The Oldtimers' Grapevine, Volume 4 (January - December 1994)

William K. Fox Sr

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MLK Legacy Taking Hold in Canada?

A Canadian Perspective
by Lucille Coward, St. Laurent, P.Q. Canada

I am a retired senior citizen with roots going back to my birth in Chicago, IL to Jamaican born parents and a faith journey which started with membership in the Southside Christian (Disciples of Christ) Church of Chicago—now called Parkway Gardens.

This journey has been enriched through association with friends like Mildred L. Webb (Chicago, IL.) and the late Helen Pilgrim.

I am a retired senior citizen with roots going back to my birth in Chicago, IL ...

Minor. But most of my adult life and work has been as a resident of Canada. Thus I feel qualified to share the following on this subject.

Many years of my professional life

See CANADIAN VIEW Page 3

The anglophone Black community of Montreal* by Ebert Gaye- Managing Editor of Community Contact

By the middle of the 1960’s, a steadily growing West Indian student population in Montreal universities, estimated between 2,000 to 3,000, dramatically changed the dynamics within the community. Enveloped in the prevailing atmosphere of Black consciousness and Black power, these students maintained a collision course with a society they perceived to be racist and unaccommodating...

Further adjustments to Canadian immigration laws in the early 1970’s and the economic boom that was taking place in North America had a significant impact.

See ANGLOPHONE Page 3

inside...

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"Wake Up Calls" for Old SCIANS ————
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Welcome for an Old GMP ————
Couple- ————

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I ndianapolis- There is a French saying, "Partir, c'est mourir un peu" (to leave is to die a little -- for me, leaving Indianapolis is like dying a lot...

I'll treasure all the wonderful, happy and fond memories gathered during my life in the States. Such are the parting words to her friends from a long tenured general church staff person for Homeland Ministries, General Office and Church Finance Council. I will be living in Athens, Greece."

-Lambrini Stergiopoulou --

NOTE: Lambrini retired recently. As she returns home she continues the struggle to overcome a major illness and covets our prayer.

St.Louis, MO- I have really enjoyed the OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE. It is so nice to read about people I know. Your articles...are most interesting... Marjorie Johnson- a retired teacher and veteran churchleader in Missouri- mainly Christian education.

*Knoxville, TN- Mrs. Lillian Dixon- one of my members- gave me her copy of a recent OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE to read. I have now reached the Oldtimers' age requirement (smiles) and wish to become a regular reader. My donation is enclosed. -The Rev. Arzolla Cooke, Sr.- Pastor

Kathryn and I journeyed to Columbus, Ohio...We had the opportunity to visit two of the dear Elders that I had the privilege to ordain while pastor of the Woodland Church... They are both homebound but wish to be on the mailing list for the "Grapevine." They are both in their near nineties. They were the first "women elders" in the Woodland Church. Enclosed is a check from the Ranges as a donation for these fine elders and from us.

-Ozark Range, Sr.- director of Black Ministry in the Church's division of homeland ministries-

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FOR OUR PRAYER CIRCLE- 1994

Please add others..

Nor man and May Reed of Nashville, TN whose daughter- Lynnette F. Reed- was killed in a car accident in November. Pastor Reed is senior minister at Alameda Christian Church and treasurer of the Greenwood Cemetery which is owned and operated by the National Christian Missionary Convention. May is an assistant librarian at the Disciples of Christ Historical Society. Services for Lynnette were held November 11 at the Light of the World Christian Church in Indianapolis, IN.

Let us begin with heartfelt thanks."

"Dear God, today the snow is falling- help us to be aware of the many blessings that have fallen our way. Today as others struggle with their various concerns, help us to be grateful for our abilities, and talents to make this a better world in which to live. Let us begin with heartfelt thanks.

AMEN*

Placed at the tables in the dining hall of Foxwood Springs Living Center December 1993.
Year-End Notes- from Page 2

*Jacksonville, FL- Congratulations on the celebration of your 50th anniversary... As you will note we have moved into our condo at the Florida Christian Center. We love our apartment and enjoy the old and new friends we have found here. Among the old friends are Dr. Orville Wake, John Updegraff, George Wilson, Alan Watson, Chet Sillars and others.

We hope all goes well with the Robin Run and Foxwood Springs families. Love to all.

-- Dale and Betty Fiers -- retired
- first GMP of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

The anglophone black community of Montreal- from Page 1

on Montreal’s Black English-speaking community. Canadian immigration figures from that time show that more than 3,000 highly skilled Trinidadians came to Canada; thousands of Barbadians arrived in the late 1960’s and early 1970’s; more than 14,000 Guyanese immigrated; and in 1973 and 1974, some 1,500 Jamaicans.

In most cases, these new immigrants came well equipped with professional skills and made huge contributions to the development of the country...

With a population of close to 60,000 including about 18,000 Jamaicans and fairly large groups from Trinidad, Barbados, Guyana and other smaller West Indian islands, the English-speaking Black community has been steadily carving out for itself a niche in the social, political, economic and cultural landscape of this city and province.

Institutions such as the Union United Church, the Black Community Council of Quebec...have been at the forefront...”

* Excerpts from article in BLACK HISTORY MONTH, February 1993 by Ville de Mon-

CANADIAN VIEW from Page 1

were as staff in the community outreach ministry of my church.

Last Fall as I watched our Toronto Blue Jays triumph in their struggle with the Philadelphia Phillies for the World Series Baseball Championship, I was impressed by more than their ability to play championship baseball. I was struck by the cultural diversity reflected in the managerial staff and the line-up- Do you remember?

Soon after arrival in Canada we joined the Union United Church-the oldest black congregation in Montreal. It was established in Little Burgundy, the heart of Montreal’s black community.

Eventually the congregation had affiliation with the United Church of Canada- a union which came into being in 1925 between Presbyterians, Methodists and Congregationalists.

Historical reality and critical emerging socio-economic needs in the community caused the congregation to pioneer in helping immigrants-especially black immigrants from the Caribbean and elsewhere-to overcome very difficult times as they tried to find a place in Canadian society.

Metro Montreal, Canada has promise of being a Rainbow
Old SCIANS Challenged in "Notes"

Columbus, OH- Some of our former S. C. I. ans are planning a 1994 Reunion... The meeting should arouse the inactive and non-participating Alumni to support something...(i.e. Southern Christian Institute of Edwards, MS was the former homeland ministries secondary and junior college which closed in 1954 and merged with Tougaloo College, Tougaloo, MS)

On my 62nd (birthday) in March I will use my ministerial certification to be in nursing homes doing pre-marital and marital counseling...All of my siblings are still living and trying to be productive... My father's dream of education and self-sufficiency for his family was realized...we all are thankful... I am.-- Lydan Smith Poppins (Range)

NOTE: Lydan was an honor graduate of S. C. I. who went on to secure graduate college degrees. She became a successful homemaker, educator and an active lay church worker.

1993. She was a loyal supporter of the National Christian Missionary Convention. Enoch reminds us that she was a daughter of the late T. B. Frost-a pioneer in the development of Jarvis Christian College.

(Enoch is doing well. He visited his 94 year old mother in Palestine, TX last summer.)

*****

St. Louis, MO- The "Religion & Ethics" section of the Post Dispatch featured the life and works of the Centennial Christian Church led by 66 year old Pastor Samuel W. Hylton, Jr.

The heading read: "Black Church Follows Lead of Jesus as Worker. The half page article pointed out the pioneer work the congregation had done in the 1950's and 1960's when the Congress of Racial Equality met in the church basement to plan lunch-counter sit-ins and civil rights marches.

Dr. Hylton, who heads up a coalition of ministers, police and educators mobilized to counteract violence in the public schools, is trying to get the churches to allocate a percentage of their budgets to start black businesses.

WAKE-UP CALL FOR SCIANS!- See You In Jackson?

Lubbock, TX- The memory of joys experienced at the former Southern Christian Institute of Edwards, MS must never die! So declare Jerry Brown, New Orleans, LA-Class of 1953-and task group of three other loyal former SCI-ANS!

The call is to all former SCIANS-students, faculty and or friends- to meet in Jackson, MS July 1-4, 1994 for an SCI-MANSION-MT. BEULAH - SCHOOL REUNION "94!"

The sponsors urge interested persons to secure information forms and return the same so that the hosts can determine entertainment needs.

Detailed information can be received by contacting any one of the following persons:

Jerry Brown, 931 Pleasant St., New Orleans, LA 70115; Joyce F. Jackson, 129 Pine Bay Drive, Jackson, MS 39206; or Renetta W. Howard, 1310 - 59th. Street, Lubbock, TX 79412.
Ira Paternoster- a minister and general church administrator- died December 7, 1993 in the NBA sponsored Ken Mar Apartments, Martinsville, VA. He was a gifted story teller and preacher who served congregations in Carrollton, KY; Cincinnati, Cuyahoga Falls, and Dayton, OH. This was followed by employment by the United Christian Missionary Society as the executive secretary of the Office of Resources and Interpretation. He also served as an assistant to presidents of the UCMS Virgil A. Sly and Thomas J. Liggett. Ira retired May 31, 1971.

Paternoster was born to Australian parents while they were attending Lexington Theological Seminary in Lexington, KY. He returned with them to Australia and received some preparation for ministry at Glen Iris, Melbourne, Australia. Though he returned to the States to come complete college and seminary at Transylvania College and Lexington Theological Seminary, he never lost his Australian accent. In college he was an athlete and later an advocate wholesome lifestyle and high churchmanship.

He was devoted to his wife, Lu Cayton, who preceeded him in death- And to a daughter, Phyllis and two sons, Gary and Bruce. Friends and family were in attendance at a memorial service held on Tuesday, December 14 at Downey Avenue Christian Church.

Mary Henrian Bassett of Preston, VA- 91 years old- dedicated elementary school teacher in Henry and Pittsylvania Counties, VA for thirteen years before devoting the next 35 years of her professional life as a librarian in Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) educational institutions- died November 8, 1993 while in Friendship Manor Nursing Home.

Mary Bassett was a quiet, steadfast and efficient Christian servant committed to serving those with the greatest educational need. She went to Southern Christian Institute, Edwards, MS and served as its librarian from 1936 to 1953 when the home missions institution closed to merge with Tougaloo College, Tougaloo, MS. She went back to Virginia to serve as librarian at Lynchburg College, Lynchburg, VA from 1954-1967. During this tenure from 1960-1961 she was an exchange librarian at Moray House School of Education, University of Edinburg, Edinburg, Scotland. After Lynchburg College, she continued as a part-time reference librarian at Lynchburg Public Library from 1967-1972.

See BASSETT Page 8

Coalition community. Thus, our congregation has been historically committed to the Martin Luther King, Jr. dream for one people with diversity living in community under God.

Every January our church, in co-operation with eight other congregations representing various denominations in the metro Montreal area, sponsors a Martin Luther King Observance. Our Gospel Choirs and pastors have key roles in this service.

In June 1983 our congregation began a Heritage Week Observance which has drawn participation of people from across the nation, the U.S.A. and the West Indies.

In 1992 Mayor Jean Dore' declared that Montreal would be the first Montreal municipality to officially celebrate Black History month. But that emphasis had been started in the 1970’s by black communities.

United Church began its Outreach Ministry in 1927 with a Negro Community Centre to deal with socio-economic problems which plagued black people at that time. It continues such outreach through a memorial and a music scholarship fund for deserving university students.

June 27, 1993 fifteen students graduated from a course covering
Jacksonville, FL- After living some twenty years of their retirement in their Palm Beach Shores home, Drs. A. Dale and Betty Fiers have moved into their condominium in the Florida Christian Center, Jacksonville. This is one of the newest National Benevolent Association retirement living communities. It is known as Cypress Village.

Under the leadership of residents Dr. and Mrs. William T. Gibble, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Osborn, and NBA Ambassadors Mr. and Mrs. James Parker, a luncheon was planned to welcome the Fiers'. Some 50 Disciples of Christ- all residents of the Village- attended.

Dr. Fiers was a key leader in the restructuring of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and was elected as the first General Minister and President in 1968. Among those present at the luncheon and residents in Cypress Village were three members of the General Church Cabinet during the Fiers' administration-William T. Gibble, a retired president of the National Benevolent Association; Roland K. Huff, a retired president of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society; and Rolland Sheafor, a retired president of the Board of Church Extension of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

During warm and impromptu remarks, those assembled voiced their appreciation for the dynamic leadership through the years in the church of both A Dale and Betty. They were warmly welcomed to their new life in the Cypress Village retirement living community.

COUNSEL/WIFE ESCAPE DEATH!

