



Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Austin, Texas

January 2009

Office Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

(512) 476-6941 Office

(512) 476-6980 Fax

www.cccaustin.org / staff@cccaustin.org

Senior Minister
Pastoral Care Minister
Director of Music
Wedding Coordinator
Administrative Assistant
Mail & Parking Manager
Landscaping Coordinator

Dr. James W. Van Meter, Jr.
Rev. Michael Moore
Ed Heenan
Renee McKinney
Ruth Udden
Robert Marcott
Alton Taylor



Sundays

8:30 Early Service
9:30 Sunday School
11:00 Worship Service
12:05 Special Prayers
12:10 Fellowship

Tuesdays

12:00 Bible Study

Wednesdays

5:30 Choir Rehearsal

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH
1110 GUADALUPE STREET
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Austin, Texas
Permit No. 1503

A Message from Our Pastor

Happy New Year! As we begin the New Year Linda and I would like to thank each of you for your many expressions of love during the Christmas season. You have made the holidays a beautiful time for us.

2009 will offer us many opportunities for ministry as we continue to grow into being the spiritual and moral force in this community that we are called to be. The downtown Austin community is growing at a rapid rate and we must be diligent in developing ministry and evangelism strategies that will meet the needs of the new residents.

I pray that each member of Central Christian Church will find a place of service within our faith community so that working together we will see the Kingdom of God flourish in this place and at this time.

May God richly bless each one of you in the coming year.
Pastor Jim

ATTENTION STUDENTS:

Central Christian Church has information about The Alvin and Elsie East Scholarship Fund. The primary purpose of the fund is to provide financial assistance to undergraduate students from the Austin area who are attending college and technical programs. Graduate students are also considered on a select basis.

For more information stop by the Volunteer's Office and ask for a scholarship Packet pertaining to the East Fund.

Applications are due by March 1st.

Questions may be directed to Inez Gaines at 303-7678. Completed applications and references should be submitted to:



The CCC Scholarship Committee
Central Christian Church
1110 Guadalupe, Street
Austin, TX 78701

Christian Women's Fellowship

January 14, 2009

10:30 A. M.

We welcome a new year as we continue our study, "Listening for God's Quiet Voice." God's voice comes in many volumes, the shout of beauty at a sunset, the soothing comfort of a familiar voice, and a whisper in a time of panic. For each of us the voice of God sounds differently in the changing seasons of our lives. We invite all to join us in our study as we listen for the gentle, quiet and powerful voice of God. We worship in the parlor at 10:30 A.M. We are a fellowship of women mission oriented.

We wish all a healthy, happy new year, especially to CWF members Bonnie, Ethel, and Martha.

Marolyn Robertson

CWF

Annual Congregational Meeting

The second annual meeting required by the Constitution will be **01-04-09** during the 11:00 service. Installation of officers for the new year will be at this time.

Mid-Week Ministry

Mid-Week Ministry will commence on Wednesday, January 21st at 7:00 PM. Pastor Jim will lead a five week course on "The Will of God". Leslie D.

Weatherhead's book by the same title will be the source for the series. Dinner will not be provided so bring a sandwich if you wish.

Prayer Requests

Valerie Adams, Jim Anderson, Marjorie Bailey, Mary Love Bailey, Bonnie Bounds, Gertrude Bowser, Jack Cantrell, Anita Dowty, Cecile Dowty, Maida Draker, Polly Given, Jim Glather, Lamar and Ethel Gordon, Jim Hewitt, Joel Johnson, Amy Lacson, Gary and Rena Mayes, Alma Menn, Morris Phinney, Rex Place, Michael Moore, Glenda Prather, Madeleine Randolph, Sharon Riley, Dave and Cheryl Schmidt, Carl and Geraldine Schold, Louise Sherman, Earl Stahl, Janice Stoner.

Coming in January

2009 CYF Junior/Senior Weekend at Disciples Conference Center, Gonzales, TX.
January 16-18, for Bluebonnet and Coastal Plains Areas.

