

THE SEBRING CHRISTIAN
October, 2018
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)

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We are fast approaching the giving season! The giving season is not merely about Christmas and giving presents. It is about giving ourselves to our friends, families, and to one another.

There have been some questions about organizations that are inefficient, and some of you have asked me directly if certain organizations were operated ethically. A reporter discovered an organization had raised over \$3 million for veterans over the past three years. This organization has yet to have one person walk through their doors. No money has been spent as it was initially intended. Unfortunately, this is a very common problem where you take a heartfelt need and portray it as critical to people that really care, and in so doing take advantage of that generosity.

There are very good and deserving organizations, but we can't take for granted every organization that comes to us as efficient and ethical. Some organizations are both efficient and ethical like The Mission and Samaritan's Touch. They do an excellent job. Church organizations and especially our Week of Compassion are exceptionally efficient, utilizing no dollars for overhead, and few dollars for advertising. Week of Compassion has helped victims of storms in Florida. They have also helped victims of fire, natural disaster, and floods throughout the United States and worldwide.

I encourage you to research an organization before you give. Some police, fire, and veteran's organizations are not all what they may seem. Know how much they pay their officers and how much goes to advertising before you give. Some great sources for information are:

<https://www.consumerreports.org/charities/best-charities-for-your-donations/>

<https://www.directrelief.org>

<https://www.charitywatch.org/top-rated-charities>

Take the opportunity to give to the Week of Compassion. This is our Disciples Mission Program. You can give through the church or online anytime to this cause. In November, I would encourage you to send an outreach gift to Samaritan's Touch, 3015 Herring Avenue, Sebring, FL 33870 or designate it during the morning worship service.

I will be happy to answer any of your questions about the organizations that I have discovered. My bias tells me we have enough resources to solve most of the problems around us if we use our gifts effectively. Let's make it our pledge together to more effectively distribute our offering for outreach.

Pastor Alan

Pastor's Projected Office Schedule Mornings for Oct. 1, 2, 9, 23, 24, 30, 31.

WE ARE DISCIPLES



WOMEN—Come and join us at 10:00 on Friday, Oct. 5 in the library. We will have a short devotion and share concerns. Then we will be spending the rest of the time on cleaning the furniture in the library and bringing the Food Pantry up to-date. We are also asking that ladies bring at least 1 dozen cookies to be used for first time guests. If you can't come to the meeting but would like to donate cookies, please have them here by 10:00 Fri. This is an opportunity to meet with others as we seek to serve the Lord by caring for our church and saying Welcome to our newcomers. It's not too late to bring school supplies to be given to Fred Wild School. Help us in this outreach to others.

MEN—All men are welcome to kick-off the new season with a breakfast at 8:30 on Sat. Oct. 13

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The air conditioners were installed sometime in the 1950's. The smaller units have recently been serviced. However, due to the age of these conditioners, they are not going to last forever. Please prayerfully consider adding to your weekly giving an amount to go toward new air conditioners. By planning and setting aside money now, a not-so-large drive will not have to be made when suddenly we have no air conditioning at all. Did you know that with our present system, we cannot simultaneously cool both the Fellowship Hall and the Sanctuary? If you mark your donations as "Designated Funds—Air Conditioning" it will be put in savings until we are ready to use it.

MUSING OF THE CHURCH MOUSE



A whole box of books was found on the floor of the Library. Dr. Walker is "downsizing" and donated to us a number of books. There is everything from a huge concordance to books by Norman Vincent Peal and C. S. Lewis and Charles Colson and James Dobson and Lloyd Ogilvie – well, enough to keep me busy for many a night.

You may soon forget the plot of the soap opera you watch last night or the score of last year's Super Bowl, but you will never forget about "Listening to God" or "Restoring Your Spiritual Passion".

Stop by the library and check out a book. You'll probably never see me but if you do, I don't bite.

