

## Capital Campaign Update

Our goal is \$200,000 by 2023. This will pay for the boiler replacement and help us replenish funds for future capital improvements.

**Funds received to date: \$64,850**

PURPOSE OF CAMPAIGN: Boiler Replacement and future Capital Expenditures

GO TO: [www.fccguthrie.org](http://www.fccguthrie.org) • Click GIVE ONLINE • Designate – CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

MAIL a check to: First Christian Church • 402 E. Noble • Guthrie, OK 73044 • NOTE: Capital Campaign

**No gift is too small!  
EVERY \$\$\$ Counts!**



### Year-End Gifts

As a reminder, all year-end gifts must be received or postmarked by December 31, 2020 to be credited on your 2020 giving statement. Giving statements will be mailed by January 31, 2021 for all total donations over \$25.

# The Tie That Binds First Christian Church

**We are a family of faith  
sharing God's love by  
reaching out, touching lives  
and building relationships.**

Disciples of Christ  
Guthrie, Oklahoma

405-282-4080

[www.fccguthrie.org](http://www.fccguthrie.org)



December 23, 2020  
Volume 56, No. 12



## Updates from the Pastor

Well as we close out the year, I think we can all agree we are ready to begin a new year. This has been a trying year on so many levels. I know we have all grown in one way or another. And I have come to rely on God more than ever through all the adversity. Normally I would have a “new year, new you” kind of sermon series to kick off the year. But this year is different. This will be more of a “Who are we and where are we heading” church edition sermon series. I will be communicating our vision, mission and core values that our Strategic Leadership Team spent 4 months praying over, developing and finalizing. If you’ve ever wondered “why is the church necessary, why should I go to church, what’s the church for?”, this sermon series is for you! If you’ve ever wondered what God has called First Christian Church to be and do in 2021 and beyond, this sermon series is for you! If you’ve ever wanted to learn and grow in your faith, then this sermon series is for you! I look forward to sharing Vision 2021 with you!

**2020~~1~~  
Vision**



### Boiler Funding Update

I am always amazed at God’s work and people’s generosity. I am pleased to report that the boiler is almost completely funded! We had several people who gave extremely generously that helped pay for the bulk of the boiler. That combined with what everyone gave in ongoing pledges means we have all but completely paid for the expense of the boiler. With better heat we will continue to be able to offer our building to local organizations, service clubs, and other ministries. Thank you so much to everyone who was able to contribute! See more information about our Capital Campaign on the back page of this newsletter.

We are looking forward to worshipping together at our candlelight Christmas Eve service. We will have one service at 5 p.m. on Dec. 24. Masks, hand sanitizer and social distancing will be required.



## 2021 Offering Envelopes

The 2021 pre-dated offering envelopes are available in the entryway. Please sign for the box # you take.



**Esther Waner**  
1935-2020



**Karen Yancey**  
1944-2020

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(405) 282-4080  
RONNIE FIELDS, Sr. Pastor  
KAREN ALLEN, Associate Minister



# Keeping Up With Karen



## FCC KIDS

For our 4th and final week of Advent, our Bible story focused on the best part of the nativity story, the birth of Jesus! From Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-20 and Matthew 1:18-25, 2:1-23, we learned that we can celebrate Jesus! When God sent Jesus, it was because Jesus was His perfect plan to bring joy, love, and peace to the whole world!

- After you read the Bible story with your kids, ask:
  - What did the angel tell Mary would happen? (She would have a special baby, God's Son)
  - What did the shepherds do when they heard the news about Jesus' birth? (They went to Bethlehem to see Him) Who else traveled to celebrate Jesus? (Wise Men.)
  - And who do we celebrate at Christmas? (Jesus) That's right, Christmas is all about celebrating Jesus!

This week, talk with your family about special ways and traditions you celebrate Jesus, His birth, and why that is important to you and your family.

Pray with your family this week: God, we thank you that we can celebrate Jesus with our family. We pray that if we receive presents this Christmas season, that we remember that your present of your Son is the best gift of all! And that we remember that Jesus is the reason we celebrate. Amen.

Merry Christmas to all of our FCC families!  
*Ms. Natalie*

**NO KID'S WORSHIP OR KID'S WORSHIP EXTRA DURING WORSHIP ON DEC. 27. WE WILL RESUME IN 2021!**

## YOUTH NEWS

A special Christmas "thank you" to those who give to the youth fund! With less opportunities this year to fundraise, we were still able to fulfill the wish list of our Angel Tree kids! We served 12 children this year who may not have gotten a gift otherwise from an incarcerated parent. We wrapped up our year on Sunday with Angel Tree shopping, wrapping and even had our our re-gift giving game. *What gifts has God given you? Are you re-gifting them? Give it a try, bless the world with what God has given you!!*

See you on Sunday, Jan. 10th for Youth Nights, 5 p.m.- 7 p.m. Have a very merry Christmas ☩ & a safe a happy New Years 🍷 *Staci*

We are so close to the end of 2020 and looking back over the past 365 days, I bet no one could have ever imagined all that would take place. It is so easy to focus on the negative. For some it has been a devastating year with the loss of loved ones and changes in health and jobs. For others it has meant not seeing loved ones or being quarantined from the world and feeling the physical separation of things we love and those we love. It is certainly easy to see why we are ready to shut the door on 2020. It has been a year like no other for most of us. However, I would like to challenge us to be a little bit optimistic as we turn the page into 2021 and see what we have learned from the valley we've found ourselves in for the past 12 months.

