

OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, February 18, 2018

WEEK OF COMPASSION OFFERING

- 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 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, February 19, 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)
- 1:30 CWF Group 1 (2911 Neta Ln)
- 2:00 CWF Group 3 (Rm 405)
- 4:30-7:30 CCF Training (Rm 306)
- 6:30 Sr. Minister Search Committee Meeting (Rm 310)
- 7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, February 20, 2018

- 2:00 Library Committee (Library)
- 6:00 Stewardship 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 Education Ministry Meeting (Rm 405)

Wednesday, February 21, 2018

- 7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Rm 405/Chapel)
- 10:30 Lenten Bible Study (Rm 310)
- 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 22, 2018

- 6:30 CMF Ladies' Night Dinner (Fellowship Hall)

Saturday, February 24, 2018

- 9:00-5:00 Baptism Preparation Retreat

Sunday, February 25, 2018

WEEK OF COMPASSION OFFERING

- 8:40 Worship (Chapel)
- 9:30 Sunday School / 9:45 Journey Through Scripture (Parlor)
- 10:45 Worship (Sanctuary)
- 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 (Grades K-5) (Rm 402)
- 6:30 "Faith & Doubt" Bible Study (2308 Ellingham)

Monday, February 26, 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, February 27, 2018

- 2:00 Tea at Two (Parlor)
- 2:00 Library Committee (Library)
- 6:00 Young Ages School Open House & Bake Sale
- 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, February 28, 2018

- 7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Rm 405/Chapel)
- 10:30 Lenten Bible Study (Rm 310)
- 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, March 1, 2018

- 1:30 Knit Wits (Parlor)

SERVING SUNDAY ELDERS

- 2/18: Emily Wilson, Ann Hunter; Dwight Ross III, Presiding
- 2/25: Rick Appling, Craig Reynolds; Debbi Schmidt, Presiding

DIACONATE COMMUNION VISITATION

- 2/18: Debbie Turnbow, Diane Spiller, Mark Turnbow
- 2/25: Weldon Roberts, David Wyatt, Debi & Larry Wilson

DIACONATE COMMUNION PREPARATION

- 2/18: Hannah Earley & Sandra Ross
- 2/25: Kris Gossom & Sherry Martin

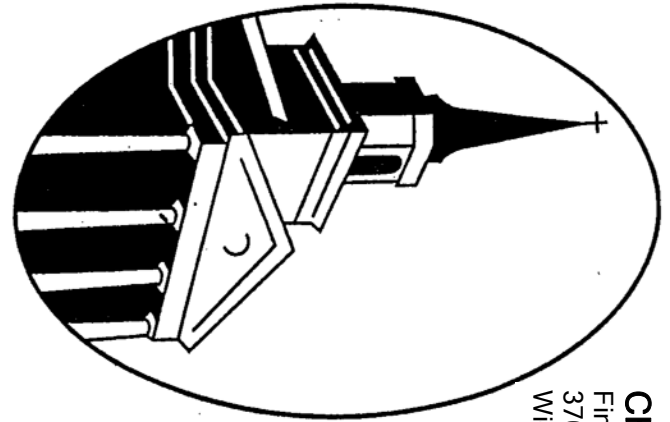
FEBRUARY DIACONATE SERVERS

Sandra Ross & Sherry Martin, Co-Captains

Lee Bybee, Jon Hartman, Sharon Roach, Debbie & Mark Turnbow, Sarah Cook, Weldon Roberts, Sally Wilson, David Wyatt, Debi & Larry Ballard, Alan Freeman, Kris Gossom, Ann Kable, Hannah Earley, Hannah Ward.

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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Journey through Lent



FIVE THINGS GOD USES TO GROW YOUR FAITH

"If you pay close attention while hearing the Bible taught or reading it for yourself, you'll often sense God saying the same thing: *Trust me*. That's not to say the Bible's message is shallow and simplistic. Rather, in the various ways of responding appropriately and obediently to God, the most important thing God asks is that you trust him. Doing so may not seem to require a lot of faith when things are going well. But when life turns messy, is your faith leading you to depend on God?"—Andy Stanley

Every Wednesday night during Lent we'll explore *Five Things God Uses to Grow Your Faith* by Andy Stanley. Once we learn to trust in God, God reaches out to us through practical teaching, providential relationships, private disciplines, personal ministry and pivotal circumstances to grow our faith. Join us Wednesdays at 6pm in Fellowship Hall for this Lenten study led by Renee Hoke. Come early for supper at 5:30 pm.

