



Christian Challenger

Vol. 65

October 10, 2018

No. 21

Senior Minister Installation Service Set for This Sunday, October 14, at 10:45 am



Please join us as First Christian Church will formally install Dr. Mark Bender as our Senior Minister during the 10:45 am worship service this Sunday, October 14. Mark's long-time colleague and mentor, Dr. Douglas Skinner, will be preaching, and Regional Minister, Dr. Andy Mangum, will preside over the installation.

A Fellowship Luncheon will follow at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Please make your reservations for the luncheon by calling the church office. We hope you will make plans to be a part of this celebration and milestone in the life of First Christian Church.

New Chancel Choir Members from MSU



(From left to right: Brianna Boone, Natalie Herring and Steven Singleton)

We welcome 3 new MSU music majors to our choir:

Brianna Boone is a freshman music major at MSU. She's from Kyle, Texas, and her teacher there was Dalton Flake, a former Chancel Choir member. Her family includes a younger brother and an older sister, and her dad is an Assembly of God preacher. She has a beautiful soprano voice and in addition to having her in our soprano section, we can look forward to hearing her sing solos.

Natalie Herring is a freshman music education major at MSU, graduating from Sachse High School. She's been involved in a lot of musical theater productions, and she's now getting into opera at MSU. Her dad does stained glass restoration. She's a second soprano, and she and Brianna sang a duet this past Sunday at the early service and this Sunday they'll be singing the same duet at the late service.

Steven Singleton is a junior vocal performance major at MSU, transferring from Richland College. He's from Rowlett, and graduated from Sachse High School where Natalie was a classmate. Steven is a baritone, and he's a great addition to our choir! We'll also be enjoying his solo voice in the near future.

These talented and engaging young people will be singing with our Chancel Choir and will be leading singing in the chapel service on many Sundays.

Because of your generous support of the MSU Chancel Choir Fund in the past, we're able to support these students in their studies, and they are able to share their gifts with our congregation. If you'd like to make a donation to the fund, you may do so at any time.



It's that spook-tacular time of year again! First Christian Church will be hosting not one, but TWO Trunk-or-Treat events this year!

The first event will take place on **Wednesday, October 17th from 6:00-7:30pm at 115 E Wichita St.** If you joined us for our off-site VBS this summer, you know how amazing these children are. You will not want to miss this!

Our on-site Trunk-or-Treat will take place on Sunday, October 28th from 6:00-8:00pm in the Fellowship Hall and parking lot. There will be games, candy and fun. Put on your best costume and come join the fun!

If you would like to volunteer to help with game booths, provide a trunk, or help with supplies (food/snacks, candy for trunks, door prizes) at this year's events, please sign up in the church office or contact Claire at 940-692-2282.

Make Your Mark

Dr. Mark R. Bender
Senior Minister



The Presence of God (Part 2) - *Where Is This Church?*

In the last *Make Your Mark*, I described David Fitch's description of the church as a "faithful presence" and suggested that it is incumbent on Christians to reclaim an awareness of God presence in their lives. I believe this is what the church helps us do.

In his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul wrote: "Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's spirit dwells in your midst?" (3:16). Similarly, Matthew twice records Jesus talking about his presence with his followers. "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them" (18:20). "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (28:20).

The church is more than just a place to go. It's more than just a building where meetings happen. It's more than just a gathering of individuals affirming their belief in something. It is a place where God's people discern God's presence and submit to Christ's rule.

But, Christ's presence isn't limited to the gathered church. Fitch also suggests that:

God first is present and active in the whole world. But God also chooses to become present in and through a people locally. He, in essence, completes his work in the world in the concrete lives and circumstances of a people through the real presence of Christ. (Faithful Presence, IVP, 2016)

I believe that God is present in the people of First Christian Church, Wichita Falls, Texas. After 40 days "on the job" I have seen firsthand how the people of this church worship God through Word, Table, music, and prayer. I have seen firsthand how the church cares for its members, both spiritually and in times of physical need. I have seen firsthand how the church reaches out beyond its walls in one-on-one service and through partner agencies. God is present and working through this congregation. God's presence is made known when we carry out the tasks Christ has given to us.

