

# HCC's Christian Visitor

## Hurst Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

January 11, 2009

**Rev. Chris Carathers**  
Senior Minister  
Cell (817) 726-5333

**Rev. Sammie Bennett**  
Senior Minister Intern

**Rev. Justin Floyd**  
Youth Minister

**Mike Bond**  
Board Chair

**Pat Moore**  
Chair of Elders

**Ferral Bishop**  
Administrative Secretary

**Richard McReynolds**  
Music Director

**Nancy Gage**  
Pianist

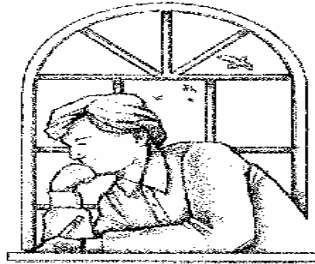
**Diane Lloyd**  
Nursery Attendant

**Brian Briscoe, MS, LPC-i**  
Licensed Counselor

**745 Brown Trail**  
**Hurst, Texas 76053**  
**Church Office (817) 282-4927**  
e-mail:

**hcchurst@hurstchristian.org**  
**Website: www.hurstchristian.org**

**Office Hours - Tuesdays**  
**9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**



**In our  
thoughts  
& prayers**

- \*Troops and the Country of Iraq
- \*Congregation
- \*Church Transformation
- \*Janet Jouett - Billie Pallet's sister-in-law, pancreatic cancer
- \* Hispanic Community
- \* Sharon Michaud
- \* Mary Lou Bond
- \*Economy
- \*Vida Nueva
- \*Tamela Phelps - Lana's friend, father passed away
- \*Ann Smith - Pneumonia
- \*Morgan Williams - Grandmother in hospital
- \*Peace in Gaza

### Small Groups

<u>Leader</u>	<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Phone #</u>
Karen Anderson	Sat. 10 a.m.	817-232-9093
Mike & Mary Lou Bond	Sat. 5 p.m.	817-571-2929
Sandra Hall		817-283-0560
Dee Yeats	Sat. 9 a.m.	817-571-8136
Chris Carathers (Young Couples 20-35 Yr. Olds)	1st & 3rd Tues. at 7:00 p.m.	817-726-5333

# Chris' Thoughts

By the time you read this, I will be sitting on a beach in sunny Mexico!

Oh wait, scratch that, I'll actually be hammering a nail or mudding a wall, or hanging sheetrock, or who knows what else in the lower 9<sup>th</sup> Ward of New Orleans.

This is the second year that our church has had a church wide mission trip to New Orleans to help rebuild in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Many of you remember seeing the images of what took place in New Orleans right after the hurricane. There are still SO many people there that need help to rebuild their lives even now more than 3 years after the storm hit.

Last year when we went we were amazed at what we saw. Where once there was house after house, now there is just empty field. Where once there were vital neighborhoods, now many will never return having found homes elsewhere or not having enough money to move back home and rebuild their lives. There is STILL so much to do.

Going on mission trips and participating in hands on mission work is so important for us as individuals and as a faith community. When we got to talk to Brother Vance last year—he heads up the Disciple's Mission Station down there—he said over and over again that churches that are involved in missions usually seem to be the more vibrant, growing, healthy congregations. This is because we are living out the Good News of the Gospel by showing God's love and participating in ministry with God to people who need it the most.

One thing we have had to learn about mission trips is that we don't go on them to take God with us and bring God to the people we encounter. That would make us pretty full of ourselves! No, we go to see God already there and working, and to do our part in the process.

It is SO amazing to go on these kinds of trips. We get to meet people and see things that many do not. We get to hear stories of the way God has made a difference in people's lives when they had lost all they had. We get to see the Holy Spirit moving in amazing ways. We get to build some deep ties between ourselves.

And THEN we get to bring that all back to you—our church family.

We couldn't do this without the support of our faith community. We go as an extension of the ministry of HCC. And we come back brining stories of the light of God with us.

I pray this week that we will see God. Brother Vance always asks us: "Where did you see God today?" I can't wait to tell all of you where I saw God!

