

# The Messenger



January 5, 2017

**WELCOME**  
WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!



**We WELCOME our new  
Youth Director, *David Ware*.**

**David will begin work with FCCG on  
Sunday, January 8th.**



**CHURCH  
MEETINGS**

**PLEASE NOTE—FIRST OF THE YEAR MEETINGS**

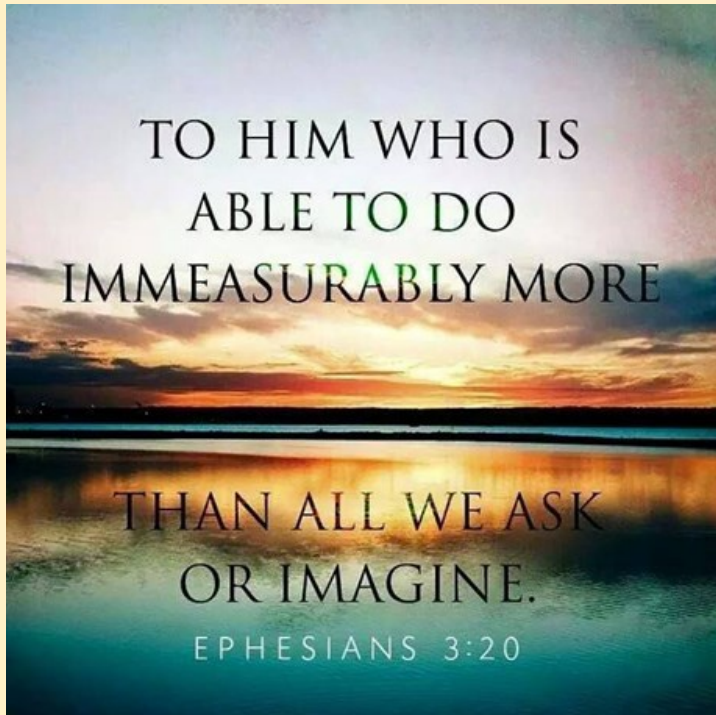
**Cabinet Planning Meeting:** *Sunday, Jan 8th in Rm 201*  
(following Sunday School)

(All 2017 Ministry Chairs and Officers of the Board should plan to attend.)

**Board Meeting:** *Monday, Jan 9th at 7:30pm*  
(in the Sanctuary)

**Commissioning of New Church Leadership for 2017:**  
*Sunday, Jan 15th* (during worship)

**An Invitation to a Year of Faithful Imagination**  
***More Than We Can Imagine!***  
***Ephesians 3:20-21***



Those powerful words from the New Testament letter to the Ephesians (Ephesians 3:20-21), are typically tacked on to the end of Sunday Worship, forming a sort of good-feel benediction as we worshippers head out the door for another work week. This year I want to start with them.

In calling us to focus on these words, I invite you as a member of this congregation to think about the power of God in our midst. If you and I really believe that the living Christ and his Holy Spirit are alive in our midst and accessible to us through prayer and worship, what might that mean for us as a family of God?

I believe that Christian faith is an imaginative process, a life-long endeavor to see God's world as God sees it. In this process, I believe that we're often hamstrung by the stories we use to explain the reality of what is or is not possible. Some of those stories no longer help us. Some of them

never did help us. Some of them hold us back. Or then again, some of those stories no longer fit who we are and yet we persist in trying to make them fit a new reality.

This year, I'd like you to join me in a spiritual process of imagining the Biblical claim that God really can do far more than we can imagine, far more than we even think to ask. I'd like that astounding Biblical claim to shape your participation in the coming year. Each time you attend a meeting, lead a meeting, come to worship, or enter discussion, think about God's promise. While I respect the value of our collective wise judgment, I'm also interested to imagine what God thinks is possible.

Be a God-inspired dreamer this year. But not just a dreamer. Immerse your spirit in the life-giving promise of God: believing that in turning to God, God unleashes a holy power among us that energizes us to serve God in ways we can't yet imagine. What might this kind of holy power in our midst make possible?