On Sunday, I will be sharing the pulpit for what Ronnie likes to call "National Associate Minister Preaches Sunday" (the Sunday after Christmas). I will be sharing a message of hope and hopefully shedding some light on what we have all experienced in the past year. I hope to share a mix of how God has led us through the valleys and where He has held us up and carried us at times. I hope you will make plans to join us online or in-person this Sunday for worship at 10:30 a.m.!

In fact, one of the biggest blessings to come out of 2020 is our worship together! Overall our attendance has increased in a time when we feared things might fall apart. When we first heard we would need to shut down in March, we wondered how things would fare and how we would maintain as a church family. First and foremost, we prayed! We prayed for how to serve our church family and how to meet needs in this unprecedented time. Then, we began making plans and shifting how we did church! This meant finding creative ways to bring worship into your home and asking you to be a part of the services through videos and watching online.

We now are able to watch in-person and online and I am thrilled to share that our attendance is higher than it was pre-Covid with the combined numbers! God is good! I am thankful for the investment we have made in making sure our online presence improves each week.

With that, I appreciate the time and grace that has been given as we learn a completely new way of doing worship. Just this past month, we purchased a higher-end computer system and software to match our sound booth equipment. I have spent the past three weeks learning the new ProPresenter software and my husband spent all weekend getting the computer and camera systems installed so we could go live on Sunday.

I am excited to see where the software will take our worship services, as it is designed to use layering, much like you see on television stations. For example, when you watch a news station or ESPN broadcast, what you are watching is "layers" of elements from static elements to video elements on top of each other. They are dealing with transitions and elements that move in and out of the screens with different layers of programming.

Our previous software was a very basic program that allowed one element on the screen at a time. Although I am still in a learning phase of this new software, one example you saw Sunday but may or may not have noticed was moving backgrounds on music and transitions on the words as we sang. While many of these elements aren't made to be obvious to the weekly worshipper, they are used to make worship a "deeper" experience. As graphic elements are brought into the worship service, research shows that motion and different visual experiences can enhance a person's mood and connection with the music, sermon, prayer and overall worship experience.

As we also become more aware of our online presence, we are adding additional elements like picture-in-picture for those watching at home that aren't seen in the sanctuary but are able to help those who aren't able to be in the sanctuary.

As I said earlier, I appreciate the grace and time given to us as we learn these new concepts. Most of all, I appreciate my husband who has spent countless hours researching and installing the new equipment. I also appreciate my son, Alex, who has begun learning the computer side of our worship service so that I can be freed up to participate in leading worship and working with our 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders.

I hope this has given you a little "behind the scenes" look at our worship services and I hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Blessings!  
*Karen*



# Prayer Request



**Our love and sympathy go out to:** The Family of Karen Yancey

**Hospitalized at this time:** Linda Cameron (Tulsa - ICU), Dennis Lynch (Integrus)

**Preparing for surgery:** Nick Bench (12/30), Basil Belveal (1/5)

**We pray for our church family:** Sarah Anderson, Joann LeGrande, Dorothy Smith, Barbara Wilder, Ron Fields, Larry Stinchcomb, Joan Dreessen, Sherry Canning, Debbie Considine, Mike Carey, Dorothy Herbert

**We pray for our friends:** Greg Tontz, David & Joyce Welch, Terry Carris, Cheryl McKendrick, The Family of Gerald Duehning, The Family of Glen Graham, Harold and Mary Hembree, Terry Thompson, Brooklyn VanGroll, Geraldine Henderson, The Family of Kim Le, Jason Dodd, Lucy Pridham, Paula Jean Nulick, Mary Daymund, Lisa Conti, Joan Faye Meacham, Darrin Robb, Wes Black, Rosemary Standerfer, Mary Coffin, Jerry Williams, Rod Richardson, Keith Gordon, Brenda Piland, Valerie Cotton, James Stowe, Katheryn Webb Feken, Cathy Carter, Pam Billings, Janetta Hibbler, Kayla Thetford

**And our military all over the world:** Bonnie Epperson, Jonah Friese, Garret Canning, T.J. Wilson, Brent Walton, Matt Byce, Cody Ingram

