



(U.S. Marine Corps Photo
by Cpl. Heather Atherton)

Stephen is a Fairmount member and is the son of Stephen & Yolanda Alexander.

A Display of Courage

By Cpl. Heather Atherton | PEO Land Systems | December 17, 2020
NAVAL AIR STATION JOINT RESERVE BASE, Fort Worth, Texas

DALLAS, Texas – **U.S. Marine Captain Stephen Alexander**, Executive Officer, Recruiting Station Dallas, 8th Marine Corps District, Western Recruiting Region, Marine Corps Recruiting Command was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal during a ceremony held at the Veteran’s Memorial Park in McKinney, Texas on December 11, 2020, for his actions assisting a civilian while driving to the 244th Marine Corps Ball in Elora, Calif in 2019.

At the time of the incident a 1stLt in 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, 1stLt Alexander and multiple enlisted Marines rendered aid in a potentially fatal car accident, Nov. 15, 2019, when a vehicle approaching on the opposite side of the road lost control and started to spin ultimately ending up on its side with the driver, who was the sole person of the car, unconscious and critically injured.

“Once the vehicle came to a final stop, I pulled over immediately,” said Alexander, “There was a vehicle in front of me that also pulled over with 3/4 Marines. I’d never met them before; they were from a different company. We all ran over to the vehicle; at this point the vehicle was on its side and the driver was at the bottom and not coherent.”

Due to damage of the driver’s vehicle, the Marines were unable to open any of the doors. Another Marine broke through the back window to assist in the rescue. Shortly after gaining entry to the inside, Alexander independently created an access point through the windshield to allow the driver to have head support from the other Marines. This allowed Alexander to apply trauma care.

“Once they smashed in the window I hopped in and started treating as many injuries as I could find,” Alexander said. “Every once and a while the driver would come back to consciousness and say he couldn’t breathe.”

The next vehicle at the scene volunteered to alert the park rangers. During this time Alexander and the Marines continued to do whatever they could for the driver. The Marines supplied Alexander with makeshift bandages and dressings to assist. According to Alexander, in that part of the desert there was no cell service and the nearest ranger station was roughly an hour away.

Alexander continued to treat the rest of the driver’s body and found his leg was partially severed. He used belts provided by the Marines as tourniquets and synched them down to stop the bleeding. Another Marine ended up providing an actual tourniquet, which Alexander used to treat the driver.

“... At that point we didn’t have tourniquets, we came to Vegas with our dress blues, not tourniquets or our emergency field kits,” said Alexander. “Had the other Marines not been there, there’s no way I could have acquired the things needed to treat him. I would have tried my best, but there’s not a whole lot I could have done once I got in the vehicle had they not continued to provide whatever resources they could find.”

After roughly an hour, the park rangers arrived, and shortly after them a nurse who took the lead on treatment for the driver. While continuing to treat the driver, the nurse also confirmed the driver had a punctured lung, which was causing his shortness of breath.

YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

Welcome to our newest members: **Arthur & Cynthia Ledbetter** transferred on January 3rd. **Natalie and Nicole Piszcz** were baptized on January 14th. **Paul S. Diana** was baptized on January 17th.

Bonnie & Dan Andrews thank everyone for the prayers, calls, and cards during Bonnie's mother's illness and passing. "We appreciate our church family's support."

"I thank God for the ongoing love, prayers, and concern you have shown me since I began my long battle with cancer. A special thanks to those who have sent cards and notes of encouragement. The outpouring of support I have received from you has truly been a blessing to me and my family. May God bless you as you continue to show the love of Christ to others." **Brenda Bernhardt** (sister of Theda Wortman)

Vicky Heil thanks everyone for the beautiful Christmas and sympathy cards she received at the passing of her sister, Betty. A special thank you to Rick Raines for the beautiful words he shared as officiant of Betty's funeral.

Amanda Thomas appreciates the prayers, calls, cards, and financial assistance for her daughter and son-in-law, **Sarah & Anthony Williams**, during Anthony's recent illness and passing. "May God bless you for your kindness."

The Helping Hands Ministry asks you to remember these February birthdays: Sam Massey (2/4), Rainelle Currier (2/5), Barbara Foos (2/5), Mary Wilkinson (2/5), Becky Massey (2/9), Leo Briere (2/22), and Willie Shelton (2/24).

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Onward Christmas Campaign: Please make your gift by using one of the Christmas or green Onward envelopes available at church. Please memo your check "Onward Christmas". You may also give through our website www.fairmountcc.org/giving/ and through Pushpay. This campaign will run through January 31, 2021.

