



Larry's Latest

Disciples DNA on Display at 2007 Area Assembly

Have you ever seen standing ovations at Area Assemblies? We witnessed one of the most enthusiastic Area Assemblies ever, on May 6 at East Dallas Christian Church. Marked by extraordinarily gracious and skilled hospitality by the host church, the Assembly welcomed **Dr. Newell Williams**, President of Brite Divinity School and nominee as Moderator of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as the speaker.

By the time Dr. Williams began his keynote, the Assembly had already erupted in enthusiastic appreciation for each of the four musical guests and groups – from New Life Christian, First Christian Gainesville, First Christian Garland, and East Dallas Christian. The Assembly had also taken a generous offering for New Church - \$36,627 as of the end of the Assembly! 32 NTA churches had gathered up special gifts for the New Church need, and the 425 or so participants at the Assembly also gave to the cause.

New Church, we know, has always been part of our Disciples DNA. The campaign to start 1000 new churches by 2020 is already halfway to the goal. The Disciples have started 503 new churches since 2000, as General Minister and President **Sharon Watkins** told the NTA ministers on Saturday, May 5, at a special luncheon. Fourteen of those new churches are in the NTA, with 13 surviving and thriving.

What Dr. Williams was able to do in his keynote was demonstrate that, through **Barton Stone**, anti-racism is also in our DNA! He described how Barton Stone, one of our founders, came to Christ as a youth and a member of a slave-holding family in the early 1800's. He talked about how as Stone matured in his faith, he began looking anew at something he had always taken for granted – the institution of slavery. He revealed how Stone's convictions began to change, and how those changes worked out in action. Stone manumitted his slaves, and when he inherited other slaves, he manumitted them as well. He became an increasingly vocal and effective abolitionist.

Today's church has not finished the work of anti-racism and pro-reconciliation. As long as imperfect humanity fills our churches, the work will never be finished. But what was clear from the teaching at the Assembly is that becoming

mature in Christ requires us to constantly examine our convictions, and to change them as we are given greater understanding of the desires of God for us.

"When I was a child I thought as a child," says the Scripture. "Come. Let us reason together," says God. Whatever the critical issues are which present themselves to the churches of today, the example of Barton Stone's willingness to examine his convictions about slavery reminds us that WE may hold convictions that need changing as well.

New church! Reconciliation! Deep study of the things of God! Willingness to change our convictions when God confronts us with truth! All part of Disciples DNA from the very beginning!



General Assembly Only a Few Weeks Away

*Register online at
www.disciples.org*

**Detailed Information can also be
found on the webpage**

Registration fee now \$100



2007 Area Assembly Well Attended

Hopefully you just read Larry's article about the Area Assembly and the energy of the 425 or so members of North Texas Area churches as we worshiped and celebrated the 45th Anniversary of the Area. Just imagine 10 times that many people gathered at the Fort Worth Convention Center in July. We have a wonderful opportunity to join Disciples of Christ from all over the United States and Canada and show them how glad we are that they are in the Southwest Region. We do not get this chance very often, it's been 16 years since its was held in Tulsa; 24 years since it was held in San Antonio; 41 years since it was held in Dallas; and it has never met in Fort Worth. So this is an opportunity of a lifetime. Let's welcome thousands of Disciples to our part of the world and get energized to do God's work.

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Editor

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Coretha's Corner

“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” (2 Cor. 5:17)

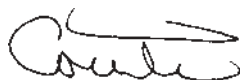
The scripture above has been rolling around in my head the last several weeks; it seems like there are “new creations” popping up all over the place these days! And in surprisingly delightful and awe-inspiring ways.

First of all, many of you know the odyssey the NTA office has been on for a year or two, trying to locate new office space. Wouldn't you know that at about the same time our landlords gave us a “vacate” notice, the congregation of Western Heights Christian made a generous gift to the Area of their facility?! Now, not only will our office have new space, but we can also begin to implement the vision of a mission/ministry center, where we will be able to develop new ministries in many ways for the Area. In addition, the Western Heights congregation will be enabled to develop a new vision for their ministry without worrying about the expense of maintaining a building. God works in wondrous ways!

