The Oldtimers' Grapevine, Volume 11 (January - December 2001)

William K. Fox Sr

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PROMINENT CHURCHWOMAN EULOGIZED

Zellie Madie Simpson Peoples, former treasurer of the National Christian Missionary Convention, and the Black Disciple Ministers' Wives of the National Convention, was eulogized in services at Light of the World Christian Church in early January, 2001.

Mrs. Peoples served two terms on the Indiana Association of Christian Churches' state board and executive committee. She was also corresponding secretary of the Indiana Council of United Church Women and state chairwoman of the council's World Community Day. She was second vice president of the International Convention of Christian Churches, and the first black person to preside over the organization's general session. She was president of the Women's Department of the National Christian Missionary Convention and a member of its board. Mrs. Peoples also was president of the Interdenominational Ministers' Wives Association of Indianapolis and second vice president of Church Women United in Indianapolis.

She was a member of the Christian Education Committee of the Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis, the National Christian Women's Fellowship Commission of Christian Churches and its advisory council, the board of the Indianapolis Council of Church Women, Disciple Ministers' Wives Fellowship of Indiana and the Indianapolis Community Choir.

In 1976, Mrs. Peoples received the National Convocation Bicentennial Award for a lifetime of distinguished humanitarian service to the church, community and world.

Mrs. Peoples, widow of the Rev. Robert Hayes Peoples, distinguished Disciples pastor, graduated cum laude from Jarvis Christian College in 1929. She was a 1932 cum laude graduate of Texas College, Tyler, Texas.

Tribute To Black History Month

Poem by Phillis Wheatley titled:

"On the Death of The Reverend Mr. George Whitefield"

Hail, happy saint! on thine immortal throne,
Possess of glory, life, and bliss unknown:
We hear no more the music of thy tongue;
They wonted auditories cease to throng.

Thy sermons in unequalled accents flowed,
And ev'ry bosom with devotion glowed;
Thou didst, in strains of eloquence refined,
Inflame the heart, and captivate the mind.

Unhappy, we the setting sun deplore,
So glorious once, but ah! it shines no more.

Behold the prophet in his towering flight!
He leaves the earth for heaven's unmeasured height,
And worlds unknown receive him from our sight.
There Whitefield wings with rapid course his way,
And sails to Zion through vast seas of day.

Thy prayers, great saint, and thine incessant cries,
Have pierced the bosom of thy native skies.
Thou, moon, hast seen, and all the stars of light,
How he has wrestled with his God by night. 

He prayed that grace in ev'ry heart might dwell; 
He longed to see America excel; 
He charged its youth that ev'ry grace divine. 
Should with full lustre in their conduct shine. 
That Saviour, which his soul did first receive, 
The greatest gift that ev'n a God can give, 
He freely offered to the numerous throng, 
That on his lips with list'ning pleasure hung. 

"Take him, ye wretched, for your only good, 
"Take him ye starving sinners, for your food; 
"Ye thirsty, come to this life-giving stream, 
"Ye preachers, take him for your joyful theme; 
"Take him my dear Americans," he said, 
"Be your complaints on his kind bosom laid: 
"Take him, ye Africans, he longs for you; 
"Impartial Saviour is his title due: 
"Washed in the fountain of redeeming blood, 
"You shall be sons, and kings, and priests to God."

Great countess,* we Americans revere 
Thy name, and mingle in thy grief sincere; 
New England deeply feels, the orphans mourn, 
Their more than father will no more return. 
But though arrested by the hand of death, 
Whitefield no more exerts his lab'ring breath, 
Yet let us view him in th' eternal skies, 
Let ev'ry heart to this bright vision rise; 
While the tomb, safe, retains its sacred trust, 
Till life divine reanimates his dust. 

*The countess of Huntingdon, to whom Mr. Whitefield was chaplain

REVEREND DR. SEIR S. MYERS, Kansas City, MO. Home 
going services for one known as “Builder of Men, Women and 
Children” were held at Community Christian Church with the 
Reverend Dr. Robert Lee Hill, officiating.

This 102 year old clergyman was also a real estate broker from 
1932 until this past December. On his 100th birthday, his family 
and friends gathered in Kansas City to honor Dr. Myers. At that 
collection, Dr. Myers said, “faith, hope and love are the three 
great valuables of the world. Pride, ingratitude, and 
carelessness are the three great sins and that the sources for help, 
strength, powers and salvation are in God, the Father, God, the 
Son, the Holy Ghost, and the Bible”.

INTERIOR DESIGNER

Delores C. Walker, Indianapolis, IN, was called to spread her 

Delores C. Walker was the eldest of seven children and accepted 
Christ as her savior at an early age and was baptized in Hope 
Well Church in St. Louis.
Ms. Walker graduated from Butler University with a degree in Interior Design, and was employed by numerous design companies; to name a few, Magnum Interiors, Kittle’s Home Furnishings and Lazarus Department store. She received numerous awards for her accomplishments and later, opened her own successful business which she called “Dolores Walker Interiors”.

Dolores was a member of the Fort Nightly Book Club, the National Association of Female Executives, Board of Management of Faith United Christian Church and Christian Women Fellowship.

Dolores leaves behind a loving daughter, four sisters, one brother and a host of loving family members and friends. Her service was held at Faith United Christian Church in Indianapolis, IN.