BAPTISM PREPARATION RETREAT

Saturday, February 24
9:00 am – 5:00 pm
See page 3 for details.

LEARNING TO WALK IN THE DARK A Lenten Bible Study

Based on the bestseller by Barbara Brown Taylor
Wednesdays, starting February 14
10:30 am, Room 310, Led by Sheri Sutton
Books are available for \$10.

It is well known that Christ consistently used the expression "follower." He never asks for admirers, worshippers or adherents. No, he calls disciples. It is not adherents of a teaching but followers of a life that Christ is looking for.

Christ understood that being a "disciple" was in innermost and deepest harmony with what he said about himself. Christ claimed to be the way and the truth and the life. For this reason, he could never be satisfied with adherents who accepted his teaching—especially with those who in their lives ignored it or let things take their usual course. His whole life on earth, from beginning to end, was destined solely to have followers and to make admirers impossible.

--Soren Kierkegaard

ON BECOMING FULLY DEVOTED FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST

The 40 days of Lent invite us to take an inventory of our faith journey. How are we living out our identity as followers of Jesus? What old habits need to be eliminated? What new practices will strengthen our faith and bless our lives?

Lent is an invitation to spiritual transformation. According to Paul, "if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" (II Corinthians 5:17)

Consider this checklist for your own walk with God. Spiritual transformation:

- is essential, not optional, for Christ-followers.
- is a process, not an event.
- is God's work, but requires my participation.
- involves those practices, experiences and relationships that help me live intimately with Christ and walk as if he were in my place.
- is not a compartmentalized pursuit. God is not interested in my spiritual life; he's interested in my *life*—all of it.
- can happen in every moment. It is not restricted to certain times or practices.
- is not individualistic, but takes place in community and finds expression in serving others.
- is not impeded by a person's background, temperament, life situation, or season of life. It is available right now to all who desire it.
- and the means of pursuing it will vary from one individual to another. Fully devoted followers are handcrafted, not mass-produced.
- is ultimately gauged by an increased capacity to love God and people. Superficial or external checklists cannot measure it.



CMF – BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY UPDATE

by Mark Turnbow & Jerry Johnson

Eighteen hungry men got together at The Highway Café last Thursday morning to plan the future of the new Christian Men's Fellowship Breakfast Bible Study. Right now, we're finalizing plans for the FCC Ladies Night Dinner on Thursday night, February 22nd, where there will be musical entertainment, a steak/chicken dinner with all the trimmings, lots of door prizes and a short devotional from Dr. Dave Hartman.

Going forward, the CMF-BBS will be fund-raising for the church's various needs and cooking for 5th Sunday and MSU student activities. Hope to see more hungry guys at our next Breakfast Bible Study back at the Highway Café on Jacksboro Hwy on Thursday morning, March 8th, at 6:30 am.



Christian Men's Fellowship **LADIES NIGHT DINNER**

Thursday, February 22, 6:30 pm

Come and enjoy an evening of local entertainment, door prizes for the ladies, presentation of the "Person of the Year" award and those delicious grilled steaks/chicken. The cost is \$10 per plate and single ladies will be the guests of CMF. Please stop by the church office and pick up your tickets or make your reservations in the attendance folders this Sunday or by calling the church office, 692-2282. Childcare will be available. Please RSVP by noon on Monday, February 19th.

Week of Compassion

After the hurricane, a year-long wait. Then another hurricane. Then, finally, the help Billy James Mason needed. A resident of Daytona Beach, Mason is no stranger to struggle. He served in the military during the Vietnam War, and he has been the primary caregiver for family members. Hurricane Matthew destroyed his roof in 2015. Less than a year later, Hurricane Irma further damaged his home. Though he received some assistance from FEMA and had some resources of his own, it was not enough to make the necessary repairs.

"The work was about more than just replacing a roof and

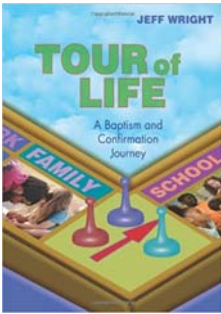
repairing storm damage." According to the project manager, Mr. Mason is "a changed man." Before volunteer crews came, he was depressed. But by Christmastime, he was happy, finishing up painting the interior of his house, and expecting a visit from a niece over the holidays. After the hurricane, came your generosity and hope. Through your gifts, Mason and hundreds like him have had their lives changed for the better. Through your gifts, God is doing More Than We Can Imagine! The next two Sundays we will collect Week of Compassion offerings.

