

**THE SEBRING CHRISTIAN
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)
FEBRUARY 2021**

510 POINSETTIA AVE., SEBRING, FL. 33870
(863) 385-0352

WEB SITE: www.FCCSebring.com

E-Mail: fccdoc@outlook.com or firstchristiandocsebring@gmail.com



Unbalanced. That's a strange thought, is it not? Be unbalanced. Normally we would like to be well-balanced. We would like to be well-rounded although not round. We would like to think that we have capabilities that will meet every need or situation that we face. Maybe it is time that we are unbalanced.

Why do I say that? I think we have forgotten science in so many aspects. I also believe many scientific principles, the ones that God created, apply not only to science but to life in general. We have the principle that states for every action there is an equal and sometimes greater reaction. We see both of these principles playing out in our world today. There is one group that will do this and another group that does that. We go from one extreme to the other. It is a yo-yo society. The only principle is that of movement but in no particular direction. We go pro to con, liberal to conservative, right to left, feast to famine, good to evil... well, you get the picture and I am sure you can add your own descriptors.

In another principle Newton says "an object at rest stays at rest and an object in motion stays in motion with the same speed and in the same direction unless acted upon by an unbalanced force." In other words, objects tend to continue what they're doing. Interesting! So do people. They continue unless some unbalanced force acts against them.

As people, we tend to continue what we are doing until we are startled or knocked off our feet or knocked down or shocked into change! We are impacted by the word and spirit of God! That's the way we find ourselves changing. We often call that repentance; we turn and go the other way, the right way. We might need to have a revelation or religious experience to set our course in the direction God would have us be.

Once we have our course set, rather than reacting, we should be people of character. So rather than reacting, which we seem to do at the drop of a hat, we need to seek that which we find in the Bible. We need to show our good characteristics.

Philippians 4:8 says "whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think of these things." Today we have too many Corinthians among us. Too many good relations among us. Too many among us. I have seen so many folks reacting or looking out for themselves rather than what is held up as a character in the Bible. Proverbs 4:23 says "keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flows the spring of life." Let our hearts not flow as if in the valley of death but let them flow from the springs of life. Let us with our character not overreact or even react but hold true to the course of that which Christ has called us to be as his people.

Pastor's Projected February Days in the Office: 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24

THINK
BEFORE YOU SPEAK

T-----is it true?
H-----is it helpful?
I-----is it inspiring?
N-----is it necessary?
K-----is it kind?

CHOIR NEWS



Music is good for the soul, so I hope all of you are taking time to listen to some good music everyday. Even during the recent inauguration they used music to soothe the country. When I heard Amazing Grace being sung by the entire country, the ones there and the ones at home, it touched my heart! May you all find Amazing Grace in your lives! I can't wait till we can do music together in person, but until then, keep listening!!!

Keep in Tune, Jaquae

A JOYFUL NOISE

As you're staying at home, trying to stay safe be thinking about what you can do when you're able to return to a semi normal life. Think about playing chimes!!! It's fun, amazing, and beautiful. I hope to work with you soon!

For Whom The Bell Tolls,
Jaquae

SAY AMEN
A---gree with God
M---ove with God
E---nd with God
N---ever doubt God
SAY AMEN!

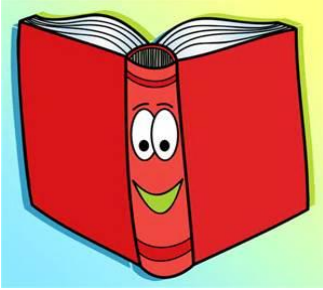
DISCIPLE MEN!

Calling all DOC men. We're Back! After a long hiatus due to the pandemic we gathered again for one of Rich's "stick to the ribs" breakfasts at the church on January 9th. Seven members and one guest were present. Masks were required and social distancing was the order of the day but it was good to be able to resume this important fellowship.

One of the important things on the agenda for this meeting was the drawing of names for our new Secret Prayer Pal 2021. Please get in touch with your new Prayer Pal (anonymously of course) and let them know that you will be praying for them during this new year.

Our next meeting will be Saturday, February 13 at 8:00 AM in the church kitchen. Hope to see you there.
Rich

BOOK CLUB



We continue February with “The Hope Jar” by Wanda E. Brunstetter. It's the first book in The Prayer Jar series.

We begin with Michelle Taylor, a homeless and hopeless young woman needing to escape from a bad situation. She heads for the bus station to get a ticket to anywhere but is found by an Amish couple looking for their long lost grand-daughter. They believe she's who they are looking for, and she sees a way out of her horrible situation so takes on the identity of Sara Murray. She didn't intend to deceive them, but was desperate to escape her life and what better way to do that than live with the Amish?

