

The Messenger



September 7, 2016

Moment's Reflection

"The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness." -Exodus 16:2

Question. Read the passage from Exodus again and tell me which detail is more important to understanding the story.

A. Moses and Aaron are good leaders and the people are complaining?



B. The Israelites have just experienced a seismic change in their lives?

And the answer is? B. Despite Moses and Aaron's otherwise capable leadership, the people still complain, and on the surface of it, their complaining seems unwarranted. Whatever happened or didn't happen, couldn't have been so significant that "the whole congregation of Israelites" was compelled to rise up in arms.

But as I said, that's not the most important detail in the story. That they "complained" is interesting and noteworthy and probably deserving of attention. But the better question is "why?" And not only "why", but "why now?" And the answer? The Israelites are complaining now because no matter how glad they are to finally be free of Pharaoh, they've experienced a seismic change in their whole way of life. They've gone from city dwellers to wilderness wanderers, from flesh-pot eaters to manna-gatherers.

In his books on healthy congregations, Peter Steinke emphasizes the importance of "non-anxious presence." Non-anxious leaders, he says, have the capacity to stand in an anxious, changing moment and not be reactive. It's much harder than you think. Much as we laud our relative sophistication, we're still like our Neanderthal ancestors: we're wired for flight or fight responses. As leaders, for instance, in any venue of work or home, we're likely to react to a complaint in a fight or flight way, never taking the time to understand the meaning of another's predisposing feeling.

You already know this principle intuitively. You're on a crowded freeway during drive time, and the driver behind you swerves around you. You could take the move personally as a sign that the driver is making a judgment on your driving ability, or the car you're driving, or the fact that he's young and you're old. Or, you could remind yourself the more likely truth that his actions are indicative of his emotional/mental state of being.

As we gather Sunday to celebrate our church's 141st anniversary, it seems to me that our church is experiencing a lot of change. From Ray's retirement, to Allison's recent resignation. To the passing of many beloved members to the emergence of a younger generation with new needs, to a proposal to restructure our church's governance to dynamics in your personal life which have significantly restructured the way you live, we are, in some sense, a whole congregation of people in the wilderness. We'd be less than human if, in the midst of all these changes, we didn't spend some time complaining. Yet, the challenge is two-fold. To those who do the complaining, take a few minutes to take stock of what's happening in your life. To those who hear the complaining, resist the impulse to personalize and react. Take a few minutes to consider "why now?" **-Dan**

A Note from Judy Grasham, Board Chair

Reminder—the FCCG Cabinet and Board will meet on Monday, September 12th. The Cabinet will meet at 6:45pm in the Parlor, and the Board will meet at 7:30pm in the Sanctuary.



Ministry/Committee reports are due to the Board Secretary (Kathleen Yant) now, so they can be compiled and distributed in advance of Monday's meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS for the September 12th meeting are:

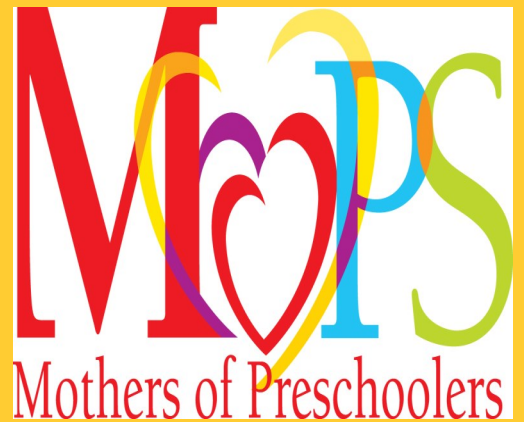
- 1) Finalize the member roster for the smaller board. At the last board meeting, we approved a
- 2) Approve the nominating committee for next year's board.
- 3) Approve a group to find/hire a new youth director. A preliminary job description (based on a previous search) has been sent to Brite University, but the board needs to be involved in the discussion concerning the scope of this position.
- 4) Mike Whalin has asked that the board consider authorizing use of the remaining van for in-town use by the youth group. This would be for IN-TOWN use only.
- 5) Discuss changing the church secretary position to reflect the work she has been doing since Ray Owen's retirement. We would like to increase her hours to 32 per week (up from 20) and make her eligible for benefits such as vacation, sick days and paid holidays. Currently, her work load is requiring overtime in order to complete required tasks.

If you have agenda items which need to be added to this list, please contact Judy Grasham via email at judygrasham@gmail.com, or via phone at [214-263-9414](tel:214-263-9414).

Families and Professionals Activities — Fall Kick-Offs

Did you know kids ask an average of 300 questions per day? We do too! Come chat with us about it at MOPS.

Mothers of Preschoolers is all about connecting with other moms who are in the same phase of life as you, building relationships and celebrating the gift of motherhood. MOPS is hosted at FCCG on Sunday evenings where dinner and childcare are provided. We meet for fellowship, discussion, speakers and crafts. MOPS is a place for real relationships, support and love. All moms are welcome to join us for any meeting!