Registration deadline: **Postmarked** by January 2, 2009. Check in: January 16 at 8:00 p.m. Event ends: January 18 at 10:30 a.m.

(See information on Bulletin Board along with forms.)

2009 Chi Rho Midwinter **God of Wonders**. January 23-25 at Gonzo, Disciples Oaks Retreat Center.

Arrive: Friday, January 23 at 7:00.

Depart: Sunday, January 25 at 10:30 am.

Registrations must be in BBA office January 16.

More Dates:

March 6-8, BBA CYF Spring Rally

Camp Gonzo Summer 2009

June 7-13, CYF Conference (grades 9-12)

June 14-20, CPA CYF Conference (grades 9-12)

June 21-27, Eighter's Camp (grade 8)

July 6-11, Junior Camp (grades 4-5)

July 12-18, Chi Rho Camp (grades 6-7)

July 20-23, Beginner's Camp (grades 2-3)

More information at:

www.discipleoaksretreat.net/reservation.html

Artists & Merchants Who Donated to the 2008 Christmas Bazaar

Afff's Downtown Florist

Arbonne Cosmetics

Austin's Movie Palace

Bachus Conservatory

Ballet Austin

Brenda Berestis – Quilts

Caricaturist – Jenny Parry

Capri and Cavelli

Chris Walden – Walden Magic

Driskill Hotel

Horseshoe Bay Resort

Hut's Hamburgers

Kidz Kreations – Melinda Ellis – Face Painting

Meyer's Elgin Sausage Inc.

Mighty Michele (Handbags)

Opal Devine's Austin Grill

Pottery – Melody Thompson

Roux Restaurant

Sew/Fab – Quilters – Sandie Hirsh

Starbucks

Texadelphia

Musings

I hope you had a Merry Christmas full of
Joy and Cheer,

Now the time has surely come to wish you:

“Happy New Year!”

The past year was full of amazing things, both good and bad, some glad, some sad; but a New Year is here! On your mark. Get set. Go! Reflect kindly on the past. There were so many good things in my life. Christmas brings news from friends and comrades-in-arms from all over the world, even from our former Pastor Bob Landry. My oldest great granddaughter had successful open heart surgery and was back home three days later. How lucky is that? So, the bad and sad things in the past year have already faded from memory as I seek the comfort of our Sanctuary. I guess I'll see you there.

...Bob Marcott

New Altar Flower Program

CCC would like to make available to those who are interested, a chance to help brighten up the sanctuary with a weekly flower arrangement.

Congregation members who are interested in dedicating an altar arrangement (rate of \$43.30 including tax), may call the downtown Alff's Florist (Melissa at 477-2277) and place the order with a credit card. Melissa can tell you if an order has been placed already for that week, and you may order for the following week. You may specify certain flowers but be apprised of price changes.

Please place your flower order by Wednesday of the week, and further contact the CCC office (476-6941) with information regarding your dedication (In Memory/Honor of _____, on behalf of _____), so it can be placed in the bulletin. On Fridays of those weeks an order is placed, an altar arrangement will be delivered to Central Christian Church and will be placed in the baptistry.

We believe that this process is a little more streamlined and will help to alleviate the necessity of sign up sheets, billing, and having to remember the check book. Please call Stacy Alexander at 480-9891 with questions or concerns.

Thank you, Stacy K. Alexander



Christmas Bazaar 2008

A few weeks ago, Heidi stood up in front of the congregation during the stewardship moment and challenged everyone to not just give money but to give of their time. I guess that it worked! I am truly overwhelmed with the amount of help we received this year for the bazaar. It touched my heart and rejuvenated my spirit. All I can say is WOW!