**BLACK MINISTERS RETREAT**

More than 300 Clergy men and women will gather in the Nation’s Capital March 5 to 8, 2001 for the second time in the history of this event. They will be hosted by the Senior Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Alvin O. Jackson and staff.

The Rev. Dr. William C. Howland, Jr., Senior Pastor Emeritus, hosted this eminent group of spiritual leaders in 1978, with the cooperation of Oscar Haynes, who was at that time President of the National Convocation and a Trustee of our National Cathedral. Dr. Howland stated “It was an honor for him to have the opportunity to host my fellow clergy and a real joy that they accepted.”

The present director of this yearly event is the Rev. Charles Webb, former pastor of Twelfth Street Christian Church, only about eleven blocks from National City Christian Church.

**DISTINGUISHED PASTOR HONORED**

The Rev. Samuel W. Hylton Jr., pastor emeritus of Centennial Christian Church, St. Louis, MO, whose 50-year ministry is symbolized by his spirit of humility and excellence, was recently honored by the naming of the 60-unit apartment building at 933 Belt Avenue, HYLTON POINT II APARTMENTS.

The very personable clergyman refuses to let retirement force him to abandon a ministry that began when he was a teenager. For him, providing low-income housing for the elderly has been as much a part of his ministry as preaching from the pulpit on Sundays.

In 1986, Rev. Hylton led Centennial Christian Church in the first housing ministry partnership with National Benevolent Association in the construction of Centennial Plaza Apartments, a 77 unit apartment facility for older adults and disabled persons. This facility was opened in 1988.

In May of 1996 this partnership celebrated its second successful collaboration in the development and opening of Hylton Point I Apartments. In honor of his exemplary leadership, this 72-unit building for older adults, was named Hylton Point I. The NBA, Rev. Hylton and the Centennial congregation have created three apartment complexes in twelve years, providing 209 affordable housing units for the elderly.

Rev. Hylton, staff member of The Christian Church Foundation, has served on numerous boards including The St. Louis Art Museum, Central Medical Center and ECHO Children’s Home. He has also been vice president of the Interfaith Partnership of St. Louis, a member of the executive committee for the V.P. Fair, of the Force on Violence and founding president of the St. Louis Clergy Coalition.
DEAR READER

Greetings and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year to YOU. It is with mixed emotions I begin this journey of Editor/Manager of The OLDTIMERS’ GRAPEVINE NEWSLETTER. Excited because I again have the opportunity to pursue one of my first loves, and less enthusiastic when I realize I am following in the footsteps of the Rev. Dr. William K. Fox, the creator of this newsletter.

My fears have lessened since sharing this new venture for me with family and friends. Some have taken up the challenge with me and this has resulted in the introduction of a new mast head for this initial issue which I hope you are pleased with. It is a creation of my Emmy-award winning son.

This is a true honor to follow in the footsteps of such a distinguished churchman as Dr. Fox, whose creative talents led to the publication of such a valuable instrument. I seek your prayers as I strive to keep this newsletter on the level of professionalism that he made it.

Since this publication is by and for primarily older persons, it can play a significant role in our journey. This leads me to seek the input of our readers as we strive to continue to make this publication a high priority on your reading list. These were and are the goals of the former and present editor in hopes of this being a ministry as significant as 11:00 a.m. on the sabbath.

Oscar Haynes, Editor
HUNDREDS CELEBRATE MLK DAY

"Blacks must not forget the conditions that their people were subjected to in the struggle for civil rights" declared the Rev. Mildred W. Range, pastor of the East Percy Street Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Greenwood, MS.

The Rev. Range was featured speaker at a memorial service and march attended by more than 200 persons, which was the 18th consecutive celebration.

This was also the 33rd anniversary of the assassination of Dr. King.

But victory has brought with it complacency, and many blacks today seemed to have forgotten the struggle for freedom that Dr. King represented, she said. She read from the Book of Deuteronomy, the eighth chapter.

Just as God had delivered His chosen people from bondage in land of Egypt, He delivered Southern Blacks from the oppression they were living under in this country, she stated.

"we most remain focused on the reasons for the struggle", Reverend Range said. "When one forgets what has transpired in the past, and forgets the commandments of our Lord God, it brings about disorientation and tragedy".

Blacks have largely forgotten where they were as a people and what it was like before God inspired Dr. King, she said.

(con't.)
“Egypt was the white man’s plantation. We must remember that American blacks of the 50’s and 60’s willingly stood firm on their faith. Many stood until their death—and some of us today will not even stand until we’re tired”.

Reverend Range said freedom has brought forgetfulness with it. “Once we came out from the plantation, we became full and we forgot. We are wandering in our own wilderness today”.

She then shared social problems in the high rate of separations, young girls having babies, black young men killing each other. If Dr. King were alive today, he would ask blacks a simple question, “where are you now?”

Reverend Range said the only answer should be “we are yet in the struggle. We are yet on the field.

Reverend Range is the wife of the Reverend Ozark Range, retired director for black ministry in the Center, for Leadership and Ministry, Division of Homeland Ministries.

“FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN...” Is. 9:6

There is rejoicing in the Liggett family as members and friends celebrate the birth of Thomas Jackson Liggett Creel, son of Stephen & Kyla Creel, and Great Grandson of retired church executive, Thomas J. Liggett.

The youngest T.J. Liggett was born April 1, 2001, at Washington Hospital Center, Washington, D.C., weighing in at 8lbs/9oz. Mom, Dad and little T.J. are fine, as well as grandmother Peggy.

