



Christian Challenger

Vol. 66

May 8, 2019

No. 10

**FIRST CHRISTIAN
CHURCH**

Christian Woman's Fellowship

**Indoor Picnic
& Music Gala** **May
13**

Food, Fellowship, lots of
Music & Fun. Invite your
friends - \$5 per person **12pm**
Please call the church
office w/ RSVP 
(940)-692-2282



God bless our graduates! On May 19th we will celebrate a major milestone in many young lives. At our 10:45 am worship service, our high school graduates will process in their caps and gowns and then we will share their past and their plans and dreams for the future with a special video presentation at the church-wide Graduate Luncheon at noon in the Fellowship Hall.

We will also recognize during worship those in our church family who are graduating from college, graduate school, or a professional school. If you have a graduate in your family, please call Susan in the church office, so that we can add the name to our list.

Please make your reservations for the Graduate Luncheon in worship or by calling the church office. Cost for the meal will be by donation.

Are You Ready For Some Church Softball...Or Kickball???



We've heard rumors that some young couples are interested in forming FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH softball and/or kickball teams to play in the city leagues. If you're interested, send your contact info to Ann Hunter ann@firstchristianwf.com in the church office by the end of May because the city leagues are now forming for the summer seasons. They're offering men's church league softball, coed softball and adult kickball. We'll need your name, e-mail address and cell phone number for the roster...and call church "athletic director" Jerry Johnson with questions at 940-704-1471.

Make Your Mark

Dr. Mark R. Bender
Senior Minister



Making an Impression

Our expectations communicate a lot about what we value. When we dine out, we expect the food to be warm, the drinks to be cold, and the service to be swift. We want our server to be personable, courteous, and conscientious. We expect the check to reflect the value not only of our meal but also of our overall dining experience.

That's why we'll eat at a fast-food diner with laminated tabletops, cheap prints on the wall, and a self-serve soda fountain. The value of our experience is reflected in the check. It doesn't cost us much. It satisfies our hungry. It's adequate.

Adequate defines many of our experiences, doesn't it? A trip to the mall, a sandwich for lunch, and a transaction at the bank are generally adequate experiences. Adequate isn't bad. We get what we need. The experience just isn't anything to write home about. It isn't memorable.

But often we expect more than adequate.

(Mark L. Waltz, *First Impressions*, Group Publishing, 2005)

I suspect you can relate to Mark Waltz's statement about expectations. When you travel, you expect a different quality at the Hilton than you do at Motel 6. Both provide a place to sleep. But, in most cases, the similarities stop there. The bed linens are likely to be a higher thread count at the Hilton. The insulation between rooms is likely to cancel more noise at the Hilton. You are much more likely to find a bellhop to help you with your bags at the Hilton. This doesn't mean that the Motel 6 is subpar. It's just that the Motel 6 provides a different experience. Given this, your expectation level is different.

But imagine what would happen if you pulled up at the Motel 6 and a bellhop greeted you. Imagine if your the front desk clerk greeted you by name and efficiently had your room key ready. Imagine if the bed was more luxurious than you expected and bathroom floor was heated beneath your feet. Imagine if the complimentary breakfast the next morning was made-to-order and delivered to your room at just the time you asked for it. And all of this happened while still paying \$49.99 a night. Chances are that night at the Motel 6 would stand out to you because it was so different from your expectations. You might tell your friends all about your out-of-the-norm experience.

Of course, memorable experiences can also come when expectations aren't met. Suppose you drive to Dallas for a special anniversary dinner. You choose an upscale steakhouse and order the most expensive steak on the menu. When it comes to your table, it turns out to be a hamburger steak. And it appears to be served on a dirty plate. Right beside the dollop of ketchup that was added for color is some crusty potato from the last customer. Chances are you are going to tell your friends about this experience, too. But you will be sharing how it didn't meet your expectations.

Churches face this same reality. Long time members and first time guests both have expectations about what will happen when they arrive at the church. It's not so much a *consumer*

mindset as it is a *cultural* mindset. Do we say "you matter to Jesus Christ and to us" and then fail to even say hello? Do we claim to have dynamic worship and then do the same thing every week? Have we created a culture which reflects our values?

Mark Waltz goes on to address another way the issue of expectations impacts churches:

Your biggest competition on Sunday morning isn't another church in town...Your competition, the rival that will keep people away from your church, is any business, service, or experience your guests have encountered in the past few weeks. The competition includes restaurants, malls, golf courses, and amusement parks. First Bank (not First Church), United Parcel (not United Methodist), and Grace Medical (not Grace Community) set the bar for service.

The competition doesn't happen only during weekend worship services. The competition for your guests began when they were wowed in another environment. One or more of your guests shipped a package to the other side of the country last week, assured that it would arrive there by noon the next day. Another guest picked up his laundry at the local cleaner, pleased his shirts were treated with medium starch and ready in two days as promised. You have guests who are greeted by name at their local coffee shop and rewarded with free drinks because they are free shoppers. Even the discount supercenter provides special parking for pregnant moms and handicapped patrons. Your guests have high expectations that are formed every day from new encounters with excellence and conscientious care. Although too much of their world is merely adequate, they know excellence, and they return to places where they experience it.

