



# Christian Challenger

Vol. 58

November 2, 2011

NO. 34

## ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

This Sunday, November 6th, is All Saints Sunday and the following members of First Christian who have died during the past year will be remembered: Mike Spiller, W.E. "Doc" Anderson, Earlene Caldwell, Larry Robb, Lester "Red" Carlton, Carl Davis, Todd McMurtry, Carmen Smith, Richard "Dick" Wearth Sr., Birdie Ward, Monette Picht, and Dr. William "Bill" Brown.

If you know of anyone missing from this list, please call Susan in the church office, 692-2282.

## PANTRY SUNDAY

Interfaith Ministries puts holiday appropriate foods in the food baskets they distribute during the holidays so for November they would like cake mixes, instant potatoes and boxed cornbread dressing. Pantry Sunday is this Sunday, November 6th.

## THANKSGIVING FELLOWSHIP DINNER

The November Fellowship Dinner will be on Wednesday, November 16th, at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The program will be the MSU Caribbean Pan Players. Menu will be ham, green beans, potatoes, rolls and dessert. Cost is by donation. Visitors and guests are always welcome. Please make your reservations in worship or by calling the church office, 692-2282.

## "MANY GIFTS, ONE SPIRIT"

### Stewardship Campaign For 2012

We invite you to come as we celebrate God's blessings at either the Chapel or Sanctuary service and the congregational lunch on Commitment Sunday, November 20th.

Commitment Sunday is your opportunity to be part of the 2012 ministry through your presence and financial support. Be part of the many gifts and one spirit of our congregation at our morning worship services and then join us at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall for a congregational lunch. Menu will be fried chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, salad and dessert. Cost is by donation. Visitors and guests are always welcome. Please make your reservations in worship or by calling the church office, 692-2282.

*First Christian Church  
is proud to present*

## Joseph Martin in concert



November 13, at 8:45 am & 10:45 am in the Sanctuary  
and

November 13 at 2:00 pm in the Sanctuary  
Dedicating the new Sanctuary grand piano  
Featuring anthems sung by  
a combined choir from area churches

## PRIME TIMERS LUNCHEON

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

## This Sunday:

8:45 & 10:45 Services:  
"What are YOU willing to do?"  
Exodus 35:30-36:7  
Paul Johnson

5:14 CGRM Worship Service:  
Rev. Jordan Gary

## Brett Briefly...

### A BACK YARD MOMENT

*My daughter, Kimy, turned six years old yesterday. After the celebration, she gave me a big hug and told me how happy she was that I had come to her party. That moment reminded me of another moment she and I shared, which I wrote about last year. In Kimy's honor, I reprint that article here.*

The renovations on our house continue, with much help for the past week from my in-laws. The light at the end of the tunnel becomes brighter, and so far the sound of train whistles has not been heard. But this past week, something happened that made all of the work and everything else seem to vanish.

My father-in-law and I were working on putting the swing set / fort back up in the back yard for my children to play on. It took the better part of a day to complete. During one of our breaks, I decided to lay down on the hammock I have in the back yard and enjoy the cooler weather and nice breeze that was blowing. Without making so much as a peep, Kimy, our 4-year-old daughter (who will be 5 in less than a month now L), came and stood next to the hammock. When I saw her, I asked if she wanted on the hammock with me. She shyly shook her head yes and said, "But you have to hold on to me so I don't fall off."

Once we got situated and assured that proper balance to keep us from falling into the dirt below was maintained, I wrapped my arms around her. For the next 30 minutes or so, we reveled in each other, pointing out birds' nests and flowers in the trees, formations in the clouds, and how much we loved each other. At that moment, the entire house could have collapsed and I would not have cared one little bit. I was holding my child in a loving embrace, basking in her presence, and taking extreme pleasure in a moment when nothing else but her and me mattered.

At that moment, I knew how God feels when we seek to simply be in God's presence and bask in God's love.

