



Christian Challenger

Vol. 65

May 9, 2018

No. 10

Announcing Our New Church Directory

Work on a new pictorial church directory is underway now. It is a directory that is accessible through your smart phone, easily updated, and allows you to manage your photo with an easy upload process. For our members who prefer a paper copy of the directory, they will be available soon.

Here are the simple steps to follow using your smart phone:

- Visit the Google Play or Apple App store to download the "RDS Unite" app onto your phone.
- Once the download is complete, open the app and add the First Christian Church code **14351** in the space provided for the organizational church code.
- Now tap "register here" and enter your email address. It is important that you use the email address on file in the church office. If you encounter problems on this step, call the church office so we can confirm the email address we have on file.
- Now set your password. Then tap register. A confirmation email will be sent to you immediately. Follow the instructions in the email and you're all set.
- When you open the directory next, tap on the square menu icon found middle right just under the church name. Next tap "My Family" and then tap "Family Photo." There are several ways to select photos depending on the device you use.

Problems? Just call the church office and Cheryl Appling will walk you through.

Blessing of the Animals



Car Show This Saturday!

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Concessions, bounce house, door prizes



Children's Ministry News!

by Claire Baer

Hold the phone! How is it already May? Time is flying by and that means that summer is right around the corner. Summer is going to be fun-filled for our Young Disciples; with our regular Wednesday and Sunday evening activities, as well as mission project days and an out of town trip!

Our Wednesday and Sunday evenings programs will continue through the summer, but they will be re-vamped to fit the fun summer months! We will spend more time outdoors and just being in fellowship with one another. Now is the perfect time to invite friends to join you at Young Disciples and learn about the love of God through fun and games!

Wednesdays 6:00pm-7:00pm

Sundays beginning June 3rd 5:30-7:00pm

The Young Disciples will also be doing some mission work this summer around Wichita Falls. We will be visiting the Wichita Theatre to learn about how the Theatre is impacting the community of Wichita Falls, and what it all takes to put on the productions. We will then be given some small tasks to help them out around the facility. We will be taking a trip to the Food Bank of Wichita Falls where we will learn about the programs that they offer, and then help prepare some of the food that will be sent out into the community. Our last mission project for the summer will actually take place during the week of our on-site Vacation Bible School. We will be collecting donations for the Humane Society of Wichita County. Our Young Disciples will then sort the donations, pack them up, and deliver them to the Humane Society.

Below is an outline of dates for the summer months!



Allie Stewart



Konner Burross



Hailey Wilks & Ethan Earley

Hailey Wilks,
T.J. Hafley,
Zette Anderson
&
Konner Burross
attending
Sleeping Beauty
at the
Wichita Theatre



Summer Children's Ministry Schedule

May 23rd

5:00pm-7:00pm Movie/Game Night

May 25th-27th

Family Camp 1 (Disciples Crossing)

June 1st-3rd

Grand Camp (Disciples Crossing)

June 3rd

5:30pm-7:00pm Young Disciples Pool Party

June 4th-7th

5:30pm-8:00pm Off-Site Vacation Bible School

June 20th

8:00am-7:00pm Day Trip to OKC Zoo and Main Event

June 26th

9:30am-3:00pm Wichita Theatre Mission Project

July 17th

9:30am-3:00pm

Food Bank Mission Project

July 23rd-27th

9:00am-12:00pm

On-Site Vacation Bible School

We will be collecting donations for the Humane Society of Wichita County during VBS.

August 2nd

9:30am-2:00pm

Drop off Humane Society donations

August 6th-10th

JYF Camp (Disciples Crossing)

August 10th-12th

Family Camp 2 (Disciples Crossing)

FCC MINISTRY NEWS AND CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

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

Attention Graduates! We would like to recognize all our graduates. If you are a graduate or have a graduate in your family, please call Susan in the church office, so we can get your information for the Challenger.

Indian Tacos Fundraiser—May 20! Come and enjoy some tasty INDIAN TACOS at the Youth Fundraiser Luncheon on Sunday, May 20th, in Fellowship Hall. Cost is by donation with all proceeds to benefit the youth group mission trip fund. Please RSVP to the church office so we'll be sure to have tacos in abundance!

