

CONNEXION

Volume 14 Issue 10

November 4, 2019



MISSION
"MAKING DISCIPLES OF
JESUS CHRIST
FOR THE
TRANSFORMATION OF
THE WORLD"

VISION
"A BRIGHT BEACON OF
GOD'S LOVE TO IRVING
AND BEYOND"

First United Methodist Church
211 West Third Street
Irving TX 75060
www.fumcirving.org

Connexion 14 Issue 10



"Carry On"

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:3-6

Paul writes to the beloved people at the church he helped start in the city of Philippi. I love how he gave thanks for the people and always prayed with joy for them. Why was he so thankful? Because of their partnership in the gospel of Jesus Christ. He was thankful for their past relationship with Jesus Christ and their past work for the Kingdom of God. But he was also thankful for their relationship and Kingdom work that would continue on into the future!

As we finish up our Stewardship series on *Prayer, Presence, Gifts (Giving), Service, and Witness*, I also "thank my God every time I remember you, praying with joy because of your partnership in the gospel." This is a wonderful church, with wonderful people, and with a wonderful history. But God is not finished! God, who began a good work in this church over a hundred years ago, will carry in on to completion until Christ returns! So we *Carry On!*

God has done and is continuing to do amazing things through Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit! Read in this *Connexion* the work God did in John Schilling's life. Remember the children who spoke in worship about all the things they love about the church, including the people, the Children's ministry, Vacation Bible School, and the Oasis Wednesday meal! Remember youth and volunteers sharing about the work God is doing in our youth ministry and how one youth said, "I can trust them and they can trust me." Remember Christine Burkett's words on Sunday morning where she shared how God touched the lives of so many people, past and present, through the ministries of this church. Remember our mission team who talked about continuing to do a good work in Guatemala. There is so much to be thankful for!

In this month of Thanksgiving, spend some intentional time with God giving thanks for those people and ministries that you remember. Also give thanks for what God is continuing to do through this church. Ask God in what ways you are to continue to *Carry On*.

God has begun a good work in you! I am confident that God will continue to carry it on to completion! So let's *Carry On!*

Blessings to you and see you Sunday!

P.S. **Stewardship Cards** will be turned in during worship on Sunday, November 10. **Stewardship Cards** can also be turned in to the office anytime, attention Jimmy Bellew.

ONLINE GIVING



<http://www.fumcirving.org>

FUMC REFUGE YOUTH

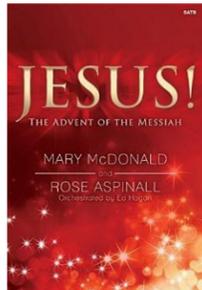
MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS
OCTOBER 2019

This fall is flying by. We have had a great time continuing to build deeper relationships with one another and with God. As we continue through the fall we will be getting ready for our fall camp out and upcoming fundraisers. It is an exciting time of the year as we move into some new activities for this group. Please keep our youth in your prayers as they prepare for 6 weeks exams and finals that will be quickly approaching!

Rev. Kyle Powell
Associate Minister and Director of Youth Ministries
FUMC Irving



Music Notes



2019 Christmas Cantata "Jesus"

FUMC Irving Music Ministry will present the annual Christmas Cantata "Jesus" by Mary MacDonald on Sunday, December 15, at 10:30 worship service by the Chancel Choir, Youth Choir, and Orchestra. If you were interested in being a part of this inspirational presentation, please come to our Wednesday night rehearsals at 6:45 – 8:00 pm in the choir room. Let us celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, together. If you have any question about the Christmas Cantata Music, please contact David Lee at music@fumcirving.org OR 609.439.2655

Thank you to all who helped makes "Fall Concert" a great success!

All the performers did a phenomenal Job! Chancel Choir, Women's Ensemble, Men's Ensemble, Chamber Singers, Soloists, String Quartet, Tom Uhr, Dennis Rueffer, Logan Jones, and Yeonok Lee. Also, thank you to Danny Elms and Judy Baggett for the sound and the media.

Especially, I would like to thank the Care Team people who prepared for the reception.



Chancel Choir New York Trip

Our Chancel Choir will go to New York to perform at the Carnegie Hall with DCINY group on November 17th, Sunday at 8:30 pm. We will be leaving on November 14th, Thursday and come back 18th, Monday, Please pray for the choir that they can be a bright beacon of God's love through this trip to New York.

