

First Christian Caller

First Christian Church, Baton Rouge

Vol. 82

February 6, 2020

No. 3



IN THIS ISSUE

- ◇ Church Family Announcements
- ◇ Music Favorites Resuming
- ◇ VBS 2020 Scheduled

SALT AND LIGHT



Not too far from where I grew up in Wichita, Kansas, is the small city Hutchinson. You've probably never heard of it, but you've probably "enjoyed" one of the main resources found beneath Hutchinson on

innumerable occasions. Hutchinson is home to immense underground salt deposits where companies, such as Morton Salt Company, today dig salt mines to produce the table salt you've probably purchased in their familiar dark-blue cardboard containers.

Hundreds of millions of years ago a great ocean covered Kansas. As the ocean shallowed and evaporated, the salts remained behind, eventually being covered and compressed by layers of soil and rock until the salt itself was compressed into a solid rock called Halite, found between 600 and 1000 feet underground. What is so amazing about this is that that Halite, which has been locked underground for eons, buried under hundreds of feet of stone, squeezed and crushed and hidden away for countless years, when brought to the surface and crushed and sprinkled on a nice steak, still tastes like salt.

Never, in all the history of the world, has any grain of salt ever lost its saltiness. Yet, in the Sermon on the Mount, found in Matthew, chapters 5-7, as Jesus reminds us that we are "the salt of the earth," he then asks, "...but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored?" The

question is an absurdity—of course salt cannot lose its flavor. Salt is salt; it doesn't shape shift or spontaneously morph into something else. It's the very absurdity of the question that grabs our attention.

Notice also that when Jesus says, "You are salt...", in the original Greek, "you" is a plural pronoun. In a proper southern dialect it would be translated "y'all." "Y'all are salt of the earth." Throughout the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus isn't simply trying to shape good individual Christians; he's trying to shape an entire community;—the whole people of God. He doesn't want just a few salt crystals; he wants an entire shaker of salt! This effort to shape the character of an entire people is a project that goes way back.

As Jesus asks that absurd question about salt losing its saltiness, we hear echoes of God's long-time frustration about the role that His people were supposed to play. A recurring theme in the prophets is that God created Israel to be one thing, but they irrationally morphed into something undesirable. God planted Israel to be a fruitful vineyard to produce the finest wine, but all they ever produced were wild grapes unsuitable for anything. Given God's blessings and saving action, God expected his people do right by one another, but all he sees is bloodshed and all he hears are the cries of the oppressed. God is at a loss as to why his people have abandoned their native and necessary role to be a light-giving example to the nations around them.


All this is to say we, as Christians, as God's people, and as a church, have a natural and essential role in this world.

As basic and humble as salt is, if it's missing you immediately know it. A few weeks ago, we bought some nice, thick, rib eye steaks which I grilled for our family meal. I've been developing a cooking technique in which I sear the steaks in a red-hot cast iron pan to get a thick crust, then finish the steaks over indirect heat from charcoal. The steaks looked beautiful, were perfectly cooked and smelled out of this world, but at first bite I immediately realized I hadn't put nearly enough salt on them, and without additional salt they were fairly unpalatable. As they were, a McDonald's hamburger would have tasted as good or better. Even with the added salt, I have to admit I was disappointed. The steaks still lacked that delicious integration of salt that a good steak needs. I craved what was missing.

When salt is missing, you immediately know it. When you walk into dark room, you immediately look for a light switch. We naturally crave salt and seek light to fill our lives. Jesus doesn't want us to hide away; Jesus wants his people to be something that the world both desires and needs! So Jesus tells us, "Let **y'all's** light shine before others, so that they may see **y'all's** good works and give glory to **y'all's** Father in Heaven."

You are salt of the earth. You are the light of the world. Never discount what you have to offer—all creation is needing and seeking you!

Christ's peace,



Rev. Dr. David Chisham
Senior Minister

HANDBELL CHOIR RETURNS

There has been interest indicated in a revival of the First Christian Handbell Choir. This is a musical opportunity open to all interested persons, of any level of musical ability.

Rehearsals will begin Wednesday, February 12, at 6:00 p.m.

Please contact Aaron Turnipseed for more information: aaron.turnipseed@selu.edu, or phone the church office at 225-926-4175.



