



THE TIE THAT BINDS...

MAY 2022

From the Interim Minister...

Rev. William “Bill” Howden

***“All ministry is interim
ministry.”***



I no longer remember where I first heard or read this sentence. Over the years, though, I have learned it to be true. My longest ministry was with the Windham Hill United Church of Christ in Windham, Maine. I served there for seven years, seven years that were productive and fruitful, both for me and for the congregation.

But that congregation was established in 1743! My seven years constitutes a tiny fraction – less than 4% – of that congregation’s history. There were dozens of ministers before me, and others who followed. My successor at Windham Hill served there for eighteen years. Now, she has retired, and another has taken her place. Ministers come and go; Christ’s church remains.

All ministry is interim ministry. Like runners who carry the Olympic Torch, each of us runs our appointed course, then passes the torch on to others.

On the first Sunday of May, this congregation will vote on calling a new minister.

If the congregation approves that call, my time with First Christian Church in Burnet will end in June. The torch will be passed.

This is nothing new. It was true even in the first century. Paul had established the church in Corinth. After he moved on, a man named Apollos led the young congregation. Some within the congregation started taking sides: “I follow Paul!” “Well, I follow Apollos!” When Paul heard about this, he wrote to denounce the divisiveness: “What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth” (1 Cor. 3:5-6).

God willing, someone else will be called soon to tend the garden that is First Christian Church in Burnet. It has been my honor to take my turn in watering this garden. Soon it will be the turn of someone new. I look forward to stepping back and watching you grow!

Rev. Bill Howden

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- Since February 24 2022, more than 5 million people have fled Ukraine.
- More than 7 million are internally displaced (having fled their homes, but remain within the country).
- The United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR) has declared a 'level 3' emergency in Ukraine - the highest level they have - and level 2 in the surrounding nations that are rendering aid. The refugee and displacement crisis continues to affect predominantly women, children, and the elderly.

For more information, see the article posted on the bulletin board in the office hallway.



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| May 01 | Noisy Offering benefitting LACare Food Pantry
Congregational Board Meeting Vote
First Sunday Luncheon
Marilyn Petrick's Birthday |
| May 08 | Mother's Day |
| May 11 | 6:30p Elder's Meeting
7:00p Board Meeting |
| May 14 | BBA/LRGV Area Assembly – Zoom
Watch Party |
| May 25 | June Newsletter Articles Due |
| May 29 | Pentecost Special Offering |
| May 30 | Memorial Day – Office Closed |





- May 8 A Church of Goodness and Mercy
Psalm 23
- May 15 A Church Where All Are Welcome
Acts 11:1 – 18
- May 22 A Church of Faithful Witness
Acts 1:1 – 11
- May 29 A Church Beyond these Doors
John 17: 20 – 26



Isaiah 43:18 “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.”

Living in the past is a sure-fire way to spoil the present and sabotage the future. As human beings, we are both blessed and cursed with powerful memories. Some of them are really good and cause us to be cheerfully nostalgic. Other remembrances are very painful and can sometimes be unhealthy.

Letting go of the past is something that God calls us to do. It's not easy to accomplish, but neither is lumbering a lot of baggage which weighs us down emotionally, spiritually, and even physically.

God urges us to forget former things and not dwell on the past. His Son Jesus died painfully on the Cross, but God does not dwell on that terrible moment. Instead, He looks forward to the brightness of an eternal future where we will abide in His Kingdom and enjoy His everlasting love. This is why God wants us to let go of the past – so that we can look ahead to our future with Jesus.

Thoughts from Grover & Teri,



As you all know, I am not one for talking in front of gatherings, but, I think, Grover makes up for that! From the first time we

walked in the doors of FCC – Burnet, you welcomed us and made us feel right at home.

