



# FEBRUARY 2020

## Good News!

First Christian Church  
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*To Know Jesus Christ and Make Him Known to Others*

### FROM THE *Pastor's Desk*

## Waiting on the Sidelines.

Before all of my knee and foot surgeries during my early teen years, I played a couple of years of Pee Wee Football. As with most boys, and now girls, I had the dream that someday I would be playing for some National Football League team. I could see myself running down the field, passing everyone else in the process, scoring the winning touchdown that would win the Super Bowl game. I knew that if I could just get out on that field to play that I would be able to show everyone how good I was. There was only one little problem, the coach would not put me in.

Now to be fair, in truth I was not the best player on the field. I was not by any standard the fastest kid on the team and there were much bigger boys that I had to block or go around. So I can, in hindsight, understand why the coach would make his decisions. This, of course, is not so easy to take when you're only six or seven. All that I wanted to do was just to get out there for a moment and share in the fun and glory of the game. I wanted just a little bit of playing time for the team.

I remember that on one day after the game I went to ask my father for some advice on how to get the coach to let me play for the team. He asked me what I was doing during the game to be ready to play. I told him that I was sitting on the team's bench waiting for the coach to call my name so I could go in. He asked me, "How does the coach know you're ready to play if he does not see you on the sidelines ready to go in?" He pointed out that the coach is not aware of your desire to play if you are only sitting on the bench "hoping" that he will see you there. You have to let the coach know that you want in the game.

When we want to be a part of the game, we have to make sure that those who are in the leadership know about it. We have to not just sit on the sidelines and wait for someone to notice that we are sitting there. As I said on Sunday morning, "it is not bragging to let others know what gifts that God has given you." It was a gift to you and you can let others know about them so that God gets the glory.

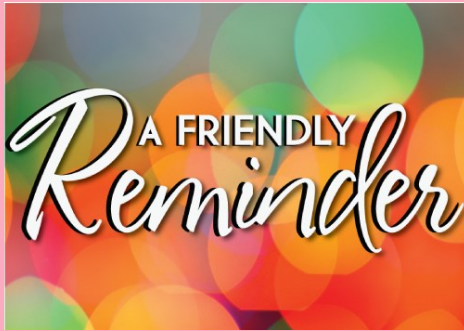
The church is much like that team that I wanted to play for. There were many positions on the team. Each one of them required different talents or skills. While the quarterback can throw or run, not too many of them make a good lineman. Each member of the team has special abilities that would place us in a special position that was made for us. What is needed is for each of us to acknowledge that God has given us a talent and then to begin to use that talent for the common benefit of the church.

There are hundreds of positions or duties within the church. Sometimes, people don't see some of them. But, the Sunday church service, Choir, Youth, or any of the committees couldn't operate without them. What would it be like if no one had the talent in making communion for the Sunday service? How about those people who have the talent to place their hand out and greet everyone, even those guests, at the front door. You begin to see what I am trying to get across. We need you and your talents.

Please pray and give thought to what talents and gifts that God has given to you and where those gifts can be used within the church. Don't hide them. Let us know about them so we can help you in the process of finding a spot for you. Let's get that touchdown.

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

*Craig*



If you are giving money “in memory of” OR “in honor of” someone, we must have a separate check for each fund you are contributing to. (Example: General Fund, Permanent Maintenance Fund or Roof Fund)

If you have any questions, please call Lynn in the church office (972)551-4700 or see Ann Winton on Sunday morning.

**BAG LADIES**

We are always looking for help! Why not join us for the fellowship and stay to help us produce more mats for those in need!

We will meet on  
**FEBRUARY 4 & 18**  
**9:00 am**

**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 & Alta Condran, Liz Palmer, Lori & Maurice Uptmor, Gary Barnett, Ronnie Glenn\* Scott Gilmore, Kurt Cone, George Purnell, Mike & Ruth LeVasseur

**Our Extended Church Family:** Sarah Curry Coffman, Sue Sickel, Barbara Beatty, Ariel Baska, Andrew Howard,\* Becky Lydia, The family of Gene Newburn, Angelica Olsen & Family, David Ledbetter, Bill Marshall, Gary Putman, Kat Brazie\* Don Dozier, Sarah Beth



**MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2019**

**INCOME AND EXPENSE**

**INCOME:** \$19,411.15  
**EXPENSES:** \$14,467.22  
**DIFFERENCE:** \$4,943.93

**Serving Schedule**  
**for**  
**February, 2020**

**Sunday, February 2, 2020**

**Elders:** Dana & Sherry Skelton  
**Greeting, Serving at the Table and Serving the Home-bound:** Lori Uptmor, Linda Conder, Sherri Winton, Ann Winton, Lynda Roberts, Spencer Cross  
**Acolyte:** Valcus Best  
**Sound System:** Mike LeVasseur  
**Camera Operator:** Ryder Norris

