



THE CALLER



Vol. 8 Issue 06-1 Week of June 2, 2008

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



MELISSA'S MEMO



There were about nine of us that ventured out to the Highland Christian Church in Dallas on Sunday evening to hear the presentation on *New Beginnings*, a church revitalization outreach, done by Disciples of Christ Homeland Ministries. I think all of the people who attended the presentation thought that First Christian needs to apply to

participate in this. *New Beginnings* provides an outside, unbiased look at your church and provides the church information about the demographics of the surrounding community. I first heard about *New Beginnings* at the Disciples national convention in Fort Worth last year. I brought the information back and presented it to our board at that time. However, it is very doable now as Homeland Ministries is looking to help churches in our region.

New Beginnings helps congregations to make an intentional decision about their future. It helps congregations to make good choices. *New Beginnings* enables congregations to choose their future: to stay the same (plan for closure), to revise their mission, to redevelop their congregation, or to close their church. *New Beginnings does not force change upon a congregation. The choice for a new beginning is always the congregation's choice. New Beginnings also does not develop the long-term ministry plan for the congregation:* strategic visioning and planning must come after the assessment and discernment process.

New Beginnings will provide our church with an approximately 40 page report once they have finished their survey of members, of the church building itself, and of the community. This comprehensive report will report on our current strengths and challenges as we as give a concrete, realistic picture of possible directions for our future. This report, in other words, points out possible options for the church. Neither the report, nor the *New Beginnings* personnel try to tell the church what to do.

You will be hearing more about this as we must make a decision as a congregation fairly quickly if we want to participate. If we decline to participate in *New Beginnings* at this time, we will not be able to participate again until 2011 as Homeland Ministries is doing the program by regions and does not expect to be back in this area prior to then.

Midway Hills Christian Church in Dallas went through the *New Beginnings* program about 2-3 years ago. They have reported that it has been extremely beneficial to their church.

Regardless of where you stand on the church relocating or not relocating—I think we can all agree that we need someone who can help us to crystallize our possible options. This is what *New Beginnings* can do for us. Again, they just present the options; they will not tell us what we have to do. The decision of what to do, if anything, will be the decision of the church.

If you have immediate questions about *New Beginnings* assessment service, I will be glad to answer them, or you can also ask your question to Bill or Peggy Dickey, Jerry Peck, Joan McShan, Mattie Crockett, Nancy or Dan Odom, or Pam Beightol. Please continue to pray for our church and listen for God's voice speaking to us. Let us be in a period of discernment as we seek to find God's will for the future of this faith community.

Please continue to hold Anna, Bob B, Bob K., Margaret, Nancy, and Steve in your prayers for healing. Also, please hold Jimmy Tindale's granddaughter, Stephanie, in your prayers as she is hospitalized at Baylor University Medical Center Dallas.

It is my privilege to be-
Your Minister-
Melissa+

Called Congregational Meeting after Worship Service Sunday, June 22th



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

750 West Main Street, Lancaster, Texas 75146

Minister - Reverend Melissa Biting

Sunday Schedule of Services

Worship Service 10:00 am

Office - 972.227.2474 || Fax - 972.227.0623

Website - www.fccltx.org

Church e-mail - fccltx@airmail.net



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Monday, June 2nd-
(Open Schedule)

Tuesday, June 3rd -
(Open Schedule)

Wednesday, June 4th-
(Admin Office Closed)

Thursday, June 5th -
(Admin Office Closed)

Friday, June 6th-
(open Schedule)

Saturday, June 7th -
(Open Schedule)

Sunday, June 8th-
8:30 am - **Choir Practice**
9:30 am - Prayer Meeting in Library
9:45 am - All Elders & Diaconate Prayer in Chapel
10:00 am - Worship service
10:15 am - Kid's Sunday School

To see future dates please go to our website at www.fccltx.org

SUMMER HOURS

Beginning June 2008, the Caller will be mailed twice-a-month. The electronic Caller will continue to be e-mailed weekly. If you would like to receive the electronic Caller, email fccltx@airmail.net



PART TIME EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

First Christian Church is seeking an experienced Office Assistant for our church office. Applicant must possess familiarity in computer operation, Microsoft Word and Publisher; have strong administrative and receptionist talents; knowledge with copier and folding machine and standard office equipment a plus. Must be a "People Person". Send resume to church by June 13, 2008.

CHURCH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION JULY 6TH, 2008



ATTENTION CHOIR

CHOIR PRACTICE WILL BE SUNDAY
MORNINGS 8:30 AM TO 9:30 AM.

NO CHOIR PRACTICE ON
WEDNESDAYS!



CWF HEART-TO-HEART



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

Mattie Crockett, President

Hello Ladies, Just a reminder the June meeting will be on June 21st.

**We will not meet in July or August 2008
due to summer conflicts.**

See ya' on the 21st!
Come earlier and enjoy breakfast provided by the Disciple Men's / CMF.



WHAT'S COOKING IN CMF

Disciples Men Ministries / Christian Men's Fellowship (CMF)



Dan Odom, President

Our next monthly Breakfast Meeting will be held on Saturday, June 21st at 8:00 am. Cooks and helpers please be at church by 7:00 am.

This is YOUR organization! Support it!

