



Christian Challenger

Vol. 66

March 13, 2019

No. 6

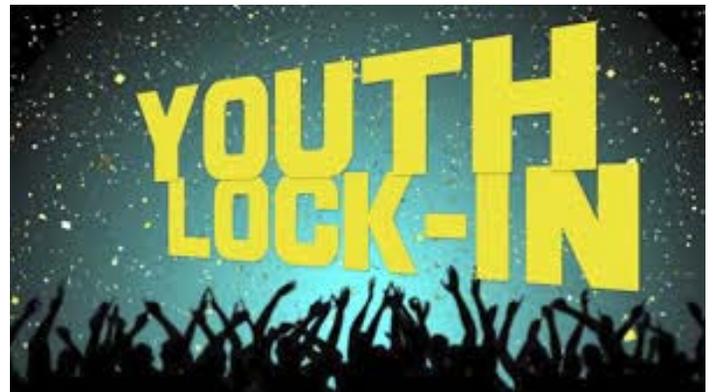
Spring Break 2019



Young Disciples Spring Break Mission Opportunity

The Young Disciples will be going back to the Food Bank of Wichita Falls on Tuesday, March 19th! We will meet at the church at 10:00 am, serve at the Food Bank, and then enjoy lunch and a fun activity together. Children can be picked up at the church in Room 402 at 2:00 pm. Please let Claire know if your child would like to participate and please send \$5 to help cover the cost of lunch.

In just the short time of an hour and a half, our Young Disciples will get to personally help make a difference for many people in our area. Not only do the children get to see first-hand how the Food Bank functions, they also learn about all the programs the Food Bank offers to our community. The education and experience the Food Bank gives our children helps them see the impact they are making in our communities and even in their own schools. Some of the programs provided are Kids Café, an after school program that provides hot meals for children ages 1-18 at various locations in town, and PowerPak 4 Kids which provides a little food security for in need children over the weekends.



Youth Lock-In

Spring Break is here and there is no better way to kick it off than with a lock-in! This Friday, March 15th, youth in grades 6-12 will be meeting at the church at 8:00 p.m. for a night of fun, food, and fellowship. We will have all of the lock-in classics like plunger ball, sardines (think hide and seek in reverse) and a mid-night nerf battle. We will also have some really fun team challenges and a devotional time.

Bring either a two liter of your favorite soda or a snack to share. Come hungry because John Cook, Elizabeth, and I, will have a taco bar ready when you get here. Food and fun will be plentiful and sleep will be the only thing in short supply.

Bring yourself and bring a friend. Parents can pick up their youth at 8:00 a.m. Saturday morning.

I hope to see you Friday night!

Josh

P.S. We will also have a mission opportunity on Thursday, March 21st, from 1:00-3:30 p.m. when we volunteer at the Food Bank of Wichita Falls.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2019

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
in the United States and Canada

July 20 - 24, 2019, Des Moines, IA

If you would be interested in attending as one of our delegates,
please contact Dr. Bender, 692-2282.

To register or for more info go to: disciples.org/ga.

Early Bird discounted registration deadline: March 31, 2019

Make Your Mark

Dr. Mark R. Bender
Senior Minister



Spiritual Profiling

Last week, members of the Vision Team and the church staff received the results of a personality profile. These individual profiles, based on Swiss psychologist Carl Jung's psychological types, provided us with a common language and model for thinking about our approaches to decision making, activities, and relationships. Like other personality profiles, this version identified key strengths and weaknesses, and described the value each person brings to the team. It also described our default personality type on a color wheel.

There were four color types and corresponding descriptors:

- **Fiery Reds** - Let's do it NOW - competitive; strong-willed; purposeful; determined.
- **Sunshine Yellows** - Let's do it TOGETHER - sociable; dynamic; enthusiastic.
- **Earth Greens** - Let's do it HARMONIOUSLY - caring; encouraging; patient.
- **Cool Blues** - Let's do it RIGHT - deliberate; precise; cautious.



It was fascinating to learn which "color" described each person. More often than not, we agreed that these described the person's temperament well. And since last week, we have all been reflecting on our profiles individually. Vision Team members have been sharing stories by email about moments they have seen their personality type validated or moments where they have had to manufacture energy to do something in an area that isn't their default. These stories have helped individuals learn more about how they think and act, and have helped the team process how they work together.

