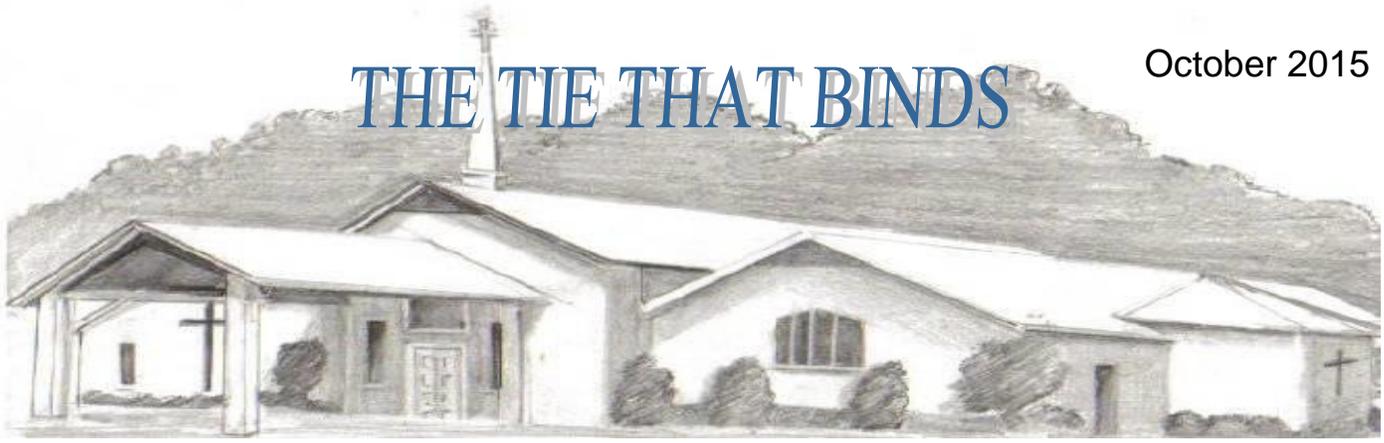


# THE TIE THAT BINDS

October 2015



**First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
204 E. Graves St. / P. O. Box 872  
Burnet, Texas 78611  
Phone: 512 756-2223

**Rev. BJ Tapley**  
**\*NEW Church e-mail:** [fcburnet@fcburnettx.org](mailto:fcburnet@fcburnettx.org)  
**Church website:** [www.fcburnettx.org](http://www.fcburnettx.org)  
**Office hours:** Monday–Thursday 9:00a–3:00p  
**Emergency contact:** Bennie Clark 830 613-0395

## *From the Pastor . . .*

9/24/15

You know, the Apostle Paul and I do not always get along. He writes in a very fundamentalist tone with Grace in one hand, and a “just do what I told you” flair in the other. But one thing that I have come to appreciate more and more about Paul, and his writings, is that he always lifts up in prayer with thanksgiving and gratitude each of the churches he serves, especially during painful seasons in his life.

Please do not misunderstand or read into that last sentence any more than this: no matter the trials in his life, and especially when things were difficult and trying, Paul was eager to express his love for his flock reminding them that they were in his daily, or “constant” prayers. He expresses this in virtually every writing we have.

The first one that stands out to me comes from the opening verses of his letter to the Philippians which says, *“I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”* I find myself resonating with Paul’s sentiment when I think about our congregation here at First Christian.

I brag on you to friends and express my gratitude for you in meetings with the area and region. Words cannot express my humbling awe at the privilege to serve, and to serve with, such a great group of men and women. This has been most especially the case this summer as I prepared for a second ordination interview on September 15 (which I passed by the way).

One of the questions asked of me dealt with the notion of Grace and where I saw its presence in ministry. My answer was you; you when I came home in April devastated because I was not approved for ordination then. You loved me. You held me up. You prayed for me and with me. You reminded me of why I do what I do.

This leads me to a second way Paul expresses his love and prayers for the churches he serves. The opening verses of II Corinthians says, *“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ.”*

As I write this article, it is the first day of Autumn; the beginning of a new season. But just as the weather yesterday, today, and tomorrow are substantially no different because the change in seasons is much more gradual; so too are the changes we all face in life. Yes, there are figurative cold fronts that bring substantial changes in a very short amount of time; but more times than not, the changes in our lives take place so gradually that it is only after we are well down the road and look in the mirror that we realize the changes that have taken place.

