The Oldtimers' Grapevine, Volume 10 (January - December 2000)

William K. Fox Sr

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"A Roll Call" for a Few of the Many "For Whom the Bell Tolls"- 1990-2000 by William K. Fox, Sr

Only a few, yet sparks from their lives could gather into a flame which would light up the twentieth century. Only a few, but there is space before and in between for you to add names from your family and friends. Only a few, but each story aspects of goodness and courage in the grand human journey. Only a few, but as you read the names, tears well up inside like a fountain, and roll down your cheeks in a trickling fall. You remember the face; you recall the name; you image a picture; you recite a personal encounter; you find yourself rambling back through the years of the 20th Century.

Fill those names in now. Fill them on paper. Fill them in a story. Fill them in a book. This "Roll Call" of a few Christians could help you look back across the 20th century. These few are examples of the variety of ways Disciples can make a witness to the Christ Way. They may shed light on what Way might be for you in the 21st Century.

AMONG THE MANY IN 1990:

E. TOY FLETCHER (1/25), Chicago, IL; early education in Southern Christian Institute, MS; key lay leader in Park Manor Christian Church; social services administrator 30 years concerned with juvenile delinquency programs; pioneer member on NBA Central Office Board of Directors.

LEVADA COUNTISS (4/28), Chicago, IL; Louisiana born member of Park Manor Christian Church; dedicated auxiliary member; gourmet volunteering her skills to church; serving the affluent on call.

CARRIE DEE HANCEOCK, Indianapolis, IN; Member of United Christian Missionary Society field staff who teamed with Lorenzo J. Evans to conduct the first on-site survey of congregations affiliated with the National Christian Missionary Convention.

FEDEL KEYES, Mission, KS; veteran pastor of the Alta Vista Christian Church of Kansas City, MO; featured vocalist with the widely traveled choir of the predominantly Hispanic congregation; guest soloist for International Conventions of the Christian Church.

AMONG THE MANY IN 1991:

WILLIAM GUY, Dayton, OH, faithful elder and Christian education leader in Summit Christian Church who died unexpectedly enroute to Chicago, IL to bury his mother.

ELBY BOOSINGER (4/27), Indianapolis, IN; a retired General Church staff head of Men’s Work; catalyst urging...
CMF groups in to support the Star Supporter Ministerial Scholarship Fund during the odd years when the National Convocation of the Christian Church did not assemble.

E. C. WELCH (5/19), Chicago, IL; One hundred year lay church leader; affiliated with the University and Park Manor Christian congregations as a choir director; faithful husband and keeper of “home base” and family for his wife, the world traveling “Ambassador of Goodwill.”

REX THOMAS (12/20), Indianapolis, IN; member of the denomination’s Pension Fund staff mounting annual campaigns to raise funds to bolster resources needed for ministerial relief and health care.

JESSE JAMES HAWKINS (6/20), Hawkins, TX; first African American to complete a divinity degree program at the Drake University School of Religion; successful pastor, social work administrator; National Convocation of CC advocate; and interpreter of the Jarvis Christian College educational mission

JOHN FULTON (6.27), Indianapolis, IN; lay member of Downey Avenue Christian Church; civics teacher, government employee, and volunteer ombudsman for rights, privileges and legislation in support of senior citizens

DONALD BOWELS (8/19), Indianapolis, IN; lay leader and member of Downey Avenue Christian Church; covenants teacher, government employee, and volunteer ombudsman for rights, privileges and legislation in support of senior citizens

FRANK G. REID (8/23), Chicago, IL; died in retirement; native Jamaican; graduate of Harvard Divinity School; anchored himself in a 27 year “tent-maker ministry” enabling the historic Jackson Boulevard Christian Church to survive as a viable and contributing congregation.

VERNON B. HILL (11/12), St. Louis, MO; faithful lay leader in Centennial Christian Church for 40 years; one of the founding members of the church’s day care nursery; helped initiate interracial family camp; successful operator of dry cleaning establishments for 60 years

AMONG THE MANY IN 1992:

HAZEL BYFIELD (1/5), Kingston, Jamaica, and “ecumenical Christian” who was a vice-president and general secretary of the Disciples of Christ in Jamaica; on the staff of the Jamaica Council of Churches; and a member of the International Disciples Ecumenical Consultative Council

EARL SEITZ (1/14), Indianapolis, IN; retired senior pastor who was providing volunteer visitation serv-
Continued from Page 3

“Dean of State Secretaries,” now called “Regional Church Ministers.

BLANCHE BROWN (8/18), Jackson, MS; example of faithful church layperson undergirding the work of Christ in the small congregation.

MARY AGNES HARRIS (8/18), Port Gibson, MS; example of faithful church layperson undergirding the work of Christ in the small but strategic congregation.

EUNICE DICKSON (8/19), Dallas, TX; lay leader in Warren Avenue Christian Church; Melvin C. Dickson was the Senior Minister for 45 years; faithful member of the Ministers Wives and Spouses Fellowship, an affiliate of the National Convocation of the Christian Church.

WILLIE D. SMITH (9/4), Washington, D.C.; lay member of 12th Street Christian Church; a manual arts craftsman, voluntarily providing hospitality and public relation service in the congregation.

ROBERT W. TINDALL (9/6), Indianapolis, IN; retired Chaplain (COL) in the United States Air Force and director of the denomination’s Chaplaincy Services to military chaplains from 1971-1981.

HOWARD E. FOWLER (9/18), Winchester, KY; Senior pastor for congregations in Kentucky and Southern California; strong adherent for traditional interpretations of biblical New Testament Christianity.

MARION HENRY (9/24), Oakland, CA; lay church leader; gifted seamstress; faithful wife of clergyman Enoch W. Henry, JR; successful president of the Minister’s Wives Fellowship of the National Convocation of the Christian Church.

STANLEY WILLIAMS (9/26), Columbia, MO; chaplain at the Woodhaven Learning Center for 20 years; founding director of the Handbell traveling throughout USA with the Woodhaven Learning Center message of reconciliation.

HELEN PILGRIM-MINOR (10/13), Indianapolis, IN; world traveling physical education and Romance Language teacher; captain of her University tennis team first woman to win a Ladies Open Tennis Championship; short-term Disciples of Christ missionary to churches in Zaire.

ARCHIE WARREN, Knoxville, TN; minister rendering pastoral services to congregations in Tennessee, Texas, Southern California; active in the National Convocation of the Christian Church and the Minister’s Fellowship.

VELVA DREESE (10/16), Raymore, MO; oriented toward doing missionary work at an early age. Served the church in Kansas; the Philippines; and the USA; in retirement striving to perform a daily “hands-on-mission” act for someone within her immediate community.

ROBERT GEMMER (12/21), a minister committed to sharing financial resources and concern for establishing racially inclusive congregations through the empowerment of the denomination’s Board of Church Extension to grant interest free loans to aid in establishing such churches.

CHARLES C. MOSELY, JR (12/22), Dallas, TX; instructor at Jackson State University, Jackson, MS; teacher/administrator in the public school system of Dallas.

AMONG THE MANY IN 1993:

THOMAS W. COURTS (1/2), Flint, MI; bi-vocational Associate Minister at Forest Avenue Christian Church, Detroit, MI and Senior Minister for Vermont Christian Church, Flint, MI for nearly a half century.

BERNICE BANNISTER (1), Martinsville, VA; active member of Fayette Street Christian Church; successful entrepreneur supporting church and community programs.

JAMES A MOAK (1/3), Lexington, KY; a Regional Minister for the churches in Kentucky who was also elected to serve simultaneously as Moderator of the denomination’s General Assembly.

VERONA (RATTEN) ROBINSON, Jackson, MS; veteran member of United Christian Church; rendered volunteer and staff leadership to the congregation’s child care center; a ministers wife, active in district, state and National Convocation Church work.

EDWARD WINSTON CABBELL (1/22), Indianapolis, IN; lay leader and a founding member of Faith United Christian Church; World War II veteran in the South Pacific; one of four African American employed in the metropolitan fire stations as pioneers in racial integration.

(Continued on page 4)
MAISE JORDAN (2/6), Detroit, MI; registered nurse and faithful wife of Robert L. Jordan, who founded and served as the Senior Minister for Forest Avenue/United Christian Church for more than 40 years.

J. KENNETH POWELL (2/10), Indianapolis, IN; minister serving congregations in Indiana and other parts of the Midwest; an alumnus of the Disciples House where he had been a Fellow, and the University of Chicago Divinity School from which he graduated.

RUTH KUNTZ (2/12), Detroit, MI; mother and co-builder of family; supportive wife of the late Kenneth Kuntz, noted senior minister in Missouri and former president of the denomination's Division of Homeland Ministries

GEORGE EARLE OWEN (2/18), Maplewood, NJ; retired administrative assistant in General Office of the Church; advocate for reconciliation between differing theological perspectives among Disciples; creative poet; provided chaplaincy services in oceanliners

JOSIE WILLIAMS (2/19), Wilson, N. C.; member of St. Rose Church of Christ; faithful wife of a senior minister and associate regional minister; active participant in the Ministers Wives and Spouses Fellowship related to the National Convocation of the Christian (Disciples of Christ) Church

FRANK T. GARNER (2/22), Paducah, KY; retired pastor of congregations in four states; founding pastor of Bond Hill Christian Church, Cincinnati, OH; supportive leader in National Convocation of Christian Church

MRS ROBERT MOSELEY (2/23), Nashville, TN; faithful member of Gay-Lea Christian Church and wife of an insurance supervisor who was manager of the Greenwood Cemetery for the National Christian Missionary Convention

ORVAL D. PETERSON, Columbia, MO; successful senior minister; elected chief executive officer of the National Benevolent Association; initiated the restructuring process for operation of the Central Office; considered policies which led to NBA’s expansion of program.

JONAS SNEED (6), Vicksburg, MS; roommate of the late Cornelius Arnold at Southern Christian Institute; faithful member of Christian Chapel, Port Gibson, MS; successful restaurant entrepreneur in Connecticut.

MARTHA SYKES (7/8), Indianapolis, IN; retired employee in the General Church Christian Services Office, administering the postal service to the staff for 35 years.

REX ALEXANDER BICKS (7/8), Clearwater, FL; retired Ireland born Britisher, serving the Disciples of Christ as field treasurer in India and later in the U.S.A. with his specialized office administrative skills

MARY GOODYEAR (6), Indianapolis, IN; veteran support staff for the denomination's Division of Homeland Ministries

BLANCHE P. HUNTER (7/15), wife of Lawrence C. Hunter, a bi-vocational minister serving African American Disciples of Christ congregations in rural Georgia for more than 25 years

JEREMIAH E. B. JAMES (7/30), Wichita, KS; eleven year old son of Senior Minister Titus James and wife, Avalene, who died after a heroic and extended struggle with a heart condition. Memorialized by many in the Metro community.

CALVIN TOWNSEND (8/14), Indianapolis, IN; charter member for Faith United Christian Church; joined his wife, Mamie in opening their childcare center facilities to be used during the formation of the Faith United Christian Church.

MINNIE BELLE HART (9/8), St. Louis, MO; faithful lay worker in women’s groups in Centennial Christian Church; long term marriage to a loyal husband and dedicated lay elder

RAYMOND JOHNSON (9), Los Angeles, CA; lay leader in United Christian Church; retired school teacher, carpenter, realtor

MARY HENRIAN BASSETT (9/08), Preston, VA; retired public school teacher in Virginia before 35 years of service as librarian for Southern Christian Institute, Ed-
You can fill in the empty spaces. Send THE OLDTIMERS some of those names.

(Continued from page 4)

wards, MS; plus 13 at Lynchburg College.

RUTH ANDERSON WALKER (10/01), Indianapolis, IN; Fisk and Butler Universities graduate; public school teacher in Georgia, Florida and Indiana; lay leader in old Second and Faith United congregations

MILDRED WILLIS GRIFFIN (10/18) St. Louis, MO; faithful lay worker among ushers and women’s groups in Centennial Christian Church.

EDWIN MILTON HURDLE (12/01), Dallas, TX; ardent Disciples of Christ minister serving Texas congregations; supporter of the regional and general church; a public school teacher in Dallas forty years.

IRA PATERNOSTER (12/07), Indianapolis, IN; Australian native, retired pastor serving in Kentucky and Ohio; administrative staff in denomination’s Office of Resources and Interpretation; administrative assistant to United Christian Missionary Society Presidents Virgil A. Sly and Thomas J. Liggett.

AMONG THE MANY IN 1994:

ROSA PAGE WELCH (1/27), Port Gibson, MS; beloved Gospel songster and “Ambassador of Goodwill;” for more than 60 years a carrier of the Reconciliation Message to all age levels in the church, across denominational lines, throughout the world; inspired them to live out their Christian faith

WILLIAM ELBART STARN (3/08), Columbia, MO; a minister prepared at Bethany College and Yale Divinity School; quiet but fearless advocate for justice and fair play; pastor and regional church staff in Michigan and Ohio before serving congregations in St. Louis, MO 24 years as the Metro church executive.

LEWIS DEER (6/10), Indianapolis, IN; retired minister on the “cutting edge” of Christian mission as a pastor in Arkansas; on denomination’s Church in Society staff during the “Civil Rights Revolution;” suggested actions for Christians achieve improved race relations

HARRELL A REA (7/11), Fort Worth, TX; a dedicated minister serving congregations in Texas and Missouri as a senior pastor, and an area and regional church executive with a principal concern for guiding congregations in formalizing plans for effective Metro Mission

WISTERIA VIRGINIA SPENCER REID (7/29), Martinsville, VA; faithful member of Mt. Olive East Christian Church, and mother of six; an obituary line read “Her Christian life had the fragrance of a beautiful flower and her influence will live in this community where she resided.”

LEOLA LEE FUGATE (8/29), Rogersville, TN; faithful lay member in the Rogersville Christian Church and mother of Mary Fugate veteran leader and participant in regional and general church events.

JEAN LONG DILLINGER (9/18), Oakland, CA; A daughter whose parents gave presidential and staff service to Southern Christian Institute, Edwards, MS; a university major in music and church organist for 25 years. A pastor, speaking in memoriam said: “She never knew what color she was.”

AMONG THE MANY IN 1995:

MARTHA ANN MYERS (1/16), Kansas City, MO; devoted wife and helpmate of retired pastor and national church leader; faithful mother and home builder of a family of two sons and two daughters, thirteen grandchildren and nine great grandchildren; a gracious Christian.

LEWIS PROPERTY, JR (1/18), St. Louis, MO; withstood challenging lifetime limitations of body and mind to have a satisfying life at home and community; member of Centennial Christian Church.

HENRY BERNARD DOTSON, SR (1/19), Vicksburg, MS; steadfast lay member and leader in United Christian Church of Los Angeles; active in regional and general church Christian Men’s Fellowship groups; a recognized pioneer in providing volunteer church services on an international basis

WOODROW WHITLOW (1/31), Columbia, MO; a memorable lay leader in the Memorial Christian Church of St. Louis; devoted to leadership and support of reconciling ministries in the local community and throughout Regional and General Church life. One of the initiators of “Mother-to-Mother” programs.

ANGELICA NELSON HART (2/10), St. Louis, MO; faithful member and participant in Centennial Christian Church; taught 37

(Continued on page 6)
EMMETT JAMES DICKSON (8/7), Indianapolis, IN; minister, teacher and church executive relating to African American Disciples of Christ; working uniquely for more than a half century through ecclesiastical machinery as an advocate to achieve first class churchmanship for all people.

VALESKA LORRAINE HART WILLIAMS (8/15), St. Louis, MO; faithful member and creative lay leader at Centennial Christian Church; 10th member of a church oriented family of twelve; first African American woman to serve as a draftsman during World War II producing battleship blueprints.

MINELLE NOLAND (9/11), Raymore, MO; faithful member of the Belton Christian Church who, for decades, rendered unfailing background support for the operations of the church in the Metro Region and the care and well-being of her fellow residents in the Foxwood Springs Retirement Center community.

VERBIE ALDEENE RAMBO RAND (10/12), Marshall, TX; church member; mother, supportive wife, and a public school teacher who joined her husband for more than 40 years of service in institutions of higher education; climaxed by the Presidency at Disciples of Christ related Jarvis Christian College.

DONALD AUSTIN GIBBS (11/29), St. Louis, MO; minister with a home membership in Centennial Christian Church; provided senior pastoral services to congregations in Missouri, Ohio, Maryland, and North Carolina.

LOISANNE BUCHANAN (12/7), Indianapolis, IN; active member of Downey Avenue Christian Church; used her professional preparation for social welfare services as a member of the General Church staff; life-long crusader for justice

(Continued from page 5)

years in the public school system.

FREDDIE BOYD (2/20), Jackson, MS; member of United Christian Church; joined loyally with his wife, Ada, in building the family while employed as a municipal maintenance engineer

PEARL K. GORDON (2/22), Raymore, MO; a rural school teacher; gave unselfishly as wife and mother. While in the Foxwood retirement community with a crippling illness, she cheerfully enlarged the circle of her extended family.

HOBART SWEAT (6/29), Raymore, MO; a member of Central Christian Church; veteran government employee; retired to the operation of a landscape and gardening business; ally in wife's church involvement

MARGARET STARN (3/15), Columbia, MO; quiet and helpful wife of minister and executive director William (Bill) Starn; member of the first General Church Reconciliation Steering Committee; participant in many regional and general church women affairs.

