

# First Christian Caller

First Christian Church, Baton Rouge

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Confidence  
Contentment  
Communication

 STEWARDSHIP 2020  
fccbrla.org

*And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. —2 Corinthians 9:8*

## *IN THIS ISSUE*

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## CONFIDENT STEWARDS



As we've opened our stewardship program for the year, I've been growing in my understanding of what stewardship means within the loving relationship we share with God. This growth has come as I've reshaped my metaphor of what a steward is.

Anytime someone mentions the word steward, I immediately think of a butler or footman from Downton Abbey, busily dusting the family's treasures, and otherwise consigned to a stark awareness that nothing around him is there for his use or enjoyment. I get the feeling that the steward walks around on eggshells concerned that he might break something or misuse the family's possessions and

face punishment or banishment.

In my own life, as I've reflected on my own stewardship of time, talent, and treasure, I confess that I've had moments of deep concern that I have enjoyment of some nice things. I have a big pickup truck that I love to drive, my family has a house that keeps us comfortable, and my workshop has some nice "toys" in it. At times there is a sense of guilt that I struggle with because of my enjoyment of these nice "things." Maybe, as Jesus said to the rich young ruler, I should sell everything, give it to the poor, and then I can truly follow Jesus?

In my studies leading up to our stewardship program, I've begun to see stewardship through a wider-angled lens. Part of this comes from a story I told this past Sunday about Crowfoot, chief of the Siksika tribe. Government representatives were sent to offer Crowfoot piles of cash to purchase land from the tribe. Though Crowfoot understood that the land was the tribe's territory, he said that, "Our land is more valuable than your money. It will last forever. It will not perish as long as the sun shines and the rivers flow, and through all of the years, it will give life to men and beasts. We cannot sell the lives of men and animals, and so, we cannot sell the land. It was put here by the Great Spirit and we cannot sell it because it does not really belong to us."



*"Crowfoot," Sahpo Muxika, ca. 1836-24 Apr 1890, Alberta, Canada*

While the Siksika held the land in trust, reflecting on how first nation tribes lived upon the land, it is clear that they loved and enjoyed the gifts of water, soil, flora and fauna. But their sense of ownership was held with the deep awe that these resources weren't given for their own personal gain or sense of entitlement, but as gifts from the divine, and should be respected, managed, shared, and enjoyed as such.

In Genesis, when God places Adam and Eve in the garden, they are placed there as stewards of the garden, but God wanted the woman and man to enjoy the fruits of their labor. The material gift of the garden should have cultivated a sense of happiness and confidence in Adam and Eve, their enjoyment of life and their relationship with God, but when they misused the garden for their own selfish gain, that was when they lost sight of the Giver.

In Deuteronomy, as the Israelites are about to take possession of the Promised Land, God offers them a land of milk and honey for their enjoyment, but always with the understanding that it was a gift that should be used and shared appropriately. When greed and injustice entered the picture, and individuals used their wealth with a sense of self-entitlement, they lost sight of the Giver's intent.

Returning to my first metaphor of being a footman in someone else's house, God hasn't surrounded us with "his stuff," expecting us to walk on eggshells because none of it is ours. The material things of life are given that we might enjoy life. But more than enjoying life and things as an end unto itself, God wants us to enjoy a relationship that expresses love with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

When I first got my pickup truck, there was a question hanging in the back of my mind: why in the world does a pastor need a full-sized pickup? Most other pastors I know drive small economy cars. But since I've owned it, I can't list how many times it's been helpful for service projects, delivering goods to others, and has been a tool in my expression of ministry to my family, church and larger community. It's even experienced some scratches on it from that work, but that's OK; they've come with honor. I'm grateful to have use of it, and I shouldn't feel guilty that it puts a smile on my face to drive it around.

Christ's peace,



Rev. Dr. David Chisham  
*Senior Minister*



## ***Children Worship & Wonder has resumed***

Our acclaimed Sunday program for children **two-years-old through second grade** has begun the fall semester, with programming for children immediately following the Children's Sermon during the 10:00 service.

Our leaders have been hard at work preparing the area and materials for the children, following the latest guidance to avoid any contamination or infection. Each child in the program will have their own set of materials to work.

*So What Exactly is CW&W?*

*CW&W is faith formation worship centered approach with storytelling, ritual, and fellowship that is used with children in churches to help them deepen their relationship with God.*

## **CALENDAR REMINDERS**

**Wednesdays Bible Study with Rev. David - 1:00 p.m. via Zoom** and in the church library.

Each week, we'll study the coming Sunday's lectionary texts, available at Vanderbilt Divinity Library: [lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/](http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/) R.s.v.p. for Zoom link and in-person planning by calling us at 225-926-4175 or email [churchoffice@fccbrla.org](mailto:churchoffice@fccbrla.org).

