

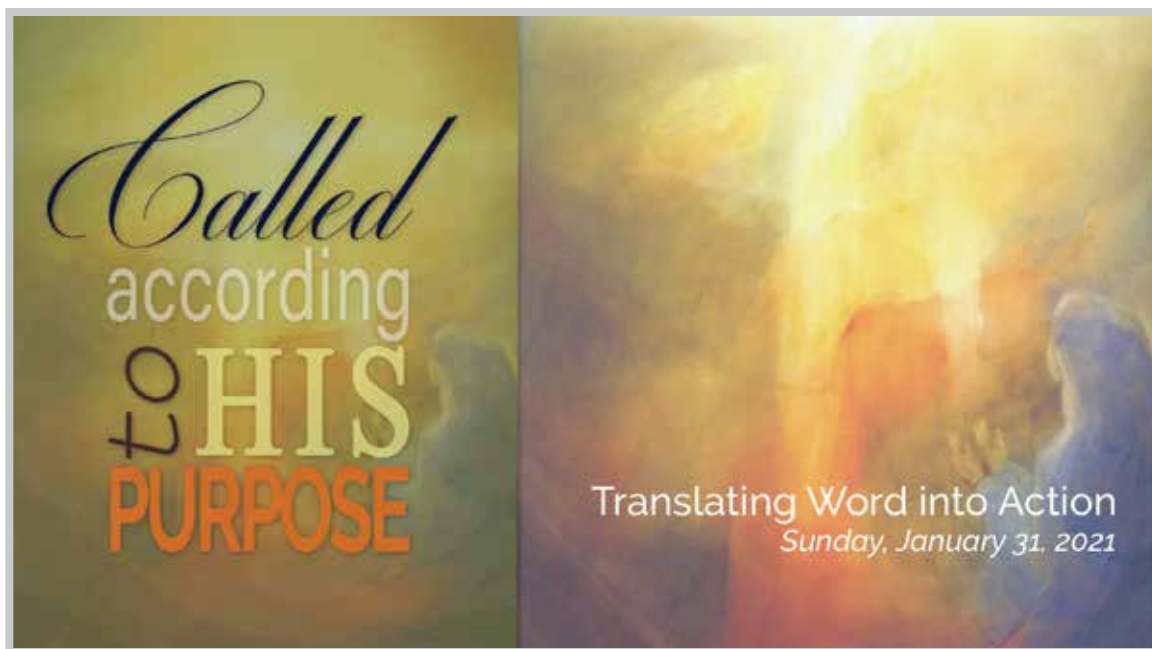
First Christian **Caller**

First Christian Church, Baton Rouge

Vol. 83

January 27, 2021

No. 2



IN THIS ISSUE

- ◊ A Note from David
- ◊ 2021 Ministry Opportunity Signup
- ◊ Ministry Assignments & Prayer Lists
- ◊ Snoasis 2021: Virtual Youth Retreat

HELP WANTED



We often ask for volunteers in the church, and there are times I think we should stop asking for volunteers. When Jesus walked along the sea and called out to Simon Peter and Andrew, James and John, he wasn't asking them to enlist for a weekend volunteer project, he was calling disciples, dedicated followers.

These past weeks, through the series *Called According to His Purpose*, we've been invited to listen for God's voice, and to discern what it would cost us to follow God's lead. It raises an important question:

What are you willing, or unwilling, to give up for God's call upon your life?

I don't want to come across as intimidating everyone into leaving their families and giving away everything they own, but it has long been noted that our relaxed attitude of freely receiving God's grace without counting the cost of discipleship has left many with the sense that taking the path of least resistance is the same as following God's will.

God isn't looking for volunteers who can fit God in as their schedule allows; God searches for dedicated disciples who intentionally invest themselves in thankful service to the Kingdom. God isn't looking for volunteers who give some free time and then go home to resume their lives unchanged; God searches for dedicated disciples willing to be transformed by worship, prayer, study and service.

As we continue listening for God's voice, I believe we hear God's voice most clearly when it challenges our status quo, pushes us outside of our comfort zone, and asks us to grow in faith. What does that look like for you right now, today?

Not only is God making an appeal for dedicated disciples; we join in that appeal as well. Though we continue to use the term "volunteer," what we really need is disciplined souls dedicated to sharing their gifts, talents, voices and resources through our congregation.

