



# Christian Challenger

Vol. 62

August 12, 2015

NO. 27



*125 Years of Service*

1890-2015

REMEMBER our past. RENEW our commitment.  
REJOICE IN OUR LORD.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

It was a joy to welcome, Cesar & Amanda Opela and their children into our fellowship this past Sunday by confession of faith. Cesar & Amanda began attending through Common Ground Recovery Ministries. Their contact information is 4707 Catalina Dr, 76310, 692-7849. Welcome, Cesar, Amanda & Family!



## HHH VOLUNTEERS

The Discovery Class is hosting riders for the HHH again this year. We are expecting to double our number (around 200 total). If you would like to volunteer to help make these cyclists feel welcome here at First Christian, please contact Cindy Hernandez at 642-0167. The Discovery Class will hold an organizational meeting for all volunteers on Thursday, August 13th, at 6:00 pm in the Discovery Classroom, Room 304.

## STUDENT ART DISPLAY

In conjunction with our back-to-school emphasis on education, the worship committee would like to display two-dimensional art by students and teachers on the art boards by the library. Please bring work to the history room (opposite the art boards) by Monday, August 17. Individuals may bring up to 5 pieces; how many are displayed will depend on how many are brought in. The items may be framed or not; unframed pieces will be pinned to the display surface. Each piece should be clearly labeled with the name of the artist and contact information. The pieces can be picked up after Sept. 21.

## BABY DEDICATION SERVICE TO BE HELD

There will be a Baby Dedication Service on Sunday, August 30th, during the 10:45 worship service. If you are interested in participating, please call Susan in the church office, 692-2282, with the following info: child's full name and parents' names by Monday, August 24th.

## GOD BLESS TEACHERS!

Join us on

Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>,  
during the 10:45 am Worship Service  
in the Sanctuary

for the

**Blessing of Teachers**

Everyone welcome!

## ANNIVERSARY MEMORY PROGRAM & FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

Sunday, August 23rd

12:00 noon, Fellowship Hall

Program: "125th Anniversary Memory" by Dr. Hartman

Menu: "Eating of the Greens" - Choice of salads,  
baked potatoes with all the trimmings, and dessert.

Cost is by donation.

Everyone welcome!

Please make your reservations in worship this Sunday  
or by calling the church office, 692-2282.

## JOURNEY THROUGH SCRIPTURE

On Sunday, September 13th, at 9:45 AM, in the Church Parlor, a new journey will begin. The journey will take the participants through three religions that are related: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. All three hold a belief in One God. However, there is diversity to be noted. An effort will be made to better understand these three through study of scripture and practices. This "New Journey" will be led by Larry Spradley. Fellow travelers are welcome!

## This Sunday:

**8:40 & 10:45 Services:**

"Bread of Heaven"

John 6:51-58

Dr. David B. Hartman, Jr.

**5:14 CGRM Worship Service:**

Rev. Dave Brummett

## JUST DO IT!



In her book *Clinging: The Experience of Prayer*, Emilie Griffin writes about the great gulf that separates thinking about praying from actually doing it. She describes it as “an abyss of our own making that separates us from God.”

I know what she’s talking about. I tend to make my prayer life WAY too complicated. I tend to seek deep reflection in a contemplative setting when what I really need is an ongoing conversation with God in the midst of my everyday life.

You and I both know that we can come up with plenty of reasons that our prayer life isn’t what we want it to be. Being busy is a great, all-purpose excuse for almost everything. We feel secure knowing we will invest more time in our prayer life as soon as the rest of our life settles down.

If your life is just about to “settle down,” read no further. However, if you see no break in sight to turn your prayer intentions into a fully developed prayer life, then keep reading. I want to propose a prayer experiment and invite you to join me. There is a small bit of technology involved, but don’t worry. It’s not complicated. Our goal will be to pray more often in a relaxed, informal way. Here’s my plan:

I am forming a “Just Do It” Prayer Group. You can participate through e-mails or text messages. Call the church office at 692-2282 and say “Put me in Renee’s prayer group.” Before you hang up, be sure to give us the phone number or e-mail address you want me to use.