The young T.J. Liggett is named for his great grandfather, Dr., T.J. Liggett; The Rev. Dr. Alvin Jackson, and his father Stephen, so he is officially Thomas Jackson Stephen Creel.

Kyla, who holds a Bachelor of Science from the University of Maryland, will receive a Masters Degree in Social Work this August from Smith College. Her thesis is Collaboration of Social Service Agencies and African American Churches to Decrease Youth Violence. She has mastered conversational American sign language. Stephen has a Master Degree in Social Work.

Great Grandfather Thomas J. Liggett is retired President of the United Christian Missionary Society, President of Christian Theological Seminary and President of Division of Overseas Ministries. He has a most distinguished career of leadership in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), in the United States and Canada. He is equally known and respected in the Ecumenical circle of religious leaders.

There will be a joyous time this Fall when little T.J. meets Great-grandpa T.J. in California to help grandpop celebrate his birthday.
HE IS RISEN! HALLELUJAH
THE LORD IS RISEN INDEED, HALLELUJAH, HALLELUJAH, HALLELUJAH!!!!!!

THE SOUL WITH SUNNY HEART

God bless the soul with sunny heart
   Who brightens up each day
By spreading seeds of cheerfulness
   While traveling on life’s way.
God bless him for the stars of hope
   He sets in each one’s sky;
For the encouragement he gives
   That causes folk to try...
With stronger faith to press ahead,
   With courage for a mate,
And reach for goals, and build anew,
   And smile and challenge fate.
God bless his laughter and his song
   That drives dark clouds away
From troubled minds, and paints instead
   A rosy-tinted day.
God bless the soul with sunny heart
   Who’d found in life his place,
And serves his God and fellow man
   With humble, gentle grace.
The world has need of such a man
   Who lifts the heart from gloom,
And in life’s barren places plants
   Sweet flowers of love to bloom.
He may serve as some men serve
   With fame or high degree...
But his good deeds will ever shine
   Throughout eternity

by Beverly J. Anderson

While the morning stars sang in chorus and all the sons of God shouted for joy...
Job 38:7

CORRECTION

In the January-February edition, the name of Dr. Sere S. Myers was misspelled. This error was in the FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL and read Seir instead of Sere.
FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL

**Grace Ann Smith, Roanoke, VA**
This deeply committed Christian, who had just celebrated her 97th birthday two weeks earlier was the youngest sister of Mrs. Reubena Fox's mother. Mrs. Fox, wife of Dr. William K. Fox had kept contact with her aunt over these many years.

Homecoming Service were held at Loudon Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) with the Rev. William L. Lee, Pastor, officiating.

Mrs. Smith was a devoted member of Twelfth Street Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) before moving back to her native home town.

**Beulah Ann Taylor Hylton**
Going home service for this octogenarian were held at 12th Street Christian Church (Disciple of Christ) with the Reverend William Martin, Associate Pastor, officiating.

Ms. Hylton, mother of three daughters and two sons, had been a loyal member more than four decades. She was a native of Roanoke, Va., who was much loved by family and friends. Her son Taft, is a prominent church organist and chorale director.

THANKS FOR YOUR WONDERFUL SUPPORT

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DEAR READER,

Webster’s definition of a newsletter must share the note from Lois Long Thompson. “Dear Mr. Fox, thanks so much for all the work you have put in the Grapevine for years. I have enjoyed it so much. “I pass mine on to a wonderful friend...”

Several have expressed this fact in your notes. James C. Suggs wrote, “Thank you for accepting the mantle of publisher-editor... call on me if I can help.” T.J. Liggett wrote, “Welcome... This publication has served the church well...”. Wade D. Rubick wrote, “It’s great to know that you are taking Bill’s place and that the Oldtimers’ Grapevine will live on. It’s a valuable publication...”.

Donald O. Legg wrote, “Congratulations and best wishes; one of my favorite publications...” I wish we had space for more but I

Oscar Haynes, Editor

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BUS RIDES TO BICYCLES

My first bus ride, etc......

GENERAL ASSEMBLY/SYNOD 2001

The General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is held every two years. This one will be a joint assembly of Disciples and United Church of Christ. Since 1983, Rev. Newborn, who recently moved from Indianapolis to Claremont, CA. has ridden his bicycle to Tulsa, Des Moines, St. Louis, Louisville, and plans to bike to Kansas City this year.

(This article is courtesy of Witherspoon Presbyterian Church, written by Marcella J. Taylor)

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

My first bus ride came when I was four. My mother and I had planned the trip from our small hometown in Tennessee to another town nearby where my older brother lived.

For several days I thought of little else but the anticipated journey. I was so excited that I planned to be the first on board the bus so I could take a seat just behind the driver. I ran ahead of my mother and took the first seat. But by the time my mother came aboard, the bus driver had me by the collar, forcing me toward the rear of the bus. I shall never forget the pain and hurt in my mother's eyes as she tried to explain it all to me.

A year later, I made a second bus trip- - alone. Again I took a seat just behind the driver. And again, he was determined to drag me to the rear of the bus.

As I struggled, I became aware of another person intervening. A woman, seated just behind me, was pleading with the driver to "let the little boy have the seat". The driver became angry and put...
“My First Bus Ride” cont’d

me on the seat beside her. She told
the driver that I could share her
seat.

When the driver repeated his
demand, the stranger put me on her
knees and insisted that I be allowed
to share her seat or she would get
off and demand a ticket refund.

