

The Messenger

August 20, 2014



Promotion Sunday

Promotion Sunday will be held during worship on Sunday, August 24. We will take a moment to celebrate another great year of learning and kick off the new year! Children rising into 4th grade will receive their Bibles and teachers will be recognized for their service. This year, we are going to honor our teachers and celebrate the start of a new school year during worship! Children and youth are going to join in the procession at the beginning of worship and be recognized during the Children's Sermon. Parents, please have your child in the Fellowship Hall by 8:45am so their teachers have time to get everything organized. Please join us on Sunday!

Youth Sponsor Covenant

As the sponsors for First Christian Church's kindergarten through 12th grade youth, we covenant with the youth we are shepherding, the parents who entrust their youth to us, and the greater congregation who supports us to do and be the following:

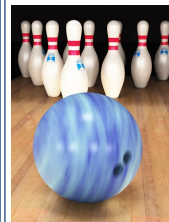
- I will always remember that I am the adult.
- I will always treat youth with respect.
- I will remember this is a commitment and do my best to be an active part of our youth's lives.
- I will have a positive attitude.
- I will show that I care and be available should our youth need me.
- I will focus on the youth and not other adults.
- I will be trustworthy.
- I will help our youth feel safe and loved.
- I will help empower our youth.
- I will enable them to explore their faith openly and honestly.
- I will be appropriately confidential.



On September 13th, our 6-12th grade youth are going to **Group Dynamix** for team building and a ropes course. We will meet at the church at 8:15am and return around 2:30am. The cost is \$20 and lunch is provided. I encourage all youth to sign up for this great outing as it will be a great way for us to bond and become one family. **Please RSVP to Pastor Allison by August 24th**. RSVPs are necessary so we can have spots for everyone.



All Youth Bowling! September 7th is the official start to our youth group year! All age groups (K-12) are invited to meet us at Bowl-a-Rama in Rowlett from 4pm-6pm. Dinner will not be provided, but the cost of bowling and shoe rental is covered. PYF parents are invited to stay and help your child bowl. Please let Pastor Allison know if you are attending so she can reserve enough lanes.



Chancel Choir

Chancel Choir begins on Sun., Sept. 7th. Rehearsals start on Wed., Sept. 3rd at 7 PM. If you are interested in joining, email

Stan McGill at

Stan.mcgill1@gmail.com

Handbell Choir

Practice resumes on Wed., Aug. 20th at 6 PM. If you are interested in joining, contact

Virginia McBee at (972)816-6068

All are welcome!

Children's Choir

Children's Choir starts September 14th. Children age 4 through 5th grade are invited to join Ms. Tammy and Ms. Judy each Sunday at 4 PM. They will perform the first Sunday of each month.



BUY A BRICK

Order forms will be available in the Fellowship Hall during coffee time on Sundays for the next few weeks. Some of the 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)

An Early Start on the Holiday Craft Fair



Planning for our Annual Craft Fair is underway! This year's Craft Fair will be held December 6th from 9am-3pm. If you are a congregant interested in purchasing a booth, please contact Pastor Allison for a contract. The booth rental fee is less for church members. Registration is open to past vendors and congregants only until September 1st. Then we will begin advertising to new, outside vendors. Contracts are accepted on a first come, first serve basis. The booth rental fees support the youth mission trip.

Christianity and Immigration



The Bible is filled with references and guidance for dealing with “strangers” who live among us. Jesus was a refugee, taken by his parents to Egypt shortly after his birth to escape the wrath of Herod. Today, our country faces an immigration crisis—from border security to unaccompanied minor children to paralysis in Congress to cities and counties taking immigration matters into their own hands. How are Christians to respond to these profound circumstances?

The Families and Professionals group will join together for a combined Sunday School class in the chapel during the month of September to strengthen relationships and share study and discussion about the difficult issue of immigration. Some of this gathering time will be led by a special guest speaker, Chris Kelley. Chris is the author of *I Was a Stranger: Hope for a Hidden World* (Brown Books, 2008), the memoir of Feliberto Pereira, Founder and Executive Director of Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries of Los Fresnos, TX. Chris currently works as a Dallas-based strategic communications consultant, is a member of Northway Christian Church, and serves on the North Texas Area (DOC) Board. He also currently serves as communications director for two organizations active in immigration-related programs at SMU. Previously Chris served as Editor of Dallasnews.com, the website of the Dallas Morning News, where he rose to the executive ranks before leaving to start his consultancy.

You don't want to miss out on these Sundays!

Just a Cup of Water (Matthew 10:42)

Thank you to all who have contributed to the water bottle donations! Sunday morning August 24th is the last day to bring your donations in. The Family and Professionals group will be having a label-sticking lunch gathering at 11:30am on August 24th to prepare the bottles for the parade. The mission day is Monday, September 1st. We will have a group walking in the parade representing the church while passing out the water bottles with the messages of love and an additional group doing the same while sitting at the side of the parade in a booth. While this event is led by the Families and Professionals group, all are invited to participate! For more information or to sign up for the lunch or a spot in the parade, talk to Rev. Casey. Just a small act of love done in the name of Christ can make a big difference!



