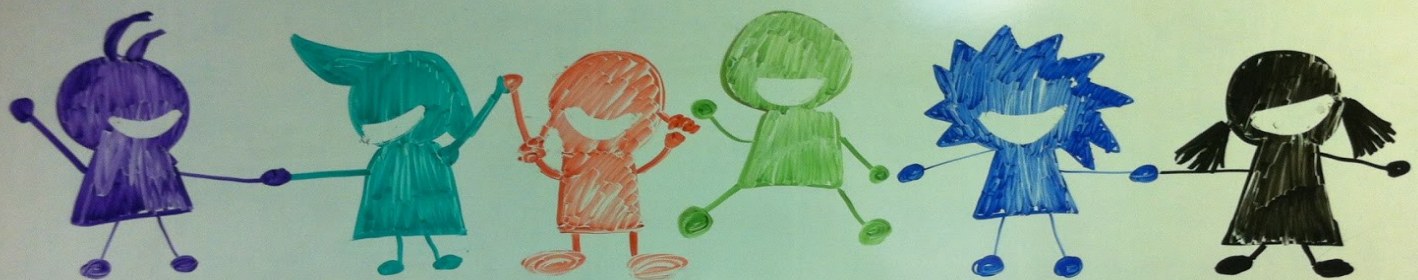


The Messenger

October 15, 2014



CHILDREN'S SABBATH!

MARK 10:13-16

Sponsored by the Children's Defense Fund, the *National Observance of Children's Sabbaths* Celebration is a way for faith communities to celebrate children as sacred gifts of the Divine, and provides the opportunity for houses of worship to renew and live out their moral responsibility to care, protect and advocate for all children.

This celebration is a part of a broader children's movement that aims to unite communities and religious congregations of all faiths across the nation in shared concern for children and a common commitment to improving their lives and working for justice on their behalf. This year's theme, *"Precious in God's Sight: Answering the Call to Cherish and Protect Every Child."*

Join FCCG for the October 19 service to hear Dr. Dan's message: *"What I Wish Adrian Peterson Knew."* A candle will be lit during the service to remember the children of the world.



FCCG Welcomes New Members

The Church is pleased to welcome new members **Harold Bender** and **James Neufeld**. Contact info for Harold and James can be found on the Church bulletin board, outside Fellowship Hall.

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.

October—

Eve Sutton
(580.443.6059)
and

Kathleen Yant
(972.496.0534)



DWM Raffle and Bake Sale



The Disciples Women of FCCG are having a Raffle on Sunday, Nov. 23rd in combination with the Annual Bake Sale.

Purchase Raffle tickets during coffee fellowship time on Sunday, November 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd – cost is \$1.00 for 1, or \$5.00 for 6.

DWM has put together some amazing, extraordinary, incredible, irresistible, and even edible raffle prizes.

Winners will be announced prior to the Thanksgiving meal on November 23rd (must be present to win). DWM is looking forward to a fun time shared by everyone.

**Families & Professionals
Couples Retreat
November 7-9**

A chance to get away for an incredible weekend with your spouse to strengthen your relationship and enjoy some rest and relaxation. Registration is \$100 per couple (includes lodging at Comfort Suites, Addison) and all meals. Scholarships available if needed. Retreat starts at 7pm on Friday and ends at noon on Sunday. Rev. Casey has registration info.





**Sunday, October 26th
5-7pm in Fellowship Hall**

Fall Festival Benefits the Youth Mission Trip

Donations Needed — candy (for handout at booths) and cakes (for cake walk). All donations need to be in Fellowship Hall by end of Sunday School on October 26.



HOLIDAYS FOR THE HOMELESS

The Families & Professionals group will be collecting donations for hygiene kits and Christmas gifts for the homeless of our community. Help out by donating the following items during October:

HYGIENE KITS (travel size items)

- Moist wipes
- Washcloths
- Shampoo
- Soap
- Razors
- Toothbrushes
- Lotion
- Conditioner
- Deodorant
- Shaving Cream

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

- Anything that can fit in a gallon Ziploc. Ideas . . .
- Sunglasses
- Socks
- Deck of Cards
- Pen & Pad
- Gloves
- Hand Warmers
- Puzzle Books
- Candy & Snacks

A Moment's Reflection



All the Center for Disease and Control Ebola updates are getting me down. Listening to Director Thomas Frieden give another press release is almost more discouraging than listening to Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel brief the Senate on the threat of ISIS.

