



## Larry's Latest

### A New Home and a Clean Shave

These last few weeks have been full of promises kept and blessings given. After more than a year of seeking a new (and church-related) home for the North Texas Area Office, we were given the building and grounds at 3525 Lawler Road from the Western Heights Christian congregation to use as a Mission Center and Area Office. The transfer of property took place Friday, July 13 in a ceremony at the office of the Southwest Region's attorney. This gift, by the remarkably generous and visionary membership of Western Heights, enables the Area to begin to 'hothouse' new church starts, to enjoy a permanent home, and to have a place from which groups can go out into the Metroplex to do mission. We will also enjoy the continuing presence of the Western Heights Christian congregation, as they will continue to use the facility while determining their long-range future. The movers will be coming on August 15, so we have already begun renovation of the four classrooms we are converting to offices and workrooms. Plan on dropping by after we move!



Western Heights Christian Church property given as a gift to the North Texas Area.

One must keep one's promises! After the Area Assembly, when the special 45/45 New Church offering raised \$38,000, I continued to answer questions about my beard with the comment, "When someone writes a check for the rest, I will shave!" Over the following weeks, some small additional gifts came in, but it happened! Thanks to a generous gift by an



anonymous individual, as well as a gift by Disciples Foundation, we now have \$45,492 on hand and in pledges for New Church Development. As promised, my beard came off in celebration at the last Area Cabinet meeting. Many new church projects are beginning to 'percolate'!

### 2007-2009 Area Officers Begin Serving

The newly elected officers of the North Texas Area began their term July 1. Officers were elected at the June 2 Area Board meeting which was held at the location of the New Area office, Western Heights Christian in Garland. New officers are:

- Moderator - **Bob Williams**, Warren Avenue Christian, Dallas
- Vice-Moderator - **Maria Garza**, Rosemont Christian, Dallas
- Secretary - **Rev. Deborah Jones**, First Christian, Irving
- Treasurer - **Rev. Dawn Rosignol**, First Christian, Wilmer
- Parliamentarian - **Dr. Les Massey**, Casa View Christian, Dallas

Department Chairs (Appointed by the Moderator):

- Congregational Life -
- Education - **Rev. Shannon Grubbs**, First Christian, Plano
- Evangelism - **Dr. Michael Oden**, First Christian, Duncanville
- Ministry - **Rev. John Burton**, Irving North Christian
- New Church - **Rev. Deborah Morgan**, East Dallas Christian
- Outreach - **Rev. Brian Coats**, Disciples Christian, Plano

As Vice-Moderator, Maria Garza, will lead the planning for the 2008 Area Assembly set for April 27, 2008. Les Massey heads the Nominating Committee. **Rev. Ed Coble** will head Public Relations.

It was with great pride, but with sadness as well, that several representatives from the NTA traveled to Tyler July 15 for the installation of **Coretha Loughridge** as the NEA Area Minister. Her accession to the office of Area Minister leaves a vacancy here in the NTA. The Search Committee for the Associate Area Minister position met for the first time July 16. Chaired by **Mark Irons**, the committee established parameters and set a target deadline of Sept. 15 for applications. The committee was very satisfied with the way Coretha carried out her ministry and left the job description intact. Ordained and licensed ministers are encouraged to apply for this position, described elsewhere in this edition.

Much of the time since the last Area Cabinet meeting for me was spent on Sabbatical, writing much of my Doctoral Dissertation. I am grateful for that provision of sabbatical time in my contract and put it to good use. I am also glad I was able to see so many of our North Texas Area folk at General Assembly. I know that we were well represented among volunteers from the Region hosting the Assembly.

I am delighted to welcome the new officers for NTA for the coming year. This is a strong group of leaders with whom to begin our work. (See above)

I was privileged to be the keynote speaker this summer for the Christian Youth Leadership Conference and couldn't help marveling at the quality of our Youth Execs, both new and those who finished their terms. What a special privilege we have as an Area to have a mentoring relationship with these future leaders of our church! I also did a Finding Your Call workshop for the youth at our CYF Conference at Athens and was pleased when almost a dozen youth came to see what they could learn about entering the ministry.

I am also pleased to announce that **Bob** and **Vicki Stewart** from Rush Creek Christian Church in Arlington will be Deans of our School of Licensed Ministry we have in partnership with TBA again this year. The first session will be Oct. 6 at Rush Creek.

Ordinations are always high points. I participated in or attended the ordinations of **Dawn Rosignol**, **Brian Christen**, **Mike Dunson** and **Patrick Crocker**. Two more ordinations will round out the summer.