GEORGE WILLIAM WASHINGTON (4/16), Chicago, IL; a dedicated lay member of Park Manor Christian Church; former teacher and 35 year United States Postal employee; rendered more than 50 years in a variety of church activities. Many of those years were given to the care of local church finances.

HALDOR E. HEIMER (5/4), Indianapolis, IN; minister with extensive theological preparation enabling him to provide outreach ministries for 26 years in the former Belgian Congo, now Zaire; recognized as a competent student of indigenous African religious groups.

EUNICE MILLER (6/13), Fairfax, S. C.; public school teacher/administrator, providing pivotal lay leadership within congregations in South Carolina and Indiana; serving through the general church as staff serving African American Church women and others; devoted to securing civil rights.

HARVEY THOMAS (7/12), Chicago, IL; active member of Park Manor Christian Church; a Revenue Officer for the Internal Revenue Service; versatile in the playing of musical instruments; concerned with the study of hieroglyphics as it related to the African heritage and Bible times.

PHILIP L. ENZ (7/31), Indianapolis, IN; a minister's son providing a solidifying personal and family membership in Downey Avenue Christian Church; used his liberal arts degree in chemistry to render extended service as a medical librarian in Metro Indianapolis.

JOHN B. EUBANKS (8/1), Baton Rouge, LA; minister with the highest degrees in education available; serving in Texas, Georgia, Mississippi and the District of Columbia as an informed church and education administrator; crusading consistently for affirmative action in higher education and the church.

EMMETT JAMES DICKSON (8/7), Indianapolis, IN; minister, teacher and church executive relating to African American Disciples of Christ; working uniquely for more than a half century through ecclesiastical machinery as an advocate to achieve first class churchmanship for all people.

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(Continued on page 7)
and fair play in the provision of social services and achievement of world peace.

**THELMA HASTINGS** (12/19), Raymore, MO; Called “a woman of rare intelligence and varied talents;” serving within church and higher education; reaching many through congregations served by the ministry of her father; reaching others as a General Church staff interpreting the Mission in the USA and Japan.

**RUSSELL F. LANE,** (12/22), Kansas City, MO, faithful lay leader in activities and program at Central Christian Church; provided operational leadership in Christian stewardship and biblical interpretation.

**AMONG THE MANY IN 1996:**

**KATHRYN BARKLEY HALL** (11/15), Raymore, MO; faithful member of Raymore Christian Church and wife of Disciples of Christ minister Robert M. Hall; dedicated helpmate; builder of the family; enabling husband to provide ministerial services to congregations in three states and around the world.

**CLARENCE M. ROSS** (11/17), Raymore, MO; member of Raymore Christian Church; a lumber dealer and churchman, was a unique example of "pulling oneself up by your own bootstraps."

**MARIAN COWAN** (2/6), Indianapolis, IN; a dedicated church and educator; affiliated with Faith United Congregation and the United Christian Church of Los Angeles, CA; associated with husband in higher education; known on the West Coast for her work with youth, church women, and senior citizens.

**WILLIAM (BILL) BRYAN** (2/28), Enid, OK; provider of successful ministerial services to congregations in Oklahoma, Colorado and Indiana; seminary professor and administrator of field education.

**JOHN PAUL JONES** (3/21), Tyler, TX; lay church leader formally prepared in both military and universities to provide visionary leadership in higher education; dedicated college president who gave direction to faculty and staff at Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, TX at a critical period in its history.

**RILEY PITTMAN** (9/21), Raymore, MO; a notable collegiate athlete and sportsman; faithful husband and father; formally prepared to become a minister, scholar, creative writer, and professor of social studies; providing professional church and scholastic services on the West Coast and the Midwest.

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(Continued from page 7)

Rights Movement.

JOHN W. HARMES, Edmund, OK; minister; council of churches executive in Illinois; Regional Minister in Indiana who led in raising the standards of the Region’s financial goals; was key in the group of interdenominational leaders in Indianapolis, IN who established the Inter Church Center.

CHARLES E. DIETZE (6/25), Henderson, KY; minister and State Secretary in North Carolina; as a participant in the former Home and State Missions Planning Council, he authored a treatise on Christian stewardship; it was given wide usage in the late 1940’s and early 1950’s.

LAWRENCE E. PITTMAN (7/13), Normal, IL; a successful pastoral ministry with us in the Midwest was followed by service as the Regional Church Minister for the Disciple congregations in Illinois and Wisconsin. Encouragement was given to several Reconciliation ministries during the late 1970’s.

MARY M. ANDERSON (7/21), Ann Arbor, MI; provided a significant maintenance service for congregations and the general church as the Interim Regional Minister for the Southwest Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

ANITA ROUTH HARISTON (9/3), Tulsa, OK; faithful member of the Pine Street Christian Church; formally recognized and respected as public school educator; joined her husband, a practicing dentist, in impacting the metro community for good in manifold social and economic ways.

JAMES W. DILLINGER, Claremont, CA; who committed his life in steadfast support of church programs designed to empower the less fortunate, established the first regional church Reconciliation structure in northern California.

MARGARET COPPAGE (10/16), Kansas City, MO; member of Central Christian Church; dedicated matriarch for family of twelve; superintendent of culinary services in metro public schools.

ROBERT THOMAS (10/23), Indianapolis, IN; successful pastor of strategic congregations in Illinois and Missouri; elected chief executive officer for the denomination’s Division of Overseas Ministries; stimulated the Division and General Church to adopt guidelines for a Global Christian Witness in cooperation with indigenous churches and others.

JAMES D. WYKER, Berea, KY, husband of the late Mossie Wyker, the dynamic leader of women’s and church work. Jim during World War II years worked with Town and Country Churches.

FRED E. MOSELEY (10/31), Raymore, MO; faithful member of Raymore Christian Church; devoted to joining his wife in building family; self-made, highly determined and successful small entrepreneur.

MELVIN C. DICKSON (11/11), Dallas, TX; a senior minister, and ardent orthodox preacher and noted revivalist within the Campbellite tradition; persevering and attentive pastor for two congregations for more than 60 years: approximately twenty percent of time in Virginia and eighty percent in Texas.

ALFRED EDWARDS (11/28), Des Moines, IA; a dedicated member of First Christian Church; unwavering loyalty to aiding wife in building family; heavily dedicated World War II veteran; churchman and volunteer in a variety of community organizations; proud alumnus of Jarvis Christian College.

OLIVE BUFFINGTON LONG (11/30), Rosemeade, CA; a builder of Christian family; earnest librarian; pioneering service with her husband during his presidential administration at Southern Christian Institute, one of the denomination’s primary homeland missions educational institutions in Mississippi.

W. A. WELSH (12/12), Dallas, TX, a dedicated senior minister with proven success as chief administrator for a key congregation, major seminary, and President of the Christian Board of Publication, one of the denomination’s primary general service units.

GRACE ELETA McDERMET (12/13), Raymore, MO; faithful member of Raymore Christian Church; successful helpmate to husband in building family; in later years a model of one who lived creatively to enrich her community and “died within God’s grace and love.”

ROLLAND H. SHEAFOR (Continued on page 9)
GARFIELD WASHINGTON VERTREESE (12/25), Kansas City, MO; a moderating and stabilizing influence while nurturing a family through 59 years of marriage; variety involvement in community; member of Central Christian Church providing a variety of lay leadership for a generation; retired after 34 years of employment in industry.

AMONG THE MANY IN 1997:

CARNELLA J. BARNES (1/4), Los Angeles, CA; the youngest member in a family of eight; formally prepared to give a quarter century of key ministry to church women; turned Westward to marry, give birth to triplets; a recognized and honored social services administrator and geriatric specialist.

JOSEPH VAN BOSKIRK (1/4), Indianapolis, IN; a retired, highly motivated district and regional church minister who energized new Disciples of Christ congregational establishment in metro Chicago and the Washington, D. C. Capitol Area during the heighth of the population explosion in the Mid-Century.

MARY ELEANOR MCDANIEL (1/4), Brandenton, OH; a writer of missionary biographies for the Christian (Disciples of Christ) Church.

JAMIE MARIE WILLIAMS (2/21), Oklahoma City, OK; a native Arkansan who became an active member of the East Sixth Street Christian Church; pioneering executive director of the Metro YWCA for more than a quarter century; active in regional and ecumenical church activity.

FRANKLIN JACOB PUGH (2/23), Raymore, MO; a member of Raymore Christian Church sharing skills and resources to advance the Kingdom; a commercial artist and journalist whose unannounced acts of sharing with others is visible today in the Foxwood Springs retirement community where he resided.

HOWARD PRATHER, Raymore, MO; thoughtful Disciples of Christ minister and military chaplain; recognized as a model town and country pastor of congregations in four states; ten interims in retirement.

DODGE TRACY, Indianapolis, IN; layman superintendent of services for Missions Building, former International Office building for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

GEORGIA ELLSWORTH, Raymore, MO; member of Raymore Christian Church; a competent YWCA/WMCA staff member, joined in professional service for two generations with her husband, also a “Y” executive; served memberships in a variety of communities in the U. S. A.

LOYAL NORTHCOTT, Tyler, TX; an experience senior minister; the executive secretary for his denomination in the early 1970’s who revived church-wide evangelistic effort; enabled the general minister and president to be a catalyst for pooling church-wide resources for new congregational establishment.

ROBERT W. H. DICKERSON (4/4), Cleveland, OH; born into West Virginia 16 member family of clergy parents; impacted the Campbellite biblical as a youth, he became “A Walking Bible;” a successful founding pastor/developer in metro Cleveland; popular revivalist.

MERRILL CADWELL, East Aurora, N.Y; a successful senior pastor called to the general church staff to suggest guidelines on how Disciples of Christ congregations could effectively enrich worship life by using the liturgical calendar and the revised lectionary.

RUTH T. LEE (9/28), Dayton, OH; loyal member of Summit Christian Church; successful partner in 64 years of marriage; employed for a quarter of a century at the Wright Patterson Air Base; frequent attendant of regional and general church assemblies.

VINTON D. BRADSHAW (10/6), Indianapolis, IN; highly qualified minister serving congregations in Tennessee, Iowa, and an associate regional staff member in Indiana; established and administered the Christian Theological Seminary program for twenty-nine years.

ANTHONY THOMAS (10/16), Cleveland, OH; lay leader in the Dunham Avenue Christian Church, directing choirs and other musical groups; known in the metro and regional area as tenor soloist of con-
of visionary pastoral services to Disciples congregations and other churches in the Piedmont Area.

ROBERT L. JORDAN (3/10), Detroit, MI; a determined and prepared servant who led the establishment of a Disciples of Christ congregation in face of grave difficulty; engaged in the political and ecclesiastical struggle to achieve justice and fair play; recipient of awards; elected to places of honor and responsibility.

WILLIAM T. PEARCY (3/30), Tucson, AR; a layman and lawyer with business and banking experience; gave more than a half century of his endowed skills to build churches and church people; encouraged the establishment of operating principles which expanded the denomination’s Board of Church Extension’s capability to be a basic resource for establishing and maintaining church facilities.

CHARLENE F. STEWART (5/14), Indianapolis, IN; dependable office support staff and volunteer director of music groups in the denomination’s Headquarters building.

JAMES T. FOWLER, SR (5/24), Indianapolis, IN; member of Light of the World Christian Church; active lay leader; joined the U.S. Navy at 19 years of age; after 8 years of service, including survival of Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, given military awards and honorable discharge; Jarvis Christian College graduate who established a successful business enterprise.

VENITA CARNEY WADDELL-TON (5/27), Topeka, KS; an academician with extensive preparation in business administration; named emeritus professor at Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, TX where she served two generations under seven presidents; author of UNFURL THE SCROLL, a pictorial review of JCC history.

FRANK B. BRADLEY (6/4), Washington, D. C.; retired Disciples of Christ minister with 56 years of dedicated service to congregations in Kansas, Illinois, Alabama, Maryland; catalyst in the church on Eastern Seaboard for Christian action and social service; inducted in Jarvis College Pioneer Hall of Fame.

ROBERT WATSON (6/24), Kansas City, MO; faithful lay member in Central Christian Church; service as deacon, giving general support.

DELORIS A TURNER (6/29), Kansas City, MO; a faithful pastor, preacher, regional staff director; participating leader in church-wide relations; performing a decade of persevering and construtive pastoral ministry before her untimely demise.

ELIZABETH (BETTY) K. FURS (7/6), Jacksonville, FL; for 67 years a helpful wife of one of the denomination’s leading pastor/administrators; chosen to lead church women on an international basis; her Indiana Civil Rights Commission membership led to her receiving a “Sagamore of the Wabash” award.

ELBETHA HICKS MILLER (7/31), Edwards, MS; Ninety-nine year old Christian matriarchal head of an eight member family; 23 grandchildren, 33 great grandchildren, and three great-great grandchildren.
Continued from page 10

dein

BEULAH DILLARD WARDER
(8/14), Kansas City, MO; minister's
wife and mother for a family of five;
lay leader in non-Disciples of Christ
congregation, church pianist; one
son who is a key veteran lay leader
in Central Christian Church

ROBERT HAMPTON BOYD
(8/31), Raymore, MO; retired engi-
neer and loyal layman in Arkansas
and Missouri; faithfulness continued
through his retirement years at Fox-
wood Springs and Raymore Chris-
tian Church membership

WILLIAM HANNAH (9/13), In-
dianapolis, IN; a unique and dedi-
cated minister/pastor/administrator
fostering a ministry designed to
challenge those entwined in tradition
and submerged in religious routine

SERETHA HICKS STAMPS
(9/20), New Orleans, LA; Ninety-
ine plus year old Christian matri-
arch head of a seven member fam-
ily; 25 grandchildren, 28 great
grandchildren, and one great-great
grandchild. 

RONALD E. OSBORN (10/1),
Eugene, OR; a compassionate min-
ister, higher education administrator
and theological scholar; a careful
church historian who for nearly a
half century helped Disciples of
Christ determine a basic outline of
thought they had about themselves
as a People of God.

ROY DAVIDSON CLINT-
THORNE (10/6), Indianapolis, IN;
a charter lay member of Faith
United Christian Church; University
professor and practicing dentist; ac-
tive in metro civic affairs.

LYNELL MARIAN HONE
HEMPHILL (10/9), Chicago, IL;
lay member of Park Manor CC (and
Centennial CC, St. Louis); progress-
sive thinker and activist for better
housing and community develop-
ment.

ALFRED C. HOFRICHTER
(10/10), Iowa City, IA; pioneer in
the organization of Men's retreats
and motivating CMF groups to join
with the National Convocation of
the Christian Church (Disciples of
Christ) in support of the Star Sup-
porter Ministerial Scholarship Fund

ROLAND THOMPSON (10/12),
Cincinnati, OH; active churchman
in a non-Disciple communion;
aligned with his family in support of
men’s and general work; accom-
plished violinist; attendant with wife
in Disciples of Christ general church
events where a daughter had general
unit staff responsibilities

OPHELIA GUSTAVIA HENRY
(11/4), Palestine, TX; One hundred
and one year old loyal member of
New Fellowship Christian Church;
wife of a minister and matriarch for
a family of ten; living 5 daughters, 3
sons (two of them Disciples of
Christ ministers), 18 grandchildren;
26 greatgrandchildren

ELIZABETH MITCHELL
HAMILTON (11/9), Indianapolis,
IN; a lay member of Faith United
Christian Church who witnessed to
her Disciples of Christ family heri-
tage as a math teacher allied with
her husband as a real estate entre-
preneur.

RALPH JOHNS (12/1), Raymore,
MO; a retired Ninety-five year old
finance manager who provided hands-
on assistance for his son to become
the first successful chief executive
officer of Foxwood Springs Living
Center. He handcrafted miniature
models of Foxwood Springs Garden
Homes. They were used by sales
agents to market Foxwood.

WILLIAM WALLACE (MAC)
McDERMET (12/4), Raymore,
MO; a engineering major in college
who evolved into an energetic social
welfare administrator; realistic ad-
vocate for the needs of the poor.

FRANCIS LUCILE PARSONS
(12/17), Raymore, MO; humble but
proud wife of a Disciples minister
for 68 years; partner in ministries to
several congregations in several
places; lover of music and life in
church; never lost heart in spite of
circumstances.

AMONG THE MANY IN
1999:

ELIZABETH ENIX (1/18), Indi-
anapolis, IN; veteran lay member/
leader in Second/Light of the World
Christian Church for more than 50
years; a public school teacher for 38
years; simultaneously rendered
leadership as an officer in wider
church groups; selected to be a pio-
neer regional church staff director

CLARENCE MCBRIDE DOSS
(1/23), Raymore, MO; allied with
the partnership of a faithful wife and
three children, he was spiritually
and formally prepared to render 42
years of dedicated senior ministerial
services for six congregations in
four states; interim ministry for
eight congregations in two states.

(Continued on page 12)
(Continued from page 11)

CHEERFUL ALPHIN (1/25), St. Louis, MO; longtime lay leader in Centennial Christian Church; mother of four; devoted to volunteerism for civic and social groups.

JESSE LEIGH COTTON BOYD (2/4), Raymore, MO; faithful member of Raymore Christian Church and quiet supporter of the lay leadership of a devoted husband.

