

The Messenger

September 9, 2015



MOMENT'S REFLECTION

"If you ask a question, you're displaying a genuine interest in the person." -99 Questions Jesus Asked, J. Ostrander



This coming Sunday, your ministerial staff will attend the Christianity 101 class to answer some Christian faith questions from members of the class. The Grashams taught the class about the book of James last month. As part of that lesson series, they thought it would be helpful for the class to know that its ministers are available to answer questions of faith the same way James was to the congregations in his time.

I like questions. Questions indicate interest, engagement, participation and emotional and intellectual investment. In the absence of questions, there's a diminishment of relationship. Like every minister and spouse team, Jenny and I talk about the conversations we've had with you. We talk about Jenny's students throughout the week. We talk about you after Wednesday choir practice and during the weekend. We're pleased to learn that you talk about us, too.

I prefer to think about questions of faith, theology, how Christ is alive in culture. I'd like to know what you've read. But there are no bad questions. They all matter or else you wouldn't ask them. Over the last year, many of you have asked Jenny and me more personal questions. I don't generally enjoy being the subject of such scrutiny. But you continue to ask them, so I'd like to answer them.

Question: "You've lost a lot of weight lately. Are you sick?"

Answer: No. I'm in excellent health. Through diet change and rigorous exercise, I've intentionally lost weight to be healthier. Yes. I miss some of the foods I used to eat and sometimes crave. But I enjoy being healthier.

Question: "What happened to the pews the ministers used to sit on during morning worship?"

Answer: They were moved from the chancel area to make room for VBS props in July. They weren't moved back because the folk who've moved them the last 12 years can't physically move them anymore. There was some talk about getting easier-to-move furniture, but nothing official has happened. I don't have a great passion to raise money to buy new furniture. Some of you might. If so, I've indicated that I want a large throne-like chair.

Question: "Why do you call Jenny 'Jennifer'?"

Answer: That's her legal name. It's a term of endearment. She sometimes calls me Daniel.

Question: "You wear a lot of Oregon Ducks stuff. Do you like Oregon more than Texas?"

Answer: Oregon football, yes, along with TCU football (my other school), and Oklahoma football, because I grew up as a child in Lindsay, Oklahoma. Sorry, Longhorns. And I wear Oregon stuff because I graduated from the college there. I'm an alumnus. I also like their colors. Yes, Jenny and I do love the Oregon Coast, but no, we have no interest in moving there. We like Texas, and the DFW area, and Garland and FCCG for many reasons. My older brother recently accepted a position at SMU. That means that by Thanksgiving all the Jones siblings will soon live within a 10 mile radius. When I'm dead and gone, I figure you'll be able to visit me in a Texas cemetery, probably not far from here.

Question: When are you and Jenny planning to retire?

Answer: I'm 57. Jenny is 58. Jenny plans to retire when she reaches her magic formula at age 65. Jenny started her teaching career late. She started late because we both wanted her to be a stay-at-home mom when our kids were little. With Zach's pre-mature death we're glad she did. Besides enjoying teaching, Jenny and I need two incomes. As for me, I plan to remain in active ministry until 67. Those are the numbers that work for me and us. You may have to put up with me longer than you want, or I hope so. **-Dan**



CHANCEL CHOIR rehearsals kick-off this evening, **Wednesday, September 9th** at 7pm. Contact Stan McGill if you are interested in joining.



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 information.



HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSALS are held on Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm. Contact Virginia McBee for more information.

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)

Our MOPS group will begin another year on Sunday September 13th, 5:00pm-7:00pm. 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 Mind, Body & Spirit Renewal Retreat Day

Now that Baby Eliza has arrived, the **Women's Mind, Body & Spirit Renewal Day Retreat** has been rescheduled to **Saturday, October 10th, 9:00am-2:00pm**. **ALL** women are invited, so come join us and feel free to bring along your girlfriends. See me for registration forms and more info.

Rev. Casey Tanguay



thank you!

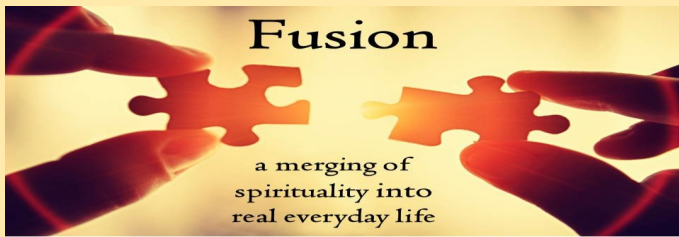
To My Church Family I say: Thank you so very much for all of your love, support and prayers this summer when Gary moved out of state to a nursing home, and when my daughter, B.J., had a heart attack. This has been a challenging 3 months and you, my church family, helped me through it in a way that words can never express. And a special thanks to Ray Owens for all the phone calls and the prayers beside my daughter's bed. The faith of the people at FCCG is strong and the prayers were felt.