Grace and peace,

*Brett*

### MOVIES WITH A MESSAGE

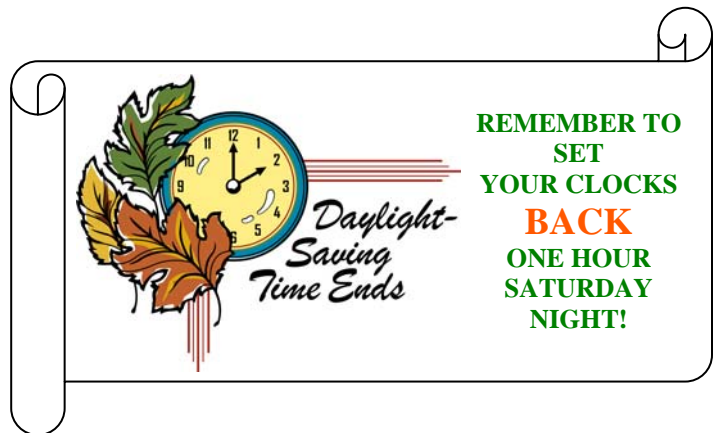
Tuesday, November 8th

1:00 pm

Theatre Room

Movie: "Hereafter"

2010 (PG-13) 2 hours, 9 min. Clint Eastwood directs this "supernatural" thriller about three different people and their responses to death. This movie was suggested by Marjory Suchocki.



### MEMBER NEWS

♥Hospitalized: at Hospice is Paul Irwin; at Windmill Rehab is John Muir.

♥Military Deployed: are Wade Bouldin, son of Mike & Candy Bouldin & grandson of Betty Crane; Jim Collins, son of Diana & Doug Collins; Michael Jenks, husband of Michelle Jenks (former visitors); Jim Medley, husband of Wendy Medley; Jason Moen, brother-in-law of Karen & Mike Murdock; Bob Smyth, husband of Angela Smyth; Heath Guidry, husband of Megan Guidry and son-in-law of Angela & Bob Smyth; Christopher O'Francia, a Marine adopted by Dolly Sloan. Please keep them in your prayers.

*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!*

### JOURNEY THROUGH SCRIPTURE

There will be NO Journey Through Scripture on Sundays, November 13th & 20th. Journey Through Scripture will resume on Sunday, November 27th.

### MANY THANKS!!

Many thanks are due to members who helped make possible the new History Room for its opening. To: Linda Gipson for suggesting that Room 13 be designated for church history; the Discovery Class for painting it and Cindy Hernandez and Julia Ward for also repairing the world map wall; Lita Watson, Ricky Scales and Carol Robison for their skills in making the framed church pictures possible; Betty Crick and Galen Judah for improving the membership albums; Dwight Tuttle for his many hours updating our files; Glorie Steele for her wise counsel, and Shirley Steele and Camille Brookshire for their artistic advice; and James Irl Montgomery for his constant support and invaluable assistance.

All the church staff rapidly responded to any calls for assistance. Preston's strength and height were especially helpful in moving furnishings and hanging pictures! All expenses for the room were covered by a designated fund for the history committee or by donation.

The room is open for your enjoyment of its contents at any time. Highland Heights Church memorabilia is included and awaits organization. Any scrapbooks or photos of class activities or mission trips needing to be preserved would be welcome additions.

I truly appreciated the attendance and interest shown by the congregation for the opening last Sunday.

Dot Montgomery, Chairperson

## CALLING ALL KNITTERS!

Join us for a couple hours of fun and fellowship as we learn or knit together each Thursday afternoon. We meet in the Parlor from 1:30-3:30 pm each week. If you want to learn how or are experienced, this is the place for you. Contact Debbi Schmidt (691-1929 or [debbims@sbcglobal.net](mailto:debbims@sbcglobal.net)) for more information.



### FIRST TIME VISITORS

We are excited to report that the following persons visited for the first time this on Sunday, Oct. 23rd, were: David & Nicki Bomer; and on Sunday, Oct. 30th, were: Becky Looney.

## FROM THE LIBRARY SHELVES

### A MARGINAL JEW: Rethinking the Historical Jesus

In this book, John Meier grapples with the greatest puzzle of modern religious scholars, who was Jesus? The "consensus statement" that emerges is open to probing and debate by all parties-Catholics, Protestants, Jews, believers and agnostics alike. Meier asks all the right questions and invariably comes out with the right answers. This book will lead you to knowing more about the founder of Christianity.

### LOST CHRISTIANITIES: The Battles for Scripture and the Faiths We Never Knew

Bart Ehrman offers a fascinating look at the early beliefs of the Christian Church, which involved a chaos of contending beliefs. Some groups of Christians believed that there was not one God, but anywhere from two to thirty. Ehrman offers a fascinating look at these early forms of Christianity and shows how they came to be suppressed, reformed, or altogether forgotten.

As always, if a book has been checked out, you may reserve the title by adding your name to the reservation list.

