



# The Builder

## First Christian Church *Midland*

September 14, 2025 Volume 70 Issue 29



### In this Issue:

Pastors' Articles  
Children & Youth Programs  
Recent & Upcoming Events

### WEEK AT A GLANCE

SUN  
SEPT  
14

10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL  
11AM WORSHIP  
4:30-6PM KIDS@FCC &  
YOUTH@FCC KICK-OFF

TUE  
SEPT  
16

6:30PM CUB SCOUTS  
FAMILY PACK K-5TH  
7:30PM SCOUTING AMERICA  
BOYS TROOP

WED  
SEPT  
17

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

SAT  
SEPT  
20

2-4PM HANNAH WRIGHT  
BRIDAL SHOWER

SUN  
SEPT  
21

10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL  
11AM WORSHIP  
4:30-6PM KIDS@FCC &  
YOUTH@FCC KICK-OFF  
MEETING

#### CONTACT INFORMATION:

432-682-2541

1301 W LOUISIANA AVE., MIDLAND, TX 79701

FCCMIDLAND.ORG

OFFICE1@FCCMIDLAND.ORG





Rev. David Chisham  
Senior Minister

## THE GREAT CLOUD OF WITNESSES

I'm of a certain age now that many of the people who

shaped my future have died. As we celebrate grandparents day, I'm mindful that I only really had much quality time with one grandparent. My grandmother Edith, who moved in with us when I was about 11 years old, passed away in the Fall of 1994, as I was on the road back to college.

I was the youngest of five children and was born when my parents were about 40 years-old or older. By the time I was born one grandmother had already passed, one grandfather would pass away a few years later, another grandfather I never met because he was in California and we were in Kansas, so it was down to my mother's mother to create a whole lot of "grandparent love." I can say with certainty, an important part of her life was about creating a better day that they would never see. She lived her life for a future that I and my siblings would realize.

My oldest sister Debbie (who's about 20 years older than me) and her husband have become deeply involved in the ministry of intentional Christian grandparenting. One of the metaphors they use is a sports metaphor. At their age, they realize they're somewhere in their "final quarter" of life. Anyone who follows football knows, the fourth quarter is often the most important quarter in the game. Scoring leads can be turned over quickly, and what seemed like a pre-determined win can become a come-from-behind upset. If you watched the Bears Vikings football game the past Monday, you know that (sorry Remy!). To that end, in this closing quarter of

their lives, they have decided that they will not sit back and be the grandparents who are shadows in the background, but will be intentional in praying for and blessing their grandchildren. I feel confident that one day their grandchildren will tell stories of how their grandparents lived to shape a future beyond themselves.

I am always mindful of my grandmother and her generosity of love. Her faith and influence have helped me find not only salvation, but also my life's calling. My grandmother prayed for years that one of her grandchildren we go into the ministry. She helped financially support my college education. She passed away before she ever got to hear me preach, but I know she was still cheering me along to better things.

I'm mindful of folks who have played grandparent roles in the churches I've served. Men and women like Jane Price and Frank Mackison from Rockville, Maryland. They were the heart and soul of that congregation when I was there. They worked hard, quietly cared for their families and friends, and helped that congregation see the next generation.

I'm mindful of folks like Roena Ellis who lived near the church building in Arlington, Virginia. She had no children of her own but was the Sunday school teacher for church. In Springtime, one of her more popular Sunday School lessons was piling all the kids into her station wagon and driving through the neighborhoods to ooh and aaah at all the beautiful azalea bushes that God made bloom.

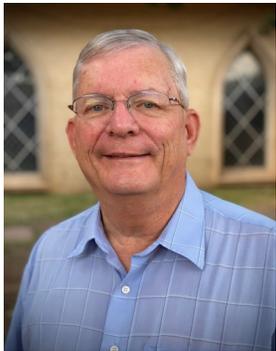
**...I know she was still cheering  
me along to better things.**

One of my favorite stories about Roena was her short-lived restaurant in New Mexico. I'm not sure where it was, but she ran a little diner that ended up serving a number of Native Americans. Roena was Native American as well, and when impoverished people showed up for a meal, quite often then weren't able to cover the tab. Roena quietly took care of the bill for them. Unfortunately, it meant that her restaurant failed, but her focus was trying to make sure those families lived to see a future beyond the little

greasy-spoon diner. Sometimes, that's the way grace works—we make a sacrifice for others to see a brighter day.

Let us honor the sacrifices that so many grandparents have made for our future!

See you at the Table,



Rev. Tom Jones  
Associate Minister

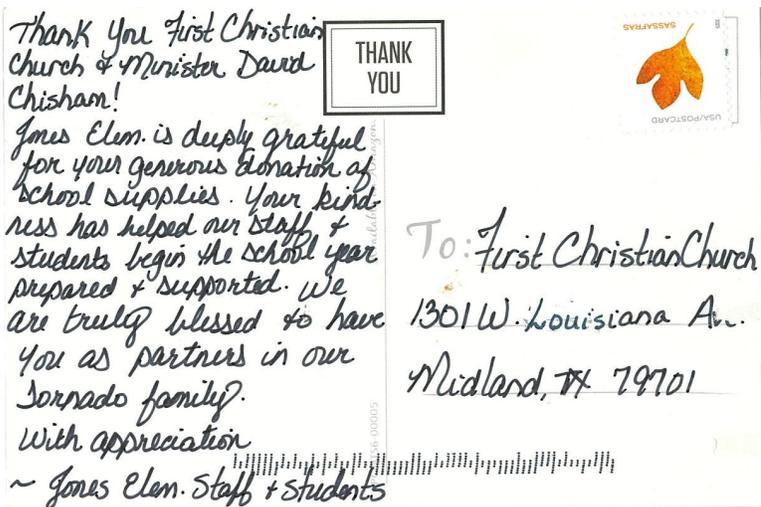
My grandfather was a Salvation Army minister. He and my grandmother served churches all over Texas.