While there, she finds an old blue jar filled with slips of paper with thoughts, quotes and prayers written on them. This encourages Michelle's budding new faith but now doesn't know how she can tell the truth without hurting the people she's come to love. She never intended to deceive them. But what can she do about a simple lie that becomes more complex day by day? And what happened to Sara Murray, the real grand-daughter?

After this book we will begin reading “River Of Life”. Stay tuned for more information on that book.

Please join us!! We meet at 4:00 p.m. in the church library the first and third Tuesdays of the month.

Please read:

Feb. 2, 2021: Chap. 28, p. 211 to Chap. 42, p. 309

Feb. 16, 2021 stay tuned for details

Submitted by Jaquae L. Sands, 382-3428

OUTREACH

The Outreach Committee learned there was still money in the budget so they decided to give \$200 to Ag Angels. This is an organization that works with the schools so that needy children might receive Christmas presents.



The Very Best Valentine



Almost everyone — at least of the female persuasion — knows the romantic meaning of the phrase “hearts and flowers.” Valentine’s Day is coming! What will I get from my boyfriend ... my husband ... my best friend? I’m hoping for some sort of bouquet, a card full of loving words and red hearts, candy or at least a sweet balloon.

Human beings may disappoint. That special someone may forget to check the calendar for February 14. But even if he doesn’t come through exactly as I hope, I can still be amazed and happy with the valentine I am sure to receive every day from my heavenly Father and his Son: words of delight and joy and caring — always surrounding me with

love and more love. These are the best “hearts and flowers” I could ever have, and which I do have, on Valentine’s Day and throughout eternity.

—Sandy Hyland

A smile is the light in your window that tells others that there is a caring, sharing person inside."
—Denis Waitley



Feb. 1	Jerry Duball	Feb. 22	Mary Ann Thomas
Feb. 2	David McCord	Feb. 24	Phil Lucas
Feb. 7	Rich Campton	Feb. 27	Terry Lahr
Feb. 11	Ann Holly	Feb. 28	Don Tiemens
Feb. 21	Bill Hineline	ANNIVERSARY- Feb. 13	Roger Jaquae Sands

Burden Bearers

Bear one another's burdens, the Bible says. It is a lesson about pain that we all can agree on. Some of us will not see pain as a gift; some will always accuse God of being unfair for allowing it.

But, the fact is, pain and suffering are here among us, and we need to respond in some way. The response Jesus showed was to bear the burdens of those he touched. To live in the world as [Jesus'] body, his emotional incarnation, we must follow his example.

The image of the body accurately portrays how God is working in the world. ... We announce his message, work for justice, pray for mercy ... and suffer with the sufferers.

—Philip Yancey, *Where Is God When It Hurts?*

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Lent, the church-year season that begins on Ash Wednesday, is a time of penitence and spiritual renewal. Some people give up a luxury or vice during Lent as a form of self-denial; others undertake a project that benefits others.

The point isn't to denigrate ourselves or to see how much we can do without. Instead, Lent helps us reflect on Jesus' death. As Timothy Keller writes in *The Reason for God*: "The Christian Gospel is that I am so flawed that Jesus had to die for me, yet I am so loved and valued that Jesus was glad to die for me. This leads to deep humility and deep confidence at the same time. It undermines both swaggering and sniveling. I cannot feel superior to anyone, and yet I have nothing to prove to anyone. I do not think more of myself nor less of myself. Instead, I think of myself less."



Christmas is past, decorations put away, leftovers have been eaten (or tossed) and poinsettias may be safely planted or put outside. Now let us prepare our minds and hearts for the upcoming Christian Year. Ash Wednesday is on February 17th, followed by Good Friday on April 2nd, and yes, then Easter on April 4th.

Just as we associate poinsettias with Christmas, lilies mark Easter. In years past, we have foregone lilies for tulips. Since I cannot rely on the adage (of great minds thinking alike), please give me your input regarding celebrating this Holy Day. Some suggestions have been made: faux lilies (no allergies and easy to store) or tulips (beautiful, but in Florida?). Your input is very important! Just because we cannot fill the church with people doesn't mean we cannot have flowers and music. We may not be able to pay homage to the Hallelujah Chorus, but we can certainly fill the church with the spirit of the Living Christ. Blessings to all and stay safe, Ann Holly

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—Denis Waitley