



Christian Challenger

Vol. 67

January 15, 2020

No. 1



C.R.A.S.E.

CIVILIAN RESPONSE TO ACTIVE SHOOTER EVENTS
FOR CITIZENS, BUSINESSES, & ORGANIZATIONS

This event is presented by the Wichita Falls Police Department and is open to the public.

**Saturday, January 18,
from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
in the First Christian Church Fellowship Hall.**

This seminar provides strategies, guidance and a proven plan for surviving an active shooter event. Topics include the history and prevalence of active shooter events, civilian response options, medical issues, and considerations for conducting drills.

Christian Women's Fellowship "Ghostly Tea" Report & Thank You

The Christian Women's Fellowship (C.W.F.) would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone at First Christian Church for their generous donations to the C.W.F.'s First "Ghostly Tea" Fundraiser.

To our amazement, and with minimum work involved, this fundraiser brought in more than \$2,300.

A committee of C.W.F. members will soon be appointed and they will begin to disburse these funds within First Christian Church. Once the money has been distributed, another report will be made to let you know how the funds were used.

Thank you, again, for your support of Christian Women's Fellowship; we could not have done this fundraiser without you!



Celebrate "Souper" Bowl Sunday

by filling a special bag with cans of soup to feed the clients at Interfaith for February's Pantry Sunday! Soup makes a great nutritious meal

for families in need.

Help us fill the Interfaith pantry!



Pick up the special bags at church beginning this Sunday, January 19th.

Return your filled bag or bags by Sunday, February 2nd.

Church Board Meeting
Sunday, February 2nd,
12:00 noon
Room 310

Congregational &
New Church Board Meetings
Sunday, February 9th,
12:00 noon & 12:15 pm, Sanctuary

Make Your Mark

Dr. Mark R. Bender
Senior Minister



see, hear, and do at our church. So, the questions before us now are: “How do we make <this> easy and accessible?” and then, “When do we do it again?”

Mark

Easy and Accessible, Easy and Accessible...

On Sunday, two things were said to me over-and-over. The first was a statement: “That was fun!” The other was a question: “When are we going to do that again?” Both of these remarks referred to Saturday’s Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing Event.

Last Saturday, more than 100 members and friends of First Christian gathered in the Fellowship Hall to pack meals for distribution to hungry children and families overseas. These meals consisted of rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables, and a package containing 23 vitamins and minerals. In about 90 minutes, our teams packed 20,088 meals! It took the hard work of many - the re-suppliers, the funnel teams, the runners, the scale teams, the sealing teams, the packing teams, and the loading crew. But, the system was so simple that everything flowed smoothly.

In the weeks leading up to this event, I repeatedly shared my two favorite things about the Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing Event. The first is that the whole family can serve together. I loved seeing some of our *Young Disciples*, the youngest being age 3, helping to deliver bags of food to the scale stations, as well as packing the sealed bags in boxes. Likewise, I loved seeing some of our more seasoned members serving - some around funnel stations, and some seated at the scale and sealing stations. This is what church is supposed to look like. All of us serving together.

But my other favorite thing about this meal packing event is that they have the system down to a science. Rise Against Hunger has made it easy for people of all ages and all skills to have a role in the process. For two hours, there was plenty of meaningful work for all. It was easy for people to jump right in and lend a hand.

Twelve years ago, I was at a church conference where the speaker drilled a phrase into my brain. He kept telling us as church leaders, “Make it easy and accessible, easy and accessible, easy and accessible.” His charge was to make the “on-ramps” for involvement in church life clear and easily attainable. This challenge had its basis in a statement made at the early church’s “first business meeting” in Acts 15. There, James, the brother of Jesus, who was one of the early church leaders, stated:

And so my judgment is that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.

That’s what kept running through my mind as we prepared for this event...and as it unfolded. And, if the comments were any indication, we did this well. We made this instance of modeling our faith through joyful service easy and accessible.