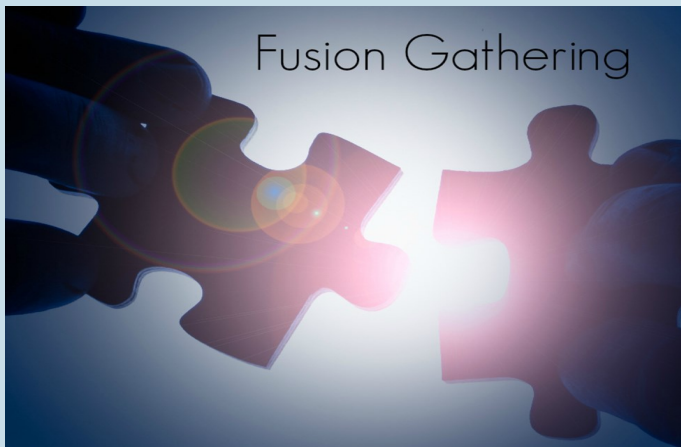


KICK-OFF: Sunday, September 11th at 5pm (at the church)

For more information or to RSVP, contact Rev. Casey: casey@fccgarland.org

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

The basic purpose of Fusion is to provide space and time to consistently connect with one another and God. Its goal is to help “fuse” (meld, unite, weave) our faith and spirituality into all aspects of our lives.



This Fall, Fusion will develop into a small group ministry to nurture deeper connections in an authentic and comfortable way. In an effort to meet people where they are, Fusion will be hosted in homes at whatever day and time is most convenient for each individual small group. Groups are encouraged to commit to gathering on a regular basis to promote accountability and ongoing support of one another. Most gatherings will involve sharing a meal, yet, these meals will be kept simple and low stress. The core group of adults should not grow larger than about 12-14 people (6-7 couples). New groups will be formed as needed.

It should be a time for adults and children alike to spend time sharing life and prayer. Children are welcome to attend and will be encouraged to play with their friends in an adjacent room after dinner.

In keeping with the “low stress” theme, the format of the gatherings will be casual and free-flowing. The focus is not on accomplishing a set agenda or engaging in an extensive bible study, rather emphasis will be placed on being present and engaged.

If you are interested in joining a Fusion small group or hosting one of these small groups contact Rev. Casey at casey@fccgarland.org.

FUSION Kick-Off: Friday, September 16th at 6:30pm—at the Henderson Home

FCCG YOUTH ACTIVITIES



Sunday Evening Youth Activities

begin September 11th, 5-7pm, at the church.

GROUP DYNAMIX—September 17th

Youth 6th-12th grades will go to **Group Dynamix** for **team-building** and a **ropes course**. **Meet at the church at 8:15am**; wear close-toed shoes and clothes you can move in. **RSVP by September 7th (bring permission form)**.



YOUTH SPONSORS

Youth Sponsors Meeting with FCCG Ministers scheduled for Sunday, September 11th after Sunday School, in the Parlor.



Youth Parents Meeting with FCCG Ministers scheduled for Sunday, September 11th at 4:30pm, in the Parlor.



CHILDREN'S CHOIR (4 yrs-3rd grade)

Rehearsals begin on Sunday, September 11th, 5:30pm-7:00pm. Contact Tammy Holcomb for more information.

YOUTH CHOIR (3rd grade and up)

Rehearsals begin on Sunday, September 18th, 4:00pm-4:50pm. Contact Judy Grasham for more information.



Farewell Reception for Rev. Allison Drake

Sunday, September 18th, during coffee fellowship, in Fellowship Hall.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Cup of Life

Monica Pesina & Ralph
Pat Spradley

Fishers of Families

Rachel Scruggs
Mike Whalin

God's Messengers

JoAnne Terry

Shepherds

Lee MacDonald

The Grapevine

Joyce Witt Boyd
Bettye Davenport

MEN'S BREAKFAST

FCCG MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, September 17th
at 8am in Fellowship Hall



CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) in the
SOUTHWEST

Southwest Regional Assembly

Oct 29-30, 2016
at

Northway Christian Church, Dallas

"Faith WITH Works is ALIVE!"

Register online at — <http://ccsw.org/ra2016/>



CDs now available of the **Mary McDonald performance**. Cost is \$5 per CD; contact Stan McGill

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Limited number of CDs still available of **Joseph Martin performance**; cost is \$5 per CD; contact the church office.

Naaman Forest High School Sterling Stars *Erica Sanders Memorial Golf Tournament*

Saturday, October 15th, 1:00pm Shotgun Start
\$100 per player

Duck Creek Golf Club
2800 Diamond Oaks Drive
Garland, TX 75040



For more info, contact Glenda Lee or pick up a flyer and registration form in the church office. **Registration deadline is October 3rd.**



FCCG DWM SEPTEMBER CIRCLE MEETINGS

Morning Circle

Monday, September 12th at 9:30am in Fellowship Hall

Evening Circle

Tuesday, September 13 at 6:45pm in Fellowship Hall

Contact Cindy Kyle about childcare for Evening Circle

Chancel Choir rehearsals are held on Wednesdays at 7pm. Contact Stan McGill for more information.

Handbell Choir rehearsals are held on Wednesdays at 6pm. Contact Virginia McBee for more information.

**First Christian Church Garland
115 S. Glenbrook
Garland, TX 75040**



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