I plan to preach on the theme in various ways through the coming year. But I want to know that you're walking alongside me in this journey. I want you to think with me about the possibilities God imagines for us. I don't expect that I, nor any of you, will discover all the answers. As the passage teaches, "God is able to do far more than we can ask or imagine." And we want it that way. We don't want our faithful imagining to be bound by our limitations. Yet having said that, I do expect that in meditating on the passage, and in opening our minds and hearts to God's biblical promise, you will discover fresh ways to live for Christ and we will discover new ways to be God's church. **-Dan, New Year's 2017**

**IMAGINE, what does heaven on earth look/smell/taste/feel like?**

All wounds bound up  
and fully healed **Love** **Health** Jesus walking in fields of  
flowers with children  
playing **Fresh air** The bloom of a flower  
**Church camp**

**Prosperity** **Reconciliation** **Beloved** Loving without expectation of return  
Living in the presence of Jesus A freshly bathed baby **Wholeness**

**Questions answered** Puffy white clouds in  
a blue sky **Complete wisdom** **JOY**

Equality *Being "still and knowing"* **All churches overflowing with God's love**  
*singing* *care for all* **NO FEAR** **Peace** freedom, justice **ROOF OVERHEAD**  
**united** **CLOTHES ON MY BODY**

Clouds, blue sky, bright light **Weight lifted** Clean and New Praying without ceasing

**kindness** Family around a table *The smile of a child* *music* **Plentiful**  
**HOPE** **Reunited with loved ones** the feast at which all are filled  
Acceptance *Unconditional*  
*love and support*

strength **An unspoiled landscape** **SUNRISE AND SUNSET** **forgiveness** **ABUNDANCE**  
*Grandbabies* **Amazing**

**NO MORE!**- Stress, war, pain, hunger, homelessness,  
Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Cancer, diseases, hate,  
worries, problems, fears... **Energy** **LAUGHTER AND WELCOME** Fish are always biting

What does it mean when we pray, "thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." This past New Year's Sunday the congregation was invited to imagine what heaven on earth looks/smells/tastes/sounds/feels like. Here is a collage of some of the answers given. I found this to be truly inspiring and I hope you do too!

"Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever." Ephesians 3:20-21

Grace,

*Rev. Casey*

# SUNDAY EVENING YOUTH ACTIVITY

*Progressive Dinner at the Houston and Godwin Homes*

Starting at 5:00pm at the Godwin Home  
(see Youth Newsletter for more info)

Save the  
**DATE**™



## ALL CHURCH FAMILY MISSION TRIP

**July 26-29, 2017**

(Wednesday evening – Saturday evening)

Connect Fort Worth at Ridglea Christian Church

Cost ~\$150/person (may change). Scholarships available; more information to come.

giving

### Pledged Offering Recap Christmas Day 2016—New Years Day 2017



	Received	Budgeted
Pledged	\$6,556	\$6,618
Unpledged	\$16,662	\$1,961
<b>Overage/(Shortage)</b>	<b>\$14,639</b>	

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

Jesus was in a small group.



life change happens in small groups

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 has developed into a small group ministry. We currently have two small groups that meet once a month. One group meets on Friday evenings and the other meets Saturday evenings. If you are interested in joining a small group, please let Rev. Casey know.

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

Circle of Fellowship

Martha Ferrell  
Bill Fowler  
Marilyn Fowler

Cup of Life

Pat Spradley

Fishers of Families

Quentin Scruggs  
Rachel Scruggs

God's Messengers

Nina Wood

Shepherds

Billie Donaghey

The Grapevine

Joyce Witt Boyd  
Tricia Chapin  
Dylan Godwin

*CHANCEL CHOIR*

Rehearsals are held on  
**Wednesdays at 7pm.**

**Contact Stan McGill for  
more information.**

~ ~ ~  
*HANDBELL CHOIR*

Rehearsals are held on  
**Wednesdays at 6pm.**

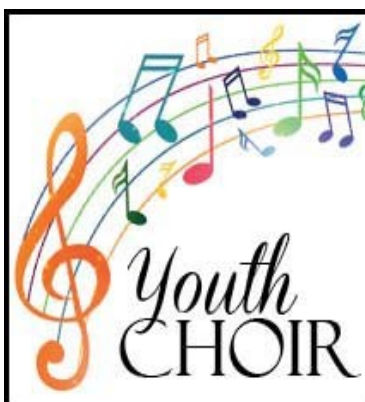
**Contact Virginia McBee  
for more information.**



**CHILDREN'S CHOIR**

(4 yrs-3rd grade)

Rehearsals on Sunday  
evenings, 5:30pm-7:00pm.  
Contact Tammy Holcomb.