The bus driver reluctantly returned
to his place, and a silent truce
prevailed between him and the
woman during the twelve-mile trip.

These two childhood experiences—
one of humiliation, the other of
reconciliation and hope—remain
indelible in my consciousness to this
day.

For the past twenty-five years I
have been engaged in the church’s
ministry of reconciliation. Such
experiences as those on the bus
have had much to do with my life’s
choices, goals and direction. I have
always been grateful for what took
place on that second ride”

The elder Mr. Newborn, father of
10 sons, bought each son a bicycle
to ride so they would not have to
endure the chagrin of the back of
the bus.

Ernest J. Newborn has accepted
a position at the Disciples of
Christ head-quarters in
Indianapolis. In good weather,
he rode his bicycle to work
from his home in the Devington
Area to his office in Irvington.
He was 56 years old. He and
an associate (who, incidentally,
was 66 years old) conceived a
way to raise funds and
awareness for reconciliation
programs. They planned and
organized a “Unity Bike/Hike
for Reconciliation and Aid to
the Poor.” The effort resulted
in $12,000.

On a Saturday morning,
August 27, 1983, fifteen riders
rode around Monument Circle
seven times, then departed west
for San Antonio, TX, a distance
of 1,326 miles. In Plainfield,
ten riders stopped. Others
went as far as Terre Haute.
Three riders continued to Little
Rock, AR, where one more
stopped. On to San Antonio
rode only the two original
organizers.

Bicycles are not allowed on
interstates, so the route was on
secondary roads. Averaging 15
miles per hour and 75-85 miles
a day, the stalwart duo reached
their destination on schedule.
“My First Bus Ride” cont’d

they were circling the Alamo.
The memories of events along the 1,326-mile route remain vivid. There was only one negative incident; it involved a group of teenagers in Illinois. Otherwise, they were warmly welcomed and hosted at various churches. At night they slept in those churches, sometimes on the floor of their carpeted nurseries, sometimes on pews.

In Johnson city, TX., at the First Christian Church, Rev. Newborn recalled sleeping on the back pew, which he was told had been the favorite pew of former U.S. president, Lyndon B. Johnson.

Other significant memories include: only one insufferably hot day (102°) in Illinois; no rain for 21 days, then 6 hours on their last day as they neared San Antonio; the successful projects helping poor and downtrodden they witnessed in their stop-over locations; the SAG wagons—carrying water, food, spare tires, etc.—that each state arranged to escort them from state line to state.

line.
Mrs. Janice Newborn flew to San Antonio to be there upon his arrival - and they FLEW back together.
The Disciples’ General Assembly is held every two years. Since 1983, Rev. Newborn has ridden his bicycle to Tulsa, Des Moines, St. Louis, Louisville, and plans to ride to Kansas City this year.
NINETY-SEVEN YEAR OLD RECEIVES HONORARY DOCTORATE

Mrs. Era Maxine Holmes, active member of East Sixth Street Christian Church, Oklahoma City, OK, Civil Rights Activists long before the national Civil Rights Movement, was awarded an Honorary doctorate Degree by Jarvis Christian college on May 5, 2001.

Mrs. Robinson was born in Pittsburgh, TX on September 9, 1904, to Ben and Ida Craig Robinson. When she was six years old the family moved to Oklahoma City. She attended Archie Park Elementary School and Douglass Junior High and Senior High School. After completing her junior year in 1920 at Douglas, Era was eligible to attend Jarvis Christian Institute in Hawkins, TX.

This most attractive, personable teenager, became a work student at JCI which meant she took classes in the evening and worked on campus during the day her first year. The following years she was an active member of the school choir. Because of limited spending money and the long distance from home, she did not go home for five semesters.

While home for the summer of 1924, prior to entering her last year at Jarvis, Era discovered she was unable to return to JCI because the tuition had increased from twelve ($12.00) to fifteen ($15.00) per semester.

In 1927, Mrs. Holmes joined the local branch of the NAACP. In 1929 she volunteered to assist the secretary with typing and gathering data for the membership. She worked the national conventions and assisted the national secretary in typing reports, newsletters and speeches. Mrs. Holmes received the Roy Wilkins Medallion for soliciting and writing two thousand members for the Christian Church. She received the Benjamin Hooks Medallion for spearheading the largest chapter membership drive and the “Life Membership Award”.

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DEAR READER

In the earlier years of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) we were affectionately The Brotherhood. This was fine except it was sexist. We are thankful this was dropped and we are all brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ. We think of the term brotherhood as one of endearment and is why I referred to it. In just a few more days old timers will be greeting each other in Kansas City at the General Assembly/Synod.

High on the priority list is to attend the General Assembly so we can be with brothers and sisters whom we see only every two years. Thousands of miles separate us but the business of the church provides us with this bonus.

I look forward to seeing Linda White, who made my hotel reservations; Bob & Kay Harmon, registrars of the Assembly & my friends; Dr. Hamm, at his insightful special luncheon for Past Moderators, Vice Moderators and Presidents; Gwen Walker, contributor to this publication; Wade Rubick, friend who shared Fathers Day meals with me while away from home at General Board meeting; Cynthia Hale, who demonstrated to me how to take a dozen people and build a congregation of 3,000 in just over a decade; and the list goes on and on and on. God is love and so are His children.

Grace & Peace!

Oscar Haynes, Editor
Honorary Doctorate cont’d.

