

The Messenger



August 16, 2017

MOMENT'S REFLECTION

"We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now, and not only the creation, but we ourselves . . ." -Romans 8:22-23

I am profoundly disheartened by events surrounding last weekend's Neo-Nazi demonstration in Charlottesville, and the prospects of many more like it. I don't pretend to know every detail of what happened there, but the scene of young white men processing through darkened streets with Tiki torches sends shivers down my spine. As a teenager, I read about this sort of thing in Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*. What I imagined then was frightening enough.

I say this with necessary humility, because I understand that not everyone agrees with my feeling, or shares my assessment of what happened in Virginia. And therein lies the rub. It's possible to see the same thing in two different ways, and increasingly, more of us do.

We now live squarely in a post-modern world. For this is the essence of post-modernism: that we no longer share a consensus that there is one objective reality, or that we have (or should have) agreed upon norms of evaluation. In a post-modern world, reality is subjective. Reality is mostly what we say it is.

And yet, as a Christian, I contend that we do have some norms by which to judge cultural reality.



All Creation
Groans

For instance, Jesus never normalized hatred. And this is why I choose not to normalize hatred, even though in a fallen world, I know it exists and ever will.

Jesus spoke for the marginalized, those who otherwise had no voice. And this is why I give quarter to the marginalized. I resonate with something Martin Luther King once said. In the nasty throes of the civil rights movement, he said: "In the end, we won't remember what our enemies said. In the end, we'll remember that our friends were silent."

Jesus honored his Jewish history, even as he critiqued it. I honor my nation's history, even as I critique it. But while I believe that history should be remembered, I don't think it needs to be repeated. I think of human history as a progression, and not a recycling of old wars.

I've never been a radical, or anything resembling a social activist. But this week, things felt different. I can't change the world. I can't change the country. I can't even presume to speak for you, my congregants. We're Disciples of Christ, after all, born on the frontier of independent thinking. But in the face of raw hatred, silence doesn't seem tenable. And so today, I choose to say that I plan to be newly responsible for myself, for in the end, I'm the only one I can change. Today, I choose to pray the prayer of St. Francis:

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy."

-Dan

FCCG DONATION CENTER

We are proud to announce that a new location has been designated for the storage of donated items. The new Donation Center is located between the Ruth Mix Classroom and the Nursery in the entry/exit hallway.

Six large bins are provided for those items that are collected over a period of time, such as magazines, and five containers are provided for donation drives sponsored by a specific Ministry, such as the current School Supplies drive sponsored by DWM. All of the new storage containers have changeable signage that allows the church to maximize this space according to the needs of specific donation drives. Brenda Keel, church administrator, will be able to create new signs as needed. Just let her know what you need.

Sponsors for the new Donation Center are Family & Professionals Ministry, Youth Ministry, Disciples of Women Ministry and Outreach Ministry. We invite you to come by, take a look at the new space and drop off a pencil or two for the current School Supplies drive.



Families & Professionals

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

Fusion, our Families & Professionals small group gatherings, will begin meeting again in September. If you are interested in being a part of one of these groups that meets monthly, please sign up with Rev. Casey.



GOOD SAMS Needs
Donations of
Plastic Utensil
Packets
for Meals
for the Homeless



FUNDRAISER

for New Donation Center
Supplies



Bid on one of the floral arrangements in Fellowship Hall (bid sheets are in front of each arrangement). Bids start at \$35 and *all proceeds* will go toward materials for the new **DONATION CENTER** — bins, rolling carts, etc.

Arrangements will be available for pick up on Sunday, August 20th, after the Sneaker Winners Breakfast

PRAYER REQUESTS

Circle of Fellowship

Martha Ferrell
Cindy Kyle

Fishers of Families

Ben Brister

God's Messengers

Donna Blake
Juanita Brock
JoAnne Terry

Hands of Faith

Brenda Crosthwaite

Shepherds

Jack Barger
Tammy Holcomb
John Lowe
Pat Spradley

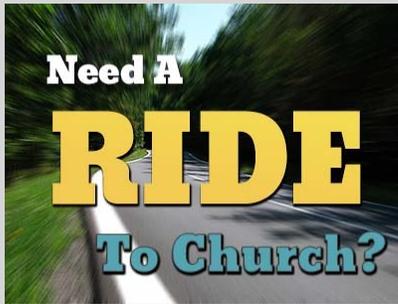
The Grapevine

Joyce Witt Boyd
Bettye Davenport



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.



NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH?