Beginning next Monday, August 17, everyone in the Just Do It Prayer Group will receive a brief message from me several times each day reminding you to pray. I’ll give you a Bible verse or a quote about prayer to get you going. The idea is that you take 60 seconds after you read that message to talk to God. Don’t get carried away. 60 seconds will do it. We’re after frequency not endurance. We are going to sprinkle our days with *moments* of prayer.

We’ll keep it up for 14 days, then evaluate our results and decide if we want to keep going.

What do you think? Are you willing to give it a try? Here’s a nice summertime image of what we’re going to do...

Imagine you’re down at the creek and there’s a rope swing tied to a sturdy tree branch overhead. There are a couple of big knots in the rope to help you hang on. We

are going to grab hold of the rope and swing from the “*Someday I’ll have a prayer life*” side of the creek to the “*Look at me I’m praying!*” side of the creek. Together we will replace good intentions with actually praying.

Come on! Give it a try! What have you got to lose?

*Renee*

“God, our Creator, has stored within our minds and personalities, great potential strength and ability. Prayer helps us tap and develop these powers.” -- A. Kalam



## New Midweek Ministry Begins September 16<sup>th</sup>

Join First Christian Church as we embark on a new series of programs for ALL ages! We’ll gather together for a meal then break out for group Bible studies!

5:30-6:00PM	Family Meal
6:00-7:00PM	Young Disciples (K-5) Check In (6-12) Adult Studies
7:00-8:00PM	Open Gym

### Details

As Disciples we are called into fellowship with one another and with Christ to lead a life of love and compassion. To educate and advocate for those who cannot and to serve others as Christ served those around him. As Disciples we are named to be the wholeness in a fragmented world. Join us for a new community of individuals gathered in Christ’s name and bringing together all generations and demographics. FEAST offers a place for fellowship, education, advocacy, and service in order to transform us into better Disciples of Christ. Join us for dinner followed by separate studies for children, youth, and adults alike.

2 Corinthians 5:17:

*“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”*



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

## MSU GARAGE GIVEAWAY UPDATE

The distribution of household items for MSU international students will be Saturday, August 22. That means all the goods need to be at Jerry's Sporting Goods behind McDonald's on Southwest Parkway by the first of that week so they can be counted and divided. The students have an orientation at Heritage Church on Southwest Parkway on that day, and we will have items ready to pick up. Larger pieces will be delivered to them in the next day or so.

Keep in mind that the students that we will be working with from the Caribbean islands or from African and Asian countries have come with 2 suitcases of clothes and have no household goods, limited funds, and no transportation other than buses. We would like for each student to have a box of essential items for apartment life. Here is what we would like for each young man or woman to receive: 2 each plates, cups, bowls, glasses, flatware; a serving bowl, kitchen towel, towel and washcloth, set of **full-size sheets**, blanket. (I have told some of you they had twin beds, but this was incorrect. Larger sheets would work, but not smaller.)

Other small items needed are kitchen knives, potholders, toaster, pots and pans, bath or kitchen rugs, can opener, spatulas, iron, pictures. Cleaning supplies, broom, mop, soap seem helpful. These kinds of things will be available on the orientation day. Sally Hastings reported seeing students studying on the kitchen counter or in the bathroom because the apartment did not have overhead light fixtures, so table or study lamps would be great.

Larger items can include tables, end tables, chairs (including folding chairs), plastic stack drawers, dressers. Think about starting out in an apartment with nothing.

Jerry says we can deliver things to his business anytime now. Please take things as soon as possible. Cardboard boxes would be helpful. You can call Jerry (940-704-1471) if you have furniture that needs a truck pickup. Let the church office know if you can volunteer to move larger items. If you would prefer to contribute money, we can use it to shop for things we did not receive. If you are shopping, consider stretching the money by shopping at Goodwill or the First Step Store, etc.

We have wanted to be of service to MSU for many years; this is an opportunity for us to be of genuine help to students. Heritage Church has been doing this service for some time and we are fortunate to be able to work with their staff to fill a need. Call Ann Hunter (940-631-5661) for more information.

