



Christian Challenger

Vol. 65

January 17, 2018

No. 2



JOIN THE CHANCEL CHOIR SATURDAY NIGHT FOR DINNER AND A SALUTE TO BROADWAY

Our next choir robe fundraiser is this Saturday night, January 20, at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for a delicious meal of chicken a l'orange, grilled vegetables, salad, dessert and drinks, served up with some musical entertainment straight from Broadway. Tickets are \$20 and available now in the church office or from choir members. Please purchase your ticket in advance to help with meal planning. Donations are also welcome!



YOUNG DISCIPLES TRIP TO URBAN AIR!

On January 28, the Young Disciples group will be going to Urban Air from 6:00-7:30PM. We will meet at the church at 5:45 outside of the choir room and take the church vans over to the trampoline park. We will do pick up at Urban Air. Each child is asked to bring \$10 to help cover the cost of entrance, and any child who is in Kindergarten or younger will need to have an adult present with them. Prior to the event, please go online to www.urbanairtrampolinepark.com to fill out a waiver. Please make sure that you fill out a church liability form as well! This outing is going to be so much fun and is the perfect event to invite a friend to!

Laity Sunday



NOT YOUR USUAL LAITY SUNDAY JAN. 28

Children and youth lead us in worship on January 28. What a blessing to receive God's word for us through the youngest members of our church family. After a high-energy worship experience, we'll make our way to Fellowship Hall for lunch and a special media presentation.



YOUTH SUPER BOWL PARTY

Howdy, First Christian Church Sports Fans! The youth group will be having a Super Bowl watching party on Sunday, February 4th, here at the Church. We will meet at 5:00 and wrap up around 9:00 after the game. Youth should bring a snack to share and also be sure to bring friends! No matter who you're rooting for, this will be a super fun party that you won't want to miss! Call or text Josh, 817-565-0446, if you have any questions.



Congregations have never been more important. In a mobile and fragmented world they are a spiritual home, a gathering place where caring, trusting relationships are built and nurtured. In a world where outsiders' voices are often kept silent, congregations invite those voices to speak. In a world of great need, congregations provide support and comfort, food and shelter, training and advocacy. In a world that seeks moral and spiritual guidance but has no clear tradition to guide it, congregations preserve and renew traditions, calling their members and communities to accountability and vision. Although doomsayers of a generation ago may have thought congregations were islands of complacency or dinosaurs on their way to extinction, it is clear the obituaries were premature.

From *Congregations in Transition* by Carl Dudley and Nancy Ammerman

MAKING THE MOST OF A SEASON OF TRANSITION AT FCC

Last Thursday night the leadership team for First Christian Church gathered for our 2018 Leadership Dinner. It's the third year for this event, which welcomes and trains incoming leaders while focusing the entire team on the state of the church as a new year dawns. Since this is a season of transition in our ministry, we talked about what that means.

Over three years as area minister, I worked exclusively with congregations who were in-between senior ministers. Here's what I observed:

- Pastoral transitions offer a unique opportunity for lay leaders to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the congregation. Churches with congregational polity (churches like ours who call their own pastors and make their own decisions) tend to reflect the personality and priorities of the pastor while that pastor is in place. But every congregation has its own personality and capabilities that transcend the person occupying the senior minister suite at any given time.
- Once we've got a handle on current strengths and weaknesses, transitions offer a time to work on the trouble spots before the next senior minister preaches his/her inaugural sermon.

- Transitions can be a great time to take a ministry idea out for a test drive. You might think of the church-in-transition as a greenhouse for planting new seeds and evaluating the results.
- Some church members who've been taking a rest from active ministry get off the sidelines and back into the game during transitions. I talked to a new elder in the hallway Sunday who told me that when the call came from the Nominating Committee, the first thought was: "If my church needs me at a time like this, of course I'll say yes."

The conversation these days at our Executive Council meetings is animated as we lean into the transition and try to be good stewards of this special season. But it will take more than the leadership team to reach our full potential in 2018. Can we put you to work? Will you help us turn a ministry idea into action? If so, let us hear from you.