When COVID restrictions begin to loosen, we will have a lot of rebuilding to do together — let's set our hearts and minds to that task even now. Beyond the loss of life and income, the lasting effects of COVID that strained whole communities, relationships, minds and hearts will go on well beyond this year. God calls us to be a movement that brings wholeness to a fragmented world. I want us at First Christian Church, Baton Rouge, positioned and ready to answer that call.

Preparing for that call, we need volunteers disciples to give their voices and time to supporting our community's worship life. We continue our appeal for you to step-up by leading worship and sharing a thoughtful moment with our children, assuring that our facilities are open and welcome, and that those joining us from home connect with the many faces and voices of our congregation.

Included in this newsletter, available in hard copy in the sanctuary narthex, and [available on our website](#) is 2021 volunteer opportunities form. Please make completing and submitting this form a priority as we continue to discern God's voice and call.

Christ's peace,



Rev. Dr. David Chisham
Senior Minister

WEEK OF COMPASSION Collection on February 28, 2021

2021 will bring many of the same challenges as 2020 — as well as some new ones. Disasters will continue to occur. Displaced populations remain vulnerable. And hundreds of millions of people around the world struggle under the weight of poverty. But thanks to your support, Week of Compassion will continue to respond. Events of the past year have shown us that, even in times when we cannot be physically together in one place, your offerings to support Week of Compassion continue to strengthen our church's presence all over the world: providing water to the thirsty, food for the hungry, and hope for the weary.

If the coin/mite box is part of your Week of Compassion discipline, we've received a small shipment of new boxes. Some are in the church for pick up. Let us know to put one in the mail to you! Email churchoffice@fccbrla.org or phone 225-926-4175.

*When you share
your gifts to Week
of Compassion,
you "Let Love Flow."
Your generosity
ensures that, even
in the midst of
uncertainty, the
transforming power
of compassion
continues to change
the world.*

2021 VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP March 2021-Feb. 2022

Please consider where God may be calling you to serve, check those boxes, complete your contact info on the next page, and return to the church office, or [use the online form, here.](#)

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Due to coronavirus recommendations and/or restrictions, we have several areas in urgent need of help to sustain our in-person and online worship services. As a volunteer in one of these areas, you will part of a rotating schedule to perform the following duties in preparing for or during Sunday morning worship:

- ❑ **Opening Church:** Walk around and open church buildings on Sunday morning, between 8:30 and 9:00 a.m. *This position does not involve being in the buildings except long enough to turn off alarms, and is suitable for those not yet returned to in-person worship.*
- ❑ **Closing Church:** Walk around and lock church buildings following the last Sunday service/event, currently between 11:15–11:30 a.m.
- ❑ **Children's Sermon:** Given the focus for the day, deliver a brief, engaging message to children at the 10:50 service. *Your presentation can be made via video – if you can take a cellphone photo, you can prepare a video! This position is suitable for those not yet returned to in-person worship.*
- ❑ **Build Video Program:** Create the visual presentation for Sunday worship (two services); graphics and text provided. Training provided. Must be done at church and takes about one hour. *This position is suitable for those not yet returned to in-person worship as you can be in the sanctuary by yourself.*
- ❑ **Liturgist:** Lead the Call to Worship and opening prayer (provided) at the 10:00 service. *Your presentation can be made via video – if you can take a cellphone photo, you can prepare a video! This position is suitable for those not yet returned to in-person worship.*
- ❑ **Sound Tech:** Operate audio/sound system during the 10:00 worship service. Training provided.
- ❑ **Video Tech:** Operate video system at the 10:00 worship service. Training provided.
- ❑ **Altar/Chancel Guild:** Develop creative ideas to adorn the sanctuary and enhance worship, following the worship themes and seasons.

MISSION & OUTREACH

- ❑ **Blood Drives:** Help schedule, coordinate, and promote the semi-annual blood drives held at FCC.
- ❑ **Miscellaneous or Emergency Drives:** Is logistics your specialty? Stay apprised of local and area needs, and help coordinate us as we gather food, toys, clothing, etc.
- ❑ **Southeast Ministries Association:** FCC is part of the 15 churches across nine denominations which provide volunteers, Board members, food stuffs, and funding to serve the needy in southeast Baton Rouge.