Thank you so much for the wonderful farewell party, the beautiful cake, plaque, flowers and all the cards! It meant so much to us, to celebrate with our church family and friends. You are all very special to us and we've loved being a part of FCC – Burnet. We have enjoyed so many aspects of being a part of this church. The fellowship, women's and men's meetings, community outreach activities. One of my favorites was 'Monday's Kitchen,' I really enjoyed helping provide meals to those that needed a place to eat, enjoy conversation and just being with friends and learning about their stories. I will never forget little Maxine – twirling and singing Frozen's – Let It Go! She would give me a tiny kiss or hug when I saved her a donut with sprinkles. What a sweetie girl, I will remember her always and continue to pray for her family. I enjoyed our women's meetings, but the Christmas parties were some of my favorites, like the time we all went to Lisa's and shared stories about our cherished Christmas ornaments. Another time, we sang the Twelve Days of Christmas and just a few years ago, Brenda read The Night Before Christmas and we laughed so much, because we could not get the grasp of how and who our gifts were to be passed to. Was it to the right or to the left? So many wonderful and joyful memories. I enjoyed being secretary for two years and have just enjoyed being a part of such a special church.

This is a sad moment in our lives as I/we part ways with the very Church Family that I/we have joined together with - in Worship, Communion, and fellowship (almost) every Sunday for better than a decade.

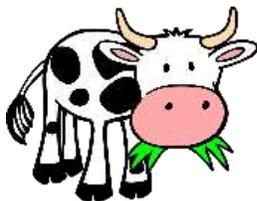
I look back at the good times and there were many. I guess that my favorite was participating in the leadership. You may ask why? Well, it is quite simple. When you give of your time and talents, which we all have, you are rewarded greatly... probably not in gold or silver, but a feeling inside that cannot be bought with gold or silver, not even Bitcoin.

My last request (and over the years there have been a lot) is to ask yourself each time you walk into Church... how can I serve for the betterment of this Church and in turn, this Church service to our God!!!

Hopefully, our next church will be as special as this one. But I know that it will have big shoes to fill. As you all know, I am so nervous about living in the country! I am such a "city girl" and feel like it is going to be like the old TV show 'Green Acres.' Literally, laughing out loud - our four-legged neighbors and me will have to learn to co-exist!

Much love and thank you, again!

Teri & Grover



It has been an exciting month. There were two Worship Work Board meetings. The first was a special meeting, on April 6th for the board to vote on the Search Committees recommended Pastoral candidate, Teresa Trusner. After a presentation of her qualifications and a review of the proposed contract the board unanimously voted to present her to the congregation.

The normal monthly board meeting also took place on April 20th. It was a very productive meeting. The Elders, reported by Ron, talked about the history of the Care Groups. It was reported that there would be an increased effort for the Elders to communicate with members who have missed church. It was also relayed that if any member felt that if they need to speak with an Elder to reach out to them. The Deacons, as reported by Marilyn, continue to review the best way to serve the membership during the Communion and Offering. Their goal is to make it work as smoothly as possible. The first time to try this was Sunday, April 24th. If you have a comment on how it works, or have a suggestion do not hesitate to speak with any Deacon. The Committee Council, reported by Michele, reported that the team has been working on quite a few things and how well they work together. The reception for Grover and Teri, on April 24th, was reported. The next event will be Mother's Day where flowers will be available.

For his Pastor report Bill said that the Lent season had gone well. He will be attending the Bluebonnet Area Assembly in Gonzales scheduled for Saturday May 14th. As a side note this meeting will be available as a Zoom meeting. Jonnie will be having a Watch Party at the church so everyone who is interested is invited to attend.

Unfinished business. Working on making a decision on our Church Sponsored Student Scholarship. At the present time there is one candidate and we expect a second one as well. The deadline for applications is May 11th. We are still in the process of getting the paperwork completed to invest the \$10,000 Howell Fund. I have also asked if we can invest the money appropriated for the air conditioner until it is needed. The board also reviewed a membership voting rights issue. Bennie and Ron, with Bill's support, volunteered to review the verbiage in our Church constitution. If any change is required it will be brought forward to the congregation to vote on it.

