

The Messenger

November 28, 2018



MOMENT'S REFLECTION

"Shepherds, why this Jubilee?" -Hymn, *Angels We Have Heard on High*

CHRISTMAS IN A NUTSHELL. James Howell, noted Methodist preacher, entitles his book of Advent reflections on Songs of Season, with those words. "Why this jubilee?" The words come from the second verse of a Christmas-time favorite, "Angels, We Have Heard." Even if you don't readily recall the song, the tune, I'm certain you recall the refrain, "*Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*"— "Glory to God in the Highest," words Luke says a heavenly host sang to the shepherds. (Luke 2:14) If you don't remember another word about the meaning of Christmas, remember those words, that song, the answer to this question. Q: Why this jubilee? A: Because how else can any of us behave when God's angels announce peace and salvation?



A SEASON OF SERMONS. For years, I've told the Christmas story through the people to whom God first came—a couple of young Nazarenes, Mary and Joseph, to shepherds, to wisemen, to an innkeeper. This year, I take note of the places where God comes, the venues in which the miracle of Christmas takes place. Apart from Simeon's encounter with the baby Jesus in the Temple, none of these places is inherently holy. In fact, all of them are quite ordinary: a place of sleep in a dream, a field where shepherds are at work, an overnight lodging fashioned from a manger and a crib, on a road leading from home to a distant country. I believe in a theology of place, the importance of the places where God chooses to come. As such, I think each of these places tells us something about the meaning of Christmas.

Advent 1, December 2—*"In a Dream—With Defenses Down,"* Matthew 1:18-25

Advent 2, December 9—*"In a Field: God Goes to Work,"* Luke 2: 8-18

Advent 3, December 16—Chancel Choir, *"Noel" (aka, "In a Choir Loft")*

Advent 4, December 23—*"In a Manger—It Doesn't Have to Be Perfect!"* Luke 2:1-7

New Year's, January 6—*"In a Journey: The Lord Will Keep You,"* Matthew 2:13-15; Psa. 121