And, a personal experience: last week Johnny and I traveled to Baltimore for a conference. While there, all three of our children and their significant others made the decision to travel from Vermont, Connecticut, and D.C. to come visit us! Now, that may not sound like a big deal to most folks, but believe me, this is HUGE for our family! All of our kids are between 21 and 31 years old, and as is to be expected, very busy with their own lives. So we were thrilled when they made the choice to spend time with two “old-fogey” parents! At last, the family truly felt like family – a new creation!

My prayer for each of you is that you will also be able to experience new creations that are important for you . . . whether big or small, each one reminds us that God is a part of our lives, and does choose to work in wondrous and surprising ways!

Grace, joy and peace,



Gift of Music Shared at Area Assembly



Natalie and Becca Mitchell from East Dallas Christian.



Nicki Scott from New Life Christian, Dallas.



Judy and John Grasham from First Christian, Garland.

“Witness” from First Christian, Gainesville composed of Janet Cox, Beverly Ellis, Alene Johnson, and Chrystal Wright.



Search and Call

The following congregations are in various stages of the Search and Call process for ministerial staff. Please keep them in your prayers:

- First, Anna Midway Hills, Dallas
- First, Denton
- First, Ennis
- First, Paris
- First, Richardson

Disciples Women/CWF News

The following officers were installed at First Christian, Richardson, May 17:

- Linda Morrow** - President
- Martha Williams** - President-elect
- Ruby Henry** - VP for Worship
- Gayle Hurst** - VP for Study
- Stevie Linn** - VP for Communications
- Cecilia Hayes** - VP for Service
- Frankie Williams** - Assistant Service
- Charlsie Rolan** - Secretary
- Sharon Howell** - Treasurer
- Billie Waddle** - Historian
- Shannon Karr** - Parliamentarian

We want to encourage all women to attend the Women's Luncheon at General Assembly. Central Christian, Dallas is ramroding a bus to leave from Northway Christian, Dallas for \$10 per person. The luncheon is Wednesday, July 25th at 11:45 a.m. For more information call **Linda Morrow**, 940-383-1724, or go to the Disciples webpage www.disciples.org and click on the General Assembly logo.

The next General meeting will be August 2 at Casa View Christian, Dallas. It will be an evening meeting and a speaker will give a recap of the Assembly. Be looking for a reminder in July going to all Area congregations.

Linda Morrow
President

Diciples Men/CMF News

The next Disciples Men Breakfast will be held at Warren Avenue Christian, Dallas at 8:30 a.m.

A Disciples Men's Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, July 25, at 12:15 p.m. during the General Assembly. It will be at the Convention Center and feature **Beau Underwood** as speaker. Tickets are \$20. and available by sending requests to Anne Marie Moyars, DHM, P.O. Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

The Regional Men's Retreat is scheduled for September 14 - 16 at Lake Brownwood. This year's theme is “Men Ministering to Men.” **Rev. Greg Alexander**, Regional Minister for Kentucky and **Rev. Larry Ross** will be speakers. Registration forms are available on the Regional webpage, www.ccsw.org.

Youth News



2007 - 2008 Youth Ministry Council was installed at the Area Assembly in May.

8 Youth elected to 2007-2008 YMC


The Youth Ministry Council for 2007-2008 was elected on Saturday, March 31, 2007 at Northway Christian. The newly elected members of the council are: **Natalie Attaya**, Creekwood Christian, Flower Mound; **Sara Beckham**, First Christian, McKinney; **Patrick Broadwell**, First Christian, Carrollton; **Katie Cunningham**, Northway Christian, Dallas; **Katelyn Fuller**, Casa View Christian, Dallas; **Jonathan Holly**, First Christian, Plano; **Justin Roach**, First Christian, Rowlett; and **Tiffani Yochum**, First Christian, Garland. They were installed at the Area Assembly, May 6. These youth will participate in planning the 2008 Mid-Winter Retreat and 2008 CYF Conference and attend Christian Youth Leadership Seminar at Lake Brownwood this June.

