



Christian Challenger

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No. 8

Here We Grow!

MAKING THE MOST OF FCC SPECIAL EVENTS



Cruisin' For Christ Kick Off Car Show – April 21



Blessing of Animals – April 28

First Christian Church has set aside two Saturdays this month to demonstrate our gift of hospitality. On April 21 we will host the ninth annual Cruisin' for Christ Car Show, gathering in car enthusiasts from across Texas and beyond. The following Saturday we will welcome animal lovers in our community to our first annual (we hope) Blessing of the Animals.

Special events are one way that churches grow. We reach out through special interests to attract newcomers to our campus. Once they're here, our members have the opportunity to demonstrate that we are a warm and friendly church. Non-

churchgoers may feel uncomfortable as Sunday morning visitors, but Saturday events that are relaxed and fun make the visitor feel right at home.

According to the Bible, loving strangers is essential for every follower of Jesus. Throughout the Old and New Testaments, God specifically commands his people to practice hospitality. Jesus talked about the hospitable behavior of those who will inherit the kingdom: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat... I was a stranger, and you invited me in." (Matt. 25:34-36)

Members of FCC, we need your help! We're asking you to attend these April special events and as you walk around, welcome folks and introduce yourself as a member of First Christian. A warm smile and a friendly greeting go a long way. Let them know "We're so glad you're here!" Depending on the event, express an interest in their car or their pet. But most important, express an interest in them.

And while you're at it, bring along a friend to enjoy the event with you. Personal invitations by church members are the #1 reason churches grow.

LADIES NIGHT OUT SPOTLIGHTS PERSON OF THE YEAR



From Jerry Johnson's Person of the Year presentation: "A church member described Dave Hartman as having an unstinting desire to call on members and make hospital visits - and added that Dave would shepherd the flock whenever they needed it and was always there. I think he was just meant to be a 'minister' ...and I'm glad he chose us...look how many people stood in line every Sunday after church just to get a hug from him." Congratulations to Dave Hartman, FCC's 2018 Person of the Year!



Youth Ministry News!

by Josh deSteiguer

Howdy Church Family!

The Crusin' For Christ Kick Off Car Show is right around the corner. As many of you know this is a crucial fundraiser that is largely responsible for sending the Youth on our summer Mission Trip. As such, I thought I would give you all a little bit of a preview of what our Mission Trip will look like this summer as it is looking like an amazing opportunity for our youth to grow their faith, and do God's work.

This year, June 25th-29th, we will be partnering with Disciples Summer Mission. This is a program of our denomination large which seeks to bring congregations together to make the most impact through these summer trips for youth and young adults. This year's destination is Lexington, Kentucky where we will be undertaking various forms of missional work, ranging from physical labor to relational work with those in need. We will be partnering with food pantries and shelters in the Lexington area to go out in teams and undertake this important work. We will also be working with a new program which seeks to reclaim abandoned urban areas and turn them into sustainable community gardens. These will be used to provide fresh produce to those in need, while also giving the recipients the ability to grow their own food in their own neighborhood. This sounds like some truly ground breaking outside the box ministry. (Get it, ground breaking...garden...) Anyways...

I'm also super excited to announce that this year's trip will also be a reunion of sorts. One of the leaders of the trip is a child of this congregation, and my predecessor in ministry Justin Dickey. It will be great to be working with him for sure! This year's Mission Trip is shaping up to be a truly special event that I know will be an eye opening and faith building experience for our youth. Be sure to come out and support the Mission Trip next Saturday the 21st at the Car Show!



Children's Ministry News!

by Claire Baer

I am very excited to announce that First Christian Church has been given the opportunity to host an off-site Vacation Bible School during the month of June! We will be taking Hero Central out into the community, and sharing the power of the Lord with the children near the Paul Irwin Center on E. Wichita Street.

I have been so amazed to see how selfless the congregation of First Christian Church is when it comes to providing resources, like the baskets for international students and Coats for Kids. An off-site VBS allows us to go out in the community and build one-on-one relationships with the people that we are serving. Our ministry will continue to reach far beyond the walls of our building, and I have a great feeling that everyone involved will be moved by what happens during these four days of worship and fun!

Hero Central off-site VBS will take place the week of June 4th-7th. We will begin with a meal at 5:30pm, and then move to our VBS rotations at 6:00pm. There are plenty of volunteer opportunities open! We will need people to help be group leaders, help with worship, crafts, science, Bible story-telling, games, and registration. We are hoping that all of the meals for the children will be sponsored by groups within the church. We are expecting to feed between 50-100 children each evening.

