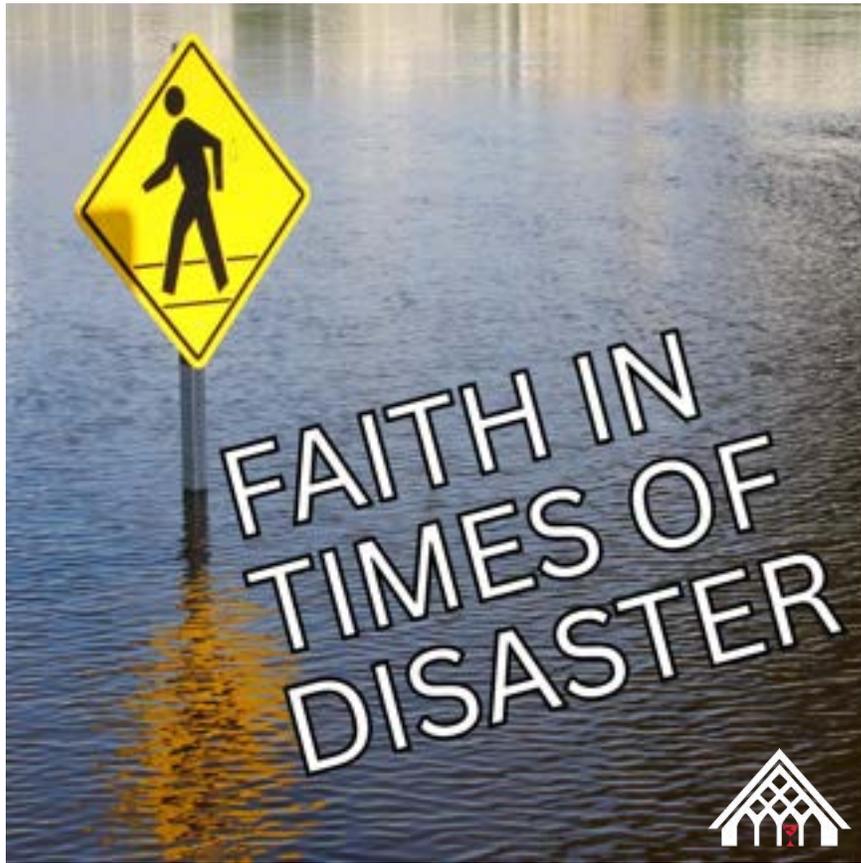




The Builder

First Christian Church
Midland

July 27, 2025 Volume 70 Issue 25



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WEEK AT A GLANCE

SUN
JULY
27

10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
11AM WORSHIP

TUE
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7:30PM SCOUTING AMERICA
BOYS TROOP

WED
JULY
30

7AM MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST
9AM FOOD PANTRY
7PM CHOIR

SUN
AUG
3

10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
11AM WORSHIP

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Rev. David Chisham
Senior Minister

When Disasters Strike

Hearing the news coming out of central Texas, my heart is grieved because I've been close to situations like that.

You remember 2020, that year that just kept on giving? Along with everything else, that was the most active hurricane season on record; so many storms that we ran out of alphabetical names and started using the Greek alphabet. Poor Lake Charles, Louisiana was walloped by two major hurricanes that year. I was with some work crews who went to Lake Charles after the first storm to tarp roofs that had been damaged by the storm. I along with so many others were stunned when that second storm blew in and tore up everything we had tried to repair. But by then I had learned that stunning setbacks are just part of the recovery process.

Among the things they never taught me in seminary is how to be a minister in extreme disaster circumstances. Fortunately, I had learned a lot from the August 2016 flood event in Baton Rouge. It wasn't a hurricane but, kind of like the storms that hit central Texas, an unnamed storm system moved in and dumped about a year's worth of rain in under 48 hours. Streams overflowed their banks, and because that part of Louisiana is so flat, as the blob of water moved southward through the creeks and canals toward Lake Maurepas and Lake Pontchartrain, though the skies above were clear and blue, new neighborhoods flooded for days afterward, and there was nothing that anyone could do but watch the waters ooze in and back out.

The good news is that a better day does come about, but it takes perseverance and persistence to see it through.

In a disaster, as a pastor, my first instinct is to be a superhero and try to save folks. Of course, I had no boat or high-water rescue training so it was frustrating to sit on my hands; I learned that rushing to the scene of a disaster without a good plan of where to go in, what to do, and how to get out without becoming another victim, is asking for trouble. What I also learned is that even with a week or more of warning, no one is prepared for a disaster, and responses are never smooth or even.

