Mike’s Musings

By the time you read this, Thanksgiving Day will be behind us. All of the preparation, all of the cooking and cleaning, all of the busy-ness of the holiday will be but a forethought for next year. Or will it? With Christmas knocking on our door, we are still proceeding through this journey of Advent, itself a preparation for the next path in our Christian walk. We still find ourselves preparing, cooking, cleaning... we are still so BUSY! And we are so, so tired.

If you are anything like me, I tend to wait until the last minute for things. It is not because I procrastinate, but because I constantly prioritize and re-prioritize my things-to-do list. We all know these holidays are on the way. In a lot of cases, we actually count down the days and hours. But for some reason, the holidays still sneak up on us.

My wife, Karen, on the other hand, prepares well in advance, so much so that I get confused with what she is doing and at what place in preparation she happens to be. If you were to ask her about her organization skills (both physically and mentally), she would probably say something like “I’m not organized, I just know what needs to be done and when it needs to be ready.” I, obviously, do not speak for Karen, but I admire her so much for her ability to accomplish in such detail what I can only imagine a few hours before.

The Apostle Paul wrote this to the church at Ephesus: “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” (2:10 NRSV). I interpret this to mean that God has already prepared the work for us to do, and has equipped us with the skills we need to complete the work we have been assigned. Jesus and the Apostolic writers consistently informed Christians waiting for God’s coming kingdom that the day, the time, the hour were not to be known; and they constantly exhorted everyone to be prepared.

Nowhere in these instructions does it say that the work will be easy, nor does it say we will have time to rest while preparing. We are promised rest when it is done. And since we do not know the WHEN of Christ’s return, the work is not done until Christ is fully revealed. But, I do believe that God does grant rest breaks from our work when we truly need it. For that is why we were given a Sabbath. Even God rested at the end of the work of Creation!

We DO know when the holidays will be here, however, and we prepare as best as we can, and still often find ourselves working with very little time to spare. I would encourage you this holiday season to schedule in a little time for personal rest every day (and I do not mean when you go to bed for the evening). Whether it is five minutes or five hours, set aside the tasks that are before you; take a few minutes to pray; spend time with yourself and with the Divine.

Merry Christmas!
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

Preaching Schedule – Dec.

December 5 - "Peace"
   Ezekiel 37:1-14
December 12 - "Joy"
   Isaiah 55:1-13
December 19 - "Love"
   John 1:1-18

John Foster will be baptized on this Sunday

December 24 - (Christmas Eve)
   "Good News of Great Joy!"
   Luke 2:1-20

December 26 - "Quiet Christmas"
   John 1:19-34

COVID and the Church: Update for December

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

December Elders Meeting

There will be a Zoom Elders meeting on December 19 at 6:00pm.
Look for your invitation in your email inbox soon.

Disciples Women/CWF

Next Meetings: December 1 at 9:30am
January 5 at 9:30am

Women’s Fellowship

COVID

and the Church:

Update for December

We continue to follow CDC, and local Health Department guidance, in order to keep everyone attending our services as safe as possible.
January 2022 Newsletter Deadline!

Since office staff have the week between Christmas and New Year off, the January monthly Newsletter will not be published until January 4, 2022. Articles will be due by Monday, Jan. 3, or you may send them to the office before Christmas.

We hope this monthly newsletter will include articles on people, ministries and reports as well as our calendar for January. Pictures are also much appreciated! Please submit your articles to: firstchristianbcs@gmail.com

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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 (Rozan Coody’s niece)
Rose Bowden (sister of Diane Weber)
Family of Irma Bozardt
Gwen Bray
Nancy Deu Pree (Bob Richards’ cousin)
Family of Jo Jo Evans (Stacy Atterbury’s Mother)
Ashley Forster (Bob Richards’ daughter)
Malcolm Foster (Rozan 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)
Bob Richards
Delores Shaw (Mary Richards’ aunt)
Brad Slocum (Stacy Atterbury’s brother)
Family of Mark Stadelman
Richard Stadelmann
Elizabeth Weber
Reba Wood

Shut-ins:
Jackie Kranz
Liz McGee
Nancy Wright

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Worship Services

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
Bryan/College Station, Texas

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

Our Facebook Page:
https://www.facebook.com/BryanCollegeStationDisciples/

Our YouTube Channel:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfKBUSqRgyYr1c-h0BdHn_A
# Church Calendar: December 2021

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<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
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<td>Worship, 10:45am, in-person &amp; live-streamed “Peace” Ezekiel 37:1-14</td>
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<td>Board Meeting after worship</td>
<td>Michael Bozardt</td>
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<td>Worship, 10:45am, in-person &amp; live-streamed “Joy” Isaiah 55:1-13</td>
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<td>Disciples Men / CMF, 8:00am</td>
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<td>Elders Zoom Meeting, 6:00pm</td>
<td>Katherine Graves</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Katherine Graves</td>
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<td>Natalie (Weber)</td>
<td>Service @ 5:30pm</td>
<td>“Good News of Great Joy!” Luke 2:1-20</td>
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<td>Worship, 10:45am, in-person &amp; live-streamed “Quiet Christmas” John 1:19-34</td>
<td>No News or Newsletter this week</td>
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<td>Karen Smith</td>
<td>Liz Phariss</td>
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Church office is closed between Christmas & New Year
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Church office is closed between Christmas & New Year

(January Calendar will be updated as needed)