



Christian Challenger

Vol. 66

July 3, 2019

No. 14



The Church Building,
Offices and All
Programs
will be closed on
Thursday & Friday,
July 4 & 5,
for the holiday!



Fun at the Off-Site VBS





Join us for Family Movie Night at First Christian in the Theater Room (Room 300) on Thursday, July 11th at 6:00 pm when we will watch "Over the Hedge".

Bring your whole family to enjoy family friendly movies this summer. These films will be used as tools to help people of all ages dig deeper into their faith and open up opportunities for faith development at home. After each movie you will be sent home with a "Talk at Home" sheet. This sheet will have conversation starters, scriptures, and activities for you to do as family that tie back into the movie and tie back into our walk with Christ.

There will be snacks and sweet treats for everyone!

Back to School Bash!

When: Sunday, August 11th
Where: Lucy Park Swimming Pool
Time: 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

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

REGISTER NOW FOR ON-SITE VBS! July 15-19

9:00 am - 12:00 pm, Fellowship Hall
Ages 4 years old - 5th Grade

Click the link below to register for Vacation Bible School:
<http://www.firstchristianwf.com/vacation-bible-school-registration/>

Volunteers Still Needed!

For more information, please contact Claire at
claire@firstchristianwf.com or 940-692-2282.

Make Your Mark

Dr. Mark R. Bender
Senior Minister



Quarterly Review

With the arrival of July comes the arrival of the third quarter of 2019. For some, a new quarter means little more than the fact that we will receive performance updates from our investments on the last quarter. For others, sales promotions, bonuses, and other professional goals are tied to these three-month periods. For them, the bookends of a quarter are much more significant.

Here at the church, we use these quarter markers to measure our financial health. Each quarter, our Stewardship Ministry provides an update on how the church is doing relative to budgetary projections. And without stealing too much of their thunder, the first two quarters of 2019 have been *very* positive for First Christian Church. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to the mission and ministry Jesus Christ has given to our church.

However, beyond these financial measures, quarterly periods don't have much impact on church life (although they will become more important as the Vision Team hands over a planning tool to the church board later this year). At the church, our annual calendar is tied much more to the liturgical calendar and to the "seasons" of the school year: fall, spring, and summer. Nevertheless, one of the things I find helpful is to use the four quarters of the year for focused intensity on particular projects. After all, I may not be able to sustain that same kind of focus and pace for an entire year, but I can sprint for six to twelve weeks.

The tool I use for a quarterly review asks me to consider the following:

Step 1: What were my biggest wins (top accomplishments from the past quarter)?

Step 2: Thinking about your goals for this past quarter:

- How far did you get? (0%, 25%, 50%, 75%, 100%)
- What worked? What didn't?

Step 3: Based on this last quarter:

- What will you keep doing?
- What will you improve?
- What will you start doing?
- What will you stop doing?

Step 4: What do I need to do (revise, remove, or replace) to achieve my long range goals?

Step 5: Is there anything I hoped to do this year that needs intentional focus this next quarter?

Completing these questions provides me with perspective on the previous quarter and gives clarity to what I should be focusing on in the coming quarter/remainder of the year.



For many of you, this kind of review is commonplace in your life. For others, this may not be something you do regularly, but you can see the benefit of it for reaching your professional or personal goals. But the real question is: **Have you reviewed your spiritual life? How are you gauging your spiritual health?**

This has been a question for the church for hundreds of years. Is there a way to know if someone is moving closer to Christ in their daily lives?

As a young man, Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556) was infatuated with becoming a knight and doing great deeds. However, after suffering a grave wound in battle, Ignatius experienced a conversion. "Reading about the lives of Jesus and the saints made Ignatius happy and aroused desires to do great things. Ignatius realized that these feelings were clues to God's direction for him." (IgnatianSpirituality.com). As a result, Ignatius devoted his life to becoming an expert in spiritual direction.

One of the tools St. Ignatius of Loyola found helpful for reviewing one's spiritual health was the *Prayer of Examen*. This technique described in Ignatius' *Spiritual Exercises* was required of Jesuits twice daily. By regularly and prayerfully reflecting on the events of the day, Ignatius felt that one could better detect God's presence and discern God direction for them.

