

2020



2020

# Good News!

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

## FROM THE Pastor's Desk

### Fog

Have you ever heard the story about the Captain of a large naval ship who was guiding it through a heavy fog bank? As he was driving his ship in the fog, he spied a light far off in the distance. Figuring that it must be an oncoming ship, he immediately ordered a message sent ahead saying, "please alter your course." Within a few minutes a message was received saying "please immediately alter **your** course." This upset the Captain who immediately returned a second message to the light ahead saying, "I am an admiral, and this is an aircraft carrier, you alter your course!" Immediately there was a response and a message came over the radio saying, "I am a seaman second-class, and this is a **lighthouse!**"

diately there was a response and a message came over the radio saying, "I am a seaman second-class, and this is a **lighthouse!**"

There are points in our walk in which a type of fog can begin to surround us. These happen at those times when some tragic event or life challenging event may be taking place. We lose track of where we are in our relationship with God. We began to feel our way hoping that we will softly bump into something familiar that will mark our path and get us back on the right track. All the time constantly praying that our impact will be light and not too damaging.

But like the seaman second-class sitting on the top of the lighthouse, and making sure that the beacon that cast its light out into the fog, God always makes sure that there is a light that will lead us to a safe harbor. We only have to keep looking in the fog for the light to shine through. And like the Captain of the aircraft carrier, we must be willing to give up our own power and authority and follow the directions from the light.

In the first chapter of the book of John, there is a familiar opening where John describes God as becoming light to the world. It says, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." John placed this in his opening comments to remind us that although we walk in times of great darkness there is always some point of light that reaches out to us trying to bring us back in the love and grace of God. There is no reason to give up on our walk or to throw in the towel.

This type of thought sometimes flies in the face of our modern American views, where "The customer is always right." A view in which the desires, needs and wants of the individual trump any power that may try to stifle them. We have to be willing to give up the needs and desires of self and turn ourselves over to a higher power that is trying to help us and guide us in our lives toward a safe harbor. We have to give up our control and become one that is led.

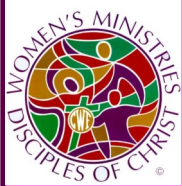
The Bible seems to be filled with stories of people who, when times of trouble descended, relied on their own means to get them out of those troubles. Only to find that their own means was far less effective than they expected. We sometimes bet against the wind, only to have the wind knock us down. We fight against the wind much in the same way as watching a weather channel reporter trying to stand against the forces of a hurricane while reporting on its damage. We fail to recognize that the wind is stronger than we are and can force its way upon us at its will.

The Bible also reminds us that when we cry out to the Lord and call upon the Lord to be our strength and our refuge we do find hope. We find in God that zone of comfort that we so long and desire to be placed in. God's Spirit can cause even the mightiest wind to calm. As we are reminded in the story of Jesus with his disciples in the boat on the Sea of Galilee when the storms, and winds came upon their small ship. While the disciples cowered in fear that their small and fragile boat would soon be swamped by the waves and the winds, Jesus rested quietly and comfortably in the back of the boat. His disciples ran to him to awaken him and asked was he not afraid that he would perish, but Jesus arose turned to the winds and said "be still."

Sometimes we have to be willing to alter our course to avoid the rocks of life. Sometimes we have to be willing to take commands from sources outside of ourselves. Sometimes we had to lay aside our own ego and power and listen to the small voice crying out to us. Sometimes we have to listen to God.

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

Craig



Christian Women's Fellowship got off to a great start in September with sixteen members attending in spite of our concerns during the pandemic. Every precaution was taken for safety. All members wore masks, and seating in the sanctuary allowed for safe distancing. But our goal is to carry on the work, study and fellowship. At the heart of our work is outreach. Jan Compton, Outreach Coordinator, led the discussion of Blessing Box donations. This year our BB money will go to a local non-profit, The Genesis Center, which does wonderful work with women who are going through difficult times. Additionally, plans were made for Operation Christmas Child. Supplies for ten shoeboxes and the cost of shipping them will be provided by CWF. Our devotional moment was given by Linda List who encouraged us to work together in Christian fellowship as we continue through the year. Jan Compton presented the lesson. She told a story which was one of those 'hidden jewels' from the Old Testament. She inspired us to keep our faith in God and keep passionate in our prayers. Linda Johnson and Jan brought snacks for members to enjoy at home. We all look forward to the time when we can share a meal together again. The next meeting will be at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. We hope you will make plans to be here.

## Serving Schedule for October 2020

**Sunday, October 4, 2020**

**Elders:** Helen Remes & Dale Hogue  
**Greeting:** Sue Ann Norris, Joe Best, Donna Best, Erik Vick, Reece Norris, Jerry Vick, Gary Barnett  
**Acolyte:** Valcus Best  
**Sound System:** Lisa Stevens  
**Camera Operator:** Ryder Norris  
**Lay Leader:** Lynda Roberts

**Sunday, October 11, 2020**

**Elders:** Craig & Prissy Shaffer  
**Greeting:** Lori Uptmor, Linda Conder, Sherri Winton, Ann Winton, Lynda Roberts, Spencer Cross  
**Acolyte:** Lynna Johnson  
**Sound System:** Mike LeVasseur  
**Camera Operator:** Ryder Norris  
**Lay Leader:** Lynda Roberts

**Sunday, October 18, 2020**

**Elders:** Mike Sieman & Scott Gilmore  
**Greeting:** Janet Baska, Jan Compton, Ron Compton, David Dickens, Carol Dickens, Kristi Johnson, Lisa Stevens  
**Acolyte:** Elliot Cross  
**Sound System:** Sherri Winton  
**Camera Operator:** Ryder Norris  
**Lay Leader:** Lynda Roberts