She has served as a Life Membership Secretary, worked with five local presidents and served as secretary for a period of forty years. In the early thirties, Mrs. Holmes was one of the founders of the West Side Civic League (a neighborhood ward). In appreciation for her years of service with the NAACP and the civil rights movement. Mrs. Holmes’ picture is engraved on the Black History Monument in front of the Freedom Center’s Building on Martin Luther King Boulevard in Oklahoma City.

She has also received the Black Heritage Award from the Eta Phi Beta Sorority, Outstanding Service Award from the NAACP. On September 9, 1994, Era Holmes was Honorary Mayor of Oklahoma City.

This active churchwoman has been secretary of the East Sixth Street Christian Church Board, a member of the Christian National State Youth Workers, and since 1958, chairperson for the National Church Work Committee. Currently, she is a deaconess of East Sixth Street Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), a faithful Sunday School student when her health permits, and the oldest mother of the congregation.

Challenges for “Gathering Around the Table” By William K. Fox, Sr.

INTRODUCTION: At this stage of my retirement, I have to work up my enthusiasm to attend more general assemblies and synods. Please understand that a large segment of the last phase of my “official” ministry was spent mobilizing people, programs, resources and energy to participate in such meetings. It was always an inspirational and revealing experience. But whenever the family and I finished responsibilities for “The Gathering” we were ready to get lost in meditative retreat. We were tired!

However, the joint undertaking of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ to meet in a Synod Assembly gathering in Kansas City, MO July 13-17, 2001 does present me with some noteworthy challenges.

*Challenge one- The Christian Board of Publication in St. Louis, MO., which has provided me with Christian books and materials for generations would greet me personally at such gatherings, is turning over many of its services to The Cokesbury Press of Nashville, TN. Cokesbury has been historically aligned with a mainline Protestant denomination. Together they have produced a rich and successful history in the development
Christian books and materials. No doubt many unforseen benefits and opportunities await those of us Oldtimers who have been mainly patrons of the Christian Board of Publication. Stay tuned in and/or get online.

*Challenge two- Kansas City 2001 will showcase us as planning jointly and simultaneously to meet in a variety of ways as two mainline denominations modeling unity in Christian mission. We have been doing this in manifold ways for many years. What will this joint Gathering Around the Table of Our Lord really mean this time? We tried it in St. Louis, MO a few years ago. Insights were gathered since that Event which have been shared and may benefit 2001 experiences in Kansas City.

*Challenge three- Church members who belong to racial ethnic minority groups within the two denominations, like the African Americans, for example, have opportunities for bonding in the Christian mission. Fruitful experiences resulted when brothers and sisters of color joined hands during the Civil rights Movement of the 1960's. Since those days there has been a "breaking of bread" together during National Convocation of the Christian Church biennial sessions and United Church of Christ Synodical assemblies. The 2001 General Synodical Assembly in Kansas City, MO will be opportunities for fellowship and constructive bonding.

*Challenge four- The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ are two mainline church bodies who have yet to endorse the process by which Christians within 9 Protestant bodies move closer and closer together as Churches Uniting in Christ. The 2001 General Synod Assembly will be an opportunity for these two major, predominantly Caucasian faith communities to enter into a process both bodies will be interacting with a larger number of predominantly Black congregations which have been historically led by African Americans for more than a century and a half. Agreement on the framework by which that process moves forward has hindered endorsement by the Disciples and U. C.C.'s. I am not familiar with the various aspects of that debate. But on the surface, it seems to me that the contemporary challenge to bridge racial and cultural brokenness within the churches, and a more serious demonstration of unity in Christ and the Gospel mission should have priority over most questions about operational framework.

*The process toward "uniting" calls for "sharing in common worship and celebrating the Lords Supper..." I would call that a prime summary of true Disciples of Christ doctrine and
practice. The denominations will take another five years to debate the subtleties of organizational framework. In the meantime why not model to the world of nonbelievers that we can worship God together and gathering around the Sons Table?

*During the last four to five decades many clergy and laity in the congregations affiliated with these nine denominations have worked together in a variety of ways as Christ's body in all sectors of the nation. They witness through ministerial association; church women united groups; ministers wives and spouses fellowships; prayer and Bible study cells and bodies; youth in mission task groups; singing conventions; food pantries; social education and action task groups; councils of churches; laity with hands-on for Christ; and ecumenical task groups. They are together in doing the work of Jesus Christ. Disciples and U.C.C.'s in the 2001 joint session in Kansas City, MO should join their sister Protestant denominations in Churches Uniting in Christ; acknowledging the quiet but eternal movement of Divine Providence in history.

(The writer is currently monitoring and expanding the Black Disciples Church Heritage archives lodged in the Olin Resource Center, Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, TX. Dr. Fox resides in Foxwood Springs, Raymore, MO.

Arizona Disciple Legislator Dies

"Beloved friend... gentle soul.... faithful follower of Jesus Christ and persister justice seeker, Andy Nichols, collapsed and died in his Phoenix legislative office while talking with some Arizona Senate staff members. He was elected to the State House in 1992 and had just been elected to the State Senate last year.

Andy, a doctor, was on staff at the University of Arizona in the area of public health and had organized the UA Rural Health Office. At both of the services that celebrated his life, voice after voice underscored Andy’s vision and advocacy for the poor, the vulnerable and those who are marginalized. He was a faith powered politician that let the Spirit of God rest upon him and lead into the “good fight” for those often forgotten.

