

APRIL,
2018

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

301 North Third Avenue, Durant, Ok 74701

A NOTE FROM PASTOR ANDY...

Dear Friends,,

I knew someone when I was in seminary who referred to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as the "People of the Parentheses." If you think about it, our full name is a bit strange. Who else in Christendom has a name that includes punctuation?? I was thinking about him the other day, and it got me thinking: How do we explain to people about who we are? We're "First Christian Church" but we would never claim to be the only Christians in Durant. We use "Disciples" as a sort of short hand, but that's the part in the parentheses!

In fact, the parentheses are a vital part of our own story. In 1832 a group that called themselves "Christians" united with another group that called themselves "Disciples." Both were committed to seeing an end to schism in Christianity. The new united movement used a variety of names to describe itself, and it wasn't until the late 1960s that our current name was settled upon as the name. Nevertheless, the commitment to Christian unity shaped the larger church that we're all a part of as members of First Christian Church.

According to former Disciples General Minister and President Sharon Watkins, our predecessor Disciples believed that their emphasis on Christian unity would "offer a contagious witness to the world," that it would "sell itself" by its visible witness of love." But over time cultural and historical forces changed the way in which that commitment to unity was lived out, and over time, "many Disciples could no longer articulate our core value of unity."

Even so, she says, "at our heart has always been the conviction that all are welcomed among Disciples. We celebrate lay leadership. We do not bar anyone from the communion table. 'Unity is our Polar Star,' we say, and we know that radical diversity is what makes unity in Christ mean something."

In business there's the concept of an "elevator pitch"—a description of an idea succinct enough that it could be shared with someone in the time it takes to go up a few floors on an elevator. A few years ago national Disciples leaders articulated, in two sentences, an identity for Disciples that I find very compelling: "We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us."

From the origins of the church we belong to, unity and inclusion have been markers of our identity as Disciples. Today we might use the word "wholeness" to describe our desire for our world. No one can deny that society is growing more fragmented every day. But we, as Disciples, have a unique ministry to offer to the brokenness of the world around us. We can proclaim God's desire that we "all may be one" (John 17:21) and we can work for wholeness by welcoming everyone, just as God has welcomed us.

So how might you explain to someone why you love First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), explain to them who we are, and invite them to be a part of our church family? This would be my elevator speech: "First Christian Church is part of a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. All are welcome, and 'all' means all."

A blessed Easter season to you all!

In Christ,

Andy



MOMENTS FOR FELLOWSHIP ...

Gordon/Glenna Wright....are planning a temporary move to the Renaissance for a 3-month trial period. Gordon needs to have the rest of his corrective surgery and he just can't leave her alone in that house. They no longer have their full time care giver. You may send notes and cards to them at the Renaissance, 3701 Loy Lake Rd., Sherman, TX 75090. Gordon's cell is: 580-380-6429. As soon as we know what room they're in, we will forward it to you. Keep them in your prayers that this will solve their problems temporarily and they will be happy and comfortable. Glenna loves receiving notes and cards.

Joycyle Haynie...was admitted to the local hospital last Sunday with chest pains. They ran tests and finally released her. Doctors did tell them they probably prevented a heart attack in progress. They did all the right things and got her to the hospital immediately. Praise the Lord! Their **CAREGIVER** is gone now and they are fighting the loneliness. They miss him so much and depended on him for everything. We all miss Ronny. Continue to pray for both Joycyle and Keiller as they struggle with this time in their life.

Rosemary/Wallace...are both at home now and continue to manage on their own. He still does the driving and runs their errands, etc. Continue to lift them both up in your prayers.

Liz Drew...

Ann Flanagan...is finally back in her pew again. Doesn't she look great! She has asked that we take her name off of the Prayer Chain now—we believe she is here to stay. There is definitely "Power in Prayer". WELCOME HOME, ANN.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER...

Haley Moore, one of our Vocal Scholars from the Chancel Choir came forward and joined with our congregation on 3-11. Haley is a student at SOSU and comes to us from Cleburne, TX. She's that "little one" with that gorgeous voice. Make sure you seek her out and make her feel welcome.

Maudie Anderson....remains in #408 at Calera Manor. She loves to have visitors and gets very lonely. If you go that way, stop and visit with her for just a few minutes—she'll love it. She welcomes anyone that brings news about her church! Her smiling face is certainly missed at FCC.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS...



