



Christian Challenger

Vol. 65

July 18, 2018

No. 15

DR. MARK R. BENDER CALLED TO BE NEW SENIOR MINISTER OF FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



Jodi, Chelsea, Abby & Mark Bender

In a congregational meeting on Wednesday, July 18th, 2018, called by Church Board Chair, Cindy Hernandez, the congregation voted unanimously to extend a call to Dr. Mark Ryan Bender to serve as Senior Minister of First Christian Church, effective September 1, 2018, with his initial worship service responsibilities to begin Sunday, September 9, 2018.

The congregational meeting followed a Church Fellowship Dinner preceded by a Meet and Greet event held in the Church Parlor where church members could meet Dr. Bender, his wife Jodi, and their daughter Abby. Also, prior to and following the dinner, members could have their photographs taken to be included in the new church online membership directory and pictorial directory.

During the Fellowship Dinner, Dr. Bender introduced himself to the congregation and shared the path that brought him to First Christian Church. He also presented a short devotional. Dr. Bender and his family left Fellowship Hall following the dinner...to return following the meeting and the UNANIMOUS vote to a CHEERING crowd welcoming him as the new SENIOR MINISTER of FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH!

Many members stayed after the meeting to congratulate and welcome the Bender family and express their excitement and appreciation for Dr. Bender's acceptance of the call to serve FCC WF!

MORE ABOUT MARK....

Dr. Bender is 43 and was born in Winchester, Virginia, then moved to Lubbock, Texas, when he was nine. He was an Eagle Scout in Lubbock and calls it home. His family joined Westmont Christian Church there, and he has been a Disciple ever since. After high school graduation in Lubbock, he earned a BBA degree at Texas A&M University, an MDiv degree from Brite Divinity School, TCU, and a DMin degree from Perkins School of Theology, SMU.

Mark was ordained in 2004 and has been engaged in ministry since 1997. He has served churches in Lubbock and Amarillo and has also been the Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries in the Christian Church in the Southwest Regional Office. He has served on the staff of Northway Christian Church in Dallas since 2002 and has been the Executive Minister of Northway Christian Church since 2008. Mark is married, and his wife, Jodi, is a family law attorney. They have two daughters, Abby, who is 16 and will be a junior in high school, and Chelsea, who just graduated from University of Missouri, and is working in Columbia, Missouri, at a content marketing firm.

First Christian Church is so excited to welcome this wonderful family into our congregation!

GOING TO THE MOVIES

By Claire Baer

Going to the movies. Nothing beats sitting in a dark room with popcorn, candy, a soda, and watching a movie on the big screen (or little screen). Movies take you to new places, introduce you to different people, different cultures, different political views, and different forms of art. They can teach you empathy and compassion. They can get you fired up about history or about a movement that is going on in our world today. In my opinion, they are one of the greatest educational tools. They stir up discussion and inspire debate and unification. They make you laugh, cry, and sometimes jump in fear. They can also impact our faith in big ways.

I had heard about the sermon series that took place the last couple of years in the summer, where the sermon would revolve around a message in a movie. I was so excited that I would be here in the summer to witness such a fun and unique way of sharing the word of God. So, you can imagine my disappointment when I realized that it was not going to happen this year. But just because the sermons were not going to happen didn't mean the movies had to stop. Josh and I decided that we would host movies during the month of July! We sat and talked about what movies we wanted to show and how we would tie them all together. We talked about "Hook", "Ghostbusters", "Mulan", and so many others. Out of all of the movies in the world, we ended up picking sports movies.

Now, anyone who knows me knows that I am not a sports person. I can't tell you how football works, soccer moves to fast to keep up with, and baseball games seem to go on forever. The only sport that I can talk about with enthusiasm is golf. I think most people in the country would stand together in saying that they think golf is the most boring sport, but put a golf tournament on the TV and you can bet that I will

sit there and yell at the screen just like the most passionate football fans. So you may find it shocking, I even find it shocking a lot of the times that sports movies are one of my favorite types of movies.

Not only do you get the excitement of watching someone play a sport you love, you also get to experience the process that the individual and the team has to go through to reach their end goal. As I was re-watching the movies that Josh and I picked for our movie nights, I was constantly making links to my faith journey and where I wanted to grow in my faith and in my relationship with God and other people. These movies show you how to work as a team. You learn that if you do not practice your craft then you can't be as helpful to the team as you want to be. You have to be disciplined to play a sport and have courage, strength and confidence to go out there and put everything on the line for your team. Does this not sound like what we are called to do as Christians?

We are a team working together to make this world a better place for all of God's creations. We have to practice our faith in order to bring others to God's love and unending grace. We have to be able to work together, look past what makes us different and see what makes us unique and beloved children of God. Who knew we could learn so much about our faith from watching movies like "Remember the Titans" and "Space Jam".