Last week we also entered into the season of Lent. Lent is the forty day season the church gives us to prepare for and give careful thought to God's redemptive acts in Jesus Christ. It is a season for growing through repentance, fellowship, prayer, fasting, and focused concentration on who it is that we profess as our Lord and Savior. It's designed to be a season for personal reflection. And coincidentally, because we received these personality profiles just as Lent was beginning, I started my Lenten season by considering again our temperaments and approaches to God.

One of the premier tools for thinking about our individual spiritual type was created by Corinne Ware. Ware was a professor of ascetical theology at the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest in Austin. Out of her studies and her personal experience as a pastoral counselor, Ware found there were four ways of thinking about spirituality, or four spiritual types:

The first type is a **head spirituality**. This type approaches spirituality as an intellectual exercise, favoring what one can see, touch, and vividly imagine. They value structure, logic, order, and tradition. Because they love words, both spoken and written, people who have this spiritual type tend to enhance their spiritual life through more study groups, sermons/lectures, and serious discussions. If you have a head spirituality, you will recognize this as you sing hymns - you will concentrate more on the words than on the music.



Designed from the Spirituality Wheel, Corinne D Ware

Ware's second spiritual type is a **heart spirituality**. This type approaches spirituality through the heart or emotions as a way to achieve holiness of life (personal renewal). They value freedom, independence, and spontaneity, and love to share an experience of joy. People who have this spiritual type seek God by heartfelt intuition, and they know God is real because they feel God's presence so deeply. Music, as well as heartfelt preaching and worship, moves them deeply.

The third type is a **mystic spirituality**. The aim of this spirituality type is union with the Holy and focuses more on hearing from God rather than speaking to God. They value peace, harmony, and inner silence, and nurture their spiritual life through walking alone, sitting quietly with a trusted friend, poetry, and meditation. Those with a mystic spirituality enjoy a simple life because it quiets outside distractions and allow them to hear that inner voice more clearly. While they know in their heads that they can never completely achieve oneness with God, they believe in their hearts that efforts towards this are extremely important.

The fourth spiritual type Ware identified is a **kingdom spirituality**. People with this spiritual type experience God best by serving others. They value competence and knowledge, and are devoted to causes they believe will implement a vision of the world as God's reign of earth. The regeneration of society becomes a personal crusade, fueling a strong desire to correct the wrongs of the world. Besides working tirelessly and passionately for transformation, they also equate prayer and theology with action. This can lead them to attend more to their outer life than their inner life.

These four types are descriptive of one's spiritual approach to being in relationship with God. They help indicate the reasons some people worship God one particular way while others choose a very different way of expressing religious devotion. However, one type is not better or preferable to another. They are simply ways of thinking about and describing the way we choose to connect with God. And this knowledge helps us better understand (and fuel) our own spiritual growth, as well as better understand why others who share a pew with us approach their spiritual growth differently (and with different preferences).

But Corinne Ware's work is not the only way to think about how we approach God. In Part 2 of *Spiritual Profiling*, I will describe the nine sacred pathways identified by Gary Thomas which helps individuals to see the way they most naturally express their relationship with Jesus Christ.

In the meantime, I hope that you will spend some time during this season of Lent to reflect on how you most comfortably engage with God...and then spend some quality time doing just that.

Mark

FCC MINISTRY NEWS AND CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

The **Challenger** is biweekly, with the next publication on March 27! FCC Ministry News is sent by email every Monday.

Welcome New Members! It was a pleasure to welcome **Dave Clark** into our fellowship by transfer of membership on February 28th. Dave is retired from the City of Wichita Falls as a City Planner. Dave's contact information is 2112 Indian Heights, 76309, 691-6857. Welcome, Dave!



It was a joy to welcome **Terry & Robbie Walker** into our fellowship this past Sunday, March 10th, by transfer of membership from Park Place Christian Church. Terry & Robbie are both retired and Robbie is Bob Hayes' sister and she is also a former Director of Young Ages Preschool. Their contact information is 1535 Mesquite, 76302, 767-3118. Welcome, Terry & Robbie!

