



Vision

A publication of **First Christian Church** (Disciples of Christ), **Tulsa** • February 6, 2019
913 S. Boulder Ave., Tulsa, OK 918.582.8237 fctulsa.org

Coram Deo – Our Early 2019 Theme

“Christian living IN the presence of, UNDER the authority of, and TO the honor and glory of God.”

FEBRUARY SERMONS – **DEFINING MOMENTS**

‘Events which determine all subsequent related occurrences’

Individuals, families, congregations, communities, nations – all have defining moments. Some are planned, others not so, but once experienced, things change. The path forward with its values and expectations is more clearly defined. In these messages we’ll focus on how we navigate certain decisions, moments where faith is formed and expressed, and significance emerges.

February 3	The Defining Moment of	CONFESSION , <i>public & private</i>
February 10	The Defining Moment of	COVENANT , <i>i.e., Baptism</i>
February 17	The Defining Moment of	COMPASSION , <i>helping another</i>
February 24	The Defining Moment of	CONTRIBUTION , <i>the best investment</i>
March 3	The Defining Moment of	CHARACTER ,

NEW MEMBERS

We are quite pleased to announce that the following people placed membership with First Christian in January. Each person has been a disciple of Christ prior to their coming to FCC and each had previously committed themselves to Christ in confession and baptism by immersion.

Theo & Patty Sellers, 1224 S. Frankfort Ave, Tulsa, 74120, 918.998.5541

Phena Hackett, 2009 S. Nogales Ave, Tulsa, 74107, 918.220.3139, pfhackett@yahoo.com

JANUARY STATISTICS

Worship Attendance
Financial Stewardship

averaged **69*** which included one lower than usual Sunday
received **\$24,925** in General Fund and Pledged offerings.
That compares to **\$21,067.50** one year ago in 2018

*no count taken one Sunday

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- **Dorman Walton** will chair FCC's Deacons through 2019. A new Deacon service schedule has been created for 2019. If you are a Deacon and have not received your service schedule please let the church office know.
- **Boulder Ave Construction.** Boulder Ave renovation has begun. It will be changed from an one way artery to a two way street. The bad news is that the work started adjacent to our property at 10th St. The good news is that since the work is starting at 10th street progressing north, the work outside our facility will be accomplished sooner. There will be no pedestrian crossing of Boulder in front of our building except for the corner intersections. The work will include replace water lines, utilities conduit, and sanitary lines. Once that is accomplished the street will receive new asphalt. If you have been parking on the west side of Boulder, for the next couple of months you will probably want to park on the north or east side of our facility.
- **FCC/ERB News.** An update will be given in February 10th's Ministry Council Meeting. There continues to be some productive conversations but those conversations raise questions that takes time to research. Visit the Council Meeting on the 10th, or consult with James Howard, our Moderator, or Pastor Lynn.
Erik Beelman is planning to meet with our congregation in late February or March. To facilitate that meeting, Clark Kendall has prepared a list of questions and requests for written information that will be shared with Erik prior to that meeting. Included are several matters Clark believes FCC should pursue on its own initiative. Copies of Clark's memo are available on the table in the entryway to the Sanctuary.
- **Keep in Your Prayers:** Jan Kottwitz, Jean Swanson's sister in OKC, receiving chemotherapy for stage four cancer. Mary Ann Hargrove's brother in Tennessee who is also dealing with stage four cancer. Theo Sellers who is waiting on Medicaid to authorize additional treatments. Patty Sellers who is looking for temporary house cleaning work. Phena Hackett's daughter NeTanya, migraine headaches. Robin Dowling's father-in-law Willy, also battling stage four cancer. Anna Tarpenning's extended family in Arkansas, having a very difficult time.

