

The Messenger

November 11, 2015



MOMENT'S REFLECTION

"For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light." -Hymn, "For the Beauty of the Earth"

Like many of you, I spend a good deal of my work week chasing down one freeway or another. I try to stay off LBJ. Always congested. Always some accident. Always construction. I'd rather pay the toll to travel down George Bush Turnpike than to fritter away the time of my life on some cement strip of freeway between here and there.



Even though it takes a little longer, I used to go down Miller out to George Bush and drive around north Garland just so I could spend some time on roads that felt more like country than urban jungle. At night I could see more stars out there. During the day, I could see less buildings and more open fields. But not so much anymore. Now there are an increasing number of billboards and construction sites and traffic.

Please don't misunderstand me. I gladly choose the city over the country. I've lived some of my adult life in rural parts of Oklahoma and Texas. After a while the paucity of cultural amenities began to outweigh the benefits of the country's relative calmness.

But I do sometimes crave a little simple, natural, unconstructed beauty. So early last spring I decided to do something about that. Tried unsuccessfully to plant two Texas sages. I love the

silver green hue of the sage. And I figured, "Who could kill a Texas Sage?" But I did. Twice. One drowned in the flooding rains. Another died of some rare plant disease.

So before planting a third time, I consulted with my friends at *Rohdes*. I told them I wanted a medium sized plant. I said I like red. Bright red. They mumbled to each other and then said, "*Malva viscosa arborea*." I said "What?" And they said, "Turkscap." The plant didn't grow well at first. And so I packed it with cotton bur. And watered. And stood over it. And waited. And finally the first brilliant red bloom erupted. And I was so happy.

It's such a simple thing. But at the end of each journey from home to back again, it's the first thing I see when I turn into my driveway. And no matter daytime, or nighttime, early morning or late night, or times in between, I take a moment to behold its intricate beauty. I didn't make that plant. I'm not responsible for its growth or its vibrancy. But it lives. Quietly. Unobtrusively. For all the time I spend in the city, on the road, reading billboards, noting construction sites, thinking about matters of life, fighting traffic, navigating all the complexities of life, I find particular solace and peace and joy in this simple little plant. Its brilliant red blooms nurture renewed spiritual awareness. That plant, those blooms, are one of God's great gifts. In a world that is so full of complexity and concrete, I choose to think about simple beauty like this. **-Dan**

Advent

Hope · Love · Joy · Peace



First Sunday of Advent—November 29th
Festival of Carols at 9am Worship Service

Second Sunday of Advent—December 6th
FCCG Children's Christmas Program at 6pm in the Sanctuary
(Reception to follow in Fellowship Hall)

Third Sunday of Advent—December 13th
FCCG Chancel Choir's Christmas Cantata at 9am Worship Service

Fourth Sunday of Advent—December 20th
Rev. Ray Owens' Retirement Reception at 3pm in Fellowship Hall

Holiday Events at FCCCG



GISD CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Sunday, November 15th at 6:00pm in the Sanctuary
(Reception to follow in Fellowship Hall)



All Church Thanksgiving Luncheon

Sunday, November 22nd at 11:30am in Fellowship Hall



FCCG HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

Saturday, December 5th, 9:00am—3:00pm

Benefits Youth Mission Trip

Activity Center Clean-Out

In preparation for placing the Activity Center on the market for lease, we must clear the building. We invite all Ministries of the church and all Sunday School Classes to see if any of the items in the Activity Center can be used in your work. If so, please claim these items by the end of November, 2015, and remove them from the Activity Center. If you have any personal items in the building, please retrieve them by the end of November, 2015.

On Saturday, December 5, a sale, open to the public, will be held for all remaining items. This is under the able guidance of **Don Smith**. After the sale, anything left will be disposed of. Thank you.

-Don McKenzie



**We Need Your Support
and Your Presence at
the Garland City
Council meeting—for
our Programmable
Sign!**

On **November 17th at 7pm**, the Garland City Council will be voting to allow us to construct our programmable sign on the corner of Avenue A and Glenbrook. **We are asking as many members as possible to make a showing at the meeting.** We were approved by the Planning & Zoning Committee last week, and now it comes to a final vote by the City Council. Thanks.

-Brenda Harper

HOLIDAY GIVING OPPORTUNITIES



Thanksgiving Baskets

If you know of someone needing a Thanksgiving Dinner (whether an FCCG member or not), please contact the Church Office, or Tricia Harrison at trisha1550@aol.com.

Christian Senior Helpers Raffle Fundraiser

CSH will be selling raffle tickets for a \$100 Home Depot Gift Card to help raise funds to continue their incredible mission work in our community. You can buy one ticket for \$1 or 11 tickets for \$10. The drawing will be held at the Thanksgiving Luncheon on November 22nd. You can find the raffle station in the Fellowship Hall next to the lovely house cut-out that was painted by our children at the Fall Festival. You can help by:

- *Buying raffle tickets
- *Offering additional monetary donations
- *Participating in the mission projects

Your support of CSH is greatly appreciated! For more information, contact Don & Cyndy Smith, dray52@verizon.net or Rev. Casey Tanguay, casey@fccgarland.org.



THE ANGEL TREE WILL SOON BE UP IN FELLOWSHIP HALL.

Contact Tricia Harrison for more information.

MIKE'S KIDS "Helping the Poorest of the Poor"

Mike's Kids is an annual program that is supported by the North Texas Area Disciples of Christ Church and is part of the Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries (www.swgsm.org) in the Rio Grande Valley. This program supports children who have been abandoned or families that have been forced out of their homeland to a new country. **Donation Boxes in Fellowship Hall** (items will be picked up December 15th).



