

Here to Worship, Nurture, and Share



The Duncan Christian



Volume 67, Issue 50

Thursday, December 19, 2019



This Sunday, December 22 4th Sunday of Advent

8:30 & 10:45 AM

Pastor Arnold Nelson

"Knowing the Right Thing to Do"

Matthew 11:18-25

Sanctuary

10:45 AM

Pastor Trevor Evans

"The Birth of REST"

Matthew 11:28

The Well

Both 10:45 AM Services

Children's Christmas Program

"We Wish You A Merry Christmas"

Tuesday, December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

5:00 & 11:00 PM

Pastor Arnold Nelson

"Time Finally Comes"

Luke 2:1-20

Sanctuary



NO NEWSLETTER NEXT WEEK!

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED:

DECEMBER 24 – 26

DECEMBER 31 – JANUARY 1



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Thank you for everything you do for us and the church throughout the year. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The Staff of First Christian Church



SAVE YOUR QUARTERS!

Sunday, December 29

We'll receive our

5TH SUNDAY QUARTER BLESSING OFFERING

to benefit the

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH DAYCARE

The Amen Corner

Once upon a time, in a land far, far, away, a couple had already traveled a long way from what had been their home to a much smaller place where they knew no one. We sing, *O Little Town of Bethlehem* but with the village so crowded, there was no place for them in the local inn. It was only because a thoughtful innkeeper showed some imagination, they had a place to give birth to a baby who was Christ the Lord. They laid him *Away in a Manger* and people have complained ever since about this modest beginning. No matter, God provided for this child and this exhausted and precious woman, and this exhausted and unusually dedicated man.

It happened that one time and yet we celebrate it annually. Why? Perhaps one reason is because something so tied to the central event in world history ought to be recognized once a year. Yes, I'm sure that's so. But also, it isn't just a moment for remembering something that happened once upon a time in one faraway place, but the repeated opportunity for it to happen again. For you, I guess for me, this will be one more celebration of the most wonderful time of the year, and I'll be pleased to see it come and relieved to see it go. We'll say, "My goodness it always seems to come sooner each year!" Right? Still, for someone it won't be that at all.

There's someone who has lived without hope for a good long time, maybe forever. Like those who lived before Christ, they might've wished promises of better times might come true but it's all seemed pretty hopeless. No way to live. There's someone who's never had a good occasion for having faith, for acting in faith. Faith requires having something so wonderful, you step past common sense and hard earned experience and take a big leap. Some have never had it; others have lost it. No wonder, a world that can break our hearts can take away faith. Someone has no joy. Joy is a sudden awareness of the best of things, like when a loved one unseen for a while comes right through the door and we're just delighted they're in the world, and in the room! Imagine a joyless life. Many have just that. Someone else knows unrest, anxiety, bitterness and recrimination, but nothing like peace. Peace is an understanding we may not know what tomorrow may bring but we know who brings tomorrow and that the one who holds our future is trustworthy and loves us absolutely. With peace in a God like that, you can live through any day and sleep through any night.

Maybe, it'll be someone reaching out to them. It could be hearing the story of the first Christmas for the first time, or as though for the first time. The words of a Christmas carol can do it. A card or a made-for-TV movie could do the trick. Whatever in the wide world it is, for someone this will be their first Christmas. Imagine that. Let's do our best to keep Christmas with kindness and mercy and allow the Holy Spirit a little room to work.

Glad to be your pastor,
Arnold

FCC People & Happenings



Coming Up...



Birthdays and Anniversaries

December 22 – January 4

- 22 Lilly Anderson
Waylon Huffman
- 23 Rann Hutson
- 25 Charlie Hays
- 26 Sarah Anderson
- 27 Joshua McAllister
- 28 Margaux Menand
Nancy Roop
Kerry Stark
Kimberly Weaks
- 29 Bennie Drake
Kristy Hooker
Marcia Menand
Kealey Neighbor
- 30 Jane Francis
Suzanne Parnell
Leonard Villalon
- 31 Kelsie Brown
Rick Gwaltney
- 1 Jeanne Losurdo
Hollie Stutes
- 2 Preston Weaks
- 4 Jerry Campbell
A.L. Hutson
Emily Matthews

- 23 Jerry & Gail Loafman
- 27 David & Kay Herndon
- 29 Jay & Chris Watkins
- 31 Randy & Sharon Burum
- 3 Michael & Jennifer Steil
- 4 Kevin & Tammy Faulkner

RADA CUTLERY ORDERS HAVE ARRIVED!

Please come to the Church Office
to pick up & pay for your order.