Here are a few of the facts from the Bazaar:

- ❖ We had 43 people bring food and/or dessert for the Candy cane café
- ❖ We had 30 different people help in the kitchen
- ❖ We had 14 volunteers for the CCC booth
- ❖ So many people helped set up, tear down, cook, clean, sell, promote, etc. that I can not count them all
- ❖ We received over \$600 in cash donations
- ❖ Countless loyal CCC'ers spent their hard earned money at the Café or at one of our 26 vendors
- ❖ There were 350 paying customers this year

This year's Bazaar could not have been pulled off without the help of the Christmas Bazaar Committee. We had to pull together this year like never before. Melody did an outstanding job with the vendors. We had three times the vendors this year that we had last year. The room looked great and more professional than ever. Great job Melody! Jolie had a huge task ahead of her being in charge of the Candy Cane Café. We had a new and improved menu (breakfast tacos, soup, sausage wraps, chicken spaghetti) with much lower prices than before. The Café was a tremendous success. Jolie spent countless hours shopping and cooking to help the kids of CCC. Way to go Jolie! A big thank you to Pastor Jim who spent over 25 hours in the kitchen slaving away over a hot stove. What a Senior Pastor we Have!! I would also like to personally thank Howard Bounds for helping me at Checkout. He was there all four days and worked over 20 hours recording all the tickets from the sales that we had. Not a very fun job but he did it without complaining. Thanks Dad! Many, many thanks to the rest of the committee... Ginger, Jan, Heidi, Renee...who spent countless hours behind the scenes to make this year's Bazaar a huge success. This year was truly a team effort and all of our hard work paid off in the end.

You might be wondering how successful it was. Well, the answer is VERY successful!

Here are the numbers from the Bazaar:

- ❖ Sales were \$13,162.44. That is 71% over Last year and the highest total that I have on record.
- ❖ Expenses were \$8761.49. They include the amount paid to the vendors (we keep 20% of their sales), extra food, food permits, supplies, banners and sales tax. The Café did \$1,497.60. If you take out the food we purchased and other costs associated with the kitchen, we made about \$1008. profit from the kitchen alone. We estimate that about \$300 worth of food was donated by church members. HEB also donated \$300 worth of gift Cards. Without that we would have only made around \$400.
- ❖ The CCC booth did \$628.50 in sales. Thanks to all who helped make and sell the items. Expenses for that booth were \$71.96 which leaves \$556.54 in profit.
- ❖ The silent auction brought in \$665. in sales.
- ❖ The raffle brought in \$377. Pure profit. Thanks Melody for getting all of the wonderful donations.
- ❖ TOTAL PROFIT - \$4400.95! WOW!!

The youth of CCC thanks you! The Committee thanks you! And I thank you! It is amazing what can happen when we pull together as an entire congregation. Everyone did something to make it a success. Everyone! You gave money...you gave time...and you gave to the youth of Central Christian Church. I hope you enjoyed the Bazaar and I hope you will come back next year when it will be even bigger and better than this year!

Brad Bounds
Christmas Bazaar Committee & Treasurer

Please remember the artists and merchants who generously gave certificates, tickets, merchandise, time and talent to help make the 2008 Christmas Bazaar extra special. A list is available in this issue.

As an atheist, I truly believe Africa needs God

Missionaries, not aid money, are the solution to Africa's biggest problem - the crushing passivity of the people's mindset

Matthew Parris

Before Christmas I returned, after 45 years, to the country that as a boy I knew as Nyasaland. Today it's Malawi, and The Times Christmas Appeal includes a small British charity working there. Pump Aid helps rural communities to install a simple pump, letting people keep their village wells sealed and clean. I went to see this work.

It inspired me, renewing my flagging faith in development charities. But travelling in Malawi refreshed another belief, too: one I've been trying to banish all my life, but an observation I've been unable to avoid since my African childhood. It confounds my ideological beliefs, stubbornly refuses to fit my world view, and has embarrassed my growing belief that there is no God.

Now a confirmed atheist, I've become convinced of the enormous contribution that Christian evangelism makes in Africa: sharply distinct from the work of secular NGOs, government projects and international aid efforts. These alone will not do. Education and training alone will not do. In Africa Christianity changes people's hearts. It brings a spiritual transformation. The rebirth is real. The change is good.

I used to avoid this truth by applauding - as you can - the practical work of mission churches in Africa. It's a pity, I would say, that salvation is part of the package, but Christians black and white, working in Africa, do heal the sick, do teach people to read and write; and only the

severest kind of secularist could see a mission hospital or school and say the world would be better without it. I would allow that if faith was needed to motivate missionaries to help, then, fine: but what counted was the help, not the faith.

But this doesn't fit the facts. Faith does more than support the missionary; it is also transferred to his flock. This is the effect that matters so immensely, and which I cannot help observing.

First, then, the observation. We had friends who were missionaries, and as a child I stayed often with them; I also stayed, alone with my little brother, in a traditional rural African village. In the city we had working for us Africans who had converted and were strong believers. The Christians were always different. Far from having cowed or confined its converts, their faith appeared to have liberated and relaxed them. There was a liveliness, a curiosity, an engagement with the world - a directness in their dealings with others - that seemed to be missing in traditional African life. They stood tall.

At 24, travelling by land across the continent reinforced this impression. From Algiers to Niger, Nigeria, Cameroon and the Central African Republic, then right through the Congo to Rwanda, Tanzania and Kenya, four student friends and I drove our old Land Rover to Nairobi.

We slept under the stars, so it was important as we reached the more populated and lawless parts of the sub-Saharan that every day we find somewhere safe by nightfall. Often near a mission.

Whenever we entered a territory worked by missionaries, we had to acknowledge that something changed in the faces of the people we passed and spoke to: something in their eyes, the way they approached you direct, man-to-man, without looking down or away. They had not become more deferential towards strangers - in some ways less so - but more open.

This time in Malawi it was the same. I met no missionaries. You do not encounter missionaries in the lobbies of expensive hotels discussing development strategy documents, as you do with the big NGOs. But instead I noticed that a handful of the most impressive African members

of the Pump Aid team (largely from Zimbabwe) were, privately, strong Christians. "Privately" because the charity is entirely secular and I never heard any of its team so much as mention religion while working in the villages. But I picked up the Christian references in our conversations. One, I saw, was studying a devotional textbook in the car. One, on Sunday, went off to church at dawn for a two-hour service.

It would suit me to believe that their honesty, diligence and optimism in their work was unconnected with personal faith. Their work was secular, but surely affected by what they were. What they were was, in turn, influenced by a conception of man's place in the Universe that Christianity had taught.

There's long been a fashion among Western academic sociologists for placing tribal value systems within a ring fence, beyond critiques founded in our own culture: "theirs" and therefore best for "them"; authentic and of intrinsically equal worth to ours.

I don't follow this. I observe that tribal belief is no more peaceable than ours; and that it suppresses individuality. People think collectively; first in terms of the community, extended family and tribe. This rural-traditional mindset feeds into the "big man" and gangster politics of the African city: the exaggerated respect for a swaggering leader, and the (literal) inability to understand the whole idea of loyal opposition.

Anxiety - fear of evil spirits, of ancestors, of nature and the wild, of a tribal hierarchy, of quite everyday things - strikes deep into the whole structure of rural African thought. Every man has his place and, call it fear or respect, a great weight grinds down the individual spirit, stunting curiosity. People won't take the initiative, won't take things into their own hands or on their own shoulders.

How can I, as someone with a foot in both camps, explain? When the philosophical tourist moves from one world view to another he finds - at the very moment of passing into the new - that he loses the language to describe the landscape to the old. of why one would not climb the mountain.

It's... well, there. Just there. Why interfere? Nothing to be done about it, or with it. Hillary's further explanation - that nobody else had climbed it - would stand as a second reason for passivity. Christianity, post-Reformation and post-Luther, with its teaching of a direct, personal, two-way link between the individual and God, unmediated by the collective, and un subordinate to any other human being, smashes straight through the philosophical/spiritual framework I've just described. It offers something to hold on to to those anxious to cast off a crushing tribal groupthink. That is why and how it liberates.

Those who want Africa to walk tall amid 21st-century global competition must not kid themselves that providing the material means or even the knowhow that accompanies what we call development will make the change. A whole belief system must first be supplanted.

And I'm afraid it has to be supplanted by another. Removing Christian evangelism from the African equation may leave the continent at the mercy of a malign fusion of Nike, the witch doctor, the mobile phone and the machete.

(Article contributed by Dan Richards.)`

Matthew Parris joined The Times as parliamentary sketch writer in 1988, a role he held until 2001. He had formerly worked for the Foreign Office and been a Conservative MP from 1979-86. He has published many books on travel and politics and an autobiography, *Chance Witness*, for which he won the 2004 Orwell Prize. His diary appears in The Times on Thursdays and his Opinion column on Saturdays.

Our Farewell to Lillian Caldwell

Lillian Caldwell was called home December 30, 2008. We knew her as our "Jimmie" a very special person in the life of our church. Jimmie and husband Jess were long time members. Jess died in 1973. Jimmie served on the committee that brought Dr. John Barclay to Austin. Dr Barclay credits Jimmie and thanked her for reading the many manuscripts that became his book of sermons, "What Ought To Be Can Be" published in 1966.

To know Jimmie was to love her and respect her many talents. She went about her church responsibilities quietly but efficiently. She enjoyed life. Some of her favorite things were: Central Christian Church, her family and friends, The University of Texas Longhorns, women's basketball, golfing at Munny golf course in Tarrytown and the youth of our congregation. She was a good steward, she supported her church not only with money but with her time. We were blessed. She had a special place in her heart for young Assistant Ministers, especially Walter Allen and Phyllis, David and Ginger Jarman. These young couples became her life long admirers. CWF for Jimmie meant she was active in a circle and in our general meeting. She was also a church trustee and supported the Texas Bible Chair. Jimmie's life was full, church, family, and friends.

In her later years Jimmie looked forward to the Fifth Sunday Band. Those familiar old hymns sent her toes a dancing. It was her kind of music. We sat in the pew behind her. Often Kenneth would tap her on the shoulder and admonish her to behave! She would give him a mischievous smile and rock on, thoroughly enjoying the music, always young in heart and soul.

Jimmie Caldwell will be warmly remembered and missed. Her enthusiasm for life, learning and serving sums up the long life of Lillian "Jimmie" Caldwell.

Jimmie you made a difference in the lives of all you touched. So it is we who say, "Farewell", you were a good and faithful servant of your Lord. You were loved by many.

Marolyn Robertson

2009 Nominations

Board Officers:

Chair:	Leticia Flores
Vice-Chair:	Jill Johnson Torres
Secretary	Dan Richards
Treasurer	Judye Moore
F. Secretary	Preston James
Historian:	Carey Taylor
Clerk:	Bonnie Bounds

Elders:

Phyllis Diaz	Leticia Flores
Bill Hill	Kathy Rodriguez

Deacons:

Gina Cross	Julie Fox
Raina Hornaday	Walt Hornaday
Oscar Houchins	Kathy Huffaker
Tom Maser	Cindy Milton
Eduardo Portilla	Jennifer Portilla
Ken Robertson	Marolyn Robertson
David Smith	Melody Thompson
Carolyn Wilson	Marc Wilson

Trustees:

Betty Alexander	Aurora Ortiz
-----------------	--------------

Emeritus Status:

Sarah Holland, Curtis Holland, Sr.,
Jerry Jungmichel, George Turner



Note:

Elizabeth Kinney recently passed away. A graveside service will be held Thursday, January 8th at 2:00 pm. Location is the Masonic Cemetery.