Faversham, England- Wade and Margy Rubick of Indianapolis, IN narrowly escaped serious injury and possible death November 10, 1993 while vacationing in England. A tour bus carrying the Wayne Rubicks and 44 other Americans skidded off a rain-slick highway in Kent County of southeastern England. It plunged down 20 feet down an embankment landing on its side. The tour group was en route to Canterbury Cathedral, when they hit the back of a van. Ten persons were killed and 30 injured. The Rubicks were hospitalized overnight in the Kent and Canterbury Hospital with broken bones and cuts.

Since Rubick was sitting in the front seat behind the driver, he saw the tragic event unfold. In a telephone interview described by The Indianapolis Star writer Gregory Weaver, Wade reportedly said: "I was the first passenger to be extracted from the bus, nine months of intense study. Classes were held in the church. They were given broad training for the operation of a modern office. There were courses in English, French and accounting-both theoretical and automated. A government subsidy and help from the Protestant School Board of Montreal made this possible.

Leadership has been the key. Pastor E. Leicester Bigby and wife, Hazel are both natives of Jamaica who have served congregations in Trinidad before coming to Canada for further study and pastoral charges in Ontario and Quebec. Union United Church congregation is made up of blacks originally from the West Indies, the United States, early settlements in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and from Africa. There are also some active Caucasians.

I am glad that our family has been associated with developing the life and mission of the Union United Church in Montreal.
We’re Updating Our Mailing List! Check your name sticker!

Note the month/year indicated. That represents the last time we received a donation from you. If that registration is more than one year from the time you read this notice, it may indicate that you have been receiving THE OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE at someone else's expense. I am sure you will want to update your commitment. We count on you.

The deadline for response is March 31. If none is received by then, the editor will assume that you want your name dropped from the mailing list. We will still love you and look to receive a positive response from you later. Season's Greetings!

W. K. Fox, Managing Editor

DONATIONS SINCE LAST ISSUE-
Thanks so much!

Philandria P. Dickerson, Nashville, TN; Lucille Morrison, Hannibal, MO; Chester A. Sillars, Jacksonville, FL; Lucille Coward, St. Laurent, P.Q. Canada; Marjorie H. Johnson, St. Louis, MO; E. W./Verbie Rand, Marshall, TX; Johnnie H. Calvert, El Paso, TX; Virgil/Cleatus Hinds, William/Reubena Fox, Harry/Frances Parsons, Raymore, MO; Cornelius/Alpha P. Arnold, Los Angeles, CA; A. Dale/Elizabeth K. Fiers, Jacksonville, FL; A rzolla Cooke, Knoxville, TN; Ozark/Kathryn Range, Sr., Indianapolis, IN; Mattie Redd Luzetta Moss, Columbus, OH; Delores/Richard Highbaugh, Chicago, IL

(Please tear here and mail.)

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An account of her life carried in the November 11 issue of the Roanoke Times & World-News stated "She was active in the work of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) wherever she lived. She traveled extensively in the 1950's and 1960's around the world and in the U. S., often visiting institutions of the Christian Church as she traveled."

A memorial service held November 11 at Pleasant Grove Christian Church was jointly officiated by ministers William Whitehurst and Terry Willis. Surviving are a niece, Mary Virginia R. Quinn, Radford, VA; a nephew, Walter Johnson Reynolds, Whitehorne, VA; one grandniece; four great-grandnieces; two great-grandnephews; and cousins on the Bassett and Taylor side of the household. In lieu of flowers, friends were encouraged to give memorial gifts to the Lynchburg College Library or the Medical College of Virginia (for research).

**Escape Death - from P. 6**

terrible sight as I watched them pull the others out...We are all eager to get home." Trapped and injured passengers had to be cut from the bus.

Wade is an attorney and retired as the General Counsel for the General Office of the Christian Church. His wife, Margy, is a free-lance writer.

**Fangmeier in Print!**

Indianapolis, IN- After twelve years of exhaustive research on the shinanigans of politicians and the Ku Klux Klan in the east side community known as Irvington, Bob Fangmeier finally got the assistance of the president of the Indiana Historical Society to get his work published! In their newsletter, Julia and Bob said the book came out in November and "sales are going well." One "Author's Signing" at Waldenbooks, Washington Square December 4 caused 41 books to be autographed and another signing was held downtown at Waldenbooks December 16 - Bob is a retired journalist & staff in the former department of church and society in DHM.
Goodwill Ambassador Rosa Page Welch Sings Her Last Song!

OSA PAGE WELCH - "Born to be free and sing the song the angels once sang: Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace and goodwill to every living thing" was the life song of this beloved Ambassador of Goodwill."

After 94 years of full and glorious membership in God's earthly choir, she died in her beloved home of Port Gibson January 27, 1994. The members of our households join her sister Lesly Smith, and daughter and son- Lennie Freeman and Gale P. Welch- in celebrating the homegoing of a devoted mother and sister with a vibrant and holy spirit.

Grounded in the basics of the good life by devout parents and living in creative association with her faithful sister and a host of loyal friends, she used the educational disciplines instilled in her while attending Southern Christian Institute, Edwards, MS to become a committed and caring Disciple of the Lord.

Empowered through marriage and the birth of two children, she persevered to become a golden voice and witness for a loving God in an often dark and disbelieving world. Facing every natural and unusual challenge in life with a heavenly courage, she chose to walk with God by faith and not by sight.

Thus every mountain became a mole hill; and whenever confronting blank walls, God made a way through where there was no way before.

Almost from the beginning of her faith journey from that little church in Port Gibson, she immersed herself in the Holy Spirit. So when Rosa began to sing "He's got the whole world in His hands," or "There's a sweet, sweet spirit in this place," hard hearts were softened and warm souls were set on fire. All present felt the impact of the Spirit in this dedicated "Ambassador of Goodwill."

Finally, in the evening of a beautiful life of service, with the body weary and worn, Rosa laid down on her bed and wafted into a soft sleep. Soon she heard the voice of angels ringing in her ears: Swing low, sweet chariot, coming for to carry me home. Swing low, sweet chariot, come for to carry me home!"

And Rosa reached out to grasp their hands, for she was ready. She had fought the good fight. She had kept the faith. She was in line for the reward promised each
Indianapolis, In-THE GRAPEVINE continues to grow nicely in articles and updates on friends across the country in the church. Gertude Dimke

St. Louis, MO- Enclosed is a check to help with the expenses of the paper for another year. You are doing all of us "Oldtimers" a favor by letting us hear what the others are doing. I was sorry to read that Ira Paternoster is gone. When I left Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio in 1941 to finish my doctoral studies, I recommended him to the church and they called him. We have been good friends through the years.

December 31, 1993 I completed twenty years of retirement. They have been good years for us. I have done many things in the same fields I practiced for 45 years—preaching, teaching, editing and writing during these years and am still in good health at 86. I run a bit in the morning to keep fit.

Last Sunday afternoon I had the pleasure of giving the Founders Day address at Eureka College, my alma mater. I have been related to the college for half of its 139 years. Howard E. Short

*****

Washington, D.C.- Keep up the good work! Oscar Haynes

*****

Indianapolis, IN- You are doing a good job. Samuel Pugh

Please pray for these beloved

Ruth Hobbs (active lay church leader) and family in Jackson, MS who have recently experienced thefts from the household and other domestic inconveniences.

*Olive Long (retired homeland institutional staff- SCI) of Rosemead, CA who fell and broke her right hip in January requiring hospitalization and remedial surgery.

*John R. Foulkes, deputy general minister and president for inclusive ministries, and administrative secretary of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as he intensifies efforts to direct the convening of the 13th biennial session of the National Convocation at the Downtown Marriott Hotel in Kansas City, MO August 5-9, 1994.

*Ministers and church leaders everywhere who seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit as they lead others in celebration of the Easter Joy!
of us who forgets the set backs of the past and presses on with fo-
cused faith on the righteousness and goals in the life and figure of
Jesus- our Lord. Amen

FROM: Sere and Martha Myers-
SCI class-mates and life-long
friends, Kansas City, MO; and
William and Reubena Fox, Sr of
Raymore, MO- two of the many
beneficiaries of her freely shared
love and friendship-

NOTE: Though this memorial
statement was addressed to the
family, the editor has taken the
liberty to share it with OLD-
TIMERS' readers because her
life and ministry was such a rare
treasure and impacted so many
people around the world for
good.

*****

At the funeral a full biography was
printed and a digest of newspaper
clippings relative to her fabulous
career of Christian service made
available.

Persons interested in a detailed ac-
count of her life should read:

ROSA'S SONG -The Life and
Ministry of Rosa Page Welch,
compiled and written by Oma Lou
Myers, Christian Board of Publi-
Bethany Book Store has copies.

ROSA PAGE WELCH was
memorialized from the Christian
Chapel Church February 5, 1994
where The Rev. T. Elias Harris is
pastor. The services were
presided over by Rachel Wilson,
with The Rev. Sam Tomlinson,
III, pastor of the St. James Epis-
copal Church , Port Gibson- and
Dr. Benjamin Rogers, Jr. of
Chicago, IL participating. Dr.
Daniel W. Heath, Veteran Pas-
tor/Founder of First Christian
Church, Rockford, IL and kin of
Rosa's, delivered the eulogy. An
overflow congregation was in at-
tendance.

Among her many honors and cita-
tions are an honary Doctorate of
Human Letters from Eureka Col-
lege, Eureka, IL; honor plaques
from the National Conference of
Christians and Jews; National City
Christian Church, Washington,
D.C. and the National Convoca-
tion of the Christian Church.

Mourning her loss is a daughter,
Linnie Welch Freeman; a son,
Gale Page, Chicago, IL; a sister,
Lesly Page Smith, Chicago, IL.,
six grandchildren, AkiShe,
Maleeka, Brandon, Linnie, Maui-
rice, Christopher; numerous
cousins and members of the
Heath and Page Households; spe-
cial friends Doris Quinn, Boise,
Idaho; Jean Jacques, Thomas
Goldson, Dr. Benjamin Rogers,
Jr, Chicago, IL.
R aymore, MO- William K. and Reubena M. S. Fox are finally in Northeast Texas where Rev. Fox will do volunteer work at Jarvis.

Fifty-one years ago an untried and recent seminary graduate was employed by his denomination’s Committee on War Services to help African American congregations located near military camps serve the social and religious needs of black soldiers. (In those days of racial segregation in the military, these were real and unmet needs.)

The young William Fox was headed toward Jarvis Christian College in Hawkins, TX when he stopped off in Paris, TX to attend the annual Texas Christian Missionary Convention. While there his mentor, Dr. Willard M. Wickizer of the United Christian Missionary Society in Indianapolis, IN sent him a telegram urging him to consider a ministry at Southern Christian Institute in Edwards, MS. The president there, John Long, was in need of a Bible Teacher and someone who would initiate a new program of leadership training and education in town and country churches.

Mr. Fox accepted the challenge and left for Edwards, MS the next day. He never reached Jarvis.

Meanwhile Reubena M. Stultz was in Martinsville, VA trying to decide whether to go to Boston, MA and head a primary school or return to her small town principalship in Henry County, VA. She also ended up going to Edwards, MS to accept the co-leadership of the Southern Christian Institute Community School. Soon after she and William married.

Dr. Sebetha Jenkins, the enterprising president of Jarvis Christian College, recently convinced Rev. Fox that he should volunteer his professional experience and dedication to meet some of the needs at Jarvis. So in March 1994 he accepted the challenge of a short-term “labor of love” assignment as “Minister-in-Residence.” President Jenkins promises to relate him to several college projects.

Meet Us in Kansas City

Indianapolis, IN-The thirteenth Biennial Session of the National Convocation of the Christian Church is scheduled to take place August 5-9, 1994 in the Kansas City Marriott Downtown Hotel.

The program theme is “Sow the Seeds—Trust the Promise.” Seniors can register for $50.

Further, the Host Committee has secured some homes. For particulars contact:

Dr. John Foulkes, Adm. Secy National Convocation of the CC.
P.O. Box 1986
Indianapolis, IN 46206

Full particulars can be secured from either of the following:

Mrs. Joyce Flood Jackson
129 Pine Bay Drive
Jackson, MS 39206
(601) 982-7601
or
Mr. Leonard Gilner
4649 Norway Drive
Jackson, MS 39206
(601) 982-1994

Activities will take place at Tougaloo College and the old campus of Southern Christian Institute and in Jackson, MS. Also featured will be the traditional social events of a banquet and dance. The picnic on Saturday on the old S.C.I. campus and worship service in the old S.C.I. chapel will give lasting meaning and challenge for all.

Jackson, MS- Graduates, former students and staff of the Southern Christian Institute at Edwards, MS are urged to attend the Reunion planned here July 3, 1994.

