



Christian Challenger

Vol. 62

October 14, 2015

NO. 36

FCC DEDICATES MEMORIAL GARDEN COLUMBARIUM



The Garden of the Cross becomes holy ground Sunday at noon. Following worship, church members will gather for a brief service of

dedication led by Dr. David Hartman.

The dedication marks the completion of a project that began in 2008 when an ad hoc committee was formed to study and research the possibility of building a columbarium on FCC property. Over two years these volunteers prayerfully explored both the spiritual and practical dimensions of the project.

"It has truly been a team effort," said Pat Thacker, who chaired the committee. "This committee blessed our church with their time, their diligence, their patience and their Christian kindness."

With the dedication of the columbarium, members of First Christian Church can choose the sanctity of their church as an enduring place of rest, maintaining a connection with the Church in death as they have in life.

Please join us Sunday, October 18, at 12 noon for the dedication.

Memorial Garden Committee Members

Pat Thacker, Chairperson
John Buckley
Linda & Gary Cook
Shirley Craft & Kenn Hill
Roger DeVilbiss
Mil Dinnin
Peggy Fitts
Cathy & David Gately
Sandy & Jim Hay
Jerry Johnson
Donna & Tom Long
Dorothy & James Irl Montgomery

Sheila & Craig Reynolds
Glorie Steele
Ruth & Don Terry
Mark Turnbow
Mark Vallejo
Vivian & Jim Zug
Nick Gipson, Ad Hoc
Howard Morris, Ex-Officio
Dwight Ross, Ex-Officio
Dr. David Hartman, Staff
Cheryl Appling, Staff



125 Years of Service

1890-2015

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

125th Anniversary Celebrations

Everyone is invited to the following activities that are planned for the weekend of October 24-25, 2015.

Saturday, October 24, 2015

All Church Picnic and Games

Fellowship Hall and Activities Building

5:00 pm

Bring the family and have fun playing together and sharing funny stories from the past and present. We will have an "indoor picnic" at 6:00 with hamburgers, hot dogs, and anniversary cake. Cost is by donation.

Sunday, October 25, 2015

Celebration Sunday!

10:45 Worship Service in Sanctuary

We will have only one service and have invited members of Park Place Christian Church to join us. A luncheon will follow in Fellowship Hall with a brief anniversary program.
Cost is by donation.

RESERVATIONS ARE NEEDED

by Monday, October 19th!

Please contact the church office at 692-2282.

Watch for updates on the FCC website:
firstchristianwf.com.

Across Dave's Desk...

Hallowed Ground



For six years, I served Olive Branch Christian Church, near Williamsburg, Virginia. Built in 1833, Alexander Campbell once preached there. Embittered Union soldiers retreating from Richmond occupied the grounds in 1862, stabled their mounts in the sanctuary and chopped up the pews for firewood. In 1900, the federal government paid reparations for the desecration, which enabled the congregation to build a Sunday School wing. There is a balcony in the sanctuary, built for slaves to worship with those who presumed to own them. Horrific as human slavery was (and is), there was something implicitly redemptive in the architecture: “There is neither Jew nor Gentile, *neither slave nor free*, neither male nor female; for we are all one in Christ Jesus our Lord” [Galatians 3.28].

In the wooded acreage behind the church is a cemetery. During my tenure, we found old plats which disclosed a number of unmarked graves on the cemetery’s periphery. They presumably belonged to those who had worshiped in the balcony. The congregation voted to place a stone marker on each of those graves, inscribed with the words, “Known to God.” As indeed they were, and are.

Adjacent to the church and cemetery are an educational building built in the 1970’s and a playground. All of it—church, educational building, playground, cemetery—constituted hallowed ground. On all that hallowed ground, the place that moves me the most is the spot where my mother was laid to rest, and where my father will be as well.

