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The Oldtimers' Grapevine, Volume 7 (January - December 1997)

William K. Fox Sr

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DANIEL MERRICK: Minister, Hymnologist and Editor of New “Chalice Hymnal”

By William K. Fox, Sr

Daniel Merrick of Raymore, MO has believed for more than 40 years that the average Christian minister must deal weekly with at least two books. "One," says Dan, "is the Christian Bible. And the other is a hymn book. It baffled me to discover early in my seminary years of preparation that seminaries regarded the Bible as a basic and required subject, but few, if any, required a student to study hymnology. Yet the minister is expected to give leadership to others in the study and use of both!" Merrick has spent most of his professional ministry in efforts to correct that deficiency.

Surely it was within the flow of Divine Providence that in 1991 General Church program unit leadership selected Daniel Merrick to edit the most popular Disciples of Christ hymn book in the denomination's history. Eight years ago the General Board of the Church approved a new hymn book resolution. Dan served three years as chair of the first hymn book committee. However, five years ago when the Division of Homeland Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the Christian Board of Publication picked up the mandate and enabled the hymn book proposal to receive financial backing and technical expertise, the

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Merrick, the Seminarian, Succeeds as a Hymn Writer

(Continued from page 1)

and satisfying experiences. This encouraged his development as a minister, hymn writer, student of hymnology and now a hymn book editor. All have been the fruits of hard work and persevering faith.

Dan grew up in a family that was closely knit even though the father's work in the early years called for mobility. His dad was a civil engineer who worked for the government during the Depression years. At first his Dad's abilities were needed to help build locks and dams along the Mississippi River. Later, in 1939, when the Defense Act was passed by Congress during World War II, he was transferred to Texas where he used his civil engineering skills to construct military establishments in several places until he retired.

The mobility of the Merrick family enabled Dan to attend several elementary and secondary schools. He had gone to five high schools during his senior year because of the nature of his father's work. Finally, when trying to decide whether to go to Texas Christian University or some where else, he became impressed by an associate minister of their congregation, named Benton Roy Hanon.

Benton had gone to the College of the Bible at Phillips University in Enid, OK. "Benton impressed me more by the manner in which he carried himself more than any intentional effort he made to influence my decision to choose Phillips," Dan says. The choice of Phillips was his first long step toward a rewarding Christian ministry and a growing commitment to and appreciation of hymnology.

The next important step came when Dan walked into the of...
Fascination With Hymns Maintained in His Ministry

(Continued from page 2)

Bert Cartwright, who had been a member of the hymn book committee, was also to have been a member of the editorial team, but he died in April 1996. The editors have assigned several writers to develop historical and interpretative articles for each hymn.

The Christian Board of Publication has announced that the COMMENTARY will be released in February 1997.

The saga of Dan Merrick as editor of documents on hymnology is not ended. He is currently teamed with Susan Adams of New Albany, IN editing a COMMENTARY on the CHALICE HYMNAL.

Dagmar was busy working her way through college. But soon after that meeting she made another primary commitment. She became Mrs. Merrick and took on the challenge of becoming the dedicated matron of the family. So the foundations of the Dan and Dagmar Merrick Household were begun.

First, there was daughter Linda, a Phillips graduate, now Mrs. Randy Williams in Bloomington, IL where her husband is pastor of the Centennial Christian Church. Then there was daughter Karen, a Phillips graduate, now at the First Christian Church, Peoria, IL as the associate minister. Finally, there was son David Merrick, Jr, also a Phillips graduate, now married to Carol and serving the First Christian Church of Olathe, KS as Minister of Education and Music. Lots of good things came out of Dan and Dagmar's meeting in the seminary dean's office.

But Dan Merrick's interest in hymns, which had begun in his summer youth conference experiences, continued. He often wondered why there were so few Disciples of Christ authors of hymns. While exploring magazines in the seminary library, he became acquainted with the journal of the Hymn Society of America. This organization looked upon hymns from a scholarly perspective.

He joined the Hymn Society primarily to get the journal but later he became an active member. Other relationships with hymnologists were nurtured through his active membership in the Association of Disciples Musicians.

The interest in hymnology continued after seminary graduation. He was called to serve the United Church (Baptist and Disciples) in Milwaukee, Wisconsin as senior minister for eight years; moved to the Panama Canal Zone to pastor the Margarita Union Church on the Atlantic side of the Isthmus for ten years and help raise a young family, then returned to the States to become the senior minister for the Glen Oak Christian Church, Peoria, Illinois for 20 years before retirement in 1991.

Over the last forty years or more he has collected a personal library of over 1000 books in hymnology.

(Continued on Page 4)
Merrick

(Continued from Page 3)

Pastor Merrick has spent the first five years of retirement in the fulfillment of his life-long passion and appreciation of church hymns by serving as editor of the denomination's first truly Disciples of Christ hymn book.

The Merrick Household experienced the climax of this accomplishment collectively in November when Phillips Seminary in Enid, OK awarded him "The Outstanding Alumnus Award for 1996" based mainly upon his contributions to The Chalice Hymnal. All 12 family members and the great grandchildren attended.

Faithfulness Awarded

Jefferson City, MO-

When the CWU met at the Quinn Chapel A. M. E. Church of Jefferson City for the November 1996 “World Community Day” observance they gave Willie E. Martin Green the National Church Women United’s “Valiant Woman of the Year” Award.

Willie Green, the widow of the late Rev. William Green, a pastor of Second Christian Church in the city, has been active in community affairs since 1975. She attended Shorter College of Little Rock, AR and was a staff member of Lincoln University’s student union and later Page Library from 1970 to June 1984 when she retired.

In making the award to Mrs. Green, the local CWU cited her recruitment of 20 sustaining women members from her small congregation of less than 100 members; and her whole-hearted participation in special CWU outreach efforts.

Presenter Joseph Trower cited her service as coordinator of the “Wells” study group and her willingness to attend meetings and serve on task forces.

Disciples of Christ at Pilgrim Place, from T. J. Liggett

Claremont, CA- Pilgrim Place is a senior citizen retirement community which once had relationship with the Congregationalist denomination. Within its current community of approximately 300 are the following residents who belong to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ): Helen and Hall Shorrock (formerly church workers in Japan); Ned and Alma Roberts (formerly church workers in Zaire); Arla J. Elston (formerly general church staff, pastor in St. Louis, MO; staff for Regional Church in Southwest, and chair of a General Assembly GMP search committee); Carroll and Dorthea Lemon (formerly Nebraska State (Continued on page 5)
Some Senior Citizen Models in Courageous Witness

Olivia Pennington

Another Faithfulness Award

Jefferson City, MO-

During a First Christian Church Elder/Deacon Emeritus Dinner held at the Rickman Center November 3, 1996, Olivia Pennington was one of four persons given an emeritus elder certificate and her name added to a plaque which was hung in the church foyer.

Mrs. Pennington, a native of Jewell, KS and now resident of the Foxwood Springs Retirement Community in Raymore, MO, had been a congregational leader at First Church in Jefferson City for 15 years and an elder for six years.

While assisting her late husband, The Rev. James Pennington, who served 14 years as the founding pastor of the Jefferson City, MO Community Church, she had been a public information specialist for the State Health Department.

Following her husband’s death in June 1979, she became an active leader in First Church including chair of the Membership Department, and a Team Teacher for an adult class.

Edward D. Anderson, retired President of the Missouri School of Religion, was the Elder/Deacon Emeritus dinner keynoter. Lawrence R. Veatch is the senior minister for First Church.

Talk About Religion

-by Ernest Newborn

*If God seems far away, who moved?

*The Golden Rule: He who has the gold makes the rules.

*Blessed are the meek, for they will catch it from both sides!

Pilgrim Place Disciples

(Continued from page 4)

Council of Churches) staff; Lester Mc Allister (formerly UCMS Christian education staff, scholar, professor in church history at Christian Theological Semi-
Melvin C. Dickson

Dallas, TX- Melvin C. Dickson, a faithful Disciples of Christ pastor of more than 60 years died November 11, 1996 in a local infirmary. A memorial service was held November 16 in the Warren Avenue Church with the Senior Pastor, L. B. Facen as the officiant.

There was official representation from the secular and religious organizations in the Dallas community, and regional and general expressions of the denomination.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Eunice, and his brother Emmett James Dickson. Formal education included attendance at Southern Christian Institute, Edwards, MS and the School of Religion (now Christian Theological Seminary) at Butler University, Indianapolis, IN, and Southern Methodist University.

His pastoral service of some 60 years was distinctive in that it only involved two congregations. Following seminary, he was called to serve Louden Avenue Christian Church of Roanoke, VA in 1947. After 5 years the indebtedness was liquidated and a building fund established.

Pastor Dickson answered a call to Boll Street Christian Church in Dallas, TX in early 1952; but returned to Louden Avenue in Roanoke after nine months.

The National Christian Missionary Convention was hosted by Louden Avenue before he returned to Warren Avenue (Formerly Boll Street) Christian Church of Dallas, TX in 1952 where he remained for an additional 41 years and retirement in 1993. The congregation then elected him emeritus minister.

Pastor Dickson was a dedicated orthodox preacher in the Campbellite tradition. He was frequently called upon to lead revival meetings throughout the nation. He was an ardent debater of doctrinal and ecclesiastical policy questions. He was not easily moved from positions as he came to understand them.

A memorial poem called "This Man Called M. C. Dickson," was written by one of his sons, Joseph ("Donnie") Dickson. The two stanzas highlighted and shown in the left column capture the essence of the Melvin Dickson Commitment.

Left to mourn his loss are three sons: Melvin Curtis Dickson, Jr. of San Diego, CA; Joseph D. Dickson and wife, June of Nederland, TX; and Larry R. Dickson and wife, Sarah, of Laguna Niguel, CA; one daughter, Brenda Cuny of Allen Texas; five grandchildren; and one sister, Gertude Frisco of Houston, TX.

This man called M. C. Dickson
Has a gentle strength
And is not afraid to try
He lets others know
just where he stands
And that is the reason
why
There are many kinds
of greatness
In this world of obey
and trust
But only one Rev. M.
C. Dickson
A dad very special to
us

More on Disciples at Pilgrim Place

(Continued from page 5)

director of All Peoples Christian Church and Community Center, Los Angeles, CA and freelance writer; Harold/ Mary Hanlin (formerly a WW2 Chaplain in South Pacific remaining there to start a Congregational supported mission featuring his linguistic skills in translations for the United Bible Society); and Virginia and Thomas J. Liggett (retired head of seminary in Puerto Rico; president of the United Christian Missionary Society and Christian Theological Seminary, and leadership in Church Women United, Indianapolis, IN). Please remember these Disciples in your prayers.
Raymore, MO - Fred E. Moseley of the Foxwood Springs Living community passed away October 31, 1996. The memorial service was held in the Raymore Christian Church November 4, 1996 where he was a faithful member. Senior minister Richard A. Rintamaa was the officiant.

Upon his demise the 84 year old native of Sterling, CO was contending daily with limited eye sight. His formalized education did not go too far beyond public school and the John Brown Schools of Siloam Springs, AR. However, he became an effective machinist through special effort and enrollment in the Civilian Conservation Corps. One year, in lieu of failed attempts to hitch-hike, he and a CCC friend chose to ride to Fred's home in Muskogee, OK on Thanksgiving week-end on a freight train. As he sat on the bed of the box car easing into the Muskogee rail yard, he instantly saw his future bride-to-be, Oma, as she took a short-cut across the tracks on her way to work. That same week there was an unplanned meeting of Oma and Fred in a Christian Endeavor meeting. Meaningful relationships were instituted and eventually finalized into a marriage which lasted 62 years.

Blessed with determination, the Christian way and church, Fred received insight and vision to successfully operate three Dairy Queen franchises, establish and maintain the MO-MIL Machine and Manufacturing shop for eighteen years. He did not relinquish the latter until he was seventy-four years old and failing eyesight and the stresses of the market-place took their toll. Eighteen years ago he retired at Foxwood Springs.

All of their children completed college degree programs at Phillips University, Enid, OK.

Left to celebrate Fred's passing is Oma, faithful wife, dedicated mother, Bible student and a lay church elder. A son, Dan Moseley, senior pastor of the Vine Street Christian Church of Nashville, TN, once regarded as the "Cathedral congregation" for the denomination; daughter, Marsha of Chino, CA is married to John Wolfersberger, a former Regional Church staff member in three regions; and daughter, Kay Herrell of Arlington, VA; son, Fred E. Moseley, Jr of San Francisco, CA, and another son, Harold P. Moseley of Omaha, NE.

