



PRAYERS, JOYS, & CONCERNS... FOR THE FOLLOWING:

KEITH BIFFLE
LAURA LEMASTER
KENNY KIRKER
WAYNE SMITH
TERRY BARNES

LINDA FUENTES
DON BLAKE
DENNIS LEE
MARILYN FOWLER
BERNICE WALLACE

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP MAY 19, 11:15 A.M.

A special service of celebration and closure is planned for the final Contemporary Worship service May 19th. In this service, we will lift up our inmost feelings of sadness and loss to God. We will also celebrate cherished memories. And hopefully, by God's grace, and by God's Spirit, we will take the first tiny steps into God's future for us.

Contemporary Worship Transition

In the past few weeks, some of you have asked why our congregation is making a transition from the current Contemporary Worship service to a Sunday evening service called "The Gathering." Below are some additional details of that decision process. If after reading the article you still have more questions, call me, catch me at coffee fellowship time, or write me an email.

The greatest question is, "Why the need for change?" The answer? The loss of necessary lay leadership. When the service was begun in 2004, it was led primarily by a praise band of close to ten members. In addition to providing the music format for our service, those key leaders also implemented program planning, provided PowerPoint materials and recruited additional leadership. For a variety of reasons over the last two years, nine of those members are no longer able to provide Sunday morning leadership.

This loss was exacerbated by the resignation in March of our 8-year Contemporary Worship chair, David Halleen, who accepted a call to ministry at Bethany Christian, Dallas. With a greatly diminished music leader corp and with the loss of our planning chair, and in the absence of other individuals to fill those leadership roles, the service has experienced a marked decline in both numbers and vitality.

Watching this decline over the last two years, especially beginning in January of this year, I believed that our church needed to begin thinking about a new alternative worship ministry program. In discussion with staff, the idea for a Sunday evening service was conceptualized. Allison Ray agreed to provide primary leadership oversight (solves one challenge!) and rather than relying on a corp of church musicians, we determined that the service could draw from other sources of music (solves a second challenge!)

The idea was discussed with key leadership in the church including, active contemporary worship planners, members of the Contemporary Worship Ministry, the Elders, then with the Contemporary Worship participants. Care was taken to proceed cautiously to minimize the possibility of hurt feelings or misunderstanding.

Will the new ministry succeed? Please pray that it does. I believe that our church continues to need to an alternative service of worship. **Is the service for youth only? No. Let me say that again. No!** While geared to a younger demographic, the service is for all members of the congregation. In fact, our hope is that the service will meet a need for people outside our congregation. Has the ministerial staff taken care to listen to those who are most affected by the change? Yes. Let me say that again. Yes! In addition to all the discussion venues named above, I have also had several one-on-one discussions with members whose lives I care deeply about and whose participation in our church I continue to value.

Some of you, who have been most involved in the Contemporary Worship service, have described a feeling that sounds very much like grief. In some sense, the closure of this service is a death-experience. Many lives have been touched by the Contemporary Service. Many wonderful, creative, memorable services have been celebrated over the years. I grieve, too. I remember how vital the service used to be. I remember fondly many of the people who worked to make it strong, but who are no longer in our church. I miss them. I miss the services we planned together. I miss the laughter we shared in our services and in our planning.

Will our church survive this change? My goodness, in the name of the Risen Christ, of course it will. The Church of Jesus Christ was, is, and always will be. It is greater than our generational adjustments. It is greater than any individual or group of individuals. It transcends every space we call sacred. It is larger than any single ritual. This change, no matter how hard to feels to some, no matter how worrisome it seems to others, is not fatal.

Next fall, September 8, 2013, 5:00 p.m., an important part of our church's whole worship ministry begins a new chapter. We expect to see some familiar faces. We pray to see some new faces. We are certain that the Spirit of the Living Christ will continue to touch the lives of those who gather. Join me in envisioning Christ's new adventure with us in the coming months.

-Dan

THIS WEEK'S SERMON

May 12, 2013 (Mother's Day)

Sermon: "Esther's Legacy"

Scripture: Esther 3:12-13a, 4:1, 10-17

Synopsis: The Old Testament Book of Esther has never been popular among Christian folk. Through the ages, Esther has been roundly criticized for lacking even a single explicit reference to God, for being chauvinistic (Esther was picked for her beauty and also ostensibly because unlike the outgoing Queen Vashti, she knew her place in the King's court), and for promoting a violent program of revenge against all Jewish enemies. It's unfortunate really, because in Esther we're given an example of uncommon strength, wisdom, resourcefulness and perhaps most of all, courage. Esther was uncommonly courageous. She knew well the risks of coming to the King with thoughts and initiatives of her own. And yet, she also understood that sometimes, for the sake of God, we're asked to risk self in order to protect many others. My guess is that while not many of us will ever have the chance to serve among royalty, or to make decisions of such sweeping consequence, there will be plenty of Christian women in worship this Sunday who will listen to Esther's story and quietly nod their heads remembering all the ways they too have been called to rise above self in order to protect the well-being of others.

Scripture Link: <http://bible.oremus.org/?q=234977575>



Pledged Offering Recap

	5/5/13	YTD
Budgeted	\$9,345	\$168,207
Received	\$11,642	\$160,011
Overage/(Shortage)	\$2,297	(\$8,196)

2013 VBS

June 16th-20th
Ages 4 - 5th grade



Youth Ministry News



Sunday, May 12th

No Youth
Enjoy spending time with
your families!

CYF & College Bible Study
6pm on Wednesday nights

End of Year Party
May 19th 5-8
Rowlett Park

2013 VBS Registration
Can be found on our
website
www.fccgarland.org

Doves Covenant Group

The Doves Covenant Group will be praying for the following during the week of May 15th:

Martha Williams

Don & Linda Willis

Tod, Leasa, Amber & Jack Wolf

Nina Wood

Michael, Dana, Erich & Alex Womack

Rick Yaeger

Morris & Claudia Womack

Virginia Yohe

David & Nancy Worden

Kathleen Yant

Debbie & Jack Youngkin



Needed:

Snacks For Mission Trip



If you would like to donate individually wrapped snacks, Gatorade, or water to our 25 youth and adults going to Joplin, MO from June 23-28th please place them in the bin in Fellowship Hall. We would love things like granola bars, snack pack chips, fruit snacks, Gatorade. We are not asking for water this year.

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Stroke and Aphasia Awareness
Wednesday, June 12th 6:30 at FCCG

- Learn What Aphasia is
- Learn how to communicate with people who have Aphasia
- Learn what you can do to help
- Learn the signs of a stroke
- Learn the effects of a stroke
- Learn what you can do to help fight stroke

All Youth End of the Year Party



May 19 from 5-8pm

Rowlett Community Park

8500 St. Andrews, Rowlett, TX 75088

There will be a cook-out and some awesome games. We are asking that JYF, Chi Rho, and CYF meet at the church at 4:30 pm so we can ride together to the park; we will return to the church at 8:00 pm. PYF, please meet us at the park at 5 pm. Be sure to wear clothes you don't mind getting dirty and bring a towel!

