



First Christian News

*We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.
As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.*



UPCOMING events

- Adult Sunday School begins Feb. 10th
- Children's Sunday School
 - During service
- February 3 - Board Meeting 9:30am
- February 10 - Valentine's luncheon following service
- February 17 - Week of Compassion Special Offering
- March 18 - 29 - Annual Clothing & Food Drive benefitting Grace Bridge and Samaritan Inn

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THE MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Recently Marge and I were visiting my daughter Loren at their home, now dubbed Hooverville. It had been one of those days when everything had gone wrong. Our son-in-law Daniel was on the west coast doing business, and Loren had chauffeured three kids, one to school and the other two to day care. Then on the way to work, she had car trouble and arrived late. By late morning she was still playing catch-up when she got a call from the day care— the baby had a cough and fever. So she had to leave work early and take him to the doctor, before picking up the other two and heading home.

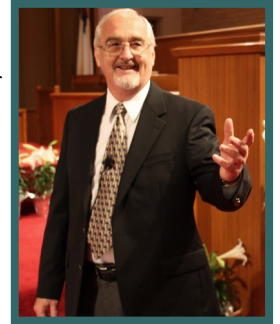
So, as grandparents do, we brought supper and tried to provide a little help. One grandson was running wild and out of control and the other was grumpy and uncooperative. I'm certain most of you have had similar days. As we unpacked food and set the table, Loren shuffled into the kitchen like a Zombie. Trying to shake off the stress with a little comedy, she slouched under the weight of the baby in one arm, dragging the middle child behind her with the other, and she whispered in the course and raspy voice of the living dead, "Am I too late for the train to the Magic Kingdom?"

I share that little family anecdote to make a point. Over the past few decades numerous writers have noted a bizarre fascination with zombies in western culture, suggesting that the concept is a trope or metaphor for the very complex stress of life. George A. Romero's film *Night of the Living Dead* (1968) was followed by numerous others. In 2010, *Walking Dead* became one of the most successful television series in history. Some have suggested that zombies, in their grunting aimlessness parallel the number of people who see themselves as trying to survive in a world that has lost direction and purpose. Millions of people go through the staggering and mindless motions of life, feeling rudderless in a river flowing out of control. Other writers have suggested that zombies represent indebtedness and unemployment as the motif, which is another social problem of serious magnitude. Still others see zombies as representing the world's ubiquitous inclination to war, as if we battle an infectious insanity that cannot be stopped by any means other than lethal force.

Whatever may be the case, we would all agree that our world is more complex than ever, and more than ever we need a renewal of direction and purpose. We need hope. We need restored vision of a bright future. No one wants to think the direction of our nation, or the world, is toward a zombie apocalypse where the few remaining "healthy" people are threatened with annihilation.

So, no matter how you may feel about all that, there is nothing that better addresses our needs than the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is, as it always has been, the Good News, a message of hope in a hopeless world. In this season of resolutions and renewal, approaching a season of repentance and restoration, let us turn again to the solid rock upon which our hope is built. With eyes fixed on such a polar star, let us not wander aimlessly in the night, but march forward, laughing and singing, into the light.

Brother Les



VALENTINE'S LUNCHEON - FEBRUARY 10

Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 10th and enjoy a yummy “cooked with love” luncheon after our service. Bring your favorite dish or dessert to share with your fellow church family members.



DECEMBER BOARD MEETING SYNOPSIS

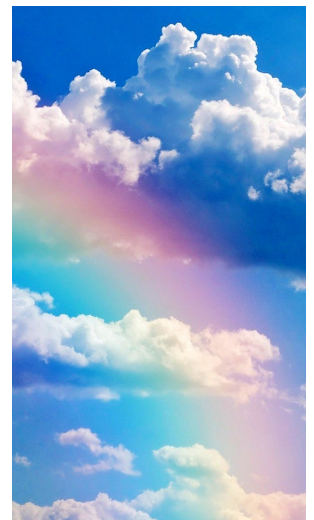
- The minutes were approved from the December board meeting.
- Financial Report. We ended 2018 up \$15,057.12. Our outreach for 2018 was 3.1% of our donations. Offerings for the year were up by about \$20,000 over previous years.
- Year End Attendance Review. Attendance for 2018 was an average of 38 people per Sunday. 2017 was 35.3, so we have had a 10% increase in attendance this year. We had 110 people at our Christmas Eve Service. During 2018, we had 6 adults and 4 children join the church.
- Laura Latham, Daniel Tisserand, and our Board Chair Ken Bean will be rotating off the board. The Board sends heartfelt thanks to these three individuals for their service! It is appreciated. Coming on the Board in 2019 for a three-year term is Scooter Cave, Karen Chilton and Daniel Tisserand. 2018 Elders will be Larry Lambert, Clark Neill, Marilyn Chamberlin and Daniel Tisserand. Board Chair for 2019 will be Marilyn Chamberlin. Ken Bean thanked the Board for a wonderful year. He was happy to serve. Clark Neill will serve as Co-Chair for 2019.
- We do need to purchase a new vacuum cleaner. Scooter Cave motioned to purchase a Shark Professional vacuum cleaner from Sams Club. Yvonne Heistand seconded. Motion passed. Kimberly Tisserand will purchase the vacuum.
- Christmas service salaries – The Christmas Eve service is an extra worship service and the Board recommended that all paid employees would receive an extra week's salary for additional worship services they do during the year. Larry Lambert motioned. Clark Neill seconded. Amended motion passed. The extra week's salary will be included in January salary checks.
- Our Valentine's Luncheon will be on February 10, 2019 after our church service.
- Adult Sunday School will begin back up sometime in February.
- Les Massey received a letter from the North Texas Area Disciples of Christ. We usually have two people recorded as delegates from our church to possibly attend events with the North Texas Area. Les Massey asked who was interested in this position. Marilyn Chamberlin and Jim Mitlyng volunteered.
- Labels have been printed for people who gave donations in 2019. Tax forms will be distributed at church next Sunday and the rest mailed.
- Meeting adjourned at 10:38 am. Next meeting will be February 3, 2019 at 9:30 am.

