



Good News!

First Christian Church
405 N. Adelaide St.
Terrell, TX 75160 (972) 551-4700
Minister.craig2@gmail.com
Facebook: First Christian Church (DOC) - Terrell, TX

2020



They are watching us!

FROM THE Pastor's Desk

One day a long time member of a local congregation was standing in the check-out line of the local Walmart store. As with most days at Walmart there was a large number of people in the store and each of the check-out lines were overflowing with people waiting for their turn. In this particular line the employee was a trainee to Walmart and of course struggling with learning the many procedures of the company and the position.

Just as the congregant was next in line to be checked out, the employee ran into a problem. The computer would not take some entry into the system. This of course caused the line to come to a complete stop. The employee even stopped and just stared at the console, almost trying to will their mind to regain control over the machine. The employee, the customer and all of those in line were now at the mercy of the arrival of the manager. Some time would pass before the manager could arrive and reset the controls of the computer and restart the activities of the line.

During all of this time, many of those in line began to display signs of their discomfort of having to stand in line so long. Some of them started to mumble under their breath clearly showing their aggravation. The congregant was among those showing discomfort. When the employee finally finished with their current customer and turned to help the congregant the congregant began to comment on the excessively long time that the employee had taken in resolving the situation. They continued to comment on the lack of training, the cost of the congregant's valuable time and the general dislike of their contact with the employee.

After the bags were filled and the congregant departed the line, still commenting on the issue, the next person in line approached the employee. "I'm glad I don't go to their church!" said the person. "If that's what they teach." The employee looked at the person "How do you know they went to church?" they asked. "Oh, I see them each Sunday morning as they walk into the church down the street" the person answered.

No one lives in a vacuum! No matter where we may find ourselves during the day, inside of the congregation or outside in the world, we are being watched. Sometimes we do not pay that much attention to our location and forget that as Christians we are always representing our faith and our love of Jesus, but also our understanding about how that love is supposed to be displayed. Many have been turned away from God's love by the actions of "God's people!"

God calls us to salt to the world. That is that we are supposed to act in a different method than the rest of the world acts. If we behave no better or no worse than those around us, how do we display the change that being a Christian is said to have caused within us? Do we display the same "God's love for us" when we withhold that love from others? How are we being salt?

People are looking for what it is that makes us different from all of the other ways that competes for their hearts and minds. If the church is not a place where we act differently than what can be found outside of it, then it has lost its impact. More people are lost to the ways of the world in this manner. They see nothing special about being a Christian.

We must change our ways. We must gather back the reasons that we proclaim to the world as to why we became Christians ourselves. We must display the change in our lives that we believe happens to us when we take on the yoke of Christ. We must show the world the love that God has shown to us in the life and death of Christ on the Cross. We must allow God to work within us again and to transform us anew. We must return to the Cross.

Over the next few newsletters, it is my hope to flesh out again for us some of the ideas and concepts about what it means to be a follower of Jesus the Christ. What is supposed to make us different than the world around us. Why we are to act differently in regards to those in our families, our world and especially in our Church.

Praying for you as I hope that you are praying for me
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*, Robbie Hoffline, Barbara Coffman, Ronal Norris, Wayne Howe, The family of Paulette Achemire, Pat Hopper* Elizabeth Embrey, Rocky Stevens, Betty Snyder, Lynda Roberts

Our Extended Church Family: Sarah Curry Coffman, Barbara Beatty, Ariel Baska, Andrew Howard, Connie Clower* Nicholas Yukich, Joshua Colvin, Local Health Workers, Family of Chuck Larsen, Family of Lorene Rutherford Black, Martha, Mark & Children Robinson, Family of Charles Compton, Family of Betty Johnson, Family of Mary Ann Rutherford Ivy, Family of Chris Hulsey, *Janelle Davis, Jeff Foster, Hayden Stansbury, Don Dozier, Family of Kenneth Pipes, Family of Kent Flannagan, M.L. Cross