In addition there is a sister, Daisy Jaminson of Muskogee, OK; sixteen grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Interment was in Floral Hills Memorial Gardens.

W. A. Welsh: Preacher, Seminary Head, Publisher

Dallas, TX - Retired East Dallas Christian Church Senior Pastor, W. A. Welsh, former president of Lexington Theological Seminary, Lexington, KY and head of the denomination's Christian Board of Publication in St. Louis, MO, died December 12, 1996 from a terminal illness. The 79 year old Fort Worth, TX native led East Dallas Church as senior pastor from 1950-1965 until it became the largest in the denomination with 4000 members.

He headed the Kentucky seminary during one of its most formative periods in 1965-1973.

Welsh left the seminary to assume the administration of the denomination's publishing house from 1974 to 1982.

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Alfred Edwards, Sr.

Des Moines, IA- Alfred Henry Edwards was the son of Lovanna and Alvin Edwards born in Muskogee, OK October 21, 1922. He died November 28, 1996 following an extended period of illness.

Senior Pastor Tim C. Diebel of First Christian Church was the officiant with other Disciple ministers and Regional Minister & President Richard Guentert in Upper Midwest participating.

Edwards was a loyal alumnus of Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, TX and a student at Drake University. He served in the United States Army in World War II in Northern France and Rhineland, and received several decorations and citations. He returned to become a dedicated member of First Christian Church. Following union in holy matrimony to Henrietta Marshall on April 8, 1955 at Central Christian Church, Des Moines, they were blessed with three sons, Alfred H., Jr. William C., and Tyrone H.

Alfred Edwards was earnestly involved with a variety of humanitarian organizations in the community. Among his hobbies were photography, collection of gadgets and appreciation of music.

Wife, Henrietta, three sons, two daughter-in-laws, a granddaughter and a host of distant kin and friends sincerely mourn his loss.

Garfield Vertreese, Sr.

Kansas City, MO- Garfield Washington Vertreese, Sr., the soft-spoken senior church elder, and moderating and stabilizing influence in both family and church, died December 25, 1996 following an extended illness.

Mr. Vertreese was born February 21, 1914 to Egbert and Mary M. Starks Vertreese in Missouri City, MO. Following elementary and secondary education in Liberty, MO he received an associate degree in printing from Western University in Quindaro, KS.

He was united in holy matrimony to Louise E. Agent August 25, 1937 in Kansas City and to this union seven children were born. Garfield became the household patriarch. He was employed by General Motors Assembly at the Leeds Chevrolet Plant for 34 years before retiring in February 1979. He was deeply involved as an all-levels leader at Central Christian Church serving as moderator and/or chair of major task groups and had similar roles with community organizations and scouting.

Welsh Leaves Two Sons in the Ministry

Continued from Page 7 when modern technology in the marketplace demanded improvement in equipment and facilities in order to continue effectively and survive.

Dr. Welch served the church at all levels including being the president of the International Convention of the denomination which is the predecessor to the General Assembly.

He also taught at Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX; Perkins School of Theology, Dallas, TX; and Union Theological Seminary, NYC.

He leaves to mourn his loss wife Billie Ruth, and three sons: the Rev. Robert K. Welch, an associate general minister and President of the Church Finance Council; the Rev. David L. Welsh, Wilson, N. C; and James Welsh, Tulsa, OK.
**Bells Toll For OLIVE B. LONG & ROLLAND SHEAFOR**

Olive Made “The Manse” a Harbor of Hope.

Rosemead, CA - With California Christian Home Chaplain Judy Bever officiating, and Senior Pastor J. T. Bottoms and Flutist Mitchell Morton of All People’s Christian Church, Los Angeles, CA participating, a Service of Celebration in memory of the Homegoing of Olive Buffington Long November 30, 1996 was held here December 2, 1996. Son-in-law Rimes Thompson of Claremont, CA, retired minister, missionary, gave the ”Memorial Tribute.” Lois Long Thompson, daughter and church leader, the only member of the family remaining, affirmed his remarks. The following are excerpts:

“May 1, 1991, I had the privilege of giving a memorial tribute to John Long, my father-in-law.... today I am honored to do the same for my mother-in-law...

Let me begin by celebrating her as a pioneer. While at Eureka College she and John Long fell in love ... and decided they would get married when he graduated... go as missionaries to what was then the Belgian Congo. Since she graduated ahead of him, our Mission Board sent her... to be a member of the bi-racial faculty of Southern Christian Institute in Edwards, Mississippi. They felt she... would gain invaluable training for work with black people in Africa... When I realize that she was in her early twenties.... I must celebrate her as a courageous pioneer who blazed the trail that others would ride upon several decades later...

“I also celebrate her as his (John Long’s) wife and teammate on the SCI faculty. By 1927 they decided that God was calling them, not to the Belgian Congo, but to Mission Field USA there at SCI. One of her... creative ministries was delivering books to one room schools for blacks in the Mississippi countryside with her Bookmobile... Meanwhile, by April 19, 1991, when John died, they were within six weeks of celebrating their 66th wedding anniversary. Theirs was a model marriage... to my knowledge they never had an argument...

“I want to celebrate her role as mother to her two daughters, Jean and Lois. It was not easy to help those girls juggle their roles in their two distinct spheres of life in Mississippi: the integrated world of the SCI campus where faculty members and their children got to know each other as peers, and the white world of Edwards where Jean and Lois had to go to school....

“I close these remarks with this shout of thanksgiving for the good life of our beloved mother, mother-in-law... grandmother and great-grandmother and aunt: Praise God from whom all blessings flow!”

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**Rolland H. Sheafor: BCE President, O. E. Scott Bd. Chr.**

Pinehurst, N.C.- Retired Rolland H. Sheafor, fourth president of the Board of Church Extension of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), died December 21, 1996 in his home. He had retired in December 1979 as the chief executive of BCE after 35 years of stellar service. Current BCE President James L. Powell, said “We continue to be blessed by Rolland Sheafor’s legacy in which his dynamic administrative ability produced changes in services and structure of the Board that established it as one of the largest and most progressive capital service units in Protestantism.”

Left to mourn his loss is wife, Laura Frances; a son, Scribner; a daughter, Margaret Jackson; and three grandchildren.
Carnella J. Barnes—Los Angeles, CA—Carnella Jamison Barnes had her Homegoing January 4, 1997 and a celebrative memorial service January 10 under the direction of her pastor, Foster Craggett, interim minister for United Christian Church.

The native of Edwards, MS and youngest of a family of eight, had risen from a church youth leader while attending Talladega College, Talladega, AL, to a national director of women’s work for her denomination, to a faithful wife and mother, and finally a superb social services administrator and a creative specialist in ministries to senior citizens.

She was imbued with a Christian servanthood mind-set which was implanted at home in her youth and nurtured in her high school education experience at Southern Christian Institute, Edwards, MS.

Following college she was ordained to ministry July 30, 1939 and employed by the national office of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to work with women’s groups in the 520 predominantly African American congregations in 24 states.

For six years she traveled to congregations and meetings across the nation with a small modestly packed black bag in one hand, and in the other a Bible and notebook. While employed she pursued and received her Masters degree from Chicago Theological Seminary in religious education. Following in the heroic tradition of women like Sarah Lue Bostick, Rosa Bracy and Rosa Page Welch, she built lasting relationships in Christian service among all races.

In 1945 at a high crest in her work she took residence in Los Angeles, CA and began an expansion of her already illustrious career. She began as the executive director of the Avalon Community Center for 13 years before moving to McCarty Memorial Christian Church in 1958 to become minister of education.

She married Anderson B. Barnes and they became parents of triplets, Annette, Mary Ellen and Sterling Jamison.

In 1962 she joined the staff of the new Department of Senior Citizen Affairs for Los Angeles County. She added degrees in social work and gerontology to her masters in religious education.

She served in all of the County’s executive capacities until retirement in 1976. She held top elective positions in the church, both local and national and was awarded a variety of honors from groups across the nation. She is survived by daughter, Mary Ellen and son, Sterling Jamison; many distant kin and friends around the world.

**OTHER HOME-GOINGS:**

*Grace Eleeta McDermet of Foxwood Springs in Raymore, MO December 13, 1996 who lived creatively to enrich her community and “died within God’s grace and love.”*

*Joseph Van Boskirk of Robin Run in Indianapolis, IN January 4, 1997 who, as a district and regional minister, energized new congregational establishment in metro Chicago and the Capitol Area of Washington, D.C.*

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**More Talking About God and Religion- Summation by Earnest J. Newborn Indianapolis, IN**

*Our pastor’s sermons are like the peace of God. They surpass all understanding.*

*An earnest little girl was asked if she could repeat the week’s memory verse. “I can. I even know its zip code: Luke 19:10.”*

*Different people look for different things in the ten commandments. Some are looking for divine guidance, some are looking for a code of living, but most are looking for loopholes.*

*The meek will inherit the earth, but how long will they stay meek after they get it?*

*Getting inoculated with small doses of religion prevents people from catching the real thing.*
Donors Launch Oldtimers into 1997!

THANKS FOR THE PUSH OFF: Rosae V. Washington, Oakland, CA; Lois Thompson and Olive Long, Dan/ Frances Genuag, Claremont, CA; Dorothy V. Mason, Las Vegas, NV; Lois B. Opal Marcum, Frances Chambers, Don/ Gretchen Which, Ralph/Jean Keller, Bertha Lovell, Charles/ Christine, Holmes, Wayne/ Genee R. Selser, Clifford/Velma Mc- Clure, Robert M. Hall, Norma Painter, Dorothy M. Sweatt, Gene/ Nancy Rutherford, Raymore, MO; Amy Hohman, Louisville, KY; Frank/Rubena Adams, Chicago, IL; Roland/ Kathryn Huff, Jacksonville, FL; Charles/Irene Mills, William/ Patricia Nottingham, Gertrude A. Dimke, Richard/Melinda Hamm, Frisco/Bertha Gilchrist; Russell/Nancy Harrison, Homeland Ministries, Inc., Samuel F. Pugh, A. Gemott/ Carolyn Day, Edwin R. Allen- dear, Indianapolis, IN; Cavan- nah M. Clark, Oklahoma City, OK; Rosemary Lane, Mary Lou Kegler, Kansas City, MO; Mary E. Clift, Hawkins, TX; Charles/Sarah Berry, Grubbling, LA; Glenn/Kathleen Helme, Baltimore, MD; Garland/Barbara Farmer, Rancho Cordova, CA; Joseph/Rebecca Galloway, Chatham, VA; Robert/Diane Steffen, Guelph, ON Canada; Charles/Martha Barr, Cameron, MO; Henrietta Edwards, Des Moines, IA; Roland/Pearl Thompson, Cincinnati, OH; Carol D. Boyd, Jacksonville, TX; Ver- lesta Hicks, Dayton, OH; Cor- nelius/Alpha Arnold, Los An- geles, CA.; R. L. Jordan, De- troit, MI; Donald O. Legg, At- lanta, GA.

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<td>Put your religion in a box; Tuck it safely away—Find it has disintegrated When you recheck some day.</td>
<td>Bigots are made, not born, As are both hatred and scorn. Parents, what shall it be—Bigotry or harmony?</td>
<td>Let your disrupted self With its hurt concealed Hear a sweet gentle voice Say, “Come and be healed.”</td>
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<td>No color best pleases our Father. Each is his created delight; All are divinely beautiful—Red, black, yellow, brown, white.</td>
<td>Strike hard at evil; Don’t miss a chance, But hack at the roots, Friends—not the branch.</td>
<td>My faith helps me bear Pain and sorrow; It keeps me believing In tomorrow.</td>
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NOTE: Sorry we are late with this issue. Unavoidable circumstances developed which made it impossible for the Editor to meet intended deadlines. Hope you enjoy the issue.
Arnolds: Models in Stewardship

For more than 50 years, hundreds of friends, and associates from across the nation who attended church gatherings of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) have accepted invitations from Cornelius Wesley and Alpha Penn Arnold of Los Angeles, CA to be their dinner guests. The Arnolds have never minded how many accepted. All would be fed. Many have eaten tasty meals in the Arnold’s home or in one of the restaurants they once owned and operated. The door was open.

Leading ministers from various denominations have been honored as guests during church anniversaries, special programs, and revivals sponsored by congregations once served by the Arnold’s in Illinois, Ohio, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, California, Pennsylvania, New York, and Washington, D. C. Many have been challenged.