**Saturday, October 17, 2020 - Workshop Sessions of the 2020 Region Assembly**

including sessions with children and youth leaders, and being the church during shutdown. Read more, [here](#), or contact us for a printed brochure.

**Friday, November 6, 2020 - KEEPING THE MAIN THING...THE MAIN THING!** the 2020

Region Assembly of the Great River Region, will also be held virtually, for worship, education, and annual business. First Christian Church is allowed **five voting delegates**; all members are allowed and encouraged to attend.

## ***Reach Out This Week to ...***

Several members of our community remain largely or entirely isolating, so we'll share a few names with each newsletter, and ask that you **take just a moment to share a note, a card, or phone call with one or more of those listed:**

◇ *Peggy Bourgeois & Rev. Dr. Michael Elmore - 686g Joliet Ave., Baton Rouge LA 70806; Peggy's - 225-329-3007; Michael's - 225-281-8757*

◇ *Gloria Giammanco - 9451 Corsica Ave., Baton Rouge LA 70810; 225-421-9442*

◇ *Ray Acardo & Presley Hutchinson - 2522 Inverrary Dr., Baton Rouge LA 70816; Ray's - 225-241-2651; Presley's - 225-241-2650*

## Building an FCC Tool Depot

A consistent need found in our mission and outreach work has been for tools and equipment in good, usable condition, whether to help one of our congregants with household repair or upkeep, or serving on a disaster relief team across south Louisiana. This fine-tuning in ministry focus has opened our eyes (and space in our garage) to build and maintain a **Tool Depot** to assist in our church and regional ministry projects.

Judy Lester and Rev. David have identified and prepared secure space to catalog, sort, and house these tools for use in benefit to our congregation and community.

Are you downsizing your tool shed? Did you somehow accumulate a second pole saw or set of pruning shears? How about that tool you needed for one project that you've never touched again? Please consider finding a new home for your **tools and tarps that are in good, usable condition to the FCC Tool Depot.**

**Drop off your items at the church office, Monday-Thursday, between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. ideally in time for our next Hurricane Relief trip to southwest Louisiana on Saturday, October 17! Sign up to join the crew by phone (225-926-4175) or email to the office!**

Particularly of need are the following items. Please look through your own tool inventory and consider what you would like to go to such good use:

- Power washer
- Garden hose
- Garden rake
- Leaf rake
- Pole saw
- Bow saw
- Chain saw
- Sawzall (*reciprocating saw*)
- Hedge trimmers
- Pruning shears - large
- Pruning shears - small
- Pick-axe
- 6' ladder
- 8' ladder
- Extension ladder
- Paint brushes (1 ½ " & 2")
- Paint rollers
- Paint tray
- Circular saw
- Power drill
- Power nail gun
- Power sander
- Generator
- Extension cords
- Lumber pieces, e.g. 1x2x6-8'
- Decking screws



## SERVING SCHEDULE

September 27, 2020

### 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

*Church Opening* Pam Jones  
*Sacraments* Amy Taliaferro  
*Greeter* Joann Taliaferro  
*Liturgist* Cheryl Allain  
*Youth Reader* Leonardo Morgan  
*Children's Sermon* David Chisham  
*CW&W Greeter* Melanie Cobb  
*CW&W Storyteller* Beverly Tipton  
*Elder* Paul Thompson  
*Video Tech* Nicholas Morgan  
*Sound Tech* Jeff Cody  
*Livestream* Ted Baldwin/Sue Griggs  
*Church Closing* Chris Culp  
*Program Builder* Carol Madere

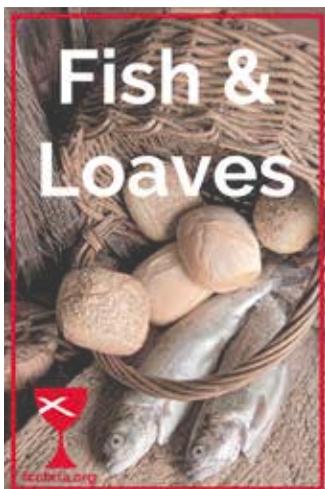
## SERVING SCHEDULE

October 4, 2020

*Church Opening* David Fennell  
*Sacraments* Pam Comeaux  
*Greeter* Sha & Dak McInnis  
*Liturgist* Helen Rankin  
*Youth Reader* Anderson Krupala  
*Children's Sermon* TBD  
*CW&W Greeter* Shelly Cody  
*CW&W Storyteller* Lucy Cody  
*Elder* Pam Comeaux  
*Video Tech* Callie Cody  
*Sound Tech* Tony Fatta  
*Livestream* Ted Baldwin/Sue Griggs  
*Church Closing* Chris Culp  
*Program Builder* Jeff Cody