Meet Us in Kansas City
The following is a sampling of Rosa's statements of reminiscence and testimonies from associates and friends found in the document "ROSA'S SONG- The Life and Ministry of Rosa Page Welch" compiled and written by Oma Lou Myers. They underline the essence of this exceptional woman.

In the past few years I had been carrying on my personal crusade for interfaith, interracial Christianity. It was exhilarating, but it made me a little dizzy when I wondered where and how far this crusade would take me. I hadn't counted on a prize along the way. But blessed Jesus, it came!”-p. 91

Dr. L. K. Bishop, the executive secretary of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, asked Dr. Welch to go to Drake University in Des Moines, IA to have Drake University President Harmon Bro receive the National Conference's Distinguished Service Medal. She was elated.

Later while attending and singing at the Second annual assembly of the National Council of Church's Division of Foreign Missions January 3-6, 1952 held in Toronto, Canada, the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. asked her to be on deputation of women going to the Philippines. She accepted the invitation. The Disciples of Christ foreign missions head Dr. Virgil Sly joined the Presbyterian executive in sponsorship., Alberta

"...it made me dizzy when I wondered where and how far this crusade would take me. I hadn't counted on a prize..."

I was asked to be the leader of singing and one of the soloists for our Disciples Centennial International Convention meeting in October of 1949 in Cincinnati, Ohio. More than eight thousand delegates were registered. I have never felt love and cooperation more than from that group. I had met so many of them in conventions, youth and adult conferences, and in their local churches during these fifteen years of service throughout the country and in Canada. Every moment of that convention was great, but Friday night when eleven young people, one a Negro girl, were commissioned to foreign mission service, and Saturday night when a thousand young people, many of whom I've watched develop through youth conferences, knelt in dedication of their lives to Christian service, and Sunday afternoon when more than 15,000 people jammed Cincinnati Gardens for that marvelous interfaith communion service- these were the highest moments for me.”

R.P. Welch- Pages 87-88-

The idea of sending Rosa Welch on as a member of a deputation of women broadened in sponsorship. When Rosa returned home in April 1953, she had completed seven months of travel in Japan, the Philippines, Hong Kong, Thailand, Burma, India, Pakistan, Lebanon/Palestine, Africa, and Europe.

While in Leopoldville, she helped celebrate the 75th anniversary of Protestantism in the Congo. She was sitting on a platform during a celebration in a large stadium.

Rosa writes: “As I sat there, I was excited about seeing all of these African people, the most I had seen at one time. There must have been twenty-five or thirty thousand of them.” There were only a few black men on the platform and nobody mentioned the presence of the church women’s delegation.

Rosa broke protocol and went up to the microphone, called the name of the Missions’ secretary

Carrying out the Great Commission!
Bearing the Torch with Courage

THE HOMELAND, from p. 5

and asked for an interpretation. Rosa says: “Of course, everybody in the stadium heard and there was nothing he could do but come up reluctantly. ‘All I want to say is that I bring you greetings from the Protestant churches of America. I bring you special greetings from the Christians of America. But I bring you very special greetings from American black people. I am so happy that I am in this land of my forefathers, too. I am going to sing a group of songs for you. The first one I will sing will be a Negro spiritual. These were the songs that were born in the hearts of my ancestors during days of slavery....’” p. 119

*The late Emory Ross had made arrangements for Dr. Welch to meet Dr. Albert Schweitzer in Lamborne, but plane and boat schedules made it impossible. So Rosa went back into the bush.

From the Disciples of Christ’s mission in Wema, they went to Mondombe where Ned Roberts and his wife along with Gertude Shoemaker lived and served. She witnessed an unforgettable sermon by Pastor Ntonga and baptism service. Ned Roberts gives this description: “Her fame as a beautiful singer of the Good News had gone before her. The jungle drums announced her presence and alerted each village of her coming before we arrived. The result was that whole villages had turned out and were blocking the jungle road in eager anticipation of her coming. The tunes of the gospel songs she sang in English were well known by the Christians and received as the messages of the apostles of the Day of Pentecost in their own languages on Lonkundo, Llia and Lingala. There was great joy and celebration in the worship and praise. On the third day we headed for Mondome, but the progress was extremely slow as in each village the crowds awaited the marvelous Wembi (The Singer). We had hoped to be at the station for the evening meal, but gave up because of the demands for Rosa to sing, and she never refused, although she was becoming extremely weary. It was nearly 9:00 p.m. when we approached the mission station. We warned her that the greatest crowd yet would be waiting for her... including hundreds of students, mission staff of schools and hospital, surrounding villages...residents of our leper colony. She wearily groaned, ‘Surely they won’t want me to sing tonight. I simply cannot sing another word.’ The crowd was bigger than we expected.... We tried to explain that the Wembi was too tired... she would sing for them the next day... She mounted a stand... as she began to sing, her spirit was re-kindled... tiredness melted away... she sang more beautifully than ever.” - p 121-122

Handling “The Cost of Discipleship”

Rosa’s many faceted ministry included special training for non-violent involvement in civil rights protest, postponing a Washington concert to answer a Martin Luther King Jr. call to march in Montgomery, AL; rising up and seizing a microphone in an International Christian Church business session to speak her mind on an ethical issue.

Early in the “Prologue” of her book she says: “I struggled constantly with the feeling of guilt. The urgency of my task was in direct opposition to my desire to be with my family and take care of my children. I spent much time in prayer, and finally God answered. Mama was able to come and assist Lesly and Welch in rearing the children.” - Page 205

Her late husband- Mr E.C. Welch- was also an accomplished musician. Daughter, Linnie Freeman, recently retired from public school teaching after 35 years. She has been choir director/organist for Grace Presbyterian church 22 years and Hartzell U.M. church for 5 years. Son Gale Welch recently retired after many years with Sears, Roeuck & Co.
A ctions taken by THE O L D T I M E R S ' GRAPEVINE Board officers last year to make it a legitimate non-profit organization have finally concluded with real success! Your continuing as a loyal reader and making donations is sustaining those actions!

First, January 28, 1994 the Internal Revenue Service District Director sent us a letter of confirmation which began with the following statement:

"Based on information supplied, and assuming your operations will be as stated in your applications for recognition of exemption, we have determined you are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501 (a) of the Internal Revenue Code as an organization described in section 501 (c) (3)."

Of course, the IRS had more paragraphs, but that was the one we were waiting for!

Second, since our primary goal was to cut down on the expense of postage, we immediately sent our application in to the United States Postal Service for a special bulk mailing permit.

In almost record time, according to our postmaster, we received a letter dated February 16, 1994 with these opening sentences:

"Your application for special bulk mailing privileges has been approved. Effective February 9, 1994, your organization is authorized to mail at the special bulk rates at Raymore, MO 64083.

"Everything you present for mailing under this authorization must be prepared in accordance with the postal regulations that govern this class of mail..."

Thanks again OLDTIMERS' reader. Please continue your support.

(Please tear here and mail.)

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ENCLOSED IS MY DONATION OF $10 __ $15 __ $20 __ Other ___________

Make check out to OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE and send to William K. Fox, Editor/Manager - 500 Mott Dr.- Apt 102-, Raymore, MO 64083

David Downing, Mission, KS; Lorraine P. Dudley; Donald O. Legg; Howard E/Margaret Short, St. Louis, MO; Ruth R. Patterson, Philadelphia, PA; John C. Updegraff, Jacksonville, FL; Edward L. Griffin, Shelby, MS; Walter/Grace Giffin, Sun City, AZ; G. Olmsted, Pomona, CA; Annette Jackson, Nashville, TN; Robert/Kathryn Hall, Glenn/Chalotte Shoemaker; Minelle Noland; Sheldon/Miriam Shirts, Raymore, MO; Artie M. Scott, Chicago, IL; Mary Joyce Bechtel, Sun Lakes, AZ; Willie E. Green, Jefferson City, MO; Zella Mae Hunter, Tulsa, OK; Gertude A. A. Dimke; Samuel F. Pugh, Indianapolis, IN; Bessie R. Stone; John R/Lucile A. Compton, Cincinnati, OH; Amy Hohman, Louisville, KY; Robin E. Hedgeman, Elyria, OH; Oscar Haynes, Washington, D.C.
PREPARE YOURSELF FOR THE BLESSINGS OF EASTER

As we near the Last Week in the earthly life of our Savior Jesus Christ, events of those tense days and words from the Cross make us know that:

WE WERE THERE-
*With Peter dodging confrontation with the enemies of God, while denying our allegiance to the Gospel message of love expressed in our Lord, Jesus Christ- Luke 22:54-62

WE WERE THERE-
*At a distance- when he confronted the high priest and the Roman governor- when he was accused of “stirring up the people” Lk 23:1-12

1. “Father forgive them..”- Lk. 23:24

WE WERE THERE-
*When they crucified him and he said these words from the Cross.

2. “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”- Mark 15:34

3. “Woman, here is your son... Here is your mother.” John 19:26-27

4. “I am thirsty.”- John 19:28

5. “It is finished.”- John 19:30


WE WERE THERE-
*Experiencing revival and restoration when we met the living presence of Christ on the road to Emmaus- Luke 24:13-32

Inside... focus on the passing of Rosa Page Welch who personified the yearnings of the human soul to experience a life of reconciliation and empowerment through divine grace.
William (Bill) E. Starn: Quiet But Persistent Warrior Departs-

Colombus, MO- Following an extended illness, long time NBA Lenoir Homes resident William Elbart Starn died here March 8, 1994 at the age of 87.

Many throughout the church knew Dr. Starn as a steadfast and fearless warrior for the establishment of justice and fairplay for all based upon the life and teaching of Jesus.

He leaves behind a faithful wife- Margaret- who walked closely with him along the same paths. A daughter, Kathy Helmes of Baltimore, MD; daughter Shirley Cosgrove of Columbia, MO. and son Peter in Honolulu, Hawaii. They and his three sisters- Pauline, Isabelle and Virginia all of Wooster, OH- carry on the Starn heritage of commitment to service. There are 11 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren.

Following graduation from Bethany and Yale Bill touched many lives through his ministry in Missouri, Michigan and Ohio before concluding with 24 years of stellar leadership as the chief executive for the 25 congregations in the Disciples Council of Greater St. Louis, MO.

Ministers came to know him as a pastor to pastors. Others recall memberships on boards which planned materials and programs to plant new congregations like the eight that were established in metro St. Louis during his administration.

Many knew him as an individual in quiet pursuit of Christian discipleship; giving God’s mission nothing less than the best, and whenever possible working with other Christians.

The family centered memorial service conducted by Minister Kim Ryan highlighted testimonies like that received from Gertude Dimke of Indianapolis, IN. She recalled that ever since the day when she assumed the job of Bill’s secretary when he worked on the Ohio State Society staff as youth director, she always felt like she belonged to the Starn family.

Family members recalled memorable experiences with Bill from childhood days through adulthood. They stressed his love of people- life- music- youth- doing his very best- and all the while with a twinkle in his eye and chuckle under his breath.

Grandson Mark S. Helme sums
Notes From Texas and Some Less known Places

Tyler, TX- Palm Sunday The Oldtimers' Grapevine editor and wife had the pleasure of sitting in worship with the Loyal Northcott's at First Christian Church. Pastor Dr. C. Earl Gibbs was featured in singing the solo parts of three of "The Seven Last Words of Christ" with The Chancel Choir. Loyal, who retired from general church work as the executive secretary for evangelism and membership development in 1982, says he does not have enough physical energy left to assume full interim ministry services. Loyal is an emeritus pastor of Tyler's First Christian Church.

Marshall, TX- A brief visit to the home of the Earl W. and Val Rand's to say "Hello" found the president-emeritus of Jarvis Christian College recovering nicely from recent illness and Mrs. Rand holding on well in retirement. Dr. Rand has difficulty in maintaining his physical balance, but has been able to take on brief speaking commitments.

Athens, TX- A short-notice invitation from Texas Christian Missionary Fellowship President Vernon Jackson in March enabled the editor to make a brief visit to the annual Youth Fellowship meet at the Regional Church's campgrounds where nearly 200 African American Disciples of Christ youth under the guidance of some 20 counselors and direction of Jarvis student Virzola Law were in attendance. The youth and the counselors were giving senior church members the assurance that youth leadership in the church is still very much alive and relevant! The Conference dealt with the theme: FROM PAST TO PRESENT based on Philippians 3:13-14. Chi Rho and CYF workshops considered ethics/judgement; crime, region, and sex/relationships.

Chicago, IL- Marthetta McMickle of Park Manor Christian Church reports the church's sanctuary was remolded in time for Easter; a new parking lot secured across from the main church building on the 73rd street side; and a new heating and cooling system installed. James Demus, III is the senior pastor.

