
Rev. Renee Hoke, Acting Senior Minister	692-2282		
Cheryl Appling, Business Administrator	691-7265		
Jeanette Showalter, Director of Music Ministries	763-8515		
Claire Baer, Director of Children's Ministries	692-2282		
Josh deSteiguer, Director of Youth Ministries	692-2282		
Heather Dickerson, Director of Children Come First	687-2231		
Alisa Gardner, 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	



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