Moments of Hope - January Serving: Items needed by Thursday, January 21 - bottled water, soft rolls, lunch-size paper napkins (any size), brown lunch bags, plastic forks and spoons, desserts, quart-size ziplock bags. For details, contact Pat Dalton at 804-840-3901 or prdalton@hotmail.com.

PRC Baby Bottle Campaign: The Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC) of Metro Richmond provides compassionate care to women and men unprepared for pregnancies by offering resources and practical assistance for life-affirming choices. In all the services provided, living out the love and Gospel of Jesus Christ remains central to their mission. Your CHANGE can CHANGE LIVES!! Pick up a baby bottle in the lobby and fill it with coins, bills, or a check payable to the PRC. Details are inside each bottle. Return filled bottles by Sunday, February 7th to the WC or Sanctuary lobby. To donate online, visit fairmountcc.org/giving and select "PRC Baby Bottle Campaign" from the fund dropdown. For more information on how the PRC helps change lives, visit friendsofprcrichmond.org.

February Daily Bible Readings: If you are following along with the daily Bible readings that are normally printed on the back of the monthly Fairmount calendar and would like to receive a listing of the February readings, please contact Chris Branch at cbranch@fairmountcc.org or 559-8070.

Super Sponsorship Sunday - February 7th: Sponsor a child in Haiti through Haiti Outreach Ministries. Visit the table in the Worship Center lobby on February 7th for more information and to see a selection of children in need of sponsors.

Drama Team Missing Costumes: The drama team is missing some costumes, especially those used for Biblical themed events. Please look around your home for costumes and bring them to the church office. Thanks!

Sweetheart Banquet: Fairmount's Youth Ministry would like to recognize our church couples who have been married 50 years or longer. Unfortunately we will not be able to hold our normal Sweetheart Banquet, but we still wish to celebrate this significant blessing! If you are new with us or have celebrated your 50th anniversary this past year, please email your names, anniversary date, a wedding picture (or early picture), and a current photo to kbarnes@fairmountchristian.org. You may also bring photos to the church office to be scanned and immediately returned. The deadline to submit photos is February 8th.

CARITAS - Friday, February 12th: We will be providing supplies for and packing 60 bag lunches and one dinner. See a list of needs and sign up at fccsignups.info/CARITAS. All donations must be dropped off by Sunday morning, February 7th in the Worship Center Lobby. For more information, contact Lori McGhee at raincgee@hotmail.com or 956-7630.

WITH SYMPATHY

Sympathy to Glenn and Steve Newcomb and Sherry Webb and their families at the passing of their mother, **Helen McKinney Newcomb**, on December 13th.

Sympathy to Renee Tollison and family at the passing of her father, **Emerson W. Shaw**, on December 19th.

Sympathy to Stephanie Ward and family at the passing of her step-father, **Thomas K. (Tommy) Dent**, on December 22nd.

Sympathy to the family and friends of Bernadine M. (Bernie) Hensley, who passed away on December 23rd.

Sympathy to Wayne Guss and family at the passing of his father, **James Corbett Guss**, on December 24th.

Sympathy to Chris Bates, Sharon Sale, and their families at the passing of their mother, **Martha J. Ragland Martin**, on December 28th.

Sympathy to Charlie Thomas and family at the passing of his brother, **John Thomas**, on January 2nd.

Sympathy to the family and friends of Lydia E. Harding, who passed away on January 11th.

Sympathy to the family and friends of John Scott Peace, who passed away on January 11th.

Sympathy to Kelly Schmudlach and Heather Chandler and their families at the passing of Kelly's husband and Heather's father, **Dale Robert Schmudlach**, on January 13th.

Sympathy to Jessica Sharp and family at the passing of her father, **Richard Carden**, on January 14th.

Sympathy to Ray Streeter and family at the passing of his mother, **Arnie Hutto Streeter**, on January 18th.

Sympathy to the Cheri Borkey and family at the passing of her husband, **Dennis Borkey**, who passed away on January 19th.

(Continued from page 1)

"We continued to treat him until roughly... two hours in," said Alexander. "There was an ambulance that came almost the same time as the helicopter. At this point the vehicle is off the road and you couldn't just put wheels down and just slide it across the sand. So I grabbed both back ends of the spinal board and ran across the road to the ambulance. They were just trying to get him to the hospital the fastest way possible. All-in-all for two hours of this you're hoping you can get him out long before the two-hour mark."

As an infantry officer, Alexander has been in multiple trainings, a deployment and many trainings for combat casualty care, but according to him no amount of training can prepare you for this type of real life situation.

"I think reacting to something like that, you either do or you don't," said Alexander. "There's no Marines Hymn playing in the background as you run across the road; you just do something. You see that someone is in need. Once you've been stationed at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms for a couple years you've done your Vegas trips, you know where you're going to get your hair cut for the ball, you know where you're staying so it went from seeming so routine to all of a sudden every minute felt like 20, it just felt so different."

