



# Christian Challenger

Vol. LVII

March 3, 2010

NO. 8

### **BLOOD DRIVE**

This Sunday, March 7, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, Gym  
Call the Church Office to make an appointment

### **RESTORATION COMMITTEE UPDATE**

If you have noticed sticky notes on the interior doors or brightly colored pieces of paper taped along the hallways of the church, there is a logical explanation for them! The architects who are helping us with our renovations, have told us that our current room numbering system is confusing to visitors in our building. They suggested new room numbers and the Restoration Committee is experimenting with their suggestions.

Along with a new numbering system, we are also looking at new interior signage for the entire church. Some signs would be just "labels"; some signs would have a clear plastic "window" into which a printed piece of paper could be inserted. There would be directional signs and fire escape signs at the main hallway intersections. Lastly, there might be signs that hang from the ceiling calling attention to the most asked-for rooms of the church (these are the bright lime green signs which are currently taped to the walls - we were too lazy to climb a ladder).

The Restoration Committee wants to emphasize the fact that we are just experimenting and "living" with the signs and new numbers; no decision has been made regarding either.

As always, you can contact Nancy Smith with your comments and suggestions.

### **DISCIPLES WOMEN LUNCHEON**

The March Disciples Women's Luncheon will be on Monday, March 8, at 11:45 am in the Fellowship Hall. The speaker will be Julie Coe. Cost is \$4.00 per person, guests are welcome, and reservations are not required.

The Disciples Women Board will meet in the Parlor at 10:00 am prior to the Luncheon.

### **JOURNEY THROUGH SCRIPTURE**

Will take a break March 14th & 21st. Journey will begin again on Sunday, March 28th at 9:45 am in the Church Parlor.

### **ANNUAL BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON AND CAKE/DESSERT AUCTION**

The Annual Birthday Fellowship Luncheon and Cake/Dessert Auction will be held this Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall. Make your reservations by calling the church office.

It is also once again time for the Cake/Dessert Auction to benefit the youth of FCC. We will need at least 12 cakes, pies or desserts for the auction. Each month will be able to bid on the desserts for their table during this fun event.

We are still looking for 8 volunteers to pick a month in the year and decorate that table in a theme for that particular month or the birthday party theme you choose for that table. Decorating will be at 10:00 Saturday.

If you would like to choose a table to decorate or would like to bake a dessert of any kind, please contact Sheila Barrett at 613-4862 or [sahbarr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sahbarr@sbcglobal.net). You may also sign up through the church office by calling 692-2282. Thank YOU for making this annual event such a fun and exciting time for the entire congregation!

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\* **OPEN FLOWER DATES** \*  
\* If you would like to donate the flowers for \*  
\* the worship service in the Sanctuary, the following \*  
\* dates are open: March 7 & 14. To donate or for \*  
\* more information, call Peggy Fitts, Flower \*  
\* Coordinator, 781-2426. \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

### **This Sunday:**

8:45 & 10:45 Services:  
"Forgiveness"  
Luke 23:33-34  
Rev. Brett W. Coe

5:30 CGRM Worship Service:  
Rev. Dave Brummett

## Across Dave's Desk...

### THE POWER OF POETRY (PART II)

Thomas Cahill, in *The Gifts of the Jews* (the finest, most accessible book I have ever read on the Old Testament) says that the inner life of David, the shepherd who united the 12 tribes of Israel into a single nation, is emblazoned in the poetry of the Psalms. In this, he is the western world's seminal poet. As Cahill notes,

David's Hebrew is a model for all lyric poetry from his own day to ours. David is the first person to use the word "I" as we use it--to mean one's interior self. This is an astonishing accomplishment for the tenth century BC, because a sense of the inner self is notably absent from all other ancient literatures... But David's psalms are full of I's: the I of repentance, the I of anger and vengeance, the I of self-pity and self-doubt, the I of despair, the I of delight, and the I of ecstasy. The Psalms are a treasure trove of personal emotions and a unique early roadmap to the inner spirit--previously mute--of ancient humanity. Whereas the historian must normally guess at the emotions of his subjects from incomplete or indirect evidence, David's Psalms reassure us that three thousand years ago people laughed and cried just as we do, bled and cursed, danced and leapt--that our whole repertoire of emotions was theirs.

