

The Messenger

April 20 2016



Mary McDonald Program—Rehearsal Schedule for Saturday, April 23, 2016

10:30am—Mary McDonald rehearses with Debbie Youngkin, Sheri Dacon and Stan McGill (Sanctuary)

11:15am—Luncheon for Mary McDonald, Chancel Choir, Instrumentalists, and Ministers (Fellowship Hall)

Noon-3:00pm—Rehearsal with Mary McDonald, Chancel Choir, and Instrumentalists (Sanctuary)



FCCG Presents *“Then Sings My Soul”*

The Music of *Mary McDonald*

Sunday, April 24th, 9am

FCCG is pleased to present the music of Mary McDonald. This program is part of a concert series funded by and in memory of long-time FCCG members *Harold and Marth Rusk*, to continue their love of art and music and bring special sacred music to FCCG. Instrumentalists from FCCG will be joined by other special instrumentalists.

Join us for a morning of beautiful music glorifying the Lord. Invite others to join us for this special program.

After the program, there will be a reception in Fellowship Hall and a meet and greet with Mary.



A message about Sunday School Classes on April 24th

Sunday school classes for youth, cradle to high school, will meet as usual.

However, as worship will run longer this Sunday, and a full reception is scheduled post-worship, adult Sunday school classes may want to plan for a shorter Sunday school class lesson, if you decide to meet.

-Dan

MOMENT'S REFLECTION

"Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change . . . God is in the midst of the city."

-Psalm 46:2, 5



I am so thankful for a family of new neighbors where Jenny and I live. I loved the couple who lived next door—David and Mary. They were a sweet couple. And I loved their dog, Frosty. Our dog, and their dog, used to fight over supremacy. And though our dog is much larger, Frosty was tons more formidable. But Mary died suddenly over a year ago. And much as I cared for David, it pained me to see him walk in a lonely way around the block with his beloved dog.

He asked me once what I thought he should do: "Should I stay in the house or move?" I never knew what to tell him. Jenny had the greater wisdom. She said, "It's something only you'll know what to do." This spring, a few weeks before Easter, David's family from Indiana came and helped him move to a new home. I think it was the right thing to do.

Now we have some new neighbors. I was skeptical at first. There are more cars parked out front than people. They're high horsepower Mustangs. And sometimes late at night, I can hear them revving up their engines.

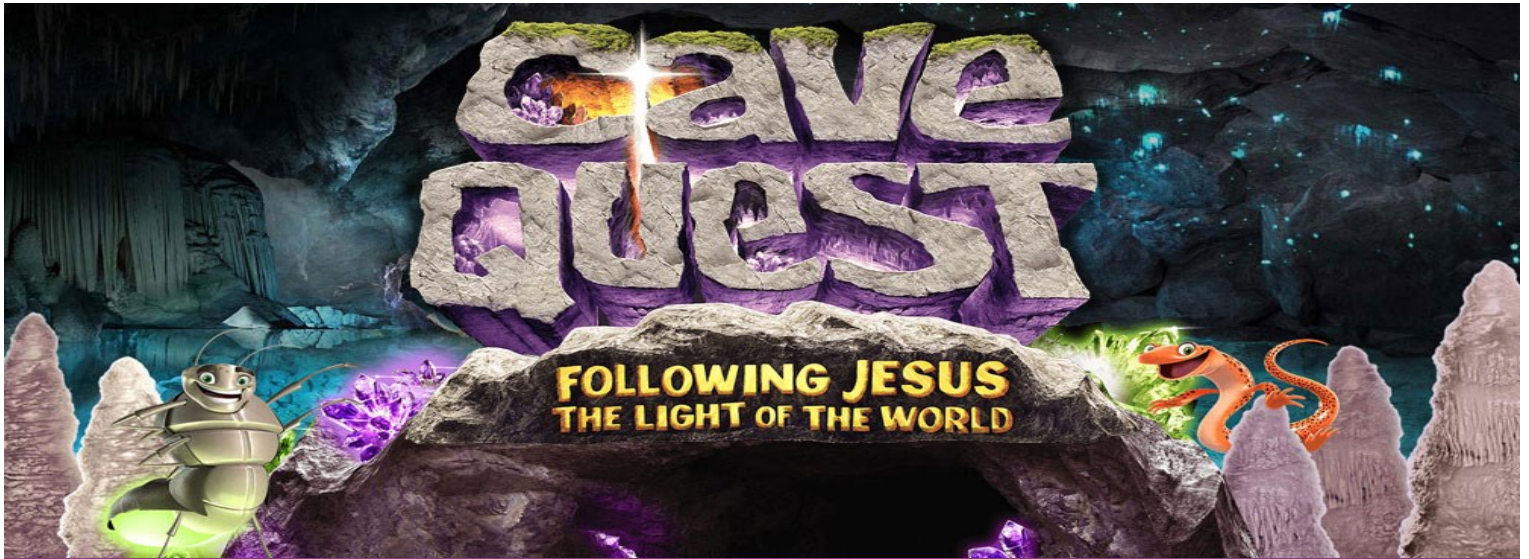
But as spring comes along, and the weather heats up, I've discovered an unexpected gift. My new neighbors have kids. And those kids fill the neighborhood with the sounds of laughter. I can hear them splashing around in their backyard pool. I can't tell you how much their sounds of laughter and life gladden me.