**Myron Goins** is our intern this summer, funded by earnings from the South (continued on page 2)

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Lyn T. Robinette  
Editor

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The North Texas Area can be contacted at:

2400 Lone Star Dr., Ste. 101  
Dallas, TX 75212-6309  
(214)631-6991 (office)  
(214)631-6995 (fax)  
nta@ccsw.org  
Office Hours:  
8:30 a.m. — 4:30 p.m.  
Monday — Friday

Larry J. Ross  
Area Minister  
Lyn T. Robinette  
Administrative Assistant  
Jerry Frazier  
Bookkeeper

### 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  
Oak Cliff, Dallas (P/T)  
Rosemont Center, Dallas  
(Associate)  
First, Denton  
First, Ennis  
First, Paris  
First, Richardson

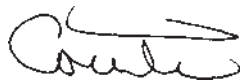
### Coretha's Corner

As I'm writing this, Johnny and I are on our way to Tyler to close on our new home there. Most of you already know that I have accepted the position of Northeast Area Minister, and will begin my service there Sunday, July 15<sup>th</sup>. Johnny will continue to serve as the Transitional Minister at Western Heights, until his contract there is finished.

It has been a blessing and a delight to minister with you in the North Texas Area. Even though my time here was short (not quite three years), I learned quite a bit about Area and Regional Ministry, and had the opportunity to meet so many gifted, faithful clergy and laity . . . thank you for sharing your time and talents in the work of the Area! And thank you for your patience as I have tried to learn the ropes!

I will continue to keep the NTA in my prayers as exciting changes take place: the relocation of the Area office, the development of a mission center, and the calling of a new Associate. This is a strong Area, with capable leadership, and you have been blessed in so many ways; I hope that you will continue to share those blessings in as many ways as possible. And, I would ask for your prayers for the Northeast Area as we begin a new chapter of ministry together. Together, we can help to further strengthen the ministry and mission of the Southwest Region!

Grace, joy, and peace,




Revs. Coretha Loughridge and her husband, Rev. Johnny Loughridge, at her installation as Northeast Area Minister on July 15 at First Christian, Tyler.

### Moving Plans for Area Office Get Underway!



### Larry's Latest (con't.)

Cliff Center fund. He will be working on the youth programs for TCMF, esp. District II, encouraging kids to attend camps and rallies, and designing a fall rally that will bring youth together of all ethnicities.

Lastly, I want to report that discussions of Regional Restructure continue. Neill Grimes and Todd Boddy, NTA reps on that group, will be leading input sessions for Area Clergy and laity during the next 2 months. They would like to announce that lay leadership from all churches in the Area will be invited to a meeting on September 25 at 6:00 p.m. at Northway Christian Church. If you would like to voice your opinion about how the Region carries on ministry and how it should be structured to do so, plan to come!

What a great summer it has been!



Larry's office has a coat of paint and is waiting for the carpet.

Plans are coming along for the move of the North Texas Area office to the Western Heights Christian Center. We are beginning to clean out some clutter in the Lone Star Dr.

office and will be packing up in August. The office will be closed the week of August 13th with the movers coming on August 15th for the actual move. There may be some time while the phones and telecommunications will be out and we may be using cell phones but we will try our best to be available during this time. We are renovating four classrooms at Western Heights to serve as offices and a workroom. A wall has been cut out between two rooms for office and workspace and cabinets will be added for storage.

### Disciples Women/CWF News

The next General meeting will be Thursday, August 2 at Casa View Christian, Dallas at 6:30 p.m. **Rev. Irie Session** will present "General Assembly Follow-up." Cost of dinner is \$6.00. Reservations should be made by July 30 by calling 214-328-8429. We are working on the new yearbook and hope to pass them out at this meeting.

Linda Morrow  
President

### Disciples Men/CMF News

Area quarterly men's breakfast will be Saturday, August 4, at 8:30 a.m. at Warren Avenue Christian, Dallas. Then First Christian, Garland will host the next breakfast November 3 at 8:30 a.m.

Mark your calendars now for the Regional Men's Retreat at Lake Brownwood September 14 - 16. The theme is "Men Ministering to Men." **Rev. Greg Alexander**, Regional Minister of Kentucky and **Rev. Larry Ross** will be keynoters. Registration forms are available on the Regional website [www.ccsw.org](http://www.ccsw.org), click on Partner Ministries. There is also information to nominate candidates for Layman of the Year and Minister of the Year.

Robert Turner  
President

# Youth News



**Student named Higher Education and Leadership Ministries Fellow**

**Caroline Hamilton**, member of First Christian, Lewisville and 2006-07 Youth Council member has been named a recipient of a HELM Leadership Fellowship grant. She will receive a \$2,000 scholarship and attend TCU in the Fall. Recipients are required to participate in planning and leading campus ministry programs or similar activities. The campus chaplain or other appropriate official oversees their participation and they attend an annual leadership conference.

