



Christian Challenger

Vol. 66

October 9, 2019

No. 21

October Fellowship Luncheon

The program at the October 20th Fellowship Luncheon, led by Dr. Bender, will focus on what identifies us as members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). We will briefly look at our principles of identity as a movement, our ordinances, and our mission and ministry as a denomination and as a local church. If you want a brief picture of who Disciples are, don't miss lunch on October 20 at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Please make your reservations in worship or by calling the church office!

You are cordially invited to be with us in spirit for a

Ghostly Tea

PLACE: Your own Home Sweet Home

TIME: Any Hour that Suits You

DATE: October 31, 2019

GHOSTESSES: FCC Christian Women's Fellowship

The most delightful benefit you never will attend
For you don't have to be there, it's money that you send.

No food to prepare, no silver to polish,
With this "ghostly" tea all work is abolished.

Gone are the worries of what you will wear,

No traffic or parking to give you a care
And—if you have cookies that day on the shelf,
Just relax—and have fun while serving yourself.

Because everyone is so busy and it is difficult to coordinate schedules, we invite you to share in our Ghostly Tea instead of the Bi-annual Christmas Brunch. Money earned is used to support our church's activities and support groups such as Common Ground, CYF mission trips, Coats for Kids, PowerPak 4 Kids, and Bereavement Assistance. We hope you will choose to TREAT and not TRICK our group by making a donation to support these worthwhile projects.

The Ghostesses of CWF will thank you for your generous participation by sending a **\$20 donation—or more** if the spirit moves you. We hope to hear from you on or before October 31, 2019.



Blood Drive

First Christian Church is hosting a Blood Drive for Texas Blood Institute this Sunday, October 13th, from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Sign up for a donation time in the church office.

- * Texas Blood Institute is the sole provider of blood to United Regional Hospital
- * 1 donor can save up to 3 lives
- * Every 2 seconds someone needs a blood transfusion
- * 1 in 7 people that enter a hospital will need blood
- * Type O Negative is the Universal blood type and is always in need

SNACKS WILL BE SERVED UPON COMPLETION OF YOUR DONATION.

Trunk-or-Treat



First Christian will be hosting two Trunk-or-Treats again this year!

Our off-site Trunk-or-Treat will be on Monday, October 21st, from 6:00-7:30 pm at 115 East Wichita St.

Our on-site Trunk-or-Treat will take place on Sunday, October 27th, from 6:00-8:00 pm in our church parking lot.

If you would like to volunteer to bring/run a game or pass out candy from your trunk, please let Claire know by emailing her at claire@firstchristianwf.com.

October Pantry Sunday Totals



Thank you for the 1,682 Diapers and 26 Packages of Wipes, along with a monetary donation of \$20.00 that were donated to the Diaper Chest at Interfaith Outreach Services this past Sunday! Also donated to Interfaith was 23 pounds of food items.



Make Your Mark

Dr. Mark R. Bender
Senior Minister



Uncommon Decency

Who would have thought that the Dallas Cowboys and Green Bay Packers game would be the subject of so much talk this week...and not because of what happened on the field. If you watched the game, you saw the television cameras capture TV talk show host Ellen DeGeneres sitting in a suite next to former President George W. Bush. While the camera was focused on them, their exchanges were characterized by laughter and smiles.

Unfortunately, this raised the ire of some on Twitter. DeGeneres received hundreds of tweets which basically said, "Why is a gay Hollywood liberal sitting next to a conservative Republican president?" On her show Monday, DeGeneres responded:

Here's the thing. I'm friends with George Bush. In fact, I'm friends with a lot of people who don't share the same beliefs that I have. We're all different and I think that we've forgotten that that's ok that we're all different. For instance, I wish people wouldn't wear fur. I don't like it, but I'm friends with people who wear fur...But just because I don't agree with someone on everything doesn't mean that I'm not going to be friends with them. When I say - be kind to one another, I don't mean only the people who think the same way that you do. I mean be kind to everyone.