## OUR WEBSITE

Be sure to check our new website for information on events and resources offered by First Christian Church! The more the new website is visited the more popular the site becomes on the search engines allowing for individuals to find the site easier! Let's make our church one that is easily located both in the community and on the web!

<http://www.firstchristianwf.com/>

Don't Forget to "Like Us" on 

## CHRISTIAN MEN'S FELLOWSHIP DINNER

Wednesday, August 26th

6:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

Speaker: Deanna Watson, Editor  
Wichita Falls Times Record News

## CCSW DISCIPLES MEN'S RETREAT

Friday, September 18 to Sunday, September 20

Lake Brownwood Christian Retreat, Brownwood, Texas

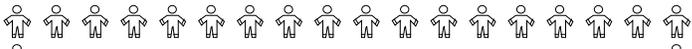
Register by August 31 for best rates for the Regional Men's Retreat this September! After that rates go up. The theme will be "As Christ Has Welcomed You (Diversity Within Our CCSW Family)" with keynote speakers Rev. Olin Fregia and Rev. Hector Velazquez. Enjoy workshops, recreational activities, powerful singing, awards and presentations. Online registration available or pick up a registration form in the church office and send by mail.

## MEMBER NEWS

♥Hospitalized: at URHCS is Jim Zug (No visitors); at Windmill Rehab is Patt Giddings. Released and back home are Hayley Boydston, Diane Brown, Bob Hayes, & Jaime Rodden.

♥Our sympathies are extended to Nancy Newsom on learning of the death of her aunt, Stella Hardin, on August 10th in Fort Worth.

*We want to be as inclusive as possible with our Member News, so if you know about an honor someone received, an important event in someone's life, or about illness or death, please call the church-692-2282. Thanks!*

  
**FIRST TIME VISITORS**  
We are excited to report that the following persons visited for the first time on Sunday: Juan T. Guerra, and Carol Steinback.  


## PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE IF A CHURCH MEMBER IS HOSPITALIZED

Due to a policy change and the HIPAA law, United Regional Health Care System's Chaplain's Office informed the church office that they are no longer allowed to give us a list of the new patient admissions into the hospital each day. They are allowed to give us room numbers if we call and ask about a specific person, and they will notify us if a patient specifically tells the Chaplain to call us.

Therefore, if a church member enters any hospital, the church office now needs for either you the patient, a family member, a friend, or another church member to call and tell us. If in doubt, please, everyone, go ahead and call the church office as we would prefer to receive many calls about someone being hospitalized, than us not knowing at all!

## YOUNG AGES PRESCHOOL

Young Ages Preschool Office is open Monday-Friday from 8:30 am to 12:00 noon, and they are accepting enrollment for the 2015-16 school year. If you know of anyone looking for a morning preschool program for their 3, 4, or 5 year old, please tell them about our school. They can call 692-3640 for more information.

**SERVING SUNDAY  
ELDERS**

David Gately, Bill Jennings; Ted Lauck, Presiding

**DIACONATE COMMUNION VISITATION**

Ben Sabine, Michael Pettibon, Kathleen Lauck

**DIACONATE COMMUNION PREPARATION**

Robinsue & Wendi Miller

**AUGUST DIACONATE SERVERS**

Debbi Schmidt, Captain; Billy Thacker, Vice-Captain; Robert & Sally Hastings, Gidget & Michael Pettibon, Debi & Larry Ballard, Shirley Craft, June Lemmon, Robinsue & Wendi Miller, James Poole, Larry & Linda Carr, Kathleen Lauck, Sandra Whatley, Ben Sabine, Luke Ward.

**SUNDAY ELDER COMMUNION VISITATION**

The Elders will be happy to take communion to anyone who can't come to the worship service. Call the church office and your name will be added to our list.

**SERMONS**

Each Sunday the previous week's sermon is available in print form in the Narthex of the Chapel and Sanctuary. Sermons are also available on our website, [www.firstchristianwf.com](http://www.firstchristianwf.com), under the "Resources" tab.