One way to determine whether our church is adequate or memorable is to be the next guest. In other words, look at the following through the eyes of a guest:

- Parking (coming and going) - note the effectiveness of our signs (or lack of them), traffic flow, and specific trouble spots.
- The approach to the building - look for overgrown landscaping and broken, worn, or dangerous steps and other elements. Scrutinize the terrain, signage, and entrances.
- The children's ministry area - pay attention to the drop off/pick up process, the friendliness and approachability of our children's workers, and the wait time.
- The worship service - note "insider" language; can those new to the church understand what is being said or conveyed?
- The attitude of people around you - how are you feeling since you arrived on campus?

The point of doing things like this is not to please other people (Galatians 1:10), but to do two things for Jesus Christ: 1) Prevent distractions that keep people from hearing the good news of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 7:35); and, 2) Extend the kind of hospitality that Christ calls us to bestow to all who come our way (Luke 14:7-14). Doing those things well will help us make a memorable impression on all who cross paths with First Christian Church.

Mark



FCC MINISTRY NEWS AND CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Worship Series

Simon Peter – A Lot Like Us...



One of the more fascinating characters in the New Testament is Simon Peter. In many ways, he resembles us today: a faithful disciple one day, a scared follower the next, and then a remarkable leader. Join us on Sundays as we dive deeply into Peter's life to learn how his successes and failures

provide a model for us today.



Now Appearing

On Wednesdays at *The Neighborhood* come examine the characters Jesus appeared to after his resurrection and the situations that unfolded as a result at the new worship series, *Now Appearing*. The Neighborhood begins at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship with a community meal followed by acoustic worship at 6:00 pm.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Rolling River Rampage VBS
Ages 4 years old - 5th Grade

Off-Site: June 24-28, 5:45 – 8:00 pm
On-Site: July 15-19, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Registration is now open for Vacation Bible School!

Click the link below to register!

<http://www.firstchristianwf.com/vacation-bible-school-registration/>

If you are interested in volunteering for either Vacation Bible School, please email Claire at claire@firstchristianwf.com or call 940-692-2282 for more information.



The **Challenger** is biweekly, with the next publication on May 22! FCC Ministry News is sent by email every Monday.

Men's Breakfast & Bible Study! Bring a friend and attend the FCC Men's Breakfast & Bible Study on Friday morning, May 10th, from 7:00-8:00 am, at Jimmy's Egg on Midwestern Pkwy.

Stretch Class: is on break until further notice.

Through the Bible in a Year Study: The next "discussion and encouragement gathering" will take place on Thursday, May 23rd, at 6:00 pm in Room 310.

Young Ages Preschool End-of-Year Program:

We would like to invite you to our End of the Year Program and "Moving on Ceremony" on Tuesday, May 14th, at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The children have worked very hard on their "Old MacDonald had a Farm" program.

A special "Thank You" to our board: Melody Jennings, Jenn Duncan, Debbie Nelson, Jessica Casey, Lisa Choate and Bryan Billingsley. Young Ages Preschool is blessed to have you!!

Young Ages Preschool will continue enrollment for 2019-20 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.

May Meetings: will be as follows:

Wednesday, May 8th: **Vision Team** from 2:00-8:30pm, Rm 310

Tuesday, May 14th: **Evangelism** at 6:00 pm, Rm 405

Membership at 6:00 pm, Parlor

Property at 6:00 pm, Rm 310

Outreach at 6:00 pm, Library

Worship at 7:00 pm, Rm 222

Tuesday, May 21st: **Education** at 6:00 pm, Rm 405

Stewardship at 6:00 pm, Rm 310

Tuesday, May 28th: **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 13th, 20th & 27th.

Christian Women's Fellowship Group Meetings

will be as follows on Monday, May 20th: **Group 1** will meet at 11:30 am by the Chapel doors to carpool to Jane Ridenour's home in Holliday TX; and **Group 3** will meet at 1:00 pm at Red Robin Restaurant in Sikes Senter Mall. On Wednesday, May 22nd, **Group 2** will meet at 12:00 noon in Room 405.

Member News:

♥**Hospitalized:** at John Peter Smith-Fort Worth is Joanne Williford; at Presbyterian Manor Health Care is Betty Lyons. Released and back home are Gretchen Bridgman, Camille Brookshire, Larry Carr & Lynette Gill.

♥Our sympathies are extend to Rita Cason & Linda C. Carr and Families on learning of the death of their niece and cousin, Sandra Davis, on May 2nd.

First Time Guests! We are excited to report that the following persons visited for the first time on Sunday, April 21st: Linda Hewett & Viviana James; and on Sunday April 28th: Martha Elms.

FOR THE RECORD...