FCC MINISTRY NEWS AND CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Search Committee has submitted our church's Congregational Profile, One Page Statement, Self-Study Summary, and List of Suggested Candidates for Senior Minister to our Area Minister of Connection. Our opening for Senior Minister has been posted in our Area, our Region, and in the General Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) listings. We are currently awaiting candidate profile packets for consideration. Please continue to pray for our committee and the candidates we interview as we search for our next Senior Minister.

Baptism Preparation: An Invitation



An important part of our journey through the holy season of Lent is the preparation of candidates for baptism. Whether you are 8 or 88, you are invited to become a candidate for baptism. This year we will be offering single day retreats for baptism candidates which replaces the Pastor's Class and includes Bible study, prayer, worship and time for individual reflection. Renee, Josh and Claire will lead the retreat with separate tracks for children, youth and adults.

The first Baptism Preparation Retreat is Saturday, February 24, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. If you're interested in preparing for baptism, please contact Renee, Josh or Claire or call the church office to sign up or for more information.



Electronic Giving is a convenient and secure way to provide consistent financial support to our church. You can now make contributions to First Christian Church anytime. Just look for the *GivePlus Church* app in the App Store or Google Play. You can quickly and easily donate using your debit/credit card or checking/savings account.

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

Christian Women's Fellowship Group Meetings

will be as follows: **Group 1** will meet on Monday, Feb. 19th, at 1:30 pm at Camille Brookshire's home, 4911 Neta Ln. **Group 2** will meet on Wednesday, Feb. 21st, at 12:00 noon in Room 405. **Group 3** will meet on Monday, Feb. 19th, at 2:00 pm in Room 405.

February Ministry Meetings:

will be as follows:
Thursday, February 15th: Evangelism at 5:30 pm, Rm 405
Sunday, February 18th: Membership at 5:00 pm, Rm 310
Tuesday, February 20th: Stewardship at 6:00 pm, Rm 310
Education at 7:00 pm, Rm 405
Tuesday, February 27th: 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, February 19th & 26th.

News & Testament on Sunday, February 25: Our monthly News & Testament (formerly FACE Time) conversation, will be on Sunday, February 25th, led by Deanna & Sam Watson. 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, February 27th, 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!

Young Ages Preschool Open House! Young Ages Preschool would like to cordially invite you to our "Once Upon A Time" Open House on Tuesday evening, February 27th, from 6:00-7:00 pm in the Young Ages classrooms.

Are you looking for a preschool for your child/grandchild? Would you like to see what we do? Please come, look around and celebrate our students' accomplishments. We are very proud of our preschool and we love to show off!

Our spring fundraiser to benefit our school will be a bake sale during the Open House and a raffle which will begin on Thursday, February 15th, with winners drawn on Wednesday, February 28th. The 23 raffle items will be posted around the church and put on the Young Ages Preschool Facebook page and a list is also available in the church office. You may purchase your raffle tickets from a YAS student, in the YAS office or in the church office.

2018-19 School Enrollment for FCC Church Members begins on February 27th.

Registration packets will be available at Open House. For more information, please call Alisa Gardner at the Young Ages office, 692-3640.

The **Time to Pray** team is looking to expand our group. If you are interested in joining us, or getting more information, please call Nancy Jolliff at 228-5735.

Member News:

♥ **Hospitalized:** at Windmill Rehab is Jimmie Stodghill; at the Gables is Ann Cocke & Phyllis Lewis.

♥ Our sympathies are extended to Maci Noel, Sandra Ketchum Whatley and Twila Boydston & Family on learning of the death of Maci's husband, Sandra's grandson-in-law and Twila's nephew-in-law, Jordon Noel, on February 8th. Services will be February 17th in East Texas.

FOR THE RECORD . . .

CGRM: (Tues., Feb. 6)	28
The Neighborhood (Wed., Feb. 7)	30
8:40 Worship	30
10:45 Worship	170
Total Worship	230
Sunday School	113
Sunday Receipts Needed Per Week	\$16,215.67
Sunday Receipts for 2/11/18	\$13,404.00
Through Feb. 12: Income \$121,791.66	Expenses \$86,197.10

This Sunday:

8:40 & 10:45 Services:

"Listen: Finding Your Cave—Listening Spaces"
 I Kings 19:11-12
 Rev. Renee Hoke