



Tres Rios Area News

July 2008

If you wish follow-up information about any news covered in this newsletter and you do not have access to the internet, please do not hesitate to call the Area Office, 915 633-6511

Area News

the Chalice Abbey Project
presents
RosettaStone
*communicating the Gospel
just got easier...*
the Southwest Region
embraces a new ministry!

Incredible Opportunity for Bi-lingual Ministry!

The High Plains Area is offering an opportunity for Disciples to learn Spanish or any other language of your choice with the top-notch learning system, Rosetta Stone, at an extremely low cost. To learn more and to register your interest in this opportunity please check out www.ccswhpa.org/tp40/page.asp?ID=151117 on the High Plains Website. Or call our office. Register soon!



Go & Make Disciples

Letters are going out this month to current and former TRA leaders and supporters from past TRA moderator, Jimmy Case and TRA treasurer Jerry Hobson, seeking individual financial contributions in support of TRA's Congregational Transformation and New Church Start ministries. This is the second step in a strategy adopted by TRA board to increase funding for the area budget. The goal for this campaign is \$10,000. A \$15,000 grant from Austin Park Trust Fund has already been received. Churches will be invited to receive a TRA Special Day Offering on two Sundays, September 14 and 21, as the third step in this fund-raising strategy. Information about the Special Day Offering will arrive in church offices the first of August. The goal for that offering will be \$5000.

**Border Cluster Gathering
July 29
Bethany Christian Church
El Paso, TX**

On Tuesday, July 29, the Border Cluster Gathering will be held at Bethany Christian Church in El Paso.

The meal will be \$7 for delicious barbeque and the program will be brought to us by Bob White who works at Hueco Tanks. He will talk to us about the History of Native Americans at Hueco Tanks and Hueco Tanks' religious significance.

Please let Susan at Bethany Christian know how many are coming by July 25 at (915) 592-5977 or Susan@bcc-elp.org.

Area News Continued



Rock the Desert Festival
August 8 – 9
Midland, Texas

Confirmed artists include Switchfoot, The Newsboys, Disciple, Red, Paul Wright, Group 1 Crew, Brock Gill, Needtobreathe, Family Force 5, Tyler Dodds, The Wedding, Day of Fire, Jimmy Needham, Hawk Nelson, Outcast BMX! Tickets are \$20 per person and can be purchased online at www.rockthedesert.com

Chi Rho & CYF Lock-in
First Christian Church
Midland, Texas

First Christian Church of Midland will once again sponsor a lock-in for Chi Rho and CYF youth attending the festival. For more information please contact Robert Beggs at wuboit1@yahoo.com

Church News Edition of TRA
News

Will be published July 31. If you have news of your congregation you would like to share with the area, please submit to tra@ccsw.org by July 25.



Board Retreat
August 15 – 16
El Paso, TX

The Area Board will be meeting at Bethany Christian Church in El Paso for a time of worshipful work to reaffirm priorities for Area ministry and goal setting. New and returning board members will build new working relationships while considering future initiatives and direction. Specific items for discussion will include new church start in East El Paso and TRA's ongoing relationship with Black River Center for Learning. A list of current board members can be found on our website www.traccsw.org.



Licensed Ministry Resources

LM Training
August 22 - 23
Constructive Conversation
Tres Rios Area
Sombra del Monte
Christian Church
Albuquerque, NM

TRA Licensed Ministers will gather for a second of three mentoring and education sessions which fulfill requirements for ongoing licensure and support of their ministries. The August 22 – 23 event will be led by High Plains Area Minister, Chuck Fischer. HPA and TRA cooperate in the Licensed Ministry education program, sharing teachers and allowing registration for events in either area by ministers from both areas.

Information for the next training event, along with 2008 Licensed ministry documents are available on our website www.traccsw.org. Point cursor on "Ministries" and the on the drop down menu you'll see "Licensed Ministry".



New Mexico Conference of
Churches Board Meeting
9:00 AM
August 19
Christ Lutheran Church
Santa Fe, NM

The Tres Rios Area is in need of a representative to serve on the board of the NMCC. Area Minister, Charlotte Hoppe a member of the board, but each denomination is also requested to nominate a deputy member in addition to their staff minister. For more information about the organization please follow this link - <http://www.nmchurches.org>. If you would like to represent TRA, please contact Charlotte, hoppe@ccsw.org or 915 633-6511.