New business. We discussed the visit from Pastor Teresa Trusner scheduled for April 24th. As each of you know it went well. In conjunction with this the board also discussed the scheduled Congregational Vote scheduled for after service on May 1st. We also reaffirmed that the monthly church luncheon would be moving back to the first Sunday of each month. Lastly Bennie will check into the possibility of closing out the Church Extension Demand Fund. He will request a current statement of funds before any further action is taken.

We have continued to have excellent sermons for the month of April. On April 3rd we had returning guest minister, Rev. Mari Lyn Jones, who spoke on "Anticipating Gods New Thing". On April 10th Rev. Bill Howden asked us if we were "Making Room for Christ to Enter." Bill also spoke on April 17th helping us understand "A New Day Dawns." We closed out the month, April 24th, with our Pastoral candidate, Pastor Teresa Trusner telling us there is "Hope." If you missed any of these sermons or want to revisit them they are all available on the Church website at www.fccburnettx.org/sermons/.

February 9th board meeting:

We had an excellent meeting. The Elders reported by Ron on members who needed their/our support. The Deacons reported by Marilyn have settled on how the schedule for their duties are set up. I will add at this point that it continues to evolve based on the attendance, and seating arrangements, at each service. Michele reported for the Counsel Committee that we raised \$170 for the Child Welfare Board through the Noisy Offering. As a reminder this will be our designated Noisy Offering designee every other month. She also reported that plans for the Easter services are underway. She also reported as the Search Committee Chair that a job request, with description, had been added to the Southwest Regional website.

For his pastor report Bill apologized for being gone two weeks in a row. As you probably remember his wife, Jan, had back surgery which turned out to be very successful. He was also looking forward to his second meeting with the Care groups. He also reminded all of the board, but this also pertains to all the members, to let him know if there are prayer requests during the week to let him know.

No unfinished business was concluded so all items were referred forward.

New business discussions: Received a scholarship application. Bennie is working to get information on how much is available to give out this year. Bennie is also in the process of setting up the account for the Howell's contribution. As a reminder it is always available to contribute to. Jonnie continues to work on the directories.

The board also discussed the matter of voting rights for the membership. Once this is ready, we will bring it to the entire congregation. Lastly Marilyn was in the process of organizing the kitchen.

March 9th board meeting:

Another excellent meeting that was a little less attended due to my mess up with Zoom and Ron and Marilyn being on their cruise. The only committee reports were by Michele. The Committee Counsel is focusing on Lent and Easter. The Search Committee is scheduling a second conversation with a candidate. As an aside continue to pray for this committee to help make the best decision possible for our church.

Bill's pastor report included asking how the Ash Wednesday service was received. Those in attendance were appreciative of his taped message as well as the contributions of Ron for presiding, Susan for her music, and Michele for her help with the Communion. Bill will also be taping a message for the Maundy Thursday service. It sounds very interesting so please be sure to join the service on Thursday, April 14th at 6:00pm. The service is titled "Finding Our Place at Jesus." Finally, Bill gave some information regarding a program he heard about for small churches in Texas and Oklahoma. He and I attended a Zoom meeting on this subject. I will give an update on this if we, the board, decide to move forward with it.

No decisions on unfinished business.

New business discussions: The board voted to extend Bill Howland's contract for the months of April, May, and June. Bennie reported that \$315 had been received in the Week of Compassion offering.

Marilyn has reminded us, at church services, that contributions to this can be made year-round. 100% of your contributions goes toward your individual designees. Lastly, with the next board meeting falling on the week of Easter it was decided to move it back one week to Wednesday, April 20th, at 7:00pm. If you are interested in attending you are more than welcome to meet at the church, or on the Zoom meeting, which I know will be available since Ron is back. If you made it this far, I applaud you! Until next month may God continue to bless you!

Wayne



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May 2022 Newsletter

The Flowering Cross

The flowering of the cross represents the transition from Good Friday to Easter, from meditation on Jesus' death to joyful celebration of his resurrection. The ceremony transforms a barren cross, a reminder of Jesus' death, into an Easter symbol. Covered with fresh, living flowers, the cross serves not only as an emblem of Jesus' resurrection but also of the continuing presence of Christ among today's Christians. In another variation of this ceremony worshipers cover the cross with homemade butterflies, another symbol of new life.



