

Capital Campaign

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

Funds received to date:

\$101,043

11/21 Worship Attendance: 136 Average Attendance for November to date: 163

Christmas Stockings for Students

Stocking Adoptions are underway and we got off to a great start on Sunday! Thank you to everyone who adopted a Guthrie Public School student who is in need of a little extra love this year. As you know, we have been collecting hats, gloves, toiletries, shampoo and body wash and the stocking adoption ensures that each student will also receive a toy to go along with the basic necessities we include in the stockings. The toys can be around \$25 each and you can adopt a student from any of the elementary schools or high school.

Currently, these are the remaining students that need adopted:

Central Elementary – 7 boys (ranging k-3rd grade); 4 girls (3rd-4th grade)

Charter Oak — 15 boys (ranging k-4th grade); 5 girls (pre-k, 1st-4th grades)

Cottoral — 9 boys (ranging pre-k, k, 2nd-4th); 9 girls (k, 3rd, 4th grades)

GUES — 10 boys (5th-6th grades)

High School — 3 boys; 10 girls (HS students receive a \$25 Wal-Mart Gift Card. You can donate \$\$ and we can get them or if you want to purchase them that is fine too.)

If you want to adopt a student, you can text or call Stacey Johnston at 405-637-5190; Karen Allen 405-615-2240 or call the church office at 405-282-4080. You can also e-mail: karenkallen@cox.net or Stacey Johnston at: and5678dance@yahoo.com.

If you need gift ideas, we have a list we can text or e-mail to you.

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 KAREN ALLEN, Associate Minister



The Tie That Binds

First Christian Church, Guthrie

405-282-4080 www.fccguthrie.org

First Christian Church of Guthrie

Sharing Christ
 Growing in Faith

November 24, 2021 Volume 57, No. 11

A Note from Pastor Ronnie



I can't believe the Christmas season is upon us! The first Sunday of Advent is this Sunday. Advent of course being the start of the Christian calendar and the 4 Sundays leading up to Christmas. As a church we have a lot going on that we would love for you to join with us as we worship, fellowship, and grow. Listed below are the main things we have going on to celebrate together.

- *Children's Program Dec. 5 at 6:30 p.m. with a holiday treat tasting party following
- *Choir performing at the Territorial Christmas Dec. 11 at 4 p.m. at the Carnegie Library
- *Choir Christmas Special Dec. 12 during worship
- *Christmas Eve Service at 5 p.m.

Our Advent series will be "The Scandal of the Christmas Story." So often, I think, we take the story at face value and never look at how controversial it is. Join us as we explore how scandalous and unique is the story of Jesus' birth.

There are lots of ways you can plug in and support your church family! I look forward to seeing you soon!

Ronnie

Deck the Halls "THANK YOU"

Thank you to everyone who stayed to help "Deck the Halls" at church on Sunday! We had almost 30 people help prepare our Sanctuary for advent. It looks great!

The Worship Team does a great job preparing for each season and we are thankful for Debbie Hubbard's leadership of this team and its members. You are always welcome to be a part of the planning for decorating or share ideas for worship. The next Worship Team meeting is Dec. 19 following the worship service.

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.





Kid's Worship - **Need to Know:** I Can Wonder About Heaven **Bible Story:** Heaven
Bible Reference: John 14:2-3, 14:6, Revelation 21-22, Matthew 8:11, Isaiah 65:25, 2 Corinthians 5:1-7, 1 Corinthians 2:9

On Sunday in Kid's Worship, we picked back up our lessons about why it's ok to wonder about our faith. We can ask questions about our faith and find the answers in the Bible. On Sunday, we started wondering about Heaven. We wondered what it will look like, if we will go to church in Heaven, if it's little or big, will our pets be there, there are all kinds of things to wonder about Heaven. We learned that people who were alive before Jesus was born got to go to Heaven if they believed that Jesus was coming, we also learned that the Bible tells us that John got to see what Heaven would look like in one of his dreams!

This week: Talk to your kids about what you think Heaven will be like. Discuss why you think that and how you found the answers to your questions about Heaven.

Pray with your family: Hey God! Thank you for creating Heaven, an amazing place where we can live with You forever. Knowing that we will one day be in heaven with You is something we get to wonder about and look forward to. We love You! Amen!