CGRM: (Tues., April 30)26
The Neighborhood (Wed., May 1)15
Worship (May 5): 8:40am	..41
10:45am	..191
Total Worship247
Sunday School111
Sunday Receipts Needed Per Week	\$17,867.62
Sunday Receipts for 5/5/19	\$18,983.00
Through May 6: Income	\$357,631.78
Expenses	\$320,584.55

This Sunday:

"She Got Up and Served"
Mark 1:29-34
Dr. Mark R. Bender

OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, May 12, 2019 MOTHER'S DAY

8:40 Worship (Chapel)
9:30 Sunday School
9:45 Journey Through Scripture Bible Study (Parlor)
10:45 Worship (Sanctuary)
5:00 Chancel Ringers (Adults) (Stratten Hall)
NO Sunday Evening Activities

Monday, May 13, 2019

7:30-6:00 Children Come First "CCF" (M-F)
9:00-12:00 Young Ages School "YAS" (M-Th)
9:00 CCF Chapel (Chapel)
10:00 YAS Music (Fellowship Hall)
11:45 CWF Indoor Picnic & Musical Gala (Fellowship Hall)
7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

9:30 FCC Staff Meeting (Rm 222)
2:00 Library Committee (Library)
6:00 YAS End-of-Year Program (Fellowship Hall)
6:00 Evangelism Ministry Meeting (Rm 405)
6:00 Membership Ministry Meeting (Parlor)
6:00 Property Ministry Meeting (Rm 310)
6:00 Outreach Ministry Meeting (Library)
6:30 Common Ground Recovery Ministries Support Groups
7:00 Worship Ministry Meeting (Rm 222)

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Rm 405/Chapel)
9:00 CCF Spanish (Rm 220)
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, May 16, 2019

YAS Last Day of School
9:00 CWF Group 3 Birthday Breakfast (IHOP on SW Pkwy)
1:30 Knit Wits (Parlor)

Friday, May 17, 2019

YAS Teacher In-Service Day
9:00 CCF Music (Rm 220)

Sunday, May 19, 2019 GRADUATE SUNDAY

8:40 Worship (Chapel)
9:30 Sunday School
9:45 Journey Through Scripture Bible Study (Parlor)
10:45 Worship (Sanctuary)
12:00 Graduate Luncheon (Fellowship Hall)
NO 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, May 20, 2019

7:30-6:00 Children Come First "CCF" (M-F)
9:00 CCF Chapel (Chapel)
11:30 CWF Group 1 (Jane Ridenour's home in Holliday TX)
1:00 CWF Group 3 (Red Robin Restaurant at Sikes Senter Mall)
7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

9:30 FCC Staff Meeting (Rm 222)
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, May 22, 2019

7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Rm 405/Chapel)
9:00 CCF Spanish (Rm 220)
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)
7:00-9:00 Chancel Choir (High School-Adults) (Stratten Hall)

Thursday, May 23, 2019

Last Day of WFISD Public School
6:00 Through the Bible in a Year (Rm 310)

Friday, May 24, 2019

9:00 CCF Music (Rm 220)

SERVING SUNDAY ELDERS

5/12: Howard Morris, Linda Cook; Ricky Scales, Presiding
5/19: Sally Hastings, Kathleen Lauck; Robert Hernandez, Presiding

DIACONATE COMMUNION VISITATION

5/12: Karen Burross, Margaret Phillips, James Poole
5/19: Braelyn Crowe, Alan Freeman, Terry Burross

DIACONATE COMMUNION PREPARATION

5/12: Alan Freeman & Chris Showalter
5/19: Sherry Martin & Teresa Archambo

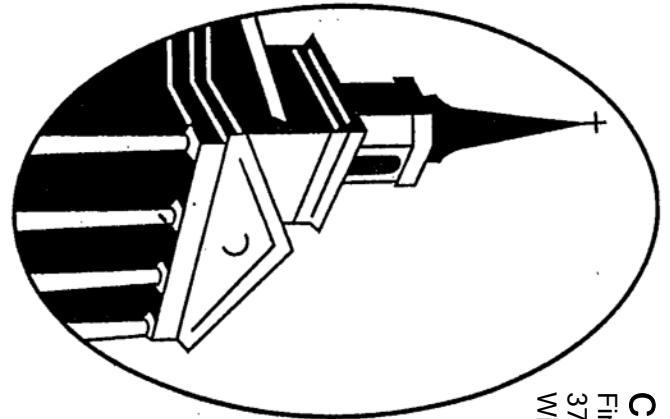
MAY DIACONATE SERVERS

Sherry Martin & Kris Gossom, Co-Captains

Karen & Terry Burross, Chris Showalter, Debi & Larry Ballard, Alan Freeman, Lynette Gill, Liz & Emily Thomas, Teresa Archambo, Shirley Craft, Fred Gentry, Melody Jennings, Margaret Phillips, James Poole, Braelyn Crowe.

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		
Rev. 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.