

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

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This month I want to highlight one of the couples that give so much of themselves to our congregation year-round. I deeply appreciate the gifts and talents that Ron and Sue Colwell bring day after day, week after week, and month after month. The spiritual gifts that they have are essential to the overall welfare of the congregation, providing a firm foundation of faith in biblical studies both in religious education and during the week with Bible study. They have also held various positions on the board.

Sue has been instrumental in attempting to hold our Mary and Martha group together, which is the women of the congregation. Due to Covid and other factors, that group is now taking a break but hope to be back together soon. She also is in contact with the Florida Region coordinating opportunities for worship, study, and service be it in person or via Zoom. Sue is often the first person to meet and greet guests we have coming into the sanctuary. She is a dedicated and true ambassador for Jesus Christ and our congregation participating in the garage sales, fellowship events, outreach missions, and the many other activities we do to spread the gospel throughout the community and world. Sue has coordinated many of the caring events for folks that needed food during times of illness and for fellowship meals after church as well as providing more than food for those after a loss of a loved one.

Ron has been the chairman of the elders for a number of years, gathering them together for study, prayer, and worship as well as every Sunday ensuring there is someone to serve at the communion table. He has continued his lifetime of learning by teaching Sunday school, for all ages, before worship service every Sunday. Ron also conducts our weekly Bible study every Tuesday at 11 o'clock. Of course, the thing I cherish most about Ron and really miss when he is not available is that he changes the bulletin board every week that he is able. He takes the sermon title and scripture and tries to fit my many words into a very small space and in a creative style. Before Covid, he gathered the elders, often every month, to review the spiritual needs of the congregation. Also, he has stepped into some pretty rough situations in the life of the congregation. Ron has also helped build fences and painted buildings and performed a whole lot of other projects that I am unaware of, I am sure.

They have been a dynamic duo both within and outside the congregation, many times working only in the background. The acts, plays, sermons, and messages they have presented have positively impacted those that came to be fed. Understand this is what I am thankful for, and I have only observed this for the last three years. You can tell by their dedication and skill set that they have been vital members in the kingdom of God for a number of years including more than just in Sebring, Florida. I remain grateful that they chose to put their gifts to work for First Christian Church in Sebring. Further, I am thankful that I can share with them the ministry that we have as a congregation because it is easy to see the spirit of the Lord upon them as they provide their ministry in this small town in Florida and to the world.

Pastor Alan

Pastor Alan's June Projected Office days: 1, 2, 8, 9, 22, 23.

Time w/o pay July 11 – 17.



BIRTHDAYS

June 7th Pat Rhodes
7th Shirley Lewis
7th CJ Wiggin
7th Karen Lucas
11th Lain McWilliams
17th Marla Null
20th Jane Walkington
26th Bridglal Ramkissoon

ANNIVERSARIES

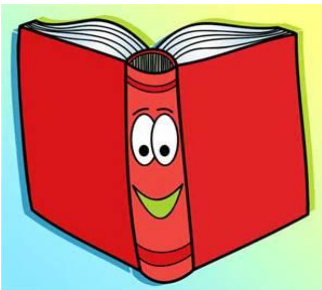
2nd Desmond & Barbara Walker
22nd Ron & Sue Colwell
28th Lain & Joan McWilliams
30th Phil & Karen Lucas
30th Bob & Pat Rhodes

Special days:

June 13 – Memorial Service for Betty McCleary

June 14 - Flag Day

June 20 – Father's Day



BOOK CLUB

The book club is taking a break for the summer. We hope to be back sometime in the fall. In the meantime, look for good Christian books to read that you might want to share with us. If you have any new ideas on how to proceed we'd love to hear them. I don't plan to lead all the books and would like the help of others in the club. We choose to read Christian fiction, or historical fiction and we range from Bible days up to the present enjoying everything in between. We've read westerns, Amish books, Civil War books, etc. As well as modern day stories and mysteries. So during the summer months please pay attention to the books you find and keep a list to help us out in the fall. Thank you!!! Jaquae



Well, it sure feels good to have the choir back in the service! We are working on oldies and goodies, plus alternating with new medleys. Again, I ask everyone to PLEASE observe the CDC rules for safety. I expect everyone to wear masks unless sitting in your chair in the choir room or the choir loft. Other than that I would expect you to wear a mask, so please keep it handy. We want to be part of the solution,

not the problem. So glad things are getting better for everyone!

Keep in Tune,
Jaquae

A JOYFUL NOISE



I intend to wait a bit before we start trying to do chime choir. I have heard from very few if they are interested in starting again. Since I'm going on vacation in June, I thought we should wait until July or August to start. Any thoughts on this subject? We still need to wear masks! Please respect others and keep up this practice. Not sure if we will have enough for a whole chime choir or not, so

I really need your response! Thank you!

For Whom The Bell Tolls,
Jaquae

Let's Do Our Part!

*Light up a face with a word chosen well,
Lift up a heart with a story you tell.
Be the one wearing a comforting smile.
Be the one lending an ear for a while.
Say something kind to encourage a friend.
Do something kind; help a sorrow to mend.
Speak with compassion; keep love in your heart.
We'll brighten this world if we all do our part!*

Don't Quit!

When things go wrong as they sometimes will,
When the road you're trudging seems all up hill,
When the funds are low and the debts are high
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest if you must, but don't you quit.
Life is strange with its twists and turns
As every one of us sometimes learns
And many a failure comes about
When he might have won had he stuck it out;
Don't give up though the pace seems slow—
You may succeed with another blow.
Success is failure turned inside out—
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,
And you never can tell just how close you are,
It may be near when it seems so far;
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit—
It's when things seem worst that you must not quit.



See(k) first

On Facebook, I can “follow” as many people as I want, viewing their messages, photos and activities. But I can choose only 30 to “see first” — that is, to prioritize in my news feed. As of this writing (Facebook changes often), if my “see first” list is full and I want to add someone new, I must “unprioritize” someone else.

That leads me to ponder bigger matters: I often claim to follow Jesus, but what might I need to “unprioritize” to make him not just a priority but *the* priority in my life? To what do I devote time and attention but ought to let go to follow Christ more closely? What activities, behaviors and values do I need to not just bump from my “see first” list but “unfollow” or “block” entirely? Perhaps they are antithetical to discipleship or simply take too much time away from prayer, Scripture and service.

This dilemma isn't unique to the digital age. Facebook parlance is about what we “see first,” but in Matthew 6:33 Jesus says, “*Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness*” (ESV, italics added). —Heidi Mann

Fed by the Father

God loves his little birds; for all
his tender care he shows;
a single sparrow cannot fall
but its Creator knows. ...

God loves each little bird; but still
more tender is his care
for children who obey his will,
than for the fowls of air.

—Anonymous

IN GOOD HANDS

As Jesus prepared his disciples for his departure, they were full of questions — “Where are you going? How will we know the way there? Would you please just show us the Father?” — and not very satisfied with his answers. So Jesus promised to send them “another Helper” (John 14:16, ESV). And we can almost hear them protesting, like kids bemoaning a favorite coach’s retirement or church members grieving a beloved pastor’s call to serve elsewhere: “Oh, great. Someone new for us to get to know. It won’t be the same. It won’t be you.”

Except ... the word another has two forms in Greek: “another just like this one” and “another, different version.” And when the author of John translated Jesus’ Aramaic into Greek, the first definition was the accurate one. Jesus was assuring his disciples they’d be in good hands, at peace and secure because the new Helper — the Holy Spirit — would be another just like him.

—based on Fearless, by Max Lucado

