

# The Messenger

June 17, 2015

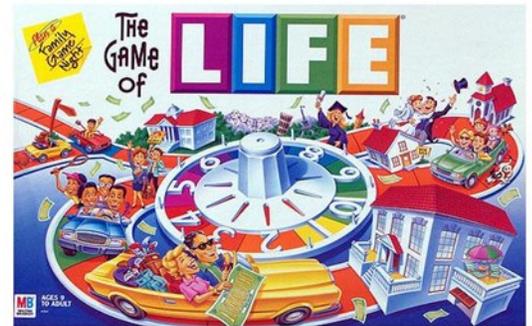


## Moment's Reflection

*"Lord, help me to believe in beginnings, to make a beginning, to be a beginning, so that I may not just grow old, but grow new . . ."* -Ted Loder

I'm struck by the wide variety of human experience among my colleagues—your ministerial staff. I think it must be some kind of record—a microcosm of some of the most important moments that each of us experiences in a whole lifetime. Allison is getting married (October 2). Casey and Andrew celebrate the birth of a daughter (June 12). Ray and Laurie anticipate Ray's retirement (December 20), a time when, as Ray mentioned June 7, he'll have a little more freedom with his weekends. Each of these events represents a significant rite of passage. Each of them represents a leaning into the future. A change. A new beginning. While each of them carries elements of its own unique adjustment, each of them is a celebration of life—a chance to stretch and grow and learn and try new things.

As a congregation you're called to be not only front row witnesses but participants. You're called as members of Ray, Allison and Casey's church family to be an integral part of each of these life transitions. You've already done so, of course. You've expressed your support for Casey and Andrew. You showered them with gifts for young Eliza Christine. Later in the year, you'll join Jenny and me in showering Allison and her fiancé, Travis, with gifts to help mark the beginning of their lives together. Then, as we go through the days of the coming Christmas season we'll gather once again to mark the occasion of Ray's retirement. We'll remember his many years of service to the Church and the lives his ministry has touched. With gift and food and drink (and probably song) we'll celebrate that God in God's providence brought us together. All these expressions of love and generosity will make each of these occasions as memorable as they deserve to be.



Sometimes, in the years as your senior minister, we've lived together through sad and difficult days. In those times we've gathered as Paul instructed us to *"mourn with those who mourn."* (Romans 12:15). But today, and in the coming months of this year, you and I will be given a rare chance to celebrate not just birth, but marriage and retirement. Even ordination. August 9 you'll be invited to come participate in the joy of David's Halleen's ordination into Christian ministry.

I understand that retirement may not seem as celebratory as birth and marriage and ordination. But in the grand scheme of things, each chapter of life is a moment which God in God's grace has fashioned. As God's people we're called to attend carefully and thoughtfully and generously and gratefully to each of them. **-Dan**

**DONATIONS ARE NEEDED!**

**Good Samaritans** is in dire need of food and toiletries for the homeless population of Garland. Many of them lost everything with all the recent rain/flooding and the stock at Good Samaritan is running extremely low (or is gone). For the next couple of weeks we will be collecting donations to help them out. Donations can be dropped off at the church during business hours. They will take almost anything but the list below provides some suggestions of the primary needs.



**Primary Donations Needed:**

*Protein/Energy Bars*

*Canned Protein (tuna, spam, vienna sausage, etc.)*

*Pop-top Canned Meals (ravioli, soup, etc.)*

*Fruit Cups*

*Socks*

*Underwear*

*Washcloths*

*Deodorant*

*Travel Size Toiletries*

*Mosquito Spray*



**Fusion Gathering** is the 1st Wednesday of each month. July gathering is Wednesday, July 1st, 6:30pm-9:00pm; location *to be determined*. Childcare available with RSVP by Monday, June 29th.



**Guys Small Group** meets Wednesday, July 8th  
6:30-9:00pm; location *to be determined*



**Gals Small Group** meets Wednesday, July 15th  
6:30-9:00pm; location *to be determined*.

*Families & Professionals / Youth*  
**MOVIE NIGHTS** - in Christianity 101

July 8th, 7:00pm — *Tangled*  
August 5th — *The Lego Movie*



*Families & Professionals / Youth*  
**BINGO GAME NIGHT**

Wednesday, June 24th 7:00pm  
in Fellowship Hall

Come enjoy a good ole' fun night of Bingo! Bring your family, friends, and some snacks to share. Everyone has a chance to win some exciting prizes!

