



Christian Challenger

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No. 19

CGRM Fundraiser Luncheon

Please join us this Sunday, September 15th for the Common Ground Recovery Ministries fundraising luncheon at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Alyce Bondurant, Associate Judge, North Texas Child Protection Court; and Laura Grimsinger, Executive Director for CASA of Red River, will be speaking on what CGRM provides for parents & children in Wichita Falls and the surrounding area. Cost is by donation. Make your reservations by calling the church office.



Remember to return your 4 X 4 canvas of a painted heart to the office by this Friday, September 13th.

Young Ages Preschool



Young Ages Preschool's 2019-2020 school year has begun and we would like to welcome all of our families! A huge thank you to the church staff and members who so graciously served

donuts and coffee to our parents on the first day of school! It was a very nice treat on what can sometimes be a difficult morning.

The first few days have been filled with making new friends, exploring the classrooms, and settling into the routine of school. The children searched the church high and low in hopes of finding the Gingerbread Man and we anxiously await our first Chapel Time with Ms. Claire and a visit from the firemen in the coming weeks.

We still have a few openings if you or someone you know is looking for a fun, loving Christian preschool. Contact Alisa Gardner for more information, 692-3640.

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 19:14



Dunk A Minister And Help A Child!

Have you ever felt the urge to DUNK a minister? Well, this is your opportunity and most importantly, you will be supporting a child, supported by Child Advocates - CASA of Red River.

In conjunction with TEXOMA GIVES, this Thursday, September 12th, at Frank & Joe's Coffee House in Parker Square, a dunking booth will be set up and our ministers will be dunked.

For a \$25.00 donation to CASA, you will receive 5 balls for 5 chances at hitting a target, which when hit, will send a minister into a big tub of water.

Dr. David Hartman will be first in the "hot-seat" from 1:15 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.; Dr. Mark Bender will be next in the "hot-seat" and will be dunked from 2 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.; then, last but not least, Rev. Josh deSteiguer will be dunked from 2:45 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. (Dunking Josh last will hopefully allow some of First Christian's youth to participate after school and enjoy their one-on-one time with their youth minister.)

The minister who brings in the most money for CASA will receive a \$150.00 gift card to Fox Hill Restaurant & Gardens. (Gift card donated anonymously.)

CASA would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Hartman, Dr. Bender, and Rev. deSteiguer for being such good sports and allowing themselves to be so publicly humiliated. Children in Archer, Clay, Montague, and Wichita Counties will benefit from their noble acts of selflessness.

THE
GAME
OF LIFE



The Game of Life

On Wednesdays join *The Neighborhood* for their current worship series called "The Game of Life." With clips from some of your favorite sports movies, come deep dive into where competition and real life intersect...and where faith impacts both. See you on Wednesdays in the Fellowship Hall for dinner at 5:30 pm and worship beginning at 6:00 pm.

Make Your Mark

Dr. Mark R. Bender
Senior Minister



Showing We Care

Last night I went to the first rehearsal for the Rider Raiderette Family Dance (a.k.a. the Daddy-Daughter dance.) In a little over two weeks, I will be on the football field, dancing with Abby and the rest of the Raiderettes as part of the halftime show. It should be fun...if I don't pull a hamstring as I "high kick"!!

When the topic of this Family Dance comes up, people always smile and ask something like: "Are you worried you are going to embarrass yourself?" Sure - I don't want to be the Dad everyone laughs at for going *right* when I should have gone *left*. But the fact is, I've been embarrassing myself for years in support of my kids!

- When Chelsea was in preschool, I dressed up as *Bad Bart*. Her class had to follow clues in an effort to "round-me-up." Meanwhile I would pop out and yell, "You can't catch me" and then run to my next hiding place.
- I've dressed up as *Zero the Hero* on the 100th day of school, going from class to class extolling the fact that zero is my favorite number and on the 100th day, there are TWO zeroes!
- I've participated in multiple Daddy-Daughter Dances. With Abby, I was a motorcycle rider as we danced to the tune of *Born to the Wild*. With Chelsea, I dressed up as to dance to *Rubberneckin'*. I dressed up in full "Thriller" garb as I danced with both girls to that famous Michael Jackson song.

But that's not all. Since we had such success with these Daddy-Daughter dances, I joined a group of dads in a competition dance for four years. We competed at the same competitions as our girls and maintained a streak of platinum award-winning. Our girls were both embarrassed by us and thrilled that we would do this.

However, it wasn't just the silly things that highlighted my involvement with our girls.

- I went on field trips nearly every year with Abby's class
- I directed CYF Conference all four years Chelsea was in high school
- I served as a male sponsor on Chelsea's senior campout
- I sat through thousands of hours of dance recitals and competitions waiting for the three minutes one of my girls would be on stage.



- I commuted 100 miles roundtrip each day so that we could keep Abby in the school that she (and we) loved.

And the list could go on and on.

The fact is, what I did is nothing different from what a majority of parents do. We sacrifice our time and money (and occasionally our dignity) to benefit our children - to show them that we care. There's been an article circulating on social media that suggests that going to every one of your kid's activities matters more than we know. In this article, one student is quoted as saying:

At every game, I would search for their faces in the stands. When I found them, I knew I mattered. I knew my dreams mattered.

All this came to mind at our Vision Team meeting last Wednesday night. As we were preparing to think about where God might be leading our church in the future, Bryan, our Auxano Navigator, asked the parents in the room: "How many of you, if faced with the choice, would die for you child or grandchild?" Every hand went up. "How many of you would sacrifice time or money to help your child or grandchild?" Again, every hand went up.

