

From the Pastor's Pen

Merry Christmas!!!!

A little too early?? Well maybe, but if you haven't been paying attention many of the stores are already beginning to change over to their holiday look. Christmas deco-

rations and lights fill the shelves and the summer items such as mowers and gardening supplies are losing their positions of prominence. In just a little while we will be greeted by the sound of "Jingle Bells" and "Frosty the Snowman" to add to our shopping ambience. For most of us this change in seasons comes at too fast a pace and we seem not to have the time to enjoy the changing patterns around us as we jump six months from Fourth of July to Christmas.

Sometimes being in the church can feel that way also. As I am sitting down to write you this month of September's newsletter article, Lynn and I are already in the planning stages for the next five months of events and services in the life of the church. Which of course means that we are looking Christmas straight in the face.

One might wonder why would we be thinking so long ahead and planning for so far in the future? While our Sunday services all for the most part are already laid out with only a few minor changes to them, our specials services have time needed for planning attached to them. Some might be based upon services that we did the years before; others are completely new to the church and have to be looked at on many levels.

This year alone we are planning three special offering Sundays: Inman Christian Center, Disciples Homes in Tyler and Serenity Corner. We will be celebrating "Light a Candle for Children" Sunday, Trunk or Treat, All Saint's Sunday, Thanksgiving, Four Sundays of Advent, Hanging of the Greens, Choir Cantata Sunday and Christmas Eve Service. This year will see the introduction of a brand new service for those in our congregation and those in our community that have suffered or are suffering loss in their lives. Christmas time is an especially difficult time for those who have lost loved ones, so we will be holding a "Blue Christmas" service for those who grieve.

Wayne Howe is in the process of building us what we hope will become an important part of the "Light a Candle" and the "Blue Christmas" services, and later on may be introduced into more of First Christian's worship time.

Christmas is a time of preparedness, a time of looking forward. Let's get prepared for what comes next.

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

Craig





Do you have a story to share? Email Lynn at lynn.officefcc@gmail.com

> Next Good News Issue Deadline <u>September 20, 2019</u>



Harold "Sonny" Leigh

Barbara & Sarah Coffman—Maintenance Fund Mr. & Mrs. Donald Dozier—Roof Fund Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ballard—Maintenance Fund Linda Johnson—General Fund

Don Lindsey

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ballard—Maintenance Fund Barbara & Sarah Coffman—Maintenance Fund Linda Johnson—General Fund

Doug Lane

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ballard—Maintenance Fund Barbara & Sarah Coffman—Maintenance Fund Linda Johnson—General Fund

Maxine Vick

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ballard—Maintenance Fund Barbara & Sarah Coffman—Maintenance Fund Kingdom Builders Class—Maintenance Fund Linda Johnson—General Fund

Elvy Cole

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ballard—Maintenance Fund Barbara & Sarah Coffman—Maintenance Fund Kingdom Builders Class—Maintenance Fund Linda Johnson—General Fund

Ed Rollins

Barbara & Sarah Coffman—Maintenance Fund

Max Mull

 ${\sf Mr.\ \&\ Mrs.\ JW\ Barrow-Maintenance\ Fund}$

Mary Edwards

 $Mr.\ \&\ Mrs.\ Robert\ Ballard-Maintenance\ Fund$

Peggy Nadolski

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ballard—Maintenance Fund

Pattye Sue Schorlemmer

 $Mr.\ \&\ Mrs.\ Robert\ Ballard-Maintenance\ Fund$

Emily Williams

Kingdom Builders Class—Maintenance Fund Mr. & Mrs. JW Barrow—Maintenance Fund Mrs. Sally Leigh—General Fund



Sunday, September 1, 2019

Elders: Linda Johnson & Dale Hogue

Greeting, Serving at the Table and Serving the Homebound: Sue Ann Norris, Joe Best, Donna Best, Rouland Mayo, Reece Norris, Jerry Vick, Gary Barnett

Acolyte: Valcus Best

Sound System: Lisa Stevens

Sunday, September 8, 2019

Elders: Mike Siemann & Pat Hopper

Greeting, Serving at the Table and Serving the Homebound: Lori Uptmor, Linda Conder, Sherri Winton, Ann Winton, Sharon Drinning, Spencer Cross

Acolyte: Ryder Norris

Sound System: Mike LeVasseur

Sunday, September 15, 2019

Elders: Ron Compton & Jan Compton

Greeting, Serving at the Table and Serving the Homebound: Denise Record, Janet Baska, Barbara Gale, David Dickens, Carol Dickens, Kristi Johnson,