HYMN OF THE MONTH - “BLUE SKIES AND RAINBOWS”

Gary L. Mabry wrote this song in 1971 under the title “Jesus is Well and Alive Today”. Gary grew up in Abilene, Texas. After graduating from Cooper High School in 1969, he went on to earn his degree from Hardin Simmons University in Choral Conducting. He is currently the Director of Choral Activities at the University of Texas at San Antonio. He also serves as the Minister of Music for the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit in San Antonio.

The song professes the joy and love one feels when the Lord is in your heart.

“...that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith...” Ephesians 3:17



DECEMBER TREASURY REPORT

Income

Sunday Offerings: \$8,242.00
 Memorial Gift Fund: \$0.00
 Special Offering: \$95.00
 Miscellaneous: \$61.22

Monthly Total:
\$8,398.22

Expenses

Salaries: \$5,265.99
 Utilities: \$280.57
 Supplies & Food: \$224.97
 Insurance: \$0.00
 Miscellaneous: \$217.25
 Taxes: \$0.00
 Maintenance: \$1,065.00

Monthly Total:
\$7,053.78

2018 YEAR TO DATE TOTALS

Income

Sunday Offerings: \$79,119.36
 Memorial Gift Fund: \$1,625.00
 Special Offering: \$2,759.00
 Miscellaneous: \$140.51

2018 YTD Total:
\$83,643.87

Expenses

Salaries: \$44,674.16
 Utilities: \$2,938.32
 Supplies & Food: \$1,870.55
 Insurance: \$6,492.93
 Miscellaneous: \$3,711.83
 Taxes: \$1,935.47
 Maintenance: \$4,488.49
 Financial Council: \$1,175.00
 Local Out Reach: \$1,300.00

2018 YTD Total:
\$68,586.75

Gain/Loss: \$15,057.12

WEEK OF COMPASSION SPECIAL OFFERING - FEBRUARY 17

Through our sharing, we get a taste of the generosity of God, who does "immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine." When we look at suffering in the world, we can become discouraged, unable to see past the difficulty. But when we think of the wonders of God's work, our imaginations go wild! Just imagine how God is bringing transformation!



Your gifts to Week of Compassion help provide seedlings that will offer nourishment and income to those in need. The theologian Gustavo Gutierrez described poverty as "death-dealing. It denies the basic human right to existence and the reign of life." Without the burdens of struggle, communities have more time for creativity, learning and possibilities for life in greater fullness. God is at work doing so much more than we can imagine! And when we contribute to Week of Compassion, we are part of God's work in the world.

Let's Celebrate

FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

02/01 Jason Cave
 02/18 Juliet Dimock
 02/20 Steve Harlow
 02/21 Daniel Tisserand

Anniversaries

02/13 Jason & Shelly Cave
 02/16 David & Heather Carter

ANNUAL CLOTHING & FOOD DRIVE - MARCH 18-29, 2019



CLOTHING and FOOD Drive

Non perishable food items | kids clothing | adult clothing | shoes

Donate your unused clothing items and non perishable food items to those in need. Industrial size canned food and regular size canned food items needed. You may drop your items off in the Fellowship Hall at your convenience.

Begins March 18 and Final Collection Day is March 29, 2019.



We will be holding our annual clothing and food drive in support of Grace Bridge food bank and The Samaritan Inn of McKinney March 18—29. We are accepting children's and adult clothing, shoes, as well as regular and industrial size non-perishable food items.

As you all know, our church member, Michael Strange, was very passionate about this charitable component of our church's ministry. For several years, he spearheaded collections and took personal responsibility for delivery. His heart of compassion will remain a model for all of us in years to come.

You will be missed Michael.



Blessed ARE THOSE WHO MOURN, FOR THEY WILL BE *comforted*.

MATTHEW 5:4

SERMONS AND TEXTS FOR FEBRUARY

February 3	Wise as Serpents	Matthew 10:16-22
February 10	Wolves	Acts 20:28-32
February 17	Darkness to Light	Colossians 1:9-14
February 24	Yearning for Learning	Acts 17:10-15

First Christian Church of Weston

100 Chicken Street
P.O. Box 7
Weston, Texas 75097

Phone: (972) 382-3347
Email: fccweston@outlook.com
www.firstchristianweston.com

Find us on Facebook!

Service: Sundays at 11:00 am
Sunday School: 10:15 am

Rev. Dr. Les Massey
Home (972) 495-2027
Cell (214) 704-0279
Email: lfmassey@swbell.net

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION NEEDED

To make the newsletter more personal, please send pictures or information on achievements, births, awards, or anything else of interest to Kimberly Tisserand at tisserand@outlook.com

For God 
SO LO~~V~~ED THE WORLD
THA~~T~~ HE GAVE HIS
ONLY
BEGOTTEN
SON SO 
THAT WHOEVER 
BELIEVES
IN HIM SHALL
HAVE EVERLASTING
Life 

Prayer Requests

Please keep Heather Carter, Lester and Jeannie Greenwald, Louis Cave, Michael and Linda Waco, Christian Dimock, Kyle Schindler, Brian Larson, Kim Rogers, Paxton Babb, Sandra Zimmerebner, Nancy Neill, Scott Franklin, Butch Barnes, Brad and Karen Chilton and Gayle Strange in your prayers for strength, healing and comfort.

If you have a prayer request, please fill out a pew card or let Kimberly Tisserand know.