

HCC's Christian Visitor

Hurst Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

February 22, 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

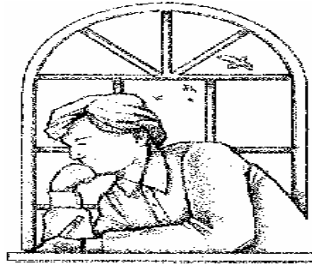
Nancy Gage
Pianist

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
- * Hispanic Community
- * Sharon Michaud
- *Economy
- *Vida Nueva
- *Peace in Gaza
- *Samuel Rudzitis - Friend of Nancy Gage
- *Mary Guernsey - On a Ventilater
- *Sammie Bennett - Ankle
- *Kellie Briscoe - Has a job
- *Joy Tulous

Small Groups

<u>Leader</u>	<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Phone #</u>
Karen Anderson	Sat. 10 a.m.	817-232-9093
Mike Bond (Group meets every other Sat.)	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

Well, Lent is upon us again!

This is one of my favorite and most difficult times of the year each year. There is a Christian practice that is done during Lent of giving something up. It actually all started with fasting during Lent back in the day. That is where we got “Fat Tuesday.”

Originally Fat Tuesday was the day right before Ash Wednesday just as it is now. Fat Tuesday became such a party day because starting on Ash Wednesday people began fasting or giving up extra food during Lent. SO, on Fat Tuesday everyone got “fat” by throwing parties to clean out their pantries of all their goodies at once so they would be prepared for their fasting.

In modern times we don't fast quite as much as people did in those days, but we still have the tradition of giving something up. Recently people have also begun taking on something—like a spiritual discipline—during Lent that they don't normally do already.

Everyone in our church knows how big a sweet tooth I have. If you know that, then you know how big a sacrifice it is for me every year to give up sweets and sodas for Lent. The reason that we practice giving up something is so that we can participate, in some small way, in the sacrifice that Jesus made for us.

Giving up something for Lent is a spiritual exercise in realizing just how much has already been done for us. If we find it so difficult to give up something so small as sweets and sodas, how much more difficult is it to give up our very lives?

If you've never given up something for Lent, maybe you could try it this year? Start with something small. Every journey begins with the first step.

As we get into Lent, starting with Ash Wednesday, we begin our 40 days journey to Easter—the cross. It is not only a time for us to share in Christ's sacrifice, but also a period of time for preparation. We have 40 days, just under 6 weeks, to prepare ourselves to receive again the love of God that was shown through Jesus on the cross.

If Christianity could be summed up in one statement, it would have to include the cross and Easter. We are an Easter people. That is why we have church on Sunday morning rather than on Saturday which was the original Sabbath. Sunday is when Jesus rose from the grave. We celebrate an empty tomb. But we have to prepare ourselves first before we get there.

So, I invite you on a journey. It's only 40 days long. It is a time of preparation and exploration. It is a chance to look inside yourself and find God there. It is an opportunity for us to reconnect with God again if we've grown apart. I hope you'll take this opportunity while it's here.

Chris

AREAS OF SERVICE

2/22/2009

Presiding Elder: Karen Anderson
Counting Elder: Dee Yeats
Diaconate: Richard Fenn, Pedro Olvera, Clyde Ann Barras, and Florence Fils Aime
Comm. Prep: Pearl Stinchcomb
Communion Invitation:
Rev. Sammie Bennett

3/1/2009

Presiding Elder: Dee Yeats
Counting Elder: Pat Emerson
Diaconate: Bud Dotter, Michaela Bond, Belle Madalora, and Laura DuPuy
Comm. Prep: Bobbie Douglas
Communion Invitation:
Rev. Chris Carathers

3/8/2009

Presiding Elder: Dee Yeats
Counting Elder: Pat Emerson
Diaconate: Bud Dotter, Michaela Bond, Laura DuPuy, And Ann Smith
Comm. Prep: Bobbie Douglas
Communion Invitation:
Rev. Justin Floyd

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

Lenten Devotional Books

Our church has ordered some Lenten devotional books. These books have daily devotions for the entire time of Lent. You can pick one up in the church office, or after church on Sunday.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP, STUDY, SERVICE AND FELLOWSHIP

2/21 Saturday

2/22 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

2/23 Monday

2/24 Tuesday

7:00 P.M. Games Night

2/25 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

2/26 Thursday

2/27 Friday

2/28 Saturday

7:00 P.M. Ash Wednesday Service

3/1 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
3:00 P.M. Grief Counseling

3/2 Monday

3/3 Tuesday

7:00 P.M. Games Night

3/4 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

3/5 Thursday

3/6 Friday

3/7 Saturday

3/8 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
3:00 P.M. Grief Counseling

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.