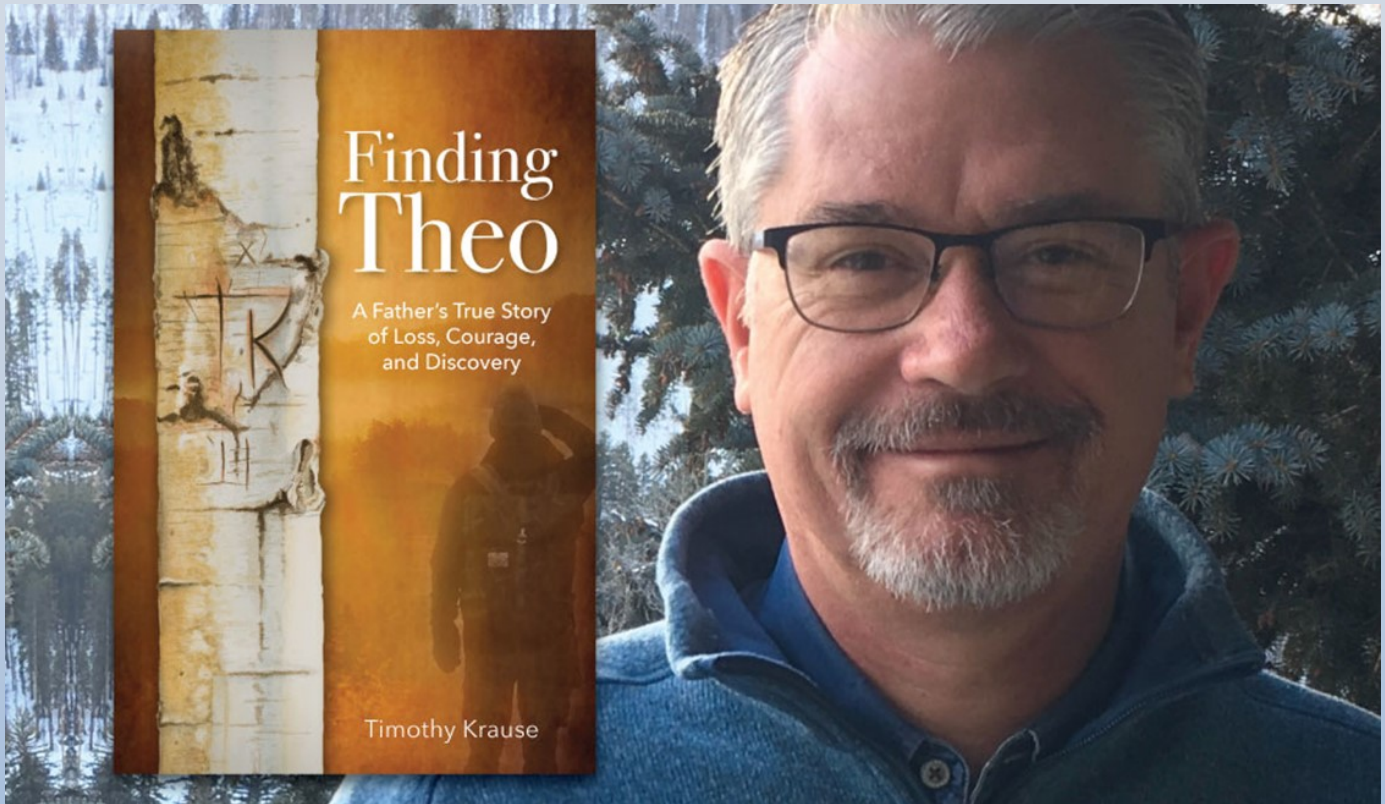


A THANKSGIVING THANK YOU! Please join me in giving a hearty thanks to all the members of the Fellowship Ministry for the work they gladly gave in service of this year's annual congregational Thanksgiving Sunday Lunch, November 18. My goodness, what a feast! Many of you enjoyed the Sunday dinner, complete with turkey and side dishes, along with a long row of desserts. That alone should have impressed you. But also admire and give thanks that these folks were hard at work on the days leading to Sunday. I cannot imagine a finer church dinner. I cannot imagine a finer group of people who, though rightly tired Sunday evening after also serving a large gathering of GISD choir folk, nevertheless smiled and talked of next year. I understand that many of you serve with equal dedication in other areas of our church. Thank you! But this season, this Christmas, thank them. They are some of the same ones who you'll find presiding at the various receptions planned this Advent Season.



Dan, Advent 2018

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH GARLAND WELCOMES TIMOTHY KRAUSE, AUTHOR OF *FINDING THEO*



December 9, 2018 Sunday School Hour

Please come meet Timothy Krause and learn of his son, Theo's remarkable journey to recovery from a life-changing experience. A story of faith, hope, love, courage, and determination—a true testament to the human spirit. *Finding Theo* restores faith in the goodness of people and something bigger than all of us.

You can find the book at <https://www.amazon.com/Finding-Theo-Fathers-Courage-Discovery/dp/1945507926> or contact Stan McGill.

Memorial Service

There will be a memorial service for Joyce Witt-Boyd on December 15th at 1:00pm here at the church. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

ADVENT EVENTS

Festival of Carols

9:00am Worship Service—Dec. 2nd

Family ADVENTure

10:15am during Sunday School—Dec. 2nd

Children's Christmas Pageant

6:00pm in the Sanctuary—Dec 9th
(Reception to follow in Fellowship Hall)

Chancel Choir's Christmas

Cantata

"Carols of the Season"

9:00am Worship Service—Dec. 16th

Christmas Eve

Candlelight Services at 6:00pm and
11:00pm



Youth Christmas Party

Who is Invited: ALL YOUTH (JYF, Chi Rho, CYF)

When: Friday, December 7th from 6pm-8pm

Where: The Godwin Home, 2610 Chinkapin, Rowlett, 75089

What to Bring: A white elephant gift (\$15 limit)

Dinner will be served! Please RSVP by 7pm on Wednesday, December 5th, this is very helpful so we know how many to plan for. Drop off at 6pm and pick up promptly at 8pm

"Hark the herald angels sing!"



Youth Caroling—Dec. 16th

We are going caroling on December 16th! We will depart from the church at 1:30pm for lunch, go to Mayberry Gardens to carol, and end our day at Nestle Toll House at Firewheel at 4pm.

Please join us this day for Christmas cheer and celebration!



Thanks to everyone for your generous donations at DWM Bake Sale & Raffle.

Thanks,

Diana Callaway

Thank You for your generous donations throughout the Thanksgiving Season! We did 43 bags donation bags for the Good Samaritan food drive. Turkey Boxed Dinners were provided to several families here in the Garland area. We are all so grateful for all that FCC Garland provided for the community.

