

APRIL
2018



CONNECTING POINTS



Pastor Mike's Paper Pulpit

Happy Easter

There is a story told of four country churches in an East Texas town. Each of the congregations had been overrun with pesky squirrels. There were squirrels everywhere.



Each of the churches met to seek a solution to the squirrel problem.

After much prayer the first congregation determined that the squirrels were predestined to be there and they should not interfere with God's divine will.

In the next church the squirrels had taken up habitation in the baptistery. The deacons met and decided to put a cover on the baptistery thus drowning the squirrels in it. The squirrels escaped somehow and there were twice as many there the next week.

A third congregation decided that they were not in a position to harm any of God's creation. They

humanely trapped the squirrels and set them free a few miles outside of town. Three days later, the squirrels were back.

The best and most effective solution came from the fourth congregation. They rounded up the squirrels, baptized and registered them as church members. Now they are only a problem on Christmas and Easter.



What does your attendance say about your commitment to your Lord? It is easy to allow many things to occupy ones time on a Sunday morning.

Consider for a moment how many times Jesus "showed up" for us. He was there for us at his birth, all through his life and especially at his death and resurrection.

Showing up doesn't save you; it demonstrates a heart that knows from what it has been saved.

Will I see you Sunday?

Pastor Mike

First Christian Church Elder & Contact Information

Elders

Mack Jones—267-3090
Brett LeTourneau—706-2192
Michael Piersol—808-226-6754
Scott Stutsman—559-479-1946

Secretary

Amanda Stutsman—559-674-5203

Children & Youth

Katie Barsotti—559-903-5883

Pastor

Michael G. Stipe—559-259-6879

Connecting People To God - To Each Other & To The World

THE BACK PAGE . . .

Anything that requires patience or waiting does not fare very well for me. Walmart reminds me that I have no patience every time I am there. I am the person that runs to the self-checkout lane, so I do not have to deal with people and their groceries. The biggest annoyance that tests my patience lately has been when an employee stands by the exit door and wants to check your receipt. Now, I know *why* Walmart is trying to make this a thing, but it frustrates me to the point that I walk right past them and do not think another second about it because I refuse to take the minute it takes to show them my receipt to make sure I did not steal anything. I am sure I am not the only one who has a moment of impatience (or 7) and we can all laugh at our own impatient ways. Aren't we lucky that God doesn't get this impatient with us? Could you imagine him getting so frustrated that he just walks right passed us and never gives us a second thought, merely because I asked him for proof that I bought something? As we go into this April month, and remember the death and resurrection of Jesus- I challenge us (especially me) to remember that we are called to be patience to everyone. Not to just people we love or see daily but also to all of those around us. We can be patient because we know what God has done- and because of Jesus we know how the story ends as well. Eternal life. -xoxo Katie

PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONARIES

Greg & Vicki Syverson
CMF International – Mexico

Vince & Gretta Payne
Panama Mission Foundation

Dr. & Mrs. Yoon Kwon Chae
Korea Gospel Mission

Champions For Tomorrow
Clovis, CA

American Indian Christian Missions
Doors of Hope

Madera Community Food Bank

Madera Rescue Mission

Madera Love INC

Discover more information on the missions we support on our website: www.maderafcc.org



Death Was Arrested

I would like to share the verses from a powerful new song we are singing:

Alone in my sorrow and dead in my sin
Lost without hope with no place to begin
Your love made a way to let mercy come in
When death was arrested and my life began

Ash was redeemed only beauty remains
My orphan heart was given a name
My mourning grew quiet my feet rose to dance
When death was arrested and my life began

Released from my chains I'm a pris'ner no more

My shame was a ransom He faithfully bore
He cancelled my debt and He called me His friend
When death was arrested and my life began

Our Savior displayed on a criminal's cross
Darkness rejoiced as though Heaven had lost
But then Jesus arose with our freedom in hand
That's when death was arrested and my life began

May all of us be blessed as we celebrate our new life!

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~Melissa

April 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p>  <p>Bible Classes 9:30 Worship 10:45 Youth Group 6:30-7:30</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Intercessory Prayer 6:30pm-7:30pm</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Worship Team Rehearsal 6:00pm</p>	<p>6</p> 	<p>7</p> <p>Men's Breakfast—7:30am @Perkos Women's Breakfast—8am @Robin Walton's home Elder's Meeting—9am Board Meeting—10am</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Bible Classes 9:30 Worship 10:45 Youth Group 6:30-7:30</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Intercessory Prayer 6:30pm-7:30pm</p>	<p>11</p> <p>FCC Food Bank 10:00am- Noon</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Worship Team Rehearsal 6:00pm</p>	<p>13</p> 	<p>14</p> <p>Ladies Lemonade Tea 2:00-4:00 PM</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Bible Classes 9:30 Worship 10:45 Youth Group 6:30-7:30</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>  <p>Intercessory Prayer 6:30pm-7:30pm</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Worship Team Rehearsal 6:00pm</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p>  <p>Bible Classes 9:30 Worship 10:45 Youth Group 6:30-7:30</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Intercessory Prayer 6:30pm-7:30pm</p>	<p>25</p> <p>FCC Food Bank 10:00am- Noon</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Worship Team Rehearsal 6:00pm</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Bible Classes 9:30 Worship 10:45 Youth Group 6:30-7:30</p>	<p>30</p>		<p>Anniversaries 5 R.B. & Donna Moren</p> 		<p>Birthdays 5 Larry Walter 11 Bud Smith 12 Lois Milam 21 Bud Wright</p>	<p>22 Rebecca Rodriguez 23 Suzanne Stipe</p> 

Calendar Connecting Points

*CWF Breakfast—Saturday,
April 7th—8am @ the home of
Robin Walton
2805 Willow Drive*



THE GAME OF LIFE

Pastor Mike begins a new sermon series on our Life In Christ
April 8th — “Saved, Delivered & Healed”

April 15th— “Buried With Christ”

April 22nd— “This Is All Yours”

April 29th— “What To Do? What To Do?”



Save Mart Center
May 5th— 8 am to 5 pm
\$35



Men's Breakfast
Saturday, April 7th
@ Perkos—7:30 AM

The Elders meeting follows at
9 AM in Pastor Mike's Office & the Board at 10 AM.

Team Daniel

There are three emphases in prayer that Team Daniel offers to you as a part of our church family.

The **FCC Prayer Team** meets each Sunday morning in Pastor Mike's office at 8:45 to seek God, prayer walk the church facility and prepare the way for the gathering time.

Prayer Hosts are our volunteer prayer folks who are available during the service to pray specifically with you and for you.

The **Intercessory Prayer Ministry** meets Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30 PM to lift up our church family. They take requests and are always ready for you to join them.

We just need YOU!

*“How often you pray
is how often God
hears you.”*
~Anonymous

