



# THE MESSENGER

March 10, 2010

Volume 56, Issue 9

Memorial Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)

1001 Andrews Highway Midland, TX 79701

### Our Vision

To make Christ known,  
follow the Word of God,  
serve others,  
and win new disciples.

### Staff

**Rev. Terry Rothermich**, Pastor  
**Ms. Regina Erwin**, Director of Education and Family Ministries  
**Mrs. Margaret Parsley**, Admin/Financial Secretary  
**Mr. Randy Stevens**, Organist & Music Director  
**Mr. Salvador Ramirez**, Custodian  
**Mrs. Jackie Forsyth**, Board Chair

### Sunday School Classes

Toddlers & Twos .... Room 4  
Ages 3-4 ..... Room 7  
K-Grade 3 ..... Room 7  
JYF (Grades 4-5) ... Room 7  
Fellowship Class .... Room 9  
Discipleship Class.. Room 101

### Scheduled Leaders for March 14, 2010

**Elders**  
Offering ..... Jackie Hendricks  
Communion & Worship..... Betty Whitmire

**Deacons**  
Coordinator .....Beth Crawford  
Sharon Boyd; Lyn Brown; Colton, David, Jared, & Terry Perry

**Greeter** ..... Clarice Painter

**PowerPoint** .....Mike Landrum

**Psalms** ..... Psalm 32:1-5

**Scripture** ..... Luke 23:39-43

**Message**  
"Big Thing... Little Thing?"

Office Angels for March 17  
Carolyn Dixon,  
Ruth Kenney,  
& Pat Spaw



### Bows & Ribbons!

Plans are to re-decorate the large wooden cross displayed in the Sanctuary Foyer on Easter Sunday and during Eastertide. Between now and Palm Sunday (March 28), we invite church members to bring to the church brightly colored bows and lengths of ribbons in various shapes, sizes, and lengths. Please join in this refurbishing endeavor! (Sponsor: Worship Ministry)

### Board Meeting

Monday • March 15 • 7:00 p.m.  
Fellowship Hall  
New Business:  
Boy Scouts and  
Daycare Taskforce



### Mission & Outreach

Calling all gently used shoes and those without a match! I know you are thinking what is gently used? Well shoes that are still nice and that you would give to someone else that you know well. MCC is participating in a shoe drive for Soles4Souls. We are collecting shoes for Haiti. All shoes from flip-flops to dress shoes are welcome. If you only have one of a pair of shoes, bring it and toss it in the box. Boxes will be out in different parts of the church and you may begin bringing shoes this Sunday through Palm Sunday. We will be blessing the shoes on Palm Sunday. Any money collected will be used for shipping costs or to purchase new shoes. Begin that Spring Cleaning early and put together all your old shoes!



### MCC Easter Flowers Order Form

Price: \$10.00 each

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number Ordered: \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\*Please make checks payable to MCC, and note the check with "Easter Flowers." All orders must be in to the office by **March 29**.



### HOLY WEEK

### Lunch & Worship Schedule

Mar 29 .. Midland Lutheran

Mar 30 .. MCC

Mar 31 .. Trinity Pres

11:45 a.m.—12:45 p.m.

Donation of \$5.00 requested

Lunch, fellowship, special music, and closing worship

# T-Dreams

Hello! This past Sunday's focus from *The Easter Experience* study was on "expectations"—ours and God's. Of course, that sentence begs the question of myself, "How is it that I expect certain things of God when I myself place certain criterion on my expectations of God?" Worth thinking about.

*"And without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever would approach Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him." (Hebrews 11:6, NRSV)*

Studies show a major reason people let themselves get "turned off" to God is because God may not do something they have asked of God and expect of God. This thinking, in itself, seems a rather shallow and self-centered comprehension of Who God is.

We start with believing God is good. OK. Accepted! Then, we begin asking things of God...expecting God to bless certain of our needs or wishes. And, when some or much of that does not happen, we feel let down. Next, we say to ourselves, "If God is good, then why doesn't this good thing I expect to happen happen?"

So, does a "good and loving God" only do or give "good and loving things"? Likewise, try asking yourself *this* question, "As good and loving parents, did my parents do or give only good and loving things for me?" Was there some pain, some accountability, some disappointments, some frustrations in my life when I was growing up because my loving and good parents may have disciplined me or said "no" if "no" needed to be said? Did this make them less loving and less good to me? My personal answer to that would be "No." My parents were good and loving parents by the good things and by the not-so-good things (not-so-good from "my" perspective!) because I had faith that whatever happened, it happened for my own personal good...for my growth, development, and lesson-learning.

Is it not the same way with God as our good and loving Parent? One writer put it this way, *"Our problem is not that we believe God is good. Our problem is that we think we know exactly what a good God should do."*

As I mentioned in last Sunday morning's worship message, "God is God, and I am not!"

I, for one, have learned from living in the Faith that when it comes to God, mine is not to expect certain things my way, but to trust all things to God's way. Is that easy? Hardly. Do I do that well all the time? Hardly. Do I try? Always. Maybe this is the point.

I dream of the times when what we expect of God is only and mainly to be recognized as one of God's children, and all that comes with that acknowledgment. And you?

