

**THE SEBRING CHRISTIAN
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)
OCTOBER, 2020**

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In the fall of 2019 there was a statement going around that said "wait until next year. Then we will see 2020." Of course, those of you that have ever had an eye test know that is the vision desired for good eyesight, corrected or not.

It's strange how that turned out to be what I guess we would call an oxymoron in one number or perhaps better put would be a contradiction. We have clouded vision now. There is no clear site inside and no clear thought. It would seem logical that if all of us were to see plainly, the dissension and division that we feel and see would not be so graphic, yet it is. It's interesting that this not

only includes the events on the historical landscape, but even the smoke and mirrors and protests that turned to riots and torrential storms. All cloud our vision and we are blind to the signs or the writing on the wall.

We are short sighted people because the writing is always on the wall, if we can read it. That saying comes from Daniel of course when all of the wise men of the King could not read what was written on the wall and they summoned Daniel. Daniel alone, probably knowing Ugaritic, an ancient language closely resembling Hebrew, was able to interpret that writing. It was gloom and doom. That inscription said that the days of the King are over. He was judged and found wanting. His kingdom will be divided among the Medes and the Persians. The End! Over! Done!

The writing on our walls can be in the arts such as music, literature, news, world events and acts of God! We choose not to read the writing on the wall. When the Beatles came along, revolution was close at hand. It was reflected in the loudness and lyrics. But the coming discontent of that music was ignored. When we plead for man to take care of the earth and yet see increased disasters, we ignored those signs. When we had folks whispering to us all was not right in our land, we now have discord in the streets.

I guess that's the bad news. The good news is there is nothing we can do to stop it unless we turn to God and seek that which is good and right and holy and just. The writing has always been on the wall and I ignored it; even rebelled against it. My hunch is that I'm not the only one. As Paul said "For now we see in a mirror dimly." Our sight is NOT 2020.

We generally attribute to God the things we want to see but find other causes for those we do not. After 9/11 many said God was calling Sin City to repent but would not see the storms and fires as God calling us to repent. We say it is never too late, but there is a point God says "enough" and preserves only a remnant. We may never have the opportunity to see clearly again unless we listen to the prophets of God and repent. This is an opportunity, a calling to the church, to turn from the wrath of hell to the salvation God desires for his people. Otherwise, like the forests and cities of this day we may too go up in flames.

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

[Hymn Lists](#)

[by book of Bible](#)

John Fawcett was born into a poor family in Yorkshire, England, and was orphaned at age 12. To survive, he accepted a lengthy apprenticeship to a tailor. Then, while still in his teens, he heard the great George Whitfield preach and became a Christian.

While serving his apprenticeship, Fawcett became active in a Baptist church and was often asked to speak. Then at age 25 (and newly married) he was invited to serve as pastor of a small church at Wainsgate. The poor people of that little village were able to pay very little, and much of Fawcett's pay came as potatoes and other produce. Once his wife, Mary, began having children, they found it difficult to survive.

Then Fawcett learned that the pastor of a large Baptist church in London was retiring, and he let the church know that he would be interested in serving them. They called him to be their pastor at a much larger salary, so John and Mary packed their household and prepared to move. But then, as the story is told, Mary told John that she didn't think that she could leave these people whom they had both learned to love — and John allowed that he shared her sentiment — so the two of them unpacked the wagon and let the London church know that they wouldn't be coming.

Then Fawcett, who wrote a number of hymns during his lifetime, wrote this hymn, "Blest Be the Tie," to convey his sentiments and those of his wife to the poor people among whom they had chosen to live. Fawcett served that little church for the rest of his life — 54 years in all. *Jaquae Sands*

Learning from autumn leaves

Every fall, I marvel at the beautiful leaves, studying the intricate shapes and God's creative, colorful displays. Despite its deterioration, the foliage reveals splendor — mere months after bursting out in spring and providing summer shade.

I often think I'm like an autumn leaf. Through many seasons, God has transformed me from a self-absorbed person to one who trusts his steadfast promises. Winter is approaching for me too. Yet the Holy Spirit keeps molding me to reflect God's goodness and beauty. During the autumn of my life, I pray that God helps me embrace changing seasons while reflecting his love and light to all.

—MaryAnn Sundby



Oct 2 Wanda Gordon
3 Terry Ducar
7 Toni Badovinac
14 Betty McClary
18 Richard Neff
23 Gordon Walkington

Oct 25 Carolyn Hinline
27 Barbara Walker
28 Howard Lewis
28 Kathy Brown
28 Mark Wilson

Special dates

Oct. 11- Services will be held in the sanctuary as well as Facebook and Zoom

- Pastor Appreciation Month—**celebrating Oct. 18**
- World Communion Sunday, *October 4, 2020*
- Reformation Sunday, *October 25, 2020*
- Reformation Day, *October 31, 2020*

We will observe Pastor Appreciation Sunday on Oct. 18. If you would like to contribute to a gift for the pastor, please send contributions to the church marked as such.

A lesson in appreciation

During a church anniversary celebration, a pastor overheard a group discussing various congregational leaders over the years. Her ears perked up when an older member said, “Whenever someone asks which of our pastors I liked best, my answer is always, ‘The one we have at any given time is my favorite.’”

