

The Messenger

August 26, 2015



MOMENT'S REFLECTION

"When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, 'Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?'" –Luke 9:54



North Korean leader, Kim Jung-Un, ordered his troops and submarines into a state of war-readiness last week. It sounds like a really big deal. But the military expert on the news channel acted rather unmoved by it all, indicating to his interviewer that this is pretty much a way of life between the two Koreas: for the past 60 years both sides have periodically threatened to destroy each other.

Here's the shortened version of how the latest fight started:

A landmine explodes injuring two South Koreans. South Korea says that North Korea planted it. North Korea says "Did not." South Korea says "Did to."

In retaliation, South Korea sets up some really big speakers and blasts a 24-hour broadcast into North Korea, criticizing the nation's leader.

Kim Jung-Un calls South Korea's loudspeaker program hostile propaganda and tells them to stop or else.

South Korean leaders ignore him and begin a "scheduled military readiness drill" with the US. Just a drill, not the real thing, but the timing does seem a little odd.

Kim Jung-Un gets really mad and threatens to utterly destroy South Korea.

And then the two sides meet, shake hands. North Korea agrees to not "utterly destroy" North Korea and "apologizes" for whoever planted the landmine. South Korea agrees to remove its loudspeakers.

The would-be War of Landmines and Loudspeakers illustrates some fairly basic dynamics at the heart of a lot of conflicts, big and small, far and near:

Dynamic #1: Many escalating tensions are driven by experiences rooted in the past and have little to do with present acts of provocation.

Dynamic #2: Tension moves towards escalation unless there is early intervention.

Dynamic #3: Once tensions escalate beyond a level of reasonable response, every new response adds an additional layer of complication.

Dynamic #4: A single act of restraint has enormous power to defuse the worst of tensions.

Think of these dynamics by remembering the story in Luke's Gospel. On his way to Jerusalem, Jesus and the disciples pass through Samaria, a traditional hotbed of sectarian animosity between Jews and Samaritans (dynamic #1), and are treated inhospitably (dynamic #2), which, in turn, provokes James and John to ask Jesus if they can torch the village (dynamic #3). Jesus' greater wisdom prevails. Instead of encouraging retaliation, Jesus rebukes the disciples and directs them to move on to other acts of ministry (dynamic #4).

These dynamics and their counter-measures suggest guidance for ways to live a faithful Christian life. Take stock of unresolved hurts and take steps to heal them. Apply this personal awareness to pre-empt a lot of potential heartache. But if you do find yourself drawn into conflict, try to de-escalate tension. And while it may be necessary to respond, remember that everything you say or do has the potential to add a layer of complication. Therefore, speak and act with intention. Heed Jesus' greater wisdom. Don't react. Move on and redirect your energies to life-giving goals.

-Dan



YOUTH GROUP KICKS OFF THIS SUNDAY, AUG 30th
4:00pm-6:00pm at **BOWL-A-RAMA** In Rowlett

The kick-off is for all ages (K-12). We do ask parents of our K-2nd grade to stay and help their youth bowl.

Please RSVP to Pastor Allison by Friday if possible so she can reserve enough lanes. Kick-Off is free for youth and sponsors. We will meet at **Bowl-a-Rama**.

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)

Our MOPS group will begin another year on Sunday September 13th, 5:00pm-07:00pm. MOPS will meet the second and fourth Sundays most months. Come to the first meeting for more information! And always feel free to refer a mommy friend!



Women's Retreat has been rescheduled to October 10th. More details to follow.



Begins Sunday, September 13th: **Youth Choir** (3rd Grade and up) meets from 4:00-5:00pm. **Children's Choir** (4 yrs old through 2nd grade) meets from 5:30pm-7pm. Contact Tammy Holcomb for more info.



CHANCEL CHOIR rehearsals will begin Wednesday, September 9th at 7pm. If you are interested in joining, email Stan McGill at Stan.mcgill1@gmail.com



HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSALS BEGIN THIS EVENING Wednesday, August 26th at 6:00pm; contact Virginia McBee for more info. vmcbee0453@aol.com

Families & Professionals

Labor Day Parade Mission Day

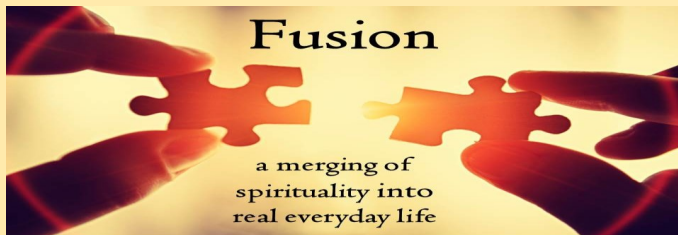
“God saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit through Christ.” Titus 3:5

Our church will participate in the Garland Labor Day Parade for the second year on Monday, September 7th. ALL are invited to participate and assist as we proudly represent First Christian Church by distributing cool refreshing water with labels of love to parade observers. Here’s how you can help:



- * Bring donations of water bottles to the church by THIS SUNDAY August 30th
- * Help stick labels and decorate our “float” after church/Sunday School on Sunday September 6th
- * Bring your coolers and wagons! We need as many coolers and wagons as we can gather to help hold all the water bottles. Just make sure that your cooler is labeled with your name

Join us on Labor Day to walk in the parade or sit at our booth to distribute the water bottles and proudly represent FCCG.