The Mouse



- Oct 7** Elder Teresa Williams
Serving Sue Colwell & Richard Neff
Greeter Mary Ann Thomas
Acolyte Sue Colwell
- Oct. 14** Elder Marla Null
Serving Roger Sands & CJ Wiggin
Greeter Carol Chandler
Acolyte Kathy Whitlock

- Oct. 21** Elder Ron Colwell
Serving The Martins
Greeter Teresa Williams
Acolyte Teresa Williams
- Oct. 28** Elder Wanda Gordon
Serving The Kellys
Greeter Wanda Gordon
Acolyte John Kelly

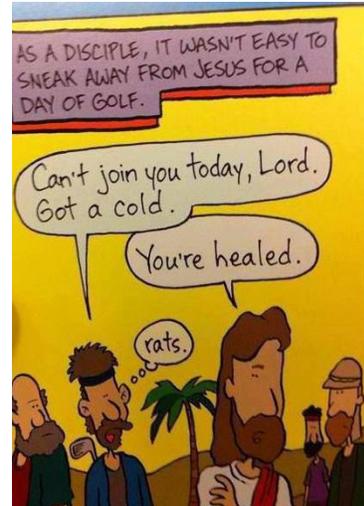
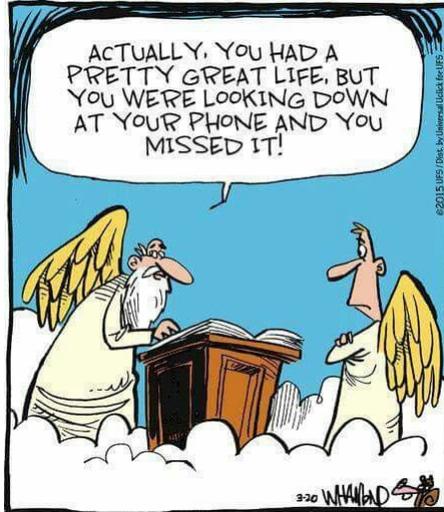


BIRTHDAYS

- Oct 2** *Wanda Gordon*
Oct 3 *Terry Ducar*
Oct 4 *Rebekah Berggren*
Oct 12 *Shari Dobrick*
Oct 14 *Nick Newby*
Oct 18 *Richard Neff*

- Oct 23** *Gordon Walkinton*
Oct 25 *Caroline Hinline*
Oct 27 *Barbara Walker*
Oct 28 *Howard Lewis*
Oct 28 *Kathy Brown*
Oct 28 *Mark Wilson*

CHUCKLES & THOUGHTS



I've learned that you should keep an open mind, but don't be so open-minded that your brains fall out.

I've learned that an act of love, no matter how great or small, is always appreciated.

I've learned that the way to grow old gracefully is to keep active.

I've learned that love, not time, heals all wounds.

I've learned that it's fun to brighten someone's day by surprising her/him with a plate of homemade cookies.

I've learned that no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with.

I've learned that you can never be too good a listener when a friend is in need.

Remember that every age brings new opportunities.

Carry a couple of inexpensive umbrellas in your car that you can give to people caught in the rain.

When going through the checkout line, always ask the cashier how he/she's doing.

Become the world's most thoughtful friend.

From : Live and Learn and Pass It On and Life's Little Instruction Book

Quip: You cannot stumble if you are on your knees.

Quote: "Pray all the time. Ask for anything in line with the Holy Spirit's wishes. Plead with Him, remind Him of your needs, and keep praying earnestly for all Christian everywhere." Ephesians 6:18

Quest: The world seeks victory by trying to get back on its feet, the Christian by getting down on his knees.

A Sunday school teacher asked her class, "What happens when someone's conscience bothers them?"

A boy spoke up and said, "It makes you tell your mother what you did before your sister tells on you."

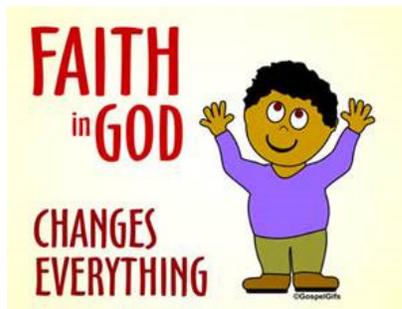
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I made a big typo in last month's newsletter. I said to go to the memorial garden and medicate instead of meditate. BUT think about it, if you meditate, you also medicate. Sue

Challenge—find as many errors as you can that are made in the newsletter. There might be a prize.



No unsung heroes this month—not that there aren't any, but that I haven't noticed or been reminded... I need help acknowledging the helpers around the church. Make your suggestions for next month.



