



March

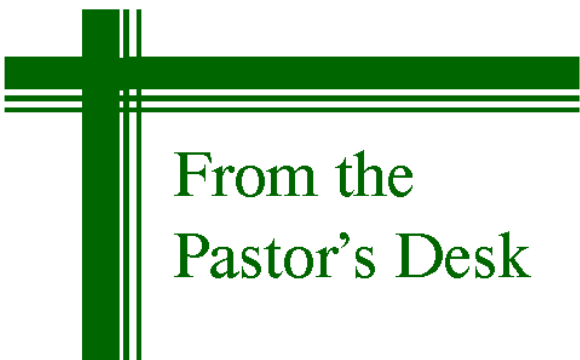
2021

# Good News!

First Christian Church  
405 N. Adelaide St.  
Terrell, TX 75160 (972) 551-4700  
[www.fccterrell.org](http://www.fccterrell.org)

Facebook: First Christian Church (DOC) - Terrell, TX

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



## From the Pastor's Desk

## Doing

What is a truism? A Truism is a statement that in a short concise means expresses a vision of life that when spoken listeners find an immediate agreement with. There are some truisms in life that most of us have heard at least once in our life. We hear them and know that there is a vision of truth to them.

One such truism is "It is easier to complain than it is to fix." Most of us hear this and know of many situations in life that this applies to. We can visualize those moments when a problem arises and there exists those who stand back from the condition and begin a diatribe on how they see the problem and their concepts on how someone else should come and fix it. While they are complaining about what they see as needing fixed, they stand to the side and do nothing. There may be a belief within them that there is equivalence between saying and doing. As if the complaint is in some way equal with doing something.

As we read through the Bible, we discover that we as a church are called into action. We are not here to only observe those in need; we are called to act into acts of kindness, forgiveness and repentance. We are called to take personal action. We read in the scriptures: <sup>30</sup> Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain *man* went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded *him*, and departed, leaving *him* half dead. <sup>31</sup> Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. When he saw him, he had compassion. <sup>34</sup> So he went to *him* and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave *them* to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' <sup>36</sup> So which of these three do you think was a neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?" (Luke 10: 30 – 36) It is the one who took action on behalf of the hurt man who was blessed. Not those who passed by and complained about how someone should do something.

How do we really solve the problems that the church confronts, we need to be more fully engaged. We cannot feed "those who hunger and thirst" without those who go to them with food and water. We cannot clothe the naked without those who take clothes to them. We cannot teach our youth without those who will teach. There are many areas and problems that cannot be done without a person who is called to that ministry.

If you see a need or something that might need some change, then join up with the committee that oversees that area and help in the change. Don't just stand there or go away saying that "No one" was willing to do anything...you are that "one".

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

*Pastor Craig*



## Serving Schedule for March 2021

**Lay Leader: Ron Compton**

**Sunday, March 7, 2021**

**Elders:** Raymond Sparks & Linda List  
**Greeting:** Ron & Jan Compton, David & Carol Dickens, Addison Cross  
**Acolyte:** Elliot Cross  
**Sound System:** Mike LeVasseur  
**Camera Operator:** Ryder Norris

**Sunday, March 14, 2021**

**Elders:** Linda Johnson & Robert Ballard  
**Greeting:** Jerry Vick, Erik Vick, Clay Norris, Reese Norris, Liz Palmer  
**Acolyte:** Kinsler Bratz  
**Sound System:** Sherri Winton  
**Camera Operator:** Ryder Norris

**Sunday, March 21, 2021**

**Elders:** Helen Remes & Dale Hogue  
**Greeting:** Kristi Johnson, Barbara Gale, Denise Record  
**Acolyte:** Remington Cross  
**Sound System:** Lisa Stevens  
**Camera Operator:** Ryder Norris

**Sunday, March 28, 2021**

**Elders:** Dana & Sherry Skelton  
**Greeting:** Linda Conder, Lynda Roberts, Ann Winton, Ann Barrow  
**Acolyte:** Valcus Best  
**Sound System:** Mike LeVasseur  
**Camera Operator:** Ryder Norris

