

The Messenger

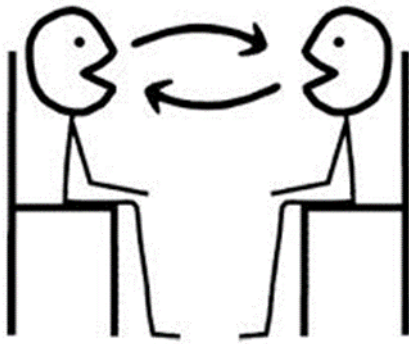


February 1, 2017

MOMENT'S REFLECTION

"There came a woman of Samaria to draw water." -John 4:7

I got caught in the "crossfire" of a road rage incident last week. Drivers in two cars were locked in a dangerous game of one-upmanship down Centerville. She cut in front of him. He nearly ran into two more cars (including mine) trying to get back in front of her. There was an extended session of horn honking and unkind gestures which led to a nearly 2-mile tailgating chase that finally ended when one of his tires blew and smoke went everywhere blinding drivers all the way back.



Sitting in my car, white knuckling the steering wheel, I tried to drown out their anger by turning up the volume on Sarah Brightman's version of *Con te partirò*. Yet, by the time I got home, I felt like I'd just witnessed a relatively small enactment of a much larger national fight.

The Psalmist says the Hebrews once asked God how to sing the Lord's song in a foreign land. Me? I just want to know how to talk about the news of the day without getting my head chewed off. Many of us don't agree about the issues of the day. And I'm OK with that. Good Christians can disagree. But I've spent my whole life thinking about God in culture. It makes me sad that to get along with others I now feel a need to avoid talking about a lot of the issues that matter most to me.

Jesus never shied away from talking about the things that mattered most to him. Despite all the communication barriers at play in the gospel story including, gender, history, religion and culture, Jesus and a Samaritan woman talked. Here, perhaps, is a story to teach that it's at least desirable to cross barriers to dialogue with each other.

Later in the story, when Jesus' disciples return and find Jesus talking to the woman, John indicates a sort of awkward silence, as if to suggest that the disciples are thinking, "What in the world is Jesus doing talking to her?" Perhaps. But I want to suggest that this gospel moment offers three possible rules of engagement, and that new possibility emerges from it:

- **Choose your words carefully** (*"Go, call your husband, and come here."*)

Language is a currency that can be used to build or to demolish relationships. Talk in a way that promotes healing and honest conversations. Respect, understanding, common ground and empathy are words that help inquiring minds stay open.

- **Practice the art of inquiry** (*"How is it that you a Jew, ask a drink of me?"*)

Ask thoughtful questions calmly. When you truly listen to opposing views, you show that you care about the issues. When people know that you care about them, they're more likely to listen to you. Bottom line? Understand as much as you want to be understood.

- **Explain what you stand for** (*"Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give"*)

The chances of dialogue are higher if you and I explain what we stand for, rather than list what we oppose, much less give our opinions about what we think others stand for. Dialogue is a give-and-take exchange about the things that matter most to us. Jesus' conversation with the woman from Samaria is not your typical small-talk. -Dan



DISCIPLES WOMEN'S MINISTRY FEBRUARY CIRCLE MEETINGS

MORNING CIRCLE Meets at 9:30am
on Monday, February 6th

EVENING CIRCLE Meets at 6:45pm
on Tuesday, February 7th

DWM's Service Project for February is the
ANNUAL CHERRY FESTIVAL

at Fowler Community Homes

Thursday, February 9th at 2pm

NEED CHERRY DESSERTS

(in Fellowship Hall Kitchen Fridge
by Feb 8th)

Sign-up sheet for bringing dessert on
DWM Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall



Fusion: *a merging of spirituality into real everyday life*

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.

Fusion small groups are gathering in February. Talk to Rev. Casey if you want more information about joining a group.

Jesus was in a small group.



life change happens in small groups

FCCG YOUTH NEWS

Contact the Church Office to sign up for the Youth Newsletter and keep informed about FCCG Youth Activities

NO Sunday Evening Youth Group on Feb 5th

Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser Coming Up: Contact Renee Godwin

JYF Lock-In, Feb 3-4, at the church

Arrive at 6:30pm (Fellowship Hall) on Friday, Feb 3rd

Bring appropriate PJs, Sleeping Bag, and \$5

Pick-Up is 8am Saturday morning, Feb 4th

Reminder: Sign up for Mid-Winter Retreats

JYF / Chi Rho *TOGETHER*

February 19th—First Christian Rowlett; 5:-6:30pm

March 18th—North Texas Food Bank; 1-3:30pm

April 9th—First Christian Lewisville; 5-6:30pm

Save the
DATE™



ALL CHURCH FAMILY MISSION TRIP

July 26-29, 2017 (Wednesday thru Saturday)