*Families & Professionals / Youth*  
**Frisco Rough Riders Event**

Sunday, July 5th, 6:05pm First Pitch  
Meet at Church at 4:45pm to carpool



**SNACKS FOR MISSION TRIP**



If you would like to donate individually wrapped snacks to our 17 youth and adults going to Oklahoma City from June 28th—July 4th, please place them in the bin in Fellowship Hall. We would love things like granola bars, snack pack chips, fruit snacks. We are not asking for water or Gatorade this year.

**Summer Camp Attendees!**



Please pray for our youth and adults at camp:

**CYF Conference** – Rev. Allison Ray, Monica Martinez, Logan Williams, Erich Womack, Catherine Lines

**Chi Rho** – Branson Wasson

**JYF** – Mike Whalin, Larry Kirker, Mattie Halleen, JuJu Houston, Daisy Nowlin, Nicolas Dyson, Brynna Olade

*The following announcement was shared with the congregation following the morning worship service on Sunday, June 7, 2015:*

### **To the Congregation of First Christian Church, Garland, Texas —**

On July 1, 2002, I began my ministry as the Associate Minister of First Christian Church of Garland, Texas.

I was 55 when I came to you. In November I will turn 68.

For the past year and a half I have been giving prayerful thought to the future. After four decades of part-time, licensed and ordained ministry, I believe the time has now come for me to publicly announce my decision to retire at the end of this year. My final Sunday with you will be Sunday, December 20, 2015.

This has not been an easy decision. In the thirteen years I have served here, I have enjoyed many opportunities for ministry. My family and I have made close friends, and we have experienced many positive events. I am thankful that God brought us together as Congregation and Minister. This church has been a blessing to my family and we will always cherish our time with you.

I will continue to love and pray for you, but after December I will not be your minister. I will follow the regional guidelines for retiring ministers and will not be available to perform pastoral functions here such as weddings, funerals and pastoral calls.

None of us knows what the future might bring, but I am optimistic that God is leading. Laurie and I are looking forward to having time for travel and other interests.

I pray the Lord will continue to bless First Christian Church, Garland, in the days and years to come.

**—Ray Owens**



## **Fathers Day**

**Fathers Day** will be recognized and celebrated during the June 21st Worship Service and during Coffee Fellowship. Enjoy some homemade *German Chocolate Cake* during Coffee Fellowship, courtesy of Jenny Jones.

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

**God's Messengers**

Shirley Miller

**Hands of Faith**

Tammy Wolfe

**The Grapevine**

Keith Biffle  
Dylan Godwin  
Lynda Simpson  
Joyce Witt Boyd



**AVAILABLE**

*CDs of the Joseph  
Martin Music Service*

CDs of the Joseph Martin Music Service will be available for purchase during the month of June. The CDs will be in Fellowship Hall during coffee time; the cost is \$5 per CD.



**MEN'S  
BREAKFAST**



**Saturday, June 20th  
8:00am-9:00am  
In Fellowship Hall**

**Elders-On-Call for June:**

Melody Biffle  
214.334.8250

Debra Goheen  
972.523.0056



**Congratulations to  
Casey & Andrew Tanguay upon the birth  
of their daughter,  
Eliza Christine,  
on June 12, 2015.**



**ATTENTION!  
ARE YOU CPR-CERTIFIED?**

If you presently hold a CPR certification, please advise the Church Office. A list is being compiled of all CPR-certified members. Thank you.



**BUY A BRICK  
A Great Gift Idea**  
Contact Kathleen Yant;  
[kyant1@aol.com](mailto:kyant1@aol.com);  
972.496.0534 or Eva McKannan;  
[patevamck@verizon.net](mailto:patevamck@verizon.net);  
972.414.1737



**CSH Elderly  
Housing  
Rehab Project**  
Saturday, June 20th  
at 9:00am

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