



# The Chalice



*Linking Congregations in Partnership, Sharing the Life, Hope and Message of Jesus Christ*

Vol. 14 No. 5

Bluebonnet Area/Lower Rio Grande Valley District of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest Region

May 2009

Please join us at the . . .

## 2009 Area Assembly May 1-2, 2009

"Disciples using treasures old and new"



Hyde Park Christian Church  
610 East 45<sup>th</sup> St  
Austin, Texas 78751



Featuring D. Newell Williams, President and Professor of Modern and American Church History, Brite Divinity School as our Keynote Speaker

This information is also available in Spanish. To request it, contact the BBA Office at (210) 822-4345 or [bba@ccsw.org](mailto:bba@ccsw.org).

Esta informacion tambien esta disponible en Espanol. Para pedirlo, comuniquese con la Oficina del BBA al (210) 822-4345 o a [bba@ccsw.org](mailto:bba@ccsw.org).

# Bluebonnet Area

Office (210) 822-4345 / Fax (210) 785-0830  
 E-Mail: [bba@ccsw.org](mailto:bba@ccsw.org)  
[www.bluebonnetarea.org](http://www.bluebonnetarea.org)

|                         |
|-------------------------|
|                         |
| Last<br>Name<br>Initial |

## BBA/LRGVD AREA ASSEMBLY

May 1-2, 2009

Hyde Park Christian Church  
 610 East 45<sup>th</sup> St  
 Austin, Texas 78751

### Registration Form

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name First Name

**SPOUSE'S NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address City Zip Code

**PHONE NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_ **EMAIL ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CONGREGATION:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CHILDREN:**

| Name | Age | Grade | Name | Age | Grade |
|------|-----|-------|------|-----|-------|
|      |     |       |      |     |       |
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**Any special needs** \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Fees (check all the apply):**

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual \$35.00                      \_\_\_\_\_ Individual Late fee \$40.00 (**applies if registering after April 17th**)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Family \$60.00                      \_\_\_\_\_ Family Late fee \$70 (**applies if registering after April 17th**)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Donation: I am unable to attend, but want to support the Area Assembly with my donation \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount

**Mail registration form and check to:** Bluebonnet Area of the Christian Church  
 1744 W Gramercy Place  
 San Antonio, Texas 78201

| FOR OFFICE USE ONLY: |                  |                    |                     |
|----------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Check # _____        | Check Date _____ | Check Amount _____ | Date Received _____ |

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## 2009 Area Assembly Events

### Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>



Mission work at *Bethany Christian Church* from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Bring your gloves, tools and a mission spirit.



### Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>

An Invitation for Breakfast at the Area Assembly

All *women* attending Area Assembly at Hyde Park are invited to gather for a breakfast meeting Saturday, May 2, at 7:45 AM. Information about the fall retreat will be shared.

See you there!

Marilyn Petrick, Coordinator

BBA/LRGVD Disciples Women's Ministries

### Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>

Chi Rho through College Age Rally

9:45—10:30 a.m.

*\*Ice Breakers & Energizers*

*\*Issue:* What does your music do to or for you? Please bring your favorite song. There will be a pow wow about music, defend your stance.

*\*Wide Game:* This is a strategic game that allows the whole group to participate, no matter what your physical limitations.

1:15—2:30 p.m.

*Worship Prep:* We will prepare a drama or litany or music selection for the closing worship.





## **2009 BBA Youth Summer Camps**

### **CYF Conference (completed 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade)**

June 7-13, 2009

Early registration fee: **\$280 (before May 7<sup>th</sup>)**

Late fee: \$320 (after May 7<sup>th</sup>)

### **Eighter's Camp (completed 8<sup>th</sup> grade)**

June 21-27, 2009

Early registration fee: **\$280 (before May 21<sup>st</sup>)**

Late fee: \$320 (after May 21<sup>st</sup>)

### **Junior Camp (completed 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grades)**

July 6-11, 2009

Early registration fee: **\$250 (before June 6<sup>th</sup>)**

Late fee: \$290 (after June 6<sup>th</sup>)

### **Chi Rho Camp (completed 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grades)**

July 12-18, 2009

Early registration fee: **\$280 (before June 12<sup>th</sup>)**

Late fee: \$320 (after June 12<sup>th</sup>)

### **Beginner's Camp (completed 2<sup>rd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> grades)**

July 20-23, 2009

Early registration fee: **\$165 (before June 20<sup>th</sup>)**

Late fee: \$205 (after June 20<sup>th</sup>)





## Disciple Oaks Retreat Center Launches e-Newsletter: The Leaflet

The Disciple Oaks Retreat Center board of directors and staff are pleased to announce the sprouting of The Leaflet, a monthly e-newsletter, which launched in mid-March.

