



First Christian Church (DOC)

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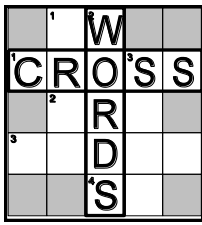
Volume 3 • February 5, 2015

...INSIDE CROSSWORDS:

A Word from Rev. Brad Barton	p. 2	Prayer List	p. 7
Sunday School Announcements	p. 3	Financial Results 2014	P. 8
Announcements	p. 4	4-week server schedule	p. 9
Lenten Announcements	p. 5	FCC Calendar of Events	p. 10
Birthdays & Announcements & Thanks	p. 6		

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Identity Statement

God has called us to be a
Congregation TO and FOR adults 50+,
Even as we joyfully welcome
ALL into our church family.



First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)



Services each Sunday...

Praising God, Changing Lives for 127 Years!

Contemporary Worship

8:45 AM

Sunday School

9:30 AM and 10:00 AM

Traditional Worship

10:50 AM

Coffee Mingle

12:15 PM

Our Ministry Statement

First Christian Church

exists to:

Reach Up to worship God,

Reach In to grow in Christ-
like maturity,

Reach Out to serve others in
Christ's name, to share the
Good News of Jesus Christ
with others and to invite
them to become members of
His family.

The Staff

Welcomes You...

Rev. Brad Barton

Sr. Minister
970-314-5540
revbradbarton@gmail.com

Rev. Melanie Ferron

Associate Minister
(On Sabbatical)

Paula Schaffer, Pianist

Norma Matteson, Pianist

Katie Wendland, Secretary

John Moore, Custodian

An Event for Reflection

So...there I was in the hospital, recovering from the flu and pneumonia and really low blood pressure (cause as of yet undetermined), and hoping to go home later that afternoon. Suddenly, something changed. My heart started beating irregularly and much, much, much faster.

I called the nurse, and she came in and took my pulse and my blood pressure, and she listened to my heart with her stethoscope. She confirmed what I already knew; my heart had gone out of normal rhythm and into something called atrial fibrillation. I had experienced this before, but it had never been documented while I was under medical care.

The nurse put a pulse monitor on my finger, and I watched as my pulse darted and danced around: 55...177...140...166...87...175. It just kept going up and down and up and down...until it started just going down: 50...40...30...20...10...I remember asking the nurse, "what happens when it gets to zero?"

Well, you all probably know the answer I was fearing. And I have to tell you, that was probably the most unusual experience of my life, because the monitor DID get to zero, and then I think it just registered a question mark.

As you can imagine, THAT was an event, a moment, for reflection. I honestly thought my heart was about to stop, and I really didn't know whether or not the doctors and nurses would be able to get it started again. I didn't know what I was going to feel or not feel. But I can tell you this, after having spent a fair bit of time over the previous couple of days pondering whether or not I would want to keep on living for a good, long time with the kinds of problems I had been experiencing that sent me to that hospital room, when I saw my heart rate falling toward zero, I realized one very important thing: I wasn't ready to go because I felt like God had made me to do so much more than I had already done.

And that's what I have been reflecting upon ever since. I know God made me for a reason. I know I have this life for a reason. And I feel like it's absolutely essential that I do everything I can to live into what I was made for. Here's a secret that you might not know: **the same is true for you.** I sincerely hope you don't have to watch your pulse fall to zero to figure it out!

- Pastor Brad



Sunday School Announcements

10:00 AM Sunday School Class: Fearless Conversation discussions with coffee and donuts.

These discussions will begin right after first service on January 11 (and following Sundays)

The material comes from Matthew and Luke.

February's questions will be:

What does it really mean to follow Jesus? Matthew 4:18-25

How can I tell if Jesus cares enough to act in my situation? Matthew 9:18-26

What does it mean if Jesus really is God's Son? Luke 9:18-36

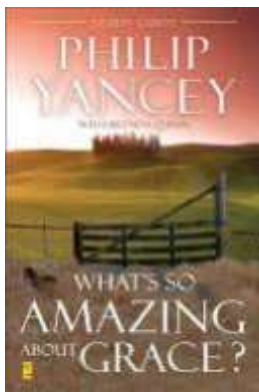
Why did Jesus tell such confusing stories? Matthew 13:24-45

If you are interested, please come for one or all of our session! Would love to have you.