Debbie LeBrun

Kingdom Builders Class—Maintenance Fund

Mabel Stoltz

Mary Kay Cole—Maintenance Fund

Mary Lou Hall—Maintenance Fund

Dixie Leinart

Scott & Charlotte Gilmore—Maintenance Fund

JW & Ann Barrow—Maintenance Fund

Doris Lane—Maintenance Fund

Steve & Gayanne Shaffer—Maintenance Fund

Sally Leigh—Maintenance Fund

Mary Kay Cole—Maintenance Fund

Barbara & Sara Coffman—Maintenance Fund

Mary Lindsey—Maintenance Fund

Margie Curry

Scott & Charlotte Gilmore—Maintenance Fund

Lavinia Ruth Moe

Kathy Caletka—Maintenance & CWF Funds

Scott & Charlotte Gilmore—Maintenance Fund

Pia Wichmann

Scott & Charlotte Gilmore—Maintenance Fund

Chuck Larsen

Scott & Charlotte Gilmore—Maintenance Fund

Charles Compton

Scott & Charlotte Gilmore—Maintenance Fund

Mary Kay Cole—Maintenance Fund

Mary Ann Rutherford

Mary Kay Cole—Maintenance Fund

Barbara & Sara Coffman—Maintenance Fund

Ernest Lowrie

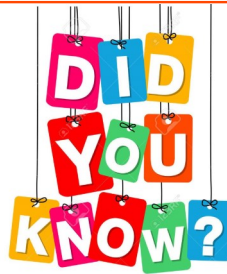
Barbara & Sara Coffman—Maintenance Fund

Kelli Holliman

Mary Kay Cole—Maintenance Fund

Lorene Rutherford Black

Barbara & Sara Coffman—Maintenance Fund



The church website is
almost finished!
Check it out at:
www.fccterrell.org

It's a work in progress...

Serving Schedule for July 2020

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

Sunday, July 5, 2020

Elders: Ron Norris & Sandra Wnorowski

Sound System: Sherri Winton

Camera Operator: Ryder Norris

Lay Leader: Linda Johnson

Sunday, July 12, 2020

Elders: Helen Remes & Dale Hogue

Sound System: Lisa Stevens

Camera Operator: Ryder Norris

Lay Leader: Linda Johnson

Sunday, July 19, 2020

Elders: Dana & Sherry Skelton

Sound System: Mike LeVasseur

Camera Operator: Ryder Norris

Lay Leader: Linda Johnson

Sunday, July 26, 2020

Elders: Mike Siemann & Pat Hopper

Sound System: Sherri Winton

Camera Operator: Ryder Norris

Lay Leader: Linda Johnson

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

MONTH OF MAY, 2020

INCOME AND EXPENSE

INCOME: \$10,321.00

EXPENSES: \$11,845.56

DIFFERENCE: <\$1524.56>

In the Spotlight

SERENITY CHURCH

By Charlotte Gilmore

AN OLD FASHIONED POUNDING

Many of our church members participated in the Pounding which was held on Saturday, April 25th. Serenity Corner wants to say "thank you" for your dedication and thoughtfulness in participating in spite of the fact that it had to be held as a drive through event where you were met with "masked" men and women to receive your donations.



The purpose of the Pounding was to begin the stockpiling of food items for the bags of food that are distributed to Terrell's homeless population weekly. The food bags have been given the name "HEARTEN BAGS"..... Sustaining the hungry. The thought behind this is that these simple bags of Canned Pasta, Vienna Sausage, Tuna Salad with Crackers, Spam Singles, Peach Cups, Peanut Butter Crackers, and Ramen will lighten the hearts of these folks who have no place to lay their heads, no place to go to the bathroom or wash their hands and no guaranteed source of food.

The Pounding accomplished its goal of filling the pantry in FCC's racquetball court with food items, enough to fill 330 Hearten Bags since March 1st with enough to last through the 2nd week of July.

Another Pounding is being planned for early September.

SERENITY CORNER PANTRY AT FCC

You may be totally unaware that the racquetball court in the gym is now a pantry for Serenity Corner. It is the storage for food items which are packed weekly for distribution to Terrell's homeless. Right now 24 bags of the food are prepared weekly by ladies of our church and sent to Serenity for distribution. At present there is about enough food to fill bags through the second week of July. The pantry depends on donations of food items or donations of money for buying the items needed. There are still boxes in the Family Center for collection of food items.

The goal is to stockpile food so it is available weekly. During the Covid-19 pandemic there has been an increase in the number of folks coming to Serenity for help so the demand for food is great.

Serenity is currently in a period of transition. It recently received the non-profit 501(c)3 designation and has been able to begin writing grant applications. As a 501(c)3 non-profit it can receive donations that are tax deductible. A brochure detailing the purpose, goals and activities of Serenity has also been produced recently. Copies of the brochure are available in our church office. An effort is underway to move Serenity into a larger space so it's services can be expanded. A committee made up of representatives of local churches, businesses and interested citizens has been working on all these efforts since before the pandemic began.

The greatest need for Serenity now is a dependable revenue stream. There are many avenues for making monetary donations: The website—<https://serenitycorner.org>, Cash App—\$SerenityCorner, mail to P.O. Box 266, or check to FCC with Serenity or Serenity Food Pantry notation. Friends of Serenity are encourage to make a monthly commitment. Even \$10 monthly is beneficial.

I want to thank our congregation for it's continuing support of this ministry. And my personal thanks to the ladies and men who have participated in Bag Ladies, in packing the Hearten Food Bags and in the "Old Fashioned Pounding."



"Thanks to all the sweet friends of First Christian Church for the prayers, lovely notes, phone calls, text and emails regarding my mom, Dixie Leinart's passing into heaven. The donations to the church and other memorials in her honor were so touching. Dixie was so proud to be a member of the church and truly loved Jesus."

Blessings to all, Prissy, Craig & Family

"Thank you for the Bible. I will use it often. It will always remind me of my church home. Thank you again."

