

The Messenger

September 17, 2014



Commitment Sunday

Sunday, September 28 will be a very special day in the life of our church. You don't want to miss this celebration of our gifts as we join together for singing, a home-grown slide show of our children (beginning of the service – don't be late!) and a commitment celebration. Our church has a long legacy of great generosity. In 2015, we are encouraging all members to closely examine their ability to give their time, talent and financial resources as we seek to become even more Christ-like in our generosity. Our hope is that we can all reach for a new level of generosity as we consider our gifts of time, talent and financial support of the church for 2015. Mark your calendar.



Look for the Stewardship letter in your mail in the coming week!

Christianity and Immigration

The Families and Professionals group will continue this class in the chapel during the month of September to strengthen relationships and share study and discussion about the difficult issue of immigration. You don't want to miss out on these Sundays!

9-21 "What does the Bible say about Immigration?"

9-28 "Now What?"

"Taming Your Gremlin" Class Continues

The "gremlin" (specifically, "your gremlin") is a concept developed by Rick Carson in his book, *Taming Your Gremlin*. As Carson writes, "Your gremlin is *the narrator in your head*. He wants you to accept his interpretations as reality." Unfortunately, your gremlin hates change and demands the status quo. Your gremlin wants you to feel suspicious, anxious, and hopeless. In this class, we'll learn and practice Carson's simple 3-step strategy for taming the gremlin in order to experience more joy!

Week #2—Choosing to Play with Some Options (and Gremlin tactics that try to sabotage our efforts)

Week #3 — Being In Process (and a little thing called compassion)





BUY A BRICK

Order forms will be available in the Fellowship Hall during coffee time on Sundays for the next few weeks. Some of the inscribed bricks have already been installed along the new ramp on the south side of the church. We invite you to come and view them. Bricks can still be purchased in honor or in memory of a family or individuals as a lasting legacy. Each brick is \$100. For more information, contact either Kathleen Yant (972.496.0534, kyant1@aol.com) or Eva McKannan (972.414.1737, patevamck@verizon.net)

Chancel Choir

Chancel Choir rehearsals are held on Wednesdays at 7 PM. If you are interested in joining, email Stan McGill at Stan.mcgill1@gmail.com

Handbell Choir

Practice is held on Wednesdays at 6 PM. If you are interested in joining, contact Virginia McBee at

(972)816-6068

All are welcome!

Children's Choir

Children's Choir is underway. Children age 4 through 5th grade are invited to join Ms. Tammy and Ms. Judy each Sunday at 4 PM. They will perform the first Sunday of each month.

Meet The Staff



Casey Tanguay

Minister, Families & Professionals

Casey grew up in McKinney, TX with her parents and two younger siblings. She graduated from Texas Christian University with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and has worked as an Oncology Certified Nurse for the past 8 years. She started her career in ministry during this time as the Youth Minister at Northway Christian Church. She obtained her Masters of Divinity degree from Brite Divinity

School May 2014 and became ordained in the Christian Church Disciples of Christ July 13, 2014. Her passions for ministry are many and varied but she has a heart for "making space for the holy" through worship and service, exploring new ways of being the church, and reaching out to young generations. She is married to Andrew and they have a 3 ½ year old son, Asher. In her spare time Casey loves attending Horned Frog football games, cheering on the Dallas Mavericks, reading, painting, and spending time with her family.

Brenda Keel

Office Administrator

Brenda recently joined the FCC Garland staff as Church Secretary. Brenda and her husband, Dwayne, live in Mesquite; they have four sons and three granddaughters. They are members of Life Community Church in Sunnyvale, TX. Brenda fills her spare time with reading and volunteering at various dog rescue facilities.



Elder On-Call Schedule

In addition to its pastors, FCCG is blessed with a number of spiritual leaders, called Elders. If you have a pastoral need or emergency, do not hesitate to call a minister or an Elder.