Ancient Christian doctrine says there are seven corporal acts of mercy. Six of them are found in Matthew 25: to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, care for the sick, and visit the imprisoned. The seventh is to care for the dead. For Christians, this final act of mercy derives from the Biblical record of Jesus’ death and burial. But even before that, Jews considered it the greatest mercy. Unlike feeding the hungry or caring for the sick, tending the dead is a kindness which cannot be repaid by the recipient. For most of Christian history—barring a great plague or other catastrophe—the dead were buried in churchyards as testimony to the resurrection in Christ.

According to Harvard President Drew Gilpin Faust in her moving work, *This Republic of Suffering*, only a small minority of Americans died away from home before the onset of the Civil War. This meant that in most instances the rituals of the *ars moriendi*—“the good death”—could be

fulfilled. Families assembled as loved ones slipped away. Prayers were said, and wrongs forgiven. After death, friends and family members cleaned and dressed the body. Neighbors came to care for the bereaved as the departed lay in a casket that, in some instances, he had constructed himself. After a day or so, the body would be conveyed to a house of worship, and the resurrection proclaimed. Then, the loved one would be laid to rest in hallowed ground, usually near the resting places of other loved ones who had passed before. All these rituals were consoling, and offered a dignified, even holy, conclusion to earthly life.

These rituals were disrupted by the carnage of the Civil War, in which 750,000 Americans died. While the bodies of slain officers could sometimes be retrieved and sent home, those of enlisted men were more often than not dumped into mass graves. This was especially the case with the losing side in titanic battles like Antietam or Gettysburg, where whatever reverence that attended their dead depended on the charity of overwhelmed, and often vindictive, victors. Most were buried in unconsecrated ground far from home. This massive death toll transformed the landscape of graves from small family plots and churchyards to massive, regimented cemeteries. Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address was given to commemorate one such cemetery.

Given the onslaught, professional morticians became social necessities and remained so in the war’s aftermath. Thereafter, family members rarely handled their own dead, nor laid them to rest in a place with ancestral affiliations. For many reasons (especially those related to hygiene), the massive, regimented cemetery was a positive development. Family plots tend to go to seed if the family moves away, and churchyards can be filled to capacity within a few generations. That said, some essential things—needful reminders of both mortality and transcendence—began to disappear when the resting places of the dead disappeared from the eyeshot of the living.

In the 20th Century, with the growing awareness that cremation is Biblical supportable—“ashes to ashes” is no less a precursor to resurrection than “dust to dust”—more churches began reclaiming the ancient tradition of setting aside hallowed ground for those who have gone before. Columbaria, which occupy far less space than traditional graveyards but can be no less a place of reverence, began to appear, with greater frequency, on church grounds. Even though the large, secular cemetery outside of town remains the prevailing model, many Christians desire that their remains (or cremains) abide in the consecrated grounds of a church.

Our columbarium, in the Garden of the Cross, is one more ministry to the people of First Christian Church. It testifies to the ancient truth that the Church on earth and the Church in heaven are bound together, generation to generation, in the communion of saints, by the love of God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Dave

Prayer: God of all consolation, our refuge and strength in sorrow, by dying our Lord Jesus Christ conquered death; by rising from the grave he restored us to life. Enable us to go forward in faith to meet him, that, when our life on earth is ended, we may be united with all who love him in your heavenly kingdom, where every tear will be wiped away; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (From The Book of Common Worship)

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

CWF Group Meetings will be as follows: on **Monday, October 19, Group 1** will meet at 1:30 pm at in the Parlor. **Group 2** at 12:00 noon in Room 405; **Group 3** at 2:00 pm in Room 402.

There will be a Service Day on Monday, November 23, to prepare the wreaths for Advent.

Sign Up Now For Our Monday Morning Ministry Update

Photos of weekend events, ministry calendar for the week ahead, everything you need to participate in and pray for FCC. All we need is your e-mail address sent to susan@firstchristianwf.com.