With prayers and great expectations for the journey ahead,

Renee




Eighteen senior ministers have served First Christian Church since Rev. John W. Holsapple arrived in 1891. The congregation transcends them all and reflects its own unique personality full of gifts and graces.

FCC MINISTRY NEWS AND CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Search Committee will be submitting names of prospective candidates to be considered for our next Senior Minister to our Area Minister of Connection soon. Please submit names of candidates you want to be included by emailing them to spillersearch@gmail.com or turning them in to the church office by Sunday, January 28th. We appreciate your assistance!



A NOTE FROM THE STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

Thank you for your loving gifts to the church, gifts of time and talent and offerings. We trust that we will together, as the Body of Christ, provide for our church in the year to come. If you have not turned in your Estimate of Giving for 2018, we hope you will prayerfully consider doing so soon. Each commitment enables us to be faithful stewards when planning our church's budget for 2018. Thank you for your generosity and may God richly bless you and your loved ones.

ESTIMATES OF GIVING AS OF MONDAY, JAN. 15
142 Commitments = \$655,411.00.00

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

January Ministry Meetings: will be as follows:
Sunday, January 21st: **Membership** at 5:00 pm, Rm 310
Tuesday, January 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, January 22nd.

Open Flower Dates: If you would like to donate the flowers for the worship service in the Sanctuary, the following dates are open: **Jan. 21 & 28**. Call Sherry Tucker, Flower Coordinator, 696-2490, to donate.

Library Book Sale this Sunday, January 21, 9:30 - 10:45 am. Many of the books are from Dave Hartman's library. Donations appreciated and will be added to our Library Funds.

Learning to Walk in the Dark Lenten Bible Study: A *New York Times* bestseller, *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, by Barbara Brown Taylor, takes us on a journey to understand darkness. We will follow Taylor as she spelunks in unlit caves, learns to eat and cross the street as a blind person, discovers from a psychiatrist how "dark emotions" are prevented from seeing light, and rereads scripture to see all the times that God shows up at night. With her characteristic charm and wisdom, Taylor is our guide through a spirituality of the nighttime, teaching us how to find God even in darkness and giving us a way to let darkness teach what we need to know.

Barbara Brown Taylor is the author of thirteen books and is the Butman Professor of Religion at Piedmont College, where she has taught since 1998.

Join Sheri Sutton as she leads this study beginning Wednesday, February 14 in room 310 at 10:30a.m. Call the church office at 692-2282 to register. Books are available for \$10. **Please read the Introduction and Chapter 1 before the first session.**

Deanna & Sam Watson to host News & Testament on Sunday, January 28:
FCC member Deanna Watson knows a thing or two about current events. We're thrilled that she's leading our monthly News & Testament (formerly FACE Time) conversation, on Sunday, January 28, joined by her husband, Sam Watson, Dean of the



College of the Humanities and Social Sciences at MSU. We'll explore what's making headlines in our world and then consider our faithful response as followers of Jesus. Join us at 5 pm in the Church Parlor.

Tea at Two on Tuesdays! Claudine Farrell & Renee Hoke host a gathering for women on Tuesday afternoons on the last Tuesday of the month. Bring your favorite tea cup and join us on Tuesday, January 30th, at 2 pm in the Church Parlor. There will be hot tea, tasty treats, and great conversation. Everyone is welcome—bring a friend or neighbor!

Member News:

♥**Hospitalized:** at Hospice is Ralph Armstrong; at the Gables is Ann Cocke & Phyllis Lewis. Released & back home are Ruth Beyer, Colleen James & Margaret Scales.

Persecuted Church Prayers This Week: Pray for churches in Colombia in the "red zones," especially those that have been closed by rebel groups.

From the Mailbox. . .

First Christian Church,

Thank you so much for thinking of our sweet students & their families during this holiday season! The Thanksgiving baskets are a true blessing. I appreciate the time, energy & resources that went to the baskets! Thanks again!

