



# Christian Challenger

Vol. 66

July 17, 2019

No. 15

## Bingo & Ice Cream Sundaes



Get ready for some fun! Bingo and Ice Cream Sundae fun that is! Make plans to join us this Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to join. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Buckley, 781-6128.



## Fun at Vacation Bible School



## *Back to School Bash!*

**When: Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Where: Lucy Park Swimming Pool**

**Time: 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm**

**Come party with First Christian Church, Park Place Christian Church, and First Christian Church of Burkburnett, as we bring the summer to a close. There will be food and fun for everyone!**



## Generations of the Church 2019 August Adult Forum

During the Sunday School hour (9:30 am - 10:30 am) on Sundays, August 4, August 11, August 18, August 25, and September 1, all adults are invited to the Fellowship Hall to learn about the various generations that make-up First Christian Church. Come learn about the characteristics of these generations, their spiritual needs/desires, and how the church reaches or could better reach the members of these generations.

## MSU Students In Need



We are excited about helping the MSU college students in August in two ways! First, FCC will be helping with a campus "garage sale" for the new incoming students in need of setting up a home. Instead of giving them a basket with items we've placed, each student

will be given a basket that they can pick items they specifically need: kitchen pots, pans, plates, glasses, flatware, spatulas; or bedroom needs like twin/full sheets, blankets, curtains, small lamps. Things you would need to set up an apt. The give-away will be Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, IF POSSIBLE, keep your items until Monday the 12<sup>th</sup>, we will have drop off information for you before that.

We also will be collecting non perishable food for the MSU Food Pantry toward the end of August. These ambitious students, some from the other side of the world, could use our help, and we look forward to helping them on their journey in our town. If you have any questions, contact Polly or Sally on the Outreach team.



# Make Your Mark

Dr. Mark R. Bender  
Senior Minister



## Making an Impact

This is Vacation Bible School week, one of my favorite weeks of the year. I love the energy and excitement this week brings. I love that the kids sing the songs and recite the Bible verses to their parents on their way home. And I love that God had blessed us with the opportunity to impact the lives of more than 80 children and their families this week!

As many of you know, I was on vacation last week. There is nothing quite like coming back from a week away to Vacation Bible School. I literally hit the ground running...and I have loved every minute of it! This week, my primary role at VBS is as the Paddle Captain. My job is to help point the groups in the right direction as they find adventure, acceptance, joy, rest, and peace along the roaring river. Hopefully, with a little help from my otter friend, Romper (Josh), our kids are doing just that.

VBS week is also one of those weeks that is "all hands on deck." I've encouraged staff to do whatever needs to be done to make this a successful week, and they've done just that. Everyone has pitched in to make sure VBS is our top priority. They were able to do this even as we honored the life of Gordon West, Jr., in the midst of this week. Committed to making this week work, I've also had the opportunity to help with the science rotation and with the 4 year old class. It has been incredibly fun!

I share all this because we do more children's ministry this week than almost any other week of the year. Generally, we are lucky if we get an hour of concentrated ministry time each week with our preschool and elementary students. But this week, we get 15 hours to talk about Jesus Christ and to model Christ-like living and serving.

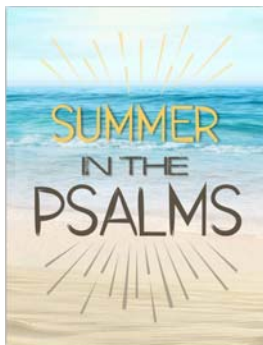
*Think Orange* is a family ministry organization. They suggest that the average church only has 40 hours in a given year to influence a life. If that's true, we've got to make the most of the 38% of that time which takes place at VBS (15 of 40 hours). That's why I am grateful to all of you who have volunteered your time or your creativity to make VBS a success. And I'm especially grateful for all of you who have been in prayer for this week. These efforts speak to our desire to grow younger - to reach more of the generation of young parents and their children.

Our theme verse for VBS this week is found in Isaiah 43:2: *When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.* As our summer continues to unfold, let's all hold fast to the reminder that the God we know in Jesus Christ. is present with us, both in the smooth waters and in the rough waves.