**OPPORTUNITIES**

Sunday, August 16, 2015

- 8:40 Worship (Chapel)
- 9:30 Sunday School
- 10:45 Worship (Sanctuary)
- 5:14 CGRM Evening Ministry (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:00 Common Ground Recovery Ministries Support Groups:
  - Anger Recovery (Rm 304)
  - Chemical Addictions Recovery (Rm 305)
  - Parenting (Rm 306)
  - Women's C.A.R.E. (Rm 307)
  - Family Challenges (Rm 310)

Monday, August 17, 2014

- 7:30-6:00 Children Come First (M-F)
- 10:15 FCC Staff Mtg (Office)
- 7:00 125th Anniversary Committee Mtg (Rm 402)
- 7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, August 18, 2015

- 2:00 Library Committee (Library)

Wednesday, August 19, 2015

- 7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Rm 402/Chapel)
- 12:00-2:00 Youth Open Gym (Grades 6-12) (Gym)
- 5:30 Respite Service (Chapel)
- 7:00 Chancel Choir (High School-Adults) (Stratten Hall)

Thursday, August 20, 2015

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

**MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

Remember, if and when your postal address, email address, or telephone (home, work or cell) numbers change, the church office needs to be notified so that we may keep your membership records updated and current.

Also, if you are not already doing so and you have an email address and would like to receive the *Challenger* by email instead of regular mail just let Susan know at [susan@firstchristianwf.com](mailto:susan@firstchristianwf.com).

**OPEN FLOWER DATES**

If you would like to donate the flowers for the worship service in the Sanctuary, the following dates are open: **August 16, 23 & 30**. To donate or for more info, call Peggy Fitts, Flower Coordinator, 781-2426.

**THE CHURCH STAFF . . .**

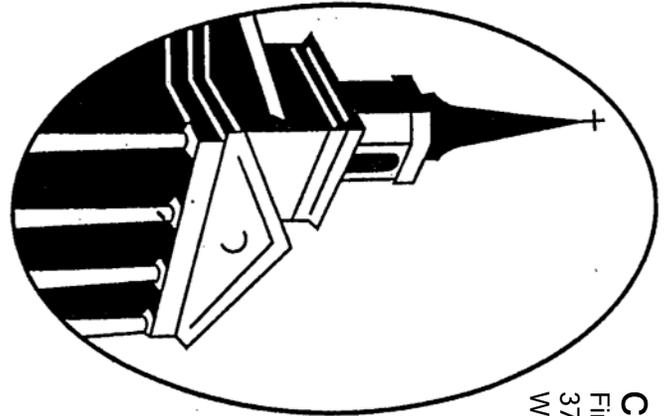
Church Number	940-692-2282
Dr. David Hartman, Senior Minister	692-2282
Rev. Renee Hoke, Associate Minister	692-2282
Jeanette Showalter, Director of Music Ministries	763-8515
Justin Dickey, Director of Youth & Children's Ministries	936-645-1215
Cheryl Appling, Business Administrator	691-7265
Rev. Dave Brummett, Director of Recovery Ministries	613-2112
Heather Dickerson, Director of Children Come First	687-2231
Karen Bivona, Director of Young Ages School	692-3640
Susan Marrs, Executive Secretary	Tina Williams, Financial Secretary
Pam Poulos, Receptionist	Debbie Watson, Organist
Web Page: <a href="http://www.firstchristianwf.com">www.firstchristianwf.com</a>	Church e-mail: <a href="mailto:susan@firstchristianwf.com">susan@firstchristianwf.com</a>
FAX Number 940-696-3085	

**FOR THE RECORD . . .**

Sunday School . . . . .	91
8:40 Worship . . . 42	10:45 Worship . . . 179
Total Worship . . . . .	221
CGRM Evening Ministry . . . . .	29
Sunday Receipts Needed Per Week	\$16,698.52
Sunday Receipts for 8/9/15	\$
Through Aug. 2: Income \$426,297.23	Expenses \$445,567.48

**PERSECUTED CHURCH PRAYERS  
THIS WEEK ARE FOR:**

Pray for the spread of the gospel in Lebanon.



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