

THE TIE THAT BINDS

March 2016



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
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From the Pastor . . .

2/25/2016

Last week, (February 15-18) I was at Brite Divinity School for Ministers' Week 2016m which is a week I eagerly anticipate each year. You can think of this week as basically homecoming for all us ministers who graduated or have close ties to Brite as well as other DOC (mainly, although not exclusively) ministers in the region. It is a time of reconnecting with friends and colleagues as well as a time of continuing education and worship. The preaching was fantastic, the lectures were informative, the workshops were helpful, and yes, reconnecting with friends was glorious.

The preacher this year was Rev. Dr. Barbara Lundblad who is a Lutheran Pastor from New York City. Her overall theme was preaching during this primary season and she used Luke 4 as her texts for her three sermons. She posited that if the church does not engage in the political and economic conversations of our time, we cede the bulk of Jesus' teaching ministry. Her sermons were timely. She pulled no punches; for anyone. She found ways of complimenting and critiquing the messages of the candidates across the spectrum from Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton to Donald Trump, Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio, and the other Republican candidates.

I am still not going to preach overt politics from the pulpit, but I do think Dr. Lundblad has a point. The bulk of Jesus' teaching, his stated objectives for his ministry were overtly focused on the political and economic morality (and lack of morality) he saw during his time on earth. As followers of Jesus, we cannot ignore this reality nor can we cede our point.

With that being said, Christians pervert Jesus' message by trying to force their beliefs, ideals, and ways of living life on others. The "Christian Right" want everyone to live and act and worship like they do because they believe that they are the only correct way. The "Christian Left" on the other hand seem to just want everyone to live and let live, especially when there are disagreements in understanding and practice. Admittedly, I tend to lean more toward the live and let live side of the spectrum and confess that the folks I find the hardest to be around are close-minded people. Why can't they just be open-minded like I am???

continued on back

Do you see the problem? I want them to be like me, just like they want me to be like them. The fact of the matter is Jesus would not have been (I don't think) a Republican or a Democrat. If Jesus' teachings show us anything, it is that both sides of the isle have good ideas as well as bad ideas. Jesus' was more concerned with the moral failure society had become when it failed to see the humanity in the "other."

In a political climate where both Democrats and Republicans vilify the other simply because they are of a different political party, the Church must speak out. We must remind folks that we are all human beings wanting what we think is best for those we love. We must live in such a way that we respect the "other's" humanity and Child-of-God-ness, for if we don't we lose a piece of ourselves. When we deny their humanity, we lose a part of our own as well.

In this primary season and election year, I don't care who you vote for. OK, that isn't entirely true. I would rather you vote like I do because I am correct after all. But, if you don't vote the way I do, I promise to continue loving and ministering to you both in spite of, and because of, our differences. Ultimately, it is my prayer that each of us will study each of the candidates and then knowledgably vote for the one we each think will be the best candidate not just for ourselves, but even more so, for the 'least of these'.

Grace and Peace,



A moment about Giving

Jesus told a parable about a man with a fig tree in his vineyard. Each time the man came looking for fruit, it bore none. In his frustration, the man told the gardener to cut the tree down. Yet the gardener pled for one more year to allow the fig tree to bear fruit. He watered, fertilized and nurtured the tree during that year. Each year as a church, we encounter people that are not bearing fruit for God, but we do not cut them off or exclude them. We seek to nurture them and help them to grow spiritually. These ministries take a lot of resources, and rarely bear fruit quickly. But when they do bear fruit, and someone falls in love with serving the Lord, giving their life in genuine sacrifice, it makes it all worthwhile.

I am grateful to serve such a generous and loving congregation as this one. It is my prayer that we continue to give of everything we are lovingly, generously, sacrificially!

GENERAL CHECKING ACCOUNT

December 31, 2015 Balance		\$32,912.06
Jan 2016 Deposits		
General Fund	\$9,077.75	
Designated	\$11,220.98	\$20,298.76
Jan 2016 Disbursements		
Budgeted/General Fund	(\$9,315.27)	
Other Fund/Pass-Through	(\$3,324.28)	(\$12,639.55)
January 31, 2016 Balance		\$40,571.27



Some changes I hope to make in 2016!

