



# Good News!

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



## FROM THE *Pastor's Desk*

### Take the Special K Challenge

As the end of each year draws to a close there appears to begin a strange move among the thought patterns of people. There is a visible transfer of desire from all of the chocolates, cakes, pies, turkey, stuffing, and all the other things that we all love to eat during the holiday season and a new need to begin the process of losing weight. Kellogg's cereal company makes the coming of each January 1, as a "health holiday" asking people to start up their diets again.

This, of course, is one of the many New Year resolutions that people make for themselves at the beginning of each year. The start of the year brings with it a deep-seated need within each of us to change something about ourselves that we don't agree with. Billions and billions of dollars are spent each year by men and women undergoing surgical procedures to add or remove a portion of their body in an attempt to find some augmentation that they would see as perfection. We seem to be a people who have a constant want to make ourselves different than we are now.

One of the things that were pointed out to me during my studies at Seminary was the concept within the book of Genesis that God after creating the world and all within it declared it "Good". This would lead the Christian to easily come to the conclusion that all that God has made, even us, was made to be seen as good. Therefore, the question for us is just what it is that we have so much trouble with seeing as good. If God views each one of us as a good creation, why is this not enough for us?

Maybe the question is not on the outside of each one of us, but that which lies within us. There is nowhere in the Bible where the reader is instructed to view only the outside of those who live in the world that God created. We are to look beyond the limited surface of each other and peer deeper into the soul. We learn to forgive the limits of the outside and become open to the expanses' that each one contains.

If this is the only true goal of the Christian, then how is it that we are to learn how to be able to see the world of God as God would like us to see it? How do we begin to look beyond the surface and find the love for each other? Those are the questions that are the ones that have real concern for us in this upcoming year and the ones that will follow.

Maybe the Kellogg Company has within its idea a partial view. It is not the diet that only effects the outside of the person that may really be the source of change that we would want in the coming year, but a change that would push its way deeper into us, a source of change that would transform us to our very core, and cause us to really change from deep within.

So why not take the real "Special K" challenge? Why not make this the year that you begin the transformation that God really wants of us? Take the challenge to daily change the person inside and begin to look within God's word. Take the challenge to read God's word more each day. Take the challenge of letting God's word move deeper into you and you into it.

This could be the very year that we start to take the real challenge that God sets out for us to take. This could be the year that we read the Bible more and let it move with us. This year, take the Special Challenge that God has for you.

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

*Pastor Craig*



**Leon Pickens**

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ballard—Maintenance Fund

**Henry Hegar**

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ballard—Maintenance Fund  
Mrs. Kay Cole—Maintenance Fund

**Tom Strange**

Mr & Mrs. Robert Ballard—Maintenance Fund  
Mrs. Colleen Metcalf—Maintenance Fund  
Mrs. Kay Cole—Maintenance Fund  
Mrs. Sally Leigh—Maintenance Fund  
Kingdom Builders Class—Maintenance Fund

**Ross Verkler**

Mrs. Kay Cole—Maintenance Fund

**Emily Williams**

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ballard—Maintenance Fund

**Wayne Gale**

Mrs. Barbara Gale—Maintenance Fund

**Frances Pettit**

Mrs. Barbara Gale—Maintenance Fund

**CALLING ALL BAG LADIES**

**Its time to resume crocheting our  
matts for the homeless.**

**We will meet on  
JANUARY 7 & 21  
9:00 am**

**PRAYER**

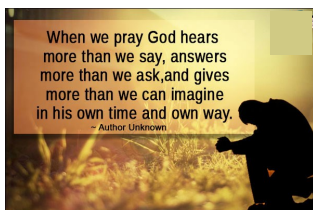
***Those For Whom Prayer is Needed  
(Know that we are praying for you)***

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\* John Hegar, Fred & Sandra Wnorowski, The family of Thomas Strange\* Kurt Cone, Craig & Carrie Rutherford, Scott Gilmore

**Our Extended Church Family:** Sarah Curry Coffman, Sue Sickel, Barbara Beatty, Ariel Baska, Andrew Howard,\* Adam Carroll, The family of Lee Roland, The family of Ross L. Verkler (Rhonda Harris' Father, Rhonda & Toby Harris, The family of Henry Wallace Hegar, Deb Fruit, Robert LaRue, Renee Rutherford, Pat Wayne Bostick, Kathy Ehrenberger, Todd McCilvray, JD & Denise Condran, Jerri Covington, The family of Ann Cramer\* Becky, Lydia, The family of Gene Newburn, Angelica Olsen& Family, David Ledbetter, Bill Marshall, Gary Putman, Kat Braziel.

