

MARCH,
2018

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

301 North Third Avenue, Durant, Ok 74701

A NOTE FROM PASTOR ANDY...

Dear Friends,

The idea of memory has been on my mind a lot these past few days. Memories of my first year here at First Christian Church. Memories of the first time I heard our magnificent choir sing, or of the first time I noticed the rainbow themed decor of the Thunder Alley room. Memories of learning everything I needed to know from Macey in the Vulcan Mind Meld data dumps we had in my first weeks on the job, learning who is who, what the traditions of this church are, pairing folks with personalities. Memories of laughter over the lunch table and memories of receiving care and love from folks I visited in the hospital to share care and love with. Memories of your love for me and my family as my own mother's memory gets more and more clouded by Alzheimer's. I've been thinking a lot, during this Ashen season of Lent, of the folks that you have trusted me to commend to God's care in funerals and memorial services.

I've been thinking a lot about memory.

Frederick Buechner, in his book *Whistling in the Dark*, says this about memory: "When you remember me, it means that you have carried something of who I am with you, that I have left some mark of who I am on who you are. It means that you can summon me back to your mind even though countless years and miles may stand between us. It means that if we meet again, you will know me. It means that even after I die, you can still see my face and hear my voice and speak to me in your heart. For as long as you remember me, I am never entirely lost. When I'm feeling most ghost-like, it is your remembering me that helps remind me that I actually exist. When I'm feeling sad, it's my consolation. When I'm feeling happy, it's part of why I feel that way. If you forget me, one of the ways I remember who I am will be gone. If you forget, part of who I am will be gone."

We just lost another beloved member of First Christian Church, our tirelessly cheerful Steve Cox. His loss only makes me thirst more for the quenching waters of the Easter season of Resurrection. But each week we remember our Lord's death and rising as we gather at the table for communion and get a foretaste of the great banquet that awaits us. Our memory strengthens us in our faith, and it serves to unite us with all those who have gone before us, the cloud of witnesses that invisibly surrounds us in the mystery of the Lord's Supper.

This month, as we continue our journey through Lent and Holy Week, let us remember those whom we love but see no longer and the Christ that loved us enough to die and rise for us.

Easter and Resurrection are coming. Let us prepare in joyful expectation for abundant and eternal life.

In Christ,

Andy



MOMENTS FOR FELLOWSHIP ...

Steve Cox family....our love and sympathy goes out to Steve's family and ALL of his many friends on his unexpected death on Saturday morning, 25th. Steve loved his church very much and was always ready to help with anything that needed to be done here. He was serving as vice moderator of the church board and had recently taken a position on the Oklahoma Disciples Foundation Board. He and Mike both gave so much time to Thunder Alley by helping serve the weekly snack suppers and he was always there to welcome the SOSU kids.

Steve's brother, Tommy, has arrived in Durant from London and is making arrangements. Services are under the direction of Coffey, Murray and will be held here at FCC on Saturday, 10th, at 2:00 pm. Meanwhile, please continue to remember Steve, his family and his friends in your daily prayers. He will surely be missed at FCC.

Rosemary Riddle is now at home—back and leg pain is slowly subsiding. Wallace is having some rehab at Carrus in Sherman and should be released soon. Please keep them both in your prayers that they might have a speedy and comfortable recovery. We miss them both so much in worship!

Liz Drew...is moving to North Carolina to be closer to her daughter, Allison and family. The thought just came to her and suddenly she had sold her home here in Durant and purchased a home there. She left the latter part of last week. Rosemary will get us an address soon. We will certainly miss her at FCC.

Gordon and Glenna...he is becoming very discouraged with all the trips to see doctors, surgeons, etc. Continue to lift them both up in your prayers, drop them cards or notes, or just give them a quick call on the phone to let them know they are not forgotten at FCC.

Ann Flanagan...seems to be feeling so much better —hopefully, she'll surprise us all by attending church soon.

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.

Dr. Ken Elder...haven't heard anything new, but as soon as Jane lets us hear, it will be published to all.

MEALS ON WHEELS

The hardy souls of FCC braved the rain, cold and ice to deliver Meals on Wheels the week of February 19-23, and what an adventure it was! The meal recipients were very grateful to see us ringing their doorbells with warm food. So very thankful for all the faithful volunteers: Jane and Charles Hawthorne, Ann Vickers and her friend Kathy Ingram, Judy Williams, Macey Barker, Jean McLain, Tom Tucker, Modra Bockmann, and especially Steve Cox. One of Steve's last days on earth was in service to others. He drove Mrs. Jean around to deliver meals on Friday. God bless you all. Charlene

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Supper Schedule

- March 6th—Mecy/Judy
- March 13th —Dell, Jean
- March 20th—Spring Break
- March 27th—Charlene

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

Daylite Savings Time... begins Sunday, March 11th. Don't forget to move all your clocks forward 1 hour before retiring on Saturday night, 10th.

SPRING FORWARD!



KIDS' FOR CHRIST!

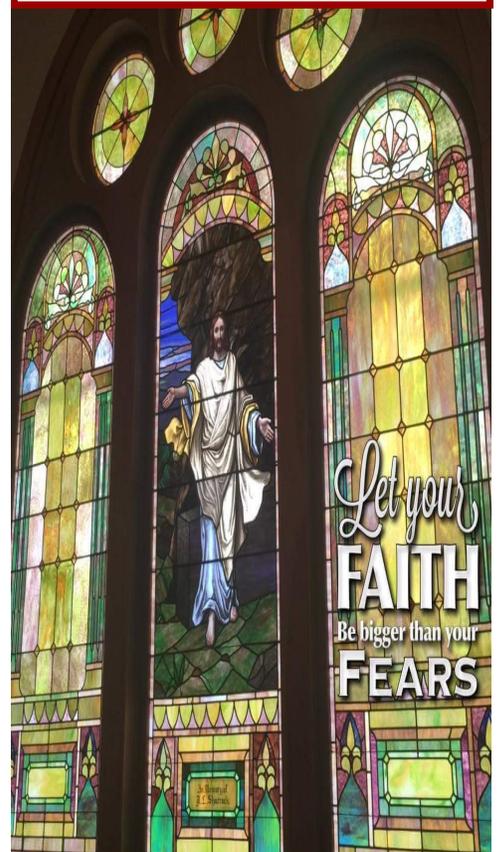
During Children's Church the kids are learning about Lent.