About 30 years ago, I was introduced to a program by my employer called "Continuous Improvement." At the time, I laughed it off as one more thing the boss wanted to do, but for the same pay. However, after putting this new way of thinking to work in my personal life, I quickly saw the benefits, but of course, as time went by the excitement behind this way of improving myself soon faded. This continuous improvement is the first thing on my list. Below are a few things I would like to do better and how I plan to accomplish them:

1. Institute continuous improvement in every aspect of my life. (By making small changes for the good, soon they add up to great changes for the good).
2. Eliminate procrastination. (By putting things off, chores pile up then stress and anxiety seems to takeover).
3. Visit more of our church members. (I tend to visit or call folks who aren't feeling well or in need – I want to be involved with folks in good times, as well).
4. Put others before me. (This one I need help on).
5. Be a more loving, forgiving, and loyal Christian. (This is where continuous improvement really pays off).

As you know, I am always asking for something in the last paragraph of my article. This month is no different, I am asking each and every one of you to pray for me, guide and support me in my 2016 changes and allow me to help you in any way I can.

Your friend,
Grover Howell
Moderator

A Note from your Elders

The Elders sent out their first cards to those that we will be keeping in our prayers for the next month.

Remember, the Elders are here to help BJ, shepherd the congregation, so if you have anything that we can help with, please don't hesitate to reach out to the elders in your care group.

Bennie Clark, Elder Chair.



Sun. Mar. 20	Holy Week Begins 10:45a Palm Sunday Worship at FCC
Thur. Mar. 24	6:00p Maundy Thursday Service at FCC
Fri. Mar. 25	12:00n Community Good Friday Worship service here at FCC 2:00p Prayer Vigil begins
Sat. Mar. 26	2:00p Prayer Vigil ends
Sun. Mar. 27	Resurrection Day! 7:30a "Walk Through the Easter Story" at First Baptist 9:30a Breakfast 10:45a Worship at FCC



Church Workday

First Christian Church will have a Church Work Day **Saturday, March 5** from **9:00a – 3:00p**. Volunteers needed!

Daylight Savings Time begins on **Saturday March 12th** so remember to move clocks back one hour before bedtime that night.

PRC meeting

The next Pastoral Relations Committee meeting will be **Tuesday March 8th at 6:00pm**.

2016 Committee members:

Walter Selcer	Charolette Collie
*Ronda Hostetter	Jim Nance
Susan Clark	Brenda Williams



The DWM monthly meeting has been postponed until **Saturday May 14**. Linda Guess and Sharon Tippie will host it at **Sharon's house**. More details to come. Please use this time to

consider what the future of DWM will be. Please forward to me any thoughts of your interest or disinterest to help us with future plans.

The Fellowship of Church Women will meet at 2:00 pm on Monday February 29th at the First United Methodist Church, in the Fellowship Hall. Also, the celebration of the World Day of Prayer will be at First Methodist on Friday, March 4th at 12noon and there will be a light lunch to follow.

Marilyn Petrick
DWM Representative



Backpack Buddies Report

We had 53 individual servings donated! Thanks for supporting this program and giving some extra weekend food to hungry children.



It's such a great time of year to be singing. We're eagerly at work on music that we hope will turn your heart to the Lord and be a reminder of His great love for you.

We will host the community choir this year during the Good Friday service, and we welcome you and your family and friends to join us. Rehearsal dates will be announced.

Thanks to all of you for your encouragement to the choir.

Hum along with us.
Susie Rodgers

BBA Board meeting will be held Saturday March 12th.



February was a great month for FCC Burnet Disciples Men. We prepared, served, and cleaned up for Monday's Kitchen with great success. Nine men assisted as we fed the hungry on the 3rd Monday. One man from Burnet

attended the Bluebonnet Area Disciples Men retreat Gonzales, Texas on February 19-20. There were 28 folks from BBA and 14 from CPA Area Layman and Minister of the year were elected and will presented an award at the Regional Disciples Men retreat in September at Brownwood. The General Conference of Disciples Men have announced a date change for every four-year event "Sessions 2016" at the TCU campus. The schedule has been changed to July 8-10. Many plans are being made with top notch Keynoters and Workshops catered to MEN. The Theme is "YOU ARE CALLED BY NAME" Isaiah 43:1-2. Registration and information for the event can be found at www.sessions2016.org.

