

The Messenger



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November 9, 2022

Moment's Reflection

"We have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God." -2 Corinthians 4:7

(Note: Dr. Dan, made the following presentation to the DWM groups this month based on 2 Corinthians 4-6. Below is a portion of that presentation).

How do we grade a Christian? How do we know if a Christian is being a Christian?

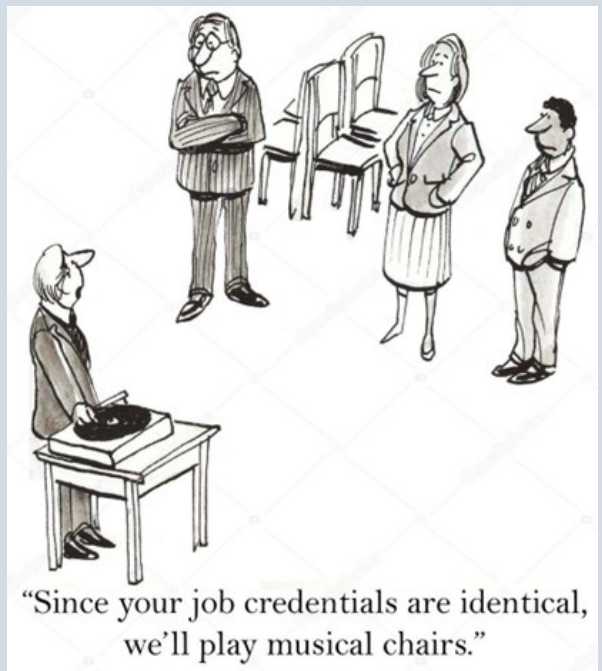
In school, for instance, we give grades. Other times, we post reviews on social media. Or we look at a person's credentials. His or her education, training. Or we evaluate how well a person completes his job description.

But what about a Christian? How is a Christian evaluated? Do we carry a job description? Such as: "A Christian shall accept the responsibility of serving Jesus a minimum of 12 hours a week. Half of these hours must be direct contact. A Christian will memorize the Great Commission. In addition, a Christian will be required to complete 6 hours of continuing education to include some of the following: Bible Study, DWM meetings, participation in extracurricular activities such as bells, choir, or committee volunteerism.

Or do we submit a resume? Such as: "A Christian will have completed two years of bible study and/or attendance in worship. A Christian will be fluent in: Greek, Hebrew, or English language theology. Bilingual a plus, but not required."

Or do we let everyone know our accomplishments. Like Paul, for instance, who wrote to the Philippians: "...If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless."

In his second letter to the Corinthians, Paul outlines a different way. Check out the 8 criterion he teaches.
(Continued on page 2)



1. Our ministry changes lives. (2 Corinthians 3:2) You want to know a good teacher, look at her students.
 2. God makes us competent. "Our competence is from God." (2 Corinthians 3:5)
 3. We speak with sincerity. Even though we know our words may be rejected, we keep speaking the truth (2 Corinthians 2:17) And? We don't hold secrets (2 Corinthians 4: 2).
 4. We spread the "aroma of Christ" wherever we go (2 Corinthians 2:14-15).
 5. We preach salvation, not condemnation. We speak a Gospel! (2 Corinthians 3:9).
 6. God approves of us! Minter writes: "I care what people think, but I'm more concerned with what God thinks."
 7. We are strongest when we are weak (2 Corinthians 4:7)
 8. We keep perspective. We don't focus on momentary afflictions. We keep our focus on "an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure." (2 Corinthians 4:17)
- How do you measure up? -Dan, November 2022



Rev. Dr. Andy Mangum, Regional Minister of the Christian Church in the Southwest
Guest Preacher, November 13, 2022
Morning Worship—10 a.m.

Because I value our church's long history in the denomination, supporting its ministries through such programs as Disciples Women's Ministries, Men's events, Camp and Conferences in

Athens, Youth events, and calls to ministry through Ordination, last summer I invited Andy to be our guest preacher this Sunday. Andy is a pastor by heart. He leads the larger structures of the Region, but he is very much as pastor, and leader-shepherd. I want you to know him better in this capacity and to be proud with me that we are a partner congregation in the Southwest Region. I have known our congregation as a wonderfully independent-minded people. And yet, we also have this long history of covenantal relationship with the larger church. Please welcome Andy and celebrate with me our ties to the creative, supportive ministries of the Region.



COMING EVENTS!

The Holiday season is upon us. With its arrival, we are finalizing plans for some favorite annual Thanksgiving and Advent/Christmas events.

Sunday, November 20

Annual Thanksgiving Dinner following Sunday school

10:00 am Worship Service

10:55 am Congregational Meeting

11:00 am Bake Sale

11:15 am Sunday School Class

11:45 am Thanksgiving Dinner

12:45 pm Hanging of the Greens (Childcare Available)

We will need volunteers



Sunday, November 27

1st Sunday in Advent

Annual Service of Lessons and Carols, Morning Worship

We light the first Candle of Advent, Hope



Sunday, December TBD, 6 p.m.

Annual Children's Christmas Pageant

Tasting Party to follow the pageant.



Christmas Eve (Saturday evening, December 24)

Communion and Carols, 7 p.m.



Christmas Day Worship

Sunday, December 25, 10 a.m.



Choir Director Stan McGill honored for 40 years of service

In a very special service on October 30th, we celebrated Stan McGill's 40th anniversary as the chancel choir director of First Christian Church of Garland. The Chancel Choir sang a piece commissioned in his honor, composed by Joseph Martin titled *"Your Place in the Song"*.