Raymore, MO- A negative turn in course of the Oldtimers' editor's help-mate's (Reubena's) health caused an early cut-off of short term volunteer service to Jarvis Christian College. They returned to Raymore where she could improve her condition. Her health is back in line and the commitment to volunteer service relationship with Jarvis continues. They were treated royally during their initial stay. It enabled them to get an on-site orientation to new thrusts at Jarvis and to exchange some ideas on future development.

Los Angeles, CA- Carnella J. Barnes, veteran retired UCMS field worker for Church Women, wants the Grapevine to know that a 30 day stay in the new USC hospital for hip surgery prevented her from getting out her annual year's greeting message. However, she is on the mend with plans to attend CWF Quadrennial at Purdue University in Lafayette, IN and the biennial session of the National Convocation in Kansas City. She also notes that there is a brief "bio" of her in the recent 1992 issue of "Notable Black American Women," Jesse Carney Smith, Editor. It is published by Gale Research Inc., 835 Penobscot Bldg., Detroit, MI and is available in most libraries.

Columbia, MO- Woody Whitlow, retired CMF leader and Reconciliation supporter, shares this testimony of victory: "Starting last October I
Older Disciples ... Just Keep on Keeping...
from Page 2

have had 32 radiation treatments and massive doses of chemotherapy for lung cancer. I've finished now and presumed cured. It was a terrible experience but I am regaining my strength and expecting to be in Memorial Boulevard's 20 mile Hike for Hunger on April 30, 1994... Love- Woody and Mildred Whitlow." (i.e. They are former members of Memorial Christian Church.)

*Harry Parsons- long time resident of Foxwood Springs Living Center and veteran retired pastor and interim minister in the midwest, had a major stroke in early March 1994. He is in the nursing section of that facility striving to overcome the affects of paralysis and the inability to speak. Harry has always been proud of his ministry and an impressive string of interims. His wife, Frances, and family covet our prayers.

*Oldtimers who knew the late Dr. Robert H. Peoples and his surviving wife, Zellie, will be pleased to read the following. A note received from her recently stating that she was not feeling as well as she would like these days, "But I am able to go back and forth to my meals! I go to two meals...Will you please send me (another) copy of the most recent Oldtimers' Grapevine... I'll be looking for the Oldtimers' Grapevine when it comes..."

Mrs. Zellie Peoples, Springfield Health Care Center, 6130 N.

Michigan Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46208.

Dayton, OH- Post Easter Greetings! We hope your Easter was a happy one. Our Ohio Easter Bunny froze his cotton tail off. The temp 32 degrees with 2 inches of snow. You must know what it was like cleaning snow off the car in an Easter bonnet!

Dorothy E. Wilbert- Widow of the late Pastor Eli Wilbert.

"It was a terrible experience but I am regaining my strength and expecting to be in Memorial's 20 mile Hike for Hunger April 30."

Washington, D.C.- Celestine M. and Frank B. Bradley celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary February 13, 1994 with a quiet dinner in the home of their youngest daughter, Laura Ann. Frank and Celestine were joined in holy matrimony 50 plus one years ago February 9, 1943. Frank says "The occasion was lovely and a good time was had by all." The Bradley's oldest daughter, Rosie M., is a public school teacher in Chicago, IL and Laura Ann teaches school in the Washington D.C. public school system.

Indianapolis, IN- Retiree Emmet J. Dickson made another successful 2000 mile round-trip drive from this city to Dallas and Crockett, TX in time for the Jarvis Christian College Founder's Day Observance March 29 in Hawkins. Dr. Dickson is one of the less than ten Jarvis alumni who have attended at least fifteen consecutive Founder's Day events. Dickson is a former Jarvis church pastor and professor.

Lorenzo Evans: “If I had another Sixty Years I would do it again.”- former national church field staff

Indianapolis, IN- Please find enclosed my contribution for the support of "The Oldtimers' Grapevine." I look forward to reading it. This year will have special meaning for me. I will be celebrating sixty years in the Christian Ministry- twenty years in retirement to do some of the things I wanted to do but never found the time. For twenty years now I have been working with the senior citizens at the multi cultural center teaching a Bible Class every Wednesday.

One of the joys of my life this year was to witness the baptizing of my granddaughter, Allison L. Brown, on Easter Sunday morning. It has been a joy to have been able to serve the Christian ministry. If I had another life to give I would do it again. Keep the Oldtimers' Grapevine going! Hope to see you in Kansas City, MO.
Hawkins, TX - During the ceremonies for Jarvis Christian College's Founders Day, March 29, moderated by President Sebetha Jenkins, faculty, students and friends assembled in the J. N. Ervin Chapel heard keynote speaker Dr. Venita Carney Waddleton tell "The Jarvis College Story" and warn: "Don't let Jarvis go down as a footnote in history!" Dr. Waddleton came to Jarvis in 1929 and served under seven Jarvis College presidents as business teacher and registrar before retiring in 1979.

The occasion was given historic meaning by the presence of 17 descendants of J. J. and Ida Van Zandt Jarvis - the early twentieth century lay leaders, who donated the 456 acres of land in 1910 to the Christian Woman's Board of Missions to "keep and maintain a school for the elevation and education of the Negro race."

Alumni Director Linda Rutherford announced that the one day observance was a new attempt to provide a more concentrated focus on the part Jarvis history was playing in the current effort to expand on its original purpose and launch the college on CHARTING A NEW COURSE.

Each of the seventeen descendants received a replica of the stained glass window containing the likeness of Ida Van Zandt Jarvis - who joined her husband, J. J. Jarvis, in giving the land for the college. Those receiving the replica were: Eleanor G. White, Fairfax, VA; Steward White, Washington, DC; Byrne Beasley, Jack Moore, Forney, TX; and Louise Logan, John Jarvis Burgess, Sr. (Grandson), the John Jarvises, Julie Jarvis Ogan, Jarvis Ogan, Charles Ogan, Jeffers Jarvis, and Jim Jarvis, all of Fort Worth, TX.

"We reach out for partnership with all those imbued with the creative spirit of our founders as we begin a new and expanding course." President Sebetha Jenkins

Martha Burgess, Tony Lambard Burgess and Beauford Burgess, all of Tucson, AR; and Robin Beasley, Houston, TX. Mrs. Louis Logan - grand daughter of Ida VanZandt Jarvis - received an enlarged replica of the window in behalf of the family.

Senior Jarvis students Shannell Jackson and Shaun Tyner stood as a duo giving tribute to the Jarvis descendents. Together, they detailed the comprehensive impact Major Jarvis and Ida Van Zandt had made upon the secular and religious communities of Texas the and the whole church.

Due recognition was given to the presence of the K. J. Frost family - descendants of Thomas B. Frost; and retired Jarvis' president Charles A. Berry, Jr's family-descendants of Charles A. Berry, Sr. T. B. Frost and C. A. Berry, Sr. were the pioneer men who cleared the land with their hands and started the embryo student body which has become Jarvis Christian College.

Activities were enriched during lunch when relatives of the late Mrs. Ida Van Zandt Jarvis' shared personal memories of the Jarvis family and their relationships to Jarvis. Sophomore students Felicia Love and Ronald Hubbard rendered solos. Alumni were recognized who had traveled to Jarvis for the observance from as far north as Chicago, IL and Indianapolis, IN; east as Jackson, MS; west as Oakland, CA; and throughout Texas.

The day was climaxed by a procession to the Memorial Cemetery where President Jenkins guided a ritual of recommitment to the ideals sought by Jarvis College pioneers. The ritual included the placement of memorial wreaths on the graves of pioneers in the life of Jarvis Christian Church and higher education J. N. Ervin, Charles Berry, Sr. and the Mitchell families.

Words of blessing and benediction from Interim College Pastor Derwood Locket and Professor John Mangrum, closed the observance.
1994 JARVIS FOUNDER'S DAY HONORS DONORS.
The Rev. Edwin Milton Hurdle of Dallas, TX—
died December 1, 1993. He had been married to the late
Frankie C. Hurdle and is survived
by a daughter, Geraldine M.
Hurdle-Barbour also of Dallas;
two grandsons—Michael A.
Thomas and Harold of Dallas; a
granddaughter—Sylvia Thomas
and two great granddaughters—
Lez Leigh and La Breye Thomas.

One of the Hurdle Household—
the late I. Q. Hurdle—was presi-
dent of an African American
founded school in Palestine, TX
in 1911. The school was a fore-
runner to Jarvis College in pro-
viding opportunity for higher ed-
ucation to blacks in Texas. Edwin
Hurdle attended Jarvis Christian
College, Hawkins, TX, receiving
his B.A. degree from Houston-
Tillotson College in Austin. Fol-
lowing further preparation at
Gammon Theological Seminary
in Atlanta, he served forty years
as a public school teacher in the
Dallas, TX system; took member-
ship in the Preston Street Chris-
tian Church; later serving as the
associate minister of Warren Av-
venue Christian Church (formerly
the Preston Street congregation).

Hurdle was a regular attendant at
larger Disciples of Christ church
gatherings and recently had
served as secretary for the Texas
Christian Missionary Fellowship.

Grandfather, from Page 1

up the testomories when he wrote:
“I think Grandfather Starn felt
that everyone he met was a mem-
ber of his family. My grandfather
made you feel like it was impossi-
ble for you to do anything so terri-
ble that he wouldn’t love you any-
more. Grandpa was always there
for me if I needed him, just as he
was there for others in need, and
that is why I think of God when I
think of Grandfather Starn.

I will carry warm memories of
Grandfather Starn throughout my
life. When I am sad or lonely, I
will think of that smiling face, and
those twinkling eyes, and I will
feel much better. I loved Grandfa-
ther, and I still do. I am sure that
he is smiling down on us from
heaven, and probably telling God
a good joke or two...”

Grandmothers and aunts can provide a meaningful
presence of motherhood today!

As we grope through a difficult time when there is a steady in-
crease of women who are heads of households; entering the
workforce as peers to men; qualified and competent to seek
self fulfillment within their own choice of profession or vocation. May
we grandmothers and aunts who have benefited from good mothers not
forget that spirit of motherhood and become willing to share that spirit
with others who need it today. May you pledge to mother—
“As long ago we carried to your knees The tales and treasures of event-
ful days, Knowing no deed too humble for your praise, Nor gift too
trivial to please, So still we bring with older smiles and tears, What gifts
we may to claim the old, dear right; Your faith beyond the silence and
the night; Your love still close and watching through the years.”
COME TO OUR K. C. MO. BOOTH!

DONORS SINCE LAST ISSUE-

Robert L. Jordan, Detroit, MI; Melba A. Hawkins, Hawkins, TX; Robert/Kay Harman, Indianapolis, IN; Marthetta G. McMickle, Ellis/Jimmie Jordan; Harvey R. Thomas, Chicago, IL; Hattie E. Coleman, Russell/Rosemary Lane, George/Georgia Lakes, Kansas City, MO; Rosae C. Washington, Oakland, CA; Woodrow/Mildred Whitlow, Columbia, MO; Lorenzo Evans, Indianapolis, IN; Dorothy E. Wilbert, Dayton, OH; Frank/Celestine Bradley, Washington, DC; Mary E. Fugate, Rogersville, TN; Eugene/Bonnie Frazier, Raymore, MO; Willie E. Green, Jefferson City, MO; Carnella J. Barnes, Los Angeles, CA; Anita Hairston, Tulsa, OK; Marlis Morgan, Sugar Land, TX; Emily Jackson, Memphis, TN; Roland/Pearl Thompson, Cincinnati, OH.

SENIORS- Share Your Bio-Sketch or Picture in K. C.!

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SENIORS- Share Your Bio-Sketch or Picture in K. C.!

Don’t miss stopping by the OLD TIMERS’ GRAPEVINE booth during the 13th. Biennial Session of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) August 5-9, 1994 in Kansas City, MO.

We will be lifting up the names and faces of church pioneers—large and small, who have gone on.

Meantime, if you have a bio sketch and/or picture of yourself you want to share, please bring it!

(Please tear here and mail.)

OLDTIMERS’ GRAPEVINE GOOD FAITH FORM:

Date: __________

Name: __________________________

Address: __________________________

City/Town: __________________________ State: __________________________

ENCLOSED IS MY DONATION OF $10 ______ $15 ______ $20 ______ Other ______

Make check out to OLDTIMERS’ GRAPEVINE and send to William K. Fox, Editor/Manager - 500 Mott Dr.- Apt 102-, Raymore, MO 64083
Seniors Show Concern for Links Between Physical Fitness and Good Nutrition

March 9-10, 1994 in Raymore, MO the Physical Fitness Committee at the Foxwood Springs Retirement Living Center joined the Dietary Staff in dramatizing the importance of having both good nutrition and involvement in physical fitness activity.

