



# The Sebring Christian

## October 2019

### FROM THE PASTOR

This is the third in a series of pastoral letters, and the last of an article or a list of Reasons Why Small Churches Thrive. In August I shared the first three:

1. **Small churches are particularly authentic,**
2. **Small churches stay connected, and**
3. **There is always time for prayers.**

In September the next three reasons were:

4. **People can build genuine relationships,**
5. **Lay leaders are active and ready to help, and**
6. **Small churches welcomed visitors and guests.**

The final three in this series are:

7. **People keep believing in their ministry, even with small numbers.** Small numbers never mean small ministry. What excites me is that we do things (maybe small), in a big way! We include large numbers of people with the Friday evening fundraisers, fellowship dinners and other community activities. This is true in our prayer ministry where we pray every Sunday and every Wednesday and throughout the week for people that are our family, friends, and neighbors. Even though we have small numbers, we have a big ministry.

8. **People are in touch with one another's spirit and the Holy Spirit!** We are aware of one another, the attitude, outlook, demeanor, and perhaps a few other things we can't define. We are considerate and respectful and treat one another like we would like to be treated. Not only that, we are aware that the Holy Spirit is working within and between us and the spirit of God is always in our midst.

9. **Small churches aren't afraid to break the rules.** I am not sure if we know all of the rules or if we know which ones we are breaking. As a small congregation, we tend to look at issues pragmatically but able to see the spirit of the law and do that which is good and right and just.

As I initially read over these nine reasons, I could indeed affirm that we are thriving, maybe not doing all of them as good as we should, but doing every one and that has fostered our mission and our ministry to fulfill that great commission to go make disciples of all peoples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

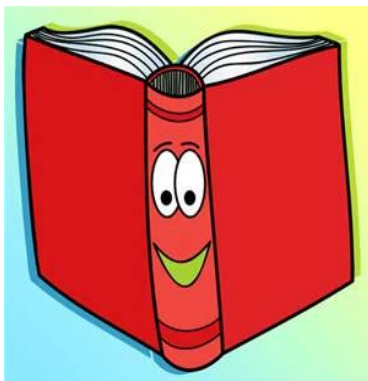
Pastor Alan's October Projected Office Days: 1, 2, 8, 12, 15, 16, 22, 29, 30.

Sunday School 9:00 am

Worship 10:30 am

Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday 9:00 am to 12:00 pm





## BOOK CLUB

We are now reading "In The Shadow Of Denali" by Tracie Peterson. It is set in Alaska and involves a mystery as well as blind faith in people. Cassidy Ivanoff and her father, John both work at the new Curry Hotel, near the foot of Mount McKinley (Denali.....the natives name for it). She is a Cook's assistant while her father is the wilderness guide to the wealthy. The President of the United States is coming to dedicate the new national park and to drive in the golden spike to complete the Alaska Railroad. Allan Brennan also travels to the Curry Hotel to be an apprentice to John, the seasoned mountain guide. Allan hopes to find the truth about his father's death on the mountain years earlier. His fathers business partner always has blamed the guide for Henry Brennan's death, but Allan won't rest until he knows the truth. He and Cassidy meet and begin to look into the mystery, but amid preparations for the presidents arrival, they find things are much more dangerous than either could ever imagine. For October 15<sup>th</sup>, please read Chapters 8 thru 17, p. 108 to p. 206. For October 22<sup>nd</sup>, please read Chapters 18 thru 28, p. 207 to p. 308 to finish the book. Please join us!! There will be a copy in the library for you to read. We meet at 4:00 p.m. in the church library the first and third Tuesdays of the month.

Submitted by Jaquae L. Sands, 382-3428



## CHOIR NEWS

Fall is upon us, and with it the choir is trying to bring you peace and contentment for the future. We've enjoyed singing the Gaither songs, but we have a lot more in store for you! Come join us everyone!!!!

Keep in Tune,

## A JOYFUL NOISE

The chime choir keeps on keeping on!!! We sure could use some new ringers though. Please think about it, and give me a call. We need YOU to continue our chiming!!! Come and bring a friend to church!!!