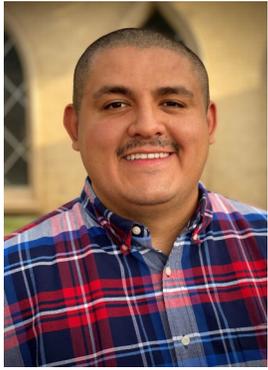
I went to church and summer camps. I saw my grandfather minister to people who lived in poverty. I played in the shelter with homeless people. His example had a profound impact on me s I became an adult. He died before I had a chance to tell him how he had impacted my life.

**I have learned so much from the examples of older people who live their life with conviction, faith, and wisdom.**

I have learned so much from the examples of older people who live their life with conviction, faith, and wisdom.

It's important to respect your elders and their experience. They may have a thing or two to teach you.





Rev. Remy Tercero  
Associate Minister

### NATIONAL GRANDPARENTS DAY

I have noticed a trend going around social media where new parents are baffled as to how sweet and forgiving their parents are with their grand children, as opposed to how strict they were with them.

**This means so much to them because after learning all life has to teach them they know what is truly important in life and that is to be loving to the people in your life and that no material possessions are worth the love of one of your loved ones.**

The videos usually show the softer side of the grandparents with their grand children as they play at the park together, or share a snack.

It is a beautiful trend because in those videos many times, you can see the those grandparents being so kind and light hearted with their grand children. In a way they are given another opportunity to redeem themselves of any parenting mistakes they may have made.

I love seeing compassionate grandparents because after living all of their years they are wise and full of life experiences. Those experiences rewire what is important to them in their relationships.

They prioritize being loving and sweet over everything. This means so much to them because after learning all life has to teach them they know what is truly important in life and that is to be loving to the people in your life and that no material possessions are worth the love of one of your loved ones.

It warms my heart when I see compassionate grandparents and if you have a relationship with your grandparent or grandchild be sure to cherish that relationship for as long as you can. I am lucky enough to still have a couple grandparents in my life and I cherish my time with them.

**Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!  
God is good all the time and all the time, God is good!**

**I am truly blessed to be a member of the First Christian Church family. I spent Sunday afternoon reading all of the lovely – and a few funny ones – cards.**

**Blessings! Brenda**

**“The voices of a million angels could not express my gratitude...  
To God be the glory!**



Please join us for a  
*Bridal Shower*  
 Honoring  
**HANNAH WRIGHT**  
 September  
 Saturday **20** 2-4PM  
 2025

First Christian Church Parlor  
 1301 W. Louisiana  
 Midland, TX

Registry can be found at  
<http://theknot.com/hannahandwillelberbe>




**KIDS@FCC**  
**YOUTH @FCC**  
 Sundays 4:30-6 PM

Begins September 14th  
 KIDS@FCC in Kid's Cave  
 YOUTH@FCC in Youth Building




**40 Plus Fellowship**

OCTOBER 3<sup>RD</sup> @6:30PM  
 MICHEALS CHARCOAL GRILL  
 RSVP TO DAVID 703-220-6011



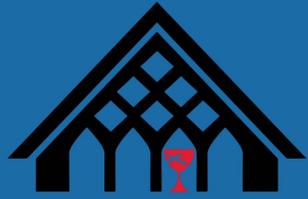
## Our Deepest Sympathy

We extend our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to the following families who have recently lost a loved one.

Patsy Hill, 91, of Midland, Texas passed away on September 4, 2025.  
 Per her request, there will not be any memorials or services.

Freda Sue (Dial) Benton, 84, of Midland, TX, passed away on Sunday, 31 August 2025. Celebration of life will be held for Freda Benton at Greentree Country Club on Saturday, September 13, from 1-3pm. Everyone is welcome! Burial will be a private family ceremony to be held at Moss Hill Cemetery in Bearden, AR.

Please keep the Hill & Benton Families in your prayers.



**First Christian Church**  
*Midland*

Elder Meeting  
 October 24<sup>th</sup> @6pm  
 Montgomery Room



**Bell Choir Rehearsals**  
 begin October 5th



Meeting after service September 28th  
 Contact Tamara Conn if you are interested at [tconnfccmidland.org](http://tconnfccmidland.org).

Fall Fest!  
Thank you to everyone  
who helped with this  
great event.



## Prayer List

Those in need of prayer:

Marty Wallace  
Bruce Stanley  
Chris Huff  
Betty Couch  
Cinnimon Stanford  
Abraham Ortega  
Kaylene Burgard  
Nancy Stanley  
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*  
Robin Diegan & Jason Diegan—  
*cousins of Ginny Estes*  
Amanda Bryant—  
*friend of Dave & Kathy*  
*Cromwell*  
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

09/02 Kathy Landrum  
09/05 Lauren Disney  
09/06 Bob Garrett  
09/08 Hunter Kilborn  
09/14 Skye Hattenbach  
09/17 Kathy Cromwell  
09/18 Justin Stephenson  
09/18 **Hayden Resch**  
09/20 Janice Ford  
09/21 Victoria Gilkerson  
09/21 Patricia Marshall  
09/23 Sandy Faulkner  
09/25 Vinson Cooper

09/26 Courtney Gordon  
09/29 Hill Glover  
09/30 Kaylene Burgard

## Anniversaries

09/01 Bruce & Nancy Stanley



1301 W. Louisiana Ave.  
Midland, TX 79701  
432.682.2541  
[www.fccmidland.org](http://www.fccmidland.org)

*Love* God and everyone.  
*Grow* as faithful believers.  
*Serve* together.