The Dietary Staff secured qualified presenters on “Fitness After Fifty,” weight management, breast cancer, heart disease, Osteoporosis and new food in the marketplace. More than 150 of the residents were encouraged to go to the Exercise Room and receive Fitness Information Testing (F.I.T). The Physical Fitness Committee provided monitor to supervise tests in hand grip, neck muscles, balance, resting pulse rate, blood pressure, eye coordination, and eye sight. Every participant was urged to review information received and seek professional consultation if necessary.

The F.I.T. project was a part of the annual national good nutrition emphasis observed in various ways in a variety of institutions. Mrs. Joanne Klumb, Head Dietician at Foxwood was the coordinator.

Reubena M. S. Fox and Bess Shafer handle the Fitness Information Testing registrations at Foxwood- 1994.
PARKER: Pioneer Educator and Church Leader Honored

Indianapolis, IN- Marjorie Chenault Parker, a pioneer coordinator of vocational education and business administration programs in the Indianapolis public school system for 35 years, was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters by her Alma Mater- Kentucky State University, Frankfort, KY, May 8, 1994.

Her resume cites a BS degree in business administration from Kentucky State University and an MS in business education from Indiana University and extensive graduate courses and seminars.

Mrs. Parker’s early career includes outstanding service as the administrative office secretary for the National Christian Missionary Convention staff. Marjorie has been an elected National Convocation officer twice. Currently, she is the vice-president elect. She gave years of stellar service as a lay leader in the Second (now Light of the World) church before becoming a charter member and leader for Faith United Christian Church. She heads the board of elders.

Marjorie’s children say: “Mom has been and is a sculptor of our tomorrow. An excellent educator existing for students; hearing with her heart; seeing with her soul and teaching with her conscience.”

Life memberships include Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, the NAACP, the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, and the American Red Cross.

Daughter’s Volunteer Leadership Cheers Parents

When Lenita (Jackie) Bunch of Columbus, OH, an adjustment coordinator in the public schools, was installed June 26, 1994 at the women’s quadrennial in Purdue University, as the new president of the International Christian Women’s Fellowship for the next four years, no one in the church was happier than her parents- John and Lucile Compton of Cincinnati, OH. She has been active in her local and regional church relationships, served on the General Board and been vice-president and president of the National Convocation of the Christian Church.

OTHER PARENTS have similar joy- *Lorenzo J. Evans of Indianapolis, IN rejoices when he notes his daughter, Eddie E. Griffin, serving as a key elder in the Park Manor Church of Chicago, IL. She completed her term as moderator of the Illinois/Wisconsin Regional Church in November, and ended her secretarialship of the executive committee of Regional Ministers and Moderators in
On Russell Harrison (Indianapolis, IN)  
Wife Nancy says he continues "his recovery from throat cancer- it's slow, but the cancer seems to be gone. Now to get over the cure!"

*****

*On Alvah Bynum (Los Angeles, CA) celebrated her 80th birthday with a gala event sponsored by her daughters Romona (Jean) Bush, La Taunya (Toni) Bynum and Charlene (Deborah) Conston at the United Christian Church on February 13, 1994.

*****

*On Cornelius and Alpha Arnold (Los Angeles, CA) "We are enjoying our new home. It's the Wilshire Christian Manor for Seniors. It's really nice. We expect to see you at the Convocation."

*****

*On Kenneth and Wanda Teegarden (Fort Worth, TX) - who rejoiced in having the whole family present May 28, 1994 to witness their 50th wedding anniversary. Kenneth writes "I have been busy this semester. I agreed to teach an undergraduate course at TCU on 'The Christian Ministry,' Then in February, James Landes died and I was drafted to be the Interim Director of Field Education and Supervised Ministry at Brite Divinity School. Today is my last day in that job, so now I am ready to retire for the fourth time. Maybe I can get it right this time." (Dr. Teegarden succeeded A. Dale Fiers as the second general minister and president of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in 1972.)

*On Marthetta G. McMickle (Park Manor Christian Church, Chicago, IL) a regular Sunday School adult Bible class teacher and instructor for a Wednesday evening Bible class at that congregation since 1980, recognized the faithful attendance of eight students during a February morning worship service. They had attended the class since its inception. They have just concluded a complete analysis of the New Testament.

Marthetta- a retired teacher and also an organist in her eighties- was recently selected to make a special research presentation to the next meeting of the Association of Disciple Muscians on the Ministry of Black Music and Negro Spirituals. This will be the first time the Association has considered the subject.

*****

*On Dan B. Genung of Claremont, CA- who is successfully recuperating from a hip replacement as he battles with arthritis and an injured spine. Dan was recently given a special citation by the Disciples Divinity House at the University of Chicago and has authored a biographical history of the Arizona Territory for the years of 1863 to 1916. His grandparents worked among the Yavapai, Native Americans during that period. Profits realized from the sale of the research document are shared, at the discretion of the donor, with the Disciples Divinity House, All Peoples Church, and Habitat for Humanity. Let's keep Dan and his wife, Frances, in our prayers. (Dan is founding pastor of All Peoples Church in 1942) and seminary class-mate of the OLDTIMERS' editor-)

*****

*On Bertha Marshall of Jackson, MS- (retired public school teacher) An original sponsor and advocate for the Young Adult Ministry (YAM) associated with the Mississippi Christian Missionary Convention, recently shared a copy of the story of YAM with OLDTIMERS'.

It is a document which suggests guidelines for effective work with young adults throughout the total life of community and church.

The compilation has historic value because it chronicles the contributions of a variety of Mississippi young adults who are currently serving church and community throughout that state and the nation. Interested persons could secure a copy via United Christian Church where Ms. Marshall has had a long membership.
DEER: SOCIAL ENGINEER/HUMANITARIAN

Indianapolis, IN- Lewis Deer, long time resident of Indianapolis and retired member of the former church in society department staff of the general church, passed away June 10, 1994. He had been struggling with the ravages of a terminal disease until a recent operation and hospitalization ended in a merciful death.

Dr. Gerald Cunningham, a close friend and associate, officiated at a memorial service held in the chapel of the Robin Run Retirement Living Center where the Deers resided.

Robin Run Chaplain Karen Smith offered prayers and a former colleague, Charlena Stewart, rendered special music.

In addition to many friends, associates, and distant relatives, he leaves to mourn his loss a wife, Ruth; son, Michael; daughter, Kathy and an extended family member, Virginia.

ON THE CUTTING EDGE- A Memorial Comment on Lewis Deer

Lewis Deer was never a loud, rabble rousing reformer. But his Christian ministry was quiet and steadfast and almost always "On the Cutting Edge." Starting in Granite City, IL as pastor to a largely blue collar steel worker's congregation from 1946 to 1949, then moving further south to challenge the Pulaski Heights Christian Church of Little Rock, AR in new ventures in Christian social action, it soon became evident that Lewis was destined to spend the rest of his ministry trying to transfer Christian faith into critical arenas of modern life. He joined faith with works.

By 1953, in the midst of the civil rights movement and on the eve of the 1954 Supreme Court ruling on racial integration in the public schools, divine providence had

He was always able to find a spot on the front lines of mission. That was where he felt the church ought to be and that was where he chose to stand.

led Lewis Deer to accept a staff position with the department of church in society in the United Christian Missionary Society of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ.) Almost immediately he was put "On the Cutting Edge." He became responsible for study and action in the area of the church and race relations. We felt the impact of his work. The status of the church and the congregations on such matters was examined. Later, important conferences were held. Finally landmark resolutions dealing with church policy and programs were passed by the International Convention of the Christian Church and its related "agencies."

Throughout all of this he was in close association with the African American led National Christian Missionary Convention as a staff resource to its Social Action Commission. We respected and appreciated his efficiency and devotion.

When "Bud" left the general church office, he went "into the trenches" to do Christian social action at the community level. When most all-white congregations fled the central city in the 1960's, "Bud" accepted an appointment to staff the Broadway Christian Center in Indianapolis. This was the former home of Third Christian Church which had chosen to move northeastward. Later he became involved with guiding community action programs and a project called "Poor People's Action." In some of these endeavors he worked closely with the Friends Movement in Indiana.

Before retirement in 1991, he spent 14 years aiding a city-wide food distribution program to needy persons as an employee of the GLEANER'S operation. Lewis Deer was always "On the Cutting Edge. He was always able to find a spot on the front lines of mission. That spot was where he felt the church ought to be and that was where he chose to stand.

by The W. K. Fox, Sr.'s.- Co-workers in ministry and former Indianapolis, IN next door neighbors of The Deers-
Life was not always easy growing up on a small farm in Learned, MS—deep in the heart of Jim Crow America and a few miles from the Disciples of Christ’s home mission’s school of Southern Christian Institute in Edwards. There was cotton to pick, poll tax to pay, inadequate public schools to attend, and indignities to experience at separate drinking fountains and other public facilities "For Colored" and "For White." But according to Jarvis Christian College President Sebetha Jenkins who was born in Learned, life was often made easier and rewarding by the outreach program of the church through SCI. Today, 1994, it is those positive memories she has as a child impacted by the SCI campus and presence which motivate her commitment to quality higher education for African Americans and all persons as president of the College.

Dr. Sebetha Jenkins' parents, Thomas Lee and Eunice Stamps Nelson, lived in Learned and attended Southern Christian Institute in Edwards in 1941. They enabled all of their children to receive the spirit and services of SCI in Edwards, MS. This exposure to the Southern Christian Institute enabled Dr. Jenkins and her brothers and sisters to successfully survive Jim Crowism and all of the related negative forces which worked against the achievement of human dignity and personhood by African American children of that time.

Sebetha Jenkins remembers getting up before daylight to be packed in the rear of the family farm truck "for the long" ten mile drive from Learned to Edwards to attend graduation exercises of one of the family. Equally as vivid is her memory of the beautiful children's clothes her mother was able to find for some of her brothers and sisters in the NEXT-TO-NEW campus community store. She was born into a proud, closely knit family who from childhood were taught the importance of careful stewardship and appreciation of whatever they were able to secure. In that very hostile and negative social environment of the general southern community, Southern Christian Institute aided her family in achieving that objective.

Even in adulthood Sebetha has clear memories of the hanging moss on the SCI campus trees which reminds her of her childhood days when she "dreamed she could swing from the trees and one day learn from the professors. That day never came. President Jenkins now says regretfully. "The college closed before I reached the age. But the dreams, the memories and hanging moss remain."

Thus, Dr. Jenkins joins previous Jarvis presidents like P. C. Washington, Cleo Blackburn, Charles Berry, Jr. and Earl W. Rand, who have the imprint of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) deeply implanted their
Impressions Made in Childhood Mold Today’s Decisions

mind and spirit. Later when she was guided to attend grade school in the African American led school of Utica Institute, also near her home, she witnessed the closing of SCI and its eventual merger with Tougaloo College in 1954. But the influence of the church continued.

The impact of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and SCI continued on her life as she observed the professional development of her aunts, Effie and Hazel Stamps and cousins, The Millers of the SCI campus employees, who were all proud Southern Christian Institute alumni. Several had finished with highest academic honors. The impact of the Disciples of Christ on her continued during college when she attended Jackson State University and encountered faculty members Charles C. Mosley, Sr., former Jarvis and Southern Christian Institute administrative staff, and John Eubanks and W. O. Gill, who had both been members of the Jarvis College administrative faculty.

All of this was "Bread cast upon the waters" by the Church through its support of the Christian mission at Southern Christian Institute. Today the fruits of those efforts can be seen deeply rooted in the leadership of President Sebetha Jenkins. Being nurtured in a commitment to quality higher education for African Americans and related ethnic racial groups almost from childhood, Dr. Jenkins is making a unique contributions to the administrative leadership of Jarvis. Building on the foundations of academic sophistication contributed by J. N. Ervin, steps toward accreditation initiated by Peter C. Washington, dreams and experimentation in fundamental education by Cleo Blackburn and John Eubanks, improved efficiency in administration and daily operations emphasized by James O. Perpener, Jr. and John Paul Jones, and expansion in physical facilities and curriculum started by Earl W. Rand and Charles A. Berry, Jr., Jenkins is adding a new ingredient. It is the intuitive wisdom of the female sex as the college's first woman president. It is a gift which goes beyond the mastery of domestic skills too often associated only with the female sex, to
Jenkins Challenges You to a Partnership With Jarvis.

a possession of refined expressions of spirituality and an appreciative understanding of human behavior in both sexes.

This God-given element is welded to twenty-four years of top flight administrative experience as a major executive in highly regarded and accredited contemporary universities like Mississippi State University and the University of Akron. Finding this combination of experience in a Jarvis College president is exciting and new!