Christmas Program: The show is coming up on Dec. 5! We only have 1 Wednesday rehearsal left on Dec. 1! It is imperative that all children are present for this rehearsal, as well as the final run-thru on Sun., Dec. 5 immediately following worship (11:45 a.m.) We will have a quick "snack" lunch and then rehearse the show until 1 p.m. (or as soon as we make it thru the entire show). If you need help or have questions about the kids' costumes, please let Shana Bench, Staci Carey, or Natalie Hardin know and we can get you some answers. The show starts at 6:30 pm on Dec. 5 and performers need to report to the Fellowship Hall (downstairs) by 6 p.m. for final adjustments and to get lined up. It's going to be such a cute show, the kids are excited to perform it! Hope you are making plans to be there to see it!



The kids have worked so hard on this adorable Christmas musical! Join us Dec. 5 at 6:30 p.m. followed by a Christmas Treat Tasting Party! Feel free to bring a treat to share! There will also be a special visitor 🎅

YOUTH NEWS

Celebrating the Season, we hope you can join us!
 Sunday 5th @ 9:30 am = Breakfast at Braums; Wednesday 8th 6 pm - 7:30 pm = "Reindeer Games"; Sunday 12th 11:30 am - 4 pm = "Angel Tree"; Sunday 19th Noon-1 pm = "Christmas Cookies"
 ~Merry Christmas! May the Joy of the Season fill your every moment.

The Holidays are here...Are YOU ready?
HOLIDAY HELPERS
 can help...
 House cleaning, decorating,
 shopping and more!

****HOLIDAY HELPERS**** is a fundraiser for mission trips and youth activities. Make sure you are signed up to help with the program to get a chance to work and earn money. For more information on how to help with the program or how to "hire" a helper, contact the church office or Staci Carey at 405-831-5509.

It's the most wonderful time of the year! You might think I'm stealing that line from the famous song because Christmas is coming and Advent is a glorious season. However, I'm actually stealing it as a Thanksgiving song! I feel like as fall kicks in and we have focused on Thanksgiving during the month of November, it's exciting to see hearts turned toward being better noticers. It's a time of year we tend to notice the blessings all around us. I love seeing daily Facebook posts about how we are thankful. As a church we are thankful for so many things.

As I reflect on the past year, I am thankful that we have safely returned to in-person worship, but still offer an option online for those unable to get out or who are traveling.

I am thankful for all the ways people have stepped up to serve on different Ministry Teams. In the past 10 days we have had more than 75 different people involved in helping set up Stewardship Appreciation Breakfast, Children's Sunday, Thankful Fest, Turkey Bingo, Stocking Adoptions and Decking the Halls. It has truly been a team effort and have had so many join us to participate.

It would be easy to see it as a "busy time of year" but instead I like to think of it as a time when we can have "Radical Hospitality" in greeting those who are worshipping with us, or blessing those who may not have the same type of holidays we do and most importantly "Sharing Christ and Growing in Faith."

This Sunday, we begin Advent and it's a season to focus on the Peace, Love, Joy and Hope that the birth of Christ brought into the world.

During the past month, we have been collecting "Christmas Tradition" stories and will publish an **Advent Devotional** to share with you on Sunday. This booklet can be picked up in printed form, or we will post them daily on our Facebook page. I hope you will take time to read these traditions, think about your own traditions and begin making new ones with family and friends. The devotions will also include a scripture and Christmas song of the day.

I am thankful for everyone who took time to submit a story! They are so fun to read and hopefully trigger some memories of things you may take for granted.

And finally...
"What is Yours to do in 2022?" We continue to focus on this phrase from our Stewardship Campaign. I know many of you made commitments to give \$5, \$10 or even \$20 more per month to the ministries of the church! I, too, am going to drink a few less Sonic drinks, eat out a few less times and give a little extra in 2022.

I wonder how big our vision for ministry could be if we all thought of one way to give more – whether it is financially or through serving.

In the past several months so many of you have jumped into new ministry teams and I love how many hands make less work. Seeing almost 30 of you decorating the Sanctuary on Sunday was amazing. Normally, a job that takes a few people a full afternoon was done in a little over an hour. THANK YOU for sharing your time to help the Worship Team!

At Turkey Bingo, we had so many donate prizes – we ended up with 30 gift cards, two 8-foot tables full of prizes, two turkeys and a ham to giveaway. Also exciting was six of our Connections Team members showing up to set-up ahead of the event and so many of you staying to help clean up!

Thankful Fest was no different! The Outreach and Connection teams was here at 2 p.m. setting up and because there were so many helping, we had things ready to go an hour before the event kicked off!

