1991

The Oldtimers' Grapevine, Volume 1 (February - December 1991)

William K. Fox Sr

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WHAT? ANOTHER NEWSLETTER?!

Well just maybe! How is your communication with the brothers and sisters you have shared the journey of faith with for the past 25, 40 to 50 years? Especially those you have come to know through congregations and events related to the National Christian Missionary Convention / National Convocation and the General Church?

Opportunities for sharing seem too infrequent! Other seniors who haven't had Convention/Convocation historical connection may have similar desires.

WOULD THE PUBLICATION OF A CRISP 4 TO 8 PAGE NEWSLETTER EVERY OTHER MONTH HELP? WOULD YOU READ AND SUPPORT SUCH A NEWSLETTER?

Here are some of the questions I would like to ask you and others:
Where do you live now? What are you doing? In what ways have you continued to make a Witness? How near are you to "the Promised Land?"

What blessings and new opportunities to share in the Vineyard have come your way. Is it well with your household? Would you welcome special prayers? Reubena and I would!

FOCUS: "THE OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE" WOULD MOVE OUR FRIENDSHIP CONNECTION TO A MORE PERSONALIZED AND CARING LEVEL. We could come to know and love new Travelers in The Way.

EDITORIAL STANCE/RELATIONSHIPS-
Limited space would be set aside for free exchange about a variety of matters of interest to Golden Agers. Readers of THE GRAPEVINE would not develop "an official" point-of-view and/or formalized programs. Whenever necessary, we could become a readership support group. (i. e. The Current war and love ones in the military.)

It should be understood that the reference to the National Convocation in the definition of subscribers (in the mast head) is only to indicate the kind of Golden Aged readership orientation. And it includes persons of all racial and ethnic backgrounds. THE OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE would not be regarded as an "organization" per se. It would be an independent newsletter. The "editor" would also serve as manager. (Continued on Page 2)
SERE S. MYERS, Kansas City, Mo- veteran pastor/NCMC pioneer- had a successful emergency leg amputation? He’s doing well!


ELBY BOOSINGER, Indy.-former head of Men’s Work- has just survived a serious illness?

C. C. DAMEL, Jeff City, MO- (2nd. Church leader- Lincoln Uni. professor) recently entered a nursing home?

SYBEL THOMAS, Chicago, IL- Park Manor CC- brilliant head of World Church Women’s org. elected next NCCC pres. in Arlington, TX?

WILLIE GREEN, Jeff City, MO- (widow of former NCMC Leader) recuperating from recent surgery?

THERMA DICKSON, Indianapolis, IN (mate of E. J. Dickson) in rehab after fall and long hospitalization?

ALPHA C. W. ARNOLD- in their 80’s/90’s- have moved from L. A., CA to Norfolk, VA? Doing pulpit-supply?

DAN HEATH, Rockford, IL- 80+ founder/pastor 1st CC- just burned the church mortgage?

PHIL DICKERSON (widow of NCMC leader “L. L”) moved from Indy. to Nashville, TN? No longer driving.

MELVIN DICKSON holds the record for longest tenure as pastor of one NCCC congregation?-- 45 YEARS PLUS!!
**THE OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE**

**Did You Know:**

ROSA P. WELCH, Port Gibson, MS has anchored in Mississippi?

E. C. WELCH, Chicago, IL- (Rosa's husband)- reached the age of 100 in August 1990? The family rejoiced!

CURTIS LLOYD, Dayton, 0- 84 years old- (who introduced me to golf)- won a recent senior golf tournament in Columbus, 0?

ZELLIE PEOPLES- in her 80's- in "Three Sister's Nursing Home, Indianapolis, IN remains involved with church and community concerns?

ELIZABETH ENNIX- former NCCC officer and Indiana Regional Staff and MARIAN COWAN- former CWF staffer and NC/1C leader- now reside in NBA'S Robin Run Retirement Center in Indianapolis.

LENORA ROLLA, Fort Worth, TX- now in her 80's- former Home Missions teacher at SCL- heads Tarrant County Black history center?

MONTEE ACKERS, SR- in 80's- retiree & veteran elder in Park Manor CC- does all work on his car- recently poured own 32ft walk and tuck-pointed his home? Wife- Albertha- recovering from light paralysis stroke?

ENOCH & MARIAN HENRY, Indianapolis- now both retired- heading back to Los Angeles, CA- The former DHM staff & mate industrial technician- both into "Battle of the Bulge!"

VELVA DREESE, Raymore, MO- former UCMS missionary/CWF staff- in 90th. year- made a recent appeal to individuals in her congregation re the Philippine earthquake and quickly received more than 1,500!

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MARGARET (BUGGS) STARN, Lenoir Homes, Columbia, MO- member of original Reconciliation Committee- recovering after physical disabilities? Bill doing okay?

JOHN & OLIVE LONG, NBA’S Rosemead, CA- former president of Southern Christian Institute- first again with that Christmas letter?

A. C. STONE, Cincinnati, 0 and BETTY Fiers, Palm Beach Shore, FL- both recovering from emergency hospitalizations?

**Are You Into This?-**

Reading?
Writing?
Hobbies?
Recreation?
Trips?
Community work?
Pot-luck dinners?
Grandparenting?
Volunteer services?
Casseroles for pot-luck?

**LET THE GRAPEVINE HELP YOU SHARE**

**WHAT YOU ARE DOING CALL ME AT (816) 331-7323 OR WRITE: 500 MOTT DR., APT. 1028 - RAYMORE, MO 64083**

**Some 1990 Retirees:**

RUTH DEER, Indianapolis- from DHM- Husband- Lewis, former UCMS staff dealing with desegregation activity.

MARTHA SYKES, Indianapolis- from Christian Church Services for 30 yrs+ Handled all NCMC/NCCC mail.

ARCHIE WARREN- Knoxville, TN- pastor of National Convocation churches.

CHARLES C. MILLS, Indianapolis- former DOM staff- airline agency office handling NCMC/NCCC bookings.
Can You Share Any These Blessings?

1- "Victories" over physical illness?

2- Recent unique religious experiences?

3- How are you dealing with your personal religious life and the tensions of the current War in the Mid-East?

4- Unique experiences with grandchildren or great-grandchildren?

5- Plans for realizing some of your goals for 1991?

PLEASE SEND ME YOUR ACCOUNT. SHARE IT WITH ALL OF US!

Bible Study

With crisis and turmoil throughout the world it is providential that Uniform Lesson bible studies for March-May is Phil 4:11 Cor.
FORMER CONVENTION/CONVOCATION STARS STILL SHINE

After 35 years of service to the public schools of Indianapolis, IN as a program coordinator for the Business Education Department of Arsenal Technical High School, Majorie Chenault Parker was selected in 1990 for nationally acclaimed Teacher of the Year Award.

Margorie once served as the executive office secretary for the four member staff of the National Christian Missionary Convention when it provided program services in congregations. Later during the developmental years of the National Convocation of the Christian Church, she was elected secretary and member of the Convocation's board of trustees.

Happily married to Russell Parker and mother for three sons, Mrs. Parker also gives leadership as an elder and chair for committees in Faith United Christian Church of Indianapolis; and is a member secretary for the board of an NBA sponsored retirement living center in the city called Robin Run Village Resident Homes and Apartments. A neighborhood program sponsored by cooperating congregations called the Quad Parish Churches, also honored Marge for her participation in its outreach ministries.

AUSTIN'S REMAIN ACTIVE

Enjoying a good time at Robin Run Spencer and Kitty Austin of Indianapolis cross town with 40 other church members to Downey Avenue C.C. They maintain the congregation is having "some of its best years* ever! An operetta called "65 We've Got Your Number" was written and directed by Russell Deitch and presented (with a cast of 24) to a full house at the Zionsville Church. Spencer, was an usher.

Before retiring, Dr. Austin was a key national church leader who worked on the plans for the integration of National Convention/Convocation congregations into the total Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and launching the Reconciliation Fund.

HAYNES SLATED FOR AWARD

*Oscar Haynes, Washington, D. C.- outstanding churchman from the Twelfth Street C. C.- first layman president of the National Convocation and past vice moderator (Continued on Page 2)
HAYNES (From Page 1)

of the General Assembly will receive the sixth Diplomate Award of the National City Christian Church Corporation May 4, 1991.

Oscar is an active member of 12th Street C. C. of Washington, D. C. and president of the Board of Managers of Greenwood Cemetery in Nashville, TN. He is also on the steering committee for the Church-wide $30 million capital campaign.

Haynes lost his beloved wife, Mae, last summer as they were motoring home from the Arlington, TX biennial session of the Convocation.

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RETIREMENT HONORS FOR 1990!

The GRAPEVINE gives highest retirement honors for 1990 to Martha Holder Sykes of Indianapolis. She retired from the Missions Building (headquarters' offices of the Christian Church) after 47 years of service. Martha was employed as a messenger in 1943 as an inexperienced 17 year old high school senior and retired in May of 1990 as the supervisor of the mailing room. She never took any of her 200 accumulated days of sick leave. She is the 11th. of 12 children.

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THOUGHTS ON THE GRAPEVINE:

*Keep the GRAPEVINE coming. Its the best thing for seniors since Geritol...Prayer is always desired. - The Enoch Henry's, Indianapolis, IN

**"It's a great idea! Why not include persons young enough than "60?" - N. Twiddy and Pat Clark, St. Louis, MO

**"It's wonderful! It reminds me of "222" at Missions Building only it covers the nation." - Amy Holman, Raymore, MO.

**"I enjoyed reading the first issue. It's the kind of thing I was talking to E. J. Dickson about. But you've got it started." - George E. Lakes, Kansas City, MO.

**"The Oldtimers' Grapevine" publication is a splendid idea. You have my enthusiastic support and cooperation. - Ernest J. Newborn, Sr. - Indianapolis, IN

**"We really enjoyed the "Oldtimers' Grapevine" - very interesting and informative...It's really good for us 'oldtimers.'" - C. W. & Alpha Arnold, Norfolk, VA

*Another good idea. - John Long, Rosemead, CA

**"If we don't have any money we can lick the stamps." - Velda Drees - Raymore, MO

**"I am not yet 'over 60' but I enjoyed reading your first issue." - Emily L. Jackson - Memphis, TN

**"I would certainly hope that you would consider having a segment... on retirement and minority aging issues...One immediate topic...is the whole issue of making a will...even if you don't feel that you have a huge estate or a lot of money..." - N. R. E.- Twitty, St. Louis, MO
GRAPEVINE (From Page 2)

* "I was glad to get the OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE. - Lorenzo J. Evans-Indianapolis, IN

* Very good idea. I really enjoyed reading about "oldtimers..." - Cheerful Alphin, St. Louie, MO

* What a beautiful idea to begin THE OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE...Hopefully you will generate more finance to continue publication." - Ruth Hobbs, Jackson, MS

--- CORRECTION PLEASE!! ---

Curtis Lloyd- 81 yr. old golfer from Dayton, O- won the Senior's golf tournament at Locust Hills Golf Club in Springfield, O- NOT COLUMBUS! He still plays 3 times a week.

