

MINISTER'S REPORT TO FCCBRLA BOARD

November 18, 2020

REV. DR. DAVID CHISHAM

Fellow leaders of FCCBRLA,

Given our heavy schedule for tonight I'm going to keep my report concise and relatively free of open-ended questions.

Since our last meeting, we've completed our stewardship program, and while we had hopes that communication would be smoother with our added digital options, there was still a lot of "footwork" to do after consecration Sunday to pick up estimates from a number of congregants. While totals are down for the coming year, in the end I feel the response is solid and I feel we have a good financial footing going into next year, even if we find ourselves trimming the budget here and there along the way.

Advent and Christmas are around the corner and given our Fall resurgence of COVID many of our traditional "get togethers" are just not an option, so it's time to get even more creative. I met with Nancy Fatta, worship chair, about hanging greens in the sanctuary, and she is moving forward with that project—she plans on hanging those with her "inner COVID circle" during the week of Thanksgiving. Reflecting on what we can do to make this season stand out, especially for those who are staying at home, we're also going to offer a drive-in service on Sunday mornings from 8:30-8:50. This will focus on Christmas music, brief scripture and meditation and communion service. I've procured an AM radio transmitter so if attendees wish to keep their windows closed b/c of weather or safety, they can listen in. We will also use this format for the 5:30 Christmas Eve service.

Speaking of Christmas Eve service, I've heard some back and forth on what to do for the 11pm service. I'm open to options: we could do a live service and stream it as we do Sunday morning. We could produce a pre-recorded service and make it available on Christmas Eve. We could just make the 5:30 drive-in service the only service for the day. We could put out a congregational survey to see if anyone has any strong feelings one way or another. I welcome your thoughts.

It's been a season of hurricane like we haven't seen, perhaps ever. Following our first relief mission on in October, we followed up with another work-day in DeRidder following Hurricane Delta. At this point most of the work will be moving indoors, which is beyond the skill level of our volunteers to plan and execute by ourselves. If there is interest we can look for a relief program to work with, such as Habitat for Humanity, in the Spring and Summer of 2021. Judy is also working on Christmas Outreach ideas which include "Christmas Cheer" bags for our folks who have been sheltering at home, and gathering monetary donations for CASA of GBR and in-kind donations for Southeast Ministries.

I'm taking a few days off the week of Thanksgiving to visit family but will not miss any Sundays. I will take a week off following Christmas; I'm in the process of securing pulpit supply for December 27.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Dr. David Chisham