For Whom The Bell Tolls,

Jaquae

## DISCIPLE WOMEN

The next meeting will be Oct. 5 at 10:00 a.m. Please plan to come to make some important decisions: where to distribute our funds, whether to have a Cookie Walk, whether to have a Christmas Luncheon (or tea), whether to continue meeting. The shoe boxes need to be readied for shipment so that is something to be could be done on this day. Our motto has been to serve God in church and outward. We need to decide the best way to do that. A Disciple Womens' Retreat is scheduled for Nov. 16-17. Please pray and consider attending this event.



## DISCIPLE MEN

Attention all DOC men: A skeleton crew of four men feasted on chicken and waffles, scrambled eggs and bacon at our first Disciples men's breakfast of the season on Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>. The devotional thought for the day was based on Psalm 121:76, "The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your soul". We were encouraged to retrace our footsteps through life and see that both in good times and in bad, God has been guiding and directing our lives. Future money projects were discussed and it was decided to wait until we had a full complement of men before making any decisions. Tentative date would possibly be mid or late November.

All men of the church are welcome and urged to join our fellowship at 8:00 am on the second Saturday of the month.

Rich Campton

## UNSUNG HERO

Ann Holly, a member of the chancel and chimes choirs, and preparing our communion bread, has added a new hat in her service. She has gone to the Woodlawn School and collected bags of lost and found clothing. She has brought them home and shared with other willing ladies (Peggy Cousins, C.J. Wiggin, Prili Andrews, Sue Colwell) who have sorted by size, washed, and then boxed them up to return to the school to be distributed to the children as needed. There are still bags of clothing to be processed so if you would like to help with this project, contact Ann. And thank you Ann for seeing a need and doing something rather than just talk about it or saying "It's not my job."

## OUTREACH

Lori Bell, of Samaritans Purse, spoke to the congregation on Sept. 8. She pointed out that it isn't just giving a trinket or toy to a child but opening up the opportunity for that child to complete a 12-session program where they will be given the plan of Salvation and also give the opportunity to share what they have learned with their parents and friends. Since many of these shoeboxes are going to countries that are not friendly to the Christian faith, it is a great opportunity to spread the Word.

Please pray for the recipient of the shoebox, include a letter expressing your desire to connect with them and even include a picture so the child sees someone who cares. Whether you are doing your own shoebox or donating items to fill others, still include these things, prayer, letter, and picture.

Remember the age ranges: 2-4, 5-9, and 10-14. Mark your shoebox accordingly and also whether it is for a boy or girl.

Mid November is the deadline of getting these boxes ready to be shipped. Don't put off buying those items you would like to donate.



October 6

**Elders:** Sandra Laufer & Rich Campton

**Preparers:** Johnny & Helen Kelly

**Greeter:** Helen Kelly    **Acolyte:** Johnny Kelly

October 20

**Elders:** Rich Campton & Linda Ellis

**Preparers:** Johnny & Helen Kelly

**Servers:** Bill & Carolyn Hinline

**Greeter:** Frank Reilly    **Acolyte:** Bill Hinline

October 13

**Elders:** Teresa Williams & Wanda Gordon

**Preparers:** Roger Sands & Kathy Whitlock

**Servers:** Rich Neff & Sue Colwell

**Greeter:** Frank Reilly    **Acolyte:** Rich Neff

October 27

**Elders:** Ron Colwell & Teresa Williams

**Preparers:** Kathy Whitlock & Elaine Milward

**Servers:** Sue Colwell & C.J. Wiggin

**Greeter:** Sue Colwell    **Acolyte:** Elaine Milward

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### October Birthdays

2<sup>nd</sup> Wanda Gordon

3<sup>rd</sup> Terry Ducar

4<sup>th</sup> Rebekah Berggren

18<sup>th</sup> Richard Neff

23<sup>rd</sup> Gordon Walkington



25<sup>th</sup> Carolyn Hinline

27<sup>th</sup> Barbara Walker

28<sup>th</sup> Howard Lewis

28<sup>th</sup> Kathy Brown

28<sup>th</sup> Mark Wilson