

the Light

**NOVEMBER
2020**

**Volume 31
Issue 11**

Christian Relief Fund Water Well Report

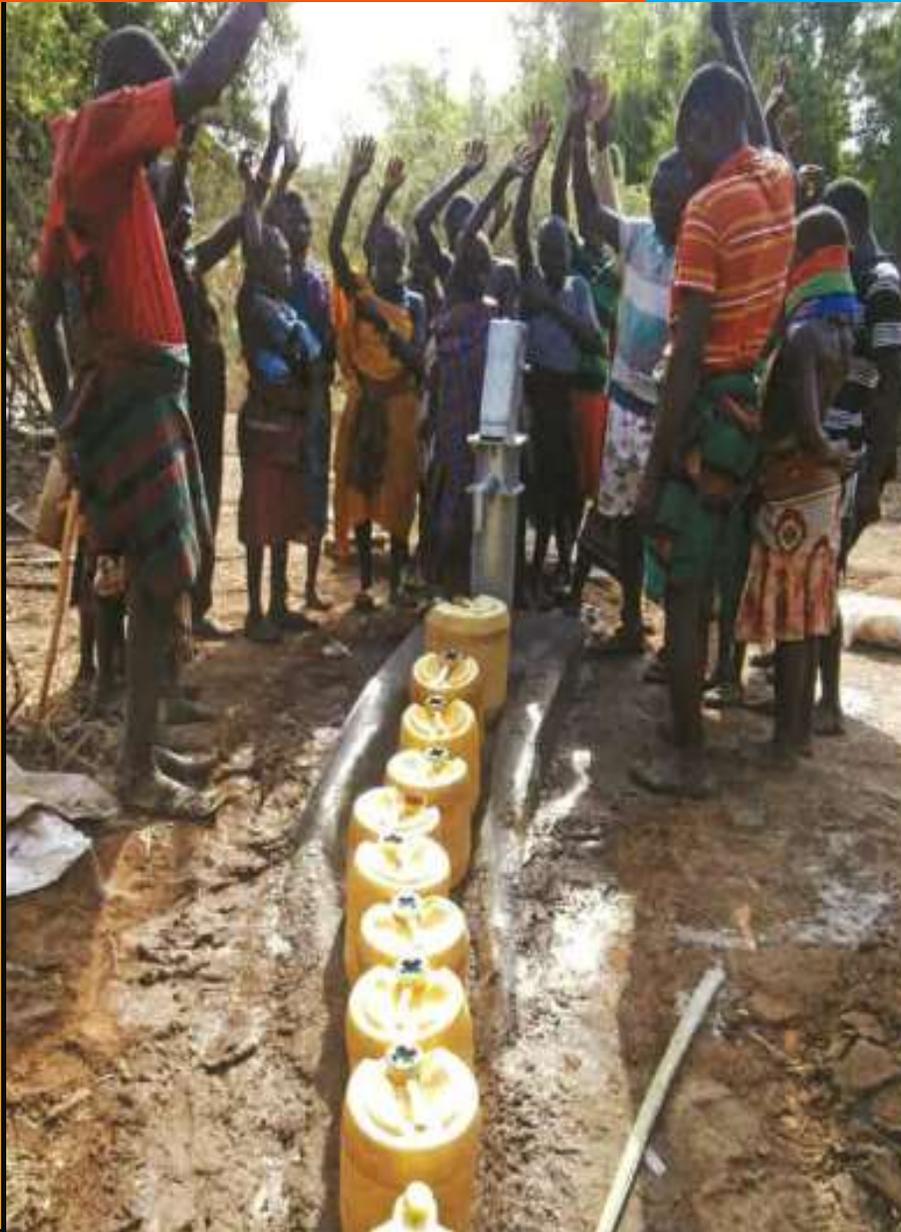


Photo of the Kokel
water well drilled in
2019.

*Photo provided by
Christian Relief Fund*

*“For I was
hungry and
you gave me
something to
eat, I was
thirsty and
you gave me
something to
drink, I was a
stranger and
you invited
me in.”*

Matthew 25:35

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
2323 Broadway St.
Lubbock, TX. 79401-2916

message of Light

Page 2



Reverend Paul Carpenter
Senior Minister
paul@fcclubbock.org

F^{CC} Family,

Each month I will answer questions submitted to the church office. This edition's question is: **"There is so much chaos in the world right**

now. Where is God? Why does He allow evil? Why is Covid allowed?"