Our next Men's meeting will be on Saturday **March 19th** at 8:00am.

Ron Petrick



Spaghetti Luncheon

FCC's Annual Spaghetti Luncheon is just around the corner.....**April 29th**. This is our annual Outreach fundraiser with all the proceeds going to local charities. There is a place for everyone to be a part of this important ministry...from cooking spaghetti to directing traffic! Be looking for more information and sign up sheets!



OUTREACH MINISTRY REPORT

Thanks to all who donated to the Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday. All 41 pounds were given to LaCare. An email will be sent to you regarding how our Outreach dollars are scheduled to be spent during 2016.

Look for more information about Week of Compassion this week. A video will be shown on February 28th illustrating the great need Week of Compassion works to fill.

Please plan to help with the Spaghetti Luncheon which will be Wednesday, April 27th at the church. We will need everyone's help. All proceeds will be given to Meals on Wheels to help their program.

Upcoming Outreach Activities:

There will be a special Easter Offering collected on **February 20th & 27th**. Please see the bulletin for more information.

Noisy Offering was collected on February 7 in the amount of \$74.93. From Feb. 1st through Feb. 22nd Monday's Kitchen served 187 meals and donations of \$161.67 were received.

Yours in Christ,
Ronda Hostetter
Outreach Chair

MONDAY'S KITCHEN SCHEDULE OF WORKERS MARCH 2016

March 7, 2016

Set Up:		Celeste Bruton
Cook:	1)	Michele Darling
Bake:	1)	Michele Darling
Serve:	1)	Celeste Bruton
	2)	Karol Shepherd
	3)	Linda Guess
Clean-Up:	1)	Lisa Nance/ Michele Darling

March 14, 2016

Set Up:		Sharon Childers/ Celeste Bruton
Cook:	1)	Lisa Nance
Bake:	1)	Sharon Childers
Serve:	1)	Sharon Childers
	2)	Maedel Hearn
	3)	Karol Shepherd
Clean-Up:	1)	Lisa Nance

March 21, 2016

Disciples Men

March 28, 2016

Epicenter



The Worship Committee will have their next meeting after church on March 13 to finalize, in detail, our Lenten worship services of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday Worship services. Here are some plans that you can look forward to during this season of Lent.

Maundy Thursday – March 24 – 6:00 PM We will have a special Tenebrae Service with Communion as we remember Jesus' Last Supper.

Good Friday – On March 25 Ministerial Alliance will sponsor the Service Community Service which will be at 12noon here in our Sanctuary. We are working with the Membership Committee to organize the light lunch after the worship service. Our plan is to have FCC prepare sandwiches and ask other churches to supply supporting items. We expecting around 75 to attend the service.

Easter Sunday – March 27 – We are encouraging folks to attend the First Baptist Church's "Walk Through the Easter Story" Easter Morning and then join the Disciples Men as they serve breakfast (brunch) from 9:30 – 10:30 at FCC.

During the Lenten season we are singing the Lord Prayer instead of our reciting it during our Sunday morning worship services.



EDUCATION



You are invited to compete in
Bible Olympics
 Saturday, April 16th 10:00a – 2:00p
 First Christian Church
 Smithville, Texas

The Youth have started studying the **Book of Revelation** in preparation of **Bible Olympics in April**. If anyone would like to join us, please let Pastor BJ or myself know and begin looking at Revelation and plan on being on our team - everyone is welcome!

God Bless,
 Brenda

**ECUMENICAL SERVICE FOR
 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
 FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 2016**

12:00 noon

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A light lunch will be served afterward



World Day of Prayer is a global, ecumenical movement of Christian women joined together to observe a common day of prayer each year on the first Friday of March. Our motto of “Informed Prayers and Prayerful

Action” signifies that prayer and action are inseparable.