When we pray God hears  
more than we say, answers  
more than we ask, and gives  
more than we can imagine  
in his own time and own way.  
— Author Unknown



Called to *Serve*

**Serving Schedule for January, 2020**

**Sunday, January 5, 2020**

**Elders:** Craig & Prissy Shaffer  
**Greeting, Serving at the Table and Serving the Homebound:** Sue Ann Norris, Joe Best, Donna Best, Erik Vick, Reece Norris, Jerry Vick, Gary Barnett  
**Acolyte:** Lynna Johnson  
**Sound System:** Lisa Stevens & Jack Beavers  
**Camera Operator:** Ryder Norris

**Sunday, January 12, 2020**

**Elders:** Jay Cole & Raymond Sparks  
**Greeting, Serving at the Table and Serving the Homebound:** Lori Uptmor, Linda Conder, Sherri Winton, Ann Winton, Lynda Roberts, Spencer Cross  
**Acolyte:** Elliot Cross  
**Sound System:** Mike LeVasseur & Jack Beavers  
**Camera Operator:** Ryder Norris

**Sunday, January 19, 2020**

**Elders:** Ron Norris & Sandra Wnorowski  
**Greeting, Serving at the Table and Serving the Homebound:** Janet Baska, Jan Compton, Ron Compton, David Dickens, Carol Dickens, Kristi Johnson, Lisa Stevens  
**Acolyte:** Kinsler Bratz  
**Sound System:** Sherri Winton & Jack Beavers  
**Camera Operator:** Ryder Norris

**Sunday, January 26, 2020**

**Elders:** Helen Remes & Dale Hogue  
**Greeting, Serving at the Table and Serving the Homebound:** Sue Ann Norris, Joe Best, Donna Best, Erik Vick, Reece Norris, Jerry Vick, Gary Barnett  
**Acolyte:** Remington Cross  
**Sound System:** Lisa Stevens & Jack Beavers  
**Camera Operator:** Ryder Norris



**OFFICE CLOSED—Wednesday, January 1**

**CWF MEETING—Monday, January 6 at 2:00 PM**

**BAG LADIES—Tuesdays, January 7 & 21 at 9:00 AM**

**CHOIR—Wednesdays, January 8, 15, 22, 29 at 5:30 PM**

**BOARD MEETING— Wednesday, January 8 at 7:00 PM**

**PLANNING MEETING—Saturday, January 11 at 9:00 AM**

**NURTURE COMMITTEE—Tuesday, Jan. 14 at 10:30 AM**

**CHOIR REHEARSAL—Saturday, December 14 at 9:00 AM**

**MLK SERVICE—Monday, January 20 at 6:00 PM**

(To be held at The Performing Arts Center in Terrell)

**CWF TO EBBY HOUSE—Tuesday, January 21**

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE—Tuesday, January 21**

**LIFELINE SCREENING—Friday, January 24 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM**

# Serenity Church Special Report

As of December 21, our church collected \$585.00 towards a special donation for Serenity Church Terrell. This donation will help the church's ministry of feeding the hungry of Terrell. They give out an average of 12 bags of food each week with each bag containing enough ready to eat food for a meal per day for a week. Our church has helped with this ministry to street people in various ways over the past few years. The Joy Class heads the project to provide a meal for about 30 people on the 3rd Friday night of every month. We participate in worship at Serenity on the Friday nights when we provide the meal. As an ongoing project we collect food and hygiene items. Those items can be placed in the collection boxes in the basement and the Family Center entrance. The list of needed items is included in this newsletter. We have in the past collected winter coats. Some of our members also serve on an advisory committee for Serenity.

Serenity is one-room in a building at the corner of Rockwall and Grove Streets. It is a very small room that holds a sitting and an eating area, a refrigerator, small freezer, a pantry and a bathroom. There are shelves on the walls to hold donated items and a small amount of space for chairs, trash can, grills for cooking outside and other odds and ends. It is a very small, crowded space that is basically storage and space for folks to come in for short spells out of the weather to eat, rest and use the bathroom. Worship has to be held standing in the parking lot next door.