REACH OUT WITH LOVE AND FOCUSED PRAYER FOR:

* Ellis & Louise Jordan of Chicago, IL- while enroute to Convocation meeting in Indy Jan. 19, had a serious car accident. Both injured. Ellis bruised, Louise hospitalized in Lafayette, IN/Chicago for left arm and foot fractures etc. Now slowly convalescing at home. (write: 9335 S. Eberhart Ave.-Chicago, IL 60619)

* John Long, Rosemead, Ca- Back home February 1, 1991 after "month's vacation in hospital for congestive heart failure and pneumonia- but doing as well as could be expected." (write: 4807 N. Earle St., Rosemead, CA 91770)

* Annette Jackson, Nashville, TN- neice and close supporter in ministry for the late R. Maloy- builder of Alameda Street C.C.-suffered a broken ankle recently.

* Special loving concern for Sere S. Myers, one of SCI's greatest!" - from John Long

* Roberta Courts- beloved wife of Elder Thomas, Flint, MI- remains in a serious state of health, including physical incapacitation.

* Loyal Northcott, Tyler, TX- retired executive secretary of the department of membership & evangelism for the General Church (CCDC) convalescing from illness.

--- LET'S CELEBRATE! PRAISE GOD! ---

* E. L. Griffin, Shelby, MS- Senior patriarch of MS pastors-wife- Luherta, passed in 1984. Griffin "Interim" at 1st. C. C.-Shaw; still serving Mound Bayou & Clarksdale churches.

* Annette Jackson of Nashville, TN says the Alameda Street Christian Church recently paid off a loan for buying land to build a new church building.

* Mabel Metz, Indianapolis, IN- retired missionary to the Phillippines- & as UCMS staff served Convocation congregations. Now serving as editor of the newsletter for the US-China People's Friendship Association. The group befriends Chinese students mostly at Indiana University/Purdue University/Indianapolis. They functioned as a support group during the Tianan Min Square Massacre.

(Continued on Page 4)
CELEBRATE (From Page 3)

*Marhetta McMickle, Chicago, IL- retired school teacher but continuing as an ardent lay leader, bible class teacher and congregational historian for Park Manor Christian Church. She also teaches piano to children and handbells to a group of women!

*Bill Starn, Columbia, MO- retired executive for the Christian Churches of Greater St. Louis- is keeping physically fit by walking two miles at least three times a week and lifting weights ("pumping fluid"). Bill's son-Peter- persuaded him to do the latter in a Cardiac Rehabilitation Center to strengthen his arms, legs and back.

*Joseph Galloway, Chatham, Va- retired public school administrator, former National Convocation board member and pastor of Fayette Street C. C. in Martinsville, Va, is now serving as the interim at Grace United Presbyterian Church of Martinsville.

*Beatrice Goodwin, Los Angeles, CA- 93 year old lay leader at United Christian Church, continues to attend Sunday worship weekly, bake rolls for the Community Feeding Project and bring children to Sunday School.

*Cornellus W. Arnold, Norfolk, Va- continues to preach! Two of four sermons delivered to the Bethlehem Church of Christ membership in February were entitled: "The Stone that Was Never Thrown" and "Stumbling Block or Stepping Stone."

*Ruth Hobbs, Jackson, MS- chair for Outreach Commission in & member of CWF and senior choir at United Christian Church; co-chair for program committee of the State Convention; on boards of Disciples of Christ Historical Society and Southern Christian Services for Youth; officer in local branch of the Retired Teachers Association.

*Emmett J. Dickson, Indianapolis, IN is serving an interim at the Fair Street Church of Springfield, O for the second time.

*Carmella J. Barnes, Los Angeles, CA- veteran lead elder at United Christian Church, recently reached the 80 year old mark to begin another generation of service. Currently she is involved in supporting the 3rd year of the United's Community Feeding Project and plans for directing another international, interdenominational "Golden Ager" five day camping experience in the mountains. Up to 40 persons attend.


*Della January, Springfield, O, represents the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) on the United Church of Christ Ohio Board. She is also a member of the General Board of the Christian Church (D. o. C.) as well as the Commission on Finance.

*Lorenzo J. Evans, Indianapolis, IN celebrated his 56th year as an ordained minister in the Christian Church Nov. 11, 1990. He (Continued on Page 5)
CELEBRATE (From Page 4) -
remains active as a teacher of Bible in a multi-cultural center; member of the National Convocation Star Supporter Committee; member of a regional church commission and on the local congregation's stewardship committee.

*Rufus Lewis, Jr, Birmingham, AL reports that under his leadership the Macedonia CC is being renovated. He maintains the services of retired pastor Earl Murray, Sr. as the Associate Regional Minister, is making the Alabama Region progressive.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

On Inclusiveness:
I can be included in any project that's inclusive... I fought with all of my being to have an inclusive society and witnessing it now is gratifying. When you state that

Next Issue - HURRY!
Enclosed find check for...some coverage on postage... I think this is a beautiful idea for us old folks to keep up with each other. I did not know the Arnolds had moved... I treasure their friendship... I stay busy, busy, busy... I look forward to the next news from you...- Naomi Sims- Fort Worth, TX

The OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE will be inclusive, my full cooperation is at your disposal. Most all of the doors and avenues are open; those we fought for are standing ajar. Now some of us want to turn the clock back...
I am 100 percent with you in this new venture you are inspired to do. I believe it will fill a void; keep the fire of friendship alive and inform each of us of things happening! Move forward- I am with you.- R. L. Jordan - Detroit, MI

GRAPEVINE' DONORS:
E. L. Griffin, Shelby, MS; Mabel Metze, Indianapolis, IN; W. Elbart & Margaret Sturn, Columbia, MO; E. J and J. R. Newborn, Sr Indianapolis, IN; C. W. and A. P. Arnold, Norfolk, VA; John & OLive Long, Rosemead, CA; Annette Jackson, Nashville, TN; Beatrice B. Mosley, Jackson, MS;

(Continued on Page 6)
DONORS (From Page 5)

Velva Dreese, Raymore, MO; Norma R. Ellington-Twiddy, St. Louis, MO; Della January, Springfield, OH; Robert L. & Maise Jordan, Detroit, MI; Lorenzo J. Evans, Indianapolis, IN; Cheerful Alphin, St. Louis, MO; Rufus Lewis, Jr, Birmingham, AL; Ruth P. Hobbs, Jackson, MS; Enoch and Marion Henry, Jr; Indianapolis, IN; John R. & Lucile A. Compton, Cincinnati, OH; Elizabeth Enix, Indianapolis, IN; Spencer P. & Kathleen B. Austin, Indianapolis, IN; Ellis L. & Jimmie L. Jordan, Chicago, IL; Ray E. Brown, Indianapolis, IN; Phlandria Dickerson, Nashville, TN; Emily L. Jackson, Memphis, TN; Naomi Sims, Fort Worth, TX; Oscar Haynes, Washington, DC

TOTAL DONATED TO-DATE: $284.00 - EXPENSE: $78.60

FAMILY CIRCUS

"My grandfather is in Florida."
"That's nothin'. Mine is in heaven."

from The Joyful Noiseletter
1991 Bill Keane, Inc.
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OLDTIMER ISSUES: RESPONSES/DISCUSSION

1. ISSUE: Where should you move when outside forces like urban redevelopment dictate the sale of your home?

*One Response- Verleska Hicks of Dayton, OH- retired mathematician and federal staff employee- first woman moderator of her congregation (Summit Christian Church) and former member of the General Church Reconciliation Steering Committee seeking moderate income level housing in a stable neighborhood where basic services for a retiree are easily accessible.

*WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

2. ISSUE: How do you prepare for retirement?

*One Response- Besides serving as an elder and moderator of Second Church in Jefferson City, MO, Dr. Foster D. Fuller is nearing retirement as a professor in vocational education at Lincoln University. (Dr. Miriam Fuller- his wife and a pre-school education specialist- is in a similar category.) Thus, a regular week-end project for the entire Fuller family of four is a trip to their farm where they are constructing a printing company facility. A business (and agricultural) operation he intends to retire to in a few years.

WHAT IS YOUR PLAN?

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(Continued on Page 7)
**In Memoriam**

*Marilla Jackson, Indianapolis, IN- 96 year old grandmother of Dr. T. Garrott Benjamin, Jr, pastor of the Light of the World Christian Church, Indianapolis- Services held Jan. 26, 1991. Mrs. Jackson provided basic motherhood nurture and spiritual motivation for the outstanding ministerial leader in the church- Dr. Benjamin.*

*Samuel Calvert, Houston, TX- recently deceased husband of Johnnie Howard- member of one of the leading families in the development of Texas Christian Missionary Convention-related congregations.

NO REJOICING IN HERE!?

*After a Christian magazine carried a picture of "The Laughing Christ" by Willis Wheatly, an angry subscriber wrote the following letter to the editor: "I never have seen laughter before at any time from our Lord Jesus Christ, and I do not approve of it. We must not rejoice until Easter."*  
-from THE JOYFUL NOISELETTER- Feb.'91

**HAVEN YOU SENT YOUR SUBSCRIPTION DONATION TO OLDMITERS?**

*The empty tomb proves the value of Christianity: the empty church denies it." - Rev. Denny Brake, Pomeroy, IA*

*Young men think old men are fools; but old men know young men are fools." - George Chapman*

**On Issues (From Page 6)-**

3. ISSUE: Where should you live if your immediate family is buried in one place and your the lone family member left and living elsewhere?  

One response: "I moved back to Nashville, TN (Ann and 'L. L.' were buried here... I am the last one of my family. I am enjoying being with ole friends." - Philandria Dickerson, Nashville, TN  
WHAT WOULD YOU DO?  
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**WILLIAMSES RETIRE WITH JOY!**

*Roger and Clarabelle Williams- Brooklyn, NY- retired from the Williamsburg Christian Church November 31, 1990. Elder Williams had completed a successful 40 year pastorate.*  

A joyous "Retirement Party" was sponsored by the congregation January 19, 1991 in Brooklyn's Show Boat Cafe. Representatives from church and community groups were in attendance.  