Blessings,  
Chris

## **AREAS OF SERVICE**

**1/11/2009**

Presiding Elder: Carol Dorman  
Counting Elder: Pat Moore  
Diaconate: Belle Madalora, Fred  
and Billie Pallett, and Ann  
Smith  
Comm. Prep: Charlene Merritt  
Communion Invitation:  
Rev. Chris Carathers

**1/18/2009**

Presiding Elder: Carol Dorman  
Counting Elder: Pat Moore  
Diaconate: Belle Madalora, Fred  
& Billie Pallett, and Ann Smith  
Comm. Prep: Charlene Merritt  
Communion Invitation:  
Rev. Sammie Bennett

**1/25/2009**

Presiding Elder: Carol Dorman  
Counting Elder: Pat Moore  
Diaconate: Belle Madalora, Fred  
and Billie Pallett, and Ann  
Smith  
Comm. Prep: Charlene Merritt  
Communion Invitation:  
Rev. Chris Carathers

First Saturday of the  
month at 9:00 a.m.  
We will gather for  
Church Clean-up, fix up  
and repairs.

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP, STUDY, SERVICE AND FELLOWSHIP**

*1/10 Saturday*

*1/11 Sunday*

9:00 A.M. Sunday School  
10:00 A.M. Choir Prep  
10:20 A.M. Elders' Prayer Time  
10:30 A.M. Worship  
12:00 P.M. Choir Rehearsal

*1/12 Monday*

*1/13 Tuesday*

7:00 P.M. Games Night

*1/14 Wednesday*

6:00 P.M. Brown Bag Dinner  
7:00 P.M. Youth Group  
7:00 P.M. Adult Bible Study  
7:00 P.M. ESL Classes

*1/15 Thursday*

*1/16 Friday*

*1/17 Saturday*

*1/18 Sunday*

9:00 A.M. Sunday School  
10:00 A.M. Choir Prep Time  
10:20 A.M. Elders' Prayer Time  
10:30 A.M. Worship  
12:00 P.M. Choir Rehearsal

*1/19 Monday*

*1/20 Tuesday*

*1/21 Wednesday*

6:00 P.M. Brown Bag Dinner  
7:00 P.M. Youth Group  
7:00 P.M. Adult Bible Study  
7:00 P.M. ESL Classes

*1/22 Thursday*

*1/23 Friday*

*1/24 Saturday*

*1/25 Sunday*

9:00 A.M. Sunday School  
10:00 A.M. Choir Prep Time  
10:20 A.M. Elder's Prayer Time  
10:30 A.M. Worship  
12:00 P.M. Choir Rehearsal

## **College Group**

Will meet at Seekers Coffee  
House in Hurst on Thursday,  
January 15th  
at 7:00 p.m.

## **Members and Relatives of Members Serving In Our Military**

Drew Cizek  
Joseph Gonzales - Ferral Bishop's  
Nephew

Dear church family,

We wanted to say a big thank  
you for the generous gift of our  
Christmas bonuses. It is always  
nice this time of year to receive a  
little gift of appreciation for the  
year. We are grateful to be a part  
of this faith community and look  
forward to the year ahead.

Your church staff

**DWF (CWF)**  
Will be meeting Tuesday,  
January 13th at 10:00  
a.m. All ladies are  
invited. Please come for  
worship and fellowship.  
Refreshments are  
provided.

# *Youth News*

If you are reading this article, then I am certainly ankle deep in puddly and possibly covered in paint. I am very excited to be going to New Orleans. It has been a little over a year since I last traveled through the French quarter, visited the Tabasco sauce store, and watched the saints march in. I love New Orleans; the city is full of hope. Hope in spite of the hardships that they are facing and have faced for the past 3 years. They are hopeful even though the city is still shut down, and block after block that formerly had houses were memories were made continue to sit with concrete foundations and front steps constantly reminding visitors and natives alike that tragedy struck there. The city is stubborn. It refuses to give up. The first time I went to New Orleans post hurricanes, I was struck by the signs in windows that read “were coming home we will rebuild we are New Orleans.” That is such a defiant statement. We WILL rebuild. We ARE New Orleans. That is so powerful and so profound. We will save you a seat for the next trip!

