

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

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**October – 2007**

**Leadership Training – Fall Session:**

Date: October 27, 2007

Place: First Christian Church – Brownwood, Texas

**Growing & Cultivating Leaders: A Net Results Workshop led by Judy Turner**

An interactive learning experience for layperson and clergy who

- Desire their congregations to produce more and better equipped leaders for God's service
- Want to grow as spiritual leaders

**Sessions will include:**

- **Visioning & Venturing:** Discovering your personal mission and the courage to fulfill your calling.
- **Pointers for Prayer:** Refreshing, powerful prayer practices for ongoing growth in God.
- **Motivating, Mobilizing, & Mentoring:** Gaining skills in inviting others, working with others, helping others develop their leadership abilities.
- **Encouraging:** Assessing whether your congregation encourages or discourages leader development and exploring ways to raise the level of encouragement.
- **Equipping:** Learning various approaches to training leaders, taking into account individual differences in leaders, and making the most of the congregation's resources.
- **Empowering:** Looking at models for congregational structure and processes that facilitate the ongoing development of leaders.

**Judy Turner** has a personal mission of developing spiritual leaders for the body of Christ. While serving three congregations, she was effective in helping others discover and use their spiritual gifts and in creating a congregational environment that produced leaders. As a nationwide church consultant and resource person, she has helped many congregations encourage, equip, and empower leaders. She is one of the founders of Christview Ministries, which helps people encounter God through the Scriptures, open their lives to the Holy Spirit through prayer, and become effective for Christ through mission.

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**Registration Form**  
**Spring Leadership Training – Brownwood, Texas**

**Name:**

**Address/City/Zip:**

**Phone:**

**No. of adults being registered:** \_\_\_\_\_ x **\$25.00 each** = \_\_\_\_\_

**No. needing childcare:** \_\_\_\_\_ x **\$10.00 each** = \_\_\_\_\_

**Childcare – Names & Ages:**

**Total enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Include check with this form and mail to: Central Area, 1420 N. 3<sup>rd</sup>, Abilene 79601 by October 15

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**Rachel Event**

WHO IS A RACHEL? A Rachel is the wife of a Disciples of Christ minister. This includes the wives of ministerial students, licensed and ordained ministers, plus retired ministers.

ARE YOU A RACHEL? Then plan to attend the Rachel Event on:

When: November 2-4, 2007

Where: Lake Brownwood Christian Retreat

Who: The entire Southwest Region

How: Go online at [www.ccsw.org](http://www.ccsw.org) to download a copy of the registration form

Deadline: October 17, 2007

Theme: “Come to the Well”

Keynoter Speaker: Laurie Feille

**Reconciliation Ministry Offering comes back**

The Reconciliation Ministry Offering gives Disciples a great opportunity to participate in helping their congregations and regions in the important work of racial justice and reconciliation.

Central Area Reconciliation Grants totaling \$3,000.00 were awarded to:

Breakfast on Beech Street, Inc. – Abilene, Texas and

Memorial Christian Church Food Pantry – Midland, Texas

Thank You Note: “On behalf of the Board of Directors of B.O.B.S., I want to thank you for the most generous Reconciliation Grant. This grant will work wonders toward helping

the board and volunteers accomplish our important mission to serve breakfast and lunch to hungry people in Abilene each work day morning. We are most grateful.

Sincerely, Gail Kaiser

### **Chi Rho Fall Rally**

Who: 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders

When: November 2-4, 2007

Where: Lake Brownwood Christian Retreat

How: See your church office for forms and deadlines

Cost: \$75.00 per person

### **CYF Fall Rally**

Who: 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders

When: November 16-18, 2007

Where: Lake Brownwood Christian Retreat

How: See your church office for forms and deadline

Cost: \$75.00 per person

### **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.

Monetary gifts only.

## Fund Raising Ideas for: Bean Month

- Sponsor a "Beans and Fellowship Dinner"  
You will serve pinto beans and cornbread  
Decorate your tables with newspapers for placemats, mason jars filled with dried beans, and insert dried sunflowers  
Freewill offering will be taken for Central Area Bean Month Project  
Tag on idea: Each person can bring a bag of purchased dried beans to be taken to your local food bank
- Have a bean display in the foyer of the church advertising a special offering for one Sunday or all Sundays of October
- Youth could do a Bean-Walk or Bean-Jump to raise money - sponsors could commit to a flat fee or a certain amount per each mile walked
- Raid your piggy banks - take out 2007 pennies as your gift to Bean Month

- Bingo night - using dried beans as your markers - money will be raised by selling Bingo cards - small gifts could be won by those participating - gifts could be sought from local businesses
- 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 - take a freewill offering. Those not participating in the cook off would bring the side dishes. People would also pay an entry fee for the cook off. You could secure a prize for the winner from a local business.
- Competitions for most money raised between groups (i.e., Sunday School classes/Mens and Womens groups)
- Auction - get items donated by businesses or members and then auction them off at a fellowship dinner with one of the above themes
- ONE SPECIAL EVENT - an auction wherein the highest bidder (minimum bid of \$500) will get the Area Minister to preach in their congregation wearing his Bean Suit Costume. We will receive these silent auction bids by e-mail to [cea@ccsw.org](mailto:cea@ccsw.org). Please note the amount of this bid is in addition to the funds raised and donated by your congregation.

### **Stewardship Resources made available by Church Finance Council**

The Church Finance Council in conjunction with the Blue Ribbon Task Force for Stewardship has prepared three weeks of stewardship resources centering on the General Assembly Theme, "Share the Feast." The stewardship resources were made available in response to requests to Communication Ministries from Disciples and congregations around the theme "Share the Feast" following the General Assembly in Fort Worth.

The material contains worship resources, scripture lessons, prayers, themes, offertory statements and inspiring anecdotal stories. Read more at:

[www.disciples.org/dns/Releases2007/07138.html](http://www.disciples.org/dns/Releases2007/07138.html). Stewardship resources are now available on the CFC website at:

[www.churchfinancecouncil.org/Stewardship/StewardshipResources/tabid/520/Default.aspx](http://www.churchfinancecouncil.org/Stewardship/StewardshipResources/tabid/520/Default.aspx)

### **Churchwide Health Care Program Rates available**

The Christian Church Health Care Benefit Trust has announced the health care plans and rate tables for the Churchwide Health Care program for 2008. Active employees and eligible participants under age 65 will continue to have three plan options. For more, see: [www.disciples.org/dns/Releases2007/07142.html](http://www.disciples.org/dns/Releases2007/07142.html)

### **13<sup>th</sup> Check Offering best in 22 years**

Disciples gave generously to the “Thirteenth Check” offering at the 2007 General Assembly. The offering taken at the Assembly was \$51,000, and when added to contributions received at the Pension Fund office, totaled \$105,000. The fund supports the Disciples Ministerial Relief Fund to help retired and widowed Disciples.