Stewardship Breakfast was no different! A team of eight people came and prepped and served breakfast from 9 to 10:30 a.m. We had more than 125 people eat. It was awesome!

All of this to say – when we work together, God's light shines and many are blessed. So, as we finish out 2021, I hope you are praying about what all God has given you to share in 2022. I know I'm praying about it and look forward to what's in store!

Have a blessed Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas!
 Karen

Prayer Requests

Our love and sympathy go out to: The Family of Sue Cooper (service at 10 a.m. Wed., Nov. 24 at Smith-Gallo Funeral Home), The Family of Gaylen "Sully" Sullivan, father of Teri Lyles (joint service with Donna Wheatley at 4 p.m. Mon., Nov. 29 in our sanctuary)

We pray for our church family: Linda Griffin, Gene Owen, Dennis Lynch, Deanna Davenport, Zoe Hopper, Jamie Hudson, Carol Smith, Sarah Anderson, Carson McNulty, Deanna Case, Kim Crick, Carl Biggs, Reuger Helm, Gary Weeks, Marilee Camerer, Sarah Schlueter, Sherry Canning, Gerald Whitfield, Keith Young, Jerry Yancey, Joan Dreessen

We pray for our friends and family members: Jim Price, Gay Shaffer, Ed & Katherine Walton, Midge Mixon, Judy Oneill, Allee Merrill, Marty Stamp, Maureen McWhirter, Bill Coburn, Karen Wallis, Jay Louton, Bill Tooley, James Wallis, Sandy Smith, Renee Riebe, Trish Worster, Valerie Cotton, Jerri Brownlee, Francine Santillanes-Lopez, Bill Liddke, Bob Bennett, Michelle Minnich, Mark Prather, Melton Lewis, Bradley Wilson, Joyce Brandes, Jesse Wehrenberg, Don Coffin, Sherry Marshall, Linda Hicks, Lee Pearce, Steve Ochs, Jerry Resch, Jay Beuchaw, Carol Garcia, Wes Weir, Anna Simmons, Scott Quick, Kimberly, Treva Seals, Joan Faye Meacham, Brenda Piland, James Stowe, Cathy Carter, Pam Billings, Janetta Hibbler, Kayla Thetford

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

Celebrate!

December Birthdays!

- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 – Betsy Ball | 12 – Gracelyn Hubbard | 21 – Tanner Ball |
| LaHonda Ball | Lakyn Smith | Hollie Mitchell |
| Tammy Severson | Jane Weeks | 23 – Krista Smith |
| 3 – Harper Valentin | 14 – Callen Hardin | 24 – JoAnn LeGrande |
| 4 – Chalk Beeson | 15 – Dale Frey | 25 – Sophia Hood |
| Darl Doles | Easton Plagg | Deannie Young |
| Keith Young | 16 – Mekaila Carey | 27 – Tyler Davison |
| 5 – Robert Dewart | Neely Carey | Tommy Payne |
| 6 – Maxine Ball | Lori Payne | Denise Shoun |
| 7 – Frances Macrory | Alexis Severson | 29 – Cynthia Baker |
| Juanita Plagg | 18 – Kim Betchan | 30 – Kyndal Carey |
| 9 – Abigail Johnston | Alan Schroeder | |
| | 19 – Kendall Shults | |

Bereavement Reception – Help Needed

On Monday, Nov. 29, we will celebrate the lives of Donna Wheatley and Gaylen "Sully" Sullivan. The service will be at 4 p.m. followed by a reception for those in attendance. Donna and Gaylen are the parents of Teri Lyles, who now resides in California. Donna was a long-time member of our congregation but had moved to California as she battled cancer. She passed away Oct. 8. "Sully" passed away Nov. 15. We want to lift up the Lyles' family in these recent losses.

If you are interested in helping prepare food for the reception, please call or text Karen Allen at 405-615-2240. We will need finger sandwiches, several relish trays, veggies trays and fruit trays. If you are able to help serve, please let us know as well. You can also e-mail karenkallen@cox.net.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 4 – Justin & Lindsay Mays | 24 – Eldon & Shirley Waner |
| 6 – Ryan & Julie Wiss | 27 – Bob & Sharon Davis |
| 7 – Hank & Debbie Hubbard | 28 – Charlie & Maxine Ball |
| 14 – Jim & Terri McNulty | 29 – Andrew & Natalie Hardin |
| 17 – David & Ellie Ball | 31 – Bill & Jessica McLain |
| Kelly & Debbie Considine | Nick & Shana Bench |

Save the Date!

