

The Messenger

September 5, 2018



Moment's Reflection



Sometimes it's hard to take Scripture at face value. Jesus said: "Ask, and it will be given to you." In my life of faith, prayer requests haven't always been that simple. My understanding of prayer tends to carry a long string of caveats. Ask and God will give you what you need, not necessarily what you ask. Ask and God will take time so that you can grow in your understanding of what you really need. Ask, and God may assist you to learn ways to help yourself.

But then I read Mykehia Curry's story last summer and I began to re-think some of my prayer

reservations.

She was set to be the first member of her family to go to college. But she needed financial assistance. She took out student loans to pay for her tuition at Albany State University, but she didn't have money to buy the things she'd need for her time living away from home.

Curry's mom is on disability. Money is tight. Money has always been tight in her family.

So, the Saturday night before she left for college, she asked God for help. She wrote a note. "God please help me get the rest of my stuff for college." Then she added, "Amen. I love you God," along with her name and number. She tied the note on three helium balloons leftover from her grandmother's birthday party. Then let them go.

The note and the balloons flew about 15 miles northeast to the town of Gray, Georgia. That's where Jerome Jones, a Baptist minister found it. Jones also works for the Power company. He just happened to be working that day at the precise moment those balloons with that note literally floated into his hands.

Jones said he and his members were glad to help Mykehia and plan to keep in touch with her as she begins her college career to be a nurse.

Maybe this is exactly what Jesus meant when he taught us to ask. First, to consider what God wants (for her to go to college), and to do all we can (student loans, and then, she says, to get a campus job), and then, when all we can do isn't enough, to ask God to help. And to trust that God will hear our requests and assist us.

Perhaps the story also teaches us something else about prayer. Maybe sometimes prayer isn't just about us. Maybe sometimes we're the ones (like Pastor Jerome Jones) who are sent to give in God's name. -Dan

Jesus said: "*Ask, and it will be given to you.*" -Matthew 7:7

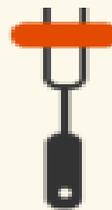


FUSION

Dinner Church

We will gather at the church for lively discussion centered around a delicious meal. Following the example of the early church, we share our lives and faith around filled tables, celebrating Jesus' presence among us and growing in our faith with one another. RSVP to Rev. Casey Tanguay. (childcare available)

SEP
8
6:30PM



**Fusion is a ministry created for Families & Professionals, but
all are welcome to join us.**

NEW EXCITING OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUTH (3rd-12th grade) during Fusion:

Youth can meet with David (and another adult sponsor) at **Bowl-A-Rama** (5021 Lakeview Parkway) at 6pm for **FREE PIZZA AND BOWLING**. You must RSVP with Rev. Casey or David Ware. Pick-up will be at Bowl-A-Rama after Fusion is over (~9:30pm) There will still be childcare at the church for the younger kids.

Also save the dates for our future Fusion Dinner Churches and share an invite with someone that's never come before: **October 6, November 10, December 8**

MEN'S BREAKFAST



**SAT
SEPT 8.
8:30-10:30**

Breakfast in Fellowship Hall.

Contact Julian Olalde for more info.



Southwest
Good Samaritan
Ministries

Whatever you do to the least of these, you do to me.

Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries (SWGSM) teaches the Love of Jesus Christ by building a renewed sense of wholeness and dignity and by standing with those who are broken, especially among refugees and those who are disenfranchised and displaced. The Good News is lived out by addressing spiritual and material needs, including emergency shelter and food, clothing, transportation, legal aid, advocacy and job referral through a cooperative effort with other agencies and religious organizations.

Through Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries, and with God's blessing:

- You provide Beans and Rice to 23 agencies and ministries along both sides of the border, feeding 250 to 600 people each day.
- You help relocate traumatized asylum seekers to live closer to their courts, families, and communities.
- You help improve housing to a livable health standard in one of the poorest counties in Texas.
- You provide housing, toys, school supplies, hospice aid and more to families without insurance.
- You facilitate transportation to mental health care, medical care, and legal aid clinics.
- You provide pastoral care for those in crisis and hurting.

