



Vision

A publication of **First Christian Church** (Disciples of Christ), **Tulsa** ● **August 8, 2018**

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

► Our annual **Award of Scholarships** will take place **Sunday, August 12**, in the worship service. We are so thankful for those who have made our Scholarship Funds possible and available. Investing in future leader/servants' education is significant. This year there are nine recipients:

Hannah Parnell	attending Oklahoma State University
Savannah Sullivan	attending University of Oklahoma, Health Science Center
Faith Hunt	attending Tennessee College of Applied Technology
Rodney Hunt	attending South College
Rianne Nero	attending Prairie View A & M University
Allison Harris	attending University of Arkansas
William Harris	attending University of Oklahoma
Maggie Freeny	attending Oklahoma State University
Christopher Nichols	attending University of Oklahoma

Our thanks to **Kelli Knight** (Chair), **Samantha Cox**, and **Joyce Kendall** for their work in organizing these awards.

The Stories He Told sermon series continues through August.

When Jesus spoke people listened and remembered. His stories would be told and retold as people gained a clearer picture of God and His kingdom. The same holds true for us today. Don't miss the following:

Sermons	8.5	Life at Opposite Ends of the Spectrum (The Parable of the Rich Man & Lazarus) Luke 16:19-31
	8.12	How Is Your Heart? {The Parable of the Soils} Matthew 13:3-9; 18-23
	8.19	Leslie Dotson, Associate Regional Minister preaching Where's the Love, John 15:9-17
	8.26	Small But Powerful {The Parable of the Mustard Seed & Leaven} Matthew 13:31-34; Mark 4:30-34
	9.2	{Labor Day Sunday} Making Your Mark

Trustees' Update

A representative of the Geoscience Center of Tulsa has again contacted FCC's Trustees about the possibility of leasing space for its children's museum. In addition, the representative asked whether FCC would consider giving the Center an option to purchase our parking lot adjacent to Tulsa Community College. The Center would use an option period to conduct a capital campaign to raise the required funds.

The Trustees referred these matters to Leslie Kirkpatrick, FCC's commercial real estate consultant. She conferred with the Center's representative and will offer advice and recommendations to the Ministry Council at its **August 12** meeting. Members of the congregation are encouraged to attend this meeting.

People News

Jack Elswick is home after weeks of rehabilitation following his accident.

Lurita Williams is still experiencing quite a bit of pain and her mobility has been affected.

Malorie Knight will have back surgery in Dallas, August 16.

Anniversary Celebrations: **Bill & Lucy Spear** (their 72nd); **James & Mary Lynn Howard** (their 59th)

▷ FCCT expresses **condolences** to **Rev. Dean McDaniel**, Pastor of FCC Bixby, at the unexpected loss of his wife, **Lee**.

Wednesday pm Study – Postcards to the Church – Revelation. 2 & 3

Living as a Christian in an unchristian world has never been easy. It certainly wasn't at the end of the 1st century. Our brief study will identify the challenges the Church faced then and now. We'll also see the expectations The Lord has for His Church regardless of its geographical location. **Each Wednesday @ 6:00 p.m. in the west Fellowship Hall. [no class, August 15]**

2019 Ministry Stewardship Plan

In the last two sermons in *The Stories He Told*, we have seen that **Stewardship is a lifestyle** that has two components.

▶ The first is managing who we are and what we have *for God's glory*.

▶ The second is managing who we are and what we have *to Help Others*.

Making the Kingdom of God our priority and making a difference in others' lives involves head, heart, and hands. We purposefully dedicate time, energy, and resources to ministries that will accomplish both. Too often people see the word *stewardship* and think, "*it's that time, they are coming after my money.*" But in reality our stewardship ministry is about raising people's eternal significance, not money. We want to present a vision that is so compelling that you purposely invest in it. The reward is the satisfaction that you are part of something that will outlast you. Stewardship is building your legacy. *Stay tuned, more to follow.*

Our Current Finances

FCC's pledged giving is stable, meeting our 2018 expectations. Our other General Fund income reflects our summer attendances {up & down}. Overall our income is still not meeting our expenditures. We greatly appreciate the tithes and gifts we are receiving.

2019 Servant Leaders Process starting

This is our first mention of Leadership Nominations for 2019. **A detailed list of our openings will be published in our early September newsletter.** Each year individuals make themselves available to serve the good of the congregation by accepting positions of Trustees, Elders, Deacons and the Church Officers. There are openings in each of those categories for 2019.