HOSPITALITY

- ❑ **Bereavement Meals:** Prepare/contribute meals to families experiencing loss. *Coffee Fellowship and Church-wide Meals will be reviewed once circumstances allow.*

FACILITIES

- ☐ **Work Day:** Help schedule, recruit, and/or attend our spring work day, addressing general clean-up of the church campus. Date TBD, generally .before Easter.

EVANGELISM

- ☐ **Visitor Follow-up:** Telephone, send a card, or visit our first-time visitors, inviting them to become involved at FCC — a key factor in church growth!

EDUCATION

- ☐ **Adult Education/Bible Study:** Get involved with our Sunday morning classes; or, the 1:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible study with Rev. Dr. David Chisham. Check this box for more information, or to be contacted about your ideas!
- ☐ **Children's Worship & Wonder:** One-on-one training is provided for all volunteers, in one session. Two adults are needed each Sunday, during the 10:00 service:
 - ☐ **Greeter:** Escort children from the sanctuary to the youth building, welcoming the children as they enter the Worship & Wonder room, and remain with the children for general supervision and assistance.
 - ☐ **Storyteller:** Lead the presentation scheduled for the day, and help with song-leading and worship.

Spirit Kids and Vacation Bible School plans and opportunities will be reviewed once circumstances allow.

COMMITTEES

Help plan and develop goals, events, and activities in the area of your interest or expertise:

- ☐ **EDUCATION:** Review curriculum, facilitate classes, teaching Sunday school, planning and designing educational events, and working with ministry to children and youth.
- ☐ **EVANGELISM:** Review, suggest, and help maintain our online presence, greet and follow up with visitors, and implementing efforts to increase attendance.
- ☐ **FACILITIES:** Review, plan, and schedule maintenance of our campus and property.
- ☐ **HOSPITALITY:** Planning, organizing and preparing bereavement meals.
- ☐ **MISSION & OUTREACH:** Coordinate with local missions such as Southeast Ministries, CASA, and short term mission trips.
- ☐ **STEWARDSHIP:** Working with church finances and developing stewardship focus for the congregation.
- ☐ **WORSHIP:** Brainstorm, share, develop and assist in our Sunday and special worship events.

Please make your selections for service in the coming year, and return by placing in the marked basket in the narthex, or dropping through the slot in the church office door. [You may also sign-up online at our website.](#) or download a PDF form for completing and returning, there. Thank you!

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone(s): _____

Special Notes/Suggestions: (e.g. no third Sundays; schedule family together, etc.) _____

SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS

January 31, 2021

February 7, 2021

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

<i>Church Opening</i>	George Cochran	<i>Church Opening</i>	Marion Denova
<i>Sacraments</i>	TBD	<i>Sacraments</i>	Felicia Still
<i>Greeter</i>	Dak McInnis	<i>Greeter</i>	Dak McInnis
<i>Liturgist</i>	Chris Culp	<i>Liturgist</i>	Tip Tipton
<i>Youth Reader</i>	Zachary Trotter	<i>Youth Reader</i>	Anderson Krupala
<i>CW&W Greeter</i>	Kori Chisham	<i>CW&W Greeter</i>	Judy Lester
<i>CW&W Storyteller</i>	Lucy Cody	<i>CW&W Storyteller</i>	Lucy Cody
<i>Elder</i>	Charlene Landry	<i>Elder</i>	Carol Madere
<i>Video Tech</i>	Jeff Cody	<i>Video Tech</i>	Callie Cody
<i>Sound Tech</i>	Joshua Dotts	<i>Sound Tech</i>	Jeff Cody
<i>Livestream</i>	Ted Baldwin/Sue Grigg	<i>Livestream</i>	Ted Baldwin/Sue Grigg
<i>Church Closing</i>	Joshua Dotts	<i>Church Closing</i>	Jeff Cody
<i>Program Builder</i>	Yvonne Taylor	<i>Program Builder</i>	Church Office

Worship Assignments are available at fccbrla.org/worship-assignments

Sign up for ministry positions at fccbrla.org -> Serve -> At First Christian Church

