



Vision

A publication of **First Christian Church** (Disciples of Christ), **Tulsa** ● June 27, 2018

913 S. Boulder Ave., Tulsa, OK 918.582.8237 fcctulsa.org

God Bless America – a cliché or a prayer

There are many words that characterize our time. One of them is **COMPLEX**. Our machines are *complex*. Their computer chips require diagnostics, simple tools aren't enough. Our calendars are *complex*. Have you tried to arrange a gathering with a part of the family that lives in another state and whose children are in sports, or music, or ?? = complex. Our culture, its politics and economic infrastructure is *complex*. Major groups have multiple subgroups, all differentiating themselves as '*the one group*' that should have precedence. And then there's the way man has interpreted faith and religion.

How do we respond to our Culture's complexity? Do we just throw up our hands, roll our eyes, and express our exasperation with clichés? I think Christ followers have a **SIMPLE** answer, not necessarily an easy answer but singular, certainly specific. Our Lord Jesus said: "The Greatest Commandment (Value, Principle, Engagement) is to *love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.*" {Mark 12:30} And to make it communal, a cultural thing, He said: "*and love your neighbor as yourself.*"

A lot of us on this eve of celebrating our nation's independence and freedom, are cognizant of our abundant blessings but we are troubled by the increasing, divisive, rhetoric and actions that accompany our *complexity*. We may not be able to *change* others but we *can conduct* ourselves. Maybe that is what Christ was talking about during the Sermon on the Mount, i.e., '*salt and light*'. We can be cynics, skeptics, frustrated, irritated, resigned – or – we can *conduct* ourselves and do the one thing God has affirmed that will make a difference – **read 2 Chronicles 7:14.**

SDG-LT

July 8, 2018 – PRAY TOGETHER SUNDAY – Congregations Throughout Our Nation

The LORD says, "***I will guide you*** along the best pathway for your life.

I will advise you and ***watch over you.***" Psalm 32:8 (NLT)

▶ Upcoming Messages

July 1 – **The Tension of Dual Citizenship**

July 8 – **The Stories He Told – *Generosity & Grace***, Matthew 20

July 15 – **The Stories He Told – *The Challenge & the Tension of Change***, Luke 5

July 22 – Former Associate Minister **Carol Lawson**, speaking

July 29 – **The Stories He Told – *The Man God Called a Fool***, Luke 12

Everyone likes a *good* story. Stories can be tense, sad, humorous, wise. A story engages both the mind and the heart. Above all they are memorable. Jesus was a master storyteller. Come, listen, and apply.

People & Events

- ▶ **July 4 evening – Fellowship at Molly Krumme’s home, 2257 N. Denver Pl.** [least confusing access is off Apache on to N. Denver Pl. Molly’s is the 4th house on the left at the top of the hill, *very modern design*]
You are invited to experience Tulsa County fireworks from atop one of the highest points in the city. The big displays usually begin around 9:20 p.m.. Arriving around 9:00 p.m. will give you plenty of time to park and work your way to a good vantage points from Molly’s home. BRING your drinks of choice and a lawn chair.
- ▶ **Sunday, July 8, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m., Birthday Celebration honoring Bill Osteen’s 90th.** Come & Go. NO gifts please. Address: 4624 S. Lewis Ave (46th & Lewis).
- ▶ The **Youth Group** from **First Christian Church, Midwest City**, will be in our building, Sunday evening through Wednesday evening, **July 8-11**. This group will be in Tulsa doing some Community Outreach Ministry. We were their location host three years ago. They are looking for some *inexpensive activities/events for their evenings*. If you have an idea, let the church office know.
- ▶ **Tom Nulf** has made a fun move to Inverness Village. He has a snazzy new apartment there in the Independent Living main building. If you want to call or visit, here is his new information. He is looking forward to seeing old friends and making new ones. Thank you for your love & support.
Dr. Thomas H. Nulf
2800 W 71st Street, Apartment 1309
Tulsa, OK 74132 (3rd floor of the Wesley Wing)
918.388.3874
- ▶ Patti Gay Sittler encourages us to send a card to young **Riegha Cupria**, 1814 S. 108th E. Ave., Tulsa, OK, 74128. Her facial cosmetic surgery was not as extensive as first thought but the trauma of the dog attack is still present.
- The Congregation mourns and expresses its condolences to Bill, Randy, and Kate Northcutt at **Thressa Northcutt’s death, June 12**. Her service was conducted in our Chapel, June 18.