Chi Rho Camp (completed 6-8th grades) – June 6-10
 Discovery Camp (completed 2nd & 3rd grades) – June 17-19
 Junior Camp (completed 4-5th grades) – June 20-24
 CYF Conference (completed 9-12th grades) – June 20-24
 Mission:Guthrie (Mission Camp for all Jr. High & High School Youth) – July 11-15
 Vacation Bible School – June 13 - 16



Mary Lou Welch
1938-2021

Pick up your "Christmas Traditions" Advent Devotion Book!

Our Advent Devotionals will be available beginning Sun., Nov. 29 – the 1st day of Advent. Thank you to all who contributed to this project!

HOLIDAY HELPERS
Gift wrapping made easy:

drop your gifts off in the church office between 9 am – 2 pm on Monday – Thursday or by appointment. Most gifts ready the next day. Delivery & pick-up available.



Connections Team Updates



We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving full of blessings! Our Connections Team has been hard at work over the past month and hope there has been a little something for everyone to enjoy! Congrats to all of the Turkey Bingo winners! Join us for the Holiday Treat Tasting Party after the Children's Christmas Program on Dec. 5! We would love for you to bring a fun snack to share and we hope to see you there!



First Christian Church

402 E. Noble, Guthrie, OK 73044

DECEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Repeating Sunday Events: (unless otherwise indicated) 10:30 a.m. Worship Service **Kid's Worship for 4 yrs – 2 nd grade every Sunday during worship	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 Kendra: kendragmcnew@gmail.com Michael: mrjohnson139@gmail.com		1 Acts 7-8 3:30 p.m. – Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal	2 Acts 9-10 8:30 a.m. – Mother's Day Out 7 p.m. – NA Meeting	3 Acts 11-13 Church Office Closed 6 p.m. – Dinner Group @ FCC	4 Acts 14-16
5 Acts 17-19 Stockings Due 9 a.m. – Youth Breakfast @ Braums 11:45 a.m. – Christmas Program Rehearsal 4 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. – Christmas Program	6 Acts 20-22	7 Acts 23-25 8:30 a.m. – Mother's Day Out 3:30 p.m. – Campfire Meeting 6 p.m. – Connections Team Meeting 7 p.m. – Bible Study	8 Acts 26-28 6 p.m. – Youth Game Night 6 p.m. – Elders Meeting 7 p.m. – Board Meeting	9 1 Timothy 1-6 8:30 a.m. – Mother's Day Out 7 p.m. – NA Meeting	10 Titus 1-3 Church Office Closed Stocking Set-up & Distribution	11 1 Peter 1-5 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. – Girl Scout Christmas Party (Recep. Hall) 3 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal 4 p.m. – Choir to Victorian Walk
12 Hebrews 1-6 Choir Cantata during Worship 11:45 a.m. – Youth to go Angel Tree Shopping Stocking Set-up & Distribution	13 Hebrews 7-10	14 Hebrews 11-13 8:30 a.m. – Mother's Day Out 3:30 p.m. – Campfire Meeting 5 p.m. – Girl Scouts Meeting 7 p.m. – Bible Study	15 2 Timothy 1-4	16 2 Peter; Jude 8 a.m. – Chamber Board Meeting 8:30 a.m. – Mother's Day Out 7 p.m. – NA Meeting	17 John 1-2 Church Office Closed	18 John 3-4
19 John 5-6 Donut Sunday Congregational Meeting following worship 11:45 a.m. – Youth Meeting 11:45 a.m. – Worship Team Meeting	20 John 7-8 11 a.m. – Staff Meeting Noon – Newsletter Deadline	21 John 9-10 No Mother's Day Out Guthrie Public Schools Christmas Break	22 John 11-12	23 John 13-15 No Mother's Day Out Church Office Closed 7 p.m. – NA Meeting	24 John 16-18 Church Office Closed 5 p.m. – Christmas Eve Service	25 John 19-21 
26 1 John 1-5 10 a.m. - Christmas Brunch 10:30 a.m. – Christmas Carols & Worship No Youth Meeting	27 2 John 1; 3 John 1	28 Revelations 1-5 No Mother's Day Out Church Office Closed / Guthrie Public Schools Christmas Break	29 Revelations 6-11	30 Revelations 12-18 No Mother's Day Out 7 p.m. – NA Meeting	31 Revelations 19-22 	