About a week after the flood event in 2016, representatives from Week of Compassion came to Louisiana to assess the damage and make community connections on clean-up and rebuilding efforts. I was getting excited that volunteers were coming into town and resources were pouring in—many of my church members were already making plans to be back in their homes by Thanksgiving. I was starting to think that perhaps this was going to go quickly. Just as my hopes were peaking, the Week of Compassion folks showed me a graph of what disaster response really looks like. During the disaster event there's a drop in the community mood as the fear of the event washes through, but then in the days and weeks following there's a rise in the community's energy as it mobilizes to respond—in that peak of community excitement, about three or four weeks later, there starts a downward jag that continues to drop for months; 6 months, sometimes a year, sometimes even longer. Finally, after months of bad news, setbacks, shortages,

frustrations and chaos, things start going better and the recovery process finally gets underway bringing the line back up to a new normal. Meantime, the news cycle moves on to other events, and those still grieving and rebuilding often felt forgotten. Many of my Baton Rouge families didn't get back into their homes until Easter the next year and in between it was months of uphill battles and setbacks and tears and frustration.

And that's what I've seen time and again. I saw it in 2016. I saw it in 2020. And with all the disasters and hurricanes and wars going on in the world, I wouldn't expect anything different in those situations either. Though we might hope that the corners will be turned quickly for those suffering from these recent disasters, my experience is that it is always a slow and inefficient process. There, that's the bad news.

But there is some good news that reminds us there is reason to hope. Ginny Estes reported to me that a boy, who has close ties to our church who was caught in the flood, was reunited with his parents. His name is Colin, and his

grandparents are Buddy and Dixie Claiborn McIntyre, who grew up attending FCC Midland. And his great-grandfather was Rev. Dr. Richard Claiborne D.D., was minister from 1958-1967. We give thanks for the heroic efforts of those who saved so many lives from the rising waters. We pray for those in harm's way. We pray for the first responders. We pray that lives and property will be spared.

The good news is that a better day does come about, but it takes perseverance and persistence to see it through. The Psalms speak of God's abiding presence through the storms of life. God doesn't abandon us. God's steadfast mercy never fails.

As we are guided to respond to those in need, let us have that same resolve that our God always demonstrates to us. And let us be steadfast in our efforts, just as God has been steadfast with us!

See you at the Table,



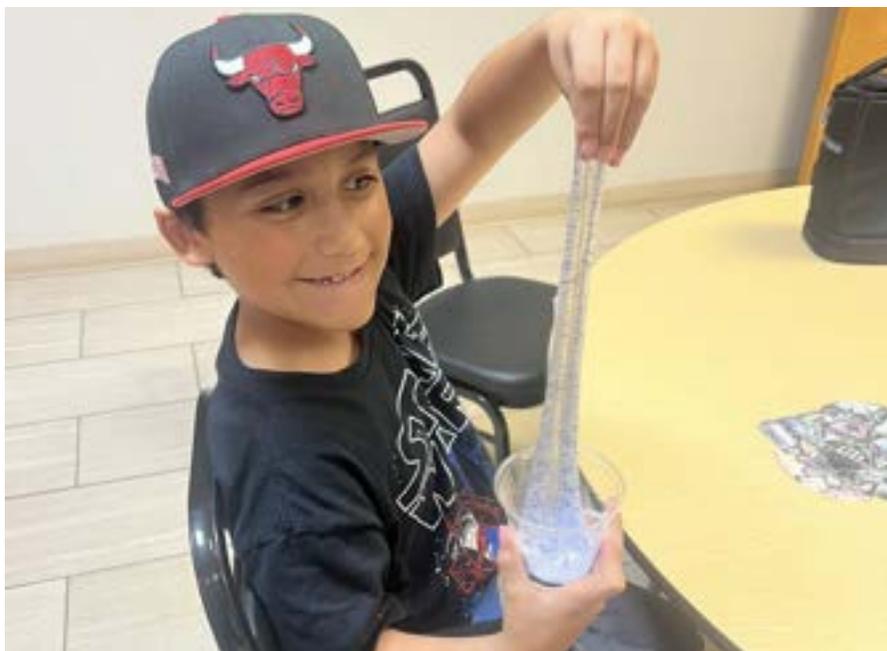
Thank you so much for making my time spent on staff at First Christian SPECTACULAR! Martha Fentem Day was one for the books. Your kind words, cards, love offering and touching luncheon filled my heart. I am deeply grateful for the love and fellowship we've shared and will continue to share! The many years I've spent walking with you on our faith journey are something I treasure. Thank you for loving me and honoring me to be a part of the leadership of our church. I look forward to continued service for our Lord at First Christian Church. May the Lord bless each and every one of you! My cup runneth over!