The Williamses are moving to a home place in Columbia, S. C. where their two daughters are engaged in social work and teaching professions.  
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**HAYNES SEEKS RADIO RIGHTS**

Oscar Haynes of Washington, D. C. currently has applications in for an AM radio station in Washington and an FM newly authorized station by FCC in New Market, VA. He thinks the GRAPEVINE is a "great idea" and is "fully supportive."
PRE-EASTER DAILY BIBLE READING

M-Christ died & rose- l Cor. 15:1-11
T-Resurrection is true- l Cor. 15:12-20
W-Death destroyed- l Cor. 15:21-28
TH-How possible? l Cor. 15:35-45
F-Immortality l Cor. 15:51-56

(*From International Sunday School Lesson materials)

LOUISE EVANS RETIRES

Dr. Louise B. Evans of Indianapolis, IN- former director of children's work and Christian family as an employee of the General Church as of January 1, 1991. During nearly a decade of service, Dr. Evans conducted many workshops in National Convocation biennial sessions and seminars on Christian family life for a variety of congregations in the Church.

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GRAPEVINE EDITOR-

The OLDTIMERS' newsletter depends upon two-way communication. Please share with the developing network of *Oldtimers.* Call me. Write me. FAX me (i.e. via Foxwood Springs Living Center) and I'll do the rest.

Currently I am on an Editorial Board which is developing a research report for the Urban League on THE STATE OF BLACK KANSAS CITY- 1991.

I'm heading the Black Church

Dr. James M. Seale**
Dis. of Chr. His. Soc.
1101 Nineteenth Ave.
Nashville TN 37212
THE BEST LONG RANGE HEALTH PLAN IS GOD/ACTIVITY SO-

LET US CELEBRATE! -

*The memory of Ell W. Wilbert of Dayton, OH- a beloved pastor of Summit Christian Church for more than 30 years and active in the life of the National Christian Missionary Convention- was honored recently by that congregation when 'the dining area and a class room of the church was named "Wilbert Hall." Dorothy Wilbert, his highly respected widow and member of Summit, joined the family in receiving the honor.

*Kenneth L. Teegarden, Fort Worth, TX - retired from being the General Minister and President of the Church in 1985, but has since retired two more times. Kenneth says, "I joined the faculty of Brite Divinity School for 3-1/2 years, and then I was Interim Regional Minister in the Southwest for about eight months...It's interesting to hear about what others are doing and where they are in their retirement...I miss seeing all the good friends across the years...I look forward to the General Assembly in Tulsa next October...Keep up the good work on the "Grapevine." (When "active" Teegarden was a pivotal leader in church-wide restructuring; establishment of Reconciliation; the NCMC/International Convention merger agreement; and facilitation of the Convocation Trustees' idea for church-wide new congregational establishment.)

*Eunice B. Miller, Fairfax, SC says
"Thank you for putting me on the mailing list. I have been quite busy since I retired. Out of all the things I've done, the most gratifying is the efforts that my sister and I put forth to have a Christian Church built here in our little town of Fairfax.

With about twenty eight people we met and decided we needed a church. I contacted the Board of Church Extension, and as a result we have a beautiful building which seats about one hundred and fifty people. We have grown from a few members to over a hundred in three years..." (Eunice is a retired public school teacher and former field staff worker for the UCMS, serving women in National Christian Missionary Convention congregations.)

*Frank T. and Mayme Garner-Paducah, KY- Completing first segment of their interim ministry at Faith United Christian Church,
CELEBRATE - from Page 1

Canton, OH. They now "understand the challenge and joy" of doing an interim. Mayme answered "the call" to become a licensed minister on her 62nd birthday two years ago via the Kentucky Regional Committee. She is dedicated to serving "widows and orphans of all ages." She delivered the March 31 Easter Sunrise Service message at Faith United. (The Garner's were leaders/officers in the National Christian Missionary Convention.)

*Howard Dentler, Indianapolis, IN - retired from serving the General Church as deputy general minister and president, with primary responsibility for the administration of the General Church Assembly. Recently Howard was secured by the church to raise 6.5 million dollars from the Indianapolis business community for the building of the new downtown International Disciples Center. While at the General Office Howard aided the National Convocation in the planning of its biennial assemblies.

*John R. Compton, Sr., Cincinnati, OH - retired first African American president of the division of homeland ministries, and former administrative secretary of the National Convocation. has been engaged by the Christian Church Foundation to direct a drive to raise 2.5 million dollars by the year 2000 for a Black Disciples Endowment Fund for Development. John is also a past director of the General Reconciliation Fund and president of the National Christian Missionary Convention.

*Earl W. Rand, Marshall, TX - the former president of Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, TX serves on the boards of Jarvis and Juliette Fowler Homes. He is also an elder in the First Christian Church of Marshall.

*Louise Moseley, Columbia, MO - veteran free-lance writer for the NBA and UCMS many years ago. Louise says the "Lenoir Retirement Community has been my home since 1974... Since then I've made several hundred friends and found Lenoir to be a good place to live... I'm active in the Broadway Christian Church where I think our only millionaire is the baseball player, Phil Bradley... now in Japan. As one of the less affluent members I serve on the Christian Concerns Dept. & CWF."

*Haln Pilgrim-Minor, Montreal, Canada - professional linguist in French and former short-term serving specialist in communications for the
CELEBRATE- from Page 2

Christian Church in Zaire, Africa, took a freighter trip around the world in July 1990. She’s thinking about returning to the U.S.A. after a second freighter trip around the world this spring via a daring transpolar route through severe ice conditions. She adores "living in the French milieu" and lecturing on Howard Thurman.

*Willie E. Green, Jefferson City, MO- "I am doing fine. I was able to go to church for the first time since surgery on the 10th (of March). I have never been out of church that long. My children took good care of me... one of my sisters came and spent a week with me... I was grateful for your prayers and concern... The Oldtimers’ Grapevine is a wonderful idea..."

*Joseph L. Galloway, Chatham VA- retired, pastor, teacher, principal; interim pastor, is Mayor of the Town of Chatham, VA- a town founded in 1813! How times have changed in Chatham! Wife, Rebecca continues in faithful support.

*Minnie Morrison Smith, Hannibal, MO- a Social Security Office employee, an active member of Willow Street Christian Church and advocate for the National Convocation, was recently inspired to run for the school board. Hannibal lost 33 teachers last year! As a mother of two sons who completed public school in Hannibal as well as the University of Missouri in Columbia, she felt she had a stake in the future of public education. Watch for a report on her experience!

*Harvey R. Thomas of Chicago, IL retired government employee ponders a doctor’s offer to replace two bum knees. Meanwhile he’s chairing the executive committee of the Illinois/Wisconsin regional church’s million dollar new church development drive called TOUCH THE FUTURE, while wife- Sybel A. serves on the Steering Committee of the national financial campaign called EMBRACE THE FUTURE.

*Walter D. Cardwell, Indianapolis, and wife, Sue- missionaries to Zaire and Sus, also retired faculty at Christian Theological Seminary- celebrated with son, David and his wife who gave birth to triplet boys recently. Sue and Walter tended the "gifts from above" for the first ten weeks. This makes 18 grans!

*Gilford and Denise Olmdsted recently moved from Kerrville, TX to Raymore, MO and a home in the NBA Foxwood Retirement Living Center. Gilford is a former regional minister of Indiana and member of the General Church Reconciliation Steering Committee.

*Raymond Brown of Indianapolis, IN- senior vice president of the Board of Church Extension- Convention officer and a past Convocation officer/staff- is nearing retirement. But March 10 he returned to Hannibal MO and the Willow Street Christian Church to share in the 117th. church anniversary. Ray was the pastor here before joining the general church staff. W. Ann Facen, the current minister, is the fourteenth pastor to render Willow Street effective service. She’s an active Convocation leader.

OLD AGE WRINKLES THE FOREHEAD; BUT INACTIVITY WRINKLES THE SOUL -- from Benjamin Franklin --
CELEBRATE - from Page 3

*Marilynne Hill, Indianapolis, IN-
"I am off to India for the third time since I retired! This time its to help my sister (Marjorie) pack up. She's retiring after serving 40 years in India." Marlynne - born to missionary parents while In India - taught at Southern Christian Inst. and directed the Week of Compassion before her retirement.)

*Sere S. Myers, Kansas City, MO-
shares these words of thanksgiving with friends: "It is wonderful to have friends who care about you and for you. My sickness was a crisis in my life. I had two major operations within 24 hours. At this point, I am relaxed and have released myself into the hands of the great shepherd..."

*Walter and Grace Giffin, Sun City, AZ- had their 50th. wedding anniversary Feb. 15, 1991. Walter is a retired head of general church research. Grace is a former National Convocation and general church office secretary.

*Rosa Page Welch, Port Gibson, MS- says "I want to express my very deep gratitude to...so many of you for the many lovely, heart-warming greetings for the celebration of my 90th. birthday..."E. C.," my husband celebrated his 100th. birthday August 8...God bless you and yours real good."

*Grace Smith, Roanoke, VA-
reports Louden Ave. CC and pastor "doing really well. We have four choirs and a growing membership."

RESPONSES TO 'OLDTIMERS'

**...Thanks a bunch* for...the two issues of the 'Oldtimers' Grapevine.' What a wonderful idea! I devoured both issues as soon as they arrived." -Marthea L. McMicle, Chicago, IL.

**... was glad to hear from you folks today through the retiree news. Enjoyed it and was glad to get word of some friends whom I had lost contact for a while. I will look forward to receiving future issues...Northern Indiana communities experienced severe damage from ice storm/wind last week (Mar. 20) Several counties will be without electricity for two or three weeks." -Gertude Dimke, Indianapolis, IN

'OPEANDING A CAN OF WORMS'

We're beginning to share about our children. One child at a time PLEASE! No bragging allowed! We're opening the can of worms!

*A recent issue of the University of San Diego (CA) campus publication featured an article on newly employed Assistant Professor Mary Josephine Newborn. (Father/mother-Ernest/Janice) She's teaching products liability this semester and health law and bankruptcy in the spring. Mary formerly had spent three years with the Indianapolis law firm of Ice, Miller, Donadio & Ryan working in these fields of law.

*The March 25th. 11th. Anniversary Program of the Achievers Recognition Awards Dinner in Indianapolis listed Katherine Fox Tourner (William/Reubena
WORMS - from Page 4

-father/mother) as one of the 1991 nominees for an Achievers Award. Katherine recently left Danville, IL where she was the housing authority executive to return to Indianapolis as the administrator for the division of housing in the city’s Department of Metropolitan Development.