RACHEL OLIVA JOHNSON (2/8), Raymore, MO; A faithful laywoman who made her Christian witness through family; nurturing matriarchal relations with a husband, two children, several grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren; served others in the community as a practical nurse.

WILLIAM R. BROWN (2/25), Raymore, MO; lay member/leader at Country Club Christian Church conducting stewardship campaigns for a half century; in retirement affiliated with Raymore Christian Church; leader of successful financial campaigns to build the Foxwood Springs Alzheimer Unit.

HUMPHREY KAVANAUGH JACKSON (3/2), faithful and active lay member of Summit Christian Church for more than 50 years.

MARY B. CARTY (3/14), Raymore, MO; a humble wife of a itinerant Disciples of Christ minister who shared her talents in instrumental music to help proclaim the Gospel in Colorado, Illinois, Missouri and other places in the nation and around the world.

MARY NOTTINGHAM (3/27), Indianapolis, IN; nearly a century old Christian matriarch; associated with the Downey Avenue Christian Church; among the surviving Nottingham Household is a son, an accomplished minister and retired chief executive officer for the denomination's Overseas Ministries.

JOHN CAVE (4/3), Bath, S. C.; a layman and deacon in the church; United States Airforce veteran; supporting of his wife's involvement in a variety of district, regional and general church events.

CURTIS JONES, SR (5/10), Jacksonville, FL; a Disciples of Christ minister rising as a polished pulpiteer; prolific author of 21 books serving congregations in Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Iowa, and Georgia; two sons in ministry and higher education.

ALONZO SMITH (5), Jefferson, TX; born into a large family in Northeast Texas; graduate of denomination's mission institute; finishing a Disciples-related college as a class-mate of a former USA president; successful town and country Disciples minister in Texas and a business entrepreneur.

AMANDA MAY SCOTT LINDSEY (6/4), Indianapolis, IN; a lay woman active with church youth and choirs; has daughter who is a librarian at the Disciples of Christ Historical Society, Nashville, TN.

DANIEL W. HEATH (6/22), Rockford, IL; minister with an early exposure and training in Disciples of Christ tradition; senior minister rendering pioneering services for congregations in Mississippi, Virginia and Illinois; participant in wider church circles; public school teacher and successful business entrepreneur.

LEROY VENERABLE (6/30), Kansas City, MO; a meat Packing House employee and layman in Central Christian Church; with wife overcame physical limitations to build a family of seven; avid adult leader in community boy scouting.

LUCILE H. COMPTON (7/3), Cincinnati, OH; life-long member of Disciples of Christ; wife of a minister and pioneering administrative church executive; active in many aspects of church, especially the NCCC Ministers Wives and Spouses Fellowship; public school teacher/administrator 40 years.

PAMELA A. GREEN (7/10), Chicago, IL; loyal member of Park Manor Christian Church; pursued formal preparation to become a lawyer specializing in health law; later private practice with major concern for worker's compensation, real estate, and domestic relations; family members strongly church related.

LOUISE E. VERTREESE (7/17), Kansas City, MO; member of Central Christian Church; linked in a successful marriage for 59 years; nurturing four sons, three daughters, twenty grandchildren, and fifteen great grandchildren; participant in community improvement organizations.

LAWRENCE BASH (7/22), Kansas City, MO; highly prepared and experienced Disciples of Christ minister and pulpiteer; joined with a supportive wife for 64 years; rendered outstanding senior ministerial service to key congregations; held memberships on various denominational boards and organizations.

(Continued on page 13)
LORENCE M. WATKINS (7/26), Wasseon, OH; 102 year old mother with a son who is a Disciples of Christ minister and retired chief executive officer for one the denomination's primary general program units. (Board of Church Extension).

CORNELIUS W. ARNOLD (7/27), Los Angeles, CA; minister joined with a wife for 65 years of marriage; totally committed to Disciples of Christ; independent servant of church and liberal benefactor; entrepreneur, providing ministries to congregations in eight states with home base in Southern California.

WILLIAM T. GIBBLE (7/30), Jacksonville, FL; a successful pastor of key congregations in Missouri, Texas, and Oklahoma; elected President of the denomination's National Benevolent Association; Central Office established policies and program which led to expansion in facilities and services across the nation.

MARGARET R. CHEW RICHARDSON (8/26), Lebanon, IN; wife of a minister; an English and Romance languages teacher with three children; nine grandchildren; and three great grandchildren.

EUNICE LEE STAMPS NELSON (8/24), Dallas, TX; teacher and administrator in the Mississippi Public Schools system for 40 years; three daughters; two sons; eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

SAMUEL ROSS GRIFFIN (9/2), Tulsa, OK; minister with five brothers and four sisters; used radio broadcasting skills to help a congregation meet cultural change.

ROSA BEDELIA ELAINE WASHINGTON (10/3), Okland, CA; teacher, musician, and librarian; wife of a pioneer president of Jarvis Christian College; three children; four grandchildren; two great grandsons.

FLO PASLEY SUMMERS KALENBACK (10/4), Raymore, MO; highly committed Christian; versatile teacher of English and Journalism; poet, essayist and columnist for 35 years; involved in community.

LEE R. SETTLES (10/7), Raymore, MO; printer and owner of a printing operation; services business administrator; faithful lay church member; dedicated volunteer.

JAMES TINSLEY SMITH, SR (10/23), Indianapolis, IN; Big Ten track star with major in business administration; successful business man 40 years; devoted next 30 years to the Christian ministry; while on staff at Light of the World Christian Church, completed the Masters in Divinity degree program; granted an earned Doctorate in Ministry degree when he became 85.

SULO RINTAMAA (10/28), Dayton, OH; longstanding membership with various leadership roles in the Kenwood Christian Church of Cincinnati, OH; retired employee of Proctor and Gamble production systems; a son is senior minister for the Christian Church in Raymore, MO.

MARY BAILEY (11/18), Wilson, NC; minister and mother of a former Chicago Metro District Regional Associate Minister, Dwight Bailey.

MARY ROBINSON SCOTT (11/22), Milwaukee, WI; social service specialist via the Red Cross overseas and U. S. A. Community service agencies; wife of an Urban League chief executive officer for 35 years.

THELMA DICKSON (12/12), Indianapolis, IN; lifelong member of Second/Light of the World Christian Church; retired as veteran public school teacher; faithful wife of a pioneer minister, teacher, church administrator; contributor to community and metro civic affairs.

AMONG THE MANY IN 2000:

OLIVER WILFRED McCULLY (1/00), Jacksonville, FL; a minister selected to be the "State Secretary" for Pennsylvania; provided visionary administrative leadership to the congregations; worked faithfully through the former Home and State Missions Planning Council.

GRACE LUCILE THOMPSON SWINTON (1/12/00), Kansas City, MO; active member in Swope Parkway United Christian Church for than a generation; active in denominational and United Churchwomen's work; life time educator and French teacher; on college faculties in Florida A. and M. and Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Missouri; taught more than 30 years in the Kansas City public school system.
MORE ABOUT CHICAGO AND MINISTERIAL RECRUITMENT By O. T. Reynard

The "Chicago Story" is a large story with many facets. When dealing with the growth of the Disciples of Christ mission among African Americans in Chicago, the name of the late Dr. Charles Sherman, an alumnus of Jarvis Christian College should be included. He was one of the pioneer African American Disciples of Christ House Scholarship Fellows who graduated from the University of Chicago Divinity School before the mid-century.

Sherman provided founding pastoral leadership for the Southside Christian Church congregation during its transition into a nucleus for becoming Parkway Gardens Christian Church. He adopted a bivocational ministry while guiding the congregation into the construction of its present facilities.

Another phase of "The Chicago Story" also involves the Disciples House and a precedent setting graduate and Fellow, Joan Bell. She is one of the first African American Disciples of Christ women to have residence and be awarded Disciples House grants. Recently she graduated from the University of Chicago Divinity School.

Joan is a charter member of the Ray of Hope Christian Church in Decatur, GA. While in the Divinity School, she was nurtured by Park Manor Christian Church members. Following graduation she was ordained at First Christian Church of Maywood, IL and served as the Associate Minister. Recently she was called to be the Associate Minister at Community Christian Church in Kansas City, MO.

Still another aspect of the "Chicago Story" and Ministerial Recruitment is the part Disciple congregations have played in encouraging ministerial prospects who are later called to serve in other denominations. Park Manor Christian Church, for example, nurtured Marvin A. McMickle from his youth until his commitment to prepare for Christian ministry. Today he is the Senior Minister for the Antioch Baptist Church in Cleveland, OH.

McMickle has two earned doctoral degrees; is a professor at Ashland Theological Seminary; President of the Shaker Heights Board of Education; and recognized political leader. He recently published a book entitled, "From Pulpit to Politics: Reflections on the Separation of Church and State." He often returns to Park Manor Christian Church as a guest speaker where his mother, Marthetta McMickle, is a member and a veteran lay leader.

Another example is Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr., and currently the Senior Minister at Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago, IL. He was encouraged to enter Christian work when he was at youth Park Manor Christian Church. Today Dr. Wright leads a 13 member Pastoral Staff and 8 member Administrative Staff in providing a seven day institutional ministry in Metro Chicago.

Note: The author of "The Chicago Story" is one of two African American Disciples of Christ in the early 1940's to receive Disciples House Fellow grants and complete a seminary degree program at the University of Chicago Divinity School. During that time he was a student assistant at the former Southside Christian Church. After his retirement, he was privileged to return to Chicago as interim minister at Park Manor Christian Church.

A FEW CIVIL RIGHTS MARKS TOWARD FREEDOM WE SHOULD NEVER FORGET:

- May 17, 1954: Supreme Court outlawed school segregation based on race—Brown vs. Board of Education
- Dec. 1, 1955, Montgomery, AL; Rosa Parks arrested because she refused to give up her seat on a bus.
- Dec. 5, 1955, Montgomery, Al Bus Boycott begins
- Nov. 13, 1956, Supreme Court bans segregated seating on Montgomery busses
- August 29, 1957, Congress passes first Civil Rights Act since Reconstruction
- September 24, 1957. President Eisenhower orders federal troops to enforce school desegregation in Little Rock, AR
- Dec. 5, 1960, Supreme Court outlaws segregation in bus terminals
- April 1, 1962, Civil Rights groups join forces to launch voter registration drive
- May 3-6, 1963, a couple of thousand non-violent children confront Birmingham’s Sheriff Bull Connor’s dogs and police bull whips; jails are swamped with 2,500 adults
- June 11, 1963, Alabama Governor keeps promise to stand in schoolhouse door to prevent integration
- August 28, 1963, 250,000 Americans march on Washington for civil rights
- Jan. 23, 1964, Poll tax outlawed in federal elections, but continued to be used in some southern states
- June 20, 1964, Freedom summer brings 1000 young civil rights volunteers to Mississippi
- July 2, 1964 President Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- July 9, 1965, Congress passes Voting Rights Act of 1965
- Oct. 2, 1967, Thurgood Marshall sworn in as first black Supreme Court justice
- April 4, 1968., Dr. Martin Luther King, JR. was assassinated as he led a demonstration for garbage workers
Onward Into the New Millennium!

DONORS SINCE LAST ISSUE:
Ruth Hobbs, Jackson, MS; Eugene/Pauldienia Randall, Gertude A. Dimke, Russell/Nancy Harrison, Robert M. Hall, Ernest/Janice Newborn, Ruth D. Heimer, Indianapolis, IN; Glen/Charlotte Shoemaker, Eugene/Nancy Rutherford, Kansas City, MO; Hannah J. Toomey, Belleville, IL; Thomas/Joellen Johns, Leawood, KS; Eddie E. Griffin, Geneva Battle, Elizabeth A. Jones, Chicago, IL; Johnnie H. Calvert, Ellicott City, MD; Melba Hawkins, Hawkins, TX; Charles Barr, Cameron, MO; Marjorie Johnson, St. Louis, MO

CRISIS NEEDS CONTINUE

Indianapolis, IN- Compassion Fund Director Wray returned from October/November on site visitations of hurricane ravaged areas of Eastern North Carolina to report:
Several churches have expressed the desire to use volunteers to help them rebuild if and when they get the go ahead to do that. Many are waiting for wood to dry out enough to get the OK from FEMA to build. Others are waiting for long term studies of soil samples to see if their communities are inhabitable. Once inspectors have done their work, and congregations have begun to work with BCE on getting loans, we will begin to hear of needs for volunteers.
Those sitting around the table were hesitant to say they need volunteers because they are afraid you will insist on coming now and they can't use you now. But when asked if they felt certain they'd need volunteers in the late Spring (maybe even early spring) and summer, they all said, "Yes!"
Concerned church persons were urged to
1. "Pray. Lift up these congregations and communities in prayer. They are tired, they are devastated. They are in shock and they have just begun to rebuild their lives. They need the support of a God ..."

2. Send health kits, school kits and flood kits to Church World Service. As each community finds a need, they contact CWS to give these items. The warehouses are frighteningly low."

For more information go to the Week of Compassion Web Site: <Weekofcompassion.org> or write Week of Compassion, P. O. Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206

(Please cut here and mail.)

OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE GOOD FAITH FORM:

Name: ____________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________
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ENCLOSED IS MY DONATION OF $10 __ $15 __ $20 __ $25 __ $50 __ Other $________

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, PLEASE SEND YOUR DONATION CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO:

OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE, c/o William K. Fox, Sr, 500 Mott Dr.- #102B, Raymore, MO 64083
THE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR BIRTHDAY and the observance of BLACK HISTORY MONTH are two national observances which help us launch the New Millennium. Both are times to pause and measure progress being made in fulfilling the human dignity and freedom agenda. The Grand Dream so dramatically expressed by Martin Luther King JR. has slowly unfolded over the past 40 years. However, the Millions Marches by men and women in the 1990’s reminded us that deeper commitment and action is still urgently needed. Let us use THE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR BIRTHDAY and BLACK HISTORY MONTH observances in 2000 AD to REMEMBER, CELEBRATE, AND ACT.
From Inner Cleansing to Outer Light and Release!

Throughout the Lenten Season, our devotional journeys have been held in tension by the piercing probe of Psalm 51:

"Have mercy on me, O God, according to thy steadfast love; according to thy abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

2- Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

3- For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

4- Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in thy sight, so that thou art justified in thy sentence and blameless in thy judgement... 

7- Purge me with hyssop, and I will be clean, wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

8- Fill me with joy and gladness; let the bones which thou hast broken rejoice.

9- Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out my iniquities.

10- Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right Spirit within me.

11- Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy holy

Spirit from me.

12- Restore to me the joy of thy salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit.

15- O Lord, open thou my lips, and my mouth shall forth thy praise,

16- For thou hast no delight in sacrifice; were I to give a burnt offering, thou would not be pleased.

17- The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken spirit and contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise..."

Prayer: May your Grace sustain us, O God, even though the Cross and Ressurrection Day are here and we have not yet fully achieved the inner cleansing we intended. AMEN
McLendon: Disciple and Celebrated Pioneer in Basketball, By O. T. Reynard

Some Oldtimers remember the late John McLendon, pioneer basketball coach, as a member Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) congregations in Kansas City, KS and Nashville, TN. Others recall when he was sponsored by the Christian Men's Fellowship as a major speaker at a Biennial Assembly of the National Convocation of the Christian (Disciples of Christ) Church.

When McLendon was a University of Kansas college student in the 1930's, he jumped into the campus swimming pool for a refreshing swim. As soon as he got out the pool was drained and closed down. As an African American member of the student body he had committed the unpardonable social sin of polluting the pool clothed in his brown skin.

But when McLendon graduated from the University of Kansas with a master's degree in physical education, he jumped into the pool of coaching basketball. From that day to this the game of basketball has never been the same.

The pioneer black player and coach who was the last surviving student of basketball creator, Dr. James Naismith, died last October at 84.

John McLendon is credited for devising "the fast break" maneuver widely used by basketball teams today. During 25 years of collegiate coaching he mounted a 76% winning record with 523 wins and 165 losses while on the faculties of North Carolina State College (now University) Hampton Institute (now University), Kentucky State College (now University), Tennessee State College (now Univeristy), and Cleveland State University.

This year (2000) the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (CIAA), which was founded by McLendon and three colleagues in Washington, D. C. in 1946, highlighted its 55th basketball tournament by naming the classic, "The John McLendon Memorial Basketball Tournament."

The tournament showcases the teams from 12 historically black colleges and universities (HBCU) and contributes to some of the best basketball in the NCAA Division II competition.

However, in 1950 Coach McLendon led in planning and organizing the mechanics for integrating historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) into national, non-racially segregated basketball championships. Coach McLendon has been inducted in 11 halls of fame.

He was coach of the Tennessee State University men's basketball team of Nashville, TN in 1954 which became the first HBCU institution to play in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) basketball tournament.

In 1957, 1958, and 1959 the TSU McLendon coached men's team won captured the NAIA title three consecutive years. No HBCU team has matched that record to-date.

McLendon was the first African American to coach a professional basketball team. He coached teams in the National Industrial League and American Basketball League in Cleveland, OH and Denver, CO. They won championships in the respective leagues in 1961 and 1962.

Coach McLendon also pioneered as a member of the Olympic Committee from 1966 to 1976.