Thank you for all the cards, calls, prayers, and condolences on the loss of my daughter, Karen Smith-Art. Her memorial service will be on December 2nd at 2:00pm at Casa View Christian Church in Dallas, located at 2230 Barnes Bridge Rd. It will be a small memorial service and covered dish reception. You don't have to bring any food: there should be plenty.

Thanks,

Helen R. Smith



Family ADVENTure

A time for families to prepare for the season of Advent together.

All parents, grandparents, or other family members are invited to come participate in this fun family event with their children/grandchildren/youth. Most adult Sunday School classes will still meet.



Sun. Dec. 2 During Sunday School 10:15-11:15am, Fellowship Hall

FCC Rowlett Reindeer Project Angel Tree

We're partnering up with FCC Rowlett's Reindeer Project, which provides local children in the Garland ISD with a really great Christmas. We're doing 37 angels this year.

Angels are currently available on the Angel Tree located in Fellowship Hall. **Gifts are due back by this coming Sunday, December 2nd.**



Please contact Brenda Crosthwaite with any questions.

Mike's Kids

Mike's Kids is an annual program that is supported by the North Texas Area of Disciples Christian Churches, the Christian Men's Fellowship, and Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries. This program supports children and adults who have been abandoned or forced out of their homeland to a new country for political or

religious reasons. Mike's Kids accepts donations of gently used or new clothing, new underwear and socks, gently used or new toys, non-perishable food. **We are focusing on collecting combs and brushes.**

Donations can be dropped off in the "Mike's Kids" box in fellowship hall until Sunday December 9th.



Southwest
Good Samaritan
Ministries

Travel-size for hygiene kits:

- Combs and brushes
- Men's razors/shave cream
- Kleenex and white men's handkerchiefs (bulk purchase)
- Medium-sized (not variety packs) Band-Aids
- men's (untinted) and women's (tinted) lip balm
- Backpacks [no string packs, must hold clothing, small cover, food, paperwork, water bottle, hygiene kit, and diapers (if needed) for two days of travel]

[For this year, we have an abundance of toothpaste, tooth brushes, soap, shampoo, hair conditioner, both travel and full-sized. Please hold on to these for next year.]

Clean clothing, new or gently used:

- Jackets (zip up hoodies) and coats, S-M-L men's and women's (many people are headed 'up north') Children's jackets, sized 2-14, boys and girls
- T-shirts (short- and long-sleeved). all ages, Men's S-M-L, Women's XS-S-M-L
- Boys/men jeans, 24-34 waist
- Girl's and women's leggings, mostly S/M, a few L/XL [to fit over detention release ankle bracelets] One-size knit hats, scarves, gloves, adults and children

Other:

Toddler and children picture books, beginning English words, Spanish-English dictionaries, journals, word finds in Spanish (or simple English), maps of US, all-ages coloring books, pre-sharpened pencils, working pens, pre-sharpened 8-color pencils (please, no crayons), small toys with no loose parts- vehicles, stuffed animals, cuddlies for babies (be sure to clean/disinfect before donating)


[Dollar store 'finds' are great, but so are gently-used and outgrown items. Some will be gifts. Others will help relieve boredom along 2-day bus journeys to new homes.]

Local families love the toys, games, clothing, kitchen and household goods (like crock pots), small rugs, comforters, towels, clock radios, and decorations you send. We do not have anyone to do repairs to clothes or household goods. Gently used running shoes are a treasure for teens.

New only:

- Underwear S-M-L (no XL+), Men, Women, & Children
- Mid-calf or tube sock, Men's S-M (no L+) (bulk purchase at 12 pair for \$5.99)
- Stretch belts for boys/men, 26-34 waist (bulk purchase, 80 per week)
- Shoe strings, black, brown, or white (bulk purchase: 120 pair a week)

[Asylum seekers are released with no belts or shoelaces. They are taken when they are processed into detention because of previous suicide attempts in detention. They are not returned.]



