

## MINISTER'S REPORT TO FCCBRLA BOARD

September 22, 2020

REV. DR. DAVID CHISHAM

Fellow leaders of FCCBRLA,

Since our last board meeting, we've continued under the strained circumstances that COVID has created, yet have found some important ways to reach out in Christ's name to people in need.

Though we've had some bugs in our Worship Livestream, with each Sunday we continue to "step on the bugs" and enhance the visual experience. Weekly viewership has been steady and we've continued to see a couple of out-of-state viewers joining us. Ted Baldwin has been quarterbacking the production and has begun to train Sue Grigg. We are always looking for ways to improve, and now that we are beginning to train others to run the production, Ted and I have discussed how to simplify some things and have moved in that direction. We are also meeting with Ben Redwine on Sunday to discuss a livestream recital from our sanctuary as well!

While programming during this time has been problematic, this past month we've been able to find ways to make important outreach efforts. Judy Lester and I led a mission trip to Sulphur, LA to help a family whose home was profoundly affected by Hurricane Laura. We had a team of 10, and were successful in tarping an entire roof and clearing a lot of fallen tree debris. We also hosted a blood drive on our campus and received a total of 13 donations, not including a few individuals who tried to donate but were unable to. I have to say I was thrilled with that. Add to that the donations to Week of Compassion and hurricane relief, our congregation continues to show her deep, Christian compassion for people in need. Judy Lester and I are also beginning a tool drive for future mission trips as well as for the S.O.S. program that we were exploring before COVID closed everything down.

We've kicked off our stewardship program, adapting it to a predominately digital format. While we have created hard copies of the materials for those who prefer that form, we've also created a web page along with a form for estimate of giving that is emailed directly to Brenda. Dak, Pam and I are taking turns in worship, developing the them of the three C's of stewardship—confidence, contentment and communication. Consecration Sunday will be October 4, 2020.

Of primary concern is how we move forward with reopening. We've entered Phase III in re-opening, but that hasn't changed a lot for us. Mandates and recommendations for masks and social distancing are still in force. Nevertheless, I think it is time for us to think about what our next phase might look like. Do we continue with a single service or think about two worship services? Should we distribute another congregational survey? What questions should be included on that congregational survey?

My family and I are also taking a long weekend vacation on October 3-5. Rev. Tip Tipton has agreed to provide pulpit supply.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. David Chisham