THE BIBLE IN LONKUNDO!

*Walter Cardwell of Indianapolis, IN excitedly reports that when he, Sue and their children returned to Zaire last May *I carried with me the manuscript of the commentary on Genesis so that the Protestant press in Zaire could print it...*It has printed 2000 copies. This means that our Disciple preachers in Zaire have commentaries in all the New Testament books in Lonkundo, plus commentaries on Genesis, Isaiah, Amos, Hosea, and Micah. Also a survey of the Old Testament.

How I wish that the economy were better in Zaire! Most of the families are desperately poor. They cannot finance what the church needs to be doing in education and health care...*

MORE DONORS- THANK YOU! (Mar. 15- May 15, 1991)

Geneva E. Griffin, Indianapolis, IN; Louise Moseley, Columbia, MO; Augusta E. Grant, Raymore, MO; George Lakes, Kansas City, MO; C. W./A. P. Arnold, Norfolk, VA; Walter/Sue Cardwell, Indianapolis, IN; Gertude Dimke, Indianapolis, IN; Orval D. Peterson, Columbia, MO; Lewis/Ruth Deer, Indianapolis, IN;

Dr. & Mrs. Kenneth Teegarden, Fort Worth, TX; Dr. & Mrs. E. W. Rand, Marshall, TX; Marthetta Mc Mickle, Chicago, IL; Frank/Mamie Gamer, Paducah, KY/Canton, OH; Geo./Clytee Washington, Chicago, IL; Willie E. Green, Jefferson City, MO; Harvey/Sybel Thomas, Chicago, IL; Lucille Morrison, Hannibal, MO; Rosa Page Welch, Port Gibson, MS; Valeska H. Williams, St. Louis, MO; Lester D. Palmer, Indianapolis, IN; Eunice B. Miller, Fairfax, SC; Joseph & Rebecca Galloway, Chatham, VA; Leroy/Martha Sykes, Indianapolis, IN; Hattie E. Coleman, Kansas, MO; Marilynne Hill, Indianapolis, IN; Dorothy E. Wilbert, Dayton, OH; Samuel W. Hylton, Jr- St. Louis, MO; Amy Hohman, Raymore, MO; Robert W. Dickerson, Cleveland, OH

WILLIAM GUY of Dayton, OH- elder and lay leader in Summit Christian Church- died recently enroute to Chicago, IL to bury his mother.

LULA BUTLER of Dayton, OH- faithful and oldest member of Summit C. C. at 97- laid to rest at Lincoln View Cemetery April 18, 1991, Mt.

*Elby Boosinger, Indianapolis, IN- retired general church staff head for men's work-, died April 27- Buried in Jellico, TN. Convocation advocate & Star Supporter booster.

TOTAL TO-DAY RECEIPTS: $525.90- EXPENSE: $204.07-
RETIREMENT- Dr. James R. Reed, Indianapolis, IN- president of the Christian Church Foundation for 27 years announced early retirement April 25, 1991. Rev. Reed was credited with moving the Foundation "from modest beginnings" to a financial unit of the church with "more than $40 million in 1990." ...Health reasons" brought Reed to early retirement. Dr. Reed supported many National Convocation causes.

HOLD THESE IN PRAYER:

*Reuben M. S. Fox, Raymore, MO hospitalized 5/9/91 with diabetes.

*William Smith, Hannibal, MO- Has had three strokes and can not travel. (P.O. Box 1167, - 63401)

*Jean Woolfolk, Little Rock, AR- retired & former head of Church Finance Council- after operations & strokes- in Baptist Rehab Institute 5/11/91. (470 Ridgeway Dr. 72205) 

*Evelyn Watkins, Indianapolis, IN- wife of BCE president Harold- convalescing following operation. (1342 No.Graham Ave.- 46219) 

*John & Jenean Fulton, Indianapolis, IN- Disciple's free lance artists/photographers. John's very ill! (7833 Wysong Dr. 46219) 

*Mildred Smith, Raymore, MO Nursing Center at 500 Mott Dr. Rm. 214- retired staff of former Disciples' Unified Promotion unit- (now C. F. C.) bed-fast with lower body paralysis for past three years..
DEATHS DRAMATIZE LINKAGE OF PAST TO PRESENT

LONG- MINISTER & COLLEGE PRESIDENT

*John C. Long of Rosemead, CA died April 29 after a four-month's siege of illness and 18 years of residence in the NBA sponsored California Christian Home. Family was assembled and in reverent celebration of his 90th birthday (April 18). The churchman graduated from Eureka College June 9, 1925 and then was ordained and married to Olive Buffington. Their desires to serve in Africa, were channeled toward accepting membership on the faculty of Southern Christian Institute, Edwards, MS.

In 1933 John became president of SCI- a Disciples of Christ supported institution which had been dedicated to the education of African American youth since 1882. For 21 years the Long’s were immersed in the Black community as he guided an interracial faculty and staff committed to educating blacks in Mississippi- a state which at that time was a largely rural, racially hostile and Jim Crow.

When Long succeeded president J. B. Lehman, he initiated a decided transition from Lehman’s 43 year tenure as both SCI president and the firm "benevolent father-figure" administrator of the denomination’s "Negro Church Work." In contrast, his leadership was mainly with the school and featured a servant/sharing administrative style with greater stress on the academic. In the face of many obstacles he met with reasonable success.

Many Black church leaders from the USA, Jamaica and Africa received elementary plus secondary education and two years of college. In addition there was high career motivation at SCI. During Long’s tenure in 1954 SCI merged with Tougaloo College, Tougaloo, MS thru a decision of the United Christian Missionary Society board of directors.

An Important phase of his ministry followed from 1955-69 when he and Olive joined the Chapman College faculty in Orange, CA. He completed work on a Ph. D. in education and included three global tours on Chapman's World Campus Afloat. Then came residency in California.
LONG- from Page 1

Christian Home (1972-91) and what family calls a period of "vigorous volunteer service."

Son-in-law Rhodes Thompson and daughter, Lois, of Phillips Graduate School staff in Enid, OK conducted a fitting memorial observance in Rosemead. Daughter Jean and son-in-law James W. Dillinger of Oakland, CA, joined Pastor James Smedley of the Mills Groves Christian Church in that city to conduct a companion memorial celebration May 5. (Jean directs the choir at Mills Groves Christian Church.) Members of the SCI/Jarvis alumni association group in northern California shared in that observance.

(NOTE: After graduation from seminary in 1943, I (and my wife-to-be Reubena) accepted an invitation to join the SCI faculty. That December during Christmas recess, there was frantic preparation to board a train at Edwards for the long ride to Martinsville, VA, and our marriage ceremony. While on the train, I was quietly holding my fiancee’s hand when suddenly I stiffened in horror. The wedding ring had been left on the campus. A phone call to John Long enabled him to send it to us special-delivery in time for the marriage ceremony.) EDITOR

WELCH- CHOIR DIRECTOR-

*E. C. Welch, Chicago, IL died May 19 at 100 years old after brief hospitalization in a local infirmary. A memorial service was held May 23 at Park Manor Church in Chicago where James L. Demus III- a "Timothy" recruited by Welch while both were members at the University Church of Chicago is pastor. Ministers and choirs from the Parkway Gardens, University, and Park Manor congregations shared in the service.

He was a dedicated father who managed family and "home base." In the early years he often joined his wife-Rosa Page-in area concerts. Welch had served as a choir director at South Side Christian Church (now Parkway Gardens; Oakwood Blvd.; Indiana Ave. (formerly Oakwood) and Park Manor (formerly Indiana Avenue). A Presbyterian Church choir which is directed by his daughter- Lenne Welch Freeman also shared.

Welch is also survived by a son, Gale of Chicago- also a musician; and wife, Rosa, in Port Gibson, MS -long known for her dedication to being an "Ambassador of Goodwill" for better race relations.

(NOTE: While I was waiting for a vacancy in the Disciples Divinity House as an approved "House Fellow," the Welches gave me my first Chicago home and served as a warm extended family.) EDITOR

THE OLD-TIMERS' GRAPEVINE
Published independently six times a year through free-will donations-
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Raymore, MO 64083
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LEWIS- QUIET ENABLER-

Chicago, IL- The Estate of the late John C. Lewis, who was a dedicated lay leader Park Manor Christian Church and loyal alumnus of Southern Christian Institute recently contributed "$16,000-plus" to the Star Supporter Scholarship Fund-a program designed for all Disciples to support the higher education of African American Disciples of Christ. Lewis died in 1988.

General Church director of black ministry, Ozark Range, Sr., said it was the largest "Individual contribution." Lewis was among the leaders who organized and launched the Star Supporter Fund program within the National Christian Missionary Convention. He was a leader at Park Manor Church for more than 65 years and served on the Regional Church finance committee and the general board of the General Assembly.

JOHN FULTON- ARTISTIC DISCIPLE /COMMUNICATOR-

Indianapolis, IN- After persistent struggle against poor health, John Fulton died June 27, 1991. Downey Ave. Church Pastors Rose/Colvin held reverent services July 1. Devoted wife- Jenean- who joined with him as partner in the mission of creative art- is left behind. The family has lost a faithful father and the whole church an effective communicator. John's pictures captured the essence of divine/human spirit. The good they revealed lives on!

LET'S CELEBRATE III-

*Roland/Kitty Huff, Clearwater, FL- The Huffs have not accepted Interims since serving in 1986-87 as intern staff for the Christian Church in Michigan. They are in their ninth year of happy retirement in Florida. They continue active leadership in their local congregation, Florida Region, and N. B. A. area centers. Recently, Kitty and Roland gave Bible lectures for the Florida Senior Retreat. (While president of the Disciples Historical Society, Roland Huff collaborated with a National Convocation task force to generate concern for preserving Black Disciples history.)

*Eliza H. Cave, Bath, S. C.- "John and I are both well...I retired from teaching but busier now than when I was working full-time...I am a member of the ICWF executive committee; 2nd term on General Board and Administrative Committee; secretary for S. C. regional board and past vice-moderator; delegate to the 1991 Washington/United Nations Seminar for Women sponsored by the ICWF; and served as "resource leader for the S.C. Women's Assembly April 27, 1991." (Eliza is an active African American leader among predominantly Black churches in the region and a former Convocation board member.)
LET'S CELEBRATE - from Page 3

*Alpha P. and Cornelius W. Arnold, recently of Norfolk, VA-
Hearing once more the ancient call to "go west young man," the Arnold's (still "young in heart) began their return journey to sunny California June 28 via the NAACP national convention in Houston, TX. Their address after July 15, 1991 is 691 Irola Street, Apt. 410, Los Angeles, CA 90005. "C. W." says he is "coming back home."