President Bush's Chief of Staff Freddy Ford also provided a statement:

President and Mrs. Bush really enjoyed being with Ellen and Portia, and they appreciated Ellen's comments about respecting one another. They respect her.

Whether you like or dislike, agree or disagree with Ellen or President Bush, they spoke about a reality present today. In many areas, polarization has become the norm. There is a tendency to draw lines between "those who believe like I do" and "those who do not." We become like two cars facing each other on a narrow city street, bumpers almost touching and horns blaring; neither driver willing to yield. In the midst of the noise and yelling, no one is listening to the other...and no one is going anywhere.

Perhaps my "radar" was tuned more clearly to this story because I had preached about our value of being *Open in our Communion* only a few hours earlier. In that sermon, I shared one of James Craig's characterizations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ):

There is nothing to prevent literalists and liberals from sitting around the Table of the Lord's Supper, each responsible for his own belief and each serving God according to the dictates of his own conscience. (Look magazine, November 30, 1954).

And then I described how each Sunday "we partake of bread and cup with Democrats and Republicans, conservatives and liberals, millennialists and amillennialists, Aggies and Longhorns, Okies and Texans, people who prefer

traditional music and people who prefer contemporary music, people who look like us and people who don't look like us... and our list of differences could go on and on. But, at the Lord's Table, by Christ's invitation, all that diversity finds unity in Christ as we celebrate with thanksgiving the saving acts and presence of Christ."

Before coming to America, Thomas Campbell, one of the founders of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), was a Presbyterian minister - an *Old-light Anti-Burgher Seceder Presbyterian minister*. This moniker was the result of: 1) A 1712 division between Presbyterians who selected their own ministers (Seceder) and those whose ministers were selected by a high-church counsel (Anti-Seceder); 2) A 1747 digression over whether the burgesses of the Scottish cities could decide if their city's established churches would be Seceder or Anti-Seceder. Campbell's church believed that was not a decision for the burgesses to make (they were Anti-Burgher); and 3) A division in the Anti-Burgher movement over holding to the original interpretation of the Westminster Confession of Faith ("Old Light") or being amenable to "new light" from Scripture. As an Old-light Anti-Burgher Seceder Presbyterian, Campbell was frustrated by the disunity in Christendom.

I suspect that Thomas Campbell saw where the road this kind of division was leading. Eventually, the division and diversity would fracture the church into tiny pieces. That's why the restoration movement founded by Thomas and Alexander Campbell emphasized the unity of all believers on the basis of Biblical authority. As Jesus Christ prayed, *I ask on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one* (John 17:20). This was a hallmark of our belief as Disciples from the very beginning. *Unity is our polar star*, Barton Stone, another one of our founders, said. Still today, it's this conviction of letting our diversity find unity in Jesus Christ coupled with the saving acts of Christ we remember at the Table each week, that keeps us from being a "church of one (person)."

In Richard Mouw's 1992 book *Uncommon Decency* (updated in 2010), he defined civility as public politeness. But he was quick to add that as Christians, we should have a convicted civility that allows us to hold onto strongly felt convictions while still nurturing a spirit that is authentically *kind* and *gentle* - two of the Fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). Mouw noted that both *civility* and *conviction* are important and the Bible recognizes how hard maintaining both of these things really is.

Mouw also points out that Christian civility doesn't prevent us from criticizing what goes on around us. It doesn't force us to like everyone. It doesn't ask us for uncritical loyalty to our country. But, because God has a gentle and reverent concern for public righteousness; because as agents of God's righteousness, we are called to imitate the Divine character; and because our efforts at public righteousness must be modest ones, our civility is an example of Christ-like compassion. And, Mouw notes, that the church is the primary context for learning this kind of public righteousness.

In a fractured world, I believe we need the uncommon decency of convicted civility. And I'm glad that as Disciples, one of those convictions is a commitment to sitting with one another, as different as we might be, at the Gospel's Table where God's grace has the power to transform us all.