The tasks Christ has given to us, or the lists of the church's practices (marks or sacraments), has varied over the centuries. However, Fitch suggests that there are seven practices that have long, compelling histories in the early church - seven disciplines of God's presence. They are ***the Lord's Table, reconciliation, proclaiming the gospel, being with "the least of these," being with children, the fivefold ministry*** (Ephesians 4:8-12), ***and kingdom prayer*** (thy kingdom come). These disciplines are about more than a personal relationship with Jesus. They are entry points into his kingdom. They are invitations into what God is actually doing in the whole world. And because we know Christ is present here at church, it leads us to discern his presence in the rest of our lives.

These disciplines are best understood as being on the move.



close circle
[recipients]



dotted circle
[hosts]



half circle
[guests]

The figure above begins with a close circle of committed followers of Christ, who are also committed to one another. It is a "close" circle rather than a "closed" circle because people are not excluded from this circle. Here in this circle, Jesus is the host, and the intensity of his presence is known like nowhere else.

But Christ does not remain just in the first circle. His presence is extended by the same people into a second space, the neighborhood. Here, there is space for neighbors and strangers to enter in and watch what God is doing in this circle. Here, the Christian disciple is the host.

However, Christ's presence does not remain here either. Christ's presence goes with us into the many places we travel - work, social clubs, shopping centers, and other spaces beyond our neighborhood. This space is a half circle because the Christian goes among the world as a guest, extending the special presence of Christ into the world among the hurting and the wandering.

Thus, the church's location is not "in here" or "out there." It is an entire way of life. And that means that the church is not just a Sunday gathering. It's a group of committed people taking Christ's presence into their everyday lives - into the world - believing that God might make a difference there as well.

Mark

We Are The Church Together!

*Our Current Sermon Series Will Conclude On Sunday
October 21: We are the Church Together - A Force*

The Hall of Faith

Message Series at The Neighborhood

During the months of October and November, worship at The Neighborhood will center on the "Hall of Faith" characters found in Hebrews 11. Some of these characters are familiar and some are not. Some followed God's commands well and others not so much. Some seem to belong in the Hall while others leave you "scratching your head." But all of these characters have a story to tell - one that will empower your own faith journey.

Come praise God, engage with scripture, and share in community each Wednesday night in the Fellowship Hall, beginning with a meal at 5:30 pm and worship at 6:00 pm.

FCC MINISTRY NEWS AND CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS



YOUNG AGES PRESCHOOL'S FALL KRINGLE FUNDRAISER OCTOBER 4th – 22nd

These delicious pastries available in Almond, Apple, Blueberry, Cherry, Cherry Cheese, Chocolate Pecan, Cinnamon Roll, Cream Cheese, Pecan, Raspberry, Turtle, make great Thanksgiving desserts and Christmas gifts. They freeze well and only take a few minutes to heat up as they are fully cooked. They are \$15.00 each and will be delivered, fresh, the week before Thanksgiving. Payment is due at the time the order is placed and all orders are due by Monday, October 22nd. Samples will be available after the service on Sunday, October 21st.

Our goal this year is to sell 400 Kringles. At that number, all shipping is free and all the funds raised can be used for purchasing new toys for the classroom, comfortable seating for our Reading Centers, and educational items for our Science Centers. Please help us reach our goal so that we may continue to offer these yummy danishes for years to come. Thank you for supporting Young Ages Preschool!

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

Welcome New Member! It was a joy to welcome Mistie Seguire into our fellowship on Sunday, September 30th. Mistie has four children: Keyara, a 3rd grader; Haze, a 2nd grader; Kiran, 4 years old; and Amara, 5 months old. The family's contact information is 2127 Ave F, 76309, 940-232-3398. Welcome, Mistie, Keyara, Haze, Kiran & Amara!

Men's Breakfast & Bible Study! Bring a friend and attend the FCC Men's Breakfast & Bible Study on Friday morning, October 12th, from 7:00-8:00 am, at the Hwy Café, 2808 Jacksboro Hwy.

Church Board Nominations Are Due Sunday, October 14! It is time to make your suggestions for nominations to the Church Board. The term of election is a three year term from January 2019 to December 2021. **Persons listed on the enclosed nomination form as Current Members of the Church Board MAY NOT be nominated for ANY position.** Those persons going off the Board in 2018 must be off the Board for at least one year before they may be nominated again for any position. For more information you may contact the church office or one of the following members of the nominating committee: Mark Bender, Cindy Hernandez, Jerry Caraway, Mark Turnbow, Jane Ridenour, Susan Buckley, Melody Jennings, Cheryl Smiley. Please return your nomination form to the church office by **Sunday, October 14th**.

