



The NTACC

Vol. 19 No. 6 A publication of the North Texas Area of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) November 2008

Larry's Latest

How many are the ways we talk about time! There are time bombs and time frames, time off and time out, timely and untimely, time-release and time-share, time tables and time trials, time worn and time wasting. We call time, spend time, save time and lose time, get behind the times for the time being, and we even pass the time of day all the time and will for time immemorial. We hope to have the time of one's life from time to time. Time is money, and time will tell. And as we enjoy Advent of 2008, some would say we are in hard times.

Yet God's timing can always be trusted. The original Christmas event, the birth of Christ, happened at the nick of time, in the fullness of time and at just the right time. But it was a long time ago, so we must work at keeping the story alive for such a time as this. If you were to turn to Gal 4:4, you would read these words: *But when the fullness of the time was come, "God sent forth his Son, made of a woman...to redeem us...so we might receive adoption as sons."* The timing of the first Christmas was no accident. Remember the old movies where the villain ties up the damsel in distress and lays her on the railroad track, and the hero shows up just in time to snatch her from danger? That same tension is what puts you on the edge of your seat, watching the character being stalked, seeing the knife raised, the fuse burning. Just in the nick of time, the hero arrives!

That sense of time running out, of salvation coming just in the nick of time, at the last minute, that tension comes from our limited perspective, not God's. From God's perspective, everything happens just at the right time, and in the fullness of time. Because God stands outside of time, and sees the flow of time as we

would watch the flow of a stream, God knows the right WHEN to intervene. Understanding this helps us not to panic, not to worry. In the right time, at the fullness of time, God will act. God always acts. God acts to save us.

Consider the first Christmas. The Jewish nation was under great stress. They were occupied by the Roman army, and God had been silent for hundreds of years since the last prophet. The lament, "How long, O Lord, will you let your people suffer?" came often to Jewish lips. We've all been there. Looking at our problems from our own limited perspective, we cry out for relief, "How long, O Lord?"

The answer is always, "At the right time, in the fullness of time, even if it seems in the nick of time," God answers. Don't be too concerned if God seems slow to act, even in a time of great personal pain. God's timing is perfect; at the right time, in the fullness of time, God will do for you what God sees will be best for you.

Larry

2009 NTA Leader Event

A Movement for Wholeness
in a Fragmented World



Saturday, January 31

Northway Christian Church - Dallas

8:00 a.m. Prayer Breakfast with Amy Gopp
Executive Director for Week of Compassion

Outreach Fair begins at 9:00 a.m.

Program for Elementary Age Children

Workshops throughout the day

Emerging Worship at 2:45 p.m.

Victim Relief Ministries - Volunteer training and certification
1:30 - 4:30 p.m. Cost: \$25. Register at www.victimrelief.com

7202 W. Northwest Highway
Dallas, Tx 75225

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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
January 6, 2009
March 3, 2009
May 5, 2009
July 7, 2009

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Irie's Insights

A few weeks ago the weekly news program *60 Minutes* featured an interview with Barack Obama's Inner Circle, otherwise known as the Obama Brain Trust. On the same night as the historic election, Steve Kroft sat down with **David Axelrod, David Plouffe, Robert Gibbs, and Anita Dunn** to discover how the most "improbable and effective campaign in the history of American political history had been won. Their responses transported my thinking from the political arena to the Church. Particularly, the North Texas Area of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

When asked how they carried out and won a relatively flawless campaign, the inner circle cited the following, *we believed we could, we believed in the cause, we believed in him and, we believed in each other.*

I wonder what would happen if the NTA held firmly to these same beliefs.

What if each of us really believed we could be a "community structured around the biblical idea of covenant, emphasizing not obedience to human authority but accountability to one another because of our shared obedience to Christ?" This idea is not mine but is outlined as one of the Principles of Identity from the General Church's 21st Century Mission.

What if each NTA congregation and member believed wholeheartedly in the cause of participating in, "God's mission for the world, working with partners to heal the brokenness of creation and bring[ing] justice and peace to the whole human family?"

What if we unwaveringly believed in Him, the author and finisher of our faith—that One to whom all else subsists? What if our belief in Him was so solid that it caused us to no longer allow difference to divide, color to camouflage character or language to lessen our love for one another?

Finally, what if we believed in one another? The God in each other. What if we lived as though we sincerely believed each of us are powerfully creative and gifted individuals made to image God our creator?

I'll tell you what I think would happen...the Impossible, for everything is possible for the one who believes.

