

The Messenger

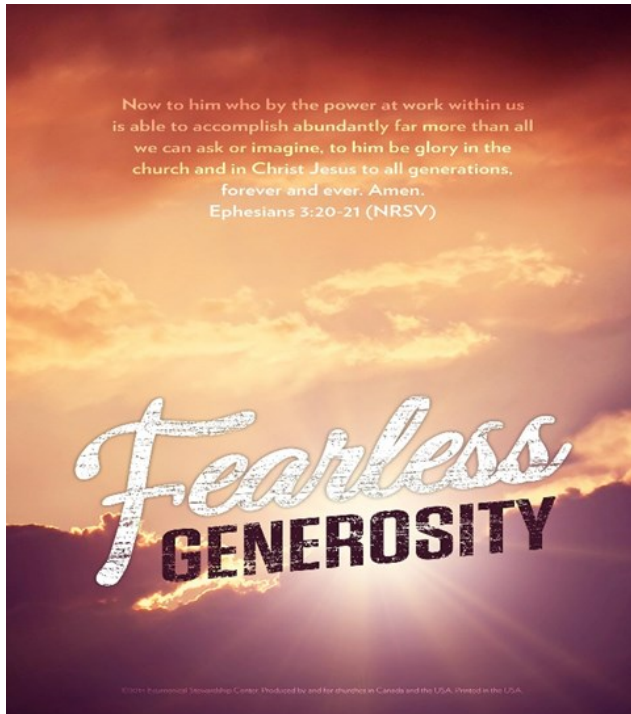


September 13, 2017

MOMENT'S REFLECTION

"God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams."
-Ephesians 3:20 (*The Message*)

As we begin this year's stewardship campaign, I invite you to focus on that wonderfully hopeful passage from Ephesians. "God is able to accomplish abundantly far more than you all you can ask or imagine." The passage forms the theological inspiration for the theme, "FEARLESS GENEROSITY."



The theme begins with the assumption that fearless generosity isn't easy or natural for us. Most of us are habitually fearful givers—fearful, in the sense that money is the strongest symbol of security in our lives, and when we choose to give some of our money away, it feels like a loss of security. Most of us believe that financial security is built on the principle of accumulation, not giving.

In this sense, the driving question is: "How can we break an old habit of guarded, cautious giving?" Put more hopefully: "How is it possible to think of giving as something positive?"

Perhaps one way to change the old habit of cautious giving is to shift the focus away from why we should give (I could quote you a hundred scripture verses, most of which you already know), to a greater emphasis on the positive effect the practice of generosity has on the giver. In the church, perhaps we should quit using the phrase, "Give until it hurts," and start repeating, "Give until your joy increases!"

In their book, *The Paradox of Generosity*, authors Christian Smith and Hilary Davidson suggest that giving has a significant causal effect. Meaning? Increased generosity seems to lead to greater happiness (less depression, more joy), and stronger health. The practice of generosity also works the other way, too. Happier,

healthier people tend to be more generous. The main take-away is that generosity, happiness, and more resilient health are deeply connected.

In thinking about the practice of generosity, the authors offer three additional insights:

Sustained generosity carries more impact than "one-off-generosity." In other words, random acts of kindness are good, but they don't carry the same benefits of happiness and health as a life of generosity. Generosity is a way of life, not a momentary impulse.

Generosity begins where you are. The authors say: "*There's a certain amount of generosity that has a fake-it-till-you-make-it aspect.*" You don't have to wait for the purest motives. Just do it! In time, you'll grow into a deeper experience of generosity.


The biggest obstacle to generosity is fear. If giving is good for us, why do we hesitate when it comes to giving? Smith and Davidson say: "*Because we're afraid. We're afraid that giving will be a loss and not a gain.*"

And so, this year's theme, "FEARLESS GENEROSITY." It seems to me that the biggest obstacle most of us have with giving has less do with knowing what's good for us, and more to do with finding the courage to practice what we already know. **-Dan, Stewardship 2017**

FCCG Supports SHOREHAVEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



In a community benefit effort, the Church has [again] supported **SHOREHAVEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** with a donation of school supplies, and, we recently provided lunch for the Shorehaven teachers. However, **Shorehaven still needs volunteers**—people to assist the teachers, help in the library and office and other duties. If you would like to volunteer, please access the GISD website (www.garlandisd.net) to complete the volunteer application). Thanks for your support.




FUSION

Small Groups

Families & Professionals

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

Fusion, our Families & Professionals small group gatherings, are meeting monthly. If you are interested in being a part of one of these groups, please sign up with Rev. Casey.



