



# Good News!

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*To Know Jesus Christ and Make Him Known to Others*



## FROM THE Pastor's Desk

### Disciples of Christ Identity Statement

I thought it might be a good time to once again present the DOC's Identity Statement. This is what we proclaim to the world as our basic beliefs on who we are as a people of faith.

#### Introduction

Who do we say that we are? Identity is a vital concern for all parts of the church. Many long-time Disciples worry that we may be losing crucial characteristics of our common life. New Disciples want to know about the distinctive gifts of this community of faith. All of us need to have clarity about who we are in order to be faithful and effective witnesses to Jesus Christ.

A church's identity must be firmly rooted in scripture and yet flexible enough to adapt to changes in culture and the shifting demands of mission. Early Christians in Jerusalem had to learn what it meant to be faithful in Antioch and Rome. Our Disciples forefathers, as they moved from the frontier to the city, had to rethink such matters as congregational autonomy and the goal of "restoring" the New Testament church. Today, we wrestle with what it means to be disciples of our Lord in a world that is increasingly pluralistic, globally connected, and yet so often violently divided.

And so, the 21st Century Vision Team offers a proposed succinct statement of identity, undergirded by twelve distinct marks of what it means to be Disciples of Christ and including possible implications of our life together as a church if we were to accept and live into this vision.

#### STATEMENT OF IDENTITY

**We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.**

#### MARKS OF IDENTITY

We confess that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, requiring nothing more — and nothing less — as a basis of our life together.

We hold the centrality of scripture, recognizing that each person has the freedom — and the responsibility — to study God's Word within the community of the church.

We practice the baptism of believers, stressing that the way of Christ is costly, while also recognizing the baptism performed in other churches.

We structure our community around the biblical idea of covenant, emphasizing not obedience to human authority but accountability to one another because of our shared obedience to Christ.

We gather as often as possible for the Lord's Supper, experiencing at this table — open to all who believe — the grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit.

We participate in God's mission for the world, working with partners to heal brokenness, reconcile divisions, and bring justice to the whole human family.

We hear a special calling to make visible the unity of all Christians, proclaiming that in our diversity we belong to one another because we commonly belong to Christ.

We witness to the Gospel of God's saving love for the world in Jesus Christ, while continuing to struggle with how God's love may be known to others in different ways.

We affirm the priesthood of all believers, rejoicing in the gifts of the Spirit — including the gift of leadership — that God has given for the common good.

We celebrate the diversity of our common life, recognizing our different histories, styles of worship, and forms of service.

We give thanks that each local congregation, where Christ is present through faith, is truly the church, affirming as well that God's church and God's mission stretch from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth.

We anticipate God's coming reign, seeking to serve the One whose loving dominion has no end.

Praying for you as I hope that you are praying for me.

Pastor Craig

## PRAYER

### ***Those For Whom Prayer is Needed (Know that we are praying for you)***

As you go to God in quiet time this week, please remember these individuals in your prayers. Thank you!

**Our Church Family:** Terry Condran, Lori & Maurice Uptmor, Ronnie Glenn, George Purnell, Kurt Cone, Jay Cole, Guylene & Robert Ballard, Pat Sparks, Ruth LaVasseur, Pat Hopper, Isabella Simonson, Fred Wnorowski, Ann Winton, Family of Connie Clower, \*Sherri Winton, David Stine.

**Our Extended Church Family:** Sarah Curry Coffman, Barbara Beatty, Ariel Baska, Andrew Howard\* Family of Betty Shiflet, John Finley, Randy & Lorraine Wood, and Family Members, Becky Nitschke, Jackie Chavez, The Phounsavaht Family, Laura Skelton Foster, Family of June Brown, \*Dena DeVeto



#### **Joyce Sanders**

Mary Kay Cole—Maintenance Fund  
Scott & Charlotte Gilmore—Maintenance Fund  
Linda List—Maintenance Fund

#### **Kent Flanagan**

Scott & Charlotte Gilmore—Maintenance Fund

#### **Charles Compton**

Linda List—Maintenance Fund

#### **Marjorie Curry**

Sarah Coffman—Maintenance Fund

#### **Maxine Vick**

Jerry Vick—Maintenance Fund  
Scott & Charlotte Gilmore—Maintenance Fund

#### **Connie Clower**

Mary Kay Cole—Maintenance Fund  
Kingdom Builders Class—Maintenance Fund  
Doris Lane—Maintenance Fund