The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid... But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. And if they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, ... Two men stood by in dazzling apparel... The men said to them, 'Why do you seek the living among the dead?' Remember how he told you...that the Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.' And they remembered his words and returned to tell all this to the eleven and all the rest. Lk. 23:55; 24:1-9
Indianapolis, IN- During a recent interview of retired Disciples of Christ minister Samuel F. Pugh, it soon became evident that this veteran servant of the Lord who was born June 4, 1904 was, indeed, a rare personality.

Interviewer Bill Shaw put it like this: "...you know that Samuel F. Pugh is a Hoosier treasure, even though he was born in (Pike County) Missouri, grew up in the Pacific Northwest, preached throughout Kentucky and California and has lived in Indianapolis only 48 years."

Pugh was already a mature citizen when he arrived in Indianapolis nearly a half century ago. He acknowledged that "The Pugh family toilet was a hole in the ground covered over by a wooden shack. There was no electricity or telephones. Only birds flew in the sky. Roads were mud and not pavement."

So Sam Pugh has a lot to say about the ups and downs, ins and outs of the 20th Century.

All four of the Pugh children finished college while their father labored as a house painter. Sam's siblings, two sisters and a brother, are in their late 80's and 90's and residing well on the West Coast.

Sam's beautiful marital union was curtailed by the death of wife, Catherine, after 51 years. The marriage resulted in the birth and nurture of one son and a daughter. The son, Larry Pugh, is an Indianapolis lawyer; and daughter, Katherine Erickson, a proud homemaker and mother living in California.

Many in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) remember his productive tenure as the last editor of the denomination's mission outreach journal, called THE WORLD CALL. African American Disciples treasure the last issue of the WORLD CALL (1960) because it featured predominantly African American congregations within the denomination.

Others recall attending inspirational Men's retreats in which he was a leader, or reading essays and poems written he had written when he was...

(Continued on page 4)

Indianapolis, IN- The "voice of the Disciples Center" has retired. That's right. Clara Reid, an 18-year employee of Christian Church Services will hung up her receptionist's receiver February 15, 2000.

In recognition of her ministry to countless Disciples members and friends, she was honored during a February 14 reception at the Disciples Center.

When Clara finished her work from the Disciples' downtown location, most persons will remember her from the Missions Building on Indianapolis' east side. From there she welcomed religious dignitaries from across the country and around the world, received and rerouted thousands of telephone calls, took just as many messages, issued daily announcements, and, in general, represented the best of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

She did the same from the 130 East Washington Street location which Indianapolis staff moved to in 1995. That move to the downtown location was among the most significant events in her tenure. Reid called it a "challenging transition" that was "like closing one door and opening another," she said. Indeed, it was. It...

(Continued on page 4)
Sam Pugh: Living the Life and Serving the Christ

(Continued from page 3)
a director of Christian Men’s Fellowship or serving as executive secretary for the denomination’s membership and evangelism department.
Sam has traveled all over America and the world in the interest of Christian endeavors.

Here’s a sampling of a few Pugh views:

*We’ve improved on the methods of killing each other. Killing is more efficient. There is much to be done before we can say we are really brothers...

*I never heard the word ‘poor’ as a kid... We had no money, but we had toys... Maybe because there was no TV to remind the poor and point out how much stuff they couldn’t afford... Or maybe because the rich flaunt it more now. Who knows?"

*People always wanted more than they had, but there wasn’t so much to want and people didn’t have the money anyway. I do think there’s more emphasis upon material things today. People think they’re busy today, but they seem busy just being busy...

*People seem busy with so many unimportant activities, they don’t have time for important things, like their friends and family

Sam Pugh has not given up on modern society or his ability as a senior citizen to let his little light shine everywhere he goes. He is an avid optimist as well as a Disciple of Christ and longtime member of the Optimist Club.

Sam lives in a retirement housing community called Robin Run. It is affiliated with the National Benevolent Association, the social services program unit of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Sam stays busy and time goes fast. Even though both of his arthritic knees have been replaced with metal knees that don’t work, he exercises daily and is an ardent volunteer worker. Devotedly checking his daily calendar, he speeds around in his electric scooter to the cafeteria and a variety of Robin Run and general community meetings and activities.

After producing some 14 books and pamphlets since retirement in 1972, he’s still engaged in creative writing. One of his poems entitled THE TIME BEFORE Y2K was read by the 50 member Warren Central High School Readers’ Theatre during the Governor’s Millennium 2000 celebration last New Year’s Eve.

Sam Pugh’s bottom line message for all of us younger than 96 is “Stop worrying... Keep believing, and living the life, and serving the Christ, and God will take care of the rest.”

*Adapted from Sam’s Century, by Bill Shaw, Staff Writer and Interviewer, Indianapolis Star, 12/26/99

She Used the Position to Further the Mission

(Continued from page 3)
was a change of physical environment to be sure. But the new signs also signaled other changes that already were taking place. Staff changes were among them.

By 1995 a number of career employees with Indianapolis staff had retired; turnover among support staff was even more frequent; and the denomination had two years prior elected a new general minister and president the Rev. Richard Hamm who came from a regional rather than general staff position.

With the change came new opportunities that were enlightening and interesting. "It afforded me the opportunity to learn more about people who are a part of the Christian ministry," she said.

The term “mission” aptly describes Reid’s service to Missions Building, the Disciples Center and the entire Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) since 1982. (Disciples of Christ Office of Communications)
FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL:

WILLIAM JAMISON
"BUSTER" ALPHIN, JR, St. Louis, MO- A grandson of pioneer Disciples of Christ leaders William Alphin, SR and Mary Ann Alphin. William J. Alphin, JR, served in law enforcement from May 1960, with distinction and honor for 27 years in almost every major department of the St. Louis police force. He retired as a Lieutenant with six commendations for exceptional service in the line of duty. He was also involved in volunteer community service and a member of Centennial Christian Church, where his parents were long-time leaders. “Buster” Alphin passed December 25, 1999. Heading those who mourn is his wife of 43 years, Mattie Marie Alphin; three sons, five grandchildren; two sisters; one brother; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

JAMES T. HOLLAND, Chicago, IL- Retired Minister Holland passed away January 24, 2000. He retired as Associate Minister Holland of the Park Manor Christian Church with primary responsibilities for the Junior Congregation. Among the youth in the Junior Church during his tenure who went on to receive seminary preparation for professional leadership in contemporary church scene were Claudia Highbaugh, Irvin Green, Charles Webb, JR and Marvin McMickle.

FAY SATTERFIELD, Bonner Springs, KS- Mother of Emerson Park Christian Church senior minister, Ted Satterfield, who passed January 26, 2000, following a long illness.

DORSEY LEE JONES, St. Louis, MO- Dorsey Jones went to his final resting place January 27 after a lingering illness. He was a faithful member of Centennial Christian Church with a successful military career as a Tech Sergeant in the U.S. Army Division of Engineering. During service he received the Victory Metal, European, African, Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon; two Bronze Stars, and a Good Conduct Medal. He was honorably discharged December 6, 1945. Heading those who mourn is his wife of 53 years, Velma Esper Murphy; a sister-in-law, Fannie Murphy Lawless of Austin, TX and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

GEORGE M. DICKERSON, Tazwell, VA- George Dickerson, member of a family with sixteen children, went home October 25, 1999. Four brothers and six sisters preceded him in death. Following the Dickerson family tradition of being a faithful Disciple of Christ, he aided the Bethany Christian Church, Cleveland, OH to fulfill its construction program. He returned to Tazwell, VA, his birthplace, to assist the Midway Christian Church in its building program. As a gifted poet, he made folders, cassettes and videos and recited his creations from memory in benefit programs. He used the voluntary offerings to support community projects like a local Rescue Squad. During the Civil Rights Struggle, his services in the community prompted civic leaders to reward him with a Cultural Ambassador Award. The late Dr. Martin L. King, JR, presented it to him.

DR. VIRGIL V. HINDS, Raymore, MO- Virgil V. Hinds, born May 4, 1909, in Texas County, OK, (Continued on page 6)

JOHN O. GRIFFIS, Greenville, TX. - John Griffis, who passed away November 4, 1999, was a lay elder and leader in Clarks Street Christian Church for more than 50 years, was father of Dr James O. Griffin, retired school administrator, currently a pastor and widely known church leader in the district, regional and general expressions of the Church.

SANDY WITHERSPOON, Winston Salem, N.C.- Pastor Sandy Witherspoon, who departed life January 15, 2000, had given faithful ministerial service to the Spencer Memorial Christian Church in Winston-Salem, NC.

FESTUS C. CAREY, Brooklyn, N. Y. The native Texan died January, 2000 He was nurtured as a youth in the Disciples of Christ tradition; a graduate of Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, TX; and an insurance broker who provided extensive bi-vocational ministry in Brooklyn and the prevailing metro area.

He had, on occasion, been an interim pastor for the Stuyvesant Heights Christian Church where he and his family had a meaningful membership. (Continued on page 6)
(Continued from page 5)

passed away January 31, 2000. The Disciples of Christ minister was a bi-vocational pastor in Clyde and Vermilion, Kansas before becoming a college administrator and life long religious scholar. He teamed up with his wife, Cleatus, after graduating together from Phillips Seminary in 1936, to serve for 22 years at Manhattan Bible College, Manhattan, KS, where he was Dean of the College. Then came 16 years on the faculty at Lynchburg College, Lynchburg, VA, where he retired as Head of the Department of Religion. His late wife, Cleatus, who he married in 1933, preceded him in death. She taught Greek and English literature and was a faithful mother.

The Memorial Service held February 5, 2000 at Foxwood Springs was led by the surviving two daughters, Vesta Griffith of Raymore, MO, and her husband, Rodney, and Becky Seitzinger of Akron, OH, and her husband, George.

ROGER WILLIAMS, Columbia, S. C.- Retired Disciples of Christ minister and native South Carolinian February 4, 2000 after an extended period of illness. Pastor Williams rendered a yoked field ministry for congregations in Erhardt, Buford, and Holly Hill, before answering a call to serve the Williamsburg Christian Church of Brooklyn, NY. Elder Williams gave an heroic bi-vocational and full-time ministerial leadership to Williamsburg for 40 years. During his tenure the congregation became self-sufficient; grew to more than 500; hosted a National Christian Missionary Convention annual session where the CMF featured Jackie Robinson as a speaker; and burned the church mortgage. He leaves to mourn wife, Carrie Belle of 66 years and two daughters, Donna and Linda, and many friends.

N. VERNON BLANKENSHIP, Lexington, KY, March 27, 2000. The Bethany College alumnus with seminary preparation at Union Theological (NY) and Lexington Theological (KY) was a senior minister and a military chaplain before climaxing his service as a general representative and vice president of the Board of Church Extension. His avid concern for congregations to make church buildings fully accessible to persons with physical limitations led the Blankenship Family to encourage contributions to the N. Vernon Blankenship Named Fund for Accessibility.

ANNA MORGAN-MOODY, St. Louis, MO, February 21, 2000, "A native of Oklahoma who was known as a kind, vibrant, life-loving and generous person" who devoted her life to family and her two children; sharing her leadership gifts to the Church of Christ and the Centennial Christian congregation; and the strengths of her doctoral degree as an elementary public school educational system as a teacher and administrator for nearly 50 years.

PHILANDRIA DICKERSON, Nashville, TN, March 31, 2000. Faithful 94 year old widow of the late Disciples of Christ Church pastor and leader, the late L. L. Dickerson; devoted mother of the late Anne Dickerson who died unexpectedly just as she was ascending in significant church leadership. Memorial services for Phil Dickerson were held at Gay-Lea CC, where her late husband was once senior minister while he managed the NCMC's- Greenwood Cemetery.

(Continued from page 5)

ARTHUR J. STANLEY, Newberg, OR, February 12, 2000. During the "population explosion" of the mid-1950's he was one of the ministers engaged by the denomination to provide administrative leadership for congregations and church regions in devising long range "master plans" for new church establishment.

He served as the regional church minister for the northeast area in the early 1960's; a time of social unrest; guiding some congregations in efforts to survive, and aiding others to develop programs to meet newly emerging community needs.

HARRELL E. HAMM, St. Petersburg, FL.- The father of General Minister and President Richard Hamm passed away February 22, in St. Petersburg, Florida. President Hamm characterized his father with the words, "He was a very good man." Memorial Services took place in St. Petersburg, FL and entombment at Hillsboro, IN.
THANKS FOR YOUR LIBERAL SUPPORT!

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Some Words of Wisdom from a Member of the Dickerson Family

Modern Christianity

Things we considered wrong before, they're now considered right;
We give up to the devil now without a decent fight.

A lot of things we do these days are really quite a shame.
And seldom do we stop to think the Church will get the blame.

But I've decided to make a stand, no matter what the test.
I hope the Church will wake up soon and stop some of this mess!

-by George M. Dickerson, Tazwell, VA (1973)- (1917-1999)
Member of the Disciples of Christ Dickerson Family Leaders/Poets in the Church for more than three generations.

Things we're making it mighty easy to be a Christian these days.
They're trying to change the Bible in so many ways:
Now we have white lies and black ones any color you can choose;
And no one thinks about it unless the lie is told on you.

The Bible says "Thou shalt not steal nobody else's stuff",
But we don't judge you near as harsh if you just steal enough.

"Love thy neighbor as thyself," is right you will agree;
But if he has a wife also, it's best to let her be.

The strong ones always help the weak. We sometimes turn the other cheek.

We're never happy unless all of us eat in the family.

"We always try to keep in touch with the family. Cause some of us get in dutch in the family.

The strong ones always help the weak. We sometimes turn the other cheek.

We're never happy unless all of us eat in the family."

-from My Family," by George M. Dickerson (1973)
Networking church-related senior Citizens Into Christian Community

THE OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE

Volume X Issue 3  May - June 2000  Raymore, Missouri

“THIS MINISTRY” - Meditative Thoughts from an Old Lounge Chair, by O. T. Reynard

During the 16th biennial session of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) which meets in Charlotte, N.C. August 11-15, 2000 the Ministers and Spouses Fellowship will do what they have done so consistently and well for more than a half century. They will lift up a cry for supporting “This Ministry.” The challenge will come through President May Reed of Nashville, TN, and cooperating Fellowship members and friends.

A breakfast jointly sponsored by the Ministers and Spouses Fellowship and the Ministers Fellowship will feature an audio visual specially developed with staff of the the National Benevolent Association. It will memorialize the leadership of the late Lucille Compton of Cincinnati, OH who spearheaded several Ministers Wives Fellowship to provide funds for ministerial student scholarships.

Love gifts placed on the Altar will be used to replenish finances used for scholarship grants, principally the Star Supporter Fund nearly a half century ago by the National Christian Missionary Convention. There is not denominational ministers’ and spouses group any where in America that is more faithful in raising this challenge than the Ministers Wives/Spouses Fellowship of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Last Christmas I received an informative newsletter from the Rev. Charles H. Webb, JR, Director of Black Ministries, Indianapolis, IN. His office is lodged in the Center for Leadership and Ministry within the Division of Homeland Ministries (DHM) of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The seasonal greeting included a short summary of the operations of the Office of Black Ministry in 1999 and the following brief reference:

In 1999

"Seventy-nine scholarships (32 Star Supporter) were granted to persons preparing for the ministry totaling $134,500. Twenty-six scholarships for clergy continuing education were granted totaling $13,624." This summary statement covers many concerns and general church interests.

We can assume that the majority of the Star Supporter Fund grants assisted African American Disciples of Christ ministerial prospects. However, the critical nature of this challenge is underscored when you realize that Director Webb’s statement reflects all needy persons able to (Continued on Page 2)
Servants of the Master in Vocational Transition

JOYCE COALSON, Indianapolis, IN- Resigned effective July 31, 2000 after 18 years in executive administrative leadership in the Division of Homeland Ministries for the General Church (Disciples of Christ); starting in 1982 as executive for the Division’s Department of Ministry; named vice president of DHM in 1984; then vice-president of the Center for Leadership and Ministry when that instrument for program was created in 1991. Joyce has expressed a desire "to be back in pastoral ministry."

LINDA MCKNIGHT, St. Louis, MO- Returned to "home base" and secular employment as of September 1999, following brief service as treasurer for Church Finance Council, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Former professional services on the staff of Jarvis Christian College, and the Division of Higher Education of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

NORMA RUTH ELLINGTON-TWITTY, St. Louis, MO- resigned July 1, 2000 after 15 years as vice-president for program planning in the National Benevolent Association in the Central Office. Her most recent assignment was serving as the initiating chief executive officer for the National Benevolent Foundation with a Metro St. Louis, MO. She was guiding this newly formed NBA structure in fund raising and "friend-raising" for NBA, primarily in St. Louis. She was the NBA community presence in Greater St. Louis, serving as a liaison to community organizations, local colleges and universities, and foundations.

She shared extensively in the general unit’s efforts to implement its commitment to racial ethnic diversity. She witnessed the expansion of this commitment throughout the Central Office operation and related field staff.

Patricia B. Maples, Dallas, Texas, who began services January 2000 for the St. Louis-based National Benevolent Association as the newly created position of Corporate Nurse, is one of many examples of NBA’s commitment to diversity. Working from her Dallas, TX home, Mrs. Maples develops and implements policies on quality improvement, accreditation compliance, payment systems, and nurse recruitment and retention at older adult facilities related to NBA.

