

The Messenger

August 6, 2014



Church Renovation Update



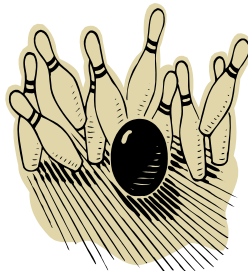
The concrete has been poured, the stairs are finished, and the handrails are in place. The renovations on the church side entrance through Avenue A are nearing completion. The construction process has been long and hard at times, but the results are well worth the wait. In addition, some of the inscribed bricks have also been installed in the sidewalk near the ramp entrance. Several members have purchased bricks to honor a family member or loved one. Many have included a decorative picture for their brick. Others have included a Bible verse that is of special significance to them. It's not too late to purchase a brick of your own. Each brick is \$100. For more information, see the 'Buy a Brick' ad on Page 2.



FCCG Energy Initiative

You can do your part to help us save money at the church by closing doors and turning off the lights when you leave the room. Less money spent on energy means more for ministry.

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 will be available in the Fellowship Hall during coffee time on Sundays for the next few weeks. A few inscribed bricks have already been installed along the new ramp on the south side of the church. We invite you to come and view them. Bricks can still be purchased in honor or in memory of a family or individuals as a lasting legacy. Each brick is \$100. For more information, contact either Kathleen Yant (972.496.0534, kyant1@aol.com) or Eva McKannan (972.414.1737, patevamck@verizon.net)

August is Youth Ministry Month!

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!!

Exciting Changes in Tri-Area Camping Program

As I mentioned in my sermon on Sunday, there are some very positive changes coming in our youth camps and conferences program. I want to take this opportunity to explain what is happening and how we got to this point.

The Southwest Region of the Disciples Church is broken up into eight smaller geographic areas. Traditionally, each of these areas have run their own summer camps and school year retreats. As we look towards the future, almost all of the eight areas have decided to restructure their programs and combine in some fashion. We live in the NTA (Greater Dallas area) and are connected geographically to the TBA (Fort Worth/Waco) and NEA (East Texas). For years, these three groups have each run separate programs especially for high school youth. Recently, however, we moved to combining the camping program for our 9th grade and younger youth, which allowed them to form bonds and friendships with youth from East Texas and the Fort Worth/Waco area. Now that those youth are 10th graders, they would have to attend camps with youth from the Greater Dallas area only, away from the relationships they formed in the Tri-Area camping program.

In order to honor our youth's friendships and spiritual development, we (the NTA) are joining with the NEA and TBA for our camping programs. After much consideration and discussion with our youth, we are going to start combining retreats and camp this year! This way, our youth can continue strengthening the relationships they formed over years of attending Tri-Area church camp together.

The main concern in this move was what to do with our Youth Ministry Council (YMC) which is comprised of 11th and 12th grade youth who plan our retreats and camps. No one wanted to do away with this wonderful outlet for youth leadership development. Instead, we have found an exciting new model which we believe will enable us to train more youth leaders and offer them greater depth of training. We are combining the three YMCs into one large group. From that large group, the youth are able to split into groups based on interest, strengths, and weaknesses. Having witnessed the beginning planning for the coming year at CYLS (Christian Youth Leadership Seminar), I know we are going to have an exciting year full of new and spiritually enriching activities. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Pastor Allison.



A Moment's Reflection

Jenny and I loved this little place, The Galley, set up against the waters of Vancouver's Jericho Beach. In the distance you could see a glimpse of downtown. In the near foreground, you could see a variety of sailboats and cargo freights.

We found it by chance. Seems to be the way of lot of extraordinarily joyful things happen in life. We don't find them by any design of our own. They're given to us, as if little gifts of God. Moments of refreshment. Places that fill our souls. Special portions of daily bread. We were tired from the road leading there, some 150 miles from Seattle. Packed with more cars than the 5 o'clock traffic on 635, three lanes of traffic trying to squeeze into one lane to go 10 mph through a narrow little tunnel. Border crossing is now a whole lot more complicated compared to my college days when you didn't need passports and nobody cared if you were American or Canadian. Now in these post-9/11 days, serious agents are eyeballing you like you're a potential homeland security threat.