In his words, Pastor Dan said of Stan, "Years ago when I began here, I don't think I knew quite what I had. I was used to affable choir directors for whom I was simply glad to have some ability, some inclination to read the keys. I had never worked alongside a maestro. When I think about some of the most memorable and moving and beautiful services I've been a part of through the years, Stan has always been a part of those. He's been the one who's been there to provide the music that makes the meaning of the moment. And in those moments because of his music, I have worshipped alongside with the congregation. Never been disappointed: Christmas Eve, Easter Morning, Maundy Thursday, Ash Wednesday, All Saints, dedications of every variety. He has been the music mind behind the services that have given expression to the meaning of the church's year. I'm probably missing something, but a preponderance of years of evidence is clear our church has had some of the finest musical worship that you'll find. One of the church's living saints told me that Stan has mellowed over the years. He said some of us long-timers remember when Stan began all those years ago, he expected perfection and would sometimes get impatient with us average singers who occasionally missed a note. But over the years, he's mellowed. He's learned to pursue musical excellence while having the grace to accept what we have to offer. In my book, this is excellence refined. Excellence married to loving regard for the people whom he has been called to lead. Today we take time and as much as I want to laud Stan's musical genius, I speak for a grateful congregation in saying thank you for all the many years."

We also presented him with this beautiful painting from our good friend Mark Mullino, which incorporated the music of the commissioned piece with a depiction of our church. Thank you Stan for all you do!



Disciples Women

You are a vital part of our Disciples Women Ministry.

NEW COVENANT

Theme: Shoot for the Stars
Christ invites you to the new covenant version

Speaker: Judy Ross
Memorabilia: Emery board

December 5	9:30am	Morning Circle
December 6	6:30pm*	Evening Circle
*Childcare will be available for this session		

SHOOT FOR THE STARS



Remember baking? Well, dust off those aprons because the Bake Sale is B-A-C-K!!

The Bake Sale will be November 20, 2022!!! Just in time for the Thanksgiving Lunch! Bring your baked items! Contact Cara Prestenberg 972-523-0981

Spiritual Development Offerings

Looking for a way to stay connected to your church? Log on to some of our spiritual development courses. Have questions? Confused about how to get the Zoom link to work? Contact the church office at 972-272-5423.

STUDY OF GENESIS—THURSDAYS AT 12:00PM VIA ZOOM

*REV. DR. DOUGLAS SKINNER INVITES YOU TO
JOIN HIS NEW BIBLE STUDY.*

GENESIS

• UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS •

Youth Meetings
November 13

5:00pm-7:00pm

December 4th

5:00pm-7:00pm

December TBD

Christmas Pageant

5:00pm-7:00pm

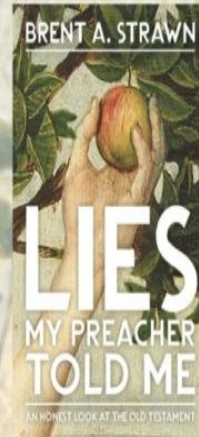
Outreach

Turkey boxes are \$69.99 this year. Someone will be coming to your Sunday school class this Sunday to collect your money if you choose to purchase a turkey box or give the name of someone you know that would benefit from a box. There are lots of families in need this year. Outreach Ministry will match each box purchased. The majority of turkey boxes will be donated to the Juliette Fowler residents living in moderate housing. These residents gather to share the gifted turkey box. Outreach Ministry appreciates you for all you do to help others. Our church is a most caring and giving church and each of us on this ministry is proud to represent FCC Garland within our community. Thanks for giving us the opportunity to do the work for First Christian Church

NEW STUDY

MONDAYS AT
7:00PM VIA
ZOOM

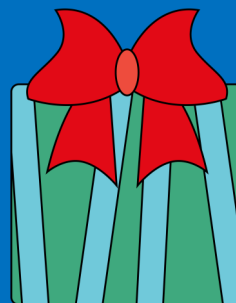
WITH DR.
SHAUN
BROWN



BASED ON
THE BOOK
*LIES MY
PREACHER
TOLD ME: AN
HONEST LOOK
AT THE OLD
TESTAMENT*

Mike's Kids

FCCG will be collecting donations for Mike's Kids once again this year. This program supports children and families who have been abandoned or forced out of their homeland to a new country. It is time to begin filling boxes with clothing (appropriate for South Texas), new underwear (child sizes), toys (new or gently used), and food for the Mike's Kids around the Los Fresnos, TX area.



Final pick up of all the donations is scheduled for **Monday, December 12th** and **Tuesday, December 13th**



prayer REQUESTS

Circle of Fellowship

Bill Fowler
Marilyn Fowler
Cindy Kyle
Erlinda Martinez
Les Perry
Carrie Lee Simpson

Fishers of Families

Ben Brister
Linda Wimbish
Debbie Youngkin

Hands of Faith

Glenda Lee
Don McKenzie
Levi Williams

Shepherds

Bill Bliss
Sharon Campbell

The Grapevine

Keith Biffle
Allison Owens

Thank You Notes

Dear fellow FCC members,

A sincere and deeply felt thank you for making last Sunday's surprise tribute so special to me. I am humbly honored and overwhelmed with your generosity and kindness...AND... IMPRESSED that you can keep a secret! I was clueless with what was happening. Never could I have imagined the beautiful painting from Mark Mullino, the wonderful reception prepared by Cyndy Smith and her "crew" and of course the lovely commissioned work from my friend and composer Joseph Martin. It was a happy day. The last 40 years have gone by quickly and I look forward to sharing with you in many more.

Stan McGill

To my FCCG family,

I want to extend a very large Thank You for all the cards, calls, week wishes, and goodies that I have received during my rehab from back surgery and more recent heart attack. You folks are the best and I truly do appreciate all that you do. May God bless you for the love you have.

Bill Bliss