First Christian Church, Guthrie

Proposed Budget for 2022

	2021 Budget	Proposed 2022 Budget	Proposed Increase/ (Decrease)
Christian Education			
Children's Ministries	650.00	650.00	0.00
Christmas Program	250.00	250.00	0.00
Curriculum	500.00	500.00	0.00
Nursery Wages & Taxes	2,000.00	1,500.00	(500.00)
Promotion Bibles	100.00	100.00	0.00
Vacation Bible School	250.00	250.00	0.00
Church Camps (\$100 per camper)	2,200.00	0.00	(2,200.00)
Youth Ministries	250.00	250.00	0.00
Total Christian Education	6,200.00	3,500.00	(2,700.00)
Christian Outreach			
Community Involvement	2,000.00	3,500.00	1,500.00
Central Camp & Conference	3,000.00	0.00	(3,000.00)
Disciples Mission Fund	3,000.00	150.00	(2,850.00)
God's Food Bank	200.00	0.00	(200.00)
Hands of Jesus Food Pantry	1,000.00	500.00	(500.00)
Hope House	480.00	1,000.00	520.00
Lunch On Noble	200.00	0.00	(200.00)
Guthrie Ministerial Alliance	100.00	200.00	100.00
Community Assistance	2,820.00	3,500.00	680.00
Thankful Fest	1,500.00	2,500.00	1,000.00
Mission Work	1,350.00	0.00	(1,350.00)
School Support	2,000.00	3,000.00	1,000.00
United Way of Logan County*	1,700.00	5,000.00	3,300.00
Total Christian Outreach	19,350.00	19,350.00	0.00
Connections			
All-Church Events	200.00	400.00	200.00
Mileage - Sr. Pastor	750.00	750.00	0.00
Mileage - Assoc. Minister	225.00	0.00	(225.00)
Newsletter Postage	475.00	560.00	85.00
SimpleChurch Database	1,400.00	1,500.00	100.00
Total Connections	3,050.00	3,210.00	160.00

	2021 Budget	Proposed 2022 Budget	Proposed Increase/ (Decrease)
Personnel			
Salaries & Payroll Taxes	241,774.50	238,444.50	(3,330.00)
Staff Christmas Bonuses	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00
Reimbursables, including cell phones			
Senior Pastor	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Associate Minister	750.00	750.00	0.00
	245,524.50	242,194.50	(3,330.00)
Property			
A/C & Boiler Repairs	2,000.00	1,500.00	(500.00)
Capital Improvements	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00
Fire Detection Inspection	400.00	400.00	0.00
Gasoline	500.00	500.00	0.00
Insurance	24,000.00	21,000.00	(3,000.00)
Janitorial Supplies	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00
Lawn & Flower Care	2,500.00	3,500.00	1,000.00
Pest Control	1,650.00	1,650.00	0.00
Supplies, Repairs & Maintenance	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Utilities	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00
Van Maintenance	800.00	500.00	(300.00)
Total Property	56,850.00	54,050.00	(2,800.00)
Stewardship			
Office Supplies & Software	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00
Fellowship Supplies	2,000.00	1,500.00	(500.00)
Website	250.00	250.00	0.00
Marketing & Promotions	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Stewardship Promotion & Education	650.00	200.00	(450.00)
Total Stewardship	8,900.00	7,950.00	(950.00)
Worship			
Communion	400.00	400.00	0.00
Instrument Maintenance	300.00	300.00	0.00
Literature - The Secret Place devotion	209.00	160.00	(49.00)
Livestream & Video Production	900.00	900.00	0.00
Music: Choir, Handbells, Instruments	250.00	250.00	0.00
Music & Video Copyright Licensing	850.00	850.00	0.00
Supplies	475.00	475.00	0.00
TextInChurch App	564.00	564.00	0.00
Total Worship	3,948.00	3,899.00	(49.00)
TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET	343,822.50	334,153.50	(9,669.00)

*11 Partner Agencies including: American Red Cross - Logan County Chapter, Boy Scouts, CASA for Kids, Central OK Camp & Conference Center, Girl Scouts, God's Food Bank, HeartLine, Logan Community Services, Logan County Council on Aging, The Saville Center for Child Advocacy, YMCA of Greater OKC - Logan County Branch

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a Congregational Meeting on Dec. 19 following worship to approve the 2022 Operating Budget. Please contact Shana Bench, Church Administrator, if you have questions regarding the budget or your giving.