

AUGUST,  
2019

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
*(Disciples of Christ)*

301 North Third Avenue, Durant, Ok 74701

## A NOTE

Dear Friends,

I had a wonderful time at General Assembly in Des Moines last month. In addition to being a Disciples homecoming, this year was also a birthday party. Fifty years ago we transitioned from being the Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). This may seem an insignificant change, but 1969 marked the first General Assembly after the adoption of the Design of the Christian Church which declared that all of the manifestations of the church— local, regional, and general— are the church: one church, united and free in Christ, bound together in a covenant of love. It also marked the union of black and white Disciples, the first time we could accurately claim to belong to the same church.

We spent a lot of time at Assembly commemorating these historic steps in our tradition, but we also talked about what Disciples might look like fifty years from now. One thing that was clear is that we can always work harder to live up to the covenant that makes us one. Sometimes in the past fifty years we have focused on the *rights* that the covenant guarantees us without fulfilling the *responsibilities* that it challenges each of us to fulfill as individuals, congregations, regions, and general units. One way to live more fully into that covenant is to hear what the General Assembly says to the church (never for the church) through the Sense-of-Assembly resolutions it passes. Here's a brief summary of a few of the items we deliberated about in Des Moines— all of which were approved unanimously or nearly so:

- The youth of our denomination presented a resolution calling on the church to “hear and listen to all voices present as we respect our brothers and sisters in faith, free of judgement and preconceived notions, recognizing and accepting our common humanity.”
- We approved a resolution celebrating the creation of more than 1,000 new churches and the revitalization of 1,000 existing churches since 2001. And we were challenged by a new goal: a million new Disciples in the next decade.

Three resolutions about refugees and immigration were passed with nearly unanimous support. One called on the church to respond to the global forces which are forcing migration, including rampant poverty, gang violence, and civic instability in the nations from which migrants are fleeing around the world. Another affirmed that impartially providing for the basic human needs of others is consistent with Disciples tradition— in other words, that so called “Good Samaritans” who have been arrested for providing care for undocumented immigrants are living out their faith as broadly understood by Disciples of Christ. The third resolution expressed concern about the government limiting the number of refugees that will be resettled in the United States.

Another resolution called upon the church to respond to domestic and intimate partner violence, a problem which has been declared a public health crisis in the United States. • The last Sense-of-the-Assembly resolution I want to tell you about was about welcoming transgender and gender-diverse people. It called on the church to develop study materials, pastoral care practices, and inclusion resources so that we might “offer fulsome welcome to transgender and gender-diverse persons” in our congregations and neighborhoods. As the resolution states, “a hallmark of the identity of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is that we ‘welcome all to the Lord’s Table as God has welcomed us,’ a commitment that has called us repeatedly to new understandings and practice of welcome.”

The theme of General Assembly was inspired by Jesus’ words to his disciples in John 15:1-5: “Abide in Me.” May God the vinegrower keep us close to the Vine, our Lord Jesus Christ. May we bear good fruit as God calls us into the next decade and the next 50 years--both as members of FCC and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Andy

## MOMENTS FOR FELLOWSHIP ...

We send our love and sympathies to Dr. Erica on the death of her father, Bob Corbett, Normal, IL. We have been in touch with Erica. She tells us her dad's wishes were to be cremated and interred in the family plot where his parents are (Michigan). They will have a memorial service the start of Thanksgiving week because family members who want to be here can get here then. Erica will remain in Illinois until August 9th; lots of paperwork and needs to be with her mom to help. She says her mom is doing ok; they are all glad he didn't linger in a really bad state. Her mom's address is: Gail Corbett, 504 Wellesley Drive, Normal, IL 61761. You may text or call Erica at: 931-3891 or email: [ericacorbett@gmail.com](mailto:ericacorbett@gmail.com). She wants to thank everyone for all their prayers and good thoughts.

**Rosemary/Wallace Riddle...** were both in church this past Sunday and also stayed for a burger!! They thoroughly enjoyed the entire morning and certainly loved hearing their friend, Janelle, tinkle those ivories. Seemed like old home week!

**Ann Flanagan...** has been doing so much better. She has returned to church and we hope to see a lot more of her.



**Jean McLain...** is doing well at home but so unhappy she can't be here to help with the deliveries of Meals on Wheels. This was one of her very favorite things to be a part of. We all wish her a comfortable and speedy recovery.

**Maudie Anderson...** as you all know, has returned to her apartment. She is enjoying every minute of it and looks forward to your phone calls (924-3054) and notes and visits. Please stop by for a short visit or send a short note or card so she'll know she is missed and not forgotten!

**Joe Barker...** has now returned home from rehabbing at the Woodlands. Son, Doug, who has recently returned to Durant, even moved dad's recliner over so he would enjoy his stay more. He's more pleased now that he's home. He's not exactly what you would call a "good patient!!!"