I highly encourage you to join us these next two weeks as we continue our journey watching some great sports movies. Our last two movies are "Facing the Giants" and "McFarland USA". You will not want to miss them!



FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

Join Claire & Josh on Friday nights in July at 6:30 pm in the FCC Theater Room. There will be popcorn and other treats during the movie to enjoy. We hope to see you there! Our movie schedule will be:

July 20th: "Facing the Giants" (Football)

Facing the Giants: High School football coach, Grant Taylor, is really down on his luck. He is at risk of losing his job, having struggles at home, and on top of everything else his car stops working. Not only is he in need of a transformation within himself, he also has to figure out a way to inspire the group of young men he leads on the football field. In this faith based sports movie we learn that in all situations, God is worthy of our praise.

July 27th: "McFarland USA" (Cross Country)

McFarland USA: Coach White has been fired from job after job, and now he has been relocated to a predominately Latino High school. In an attempt to do everything he can to survive this new job in hopes of finding a better one, he ends up learning a lot more from these students than he ever thought possible. By forming a cross country team he learns what it means to be a family.

FCC MINISTRY NEWS AND CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS



Vacation Bible School "Hero Central"

July 23-27, 9am-Noon
Ages: 4 years to 5th grade complete
Register at:

www.firstchristianwf.com/ministries/special-events

VBS Volunteers Needed!

Vacation Bible School is just around the corner and Claire urgently needs 8 adults to go with the children on their rotations to the various VBS stations. No prep work is needed—just walk in each morning! If you enjoy sharing the love of God with children and can count to 20, this is the volunteer position for you! Please contact Claire at 692-2282 as soon as possible if you are interested.

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

The **Pulpit Supply Committee** is excited to announce the following all-star line-up of our own & guest ministers for July, August & September!

- July 22nd: Rev. Ben Hubert, retired Senior Minister of First Christian Church, San Angelo TX.
July 29th: Josh deSteiguer
August 5th: Rev. Larry Spradley
August 12th: Josh deSteiguer
August 19th: Rev. Paul Goodrich
August 26th: Josh deSteiguer
Sept. 2nd: Dr. Dave Hartman
Sept. 9th: Dr. Mark Bender's 1st Sunday

Member News:

♥**Hospitalized**: at Advanced Rehab is Sherrie Phillips; in Rehab at Dripping Springs TX is Kevin Coleman. Released and back home are Ashley Burross, Sally Hastings, Kaye Holland, Patrick Jackson, Virginia Krebs, Marisela Magana, JoBeth Mitchell, Carol Propper, and Jimmy Smriglio.

♥Our sympathies are extended to Robert Hernandez & Family on learning of the death of his mother, Bea Hernandez, on July 4th. Services were held on July 9th.

First Time Guests! We are excited to report that the following persons visited for the first time on Sunday, July 8th: Zetty Anderson, Clara Mills and Brian & Heather Scoffield; and also on July 15th: Trey Fox.

The **Neighborhood Worship** will be on Wednesday, July 25th! The Neighborhood meal is at 5:30 pm, and worship will begin at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

If you will be "**Temporarily Away**" for a period of time from your home address, please let the church office know, so that we can either 1) hold your mail until you return or 2) give us your temporary address so you can keep receiving your church mail at your temporary address while you are gone. This will help the church to not be charged by the Post Office for every piece of mail returned to us marked "Temporarily Away".



Project Back to School and PowerPaks 4 Kids Backpack Programs

School days are almost here! That means it is time for First Christian Church to support two very important local programs. **Project Back to School** was created to ensure that no children in Wichita Falls begin school without the supplies they need. The program works to improve the educational success of disadvantaged students in our community. For about \$20, a student can receive grade-appropriate school supplies and a backpack, so as to start the school year ready to learn.

PowerPaks 4 Kids was created by the Food Bank to help fill students' hungry stomachs over the weekends during the school year. Many children in the WFISD who rely on free or reduced price lunches during the week go home to little, or no, healthy foods over the weekend. PowerPaks 4 Kids are bags of nutritious and easy-to-prepare foods (such as peanut butter, fruit cups, cereal, trail mix, and more) that are handed discreetly to a child (usually placed in their backpacks) at the end of the school week.



FCC Outreach Ministry encourages our congregation to support both of these worthy programs that will help nurture and nourish the children in our community. The deadline for donations is next Sunday, July 29. Just indicate "Back to school" on the memo line of your check. We will divide all contributions evenly between the two programs. Thanks in advance for your support!

New on the Library Shelves. . .

I Can Only Imagine - Bart Millard

Mercy Me's hit song "I Can Only Imagine" has touched millions of people around the world. But, few know about the pain redemption, and healing that inspired the song. Now Bart Millard, award-winning recording artist and lead singer of Mercy Me shares how his dad's transformation from abusive father to man of God sparked a divine moment in music history.

