

# The Messenger

September 19, 2018



## Moment's Reflection

*"I have learned to be content with whatever I have." -Philippians 4:11*

I thought I'd share picture from this past summer's vacation. We had other plans, but at the last minute, and by City of Garland necessity, we "chose" (I'm standing my choice of words), to stay at home while for 7 days, an assortment of workers tilled our ground trenching and digging and laying a brand-new gas line!

There's more, of course. To pass inspection, the plumbers pumped the required 3psi of air through the line and waited in their truck to see if it would hold 30 minutes. It did not. And so, through the course of the next 7 days, they repaired no less than 11 gas leaks in our house. The expense was sobering. The collateral damage was even more so. To repair these leaks, they carved out holes in our fireplace brick, sawed holes in the dry-wall, and power-sawed in the attic.

By day three, morale at the Jones home was low.



I've been re-reading Viktor Frankl's best-selling account of his years in German captivity during WWII, *Man's Search for Meaning*. The book lays the experiential ground-work for his so-called theory of logotherapy. Simply put, Frankl made a profound discovery during his years in captivity: he learned that despite what happened to him (and it was far worse than a gas-line repair), he had the power to choose how to respond to the circumstances of his life. No matter what his captors took away from him (and they took literally everything), they could not take away this freedom.

Despite every imaginable deprivation, Frankl said some survived because they refused to succumb to the temptation to be defined by their circumstances. Some of the book's most poignant passages speak of Frankl's determination to celebrate glimpses of beauty (a sunrise across a Bavarian forest), or to focus one's thoughts on the future, or to see that even in a suffering moment, one had a choice to find some meaning in that suffering.

Frankl's account puts my frustration with an unexpected home repair to shame. There is, of course, no comparison between his experience and mine. But there was for me, nevertheless, a challenge to rise above my circumstances—to harness personal freedom to say with determination that this setback would not have the power to define my outlook on life or happiness. And so, I used that freedom to give thanks for the brick man in Illinois who sent me exact matches for my fireplace. And I gave thanks for the worker who accidentally put his foot through our garage ceiling. He made me laugh and reminded me that none of us is perfect. And for the fact that though I would never choose to make these repairs, I was thankful that Jenny and I were kept safe until we did.

Some of you face great challenges. Some of you face cancer. Some of you face the anguish of broken relationships. Some of you face incredible stress at work. Some of you nurse the pain of grief. While neither I, nor Frankl, ask you to ever minimize your suffering, we do challenge you to use your personal freedom to find ways to rise above these circumstances. -Dan

## WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY SERVICE PLANNED—OCTOBER 7

On this Sunday, we join with Christians world-wide to celebrate what Paul once wrote:  
“Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.”  
-1 Corinthians 10:17



### Welcome New Member!

Be sure to welcome our congregation’s newest member,

**Linda Wimbish**  
**300 McCreary Rd 4402**  
**Wylie, TX 75098**  
**214-543-8722**  
**wallacewimbish@yahoo.com**

Linda joined by reaffirmation of Christian faith September 9th. Linda is in the Fishers of Families Care Group and has joined the Chancel Choir.



Thank you for the sanctuary flowers you give to honor your loved ones!

Call Nancy Langford, (214) 215-4593, to reserve a Sunday.

### Covenant Group Begins

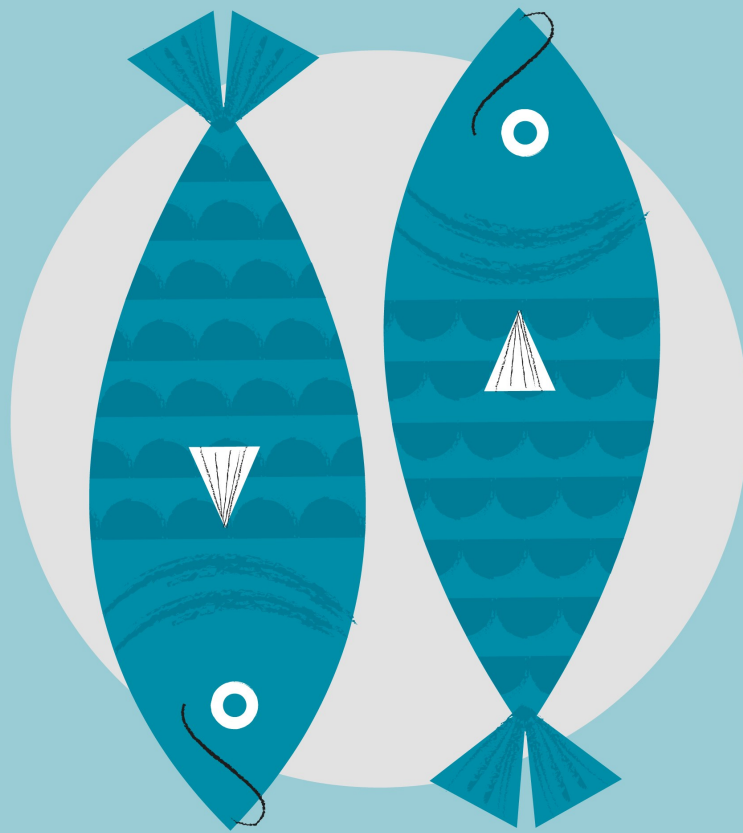


I’m trying an experiment this year--a pilot program. For 7 weeks this Fall, and 7 weeks in the Winter, I’m planning to meet with a small group of members to share the journey of faith. We’ll draw from some curriculum on the Gospel of John. But the group is not primarily about content learning. It is about forming meaningful Christian community and supporting one another through the walk of faith. If this concept of spiritual formation works as I hope and pray it will, I’ll plan other groups in the future. Until then, please pray for the success of this new venture. Pray that those who join me will experience spiritual growth and healing. Pray that we will give thanks for the ways that the living Christ chooses to reveal himself to us. -Pastor Dan

# Fish Fry

Sept. 30 11:30am

In celebration of  
Consecration Sunday



Members asked to bring a  
favorite dessert to share





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.

