

# The Messenger

March 16, 2016



## Moment's Reflection

*"Go stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by."* -1 Kings 19:11

I've been reading Mary Pipher's memoir, *Seeking Peace*. Like most adult children, Pipher recounts the ways her parents failed. Yet towards the end, Pipher begins to look at her life story critically and ask: "Given what's happened to me in my life journey, what do I need to do to heal?" This is where her reflections offer the broadest application.



Pipher acknowledges that she's spent the greatest portion of her childhood and adult life trying to control life--spent inordinate time ruminating and rehearsing. She "over-functioned" as mental health experts might say. And for most of her life, this approach worked. Until it didn't. Largely because of the success of her publishing career and the incessant demands of promotion, Pipher experiences what she calls a "meltdown."

How she heals from that period of meltdown touches on spiritual wisdom. Pipher heals from this broken place by practicing mindfulness—a discipline of being in the moment, practicing something as simple as attending to the rhythm of her own breathing. Pipher writes: *"At first, meditation made me conscious of how infrequently I inhabited the present moment. I was mostly lost in my usual obsessions and ruminations. While I was hoping for a better moment, I missed the one I was in. I once read a bumper sticker that proclaimed: 'Having a Good Time. Wish I Were Here.' That could have been coined for me."*

Elijah lived in the toxic clutter of such preoccupation, too. Caught up in the frenzied movement of his vocation, Elijah had his own "meltdown." Then God begins to heal him. Elijah is instructed to come out of his hiding place, stand on the mountain and attend carefully for signs of God's coming. At first Elijah hears a great wind. But that's not God. Then Elijah feels the rumble of an earthquake. But God isn't in the rumble of the earth. Then, the heat of a raging fire. But God isn't there, either. Finally, there's a moment of sheer silence. This is the sign of God's presence.

Look at the picture in this week's article. It's not the people in the picture that fascinate me. It's the person behind the camera. Renowned photographer, Walter looss, Jr. snapped this photo of a moment in Super Bowl IV (January 11, 1970). looss reflects on the picture in a recent *Sports Illustrated* expose on "50 Years of Super Bowl Photos":

*"Hank Stram's and quarterback Len Dawson's hands about to meet, congratulating each other on the victory—it's sort of perfect. You really get a feel for the stadium and the moment. Even Robert Holmes—his body and hand reaching in—leads you right into Stram's and Dawson's hands. All the pictures come down to about five-hundredths of a second. If their hands clasped, it was already over. And if Dawson were a half step farther to the center of the field, it wouldn't be interesting."*

That phrase. All the pictures come down to a fraction of a second. And then they're gone. Think about that. How many moments have we already missed? **-Dan**

## *HOLY WEEK SERVICES*

*Palm Sunday*

*Procession of Palm Branches*

*Sunday, March 20th at 9:00am*

*and*

*Palm Sunday Lunch at 11:20am*

*and*

*Easter Egg Journey at 11:40am*

*Maundy Thursday Service*

*Agape Feast*

*Thursday, March 24th at 7:00pm*

[Childcare available; Parents may either feed their child beforehand, or send a snack supper for their child to eat in the nursery area]

*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



# OUR ELDERS

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



## Russ Lyons

*I am a retired senior and a long-time member of FCCG. My first wife, Barbara, and I enjoyed the spiritual growth and fellowship at First Christian until her passing in 1981, and I served as a Deacon.*

*In 1982, I met Eloise and we were married in January, 1983. Our ceremony was performed by the Rev. Don McKenzie at Northway Christian Church in Dallas.*

*We joined FCCG in 2011 while Eloise was in a Rowlett nursing home. Eloise passed away in 2013. I am in my third year as an Elder; I enjoy being a Greeter, and, I am active in the Church Fellowship Ministry.*



## Melody Biffle

*My husband, Keith, and I joined FCC Garland in January, 1989. Our son, Bryce, was born in December, 2009 and is currently a graduate student at Texas Tech University. We are thankful for the 27 years of love, support and friendships we've found at FCC Garland.*

*I have served as Deacon, Education Chair and two terms as Elder and Elder Chair. I enjoy singing in the choir and playing hand bells along with Keith. I am a Client Relationship Manager at JPMorgan Chase and I greatly appreciate the House Management skills of Keith, who is retired. We are reveling in the Empty Nest and love to travel and The Arts.*

*Jesus teaches us to be different. Choose to love. Be kind. Always do the right thing. Study God's Word.*

## Registration for the Outreach Ministry Fundraiser

### 5K WALK / RUN

begins April 3, in Fellowship Hall.

**WALK / RUN** wherever you want during the month of May—the gym, the treadmill, your neighborhood, around the church—you get the idea!

**Registration Fee is \$20 per person and \$50 per family; t-shirts will be available.**

[Benefits Missions/Week of Compassion]



**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*



**Youth  
BAKE SALE**

**Easter Sunday  
in Fellowship Hall**

**[Proceeds Benefit Youth Missions]**

**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 16

Good Friday & Silent Saturday: Cries of Anguish to Dead Silence

**PASTORAL CONCERNS PHONE NUMBER**

**469-573-1717**

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

**EASTER LILIES**

Order forms for Easter Lilies are available 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.

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

**Circle of Fellowship**

Erlinda Martinez

**Cup of Life**

Marty Rogers

Richard Rogers

**Fishers of Families**

Dorothy Davis

Billy Hodge

Rachel Scruggs

**Hands of Faith**

Bobbie Caldwell

Gary Carrolll

**The Grapevine**

Judi Archibald

Joyce Witt Boyd

**FUSION:** *a merging of spirituality into real everyday life*

**FUSION WILL NOT MEET** during the month of March

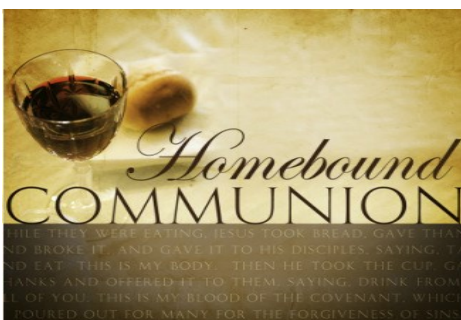
**Mark Your Calendars**

**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.



**HOMEBOUND 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, April 10th.**



**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.

# *The Messenger*



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