The traditional problem is – If God is sovereign and if God is benevolent, then why does evil exist? To answer it people turn the dial of the above variables – some "adjust" His sovereignty. Others deny the existence of evil and suffering. Most dare not question God's goodness. As you can suspect, the answers to life's big questions can be found in scripture. As seen in many places, the tension of evil and God's sovereignty is captured in Isaiah 45:7-9, *"I[God] form light and create darkness; I make well-being and create calamity; I am the LORD, who does all these things (Isaiah 45:7-9)."*

I believe scripture teaches that evil exists, that God is good and just all the time, and that God is sovereign. Why would God Almighty, full of compassion and righteousness, allow for evil to exist?

Let's look at one portion of evil – Lucifer. He is a created being and is totally dependent on God for His survival. God can snap His fingers and Lucifer would disappear. We see the same in the demons attesting to the sovereignty of Jesus over them (Matt 8:28-34). Why would the Father permit His greatest enemy to persist, even on a limited and temporal basis? We can replace "Lucifer" with all other evils, like cancer, violence, and all forms of sin. Why does God tolerate the intolerable? For a greater good.

From a 30,000-foot perspective, one answer is that the soiling and ruining of God's good and perfect creation is both



allowed and ordained that Christ Jesus would redeem us. The New Creation (the world without end, amen, amen) is the product of Jesus' powerful liberation and healing of the Old. The difference between God's good world and the one to come is that, though the first was perfect, the latter will be holy, bought with the blood of God's Son.

Redemption permits suffering, so as to mend it even stronger. When we break a

bone we hope it heals back to where it was; when God redeems, the bone is ten times stronger than when it started. Part of the Christian hope is in the justice of God; we believe that in the end all wrongs will be redeemed. The Lord permits temporal suffering, not by His loving hands, but filtered by His purposes and through the workers of iniquity. This is especially true for the Christian – *"Strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith, they said 'We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,' (Acts 14:22)."*

I recommend not relieving the tension, but choosing to live with the mystery – God is good; God is almighty; Evil exists today.

I also recommend growing daily in our trust of God who has great plans for us in this life and in eternity. Whether a person is suffering now or their time is to come, hear the words of St. Paul:

"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal (2 Corinthians 4:16-18)"

Upcoming NOVEMBER Gatherings & Meetings

- ◇ Noon Bible Study, Every Wednesday Afternoon, 12:00-12:50 pm
- ◇ Prayer for our Country, Tuesday, November 3rd, 6:00pm, Parking Lot
- ◇ General Board Meeting, Sunday, November 15th, Kuykendall Hall
- ◇ Finance Meeting, Monday, November 9th noon, Conference Room
- ◇ Congregational Meeting, Sunday, November 22nd, Both Services
- ◇ South Plains Food Bank Food Vouchers Issued, Wednesday, November 18th, 9am-12pm– Parking Lot
 - ◇ FCC Office will close at noon on Wednesday, November 25th.
 - ◇ FCC Offices CLOSED, November 26th & 27th for Thanksgiving

Stewardship Emphasis for 2021 Under Way Pledge Cards Requested By November 22

Our stewardship emphasis period is now underway. You should have already received a “Pledge Card” for 2021 in the mail. Please complete this card and return it by mail in the envelope provided, or drop it in the offering bag over the next few Sundays. Our goal is to have all cards returned no later than November 22. Your individual pledge is confidential and is not a committed receivable by the Church. The pledge may be raised or lowered at any time as life conditions change.

This year our members have continued a faithful trend in financially supporting the operating and outreach needs of the Church. Whether it is feeding the hungry, providing live giving water to a foreign land, helping distressed families with emotional or financial support, or something as simple as keeping the payroll current and the lights on, we all have stepped up. We are a blessed congregation in spite of a pandemic that has created so much financial uncertainty in the world. The Finance Committee thanks you for prayerfully considering your financial commitment to the operating budget of the church for the coming year.