This ministry exists to give help, hope and love to people who are living on the street. What our church does is support them in that ministry. The long-term goal of Serenity is to have a larger building where they can provide space to sit and eat, wash clothes, bathe and to have staff who can provide social services needed. Often these folks have lost whatever documents they might have once had and don't know how to replace them. They often have health issues that need to be addressed and frequently they are looking for help to get into a rehab program.

We are honored to be a part of this much needed program right here in our home town.

There has been a recent interest in homelessness in Kaufman County. A group called the Kaufman County Homeless Coalition has been formed to look at this problem, to assess the number of homeless in the county and to come up with recommendations for ministering to this group of people. Our church will be involved in this new phase of homeless ministry.

## 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.

### GOD MISSES IT...

Did you happen to borrow a 6 foot green huffy ladder from the church?  
If so, please return it...

Thank you in advance.







**“You made my day! Thank you so much for helping me on my Eagle Scout Project!”  
- Reece Norris**



**CWF NEWS**  
**By Helen Remes for Linda List**

Our December 2nd meeting was also our ladies luncheon. Delicious food and desserts were brought in by our members.

Lynda Roberts and Ruth LeVasseur were our hostess'...the decorations on the tables were a delight to behold. A thank you also goes out to Dale Roberts and Mike LeVasseur for helping set up and take down the tables and chairs.

The items for the children's shelter in Kaufman were discussed and were delivered. (This was done on December 6th by Jan Compton, Ann Winton, Linda Conder and Helen Remes. While we were there we had a tour and were introduced to the owner, Mrs. Williams and Jana, the lady who runs it day to day. It was very interesting).

We had a devotion on hospitality and a lesson on a generous heart, given by Helen Remes and Charlotte Gilmore.

**Join us for our next meeting on January 6, 2020!  
Wishing everyone a wonderful and blessed holiday.**

**First Christian Church members and friends spent 2019 giving their time and talents to the following ministries...**



*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!

# CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX COLLECTION 2019



Your Outreach Committee chaired by Dale Hogue wants to thank you for the great response this year to the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox collection.

On Sunday, November 15th, sixty seven shoeboxes were dedicated and then were delivered to the Terrell collection point at First Baptist Church along with a check to pay for shipping. Seven of our boxes were selected for participation in a new program offered by Operation Christmas Child, "Follow Your Box to It's Destination". We will now be able to track these seven boxes to see what country they are delivered to and possibly the exact location within the country.

Our church has participated in this project for many years and will continue to do so. There is a supply of the pre-printed shoeboxes in the Joy Classroom. Members are welcome to take a box whenever you wish in preparation for the 2020 collection. Joy Class fills 30 boxes every year and during a recent sale began shopping to fill them for next year. If all of us did this we could fill many more boxes each year.

As you fill your boxes each year please remember that it is really important that you fill the boxes with your own personality and your love in addition to the things you put in. We want the children who receive the boxes to experience Jesus as they open our boxes.

## SHOEBOX SHIPPING UPDATE:

**All seven of the shoeboxes that we tracked went to Ecuador!!!  
Please remember to pray for the children who will be receiving boxes.**

# NEW CHRISMON BROCHURE PRINTED

The sanctuary has been decorated for the Christmas Season. The greenery is in place, the Chrismon Tree has been decorated and lighted, the star is shining, the Advent Wreath has been lit.

During the Hanging of the Greens service on Sunday, December 1st a new version of the Chrismon Brochure was presented to the congregation. The cover is a photo of the Chrismon Tree and inside are photos of the newly refurbished Chrismons with a description of each one. Plenty of the brochures were printed. If you have not received yours you may pick one up in the church office.

The Chrismon Tree idea and the first designs were created in 1957 by a member of Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, VA. Almost immediately their idea spread to other churches, including our own. We don't have a record of who created our Chrismons or the year but there is evidence that it would have been in the late 1950s or early 1960s which makes them about 60 years old. They have been refurbished and damaged ones replaced a few times, the most recent this year. The artificial tree we use each year was purchased at the time the Chrismons were first displayed by members Mrs. Inez Musser and Ms. Lib Mirick.

It is hoped that you will enjoy the beauty of the Chrismon Tree again this year and that you will appreciate this unique gift that was given to all of us so many years ago. Using your new brochure, you may want to really look at the Chrismons and meditate on the meaning of each one. The word Chrismon stands for Christ Monogram so each one of the beautiful ornaments is a monogram of our Lord Jesus Christ. Pictured is the Chrismon Tree and one of the photos from the brochure with its description.



