

The Messenger



November 1, 2017

Thanksgiving at FCCG

Disciples Women's Ministry Bake Sale

Sunday, November 19th beginning at
8am—Fellowship Hall

**Come to the Bake Sale and get your
dessert for the Church Thanksgiving
Luncheon**



THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON

FCCG THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON

Sunday, Nov 19th at 11:30am
in Fellowship Hall

*Fellowship Ministry will furnish
the meal, and asks that
members bring desserts.*

GISD CHILDREN'S CHORUS

Sunday, Nov 19th at 6pm in the
Sanctuary; reception to follow
in Fellowship Hall



Moment's Reflection

"Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you." -Matthew 12:38

I think signs are over-rated. I want signs, but almost every time I travel, I usually end up complaining that there aren't enough of them, or that the ones that are posted are hidden and don't help much when you're going 70 mph. A lot of the time, I find myself mumbling words my dad used to say, "Would it kill them to put up a few more signs. Let people know where things are?" You know how it is. When you've lived somewhere your whole life, you know where things are. Don't needs signs. But when you're travelling you don't know.



Sometimes signs aren't helpful even when you have an exact address. I was going to a reception last week, some 30 miles or more away, in a part of the metroplex that I'd never travelled. I very carefully put the address in my phone so that I could get audible turn-by-turn directions. Everything was going fine until I got off the main freeway and started winding through the back roads. I saw this strange looking yellow sign with a circle and cross bars. Had no idea. Then the directions said, "Take the 7th turn at the roundabout. I don't have much experience with roundabouts. And I find it hard to drive in a circle and figure where the 7th turn is. I wonder who makes roads like this and puts up signs like that. Never mind that I was still stressed by the construction on George Bush and all the makeshift exit signs. Ten minutes or so later I was still meandering through the neighborhood trying to find my way. I finally turned the GPS off and winged it. Ignored the signs and decided to go west.

Signs are over-rated. They're aren't as helpful as they claim to be. Sometimes you think you're following a sign and you end up making a wrong turn. I especially dislike it when you come to an intersection and a sign to the left has one street, one to the right has another. I don't think drivers ought to have to figure out neighborhoods that have two names for the same road.

Sometimes signs only add to the confusion. They don't clarify anything. It'd be better if someone took them down. Take, for instance, my favorite City of Garland sign pictured above. The one with arrows pointing everywhere marked with the words "take turns." I've driven around Garland for years now. I can count on one hand the time anyone volunteered to take a turn.

People in Jesus' day were always asking for signs. Half the time I don't think they were serious. Take that passage referenced above. Matthew says the Pharisees were asking just to test Jesus. They didn't really want a sign. They already thought they knew everything there was to know about God's whereabouts. But then, some people in Jesus' day wanted a sign. They were vigilantly waiting for the coming of the Messiah. They thought that Jesus might be the one. John the Baptist had said so. But they weren't sure. They really wanted a sign. I think some of us want a sign, too. We've been well-schooled on the certainties of faith. Been encouraged by the promises of prayer. But we pray and still sometimes don't know for sure. We live some of our Christian lives with anxiety at the roundabouts of life.

I'd like to tell you that you'll see a sign that will suddenly make everything crystal clear. I'd like to tell you as one of my colleagues claims that "There are no questions of faith. The Scriptures have all the answers." But I know better. As certain as I am that Jesus is the answer, and Scripture is a light unto our path, I know that at least some of the faith journey is travelled in darkness. In those frustrating interim times we may see the first outlines of light at the end of the tunnel, but the light hasn't come clearly into focus. As such, when an earnest soul asks me to tell them where a sign of Jesus is? I tell them as honestly and pastorally as I can, "The sign of Jesus, the path forward, is found in your capacity to have faith even when you cannot see." **-Dan**

REMEMBER to set your clocks back one hour this weekend.



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.



Families & Professionals

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

Fusion (our Families & Professionals small group gatherings)—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. Leave donations in Donation Center.



Circle of Fellowship

Bill Fowler
Cindy Kyle
Virginia Yohe

Fishers of Families

Denise Armstrong
Harry Aston

God's Messengers

Nancy Pinka

Shepherds

Pat Spradley

The Grapevine

Joyce Witt Boyd
Patty Crow
Bettye Davenport

**NEED A RIDE TO
CHURCH?**

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

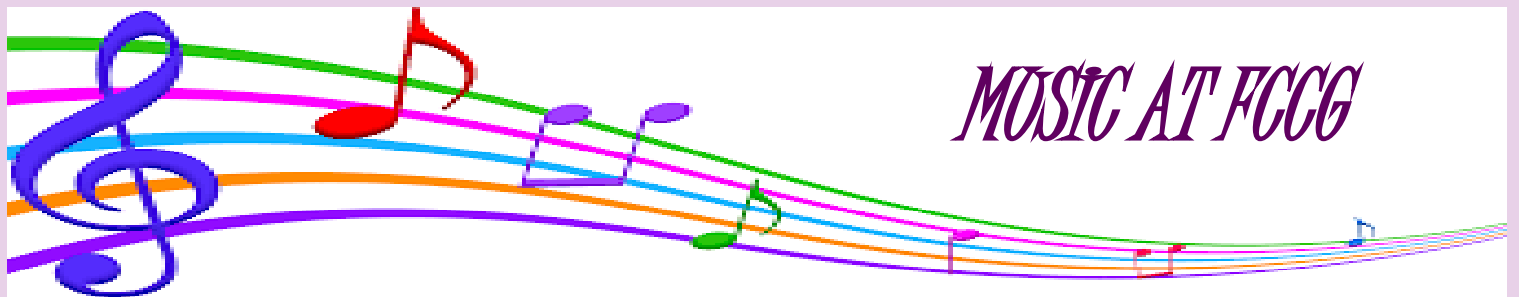
Buy A Brick

Contact Kathleen Yant;
kyant1@aol.com; 972.496.0534
or Eva McKannan;
patevamck@verizon.net;
972.414.1737



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.



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 Sheri Dacon*

MEETINGS

FCCG CABINET will meet Sunday, Nov 5th at 11:15am in Room 201

FCCG STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE will meet Sunday, Nov 5th at 11:15am in Room 205

FCCG BOARD will meet next Sunday, Nov 12th at 11:30am in Room 201



THANK YOU to all who took a **THANKSGIVING BAG** to fill for Good Sam. Please return your filled bag to the church this Sunday, Nov 5th.

-Brenda Crosthwaite, Outreach Ministry Chair

THANKSGIVING BOXES

The Outreach Ministry will be visiting the adult Sunday school classes on Sunday, Nov 12th to collect funds for the purchase of Thanksgiving boxes. Boxes are \$50, and the Outreach Ministry will purchase a box for every box donated. Each dinner box serves 8-10 people. Thank you for your generosity.

-Brenda Crosthwaite, Outreach Ministry Chair



Christian Senior Helpers has a house painting project. The date for the painting project is Saturday, Nov 18th at 8:00am. The project will be for Mrs. Alice Berry, who lives in Garland. If anyone would like to volunteer for this project, please contact Don Smith at 214-525-6004 or via email at dray52@verizon.net.

FCCG received a donation of a lovely bookcase for our library from **Orchard Hills Baptist Church**. In early 2018, volunteers will be needed to help with organizing and book re-shelving in the library.



