Our Vision for Ministry is Love! Live! Give!

LOVE God, love self, and love each other unconditionally.

LIVE into our faith journey, shepherding one another.

GIVE of ourselves to make a difference in our world.

Malget’s Musings: What Shall We Bring?

It is clear that at the end of the day, what God wants from us is not our money or our stuff, but our “whole heart.” Bulls numbering in the thousands and running rivers of oil are not the sacrifice that God desires, but rather our willingness to abandon all other loyalties and claims that clamor for our attention, in favor of one: God. A commitment that does not get measured by the gold standard of wealth, but rather one of the simple turning of life toward the priorities of God’s community. Do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. It seems so simple, but we know the opposite to be true. It is easier to just write a check, or swipe our debit card and contribute to a cause. In the church, it often feels safer to ask for money than to ask for the changing of a life’s priorities. Our offerings have to be more than simply financial, they must be an offering of all that we are and all that we have.

Stewardship is about more than money. It is a whole life response to the abundant generosity of God. A generosity that is gauged by more than what we hold in our bank accounts. Stewardship is about the care and management of creation, the observation of Sabbath and the care for the precious gift that is our own life. It is about sharing the good news of the gospel by inviting others to join us at an always expanding table of grace. Faithful stewardship is about the intentional and impactful deployment of our spiritual gifts. And yes, it is about our stuff. But more than that, it is a way of giving that flows from the heart in concrete ways in response to what God has already done. Do we use what we have been given to make a difference or to make ourselves more comfortable? Do we own our stuff, or does our stuff own us?

As we approach the topic of stewardship and giving, let us do so in the context of worship, soul-searching the idea of “Why exactly DO we give?” In October, I will be asking some of you to speak publically in worship about why you give to the church, both through your finances, but also with your time and talents. As far as giving of time I am excited to say that we have three amazing teachers for our new Chi Rho (5-8 grade) Sunday School class: Meredith Harrison, Bradley Havenar, and Sherri Malget. Keep them in your prayers as they inspire these kids.

“With what shall we come before the LORD, and bow ourselves before God?
What does the LORD require? Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with God.”—Micah 6:6,8

We are Disciples First! Followers in the Way of Jesus!
Online with Tom: Summer of Fun!

We are now wrapping up our Summer Sermon Series, and it’s been a great ride! I have had the opportunity to bring three of the messages, which I have greatly enjoyed. Here’s the whole program for this summer:

The Gospel According to Mr. Rogers (John Malget)
The Gospel According to the Beatles (Tom Harrison)
The Gospel According to Harry Potter (Anna Holloway)
The Gospel According to RuPaul (Allen Harris)
The Gospel According to Jimmy Carter (John Malget)
The Gospel According to Church Camp (Gene Spillman)
The Gospel According to Walt Disney (John Malget)
The Gospel According to Marvel (Tom Harrison)
The Gospel According to Langston Hughes (Jesse Jackson)
The Gospel According to Sesame Street (Bradley Havenar)
The Gospel According to Star Trek (John Malget)
The Gospel According to Peanuts (Tom Harrison)
The Gospel According to Tolkien (Anna Holloway)
The Gospel According to Dolly Parton (John Malget)

John and I contemplated continuing them through September, but settled on the plan of making it a recurring summer program. That means there will be more to come, beginning next June! Some of you Star Wars fans want a sermon on that, so Star Trek doesn’t seem to rule the roost. That will probably be one of our messages next summer. And the more we think about it, the more exciting ideas we discover. So I’m excited about that.

And one other thing. Perhaps you missed some of the special services this summer. Never fear! We have them all on the internet. All you have to do is go to our FaceBook page, [https://www.facebook.com/DisciplesFirstOKC](https://www.facebook.com/DisciplesFirstOKC) or our page on Youtube.com entitled FirstChristianChurch OfOKC. See you Sunday?

A Note from Your Board Chair

During the coming months our church will emphasize stewardship. This has not happened for several years but the time has come where it is now necessary. We are so blessed to have had many church members come before us who left funds for our trustees to invest. These investments help us to sustain our day to day operations by paying salaries for John, Tom, Carol, Josie, and Derek; to keep the telephone, water, electricity, heat and air, internet and insurance paid.

Your church board is working on a budget for 2022 to make sure the income from our investments will sustain our church. However anything beyond that is not covered. Any extra/unexpected expenses or additional ministries we want to pursue need to come from our congregational offerings.

I believe stewardship is a privilege and a responsibility. It is perhaps obvious to say it’s a responsibility, because if you and I do not support our church, who will? But how often do we think of it as a privilege? It reminds me of words I have heard said at the Communion table: “Come not to this table because you must, but because you may. Come not because you are fulfilled, but because in your emptiness you stand in need of God’s mercy and assurance.” What if we were to think of stewardship in that way ... as a privilege, something we may do; never something we must do. And like communion something that in the act of doing it will actually fill us up rather than deplete us.

With love, Raylene

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We have three easy ways to give financially to the church. The first is Givelify, an online giving platform that allows us to receive offerings electronically. It is so easy to use. You can download the “app” on an iPhone or Android device, and give from your phone. You may also go to DisciplesFirstOKC.org and tap the GIVE button at the top of the website, or simply tap DONATE on our church’s Facebook page. This allows those who do not carry check or cash, or those who worship with us online to continue to give to the ministries of Disciples First Christian Church of Oklahoma City!