Jim Evans, CCA
Executive Minister

Kenya Water Well Project Wraps Up FCC Sends \$125,000 to Christian Relief Fund for Clean Water

Over the past month, I cannot count the number of times I have used the phrase, “in spite of the pandemic,” when speaking of this Church body responding to needs. Nothing could be more deserving of these words than the manner in which we participated in our drive to raise funds to drill water wells in parched regions of Kenya through the Christian Relief Fund. Thanks to an anonymous member providing matching funds, I was blessed to deliver a check in the amount of \$125,000 on October 22 to the CRF office in Amarillo representing funds raised from over 100 congregants and friends. These funds have now been matched again! This means our Church gift is responsible for providing \$250,000 in funding which will provide clean water to about 25 villages. Thank you very much for saving lives through your generosity, *in spite of the pandemic!* Jim Evans, CCA



Executive Minister, Jim Evans delivers a \$125,000 check to Christian Relief Fund President, Milton Jones in Amarillo on October 22. These funds will be matched dollar for dollar to provide \$250,000 for wells in Kenya.

Thank You

Thanks a trillion to the First Christian Church in Lubbock!!! Your generosity and grace is unparalleled. You are bringing hope to the desert of Africa through your gift of water wells. Water and living water— What a gift! Thousands of people will be saved because of your compassion.

Milton Jones, Christian Relief Fund President

NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING At The Close of Both Services Sunday, November 22, 2020

Purpose : To vote on adoption of a new Amended and Re-Styled Certificate of Formation and Bylaws and to vote on approval of the General Operating Budget for 2021.

Please make every effort to attend this important gathering!

Military Prayers

Lt. Brant Brock-
Navy, CA.–
Home from
Deployment
son-in-law of
Brenda Hendricks

**Christopher
Colgrove
Kuwait**
nephew of
Laurie Williams

**Lieutenant
Colonel
Ethan Diven**
Newport News, VA
husband & father
of
Sabrina, Jacob
&
Kendall
and son-in-law of
Jerry & Brenda
Stanfield

**1st Lt Nicholas
Swanson**
USAF, Elmendorf
Air Force Base,
Anchorage Alaska
grandson of
Virginia Myers
Dorman

**Capt. Nathaniel
Swanson**
USMC, Cherry
Point Marine
Corps, Havelock,
North Carolina
grandson of
Virginia Myers
Dorman

Jay Underwood
Army
South Korea
son of LouAnn
Underwood

We lift up in prayer our Friends and Family

Members: Skeet Brown, Mike Chase, Steve DeHay, Jeannea Hill, Kristen Jerezano, Carolyn Lawrence, Randell Resneder, Frank and JoAnne Richardson, Silvia Slaten, Lori Wilhelm, Sue Williams

Friends: Sandra Bermingham, Bear Bock, Debbie Boen, Marilyn Brinkley, Holden Brock, Jennifer Chapman, Jim Chase, Paula Sue Dunbar, Martin Englebert, Doris Evans, Steven Garcia, Joe Gillispie, Deborah Haywood, Lexi Herschberger, Eric Hite, Raquel Loera, Chris Mackey, Kristen Mata, Katelyn Mills, Leroy Montoya, Shari Morris, Laura Morrow, Kerry Coats Nielson, Eli Overley, Kelly Padrick, Kenneth Patterson, Paula Purkeypile, Reigny Shinn, Lee Stuart, Shannon Etter Thompson, Pauline Webb, Carol White, Connie Turner Wilson

Homebound & Home Communion Prayers

Frances Ansley, Alan Barkley, Robbie Bedker, Pat Davis, Lynise McDonald, Frances Evans, Sandra Foster, Barbara Onstead, Ruby Power, Mary Jane Shannon, Marty Wells, Jan Sanders, Shelley and Bert Nelson, Joan Brown, Gypsie Taylor

Entered into Heaven

We lift up the following families in prayer-
Bob Brown passed into eternal life on October 21st
Charlene Bartholf entered into eternal life on October 17th.
Cara Irvin entered into eternal life on October 28th.



Momo Duduboy Taylor Jr.
joined on September 20th.

WELCOME New Members



Brenda Lathan joined on
September 27th.

OCTOBER CONTRIBUTIONS

	Oct. 4 th	Oct. 11 th	Oct. 18 th	Oct. 25 th
General	\$21,049.91	\$11,044.35	\$8,758.88	\$20,893.01
Designated	\$64,174.00	\$1,695.00	\$650.00	\$35.00

“Take Heart! See To It That You Are Not Alarmed.” . . . Marilyn Wragg

Things sometimes look bad. Often, they look really bad. Trouble abounds in our world, country, and families. Daily, we hear news of disease, dissension, and disasters. Should Christians be surprised? Should we be alarmed?