You make this all possible! That is why we are coming to all of you to keep feeding the hungry, caring for the sick, welcoming the stranger, and acting as One Family of God.

There is currently a Match Grant Challenge that is ongoing until September 24th. All donations are being matched 1:1 up to \$56,000. First Christian Church Garland Outreach ministry has donated \$500.

If you want to add to this donation, you can donate online through the website at www.SWGSM.org or by check to PO Box 273, Los Fresnos, TX 78566. Donations can be directly from a church, or from individuals naming a church.

Recently our Outreach Ministry gifted \$5,000 to our North Texas Area Ministry of our Disciples of Christ Church (<http://www.ntaccsw.org>) and \$1000 to our camping program at Disciples Crossing (<http://www.disciplescrossing.org>).

FCCG continues to faithfully support the ministry and mission of the North Texas Area Ministries and Disciples Crossing as they have faithfully supported us. We continue to see lives transformed on the holy ground at camps and area events. Thanks for your generous contributions that make these gifts possible!

GIVING
back



Mary Helen Shelley

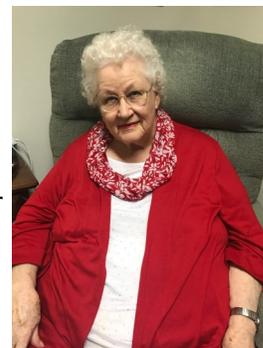
Personal Life:

I was born February 28, 1929 at my parent's home in Holland Texas – Bell County. I had 2 brothers and, 1 sister. We were all born at home. My mother was Methodist and my daddy was Church of Christ. My parents chose to raise us in the Christian Church. My father farmed cotton while my mother cared for the children. I remember riding around at the back of my daddy on an old cotton sack. During the depression my parents lost their farm so we moved to town. My mother did whatever she could do and was frugal. She patched and reused disposable wipes over and over. My mother was a tailor and brought in some income by doing sewing jobs for people in town. My father did road construction; and at 45 he passed away from a blood clot that moved to his brain. I was 13 when my siblings and I were moved to the Juliette Fowler Home to live. I was very happy at Fowler. My surrogate mothers loved me and I felt valued there. I lived in a separate facility than my siblings. We were apart until young adults. I lived at the Fowler Home until I married. My mother's last days were spent at Fowler Home. She passed away in 1991 at 94 yrs. old.

I met my husband, Billy Jack Shelley, at church. We married in May 1949 at the Christian Church, Lubbock, Texas. I received a Scholarship to Texas Tech and received a Bachelor Degree. I worked as a Bank Teller and in General ledger accounting while living in Lubbock. B Jack, as he preferred to be called, worked as City Manager for Synder, San Antonio and then Garland, Texas. We moved to Garland the second time in 1969 and B Jack worked as an Industrial Real estate Developer. All of my children graduated from college. My son Don is currently the Music Minister for First United Methodist Rowlett. I have lived a charmed life and have been blessed with the gift of caring for others. I was blessed by being the guardian for my aunt and great aunt and uncle. I was also able to drive Meals on Wheels for 23 years.

Church

I enjoyed a life of activity in First Christin Church Garland. Jack became an Elder and we taught VBS and we took kids to camp. In 1992, Marilyn Camp asked me to become an Elder. I declined and then two weeks after Jack died I came back to church. Tom Landrum greeted me at the door with a hug and I knew that moment I was at home. I joined the Cooper Sunday School class and then for a short time I taught the Crusaders. I became an Elder in 1996. I was part of the group that started up the Quilters. I was involved with sewing the banners for the Sanctuary. They were all hand stitched and took 3 years to complete. I enjoyed very much the opportunity of being a Dove for several years also.



Present

The most important virtue we can learn is to "Love the Unlovable". Teach your children to love one another. My positive experiences at the Fowler Home opened my heart and led me to become an active Board Member for 8 years.



