



THE CALLER



Vol. 8 Issue 01-1 Week of January 06, 2008

A weekly newsletter of the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Lancaster, Texas



MELISSA'S MEMO

Someone at my beauty salon asked me about why Easter Sunday moves around each year, and I thought some of you might have this same question. This year, Easter will be occurring earlier than normal. The date of Easter is moveable and based upon the following formula: First, find the vernal equinox, or first day of spring, on a calendar that lists basic astronomical data. Then look for the next full moon, usually indicated in a corner box of the calendar. Easter Sunday will then fall on the following Sunday. Lent, in most [Christian denominations](#), is the forty-day [liturgical season](#) of fasting and prayer before [Easter](#). The forty days represent the time [Jesus](#) spent in the desert, where, according to the [Bible](#), he [endured temptation](#) by [Satan](#). Different churches will calculate the forty days differently.

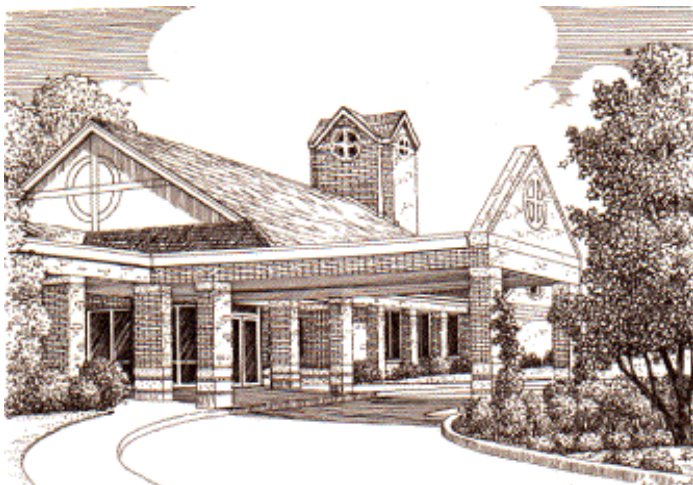
The purpose of Lent is the preparation of the believer—through [prayer](#), [penitence](#), [almsgiving](#) and [self-denial](#)—for the annual commemoration of the [Death and Resurrection of Jesus](#), as celebrated during [Holy Week](#), which recalls the events linked to the [Passion of Christ](#) and culminates in [Easter](#), the celebration of the [Resurrection of Jesus Christ](#). In [Western Christianity](#), Lent lasts from [Ash Wednesday](#) until [Holy Saturday](#). The six [Sundays](#) in Lent are not counted among the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-[Easter](#)", a celebration of Jesus' victory over [sin](#) and [death](#).

Due to the early date of Easter, Lent will be starting on February 6th- Ash Wednesday. We will be having a Lenten Study this year once again. This year, we will be joining many of our fellow Disciple congregations and will be studying Gay Reese's book *Unbinding the Gospel: Real-Life Evangelism*. I would love for as many people as possible to come to this Lenten study. I cannot think of anything more important for our church than for us to deepen our relationship with Christ and to be able to share that wonderful life-giving relationship with other people. We will need to know within the next 2-3 weeks if you will be participating so that we can order a book for you to use in the study. The books will be \$15.00 and are well worth the price in my opinion. I know that we just finished Christmastide, but there will not be a lot of time between the end of Christmastide and the start of Lent this year! Please prayerfully consider committing yourself to this year's Lenten study. Also, please continue to hold those in our church family and beyond who are in need of healing, in your prayers.

A special thank you goes out to Mattie for the pictures for the Heaney family of their baby dedication, to Chris for editing the CD for the Heaney family, and to Linda Ashley for providing the beautiful cake for the reception for the Heaney family.

I look forward to seeing you in church this Sunday and hope that you will make an effort to be present in worship each Sunday during this new year. Please REMEMBER that Rev. Larry Ross will be coming to talk with us regarding church growth and options for our congregation this Sunday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. Also, there will be a Soup and Chili cookoff this Sunday—so bring your best chili or soup and the rest of us will be there to vote on the winners.