Open Flower Dates: If you would like to donate the flowers for the worship service in the Sanctuary, the following dates are open: **March 17, 24 & 31**. Call Sherry Tucker, Flower Coordinator, 696-2490, to donate.

Christian Women's Fellowship Group Meetings will be as follows on Monday, March 18th: **Group 1** will meet at 1:30 pm at Camille Brookshire's home, 4911 Neta Ln; and **Group 3** will meet at 2:00 pm in Room 405. On Wednesday, March 20th, **Group 2** will meet at 12:00 noon in Room 405.

Stretch Class: The Stretch Class will NOT meet on Monday, March 18th, due to Spring Break. The class will resume on March 25th.

Join us in the gym every Monday at 6 pm for an hour of stretching. This class is open for everyone...men and women. Lora Vailes guides us through some easy stretches to relieve the stress on our muscles. Cost is \$5 a class. Yoga mats and stretch bands are available but you are welcome to bring your own. Please come and bring a friend. If you have any questions ask Cindy Hernandez.

March Meetings: will be as follows:
Tuesday, March 19th: **Stewardship** at 6:00 pm, Rm 310
Education at 7:00 pm, Rm 405
Tuesday, March 26th: **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, March 18th, & 25th.

Tea at Two on Tuesdays! Bring your favorite tea cup for a gathering for women on Tuesday, March 26th, 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!

Through the Bible in a Year Study: The next "discussion and encouragement gathering" will take place on Thursday, March 28th, at 6:00 pm in Room 310. A list of the daily readings are available in the church office.

Member News:
 ♥**Hospitalized:** at Presbyterian Manor Health Care is Betty Lyons. Released and back home are Todd Brunson, Doug Mapes, Margaret Phillips, Jo Ella Rice.
 ♥Our sympathies are extended to Woody & Kris Gossom and Family on learning of the death of Woody's brother, David Gossom, on February 28th. Memorial services were held on March 6th in the Sanctuary.
 ♥Our condolences are extended to the Family of Sue Neal. Sue passed away on March 4th. Graveside services were held on March 7th.

♥We also extend our sympathies to Ida Jo Duncan and Family on learning of the death of W.C. Duncan II on March 9th. A private memorial service will be held at a future date.

♥Congratulations to Allison & Clay Conrady on the birth of their daughter, Stella Mary Conrady, on March 12th. Proud grandparents are Sandy & Shane Smith.

New Children's Books in the Church Library: Beverly Cleary Books:

1. Ramona The Brave
2. Ramona and Her Mother
3. Ramona Quimby, Age 8
4. Ramona Forever
5. Ramona's World
6. Ramona and Her Father

Take advantage of and enjoy your First Christian Church Library and its contents any time the church building is open.

From the Mailbox. . .

To the generous members of First Christian Church,
 Thank you for your gift of support for Project Back to School. Your contribution will allow local children to have the necessary school supplies to set them on a successful path for their future.

Amy Brown, Advisory Team Member

SAVE THE DATE:
 Rolling River Rampage VBS
 July 15-19, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
 Ages 4 years old - 5th Grade



Rolling River Rampage invites Rafters on a white water rafting adventure to experience the ride of a lifetime with God! Along the river, Rafters discover that life with God is an adventure full of wonder and surprise, and that they can trust God to be with them through anything!

FOR THE RECORD. . .

CGRM: (Tues., March 5)	37
Ash Wednesday Service (Wed., Mar. 6)	78
8:40 Worship . . . 39	10:45 Worship . . . 187
Total Worship	304
Sunday School	83
Sunday Receipts Needed Per Week	\$17,867.62
Sunday Receipts for 3/10/19	\$13,434.00
Through Mar. 11: Income \$204,360.00	Expenses \$162,260.90

This Sunday:

"The Virtuous Life"
 Luke 18:9-14
 Dr. Mark Bender

OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, March 17, 2019

8:40 Worship (Chapel)
9:30 Sunday School
9:30 Pastor's Class (Rm 309)
9:45 Journey Through Scripture Bible Study (Parlor)
10:45 Worship (Sanctuary)
NO Chancel Ringers (Adults) (Stratten Hall)
NO 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, March 18, 2019

