

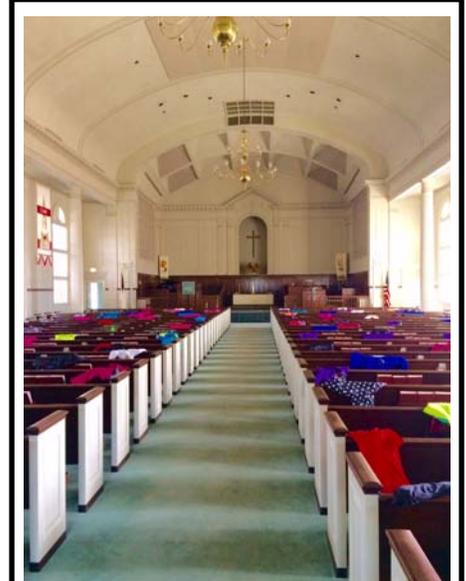


# Christian Challenger

Vol. 63

November 9, 2016

NO. 40



## Finding Support When Your Life is ON HOLD

Sometimes it's described as the "sandwich generation"—most often women (but sometimes men) whose days are divided between care for aging parents and assisting grown children and their families. There's more than one way to be part of these demographics. Here's the way one researcher describes it:

- **Traditional:** those sandwiched between aging parents who need care and/or help and their own children.
- **Club Sandwich:** those in their 50s or 60s sandwiched between aging parents, adult children and grandchildren, or those in their 30s and 40s, with young children, aging parents and grandparents.
- **Open Faced:** anyone else involved in elder care.

First Christian Church and First Methodist Church are collaborating on a new ministry of encouragement for those caring for multiple generations of loved ones. We've named the new program ON HOLD/A Support Group for Caregivers of All Kinds. At least once a month we'll gather in an informal home setting for lunch and conversation with others

who understand exactly what you're up against. There will be time for laughter, sympathy, and a reminder that you're not alone.

Our hosts will be Kris Gossom and Kathy Gilbert who just happen to be next door neighbors. The first gathering will be **Tuesday, November 29, at 2414 Barbados**. A simple lunch will be available between 11:30 am and 1:30 pm so that you can drop by at the time that works for you. Bring a friend, or just yourself, and join us.

## ON BEING BLESSED

*The World Outreach Ministry heard some impressive numbers Monday evening. So far, the Coats for Kids ministry launched in 1999 has provided 8,688 brand new coats for deserving boys and girls in Wichita Falls ISD. The next batch of coats will be blessed during worship on November 13 and delivered the following week. We're not far from 10,000 coats. Quite a milestone for this ministry of compassion. Call the church office if you would like to get involved.*



# Across Dave's Desk...

by Senior Minister Dr. David B. Hartman, Jr.

## The Consent of the Governed



*You know the speakers. Do you recognize the backdrop?*

The 2016 Presidential campaign did not end too soon. It was the nastiest, most vitriolic campaign since 1800, when John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, two of our country's great founders, ran against each other.

For years, Adams and Jefferson had been close friends and allies. Both served with Benjamin Franklin on the committee appointed by the Second Continental Congress in 1776 to draft a Declaration of Independence. Adams insisted that Jefferson, a superb wordsmith, be the principal author. Later, they again served alongside Franklin as diplomats in France. Jefferson was a grieving widower, and Adams' wife Abigail was solicitous of his well-being. In 1796, Adams and Jefferson ran to succeed George Washington, who had refused to accept a third term as President. Adams, the sitting Vice-President, came in first and Jefferson second. Article II of the Constitution stated that whoever came in second in electoral votes would serve as Vice-President to the winner (the 12th Amendment, ratified in 1804, changed that). Thus it was that in 1800, President Adams and Vice-President Jefferson, once great friends and allies, ran against each other.

Both campaigns got ugly fast as political partisans spewed lies. Jefferson's chief propagandist claimed that Adams was "hermaphroditical" (i.e., transgendered); Adams' publicist said Jefferson was born out of a wedlock to a "half-breed squaw" and fathered by a "mulatto" (i.e., someone of European and African descent, like President Obama). Adams was denounced as a "tyrant" because of the passage of the Alien and Sedition Acts, as well as "a criminal," a "fool" and a "warmonger" who wanted to provoke a needless war with France. Jefferson was smeared as an "atheist," a "coward," and a "libertine" who had fathered children by his slave mistress Sally Hemings (a charge that DNA testing proved to be true some 200 years later). Even recently widowed Martha Washington chimed in, telling her minister that Jefferson "was one of the most detestable of all mankind." He still won.

Twelve years later, Adams and Jefferson renewed their friendship in an exchange of letters which are among the crown jewels of American correspondence. In a coincidence that electrified the country, both died on July 4, 1826—the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Adams' last words were, "Thomas Jefferson still lives."