He did the same in the life of the church. He challenged us to be peacemakers and bearers of good news. He called us from our comfortable places of faith to the edge where the lease and the vulnerable live life. Andy gave gladly as a General Board Member in the 1980’s, while serving as Moderator of the Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ) in Arizona. He never let his service to the wider church keep him from working in his home congregation, First Christian Church in Tucson, AZ.
Andy envisioned more possibilities (and who should make them happen) before the day began than most of us can envision in years. This Tucson Democrat was noted for public health and safety legislation.
His sudden death creates an empty place in our hearts, in the work of the church, and in our legislator, which came from that deep place where God abides. He was one clothed in integrity and hope.” Mary Jacobs.

(Mary Jacobs is a friend of the Nichols family, who was in Portland, OR with Mrs. Ann Nichols and daughter, attending an Anti-Racism Training Workshop.
REMEMBER

There were Saddle Oxford and white Bucks; remember!
Lots wore Penny Loafers and thick bobby sox’s; remember!
There were pony tails and spit curls; remember
Girls wore long flared skirts and boys-mostly white shirts; remember!
Black leather jackets and pegged blue-jeans,
The hippest threads, kool! real keen!
Heads shaved so close that you called it peach fuzz
And I’m not kidding, that’s the way it was; remember!

Those Sock-hops in the old school gym were outa sight.
You’d want them to go on forever, all night; remember!
Yes, those were the good old days, carefree and gay; and your folks would tell you, “it won’t always be this way.”
It would bug you every time they’d say it; remember!

We’ll never forget those good old days; we’ll just carry on.... and remember.
Written Friday, March 18, 1977.
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OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE
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Washington, DC 20019
"I WOULD RATHER WEAR OUT THAN RUST OUT". This favorite expression of the late Rev. Byron Seath, former pastor of Twelfth Street Christian Church, Washington, DC, can be applied to the Rev. Dr., Raymond E. Brown, Interim President, Division of Homeland Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Dr. Brown is the retired Senior Vice President of the Board of Church Extension, having retired from that position in 1991. Since that time he has served the General Church in several capacities.

Interim President, Church Finance Council-1992 and 1998-1999; Interim Administrative Secretary, National Convocation of the Christian Church-1993 and 1999; Interim Vice President of each of the following: Center for Education and Mission; Center for Congregational Growth and Vitality, and the Center for Leadership and Min-

istry of the Division of Homeland Ministries. In addition, he has served as Interim Pastor of Faith United Christian Church of Indianapolis, and currently is also President of the United Christian Missionary Society.

Raymond, as affectionately called by friends, began his pastoral ministry in Hannibal, MO, where he served the Willow Street Christian Church for just over 16 years. During this time, he met and married the late Edna Ruth Dixon; and they became the parents of six children: four sons and two daughters. After 34 blissful years of marriage, this union was dissolved by Edna's death in 1986. After almost 10 years of being a widower, Dr. Brown married Dr. Suzanne De Moss Martin in Downey Avenue Christian Church on November 30, 1996. Suzanne brought two children to the marriage, increasing the num-

cont’d
ber to eight: five sons and three daughters.

Following his pastorate at Willow Street, Dr. Brown served as Executive Minister of Piedmont Tri-State District Convention of Christian Churches headquartered at Reidsville, NC.

This servant of GOD left the Piedmont Convention to go to the Board of Church Extension of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) where he served as a General Consultant-1970 thru 1972; Assistant Secretary-1972 thru 1981; Vice President-1973 thru 1981, and Senior Vice President-1981 thru 1991, at which time and position he retired.

This devout clergyman was born and reared in Little Rock, Arkansas, where he became a member of Cross Street Christian Church, while attending the public schools of Little Rock.

He attended Philander Smith College in Little Rock for one year, then went to Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, TX where he received the Bachelor of Arts Degree and was ordained in the Christian Ministry. His seminary work was done at the Drake University Divinity School in Des Moines, IA., the Doctor of Divinity degree was conferred upon him by Jarvis Christian College in 1977. Dr. Brown has always been active and committed to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). He was instrumental in effecting the merger of the Missouri Christian Missionary Convention with the Missouri Convention of Christian Churches in 1957. He also played a major role in the merger of the National Christian Missionary Convention, (organized by the late Elder Preston Taylor) with the International Convention of Christian Churches in 1968-69 in Wilson, NC.

During his illustrious career, he has served in the following capacities: President and Board Member, Missouri Christian Missionary Convention; Secretary and President, National Christian Missionary Convention; President, National Convocation of the Christian Church; First Vice Moderator, General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, and Board Member and Secretary of the Convocation of the Christian Church.

His leadership also includes tenure on the following boards: Human Rights Committee, Hannibal, MO; National Project Equality; Lexington Theological Seminary; Jarvis Christian College; Ransburg YMCA; New Congregational Establishment Committee; Kennedy Memorial Home; Greater Indianapolis Housing, Inc.; (currently President); President, Greenwood Cemetery Company; H.C. Gemmer Family Christian Foundation; Nurture and Certification Team, Indiana Region; Chairperson, Black Disciples Endowment Fund; and, Convener, Office of African American Leadership Development Steering Committee.
FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL

PATRICIA ANN GEE, - The celebration of the Life and Thanksgiving for Mrs. Patricia Ann Williams Gee was Saturday, July 28, 2001, at Wesley United Methodist Church, 1160 San Bernard, Austin, TX., the Rev. Sylvester Chase, Jr. officiating.