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



WORSHIP TEAM

June 8, 2008		June 15, 2008	
<i>At The Table</i>	Pam Beightol Martha Chambers	<i>At The Table</i>	Bob Browne Debbie Tarpley
<i>In the Pews</i>	Bill Biting Nancy Sewell Hailee Hansen Jackie Feil	<i>In the Pews</i>	Nancy Sewell Hailee Hansen Jackie Feil Bill Biting
<i>Homebound Elders</i>	Patty Peck Mattie Crockett Joan McShan	<i>Homebound Elders</i>	Patty Peck Mattie Crockett Joan McShan
<i>Worship Leader:</i>	Jackie Feil	<i>Worship Leader:</i>	Jackie Feil

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



PRAYER CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

Please keep these people in your prayers

CONCERNS:

Stephanie Patterson (great grand daughter of Jimmie Tindall)

Counselor friend of Robin Hundt (committed suicide)

Charley (young girl friend of many)

Joyce Robinson's daughter (passed away)

Joseph (great grandson of Jean Connell)

This Prayer list reflect those received the week of this Caller. The on-going Prayer Requests are in our Sunday Bulletin.

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.

In Memory of

Larry Marlow

from

Evelyn M. Campbell

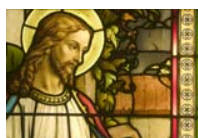
In Memory of

Gary Baxter

from

Carol Hoover

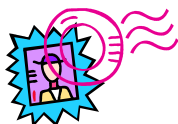
The Lancaster Masonic Lodge 160 is seeking blood credit through the Dallas Carter BloodCare system for a member of our church. After giving birth to twins about a week ago, she began internal bleeding. To date, she has had 10 units (many more) of blood to keep her stable. The doctors are confident they can find and stop the bleeding. If you, your family or friends can donate blood to this deserving family, we would appreciate it. The donation can be made through Lancaster Masonic Lodge #160 Sponsor number: 030830 with the Carter BloodCare. Those outside the DFW area can have their local blood donation center contact Carter BloodCare at 800-DONATE-4 for details on transferring blood credits.



**WE ARE GOD'S CHILDREN
LET'S MAKE HIM PROUD!**

Please drop them a line...

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



STEWARDSHIP

Financial Report as of Sunday, June 1, 2008

Total Giving	\$ 4127.00
Yard care	-\$ 50.00
Memorials to G.F.	-\$ 100.00
Budget Giving	\$ 3477.00

Church Attendance for Sunday, June 1, 2008

Worship Service : 37 members / 3 visitors
No Children's Sunday School was held



REACHING OUT



What is the Disciple's Church Extension?

Called by God, the Church Extension, together with their investors and partners, offers mission-driven planning and capital-funding services to Disciples of Christ congregations in the context of their culture and stage of life.

What is the New Beginnings Assessment Service?

One of their programs is aimed at assessing the strengths and challenges for a congregation as it seeks to engage in significant ministry in the community. The assessment service, along with follow-up strategic interpretation with congregational leaders, enable congregations who have experienced decline to choose a new path for their future. In most cases, congregations in decline are struggling not only with a ministry plan that fits their neighborhood, but with deferred building maintenance, use of space, architectural or location issues as well. The assessment and follow-up training intend to help congregations gain a realistic picture of their resources for ministry, their demographic strengths, their potential for change, and their potential for vital ministry in order to put congregations on the road to sustainable Christian witness and action in the communities. New Beginnings Assessment Service seeks answers to the question "What is God calling your congregation to do and to be in this time and this place?"

New Beginnings does not force change on a congregation, develop the long-term ministry plan or settle conflict within the congregation!

LIMITED COPIES REMAINING !



Contact any CWF member to purchase one. **ONLY \$10.00!**

Pick yours up today!

WORDS OF WISDOM



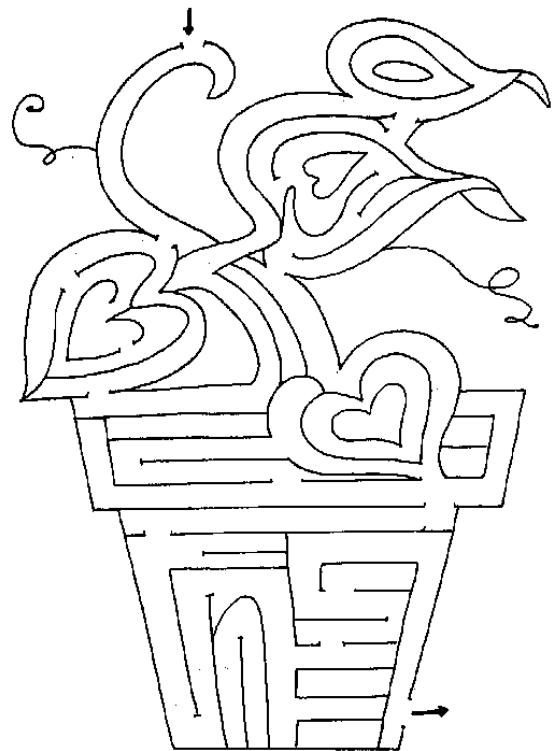
Don't let your worries get the best of you; remember, Moses started out as a basket case.

"If absence makes the heart grow fonder," said a minister, "a lot of folks must really love our church."

People are funny; they want the front of the bus, the middle of the road, and the back of the church.

I don't know why some people change churches; what difference does it make which one you stay home from?

THE PLANT MAZE



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Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?" "Because white is the color of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life." The child thought about this for a moment, then said, "So why is the groom wearing black?"