7:30-6:00 Children Come First "CCF" (M-F)
Young Ages School "YAS" Closed This Week
9:00 CCF Music (Rm 220)
1:30 CWF Group 1 (4911 Neta Ln)
2:00 CWF Group 3 (Rm 405)
5:00-8:00 CCF Staff Training (Rm 310)
NO Stretch Class (Gym)
7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, March 19, 2019

10:00-2:00 Young Disciples (Grades K-5) Mission Activity at the Food Bank
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

Wednesday, March 20, 2019

7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Rm 405/Chapel)
9:00 CCF Chapel (Chapel)
10:30 Sheri Sutton Lenten Study (Rm 310)
12:00 CWF Group 2 (Rm 405)
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)
NO Chancel Choir (High School-Adults) (Stratten Hall)

Thursday, March 21, 2019

9:00 CWF Group 3 Birthday Breakfast (IHOP on SW Pkwy)
1:00-3:30 Youth (Grades 6-12) Mission Activity at the Food Bank
1:30 Knit Wits (Parlor)

Friday, March 22, 2019

9:00 CCF Spanish (Rm 220)

Sunday, March 24, 2019

8:40 Worship (Chapel)
9:30 Sunday School
9:30 Pastor's Class (Rm 309)
9:45 Journey Through Scripture Bible Study (Parlor)
10:45 Worship (Sanctuary)
NO Chancel Ringers (Adults) (Stratten Hall)
NO 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, March 25, 2019

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)
6:00-7:00 Stretch Class (Gym)
7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, March 26, 2019

9:30 FCC Staff Meeting (Rm 222)
10:00 YAS Music (Rm 220) (Tues. & Wed.)
2:00 Tea at Two (Parlor)
2:00 Library Committee (Library)
6:00 Executive Council Meeting (Rm 310)
6:30 Common Ground Recovery Ministries Support Groups

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Rm 405/Chapel)
9:00 CCF Chapel (Chapel)
10:30 Sheri Sutton Lenten 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)

Thursday, March 28, 2019

10:00 YAS WF Librarian Visit (Rm 310) (Thurs. & Fri.)

6:00 Through the Bible in a Year (Rm 310)

Friday, March 29, 2019

7:30-12:00 CCF Pictures (Parlor)
9:00 CCF Spanish (Rm 220)

SERVING SUNDAY

ELDERS

3/17: Debbi Schmidt, Andy Wilson; David Collins, Presiding
3/24: Cal Edgemon, Emily Wilson; Gary Ballard, Presiding

DIACONATE COMMUNION VISITATION

3/17: Ashley Burross, Eric Hartman, Scot Hafley
3/24: Hollie Murphey, Isabell Murphey, Kyle Burross

DIACONATE COMMUNION PREPARATION

3/17: David & Stacey Strickland
3/24: Mac Reid & Sally Wilson

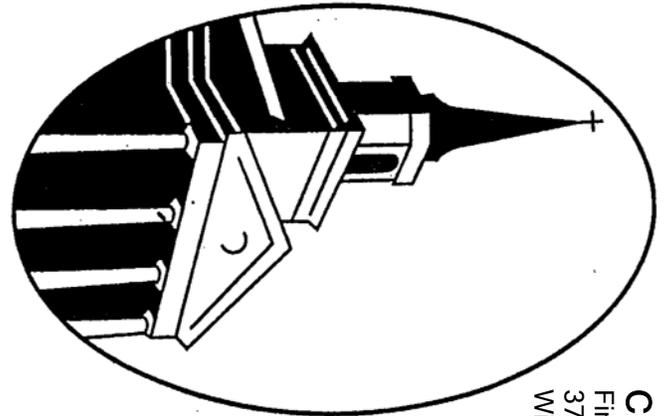
MARCH DIACONATE SERVERS

Sandy Hay and Ashley & Kyle Burross, Co-Captains

Sarah, John & Davidson Cook, Eric Hartman, Mac Reid, Sally Wilson, Scot Hafley,
Hollie & Isabell Murphey, Nancy Smith, Philip Dudenhoeffer, Ronnie James, David
& Stacey Strickland.

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
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.