The Builder

First Christian Church
Midland

November 15, 2026 Volume 71 Issue 43



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Pastors' Articles
Recent & Upcoming Events

WEEK AT A GLANCE

SUN NOV 15
10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
11AM WORSHIP
2:30PM HANDBELL CHOIR

TUE NOV 17
6:30PM CUB SCOUT PACK 67
GRADES K-5TH
7:30PM BOYS SCOUT TROOP 175
6TH -12TH GRADE

WED NOV 18
7AM MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST
9:30AM FOOD PANTRY
7PM CHOIR

SUN NOV 22
10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
11AM WORSHIP
2:30PM HANDBELL CHOIR

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Rev. David Chisham
Senior Minister

Enter into the Joy

For a couple of years, my Little League batting career offered spectators very little suspense. I would either strike out or get a walk. I mostly played catcher and was decent behind the plate, but standing beside it with a bat was another matter. Getting on base generally required the pitcher to have problems of his own because I didn't take many swings at the ball for fear I'd miss.

Then, one summer, something clicked. I still struck out or walked, but I also began hitting singles fairly reliably, dropping the ball over the infielders and short of the outfielders. Nobody was moving the fences back when I approached, but I could contribute.

I once reminded my coach that, for two years, I had done little besides strike out or walk. He agreed, which was honest of him, if not especially flattering. He had coached me for three straight years. He knew.

But he kept sending me up to bat.

Somewhere along the way, I stopped being so preoccupied with the shame and humiliation of striking out and started thinking about getting the bat onto the ball. There was something worth stepping up to the plate for. My last remembered at-bat was a triple. I didn't play baseball after that, which has allowed me to preserve a remarkably satisfying conclusion to my baseball career. I went out on top.

I've been thinking about that coach as we approach Jesus' parable of the talents in Matthew 25. A master entrusts substantial sums of money to three servants and goes away. Two put what they receive to work; the third buries his share.

We give that third servant considerable attention. He certainly has a lot to say about his master, whom he describes as harsh and demanding. His explanation begins with his assumptions about the master's character and ends with his fear. Yet the master had entrusted him with something valuable. There was confidence in that act that the servant seems unable to recognize.

And after burying the money, what did he do? Jesus doesn't tell us. We shouldn't assume he spent every afternoon in a lawn chair, but his part in this enterprise had come to a standstill. Seemingly motivated by fear of "getting in trouble" he secured the money against loss and closed off its possibilities not only for the money but for himself as well.

Meanwhile, the other two servants got to participate in something.

They put what they had received to work, and it grew. When the master returned, each had something to bring and a story to tell. One had received five talents and gained five more; the other had received two and gained two. Both heard exactly the same commendation: "Well done, good and trustworthy slave." Both received the same invitation: "Enter into the joy of your master."

That joy deserves more of our attention.

When I look around First Christian Church, I see people putting God's investment in them to work. You teach children, encourage young people, welcome neighbors, prepare meals, visit, listen, give, and make room for people who need to know they belong. Much of this happens quietly, without a microphone or a photograph in the newsletter. I want you to know that I see your dedication, and I am grateful.

I also hope you experience the joy in it: the friendship that grows while serving together, the child who begins to feel at home, the discovery that something you could offer mattered deeply to someone else. These are glimpses of the Kingdom of Heaven taking shape among us.

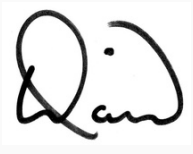
As Thanksgiving approaches, we can look back over this year's harvest. God has given growth through the work of many hands. We have relationships, experience, and opportunities that we did not have a year ago. Gifts put to work have opened possibilities for further service.

What shall we do with that increase? A friendship can become a wider circle of welcome. Experience can equip us to encourage a new volunteer. Something we have learned can help us undertake something we once thought beyond us.

I am grateful my coach kept sending me to the plate. His confidence helped me discover the pleasure of participating. God has entrusted this congregation with much, and you are putting it to work. Let's take joy in what has grown, and bring that growing abundance back into God's service.

There is still more joy to enter.

See you at the Table,



MIDLAND FIRE@CLC









Young at Heart 2026



Over 40 November Gathering





Chalice Fund Angel Tree Adoption November 8th & 15th!

Benefiting Family Promise Families

Return gifts to the church office by December 8th.

WE'RE HIRING

Children's Ministry Director

PART-TIME • SUNDAY PROGRAMS
FLEXIBLE WEEKDAY HOURS

Help kids grow in faith & belonging.

Hands-on ministry through 5th grade
Coordinate volunteers • Develop programs
Great resources. Supportive community.



First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ) • Midland, TX

Email résumés to
david@fccmidland.org

Prayer List

Those in need of prayer:

Lily Disney
Craig Carnahan
Kathe Hepfer
Tere Valero
Leona Bowman
Lorenzo Espino
Ronny Aaron
Kathe Hepher
Sandy Faulkner
Judy Hunnicutt
Marty Wallace
Bruce Stanley
Chris Huff
Cinnimon Stanford
Abraham Ortega
Kaylene Burgard
Nancy Stanley
Fred Yates
Pat Marshall
Ginny Estes
Mary Beth Corbett
Linda Taylor
Mark Cranford
Cricket Harrison
Fred Schwiening
Pat Chambers
Kathy Landrum
Sheila Crudgington
Gary Thompson

Military

Tyler Brown– grandson of Lyn Brown

Families, Friends Beyond FCC

Emily Alcorn-
daughter of Rob & Becky Montgomery
Kylie Perley
Maria & Vinson Cooper
Robby Boyd
Nieta Stephenson-mother of
Mike Stephenson & Michele Hepfer
Pamela Flores-sister of Jeweli Flores
Nickie Oppermann-Friend of Burgards
Family of Ed Scott
Albert Valero-husband of Tere Valero
Sharon Thornton-mom of Daniel Thornton
Kylea Slone-friend of CLC
Nolan Gandy-friend of Terry Perry
Robin Diegan & Jason Diegan–
cousins of Ginny Estes
Amanda Bryant-friend of
Dave & Kathy Cromwell
Amanda Lee-friend of Janice Ford
Gary Kennedy-friends of
Lauren & Justin Disney
Fred Copeland—father of Lauren Disney
J.M. Moore – father of Kathy Landrum
Oscar Garcia – brother of Amparo Olguin

Birthdays

Names in red are youth and children

11/04 Luke Bourland
11/13 Hannah Ellerbe
11/13 Joan Huff
11/16 Martha Fentem
11/19 Jeannine Hurst
11/30 Jean Jones

Anniversaries

11/09 Bill & Sharon Boyd
11/10 Joan & Chris Huff
11/30 Gene & Beverly Drummond

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