



Vision

A publication of **First Christian Church** (Disciples of Christ), **Tulsa** ● May 9, 2018
913 S. Boulder Ave., Tulsa, OK 918.582.8237 fctulsa.org

This Sunday is Mother's Day

May 13

Lynn's Sermon – *Places in the Heart*

It's difficult to truly extend the recognition and honor that we would like to those we value so much. Mother's Day is bittersweet. Precious memories, painful memories. Joys and heartaches. This Sunday we'll give tribute **to all our women**. All of you are precious in the sight of God and this congregation of saints. As always, our **10:45** worship will touch our hearts and honor God. While the following Psalm was written by David, it's expression rests equally within the hearts of women and mothers.

Psalm 16: (NLT)

Keep me safe, O God, for I have come to you for refuge.

I said to the LORD, "You are my Master! Every good thing I have comes from you."

The godly people in the land are my true heroes! I take pleasure in them!

Troubles multiply for those who chase after other gods. I will not take part in their sacrifices or even speak the names of their gods.

LORD, you alone are my inheritance, my cup of blessing. You guard all that is mine.

The land you have given me is a pleasant land. What a wonderful inheritance!

I will bless the LORD who guides me; even at night my heart instructs me.

I know the LORD is always with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me.

No wonder my heart is glad, and I rejoice. My body rests in safety.

You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever.

► Upcoming Messages

- May 20 – Pentecost **Do It Again Lord** – celebrating the birth of *The Church*
- May 27 – Memorial Day **Places in the Heart** – the gift of *Remembrance*
- June 3 – **The Difference Maker** {The Holy Spirit – Part 1}
- June 10 – Guest Speaker Bobby Hawley, Christian Church Foundation

People News

- **Helen Pummill** is back in her apartment after falling and being in the hospital and then rehab.
- Lynn conducted the memorial service for **Marilou Burnett** on April 27.
- **Catherin Vale** celebrated her 100th birthday last week.
- Memorial service for **Juanita (Nita) Griggs**, wife of our former Senior Minister Roy Griggs, will be THIS Saturday, May 12, at 2:00 p.m. at Montreau Chapel.
- Last Sunday, FCC enjoyed a nice delegation of *fellow Disciples*, from the University Christian Church in Fort Worth. They were on an Art Lover's Trip to Tulsa and included FCC in their itinerary.
- Lynn, **Kathy Davis**, and **Brooklyn Knight**, attended the Oklahoma Regional Spring Conference in Oklahoma City, April 29.
- **Joys: Jeremy Nichols** offers thanks for his sobriety and *new job*. He especially thanks the congregation for standing with him these past three months.
- **Concerns:** Uphold **Bob Parks** who has been diagnosed with Pulmonary Fibrosis. **Malorie Knight** for her medical tests {Scottish Rite Hospital in Dallas, May 16} and pending spinal fusion surgery.
- **Phillips Theological Seminary** will once again use FCC's sanctuary and fellowship hall, Saturday, May 19, to celebrate its spring commencement.
- Two of our regulars, **Debi Reinhardt** and **Brent Weiscamp** continue their studies at Phillips Theological Seminary. PTS grad **Zenobia Mayo** continues her active presence with FCC until she is guided to a congregation she can serve and lead.

Building Improvements

- Our Maintenance crew {Dwight, Jason, and Robin} has just finished **refurbishing rooms 212, 213, and 216** in the Education/Office wing. Each room was repainted, floors stripped and waxed, carpets cleaned, and cabinets re-stained and sealed. Take a look this Sunday. This will give us three very functional and well located rooms for future ministry development. We are still researching how to refurbish some of the other former CDC rooms. • Donahue HVAC Co has completed the upgrade and replacement of multiple heating/air conditioning units on the 2nd & 3rd floors of the Education building.

Ministry News

- **Wednesday night study/fellowship** continues through May 23. Our topic is Discipleship. We've explored who are Disciples of Christ both from a biblical, historical, and contemporary view. We're finishing with what Disciples of Christ become, i.e., *servants, stewards, and witnesses*. Join the group in the west fellowship hall room at 6:00 p.m..
- FCC's **Outreach Ministry Team** reported first quarter 2018 financial gifts of **\$6,645.80** given to the following ministries: Christian Church of OK (\$664.50); Clarehouse (\$1,000); Day Center (\$600); EIS, Emergency Infants Services (\$500); John 316 Ministries (\$681.30); Neighbors Along The Line (\$500). The Outreach Team also reported that 4 cooks and 8 servers from FCC served 155 persons at the Day Center, April 13. Approximately 70+ **Snack Pack lunches** are being given out every M-W-F. A huge THANKS to those who *pack* the snacks and those who help distribute them.