ANN UPDEGRAFF-SPLETH, Indianapolis. The “first woman and youngest” of the Disciples of Christ denominational unit presidents who was employed as the chief executive officer when she was 40 years old, will retire soon after ten consecutive years of steadfast administrative church leadership. She steered the major denominational homeland ministries vehicle through a difficult period of restructure, and guided the unit toward making the congregation the primary program focus. She looks forward to having more time for family enrichment and being available as a consultant to religious and secular organizations concerned with humanitarian services.

LOUIS WAYNE STEWART, Indianapolis, IN- Resigned June 2, 2000 after seven years as the Administrative Director of Reconciliation for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ.) During this period he steered the focus of the Reconciliation program from ‘race and poverty’ to anti-racism; linked with human relations consultation specialists to guide concerned leadership into in depth consideration of (Continued on page 5)

From an old Lounge Chair—more on “This Ministry”

(Continued from Page 1) receive ministerial scholarships through the general church, not only African American. Of course, DHM's Center for Leadership and Ministry is not the only resource available to potential candidates for ministry in preparation. Much of Director Webb's task involves guiding worthy and needy persons toward additional resources within and outside of the denomination.

More fundamental questions might include: How broad and deep is the flow of college and seminary stu- dents who are committed to preparing for the Christian ministry? How many, who have this intention and/or commitment, need financial assistance? Finally, how many churches, large and small, are intentionally involved in developing a religious (Continued on page 3)
Fiers/Sponaugle Marriage Renews Commitment to Family

Both are from the Heartland. Alan was born in Kankakee, IL and Virginia in Moberly, MO. The marriage links a star high school and collegiate athlete and retired pioneer church leader with a professional social worker with the mentally ill and physically handicapped as well as an experienced congregational church leader.

Jacksonville, FL: The marriage of 93 year old pioneer Disciples of Christ clergyman, Alan Dale Fiers, to Virginia Rose Sponaugle June 17, 2000 performed by the Rev, Richard J. Hull II at Riverside Avenue Christian Church, was a significant commentary on the contemporary scene. They were senior citizens who had lost their mates in death, again celebrating a public commitment to marriage and Christian family.

The ritual highlighted the option taken by a growing number of senior citizens who experience the loss of a spouse by death after many years of successful marriage. Unforeseen circumstances emerge which present opportunity for renewing the marital commitment.

The Fiers and Sponaugle saga began when friendships developed in Florida as their families became involved in the life and work of the Riverside Avenue Christian Church. Eventually both lost their spouses through cancer. She is equipped with graduate school study and qualification by governmental standards to work with the mentally ill and physically handicapped.

As a lay church worker and leader in the congregation she has served as an elder; two terms as chair of the congregation’s general board; attended major church retreats, district, regional and general assemblies; and been active in the Christian Women’s Fellowship.

They will reside at Cypress Village, Jacksonville, FL, a retirement community related to National Benevolent Association.

From an old Lounge Chair—more on “This Ministry”

(Continued from page 2) climate which will encourage persons to seriously consider preparation for full-time Christian service? Why do most congregational search committees still have great difficulty in finding prospects for full-time Christian service?

These are some meditations of a senior Disciples of Christ minister in his sixtieth year of ordination as he lounges in a big chair. Have similar thoughts and questions ever crossed your mind?
The Foxwood Gift and Craft Shop: Group Labor of Love

By Jean Inman, Resident and Retiring Volunteer Manager

Raymore, MO- The lovely craft shop nestled between the NBA related Foxwood Springs Retirement Living Center and the Cable TV station, had a very humble beginning. It started with a group of women who wanted a place to do various crafts. They had a long table in the room currently used by the Computer Club.

Merle Evers, Nellie Engelhardt and Mary Jell were the talented few who created this idea of a Craft Shop. When the Child Care Center, which once occupied our present facilities, was moved to larger quarters, we were moved to this large, spacious room.

What a joy to have all this room to expand! Soon it grew from one long table to many tables. All were filled with many kinds of lovely things. Not only crafty things; but useful things, such as baby sweaters, bootie blankets, and little romper dresses. A variety of other infant items included knitted caps, mittens, scarfs and lap robes.

Our residents donated everything. As the interest grew we expanded on tables and added new shelves and display walls.

As director, I was delighted to find a section of the room where we could create beautiful flower arrangements of all kinds. We were able to use these creations to help beautify parts of our homes, apartments, dining rooms and lounge areas.

Mary Rich and I started the idea of recycling greeting cards and doing rubber stamp art. We soon became very skilled in our endeavors and had many volunteers learning how to recycle cards. The cards soon became “best sellers.” It didn’t take long before the Gift Shop became a place to come, shop, and buy.

Many talented people have contributed to the success of the Shop. An idea that started with a few soon blossomed into a very successful gift shop. A very talented business woman, Joann Williamson, now manages the Shop. It will be a joy to see it grow under her capable hands.

The Gift Shop, like all business enterprises, has a “Bottom Line.” Last year, 1998-1999, the Gift Shop contributed $5,525.00 to the Fellowship of John, the Fund, which helps Foxwood Springs residents in hours of critical need. This, plus untold joys received by all who voluntarily participate combine to be the “Bottom Line”- our “pay off.”

Mrs. Inman is a 93 year old retired beautician with an endearing personality and gifted passion for using a variety of materials to create beautifully designed handcrafts.

For 15 years (1984-99) dedicated Foxwood residents have voluntarily and faithfully come to the Shop to use their talented hands to stitch and sell enough quilts to produce $68,426 for the Fellowship of John Benevolent Fund; a resident maintenance support resource.
More on Servants in Transition

(Continued from page 2)

The Office of Communication for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) reported that “by the end of July, nearly 300 Disciples will have participated in at least a two-and-a-half day session of anti-racism training. That number includes most regional ministers, most general unit presidents and representatives of other Disciples-related institutions...”

The report further stated that “In 1999, seven teams completed training and began the work of dismantling racism in their own institutions. In 2000, nine teams have gone through ten-and-a-half days of training in preparation for combating systemic racism in their areas of the church.

The last of the training sessions, a four-and-a-half day event, focuses on building the skills of team members for organizational change and long-range planning. It equips participants to apply and expand the analysis of systemic racism into a plan of action for institutional change.”

Retired, Renewed, Retread

Oscar Haynes, Washington, D.C.- retired corporate employee and entrepreneur with extensive service as a lay church leader in the congregation and general church; currently Part-time Director of Media Ministries for the Capitol Area Regional Church); engaged with others in the transformation of the former 12th Street Young Men's Christian Association building YMCA into a Harbor for Non-Profit Organizations Rendering Humanitarian Services Center.

Ozark Range, SR, Greenwood, MS- retired Director of Black Ministries for the Division of Homeland Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), recently completed successful congregational interim’s in Lexington, KY and Jackson, MS; currently (i.e. May, 2000) serving as Interim Minister for the Mount Pleasant Christian Church, Greensboro, N. C.

Robert Brown, Little Rock, AR- retired senior minister serving congregations in North Carolina, Arkansas, and Alabama; former president of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); recently completed a successful interim for the United Christian Church, Detroit, MI.

May Reed, Nashville, TN- retired December 31, 1999 from the assistant to Librarian David McWirter at the Disciples of Christ Historical Society. During 17 years tenure she moved from two years of service as Office Secretary under Historical Society President James Seal, to become the assistant Librarian. Her primary responsibility was the maintenance of card index files with special interest in records relating to racial ethnic minority Disciples of Christ membership.

She is voluntarily returning to the Disciples of Christ Historical Society Library every other month during 2000 AD to maintain the card index files.

Ernest Jasper Newborn- Indianapolis, IN- retired senior minister, former Administrative Director of Reconciliation for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); since retirement serving as co-opted regional staff in Indiana; interim ministry for Disciples of Christ and Presbyterian congregations in Indianapolis, IN; June 2000 called to serve as the interim for Central Christian Church, Indianapolis, IN.

Robert Glover, Indianapolis, IN- retired Christian Education program executive within the Division of Homeland Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) with multiple involvement in denominational and ecumenical leadership; currently on DHM staff serving as the Interim Vice President for the Center for Congregational Growth and Vitality.

Raymond Brown, Indianapolis, IN- retired minister with several interims, recently returned to Church Finance Council in a brief role as interim President while Lois Artis Murray, the President, completes an academic degree program.
Johnny Boyd, Kansas City, MO—
He was described as one having "a
deep religious desire to help people.
He had his homegoing February 8,
2000. He rendered faithful lay
worker services for 44 years as a
member of the West Paseo Christian
Church which merged to become
Swope Parkway United Christian
Church. He served as an elder, trus-
tee, scout leader, and member of the
general board, property and pulpit
committees. The classroom where he
taught the same adult Bible School
class for 42 years, has been named
in his honor. Among the many that
mourn his departure are his wife,
Ovara Miller of 45 years, five sis-
ters and a host of related kin.

Mabel Clark, Chicago, IL, mem-
ber of the Congregational Church of
Park Manor passed away suddenly
March 26. She was a sister of active
lay Disciples of Christ leader, Sybel
Thomas and Pauline Wilson.

M. Jack Suggs, Fort Worth, TX—
Funeral services for the Rev. M.
Jack Suggs, 75, were held March 3
at University Christian Church. Dr.
Suggs was a retired dean and pro-
fessor at Brite Divinity School,
Texas Christian University, of Fort
Worth. He died Feb. 27 Dean
Suggs made considerable contribu-
tions to deepening the quality of
academic curriculum and life at the
University. He impacted many of
congregations and a variety of faith
groups throughout Texas and the
nation served by the Seminary. The
Rev. M. Jack Suggs was born June
5, 1924, and married Ruth (Barge)
Suggs, who survives. Other survi-
vors include a daughter, Adena
Beck, and sons, James R. and David
Suggs. Jack Suggs also was the
brother of the Rev. James C. Suggs,
Carlsbad, Calif., retired president of
Christian Board of Publication.

Arthur A. Azlein, Washington, D.
C. 82 year old retired pastor emer-
tus of the Michigan Park Christian
Church which in the early 1950's
pioneered in being a racially inclu-
sive congregation, died June 5,
2000.

Pastor Azlein, was an alumnus of
the University of Chicago Divinity
School and a Disciples House
Scholar, who expressed firm belief
and witness to an inclusive church.

William D. Hall, Fort Worth,
TX— Memorial services for The
Rev. William D. Hall, 85, a retired
Texas Christian University profes-
sor, were held March 2 at University
Christian Church, Fort Worth,
Texas. He died Feb. 28 in Fort
Worth. He was a native of Buffalo,
Ill. Formal preparation included a
bachelor's degree from the Univer-
sity of Illinois and a bachelor
(master) of divinity degree from
Yale Divinity School. From 1945 to
1952 he and his wife, Mary Lu,
served as Disciples of Christ
missionaries in Bilaspur, Madhya
Pradesh, India. From 1953-56, he
was a church program services di-
rector on the staff of the United
Christian Missionary Society in In-
dianapolis. He later moved to Fort
Worth, TX where he served as pro-
fessor of missions and history of re-
ligions at Brite Divinity School,
Texas Christian University, until
retirement in 1980.
THANK YOU FOR THE SUPPORT!

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The Oldtimers' Grapevine
Published six times a year
Through tax exempt donations.

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White Privilege

by Gerald Cunningham, General Church DHM Staff, Indianapolis, IN*

Completing its year-long mission, President Clinton's advisory board on race recently issued its report on race relations in the U.S. titled, "Changing America." The report concluded that the nation must confront "this country's history of White privilege" before there can be reconciliation.

The seven-member panel, headed by renowned Black historian Dr. John Hope Franklin, noted in the report: "Throughout America's history, White privilege allowed Blacks, Hispanics, American Indians, Asians, certain European immigrants and religious groups to gain only limited acceptance, usually after painful, hate-generated conflict." ...

Daily Effects of White Privilege

One writer identified some of the daily effects of white privilege in her life. She chose those conditions that she thought in her case were attached more to skin color privileges than to class, religion, ethnic status or geographic location, though of course all these other factors are intertwined. She stated that as far as she could tell all of her African American coworkers, friends and acquaintances with whom she came into daily or frequent contact in this particular time, place and line of work could not count on most of these conditions.

Here are six of the 26 conditions reflecting white privileges she enumerates: "1. I can, if I wish, arrange to be in the company of people of my race most of the time. 2. If I should need to move, I can be pretty sure of renting or purchasing housing in an area that I can afford and in which I would want to live. 3. I can be pretty sure that my neighbors in such a location will be neutral or pleasant to me. 4. I can go shopping alone most of the time, pretty well assured that I will not be followed or harassed. 5. I can turn on the television or open the front page of the paper and see people of my race widely represented. 6. When I am told about our national heritage or about civilization I am shown that people of my color made it what it is...."

Dr. Cunningham concludes:

So Whiteness is more than an appearance; it is a system of privilege accorded to those with white skin. Is this not a form of affirmative action? As long as white Americans are implicitly deemed more deserving of the resources of the United States than other groups, affirmative action goals that seek to counter unnamed White privilege and achieve social justice will be seen as preferential treatment. More difficult to overturn are the values and attitudes that persist as legacies of constructed whiteness.

*Dr. Cunningham is a veteran minister and program executive currently the Senior Associate for Racial and Criminal/Justice, in the Division of Homeland Ministries, Christian Church (Disciples Of Christ)

-See total article on <Disciples.org> website.
**Networking church-related senior Citizens Into Christian Community**

**THE OLDTIMERS’ GRAPEVINE**

**VOLUME X ISSUE 4**

**July – August 2000**

**Raymore, Missouri**

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**More from The OLDTIMERS’ Lounge Chair, by O. T. Reynard**

Raymore, MO- One evening while surfing on the Internet, I clicked on the DISCIPLES HOME PAGE and tapped into DISCIPLES NEWS. I ran into a routinely familiar reference to a summary of recent General Board “actions.”

We know that few if any blood-curdling actions or spiritually invigorating experiences occur these days in board meetings. But the news section had an article on a Board action! It read: “NEW ASSOCIATE GENERAL MINISTER CALLED.”

A Cincinnati pastor and former Homeland Ministries executive has been named Associate General Minister and Vice President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The Administrative Committee elected the Rev. William H. Edwards here July 22. Edwards is expected to begin his ministry in the Office of General Minister and President in early October.

Edwards, 44 comes to the position from the Disciples Center of Cincinnati, a joint ministry of Forest Park Christian Church, a predominantly white congregation, and St. John’s Christian Church, with mostly African American members. Edwards’ resume describes his ministry in Cincinnati as “developing a model of ministry to overcome one of the greatest barriers that separates us as people of God, the barrier of race.”

Ordinarily I would have yawned and then went on to click on the general news or the Sports buttons for the latest on golfer Tiger Woods. But the news article caused several things to pop up in this OLDTIMERS’ mind.

The administrative waters in the general church have gurgled along quietly and smoothly ever since the Great Collision in Tulsa, OK over the election of a General Minister and President during the General assembly. A constructive and healing interlude ensued under an interim GMP. Meanwhile the nation has become increasingly economically affluent, and many in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

(Continued on Page 2)

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**Inside this issue:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Special points of interest:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Possible implications of the recent selection of another associate general minister and vice-president</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The Reconciliation Fund and its emphasis on understanding about the ramifications of racism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The 89th Anniversary of Jarvis Christian College and efforts toward the realization of its Vision</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inside this issue:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walter Blackburn’s Death</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jarvis’ Tour Bus Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Multicultural Dictionary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retired and Retread</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For Whom the Bell Tolls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Many Need Prayer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Continued on Page 2)
More From the OLDTIMERS' Lounge Chair

(Continued from Page 1)

have been introduced to new words and concepts. One new word for many of us is “discernment.” We should continue to offer prayers of appreciation to God for the guidance provided by recently re-elected Richard Hamm as our General Minister and President.

Frustrating situations continue within all expressions of the church. But we have some encouragement to speak aloud about confronting “racism” wherever it abides. A number of Church staffs and congregational leaders have voluntarily had laboratory experiences in confronting aspects of racism in our churches and society.

The act of calling Bill Edwards openly acknowledges the reality of administrative “initiatives” – and the legitimacy of their placement in the Office of the General Minister and President.” The locus of Christian “initiatives” can evolve from an individual, congregation, institution or region. But often times when major-church “decision-makers” face critical circumstances of a widespread nature, general church unit legislative bodies usually agree to place the “initiative” for pursuing/monitoring such matters within the Office of the GMP.

Such “Initiatives” are usually complex issues and imply multiple responsibilities. Task forces, committees and boards often mull over them ad finitum without coming to a definite conclusion. Many participants believe the issues will not be resolved within the next couple of generations or even the millennium. OLDTIMERS will remember the scenarios, which surrounded the issue of “church restructure” and the struggle for release from fragmentation and efforts to move toward wholeness in the Church. During a painstaking process the Office of the GMP resourced regions as they reformed and/or consolidated structures. A National Convocation evolved from a more racially separate convention structure to become a bridge for racial inclusiveness and wholeness in the church; a slowly developing Hispanic constituency eventually led to the establishment of an Office of Hispanic Ministries. Recently Asians within the church have been given greater visibility and concern.