**Children's
Christmas Pageant
Dec. 9th, 6:00pm**

A reception will follow the performance



Chancel Choir Cantata

“Carols of the Season”

Sun. December 16th
9:00am service

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Dec 24th 6:00pm & 11:00pm



Rev. Casey's Mission Trip—December 2nd through 9th



Since I was about 14 years old, I went on mission trips almost every year to the Rio Grande Valley with Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries. SWGSM was founded in 1996 by Cuban Refugee and Disciples Minister [Feliberto Pereira](#). I have a long list of cherished memories from these trips. These experiences without a doubt changed my life. They significantly widened

my worldview, they changed my understanding of what it means to love our neighbors and reach out to the "least of these." My stereotypes and assumptions were challenged. My previously held viewpoints of "us vs. them" were dissolved as I began build relationships and witness the stories. Ultimately, my experiences on these trips influenced my journey into a life of ministry.

The current needs are many and great. As my heart has been breaking from afar, I could no longer stand idly by. I will be traveling to the border for a week, leaving Sunday Dec. 2, to do whatever I can to help. I recognize that just a week of distributing basic necessities and offering basic care is not going to "fix" the huge complicated problems. Yet, I faithfully go believing that even the small gestures of compassion and kindness will kindle some hope and provide some encouragement.

For a variety of reasons, hundreds of people from a multitude of countries are anxiously waiting along the border. They are waiting to be legally processed as refugees and asylum seekers in hopes of a better life, or in many cases, just life. On the U.S. side of the border they wait for family and friends to arrive, they wait for family and friends to be released from detention or processing centers, they wait to be relocated to their assigned immigration sponsors. On the Mexican side they wait for entrance into the U.S. to begin the legal process of applying for asylum and/or to be reunited with family and friends. They wait and hope and pray. Many are desperately fleeing their homes from fear of violence, rape, famine, and death. After treacherously traveling thousands of miles, most find themselves stuck in an unknown place with only the clothes upon their backs. Yet, they wait.

Despite our individual views on politics and policy, none of us can deny that there is colossal need here. These are human-beings seeking compassion and clinging to hope. As a fellow human-being, as a Christian, I cannot ignore the mandates to "**love our neighbors**", to "**feed God's sheep**", to "**welcome the stranger**", to lovingly provide for the "**least of these**".

Many organizations and grass-roots groups are faithfully attempting to care for these individuals and families. They are overwhelmed with the need and would appreciate any help you can give. During my trip to the Valley I will be working with many of these groups, primarily through Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries. I will likely be distributing food, clothing, toiletries, and other basic necessities. I will be providing basic medical assistance as needed and offering a ministry of presence and prayer.

We are living in humble gratitude to God for your outpouring of love, support, concern, and compassion.

¡Muchísimas Gracias!

Grace!

Rev. Casey Tanguay

P.S. To see your donations in action, follow-along on my mission journey December 2-7. I will be posting on my Facebook page.



Under this tarp are 3 children and 4 adults sleeping in the cold and drizzly weather. They are asylum seekers in line at the international bridge in Matamoros

Rev. Casey's Mission Trip—How You Can Help!

Prayer!

Give money!

Financial donations can be sent to church. Checks can be made out to First Christian Church with "SWGSM" or "Casey Mission Trip" in the memo.

Donations can also be given directly online:
Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries
<http://swgsm.org/take-action/donate-now/>

Give material donations!

Items can be purchased from the Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries Amazon Wish List or the Wal-Mart SWGSM's Registry which allows them to be shipped directly there. (Feel free to purchase like-items that are not on the wish-list/registry.)

o Amazon Wish List

<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2E27FYPKVKH3G?fbclid=IwAR3UFOT2lvVnEgvsYuqRDH184lyELGoQHYSajWhlCjB8eHWnez61uKu8D0>

Order using Amazon Smile to have a portion of the money sent to SWGSM

o Wal-Mart SWGSM's Registry

Search in Wal-Mart Event Registry for "SWGSM's Registry"

<https://www.walmart.com/lists/view-events-registry-items?id=836c26cb-237a-4162-ae6d-edcd3a0a3c9a>

Items ordered from Wal-Mart can be shipped to the address provided or can be sent to the local store for pick-up:

Los Fresnos Supercenter #2765
1004 W. Ocean Boulevard
Los Fresnos, TX 78566

Before December 9th, items can also be dropped off at church to be transported through the Mike's Kids program.



PRAYER CONCERNS

Circle of Fellowship

Wes Ferrell

Fishers of Families

David Brand

Jaletta Cooley

Daisy Nowlin

God's Messengers

Sam Blake

Pat Spradley

Hands of Faith

Michael Armstrong

The Grapevine

Bettye Davenport

PASTORAL CONCERNS LINE



469-573-1717

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



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