Jennifer Nash
Zundy Counselor

Dear Coats for Kids:

Thank you so much for the wonderful, warm, coat you provided my grandson at Fain Elementary. He was so proud of it. You provide a great service in our community. God bless you for all you do.

Best Wishes and Prayers
Marlene H.

Thank You! Thank you so very much for the lovely jacket. Isabella surely loves it. She couldn't wait to wear it. She says it's so soft and she loves all things purple. Bella lives with me. I'm her great-grandma. We live on S.S. and this mean's so much. God Bless You EVERYONE.

Helen W.

Thank you for the coats!

Cade, Brayan, Analisa, Kevin, Skyler, Isela, Pandora, Zumon, Isaiah, Analeah, Karma, Amara, Morgan
(These were some of the happy recipients from Southern Hills Elementary)

FOR THE RECORD. . .

CGRM: (Tues., Jan. 9).	21	
The Neighborhood (Wed., Jan. 10).	40	
8:40 Worship. . . 36	10:45 Worship. . . 172	
Total Worship.		248
Sunday School	108	
Sunday Receipts Needed Per Week		\$15,815.66
Sunday Receipts for 1/14/18		\$38,319.00
Through Jan. 15: Income \$56,994.00		Expenses \$28,587.90

This Sunday:

8:40 & 10:45 Services:

"Called to Cast a Wide Net"

Mark 1:14-20

Rev. Renee Hoke

2018 Volunteer Service on a Ministry of the Church

Each member of the congregation is encouraged to participate on one or more of the Functional Ministries in the life of our church. We will give you "training on the job", prior experience is not required. Just check below the Ministry(ies) on which you would like to serve. Then place this completed form in the offering plate or return it to the church office as soon as possible.

If you plan to stay on the same Ministry as you served on in 2017, please still fill out this form and return it, otherwise you may be removed from the 2018 Ministry listing. THANK YOU!!!

REMINDER: CHURCH BOARD MEMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO SERVE ON A MINISTRY AND IF A FORM IS NOT RECEIVED THEY WILL BE DRAFTED TO A MINISTRY.

() **EDUCATION** – Carly Westbrook, Chair - Responsible for the total education program and related ministries.

() **EVANGELISM** – Shirley Craft, Chair - Responsible for direction of the church growth ministry of the church.

() **MEMBERSHIP** – Susan Buckley & Alice Gordon, Co-Chairs - Plans meaningful opportunities for the total congregation with special attention to special need groups. Responsible for membership assimilation and cultivation. Responsible for planning, organizing and serving on pastoral care teams for membership. Plans recreation, dinners & other fellowship opportunities.

() **PROPERTY** – Rick Appling, Chair - Responsible for supervision of church maintenance and related areas.

() **STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE** – Jerry Johnson & Eddie Tucker, Co-Chairs - Responsible for stewardship education and management of church funds.

() **WORLD OUTREACH** – Ann Hunter, Chair - Responsible for education and promotion of local and worldwide outreach ministries.

() **WORSHIP** – Cheryl Smiley, Chair - Responsible for worship, music and drama.

NAME _____

HOME ADDRESS _____ ZIP CODE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

PHONE: (Home) _____ (Cell) _____

(Work) _____ (Fax) _____

OPPORTUNITIES

Saturday, January 20, 2018

6:30 Choir Robe Fundraiser Dinner (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, January 21, 2018

8:40 Worship (Chapel)

9:30 Sunday School / 9:45 Journey Through Scripture (Parlor)

10:45 Worship & Installation of Elders (Sanctuary)

3:45 Chancel Ringers (High School-Adults) (Stratten Hall)

5:00 Membership Ministry Meeting (Rm 310)

5:00 Grow in Grace Choir (Grades K-5) (Stratten Hall)

5:00 Chi Rho & CYF (Grades 6-12) (Rm 403/Gym)

5:45 Young Disciples (Grades K-5) (Rm 402)

