

The Messenger



MOMENT'S REFLECTION

“Friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task.” -Acts 6:3

At our church's annual Cabinet Planning meeting, Saturday, January 9, 2016, I talked with the group about the importance of core values. Core values, I said, are the



single best predictors of the ministries we'll choose to do in the coming year. These core values are also the best predictors of those ministries that we'll be inclined to support with both time and money. In short, plan ministries that give expression to our church's core values and we'll most likely unleash a new-found sense of passion. The 1st century

church, for instance, believed that caring for and watching after the widows was extremely important. When the need was presented, the church mobilized itself to meet that need.

I know what some of you might be thinking. Aren't there some things that the Church should do? Mission? Outreach? Bible study? Yes. It's the Church's call to grow in ministry—ever learning to take on the mind of Christ and Christ's priorities. Yet most people in most local congregations already work consciously, more often subconsciously, from certain core values. A minister's effectiveness isn't so much changing a people as learning to lead a people in directions they're already inclined to go. Transformational leadership is essential. The Bible's prophets were agents of change. The people of God had strayed from right priorities. But more often, effective leaders find authentic ways to affirm existing shared core values.

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Moment's Reflection (continued)

So, what are our core values? I gave the group a list of possible core values and I asked them to pick five. Then we went around the room and shared our personal core value selections. I was most interested to see if common core values emerged. And, of course, they did. From the Cabinet leadership body of about 20, the following top 5 core values emerged:

Top 5 Shared Core Values

Family (8 votes)

Caring (7)

Children (5)

Compassion (5)

Love (5)

Notable Second-Tier Shared Core Values

Community (4)

History/Past (4)

Laughter (3)

Acceptance (3)

Bottom line? Inasmuch as the Cabinet represents the larger congregation's core values, it seems to me that First Christian Church, Garland, is a congregation that has a strong impulse to plan and implement ministries for Family, and especially children, that will nurture Christian ideals of compassion, love and caring. The Cabinet's second-tier list may suggest that we're also an historically rooted and proud community of faith that also wishes to create a fun and accepting environment for our children and families.

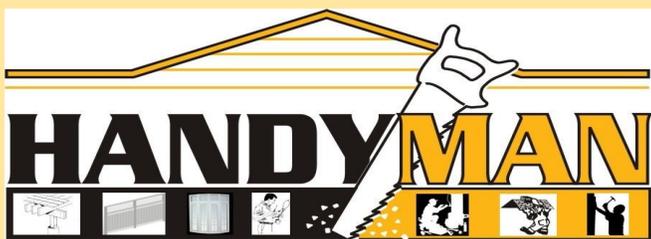
I'd be curious to hear how you interpret these findings. Do they resonate with your sense of core values? With your perception of our congregation's core values? If so, are their ministries we can do to give even deeper expression to these core values? **-Dan**

A Big
THANK
 YOU!

To My Dear Church Family,

I was overwhelmed by the reception that was given for me on Sunday, January 10th. I sincerely thank you for all the nice comments and wonderful cards. I love my church family very much and hope to continue serving in many ways.

In God's Love,
Shirley Miller



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 the church office, in the Sunday School classes, and in wall pockets around the church — in Fellowship Hall, in the kitchen, in the nursery hall, by the elevator on the 2nd floor, on the 2nd floor in the Youth hall, and in the Children's hall on the 2nd floor. If you are aware of items around the church that need attention, please complete a maintenance form and place it in the *Administrator* box under the stairs, by the church office. Thank you.



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!*

RESULTS OF SWEATS SUNDAY AT FCCG

Judy Ross reports that Sweats Sunday at FCCG was a success! Collected were: 59 blankets, a truckload of gloves, mittens, scarves, sweat pants, sweat shirts, socks, and even some coats. Twelve blankets were delivered to FCC Rowlett for tornado victims, and the rest of the contributions were divided between Garland's *New Beginning Center* and *The Matthew 25:40 Project*.



Pastor's Class



It is time for our annual **Pastor's Class**. This class is open to all youth who are interested in learning more about their faith from their pastors. Traditionally, Pastor's Class is for 3rd-5th graders interested in baptism. After participating, some youth decide to be baptized while others do not. Baptism is not a requirement after taking the class. We will discuss things like who is Jesus, what is baptism and Communion, how to pray, and what it means to be a member of the Church. This year's class will meet March 13th from 5:30-7pm and March 20th from 10:15-11:15am. If your youth is interested in attending, please let the office or one of your pastors know by February 28th.