Lily Fitch - Conversationalist

9:30 AM Sunday School Class

“What’s So Amazing About Grace”



Come and join Nancy Armbruster as she guides you through this book written by Philip Yancey.

“In What's So Amazing About Grace? award-winning author Philip Yancey explores grace at street level. If grace is God's love for the undeserving, he asks, then what does it look like in action? And if Christians are its sole dispensers, then how are we doing at lavishing grace on a world that knows far more of cruelty and unforgiveness than it does of mercy? Yancey sets grace in the midst of life's stark images, tests its mettle against horrific "ungrace." Can grace survive in the midst of such atrocities as the Nazi holocaust? Can it triumph over the brutality of the Ku Klux Klan? Should any grace at all be shown to the likes of Jeffrey Dahmer, who

killed and cannibalized seventeen young men? In his most personal and provocative book ever, Yancey offers compelling, true portraits of grace's life-changing power. He searches for its presence in his own life and in the church. He asks, How can Christians contend graciously with moral issues that threaten all they hold dear?” -Online review



Announcements

First Christian Church Chili Cook-Off!



**Sunday February 22!
Starting @ 12:30 p.m.**

Come for chili and to support the Men's Outreach ministries. Spend the afternoon sampling the wide variety of chili and vote for your favorite. We invite all youth and adults to sign up to bring your famous chili. There will be donation baskets on each table, with proceeds benefiting the Men's Outreach ministries. All are welcome to join us for this event! Questions? Contact David Hawley at 970-270-5953!

Looking For A Great Read?



In January, the FCC Bookworms read "Nothing Daunted" by Dorothy Wickenden. It is a story many of you who are interested in Colorado history will enjoy reading. In 1916, two young New York socialites answered an ad for teachers in Northwest Colorado. They were not teachers, but their spunk and eagerness to explore other ways of life did not keep them from this great adventure that ultimately changed their future. Check it out!

Cabinet Meeting

The Cabinet met on Sunday, January 25th and all church ministries were represented. Our ministry groups are busy working on 2015 and actively planning for the year ahead. Worship and Membership are planning for Lent and Easter, which are not that far away. Some of the activities coming up in February and March include Ash Wednesday, Lenten Lunches, and Palm Sunday. It seems as if Christmas time just ended and now we are getting ready for Easter time. Outreach Ministry has Week of Compassion in February and will be getting more information out on that soon. Busy times ahead! Please plan to attend the following events:

February 18th is Ash Wednesday service and a pot luck dinner.

Lenten Lunches begin on February 25th and are a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and spiritual development. Soup is served, fellowship is enjoyed, and meditation is offered.

How can you help? Soup is needed for the lunches. Making soup is not difficult and it is a fun way to participate. Soups are needed for 6 Wednesdays before Easter Sunday and several soups are needed each week. Our Membership Ministry Chairperson, Joyce Wittwer, will have a sign-up sheet available in the Fellowship Hall. **Please sign up to help!**

Look for more in the next Crosswords issue for ways you can help in our congregation!

-Joyce Wittwer

Joyce Wittwer can be contacted at 970-243-6214



Ash
Wednesday



“All are from the dust, and all turn to dust again.” -
Ecclesiastes 3:20

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

From ancient times, Christians have gathered on Ash Wednesday, the first day of the liturgical season of Lent, to search their hearts and seek to be cleansed from sin. They have sought reconciliation with God and with one another. They have received ashes marked on their foreheads as a sign of sin's disfigurement and of their own mortality. Let us gather in worship this Ash Wednesday, February 18, at 7 p.m. to continue this tradition as a way of beginning our Lenten journey together in which we confront our brokenness and seek reconciliation.

