



# FEBRUARY

## 2021

# Good News!

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

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



## What do you want Your Church to look like?

The above question is one that is not so unusual. This question is one that confronts each member of any congregation anywhere in the world. It is one that asks what we want our church to be doing, not only during the Sunday morning worship, but also each day during the week. What events do we participate in and which outreach programs do we give our support to?

One Sunday evening, while the youth of a local church was outside playing, the local Baptist Church was also having their youth meeting at the same time. During this time the Baptist had a visiting band playing music outside for their youth. As the youth stopped their playing to listen to the music, one of the mothers approached the pastor and asked, "When are we going to have a band play for our youth?" There is an obvious direct connection between giving and programs. This is not only a program within the church, but also with outreach of the church. This is the most visible area of the church that most people see. While it is important that the church has enough funds to operate on a day-by-day basis, this should not be the only means by which we view the church. Our main goal has, and always will be, spreading the Good News of Jesus to the world. This is how we measure the impact of our ministry.

The other area through which a member has power to change the look of a church is sometimes not as visible. In his book, *"The Purpose Driven Church,"* Rick Warren says that members will tell if they support some program of a church with their feet. His meaning is that if members of the congregation do not volunteer to help with some program, they are viewing that program as not having importance for them. Warren later says that if there are no volunteers, the church no longer does that particular program. There is no church anywhere in the world that can do all of the things that it wants to accomplish without those in the church to give of their time and talents.

Both of these areas, volunteering and giving, are areas where each one of the members of the church has within their control what their church will end up looking like. What each one of us needs to decide is what exactly we want to see our church to be like and how each one of us will help the church to get there. This is true for any member of any church. It is you that will be the deciding factor as to the long-term history of your church. Will you help your church to grow and continue to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ or will we fade away into history?

As the new year of 2021 begins, may we all pray and then work for our churches. May we begin to have an impact in both areas for the goals of the church. Let us give of ourselves out of the great gifts that God has given to us. A pastor stood before their congregation one Sunday. The pastor said to them, "I have good news and other news. The good news is that we have enough support to make it easily through this year and for many years to come. However, the other news is that all the support is still sitting in the pews."

Make this year the year the support gets out of the pews. Praying for you as I hope that you are praying for me.

Craig

*"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to open everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always to the end of the age."* Matthew 28:19-20



## Serving Schedule for February 2021

**Lay Leader: Linda Conder**

### Sunday, February 7, 2021

**Elders:** Helen Remes & Dale Hogue  
**Greeting:** Ron & Jan Compton, David & Carol Dickens, Addison Cross  
**Acolyte:** Kinsler Bratz  
**Sound System:** Lisa Stevens  
**Camera Operator:** Ryder Norris

### Sunday, February 14, 2021

**Elders:** Dana & Sherry Skelton  
**Greeting:** Jerry Vick, Erik Vick, Clay Norris, Reese Norris, Liz Palmer  
**Acolyte:** Remington Cross  
**Sound System:** Mike LeVasseur  
**Camera Operator:** Ryder Norris

### Sunday, February 21, 2021

**Elders:** Mike Siemann & Scott Gilmore  
**Greeting:** Kristi Johnson, Barbara Gale, Denise Record  
**Acolyte:** Valcus Best  
**Sound System:** Sherri Winton  
**Camera Operator:** Ryder Norris

### Sunday, February 28, 2021

**Elders:** Craig & Prissy Shaffer  
**Greeting:** Linda Conder, Lynda Roberts, Ann Winton, Ann Barrow  
**Acolyte:** Lynna Johnson  
**Sound System:** Lisa Stevens  
**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, George Purnell, Kurt Cone, Jay Cole, Guylene & Robert Ballard, Pat Sparks, Ruth LeVasseur, Pat Hopper\* Sharon Drinning, Sue Ann Norris, Barbara Miller,\* Charlotte Gilmore, Gloria Strange, John Hegar, Mary Lindsey.

**Our Extended Church Family:** Sarah Curry Coffman, Barbara Beatty, Ariel Baska, Don Dozier,\* Becky Drinning, Rick Jeffery, Robert & Ann Brown, Sara Robinson, Dena Leitner,\* The family of Rudy Holick, Ernest O'Lexy, Jeff Silva, Corey Rutherford, 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.

## MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2020 INCOME AND EXPENSE

**INCOME: \$18,524.00**  
**EXPENSES: \$24,159.19**  
**DIFFERENCE: <\$5,635.19>**

*In  
Loving  
Memory  
of*

### **Dale & Olga Wages**

Samye & Jerry Vick—Maintenance Fund



***Dear FCC Family:***

*" Thank You so much for remembering us at Christmas with gifts, food, cards, letters, and a Christmas bonus. Both Jack and I feel honored to be such a part of this church and appreciate the friendships we have made. Blessings on each of you."*

*Lynn and Jack Beavers*

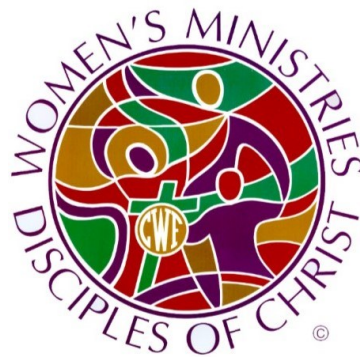


*Thank You*

"Carrie and I would like to express our deep gratitude for all of the cards, gifts,

goodies and prayers that we received during this Christmas season. We were especially moved by the congregation's generosity in providing a "Christmas Bonus" to Craig and the staff. We have been so blessed in the three years that Craig has been honored to be the pastor of First Christian Church, and with God's blessings there will be many more years to come. We love all of you and pray for each and every one, asking God's every good and perfect gift fall upon you."

Love and Blessings  
Rev. Craig and Carrie



If you are longing for a closer walk with God, if you sometimes feel that your prayers don't go any higher than the ceiling, then come join us as we learn about fervent prayer. Charlotte Gilmore will lead our lesson entitled *Your Fears: Confronting Your Worries, Claiming Your Calling*. The February meeting is on the 1<sup>st</sup> at 2 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Have you seen on news reports those yellow blankets being given to people in an emergency? Each year CWF donates money toward the purchase of blankets. We do this in response to our CWF prayer which includes "Open our eyes to the needs of the world and fill our hearts with concern for all people". Church World Service Blankets is our outreach focus for the month of February.



Ann Embrey will bring the devotional. She will also share a moment of CWF history with us. Hostesses for the February 1<sup>st</sup> meeting are Ann Winton and Carrie Rutherford.

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

**"Be still, and know that I am God."**

Ps 46:10

Stop talking  
Switch off your phone  
Stop commenting  
Listen  
Stop arguing  
Stop questioning  
Stop moaning

Stop doubting  
Be sure  
Have faith  
No second opinion

God is Almighty  
God is in control  
God is love  
God is King  
God is my hope, rock, fortress  
God is ever-present, a help in times of trouble.  
God is my Father  
God is my shepherd-  
He will lead me, nourish me, protect me & restore me.



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.

*Dear Friends...*

*"Thank you so much for the Christmas Bonus you gave me. It was very unexpected and exceedingly appreciated. Thank You."*

*Love,  
Lisa Cross*

**Thank You!**



# SERENITY CHURCH

By Charlotte Gilmore

## ONGOING MINISTRY AT SERENITY

The ministry at Serenity, headed by Don Ledbetter, is ongoing – on a daily, weekly, monthly, yearly basis. About five years ago Don and others began a weekly gathering on the street in South Terrell ministering to street people in the area. That ministry has grown and is now almost fulltime except that it still is conducted by Don and a team of volunteers. It now includes being open some hours during each day to make the bathroom and some meals available, an evening meal and Bible Study on Wednesdays, a meal and Worship on Friday evenings, 24 Hearten Food Bags weekly for the homeless, donated clothing as needed, toiletries and personal items as available, counseling and transportation for urgent medical needs, and other services as required.

Five local churches are involved on a regular basis in providing meals, the food bags, clothing, etc. and other churches in town provide services as well.

You may not be aware that grant funds associated with the Covid-19 Pandemic were made available to Serenity last year to purchase the food items included in the weekly food bags for the homeless. The funds had to be spent immediately and Serenity didn't have space to store the large quantity so our church made the racquetball court available for storage. Some of our members pack the food bags each week and deliver them to Serenity.

Funds to keep this ministry functioning are sorely needed. A few churches, including ours have now included Serenity in the annual budget as have some individuals and more grants will be written when available. The ongoing ministry continues to be done by volunteers and donations from individuals continue to be needed. Please pray for Serenity Corner and the volunteers who minister there.

The future plans for Serenity include a building of their own that will allow the homeless a place to come, do laundry, get a shower, and come in from the elements. Please pray for God's direction as the Serenity Board moves forward in faith to making this a reality and for our housing insecure brothers and sisters.

## OUR CHURCH OUTREACH TO SERENITY CORNER in 2021

Christmas is over and done and the celebration at Serenity was awesome thanks in large part to our members. You blessed our homeless friends mightily, but their daily needs continue. I just saw a homeless man sitting on the bench in front of Serenity this morning putting on a new pair of socks and it reminded me that the need for new, warm socks is going to be even greater for the next few months. When you don't have bathing or even foot washing facilities it is hard to keep your feet dry and that means healthy. Please consider making donations of socks and other items that are daily needs of the homeless.

### **Needed for winter:**

socks, underwear (small to extra large), sweatshirts and pants, warm caps, warm gloves, lip balm, heavy duty dry skin balm (like Bag Balm).

### **Needed always:**

toothbrush and small toothpaste, razors, soap, fingernail clippers, bandanas, small mouthwash, small shampoo.