Note: If you ordered any of the new Anthem Wave products, RADA is not taking orders for these until January 2020, as they are working to fulfill all back orders at this time.

SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday UNite begins January 8!

CWU BOARD MEETING

Thursday, January 2

1:30 PM

Parlor

Sunday, December 29

"A Key Part of the Plan"

Matthew 2:13-23

Pastor Arnold Nelson

Sanctuary

Thank You Notes

Last Wednesday as I was leaving choir practice, I discovered a little decorated Christmas tree with lights sitting on my van. The card had my name on it, but not the name of the person who left it. Thank you to whoever you are! It brightened my day and my Christmas.

Thank you,

Kimber Painton

Thank you for the delicious meals delivered to us by the God's Love, It's Cookin' teams following Vicki's knee surgery. We treasure our church family, as our relatives are 6–12 hours away. Now that we've experienced both the giving and receiving of this ministry, we can truly say it is a blessing.

In His Love,

Joe & Vicki Vermedahl

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Christmas Cantata this year. We had several new choir members join us, and a larger number of singers is always great. They're welcome to stay in the choir if they'd like because, as you can see, none of us are getting any younger and the more, the merrier! Thank you to Bonnie Ross for singing another solo, and to Judge Russell for sticking his neck out and doing a solo. Thank you to Kassie Gilmore for her wonderful and dramatic speaking voice and narration. Thanks to Richard for helping us with the sound. Thank you to Arnold for giving up a sermon. And, thank you to the congregation for being so supportive and attentive as we sang. A special thank you to one of the most important people in our church, Patty Jennings. By the time you read this, we hope her back will be on the way to recovery. You may not know, but she's been playing through extreme pain these past few weeks. It's amazing she can be so musical and professional with all that's bothering her. We're so blessed to have her talent with us. So to sum it all up, we say thank you to all. And, as always, don't forget to Remember the Reason for the Season.

Merry Christmas!

Kevin Zinn

NO MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, December 28

FCC News & Activities

J.O.H.N. 6:35

JOINING TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY OFFERING A FREE DINNER TO HELP PROVIDE PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT.

COMMUNITY FREE DINNER ♡

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27
6:35 TO 8:00 PM @ THE WELL

MENU: PANCAKES & BACON



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

THIS MONTH'S MEAL PROVIDED BY
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH & THE WELL.

"I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE. WHOEVER COMES TO ME WILL NEVER GO HUNGRY AND WHOEVER BELIEVES IN ME WILL NEVER BE THIRSTY."
-JOHN 6:35

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Last week, we had the first of our Christmas Offering giving opportunities, and those here last Sunday were generous. We received over \$800! Why would we not be, given the chance to make such a difference?! As noted last week, the offering is being divided between the work of the Christian Church in Oklahoma, so children and youth might have life-changing experiences, the Disciples' KCV Children's Village in Zimbabwe, where children get a chance in an otherwise hopeless environment, and our FCC Daycare so children in their first, and formative, years get a good start in life. These are all worthy of our best. We can give again this Sunday, and on Christmas Eve. Please make plans to contribute.

World Outreach



ANNUAL FLOWER CALENDAR

January	5, 12, 19, 26	These are the available dates for flower arrangements in the Sanctuary for 2020. If you'd like to donate flowers in honor of or in memory of someone, to the Glory of God, etc., please call or come by the Church Office, or send an email to erica@fccduncan.com. Arrangements are \$60.00. You may take your arrangement home after the 10:45 AM service or allow the Care Team to distribute them to church members who are home-bound, hospitalized, or in a nursing home.
February	2, 9, 16	
March	8, 15, 22, 29	
April	5, 19, 26	
May	3, 17, 24, 31	
June	7, 14, 28	
July	5, 12	
August	9, 16, 23, 30	
September	20, 27	
October	4, 11, 18, 25	
November	1, 8, 15, 22, 29	
December	6, 13, 27	



CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

Sunday, December 22

Children will join worship in the sanctuary or @ the Well.

Sunday, December 29

Leader: Shasta Smith

Leaders needed for spring 2020!
Contact Shasta (656-7884) to volunteer.