A Moment's Reflection

There's a reason moderate thinkers frustrate us: in a polarized world of black and white thinkers, moderates seem so irritatingly indecisive.

Take Ferguson, Missouri, for instance. Missouri, for heaven's sake. Not Harlem, or Haight-Ashbury, or Detroit. Missouri. Heartland. Midwest. The nation's northern outskirts of the Bible Belt. Farm, folks, and family fun. Missouri. The Show-Me state.

Frankly, I don't like what Missouri has been showing me. I've been watching the nightly news and honestly, when I see what's going on in the streets of Ferguson I can't tell if I'm watching something from Ukraine, Syria, Iraq, or some other troubled country region of the world.



I don't know all the specifics. I'm not sure any of us ever will. The event has become deeply politicized. But the words that reporters use to describe the events there evoke disturbing images: tear gas, armored vehicles, autopsy reports, rubber bullets, Molotov bombs, barricades, protestors, "shots fired," stand-off, mustard gas. Good heavens. I remember the riots following Martin Luther King's assassination. The killings at Kent State. Watts. The protests in Chicago outside a national convention. But those were the 60's. I thought we'd grown up from all that.

I'm showing my bias, of course. I'd rather see peace than disturbance. Orderliness and not social anomie. Restraint and not protest. I tend to give the benefit of the doubt to police, not fallen teenagers. I think there had to be a reason. And I see no justification for burning buildings.

And that's why we probably need a few good moderates. No matter our distaste for the violence in Ferguson, there are two sides to the story. Maybe not to what happened to 18-year-old Michael Brown last week, but perhaps the tension that's been building over many weeks, months, years, between black and white, richer and poorer, in that community. And the only way the mess there will ever get resolved is if both sides believe they're heard. Coercion and military police presence aren't working. Protesting and looting aren't working. And so now what?

I was struck by something Missouri's governor, Jay Nixon, told reporters last night. He said the situation in Ferguson requires a careful, delicate, but necessary balance of peace and justice, and then added that unless both prevail, none of us will get either. And I think what he meant to say is: the violence in the streets of Ferguson may be a conflict of two core values. There's a need for peace—for the violence and lawlessness to end. But there's also a need for justice—the right of angry citizens to give expression to their 1st amendment right to free speech.

A couple of years ago our church experienced a similar clash of core values. What grew out of that particular conflict is something today we call the Safe Church Committee. The history behind that committee's birth was an emotional debate over which core value was most important: safety of our children, or unconditional grace for all people.

In retrospect, most of us can see that both values matter to the Church. Both have biblical precedence. Both represent Christian sensibility. And yet, at the time, many of us felt constrained to choose one or the other.

And here perhaps is the value of moderation. Here is the Christian need, I believe, to see both sides. Peace and justice. Safety and grace. In any argument it'd be so much easier, and perhaps more expedient, to impose one value on the other. And yet, the history of human discord seems to suggest that mutual understanding is the only way conflicts get resolved. —Dan

Prayer Requests

Circle of Fellowship:

Bill & Marilyn Fowler

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

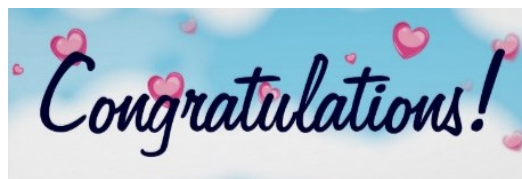
Shepherds:

Caitlyn Campbell

Congratulations



Congratulations to our own **Stan McGill** for receiving the Texas Choral Excellence Award from the Texas Choral Directors Association! The award is one of the highest honors a state musician can receive in the music field and is a formal acknowledgement of a lifelong legacy of excellence. Great job, Stan!



Congratulations also go out to **David and Laurie Dodd**. They are celebrating the birth of their first grandchild, Pate Laurel, born Tuesday, August 19 measuring 7 lbs., 7oz. and 20 inches long. Proud parents are Daniel & Kate Dodd.

DWM Kickoff, Luncheon, & Prayer Partner Exchange

The DWM Kickoff, Luncheon, & Prayer Partner exchange will take place on **Saturday, August 23rd at 10:00am**. Please come and enjoy a day filled with Christian Women Fellowship and learn about the many opportunities associated with DWM. Everyone please bring a children's book with you to be donated to the New Beginning Center. Meet a new friend and have lunch (bring a favorite salad to share). Enjoy a skit, prayer partner exchange and have a chance to win a door prize. Childcare will be provided. DWM looks forward to seeing you for a fun and memorable day.



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