We are an older congregation, and we are getting older every day. With this, comes decreased abilities and energy and increased health concerns and even frustration at the fact that we may not be able to

*Building Relationships; Growing Faith; Welcoming All in Jesus Christ*

do that which we have always been able to do. And that's ok. It is ok to not be able to do as much as we used to and it is ok to be mad as all get out at that fact. If I am honest with myself, I am not at all a journey type person. I can be quite impatient at times. Instinctively, I don't particularly care about the trees or the forest or the sights along the way. All I care about is the end result; the destination. But life is a journey. Ministry is a process with very few definite starting and ending points. It is a metaphor with which I am working toward being more comfortable. I am working on being more patient which might have been part of the point of me having to wait until September's meeting to be approved for ordination.

Like Paul's practice with the churches he served, I constantly give thanks to God for you when I think about you because of our partnership in serving each other, our community, and the world. I am honored, and humbled, to serve such a great group of people. Thank you for letting me be your Pastor.

Grace and Peace,



### A moment about Giving

Pastor BJ talked a few weeks ago about how there is so much need in the world that we often feel paralyzed and overwhelmed. "How could we, with our meager resources, ever make a dent in that need?" we ask. The answer is as simple on the one hand, as it is painfully difficult on the other: "Do what you can." As we begin the final quarter of 2015, and with it the final quarter of our annual budget, the church leadership will begin the process of building our budget for 2016.

Part of that process—determining what we can do as we try to minister and meet the needs of those in our community and the world—will include finding out what we expect our regular tithes and offerings will be. No one likes talking about money and no one likes the old fashioned "Stewardship Campaigns" with their pledge cards and all of that. As much as we hate them though, they are a vital tool for helping the budget committee create an informed estimation of what we can expect for the next year.

In late October and early November, we will be asking for folks to let us know what they expect to give in 2016. The key difference with our approach this year is that there will not be any names on the cards. Instead, the cards will read something like: "**My family prayerfully expects to contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ weekly/monthly/yearly.**" All you will have to do is write in the amount and circle the frequency.

That is all the card will say. This process is not intended to guilt people into giving or embarrassing people when things come up and giving slows down. This process is designed only to help Bennie and the budget committee plan next year's budget by knowing what we can expect in giving. This way, just as Jesus told his disciples to find out what they could do when faced with the overwhelming multitudes needing help, we will know what we can do as we minister to and with each other, our community, and our world.

Thank you today, and every day, for your prayerful and awe-inspiring generosity of your time, money, passions, energies, and talents.

#### GENERAL CHECKING ACCOUNT

<b>July 31, 2015 Balance</b>		<b>\$39,022.34</b>
<b>Aug 2015 Deposits</b>		
General Fund	\$7,541.57	
Designated	\$523.06	<b>\$8,064.63</b>
<b>Aug 2015 Disbursements</b>		
Budgeted/General Fund	(\$10,831.22)	
Other Fund/Pass-Through	(\$2,169.86)	<b>(\$13,001.08)</b>
<b>August 31, 2015 Balance</b>		<b><u>\$34,085.89</u></b>

First Christian Church  
P O Box 872  
Burnet TX 78611

# THE TIE THAT BINDS

October 2015

*Building Relationships, Growing Faith, Welcoming All in Jesus Christ*

## 2015 Leadership Team

**Moderator**.....Grover Howell  
**Vice Moderator**.....Michele Darling  
**Secretary**.....Teri Howell  
**Treasurer**.....Bennie Clark  
**Historian**.....Kay Snyder  
**Education**.....Brenda Williams  
**Faith-Sharing**.....Ron & Marilyn Petrick  
**Membership**.....Harriett Reed  
**Outreach**.....Michele Darling, Lisa Nance  
**Property**.....Richard Dunegan  
**Worship**.....Susan Clark  
**Disciples Men Rep**.....Ron Petrick  
**Disciples Women Rep**.....Marilyn Petrick

### Pastoral Relations Committee:

\*Ron Petrick      Walter Selcer      Susan Clark  
Art Johnson      Ronda Hostetter      Charolette Collie

### Trustees:

Lisa Nance  
Auda Ross  
Walter Selcer

### Elders:

Michele Darling  
Hank Holt  
Ron Petrick  
\*Harriett Reed  
Walter Selcer  
Grover Howell  
Bennie Clark  
Susan Clark

### Jr. Deacons:

Alayna Engen  
Cheyenne Steve

### Deacons:

Paula Harris  
Teri Howell  
Art Johnson  
Brenda Williams  
Susan Selcer  
Yvonne Evans  
Celeste Bruton  
Jerry Hostetter  
Ronda Hostetter  
Karol Shepherd  
Cricket Branon  
Charolette Collie  
Linda Guess  
Terry Matlock  
\*Marilyn Petrick

\* chairperson



## Opportunities Galore!

As the cooler weather of fall approaches us, our busy season begins here at FCC. As you read through the newsletter you will see many coming events. Before we know it, Thanksgiving and Christmas (my favorites) will be upon us.

