



THE CALLER



Vol. 8 Issue 05-1 Week of May 04, 2008

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



MELISSA'S MEMO

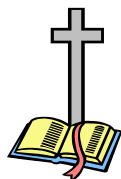


This past Sunday I talked about one of the five practices of fruitful congregations, Radical Hospitality. One of the statements that I made was "every member present in the church today is the fruit of someone's ministry and faithfulness." The question that I then posed was "who are the fruits of your ministry?" I would like all of us to think about

that question this week and to think of people that we can ask to invite to "come and see" our church.

As Nancy Odom said on Sunday, Radical Hospitality just exceeds what you would expect, and she is right. How do we go about making sure that each of us practices Radical Hospitality? Well, we do it one person at a time. As Schnase states: "it (radical hospitality) begins when one person treats another respectfully and loves the stranger enough to overcome the internal hesitations to invite that person into the life of Christ's church."¹

I hope that each of you will commit yourself to practicing Radical Hospitality. Think of the difference it would make in our church if each family brought one person to visit our church, and that person then decided to become part of our faith community. In order for this to happen, two things have to occur: 1. each of us have to be willing to take the risk to invite a person that we know to come to our church and worship with us, and 2. we have to open our "family" to that new person--and invite them to participate in all areas of our church life. I know that God will bless our sincere efforts to reach out to the stranger and to invite them to "come and see".



This Sunday, we will be discussing the next practice of fruitful congregations: Passionate Worship. Schnase says this about Passionate Worship:

Vibrant, fruitful, growing churches offer Passionate Worship that connect people to God and to one another. People gather consciously as the Body of Christ with eagerness and expectancy; encounter Christ through singing, prayer, Scripture, preaching, and Holy Communion; and respond by allowing God's Spirit to shape their lives.... People are searching for worship that is authentic, alive, creative and comprehensible, where they experience the life-changing presence of God in the presence of others.²

I hope that you will be able to join us this Sunday as we look at the practice of Passionate Worship.

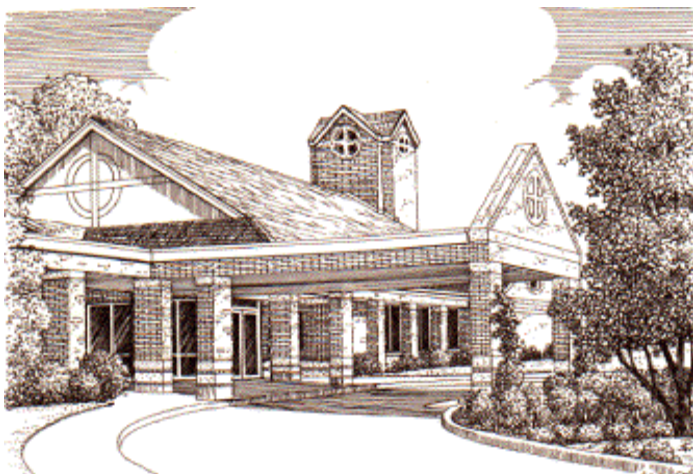
Please continue to hold Anna, Bob, Harry, Larry, Margaret, Nancy and Steve in your prayers for healing. Hold our denomination and this faith community in your prayers as we seek to listen to God's voice and follow God's calling.

Remember the Women's Prayer Breakfast this Saturday, May 10th at 10:00 a.m.

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

¹ Schnase, Robert, Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2007), 29

² Ibid., 33.



**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

Monday, May 5th- Cinco de Mayo
(Open Schedule)

Tuesday, May 6th -
(Open Schedule)

Wednesday, May 7th-
(Admin Office Closed)
7:30 pm - Choir practice

Thursday, May 8th -
(Admin Office Closed)
(Open Schedule)

Friday, May 9th-
(open Schedule)

Saturday, May 10th -
10:00 am - CWF Prayer Breakfast

Sunday, May 11th-Mother's Day/Pentecost
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

CWF RAFFLE

TICKETS ARE STILL AVAILABLE TO ENTER THE DRAWING FOR THE BEAUTY BASKET. IT INCLUDES BODY LOTIONS, FRAGRANCES, MANICURE PRODUCTS AND LOTS OF OTHER



BEAUTY ITEMS! THE VALUE OF THE BASKET IS \$236, SO SPENDING \$1.00 FOR A TICKET OR \$5.00 FOR SIX TICKETS IS DEFINITELY WORTH IT!!

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED FROM ANY CWF MEMBER, OR IN THE CHURCH OFFICE MONDAY, TUESDAY, OR FRIDAY FROM 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM.

*A Rich Person Isn't One Who
Has Most But One Who
Needs Least*



CWF HEART-TO-HEART



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

Mattie Crockett, President

Our annual Prayer Breakfast will be THIS Saturday, May 10 at 10:00 am. The drawing will be held during this time for the Beauty Basket that the CWF has been selling tickets for. There is still time to buy tickets from any CWF member if you have not gotten yours. Hope to See Everyone There!. CWF/Disciples Women is open to all women in the church



WHAT'S COOKING IN CMF

First Christian Church of Lancaster Disciples Men (CMF)



Dan Odom, President

Our monthly meeting will be held Saturday April 26 at 8:00 am. Hope to see everyone there!

Also, please note the 61st annual Tri-Area CMF Spring Retreat will be held May 16-18 at Disciples Crossing in Athens. Early bird registration deadline is May 9.

