

# **Mission Link**

**Central Area of the Christian Church**

**(Disciples of Christ)**

**in the Southwest Region**

**Abilene, Texas**

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**March – 2009**

## **Central Area Assembly**

**WHAT:** “Won’t You Be My Neighbor? – Mister Rogers Neighborhood”

**WHEN:** May 2, 2009

**WHERE:** First Christian Church

1420 North Third – Abilene

**WHY:** To grow the Central Area Neighborhood Network (CANN)

Neighborhood fellowship

Annual business meeting

Share input about future programming

**WHO:** All Central Area congregations – every neighborhood needs to be represented. Our recent “neighborhood” activity – CANN Pulpit Exchange – was a success and we want you to have another opportunity to grow in fellowship with your neighborhood congregations. And don’t forget to bring your youth, this could be the beginning of some really great combined youth gatherings in your neighborhood.

**WHICH:** Neighborhood can bring the most people?????

**W-COST:** \$12.00 per person \$7.00 per child for childcare

You may go to [www.central-area.org/Events.htm](http://www.central-area.org/Events.htm) to get a registration form.



### **PENSION FUND BOARD FORGOES SPECIAL APPORTIONMENT AND GOOD EXPERIENCE CREDIT**

The Board of Directors of the Pension Fund of the Christian Church elected not to approve a Special Apportionment for Pension Plan accounts or Good Experience Credits for Tax Deferred Retirement and Benefit Accumulation accounts at its regular meeting in Indianapolis, Feb. 25 - 27. Citing negative returns in 2008, Richard Cohee, Senior Vice President, Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer, reported to the Board that policies governing such decisions precluded awarding Special Apportionment or Good Experience Credits at this time.

Consistent with the Pension Fund's stated core values of "trust, security and compassion," directors affirmed the decision to make no change in monthly pensions or pension credits as a result of the current downturn. Tax Deferred Retirement and Benefit Accumulation Accounts remain fully valued and continue to earn a base rate of 4% through June 30. A decision regarding the base rate after June 30 will be made by the directors at their regular June meeting. To read more, visit: [www.disciples.org/Portals/0/PDF/DNS/2009/20090311-PensionFund.pdf](http://www.disciples.org/Portals/0/PDF/DNS/2009/20090311-PensionFund.pdf)

### **OUTSTANDING MUSICIANS AND PERFORMERS TO LEAD WORSHIP AT 2009 GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The 2009 General Assembly in Indianapolis is shaping up to be a worshipful extravaganza. With the Assembly theme "...for the healing of the nations" (Rev. 22:2) as a backdrop, worship during the Assembly will be led by a well-known cast of musicians, singers and performers, most of whom happen to also be Disciples. Musician, actor and Disciples minister Bill Thomas is the director of music and worship band leader for the Assembly, July 29 - Aug. 2, which will take place at the newly expanded Indiana Convention Center.

Assembly worship gatherings will feature noted musical artists such as singer, songwriter and guitarist Andra Moran, nationally-known folk singer and guitarist Carrie Newcomer, actor, guitarist and vocalist Drew Powell, and the internationally-acclaimed Indianapolis Children's Choir, among others. "The music that we are producing now for the General Assembly is so exciting to me because we have a chance to bring together all of our cultures," said Thomas. For more about Thomas and Assembly worship, go to:

[www.disciples.org/tabid/58/itemid/211/Disciples-Minister-Musician.aspx](http://www.disciples.org/tabid/58/itemid/211/Disciples-Minister-Musician.aspx)

### **COSTS FOR ASSEMBLY ELDERS CONFERENCE REDUCED; ALL ARE INVITED**

Church elders will want to take advantage of the Elders Conference pre-assembly event that takes place 8:30 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, July 29 at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis. "Tending to God's Flock" will be the theme for the conference which will feature Martha Grace Reese, author of "Unbinding the Gospel: Real Life Evangelism." Reese and Russ White, president of Christian Board of Publication, will facilitate a plenary session on Spiritual Leadership that offers elders methods for "tending" to their own internal preparation as leaders in their faith communities. Workshops also will be held.



Felicia Lewis

The price has been reduced for this year's conference from \$65 to \$35. So don't miss out. Sign up today by going to: [www.disciples.org/ga](http://www.disciples.org/ga)

The 2009 General Assembly will start at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, July 29 at the convention center.

### **JARVIS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE NAMES DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT**

Jarvis Christian College's Office of Institutional Advancement and Development has selected Felicia Lewis as its director of development. Lewis is a native of St Louis, Mo., where she has worked in pharmaceutical sales. Jarvis is associated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and located in Hawkins, Texas.

Lewis received her bachelor's degree in communications/journalism from Xavier University. She plans to build relationships with corporate donors, foundations and friends of Jarvis in furthering the college's mission. To learn more about Jarvis College, visit: [www.jarvis.edu](http://www.jarvis.edu)

### **Young Adults**

#### **Design the logo**

Calling all young adults!

The new Disciples Young Adult Web site will be live shortly. This Web site will be filled with lots of useful information, but we need a logo to put on that Web site.

If you are an active young adult in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), put your right brain to work and see what kind of great logo you can design that the young adults of our denomination can use.

Entry deadline is April 27, 2009. Submit your logo creation to Eli Rolon at [er.jeong@yahoo.com](mailto:er.jeong@yahoo.com).

**[Find out more about Disciples](#)**

## Earth Sunday

### Resources now available

Earth Stewardship Sunday materials are available for the April 26 celebration. This year's theme is Celebrating and Caring For God's Creation.

[Visit the NCCC Web site to download resources](#)



#### **SUPPORT THE 2009 EASTER SPECIAL OFFERING**

The Easter Special Offering which supports the worldwide mission of the church, will be received in most congregations on April 5 and April 12. "Go Light Your World" is the theme for this year's Easter Special Offering. As a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is often a beacon of light in the darkest of times. The Easter Special Offering supports the General ministries of the church as they serve as a beacon of light in providing service and assistance both at home and abroad on behalf of the whole church. As we anticipate celebrating Easter, we ask that you give generously to the offering.

For more information go to: [www.disciplesmissionfund.org](http://www.disciplesmissionfund.org) and click on "2009 Easter Special Offering."