

HCC's Christian Visitor

Hurst Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

April 5, 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

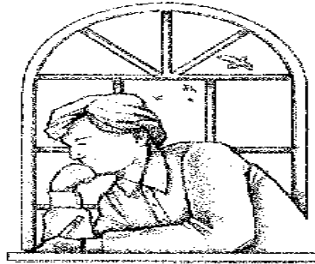
Nancy Gage
Pianist

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
- *Justin Floyd - Uncle passed away
- *Kelsey Baldwin - Friend passed away

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

We're almost home! This is the last newsletter you'll get before Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter Sunday. I hope you have taken this opportunity to take this journey to the cross with Jesus.

As human beings, we have an assumption of growth. We assume that when you are born you'll grow. We know that plants grow and flowers bloom. We assumed that the markets would grow b/c they have historically done so. We even assume that our faith will grow once we become Christians.

Most things do grow all by themselves, but not faith.

Children grow up and become adults, puppies become full grown dogs, and kittens become cats, but our faith is a little different.

Growth in faith is not dependent on time. Growth in faith is dependent on each person being willing to ask questions, take the journey, and seek new answers. You can be 80 years old and have the faith of a 5 year old and vice versa.

That's one of the reasons that times like Lent (the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday) are so important for our faith development. It isn't just so that we can feel badly about ourselves or so that we can pump ourselves up with our accomplishment of making it through the entire time without going back on our pledge to sacrifice something for these 40 days. The importance of the Lenten season is all about our faith getting a chance to grow.

The first step in growing your faith, or deepening it, is to ask God what you need to do. "God, help me to grow my faith. Help me to be open to where and how you are leading me." Spend regular time in prayer. By that I mean find 30 minutes a day—whenever is easiest for you—and make a commitment to prayer. Then read Psalm 121. "From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth."

There is no more important activity that we do as Christians than praying. We can NEVER pray enough or too much. We are even called to pray without ceasing!

Once you begin to pray, then take the next step: begin participating in a spiritual practice. Spiritual practices are things like Bible study, journaling, silence, tithing, simplicity, meditation, etc. There are SO many things that you can do to make yourself more sensitive to where God is leading you. The key is to do them regularly, every day.

Easter and spring are great times to celebrate new life. They will both be here soon. There is no better time to begin growing your faith than right now, no matter where you faith currently is. We can all use some growth.

I am honored to be on this journey with you.
Blessings,
Chris

AREAS OF SERVICE

4/5/2009

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

4/12/2009

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

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

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

Holy Week Schedule
Wednesday, April 8th:
Fellowship lunch and worship (NO Wed. night activities)
Thursday, April 9th:
Tennebrae service, 7:00 PM
Sunday, April 12th: Easter Service: 10:30 AM
Easter Egg Hunt after the worship service.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP, STUDY, SERVICE AND FELLOWSHIP

4/4 Saturday

8:00 A.M. DMF Meeting (Disciple Men's Fellowship)
9:00 A.M. Church Clean Up and Fix Up

4/5 Palm 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
12:00 P.M. New Member Lunch

4/6 Monday

7:00 P.M. Elders' Meeting

4/7 Tuesday

7:00 P.M. Games Night

4/8 Holy Wednesday

**** No Connection Today**

12:00 P.M. Lunch and Midweek Service

4/9 Maundy Thursday

7:00 P.M. Tennebrae Service

4/10 Friday

4/11 Saturday

4/12 Easter 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
12:00 P.M. Easter Egg Hunt

4/13 Monday

4/14 Tuesday

7:00 P.M. Games Night

4/15 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

4/16 Thursday

4/17 Friday

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 Time
10:20 A.M. Elder's Prayer Time
10:30 A.M. Worship
12:00 P.M. Choir Rehearsal
2:00 P.M. Board Meeting

Needed: Filled Plastic Easter Eggs

Please fill with wrapped candies or small trinkets. Thank you for leaving them in the church office.

New & Prospective Members Brown Bag Lunch (Part 2)

We will have our second session on Sunday, April 5th right after church. I hope you can make it!

Disciple Men's Fellowship

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

Results from the Congregational Meeting and Vote

On Sunday, March 29th
The vote to suspend the Constitution and By-laws for another year passed unanimously.

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' Meetings

Monday, April 6th at 7:00 p.m.
Monday, April 20th 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.

AGENDA FOR BOARD MEETINGS - - 2009 FORMAT

All handouts should be distributed before meeting is called to order

Motions should be turned in to secretary

Individuals wishing to make a presentation or report should notify secretary in advance

A. Light candle, recognition of attendees

B. Prayer or devotional, Communion

C. Call to order, approval of minutes

D. Ongoing Ministry Opportunities

E. New Ministry Opportunities

F. Minister(s) presents Vision

G. Financial report

Adjourn and thanks, close with prayer

“A Concensus-Driven Board”

Will be a place of action rather than just reading reports

Reports from Board can appear in newsletter

Counter Schedule For 2009

	Counter	Elder
April 5th	Elston Hall	Barbara DuPuy
April 12th	Glenda O’Steen	Barbara DuPuy
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
July 26th	Sandra 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 15, 2009	\$ 1,472	\$ 2,400	\$ 25,094	\$ 26,400
March 22, 2009	\$ 1,065	\$ 2,400	\$ 26,159	\$ 28,800
March 29, 2009	\$ 1,752	\$ 2,400	\$ 27,911	\$ 31,200

ATTENDANCE

March 15, 2009
Worship 51
March 22, 2009
Worship 56
March 29, 2009
Worship 72

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!

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!

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*)

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 is Tuesday, April 7th

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

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit No.

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

**Our deepest sympathy to Justin Floyd
for the loss of his uncle.**

**Our deepest sympathy to Kelsey
Baldwin for the loss of her friend.**

Sammie's Bit

One of my favorite movies is a quite recent one called, "Dan In Real Life" with Steve Carell. It's a great movie, if you haven't seen it I recommend it! The producers of the movie got only one person to do all the music, Sondre Lerche and the first song that he does in the movie is called "To Be Surprised." That song seems to have a huge impact on the rest of the movie. This song also reminds me a lot of how our faith, our relationship with God, and the calling that we have been given by God. There is always an aspect of being surprised in life no matter what.

Faith is such an easy thing to be surprised by. Life is such an easy thing to be surprised by. Surprise is an exciting thing to experience anyways!!! There is just so much within our faith that surprises us and completely changes the way that you live your life. Faith's surprises have a way of strengthening us so that we have the ability to experience the bumps that will come down our road. There is only one assurance in our lives, and "baby be prepared to be surprise."

When we continue on our journey of faith, it is easy to get comfortable in our lives. But then there are those times, the most glorious and awful of times, that completely sweep us off our feet. Those are the times that the surprises strengthen us in a way that we never thought possible or needed. Those are the times that our faith is something that just radiates off of our faces. Those are the times that those surprises help to define who we are.

Be prepared to be surprised on your journey,
Sammie