Each congregation has two categories of servants. One consists of those who unselfishly give of their time and energy. The other category consists of those who are willing to let the others work *{without joining them}*. As our membership has thinned through attrition we don't have a majority of people in that latter category. Many are serving in one capacity or another. However to maintain competence in these responsibilities, while not overworking a few dedicated servants, new servants must emerge and engage.

One factor we are confronted with is fatigue. With reduced numbers and many serving, some have been serving continuously for several years. That is not an optimal way of functioning. Dedicated servants need breaks. Some of our positions will be open because individuals have manned them several consecutive years.

We are all in this together. Perhaps there are some who have not served in one of these roles. Perhaps there are some who have at a previous time assumed one of these roles but are not currently serving. If you are in one of those two categories, think of those who are serving and have been serving for consecutive years and ask the question: If I were one of them, wouldn't I appreciate someone to step up so I could take a break?

Another obstacle is people's uncertainty of qualification. Training and equipping will be available. No servant will operate by themselves but be a part of a team that supports each member of the team.

A final factor that inhibits some is FCC's future. Challenges and decisions are not going away. It is daunting to think of leadership in that scenario. But we need to remember FCC is the Lord's congregation and He has proven through every generation that He is the determining factor of any outcome and that He can use any group of people who are willing to be used and led to accomplish significant things.

Do you have some questions? **Talk to Pastor Lynn or Ministry Council Vice-Chair Jean Swanson.**

Ministry News

► **Jean Swanson {Nominating Team}** reports that due to life changes for some people and others completing their terms, *there will be a large number of vacancies to fill for our 2019 Ministry Council.* According to the FCC Bylaws, qualifications for Officers and Ministry Council members require candidates to be a member of the congregation and have served at least one year as an Elder or Deacon. **Nominations will be accepted until September 30.** Full descriptions of qualifications and expectations of members serving in these positions are in the FCC Constitution and Bylaws which can be obtained in the church office.

► **Thank You Note** The Youth Group from First Christian Church, Midwest City, sent a great *Thank You note* for the hospitality extended to them while they stayed in our building in July. It's posted on the downstairs foyer bulletin board.

▶ Our **Outreach/Benevolence** team reports that our MWF Snack Pack distribution is averaging 70 people per day. A group of 18 people on July 28, gathered and prepared 1,100 sacks and the Patrian Class packed another 400 sacks. A huge thanks to those who shop for the ‘snack’ supplies {Dave Rathman}; those who organize {James & Mary Lynn Howard} and participate in the ‘snack preparation times’; and those who volunteer in the Monday {Anna Tarpensing}, Wednesday {Dick Willhour & Bill Osteen}, and Friday distributions.

The Outreach team also reports that FCC continues its second Thursday of each month **Day Center Meal**. Patti Gay-Sittler leads this and usually has 4-5 faithful helpers. Both of these Outreach ministries are great ways to *serve others* while enjoying the *camaraderie* of those around you.

The next Outreach Ministry Team meeting will be Sunday, August 19, after worship.

▶ **Music/Choir group.** Paul Pinkowsky reports the choir is already providing anthems for Sunday worship while their Fall Choir practice resumes Wednesday, September 5, @ 7:15 p.m.

Our thanks to Robert Young, Karlana Riggs, Phena Hackett, and Jeff McCollum for providing special music during July. And a Thank You to Lynda Ramsey for filling in for Paul while he was on vacation.

▶ We appreciate **Mary Byrne** for organizing our Sunday Scripture Reader schedule and also **Bob & Sue Parks** for organizing our Sanctuary Flower donations. Bob and Sue also distribute those arrangements to individuals and homes after our Sunday worship.

▶ **Kelli Knight** and **Kathy Davis** have also given significant time to arranging the transfer of funds from FCCT Scholarship Funds to Phillips Theological Seminary. These funds will likely establish 2 (two) ongoing comprehensive scholarships for those working on their Master of Divinity degree before entering a Ministry position.

“The Fruit of the Spirit is
Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness,
and Self-Control.” Galatians 5:22-23

Lynn Taylor – Interim Senior Pastor vlynntaylor@gmail.com

Paul Pinkosky – Organist, Choir Director

Deborah Ahearn – Bookkeeper, Office Assistant

Sunday Schedule

Fellowship	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Choir Warm Up	10:15 a.m.
Morning Worship	10:45 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study Fellowship	6:00 p.m.
Choir Practice	7:15 p.m. (resumes September 5)

Weekday Hours **9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.** {closed Saturdays}