As this new year unfolds, that’s the challenge before all of our church leaders. How do we make things easy and accessible? I don’t have all of the answers to this, but I know that we want people to encounter the abundant peace of Christ. I know that we want those who come in contact with First Christian Church to grow, strengthen, model, share, and live their faith because of what they



FCC MINISTRY NEWS AND CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS



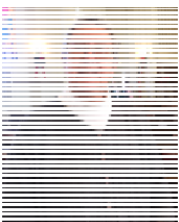
Thank You So Much!

Elizabeth and I were absolutely blown away by the lovely baby shower last Sunday. We received so many wonderful gifts, cards, and books that little Asher will use and treasure in the future! Even more moving than the mountain of gifts though, was the outpouring of love and support that surrounded our little family. We are beyond blessed to be a part of such a loving faith community, and Asher is one fortunate little guy to be born into such a wonderful church family! I would like to say a special thanks to Christian Women's Fellowship for hosting the shower. They did an amazing job of making the shower such a beautiful and special time for us.

Thank you for the gifts, thank you for the encouragement and support, and thank you for letting me do ministry with you! I am super excited to go into the future with a growing family that is well loved by you the wonderful folks at FCC.

Joshua deSteiguer

The **Challenger** is biweekly, with the next publication on Jan. 29! FCC Ministry News is sent by email every Monday.



Welcome New Member! It was a joy to welcome into our fellowship, Elizabeth "Liz" Vernon, who rejoined on Sunday, January 6th, by transfer of membership from Park Place Christian Church. Liz is retired and her contact information is 4611 Stanford Ave, 76308, 613 -1836. Welcome, Liz!

Christian Women's Fellowship

Group Meetings will be as follows on Monday, January 20th: **Group 1** will meet at 1:30 pm at Diana Costello's home, 1702 Cedar; and **Group 3** will meet at 1:00 pm in Room 405. **Group 2** will meet on Wednesday, January 22nd, at 12:00 noon in Room 405.

January Meetings:

Tuesday, Jan. 21st: **Education** at 6:00 pm, Rm 222
Stewardship at 6:00 pm, Rm 310
Evangelism at 7:00 pm, Rm 222

Tuesday, Jan. 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, Jan. 20th & 27th.

Pantry Sunday for Interfaith Outreach Services will be on Sunday, February 2nd. Items for collection will be **cans of soup** (see article on front page) and **cans of beans** (pinto, ranch, pork-n-beans, peas). 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 151 pounds of items delivered for the month of January!

From the Mailbox . . .

First Christian Church,

Thank you so much for providing coats to our students at Ben Franklin. We are all truly grateful for your continued generosity. The students in our community are blessed because of you.

Sincerely,
Tracy Little
PIE Coordinator

First Time Guests! We are excited to report that the following persons visited for the first time on Christmas Eve, December 24th: Todd & Sarah Barnett, Harla Carpenter, Betty Gentry Conklin; Helen, Steve & Wimberly Fekete; Kiri & Disa Hairell; Vicki Higgins & Pat Sturges and Madison, Aiden & Judah; Keke Kronberg, Keely Malone, Leslie Seguine, Sandra Sturges, Brady & Julie Woolsey, Chris Barnett; and on Sunday, December 29th: Annaliese Mathis.

Member News:

♥**Hospitalized:** at Encompass Rehab is Gretchen Bridgman.

♥Our sympathies are extended to Gayle Salazar and Family on learning of the death of her mother, Iva Apple, on December 19th.

♥Our condolences are extended to Kathleen Sartin and Family on learning of the death of her husband, E.D. Sartin, on December 27th. Services were held on January 3rd in the Sanctuary.

♥We extend our sympathies to David Wyatt and Family on learning of the death of his mother, Mary Beth Wyatt, on January 12th. Services were held on January 15th in the Sanctuary.

♥We extend our condolences to Cheryl Opie and Family on learning of the death of her mother, Dolly Sloan, on January 13th. Services will be held on Friday, January 24th, at 1:30 pm in the Sanctuary.

2020 Stewardship Campaign Update

As of Monday, January 13th, we have received 133 estimates of giving totaling \$770,431.00...with an average pledge of \$5,792.71. Estimate of giving cards are available in the church office. Please don't hesitate to call Tina Williams or Cheryl Appling if you'd like more information.

FOR THE RECORD . . .

