



# The Chalice



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

Vol. 15 No. 3

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

March 2011

## **A message from our Area Minister . . .**

If you have not done so recently I'd like to encourage you to visit the BBA & CCSW websites for some really very fine resource materials. The sermon preparation resources are remarkably fine. A new look at our Mission and Vision Statement and our Confession is unifying. And, a rereading of the church's guiding documents, our preamble, membership guidance, congregational rights and responsibilities, etc. can be a meaningful way to remain connected to the area, region and general church. About being connected, it seems that we are all more connected today than ever before. Some of the connectedness isn't helpful. Recently, as I sat waiting for a flight from Love Field, Dallas to San Antonio, I could hear at least five conversations going on around me. It is not that I was eavesdropping; these folks were on cell phones in a public place seated beside and behind me. One guy was selling palletized spools of wire out of Alabama. A lady was reprimanding her husband in Iowa for failing to empty a litter box. Another young lady was trying to get a refund for undelivered merchandise. And a couple of young men were chatting with girl friends. Good on them. But it was for me an unwelcome level of connectedness. I like happy cats, but I don't need to know about the ones in Iowa.

I had just attended a conference of Regional Leaders, Area Ministers and Area Moderators. Much of the discussion was about "connectedness" as a way to foster collaborative ministry. It is a good idea. But it made me smile. I smiled because all of us already text, type, tweet, Skype, email, fax, write letters, cards and send out newsletters. I expect that the other folks at this meeting are much like me. I have a mailing address at the office, a home mailing address and a post office box. I have a personal cell phone, a work cell phone, a two line phone at the office and a home phone with four receivers. The copier on my desk is also a fax machine and a scanner. And, of course, I have Internet access at home and at the office. The BBA has a web site and I have a Facebook account. Obviously the challenge is not to find more ways to get connected. The challenge is to use what we have in an intentional, deliberately collaborative way. Ours is the age old challenge of changing mind sets, attitudes and habits. Doing the work of the Church is worthy of our best efforts. May God grant us open minds and gentle spirits.

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**Prayer Partner Church of the Week**  
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March 6	FCC Alice	Elias Vasquez, Pastor	(361) 664-4171
March 13	Central CC San Antonio	Thom Albin, Pastor	(210) 227-5273
March 20	FCC Beeville	Geraldine Huckman, Pastor	(361) 358-3227
March 27	Area Men's Ministries	James McGuffee, Chair	(512) 740-1512
	Area Women's Ministries	Melanie Holtz, Chair	(512) 466-9716

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# CVF Spring Rally

## 2011

### grades 9-12

*Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. -Philippians 3:12-14*

**\*\*Bring country/western attire for Route 183 diner!**

**North on Faith Journey EXIT NA Straight Ahead**

**At Disciple Oaks Retreat Center Gonzales, TX**

**Cost: \$100**  
**Deadline: February 22 at the BBA Office in San Antonio**  
**Arrival: March 4th 7p.m.**  
**Departure: March 6th 10a.m.**

# Faith Journey

## March 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>

**Directors:**  
 Rose Turner 512-738-1980  
 Jason Braun 512-601-1598  
**Key Noter:**  
 Rev. Jill Sullins

**Come and join us on a Faith Journey with Christ and help us celebrate God's word!**

## **Attention Licensed Ministers/Candidates**

If your license is expired, expires this year or you are a first time applicant there is still time for you to schedule your licensing interview for renewal/first time license.

You may call Anna Facundo, BBA Office Manager at (210) 822-4345 to schedule your interview.

Interview Date: Saturday, March 5th (12:30, 2:00, 2:45)

Below is a checklist of information required for your interview with the BBA/ LRGVD Department of Ministry Committee:

- Application for Candidacy/Continuation of Licensed Ministry (contact Area Office via email to get a copy)
- Letter of recommendation from the congregation
- Ministerial job description (if position has changed)
- First time applicant's one page statement of call to ministry
- Certification that you have read the policies and criteria for the Order of Ministry in the Christian Church (DOC) and My Ministerial Code of Ethics (can be found on our website: [www.bluebonnetarea.org](http://www.bluebonnetarea.org), Resources page)
- Attended Sexual Misconduct Prevention Training (You only need to attend once, if you have already attended your certificate should be on file. If you haven't you need to attend the course before your license is approved.)