Area News Continued



Black River Center for Learning Board Meeting September 12-13 Carlsbad, NM

Tres Rios Area Board Representatives to Black River Board include Charlotte Hoppe, Area Minister; Marty Hamilton, TRA Moderator; and Jim Smith, representing TRA Outdoor Ministry. TRA representatives serving on Black River Board are John Climer, FCC Alamogordo, Border cluster; Margaret Hime, Los Altos CC Albuquerque, Mountain Cluster; and Beverly Kodesh, FCC Artesia, Pecos Cluster. If you would like to serve on the Black River Board representing TRA, please contact President David Grousnick, dvgrousnick@yahoo.com or (575) 746-9895.



2008 Women's Retreat September 26 – 28 Black River Center for Learning Carlsbad, NM

Heartspa . . . Where Women are Refreshed in Jesus

Keynote Speaker: **Rev. Jacqueline Morgan**
Minister of Children, Youth, and Education
First Christian Church, Odessa

Registration Information to come soon.



CYF Fall Fiesta October 10 – 12 Bonita Park Camp Capitan, NM

What's your point? Where are you at in your life?

This year's Fall Fiesta for High School Youth will be held at Bonita Park Camp near Ruidoso. The scripture basis for the Fiesta is 1 Peter 4:10 and Galatians 3:28.

Along with adequate space to meet, Bonita Park also provides the opportunity for youth to exercise on a Low Ropes course and indoor Rock Climbing.

Cost for the event will be \$100 with an option to buy a T-shirt.

Look for registration forms to be sent out in August.

RENEW YOUR CONGREGATION
Healing the Sick, Raising the Dead



Congregational Transformation Event November 7 – 8 Ruidoso, NM

The next Area Transformation Event will be held at First Christian Church, Ruidoso, NM with **Bill McConnell** as our speaker who is author of the book *Renew Your Congregation: Healing the Sick, Raising the Dead*.

Registration information will be sent out in September, but be sure to mark this on your calendars, so as not to miss it.



To read the latest news about the Tennyson Center for Children at Colorado Christian Home, with whom we partner in ministry, go to www.tennysoncenter.org/Visitor-Spring%202008.pdf.

To discover mission projects for your congregation to benefit the Center go to www.tennysoncenter.org

New Day New Direction



Regional News

Earlier this summer all congregations received a New Day New Direction update from the task force responsible for leading this region-wide transformation journey. Four key strategic issues for regional ministry have been identified through Bible study, clergy dialogue, interviews and Discovery Conferences held around the region. The Tres Rios Area has participated in all of these through congregational activity, cluster meetings and our own Discovery Conference at our Area Assembly. These challenges and opportunities for regional ministry were summarized in the document sent to each church:

- Issue #1 Vision, Purpose, Goals Identity
- Issue #2 Changing Context – Destabilizing Effects
- Issue #3 Connection with One Another
- Issue #4 Communication – Central to Our Life Together

More information about these strategic issues, which must be considered if our region is to move into the future with faithfulness to God's call and effectiveness and vitality in ministry, can be found on our web site,

www.traccsw.org/graphics/UploadFile/4670/Strategic_Issues_for_Focus-edited_.pdf .

There you will also find questions to help your church engage in conversation as you anticipate our continuing discernment of change for our region.



Rev. Jim Smith, interim minister Los Altos CC Albuquerque and Area Minister Charlotte Hoppe represent the Tres Rios Area at these twice a year meetings. Rev. Mark Denton, pastor West Mesa CC Albuquerque, serving as chair of the Regional Committee on the Ministry, is also in attendance at these meetings.

**Sexual Misconduct
Prevention Training
for Clergy**

**September 13
Albuquerque, NM**

All ministers, licensed and ordained, in the Southwest Region must participate in this training and have a certificate of completion on file in the area and region offices. Registration information will be published soon.



**Annual Regional
Men's Retreat
September 19-21
Lake Brownwood
Retreat Center**

"Why Me, Lord?"

Keynote speakers: Dr. Joey Jeter, Brite Divinity School/TCU and Dr. Doug Skinner, Northway Christian Church
Other Highlights: Workshops, Pre-Retreat Golf, Saturday Work projects

For more information and registration go to:
http://www.ccsw.org/DisciplesMen/disciples_men.asp

Regional News Continued

**Regional Assembly
October 17-19
Fort Worth, TX**

Refresh & Rejoice!



There is nowhere better to be on October 17-19th than to be in Fort Worth, Texas, gathered with your church family and friends from 434 other congregations to be the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Regional Assembly!

Preachers for the event will be **Dr. Andrea Foster**, who hails from the Capitol Region and is the Church Planter/Founding Pastor of United by Faith Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Laurel, Maryland. Dr. Foster will be preaching on Friday evening in the sanctuary of University Christian Church. On Sunday morning, **Dr. Sharon E. Watkins**, General Minister & President, will be preaching to a gathered community of Disciples in Ed Landreth Auditorium on the campus of Texas Christian University. The music for the event ranges from choir and organ to an ensemble from the TCU Jazz Band.