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Mary: Faithful Mother of Jesus

As we approach the final days before Easter it is only fitting that we remember the humble maiden who received the angel Gabriel in the sixth month. The angel of the Lord came to her in the small Galilean town of Nazareth bringing the blessed announcement that she had been favored.

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Rugged individualistic witness—“C. W.”

Continued on Page 1

by their deep dedication to "the restoration of New Testament Christianity," and "C.W’s" rugged individualistic Christian witness. They have admired Alpha as a faithful helpmate and a charming, well-prepared Christian laborer in church and a respected leader in community organizations.

Time and the testimony of life experiences have now reached the point where the Arnolds can look back to good seeds they have sown. They have aided in the establishment of six congregations in the Los Angeles Area, and been successful in the recruitment of six Disciples of Christ ministers for service on the West Coast.

Now, enjoying the glory of birthdays which occur in the eighties and nineties, they stand as living models for outstanding Christian stewardship. Their investments in Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) general church units like the Board of Church Extension and the National Benevolent Association not only assist them in their senior years, but at the proper time, their investments will further the work of the church for years to come.

Every year they provide financial assistance to small congregations, regional church offices, scholarships to school for youth, and a variety of other worthy causes.

Nevertheless, it does not matter what conversation Dr. Arnold is involved in, he will always raise one basic question: "How many Disciples of Christ congregations do they have in that town? Don't you think we should have another one? My wife and I will give the first one thousand dollars to help bring a preacher there to investigate the starting of a new Disciples congregation.

In places, like Las Vegas, NV, where even "Angels fear to tread," the Arnolds have invested money and extended time to sow the seeds for a new congregation.

Mary Mentioned Four Times—

(Continued from P. 1)

four times in the Bible following the reappearance of Jesus and the launching of his ministry which followed 18 years of silence.

We know that there is much more to the story of Jesus than is found in our Gospels. But these four references to Mary following the reappearance of Jesus are significant.

Continued on Page 3
Charming, respected helpmate—“Alpha”

Continued from Page 2

knew how long I would have to live with these after effects of the first two weeks of massive radiation, twice a day, 5 days a week that just barely saved my life. They really nipped that malignant, dangerously located cancer in the bud! I keep looking for the brighter day when I can "eat" again with family and friends. We don’t realize how important having three meals a day means for the companionship and interaction that sitting down and having a meal (at home, or eating out) provides for our lives. Seems like such a simple thing and I hope my testimony will help others to be more appreciative of what they have each and every day.”

-Russell F. Harrison, 5325 Ohmer Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46219
(317) 359-0676 (Retired Disciple of Christ minister; author and hymn writer; retired church administrator, wife, Nancy, an attorney; both active in church.)

Arnolds hosting friends at the Tulsa General Assembly, 1991

Undoubtedly each of these settings fanned the sparks which fed the eternal flames burning in their hearts until this day. God help us to be motivated to make a similar Christian witness. “C. W.” and Alpha are a living challenge. W.K. Fox, Sr.

Mary at the foot of the Cross...

(Continued from P. 2)

The first reference to Mary is in the marriage at Cana in Galilee. Here she appears to accompany her son, Jesus. (John 2:1)

The second reference is at the last Passover celebration observed by Jesus.

The third reference to Mary is at the foot of Cross when Jesus committed her to the beloved Disciple with the words: Woman, behold Thy son,” and to John, “Behold thy Mother.” (John 19:25-27)

Finally, the fourth time is in the days following the Ascension when the eleven apostles are in the upper places in Virginia or Mississippi?

(Continued on Page 4)
On Seniors Experiencing Transition!

MAKING A MOVE:
Grapevine reader Mildred Webb, a retired social worker, "Preacher's Kid" and a tireless church worker residing in Robin Run, Indianapolis, IN recently shared a note with the Grapevine editor. It contained a grateful reference to a poem called A Moving Story. It had been written some time ago by retired General Church staff member and World Call editor Sam Pugh, also a resident in Robin Run. The poem expressed many feelings Mildred had when she made the important move from years of anchorage in "Chicago Land" to a "new home" in Robin Run.

On February 28 retired regional church minister, Robert Hall of Raymore, MO who had been a contributing resident in Foxwood Springs for some 17 years decided to move to Robin Run and be nearer his family. It was understandable but regrettable for his many friends and associates in church and Foxwood Springs.

This is a not an uncommon transition for seniors living in similar retirement communities. Thus, it is within this context that excerpts from Sam Pugh's verse are shared:

"A Moving Story"

It wasn't easy, was it-
You became angry, deciding to move.
Why did Delbert die?
Leave the home you loved?
and leave me like this? you said.
"I'll stay till I die," you said,
You felt like throwing things,
but you grew older...
You didn't eat
You couldn't sleep
You decided to go
You threatened to stay.
"There's no other way," you said.
The movers came,
You hugged your favorite chair,
neighbors too, to say good-bye.
You touched the big Hutch lovingly,
a sad event.

Continued on Page 5

"Behold thy Mother..."

Continued from P. 3

It was only through the miracle of a mother's eternal love that we found her kneeling at the Cross.

Mary heard all of the last whispered words of her son, including

Continued on Page 5

ON RECENT HOME-GOINGS:

*Howard Prather, Foxwood Springs, Raymore, MO- a 91 year old thoughtful Disciple minister; military chaplain; a model in town and country parish ministry in four states; provider of ten interim's; survived by three sons and daughters-in-law.

*Dodge Tracy, Indianapolis, IN- faithful Superintendent of Missions Building Services, the Headquarters' Offices of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); in retirement employed as a trusted retriever of lost and/or misrouted airline luggage.

*Mrs. Allen Elsworth, Foxwood Springs, Raymore, MO- a gifted YM and YWCA program staff member and devoted wife, whose last years of illness prompted her husband, Elsworth, to model devotion and loving care which inspired all in Foxwood Springs.

*Loyal Northcott of Tyler, TX- As the exec-
Confronting New Opportunities

"Father, I give my spirit ..."

Chicago, IL Mrs. Eddie Griffin, social worker in a private agency, says "I continue my work (volunteer) in the region having completed my tenure as moderator and as one of Illinois/Wisconsin's representatives on the General Board but committee work still keeps me busy. Park Manor (Christian Church) also keeps me busy. I'm looking forward to retirement in the next five years. That should be an exciting time." Eddie is a private social agency administrator and a daughter of retired Dr. Franklin Jacob Pugh of Foxwood Springs, Raymore, MO, Feb. 23, 1997—commercial artist and liberal Christian steward.

"Father, I give my spirit into your hands." (Luke 23:46; John 19:30)

We thank God for Mary who proved to be a hardy unusual soul as she shared in the agony of her son.

Continued from Page 4

"I love it," you said that night. Life goes on. All is well."

Thanks Sam Pugh. Many of us who have decided to make "The Big Move" from a "home base" where they have lived for years can readily relate to this story. Praise God!

Guelph, Ontario, Canada—Robert Steffer writes "I complete work with All-Canada (Regional Church) at the end of February (1997)-10 years exactly since "going forth" from Indianapolis. Retirement is planned for June."

Robert W/Diane Steffer, former seminary staff in Jamaica and general church staff in USA, retiring from regional ministry in Canada.

Continued on Page 6

Continued from Page 4

listed what had to go

and what to keep.

People watched the trucks unload saying nothing; no friends no welcome, ...

no man to open boxes, You got lost looking for the dining room.

You felt sick.

A week went by—and another, lonely and alone, Then one day—a voice, your name, "Come join us." You go. Laughter.

"We pause today, O Creator God, to sense your presence in this moment. We know that when we relax, let go of the stress of the minute, we simply give our spirit into your hands."

Continued from Page 4

Continued on Page 6

Continued from Page 4

Continued on Page 5

Continued on P. 6
Opportunities

Continued from Page 5

Lorenzo J. Evans
PRODUCTION IN RETIREMENT: Day-
ton, OH- Marguerite Jackson, in a note of cele-
bration says "Thanks to the Fifth Sunday Song Fest, the Summit Chris-
tian Church CWF and (34) gracious individuals, the (Scholarship) fund
now stands ($5,939) over
the half-way mark.

Mrs. Jackson, is a retired
Postal Employee and is a veteran key church
leader.

The four predomin-
antly African Ameri-
can congregations host
the songfest on a rotating
basis. The only agenda is
song, spirit and fellow-
ship.

For Whom the Bell Tolls

Oklahoma City, MO-
The Rev. Jesse Jackson,
Jr. led a panel of ministers
from Dallas, TX, Kansas
City, MO, and Oklahoma
City assembled February
21, 1997 in East Sixth
Street Christian Church to
eulogize Jamie Marie
Williams. Clergy taking
part in the service included
Waymon Henry, Denley
Drive Christian Church,
Dallas, TX; Don Alexan-
der, First Okistian
Church, Oklahoma City,
G. L. Rogers, Shilo Bap-
tist Church, Oklahoma
City, and King David
Cole, Kansas City, MO.

Mrs. Williams was born
to Lydia Devold and Jeff
Williams November 16,
1902 in Pine Bluff, AR.
After her parents moved
to farms in Norge and
Chickasha, OK, she
joined the Shepherd
Street Christian Church in
Chickasha at age four-
ten. She went to St.
Louis, MO where she fin-
ished Sumner High
School and Commercial
Department at Stowe
Business College. Later
she continued formal
preparation by receiving
an A. B Degree from
Langston in 1949 and a
M. A Degree from the
University of Oklahoma
at Norman.

She became a member of
East Sixth Christian
Church in 1926 and was
deeply involved as a major
congregational leader
who was appointed to
positions in the Oklahoma
Continued on Page 5

Thank God for the women!

(Continued from P. 5)

Jesus which forced
world society to see
her as a model for
the best in woman-

We thank God for en-
abling women to be
the first bearers of

the Good News of the
Resurrection of Je-
sus, the Christ, to the
Disciples and the
world.

(Continued from p. 5) center into our being,
we come closer to you
and feel you near. We
thank you that Franklin
Pugh taught us how to
center, focus on the
beauty of creation
around us, and then
become more aware of
the beauty within us...
"He could draw the
beauty of God's
world with his
artist's brush, but
somehow he must
have felt that our
artistic abilities fall
short of the glory of
God's paint-
ings...And so we
walk day by day,
knowing that God
will provide us with
yet another glorious
scene and a new ex-
perience not only
with God but with
other people...
"The gentle touch of
this
man's hand always
warmed and encour-
aged those around
him, and his voice
offered calm assur-
dances that
God
was
in control and all is
well. His generosity
to others beyond his
family...reflected the
love of God for all
God's children...

Excerpts from memorial
prayer by Senior Pastor
Rick Rintumaa, Raymore
Christian Church.
The Oldtimers' Grapevine

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Jimmie Williams - from page 6

Convention of Christian Churches and the city and state Councils of Churches.

After employment in the private sector and public schools she became a YWCA staff member, holding program positions and retired in 1968 after serving 15 years as the Executive Director. A sister, Lizzie Stevenson, and friends mourn.

(The please cut here and mail.)

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CTS President Dickinson Retires

Dr. Richard D. N. Dickinson, Jr., president of Christian Theological Seminary, will retire June 30, 1997. The Rev. Dickinson, who declares that "growing up in a poor family forced me to have a sense of the needs of people at the bottom of society," has been president of the seminary since 1987.

Dr. Dickinson is an ordained United Church of Christ minister who decided to use the role of minister and his Christian beliefs to achieve social justice. He did missionary work in India during the 1960’s, and then worked for the World Council of Churches and the American Friends Service Committee.

He joined the staff of Christian Theological Seminary as a professor of Christian social ethics in 1968 and served as dean from 1974 to 1987. In 1987 he was elected president of CTS, a seminary affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

(See Page 7)
The Oldtimers' Grapevine

VOLUME VII - NUMBER 3
RAYMORE, MISSOURI
MAY-JUNE 1997

SHARING GOOD NEWS-

Washington, D. C.- "You will be happy to know that our dream of a million dollar perpetual care fund is about a reality. We are up to just over $900,000, but it hasn't been easy..." from Oscar Haynes, President of the Greenwood Cemetery Board of Trustees, Nashville, TN.-April 4, 1997.

EDITOR'S COMMENT:

Greenwood Cemetery was established between 1899 and 1900 by the widely known African American Disciples of Christ church leader, Preston Taylor. He was an undertaker, building engineer, and pastor of Lea Avenue Christian Church. He gave the Cemetery to the National

(Continued on P. 2)

Pastor/Evangelist Bill Dickerson Dies

Cleveland, OH- A memorial service was held at Bethany Christian Church April 7, 1997 for its Senior Pastor, Robert W. H. (Bill) Dickerson. The

Bill Dickerson was a native of Tazwell, VA and was a child prodigy in ministry. He was known to preach from age three to nine.

rapid Bible quoting Preacher died April 4, following a brief illness. A second service was held on Sunday, April 6 at the Midway Christian Church, Tazwell, VA, his home church.