The anchor was an early Christian symbol commonly found in the Roman catacombs representing Jesus's calling of fishermen as his Disciples.



## YEAR END REPORT FROM BAG LADIES

Our Bag Ladies group continues to be a very active one (both ladies and gentlemen when they are able to attend) who are dedicated to turning used plastic grocery bags into sleeping mats , benefitting homeless people. If the mats are placed on the ground or concrete under a blanket or sleeping bag it helps to give protection from the cold and damp. They can even be used as blankets because the plastic holds body heat. The Bag Ladies group has now made and donated to the homeless about 175 of these mats, each of which takes many hours of work. The group meets on Tuesdays in a designated workroom on the second floor of the Mull Family Center and welcomes anyone who wants to donate an hour or so. Many of those who work on mats do so at home and don't come to work days. Many are members of our church but we also have many participants who belong to other churches in and outside of Terrell. The mats have been donated to "Our Calling", a large homeless ministry in Dallas, to the homeless ministry in Rolling Oaks and to Serenity Church Terrell as well as to many individuals who have found themselves homeless.

Until recently all the sleeping mats have been made by crocheting the Plarn which is made from strips of the plastic bags. Recently, however, Wayne Howe constructed a weaving loom on which mats can be woven. Pictured below are two of these woven mats, one made by Bag Ladies the other by Boy Scout Reece Norris for his Eagle Scout project. Reece's Eagle project was super successful and resulted not only in his Sleeping Mat for the homeless but also a massive collection of plastic bags for Bag Ladies' use. Consequently, **we are now asking that you do not bring anymore plastic bags for the near future.**

Boy Scouts helping Scott Gilmore carry donated plastic bags to storage room in Mull Family Center.

Sleeping mat Reece Norris wove on the loom for his Eagle Scout project.

Scouts from Reece's troupe helping to weave the sleeping mat on the loom built by Wayne Howe.



## THE STATE OF RECYCLING IN KAUFMAN COUNTY

Many of our members have been avid recyclers for a number of years thanks to the Environmental Co-op facility on Airport Road in Terrell and the other County Convenience Stations in Terrell, Kaufman and Kemp. In October our local newspaper notified citizens of Terrell that the Environment Co-op would go out of business and close on October 5, 2019. Recently the newspaper also announced that a new Convenience Station has opened in Terrell and will accept waste and disposable items as well as recycling. Some research has resulted in a comprehensive listing of the current disposal and recycling options available to citizens of the county whether you live in one of the cities or out in the unincorporated areas.

### Kaufman County Solid Waste

**Kemp and Terrell Locations-** Effective December 5, 2019, a new convenience station will be located at 287 N. FM 429, Terrell, TX 75160. This location, as well as the convenience station location at 6520 Plainview Dr., Kemp, TX 75143, will be operated by Black Jack Disposal. (The Convenience Station previously operated by City of Terrell and Kaufman County on CR 319 is no longer available to the public.)

Residents will be able to pay (credit card, check, or money order, no cash accepted) at these locations for disposal of the following items:

- Household Waste • Appliances
- Brush • Tires
- Electronics • Household Hazardous Waste

(Fees charged at these locations will be consistent with previous county costs)

Offered free of charge at both locations is recycling of plastic, paper, cardboard, and aluminum.

Hours of Operation: Thursday-Saturday 8:00 am- 4:00 pm

**Forney Location-** A free recycling container will be located at the Precinct 2 Maintenance Facility 12051 Precinct Circle, Forney, TX 75126. Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday 8:00 am- 4:00 pm

**Kaufman Location-** No changes have been made to the convenience station located at: 701 Alton St., Kaufman, TX 75142. Residents may purchase vouchers at the Courthouse Annex, 100 N. Washington, Kaufman, TX 75142. Recycling is free. Hours of Operation: Wed. -Saturday 8:00 am- 4:00 pm

Black Jack Disposal will be incorporating Clean Up Events at these locations throughout the year for Kaufman County residents.

**For More Information and for pricing:** Convenience Station in Kaufman- 972-932-2161

Kaufman County Courthouse- 972-932-4331 Convenience Station in Kemp- 972-977-2945