*Kay & Bob Harman (formerly Kay Harvey), Indianapolis, IN- Kay says they're both in good health and "going to General Assembly- working in registration." They've moved to a new home and the "Welcome Mat" is "out for all our Disciple friends! Thanks for the newsletter."
(When Kay was on the General Office staff, she assisted in handling Convocation biennial assembly registration/finance.)

Thanks so much Helen!

*Paul/Easter Ehly, Columbia, MO- former corporate secretary for the National Benevolent Association and liaison staff to the National Convocation of the Christian Church have built and home and lived in Lenoir Retirement Center since 1976. Paul reports that he has had 7 interim ministries and still doing supply preaching. Esther joins him in the Broadway Christian Church choir. Both belong to the Lenoir Vesper Choir which has developed a musical about retirement called "Saints Alive!" It has had 51 presentations in churches throughout Missouri. Paul is currently president of the Lenoir Resident Community organization for the third time since they came to Lenoir in 1976.

*Ruth P. Hobbs, retired school teacher and effective lay leader from United Christian Church, Jackson, MS- the regional church's first African American vice-president and chair of the program committee for the 108 Assembly May 3-5 in Jackson's First Christian Church, combined with three other Black Disciples of Christ in program participation. (They were Gwendolyn Chambliss and Norwelda Roberts, United Church Jackson; Aaron Johnson, East Percy Street, Greenwood and Northside, West Point; and L. B. Pickett, First Christian, Moss Point.)

*Gilford E. Olmsted, Raymore, MO- "Denise and I moved into our home here at Foxwood Springs on April 4th...I had concluded my 9th. interim ministry at Hyde Park Christian Church in Austin, Texas....June 1 I will begin my 10th. interim at Red Bridge Christian here in Kansas City. Denise and I both grew up in Ottawa, KS about 50 miles from here. From 1961-66 I was senior minister at Countryside Christian Church in Mission, KS (living in
LET’S CELEBRATE- from Page 4

Topeka) and from 1966-72 I was Regional Minister in Kansas...so this feels very much like home.”

OOPS! CORRECTION- SORRY!

Louise Moseley of Columbia, MO makes the following correction of a statement made about her work in the church which appeared in the June/July issue:

"I never was a free-lance writer or editor. My late husband, J. Edward Moseley was a free-lance for a number of years, writing for NBA and other church organizations. I was on the payroll of World Call magazine for about nine years altogether, the United Society for ten years and Unified Promotion for six years. For good or ill, they employed me full time." (Thanks Louise! -Editor)

*John/Herwannah Sayre, Raymore, MO- John- retired minister/librarian from Phillips Graduate Seminary and Herwannah, retired public school music supervisor- took a tour group to Scandinavia this June. They also visited Finland, Sweden and Norway. This is the eighth tour of Scandinavia that they have conducted. The Sayre’s are active in the Raymore Christian Church and function in NBA’S Foxwood Retirement Living Center community as coordinators for residents attending plays, musicals and metro cultural affairs.

*Velva Dreesse, Raymore, MO- Leaders in the Philippines recently asked Velva to help them up-date the history of the work of the church in the Philippines. Her prompt response enabled Harvey Lord (a retiree) short term missionary to reply: “You wrote just what I had hoped...The data will assist in the 90th. anniversary of our work there.

In Memoriam

*William Frank Morrison, Sr., Hannibal, MO- Died April 25, 1991 after three strokes. CORRECTION: Listing in last issue of William Smith as having strokes and requiring prayer was in error. This should have been attributed to William Frank Morrison, Sr.

MORE DONORS- THANKS!
May 16 - July 5, 1991:

*Eliza H. Cave, Bath, S. C.; Harry/Frances Parsons, Kathryn McKay, Louise W. McConnell- all Raymore, MO; Lester B. Rickman, Columbia, MO; A. Dale/Betty K. Fiers, Palm Beach Shores, FL; Kay & Bob Hamman, Indianapolis, IN; Paul/Ester Ehly, Columbia, MO; Virgil/Cleatus Hinds, Raymore, MO; G. E. Denise Olmsted, Raymore, MO; Mr/Mrs. Alfred C. Stone, Cincinnati, OH; Zellie Peoples, Indianapolis, IN; Walter/Grace Giffin, Sun City, AZ; Minelle Nowland, Raymore, MO; Roland/Kitty Huff, Clearwater, FL; Levene Graham, Beech Grove, IN; John/Herwanna Sayre, Raymore, MO; Rex A. Bicks, Clearwater, FL; James C. Suggs, St. Louis, MO; Lillian B. Dixon, Knoxville, TN; R. H. Boyd, Raymore, MO; Helen Pilgrim-Minor, Montreal, Canada;

FISCAL STATUS 7/6/91:
RECEIPTS- $681.78
EXPENDITURES: $317.30
Indianapolis, IN- May 1991 was a good month for Gerald Cunningham. May 4 Martin University of Indianapolis selected the General Church staff director as one three community leaders to receive an honorary doctorate during commencement. Among the 68 graduates receiving degrees at the 11th. annual commencement several were more than 60 years old- one 70 and another 76.

Later, on the 17th during the 14th. annual OAR (Offender Aid and Restoration) USA Celebration, Jerry received the 1991 L. Harold DeWolf Award for "Distinguished Contributions to Community Corrections in America."

Many of us can claim a "Timothy" or two. I (editor) was Jerry's pastor when he committed himself to the Christian ministry while a teenaged member of Centennial Church in St. Louis, MO. Dr. Cunningham has served many years as one of homeland ministry's principal staff for the Church's concern to improve race relations and criminal justice. During the civil rights struggle of the 1960's he made personal sacrifices to demonstrate this Christian commitment.

TELL US ABOUT THE WORK OF YOUR "TIMOTHY'S" IN TODAY'S WORLD.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

FROM A "COOPERATIVE HEART:

(A. Dale Flers-"Father" of church restructure and the first general minister and president of the Disciples of Christ writes in typical "Fierillian wit")-

Despite my reluctance to be identified with anything "independent" I am grateful that you have included Betty and me on the mailing list of 'The Old Timers' Grapevine - an Independent News Letter.' It warms my cooperative heart.

Betty has recovered nicely from her heart attack of one year ago. We directed the Florida Seniors' Conference this spring at our Regional Conference Center. 75 persons, mostly 65 or older, were present. Roland and Kitty Huff, Hal and Evelyn Watkins were headline speakers.

We continue to be active with National City Christian Church. We are presently chairing the Advance Gifts Committee in our local congregation's 500,000 building expansion program.

It is great to read about the activities of colleagues of yore. Betty recalls the noon swimming sessions with you.
**COOP. HEART- from Page 6**

and others at the Y. M. C. A. in Indianapolis. Now she swims in the ocean...

Dale & Betty Fiers, Palm Beach Shores, FL

(Dr. Fiers was a major force in the merger of the basically all-Black National Christian Missionary Convention into the International Convention and eventually the NCMC concerns into the General Office of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Betty Fiers was a key leader of the International CWF and the Steering Committee for General Reconciliation.)

*Thank you for sending the issues of OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE... I...chuckle... as I read particularly in issue No. 3 (article) entitled "NO REJOICING HERE!"...no none of the pictures I have ever seen depicts Jesus laughing but we need to realize...it is men, not God doing the depicting...we lift out of our souls the way we think and feel...As I read the GOOD NEWS my Jesus brought love, peace, understanding, compassion and JOY;...I really feel Jesus always had a real nice time whenever he went to visit Mary and Martha. I can see them talking and laughing together...when he lost his friend Lazarus to this world he...wept...he called from the darkness of that death his light; boy, I'll...bet they really laughed and rejoiced in their home that day...

May F. Reed, Nashville, TN

(May is the assistant to the director of the library at the Disciples Historical Society and wife of Pastor Norman Reed of the Alameda Christian Church. Both are current leaders in the National Convocation.)

*What a wonderful idea! I have just read news of old friends, for some the first news in several years. I am just living quietly in Florida- Treasurer of Central Christian Church, Clearwater and still active with the Merced Hearts Organization...

Rex Bicks, CLEARWATER, FL

(Retiree Rex and his late wife, Dorothy, served the church effectively in India before returning to the U. S. A. and working a number of years in the Research office of the General Church.)

*I certainly appreciated receiving information about my friends especially since I don’t get to see them at the assemblies. It is different to travel alone after the death of my husband. I am striving very hard to continue to work in the church here at Bentley St. although we do not have a pastor.

Lillian B. Dixon, Knoxville, TN

(Retiree Lillian and late husband, Samuel M., were world travelers and distinguished lay leaders at Parkway Gardens Christian Church, Chicago, IL before moving to Knoxville and rendering faithful service through the Bentley Street Church. Among Samuel’s board memberships was the Board of Church Extension.)
LETTERS- from Page 7

*What a useful service you are rendering as editor-manager of the newsletter for "the over 80" crowd! Thank you for including me in the distribution (or maybe one of my "older" friends slipped the June-July issue into my "in" box.)

James C. Suggs, President of the Christ. Board of Pub. St. Louis, MO

(Dr. Suggs is president of the Christian Board of Publication. As a young staff member for the communications function of the International Convention office, Jim did "live" on-site reporting of National Christian Missionary Convention annual assemblies. Later as a general and regional church officer he supported the work of the National Convocation.)

RETIEMENT:

*V. Rex Thomas, Indianapolis, IN On disability leave as of June 1, 1991- Devoted! Served church well "beyond the call of duty."

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

*50th. for Albertha & Montee Akers, Sr- May 17- Chicago, IL.

*50th for Thomas & Virginia Liggett- July 7- Claremont, CA

*60th. for A. Dale & Betty Fiers- July 14- Palm Beach Shores, FL.

FIELD AGENTS:
Ernest Newborn, Sr., Indianapolis
Velva Dreese, Raymore, MO

OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE
500 Mott Drive- Apt. 102B
Raymore, MO 64083

Dr. Orval D. Peterson -2
22 Lemomon Dr.
Columbia MO 65201
ALL-DAY FEST HONORS BINGHAM: FIRST BLACK MODERATOR

Louisville, KY - Walter D. Bingham, gifted pastor of Third Christian Church for three decades, and a distinguished leader in the district, regional and general church, was honored in a full day of celebration March 3, 1991. Pastors, choirs and members in sister congregations Central and Hill Street joined Central Church leading preaching, singing, feasting and fellowship to spiritualize an historic affair.