David Lee
Director of Music & Worship

IN HONOR OF:

Staff and Shepherd's Care Team from Dee Norris
Mission Team 2019 to Stove & Water Purification Fund for 2020

MEMORIAL BRICK:

In Memory of Marjorie Garey from John, Julie, and Claire Schilling

IN MEMORY OF

Jim Wilcox:

to Music Fund from Mary Husa Good
to Chapel Renewal Fund from Jimmy & Christine Burkett
to Chapel Renewal Fund from Mickey & Linda Wheeler
to Wednesday Work Crew from Ron & Maryla Zimmerman

IN MEMORY OF

Marjorie Garey:

General Budget from Karen Redovian
General Budget from Pam & Allan Knott

IN MEMORY OF

Jimmie Nell Sutton to General Budget from Gwynn Sutton, her husband
Billie Waldo to Music Fund from Mary Husa
Emma "Boosh" Brown to Chapel Renewal from Jimmy & Christine Burkett
Barbara Pennington, mother in law of Michelle Werle Pennington, to Music Fund from Mary Husa Good
Nicholas Pennington, father in law of Michelle Werle Pennington, to Music Fund from Mary Husa Good

Thank you to everyone who helped make the 2019 Fall Festival such a success!

The Fall Festival could not happen without all those that donate candy, give their time to run games, help set up, or even just show up to talk with people. Thank you for showing the children of our community what it looks like to be a bright beacon of God's love to Irving and beyond!



Parent's Day Out



My how time flies by here at PDO!!! We head into November already, which brings thoughts of thankfulness and sharing. So here is a perfect example of this. About 2 years ago, one of our teachers came and told me about a teenage girl in the Mid-cities area that was fundraising to be able to obtain a service dog. Long story short, a service dog is extremely expensive due to the training the dog goes through to be able to care for their specific person with a specific medical need. It is a lengthy process as well. The young girl was collecting used shoes as her fundraiser. PDO joined this effort and asked FUMC as a church to help also. As a result, we took in loads of shoes!! (Word was spread as well and lots of other people in the DFW area helped. She even made the news with her efforts.)

Bottom line- the young girl raised enough to not only get her service dog but helped another child get one too!!

She just recently got her dog!!!

We are very thankful to have been a small part of this story.

A little bit of thoughtful deed can be another's miracle.

Have a blessed November and a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Ms Sandi and all of PDO

Your Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service, and Witness Make a Difference

by John Schilling

I was honored to be able to share my testimony in church on October 20. This is (more-or-less) what I prayerfully shared. For those you who may wonder, or who have ever wondered, if your Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service, and Witness here at God's church make an actual difference in this world, I can tell you, wholeheartedly, they do!

All the time, effort and resources you expend for God inside and outside these walls is having the desired effect! The reason for my confidence? I know firsthand because my faith is the fruit of your labors. You must realize, as I have admitted to many of you, that I was an atheist when I first entered this place. I felt I had an open mind and Julie, my wife, did not exactly drag me in here. But I was the biggest skeptic concerning God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. You see friends, although I was christened as an infant in the Catholic Church and attended some Catholic school, I was not confirmed and I did not learn the true meaning about my baptism. Later in life I spent a very long time looking for answers to life's meaning and value. I was studying the wrong things, doing the wrong things and being around the wrong people. I found some high ideals I could discern in my mind but not in my heart. Something was missing. I found the answers, here, in our church.

I could go into many small stories of my discovery but suffice to say thanks to all of you, and many others no longer with us in one capacity or another, for the many ways I was ministered to and given love and wise support during some really trying times so that I might begin to start growing ears and eyes for which to hear and see the Good News. Once I finally did, thank God and you, I dove in head first, joined our church and devoured the Bible several times over. The lost sheep is found. I'm here touting YOUR accomplishments for bringing the good news to me, for you had a steep mountain to climb and barriers to overcome.

Brothers and sisters, I am still a struggling believer just as many are and I have much to learn, but I urge each of you to consider during this time of stewardship, as I am, how God uses your own individual talents and resources for His purpose concerning your Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service, and Witness to His Kingdom and His church. Ask God to help you to appreciate your own current efforts and contributions in any capacity available to you. Also ask God to give you discernment on how you can take full ownership of your faith by recommitting yourself in any way possible, any and every day, in all ways, all the time, all the while knowing that every action and word does make a difference in people's lives through His power. You sure made a difference in my life.