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



- **Check In** every Wednesday from 6:30-8:30 in the gym. Grades 6-12. This is a time to "check in" with one another in the middle of the week. Games, chill time, worship, and communion. Come support each other as we continue to do life together.
- **The Life** meets every Sunday from 6-8 in the gym. Grades 6-12. Join us for a time of fun, fellowship, worship, and discipleship. We will have gathering worship, then break into small groups for deeper discussion and learning, then come back together for fellowship and communion.
- **Chi Rho Fall Rally** is November 4-6 @ LBCR for grades 6-8. We will leave at 5:00 on Friday the 4<sup>th</sup>. Bring money for dinner on Friday and lunch on Sunday.
- **CYF Fall Rally** is November 18-20 @ LBCR for grades 9-12. The cost is \$37.50. To download registration forms, go to [www.doing-life-together.net](http://www.doing-life-together.net) and go to the Camps & Conferences page. Click on "Fall Rally" in the CYF list, then fill out and print out the form. Forms and fees are due to Brett by November 6.

## Sunday School Schedule

Children's Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

3 - 5 year olds meet in room 6

K - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade meet in room 15A

3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade meet in room 15B

## SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUPS & CHOIRS

3:00 – Chancel Ringers (Grades 9-adults) (Stratten Hall)

4:15 – B.L.A.S.T. Choir (Grades K-5) (Rm 10)

5:00 – B.L.A.S.T. Youth Group (Grades K-5) (Rm A2)

6:00 – The Life (Grades 6-12) (Rm A3)

## FACE OF GOD

How are we being the face of God to Young Ages School and Children Come First? Where is our focus...on us or them? Two ideas of simple ways to be the face of God to the children and families: come to their singing programs and read stories to the children. Each of these options only takes 30 minutes out of our day. Catherine Earley, 687-2231, would be happy to set up a reading time for you with one of the classes at Children Come First. What would happen if the children and their parents saw us as the face of God, shifting our focus, and taking an interest in them?

## SERVING SUNDAY

Jeana Brunson, Kenn Hill; Burl Nowell/Judy Gilkerson, Presiding

### DIACONATE COMMUNION VISITATION

Angela Vallejo, Shirley Craft, Harry Gordon

### NOVEMBER DIACONATE SERVERS

Ashley & Richard Barker, Mary Carlton, Caitlin Hartman, Melanie Hernandez, Melody Jennings, Andrew & Randy Long, Greg Mitchell, Ben & Sheila Reynolds, Abby & Kay Sabine, Angela & Bob Smyth, Curtis Sullivan, Joye Thompson, Alice & Mark Vallejo, Angela Vallejo.

### 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, November 6, 2011

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY / PANTRY SUNDAY

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN BEGINS

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

8:45 Worship (Chapel)

9:30 Sunday School

9:45 Journey Through Scripture (Parlor)

10:45 Worship (Sanctuary)

12:00 Prime Timers Lunch (Fellowship Hall)

3:00 Chancel Ringers (Grades 9-Adults) (Stratten Hall)

4:15 BLAST Choir (Grades K-5) (Rm 10)

5:00 BLAST Youth Group (Grades K-5) (Rm A2)

5:14 Recovery Ministries Worship Service (Fellowship Hall)

6:00 The Life (Grades 6-12) (Rm A3 & Gym)

6:00 Family Challenges Support Group (Rm 12)

6:00 Alcohol & Substance Abuse Recovery Group (Rm 16)

6:00 Women's C.A.R.E. Group (Rm 17)

6:00 Anger Recovery Group (Rm 19)

7:00 Recovery Groups Dinner (Fellowship Hall)

Monday, November 7, 2011

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

9:00-11:45 Young Ages School (M-F)

10:15 Staff Meeting (Rm 12)

4:30 CCF Staff Meeting (Rm A1)

7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, November 8, 2011

1:00 Movies with a Message (Theatre Rm)

2:00 Library Cmte (Library)

4:00 Encore Choir (Stratten Hall)

6:00 Nominating Cmte Mtg (Rm 12)

Wednesday, November 9, 2011

7:00am Elders' Breakfast (Rm A1/Chapel)

9:30 Encore Choir (Stratten Hall)

11:30 Women's Bible Study (Rm 12)

5:30 Respite Service (Chapel)

6:00 Religious Sign Language (Rm 12)

6:00 Chancel Choir Dinner (Fellowship Hall)

6:30 Check-In (Grades 6-12) (Rm A3 & Gym)

7:00 Chancel Choir (Grade 9-Adults) (Stratten Hall)

Thursday, November 10, 2011

1:30-3:30 Knitting Group (Parlor)