GOOD SAMS Needs Donations of **Plastic Utensil Packets**

for Meals for the Homeless

CHURCH BOARD

The Nominating Committee for 2018 board positions consists of:

Shirley Miller—Chair

Kate Walker

Jo Brister

Judy Grasham

Don Smith

Bruce Nowlin

Sondra Martin

Nominations for the following board positions are now open—Deacons, Elders, and Trustee. Nominating forms will be available beginning Sunday, September 17th in the narthex, Fellowship Hall and the Church Office. **The deadline for submitting nominations is Sunday, October 22, 2017.**

COMMUNICATION CENTER

As you may have noticed, the mail cubbie slots that were in the Avenue A foyer have been removed. A new **COMMUNICATION CENTER** has been created in the small hallway between the Chapel and the Custodian's office. The supplies needed for the new Center were purchased using funds donated in honor of **Billy Hodge**. Billy was a valuable member of the Fellowship Ministry team and we miss him. You are invited to come by and take a look at this new space.



FUNDRAISER

for New Donation Center Supplies

Bid on one of the floral arrangements in Fellowship Hall (bid sheets are in front of each arrangement). Bids start at \$35 and *all proceeds* will go toward materials for the new **DONATION CENTER** — bins, rolling carts, etc.





Circle of Fellowship

Cindy Kyle

God's Messengers

Juanita Brock
Nancy Pinka

Shepherds

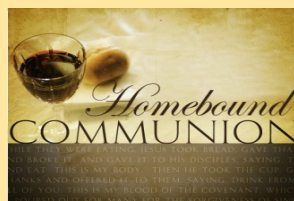
Jack Barger
Pat Spradley

The Grapevine

Joyce Witt Boyd
Bettye Davenport

**NEED A RIDE
TO CHURCH?**

**Sign up in
Fellowship Hall and
someone will
contact you.**



**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



MUSIC AT FCCG

CHANCEL CHOIR

*Rehearsals on Wednesdays, 7-8pm
Contact Stan McGill*

YOUTH CHOIR

*Rehearsals on Sundays, 4:00-5:00pm
Contact Judy Grasham*

HANDBELL CHOIR

*Rehearsals on Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00pm
Contact Virginia McBee*

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

*Rehearsals on Sundays, 4:00-5:00pm
Contact Tammy Holcomb*

FCCG DONATION CENTER

We are proud to announce that a new location has been designated for the storage of donated items. The new Donation Center is located between the Ruth Mix Classroom and the Nursery in the entry/exit hallway.

Six large bins are provided for those items that are collected over a period of time, such as magazines, and five containers are provided for donation drives sponsored by a specific Ministry, such as the current School Supplies drive sponsored by DWM. All of the new storage containers have changeable signage that allows the church to maximize this space according to the needs of specific donation drives. Brenda Keel, church administrator, will be able to create new signs as needed. Just let her know what you need.

Sponsors for the new Donation Center are Families & Professionals Ministry, Youth Ministry, Disciples of Women Ministry and Outreach Ministry. We invite you to come by, take a look at the new space and drop off a pencil or two for the current School Supplies drive.





Dave Ramsey

“The Legacy Journey” continues . . .

**Each Sunday September 10—Sunday October 22,
10:20-11:50am in Room 213**



NEED VOLUNTEER(s) living in North Garland/Firewheel area to pick up donuts on Sunday mornings (for Coffee Fellowship) at *Bon Ton Doughnuts*, 1225 Beltline Rd. #14, Garland 75040. Donuts need to be at the church between 8:00am-8:30am on Sunday mornings.

Contact Cyndy Smith if you can help.



Sunday, September 17

- * Stewardship Committee will meet following Sunday School—in the Parlor.
- * Children/Youth PARENTS will meet at 4:30pm—in the Parlor (to discuss Snack Supper Schedule for 2017-2018, and, Fall Festival or Trunk R Treat).

Sunday, September 24

- * Safe Church Training will be held at 11:30am in Room 204 (for all staff and volunteers who work with children/youth)
- * Elders will meet at 11:30am in the Parlor

SAFE CHURCH TRAINING—September 24th

Safe Church Training will be held on Sunday, September 24, at 11:30am in Room 204.



This training is mandatory for all church employees, Sunday school teachers, and youth sponsors, but is open to all interested church members. This continuing education training will address issues of child safety, child sexual abuse and prevention, mandatory reporting procedures and boundaries. Annual Safe Church training is required by FCC By-Laws. Please contact Stephanie Gordon (cell-214.673.9059) with questions.