Mark



# FCC MINISTRY NEWS AND CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS



**Sunday Worship Series!**  
Join us for this summer series over the book of Psalms! Sunday mornings at 8:40 am and 10:45 am.

- July 21 Wisdom Psalms
- July 28 Imprecatory Psalms
- August 4 Worship Psalms
- August 11 Thanksgiving Psalms
- August 18 Penitential Psalms
- August 25 Zion Psalms

## Project Back to School and PowerPak 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 and PowerPak 4 Kids.

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.

PowerPak 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.

The 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 Sunday, July 28<sup>th</sup>. Just indicate "Back to School" on the memo line of your check. We will divide all contributions evenly between the two programs. Thank you in advance for your support!

The Challenger is biweekly, with the next publication on July 31! FCC Ministry News is sent by email every Monday.

Welcome New Member! It was a joy to welcome Martha Elms into our fellowship by transfer of membership on July 7<sup>th</sup> during the Chapel service. Martha began attending FCC on Easter Sunday. She works for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Martha's contact information is 1701 W Rathgeber Rd #4406, 76310, 613-2804. Welcome, Martha!

Young Ages Preschool is GROWING!! We are pleased to announce that we will be adding two new classes this school year and are looking for caring, experienced teachers. We have teacher openings for 3 and 5 days a week and hours are generally 8:30 am–12:30 pm. At Young Ages we value hands-on learning in a fun, safe environment for 3 and 4 year olds. If you are interested or would like more information about our wonderful program, please email your resume/questions to youngageschool@yahoo.com. You can also contact our Director, Alisa Gardner at 692-3640.

Honey Available! If you were one of the winners of a certificate for Kerry's Bees Honey at the Ladies Night banquet, you may redeem your certificate for your prize in the church office. Your honey is waiting there for you.

Open Flower Dates: If you would like to donate the flowers for the worship service in the Sanctuary, the following **Sundays are open: July 21 & 28**. Call Sherry Tucker, Flower Coordinator, 696-2490, to donate.

Through the Bible in a Year Study: Will meet on Thursdays, July 18<sup>th</sup> & August 1<sup>st</sup>, at 6:00 pm in Room 310.

Pantry Sunday for Interfaith Outreach Services will be on Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup>. Items for collection will be **peanut butter and boxed potatoes**. Also, if you travel and have any unopened hotel toiletries, Interfaith Outreach Services would love to have them for their care sacks. Thank you for the 108 pounds of items delivered for the month of July!

Prime Timers Luncheon will be on Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall.

Library News: The Library Committee will not be meeting in July or August. If you need any help finding a book or have any questions, please call Librarian Cathy Biggs, 632-9095.

First Time Guests! We are excited to report that the following persons visited for the first time on Sunday, July 7<sup>th</sup>: Mrs. John K. King, Leslie Seguire, Lois Willis.

### Member News:

♥Hospitalized: at URHCS is Patt Giddings; at the Gables is Ruth Beyer. Released and back home are Billy Bumgarner, Carole Davis, Jim Hay & Tres Ward.

♥Our sympathies are extended to Alice West and Family on learning of the death of her husband, Gordon T. West Jr., on July 12<sup>th</sup>. Services were held in the Sanctuary on July 16<sup>th</sup>.

♥It is with great sadness that we share with our church family that former members, Karen and Doug Jacobsen's son, Tyler, passed away unexpectedly on June 10<sup>th</sup> in Nashville, Tennessee. If you'd like to send them a card their address is 622 Band Drive, Franklin, TN 37064. A memorial scholarship has been established at Watkins College of Art, Design & Film in Nashville, Tennessee. If you'd like more information you may go online to [www.austinfuneralservice.com/deceased/tyler-jacobsen](http://www.austinfuneralservice.com/deceased/tyler-jacobsen).

