



Christian Challenger

Vol. 59

February 8, 2012

NO. 5

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

It was a pleasure to welcome Dr. Lance Troegle into our fellowship by private statement of transfer on January 31st. Lance and his wife, Joanne, reside at 1903 Ardath, 76301. Welcome, Lance & Joanne!

It was a joy to welcome Todd Terry into our fellowship this past Sunday by transfer of membership. Todd attends the Friends of Jesus Class and resides at #3 Redford Terrace, 76308, 691-2680. Welcome, Todd!

DINNERS AT 7 GROUPS REFORMING

The Dinner at 7 groups will be reforming in February. This is a great way to get to know your fellow church members. The groups meet once a month and each group of 6 to 8 decides whether to meet at a restaurant or at a member's home. Sign up by contacting Gidget Pettibon at gidget.pettibon@mwsu.edu or the church office, 692-2282, by February 17th.

CWF CHRISTMAS BRUNCH PROCEEDS

Suggestions for the use of the Christian Women's Fellowship Christmas Brunch proceeds may be submitted in writing to Jane Ridenour no later than this Sunday, February 12th. Please include an estimated cost for the suggestion. Your input is important to CWF.

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The February CWF Luncheon will be on Monday, February 13th, at 11:45 am in the Fellowship Hall. The program will be Lynda Lee on "What's the History & Purpose of CWF?" Devotional will be given by Nancy Newsom. Service offering will go to: Rainbow House: Adopt-A-Caseworker. Luncheon cost is \$5.00 per person, guests are welcome, and reservations are not required. Parking in the Staff Parking lot will be available for those who need to park closer to Fellowship Hall. Please come join us.

The CWF Board will meet prior to the luncheon at 10:30 am in Room 310.

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

BENEFIT FIRST CHRISTIAN'S YOUTH!!!

The FCC Youth will be working as a fundraiser at Jerry's Sporting Goods' Giant Garage Sale this Saturday, February 11th, from 9 am to 6 pm

PASTOR'S CLASS TO BEGIN THIS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH

An eight-week long Pastor's Class for young persons in grades 3-8, who are interested in learning more about the Christian faith and what it means to take Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, will meet on Sundays, February 12-April 1, from 3:00-4:00 pm in Room 310. Each student will be paired with an adult mentor who will guide him or her during the class. Students who are led to do so will have the opportunity to make a confession of faith on Palm Sunday and be baptized on Easter Sunday morning. Young persons who are interested in taking the class are encouraged to talk to their parents and call the church office, 692-2282, to sign up.

MOVIES WITH A MESSAGE

Tuesday, February 14, 1:00 pm, Theatre Room

Movie: "Shall We Dance"

2004 (PG-13) 1 hour, 46 min. Richard Gere is a handsome, successful attorney with an attractive family. Why is he still vaguely, but seriously, unhappy? What he does to revitalize his life surprises himself and alarms his wife, Susan Sarandon. Jennifer Lopez also stars in this thoughtful Valentine's Day romance.

This Sunday:

8:45 & 10:45 Services:

"The Bad Effect of Good Publicity"

Mark 1:40-45

Dr. David B. Hartman Jr.

5:14 CGRM Worship Service:

Debra Clements

Across Dave's Desk...

JESUS THE EXORCIST, PART III

The late Scott Peck, a psychiatrist who wrote the best-seller *The Road Less Traveled* (a book our wonderful Mil Dinnin informs me is in the church library, along with a biography of Peck entitled *In Search of Stones*) drew some conclusions about the reality of personalized evil. Peck had been raised in a secular home but was drawn to the mystical writings of Hinduism, Buddhism, and Sufism (Sufism is the tolerant, mystical variant of Islam from which came some quite beautiful prose and poetry; it is not to be confused with the intolerant, rigidly reactionary strain of Islam called Salafism). Idris Shaw, one of the mentors who had sparked Peck's interest in Sufism, was asked at a lecture what book he would recommend to anyone interested in religious mysticism. His immediate response was "*Mysticism*," written by a fervently devout Christian named Evelyn Underhill. Enthralled by what she wrote, Peck, as he put it, "began to check the references," and, reading the Gospels, was thunderstruck by the person of Jesus Christ. He was baptized in a non-denominational church at the age of 43.