Sara Beckham was selected to serve as Regional Executive and will attend Regional Youth Council events representing the North Texas Area in 2007-2008.

Caroline Dixon who serves on the General Youth Youth Ministry Council in an ex-officio position.

Congratulations to all these youth!

Adults serving as advisors with the Youth Ministry Council are: **Rebecca Dixon**, First Christian, Garland; **Tammie Johnston**, Creekwood Christian, Flower Mound; **Vance McIntosh**, First Christian, Waxahachie; **Shon Slatton**, First Christian, Princeton; and **Aaron Todd**, Western Heights Christian, Garland. Vance McIntosh is the Regional Adult Representative from our Area.

Lead a life
worthy of the calling ...
making every effort
to maintain the unity
of the **Spirit** in
the bond of **peace.**
Ephesians 4:1-3

North Texas Area Ordinations

Congratulations to the following who have been or will be ordained this summer:

Rev. Dawn Rosignol, June 3 at First Christian, Rowlett, currently serves at First Christian, Wilmer.

Rev. Brian Christen, June 10 at Creekwood Christian, Flower Mound where he currently serves.

Rev. Mike Dunson, July 1 at Casa View Christian, Dallas. He currently serves First Christian, Belton.

Patrick Crocker, July 8 at Casa View Christian, Dallas.

Rev. Susan Martin, July 8 at First Christian, Duncanville, currently serves at First Christian, Richardson.

Vy Nguyen, July 24, at East Dallas Christian.

Youth Activities at General Assembly

Eye Openers: Do you have a hard time waking up and getting going for the day? Come and see what we have planned to wake up your brain and your heart. There will be music, games, and devotions to get your day jump started.

Mission Opportunities: Join other youth from around the country as we go and share our gifts with others. This will be a powerful time that will change your faith life.

Workshops: Would you like to know more about racism? How about a discussion on dating? We'll also talk more about peace, justice and poverty issues. Come and join us for these stimulating workshops just for you!

After Sessions: Join us after worship each evening for games, karaoke, music and more

Youth Led Worship: Join us on Sunday morning for a lively and new way to worship God. **Rev. Stacy Spencer** will be preaching that day and the music will be fantastic. You will also get the chance to take communion in a way you have never experienced before! (Stacy Spencer is minister at New Direction Christian Church in Memphis, TN)

Youth must register for the General Assembly to participate. Housing for youth will be on the TCU campus. There will be shuttle buses from the campus to the Convention Center during the Assembly. Youth must check-in at the Convention Center and pick up credentials before they can check in at the TCU campus.

A video presentation of all the youth activities from the General Assembly and a concert from one of the top bands in the country will close out the event.

For information and online registration: www.disciples.org/ga



North Texas Area Bulletin Board

Chalice Exchange at General Assembly

When we think about sharing a feast, our thoughts turn to good food and drink, and towards a variety of tables - Communion, dinner, picnic, formal, and informal. As Disciples, we think of the bread and cup, because Communion is central to our theology.

Picture if you will, hundreds of chalices of various sizes and colors, all gathered together on one banquet table. Smell the sweetness of the grape juice, the tantalizing aroma of the fresh bread. Now imagine sharing Communion with seven to eight thousand of your sisters and brothers in the faith. This is a mighty, powerful image, and one we will live out at the General Assembly in Fort Worth.

Bring Your Chalice - To share this banquet feast together, every Disciples congregation is invited to bring or send a chalice to the General Assembly, which will be exchanged with a chalice from another Disciples congregation. We will use as many chalices as possible in a Communion service during evening worship, and the chalices will also be displayed in the Chapel.