**Sunday, October 25, 2020**

**Elders:** Dana & Sherry Skelton  
**Greeting:** Sue Ann Norris, Joe Best, Donna Best, Erik Vick, Reece Norris, Jerry Vick, Gary Barnett  
**Acolyte:** Kinsler Bratz  
**Sound System:** Lisa Stevens  
**Camera Operator:** Ryder Norris  
**Lay Leader:** Lynda Roberts

## 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 LeVasseur, Pat Hopper, Isabella Simonson, Betty Snyder, \*David Stine\* Bill & Kathy Cook, Barbara Gale, Joe Parnell

**Our Extended Church Family:** Sarah Curry Coffman, Barbara Beatty, Ariel Baska, \*Dena DeVeto, Laura Skelton Foster, Ryan & Jessica Glenn, Judy, Kim Snyder, Marcia Hudson, Bennie Stone\* Gina Elkins & Family, The family of Emory Trotty, Dr. Risinger & Family, Max Slayton, Denise Heinz, Patricia Stokes, Sandra White



### **Joyce Sanders**

Barbara Coffman—Maintenance Fund

### **Kent Flanagan**

Barbara Coffman—Maintenance Fund

### **Charles Compton**

Barbara Coffman—Maintenance Fund

### **Doug Lane**

Jerry Vick—Maintenance Fund

### **2020 Deaths**

Janet Baska—Maintenance Fund  
Mike & Ruth LeVasseur—Maintenance Fund

### **Connie Clower**

Mary Lindsey—Maintenance Fund  
Barbara Coffman—Maintenance Fund

### **Larry Woodall**

Kay Cole—Maintenance Fund



"Thank you so much for the lavish donation to the Kaufman County Children's Shelter. We really appreciate your thoughtfulness towards the support of our children."

David Asbill, Director

## MONTH OF AUGUST, 2020

### INCOME AND EXPENSE

**INCOME: \$16,991.02**  
**EXPENSES: \$13,171.10**  
**DIFFERENCE: \$3,819.92**





# SERENITY CHURCH

By Charlotte Gilmore

## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HOLDS RIBBON CUTTING AT SERENITY CORNER

A large group of local folks celebrated a new milestone in the life of Serenity Corner on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. Serenity became a member of the Chamber and at 6:15 that day the Terrell Chamber of Commerce performed a Ribbon Cutting at Serenity. The day was marked by a congratulatory certificate from Senator Bob Hall. Becoming a member of the Chamber is one of many steps in a "Vision Plan" in progress at Serenity. It is the intent of Serenity's supporters to move the ministry into the future in a new location with expanded services to offer to people in Terrell who have found themselves homeless or housing insecure. Expect to see other fruits of these efforts in the near future. Congratulations Serenity!



## DONATIONS MOST NEEDED BY SERENITY

The following is a list of items needed at Serenity. Food donations will always be accepted but are not critical at this time.

- Men's socks
- Disposable razors
- Small bars of soap
- Individual hand wipes
- Toothbrushes
- Warm Caps
- Men's underwear
- Small deodorant
- Small Kleenex packs
- Energy Bars
- Toothpaste
- Hoodies

In addition to the 24 bags of food now being handed out weekly, small zip bags of these items are being prepared at Serenity to hand out as needed. This is why "SMALL" is important. Don tells us that most of our homeless folks don't have a stationary place where they stay. They are constantly moving so they can't take very much with them. Each time they come for a bag of food he offers a zip bag if they want it.



# BAG LADIES UPDATE

As reported last month, Bag Ladies is back on a weekly schedule of Tuesday workdays with half the group meeting each time. The September 8th group, Lynda Roberts, Lisa Cross, Charlotte Gilmore and Helen Remes, spent their day in Greenville teaching young homeschool girls to make sleeping mats for the homeless. Greenville has a large homeless community and this group, "Girls of Grace" decided to make the mats as their ministry to them. About 20 girls and a number of their mothers, dads and grandmothers spent the morning learning to sort and prepare plastic bags, cut the bags, tie the loops to make balls of plarn and to crochet. We were so pleased to see several sleeping mats well underway by the time we left them.

This is the second group we have helped start in Greenville, the first one led by the pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church. Pastor Debbie spent a day working with us last year in order to get the group at her church started. Praise God that he continues to bless this ministry.



## CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX TIME IS HERE

Our shoebox dedication will be 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.

Charlotte Gilmore,  
Shoebox Chair for 2020



*If you have not already done so, now is the time to begin packing your shoebox. Go to the church office and get a box and labels from Lynn. Decide if you are buying for a girl or boy and what age (there are three choices on the label). Make a list of items you want to include then go shopping for clothing, school supplies, toys, toilet articles such as comb and brush, small mirror, soap and washcloth, maybe a cap for boys and hair ribbons for girls, underwear and socks. Try to include one "WOW" item. Include a photo of you, your grandchildren, or your pet along with a note card giving the child your name and address or sharing a favorite scripture. Be creative and always pack prayer in the box!!*

## SLEEPING MAT DEDICATION

On Sunday, September 6th the most recent dedication of sleeping mats was held during morning worship. Due to Covid restrictions, only three of the finished mats and pillows were brought to the sanctuary with the remaining 20 mats and 4 pillows left in the Bag Ladies storeroom. Pastor Craig invited three of the Bag Ladies to come forward and lay hands on the product of their labor and led the congregation in a very meaningful dedication of all our efforts in making these sleeping mats for the homeless. The Bag Ladies again thank everyone who helps make this project successful.