CMF's Breakfast Bible Study! For May, we invite all men to join us for breakfast on Thursday morning, May 10th, at the Hwy Café, 2808 Jacksboro Hwy. We will gather at 7:00 am and conclude no later than 8:00 am for those who are on their way to the office. We will enjoy a devotional, coffee, good food and fellowship.

Young Ages School End-of-Year Program! We would like to invite you to our End of the Year Program and "Moving on Ceremony" on Tuesday, May 15th, at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The children have worked very hard on their "God Bless Our Heroes" program.

Young Ages Preschool will continue enrollment for 2018-19 school year throughout the summer. If you know of anyone looking for a morning preschool program for their 3, 4, or 5 year old, please tell them about our school. They can call 692-3640 for more information.

Christian Women's Fellowship The May CWF Luncheon will be Monday, May 14th, at 11:45 am in the Fellowship Hall. The program will be Jennica Lambert with River Bend Nature Center. The devotional will be given by Margaret Scales and the service offering will go to the River Bend Nature Center Education & Arts Programs. 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, May 21st, at Jane Ridenour's home in Holliday TX. The Group will meet & leave from the Chapel entrance at 11:30 am to caravan to Jane's at 445 Eagle Dr. **Group 2** will meet on Wednesday, May 23rd, at 12:00 noon in Rm 405. **Group 3** will meet on Monday, May 21st, at 11:30 am at Applebee's on Kemp.

May Ministry Meetings: will be as follows:
Monday, May 14th: **Education** at 6:00 pm, Rm 405
Tuesday, May 15th: **Stewardship** at 6:00 pm, Rm 310
Worship at 7:00 pm, Rm 222
Thursday, May 17th: **Evangelism** at 5:30 pm, Rm 405
Sunday, May 20th: **Membership** at 5:00 pm, Rm 405
Tuesday, May 22nd: **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, May 14th & 21st.

The Neighborhood: On May 23rd the Neighborhood is on the move. We will be visiting Faith Refuge to lead worship at 5:30 pm and share a meal following. Children will meet at the church.

Pentecost Special Offering will be received on Sundays, May 20th & 27th. Your gift will help new churches grow in our own Region, and it will provide support to new church planters across the life of the Church through Hope Partnership's New Church Ministries.

In the Library: In Renee's April 29th sermon, she told the story of a missionary to China in the 1870's, Lottie Moon. The Church Library has several books with further information on this iconic woman. We have placed two books pertaining to her life on the library table. Please stop by if you have an interest in learning more about Lottie. If you would like to read more about her, please contact one of the Library Committee members, and we will be glad to help you find and check out these books.

Member News:

♥**Hospitalized:** in Austin TX is Kevin Coleman. Released and back home are Lynda Lee & Bill Thacker.

First Time Guests! We are excited to report that the following persons visited for the first time on Sunday, April 29: Rashel, Larry, Brantly, Bralyn & Brynlee Fowler.

From the Mailbox. . .

Attention: Maturing Members of FCC,

I was honored to have the opportunity to assist one of our members, Marilyn Vaughn, in her recent move from her home of 53 years to the Presbyterian Manor. As you can imagine, after her 53 years living in the same residence all the closets and drawers and all the nooks and crannies in the house were filled with those acquisitions and treasures of a lifetime.

Special thanks goes out to the ladies of the Choir and gentlemen of Christian Men's Fellowship who rose to the occasion to help locate, sort, box and move most of those treasures of a lifetime to her new apartment, distribute items as gifts to friends, as gifts to Faith Mission and take the junk to the dump. There were too many of these volunteers to list here. But please accept Marilyn's and my thanks to every one of you.

But there is more to this than just a thank you. This was and is a lesson for all those of us of "maturing" age. Do NOT WAIT for that move to a rest home, a downsize to a smaller house, or a move-in with the kids, to initiate a review of "The Stuff" in your own nooks and crannies, closets and drawers. The kids don't want any of "The Stuff." They have "stuff" of their own. Visit all your treasures at your own leisure, one closet or drawer, one week at a time.

