

# The Rec-Connection

February 2005



Physical Exercise has some value, but spiritual exercise is much more important, for it promises a reward in this life and the next. 1 Timothy 4:8

## JESUS

I would be willing to bet that no single name in the history of human language can incite such a broad range of emotions and actions as "Jesus Christ." Love and hate. Unity and division. Joy and sadness. Hope and fear. On and on. Listen in on a discussion of Jesus in a Christian church and you will hear stories of salvation, redemption, and hope. Listen to a conversation of Jesus in an Orthodox Jewish temple and the conversation will be quite different.

The majority of the world believes in one form or fashion of God. The views range from an all-seeing, all-knowing deity who is active in our lives... to various breeds of livestock. Research religion at all and you will find everything in between. Humans as a whole want to believe in something more. A god or some other force that binds us together and gives us the sense that we are not alone. I believe it is this desire inside all of us to know our lives amount to more than just a lucky collection of electric pulses and carbon that feeds our need for justification.

Most of society feels very comfortable discussing the concept of a god as long as it is always in vague terms. No specifics or names; just very general references to a god and maybe some teachings of Buddha or other eastern religion. Take this same polite conversation and mention Jesus. Watch what happens. Everyone was getting along, and at best, agreeing to disagree. Now it becomes personal. God has a name. A heated argument is brewing.

So why does the name of Jesus Christ evoke such emotion? I don't want to oversimplify, but I believe one reason is by sending Christ to walk among us, God is saying "I want to be a part of your life." Most non-Christians (and some Christians) like the idea of God, just as long as nothing is expected or required of them. Acknowledging Christ means it's time to get real.

God sent His son so that we may know the Father better. It is through Christ that we draw closer to God. Christ's presence among us means God wants to be real and active in our lives. He is no longer a distant deity watching as we fend for ourselves, but a living and active God who is present in our lives. This same God loves you dearly and wants a relationship with you above all else.

Max Lucado best sums up this idea in his book  
"No Wonder They Call Him The Savior."

*"There is something about the crucifixion that made every witness either step toward it or away from it. It simultaneously compelled and repelled. And today, two thousand years later, the same is true. It's the watershed. It's the continental divide. It's Normandy. And you are either on one side or the other. A choice is demanded. We can do what we want with the cross. We can examine its history. We can study its theology. We can reflect upon its prophecies. Yet the one thing we can't do is walk away in neutral. No fence sitting is permitted. The cross, in its absurd splendor, doesn't allow that. That is the one luxury that God, in his awful mercy, doesn't permit. On which side are you?"*  
Romans 5:8

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

*Chris Jones*

**Director of Recreational Ministries**

## Featured Programs

### Men's Basketball

It's that time again! Registration begins Monday, February 7th.

Season: March 14th - May 5th

Choose from the following leagues:

Mondays: Recreational

Tuesdays: Recreational

Thursdays: Competitive

All games will be played at 6pm, 7pm, or 8pm.

Each league must have 6 teams to make.

Night selection will be first-come, first-serve. Open to teams and Free Agents.

Teams must register and pay for 5 members to hold a spot. 8 weeks of round robin followed by a double elimination tournament May 14th and 15th.

All Team Captains and Free Agents must attend the orientation on February 28th at 7pm in the CLC.

See website for further details.

## Upcoming Events

### Fly Fishing Trip

Announcing the first ever  
CUMC Fly Fishing Trip!

**April 8th, 9th, & 10th.**

**Broken Bow State Park  
Beavers Bend, OK**

Open to all who enjoy the great outdoors.  
Please see the website or visit the CLC for more information.

**Christ United Methodist Church**  
**3101 Coit Road Plano, Texas 75075**  
[www.cumc.com/clc](http://www.cumc.com/clc)

**Christian Life Center**  
**972-596-6073**  
[Recreation@cumc.com](mailto:Recreation@cumc.com)