

**THE SEBRING CHRISTIAN  
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)  
March 2019**

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I was looking at the calendar last month and realized that March 15th will be the one-year mark as your pastor. In some ways it crept up on me, but in other ways it does seem like a year that we've been sharing together.

The activities of the church are so multifaceted that it is difficult to comprehend what we have accomplished, particularly during February. During February a new kitchen was installed, Laity Sunday was dynamic, church directory photos were taken, we had groups convene for Pastor and Parish Checkup, as well as all regular and other activities that might have only been noticed by members of those particular groups.

If you have not had the opportunity to share in the Pastor and Parish Checkup led by Rev. Peggy Davis, I urge you to do so. Mark your calendar for March 17th. The meeting will take place during our fellowship dinner. So, come, load your plate, meet in the Board Room right off the Fellowship Hall, and lend your comments. Information gathered from several groups have been invaluable, your insightfulness will help as we look forward in mission and ministry. I believe this process will set the direction of the congregation for the next year and perhaps years to come.

February was marked with so many accomplishments. March is filled with more ministry as you can see from the activities listed below in this newsletter. Fellowship, study, worship, and prayer abound as we make our way as Disciples of Christ to Easter.

Thank you for allowing me to be your pastor for this past year. I can't wait to see what ministry unfolds with prayer and God's guidance this next year!

Pastor's Projected Office Days in March are: March 5, 6, 9, 12, 13, 19 PM, 20.

Pastor will be on vacation March 24-31.

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## **Thoughts on prayer**

"You don't know how to pray? Put yourself in the presence of God, and as soon as you have said, 'Lord, I don't know how to pray!' you can be sure you have already begun."

-St. Josemaría Escrivá

"Seek a relationship when you pray, not answers. You won't always find answers, but you will always find Jesus."

-Father Mike Schmitz

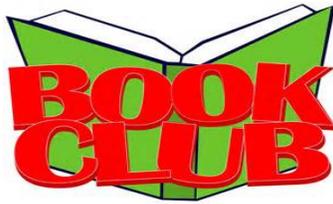
"If the lungs of prayer and the Word of God do not nourish the breath of spiritual life, we risk suffocating in the midst of a thousand daily cares. Prayer is the breath of the soul and of life."

-Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

## IRA DISTRIBUTIONS TO THE CHURCH

The new tax law has increased the standard deduction and reduced the advantages of itemizing deductions on personal federal income tax returns, so many taxpayers will be using the standard deduction rather than itemizing deductions for charitable contributions. For those of you who are at least age 70 1/2 and are required to take a minimum distribution each year from your IRA, there is good news. If you instruct your IRA custodian to issue a check from your IRA directly to the Church (not to you), it will be credited toward your required minimum distribution, and it will NOT be subject to federal income tax. The net result is that you save taxes and still can take the standard deduction on your federal income tax return. If you would like to know more about this tax saving method of giving, contact your tax advisor. Bill Hineline can also answer questions, but you should also verify with your tax advisor that this is appropriate for you.

*As I was reading this article, the thought question crossed my mind; Are we giving to the church and other charities so we can reduce our income or taxes? I think the above article is very good but hope we are giving because GOD has given us so much and not what we can benefit from the giving. Sue C.*



On Mar. 7<sup>th</sup> we will be finishing “The Butterfly And The Violin” by Kristy Cambron. The author weaves together two intriguing stories: one set during World War II in Auschwitz, and the other set in present day. The past and present combine to reveal how there is beauty to be found in the darkest moments of our lives, and reasons to trust God even when it seems wiser to abandon hope. Sera James, a Manhattan art dealer had her world crumble 2 years ago. Her desire to distract herself ignites a passion to find a mysterious portrait she saw as a young girl....a painting of a young violinist with piercing blue eyes. In her search, she meets William Hanover, the grandson of a wealthy California real estate mogul, who may be the answer to find the missing masterpiece. Together they figure out the story of the paintings subject: Austrian violinist Adele Von Bron.

Adele, of the Austrian aristocracy of 1942, was a talented violinist and daughter to a high-ranking member of the Third Reich. She risks all when she smuggles Jews out of Vienna. In an instant, her privileged life dissolves into a world of starvation and barbed wire. Did you know there really were orchestras in the prison camps?

As Sera untangles the secrets behind the painting, she finds beauty in her own troubled heart, and the grim camps of Auschwitz.

For Mar. 7<sup>th</sup> we will finish the book, reading Chapter 23 to the end. On Mar. 21<sup>st</sup> we will begin reading our next book, “The Swallow's Nest” by Emilie Richards. You will hear more about it soon.