When the church faced urban unrest, critical racial division, and poverty across the nation, the Office of the GMP was a catalyst in the formation of the Reconciliation Fund. The General Church and all the related expressions of church were encouraged to divest investments which undergirded oppressive systems and socially insensitive corporations. Aiming at the roots of poverty and economic depression, short term economic empowerment grants were made to empower struggling minority enterprises. Limited funds were shared carefully in the summer with racial ethnic congregations lodged in the central cities to help them cope with seething social tensions.

When evangelism efforts and full-time leadership commitment dried up, the Office of the GMP became the vehicle for securing agreements on church-wide funding and implementing new congregational establishment. The Division of Homeland Ministries was encouraged to involve all the manifestation of church in festivals of witness to Christian faith. More recently, refinement of operations for the financial undergirding of the Church has again been revisited. All of this and more reside in the memory of OLDTIMERS like me.

Therefore, the Bill Edwards appointment as Associate to the General Minister and Vice-President is not merely the putting on an “Administrative Hat.” It means that a Disciples of Christ minister who has proven to have deep Christian faith with grace, and patience to persevere within the context of pressure and challenge has been chosen for wider service. He is blessed with the highest of formal academic preparation and meaningful experience within the congregational and general church. He is well prepared to answer the “call” of the General Board of the denomination to “track initiatives” lodged from time to time in the Office of the General Minister and President.

William Edwards has an earned doctor of ministry degree from McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago; a master of divinity degree from Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis; Bachelor of Arts degree from Hiram (Ohio) College; and an executive master of business administration degree from the University of Memphis. Edwards and his wife Sabrina are the parents of three sons, two daughters, and have five grandchildren.
WALTER BLACKBURN DEATH: SYMBOL OF A BENCHMARK FAMILY IN CHURCH AND COMMUNITY by William K. Fox, Sr, Editor

Raymore, MO- Following the succumbing to cancer by architect, Walter S. Blackburn at age 62 August 9, 2000 in Indianapolis, IN, the Indianapolis Star on August 11, 2000 made his name as the caption for its main Editorial Column. The lead sentence began this way: “At its best architecture is art that builds walls and tears them down, creating space that sets a community apart as it pulls its people.”

It continued, “Walter S. Blackburn, a national figure who had a hand in such hometown landmarks as the RCA Dome and the Circle Centre Artsgarden, was the consummate example of this artist in the world. The son of pioneer Flanker House director Cleo Blackburn brought his architecture degree from Howard University back to Indianapolis in 1963, when prospects for blacks in the profession were not favorable. He proceeded not only to attain personal success, capped by being named a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, but set an example of service that extended far beyond his many impressive buildings.”

Members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) saw him walk in his father’s foot steps as a stalwart member of the Light of the World Christian Church. When Walter was a young man he witnessed the versatility of his father. He saw this congregation, then known as Second Christian Church, engage his father to provide an interim ministry while, at the same time he served as the chief executive officer for an expanding community service center operation called Flanner House. Soon after he added acceptance of a short-term presidency at Jarvis Christian College. Such devotion to church by his father motivated Walter Blackburn to be involved in the congregation, accept membership on the Board of Church Extension’s Board of Directors (1989-1994), and respond to many calls by BCE to serve as a consulting architect.

Walter Blackburn’s designing included local municipal structures, like the Convention Center, Public Library, and corporate giants like the United Airlines Maintenance Hub at the Indianapolis International Airport. He also maintained a devotion to preserving African American heritage through such work as the Black Cultural Center at Purdue University in Lafayette, IN.

Most notable was his selection in 1998 to be the architect for the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, OH. It is expected to be the most ambitious and expensive African American historical and cultural center in the world.

Alpha Blackburn, his professionally capable wife, provided invaluable assistance. She is a major actor for the Blackburn Architects firm, which her husband established and served as president. The Blackburn Community and Church Service initiated by the grandfather and son, is now passed on to the sons of Walter and Alpha, Chi and Anthony, and daughter, Sydney. The challenge is also shared with Sara Kimbrough. Walter Blackburn’s sister.

HALL OF FAME RITES OCT 14 INITIATES A 2000 TOUR BUS PROJECT

THE WORD IS OUT! “Jarvis Christian College is alive and well. We are in the process of celebrating our 89th year of existence and are still committed to our original mission of helping young scholars prepare to become successful and productive citizens.” The 7th Annual Pioneer Hall of Fame event will launch a tour bus project reaching for a $250,000 to $400,000 goal range. The purchase will enhance the success of JCC’s community outreach activities.
Louise Reid Demise Highlights “The Chicago Disciples Story and the Jamaican Connection” by William K. Fox, Sr, Editor

Raymore, MO-Chicago, IL—The Memorial Service for Rev. Louise Reid, a retired pastor of Jackson Boulevard Christian Church held September 23, 2000 marked the end of 38 years of Reid family ministerial service to that congregation. Louise Reid was called in 1970 to be the co-pastor with her late husband Frank Reid, the pioneering senior minister.

Frank Reid was a Harvard University School of Religion prepared Jamaican seminarian who was called from a small student ministry in the East in 1962 to become the senior minister for Jackson Boulevard. He was the first African American/Jamaican Disciples of Christ minister to lead the principally Anglo American congregation. Jackson Boulevard had been established October 19, 1873. Louise Reid felt Frank was glad to leave the East where he served a small, closely knit predominantly Anglo American Congregation who were content to be by themselves. The call to Chicago seemed to imply greater opportunities for service.

Reid was also inspired to come to Chicago by other Jamaican Disciples of Christian ministers who had made the courageous trek from South to North to provide frontier service in a growing metro area like Chicago. He knew about Jamaican born Robert LaTouche who was guided toward the ministry while a student at Southern Christian Institute in Edward, MS. LaTouche left Mississippi and went north at the Dawn of the Great Depression in 1928.

He started a successful 37-year bi-vocational ministry at Langley Avenue (1918-1929) which soon became the Southside Christian Church. Upon the conclusion of his services in 1957, Southside Christian Church became the core group for establishing Parkway Gardens Christian Church.

The Reids were inspired to come to Chicago by Jamaican born Richard Hyatt Davis who had been educated at Southern Christian Institute, Edwards, and MS. He came to Chicago, IL in 1930 at the height of the Great Depression to become the full-time senior minister for the Indiana Avenue Christian Church, now known as Park Manor Christian Church. He became a classic biblical exegete and graceful pulpiteer. He became a elected president of the National Christian Missionary Convention.

So Frank and Louise Reid gladly answered the call to minister in metro Chicago. Soon after their arrival at Jackson Boulevard increased social tensions in the city and limited economic resources within the congregation led Frank into a bi-vocational ministry. He was drawn into commitment to serve low-income people in the nearby Rockwell Gardens public housing project. His basic commitment, however, was always the congregation.

The church underwent long and severe hardship before being slowly revived into new life. Nevertheless, in April 1970, the year Louise was elected the co-pastor, 37 Jackson Boulevard members attended a special dinner meeting where Senior Pastor Reid announced intentions for constructing a new functional church building.

Troubles persisted to plague some of the membership. Senior Pastor Reid experienced a crippling stroke and related physical crisis. In 1972 the general board advised Jackson Boulevard to close its doors and file for bankruptcy. They had experienced a fire; had no money; only a handful of members; many bills and a bleak potential.

However, Louise walked bravely beside her husband as a co-pastor for a quarter of a century to lead a handful of ill-fed, ill-clothed, poor children living in a central city low-income housing project to become a viable 300-member congregation by 1990.

The miracle of having a new building on the corner of Western and Jackson that would serve the community was accomplished. With God’s help they join hands with the Chicago Housing Authority and others to help meet the needs of people in that community. Now Louise Reid has made the great transition to join her husband and their ministry continues among the faithful.
More on the Retired and Retread

*DAN B. GENUNG, Claremont, CA- a long-time resident of Pilgrim Place retirement community, is in the process of completing and distributing a book entitled A Street Called Love. The project which has been under the guidance of Chalice Press, is the story of All Peoples Christian Church and the All Peoples Center. It should be available for purchase this year.

Dr. Genung reports that Sandra Bryant, the current director of the All Peoples Center once lived on 20th Street near the location of the present Center operation. She got her “start” in the Center’s nursery at the age of two. Dan says, “She left, got a few college degrees and returned as the director. She’s a jewel.”

A year ago the Los Angeles Times made a special reference to the Center development which was started in 1942 by the Japanese Christian Institute. Feature writer Mary McNamara called it “...an enchanted castle. In disguise. On a street lined by small bungalows with front-porch gliders.” Executive Director Sandra Bryant guides a varied program serving children and adults from more than 125 low to moderate income families.

The Center has come a long way from 1942 when the federal government forced resident Japanese into internment camps. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) responded by sending Dan Genung and his wife, Frances from Indianapolis, IN to start a church. They arrived in the midst of a nation at war and saw women working in war industry factories. It was clear that the first real need was a children’s day care center. The church would come later in 1946.

Last year the United Way gave an honor citation to the All Peoples Community Center operation in South Center Los Angeles, Sandra Bryant, who had labored 16 years as the Executive Director was given worthy recognition. She had seen the service area population shift back and forth from predominantly Japanese to African American to Latino. She continues to provide creative administration to programs that must be in constant reevaluation and refinement.

*DR WILLIAM J. NOTTINGHAM, Indianapolis, IN- retired Division of Overseas Ministries President, was honored in 1999 by Union Theological Seminary of New York granting him the Unitas Distinguished Alumnus Award. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from UTS in 1953 and a Doctor of Philosophy from Union/Columbia University in 1962.

Interim President Mary E. McNamara, lauded Nottingham for “five decades of ecumenical ministry in a changing world; for his outstanding service as both national and international church administrator; for his courage in challenging oppression and advocating justice around the world; and for his deep commitment to God’s love and justice in championing the dignity and worth of all people.”

He and his wife, Patricia, continue to be involved in several volunteer congregational, ecumenical and community services.

*MARY KEGLER, Wichita, KS A breast cancer survivor, faithful lay leader at Swope Parkway United Christian Church of Kansas City, MO and past Moderator of the Regional Church in Greater Kansas City. Retired in 1998 after 32 years of government service with the Social Security Administration. Following volunteer services with the American Cancer Society, she answered a call to become the Executive Director of the American Cancer Society for the Wichita Metro Area, beginning February 2000.

*ERNEST J. NEWBORN, SR., Indianapolis, IN August 30, 2000 Interim Pastor Newborn challenged members in a Minister’s Moment entitled MY FIRST 83 DAYS (at Central Christian Church), by paraphrasing Winston Churchill with the introductory phrase: “I did not become interim minister for Central Christian Church to participate in its decline.”

RAYMOND BROWN, Indianapolis, IN Oct. 1, 2000 another interim service in the “Disciple Vatican” as interim President of DHM
**For Whom the Bell Tolls**

**ROBERT M. BURGESS JR., Raymore, MO** entered eternal life with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, July 24, 2000. A memorial service was held August 7, at the Foxwood Springs Living Center, Raymore, MO. Memorial contributions were made to the Fellowship of John at Foxwood. Bob expressed a quiet but sustained Christian witness, and provided a warm association with friends. Mr. Burgess was born, July 12, 1917, in Orville, WV. He was preceded in death by his wife of 57 years, Naomi Gilardi, in 1997. Survivors include: daughter, Jan Ericson and husband, Hartley, Leawood, KS; two grandchildren, three great-grandchildren; and two step great-grandchildren.

**LOGAN C. ATTERBURY: Lt. Col., USAF (retired),** passed away July 11, 2000, at Foxwood Springs Living Center, Raymore, MO. Mr. Atterbury was born in Moberly, MO, in 1918. He married his high school sweetheart, Louise F. Leebrick, in 1940, and they recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Atterbury attended the University of Missouri at Columbia before enlisting in the Army Air Corps in 1942. He became a pilot, later flying combat missions in France, Italy, Germany, and Holland. He and his aircrew survived being shot down in combat during the Battle of Arnhem in 1944. At the end of the war and for two years thereafter, he served as Aide-de-Camp and pilot for General J C H Lee, Eisenhower’s logistics chief. He was a Deacon Emeritus of the First Christian Church of Columbia, MO. In addition to his wife, Louise, he is survived by a son, Alan, and daughter-in-law, Mary, of Kansas City, MO, and their children, Jennifer, and her husband Edward Stevens of Kansas City, Andrew, and his wife, Gwyn Prentice of Houston, TX, and David of Kansas City.

Three brothers, Baker, Kenneth, and Joseph, preceded him in death. Private funeral services and interment was held at Mount Moriah Cemetery.

**CHRISTIAN WOOD JUNG of Raymore, MO** August 7, 2000. A faithful Christian who was born April 30, 1915 in Higginsville, MO. He earned his way through college as a janitor in successful pursuit of a Bachelor Degree in Education at Central Missouri State University. Chris became a public school teacher and principal before voluntary enlistment in the Navy. He was stationed in the Phillipines. Following an honorable discharge as a Lieutenant JG, he pursued graduate study. He answered a call to serve in Pakistan in 1959 as Chief of Party for the USAID Education Project for three years.

Four years later he went to Afghanistan to serve as Advisor to the Chancellor of Kabul. He received the nation’s highest educational honor award for his work on the development of Graduate Education for Teaching and Research in Afghanistan. After four years of this service he returned to the USA to work on a doctoral degree and employment as Professor of Secondary Education at Indiana University in Bloomington, IN. He retired from this position in 1980. Chris was a loyal member of Raymore Christian Church. He is survived by wife Alice of 61 years, and by a son and daughter-in-law, 5 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren; also a sister, Elizabeth Kraus, and brother Dr. Everett Jung.

**JOHNNY BOYD MILLER, Kansas City, MO** - Correction In the reference to his home going on page 6 of the May-June 2000 issue of THE OLDTIMERS’ GRAPEVINE, we omitted his last name. Sorry!
THANK YOU FOR THE SUPPORT!

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AMONG THE MANY MAKING THE TRANSITION:

Olive Marie Woltersberger died September 18, 2000. She was the mother of John Woltersberger, Denver, CO interim Regional Staff for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Central Rocky Mountain Regional Church.

Kring Allen, Rosemead, CA—Life-long advocate and leader for the racially inclusive congregation, July 3, 2000—Shouting for joy “in heaven” over multiracial progress in National City Christian Church, Washington, D. C.

Elizabeth M. Kingsbury, Indianapolis, IN—May 17, 2000, wife of Les Kingsbury, retired minister serving many years in the Illinois/Wisconsin Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

A PARTIAL PRAYER LIST:

BOB FANGMEIR, Indianapolis, IN—retired journalist, specialist in International affairs, receiving hospice care at home in Robin Run

SERE S. MYERS, Kansas City, MO—pioneer Disciple 102 years old Sept. 25; house bound & daily care

CHARLES MILLS, Indianapolis, IN—retired overseas missionary enduring long season of illness at Robin Run

The Oldtimers’ Grapevine
Published six times a year Through tax exempt donations.

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Different Fruit for Different People by Lois Artis Murray*

I arrived in Indianapolis with high expectations and lots of enthusiasm, ready to begin my new ministry as president of the Church Finance Council. After settling into temporary housing, I went out to shop for a few essentials. I came across a grocery store that I later learned was a part of a large chain in the Midwest. What I didn't know was that this store was in a poor neighborhood.

I parked my car and went in to buy some fruit. The store was rather dingy and the floors were dirty. I found the fruit, but it looked as though someone had been playing baseball with it. All of the fruit was bruised and rather brown. What a turn-off! I immediately left that store and drove around looking for another.

After roaming around for a while, I asked someone for directions to a grocery store. I followed the directions painstakingly so I wouldn't get lost. Much to my surprise, I found it! I was rather dismayed when I saw the sign. Here I was at another store within the same grocery chain. I gathered my courage and went inside.

What a difference! The atmosphere was bright and cheery. The floors were clean and shiny. The fruit looked as though it had just been plucked from a nearby tree. I later learned that this store was located in an upscale neighborhood.

Our society has many ways of sending messages to people. In subtle ways we say "you're not important," "you are an outsider," "you do not deserve the crumbs from the master's table."

The Reconciliation Mission of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is working to restore the broken relationships among God's people. Through your contributions to the Reconciliation Offering you make possible grants to local congregations that are working to eliminate the devastating impact of racism in our society. Your gifts also support the Anti-racism Initiative of the Christian Church that trains teams in regions and general units of the church. The goal of these teams is to use organizing principles to eliminate systemic racism in the life of the church.

Join us as we endeavor to be "one" church, where all of God's people are important and welcome.

*The Rev. Lois Artis Murray is also an Associate General Minister and President.
COLE GROUND BREAKING HIGHLIGHTS
NBA FOCUS ON OLDER ADULT HOUSING

Kansas City, MO- A ground breaking ceremony for the NBA K. David Cole Place on Grandview Road in Kansas City, MO October 20, 2000 highlighted the way in which NBA often cooperates with a predominantly racial ethnic congregation to construct affordable housing for low-income older adults.

The federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded a $4.4 million capital advance and $910,000 in rental assistance to NBA in November 1999 to build and manage the K. David Cole Place on a 3.7 acre campus in the south Kansas City area. Cole Place will provide 65 affordable one bedroom apartments for older adults.