FCC MINISTRY NEWS AND CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS



The **Challenger** is biweekly, with the next publication on Oct. 23! FCC Ministry News is sent by email every Monday.

Through the Bible in a Year Study: Will meet on Thursdays, October 10th & 24th, at 6:00 pm in Rm 310.

College Lunch Bunch will meet on Fridays, October 11th & 25th, at noon in the MSU Student Center!

Men's Breakfast & Bible Study! Bring a friend and attend the FCC Men's Breakfast & Bible Study on Friday morning, October 11th, from 7:00-8:00 am, at Hwy Café, 2808 Jacksboro Hwy.

The **MSU Food Pantry** will be having a Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser on Saturday, October 19th, from 8:00 am–10:00 am at Applebee's on Kemp. Cindy Cummings, MSU Food Pantry Director, and some MSU students will be here this Sunday, October 13th, to sell tickets, \$8.00 each, for the Pancake Breakfast.

October Meetings: will be as follows:
Tuesday, Oct. 15th: **Education** at 6:00 pm, Rm 222
Stewardship at 6:00 pm, Rm 310
Tuesday, Oct. 22nd: **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, Oct. 14th & 21st.

Christian Women's Fellowship

The **October CWF Luncheon** will be Monday, October 14th, at 11:45 am in the Fellowship Hall. The program will be the interviews of Glorie Steele by Diana Costello and Mary Beth Wyatt by Peggy Fitts. The devotional will be given by Tonia Machado. Reservations are not required and guests are welcome. Cost is \$5.00 per person. The CWF Board will meet at 10:30 am in Room 310 prior to the luncheon.

Group Meetings will be as follows on Monday, October 21st: **Group 1** will meet at 1:30 pm at Alice Gordon's home, 1723 Shoal Creek; and **Group 3** will meet at 2:00 pm in Room 405. On Wednesday, October 23rd, **Group 2** will meet at 12:00 noon in Room 405.

First Time Guests! We are excited to report that the following persons visited for the first time on Sunday, September 22nd: Mary "Lynn" Barboza, Kayla

Yang; on Sunday, September 29th: Glen Patterson; Tyse, Tylee & Taytum who came with Doug & Cary Thompson.

From the Mailbox. . .

Dear Church Family,

We would like to thank you for your thoughts and prayers during the loss of our dad, Norman Howland. Thank you for welcoming him into the church and into your hearts. He enjoyed being a part of this wonderful church.

Thank you for the family dinner provided by the church after the service. And thank you for your support during this difficult time.

Love,
 Cindy & Robert Hernandez,
 Jerry Howland, Todd &
 Glenda Howland and families

Member News:

♥**Hospitalized:** at Encompass (formally Health South) Rehab is Rita Cason; in Presbyterian Manor Health Care is Anita Mills; Released and back home are David Collins, Martha Elms, Peggy Fitts, Sherry Martin, Lisa Pullam, Ted & Nancy Smith.

♥Our condolences are extended to Harry Gordon & Family on learning of the death of his brother, Donnie Gordon, on September 25th.

♥Our sympathies are extended to Emily Strickland Villegas & Sarah Strickland Johnson & Families on learning of the death of their aunt and former FCC member, Lisa Bindel, on October 2nd in Utah.

♥Congratulations to Caitlin Hartman & Patrick Barker, who were married on October 5th in the Sanctuary. Caitlin is the daughter of Dr. David Hartman and Jessica Hartman.

Top Reason to Use the Church Library:

In my experience, Disciples churches pride themselves on encouraging members to be independent thinkers who are open to learning more about our world and our faith. Libraries open the door for the continuing growth.

Ann Hunter

FOR THE RECORD. . .