Four months prior to the car accident, Alexander suffered a traumatic brain injury himself. The injury could have killed him, if not treated appropriately. Through this experience, he understood the importance of immediate and proper care. In November 2019 he found the life of a man in his hands, treating injuries more closely related to his than he ever expected. The man likely had a traumatic brain injury, a severed leg, a punctured lung and multiple lacerations.

"I think Capt. Alexander's actions that day were absolutely incredible," said Major Micheal Dorsey, Commanding Officer, Recruiting Station Dallas, 8th Marine Corps District, Western Recruiting Region. "We expect our Marines, 24/7 on and off duty, to uphold our core values and he displayed those values that day. The action that he took as well as the other Marines that day, takes a lot of courage."

Alexander was never told which hospital the driver was taken to or about his recovery, but Alexander's selfless act, quick decision-making and Marine Corps training will likely never be forgotten.

For his actions, initiative and compassion toward a civilian in need, Captain Alexander was presented the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal during a ceremony held at the Veteran's Memorial Park in McKinney, Texas on December 11, 2020.



 **Fresh Hope for Mental Health**
Tuesdays, 7-8:30pm
Now Meeting Virtually

Fresh Hope is a peer-led, confidential support group for those with a mental health diagnosis and their loved ones. Message our confidential email to receive specific online information/directions.

freshhope@fairmountcc.org



January 18, 2021

Church Communication on COVID-19

Several months ago, we welcomed our church family back to our building to worship together. We have taken every step to provide a safe and welcoming environment for each of you according to COVID-19 guidelines. Thank you for your flexibility during these unprecedented times. Fairmount members and guests have had many questions that we attempted to answer to the best of our ability. We hope and pray this message will provide even further explanation.

In navigating the complexities of the pandemic and in reopening church services, we have continued to emphasize our safety protocols, including mask wearing, hand sanitizing, and promoting social distancing, along with other precautionary measures. Relying on one phrase: Thank you for your flexibility and understanding during these unprecedented times.

We are challenged with COVID-19 here in Hanover, Virginia and throughout the entire world. There was no true playbook or precedent to follow in the midst of these uncertain times. Like many of our local churches, schools, businesses, and other organizations, we review statistical data and other pandemic information offered through the CDC, Virginia Department of Health, and the office of the Governor. The elder leadership team meets weekly to pray and discern through this information on how to make the very best decisions possible to help safeguard our church family and to maintain the integrity of worship.

As of January 14, 2021, U.S. cases surpassed 200,000 per day for eight days in a row. Just this past week, there were more than 4,300 deaths in one day. Hanover county is currently experiencing a severe outbreak. We as a church need to continue necessary precautions to avoid exposure.

We are aware of approximately 50 reported COVID cases among our church family since March, none of which have been traced back to activities of the church. Praise God there have been no new reported cases in the last two weeks. We must continue to remain diligent and follow the recommendations of our health professionals.

Again, we emphasize the importance in following the safety procedures instituted as we come together, serving our Lord and Savior when attending Sunday morning worship services and Bible School. Please continue to wear masks the entire time while in the building and make every effort to maintain a six-foot space between you and others. We have free masks available for those who need one.

Couples and family units are more than welcome to sit together. In both the sanctuary and worship center, we have blocked off every other row and ask that you leave at least 3 empty seats between you and members of other households. There are multiple hand-sanitizing stations throughout the building. Please pick up your individual communion sets as you enter the building. You may also deposit your offering at the designated offering boxes. Whether in the sanctuary or the worship center, our ushers are available to help you where needed.

We continue to emphasize that members are safer at home and should not feel obligated to return to in-person worship before you feel ready to do so. We have provided online viewing for the 9 am Contemporary, 10:15 am Traditional and the 11:15 am Modern services. If you feel sick, are sick, have health conditions or are high risk, we encouraged you to stay home and join us online.

Also, we want to let you know that the church is professionally cleaned and disinfected each week and surfaces are sanitized between all services to include Bible School. Doors are purposely propped open to allow for improved air flow and a contact free atmosphere. Every Friday there is an Electrostatic disinfection, enhanced spray/wipe cleaning completed, that includes enhanced touch point cleaning during the day with focused day porter services.

Finally, this pandemic will have far-reaching and long-lasting effects on all of us. We all will continue to move forward with faith as we press on through this challenging time. Collectively we can help combat this pandemic, that is taking the lives of so many, by following the safety procedures and protocols we have put in place. We realize that caring for others means that we need to also care for ourselves. It is imperative for us to be mindful of our own health and those of our neighbor's. 1 John 4:21, says, "And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister."

