

The Messenger

January 5, 2016



THANK YOU to SHIRLEY MILLER

On Sunday, January 10th during Coffee Fellowship (10:00am), there will be a reception in Fellowship Hall honoring **Shirley Miller** for her outstanding leadership of the Fellowship Ministry. The purpose of the Fellowship Ministry is to encourage every member to participate in the social activities of the church. Shirley has dedicated many hours of service and devotion to just this purpose, as she planned, purchased and prepared meals for us all to gather around and enjoy.



Shirley has served on the Fellowship Ministry Committee for about 20 years in a leadership position. Before that Shirley often served at various functions in support of Fellowship through the years. Her husband, Jim Paul, volunteered for the Fellowship chairperson role and at first Shirley helped out as needed. At the time Shirley was the President of the Women's Auxiliary which ran the concession stands for Garner Little League so it was easy for her to begin planning meals and purchasing supplies for large functions. About 2008, after Jim Paul passed away, Shirley took on the leadership role and has continued through 2015. Shirley will continue to be a valued member of the Fellowship Ministry team; she is just stepping down from the leadership role.

After some discussion with other Fellowship Ministry members it is conservatively estimated that Shirley has prepared at least 10 meals per year for 20 years with many receptions sprinkled in along the way. That is a lot of food for a lot of people!

When asked what she loved best about serving on the Fellowship Ministry committee Shirley replied "The great people who volunteer in the kitchen. If it wasn't pleasant and happy in there, we would all be miserable." One of her most favorite events was the Joseph Martin luncheon and reception (April, 2015). She particularly enjoys the receptions that welcome new ministers and that say "thank you and good-bye" to outgoing ministers. Shirley thought Ray's reception was really great with many people coming together and working hard toward making it happen.

On looking back from when she started with the Fellowship Ministry to now she thought "the biggest change has been the organization of the Ministry into more of a team effort."

A fitting verse that captures Shirley's dedication is a small poem written by an unknown Author.

*No matter the hour; whatever the need,
You go the extra mile - Always ready and willing to share
A comforting thought and a smile. We thank you for your ministry,
Your guidance and your care. His greatest blessings for your life
Is our most humble prayer.*

Thank you for all that you have done in the past and what you will continue to do in the future.

**Don & Cyndy Smith; Bill & Dolores Smith
2016 Fellowship Ministry**

THANK YOU

Dear Church,

What a blessing you have been to Laurie and me these past years! The retirement celebration was great and your expressions of appreciation were overwhelming. Your kind words and comments give evidence to the presence of the Lord in this congregation.

Thank you for each gift and card that was given as I retire from full-time ministry. The iPad and James Avery jewelry will be constant reminders of the many lives we touched at First Christian Church.

This congregation will always hold a special place in our hearts. May the Lord bless and keep you always.

Ray & Laurie Owens



Need a **HANDYMAN**
around the house?

Call **Wade Godwin** at
214.356.9537 (cell) for help
with any type of chores.
Thanks.

CHURCH MAINTENANCE FORMS

Just a reminder—there are church maintenance forms available in Fellowship Hall and the Church Office, if you are aware of items around the church that need attention.



CARE PACKAGES FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS



Do you have a college student in your life? Do you think they would enjoy a spontaneous **CARE PACKAGE** sometime this semester? Be sure to give Pastor Allison their name, address, and contact info, and she will make sure *they feel the love!*

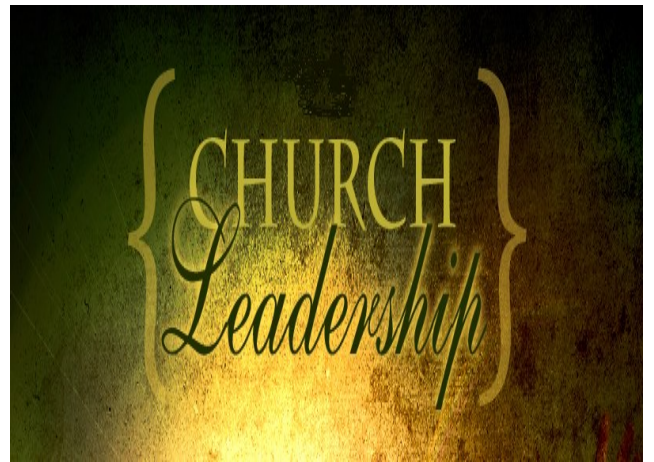
CHURCH LEADERSHIP MEETINGS

2016 Church Cabinet Planning Meeting
Saturday, January 9th; 10:00am-Noon in Fellowship Hall

Cabinet Meeting
Monday, January 11th; 6:45pm in the Parlor

Board Meeting
Monday, January 11th, 7:30pm in the Sanctuary

Leader and Learner Event
*Saturday, January 30th, 9:00am-3:00pm
 at First Christian Church, McKinney*



SWEATS SUNDAY

JANUARY 10th will be **SWEATS SUNDAY** at FCCG. You are encouraged to bring your cold weather donations and wear your **sweats** to church .

Asking for donations of **NEW** blankets, gloves, hats, and scarves; donation box in Fellowship Hall.

MID-WINTER RETREAT REGISTRATION

To register, please go to www.disciplescrossing.org. Please let Pastor Allison know you are going BEFORE you register. The cost is \$90 per youth. The weekends are as follows: High School is February 19th-21st; Middle School is February 5th-7th; 3rd-5th Grade is January 22nd-24th.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, January 16th
 at 8:00am in
 Fellowship Hall

PRAYER REQUESTS

Circle of Fellowship

Erlinda Martinez
Tommie Potts

Cup of Life

Robbie Collister
Richard Rogers

God's Messengers

Bob Hitch
Charles Terry

Hands of Faith

Bobbie Caldwell
Gary Carroll
Mary Carroll

The Grapevine

Judi Archibald
Joyce Witt Boyd
Dylan Godwin



NEW MEMBERS

Dan & Randy Loving

*Monica Pesina, and
her son, Ralph*



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.

Elders-On-Call for January:

Sharon Campbell (214.557.2086)
Judy Ross (214.205.2280)



BUY A BRICK

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

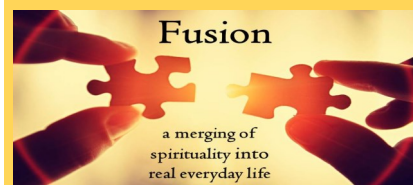


HOMEBOUND COMMUNION

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



FUSION1- This gathering is for ALL adults. This group meets the FIRST WEDNESDAY of each month at a designated location in the community. Next gathering is



Wednesday, January 6th, 6:30-9:00pm at *Intrinsic* in Garland. 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, January 13th, location TBD.

FUSION GALS continue their *Breaking Free Bible Study*. This month, they will meet from 7:00-9:00pm at the church on Wednesday, January 13th AND January 20th. Please let Pastor Casey know if childcare is needed.

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, January 10th. Always feel free to refer a mommy friend!



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