



Message
from
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Associate
Minister

Doing for others is at the very heart of what it means to be Christian. Caring for the lonely, the lost, the powerless, those who hurt, those who have little, brings into focus our understanding of ministry and our walk of faith.

Reaching out into the community, and reaching out to places whose names we can barely pronounce, meeting the needs of healing and helping and sharing the good news in as many ways as we can, helps us to fulfill Christ's commission for us to 'go into all the world...'

When you donate to outreach causes, especially some of those listed here, we encourage you to understand that these are all 'over and above' gifts, and should be reflected in your overall giving, but should be given apart from the regular offering pledge that you make to the church. We have provided this list in order that you can plan your giving and make provision in your decisions for giving both to the church budget, and to those special causes that interest you and move you to 'extra' giving.

Doing for others is at the heart of what it means to be Christian. Put your faith into action as you consider how to be good stewards.

Annual Denomination Offerings

February*—Week of Compassion Offering provides emergency and long-term assistance to victims of natural disasters, help for displaced persons, support for volunteer projects, and grants for college students to participate in mission trips.
**or as needed to respond to disasters*

March-April—Easter Offering helps extend the Disciples' mission of providing for physical and spiritual needs in neighborhoods nearby and in ninety developing countries.

May—Pentecost Offering supports new Disciples faith communities with training, coaching, materials, project funding, etc.

September—Reconciliation Offering supports Disciples' efforts to advocate for, educate about, and organize to dismantle systemic racism and structural oppression.

November—Thanksgiving Offering supports fourteen Disciples-related colleges and universities and seven theological schools that help prepare students for Christian life and leadership.

December—Christmas Offering funds regional ministries that serve local congregations, such as pastoral care and conflict management; leadership workshops and networking; calling, licensing, and ordaining ministers; and growing faithful Disciples through camps, conferences, and youth ministries.

For more information on any of these offerings, go to: <http://www.churchfinancecouncil.org>

State and Local Projects

Monthly—First Sunday Food Drive assists COCAA (Action, Inc.) in their service to provide food for homeless families and individuals working to attain self sufficiency while at the Mission of Hope Shelter.

Fifth Sunday collections for Helping Hands provides immediate and emergency assistance to community residents with voucher payments for utility bills, transportation, groceries, medicines, etc.

February—A Valentine Dinner helps fund Friendship Camp, a loving and learning summer camp opportunity with Christian youth counselors and leaders for children otherwise unable to participate.

March—Daffodil Sunday benefits the American Cancer Society by honoring and memorializing those who have experienced personal battles against cancer.

Christmas in July contributes to the purchase of school supplies and clothing for local children identified as needy by social service agencies. Church members meet with the children and a parent to shop in preparation for school.

Note: *The above-mentioned outreach projects and programs include most of those which are in the oversight of the Outreach Department but independent of the FCC Outreach Department budget. Various groups, such as Disciples Women's Fellowship and youth in the congregation, conduct special fundraisers to support particular causes. The opportunity to contribute is given to all members and non-members of FCC.*

International Projects

June—Mission to Matamoros

An annual adult mission trip to Mexico organized through Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries. Matamoros is the site of a desperately poor and underserved population.

Church World Service

September —CROP Walk

An opportunity to come together with other churches in town to raise money for Church World Service which distributes to the needy throughout the world.

October—Blanket Sunday

An effort by the Church World Service to help provide warm blankets to others in the wake of disasters.



FCC 2007 Outreach Budget

Disciples Mission Fund*	\$20,000
Central Area, Christian Church	500
Central Christian Camp	700
Local Benevolence**	2,500
OK Capital Improvement Fund	2,400
OK Conference of churches	250
Annual Fund, Christian Church of OK	500
OSU Interfaith Council	<u>200</u>
TOTAL OUTREACH	\$27,050

**Disciples Mission Fund – Financial resources from all Disciples congregations are shared in this common fund to help achieve the shared visions of a faithful, growing church that demonstrates true community, deep spirituality, and passion for justice.*

***Local Benevolence requests are considered by members of the Outreach Department and allocated four times a year.*

First Christian Church

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Opportunities For Giving

To the community,
the nation and the world



Through
First Christian Church
Stillwater, Oklahoma