

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

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**September – 2008**

**October – The Month of the Ministry**

Plan now for your Month of the Ministry celebration. The Month of the Ministry Guide is designed to help your congregation make this month long celebration unique and creative. The Month of the Ministry Guide and Order Card can be downloaded from our web site at [www.pensionfund.org](http://www.pensionfund.org). All materials are free.

**Reconciliation Grants**

The deadline for requesting funds from the Central Area Reconciliation funds is November 1.

Grants from the Reconciliation fund may be made for:

- National or multi-regional programs
- Programs related to black or Hispanic congregations
- Experimental programs which, if successful, could be used in other situations
- Local, area, or regional programs where there are insufficient funds available for funding
- Grants from the Central Area Reconciliation fund are for projects within the Area which are sponsored or advocated by at least one member congregation

Request forms from [cea@ccsw.org](mailto:cea@ccsw.org)

Fay Butler, Chair for Church in Society Committee

**Bean Month**

October is designated for Bean Month. Annually, Central Area congregations are raising \$5,500 to purchase 11 tons of pinto beans for the Good Samaritan Refugee Center in Los Fresnos. The churches are encouraged to have fun planning a fund raiser in October. Only monetary gifts can be accepted.

Fund raising ideas:

- Beans & Fellowship Dinner-serve pinto beans & cornbread; decorate your tables with newspapers for placemats, mason jars filled with dried beans and sunflowers; freewill offering for Bean Month.
- Bean-Walk or Bean-Jump to raise money. Sponsors could commit to a flat fee or an amount per mile.
- Piggy Banks-take out 2008 pennies as your gift to Bean Month.

- Bean Cook-Off-Competition would include any dish containing beans-have a fellowship dinner with entries being judged and then the entries become the main dish for the dinner. Those not participating in the cook off would bring the side dishes. Participants would pay a fee to enter the cook off (secure a prize for the winner from a local business) and everyone else would give a free will offering.

**Stewardship Campaign for Central Area**

*Never Give Up* is the Central Area motto for this year’s Stewardship Campaign. We are asking all of the 38 congregations in the Central Area to increase their annual giving for the year of 2009. The cost of everything is going higher and higher. We know this is true for your congregation.

As congregations across the Central Area are planning their budgets for 2009 please consider a 3% increase to the Central Area. Materials have been mailed to every congregation this week. Thank you for all that you do.

**2009 Summer Camp Dates and Rates**

The Covenant Youth Committee met in September to evaluate the 2008 summer camps and make decisions for the upcoming 2009 events.

Rates at Lake Brownwood Christian Retreat will be increased, but the committee and camp directors put their pencil to the budget. Thanks to a generous gift from a member of First Christian Church in Stephenville, we are able to reduce every camper’s fee for the next three years in the amount of \$16.79 per camper. Following is the 2009 Summer Camp schedule:

CYF Conference	June 7-13	\$320 per camper
JYF Camp	July 12-16	\$255 per camper
Chi Rho Camp	July 12-17	\$279 per camper
New Beginnings Camp	July 17-19	\$88 per person
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Youth Conference	June 14-20	Fee not available

**Pre-Assembly Pastor’s Gathering**

Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup>

10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Check-in starts at 10:00

Brown Lupton University Union – Texas Christian University

Join us as we talk seriously about how God is leading all of us to a transformed future! The *New Day, New Direction* Task Force will be leading us through the day with conversation, worship, Bible study, and prayer. Launching the Visioning phase of our Regional transformation process, your input, ideas, and feedback – in conversation with your colleagues in ministry – will be an invaluable resource for both the Region and for the congregation you serve!

Register now at [www.ccsw.org](http://www.ccsw.org)

## **RIDE FOR THE REFUGEE**

It is quickly approaching time to roll with the RIDE FOR THE REFUGEE 08! This benefits the Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries in the Valley. We still need your help. We are rolling with over a dozen riders and two semi trucks with trailers this year.

- We need money for gas
- We need supplies for SWGSM
- We need you to participate in the ride itself

This year's dates are **October 1<sup>st</sup> – October 4<sup>th</sup>**. Please check out the website <http://www.fccpampa.org/RideForTheRefugee/RFTRMain.html> - I know the dates are the same as last years but you can still read about the ride and register to go with us and see the list of supplies needed for SWGSM.

Call if you have any questions – Barry Loving – 806.669.3225