### FOR THE RECORD . . .

CGRM: (Tues., July 9) . . . . .	21
The Neighborhood (Wed., July 10). . . . .	27
Worship (July 14): 8:40am. . . . .	36
Worship (July 14): 10:45am. . . . .	155
Total Worship. . . . .	218
Sunday School . . . . .	.81
Sunday Receipts Needed Per Week	\$17,867.62
Sunday Receipts for 7/14/19	\$3,385.00
Through July 15: Income \$500,317.01	Expenses \$488,605.01

## This Sunday:

"Two Ways"  
Psalm 37  
Dr. Mark R. Bender



## OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, July 21, 2019

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)  
5:45-7:00 Young Disciples (Grades K-5) (Rm 402)

Monday, July 22, 2019

7:30-6:00 Children Come First "CCF" (M-F)  
9:00 CCF Chapel (Chapel)  
7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

9:30 FCC Staff Meeting (Rm 222)  
4:00 CCF "Kona Ice" (East Parking Lot)  
6:30 Common Ground Recovery Ministries Support Groups

Wednesday, July 24, 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 Choir Room Paint Prep Day (Choir Rm)

Friday, July 26, 2019

9:00 CCF Music (Rm 220)

Saturday, July 27, 2019

9:00 Choir Room Paint Day (Choir Rm)

Sunday, July 28, 2019

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)  
5:45-7:00 Young Disciples (Grades K-5) (Rm 402)

Monday, July 29, 2019

7:30-6:00 Children Come First "CCF" (M-F)  
9:00 CCF Chapel (Chapel)  
7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, July 30, 2019

9:30 FCC Staff Meeting (Rm 222)  
4:00 CCF "Kona Ice" (East Parking Lot)  
6:30 Common Ground Recovery Ministries Support Groups

Wednesday, July 31, 2019

7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Rm 405/Chapel)  
9:00 CCF Spanish (Rm 220)  
2:00-8:30 Vision Team Meeting (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)

Thursday, August 1, 2019

1:30 Knit Wits (Parlor)  
6:00 Through the Bible in a Year (Rm 310)

Friday, August 2, 2019

9:00 CCF Music (Rm 220)

## SERVING SUNDAY

### ELDERS

7/21: Cal Edgemon, Emily Wilson; Gary Ballard, Presiding  
7/28: Alice Gordon, Ricky Scales; Linda C. Carr, Presiding

### DIACONATE COMMUNION VISITATION

7/21: Buddy Edgemon, Catherine Earley, Kim Ballard  
7/28: Karen LaValley, Jim LaValley, Fred Ridenour

### DIACONATE COMMUNION PREPARATION

7/21: Jim & Karen LaValley  
7/28: Catherine & Hannah Earley

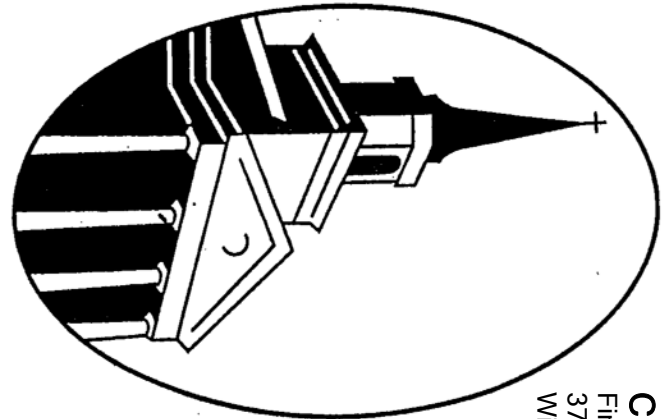
### JULY DIACONATE SERVERS

Jim LaValley, Captain

John & Susan Buckley, Norma Hill, Keith Wineinger, David Wyatt, Kim Ballard,  
Buddy Edgemon, Linda Gipson, Ann Kable, Curtis Sullivan, Brandi Brannon,  
Catherine Earley, Karen LaValley, Fred Ridenour, Hannah Earley, JJ Johnson.

### THE CHURCH STAFF . . .

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Claire Baer, Director of Children's Ministries			763-8515
Jeanette Showalter, Director of Music Ministries			691-7265
Cheryl Appling, Business Administrator			687-2231
Heather Dickerson, Director of Children Come First			692-3640
Alisa Gardner, Director of Young Ages School			337-1712
Rev. Margaret Scales, Common Ground Recovery Ministries			
Susan Marrs, Executive Secretary		Tina Williams, Financial Secretary	
Karen Watson, Receptionist		Debbie Watson, Organist	



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