Much love to you all,
Mary Carroll

To My FCCG Family: Thank you all for the many wonderful cards and prayers for healing and encouragement that I received during my recent surgery and second hospitalization. My family and I are blessed to have such a wonderful church family.

Thanks again,
Glenda Lee

Families & Professionals



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. Next gathering will be October 7th, 6:30-9:00pm. Childcare is available at the church with prior RSVP.

FUSION GUYS- The men gather the SECOND WEDNESDAY of each month, 6:30-9:00pm. They rotate meeting in one another's homes. The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 14th, location TBD.

FUSION GALS- The women gather the THIRD WEDNESDAY of each month, 7:00-9:00pm at the church. The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 21st. **Breaking Free**, a Beth Moore Bible Study series will continue (see below). 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.



A Labor of Love

Thanks to your help and donations, the Families and Professionals group distributed over 2000 bottles of cold water to a hot and thirsty community at the parade on Labor Day. Our theme this year,

based on a Carrie Underwood song and reflected on our t-shirts, was *"Changed. Stronger. There Must Be Something in the Water."* Our bible verse was from Titus 3:5 (yes, Titus is a book in the Bible!) "God saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit through Christ." A large group braved the heat working hard to give away water bottles while keeping up with the parade. Another smaller group set-up a water station next to the Activities Building to distribute cold water to parade observers. The labels placed on the bottles stated "May this provide you with refreshment and renewal. Know that you are loved!" *Good Samaritan* partnered with us by donating a large amount of water bottles that they had collected for the parade but were unable to distribute themselves. *Grandy's* donated a large amount of ice to help us fill our coolers. This group proudly represented First Christian Church by sharing a cold cup of water in Jesus' name.



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

THIS IS THE LAST WEEK TO SIGN UP



givingmatters

A brief word about the financial note below. During the August Cabinet meeting, Stewardship Chair Mitchell Armstrong gave an giving update. Following the meeting I asked Mitchell if he would prepare a brief note that could be used to inform the church of the financial need. Below you will find that brief note, along with Mitchell's comments.

While we believe that the deficit reflects an expected and historical dip in giving during the summer, the amount is significant enough to take notice.

First Christian Garland typically excels when the need is stated. The leaders of your church have every reason to expect that this present need will be matched by your generous giving.

We are now in the preliminary weeks of our church's annual stewardship campaign for next year's budget. We will appreciate your thoughtful interest in that campaign.

But today, this week, we ask that you give to help support this year's ministry. FCCG has a robust ministry. Your generous support of this ministry makes all things possible. **-Dan**

FINANCIAL NOTE

	<u>Month of August</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Actual Receipts	\$ 37,332.45	\$ 284,434.83
Budgeted Receipts	\$ 39,605.25	\$ 316,842.00
Shortfall	\$ (2,272.80)	\$ (32,407.17)

“As of the end of August we have fallen behind in our giving. Please try to catch up on your pledges and if you can, please try to give a little extra to help us have the funds necessary to continue providing the programming and services to our church community that we have planned.”

Mitchell Armstrong, Stewardship Chair
marmstrong@hotonhomes.com

Safe Church Committee Announcement—AEDs



We wish to express our appreciation to everyone who participated in the CPR/AED Training in August and in our next class in September, you took a wonderful step in making this decision – it truly is a life choice. To enhance your preparedness as an emergency responder, please take the time to tour the **Fellowship Hall, Nursery Area, and second floor Youth Wing** near the entrance to the balcony access to the Sanctuary and locate the newly installed Phillips Heartstart AED's.

It is critical to the success of our training and education to know where to find the devices and which areas they are intended to serve:

Fellowship Hall Device is intended to provide emergency response to the Church Office, Fellowship Hall including kitchen area, and lower level of Sanctuary, Chapel and Cooper Class; additionally playground and outside perimeter,

Nursery Area Device is intended to provide emergency response to the Nursery, Ruth Mix Class, and lower level of Sanctuary or second floor area above the nursery; outside perimeter,

Youth Wing Device is intended to provide emergency response to the Youth Wing, Upper Balcony in Sanctuary, Adult/Children Sunday School Classes, AA and Boy Scouts rooms.