UPCOMING

- **February's Ministry Council** will meet on Sunday, February 10, after worship.
- February's Day Center for the Homeless meal will be February 14. Check with Pattie Gay-Sittler, (918) 693-0592 for preparation and service times.
- February's **Christian Women's Fellowship**, will meet Thursday, February 21, @ 10:30 a.m. Check with Zenobia Mayo (918.694.1996) for upcoming details.
- **2019's Lenten Season** will begin with an **Ash Wednesday** devotional service on March 6 and conclude with a **Maundy Thursday** communion service April 18.
- **Easter, 2019**, will be April 21. During Lent and through Easter we'll examine the ministry of our Lord through a series of messages entitled: **Jesus – In His Own Words.**

Mission – *Helping the Needy*

Over the years First Christian's mission has seen alterations. There was Fellowship built around large adult Sunday School classes. And then Child evangelism through both the Children's Development Center and our weekend Children's Outreach. Those dynamics have changed but there is one dynamic that continues and that is our **Mission to the Needy**. We may not be able to claim other dynamics but we can truthfully state that First Christian ministers to the needy in Tulsa as well as any other congregation and more so than most. Other than the actual help we provide to *needy people*, this Missional element is important for two reasons:

First – it is very practical and human centered. It makes a difference for individuals and families who need help.

- ▶ It is our Food Assistance programs: our Snack Pack daytime lunch program that becomes a tangible source of support to hungry people, plus our monthly meal service at the Day Center for the Homeless, and our Meals on Wheels and Oklahoma Food Bank support.
- ▶ It is our Palliative Care support for Terminally Ill people and their immediate family members through Clarehouse and Porta Caeli House.
- ▶ It is our support for Domestic Violence Intervention and Emergency Infant Services.
- ▶ It is our financial aid support for families, men and veterans experiencing hard times through our involvement with Neighbors Along the Line, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 577, John 316. **We HELP NEEDED People!**

Second – It attracts others who want to make a difference! Two ways.

First – there are a lot of people who for their own reasons are not attracted to their perception of boring, non-applicable church services. They are intrigued by Jesus but complacent about The Church. It's not always an accurate perception but it their perception. The *one thing* that does attract those with this mindset is *connecting* through service. *Doing something tangible that they perceive will 'make a difference'.*

Second – there are a number of people who want their financial support to go for more than the utilities and the building maintenance, even 'church' programming. They want to give to *faces*, to people in need. They want to hear stories of how hope replaced hopelessness. People move toward that end.

So while there are ministries and programs FCC *cannot* boast of – **THERE IS OUR MISSION OF CARING FOR AND HELPING THE NEEDED**. That's something we can be proud of. That's something that God has committed Himself to blessing.

"God will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you have helped His People and continue to help them." **Hebrews 6:10**

THANKS to all of you who serve and give to make this a reality.

From Pastor Lynn –

The Importance of ‘Showing Up’

The cultural message of the last four years is that *‘people are attending church less’*. Some attribute that to the changing patterns of our society including the growing influence of social media. Individuals can stream a multitude of information on their tablets and smart phones without getting out of their living room’s comfy chair. A lot of churches stream their Sunday services on the internet. Social media allows for both quantity and quality of spiritual nourishment. This reality is good news for the homebound. But I’m concerned about a growing percentage of people who never leave their house on Sunday and are simply substituting observation for participation.

Christianity is a team sport. We’re meant to participate *together*. God gives each of us great individual worth but not to exist or function as an isolated, non-attached person, but as a member of a cohort, a body that is dependent upon *all* the individual parts working *together* in rhythm.

When we are together we get to encourage and be encouraged by people who look at us, smile with us, steady us with a tender or strong touch. When we are together we learn about each other’s needs and joys. When we are together our insights grow broader, deeper, sharper because we share our thoughts and experiences. All of that is hard to get if you never leave your comfy living room chair.

This reminds us that ‘church’ is not just for what we can gain, but what we can give, for meaning and significance is more often found in the contribution of our gifts and passions and the affirmations we express to others because **we are present**.

In a season of opportunity with defining moments. Let’s travel and celebrate *together!*
‘Coram Deo’

*Thou art coming to a King – large petitions with thee bring,
 For his grace and power are such, none can ever ask too much.* - John Newton

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}