Consider David's anguished cry of remorse in Psalm 51 over his adultery with Bathsheba, his complicity in the killing of her husband, and his sorrow over the death of their infant child:

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
According to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.  
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.  
For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.  
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.  
The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;  
A broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Countless penitent sinners have cited this Psalm when they were stricken with remorse; President Clinton quoted it during a national address in the wake of the Monica Lewinsky scandal. It has not lost one ounce of power to invoke the redemptive power of human guilt and God's unceasing mercy.

More than any other work in human history, Psalm 22 evokes the feeling of utter desolation that almost invariably befalls those of the deepest faith. The

reason for its consequentiality is that Jesus cried it out in his agony it as he suffered and died upon the cross:

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?  
Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

Of course, Psalm 22 is followed by the most beloved passage in all the Old Testament. It is a timeless source of consolation for those beset with sickness or grief, which is why it is almost invariably cited at funerals:

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
<sup>2</sup>He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:  
he leadeth me beside the still waters.  
<sup>3</sup>He restoreth my soul:  
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his names sake.  
<sup>4</sup>Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil, for thou art with me;  
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.  
<sup>5</sup>Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:  
thou anointest my head with oil;  
my cup runneth over.  
<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

William Wordsworth once described poetry as "emotion recollected in tranquility." Psalm 23 could fit that description, while others cited here could not. But when words are limned by great depth of feeling and especially when they are fired with the divine inspiration that constitutes a form of grace, they are, heart to heart and soul to soul, the common concourse of man and woman and God.

*Dave*

*Prayer: "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer" [Psalm 19.14]. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*



The annual FCC Easter Egg Hunt will be on Palm Sunday, March 28th, at 2:00 pm. Children will meet in Fellowship Hall before the hunt. All children, young and old, are invited to participate. We will have prize eggs and goodies!

We are in need of candy and egg donations and even small prizes if possible! No chocolate please, it melts! The eggs from previous hunts are available in the church office, if you wish to pick some up and fill them. Please return or drop off your donations to the church office.

We had a wonderful time last year and hope to have even more this year!

## Brett Briefly...

### A NIGHT WITH THE FAM

My family went out to eat tonight to celebrate recent achievements by my amazing children. Dining at a restaurant has become something of a rarity in our household. Usually we are rushing around in many different directions, and the fast food drive thru often becomes the chef du jour. So it was nice to be able to take time to sit down together and enjoy a leisurely meal (or as leisurely as a meal can be with three children).

As the evening progressed, I found myself reflecting on family. In a way, the whole concept of family can be a bit disturbing. As children, we are stuck with the parental units God has given us. There's not much say we have in the matter. By younger children, parents are adored and looked up to. By adolescents, parents are ignored and embarrassing. But the reverse is also true. As parents, we have virtually no say in how our children are put together. We can somewhat control things like how many children we have and when we have them, but as far as the actual child goes, it's all up to God's crazy genetic plan. We love our children, without a doubt. But there are times we wish we could stick them in someone else's shopping cart and hope they don't notice.

The really funny thing about families, though, is that just when you think you can't stand them any longer, you find yourself willing to give up your own life for theirs. Amongst all the annoyance, anger, and even hatred, there is a love greater than all else. The same is true with God's family. That is a family of which we are all a part. Like human families, it is not always perfect. Brothers and sisters constantly quarrel over petty and unimportant issues. Children disrespect and disobey their parents (or Parent). But through it all is the love of one who did give up his own life for ours. And that is a love greater than all else.

May we all witness the extraordinary love of God through this Lenten season, and beyond.

Grace and peace,

**Brett**

### 2010 CAMP & MISSION TRIP DATES

Grand Beginnings Camp (4 years-3rd grade)	June 4-6
CYF Conference (Completed grades 9-12)	June 6-12
Chi Rho Mission Trip	June 16-19
JYF Camp (Completed grades 4 or 5)	July 11-15
Chi Rho Camp (Completed grades 6 or 7)	July 11-16
CYF Mission Trip	July 17-25
8th Grade Conference (Completed grade 8)	July 25-31
Registration Sunday will be April 25th.	

### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN NUMBERS

Total Number of Pledges	190
Total Amount Pledged	\$1,331,113.00
Total Amount Received on Campaign	\$968,350.66
Total Amount Received This Week	\$1,224.00
Total Amount Paid Out on <i>Restoring</i> ,	\$1,248,726.83
<i>Refreshing, Renewing The Household of God</i>	



- Sunday Youth Groups Chi Rho @ 4; Praise Band @ 5; CYF @ 6.
- Check In every Wednesday night from 6:30-8:30.
- CYF Spring Break Mission Trip to LBCR is March 14-19.
- Chi Rho Cake Auction is March 7 at the All Church Birthday Luncheon after worship. Make sure you are there for this fundraiser for our Mission Trip this summer.
- CYF Sonic Fundraiser is Saturday, March 27.
- No Youth Groups or Check In during Spring Break!

## OTHER YOUTH INFO

### Sunday School Schedule

Children's Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

3 - 5 year olds meet in room 6

K - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade meet in room 5B

3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade meet in room 15B

### Jesus And Me

for children ages 3 to 4 years on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am in room 6B and following the Children's Moment during the 10:45 service

### SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUPS & CHOIRS

- 3:00 - Chancel Ringers (Grades 9-adults) (Stratten Hall)
- 4:00 - Chi Rho Youth Group (Grades 6-8) (Rm A3)
- 4:15 - B.L.A.S.T. Choir (Grades K-5) (Stratten Hall)
- 5:00 - B.L.A.S.T. Youth Group (Grades K-5) (Rm A2)
- 5:00 - Youth Praise Band (Rm A3)
- 6:00 - CYF Youth Group (Grades 9-12) (Rm A3)

### FCC ON FACEBOOK

First Christian Church is now on Facebook. Become a fan of FCC by searching for "First Christian Church, Wichita Falls" on Facebook. Receive updates on upcoming events and sermons. Join our online Facebook community today.

## PANTRY SUNDAY

Pantry Sunday for Interfaith Ministries will be this Sunday, March 7th. Current needs are: peanut butter, jelly, canned meat/fruit/corn/green beans; cereal, oatmeal, saltine crackers, personal items (toothpaste, soap, deodorant).

## SOLDIER SUNDAY

The Military Shepherding committee would like to thank the Sunday school classes and the church members that contributed items and funds for our Yellow Ribbon Service Members during the past year. These donations are used to send care packages every other week to the military members of our church that are deployed to combat zones in Afghanistan and Iraq. These packages are sent on behalf of the congregation, letting each recipient know that they are kept in our prayers and the wish for a safe return home by the grace of God. To better serve the immense generosity bestowed from the congregation, and in cooperation with the Executive Council, the Military Shepherding committee has established the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month as *Soldier Sunday*. There will be collection boxes at the Chapel and Sanctuary narthexes as well as the church office on these Sundays. The first *Soldier Sunday* is March 21<sup>st</sup>. Your donations may be purchased items (our soldiers seem to love anything from the Dollar Tree i.e. candy, chips, hot chocolate, nerf basket balls, gum, crosswords, etc), written correspondence, magazines (used are okay) or monetary contributions which will be used to cover postage costs. Our goal is to make it more convenient for our members who wish to support this ministry. We will continue to mark the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month as Soldier Sunday until these horrible wars have come to an end. Again, thank you for your support of these young Christian servants. Please pray that God will send his angels to watch over and protect them during this period of tribulation.

The Military Shepherding Committee

## IMI VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER

Help honor the Interfaith Ministries, Inc. volunteers from our congregation for their service this past year. Enjoy a meal of chicken fried steak prepared by Monarch Catering. Be entertained by Randi Roanhaus, who will sing a variety of music from gospel to show tunes. Celebrate how this ministry touches families in crises through Volunteer Service.

**Date:** Tuesday, March 23, 2010; **Time:** 6:00 pm (You'll be home before dark); **Place:** Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish Hall, 4060 York St (Notre Dame Elementary, across the street from the new church); **Cost:** IMI Volunteers—no charge, Guests and supports—\$7.00; **RSVP:** Call 322-1365 to make reservations before Friday, March 19.