WOMEN'S CHORUS RESUMES

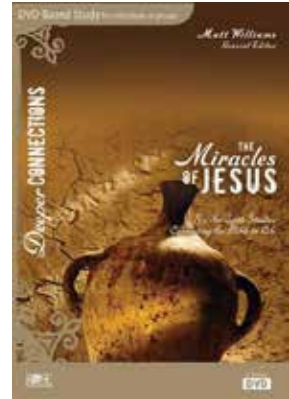
Lucy Cody announces that the Women's Chorus rehearsals will resume **Wednesday, March 4, at 6:00 p.m.** in the Choir Room (behind the choir stall in the sanctuary).

All female voices are invited! Contact Lucy for more information: 318-393-0451 or lucy@fccbrla.org.

ADULT SUNDAY SERIES meets **Sundays at 9:45 a.m.**, with **Mary Thompson** facilitating.

The Miracles of Jesus (Matt Williams, General Editor) is our focus through February 23. On Sunday, March 8, we'll begin a Lenten study, "Why Easter Matters" by Andy Stanley.

This group meets in the room to the left (west) of the sanctuary, and all are welcome!



Week of Compassion

First Christian Church Special Offering on Sunday, February 16

Envelopes & Coin Boxes in narthex



Annual Potluck on March 1

Mark your calendar for our celebration of our church community, along with the new year of service positions, with **one service at 10:00 a.m.** followed by a potluck luncheon in Fellowship Hall.

Thank you to all who have served our community over the past year, and **we gratefully acknowledge** all who are stepping up for the coming year, whether for the first time or the fifteenth! Come, be part of our celebration!

Thank you! to [OneLine Electric](#) (Heather and Daniel Dickey), who worked tirelessly to help us get a replacement to a broken light fixture in the sanctuary, and during the holiday season!

Zholondzes to present recital here on Sunday, March 22

Vera Zholondz, a regular guest accompanist at First Christian, and her brother, Anton, an accomplished violinist, will present a 50-60 minute recital of tango music by Argentinian composer, Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992), on Sunday afternoon, March 22, at 4:00 p.m. in our sanctuary. Piazzolla revolutionized traditional tango into a new style termed *nuevo tango*, incorporating elements from jazz and classical music.

Vera and Anton will present solo pieces, as well as a few piano-violin duets. Mark your calendars now for a fun afternoon of music! Free admission. A contribution plate will be available; net proceeds will go to the musicians.



Photos provided

2020-21 Leadership and Ministry Assignments Coming Soon

Thank you! to all who have turned in the 2020 **Welcome • Worship • Serve** brochures with your selections for ministry areas in the coming year.

Copies are still available in the church narthex, from the church office, or can be downloaded, [here](#).

Please put any particulars about your calendar that will help us schedule you appropriately. E.g., "travel in June," "please schedule family together," etc.

Coffee Fellowship, particularly, needs additional personnel. If you and a friend can participate, even every *other* month, additional teams lightens the load for all who volunteer in the ministry that is so widely enjoyed. Talk to a friend or two, and think about what you can do to help out!

SERVING SCHEDULE February 9, 2020

8:30 a.m. Worship Service

<i>Church Opening</i>	David Fennell
<i>Sacraments</i>	Lorrinda Dickinson
<i>Accompanist</i>	Dr. João Casarotti
<i>Liturgist</i>	Debbie Poché
<i>Adapted Lesson</i>	Leonardo Morgan
<i>Elder</i>	Greg Taliaferro
<i>Video Tech</i>	Jill Brian
<i>Coffee Fellowship</i>	Joanne Taliaferro, Wanda Lax

10:50 a.m. Worship Service

<i>Sacraments</i>	Diane Sympson
<i>Accompanist</i>	Dr. João Casarotti
<i>Visitor Host</i>	Ed Atkins
<i>Liturgist</i>	Tony Fatta
<i>Acolyte</i>	Julia Gibson
<i>Children's Sermon</i>	Crystal Casarotti
<i>Youth Reader</i>	Anderson Krupala
<i>Offertory Elder</i>	Lucy Cody
<i>Communion Elder</i>	Charlene Landry
<i>Deacons</i>	Jeff Cody, Shelly Cody, Rhonda Culp, Nancy Fatta, Steve Gibson
<i>Video Tech</i>	Callie Cody
<i>Sound Tech</i>	Tony Fatta
<i>CW&W Greeter</i>	Kori Chisham
<i>CW&W Storyteller</i>	Mary Thompson
<i>Program Builder</i>	Jeff Cody
<i>Church Closing</i>	Tony Fatta