Sign up in Fellowship Hall and someone will contact you.

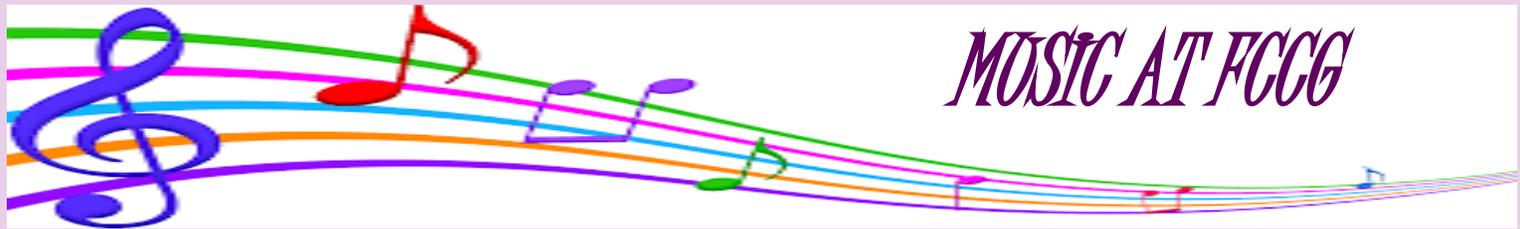
Buy A Brick

Contact Kathleen Yant;
kyant1@aol.com;

972.496.0534

or Eva McKannan;

patevamck@verizon.net; 972.414.1737



MUSIC AT FCCG

CHANCEL CHOIR

Rehearsals on Wednesdays, 7-8pm
Contact Stan McGill

HANDBELL CHOIR

Rehearsals on Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00pm
Contact Virginia McBee

YOUTH CHOIR

Rehearsals on Sundays, 4-5pm
Contact Judy Grasham

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

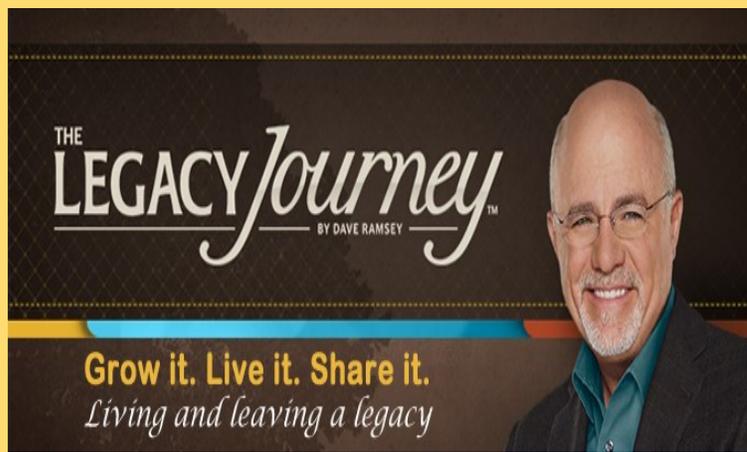
Rehearsals on Sundays, 5:30-6:30pm
Contact Tammy Holcomb

** All Choirs On Summer Hiatus **

CDs of the *Benjamin Harlan Service* are now available. Contact the Church Office or Stan McGill. Cost is \$5 per CD.



We welcome new member **Carroll Barnes** who joined FCCG on Sunday, August 13, 2017.



Dave Ramsey “The Legacy Journey” — Coming This Fall

**Sunday September 10—Sunday
October 22, 10:20-11:50am**

The **Legacy Journey** by Dave Ramsey is a 7-week study that teaches how to truly live and leave a legacy for generations to come. This class will lead you deeper into investing, basic estate planning, purposeful living, safeguarding your legacy, and discovering

the keys to generational wealth and true generosity. Through video teaching, class discussions and interactive small-group activities, you’ll learn a biblical framework for living intentionally now so that later you’ll be able to leave a legacy that will secure your family’s future and make a lasting impact on the world around you.

If you are interested in purchasing a membership and attending these classes, talk to Rev. Casey.



NEED VOLUNTEER(s) living in North Garland/Firewheel area to pick up donuts on Sunday mornings (for Coffee Fellowship) at *Bon Ton Doughnuts*, 1225 Beltline Rd. #14, Garland 75040. Donuts need to be at the church between 8:00am-8:30am on Sunday mornings.

Contact Cyndy Smith if you can help.



First Christian Church
115 S. Glenbrook
Garland, TX 75040

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A Publication of First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)