

HCC's Christian Visitor

Hurst Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

April 19, 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

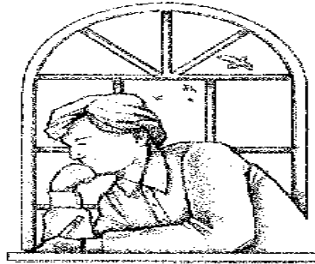
Nancy Gage
Pianist

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
- *Economy
- *Vida Nueva
- *Peace in Gaza
- *Samuel Rudzitis - Friend of Nancy Gage
- *Joy Tullous
- *JM Gilley
- *All those that have lost their jobs
- *Ron Lloyd - Heart surgery, Diane Lloyd's brother

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
Ferral & Tom Bishop Life Enrichment Group (Ages 36-54)	2nd & 4th Tues. at 7:00 p.m.	817-684-4084

Chris' Thoughts

WOW, what an Easter! Lent and Holy week, lunch on Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Palm Sunday and all the stuff Easter morning were such a hit and so well done. Anytime we have huge events like that it doesn't happen without a LOT of help from so many people both visible and behind the scenes. A BIG thank you to all who helped and participated in all these wonderful events!! I can't wait to do it again next year!

Lots of times the week after Easter is the lowest attendance Sunday of the entire year. Either people are worn out from all that work, or they are just recovering from all the amazing activities, but something isn't quite the same the Sunday after Easter.

This time of year has even more than Easter activities going on. I am such a sports nut that I always have my eye on ESPN or looking on the internet to see the latest scores and highlights. One of my favorite traditions each spring is Opening Day of baseball season.

Opening Day usually falls on the Monday of Holy Week, and it was no different than this year. I got up that morning, got ready, and left well before the game began. I wanted to get to the ballpark in time to see batting practice and find my seat before the big crowd arrived. If you know much about baseball you know that unless your team is extremely good, then you will never see another crowd as big as Opening Day the rest of the season—kind of like the Sunday after Easter!

But even amidst the spectacle of Opening Day something was a little different this year. Yes, there were still long lines at the concession stands and the bathrooms. There were still lots of people packed into seats that are just a LITTLE too small. I got to go to three games in a series for the first time in my life, and I left there with a little different attitude than I usually do. I am a huge sports fan, and you know what I remember from last week at the Ballpark in Arlington? I remember the customer service!

Now I can NEVER remember the customer service being like it was this year. I have been to the ballpark more times than I can count, and yet it still stood out to me this year. At each gate there were people standing there holding signs up that read: "How may I assist you?" Each ticket agent, attendant, and employee we came across was not only nice, but they smiled warmly, and, depending on which way we were walking, either said "Welcome to the Ballpark" OR "Have a nice day and come see us again soon!" I was amazed, and all of my friends made comments about it too.

How funny is it that I went to three baseball games and we came away talking about how nice the employees were?

In business they call that customer service. In the Christian world we call that Christian hospitality. Christian hospitality is not only welcoming, but it is going out of your way to be so. It is making sure that the stranger in our midst has what they need (a glass of water or coffee or a bulletin?), can get clear directions or be escorted to where they are heading in the church facility, maybe even have someone sit near them during the service to give them pointers on things they need to know. Remembering a person's name or something about them means a lot if you see them again. It means that you cared.

Part of being church together is learning how to be an inviting and welcoming place in all that we do. That includes Sunday morning as well as any other time that people use our facilities. It is God's house anyway. We are just the caretakers. I remember when I first started working at the hospital. One of their core beliefs was amazing customer service, and then they taught us that the "customer" was ANYONE we came into contact with, even our co-workers. That is true about Christian hospitality. We are to practice Christian hospitality—the sharing of God's love—to EVERYONE we come into contact with; even people we've known for years.

