

The Messenger

February 13, 2014

THIS WEEK'S SERMON

Sunday, February 16, 2014

Sermon: "Making Room"

Scripture: Mark 2:1-12

Synopsis: In this familiar passage, my attention almost always gravitates to the paralytic and his four friends. Thank God, for them. We all need friends with tenacity like them to help us in our times of need. Their tenacity is a lesson about the power of intercessory action. Sometimes the only way we come to Jesus is by the strength of others. I notice Jesus, too. I take note that the gospel story is about Jesus. Jesus heals. Jesus cares. Jesus has tremendous compassion. But this time around I'm drawn to the crowd—all those who tightly surround Jesus. Who are these people? I've long assumed that these folk were a mass of other needy folk. But verse 6 suggests otherwise. Mark says that those who surrounded Jesus were scribes—scholars, people who'd grown up in the synagogue, knew the Scriptures, had spent years feasting on the benefits of God's graces. They were among the crowd that took the front pews and obstructed a needy man's access to Jesus. This week I wonder about all the ways that we faithful followers obstruct access to Jesus.

PRAYERS, JOYS & CONCERNS

MARTY ROGERS

BETTYE DAVENPORT

JEANETTE MURPHY

JUDI ARCHIBALD

JOY HITCH

WE GIVE OUR SYMPATHY TO **SCOTT & ANGELA HUDDY** AND FAMILY UPON THE
SUDDEN PASSING OF SCOTT'S MOTHER, ALFRETTE HUDDY.

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.

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.

SUNDAY EVENING GOSPELS STUDY

Cole Parlor, 6-7 p.m. February 16

More Mountain-side Stories

Jesus offers a spiritual cure for anxiety, a warning about being judgmental and some instructions on how to enter the Kingdom of God. Later he demonstrates great healing compassion.

(Reader's Note: A Simplified Harmony of the Gospels, George Knight, pp. 69-74)



CHURCH WORK DAY

Painting supplies are needed: metal paint pans (liners will be used inside the paint pans), metal paint frames, extension poles, 20 plastic paint pan liners. These supplies will be returned to you if labeled. There will be a Church Work Day box under the stairs for your supplies starting on Sunday, February 16 and 23rd. If you have questions please call Brenda Crosthwaite 972-495-3681. We will be having 3 work days soon and dates will be provided as soon as they are scheduled.

HELP SAVE CHURCH ELECTRICITY

We need to get help turning off lights that are not being used. When you leave your Sunday School classroom please help our electricity bill and turn the lights out. Thank you for your assistance. If we all keep this in mind it will make a difference.



THANK YOU

Thanks to the fantastic response to the JYF valentine sales. The JYF will be purchasing and delivering \$100 worth of food to the Good Samaritans Food Pantry. JYF will plan to go to Kroger during Sunday School this Sunday and deliver the food during JYF Youth time Sunday evening. We need all JYF's participation!

GOOD SAMARITANS RECORD YEAR IN 2013

This is an exciting time in the life of Good Samaritans of Garland. 7,301 families (an increase of 112% over 2013) were served, making it our busiest year ever. Over 439,813 pounds of food were distributed with an estimated value of \$740,506. Total utility assistance of \$78,622 to 436 families was provided through grants from Garland Power & Light and TXU to residents of Garland. With the reductions in the Federal Food Stamp program (SNAP), the anticipated needs of our clients will grow dramatically in 2014.

Jim Griffin, Executive Director



2014 NTA ASSEMBLY

The annual area assembly will be held at First Christian Church in Plano on May 4th from 3-5pm. The guest preacher will be Rev. Coretha Loughridge.

NOTES FROM YOUTH MINISTRY

The youth sponsors and I are excited to tell you about some of the new changes coming to our youth program. As youth grow out of our program and culture changes, it is always important to make sure our program is meeting the needs of our youth. Over the next few weeks, I will be taking time to share with you some of these exciting changes. The first major change is our move towards a curriculum-based evening youth program. In the past, our youth have listed topics they would like to study at the first of the year and the sponsors and I find material to cover what we can. Starting this Sunday, the middle and high school groups are going to be using the Feasting on the Word youth curriculum to guide their discussions. Our younger groups will start using it at the first of the school year. Feasting on the Word is lectionary based and will allow Pastor Dan, Pastor Ray, and myself to speak in The Gathering about the same scripture the youth will be studying in small groups. We are excited to start walking through the scriptures together.

COMING THIS SUMMER

2014 Vacation Bible School June 15th-19th 5pm-8:15pm