PRAY FOR

FROM OUR CONGREGATION

Marla Null – knee injury

Diane Maxson – having tests

Howard Lewis – showing improvement

Jane Weldy

Franny Goff – declining health

Judi Stutzman – doing better

Bob Rhodes – doing better

Heidi McClary

Betty McClery – health in general

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF CONGREGATION

James Goff (Franny's Brother)

Rob & Peggy Pluymers – health issues

Helen Pedit –Uterine cancer (Linda E. sister-in-law) Trina Dow-Pugh – stage 3 kidney failure

Christina & dau. Janice unspoken (Liz Malady) Debbie Straer – asthma (Linda E.)

Gary Musselman – cancer Carol Moss – cancer

Harlan Schmidt – melanoma (Roger Sands) Angelo Morita – heart transplant

Betty Harmon & family Mick St. Clair

Shelly Ash & children Frank Glinski – cancer

Betsy Plumero – health/marriage issues Robert Marre – health issues

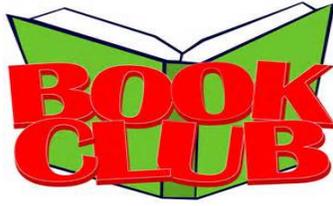
Kyle Goff (Franny's nephew) Bruce Gordon (Wanda' son)

Bill Roberds (Jacque's brother) Kay Jacobs

Alaine Perkins (friend of Carol Chandler) Traveling & disaster mercies

FROM LINDA JOHNSON:

Kris Vaught, Dorothy Deal, Claus, Amy & Ashley Zimmerman, Eddie Johnson, Judy Knofel



We are reading “Cora Pooler” by Dottie Rexford who is actually from Avon Park. This a mystery about an Amish woman who abandoned a child 20 years ago. Someone reported her deed and the Bishop Herrfort found out. She was unwilling to repent so the bishop placed her under a banning from the community. She came back 20 years alter to try and discover what happened to the baby she deserted. She also hoped to solve the mystery of her sister’s death. Will those who remember her ignore the imposed shunning? Will her former beau, Aaron, welcome her back or is he married now? What about Daniel in her English world? Will she finally know who she is----- Amish or English? It’s a compelling story of a divided heart aching to find truth, resolution, wanting to be whole.

For Oct 4, please read Ch. 12 through Ch. 20, page 94-200

Oct. 18, please read Ch. 21 through Ch. 27, p 201-276 to finish the book.

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.

Dottie Rexford will be our speaker at the Dec. Christmas luncheon for ladies. She is writing a sequel to Cora Pooler. Join us for this book study and come to hear her in Dec. A copy is in the library for you to read.



FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR CHANCEL CHOIR

Again we hope you are all enjoying the efforts of the chancel choir. We are singing a lot of old favorites and are challenging ourselves with some of the more difficult sheet music. Any and all are welcome to join us!!!

Keep in Tune,

CHIME CHOIR

We have 7 loyal, dedicated members to A Joyful Noise. But we need 11 to play all the parts correctly, and not stress anyone. So there is plenty of room for new members. I know I repeated this information last month, but wanted you to be aware of how difficult it is for us to keep playing. So keep the chime choir in your prayers, and do think about joining us! See you in church!

For Whom The Bell Tolls

,Jaquae



Sundays—SS at 9:00, taking an overall view of the Bible.
Coffee at 10:00, Worship at 10:30
Mondays—Chime Choir at 6:30
Tuesdays—Bible Study at 11:00 Studying Luke
Wednesdays—Choir practice at 6:30

- Oct 1** World Communion Sunday
- Oct. 3** Worship committee meets at 5:00
- Oct. 4** Book Club meets at 5:30 in library
- Oct. 5-7** Regional Assembly in Daytona Beach
- Oct 5** Mary-Martha meets at 10:00 in library
- Oct. 9** Board Meeting at 6:00
- Oct. 13** Men's breakfast at 8:00
Elder's meet at 10:00
- Oct. 18** Book Club meets at 5:30 in library
- Oct 21** Pastor Appreciation Sunday and Fellowship Meal
- Oct. 28** Reformation Sunday

Sermons around us

William Shakespeare wrote of times when "our life ... finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks, sermons in stones and good in everything."

The month of October can preach breathtaking sermons. It speaks in the glorious colors of leaves, the splendor of the abundant harvest, the grass whitened by the first frost, the honking birds flying to their winter haven and busy squirrels gathering nuts before snow covers their feeding ground.

How wonderful October's sermons are, and how they bless us. Thank you, Lord!