As a convert, Peck believed in the reality of a benign God, and had experienced the reality of human goodness. As a psychiatrist, he had also dealt, repeatedly, with the reality of human evil. Of course, if there was a benign God whose goodness was the foundation stone of human goodness, could there be some kind of spiritual being who could be involved in the formation of human evil? He noted a poll that said that "99.9% of psychiatrists and 80% of Catholic priests" did not believe in the devil, and he was certainly in their number. But as a scientist, he also believed in examining the evidence. He thought if he could witness a single case of authentic possession—a phenomenon that could not be explained by known medical diagnoses—that would change his mind. He never believed he would actually witness it, but did acknowledge that "if you believe that something doesn't exist, you can walk right over it without seeing it."

In *People of the Lie*, his sequel to *The Road Less Traveled*, Peck briefly referred to two exorcisms he had been invited to witness. In a later book entitled *Glimpses of the Devil*, he expanded his description, and described it in an online interview on the Beliefnet website. In both cases, he went through the whole range of psychiatric conditions suggested by the symptoms. When he had ruled out schizophrenia and a host of other possibilities—"diagnosis by exclusion"—he determined that two cases that had been presented to him were inexplicable in traditional psychiatric terms. As a scientist, Peck had become interested in the Christian charismatic movement, which ascribed almost all human problems to demonic possession. A group of charismatics, believing deeply in spiritual warfare, had developed a technique called "deliverance"—a sort of mini-exorcism—to deliver people from demonic spirits who manifested themselves in such common phenomena as smoking, alcoholism and overeating: thus, a Christian who committed adultery could be considered under attack by "the demon of lust." These charismatics developed a mild procedure that involved sitting with a patient in prayer for about six hours, trying to discern if there was, in fact, demonic influence at work; if so, there was a procedure rooted in prayer to cast it out. While believing that the vast majority of trials and temptations did not involve demonic assault, Peck did employ the technique of deliverance, and said that he would never diagnose a case of possession or try to do an exorcism without trying deliverance first. In fact, even absent the term and without implying demonic possession, this is what people of good will do all the time—they sit quietly and prayerfully with a loved one when he or she is in spiritual anguish.

Peck cited a charismatic named Francis MacNutt, who said that there were four levels of demonic involvement. The first level entailed simple temptation. Peck doubted that temptation was demonic in origin and agreed, with Father Fortea (see the second article in this series) that most of the time people are tempted by the things of the world: after all, even in the Garden of Eden, there was temptation. The second level involved demonic attack, which sometimes entailed hearing voices [Note: when I served as student chaplain at a psychiatric hospital in London, I witnessed a well-dressed, soft-spoken patient diagnosed with schizophrenia suddenly interrupt our conversation and say, over his shoulder, "What's that, mother? You way you want me to hang myself?" I'm certainly no

expert, but I'm pretty sure that he was ill, not possessed]. The third level MacNutt called oppression, which he compared to a city where the enemy gained control of a few suburbs; the fourth was full-scale possession, where the enemy gained control over the center of the city, while valiant defenders still offered pockets of resistance. The women whose exorcisms Peck was involved with were possessed, he says, but still fought valiantly against it; had they cooperated fully, there would have been no strain or stress manifested in their behavior.

The two exorcisms he was involved with were videotaped—over 40 hours in one case and 30 in the other. Honoring his medical obligations, those tapes are kept under tight seal, unlike the ghastly carnival "Rev." Bob Larson offers up on his YouTube Channel (see the first article in this series). Peck said the most extraordinary thing in the procedure was the facial changes in his patients, which were fleeting and not picked up by the camera. In one of them, Peck said there were moments when the patient seemed serpent, or lizard-like. The exorcisms occurred over many days, and during them the team (Peck compared exorcism to major brain surgery, which involves a large team of specialists in an operating theater) invoked God and Jesus to cast out the demon, while also trying, for diagnostic purposes, to compel it to speak for itself (as Jesus did in one exorcism when he asked the demon its name and was told "Legion;" after all, the first step in any cure is a correct diagnosis). Peck also made the startling assertion that demonic possession should be listed in the DSM IV, which is the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual used in describing an insurable mental illness.