Christian Women's Fellowship Group Meetings will be as follows: **Group 1** will meet on Monday, October 15th, at 1:30 pm at Alice Gordon's home, 1723 Shoal Creek. **Group 2** will meet on Wednesday, October 17th, at 12:00 noon in Rm 405. **Group 3** will meet on Monday, October 15th, at 2:00 pm.

Coats For Kids—Help Wanted: Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 21, 3:00 pm in the Sanctuary. The Coats for Kids Committee will need help sorting and counting the coats that were purchased in January.

For several years FCC has strived to deliver coats to elementary school children before Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is early this year so we will begin our campaign much earlier than in the past. Thank you for supporting this program.

Church Library to Host Sheri Sutton Book Signing—Join Sheri Sutton on Sunday, October 28th, in the Church Library between 9:15-10:45 am for a book signing of her newest release, *40 Days, A Journey of Prayer*. Books will be available for \$15. *40 Days* is also available at www.amazon.com/author/sheriasutton in soft cover and Kindle Edition.

In this book, Sheri takes us on a journey as we consider the benefits of prayer. She writes, "So why is prayer such an important aspect of our lives? Prayer is an extraordinary connective force. It binds us to a higher power, nature, and each other. It also changes our perspective. Throughout the ages, many have survived varying difficult and unthinkable circumstances because of prayer. Prayer gives us courage when we are fearful, hope when we are hopeless, and strength when we are weak. It is the part of life's journey that allows us to find answers to puzzling questions and solutions to difficult situations. Prayer empowers us to do the unexpected and raises our consciousness to be more in tune with ourselves, the world around us, and, most importantly, a power greater than ourselves." Through the consideration of four different well-known prayers, forty meditations guide the reader through each one with topics for thoughtful consideration. It is Sheri's hope that these meditations will bring a new awareness, not only of these standard prayers that have been passed down from generation to generation, but also will ultimately provide growth, encouragement, and support as one travels the road of a faith-filled life.

Open Flower Dates: If you would like to donate the flowers for the worship service in the Sanctuary, the following date is open: **October 28**. Call Sherry Tucker, Flower Coordinator, 696-2490, to donate.

Member News:

♥**Hospitalized:** at Hospice is Anna Hainline; at House of Hope is Pat Thacker.

♥Our sympathies are extended to Teresa Archambo & Family on learning of the death of Teresa's grandmother, Kathryn Dodson on October 3rd in Snyder TX.

♥Congratulations to Keith & Ivonne Wineinger on learning that their business "The Burn Shop" received the "Expansion Grow Category" Award during the i.d.e.a.WF awards ceremony on October 3rd.

First Time Guests! We are excited to report that the following persons visited for the first time on Sunday, September 30th: Natalie Herring and Robert Rodriguez.

FOR THE RECORD...

CGRM: (Tues., Oct. 2)	30
The Neighborhood (Wed., Oct. 3)	32
8:40 Worship	34
10:45 Worship	163
Total Worship	229
Sunday School	
Sunday Receipts Needed Per Week	\$16,215.67
Sunday Receipts for 10/7/18	\$11,491.00
Through Oct. 8: Income \$564,822.02	Expenses \$594,891.29

This Sunday:

"Wreck the Roof"

Luke 5:18-26

Dr. Douglas B. Skinner

SUGGESTIONS TO NOMINATING COMMITTEE

I/We suggest to the Nominating Committee that the following persons be considered for submission to the Congregation for election to the Church Board for a three year term ending 12/31/2021. **(THOSE PERSONS-- EXCEPT FOR THE YOUTH--LISTED ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS FORM CANNOT BE NOMINATED FOR ANY POSITION):**

TRUSTEE - One is to be elected. Please suggest only 1. _____

ELDERS - Six are to be elected. You may suggest any number up to 6.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

DIACONATE - Sixteen are to be elected. You may suggest any number up to 16.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

YOUTH DIACONATE - Six **HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH** are to be elected for a **one year** term. You may suggest up to 6.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

LIFE-TERM ELDER:

