



Vision

A publication of **First Christian Church** (Disciples of Christ), **Tulsa** • **January 8, 2019**
913 S. Boulder Ave., Tulsa, OK 918.582.8237 fctulsa.org

From Pastor Lynn – *Coram Deo*

If you have listened you have heard me reference the prophetic utterance of **Isaiah 29:13**,
“These people say they are Mine. They honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me. And their worship of Me is nothing but man-made rules learned by rote.

One of my greatest fears in my role as your pastor is that I just polish the surface or our accustomed routines but as a prophetic voice fail to penetrate the decisive *inner core, the heart* of who we are as individuals, as a church family. There is an ever present danger that we become so familiar with the verbiage and rituals of our faith that we separate both from really touching and transforming who we are at the core.

My prayer for 2019 is not that we perfect our faith routines but that we see and use them as a means to deepen our relationship with God Almighty. Thus the term **‘Coram Deo’** – *Christian living in the presence of, under the authority of, and to the honor and glory of God.*

My hope is that every worship brings a word, a touch, or a melody that we realize is *under the influence of* The Holy Spirit. If we anticipate that, then we will *long* for each corporate worship opportunity and like the Psalmist said, *“as the deer longs for streams of water, so I long for You, O God.”* {Psa. 42:1}

January Sermons: **Building On A Lasting Foundation**

January 6	Coram Deo	Ephesians 4:1; 5:15-18
January 13	The Building Block of FAITH	1 Corinthians 13:13; Hebrews 11:1, 6
January 20	The Building Block of HOPE	1 Corinthians 13:13; Romans 4; 15:4
January 20	The Building Block of LOVE	1 Corinthians 13:13; Ephesians 3:14-19

We Need Prayer Intercessors and Sentinels

This is not complicated. No previous experience required. First timers welcome. Your mission if you accept it is to simply pray for two categories. One is the needs of the people we know or are referred to us. Second is to pray for our congregation, its leaders, its mission. Prayer is speaking to God from your heart. It’s also like a lot of other activities, you get better at it by doing it. The Tuesday morning prayer group is led by Vi Kinnnet. Join her in the Archives Room immediately off the elevator **any Tuesday @ 9:00 a.m..**

Recent Outreach Disbursements

Remember FCC *tithes its income to the needy*. When you give you can celebrate that a portion of your stewardship *reach's out* to entities and individuals beyond 913 S. Boulder. Recent disbursements included:

Christian Church of OK (10% total of Outreach Funds)	\$1,294.26
Day Center for the Homeless (monthly meal prep costs)	\$ 600.00
Snack Packs (3 meals a week for downtown street people)	\$2,700.00
Clarehouse (a community home for dying people)	\$ 674.18
Community Food Bank of Eastern OK (children's weekend back pack food program)	\$1,000.00
Day Center for the Homeless (their kitchen equipment repair/upgrade)	\$1,000.00
Domestic Violence Intervention Services	\$1,000.00
Emergency Infant Services	\$1,000.00
John 316 Mission (meals, safe shelter for hurting Tulsans)	\$1,000.00
Neighbors Along The Line (prescription & food assistance, adult GED tutoring)	\$1,000.00
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 577 (transportation assistance for disabled vets w/medical needs)	\$1,000.00
Porta Caeli House (a community home for end life patients)	\$ 674.18

With the exception of The Christian Church of Oklahoma, all the above entities are Tulsa centered. We're striving to *Make a Difference*, right here, right now. Thank you for making this possible.

Our final 2018 Stewardship figures were very encouraging. Total pledges and general fund offerings for the year totaled: **\$415,847**. There is no doubt that for a congregation our size this amount represents faithful, intentional, and sometimes sacrificial support. For 2018 we also received \$176,112 from Trust accounts and estate gifts. We ended 2018 with \$183,227 in our Contingency Fund, with additional funds in designated and restricted accounts some of which will help our 2019 expenditures.

Our **2019 Mission Vision Plan** has been mailed out to the membership. If you did not receive your packet please let the church office know. 2019 MVP **Faith Promise Commitments** were included in the packet. You may return your Faith Promise in any January Sunday offering or mail it to the church office.