Bingham catapulted into the limelight of general church life in 1972 when he became the first African American Disciple of Christ to be elected moderator of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

While serving as senior pastor of Third Church, Walter has belonged to a variety of denominational and ecumenical boards, commissions and committees. He has served several board terms on the denomination's Council on Christian Unity. He is currently a member of the Commission on Theology and a Trustee Emeritus of Lexington Theological Seminary.

Prior to his installation as pastor of Third Church in 1972, he had taught at Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, TX and was the senior minister for Pine Street Christian Church, Tulsa, OK.

Bingham's services to the National Convention/Convocation include being a workshop leader, principal presenter, general counselor and biennial session parliamentarian.

The avid student of theology and church polity has earned degrees from Taladega College and Howard University, and honorary doctorates conferred by Christian Theological Seminary, Drury College and Transylvania. A major contributor to the success of Pastor Bingham has been his wife, Rebecca. She is an administrator in the Jefferson County Public Schools and serves as Director of Library-Media Services. Pastor Bingham could retire in late 1991.

LET'S CELEBRATE!

*Reubena Fox, Raymore, MO* Has fooled the doctor and medical text-books! No more insulin injections; can control diabetes via diet! All praise to God!

*John C. Updegraff, Jacksonville, FL* informs us that he reached his (Continued on Page 2)
CELEBRATE- from Page 1-

"80th birthday in March of this year...children David from Buffalo, Ann from Indianapolis, and James from San Diego gathered in Orlando with all the grandchildren (five) to celebrate the big 80 for Dad. Nearly a hundred attended!

Since retirement in 1986, the former pastor and church administrator has been a consultant with the Christian Church Foundation until 1980; published a history of the Christian Church in Florida in 1981; and served eight Interims in Kentucky, Florida, California, Mississippi and Georgia.

*Effie S. Burford, Bangkok Christian Guest House, Bangkok, Thailand- An SCI & CTS Alumnus-retired Spanish teacher and Disciples of Christ minister reports vivid experiences in Christian witness during her first year of service as the assistant manager for the Guest House. Preaching and teaching are among several opportunities she has had while observing some of the pain and hurt among many hapless Thai forced to reside in many of Bangkok's wretched slums.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*I want to thank you for the excellent item you wrote on John Long and his contribution at S. C. I. Well do we remember our two visits to SCI while John was there. My wife and I went to participate in the Young People's Conference which Hayes Peoples scheduled there when our older daughter, Shirley, was about 3 or 4 years old. That was a great experience for us.

Our current news is that as of yesterday (July 17) our 11th. great grandchild arrived in Madrid, Spain. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. Andres Tojo, Jr. I had the privilege of performing their wedding ceremony two summers ago in Southern California.

...four weeks ago my wife was transferred from our Manor room here at Lenoir to our Health Care Center, the Nursing Unit, due to deteriorating mobility. She now uses a wheel chair much of the time.

William E. (Bill) Starn- Lenoir Manor, Columbia, MO

****

*Words can't express our appreciation for your devoting so much of the last issue...to my father. I always felt that he was a very gracious person- It's good to know that this was not just my prejudiced opinion!...

One minor correction- Your article implied that I did not go to Rosemead. Actually, Bill and I did. Then the Jarvis/SCI Alumni Association asked James Smedley to do something here...

Please keep us on your mailing list. Since I'm still working for the Oakland schools I try to forget that I'm an "oldtimer." Bill is, of course, retired.

Jean Dillinger, Oakland CA
(Daughter of the late Dr. John Long of Rosemead, CA)

*NOTE: Jean is the oldest daughter of the late Dr. John Long- former president of Southern Christian Institute, Edwards, MS. She is the (Continued on Page 3)
LETTERS- from Page 2-

wife of Bill- former pastor of the Mills Grove Christian Church of Oakland.

****

*I first met John Long in 1930, or there-abouts when he came to Glen Oak Christian, Peoria, to speak. He was a friend and class-mate of Howard Detweiler. In 1984-85 it was my privilege to live across the street from John and Olive while doing an interim at California Christian Home. conference In Illinois and seeing him on other occasions. And John Fulton, how sad to see this young man die. I had Jenean In class at Lexington. Fine people.

The other news was good. I am glad May Reed is getting a copy of your paper for we will want it on file at DCHS. I have finished 40 years as a member of the Board there..."

Howard E. Short - St. Louis, MO-

*NOTE: The Oldtimers' editor received Dr. Short's letter with special interest because Short helped to refine his interest in journalism. We were once associated in assuring that there was adequate coverage of African American church news in The Christian-Evangelist. Dr. Short's 17 years of retirement have included services on Chapman College's World Campus Afloat; teaching in the Graduate School of Ecumenical Studies In Geneva, Switzerland; short-term presidency of the Division of Higher Education; president of the official board at Union Avenue Christian Church; preaching, writing, etc.

****

*Greetings from the city of brotherly love. I am back in the saddle again. (i. e. Interim pastor at Philadelphia Fellowship Christian Church)
In addition to ministering to the Philadelphia (Church) I am staff person at the University of the District of Columbia Institute of Gerontology. In this responsibility I teach one class and coordinate a respite program for senior citizens. Hope to see you in Tulsa.

Frank Bradley, Washington, D. C.

*NOTE: Frank- a church and federal government retiree- has effectively represented the larger interests of church on the Eastern Seaboard.
He's a former National Convention-Convocation board member and officer- Frank and wife- Celeste- have led ministers/wives groups.

****

*Thanks for this opportunity to network with old friends- we're enjoying the newsletter.

Richard & Delores Highbaugh, Chicago, IL

NOTE: The Highbaugh's are veteran lay leaders in Park Manor Christian Church, the Illinois/Wisconsin Region and the General Church. Richard is active with the Tuskegee Almen and Delores with the Disciples Council on Christian Unity. She is a former General Church moderator.
The challenge before the Oldtimers' Grapevine is to deal constructively with the cost of postage and the prospect of increases. It is now apparent that if we are to survive the postage fee struggle, we must formalize ourselves by securing Articles of Incorporation of a General Not for Profit Corporation document from the state of Missouri; obtain a 501 (C) (3) tax exempt status from Internal Revenue Service, and then secure a nonprofit third-class mailing permit. The first step is to secure at least a mailing list of 200 donor/readers. As a donor/reader you have already helped us move toward that goal. We are over 100 now and should have the minimum of 200 by December. WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO THIS WITHOUT APPEALING TO THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY DONATED. Of course, over-an-above donations are welcome!

DO YOU AGREE? IF I HEAR NO SERIOUS OBJECTIONS BY OCTOBER 31, 1991 I WILL ASSUME THAT YOU AGREE. I will proceed on the above basis.

To-date "liberal" donors ($8 and above) have assisted the editor to print extra copies for promotional purposes and to send an initial flyer and a promotional letter to prospective donor/readers. THANKS SO MUCH! (Financial statements are available upon request.) Share your issue! Please send me some news items.

WKF
8/26/91

LETTERS- from Page 3-

*Bill Starn gave me his copy of your newsletter telling of John Long's death. We enjoyed reading of so many old time friends and would like to receive the paper.

Mildred and I have been at Lenoir for 11 years now. I first had four artery by-pass surgery. (Too much great food but that has changed.)

We are both active in local and area church at Lenoir.
Woody (Woodrow) Whitlow, Columbia, MO

*NOTE: Woody is a veteran of the "good ole days" in St. Louis when he banded together with laity like the late Norman Ellington to develop new visions of mission. They gave birth to the "Mother-to-Mother program" and laymen's "New Church Clubs."

Woody served on the general Reconciliation steering committee.

*****

*...It is good to be able (through the GRAPEVINE) to hear from so many of my friends. Thank you for bringing this happiness into our homes...Keep up the good work.
Lesly Smith- Chicago, IL

*NOTE: Lesly is a sister of Rosa Page Welch and long-time faithful member of Park Manor Christian Church. For more than 30 years she served as the congregation's part-time financial clerk before her retirement.

*****

*...enjoy reading the news of the few I know. This little token is to keep you doing the good things you do...Postage is going up so you will have to stretch...
Mildred L. Webb, Chicago, IL

(Continued on Page 5)
LETTERS- from Page 4-

NOTE: Mildred is a devoted member of United Christian Church in Country Club Hills, IL. Mrs. Webb is the daughter of the late Robert E. LaTouche, founder and minister-emeritus of Southside Christian Church—now Parkway Gardens, Chicago, IL. She often attends Convocations and General Assemblies.

Enoch and Marian Henry—(In transit) Indianapolis, IN—Both retired after a rewarding sojourn of several years in the East, are on their way back to an apartment/condo and family in the West. After October 1, 1991 their new address will be 401 Detroit Street, #204, Los Angeles, CA 90035.

*Geneve/Wayne Selsor, Raymore, MO—write that they have "found a new home at Foxwood Springs NBA Retirement Living Center..." The Selsors continue they spent 24 years in Bellevue, NE where Wayne worked for the Nebraska Council of Churches; was a sculptor and goldsmith and taught art in Omaha Universities and Joslyn Museum.

This was all "several years before" Wayne did 32 interim ministries "with some 25 churches." Geneve retired after 25 years as a public school librarian.

Wayne has had significant art commissions and continues to do silver and gold work as well as sculpturing at Foxwood.

*NOTE: For a short period the editor and Wayne were seminary mates in Chicago and Disciples House fellows. It is wonderful to see former class-mates turn out so well!—

*Elizabeth Enix of Robin Run NBA Retirement Living Center, Indianapolis, IN—retired school teacher, regional church staff and former vice president of the National Convocation of the Christian Church—was elected "B" representative to the Robin Run Village Resident Council assuming office in September. Elizabeth is a veteran lay leader in Light of the World Christian Church. Her "alternate" will be Mabel Metze, retired missionary and veteran lay leader in Downey Avenue.

*Donald O. Legg, St. Louis, MO—Donald writes there is "Nothing outstanding to mention just now...I'm putting high mileage on the old Crown Vic Rambling between Vermont and Oregon and points in between to see my daughters (four) and grandchildren (seven). Also I am doing some biking to keep limber and sassy. I do not find the widower category a very rewarding status quo."

NOTE: When Don was the corporate secretary for the central office of NBA, part of his portfolio included assembling data for the implementation of an affirmative action plan. He was among staff working with a Convocation Task Force.