## 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, Ronnie Glenn, Kurt Cone, Jay Cole, Guylene & Robert Ballard, Pat Sparks, Ruth LeVasseur, Pat Hopper\* Charlotte Gilmore, Gloria Strange, John Hegar, The Family of George Purnell\* Mary Lindsey & The Lindsey Family, The Cross Family

**Our Extended Church Family:** Sarah Curry Coffman, Barbara Beatty, Ariel Baska, Don Dozier,\* The family of Rudy Holick, Ernest O'Lexy, Rick Balassone, Denise Tadsen, Whitney Sinks, Dwayne DeGeorge, June Breazeale, Evelyn O'Lexy, Patsy Marshall, The Family of Dena Devito, The Family of Lisa Sanders, The Family of Jeff Silva, The Family of Jeanne Taylor.\* David Lindsey, The Family of Susan Compton



### **J.M. & Faye Gipson**

Samye & Jerry Vick—Maintenance Fund

### **Dena Devito**

Kay Cole—Maintenance Fund

### **Lisa Sanders**

Kay Cole—Maintenance Fund  
Linda List—Maintenance Fund

### **Charles Compton**

Linda List—Maintenance Fund

### **Jeff Silva**

Kay Cole—Maintenance Fund  
Linda List—Maintenance Fund

### **George Purnell**

Kay Cole—Maintenance Fund  
Sally Leigh—Maintenance Fund  
Doris Lane—Maintenance Fund  
Tammy Cox—Maintenance Fund  
Trina Jones—Maintenance Fund  
Carolyn Furrh—Maintenance Fund  
Ginger Ingram—Maintenance Fund  
Jack & Lynn Beavers—Maintenance Fund  
Linda List—Maintenance Fund  
Mary Lindsey—Maintenance Fund  
Kingdom Builders Class—Maintenance Fund  
John Hegar—Maintenance Fund  
Janet & Jeff Baska—Maintenance Fund  
Pat Hopper—Maintenance Fund  
Scott & Charlotte Gilmore—Roof Fund  
Joyce Kimmell—General Fund

### **Sid & Inez Bivens**

Jerry & Samye Vick—Maintenance Fund

## MONTH OF JANUARY, 2021 INCOME AND EXPENSE

**INCOME:** \$10,763.96  
**EXPENSES:** \$13,348.57  
**DIFFERENCE:** <\$2,584.61>



Since 1934 the women of our church have come together to pray, to learn, and to serve in the spirit of Christian fellowship. That makes a total of eighty-seven consecutive years. What a legacy!

Our study for this year is based on Priscilla Shirer's insightful and inspirational book *Fervent: A Woman's Battle Plan for Serious, Specific, and Strategic Prayer*.

Ann Embrey will present the lesson for the month of March. Her lesson is entitled *Your Purity: Staying Strong in Your Most Susceptible Places*.

Come join us as we endeavor to pray more fervently as we are called to do. "...the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16b

Carrie Rutherford will give our devotional. Her devotional and Ann's lesson will charge us up for the coming month as we continue in Christian Women's Fellowship.

Our outreach focus for March is Meals on Wheels. Jan Compton will share some facts about this important service. Come and be blessed with the rest!

**NEXT MEETING:  
MARCH 1, 2021 AT 2:00PM  
IN THE SANCTUARY  
SEE YOU THEN!!!**



Dear First Christian Church,

"The New Year is here and we are reflecting on our many blessings. Your generosity and partnership are at the top of that list! Your financial support created opportunities for people we swerve that would not have existed otherwise. With much thanksgiving, we thank you for your gift of \$766.00 to the Thai Christian Foundation."

### **Never Lost** By Elevation Worship

Miracles when You move  
Such an easy thing for You to do  
Your hand is moving right now  
You are still showing up  
At the tomb of every Lazarus  
Your voice is calling me out

Right now, I know You're able  
My God, come through again

You can do all things  
You can do all things but fail  
'Cause You've never lost a battle  
No, You've never lost a battle  
And I know, I know You never will

Everything's possible  
By the power of the Holy Ghost  
A new wind is blowing right now  
Breaking my heart of stone  
Taking over like it's Jericho  
Any my walls are all crashing down

You've never lost a battle  
And I know, I know You never will.