Ash Wednesday Potluck

Come early at 6:00pm to the Ash Wednesday service and share in our annual pot luck. Please bring a dish to serve 12 people and your own table service.
(For more information, please call Joyce Wittwer at 970-243-6214)



Keeping
a Holy Lent

LENTEN LUNCHES

Easter is fast approaching, and that means LENTEN LUNCHES—always on Wednesdays at 12 noon starting February 25th. This is a great opportunity to have a soup lunch with friends and hear a very meaningful message from one of our church members. This year's messages will have to do with “the ways we are tempted and how God gets us through it”, so please plan to come! This is also an opportunity for you to share the “soup of your labor” by signing up to bring a soup on Wednesday. Please look for the sign-up sheet on the information table in the Fellowship Hall. We will look forward to seeing you and any friends you want to bring along! If you have questions, please call Joyce Wittwer at 970-243-6214.





Birthdays & Announcements & Thank You's

FCC February Birthdays

- February 6 Gretchen Schlechten
- February 10 Barbara Decker
- February 15 Amy Brammer
- February 20 Jim Matthews
- February 22 Dorothy Rhodes
- February 27 Billy Fitch

FCC February Anniversaries

- February 12 Robert & Carol Johnson
- February 14 Jason & Katie Schuman
- February 23 Lily & Bill Fitch
- February 27 Carol & Gary Steed



Member Information Updates:

Carol and Jim Matthew's Phone Numbers:

Home: 970-549-4531

Carol's Cell: 970-773-8280

Jim Cell: 970-773-4797

Larry Eggers Email: larryeggers4@gmail.com

Connie Hawley Email: conniehawley@reagan.com

Susan Smith Email: suzn_s@yahoo.com

Thank You's

Twelve Saturday saints were busy for two hours on the 24th of January getting some deep cleaning done to prepare the church for a luncheon the CWF ladies will be serving in March. Many thanks go to: Mary Lu Scholl, Jo Laughlin, Norma Lavelatt, Blanche Marshall, Carol Matthews, Dorothy Rhodes, Jeannie Klitzke, Jeanice Swank, Doris Hicks, Alice Wiesler, Karen Lehman, and Joyce Wittwer.

From Ruth Acord:

Thank you to everyone who expressed their condolences about m brothers passing. Your kindness and love is deeply appreciated.

Christian Women's Fellowship (C.W.F.)

We're having a Birthday Party!



Thursday, February 12 at 1:30 PM

First Christian Church Fellowship Hall

Hostess: Night-n-Gals

Games with Beth Sherry

Worship led by Lois Dunning



FCC Prayer Concerns

“Pray without ceasing.”

I Thessalonians 5:17

Ruth Acord's Family	Shelby Howard
Brenda Armstrong	Rusty James
Nancy Armbruster	Carol Johnson
Karon Ballard	Ed "Chicken" Jones
Pastor Brad Barton	Nora Juette
Ed Behrendsen	Harriette Krall
Guy Bender	Jennifer Lang
Jessie Bowen	Bette Learned
Lois Braun	Jennifer McDaniel
Tim Burke	Michelle
Carol	Jamie Miller
Joe Cecere	Clare & Ally Morris
Marianne Chapman	Ginger Morris & Family
Marlis Clark	Katie Orto
Chuck Cummings	Sandy Pegg
Carol Jean Daniel	Larry Petrini
Arinda Davis's Family	Matt Peterson
Donald Davis	Dennis and Lisa Powers
Helen Dillard	Peter Roeland
Ray Dodson	Wes Schuller
Don Dyet	Nancy Selbe
Susie Fisher	Fo Seybold
Glen Gardner	Greg Stouffer
Leon Gardner	Jiemon and Tayo Takahashi
Pat Graham	Marian Velarde
Susan Gregory	Rory White
Vicki Harrington	D.J. Wilhorn
Bruce Hine	Allison Williams
Kim Hopkins	
Merle Hopper	



Financial Results From 2014

Financial Results for 2014 compared to 2013 and 2014 compared to the budgeted amounts for 2014