Good Samaritans Needs Donations of Hygiene Kits for the Homeless of Garland
(Donation Box in Fellowship Hall)

Need Travel Size Items—

Moist wipes
Razors/Shaving Cream

Washcloths
Deodorant

Toothbrushes / Toothpaste
Soap

DWM THANKSGIVING BAKE SALE Sunday, November 22nd

Please bring baked good to the Church on Saturday, November 21st, between 9:30am-11:00am.





CHANCEL CHOIR rehearsals are held on Wednesday evenings at 7pm. Contact Stan McGill if you are interested in joining.

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS rehearsals are held on Sunday Evenings — **Youth Choir** (3rd Grade and up) meets from 4:00pm-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 meets from 5:00pm-7:00pm on the second and fourth Sundays most months. Next meeting is Sunday, November 22nd.



FUSION1- This group meets the **FIRST WEDNESDAY** of each month at a designated location in the community. Next gathering is Wednesday, December 2nd, 6:30-9:00pm; location TBD.

FUSION GUYS- The men gather the **SECOND WEDNESDAY** of each month, 6:30-9:00pm. The next meeting will be Wednesday, December 9th; contact Rev. Casey Tanguay for location.

FUSION GALS- The women gather the **THIRD WEDNESDAY** of each month, 7:00-9:00pm at the church. The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 18th.



My thanks for all the prayers, cards, visits and food during my recent surgery.

-David Worden

Dear Membership of First Christian Church Garland

I wish to convey my sincerest and most deep appreciation for your outreach to myself and my family upon the recent death of my father, Richard Sutton. He was a wonderful man, father, and Christian.

The thought occurred to me in thinking of how to express any words that could possibly describe this life experience and your loving support emerged in the form of "The Beauty Of The Church," and as the Geneva Bible states in the *Song of Solomon 7:1 The beauty of the Church in all her members* became my personal reflective theme. The phone calls, the personal words of encouragement, the cards, and your prayers were shining examples of Christ's love. The food and love expressions from Connie Tallant, Jenelle Grisham, and Letha Grisham – you are the cornerstones of the church and Christ's love (THANK YOU!). I cannot thank Reverend Ray Owens and Debbie Youngkin appropriately, I suspect they met my father here at FCCG on occasion but he was not a member. However, they gave so much of themselves to see that my mother most prominently and my family was able to celebrate and memorialize his life with music only their gifts and talents can supply. We asked and you said yes, THANK YOU!

All of you in your single acts of kindness made our loss substantially less painful. My family and I thank you for your willingness to reach out. You are wonderful!

The church and FCCG from visitation to services of memorial based on my personal observations constantly reminded me in real-time in a downward moment of what an amazing church we have and the incredible example of Christianity in action. I LOVE YOU ALL!

¹¹ So will the king desire thy beauty; For he is thy lord; and reverence thou him. (Psalm 45:11)

To anyone who is not certain or undecided regarding Christ's ministry at FCCG, call me (I can validate) – look around you with clarity – peacefully observe; your pastoral staff and membership are Christ at work in the lives of each of us and I love you all! Thank you so much!

-Steve Sutton

PRAYER REQUESTS

Circle of Fellowship

Faythe Armstrong
Tommie Potts
Virginia Yohe

Cup of Life

Jack Barger
Robbie Collister
Nicole Moore

God's Messengers

Bob Hitch
Charles Terry

Hands of Faith

Bobbie Caldwell
Savannah Caldwell

Gary Carroll
Mary Carroll
Glenda Lee

The Grapevine

Judi Archibald
Keith Biffle
Joyce Witt Boyd
Dylan Godwin
Lynda Simpson
Tracey Williams

From Pastor Allison—

The High School and College Students continue to meet every Wednesday at Pastor Allison's house. Travis and Pastor Allison provide a delicious home-cooked dinner. We spend time discussing the same questions that candidates for Ordination have to answer during their interviews. This allows us to have a wide variety of conversation and think deeply about our faith. A few sample questions are: What is the Church? Why is resurrection important? What are the essential things a person must believe to be Christian? We encourage you to be in prayer for our youth and young adults as they continue to delve deeper into their faith.



ATTENTION PARENTS OF CHILDREN/YOUTH
Children's/Youth Choir Schedule
Nov – Dec, 2015

- Nov 15**—Youth Choir – regular rehearsal
(Children's Choir – rehearsal from 5:30 – 6:00 then attend GSD choir concert at 6:00)
- Nov 22**—No rehearsal
- Nov 29**—Be at church at 8:30am to practice – singing for Festival of Carols Service
- Nov 29**—Combined rehearsal for Christmas pageant 4 – 5pm in Sanctuary.
(Joining combined youth activities 5:30 – 7:00)
- Dec 6**—Be at church at 8:30am to practice – singing for 1st Monday
- Dec 6**—Be at church at 5:30pm to prepare and present Christmas Pageant
- Dec 6**—Christmas Pageant with fellowship afterward
- NO REHEARSALS REMAINDER OF DECEMBER – MERRY CHRISTMAS!**
- Jan 3**—Regular rehearsal schedule – not singing in morning service

BUY A BRICK

Contact Kathleen Yant;
kyant1@aol.com, 972.496.0534 or
Eva McKannan, patevamck@verizon.net; 972.414.1737



Elders-On-Call for November:

Debra Goheen
(972.523.0056)
Kristen Nowlin
(972.567.2132)



HOMEBOUND COMMUNION is served on the first Sunday of each month by an Elder. If you would like to be served, please contact the Church Office.

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