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 weekend for high school is: February 19th-21st



CHRISTIAN SENIOR HELPERS Volunteer Project—Saturday, January 30th

The next CSH Volunteer project will be for 90-year old Louise Baker. CSH will paint Ms. Baker's house on Saturday, January 30th, weather permitting. Volunteer sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. **Come Join Us!** Contact Don Smith for information (dray52@verizon.net).

Mark Your Calendars

MARY MCDONALD COMING TO FCCG ON APRIL 24th

Mary McDonald is well known in sacred music. With a career that spans over thirty-five years, her songs appear in the catalogs of every major publisher of church music. More than eight hundred anthems, seasonal musicals and keyboard collections testify to her significant contribution to sacred literature.



JOURNEY TO EASTER

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 10th

6:00pm Pancake Dinner

7:00pm Worship

Lenten Series— Wednesdays During Lent

6:30pm Dinner

7:00pm-8:00pm "Finals Week: The Last Week of Jesus"

Adult Class Led by Dr. Dan Jones and Rev. Casey Tanguay

Youth Class Led by Rev. Allison Drake

Feb 17, Feb 24, Mar 2, and Mar 16

PRAYER REQUESTS

Circle of Fellowship

Bill Fowler
Erlinda Martinez
Tommie Potts

Cup of Life

Richard Rogers

Hands of Faith

Bobbie Caldwell

The Grapevine

Joyce Witt Boyd



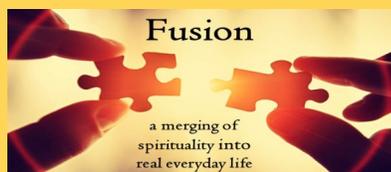
CHANCEL CHOIR rehearsals are held on Wednesday evenings at 7pm. Contact Stan McGill if you are interested in joining.

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.

BUY A BRICK

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



NOTE: NO FUSION MEETINGS IN MARCH

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, February 3rd, 6:30-9:00pm at **Fuzzy's** in Rowlett. Childcare is available at the church with prior RSVP (notify Pastor Casey about childcare).

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.



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 24th. Always feel free to refer a mommy friend!



ELDERS-ON-CALL FOR JANUARY

Sharon Campbell (214.557.2086) AND Judy Ross (214.205.2280)

For pastoral concerns, please contact your ministerial staff directly (contact info below). *If you cannot connect with a minister and have an immediate pastoral need, please contact one of the Elders-On-Call.*

Dr. Dan Jones; dan@fccgarland.org; 214.458.9540 (cell)
Rev. Allison Drake; allison@fccgarland.org; 214.517.8755 (cell)
Rev. Casey Tanguay; casey@fccgarland.org; 817.879.6564 cell



**NORTH TEXAS AREA
LEADER and LEARNER EVENT**

**Saturday, January 30th
9:00am-3:00pm
at First Christian Church
in McKinney**

Program information and registration forms available in the Church Office and Fellowship Hall. Registration due by January 25th.

UPCOMING FCCG MINISTRY MEETINGS

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY—Thursday, Jan 21st, 7pm in Fellowship Hall (contact: Don Smith)

ELDERS — Sunday, Jan 24th, 11:30am in the Parlor (contact: Sharon Campbell)

DIACONATE TRAINING — Sunday, Jan 31st, 10:00am in the Sanctuary (contact: Kim Schnitker)

WORSHIP MINISTRY — Sunday, Jan 31st, 11:30am in the Chapel (contact: Sharon Campbell)

EVANGELISM MINISTRY — Sunday, Feb 7th, 11:30am in the Parlor (contact: Pat Aston)

MEMORIAL SERVICE SCHEDULED FOR *KIM NELSON*

A memorial service will be held for **Kim Nelson** at 11:00am on Thursday, January 28, 2016 at the Saint Andrew United Methodist Church in Plano, Texas. Kim Nelson was the daughter of the late **Jack and Bobby Nelson**, past members of FCCG. Kim was also preceded in death by her sister, Christy Nelson. For more information, please contact the church office.

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