Each month, we plan to share news on camp and retreat events, community opportunities, a word from our Program Manager (Dale Fowler), camp-related fun, and ways to connect with others who share interest in Disciple Oaks (or "Gonzo," to some of you...).

If you'd like to view the newsletter and/or join our mailing list, please visit [www.DiscipleOaksRetreat.net](http://www.DiscipleOaksRetreat.net). There are links at the bottom of the homepage to view the newsletter and to join the list.

For those of you who participate in Facebook.com, we now have a "Disciple Oaks Retreat Center" group. Please join us there to also view the newsletter, find opportunities or "talk" to other Disciple Oaks/Gonzo devotees.

To help us build and engage community, we encourage you to extend our branches by sharing/forwarding the newsletter with others. We look forward to growing in God's love with you and sharing our ministry and resources with many more! Remember, we're YOUR camp and retreat center.

Growing together in God's love,

*Lynette Alcorn*, Leaflet Editor & Board of Directors Member  
Disciple Oaks Retreat Center, Gonzales, Texas



## It's a Whole New Day for CYLS Doing Things a Whole New Way!!!!



The mission of the Southwest Regional Youth Ministry Council of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest is to empower youth as servant-leaders through Jesus the Christ. In achieving our mission, one of the goals is to open Christian youth Leadership Seminar (CYLS) to ALL our youth, not just those who serve their Area councils. As many of you know the RYMC has struggled to find a balance between meeting the needs of ALL our youth and providing time for each Area council to plan for their events.

Prior attempts to open CYLS to all youth have left the non-council members feeling excluded. After much brainstorming and discussion, this year's RYMC decided to "step out of the box" and make change happen.

The RYMC has developed a new and innovative program that we believe will be the solution.

The changes are as follows:

1. CYLS will be held from Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00pm through Wednesday, July 1<sup>st</sup> at noon. The cost will be \$200.00 per camper and will be open to all youth who have completed grades 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>.
2. During CYLS the focus will be on youth leadership and building unity in our community. There will be no Area planning time.
3. Area councils will be given the choice of leaving Wednesday at noon or, for an additional \$75.00 staying through Friday at noon for un-interrupted planning time. The additional fee is for lodging, use of camp facilities and meals. Each Area is responsible for their non council members should they choose to stay.
4. All Areas will need to make their choice to stay or leave by the time they register.

When we looked at Area planning time on prior schedules, the Areas received 13-14 disjointed hours of planning during the week. With this new schedule, they have the opportunity to utilize 2 full days of un-interrupted planning. This also frees the RYMC to focus on preparing a dynamic camp that serves the needs for all our youth.

We realize that these changes may come as a surprise to many of you but we ask that you support us as we try something new. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding these changes.

We are excited and ready to serve our Region's youth through this year's CYLS.

In service to Christ

Lydia Clemmons  
RYMC – Moderator  
Cell (512) 415-7847

## Search and Call

### Limits established

At its February General Commission on Ministry (GCOM) meeting, GCOM established new limits regarding how often clergy may update their forms in the Search and Call system. Unless an update is for critical contact or ministry position listings, clergy will be limited to updating their profiles to no more than every three months. For this reason, it is recommended clergy take extra care when completing their profiles and choosing references before final circulation, to ensure informational accuracy and desired quality. If you have further questions about these new guidelines, contact the Rev. Warren Lynn at [wlynn@dhm.disciples.org](mailto:wlynn@dhm.disciples.org) or (888) 346-2631.

### Disciples Women

#### 2009 – 2010 Quadrennial Service Project Human Trafficking: Breaking the chains of modern-day slavery

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery in which people, mostly women, very young girls and children, are abducted and/or forced to labor for someone else against their wishes. Often they are deceived into believing the situations will improve their lives, when in reality they are being forced into servitude. Human trafficking includes buying, selling and moving people from one location to another against their will, and it constitutes a grave violation of human rights. This trafficking occurs in unregulated and unprotected areas all over the world, including the United States of America.