*Samuel F. Pugh, Indianapolis, IN—Veteran Disciples of Christ journalist/poet Sam Pugh writes: "I'm still strong with a S.S. class at Downey Ave.; chaplain of East Side Optimist Club; volunteer as a weekly story-teller at a nursing home and (Continued on Page 6)
LETTERS- from Page 5-

also some free-lance writing. Live alone but go to see family in San Diego when the weather gets cold in Indianapolis.

NOTE: Dr. Pugh was editor of the WORLD CALL when in September 1973 the 8th and final issue of the Disciples of Christ mission education magazine featured a series of articles entitled "Black Disciples: A Special Report."

*Bertha/Frisco Gilchrist, Indianapolis, IN- Gil/Bertha write
"Before mid-year 1991 we institutionalized ourselves. (They live in a Robin Run apartment.) We're doing well for the shape we're in...one again we're under a red roof. Red roofs -even if they aren't tile-are reminders of Latin America. We also take pleasure, with our Swiss neighbor, in seeing the clock tower and adjoining architecture as reminders of Europe."

*NOTE: The Gilchrists were missionaries in Latin American and before retirement Frisco was a special general church homeland ministries staff for International Human Rights.

Robt/Julia Fangmeier, Indianapolis, IN- Julia attended her Yale Divinity School reunion in New Haven in May and stayed at the Chautauqua Disciples House in July while attending a Highlights Foundation Writer's Workshop. Bob stayed practiced bowling...making a rare 517 one day. A trip is planned to visit daughter Debbie in Georgia in mid-October.

NOTE: Bob is a retired General Church staff for church and society majoring in international justice and peace issues. Before retirement Julia was an administrative government staff person dealing with the monitoring and implementation of civil rights legislation.

OFFER SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR:

Orval Peterson and Lester D. Rickman, Lenoir, Inc., Columbia, MO- each is waging a daily struggle against physical ailments effecting easy mobility.

*Ruth T. Lewis of Dayton, OH- Summit Christian Church- lost son (Charles A. Lewis) April 22, 1991 and then June 2, 1991 lost husband (William Howard) after 64 years of marriage.

*Margaret Starn of Columbia, MO- Lenoir Home- immobility has required placement in Lenoir nursing facilities. She is dutifully attended daily by husband, Bill.

*Barbara Johns of Raymore, MO- wife of Thomas Johns, executive director of Foxwood Springs Living Center- recuperating from serious surgery; and Ralph Johns, father of Tom, who has had a health relapse and in nursing care.

*J. C. Fowler of Summerville, SC- the several times moderator of the African American Disciples of Christ South Carolina convention had a stroke this April. Fowler has served congregations churches in SC for more than 45 years.

(Continued on Page 8)
Hawkins, TX - The extensive and fruitful ministry of The Rev. Dr. J. J. Hawkins, a model alumnus of SCI/Jarvis Christian Colleges, ended in death July 20, 1991. He had waged a courageous struggle against cancer for more than 5 years.

The first black to receive a bachelor of divinity degree from the Drake Divinity School of Religion in Des Moines, IA combined formal preparation in liberal arts and social work to serve church and community effectively in four states.

Hawkins was an able preacher and a constructive presence in any gathering of the church. He gave sustained support of National Convention-Convocation concerns and had an abiding interest in the evangelization of African Americans.

A memorial service was held July 23, in the Smith-Howard Chapel at Jarvis Christian College. Among dignitaries present and rendering brief affirmations of his life were Presidents Emeritus Earl W. Rand and Charles A. Berry. Church prelates who added brief testimonies were College Pastor Charles H. Webb, Jr. and retired national church executive Emmett J. Dickson. President V. Charles Jackson of the Texas Christian Missionary Fellowship lifted the memorial prayer.

Other representatives of Jarvis community included Claude Walker who served as the officiant; James O. Griffin who handled acknowledgments; and Winifred Perpener who sang. Those who mourn the loss include a devoted wife-Melba Latimer Hawkins; two sons (David and Vernie); and one daughter (Joye). He also has a brother (Vernie) and sister (Margie).

*Selena Hart, Indianapolis, IN - Died July 25, 1991 of a heart attack. The retired Finance Center employee and faithful member of Light of the World Christian Church gave zealous support of the National Convocation Ministers' Wives Fellowship scholarship program.

*Donald Bowles, Indianapolis, IN - Passed away in sleep August 19, 1991- faithful member of Downey Avenue Christian Church. The retired civics teacher and state government devoted retirement to being a friend of youth and an ardent ombudsmen for issues affecting senior adults. Don left a wife-Jean, and son Bruce. Memorial services were held at Downey August 22 led by Pastor Bryon Rose.
PRAYERS from Page 6 -

*Allen/Nelle Stanger, Louisville, KY (40203) - In nursing facilities of Christian Health Center, 920 S. 4th.

Verlesta Hicks of Dayton, OH - Summit Christian Church - recently lost only brother (Dr. Wm. E. Hicks practiced medicine 45 years in Shreveport, LA - Twenty doctors were honorary pallbearers.)

*Effie Stamps Burford, Bangkok, Thailand - middle brother, Amourned June 7 in Jackson, MS after extended illness.

MORE DONORS! THANKS!

*Lesly Smith, Chicago, IL; Verlesta Hicks, Dayton, OH; Velma Warrick, Kansas City, KS; Ernest/Janice Raymore, MO; Thomas H. Johns, Raymore, MO; Samuel F. Pugh, Indianapolis, IN; Sheldon/Miriam Shirts, Raymore, MO; Robt/Juliana Fangmeler, Indianapolis, IN; Flo L. Kallenbach, Raymore, MO; Dwight L. French, Pittsburg, PA; Robert/Kathryn Hall, Raymore, MO.
TULSA MARKED MAJOR CHURCH STAFF RETIREMENTS

Celebrative dinner/program events in Tulsa, OK during the October 25-30 General Assembly of the Disciples of Christ hailed the retirement of Board of Church Extension staff members Kathryn Williams, Donald E. Mitchell, and Raymond E. Brown and the church’s General Minister and President John Humbert. They represent more than 150 cumulative years of ministry.

Williams brought overseas experience in mission in Zaire and concern for racial inclusiveness to her BCE portfolio in development. Mitchell— the communicator— featured high quality professionalism and creative Christian insight in promotion. Humbert shared a rich family legacy steeped in Discipledom, underscored the pastoral function of the GMP, recognized the primacy of the congregation and tried to make public witness in support of justice and fairness.

But of special interest to many was the 21 years, 10 months of distinguished service by Dr. Raymond E. Brown, senior vice president of the Board of Church Extension.

Through more than 45 years of ministry, Brown has faithfully served the church as an African American Disciples of Christ pastor. He became deeply immersed in the evolvement of Blacks state church structures, the National Christian Missionary Convention, the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and their relationship to the general manifestation of church.

In 1969-70 when the denomination was struggling with a re-definition of its own ecclesiastical identity and form on the one hand, while at the same time striving to make an appropriate response to the challenges of race relations and shifting social climate of the late sixties on the other, the BCE board of directors approved Brown’s selection as a special on-call consultant. After seven months in this capacity, he was employed as the Board of Church Extension’s first African American full-time general staff. It is notable that at this point in history, the Board prioritized services to Black Disciples of Christ.

(See RETIREMENTS on Page 2)

"And an angel of the Lord appeared to them,..." Luke 2:9a
RETIREMENTS (From Page 1):

congregations. In his final report to the BCE board September 10-11, 1991, Brown observed that when he joined the BCE staff less than a dozen of the more than 500 Black congregations had sought church extension services beyond having a first consultation.

During Brown's tenure, 1,100 of his 1,700 field visits were to predominantly African American congregations. Today there are 118 loans to African American congregations totalling $5,946,068- a goal unforeseen a generation ago!

Backed by sensitive BCE boards of directors, President Harold R. Watkins and staff associates like Williams and Mitchell, Ray rendered significant parallel church services. Most notable among the recipients of such services was the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the church's new congregational establishment program. Quiet support always came from his late wife, Edna.

SENIOR PASTORS FETED

IN St. Louis, MO- A well-planned banquet program at the Clayton Plaza Holiday Inn in St. Louis County October 5 under congregational sponsorship was the setting for celebrating the 30th. anniversary of the Rev. Dr. Samuel W. Hylton, Jr. as pastor of Centennial Christian Church. Parishoner Dr. Norma R. Ellington-Twitty, vice-president for program planning in NBA, was the mistress of ceremonies.

Anniversary Committee Chair Vernon Beard reports that leaders from the metro community were led by Mayor Vincent C. Schomehl. The wider church representation came through Raymond Brown (B.C.E.) and John Foulkes (General Office DGMP), of Indianapolis, IN and key-noter Cynthia L. Hale pastor of Ray of Hope Christian Church, Decatur, GA.

Dr. Hylton- a Morehouse College, Christian Theological Seminary and Eden Seminary graduate- is a former president of the National Convocation and a vice-moderator of the church's General Assembly.

Most recently the congregation successfully collaborated with the National Benevolent Association in the sponsorship, construction and administration of a new apartment complex for low to middle income level senior citizens.

The 30 years of continuous service at Centennial makes Hylton the most active African American "Dean of Pastors" who is attempting to relate effectively to the total church.

IN Kansas City, MO- Sunday,
October 13, 1991 during the morning worship of Community Christian Church (on the Plaza), The Rev. Dr. Sere S. Myers, Sr. (ordained 69 years) and wife - Martha- stood with The Reverends Ira (ordained 62 years) and Vivian Balles (ordained 57 years) to receive an enlarged plaque version of the Pension Fund's

(See MYERS on Page 3)
MYERS- (From Page 2):

Minister's Pin.

Myers was a chief architect (and enabler) of the plan/formula for racial integration (1943-59) between the National Christian Missionary Convention (i.e. Black led and oriented) and the International Convention of the Christian Church predecessor to the General Assembly of the church.

*****

LET'S CELEBRATE!

*Charles A/Sarah Barry, Jr. Grambling, LA- The Grambling Chapter of AARP has one of only two minority projects sponsored by AARP. Six teams of retired persons each with two University students work voluntarily with the elderly in three parishes providing information on Federal/State programs and directing them to sources to establish their eligibility. Berry says This is very much needed, ... much appreciated and very self-fulfilling for Sarah and me.*

NOTE: Dr. Berry’s father- Charles, Sr.- was one of the pioneer educational leaders of Jarvis Christian College in Hawkins, TX. Between 1912-14 he was directly involved with T. B. Frost in the constructing the school’s first buildings and teaching its first students. Sixty years later (1984) Berry’s son- Charles, Jr. was selected to serve as the president of Jarvis College. He retired in 1989.

