

HCC's Christian Visitor

Hurst Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

January 25, 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

Karen Erby
Chair of Elders

Ferral Bishop
Administrative Secretary

Richard McReynolds
Music Director

Nancy Gage
Pianist

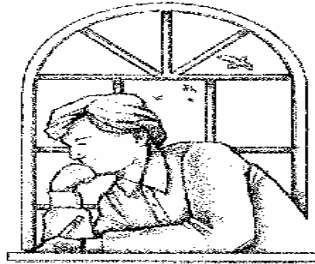
Diane Lloyd
Nursery Attendant

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
- *Economy
- *Vida Nueva
- *Tamela Phelps - Lana's friend, father passed away
- *Ann Smith - Pneumonia
- *Morgan Williams - Grandmother in hospital
- *Peace in Gaza
- *The Lewis Family

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

This past week I traveled to Baltimore to participate as a Steward (a worker bee) in the annual meeting of Christian Churches Together (CCT) (ChristianChurchesTogether.org) CCT is an organization that brings together, for the first time, all five families within the Christian Churches: Historical Protestant, Catholic, Evangelical, Orthodox, and African/American. It is an amazing organization where these diverse people come together to find common ground on major issues. The issue that we were dealing with this week was poverty.

Poverty is such a problem in this country and around the world. Right here in America we have 37 million people living at or below the poverty line which in 2008 was an annual income of \$20,200 for a family of 4 people. Many of us could not imagine living at the low level of income and meeting all of our bills.

CCT is calling our government to reduce poverty in the US by 50% over the next 10 years. England is in this process as we speak, and is having some success. Can you imagine that if we are successful there will *only* be 18.5 million people still in poverty? That is *STILL* 3 times the size of the DFW Metroplex!! Those are huge numbers!

At the conference we got the chance to go and talk to the Obama Transition Team and our respective State Senators about this endeavor. We know that it will take an enormous amount of effort and will power to make this happen. We also know that the government cannot do it alone. There is going to have to be a partnership between government, businesses, and churches to make this happen.

We have our part to do. Yes, we *DO* respond to poverty already in some ways like helping with N.E.E.D. and Beautiful Feet along with other opportunities, *BUT* this is even more than that. This kind of action is not just meeting the needs of those in poverty, but also it means addressing the factors that create poverty. If we approach the problem as a systemic problem, then we can hopefully prevent as many people from becoming impoverished.

CCT is working in 4 areas to accomplish this: Making work *work* (which means making it so that if people are working, they can meet their bills); Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities, and Education.

This is not a problem that will be solved overnight, *BUT* it is an issue that is near and dear to Jesus' heart b/c there are *SO* many verses in the Bible about ministering to the poor, hungry, and homeless. What an amazing opportunity we have before us that CCT is putting this vision out there as a possibility for the most prosperous nation in the world to do more for the most needy among us. What an amazing opportunity for us to engage our Christian ideals in a noble cause such as this.

I am honored to be in ministry with you.

Blessings,

Chris

AREAS OF SERVICE

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

2/1/2009

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

2/8/2009

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.

Our deepest sympathy for the family of Bill Lewis, he passed away on New Years Day. If you would like to send a card to the family the address is:

Jeffrey Lewis
7032 Meadowview Terrace
North Richland Hills, TX
76180

OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP, STUDY, SERVICE AND FELLOWSHIP

1/24 Saturday

1/25 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

1/26 Monday

1/27 Tuesday

7:00 P.M. Games Night

1/28 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

1/29 Thursday

1/30 Friday

1/31 Saturday

2/1 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

2/2 Monday

2/3 Tuesday

6:00 P.M. Fellowship Dinner
7:00 P.M. Mission Speaker

2/4 Wednesday

No Connection This Week!

7:00 P.M. Bel-Aire Community Meeting

2/5 Thursday

2/6 Friday

2/7 Saturday

2/8 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

The church would like to have a name, phone number and address for emergency use only for each member. This information is needed for each member, so that we may reach a friend or loved one in case of an emergency. Please leave this information in the church office in the secretary's in box on her desk.

Members and Relatives of Members Serving In Our Military

Drew Cizek

Joseph Gonzales - Ferral Bishop's Nephew
(Currently serving in Iraq)

Bel-Aire Area
Community Meeting
At Hurst Christian Church
From 7-8:30 p.m.
Mike Morgan City of Hurst development Manager will be sharing ideas for the Bel-Aire community and the shopping center across from our church. We ask that our members come and hear what exciting things will be taking place in our community.

Youth News

As I write this article, I am sitting in my room watching Tom Brokaw commentate on the inauguration of the 44th president of the United States. This transition time is both exciting and scary at the same time. We as a nation are in need of something and we have put that on Barack Obama's shoulders. All I can do is hope that as the next 4 years continue; we can look back on this time in our country and think, "We've done good." No matter what happens through out this time of transition, one thing will never fail us, and that is the love of God. I know that sounds cheesy, but it is true. One thing we can always fall back on is the church, each other, and the love of God shown to us through Christ. After the attacks on September 11, millions of people had a return to faith and to church. I hope that this can happen again on the basis of hope and not fear. This is going to be a time of trial, the economic situation is up in the air and who knows what will happen, but the feeling of hope overpowers these fears, the same hope that we can find in each other. God Bless us, everyone.

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. Kevin has been traveling the mission field for about 18 months and will be sharing his work with us. We are inviting the other three Christian churches to our 7:00 p.m. program. Please plan to attend this special event.

Grief Counseling

Beginning February 15 thru March 29th each Sunday from 3-5 p.m. in the Hurst Christian Church parlor.

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
January 11, 2009	\$ 2,583	\$ 2,400	\$ 5,748	\$ 4,800
January 18, 2009	\$ 1,982	\$ 2,400	\$ 7,730	\$ 7,200

ATTENDANCE

December 28, 2008	
Worship	45
January 4, 2009	
Worship	49
January 11, 2009	
Worship	45
January 18, 2009	
Worship	51

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

There is just a sense of excitement right now in our country. People have gathered together to witness history and share together in a sense of hope for tomorrow. It has amazed me how the people that have gathered for all the inaugural happenings in Washington, D.C. have come from every state and elsewhere. People are standing next to each other celebrating in a hope that the country is in desperate need of. It doesn't matter whom you voted for, you can see the excitement as people gather together to celebrate change.

It seems that when changes happen they happen in groups, our church is continually changing the way that we experience church. It is an equally exciting time in our church and you can see the excitement in faces as we gather together week after week in order to worship God together. It is always an exciting experience to come together with friends and see how God will speak differently to you in a new way. Although it might not be surrounded by parades, long speeches, fancy balls, or 4-course meals but it is an experience that consists of joy, happiness, and something that you can't experience anywhere else! And that is something that brings the excitement that you can't find elsewhere!

Good luck on your journey,

Sammie