

## Congratulations Graduates!

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We would like to honor our 2018 graduates as they turn an important page in their lives and begin a new chapter:

### Kindergarten

- Damarius Andrews, Hess Elementary to Edison Elementary

### 8th Grade

- Jaeda Baldwin, St. Barnabas to Marist High School
- Kennedi Bickham, Lindblom Math & Science Academy to University of Chicago Lab High School
- Jordin Brock, Ted Lenart Regional Gifted Center to St. Laurence High School
- Sydney Russell, Southwest Chicago Christian School to Mother McAuley High School
- Samella Shive, Independence Junior High to Alan B. Shepard High School

### 12th Grade

- Jasmine Baldwin, Marist High School to University of Illinois at Chicago

### Bachelor of Arts

- Autumn Bolling, BA Psychology, University of Chicago to National Louis University
- Ololade Olawale, BA/BSC Biology, Cornell University

### Military

- Jonathon Chapman, Great Lakes Navy Boot Camp

## Birthdates and Anniversaries

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### Happy Birthday!

5-Nancy Ludes	17-Inis Reece
7-Savannah Jacobs	17-Elizabeth Chapman
9-Leiana McLendon	24-Lynn Schmid
10-Anna Otero	25-Michelle Miller
13-Richard Bussian	29-Jumoke McDonald

### Happy Anniversary!

1-Richard and Barbara Bussian	21-Chris and Clarissa Myers
3-Floyd and Dorothy Collins	23-Gincy and Stacey Hartin
6-Geoff and Lois Shive	26-Rick and Felicia Baldwin
8-Shona and Xhorxhi Petushi	29-Cliff and Brittan Russell
13-Phil and Nancy Ludes	

## A Race For Unity

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Race has divided our country and our churches. The Church must do all it can to forge a new understanding and dialogue. Culture tells us we must choose one of two “sides” – yours or mine, black or white, Asian or Hispanic.

**Saturday, September 15, 11am-1pm**

First Christian Church of Chicago is in an unique position as a congregation that is building the bridge of racial reconciliation to help others to navigate it as well.

We will invite other area congregations and community members to join us in the journey of honoring the priceless value of God’s image in everyone you meet. During this LIVE simulcast event, churches across the Nation will open their doors, partnering with other churches in the community to be a gathering place for conversation, learning, & healing.

## Undershepherd Update

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Dorothy Collins, Jerrold and Portia Brock, and Dionna Bickham have volunteered to work alongside our Elders as undershepherds to the FCC Family. Each will be undergoing training soon to prepare them for this ministry.

Their help will allow our shepherding ministry to make sure that no one falls through the cracks, as they come along and become a first tier-response for some of the families that they are able to connect with under the Elders’ supervision. Each undershepherd will have several people or families that they will be primarily responsible for. Yet, having an undershepherd responsible for you does not mean that you will lose your connection with your shepherding Elder. It means that you may have multiple people whom you may seek out when you are going through a period of difficulty, when you need to talk or have someone pray with you, or when you need spiritual guidance or direction.

Could you pray for these trusted volunteers as they embark on this ministry of being people you can count on to help you grow and serve in Christ?



**JUNE 2018  
MESSENGER**

## Straight Talk from Steve

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At FCC, we have a period of time between Worship Celebration and Connection Groups that we call “hospitality”. Hospitality entails serving punch and coffee, along with a selection of desserts or light snacks to our hungry post-worship crowd. Sometimes we are served what would even be called a light meal.

This environment is useful and needed, as well as valued and appreciated. It starts us on the road to hospitality as it provides us with a good time to interact with one another with the “Hi, how you doing ?” or “I’m glad to have the chance to meet you!” conversations before we move on to our connection environments.

Hospitality is a key virtue throughout the New Testament. We see it acted out repeatedly by Jesus in the gospels as he sat down for meals with saints and sinners. We see that repeated by the church in Acts. Hospitality is prominent in the imperatives of Romans 12.

Yet, I am forced to wonder if labeling this “hospitality” doesn’t also present a certain danger. Could it tempt us to accept a limited cultural definition of hospitality rather than embracing the richer and deeper New Testament expression?