6:30 "Faith & Doubt" Bible Study (2308 Ellingham)

Monday, January 22, 2018

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 310)

7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, January 23, 2018

2:00 Library Committee (Library)

6:00 Executive Council 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)

Wednesday, January 24, 2018

7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Rm 405/Chapel)

5:30 The Neighborhood Meal (Fellowship Hall)

6:00-7:00 The Neighborhood Worship (Fellowship Hall)

7:00-8:00 Youth Activities (Grades 6-12) (Youth Room/Gym)

7:00 Chancel Choir (High School-Adults) (Stratten Hall)

Saturday, January 27, 2018

9:30 Feed My Flock Cooking (Kitchen)

Sunday, January 28, 2018

LAITY SUNDAY

8:40 Worship (Chapel)

9:30 Sunday School / 9:45 Journey Through Scripture (Parlor)

10:45 Worship (Sanctuary)

Installation of Deacons & Life-Term Elders

12:00 Feed My Flock Fellowship Luncheon (Fellowship Hall)

3:45 Chancel Ringers (Stratten Hall)

5:00 News & Testament (Parlor)

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)

6:00 Young Disciples Trip to Urban Air (Grades K-5)

6:30 "Faith & Doubt" Bible Study (2308 Ellingham)

Monday, January 29, 2018

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 310)

7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

2:00 Tea at Two (Parlor)

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)

Wednesday, January 31, 2018

7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Rm 405/Chapel)

5:30 The Neighborhood Meal (Fellowship Hall)

6:00-7:00 The Neighborhood Worship (Fellowship Hall)

7:00-8:00 Youth Activities (Grades 6-12) (Youth Room/Gym)

7:00 Chancel Choir (High School-Adults) (Stratten Hall)

Thursday, February 1, 2018

1:30 Knit Wits (Parlor)

SERVING SUNDAY

ELDERS

1/21: Debbi Schmidt, Rick Appling; Craig Reynolds, Presiding

1/28: Cal Edgemon, David Collins; Cheryl Smiley, Presiding

DIACONATE COMMUNION VISITATION

1/21: Francine Carraro, Bobby Dean, Eric Hartman

1/28: Norma Hill, Mac Reid, Kim Ballard

DIACONATE COMMUNION PREPARATION

1/21: Kim Ballard & Nancy Smith

1/28: Liz, Emily & Tyler Thomas

JANUARY DIACONATE SERVERS

Andrew & Elise Allen, Bob & Mary Carlton, Sheila Reynolds, Diane Spiller, Francine Carraro, Bobby Dean, Eric Hartman, Norma Hill, Mac Reid, Kim Ballard, Hollie Murphey, Nancy Smith, Curtis Sullivan, Liz Thomas, Emily Thomas & Tyler Thomas..

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

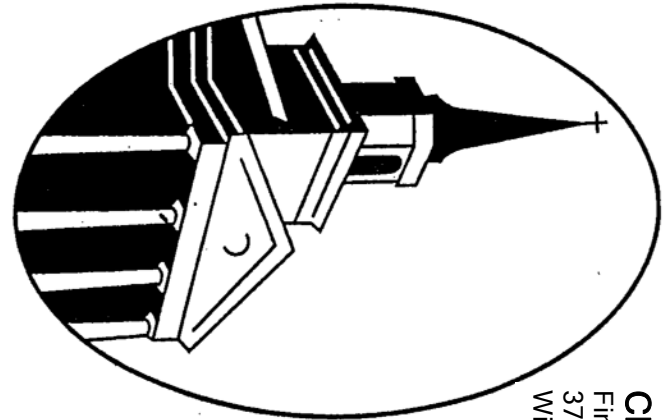
Heather Dickerson, Director of Children Come First 687-2231

Alisa Gardner, Director of Young Ages School 692-3640

Jessica Gallant, Common Ground Recovery Ministries

Susan Marrs, Executive Secretary Tina Williams, Financial Secretary

Ann Hunter, Receptionist Debbie Watson, Organist



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