

# The Messenger

January 8, 2020



## MOMENT'S REFLECTION

*"They left for their own country by another road."* -Matthew 2:12

Never occurred to me how much of my daily routine is quantified. I wear a smart device. It converts my daily motion into steps and calories. I carry a smart phone. It breaks my daily routine into pre-planned sections of time--morning, afternoon and evening. I also carry a mileage device in my car. This little box automatically calculates time and distance and marks each location I go to and from with coordinates.



I also use an app called Waze. It presents three route options and analyzes such factors as construction, traffic delay, and police traps. The app also gives ETA and has an option to let folk know where I am on my route and whether my ETA has changed. Mrs. Jones loves this feature. From time to time, Waze offers up fascinating tidbits of information. "Did you know that based on the number of total miles you travelled in 2019 you could have run equal x-number of marathons?" Yes, I think I probably knew that.

Sometimes I debate with the information Waze gives me. I'm on my way to a hospital in Plano. I always take George Bush to Preston. But today, it gives me alternate route, one I've never taken, including an assortment of side roads. I'm not sure I trust new routes that promise quicker ETAs. I'm a creature of habit. I'm prone to take the known route even if it takes five minutes longer.

And this is exactly how it happened yesterday morning. On my way from here to there. Person waiting for me on the other end wanted to know: "Do you have an ETA?" "Yes, of course." It was only five miles, a route I'd travelled at least a hundred times. But the app on the phone gave me three options.

I chose an unfamiliar route that took me down parts of the city I didn't know existed.

I'm not going to say the travel getting there amounted to a life-changing epiphany. But I will say the journey getting there, down roads I'd never travelled, past churches I'd never seen, by a park I didn't know existed, among housing developments I'd never heard of, reminded me that we have choices to make in life. And that whether or not we think we know all there is to know, or think we've exhausted all possibility, we probably haven't.

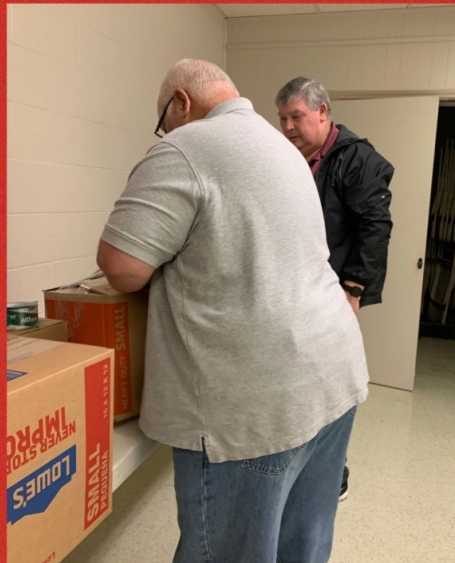
I think of those Magi—seasoned travelers. How many well-worn routes had they travelled down in their lives? And then what? One day, they see a star, behold a child, and discover, after all these years, that there always was another road home. I want to live my life with a sense of discovery like that.

-Dan, New Year's 2020

# Disciples Men

First Christian Church Garland Men's Group under the leadership of Julian Olalde have boxed up and delivered the donations that our church so generously gave. Thank you to all for a successful 2019 giving campaign. A total of 57 boxes from FCCG were loaded onto the semi truck headed to the Rio Grande.

**Our next meeting:**  
**Men's Breakfast**  
Monday, February 1st, 8:30am  
FCCG Fellowship Hall



PIC•COLLAGE

# Disciples Men 2020 Spring Mission Project

The 2020 Spring Mission Project will be to build a new meeting hall for the Lake Brownwood Christian Retreat (LBCR) camping facility.