However, the term hospitality in the New Testament represents much more than a time of refreshments. A perception that limits hospitality to punch and coffee misses the richness of God’s intent.

Hospitality is opening one’s life and one’s home to others. It is inviting others to put their feet under your table, and engaging one another in deep, honest and vulnerable conversation. It is about showing acceptance enjoyed around a meal where we can really get to know one another. That is what Jesus did for Zacchaeus when he invited himself to Zacchaeus’ home for dinner.

When I was young, I remember after church going to the home of another family, going out to eat with another family, or inviting a family to our home ... and in each of those environments the church would be served as two families got to know one another.

What if we were to rediscover this deeper sense of hospitality by inviting others into our homes, by eating together with one another around our tables, and getting to know one another. Or maybe it isn’t even a meal or our homes, but it is a longer conversation over a cup of coffee at Starbucks. How might that enhance the ministry of the church?.

## Heart to Hartin

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On May 17<sup>th</sup> I attended the RightNow Conference that was hosted by Community Christian Church in Naperville. At this conference, I listened as Dave Ferguson (lead pastor of CCC) talked about the tendency that we church leaders struggle with, in which we’re always trying to be the “hero” instead of being “hero makers.” What Dave meant was that we pastors usually place the onus upon ourselves to do all of what’s necessary to grow a church, whereas we should instead be training and equipping others to lead ministries and use their gifts, which will multiply our efforts beyond what we can do by ourselves. Dave explained that the churches that are reproducing and multiplying are the churches whose leaders have a habit of apprenticing others – in the same way that Jesus spent time with his disciples, preparing them to continue and expand his work after he returned to his Father. The leaders who cultivate these habits are able to put their egos aside so they can empower others in the congregation to use their gifts to help build God’s kingdom.

In my present roles at FCC, I can clearly see that I need to pass off more of my ministry to others, not only because of my personal limitations, but also because this church cannot grow and expand as long as I’m thinking small and insisting on doing everything myself, instead of teaching others to do what I’m doing. For example, in our Student Ministry, everything currently hinges on what activities Stacey and I are able to do and plan between us. The result is that, each week, we presently have Sunday morning groups in which students whose developmental levels are different are grouped together because there aren’t enough teachers to divide the students into their appropriate groups.

In order for the “hero-making” process to work, we who are in the church leadership must be able to identify and recruit individuals whom we can train, who are willing to be mentored in a particular ministry area. We need men and women who want to be actively involved in growing God’s kingdom instead of standing on the sidelines watching others do the work. Are you one of those people? If so, I urge you to contact a staff member, elder, or ministry team leader so we can talk with you about getting involved.

## Spotlight On Missions



### Brandon/Alyson Chitwood

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This month’s spotlight on missions is on missionary partners that have been newly added to the Faith Promise budget for 2018-19.

Our own Brandon and Alyson Chitwood have joined the staff of CRU—Chicago Urban team to minister to young people in the Roseland and Englewood neighborhoods. Brandon works as a mentor and athletic coach in CRU’s partnership with Agape Center, while Alyson fills administrative responsibilities as they seek to raise funds and communicate with supporters. Together they are seeking to shine God’s light into some of the darkest areas of the city.

Thank you to those of you who have chosen to support the Chitwoods directly. I know that your support is greatly appreciated. The church’s partnership with the Chitwoods will be 7.5% of Faith Promise contributions.

Thank you as well to all of you who are supporting them with your prayers.

## First Family News

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### From Elroy Leach of Christian Service Center:

Thanks very much for your financial gift. It arrived at an opportune moment to help us catch up on a few bills. The City of Chicago has contacted us already about our summer activities. Joan and I will have to get our annual training in May to qualify the children in our youth program for free lunches. Thanks again for your incessant prayers and financial support. God bless you.

### From Dorothy McCullough:

Pastor Steve and FCC family, once again I’ve found myself the recipient of your goodness and generosity. The benevolence fund was very helpful in my organization of Michael’s affairs. Thank-you for how you seem to have made it a point to be a blessing to me. May the Lord reward you well for the kindness you have shown. (1 Samuel 24:19)