Rev. Justin Floyd

## **Covered Dish Dinner**

**February 3, 2009**

**At 6:00 p.m.**

**The dinner is in honor of Kevin Howe who is with Global Ministries of the Christian Church. Kevin is a Global Mission Intern in Honduras. We are inviting the other three Christian churches to our 7:00 p.m. program. Please plan to attend this special event.**

## **HCC N.E.E.D. Center Ministry**

We are going to increase our ministry to N.E.E.D Center as soon as possible. Please bring canned goods, toiletry items, and paper goods. These items can be placed in the box in the hall that is marked N.E.E.D. Try and help as much as you possibly can, this is a difficult time of year for many people. Also, if you would like to volunteer to sack the grocery items at N.E.E.D, please call Pat Emerson at (817) 480-2585. I will then contact you as to when? This is a fun and fulfilling opportunity to help others.

# Facts and Figures

## General Fund 2008 To Date

<u>Date Received</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Needed</u>	<u>Total Received</u> <u>To Date</u>	<u>Year To</u> <u>Date Needed</u>
January 4, 2009	\$ 3,165	\$ 2,400	\$ 3,165	\$ 2,400

### ATTENDANCE

December 21, 2008	
Worship	85
December 28, 2008	
Worship	45
January 4, 2009	
Worship	49

### Counseling Services Brian Briscoe

I am licensed to provide individual, couple, group, and family counseling in depression, anger, anxiety, addiction, and many other issues. I currently run a men's sobriety support group on Sunday afternoons (<http://webpages.charter.net/javajunkies/>). For more information, call 817.907.6937 (907-O YES)

Brian Briscoe, MS, LPC-i

### “The Connection”

—a place to feel and get connected with God and each other!

Come join us on Wednesday nights this winter!

**We will be starting our Wednesday Night Schedule On January 14th after our January Mission Trip.**

6:00:

#### **Brown Bag Dinner:**

If you're coming straight from work, or you just don't have time to get the kids fed, bring your dinner with you! We'll have tables set up in the Fellowship Hall where we can all eat together and have a time of fellowship.

7:00-8:30:

#### **Youth Groups:**

Junior high and high school youth (*youth room*)

#### **Adult Bible Study: “Building Blocks”**

Lead by Pastor Chris—we will have a time of faith building and exploring together. If you've never picked up a Bible, or if you are well read in the scriptures, this will be a place you can call home! (*Parlor*)

#### **ESL Classes:**

Lead by Dee Yeats, and Pedro Olvera—this class is designed for Spanish speakers who want to learn more basic English (*choir room*)

#### **Adult Bible Study:**

Lead by Sammie Bennett (*Library*)

HURST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
(Disciples of Christ)  
745 Brown Trail  
Hurst, TX 76053

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HCC Christian Visitor is published every two weeks except for the last two weeks of the year.

### **Sammie's Bit**

While we were sitting in congregational meeting this past Sunday, Chris posed the question of what our favorite memory of the advent season was. Well it got me thinking about different memories that I have of spending time in the church during the season of advent. As far back as I can remember – my family has always taken part in various advent events in the life of the church. But I think my favorite memory is one when my mom, brother, and I were chosen to light the advent wreath.

If you can believe it – I use to be shy, very shy as a matter of fact. I hated talking, even standing in front of people, especially at church. Actually, my mom was even worse; people could see her shaking whenever she stood up to speak. Thankfully, my brother has no problems – he can make friends with a brick wall. So needless to say, he was volun-told that he was going to be doing the entire lighting and talking. We were just there for silent support. Mom and I were just glad that we didn't burn the church down.

It is memories like this that fill my mind during this time of the year. We are surrounded by family – both biological and not – and experience all sorts of wonderful feelings! It is definitely, the most wonderful time of the year, and it should be something that we greet with excitement, anticipation, and readiness! So as we gather together to celebrate the birth of the Christ, remember those times that bring joy, peace, hope, and love to our hearts!

Sammie