Rev. Dickerson was one of 16 children born to his parents, George M. and Mary Dickerson, who were both ordained ministers.

Rev. Donald Jackson, a son-in-law of Bill Dickerson, was Master of Ceremonies. Robert W. Dickerson, Jr, son of the deceased, was

the officiant. He delivered the eulogy in both services. Many friends and family members were in attendance. Bill

(Continued on page 2)

The Fruits of a Faithful Mother

The Homegoing of The
Rev. Robert W. H. Dickerson April 4, 1997 provides an opportunity to recognize the many contributions the Dickerson Household has made to church and community for the past two centuries. Roscoe Dickerson of Cleveland, OH, one of the late Bill Dickinson's brothers and the family historian has shared information

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Bill Dickerson: “A Walking Bible”

(Continued from page 1)

Dickerson was a native of Tazwell, VA and a child prodigy in ministry. He was known to preach from age three to nine and became known as the "child preacher."

Soon after the family moved to Cleveland, OH in 1935, he secured secular employment and was an active lay worker in the Cedar Christian Church (now known as Crawford Road).

In the midst of building family and home, he felt a divine urge to become a minister. While pursuing formal education at Ashland Theological Seminary, Western Reserve University, Phillips University, and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, his friends and fellow ministers came to know him as the "Walking Bible." Every sermon Bill preached was filled with Bible quotations, all relevant to the announced subject.

November 25, 1951 he was ordained by the late Rev. H. C. Poston. His brother, the late Rev. L.L. Dickerson, preached the ordination sermon. Nine ministers were in attendance.

Sensing a need for additional congregations to be established in the sprawling metro area of Cleveland, Bill recruited seven persons to join him in "House Meetings." January, 1956 the little group met to establish a new Christian Church called Bethany Christian. Today the Bethany congregation which started as a house church with 7 members, is now approaching 700.

Dickerson was a former president of the Black Disciple Ministers Fellowship in Cleveland, OH; an Associate Regional Pastor for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Ohio; and president of the National Black Ministers Fellowship, a group related to the National Convocation of the Christian Missionary Convention, Inc. Thus it monitors the administration of Greenwood Cemetery. During the times of racial segregation, the Black community was the sole recipient of its services.

Today it functions within the open market place. Therefore it strives to maintain standards and services in keeping with the legal guidelines and principles which guide all modern cemeteries.

Greenwood is a historic landmark deserving periodic focus and appreciation by all people, regardless of ethnic or denominational affiliation.

Greenwood is listed in Nashville tour guide which pin-points places of historic interest.

The Dickersons of Putnam County

(Continued from page 1)

on the Dickerson's with The Oldtimers' Grapevine.

"There was born in Putnam County, Virginia (now West Virginia), October 22, 1843, a slave girl (Sarah Harris). Her owner, one William Henson, was an outstanding member of the Baptist church with at least formal religious scruples. He insisted that both his children and his slaves live strictly moral lives, attend church, and come to the 'big house' to hear him read the Bible.

"With secession and the separation of West Virginia from Virginia., Henson moved with his slaves to Springfield, Tazwell
SOME OF THE DICKERSON MINISTERS

William H. Dickerson (1865-1930) - Though born in 1865 when the currents of the Civil War were still swirling over both the South and the North, he was encouraged to seek an education. He became a graduate of Berea College (KY) and entered the ministry in 1890. During his 40 years of ministry, he served congregations in Kentucky and Ohio. He became President of The Louisville Christian Bible School for several years before his death in 1930.

Charles M. Dickerson (1869-1935) He served congregations in Virginia and West Virginia. He was instrumental in the building of the East Graham Christian Church in Bluefield, West VA. Two of his sons, N. J. Dickerson and J. K. Dickerson became ministers. Charles Dickerson served the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

"...If ye have faith as a grain of mustard..."

(Continued from page 2)

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

He leaves to cherish his memory: his wife, Dorothy Dickerson; one daughter, Lynette married to the Rev. Donald Jackson. Rev. Robert W. Dickerson, Jr. is married to Cheryl Dickerson; also a minister, four brothers, George M. Dickerson of Tazwell, Virginia; Roscoe A. Dickerson. Charles Dickerson, both of Cleveland, Ohio; Eugene Dickerson of Aberdeen, MD; three sisters, Celestine Tucker of Cleveland, Ohio; Edna M. Moore, and Claudia V. Rainey both of

Bethany Christian Church; from 7 members meeting in a house to more than 700. Built on belief that "if you have faith as a grain of mustard... nothing shall be impossible."

Tazwell, VA; ten grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren, six sisters-in-law, and a host of other relatives and friends.

Time is too Slow for those who Wait; Too Swift for those who Fear; Too Long for those who Grieve; Too Short for those who Rejoice; But for those who Love, Time is eternity.

- Henry Van Dyke-

...A widow with six boys...untold hardships...

(Continued from page 2)

Virginia. It was here that Miss Harris met and married Bartley Dickerson, who later joined the Christian Church and became a pioneer preacher in the vicinity. To the union was born six boys- four of whom, W.H., C.M., G. M. and C.H.- became preachers in the Christian Church, and two of the four served for many years as educators as well...

The Elder Bartley Dickerson died from pneumonia in 1873, leaving a widow with six boys, ranging from three months to nine years old. The three years that followed were years of untold hardships- struggles for the bare necessities of life. But the brave
My Cup Runneth Over...” Mott

Raymore, MO—Before a packed main dining room of 200 attendants for the annual Fellowship of John Dinner Meeting, Merle R. Mott, the little lady of Foxwood Springs Living Center, responded to words of appreciation from Foxwood's Board of Directors and residents with the words, "My cup runneth over!"

Cindy Dougherty, president of the National Benevolent Association in St. Louis had just given an inspiring message on "Convenant and the Fellowship of John." Tom Johns, the former chief executive of Foxwood Springs had followed with an earnest tribute to Merle Mott. Quoting words from the Book of Ecclesiastics, Mr. John's asked and answered the question raised by the Preacher in Ecclesiastics, "What have you to gain from all the labor?"

In response to a highly charged atmosphere, Merle had said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive...You have to give in order to receive. My cup runneth over." Jo Ellen Mapes, the Foxwoods Director of Development then announced that a Heritage Society was being formed at Foxwood and that Merle Mott had given Foxwood permission to use her name. The organization will be called the N. Merle Mott Heritage Society.

The Society will recognize and honor residents, family and friends "who have made a commitment to the ministry and mission of Foxwood (Continued on page 5)

...if the widows and orphans cry unto me...

(Continued from page 3) mother held on to her integrity and her firm faith in God, who said, "If the widows and orphans cry unto me I will surely hear their cry...

About 1876 she was married to Fletcher Froe, a widower with a large family of grown children, and moved to the Froe farm.

Of her grand-children there were two preachers, L. L. Dickerson and J. K. Dickerson of Bluefield, W. Va., one lawyer, several teachers, and many active workers."

The influence of this Christian mother is being felt to this day. The panel columns of this Oldtimers issue carry brief summaries of 8 of the 30 Dickersons who became ministers... from The Christian Plea, p. 1, April, 1943

(Continued on page 5)
Heritage Society Established

Springs Living Center through their wills and other planned gifts. A portrait picture of Mrs. Mott was unveiled during the dinner. It will be placed in Bromwell Lounge.

In 1972, after much prayer and meditation, Mrs. Mott initiated the giving of 54.71 acres of excellent farm land to the National Benevolent Association for the establishment of a facility to service the needs of older adults.

A formal announcement of the gift was made during the Sunday morning worship service in the Belton

For whom the bells toll-

Mary Eleanor McDaniel who died in Bradenton, OH January 4, 1997 was known as a writer of missionary biographies for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

She was born in Laoag, Philippines October 28, 1918, and according to Joy and John Ferguson, close friends, she became known “for her faith, her enthusiasm, her intelligence and for her generous spirit.”

During her retirement years she lectured on international costume dolls, and spent many hours as a volunteer at Persona Care and Meals on Wheels.

She was closely associated with the Bradenton Congregational United Church where a memorial service was held, in February, and the Blue Ash Presbyterian Church of Blue Ash, OH where another service was held in April and memorial donations were sent.
Status of Our Afro-Canadian Friends

Lucille Coward, Oldtimers’ Canadian Contact

St. Laurent, Quebec, Canada—Five years ago approximately 400 Afro-Canadian citizens packed into the sanctuary of the Union United Church on Delisle Street, as the Senior Pastor, E. Leicester Bigby urged the concerned congregation to wage a "peaceful fight against racism."

This historic Black congregation in metropolitan Montreal is possibly the most important in that part of Canada. It’s pastor was trying to cool down the feelings of the community through a memorial service for three Black men who had been killed by Montreal Urban Community Police. A fourth man had died from wounds received, but the cause of his death was still unknown.

Bigby, a long time respected community leader, was making an appeal for a calm and measured response by Montreal’s Black community to the problems with police and with racism in Montreal in general."

The Bigby’s retire this year after a 17 year tenure at the Union United Church.

There has been some improvement since that day of racial crises. A recent study by McGill University shows that Statistic Canada has consistently under reported the number of Blacks living in Canada.

According to McGill researchers,
* sixty per cent of all Blacks (two out of three) are under the age of 35
* Close to 90 percent of Canada’s Blacks were not in the country 25 years ago.
* Canada has 20,000 more Black women than Black men.
* Seventy percent of all Blacks live in Toronto and Montreal.

Montreal is estimated to have 101,390 and Toronto 240,940.

The report also shows that the levels of education in the Black community is comparable and in some cases higher than in the wider community.

The study shows that Back men in Canada have marginally higher levels of education than all men and women (including Black women) in Canada.

A higher percentage of the Black population (70.1 per cent) was employed in 1991 than in the entire Canadian population (67 per cent.).

Paradoxically, there is a higher percentage of Blacks classified as unemployed in 1991 due to the kind of work they get to do. On the average they earn substantially less than other Canadians. They are seriously under represented in the higher paying jobs and senior management.

(Continued on P. 7)
DR. HYLTON RETIRES-

Among a variety of involvement's of Dr. Hylton, Jr. in the life and work of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and community are the following:

President of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); member of the General Board of the Church; member of NBA board; Annie Malone Children and Family Service Center Board; Emergency Children Home Board; first President of the St. Louis Clergy Coalition.

Dr. Hylton joins a very small number of African American Disciples of Christ ministers who are able to retire from the Christian ministry as members of the Pension Fund. The failure of many predominantly Black congregations to provide Pension Fund memberships for their pastors remains a continuing challenge.

Thanks be to God!

DONATIONS SINCE LAST ISSUE: Frank/Celeste Bradley, Oscar Haynes, Washington, D.C.; Robert A/Julia Fangmeier, Lorenzo J. Evans, Bill/Thelma Pyatt, Indianapolis, IN; Sybel/Harvey Thomas, Harvey/May Lord, Chicago, IL; A. L./Hosanna C. Mthershed, Little Rock, AR; Hattie E. Coleman, Kansas City, MO; Lucille Morrison, Hannibal, MO

"For flowers that bloom about our feet; For tender grass so fresh and sweet; For song of bird and hum of bee; For all things fair we hear and see, Father in Heaven we thank Thee!" -Ralph Waldo Emerson

THE POOR

(Continued from Page 6)

Teaching- to inform the citizenry about what is happening to poor people.

Sharing- to host a simple community meal with the poor and the religious community.

*From Call to Renewal, Concerned Clergy Coalition,
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Hylton Point is named in honor of the 35 years of effective ministry given to the community and Centennial Christian Church by Dr. Hylton, Jr. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development paid the $4.2 million for the complex. A non-profit corporation made up of church members owns the building. A resident must be at least 62 years old with an annual income under $15,800, or $18,100 for a couple. A sliding scale rent is about 30 percent of income.

St. Louis, Mo—Centennial Christian Church will sponsor a retirement luncheon June 28, 1997 at The St. Louis Airport Hilton for The Rev. Samuel W. Hylton, Jr. who has been a solid anchor and constructive leader for the congregation and community for the past 35 years.