With love and gratitude,
Martha Fentem



CLC@FCC Fourth of July Parade & Summer Fun!







Rev. Remy Tercero
Associate Minister

Responding to the Flood Disaster

Over the past several weeks a handful of communities across Texas have been

devastated by historic flooding and their recovery process will be long. Many areas that rarely if ever see flooding have had the infrastructure of their homes completely damaged. With many of these homeowners not having flood insurance, the cost to rebuild will be massive.

The Texas Governor's office has reported that over 40 counties have been affected by widespread property damage. Many people in the middle and lower class already live paycheck to paycheck, so the thought of a quick rebuild is not on their minds one bit. Many of these people are forced to seek shelter elsewhere, while losing all of their belongings.

As a community there are a handful of things that we can do. First and foremost we need to pray for the victims of these floods, and the families affected by those lost in the debris.

Along with prayer we should stay informed of the damage and how to help. Reliable updates are available via the Texas Division of Emergency Management and National Weather Service.

First and foremost we need to pray for the victims of these floods, and the families affected by those lost in the debris.

We can also find ways to help at www.disasterassistance.gov.

Another great resource is volunteermatch.org which connects people with opportunities to serve in their communities.

Our hearts go out to those affected by the floods and if you think of a way that we can help I encourage you to let me know.



Our Deepest Sympathy

We extend our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to the Bourland family:

George (Tommy) Bourland passed away on July 12, 2024.
Tommy is the father of J.R. Bourland, father-in-law to Amanda Bourland
and Grandfather to Adam & Luke Bourland

Please keep the Bourlands in your prayers.



Prayer List

Those in need of prayer:

- Chris Huff
- Sherry Ladd
- Betty Couch
- Cinnamon Stanford
- Abraham Ortega
- Kaylene Burgard
- Nancy Stanley
- Patsy Hill
- Fred Yates
- Vincent Cooper
- Pat Marshall
- Ginny Estes
- Joshua Harrison
- Mary Beth Corbett
- Linda Taylor
- Lisa Craven
- Mark Cranford
- Cricket Harrison
- Fred Schwiening
- Lana Cooley
- C.C. Petteway
- Pat Chambers
- Kathy Landrum
- Sheila Crudgington
- Gary Thompson

Military:

- Tyler Brown-
grandson of Lyn Brown

Families, Friends Beyond

FCC

- Fonda Bowlin-
mother in law to Lee'Ayn Lesley
- Cindy Garcia-
CLC Teacher
- Barrett Wood-
cousin of Ginny Estes
- Jay Warren -
friend of Pat Marshall

- Kairos Conde-
nephew of Olivia Espino
- Grayson Pickett-
friend of Jeweli Flores
- Al Schorre-
friend of Sharon Boyd
- Robin Diegan & Jason Diegan-
cousins of Ginny Estes
- Amanda Bryant-
friend of Dave & Kathy Cromwell
- Freda Benton
- Amanda Lee-
friend of Janice Ford
- Reymondo Garcia-*brother of Maria Vinson*
- Gary Kennedy
friends of Lauren & Justin Disney
- Fred Copeland-
father of Lauren Disney
- Ed Keah
friend of Joy Singleton
- J.M. Moore -
father of Kathy Landrum
- Oscar Garcia -
brother of Amparo Olguin

Birthdays

- Names in red are youth and children
- 07/26 H.A. Tuck
 - 07/27 Polly Hedrick
 - 07/27 Cecilio Flores
 - 07/29 Beau Estes III
 - 07/31 Sherry Ladd
 - 08/01 Butch Ladd
 - 08/02 Amanda Bourland
 - 08/02 Fred Schwiening
 - 08/04 Bob Jones
 - 08/06 Gretchen Bell

- 08/08 Kayla Stone
- 08/09 Mark Cranford
- 08/14 Ginny Estes
- 08/15 Teri Valero
- 08/15 Gene Drummond
- 08/16 Keith Gibbons
- 08/20 Tom Jones
- 08/23 **Rhett James**
- 08/25 Dave Cromwell
- 08/25 **Luis Estrada**
- 08/29 Joe Campbell
- 08/29 Layne Chisham

Anniversaries

- 08/05 Gary & Carol Thompson
- 08/08 Dave & Kathy Cromwell
- 08/20 Joe & Jill Wright



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1301 W. Louisiana Ave.

Midland, TX 79701

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www.fccmidland.org

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\$2000
\$1000

