



THE CALLER

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2009



A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF THE FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) OF LANCASTER, TEXAS



This week-I would like you to read an article that appeared in The Dallas Morning News. Anna Robinson brought a cop in for all of us to see, but I think it is important for everyone to read.

A community of believers; so why don't I feel welcome?

Some years ago I visited churches in connection with my job. One day I stopped by a church to leave some information. The secretary

glanced at me as I approached her door, but when I saw that she was on the phone, I stepped away to give her privacy. I waited. And waited, as she chatted away on what was clearly a personal call.

After nearly 15 minutes a man working outside, seeing through the glass door that I was still waiting, came in and apologized profusely and took the brochures from me. I was there on business, but I remember wondering, "What if I were looking for a new church?"

The rude behavior of that secretary--the first point of contact for a stranger--dissuaded me from wanting to return for any reason.

In the 46 years since became a Christian, I have been a member of two Dallas churches, the first one for more than 30 years. In 1996 we moved our membership to a church of another denomination. We were happy there for a long time. But, a couple of years ago, I felt drawn to find a church nearer home and decided to visit Protestant churches in the southern suburbs. I had two primary criteria: The church had to recognize my infant baptism, and it had to be one where I felt a real welcome.

Ah - there was the rub!

I had thought my experience with the unwelcoming secretary was an aberration. When I began my hunt for a new church home, my daughter and young grandsons came along one Sunday. We followed the "Nursery" sign arrow to find an empty room. After several minutes of waiting in the hallway, wondering what to do, a young woman walking by said, "Oh, sometimes the nursery lady just doesn't show up.

Somebody will probably be here soon," and away she went.

But, that wasn't the worst experience. One summer Sunday my husband and I visited a church for the first time; we were the newcomers in the small congregation. In fact, the minister commented on it: "It's easy to see who our visitors are today!"

We were warmly greeted by several folks and stayed after the service to talk with the pastor for about five minutes. Two days later we received a "welcome visitor" letter that said, "Sorry I didn't get a chance to meet you. I hope you'll come to visit again so I can meet you and get acquainted."

We talked to the man. We were the only visitors that day. And he sent us a form letter that apparently he didn't even read before he signed it.

A Christian church is a community of believers in Christ. Christ taught us that God is love and that we are to love one another. Unfortunately, in some churches that love appears to be reserved for those who are already "in the group."

Don't get me wrong: We visited other churches where we were definitely made to feel welcome and were invited back. I'm already a Christian, and I'm a persistent person who kept looking even after some negative experiences. But, I can't help but wonder: What if I have been a nonbeliever who was searching for Christ, and the secretary wouldn't give me the time of day, or none of the people around said hello, or the pastor couldn't remember talking to me two days after the fact?

So maybe we need to take a hard look at how we show that love. Starting at home.¹

Please remember to keep those in need of healing in your prayers: Ab, Anna, Bob, Dan, Jane, Laron, Martha, Mattie, Nancy and Sheila.

Please also continue to pray for our church.

Grace and Peace-

Melissa+

¹ Peggy Van Wunnick is a resident of DeSoto and a Dallas Morning News Community Voices columnist.



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Monday, Sept 21
(Bible Study 7PM)

Tuesday, Sept 22
(Open Schedule)

Wednesday, Sept 23
(Open Schedule)

Thursday Sept 24
(Open Schedule)

Friday, Sept 25
(Open Schedule)

Saturday, Sept 26
(NTA Women's Conference)

Sunday, Sept 27
8:45 am - Choir Practice
9:30 am - Prayer Meeting in Library
9:45 am - All Elders & Diaconate Prayer in Chapel
10:00 am - Worship Service



DWM HEART-TO-HEART



**Disciples Women's
Ministry
(DWM)
Mattie Crockett,
President**

**Our next meeting will be
Saturday, October 24 at 9:00
Ladies, as a member of our
church, you are a
member of our Disciples
Women's (DWM)
Fellowship!**



WHAT'S COOKING IN CMF

**Disciples Men's Ministries/
Christian Men's Fellowship
(CMF)**
Dan Odom, President
**Breakfast meeting is the 4th
Saturday of each month**
@ 8:00 am Cooks - 7:30 am
**CMF / Disciples Men's is open to
all men of our Church**



Well, we took a little break,
but now its time to get back
into the swing of things.
Bible Study will resume
tonight, Monday, Sept. 21.
Bring your own supper and
meet at 6:30 and the study
begins at 7:00.