► **IMMEDIATE NEED THIS THURSDAY, MAY 10.** We need helpers for the Day Center meal preparation and serving. Preparation starts at 2:00 p.m. at FCC. The serving takes place at the Day Center at 5:15 p.m. At least 150 meals will be served in 45-50 minutes. 4 volunteers are signed up BUT 3 more are needed. Please respond to Patti Gay-Sittler @ 918.693.0592. Mark your calendars for the second Thursday of each month for this ministry opportunity.

► **May's Ministry Council** meeting will be **May 20**, after worship. Ministry Leader reports are due to the church office, Monday, May 14, so they can be collated and sent out *ahead* of the meeting.

- After the Memorial Day weekend, **our Choir** will transition to its summer schedule. We will still get to enjoy their worship contributions, especially some new congregational selections Lynn wants to introduce to the congregation. Thanks Choir {and Paul} for your excellent school year preparation, participation and worship enhancement.
- Attendance goes up and down {May 6, there were 8 girls} but our **Youth Sunday School group** is hanging in there. Jan Taylor is leading the group in Basic Bible Knowledge, introducing a Biblical mindset to *Faith Formation & Everyday Life Issues*. This group meets in the East Fellowship Hall room @ 9:30, after the donuts and coffee time.
- **Walk a Mile in My Shoes** is the theme for this year's Oklahoma Family Empowerment Center Dinner and Awards Program. It will be held at Yale Ave. Christian Church, 3616 S Yale, on Friday, June 29, at 7:00 p.m.. OFEC assists countless people on the streets of Tulsa, including those who face challenges of mental illness, homelessness, and human trafficking. OFEC works to address those needs by empowering people and changing lives. Look for the event poster and further information in the lobby information area.

Average Weekly Attendance the past 6 weeks: **86**
April's Average Weekly Offerings **\$5,226.40**

From Lynn

Preaching is such an interesting exercise. Topics, tones, pauses, a little bit of man, a whole lot of God. Preparation, inspiration, uncton. Deep thoughts. Simple, clear words. Thoroughfares, not dead ends. Intellectually stimulating. Emotionally comforting and or challenging.

Sometimes something has such a scope to it that it is hard to articulate it concisely. That's certainly been the challenge of our post Easter series on **'The Church'**. Some subjects need to soak in like a prolonged but gentle rain. The challenge is to provide enough so the soil of the mind and heart is still affected a week later, but no so much that most of the content is too easily washed away by the tyranny of 24/7 life.

So at the risk of you thinking *'again?'* I want to reiterate the words and imagery of 1 Peter 2.

The Church is a Movement. We come to Christ, the living cornerstone of God's temple, and we become **'Living Stones'**. The Church is not a fixed monument whose life is determined by a building

at a fixed location. We *{Disciples of Christ}* are the living, breathing, embodiment of Christ's resurrection power and presence, 24/7, wherever we are.

The Church has a Mandate. Some things are optional, a matter of choice. Some things are essential, necessary, authoritative. **'Be Holy!'** Our reluctance to embrace that mandate is because it has been translated and transmitted to our consciences as 'BE PERFECT' which is an impossibility we are well aware of and so is the Scriptures. If we understand the translation **'set apart'**, *distinctively different as an influence*, that is something is transforming. That is something that can work for us and with us. Suddenly core values, convictions, principles rise in their importance.

The Church has a Mission, a purpose for existence, an outcome to pursue as the *'main thing'*. Our *mission* is to *declare* the praises of Him who has chosen and called us into a new identity. By virtue of Christ's mission of grace we become witnesses, stewards, and ambassadors to Christ's *gospel*. Our instructions are clear. We are to use all the resources at our disposal to **'make new disciples'** one person at a time, one relationship at a time. We often become the *'only Bible some people read'*. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and with His indispensable help, we become messengers, teachers, equippers of faith formation in human hearts and minds.

All three *components* become a single entity with an exponential strength, a God strength.

We're going to keep grappling with this over the summer weeks and months. Being precedes doing but once we've *become we are to deploy and declare*. In the upcoming weeks when we look at **The Holy Spirit** we'll again be reminded that God doesn't choose or call us to do the impossible. God just expects us to **'follow Him'** in obedient devotion and then *gifts* us with His presence and power to succeed.

Dear disciple, The Church is hardly ordinary or routine.
Each of you play a vital part. God is not through with us.