Willis Marie Howell (Grover's mom) is going to turn 100 years old on May 14th.

If you would like to send her a card, here is the mailing address:

915 Muecke Drive
Karnes City, TX 78118

How to Use Zoom

What is Zoom? Zoom is an online group meeting platform that allows us to all join each other in a virtual meeting room. The meeting host will schedule the meeting and provide a meeting invitation which will allow you to join the meeting. You can join the meeting via video where people can see you and you can see others or just through a normal telephone call. If you decide to join using video, your device will need a camera and a microphone. When you join using video you can choose whether you want to be seen or not. If you decide to join via a normal telephone call, then all you need is your phone.

[Click here for a PDF link explaining how to use Zoom](#)

Burnet County Hunger Alliance

[The Burnet County Hunger Alliance](#) (BCHA) is a volunteer group of food pantries, churches, school administrators, elected officials, area leaders and active citizens who have committed to end hunger in Burnet County.

Visit their website for [information on food locations in Burnet County](#), and a [list of organizations](#) that are coordinating efforts to end hunger in the county.



**First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
Serving Schedule
May 2022**

	ELDER Joys/Concerns Communion Prayer Stewardship Prayer	DEACONS Prepare/Serve Communion Offering	WORSHIP LEADER Welcome & Announcements Call to Worship Invocation & Prayer
May 01	Hank Holt	Sharon Tippie Linda Guess	Ron Petrick
May 08	Ron Petrick	Marilyn Petrick Wayne Spiekermann	Jonnie Stark
May 15	Michele Darling	Jonnie Stark Linda Guess	Sharon Tippie
May 22	Bennie Clark	Sharon Tippie Marilyn Petrick	Ron Petrick
May 29	Hank Holt	Linda Guess Wayne Spiekermann	Jonnie Stark

The Elder is responsible for Joys/Concerns; Communion Prayer; Stewardship Prayer
Communion Preparation: Covid Approved Containers

If you are unable to serve on the day you are scheduled, please notify the Office Administrator
and a replacement will be assigned.



May 2022

Seasons and Colors of the Christian Year
 04/13 - 06/04 Eastertide (white)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 3rd Sunday of Easter 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Worship NOISY OFFERING CONGREGATIONAL BOARD MEETING FIRST SUNDAY LUNCHEON Marilyn Petrick's BD	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 4th Sunday of Easter 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Worship MOTHER'S DAY	9	10	6:30p Elder's Meeting 7:00p Board Meeting	12	13	BBA/LRGVD AREA ASSEMBLY ZOOM WATCH PARTY 9a - 4p
15 5th Sunday of Easter 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Worship	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 6th Sunday of Easter 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Worship	NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	24	25	26	NEWSLETTER ARTICLES FINAL ENTRY DEADLINE	28
29 7th Sunday of Easter 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Worship Pentecost Special Offering	MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY	31				

Elders	
Ron Petrick (2022)	Hank Holt (2023)
Michele Darling (2022)	Bennie Clark (2024)
Deacons	
Linda Guess (2023)	Sharon Tippie (2022)
Marilyn Petrick (2022)	Jonnie Stark (2024)
Wayne Spiekermann (2024)	
Trustees	
Art Johnson (2022)	Richard Dunegan (2023)
Ron Petrick (2024)	

2022 Leadership Team

Moderator	Wayne Spiekermann	
Vice-Moderator	Bennie Clark	
Secretary	Melissa Johnson	
Treasurer	Bennie Clark	
Historian	Sharon Tippie	
Education	} Committee Council -	
Faith-Sharing		Michele Darling
Membership		Marilyn Petrick
Outreach		Sharon Tippie
Property		Ron Petrick
Worship		Susan Clark
Disciple Men Rep		
Disciple Women Rep		

First Christian Church-Burnet
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