Disciple Oaks Retreat Center

# Open House & 20th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, March 26 • 9 am–3 pm • Gonzales, Texas

Join us to celebrate 20 years of ministry and hospitality at the camp and retreat center owned by the Bluebonnet and Coastal Plains Areas of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) — your camp!

If you've never visited before, this is a great event to learn more about how we serve Texas Disciples. From church retreats and meetings to summer camps, Disciple Oaks Retreat Center (also known as "Gonzo") is a place for spiritual growth and lifelong friendships and memories.

We're always creating new opportunities — we're amidst the early building stages of a professional-level challenge course (low and high ropes), with unique elements not found elsewhere in Central Texas. Come learn more about it.

Bring a carload and see you on March 26th!

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### 9:00 am–3:00 pm:

- Disciple Oaks Booth
- Camp 2010 Slideshows
- Camp Historical Photo Display
- Chair Massage
- Health Screening
- Blood Mobile
- Fishing (bring your pole!)
- Canoeing/Paddleboating
- Prayer Labyrinth
- Prayer Room
- Arts & Crafts
- Tell Your Story: Be a Video Star

### 10:00 am–2:00 pm, hourly:

- Hayride Tours
- Walking Tours
- Energizers (Christian aerobics)
- 9:30 Guided Mandalas Meditation
- 10:30 Musical Entertainment
- 11:30 Challenge Course Presentation
- 12:30 BBQ Lunch, Birthday Cake Dessert
- 1:00 Group Singing: Camp Songs
- 1:30 Challenge Course Presentation
- 1:30 Musical Entertainment
- 2:00 Drawing for a Free Weekend for Five
- 2:05 Softball Game (if enough players)
- 2:15 Lectio Divina, "Sacred Reading" Meditation

Feel free to stay overnight on Friday or Saturday night. You're welcome to stay all day Saturday to enjoy the camp. Bring your sleeping bag or bedding, etc. Your RSVP is appreciated at 830-437-2900. Questions? Call us.

Disciple Oaks Retreat Center • 673 Private Road 3381 • 8 mi. south of Gonzales on Hwy. 183  
830-437-2900 • [discipleoaksretreat.net](http://discipleoaksretreat.net) • Dale Fowler, Manager • [daledccl@aol.com](mailto:daledccl@aol.com)



Save the Date...

