

# The Messenger

March 2, 2016



## Moment's Reflection

*"Before I built a wall I'd ask to know,  
What I was walling in or walling out,  
And to whom I was like to give offence.*

*Something there is that doesn't love a wall . . ."* Robert Frost, Mending Wall

I know it's serious business. I'm talking about fences. I have a fence. And the Pope, long before he was ever born; long before he scorned some of our politicians for their intentions to build a wall between here and there, he should have known: there's a wall that surrounds his home, too. I wonder if he has as much to protect as everyone else who builds a fence?



Some of my neighbors have electronic fences that open and close when they come and go. I know. Sometimes I've had to wait while they open and close their gates. I can see them watching me through their rear view mirrors. No worries. I'm one of your neighbors. Remember me? I come in peace.

Now it seems as if fences are germinating like a patch of broad-leaf weeds. One of the neighbors with an electronic gate built his fence up to the rafters. And the urban farmer whose burros I used to admire? He's built a 12-foot fence. I still love the burros, but I can't see them or feed them anymore.

And now one of the churches where I live has built a fence. First they bought the open land I used to let my dog run on. We used to play Frisbee out there. I'd throw. She'd run and catch. But then they put up a temporary fence and put up signs that said, "Private property. No trespassing." And now, they've put up an even bigger fence. They've even put big rocks in front the fence. And planted bushes that in years to come will grow high enough to hide our view of them. I guess they don't want us to violate their privacy.

But there's hope. There's another church in the neighborhood. They have tent meetings. And carnivals. And when the tornado hit they had a temporary assistance building that opened to a busy street. They have a playground. And a soccer field. And an open barbecue. And two basketball goals. They've planted some trees and bushes and lovely flowers. But they haven't built any fences.

On my way home this week I got to thinking: "If I didn't already have a church home. If I were just moving into the neighborhood and looking for a place to worship, I think I'd probably want to go to their church. The people aren't like me. I'm sure a lot of them speak a different language. But the open space on which they've placed their sanctuary speaks more of Christ to me than the pretty stained glass windows at the other church." **-Dan**

# OUR ELDERS

In the next few editions of *The Messenger*, we will feature bios and photos of our Elders.



## Sharon Campbell

*I was born and raised in the Chicago suburbs. I met my husband, Al, in Albuquerque, NM in 1975. In December, 1978 we moved to Garland, Texas. I consider Garland my hometown. In 2005, Al and I renewed our wedding vows after 30 years of marriage here at First Christian Church.*

*We have one daughter, Jentre, and three grandchildren, Katland, Chase and James.*

*I worked for Chase Bank for 22 years before retiring in 2010. I joined First Christian on November 2, 1989 and have been very active in the Church since becoming a member.*



## Judy Ross

*I was born and raised in a Christian home in Jackson, Michigan. I was always involved in the local church and majored in Christian Social Work at Philadelphia College of Bible (now Cairn University). After graduating, I worked as the Program Director at Youth Haven Ranch, a Christian camp in southern Michigan serving high needs children, and as a volunteer leader with Pioneer Girls at my local church. Later, I worked as a caseworker for Dallas County MHMR, before choosing to stay home with my young children for a few years.*

*I began substitute teaching in the Dallas schools in 1987, and eventually became a certified elementary teacher in both Texas and Michigan. I received my M.Ed. from Grand Valley State University in 2000. Since retiring in 2013, I regularly substitute in the Garland ISD. I enjoy using my gifts in the local church, especially in women's, children's, and music ministries. In addition to being active in our church's Disciples Women Ministry, I also serve on the North Texas Area Disciples Women Executive Board. In my free time, I enjoy reading, spending time with family and friends, and sewing.*

*I am married to Larry Ross, and we have three grown children and six grandchildren, ages 3-7. Being a grandma is one of my greatest joys!*

## Week of Compassion Special Offering Collected . . .

The past two weeks, February 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, we highlighted the incredible ministry of the Week of Compassion and collected a special offering. Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. It seeks to equip and empower disciples to alleviate the suffering of others through disaster response, humanitarian aid, sustainable development and the promotion of mission opportunities.

**Thank-You** for your contribution! **We raised \$5,491** that will be donated to be used for the ministries of Week of Compassion.

If you missed the chance to donate, don't worry! You can still send your donations in to the church office or at [www.weekofcompassion.org](http://www.weekofcompassion.org).

## *HOLY WEEK SERVICES*

*Palm Sunday  
Procession of Palm Branches  
Sunday, March 20th at 9:00am  
and*

*Easter Egg Journey  
and Easter Lunch at 11:30am*

*Maundy Thursday Service  
Agape Feast  
Thursday, March 24th at 7:00pm*

*Good Friday Prayer Service  
Friday, March 25th at Noon*



*Sunday, March 27th  
Service of Worship at 9:00am  
Sunday School at 10:15am*

# EASTER SERVICE





## *DWM March Circle Meetings*

*Morning Circle, Monday, March 7th at 9:30am*

*Evening Circle, Tuesday, March 8th at 6:45pm*

(childcare available at Evening Circle)



**Garland ISD Spring Break is next week—March 7-11**

NO Chancel Choir Practice,  
NO Handbell Choir Practice,  
NO Wednesday evening youth activities, and NO Lenten Series Class during Spring Break.