	Jan - Dec 2014	Jan - Dec 2013	\$ Change	Budget 2014	Over / Under Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense					
Income					
Total 4-1100 · Unrestricted Offerings	157,311.63	152,454.09	4,857.54	190,980.00	(33,668.37)
Total 4-1200 · Building	15,600.35	14,583.61	1,016.74	13,800.00	1,800.35
Total 4-1300 · Interest Income	3,313.67	3,972.14	(658.47)	1,100.00	2,213.67
Total 4-1400 · Other Income	9,995.15	3,370.08	6,625.07	2,000.00	7,995.15
Total 4-1500 · Restricted Offerings	5,751.51	5,196.56	554.95	4,850.00	901.51
Total Income	191,972.31	179,576.48	12,395.83	212,730.00	(20,757.69)
Expense					
Total 6-1100 · Christian Education	1,987.51	1,504.63	482.88	2,800.00	812.49
Total 6-1200 · Elders	(3.07)	207.12	(210.19)	100.00	103.07
Total 6-1300 · Evangelism	6,243.51	2,633.41	3,610.10	7,200.00	956.49
Total 6-1400 · Hospitality/ Membership	1,081.51	1,629.24	(547.73)	1,795.00	713.49
Total 6-1500 · Outreach	11,282.82	13,327.56	(2,044.74)	13,215.00	1,932.18
Total 6-1600 · Property	58,310.52	53,188.61	5,121.91	55,300.00	(3,010.52)
Total 6-1700 · Stewardship	1,051.26	713.31	337.95	1,425.00	373.74
Total 6-1800 · Worship	2,407.34	1,950.41	456.93	2,575.00	167.66
Total 6-2000 · Youth & Young Adult	454.97	647.32	(192.35)	800.00	345.03
Total 6-2100 · Technology	463.56	108.61	354.95	2,000.00	1,536.44
Total 6-2200 · Office Expense	1,903.74	2,279.93	(376.19)	2,580.00	676.26
Total 6-5100 · Payroll & Staff Expenses	118,286.27	116,176.38	2,109.89	122,837.00	4,550.73
Total Expense	203,469.94	194,366.53	9,103.41	212,627.00	9,157.06
Net Ordinary Income	(11,497.63)	(14,790.05)	3,292.42	103.00	(11,600.63)



