

# The Messenger



September 3, 2014

## Labor Day Love

Over 1,300 bottles of water with messages of love were shared with the Garland community on Labor Day! Thank you to everyone who donated water and a special thank you to all who helped walk in the parade, work at the booth and pass out water. You all worked hard on your day off and it was greatly appreciated by a lot of thirsty people! The excitement from the group has already led to discussions and plans for next year to make it even bigger and better so start



collecting bottles of water now.

Shout-outs to Shay Houston for helping design and print the banner and labels, Sandra and Albert Tonche for allowing us to borrow the truck, trailer and chauffeur us in the parade, and Allie and Brad Traylor for collecting decorations. Are you thirsty? May your thirst be quenched by Jesus Christ, the Living Water, and may we be inspired to share that Living Water to a dry and thirsty world!



## 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. You don’t want to miss out on these Sundays!

9-7 “How can we have a conversation about this in church?”- Overview and Introduction



9-14 “Christianity and Immigration”- Guest Speaker Chris Kelley

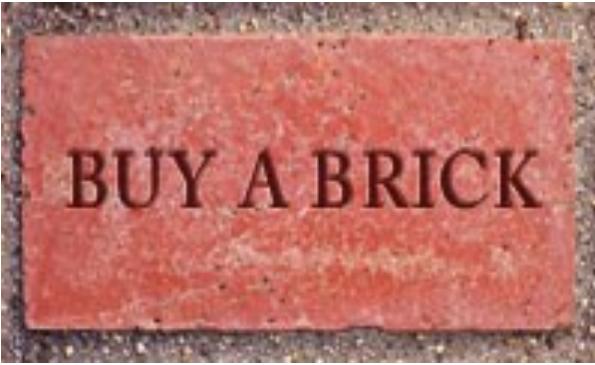
9-21 “What does the Bible say about Immigration?”

9-28 “Now What?”

## Service of Commissioning—September 14th



Our newly called Minister to Young Families and Professionals, Rev. Casey Tanguay, will be officially commissioned (aka “installed”), during morning worship Sunday, September 14. Casey began her ministry with us in June of this year. On this second Sunday in September, some 139 years since our ancestors conceived First Christian Church Garland, we will take a moment to celebrate a new beginning and an emerging ministry. Rev. Casey will be preaching her inaugural sermon on that Sunday.



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](mailto:kyant1@aol.com)) or Eva McKannan (972.414.1737, [patevamck@verizon.net](mailto:patevamck@verizon.net))

### 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](mailto: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.

## Travel: My dog days of summer

Written by Julianna Houston

(featured in *The Dallas Morning News* on August 28, 2014)

You might think that swimming in rivers, looking down the deep drop of the Grand Canyon or staying in the nicest cabin ever was my favorite part of my big summer vacation. But really, my favorite part of the trip was going to Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Kanab, Utah.

Best Friends is a large no-kill shelter for horses, pigs, birds, dogs, cats and many other animals. Although it has a hard-working and friendly staff, it could always use lots of animal lovers to come and volunteer.

There are many things you can do to help at Best Friends. I volunteered in the section called Dogtown.

After my grandparents and I checked in, I went to Puppy Preschool. That's where you help a puppy become less nervous about sounds and objects they will encounter after they get adopted. You also help them learn to do things they will need to do in the future, like not jump on their owners.

Later, I went to my first shift. Since I am only 10, I couldn't hold the leashes, but I could still work. After dog-walking came the fun part: poop-scooping! Then I played with the dogs for a while. They were all very friendly, and I even thought about sneaking one home. Her name was Gretal.

Lunch was pretty good. They have vegetarian salad bars, main courses and desserts. If you eat on the porch, you can look over at Angel Canyon, which was a beautiful site.

With a full stomach, I was ready to work again. For my second shift, I went to the Garden. That's where the shy dogs live. I hand-fed a dog named Kronks, cleaned doggy doors and then got to love on lots of dogs. Some of them I even read to!

Even if you can't go to Utah or another one of the Best Friends locations, you can still help animals by volunteering at local no-kill shelters, or even taking in foster animals. I volunteer and play with lots of dogs and a few cats, with the help of my grandparents, at Seagoville Animal Shelter.

To learn more about Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, go to [bestfriends.org](http://bestfriends.org). And remember, no matter how old or young you are, you can always make a difference.



