



**FIRST
CHRISTIAN
CHURCH**
OF BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

The Visitor

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January 2023

Mike's Musings

I have been asked several times about my prayers, both individual and communal. My quickest answer is typically something like, "I let the Spirit translate the words of my heart into the words of the Divine." Of course, composing a prayer involves a little more than that for me usually. Sometimes I write out the prayer I plan on using for the coming Sunday; sometimes I "borrow" a prayer from another composer, and sometimes I pray extemporaneously. I try to follow the pattern as set forth by Jesus when teaching the disciples how to pray in Matthew 6 and Luke 11, but I do not always follow that exact pattern.

Prayer is a conversation with God, regardless of whether it is asking God to supply something for us or for another, a lamentation, or a prayer of praise. It is purely and simply a conversation with God. Sometimes all we hear is the sound of our own voice, but I can promise you that God is listening.

Max Lucado says it this way: "You can talk to God because God listens. Your voice matters in heaven. God takes you very seriously. When you enter God's presence, God turns to you to hear your voice. No need to fear that you will be ignored. Even if you stammer or stumble, even if what you have to say impresses no one, it impresses God, and God listens. God listens to the painful plea of the elderly in the rest home. God listens to the gruff confession of the death-row inmate. When the alcoholic begs for mercy, when the spouse

seeks guidance, when the businessperson steps off the street into the chapel, God listens. Intently. Carefully."

If you have made any New Year resolutions this year, I challenge you to make one more: Make a habit of praying at least once a day. Whether it is over a meal, privately in your own "personal closet," or in a communal setting such as a worship service, take time to talk with God. Pure, sincere, conversation.

Blessings!
Mike



Come let us
Adore
Him



Behind the Scenes

On Thursday Dec 8th & Tuesday Dec 13th we toured the local Bryan Fire Stations. We got to meet the staff at all 5 stations and learn how each house operates. Our Christian Women's Fellowship put together gift boxes for all 3 shifts at each fire house that included LOTS of snack items and even some hot chocolate that I know they will appreciate this week as the temps drop.



It was fun to interact, ask questions, meet the "Rookies", find out who is the best chef and just get to know the crew. This is part of our way of getting to know our community better. These men and ONE woman work 24 hour shifts, with typically 48 hours off in between, however, with the shortage of staff they are having to overlap to cover all of the Bryan area. The departments explained with the challenges that fire fighting and emergency medical training have it is difficult to get people to dedicate themselves to this line of work. The department also stated they are down 30 people. Even the people behind the scenes are an important part of how the department works. We took gift bags over to the administrative offices at Fire Station #1 and the Fire Marshall's office at Station #2. Kim who works at the Fire Marshall

Office is the one who set up our tours and the visits of the fire truck for Halloween and the Beyond Our Doors Event. She works in the offices and also serves as a dispatcher as well, talk about dedication!

While at the stations we asked how we can help as a church and as a community. The reply given was for prayers, share with others who might be looking for career opportunities, and to share with those in office how much our local firefighters are needed and need their support. We will continue to maintain a relationship with these dedicated men and women, praying for their safety and thanking them for their service. If you are out and about and happen to see them in the store, or out in the neighborhood be sure to take the time to say hello and thank them. It was a pleasure to have an opportunity to see them in their houses and they made us all feel at home.

Also, they sent us a special thank you that is posted on the bulletin board in our hallway between the Gathering Space and the Kitchen, along with a special Challenge Coin marking the years in service as a thank you to us for all the goodies and prayers!



-Karen Townsend

January Elders Meeting

There will be a Zoom Elders meeting on **January 8, at 6:00pm**. Please look for your invitation in your email in-box soon.

Kraft Korner

Our next meeting will be January 19 at 10:00am.



News & People Updates

Please see the most recent Visitor or News from the Pews emails, or your church text group for the most current updates and additional news.



Please let us know of any concerns, news, or updates that should go in the newsletter!

With the church office open limited hours, we may not get the information we need in a timely manner. If you have good news, interesting news, or just any news that the congregation would like to know, please email it to the church at:

firstchristianbcs@gmail.com

Sunday Morning Fellowship

Please sign up to bring snack items for our Sunday Morning Fellowship between Sunday School and Church. We have openings for Sundays in January and February. Please have items set up by 10 AM to allow our Choir to enjoy before their morning practice. There are funds available if needed to purchase items, we just need someone to facilitate. Please contact Vicki Green or Karen Townsend for more information.



Handbell Choir!

Handbell practice is Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm. We currently have 6 ringers, and 1 substitute. We welcome anyone who would like to join us!



Come to Choir!

Choir practice is Wednesday evenings at 6:45pm – come join us!



Disciples Women/CWF

CWF's next meeting is January 4.



Women's Fellowship

Disciples Men/CMF

Continue to meet each Saturday at 9:00am.



Men's Fellowship

February Newsletter

Deadline!

The February monthly Newsletter will be published **January 24, 2022. Articles will be due by January 23.** We hope this monthly newsletter will include articles on people, ministries and reports as well as our calendar for November. Pictures are also much appreciated! Please submit your articles to:
firstchristianbcs@gmail.com

COVID and the Church: Update for January

We continue to follow CDC, and local Health Department guidance, in order to keep everyone attending our services as safe as possible.

Community level of Covid-19 is now **Medium in Brazos County.**

If you are at [high risk of getting very sick](#), wear a high-quality [mask or respirator](#) (e.g., N95) when indoors in public.

- If you have household or social contact with someone at high risk for getting very sick, consider self-testing to detect infection before contact, and consider wearing a high-quality mask when indoors with them.
- [Stay up to date](#) with COVID-19 vaccines, including recommended booster doses.
- Maintain [ventilation improvements](#).
- Avoid contact with people who have suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- Follow recommendations for [isolation](#) if you have suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- Follow the recommendations for [what to do if you are exposed](#) to someone with COVID-19.

People may choose to mask at any time. **People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a high-quality [mask or respirator](#) when indoors in public.**

We encourage the wearing of masks within church buildings, and during the church service.

We can provide masks if you do not have one.

Worship Services

In person and live streamed,
Sundays at 10:45am:

Our Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/BryanCollegeStationDisciples/>

Prayer Concerns

While we believe everyone needs prayer, those named on our list have specific and ongoing needs:

Diane Andrews (friend of Cheryl Aufderheide)
John Atterbury
Julie (Atterbury) Porter
Teddy Atterbury (great-grandson of John Atterbury)
Jill Baker (Roza Coody's niece)
Rose Bowden (sister of Diane Weber)
Gwen Bray
Nancy Deu Pree (Bob Richards' cousin)
Dennis & Pat Henry Dugas (Friend of Mary & Cheryl)
Ashley Forster (Bob Richards' daughter)
Devin Forster (Bob Richards' grandson)
Malcolm Foster (Roza Coody's brother)
Charlie Green (Larry Green's father)
Verla Green (Jackie Green's mother-in-law)
Terry & Eva Hart
Leatha Jeffrey (Calvin Jeffrey's mother)
Alexander Lam (Bob Richards' stepson)
Caton Milstead (Karen Smith's nephew)
Roger & Emily Nichols (friends of Mary Richards)
Monique & David Reed (friends of the Aufderheides)
Brad Slocum (Stacy Atterbury's brother)
Richard Stadelmann
Elizabeth Weber
Reba Wood
John Wright

Shut-ins:

Jackie Kranz
Nancy Wright



