



Christian Challenger

Vol. 62

September 2, 2015

NO. 30



125 Years of Service

1890-2015

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



New Midweek Ministry Begins September 16th

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 Fellowship Meal
- 6:00-7:00PM Young Disciples (Grades K-5)
360 (Grades 6-12)
Adult Small Groups
- 1) "Too Busy Not To Pray: Slowing Down to Be with God" led by Rev. Renee Hoke in Rm 310
 - 2) "What We Talk About When We Talk About God" led by Sarah Stewart in Rm 402
- 7:00-7:15PM Communion & Prayer
- 7:15-8:00PM Open Gym

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."

FEAST ADULT BIBLE STUDIES

Beginning Wednesday, September 16,

6-7 pm, Rooms 310 & 402

Fellowship Meal at 5:30 pm

TOO BUSY NOT TO PRAY: Slowing Down to Be with God

Pastor and Christian teacher Bill Hybels tells the story of a prayer-less time in his adult life. He was discouraged. He prayed on Sunday morning as he led worship. He prayed with his wife and children before family meals. But that was it. Can you imagine a pastor who doesn't pray? It happens more often than you think. Bill Hybels took on the project of writing his book *Too Busy Not To Pray: Slowing Down to Be with God* in order to pull himself out of his personal prayer drought. It is Prayer 101. He shares his own struggle with great honesty.

If your prayer life isn't what you want it to be, you are invited to join Rev. Renee Hoke in Room 310 for a midweek conversation about prayer. We'll enjoy some of Bill Hybels' teaching about prayer. And we'll talk together about what's holding us back from an authentic, ongoing conversation with God. Study guides (optional) are available for \$8 in the church office.

WHAT WE TALK ABOUT WHEN WE TALK ABOUT GOD

"This book is about seeing, about becoming more and more alive and aware, orienting ourselves around the God who I believe is the ground of our being, the electricity that lights up the whole house, the transcendent presence in our tastes, sights, and sensations of the depth and dimensions and fullness of life, from joy to agony to everything else." - Rob Bell

Come join our study of this wonderful book of how to continue to find new wonder and understanding of God led by Sarah Stewart in Room 402.

This Sunday:

8:40 & 10:45 Services:

"Food Fit for Dogs (Like Us)"

Mark 7:24-37

Dr. David B. Hartman, Jr.

5:14 CGRM Worship Service:

Rev. Dave Brummett

Across Dave's Desk...

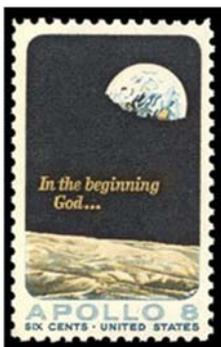
What God Sees



Photograph by Michael Collins, July 22, 1969

Except for a single soul, this photograph, taken during Apollo 11, encapsulates every human being who was alive on July 22, 1969. It includes the astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin in the lunar module *Eagle*, rising from the surface of the moon to the command module *Columbia*. It encompasses all the people of the earth who dwell on our God-given home—a home one child called “a beautiful blue marble” after Apollo 8 sent back the first image of an “earthrise” the previous Christmas. The one person not encompassed in this photo was the man who took the picture: Columbia’s pilot, Michael Collins.

Circling the moon alone while his two colleagues were on its surface made Collins, as one wag remarked, “the loneliest man since Adam.” For 48 minutes of each orbit, he was out of contact with the earth. He pondered the implications of that, calling his vessel a “mini-cathedral,” and saying he didn’t feel loneliness, but “exultation.” On the surface of the moon, Aldrin covertly took communion according to the Presbyterian rite with a wafer and grape juice in a tiny chalice his minister had given him. There was a reason Aldrin’s communion had to remain covert. At the time, NASA was fighting a lawsuit that had been filed by the litigious atheist Madalyn Murray O’Hair, who claimed to have suffered “irreparable harm” after the astronauts of Apollo 8 read Genesis 1 to the world as they circled the moon on Christmas Eve. Her dudgeon reached record heights when the United States Postal Service issued a postage stamp in honor of Apollo 8, complete with the offending words, “In the beginning God...”



