



First Christian News

*We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.
As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.*



UPCOMING events

- Adult Sunday School 10:00 AM
- Children's Sunday School
 - During service
- March 3 - Board Meeting 9:30am
- March 17 - 31 - Michael Strange Memorial Food and Clothing Drive benefitting Grace Bridge and Samaritan Inn
- March 17 - April 7 - Children's Choir Rehearsals for Palm Sunday
- April 7 - Board Meeting 9:30 am
- April 14 - Palm Sunday (Processional, Children's Choir, Luncheon, Easter Egg Hunt)
- April 21 - Easter Sunday

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THE MINISTER'S MESSAGE

I get a lot of junk email, as do many of you, often containing religious and political propaganda. Recently someone sent me a piece about Franklin Graham, son of the great evangelist Billy Graham, quoting him as saying that America has fallen and will not come back again. This was allegedly said in a "recent" sermon at the First Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Florida, although the event was in 2015.



The opening words of the version I received are quite poetic, but are plagiarized from a stock of inspirational thoughts: "Time is like a river—You cannot touch the water twice, because the flow that has passed will never pass again." True, beautiful, meaningful, although politically neutral.

But the rest of the essay, which has circulated widely and has gone viral, says some pretty harsh things that clearly represent a specific political bias—vicious, bigoted, and certainly not the sort of thing someone of the stature of Franklin Graham would say.

What Graham did say is this: "America has changed, and it's not coming back unless the church takes a stand. There are storms that are coming. We find ourselves in these storms, and many times we as church run, and we run to the wrong place." His words are a valuable reminder to Christians that through all the conflicts and problems of the real world God is our rock, and sensible, faithful, and noble living is our agenda. And as long as there is an America, Christians living here are dedicated to supporting its noblest values and ideals.

Those who have travelled have visited countries that are thousands of years old and have survived invasions, civil wars, and repeated economic devastation, but they remain as significant and influential cultures of the world. Egypt was a thriving culture in the time of Abraham, and today Cairo is the second largest city in Africa. Greece was visited by the Apostle Paul in the first century, and within the modern city of Athens are ruins that are among the wonders of the world. In all human cultures, religious, social and political movements have waxed and waned like the pendulum of a clock. Life has continued. And it is safe to say that as long as there is life on this planet, there will be challenges of all sorts and levels for every nation and culture.

America is only two and a half centuries old, but it was founded on unique principles. We were born out of revolution and have survived one of the bloodiest civil wars in human history, as well as a major economic depression and participation in two world wars. But it is also safe to say that our nation will continue to strive to maintain the noblest values in the world. And as Christians, we believe we have a responsibility to help promote those values, not only by civic responsibility, but also by supporting and exemplifying the principles of our faith. If we are dedicated to that, then we have no time to wallow in or pass forward garbage. Let us be people of truth, justice, faith, hope, and love.

Brother Les

VALENTINE'S LUNCHEON PICTURES

A luncheon of food "cooked with love"!



HYMN OF THE MONTH - "GLORIFY THY NAME"

It was 1976, and Donna Adkins and her family had moved to a new place, far from things familiar. Feeling alone in a strange place is not usually what one might want, but there does seem to be something essential about it when you need to be with God. Donna Adkins sensed that, and says she welcomed the change, and the prospect of being with Him. It was something she noticed in how Jesus prayed, shortly before His death, which tugged at her. The result of her devotion was the simple but stirring song "Glorify Thy Name".

The song is said to be based on Jesus' prayer about unity (John 17). And, it was His uttering of a word (or a form of it) several times that got Donna's attention: Glory. Glorify. Donna Adkins first sang publicly when she was two years old, because her parents were travelling singers. Singing in a church was nothing new to her then, when she wrote "Glorify Thy Name". After more than 30 years as a singer and churchgoer, she might have tried to compose something really unique and involved. Instead, the song's words and chords communicate that she still bowed in His presence like a child. The song invites a special feeling, if I let it happen. Nothing terribly complicated, but so often a child's prayer says - in its innocence and trust - something too obvious to deny. Simple is better, and less is often times more. Leave the complex to the Creator, I sense as I sing, ride on His wings, and enjoy the view.



SCOTT & HOLLY FRANKLIN JOIN THE CHURCH!

Please welcome Scott and Holly Franklin to our church family!
They joined the church on February 3rd. We are so happy to have them as official members.

Welcome to the FCC Weston family Scott and Holly.

Scott & Holly Franklin
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CHILDREN'S CHOIR REHEARSALS

All children are encouraged to attend choir practice immediately after our worship service beginning Sunday, March 17th. Gloria Kautz has arranged a wonderful choir presentation for our children to sing on Palm Sunday, April 14th. Please stay after the service for a brief time for the children to practice. Rehearsals will run for four weeks (March 17th-April 7th).