**Sunday, February 9, 2020**

**Elders:** Mike Siemann & Pat Hopper  
**Greeting, Serving at the Table and Serving the Home-bound:** Janet Baska, Jan Compton, Ron Compton, David Dickens, Carol Dickens, Kristi Johnson, Lisa Stevens  
**Acolyte:** Lynna Johnson  
**Sound System:** Sherri Winton  
**Camera Operator:** Ryder Norris

**Sunday, February 16, 2020**

**Elders:** Craig & Prissy Shaffer  
**Greeting, Serving at the Table and Serving the Home-bound:** Sue Ann Norris, Joe Best, Donna Best, Erik Vick, Reece Norris, Jerry Vick, Gary Barnett  
**Acolyte:** Elliot Cross  
**Sound System:** Lisa Stevens  
**Camera Operator:** Ryder Norris

**Sunday, February 23, 2020**

**Elders:** Jay Cole & Raymond Sparks  
**Greeting, Serving at the Table and Serving the Home-bound:** Lori Uptmor, Linda Conder, Sherri Winton, Ann Winton, Lynda Roberts, Spencer Cross  
**Acolyte:** Kinsler Bratz  
**Sound System:** Mike LeVasseur  
**Camera Operator:** Ryder Norris



**SCOUT SUNDAY**—Sunday, February 2  
**FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON**—Sunday, February 2 at Noon  
**CWF MEETING**—Monday, February 3 at 2:00 PM  
**BAG LADIES**—Tuesdays, February 4 & 18 at 9:00 AM  
**CHOIR**—Wednesdays, February 5, 12, 19 & 26 at 6:00 PM  
**BOARD MEETING**— Wednesday, February 12 at 7:00 PM  
**EBBY HOUSE COLLECTION**—Sunday, February 16  
**NURTURE MEETING**—Tuesday, February 18 at 10:30 AM  
**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**—Wednesday, February 19 at Noon  
**FREE BURMA RANGERS MOVIE**—Monday, February 24 at 7:00 PM in Forney @ AMC Theatres (Advanced tix suggested)





# DON'T FORGET SCOUT SUNDAY

## FEBRUARY 2, 2020

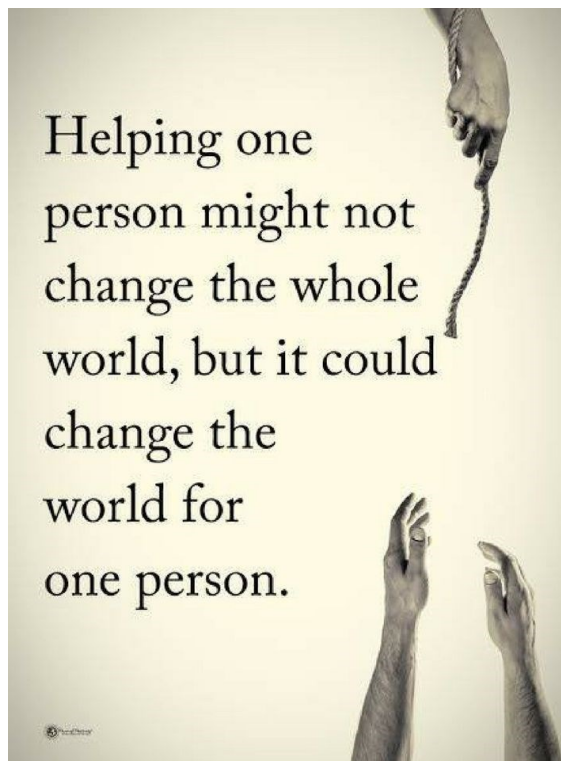
### FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON



WE WILL FURNISH THE FOLLOWING:  
FRIED CHICKEN  
LOADED MASHED POTATOES  
PINTO BEANS  
BREAD & DRINKS



WE ARE EXPECTING A **LARGE ATTENDANCE**, SO PLEASE MAKE YOUR SIDE DISHES OR SALADS **EXTRA LARGE**. WE WILL ALSO BE NEEDING DESSERTS. WE ENCOURAGE ALL TO ATTEND!



## Bring What You Have

### By Cindy Hess Kasper

“Stone Soup,” an old tale with many versions, tells of a starving man who comes to a village, but no one there can spare a crumb of food for him. He puts a stone and water in a pot over a fire. Intrigued, the villagers watch him as he begins to stir his “soup.” Eventually, one brings a couple of potatoes to add to the mix; another has a few carrots. One person adds an onion, another a handful of barley. A farmer donates some milk. Eventually, the “stone soup” becomes a tasty chowder.