FCC SUNDAY SERVERS' 4-Week ASSIGNMENTS

First Service Assignments

February 1, 2015

Greeters & Offering

TBA

Elder

Linda Edwards

February 8, 2015

Greeters & Offering

TBA

Elder

Kathy Gardner

February 15, 2015

Greeters & Offering

TBA

Elder

Dennis Edwards

February 22, 2015

Greeters & Offering

TBA

Elder

Brad Krebill

February 1, 2015 1st Sunday

Worship Leader

Beverly Dorson

Children's Moment

Lily Fitch

Offering Elder

Ray Farrell

Communion Elder

Grace Farrell

Serving Diaconate

Nancy Armbruster

Helen Wade

Wes Wade

Alice Wiesler

Preparing Diaconate

Doris Hicks

Coffee Mingle

Doris Hicks

Jeanne Klitzke

Greeters

Lamar Edwards

Joyce Wittwer

Van Driver

Jo Laughlin

Terry Laughlin

February 8, 2015 2nd Sunday

Worship Leader

Riecke Claussen

Children's Moment

Ray Farrell

Offering Elder

Leonard Gardner

Communion Elder

Kathy Gardner

Serving Diaconate

Jerry Francis

Chuck Haigler

Al Ladage

Cole Barton

Preparing Diaconate

Karen Lehman

Lois Stouffer

Coffee Mingle

Beverly Dorson

Jeanice Swank

Greeters

Donna Ham

Carol Matthews

Van Driver

Jerry Francis

February 15, 2015 3rd Sunday

Worship Leader

Lois Dunning

Children's Moment

Al Baumgartle

Offering Elder

Gene Matteson

Communion Elder

Al Baumgartle

Serving Diaconate

JoAnne Eggers

Larry Eggers

Jeanne Klitzke

David Morgan

Preparing Diaconate

Nancy Claussen

Coffee Mingle

Rogene Behrendsen

Marlene Cowan

Greeters

Jeanice Swank

Karen Lehman

Van Driver

Kathy Gardner

Leonard Gardner

February 22, 2015 4th Sunday

Worship Leader

Gloria Jeffery

Children's Moment

Tammy Ostermiller

Offering Elder

Jim Matthews

Communion Elder

Les Armbruster

Serving Diaconate

Beth Sherry

Carol Matthews

Doug Bryant

Carolyn Bryant

Preparing Diaconate

Barbara Decker

George Decker

Coffee Mingle

Wilbur Lucore

Joyce Wittwer

Greeters

Beverly Dorson

Ruth Acord

Van Driver

George Decker

Church Calendar of Events - February 5, 2015— February 25, 2015

Thursday February 5, 2015

9:30 Ruth Group
 12:30pm Agape Group
 1:30pm Esther Group
 6:00pm Praise Team

Saturday February 7, 2015

9:00am Church Cleaning
 4:00pm Go Green Motorcycle Group

Sunday February 8, 2015

8:45am Contemporary Worship
 9:30am Sunday School/
 “What’s So Amazing About Grace?”
 10:00am Sunday School/
 “Fearless Conversation”
 10:50am Traditional Worship
 11:00am Jr. Church
 12:15pm Coffee Mingle
 12:30pm Elders Meeting

Monday February 9, 2015

8:00am RMCSC CPE Group
 10:30am Staff Meeting
 7:00pm M&M Bible Study
 7:00pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday February 10, 2015

9:00am Burger King Coffee Group
 12:00pm Lessons at Lunch
 1:30pm FCC Bookworms
 4:00pm Family Leadership Training

Wednesday February 11, 2015

9:30am Newcomers Club
 10:00am Bible Study
 4:00pm KFC (Elementary Youth Group)
 6:00pm Wednesday Fellowship Meal
 6:30pm Bible Study
 6:30pm Middle/High School Youth Group
 7:00pm CO West Quilters Guild

Thursday February 12, 2015

12:30pm CWF General
 6:00pm Praise Team Practice

Friday February 13, 2015

2:00pm Mexican Train Game Group

Saturday February 14, 2015

9:00am CO West Quilters Guild

Sunday February 15, 2015

8:45am Contemporary Worship
 9:30am Sunday School/
 “What’s So Amazing About Grace?”
 10:00am Sunday School/
 “Fearless Conversation”
 10:50am Traditional Worship
 11:00am Jr. Church
 12:15pm Coffee Mingle
 4:00pm Cabinet Meeting
 6:00pm Membership

Monday February 16, 2015

8:00am RMCSC CPE Group
 9:30am Church Women United
 10:30am Staff Meeting
 5:30pm Youth Education Meeting
 7:00pm M&M Bible Study
 7:00pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday February 17, 2015

9:00am Burger King Coffee Group
 10:00am A New Door Opens at Spoons
 12:00pm Lessons at Lunch
 4:00pm Family Leadership Training

Wednesday February 18, 2015

No Bible Study
 4:00pm KFC (Elementary Youth Group)
 6:00pm Ash Wednesday Potluck
 6:30pm Middle/High School Youth Group
 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship

Thursday February 19, 2015

7:00am School District 51
 10:00am Prayer Blanket Group
 2:00pm Pinnacle Group
 6:00pm Praise Team

Friday February 20, 2015

10:30am CAPA

Saturday February 21, 2015

6:00am Men’s Breakfast

Sunday February 22, 2015

8:45am Contemporary Worship
 9:30am Sunday School/
 “What’s So Amazing About Grace?”
 10:00am Sunday School/
 “Fearless Conversation”
 10:50am Traditional Worship
 11:00am Jr. Church
 12:15pm Coffee Mingle
 12:30pm Chili Cook-Off

Monday February 23, 2015

8:00am RMCSC CPE Group
 10:30am Staff Meeting
 12:00pm Lunch with Brad
 7:00pm M&M Bible Study
 7:00pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday February 24 2015

9:00am Burger King Coffee Group
 12:00pm Lessons at Lunch
 1:30pm FCC Bookworms
 4:00pm Family Leadership Training

Wednesday February 25, 2015

10:00am Bible Study
 11:00am Lenten Lunches
 4:00pm KFC (Elementary Youth Group)
 6:00pm Wednesday Fellowship Meal
 6:30pm Bible Study
 6:30pm Middle/High School Youth Group