## Serving Schedule for August 2020

**Note: Greeters, Ushers and the Acolyte  
will return once we are back in session.**

### **Sunday, August 2, 2020**

**Elders:** Craig & Prissy Shaffer  
**Sound System:** Lisa Stevens  
**Camera Operator:** Ryder Norris  
**Lay Leader:** Joe Best

### **Sunday, August 9, 2020**

**Elders:** Jay Cole & Raymond Sparks  
**Sound System:** Mike LeVasseur  
**Camera Operator:** Ryder Norris  
**Lay Leader:** Joe Best

### **Sunday, August 16, 2020**

**Elders:** Ron Norris & Sandra Wnorowski  
**Sound System:** Sherri Winton  
**Camera Operator:** Ryder Norris  
**Lay Leader:** Joe Best

### **Sunday, August 23, 2020**

**Elders:** Helen Remes & Dale Hogue  
**Sound System:** Lisa Stevens  
**Camera Operator:** Ryder Norris  
**Lay Leader:** Joe Best

### **Sunday, August 31, 2020**

**Elders:** Dana & Sherry Skelton  
**Sound System:** Mike LeVasseur  
**Camera Operator:** Ryder Norris  
**Lay Leader:** Joe Best

**Be sure to catch the service on  
Facebook every Sunday.**

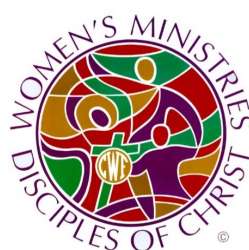
## MONTH OF JUNE, 2020

### INCOME AND EXPENSE

**INCOME: \$14,765.44**

**EXPENSES: \$16,369.06**

**DIFFERENCE: <\$1603.62>**



### 2020/2021 CWF OFFICERS

**Sherry Skelton—President**  
**Ann Embrey—Vice President**  
**Linda List—Secretary**  
**Doris Lane—Treasurer**  
**Jan Compton—Outreach**  
**Mary Lou Hall—Service**





# SERENITY CHURCH

By Charlotte Gilmore

## SERENITY CORNER PANTRY AT FCC

The Serenity Pantry at First Christian Church is coming alive!! Movable shelving has been added, thanks to Madix and Lynn's birthday fundraiser on Facebook. For months now the church's racquetball court in the gym has been home to a pantry for Serenity. You may remember that Serenity's current location is a small 400 sq. foot building in which they had constructed a 5 foot square pantry, barely enough space to store the paper and cleaning supplies needed. In order for them to stockpile the ready-to-eat food items bagged weekly for the homeless, they needed more pantry space, hence the "Pantry in the Racquetball Court". Our church generously agreed to allow that space to be used on a temporary basis. Instead of storing cases of food on the floor it can now be stored on the shelving. The job of filling the 24 Hearten Bags weekly will be much easier on our church ladies who volunteer for this task.

All of the food is currently purchased with donations made to Serenity. Churches and individuals all over town have blessed Serenity by adding to the pantry on a regular basis. The cost to fill the bags is \$165.00 weekly (fluctuating a little as prices change). Covid-19 has heavily impacted the homeless community so the need for food and other services has grown. Unfortunately Serenity's space has not grown and is still dependent on volunteers to serve the needs of the homeless.

An effort is underway to develop a constant income stream which would allow Serenity to plan for the future and add other needed services. Two planning committees have been established: Sustainability and Marketing and Exploratory. These two groups are meeting as often as possible and working on plans for Serenity's future. A brochure has been produced and printed (copies are available in our church office), the pantry was put in place and several grants have been written. Serenity was recently awarded funds to pay for food from Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative and from the Texas Homeless Network as well as from Texas Bank and Trust. These funds are being used to stockpile the food items being stored in the pantry. We continue to use the same items to fill the bags weekly.

Plans are in the making for Serenity to relocate in the not too distant future to a more usable space. A place where homeless people can shower and do laundry is really needed. Can you imagine having to search for a space where you can surreptitiously take a quick shower, use the bathroom and wash out your underwear? Also needed is space where counseling and social service assistance can be available to the homeless when they come for food and rest.

Serenity is grateful to the members of FCC for continuing service to the homeless, for a willingness to provide meals and is especially grateful for the use of space for storing the food items used in the Hearten Food Bags for the homeless.



# NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2021

The purpose of the Nominating Committee is to nominate Elders, Deacons & Junior Deacons to serve for the years 2021 through 2023. The Nominating Committee’s members are: Scott Gilmore, Jerry Vick, Colleen Metcalf, John Hegar and Robert Ballard. Please contact any of these members with suggestions for new Board Members.

## CURRENT SERVING MEMBERS

### EXPIRES 2020 ELDERS

Pat Hopper  
Jay Cole  
Ron Norris  
Scott Gilmore  
Saundra Wnorowski

### EXPIRES 2021 ELDERS

Dale Hogue  
Helen Remes  
Mike Siemann  
Sherry Skelton  
Raymond Sparks

### EXPIRES 2022 ELDERS

Craig Shaffer  
Prissy Shaffer  
Dana Skelton  
Charlotte Gilmore

### EMERITUS

Mary Lindsey  
Fred Wnorowski  
Doris Lane

### DEACONS

Joe Best  
Donna Best  
Lori Uptmor  
Sue Ann Norris  
Lisa Stevens  
Sherri Winton  
Janet Baska

### DEACONS

David Dickens  
Carol Dickens  
Linda Conder  
Jerry Vick  
Gary Barnett  
Kristi Johnson  
Ann Winton

### DEACONS

Lynda Roberts  
Ron Compton  
Jan Compton  
Erik Vick

### EMERITUS

George Purnell

### JUNIOR DEACONS

Spencer Cross  
Reese Norris

### TRUSTEES

Barbara Coffman

### TRUSTEES

Charlotte Gilmore

### TRUSTEES

Ron Compton



## HEARTEN FOOD BAG CONTENTS

Ramen Noodles in bags (no Shrimp)

Beef Ravioli (pop top lid)

Spaghetti Pasta Rings with Meatballs  
in tomato sauce (pop top lid)

Macaroni and Beef (pop top lid)

Vienna Sausage (pop top lid)

Pouches or boxes of Tuna Salad kit

Peanut Butter Cracker packs

Individual pouches of SPAM

Peach Fruit Cups



“Thank you to everyone who reached out to us during the loss of my brother, Charles Compton and my sister, Joyce Sanders. We received phone calls, text messages, emails, memorial and cards. May God bless our church family.”

In Christ, Ron Compton





## SHOEBOXES CHRISTMAS IN JULY



Another reminder that now is a good time to start shopping for your Shoebox. Lynn has made a display of the pre-printed boxes in the office. She has put the boxes together already, saving you the trouble. There are so few church activities we can be involved in right now. **WHY NOT SPEND SOME OF YOUR TIME FILLING SHOEBOXES.** Some ideas: If you crochet why not make some caps to put in your shoebox? If you have children at home or grandchildren who are home and bored, help them write letters to a child their own age. Put photos of the children or their pets in the shoebox. This is a good time to use a little imagination. **REMEMBER:** Decide if you want to buy for a girl or boy and for a child age 2-4, 5-9 or 10-12 and buy what you think that child

would like that can fit in your box. No toothpaste or candy, no liquids or breakables and no war toys. Enjoy this moment to minister to a child you will never see but a child who deserves your love and compassion.

Our shoeboxes will probably be collected on November 15th. The cost of shipping will again be \$9.00 per box and it has been our practice for several years that you make your donation for shipping in a check to FCC with a shoebox notation, then the church will write one check to Operation Christmas Child. If you don't want to pack a box but would like to donate for shipping, that would be very helpful. You can expect to hear more as the year goes on.

Charlotte Gilmore, Shoebox Chair for 2020

IF YOU NEED SOME SHOPPING IDEAS, BE SURE TO STOP BY THE CHURCH OFFICE  
AND PICK UP AN IDEA SHEET (OR TWO)!



