

HCC's Christian Visitor

Hurst Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

February 8, 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

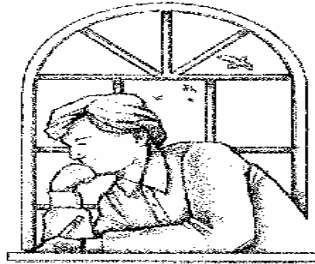
Diane Lloyd
Nursery Attendant

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
- *Samuel Rudzitis - Friend of Nancy Gage
- *Mary Guernsey - On a Ventilater

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

“New Beginnings”

Several years ago, just before my arrival, HCC went through a process called “New Beginnings.” This process—as some of you might remember—involved people from our national office who came to HCC and did an extensive review of the church. They then issued a report about the possibility of transforming HCC for the future.

Transformation is never an easy process even when everything goes perfectly right. Transformation is also not an overnight process either. It usually takes 5-7 years. We are now almost 3 years into the process that began with that initial evaluation.

These last 3 years have seen some very positive changes happen here at HCC. Much of it was ground work laying the foundation for what would come, and then recently it has been a surge of new ministry opportunities, both internal and external, like small groups, our annual mission trip to New Orleans, working with Beautiful Feet monthly, and so on.

We have come SUCH a long way, BUT our work isn't done.

It is important for any church going through the transformation process to make sure to include as many people within the congregation as possible. It is important for us to stay on course too. I am part of a yahoo group for Disciples clergy and one person on there said: “the three things that are important are to stay calm, stay in communication, and stay the course.” We are doing our best to do just that.

But now that we have come a ways down the road toward transformation, it is again time for us to evaluate where we are and where we are going. The Elders have been talking about this very thing in our last several meetings.

The Elders feel strongly that the time is right for us to go through another evaluation process. The first step of that process is a “*listening conference*” done by an outside 3rd party. Dani Loving Cartwright—our Regional Minister—is set up to do this step for us.

A listening conference is a set of interviews done by the evaluator to determine what our congregations strengths, weaknesses, and dreams are. It will help us to see things that we may not be able to see ourselves including if there are any underlying issues that need to be resolved so that we can continue to move forward through transformation as a faith community.

Once the listening conference is completed, then we will be given a report that will then be shared with the entire congregation. We'll do with it just as we did with the New Beginnings evaluation. We will read through it, see what suggestions it makes, see what makes sense to us, and then see how/what we can implement.

I hope that in the coming months, as you hear more about this listening conference, that you will make every effort to fully participate in it. It will best serve its purpose for us if we all invest in this process.

Chris

AREAS OF SERVICE

2/8/2009

Presiding Elder: Karen Anderson

Counting Elder: Dee Yeats

Diaconate: Richard Fenn, Pedro Olvera, Clyde Ann Barras, and Florence Fils Aime

Comm. Prep: Bobbie Douglas

Communion Invitation:

Rev. Chris Carathers

2/15/2009

Presiding Elder: Karen Anderson

Counting Elder: Dee Yeats

Diaconate: Richard Fenn, Pedro Olvera, Clyde Ann Barras, and Florence Fils Aime

Comm. Prep: Bobbie Douglas

Communion Invitation:

Rev. Justin Floyd

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: Bobbie Douglas

Communion Invitation:

Rev. Sammie Bennett

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

Diaconate Training Session

Sunday Feb 15th
Immediately following Worship
- all Deacons please plan to attend!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP, STUDY, SERVICE AND FELLOWSHIP

2/7 Saturday

2/8 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

2:00 P.M. Board Meeting

2/9 Monday

2/10 Tuesday

7:00 P.M. Games Night

2/11 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

2/12 Thursday

2/13 Friday

2/14 Saturday

2/15 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

2/16 Monday

7:00 P.M. Elders' Meeting

2/17 Tuesday

6:00 P.M. Fellowship Dinner

7:00 P.M. Mission Speaker

2/18 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

2/19 Thursday

2/20 Friday

2/21 Saturday

2/22 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 Ministry Meeting

Tuesday, February 10th
at 7:00 p.m. in HCC Library.

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

The Bond Family would like to thank everyone at HCC for their love and support of Mary Lou. The cards and calls, the visits and great food, all kept us going and lifted us up. Your prayers really helped! And the Memorial Service was just perfect, thank you all!

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

Youth News

Last weekend was an amazing weekend. The youth group and I went down to Athens, Texas to Disciples Crossing camp for a Mid-Winter gathering of middle school youth. The theme of the weekend was renewed. We renewed friendships, learned how to renew the earth by composting, recycling, and being good stewards of our environment. We worshiped dances, played an amazing game called crate ball, and overall had a blast! I had the amazing opportunity to wear my lime green suite and DJ the dance on Saturday night. It is always amazing to see these kids worshiping and fellowshiping with each other. Its truly an amazing experience. If you have ever been to camp or thought that maybe you would like to try it sometime, talk to Sammie, Chris or Justin and they can plug you in to the youth ministry here as well as at camp!

Justin

Camp dates are coming up soon so stay posted for all the summer information you could ever dream of knowing!

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 11, 2009	\$ 2,583	\$ 2,400	\$ 5,748	\$ 4,800
January 18, 2009	\$ 1,982	\$ 2,400	\$ 7,730	\$ 7,200
January 25, 2009	\$ 895	\$ 2,400	\$ 8,625	\$ 9,600
February 1, 2009	\$ 3,321	\$ 2,400	\$ 11,946	\$ 12,000

ATTENDANCE

January 18, 2009	
Worship	51
January 25, 2009	
Worship	47
February 1, 2009	
Worship	46

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