FOR THE RECORD. . .

CGRM: (Tues., July 10)	25
The Neighborhood (Wed., July 11)	20
8:40 Worship . . . 42	10:45 Worship . . . 128
Total Worship	190
Sunday School	66
Sunday Receipts Needed Per Week	\$16,215.67
Sunday Receipts for 7/15/18	\$5,130.00
Through July 16: Income \$414,781.71	Expenses \$429,659.43

This Sunday:

"Beyond Recognition"
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
Rev. Ben G. Hubert

OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, July 22, 2018

8:40 Worship (Chapel)
9:30 Sunday School
10:45 Worship (Sanctuary)
5:00-7:00 Chi Rho & CYF (Grades 6-12) (Rm 403/Gym)
5:30-7:00 Young Disciples (Grades K-5) (Rm 402)

Monday, July 23, 2018

7:30-6:00 Children Come First "CCF" (M-F)
9:00-12:00 Vacation Bible School (M-F)
9:00 CCF Music

10:00 FCC Staff Meeting (Rm 222)
7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, July 24, 2018

6:00 Common Ground Recovery Ministries Support Groups:
Anger Management (Rm 309) Parenting (Rm 305 & 306)
Rebuilding from Broken Relationships (Rm 307)

Wednesday, July 25, 2018

7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Rm 405/Chapel)
9:00 CCF Chapel (Chapel)
5:30-6:00 The Neighborhood Meal (Fellowship Hall)
6:00-7:00 The Neighborhood Worship (Fellowship Hall)
6:00-7:00 First Kidz (Grades Pre-K-5th) (Rm 402)
7:00-8:00 Youth Activities (Grades 6-12) (Rm 403/Gym)

Friday, July 27, 2018

9:00 CCF Spanish
6:30 Friday Night at the Movies (Theater Rm)

Sunday, July 29, 2018

8:40 Worship (Chapel)
9:30 Sunday School
10:45 Worship (Sanctuary)
5:00-7:00 Chi Rho & CYF (Grades 6-12) (Rm 403/Gym)
5:30-7:00 Young Disciples (Grades K-5) (Rm 402)

Monday, July 30, 2018

7:30-6:00 Children Come First "CCF"(M-F)
9:00 CCF Music (Rm 220)
10:15 FCC Staff Meeting (Rm 222)
7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, July 31, 2018

6:00 Common Ground Recovery Ministries Support Groups:
Anger Management (Rm 309) Parenting (Rm 305 & 306)
Rebuilding from Broken Relationships (Rm 307)

Wednesday, August 1, 2018

7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Rm 405/Chapel)
9:00 CCF Chapel (Chapel)
5:30-6:00 The Neighborhood Meal (Fellowship Hall)
6:00-7:00 The Neighborhood Worship (Fellowship Hall)
6:00-7:00 First Kidz (Grades Pre-K-5th) (Rm 402)
7:00-8:00 Youth Activities (Grades 6-12) (Rm 403/Gym)

Thursday, August 2, 2018

9:30-2:00 Young Disciples Mission Day: Humane Society
1:30 Knit Wits (Parlor)

Friday, August 3, 2018

9:00 CCF Spanish (Rm 220)

SERVING SUNDAY

ELDERS

7/22: Cathy Gately, Robert Hernandez; Howard Morris, Presiding
7/29: Ann Hunter, Dwight Ross III; Emily Wilson, Presiding

DIACONATE COMMUNION VISITATION

7/22: Elise Allen, Andrew Allen, Sheila Reynolds
7/29: Nancy Smith, Slate Westbrook, Ashley Burross

DIACONATE COMMUNION PREPARATION

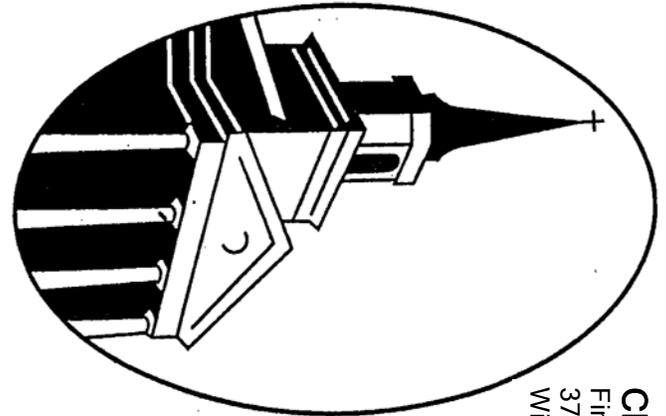
7/22: Nancy Smith & Curtis Sullivan
7/29: Twila Boydston & Mac Reid

JULY 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/Emily/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
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
Rev. Margaret Scales, Common Ground Recovery Ministries			337-1712
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.