Reece Norris



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 WORKDAYS RESTARTED

On Tuesday June 16 and June 23 members of the Bag Ladies group met to restart the Sleeping Mat project at FCC. On each of the Tuesdays 1/2 of the group met so they could maintain a 6' distance while working on the plastic bags. It was a very successful reopening. These two groups will continue to meet on separate days for a while.

While the group has not met, the work of producing sleeping mats has continued as usual. The ladies who crochet, working at home, have produced 11 mats and 5 pillows during this "shelter-at-home" time and hundreds of bags have been prepared for cutting. A few of the group have even gone to the workroom individually and worked on cutting. One of our members has continued to tie the strips of plastic at home and roll it into balls for crocheting. By the time all the members get back together the storage closet will be full and ready for another "Blessing of the Sleeping Mats."

The goal of the group will now be to prepare for the September Kaufman County "PIT" (Point In Time) Count of Homeless. This will be the second event of this kind where people who find themselves homeless come to Serenity Corner and other such places across the county to be counted. They are invited for a meal, clothing and food distribution, sleeping mats and to meet with social service providers to discuss their situations.

SHOEBOXES CHRISTMAS IN JULY

No, you are not being asked to pack Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes in July, but if you have not already started purchasing items for your Christmas box, **JULY IS THE TIME!!!** Stop in the Joy Classroom and pick up one of the pre-printed boxes and a label. Every time you go to the store, pick up an item or two for the child you have decided to buy for. Most of us know what children like so 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. Some of these children live in the jungle, some in the desert, some in cities, some in the country, some in war situations, many in refugee camps. You won't know where your box is going but it will be sent to a child who needs what you have put in it. The boxes are always sent to a place where there are responsible people to see that children receive them, often it is a local pastor or a teacher who is in charge. Enjoy this moment to minister to a child you will never see but a child who deserves your love and compassion. Write a note to put in your box. Add a photo of you, your grandchildren or your pet. Go online at Operation Christmas Child.org and watch the videos of the shoeboxes being delivered. It will warm your heart.



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 writes 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

DID YOU KNOW...

The handmade wooden screen which hung for many years in the front of the sanctuary covering the Kimball Organ's pipes is now displayed on a wall in the entrance of the Charles E. Mull Christian Family Center. The screen, a joint project of an early minister, Brother Harmon, and church member Dr. W.R. Lindley, was described in 1933 at its dedication by a local columnist. "It must be 10' X 15' and contains symbols that have been worked out to a nicety. He drew the plans with the aid of a few tools, carved out the form of the Latin Cross, symbolizing 'Praise,' of the Anchor cross, symbolizing 'Hope,' of the Star cross, symbolizing 'Joy,' and the Circle crosses, symbolizing 'Completeness.'"



Submitted by Doris Lane

NEW CLEAN UP GUIDELINES AND SCHEDULE FOR KAUFMAN COUNTY

In the past there has been an annual Countywide Cleanup in Kaufman County so residents could clean up and dispose of unwanted items. Since the closing of the Environmental Co-op this year a new clean-up program has been created by the County Commissioners.

Black Jack Disposal Services, which now operates a trash drop off and recycling operation on 429 N. has contracted with the county to offer smaller clean-up days throughout the year at locations in all 4 Precincts during the year.

These monthly cleanup/collection events are free to all Kaufman County residents and managed by Blackjack Disposal. There have been some changes made from the Annual County Cleanup. We will hold a cleanup/ collection event monthly rotating around the county and residents may visit any location throughout the year.

ITEMS TAKEN FOR FREE DURING CLEANUP/ COLLECTION EVENTS: AT ALL LOCATIONS OLD MATTRESSES, OLD FURNITURE, OLD APPLIANCES, TRASH, RECYCLABLES
Proof of residence will be required at all locations (drivers license or water bill) no cattle trailers or enclosed trailers allowed.

PCT 1—City of Kaufman
972-932-2161
September 5 8:00 AM-4:00 PM

PCT 2—City of Forney
972-703-2626
October 3 8:00 AM-4:00 PM

PCT 3—City of Terrell
972-703-2626
July 11 8:00 AM—4:00 PM
November 7 8:00 AM—4:00 PM

PCT 4—City of Kemp
903-289-9881
August 1 8:00 AM—4:00 PM
December 5 8:00 AM—4:00 PM

ONLY IN PCT. 3—TERRELL & PCT. 4—KEMP
THE FOLLOWING CAN BE TAKEN FOR A CHARGE ON THE DAY OF THE EVENT: TIRES, TV'S, COMPUTERS, MICROWAVES, LATEX PAINT, PESTICIDE CONTAINERS, HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD WASTE

ITEMS THAT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED
BARBED WIRE, BRICKS, CONCRETE, CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, ROCK, ROOFING, SHINGLES, BRUSH, BOATS, TRAVEL TRAILERS AND DEAD ANIMALS (OF ANY KIND)

For further information and to check on pricing for some items, please head over to:
www.blackjackdisposal.com