This past year we began our ministry of FUSION and this year it will continue as a great opportunity for you to CONNECT with God and one another during the week. These gatherings provide a non-threatening way to bring along your friends. It has expanded to three different opportunities:

FUSION1- This gathering is for ALL adults (male, female, married, single, kid-less, with-child...). This group meets the FIRST WEDNESDAY of each month at a designated location in the community. September 2nd will be the Fall Kick-off at Fuzzy’s in Rowlett (3801 Lakeview Pkwy), 6:30-9:00pm. Childcare is available at the church with prior RSVP by Monday, August 31st.

FUSION GUYS- The men gather the SECOND WEDNESDAY of each month, 6:30-9:00pm. They rotate meeting in one another’s homes. The kick-off for Fall will be Wednesday, September 9th, location TBD

FUSION GALS- The women gather the THIRD WEDNESDAY of each month, 7:00-9:00pm at the church. Wednesday, September 16th they will be starting **Breaking Free**, a Beth Moore Bible Study series. Talk to Rev. Casey if you are interested in participating in this study!



Breaking Free, Beth Moore looks at the Book of Isaiah through the lives of the kings who ruled during the prophet's ministry. These kings exemplify many of the obstacles to freedom with which we must deal. Using Scripture to help identify spiritual strongholds in your life, no matter how big or small, Beth explains that anything that hinders us from the benefits of knowing God is bondage. God intends for you to know and believe Him, glorify Him, experience His peace, and enjoy His presence.



September 27—November 22, 2015
At First Christian Church Garland
Sundays at 10:15am—12:15pm

Cost:

Church Members—\$50

Non-Members—\$109 per couple

The word "thank you!" is written in a large, colorful, stylized font. The letters are in various colors: 't' is yellow, 'h' is green, 'a' is light blue, 'n' is red, 'k' is yellow, 'y' is orange, 'o' is yellow, 'u' is light blue, and the exclamation point is orange.

FCCG Family—Travis and I are so thankful for the wedding shower the church hosted on Saturday. This was the first shower we have attended together. Additionally, my mother was able to come into town for the weekend. It was a very special event to be able to celebrate our coming marriage with so many friends. As Dan always says, it is impossible to thank everyone by name but Travis and I want to make sure everyone knows how much it meant to us. Thank you to those who made sandwiches and other snacks. Thank you to those who helped with decorations. And thank you to everyone who came.

*In Christ,
Pastor Allison and Travis*

Dear Church Family — Having both of my parents pass away in the span of a few months has been difficult for my family. Knowing that we have been in your prayers has blessed us. Thank you for the many cards, calls and words of encouragement we have received during this time of loss. This week my brother, Ralph, and I are flying down to Harlingen, Texas to scatter our parents ashes. Thank you for allowing me this time away. I will be back in the office on Tuesday, September 1st.

Ray Owens

First Christian Church Garland — Thank you so much for your willingness to sponsor me, as a congregation, for ordination. Even after all these years, I continue to be overwhelmed by your compassion and generosity. The robe you have graced me with is a beautiful external representation of the truly precious gifts of love and support that you have given, and continue to give, me and my family. I thank you for all of the time and effort that went into the ordination service, which I will always remember.

*Your servant in Christ,
Dave Hallen*

PRAYER REQUESTS

Circle of Fellowship

Tommie Potts

Cup of Life

Robbie Collister

God's Messengers

Shirley Miller

Hands of Faith

Gary Carroll

Glenda Lee

The Grapevine

Keith Biffle

Joyce Witt Boyd

Dylan Godwin

Dewayne McCreary

Lynda Simpson

Tracey Williams

Elders-On-Call for August:

Russ Lyons

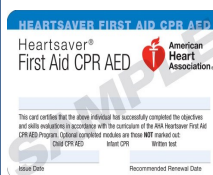
972.412.9107

Chris McMillan

214.793.2719



The Church Office will be closed on Monday, September 7th, in observance of Labor Day.



CPR / AED / FIRST AID TRAINING CLASS

FCCG is considering a scheduling a third CPR/AED/First Aid training class.

We need a minimum of fifteen (15) persons to schedule a class. The cost of the class is very reasonable—\$35. If you did not get to participate in the first two classes and are interested in attending a class, please contact the church office.



Disciples Women KICK-OFF LUNCHEON

Saturday, August 29th

9:30am: Registration / Prayer Partner Info

10:00am-Noon: Event

In Fellowship Hall

Please bring a salad for the Luncheon. For our second DWM service project, please bring canned goods or other items for The Good Samaritans Ministry. (childcare will be provided)

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A publication of First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ

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