



The Christian Builder

May 16, 2013

A weekly publication of
First Christian Church Midland
Volume 57 No.20

www.fccmidland.org • 1301 W. Louisiana, Midland, Texas, 79701 • (432) 682-2541

Join Us For Senior Sunday, Combined Worship & Luncheon



Make plans to join us **this Sunday, May 19th**, for Senior Sunday. We will be honoring our graduating seniors during a combined worship service at 11:00am and a luncheon in the Family Life Center immediately following the service. The luncheon is catered, and a love offering will be taken to help offset the cost of the meal.

The following names are the students we will be honoring:

David Cook
Chris Hopper

Courtney Gordon
Hunter Kilborn

Zane Helms
Corbin McCullough

Disciple Mission Offering



On **May 19, 2013**, Disciples churches will collect the Pentecost Offering to fund the new church movement. This offering is creating opportunities to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in places that don't have a Disciples witness. We are reaching new places to provide Disciples mission and share the good news of Jesus Christ beyond the doorsteps of the Church into the community and throughout the world.

Church Calendar

Friday, May 17

5-10pm SHARE

Sunday, May 19

Senior Sunday-One Service

10am Sunday School
11am Combined Worship
12pm Senior Luncheon
4-7pm CELEBRATE - End of Year swim party.
5-7pm SOLID - Year End Blow Out

Tuesday, May 21

7pm PDAP
7:30pm Boy Scouts

Wednesday, May 22

7am Men's Prayer Breakfast
5:30pm Breaking Bread
7pm Sanctuary Choir

Sunday, May 26

Farewell to Glover's-One Service

10am Sunday School
11am Combined Worship
12pm Reception for Glover's



Thoughts...

Rev. Mike Hunter
Senior Minister

Can you explain the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)? That is the very question I was asked in a surgery waiting room just a few days ago.

Engaged with a church family while a loved one had day surgery, the extended family who was not Disciple began to ask me about our church, and specifically, about our denomination. It was a quiet, slow morning in the waiting area and soon

others there entered into our conversation. Before I knew it, Disciples, Methodist, Church of Christ, and Baptist were having lively and meaningful conversation.

First one, then the other, shared cornerstones of their denomination. I nodded and affirmed their respective churches. Then it came my turn. Yes, we were like the Church of Christ in common history and a heritage of communion, but we had divided over instruments and mission. Yes, we were like the Baptist in local church autonomy and practice of immersion, though different because we also accepted and affirmed other forms of baptism, and we have women in leadership and as ordained clergy. Our seminary at TCU educates both Disciple and Methodist clergy, though our church system is not connectional, we don't have an appointment system for clergy and the Regional and National church cannot compel local Disciple congregations to do anything.

What do you believe? was the next, perhaps more difficult question. All agreed to a large measure about Christ, though there were some difference in the mode and model of salvation, many of the questions around Biblical content and interpretation ultimately centered in each person's history. They believed what they believed because they had been taught to believe a center point about scripture. When I shared how Disciples affirm each person, and even each congregation, is free to explore and interpret scripture that is when the head scratching began.

One by one they asked hot button questions of individual scripture or social concern. *It is left up to each person and each congregation as they pray and study scripture, and often there are different positions among Disciples and Disciple congregations. One size does not fit all...not by a long shot!*

They didn't know what to do with that answer. I think if I had said *Disciples believe just XXX*, they would have been more comfortable in agreeing or disagreeing. But in being inclusive, congregationally based, with a professed openness to Christ...I think they liked it...but didn't know to respond!

Sometimes we are more comfortable saying what we're not, than saying what we are.

It was one of the best conversations I've had in 30 plus years of ministry. I came away from that day very proud that I am a Disciple and it reminded me that we all have to continually work on our faith and ability to articulate why we are Disciple.

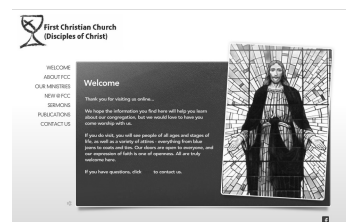
What would you say about the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)?