Swope Parkway United Christian Church (Kansas City) guided by its Senior Minister, The Rev. Dr. Margaret Roberts, joined with NBA Foxwood Springs Living Center (Raymore, MO) and NBA (St. Louis, MO) to obtain funding and land for the facility. Cole Place Board Chairman, Al Waller, says the Place is named in honor of The Rev. Dr. King David Cole, recently retired Senior Minister of the Swope Parkway United Christian Church congregation, after 28 years of outstanding church and community service. (Continued on page 2)

HUD, NBA, Ethnic Minority Congregations in Three-way Housing Partnerships

St. Louis, MO- The National Benevolent Association of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is expanding its commitment to collaborate with congregations to construct affordable housing for older adults. Some projects meet the housing needs of persons in low to middle-income level neighborhoods and represent cooperating sponsorships with NBA and predominantly racial minority congregations. The em- (Continued on page 2)
Swope Parkway United CC & Foxwood Undergird Cole Place

(Continued from Page 1)

Dr. Cole served in many volunteer positions for NBA during his ministry: as a member of the NBA board of trustees, chair of the NBA Affirmative Action Task Force, and as president and founding member of the NBA FRIENDS organization, a group committed to friend raising and fund raising on behalf of the National Benevolent Association.

He was a board chairman for the NBA Foxwood Springs Living Center (Raymore, MO) and a formerly elected moderator of the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Recently he and his wife, Violaruth Cole, formerly of Kansas City, moved to Chatsworth, CA, where they could be nearer children and grandchildren.

Critical Housing Challenges Faced with Faith and Courage

(Continued from page 1)

phasis is gathering momentum.

Recently Kevin McKinney, NBA's associate vice president for affordable housing, announced that NBA had received funding for six out of the nine applications that he submitted to HUD this year! The federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently awarded $16.4 million in capital advances and another $3.2 million for five-year rental subsidies to NBA to build and manage five new apartment buildings for low-income elderly and seven homes for people who are differently abled.

The awards announced include:

- **Boise, Idaho** – 1649 W. Wright St., Boise, ID; $3.2 million capital advance; $663,500 rental subsidies; 50 one-bedroom apartments – working with University Christian Church, New Hope Christian Church and Red Rock Christian Church in Boise
- **East St. Louis, Illinois** – 1202-1222 St. Louis Avenue, East St. Louis, IL; $3.1 million capital advance; $618,000 rental subsidies; 40 one-bedroom apartments – working with New Salem Baptist District Association, which is made up of 45 Missionary Baptist churches
- **New Albany, Indiana** – 1302-14 Spring St., New Albany, IN; $1.5 million capital advance; $322,000 rental subsidies; 23 one-bedroom apartments – working with Central Christian Church in New Albany
- **St. Louis/Columbia, Missouri** (NBA Gateways/Woodhaven Housing II) – $2 million capital advance; $416,400 rental subsidies; seven three- and four-bedroom homes for 23 clients of NBA Gateways (St. Louis) and NBA Woodhaven Columbia) who have mental retardation and other developmental disabilities
- **Goldsboro, North Carolina** – 2100 Block of N. Williams St., Goldsboro, NC; $3.3 million capital advance; $540,000 rental subsidies; 41 one-bedroom apartments – working with Greenleaf Christian Church in Goldsboro
- **Nashville, Tennessee** – 2112-14 Buena Vista Pike, Nashville, TN; $3.3 million capital advance; $595,000 rental subsidies; 52 one-bedroom apartments – working with Gay-Lea Christian Church in Nashville
 Churches and NBA Locked in Painstaking Dedication

A n "NBA Fact Sheet" posted currently on the internet online through Katie Burckhalter, NBA's Director of Public Relations includes the following data:

Recent Developments
On Oct. 1, NBA began managing First Christian Towers of Winter Haven, FL, a HUD-funded facility for low-income older adults, with 156 one-bedroom apartments and efficiencies. First Christian Church of Winter Haven, the sponsor of the property, asked NBA to take over management of the facility. This is NBA’s 83rd facility.

NBA has opened five new HUD-funded facilities for low-income older adults in 2000:
- NBA Hylton Point II (St. Louis) opened Aug.30 with 60 apartments
- NBA Roscoe Dunjee Senior Living Center II (Spencer, OK) opened June 16 with 26 apartments
- NBA St. James Plaza (Wilson, NC) opened March 27 with 40 apartments

NBA has 10 more facilities for low-income older adults under construction or development:
- Colorado Springs - NBA Village at the Bluffs (51 apartments) will break ground in 2000
- Orlando, FL - NBA Citrus Gardens (55 apartments) under construction
- Idaho Falls, ID - NBA Mountain Falls II (22 apartments) under construction
- Marion, IN - NBA Flinn Place (23 apartments) under construction
- Greensboro, NC - NBA Anointed Acres (59 apartments) under construction
- Memphis, TN - NBA Boston Senior Living Center (50 apartments) under construction
- Houston, TX - NBA El Redentor II (33 apartments) under construction
- Longview, TX - NBA Page Place (51 apartments) under construction, to open November 2000
- Odessa, TX - NBA Disciples Village (30 apartments) under development

BOUGHT· A BOOK WRITTEN BY A FRIENDLY NEIGHBOR

We've just bought two hardback copies of Multicultural/Gender Word Usage: Words to Use, Words to Avoid-A Mini-Dictionary, Compiled & Edited by Augusta Edythe Hughes-Grant M.S.W. She's been a thoughtful and friendly neighbor for at least ten years. The hardback book costs $25 per copy plus $4.75 handling fees. Purchase online via <www.orders@xlibris.com>

Volume IX – Issue 5

You can also telephone the Xlibris Corporation at 1-888-795-4274, ext. 273. Paperback copies cost $16.00 plus $4.75 handling fees.

A flyer states that reading this book will help you gain confidence as you interact with others; and understand how words shape language culture, relationships, beliefs, and prejudices.

September – October 2000
Hawkins, TX- The Seventh Annual Pioneer Hall of Fame induction ceremonies featured the induction of six highly respected contributors to public and church related higher education and the received cash and pledges for the purchase of a touring bus. The event boosted funds marked for the bus to $36,586.

Four of the persons inducted are leaders in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). These honorees were Frank Adams, Chicago, IL; Irving Allen, Dallas, TX; Evon Davis, Houston, TX; and Giley Griffin, also of Dallas, TX. The Pioneer Hall of Fame 2000 class membership was completed by Jeannette Williams and Robin Ray Doddy of Longview, TX. All six are alumni of Jarvis Christian College.

CORONATION USES ARTISTRY AND BEAUTY TO MOTIVATE EXCELLENCE

Hawkins, TX- This year the Jarvis Christian College Coronation with the theme, “Putting on the Ritz,” took place October 13, 2000 in the Anthony Robinson Varsity Gymnasium located in the E. W. Rand Health, Physical Education & Recreation Center. The large assembly was enveloped with soft lighting and elegantly decorated with flowers and coverings in the college’s colors of blue and gold.

The Mistress of Ceremonies opened by introducing the “Outer Circle” described as “His and Her Majesty’s Captivating Ladies in Waiting.” As she read the names and bio sketches of the seventeen couples, each pair promenaded across the front dressed in beautiful formal attire.

They represented achievement of high academic scholarship in a variety of academic majors and minors. The group had a cumulative grade point average over 3.0. Most of the thirty-four had made the “Deans Honor List” and/or belonged to a national scholastic honor society. All are involved in two or more extra-curricular activities; had fraternal and sorority organizations, national scholarship memberships; and were engaged in volunteer services on and off campus. Several were key players on Jarvis teams engaged in intercollegiate competition.

Each had plans to pursue graduate school education. Fields of interest included criminal justice, computer sciences and technology, pharmaceuticals and anesthesiology, medicine, registered nursing, Kinesiology and physical therapy, school administration, chemistry, seminary and ecclesiastics, computer systems analysis and programming, seminary preparation, and Pediatric nursing. Some had a desire to become an inventor of new products and operators of their own enterprises.

The climax came when the “Inner Circle, called the “graceful duchess and dukes,” was presented. The Inner Circle is comprised of eight couples, each representing one of the four college classes. Every member of the “Inner Circle” had high academic achievement and extra-curricular involvement and plans for graduate school preparation comparable to that reflected by members of “Outer Circle.”

The elegant affair moved toward the climax with the presentation of Frank D. Williams, a senior from Houston, TX, as “Mr. Jarvis.” Williams is a senior majoring in business administration with a concentration in accounting. He plans to have his own business.

The zenith was reached with the Coronation and crowning of Mercedes Danielle Pope of Dallas, TX as “Miss Jarvis.” She is a graduating senior with plans to teach, attend graduate school, and become an elementary school principal.

THE OLDTIMERS’ GRAPEVINE
SOME PROFILES OF COURAGE in RETIREMENT

RELAXED “back home” in Palestine, TX Enoch W. Henry, JR, on the porch of the old homeplace with his closest “friend,” Dearie. After more than a half century of ministerial service in the Church. Now sleeping in the bedroom where he slept as a youth; carrying on a Bible Study Class in the front room; resting on a bountiful supply of Christian faith and courage.

On the right is pictured a scene from the celebration and thanksgiving in eating the festive cake in metro Kansas City, MO September 25, 2000 as Dr. Sere Staycee Myers observed his 102nd birthday.

The pioneer minister and Disciples of Christ leader was in the homeplace joined by family and friends to share the happy observance. Dr. Myers pressed onward while confronting several physical limitations.


Dr. Earl Wadsworth Rand, President Emeritus of Jarvis Christian College is visited in his Marshall, TX Rehabilitation Center residence in October 2000 by Jarvis College Director of Public Relations, Linda Rutherford.

On the right in Hawkins, TX standing in front of the Hawkins homeplace, is Reubena M. S. Fox of Raymore, MO and Melba Hawkins. Mrs. Fox, retired from school teaching for more than 30 years, was completed a friendly visit. Mrs. Hawkins retired from the staff of Jarvis Christian College in June 2000.

H. Thomas and O. Haynes: Award Selectees ‘Showing the Way’ “in Living Color”

RECOGNIZED - Charlotte, N. C. - The 16th biennial session of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) brought together more than 1000 registered attendants in Charlotte, NC August 11-15, 2000.

They were involved in worship, Bible study and seminars which addressed the theme “There’s Gonna be a Revolution: God and Our Ancestors Will Show us the Way.” The revolution will not be televised, according to ‘70s poet Gil Scott Heron. But the beginnings of a “revolution” among African American Disciples were seen “in living color” during this biennial session.

Among those honored were Harvey Thomas, Chicago, IL and Oscar Haynes, Washington, D.C., both prominent Disciples laymen, who were presented with the National Convocation’s coveted Liberation Award. For more than a half century these two laymen have been pioneer leaders in enabling togetherness across racial and ethnic divisions to become a reality within Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) congregations, districts, regions and national church organizations. The Liberation Award is a recognition of such leadership.

Both are also “Profiles in Courage.”

Volume IX - Issue 5

September – October 2000
FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL:

ROBERT A FANGMEIR, Indianapolis, IN—Memorial services for Robert A. Fangmeier, 85, retired director of international affairs of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) were held Oct. 8 in Downey Avenue Christian Church, of which he was a member and elder emeritus. He passed away October 1. Ira Pears, Interim Minister at Downey Avenue CC was the Officant for the services.

Ian McCrae, a retired minister and resident of Foxwood Springs of Raymore, MO, rendered special readings. McCrae was a former staff associate of Bob Fangmeier when they both served together on the denomination’s Church in Society Program staff.

Bob Fangmeier was as a social justice advocate who served as an international affairs specialist 22 years for the Christian Church (DOC), retiring in 1977.

JEAN INMAN, Raymore, MO—, 93 years old, one of the “Lilly’s in the Valley” of the Foxwood Springs Living Center, whose homegoing came unexpectedly October 30, 2000.

She was a faithful member of the Grandview Methodist Church. She was marked by a devotion to the use of beauty, crafts and a winsome personality in her relationship to others.

Her husband of 58 years preceded her in death. Two daughters and grandchildren are among the many who mourn her demise.

MOSE LADERSON, Indianapolis, IN—A retired Senior Minister at Hillside Christian Church where he had served for 33 years, succumbed November 3, 2000 following an extended bout with colon cancer. Memorial services were held November 8, 2000 at the Crown Hill Cemetery and Funeral Home.

The Rev. Mose Laderson had natural gifts in creative drama and performance. These gifts were artfully used to advance his spiritual objectives for congregational and community ministry. Laderson prompted the organization of several drama groups who performed throughout Metro Indianapolis and other parts of Indiana. During the 1960’s while in the midst of civil rights struggle and urban unrest, he used drama to convey the meaning of the Gospel. He presented classic plays which encouraged an appreciation and understanding of the heritage of African American people.

MILLARD FILLMORE HART, St. Louis, MO, had his homegoing September 10, 2000 with Memorial Services at Centennial Christian Church where he had been a veteran elder and faithful member.

His seven brothers and four sisters were loyal members of the Centennial congregation and preceded him in death. He was licensed as a lay minister. He once provided physical maintenance services for the Office of the National Christian Missionary Convention, now the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

G E O R G I A LAKES, Kansas City, MO— Memorial services for Georgia Lakes, wife of the late Rev. George Lakes for 60 years, were held at Swope Parkway United Christian Church, November 18. She died November 11. She graduated from Southern Christian Institute with her husband; had partnership in building a family of five children; faithful in church and was a gentle loving Christian spirit.

LOLA BEATRICE GREER, Oklahoma City, OK, a Jarvis Christian College alumnus, with graduate degree preparation in three universities; veteran public school teacher of mathematics in Oklahoma City and first African American to receive “The Teacher of the Year Award.” Faithful senior member of the East Sixth and Windowed Christian churches; the first person to register for the biennial session of the National Convocation during its first 8 years of existence.

September – October 2000
Thank you for your faithfulness.

Donors since the last issue: Roland/Kathryn Huff, Jacksonville, FL; Carl D. Boyd, Jacksonville, FL; D. M./Gretchen Wharff, Iva L. Brown, Blain, Raymore, MO; Wade D./Margaret Rubick, M. Frisco/Bertha Delinger Road Property in March of 1981 for $525,000. The success in raising $28,548.31 in 30 days toward the $25,000 Miracle Fund Goal.

Gilchrist, Harold/Evelyn Watkins, Indianapolis, IN; Lorene B. Holmes, Melba A. Hawkins, Hawkins, TX; Artie M. Scott, Frank/Rubena Adams, Chicago, IL; Mayme C. Garner, John/King David/Violaruth Cole, Chatworth, CA; Robert/Berlena Brock, Seattle, WA; Lillian B. Dixon, Knoxville, TN; Zella Mae Hunter, Tulsa, OK;

The membership is proud of its outreach mission efforts which include operation of a daycare center; granting the National Benevolence Association an option on leasing three acres of land in 1993 for senior citizen housing; establishing a Sarah Wilson Scholarship Fund in 1998.

The Johnsons travel widely throughout the nation and world in pursuit of Christian experiences and mission. Their son, the Rev. Joseph Thomas Johnson, II is a “Timothy” of the congregation.

The Oldtimers' Grapevine Good Faith Form:

Name: ____________________________ Date: __________

Address: ____________________________

City/Town: ____________________________

Enclosed is my donation of $10 $15 $20 $25 $50 Other $________

Please send your donation check or money order to:

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The Oldtimers' Grapevine published six times a year through tax exempt donations.

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Ruth Hobbs, Jackson, MS

Roland Huff, Jacksonville, FL

Harvey Thomas, Chicago, IL

An IRS 501©(3) Tax Exempt Organization
Old folks have visions and young people dream dreams. And that is what Bishop T. Garrott Benjamin, JR., staff associates and members of The Light of the World Christian (Disciples of Christ) Church in Indianapolis, IN have been doing for many years! The New Millennium vision they possess is the construction of a multi-million dollar church complex, beautifully designed and efficient; built on high ground in the city; where the Mission can be functionally related to cultural and educational institutions nearby like a Seminary, art Museum, University, churches intertwined with well maintained residential sectors.

Currently the 3,500 membership congregation supports a variety of services throughout the week in two locations.
Lifting up highlights in the journey of OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE to-date

- Origins
- Personalities involved
- Original intentions
- Some successes
- Some future challenges

Inside this issue:

Philosophical basis 2
Plan for operation 2
Working the plan 3
Role of the Board 4
A Trail Blazer Retires 6
Bye, Bye for Now 7
Meet the New Editor 8

Raymore, MO-
This issue is the last for the founding editor/manger.

During the period between 1986-88 his son, William K. Fox, JR, began to wonder why his father, a reasonably intelligent retired minister and church administrator, didn't own and operate a computer. Family communication was hindered and stretched 2000 miles one way between Southern California, and mid-America.

Oscar Haynes, Washington, D. C., joins Reubena M. S. and William K. Fox, Sr. in Raymore, MO for an on site review of the mission and operations of the OLDTIMERS. Haynes and the Foxes are veteran associates in the work of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The son had been trained and experienced in US Naval guided missile technology. He was also a budding computer technician. It was difficult for him to understand how his dad could function effectively in the twentieth century as a family man and volunteer worker in church and community without a computer.

During a visit in Southern California in the winter of 1986, the son convinced the father to purchase a live computer. A dot matrix printer was secured when he returned home. Unknowingly, William K. Fox, SR was on his way to establishing THE OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE newsletter. His son would provide expensive but necessary 24 hour technical support by long distant calls.