STEWARDSHIP

FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF SUNDAY, SEPT 20, 2009

TOTAL GIVING	\$ 1663.00
TO BUDGET	\$ 1663.00

EMAIL ADDRESS : FCCLTX@SBCGLOBALNET



WORSHIP TEAM

September 27, 2009		October 4, 2009	
<i>At The Table</i>	Pam Beightol Martha Chambers	<i>At The Table</i>	Bob Browne Debbie Tarpley
<i>In the Pews</i>	Pat Royder Cindy Melis Bill Bitting Robbie Beightol	<i>In the Pews</i>	Marion Ripley Shelia Griffin Dee Mullenix Will Morrison
<i>Homebound Elders</i>	Dan Odom Martha Chambers Bryan Heard	<i>Homebound Elders</i>	Nancy Odom
<i>Worship Leader</i>	Debbie Wallace	<i>Worship Leader</i>	Debbie Wallace



PLEASE HELP KEEP THE PRAYER LIST
CURRENT BY LETTING THE OFFICE
KNOW WHAT NAMES NEEDS TO BE
REMOVED.

HOMEBOUND ELDERS MEET IN THE
TREASURER'S OFFICE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
WORSHIP TO SCHEDULE VISITATIONS.



PRAYER REQUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please remember in your prayers...

Lynis, Mike and Neil Sleeper

Bob and Sheila Koster

*THIS PRAYER LIST REFLECT THOSE REQUESTED THE WEEK OF THIS CALLER.
OUR ON-GOING PRAYER REQUESTS ARE REFLECTED IN OUR SUNDAY BULLETIN.*

*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.*



CALLING
ALL CHURCH
MEMBERS

for the silent

on Thursday and Friday, October 22 and 23. This is your chance to really get involved with your church. There are many ways and several chances where you will be needed. Mark the date and plan to be an "active" participant.

Contact Mattie Crockett and show your support for FCC.

Our **ANNUAL BAZAAR** is one month away. This year it is on Saturday, October 24th. We will be needing items auction and bakery items. Set up will be

Church Mice

A Christian Cartoon by Karl Zorowski

GOD REALLY
LOVES YOU!



Church Mice

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www.churchmice.net

Proverbs 17: 22 A merry heart does good like a medicine: but a broken spirit dries the bones



NEWS AND HAPPENINGS

NTA DISCIPLES WOMEN'S MINISTRY BOARD MEETING

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 10:30 AM BRUNCH

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, ROWLETT, TEXAS

RSVP: MELISSA YOUNG @ Melissa.young@tx.rr.com
or
972-345-9659

September Birthdays

Paige Davis Sept 10

Harry Lantz Sept 16

Patty Peck Sept 19

Scott Chambers Sept 20

SACRED RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERSHIP

When you unite with a church it is because there is a need in your soul for the message and the inspiration of the church. You also are uniting with it because there is an innate need to give and to do. Christ's work is unfinished. This unfinished work is for us to do. When you unite with a church you accept a responsibility - a sacred responsibility - to do your part for your Master and for others.

Your sacred responsibilities of membership:

- **Serving.** There is a place of service awaiting you somewhere in the church. God has given you a talent to be used. This may include teaching Sunday school, visiting the sick, leading youth groups, singing in the choir, and working on committees.
- **Learning.** Anyone who helps others must first develop a growing faith and be able to articulate it. Participating in Bible study groups and developing the habit of daily Bible study are ways to continue learning about the character of God.
- **Giving.** You are expected to do your fair share in supporting the budget of your church's ministry. You should give freely and cheerfully without any thought of reward. Your giving should be systematic and proportionate to your income, not giving what you can spare, but according to what God has entrusted to you. Give to the best of your ability, for giving is a way you can take part in spreading the Gospel.
- **Witnessing.** "You will be my witnesses," said Jesus, "in Jerusalem [that is, at home], in all Judea and Samaria [the surrounding areas], and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8). At the same time that Jesus commissioned His disciples He set forth your responsibility to spread the gospel everywhere. This does not mean you have to stand on street corners reading scripture, but you can be an effective witness to friends, co-workers, and family members.
- **Praying.** The highest and deepest benefit you can receive from prayer is strength and courage to live triumphantly each day. Start the practice of daily prayer at a time that is best for you. The worth of a prayer is not determined by its grammatical correctness, but by its sincerity. The main thing is to speak with God about the things that trouble, delight, or confuse you. Be persistent in your requests, turning your petitions to align with God's will.
- **Worshipping.** Worship keeps your soul, and the soul of your church, alive. Your church is set in your community to shine as a lighthouse for Jesus Christ and will shine as long as its members remain faithful in the matter of public worship. When people of God begin to forsake the house of God on the Lord's Day, God's work begins to languish and the light begins to fail. When conflicts arise on Sunday morning, ask yourself, Does this have to keep me from church?