

## Legacy of Both Family and Church Rings on in Rockwall

On Sunday, September 17, 2006, First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Rockwall dedicated five octaves of handbells that formerly were central to the ministry of Highland Heights Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Wichita Falls, Texas. Highland Heights made the difficult decision of closing its doors on July 16, 2006. First Christian Church Rockwall has a familial connection with the Wichita Falls church. In 1974, Joe and Earline Adair purchased three octaves of handbells for Highland Heights Christian Church. The Adairs, their daughter's family, their granddaughter's family, and their great-granddaughter all were devoted members of Highland Heights Christian Church. Melanie Weir, the great-granddaughter of the Adairs, now is a member of First Christian Church Rockwall. Because of that connection, the Highland Heights church and Adair descendants approached the Rockwall church with the desire to donate the three octaves. Over the years, the Highland Heights church added two more octaves plus tables, stands, and gloves. Those were purchased and added to the ministry of the Rockwall church through the generosity of Kyle and Dorothy Allen, in memory of Kyle's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Allen. In addition, Melanie Weir and her family purchased the remainder of the bell music and donated that to the church.

During the September 17 dedication, Melanie's mother, Linda Carr, played two wonderful solos on the bells: The Lord's Prayer and Ave Maria. Also in attendance at the service were Ewell and Rita Cason (Melanie's grandparents) and Larry and Linda Carr (Melanie's parents). It was stated during the dedication that the ministry that was instigated by Highland Heights Christian Church now continues on through First Christian Church Rockwall.