



The NTACC

Vol. 15 No. 5 A publication of the North Texas Area of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) September 2008

Larry's Latest

Fall Begins with Energy!

Lots of ENERGY, good and bad, mark this time of the year. Fortunately, the energy in the churches is almost all good! The energy in our weather systems, on the other hand, has devastated parts of Texas and calls for generous responses to human need and opportunities for ministry.

There is also ENERGY around the new Area Website, still accessed through www.ntaccsw.org. Funded by the Disciples Foundation of Dallas, this website has mini-websites for each of the 80 churches in the North Texas Area, as well as a congregation-finder feature that will funnel visitors to Disciples churches near them. For churches with existing websites, the mini-sites will direct visitors there. For churches without websites, the mini-sites will have ten pages describing their ministries and reporting their news. Of course, churches need to provide the content so the website editors can flesh out the pages!

There are also news flashes for the Area Ministry, an Area Minister's Blog, and all the information that was on the former website. Every NTA pastor can arrange to have messages digitally recorded every week and posted on the mini-site through Teleworship. Features are being added every week; visit often!

There is ENERGY around the fall startups of program and ministries throughout the Area's churches. I do actually scan every newsletter sent, and it has been especially joyful to see the many creative things Area churches are beginning or resuming. There is ENERGY around the planned new church startup in the NW McKinney area, and in the five churches engaged in the New Beginnings assessments led by staff from Church Extension this fall. There is ENERGY with the arrival of **Terry Zimmerman**, new pastor at Midway Hills Christian Church, and **Curtis Keith**, Transitional Minister at First Christian Church of Plano.

In my own home, there is the ENERGY of granddaughter Samantha, who will be moving to North Carolina soon with her parents. Having Sammi there reminds me how wonderful new life can be, and how much work it takes to nurture and protect it. My involvement in planning the Transformation Event in January in Oklahoma City reminds me that many congregations struggle with that balance between establishing new approaches to ministry and protecting what has been important to the heritage of the church in the past. ENERGY comes with the choice of the new!

ENERGY often happens when we free ourselves to listen for the gentle guidance of the Holy Spirit. In planning for the Leader Event on January 31, with the theme of Outreach, the idea of an Outreach Fair came up. No one can remember ever doing such a thing before, but giving every church a chance to display what it does in outreach will allow for networking and the fertilizing of creativity in reaching out in Jesus' name. Now there is a lot of ENERGY about that event and the many other creative things that are happening in the NTA.

In Christ,

2009 Leader Event
Saturday, January 31
Northway Christian Church
Speaker: Amy Gopp
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Outreach Fair

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Area Board Meeting

Saturday, October 4

**Highlands Christian,
Dallas**

9:00 a.m.

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
November 4, 2008
January 6, 2009
March 3, 2009
May 5, 2009

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Irie's Insights

During the months of July and August the North Texas Area was privileged to hire **Aaron 'Nash' Wiggins** as the summer intern for TCMF congregations. Nash is a third year student at Brite Divinity School. He characterizes himself as a "son of popular culture, especially hip-hop." With an ear to the music and an ear to the pulpit, Nash constantly seeks to explore the messages conveyed to society by rap lyrics. His conviction is that "before judgment can commence, an attempt to understand must precede." Therefore, Nash believes if we as adults want youth to understand and accept our values, we must in return, seek to comprehend theirs.

Toward than end, Nash offered a series of Bible studies called *Hip-Hop & the Bible*. These studies explored similarities between the hip-hop culture and the Church, the role of women in rap lyrics, and even included an exegesis of hip-hop lyrics. As a parent of a fourteen year old daughter, I'm no stranger to hip-hop and rap music so I welcomed an opportunity to examine the lure of that culture on youth of all ethnicities and backgrounds. I was also interested in exploring how the church can be more welcoming and less judgmental toward those considered "outsiders." What resulted was open and honest dialogue between parents and teens. The series also showed youth that the Bible is still relevant and practical, even for the hip-hop culture.

Irie

Final Thought:

Most church boats don't like to be rocked; they prefer to lie at anchor rather than go places in stormy seas. But that's because we Christians view the Church as the object of our love instead of the subject and instrument of God's. Faith cannot be passive; it has to go forth—to assault the conscience, excite the imagination. Faith fans the flames of creativity altogether as much as it banks the fires of sin. - William Sloane Coffin

Checkout our new webpage: www.ntaccsw.org

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
Monica Park, Garland
First, Paris
Disciples, Plano
First, Plano
United Disciples,
Richardson
First, Rowlett - Youth

Disciples Women/CWF News

The next Area General Meeting is Saturday, October 25, at 10:00 a.m. at Forest Grove Christian Church, 2542 Country Club Rd, Allen, TX 75002. The speaker will be **Debra Clopton**, Christian author. Reservations should be made no later than Tuesday, October 21 to **Cindy Kyle**, 469-233-5155 or cikyle@sbcglobal.net.

Martha Williams
President

Disciples Men/CMF News

The next quarterly Men's breakfast will be at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, November 1, at First Christian, 1835 Walnut Ave., Carrollton. This meeting will kick-off our annual Mike's Kids Ministry for Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries in Los Fresnos, TX. This is the 20th year for the NTA Disciples Men to sponsor this program for churches to collect toys, clothing, rice and beans.

NTA men are responsible for planning the 2009 Tri-Area Retreat at Disciples Crossing in May. If anyone is interested in helping, please contact me at 972-475-1599 or 972-814-4282.