Friday, November 11, 2011

VETERANS DAY

Saturday, November 12, 2011

11:00 Memorial Service for Dr. Mark E. Huff Jr. (Sanctuary)

2:00-4:00 Rehearsal for Joseph Martin Concert (Sanctuary)

## THE CHURCH STAFF . . .

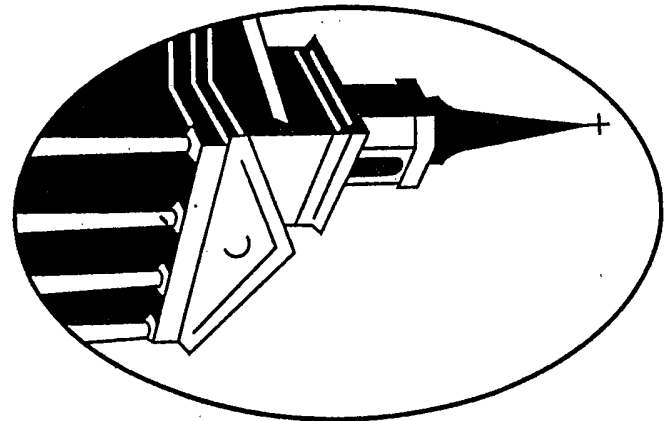
Dr. David Hartman, Senior Minister  
 Rev. Brett W. Coe, Associate Minister  
 Jeanette Showalter, Director of Music Ministries  
 Rev. Dave Brummett, Director of Recovery Ministries  
 Julie Coe, Director of Membership Ministries  
 Catherine Earley, Children's Ministries & CCF  
 Valorie Massey, Young Ages School  
 Cheryl Appling, Business Administrator  
 Susan Marrs, Executive Secretary  
 Pam Poulos, Receptionist  
 Church Number 940-692-2282  
 Church e-mail: susan@firstchristianwichitafalls.org  
 Web Page: www.firstchristianwichitafalls.org

Home Phone Number:

704-5099  
 704-5856  
 763-8515  
 613-2112  
 447-6475  
 720-2665  
 692-3640  
 691-7265  
 Sherry Nelson, Financial Secretary  
 Debbie Watson, Organist  
 FAX Number 940-696-3085

## FOR THE RECORD . . .

Church School . . . . .	150	
8:45 Worship . . . 61		10:45 Worship . . . 226
5:00 CGRM Worship Service . . . . .	34	
Total Worship . . . . .	321	
Sunday Receipts Needed Per Week		\$15,956.24
Sunday Receipts for 10/30/11		\$6,452.00
Through Sept.: Income \$588,623.31		Expenses \$606,966.79



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

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*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?

***Common Ground***  
***Recovery Ministries***

*An Outreach Ministry of First Christian Church*

***Newsletter***

*October/November 2011, Vol. 6 & 7*

**Common Ground Meetings**

Meets Sunday Evenings

5:14 p.m. Worship

6:00 p.m. Groups

7:00 p.m. Dinner

**Support Groups**

Anger Management  
Room 19

Substance Abuse  
Room 16

Family Challenges  
Room 12

Women's C.A.R.E.  
\*Co-Dependency\*Abuse\*Relationships  
Room 17



***Common Ground Recovery Ministries***

Is a support group ministry of First Christian Church, Wichita Falls, Texas. The ministry serves people experiencing physical or psychological abuse, separation, divorce, substance abuse, grief, chronic pain and anger issues.

**Rev. Dave Brummett, Director**

3701 Taft Blvd, Wichita Falls TX 76308

(940) 692-2282 or (940) 613-2112

[www.firstchristianwichitafalls.org/cgrm](http://www.firstchristianwichitafalls.org/cgrm)

[daveb@firstchristianwichitafalls.org](mailto:daveb@firstchristianwichitafalls.org)

## *From the Desk of:*

*Rev. Dave Brummett*

There are certain things in which I believe.

I believe in God, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; I believe in Jesus, the Christ, the Son of the Living God; I believe in the Holy Spirit of Almighty God, maker of heaven and earth; I believe that God listens to all our prayers; I believe that every prayer we pray is answered by God. These are my core values and I do not hesitate in affirming them.

Since I have been the director of common ground recovery ministries, I've learned to believe in more. Whenever a church embraces a community of individuals and families, surely God is pleased. First Christian Church has been doing this for the past four years, that I know, and at other times during our history.