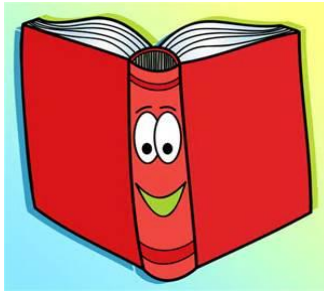
What a relief for the pastor to hear — and what a great lesson for Pastor Appreciation Month. God sends each shepherd to us with a specific set of spiritual gifts and then works through those gifts to bless us.

DISCIPLE WOMEN

Nov. 14 is the Regional Disciple Women Retreat from 10-12. This will be a zoom meeting. Instead of meeting on the 1st Friday in Nov., we will meet at the church on this Sat. to join with Disciple Women in the region. Following the meeting, we will have a potluck luncheon in the community room. Please plan to come to this meeting.

Please mark your calendar as Women’s Fellowship day the 1st Friday of each month. We meet for about 1 ½ hours. By not meeting until Nov. we need to decide before that time whether we wish to continue our Cookie Walk usually held the 1st Sat. in Dec. This calls for help for many members of the congregation. This is our money-maker for the year.

Please let Sue Colwell know if you are in favor of or vote no on this project. 863-402-8627.



It has been some time since the **BOOK CLUB** has been able to meet but let's get together in November. Our book will be "Tearoom For Two". It's part of the Tearoom Mystery series from Guideposts. The specific time has to be set so contact Jaquae for more information. Anyone interested in reading is welcome to join us.

Please join us!! There will be a copy in the library for you to read. We will be meeting at 4:00 on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in the library. First meeting will be Oct. 20.

Submitted by Jaquae L. Sands, 382-3428

JOKES FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Why shouldn't you let kids watch big band performances on TV? **Too much sax and violins.**

Why did the pianist keep banging his head against the keys? **He was playing by ear.**

Share some laughs — or groans — with these autumn-themed jokes:

- What did the tree say to autumn? **"Leaf me alone!"**
- What did one autumn leaf say to another? **"I'm falling for you."**
- How do you fix a broken pumpkin? **With a pumpkin patch.**
- Why are trees very forgiving? Because in the fall they **"let it go"** and in the spring they **"turn over a new leaf."**
- How do leaves get from place to place? **With autumn-mobiles.**
- What's the ratio of a pumpkin's circumference to its diameter? **Pumpkin pi.**

Be a Good Steward

Various committees are writing the church budget for the coming year. They're placing their trust in God and believing in our members and friends to support the church's ministry. Let us all show our faithfulness with good stewardship through our time, talents and treasures.

OUTREACH

Time is getting short to prepare the Shoeboxes. Our goal is to double last year's number of 55. Please pick up a box at the church or bring your items and place them in the first room to the left as you enter from the parking lot.

_Age Ranges: 2-4, 5-9, 10-12 Boys and Girls

Suggestions for items to pack in a shoebox:

Small or medium stuffed toy	Dolls	Bibles
Toy cars	deflatable balls and air pumps	slinky
Yo-yo	jump rope	playing cards/games
Watch	flashlight/batteries	tote bags
Spiral notebook	pencils/sharpener	rulers
Calculator	small tools/hammer	nails in a pill bottle
Dry watercolors/brushes	chapstick	hairbrush/combs
Necklaces	toothbrush and cover	Kleenex packets
crayons/coloring books	Hats, caps, scarves, mittens	girls panties
boys underwear	socks	Shirts
	flipflops	

WHAT NOT TO INCLUDE:

Candy; toothpaste; gum; used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; chocolate or food; seeds; fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes (powdered or liquid); liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

How to pack your shoebox:

- 1) Decide whether you are packing for a boy or a girl and what age range
- 2) WOW toy, select a "wow" toy such as a doll, soccer ball with pump or a stuffed animal
- 3) Fill with other fun toys, hygiene items and school supplies. Visit www.samariatnspurse.org.occ for gift suggestions along with the items listed above.
- 4) Most importantly, pray for the child who will receive your gift. Include a picture of yourself and a personal note from you.

The pope's challenge

During Pope Benedict XVI's visit to America in April 2008, he said in a speech, "Any tendency to treat religion as a private matter must be resisted. Only when their faith permeates every aspect of their lives do Christians become truly open to the transforming power of the gospel."

In other words, how we live and what we do must reflect Christ's teachings. How we treat one another and how we care for the helpless, the homeless, the sick and the poor must reflect Christ's influence in our lives.

"We were created as social beings who find fulfillment only in love – for God and for our neighbor," the pope said. "Our neighbor" refers to any other human on Earth.

It's insufficient to practice the Christian life for only an hour each week during formal worship. Being a Christian is a full-time responsibility and joy, 365 days a year.

Are you God's wife?

While working at a shoe store in downtown Truro, Nova Scotia, I noticed a little boy standing on the hot-air register outside the bakery shop next door in his bare feet, trying to keep warm.

I was unsure whether to invite the boy into the store, or just what to do with him, when a [woman] came by. After a few words with the barefoot boy, she brought him into the shoe store. She bought him new shoes and heavy woolen socks, for which he tried awkwardly to thank her. "Are you God's wife?" he asked his benefactor.

Taken aback by the question, she took some time before replying, "No, son, I'm just one of his children."

"Well, I knew you must be some kin to him," he said as he thanked her again and ran out the door.

—Zelda Cornish