I talked this morning to an outstanding local public servant, who remarked on the graciousness of Donald Trump's acceptance talk. Mr. Trump praised Mrs. Clinton for her

courage and strength, and said the nation owed her a great debt for her years of public service. My friend said he hoped that our next President would be the man who gave that gracious talk, and not the one who spouted vitriolic rhetoric throughout the campaign. Mrs. Clinton was brave and gracious in her concession, and said that though her disappointment and that of her supporters was deep, the future of the country was bright. Both talked about binding up the nation's wounds. If the worst of our public life appears in Presidential election years, some of the best appears soon after, when we revert to our long-tested, long-standing ideals.

If our nation has an official creed, it is summed up in the Preamble to the Declaration of Independence, authored by Jefferson and affirmed by Adams:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed...

At the time of the Declaration's authorship "men" was assumed to encompass only white men. It was Abraham Lincoln, dedicating a cemetery filled with thousands of slain young Americans, who made the Declaration a living document by expanding the Declaration's meaning of "men" to encompass all of humankind:

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure.

...From these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of *the people, by the people, for the people*, shall not perish from the earth.

Who are the "men" who are created equal? Humankind. All of us made in the image of God, in all our terrifying, glorious diversity. *We, the people*. It was the Preamble to the Declaration of Independence that was on the screen behind Mr. Trump and Mrs. Clinton as they debated.

\*\*\*

I flew back from Virginia on election day, and made a connecting stop at Reagan National Airport in Washington, D.C. From the tarmac, I could see the dome of the Capitol, the Washington Monument, and the Jefferson Memorial. On the flight out, we overflowed Arlington National Cemetery. I recognized the house first—the home of Robert E. Lee and his wife Mary—and then beheld, all around it, the orderly array of thousands upon thousands of small white markers, the resting places of so many of America's sons and daughters, our nation's hallowed dead. It is our sacred obligation as Americans to honor their sacrifices by insuring that "government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

Pray for our country. Pray that those whom we have elected may be wise and just. May God bless America.

*Dave*





FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

---

**everyONE**

BELONGS • GIVES • RECEIVES

**2017 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN**

***Sunday, November 13th***

Dr. David Hartman, Preaching

***Commitment Sunday, November 20th***

Dr. David Hartman & Rev. Renee Hoke, Preaching

***Thanksgiving Fellowship Luncheon @Noon***

With Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, gravy, green beans, salad  
and dessert.

We hope you'll join us for a great meal and fellowship!

**PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATION TODAY!**

GROW  ONE CHALLENGE

PLEASE PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER THE 2017 GROW ONE CHALLENGE TO INCREASE YOUR ESTIMATE OF GIVING TO OUR CHURCH BY 1 - PERCENT OF YOUR ANNUAL INCOME.

Thank you!



## Message to the Congregation on Sunday, Nov. 6, from FCC Board Chair John Buckley

Good morning, and welcome to my last stewardship moment as your board chair! Jerry Johnson knows how much I love to do this, but he'll have to find someone else to torment next year. Actually, I really don't mind public speaking and I think this is a very important message regarding the future of our church. So if nothing else for the next two minutes, try to count the number of

times I say "give" in my stewardship moment entitled "WHY DO WE GIVE?" since it ties in to our 2017 stewardship theme: EVERYONE belongs, EVERYONE gives and EVERYONE receives.

Last week, Jerry told us that property and personnel make up 84% of our church budget. That percentage jumps up to 96% when you add in the stewardship and outreach budgets. 72% of our total church income comes from member giving and 72% of our active members make an "estimate of giving."

Last year's "estimates of giving" averaged \$4,112 which was up 6% from the previous year's average annual estimate. This average annual estimate increase occurred in spite of a decline in our total number of estimates received by 13 and a decline in total dollars pledged by \$18,000.

So, why give? Here's a handful of good reasons:

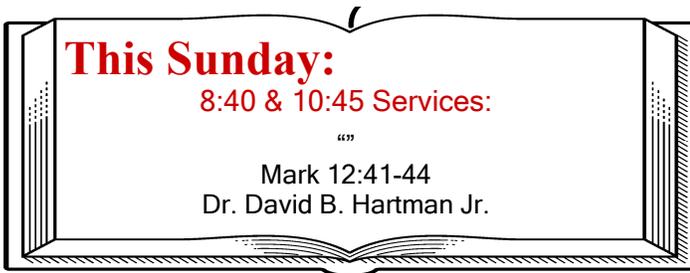
- We give for our own good, for our own blessing and from our own cheerful heart.
- We give because we recognize that everything we have is a gift from God...and a portion of our abundance should go back to God and his church.
- We give as an expression of our thankfulness.
- We give because it brings more blessing to the giver than to the receiver.
- And we give because it's not God's way of raising money – it's God's way of raising his children – of all ages.

Two weeks from today, November 20, is Commitment Sunday when we'll be asked to provide our church with our "estimates of giving" for 2017 before we enjoy the traditional stewardship meal of fried chicken with all the fixings in the Fellowship Hall. Please prayerfully consider your ability to make an "estimate of giving" for 2017. If you are part of the 28% that did not make an "estimate of giving" last year, please consider doing so this year. If you're part of the 72% who made an "estimate of giving" last year, thank you very much and please consider the "grow one" challenge to increase your 2017 estimate by one percent of your annual income. Together EVERYONE belongs, EVERYONE gives and EVERYONE receives at First Christian Church. Thank you!

# FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

**everyone**  **ONE**

BELONGS • GIVES • RECEIVES



**This Sunday:**

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

Mark 12:41-44

Dr. David B. Hartman Jr.

**SERVING SUNDAY**

**ELDERS**

Gary Cook, Cheryl Smiley; Eddie Tucker, Presiding

**DIACONATE COMMUNION VISITATION**

Catherine Earley, Caitlin Hartman, Sandra Whatley

**DIACONATE COMMUNION PREPARATION**

Lee DeVilbiss

**NOVEMBER DIACONATE SERVERS**

Jody & Brandi Brannon, Kay Jackson, June Lemmon, James Poole, Billy Thacker, Catherine Earley, Caitlin Hartman, Kathleen Lauck, Michael Pettibon, Sandra Whatley, Lee DeVilbiss, Jill Griffin, Jon Hartman, Debbie & Mark Turnbow, Luke Ward.

**OPPORTUNITIES**

Sunday, November 13, 2016

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN / BLESSING OF THE COATS

8:40 Worship (Chapel)

9:30 Sunday School

9:45 Journey Through Scripture (Parlor)

10:45 Worship (Sanctuary)

3:00 Coats for Kids: Sorting Coats (Rm 306)

3:45 Chancel Ringers (High School-Adults) (Stratten Hall)

5:00 Grow in Grace Choir (Grades K-5) (Stratten Hall)

5:00 Come As You Are (Grades 6-12) (Rm 403)

5:14 CGRM Bible Study (Rm 307)

5:45 Young Disciples (Grades K-5) (Scout Hall)

6:00 Common Ground Recovery Ministries Support Group:

Anger Recovery (Rm 304)

Chemical Addictions Recovery (Rm 305)

Parenting (Rm 306)

Women's C.A.R.E. (Rm 307)

Monday, November 14, 2016

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

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

10:30 CWF Board Meeting (Rm 310)

11:45 CWF Luncheon (Fellowship Hall)

7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

2:00 Tea at Two (Parlor)

2:00 Library Committee (Library)

5:00 Prayer Team for Persecuted Church (Rm 310)

5:30 Membership Ministry Meeting (Rm 405)

6:00 Education Ministry Meeting (Rm 308)

6:00 Stewardship Ministry Meeting (Rm 310)

7:00 Worship Ministry Meeting (Rm 405)

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Rm 405/Chapel)

5:00 Mid-Week Communion Service (Chapel)

5:00-7:30 Food Truck (Outside Fellowship Hall)

6:00-7:00 The Neighborhood Worship (Fellowship Hall)

[Young Disciples (K-5<sup>th</sup>) meets 6:30-8pm in Rm 402

& Chi Rho & CYF (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) meets 7-8pm in Rm 403]

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

Thursday, November 17, 2016

9:00 CWF Group 3 Birthday Breakfast (IHOP on SW Pkwy)

1:30 Knit Wits (Parlor)

Friday, November 18, 2016

2:45 Children Come First Thanksgiving Feast (Fellowship Hall)

Saturday, November 19, 2016

9:45 Thanksgiving Baskets Delivery

**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
Meredith Buckley, Interim Director of Children & Youth Ministries	692-2282
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
Ann Hunter, Receptionist	Debbie Watson, Organist
Web Page: www.firstchristianwf.com	Church e-mail: susan@firstchristianwf.com
FAX Number 940-696-3085	

Home Phone Number:

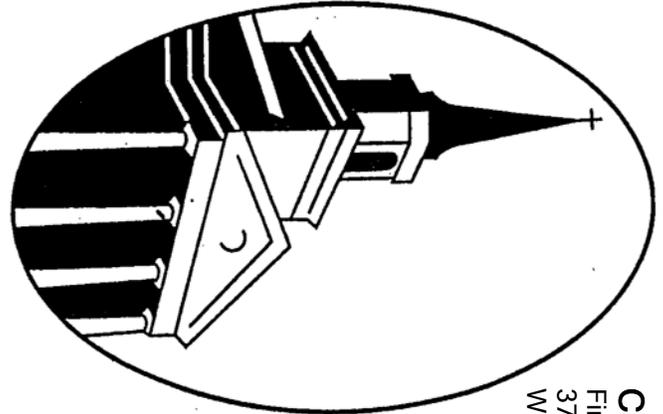
940-692-2282

**FOR THE RECORD . . .**

The Neighborhood (Nov. 2) . . . . .42	
Sunday School . . . . .	113
8:40 Worship . . . 43	10:45 Worship . . .169
Total Worship . . . . .	212
CGRM: Sunday Evening Ministry . . 35	
Sunday Receipts Needed Per Week	\$15,842.23
Sunday Receipts for 11/6/16	\$25,686.14
Through Nov. 7: Income \$601,936.60	Expenses \$659,526.03

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

Pray for the success of evangelistic and discipleship efforts in Afghanistan.



**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.