In addition to being the faithful shepherd of the flock, Pastor Hylton has been a prophetic preacher, effective participant in general church activities and catalyst for enabling low cost, high quality housing to become a reality for older African Americans and others in need of low cost housing. A crowning part of his 35 years of ministry at Centennial has been the partnership developed between Centennial Christian Church and the National Benevolent Association in securing two major grants from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. One constructed the 77-unit Centennial Plaza Apartments 1991 at McPherson and Sarah Streets and the other grant the 72-unit $4.2 million Hylton Point Apartments at Maple and Belt streets in 1995-96.
Racially Speaking: Just Look at the Signs and Symbols!

by William K. Fox, Sr., Retired OGMP Staff Member and Founding Editor/Manager of THE OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE

As an African American member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and a senior citizen who has had many more rewarding experiences in the church than negative, I feel compelled at this point in time to share a few of my perceptions of the church and its contemporary stance on race relations.

The Christ-centered vision of the Church and race relations is, at best, dimly seen and barely understood by the average pew member.

However, the realities are clear. We remain essentially divided along racial lines during Sunday worship and activities, with a sprinkling of racial ethnic church members in a scattered small number of congregations.

We applaud the decision to join the United Church of Christ in the mutual recognition of ordained ministers. But few, if any racial ethnic minority ministers, active or retired in either denomination, are employed by congregations constituted by the majority racial group as full-time or interim ministers.

In like manner, few predominantly racial ethnic congregations call ministers

(Continued on page 2)
Discernment on Racism at Denver

(Continued from page 1)

from the majority racial group to serve as senior pastors. There is less than a handful of racial ethics on regional church staff and none serving as regional minister. Some of the General church program units, notably the Divisions of Homeland and Overseas Ministries, the Board of Church Extension, the National Benevolent Association, and the Christian Board of Publication employ racial ethnic professionals as staff. The pricking of Christian conscience by social and cultural movement within church and society during the late nineteen sixties, has motivated most of the general and regional manifestations to secure some racial ethnic representations on principal boards of directors.

I believe that the picture of church and race relations is among the socio-economic factors carrying significant weight for thoughtful persons contemplating commitment to full-time church vocations. The evidence of an inner Divine pull plus personal encounter with the living Christ is, of course, primary. The race relations picture in church and society may be a fundamental challenge to many, and cause them to choose church vocations as a means to address the issues raised.

However, for many others it may be a deterrent to making a positive decision to become a Christian minister or prepare for other church vocations. There might be a significant correlation between the unimpressive picture of race relations in the church, and the trickle of racial ethnic candidates in preparation for full-time Christian service in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

But Let's Look at Some Signs and Symbols

The manifestations (i.e. general, regional and congregational) of church try to "speak" on such matters through "signs" and symbolic "actions." But not since the days of Martin Luther King, the Civil Rights Movement, "The Black Manifesto" and "Black Power," have the manifestations of church mounted a coordinated effort to produce church-wide efforts like the Reconciliation Fund, "Mother-to-Mother projects, and Urban Crisis ministry programs. Initiative and maintenance of such actions today seems lodged mainly in Christ-centered, outreach oriented congregations.

Nevertheless, in 1997 Disciples of Christ are among the few mainline denominations that continues to support a church-wide program like the Reconciliation Fund with its holistic concern for race and poverty. The Division of Homeland Ministries continues to coordinate a successful congregation-based Disciples network, Church Action for Safe and Just Communities program. It is one of the few church-wide action models available to interested regions and congregations for reference and consultation. These are positive "signs" and "symbols."

(Continued on page 3)
Our Prayers Encircle Dr. Wheeler.

As the church’s representative bodies seek the "mind of Christ" on such matters, the Office of the General Minister and President for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has endorsed a mode of "discernment." Documents forming the basis for such discussions at Denver, CO July 25-29, 1997 include 1) Reflections on "Discernment" as it relates to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); 2) Process of Discernment on Racism, and 3) The Process of Discernment on the Nature of Biblical Authority for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The Denver Assembly business docket contains the detailed materials. We are invited to examine the challenges of racism and our attempts to deal with the ravages of its infection. We are encouraged to begin the discernment process with a serious review of biblical foundations and our commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord. The process has potential for being a good "sign."

Meanwhile, it is the writer’s impression that most regions and congregations are in an ongoing mode of enlightened autonomy. I maintain the faith that the church as a whole has serious intention to find ways to improve race and ethnic minority relations. But the wheels of the church on such matters have always ground slowly. And the “wheels” continue to move at turtle-neck speed today. But if we scrutinize the horizon closely we can "discern" a few positive "symbols" raised in public places and the few visible "signs" lodged at points where all can see. This seems to be our state as we gingerly slide into the 21st century.

A Sign is Raised at CTS

Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, IN, one of the largest (i.e. 400 students) and most dynamic church related Protestant (30 denominations) seminaries in the nation, announced recently that Dr. Edward Lorenzo Wheeler, Dean of the Chapel and Professor of Religion and Society at Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, Alabama since August 1991, will succeed Richard D. N. Dickinson as president of the Seminary. The Seminary is historically and officially related to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Eight denominations are represented in the CTS faculty.

A broad-based search committee headed by the board's Vice-Chairman, Sallie Rowland, discovered Wheeler to have been a successful pastor, professor and dean of a seminary, a writer and publisher of books, successful head of a college capital funds campaign, and a proven denominational church administrator.
**Rev. Beavers Pension Fund Staff**

(Continued from Page 3)

For many years there have been many persons of African American heritage with similar scholastic and administrative qualifications. They have been successfully engaged in academic endeavors and confronted the same issues and opportunities presented to others. One wonders to what extent any of their names have been seriously considered when search committees sought presidents and/or faculty for other Disciples of Christ-related seminaries and colleges? What does history tell us about other mainline denominations.

We know that for nearly 150 years predominantly Black seminaries and colleges have been enriched by many of these outstanding African American scholars. Apparently the Christian Theological Seminary Board of Directors is the first mainline Protestant church-related seminary in history to garner such wisdom, ability, courage and resources to recruit qualified racial/ethnic candidates to be its president, and then choose one of them as their top selection. It is evident that the climate which exists today at CTS enabling that to happen, had been evolving for several years through seeds sown and constructive actions taken by previous seminary administrations.

A “Sign” is Raised at the Pension Fund

The following announcement appears on the Pension Fund's June 1997 "Bulletin's" front page: "The Rev. Susan Street-Beavers will join the Pension Fund Staff as General representative on June 16. She will be involved primarily in the membership area with special attention to promotion and field work.

"Rev. Street-Beavers is a 1995 graduate of Phillips Theological Seminary...served the Osage Avenue Christian Church in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, and has been active with the Black Ministers Retreat... She is married to James C. Beavers II, and they are the parents of two children, James and Sydney.

Our prayers go up for Susan. She is qualified to serve her Lord and the church effectively in this manner. No doubt she does not see herself primarily as a "pioneer." But the Pension Fund Board of Directors and its administration know that she is a "pioneer!" She is the first African American to be employed as a general field representative by the Pension Fund in its history! This is a promising "symbol."

(Continued on Page 5)
Now a young and recent seminary graduate has been employed. She happens to be African American. Undoubtedly, she will have a broad portfolio with one of her priorities to be the development of new and effective ways to enlist a larger number of racial minority Pension Fund memberships. She should not feel that she is responsible for making up for all the Pension Fund's lost opportunities of the past. She is one member of a committed staff who is charged to serve the whole church. As one member of a team ministry, God will empower her to do her fair share in serving the many Pension Fund needs.

We should not forget that the church employee pension membership decision rests primarily with the congregation employing that minister or staff. The decision also involves the priorities of the pastor or staff. No minister, staff or congregation is forced to join the Pension Fund.

Historically, the nature of ministry for the majority of the predominantly African American Disciples of Christ congregations, as well as the Hispanic, Asian and the majority group congregations, has been based on a lone pastor in bivocational ministry. This pastor's main support usually came from a modest salary or a regularized freewill donation. In addition, among Black congregations, there was an on-going support unit within the congregation often called a "Pastor's Aid Society." This group was (and, where existing, still is) geared to "rally" to the needs (and/or wants) of the minister (and family) on a year round basis. Similar patterns of ministerial support have existed among evolving congregations geared to serve predominantly Hispanic and Asian communities. In addition, many of these pastors were entrepreneurs or had secular employment. (i.e. farming, business, crafts) which provided some resources for retirement.

Another Pension Fund "Sign" at Denver Assembly!

The current Pension Fund Bulletin also carries the following announcement:

"The Ministers Breakfast, sponsored by the Pension Fund (at the 1997 Denver, CO General Assembly) will be held on Tuesday morning at the Adams Mark (Grand Ballroom). The breakfast speaker will be Rev. Dr. Delores Carpenter, Associate Professor of Religious Education at Howard University School of Divinity. She also serves most effectively as the Senior Pastor of Michigan Park Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Washington, DC."

(Continued from page 4)
More Later

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is a predominantly Caucasian denomination with an approximately 7 percent African American composition, and less than 5 percent Hispanic and Asian. Each racial ethnic minority plays an important role in the general church perspective on Christian Witness and Mission.

That's all there is, but there is much more. Space and time do not permit expansion.

We extend a sincere welcome to Dr. Wheeler as the new president of Christian Theological Seminary.

We encircle him, his wife, family and colleagues with prayers of support and thanksgiving.

W. K. Fox, Sr.  Editor

Foulkes - Asso. Gen. Min. & President

(Continued from page 5)

Dr. Carpenter will be the first African American woman minister to address the Minister's Breakfast sponsored at every General Church Assembly by the Pension Fund. Professor Carpenter is employed by an historic and predominant African American institution of higher education. The Michigan Park Church which she serves as pastor has pioneered in becoming racially integrated.

Another "Sign" at the Denver Assembly

Come and See! Dr. John R. Foulkes is an "Associate General Minister and President." for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Note that his portfolio is not labeled "Assistant to" or a "Deputy." He, like his peers in the OGMP, is now an "Associate General Minister and President!" Since the writer was once privileged to be an "Assistant to" the GMP, he can appreciate what the transition from "Assistant to" to "Deputy" and now an "Associate General Minister and President" could mean.

Another meaningful action within the Office of the General Minister and President has been the expansion of General Cabinet membership to assure the authentic representation of the Hispanic and Asian persons in the Cabinet. The General Church Cabinet is a privileged body of general church unit heads and the chief administrative staff for ethnic constituency groups. The Cabinet has stated meetings under the guidance of the General Minister and President. The agenda includes engagement in mutual and open exchange on a variety of issues and church-wide concerns. Now the Cabinet more nearly reflects the racial and cultural diversity evolving throughout the whole church.

Hopefully, the combined actions of portfolio labels and Cabinet memberships will enhance the OGMP's historic commitment to policies and practice which recognize individual merit, peer presence, worthy responsibilities, and appreciation for services rendered. They are symbolic, but in reality reflect the OGMP commitment to total inclusion, mutual respect, and a just distribution of compensation and related amenities. Other manifestations of church should be encouraged to continue their striving to "do likewise."
On Move - continued

From our front windows we have a wonderful view of the spectacular 'Rockies,' which is difficult to describe. You just have to see it." -Walter R Giffin

Note: Walter and Grace are retired General Church Office staff who served during the decade of the 1970's and time of double digit inflation. Walter headed the Church Finance Office dealing with research and statistical analysis of economic trends. This provided counsel for church units as they guided fiscal operations.

Grace was an effective administrative secretary in the OGMP, holding several positions, including Office Secretary for the National Convocation of the Christian Church.

Walter was a "respectable" bowler and golfer.

Thanks for sharing!

DONORS SINCE LAST ISSUE: Cleda Enloe, Raymore, MO; Mattie Chambers, Jefferson City, MO; Ruth R. Patterson, Philadelphia, PA; Rufus Lewis, Jr., Birmingham, AL; Lucille Morrison, Hannibal, MO; Mary E Fugate, Rogersville, TN; Johnnie Howard Calvert, Elliott City, MD; Roland/Pearl Thompson, Cincinnati, OH; C.W./Alpha Arnold, Los Angeles, CA; Jack Sullivan, Jr., Detroit, MI; Robert/Ruth Hudson, George/Julia Harris, T. Garrett/Beverly Benjamin, Jr, Indianapolis, IN; Rosemary/Earl Harris, Kansas City, KS

Seniors on the Move

Colorado Springs, CO-
"It might even be news that Grace and I have moved to 'Village at Skyline' in Colorado Springs, CO. we moved here just two weeks ago and are in the process of getting settled.