**Ron & Jan Compton**  
Scott & Charlotte Gilmore—Roof Fund

**John Hegar**  
Scott & Charlotte Gilmore—Roof Fund



"Thank you to everyone who has lovingly reached out to us during the loss of our family members, brother, sister, sister-in-law & nieces. We love you all & are blessed to have you as our friends."

Ron & Jan Compton





# SERENITY CHURCH

By Charlotte Gilmore

## SERENITY PARTICIPATES IN COUNTYWIDE “PIT” COUNT OF HOMELESS

On January 28 homeless persons came to Serenity Corner to be counted as part of a “Point In Time” effort to document the number of homeless in the City of Terrell. Each one participated in a survey regarding their particular status and needs. The PIT Count, now being done in Kaufman County annually is sponsored by the Kaufman County Homeless Coalition in association with the Texas Homeless Network. The Count provides a snapshot of homelessness at a point in time. Serenity Corner also held a count last year just for local homeless. Each homeless person who came and filled out a survey with the help of a volunteer was provided a lunch, a bag of winter personal items and had the opportunity to pick out some donated clothing; jeans, sweats, shirts, socks, shoes, caps, gloves and coats. The results of these PIT counts will be used by local governments, churches and non-profits to improve response to homelessness and to measure progress toward the ultimate goal: ending homelessness in Kaufman County. Serenity is constantly working to improve its understanding of the needs and circumstances of the people experiencing homelessness in our community. The surveys help provide us with key data on gender, age, ethnicity, veteran status and more.

Serenity also has a team working on plans for the growth of its ministry to the homeless. There is a need for a larger footprint – larger building with adequate facilities, permanent staffing, programs designed to serve the wide range of needs presented by homelessness. A Marketing Plan is in progress with the goal of establishing a sustainable income stream to fund the wide range of services and programs envisioned by the leadership of Serenity.

We at First Christian are proud to be partners with this ministry; providing pantry space for storing the food items included weekly in the Hearten Food Bags and volunteers to pack the 24 bags weekly, providing and serving a hot meal once a month for a Friday night gathering of homeless persons, making donations of funds, food, clothing and toiletries.

## MONTHLY MEALS FOR HOMELESS – CAN YOU HELP???

Planning a monthly meal for Serenity Corner is one of the responsibilities of the church’s Outreach Committee. Linda List has taken responsibility for planning, preparation and serving of each of these meals with the assistance of others on the committee. First Christian is responsible for feeding about 30 persons on the third Friday of each month. The meals for 2021 have been planned and Linda will be calling various ladies of the congregation each month to help. Ladies who attend CWF have already signed up but if others are willing to make a dish for one of the months please give Linda a call. In the past Joy Class has taken the responsibility for doing the meal and for any cost involved. Since the Class is not meeting this is no longer possible. The Church Budget this year includes a small amount each month for supplies but our members are being asked to donate the food items. If you want to make a financial donation to help with this ministry please make that notation on your check.

These meals are an important piece of Serenity’s ministry to the homeless community and participating in the ministry is an important piece of our congregation’s Outreach.

**You can reach Linda at 214-384-5673**

## OUTREACH 2021

Your Outreach Committee for 2021 is made up of the Following Members:

**Dale Hogue, Chairman**

**Charlotte Gilmore, Scott Gilmore, Linda List, Alice Hogue, Mike and Ruth LeVasseur, Liz Palmer, Juli & Ken Larsen, Mary Lindsey**

**Serenity Pantry - Ken Larsen, Inventory**

**Hearten Food Bag Packers – Charlotte, Scott, Alice and Dale, Linda, Mary, Juli. Liz, Mike and Ruth**

**Serenity Friday Night Meal – Linda List, Organizer (All church members might expect a call to make a dish for these meals.)**

**Special Offerings – Dale Hogue, Charlotte Gilmore**

**We will have 6 Special Outreach Offerings this year:**

**February – Juliette Fowler Community**

**April – Jarvis Christian College**

**May – Inman Christian Center**

**October—Ebby House**

**November—Disciples Homes**

**December—Operation Christmas Child - Shoeboxes**

## MY THOUGHTS By Ken Larsen



This old book, tattered and worn, its pages wrinkled and torn. The golden gilding long ago worn off. Mud splatters, stains, and some old dry grass between some pages. How could it have ever ended up in such a state? Not from neglect, but a constant use.

