

Mission Link
Central Area of the Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
in the Southwest Region
Abilene, Texas

January-February 2008

Central Area Men's Retreat

To the men of the Central Area – it is not too late to register for the retreat scheduled for February 29 & March 1, 2008.

Theme: The Disciples Man Coping with a Frustrating World

Keynoter: Bryan Feille of Brite Divinity School

Place: Lake Brownwood Christian Retreat

Cost: \$50.00 per participant

See your church office for registration materials.

Disciple Men: Sessions 2008

Sessions 2008 in Oklahoma City is going to be a huge event for all Disciples men from around the country. The event is going to be held July 17-20, 2008 at First Christian Church in Edmond, Oklahoma. Do you ever feel like your life is like a giant puzzle? Putting together the pieces of life's puzzle can be a daunting task. But by surrounding yourself with fellow Disciples all trying to figure it out together, you will find the picture coming into focus. To find out more about this important gathering of Disciples men and how your life can come into focus go to: <http://sessions2008.org>.

Central Area Women's Retreat

Theme: A Time for Us

Date: April 4-6, 2008

Place: Lake Brownwood Christian Retreat

Speaker: Jean Deitch Shula, psychologist, noted spiritual leader, and author of *The Coming of Aging: Learning to Live from the Inside Out*. Jean writes about the mystical, creative, wondrous year when she camped alone across the country, learning to rely only on the deep inner voice of her soul.

She leads workshops and retreats throughout the country using the lessons she learned about the process of "growing into maturity," when we have the opportunity to transform our life into the wisdom that only comes with age and experience.

This retreat is not about growing old, this is about the time when we have the sublime chance to make choices based on our inner knowing and not on the noisy demands of the external.

Workshops: a time to dance
a time to laugh
a time to grieve
a time to chime
a time for Rachels will be a special event to show pastor's wives of the Central Area that we care about them. We will also be honoring them on Saturday evening with a banquet. It will be a festive dinner so bring a hat to wear (for fun).

Entertainment:

The singing group *Grace Notes* will perform at the banquet.
On Friday night we will have a really good time with a theater presentation.
Guess what? There will be pillow gifts also!

Cost: Weekend fee \$80.00
Saturday only fee \$35.00

Deadline: Please let us know by March 26 if you will be attending. See your church office for a registration form.

Central Area Assembly

Mark your calendars now for "Community at Worship" to be held at **Lake Brownwood Christian Retreat**. On May 3, 2008 we will have the annual Central Area Assembly – activities will include tours of the camp with many new things to see, business session, worship time and lunch together.

An additional fellowship time will be available: There will be an option for Friday night lodging which will include Friday night supper and Saturday morning breakfast. Lodging will be in the Galilee Lodge for families or individuals. The fee for this will be \$25.00 per person and will be in addition to the registration fee for Area Assembly.

Registration materials will be available soon.

Central Area Council Meeting

The first Area Council meeting for 2008 is set for March 29 at First Christian Church in Abilene. The 2008 Area Council consists of:

2008 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OFFICERS:

Moderator: Ross Bennett ('08) rossebennett@clearwire.net
1st Vice Moderator & Assembly Program Planning Committee
Chairperson: Judy Brock ('08) pastorjustjudy@aol.com
2nd Vice Moderator & Nominating Committee Chairperson:
Dave Brummett ('08) dbrummett@sw.rr.com
Treasurer: Jim Wright ('09) jwright@eastland.net
Secretary: Paula Christiansen ('09) paulajo1@cox.net

2008 AREA COUNCIL

Moderator, 1st-2nd Vice Moderators, Treasurer, Secretary and

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:

Committee on Ministry: Doug Roysden ('09) wyliecc@xanadoo.com

Christian Education and Leader Development: Brett Coe ('08)

brett@firstchristianwichtafalls.org

Church in Society (Reconciliation): vacant

New Church Start Ministry Team: Paul Ganther fcc@our-town.com

Covenant Youth Committee: vacant

Lake Brownwood Christian Retreat: Mike McDonald

CONSTITUENCY GROUP PRESIDENTS:

CMF – Jim Goodwin jimmiecg@sbcglobal.net

CWF – Amy Wilson ('09)

CYF – Montie Carroll montie.carroll@sbcglobal.net

STAFF: Area Min.: Tony L. Salisbury cea@ccsw.org

Administrative Asst.: Lesle Paxton 325/676-5796w cea@ccsw.org

LBCR Mgr.: Traci Hall 325/784-5133 325/784-7109fax LBCR@LBCR.net

Congratulations to Janice Bond – Big Spring

From First Christian Church... “our own Janice Bond was named Woman of the Year for 2007 by the Big Spring Chamber of Commerce.....the award is well-deserved. Janice has touched the lives of so many through her service and contributions to the Heritage Museum, the Salvation Army, CASA, the Big Spring Rotary Club, Delta Kappa Gamma, The Big Spring Education Employees Federal Credit Union, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Big Spring Symphony Guild. Bond was also lauded for her activities at First Christian Church and as a member of the state board of directors for the Retired Teachers Association. We are certainly indebted to Janice for all she has done for First Christian for her many years here. God has genuinely blessed the community of Big Spring and First Christian through the efforts and results of this remarkable woman. Thank you Janice for sharing yourself with all of us!”

Notes from Disciple News Service

1. Fifty Disciples women gathered in Beaumont, Texas to “raise the walls” of a new home for a 37-year old local resident. The Habitat All-Women Blitz Build was a project of the Office of Disciples Women supported by Disciples Volunteering of Disciples Home Missions, Week of Compassion and Habitat for Humanity.

2. Calvary Christian Church in Portland, Oregon is a new church start – only 3 years old – and its outreach ministry is already making a huge impact in the community. The American Red Cross has selected Calvary as one of three locations to offer overnight shelter to many of the city’s nearly 1,500 homeless people. They offer overnight lodging and the kitchen is staffed all night.

3. The first ever WeekEnd of Compassion will be held April 11-13 in Nashville, Tennessee. The event will be a weekend retreat and revival that will feature Fred Craddock, Frank Thomas, and Rebecca Hale. There will be workshops, a fair trade coffee house and concert, music and ideas for promoting Week of Compassion in your local setting. A pre-event service opportunity with Habitat for Humanity will be available. To register, visit www.weekofcompassion.org/pages/updates/jan0831.html.

4. Disciples Clergy are invited to attend a pastor's conference in Chicago, Illinois from September 8-10. Disciples pastors from throughout the United States and Canada are encouraged to attend the three day event for a time of rest, renewal and rejuvenation. Speakers include General Minister and President, Sharon E. Watkins, Will Willimon, and Floyd Flake. In addition clergy will have an opportunity to participate in panel discussions around preaching, stewardship, administration and other topics of interest. To register, visit www.disciples.org/watkins/news/2007/11/16a.asp.

5. Do you have questions about your parsonage or housing allowances – etc. etc.? IRS documents specific to churches have been compiled. To access the information go on line to:

Tax Guide for Churches and Religious Organizations
www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p1828.pdf

Charities, Churches and Politics
www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=161131,00.html

IRS Reminds Charities and Churches of Political Activity Ban
www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=175818,00.html

Tax Guide for Churches and Religious Organizations
www.Projectfairplay.org/irs-guidelines

6. A new Sunday School curriculum on the history and beliefs of the Stone-Campbell movement is now available online. Known as “Streamers,” the curriculum is a free multi-lesson series that answers “where we are from” and “what we believe” for congregations. Streamers is a 12-week study including the introduction, lessons and illustration. The format can be used in Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, or new member classes. To access the free curriculum written by Deborah Adams Phelps go to www.discipleshistory.org.