A colleague of Peck's who specialized in multiple personality disorders uncovered 42 different personalities in one young man over the course of treatment. [Large parenthetical note: I know credible professionals who believe that multiple personality disorder results from the disassociation that occurs during ritual, serial abuse in childhood. I also know trustworthy counselors who believe, credibly, that many of those rituals are Satanic in origin. I have no doubt that that is true. By the same token, I'm mindful that the satanic hysteria of 20 years ago, which resulted in false charges directed against innocent people, did enormous damage to the credibility of anyone who shares that belief. By analogy, there really were Communists in the United States in the late '40's and early '50's who wanted to harm the country, but Senator Joseph McCarthy's unprincipled exaggeration and untruthfulness regarding their numbers, effectiveness and role in the government destroyed the credibility of the cause he ostensibly espoused. There are real Satanists who do real harm, but they're not lurking behind every cauldron or tobacco shed]. One of the 42 personalities Peck's colleague dealt with called himself "Judas", and he was, Peck's colleague said, "a real bad guy." Peck left the dinner feeling sorry for both his colleague and the patient, believing that both of them were mistreated: the patient because his therapist could not acknowledge the possibility that "Judas" might have been a manifestation of true demonic possession and the therapist because the demon was toying with his ignorance.

In the end, Peck says, the real exorcist is the patient. He or she renounces his or her involvement in the demonic and sides with God or Christ or simply the truth: the lies the demon tells are revealed as lies and the patient chooses to fight against them. Of course, this happens in many realms of health and healing: a young anorexic realizes that what she thinks she sees in the mirror is a lie, and that she is *not* fat; a recovering alcoholic realizes his old bar buddy is lying to him, and one drink really can hurt him.

OK, I have far more to say, but it is late, I'm tired and this whole topic is starting to wig me out. A quick prayer, a turning out of the lights, and I'm going home. May God protect and shield us all. And remember that the devil, if the devil exists (Christians are required to believe in Christ, *not* the devil) is not the evil counterpart of God, who is infinitely more powerful, but the evil counterpart of the archangel Michael, who, according to Revelation, kicks Satan's keister. Christians don't have to believe in angels, either, but I do. Go, Michael. You rock. *To be continued*

Dave

Prayer: Almighty and gracious God, teach us to put on the whole armor of God, and trust in your infinite goodness, grace, love and power. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

MEMBER NEWS

♥Hospitalized: at URHCS is Juanita Deatherage & Dolly Sloan; at Kell West is Marjorie Parker; at Hospice is Johnny Costello; at Health South Rehab is Sherrie Phillips; at Senior Care Rehab is Pat Stout. Released and back home are Paul Stradley, Brent Stratten & Tom Zahn.

♥Military Deployed: are Nathan Hainline, grandson of Anna Hainline; Ryan Hebert, husband of Kayla Boydston Hebert; Michael Jenks, husband of Michelle Jenks (former visitors); Jim Medley, husband of Wendy Medley; Bob Smyth, husband of Angela Smyth; Christopher O'Francia, a Marine adopted by Dolly Sloan. Please keep them in your prayers.

♥Our sympathies are extended to the family of Mrs. A. Leander (Margaret) McAlister. Mrs. McAlister passed away on February 6th. Graveside services will be on February 9th.

♥We also extend our condolences to Glenda Dorman & Family on learning of the death of her nephew, Chad W. Armstrong, on January 31st.

♥We extend our sympathies to Tommy Pechacek & Family on learning of the death of his brother-in-law.

♥Congratulations to Amy Clem & Eric Carman on the birth of their son, Zayden Ryder Carman, on January 30th. Proud grandparents are Sherrie & Joe Vaccarella and great-grandmother, Annetta Vaccarella.

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!

* OPEN FLOWER DATES *
* If you would like to donate the flowers for the *
* worship service in the Sanctuary, the following dates *
* are open: March 4th & 11th. To donate or for more *
* information, call Peggy Fitts, Flower Coordinator, 781- *
* 2426. *

Living Free

by Beth Moore
led by Marjorie Parker & Gayla Morris

A Lenten Study for Women
Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m., Begins February 22
In the Parlor

Beth Moore says the practice of "breathing scripture"
by praying God's Word has changed her life.