To be eligible for the fellowship, students were required express a commitment to serve the church as a clergy or lay leader and to participate in the leadership development activities required by the Program in addition to being a full-time student at an accredited university and participate in a Disciples congregation.

**Rebekah Cypert**, a previous HELM Leadership Fellow recipient and member of First Christian, McKinney plans to attend Brite Divinity School.



**New water slide a big hit during camp!**



**CYF'ers "hang out" at Conference**



**NTA Seniors pose for Senior Pix at CYF Conference**

# North Texas Area Bulletin Board

**Rev. Dawn Rosignol celebrates her ordination on June 3**



*From left to right above, Jessie McCord, Rev. Chad McMullin, Rev. Dawn Weaks, Rev. Dani Loving Cartwright, Margie Harrington, Rev. Spencer Young, Rev. Dr. Eldon Irving, Rev. Dawn Rosignol, Rev. Dr. Mark Toulouse, Rev. Larry Ross, Ron Rosignol, Rev. Ron Pingleton, Rev. Buist Wilson*

## “HELP WANTED” ASSOCIATE AREA MINISTER

The Associate Area Minister of the North Texas Area shall have, as primary responsibility, the planning and implementing of PRO-GRAMS that serve the local churches of the Area, with special focus on camps and conference. A secondary responsibility shall be to provide PASTORAL support in the absence of the Area Minister, or at the Area Minister's direction. This may, at times, include some Search and Call.

The Associate Area Minister shall relate, in particular, to the Departments of Congregational Life, Education and Outreach, to women's groups in the Area and to the Area Youth Ministry Council.

This shall be a part-time position of 20 hours/week, and ordained and licensed ministers may apply.

Compensation shall be \$22,424 per year. A car, a cell phone and other business expenses shall be provided. The successful applicant shall have standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), or be willing to seek standing. Fluency in Spanish shall be desired, but not required.

The Associate Area Minister shall also, as time allows, carry responsibilities for the Southwest Region as assigned.

The Associate Area Minister shall function under the supervision of the Area Minister, and shall attend Area Cabinet and Board meetings.

The deadline for application is September 15, 2007. Application may be made through the Area Office at 214-631-6991.

## Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Congratulations to **Rev. Roger Wedell** who received the Kuchling Humanitarian Award. The award is presented to individuals who have made extraordinary gifts on behalf of the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) community. Roger is the Executive Director of the North Texas Legal Hospice.

Congratulations to **Rebecca Lynne Mitchell Highfield** who was ordained July 1 in Tulsa. She is a Priscilla from Monica Park Christian, Garland.

Congratulations to **Rev. Nita Allen** and **Rev. Matt Crownover** on receiving their certification as chaplains from the Association of Professional Chaplains.



**Mark Your Calendars Now!**  
**North Texas Area**  
**Trinity Bazos Area**  
**jointly host**

**GAYE REESE:**  
Author of “Unbinding the Gospel: Real Life Evangelism”

**A book for today's churches & Evangelism for a full day seminar - October 17**

With the hopes that church leadership groups will be studying the book prior to the event, come to the Event ready to ask questions in preparation for 40 Days of Study during Lent of 2008!

## Area Calendar

### August

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

Area Office closed for move to Garland  
August 13 - 17, 2007

### September

Office Closed for Labor Day  
September 3, 2007

Stalcup School of Theology for the Laity  
Robert K. Welsh - 8:30 a.m.  
East Dallas Christian  
September 8, 2007

Area Committee on the Ministry - 9:00 a.m.  
Office - Western Heights Christian Center  
September 10, 2007

Regional Disciples Men's Retreat  
Lake Brownwood Retreat Center  
September 14-16, 2007

Area Cabinet Meeting - 5:30 p.m.  
Office - Western Heights Christian Center  
September 18, 2007

Stalcup School of Theology for the Laity  
M. Eugene Boring - 8:30 a.m.  
First Christian, Arlington  
September 29, 2007

CYF Day at TCU - 6:00 p.m.  
September 29, 2007

### October

Area Board Meeting - 9:00 a.m.  
Office - Western Heights Christian Center  
October 6, 2007

Licensed Minister Training - 9:00 a.m.  
Rush Creek Christian, Arlington  
October 6, 2007

Clergywomen's Retreat  
Disciples Crossing, Athens  
October 9 & 10, 2007

Evangelism Seminar - Martha Grace Reese  
October 17, 2007

North Texas Area of the Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest  
2400 Lone Star Drive Suite 101  
Dallas, TX 75212-6309



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