That tale illustrates the value of sharing, but it also reminds us to bring what we have, even when it seems to be insignificant. In John 6:1–14 we read of a boy who appears to be the only person in a huge crowd who thought about bringing some food. Christ’s disciples had little use for the boy’s sparse lunch of five loaves and two fishes. But when it was surrendered, Jesus increased it and fed thousands of hungry people!

I once heard someone say, “*You* don’t have to feed the five thousand. You just have to bring your loaves and fishes.” Just as Jesus took one person’s meal and multiplied it far beyond anyone’s expectations or imagination (v. 11), He’ll accept our surrendered efforts, talents, and service. He just wants us to be willing to bring what we have to Him.



SERENITY  
CHURCH  
By Don Ledbetter

I have a friend who is close to my age. That means he’s in his mid 60s. I met him last year. He lives on the streets and has for years. At night he sleeps in a closed auto repair shop. During the day he comes over to a room that’s available to the homeless to rest, get out of the weather, get a little something to eat, play dominoes, or watch TV.

I go by when I can to see who’s around. I find him there often sitting about 3-4 feet from the television with the volume up high watching an old western like Gunsmoke or Bonanza.

I say hello and he says hello back. We exchange a few words but he never takes his eyes off the TV. I might watch a little of the show or I might fiddle with my phone. One of us might say something occasionally but most of the time we sit in comfortable silence like good friends do.

I wonder about him. What brought him to this station in life? He doesn’t complain and doesn’t ask for much. He’s gracious and not demanding. He drinks a lot and eats potted meats with crackers. He is poor and is contented with life. He’s intelligently quiet. The future for today will be a continuation of his past yesterday.

He embraces his present as a faithful companion. In many ways he enjoys a peace that seems to be absent from many of my middle class friends.

I sit with him a while and when I leave I always say, “I have to go. Remember I love you and never forget that Jesus Loves you.”

He always says, “I know.”

Then I say, “He’s always with you.”

He replies, “I know He is.”

I believe he knows.

It wouldn’t surprise me that one day my friend will be standing next to Jesus on His Throne as we all pass by. I would not be surprised if The Lord has His arm around my friend’s shoulder and for some of us He’ll say, “Thank you for feeding me when I was hungry and giving me water when I was thirsty. Thank you for giving me a coat when I was cold and shoes when my feet were sore. Thank you for visiting with me.”

“When did I see you like that, Lord?” some will ask.

“Whenever you did any of these for My Child here, it was like doing it for Me. You are welcome to come join the rest of us at the Biggest Party ever!”

Some of us sadly won’t be invited because we didn’t give my friend what he needed and we’ll respond with how often we attended church, lived good lives, preached and did miracles in God’s Name. That defense won’t hold up.

The choice today and everyday is obedience of Love. Love God and Love those who are in need with the Love God has given us.

It’s your choice. It’s your future. It’s your today.

UPDATE:

*It was two years ago that I wrote this article about my friend. He passed away in the Fall of 2018. Serenity Corner had just helped him get on SNAP (Food Stamps), Social Security and Medicare. He still lived in a shed with no power or water though. Some friends found him on the street and he ended up in a nursing home. The second day there, Serenity bought some clothes and took them to him. He died the next day. Cotton now enjoys that embrace of our Lord and will never again suffer with hunger, homelessness or lack of friends.*

SERENITY CHURCH NEEDS.

- |                        |                 |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Potted Meats           | Vienna Sausages | Tuna Fish Lunch Packs |
| Spam                   | Beef Jerky      | Summer Sausage        |
| Ramen Noodles in cups  | Fruit Cups      | Peanut Butter         |
| Pork & Beans           | Granola Bars    | Crackers              |
| Oatmeal (single serve) |                 | (Individual packages) |
| Shampoo                | Wash Clothes    | Toothpaste            |
| Soap                   | Chapstick       | Deodorant             |
| Disposable Razor       | Comb            | Shaving Cream         |
| Mouthwash              | Hair Pick       | Tissues               |
| Feminine Products      |                 | (Individual packages) |

Please remember that the folks who come to Serenity usually have no source for cooking meals.  
If food is canned it needs to be a pop top.





I can't speak for everyone in our congregation, but I have always loved our fellowship luncheons. They not only give us an opportunity to sample a lot of great dishes prepared by all the wonderful cooks in our church, but gives us more time to visit with our fellow members and visitors, which we don't often have the chance to do.