## A Moment's Reflection

**relax**

Over the last three weeks I've shared some thoughts on how our church might engage in a process spiritual discernment. Week one, I shared Gordon Smith's three-step process of intentional decision-making: rational consideration, prayer and accountability to the community. In introducing this process of discernment, I made a few introductory remarks suggesting, among other things, that discernment is a thoughtful, responsible process that should seek honest dialogue with God and not rely on a sort of sentimental, passive search for "signs." I shared the story from theologian Frederick Buechner about

a time when his heart was burdened at a particular crossroads. And the apparent answer from God in that moment of indecision and spiritual anxiety was, of all things, a car with personalized license plate that read: **T-R-U-S-T**. I suggested that while God can choose to speak to us however God chooses, looking for signs like these is not the preferred method of discernment. Well, God must have been listening to my little chat that Sunday and thought, "Dan thinks he knows more than he knows. I should send him a sign. How funny would that be?"

I was in my car, racing down Garland Road to Baylor Dallas Hospital to meet with Jenny's oncologist about the results of her 1-year scan (all good). For so many reasons, only some of which had anything to do with this time in our lives, I was nervous as can be. Anxious. Trying not to let my mind race with a hundred "what-ifs." Messing around with the dial on the radio.

And then God spoke. A car pulled in front of me. It had one of those personalized license plates. And of all the things it could have said, the plate read: **R-E-L-A-X**. And I started laughing, because in a way that I don't readily admit, and couldn't explain, I knew it was a word from God.

And this is the moral of story. God always gets the last laugh. –Dan

## Sunday Evening Study—Learning to “Tame Your Gremlin”

Dr. Dan will lead a class on three Sunday Nights beginning **Sunday, September 14, 6:00-7:00pm in the Cole Parlor**. The "gremlin" (specifically, "your gremlin") is a concept developed by Rick Carson in his book, *Taming Your Gremlin*. As Carson writes, "Your gremlin is **the narrator in your head**. He's influenced you since you came into this world...He tells you who you are and how you are, and he defines and interprets your every experience. He wants you to accept his interpretations as reality." Unfortunately, your gremlin hates change and demands the status quo. Your gremlin wants you to feel suspicious, anxious, and hopeless. Your gremlin is happiest when you're most miserable. In this class, we'll learn and practice Carson's simple three-step strategy for taming the gremlin in order to experience more joy!



**Week #1**—Simply Notice (and taking inventory of the concepts that control our approach to life)

**Week #2**—Choosing to Play with Some Options (and Gremlin tactics that try to sabotage our efforts)

**Week #3**—Being In Process (and a little thing called compassion)

## This week's sermon: “139 Years Old! Now what?”

139 years old is long time to be alive! This Sunday we mark our long heritage. Of course, there aren't any charter members alive to tell us how it was back then, but we know FCCG has done a lot of good in all those years. Still, I can't help but wonder: is it really enough to celebrate years of existence? Are we special because we're old, have survived two world wars and the Great Depression, and still worship in a part of the building our ancestors rolled from there to here on horse-drawn logs? Or is there something else that marks the importance of FCC Garland at this time and this place? I think about Father Abraham. When I remember him and Sarah and their lives, I don't attribute special worth to their lives simply because they were old people: 75 years old when they left his father's land, nearly 100 when they had their first child. I celebrate their lives, their work, because old in life they followed the Spirit's calling. This Sunday I want to sing happy birthday, maybe have some cake, recall some old stories. Then I want to think about the important work God has in mind for this old church.

## 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

Shepherds:

Kaitlyn Campbell

## Join DWM Morning and Evening Circle Meetings

Wish you had something different to do during the week? DWM of FCCG offers morning and evening circle meetings to all women. Our meetings are held the first week of each month, September through May. Childcare is provided for evening circle meetings. Check the DWM directory for meeting dates and times.

DWM Bible study for 2014 is entitled "Women of the Bible: Seeking Justice." The first lesson is about Ruth and Naomi and will be presented by Martha Williams on **September 8th at 9:30am and September 9th at 6:45pm.**

## Elder On-Call Schedule

In addition to its pastors, 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.

### **September—**

Gail Greene

(214.647.1307)

John Grasham

(214.704.1934)



# The Messenger

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