The Nominating Committee will soon be formed and they will be coming to many of you asking for you to serve our Lord and Church in a variety of ways. I am asking you to prayerfully consider serving. Long ago, President Kennedy said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what can you do for your country." That was a good idea for our country, but in your church it works both ways. Ask what your church can do for you AND what you can do for your church! Thank you, in advance for your service.

Grover Howell  
Moderator



Here's a reminder that our Fall Festival is coming up on **Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>**. We will have games, trick or treat, costume contest and end the evening with a meal. We hope the Episcopal Church and First Lutheran Church will join us again this year in hosting the event. Our first Fall Festival planning meeting will be **Tuesday September 29<sup>th</sup>** at 6:00p here in the Fellowship Hall. Check the foyer to sign up for booths and treats needed.

Thank you,  
Brenda

## Elders Report

The Elders are picking an entity in our community to pray for each month. This month it is **all levels of government leaders**. Please keep them in your prayers.

God bless you all.  
Harriett Reed  
Elder Chair

## Worship Committee

Now that fall is here our time together in Worship becomes more active. Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> is World Communion Sunday which seeks to enhance the unity of Christ's church through an awareness of all Christians on that day being seated around Christ's one table even as they gather within their separate communities. Some other dates to look forward to:

- November 1<sup>st</sup> – All Saints Day
- Veterans Day – we will acknowledge our Veterans on Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>.
- November 22<sup>nd</sup> – Decorating for Advent with a Soup Lunch after church  
Community Thanksgiving Service – 6:00pm
- November 29<sup>th</sup> – First Sunday in Advent
- December 20<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Program

Be alert to announcements during future Worship Services concerning the above dates. Join us as we grow together as part of God's family!

Susan Clark  
Worship Chair



## Choir Rehearsals Resume

So much music, so little time. We would love to sing it all. It's hard to believe, but true, that it's time to

begin work on Christmas music. We would love to have some extra voices for our special program. Please consider joining in the fun for this time without having to make a longer term commitment.

We still welcome your requests for special music, and we thank you for your encouragement.

Susie Rodgers

## Gospel Songfest Sunday September 27<sup>th</sup> 6:00 at Epiphany Episcopal

Epiphany Episcopal Church invites us to join them in a Gospel Songfest on Sunday, September 27 at 6:00 pm. at Epiphany Episcopal Church – 601 N. Wood Street (corner of Wood and Lamon) in Burnet.



## Disciples Women's Ministries

The September meeting was hosted by Brenda Williams. Our next meeting will be on Saturday November 14<sup>th</sup> hosted by Charolette in the Fellowship Hall. (No meeting in October). The December meeting will be our Christmas party at Yvonne's. More details to come.

A special thanks to all who donated items for the Inman Christian Center. It will be delivered to them.

We have decided that we are not going to cook casseroles like we have done in the past, which benefit Christian Women's Job Corps, but we have order forms on the bulletin board by the office for those who wish to purchase some.

Marilyn Petrick  
DWM Representative

### Backpack Buddies A New Program for FCC

**Who:** For the children at Burnet Elementary School identified by the counselor, teachers, the principal, and other interested staff at school. Consents will be sent home with the children identified to determine parental agreement.

**What:** To provide food/snacks for hungry children over the weekend which can be prepared by the children themselves.

**Where:** Bagged food/snack items will be stored and bagged at Hill Country Fellowship.

**How:** Donated food/snack items from participating churches will be picked up and/or delivered to Hill Country Fellowship Church. The items will be bagged by volunteers in plastic grocery bags and taken to Burnet Elementary School. The school will distribute the bagged food/snacks at the end of the school day on Friday.

**We are asking you, FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, to collect the following:**

- Cereal (individually boxed servings that can be eaten without milk)
- Individually wrapped snack items such as: cheese crackers, peanut butter crackers, raisins, and granola bars

**Thank you for helping us feed the hungry children at Burnet Elementary**



### Backpack Buddies Report We had the following individual servings donated:

Cereal –20	Crackers –116
Raisins – 30	Granola – 40
Pretzels-9	



## Disciples Men's Ministries

Our next breakfast meeting will be **Saturday October 17 at 8:00a.** The General Conference of Disciples Men will be holding their every four year event "Sessions 2016" at the TCU campus July 22-24, 2016. 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.

Ron Petrick

### See You At The Station: A Law Enforcement Appreciation Rally



September 30, 2015  
6:00 pm  
Wallace Riddell Park  
At the Pavilion

A time for the citizens of Burnet County to show support, express concern, and get to know local Law Enforcement



### Veterans Day Celebration November 11<sup>th</sup> 1:30p Oaks Nursing Home (in dining Hall)

George Banks, from St. Matthew's is organizing a Veteran's Day Celebration at Oaks Nursing Center for all veterans in our community. Please wear something patriotic. Donations will be accepted and will go toward buying flags and plaques for those who served. If you have any questions please contact George at (512) 755-6286.