*Robert/Kathryn Hall, Raymore, MO- Since concluding their ministry with First Christian Church, Macomb, IL twenty-eight years ago...they were invited back for Home-coming Sunday, September 15. Robert remains active in the preaching and serving ministries of Raymore Christian Church and in the Region.

Dr. Hall is gathering a group for “The Palestine of Jesus” course at St. George’s College, Jerusalem, and a visit to Mt. Sinai in June 1992.

NOTE: Hall is a former (“state”) staff for Disciples of Christ in Illinois/Wisconsin and regional minister for Nebraska- the position from which he retired.

*****

*Officers and members of Third Christian Church, Louisville, KY will honor the retirement of Dr. Walter D. Bingham during a reception held at the Quality Inn of Louisville, KY December 8, 1991.

*OLDTIMER’S GRAPEVINE editor, William (Bill) Fox, Raymore, MO- a senior touring biker- took part in two Reconciliation Fund bike-a-thon efforts sponsored in October 1991 by the Christian Church (D. of C.) In Greater Kansas City by riding three days for 187.5 miles and pledges. At this writing, friends and associates have contributed $2,306.16 to the Fund in recognition of his efforts!

*RECONCILIATION FUND, Administrative Director Ernest J. Newborn, Sr., Indianapolis, IN- the second ranking (agewise) senior citizen biker on the the Indianapolis to Tulsa General Assembly ride- met (See SENIOR BIKERS on Page 4)

And the angel said...“Be not afraid; for behold I bring you good news...”
SENIOR BIKERS- (From Page 3)

the biker group near St. Louis and rode some 547 plus miles to Tulsa in time for the General Assembly! His pledges/money given is still being received!

*****

AND MORE DONORS! THANKS!

Rex/Pat Thomas, Indianapolis, IN;
Mary K. Adams, Kansas City, KS; C. W./Alpha Arnold, Los Angeles, CA;
Charles/Sarah Berry, Grambling, LA;
Artie M. Scott, Chicago, IL; Mary Fugate, Rogersville, TN; Deborah Thompson, Indianapolis, IN;
Hermena R. Crum, Ridgeville, S. C.;
Earl Murray, Birmingham, AL;
Christine Spencer, Los Angeles, CA;
Lorraine Poston Dudley, St. Louis, MO; Mary Mae Poston, Philadelphia, PA; E.W./V.A. Rand, Marshall, TX;
Alfred/Henrietta Edwards, Des Moines, IA; Marjorie H. Johnson, St. Louis, MO.

LETTERS TO EDITOR

*Enclosed please find (another) check for Oldtimer’s. We enjoy it so much....

While in Norfolk (VA) we put on a special drive to install a baptistry; it netted over $3000. About seven new members were added. We raised an offering for Church Extension and the Basic Mission Finance fund. We think we got them started on giving to the general work. C. W./Alpha Arnold, Los Angeles, CA

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THE OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE

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*In a telephone conversation about the paper the following persons would like to be included on the mailing list...Thanks for this interesting, informing paper. Velma Warrick, Kansas City, MO

*****

*I am a former elder in 2nd. Christian Church of Fulton, MO and living in Centennial Plaza Apartments (St. Louis, MO). I ride the church van each Sunday to Centennial Christian Church along with many others. I have three daughters in St. Louis who look in on me most every day.
Lorraine Dudley, St. Louis, MO

NOTE: Mrs. Dudley’s expresses words of a "satisfied resident." Centennial Plaza Apartments is the first modern senior citizen housing project sponsored (1989) by an African American Disciples of Christ congregation in partnership with the National Benevolent Association of the Christian (Disciples of Christ) Church.

ANNIVERSARIES-

Chicago, IL- Fiftieth wedding anniversaries recently celebrated by

(See ANNIVERSARIES on Page 6)
WOOD RETIRES

Indianapolis, IN- After 31 years in the administration of a variety of services to the leadership of Disciples of Christ congregations, Thomas E. Wood retired November 15 from the staff of the denomination's division of homeland ministries. For the last five years he had been the executive vice-president for administration and finance.

Many congregational pastors, institutional and military chaplains, and church musicians will have rich memories of their association with Tom throughout his years of service.

For example, senior African American Disciples of Christ who have been related to the National Christian Missionary Convention/National Convocation for the past 25 to 30 years will not soon forget the constructive roles Dr. Wood played in the leadership development of ethnic minority ministers. His office was key in sustaining the Black ministers' fellowship and (following General Assembly approval in 1969) launching the Black Ministry portfolio with its significant ministerial and program support provisions.

Wood's effective administrative skills were brought to bear upon the total division's work when he was assigned to the central DHM staff by former DHM president John Compton.

BROWN CONTINUES - CFC

Indianapolis, IN- The executive committee of the Church Finance Council of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) convened in mid-November and selected Dr. Raymond Brown- recently retired vice-president of the Board of Church Extension- to serve as the interim president of the Finance Council.

James P. Johnson had been president of the Church Finance Council since 1987. However, October 4-6, 1991 the board of directors of the Christian Church Foundation selected Dr. Johnson to succeed James Reed as head of the Foundation beginning Jan. 1, 1992.

NEW RETIREMENT CAUSE

Indianapolis, IN- When Rolland G. Pile. who had been the executive secretary of Church in Society for the division of homeland ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) since 1974 "retired" from that position in November 1991, Rollie symbolized a new cause for "retirement" in today's corporate world. It can come through what might be termed "bureaucratic restructuring (or re-prioritizing)." Seniority is not always a determining factor.

Under the steady direction of Dr. Pile and esteemed predecessors like the late James Crain and Barton Hunter, competent professional peers encouraged the whole church to maintain a balanced Christian social consciousness and activism.

Many feel that this should be a part of a wholistic understanding of New Testament Gospel and a basic discipleship requirement. In the critical years ahead, which segment (s) of church will provide us with the necessary research and stimulus for effective witness in this area of discipleship?

For to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ..."
ANNIVERSARIES - from Page 4

Park Manor Christian Church include:
Mr. & Mrs. Irvin/Everlena Bibbs, Sr. (9/1/91) and Mr. and Mrs. Ellis/Louise Jordan (9/21/91).

*****

IN LOVE WITH A SHIP!?

Helen Pilgrim Minor- our beloved traveling missionary and friend- is back from her second Arctic trip "in love with a ship!" The matter is best described in Helen's own words:

"I know that one has a tendency to say that the last trip is the best. But I don’t think that I will ever feel as alive and vibrant as on the Sovetskly Soyus, the nuclear Russian ice breaker...I fell deeply in love with the ship...Its tremendous power to be able to cut through eight feet of ice as easily as a knife cuts through warm butter!! I stood out on the deck until I was numb watching her lightly toss huge blocks of ice taller than I am in the air... and ten feet long!! I found it all incredible since I know that our ship through the northwest passage of Canada could not get through a foot of ice..."

Oldtimers can reach Helen- c/o Mlle. Yolande Lauzon- 5717 Rue Mallet-Montreal, P.Q. Canada- Hly 3EZ.

YOU CAN’T BLAME A SENIOR CITIZEN- by Curtis Lloyd, Dayton, O

It wasn’t a senior citizen-
I. Who took the melody out of music.
II. Or the beauty out of art.
III. Or the pride out of appearance.
IV. Or the romance out of love.
V. Or the commitment out of marriage.
VI. Or the responsibility out of parenthood.
VII. Or the togetherness out of family.
VIII. Or the learning out of education.
IX. Or the loyalty out of Americanism.
X. Or the service out of patriotism.
XI. Or the hearth out of the home.
XII. Or civility out of behavior.
XIII. Or refinement out of language.
XIV. Or dedication out of employment.
XV. Or prudence out of spending.
XVI. Or ambition out of achievement.
XVII. No we certainly are not the ones who eliminated patience and tolerance from relationship.

NOTE: Curtis is the 84 year old plus golfer who recently won a golf tournament. Some years ago he taught the editor how to play golf. I don’t blame him for my terrible game, but I'm blaming him for this poem and elated he is into poetry!!

*****
RAND TO HALL OF FAME

Dr. Earl W. Rand of Houston, TX—president emeritus and seventh president of Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, TX—received national acclaim for his contributions in higher education by induction to the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame during the Sixth Annual National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame Foundation Weekend at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Atlanta, GA September 27, 1991.

Dr. Rand’s career in education started 52 years ago as a public school teacher and formally ended in 1979 as president of Jarvis Christian College. However, he emerged from retirement in 1986 to become interim president of Wiley College and in 1990 returned to Jarvis as the interim development officer. Jarvis and Bishop colleges gave him a liberal art degree; Atlanta University an M.A.; and Indiana University an Ed. D.

Rand has always had a burning passion to provide opportunities for higher education to persons lowest down in the socio-economic scale. His career has been filled with a variety of administrative and faculty positions in colleges and extensive membership on church boards dedicated to strengthening the presence of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the world.

WE’RE A "NOT FOR PROFIT" ORGANIZATION!


Our official purpose is “To provide a communications network for persons sixty years of age and older in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) through the publication of a newsletter at least six times a year. There will be a sharing of religious as well as common personal day-to-day experiences in order to enhance the quality of life for seniors. It will be sustained by free-will donations.”

The incorporators are William K. Fox, Sr., Velva A. Dreese, Amy Hohman, and Reubena M. Stultz Fox with William K. Fox, Sr. functioning as the "Initial Registered Agent." All are residents of Foxwood Springs Retirement Living Center, Raymore, MO.

THE NEXT STEP IS TO QUALIFY FOR A 501 (c)(3) IRS DESIGNATION.
Beatrice Chandler, Nashville, TN—faithful member/leader in Gay-Lea Christian Church died September 18, 1991. Her remains were laid to rest in Greenwood Cemetery. The Chandler family is one of the foundation families of Discipledom in Nashville and Memphis, TN.

*Fred Rouse, Indianapolis, IN—member of Downey Avenue Christian Church died October 17, 1991. His widow- Christine- is a retired general staff of the Division of Overseas Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Cornellus Worlds, Chicago, IL— for many years a leader in evangelism at the Park Manor Christian Church congregation, passed away October 30 following an extended illness.

WE SALUTE KING D. COLE!

SEASON’S GREETINGS FROM OLDTIMERS’ AS we salute Dr. Cole- Kansas City’s Swope Park United CC beloved pastor!

He climaxed his 16 year relationship to the General Board at a most critical time with a masterful job as the Church’s moderator!