At the same time, Dr. Jenkins is as much "at home in the kitchen" of the President's home as in the classroom or company of a corporation executive. She can place domestic attire over her graceful and dignified figure and be perfectly at ease. During private conversation she proudly refers to progress being made by her daughter, Jennifer Jenkins, who is an associate professor at Kentucky State College while pursuing a doctorate degree in biology at the University of Kentucky. A warm family relationship continues with her mother and two sisters who live nearby. Among her roles as the college presxy she regards the challenge of being a hostess and uses her culinary skills in the personal preparation of food for a variety of social affairs for students, faculty, staff, corporate executives and just "average folks." She assures that she has an adequate supply of fresh vegetables planted in her own garden.

President Jenkin's commitment to humanitarian service was initiated in her by religiously grounded parents and the presence of Southern Christian Institute in the life of her family and relatives. That commitment was later fostered by Disciples of Christ educators she encountered in college days. It is nurtured through her membership in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)). It has been heightened through her membership in professional organizations for educators, the Young Women's Christian Association and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. She has received due recognition in all groups and has been awarded community service awards from the YWCA and the NAACP.

She is leading the faculty and board of directors in CHARTING A NEW COURSE from 1994 to the twenty-first century, and to do it within the context of the Judeo-Christian tradition. - By the OG Editor -

THE JARVIS HANDS-ON-IN MISSION PROJECT- An Intergenerational Adventure

Would you like to help Jarvis and people of all ages grow together? Would you spend a few days in Northeast Texas having fun, fellowship and inspiration while you meet new people, have cultural enhancing experiences, and give a boost to Christian higher education? If the answer is "yes" and you want to know how, send your name and address (and that of any friends) to:

Cecil F. Higgs, On-Site Coordinator, Jarvis Christian College- P. O. Box G- Hawkins, TX 75765 or W. K. Fox, Sr., Field Coordinator - 500 Mott Dr.- Apt. 102-B- Raymore, MO 64083

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Thanks so much! Your donations of money and readership is our only support!

Another citation for Jesse Bryant Mosley

Jackson, MS—Dr. Jesse Bryant Mosley, a Jarvis Christian College alumnus, recognized in 1992 by her peers as “one of Mississippi’s Living Treasurers” for many contributions to church, school and community, was one of three recipients of an honorary degree during the 125th commencement of Tougaloo College, May 15, 1994.

Her most recent accomplishment in her long and spectacular career was a successful crusade in 1984 to convince citizens of Jackson to save the Smith-Robertson school, the first public school for Blacks in Jackson, from demolition. It has been restored and is now The Smith Robertson Cultural Center and listed as a landmark on the National Register of Historic Places.

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A Features to Start

SPECIAL SERIES
will appear in the fall
on retirees shown in pic-
ture on the right. Dr. Ernest New-
born, Sr., will write the sum-
maries.

DAUGHTERS- from
Page 1

December.
*William and Reubena Fox of
Raymore, MO rejoice in know-
ing that their daughter, Katherine
F. Cunningham, is a member of
the National Benevolent Associa-
tion Board of Directors. She uses
her training and experience in
public housing to aid NBA and
her local congregation.

Retirees Gather for Sharing - Fellowship

Left to right around the table: Raymond Brown (Board of Church
Extension); Wade Rubick (General Office); Mrs. Ruth Heimer (Belgian
Congo Mission); Margaret and Garland Farmer (Overseas Divi-
sion/Belgian Congo); Earnest Newborn (Church Finance Council); Roger
Fry (BCE); Haldor E. Heimer (Belgian Congo Mission); John Humbert
(General Office- GMP); William Nottingham (Divison of Overseas-
President); Mary Mitchell (BCE and Church Finance Council) and Bob
Mitchell (BCE)- not shown; Photo- Courtesy of Ernest Newborn

July - August 1994

THE OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE
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Howard/Margaret Short (2/94)
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inside...

Marjorie Parker- "...existing for students; hearing with her
heart; seeing with her soul and teaching with her
conscience..." ———— P. 1

Partnerships with Jarvis opportunities —— P. 6
Oldtimers Link Up With Younger Generations to Lead NCCC-

The 13th biennial session of the National Convocation of the Christian (Disciples of Christ) Church which met here August 5-9, 1994 reflected the gradual linkage of Oldtimer African American leadership of the organization with rising leadership from the youth and middle age generations. It is a trend which should be nurtured.

The session was launched opening night by a most stimulating message by out-going President Sybel Thomas of Chicago, IL. (Portions of the message appear in this issue of THE OLDTIMER.) Sybel qualifies as “an oldtimer.”

Timothy James of Cleveland, OH whose father, the late Eugene James, Sr. was a president of the National Christian Missionary Convention, was given the baton of leadership from Sybel as the next president of the NCCC. Timothy is a representative of the rising middle aged African American Disciple church leader.

An exciting 75 volunteer Convocation choir drawn from volunteers living in the Kansas City area as well as out of state, was coordinated and directed by Noland Williams, a competent young adult choir master from the Michigan Park Christian Church in Washington, D.C.

NCCC guidelines require the Board of Trustee secretary, Natalie Green, a creative young adult leader from Second Christian Church, Lexington, KY, to head the Strategic Planning Task Force. It proposes “refinements of understandings of reality, vision and journey.”

Wisdom of Age Plus Vigor of Youth Critical for Success!

The NCCC Minister’s Fellowship, will be led by Magdalen Shelton of Brooklyn, NY, pastor of St. Philip Christian Church. She is a representative of the rising middle aged leadership in the NCCC. The Fellowship once provided the bible lecturer for the National Convention.

The Ministers’ Wives and Spouses Fellowship, which continues to play an important part in providing scholarship funds for the formal preparation of ministers, will be led by Terri Brown of Lexington, KY. She is typical of the young adult spouse who strives faithfully to walk beside a mate dedicated to meet the challenge of Christian service.

The Harambee College, as always, lifted up several competent leaders. The traditional “fellowship groups” (CWF, CMF, YAF, CYF and Chi Rho) and Church School, which form the life line in most of our congregations, chose similar aged leadership. They are striving for a renewal of focus and sharing of experiences on how congregations are reforming these groups to meet freshly emerging needs and opportunities.

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President Thomas’ Message- Page 2
21st Century Jarvis Student- Page 4
For Whom the Bell Tolls- Page 5
Praise God Page- Page 6
"We look ahead across the unsown field of this new day, God, and ask ourselves if we should even make the attempt to begin. So much of the ground is already beaten down, hardened by the feet of others, unreceptive to whatever of ourselves, or creativity and effort we might seek to plant there. Even more of this day looks like rocky soil ready to produce results, but only for the instant—those same old routine tasks which, though they must be done, leave us no farther forward, and will have to be undertaken all over again tomorrow.

"Then there are the weeds, groping up like claws to choke the life from any sense of purpose we might take into this day, the weeds of worry, of conceit, of self-protective fear, those weeds that tell us all our efforts are for nothing and will fade and die before this day is ended.

"In the parable of the Sower you paint a difference picture. You assure us there is good soil, deep loamy earth, ready to receive the life we cast upon it. You remind us to stop fretting about the harvest, to quit seeking guarantees, assured results, and to leave the future in your hands. You call us to the field we have sown this very day, and you promise to tread the furrows by our side.” - (J. Barrie Shepherd)

...And so we sow the seeds and trust the promise—those who sow in tears, reap with shouts of joy... But what kind of seeds are we sowing?

We, today harvest seeds sown by our ancestors, some of whom we never knew. We sow seeds to be harvested by descendents, some we will never see... We are benefactors of a crop we didn’t seed. We can take pride in the bequest we have. Deeply rooted trees of conviction, branch after branch of truth and heritage.

Preston Taylor, who left us the legacy of the National Christian Missionary Convention lives on in the whole church, is symbolic of the early Black Disciples of Christ, sowers of the Faith... Black and white... who have gone on and those living today, who have endured indignities, insults, racism, to make the church more whole. These leaders put strong emphasis on the study of the Bible, the power of prayer, and the centrality of the Cross of Christ.

We give thanks for these pioneers who lived and prayed the faith. We are receivers not only of a written faith but a living faith. We too are called upon to live in such a way that those who follow us, whether in our family, our church, or neighborhood, will be strengthened in the understanding of the faith by what they have seen in us. Thus we affirm the inspiration, veracity and value of the written word of God. That Word speaks to our World today.

We live in one world; an ugly one filled with rape, murder, exploitation, hunger, war... We want to close our eyes and ears to the horrors. But God made the world and declared it Good. It is humans that have distorted it. The Good News is that God sent His son, Jesus, to bring love and mercy, healing and forgiveness into this
world. As His followers we are to carry on Christ’s mission.

As Christians we are obsessed at times with our spiritual standing more than with those who don’t have legs to stand on, much less kneel in prayer. We serve ourselves with Bible studies and with morning, noon and night church services, whilestreet people starve because no one is willing to serve them... Is the pain of the world really touching us? We’ve got to get beyond being shocked and horrified by what we see in the world and get on with walking into it serving the least of these... beginning right at our doorsteps.

Henri Nauween says, “We have fallen into the temptation of separating ministry from spirituality, and service from prayer. But service and prayer can never be separated. One is like having a body without soul, the other is like having Spirit without flesh. Our prayer life prepares us for our work life.”... We must make pilgrimages to the gutter... picking up the drunk... giving hope to the prostitute... sweating it out with the kid who needs a fix... we must go into the hell holes of our cities... free from walls, or words, or class... to search and serve where sickness is a body, mind and soul... We cannot separate the Sacred from the Secular... everyday is the Lord’s Day... not just Sunday.

But it is not enough to be concerned with helping the disinherited, one by one. Neither is it adequate for Christians to witness one by one... We need the Community of Believers to set about to right the wrongs entrenched in structures of power that dehumanize people in our society... so we come together as a congregation, as the National Convocation and as the General Church of the Disciples of Christ to make a witness for Justice...

I have witnessed the work of the Church in various parts of the world. The Church was at work in building up the St. Louis area after the floods, and in helping out in Los Angeles after the riots. Our Outreach money allows the church to be present, alleviating suffering in Rwanda, Haiti, Bosnia and all around the world. Through our Star Supporter Fund we grant scholarships to Black ministerial students. The Black Endowment Fund underwrites the future of strong Black congregations. In the midst of the world chaos, we must be extravagant with our riches as God is in Eternal Love and Grace through Jesus Christ.

---

**But it is not enough to be concerned with helping the disinherited, one by one. Neither is it adequate for Christians to witness one by one... We need the Community of Believers to set about to right the wrongs entrenched in structures of power that dehumanize people in our society...**

Let us keep sowing the seeds - trusting the promise. As it is written, He who supplies seed for the sower will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.” (2 Cor. 9:9-10) ... One plants, another waters, but God gives the growth!

One of the reference points of London is the Charing Cross. It is near the geographic center of the city and serves as a navigational tool for those confused by the streets. A little girl was lost in the great city. A policeman found her. Between sobs and tears, she explained she didn’t know her way home... But when he asked her what she knew, suddenly her face lit up! “I know the Cross,” she said. “Show me the Cross and I can find my way home from there!”

... The Cross! It rests on the time line of history like a compelling diamond. It’s tragedy summons all sufferers. It’s absurdity attracts all cynics. It’s hope lures all searchers. My what a piece of wood! ... Through Christ’s Cross that led to an empty grave, the promise has been fulfilled.
Jarvis Luncheon Message Lifts New Student Profile*

"R
shaping the role of Jarvis for new times could mean developing a profile for 'the Jarvis Student for the 21st Century.' The profile for the Jarvis student of the 21st Century should be a picture of a person learning:

1. to develop a love of Christ, respect of others, and the promotion of community;
2. to be a self-starters with self-discipline and self-respect;
3. to become proud of him or herself and their ethnic origin;
4. to be unafraid to confront the difficult and unusual;
5. to evolve a wholesome vision of themselves and others;
6. to be anchored in the Lord with spiritual values which eventually enable them to function effectively in whatever vocation, profession undertaken.

Today President Jenkins and faculty believe that there are black students (and other ethnic as well as white students) who could fit this profile. There are black and other racial ethnic students who are capable of academic achievement - in spite of low test scores which may be registered and in spite of deficiencies which may be in some of our educational systems. There are students who are endowed with academic brilliance - a brilliance that will shine even in the darkness of racism or bigotry and a deepening sense of hopelessness! There are students in all shades of color who should be in the Jarvis student body!

Today Jarvis must be on the move to find the exceptional student with adequate or inadequate financial resources.