It is my privilege to be-
Your Minister-
Melissa



The First Christian Church of Lancaster, Texas (Disciples of Christ)

750 West Main Street, Lancaster, Texas
75146

Minister - Reverend Melissa Bitting
Sunday Schedule of Services
Worship Service 10:00 am

Office - 972.227.2474 || Fax - 972.227.0623
|| www.fccltx.org
Church Office e-mail address - fccltx@airmail.net



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

- Wednesday, January 9th-**
(Admin Office Closed)
7:30 pm - Choir practice
- Thursday, January 10th -**
(Admin Office Closed)
(Open Schedule)
- Friday, January 11th -**
(open Schedule)
- Saturday, January 12th -**
(Open Schedule)
- Sunday, January 13th-**
9:45 am - All Elders & Diaconate Prayer in Chapel
10:00 am - Worship service
10:15 am - Kid's Sunday School
11:30 am - Soup/Chili Cook-off
2:00 pm - Rev. Larry Ross Info Meeting
- Monday, January 14th-**
(Open schedule)
- Tuesday, January 15th**
(Open Schedule)
- Wednesday, January 16th-**
(Admin Office Closed)
7:30 pm - Choir practice
- Thursday, January 17th -**
(Admin Office Closed)
(Open Schedule)
- Friday, January 18th -**
(open Schedule)
- Saturday, January 19th -**
(Open Schedule)



CWF HEART-TO-HEART



Disciples Women's Ministries / Christian Women's Fellowship (CWF)

Mattie Crockett, President

Well, the holidays are over and we need to start thinking about upcoming projects. We will be having a guest speaker at this month's meeting, so please be sure to attend. More info on page 4 of this Caller..

**The meeting for this month will be Saturday January 26 @
9:00 am
Hope to see you there!!**

CWF/Disciples Women's Ministries is open to all ladies of the Church



WHAT'S COOKING IN CMF

First Christian Church of Lancaster Disciples Men (CMF)



Dan Odom, President

Men, this is YOUR organization. Please be sure to attend our monthly meetings. January's meeting will be Saturday the 26th.

CMF/Disciples Men is open to all men of the Church



2008 Summer Camp Dates now Available!!

I now have the Tri-Area Summer Camp Dates available in the Church Office. Inquire now as you don't want to miss out on the fun!! Call the Church office at 972-227-2474.

2008 NTA Leader Event

Saturday January 19 @ Central Christian Church. Registration deadline is January 14, 2008. Registration forms are available in the Church office. If you would like more information, please contact Marcy in the Church office from 9 am -2 pm Monday, Tuesday, and Friday. The number is 972-227-2474.



Homebound Elders will meet in the Treasurer's office immediately following worship to schedule visitations.

WORSHIP January 13, 2008

At The Table James McGinnis
Joyce McGinnis

In the Pews Bill Bitting
Jean Connell
Nancy Sewell
Chris Able

Homebound Elder Peggy Dickey
Joyce McGinnis
Patty Peck
Pam Beightol

Worship Leader: Jackie Feil

TEAM January 20, 2008

At The Table Dan Odom
Joan McShan

In the Pews Bill Bitting
Jean Connell
Nancy Sewell
Chris Able

Homebound Elder Bob Browne
Martha Chambers
Mattie Crockett
Billy Ray Dickey

Worship Leader: Jackie Feil

PRAYER JOYS AND CONCERNS

SHUT INS: **Wanda Cutler** (Crescent Place, Cedar Hill); **Helen Honsicker** (Covenant Place, Waxahachie); **Faye Ferguson** (Colonial Village Plano)

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS: **Nancy Odom; Martha Chambers; Jennifer & Ashley Brown; Jean Connell; Anna Robinson; Bud Scott; Ab & Annie Sealy; Les & Mary Hoxworth; Larry Marlow; Anna Robinson; Ann & Larry Lewis; Robert & Sheila Koster; Ann Hodges; Mary Fitzhugh; Bob Bell; Mary Jane Maykus; Shirley Oliver; Truett McLaughlin**