_____	_____
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LIFE-TERM DIACONATE:

_____	_____
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For more information you may contact the church office or one of the following members of the nominating committee: Mark Bender, Cindy Hernandez, Jerry Caraway, Mark Turnbow, Jane Ridenour, Susan Buckley, Melody Jennings, Cheryl Smiley. **PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14TH!**

CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH BOARD & THEIR TERMS

Term Ending 12/31/2018

Trustee

Jim Hay

Elders

Cathy Gately
Ann Hunter
Craig Reynolds
Cheryl Smiley
Doug Thompson
Polly Tonemah

Diaconate

Andrew Allen
Twila Boydston
Lee Bybee
Cheryl Caraway
Bob Carlton
Mary Carlton
Jill Griffin
Jon Hartman
Colleen James
Sheila Reynolds
Sharon Roach
Sandra Ross
Diane Spiller
Debbie Turnbow
Mark Turnbow
Slate Westbrook

Youth Diaconate (Term Ending 12/31/18):

Ainslee Buckley
Braelyn Crowe
Hannah Earley

Life Term Elders:

Melba Anastopoulos
John Bridgman
Rita Cason
Diana Costello
W.C. Duncan II
David Gately

Life Term Diaconate:

Sara Anderson
Rosie Bearden
Ruth Beyer
Gretchen Bridgman
Peggy Fitts

Term Ending 12/31/2019

Trustee

Doug Kunkle

Elders

Cal Edgemon
Alice Gordon
Sally Hastings
Robert Hernandez
Dwight Ross III
Debbi Schmidt

Diaconate

Elise Allen
John Buckley
Karen Burross
Terry Burross

Sarah Cook

Eric Hartman
Sandy Hay
Norma Hill
Sherry Martin
Mac Reid

Chris Showalter
Sally Wilson
David Wyatt

Term Ending 12/31/2020

Trustee

Kerry Roach

Elders

Rick Appling
David Collins
Woody Gossom
Howard Morris
Ricky Scales
Emily Wilson

Diaconate

Debi Ballard
Kim Ballard
Larry Ballard
Ashley Burross
Kyle Burross
Buddy Edgemon
Alan Freeman
Lynette Gill
Kris Gossom
Scot Hafley
Ann Kable
Hollie Murphey
Nancy Smith
Curtis Sullivan

Liz Thomas

Patt Giddings
Anna Hainline
Ted Lauck
Virgil Lee
Sandrea Marvel
James Irl & Dorothy Montgomery

Judy Muir
Frank Tate
Charles Taylor
Pat Thacker
Marilyn Vaughn

Carolyn Ford
Shirley Harris
Helen Jackson
Lou James
Doug Mapes

Sam Maynor
Lou Murdock
Sue Nunn
Jean Puckett
H.P. "Bud" Rafuse

Dolly Sloan
Glorie Steele
Ann Watkins
Mary Beth Wyatt

OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, October 14, 2018 INSTALLATION SUNDAY

8:40 Worship (Chapel)
9:30 Sunday School
9:45 Journey Through Scripture Bible Study (Parlor)
10:45 Worship & Senior Minister Installation Service (Sanctuary)
12:00 Fellowship Luncheon (Fellowship Hall)
3:45 Chancel Ringers (Adults) (Stratten Hall)
5:00-5:45 Grow in Grace Choir (Grades K-5) (Stratten Hall)
5:00-7:00 Chi Rho & CYF (Grades 6-12) (Rm 403/Gym)
5:45-7:00 Young Disciples (Grades K-5) (Rm 402)

Monday, October 15, 2018

7:30-6:00 Children Come First "CCF" (M-F)
9:00-12:00 Young Ages School "YAS" (M-F)
9:00 CCF Music (Rm 220)
10:45 FCC Staff Meeting (Rm 222)
1:30 CWF Group 1 (1723 Shoal Creek)
2:00 CWF Group 3 (Rm 405)
7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

10:00 YAS Music (Rm 220) (Tu & Wed)
2:00 Library Committee (Library)
6:00 Education Ministry Meeting (Rm 405)
6:00 Stewardship Ministry Meeting (Rm 310)
6:30 Common Ground Recovery Ministries Support Groups
7:00 Worship Ministry Meeting (Rm 222)