Please join us!! There will be a copy in the library for you to read. We meet at 5:30 p.m. in the church library.



**Mar. 3** Elders Ron Colwell & Diane Beidler  
Serving Kathy Whitlock & Sue Colwell  
CJ Wiggin & Roger Sands  
Greeters Liz Malady  
Acolyte Kathy Whitlock

**Mar. 17** Elders Marla Null & Sandra Laufer  
Serving Bill & Carolyn Hinline  
Todd & Robin Martin  
Greeter Donna Ross  
Acolyte Todd Martin

**Mar. 10** Elders Howard Lewis & Rich Campton  
Serving Johnny & Helen Kelly  
Elaine Milward & Rich Neff  
Greeters Bill & Carolyn Hinline  
Acolyte Bill Hinline

**Mar. 24** Elders Teresa Williams & Ron Colwell  
Serving Johnny & Helen Kelly  
Kathy Whitlock & Elaine Milward  
Greeter Wanda Gordon  
Acolyte Wanda Gordon

**Mar. 31** Elders Wanda Gordon & Linda Ellis  
Serving Johnny & Helen Kelly  
Todd & Robin Martin  
Greeter Sue Colwell  
Acolyte John Kelly



## BIRTHDAYS

**Mar. 1** Alan Brown  
**Mar. 3** Barbara Tiemens  
**Mar. 4** Jaquae Sands  
**Mar. 10** Paul Wiseman  
**Mar. 16** Richard Asmussen  
**Mar. 19** Kathy Whitlock  
**Mar. 30** Marion (Red) Johnson

## WE ARE DISCIPLES

"By this all people will know  
that you are my disciples, if you  
have love for one another."  
JOHN 13:35, ESV



**WOMEN:** On Mar. 1 we will be studying The Woman at the Well from the Book of John. Please read this story in John 5: All ladies are invited to take a couple of hours to come together for fellowship, study, and refreshing ourselves with God.

**MEN:** Eight men and their wives and guests enjoyed a bountiful breakfast at Oscar's Family Restaurant on Feb. 9th. celebrating Valentine's Day. Each lady received a long stem red rose and a box of chocolates from their men's group. Rev. Peggy Davis was our guest speaker and she led the group in a discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of our church.

A BIG shout out to Gordon Walkington, Ron Davis, Johnny Kelly and "GOFER" Rich Campton who spear headed the installation of our new kitchen cabinets.

Our next project will be a ham and bean supper on Friday March 1st. 4:30 to 6:00.

DOC men will not meet for breakfast on March 9. All men of the church are welcome and urged to attend and work at the church rummage sale.

## FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

March 2019

### CHOIR NEWS



join us!!!

Lent is here and Easter will be following soon after. The music this month is beautiful, thought provoking, and faith filled. I'm so blessed to have such a wonderful volunteer choir who gives of their time each week to bring you God's message through song. Come

Keep in Tune,

## JOYFUL NOISE

The chime trio "Trinity" will be playing this month instead of last month. They will be chiming "My Faith Has Found a Resting Place" on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Then the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday the entire chime choir will chime "Fairest Lord Jesus". We hope to keep our plans in place, but since we're so short-handed if one member has to be out, we have to postpone playing. We know you understand. Come join us! I'm sure you would have a great time!

For Whom the Bell Tolls,

Jaquae

## RUMMAGE SALE

**Don't forget the church rummage sale from 8:00 to 1:00 on Sat. Mar. 9. Thanks to all who have donated items and helped to sort and arrange the items. Help is needed the day of the sale to be of assistance to the buyers and also to box up the unsold at the end of the day. Many hands make light work.**



Helen Kelly is our unsung hero this month. Helen wears many hats in this church. She is an office co-manager, a deacon (and she prepares the communion each Sunday). She records the sermon and puts it on CD's each week. (If you'd like a copy of a sermon, see Helen). She took responsibility for the rummage sale this year. She often assists husband Johnny in property matters. (She can often be seen with a broom or mop in her hand) She is often an acolyte. She is always ready to help wherever needed. Give Helen a nod or pat of Thank You.

Please submit someone for the Unsung Hero to recognize the people in the background of the church.

Sue Colwell has been doing the newsletter for a year now. Please submit an evaluation of her work. What do you like about the newsletter and what can be done to improve it? Place your suggestions in her mailbox or send to the church digitally. You may remain anonymous if you wish.