September—

Gail Greene

(214.647.1307)

John Grasham

(214.704.1934)



A Moment's Reflection



It strikes me how many times I engage in the process of synchronization throughout the day. I have a data vault system for my electronic devices. At least once a day I have to synchronize the information I put on one device with all my other electronic devices so that they all have the same information. On my smartphone, I routinely synchronize information through the cloud so that what's on my phone is also on my desktop, at home and work. At night-time when I pick up my tablet to read, I usually have

to synchronize the materials from my reading account to the tablet. Same with materials I upload to my Evernote account. Same with my Fitbit. The information from one site or device has to be synchronized with another site or device.

It seems fairly obvious that what's necessary for information across multiple electronic devices is equally critical for all our human relationships. We have to share communication or we end up bogged down in a jungle of error messages—trying to operate as one entity with different strands of information.

Synchronization is attainable, of course, but it almost certainly requires intentional effort. Several years ago, Jenny, Megan and I went to a Nutcracker performance in Fort Worth. We paid a little extra to get seats close to the orchestra pit. Much as I enjoyed the music, I was even more impressed by the exquisite synchrony of the dancers. Even though they had different parts to play, different lines, different entrances and exits, they all worked together on stage as one body. The performance appeared to be effortless. Yet, I know it wasn't. They were all ballet professionals, of course. They had above average skills. But I suspect that even with all their skills and gifts they had to practice to make it as seamless as it appeared that night.

This week, I want to say a good word about the importance of synchronization in the church. Even though we all have different parts to play, different lines, different entrances and exits, differing levels of expertise, I choose to believe that we're called to be one body of Christ—essentially interdependent, pieces parts (such as we are), yet fundamentally integral to each other. As such, I believe that there's inherent value in taking time to synchronize our various efforts. As I witnessed that night in Fort Worth, synchronization isn't merely practical; it's also a beautiful thing to behold. —Dan ...

This week's sermon: "The Urgency of Potential"

This week's passage makes me a little nervous. There's a serious question implied in this familiar parable of Jesus: "What are you doing, what have you done, with what I've given you?" If I read the parable correctly, Jesus would like an answer.

Scripture : *Matthew 25:14-30 The Message version*

Upcoming Sermon—Consecration Sunday (September 28) — "You'll Be There, Won't You?"

Invitations have gone out. A great feast has been prepared. There are little cards with our names on them placed carefully on the table. Now, the hour of the party has arrived. It figures to be an occasion of great joy. The only thing left is to wait for the guests to arrive. As Luke pictures it, Jesus himself stands at the door ready to answer the first knock. Will we come to join in the joy of great banquet?

Scripture: *Luke 14:15-24 The Message version*

Prayer Requests

Cup of Life:

- Jeri Harrison
- Marty Rogers

Fishers of Families:

- Blondell Lewis

God's Messengers:

- Syd McConnell

The Grapevine:

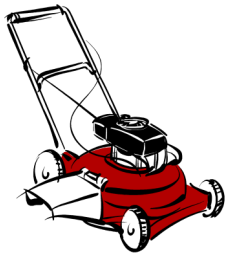
- Judi Archibald
- Dylan Godwin

Hands of Faith:

- Gary & Mary Carroll
- Dennis Lee

Shepherds:

- Kaitlyn Campbell



Yard Work Wanted!

On October 4th, the youth and young adults are going to be in the community looking for yards to mow, weed, rake, or plant. Since this is our first time doing community yard work, we only have spots for about 3 yards. In the future, we will hopefully be able to do more yards. If you are interested in having us stop by to do some work on your yard, please contact Pastor Allison. Also, let Pastor Allison know if you have your own mower and other supplies.



NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY

The North Texas Giving Day is on Thursday, September 18 from 6 a.m. to midnight. Any gift of \$25 or more to the Juliette Fowler Communities will be matched.

The web address is: www.northtexasgivingday.org/#npo/juliette-fowler-communities



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