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



WORSHIP TEAM

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

	May 11, 2008	May 18, 2008
<i>At The Table</i>	James McGinnis Joyce McGinnis	Nannett Morrison Dan Odom
<i>In the Pews</i>	Heather Hansen Linda Lantz Sheila Griffin Maxine Marlow	Heather Hansen Linda Lantz Sheila Griffin Maxine Marlow
<i>Homebound Elder</i>	Dan Odom Pam Beightol Billy Ray Dickey	Nancy Odom Bob Browne Bob Green
<i>Worship Leader:</i>	Jackie Feil	Jackie Feil



PRAYER JOYS AND CONCERNS

JOY: on the birth of **Addison Edwards**, newest great-granddaughter to Margaret Edwards.

SHUT-INS: **Wanda Cutler** (Crescent Place, Cedar Hill); **Helen Honsicker** (Trinity Mission Health & Rehab, Italy Texas); **Faye Ferguson** (Colonial Village Plano)

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS: **Harry Lantz; Sheila Griffin; Brenna Beightol; Mary Jane Maykus; Pam Beightol; Nancy Odom; Anna Robinson; Bud Scott; Ab & Annie Sealy; Les & Mary Hoxworth; Larry Marlow; Ann & Larry Lewis; Robert & Sheila Koster; Mary Fitzhugh; Shirley Oliver**

FRIENDS AND FAMILY CONCERNS: **Otis & Sophie Haggins** (Friends of Maxine Marlow); **Jana Robinson** (Niece of Mattie Crockett and Anna Robinson); **A. Wayne Coker** (Friend to many); **Lisa Kristof; Mildred Smith** (great aunt of Chris and Marcy Able); **Reginald Bate** (Husband of Suzy Bate); **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); **Steve Burkhart** (Son of Opal Allen); **Mark Connell Sr.** (Jean Connell's Son); **Jimmy Hickey** (Diane Hickey's husband); **Julie Daehnert** (friend of many); **Ed & Jane Bolton** (Martha Chamber's parents)

5/04/08 **Bobby Crockett** (Son of Mattie Crockett); **Robert Ground** (Friend of Madeline Norrell); 4/27/08 **John Twomey** (Friend of Marcy Able); **Tom** (cousin of Bryan Heard); **Danny Bridges** (Friend of Billy Ray Dickey); 4/25/08 **Faye Brewer** (Friend of the Able Family); **Billy Monk** (Cousin of Chris Able); **Joan Carless** (cousin of Able Family); 4/20/08 **Charlie Bond** (Known to many); **Carly Fuller** (Friend of Madeline Norrell); **Shelly Morrison** (sister-in-law of Nannett Morrison); **Brenda Osterholtz** (cousin of Maxine Marlow); **Leliani LeBlanc** (Friend of Mattie Crockett & Anna Robinson)

ARMED FORCES

4/20/08 - **Ashley Bolton** , going to Iraq (Niece of Scott and Martha Chambers)

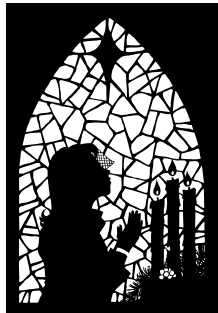
04/08/08 - **SS. Eric Margerum**, US Army, deployed for third tour in Iraq.

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

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)

(Revised 5/05/08)



Church Members, Friends and Family celebrating their Birthdays.



Suzy Bate **May 12**

Marcy Able **May 12**

L. Dee Mullenix Jr. **May 12**

Please drop them a line...

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



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.

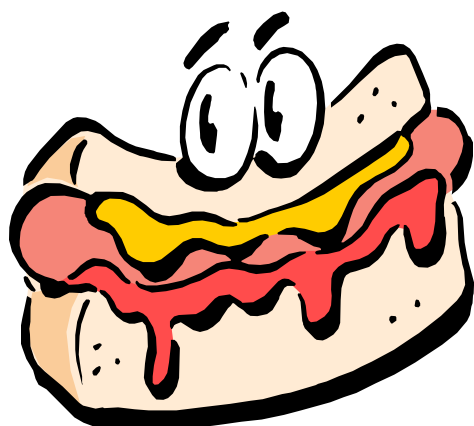


REACHING OUT

PENTECOST SPECIAL OFFERING SUPPORTS NEW CONGREGATIONS



At one point, every congregation was a new church. Since that time, it is likely that thousands of people have had their lives touched by your congregation's programs and ministry. The Pentecost Offering is your opportunity to "pay it forward" by supporting a new congregation. By planting new congregations Disciples establish congregations that also will touch thousands of lives over time. Sixty-five percent of the US population does not live near a Disciples church, and there are many segments of our population that have not had a chance to participate in a Disciples witness. This year's Pentecost Offering will be received in congregations on Sunday, May 4 and Sunday, May 11. For more information on how to support the Disciples New Church movement go to: www.disciplesmissionfund.org/Default.aspx?TabID=112



Hot Diggity Dog... and potato salad too!

The First Christian Church Family Picnic menu is full of fun and food. So indulge in a smorgasbord or choose à la carte. You can have it all or just a part on May 18th, at Lancaster City Park. 1:00 till 5:00 PM



STEWARDSHIP

Financial Report for the week of 5/4/08

Total Giving	\$ 5189.00
Yard Care	\$ 50.00
<u>Yard Care</u>	<u>\$ 200.00</u>
Budget Giving	\$ 4939.80

CHURCH ATTENDANCE FOR May 04, 2008

Worship Service : 46 Members/ 5 visitors
Children's Sunday School - 2

Thank you to all who have donated funds for the upkeep of our beautiful church yard.



If you would like to donate any funds toward the continual upkeep of our yard, please designate 'Yard Care' with your donation.

Thank You,
Bill Dickey