Then when you are done the able-bodied men of CMF with trailers and pickups are standing by to help you with the distribution and/or disposal of "The Stuff" to the donees or to the dump. No boxes or bags? No problem! We'll bring 'em to ya'. Just call a CMF member with just a little lead time to call out the troops and assemble the delivery equipment.

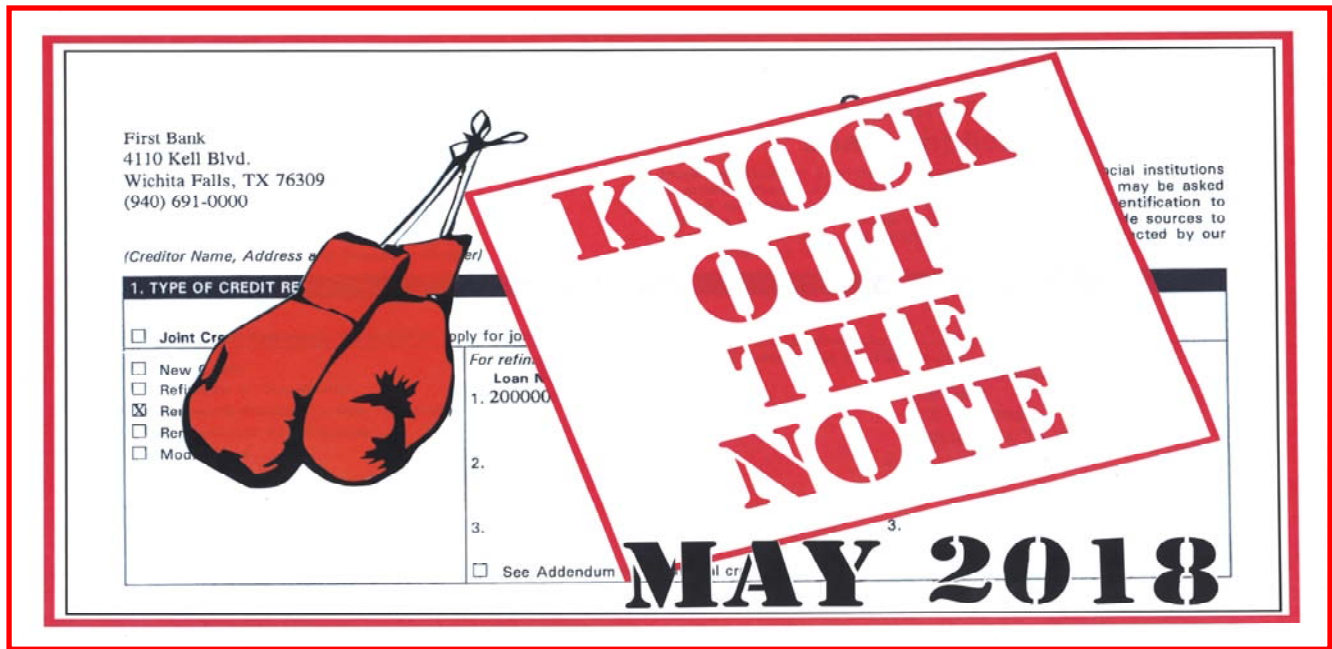
Sincerely yours,
Kerry Roach

FOR THE RECORD. . .

CGRM: (Tues., May 1)	23
The Neighborhood (Wed., May 2)	26
8:40 Worship. . . 38	10:45 Worship. . . 214
Total Worship	278
Sunday School	106
Sunday Receipts Needed Per Week	\$16,215.67
Sunday Receipts for 5/6/18	\$8,790.00
Through May 7: Income \$277,570.50	Expenses \$298,192.61

This Sunday:

Acts 1:1-11
Rev. Renee Hoke, preaching



JERRY JOHNSON'S STEWARDSHIP MOMENT FROM SUNDAY – 5/6/2018

How many of you were here the first Sunday in May 2014? I know what you're thinking – that's a silly question, Jerry – I can't even tell you with 100% certainty what I had for dinner last night. Let me refresh your memory – this week in May 2014, we were locked into the worst drought in Texoma's history and the headlines screamed – "Drought-stricken Texas Town Turns to Toilets for Water" and the waste-water recycling plan was born.