Home Group Birthdays

September 1—Dottie Harper

September 16—Lee MacDonald

September



Music at First Christian Church Garland

Rehearsals are starting back up again

Chancel Choir

Practice at 7-8pm on Wednesdays (began Sep 5th)

Contact Stan McGill

Handbell Choir

Practice at 6-7pm on Wednesdays (began Aug 29th)

Contact Virginia McBee

Children's Choir

Practice 4:00pm on Sundays (beginning Sep 9th)
Kindergarten-5th grade

Contact Sheri Dacon

CHURCH WISH LIST UPDATE

Here is an update on the church's Wish List of items to be repaired or replaced. We've made some very good progress

MOST URGENT NEEDS:

Air Conditioning: We have replaced 4 of the 7 units that needed repairs.

Roof: We are investigating the possibility of installing a pitched roof over the existing flat roof to prevent leaks caused by standing water.

Fire Detection & Safety: It is imperative the church has the appropriate fire detection and safety equipment and can pass fire code. (COMPLETED)

LESS URGENT NEEDS:

Flooring: The carpet along the 2nd floor and the 1st floor (north side of the Sanctuary) hallways as well as in Room 201 (COMPLETED) and the Robe Rooms needs to be replaced.

New Pew Cushions: Many of the 71 pew cushions are worn and have become stained over the years.

Update to the Youth Wing: The furniture and décor in the Youth Wing is in need of a serious facelift to attract young members.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

You may mail a contribution directly to Clopton & Company, LLC, ATTN: Stacey Garretson, 610 Main Street, Garland, TX 75040. If you would like to make a gift with shares of stock, there has been an account established for this type of transaction. Please contact Senior Trustee, John Harrison at 972-533-0069 or via email werfamily99@aol.com for information regarding a stock sale. While your support to the Campaign will be greatly appreciated, please remember that your gift should be in addition to your usual giving to the church's General Fund.



Youth Bake Sale

Raising money for new furniture for the youth rooms



Sunday, September 9th after church

FUN YOUTH EVENT
Sunday, Sept 16th
5:00-7:00pm

DWM Morning Circle

Monday, Sept 10th

9:30am

Fellowship Hall

DWM Evening Circle

Tuesday, Sept 11th

6:45pm

Fellowship Hall

Contact Shirley Miller for more info

Vineyard Excursion

Saturday September 29th

Kiepersol Winery and Distillery (4120 FM 344 E, Tyler, TX 75703)

Depart from church at 9am and estimated return 9pm

\$25/person includes:

- Transportation to and from Tyler, TX with comfort stops at Dukes Travel Plaza in Canton
- Vineyard tour with wine tasting

Additional expenses may include:

- Additional wine tasting after the tour
- Any purchases you make at Kiepersol or comfort stop

Dinner at Stanley's BBQ

Sign-Up by Sunday September 16th (Sign-up form in Fellowship Hall)

Adults only

Hosted by Disciple Women's Ministry

For more information contact Shirley Miller

<https://kiepersol.com/>



There will be an informational meeting this Sunday, September 9th after worship.

To the wonderful congregation of First Christian Church Garland--THANK YOU . . .



- for the warm welcome you showed me when I joined the staff of FCCG four years ago
- for the assistance you provided along the way so I could better serve the church
- for your friendship
- for your prayers for my family and me when they were greatly needed
- for your evident love of the Lord, which was always a blessing to witness, and
- for your generous parting gift.

I miss y'all.

God Bless You.

Brenda Keel

Abundant
Joy
Overflowing
Generosity



—2 Corinthians 8:1-7 (NRSV)

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2019 Stewardship Campaign Ongoing through September

Pledge cards will be made available in the next
week or two.

Consecration Sunday is September 30th

PRAYER CONCERNS

Circle of Fellowship

Wes Ferrell
Sondra Perry

Shepherds

John Harrison

The Grapevine

Joyce Witt Boyd

God's Messengers

Pat Spradley

Jennifer Cass

Bettye

Davenport

Hands of Faith

Jill Kirker

PASTORAL CONCERNS LINE



469-573-1717

A dedicated phone number for your use in contacting a FCCG minister with your pastoral concerns.



115 S. Glenbrook Dr.
Garland, TX 75040

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