# Celebrate!

## January Birthdays!

- |   |   |                                     |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1 – Daelon Rice<br>Herb Reeve                       | 10 – Janice Hand<br>Terryl Wieczorek<br>Dorothy Smith | 22 – Sheryl Reeve<br>Hadley Timmons |
| 2 – Darla Trench                                    | 11 – Virgil Rodgers<br>Jack Andrews                   | 23 – Riley Dods<br>Karen Ochs       |
| 3 – Paul Ketch                                      | 12 – Abigail Simpson                                  | 24 – Logan Hand                     |
| 4 – Rick Martin<br>Wendy Anderson<br>Dakota Hubbard | 13 – Lloyd Roettger<br>Deanna Case                    | 25 – Kenny Walter<br>Jake Doles     |
| 5 – Aspen Mitchell<br>DJ Ketch<br>Clara Ketch       | 14 – Andi Mays  | 26 – Carl Biggs                     |
| 6 – Elise Friese                                    | 15 – Tara Yancey<br>Megan Reece                       | 27 – Ryan Biggs                     |
| 7 – Brad Hand                                       | 17 – Jaci Wiss  | 28 – Morgan Hanna<br>Gregg Gumerson |
| 8 – Samantha Gerhards                               | 20 – Donna Russell                                    | 30 – Waylon Ball                    |
|   | 21 – Bo Hayes<br>Courtney Turner                      | 31 – Brandon Tontz                  |

# Merry CHRISTMAS

**From Your Church Staff**



# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 17 – Bill & Paula Bowles | 23 – Jim & Maurie Overton |
| 22 – Jeff & Jacki Cowan  | 24 – Paul & Barbara Ketch |

## STOCKING MINISTRY



To all of you who played a part, from praying to donating for the stocking project: 'Thank you' seems trite. Especially this year, with budget and time constraints on everyone's plates, your generosity and giving spirits have not gone unnoticed. THANK YOU for giving an awe-filled 'moment' to each student. Our Stocking Ministry blessed 203 students in the Guthrie Public Schools this year!

Stacey Johnston & Krista Smith, Outreach Team Co-Chairs

**We wish you a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!**

*Ronnie Fields*

*Natalie Hardin*

*Anita Owen*

*Karen Allen*

*Michelle Gill*

*Michael Johnson*

*Shana Bench*

*Derek Shoun*

*Malik Moses*

*Staci Carey*

*Holly Evers*

*Tommy Theademan*

*Sadie Porter*



# JANUARY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Repeating Sunday Events: (unless otherwise indicated) 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 5 p.m. – Youth Meeting **Kid's Worship for 5 yrs – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade every Sunday during worship **Kid's Worship Extra for 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders on the 2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays</p>	<p>Office: fccguthrie@coxinet.net Rev. Ronnie Fields: ronnie@coxinet.net Karen: Karenkallen@cox.net Shana: Shanabench@coxinet.net Natalie: nahardin@gmail.com Staci: carey.staci@yahoo.com Michelle: michelle.m.gill@live.com Sadie: sadieporter0@gmail.com Michael: mrjohnson139@gmail.com</p>				<p>1 Gen 1-3</p> 	<p>2 Gen 4-7</p>
<p>3 Gen 8-11</p> <p>11:45 a.m. – Undecorate Sanctuary</p> <p>NO YOUTH MEETING</p>	<p>4 Gen 12-15</p>	<p>5 Gen 16-18</p> <p>8:30 a.m. – Mother's Day Out 3:30 p.m. – Campfire Meeting</p>	<p>6 Gen 19-21</p>	<p>7 Gen 22-24</p> <p>8:30 a.m. – Mother's Day Out</p>	<p>8 Gen 25-26</p>	<p>9 Gen 27-29</p>
<p>10 Gen 30-31</p> <p>11:45 a.m. – Christian Ed Team Mtg 3 p.m. – Worship Team Mtg (Zoom)</p>	<p>11 Gen 32-34</p>	<p>12 Gen 35-37</p> <p>8:30 a.m. – Mother's Day Out 3:30 p.m. – Campfire Meeting 6 p.m. – Girl Scout Meeting</p>	<p>13 Gen 38-40</p>	<p>14 Gen 41-42</p> <p>8:30 a.m. – Mother's Day Out</p>	<p>15 Gen 43-45</p>	<p>16 Gen 46-47</p>
<p>17 Gen 48-50</p>	<p>18 Ex 1-3</p> <p>No School Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</p>	<p>19 Ex 4-6</p> <p>8:30 a.m. – Mother's Day Out 3:30 p.m. – Campfire Meeting</p>	<p>20 Ex 7-9</p> <p>3:30 p.m. – Kidventure Resumes</p>	<p>21 Ex 10-12</p> <p>8:30 a.m. – Mother's Day Out</p>	<p>22 Ex 13-15</p>	<p>23 Ex 16-18</p>
<p>24 Ex 19-21</p> <p>LAITY SUNDAY</p>	<p>25 Ex 22-24</p>	<p>26 Ex 25-27</p> <p>8:30 a.m. – Mother's Day Out 3:30 p.m. – Campfire Meeting 6 p.m. – Girl Scout Meeting</p>	<p>27 Ex 28-29</p>	<p>28 Ex 30-32</p> <p>8:30 a.m. – Mother's Day Out</p>	<p>29 Ex 33-35</p>	<p>30 Ex 36-38</p>
<p>31 Ex 39-40</p>						