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS Sunday, March 13th**

Set your clocks forward one hour.



## **EASTER LILIES**

**Order forms for Easter Lilies will be available this Sunday, March 6th as a Bulletin insert, in Fellowship Hall and in the Church Office. Cost is \$17 per plant. Deadline for ordering is Sunday, March 20th.**

## **MEN'S BREAKFAST**

**Saturday, March 19th at 8:00am**  
Don Smith will be the guest speaker, and will talk about the Christian Senior Helpers ministry.

## **NOTES** from Dr. Dan Jones

**John Dacon**, Sheri and Eric's son, made his confession of faith Sunday, February 28 and will be baptized Easter Sunday. We celebrate with John and his family!

Please note that I am planning to teach Pastors Class curriculum to our Chi Rho Sunday school class on Sunday's, March 13 and 20. Unless the office hears of another need, this will be the only Pastors Class offering this year.

I will be away from the church for a continuing education seminar next week, March 7-11, with limited access to voice-mail and e-mail. Please call the Pastoral Concerns Line (**469.573.1717**) if you have an immediate pastoral need.



**JOIN US** For our final Youth Fundraiser of the year!

**BINGO LUNCH** on Sunday, April 3rd, 11:30am in Fellowship Hall

*\$5 per Card and \$6 per meal; \$20 per family*



*From Pastor Allison . . .*

My friends, even as I write this article, I am still processing the amazing conference I went to yesterday called Windows to Hope: Equipping Faith Leaders to Recognize and Help Youth with Mental Health Issues. I spent the day learning about some of the struggles our teens face and how we can be prepared to walk beside them when life gets hard. One of the sessions opened up with the following quote by Dr. Matthew Stanford, “Our churches should be sanctuaries for the suffering. The first step toward developing an environment that promotes hope and healing in those living with mental illness is to break the silence; brought into the light, stigma quickly dies.” The statistics on mental health tell us that even if you don’t live with a mental health issue, there is a high probability the person sitting in the pew next to you might. In the weeks to come, I hope to be able to share with you more of the specifics I learned yesterday. Today, I will leave you with the following memory aid for when you think someone might need help with their mental health:

**TAG – Take it Seriously, Ask Questions, and Get Help.**

Let us covenant together to break the silence around mental health and promote an inclusive community where all are welcomed for who they are.

**PASTORAL CONCERNS PHONE NUMBER**

**469-573-1717**

A dedicated phone number for use in contacting a minister with your pastoral concerns.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**Disciples Women’s Ministry SPUD LUNCH**

Sunday, April 17, after Sunday School, in Fellowship Hall



Join us on a journey through Lent as we prepare our hearts and minds for Easter by studying the last week of Jesus’ life. The adult class will be led by Dr. Dan Jones and Rev. Casey Tanguay. The youth class (6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade) will be led by Rev. Allison Drake. Childcare will be available for younger children

**“Finals Week: The Last Week of Jesus”**

- March 2                      Wednesday & Thursday: A Spy is Born and a Final Meal is Shared
- March 9                      **NO Class: Spring Break**
- March 16                     Good Friday & Silent Saturday: Cries of Anguish to Dead Silence

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

Circle of Fellowship

Bill Fowler  
Erlinda Martinez

Cup of Life

Marty Rogers  
Richard Rogers

Fishers of Families

Dorothy Davis  
Rachel Scruggs

Hands of Faith

Bobbie Caldwell

The Grapevine

Joyce Witt Boyd

**FUSION: a merging of spirituality into real everyday life.**  
**FUSION WILL NOT MEET during Lent (month of March)**

**Mark Your Calendars**

**MARY MCDONALD COMING TO FCCG  
ON APRIL 24th**

Mary McDonald is well known in sacred music. With a career that spans over thirty-five years, her songs appear in the catalogs of every major publisher of church music. More than eight hundred anthems, seasonal musicals and keyboard collections testify to her significant contribution to sacred literature.



**HOMEBOUNDED COMMUNION** is served on the first Sunday of each month by an Elder. If you would like to be served, please contact the Church Office.

**MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)**

Our MOPS group meets from 5:00pm-7:00pm, usually on the second and fourth Sundays most months. Next MOPS meeting is Sunday, March 6th. No other meetings in March. Always feel free to refer a mommy friend!



**BUY A BRICK**

Contact  
Kathleen Yant;  
[kyant1@aol.com](mailto:kyant1@aol.com),  
972.496.0534 or  
Eva McKannan,  
[patevamck@verizon.net](mailto:patevamck@verizon.net);  
972.414.1737



**CHANCEL CHOIR** rehearsals are held on Wednesday evenings at 7pm. Contact Stan McGill if you are interested in joining.

**CHILDREN'S CHOIRS** rehearsals are held on Sunday Evenings — **Youth Choir** (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade and up) meets from 4:00pm-5:00pm. **Children's Choir** (4 yrs old through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade) meets from 5:30pm-7pm. Contact Tammy Holcomb for more information.

**HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSALS** are held on Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm. Contact Virginia McBee for more information.