Irie

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
- Monica Park, Garland
- Irving North
- First, Lewisville
- First, Paris
- Disciples, Plano
- First, Plano
- First, Rowlett - Youth

Disciples Women

The next Area General Meeting is Saturday, January 17, at 10:00 a.m. at First Christian Church, 750 W. Main St., Lancaster, TX 75146. Reservations should be made no later than Tuesday, January 13 to **Mattie Crockett**, 972-230-8934 or MJC1436@aol.com

Martha Williams
President

Disciples Men/CMF News

Mark Slaight spoke at the Men's Breakfast in November which began the Mike's Kids Program. Banana boxes have been delivered to churches for collection of toys and clothes for Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries. Delivery will be December 10.



Bob Counts
President

Youth



News

WAKE UP



**CHI RHO
MIDWINTER 2009**

**FEBRUARY 6TH - 8TH
DISCIPLES CROSSING
ATHENS, TX**

Directed by Tricia Beckham and Paul Carpenter

YSQAK
 ENTAZ
 QK CYF LB
 SK MIDWINTER WR
 LCI TURN AROUND JVN
 KDLA JANUARY 23-25 CKCOU
 TSBJ DISCIPLES CROSSING PLBI
 IZIOPHALZMCFNVCHEGSUOWKSJDHFS

Have you heard about the
 Young Adult
 Mid-Winter Retreat?



YOUNG ADULT MID-WINTER RETREAT

“Faith, Doubt and Your Life”

January 9 - 11, 2009

Keynoter: Laurie Feille

Cost: \$75

Disciples Crossing, Athens, TX
(Main Side)

Registration forms for all Mid-Winter
Retreats are available at your church
office or www.ntaccsw.org

North Texas Area Bulletin Board



Conference on
Congregational
Transformation

January 16 - 18, 2009
Oklahoma City, OK

The second transformation event, "God's Positioning Spirit," will take place in Oklahoma City over the Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend. While following up on the first event in January of 2006, this training will be *complete and is appropriate for anyone eager for congregational transformation*. It is especially designed for churches and clergy who look down the road and see an end to their congregation's vitality...if something doesn't change.

GPS guides (keynote speakers) will be **Ben Bohren** and **Sandhya Jha**, the regional ministry team for Northern California/Nevada. They will lead us through the *common elements of transformation* defined by the General Transformation planning team after the Arlington 2006 event. Other workshop leaders will include **Matt Rosine** from the New Beginnings program, **Felix Ortiz** from Overseas Ministries (who will help congregations look at cross-cultural ministry in their neighborhoods), and local pastors whose congregations are successfully engaged in transformation ministry.

Registration cost for the event is \$200* a person. We will accept registrations up to the day of the event, but the registration cost will go up to \$250 a person after December 15th. Registration cost includes the Friday night dinner, as well as breakfast and lunch on Saturday and Sunday. The Saturday night meal is on your own with plenty of options in the Bricktown area in Oklahoma City.

The site of the conference will be the downtown Sheraton Hotel. Cost per room per night is \$89. Each registrant should arrange his/her own hotel accommodations.

*Limited funds are available to help defray costs for churches. Contact the Area Office for more information.

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Joys

Congratulations to **Rev. Larry Robertson** who celebrated 15 years being pastor of Cedar Grove Christian, Rockwall in August.

Minister News

Rev. John Burton has been called as Minister to First Christian, Denton. He began in November.

Rev. Joe Harker has been called as Minister to United Disciples Christian, Richardson. He will begin in January.

Rev. Nathan Hill has been called as Minister of Church Life to East Dallas Christian.

First Christian, Paris Celebrates 140 Years



Members past and present celebrated the anniversary with a lunch following worship on October 12. A special banner made from ties was presented.

"A Movement for Wholeness in a Fragmented World"

**NTA Leader Event
January 31, 2009**
Northway Christian,
Dallas

Area Calendar

December

Office Closed for Christmas
December 25 - 26, 2008

January

Office closed for New Year
January 1, 2009

Young Adult Mid-Winter
Disciples Crossing - Athens
January 9 - 11, 2009

Licensed Minister Training -
8:45 a.m.
Rush Creek Christian, Arlington
January 10, 2009

Stalcup School of Theology
Victor Furnish - 8:30 a.m.
Northway Christian, Dallas
January 10, 2009

Area Committee on the
Ministry - 9:00 a.m.
Area Office
January 12, 2009

Conference on Congrega-
tional Transformation
Oklahoma City, OK
January 16 - 18, 2009

Office closed for Martin
Luther King, Jr. Holiday
January 19, 2009

Area Cabinet Meeting
Area Office - 5:30 p.m.
January 20, 2009

Prayer for Christian Unity
Worship Service - 7:00 p.m.
East Dallas Christian
January 22, 2009

CYF Mid-Winter
Disciples Crossing - Athens
January 23 - 25, 2009

Leader Event - 8:00 a.m.
Northway Christian - Dallas
January 31, 2009

North Texas Area of the Christian Church
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