

The Messenger



March 29, 2017

MOMENT'S REFLECTION

"Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your fingers here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side.'"
-John 20:27

I've been watching the process of destruction going on across the street from our church. The old Bank of America building has been coming down in large chunks and pieces the last couple of months. I remember going to that bank 16 years ago to open a new checking account. Now that building, much less all the people and memories that ever were in that building, are the stuff of rubble.



As demolition crews completed their work, I wondered if they'd leave anything old remaining. Just when it looked like they'd tear it all down, wrecking crews stopped. I hear they plan to build some new apartments—condominiums as we like to call them. But whatever new structure goes up in the months ahead will apparently include the remnants of the old building. In my preacherly way, I suppose I took that to be some sort of parable of deeper meaning. Let me explain.

Years ago, I visited the site of the OKC Murrah Building bombing. I still remember the aftermath of the day, April 19, 1995, when Timothy McVeigh completed his dastardly deed, and there wasn't much left but twisted steel and crumbled mortar. City, state, and federal workers wasted no time tearing down its remains and vowed to rebuild. But when I visited the memorial site I noticed that planners had been careful to preserve some of what used to be there—a wall from the old building, a tree that withstood the blast and still thrives. And I couldn't figure why. Why would anyone ever want to go to that site and see and remember anything from that horrible dark day?

Dr. David Jensen, in his book, *Living Hope*, offers an answer I either failed to learn or have forgotten. Following his resurrection, Jesus comes back to his disciples. We life-time Christians think this is story to teach about Doubting Thomas and every one of us like him. And it is. But Jensen says we should pay more attention to what Jesus does. To help Thomas, Jesus pulls aside his outer robe and shows Thomas the scars from his crucifixion. Dr. Jensen comments on the theological importance of that gospel detail: *"The risen Christ reveals his wounds. Resurrection doesn't erase the scars of crucifixion but preserves them."*

God's new resurrection doesn't dispense with everything old. It incorporates some of the old stuff. And in incorporating this old stuff, it validates the experience this old stuff represents—including the struggles, the pain, the injustice—and redeems its. Christ's resurrection utterly redeems it, not by taking it away but by making it right. Jensen goes on to say: *"In the resurrection, though pain and mourning reign no more, nothing is forgotten, or obliterated but gathered together into God's very life."*

Sometimes as pastor, I hear people talk about periods in their lives that have been so hard, so difficult, that they'd just as soon forget them—experiences that have seemed like a waste of time. Jensen wants to persuade us (and rightly so) that a Christian theology of resurrection teaches us look differently at the totality of our lives. Our scars, our pains, as much as the new life to which we turn, are a part of God's redemptive plan, too. This "old stuff" of our lives is the grist by which God chooses to make a way to resurrection. **-Dan, Lent 2017**



Lent is a season of preparation, prayer and fasting. It is a time to slow down, to spend some intentional time in silent meditation and to make room for the Holy Spirit. During Lent this year, prayer stations will be set up around the church to aid you in prayer and reflection on your Lenten journey. **The fifth prayer station "I AM the Resurrection and the Life," will be set up in Fellowship Hall this Sunday, April 2nd.** Listen on Sunday mornings during worship to find out where each new prayer station will be located.



PALM SUNDAY

*Procession of Palm Branches—Sunday, April 9th
at 9am*

Easter Egg Hunt and Lunch—Beginning at 11:30am

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

Thursday, April 13th at 7pm

GOOD FRIDAY PRAYER SERVICE

Friday, April 14th at noon



Worship Service—9:00am

Continental Breakfast—10:00am

Sunday School—10:15am

2017 RUSK CONCERT SERIES PRESENTS

the Music of

Dr. Benjamin Harlan

Sunday, April 30th During Morning Worship

***Lord, When We Praise You
With Glorious Music***



EASTER LILY ORDER FORMS

Are available in Fellowship Hall.

Deadline for ordering is April 10, 2017.



"Thank You" — from Mary Carroll

Thank you so very much for your prayers and cards. Your thoughtfulness was appreciated.

In Christ, ***Mary Carroll***

Sunday, April 2 is Last Day to Bring CANDY DONATIONS

for *Easter Egg Hunt*

Donation Box in Fellowship Hall

Easter Egg Hunt



Sunday, April 9th at 11:30am—Ages 1 thru 5th grade

Toddlers age 1-3 will hunt Easter eggs on the playground
and

Children age 4 through 5th Grade will have an

Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt

* An all-church lunch will follow the Easter Egg Hunt *

FCCG YOUTH GROUP

MEETS Sunday, April 2nd, 5-7pm

JYF / Chi Rho *TOGETHER*
April 9th—First Christian Lewisville;
5-6:30pm



DWM APRIL CIRCLE MEETINGS

Morning Circle
Monday, April 3rd at 9:30am

Evening Circle
Tuesday, April 4th at 6:45pm

April Service Project—**Disciples Crossing Clean Up Day!**

Disciples Crossing, Athens, TX

When: **Monday, April 10th**



Families & Professionals MARRIAGE RETREAT June 2-4, 2017 (new date)

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) and 4 meals (Does not include 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 APRIL 30, 2017

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



Christian Learner Class Offering (aka, Pastor's Class)

Meets Sunday, April 2 during the Sunday School hour, in Room 217.



