

The Messenger

July 23rd, 2014



SNEAKER SUNDAY: JULY 27TH



The big day approaches, and your last chance to participate in FCCG's annual shoe drive draws near! Every summer, members pool their resources in a light-hearted competition to see who can collect the most shoes, socks, and underwear for donation to local charities. Sunday School classes from young adult down are asked to collect socks and underwear, and all adult classes are asked to collect sneakers. There will be one winner for each section. Please have all items in your classrooms prior to worship on **July 27th**.

Donations are already stacking up, and the rivalry between classes is palpable. But remember, it's not

about winning! Adults and children all over Garland are in need of safe, comfortable walking shoes, especially as the new school year approaches - **AND YOU CAN HELP**. Even a single pair of socks can help to ease the burden of these families in need. So don't delay, donate today!

CHURCH ENTRANCE (AVENUE A) RENOVATION UNDERWAY!!

The concrete has been poured for the new ramp and sidewalk, and handrails are in place. All finishing touches and clean-up should be complete by Sunday, August 3rd. The purpose of the construction is to provide a more accessible entrance for our members with physical challenges. During construction, please enter the church through the door nearest the chapel, behind the playground.



Men's Breakfast

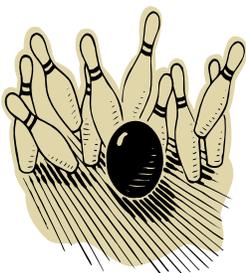
The next Disciples Men's Quarterly Breakfast will be:

Saturday, August 2nd
8:30 a.m.

Warren Ave. Christian Church
2431 Warren Ave., Dallas 75215

Rev. David Bondurant from First Christian Duncanville will speak.
Don't miss it!

Late Night Bowling for Families and Professionals



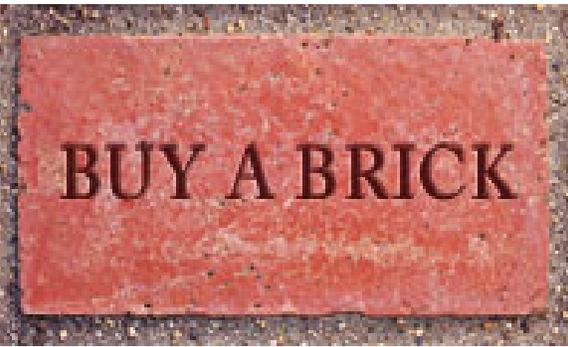
Join us for bowling and nachos on **Thur., August 7th** at Bowl-A-Rama in Rowlett. "All You Can Bowl"

from 9:00pm until close and a Nacho Bar for only \$5 per person! Please RSVP to (casey@fccgarland.org) if you plan on attending!

Just a Cup of Water (Matthew 10:42)

The Families and Professionals group will be collecting donations of bottled water throughout July and August. On September 1st, we will walk in the Garland Labor Day Parade **passing out free cold water with loving messages**. Please bring your bottled water donations by Labor Day.





BUY A BRICK

Order forms and a brick sample will be available in the Fellowship Hall during coffee time on Sundays for the next few weeks. The bricks will be installed along the new ramp being built on the south side of the church. Bricks can be purchased in honor / memory of a family or individuals as a lasting legacy. Each brick is \$100. For more information, contact either Kathleen Yant or Eva McKannan.

Kathleen Yant: Email: kyant1@aol.com / Cell: 972.496.0534

Eva McKannan: Email: patevamck@verizon.net / Cell: 972.414.1737

August is Youth Ministry Month!

August 3 – Rev. Allison Ray preaches

August 10 – Mission Sunday

August 17 – Meet the Youth Sponsors

August 24 – Promotion Sunday



Summer Family Activities

August 6 - Movie Night at 7pm

Aug. 20 - Game Night at 7pm

Chancel Choir begins on Sun., Sept. 7th. Rehearsals start on Wed., Sept. 3rd at 7PM. If you are interested in joining, email Director Stan McGill at Stan.mcgill1@gmail.com. All are welcome!!



MISSION TRIP REPORT - Excerpt from "Now That We Are Home" - Posted July 20th

Full report and pictures available at <http://fccgarlandmissiontrip.wordpress.com>

When we were in Galveston this week, we went into inner city neighborhoods and worked with a mission group called Galveston Urban Ministries (GUM). GUM taught us they have three concepts to guide and develop the community: 1) Engaging the community, 2) Equipping the church and the local community to serve, 3) Empowering programs that are holistic.

The things this mission group taught us – 1) LOVE is a choice. 2) The only difference between us and anyone else is where we were born. 3) Almost every situation there is a reason for it, we were encouraged to ask the question WHY?

Mentally, I believe this was the hardest mission trip I have ever completed. I went outside of my comfort zone a lot this week. In the mornings we did physical work while in the afternoons we worked Street Camps with local children of all ages. Were able to make connections in sharing our faith, hope, and love with them. On Thursday afternoon we were challenged with a "scavenger hunt" list which put us in the streets with people of this community and with the homeless.