Here is an update from the project leader, Les Hodson:

Work for the Disciples Men Mission Trip to LBCR is gathering steam. The 26'x 96' slab has had all the plumbing holes filled and smoothed. The old tile has been removed. Next, they will be grinding the slab surface to remove remaining concrete and tile mortar. In the next two weeks, cement requests for quote to build additions to the slab will be sent out. These additions will be for a 12'x 30' stage slab and 8'x 8' walkway for fire exit. The building will



have 12' walls with open trusses in the main meeting area. There will be women's and men's bathrooms on one end and storage area on the other. The two AC heat/cooling units will have a room built on top of the restrooms. The duct work will be insulated flex that will be extending from the AC room. The stage area will be raised 2 feet with a handicap ramp one side and steps on the other. The building will also have WIFI access.

As most of you know, this is planned to be a two-week building project. **The first week will be March 23-27, 2020, and the second week will be March 30-April 3, 2020. The weekend of March 27-29 will be available for men who can only work a weekend. We need all men to help. No special skills will be needed.**

To repeat; volunteers can work one day, or any number of days including all 13 days. We need participation for all levels of support, no matter one's experience.

## What you can do!

### 1. Volunteer for the two-week building project

The first week will be March 23-27, 2020, and the second week will be March 30-April 3, 2020.

The weekend of March 27-29 will be available for men who can only work a weekend.

We need all men to help. No special skills will be needed.

### 2. Your participation, your prayers and monetary gifts are needed.

The cost of the project will mostly be paid by the LBCR Board of Directors.

Over \$4000 was donated at the September 2019 regional Disciples Men Retreat toward this project.

### 3. Additionally, gifts from churches and individuals will be greatly appreciated.

To donate, make your Donation Checks out TO: CCSW  
and mark them "2020 Disciples Men's Mission Project."

Mail them to CCSW, PO Box 1689, Ft. Worth, TX 76101-1689

## Disciples Men 2020 Spring Mission Project (continued)

**When:** The weeks of March 23rd and March 30th to April 3rd. You may come for all or part of the time. You may find the registration form [here](http://www.fccgarland.org/2020DMLB): <http://www.fccgarland.org/2020DMLB>

Please call or email John Harrison ([werfamily99@aol.com](mailto:werfamily99@aol.com) or 972 533 0069) or the contacts below for registration information.

**Choice of housing:** You may stay in a dorm (bring your own bedding) at Lake Brownwood Christian Retreat or at a motel of your choice.

**Meals:** Meals will be provided by LBCR, so our cooks, Bill Napper and Ernie Spiekermann will get a wonderful break. Camp manager, Matt Hammock asks that some men help in the kitchen and in serving meals. Please consider donating \$8 per day to assist the camp with meal expenses. Meals will be served beginning with breakfast on Monday, March 23 in the Dining Hall at LBCR.

**Project Location:** Lake Brownwood Christian Retreat (LBCR)

9030 Retreat Road, Brownwood, TX 76801

Due to the two weeks major project this year, it is VERY IMPORTANT for everyone to: Let Us Know What Days You Are Coming And How Long You Can Stay. Fill out the Volunteer Registration, so we can plan the work schedule and food amounts.

For questions or late registrations, please contact John Harrison at [werfamily99@aol.com](mailto:werfamily99@aol.com) or 972 533 0069.

You may also contact:

Les Hodson at (Cell) 214- 284-9617

Email – [lester.hodson@gmail.com](mailto:lester.hodson@gmail.com)

Or


Nathan Higginbotham at 281-537-1754(H)

Email – [nathanhig@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nathanhig@sbcglobal.net)



# Evangelistic Outreach

FCCG will be sponsoring Journey of Hope again in 2020. It is a very important project supporting children who have experienced tragedies in their lives. These children have lost a family member and need support in dealing with their tragic loss.



**Journey of Hope**  
GRIEF SUPPORT CENTER, INC.

We will be providing a meal to these children and family members on these dates:

- Tuesday - March 10th**
- Tuesday - May 26th**
- Tuesday - August 11th**
- Tuesday - October 13th**

Watch for the Power Point on the screen in the Fellowship Hall with more information. We will have a sign up sheet requesting a few volunteers to serve this meal closer to each event. Your time needed will be about 3 hours. Please consider helping with these events, you will feel so rewarded in helping these children. Childcare will also be provided if needed.