This Week's Sermon

Setting the World On Fire

Acts 2

Find previous sermons at www.fccmidland.org



Visitors Corner

May 12, 2013

Morgan Brown
 Sandy Emmerson
 Mycah Glover
 Suzanne Gonzalez
 Robert, Hayley & Zane Helms
 Geneva Hunter
 Cindy Owens
 Curtis Pechacek
 Chuck & Judy Russell
 Eloise Schuelke
 Rita Speer
 Robert Staib
 Greg, Melissa
 & Madison Thompson
 Art & Carla Wilson

THANKS FOR
 WORSHIPPING
 WITH US!

Attendance

May 12, 2013

Contemporary Worship	62
Children's Church	5
Nursery	2
Total	69
Traditional Worship	101
Children's Church	6
Nursery	2
Total	109
Combined Total	178
<u>Sunday School</u>	
Nursery	3
Children	10
Youth	10
Adult	67
Total	91



Musings...

Rev. Cory Glover
 Associate Minister

Sometimes, God has a morbid sense of humor...
 At least from an earthly, limited, human perspective.

All transition is hard. That's nothing new. It's hard for you and it's hard for me.

As I've lived into this transition - the one that takes me away from FCC Midland - I have been amazed at your response. Sure, there have been a few people who've threatened to hurt me or gave me playful sad faces. Yet, the overwhelming response has been one of gratitude and appreciation for what we've experienced together...and a genuine pride in what people think lies before me and my family. Our youth have routinely said, "We are sad. But we are ready for this. You taught us well." These responses have been overwhelming and life-giving. Your affirmation and thanks has been a true gift to my family.

And just when I didn't think I could be any more emotionally fragile, God decides to just pour it on. This week, I've had several people from other churches and previous ministries also reach out to me. They've gone out of their way to express their appreciation for my ministry with them all these years later.

Perhaps God is still teaching me an old lesson. While I've been blessed to serve in a variety of contexts and have had the tremendous opportunity to share Christ with others, it has never been - or will ever be - about me. I am just a small cog in a complex machine of God's Kingdom on earth. We are all called for different seasons in different places. It has always been God who does the growing.

In this church. In my next one.

In my life. And yours.

May it ever be so...

"It's not the one who plants or the one who waters who is at the center of this process but God, who makes things grow. Planting and watering are menial servant jobs at minimum wages. What makes them worth doing is the God we are serving." - 1 Corinthians 3:6-8 (The Message)

Upcoming Youth Events

- May 19 - Senior Sunday
- May 19 - SOLID - Year End Blow-Out 5-7pm

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Paintball Camp-Out scheduled for May 17-18 has now been postponed. Please join us Sunday night from 5-7PM for our End-Of-School SOLID Blowout!



Ponderings...

Rev. Paula Brooks
Associate Minister

In a little over 20 days Vacation Bible School 2013 will kick off. If you haven't heard by now, VBS will be held June 10-14, 2013. Each evening will begin with a light meal served from 5:30-6:00. From 6:00 - 8:30

the children and adults will gather for an opening followed by Bible Study, Music, Crafts, Recreation and another kid friendly building project.

Our theme is "Boot Camp" and will be based on Ephesians 6:10-18, the Armor of God. This year will be dedicated to those men and women who have served our country.

This year we are adding a new component for parents. Each night while their child is enjoying VBS they will have an opportunity to attend a class that will help them as they strive to become better parents. Each night a different topic will be offered. Topics such as bullying & building you child's self esteem, developing good eating habits & ways families can exercise together, safety in the home from having an evacuation plan in case of a fire & stranger danger, and how to help your child become a critical thinker & the importance of reading.

If you would like to be a part of our VBS team it's not too late. There is something that everyone can do. We ask for your prayers as we continue to prepare for a great week.

In loving partnership

FCC VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
BOOT CAMP

Join us June 10th-14th from 6-8:30pm
 Christian fun and learning for 3yrs.-5th grade!

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
 432.682.2541 | 1301 W. Louisiana | Midland, TX

Birthdays

- 5/18 Betty Thompson
- 5/19 Jill Wright
Kaylee Renfro
Janice Beckner
- 5/21 Grayson Stanley
- 5/22 Brittani Beggs
Steve Vaughn
- 5/23 Sandra Wills
Stacee Burns