Bob Counts
President

Youth News



Mid-Winter Dates

CYF **January 23 - 25, 2009**

Chi Rho **February 6 - 8, 2009 (tentative)**

CYF Fall Rally

“Something’s not right...”

Saturday, October 25 - 26

7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.

First Christian, McKinney

1800 W. Hunt St.

Cost \$5

Youth Explosion Rescheduled

November 8

Location To Be Announced

Southwest Regional Assembly Schedule: All activities at University Christian, Fort Worth (unless noted)

Thursday, October 16

10:30 a.m. Pre Assembly Gathering of Clergy - Brown Lupton Student Center - TCU Campus

7:00 p.m. TCU vs. BYU (discount tickets available for \$20 on Registration form)

Friday, October 17

8:00 a.m. Golf Tournament - Hawks' Creek Golf Club (cost on Registration form)

9:00 a.m. Registration begins & Bookstore opens

10:00 a.m. *Disciples Learn*, Dr. Newell Williams, keynoter

12:00 p.m. Lunch on your own

1:30 p.m. Refresher Workshops #1 (workshops listed at www.ccsw.org)

3:00 p.m. Break

3:30 p.m. Refresher Workshops #2 (workshops listed at www.ccsw.org)

5:30 p.m. Informal Dinner - Tickets sold with registration, not at event

7:30 p.m. Opening Worship - Rev. Andrea Foster, preaching

8:45 p.m. Granville Walker 100th Birthday Celebration

Saturday, October 18

8:30 a.m. Youth Mission Day begins

9:00 a.m. “New Day, New Direction” - location to be determined

12:45 p.m. Disciples Men’s & Women’s Luncheon - tickets sold with registration, not at event - *Locations to be determined*

2:45 p.m. Current Issues Workshops (workshops listed at www.ccsw.org)

3:45 p.m. Break

4:15 p.m. Cutting Edge Workshops (workshops listed at www.ccsw.org)

5:45 p.m. Bookstore closes

6:00 p.m. All-Assembly Celebration of Ministries Dinner - no tickets sold at event

Rev. Johnny Wray - speaker

Sunday, October 19

9:00 a.m. Celebration Worship - Ed Landreth Auditorium, TCU Campus

Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins, preaching

Music - TCU Jazz Band Quartet



Checkout our new webpage: www.ntaccsw.org

North Texas Area Bulletin Board

First Christian Church of Paris Starts Radio Broadcast

Inspired by a popular country and gospel song by the Oak Ridge Boys, a Disciples congregation in Paris, Texas, is making a commitment to taking its message to a much larger audience. The church airs a weekly broadcast of its services that reaches a potential radio audience in an 80-mile radius.

The church tapes its weekly service for broadcast the following Sunday. The 30-minute program, which includes worship and preaching, is broadcast on KPLT 107.7 in Paris, a town of about 35,000, located 20 miles south of the boarder with Oklahoma.

The church believes that the radio broadcast represents a positive step towards making a difference for the area's shut-ins, homebound members, nursing home residents and the unchurched. The program has been running since January. *- James Patterson*

First Christian, Carrollton to Donate Land

Rev. Harold Elias-Perciful, minister at First Christian, Carrollton, announced plans for the church to donate 2 acres of the church's Josey Lane location for an American Eagle Youth Center. The proposed center is backed by a board of directors and a growing number of local residents and organizations. Harold serves as Executive Director of the foundation and said that the center would be a safe place for at-risk youth to grow into well-rounded productive citizens. The facility would serve as a central location for art, athletic and academic youth programs. With community support to back the proposal, Harold says the next step is to begin applying for grants for the more than \$1 million the project still needs.

From the Dallas Morning News

Checkout our new webpage: www.ntaccsw.org

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Minister News

Rev. Edwin Gorom celebrated 60 years as a minister this year. He lives in Honey Grove where he continues to serve First Christian, Honey Grove.

Rev. Fred Turner has been called as minister to East Side Christian Church in Tulsa.

Rev. Terry Zimmerman has been called as minister to Midway Hills Christian, Dallas. He began September 1.

Rev. Curtis Keith has been called as Transitional Minister for First Christian, Plano.

Sympathy

Sympathy to **Ida Burris** at the death of her husband, **Rev. Albert Burris** in August. He was serving at Canada Drive Christian, Dallas.

Clergy Advent Service

The NTA and TBA clergy will join together for an Advent Service on Wednesday, December 3, at 11:00 a.m. at United Memorial Chistian, Euless.

Area Calendar

October

Area Board - 9:00 a.m.
Highlands Christian, Dallas
October 4, 2008

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

S'west Regional Assembly
UCC/TCU - Fort Worth
October 17 - 19, 2008

Stalcup School of Theology
Lisa Davison - 8:30 a.m.
Northway Christian, Dallas
October 25, 2008

CYF Fall Lock-in Rally
First Christian, McKinney
October 25-26, 2008

Stalcup School of Theology
Stephen Sprinkle - 7:00 p.m.
UCC - Fort Worth
October 28, 2008

November

Disciples Men Breakfast
First Christian, Carrollton
November 1, 2008

Area Committee on the
Ministry - 9:00 a.m.
Area Office
November 3, 2008

Stalcup School of Theology
Stephen Sprinkle - 7:00 p.m.
UCC - Fort Worth
November 4, 11, 18, 2008

Area Cabinet Meeting
Area Office - 5:30 p.m.
November 18, 2008

Office closed for Thanksgiving
Holidays
November 27 - 28, 2008

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**Conference on
Congregational
Transformation**

January 16-18, 2009

Oklahoma City