

The Messenger



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January 11, 2023

Moment's Reflection

"....Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure." -Philippians 2:12-13

Seems we're not very good at carrying through on our promises to change. According to a study conducted by researchers at the University of Scranton (drum-roll please) 23% of people quit their resolution after just one week. 70% are broken by mid-February.

There are a couple of reasons we do so poorly at keeping resolutions. One, we set unrealistic expectations—trying to do too much at one time. Two, we have this essentially flawed belief that willpower is all we need to change long-established habits.

Here, in my estimation, is the fundamental problem with self-help literature, books, and programs. Each of them assumes that you and I can do what we set out to do by virtue of sheer determination and willpower. The story of humanity, the record of all the Bible stories about otherwise good, decent, God-fearing people, suggests we cannot. In fact, the longer I live the more I appreciate that some things, perhaps many things, are beyond my control, and, inasmuch as I set out to do all the right things, I'm still very much a person like my spiritual relative Paul who once confessed: "I can will what is right, but I can't do it." (Romans 7:19)

So then, what? Should we try to change? Or should we simply resign ourselves to sing all the verses of "Just as I Am?"

The answer is, "Yes." We should try to change. We should try to do what we can to nurture stronger faith habits. But, all our efforts should be done with the humble realization that we need help to be as good and faithful as we want.

The key, it seems to me, is having the right motivation to change old habits. Fear isn't a good motivator. Fear produces short-term gain. You can coerce a person to do something. But the motivation to change disappears as soon as the weight of fear is removed. Same with guilt or shame. Love is the only good motivator. Love regards a person for who he or she is, and invites him to change. Love doesn't coerce. It doesn't shame a person. It doesn't heap guilt upon her. It welcomes a person just as he is and invites him to take little steps forward.

This is how I understand Paul's apparently paradoxical statement from Philippians: 1) Work out your salvation (do what you can), but, 2) remember that it's by God's enabling power that you do any good work, make any change.

-Dan, New Year's 2023



2023 Rusk Service welcomes The Haynes Sisters Feb 19, 2023

The Haynes Sisters are *really* sisters who sing and play string instruments. Tiffany, Tonya, and Tara have sung professionally for over 30 years. All three have degrees from the University of North Texas. Tiffany, the oldest of the three, graduated with a vocal performance degree; Tonya, the next oldest, graduated with a Radio and Television degree but studied cello while at UNT and was also able to sing in one of the top choirs with Tiffany at UNT; Tara, the youngest of the sisters, graduated with a Music Education degree with a concentration in Viola.

The Haynes Sisters were born into a musical family so were surrounded by music all the time. Some of the many different events they have sung for include singing the National Anthem at Mavericks games, at a Ross Perot event, Premier Designs events, military events, including one for the USO, and many more.

The Haynes Sisters have a passion for what they do. Singing tunes from the 30's, 40's, also Bluegrass, Christian hymns, and worship songs, they enjoy singing for different audiences. The Haynes Sisters have ministered to many over the years and desire to continue reaching audiences of all ages.



UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

Youth Activities

January 15th

5:00pm-7:00pm

January 22nd

5:00pm-7:00pm

January 29th

5:00pm-7:00pm

Spring Retreat – March 10–12 at Disciples Crossing

Mission Trip with Disciple Summer Mission to Kansas City June 26–30. Preregistration due by March 15.

Youth Activities

We welcomed the youth into 2023 with a fun outing to Medieval Times. Six kids were present along with Pastor Shaun and Renee Godwin. The kids had a great time and it was fun for all!



CONSECRATION OF 2023 CHURCH LEADERS

Morning Worship, January 22, 2023

As Joshua said to his people as they crossed into a new land, so your church says to you. As one of our church's leaders in 2023, commit yourself to God's holy work and prepared to do great things.

On January 22, Dr. Dan will consecrate our church's leaders for the ministry

God has called them to do in this new year.



BOARD CHAIR - ELAINE ROEGER

BOARD VICE CHAIR - MITCHELL ARMSTRONG

BOARD SECRETARY - LEASA WOLF

BOARD TREASURER - BILL BLISS

ELDER (GOING OFF IN 2023) - SHARON CAMPBELL

ELDER (GOING OFF IN 2024) - CARA PRESTENBERG

ELDER (NEW; GOING OFF IN 2025) - DEBBIE FETZER

DIACONATE CHAIR - BRENDA CROSTHWAITE

SENIOR TRUSTEE - BILL SMITH

MINISTRY CABINET MEMBERS (3)