- **Please Remember ..** Our **Outreach/Social Action** Ministry Team prepares and serves meals every 2nd Thursday of the month. In June that is Thursday, the 14th. Volunteers are needed to help with the food preparation (2:00 p.m.) and then the serving (5:15 p.m.) For more information see Patti Gay-Sittler [918.693.0592]

Summaries of Recent Congregational Information Meetings

► Summary of June 10, 2018, Ministry Council Meeting with Leslie Kirkpatrick

The purpose of the meeting was to meet Leslie Kirkpatrick, a commercial real estate consultant with the Tulsa office of CBRE, Inc., the largest commercial real estate company in the United States. The Ministry Council previously entered into an Exclusive Listing Agreement with Ms. Kirkpatrick, copies which were made available.

Ms. Kirkpatrick explained that, pursuant to the listing agreement, she will be the church's agent **IF** the Congregation elects to sell the church's property. In the meantime, she will assist the church should any *unsolicited* offers be received. She also summarized her educational background and commercial real estate experience, discussed the current market for real estate in downtown Tulsa, offered a rough estimate of the value of the church's property, and shared her thoughts about a recent offer for our property from the Price Family Properties. She then answered questions from members of the Ministry Council and members of the Congregation.

► Summary of the June 24, 2018, Ministry Council Meeting with Jim Milton

The purpose of the meeting was to meet Jim Milton, a shareholder and director of The Hall Estill Law Firm. Mr. Milton was retained by the Ministry Council to prepare an Irrevocable Legacy Trust Agreement following the Congregation's decision November, 2017, to create such a trust. At that same meeting the Congregation designated the charitable entities that would receive a share of the proceeds from the sale of such church property. Copies of the most recent draft trust agreement were made available.

Clarke Kendall, president of the Congregation's Board of Trustees, explained why the Board of Trustees recommends that Trust Company of Oklahoma serve as trustee of the Legacy Trust. Mr. Milton then discussed the importance of legacy trusts in general, and the key terms of the proposed agreement, including language authorizing the church to sell its property in order to relocate. He also emphasized that the agreement allows the Congregation to *retain control* over the use and disposition of church property. He then answered questions from members of the Ministry Council and members of the Congregation.

Scholarship Funds Update

Over many years, individuals, families, and interested persons have given monies to a First Christian Church Scholarship fund. Some were designated for seminary students, others for people preparing for Christian Service in another professional field. In 2017, the FCC Ministry Council approved the transfer of approximately \$400,000 of those funds to Philipps Theological Seminary who has been given a *Matching Grant* that will double our funds transferred to Philipps. Our FCC Scholarship Ministry Team will continue to direct the remaining funds.

SIX MONTH FCC FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

The following isn't an exact or final first six months of 2018 accounting, but it is close.

- .. Our General Fund/Pledges Income is **24% above** Budget projection. We've received \$151,515.
- .. Our Property Expenses are over by 14%. We spent \$112,212.
- .. Our Personnel Expenses are down, 27% less than projected. This area's expenses are \$148,248
- .. Our Supplemental Income has been 11% less than projected. We've received \$96,012.
- .. Since the first of 2018 we have drawn \$20,000 from our Budget Contingency Fund.
{Less than expected.}

We are not where we'd like to be, but the Congregation's faithful generosity and prudent management is making a difference. The perception of some is that First Christian has A LOT of monies it can easily draw from at any time. That is simply not the case. We are fortunate to have received gifts but the bulk of those gifts are designated and not available for ordinary operational expenses. **Thus your stewardship DOES make a difference** to our weekly, monthly operations.