**YOUNG AGES SCHOOL FUNDRAISER
KRINGLE PASTRIES ARE BACK!!!
October 14th - October 30th**

Young Ages School is once again selling delicious Kringle pastries as the fundraiser for our school. **Updated flavors for this year are: Apple, Almond, Apricot, Blueberry, Cherry, Chocolate Pecan, Cream Cheese, Pecan, Pumpkin Caramel and Raspberry.** The cost is \$14.00 each and they will be delivered Fresh (Not Frozen), the beginning of December. They freeze well and only take a few minutes to heat up as they are fully cooked. These delicious pastries make great Christmas gifts. Payment is due at the time the order is placed. All orders, with payment (cash or check), must be placed by Friday, October 30th. The money raised will go toward adding an additional 3" of pea gravel to the playground (State Licensing requirement), replacing and/or adding new toys to the classrooms. Please support our school by buying these delicious pastries for your family and/or to give to friends, and neighbors. The order forms will be in the office during the week and in the hall on Sunday mornings in October.

Please stop by the coffee table on October 18th before Sunday School for a sample. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

MEMBER NEWS

♥**Hospitalized:** at URHCS is Inis Dudenhoeffer; at Health South Rehab is Carolyn Ford & Virginia Belcher; at Windmill Rehab is Sherrie Phillips; at Senior Care Rehab is Ruth Skoczen. Released & back home are Sam Maynor, Tom Pettibon.

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: Mary Cantrell, Frank & Diana Hunt, Tyler Hunt, & Greg Thomas.



SPOTLIGHT ON MEMBERS TRIVIA

What member married a German pilot and moved to Germany for 8 years?

This year's Trunk or Treat will be held on Sunday, October 25th from 6:00-8:00pm during our 125th Anniversary Weekend! If you would like to volunteer or help with supplies (food/snacks, door prizes, candy for trunks, Halloween themed plates/utensils) at this year's event, please contact Justin Dickey or let the Church Office, 692-2282, know by Tuesday, October 20th.

More Than We Deserve, Greater Than We Imagine

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back." Luke 6:38



Rev. Dr. Katie Hays, our Commitment Sunday speaker, was a traditional church pastor for almost two decades before exploring the frontier of the growing "spiritual but not religious" demographic with Galileo Christian Church. Galileo seeks spiritual refugees, especially young adults who increasingly identify with Jesus but not the institution of the churches that raised most of us. Educated at Yale (M.Div.) and Princeton (D.Min.), Katie served on the founding board of the Disciples' Center for Faith and Giving. Maybe because her dad is a CPA, she has a special affinity for the ways churches find to fund God's good work in this world. (And, Katie's mom reports that Katie spent her toddler years in Wichita Falls.)

SERVING SUNDAY

ELDERS

Bill Jennings, Ronnie James; Andy Wilson, Presiding

DIACONATE COMMUNION VISITATION

DIACONATE COMMUNION PREPARATION

Claudine Farrell

OCTOBER DIACONATE SERVERS

Ashley & Richard Barker, Jessica Morris, Mike Murdock, Curtis & Dottie Westbrook, Kay Jackson, Melody Jennings, Vicki Kunkle, Curtis Sullivan, Cary Thompson, Jerry Caraway, Claudine Farrell, Caitlin Hartman, Jim LaValley, Carly Westbrook, John DeVilbiss, Gracie Reynolds.

THE CHURCH STAFF . . .

Church Number	940-692-2282
Dr. David Hartman, Senior Minister	692-2282
Rev. Renee Hoke, Associate Minister	692-2282
Cheryl Appling, Business Administrator	691-7265
Jeanette Showalter, Director of Music Ministries	763-8515
Justin Dickey, Director of Youth & Children's Ministries	936-645-1215
Rev. Erin Taylor, Director of Recovery Ministries	337-304-3038
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
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940-692-2282

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692-3640

Tina Williams, Financial Secretary

Debbie Watson, Organist

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FOR THE RECORD . . .