I spent last night with a homeless man who came to our church to get out of the sub freezing weather that left millions without power and water for several days. We spent hours discussing our individual journeys in life. His troubles with family, relationships, addiction and prison. For 3 years he has lived out of his truck in a local parking lot. 3 months ago the business owner had it towed, and without a job he was unable to pay the tow fees to recover it. We talked of faith, of various organized religions and beliefs, of political issues and the daily lives of those with absolutely nothing but the clothes on their back.

His strength of character you would never notice if you passed him on the street. When a local restaurant provided food to our temporary shelter, he waited until everyone else had eaten to make his meager plate.

Throughout the night and all this morning he would stop talking for a moment, open a random page and quietly read a verse. After a moment of contemplation he resumed our discussion. Today I learned what is the true meaning of "a penny for your thoughts".

He dug an old penny from a pocket and flipped it. I called tails, and was pleased to see it land tail up. He smiled and picked it up again, then telling me that if I got it right again- it was mine to keep. He flipped and I called tails again. As it landed face up he retrieved it from the floor and placed it in his pocket, "you owe me a penny and your thoughts".

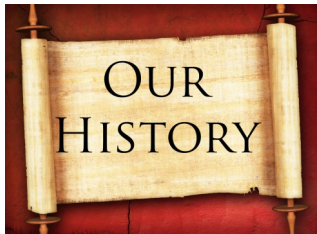
Here is what I thought:

This life, this community, is not about race or belief, or our status among others. It is about people. Trying to be good people. Taking the time to look at someone else's circumstances and offering a hand. Pushing through the trials that life throws at us and making it one day at a time. Trying to help one person at a time.

Faith is not about the size of the church- it is about the size of the heart. He started yesterday with a penny and a bible, both worn from much use. Today he gained a new penny and a place in my heart. One day, one person at a time. Priceless teachings.



## Wooden Grille for Pipe Organ By Ann Embrey



While many outstanding leaders have been involved in the success of this church through the years, this is a story of two men of the church who were involved with the building of the impressive wooden grille, located today on the wall in the lobby of the Charles E. Mull Family Christian Center on Brin Street.

The beautiful Kimball pipe organ was installed in the new brick building during the Golden Anniversary celebration in 1923. It was delivered by train, along with another organ for the First Presbyterian Church in Terrell. A few years later the beautiful wooden grille was created and put into place between the organ pipes and the pulpit.

**Reverend Wilford P. Harmon** came to Terrell about 1931, with his wife Ineth, who was a public school teacher. He wasn't long out of seminary, as they are shown on the 1930 census in Hope, Arkansas at ages 25 and 22. His tenure in Terrell was short, as First Christian Terrell had a new pastor by 1934. Rev. Harmon & Ineth had moved on to Nashville, TN.

During the short tenure of Rev. Harmon at First Christian Church Terrell, he is remembered for several good works within the church. Our own CWF mentions in their early history that Rev Harmon penned a song for blessing the offerings in meetings of the newly formed Christian Women's Guild.

**Dr. William R. Lindley MD** (an eye, ear & throat physician) worked with Rev. Harmon on the design and construction of the wooden grille for the organ pipes in front of the sanctuary. The grille with its intricate carving was installed between the pulpit and the organ pipes in 1933 and dedicated to the memory of Dr. Lindley's wife, Nell, who died in 1932.

We believe the grille was removed from the sanctuary about 20 years ago, when the organ received an upgrade to become electronic. Additional pipes were added, salvaged from an older church, and the pipes are now decorative only. Our organist, Kay Cole, remembers sitting in the congregation as a child and hearing high school students playing the organ. She learned piano very early, and was in 6th grade when she began organ lessons, concentrating on foot pedal training. She began playing in church while in high school.

