

The Messenger

February 6, 2014

NOTE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIRPERSON

2014 is here!

This is shaping up to be a good year for First Christian Church Garland and I want to give you a heads up on some of the things that are coming.

1. Sunday school time extension: you'll notice that we are increasing our Sunday school time by fifteen minutes starting in February. Many of our class members and teachers have been asking for more time and so we are responding by going to the full hour for all of our Sunday Classes. Our Sunday school program at FCC Garland has long been one of our great strengths and this will give us some extra time for studying our bibles, discussion and fellowship.
2. Focus on our families and professionals age group: This year we are going to provide better ministry to and opportunities for outreach for our members from ages 25-50 whether single or married, with and without kids. One of the first offerings we will be bringing for this group is the Dave Ramsey Financial Peace program. It is a nine-week, Bible-based program aimed at helping people build better financial skills, habits and knowledge. We are working toward starting this in March. More details to come. You'll hear much more in the months to come about our renewed focus on our families and professionals group.
3. Outreach to our community: All of us want our Church to be known as a place that is welcoming and expresses God's love and care for people. Outreach is one of the ways we do that. Our church has long been involved in outreach and this year we want to make everyone aware of all of our current outreach work and also to grow in our efforts to be God's hands in our neighborhoods. Many of us attended the Leadership event at Northway Christian Church on Saturday, Jan. 25th. That event's topic this year was Outreach and we came back with many ideas to aid us in this important area.

I'll write more to you in the next column about some of our other plans, activities and outreach opportunities that will be coming in the months ahead.

John Grasham, 2014 Board Chair

JYF VALENTINE FUNDRAISER

As a fundraiser, JYF will be selling valentines during coffee fellowship this Sunday, on February 9th and all valentines will be delivered during Sunday School.

2014 MISSION TRIP TO GALVESTON, TX

Mission Trip is July 13-19 to Galveston, TX. Rev. Allison Ray needs your registration form and \$50 deposit by February 9th. The total cost is \$200. We prefer not to give scholarships to this event as the cost is already discounted through fundraising. However, if help is needed, please speak with Rev. Allison Ray and we can work something out.

CONGRATULATIONS

Evan Wolfe was selected to be in the State Jazz Band. The Association only selects one baritone saxophone from all candidates! Evan will play with the State Band on February 15th in San Antonio, TX.



THIS WEEK'S SERMON

Challenge of the Once and Future Church—Challenge #3:
Feed a World's Need for Community

Sermon: "A Sense of Belonging"

Scripture: Ephesians 2:11-22

Synopsis: Spike Jonze's Academy Award nominated movie, **HER**, centers on a man who develops a relationship with an intelligent computer operating system (OS) with a female voice and personality. The movie seems frighteningly symbolic of a growing cultural trend away from community-based living to more private, individualistic style of living. And yet, even as the world we live in becomes less inter-dependent, we are still essentially community-hungry people who have a deep need to belong. Here, the Church may have an opportunity to reclaim its relevance as a center of life-giving community. From its inception the Church has been an inclusive gathering of all God's people. The challenge in the coming decades will be to match this theological understanding with practice.

PRAYERS, JOYS & CONCERNS

MARTY ROGERS
BETTYE DAVENPORT
JEANETTE MURPHY
GARY CARROLL

JERRY ROWELL
JOY HITCH
JUDI ARCHIBALD

WE GIVE OUR SYMPATHY TO JEFF HOLCOMB AND FAMILY UPON
THE LOSS OF HIS FATHER, STANLEY HOLCOMB

SPRING YOUTH RETREAT

Our annual Spring Youth Retreat will be March 7th-9th in Athens, TX. The cost for the retreat is \$75 per youth and is due February 23rd. Mark your calendars and plan out a budget....all 4th-12th graders are invited to come to Athens for the weekend. Registration forms are available from Allison and are on our website www.fccgarland.org.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

FCCG will have a Men's breakfast on February 15th at 8am. Come and enjoy food and fellowship with the men of First Christian Church Garland.

SUNDAY EVENING GOSPELS STUDY

Sunday, February 9, 6 p.m., Cole Parlor

Our Sunday evening study continues this week with more teachings of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount, including lessons about "how to pray," and "the cure for anxiety." Although the study begins with Scripture, using George Knight's, **A Simplified Harmony of the Gospels**, as a guide, the conversation inevitably turns to matters of daily living. No pre-study required. Simply come with Bible in hand and a willingness to engage the living Gospel. During the study we also take time to lift up prayer needs.



SPUD LUNCHEON

On February 23rd from 10:45am-Noon the Disciples Women will be holding a "Spud Lunch". Lunch will include a potato with all the fixings, salad and a dessert. Cost is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children. All proceeds will go to the Fellowship Hall Ramp Project.