Supper Schedule

04-03—Jeremy Blackwood

04-10—Brandolyn, Crystal

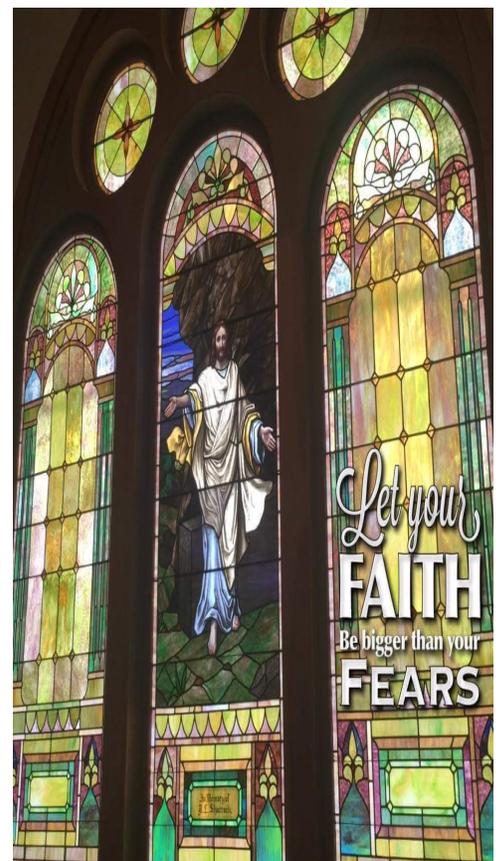
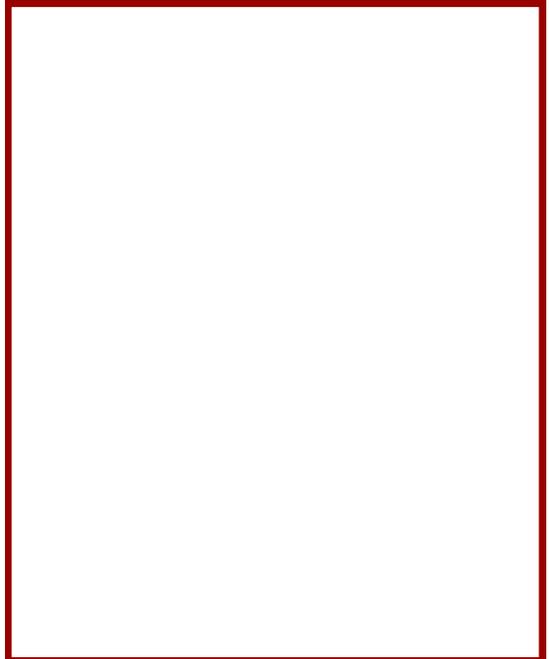
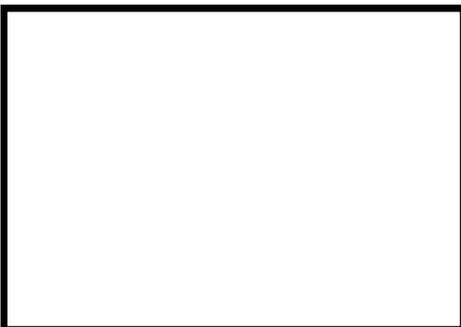
04-17—Erica, Billie

If you would like to help prepare a snack supper, sign up sheet is in front vestibule.

SUNSHINE SCHOOL...

Summertime Fun Camp will begin on Monday, June 4th (current session ends May 23rd) and will end July 25th. Packets will be available soon. Sunshine School Camp is open from ages 1 year through 8 years of age, depending upon space availability. Enrollment for camp will begin later this month.

All continuing Sunshine School students will need a new completed packet prior to beginning the summer session.



April, 2018



THANK YOU, DELL AND HELPERS...
 for all the hard work all of you did in the Flower Room, the upstairs' Crows' Nest where the Christmas decorations are stored and one other storage room where everything else is stored that doesn't have an assigned place. If you need something from one of these storage rooms, YOU MUST GET PERMISSION FROM DELL!!! You can't believe what a disarray these rooms were and they completely took everything out and reorganized each room. At least we can find things that are missing now. Please let him know how much we appreciate all the hard work—What would we do without him?

