



The NTACC

Vol. 19 No. 2 A publication of the North Texas Area of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) March 2008

Larry's Latest

"Congratulations, Doctor Ross!" Those were the words I heard at the close of my interview with the head of the Doctor of Ministry program few days ago. This completes a study process I began nearly seven years ago; one that brought me back to Dallas for study and enabled the renewal of relationships from a previous ministry here in Dallas. That, in turn, led to a successful call to be Area Minister and a good beginning, now four years ago!

We are always in a process, on a journey, and living in the tension between 'already' and 'not yet'. From the very beginning of my study process, I began learning valuable things – classes on leadership theory, counseling, leadership development, strategic planning, the nature of worship, and how to do research. At each step I learned skills that helped in daily ministry. But I always knew that the culmination of the process would not be for many years, when I completed the research and wrote the dissertation. Even now, though all requirements are fulfilled, the degree will not be granted until the graduation service May 10.

I learned some things along the way. I learned that the journey itself needs to be valuable in its own right. I never knew if I would actually complete the degree, so I made sure that the investment I made in each class would stand on its own for value. I also learned that the goal of a journey needs to be compelling enough to keep you going through difficult patches. Area Ministry, done well, requires a lot of retooling and on-the-job training. I was forced to lay aside the D.Min. work for a couple of years to give time to learning this ministry. I even considered laying aside the degree. But there was something nagging in my spirit to finish the task, and much encouragement from leaders in the Area, and my colleagues in ministry.

As Christians, and as churches, we are all on spiritual journeys. What is our goal? Are we journeying toward anything compelling? Or are we just trudging along with our noses 'pressed to the grindstone rough'? "Study to show yourself ... a worker who does not need to be ashamed."

If the goal is high enough, is the journey itself worth taking? Are there rewards along the way that make each day, each step worth taking? I hope that YOUR journey is a thrilling journey toward an incredible goal.

Larry

2008 North Texas Annual Area Assembly



Guest Preacher: Luis Bernard

Director of Borderland Center for Latina/o Church Studies at Brite Divinity School

Special Music by Andra Moran



Sunday, April 27, 2008

3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

**First Christian Church
813 E. 15th St.
Plano, TX 75074**

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Oak Cliff Christian, Dallas recently installed their new part-time minister, Rev. Nita Allen. She is pictured here with Rev. Larry Ross.

The NTACC is published bi-monthly by the North Texas Area of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest

Lyn T. Robinette
Editor

NTACC Deadlines
April 29, 2008
July 1, 2008
September 2, 2008
November 4, 2008

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Irie Session
Associate Area Minister
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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, Paris
Disciples, Plano
United Disciples,
Richardson

Irie's Insights

As a product of the Black Church Studies Program at Brite (the same program that chose to honor the controversial Dr. Jeremiah Wright), I know firsthand how the Black Church Studies program has shaped pastors, ministers and lay leaders of all races, to speak truth to power, and do the hard work of ministry, without respect to race, creed, gender, or social status.

For some, it is difficult to hear that racism still exists in America. For others, it's a fact of life, an everyday occurrence. Some would be surprised to know that two weeks ago, while driving on Central Expressway, I was called the "N" word. Granted, I did make a mistake and cut in front of a driver who was in my blind spot, but why did the "N" word have to be used?

On another occasion, while attending a luncheon in North Dallas on Turtle Creek, a woman assumed I was the cook. The only distinction between me and the other sixty women present was that I was Black, so in one woman's estimation, that meant I must have been the cook, rather than a guest. Racial stereotypes such as these continue to fuel racist behaviors and attitudes in American. The Brite Black Church Studies program provides a venue for working through divisive issues of racial and gender stereotypes—issues about which pastors like Dr. Wright preach prophetically, tackling tough issues such as poverty, homelessness, HIV/AIDS, and homophobia.

Prophetic preaching is difficult and challenging today, especially when the media broadcasts sound bites without context. But it was hard for prophets like Amos, Micah, Jeremiah, and Isaiah, too. After all, no one really wants to hear the stinging, confrontational words of a prophet. Nevertheless, God uses prophets to redirect the people to what's most important, "to act justly and love mercy and... walk humbly with God." Going the way of the prophet isn't easy. But as I've learned from the Black Church Studies Program, it's absolutely necessary.

