

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

November – 2007

Leadership Training

Brook Hollow Christian Church in Abilene will be hosting the Central Area Leadership Training on January 19, 2008. The theme is **Developing Bold Leaders for the Present Day Church** – 10 Learning Tracks will be offered.

CYF Mid-Winter Rally

Students in the 9th through the 12th grades will gather at Lake Brownwood Christian Retreat for Mid-Winter Rally. The dates are January 11-13, 2008. The theme is “Getting Connected – grow” and the director is Donna Russell of San Angelo. CYF is using the metaphor of improving cellular service, they will study how to get more connected with God and become more like the person God originally intended us to be. Scripture text for this rally is John 15:5 and 1 Corinthians 13:11 with theological emphasis: Learning from experience.

2008 Yearbook

Central Area Calendar of Events for 2008 is available. Let us know if you need one.

Bean Month Report

As of this printing, we have received \$1,851.56 from six Central Area congregations to be used for the purchase of beans for the Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries in Los Fresnos, Texas. Thank you to everyone who participated.

Some of this past summer volunteer ministries at SWGSM included:

- Puerto Rican Group for Bible schools in 3 locations, Christian concerts, and a medical team
- Building projects for people from the Iglesia Ebenezer of Los Fresnos including fences, porches, houses, plumbing, and electrical
- Two medical teams provided medicine, health clinics and check-ups

- Optometrist team provided eye check-ups and over 400 pairs of prescription glasses and sunglasses
- Food distributions
- Outreach and building projects

Goals and upcoming projects include:

- Build 30 casitas
- School uniforms, tuition and internet access for Casa Bethel
- Support high school graduates with college tuition at Casa Bethel
- Continued volunteer support with housing projects
- Outreach to other congregations
- Enlightening Disciples around the U.S. of Southwest Good Samaritan ministries and gaining more support
- Two new buildings at the Bayview facilities – educational & storage
- Expand refugee ministries in education and health programming
- Start Saturday evening English services
- Increase operating funds and support to make all of the goals possible

For more information about Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries, please visit their website at www.swgsm.org.

Live in Concert

Blackwood Legacy featuring Rick Price, Gospel Music Hall of Fame member and former lead singer for the legendary Blackwood Brothers Quartet will perform on:

Thursday – December 13 at 7:00 p.m.

Brook Hollow Christian Church in Abilene

Admission is free – a love offering will be received

Pre-concert BBQ dinner beginning at 5:00 p.m. - \$7.00

Dinner requires a reservation/payment in advance–

call 325/692-4446

Thank You Notes

From Memorial Christian Church in Midland: Our new awning has been installed this week at the Memorial Christian Church Food Pantry in Midland...a number of our Food Pantry clients thanked us for the shelter, which will be welcome during hot summer days, plus the days when it might

be raining or snowing...Please express our thanks to members of the Grant Committee for Reconciliation Gifts.

From Dani Cartwright: Dear Church Family of the Central Area, Thank you so much for the beautiful arrangement that you sent to my brother's service. It stood in testimony to God's love and beauty...Thanks, too, for your continuous prayer support and care through this difficult part of Blair's journey.

From Dr. Sharon E. Watkins

In this season of giving thanks, the Office of the General Minister and President wishes to express our gratitude and thanksgiving for your partnership, your prayers, and the call of God upon our lives.

May you find time in the holy days ahead to give thanks for the many wonders and blessings of God.

Disciples Descend on Texas to Help Build Homes

Week of Compassion, the relief, refugee, and the development ministry fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), donated a \$100,000 challenge grant on November 12 to Habitat for Humanity of Jefferson County, Texas to pay, in part, for five homes. That week, WOC partnered with Habitat, and the Office of Disciples Volunteering on the second annual "2 homes in 2 weeks blitz build" project in Beaumont, Texas. To get more information, see: www.disciples.org/dns/Releases2007/07178.html

New Churches

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is continuing to add new church starts at a rapid pace. New Church Ministry reports that 96 new congregations have joined the Church since the beginning of 2007.

"God is doing great things," commented Church Extension President James L. Powell. "This is an excellent opportunity for Disciples. We celebrate because it represents 96 additional mission fields opening doors to serve communities around the nation." Thirty-three new churches have joined the Church just since the General Assembly in July. To get more details, see: www.disciples.org/dns.Releases2007/07160.pdf.