Daily Lectionary: January 27, 2021 - February 9, 2021

Wednesday, January 27, 2021: Psalm 46; Proverbs 8:1-21; Mark 3:13-19a

Thursday, January 28, 2021: Psalm 111; Deuteronomy 3:23-29; Romans 9:6-18

Friday, January 29, 2021: Psalm 111; Deuteronomy 12:28-32; Revelation 2:12-17

Saturday, January 30, 2021: Psalm 111; Deuteronomy 13:1-5; Matthew 8:28-9:1

Sunday, January 31, 2021: *Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany* - Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

Monday, February 1, 2021: Psalm 35:1-10; Numbers 22:1-21; Acts 21:17-26

Tuesday, February 2, 2021: Psalm 35:1-10; Numbers 22:22-28; 1 Corinthians 7:32-40

Wednesday, February 3, 2021: Psalm 35:1-10; Jeremiah 29:1-14; Mark 5:1-20

Thursday, February 4, 2021: Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; Proverbs 12:10-21; Galatians 5:2-15

Friday, February 5, 2021: Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; Job 36:1-23; 1 Corinthians 9:1-16

Saturday, February 6, 2021: Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; Isaiah 46:1-13; Matthew 12:9-14

Sunday, February 7, 2021: *Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany* - Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

Monday, February 8, 2021: Psalm 102:12-28; 2 Kings 4:8-17, 32-37; Acts 14:1-7

Tuesday, February 9, 2021: Psalm 102:12-28; 2 Kings 8:1-6; Acts 15:36-41

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:

JD Albin, Rita Brian, Dora & Ron Blackburn, Lois Burt, Norma Carr, David Chisham, Jody Chrisope, Melanie Cobb, Lorrinda & Frank Dickinson, Gloria Giammanco, Sue & daughter Grigg, Rich Griswold, Presley Hutchinson, Ruth Horn, Carmen Jones, Barbara Knight, Marie Ladner, Allen Lax, Elise Madere, Michael Mattison, Sherry & Dak McInnis, Helen Mitchener, Jerry Moses, Bob & Jennifer Netterville, Helen Rankin, Ruth Riddle, Gladys & Kelly Runnels, Mary Jon Turner, Susan Valenti, Wally and Bev Weselak, Mike Wilson

Friends & Family of Members in our prayers

Greg Anderson, Mary & Tom Arceneaux, Marcia Balcom, Bobbie Bass, Elizabeth Black and family, Donna & Don Bohlcke, the Buhler grandchildren, Angela Marie Avansi Casarotti, Patricia Cornelius, Deloris Cyris, Kate Dake, Johnny Durham, Dean Fife, Paul Foster, Laura & John Forney, the family of Carl Frisbee, Lori Fry, Debbie Hampton, Sarah Hill, Steve Hinton, Dane Howell, Lee Lambert, Melody, Scott, JR Larsen, Cade Lucio, Dawn McKee, Chuck McMains, Chelsey Miguez, Cheryl Nasab, Bobby Phillips, David & Kimber Pittman, Owen Prejean, Tallu Schuyler Quinn, Cherry Quin, Rafael, Jeanie Reed, Debbie Riddle, the family of Aaron Roy, Lani Smith, Dayna Coupel Simoneaux, Meredith & Adam Tipton, Dorie & Herb Tschudy, Pam Vicknair & family, Claudia Wagner, the Ware family, John P & John M Whitworth, Jim Williams

Members in Active Military Service:

PVT Gage Goodspeed

CONTACT INFORMATION AND ONLINE LINKS:

Church Office Phone: 225-926-4175

Email: churchoffice@fccbrla.org

Rev. David Chisham: 703-220-6011

Email: david@fccbrla.org

Website: fccbrla.org

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

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

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

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



First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

8484 Old Hammond Hwy.

Baton Rouge, LA 70809-1317

225-926-4175 | fccbrla.org

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

SNOASIS: A virtual retreat for sixth-twelfth graders

The annual Great River Region youth retreat will be held virtually this year, on **Sunday, February 28, from 2:00-5:00 p.m.** There is no cost associated with the event; ***Snoasis: A New Hope*** t-shirts are being sold to help support youth ministry in the region.

All youth in grades six through twelve are invited to attend this opportunity to check in with each other, meet new young Disciples, and help vision our New Hope. Register at <https://grrdisciples.regfox.com/snoasis-2021-a-new-hope> or click the image:

