



# Tres Rios Area News

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

Bill writes and speaks based on his experiences of transformation of a small Disciple's congregation that has grown from 65 in worship to 500 in worship. The transformation also involved the church becoming much more mission oriented with more lay participation in ministry and a greater openness to inviting others to join in a spiritual journey and the development of strong lay leadership.

Two Saturday Workshops: "*Clergy and Lay Leadership for Church Transformation*" and "*Dealing with Difficult People in Transformation*".

Want to know more? Go online at [www.tracsw.org](http://www.tracsw.org).

Clergy and lay leaders won't want to miss this!

Registration information has been sent to churches, and is posted online. **Registration deadline October 24.**

Advance Registration \$25.00 - includes Saturday lunch  
\$40 for groups of 3 or more plus  
\$10 per person for lunch

On-site Registration \$15.00 - lunch on your own in Ruidoso  
Rooms in Ruidoso go fast – get your hotel reservation soon!

### Clergy Cluster Gatherings

October 13 – **Border Cluster Clergy** Gathering – 11:30 AM  
Las Cruces, NM

November 1 – **Derrick Cluster Clergy** Gathering – 10:00 AM  
First Christian Church  
Odessa, TX

November 3 – **Albuquerque Area Clergy** Gathering–10:00 AM  
Albuquerque, NM,

More info soon! Check out [www.tracsw.org](http://www.tracsw.org)

## Area News Continued

---

Outdoor Ministry  
Camp Directors'  
Evaluation and Planning  
Meeting

Saturday, November 15  
Monte Vista Christian Church  
Albuquerque, NM  
Time TBA

---

Church News Edition of  
TRA News

Will be published in November. If you have news of your congregation you would like to share with the area, please submit to [tra@ccsw.org](mailto:tra@ccsw.org) by October 15.

---

## Regional News

---

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 workshops ....and more!

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

---

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

The Pre-Assembly Gathering of Clergy will be a special visioning retreat for the New Day New Direction regional transformation journey towards transformed regional ministry.

Go to [www.ccsw.org/RA%202008.asp](http://www.ccsw.org/RA%202008.asp) to download information and registration forms.

---

## Regional News Continued

---

### **Sexual Misconduct Prevention Training for Clergy**

**October 9, Thursday  
Amarillo, TX**

This training will be led by the Rev. Chuck Fisher, Area Minister/President of the Hi-Plains Area. The session will be held at First Christian Church of Amarillo, 3001 Wolflin.

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 can be found at  
[www.csw-hpa.org/tp40/page.asp?ID=163407](http://www.csw-hpa.org/tp40/page.asp?ID=163407)

---

## National News

---



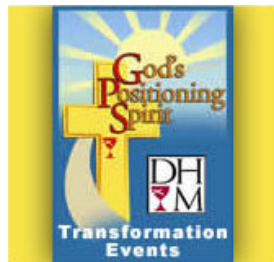
For two centuries, Disciples colleges and universities have trained Disciples leaders to think clearly and rationally and to minister to the world around them. While those first instructors and students might not recognize modern campuses, those classic values live on in the 21st Century.

Disciples undergraduate institutions serve nearly 27,000 students in a wide variety of settings - from a rural college town with several hundred students to a metropolitan setting with almost 9,000 students. Despite those differences, these schools all share a commitment to the church, emphasize spiritual faith and values, and cherish a commitment to a liberal-arts education.

Your gift to the Thanksgiving Special Offering supports the training of our church's emerging leaders - an investment in our church's future.

For more information or to download resources go to  
<http://www.disciplesmissionfund.org/DisciplesMissionFund/2008ThanksgivingSpecialDayOffering/tabid/187/Default.aspx>

---



**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. More information can be found at [www.disciples.org](http://www.disciples.org).

---



**General Assembly**  
**July 29 – August 2, 2009**

**Indianapolis, Indiana**  
**Indianapolis Convention**  
**Center**

The 2009 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will center its work around Revelation 22:2: ...“And the leaves of the tress shall be for the healing of the nations.” In choosing this verse as the centerpiece and guiding scriptural reference, organizers seek to complement the Disciples’ new identity statement (We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world) with a theme of relevance, energy, conviction – and healing.

This year's worship experiences feature an all-Disciples line up of preachers to bring the Good News of God's redemptive love to the Disciples Assembly. They are:

- **Cynthia Hale**, Sr. Pastor, Ray of Hope Christian Church  
Atlanta, GA.
- **Doug Skinner**, Northway Christian Church  
Dallas, Texas
- **Sharon E. Watkins** General Minister and President  
Indianapolis, IN
- **Frank Thomas**, Sr. Pastor  
Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church  
Memphis, TN

For more information and to register go to

[www.disciples.org/ga](http://www.disciples.org/ga)

---