We sincerely thank each of you for your continued prayers and support and for doing whatever is necessary toward keeping each other safe and healthy during these challenging times with COVID-19. Know that all that is being done by the leadership here at Fairmount is being done in a spirit of love.

Church Leadership Team

FAIRMOUNT KIDS

Ashley Sears, Children's Director
 asars@fairmountchristian.org | 804-396-8633
 Amber Grubbs, Early Childhood Director
 agrubbs@fairmountchristian.org | 804-316-8779



A Note from our Youth Minister

Looking back at our year in Youth Ministry, there have been many obstacles, but also so many blessings. When we get caught up in the changes and the things we can't do, we often miss the beauty and the power of Christ working despite those challenges.

With COVID restrictions, we have had to change much of the way we fellowship and worship Christ together. We've made use of Zoom and other online resources to study the Word, play games, and socialize. We've learned to have intentional and meaningful time together amid social distancing and masks.

The year has also brought many blessings. Personally, I have seen our youth group grow closer throughout this time of testing. Our students are strengthening relationships during their small group discussions on Sunday mornings as they are learning to value confiding in Christian brothers and sisters for support and encouragement. We have also been blessed to consistently welcome new teens into our ministry. Perhaps best of all, we have stood alongside our friends as they have given their lives to Christ through baptism.

Christ is alive and He is working, just as always.

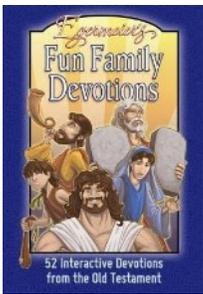
It has been a blessing to me to serve Christ in this ministry throughout this past year, and I'm so excited to see where the new year takes us!

Davis



Children's Worship Souper Bowl Sunday Challenge - February 7th

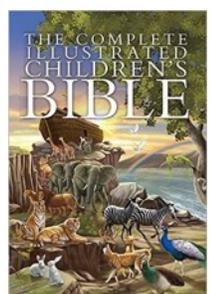
Bring cans of soup to be donated to MCEF to help families in our community. Collection bins labeled "Boys" and "Girls" will be in the Check-In area. Wear your favorite team's jersey!



Family Devotion Resource: The vision of Fairmount's Children's Ministry is to partner with families to grow kids who Know God, Show Love, and Go Serve. Join Miss Ashley in spending time in God's Word as a family using **Egermeier's Fun Family Devotions from the Old Testament**. The devotional

includes 52 devotions. You can do one a week for the year or carve out more time in your week and do as many as you'd like! Each devotion includes background info for the adults, some discussion questions and talking points, and an activity for preschoolers and elementary kids. We encourage you to spend time weekly in God's Word as a family. **Copies of this book are available for purchase at Check-In at our purchase price of \$10 (while supplies last).** While this devotional uses Egermeier's Bible Story Book as a reference, you can use your regular Bible as well.

Also available from Check-In is **The Complete Illustrated Children's Bible**. The beautiful artwork in this Bible will capture the attention of your preschooler or young elementary child as you spend time reading this picture Bible together. **Copies are available for purchase at Check-In at our price of \$11 (while supplies last).**



ATTENDANCE & GIVING		12/20	12/27	01/03	01/10	01/17
8:00	Traditional Worship:	62	53	60	60	55
9:00	Contemporary Worship:	155	114	125	128	147
	Online Views:	192	146	201	160	177
10:15	Traditional Worship:	63	51	69	65	80
	Online Views:	105	117	98	109	98
11:15	Modern Worship:	181	155	152	200	218
	Children's Worship:	47	41	48	69	68
	Online Views:	63	66	76	49	72
	Total:	868	789	829	840	915
	Bible School:	241	241	218	250	262
	Budget Requirements:	\$49,127	\$49,127	\$49,127	\$49,127	\$49,127
	Budget Receipts:	\$107,277	\$93,170	\$28,724	\$26,421	\$42,420



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fairmountcc.org

PLEASE

Masks are available at both entrances. Hand Sanitizer is available throughout the building.

Wear a Face Covering

For Your Safety and the Safety of Others



VDH VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

SERMON SERIES

ARISE



WORSHIP LINEUP

8:00 – Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
 9:00* – Contemporary Worship in the Worship Center
 Adult Bible School Class Offerings
 10:00 - FCYM CONNECTION (MS & HS Bible School)

10:15* – Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
 Adult & Children's Bible School Class Offerings
 11:15* – Modern Worship in the Worship Center
 Children's Worship Program

* Worship service live-streamed at fairmountcc.org.

We are practicing social distancing and following the governor's mask mandate. Please bring and wear your mask or pick one up near either entrance.

Register each week for Worship and Bible School at fccsignups.info/Worship.