Disciple Women's Spring Retreat is March 20-22. If you would like to attend please see Karen Anderson or Pat Emerson.

Ash Wednesday Service

Ash Wednesday is next week! Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. We will have our worship service in lieu of "The Connection." The service will begin @ 7:00 in the South Sanctuary.

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

Thanks:

To all at HCC for the support during the sickness and loss of my sister-in-law, Janis Jouett. The prayers, cards and visits were greatly appreciated.

Billie and Fred Pallett

Youth News

First of all I want to say thank you for the wonderful reception that you gave me last Sunday. My parents and I are so grateful for your kind words and as all the ladies, know I love yall's cooking. Every time I leave here I'm full to the brim!

There is so much coming up in the life of the youth ministry. The Chi-Rho lock-in where we will be joining forces with University Christian Church for the 30-hour famine is coming up on Feb 27-28. Its going to be a lot of fun and we will even do some mission work.

Summer camp sign up is just around the corner. Look for dates, forms and ways to help on the Youth Board soon!

Over TCU's spring break I am going with the Disciples on Campus group to Southern California for a week long mission trip. We will be starting in San Diego and work our way north to LA. While there we will be doing work with inner city gang members in LA, cleaning beaches and areas affected by wildfires, as well as making a movie documentary of our trip. I will be selling movie tickets for the next 2 weeks. They will be \$10 a piece. These tickets will allow you into our showing of the movie at University Christian Church in Fort Worth where you will be treated to free popcorn and drinks. This is such a great opportunity to help out the TCU community and do mission work on the other side of the country. If you have any questions just let me know

Justin

Coming up in the youth ministry Souper Bowl of Caring

Souper bowl of caring is THIS SUNDAY. Yes, the stealers have already taken care of the Cardinals, but since the youth were gone last week, we are doing our souper bowl this Sunday morning. You will see the youth collecting canned foods and money that will go to local food banks.

**Elders' Meeting
Monday, February 16th
At 7:00 p.m.**

30-hour famine

On February 27-28, we will join up some of the other churches from the area at University Christian Church for the 30-hour famine. We will learn about world hunger, ways that we can help, and also stay up late and play a ton of games. We will end by going to the food bank and volunteering.

**Upcoming Board Meetings
February 8th at 2:00 p.m.
March 8th at 2:00 p.m.**

**Beautiful Feet Ministries
We meet the first Sunday of the month at
6:00 a.m. at the church and then travel to
Beautiful Feet in Fort Worth.**

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 25, 2009	\$ 895	\$ 2,400	\$ 8,625	\$ 9,600
February 1, 2009	\$ 3,321	\$ 2,400	\$ 11,946	\$ 12,000
February 8, 2009	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,400	\$ 13,946	\$ 14,400
February 15, 2009	\$ 2,186	\$ 2,400	\$ 16,132	\$ 16,800

ATTENDANCE

January 25, 2009	
Worship	47
February 1, 2009	
Worship	46
February 8, 2009	
Worship	66
February 15, 2009	
Worship	62

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

I don't know about you but I have been enjoying the sunshine after our little gift of ice last week?! It seems that the sunshine comes at the most perfect times in our lives to remind us of God's presence and graciously gives us something to warm our hearts when the world is close to or below freezing. On Sunday, as we were coming back to Hurst from Beautiful Feet the sun was shining right on my face! It was uncomfortable at first but then I allowed myself to close my eyes and just enjoy the warmth on my face. After continually telling myself to NOT fall asleep, I just enjoyed the peace and quiet as the sun warmed my soul.

It's an amazing thing that sun. More times than not though, it goes unnoticed as we hustle and bustle through our daily lives. But instead of getting stressed out by the world around us, we need to take the time to let the sun shine on our faces and warm our souls. Plus, it's a great source of Vitamin D (man, I sound like my mother!) which is always a wonderful thing to get! So as you continue on your journey, take the time to let the sun take you over, let it warm your soul. You'll need it for when it gets cold!

Good luck on your journey,
Sammie