**2011 Inman Honors  
Banquet & Fundraiser**

on

Sunday, March 27th

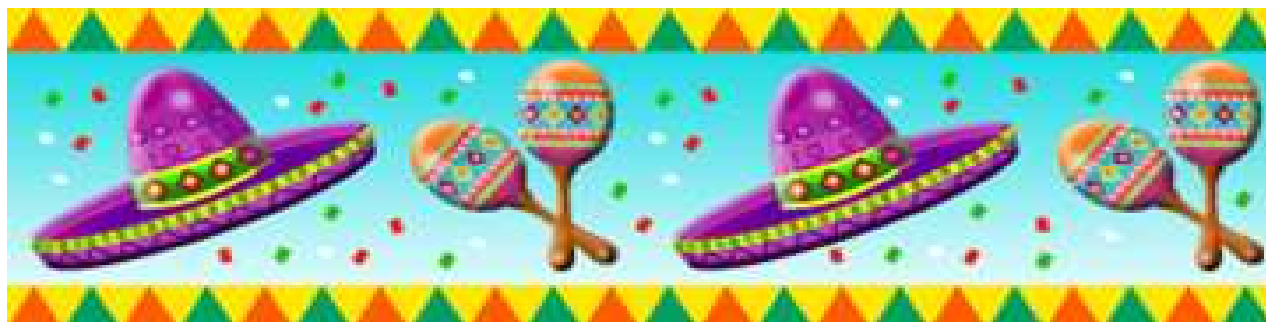
El Progreso Hall, 1306 Guadalupe Street

Tickets \$35.00

5:30pm Silent Auction, 6:00pm Dinner

For information, contact 222-9641





# **"Cristo Rey Fiesta"**

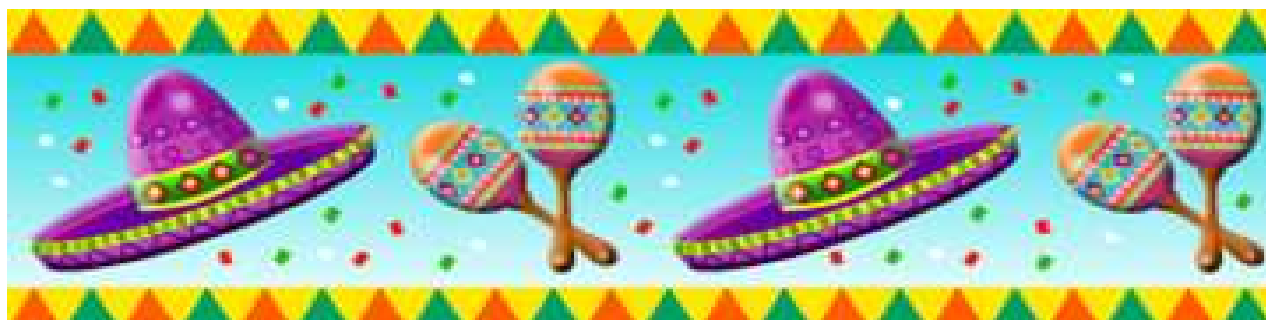
## **Bluebonnet Area/LRGVD**

### **2011 Annual Assembly**

Fiesta means Celebration!  
Join our fellow Disciples of Christ  
for feasting, singing, fun and fellowship  
at the Annual Area Assembly

**April 29-30, 2011**  
Hosted by First Christian Church of McAllen

**For more information:**  
[www.bluebonnetarea.org](http://www.bluebonnetarea.org) or (210) 822-4345



**As information is received from the Planning Committee,  
it will be sent out via email and posted on the Area website.**

**El Instituto de verano para ministerios Hispánicos, se llevará a cabo en el seminario Brite en Fort Worth, Texas los días: 06/05/2011 - 06/10/2011**

Selección de Cursos

Escoja dos cursos en orden de preferencia, indicando su primera opción como (1), segunda (2)

**Cursos y Horarios**

**MAÑANA**  
(8:45 A.M. - 11:45a.m.)

**Dr. Greg Cuellar**

Introducción al Nuevo Testamento

**Dr. Luis C. Bernard**

Cuidado y Consejería Pastoral

**Dr. Carmelo Alvarez**

Herencia de los Discipulos de Cristo

**TARDE**  
(1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

**Dra. Zaida Perez-Maldonado**

Introducción a la Teología

**Dr. Carlos Cardoza**

La Misión de la Iglesia

**Dra. Elizabeth Conde-Frazier**

Formación Espiritual

Por favor enviar esta hoja de matrícula con su cheque a:

Brite Divinity School  
TCU Box 298130  
Fort Worth, TX 76129  
Attn: Reina Rodriguez



**Costo de Programa**

- **Matrícula:** No hay costo - Brite cubrirá todos los gastos relacionados a los cursos y la facultad.
- **Registro:** \$100 por persona - Hay becas disponibles por medio de algunas oficinas de área o región.
- **Dormitorios:** \$250.00 costo total de la semana. Incluye sala, cama, sábanas, almohadas y horno de microondas.
- **(las iglesias locales tienden a cubrir los gastos a sus pastores y líderes)**
- **Alimentos:** No hay costo si te registras con tiempo. *El Centro (Brite) te estará ofreciendo una beca para pagar tus alimentos de toda la semana.*

**Notas:** Usted tiene que contactar a sus ministros de área o Región para obtener las becas y asegurarse que les entreguen el cheque para pagar sus costos.

Pastores y personas de otras denominaciones pueden contactar a sus respectivas iglesias para pedir asistencia o ayuda para asistir al programa.