COMING EVENTS

December 22 – January 4

Sunday, December 22

Good Morning Service in the Sanctuary	8:30 AM
Sunday School	9:30 AM
Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary	10:45 AM
Contemporary Worship @ the Well	10:45 AM
Children's Christmas Program @ the Well & in the Sanctuary	10:45 AM

Tuesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

Church Office Closed	
Christmas Eve Candlelight Services	5:00 & 11:00 PM

Wednesday, December 25 – Christmas Day

Church Office Closed

Thursday, December 26

Church Office Closed

Friday, December 27

J.O.H.N. 6:35 Free Meal @ the Well	6:35 PM
<i>Open to the Community</i>	

Saturday, December 28

Men's Net Group @ the Well	8:30 AM
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Sunday, December 29

Good Morning Service in the Sanctuary	8:30 AM
Sunday School	9:30 AM
Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary	10:45 AM
Contemporary Worship @ the Well	10:45 AM

Tuesday, December 31 – New Year's Eve

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, January 1 – New Year's Day

Church Office Closed

Thursday, January 2

CWU Board Meeting, Parlor	1:30 PM
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DEADLINE TO ORDER POINSETTIAS HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO NOON ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 23!
Call or come by the Church Office to place your order.

8:30—WORSHIP
SERVING SCHEDULE
Sunday, December 22, 2019
Sanctuary
Sermon
Arnold Nelson
Knowing the Right Thing to Do
Matthew 11:18-25
Scripture Reader
Rebecca Minson
Communion Prayer
John Minson
Greeters
Narthex
Janie Fitzgerald & Bob Jones
Assistant Treasurer
A.L. Hutson
Communion Preparation
John Minson
Sunday School Superintendent
Rod Smith

God's Love...it's Cookin'!
December 21 — Team O'Kelley
December 28 — Team Elliott

Ministers of First Christian Church

Staff Secretary	Arnold Nelson, Jr.
Business Secretary	Trevor Evans
Organist	Erica Hancock
Sanctuary Choir Director	Reba Ford
A.V. Manager, Sanctuary	Patty Jennings
A.V. Manager, Well	Kevin Zinn
Praise Leader @ the Well	Richard Herndon
Kitchen Hostess	Bruce Bailey
Head Custodian	Jared Smith
Custodian	LaDonna Brown
Daycare Executive Director	Frank Timmins
Daycare Program Director	Stephen Stapp
Nursery Director	Tosha Matheny
	Stephanie Wiggins
	Lacey Myers

10:45—WORSHIP
SERVING SCHEDULE
Sunday, December 22, 2019
Sanctuary
Christmas Cantata
Arnold Nelson
Knowing the Right Thing to Do
Matthew 11:18-25
Scripture Reader
Cecilia Richey
Serving Elders
Communion Prayer:
Vicki Vermedahl
Invocation & Lord's Prayer &
Dedication of Offering:
Terry Snider
Serving Deacons
Max Daughtrey
Tom Freeman
Marcia Harlow
Kelly Nelson (Head)
Cecilia Richey
Anthony Scott
Gary Scott
Karen Scott
Charles Young
Greeters
Narthex
John & Carol Eubanks
Sanctuary Doors from G.H.
North: Alice Auerbach
South: Amy Ater
Assistant Treasurer
David Herndon
Communion Preparation
John Minson
Communion Clean-Up
Kelly Nelson

10:45—WORSHIP
SERVING SCHEDULE
Sunday, December 22, 2019
Well
Message
Trevor Evans
Serving Elder: Karl Jacobs
Hostess: Leigh Tetlow & Esther Wylie
Assistant Treasurer: Trent Cronk

In Our Prayers
Hospital
Mary Eastin — Oklahoma Heart Hospital
Patty Jennings — Oklahoma Spine Hospital
Jason Smith — Duncan Regional Hospital
Nursing Home / Assisted Living
Jane Aldridge — Canoe Brook
Sally Anderson — Elk Crossing
Esther Coker — Canoe Brook
Betty Eby — Gregston's
Pat Elam — Canoe Brook
Lynda Galloway — Chisholm Trail
Billie Phagans — Elk Crossing
Marvene & Louie Schumacher — Wilkins
Others
Scotty Elliott
Herb Lang
Ronnie & Kathy Thompson
Honor Vaughn
Vicki Vermedahl
Colleen Whitfield

December 15, 2019

8:30 AM Worship in the Sanctuary	38
10:45 AM Worship in the Sanctuary	108
10:45 AM Worship at the Well	66
Children's Worship & Wonder	3
Total Worship Attendance	215
Sunday School	30
General Budget	\$ 12,424.67
Christmas Offering	\$ 835.00



Come to Worship, Nurture, and Share

Published weekly, except Thanksgiving & Christmas weeks

@theWellFC @FirstChristianChurchDuncan



LABEL

THE DUNCAN CHRISTIAN
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Duncan, Oklahoma 73533

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
912 W. Walnut
Duncan, OK 73533
Phone: 580-255-6116; Fax 580-255-6168
Email: erica@fccduncan.com
Websites: fccduncan.com
www.thewellfccchurch