

# The Messenger

July 27, 2016



## Moment's Reflection

*“ . . . the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.”* -Habakkuk 2:14



I can't believe how elementally grounded our days were in Ocean City. Jenny and I actually planned our days around the rising of the sun, and its setting. Low tide. High tide. Water. Wind. Tide pools. Rocks. Walking. Eating. Breathing.

There was actually a place along the town's main drag that said as much, "Remember to breathe." In this Bohemian enclave where surfing is a religion, it probably wasn't meant to be anything spiritual. Still, remember to breathe, because when we got there, having packed frantically for a whole day, navigated the pre-flight rush, de-boarded, rented the car, got directions, drove there, lugged suitcases up a flight of stairs, unpacked, we hadn't remembered to breathe. Not consciously.

I used to think that vacations were optional. And I suppose in some instances they are. When you're fighting for mere survival, you can't take time or limited resources to leave home. And in this sense, I feel blessed. But in a deeper way, emotionally, spiritually, time away isn't optional at all.

The over-attending boarding clerk said our carry-on luggage was too thick and that we'd have to check our bags. And that was probably my first clue that it really was time to get away. I tend to take too much when I don't stop to think about what I really need for the journey. Then again, luggage isn't just the clothes you wear. It's every extraneous, excessive or thickening thing you've accumulated through the year getting to vacation—all the unnecessary stuff that, as the clerk said, exceeded the limits.

Baggage like that is harder to let go. For me, at least, it takes a week's worth of days to slowly extricate it from the soul. It means learning to pay attention to feelings that have been so deeply buried that you're no longer aware of their effect on you. It means slowing down enough to realize that you really are tired, that when you give your mind a chance to catch its breath, the body knows what to do. It means regaining a capacity to listen for God because for the first time in as many days as you can remember, you're not listening to yourself. Then, gradually the load lightens, until one early morning, you're standing a few steps from a cliff overlooking the ebb and flow of the ocean water, listening to the seagulls sing their morning song, holding a cup of coffee and smiling for no other reason than to take note that you are breathing.

And this is grace. To remember to breathe. To stand there like some ancient ancestor and behold the sun in the sky, rising and setting; water, rocks, birds, wind. **-Dan**

## OUR IMMEDIATE NEEDS

### PASTOR'S EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND

Dear Member, through the years as your senior minister, I have always deeply appreciated the generous ways that you have gifted the Emergency Assistance Fund.

I could tell you many stories of how the monies that you gave have helped folk in our community through some difficult times.

**The Emergency Assistance Fund is now running very low—close to \$200.**

It needs a healthy dose of your generous giving so that your ministerial staff can continue to provide timely assistance.

I want to assure you that I regard the gifts you give to this Fund as a sacred trust.

I always consider the prudent and reasonable use of those funds. I always give in ways that preserve the receiver's dignity while realizing that there are some times in life when, for a variety of reasons, a person simply does not have the resources to meet an essential life-need circumstance.

My colleagues share this same conviction. Thank you for giving to help us continue helping others in need.

Please be sure to earmark your gifts, "Emergency Assistance Fund."

### Youth and Families & Professionals

## Night at the Drive-In \* Aug 19th

Meet at the church at 6:45pm to carpool; bring food to share.

**\$7/Adult and \$3/Kid**



## CHURCH LIBRARY

**CHECK OUT** the many offerings in the FCCG library. In late August, FCCG member **Sandra Stofan** will begin overseeing the library. Sandra may be contacted at [sstofan@yahoo.com](mailto:ssstofan@yahoo.com). Please return any church library books you are no longer using, and if you have Christian-based books to donate, please bring them to the church office. Thank you.

### NTA-DWM GENERAL GATHERING

(hosted by FCCG DWM)

Saturday, August 6th (Fellowship Hall)

Registration at 10am; Program Begins at 10:30am Lunch \$7

### FCCG DWM KICK-OFF MEETING

Saturday, August 27th, 10am at FCCG

*\*Contact Cindy Kyle about childcare\**



# SNEAKER SUNDAY

## JULY 31st

**Adult Sunday School Classes** may compete by collecting sneakers of all sizes.

**Children and Youth Sunday School Classes** may compete by collecting socks and underwear (all sizes).

These donations will be given to children in need through the *Salvation Army* and *New Beginnings*.

The winning Sunday School Class will be treated to a special breakfast.



# ELDERS

Leading. Shepherding. Teaching.

*Kristen Nowlin*



I have been a member of FCC Garland since childhood, when I joined with my parents, Pat and Harry, and sister, April. My husband, Bruce, and I attend the Apostles class. Our daughter, Daisy, is an active member in Chi Rho youth group, as well as the Youth Choir.

I teach Spanish at Rick Reedy High School in Frisco ISD. I currently serve as National Honor Society Adviser, and Student Spirit Committee Chair. I enjoy traveling, and spending time with my family and friends. I am in my second year as Elder, and consider it a great honor and privilege to serve the church in this capacity.

# PRAYER REQUESTS

Cup of Life

Monica Pesina & Ralph  
Pat Spradley

God's Messengers

Charles Terry  
Joanne Terry

The Grapevine

Joyce Witt Boyd

Fishers of Families

Mike Whalin

Shepherds

Lee MacDonald



**DUE TO SECURITY CONCERNS, the Avenue A door will remain locked during the worship service and Sunday school.** You may access the Avenue A door using the keypad (call the church office if you need the code for the keypad), or you may use the main Sanctuary doors on Glenbrook. Thank you.



**Special Called FCCG Board Meeting**

Sunday, August 7th at 11:30am in the Sanctuary.

## OPEN HOUSE

**Crusaders Sunday School Class OPEN HOUSE**

August 7th, during the Sunday School Hour

Join us for a "come and go" open house, and see our newly-remodeled classroom. Light refreshments will be served.



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