If you were here that beautiful Sunday morning 4-years ago, you heard me talk about our 2014 "MAINTENANCE CRUSADE" and the \$600,000 we thought we needed to commit thru 2017 for such exotic church projects as 1) heating and cooling upgrades, 2) maintenance and care of our facility and 3) other projects to improve our comfort, our security and our energy efficiency.

Your generosity has allowed us to –

Replace every heating & cooling unit in the classrooms of our original building with 21st-century energy-efficient and thermostat-controlled units

With the other heating & cooling upgrades, that system received more than \$384-thousand dollars in improvements

Fellowship hall got a new roof

The parking lot got resealed and restriped

The parlor got a brand, new coat of paint and carpet

And the kitchen got 2-new convection ovens to replace the old gas ovens

That "once-in-a-generation" campaign received almost \$400,000 pledged toward our goal...and over the next 3-years, 95% of those pledges were paid totaling more than \$378,000. We completed all those projects to pro-long the life of our beautiful building way the under expected expenditures – in fact, \$600,000 in expected repairs was done for a little less than \$500,000 dollars.

The property and stewardship departments, executive council and church board unanimously agreed that it was necessary to complete that long list of repairs – even if it required us to borrow money from First Bank and then pay-off the note after the repairs were completed...and the pledges were paid. So, at present, we find our-selves with a note at the bank for only the 4th – time in our near 60-year history in this building...those other three notes were the result of original construction and 2-other building expansion projects as well – and the stewardship department is asking you to consider another pledge to “KNOCK OUT THE NOTE.”

With the property department’s recommendation, we’d like for you to consider our goal to be to raise \$200,000 to pay off the First Bank note plus replace the roofs over the gym and scout hall which will complete our roof replacement for the entire 63,000 square-feet under-roof. Neither of those roofs have been replaced in more than 20-years.

The solution is simple when you study our generous congregation’s giving habits – there were 110-families that made and paid their pledge toward the maintenance crusade from 2014 to 2017...and there are 148-families that made and are paying their pledge toward the general budget for this year – if each of those families will consider a pledge of only \$20-per week over the next 3-years to the “KNOCK OUT THE NOTE” campaign this month, we’ll quickly reach our \$200,000 goal.

Yours doesn’t have to be a weekly pledge – it can be monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, annual or a one-time gift as well...and of course, for any amount more or less than \$20-per week – that’s just the formula that breaks the goal down into manageable bites. We’ve set Sunday – May 20th – as the date to receive pledges by and there will be pledge cards for your “KNOCK OUT THE NOTE” pledge in your Challenger.

Please prayerfully consider your willingness and want-to...to support this worthy cause as we complete payment for all the improvements we’ve enjoyed since 2014 and replace the roofs over scout hall and the gym. TOGETHER, WE CAN “KNOCK OUT THE NOTE.”

**KNOCK OUT THE NOTE CAMPAIGN 2018
ESTIMATE OF GIVING**



NAME: _____ DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

*Recognizing the need to give related to spiritual growth and concern for the church’s mission and witness, I/we make the following financial estimate of giving for the **Knock Out the Note Campaign Drive 2018—2021** beginning in June 2018.*

I understand that this commitment may be revised at any time:

\$ _____ Per Week X 156 Weeks = \$ _____ OR \$ _____ Per Month X 36 Months = \$ _____

OR \$ _____ Per Year X 3 Years OR \$ _____ as a One Time Gift

Authorized Signature _____

Please send information: ACH bank draft: _____ Credit card options are available on our website at firstchristianwf.com

Please notify Financial Secretary, Tina Williams of any change in account information.