For those who are not aware, the nurture committee covers two parts of the business of our church...worship and membership. Membership is responsible for most all of the activities or social events for our congregation, which includes the fellowship luncheons. Some time ago, we made the decision to always furnish the meat for these luncheons since the church budget does not allocate any money for membership activities, some members of the committee always buys and furnishes the meat for the luncheons. We have always placed a basket at the doorway, with a sign requesting a few dollars donation to help pay for the meat only. We thank all of those who have given generously in the past, and just want to remind everyone that, even if you bring a dish for the table, we still need a few dollars from everyone to cover the cost. The money from this basket goes into the general fund of the church, so any money above the expense is available for other church needs. Donations are only requested from church members. Visitors should never contribute. Also, no one should ever not attend the luncheon because they don't have extra money that day. These luncheons should never be about the money...they are truly about the fellowship time. Thanks for your help.



## CWF NEWS By Linda List

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!** Here we go heading into 2020 already on the run!

We ended 2019 having such wonderful outreach programs where we were able to bless others and in doing so we were blessed even more. But we aren't looking back....no way....we are already scheduled for an outing to the Juliet Fowler Center (Ebby House) January 21<sup>st</sup>. We'll be delivering gift cards and umbrellas to the girls living there.

The girls are there learning how to do basic things we all take for granted, things like balancing a check book, dressing for success, making a resume, shopping for groceries, etc. They do wonderful things here for girls who have "aged out" of foster care. We're also in the process of making more lap spreads for our shut-ins; visiting more of our church shut-ins; oh yes, looking forward to our delicious Chicken Spaghetti fund raiser the first Sunday in March.....soooo.....start working up a good appetite and yes, we'll have our yummy, yummy dessert auction. We are all really excited about 2020 and looking forward to accomplishing a lot of exciting things.

Don't forget ladies, everyone is welcome so bring a friend and share the excitement and don't forget our delicious refreshments. This meeting we enjoyed some very tasty ham salad sandwiches and an extreme chocolate cake. Come enjoy, share in the fun, fellowship and inspiring lessons.

Don't forget to invite a friend; our next meeting will be February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2 pm in the Parlor.

**Y'all come!!!!!!**



*A Little  
Reminder*

Until further notice...  
We do not need any  
plastic grocery bags.



Please donate these to your local  
store for recycling.  
Thank You!

# *Free Burma Rangers*

*February 24 & 25 at 7:00 pm*

Free Burma Rangers is a documentary film exploring the extraordinary 20-year journey of missionaries Dave and Karen Eubank. The film follows Dave, Karen, and their three young children, as they venture into war zones where they are fighting to bring hope. Dave Eubank is a rare hero of the faith. He is a former U.S. Special Forces soldier turned missionary to conflict zones. The film is a real-life adventure movie. Viewers will follow the family into firefights, heroic rescues, and experience life-changing ministry. In the midst of this unprecedented journey, you will witness amazing lessons of faith from one of the most inspiring families in the world - Feb 24 & 25 only at the AMC theatre in Forney. Advanced ticket purchase is suggested and is available online at Atom Movie Tickets for \$10.00 each.



"We would like to thank everyone for the many Christmas cards, gifts, and goodies that we received during the holidays. You all were very thoughtful and we are humbled by the show of love that this represents. We cannot express enough our love for this church and our happiness at being in the ministry here in Terrell. Thanks again we appreciate everything."

Craig and Carrie

"Thanks to all who made my 60th birthday one to remember. Thanks for all of the cards, gifts and well wishes. I would especially like to thank Colleen, Linda L., Lynda and Jan for all the help with the party and food. Thanks to my wife, Carrie, for planning and organizing the party, everyone had a great time. Love you all!"

Craig

*In  
Loving  
Memory  
of*

Peggy Springer Smith  
Linda Johnson—General Fund



WEEK OF COMPASSION  
SPECIAL OFFERING  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2020

## Ebby House

Girls with dreams become  
women with vision!

The Ebby House at Juliette Fowler Communities is a residential home for young women at risk for homelessness due to neglect, abuse, and abandonment with a focus on foster care experiences. This strength-based program mentors young women ages 18-24 for up to 24 months to instill life skills and provide housing, healthcare, education, career guidance, and job training. In our intergenerational community, they also benefit from the wisdom and encouragement of our older adults.

At The Ebby House, we believe every girl:

- Is a unique individual with potential for success
- Has the right to a safe, respectful environment
- Has strengths, value and worth
- Should be treated in a non-judgmental way with integrity and compassion
- Is strengthened through spirituality and faith

**First Christian Church will be taking a special offering for Ebby House on February 16.**

**Please make checks payable to FCC and notate EBBY HOUSE.**