FRIENDS AND FAMILY CONCERNS: **Margaret Green** (Wife of Bob Green); **Chad Cheshier** (Friend to many); **Jerry Dyer** (Friend to many); **Bud Scott** (Son of Jim Scott); **Robert Sanders** (Cousin of Chris Able); **Mark Connell Jr.** (Jean Connell's grandson); **Jana Robinson** (Niece of Anna Robinson); **Steve Burkhardt** (Son of Opal Allen); **James Wood** (nephew of Pam Beightol); **Tom Trull** (Nephew of Mary Jane Maykus); **Mark Connell Sr.** (Jean Connell's Son); **Scott Beightol** (son of Jim & Pam Beightol); **Jimmy Hickey** (Diane Hickey's husband); **Julie Daehnert** (friend of many); **Ed & Jane Bolton** (Martha Chamber's father & mother)

1/06/08 **Bob Lambert** (Friend of Mattie Crockett); **Christopher "C.J." Bradley** (Great-Grandson of Jerry & Patty Peck); **Diana Griffin** (Daughter of Sheila Griffin); **John Fowler** (Nephew of Nancy Odom & Jean Connell); 12/9/07 **C.C Fields** (Friend of Billy Ray & Peggy Dickey); **Bob Lambert** (Friend of Mattie Crockett); **Leonard & Connie Hollie** (Friend of Debbie Tarpley);

ARMED FORCES

12/30/07 - **Lt. Colonel Bob Thornton**, USA, deployed to Iraq in January (Cousin of Marion Ripley/ son of Bobby & Nancy Edwards)

9/2/07- **Becky Hundt**, USA, deployed to Iraq (Sister-in-law of Robin Hundt)

7/22/07 - **Brandon Sewell**, USA, deployed to Iraq (Grandson of Nancy Sewell)

04/30/06 - **Stephen Miller**, USA, serving in Qatar (Mattie Crockett's grandson)

(01/07/08)



Note: For an addition, correction or deletion to our prayer list; please fill out a Prayer Request form, or call the church office at 972-227-2474.



REACHING OUT

THE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST WORD

News from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) , Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest and North Texas Area of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



GENERAL MINISTER AND PRESIDENT BRINGS ADVENT GREETING

In this Advent season, General Minister and President Sharon E. Watkins reminds Disciples that God is faithful and that thousands of years ago God surprised us with a savior - a baby - who was a sign of peace in a land of struggle. Even more importantly, she encourages us to be signs of God's surprising grace today.

To view her complete greeting via video streaming or to download it directly to you computer, go to:

www.disciples.org/watkins/lettersmedia/2007/anadventmeditation/



Sharon E. Watkins



Church Members, Friends and Family celebrating their Birthdays.

Belated Birthday Wishes go out to **Cindy Melis** , who celebrated her birthday on the 4th.

Joy Jackson
Robin Hundt

January 10
January 11

Please drop them a line...

Stephen A. Miller
ASG-QA
Attn: Dyncorp
Number 516
APO,AE-09898

Guest Speaker coming to CWF Saturday, January 26th!!

Chaplain Ella McCarroll , a staff chaplain at Baylor University Medical Center, will be speaking to the CWF regarding her ministry to families that have given birth or experienced a loss of a child. She will explain the use of the bereavement boxes that the CWF supplies for the Baylor Hospitals.

Ella McCarroll is a chaplain in Women and Children's services at Baylor University Medical Center where she provides pastoral care to families enduring ectopic pregnancies, miscarriage, stillbirth and infant death. She is the coordinator of the To Lose A Child (TLC) Infant Bereavement Program. She received a Bachelor of Science in Business Education from Texas College and a Mater of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling from the University of Central Arkansas.

McCarroll earned a Master of Arts in Religious Education (M.A.R.E) from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and has achieved 6 units of Clinical Pastoral Education.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE FOR January 6, 2008
Worship Service Attendance - 50 members / 7 visitors
Children's Sunday School - 4

Soup/Chili Cook-off

**Sunday , January 13th, immediately following
Worship.**



**Come enjoy good food, fun and
fellowship.**

**Make your best Chili Recipe and
try to beat Bob Browne, the reigning Chili
Champ!!**

Hope to See you there!



STEWARDSHIP

Financial Report for the week of January 6, 2008

Total Giving	\$ 2605.00
<u>Plate Offering</u>	<u>\$ 103.00</u>
Budget Giving	\$ 2708.00