Wednesday, October 17, 2018

7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Rm 405/Chapel)
9:30 CCF Firetruck Visit (Parking Lot)
10:30 Sherri Sutton's Fall Bible Study (Rm 310)
12:00-2:00 YAS Staff Meeting (Rm 217)
12:00 CWF Group 2 (Rm 405)
5:30-6:00 The Neighborhood Meal (Fellowship Hall)
6:00-7:00 The Neighborhood Worship (Fellowship Hall)
6:00-7:30 Off-Site Trunk or Treat (115 E Wichita St)
7:00-8:00 Youth Activities (Grades 6-12) (Rm 403/Gym)
7:00-9:00 Chancel Choir (High School-Adults) (Stratten Hall)

Thursday, October 18, 2018

9:00 CWF Group 3 Birthday Breakfast (IHOP on SW Pkwy)
10:00 YAS Police Officer Visit (Parking Lot) (Thurs. & Fri.)
1:30 Knit Wits (Parlor)

Friday, October 19, 2018

9:00 CCF Spanish (Rm 220)

Saturday, October 20, 2018

9:00-1:00 Property Workday

Sunday, October 21, 2018

8:40 Worship (Chapel)
9:30 Sunday School
9:45 Journey Through Scripture Bible Study (Parlor)
10:45 Worship (Sanctuary)
3:45 Chancel Ringers (Adults) (Stratten Hall)
5:00 Membership Ministry Meeting (Rm 405)
5:00 Grow in Grace Choir (Grades K-5) (Stratten Hall)
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, October 22, 2018 YAS Kringles Fundraiser Ends

7:30-6:00 Children Come First "CCF" (M-F)
9:00-12:00 Young Ages School "YAS" (M-F)
9:00 CCF Music (Rm 220)
10:45 FCC Staff Meeting (Rm 222)
6:00 New Member Dinner (Parlor)
7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, October 23, 2018

7:30-12:00 CCF Pictures (Parlor)
10:00 YAS Music (Rm 220) (Tu & Wed)
2:00 Library Committee (Library)
6:00 Executive Council Meeting (Rm 310)
6:30 Common Ground Recovery Ministries Support Groups:

Wednesday, October 24, 2018

7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Rm 405/Chapel)
9:00 CCF Chapel (Chapel) / 10:00 YAS Music (Rm 220)
10:30 Sherri Sutton's Fall Bible Study (Rm 310)
5:30 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)
7:00-9:00 Chancel Choir (High School-Adults) (Stratten Hall)

Friday, October 26, 2018

9:00 CCF Spanish (Rm 220)
5:30 CMF's MSU Mustang Meals (Fellowship Hall)

SERVING SUNDAY ELDERS

10/14: Cathy Gately, Howard Morris; Dwight Ross III, Presiding
10/21: Ann Hunter, Emily Wilson; Robert Hernandez, Presiding

DIACONATE COMMUNION VISITATION

10/14: Norma Hill, Mac Reid, Kim Ballard
10/21: Hollie Murphey, Nancy Smith, Curtis Sullivan

DIACONATE COMMUNION PREPARATION

10/14: Diane Spiller & Eric Hartman
10/21: Andrew & Elise Allen

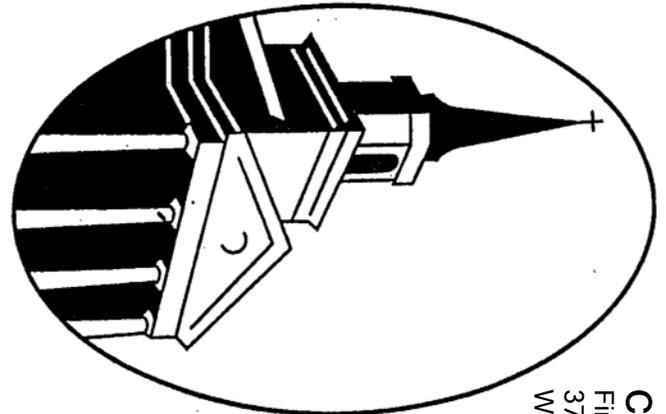
OCTOBER DIACONATE SERVERS

Twila Boydston & Slate Westbrook, Co-Captains

Andrew & Elise Allen, Sheila Reynolds, Diane Spiller, 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
Dr. Mark Bender, Senior Minister			692-2282
Josh deSteiguer, Director of Youth Ministries			692-2282
Claire Baer, Director of Children's Ministries			692-2282
Jeanette Showalter, Director of Music Ministries			763-8515
Cheryl Appling, Business Administrator			691-7265
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
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