The symbol for World Day of Prayer was developed by the women of Ireland and adopted as the international logo in 1982. Its design is made up of arrows converging from the four points of the compass, persons kneeling in prayer, the Celtic cross, and the circle, representing the world and our unity through all our diversity.

World Day of Prayer was started in the United States in 1887 by Mary Ellen Jones, the wife of a Presbyterian minister who asked for a day to pray for home missions. The idea caught on and the Methodist women added foreign missions to the prayer day. Two years later the Baptist women boldly proclaimed that the whole world should be included on this special day!

By 1930 the idea of a World Day of Prayer had spread to Canada and the British Isles. Catholic women were allowed to participate by a decree from the 2nd Vatican Council in 1967. Today over 170 countries participate! **COME JOIN US IN PRAYER**

PROPERTY REPORT

Star Roofing has completed the roof repairs and we are waiting for significant rainfall to determine if any leaks remain before making repairs to the damaged sheetrock in the building. Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of this congregation, the funds for the repairs were raised in time so that they did not have to come out of the general budget. We raised enough funds that we are able to set some aside for future major repairs to our facilities.

Jerry Hostetter
 Property Chair



After the fruitful discussions at our Leadership Retreat in February, we decided to have a fairly short follow-up Leadership Retreat which will be held on **Saturday April 9th from 9:00a – 11:00p** here at FCC Burnet in the Fellowship Hall. The purpose of this Retreat is to continue having conversations about why we are church and in what way we want to live out our beliefs in the world around us. Please let Pastor BJ know if you have an unavoidable conflict. Come help us envision and shape the future here at FCC Burnet.

Faith-Sharing

I am happy to report that 6 visitors (3 groups of 2 people each) attended church on January 17th, all at the same time! Needless to say, we were overjoyed and welcomed them with open arms! Of these 6 visitors, one family who had attended many years ago, Ronnie and CJ Daniel, have returned to our church and rejoined on January 31st. A second couple, Mike and Judy Cooper, are from Kansas visiting friends in Spicewood. They have been faithful members of our congregation these last few weeks, but will soon be heading back home to Kansas and we wish them Godspeed!

It has been so encouraging to see new faces (along with our regular attendees) in the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings. **We warmly welcome all into our Church Family each and every day!**



Leadership Retreat



The Men serve at Monday's Kitchen



Leadership Retreat



Charolette and Linda at the LACare Banquet



Leadership Retreat



Folks working hard preparing for the LACare Banquet (above and below)



Leadership Retreat



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

March 2016

Serving Schedule

***if you are unable to serve on the day you are scheduled, please find a replacement and write the change on the Serving Schedule on the bulletin board by the church office.

March 6 Luke 15:11-32
 March 13 John 8:1-11
 March 20 Luke 22:14-23, 56-57
 March 27 Luke 24:1-11

"Light for the Wonderer"
 "The New Light"
 "The Gentle Light"
 "The Dawn"


Date	Elders	Deacons	Jr. Deacon	Multi Media	Worship Leaders	Children's Moment	Counters	Acolytes
3/6	(SM & B) Walter Selcer (CI & W) Bennie Clark	James Engen Jennifer Engen George Smith Liz Smith	Alayna Engen	Ron Petrick	Sharon Tippie	Jon Blankenship	Charolette Collie	Adam Engen
3/13	(SM & B) Brenda Williams (CI & W) Jon Blankenship	Linda Guess Celeste Bruton Jim Nance Cricket Branon	Cheyenne Steve	Walter Selcer	Grover Howell	Marilyn Petrick	<i>need volunteer</i>	Haylee Williams
3/20	(SM & B) Susan Clark (CI & W) Allen Rodgers	Ronda Hostetter Jerry Hostetter Marilyn Petrick Celeste Bruton	Alayna Engen	Bennie Clark	Ron Petrick	Brenda Williams	<i>need volunteer</i>	Adam Engen
3/27	(SM & B) Ernie Spiekermann (CI & W) Grover Howell	Charolette Collie Terry Matlock Karol Shepherd Jim Nance	Cheyenne Steve	Ron Petrick	Jerry Hostetter	Jennifer Engen	Charolette Collie	Katlyn Williams