*Our assignments may be fluid while we adjust to the latest news.*

*Please help keep track of your assignments, and let us know as soon as possible about potential conflicts, [HERE](#) or at [churchoffice@fccbrla.org](mailto:churchoffice@fccbrla.org)*



*Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. —John 6:11*

### **FCCBR Food Drive - Donations left at church are delivered weekly to Southeast Ministries:**

Suggested donations: *Jelly, instant potatoes, Jiffy cornbread mix, mac & cheese, crackers, bags of apples, oranges, onions, or potatoes, rubbing alcohol or other anti-viral cleaning agents.*

### **EMPTY EGG CARTONS ARE CURRENTLY NEEDED, TOO!**

Southeast Ministries - Checks can be made out directly to Southeast Ministries and brought to the church during food drop-off times, or mailed to 476 Sharp Road, Baton Rouge LA 70815. *Be sure to mark the memo line with "First Christian Church."*

# 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](mailto:churchoffice@fccbrla.org), or 225-926-4175. Names will rotate off after two months without an update.

## Members in our prayers:

JD Albin, Ann Baskin, Rita Brian, Dora & Ron Blackburn, Linda Burns-Sanders, Lois Burt, Norma Carr, Nancy Chapaneri, Jody Chrisope, Pam Culp, Lorrinda Dickinson, the Grigg family, Rich Griswold, George Gullett, Lee Gullett, Dawn & Craig Harvey, Ruth Horn, Barbara Knight, Marie Ladner, Allen Lax, Nick, Jess & Zona Madere, Dak McInnis, Helen Mitchener, Jerry Moses, Bob & Jennifer Netterville, Helen Rankin, Ruth Riddle, Gladys & Kelly Runnels, Yvonne Taylor, Bill Trotter, Mary Jon Turner, Wally and Bev Weselak, Toni Wilson

## Friends & Family of Members in our prayers

Greg Anderson, Donna & Don Bohlcke, Angela Maria Avansi Casarotti, Patricia Cornelius, Jimmie E. Dugas, Frances Durham, Johnny Durham, Paul Foster, the family of Joey Guitierrez, J.W. Green, Reynaud Henton, the family of Remi Hidalgo, Sarah Hill, Jamone Hodge, Ray Hutchinson, Mike Keene, Lee Lambert, Melody, Scott, Jr Larsen, Wendy Malcolm, Terri McIlwain, Robert McKinnis family, Chelsey Miguez, the family of Clint Mock, Cheryl Nasab, Judy Olson, Bobby Phillips, David & Kimber Pittman, the family of Alvin Pounds, Tallu Schuyler Quinn, Cherry Quin, Jeanie Reed, Debbie Riddle, Lani Smith, Dayna Coupel Simoneaux, Dad to Aaron Turnipseed, Leta Turnipseed, Pam Vicknair & family, Claudia Wagner, Ardelle & Danny Wallace, Jim Williams

## Members in Active Military Service:

PVT Gage Goodspeed

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## CONTACT INFORMATION AND ONLINE LINKS:

Church Office Phone: 225-926-4175 Email: [churchoffice@fccbrla.org](mailto:churchoffice@fccbrla.org)

Rev. David Chisham: 703-220-6011 Email: [david@fccbrla.org](mailto:david@fccbrla.org)

Website: [fccbrla.org](http://fccbrla.org)

YouTube Video Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/FCCBRLA/featured>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/fccbrla>

Facebook Worship at Home: <https://facebook.com/fccbrlaworshipathome>

Instagram: <https://instagram.com/fccbrla>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/fccbrla>



**First Christian Church**

*Disciples of Christ*

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**SERVICE AT 10:00 AM EACH SUNDAY - IN PERSON OR ONLINE**

**SPECIAL MUSICAL GUEST ON SUNDAY SEPT. 27 - BEN REDWINE**



I am writing to express our thanks for your monetary gift to Southeast Ministries... Thank you for assisting us in making a real difference in the lives of the clients we serve.

With gratitude,  
Joanie Clause  
Treasurer



First Christian Church  
Disciples of Christ  
Sulphur, LA

We are so grateful to the volunteer group from First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Baton Rouge that has come to our area, and helped with picking up debris and putting tarps up.

Rev. Dr. Bobbie Yellott  
[firstchristiansulphur@yahoo.com](mailto:firstchristiansulphur@yahoo.com)

*Recent thank-you notes received in the church office.*