JARVIS MUST SEEK students-
    a) with talent and high motivation;

JARVIS MUST SEEK students-
    b) with innate abilities who have found strength through adversity;

JARVIS MUST SEEK students-
    c) with God-given potential who have persevered against all odds; and

JARVIS MUST SEEK students-
    d) with unusual spiritual resources who see virtue in overcoming challenge.

LET ALL WHO WILL HEAR, HEAR THIS: JARVIS WANTS THE EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT!"

*From an address on RESHAPING THE BASIC ROLE OF JARVIS delivered to the Jarvis Luncheon during the 13th. Biennial Session of the National Convocation by William K. Fox, Sr., Raymore, MO
Fort Worth, TX- Harrel A. Rea, pioneer church planner and administrator among Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) in Missouri and Texas, died at his home July 11, 1994 at age, 76. Memorial services were held at the University Christian Church of Fort Worth, followed by a private burial.

Rea provided extensive church and community services in the metro Kansas City area as a president of the City Association Fellowship of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); an executive secretary of the Christian Church Commission of Greater Kansas City; and president of the Commission to Develop a Plan for an Interchurch Agency in Metropolitan Kansas City. He went to Fort Worth, TX in 1969 where he had received his A.B. degree from Texas Christian University and B.D. degree from Brite College of Divinity and had served as director of church development for the Texas board of Christian Churches.

Rea was a former southwest regional minister before he retired in 1982. Survivors include his wife, Dorothy Arnett Rea of the home; a son, Robert A. Rea, Breckenridge, Colo.; a daughter, Melanye Wrighton, Phoenix; and two grandchildren.

Rogersville, TN- Mary Fugate, a former member of the general board of the Church and the board of directors of Church Extension, announced the death of her mother, Leola Lee Fugate, August 29, 1994. Mary, who had been living in New York for a number of years and active in the Stuyvesant Heights Christian Church, had returned to Rogersville a few years ago to provide care for her ailing mother. Memorial services for Mrs. Leola Fugate were held September 2, 1994 in the Hasson Street Christian Church of Rogersville.

Montreal, Canada- According to Lucille Coward, a loyal OLDTIMERS' senior reader in St. Laurent, P. Q. Canada, Jack Sullivan, a member of the Disciples of Christ's Homeland Ministries staff of Indianapolis, IN teamed up with Marcus Garvey Jr. of Brooklyn, NY, president of the A. L. Crawford Division of the Universal Negro Improvement Association and the African Communities League in Brooklyn, NY, to bring key-note addresses to 1994 Heritage Week observances sponsored by the Union United Church of Montreal, Quebec. Union United Church, a congregation affiliated with the United Church of Canada since 1925, lifted up Heritage Week June 11-19, 1994 with a variety of cultural activities. Jack Sullivan spoke on Sunday.

There's Life After Retirement- A Sharing of News and Views- by Ernest Newborn, Sr- OG Director

One would suppose that retired “church bureaucrats” would not be interested in attending more meetings following their retirement. Perhaps this is not so. Whenever there is a month with 31 days retired Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) general staff meet for breakfast. We share information (gossip) and concerns of interest to those of us who are now “out of the loop.” We feel a need to know what’s happening among Disciples.

The OLDTIMERS’ GRAPEVINE editor has proposed that space be given in this publication for sharing news and views of interest to readers. As an OG board member I’ve accepted the responsibility.

See MARY MITCHELL, Page 6
Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow!!!

ARNOLD'S GIVE SCHOLARSHIP

*Los Angeles, CA- Antioch Christian Church recently honored Drs. Cornelius and Alpha Arnold for their faithfulness in church attendance for the past two years and a $5000 scholarship for two young students. The "home membership" of the Arnold's is the United Christian Church of Los Angeles where Major Fountain is pastor. Curtis Carraway is the senior minister at Antioch Christian Church.

200 PLUS AT SCI REUNION

*Jackson, MS- Approximately 200 persons attended a successful Southern Christian Institute Reunion Event July 2-4, 1994 in Jackson/Tougaloo and Edwards, MS. Drs. Jesse B. Mosley (Jackson, MS) and Philip Rushing (Montgomery, AL) were keynote speakers for the banquet and worship services, respectively. Among the seniors present, besides banquet speaker Mosley, were Carnella Jamison Barnes, the 92 year old SCI alumnus and retired national church staffer from Los Angeles, CA and Marilynne Hill, former SCI faculty member and retired overseas missionary and general church staffer from Indianapolis, IN. Dr. Sebetha Jenkins, President of Jarvis Christian College, was among the other notables present.

A black and white print of the famous S. C. I. "Mansion" building was shared with the Reunion Committee by Jean Long Dillinger of Oakland, CA. It enabled them to produce a souvenir plate for the Event.

FIVE BANG EXPLOSIONS TO-DATE IN NEWBORN, SR HOUSEHOLD!!!!

Indianapolis, IN- Ernest and Janice Newborn, Sr continue to experience "1994- The Year that Was!" June through September has been used to bring the events-to-date equal to the magnitude of a five bang outer space explosions!

"Explosion" number one: Mary Jo Newborn of San Diego, CA, their daughter teaching in the University of San Diego law school, was recently lifted in rank to a professorship and launched an earnest preparation for a September wedding.

"Explosion" number two: Janice, the mother, in recognition of her services in the church and imminent retirement, experienced a tumultuous tribute action and program during the International CWF Quadrennial Assembly in July at Purdue and the CWF Luncheon during the 13th biennial session of the NCCC in Kansas City, MO.

"Explosion" number three: Ernest J. Newborn, Jr. of Indianapolis, IN who had been serving as assistant general counsel and assistant corporate secretary for Indianapolis-based insurance bro-

Mary Mitchell - An Interview with a General Staff Retiree- by Earnest J. Newborn, Sr

Mary E. Mitchell's resume indicates many years of experience with four different Indianapolis based Disciples of Christ church organizations.

Newborn: Mary, when did you begin working at Missions Building and how many years did you serve the church there?

Mitchell: I was 37 when I started and retired at age 62.

Newborn: Would you describe the nature of some of your early assignments?

See INTERVIEW Page 8
DONORS SINCE THE LAST ISSUE: Lesly Smith, Doramai Allen, Chicago, IL; Rufus Lewis, Jr., Birmingham, AL; Tom Toler, Bakersfield, CA; Chas/Christine Holmes; Glenn/Charlotte Shoemaker, Raymore, MO; Jane Davis Morgan, Danville, KY; Elizabeth A. Hartsfield, Lexington, KY; Am Hohman, Louisville, KY; Lorraine P. Dudley, St. Louis, MO; James Reed, Wade/Margaret Rubick, Raymond Brown, Ruth E. Deer, Haldor/Ruth Heimer, Indianapolis, IN; Berda R. Sewell, K. David/Viola Ruth Cole, Kansas City, MO; Marie Brown, Dallas, TX; Alfred/Henrietta Edwards, Des Moines, IA; Eunice Miller, Fairfax, S.C.; Bertha L. Marshall, Jackson, MS; Louise Moseley, Columbia, MO; Verlesta B. Hicks, Dayton, OH.

ANNIVERSARY TIME IN THE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY!

King David Cole and his wife, Violaruth, of Kansas City, MO were given high tributes July 21, 1994 by the Swope Park United Christian Church and community groups for Pastor Cole's twentieth year of service to that congregation.

The Senior Pastor is in his 49th year as an ordained Christian minister, and has given significant service and leadership in all aspects of the Christian Church. (Disciples of Christ).

"Explosion" number four, Ernest J. Newborn, Sr, the father, took the "risk" of becoming a Presbyterian by accepting a call to serve another interim ministry with the Immanuel Presbyterian USA Church of Indianapolis.

And "Explosion" number five occurred when baby E. Joshua Newborn III was born to Josie and Ernest Newborn Jr. and the senior Newborns became Grandmother and Grandfather for the first time!
The Mary Mitchell Interview - from Page 6


Newborn: What other organizations have you served?
Mitchell: I served with the Division of Homeland Ministries and helped administer the Missions Building Credit Union.

Newborn: Please share an especially memorable experience as a general church staff person.
Mitchell: I was present at Transylvania College in 1969 when the National Christian Missionary Convention became the National Convocation. That was an historic event in the life of our church.

Newborn: Do you have additional comments about your life and work, including your life after retirement?
Mitchell: It was always a joy and privilege to work with church organizations such as the General Reconciliation and Week of Compassion committees. Now that I am retired, I really have time and enjoy serving with my local congregation (Eastgate Christian Church) as assistant financial secretary and chair of the stewardship and finance committee. As you can see, working with finances continues to be meaningful and challenging for me.
JANICE NEWBORN TO JOIN HUSBAND IN RETIREMENT

Indianapolis, IN- It will be a long way from Janice R. Newborn's senior high school graduation in Youngstown, OH and a bachelor's degree in music education from Youngstown University to December 31, 1994, and retirement from being the administrator of the Office of Disciples of Women in the Division of Homeland Ministries.

After sixteen years as a quiet but earnest Christian lady committed to quality service in the General Office of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Janice was given an outpouring of honor and respect with a special program of recognition during the 1994 International Christian Women's Fellowship Quadrennial June 22-26 at Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN. Money was given in her name to a fund which benefits women with special need.

She has been responsible for the administration of a wide range of programs and activities including ongoing general program planning and implementation of the Christian Women's Fellowship (CWF) in the United States and Canada. She was also

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Life Shared with Family, Church, Profession,

The son, Ernest Joshua Newborn, Jr. is a practicing attorney with a major corporation. The daughter, Mary Jo, is a professor of law in San Diego, CA university. Both followed in the footsteps of Janice's deceased father, Clarence L. Robinson, a highly respected Youngstown lawyer and two of her brothers who are also attorneys.

The journey has also involved being a public school teacher in Ohio, Missouri and the District of Columbia as well as being an administrative assistant to a Missouri state senator with offices in Jefferson City.

Her husband, Dr. Ernest J. Newborn, Sr. retired in 1992 from the general church staff as the administrative director for the Reconciliation Fund in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Meantime she has been immersed in the life of Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) congregations and regions as a leader. She was president of the Minister's Wives and Spouses Fellowship of the National Convocation. Janice will also be busy in retirement.
Lifting up the Blessings of Oldtimers-

Behold the Redwood Tree*

*The redwood tree is different from most other trees. The roots of most trees extend as deep down into the ground as the branches extend and spread toward the sky. Not so with the redwood tree. Its roots are shallow. They do not go very deep into the ground. A redwood tree standing alone is not very strong and stable. The redwood trees tend to grow close together. The roots are entwined. This provides strength and stability for survival. Because of their togetherness the trees are capable of withstanding the stormy winds.

On this your wedding day may God grant that you and your families be entwined and united as the redwood trees. May your togetherness give you strength and stability to face the stormy winds of life.

*Written by Ernest J. Newborn, Sr. and delivered during the weddings of nephew Phineas III September 6, 1994 and daughter, Mary Jo October 2, 1994.

Celebrate 65th Year of Ordination

Los Angeles, CA - Area friends and associates of Dr. Cornelius Arnold will sponsor a program December 4, 1994 to celebrate the his sixty-fifth anniversary of ordination to the ministry. He founded the 92nd St. Church and was senior pastor 43 years. His wife, Alpha, a partner in ministry and, school teacher, joined him in serving churches in seven states.

“Pioneers” Honored

Hawkins, TX - During the First Annual Pioneer Hall of Fame Enshrinement Banquet sponsored October 15, 1994 at Jarvis Christian College, widely known senior alumni of the college were given the “Distinguished Alumni Award” by President Sebetha Jenkins. Among the recipients were the following who have been leaders in the Christian Church for more than a half century: Carnella J. Barnes (Los Angeles, CA); Emmett J. Dickson and Ozark Range, Sr. (Indianapolis, IN); Alonzo Smith (Greenville, TX); Allen Franklin Smith (Jackson, MS) and Earl Wadsworth Rand (Marshall, TX).

President Jenkins said the Pioneer Hall idea is another way the college seeks to inspire students by lifting up the achievements of some of its many graduates.

Dorothy Sweatt Retirement Reception

Attended by City and Church Leaders

Kansas City, MO - *Dorothy M. Sweatt, widely known church organist and dedicated member of Swope Park United Christian Church, was feted with a program and reception September 25, 1994 at Swope Park United Church. Mrs. Sweatt had served the congregation as organist for 25 years and worked with children and youth. She has also been the organist for Central Christian Church of Kansas City, MO and has voluntary relationships with other community and church groups.

The invitation to the Program noted that "Through her service as church organist, we have been blessed with many, many skits, plays and musicals that have been a delight." A task group co-chaired by Marion E. Leigh and Grace T. Swinton coordinated the event. K. David Cole is senior pastor.
Adopting an Attitude of Thanksgiving

Through the remaining weeks of 1994 and the dawn of 1995 we join with millions of fellow Americans in expressing thanksgiving for being Americans.