Today, I believe that common ground recovery ministries is an important, necessary, inclusive ministry to this community, and to our family of faith, as more and more men and women are participating in leadership and groups. Referral centers and agencies are referring numerous men and women to our groups. We are growing into our community, and it's the result of the hard work of individuals inside and outside this church. Whenever something good is going on, individuals join in and actively take part.

I believe in what we're doing every Sunday afternoon from 5:14 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. We begin with worship, to include God; we participate in the four peer support groups for an hour, to encourage men and women to recover from their issues; we return to the fellowship hall for dinner, which is prepared by a couple who are members of the church. Most of the participants stay until the last piece of food is consumed. Yes, we are a hungry bunch, because of the food, and because of the friendships made in active group interaction. We get to know each other,

and we never judge anyone. We are on common ground, and everyone knows it. We are trusted with confidentiality.

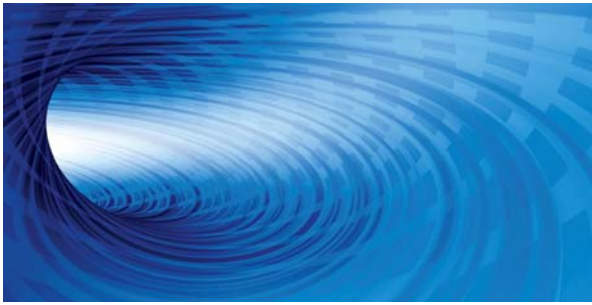
We provide a safe place to share our stories and learn from the success of others. We learn to set boundaries to include safe people, and not allow unsafe people into our lives. We often share phone numbers in our groups so we can call, when, and if we need someone with whom to discuss things. Problems do not only occur on Sundays, most of the time, so we have contact availability just in case. We take care of each other the best we are able.



I believe in the Risen Body of Christ, the Church, because we are our Lord's hands, voice, compassion and love. Without us, who is going to step forward and minister the way common ground recovery ministries does? Let me know when you find them, because I want to get acquainted so that we, together, can serve our Lord in the broader arena of life.

I'm asking for First Christian Church to continue to support us with your prayer, so we can remain a successful ministry to men and women of our community who need, and benefit, from the groups we offer.

May the Lord continue to bless us in our ministries! Praise the Lord!



## ***Falling into Grace***

*By Debra K. Clements*

**Grace**.... what an incredible word. To me, it means mercy, protection, and love to the very exponential that I cannot imagine. Step by step, leading and guiding me through the complete tunnel of darkness. I pictured in my mind ice skating on water and referred to that many times.



If I take my eyes off of God, I will not survive, physically or emotionally. There are no more ice skates, just a very dark almost black water and when I reach out to take a step, the water comes to my knees and wondering if I am going to sink forever and ever....there....**Grace** brings in a stepping stone to lift me up.



A change of surroundings and friends that walked out when I was at the bottom and I thought I could not hurt anymore.....**God's Grace!** When I am left to die by the ones who loved me, God's almighty **Grace** comes

in and I awake each morning with a song in my heart. The birds that will peck on the window and sit there until I watch them and the orchestra of birds and squirrels to watch is the gift my Father gives to me each



morning. In the quiet, I have learned to listen to His voice, a voice that is a whisper. In the silence, a heart that is reborn to a fresh awakening, a strength that is not mine, but God's. Independence turned to dependence. Learning to receive instead of giving, tears instead of anger. Each baby step is a step of celebration when before I never even noticed the steps. Each moment is a Blessing; each second is a Blessing because it is a gift from my Father, my God, my Provider and my Protector. **Grace** is peace in the middle of the storm, calmness in my spirit and soul. Father, I thank you for loving me as you do and for your protective hand that held me and led me through the darkest days of my life and for never letting me fall, but **lifting** me up to a **HIGHER GROUND**.



***But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31***



My **Grace** is sufficient for you, but its sufficiency is for one day at a time. That is why it is essential for you to learn how to live in the present. Your mind so easily slips into the future, where worries abound. You also spend too much time analyzing the past. Meanwhile, splendors of the present moment parade before you, and you don't even notice. Part of the problem is your tendency to strive for self-sufficiency. I will help you learn to rest in My sufficiency, depending on Me more and more.

But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

2 Corinthians 12:9

(Jesus Lives by Sarah Young)



***Have you ever wanted to ask God a question?*** Send us your questions and I will present them to the Pastors' and the answers will be published each month.

(Email or call or write to us)

***I will ask you a question each month and we would love to get your response.***

***Question:***

***When you hear the word Grace, what does it mean to you?***