*Blessings, Terry*

## **Please pray for...**

- Apex 2000
- Shirley Ashley (friend of Lyn Brown)
- Billy Atchison (acquaintance of the Hendersons)
- Fran Atha (sister of Pat Spaw)
- Richard Barr (friend of the Groves)
- Grayson Braziel
- Kimber Brown
- Juanice & Ed Buie
- Rita Cox (friend of Marisa Hutchison)
- Mary Cross (cousin of Freda Kinsey & Lyn Brown)
- Pat Jo Dennis (friend of the Staileys)
- Cindy Edwards
- Roger Elliott
- Don Finkenbinder (friend of Martha & Delnor Poss)
- Mary Agnes Garcia (sister-in-law of Trinie Muegge)
- Jim Hamilton (cousin of Randy Stevens)
- Linda Hughes (daughter of Altha Odom)
- Zo Landrum (mother of Michael Landrum)
- Peg Spring Nickerson (friend of Jackie Hendricks)
- Mary Beth Reddell (daughter of Patricia & Joe Hopkins)
- Nick Roman (friend of Jarvis Salmon)
- Doug Smith (brother of Tamara Schulz)
- James Stark (friend of the Staileys)
- Teen Challenge
- June Waters (mother of Paula Brooks)



**Rev. Tony L. Salisbury**, Central Area Minister, [www.central-area.org](http://www.central-area.org)

**Rev. Dani Cartwright**, Southwest Regional Minister, [www.ccsww.org](http://www.ccsww.org)

**Rev. Sharon Watkins**, General Minister & President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), [www.disciples.org](http://www.disciples.org)

**Please have articles for the newsletter into the office on Friday afternoon before you wish the article to appear the following Wednesday.**

## *Regina's Raves*

MCC blesses so many people by being a loving congregation. A congregation that surrounds a youth with love after a profession of faith, or collects candy so that kids can have Easter baskets. Thank you MCC for being such a loving congregation. I would encourage you that there is always more love to give and more people that need it. I look forward to ministering with you as we work on several ways to share that love in the coming months.

**EMERGE** will meet on Thursday, March 18 at 7 p.m. Remember **EMERGE** is open to all those young at heart and to those young in age.

CYFers, if you are interested in going to Spring Rally at LBCR on April 16-18 registration deadline is looming. Registration is due to the church office by March 31. If you want a form, call the office.

Attention All Youth: Summer Camp Registration is coming up. April 11 is the Summer Camp Kickoff Sunday for the Central Area. If you are interested in going to summer camp, the forms will be available beginning April 11 and the deadline to avoid late fees is May 6. If you have questions, let me know.

*Regina*

### **Come and Share**

The next MCC Prayer Time (MCCPT) will be Wednesday, March 17 at Noon. Lunch will be served and there will be an opportunity to share your joys and concerns. A short devotional and prayer will follow. It is an excellent opportunity for church members and staff to fellowship and lift up the needs of our church.

### **New Class Beginning**

There's a new Church School class coming after Easter. It's called Roundtable Fellowship! It will be a time of fellowship, prayer, and a short devotion. This will be a very informal class and high school through senior adults are welcome. You are welcome to come and go from this class. Breakfast will be provided for those attending.

## **Thank You To the Congregation of Memorial Christian Church**

My personal health challenge has come to an end and I now have a clean bill of health! I want to thank you all for your support and prayers. Also, thank you for giving my mother, Betty Whitmire, support. I have said it before—it has been overwhelming the love you have shown both of us. Love, *Betsy Radney*

Dear Friends,

I also want to say Thank You for your prayers and concern during the past eight months. You have been such a blessing for all of us.

*Betty Whitmire*

### **"The Easter Experience" Session 5**

This Sunday's study focus will be on "The Promise of Eternal Life"—how we are given this when we acknowledge Jesus as the Christ and our Lord and Savior. However, this does not mean that from there on out we will be perfect and sinless. We will explore how we continue to stumble and fall away; how we always need to repent; and how we always need "saving." The promise is that we will always be saved...even though we find ourselves daily picking up our cross and falling short, whether in a big way or a tiny way. The hope we have is in the promise of salvation and eternity, just as the Christ on the cross gave this promise to one of those hanging beside Him. *Come join us for the Continental Breakfast (9:15 a.m.) and the study.*

### **Change at a Disciples Seminary**

As seminaries nationwide face financial crunches, one in Kentucky is adjusting by going almost exclusively online. Starting in Fall 2010, Lexington Theological Seminary (a Disciples of Christ seminary) will shift from a "campus-based seminary" to one offering online courses with intensive on-campus supplemental classes.

The Seminary, founded in 1836, is among the 40% of U.S. seminaries expected to drop in size, merge with another institution, or otherwise change operations in the near future due to the recession. (—out of a study by the Association of Theological Schools)

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## Weekly Calendar of Events

**Sunday, Mar 14: 4th Sunday in Lent**  
9:15 a.m. Continental Breakfast  
9:30 a.m. Bible Study "The Easter Experience"  
9:40 a.m. Church School ☺  
10:50 a.m. Worship ☺

**Monday Mar 15:**  
7:00 p.m. Board Meeting

**Wednesday, Mar 17:**  
1:00 p.m. Food Pantry  
6:30 p.m. Easter Egg Helpers  
7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal


**Thursday, Mar 18:**  
7:00 p.m. **EMERGE™**

**Sunday, Mar 21: 5th Sunday in Lent**  
9:15 a.m. Continental Breakfast  
9:30 a.m. Bible Study "The Easter Experience"  
9:40 a.m. Church School ☺  
10:50 a.m. Worship ☺

☺ Child Care for 4 years and younger.


Scheduled Leaders for Children's Church	
Date	Leader
Mar 14.....	Pat Jones & Peggy Jones
Mar 21.....	open
Mar 28.....	open

**Lectionary for Mar 14**  
Joshua 5:9-12  
Psalm 32  
2 Corinthians 5:16-21  
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32



**Christmas In  
Action  
Workday**

Mark your calendar for our  
annual Christmas In Action  
Workday, Saturday, April 17!



**Breakfast—8:30 a.m.  
March 13, 2010**