We Fast, We Pray and We Give!

Thanks to Brandolyn for helping out during Children's Church. She is a joy to be around. Our March Kids For Christ "meet and eat" will be Saturday, March 17th, at Carl Albert Park. Pack a lunch for a picnic in the park at noon!



Easter will be here before you know it, and we usually have lots of little visitors. If you can volunteer to furnish candy/eggs for the annual Kids' Egg Hunt, please place those on the kitchen counter. We appreciate all your help in making sure our kids have a fun Easter at church!



March, 2018

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICES, MARCH 29TH... will be held in our sanctuary on March 29th at 6:00 pm. This is always a very meaningful and special service preparing us for the resurrection and a gorgeous Easter morning. Invite your families and friends to join you.



SPRING BREAK FOR DURANT PUBLIC SCHOOLS... will be the 19th thru the 23rd.

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.



Easter Lily Order Forms will be inserted in your next week's bulletin. Please complete these with names of those you are honoring or those in whose memory you are recognizing and place forms in morning offering plates.

WORDS WE LIVE BY

Billy Graham's daughter was interviewed on the Early Show and Jane Clayson asked her, "how could God let something like this happen?" regarding September 11, hurricanes and earth quakes, terrorists attacks, school shootings, etc.

Anne Graham responded with, "I believe God is deeply saddened by this, just as we are, but for years we've been telling God to get out of our schools, to get out of our government and to get out of our lives. And being the gentleman He is, I believe He has calmly backed out. How can we expect God to give us His blessing and His protection if we demand He leave us alone?"

No nation or people can ever survive or succeed without Jesus Christ.Billy Graham

ELDERS SERVING AT THE TABLE

- 03-04 Erica, Emily**
- 03-11 Helen, Cindy**
- 03-18 Dell, John R.**
- 03-25 Janet, Cindy**

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Gisela and Cindy

IN OUR SHARED PRAYERS

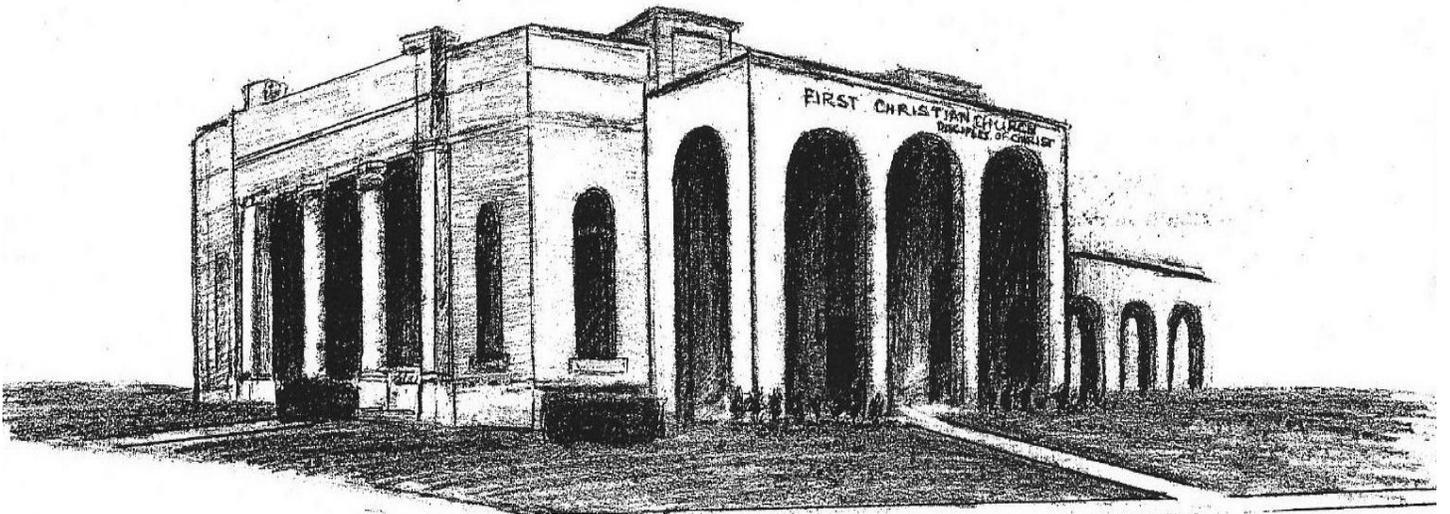
- Maudie Anderson
Calera Manor, #408, P. O. Box 367, Calera 74730
- Joyce Bennett
- John Bockman
- The family and friends of Steve Cox
- Dr. Ken Elder
5023 W. 2nd, Stillwater 74074
- Ann Flanagan
- Dr. J. M. Gaskin
- G.P. Gentry
- Edith Peratta
- Rosemary and Wallace Riddle
- Brian Silver
- Jean Sims
- Gordon and Glenna Wright
- Andy's mother, Ruth Shelton





First
Christian Church
DURANT, OKLAHOMA

301 North Third Avenue
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**COME GROW
WITH US!**