First Christian Church will be having a special collection on **Sunday, September 27** to benefit Juliette Fowler Communities in Dallas Texas. Read on to find out more about this amazing woman and her vision... Juliette Abbey (Peak) Fowler was born May 8, 1837 in Warsaw, Kentucky, one of 13 children born to Colonel Jefferson and Martha Peak. In 1855, the Peak family settled in the village of East Dallas and built the first brick home in the county. Colonel Peak later developed his farm and platted streets, creating lots for other settlers coming to Dallas. Peak, Worth, Junius, Carroll, Flora, Harwood, Field and Victor Streets were named for Peak family members. The Peak family was instrumental in the development of the Christian Church (DOC) in Dallas and Fort Worth. The Dallas Peaks were founding members of the first protestant church in Dallas, which led to the founding of Central Christian Church and East Dallas Christian Church in Dallas. Juliette's brother, Carroll Peak and his wife Florence founded First Christian Church of Fort Worth. Vivacious, attractive and gentle-hearted, Juliette was Dallas' first May Queen. Her words of kindness made her the friend of everyone. She captured the attention of many suitors and married a young lawyer from Fort Worth, Archibald Young Fowler, the senior law partner of John Peter Smith. Two children, Ada and A.Y. Jr.,

both died as infants. Her husband died from wounds sustained in an argument with the Tarrant County sheriff. Widowed at 23, Juliette returned to Dallas and never remarried. She devoted the rest of her life to caring for others and works of charity. She adopted a young boy she found abandoned in her church. She erected cottages in Chautauqua for the rejuvenation of young lady teachers from Texas. She cared for her aging parents, all while envisioning and researching the methods and treatments for a safe haven for orphans and widows. Juliette died unexpectedly on Jun 4, 1889 in New York while seeking treatment for an ear infection. She was 52. Her will designated \$4000 and 15.5 acres of land in East Dallas to build a home for orphans and widows. Through this act of benevolence, she became known as Dallas' first major philanthropist. Juliette's funeral services were held at Bryan Street Christian Church.

Please make checks payable to First Christian Church and note "Juliette Fowler" in the memo section.

## GUIDELINES FOR PLASTIC BAG DONATIONS

Thanks to Reece Norris there is a very plentiful supply of plastic bags to last the Bag Ladies for at least a year. Your donations have been appreciated but are not needed at this time.

**EXCEPTION:** If you prepare your plastic bags for cutting and bring them ready-to-cut, those are much appreciated. If the bags are flattened when you have just come home from the grocery store it is so much easier than when they have been wadded up and stuffed in a bag. Bag Ladies has prepared a flyer showing how to prepare the bags. Copies will be available in the church office. Donations of these prepared bags can be left at the foot of the stairs in the foyer of the Family Center.

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR THOSE WHO ARE PREPARING PLASTIC BAGS FOR MAKING PLARN

**SORT BAGS:** Only Walmart- type grocery bags (of any color and from any store that uses that size) are used. Other bags should be sent to recycling. Must have no tears or holes in the body of the bag. Small tears in the bottom seam are ok. Bags that are moist or sticky or have bits of produce are not suitable.

**FLATTENING BAGS:** Bags need to look like they did before use: flat, as smooth as possible and with the pleat on each side in place without wrinkles. This can be accomplished best when you first unpack your groceries. (1) Smooth out the little seams at the top of the handles and holding the handles pop the bag to fill with air. (2) Lay the bag on a table and smooth the inside of the pleat on one side then the other. If you place your fingers in the pleat at the seam end and through the handle and stretch and then run your fingers the length of the pleat, it will do the job.

### **FOLD BAGS FOR TRANSFER TO BAG LADIES:**

As you flatten bags, stack them one on top of the other. If you encounter static electricity in the bags wipe them occasionally as you work with a dryer sheet. When you have a stack (up to 10), fold them from the bottom up in folds of about 4-5 inches. Press and stack in a large bag or large shoebox. By folding the bags in this way you avoid putting wrinkles or creases back in the bags. When they are unfolded they are ready to cut.



## BAG LADIES UPDATE

Our Bag Ladies, about 14 of us, enjoyed two days in our workroom in June. We split into two groups so each day we were few enough to sit 6' apart with our masks on. It was good to get work done on our sleeping mats. We now have 13 mats and 5 pillows waiting to go to homeless persons. Our plan is to wait until September for an appropriate time to dedicate them and pass them on.

You are encouraged to work at whatever your part is in this process of making sleeping mats for the homeless: flattening bags, tying strips and rolling balls of plarn or crocheting. It is unlikely that we will be able to have workdays in the near future but we can still produce mats if we each do our part.

If you are flattening bags you can drop them in the Family Center whenever the pastor or Lynn are in the office. If you crochet and need plarn please call Charlotte.