Evils such as racism will be addressed

continued next column

Disciples Women

Be sure you have registered for the Area Women's Spiritual Life Retreat April 18th - 20th. The theme is "Who Touched Me?" and the keynote speaker is **Rev. Jennie Churchman**, Minister to The Way @ Northway Christian Church. Music leaders will be **Stevie Linn** and **Loretta Boddy**. Cost for the full weekend is \$75.

The next General Meeting is Thursday, May 15, at First Christian, Garland at 6:00 p.m. This will be the installation of officers. Dinner and childcare reservations should be made by Monday, May 12.

Linda Morrow
President

Disciples Men

The next Area Men's breakfast is May 3 at First Christian, Garland, 115 S. Glenbrook Dr. The speaker will be **Bob Williams**.

Tri-Area Men's Retreat at Disciples Crossing in Athens will be May 16 - 19. Registration forms have been sent to Area churches and can also be found on the Northeast Area webpage www.ccsw.org/northeast/northeast.asp. The keynote speaker will be **Rev. Kevin Hollowell**, Minister at Central Christian, Winnsboro and Southwest Region Disciples Men President-Elect.

Bob Counts
President

Irie's Insights *continued*

in our churches only when we have the courage to face the reality that it still exists and divides. Once we acknowledge its existence among us, we must then be deliberate in finding ways to address it head on. We must educate ourselves about our differences. This requires openness and a commitment to resist the temptation to be defensive when listening to another person's truth. I hope we will all listen, through the Holy Spirit, to one another.



Youth News



11 Youth Elected to 2008-2009 YMC

The Youth Ministry Council for 2008-2009 was elected Saturday, March 8, 2008 at First Christian, Garland. Members elected to return to the council are: **Natalie Attaya**, Creekwood Christian, Flower Mound; **Patrick Broadwell**, First Christian, Carrollton; **Katie Cunningham**, Northway Christian, Dallas; and **Katelyn Fuller**, Casa View Christian, Dallas. Newly elected members of the council are: **Duncan Fetner**, Creekwood Christian, Flower Mound; **Curran Kelley**, Northway Christian, Dallas; **Sarah Klein**, First Christian, Waxahachie; **Andrea Robinson**, Highlands Christian, Dallas; **Christina Shafer**, First Christian, McKinney; **David Wills**, Forest Grove Christian, Lucas; and **Katherine Wright**, First Christian, McKinney. They will be installed at the Area Assembly, April 27. These youth will participate in planning the 2009 Mid-Winter Retreat and 2009 CYF Conference and attend Christian Youth Leadership Seminar at Lake Brownwood in June.

Natalie Attaya was selected to serve as Regional Executive and will attend Regional Youth Council events representing the North Texas Area in 2008-2009.

Congratulations to all these youth!

Adults who will serve as advisors with the Youth Ministry Council are: **Rebecca Anderson**, First Christian, Garland; **Tammie Johnston**, Creekwood Christian, Flower Mound; **Chris St. Clair**, First Christian, McKinney; **Shon Slatton**, First Christian, Princeton; and **Aaron Todd**, United Disciples Christian, Richardson.

2008 Summer Camps and Conferences

(All camps at Disciples Crossing, Athens)

Grand Camp (ages 4 - 10 with grandparent)	June 6 - 8
Director: Kathy Albers	
*Discovery 1 Camp (grades 2 & 3 w/ adult)	May 24 - 26
Directors: To be named	
Discovery 2 Camp (completed grades 2 & 3)	June 27 - 29
Director: Dottie Cook and Melissa Lumpkin	
*JYF 1 Camp (completed grades 4 & 5)	June 23 - 27
Directors: Ann Dotson and Karyl Dunne	
JYF 2 Camp (completed grades 4 & 5)	June 30 - July 4
Directors: Kathy Barnes	
JYF 3 Camp (completed grades 4 & 5)	July 21 - 25
Directors: Chris Wilson and Pam Holt	
*Chi Rho 1 Camp (completed grades 6 & 7)	June 9 - 14
Director: Ken Crawford	
Chi Rho 2 Camp (completed grades 6 & 7)	June 16 - 21
Director: Mark Bridges	
Chi Rho 3 Camp (completed grades 6 & 7)	June 23 - 28
Directors: Megan Ammann and Bill Jeffreys	
Eighth Grade 1 Camp (completed grade 8)	July 13 - 19
Director: Jennifer Hale and John Bowers	
*Eighth Grade 2 Camp (completed grade 8)	July 27 - August 2
Directors: Jason Mangham and Dan Anderson	
Niner's Youth Conference (completed grade 9)	June 30 - July 5
Directors: Derek Tompkins and Michelle Harvick	
NEA CYF Conference (completed grades 9 - 12)	June 9 - 14
Director: Cory Glover	
*NTA CYF Conference (completed grades 9 - 12)	July 7 - 12
Director: Mike McConachie and Tammie Johnston	
TBA CYF Conference (completed grades 10 - 12)	June 16 - 21
Directors: Isaac Varner and April Culver	
Wilderness Camp (completed grades 5 - 7)	July 7 - 12
Directors: Will and Angie Leisure	