The early Pilgrims observed Thanksgiving by focusing on the blessing of food. Hunger is the prime fruit of poverty. It is essentially a matter of life and death. Often survival is dependent upon the creative effort of the individual or group. Some of us who lived through the Great Depression which followed the stock market crash of 1929, may know something about the degrading impact of poverty and the daily struggle to get something to eat.

When I went overseas for the first time in 1972 on the first “Church-to-Church Visitation” sponsored by our denomination, I saw the ravaging effect of hunger. I remember leaving the comfortable quarters in the Mission Center in Bangkok, Thailand and going to down a road to the Catholic mission which went through a city dump. I looked out of the window of our bus to see a young woman with a child fastened to her back, feverishly burrowing through the rubble and filth in search of something she might turn into the means for having something to eat.

We should adopt a continuing attitude of thanksgiving to God for being who we are. In the months ahead let us look for opportunities to share with persons who hunger for food and caring.

Raymore, MO- Thanks are in order to the members of the OLDTIMERS’ BOARD OF DIRECTORS who shared a financial gift and interest to enable our newsletter to have a credible booth and exhibit during the 13th biennial session of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) which met in Kansas City, MO at the Downtown Marriott Inn August 5-9, 1994.

Many saw that we were "alive and well" and some decided to become readers. The booth lifted up church leaders who were deceased but "sowed the seed" which brings light and life for many of us who still live. This idea came from Director Harvey Thomas of Chicago, IL.

Readers were urged to send in names and addresses of potential new readers.
McMickle Leads A.D.M. Workshop on Spirituals

An historic precedent was set during the 1994 session of the Association of Disciples Musicians when musician Marthetta G. McMickle of Park Manor Christian Church— a senior in her late seventies— was invited to hold an "Option Seminar" for the first time on Negro Spirituals.

In her introduction McMickle states "The Negro spirituals are America's ONLY folk music. In 1619, a Dutch vessel landed at Jamestown, Virginia, bringing 20 African natives to American shores. Over the years, millions of men, women and children were brought from Africa and sold into American slavery. These people were from various localities of Africa, speaking different languages and dialects. Coming into an alien civilization, and having to learn a strange language, these slaves, nevertheless, gave the world the Negro spirituals which have survived for more than 300 years. The background for these spirituals was mainly the King James version of the Bible— often misunderstood or misinterpreted in hearing, because Negro slaves were forbidden to learn reading and writing. Most of the Scriptures which they heard preached by white preachers focused on passages concerning the relationship between slaves and slave masters. The slaves related the experiences of the Israelites and their suffering in Egypt, to their own oppression by slave masters. Thus most of the spirituals have the theme of freedom in the hereafter, since they heard of freedom that believers have in Christ, and they were aware of the penalty for attempting to flee their slavery for freedom in the NOW...

The native musical talent and instinct of the Negro came with him from Africa. The Fisk Jubilee Singers of Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee, were first to introduce Negro spirituals to the world as they toured the United States and Europe between 1871 and 1875. The original group consisted of five women and four men, began touring in 1867 to raise funds for the school, but barely made expenses. The enlarged group, which later became the Fisk Jubilee Singers, made their first tour in 1871, which netted the University $150,000.

Later, the late Roland Hayes and the late Paul Robeson, world famous male vocalists, included Negro spirituals in all of their concerts, a practise which still exists among Negro/Black vocalists. Before the Fisk University Singers and other choral groups and Negro vocalists began to sing the Negro spirituals, these songs were passed from one generation to another, ear-to-ear and by word of mouth.

Following the Civil War, there were pioneers who set about the task of collecting these spirituals to preserve them for future generations. After the Emancipation Proclamation, many Negroes "divorced" themselves from the spirituals and it was not until much later that the words and music were recorded and arranged for singing by congregations and choral groups. Finally, the emancipated Negro began to be reawakened to the value and beauty of this music. In the Negro spirituals, the slaves expressed their religious hopes and fears, faith and doubts, ethical and theological views, and sounded exhortations and warnings."

Mrs. McMickle introduced recordings and profiles of famous singers and groups who rendered the Negro
A Precedent Setting Event for A.D.M!

spiritual. She made appropriate comments on such renditions. Among such singers and groups were Paul Robeson, Fisk Jubilee Singers, Marian Anderson, Rosa Page Welch, The Old Fashion Revival Hour Quartet, Ethel Waters, The Laymen Singers, and The Anita Kerr Singers.

Mrs. McMickle is a teacher of music and member of the Park Manor Christian Church, Chicago, IL where she has been a volunteer organist, church historian, and adult bible teacher for many years. She has belonged to the Association of Disciple Musicians where she has been a participant in its annual sessions since 1976. She served a three year term on the Association of Disciple Musicians Planning Council from 1985 to 1988.

In the April 1993 A D M Newsletter, there was a short paragraph she says "caught her eye." It said, "If you feel you could teach an Option in the future, please submit your name, a brief summary of what you would teach, and your background." She had never recalled an Option being led on Negro spirituals. She felt that Negro spirituals are "unique because they tell the story of a whole race of people." The ADM Workshop chairman for the 1994 meeting agreed with Mrs. McMickle's thinking.

FOOT NOTE: DEEP RIVER- An Interpretation of Negro Spirituals, by Howard Thurman, 1945

Years ago, Howard Thurman, the widely known spiritualist and thoughtful speaker, once gave four meditations which he said “were given as addresses in the regular Sunday morning Worship Services of the Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples in San Francisco. They are the result of reflections upon the insights that are implicit in the texts of the songs.” As a footnote to Mrs. McMickle’s outline, the editor shares these excerpts from Thurman’s reflections on the spiritual A BALM IN GILEAD:

“There is a balm in Gilead, To make the spirit whole, There is a balm in Gilead, To heal the sin sick soul.”

“The peculiar genius of the Negro slave is revealed here in much of its structural splendor. The setting is the Book of Jeremiah. The prophet has come to a “Dead Sea” place in his life. Not only is he discouraged over external events in the life of Israel but he is also spiritually depressed and tortured. As a wounded animal he cried out- “Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? It is not a question of fact that he is raising- it is not a question directed to any particular person for an answer. It is not addressed either to God or to Israel. But rather it is a question raised by Jeremiah entire life. He is searching his own soul. He is stripped to the literal substance of himself and is turned back upon himself for an answer. Jeremiah is saying actually, “There must be a balm in Gilead; it cannot be that there is no balm in Gilead.” The relentless winnowing of his own bitter experience had laid bare his soul to the end that he was brought face to face with the very ground and core of his own faith. The slave caught the mood of this spiritual dilemma and with it, did an amazing thing. He straightened the question mark in Jeremiah’s sentence into an exclamation point. There is a balm in Gilead! Here is a note of creative triumph. The melody itself is most suggestive. It hovers around the basic scale without straying far afield. Only in one place is there a sharp lifting of tonal eyebrow- a suggestion of escape and then the melody swings back to work out its destiny within the zones of melodic agreement.

The basic insight here is one of optimism. It is an optimism that grows out of the pessimism of life and transcends it. It is an optimism that uses the pessimism of life as raw material out of which it creates its own strength... The slave made this discovery long ago..."
Jean Long Dillinger of Oakland, CA was memorialized September 18, 1994 at the Mills Grove Christian Church. She had died a quick and unexpected death from pancreatic cancer.

Jean was born in Vicksburg, MS. This Spring Jean shared a black and white print of the famous Southern Christian Institute "Mansion" building in Edwards, MS with a group of former SCI students planning a Reunion Meeting in Jackson, MS July 2-4, 1994. It enabled them to produce a souvenir plate for that event.

"The Mansion" had been the beloved home of the Long family where Jean had spent many wonderful times in her youth. That one small gift to former SCI students will continue to broaden the ripple of light and good will started years ago by the John Long presidential family of SCI.

Her sister, Lois Long Thompson of Los Angeles, CA reports that Jean had served as organist for the Mills Groves Church for twenty-five years. She loved the church very much. Her former pastor, James Smedley asserts "She never knew what color she was."

Jean graduated from Drake University in Des Moines, IA with a Batchelors of Music and courses at Fisk University, Nashville, TN and Chapman College, Orange, CA. She had started her teaching career at Mexican Christian Institute, San Antonio, TX before employment and eventual retirement from the Oakland, CA public school system.

According to Los, her sister, Jean had adopted a hobby of writing stories for children about one and a half years ago. Her stories emphasized multicultural opportunities and people who had physical limitations.

Several days after her death she received a letter stating that another story had been accepted for publication. This would have been her second story that had been

people of all colors, races and religions had streamed into her hospital room.

Jean was a member of several professional organizations and district committees. She was a former president of Delta Kappa Gamma Sorority and the East Bay Reading Association.

She loved the church very much. Her former pastor, James Smedley asserts "She never knew what color she was."

Wisteria (Virginia) Spencer Reid of Martinsville, VA, a faithful member of Mt. Olive East Christian Church, passed away July 29, 1994. A key line in her obituary read "Her Christian life was the fragrance of a beautiful flower and her influence will ever live in this community where she resided."

She was married to the late Governor Edward Reid, Sr. for 52 years. Six children were born to that union.

As a young lady of 19 she became active in a variety of church affairs; devoted much to time to teaching bible school with a special interest in intermediates and youth. She achieved ordination to deaconship in April of 1977 and was elected an elder in August of 1993.

Among those left to mourn her loss are John Ward Spencer, Bessie M. Spencer and Odetta S. Redd of Martinsville, VA; Louise S. Long of Lima, OH; Inell S. Patterson of Palmyra, NY, and a host of other relatives and friends.

Rev. Kenneth Davis conducted the memorial services.
Loyal Donors Keep the "Vine" Alive!

Many thanks to the following for donations since the last issue of THE OLDTIMERS'-Sere Stacy Myers, Robert/Mary Watson, Kansas City, MO; Cleo E. Bilyea, Raymore, MO; Erbie B. Person, Los Angeles, CA; Lois Thompson & Olive Long, Claremont, CA; Valeska H. Williams, St. Louis, MO; Dorothy Mason, Las Vegas, NV; E. Joshua Newborn, Jr, Indianapolis, IN; A. Dale/Betty Fiers, Jacksonville, FL.

You Are Helping Us Fulfill Our Purpose!

Loyal Oldtimers’ readers who remember the importance of making financial donations are greatly appreciated.

Our dependence upon your personal donations enables us to service a multi-ethnic network of senior citizens interested in sharing their social and spiritual enrichment experiences. We make witness to our ethnically diverse and dynamic Christian communities.

Further, when an “oldtimer” retires or makes “The Great Transition,” your financial donation enables us to say a special word in memorial. Such a word might be a stimulus and/or confirmation for others who read such words.

We think that these goals make the existence of THE OLDTIMERS’ GRAPEVINE unique; especially for senior members in the Christian (Disciples) church.

Our goals will be realized when you not only read the newsletter, but also share some of your experiences with us in writing so others. Please send the editor something you want share.

Make THE OLDTIMERS’ a “Christmas Gift” to friends! Send us names, addresses and a donation! Season’s Greetings!

The date listed behind your name is the last time our records show you made a donation. SHALOM!

(Please tear here and mail.)

OLDTIMERS’ GRAPEVINE GOOD FAITH FORM:

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Make check out to OLDTIMERS’ GRAPEVINE and send to William K. Fox, Editor/Manager - 500 Mott Dr.- Apt. 102-B Raymore, MO 64083
Moving Toward "A Rainbow of Hope"

It may seem impossible that hope for a better tomorrow could come through a bolt of lightning hitting the sanctuary of a church and burning it beyond repair. But that is what happened August 13, 1994 to the 99 year old First Christian Church in Louisiana, MO. The building is a registered national historical site. Members are making plans to celebrate the church's 100th anniversary next October.

All but four of its stained glass windows valued at $800,000 were destroyed. A large golden cross above the pulpit was untouched. The historic pipe organ was covered by a section of the ceiling which fell over it like a bed spread to protect it from fire and water. The next day stunned worshippers came for service and viewed the ruins. A fire hose was arching a spray over the remains as the sun streamed through the gutted windows to form a rainbow. An editorial in the local paper called it "a rainbow of hope."

Church and community groups have rallied to help First Christian. Church life is going on in the educational building which remained untouched. First Church has hope and plans to rebuild. As the celebration of Christ's birth comes nearer to us, the star of hope lies ahead. The lightning bolts of difficult times may come to us, but the God presence in our lives can arch a spray of divine grace over us and bring a rainbow of hope. Christ is the reason for the season. Plan now to bring more of that "Rainbow of Hope" into your life. (John 3:16)