## OUTREACH MINISTRY REPORT

Outreach opportunities are plentiful at this time. We hope that you will prayerfully consider how you can help those in our community by being involved with these upcoming and/or ongoing events:

- \*actively participating in the Backpack Buddies program
- \*being part of the team to provide lunch for Respite participants
- \*baking cookies for the Law Enforcement Appreciation Rally on September 30
- \*volunteering your time and ideas for the Fall Festival (planning meeting on September 29).

Reconciliation Offering will be accepted on September 27<sup>th</sup> and October 4<sup>th</sup>. The Special Offering is used to fund our Church's mission imperative to become a pro-reconciling and anti-racist church utilizing the tools experiential education (training), inclusive worship and intentional dialogue. Our efforts to promote healing, relationship and restoration in the whole family of God are enlivened by funds from this offering providing for programs of leadership development, curriculum for dialogue and learning, and partnerships within the Church and our communities.

Noisy Offering was collected on September 6<sup>th</sup> in the amount of \$99.70. From August 31<sup>st</sup> to September 21<sup>st</sup> Monday's Kitchen served 194 meals and donations of \$115.23 were received.

Michele & Lisa  
Outreach Co-Chairs

## MONDAY'S KITCHEN SCHEDULE OF WORKERS OCTOBER 2015

### **October 5, 2015**

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

### **October 12, 2015**

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

### **October 19, 2015:**

Set Up:		Celeste Bruton
Cook:	1)	Susan Clark
	2)	Bennie Clark
Bake	1)	Mary Alice Ross
	2)	Celeste Bruton
Serve	1)	Janie Howell
	2)	Celeste Bruton
	3)	Linda Guess
Clean-Up	1)	Dave Bowmaster

### **October 26, 2015:**

Epicenter

## **Driving Ministry**

Have you ever needed someone to drive you for a doctor's appointment? The Elders are recruiting volunteers who would be willing to join a rotation to drive folks to doctors' appointments on an as needed basis. Pastor BJ will coordinate the needs of our members and find drivers who are available to drive to Austin and other surrounding towns. If this is a ministry you would like to be a part of, please email BJ at [revbjtapley@gmail.com](mailto:revbjtapley@gmail.com) or the church at [fccburnet@verizon.net](mailto:fccburnet@verizon.net) and let us know. Also, if you are in need of this ministry, please let BJ as early as possible and he will work to find someone available to help.



## THANK YOU

### EDUCATION



## You are invited to compete in Bible Olympics

Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>  
10:00a – 2:00p

The objective of Bible Olympics is to motivate youth and other laypeople to read the Bible – no spin, no commentary, no restrictions on language, version or format. Teams from each church come together to compete in four events that will test their knowledge of a single book of Scriptures.

**Who can participate?** Anyone who can read of any age. We only ask that anyone who has attended Bible College or Seminary refrain from participating.

**What team will I be on?** Pastor BJ is putting together a team.

**What does it cost?** Free (lunch included)

**How do I prepare?** Read the book of Genesis in any version of the Bible. If you can't read it all, read what you can and come anyway. You WILL have fun.

Dear FCC members and Pastor Tapley, I would like to thank you all for the gift certificate I won at the BCISD back to school breakfast. I can't wait to go eat at Café 2300. On behalf of all employees of BCISD thank you for your support and prayers. I am looking forward to a great school year.

Erin Rowe  
Bertram Elementary

*We received the thank you below from the Burnet County Child Welfare Board.*

Church members,  
Thank you so much for your recent contribution of \$500. This was a big help in providing back-to-school clothing for our Burnet County Children in foster care. We appreciate your continued support so much!

Jan Graves  
Board member

First Christian Church received a letter from Hill Country Children's Advocacy Center expressing sincere thanks for our donation of hand-painted tee shirts. They said the shirts will be given to kids receiving a medical exam at the center and will help the HCCAC maintain a safe and child friendly environment.

## You are Invited

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest together with First Christian Church of Lubbock, Texas, and First Christian Church of Burnet, Texas request your presence and prayers for the Ordination into Christian ministry of BJ Tapley.

**Saturday, November 7th, 2015 1:00pm**  
**First Christian Church**  
**2323 Broadway St**  
**Lubbock, TX 79401**

Clergy are invited to wear robes and their favorite stoles. There will be an offering taken benefiting First Christian Church Foundation supporting its ministry of financial aid for Disciples Seminarians seeking Ordination and full-time ministry. Reception immediately following in the Fellowship Hall.

**\*We will be live streaming it and hope to set up a watch party here for those who can't travel to Lubbock.**