No! Many times, Jesus told his followers to expect trials in this life. “Such things must happen.” “In this world you will have trouble.” “You will hear of wars and rumors of wars.” “As they persecuted me, so they will persecute you.”

What, then, did Jesus say to do? “*See to it that you are not alarmed.*” “See to it” is a command to act. “See to it” puts responsibility squarely on us.

How, then, can we obey Jesus’ command? Below are a few suggestions. As you pray, ask God to reveal through His Holy Spirit how you specifically can “*Take heart, and see to it that you are not alarmed.*” In this month of Thanksgiving, on the heels of a national election, may we especially focus, per Philippians 4:6, on keeping our hearts thankful and oriented toward God.

Daily renew your trust in God. Spend time in God’s Word, and remember God’s promises.

Daily renew your faith. Reflect on God’s attributes. Remember His past help.

Thank God for blessings every day; ask for eyes better to recognize them.

Daily preach the Gospel to yourself.

Daily ask the Holy Spirit to fill you and enable you to be a light to others.

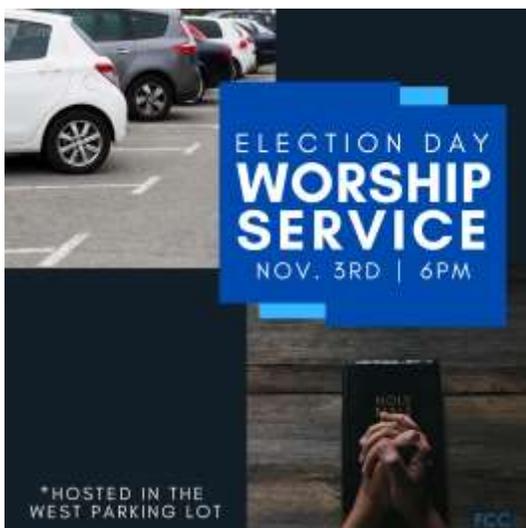
Pray, pray, pray. “Do not be anxious about anything...” **See to it!!**

“You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but *see to it that you are not alarmed.* Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.” *Matthew 24:6*

“In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” *John 16:33*

“Remember what I told you: A servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.” *John 15:20*

Don’t worry about anything, but pray about everything. With thankful hearts, offer up your prayers and requests to God. *Philippians 4:6 (CEV)*



OCTOBER ATTENDANCE

October 4	9:00 am– 154 11:00 am (Sanctuary)– 78
October 11	9:00 am– 100 11:00 am (Sanctuary)– 62
October 18	9:00 am (Sanctuary)- 81 11:00 am –128
October 25	9:00 am (Sanctuary)- 75 11:00 am– 182

Light reading

Page 6

Trust: There Is No Substitute Part 2

We previously discussed that trust is at the heart of Jesus' teaching. It was something he demanded of his disciples. We said that trust was the one thing that the Bible demanded of every person. We also said that there are times in every believers life when trust in the Lord and His love for us is very, very difficult. We gave an example of what we can expect if we trust the Lord, Luke 1:45, and what happens when we don't, Psalm 106:24.



Arlano Funderburk
Pastoral Care

I would like us to begin by considering other examples of what we can expect if we trust in the Lord. "O Lord of Heaven's Armies, what joy for those who trust in you." (Psalm 84:12) "...but those who trust in the Lord will lack no good thing." (Psalm 34:10) "Many sorrows come to the wicked, but unfailing love surrounds those who trust the Lord." (Psalm 32:10) Three amazing promises and there are many, many more!

Pastor and friend John Claypool said, "The waters of grace will support our whole weight if we just learn to trust." The question then becomes, how do we learn to trust? Just as we put our trust in Jesus and become babes in His family, babes that must grow and mature, we must also grow in our ability to trust Him.

Although it is required, clearly, trust is not something we can accomplish ourselves. We cannot will ourselves to trust any more than we can will ourselves to grow an inch taller. It seems to me the process goes something like this: God loves us and His love for us nourishes our love for Him until our love for Him opens the door to trust. His unfailing, unconditional, never-ending love for us provides all we need to trust Him.

Father, may our love for you continue to grow in the presence of your love for us. I ask this in Jesus's name. Amen.