During six weeks of group and personal study, you can learn to replace false strongholds with true freedom in Christ. As you pray scripture, you will realize the life God desires for you. You will understand more fully the five benefits available to every believer. The Bible study and Scripture-focused prayer will bring renewed purpose and joy to your life.

FROM THE LIBRARY SHELVES

THE HAND OF GOD: Thoughts and Images Reflecting the Spirit of the Universe by Sharon Begley- We've all heard the expression that "to look into the heavens is to look into the face of God." Images from the first Hubble telescope confirm this sentiment in ways beyond imagination and are accompanied by the thoughts of artists, writers, scientists, philosophers and more. With tears in your eyes, you will be reminded of the beauty and vastness of the universe, that our God has made.

LOVE AMID THE ASHES by Mesu Andrews, leaves us with an emotional and stirring account of Job And Dinah. *Love Amid the Ashes* breathes life, romance, and passion into the classic biblical story of suffering and steadfast faith. You will be moved to tears as the characters reflect the mysterious role suffering plays in our faith.

✉ FROM THE MAILBOX. . .

First Christian Church,

First off, let me say thank you for the great care package that I received from everyone back home. Those little things really help to make my time away from home a little easier. Thank you to everyone who had a hand in the creation of it. God bless you.

Next, and most importantly, I'd like to thank everyone at the church for supporting my wife who is very busy with our precious son Dylan. Thank you for welcoming her into the congregation and for being her family while I'm away. It has meant the world to her and I'm sure she has already expressed that to some of you. You are making her times easier and we both appreciate that very much. Without the smiles and hugs she gets from this very warm group of people, she tells me that she would be lonely and lost. Thank you again so much and God bless all of you.

Jim Medley
Master Sergeant
United States Air Force
South Korea

Dear First Christian Church,

Thank you for the coats your congregation donated to our children through the "Mary Sue Winstead Memorial" Program.

Twenty-two of our students received coats for the winter and they were overjoyed!

Thank you to Mrs. Muir and Mrs. Costello for your countless hours of work to see that the coats make it to the schools and into the hands of children.

Through this program you are indeed the hands and feet of Jesus.

On behalf of Jared, Janessa, Kali, Sonia, Sophia, Amber, Katalina, Blake, Zelihah, Dylan, Frank, Leila, Jordan, Ashley, Nicholas, Jonathan, Isai, Daylon, Jarrett, Xavier, Triston and Dayla

THANK YOU!

Sincerely,
Crockett Elementary Staff

GIVE-BECAUSE GOD FIRST GAVE TO US!

BUDGET WORKSHEETS FOR 2012

INCOME	2007 BUDGET	2008 ACTUAL	2009 ACTUAL	ACTUAL 2010	2011 BUDGET	ACTUAL 2011 FIGURES	PROPOSED 2012 BUDGET
Budget Pledge Receipts	\$ 715,179.00	\$ 709,554.68	\$ 657,736.70	\$ 677,264.81	\$ 692,282.00	\$ 675,909.16	\$ 647,163.50
Donated Pledged Services	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,320.00	\$ 4,320.00	\$ 4,320.00	\$ 4,320.00	\$ 4,320.00	\$ 4,320.00
Identified Unpledged Gift	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 72,951.85	\$ 67,228.34	\$ 70,704.81	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 72,008.12	\$ 70,000.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 8,572.11	\$ 11,235.58	\$ 9,207.39	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,137.07	\$ 9,000.00
Special Day Offerings	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 9,307.25	\$ 9,181.99	\$ 6,589.35	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 9,473.05	\$ 10,000.00
Interest Earned	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 15,113.58	\$ 11,757.77	\$ 8,095.50	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,640.91	\$ 5,000.00
Special Funds	\$ 21,677.00	\$ -	\$ 31,170.44	\$ 21,615.97	\$ 66,122.33	\$ -	\$ 69,192.83
Other Income	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 17,284.66	\$ 7,922.99	\$ 8,707.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 19,242.77	\$ 26,000.00
Less Shrinkage	\$ (57,210.00)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (35,000.00)	\$ -	\$ (30,000.00)
TOTAL	\$ 761,646.00	\$ 837,104.13	\$ 800,553.81	\$ 806,501.83	\$ 829,724.33	\$ 796,731.08	\$ 810,677.33