The top photo also depicts the most perilous part of the mission: getting the lander back to the orbiting command module. That was the part that gave mission control the greatest anxiety. In fact, Aldrin had accidentally damaged the circuit breaker that would arm the the engine for the lunar module’s liftoff. Fortunately, he was able to activate the fuse with a felt-tip pin. Back on earth, speechwriter William Safire had written a brief address that President Richard Nixon would deliver to the world, in the event Aldrin and Armstrong were stranded on the moon. The mercifully undelivered address is haunting:

“Fate has ordained that the men who went to the moon to explore in peace will stay on the moon to rest in peace.

“These brave men, Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin, know that there is no hope for their recovery. But they also know that there is hope for mankind in their sacrifice.

“These two men are laying down their lives in mankind’s most noble goal: the search for truth and understanding.

“They will be mourned by their families and friends; they will be mourned by their nation; they will be mourned by the people of the world; they will be mourned by a Mother Earth that dared send two of her sons into the unknown.

“In their exploration, they stirred the people of the world to feel as one; in their sacrifice, they bind more tightly the brotherhood of man.

“In ancient days, men looked at stars and saw their heroes in the constellations. In modern times, we do much the same, but our heroes are epic men of flesh and blood.

“Others will follow, and surely find their way home. Man’s search will not be denied. But these men were the first, and they will remain the foremost in our hearts.

“For every human being who looks up at the moon in the nights to come will know that there is some corner of another world that is forever mankind.”

Had the worst happened, Aldrin and Armstrong would have heard the President’s address. They would have been forewarned that, as soon as it was delivered, communications between NASA and them would be cut off. It was generally agreed that it would be unbearable to hear their last expiring breaths. The President would call their widows-to-be, and a chaplain would read the service used when sailors were buried at sea, commending their souls to “the deepest of the deep,” and concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

Thank God, that did not happen. *Eagle* rose and joined *Columbia*. Then, with the crew safely aboard the command module, *Eagle* was separated, orbiting the moon an unknown number of times before eventually descending and crashing to the surface in a spot not presently known.

The crew flew back to earth. The night before their landing, Aldrin quoted Psalm 8:3-4 in a broadcast to the world: “When I consider the heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the Moon and the stars, which Thou hast ordained; What is man that Thou art mindful of him?” Armstrong concluded: “...to all the other people that are listening and watching tonight, God bless you. Good night from Apollo 11.” It is unknown what Madalyn Murray O’Hare’s reaction was to the astronauts’ invocation of God, but one may assume she didn’t much like it.

On July 24, 1969—two days after leaving the moon, and eight days after blast-off—the crew of Apollo 11 safely returned. The last manned flight to the moon was in December, 1972, with the Apollo 17 mission. To this day, some people will begin a sentence about any system failure by saying, “We can put a man on the moon, but...” But the truth is, we haven’t put a person on the moon in 43 years, despite the fact that the average smart phone has more computing power than any Apollo flight ever did.

Looking back on those heroic days, and realizing how much could have gone wrong (and in many instances, did), it still seems remarkable that such things were once done at all. But yet they were, and those who participated in them continually found solace, or courage, or “exultation” in their faith, especially as they sailed through space. And all those people—on earth and aboard the *Eagle* in that photo at the top? God knew them all. God saw them all. Including the one person not encompassed in the picture, the “loneliest man since Adam,” Michael Collins.

DAVE

Prayer: Almighty and loving God, where can we flee from your Spirit? Where can escape your presence? Nowhere, eternal God, nowhere. All praise to you, Creator of the Universe, in Jesus’ Name, Amen.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

It was a joy to welcome Norma Hill into our fellowship by private statement of transfer on September 1st. Norma's contact information is: 2004 Granada, 76308, 692-1094. Welcome, Norma!