Anniversaries

- 5/17 - J. R. & Amanda Bourland
- 5/19 - Tom & Meta Jones



Lectionary Scriptures

May 19, 2013

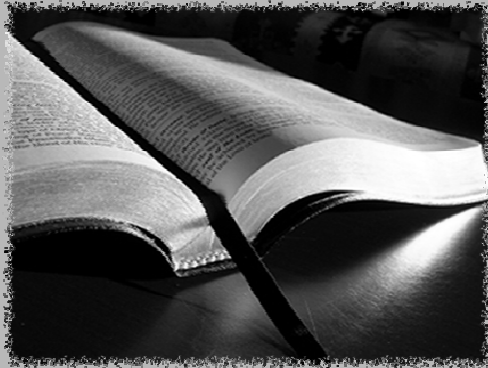
Acts 2:1-21;

Genesis 11:1-9;

Psalms 104:23-34, 35b;

Romans 8:14-17;

John 14:8-17, (25-27)



Elder - On - Call

5/12 - 5/18

Mary Anne Benton

Online Giving

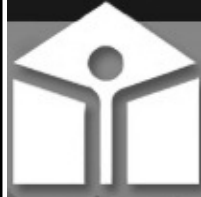
You can now give to FCC through our website!

You can make a one-time donation, pay the fees for a children's or youth event, or set up recurring donations.

Online giving is convenient and safe, easy to track, and easy to schedule on a regular basis.



Church Bulletin Board



Juliette Fowler Homes Inc.
A Heritage of Caring

On Sunday, May 19, Sabrina Porter, president of Juliette Fowler Homes will be here to give us an update on the ministry of residential care and support for children, youth and the elderly. Past members of our congregation are among those who have resided there in retirement. Victoria Gilkerson is a member of the Fowler Board.

JFH provides:

Residential and Assisted Living

Short-term rehabilitation and long-term care

Fowler Christian Apartments

Children/Youth/Family programs

Juliette Fowler Homes has long legacy in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Building Work Continues Construction Costs Now Enter Finance Position



The reviews for the children and youth spaces are outstanding! It has been such a joy to enter the space, begin to use it, and to dream how we might better serve with these spaces.

Sanctuary work continues. Electrical work, lighting, sound and technology are moving forward. The work is tedious as they work around 50 year old construction practices. A few items are on back order, causing further delays. We wish we could name a date of reentry, but we've learned from the past...it won't be ready until it is.

We have, however, crossed the threshold of funds on hand paying for the project. We now are beginning to borrow, as anticipated toward the full project cost. We are still on budget, but the project was always going to require bank financing.

Any gifts toward the project are being directly applied, reducing borrow and interest. Please review your capacity to give and consider this moment for a gift.

We will continue to keep you updated and will announce a reentry date as soon as we have one!

Church Bulletin Board

Our Deepest Sympathy

We extend our heartfelt sympathy and prayer to the following family who have recently lost a loved one:

The Family of Greta Renfro.....Greta passed away on May 10, 2013 in Midland, TX. Memorial services were held on Tuesday, May 14, 2013 at Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Odessa, TX. Greta is the wife of Kevin Renfro, the daughter of Carl & Betty Rodgers, the mother of Katie & Kaylee and the sister of Sabrina Early & Chad Rodgers.

Please keep the Renfro/Rodgers Family in your prayers.



Hummer House Getaway August 15-17th

Do you love to watch humming birds?

The Adult Ministries Team of FCC is sponsoring a trip to the Hummer House in Christoval, TX. The dates are August 15 & 16, 2013. We will be leaving on the morning of the 15th and spend 2 glorious days & nights in a unique setting and returning to Midland on Saturday the 17th. This is a wonderful opportunity to view wild life, especially humming birds in a natural setting. The cost is \$100 for 2 nights (which also includes breakfast for each morning) plus meals.

If you would like to join us for a great adventure please call the church office and reserve your spot today.



Adult Sunday School Studies

Mixed Blessings/Pairs & Spares

Topic: Sunday's Scripture

II Chronicles 7:14

Topic: Jesus Enters Jerusalem

Scripture: John 12

Leader: Class Members

Genesis

Topic: Canonization of the Bible

Leader: Clint Hurst

Fellowship

Topic: Women of the Bible - Ruth

Scripture: Deuteronomy 25:5-10,

& The Book of Ruth

Leader: Jim Mauldin

Mike Hunter's Class

Topic: Round One: The Young Church

Faces Challenges 1

Scripture: Acts 4 & 5

Leader: Mike Hunter

Children's Activities for Sunday, May 19, 2013

Sunday School

Topic: Putting God First: My Life

Pentecost—Following the Holy

Spirit's Leading

Scripture: Galatians 5:22-26

Children's Church

Topic: Pentecost

CELEBRATE (Grades 1-5)

End of the School Year Swim Party

4-7pm at 2713 West Michigan Ave.