Domestic and international criminals have made trafficking, smuggling, and sex slavery a booming businesses that can reach every community throughout our country.



#### Join Disciples Women in breaking the chains of human trafficking from January 2009 through June 2010

Disciples Women Should:

Set goals for participation (monetary and volunteer hours), educate themselves about human trafficking, notify their regional women's staff of their goals, efforts, successes and progress

Disciples Women Can:

Write letters, volunteer at a local agency, become educated through books and movies, invite a speaker to your church, and raise funds to support those who are attempting to break these chains of slavery

Disciples Women Will:

Lift up this human tragedy during our 2010 Quadrennial Assembly and celebrate our progress in helping alleviate this human injustice.

### Disciples Coffee Project

#### Take a sip on the mild side (of coffee that is)

You drank a lot of fair trade coffee in 2008 ... and if you didn't, you've not only missed out on some great-tasting coffee, but you've missed an opportunity to support small-scale coffee farmers.



The following is an excerpt from a report issued by Equal Exchange on Disciples participation in the Inter-faith Coffee project in 2008, our first full year:

"Last year, despite the national economic downturn, the volume of fairly traded products purchased by Disciples of Christ Coffee Project participants grew 93 percent to 6,608 pounds (3.3 tons) of fairly traded coffee, tea, cocoa, sugar and snack products. 117 new congregations joined the Project in 2008, bringing the total number of congregations that have participated since we began tracking in 2007 to 201. ... Since we launched the Project in early 2008, Equal Exchange has contributed \$991.20 to Disciples Home Missions and Week of Compassion ... for the Disciples Hunger Relief and Food Security Fund.

To find out how you can be part of a growing movement to support fair wages to farmers, visit the Disciples of Christ Coffee Project Web site at [equalexchange.coop](http://equalexchange.coop).

## Refugee and Immigration Ministries

### "No" to Immigration Apprehension during Worship Service

RIM Speaks Out Against Immigration Apprehension during Worship Service



Disciples Refugee and Immigration Ministries (RIM) has joined with other denominations through Church World Service (CWS) to speak out against the arrest of Jose Juan Hernandez, an undocumented immigrant, during a church service in Montgomery, Texas. The report of the incident can be found in the Houston Chronicle at [www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/front/6270209.html](http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/front/6270209.html). The CWS statement included the following comment:

" The U.S. Constitution provides for the free exercise of religion. Arresting undocumented immigrants while they worship in church violates the spirit of this guarantee and creates a chilling effect on their constitutional right to worship. This arrest has sent shock-waves not only through immigrant communities but through entire congregations across the country. We know of many undocumented immigrants who manage to overcome their fear of deportation in order to worship in the community of fellow believers. Now, many congregations fear that this freedom to worship together is threatened and that the peace and safety of their sanctuaries has been—and will continue to be—breached at will."

It also called on the President to:

- Make public the current "informal" ICE guidelines that have allowed agents to make arrests at churches under specific circumstances;
- Revise these guidelines to prohibit the arrests of undocumented persons in churches and schools unless there is a direct and clear threat to community safety; and
- Work with Congress to pass immigration reform that unites families, provides a pathway for undocumented immigrants to earn legal status and eventual citizenship, and respects the God-given dignity of all persons.

Dear Friends,

I am pleased that the Council on Christian Unity will be joining the Disciples of Christ Historical Society in offering a special dinner celebration on Saturday, August 1, here in Indianapolis during the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The **Rev. Dr. Michael Kinnamon**, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA, will be our featured speaker as we celebrate the bicentennial of our movement and anticipate next year's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Council on Christian Unity. The theme of the dinner, which also represents the 25<sup>th</sup> Peter Ainslie Lecture on Christian Unity, will be "***Celebrating our History as a Movement for Unity: Our Call and Declaration.***"

Tickets for the dinner are \$26.00 per person, and can be purchased on the Disciples website at [www.disciples.org/ga](http://www.disciples.org/ga) (click on "Meal tickets") or by contacting the Council on Christian Unity (see attached flyer for details).

I look forward to seeing many of you at this special dinner event!

With best wishes,

Robert Welsh

Moments in

# Disciples History



## Locking out the Spirit

By that evening, the two North American missionaries had had all they could take. After years of patient teaching, why could these people not see that 'order' was the Disciples' way? So the missionaries walked into the service, ordered the congregation out, and prepared to install a lock on the church door.