**Sundays Open Door Sunday School at 9:00** Currently studying Samuel

**MARCH**

**Coffee at 9:45**

**Worship at 10:30**

**Mondays Chime Choir at 6:30**

**Tuesdays Bible Study at 11:00** Starting an 8 week Lenten study

**Wednesdays Chancel Choir at 6:30**

- Mar. 1 Mary-Martha Group 10:00 *The Woman at the Well John 4*
- Mar. 1 Ham & Bean Supper 4:00-6:00
- Mar. 3 Nat. Anthem Day *sing, play, read about, or listen to our Nat. Anthem*
- Mar. 6 Worship Committee 5:15
- Mar. 9 No Men's Breakfast 8:00
- Mar. 9 **RUMMAGE SALE** 8:00 – 1:00
- Mar.10 **Daylight Savings Time begins. Set clocks forward** (or since you're up earlier, come to S. School)
- Mar. 12 Board Meeting 1:00
- Mar. 13 Good Samaritan Day *Do a good deed today*
- Mar. 17 *St. Patrick's Day 'Top of the morning to you.!*
- Mar. 17 Fellowship dinner following church services *Celebrating Pastor Alan 1 year as pastor*
- Mar. 20 First Day of Spring
- Mar. 24 **Guest Pastor** the Rev. Peggy Davis
- Mar. 31 **Guest Pastor The Gideons**

Here is a test to determine whether your mission on earth is finished: If you're alive, it isn't.

*Richard Bach*

Opportunities are like sunrises. If you wait too long, you miss them. *William Arthur Ward*

**There will be a congregational meeting on April 7 following the church service. All are urged to attend to elect the new officers, approve the budget, and other matters to be brought up.**

NOMINATING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS (FEB. 1, 2019)  
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)  
PASTOR - LLOYD ALAN BROWN  
510 POINSETTIA AVENUE  
SEBRING, FLORIDA 33870  
863-385-0352

OFFICERS OF THE BOARD 2019-2020

BOARD CHAIRPERSON - HELEN KELLY - 417-310-4852

VICE CHAIRPERSON - RICHARD CAMPTON - 863-385-7423

TREASURER - LINDA ELLIS - 863-991-2106

SECRETARY - SANDRA LAUFER - 863-471-1798

FINANCIAL SECRETARY - WANDA GORDON - 754-242-2134

HISTORIAN - ROBIN MARTIN -- 863-305-3029

ELDERS

Ron Colwell, Chair - 863-402-4687  
Diane Beidler - 863-382-2210  
Richard Campton - 863-385-7423  
Linda Ellis 863-991-2106  
Wanda Gordon - 754-242-2134  
Sandra Laufer - 863-471-1798  
Howard Lewis - 863-402-2152  
Marla Null - 863-471-0885  
Gordon Walkington - 517-388-0425  
Jane Walkington - 517-388-0425  
Teresa Williams - 863-202-0695

DEACONS

Johnny Kelly, Chair - 417-310-4852  
Helen Kelly - 417-310-4852  
Bill Hinline - 616-450-3107  
Carolyn Hinline 863-314-0641  
Sue Colwell - 863-402-4687  
Liz Malady - 863-399-8473  
Elaine Milward - 863-214-0446  
Richard Neff - 594-258-3309  
Terry Ducar - 863-414-5182  
Roger Sands - 863-382-3428  
Kathy Whitlock - 863-314-6244  
CJ Wiggin - 863-835-1919

ELDER EMERITUS

Richard Asmussen  
Betty McCleary  
Shirley Lewis  
Elissa Crothers

DEACON EMERITUS

Gretchen Ames  
Peggy Cousins  
Mary Ann Thomas  
Carol Chandler  
Franny Goff

SERVERS

Robin Martin - 863-385-3029  
Todd Martin - 863-385-3029  
Mark McClary -- 863-832-1268  
Heidi McClary -- 863-832-1268

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The difference between try and triumph is a little umph.

Zig Zagler

## **Biblical Production Coming To SFSC**

Power and Light Productions will be presenting a new play --- "Shepherd King: The Story Of The Bible". The play will take place April 12-14 at the Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts.

This play is by the same company that presents "The Story Of Jesus" at Wauchula every year.

Running time for the play will be approximately 3 hours including an intermission.

Tickets are on sale for \$25, \$30, and \$35. Times are Friday, April 12 at 7:00 pm, Saturday, April 13 at 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm; and Sunday, April 14 at 4:00 pm.

Wanda Gordon has suggested that we try to go as a group so we can all sit together. Please let Wanda know what day and time you would prefer so she will know what the majority wants to do.

Ticket information can be obtained by visiting [www.SFSCArts.org](http://www.SFSCArts.org)