Then Bryan asked: "How many of you would sacrifice something you hold dear so that your child or grandchildren would go to church...would be in a relationship with Jesus Christ?" We weren't asked to raise our hands, but we were asked to think about what we would do as individuals and as a church to make sure our children had faith. We didn't discuss any specific changes, but the exercise was thought-provoking.

So what would you do to show your kids or grandkids (or the next generation) that they matter to you and they matter to God? What would you say or do to help them know Jesus Christ more fully? What would you give up in order to further their relationship with God? What would we do collectively as a church in order to more fully influence the lives of that generation?

The answers to these questions are where the "rubber meets the road." These are the questions that frame our priorities as parents and as a church. And it's where our answers and our actions meet that members of every generation will see that we truly care.

Mark

P.S. The front page of the *Challenger* has a reminder about the dunking booth which benefits CASA of Red River. I hope you will come out between 2:00 - 2:45 pm and attempt to dunk me numerous times in support of their work!

OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, September 15, 2019

8:40 Worship (Chapel)
9:30 Sunday School
9:45 Journey Through Scripture (Parlor)
10:45 Worship (Sanctuary)
12:00 CGRM Fundraiser Luncheon (Fellowship Hall)
3:45 Chancel Ringers (High School-Adults) (Stratten Hall)
5:00 Grow in Grace Choir (Grades K-5)
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, September 16, 2019

7:30-6:00 Children Come First "CCF" (M-F)
9:00-12:00 Young Ages School "YAS" (M-F)
9:00 CCF Chapel (Chapel)
1:30 CWF Group 1 (3718 Cedar Elm)
2:00 pm CWF Group 3 (Rm 405)
7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

9:30 FCC Staff Meeting (Rm 222)
10:00 YAS Music (Tues. & Wed.) (Rm 220)
2:00 Library Committee (Library)
6:00 Education Ministry Meeting (Rm 222)
6:00 Stewardship Ministry Meeting (Rm 310)
6:30 Common Ground Recovery Ministries Support Groups

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Rm 405/Chapel)
9:00 CCF Spanish (Rm 220)
11:00 YAS Board Meeting (Parlor)
12:00 CWF Group 3 (Rm 405)
12:15 YAS Staff 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)
7:00-8:30 Chancel Choir (Stratten Hall)

Thursday, September 19, 2019

9:00 CWF Group 3 Birthday Breakfast (IHOP on SW Pkwy)
1:30 Knit Wits (Parlor)

Friday, September 20, 2019

9:00 CCF Music (Rm 220)
6:00 MSU Mustang Meals (Fellowship Hall)

Saturday, September 21, 2019

9:30 Feed My Flock (Kitchen)

Sunday, September 22, 2019

8:40 Worship (Chapel)
9:30 Sunday School
9:45 Journey Through Scripture (Parlor)
10:45 Worship (Sanctuary)
12:00 Acolyte Training (Rm 402/Sanctuary)
3:45 Chancel Ringers (High School-Adults) (Stratten Hall)
5:00 Grow in Grace Choir (Grades K-5)
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, September 23, 2019

7:30-6:00 Children Come First "CCF" (M-F)
9:00-12:00 Young Ages School "YAS" (M-F)
9:00 CCF Chapel (Chapel)
7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

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

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Rm 405/Chapel)
9:00 CCF Spanish (Rm 220)
10:15 Sheri Sutton Bible Study (Rm 310)
2:00-8:30 Vision Team Mtg (Rm 310)
5:00 MSU Mustang Meals (Fellowship Hall)
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)
7:00-8:30 Chancel Choir (Stratten Hall)

Thursday, September 26, 2019

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

Friday, September 27, 2019

9:00 CCF Music (Rm 220)
12:00 College Lunch Bunch (MSU Student Center Food Court)

SERVING SUNDAY

ELDERS

9/15: Howard Morris, Linda Cook; Sally Hastings, Presiding
9/22: Woody Gossom, Kathleen Lauck; Robert Hernandez, Presiding

DIACONATE COMMUNION VISITATION

9/15: John Cook, Davidson Cook, Sarah Cook
9/22: Sally Wilson, Eric Hartman, Ashley Burross

DIACONATE COMMUNION PREPARATION

9/15: Davidson Cook & Sally Wilson
9/22: Mac Reid & Philip Dudenhoefter

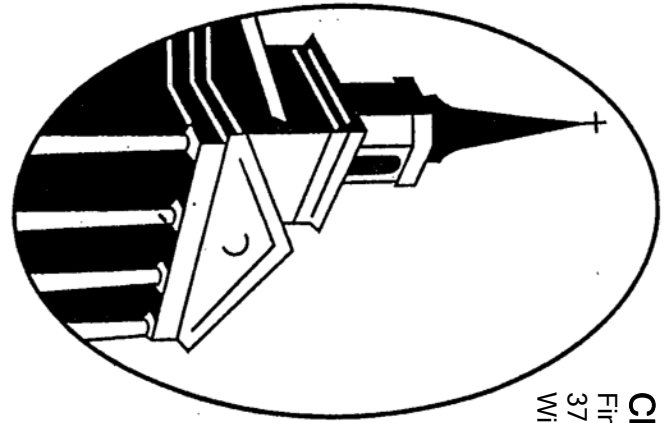
SEPTEMBER DIACONATE SERVERS

Sandy Hay and Ashley & Kyle Burross, Co-Captains

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

THE CHURCH STAFF...

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Jeanette Showalter, Director of Music Ministries			763-8515
Cheryl Appling, Business Administrator			691-7265
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Rev. Margaret Scales, Common Ground Recovery Ministries			337-1712
Susan Marrs, Executive Secretary		Tina Williams, Financial Secretary	
Karen Watson, Receptionist		Debbie Watson, Organist	



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