SERVING SCHEDULE February 16, 2020

8:30 a.m. Worship Service

<i>Church Opening</i>	George Cochran
<i>Sacraments</i>	Lorrinda Dickinson
<i>Accompanist</i>	Aaron Turnipseed
<i>Liturgist</i>	Helen Rankin
<i>Adapted Lesson</i>	Leonardo Morgan
<i>Elder</i>	Paul Thompson
<i>Video Tech</i>	Carol Madere
<i>Coffee Fellowship</i>	Phyllis Willis, Sha and Dak McInnis

10:50 a.m. Worship Service

<i>Sacraments</i>	Diane Sympson
<i>Accompanist</i>	Dr. João Casarotti
<i>Visitor Host</i>	Bill Trotter
<i>Liturgist</i>	Lucy Cody
<i>Acolyte</i>	Zachary Trotter
<i>Children's Sermon</i>	Ashley Bourgeois
<i>Youth Reader</i>	Callie Cody
<i>Offertory Elder</i>	Chris Culp
<i>Communion Elder</i>	Frank Dickinson
<i>Deacons</i>	Carmen Jones, Lois Burt, Bill Burt, Pam Culp, Lilli Griffin, Ed Atkins, Ashley Bourgeois, Trey Earle
<i>Video Tech</i>	Frank Dickinson
<i>Sound Tech</i>	Callie Cody
<i>CW&W Greeter</i>	Melanie Cobb
<i>CW&W Storyteller</i>	Beverly Tipton
<i>Attendance Sheets</i>	Marjorie Clark
<i>Program Builder</i>	Carol Madere
<i>Church Closing</i>	Chris Culp

CHECK OUT OUR MASTER ASSIGNMENTS SHEET, [HERE](#) or at fccbrla.org

Prayer List

The following people represent some of the current concerns at First Christian Church. If you would like to have a name added, update a current prayer request, or remove someone from the prayer list, please fill out one of the prayer cards in the attendance books and put it in the offering plate, or contact us at churchoffice@fccbrla.org, or 225-926-4175. Names will rotate off after two months without an update.

Members in our prayers:

the family of Kenny Achord, Ann Baskin, Rita Brian, Dora & Ron Blackburn, Linda Burns, Norma Carr, Jody Chrisope, Lucy Cody, the Dennis family, the Grigg family, Rich Griswold, George Gullett, Lee Gullett, Ruth Horn, Pam Jones, Barbara Knight, Marie Ladner, Allen Lax, Helen Mitchener, Jerry Moses, Bob & Jennifer Netterville, Helen Rankin, Ruth Riddle, Andy Sobert, Ann Thompson, Bill Trotter, Mary Jon Turner

Friends & Family of Members in our prayers

David Bass, Donna & Don Bohlcke, Angela Maria Avansi Casarotti, Jeff Day, Jimmie E. Dugas, the family of Bonnie Evans, Judy Heacock, Nancy Hentz, Patty Hubeny, Ray Hutchinson, Mike Keene, Grandma Frances Krupala, Lee Lambert, Chelsey Miguez, the family of Bill Nash, Judy Olson, the family of, and "Wick" Pierce, Cherry Quin, Debbie Riddle, Virginia Spicer, Bill Stevenson, Claudia Wagner

Members in Active Military Service:

Gage Goodspeed

Our sympathy is extended to:

...Pam Comeaux and family on the death of her brother, **Kenny Achord**, on Sunday, February 2, 2020, after a long illness.

...the family and friends of **Sharon Detlefs**, who died on January 27, 2020. Sharon and her husband, Phil, were members of First Christian Church many years ago.

Our prayers of thanksgiving are offered for the safe arrival of **Colin Thomas Kelly** on January 21, 2020, at 7lbs., 10 oz., and 20". Colin Thomas is the son of Lindsay & Matt Kelly, and the latest grandchild of Nancy & Tony Fatta. He is also welcomed by Aunt Ashley Bourgeois, cousins Joshua and Jordan; and, great-aunt Beverly Weselak.

Our Church Staff

Senior Minister - [Rev. Dr. David Chisham](#)

<i>Director of Music</i>	Aaron Turnipseed	<i>Bookkeeper</i>	Brenda Hilgendorf
<i>Organist</i>	Dr. João Casarotti	<i>Administrative Ass't.</i>	Jo Craddock
<i>Custodian</i>	Charles Riddle	<i>Child Care</i>	Ajha Dortch

• fccbrla.org • churchoffice@fccbrla.org • 225-926-4175 •
• facebook.com/fccbrla • instagram.com/fccbrla • twitter.com/fccbrla •



 **First Christian Church**
Disciples of Christ
8484 Old Hammond Hwy.
Baton Rouge, LA 70809-1317
225-926-4175 | fccbrla.org