



September 2020

Good News!

First Christian Church
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To Know Jesus Christ and Make Him Known to Others



FROM THE *Pastor's Desk*

Asking the Hard Questions

Did you ever take a test that you weren't quite prepared for? You walked into your classroom to find out that your teacher was pulling a pop test on you. You had not had time to study or prepare for the test and were not sure what the questions would be. In desperation you lifted up a silent prayer asking for God's help that all the questions on the test would be easy. That your teacher had not asked of you any of the difficult questions for you to answer.

Unfortunately, life is full of difficult questions. We confront the more troubling issues at times of great distress or even greater tragedy in our lives. The why's, and how's that come to the surface to challenge us and our understanding of God seemed to come out of these times when the most amount of troubles appear in our lives. However, it is also at these times that we can come to a greater understanding of who and what God is in our lives. We walk away with a larger and broader image of God.

God has never been afraid of being challenged. Job, after all of the trials and tribulations of his life, stood before God and demanded an explanation for all of the things that had happened to him. He stood there and told God of all of the pains and hurts in his life. He wanted to know why it all happened to him. Even Moses challenged God on more than one occasion. After the Israelites had rebelled and started to return to their old ways, Moses wanted to know why it was that he was faced with all these troubles.

When tragedies happen in our own lives the natural desires to understand the reasons for these events come to the surface. The hardest questions that are placed before a pastor usually happen at times when some death has occurred to someone's loved one. Pastors are asked why did these events occur or why did this happen now. But the hardest question of all is asked by those left behind by loved ones who were not believers in Christ. Pastors are asked again and again "Will my love one be in heaven?"

At these times I always turn to one of my favorite verses about God in the Old Testament. It occurs in the book of Exodus in the 33rd chapter starting in verse 19;

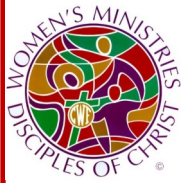
¹⁹ And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion."

In this verse God is setting forth the authority to be the final arbiter in all decisions about the final questions in life. It is not our own desires that will sway God. It is only God's decision. This may give us a larger vision of God in that it proves that God can be far more compassionate than we even now can imagine. That God has the ability and the power to love even the most despicable person and through this has the ability and power to love us.

So, the answers to many of the questions that confront us in times of tragedies sometimes have the same answer; it is up to God! God knows all of the answers before we even asked the question. God knows all of the "Why's" in our lives and God knows all of the reasons. The New Testament writings of Paul says, "we see through a mirror darkly." We may not know nor understand all of the troubles of this world. But we can rely on one thing. That God can and does love us even though the darkest clouds surround us or the deepest abyss tries to swallow us or we through our lives tried to separate ourselves from the love of God, but God never abandons us nor stops to love us.

We are allowed to ask; we are allowed to scream we are allowed to yell. God is used to all of that. God expects that from us and God returns to us the love that is beyond all of our explanations. The love that surrounds us in the darkness, a love that surrounds in the light, and the love that is always present and therefore answering the tough questions.

Praying for you is I hope that you are praying for me
Pastor Craig



CWF officers are making preparations for a safe return to meetings this fall. With health and safety in mind, our first meeting will be in the sanctuary on September 14th at 2 PM. Following church guidelines, social distancing will be observed and masks required.

Linda List will bring the devotional. Lessons this year will be based on the book entitled **Fervent: A Woman's Battle Plan for Serious, Specific, and Strategic Prayer** by Priscilla Shirer. (Have we ever needed fervent, effectual prayer more than we do now?) Jan Compton will provide the first lesson entitled 'Your Passion: Getting It Back'. Linda Johnson and Jan will provide refreshments to go.

Please bring your Blessing Box donations to the September meeting. We look forward to seeing you Monday afternoon, September 14th at 2:00pm.

Serving Schedule for September 2020

Sunday, September 6, 2020

Elders: Linda List & Scott Gilmore
Greeting, Serving at the Table: Janet Baska, Jan Compton, Ron Compton, David Dickens, Carol Dickens, Kristi Johnson, Lisa Stevens
Acolyte: Lynna Johnson
Sound System: Sherri Winton
Lay Leader: Dale Hogue
Camera Operator: Ryder Norris

Sunday, September 13, 2020

Elders: Craig & Prissy Shaffer
Greeting, Serving at the Table: Sue Ann Norris, Joe Best, Donna Best, Erik Vick, Reece Norris, Jerry Vick, Gary Barnett
Acolyte: Elliot Cross
Sound System: Lisa Stevens
Lay Leader: Dale Hogue
Camera Operator: Ryder Norris