CGRM: (Tues., Oct. 1)	16	
The Neighborhood (Wed., Oct. 2)	45	
Worship (Oct. 6): 8:40am.	41	10:45am. . . 145
Total Worship.	231	
Sunday School	88	
Sunday Receipts Needed Per Week		\$17,867.62
Sunday Receipts for 10/6/19		\$11,451.00
Through Oct. 7: Income \$664,939.78		Expenses \$668,885.19

This Sunday:

"Intentional in our Growth"
 Ephesians 3:14-21
 Dr. Mark Bender

OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, October 13, 2019

8:40 Worship (Chapel)
9:30 Sunday School
9:30-12:30 Blood Drive (Fellowship Hall)
9:45 Journey Through Scripture (Parlor)
10:45 Worship (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, October 14, 2019

Children Come First & Young Ages Preschool Closed
8:00-5:00 Children Come First Staff Training (Library/Rm 405)
10:30 Christian Women's Fellowship "CWF" Board Meeting (Rm 310)
11:45 CWF Luncheon (Fellowship Hall)
7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

7:30-6:00 Children Come First "CCF" (T-F)
9:00-12:00 Young Ages School "YAS" (T-F)
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
7:00 Evangelism Ministry Meeting (Rm 222)

Wednesday, October 16, 2019

7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Rm 405/Chapel)
9:00 CCF Spanish (Rm 220)
10:15 Sheri Sutton Bible 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)
7:00-8:30 Chancel Choir (Stratten Hall)

Thursday, October 17, 2019

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

Friday, October 18, 2019

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

Saturday, October 19, 2019

8:00-10:00 MSU Food Pantry Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser (Applebee's)

Sunday, October 20, 2019

8:40 Worship (Chapel)
9:30 Sunday School
9:45 Journey Through Scripture (Parlor)
10:45 Worship (Sanctuary)
12:00 October Fellowship 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, October 21, 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 (1723 Shoal Creek)
2:00 CWF Group 3 (Rm 405)
6:00-7:30 Off-Site Trunk or Treat (115 E Wichita)
6:00-8:00 CCF Staff Training (Rm 310)
7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, October 22, 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, October 23, 2019

7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Rm 405/Chapel)
9:00 CCF Spanish (Rm 220)
10:15 Sheri Sutton Bible Study (Rm 310)
12:00 CWF Group 2 (Rm 405)
5:00 MSU Mustang Meal (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, October 24, 2019

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

Friday, October 25, 2019

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

SERVING SUNDAY

ELDERS

10/13: Cal Edgemon, Gary Ballard; Emily Wilson, Presiding

10/20: Alice Gordon, Linda C. Carr; Ricky Scales, Presiding

DIACONATE COMMUNION VISITATION

10/13: Buddy Edgemon, Kim Ballard, Norma Hill

10/20: Linda Gipson, Keith Wineinger, David Wyatt

DIACONATE COMMUNION PREPARATION

10/13: Keith Wineinger & David Wyatt

10/20: Kim Ballard & Linda Gipson

OCTOBER DIACONATE SERVERS

Jim LaValley, Co-Captains

John & Susan Buckley, Norma Hill, Keith Wineinger, David Wyatt, Kim Ballard, Buddy Edgemon, Linda Gipson, Ann Kable, Curtis Sullivan, Brandi Brannon, 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

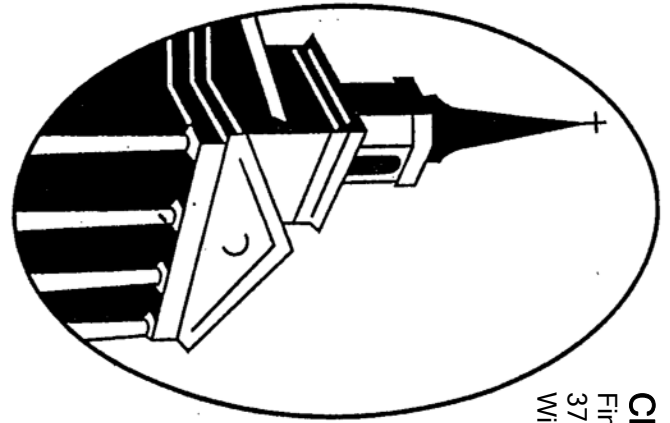
Heather Dickerson, Director of Children Come First 687-2231

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



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