PANTRY SUNDAY - SEPTEMBER 6TH

Pantry Sunday for Interfaith Ministries will be on Sunday, August 2nd. Items for collection will be **ALL toiletries items except toothbrushes (a dentist provides those)**. Also needed are the **reusable cloth shopping bags**. IMI and Outreach appreciate your gifts to this project each month.

PRIME TIMERS LUNCHEON

This Sunday, September 6th
12:00 noon, Fellowship Hall

JOURNEY THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Beginning Sunday, September 13th, at 9:45 AM, in the Church Parlor, a new journey experience will set off. An attempt will be made to better understand the relationship of three world religions--Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. A study will be made of scripture and religious practices. Larry Spradley will seek to guide the adult participants through this new journey. Join fellow travelers on this visit.

WOMEN'S FALL BIBLE STUDY

Daniel

A Beth Moore Study

Part 2 of the Beth Moore study, *Daniel*, will begin on Wednesday, September 16th, at 10:00 am and will continue through October 28. We will meet in Room 310. The study will be led by Sheri Sutton.

We began Part 1 of the study, *Lives of Integrity*, last spring focusing on the first six chapters of Daniel. Chapters 7-12 will take us through Part 2, *Words of Prophecy*. We will visit the extremely detailed prophecies of Daniel in which God opens the near and distant future to the prophet's gaze.

The Book of Daniel and the prophecies conveyed gave added confidence to the people that God was truly in charge of history. Come and join us as we continue this fascinating study.

Please call the church office, 692-2282, to register.

CHURCH LIBRARY USED BOOK SALE

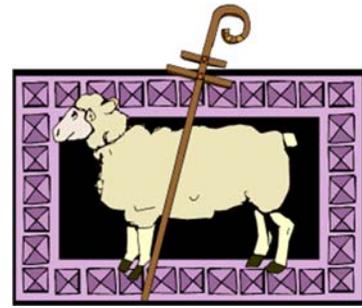
The Church Library will host a Used Book Sale to benefit our library's collection on Sunday, September 20th, during the Sunday School hour, 9:30-10:30 am, in the hallway outside the Library. Books will be sold by donations.

SAVE THE DATE



Please come and enjoy the fun at the family golf outing on Sunday, September 27th, at River Creek Golf Course. It will drive real golfers crazy and make beginners stars! Keep watching for more details to

be revealed, but do call the church office or come by and sign up, limited spaces available.



FEED MY FLOCK

Will be cooking on Saturday, Sept. 12th, at 9:30am to help provide food for the 63 international students at Midwestern who are short of funds due to the recent tropical storm that passed over the Commonwealth of Dominica. If you would like to help, please call the church office at 692-2282 or email Rick Appling at rappling52@yahoo.com.

Hope you can join us!

MEMBER NEWS

♥Hospitalized: at URHCS is Ann Cocke; at Health South Rehab is Joye Thompson. Released and back home are Ralph Armstrong, Sandy Hay, & Galen Wells.

♥Our sympathies are extended to Cathy Biggs & Elrhea Williams & Families on learning of the death of Cathy's brother and Elrhea's son-in-law, Charlie Salter, on August 28th.

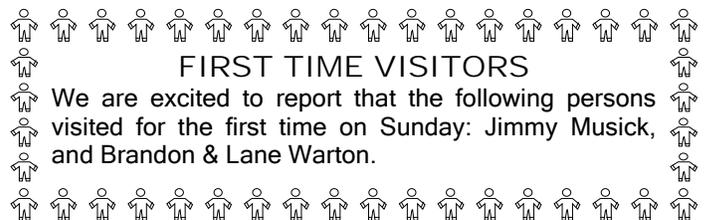
♥We extend our condolences to Bruce & Betty Lyons and Family on learning of the death of Bruce's wife and Betty's daughter-in-law, Pam Lyons, on August 27th.

♥Congratulations to Shaele Sanders & Justin Caraway on the birth of their daughter, Berkley Ann Caraway, on August 26th. She weighed 6 lbs 8 oz and was 19 1/2" long. Proud grandparents are Cheryl & Jerry Caraway and great-grandparents are Pat & Don Duncan.

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!

PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE IF A CHURCH MEMBER IS HOSPITALIZED

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



FIRST TIME VISITORS

We are excited to report that the following persons visited for the first time on Sunday: Jimmy Musick, and Brandon & Lane Warton.

YOUNG AGES SCHOOL

Young Ages Preschool 2015-2016 school year has begun. We would like to welcome all of our families!

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

Matthew 19:14

SERVING SUNDAY ELDERS

Marjorie Parker, Ronnie James; Harry Tonemah, Presiding

DIACONATE COMMUNION VISITATION

Donna Long, Amy James, Jody Brannon

DIACONATE COMMUNION PREPARATION

Catherine Earley & Sarah Stewart

SEPTEMBER DIACONATE SERVERS

Fred Gentry, Sandy Hay, Liz & Tim Thomas, Brandi & Jody Brannon, Donna Long, Travis Ralls, Sherry Tucker, Philip Dudenhoeffer, Catherine Earley, Amy James, Sarah Stewart, Luke Machado, Madi Showalter.

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, under the "Resources" tab.

OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, September 6, 2015

PANTRY SUNDAY

8:40 Worship (Chapel)

9:30 Sunday School

10:45 Worship (Sanctuary)

12:00 Prime Timers Luncheon (Fellowship Hall)

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, September 7, 2014

LABOR DAY

Church Building, Offices & All Programs Closed

7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

7:30-6:00 Children Come First (T-F)

9:00-12:00 Young Ages School (T-F)

10:15 FCC Staff Mtg (Office)

2:00 Library Committee (Library)

7:00 Property Ministry Mtg (Rm 402)

Wednesday, September 9, 2015

7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Rm 402/Chapel)

5:00 Mid-Week Communion Service (Chapel)

6:00-8:00 Check-In (Grades 6-12)

7:00 Chancel Choir (High School-Adults) (Stratten Hall)

Thursday, September 10, 2015

1:30 Knit Wits (Parlor)

**CHURCH BUILDING, OFFICES &
ALL PROGRAMS WILL BE CLOSED ON
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH,
FOR LABOR DAY!**

THE CHURCH STAFF . . .

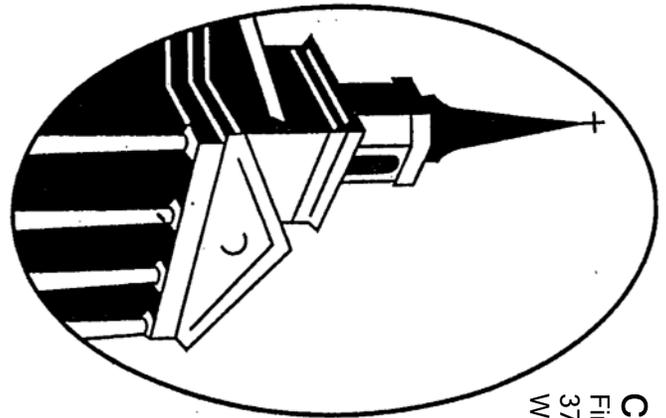
Church Number	940-692-2282	Home Phone Number:	940-692-2282
Dr. David Hartman, Senior Minister	692-2282		
Rev. Renee Hoke, Associate Minister	692-2282		
Jeanette Showalter, Director of Music Ministries	763-8515		
Justin Dickey, Director of Youth & Children's Ministries	936-645-1215		
Cheryl Appling, Business 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: www.firstchristianwf.com	Church e-mail: susan@firstchristianwf.com		
FAX Number 940-696-3085			

FOR THE RECORD . . .

Sunday School	53	
8:40 Worship . . . 45	10:45 Worship . . .198	
Total Worship		243
CGRM Evening Ministry	36	
Sunday Receipts Needed Per Week		\$16,698.52
Sunday Receipts for 8/30/15		\$21,971.25
Through Aug. 30: Income \$497,092.94		Expenses \$519,291.86

PERSECUTED CHURCH PRAYERS THIS WEEK ARE FOR:

Pray for church leaders in Tanzania.



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