



THE CALLER



Vol. 8 Issue 01-3 Week of January 20, 2008

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



MELISSA'S MEMO



Today, I am giving up my space for you to be able to read a message from our General Minister, Rev. Sharon Watkins that I think is important for all Disciples to read.

I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live . . .Deuteronomy 30:19

"Choose life!" exhorts Moses as the people prepare to cross out of the wilderness into the promised land. "Choose life!" was my appeal to Disciples through the State of the Church presentation at General Assembly. "Choose life!" The words echo still through my mind as we move into a new year of ministry together.

Our forward progress is determined in part by our past. For nearly 200 years, we Disciples have lived out of a fundamental spiritual truth: in Christ Jesus we are one - for the sake of the world. For nearly ten years we have declared that our mission is "to be and to share the good news of Jesus Christ . . . from our doorsteps to the end of the earth." Today, one description of our particular Disciples way of being and sharing that good news is: *"We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us."* In a broken and hurting world, we choose life!

Choosing life is part attitude. It's prayerfully focusing on God's blessings; it's deciding to live according to God's will. Choosing life is also part action. It involves caring for the body. For individuals, this means careful attention to disciplines of diet, exercise, Sabbath rest. For a church, caring for the body, in part, means careful attention to the disciplines of covenant by which we are related first to God and then to each other. It means shaping up the corporate body for the mission at hand.

Nearly two years ago, the General Board asked me to develop a ministry plan that would reduce our infrastructure in order to enhance our mission. Since then, I've been traveling across the United States and Canada, listening to congregational pastors and other leaders. I've been consulting with the 21st Century Vision Team, two moderator teams, and various configurations of general and regional ministry executives.

Some principles are beginning to emerge - principles on which to build a healthy body of Disciples for today. These principles have to do with organizing ourselves to strengthen congregations for mission. We will do this by expecting our mission priorities to guide our work, by becoming flexible enough that resources follow the Spirit's leading, and by living into our increasing diversity with grace and joy.

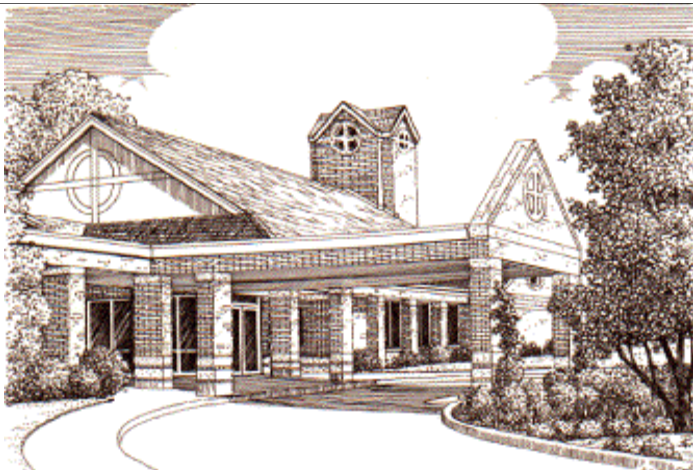
In the coming months, as we move through General Board and other opportunities to consult with the church, you will begin to hear about elements of a new ministry plan. These principles will address organizational issues blocking our forward movement in mission. They will be based on our emerging clarity about our mission priorities. Now is the time to get organized - time to choose life by shaping up the corporate Body we call the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ.) In a time of fragmentation and brokenness in so many parts of the world, we who claim Christian unity as our core, need to embody the very wholeness that we proclaim as God's desire for the world. We need to clarify what it means to live in covenant with each other. Most of all, we need to move forward in mission.

I look forward to moving ahead in mission with you during this period. It is a great time to be church!

