



# Vision

A publication of **First Christian Church** (Disciples of Christ), **Tulsa** • **May 3, 2019**  
913 S. Boulder Ave., Tulsa, OK 918.582.8237 [fctulsa.org](http://fctulsa.org)

## The month of May includes two prominent holidays: **Mother's Day and Memorial Day.**

Both pull at our heartstrings. Life is relationships past and present. We *'stand on the shoulders'* of some great people who have blessed our lives by their example and sacrifice. The scriptures remind us to give *'honor to whom honor is due'*. Let your personal gratitude be evident and *together* let's express our thanks to our gracious God who is the *'giver of every good and perfect gift'*. Join us in worship each Sunday in May.



**May 12**

Mother's Day is a very good day but one that comes with some considerations. First of all it is good we have a day to honor mothers. To say they are worth it is an understatement. That points out the fact that they are sooo worth honor that there's no way that just one day can hold all the accolades. Most parents get a little embarrassed when so much attention is given them on one day. But most parents genuinely appreciate frequent, sincere, spontaneous *"thank you's"*, *"I love you!"*, *"you've made my life so good."* remarks. So let's pull out the stops on Mother's and Father's days. Let's be lavish in our praise. But let's do so throughout the year. Second, let's remember that not every woman gets to be a mother. For some that is their choice but for others it is desire denied. Let's honor their love often expressed in smiles, encouragements and endearments as well.

### ***Coram Deo***

***"Christian living IN the presence of, UNDER the authority of, and TO the honor and glory of God."***



## Memorial Day Sunday – May 26

***'Lest we forget'***. A people and a nation that doesn't remember the sacrificial investment of each generation is impoverished in the soul. Values, wealth, conveniences, freedoms do not just *'appear'*. They are purchased with lives. The last Monday of May is not just a holiday. It is a day to look at pictures, read old letters, remember the memories of days past. It is a day to again see the faces of those who have made a difference for us.

**Jack Sanders** has been nominated for the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame. Jack personified full commitment to his service to God, Country, and his fellow man. In that regard his military service during World War II stands on its own record: Decorated B-24 Bomber Pilot; Two Distinguished Flying Crosses; 31 Combat mission. His service to community is exemplified by his years of service with the Tulsa Fire Department after the War. Over the years of his leadership and service Jack rose to the position of Tulsa Fire Marshall, followed by 19 years as the Fire Marshall for the State of Oklahoma. A member of First Christian Tulsa from the early 1980's until his death in 2016. He served many years as both a Deacon and later as an Elder. His commitment to the Church was full.

We'll keep you posted on the progress of Jack's nomination. First Christian has been blessed to have a number of men like Jack who exemplify service to God, Country, Community and Congregation.

### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- **Boulder Ave Construction.** Boulder Ave renovation continues. Lynn is getting tired of all the machinery noise outside his office window. We're hopeful that the Boulder Ave sidewalk and entrances will be more accessible soon. Until then keep using the east drive up entrance.
- **Keep in Your Prayers:** Jan Kottwitz, Jean Swanson's sister in OKC, receiving chemotherapy for stage four cancer. Robin Dowling's niece, Haylee, has finally been released from her rehab residence and returned home. Still a long road ahead. Theo Sellers goes in May 11 for a physical to determine is SSI Benefits. Mary Lynn Howard, is still navigating heart related issues. David Dunning has also been dealing with some health related issues. Tom Nulf recently fell and spent several days in the hospital but is now back at his apartment at Inverness. Jim Baker has moved into an apartment where his wife Jo is now living: Canoe Brook Nursing Center, Apt. 212, 20102 E Admiral Blvd, Catoosa, OK. 74015. Don Swanson is having back surgery, Thursday, May 9.

## Important CONGREGATIONAL Meeting

**Sunday, May 19**, a called Congregational Meeting for the purpose of voting on **the ERB proposal** to purchase and develop First Christian Church's property. In the proposed agreement FCC will receive proprietary use of the sanctuary each Sunday along with specified areas of our existing property to use for our educational and administrative purposes. A copy and summary of the key provisions of the agreement will be available to the members of the Congregation **Sunday, May 12**.

On Sunday, April 28, FCC's Ministry Council voted to recommend to the congregation that First Christian Church accept the proposal of ERB Development Tulsa, L.L.C.. Within 90 days following execution of the agreement the parties will negotiate the terms of a lease which will govern the details of Church's continued presence in the building moving forward. If at the end of that 90 day period, the parties are unable to agree on the terms of a lease, the Church may terminate the purchase and sales agreement.

FCC has and will continue to be represented in these negotiations by designated FCC personnel; Leslie Kirkpatrick of CBRE realtors; and attorney Vaden Bales of the law firm Hall Estill. Vaden Bales practices solely in the areas of Business Transactions, Banking and Real Estate Law. Vaden has been recognized by Best Lawyers as the 2019 Tulsa Real Estate attorney of the year and has been named a Best Lawyer in Real Estate law since 2017.

### **\$\$ Our Budget – Meeting a World of Needs**

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, 2019, General Fund income exceeded 2018's 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter GF income by \$8,219.

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, 2019, Expenditures were \$7,164 less than 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2018 expenditures.

April, 2019's, General Fund income was \$22,908 which was under budget.

April, 2019's, Expenditures were \$30,402.

A detailed breakdown of FCC's first four months total income, including monies from our trusts, and disbursements will be available upon request to the church office and at the May Ministry Council Mtg., May 19, following the Congregational Meeting.

### **Other Ministry Dates to Remember**

- **May's Day Center for the Homeless meal** will be May 9. Check with Pattie Gay-Sittler, (918) 693-0592 for preparation and service times. See the Sign Up sheet in the foyer.
- **May's Christian Women's Fellowship**, will meet Thursday, May 16, @ 10:30 a.m. in the East Fellowship Hall. Check with Zenobia Mayo (918.694.1996) for details.
- Sermon topic for May 5 – **'Handling Life's Detours'**, from Acts 16:6-10 and Proverbs 16:9
- Sermon topic for May 19 – **'Life from Dry Bones'**, from Ezekiel 37.

## **From Pastor Lynn**

As we approach our Congregational Meeting, May 19, allow me the following comments.

**# 1 This is a time to *listen very carefully*** to what is being said in our multiple discussions with ERB. Lots of connected layers that can easily become entangled and create confusion. This is the reason we have acquired seasoned professionals to oversee the progression of our talks and ensure that the integrity and protection of the congregation is maintained. Discernment enables good judgment. Whenever we vote on any congregational issue, we want you {the congregation} to be informed. Listen carefully. Seek clarity. Trust the leadership and the process.

**#2 This is a time to be *thankful*.** For some time we have struggled with an uncertainty about our future. The financial issues regarding our property alone have been intimidating. A lot of prayers have been offered for First Christian Tulsa to be good stewards and find a long term ministry focus. We now have before us a means to move us forward. Give thanks to God for guiding all the people, discussions, and decisions that have brought us to this point.

**# 3 Dare to Dream and Envision.** Throughout our long history, at our best, FCCT has operated by faith. There is always a healthy tension between discernment and faith. We're to use both our heads and our hearts, and ultimately our hands. The reality is that First Christian has always belonged to the Lord. We're not what we used to be AND what we are about to be is in His hands, BUT with His help, a new chapter is about to begin.

***'Coram Deo'***

**Lynn Taylor – Interim Senior Pastor**    [vllyntaylor@gmail.com](mailto:vllyntaylor@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}