The steps of the daily *Prayer of Examen* are:

1. **Become aware of God's presence.** Look back on the events of the day in the company of the Holy Spirit.
2. **Review the day with gratitude.** Walk through your day in the presence of God and note its joys and delights. Focus on the day's gifts. Look at the work you did, the people you interacted with. What did you receive from these people? What did you give them? Pay attention to small things—God is in the details.
3. **Pay attention to your emotions.** Reflect on the feelings you experienced during the day. Boredom? Elation? Resentment? Compassion? Anger? Confidence? What is God saying through these feelings? Do these emotions indicate a way you fell short? Does a feeling of frustration mean that God wants you consider a new direction in some area?
4. **Choose one feature of the day and pray from it.** Ask the Holy Spirit to direct you to something during the day that God thinks is particularly important. It may involve a feeling—positive or negative. It may be a significant encounter with another person or a vivid moment of pleasure or peace. Or it may be something that seems rather insignificant. Look at it. Pray about it.
5. **Look toward tomorrow.** Pay attention to the feelings that surface as you survey what's coming up. Allow these feelings to turn into prayer. Seek God's guidance.

The *Examen* is actually an attitude more than a method. It's a time set aside for thankful reflection on where God is your everyday life. So, use this quarter (July through September) to intentionally focus on your walk with Jesus Christ. Take 10-15 minutes each day to measure your spiritual health with the *Prayer of Examen*. I believe if you do this, when you get to the next "quarterly review" you will find that you are more in tune with God and have more clarity about the future God is leading you into.

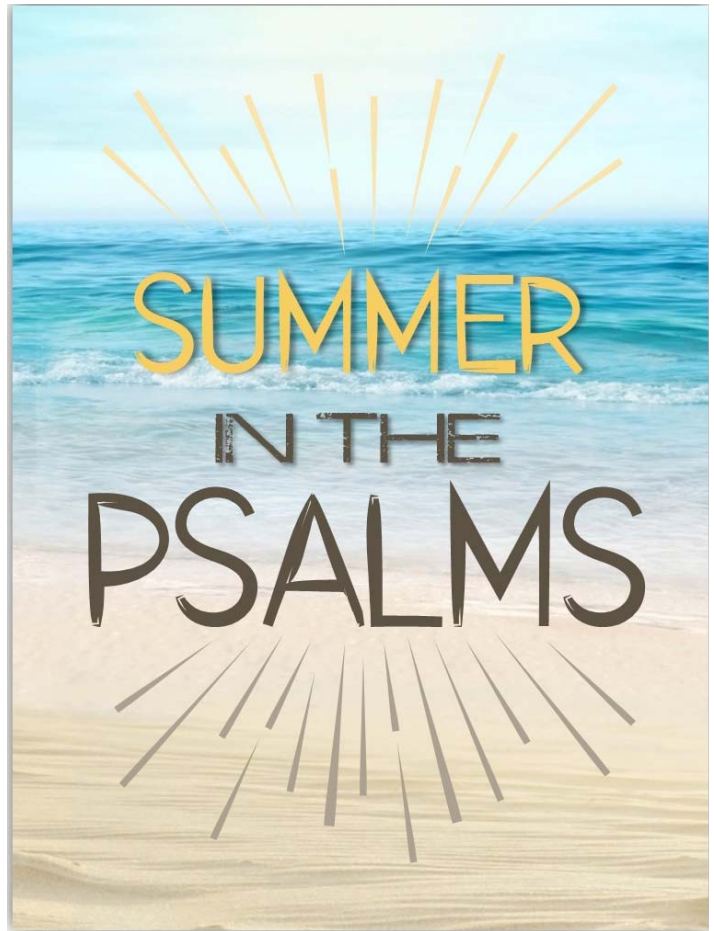
Mark

FCC MINISTRY NEWS AND CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Faith Shapes
Current Worship Series
at the Neighborhood



Join us for our worship series that uses common shapes to teach and build biblical principles into your life.
The Neighborhood meets in the Fellowship Hall each Wednesday night, beginning with a meal at 5:30 pm, followed by acoustic worship at 6:00 pm.



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 7	Trust Psalms
July 14	Lament Psalms
July 21	Wisdom Psalms
July 28	Imprecatory Psalms
August 4	Worship Psalms
August 11	Thanksgiving Psalms
August 18	Penitential Psalms
August 25	Zion Psalms

The **Challenger** is biweekly, with the next publication on July 17! FCC Ministry News is sent by email every Monday.

Pantry Sunday for Interfaith Outreach Services will be on Sunday, July 7th. Items for collection will be **macaroni & cheese and cans of tuna**. 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 121 pounds of items delivered for the month of June!

Prime Timers Luncheon will be on Sunday, July 7th, at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall.

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

Open Flower Dates: If you would like to donate the flowers for the worship service in the Sanctuary, the following **Sundays are open: July 14, 21 & 28**. Call Sherry Tucker, Flower Coordinator, 696-2490, to donate.

Through the Bible in a Year Study: Will not meet in July.

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.

From the Mailbox. . .

Thank you for being an amazing church family these past 5 years! We will miss all of you dearly. FCC is one of our favorite things about Wichita Falls. We love you!