Hand Bell Choir to begin... Dana Haggard has requested permission to form another Hand Bell Choir here at FCC. She was director of a Bell Choir at Abundant Life Temple for some time. She has checked our bells and finds that some are in need of new springs which she tells us WE can replace. You do not have to read music to play the bells (play by number) so anyone can participate.

If this is something that interests you, please let Dana or Meczy know so we can get this group organized soon. This group will not have scheduled rehearsals (only when we plan to perform will we practice). Everyone is welcome.



MEMORIALS TO FCC

In memory of Steve Cox:

- Joe/Mecy Barker
- Lana Sue Bryant
- DHS Class of 77
- David/Pam Colley
- Dr. Craig Engles
- Donna D. Emmert
- Dr/Mrs. Henry Gold
- Jocyle/Keiller Haynie
- Joel D. Howard
- Lynnette Kirk
- Ted/Cindy Kirkpatrick
- Emily/John Redman
- Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity
- Carroll Staton
- Tom/Charlene Tucker
- Steve Wright

MEMORIALS TO
 Week of Compassion

In memory of Steve Cox

- Robert/Cecily Floyd
- Dorothy/James Floyd
- Cheryl Phelps

ELDERS SERVING AT THE TABLE

- 04-01 Cindy, Helen
- 04-08 Erica, Dell
- 04-15 Helen, Cindy
- 04-22 Erica, John
- 04-29 Emily, Dell

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Mecy and Judy

IN OUR SHARED PRAYERS

Maudie Anderson

Calera Manor, #408, P. O. Box 367, Calera 74730

Joyce Bennett

John Bockman

Dr. Ken Elder

5023 W. 2nd, Stillwater 74074

Dr. J. M. Gaskin

G.P. Gentry

Edith Peratta

Brian Silver

Jean Sims

Gordon and Glenna Wright

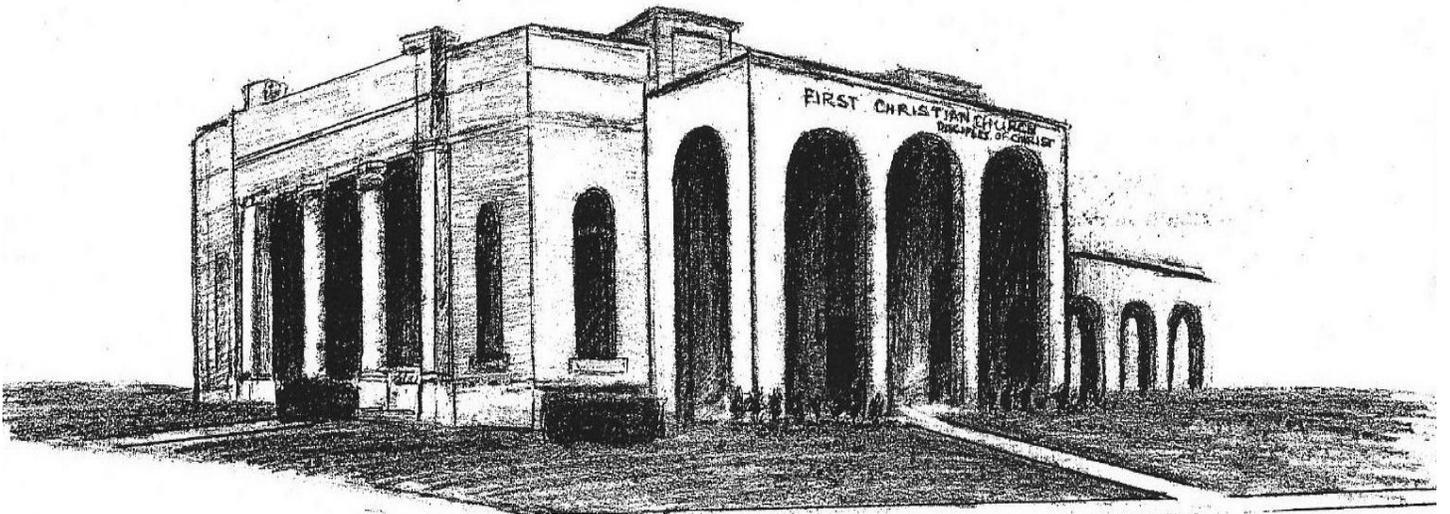
Andy's mother, Ruth Shelton





First
Christian Church
DURANT, OKLAHOMA

301 North Third Avenue
Durant, OK 74701-4211



**COME GROW
WITH US!**