



The NTACC

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Larry's Latest

Speaking the Good News!

I have had so much good news lately I just have to share it:

*My first grandbaby, **Samantha**, was born healthy and adorable!

*Her momma (my daughter, **Holly**) graduated with her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Michigan State School of Veterinary Medicine!

*Holly was then promoted to Captain in the U.S. Army and will take her officer's training in San Antonio in late summer, then be posted to Ft. Bragg!

*Her husband and our granddaughter Samantha will live with us while Holly is in training!

*My daughter, **Lora**, got a new job teaching in an elementary school in Mesquite!

*My son, **Joe**, gets married July 19!

*I graduated with my Doctor of Ministry degree!

Good news just begs to be shared.

Visiting our churches, and enjoying the Area Assembly, I just have to wonder why more people are not visiting what, in nearly every case, are vibrant, exciting, friendly, community-involved Disciples of Christ congregations?

Since 70-80% of first time visitors to churches nation-wide come because they are INVITED by someone who already attends that church, I have to conclude that we are just not sharing the good news about our churches very well.

In fact, I did my Doctoral work on the reluctance to open our mouths and talk about Jesus. I studied how good stories get told, and how we make a conversational bridge between 'safe' subjects and those that we think are 'risky', such as a conversation about Christ. I designed a program to influence pastors to teach their congregations how to use modern movies (like *The Lord of the Rings*) as safe launching platforms from which to enter spiritual conversations – because nearly every movie has some plot element that relates to the Gospel.

And I have decided to tell good news whenever I can. It's easy. I tell folks about the great sermon I heard last week, about the camp program I am proud to support, about the church guys I played golf with last week...sometimes I get questions that lead me to deeper conversations. Sometimes I get the 'Please don't go there' look, which I then respect. But that is rare, to be honest.

Some people have called me an expert on church growth. I think it is very simple. We talk about what God is doing in us. We talk about the great church we attend. We invite our friends and neighbors to special events and to Sunday worship. We don't push, but we do invite.

Good news just begs to be shared!

If you would like to read excerpts from my dissertation on getting into conversations about Christ, they are on our website, www.ntaccsw.org/yourti86707.html.

Keep on telling the good news!

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Recent Area Activities



Area hosted a contemporary worship workshop with Andra Moran.



New Day discussion held at the Area office. Clergy and lay people heard what Regional task force learned about the state of the Region.



Northway Christian, Dallas worked on landscaping at the Area office as an outreach project.



Members of the new congregaton, United Disciples Christian Church, Richardson, held their chartering service with a lunch following.

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Lyn T. Robinette
Editor

NTACC Deadlines
July 1, 2008
September 2, 2008
November 4, 2008
January 6, 2009

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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
First, Denton
First, Paris
Disciples, Plano
United Disciples,
Richardson

Irie's Insights

Just call me “a woman out and about town”. That’s how I feel these days. Whether it was speaking at the Disciples Women’s meeting at Northway Christian, participating in the Licensed Ministry Training at Rush Creek, preaching at Community Christian in Richardson, or having lunch with the TCMF youth minister in Fort Worth, I’ve been “a woman out and about town” and that’s just the way I like it.

You see, in the last twenty years, my work and ministry has always taken me out and about. I guess that’s why outreach is such a passion of mine. Even as a young adult growing up in the inner city of New York, my summer employment involved reaching out to kids in urban and impoverished parts of the city. During those summers I was assigned to anywhere from fifteen to twenty youth. We would take field trips to museums, parks, and participate in other enrichment opportunities. While those outings were always enjoyable, my primary interest and focus was exposing them to alternative ways of thinking about themselves, and of being in the world. But mostly what I did was love them, listen to them and share myself and my life with them. I will never forget the end of one particular summer work experience; I brought all the kids to my mom’s house, made dinner for them and then took all of them bowling. We had a blast. After I went back to college that summer, I received several letters from those kids letting me know how their lives had been impacted by that experience. That’s what happens when we get out and about.

Reaching out is what Jesus meant when he said, “Go ye into all the world”. Reaching Out is also a focus for the North Texas Area this year. In fact, some of our congregations are doing just that. For instance, one congregation has partnered with the White Rock Center of Hope, an organization that provides services such as food, clothing, and shelter for more than 250,000 people. Another congregation reaches out to the elderly by having worship services at the Golden Acres Retirement home. Others have weekly ESL, and Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Classes. Still another congregation received a grant to fund an HIV/AIDS Outreach Ministry. What an exciting time to be in ministry in the North Texas Area. I would love to hear from others of you who have found creative ways of responding to the Great Commission to be out and about. I look forward to hearing from you.