Our greatest hope is that there will be a good response from the community that we are serving on E. Wichita St. and we will be able to continue going and serving them in other ways. Whether it's by providing meals, worship services or Bible studies, we want to keep our relationship growing.

If you would like to volunteer, there will be volunteer registration sheets in the church office for you to fill out, or you can email me at claire@firstchristianwf.com to let me know what you would be interested in helping with. I would like to leave you with the Hero Central memory verse, "Do good! Seek peace and go after it!" Psalm 34:14b.

Regional Minister To Be Guest Preacher This Sunday, April 15



Dr. Andy Mangum, the new Regional Minister for the Christian Church in the Southwest, will be our special guest preacher this Sunday, April 15, in both services. Andy is a graduate of West Texas A&M, Brite Divinity School (M.Div.), and Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary (Doctor of Ministry). He began his work as our Regional Minister on Nov. 1, 2017. Please plan to be present and welcome Andy to FCC Wichita Falls.



FCC MINISTRY NEWS AND CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

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

Member News:

♥**Hospitalized:** Released and back home are Vicki Kunkle, Joye Thompson.

♥Our sympathies are extended to Joan Stodghill & Cheryl Smiley and Families on learning of the death of Jimmie Stodghill on March 29th. Services were held in the Sanctuary on April 4th.

♥We extend our condolences to Pat Duncan & Cheryl Caraway and Families on learning of the death of Don Duncan on April 2nd.

First Time Guests! We are excited to report that the following persons visited for the first time on Sunday, April 1st: Cody Carlton, Matt Culwell, Megan Enriquez, Jordan Cook, Angela Glover, Michael Ivy, Peter & Susan Kucharski, Kaileigh Ware, Susan & Bobby Dan Roberts, Jessica Rock, Jordan Waddell, Lydora Fulks, Janise Snyder, Alice Joy Taylor.

CMF's Breakfast Bible Study! For April, we invite all men to join us for breakfast on Thursday morning, April 12th, at the Hwy Café, 2808 Jacksboro Hwy. We will gather at 6:30 am and conclude no later than 7:30 am for those who are on their way to the office. We will enjoy a devotional, coffee, good food and fellowship.

Christian Women's Fellowship Group Meetings will be as follows: **Group 1** will meet on Monday, April 16th, at 1:30 pm at Peggy Fitts' home, 4600 Taft Blvd #316. **Group 2** will meet on Wednesday, April 18th, at 12:00 noon in Rm 405. **Group 3** will meet on Monday, April 16th, at 2:00 pm in Rm 405.

April Ministry Meetings: will be as follows:
Sunday, April 15th: **Membership** at 5:00 pm, Rm 405
Tuesday, April 17th: **Education** at 6:00 pm, Rm 405
Stewardship at 6:00 pm, Rm 310
Worship at 7:00 pm, Rm 222
Thursday, April 19th: **Evangelism** at 5:30 pm, Rm 405
Tuesday, April 24th: **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 16th & 23rd.

Journey Through Scripture Larry Spradley will lead Journey Through Scripture on a 6-week mini-series entitled "Unlocking the Bible's Mysteries" starting on April 15th, at 9:45 AM, in the Church Parlor. The last JTS will be May 20th. Topics will include: Experiencing a Psalm, Applying a Proverb, Deciphering a Prophecy, Understanding a Parable, Unpacking an Epistle, etc.

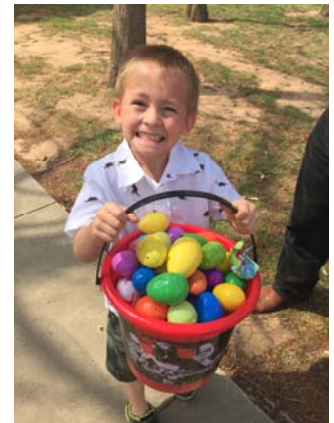
Trinity-Brazos Area News:

Women's Retreat—April 27-29, \$110, Disciples Crossing in Athens TX, "By Our Love", Keynote Speaker: Grey Zachary, Register at tbadwm.com.

2018 Area Assembly—May 5, 2:00 pm University Christian Church, Fort Worth, "Come and Celebrate With Us!" Business Meeting at 2 pm and Worship at 4 pm with Rev. Renee Hoke, preaching. There is much happening at the Assembly this year, from conversations and voting on our proposed plan for restructure, and a worship service celebrating our connection with one another through all the ministries of the TBA! Come and join in, all are welcome!