**YOUTH CHOIR**

(3rd grade and up)

Rehearsals on Sunday  
evenings, 4:00-5:00pm.  
Contact  
Judy Grasham.

## Volunteers Needed for 4<sup>th</sup> Monday



We are in need of additional volunteers if our church is going to continue our ministry to the community in which we live! We deliver meals to homebound individuals every Monday. Each volunteer only delivers one day a month with a time commitment of approximately 2 hours. **We currently need volunteers (one or two people) to deliver the fourth Monday of each month.** Our route is easy to learn (maps are provided) and training will be provided the first time you deliver (one of our experienced volunteers will go with you). Coolers containing the meals for each route are delivered to First Presbyterian Church, located around the corner from our church, by 10:15am each day. Routes

consist of one cooler filled with hot meals and one cooler containing cold items. After delivery of our route the empty coolers are returned to First Presbyterian for pickup.

Delivering meals through the **Meals on Wheels** program is one of the outreach ministries in which our church is involved. This is a program set up to provide a hot, nutritious midday meal to those individuals unable to prepare a meal for themselves. The people who receive this benefit are appreciative of the care and time given to them. For some, this is the only source of food they eat daily. We would like to continue our support of this worthwhile program by providing volunteers to cover a route each Monday.

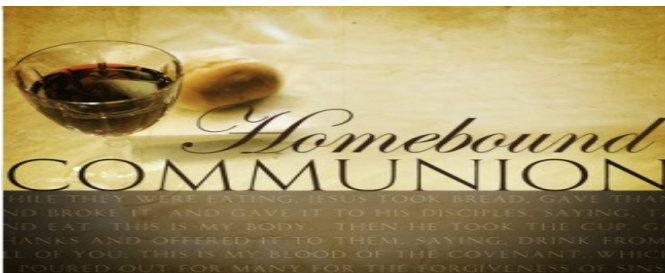
I can guarantee you'll receive more than you give from this wonderful ministry to our community! Please contact Elaine Roeger at 972.926.1074 to volunteer or with any questions.

**TOGETHER WE CAN DRIVE AWAY HUNGER!!**

# Thank You

I want to thank my First Christian Church Family for all of your well wishes and prayers in my time of need. I am so glad that I have returned to the Lord and this Church; for without the perfect hand of God reaching down and touching me, my situation may have been completely different. May God bless every one of you.

With Love and Joy,  
**Billy Hodge**



## HOMEBOUND COMMUNION

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





**Families & Professionals  
Marriage Retreat  
February 17-19, 2017**

*Marriage is hard y'all! But it can also be fun, exciting, romantic (gasp!) and a wonderful blessing from God. Join us for a weekend retreat to renew your spirits and your relationship!*

**Cost: \$115/per couple**

Includes 1 night lodging at The Texas Star ([thetexasstar.com](http://thetexasstar.com)) and 3 meals. (Does not include Friday night dinner, Saturday breakfast or lunch Sunday afternoon). Scholarships available.

**Schedule:**

Friday night we will meet for dinner at a local location TBD  
Arrive at The Texas Star in Weatherford ready to go by 9:30am Saturday  
Depart for home about 12:00pm on Sunday

**Register by February 5, 2017**

Hotel lodging is limited to 12 couples, so sign-up ASAP.  
Bunk houses are available for late sign-ups (Not kidding!)

**First Christian Church Garland**

**115 S. Glenbrook**

**Garland, TX 75040**



# *The Messenger*

**A Publication of First Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)**