

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

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

WEB SITE: [www.FCCSebringFl.com](http://www.FCCSebringFl.com) E-Mail: [fccd@outlook.com](mailto:fccd@outlook.com) or  
[firstchristiandocsebring@gmail.com](mailto:firstchristiandocsebring@gmail.com)



This month I want to give a big thanks to Gordon and Jane Walkington! I did not realize they have already departed North to Portland, Michigan where they make their summer home. This is the second time that they have departed before we had the opportunity to give them a big thank you. Last year, Covid hit and we did not thank them for their tremendous work in purchasing all the paint and much of the equipment and putting together a crew to help with the top part of the outside overhang of the church with rocks. However, Gordon and Jane did all of the other painting on the sidewalls of the entire church.

Gordon is especially humble because he did not do this to seek praise but to serve the Lord. The Walkington's make their winter home in Sebring whenever they can. Most everywhere you look, you will see the faithful ministry of Gordon and Jane. Much of his service goes back many years. Several years ago, Gordon re-varnished the ceiling of the sanctuary along with the wood floors and pews and windowsills. That's why it continues to look great today, because of the quality of his work and again the dedication of his service. He spearheaded much of the effort to build the fence to our South. He put shelving in the storage closet, right of the stage, where seasonal decorations are now stored in an orderly fashion. In the Fellowship Hall, you will notice the long mural of a Bible timeline which Gordon and Jane framed. He has done work in many other areas of the church and with an old facility there are always repairs to be made.

Perhaps one of the biggest projects that Gordon participated in was the construction of the new kitchen. He started this according to my discussion with him well before I even came. He reportedly told some of the folks that desired much improvement there that he needed five years for the project and that's what it took. Along with the new kitchen, came the idea to having suppers that the men sponsor for both fundraising and an outreach project. Gordon and Jane have been instrumental in selling close to half of the tickets for these events to folks in the community in which they live.

Not only are Gordon and Jane handy doing carpentry and engineering projects, they have been great spiritual leaders in the congregation. Gordon has been the chair of the finance committee for a number of years, but both Gordon and Jane have served on a variety of committees or task groups including being elders at the Lord's table.

The ministry that Gordon and Jane have for the First Christian Church in Sebring includes more than the meager words I can write or say. We certainly don't say "thank you" enough but once again in our limited way we all need to do our best to say thank you Jane and Gordon for the ministry that you have shown, both physically, but even more in the spiritual life of every member of the congregation. As you fly north for the summer following the geese back to those fields in Michigan, we will be missing you dearly and praying for your safe return.

Blessings; Pastor Alan

Pastor May Office Days: 1, 4, 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26

- Cinco De Mayo, May 5, 2021
- Mother's Day, May 9, 2021
- Ascension Day, May 13, 2021
- Pentecost, May 23, 2021
- Memorial Day, May 31, 2021



### BIRTHDAYS

**May 5** Liz (Klingerman) Collins  
**7** Howard Woodward  
**14** Frank Reilly  
**22** Larry Andrews  
**28** Ron Colwell  
**28** Carol Breckenridge

### ANNIVERSARIES

**May 26** Trevor & Lynne Warman

analogy that I love!

You are holding a cup of coffee when someone comes along and bumps into you or shakes your arm, making you spill your coffee everywhere.

Why did you spill the coffee?

"Because someone bumped into me!!"

Wrong answer.

YOU spilled the coffee because there was coffee in your cup.

Had there been tea in the cup, you would have spilled tea.

\*Whatever is inside the cup is what will spill out.\*

Therefore, when life comes along and shakes you (Which WILL happen), whatever is inside you will come out.

It's easy to fake it, until you get rattled.

\*So we have to ask ourselves..."What's in my cup?"

When life gets tough, what spills over?

Joy, gratefulness, peace and humility?

Anger, bitterness, harsh words and reactions?

Life provides the cup, YOU choose how to fill it

Today let's work towards filling our cups with gratitude,

forgiveness, joy, words of affirmation; and

kindness, gentleness and love for others!

Here's to "My cup runneth over"



## BOOK CLUB

Our next book is “King's Shadow” by Angela Hunt. Two women occupy a place in Herod's court. Salome, the Kings only sister, is a resentful woman, who has been told she is from an inferior race that God will never accept or approve. Zara is her handmaid and sees hurting people in need of understanding and compassion. Powerful and powerless, Idumean and Jew, selfish and selfless, both women struggle to reach their goals and survive in Herod's court, where no one is trustworthy and no one is safe.

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

Please read:

May 4, 2021 Read p. 9 – 122

May 18, 2021 Read p. 123 – 236

June 1, 2021 Read p. 237 - 364

Submitted by Jaquae L. Sands, 382-3428

## CHOIR NEWS

(May 2021)

Good news!!! The choir will start practicing again beginning May 5<sup>th</sup>. We won't be singing an anthem until the middle of May to give us a couple of weeks to see what we can do. Now, 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. I have some new music ready to go, and some oldies that you all love. So we should be able to have some fun!!! Can't wait to see you all soon!!!!

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 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

# Joys of Motherhood

A hug for no reason.

Belly laughs.

The light-bulb moment when your child understands something you've been trying to teach them.

Smiles and giggles.

Mud pies.

Arms raised in the air after a big accomplishment.

Hearing Scripture and prayer from your child's lips.

Quiet moments on the couch.

Reading aloud together.

A family meal filled with conversation and laughter.

Watching your child be kind to another.

Recognizing a moment you'd like to freeze in time.

A child's look of surprise and joy.

A quiet conversation that heals a wounded heart.

The words "I love you" – and a sticky kiss.

Unknown

[Next](#)

## 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