There is no isolation in a global society. The Ebola virus has made that clear. Even if we didn't learn it in grade school social studies, we now know there is a place in the world called West Africa where real people live, work and raise families in countries with names like Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia. Even though Jared's get some of its most beautiful diamonds from these countries, and Michelin tires uses some of their rubber, we're

now forced to pay attention to the plight of these people because of a nasty virus called Ebola. Ebola is the name of a river in Zaire (further down south), but now it's also a plague and a worldwide nightmare. And now Presbyterian Hospital is taking a limited number of new patients, and some of us are concerned about the possibility of a real life-threatening pandemic on American soil.

Who's to blame for this inconvenience?

It's not God. Really. It's not God. I don't usually resonate with secular-based theologians, but I heard myself whisper a deep "Amen" after reading something Joel Baden and Candida Moss wrote in a recent [Slate](#) post. In response to Christian leaders meeting at the Liberian Council of Churches who unanimously agreed: "God is angry with Liberia," they wrote: *"There's something insidious about the notion that God protects the health of the faithful and punishes the sick."* I beg you. No matter how disgusted you might be with the Ebola outbreak and the fact that Thomas Duncan brought it to Dallas, please don't spiritualize this horrible disease by insinuating that God sent a plague upon him or any of the poor people in West Africa. The picture of the anguished mother, on her knees, wailing in grief, makes me remember that God weeps, too.

And then, please don't blame the Christian missionaries for going there and coming back here with it. I'm not shocked easily anymore, but I found columnist Ann Coulter's August 6, 2014 comments downright jaw-dropping. In an article tartly titled, "Ebola Doc's Condition Downgraded to 'Idiotic,'" Coulter wrote in part: *"There's little danger of an Ebola plague {in America}, but why do we have to deal with this at all? Why did Dr. Brantley have to go to Africa? . . . Can't anyone serve Christ in America anymore?"* Coulter says Brantley should have spent his time saving some sin-sick soul on the streets of NYC or Hollywood rather than *"marinating himself in medieval diseases of the Third World . . . There may be no reason for panic about the Ebola doctor, but there is reason for annoyance at Christian narcissism."*

Dr. R. Albert Mohler, Jr., President of Fort Worth's Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, has written perhaps the most deeply Christian words I've read about the Ebola outbreak. *"These two missionaries (Brantley and Writebol) and all those who have gone to West Africa as authentic missionaries in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ haven't been driven by {narcissism, or idiocy} or mere humanitarian impulse. They've gone because they believe that every single human being on the planet is an individual made in God's image."* This is the most compelling reason for our concern as Christians, Mohler concludes: not for mere nationalistic interest, nor health concern precautions, but for sake of the global Great Commission truth that says when one suffers we all suffer. And as to who's to blame? Job can't tell you, and neither can I. In the face of any suffering I side with John Claypool who says asking "why" is far less helpful than asking "how" am I to be a Christian in the face of this present suffering. -Dan

Prayer Requests

Fishers of Families:

Blondell Lewis

God's Messengers:

Syd McConnell

The Grapevine:

Judi Archibald
Dylan Godwin

Shepherds:

Wayne Nurmi

Chi Rho Fall Retreat: "The Hungry Games"

The Chi Rho Fall Retreat will be based on the popular book series The Hunger Games. During the course of the weekend, the Chi Rho youth will explore what it means to be hungry in our world. They will look at ways Jesus and His disciples tried to feed the hungry. We will worship together with over 100 kids from youth groups all over North and East Texas. As always, there will also be plenty of time for fun, including a few huge all-camp games, and of course, a little free time to explore our beautiful camp. Chi Rho Retreat is November 7-9th and open to all youth in grades 6 through 8 and their adult sponsors. Event cost is \$45 per person.



CYF Fall Retreat: "Who Am I?"

The fall can be so busy with football, band, school work, and much, much more. This also means that fall is the perfect time to take a break, catch your breath, regroup and check in with God on Holy Ground. The CYF Fall Retreat will be the first retreat of its kind that will bring together high school students from all over East and North Texas. We hope to have over 150 youth gather at Disciples Crossing to worship, play, laugh and study together. We will discuss the question, "Who am I?" We'll try to figure out how living for Christ can give new purpose and direction to our lives. CYF Retreat is November 15-16th and open to all youth in grades 9 through 12 and their adult sponsors. Event cost is \$35 per person.

Both youth retreats will take place at Disciples Crossing. Please talk with Pastor Allison about registering. To learn more about the camp, visit www.disciplescrossing.org.



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