Lisa Stevens

Acolyte: Lynna Johnson **Sound System:** Sherri Winton

Sunday, September 22, 2019

Elders: Jay Cole & Linda List

Greeting, Serving at the Table and Serving the Homebound: Sue Ann Norris, Joe Best, Donna Best, Rouland Mayo, Reece Norris, Jerry Vick, Gary Barnett

Acolyte: Elliot Cross

Sound System: Lisa Stevens

Sunday, September 29, 2019

Elders: Ron Norris & Saundra Wnorowski Greeting, Serving at the Table and Serving the

Homebound: Lori Uptmor, Linda Conder, Sherri Winton, Ann Winton, Sharon Drinning, Spencer Cross

Acolyte: Kinsler Bratz

Sound System: Mike LeVasseur



If you are giving money "in memory of" OR "in honor of" someone, we must have a separate check for <u>each fund</u> you are contributing to. (Example: General Fund, Roof Fund, Permanent Maintenance Fund)

If you have any questions, please call Lynn in the church office (972)551-4700 or see Ann Winton on Sunday morning.





"Thanks for all the prayers, cards, and phone calls. They were greatly appreciated during my recuperation from knee surgery."
-Lynda Roberts



OCTOBER 31, 2019



CWF would like to update everyone on the generosity of some individuals in our church who have given specifically to the furniture fund project for the parlor. If you would like to give to this project, CWF is still taking donations!

Jerry & Ann Vick Given in Memory of Maxine Vick

2 Anonymous Donors

IT'S COMMG!!!!



SPOTLIGHT ON SERENITY

Every month we will be high-lighting a special soul who is part of the reason that Serenity Church exists. These are the people that you are involved in helping. These are the lives that your money, food, but most of all time influences. This is the work that God has invited you to join and to help side by side with those who may be a bit disoriented and lost. This is your opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus in a real tangible way....

Kenneth

By Don Ledbetter

Kenneth was assaulted and taken to Dallas Baylor for knife wounds. He was stabbed in the head and the point of the knife broke off and is still lodged there. The assailant then cut Kenneth's throat and it has to be stapled. Kenneth is homeless and has a substance addiction. He is in his 60's and a kind and gentle soul. Over the last several years he has become close to us at Serenity and has a special place in my heart. I have seen him shed tears at church services and heard him talk about his faith in the Lord. He's one of the guys that even in the choices he's made and the life he lives, I SEE Jesus in his life and I get to witness a soul who believes even in the depth of brokenness. I believe Kenneth is a believer and Christ is working in him.



LABOR DAY—Monday, September 2 Office Closed
BAG LADIES—Tuesdays, Sept. 3, 17 & 24 at 9:00 AM
BELL CHOIR—Wednesdays, Sept. 4, 11, 18 & 25 at 5:00 PM
CHOIR—Wednesdays, Sept. 4, 11, 18 & 25 at 6:00 PM
LIFELINE SCREENING—Friday, September 6, 8:30 AM
FALL LUNCHEON—Sunday, September 8, 12:00 PM
CWF MEETING—Monday, September 9, 2:00 PM
CHRISMON REPAIR—Tuesday, September 10, 9:00 AM
BOARD MEETING— Wednesday, September 11, 7:00 PM
SERENITY CHURCH—Friday, September 20, 5:30 PM
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE—Friday, September 20
NURTURE MEETING—Tuesday, September 24, 10:30 AM

MONTH OF JULY, 2019 INCOME AND EXPENSE

INCOME: \$16,609.00 EXPENSES: \$18,485.04 DIFFERENCE: <\$1,876.04> Let Them See You

JJ Weeks Band

Take away the melody Take away the songs I sing Take away all the lines And all the songs you let me write Does the man I am today Say the words you need to say Let them see You, in me Let them hear You, when I speak Let them feel You, when I sing Let them see You Let them see You in me. Who am I without your praise Another smile, Another face Another breath, a grain of sand Passing quickly through your hand I give my life, an offering Take it all take everything Let them see You, in me Let them hear You, when I speak Let them feel You, when I sing Let them see You Just let them see You in me





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, Leon & Ida Pickens,* Charlotte Gilmore, Addison Cross, Mary Lindsey, Lynda Roberts, Kurt Cone, Bill Beatty, Jerry Jenkins* Sally Leigh, Gary Barnett

Our Extended Church Family: Sarah Curry Coffman, Sue Sickel, Barbara Beatty, Ariel Baska, Andrew Howard,* Doug Franklin, Scott Franklin, Dan Franklin, Rick Jeffries, Sandy St. John, Jerry & Selma Denk, Zack Wilhite, The family of Frances Thomas, The family of Ruby Butler, Sue Snyder, Janey Scully* David Baehr Family, Audrey Hamilton, The family of Emily Williams, Regan Broiles, Connie Clower.