Blessings,
Chris

AREAS OF SERVICE

4/19/2009

Presiding Elder: Barbara DuPuy
Counting Elder: Pat Moore
Diaconate: Belle Madalora, Fred & Billie Pallett, and Ann Smith
Comm. Prep: Kellie Briscoe
Communion Invitation:
Rev. Justin Floyd

4/26/2009

Presiding Elder: Barbara DuPuy
Counting Elder: Pat Moore
Diaconate: Belle Madalora, Fred & Billie Pallett, and Ann Smith
Comm. Prep: Kellie Briscoe
Communion Invitation:
Rev. Sammie Bennett

5/3/2009

Presiding Elder: Barbara DuPuy
Counting Elder: Pat Moore
Diaconate: Richard Fenn, Pedro Olaque, Clyde Ann Barras, and Florence Aime
Comm. Prep: Pearl Stinchcomb
Communion Invitation:
Rev. Chris Carathers

Trinity-Brazos Area Assembly Saturday, April 25th, 2009

From 9:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m.
Central Christian Church, Fort Worth, Texas
Registration fees : \$15 per person
or \$25 per couple
**Registration Deadline was
Tuesday, April 7th**

Grief Counseling Course

We are starting the Grief Counseling Course again on April 28 thru June 7, 2009. Times are 3-5 p.m. on Sunday afternoons. We only completed 2 sessions before I became sick. So much time has passed we will just start over.
JM Gilley

OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP, STUDY, SERVICE AND FELLOWSHIP

4/18 Saturday

8:00 A.M. Habitat Build

4/19 Sunday

6:00 A.M. Beautiful Feet
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

4/20 Monday

7:00 P.M. Elders' Meeting

4/21 Tuesday

4/22 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

4/23 Thursday

4/24 Friday

4/25 Saturday

9:00 A.M. TBA Assembly

4/26 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 Course

4/27 Monday

4/28 Tuesday

4/29 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

4/30 Thursday

5/1 Friday

5/2 Saturday

5/3 Sunday

6:00 A.M. Beautiful Feet
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 Course

Disciple Men's Fellowship

Meetings are the first Saturday of the month at 8:00 a.m.

First Saturday of the month
at 9:00 a.m.

We will gather for
**Church Clean-up, fix up and
repairs.**

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

April Birthdays

Drew Cizek - April 4
Bill Crouch - April 6
Robert Richey - April 13
Ann Smith - April 20
Karen Anderson - April 21
Ron Wharton - April 22

Habitat Build!

We have signed up for a Habitat Build April 18th! It will be from 8:00-3:00. We only have 10 slots so sign up soon! The build will take place at 703 Central Dr., Newark, Texas.

Upcoming Elders' Meeting

Monday, April 20th at 7:00 p.m.
Monday, May 4th at 7:00 p.m.

Beautiful Feet Ministries

We meet the third Sundays of the month at 6:00 a.m. at the church and then travel to Beautiful Feet in Fort Worth. We will be meeting on April 19th and May 17. Our church takes the Summer off from Beautiful Feet.

Youth News

Wow, I did not know what to expect when I turned around the corner and faced what is usually the seemingly long hallway from the north to the south sanctuary. What I saw both excited and scared me in ways never before known. As I turned that corner I saw what looked like a million kids ready to tear the door down just to start the free for all smack down that was the Easter egg hunt. It was scary to be standing next to Diane as the doors were finally opened and the madness begin. Then, as will all good things in life, it was over before it even began. Baskets filled to the brim full of candy and toys, I even managed to sneak one out, don't tell on me. It was an amazing thing to witness. I wonder if that is how the disciples felt that day on the road out of the city. They were beaten down and destroyed. They were as down and out as it can get. When all of a sudden it seemed someone opened the door. (Was Jesus wearing rabbit ears? Something to think about.) Jesus appears to them on the road and travels with them, finally he breaks the bread like he had done before and just like the kids and the eggs; it was over before it began, and Jesus was gone. That mighty spirit that moves among us, that Mighty Ruah, that was mentioned Sunday morning, can come and go faster then we can even wrap our heads around, but is it not worth it every single time? We are now in the Easter season within the church, a few weeks of celebration before the day of Pentecost, how will you celebrate this life?