This is one of the newer 'adult living communities' sponsored by N.B.A., and in fact, they are in the process of constructing another apartment complex. However, Grace and I are in one of the Garden Homes which we are beginning to enjoy very much.

(Go to Left Column)
The '97 Jarvis Choir Event in Metro Kansas City

Raymore, MO: On April 5-6, 1997 the 30 voice touring choir from Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, TX was featured in a formal, high quality concert under co-directors Ronald O'Neal and Edgar Wiley.

President Sebetha Jenkins and Development Director Zola Walker were featured in lifting the "Jarvis Vision" through informal contact, television and radio.

A positive impact was made on a large number of individuals and families related to eight cooperating metro Disciples of Christ congregations, and the community at-large. The tour group was warmly hosted in homes and became endeared to many hearts.

Money was shared in support of the touring choir and the college's endowed student scholarship fund.

An interracial Steering Sponsoring Task group was launched from Raymore Christian Church by Senior Minister Rick Rintamaa. It was linked with Senior Minister Larry Gray of Raytown Christian Church in a joint sponsorship.

Steering Committee Principals: Upper Left- Rick Rintamaa, Senior Minister of Raymore Christian Church, the initiating sponsor congregation. Raytown CC joined in joint sponsorship. Group picture- left to right: W. K. Fox, Sr., Coordinator of the Event; Sebetha Jenkins, Jarvis President; Bonnie Frazier, Task Force Recorder; Zola Walker, Jarvis Development Director; Eugene Frazier, Co Coordinator. Many others in the initiating church and cooperating congregations assisted.
THE IMPACT OF THE DENVER ASSEMBLY "FINALE SERVICE"

Tuesday evening, July 29, 1997 threatening weather conditions forced the cancellation of the Red Rock Arena as the site of the finale celebration. The interior accommodations the spacious convention center auditorium were used instead.

A sweeping contagion of holy spirit infected the massive congregation.

A "Pentecostal (Continued on p. 2)"

HARVEY & SYBEL THOMAS CALLED "STAINED GLASS SAINTS"

Denver, CO- Harvey and Sybel Thomas of Chicago, IL were doubly honored during the denomination's General Assembly by the Disciples of Christ Historical Society by being the first couple to receive the Society's Faithful Servant Award.

For more than two decades these practicing accountants, have been lay leaders at every level in the Park Manor Christian Church of Chicago, IL.

In addition, they have been frequent world travelers; attended countless meetings of committees and boards, and functioned as cooperating members, and often been elected or appointed chairs.

Regional Minister of Illinois/Wisconsin Nathan Smith referred to them during the award ceremony as "Stained Glass Saints."

The Thomases serve faithfully in both denominational and ecumenical church activity, and have still found time to be frequent world travelers in more than 40 countries, and maintain a real interest in world peace.

TWO AFRICAN AMERICAN SEMINARY PRESIDENTS

James H. Evans, Jr., recently elected president of Colgate Rochester Divinity School and Crozer Theological Seminary, Rochester, New York, is joined by Edward Lorenzo Wheeler, president of Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, IN. Both African American scholars have had formal relationship to the seminary programs in Rochester. Dr. Wheeler received his Master of Divinity degree from Colgate Rochester Divinity School, and now Dr. Evans has become its first African American president.

In a recent report to alumni and friends of the Seminary, Dr. Evans reported "that we have completed our 180th year of theological education here at Colgate Rochester.

(Continued on page 2)"
Indianapolis, IN - A new plan has finally been developed this summer by Mansur Real Estate Services, Inc., an Indianapolis based operation, to convert the 121,000-square foot Missions Building, the former International Office Center for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), into approximately 80 apartments for adults 55 and over.

Two years ago, soon after the denomination elected to move its offices to the central city, an agreement was reached to renovate the historic Irvington landmark into affordable retirement housing by the Retirement Housing Foundation of Long Beach, Calif. However, the plan failed before work could be started.

Under the new agreement, the Board of Christian Church Services for the denomination, will still be owners of the building. This, says Christian Services General Manager Ryan D. Hazen, is "the different piece from the last proposal." Church ownership will qualify Mansur to apply for tax credits for the project.

In 1996 the Indian Housing Finance Authority awarded $2.67 in tax credits to Retirement Housing Foundation, but those credits were not used when their plan failed to materialize. This time, the building will not be sold, but will be kept by an appropriate church unit.

Many residents in Irvington, including Paul C. Diebold, president of the Irvington Historical Society, are pleased because the denomination will maintain a measure of real interest in the venture. Diebold says the community needs elderly housing. Some residents

(Continued on page 4)

James H. Evens, Jr. Now Heads Colgate Rochester Divinity

(Continued from page 1)

"This has been a year of hope, vision, and change. Important changes on the Hill include the renovation of the Ambrose Swasey Library and relocation of the American Bible Society."

(Continued on page 4)

Denver Opened:

(Continued from page 1)

TYPE ATMOSPHERE PERMEATED ALL ASPECTS OF THE PROGRAM.

MODERN DANCERS MOVED WITH THE FLOW OF THE MUSIC; GUITARISTS VIGOROUSLY STRUMMED THEIR INSTRUMENTS. A MASS GOSPEL CHORUS, COLORFULLY ENRICHED WITH A GENEROUS SPRINKLING OF RACIALLY ETHNIC MEMBERS, MESHED THEIR BEAUTIFUL VOICES IN SONG.

MEANWHILE CAMERAS ZOOMED IN ON THE HANDS OF A YOUNG

There were high inspirational times at the Denver, CO General Assembly! Goodwill and openness filled the air!

(Continued on page 4)
Faithful Congregations Anchor Irvington Community & Project

OLDEST PART: Built in 1902 as the Bona Thompson Library, this structure is part of the Missions Building in Irvington.
Disciples Church Unit to be Legal Owner of Missions Building Project

(Continued from page 2)

are retired church employees with personal affection for the premises.

The project is expected to assist concerned residents, the existing churches, schools and other Irvington institutions in maintaining and stabilizing this historic community.

Mansur is a $500 million company which has processed successful programs of this nature in several Downtown projects, including the Century Building and Lockerbie Market Place. The architect, Browning, Day, Mulins & Dierdorf, is also based in Indianapolis and has been credited with good work on the RCA Dome and the Victory Field athletic facility.

The Irvington Historical Society desires to work with the church in securing financial resources to convert the Bona Thompson Library wing, the oldest part of the Missions Building complex, into a cultural center to serve apartment residents and the community. Note this section in the collage.

An INDIANPOLIS STAR newspaper photographer's rendition of this oldest section of the complex can be seen in the collage on page three. Before Butler University moved to the west side of town this building served as the college library.

Authorities on architecture claim the Missions Building is "one of the finest Neoclassical buildings in the city."

Denver Inspired!

(Continued from page 2)

MASTERFUL PIANIST AS HE TOUCHED THE IVORY KEYS. ALMOST EVERY HEART, HAND AND HEAD WAS AFFECTED.

HIS POWERS SEEMED TO BE THAT OF A MUSICAL MAGICIAN.

A Gigantic Exclamation Point Seemed Splashed Across the Celebrative Assembly Scene.

Assembly planners, aided by such an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, had opened up unforeseen ways to highlight program emphases.

(Continued on page 5)

Ways to Spoil Your Grandchild (Borrowed from “Family Circle” 1-97)

S poil your grandchild! ... with the parent's permission, of course. It's a grandparent's right and responsibility as well as a grandchildren expectation. Just make it a point to spoil all of your grandchildren equally.

C reate a postcard collection for the grandkids by sending them one from every place you visit. (or put them in a photo album.) Dream about visiting these places together some day.

W hen they visit, schedule a "Granny School" session. Each day devote an hour to reading a book or working on a craft project...

Keep a box of old clothes etc. handy to play "dress up." Periodically add new things.

T o remain a special and well-loved grandparent, remember that advice that is not asked for is advice that should not be given.
Patricia Clark Passes Baton to NBA

Raymore, MO- Patricia Clark, the former director of Social Services in the Central Office of the National Benevolent Association recently moved on to other areas of humanitarian service. Pat, along with several others, was a major reason for NBA's arriving at a much higher level of sensitivity to human hurt and care than it had when she took over from the first Director of Minority Concerns, the late Ariminta Smith, eight and a half years ago. Ariminta was just beginning to blaze the trail for NBA when she met untimely death.

For several generations NBA had tunnel vision in its care for others. The original vision given by dedicated church women in 1886 received varied interpretations by key NBA leaders for different times in different places. For example, the National Christian Missionary Convention (initially the only national organization primarily concerned with predominantly African American congregations) convened its 38th annual gathering in St. Louis, MO August 16-22, 1954. The host committee from Centennial Christian Church, received an ad from NBA to be used by the congregation in the "Welcome Program."

Among other things, the promotional ad said: "During the Crusade for a Christian World, the Disciples of Christ churches contributed $33,587 for service to Negro Aged, and $26,867 for service to Negro children. Surely every Negro Christian could average a Benevolent Dollar each year to help maintain the program, once our Benevolent Program is established." The one page ad was printed in the "Welcome" program! Pat helped raise NBA sights on such matters far beyond that ad.

Social Services and Historical Perspective Encouraged

While providing leadership for seminars in the National Convocation of Christian Church's "School of Faith and Life" for 16 years, she stimulated dialog among congregational leaders on how congregations could initiate and sustain community social services.

Pat regards her role in creating older adult low-income housing interest in congregations the most rewarding of her NBA experiences. She proudly refers to two projects to be launched this fall. One is to be co-sponsored with NBA and the Spencer Church of Christ in Spencer, OK. The other is the Marilla Jackson-R. H. Peoples Living Center sponsored by the Light of the World Christian Church in Indianapolis, IN, led by Bishop T. Garrett Benjamin, Jr. The latter project honors Bishop Benjamin's grandmother and the late Dr. Peoples, one of the denomination's great leaders.

(Continued on page 6)
Robert Martin: Former Military Officer and Retired Corporation Staff, Ordained a Disciple of Christ Minister

Robert Marty proves it is never too late in life to prepare giving yourself totally to the service of the Lord and his Church.

Mexico, MO- After 34 years of employment as A. P. Green Industries export specialist, Robert H. Martin was ordained June 22, 1997 at First Christian Church where he had been chairman of the board elders. Rev. Marilyn L. Stavenger, who is Professor of Field Education and the Practice of Ministry at Eden Theological Seminary, St. Louis, MO, brought the principal message.

Marty, who recently received his Master of Divinity Degree from Eden Seminary, once served as president of the Park Avenue Christian (Disciple of Christ) Church in East Orange, N.J. He is currently pastor of Midway Christian (Disciples of Christ) Church in Audrain County and for the Kingdom Parish of the Auxvasse City and Benton City Presbyterian churches (USA). Marty has also been a city councilman and mayor of Mexico, MO.

Other participants in the service of ordination were: Randall Sawyer, host pastor, and Sally R. Erickson, minister of education for First Christian Church; Stephen Cranford, Regional Minister for the Christian (Disciples of Christ) Church in Mid America; Ralph Glenn, Northeast Area Minister for the Mid America Region.

Frieda Foland, pastor of Tulip Christian (Disciples of Christ) Church, Madison, MO; Robert Fenlon, elder, First Presbyterian Church of Mexico and past moderator of the Missouri Union Presbytery; Greg Higley, pastor of the St. Brendan Catholic Church; Kendra Jackson sang "Amazing Grace," and Paula K. Nials of Albuquerque, N. M., read Scripture.

Pat's "Walk Down Memory Lane"

(Continued from page 5)

Early in her tenure on the NBA staff, she initiated the “Walk Down Memory Lane” which included an 85 picture presentation in 1990 and stimulated numbers of African American Disciples of Christ and others to uncover historical archives lying untouched for years in their homes and churches.

Prior to coming to Missouri, the former NBA Director of Social Services was active in the Fifth Christian Church of Cleveland, OH.

(Continued on page 8)
THANK YOU FOR SHARING!