Tri-Area Men's Retreat—May 18-20, \$95, Disciples Crossing in Athens, TX, Speaker: David Dusek from The Rough Cut Men's Ministry, Register at nta@ccsw.org.

Easter Egg Hunt 2018



FOR THE RECORD . . .

CGRM: (Tues., Apr. 3)	26
The Neighborhood (Wed., Apr. 4)	38
8:40 Worship . . . 30 10:45 Worship . . . 171	
Total Worship	239
Sunday School	113
Sunday Receipts Needed Per Week	\$16,215.67
Sunday Receipts for 4/8/18	\$8,493.00
Through March 30: Income \$229,912.09	Expenses \$212,563.87

This Sunday:

Luke 24:36-48

Dr. Andy Mangum, Regional Minister & President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest

Hello FCC Members,

I would like to take this time to share with you some of the strategic discussions we had at Executive Council last Tuesday evening.

Elder and Membership member Alice Gordon visited with the council about her work contacting members we have missed seeing in church or other FCC events lately. She is sending cards and/or making calls to check on people to find out if they are in need of anything.

Jerry Johnson, co-chairman of Stewardship, updated us on our Capital Campaign (for repairs to the church). We still have a note balance with First Bank, the roof on the Activities Building has received wind damage, and there are other roof repairs needed. He was offering the information for consideration to the council and it will be discussed further at the next meeting of the Executive Council.

Claire Baer, Children's Director, proposed to the committee a new way that the members of FCC can serve our community. She suggested using our VBS materials and offer an off-site Vacation Bible School. This would serve the children that live near the Paul Irwin Center. It would take place June 4th – 7th from 5:30-8:30 pm. This proposal was approved and you will hear about the details and what you can do to help very soon.

Other points of interest were:

*We had 25 children participate in the Parade of Palms and 40 children hunting eggs after the Palm Sunday worship service and hot dog lunch.

*Susan Buckley and the Membership committee are working on a new pictorial directory available online or in paper form. More information to follow in the Challenger.

*Andy Mangum, the new Regional Minister, will be visiting Sunday, April 15th. Make sure to come and welcome him to First Christian Church.

*The Youth are hosting their annual Car Show fundraiser on Saturday, April 21st in the church parking lot. Please plan to attend this event! The cars are really something to see and enjoy the fellowship with the car enthusiasts while supporting our youth group.

*Shirley Craft and the Evangelism committee announced the Blessing of Animals will be Saturday, April 28th on the grounds of First Christian Church. The Red River Hot Dog guy will be there for you to purchase your lunch. So plan to bring your pooch, kitty, goldfish, turtle or other pet to be blessed by our ministers. Sounds like a fun event!

*The Executive Council also discussed the importance of video of our worship service. This can be transmitted in several different ways. (The Worship committee will be discussing this at their next meeting.) We are very proud of what we have to offer here at FCC and feel we can share it with so many more people this way.

*The Search Committee is hard at work to find our new Senior Minister. They are looking at candidate profiles and contemplating who they would like to visit with a phone call. This is a very important step for them and it may take a while to find the right one. Please continue to pray that they will be lead to find the right person for the job.

I hope to keep the congregation informed of the progress we are making behind the scenes. I would also like to invite you to participate on one of our committees to help with the planning and sharing your ideas and suggestions.

Blessings,
Cindy Hernandez, Board Chair



RDS Unite® Brings Members and Staff Together

BRIEF OVERVIEW

RDS Connect **Unite®** App (First Christian Church) is a series of features that allow members to access the First Christian Church database and more easily communicate with each other. With the convenience of tablets and smartphones members have access to information of interest to them, can communicate with other members, update family information, make contributions and payments, upload family photo, see the directory, see maps and directions to residences, and more.

- Cloud-hosted for Apple and Android devices
- Unite members with the RDS database for instant access in real time
- Strengthen the community of believers

With fully integrated capabilities, using cell phone and/or tables, members can:

- **Access Family and Individual Information** – See and update family information, and add family photos
- **Make Contributions**
- **See Personal Contribution and Payment History**
- **Look at the Directory** – See photo directory. Send email, make phone calls or text messages

****Note:** When using the app, you can click on a check box beside the information if you do not want it displayed in the Directory.

In addition, if you do not want your cell phone or email address in the Directory, please notify the church office and we will keep this information from appearing in the Directory.

