

Mission Link
Central Area of the Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
in the Southwest Region
Abilene, Texas

August – 2008

Requests for Reconciliation Grants

The deadline for requesting funds from the Central Area Reconciliation Grants is November 1. The Reconciliation objective of the Central Area is to find solutions to the problems related to race and poverty concerns in our Area.

Grants from the Reconciliation fund may be made for:

- a. national or multi-regional programs
- b. programs related to Black or Hispanic congregations
- c. experimental programs which, if successful, could be used in other situations
- d. local, area or regional programs where there are insufficient funds available for funding

Grants from the Reconciliation fund are for projects within the Central Area which are sponsored or advocated by at least one member congregation.

Please contact the Central Area office at 325/676-5796 for a copy of the application form. Fay Butler of Wylie Christian Church in Abilene is chairperson for the Church in Society Committee of the Central Area.

CANN: Central Area Neighborhood Network

CANN is a congregational tool designed to keep congregations within our Central Area in contact with each other, the Area minister and staff. CANN is simple, easy to use, and benefits everyone in the Central Area.

Let's think of our Central Area as one large city with 12 neighborhoods. The Central Area has 38 congregations within 12 neighborhoods. Two events have been planned for 2009 to "get CANN started".

On March 29, 2009, each minister in their neighborhood is to exchange pulpits with another minister.

On August 30, 2009 each neighborhood is to gather for a fellowship time at one of the churches in their neighborhood. Each neighborhood does its own planning for their event.

Please note: Peter and Andrew neighborhoods are being asked to exchange their pulpits on March 22.

Here are the neighborhoods:

Peter:

Wichita Falls, FCC
Wichita Falls, PPCC*

Andrew:

Vernon, CCC
Burkburnett, FCC*
Iowa Park, FCC

James:

Henrietta, FCC
Bowie, FCC *
Nocona, FCC

John:

Abilene, FCC
Abilene, BHCC*
Abilene, WCC

Philip:

Eastland, FCC*
Stephenville, FCC

Bartholomew:

Midland, COJ
Midland, FCC
Midland, MCC*
Big Spring, FCC

Justus:

San Angelo, FCC
San Angelo, CHCC*
Mertzon, FCC

Matthew:

Lampasas, CCC
Brady, FCC
Richland Springs, FCC*
Mason, FCC

Thaddaeus:

Jacksboro, MCC
Graham, FCC
Olney, FCC
Archer City, FCC*

Matthias:

Coleman, UC&P*
Brownwood, FCC
Ballinger, FCC

Thomas:

Snyder, FCC
Colorado City, FCC
Sweetwater, FCC*

Simon:

Albany, FCC*
Breckenridge, FCC
Woodson, FCC

In each neighborhood, there is one church marked with an asterisk (*). This congregation is asked to provide initial leadership for March 29 and August 30.

Bryce Kennedy Memorial/"Shattered Clays for Shattered Dreams"

My name is Don Kennedy, and on October 1, 2006 my son, Bryce Kennedy, was killed in an alcohol related accident. He was 19 years old and in the prime of his life. I was recently asked to be a guest speaker at the Hawley ISD Shattered Dreams Program to share my family's story with their students.

Shattered Dreams is a collaborative program of Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for high school youth regarding chances, choices, and the consequences of drinking and driving. The program includes both drama and real-life scenarios related to an alcohol-related tragedy. Shattered Dreams requires a great deal of effort and organization, and encourages parents and the community to become involved in positive youth decision-making about not drinking and never drinking and driving.

The approximate cost for the program, which must be funded by school funds, is approximately \$2,000.00. The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission offers mini grants of up to \$1000.00 but only thirty are available each year in Texas.

Shattered Clays for Shattered Dreams will be held on October 11, 2008 at Abilene Clay Sports. Several sponsorship opportunities from \$50.00 to \$5,000.00 are available as well as event participation.

Call me at 325.691.0758 or 325.280.4008 for more information. Or contact me at Brycekennedymemorial@yahoo.com to shoot clays to raise money for Shattered Dreams.

Oklahoma Church Sends Bibles to Soldiers Overseas

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Jenks, Oklahoma is making a major effort to help provide Bibles to U.S. soldiers serving overseas. The congregation recently presented Mardel Christian Book Stores with a check for the cost of five cases containing a total of 160 Bibles. Each case cost \$124.99 and contains 32 Bibles. The program, called “Operation Worship Bible” puts Bibles into the hands of soldiers who are stationed far away from family and friends.

Members of the congregation will sign the Bibles and write notes to the troops that will accompany the books. After those books are returned to Mardel, the Oklahoma City-based book chain will ship them to soldiers overseas at no charge to First Christian. In addition, each soldier who receives one of the Bibles can choose to have another Bible sent to a family member, without charge. To learn more about First Christian in Jenks, go to: www.fccjenksok.com.



Date: October 16 – 19, 2008
Location: Fort Worth, Texas
Information: www.ccsw.org