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; 972.496.0534 or
Eva McKannan; patevamck@verizon.net; 972.414.1737



**ALL CHURCH
FAMILY MISSION TRIP**
July 26-29, 2017
(Wednesday—Saturday)



- We will be going to Fort Worth, TX and staying at Ridglea Christian Church to work with Connect FW. We arrive Wednesday evening, work Thursday, Friday, Saturday and return home Saturday evening.
- All ages are welcome to attend. All children/youth under 18 years must have an adult or adult sponsor attend with them.
- Costs will be about \$150/person. Scholarships available. Don't let money be a reason for not participating!
- Connect FW "empowers people to put faith into action in ways that are relational, sustainable and dignity-giving through justice and service". We will be working to connect with, serve and learn more about children experiencing poverty in Fort Worth. Time will be spent serving, learning from experts (both experts in the field and people who are deeply invested in the lives of these kids and the neighborhood), praying, and dreaming about how we can continue to live out faith in action after this trip.
- Talk to Rev. Casey if you are interested in attending or helping out.



**REGISTER FOR
2017 SUMMER CAMPS**

**EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION DEADLINE
IS THIS SATURDAY, APRIL 1st**

To register, visit:

app.campdoc.com/register/disciplescrossing



**Mark your calendars
for 2017 VBS
June 18th—June 22nd**

PRAYER REQUESTS

Circle of Fellowship

Martha Ferrell
Tricia Harrison
Less Perry

Fishers of Families

Jaletta Cooley
Gail Greene

Hands of Faith

Brenda Crosthwaite
Denny Lee
Matt Prestenberg
Mike Whalin

Shepherds

Pat Spradley

The Grapevine

Joyce Witt Boyd
Bettye Davenport

DISCIPLES MEN's 70th Tri-Area Men's Retreat

Disciples Crossing in Athens, TX

May 19-May 21, 2017

Scripture and Theme: John 15:1-17 "*Connections for a Cause*"

Keynote Speakers:

Rev. Dr. Larry Ross, North Texas Area Minister

Rev. Jordan Byrd, Pastor, First Christian Church, Palestine, TX

Registration forms in the church office.



CHANCEL CHOIR

Rehearsals are held on
Wednesdays at 7pm.

**Contact Stan McGill for
more information.**



Rehearsals are held on
Wednesdays at 6pm.

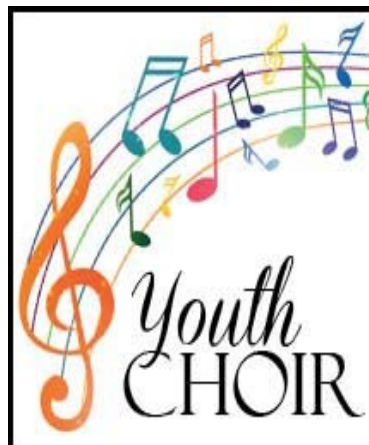
**Contact Virginia McBee
for more information.**



CHILDREN'S CHOIR

(4 yrs-3rd grade)

Rehearsals on Sunday
evenings, 5:30pm-6:30pm.
Contact Tammy Holcomb.



YOUTH CHOIR

(3rd grade and up)

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

**NOTE: NO Youth Choir
Practice on Sunday,
April 2nd**

Church Leadership

As a follow-up to the article about the new church board structure, here's a list of the members of the First Christian Church Garland Cabinet.

OFFICERS

Sharon Campbell, Board Chair
Kathleen Yant, Board Vice Chair
Bill Dunn, Treasurer

MINISTRY CHAIRS

Education—*Stephanie Gordon*
Evangelism—*Pat Aston*
Diaconate—*Denise Armstrong*
Disciples Women—*Cindy Kyle*
Fellowship—*Don & Cyndy Smith*
Membership—*Bobbie Barger*
Outreach—*Brenda Crosthwaite*

MINISTERS

Dan Jones, Sr. Minister
Casey Tanguay, Ministers to Families
& Professionals

Personnel—*Brenda Harper*
Property—*Glenda Lee*
Stewardship—*Mark Fetzer*
Worship—*Kim Schnitker*
Elders—*Matt Prestenberg*
Sr. Trustee—*James Schnitker*

From Sharon Campbell, Board Chair

As we are now in the second month of the new year, I wanted to give a short report on FCCG's new board structure for 2017. In July, 2016, a task force was formed to look into creating a smaller church board on a trial basis. The task force spent an ample amount of time in study and discussion, in addition to conducting a congregational-wide survey. After much discernment and prayer, the task force recommended "that for a period of one year, beginning January, 2017, the current board delegate its powers to a smaller board, this number to be decided by the current board." The board discussed the recommendation, shared suggestions and concerns, and voted to approve the recommendation on September 12, 2016. The board positions were then filled from congregational nominations, and the congregation voted to approve the new board structure and representatives on November 20, 2016. The current bylaws remain in effect.

These board representatives will serve for a one-year trial period. During this time a Board Task Force will meet to continue study, discussion and evaluation of the board structure. This new task force is made up of the Board Chair (Sharon Campbell), Vice Chair (Kathleen Yant), ministers (Dan Jones and Casey Tanguay), and two at-large members (Doug Harrison and Melody Biffle). At the end of the year, this task force will provide a report/recommendation, at which time, a full board and congregational vote will be taken to decide whether to continue with the smaller board of representatives or revert back to the larger boards of the past.

So far, the feedback on the smaller group of board representatives has been positive overall. I welcome your questions and comments about the new [trial] board structure, and ask that you pray for the board representatives as they do God's work through the church's goals and initiatives.



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



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