Camps

It's that season yet again! Pack your bags, lace up the shoes, put the sun block on you nose, and don't even think about rubbing it in... Its time for camp! Camp forms are available on the youth bulletin board, if you have any questions be sure to find Justin and ask him.

We need people to get involved in the camps. One way that may seem simple is to offer the gift of camp to one of the many youth from our church that want to go. We need people to help scholarship the youth. Any amount will be greatly appreciated. The last thing we ever want to say to a youth is that they can not experience the holy spirit moving in the world, or fellowship with youth from all over the TBA, or have the opportunity to discover where they are called in this life, because they can not afford it. Please help in any way that you can. IF you have questions please talk to Justin.

Counter Schedule For 2009

	Counter	Elder
April 19th	Pat Moore	Barbara DuPuy
April 26th	Walter Adams	Barbara DuPuy
May 3rd	Elston Hall	Carol Dorman
May 10th	Glenda O'Steen	Carol Dorman
May 17th	Pat Reinecker	Carol Dorman
May 24th	Walter Adams	Carol Dorman
May 31st	JM Gilley	Carol Dorman
June 7th	Elston Hall	Lana Player
June 14th	Glenda O'Steen	Lana Player
June 19th	Pat Reinecker	Lana Player
June 26th	Walter Adams	Lana Player
July 5th	Glenda O'Steen	JM Gilley
July 12th	Walter Adams	JM Gilley
July 19th	Elston Hall	JM Gilley

Facts and Figures

General Fund 2009 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>
March 29, 2009	\$ 1,752	\$ 2,400	\$ 27,911	\$ 31,200
April 5, 2009	\$ 4,474	\$ 2,400	\$ 32,385	\$ 33,600
April 12, 2009	\$ 2,480	\$ 2,400	\$ 34,865	\$ 36,000

ATTENDANCE

March 29, 2009
Worship 72
April 5, 2009
Worship 58
April 12, 2009
Worship 110

Pictorial Directories

We have begun talking about a new pictorial directory! It's been 5 years since our last pictorial directory. The photography places are doing more and more of the work, but we would still need to have someone here that would work directly with them. If you, or someone you know would like to coordinate this project for us, please let us know!

Tuesday Night Games Night

Tuesday night games night has been suspended until the Fall..

Church Wide Cookout At Chisholm Park Saturday, May 16th At 5:00 p.m.

Come and get to know the small groups and the leaders. This will be a time of games, fun and fellowship.

"The Connection"

—a place to feel and get connected with God and each other!
Come join us on Wednesday nights!

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*)

"This Is Long Overdue"

A special thank you to those that gave to the memorial fund in Janice's name. Thanks to all for your prayers, calls, cards, visits and your love for Janice during her months of illness.

Our Love,
Wynoma, Ron and Janice's Girls.

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

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Sammie's Bit

Can you believe that we've already celebrated Easter?! It seems like just yesterday that we were in the season of Advent anticipating the birth of Christ, now we are returning from our journey to the empty tomb! Gosh, how time has flown by! In case you haven't had an updated count: it is officially, by April 14, 25 days until graduation and between me and you, I'm having internal conflict. I am super excited about graduating but incredibly nervous about having to have to enter the "real world" that is awaiting me on May 9th.

Time seems to just be flying by here lately. I don't think we've had anytime to catch our breath as we have been going through Advent and Lent. It always seems that whenever we reach the empty tomb we are exhausted in every way possible. But, I don't blame us...Holy Week is an intensive thing to experience. Thankfully, we go through this journey together and can lean on each other for the support system that we most desperately need.

That is what church is all about. That is what I have learned through my years of being involved with a church, both here at Hurst and at the various other churches I have been apart of. It takes the entire church to experience things like Advent, Lent, and the Easter morning journey. It is a wonderful thing to experience together. It takes every since part of the church to ensure that everyone experiences the joy and celebration that surrounds our special Sundays and I give thanks that I can experience them with you.

Thank you for being on my journey,
Sammie