This very talented native of Austin, TX, was a member of Southside Christian Church and employee of the Duval County School System for 14 years. She retired as a Kindergarten teacher from Arlington Heights Elementary School. Mrs. Gee had previously taught in the North Carolina School System.

Mrs. Gee is warmly remembered for her musical talent. In 1927, just a youngster, Beulah was baptized by the late Rev. Robert Gooden, pastor of Twelfth Street Christian Church at the Vermont Avenue Christian Church (now National City Christian Church), (Disciples of Christ). At that time, Twelfth Street was being organized on Massachusetts Avenue, Northwest.

Heading those who mourn is her devoted husband, the Rev. Dr. Karey E.B. Gee, Sr., a son Karey E.B. Gee, Jr., daughters, Viola Estelle Gee and Alesia Cordelia Gee; three granddaughters, a grandson, her mother, Viola Thi Williams Dunmore; a sister, Mary Swist; and aunt, Wilma Watson; a brother-in-law, Franklin Gee; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Beulah JETT WATKINS, - Washington, D.C. This life-long Disciple of Christ lay-woman departed this life on August 5, 2001 at Hartland Nursing Home in Hyattsville, MD. The Homegoing service for this 94-year-old lover of God and her fellowman, was August 10, 2001, at Twelfth Street Christian Church, Washington, D.C., with the Rev. William Martin, officiating.

Beulah, as she was affectionately called by all who knew her, was the youngest of six children born to the late Mattie Jeffers Jett and Malachi Jett. She was happily married for nearly two decades to the late Will Watkins. She was a member of one of the organizing families of the Twelfth Street Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

This dedicated church member served her church in several offices. She was a member of the Ushers, which she served for over 43 years, Sanctuary Choir, Gospel Chorus, Christian Women’s Fellowship and Flower Club. She was also a member of the Mum Sisters Social Club. She enjoyed all of these activities. She was very active with her husband in the elks, and enjoyed cooking and shopping and singing.

Beulah leaves to mourn their loss two nieces: Matilda Brown and Grace Barham, and a Godson, Jesse Brown, and a host of relatives and friends.

Her favorite quotation: “Abiding joy does not depend upon what’s happening around us>It exists because of the One who is living in us.”
RETIRED CHURCH LEADER HONORED

In May, 2001, Jessye G. Champion, National President of Church Women United, honored the very personable Janice Robinson Newborn by declaring her 'A VALIANT WOMAN'. She was joined in the ceremonies by Jean Petranoff, Unit President.

Mrs. Newborn, retired chief executive of Disciples Women of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), was born in Youngstown, OH, the youngest child of an attorney, and a shy child especially devoted to her older sister, Mary. She graduated from Youngstown University with a Bachelor's Degree in Music and immediately began a career in teaching.

She met the Rev. Dr. Ernest J. Newborn and began another career as the wife of a pastor of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ at an early age. They served pastorates in Ohio, Washington, DC, Missouri and Indiana.

While in Jefferson City, MO, Janice was assistant to a Missouri State Senator. When the family moved to Indiana, Janice became Corporation Secretary for the Division of Overseas Ministries, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Later she joined the staff of the Department of Church Women, Division of Homeland Ministries as Director of Program Implementation. In this position, she coordinated various Disciples women’s activities such as Staff Fellowship, Women’s Coordinating Council, International Christian Women’s Fellowship Executive Committee and the 1986 ICWF Quadrennial Assembly.

In 1988, Janice was appointed Executive of the Department of Church Women and in this position became Secretary of the International Christian Women’s Fellowship, and World Christian Women’s Fellowship. In this position she represented Disciples Women on the Church Women United Common Council. While serving on a CWU group, she sought ways to involve young women in the organization.

During the time she served as chief executive of Disciples Women, Janice traveled widely throughout the United States and Canada as well as other countries. During her leadership she led women through numerous transitions, including empowerment of leadership. A special emphasis was placed on the leadership of Asian, Hispanic and African American women. The title for that position was changed to Senior Associate for the Office of Disciples Women. During her tenure the Christian Women’s Fellowship in the United States and Canada reached their highest level of giving in history.

Upon her retirement in 1994, Janice immediately became a member of the Board of the Indianapolis Church Women United. She also served on the board of Indiana State CWU. Her effective leadership led to her becoming President of the Indianapolis Church Women United in 1998, in which position she served for three years.

Janice and Ernest are the proud parents of one son and one daughter, Ernest and Mary Jo. Following in the footsteps of their grandfather Attorney Robinson, they both are lawyers. Janice also has all the gifts of a successful attorney. She thinks before she speaks, and expresses herself eloquently. She handles tense situations with diplomacy and ease, always with a warm smile. She is a devoted Christian who has earned the honor of “Valiant Woman of Church Women United”.
Returning home from the excellent General Assembly 2001, and a few days with my bride, I returned to a most pleasant surprise. Among the 23 messages on my answering machine was a rich, baritone voice which stated "There is a young man named Oscar Haynes, this is your buddy, Enoch Henry, deep in the heart of Texas, and I just want to say you are doing a darn good job, carry on, bye"...

God's blessings come in many expressions. Another welcome surprise was a Thank You Note from the son of my friend, Dr. Louis Brown, Huntsville, AL, Steve. "Thank you for the thoughts and prayers. Like God's grace, friendship is an amazing gift." This young executive was hit with an unfamiliar health ailment that put him in the hospital in intensive care, and is now "in full stride into physical therapy." God has blessed him with a remarkable recovery.