## Rev. Larry Ross Retirement Reception

We celebrated the accomplishments of our very own Rev. Larry Ross and gave our best wishes for his upcoming retirement. Both Larry and Judy enjoyed their retirement gifts. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this happy event.



# Christmas Eve Services

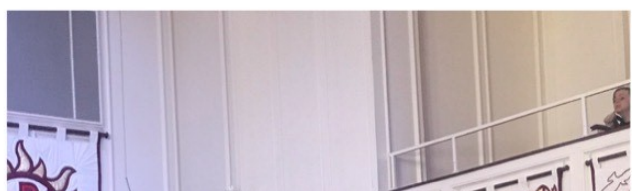
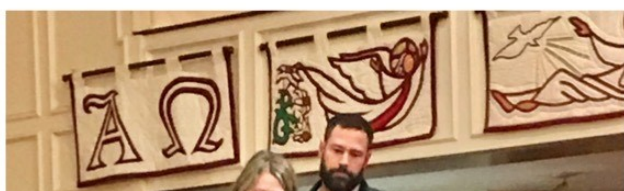
This year, we hosted two Christmas Eve candlelight services. We are grateful for everyone who spent their holiday with us.



## New Years and Advent

And a NEW YEAR begins. The year ahead holds much unknown but it also holds much **hope**. As we begin anew, the baby—now grown—walks alongside us offering strength, direction, and **joy**. The truth we found in the Nativity, the promises made and delivered, are alive and needed today. We are free from the trappings of the holiday and able to fill this new space, not with material decorations, but with the **hope** we discovered in God’s good gift. **Hope** that strengthens and leads and overflows to those around. **Hope** that will lead us to see with new eyes, what God is doing right now. And in all of this, we walk accompanied, supported and **loved** by The One to whom we have drawn near throughout this Christmas season.

And so we move into the New Year with the “peace” of Christ in our lives. Blessings.





## God Answers Prayers

Thanks for all your prayers, words of encouragement, cards, and visits during my short illness. Things are still 'shaky', but I am a lot better.

- Bill Dunn

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Yesterday (Sunday, Dec. 22) was a day I will always treasure among favorite memories. I was overwhelmed by unexpected emotions, warmed by your congratulations, and comforted by the realization that I will have the security of an awesome church family to which to return. I never expected a gift, so the office chair was a much-appreciated blessing, and Judy was ecstatic about the gift certificate! Special thanks to the folk who prepared the reception, and to Pastor Dan for his very kind words! I may be doing interim ministries off and on, but YOU are my home church.

With much love,

*Dr. Larry J Ross*

## *In Sympathy*

*We give our sympathy to the family of  
Joanne Terry,*

*who passed away on Friday, December 13th.*

*A memorial service was held at FCC Garland on Dec. 19th.*

# Rusk Scholarship Concert

Sun., February 23rd

10:00am\*

Featuring the  
music of  
Heather Sorenson



\*Please note service time change

## *We're on Facebook!*

We're very excited to be **LIVE-STREAMING** the worship services and other special events on our Facebook page. Go to our page, listed below, and hit that "Like" button.



**@FCCGarland**

# Youth Corner

## Youth Caroling



Our youth know that the best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear. The residents of Mayberry Gardens got to enjoy our very own carol singers after church on December 15th.

# PRAYER CONCERNS

## Circle of Fellowship

Denise Armstrong  
Fonda Thomas

## Fishers of Families

Rita Brand  
Ben Brister  
Bill Dunn

## God's Messengers

Pat Spradley

## Hands of Faith

Gerry Cooper  
Glenda Lee

## 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.



115 S. Glenbrook Dr.  
Garland, TX 75040

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