**Mary Skaggs...** will be undergoing some surgery possibly next week. Jack has had some issues and had several tests. The results of those are in and everything came back fine. Please keep both she and Jack in your prayers.

**August, 2019**

### ELDERS SERVING AT THE TABLE

August 4th - E. Redman, Corbett

August 11th - McLain, Kirkpatrick

August 18th - Redman, Skaggs

August 25th - Corbett, E. Redman

### COMMUNION PREPARATION

Mecy and Dana

### HEAD USHER

Ted Kirkpatrick

### MEALS ON WHEELS

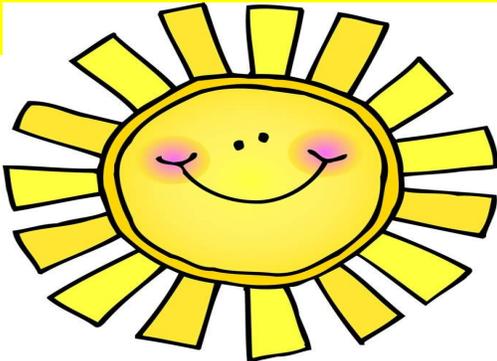
FCC volunteers will be delivering Meals on Wheels the week of August 5th thru the 9th. We've had some cancellations to help with this, so if you can only help just a few days of this week, please call Charlene to volunteer.

924-6428

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Sunshine School

New carpet is being laid in the 4 classrooms where S.S. is held. Summer camp is over and the fall semester will begin August 19th. Lots of cleaning and preparation is being made to make ready for school to open. Administrators tell us classes are full to capacity. Open House will be held on August 15th for all parents



## A LIGHT OF HOPE SHELTER

### SOUP KITCHEN

EVERY SECOND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

FROM 1:00 PM TO 3:00 PM

OPEN TO ANYONE WHO WANTS A HOT MEAL

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

1524 WEST MAIN STREET, DURANT

(across from Library)

July 17, 2019

**First Christian Church, Durant**

The 54 participants of Mission Camp Road Show have different memories of their time in Texas City, TX last week. I remember a group anxious about unknown work in an unknown place. I remember the day that the heat index reached 122 degrees. That day our groups completed projects at three homes: laying floating floors, painting, and installing baseboards. Another group picked up trash at the Texas City Dike for 30 minutes. Another painted doors, and trim and mowed a yard. One afternoon, I remember groups snacking on the lunches they made because the homeowners insisted on buying pizza for their lunch instead. And, I remember you during the week. Your gift to sponsor a seat on the bus made this trip possible and affordable for the youth, the adults, and the congregations represented.

A characteristic I think defines the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is a willingness to participate, even when we are not the direct beneficiaries. It is one way that our little frontier movement has always been counter-cultural and set an example for other expressions of Christian faith. We see the larger community, we listen, think, talk, and support those systems that make life better for the entire community: ecumenical, interfaith, or no faith affiliation. There is always an open seat at the table, be that the fellowship pot-luck dinner or communion, for one more person. We have plenty to share.

Thank you for sharing the gift of \$100 to sponsor a seat on the Mission Camp Road Show charter bus. I'm grateful you are a part of the covenant we call the Christian Church in Oklahoma.

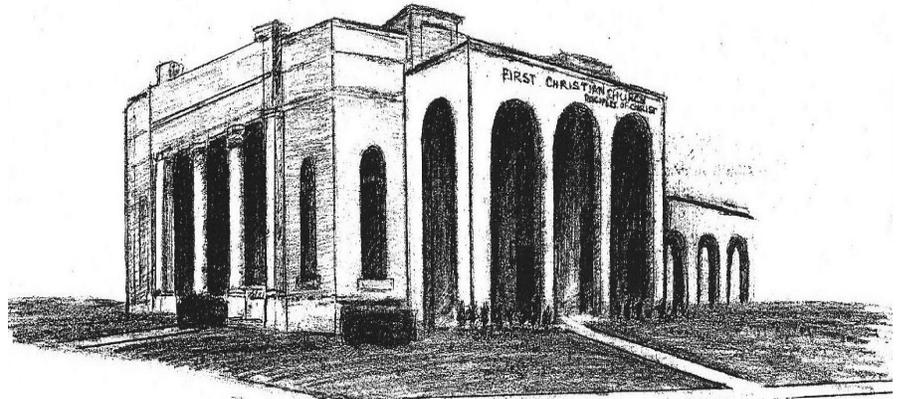
Peace,

Rev. Michael Davison, Jr.



*First*  
*Christian Church*  
DURANT, OKLAHOMA

301 North Third Avenue  
Durant, OK 74701-4211



**COME GROW WITH US!**