If you wish to participate in the chalice exchange at General Assembly:

1) Purchase, or create a chalice no more than 10 inches high that can be used for Communion, in other words, one that can have grape juice in it. 2) The chalice you bring/send to the Assembly will not be the chalice you take home, so do not bring/send a church heirloom. 3) Look for the Chalice Corral near registration. Please deliver your chalice to the Chalice Corral when you register and purchase your meal tickets. 4) Put the church name, city, state, and GA07 on the

bottom of the chalice, with a permanent marker or label. 5) Every chalice will be registered upon both delivery and departure.

All Are Invited To Participate

Even if no one from your church is able to attend the 2007 General Assembly, you can still participate in the Chalice Exchange. Simply ship your chalice, with \$10.00 for return shipping and handling, to:

Chalice Exchange
United Memorial Christian Church
1401 N Main St
Euless, TX 76039

If you require further information, please feel to contact Mary Lou Dillon at 817-571-0231, or umccpastor@sbcglobal.net.

Mass Choir at General Assembly

If you are interested in singing with others from the Southwest Region at the opening worship service Saturday night July 21, go to the Regional webpage, www.ccsww.org and find information on the Massed Choir. There is information about rehearsals, which are coming up soon in Dallas and Fort Worth.

Below, Area congregations bring their gifts for the 45 for 45 Campaign.



45 for 45 Total

As of June 8 the total received for the 45 for 45 Campaign was **\$39,203.44.**

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Rev. Ed Dowell Receives Honored Minister Pin



Rev. Edward L. Dowell receives his Honored Minister's Pin from his wife, **Cindy**, during a recent worship service at Northway Christian, Dallas. Rev. Dowell served for more than 25 years as president of Juliette Fowler Homes Inc. He also served at University Christian, Fort Worth before joining Juliette Fowler. Looking on are **Aubrey D. Gearner Jr.**, second from right, chairman of the Fowler Board, and **Rev. Dr. Doug Skinner**, senior minister at Northway. Honored Minister's Pins are provided by the Pension Fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Minister News

Rev. Frank Mace has been called as Transitional Minister to First Christian, Richardson.

Rev. Coretha Loughridge, has been called as Area Minister to the Northeast Area. She will begin her ministry in Tyler on July 15. Her last day in the North Texas Area will be July 8.

Area Calendar

June

**** All Camps below at Disciples Crossing, Athens, unless noted****

Niners Conference
June 18 - 23, 2007

Chi Rho 2 Camp
June 18 - 23, 2007

Chi Rho 3 Camp
June 25 - 30, 2007

JYF 1 Camp
June 25 - 29, 2007

Christian Youth Leadership Seminar (CYLS) Lake Brownwood
June 25 - 30, 2007

Discovery 2 Camp
June 29 - July 1, 2007

July

Eighth Grade Camp (8ers)
July 1 - 7, 2007

Area Office closed for Fourth of July
July 4, 2007

NTA CYF Conference
July 9 - 14, 2007

JYF 2 Camp
July 16 - 20, 2007

Area Cabinet Meeting - 5:30 p.m.
Area Office
July 17, 2007

**General Assembly of the Christian Church
Fort Worth Convention Center
July 21 - 25, 2007**

Eighth Grade 2 Camp (8ers)
July 29 - August 4

August

Disciples Men Breakfast - 8:30 a.m.
Warren Avenue Christian, Dallas
August 4, 2007



Serving at the Communion Table for the Area Assembly are left to right, John Hearne, Elder from East Dallas; Rev. Norm Stolpe, Central Christian, Dallas; Rev. Coretha Loughridge, North Texas Area; Rev. Lloyd Facen, Warren Avenue Christian, Dallas; Rev. Deborah Morgan, East Dallas Christian.

Organist/Pianist Available

John Dysart is looking for a organist/pianist position. John is a member at First Christian, Denton and is an accomplished musician. If interested, you may contact him at 214-683-8990.

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