DONORS SINCE THE LAST ISSUE: Jack/Gloria Sullivan, Detroit, MI; Joyce B. Coaslon, Ernest/Janice Newborn, Leslie/Elizabeth Kingsberry, Walter/Sue Cardwell, Berta/Arthur Detamore, Indianapolis, IN; Ruby L. Washington, Chicago, IL; (Rev) Sere S. Myers, K. David/Violanuth Cole Kansas City, MO; Ruth Ellington, Lorraine P. Dudley, St. Louis, MO; Charles E. McGee, Bethesda, MD; Dan/Frances Genung, Claremont, CA; N. Merle Mott, Charles/Virginia Holmes, Raymore, MO; Dr. Enoch W. Henry, Jr. Hollywood, CA; Mrs. Annette Jackson, Nashville, TN; Hannah J. Hurdle-Toomey, Belleville, IL; Louise L. Moseley, Columbia, MO; Marcella W. Hill, Washington, D.C.; Arzolla Cooke, Knoxville, TN; Mary Poston, Philadelphia, PA; Cornelius/Alpha Arnold, Los Angeles, CA; Berda R. Sewell, Kansas City, MO, (Dr) Sere S. Myers, Sr., Leawood, KS, Willie E. Green, Jefferson City, MO; Joanne H./William Roberts, Annandale, VA;

Kansas City, MO- Sophia Jennings Watkins, born in Hermannville, MS October 3, 1897 died September 14, 1997, a few days before her 100th birthday. Honored as “Mother of the Church” by King David Chapel CC of Hermannville, she left 6 children, 1 sister, 22 grandchildren, 32 great grandchildren and 11 great great grandchildren. A daughter, Georgia, is married to Rev. George Lakes, Sr. The memorial was Sept. 20 at Swope Park CC. George Lakes, Jr. gave the eulogy and Senior Minister K. David Cole officiated. Burial was in Forest Hill Cemetery.

(Please cut here and mail.)

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In This Issue...
      NBA's Pat Clark Passes Baton on to Others- Missions Building Housing Project Nears Reality

Her Vibrant Witness is Appreciated.

(Continued from page 6)

But her roots go back to the Piedmont Area in Virginia, where her great-aunt, Judy Stovall, founded the Christian Church in Willis, VA. She became excited when in researching the Piedmont's church history, she found a picture of the gathering of church leaders, and there was her Aunt Judy!

Pat is glad to know that St. James Christian Church, Wilson, NC, may be the first church in that area related to the Seaboard Assemblies to sponsor a HUD 202 housing unit. She helped stimulate the interest. She has passed on the baton of enlightened progress to several qualified NBA staff. We appreciate Pat's vibrant witness. WKF, SR, Editor
The Parental Roots of A. O. Jackson

Most readers will have special interest in the parental roots of Alvin O. Jackson, the current Senior Pastor of the 7,800 member Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church, in Memphis, TN, who will become the Senior Minister of National City Christian Church, Washington, D. C., in April, 1998.

The early formation of the Alvin O. Jackson saga has specific relationship to his becoming a vital force in the effective witness of the historic Memphis congregation since 1979 and now, the first African American minister to be called as the Senior Pastor of National City Christian (Disciples of Christ) Church.

(Continued on page 2)

"The Jacksonian background" rests upon left to right, Queen Esther Jackson, the mother; Tina Brown Jackson, the wife; Alvin O’Neal Jackson, the husband and center piece; Cullen O’Neal Jackson, “the future;” and Clyde Jackson, the Papa.

"The Jacksonian Background" is set in deeply rooted Christian values.

Meanwhile in Memphis, TN the denomination's largest congregation was planning tearful rituals of goodbye for their illustrious Senior Pastor, Alvin O. Jackson, who was preparing to leave for the East Coast to become the first African American Senior Min

(Continued on page 2)
Alvin's father, Clyde Jackson, was born in Claibourne County, MS in 1922. When Clyde was three years old, he was adopted by Isom C. Franklin and his wife, Georgia (Williams), a young, God-fearing couple in Pine Grove, MS. They provided devoted parental care for Clyde in this small rural town nestled in an area where several early African American Disciples of Christ "heroes" were born like Rosa (Welch) and Leslie Page, Cleo Blackburn and Deetsey Blackburn (Gray), Rosa Brown (Bracy), William Jennings, to name a few.

Isom C. Franklin attended the Disciples of Christ mission sponsored Southern Christian Institute less than 70 miles away in Edwards, MS. He developed into one of the "Spiritual Godfathers" within early African American Christian (Disciples of Christ) church life. When Franklin completed the education provided for S.C.I. students in that day, he was committed to the Christian ministry. Home missions church leaders sent him to Virginia and South Carolina as an "Evangelist." Soon after he returned to the mid-South in Lum, AL where he led in the establishment of Lum Christian Institute, another mission schools sponsored by Disciples of Christ to meet the educational needs of African American students in that day.

Eventually Franklin returned to Mississippi where he became a reconciling and forward-moving leadership force among the predominantly African American congregations. I. C. Franklin lived long enough to make a positive impact upon the pre-school life of the embryonic Disciples of Christ minister, Alvin O'Neal Jackson. However, the Christian witness of Franklin was indelibly stamped on his adopted son, Clyde Jackson, who would eventually bring it fully to bear upon his son, Alvin O. Jackson and his sisters.

Clyde Jackson's strong spiritual formation enabled him to struggle valiantly and successfully to get an education. The struggle began in the Southern Christian Institute, where his step-father had gone. He went there in 1939 and worked for a year before enrolling. Clyde continued as "a work student" until he successfully completed high school and the junior college program. He then entered Jarvis Christian College in Hawkins, TX in 1947.

(Continued on page 3)
When Jarvis' professors Earl Rand, and Charles Berry, left Hawkins, TX to join Alcorn A. and M. College faculty, Alcorn, MS in 1947, Clyde followed them there to complete his college work under their tutelage. *(Both of these professors were eventually elected as presidents of Jarvis Christian College.)*

Meantime, the mother-to-be of Alvin O. Jackson, Queen Esther Mace, of Learned, MS was following a similar faith journey. Preparation for her parental responsibilities came through being born into a large farm family of eleven children, a few miles from Southern Christian Institute in Edwards. She entered SCI as a student in 1944 where she met fellow student, Clyde Jackson. She found him already deeply immersed in campus life.

Each pursued different campus interests, but both became trusted and contributing members of the campus community. Clyde worked with Dean of Men, James Ratten, as the Head Student Counselor in the Boy's Dormitory. Before graduation he had served as President of the YMCA, Student Ministerial Group, Student Council, and his graduating class. Meantime, Queen Esther quietly joined her sister, Mannetta, as a dependable student associate for the Head Dietitian, Mrs. Ethel Rollins. During the World War II years Queen Esther helped to guide a work group of students who operated a large campus canning and food preservation program. This included harvesting fruits, vegetables, picking wild berries, and all of the necessary activities necessary for food preservation. These services were crucial to the successful conduct of World War II, as well as the survival of the small Church mission school.

**The Jacksonian Story Begins**

In 1948 Clyde and Queen Esther were married. Queen left SCI in 1949 to join her husband, Clyde, in Indianola, Jasper County, MS where both were employed in the Laurel, MS public school system. Queen Esther drew upon her strong family background provided by her parents, George and Esther Mace, and her ten brothers and sisters. This family setting enabled Queen Esther to become a major factor in building up the Jackson Household.

Her parents had been hard working farmers who died before they were able to fully discharge their parental responsibilities. That task *(Continued on page 4)*

**THE OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE**

"Rocking Chair " View Sees Race as a Factor"

*(Continued from page 2)*

In spite of the probability that outmoded social tradition and narrow vision won out in the recent Georgia debacle, the forces of right and Christian courage are not dead in Georgia. Reportedly the Search Committee voted to nominate Dr. William Edwards, the eminently qualified Executive Minister for the Memphis, TN Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church, as Regional Minister for Georgia. They were joined by others on the Official Board, but not enough for the two-thirds required. However, God's larger will for the Church is on its way in Georgia.

The currents of race relations which swirl around us today should cause us to question ourselves. "What would Jesus Christ do as a voting member of an official board dealing with issues which have racial factors? How do we handle such matters in our home? our neighborhood? our town? Why can't we talk and act more courageously on such matters within the life of the church?"

- wkf-

***NOTE: This will be a viewpoint column and will be carried periodically. If interested, send contributions to THE’ GRAPEVINE addresses listed on page 11- wkf"
Family Solidarity: A Jacksonian Building

had fallen to the oldest sister and brother. Eight of the children are still living. Five remain in Mississippi and three are in California, Illinois and Indiana. Most have had successful teaching careers and are retired. Each is a member of a Christian (Disciples of Christ) Church.

The heritage streams of the Mace Family and Jackson Family were joined by Clyde and Queen Esther when they were married in 1948. Alvin was born in Laurel, MS in 1950 and grew up in Indianola. A sister, Mavis, followed. She is a public school teacher in Indianapolis, IN. Then twin sisters, Clareetta and Loretta were born. Clareetta lives in Knoxville, TN and works for a computer contractor. Her husband, Walter Sullivan, is an M.D. and bother of Dr. Louis Sullivan, the former Secretary of Health. Twin sister, Loretta, lives in Oakland, CA and works in a hospital. She has a PH.D in Micro Biology and an M.D. in Emergency Room Medicine. Her husband is a public school administrator.

The Jackson's and New Horizons

Clyde and Queen Esther moved to Sunflower County, MS where they lived in Indianola and worked in the public school system. He retired as principal of an elementary school in the Jasper County School System, near Laurel, MS. Queen Esther was a faithful worker with senior citizens. They live in retirement on the old Mace family farm place, near Edwards, MS.

Like most parents, Clyde and Queen Esther Jackson, have watched their children grow with bated breath and daily prayers. Parental rewards have been many. Now they look toward the Nation's Capitol to view their son, Alvin O'Neal Jackson, as he leaves Memphis to provide ministerial leadership for a congregation which is charged with an expansive and important mandate in Christian mission.

Hopefully, its strategic location in the Nation's Capitol, and the abiding commitment of talents and resources in this faithful membership will form a winning combination as Pastor Jackson mounts its pulpit.
The Capitol City Mission Sets High Expectation

(Continued from page 4)

But Clyde and Queen Esther Jackson are not alone as they look at their son, Alvin O. Jackson, and his new frontier. Minister Jackson is joined by his wife, Tina, a faithful and most efficient help-mate and homemaker. She has also been the catalyst for developing a significant congregation sponsored day school program in Memphis. She was the first principal and now Director of Development and Public Relations for the Mississippi Boulevard Christian Academy, which is a fully accredited pre-school to the 6th grade school with a solid 400 member student body.

Tina, a native of Roanoke, VA met Alvin in that city while he was the Senior Pastor at Louden Avenue Christian Church. She has been by his side as a help mate as he completed his basic seminary work at Duke University; and, before coming to Mississippi Boulevard in Memphis, TN, he labored as an most effective associate pastor to Thomas Garrett Benjamin, Jr., the eminent senior minister at Light of the World Christian Church, Indianapolis, IN. Tina has always enriched the quality in the educational aspects of her husband’s ministry. Their teen aged son, Cullen O’Neal, joins his mother to assure Alvin O. Jackson, the father and husband, high quality assistance in Washington, D. C.

The Challenge Continues

Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church has long been a sacred treasure in the expression of the Christian religion and African American socio-economic, and political empowerment in the South. For more than two generations, its Senior Pastor Blair T. Hunt, who was a high school principal and silver tongued pulpiteer, joined hands and heart with J. E. Walker, a faithful Disciples of Christ layman, to make Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church a standard bearing congregation.

Dr. Walker finished medical school, but decided to establish a bank and start an insurance company. Hunt and Walker joined with God and like-minded associates in the congregation to motivate the upbuilding of the African American community in Metro Memphis, TN and adjoining mid-Southern areas. Pastors and associated leaders in the Mississippi Boulevard congregation have faithfully tried to build upon that rich legacy. Alvin O. Jackson has been more successful in doing this than anyone else.

(Continued on page 6)

THE OLDTIMERS’ GRAPEVINE

Johns: Founding Executive Director at Foxwood Springs, Retires

NBA Leader, Tom Johns, Pioneered in Inclusive Ministry

Raymore, MO- Tom Johns, the former athlete, college administrator, and gifted NBA leader, was given a celebrative retirement salute by some 200 friends and family at the Foxwood Springs Living Center November 7, 1997. He left college administration, to become the founding chief executive at Foxwood Springs.

After 16 years of stellar service, he became a regional field executive for the Central Office of NBA for another 6 and 1/2 years. Virginia McHenry, a devoted associate, was Mistress of Ceremonies. Regional Field Executive James Frazier, gave a warm tribute in behalf of NBA. Tom’s children and grandchildren shared statements of appreciation.
An Empowered Memphis Church Faces

The Jackson Story which began with the union of Clyde Jackson and Queen Esther Mace, two humble people from small towns in rural Mississippi, continues. Alvin Jackson's doctoral thesis was entitled: "A Preaching Model for Equipping Disciples (Making Numbers Count)". Memphis, Tennessee's Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church was an outstanding proving ground. It should have significant duplication at National City Christian Church.