I was going through some records yesterday. Binders and binders of memorial services dating back to the first month I became your minister. I counted 98 funeral services. That doesn't count all the gravesides, and services I've done for folk who are not members of the church.

Some of you are kind to tell me that I officiate memorial services well. Some of you have even told me what you want me to say at your memorial services. I appreciate that. I figure I must be pretty good at it. I've had way too much practice. Yet as important as such occasions are, sometimes the cumulative burden of all our church's losses overwhelms me. Sometimes over the last 15 years it feels like I've attended to more Good Friday occasions than Easter mornings.

Part of the reason I feel these losses so acutely is that I've lived in Garland more than any other place in my whole life. It makes sense that the longer you live in one place, the more change you'll experience. But lately I become aware of a deep spiritual need in my life. Rather than focusing on broken and dying things, I feel that God is calling me to celebrate what is life-giving around me. And so the children, in the pool, laughing. I need to listen for and pay attention to them. As my church family I wondered if you'd help me listen for life, too.

-Dan, Eastertide 2016



VBS 2016

June 19-23, 5 to 8pm daily

Ages 4 through 5th Grade

CAVE QUEST: An over-the-top underground adventure! We will sing, have fun, and learn more about following Jesus, the light of the world!

VBS Needs Your Empty 2-Liter Soda Bottles (there is a designated container in Fellowship Hall)



FCCG Nursery Needs a Changing Table

If you have one that is no longer being used, please consider donating it to the church nursery. Contact Stephanie Gordon.



MY FIRST BETHANY FELLOWS RETREAT

*"We have to remember that we look for solitude in order to grow there in love for God and in love for others., We do not go into the desert to escape people but to learn how to find them: we do not leave them in order to have nothing more to do with them, but to find out the way to do them the most good." —Thomas Merton, *Seeds of Contemplation**

Up to 40% of young clergy leave congregational ministry within their first 5 years due to loneliness, conflict, debt, burnout and isolation. That's a staggering number! This statistic and trend towards clergy burnout is one of the reasons that the Bethany Fellows program was started.

What is Bethany Fellows?

Bethany Fellows is a mentoring and spiritual leadership ministry for young clergy in their first four years of congregational service. It assists newly ordained pastors transition from seminary to sustained congregational ministry with a strong and healthy pastoral identity. Originally based on a grant through the generosity of the Lilly Endowment, this work has now been extended as an ongoing response to the need for bright, healthy and spiritually savvy clergy to meet the challenges of today's and tomorrow's church and building a cadre of leaders for the wider church as well.

Through a series of retreats, strategically scheduled every 6 months, a total of 8 retreats over 4 years (40 days!), Fellows build upon their seminary experience and theological education in prayer practices and spiritual disciplines, which sustain the soul for a life-time of parish life. Each retreat experience contains worship, solitude, and multiple learning components tailored to the emerging needs of their congregations. The retreat includes a site visit to cutting-edge congregations that stimulates fresh creativity for at-home ministry. Monthly coaching sessions hone their ability to read congregational systems, make appropriate interventions, sustain inner vision, and inspire those around them while discovering effective networking skills. You can learn more about Bethany at www.bethanyfellows.org.



I have been given the opportunity and privilege to become a Bethany Fellow in the Bethany Fellows Ecumenical program. I just returned from my first Bethany retreat that took place April 11-15th in Orlando, FL. Although I did not get to put my toes in the beachy sand or visit Mickey Mouse at Disneyworld, I did experience an incredible week. I was able to connect with other young clergy from across the country, spend time in inspiring worship, refuel through engaging spiritual disciplines, and learn from a local congregation who is engaging ministry in unique ways. My favorite and most challenging time of the week was by-far the 24 hour of silence. (Yes, complete silence for 24hrs!) This space of silence enabled me to breathe freely, be fully attentive to God and receive the gifts of rest and renewal. Just ask if you want to hear more! I'd love to share! I look forward to my next retreat in September in Kansas City.