Elise & Andrew Allen
 319 Overland Way
 Gray GA 31032

Our new address starting July 1st:

Member News:

♥**Hospitalized:** at the Gables is Ruth Beyer. Released and back home are Brad Beyer, Braelyn Crowe.

♥Our sympathies are extended to Robert Hernandez & Family on learning of the death of his aunt, Gloria Lucio, on June 24th.

♥Ann Hunter is looking for help with her art history project in the way of any church members who might know of the location of any art works by former members Naomi Elmore and/or Voyle Armstrong. Naomi was an art teacher and Voyle did photos and illustrations for the newspaper for a living. If you can help Ann, please contact her at 940-631-5661.

FOR THE RECORD. . .

CGRM: (Tues., June 25)	33
The Neighborhood (Wed., June 26)	Did not meet
Worship (June 30): 8:40am.	39
Worship (June 30): 10:45am.	151
Total Worship.	190
Sunday School	65
Sunday Receipts Needed Per Week	\$17,867.62
Sunday Receipts for 6/30/19	\$5,452.00
Through July 1: Income \$465,293.53	Expenses \$444,594.09

This Sunday:

"Whom Shall I Fear?"
 Psalm 27
 Rev. Josh deSteiguer



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

OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, July 7, 2019

PANTRY SUNDAY

8:40 Worship (Chapel)

9:30 Sunday School

10:45 Worship (Sanctuary)

12:00 Prime Timers Luncheon (Fellowship 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, July 8, 2019

7:30-6:00 Children Come First "CCF" (M-F)

9:00 CCF Chapel (Chapel)

6:00 VBS Volunteer Meeting (Rm 405)

7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, July 9, 2019

9:30 FCC Staff Meeting (Rm 222)

10:00-2:00 Young Disciples Mission Project (Grades K-5)

4:00 CCF "Kona Ice" (East Parking Lot)

6:30 Common Ground Recovery Ministries Support Groups

Wednesday, July 10, 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)

Thursday, July 11, 2019

12:15 CCF Parent Advisory Cmte Mtg (Rm 405)

6:00 Family Movie Night (Theater Rm)

Friday, July 12, 2019

7:00 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study (Hwy Café, 2808 Jacksboro Hwy)

9:00 CCF Music (Rm 220)

Sunday, July 14, 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 15, 2019

7:30-6:00 Children Come First "CCF" (M-F)

9:00-12:00 Vacation Bible School (Fellowship Hall & Classrooms)

7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, July 16, 2019

9:00-12:00 Vacation Bible School (Fellowship Hall & Classrooms)

4:00 CCF "Kona Ice" (East Parking Lot)

6:30 Common Ground Recovery Ministries Support Groups

Wednesday, July 17, 2019

7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Rm 405/Chapel)

9:00-12:00 Vacation Bible School (Fellowship Hall & Classrooms)

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, July 18, 2019

9:00-12:00 Vacation Bible School (Fellowship Hall & Classrooms)

9:00 CWF Group 3 Birthday Breakfast (IHOP on SW Pkwy)

1:30 Knit Wits (Parlor)

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

Friday, July 19, 2019

9:00-12:00 Vacation Bible School (Fellowship Hall & Classrooms)

Saturday, July 20, 2019

General Assembly (July 20-24) (Des Moines IA)

SERVING SUNDAY

ELDERS

7:7: Dwight Ross III, Sherry Tucker; David Collins, Presiding

7:14: Debbi Schmidt, Andy Wilson; Rick Appling, Presiding

DIACONATE COMMUNION VISITATION

7:7: Keith Wineinger, Linda Gipson, David Wyatt

7:14: Ann Kable, Curtis Sullivan, Brandi Brannon

DIACONATE COMMUNION PREPARATION

7:7: Fred Ridenour & JJ Johnson

7:14: John & Susan Buckley

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...

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, Minister 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

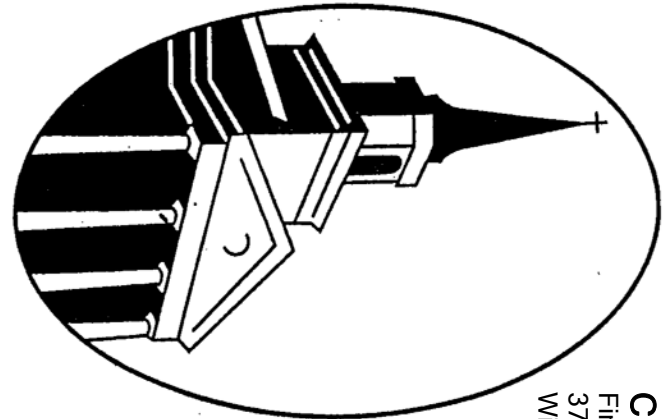
337-1712

Susan Marrs, Executive Secretary

Tina Williams, Financial Secretary

Karen Watson, 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.