* Camps staffed by North Texas Area

The registration deadline for each camp is the Monday closest to 3 weeks prior to the start of the camp.

Early Bird Fees (before April 15, 2008)	Regular Fees (after April 15, 2008)		
CYF & Niner's Conference	\$275	CYF & Niner's Conference	\$300
8 th Grade Camp	\$310	8 th Grade Camp	\$335
Chi Rho 1, 2 & 3 Camp	\$260	Chi Rho 1, 2 & 3 Camp	\$285
JYF 1, 2 & 3 Camp	\$205	JYF 1, 2 & 3 Camp	\$230
Discovery Camp	\$ 85	Discovery Camp	\$ 95
Grand Camp	\$110	Grand Camp	\$130
Wilderness Camp	\$ 85	Wilderness Camp	\$ 95



North Texas Area Bulletin Board

Hispanic Pastors Conference

On Feb 29-March 1, NTA's Western Heights Mission Center was the site of a conference for all the Hispanic pastors of the NW quadrant of Texas. Some 35 different pastors, spouses and lay leaders enjoyed training in Disciples of Christ identity and new church skills from three staffers from Board of Church Extension in Indianapolis: **Gilberto Collazo, Ketty Santos, and Dan Feliciano.**



Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Joys

Congratulations to **Rev. Hal Hinckley** as he begins his term as Sachse's 2008 Chamber of Commerce Chair.

First Christian, Lewisville celebrated the final payment of the sanctuary mortgage with a rededication ceremony on January 27th.



Area Calendar

April

Licensed Minister Training - 8:45 a.m.
Rush Creek Christian, Arlington
April 12, 2008

Area Committee on the Ministry
Area Office - 9:00 a.m.
April 14, 2008

Disciples Women Spiritual Life
Retreat
Disciples Crossing, Athens
April 18 - 20, 2008

Stalcup School of Theology for
the Laity - 8:30 a.m.
Darren Middleton
Northway Christian, Dallas
April 19, 2008

NTA Worship Workshop with
Andra Moran - 10:00 a.m.
Western Heights Center
April 26, 2008

Area Assembly - 3:00 p.m.
First Christian, Plano
April 27, 2008

May

Area CMF Breakfast - 8:30
First Christian, Garland
May 3, 2008

Disciples Crossing
Celebration, Athens
May 10, 2008

Area DWM Installation
First Christian, Garland
May 15, 2008

Tri-Area Men's Retreat
Disciples Crossing, Athens
May 16 - 19, 2008

Disciples Men Work Day
Jarvis Christian College
May 19 - 24, 2008

Area Cabinet Meeting
Area Office - 5:30 p.m.
May 20, 2008

**Disciples Crossing
Celebration**

60 years of camping

**Saturday, May 10
11:00 - 3:00 p.m.**

**Food provided.
Bring lawn chairs or
blankets to sit on.**



**North Texas
Area Assembly**

**Luis Bernard
Guest Preacher**

**Special Music by
Andra Moran**

**Sunday, April 27
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.**

**First Christian Church
813 E. 15th St.
Plano**



**Andra Moran
Contemporary
Worship Workshop**

**Saturday, April 26
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

Concert at 7:00 p.m.

**Western Heights
Mission Center
3525 Lawler Rd.
Garland, TX 75042**

North Texas Area of the Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest
3525 Lawler Rd., Ste. 101
Garland, TX 75042-5338



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