



The NTACC

Vol. 19 No. 4 A publication of the North Texas Area of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) July 2008

Larry's Latest

New Church! New Website! New Beginnings! New Spirit!

The North Texas Area will see many major projects over the next several months, thanks to action by the 2008-9 Cabinet and a grant from the Disciples Foundation of Dallas. The July Cabinet meeting approved the beginning of the long-awaited New Church project for the far Northwest McKinney/Celina/Prosper area. **Rev. Neill Grimes** of First Christian Church, McKinney accepted the chairmanship of the Steering Committee which will raise money and find interested people during the formative first years of the project. The New Church Committee of the North Texas Area will be the Search Committee to find a pastor-developer, who could begin work as early as January of 2009. The plan calls for 18 months of development and Bible Study, with worship beginning in September of 2010.

McKinney is the third fastest growing city in the country, according to a report issued just weeks ago. The far northwestern section is still undeveloped, but major development is on the drawing board, with thousands of new residents anticipated. At the Area Assembly in 2007, the Area raised \$45,000 as seed money for this and other New Church opportunities.

The Disciples Foundation of Dallas helps the Area with funds for major projects that benefit all the Area churches. In the last few years they funded a billboard and many Easter and Christmas Eve ads in the Dallas Morning News. Realizing the increasing importance of the Internet, they have approved a major grant to redesign and significantly upgrade the North Texas Area website, ntaccsw.org. The new website is being developed by Teleworship, a business already familiar to many NTA churches. What will be special about the new website will be the presence of 80 MINI-SITES, one for EACH NTA church. For churches without websites, the mini-sites will be fully functional and attractive enough to serve as websites. Churches that have already developed websites will use the mini-sites to point to their own websites, or use the 10 web-page mini-sites in other ways. The upgraded NTA website will also be fully media-capable. Any sermon and worship service of any NTA church, if recorded or filmed, can be present in the media library of the NTA site. So keep looking at ntaccsw.org, and watch the progress!

Transformation is on everyone's minds these days. Five NTA churches (Grand Prairie, Irving First, Highlands, Monica Park and Lancaster) have entered into New Beginnings, a ministry of Church Extension. Consultants will work with each church to provide an accurate assessment of their ministries and make recommendations of how to revitalize. They will work as a cluster to encourage one another and learn together how to bring new energy and growth. In January of 2009, there will be a Transformation workshop in Oklahoma City to look at revitalization for churches that, while strong, realize they need a resurgent sense of mission themselves. And even the Region is working on self-transformation, with

the 'New Day, New Beginning' task force currently asking, "What is the vision of our Region?"

On a personal note, I am enjoying NEW LIFE at my home with the presence of my first grandbaby, Samantha, for a few months as her momma completes training as a newly minted Army Captain and veterinarian. I thank everyone for their good wishes during these last busy months!

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Regional Assembly !



October 17 - 19, 2008

University Christian Church
Texas Christian University
Fort Worth

Registrations Forms and Schedule
available at www.ccsw.org
Early Bird Registration
due September 1

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 September 2, 2008 November 4, 2008 January 6, 2009 March 3, 2009

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Larry J. Ross Area Minister Irie Session Associate 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 East Dallas - Christian Life First, Denton Monica Park, Garland First, Paris Disciples, Plano First, Plano United Disciples, Richardson First, Rowlett - Youth

Irie's Insights Pregnant with Possibilities

Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Psalm 37:4

You're on the verge of something special. You know it. You can feel it. Something is in the air. You are restless and don't know why. You wake up in the morning with flutters in your stomach even though your calendar doesn't indicate any special meetings scheduled for the day. Your mind is racing from thought to thought, and you can't figure out why. A voice in you won't be quieted, but you can't quite make out what it's saying. You wonder if you're forgetting something, but you forget what. Nothing has happened or is about to happen. But it is, and you sense it. The people and things you usually rely upon to distract you when you're unsettled only frustrate you right now. Today is not the first day you've felt like this. This feeling has been coming in waves, off and on, for some time.

You're on the verge of giving birth and don't know it. You're pregnant. No, no, no-I don't mean you're pregnant with an actual baby (unless of course you are with child!). The birth referred to...is of another sort. It's the sort of birthing a woman does scores of times throughout her life without recognizing the symptoms. Her interests, her tastes, her emotions, her dreams, her image of herself grow and change throughout the phases of her life, causing enormous discomfort for her and for all those who look to her for strength and guidance. She barely notices the labor pains for what they are. This pregnancy has nothing to do with whether or not you are able to bear children. Young, pre-menopausal, menopausal, or postmenopausal, you are never too young or too old to give birth to yourself. New dimensions to yourself. Untapped sides of you. You are like Mary of Nazareth in the New Testament gospel stories. You are pregnant with possibility.

Adapted from "Showing Mary: How Women Can Share Prayers, Wisdom, And The Blessings of God." – Renita J. Weems

Do you know what's in you? Are you able to stop, get quiet and listen to the voices within? There is something great and wonderful that lies beneath all the hustle, and bustle of our lives. We have hidden desires; secret desires that we've never told anyone. Dare I say, we've never even mentioned them to ourselves? But that's OK, for now. You see, God knows the desires of our hearts. In fact, God gave them to us. Perhaps God gave you passion for the hurting, the desire to encourage, to teach, to serve, to proclaim the Word, to minister to the grief stricken, to help the handicapped, or some other out of the box ministry. God knows what's in each of us and wants to draw it out.