DISBURSEMENTS	2007 ACTUAL	2008 ACTUAL	2009 ACTUAL	ACTUAL 2010	2011 BUDGET	ACTUAL 2011 FIGURES	PROPOSED 2012 BUDGET
Christian Education	\$ 20,800.00	\$ 21,187.96	\$ 20,530.24	\$ 19,150.46	\$ 19,150.00	\$ 17,312.92	\$ 18,150.00
Membership Development	\$ 5,600.00	\$ 4,753.76	\$ 2,318.47	\$ 4,073.39	\$ 4,375.00	\$ 3,789.60	\$ 4,375.00
Evangelism	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 5,322.94	\$ 5,043.70	\$ 8,686.49	\$ 10,437.00	\$ 9,001.05	\$ 12,390.00
Worship	\$ 7,435.00	\$ 8,907.35	\$ 6,356.10	\$ 6,497.32	\$ 9,470.00	\$ 5,790.27	\$ 7,470.00
Property	\$ 198,520.00	\$ 201,561.12	\$ 181,678.13	\$ 181,361.38	\$ 185,420.00	\$ 191,767.59	\$ 185,420.00
World Outreach	\$ 54,100.00	\$ 56,210.51	\$ 53,863.35	\$ 70,414.88	\$ 66,500.00	\$ 65,969.22	\$ 50,500.00
Stewardship & Finance	\$ 54,200.00	\$ 58,415.61	\$ 48,619.92	\$ 52,357.10	\$ 52,025.00	\$ 48,732.30	\$ 50,025.00
Personnel	\$ 416,741.00	\$ 475,436.69	\$ 482,143.90	\$ 463,960.81	\$ 482,347.33	\$ 481,020.93	\$ 482,347.33
TOTAL	\$ 416,741.00	\$ 831,795.94	\$ 800,553.81	\$ 806,501.83	\$ 829,724.33	\$ 823,383.88	\$ 810,677.33

TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 761,646.00	\$ 837,104.13	\$ 800,553.81	\$ 806,501.83	\$ 829,724.33	\$ 796,731.08	\$ 810,677.33
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 416,741.00	\$ 831,795.94	\$ 800,553.81	\$ 806,501.83	\$ 829,724.33	\$ 823,383.88	\$ 810,677.33
INCOME/(LOSS)	\$ 344,905.00	\$ 5,308.19	\$ (31,170.44)	\$ (21,615.97)	\$ -	\$ (26,652.80)	\$ -

2012 FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH BUDGET

SERVING SUNDAY

Linda C. Carr, Kim Ballard; Jeana Brunson, Presiding

DIACONATE COMMUNION VISITATION

Hayley Boydston, Twila Boydston, Jenny Denning

FEBRUARY DIACONATE SERVERS

Hayley Boydston, Twila Boydston, Captain; John & Meredith Buckley, Mary Carlton, Jac Chalfant, Jenny Denning, Mary Kay Dolberry, LaVeta Kaiser, Hannah Koch, Nancy Newsom, Fred & Jane Ridenour, Sarah Stewart, Curtis Sullivan, Mark Turnbow, Joe & Sherrie Vaccarella, Sandra Whatley.

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.

OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, February 12, 2012

- 8:45 Worship (Chapel)
- 9:30 Sunday School
- 9:45 Journey Through Scripture (Parlor)
- 10:45 Worship (Sanctuary)
- 3:00 Pastor's Class (Grades 3-8) (Rm 310)
- 3:00 Chancel Ringers (Grades 9-Adults) (Stratten Hall)
- 4:00 BLAST Choir (Grades K-5) (Rm 312)
- 5:00 BLAST Parent/Child Date Night Dinner (Grades K-5) (Parlor)
- 5:00 Sign Language Class (Rm 402)
- 5:14 Recovery Ministries Worship Service (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:00 The Life (Grades 6-12) (Rm 403C & Gym)
- 6:00 Anger Recovery Group (Rm 305)
- 6:00 Alcohol & Substance Abuse Recovery Group (Rm 306)
- 6:00 Women's C.A.R.E. Group (Rm 307)
- 6:00 Family Challenges Support Group (Rm 310)
- 7:00 Recovery Groups Dinner (Fellowship Hall)