**Es muy importante que te registres y que recibamos tu pago por registro y dormitorio antes de la fecha límite.**


**20 de Mayo, 2011.**

**Brite Center for Latino/a Church Studies Presents...**

**“Instituto de Verano para Ministerios Hispánicos 2011”**



**Junio 05-10, 2011**



Capilla


**“Arreditación de los cursos”**

Los cursos tomados en el programa de verano en Brite, serán acreditados por las Regiones de la Iglesia Cristiana (Discipulos de Cristo) para el programa de Ordenación de Aprendiziz


**“Arreditation of courses”**

The courses taken during the summer program at Brite, will be accredited by the Regions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for the Apprentice Ordination track.

**Para más información llamar a:**  
**Reina Rodriguez (817) 257-7575**  
m.rodriguez2@tcu.edu  
http://www.brite.edu



Dormitorios



Cafeteria



**SUMMER BRITE INSTITUTE 2011 – Programa de Verano  
 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION (USO DE BECA)  
 FECHA DEBIDA / DEADLINE: MAY 20, 2011**

Nombre/Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Dirección Postal/Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Ciudad/City: \_\_\_\_\_ Estado/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone contact #: ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

*Entiendo que seré responsable de mi propio transporte y del coste de las comidas y que la iglesia cristiana en el sudoeste pagará mis \$100 costes de registro./ I understand that I will be responsible for my own transportation and the cost of the meals and that the Christian Church in the Southwest will pay for my \$100 registration costs.*

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*Nombre del pastor/minstro – Name of Pastor Attending*

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*Firma del pastor/ Signature of Pastor Attending*

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*Firma del ministro del Area/ Area Minister's Signature*

<p><b>Correo/PLEASE SEND THIS TO:</b></p> <p><b>C.C.S.W. SCHOLARSHIPS</b>  <b>P.O. Box 1689</b>  <b>Fort Worth, TX 76101</b></p>
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## BBA/LRGVD Women's Ministries

With the busy holiday season behind us, I have found myself taking time to look ahead and realized that we have a lot of exciting events coming up on the calendar that are important for the women in our Area!

On March 25 – 27, Area Coordinators and Consultants from around the Region will be traveling to Grapevine to attend the combined Leadership Training / R.O.S.E.S. Event. We have a full schedule that weekend since this will be the place that all of the new Coordinators and Consultants will be trained on how to effectively do our jobs for the next two years, as well as meet with other DWM leaders from surrounding Regions as part of the R.O.S.E.S. event. Our Area Consultants and I will need to also find some time in there to sit down as a team and plan the September Women's retreat too!

April 29 & 30 is when the BBA Area Assembly will be held at FCC McAllen. I'm sure registration information will be coming out soon, so stay posted to future Chalice Newsletters, or check the [www.bluebonnetarea.org](http://www.bluebonnetarea.org) website for updates.

On June 10 – 12, all women are invited to attend the Regional Women's Assembly in the Dallas area. Location and registration details are forthcoming from the planning team and the Regional office soon.

Then, September 23 – 25 is the Fall women's retreat! Mark your calendars now and start inviting your friends to come with you to what is sure to be a wonderful weekend of fellowship, praise and fun "girl" time! Our keynote speaker is the wonderful Ms. Sheila Spencer. Many of the women in the LRGVD will remember Sheila (who is a fluent Spanish speaker) from when she visited the women of the area last spring as part of the "Getting To Know You" tour.

I hope you are as excited as I am about these wonderful events and the future for Women's Ministries.

Blessings on you,

Melanie Holtz

Coordinator, Bluebonnet Area/LRGVD

### Musings from Camp Gonzo

About 8 miles north of Gonzales, Texas is a little piece of paradise that some people call home away from home. It's a place where you can act yourself and no one calls you a geek, unless it is said in jest. Some have admitted they were the outsiders in school, the nerds, but when they cross the threshold into Camp Gonzo, they are the leaders along with the football heroes and cheerleaders.

There are no horses or rock climbing walls; no blobs to catapult from on the lake or champion ropes courses. The idea of a ropes course consists of a piece of plywood that is thrown down and everyone hops on to see how many we can fit on it this year. The lake is really a pond but once in a while you can catch a guppy or two. (Newsflash: Dale just said he caught a big catfish!!) Fun is just getting the crowd going, jumping up and down and shaking your fist to guitar rifts. The guest speaker we had last year said he had never seen a camp so simple with nothing big to occupy young minds, but that the campers have more fun at Camp Gonzo than any camp they have seen. Dress some one up in a gorilla suit and you have a mascot for a week! The oversized monkey showed up in all the Camp Gonzo News videos and even kidnapped the camper that screamed to the camera, "I found out what pretty-kitty-man-boy means!"