It is courageous to possess a willingness to minister to our church membership, employees, ministerial staff, visitors and guests, civic organizations, and Disciples of Christ or ecumenical event activities by providing emergency response. We encourage you to maintain a thoughtful perspective regarding this responsibility and periodically refresh yourself on CPR/AED training and remember the following quote by Louis Pasteur, "In the fields of observation chance favors only a prepared mind." This theme should guide you in staying sharp and accepting the personal responsibility to prepare your mind and heart in the presence of an unthinkable or emergent need.

The list goes on and on when it involves our safety. By embracing these simple steps and others that you may practice, you protect yourself and others and also work to reduce church risks and church liability.

Please work with us to keep FCCG safe and open to those seeking Christ's ministry. Recent acts of violence around our nation and the globe have heightened our awareness to potential violent unthinkable acts, but do not deter us as Christians who are resolved in spreading the gospel. We will minister to these needs and actually respond with love and compassion for ourselves and others by opening our doors widely with a safe keen eye and proud legacy of following Jesus Christ and we welcome anyone who desires His ministry in their life.

Steve Sutton, Chair-Safe Church Committee
ssutton240@aol.com

Safe Church Committee Announcement

The Safe Church Committee would like to encourage everyone who attends any church related activity (e.g. worship, church school, meetings, or events, etc.) to remain diligent in maintaining personal safety and a commitment to protect others just as you do at home or in public. How can you accomplish this?



**Making our Church
Safe for All**

or guardian and church staff.

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- > Be aware of your surroundings outside and inside the facility or property.
- > Report suspicious activities or structural concerns including utilities (electric, gas water, etc.), lighting needs (indoor and outdoor).
- > Make certain doors close securely behind you and limit or restrict access to unnecessary locations; never provide open access to strangers or unknown suspicious people at night or weekdays.
- > Greeters / Ushers should be observant to activities inside and outside during worship and church school when perhaps we could be perceived to be more vulnerable.
- > Fellowship Hall / Kitchen volunteers ensure their safety is protected by periodic observations of those who come and go from the side entrance on Avenue A and report any suspicious activity or malfunctioning appliances or other concerns to keep this area safe.
- > Report any incident of vandalism or other possible criminal behavior on the parking lot, inside or outside the facility, or other circumstance(s) that create suspicion of abnormal behavior.
- > Employees and ministerial staff during weekdays should maintain a safe workplace and report any concerns or activities that are suspicious or unsafe on a structural or personal basis.
- > Nursery staff report any infant/child safety concerns to parent

Steve Sutton, Chair-Safe Church Committee
ssutton240@aol.com

DWM Kick-Off

The **Disciples Women Kick-Off Meeting** was a success, with 34 in attendance. DWM collected 150 food items for the *Good Samaritan* ministry as part of the kick-off meeting.



Disciples Women



September Circle Meetings

Morning Circle: Monday, September 14th, 9:30am

Evening Circle: Tuesday, September 15th, 6:45pm

Cindy Kyle, DWM President (cikyle7979@gmail.com)

PRAYER REQUESTS

Circle of Fellowship

Tommie Potts

Cup of Life

Robbie Collister

God's Messengers

Sam Blake

Shirley Miller

Hands of Faith

Gary Carroll

Glenda Lee

The Grapevine

Keith Biffle

Joyce Witt Boyd

Dylan Godwin

Lynda Simpson

Tracey Williams



Cabinet and Board Meetings Monday, September 14th

Cabinet Meets at 6:45pm in the Parlor
Board Meets at 7:30pm in the Sanctuary

Elders-On-Call for September:

Judy Ross

214.205.2280

Sharon Campbell

214.557.2086



Disciples Crossing Work Weekend



Disciples Crossing is hosting a **Work Weekend** on September 25-27, 2015 and we would love to have your help.

The weekend will be come and go, so stay as long as you can and we'll put you to work while you're here. Youth and adult ministry

groups are encouraged to come as a group, and individuals are also welcome. Projects will be available for all skill levels.

Housing will be complimentary and there is no cost to attend. A suggested donation of \$30 to cover the cost of meals is appreciated, but not required.

To RSVP, call Tiff in the camp office at 903.675.3692



Crusader's Sunday School Class Party

Friday,
September 18th
6:30pm-8:30pm

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, September 19th
8:00am-9:00am



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115 South Glenbrook Drive, Garland, Texas, 75040