## CENTRAL AREA ASSEMBLY

Fostering Spiritual Disciplines Within Congregations

Saturday, May 1, 2010; 9:30 am to 2:00 pm

Brook Hollow Christian Church of Abilene TX

Keynote Speaker: Herb Lynskey

Cost: \$15.00 per person

## MEMBER NEWS

♥Hospitalized: at Presbyterian-Dallas: is Corliss Wyatt; at Senior Care Rehab is Paul Irwin in Rm 212A; at Windmill Rehab are Alex McKethan in Rm 1804; Mike Spiller in Rm 1811. Released and back home are Ewell Cason & Jean Druce.

♥Military Deployed: are Ryan Arnold, son of Bobby & Neina Dean; Eric Best, son of Billy & Kathie Best; Zach Harris, son of Phil & Margo Harris; and Jon Hartman, son of Jessica Hartman and Dave & Joanne Hartman. Please keep them in your prayers.

♥Our sympathies are extended to Kaye Holland and Family on learning of the death of her mother, Mary Jane Agnew, on February 25. Services were held on March 1.

♥We also extend our sympathies to Mary Kay Dolberry and Family on learning of the death of her aunt, Pearl Tidwell, on February 27 in Killeen TX.

*We want to be as inclusive as possible with our Member News, so if you know about an honor someone received, an important event in someone's life, or about illness or death, please call the church-692-2282. Thanks!*

## CENTRAL AREA WOMEN'S RETREAT

March 26-28, 2010

Lake Brownwood Christian Retreat

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Tony L. Salisbury

Theme:

Power of Prayer: Disciple Women Creating Space for God

Cost: Weekend Fee—\$80.00; Saturday-only Fee—\$35.00

Deadline to register: March 15

Registration forms available in the church office

## NEW IN THE LIBRARY

Bridgman, John – Actions Speak Louder: 111 Ways to turn up the volume

John Bridgman, First Christian member and author has written his third book. We are very pleased to add it to our library collection. In this new book there are 111 examples of actions to use to make a difference in your own life or the life of another. These actions are gentle reminders that will encourage you to do those little things that show you care. John's book will help you start turning up the volume on your actions.

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

All classes provide an open environment for learning and growth, and welcome singles and couples from all ages. They meet from 9:30-10:30 am on Sunday mornings.

Disciples - Meets in Rm 12, studies lessons from The Present Word.

Discovery - Meets in Rm 18, Biblical topics of discussion vary.

Friends of Jesus - Meets in Scout Hall, class and curriculum geared for our special needs members.

Journey Through Scripture - Meets in the Parlor at 9:45 am, Bible lecture series.

Keystone - Meets in Rm 16, studies lessons from The Present Word.

Open Door - Meets in Rm A2, studies focus on individual books of the Bible.

Searchers - Meets in Rm A1, studies lessons from The Present Word.

Young Adult - Meets in Rm 19, Biblical topics of discussion vary.

## **CHILE EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE**

**We have been listening to the news about the devastation of an earthquake in Chile. The only reason it is not as severe to the residents is that they are a country that has made better preparation for earthquakes, and their infrastructure is better equipped. That does not make their pain any less because their homes are destroyed and their food and water supplies have been blocked. These people are in trouble.**

**After speaking with Dr. Hartman, it has been decided that anyone who is interested in “lending a helping hand” please make a financial contribution to the Week of Compassion because they were there the day after the earthquake occurred. That’s the way the Week of Compassion works. Note on your check – Week of Compassion – Chile disaster relief.**

**Yes, we have recently offered this special offering, which was prior to this disaster. Now First Christian Church is offering another opportunity to give because the city of Concepcion is in chaos – families are living in churches because they’ve lost everything, others are staying in the streets because they fear returning home due to poor structure.**

**Church World Service is on the scene too, and the Red Cross, United Nations and other serving agencies. We are a small part, yet we are an important part because all people are God’s people.**

**Think about it – homeless, no food or water, no transportation, no protection from those who “come to steal, kill and destroy.” That is a hopeless situation. We in Wichita Falls can offer Christ by making a generous offering to the Week of Compassion. For more information, go the Disciples of Christ website: [disciples.org](http://disciples.org). You will read how the Week of Compassion is at work in Chile.**

**May God bless your decision.**

**Dave Brummett & the  
World Outreach Department**