If you prefer, you can send a check to the church office to: PO Box 18636, Oklahoma City, OK 73154.

Finally, if you are present in person for worship, you can place your offering in the trays at the back of the sanctuary.

Your financial gifts are needed and appreciated. God bless you!
Hello Everyone! I can hardly believe that it's already heading toward the end of August! School has started and we are marching on into the fall season with excitement! You are invited to join us for our Promotion Sunday, August 29, 2021. Every child going into the fifth grade or above will be promoted to our all new Chi Rho class which will begin on the first Sunday of September! We will have a very short promotion ceremony during the service and then we will go back to the Chalice Kids classroom for a cupcake party. Each new Chi Rho student will receive an “Adventure Bible” as well as a certificate of recognition and promotion. We are so very proud of all of our kids!

The Chalice Kids have had a wonderful time with our summer sermon series The Gospel According To... Hopefully we will get to do it again next summer. On September 12, 2021, we will start back into our Children’s Worship and Wonder series. For those of you that are new to the Children's Worship and Wonder series it is a faith formation approach with storytelling, ritual, and fellowship that is used with children in churches to help them deepen their relationship with God. The children have enjoyed this in the past and are looking forward to beginning the program once again.

Plans are in the works for a Halloween celebration since Halloween is on a Sunday this year. I am watching the Covid-19 numbers very closely and trying to plan something that is safe for all. I will post more information on the church's Facebook page as it gets closer.

You can connect with the church on our Facebook page, our website, and in our newsletters to get more information in the coming months. We hope to see you all there! I do hope you are all doing well, masking up, and taking care of yourselves and each other! Stay safe and know that you are loved!

Chain Reaction Ministries

Chain Reaction Ministries serves God by serving the least and the last among God’s children. We repair and give away donated bicycles to those in need so they can have life-changing transportation. To that end, we have given away over 3,300 bikes.

**Mid-Pandemic Chain Reaction Ministries!**

Chain Reaction Ministries provides an essential service to our community through transportation. We know that someone cannot keep a job if they cannot get to their job. However, in order to keep everyone safe during this time of pandemic, we currently only give bikes away by appointment in consultation with the many social service agencies with which we have relationships.

Right now, we are in desperate need for volunteer bike mechanics. If you, or someone you know (who is vaccinated) would want to come work on bikes during the day, we would love it. Please let Josie know by email (DisciplesFirstOKC@gmail.com) or by calling the church (405-525-6551). As always, we take adult bikes in donation so that we can get them to those who can use them for needed transportation. If you have children’s bikes to donate, contact us here at the church and we can tell you where to take them. You can also donate financially to Chain Reaction so that we can purchase parts (tubes, tires, brake accessories, etc.) to get the donated bikes up and running. Thank you for all of your support!

**Changing Lives One Bike at a Time!**
Jewel Box Theatre

Jewel Box Theatre, a proud ministry of Disciples First—OKC, is Oklahoma’s oldest continuously running community theater now about to begin our 64th season.

Jewel Box Theatre’s 63rd season is coming to a close. The primary goal for this transitional period has been exponential growth, and that goal has most definitely been met. People have been hearing about Jewel Box’s return due to word of mouth from our loyal patrons, as well as a boost from local media outlets. We thank you all for helping us with Jewel Box’s inaugural year in its new location, especially after the difficulties of the last 18 months. However, it is also important to understand that our work is ongoing. With the continuing of the pandemic, JBT is taking the necessary precautions to keep the public safe. Masks are once again required in the building, with the exception of vaccinated cast members. Tests are being administered regularly with those involved in each production, and in the scenario of positive results, quarantines are enforced. We hope that all patrons can join us in continuing the theatre that we love, but in the safest environment possible.

With all that being said, we still have a few more opportunities to enjoy this current season. Steel Magnolias will be returning September 2–12 with the same cast and crew. This brief, two-weekend run will allow us to reach a larger audience than the original 2020 endeavor. Just two weeks after we say goodbye to the ladies at Truvy’s Beauty Salon, JBT will be hosting our annual GEM Award Ceremony. It is an excellent opportunity for patrons to show love for all the hardworking professionals who made this season possible, as well as root for their favorite actors, directors, crew/design members, and plays. This will close out Season 63, but it will be a quick turnaround into Season 64, beginning with A Streetcar Named Desire in late October. Tickets for all events can be found by looking us up at showtix4u.com or go to JewelBoxOKC.com and click on UPCOMING SHOWS.

Season Ticket
6 Shows for only $75

A Streetcar Named Desire
By Tennessee Williams
Directed by Derek Kenney
October 28 - November 14, 2021

A Tuna Christmas
By Ed Howard, Jaston Williams, and Joe Sears
Directed by Adrienne Pierce
December 9 - 23, 2021

Brief Encounter
By Noël Coward and Emma Rice
Directed by Ronn Burton
February 3 - 20, 2022

Rumors
By Neil Simon
Directed by Denise Hughes
March 17 - April 3, 2022

The Amen Corner
By James Baldwin
Directed by LaCharles Purvey
May 5 - 22, 2022

An Unspeakable Triumph of Supreme Brilliance
By Don Zolidis
Directed by Carol McDonald
June 23 - July 10, 2022

Jewel Box Theatre’s 63rd Season
GEM AWARDS
Saturday
September 25, 2021
at the Jewel Box
$25 6pm