Monday, February 13, 2012

- 7:30-6:00 Children Come First (M-F)
- 9:00-11:45 Young Ages School (M-F)
- "Valentine Parties" (Mon. & Tues.)
- 10:15 Staff Meeting (Office)
- 10:30 CWF Board Mtg (Rm 310)
- 11:45 CWF Luncheon (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:00-10:00 Church League HS Basketball (Gym)
- FCC Tropics vs. Colonial @ 8:00 @ FCC
- 6:30 Spiritual Gifts Bible Study (Rm 310)
- 7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

- VALENTINE'S DAY
- 1:00 Movies with a Message (Theatre Rm)
- 2:00 Library Cmte (Library)
- 4:00 Encore Choir (Stratten Hall)

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

- 7:00am Elders' Breakfast (Rm 402/Chapel)
- 9:30 Encore Choir (Stratten Hall)
- 5:30 Respite Service (Chapel)
- 6:30-8:30 Check-In (Grades 6-12) (Rm 403C & Gym)
- 7:00 Chancel Choir (Grade 9-Adults) (Stratten Hall)

Thursday, February 16, 2012

- 9:00 CWF Group 3 Birthday Breakfast (Pioneer on Maplewood)
- 1:30-3:30 Knitting Group (Parlor)

Friday, February 17, 2012

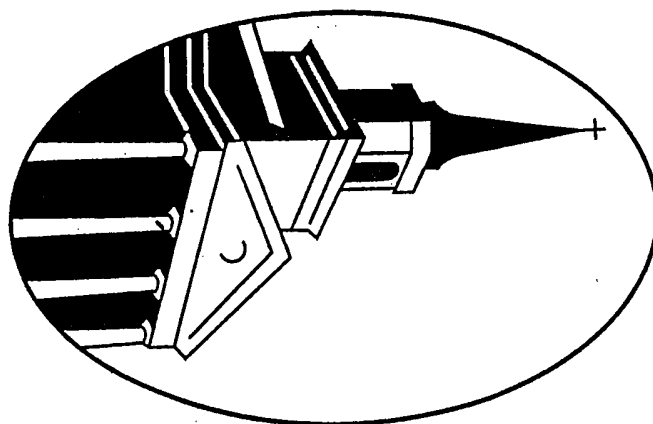
Leave for Chi Rho & JYF Rallies (Feb. 17-19) (LBCR)

THE CHURCH STAFF . . .

Dr. David Hartman, Senior Minister	704-5099	Home Phone Number:
Rev. Brett W. Coe, Associate Minister	704-5856	
Jeanette Showalter, Director of Music Ministries	763-8515	
Rev. Dave Brummett, Director of Recovery Ministries	613-2112	
Julie Coe, Director of Membership Ministries	447-6475	
Catherine Earley, Children's Ministries & CCF	720-2665	
Valorie Massey, Young Ages School	692-3640	
Cheryl Appling, Business Administrator	691-7265	
Susan Marrs, Executive Secretary		Sherry Nelson, Financial Secretary
Pam Poulos, Receptionist		Debbie Watson, Organist
Church Number 940-692-2282		FAX Number 940-696-3085
Church e-mail: susan@firstchristianwichitafalls.org		
Web Page: www.firstchristianwichitafalls.org		

FOR THE RECORD . . .

Church School	145	
8:45 Worship . . . 61		10:45 Worship . . . 222
5:00 CGRM Worship Service	30	
Total Worship	313	
Sunday Receipts Needed Per Week		\$15,295.80
Sunday Receipts for 2/5/12		\$16,732.25
Through Dec.: Income \$796,731.08		Expenses \$823,383.88



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

The Meeting Place
A place for everyone between services
A place for sharing love within the family
 Coffee is available for everyone in the hallway.
 Get your first cup with us!
 Running late to class or early to church?
 Find rest at The Meeting Place

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