Sunday, September 20, 2020

Elders: Jay Cole & Raymond Sparks
Greeting, Serving at the Table: Lori Uptmor, Linda Conder, Sherri Winton, Ann Winton, Lynda Roberts, Spencer Cross
Acolyte: Kinsler Bratz
Sound System: Mike LeVasseur
Lay Leader: Dale Hogue
Camera Operator: Ryder Norris

Sunday, September 27, 2020

Elders: Ron Norris & Sandra Wnorowski
Greeting, Serving at the Table: Janet Baska, Jan Compton, Ron Compton, David Dickens, Carol Dickens, Kristi Johnson, Lisa Stevens
Acolyte: Remington Cross
Sound System: Sherri Winton
Lay Leader: Dale Hogue
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, Lori & Maurice Uptmor, Ronnie Glenn, George Purnell, Kurt Cone, Jay Cole, Guylene & Robert Ballard, Pat Sparks, Ruth LeVasseur, Pat Hopper, Isabella Simonson, *Fred Wnorowski, Ann Winton, Family of Connie Clower, * Sherri Winton, David Stine

Our Extended Church Family: Sarah Curry Coffman, Barbara Beatty, Ariel Baska, *Family of Betty Shiflet, John Finley, Randy & Lorraine Wood and Family Members, Jackie Chavez, The Phounsavaht Family, Laura Skelton Foster, Family of June Brown, * Dena DeVeto, Laura Skelton, Ryan & Jessica Glenn, Judy, Richard Barrow, Kim Snyder, Marcia Hudson, Bennie Stone

Did you know that if you order from AMAZON, you can help out Serenity Corner? Amazon will give a portion of your purchase price directly to Serenity Corner! Its that simple!
Here is how you can help out....

1. Visit smile.amazon.com.
2. Sign in with your **Amazon.com** credentials.
3. Choose **Serenity Church Terrell** to receive donations.
4. Every time you order from Amazon, be sure to go to smile.amazon.com for all of your purchases!
5. Thank you for helping the housing insecure by purchasing your needs from Amazon!



MONTH OF JULY, 2020 INCOME AND EXPENSE

INCOME: \$14,259.10
EXPENSES: \$13,303.93
DIFFERENCE: \$955.17

In the Spotlight

SERENITY CHURCH

By Charlotte Gilmore

If you are able to help out at Serenity Corner on Friday, September 11, 2020 during lunch or dinner (or both), please contact The Center at 972-932-8866 and sign up for a time slot.

If you know anyone that could benefit from this program, please be sure to let them know about this fair that is coming up!

Homeless & Housing Insecurity Fair Fall 2020

Hosted by Serenity Corner, The Center, and Kaufman County Homeless Coalition



FREE MEAL & BACKPACK

*while supplies last

Friday, September 11th, 2020

Lunch - 11am to 2pm

Dinner - 5pm to 7pm

at Serenity Corner • 212 S Rockwall

Do you struggle to pay your rent each month?
Are you uncertain where you will sleep tonight?
Are you one unexpected bill away from losing your home?

Please join us for lunch and a backpack giveaway!

We will have **walk up** and **drive-thru** options available.

We will also have information about other community organizations to help connect you with community resources.

Please wear a mask for safety. If you do not have one, one will be provided for you upon arrival. Social distancing protocols will be utilized to keep everyone safe and healthy. If you have a fever or feel ill at all, please stay home.

For questions, please contact The Center at 972-932-8866

Church Directory



Its time for a new pictorial church directory! This time Pastor Craig will be taking all of the pictures!

Here is what we need from you....

1. Call into the church office to reserve your **15 minute** time slot (972) 551-4700
2. Come to the church gym during your time and smile!
3. We will have you check your information while you are here for your picture and make any adjustments.

AVAILABLE TIME SLOTS

Tuesday's	September 8, 15 and 22	1:00-8:00PM
Wednesday's	September 9, 16, and 23	1:00-4:00PM
Thursday's	September 10, 17 and 24	1:00-4:00PM

A BIT OF HISTORY

In the news today we hear a lot of conversation, most of it conflicting, about history. What is history? What parts of history should be saved? Can history be rewritten? Should some parts of history be removed or destroyed?

When reading the history of First Christian Church Terrell it is easy to see that our forefathers had none of these questions as they laid the foundation for a Christian Church in Terrell, built on that foundation to organize and form a congregation, saved and sacrificed to construct first one church building then two subsequent ones culminating in the Sanctuary in which we now worship. They were firm in their faith that God was the cornerstone of First Christian Church in Terrell.