She may be reached at (940)692-2282 or at tina@firstchristianwf.com

OPPORTUNITIES

Saturday, May 12, 2018

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

Sunday, May 13, 2018

MOTHER'S DAY

8:40 Worship (Chapel)

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

10:45 Worship (Sanctuary)

NO Sunday Evening Activities

Monday, May 14, 2018

7:30-6:00 Children Come First (M-F)

9:00-12:00 Young Ages School (M-Th)

10:00 FCC Staff Meeting (Rm 222)

10:30 CWF Board Meeting (Rm 310)

11:45 CWF Luncheon (Fellowship Hall)

6:00 Education Ministry Meeting (Rm 405)

6:30 Sr. Minister Search Committee Meeting (Rm 310)

7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, May 15, 2018

2:00 Library Committee (Library)

6:00 Young Ages School End-of-Year Program (Fellowship Hall)

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, May 16, 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, May 17, 2018

Young Ages School's Last Day

9:00 CWF Group 3 Birthday Breakfast (IHOP on SW Pkwy)

1:30 Knit Wits (Parlor)

5:30 Evangelism Ministry Meeting (Rm 405)

Friday, May 18, 2018

YAS Teacher In-Service

Saturday, May 19, 2018

6:00 Keystone Class Party (1725 Eagle Ridge Circle)

Sunday, May 20, 2018

PENTECOST / PENTECOST SPECIAL OFFERING

8:40 Worship (Chapel)

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

10:45 Worship (Sanctuary)

12:00 Indian Tacos Fundraiser Luncheon (Fellowship 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, May 21, 2018

7:30-6:00 Children Come First (M-F)

10:15 FCC Staff Meeting (Rm 222)

1:30 CWF Group 1 (Jane Ridenour's home)

2:00 CWF Group 3 (Rm 405)

5:30-7:00 CCF Training (Rm 405)

6:30 Sr. Minister Search Committee Meeting (Rm 310)

7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, May 22, 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, May 23, 2018

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

12:00 CWF Group 2 (Rm 405)

5:30 -7:00 The Neighborhood to Faith Mission

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

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

SERVING SUNDAY

ELDERS

5/13: Debbi Schmidt, Woody Gossom; Ann Hunter, Presiding

5/20: Cal Edgemon, David Collins; Cheryl Smiley, Presiding

DIACONATE COMMUNION VISITATION

5/13: Hannah Ward, Sandra Ross, Lee Bybee

5/20: Sharon Roach, Jon Hartman, Sarah Cook

DIACONATE COMMUNION PREPARATION

5/13: Lee Bybee

5/20: Debi & Larry Ballard

MAY 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

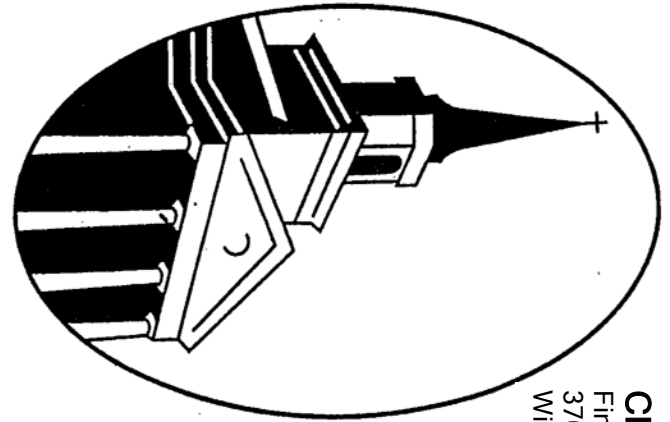
Jessica Gallant, Common Ground Recovery Ministries

Susan Marrs, Executive Secretary

Tina Williams, Financial Secretary

Ann Hunter, Receptionist

Debbie Watson, Organist



CHRISTIAN CHALLENGER
First Christian Church
3701 Taft Boulevard
Wichita Falls, Texas 76308

THE CHRISTIAN CHALLENGER
Pub. No. (USPS 559-820) Published
biweekly by First Christian Church, 3701
Taft Blvd., Wichita Falls TX 76308-2315.
Periodical postage paid at Wichita Falls
TX. - POSTMASTER: Send Address
Changes to Christian Challenger, 3701
Taft Blvd., Wichita Falls, TX 76308-2315.