Irie

Disciples Women

New officers for 2008-09 are: **Martha Williams** (First, Garland), President; **Ruby Henry** (Romine Ave., Dallas) President-elect; **Sherley Collier-Walker** (Bonnie View, Dallas) VP-Worship; **Cindy Kyle** (Forest Grove, Allen) VP-Program; **Melissa Massey** (First, Princeton) VP-Communications; **Frankie Williams** (Bonnie View, Dallas) VP-Service; **Sylvia Chaffin** (Casa View, Dallas) Assistant Service; **Charlsie Rolan** (First, Princeton) Secretary; **Sharon Howell** (Oak Cliff, Dallas) Treasurer; **Maria Garza** (Rosemont, Dallas) Assistant Treasurer; **Billie Waddle** (First, Aubrey) Historian; and **Linda Morrow** (First, Denton) Parliamentarian.
Linda Morrow, President

Disciples Men

The Area Men’s breakfast on May 3 was held at First Christian, Garland and there were 44 in attendance. The location for the August 2 breakfast has yet to be determined.
The Annual Regional Men’s Retreat at Lake Brownwood will be September 19-21. The theme this year is “Why Me Lord?” Two outstanding speakers have been chosen to give presentations this year, **Dr. Joey Jeter**, Professor at Brite Divinity School and **Dr. Doug Skinner**, minister at Northway Christian, Dallas.
Bob Counts
President

Youth News



2008 Summer Camps and Conferences

(All camps at Disciples Crossing, Athens)

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 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 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 Ammon and Bill Jeffreys | |
| Eighth Grade 1 Camp (completed grade 8) | July 13 - 19 |
| Director: Jed 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 | |
| *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 | |

* 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.

Regular Fees (after April 15, 2008)	
CYF & Niner's Conference	\$300
8 th Grade Camp	\$335
Chi Rho 1, 2 & 3 Camp	\$285
JYF 1, 2 & 3 Camp	\$230
Discovery Camp	\$ 95

Camp Season Begins!!



Discovery 1 campers and parents learn about Energizers.



Small group building the foundation for their house.



Members and parents of Northway Christian's Pastors' Class help out with the workday at the Area Office. Their project was cleaning out the flower bed.

North Texas Area Bulletin Board

“New Day, New Direction”



The “New Day, New Direction” team met at the Area Office to further assess the ministry of the Region, and to lay the ground work for the next phase: developing a new vision for that ministry.

Please Note:

Conference on Congregational Transformation

January 16 - 18, 2009

Oklahoma City, OK

Association of Disciples Musicians Meet in Tulsa

July 19 - 24 Disciples Musicians will meet for their annual meeting. President of the Association is Midway Hills Christian member, **Greg Nunn**, who has planned many interesting workshops and events. Check the Regional webpage (www.ccsw.org) for more details.



At right, Northway Christian members prepared the entrance area for shrubs.

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Community Christian, Richardson celebrated their 50th anniversary April 27.

United Disciples Christian, Richardson Holds Charter Service



Sunday, April 13, members of Western Heights Christian, Garland and First Christian, Richardson officially began a new life together as United Disciples Christian by holding their charter service. **Dr. Larry Ross** was guest preacher.

Sympathy

Sympathy to **Rev. J. Allen Lowe** and his family at the death of his father in Midland in April. Rev. Lowe is minister at Creekwood Christian, Flower Mound.

Sympathy to the family of **Rev. Ted Phillips** at his death on April 25. A memorial service was held at First Christian, DeSoto.

Sympathy to the family of **Rev. Tom Huffman** at his death on May 18. Tom was minister at Central Christian, Sherman.



Worship at Destiny Worship Center, Cedar Hill.

Area Calendar

June

All camps listed below at Disciples Crossing, Athens

Chi Rho 2 Camp
June 16 - 21, 2008

TBA CYF Conference
June 16 - 21, 2008

Disciples Women Assembly
University Christian and TCU
June 20 - 22, 2008

JYF 1 Camp
June 23 - 27, 2008

Chi Rho 3 Camp
June 23 - 28, 2008

Christian Youth Leadership Seminar (CYLS)
Lake Brownwood
June 23 - 28, 2008

Discovery 2 Camp
June 27 - 29, 2008

JYF 2 Camp
June 30 - July 4, 2008

Niners Conference
June 30 - July 5, 2008

July

Office closed for Holiday
July 4, 2008

NTA CYF Conference
July 7 - 12, 2008

TCMF Annual Assembly
Jarvis Christian College
July 9 - 11, 2008

Eighters 1 Camp
July 13 - 19, 2008

Area Cabinet Meeting - 5:30 p.m.
Area Office
July 15, 2008

JYF 3 Camp
July 21 - 25, 2008

International CYF
Chapman University - CA
July 24 - 27, 2008

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