“Disciples History: the Present” will be offered as a workshop for all who are interested on Friday with the tutor for the class none other than our own **Dr. D. Newell Williams**, President of Brite Divinity School and Disciples historian who is currently serving as Moderator for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Also Golf ... TCU Football ... additional workshopsand more!

Go to <http://www.ccsw.org/RA%202008.asp> to download information and registration forms.

**Regional
Pre-Assembly for Clergy
Thursday, October 16th
10:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
Fort Worth, Texas**

The Pre-Assembly Gathering of Clergy is a special session update on New Day New Direction regional transformation journey and initial visioning session towards transformed regional ministry for clergy.

Go to www.ccsw.org/RA%202008.asp to download information and registration forms.

Mission Alignment and
Coordinating Council



At its April 2008 meeting, the General Board called into being a Mission Alignment Coordinating Council (MACC) to lead us in imagining a church organized around our stated mission priorities. In order to engage the Mission Alignment conversation, the MACC offers examples of how Disciples in the early 21st Century might be organized to accomplish our priorities of 1,000 new congregations, 1,000 transformed congregations, leadership development to serve these congregations, and our pro-reconciliation/anti-racism initiative.

To read more about this work and see the examples for Disciples in the 21st Century visit www.disciples.org/macc

General Board

To read the news from the Spring 2008 General Board meeting go to www.disciples.org/generalboard/documents/2008/08COMMUNIQUE.pdf.



JULY 30 - AUGUST 3, 2008
Nashville, TN

Together in Christ

The 17th World Convention is open to Christian people around the world. In particular it is a Global Gathering for members of Churches with a Stone-Campbell heritage. World Convention attracts people from many of the 180 countries where Stone-Campbell Churches have been established. This event is conducted every four years, 2008 will be the first time in 16 years that the World Convention has been conducted in the United States. It is a time of worship, fellowship and sharing, but more importantly a time of expressing our unity in diversity. There is recognition and appreciation of each others traditions and practices while at the same time affirming our unity in Christ Jesus and our common heritage in a unity movement which began over 200 years ago.

For more information go to www.worldconvention.org/



The Office of the General Minister and President (OGMP) has announced that it will convene the 2008 GMP Pastor's Conference in September. The Pastor's Conference will feature Floyd Flake, Will Willimon, and the music of Disciples' own Bill Thomas.

Sharon E. Watkins, General Minister and President, is calling all Disciples clergy to come together for a time of rest, renewal, and rejuvenation **Sept. 8-10, 2008**. The conference is planned to gather in Chicago, Illinois. For more information and to register go to: <http://www.disciples.org/watkins/news/2007/11/16a.asp>

**Reconciliation Offering
September 28 & October 5**



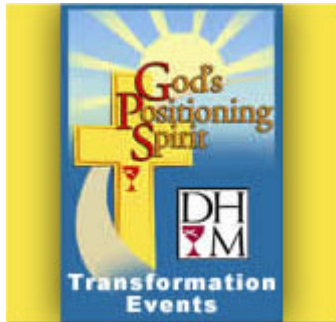
We receive this offering in the fall and use the funds throughout the year to give grants to the anti-racism initiative to organize to dismantle racism and to offer grants to address the effects of racism.

The offering is divided in two parts with one half going back to the region from which it was received and one half going to the whole church reconciliation mission administered by the Reconciliation Mission Commission made up of volunteers from around our church body.

The regions choose the method of distributing the funds that remain within their own area. The Reconciliation Mission Commission allocates the vast majority of the funds it receives into supporting the anti-racism training in our general ministries, higher education institutions and regions.

100% of this offering is spent for the Reconciliation Ministry of the church.

Promotional materials should be available soon at www.reconciliationmission.org/



**Southwestern Cluster Event
January 16-18, 2009
Oklahoma City, OK**

In response to pleas for resources and events which equip and inspire congregations toward transformation, five multi-region events focused on Congregational Transformation will occur in 2008 and 2009. The content for each event will include inspirational and meditative worship, presentations by practicing leaders of transformation in local congregations, engaging small group exchanges in which congregational leaders seriously grapple with the specific issues of transformation, and effective resources that have proven records of success and that are presented in a hopeful and easy-to-understand manner.

The event for the Southwest, Oklahoma and Great River regions will be held January 16-18, 2009 in Oklahoma City. Watch for more details soon.