OPHELIA G. HENRY JOINS "CENTURY CLUB"

Mother Henry at 100 years old and the surviving Henry family.

Palestine, TX- Ophelia S. Henry, the youngest of twelve children born of Matthew and Eliza Choice Spencer in Smith County, TX October 12, 1897, joined the "Century Club" this year! Eight living members of her family of ten children, honored her with a 100th. Birthday Celebration October 11, 1997 in New Fellowship Christian Church. Ophelia Spencer was a graduate of Northeast Texas Christian Theological and Industrial College of Palestine. Her lifelong partner, Enoch W. Henry, Sr., joined to give steadfast and enlightened church leadership in East Texas. Together, they raised a family which has seen some of its members (i.e. Carol, Enoch, Jr., Kenneth) play significant leadership roles throughout the Christian (D of C) Church. The Century Celebration was enriched with tributes and readings from Enoch W. Henry, Jr., and Carol Boyd. Floyd D. (pianist) combined with an aunt, Mattie Estes (organist) to do an instrumental duet in memory of his brother, DeChun. Ophelia Henry has 22 grandchildren, 31 great grandchildren, and 9 great great grandchildren. She is best known as a friend to all.

Jarvis' 4th Annual Pioneer Induction Rite Held

Hawkins, TX- Among a star-studded cast of twelve senior citizen "high achievers" to be inducted into the Jarvis Christian College's Pioneer Hall of Fame October 1997 during its Fourth Annual Banquet observance, were Milton A. Curry and Ellis Lawrence Jordan of Chicago, IL James O. Griffin of Kilgore, TX and Effie Stamps Burford of Indianapolis, IN. All are veteran church leaders, with noteworthy participation in the congregational, regional, and national life and work of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Ellis Jordan's early introduction to the church came as a student in the former Southern Christian Institute of Edwards, MS. He went on to secure a B. S. degree from Alabama State University before launching on honorable military service in the United States Army in 1942. He returned to civilian life in 1945 to join his wife, Louise Hill, in nurturing a fine family of two daughters and three sons for 54 years.

(Continued on page 7)
For more than 50 years he has been a stalwart member and leader in Park Manor Christian Church of Chicago, IL, the Parent Teacher Association movement; the Star Supporter Ministerial Scholarship Fund effort of his denomination; as well as a faithful participant in civic groups concerned with humanitarian betterment. Many awards were received during this long course of service.

Milton A. Curry, a native of Indianapolis, IN, was the first African American to be named by the governor of Illinois as a commissioner and Chair of the Illinois State Scholarship Commission, responsible for the administration of more than $100 million dollars in state and federal funds. He is a graduate of Jarvis Christian College, and is a member of its Board of Directors.

After earning a doctoral degree in social psychology from Indiana University, he returned to Illinois where he became an active member in the Park Manor Christian Church. He rose to the presidency of the Illinois Head Start and Day Care Association. Later he became the President of the Region V Head Start Association, and a board member of the National Head Start Association.

Dr. Curry is an active Disciples of Christ minister, and is currently the senior minister at Parkway Gardens Christian Church. He was recently elected to the Board of the General Church.

He is married to Larris Verniece Curry. They have three children, Milan Alexander, Milah Alexandra, and Ebony Alia.

James O. Griffin, of Kilgore, TX, was born in Greenville, TX. He’s a proven educator and administrator, and an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

His educational career includes instructorships in mathematics and all of the sciences; coaching football and basketball; holding principalships of an elementary school; and serving as vice-president of Development-Church Relations at his alma mater, Jarvis Christian College.

He has been involved in all denominational structures, including teaching Sunday School, eldership, chair of the congregation, presidency of fellowship groups, district, state and national, and a board member of major church agencies and program units. He is currently the Vice-President of the National Convocation of the Christian Church.

His family consists of wife, E. Nixon Griffin and two children, Mrs. Pamela R. Mitchell; Dr. James D. Griffin, and five grandchildren.

Effie Stamps Burford, is a native of Learned, MS, and an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Formal preparation for service began as a student at former Southern Christian Institute of Edwards. Following completion of the program, she went to Tougaloo College, Tougaloo, MS and Butler University, Indianapolis, IN. She was a major in Spanish and earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Religious Studies from Butler, and later, a Masters Degree in History and the Bible.

Mrs. Buford has been Chair for the denomination’s Reconciliation Steering Committee; Vice-Chair of the Board for its Division of Overseas Ministries; and Vice President of the National Convocation of the Christian (Disciples of Christ) Church. She has headed the Board of Yoke Fellow Institute, Regional Director of the Year for Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., and inducted into the Tougaloo College Hall of Fame, Tougaloo, MS. She has been in volunteer service in USA & overseas.

Her family includes, a son, Maurice M. Boler, and daughters, Mesdames Cecelia A. Johnson, and Suzette Fears.
Greenwood, MS- Aaron Johnson, who has provided 40 years steadfast ministerial service to the First Christian/East Percy Street Christian (Disciples of Christ) Church, Greenwood and Northside Christian Church of West Point, MS, will be presented the Pension Fund's Honor Pin December 30, 1997.

Regional Minister William McKnight will be joined with Retired General Church Staff Ozark Range, Sr. in making the presentation during a banquet program at East Percy Street.

Former Director for Black Ministry Range, Sr., says "At the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement, Aaron Johnson and the Greenwood congregation were the very first in the area to open their doors. Pastor Johnson was frequently called upon to interpret this stance of openness and reconciliation in other Mississippi congregations serving both races."

Church records describe the years of the Civil Rights Struggle in Mississippi (1959-1963), when the congregation had to change its name from "First Christian" to "East Percy Street Christian Church." The name "First Christian" had been adopted in 1946 under the leadership of Elders E. L. Griffin and Thomas Brooks. They had elected to changed the name from "Colored Christian Chapel of Greenwood," which had been taken when the church was established July 20, 1920, to "First Christian."

The fires of racial hatred and Jim Crowism were burning brightly in Greenwood during these years. Consequently, it was expedient that the congregation change its name from "First Christian" to East Percy Street Christian Church. The controversy over name, caused the newly elected young pastor, Aaron Johnson, to raise group consciousness, increase Christian solidarity in the congregation, and perform Christian witness.

Between 1964 and 1974 the congregation was committed to making the existing church structure more functional, and to add a modern an educational building. Program activities in the congregation increased.

Rev. Johnson was elected the chairman of the district structure of the church and later, President of the Mississippi Christian Missionary Convention. He served six years as the Chairman of the Auditing Committee for delegates to the International Convention of Christian Churches. Finally, in 1979 the congregation completed its dream for having a renovated church building and a new educational plant.

Aaron Johnson has been building a Christian ministry founded on Gospel principles lived and implanted African American Disciples of Christ heroes like pastors M. C. Tisdale, Edward L. Griffin, B. L. Jacobs, Eugene Mason, Bird C. Culvert, Jimmie C. Keys, Sr. (and Jr.), S. D. Yarbrough, John Gill and others. When Senior Pastor Aaron Johnson, wife, Alma, and children, Carl Vann and Wyneva, joins him as he receives the Honor Pin, that moment will symbolize the passing on of rich contributions to the witness of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Mississippi and the nation.

Rev. Johnson spurred renovation equipping the church to meet human need
Anthony Thomas: A Perry Como Associate

Cleveland, OH- Anthony Barret Thomas, the Humboldt, TN native with an "ear for music" and a "mellow, tenor voice, passed away October 16, 1997 and was memorialized October 22 in Dunham Avenue Christian Church. Della January, one of the three daughters of the deceased, currently of the National Convocation of Christian Church, read the obituary. Pastor Cornelius Edwards gave the eulogy and officiated. Other sharing in the service included Lawrence Anderson, Pastor, Parkwood Christian Church and Timothy James, Pastor, Fifth Christian Church.

Early in his musical career he worked as a waiter at the Fenway Hall Hotel of Cleveland, OH where he met the singer, Perry Como. They sang as they served the hotel guests. An agent encouraged them both to come to New York City in an effort to become recording artists. Perry Como took up the offer and went on to become a famous recording star. Anthony Thomas remained in Cleveland where he devoted his talents to singing, directing choirs, and working as a lay elder in the Cedar Avenue Christian Church.

While employed by an insurance company and the Cuyahoga Public Library System, he was a member of the well known African American male Southlanders Glee Club and sang for many weddings, concerts, teas, and funerals.

He is survived by his wife, Lucille; daughters, Della, Louellen and Betty, three grandsons, a stepson, granddaughter, and many nieces and nephews.

Vinton D. Bradshaw: Established CTS Field Extension Program

Indianapolis, IN- Vinton D. Bradshaw, 75, the initiator and supervisor of Christian Theological Seminary's field education program for 29 years, died October 6, 1997. His Homegoing was celebrated October 10 in University Park Christian Church where he was a member.

The Drake University graduate with a master's and doctorate degree from Butler School of Religion and Boston University respectively, also served as an Indiana associate regional minister for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and was a minister for congregations in Tennessee, Iowa, and Paragon, IN.

He is survived by wife, Martha June; children, Rebecca Bradshaw Price, Sarah Beth Bradshaw Settacase, David H. Bradshaw; sister Lola Bradshaw Knudesen; and six grandchildren.

R. Lesly Page Smith

Chicago, IL- R. Lesly Page Smith, 95, native of Port Gibson, MS, was memorialized in her church of membership, Park Manor Christian Church, October 21, 1997. She was preceded in death by her only sister, Rosa Page Welch.

Lesly received early formal education at Southern Christian Institute, Edwards, MS and moved to Chicago, IL in 1932 to a long and effective service in the church. She (Continued on page 10)
began as a faithful member and worker in the Oakwood Boulevard Christian Church, and remained for more than 40 years as a leader in a variety of ways as the core membership moved to Indiana Avenue, and eventually to the present location called Park Manor.

In addition to being a member of the Finance Committee and Financial Secretary of the Church for more than 40 years, she was a Christian Women's Fellowship group leader and president; teacher in Vacation Church School, and Church Clerk. She was a recipient of many honors, awards, and testimonials.

Park Manor Pastor James L. Demus brought the eulogy with Associate Pastor, Monte Akers, Jr., assisting. The Sanctuary Choir sang and Benjamin Rogers, Jr. sang "The 23rd Psalm" by Matthews. Final rituals took place at Oakland Memory Lanes.

Among the family cherishing her memory are: niece, Linnie Freeman; nephew, Gale (Lois) Welch; and many distant kin.

Indianapolis, IN- October 27-29, 1997 the Board of Trustees of 31 members and the 35 member faculty, along with staff and students of Christian Theological Seminary of Indianapolis, IN, joined in celebration with hundreds of friends and alumni to inaugurate Edward L. Wheeler as the fifth president.

He is the first African American scholar and administrator to lead this large seminary Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) related institution with more than 400 students from some fifteen denominations.

More than 600 persons crammed into the chapel to hear the new president. He challenged the seminary board, students and friends to make CTS the leading seminary in America by strengthening its foundation. That foundation, according to Wheeler, rests upon "spirituality, diversity, partnership and scholarship."

Dr. Alvin Jackson, senior minister at Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church, Memphis, TN brought the inaugural address. Other well known members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) who participated in the three days of inaugural ceremony were: Richard L. Hamm, President and General Minister, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); Bishop T. Garrett Benjamin, Jr., Senior Pastor, Light of the World Christian Church; C. Edward Weisheimer, Regional Minister, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Indiana; M. Lamar Campbell, Minister of Music and Spirit of Praise Choir, Light of the World Christian Church; Daniel B. Manworren, Associate General Minister for Administration; and Charles Webb, Jr, DHM Director of Black Ministries.

Representatives came from seven Christian Church units, twenty theological seminaries, ten universities and colleges; and fourteen ecclesiastical and religious institutions.
Have a Blessed Holiday Season!

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Vision Nears Fulfillment

Indianapolis, IN- Bishop T. Garrott Benjamin has always believed "the church ought to serve people from the cradle to the grave." Thus, Light of the World Christian Church has a "Respect Academy for Children," a 200 plot section in Crown Hill Cemetery known as Light of the World Memorial Gardens, and has begun construction of senior citizen housing, named in memory of his grandmother, Marilla Jackson, and his spiritual mentor, Dr. Robert H. Peoples.

First of four 50 unit senior citizen housing reaches full occupancy as the last phase of Bishop T. Garrott Benjamin's vision of "Cradle to Grave Services" sponsored by Light of the World nears fulfillment.