I will never see Galveston in the same way again. I will always see the side of town where this community is and will always remember these people, homeless or not, are the same as you and I, only born and living in a different town than I do. My challenge to you: next time you see a homeless person on the corner begging for money, take a moment to show them God's love.

Thank you to FCC Garland for your support and prayers during our mission outreach programs.

God Bless – Renee Godwin



Moment's Reflection

At our church's July Board meeting I closed my report by sharing some times in the last few weeks when I'd seen Christ. I said, "I don't ask myself that question often enough—'Where have I seen Christ today?' But it's a deeply spiritual question and so, in the midst of things to do, I trained my eyes to see, ears to hear." I was amazed by what I saw.

In all his life Laymon Christian wasn't a member here. Probably never came to Sunday worship. But for the last thirty years he's come to our church to attend AA meetings. When he died recently his AA friends asked if they could use our church to have a memorial service for him. As I worked on Sunday's sermon in the relative quiet of my office, I could hear some of the music they played to remember his life. And then snippets of kind words. And laughter. And finally the sounds of caring fellowship. I always hope people will come to church, but I saw Christ the Thursday afternoon Laymon Christian's friends came to celebrate his life.

A week or two before this year's Vacation Bible School, we leaders gathered to think together about ways to care for our kids, especially the ones that need extra attention. We were concerned that some of our little ones had needs so great that we wouldn't be able to help them in right ways. Midweek of VBS, as I sat there eating dinner, I looked up and saw a child dart through the building. He had a big smile on his face. He was enjoying himself. We'd succeeded in creating a loving, safe place for that child. And I saw Christ.

We gathered to hear Casey recite her ordination vows, July 13th. The presiding minister preached to set the meaning of the moment. He spoke from many years of having served the Church. As he spoke I remembered when he and I had begun our similar walks of ministry. Young men back in those days. But now I was struck by how much older we'd become. Then, I saw her kneel at the altar to receive our prayers of blessing. She was young, and vibrant, and I was overwhelmed by how wonderful it is that God's Kingdom call continues to impress each new generation. Seeing her, only just beginning; seeing him passing the baton, I was struck by Isaiah's words, "My word shall not return to me empty, but shall accomplish all that purpose." I saw Christ in all His resurrection glory.

Holly served our church faithfully many years as secretary. She was the first voice people heard, the first person so many saw when they came to our church. But life turned hard for her. And in the blink of an eye she made some decisions she deeply regrets. And yet, rather than cast stones of judgment, I was struck by how loving and kind and generous so many church members were to her, giving to help her despite her mistakes. And in each of those acts of loving-kindness, I saw Christ.

I was making a call to one of our church's most venerated members. She's been sick. She fell recently and is down on her back. In the course of our conversation I learned that acts of ministry were being done for her, many of them behind the scenes. Quietly. Generously. Mercifully. And again I saw Christ.

I'm packing my bags as I write this article. Jenny and I are heading for a travel adventure to the great Northwest (Washington and then Canada and parts around). We planned this trip back in the first days of Jenny's cancer treatments. So much good has happened since those first days of diagnosis. Strength. Healing. Peace that passes understanding. Many kind people (you) willing to do kind things for us. Perseverance that surprised even us. We've seen many glimpses of Christ in the past year. Now, as we set out on this week's adventure, as we look to work alongside you in what promises to be a great year of ministry, we expect to see Christ yet again.

Dan Jones



Prayer Requests

Marty Rogers—Cup of Life
 Judi Archibald
 —The Grapevine
 Dennis Lee—Hands of Faith
 Don McKenzie
 —Hands of Faith
 Erlinda Martinez
 —Circle of Fellowship
 Blondell Lewis
 —Fishers of Families
 Orrin Wiesemann—Shepherds
 Jeff Holcomb—Shepherds
 Syd McConnell
 —God’s Messengers

Elder On-Call Schedule

In addition to its ministry team, FCCG is blessed with a number of spiritual leaders, called Elders. If you have a pastoral need or emergency, do not hesitate to call a minister or an Elder.

July—

Bob Simpson (214.505.2412)
 Mark Anderson (214.868.5219)

August—

Sharon Campbell (214.557.2086)
 Melody Biffle (214.334.8250)



Matt Prestenberg joined the church by reaffirmation of Christian faith this past Sunday. Matt attended FCC Garland during his growing up days and was baptized here, and then spent several years at the church of Sachse. During his affirmation of faith, the congregation also learned that he and Cara Cooper have recently become engaged to be married! Yeah! Matt and Cara have been integrally involved in the

leadership of the church serving most recently as shepherds in this past summer’s VBS program. Matt came forward with his daughter, Sophia. We welcome Matt and Sophia!



Children’s Choir starts September 14th! This year we are exploring the “Big Picture”, and have some exciting changes planned. Come join us at 4pm. Ages 4 years through 5th grade.



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