#1— STEPHANIE GORDON /EDUCATION CHAIR

#2— RANDY PRESKITT/OUTREACH CHAIR

#3-- DOLORES SMITH/FELLOWSHIP CHAIR

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL REP - LAURIE OWENS

YOUTH SPONSOR REP - RENEE GODWIN

ELDER EMERITUS - NANCY WORDEN

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS REPS (ONE FROM EACH CLASS)

FOLLOWERS - BILLIE BLISS

RUTH MIX - SONDRRA MARTIN

CHRISTIANITY 101 — EDDIE RICHARDSON

COOPER CLASS - VIRGINIA STONE

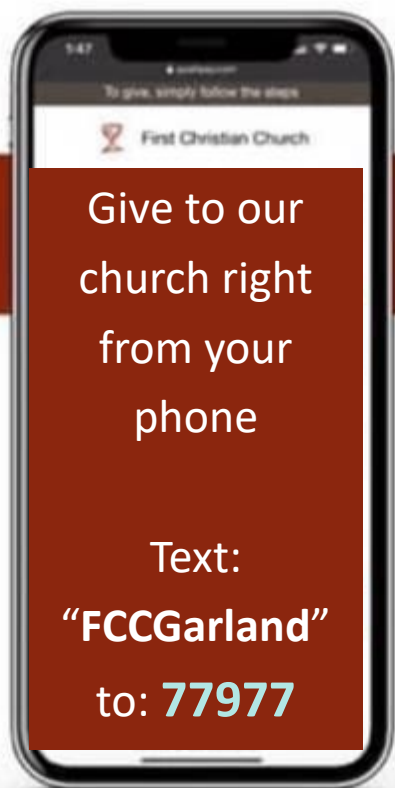
CRUSADERS CLASS — BEN BRISTER

APOSTLES & CROSSROADS CLASS — KIM WHALIN

SAFE CHURCH COMMITTEE — PAUL HARPER

Thank you for giving generously

Your Pastors thank you for the generous ways that you support the Pastor's Emergency Needs Fund. Through the years, this year no exception, your money goes to help people in time of deepest need. If you've already given, bless you. If you would like to consider a gift, earmark it Pastor's Emergency Needs Fund. Your gift will make a difference.



REMEMBER First Christian Church Garland has online giving set up through Pushpay.com

You may text FCCGARLAND to 77977 and our church page will pop up on your screen. You may designate "Give one time" or set up a recurring payment. Additionally, you may choose where you wish your offering to go. Just click the ↓ on the Fund menu and a drop down will appear giving you several choices including the poinsettias we offer each year during the Advent season. If you have any questions you may contact Elaine Roeger or Matt Prestenberg.

New Chalice and Paten Ordered

Worship Ministry is pleased to announce that two sets of Chalice and Paten have been ordered from gifted artist and potter, Eric Grasham, for the Lord's Table at First Christian Church Garland. As most of you know, Eric is the son of John and Judy Grasham. The design of the new Chalice and Paten will include the traditional cross on the chalice, and honor our historic past in contemporary art and colors indicative of our vision to be a faithful and growing Disciples of Christ church. Once received, our pastors will dedicate the new Chalice and Paten which will reside on the Lord's Table every Sunday. The second set will be used during special Communion by Intinction worship services when two chalices and patens are needed.



Disciples Women

You are a vital part of our
Disciples Women Ministry.

OUR MINISTRY ASSIGNMENT

Theme: Shoot for the Stars

Speaker: Debbie Fetzer

Memorabilia: Life Recipe

February 6	9:30am	Morning Circle
February 7	6:30pm*	Evening Circle
*Childcare will be available for this session		



prayer REQUESTS

Circle of Fellowship

Tracey Stone
Martha Williams

Fishers of Families

Linda Wimbish
Debbie Youngkin

Hands of Faith

Brenda Crosthwaite
Glenda Lee
Morris Womack

Shepherds

Sharon Campbell

The Grapevine

Melody Biffle

IN SYMPATHY

We give our condolences to the family
and friends of

Cindy Lee Kyle,

who passed away on December 23rd.

A memorial service took place on
Thursday, January 5th at Turrentine-
Jackson-Morrow Funeral Home in
Allen, Texas.



Muffin Ministry

Please consider picking up something to help me with this community ministry when you do your shopping. Below is a list of what it takes each week for this ministry to continue. There is a bin labeled "muffin ministry" in the donation center which is located in the small room to the left after you pass the Ruth Mix classroom. Gift cards to Kroger or Aldi are appreciated, too. Thank you so much for helping me to serve the less fortunate in our community.

Kimberly Whalin

(469)321-0810 Each week I need

- 5 Krusteaz (boxed) muffin mixes. Aldi also has a good selection of boxed muffin mixes
- 10 eggs
- 2.5 cups of oil
- PAM with flour baking spray
- 30 paper muffin liners
- 60 plastic quart size zip top bags