In communion Oct. 1

In 1936, a group of pastors launched World-Wide Communion Day. Amid the Great Depression, they were looking for a way to meet people's spiritual needs and unite Christians in their dedication to Christ.

The observance, now known as World Communion Sunday, is held on the first Sunday of October. For eight decades, it has served as a reminder that Christians around the globe share the same meal in remembrance of Jesus. It unites Christians throughout the world, or in the words of the popular hymn:

In Christ there is no east or west,
In Him no south or north;
But one great fellowship of love
Throughout the whole wide earth.

PASTOR APPRECIATION Oct 21

October is Pastor (or Clergy) Appreciation Month, reminding church members to thank their hardworking ministry leaders. But the people in the pews – though they might lack official church titles – also play important roles in doing God’s work.

In *User Friendly Churches* (Regal Books), researcher George Barna compares the behavior of people in growing vs. stagnant or declining churches. Members of growing churches actively participate in the church’s ministry. “They did not divorce their faith from their lifestyle; their faith was their lifestyle,” Barna writes. “They took seriously the classical Reformation doctrine of the priesthood of all believers.”

By contrast, laypeople in stagnant churches tend to observe rather than participate. “They perceived their role as being in the audience in the stands,” Barna notes, “nodding approvingly in efforts to demonstrate religious behavior as the clergy went through their paces.”

Appreciate your pastors, but then follow their example by living out your beliefs!

REFORMATION SUNDAY Oct 28

Protestants recall the Reformation on October 31. On that day in 1517, Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on a church door in Wittenberg, Germany.

Ultimately, the following five statements of belief became central to Protestant Christians.

1. Scripture alone is the final authority of Christian doctrine.
2. Christ alone is Lord and Savior.
3. God’s freely given grace is central to salvation.
4. Sinners are justified by faith in Christ alone.
5. God alone is worthy of all the glory.

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QUOTABLES

We either make ourselves miserable or we make ourselves strong. The amount of work is the same.
Carlos Castaneda

Miracles happen to those who believe in them. *Bernard Brenson*

Patience and perseverance have a magical effect before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish.
John Quincy Adams

The most incredible thing about miracles is that they happen. *Phillip C. McGraw*

You are today where your thoughts have brought you; you will be tomorrow where your thoughts take you.
James Allen

The practice of forgiveness is our most important contribution to the healing of the world.
Marianne Williamson

THE MERRY AUTUMN

It's all a farce,---these tales they tell
About the breezes sighing,
And moans astir o'er field and dell,
Because the year is dying.

Such principles are most absurd,---
I care not who first thought 'em;
There's nothing known to beast or bird
To make a solemn autumn.

In solemn times, when grief hold say
With countenance distressing,
You'll note the more of back and gray
Will then be used in dressing.

Now purple tins are all around;
The sky is blue and mellow;
And e'en the grasses turn the ground
From modes green to yellow.

The seed burs all with laughter crack
On featherweed and jimson;
A leave that should be dressed in black
Are all decked out in crimson.

A butterfly goes winging by;
A singing bird comes after;
And Nature, all from earth to sky
Is bubbling o'er with laughter.

The ripples wimple on the rills,
Like sparkling little lasses;
The sunlight runs along the hills,
And laughs among the grasses.

The earth is just so full of fun
It really can't contain it;
And streams of mirth so freely run
The heavens seem to rain it.

Don't talk to me of somber days
In autumn's time of splendor,
Because the sun shows fewer rays
And these grow slant and slender.

Why it's the climax of the year,---
The highest time of living!---
Till naturally its bursting cheer
Just melts in thanksgiving
Paul Laurence Dunbar

GOD'S WORLD

O world, I cannot hold thee close enough!
Thy winds, thy wide grey skies!
Thy mists that roll and rise!
Thy woods, this autumn day, that ache and sag
And all but cry with colour! That gaunt crag
To crush! To lift the lean of the black bluff!
World, World, I cannot get thee close enough!

Long have I known a glory in i- all,
But never knew I this:
Here such passion is
As stretcheth me apart—Lord, I do fear
Thou'st made the world too beautiful this year;
My soul is but out of me,--let fall
No burning leaf, prithee, let no bird call

Edna St. Millary

We are all strings in the concert of God's joy.

Jakob Bohme

Joy is that deep settled confidence that God is in control
in every area of my life.

Paul Samhers