This is the place that I count the days till the next rally or camp, even if I *am* an adult. There *is* an adult weekend retreat in October where we women meet for a weekend of fun and frolic through the Bible and Bingo games. But the epitome of the rallies and camps is with the wild and goofy middle schoolers and the trying-to-be-cool high school kids.

It was to one of these retreats with the middle school age that graced my weekend in January 2011. We were divided into small groups for discussion, competitions and projects. I had a group of 4 wild and crazy 6<sup>th</sup> grade boys and two, way-too-mature-for-sixth-grade-boys, 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls. On the bright side, the boys kept us entertained breaking out in song and dance with their rendition of the Waffle Song. They came from 3 different churches, so it was surprising that they all knew this song. Within 24 hours we had a Taco Song created to the tune of the Waffle Song. (Yea, who needs Wiis and Internet when you have imaginations?) The girls had one word for them...annoying. I, for one, prefer the never-a-dull-moment groups.

We had segregated tables at meal times. This phenomenon tends to happen at events lasting only two days. There was a girls' table, a boys' table, an adult table and another table with the 8<sup>th</sup> graders and any one else trying to be top dog at the rally.

At Saturday night dinner, the boys' table was the liveliest, so I chose to grace them with my presence. The girls finished before the boys and proceeded to the dilapidated ping-pong tables for a game of pong using what ever they can find. Tonight, it is beach balls and half paddles. The boys look over and one makes a comment, "Hey man, they got our hang out place." Some one else says, "Yea, how are we gonna get rid of them?" They started to plot schemes in ousting the enemy, when I speak up. "Why don't you just *join* them?" The looks on their faces were totally indescribable. You could tell the wheels were spinning as to how to respond. It was a look between dismay and "do you really think they would let us" and "are you kidding, they are girls!?" and "by the way what *is* a pretty-kitty-man-boy?"

Registration is coming up for Summer Camps! Don't let your children miss out!

Rev. Maggie Mossler, Chi Rho Camp 2011 Director

## The Regional Office of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest Is Moving.... Again!

In 2007, the Regional Council made the decision to sell the Regional Office building on South University Drive in Fort Worth. The staff then moved in December 2007 to Park Plaza - just off of Forest Park and Interstate 30, moving from 10,000 square feet to 1,700 square feet. AND NOW, in 2011...we are moving to a whole new concept. We are closing our physical office space and going COLLABORATIVE!!

What does this mean? First of all, service to congregations and pastors will not change. In fact, we are planning that it will be even better! Taking advantage of all the technology that is available to stay connected, to communicate, and to get work done effectively and efficiently --we are embracing the 21st century (like many others have already done) and moving to a new set-up. The move is scheduled for the week of February 1st, but many of the transitions are already underway.

The Regional Minister, Dani Loving Cartwright, will establish an office space in her home for the time that she is not on the road or at a meeting. Meetings will be held in churches, restaurants, or even at Starbucks - depending on the purpose of the meeting. With cell phone, laptop, and eFax....she will be continuing to do her work as always.

The Regional Minister's Administrative Assistant, Andrea Gantz, will be officing out of her home, as well.

The permanent and confidential files will be stored at a space in a church which will be secured for only CCSW personnel to access. Andrea will also use the technology available to do her work effectively and efficiently—just in a new place! She will maintain our records in the same way as she has been, but will schedule “filing times” at the church location where the files are stored. Our “office hours” will remain the same, with the main telephone number being answered from 8:00 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday- Thursday. Messages may be left during non-working hours which will be returned on the next business day.

The Region's CPA, Lori Wahlgren, will also work from her home office using all the technology available to her, as well. Lori works with us only a few hours each week (more hours for end-of-year and audit preparation and less in other times.) She will continue to handle accounts payable on the 15th and the 30th of each month, as we have been for the past five years.