Scott & Charlotte Gilmore 260 FM 2578 Apt. #42 Terrell, TX 75160



FIRST MEETING OF THE YEAR FOR CWF MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 2:00 PM

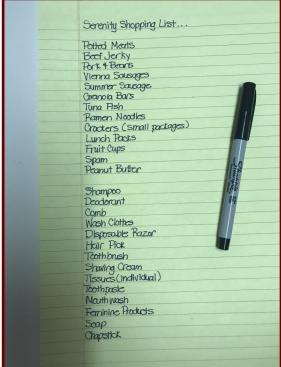


DON'T FORGET TO PICK UP SOME ITEMS

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OUR BINS ARE EMPTY!





ALL SAINTS SUNDAY



Have you lost a loved one in the past three years? Would you like to have them included in a video presentation on All Saints Sunday (November 3, 2019)?

Please email a picture of your loved one to Pastor Craig (minister.craig2@gmail.com) and include the following information:

- Complete Name
- Year of Birth
- Year of Death

Pastor Craig must have this information no later than <u>Sunday</u>, <u>October 27</u>.

Note: If you cannot email the picture, please stop by the office and let us help you get it scanned.



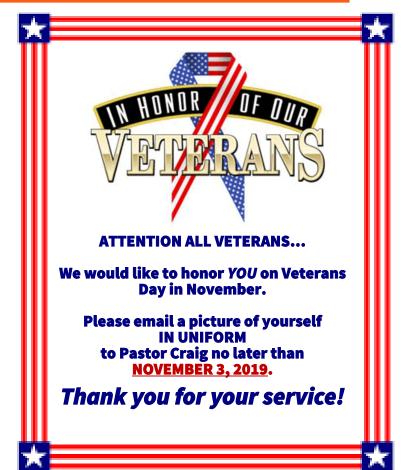
Dear Friends of FCC, We want to thank you for all your cards, calls, visits, food and most of all your prayers while Sonny was sick. He loved his church and church family. We were honored and blessed

that so many were at his memorial service, and his reception was overwhelming. Many thanks again, In God's love, The Family of Harold (Sonny) Leigh

In Honor Of...

Money was given in honor of George Purnell towards the Maintenance Fund from the Kingdom Builders Class.





CHRISMONS TO BE REPAIRED

The ornaments we hang on our sanctuary Christmas tree every year are called "Chrismons". They were handmade by members of our church at least 50 years ago, Styrofoam shapes decorated with beads, baubles, sequins and braid. Members of Joy Class did some repair about 15 years ago, however, when the tree was dismantled in January of this year it was determined that a major repair/refurbishing was needed again.

On **Tuesday, September 10th @ 9:00 a.m.** the Joy Classroom will be set up for this job; repairing and replacing beads, trim, glitter and pipe cleaner hangers. Materials will be available but if you have some you want to donate, please bring them.

We will use Tacky Glue, **NOT** hot glue for applying the materials. Please join us on that Tuesday if you want to help with this messy, tedious task.





Dear Church Family,

We would like to express our sincere

appreciation for all of your love and support during our time of loss. We would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, and visits during my mother's illness and her hospital stay. Thank you for all of the flowers and donations made to the Maintenance Fund and General Fund in her memory. We especially thank everyone for preparing a special meal for our family after the service. A special thank you to Craig for his inspiring, thoughtful and encouraging words at her funeral.

With Sincere Thanks, Jerry Vick and Family



RECONCILIATION SPECIAL OFFERING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2019

Inman Christian Center

Inman Christian Center was founded in 1913 by the Christian Women's Board of Missions of the Christian Church through the work of Dr. Samuel Guy Inman. Inman is a neighborhood based community center serving the needs of low-income individuals and families in the inner city of San Antonio. Inman provides childcare, social services, education, recreation, and emergency food assistance as well as housing for individuals who are elderly and/or disabled. Inman Christian Center has been serving the west side of San Antonio for over 100 years. Families who are struggling to make a better life for themselves and their children can find a variety of services at Inman. The Mission of the Inman Christian Center is to empower children, youth, elderly and families who are living within the communities that Inman serves to develop to their full physical, mental and spiritual potential.

First Christian Church will be taking a special offering for the Inman Christian Center on October 6.

Please make checks payable to FCC and notate INMAN CENTER.



SEPTEMBER FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

SEPTEMBER 8, 2019



Everyone seems to love our Mexican themed luncheons, so let's do it again! The following items will be furnished:

Ming Items Will be f Mexican Chicken Confetti Rice Pinto (Red) Beans Chips and Salsa Tea and Coffee

Please bring your favorite Mexican Recipe, A Side Dish or Dessert



Come and Enjoy this time of fun and fellowship!