Grace and Peace,

Sharon E. Watkins

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 23rd-**
(Admin Office Closed)
7:30 pm - Choir practice
- Thursday, January 24th -**
(Admin Office Closed)
(Open Schedule)
- Friday, January 25th -**
(open Schedule)
- Saturday, January 26th -**
7:30 am - CMF Meeting
9:00 am - CWF Meeting/Guest Speaker
- Sunday, January 27th -**
9:45 am - All Elders & Diaconate Prayer in Chapel
10:00 am - Worship service
10:15 am - Kid's Sunday School
11:30 am- Board Meeting (immediately following
Worship)
- Monday, January 28th -**
(Open schedule)
- Tuesday, January 29th -**
(Open Schedule)
- Wednesday, January 30th -**
(Admin Office Closed)
(Open Schedule)
- Thursday, January 31st -**
(Admin Office Closed)
(Open Schedule)
- Friday, February 1st -**
(open Schedule)
- Saturday, February 2nd -**
(Open Schedule)



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.



CWF HEART-TO-HEART



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

Mattie Crockett, President

**We will be having a guest speaker at this months meeting, so please be sure to attend.
The meeting for this month will be this Saturday January 26 @ 9:00 am
Hope to see you there!!**

**Thank you to all that are helping paint the
Bereavement Boxes!!**

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 this Saturday the 26th @ 7:30 am . Be sure to be here early if you are going to help cook breakfast.



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

WORSHIP January 27, 2008

At The Table Debbie Tarpley
Billy Hugh Mulder

In the Pews Bill Bitting
Jean Connell
Nancy Sewell
Chris Able

Homebound Elder Bob Green
Mary Jane Maykus
James McGinnis
Joan McShan

Worship Leader: Jackie Feil

TEAM February 3, 2008

At The Table Debbie Tarpley
Billy Hugh Mulder

In the Pews Bill Bitting
Heather Hansen
Linda Lantz
Maxine Marlow

Homebound Elder Bob Green
Mary Jane Maykus
James McGinnis
Joan McShan

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)

CONGRATULATIONS: to **Elizabeth Morrison**, who lettered on Swim Team this year and will be receiving her jacket in March.

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS: **Nancy Odom; Martha Chambers; Jennifer & Ashleigh 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: **Josh Miller Family** (friend of Susie Browne); **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 Burkhart** (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)

1/20/08 **Danny & Ruth Douthit** (friends to many); **Diane Endlicher** (Mother of Marcy Able); 1/13/08 **Margie Robinson** (Niece of Anna Robinson); **Mildred Smith** (Great-Aunt of Chris & Marcy Able); 1/11/08 **Margaret Edmister** (friend of Marcy Able); **Charlie & Tammy Able** (Aunt & Uncle of Chris Able); **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)

1/26/08 - CMF/CWF Meetings. Hope to see you there!!

1/27/08 - 11:30 am - Board Meeting immediately after worship service.



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)



SOUPER BOWL DAY OF CARING TO TAKE PLACE IN EARLY FEBRUARY

Disciples youth will join with young people from around the country on Feb. 3 to raise money for hunger and poverty-related charities as part of the 2008 Souper Bowl of Caring. In 2007, 370 Disciples groups participated, collecting \$114,000 for charities. In total, more than 14,000 youth organizations generated over \$8 million for charities across the country. Since beginning in 1990, hundreds of thousands of young people have collected more than \$41 million at churches, schools and businesses. Every dollar raised is given to local charities as selected by each group. To read more about Disciples' participation, visit:

www.disciples.org/dns/Releases2008/08006.html

To read more about Souper Bowl of Caring, go to: www.souperbowl.org



Please bring a canned good up here to donate. I will be collecting them through Sunday, February 3.

Thank you,

Peggy Dickey

Please drop them a line...

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

Let's Do Lunch!!!!



We will be going out to lunch on Sunday, February 10. Dickey's Bar-B-Q Restaurant has a \$4.99 special on Sunday's. Dickey's is located at the intersection of Pleasant Run and Hwy 35. We will go immediately after Church service.

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.

Early Bird Deadline is April 14, 2008

CHURCH ATTENDANCE FOR January 20, 2008

Information not available.
Will be updated next week!

Church Members, Friends and Family celebrating their Birthdays.



Rex Head	January 23
Bill Dickey	January 24
Gladys H. Martin	January 24
Charlene E. Thomas	January 25
Hillary Carter	January 28



STEWARDSHIP

No financial report available for the week of January 20, 2008

Will be updated next week!