The savings in rent will save more than \$32,000 in the Region's budget . In 2010, there was a significant shortfall in the Regional Budget - and the Executive Committee of the Region determined that this is one way to address the tighter budget needs in a way that helps us embrace some future-moving direction and innovation.

*Continued on next page . . .*

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For your reference, here are the numbers that you will need:

CCSW—Main Number—Andrea Gantz	(817) 926-4687
Dani Loving Cartwright, Regional Minister	(817) 944-8794
Lori Wahlgreen, Finance	(817) 773-6786
FAX: (TOLL FREE)	(866) 229-0031

Our Mailing Address will remain the same:

Christian Church in the Southwest  
P.O. Box 1689  
Fort Worth, Texas 76101

God is doing a new thing.....even in our midst! Should you have any questions, or need assistance, please let us know!

## Standing Renewal Form Is On-Line

It is time again for our ordained clergy to share their Annual Standing Renewal Form with the Regional Committee on Ministry. This is the opportunity for our active ordained clergy to renew their standing credentials in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). This is an annual responsibility for all of our active clergy.

The 2011 Annual Standing Renewal Form is on-line in the Connected Community, part of the Regional Website: [www.ccsw.org](http://www.ccsw.org).

Please note that the standing form is for ORDAINED clergy. IF YOU ARE RETIRED CLERGY and NOT serving a congregation, you do NOT need to complete this form.

If you are already a member of the community. Simply log in with your username and password and complete your 2011 Annual Standing Renewal Form.

If you are not yet a member of the Connected Community, click on [Join the Connected Community](#) to begin the registration process for your access. Requests for access will be processed within 24 hours of submitting your request. Once your access has been finalized, you will be able to log in and complete the 2011 Annual Standing Renewal Form.

### **Vic Einspahr - New Member of Fiers - Brown Society**

Vic Einspahr received his membership certificate to the Fiers-Brown Society during worship as part of the celebration of receiving offerings. The Fiers-Brown Society recognizes more than a thousand Disciples member and friends who have made provisions for a gift to benefit Disciples ministries through the Christian Church Foundation. Vic created his legacy gift to benefit First Christian Church by adopting the church. The congregation joins Vic's three children and becomes his fourth heir.

The congregation is humbled by the generosity of this faithful steward of the church. Our pledge is to respond in kind with acts of generosity to ensure the future of this grand old church. Since the congregation gathered for worship in 1885, it has always stayed young in service to the community and all its people. May Vic's legacy gift and the gifts of all who love this church be transformed into the arms of Jesus who reaches out to embrace the world, from our doors to the ends of the earth.



# BBA TODAY

(for more information on these events and others please visit our online calendar at [www.bluebonnetarea.org](http://www.bluebonnetarea.org))

## MARCH

- 4-6 CYF Spring Rally, DORC
- 5 Licensed Minister Interviews, BBA Office
- 8 Capital Cluster Meeting, Hyde Park CC at 12:00 p.m.
- 9 Regional Men's Project, Disciples Crossing, Athens
- 12 DORC Board Meeting at DORC
- 12 Capital Mentor Group, Hyde Park CC at 10:00 a.m.
- 14 LRGVD Mentor Group, FCC Edinburg at 7:00 p.m.
- 20 The Stage Connection, FCC San Marcos, 6:00 p.m.
- 23 Alamo Cluster Meeting, Rolling Oaks CC at 11:00 a.m.
- 26 DORC 20th Anniversary Open House & Celebration, Gonzales

## APRIL

- 2 Clergy Leadership Institute, Corpus Christi at 9:30 a.m.
- 9 Capital Mentor Group, Hyde Park CC at 10:00 a.m.
- 11 LRGVD Mentor Group, FCC Edinburg at 7:00 p.m.
- 12 Capital Cluster Meeting, Hyde Park CC at 12:00 p.m.
- 17-21 CCSW Leadership Team Spiritual Retreat, Dallas
- 26-28 RCOM, Ft Worth
- 27 Alamo Cluster Meeting, Rolling Oaks CC at 11:00 a.m.
- 29-30 BBA/LRGVD Area Assembly

### 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, ordination ceremony, graduation, 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.

## The Chalice

A monthly publication of  
BBA/LRGVD Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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