GETTING STARTED

- Download the RDS Connect **Unite®** App from either your Google Play Store or the Apple App Store depending on the mobile device you own. Once downloaded, open the app and the organizational church code – the First Christian Code is **14351**.
- Now tap on “register here” and enter your email address on file with the church and set a password, then tap “Register”. This will sign you into the app and send yourself a registration email that will need to be confirmed. **Important:** Please check your spam folder for the confirmation email if you do not receive the email in your inbox in a timely manner.
- Now you’re ready to log in, open the app and select ‘remember me’ to save your credentials. Now enter your email address and password then touch ‘sign in’.

More questions? Would like to know more about the app? Want to know how to load a picture?
Please call contact Cheryl Appling in the church office – 692-2282

OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, April 15, 2018

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 Membership Ministry Meeting (Rm 405)
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 Sunday Evening Bible Study (2308 Ellingham)

Monday, April 16, 2018

7:30-6:00 Children Come First / 9:00-12:00 Young Ages School (M-F)
10:00 FCC Staff Meeting (Rm 222)
1:30 CWF Group 1 (Presbyterian Manor Library, 4600 Taft)
2:00 CWF Group 3 (Rm 405)
6:30 Sr. Minister Search Committee Meeting (Rm 310)
7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

2:00 Library Committee (Library)
6:00 Education Ministry Meeting (Rm 405)
6:00 Stewardship Ministry Meeting (Rm 310)
6:00 Common Ground Recovery Ministries Support Groups:
Addictive Behaviors (Rm 304) Parenting (Rm 305 & 306)
Rebuilding from Broken Relationships (Rm 307)
Anger Management (Rm 309)
7:00 Worship Ministry Meeting (Rm 222)

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Rm 405/Chapel)
12:00 CWF Group 3 (Rm 405)
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, April 19, 2018

9:00 CWF Group 3 Birthday Breakfast (IHOP on SW Pkwy)
1:30 Knit Wits (Parlor)
5:30 Evangelism Ministry Meeting (Rm 405)

Saturday, April 21, 2018

9:00-3:00 Cruisin' for Christ Kick-Off Car Show (East Parking Lot)

Sunday, April 22, 2018

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 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 Sunday Evening Bible Study (2308 Ellingham)

Monday, April 23, 2018

7:30-6:00 Children Come First / 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, April 24, 2018

2:00 Library Committee (Library)
6:00 Executive Council Meeting (Rm 310)
6:00 Common Ground Recovery Ministries Support Groups:
Addictive Behaviors (Rm 304) Parenting (Rm 305 & 306)
Rebuilding from Broken Relationships (Rm 307)
Anger Management (Rm 309)

Wednesday, April 25, 2018

7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Rm 405/Chapel)
5:00-6:30 Red River Hot Dogs (Outside 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, April 26, 2018

YAS Parent/Teacher Conferences (Thurs. & Fri.)

Saturday, April 28, 2018

11:00-1:00 Blessing of the Animals (Garden of the Cross)

SERVING SUNDAY ELDERS

4/15: Doug Thompson, Alice Gordon; Woody Gossom, Presiding
4/22: Polly Tonemah, Sally Hastings; Ricky Scales, Presiding

DIACONATE COMMUNION VISITATION

4/15: Andrew Allen, Elise Allen, Sheila Reynolds
4/22: Twila Boydston, Diane Spiller, Slate Westbrook

DIACONATE COMMUNION PREPARATION

4/15: Mac Reid & Slate Westbrook
4/22: Hollie Murphey & Kim Ballard

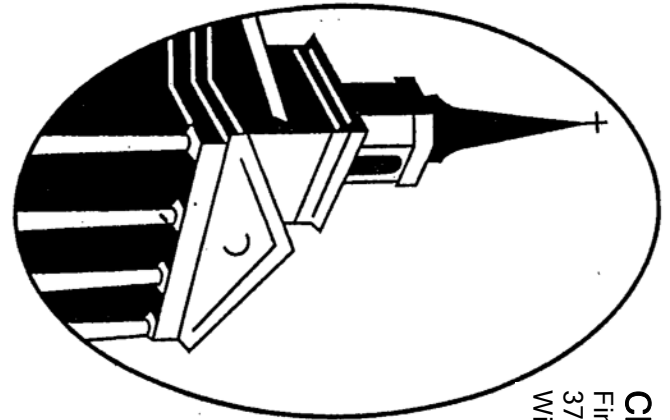
APRIL DIACONATE SERVERS

Twila Boydston & Slate Westbrook, Co-Captains

Andrew & Elise Allen, 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 . . .

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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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