Good News Club at Bean Elementary School

This year has been a whirlwind of uncertainties and as the church, we have all had to make adjustments in order to accommodate the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. On the opposite side of these uncertainties, there is one that that we as Christians hold as certain: That the Gospel of Jesus Christ will be shared with all and many more people will come to know Him as Lord and Savior! The Good News Club of Bean Elementary School continues to work this year with this truth at the forefront of our hearts. God has been faithful in allowing our FCC Team to continue ministering to the students of Bean Elementary both in on campus and here at the church house. We are so thankful to God that we are able to continue serving these children by presenting the good news of Christ through song, lessons, and games every other Thursday afternoon. Please continue to pray for the health and safety of our team and ultimately that we will reap a harvest of new brothers and sisters for Christ's kingdom and glory!



Thank You from the Hardins'

Thank you so much for your prayers for Alex and I while we were quarantined at home recovering from the Coronavirus. Your prayers, kind messages, cards, and meals were so encouraging and appreciated. This church truly is our family and we are blessed beyond belief to have such faithful and compassionate brothers and sisters in Christ in our lives. We love you all so much and from the bottom of our hearts, thank you again.

Alex and Brittney Hardin

"Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God." -Philippians 1:3

In the Life of the Church...Deborah Bigness

The simplistic yet beautiful hymn, "We Gather Together," was born in troubled times. By 1597, Europe had been embroiled in religious and dynastic wars for decades. The Protestant citizens of today's Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands, forbidden to practice their religion and supported by Elizabeth I of England, were in revolt against their Catholic monarch, Phillip II of Spain. Although the War of Independence would rage for decades, an overwhelming Dutch victory at the strategic town of Turnhout that year was a cause for celebration.



Inspired by the victory and the freedom that it promised, poet and composer Adrianus Valerius set his thoughts and feelings to the music of a well-known Dutch folk song. The stirring lyrics are both a prayer of thanksgiving and a prayer for deliverance from tribulation. The music was already well known throughout the country where it became an unofficial anthem for a people at war. "We Gather Together" was translated into English in 1894 and made its way into American Hymnals by the beginning of the 20th Century. It experienced surges of popularity during both World Wars and is now most closely associated with the celebration of Thanksgiving.

Books for Bean

For the fifth year since FCC's adoption of Bean Elementary School, we again will be raising funds so that each child will receive a book for Christmas, as pre-selected by his/her teacher. As in the past, we will pre-order and pay for the books and then invite you, the congregation, to contribute so that the expenditure is reimbursed to the Outreach budget. We will be giving around 300 books this year, with the average cost at \$6.00 per book.



The book drive will be held on two consecutive Sundays, November 8th and 15th, and we encourage each member to underwrite a few books. Donors may write checks to FCC, with "Books" on the memo line or place cash in an envelope, designating it as "Books for Bean." Donations may be placed in the offering plates (Sanctuary worship) or bags (Parking Lot worship) or be left in the church office.



First Christian Church
2323 Broadway
Lubbock, TX.
79401-2916

Especially for:

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 366
LUBBOCK, TEXAS

**Return Service
Requested**

Worship Times

Sundays:

Parking Lot Service:
9:00a.m.
West Parking Lot

Sanctuary Service:
11:00 a.m.

OFFICE HOURS
Monday-Thursday
8:30 a.m.-Noon
1:00-4:00 p.m.
Friday
8:30 a.m.-Noon

OFFICE PHONE
806-763-1995
Fax: 806-763-5904

**Family Life
Community Center**
747-5962
Office Hours: 3-6 p.m.

November Birthdays

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 Nikki McKelvy	2 Patsy Moffett	3	4 Cooper King	5	6 Jerry Duty Mike Holmes Ron Spears	7 Allen Young
8 Lizzy Gore Zama Norris	9 Bobby Milligan	10	11 Dawn Bender	12	13 Troy McNeill	14 Rayma Jones
15 Lois Swindle	16 Charles Cypert	17 Janice Knox Rena Mashburn	18 Jake Trevey	19 Vickie Ball Joni Davis	20	21 Brenda Hendricks
22 Steve Moffett	23	24 Rose Chase Sylvia Etter Paula Gibson	25 Erika Shuman	26	27 Sharon Ann McIntire Jo Wester	28 Shari Herschberger Larry Morgan
29 Linda Blome	30 Melinda Corwin					

The Light is
published monthly
January-December.

The Light informs
members of
congregational
news/activities

Managing Editor-
Mary Norman