



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)

September, 2021

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This month I wish to give thanks and call your attention to the Bylaws Committee. It has been over 11 years since this document was changed. Both you and I can thank Bill Hine for his tireless and often unappreciated work of chairing this committee.

As our resident expert in the law (not licensed to practice in Florida) uses his sharp legal mind to assist us in many technical issues from insurance to deeds and other documents. Both Bill and Carolyn give so many of their gifts to the church as they serve as Deacons, participate in worship, power-wash the sidewalks, support fellowships and a variety of projects, many of which I am sure I am not aware.

Other members of the committee have included Linda Ellis, Johnny and Helen Kelly, Larry Andrews, Howard and Shirley Lewis, Gordon Walkington, as well as Ron and Peggy Davis. It has been a very interesting process as we have had the advantage of members who have been part of the congregation for many years as well as ones who have more recently joined our community from different denominations. The participation of Linda, Helen, and Johnny brought us the perspective of how the congregation has functioned and changed over the years, while Howard and Shirley Lewis shared their experience and workings of FCC Sebring as well as their knowledge in other Disciples congregations. Gordon Walkington likewise has an in-depth knowledge of the administration and budgeting process along with intimate knowledge of property issues and nearly a lifetime of management. He and Jane have been totally involved in the workings of the congregation. The Andrews' and the Davis', newer to our fellowship, had a plethora of experiences from other denominations and brought those insights to our process.

It was not always easy, but it seems a good product which required some struggling over both the concept and the working. We successfully did just that. Bill was not only a very capable chair but served as arbitrator, referee, and mediator exceptionally well. You can thank him now or later, but please thank him and the rest of the committee for their endless work. The committee has also taken major steps to complete another compilation for job descriptions and procedures which we use for the Board, staff, and committees.

Since many of you have been spared the tedious work of revising the bylaws, the request to you now is to review and comment on them. A link is at the top of the main www.fccsebring.com web page. Further, at the beginning of next month paper copies will be placed on the hallway table for you to review.

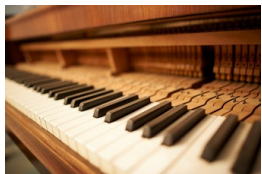
YOUR input is important! A couple of people have already helped. Please review and make comments. The committee wants to hear from you. If you need assistance in getting to the document, please let me know.

Pastor Alan

Pastor's September Dates in the Office: 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29

CHOIR NEWS

(September 2021)



Our choir is growing! We are happy to have Pat Rhodes with us again. We can't wait for Prilli to get back after her surgery. We try every week to bring you God's message through song. Some old numbers and some new ones too. This is one choir that never gives up and I'm thankful for each and every one of them!!

Keep in Tune,
Jaquae

A JOYFUL NOISE



We are slow starting back up with the chimes. We don't have enough members for an entire choir at this point. We will try to start a quintet when we eventually are able to begin, so if you are interested, please let me know!

For Whom The Bell Tolls,
Jaquae



Sept. 7 Joan McWilliams
8 Rachel Wright
12 Desmond Walker
17 Frances Goff
20 Peggy Davis
20 Johnny Kelly
30 Trevor Warman



Sept. 4 Howard & Shirley Lewis
4 Jerry & Kay Duball
16 Fred & Liz Collins



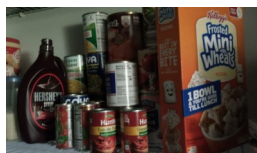
THOUGHTFUL SNIPPETS:

"If you want the peace that passes understanding, you're going to have to give up your right to understanding. It's called trust."

—Bill Johnson



Outreach Ministry



A whole van load of goodies were delivered to the New Testament Church. They were most appreciative of the items. Let's make another drive deadline Sept 26.

Items can be placed in the box in the central hallway.

We also need to restock our pantry, not that needs are increasing. Please give as you are able.

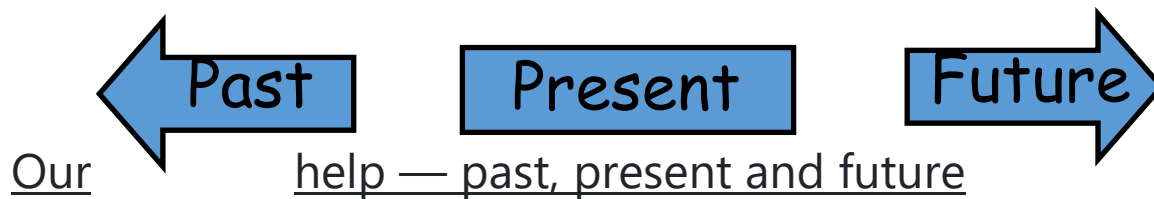
Answers



Answers to prayers come in various ways,
sometimes in minutes, sometimes in days.
And some take years to fully unfold
the harvest of love and blessings they hold.

Answers to prayers come in various forms,
sometimes in sunlight, sometimes through storms.
Some blossom early, and some blossom late,
but each one will flower — have faith and wait!

—Helen Inwood, *His Mysterious Ways*



This month, America marks the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, which ended almost 3,000 lives and changed life forever for millions more. The nation was shaken to its very roots, with violence jolting out of us any assumption that "it can't happen here."

September 11 banished any lingering notion that being on the side of "liberty and justice for all" served as insulation against mass tragedy. We now had more to fear than fear itself.

Psalms 46 reminds us that "though the earth should change" (v. 2) — as it did on 9/11 — God remains "our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (v. 3).

We are never alone or without hope, even on life-altering days.

How have God's presence and power sustained you through life's changes?

How might sharing your story help someone else when their world or faith gets shaken?

—adapted from *The Wired Word*



Worship Committee

Sunday morning golfers often explain their absences at church by saying "We can worship God out here." A dozen of us were not on the golf course yesterday, but in the choir room; we did, indeed, worship - but not in the sanctuary. Thanks to Duke Energy, the church had partially recovered from an earlier outage in the area but we were left with no air conditioning in any area except the choir room. (Falling back on the adage of being given lemons - make lemonade, we made the best of the situation.)P

Pastor Rob Mason gave us an inspiring message; Sandi led the singing, Jacquae supplied music, Kathy passed communion, the choir (thank you, Rob, for joining us) sang the anthem; we practiced social distancing. We felt the Holy Spirit; it was an awesome experience.

The only regret was that we could not share it with those of you who usually join us on Facebook. I believe if we had been given some notice, we could have figured out how to do it. Pastor Rob will bring the message on the 29th, and we hope we will all be together to worship God.

Blessings to all, Ann