**A Match Grant Challenge is currently 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](http://www.SWGSM.org) or by check to PO Box 273, Los Fresnos, TX 78566. Donations can be sent directly from a church, or from individuals naming a church.

Recently our Outreach Ministry gifted \$5,000 to the North Texas Area Ministry of the Disciples of Christ Church (<http://www.ntaccsw.org>) and \$1000 to the 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 these ministries 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**



# Music at First Christian Church Garland

## Rehearsal Reminders

### Chancel Choir

Practice at 7-8pm on Wednesdays

Contact Stan McGill

### Handbell Choir

Practice at 6-7pm on Wednesdays

Contact Virginia McBee

### Children's Choir

Practice 4:00pm on Sundays  
Kindergarten-5th grade

Contact Sheri Dacon

## Care Kits for the Homeless

Fellow FCC Church Members: The DWM has decided to help the homeless in our community by providing much needed toiletries. We decided to open this opportunity to the entire church. The toiletries should be travel sizes. Socks usually come in packages of 6, so these can be used for Care Kits. So as you shop for your family at the grocery store, drug store, Wal-Mart, etc.---head to the toiletries section and pick a few items each week. There will be a specially marked box in the donation room. These Care Kits will be donated to Good Samaritans in Garland.

### Below is a list of items needed

- |                       |                           |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Razors                | Nail clippers/emory board |
| Shave cream           | Hand lotion               |
| Deodorant             | Wet wipes                 |
| Toothpaste            | 1 pair of tube socks      |
| Toothbrush            | 1 small packet of tissues |
| Bar soap (small size) | Small packet of Tylenol   |
| Shampoo               |                           |
| Hand sanitizer        |                           |
| Comb                  |                           |

## Vineyard Excursion

**Saturday September 29<sup>th</sup>**

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

Depart from church at 9am with an  
estimated return at 9pm



**Sunday, Oct. 6th**

**8:30am-10:30am**

# **MEN'S BREAKFAST**



**DWM Morning Circle**

**Monday, Oct 1st**

**9:30am**

**Fellowship Hall**

**DWM Evening Circle**

**Tuesday, Oct 2nd**

**6:45pm**

**Main Street Cafe**

**Contact Shirley Miller for more info**

Abundant  
**Joy**  
Overflowing  
Generosity



—2 Corinthians 8:1-7 (NRSV)

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## 2019 Stewardship Campaign Ongoing through September

You can submit your 2019 Generosity Commitment by  
going to this link:

<http://www.fccgarland.org/forms/view/36833>

**Consecration Sunday is September 30th**



# *We Remember*



*Dottie Harper*  
1923-2018

**Note: This selection was written in Dottie's own words.**

I was born September 1, 1923 and raised in McKinney Texas. My paternal grandmother was a "McKinney". Being raised during the depression, I remember times being hard, but with my father having several brothers, who were all farmers, we made do on simple meals. My mother made all our clothes and all of the families traded clothes back and forth as everyone grew. My first job was standing on a box at the cash register at my father's barber shop. Though I was raised an only child, when I was pregnant with my second child, Leanne, my mother announced she too was pregnant. I remember taking her to the hospital when she went into labor and they put me in the wheel chair instead. We had our second children together just 8 days apart.

We were members of the First Christian Church in McKinney so our "Disciples" heritage goes way back. I graduated from McKinney High School where I met Earl. We were married on a cold day January 8, 1943. We eloped while he was home on a weekend pass from the Army Air Corp.

Earl and I had three children, Nick, Leanne and Paul and made First Christian of Garland our church in 1952. We were active in the Crusaders class for a long time and I was active in the Disciples Women's CWF group for many years. We had a night group and a day group. With three children active in youth groups, I can tell you I made a lot of Sunday evening suppers when we had a small kitchen off of the Fellowship Hall; which is now the Ruth Mix Class.

I was a stay at home mom until Earl's heart attack in 1960. I went to work at the counter at Garland Laundry and Cleaners. I learned the trade and moved on to managing the Holiday Cleaners that had around 15 stores. I gave that up to help Earl start a business in 1972 that we ran until his death in 1991.

Earl's mother as well as my mother transferred membership to First Christian Church of Garland. At one time, when my mother was active in the Ruth Mix Class, some Sundays I would have five generations of my family in attendance. I am grateful to have had First Christian Church Garland and its family in my life.

I recently celebrated my 95th birthday with cake and ice cream. I was blessed to have several of my family members in attendance.



***Dottie Harper passed away on September 16, 2018. A memorial service is planned for Friday, September 21st at 11:00am at the church.***



# PRAYER CONCERNS

## Circle of Fellowship

Wes Ferrell

## Shepherds

John Harrison

## God's Messengers

Pat Spradley

## The Grapevine

Joyce Witt Boyd

Jennifer Cass

## Hands of Faith

Bettye Davenport

Michael Armstrong

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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