CI = Communion Invitation; SM = Stewardship Meditation; B = Prayer for Bread; W = Prayer for Cup
 Preparation of Communion: Charolette Collie



First Christian Church Burnet

March 2016 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 12:00 AA	2 10:00 Bible Study 12:00 AA 5:30 Choir 7:00 AA	3 12:00 AA	4 <i>World Day of Prayer</i> 12:00 AA 12:15 Ecumenical Prayer Service at Methodist Church	5 9:00 Church Work Day until 3:00p 7:00 AA
6 <i>Lent-4</i> 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship, Noisy Offering Fellowship Lunch 2:00 AA Dist. Meeting	7 12:00 AA 4:30 Monday's Kitchen	8 12:00 AA 6:00 PRC meeting	9 8:45 LACare Board 10:00 Bible Study 12:00 AA 5:00 Choir 6:00 Elders 7:00 Board 7:00 AA	10 12:00 AA	11 12:00 AA	12 BBA Board mtng at Central CC in San Antonio  <i>Move clocks forward</i> 7:00 AA
13 <i>Lent-5</i> 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship, Worship Comm. mtng	14 12:00 AA 4:30 Monday's Kitchen	15 12:00 AA 7:00 Compassionate Friends	16 10:00 Bible Study 12:00 AA 5:30 Choir 7:00 AA	17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i> 12:00 AA	18 12:00 AA	19 8:00 Disciples Men's Breakfast 7:00 AA
20 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship	21 <i>Newsletter articles due</i> 12:00 AA 4:30 Monday's Kitchen	22 12:00 AA	23 10:00 Bible Study 12:00 AA 5:30 Choir 7:00 AA	24 <i>Maundy Thursday</i> 12:00 AA 6:00 Maundy Thursday service	25 <i>Good Friday</i> 12:00 AA FUMC 12:00 Community Good Friday service here 2:00 Prayer Vigil begins	26 <i>Holy Saturday</i> 2:00 Prayer Vigil ends 7:00 AA
27 <i>Easter Sunday</i> 9:30 Men's Breakfast 10:45 Worship	28 12:00 AA 4:30 Monday's Kitchen	29 12:00 AA	30 10:00 Bible Study 12:00 AA 5:30 Choir 7:00 AA	31 12:00 AA		

Birthdays in March

Victoria Johnson	7	Mary Arnold	21
Jon Blankenship	18	Auda Ross	21
Jesse Barnhill	19	Alicia Blankenship	29

*Please let us know if we don't have your birthday listed.
We want to get it right.*



First Christian Church
P O Box 872
Burnet TX 78611

THE TIE THAT BINDS

March 2016

Building Relationships, Growing Faith, Welcoming All in Jesus Christ

2016 Leadership Team

Moderator.....Grover Howell
Vice Moderator.....Ron Petrick
Secretary.....Lana Orr
Treasurer.....Bennie Clark
Historian.....Kay Snyder
Education.....Brenda Williams
Faith-Sharing.....Paula Harris
Membership..... Kay Snyder
Outreach..... Ronda Hostetter
Property.....Jerry Hostetter
Worship.....Susan Clark, Ron Petrick
Disciples Men Rep.....Ron Petrick
Disciples Women Rep.....Marilyn Petrick

Pastoral Relations Committee:

Walter Selcer Susan Clark Jim Nance
*Ronda Hostetter Charolette Collie Brenda Williams

Trustees:

Auda Ross
Walter Selcer
Paula Harris

Elders:

Ernie Spiekermann
Walter Selcer
Grover Howell
*Bennie Clark
Susan Clark
Allen Rodgers
Jon Blankenship
Brenda Williams

Jr. Deacons:

Alayna Engen
Cheyenne Steve

Deacons:

Yvonne Evans
*Celeste Bruton
Jerry Hostetter
Ronda Hostetter
Karol Shepherd
Cricket Branon
Charolette Collie
Linda Guess
Terry Matlock
*Marilyn Petrick
James Engen
Jennifer Engen
George Smith
Liz Smith
Jim Nance

* = chairpersons