For Your Information –

CALENDAR	January 6	Installation of 2019 Congregational Officers, Elders, Deacons
	January 9	Wednesday Night Bible Study Resumes @ 6:00 p.m.
	January 10	Snack Pack Prep @ 10:00 a.m
		Prep & Serve Monthly Meal @ Center for the Homeless
	January 13	January's Ministry Team Council Meeting
	January 17	Christian Women's Fellowship @ 10:30 in the East Fellowship Hall

FYI PEOPLE Keep **Theo Sellers** in your prayers as he waits for SSI and medications paperwork
Zenobia Mayo is gradually returning to form after her December knee replacement
Jason Duncan, former FCC Custodian is now working @ Trinity Episcopal & the CDC
 [note: The Double Ring's Love Gift to Jason was an *outstanding* gesture of
 Christian support and it deeply impacted Jason]
Joan Hauger, is the new Chair of FCC's Elders
 Keep **Mary Lynn Howard** and Jean Swanson's sister, **Jan Kottwitz** in your prayers,
 both with health needs

Another First Christian Tulsa Legacy: **SCHOLARSHIPS**

Over decades individuals and families have contributed financially to enable FCCT to encourage and support individuals' educational pursuits. The vast percentage of scholarships specified enrollment in recognized Christian colleges and DOC related seminaries. Toward the end of 2017 FCC entered into an agreement with Phillips Theological Seminary to transfer the oversight of a number of scholarships from FCCT to PTS. Because PTS has a matching fund program, the FCCT scholarships that are being transferred will DOUBLE in their worth. This process used the entirety of 2018 to complete mainly due to legal requirements. We anticipate the process to be finalized shortly and **just over \$400,000** will move from FCCT Scholarships Fund to PTS Scholarships Fund. Our thanks to **Kathy Davis** and **Brian Knight** for their many hours of behind the scenes work on this project.

In December FCCT received appreciation letters from Brent Wiescamp, Angela Williams, and Leigh Isabelle Larson, all current PTS students who are benefitting from FCCT Scholarships.

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Upon Further Reflection {*What was left unsaid from last Sunday's message regarding 2019*}

Some years ago I read a book entitled 'Sit, Walk, Stand' by Watchman Nee, A Chinese nationalist who wrote in the 1930's before WW2. He used the N.T. book of Ephesians as the basis of his devotional.

He wrote: **Three Key Words summarize our adopted relationship as God's children:**

SIT (Eph. 2:6) Realize, Reflect on **Our Position in Christ** by Grace

WALK (Eph. 4:1) Understand and Accept **Our Role in the World** as *Light & Towel Bearers*

STAND (Eph. 6:11) **An Attitude of Firm Resistance to Our Spiritual Enemy** drawing upon the strong resources of God.

There are times to **SIT** {i.e., '*be still & know*' Psa. 46:10}, to recognize and reflect upon how God has blessed us and what He has already done for us, in spite of our reluctant and inconsistent faith.

There are also times to **WALK**, pursue with actions the course that clearly establishes us as Christ followers, i.e., *Disciples of Christ*. We don't have much of a witness or testimony if we are silent and passive.

We constantly **STAND** as sentinels ready to uphold Christ's Kingdom, His honor and glory.

May 2019 give us the discernment to know our **Chronos** time, i.e., the number of our days, weeks, and months; our **Kairos** time, i.e., the moments and seasons when our opportunities present the greatest results, and our **Nun** time, i.e., when action is imperative and immediate, not deferred.

”So be careful how you live.

Make the most of every opportunity because the days are evil.

Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. Be filled with the Holy Spirit and be thankful for everything."

Ephesians 5:15-20 (NLT)

Lynn Taylor – Interim Senior Pastor vlynntaylor@gmail.com

Paul Pinkosky – Organist, Choir Director

Deborah Ahearn – Bookkeeper, Office Assistant

Dwight Wallace – Head of Building Maintenance

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.

Weekday Hours 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. {closed Saturdays}