Sunday School	111
8:40 Worship . . . 48	10:45 Worship . . .196
Total Worship	244
CGRM Evening Ministry	29
Sunday Receipts Needed Per Week	\$16,698.52
Sunday Receipts for 10/11/15	\$11,167.00
Through Oct. 12: Income \$583,144.12	Expenses \$609,304.42

PERSECUTED CHURCH PRAYERS

THIS WEEK ARE FOR:

Pray for Christians in Liberia who are mistreated by fundamentalist Muslims.

This Sunday:

8:40 & 10:45 Services:

"Boss Servant"

Mark 10:35-45

Dr. David B. Hartman, Jr.

5:14 CGRM Worship Service:

Rev. Erin Taylor

Spotlight Answer: Kristin Schuele

OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, October 18, 2015

- 8:40 Worship (Chapel)
- 9:30 Sunday School
- 9:45 Journey Through Scripture (Parlor)
- 10:45 Worship (Sanctuary)
- 12:00 Columbarium Dedication Service (Garden of the Cross)
- 12:00 Young Disciples Mystery Trip
- 3:45 Chancel Ringers (Stratten Hall)
- 4:30 Come As You Are (Grades 6-12) (Room 403C)
- 5:00 Grow in Grace Choir (Grades K-5) (Stratten Hall)
- 5:14 CGRM Evening Ministry (Fellowship Hall)
- 5:45 Young Disciples (Grades K-5) (Rm 309 & 311)
- 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, October 19, 2014

- 7:30-6:00 Children Come First (M-F)
- 9:00-12:00 Young Ages School (M-F)
- 12:00 CWF Group 2 (Rm 405)
- 1:30 CWF Group 1 (Parlor)
- 2:00 CWF Group 3 (Rm 402)
- 6:00 125th Anniversary Committee Mtg (Rm 402)
- 7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, October 20, 2015

- 2:00 Library Committee (Library)
- 5:00 Prayer Team for Persecuted Church (Rm 310)
- 6:00 Ministries Meetings (Fellowship & Scout Halls0
(Education, Evangelism, Membership, Stewardship, World Outreach)
- 7:00 Worship Ministry Mtg (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

- 7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Rm 402/Chapel)
- 10:00 Women's Fall Bible Study (Rm 310)
- 12:00 YAS Staff Meeting (Rm 217)
- 5:00 Mid-Week Communion Service (Chapel)
- 5:30-6:00 Feast Fellowship Meal (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:00-7:00 Feast Small Groups:
 - Young Disciples Group (Grades K-5) (Rm 309 & 311)
 - 360 (Grades 6-12) (Rm 403C)
 - Adult Bible Study: "Too Busy Not To Pray" (Rm 305)

7:00-7:15 Feast Communion & Prayer (Chapel)

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

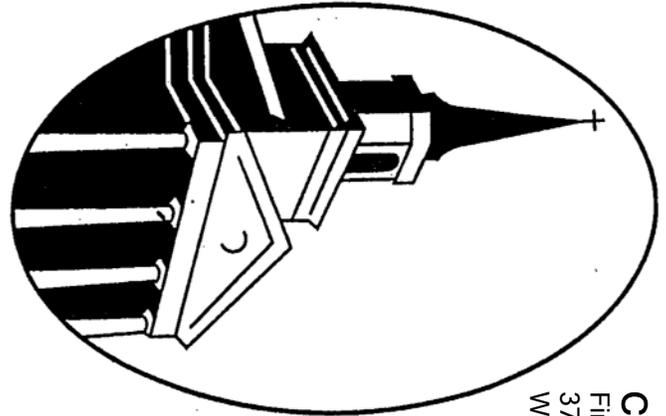
7:15-8:00 Feast Open Gym

Thursday, October 22, 2015

1:30 Knit Wits (Parlor)

Saturday, October 24, 2015

5:00 125th Anniversary Picnic & Game Night (Fellowship Hall)



CHRISTIAN CHALLENGER
 First Christian Church
 3701 Taft Boulevard
 Wichita Falls, Texas 76308

THE CHRISTIAN CHALLENGER
 Pub. No. (USPS 559-820). Published weekly during the school year with exception the last week in December. & in June & July 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.