CGRM: (Tues., Jan. 7)	32
The Neighborhood (Wed., Jan. 8)	43
Worship (Jan. 12): 8:40am	38
10:45am	138
Total Worship	219
Sunday School	94
Sunday Receipts Needed Per Week	\$17,867.62
Sunday Receipts for 1/12/20	\$27,100.00
Through Dec. 31: Income \$857,836.33	Expenses \$883,831.89

This Sunday:

"A Rough Start"
Matthew 3:13-4:11
Rev. Josh deSteiguer

OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, January 19, 2020

8:40 Worship (Chapel)
9:30 Sunday School
9:45 Journey Through Scripture (Parlor)
10:45 Worship (Sanctuary)
2:00-4:00 Pickleball (Gym)
3:45 Chancel Ringers (High School-Adults) (Stratten Hall)
5:00-5:45 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, January 20, 2020

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY
Children Come First "CCF" Closed
Young Ages School "YAS" Closed
1:30 CWF Group 1 (1702 Cedar)
2:00 CWF Group 3 (Rm 405)
7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, January 21, 2020

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 (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, January 22, 2020

7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Rm 405/Chapel)
9:00 CCF Spanish (Rm 220)
10:00 YAS Music (Rm 220)
12:00 CWF Group 2 (Rm 405)
5:00 MSU Mustang Meal (Fellowship Hall)
5:30-6:00 The 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)

Friday, January 24, 2020

9:00 CCF Music (Rm 220)
1:30 Dolly Sloan's Memorial Service (Sanctuary)
Leave for JYF Mid-Winter Rally (Jan. 24-26) (Athens TX)

Sunday, January 26, 2020

8:40 Worship (Chapel)
9:30 Sunday School
9:45 Journey Through Scripture (Parlor)
10:45 Worship (Sanctuary)
2:00-4:00 Pickleball (Gym)
3:45 Chancel Ringers (High School-Adults) (Stratten Hall)
5:00-5:45 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, January 27, 2020

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

Tuesday, January 28, 2020

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

Wednesday, January 29, 2020

7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Rm 405/Chapel)
9:00 CC Spanish (Rm 220)
10:00 YAS Music (Rm 220)
5:30-6:00 The 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)

Friday, January 31, 2020

9:00 CCF Music (Rm 220)

SERVING SUNDAY ELDERS

1/19: Sherry Tucker, Sandra Ross; Rick Appling, Presiding
1/26: Kathleen Lauck; Kerry Roach, David Collins, Presiding

DIACONATE COMMUNION VISITATION

1/19: Liz Thomas, Emily Thomas, Tyler Thomas
1/26: Shirley Craft, Ronnie James, Jim LaValley

DIACONATE COMMUNION PREPARATION

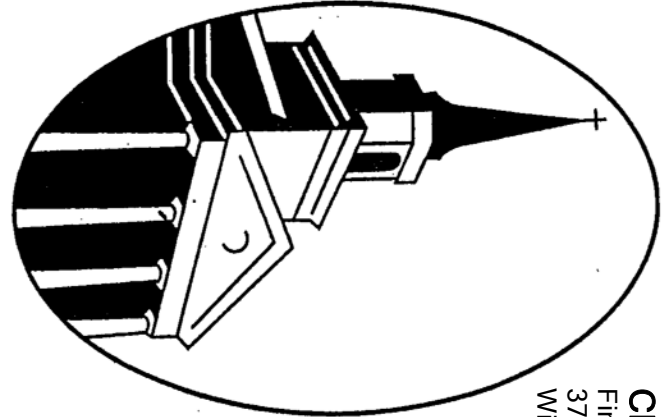
1/19: Hollie & Isabell Murphey
1/26: Liz, Emily & Tyler Thomas

JANUARY DIACONATE SERVERS

Debi & Larry Ballard, Alan Freeman, Kris Gossom, Hollie Murphey, Liz Thomas, Shirley Craft, Ronnie James, Jim & Karen LaValley, James Poole, Twila Boydston, Jaiden "JJ" Johnson, Sheila Reynolds, Tyler Thomas, Isabell Murphey, Emily Thomas.

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.