

The Messenger



December 14, 2016

6pm Candlelight Worship

Service will be a casual, child-focused service.

Come as you are. Yes, even if it's in your pajamas!



11pm Candlelight Worship Service.

Wassail will be served at both services.

**Christmas Day and New Years Day
Worship Services at 10:00am**

No Sunday School on Christmas Day or New Years Day

MOMENT'S REFLECTION

"Day by day . . . they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts."

-Acts 2:46

Jenny and I finished the annual Party Procession last week. By week's end we'd taken part in no less than 6 church-related Christmas social events on successive nights. We ate a lot of finger food. Sampled a variety of fine wines. Exchanged gifts. Ate pie. Wore an assortment of Christmas sweaters. Hugged. Prayed. Laughed. Listened. Remembered.



When I was younger, these parties felt like extra-curricular holiday activities. One more event tacked on to an already busy personal and work schedule. But not so much anymore. Now, I'm grateful that in the circling of the years, there are good church people who still take the time to make sure Jenny and I know we're invited. Their invitations remind us that we belong.

For me, Christmas parties are annual reminders of life's urgency. I acknowledge that there are no guarantees that we'll all be together next year. The time of our lives is "like an ever-rolling stream." Its carries us all along. Over the noise of our reverie, I try to remember that.

I see the mother who lost one of her sons. She's celebrating this first Christmas Season without him and I know that at some level she's making herself go through the paces. She has courage.

I recall the man who has cancer and I remember the woman who has cancer. They don't talk about their medical necessities. But I remember the places they've been and the places the year ahead will take them. Their presence is a gift.

I remember the woman whose life has changed much through the years. I'm amazed by the deep spirit that enables her to look past her own needs to host me. She exemplifies what Jesus meant when he said, "The Son of man has come not to be served, but to serve."

I relish the sacred meaning of simply being together to laugh about silly stuff. We don't laugh enough.

I love the moments when some old-timer remembers past parties. She recalls names, digs out old pictures, and suddenly the room gets a little more crowded, and in our silliness, we remember something profound: we're surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses.

Maybe I'm making too much of it. We're just eating food and exchanging gifts. Still, I'm glad to know that as the days shorten and cold winds stir from the north, the lights are on at a dear member's home and the Spirit surrounds us as we gather for another Christmas party. **-Dan**

FCCG YOUTH ACTIVITIES

NO Youth Activities on Sunday, Dec 18th, Sunday, Dec 25th,
or Sunday, Jan 1, 2017

YOUTH CHRISTMAS CAROLING



Fusion: a merging of spirituality into real everyday life

Jesus was in a small group.



life change happens in small groups

The basic purpose of Fusion is to provide space and time to consistently connect with one another and God. Its goal is to help “fuse” (meld, unite, weave) our faith and spirituality into all aspects of our lives. This Fall, Fusion has developed into a small group ministry. We currently have two small groups that meet once a month. One group meets on Friday evenings and the other meets Saturday evenings. If you are interested in joining a small group, please let Rev. Casey know.

PRAYER REQUESTS**Circle of Fellowship**

Martha Ferrell
Marilyn Fowler

Cup of Life

Pat Spradley

Fishers of Families

Quentin Scruggs

God's Messengers

Nina Wood

The Grapevine

Joyce Witt Boyd
Dylan Godwin

CHANCEL CHOIR

Rehearsals are held on
Wednesdays at 7pm.

**Contact Stan McGill for
more information.**

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HANDBELL CHOIR

Rehearsals are held on
Wednesdays at 6pm.

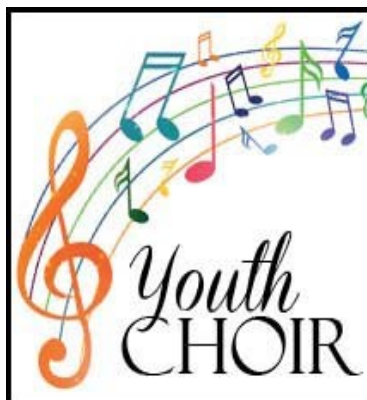
**Contact Virginia McBee
for more information.**

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR**

(4 yrs-3rd grade)

Rehearsals on Sunday evenings,
5:30pm-7:00pm. Contact Tammy
Holcomb.

Presently on Christmas break

**YOUTH CHOIR**

(3rd grade and up)

Rehearsals on Sunday evenings,
4:00-5:00pm. Contact
Judy Grasham.

Presently on Christmas break

Save the Date

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2017

Commissioning of the Church's New Leadership for 2017

(during morning worship)

Cabinet Planning Meeting

(immediately following Sunday School—in Christianity 101; all 2017 Ministry Chairs and Officers of the Board should plan to attend.)

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS—Christmas Season

The church office will be closed Friday, December 23 through Monday, December 26 for the Christmas holiday; and Monday, January 2, 2017 for the New Years holiday.

Dan Jones and **James Hodge** will be out of the office December 26, 2016 through January 2, 2017.



HOMEBOUND COMMUNION

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

Buy A Brick

A Great Gift Idea, or a Great Way to Honor or Memorialize Loved Ones During the Holiday Season

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



Congratulations to Colin Roeger . . .

*The Board of Trustees, Chancellor and Faculty
of*

Texas Christian University

Proudly announce that

Colin Richard Roeger

is a candidate for the degree of

Bachelor of Science

in

Psychology

at Commencement Exercises

Saturday, December seventeenth

Two Thousand Sixteen

Two o'clock in the afternoon

Ed and Rae Schollmaier Arena

First Christian Church Garland
115 S. Glenbrook
Garland, TX 75040



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(Disciples of Christ)