### **Needed for the weekly Hearten Food Bags:**

Snack bars, cups of pudding or fruit, wrapped hard candies, individually wrapped raisins, snack crackers etc.

There are plastic receptacles for your donations in the Family Center foyer and in the Church basement.

Thank you on behalf of Terrell's homeless.

***PLEASE ALSO BE AWARE: In the past, the monthly meal for Serenity was furnished by the Joy Class. Since SS Classes are not meeting we are expanding that ministry to include the entire church. Please be prepared for a call from the Outreach Committee asking if you can help.***



# CHRISTMAS AT SERENITY CORNER

It is really difficult to plan special Christmas events for people who live their lives without any plan or schedule, who have no permanent place to sleep or eat, whose possessions have to be carried on their backs every time they move, even if it's just to go to the bathroom. And it is especially difficult to plan events where you want people to gather for a meal, to worship together or to receive gifts when it is cold, you're in the midst of the Covid-19 Pandemic and your ministry is housed in a 450 sq.ft. space. But, it can happen if your ministry is called Serenity Corner and it serves the homeless population of Terrell!!

In December 2020 Serenity had a Christmas Tree where Santa left more than 90 colorfully wrapped shoeboxes filled with gifts and goodies as well as cash and gift certificates donated by local businesses, served Friday night meals to 30 or more every week, handed out 120 Hearten Food Bags, held worship every Wednesday night, distributed close to 100 warm, "hoodies" and other clothing items for which many of our members had made donations, delivered Bag Ladies Sleeping Mats to several people who were sleeping on the ground or in a concrete parking lot, and prayed with and for all of these.



Thank you to this congregation and our friends whose generosity was fully on display during the 2020 Christmas Season. Your ministry at Serenity Corner is making a difference. Your support of that ministry has made the difference between life and death for some and continued support is crucial as the number of people facing homelessness grows daily.

thank you!



# OUTREACH SPECIAL OFFERING FOR FEBRUARY

The first of six Special Offerings our church will receive in 2021 will be for **JULIETTE FOWLER HOMES**. Our church's relationship with this ministry goes back to the early days of our history. Some in our congregation will remember sponsoring residents of the children's home for Christmas visits. In years past our church has provided a Sunday afternoon worship service there with our choir providing special music. Our ladies were honored to have a speaker from Juliette Fowler in 2019. Today **Juliette Fowler Homes** is a nonprofit treatment complex and retirement facility in Dallas. In 1993 the 15½-acre East Dallas campus had three care facilities. The Children, Youth, and Family Services buildings were on the southwest corner of the campus, the Fowler Christian Apartments were on the northern edge of the campus, and the Pearl Nordan Care Center was on the southeastern corner of the campus. Fowler Homes was supported in part by donors throughout Texas, New Mexico, and Louisiana, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Meadows Foundation, the Mabree Foundation, the Beasley Foundation, and the Hoblitzelle Foundation. The home was named for Juliette Peak Fowler, a Dallas pioneer and philanthropist. She devoted her life to working with youth and the elderly beginning in 1861 after the death of her husband and two children. At her death Mrs. Fowler bequeathed the old Peak farm in East Dallas to establish a home for orphans and the aged, along with \$4,000 for the home's development. The home received a state charter in 1892, and before construction began on the East Dallas property the first home was located in Grand Prairie and called Faith Cottage. In 1910 construction began on Sarah Harwood Hall (named for Juliette Fowler's sister), the first building on the East Dallas campus. This residence for the aged was completed in 1911 and continued to serve the institution into the late 1980s. By 1913 the first building of the Children's Home was occupied, and five years later its capacity had doubled. The home continued to develop throughout the early 1900s with the expansion of orphan and youth facilities for both residential and outpatient care. In 1953 the hospital was completed, and additional youth facilities were completed in the early 1980s.



In 1981 the 144-unit Fowler Christian Apartments for the retired opened, and the Means Senior Activity Center and the Horace and Helen Sanders Plaza were renovated. New facilities for the Children, Youth, and Family Services programs were completed in 1984. In 1989 the Pearl Nordan Center, a 120-resident facility for the aged, was completed. In the early 1990s the Children, Youth, and Family Services provided inpatient and outpatient treatment for adolescents with emotional, mental, or behavioral problems. The services included an accredited school program,

sessions in behavioral and formal therapy, and a variety of classes dealing with social skills, health issues, and recreational activities. The Fowler Christian Apartments were fully appointed one-bedroom apartments for the low-income handicapped and elderly. Services included laundry facilities, lounge areas, an activity center, a swimming pool, and special recreational activities. The Pearl Nordan Care Center provided intermediate nursing-home facilities to persons fifty-five years of age or older. It offered a variety of activities and social services, beauty and barber services, a chapel, a clothing store, food services with professionally supervised therapeutic diets, and housekeeping and laundry services.

**First Christian Church will be taking an offering for Juliette Fowler Homes on February 28. Please make your checks payable to FCC and notate "Juliette Fowler" in the memo line.**