It was overcast the evening we sat down. In the low 50s, a stiff wind coming off the bay. We zipped up our jackets and just sat there to admire a moment of beauty that was nearly spiritual. We wrapped our hands around a hot cup of coffee. You don't need to talk in holy moments like these.

We went back later that week on a Saturday night. The city was buzzing with the excitement of a so-called Festival of Lights. Fireworks were set to go off at dark and everybody was trying to get a good seat. We found ours there by the water. We got to know the owner while we waited, a big burly man named Keith who said we sounded like Texans. Whatever that means. We joined the patio host in counting down the festival of lights.

We do fireworks a whole lot better here in Texas. But I suppose when you live through the long, cold Canadian winters and short summers, you celebrate light whenever, however, you can find it.

Jenny and I admired all the Canadian beauty. And it was good to get away. As I've shared before, this past year was a tough year. But towards the end of our time away, I actually got homesick. I wanted to get back to my country, my community, my home, my dog, my stores, and my church.

Jenny finished her last cancer infusion Friday. Today we got the word that her 1-year scan is clear. So, next Wednesday she'll have her port removed. And maybe, just maybe, we can look forward to many years of health and good living. But today, I'm happy. I'm home. And I know, from having been away, that this is where I belong.

—Dan



Safe Church Training happening August 17th

Safe Church training will take place on Sunday, August 17th. This training is mandatory for nursery workers, Sunday School teachers, and youth group sponsors but it is open to all interested church members. This continuing education training will address issues of child safety, child abuse prevention, and mandatory reporting procedures. It will also provide information about the best ways to educate and care for children with special needs. There will be a lunch provided from 11:30 to 12:00 and then the training will be from 12:00 to 1:00. To RSVP for lunch or if you have any questions about the training, please call Stephanie Gordon at (214)673-9059.



Prayer Requests

Cup of Life

Jeri Harrison Marty Rogers

Fishers of Families

Blondell Lewis

God's Messengers

Syd McConnell

The Grapevine

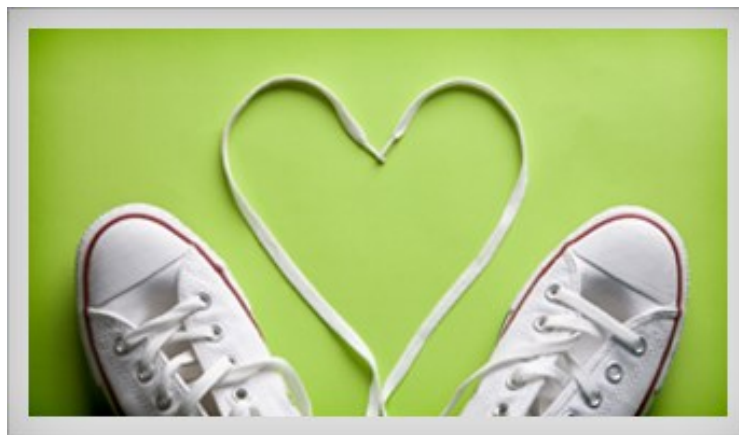
Judi Archibald

Hands of Faith

Dennis Lee Don McKenzie

Shepherds

Jeff Holcomb Orrin Wiesemann



Sneaker Sunday Success

Congratulations to the Cooper class for winning the Sneaker Sunday contest. The Cooper class contributed 119 sneakers for the children in need of Garland for back to school. The Pre-K through 3rd grade class won for bringing the most socks and underwear. They contributed 72 pairs of socks and 41 underwear. Our church generously donated a total of 266 pairs of sneakers and 75 socks and 41 underwear to the Salvation Army. Your generous support of this worthy project was most appreciated. Thank you from Outreach Ministry. Brunch for the winning classes will be Sunday, August 10th during the Sunday School hour in the Fellowship Hall.



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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