An area of the retreat center that I spent a great deal of time in meditation and prayer. Ask about the DeeDee bear adventures.

—Rev. Casey



Families & Professionals **RANGER GAME OUTING**

Texas Rangers vs. Los Angeles Angels on Saturday, April 30th; 7:05pm First Pitch

DWM FCCG GENERAL MEETING—LUNCHEON

May 14, 10:00am—at FCCG; sign-in begins at 9:30am
Outgoing Officer Recognition and Installation of Incoming Officers

~Please bring a salad to share~

Registration is open in Fellowship Hall on Sundays
for the Outreach Ministry Fundraiser

5K WALK / RUN

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]

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A group will gather on Sunday, May 15th after Sunday School (~ 11:30am) to walk/run the 5K around the city together. Bring a change of clothes and join us for some casual exercise for a good cause. Register with Outreach and buy a t-shirt.

CHRISTIAN SENIOR HELPERS MINISTRY PROJECT



Join us for Christian Senior Helpers' next project, scheduled for Saturday, April 30th. We will continue to help a disabled VET clean up and repair his home. We will be working inside and outside on this ongoing project. Contact Don Smith at dray52@verizon.net for more information.



There will be a brief **BOARD MEETING** to validate the lease of the Activity Center on **Sunday, 4/24**, immediately after worship (in the Sanctuary).

If you have a **2016 graduating high school senior** in your family, please contact the church office.



Are you interested in finding new ways to support our youth? Are you looking for fun outings or new things to experience? We have the perfect opportunity for you! The youth are going to share their activities (sporting events, concert, plays, etc.) with Pastor Allison at least two weeks in advance so we can publish them in the newsletter. We encourage all congregation members to try and attend at least one youth event throughout the year as a way to show your love and support. What better way to foster Christian community than by our youth being able to look out into the crowd and see someone from church there to support them?

Upcoming: Soccer

- Saturday, April 23rd at 2:15pm – RYSA Field 4 – Charlie Houston
- Saturday, April 30th at 9:30am – RYSA Field E – JuJu Houston
- Saturday, April 30th at 11:45am – RYSA Field 5 – Charlie Houston

PRAYER REQUESTS

Circle of Fellowship

Marilyn Fowler

Cup of Life

Jack Barger
Marty Rogers

Fishers of Families

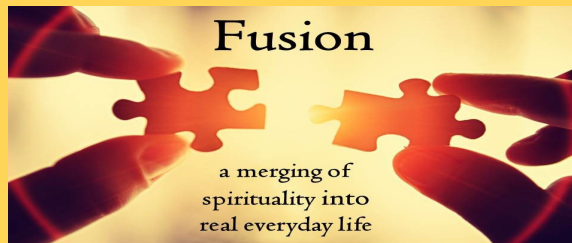
Gail Greene
Rachel Scruggs
Mike Whalin

Hands of Faith

Gary Carroll

The Grapevine

Judi Archibald
Terry Barnes
Joyce Witt Boyd

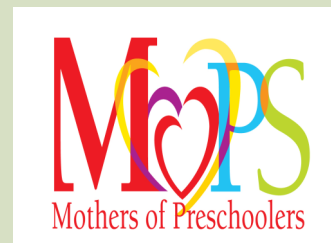


Fusion GALS

will meet this evening, Wednesday, April 20th, 7:00-9:00pm at the church; *Breaking Free* study

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 24th.**



Some time ago, a **Sony laptop was found in the church office.** The name **"Debra Copley"** appears when the laptop is turned on. Please contact the church office if you have any information about the owner of this laptop.

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.

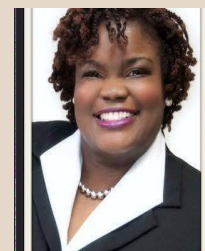
BUY A BRICK

Contact Kathleen Yant;
kyant1@aol.com, 972.496.0534 or
Eva McKannan,
patevamck@verizon.net;
972.414.1737

NORTH TEXAS AREA ASSEMBLY

Keynote Speaker **REV. VIRZOLA LAW**
Senior Minister, Lindenwood Christian Church in Memphis, TX

Sunday, May 1, 2016 at 3:00pm at East Dallas Christian Church
629 N. Peak
Dallas, TX



**PASTORAL CONCERNS
PHONE NUMBER
469-573-1717**

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



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** (3rd Grade and up) meets from 4:00pm-5:00pm. **Children's Choir** (4 yrs old through 2nd 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.

First Christian Church
115 South Glenbrook Drive
Garland, Texas, 75040

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