- o We will be going to Fort Worth, TX and staying at Ridglea Christian Church to work with Connect FW. We arrive Wednesday evening, work Thursday, Friday, Saturday and return home Saturday evening.
- o All ages are welcome to attend. All children/youth under 18 years must have an adult or adult sponsor attend with them.
- o Costs will be about \$150/person. Scholarships available. Don't let money be a reason for not participating!
- o Connect FW "empowers people to put faith into action in ways that are relational, sustainable and dignity-giving through justice and service". We will be working to connect with, serve and learn more about children experiencing poverty in Fort Worth. Time will be spent serving, learning from experts (both experts in the field and people who are deeply invested in the lives of these kids and the neighborhood), praying, and dreaming about how we can continue to live out faith in action after this trip.
- o Talk to Rev. Casey if you are interested in attending or helping out.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Circle of Fellowship

Martha Ferrell

Hands of Faith

Brenda Crosthwaite

Mike Whalin

Shepherds

Billie Donaghey

The Grapevine

Joyce Witt Boyd

God's Messengers

Pat Spradley

DISCIPLES MEN's 70th Tri-Area Men's Retreat

Disciples Crossing in Athens, TX

May 19-May 21, 2017

Scripture and Theme: John 15:1-17 "Connections for a Cause"

Keynote Speakers:

Rev. Dr. Larry Ross, North Texas Area Minister

Rev. Jordan Byrd, Pastor, First Christian Church, Palestine, TX

Registration forms in the church office.



CHANCEL CHOIR

Rehearsals are held on
Wednesdays at 7pm.

**Contact Stan McGill for
more information.**



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-6:30pm.
Contact Tammy Holcomb.



YOUTH CHOIR

(3rd grade and up)

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

COMING SOON!

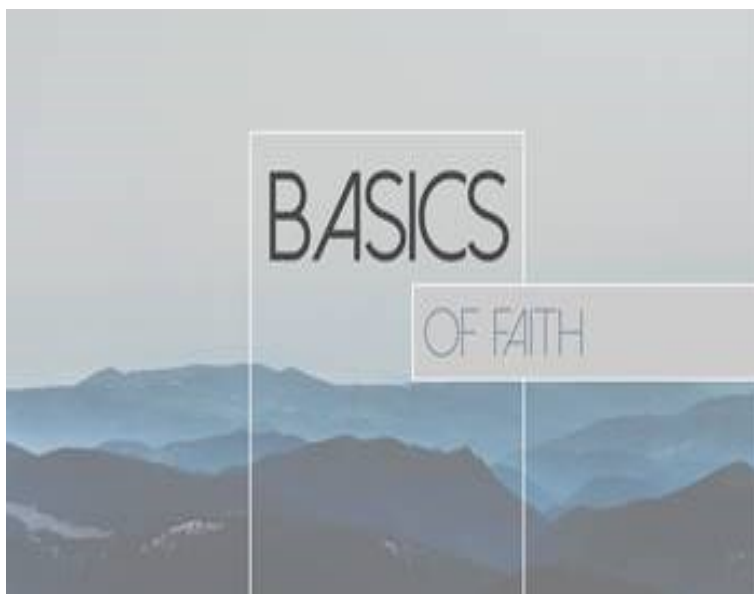
Special Edition Sunday School Hour
Learning Event

February 19th, February 26th,
and March 5th

Meeting in Sanctuary. Members of
all classes are invited to attend.



WHAT ARE MY...
Spiritual Gifts?



Christian Learner Class Offering

(aka, Pastor's Class)

**Pre-Registration Required by Sunday,
March 5th.**

For all children and youth who want to study
the Basics of Christian Faith; especially for
those who are considering baptism.

The class requires a minimum of 3 students.

Pending this year's student need, class will
meet March 26 and April 2.



**Good Sams of
Garland Needs
Volunteers—Call
972.276.2263**

If you would like to volunteer, please call **Pam
Swendig.**



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

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



Families & Professionals MARRIAGE RETREAT

June 16-18, 2017



Marriage is hard y'all! But it can also be fun, exciting, romantic (gasp!) and a wonderful blessing from God. Join us for a weekend retreat to renew your spirits and your relationship!

Cost: \$115/per couple

Includes 1 night lodging at The Texas Star (thetexasstar.com) and 3 meals. (Does not include Friday night dinner, Saturday breakfast or lunch Sunday afternoon). Scholarships available.

Schedule:

Friday night we will meet for dinner at a local location TBD

Arrive at The Texas Star in Weatherford ready to go by 9:30am Saturday

Depart for home about 12:00pm on Sunday

Hotel lodging is limited to 12 couples; bunk houses are available for late sign-ups (Not kidding!)

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



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(Disciples of Christ)