

The Messenger



November 15, 2017

Thanksgiving at FCCG

Disciples Women's Ministry BAKE SALE AND RAFFLE

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

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



Raffle

First Christian Church Garland

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

"But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles."

-Matthew 15:18



I figure it's one of those every generation events that begs to teach a parable. The two Shumard Red Oaks in our front yard are dying, and I have what mental health folk call anticipatory grief. I've been watching their slow decline. The day is coming soon when there won't be anymore time. I'm dreading that day.

The arborologist who's treated them told me last spring the trees are probably 46 years old. Which means, before the houses on my block were even conceived, those trees were already powering through the cycles of nature. It's hard for me to have anything but reverence for faithful fortitude like that.

The problem developed before I could see it. A systemic illness. Deep under, out along the ground, where the roots spread, the elements of disease quietly took a foothold. Now these towering red oaks, once so full of life I couldn't keep pace with their growth, are winding down the final days of their last fall. An expert from Texas A&M put it to me bluntly: "By the

time you see the damage, it's too late."

And this is the parable part of the story. Most of what matters in our lives lays beneath the surface. Dynamic processes of either vitality or decay happen in the deep places. Out of sight. Beneath the façades. Only sometimes our words or actions or thoughts betray the secrecy of our inmost selves, and we see, and others see, and most of the time we're caught off-guard.

A man in another church came to see me because he'd lost his temper. He said, "I don't know where all that emotion came from." I agreed. It wasn't like him. He was typically mild mannered. Calm. Gentle. Yet beneath that façade, for reasons even he couldn't name, a corrosive anger was eating away at him. It wasn't enough to simply silence the words, treat the emotion. The cure required something deeper.

It's nearly comical the way Matthew remembers it: a bunch of religious folk fussing about the correct way to wash one's hands. "Do you begin with the finger tips and then work your way down? Or, do you start from the bottom up? Do you rinse first and then use soap? Or do you put the soap on and then add the water?"

If Jesus has a sense of humor, he's laughing by now. Only he can't laugh, because the Pharisees are so painfully serious about it all. So he tells them as kindly as he can: "Clean hands don't matter nearly as much as a clean heart." As Jesus teaches, the greatest threat to our vitality isn't the one or two things we can see. It's the internal processes that work unseen, quietly. **-Dan**

Advent Season

Service of Lessons and Carols—Dec 3rd at 9am

Children's Christmas Pageant—Dec 3rd at 6pm (reception to follow)

Chancel Choir Cantata "The Wonder of Christmas"—Dec 10th at 9am

Christmas Eve Worship Services

Morning Worship at 9am

Candlelight Services at 6pm and 11pm



THANK YOU ...

for your generosity in purchasing a Thanksgiving Box. We are providing many Thanksgiving dinners to those in need!

Boxes will be available for pick up at the church on Monday, Nov 20th, 10am-2pm.



Be A Blessing
Adopt An Angel

The *Angel Tree* will be up in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, November 26th, and the deadline for returning gifts is the following Sunday, December 3rd.

Please contact Outreach Ministry Chair **Brenda Crosthwaite** if you have any questions.



Safe Church Update . . .

I wanted to provide an update from the Safe Church Committee. Since the church shooting in Charleston, South Carolina, more than two years ago, we have been focused on physical security for our church. Earlier this year we had a Garland Police officer evaluate our building and premises. He made several specific recommendations for changes to our facility, including increased patrol by Garland PD. We have already implemented some of those recommendations. Door locks have been changed and the parking lot lighting has been upgraded. Additional changes are in the works, including an upgraded front door lock to match the Avenue A door and LED exterior building lighting. More security changes are planned as funds become available to implement them.

Please be aware of your surroundings as you enter and leave the church building. If possible, have someone with you, as our neighborhood is changing.

-Greg Camp, Safe Church Committee



MOPS next meeting is Sunday, Dec 10th,
5:30-7:00pm in Room 203
(childcare available)



YOUTH GROUP meets on Sundays, 5:00-7:00pm
at the church.

NO YOUTH MEETING Sunday, Nov 19th



Youth Director **David Ware** needs volunteers to give their testimony as it relates to one of the five senses.

Presentations will be in December, and if you can participate, please notify David by Sunday, Nov 19th.

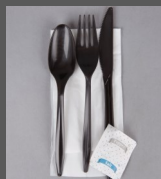
FCCG Supports SHOREHAVEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



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.

GOOD SAMS Needs Donations of Plastic Utensil Packets

for Meals for the Homeless. Leave donations in in Donation Center.



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.





Circle of Fellowship

Bill Fowler
Cindy Kyle

Fishers of Families

Harry Aston

God's Messengers

Nancy Pinka

Shepherds

Pat Spradley

The Grapevine

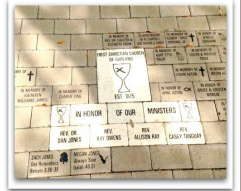
Joyce Witt Boyd
Bettye Davenport

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

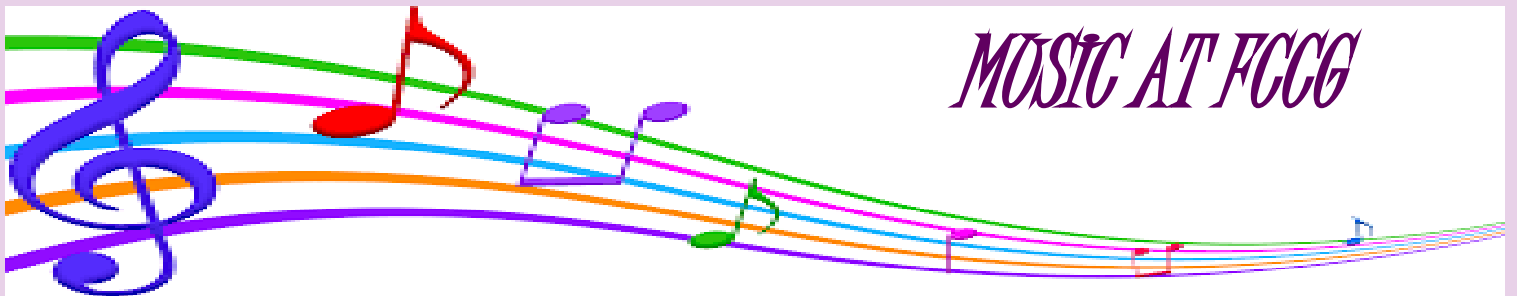


HOMEBOUND COMMUNION

Served on the first Sunday of each month by an Elder. If you would like to be served, please contact the church office.

MEETINGS

FCCG CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: Sunday, Nov 26, 2017 at 10am in the Sanctuary



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*

MIKE'S KIDS

Supports children who have been abandoned or families who have been forced out of their homeland to a new country.

Needed items are:

* New or gently used clothes and shoes (clean and usable) - **not** winter clothes, as donations will be given in a summer climate

(new underwear and socks—all sizes, are especially needed)

* New or gently used toys (working, with all pieces)

* Bicycles

* Kitchen utensils

* Canned goods



DONATION BOXES are at the foot of the stairs, across the hall from the Fellowship Hall kitchen door.



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.

First Christian Church
115 S. Glenbrook
Garland, TX 75040



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