When we delight ourselves in the Lord, when we give the Lord first place in our lives, when we are devoted to the Lord in worship, serving, sharing the message of the gospel, fellowshiping with his church and growing to become like Christ, God will give us the desires of our hearts. God will draw out those secret longings and create a place for us to serve and be our best selves.

How exciting to be pregnant with possibilities.

Irie

Disciples Men/CMF News

The Area Men's breakfast on August 2 was cancelled. The next breakfast, on Saturday, November 2, will be at First Christian, Carrollton, 1835 Walnut Ave. This event will be the start of our annual Mike's Kids Ministry.

The 2008 Regional Men's Retreat at Lake Brownwood will be September 19-21. The theme this year is "Why Me Lord?" Dr. Joey Jeter and Dr. Doug Skinner are speakers. Registration forms are available in the NTA office or on the Regional webpage, www.ccsww.org. Each year at the Regional Retreat, Layman and Minister of the Year from each area are recognized. At this time no names from the NTA have been submitted. If any church wishes to have someone recognized for these awards, contact Bob Counts at 972-475-1599 or 972-814-4282 (cell) or the Area office.

Bob Counts President

Youth News



Another year of Summer Camps and Conference at Disciples Crossing, Athens, TX



JYF 1 Camp



JYF 1 Camp

CYF Conference



CYF Conference



CYF Conference

Thank you received:

Dear North Texas Area,
 Thank you for helping me be able to go to CYF Camp. Without your help, I would not have been able to experience the wonders of God at camp. Thanks, **Ethan Sprinkle**

Thanks to funds for Youth scholarships to help campers, 35 children and youth were able to attend camp at Disciples Crossing this summer.

New Members Sought for Young Adult Commission

The Young Adult Commission is looking for two people who want to make a difference in the lives of young adults in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Applications for the positions on the commission are now available. Members of the commission are expected to connect with other young adults across the denomination, plan young adult gatherings for General Assemblies, and work for young adult causes on the local, regional and national levels. Commission members also are asked to work with all manifestations of the Church to strengthen young adult leadership.

Applicants must be a member of a congregation affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and between the ages of 18 and 33 when the application is submitted. Applications are due October 1. For questions, contact Tod Iseminger at 888-346-2631 or tiseming@dhm.disciples.org

NTA Camp Attendance	Total 430
*Discovery 1 Camp	22
Discovery 2 Camp	12
Grand Camp	40
*JYF 1 Camp	51
JYF 2 Camp	3
JYF 3 Camp	21
*Chi Rho 1 Camp	89
Chi Rho 2 Camp	3
Chi Rho 3 Camp	7
Eighters 1 Camp	16
*Eighters 2 Camp	32
Niners Conference	4
NEA CYF Conference	2
*NTA CYF Conference	129

*Camps staffed by NTA

North Texas Area Bulletin Board

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Pierera Biography Published

Chris Kelley, author and member of Northway Christian, Dallas and **Feliberto Periera** are pictured here at the first of many book signings held in Texas. "I Was A Stranger: Hope For a Hidden World" is the story of Feliberto's life in Cuba and how he began



his ministry helping refugees in south Texas which became Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries.



Getting ready for the new sign at the North Texas Area Office.

**Conference on
Congregational
Transformation**

January 16-18, 2009

Oklahoma City

Effective resources that have proven records of success and that are presented in a hopeful and easy -to-understand manner.

Joys

Congratulations to **Rev. Larry Robertson** celebrating 15 years being pastor of Cedar Grove Christian, Rockwall on August 17.

First Christian, Paris will celebrate its 140th anniversary with several events in October.

Congratulations to **Rev. Beverly Hawari** who was ordained July 27 at Northway Christian, Dallas.

Congratulations to **Revs. Thomas and Lea McCracken** at the birth of their daughter, **Ada Henley** July 28. **Henley** joins brother, **Kerby** and sister, **Marcy**. **Lea** is Minister to Children at Northway Christian and **Thomas** is an attorney.

Sympathy

Sympathy to the family of **Rev. Dr. Mary Louise Rowand** at her death July 14.

Sympathy to **Pauline Miller** at the death of her husband, **Rev. Gordon Miller**.

Building Dedication

Northway Christian, Dallas will dedicate the **Dr. Richard O. English Education Building** on Sunday, August 10, at 10:50 a.m. in recognition of his 31 years of service. Reception will follow.

Area Calendar

September

Office Closed for Labor Day
September 1, 2008

Area Committee on the Ministry - 9:00 a.m.
Area Office
September 8, 2008

TCMF District II Session
Canada Drive Christian
September 12-14, 2008

Stalcup School of Theology
Carolyn Osiek - 8:30 a.m.
Fort Worth - UCC
September 13, 2008

Area Cabinet Meeting
Area Office - 5:30 p.m.
September 16, 2008

SW Disciples Men Retreat
Lake Brownwood Retreat Ctr.
September 19 - 21, 2008

Licensed Minister Training
Rush Creek CC, Arlington
September 27, 2008

Stalcup School of Theology
Warren Carter - 8:30 a.m.
Northway Christian, Dallas
September 27, 2008

October

Area Board Meeting - 9:00
Highlands Christian, Dallas
October 4, 2008

Stalcup School of Theology
Andrew Park - 8:30 a.m.
Northway Christian, Dallas
October 11, 2008

SW Regional Assembly
UCC/TCU - Fort Worth
October 17 - 19, 2008

North Texas Area of the Christian Church
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