Not until decades after that night in 1935 would it become clear that the missionaries could lock a door, but could not lock out the Spirit.

The missionaries were Vere C. Carpenter and C. Manley Morton, and the church, Calle Comerío Christian in Bayamón, Puerto Rico. Carpenter had arrived on the island in 1906 and Morton in 1923. Both missionary families followed the first North American Disciples sent to the island in 1899, shortly after the U.S. defeat of Spain in the 1898 Spanish-American War.

Early Disciple missionaries on the island established orphanages to address the social ills they encountered, but leaders then shifted their emphasis to evangelism. By the time Puerto Rico found itself facing the Great Depression, Disciple membership was at more than 1,500 believers.

And then the trouble started - trouble, that is, from the North American perspective. The missionaries dubbed it a "pentecostal movement." For the Puerto Rican Disciples, it was "Avivamiento" - a revival.

Puerto Rican pastor Joaquín Vargas, in his classic history, *Los Discípulos de Cristo en Puerto Rico*, described the beginnings of what would become a sweeping renewal movement.

In December 1932, a lay leader of the Calle Comerío church decided to hold a noontime prayer session. The meeting touched a spiritual nerve. Though Puerto Rican Disciples interpreted the stirrings as God's presence, their North American counterparts viewed it as a rejection of Disciple tradition. Missionary Morton urged the United Christian Missionary Society in a 1934 letter to tighten control because of the "departure from the traditional and scriptural position which the Disciples have always occupied."

Tensions mounting, Morton and Carpenter interrupted the evening service at Calle Comerío. Seeing their orders ignored, they headed off to find the police. But a judge who taught Sunday school at another Disciples congregation refused to let authorities break up the service. Eventually, dialogue triumphed over drawn lines and ultimatums.

Reflecting near the end of his life decades after the Avivamiento, Morton saw the tumultuous events of the 1930s in a different light. "That the Disciples of Christ in Puerto Rico could undergo that experience as a united people is a modern-day miracle," Morton said in his unpublished autobiography, reproduced in Spanish by Vargas. "It is also proof that Christians, however different their experiences and beliefs, if they hold true love in their hearts, and the willingness to look for and trust God's direction, can get along with each other."

Amazing what a little Avivamiento can lead to.

**Written by:** Ted Parks  
Associate Professor of Spanish  
Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN

# BBA TODAY

## MAY

- 1-2 BBA/LRGVD Area Assembly 2009 at Hyde Park CC in Austin, Texas
- 7 **Registration Deadline** for CYF Conference (completed 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades), **\$280**
- 21 **Registration Deadline** for Eighter's Camp (completed 8<sup>th</sup> grade), **\$280**

## JUNE

- 6 **Registration Deadline** for Junior Camp (completed 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades), **\$250**
- 7-13 CYF Conference (completed 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades), **\$280 before May 7<sup>th</sup>** (after \$320)
- 10 **Registration Deadline** for Beginner's Camp (completed 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> grades), **\$165**
- 12 **Registration Deadline** for Chi Rho Camp (completed 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grades), **\$280**
- 21-27 Eighter's Camp (completed 8<sup>th</sup> grade), **\$280 before May 21<sup>st</sup>** (after \$320)
- 28-1 2009 CYLS at Lake Brownwood Christian Retreat, (completed 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades), **\$280**

## JULY

- 6-11 Junior Camp (completed 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades), **\$250 before June 6<sup>th</sup>** (after \$290)
- 12-18 Chi Rho Camp (completed 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grades), **\$280 before June 12<sup>th</sup>** (after \$320)
- 20-23 Beginner's Camp (completed 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> grades), **\$165 before June 10<sup>th</sup>** (after \$205)
- 29-2 2009 General Assembly at Indianapolis, Indiana

### We Want To Hear From You!

- Do you have a special event planned that you would like to share with other congregations across the BBA/LRGVD?
- Have you had a special celebration (pastor's birthday, church anniversary, community event, etc.)?
- Have you or your members served your community, state, or nation in a special way?
- Please let us know! Please send your stories and pictures to Anna in the Area office ([bba@ccsw.org](mailto:bba@ccsw.org)) **by the 15th of each month** to include in the next month's issue.

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