JANUARY TREASURY REPORT

Income

Sunday Offerings: \$6,548.00
Memorial Gift Fund: \$125.00
Special Offering: \$0.00
Miscellaneous: \$2.62

Monthly Total:
\$6,675.62

Expenses

Salaries: \$4,825.00
Utilities: \$341.42
Supplies & Food: \$229.21
Insurance: \$1,629.48
Taxes: \$512.55
Maintenance: \$345.00
Miscellaneous: \$45.00

Monthly Total:
\$7,927.66

MARCH CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

03/06 Rick Kulpa
03/07 David Ferguson
03/08 Travis Taylor
03/10 Yvonne Heistand
03/14 Clark Hornbaker
03/14 Joel Worley
03/18 Theresa Taylor
03/20 Noah Shirley
03/21 Amanda Jones
03/26 Amy Davey
03/27 Cade Ferguson

Anniversaries

03/08 Jess & Barbara Harlow
03/13 Brady & Leslie Tingle
03/16 Ivy & Laura Latham
03/19 Les & Marge Massey
03/19 Carl & Ann Winnette
03/28 David & Holly Ferguson
03/29 Jerry & Mary Smith

*Let's
Celebrate*

MICHAEL STRANGE MEMORIAL CLOTHING & FOOD DRIVE

As you all know, our church member, Michael Strange, was very passionate about this charitable component of our church's ministry. For several years, he spearheaded collections and took personal responsibility for delivery. The Board voted unanimously to rename our annual clothing and food drive to the Michael Strange Memorial Clothing & Food Drive.

Our clothing and food drive will run from March 17 through March 31 and it will support of Grace Bridge food bank and The Samaritan Inn of McKinney.

We are collecting children's and adult clothing, shoes, as well as regular size non-perishable food items. Industrial size cans of food are not needed.



Non perishable food items | kids clothing | adult clothing | shoes



CHILDREN'S UKULELE LESSONS

Dr. Jim Mitlyng purchased ukuleles for the children of the church and has been giving them lessons on Sundays. The children are really enjoying the opportunity to learn this instrument and Jim is always fun and entertaining with the children. *Thank you* Dr. Mitlyng for your generous heart and giving the children of the church a special gift!



FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING SYNOPSIS

- The minutes were approved from the January board meeting.
- Mike Rippy presented the Financial Report. All employees except Dr. Massey have been converted over to 1099 instead of W2s. This means we will not be making the quarterly payment to the IRS as we have in past years. Sunday offerings were \$6,675.62 and expenses were \$8,222.66. There are binders containing paperwork for each year from past years of church financials. We will be shredding anything more than 7 years old unless it has historical content or is minutes. Old minutes will be scanned and made into digital files.
- A new vacuum cleaner has been purchased for the church.
- Our Valentine's Luncheon will be next Sunday, February 10, 2019 after our church service.
- Our annual clothing & food drive benefitting the Samaritan Inn of McKinney and the Grace Bridge Food Bank will be March 17-31, 2019. Marilyn Chamberlin will deliver items to Grace Bridge Food Bank and Kimberly Tisserand will deliver items to Samaritan Inn. The Board voted that we formally name the spring food and clothing drive the "Michael Strange Memorial Clothing & Food Drive".
- The board discussed a designated Children's Sunday School area or incorporating items that will be more sound proofed. Scooter Cave brought up the idea of adding on to the church. That would give room for Sunday School and give more room in the kitchen and area to store tables and chairs. Scooter Cave will reach out to Vaughn Christner to see if he would be interested. Marilyn Chamberlin will reach out to the City of Weston. Kimberly Tisserand will research a short term partition that we could use for children's Sunday school. Any other ideas will be presented at the next board meeting.
- The Board discussed salaries for employees. The Board voted to raise Dr. Les Massey's salary \$75.00 per service effective February 1, 2019. The Board voted to increase treasurer, secretary, pianist and Sunday school teacher's salaries by \$25 per service effective February 1, 2019.
- Next meeting will be March 3, 2019 at 9:30 am.

Interesting Facts About The Bible

- The phrase "do not be afraid" is written in the Bible 365 times. *That's a daily reminder from God to live every day being fearless.*
- The entire Bible can be read aloud in 70 hours by an average reader.
- St. Paul wrote 14 (of the 27) books of the New Testament.
- The word "God" appears in every book except Esther and Song of Solomon.
- Approximately 50 Bibles are sold every minute. It is the best-selling book in history.
- There are 594 chapters before Psalm 118 and 594 chapters after it.
- The story of Moses constitutes about one-seventh of the whole Bible.
- David is mentioned 1,118 times in the Bible.
- The Bible doesn't mention how many wise men visited Christ, only that they brought three types of gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
- The last word in the Bible is *Amen*.

SERMONS AND TEXTS FOR MARCH

February 3	Wise as Serpents	Matthew 10:16-22
February 10	Wolves	Acts 20:28-32
February 17	Darkness to Light	Colossians 1:9-14
February 24	Yearning for Learning	Acts 17:10-15

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Service: Sundays at 11:00 am
Sunday School: 10:15 am

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NEWSLETTER INFORMATION NEEDED

To make the newsletter more personal, please send pictures or information on achievements, births, awards, or anything else of interest to Kimberly Tisserand at tisserand@outlook.com

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**“Wireless communication is nothing new.
I’ve been praying for 75 years!”**



Please keep Heather Carter, Lester and Jeannie Greenwald, Michael and Linda Waco, Christian Dimock, Kyle Schindler, Brian Larson, Kim Rogers, Sandra Zimmerebner, Nancy Neill, Scott Franklin, Butch Barnes, Brad and Karen Chilton and Gayle Strange in your prayers for strength, healing and comfort.

If you have a prayer request, please fill out a pew card or let Kimberly Tisserand know.