(Home of Kristen, Kathe & Katie

Hepfer.) Parents are invited to join

us!

Social Media

Become a friend of ours on Facebook and "Like" us.



www.facebook.com/fccmidland
Follow us on Twitter
(@fccmidland)

Check out FCC's Children's page on Facebook and "Like" us

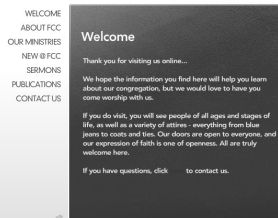


www.facebook.com/fcccm

E-mail Provider

Please be sure that your e-mail provider accepts e-mails from fccmidland.org.

We have had several e-mails sent back to us, and solving the problem would help us get accurate and up-to-date information to you.



Website

Don't forget to check out our website (www.fccmidland.org) for news, publications, and previous sermons!

Prayer Room

Those is the hospital:

George Head - MMH

Those in need of prayer:

- Pat Kirk
- Pat Pickle
- Mike Nance
- Dee Head
- Bruce Stanley
- Bill & Char Womack
- Judy Spruell
- Curtis Pechacek

Those in extended/long term care:

- Blanche Alcorn
- H.G. Bedford
- Nancy Gill
- Jerry Johnson
- Jackie Hanna
- Charlotte Millican
- Keith Somerville
- Mary Jane Strobel
- Dorothy Wadley

Military:

- Trevor Forbes - son of Stephen & Betty Forbes
- Joe Henderson - son of Holly Moore
- Nicky Miller - son of Vicki Miller
- Damon Darnell - grandson of Floyd & Doris Miller
- Bennett Dobbs - extended family of the Espino's
- Eric Schuff - extended family of the Espino's

Families/Friends beyond FCC:

- Liz Hickerson - friend of Les;ie Vines
- Barry Hardaway - brother of Erich Hardaway
- Annetta Arnett - mother of Garry Arnett
- David & Sherry Harrington - friend of Jake Spruell
- Brooks Black - Friend of Jake Spruell
- Teresa Ledford - sister of Martha Fentem
- Abbye Irons - friend of Steve Vaughan
- Ian Carr - grandson of Dorothy Carr
- Blake Woods - friend of John Ross
- Walker Hughes - grandson of Steve & Lucille Vaughan
- The Hickey Family - Sara Cranford
- Debby Leach Wallace - friend of Betty Conly
- Pete Herndon - nephew of Vicki Miller
- The De Lucas Family - Sara Cranford
- Charles Lout - friend of George & Dee Head
- Brenda Bradshaw - friend of Lucille Vaughan
- Corinne Sandifer - granddaughter of Huey & Kristina Sandifer
- Kerry Arnett - brother of Garry Arnett
- Phyllis Knauff - aunt of Kristina Sandifer
- Jo Smith - daughter-in-law of Donna Lathrop
- Tom Hewitt - brother of Anne Schwiening
- Sherry Harrington - friend of Jake Spruell
- Kim Walters - foster daughter of Diane Bailey Fisher
- Teena Atchley - friend of Kay Hill

Families/Friends beyond FCC in long term care:

- Lori Hays - cousin of Mary Anne Benton
- Sonya Hopkins - friend of Kelley McCullough

For submission to prayer list contact the staff Or submit via web, or e-mail prayerchain@fccmidland.org

Chapel Lock Box Code #1301

Special Note: Prayer list names are renewed every three weeks as we seek to keep the list as current as possible and allow space for new requests. Our joys, concerns and deepest needs are already on God's heart long before we put them to paper.

...for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.
Matthew 6:8



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Midland, TX 79701

432-682-2541

online at: www.fccmidland.org

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Farewell for the Glovers

Sunday, May 26th

At the conclusion of a combined worship service on May 26, there will be a celebration of ministry and litany of closure for Cory's ministry among us. A reception will follow the 11:00 service in the new Youth Room, hosted by Cory's Pastoral Relation Committee. Drinks and light snack will be provided.

A commemorative gift will be shared during worship. Members are also invited to participate in a love offering for the Glover family.

Please write "Cory Glover" on the memo of your check and give to Dorothy. There will be a basket for cards at the reception as well.