After some experimentation, Dad began to ponder the question: WHY NOT PUBLISH (ONE MORE) NEWSLETTER? Soon after the Foxes established residence in the Foxwood Springs Retirement Center, Raymore, MO in October 1989, enough

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

courage was gathered to fashion a crude four page issue for distribution in February 1991 called THE OLDTIMERS’ GRAPEVINE. It was mailed first class to about 100 church friends and former associates for their response.

AN “INDEPENDENT” NEWSLETTER

The masthead featured the philosophic statement: “An independent newsletter for ‘The Over 60’ in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Supporters of the National Convocation, and related racial, ethnic church organizations.”

One of the most interesting responses to that term was received came from A. Dale Fiers, the first person elected the General Minister and President of the denomination, and the budding editor’s first church executive superior. Dr. Files sent a donation to support the project, but he raised a question about the term: “An independent newsletter...”

He was assured that all that term was intended to mean was there was no plan to become operationally related and/or financially dependent upon an established church agency. “Independence” was to mean a full faith and dependence upon God operating through individual, voluntary donations by church related senior citizens.

OLDTIMERS’ was never intended to be a private enterprise operating for personal profit. The moment it ceases to be, it is intended that any funds beyond outstanding indebtedness, be transferred to an agency like the National Benevolent Association to support a manifest concern for the wholesome welfare of senior citizens.

This policy is proving to be successful. The OLDTIMERS’ GRAPEVINE has focused on the constructive and faithful presence of senior citizens related to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

There is a focus on African American members and their associates who relate to the general welfare of the church and the vision of the National Convocation and other racial, ethnic church structures. This environment had been a large part of the church experience and interest of the founding editor/manager. Wholeness and togetherness in Christ are the watch words of such an environment.

THE BASIC PURPOSE:

THE OLDTIMERS’ GRAPEVINE strives to

1- enhance communication and encouraged sharing of mutual experiences.

2- convey a holistic view of aging and health- “The best long-range health plan” being engagement in “God/activity”

3- advocate that seniors be a support community which nurtures personal loving care

4- use terms which gave to honor and dignity to the lives of those included in “For Whom the Bell Tolls”

5- highlight opportunities for maintain a high quality life and service in retirement


Standing in the wings and soon to take flight into the bosom of Abraham would be Christian stalwarts like Carrie Dee Hancock, Fedel Reyes, Elby Boosinger, John Long, Jesse James Hawkins, Rosa Page Welch, Margaret and George Earl Owen, Alfred C. Stone, Lester Rickman, Helen Pilgrim-Minor, Thomas W.
WITNESSING IN LIVING COLOR

Courts, William Starn, Marion Cowan, Jeremiah E. B. James, Carnella Jamison Barnes, and Emmet J. and Melvin Dickson.

But the actual list of these “faithful” is very, very long. The staff of the Pension Fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) may come nearest to having a longer list. Unfortunately all of God’s anointed do not belong to the Pension Fund. Ultimately only God knows the true list of those “For Whom the Bell Tolls.”

Consequently OLDTIMERS’ does not propose to lift up certain kinds or colors of Disciples of Christ who “Cross the Bar.” It only intends to illustrate the homegoing of the few who, in various ways, are brought to the attention of the Editor/Manager.

It does strive to use a few words which will provide life and flesh to bones in transition and if possible, relate the homegoing to the flow of life and work in the church.

Thus OLDTIMERS’ endeavors to trace a thin line which ties together those joined with God in the stirring of life and death within church and society.

EXPANDING THE OT READERSHIP

As the life of the OLDTIMERS’ GRAPEVINE was extended and read by more seniors in the church, there was an expansion in the nature of the readership. When the editor/manager and his wife, Reubena Mae Stultz Fox, became residents of the National Benevolent Association related retirement community of Foxwood Springs Living Center in Raymore, MO, their understanding of retirement and wholesome senior citizenship was tremendously enriched.

When many of the residents of Foxwood had an opportunity to read an issue of THE OLDTIMERS’ GRAPEVINE, they responded with donations and became regular readers. Meantime, the editor-manager’s favorite daughter-in-law Judy Fox, an excellent office administrative secretary living on the West Coast, had been proofreading copies long-distance. Edythe Grant, a resident at Foxwood Springs with extensive experience in Office operations, had read a couple of the issues. She volunteered to be the on-site proof reader. For nearly 8 years, Mrs. Grant has done an excellent job.

OLDTIMERS’ GRAPEVINE will grow slowly in relation to its ability to relate to the evolving senior citizen concerns and needs.

LONGER LIFE-SPAN EXPECTANCY—

This is a new reality which will present a daily challenge to seniors in the new millennium as they seek ways to have satisfactory life styles. They will seek spiritual nurture and enrichment; physical fitness; and pursue life preserving medical programs. They will experience loneliness; need wholesome human relationships; sexual orientation; and confront possibilities for marriage. As we move into the new millennium, OLDTIMERS’ may need to carry articles on how seniors as Christians deal with longer-life expectancy.

Katherine Fox-Cunningham, the founding editor/manager’s daughter and occasional advisor on possibilities for OLDTIMERS’, recently pointed to the website established by her congregation, The Light of the World Christian Church, where has belonged since her youth. The website highlights the congregation’s vision of being a THE CITY OF HOPE. Mention was made of this vision in the last issue of OLDTIMERS.

Another exciting Congregation in Decatur, GA called Ray of Hope, has a website which conveys the notion of a congregation seeking a 20,000 membership in 2000 AD; 500 per Sunday! This is a vision started in the senior minister’s living room with a handful of believers less than 15 years ago.

The needs and resources of senior citizens should be part of the planning of all congregations, large and small. The OLD TIMERS’ GRAPEVINE should be considered an ally of church in this regard.
1991 – 2000: A SUPPORTIVE & HIGH QUALITY BOARD

BOARD MEMBERSHIP IMPLIES HIGH EXPECTATIONS

The editor/manager needed a Board of Directors which was capable and committed to rendering advice and counsel. The Board members' high quality of experience Christian experience and leadership has given the editor-manager enjoyment in rendering high quality volunteer service and given authenticity and respectability to the operation. Consider these bios:

Sere Stayce Myers of Kansas City, MO, the first President, is a noble centurion who has been a pastoral leader of two of the prestigious Disciples of Christ congregations. He is also one of the pioneer leaders in the foundation of the mission of The National Christian Missionary Convention/National Convocation and a former Vice-President for the General Assembly.

The late Velva Dreese of Raymore, MO our first Vice-President, was of similar character and commitment. She was a Disciple of Christ with a daily hands-on-mission. Velva was a former overseas missionary who retired to the USA as a staff person in state and general church. As a member of the United Christian Missionary Society she enabled programs services to the women of the National Christian Missionary Convention.

The late Flo Kallenbach of Raymore, MO, our second Vice-President, was a most dedicated Christian laywoman, an retired public school teacher in English, and a creative writer. She provided the money necessary for the newsletter to be recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a tax exempt not-for-profit organization. Flo Kallenbach was a person in continuous Christian witness until death.

The late George Lakes of Kansas City, MO, former secretary for the OLDTIMERS' Board, was a veteran pastoral mainstay in the Midwest whose longtime consistent service was recognized by the Trustees of the National Convocation of the Christian Church by selecting him for The Liberation Award. George Lakes was always present and in support of OLDTIMERS.

Vice-President Sybel Thomas of Chicago, IL, is a veteran lay leader in her congregation and former elected officer for regional and district church structures. She is also a former elected President of the denomination's international organization for Church Women; elected President of the National Convocation of the Christian Church, and recipient of The Liberation Award. Mrs. Thomas continues in steadfast support of OLDTIMERS'.

Reubena M. S. Fox of Raymore, MO who initially was registered as the OLDTIMERS' treasurer, originated as a loyal member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Piedmont Area of Virginia. Her secondary education was received from Piedmont Christian Institute. She is a retired public school teacher, and pioneer participant and elected leader in aspects of Tri-State, District and national church organizations. She provided an affirming presence for the OLDTIMERS' founding editor/manager.

Roland Huff of Jacksonville, FL, member of the founding OLDTIMERS' Board, is a retired senior minister; employed by the denomination's unit providing Christian finance and stewardship services to congregations; a church unit member of the National Christian Missionary Convention Board of Trustees, and a past elected president of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society. During his administration at the Society the unit comprised the first printed chronology of African American Disciples of Christ documents and studies.

(Continued on page 5)
1991 – 2000: SENIORS ADAPTED TO CHANGE

(Continued from page 4)

The late Cornelius W. Arnold of Los Angeles, CA, also a member of the founding OLDTIMERS’ board, was a retired senior minister for predominantly African American congregations in eight states. He was formally prepared in denominationally oriented schools and colleges to become an independent Christian spirit and liberal Christian steward. He strongly advocated and personally financed the establishment of new congregations advocated the expansion of the OLDTIMERS’ GRAPEVINE.

Kitty Austin of Indianapolis, IN, is a retired general church staff member who is helpmate of a retired general church staff member who was a principal participant in developing the foundation program service and structure documents which undergird the transition and operation of the evolvement of the National Christian Missionary Convention toward the National Convocation of the Christian Church and wholeness in structural relations. Kitty has been a supportive member of the founding Board for the OLDTIMERS’ GRAPEVINE.

Harvey Thomas of Chicago, IL is also a member of the founding OLDTIMERS’ GRAPEVINE Board of Directors. He is a practicing accountant and active elected lay leader in his congregation and the denomination’s district, regional and general church structures. He was a member of the first General Church Steering Committee guiding the operation of Reconciliation Fund; a guiding light in the evolvement of laymen’s church work; and a most recent recipient of the National Convocation’s Liberation Award. Mr. Thomas continues to be a positive asset for OLDTIMERS.

Amy Hohman, currently of Louisville, KY was formerly a resident of Raymore, MO and a member of the founding Board of Directors for THE OLDTIMERS’ GRAPEVINE. She was a faithful member in the Raymore Christian Church and a former staff member and associate of the late Velva Dreese with the United Christian Missionary Society of Indianapolis, IN. She had been a member of the staff team servicing congregations related to the National Christian Missionary Convention/Convocation.

Ruth Hobbs of Jackson, MS is a member of the founding Board of Directors for THE OLDTIMERS’ GRAPEVINE. She is a loyal member in a congregation; elected officer in the regional church, and former elected officer and President for the state Christian Missionary Convention, mainly composed of African American Disciples of Christ. She has had a long term interest in the preservation of African American church history She currently serves as the regional church historian, and has been a Disciples of Christ Historical Society board member.

Ernest J. Newborn, SR of Indianapolis, IN is a member of the founding Board of Directors for the OLDTIMERS’ GRAPEVINE. He is a loyal member of a local congregation; retired senior minister in four states, called to be a regional church staff, and later the administrative staff for the General Church Reconciliation Fund. His dual alignments with the United Presbyterian Church, USA and the United Church of Christ has afforded him both active and interim opportunities for service. He also serves as the associate editor for the OLDTIMERS GRAPEVINE and been a faithful supporter from the outset.

Linda McKnight of St. Louis, MO, the youngest and most recent member of the OLDTIMERS’ Board of Directors, is also the elected financial secretary/treasurer for the newsletter. She is a faithful and active member in the congregation and has been called to provide professional financial services for the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); Division for Higher Education; three colleges and universities; and recently the denomination’s Church Finance Council.
After 31 years the retirement of Dr. Gerald Cunningham January 31, 2000 as Director of Justice Ministries in DHM’s Center for Education and Mission, marks an official farewell for one of the few remaining trail blazing general church staff members for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

For nearly two generations the ministry of Gerald Cunningham has focused on equipping the Saints to work for Christian justice and equity at the ground level. This has usually been through modest showcase programs in small to middle sized congregations. Thus, it has often been overlooked by the church at large as well as church media. But God is aware.

When you recall the Civil Rights struggles of the 1960’s and the 1970’s and the agony in the church as it struggled to respond, what pioneering staff persons in the general church do you remember? Memory may bring back names like the Barton Hunters, Lewis Deers, Tom Griffins, Ian McCraes, John Comptons, Frisco Gilchrists or the Bob Fangmeirs. Most were lodged in the denomination’s staff for Church in Society, or were aligned to the Reconciliation Fund.

But you may forget that in between, along side, and sometimes out in front of these Disciples of Christ staff members was a strong, stately bearing African American associate named Gerald Cunningham. He was quietly resourcing Black clergy in their exploration of the Black Caucus idea; encouraging and training clergy and small congregations in select parts of the church to conduct small but effective programs to meet the justice needs of the most neglected; linking up with district, regional, and national church leaders to share experiences and learn new and better ways to equip the Saints in the justice and equity mission.

This was a highly focused, yet broadspread ministry which was usually affirmed by his superiors and staff associates. You can get a better appreciation of the Dr. Gerald Cunningham ministry when you realize that his early spiritual formation and commitment to full-time Christian ministry came during his youth as a member of Centennial Christian Church, St. Louis, MO. It began in church youth camps and conferences as a camper and conferee and later service as a youth counselor. Then came college and seminary.

Some Centennial members and a retired pastor remember the small but well-intended efforts to support Gerald as a student at Lexington Theological Seminary in Lexington, KY and then the School of Religion at Butler University, Indianapolis, IN now called Christian Theological Seminary.

Those were hard days in formal preparation because Gerald was the only family member who belonged to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Furthermore financial resources available at home were slim. But Gerald persevered, completed his preparation, and went immediately to the front lines of church work in a couple of small congregations.

This was followed by employment to coordinate central city ministries during the days of urban unrest and the flight of many mainline denomination congregations from the center of town to the suburbs.

Then, eager and enlightened, Cunningham moved into the stream of general church staff to agonize through the formulation of resolutions; draft statements of intention; become immersed in developing “study documents; and observing deadlines for staff, department and board reports; pursuing marriage and parenting a family.

Eventually, the swirl of societal unrest prompted the church to support in-service training for Gerald Cunningham so he could enable Disciples of Christ to engage in front line urban ministries. There was support for test demonstrations in ways for going into the streets to advocate the securing of justice for the disinherit. This was unpopular but critically needed Disciples of Christ activity. Jerry took the licks and moved onward. Dr. Cunningham has documented some of this in a book. Don’t miss getting a copy as soon as it comes off the Press. One question remains. Who will follow a Jerry Cunningham?
Thanks for Continued Faithfulness.

BYE, BYE FOR NOW, by William K. Fox, SR

Raymore, MO— It seems to me most fitting to use this space devoted to thanking donors, for the retiring editor-manager to render a parting "Adieu," "Thank You," and Best wishes for a Blessed New Year.

I’m breaking off after nine years of privilege of monitoring the coming and going of some very wonderful people. I’m really not going very far. January 1, 2001 I will be aligned with Dr. Sebetha Jenkins and the Jarvis Christian College Olin Resource Staff as the volunteer Coordinator for the Black Disciples Church Heritage Project lodged in the archival collection of the College. This will be a national endeavor handled by a highly trained library staff led by Director Tracy Caradine.

Establishing an archives collection at Jarvis was first instituted by materials preserved in her home by Emeritus Professor Venita C. Waddleton for more than 50 years. In the 1980’s Presidents Earl W. Rand and Charles A. Berry joined with archivists Giley Griffin and Sarah G. Berry, to formally develop the archives to include Black Disciples of Christ. The late Jesse J. Hawkins and Emmett J. Dickson followed with a special Southern Christian Institute Bio Sketch Section on spindles of poster sized plastic holders.

Now President Sebetha Jenkins wants to preserve and expand the archives collection. I am committed to work on the Black Disciples Church aspect as long as possible. Your help will be appreciated.

Be on the alert. You may be one of those to receive some very interesting communication in your mail soon.
HAYNES LEADS OT into the NEW MILLENNIUM

Oscar Haynes is an active lay church leader affiliated with the National City and 12th Street Christian congregations in Washington, D.C. He has been Office Manager & Director of Communications for the Christian Church in the Capital Area since 1995.

As the new Editor/Manager of the OLDTIMERS’ GRAPEVINE, he will be drawing upon his formal preparation as a student at Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, AL as well as further work at Howard and Washington Universities in Washington, D.C.

GRAPEVINE will be enriched by his experiences as reporter and columnist for Afro-American Newspapers; engagement in merchandising and special events planning, and editing the U.S. Air Force Engineers Base Newspaper while he was stationed during World War II in Upper Assam, India.

OLDTIMERS’ GRAPEVINE readers will sometimes benefit from insights he will share from his associations and board memberships.

Currently he is a trustee of the National City Christian Church Corporation; the Greenwood Cemetery Board, Nashville, TN, Turgid Marshall Community Center, and elder at Twelfth Street Christian Church.

The new OLDTIMERS’ GRAPEVINE editor/manager was the first layman elected to be president of the National Convocation of the Christian (Disciples of Christ) Church; a past president of the Capitol Press Club, Washington, D.C. as well as served as a Second Vice-Moderator of the General Assembly; Moderator of the Christian Church in the Capitol Area.

Mr. Haynes has received many awards from civic, fraternal, and church organizations for outstanding leadership. The most recent was the National Convocation’s Liberation Award.

The energetic layman is the father of four daughters and one son through a faithful marriage in 1949 to the late Lula Mae Smith. He will bring balance and enrichment to the content of OLDTIMERS’ through his current experience with eight grandchildren: three girls and five boys.