In 1976, just a year after their beloved pastor, Brother Charlie Mull retired after 30 years of ministry at First Christian Terrell, the congregation celebrated the 100th anniversary of the founding of the congregation. Newspaper accounts tell us that the congregation spent most of a year in preparation for the Centennial celebration and Homecoming, laying new carpet and replacing drapes, painting and cleaning in expectation of a large crowd of friends, family and supporters of the church. A Centennial Planning Committee was organized and one of their tasks was to apply to the Texas Historical Commission for a State Historical Marker to be created and placed on the church property as part of the 100th year celebration. In July 1976 the copy for the marker was approved and the plaque ordered with delivery and installation anticipated before a planned dedication on September 12, 1976 as part of the Centennial Celebration.

The Celebration was held and the Historical Marker still stands but over the years it had weathered and faded. The local Chapter of the DAR recently volunteered to refurbish the marker. Our newspaper reported their service and the below photos were included. Two other photos show the marker before and after refurbishing. If you have not checked it out please take the opportunity to do so and if you know someone in the local DAR please express our appreciation to them.

We are very appreciative of the fine work done by these DAR volunteers. The work on our historical marker was very timely since in 2021 our church will be 145 years old. Maybe we can celebrate not only our 145th Anniversary but also the release from captivity by Covid-19.





First Christian Church will be having a special collection on **September 27** to benefit Juliette Fowler Communities in Dallas Texas. Read on to find out more about this amazing woman and her vision... Juliette Abbey (Peak) Fowler was born May 8, 1837 in Warsaw, Kentucky, one of 13 children born to Colonel Jefferson and Martha Peak. In 1855, the Peak family settled in the village of East Dallas and built the first brick home in the county. Colonel Peak later developed his farm and platted streets, creating lots for other settlers coming to Dallas. Peak, Worth, Junius, Carroll, Flora, Harwood, Field and Victor Streets were named for Peak family members. The Peak family was instrumental in the development of the Christian Church (DOC) in Dallas and Fort Worth. The Dallas Peaks were founding members of the first protestant church in Dallas, which led to the founding of Central Christian Church and East Dallas Christian Church in Dallas. Juliette's brother, Carroll Peak and his wife Florence founded First Christian Church of Fort Worth. Vivacious, attractive and gentle-hearted, Juliette was Dallas' first May Queen. Her words of kindness made her the friend of everyone. She captured the attention of many suitors and married a young lawyer from Fort Worth, Archibald Young Fowler, the senior law partner of John Peter Smith. Two children, Ada and A.Y. Jr., both died as infants. Her husband died from wounds sustained in an argument with the Tarrant County sheriff. Widowed at 23, Juliette returned to Dallas and never remarried. She devoted the rest of her life to caring for others and works of charity. She adopted a young boy she found abandoned in her church. She erected cottages in Chautauqua for the rejuvenation of young lady teachers from Texas. She cared for her aging parents, all while envisioning and researching the methods and treatments for a safe haven for orphans and widows. Juliette died unexpectedly on Jun 4, 1889 in New York while seeking treatment for an ear infection. She was 52. Her will designated \$4000 and 15.5 acres of land in East Dallas to build a home for orphans and widows. Through this act of benevolence, she became known as Dallas' first major philanthropist. Juliette's funeral services were held at Bryan Street Christian Church.

Please make checks payable to First Christian Church and note
"Juliette Fowler" in the memo section.

BAG LADIES UPDATE



In order to continue production of sleeping mats for the homeless, our Bag Ladies group has worked out a plan that is consistent with the Covid-19 safety guidelines. The members have split into two groups of 4-5 ladies with each group meeting every other Tuesday in the workroom at the church. The workroom is large enough for the members to sit or stand 6' apart as they each work at separate tasks. The storage closet now has 18 finished mats and 8 pillows ready to be dedicated and donated. The plan is for these mats to be distributed by Serenity Church Terrell during the next "PIT" or Point In Time Count of the homeless living in the Terrell area. (On a given day people who are food and/or housing insecure will be invited to either a lunch or an evening meal at Serenity during which time they will be interviewed and entered into the count. They will also be given backpacks and other useful items during their visit to Serenity.)

Our Bag Ladies are grateful to all the members and friends who have continued to participate in this ministry in various ways: preparing bags for cutting, tying strips of bags into Plarn and crocheting. No donations of bags are being sought at this time because a large cache of bags collected by our Boy Scouts is still being utilized. By doing much of this work independently at home, the group has been able to continue to produce the sleeping mats.

If you are not currently a regular at Bag Ladies but would like to participate, call Charlotte Gilmore (972.742.9802) to be assigned to one of the two current groups.