Another surprise as I opened an envelope was a photo of Joan and me with Marilyn Hotz, with her beautiful, warm smile, in the center of us. Her note read, "Dear Friends, enclosed is the photo Bob Kirkman took of us at the recent Kansas City General Assembly. One of the major reason I attend General Assembly is to see 'old' friends, at least every two years."

Marilyn worked in the Book Display for the Christian Board of Publication for many years. She recalled how General Assembly attendees would visit with her during those years, but now she had to make a real effort to circulate to see and greet others.

Oscar Haynes, Editor
THE POET’S CORNER

(The Editor of Poet’s Corner is the affable May F. Lindsey Reed, wife of Rev. Dr. Norman Reed and retired Assistant to the Director of Library & Archives, Disciples of Christ Historical Society, Nashville, TN.

TAKE THE TIME

In years gone by this nice word “Gay” was simply not used in this distorted way. My meaning is quite unequivocally clear, as most well know and must adhere.

Pause in your mind and turn around. Try putting this kind of terminology down. So many are mixed up, troubled...confused; Don’t even realize the words they misuse.

If we really want to get ourselves set right, Get the Bible (James 2:3 KJV) or a concordance, let the biblical education lead the fight. Learn of the word; find this conclusion;

Remember, school is back in session, watch out for the children.

in avoiding reality and truth, leads one to ill illusion.

Like the drawing of shutters across the mind, though still living and breathing like a grave you’ll find, that to waste and not want to learn more of the Master, can render your life a total disaster.

Christ is the way! He’ll make your life “GAY”; I mean joyous and happy and placed in array. So children, read, love, learn and discern/ Cease to trifle, ridicule and squander But read, love and discern every word that you learn.

Written Wednesday, November 10, 1976
CORRECTIONS

The OLDTIMERS GRAPEVINE corrects significant errors that are brought to our attention. If you think we have made such an error, please let us know by E-MAIL, oscarHyn@aol.com, or snail mail, 19 46th Place, N.E., Washington, DC 20019

Donna N. Haynes has been and will continue assuming the responsibility of the productions of The Oldtimers Grapevine Newsletter.

ATTENTION:

In the near future, another feature will be books for recommended reading by the Rev., Dr. Robert Hill, Sr. Pastor, Community Christian Church, Kansas City, MO.

Left out but not looked over, the picture of the Rev., Dr. Raymond E. Brown. Church Administrator par excellence.
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Peter & Lynne Morgan
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MEET THE MUM SISTERS

Nearly half a century ago, eleven women, members of Twelfth Street Christian Church, (Disciples of Christ) 1812 12th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., formed a social club which brought them closer together than biological sisters.

These women of God, who believed and practiced "the whole of the religion of Christ", became officially "The Mum sisters" in 1956. The club functioned until 1991. The purposes were socializing, investing, and supporting charitable causes. They selected the name "MUMS" because they each pledged to refrain from gossip.

These ladies were extremely committed to the welfare of each other and their church. They attended theater productions in downtown Washington (where they were not truly welcomed in those years) celebrated monthly birthdays which was highlighted by seeing who could find the most humorous cards. Since most of them were active members of the Christian Women’s Fellowship and Church Women United, they dressed dolls for the Doll Tea, prepared meals for the sick and shut-ins and were engaged in countless other service projects.

The MUMS formed their own investment club and were considerably successful. They donated the interest from their savings to the general fund of their church. This was of great financial help to this inner-city congregation.

There was a strong Disciple heritage among these outstanding church women:

Mrs. Beulah Watkins, one of the earliest members, was baptized in the Vermont Avenue Christian Church because Twelfth Street did not have a baptistry at that time. Her baptism was in the church which later became National City Christian Church, the National Cathedral of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Mrs. Watkins served as an usher for 43 consecutive years for her church and lived to be 94 years of age.

Mrs. Oletea Brown Blayton was one of the earliest members of the congregation. She joined Twelfth
Street in 1917. Prior to coming to the Nation's Capital, she attended Southern Christian Institute, Edwards, MS, an institution where many of our leaders were educated. She lived to the wonderful age of 94.

Another MUMS sister was Mrs. Thelma Frost Jackson, who lived to see age 91. She was the daughter of the late Thomas Frost, an early President of Jarvis Christian College.

The founder and chair of the MUMS for many years was Mrs. Mary G. Harris, an outstanding fund raiser for her church. She was in her late eighties when she was called to her heavenly home.

Another strong leader in the congregation was Mrs. Esther O. Booker. She had served her church in many leadership roles before God called her home at the age of 93, in the year 2000.

The Rev. Dr. Alpha P. Arnold, widow of the late Rev. C.W. Arnold, became a member in the early years of the club, and maintained her membership even though she and her late husband spent most of their active years in churches in California.

The late Mrs. Mary S. Whitfield was the widow of the Rev. John Flanders Whitfield, pastor of Twelfth Street Church for thirty-two years. She too was in her late eighties when she died.

Mrs. Clidie Bell Coleman, another of the MUMS, was also a graduate of Southern Christian Institute. She was a loyal church member who lived to her late seventies.

Mrs. Annette Robinson became a member of the MUMS in the late 1980s. She was inducted into the club after the death of several of the members. Mrs. Robinson was not a member of the congregation but had strong ties with Twelfth Street Church.

An outstanding member of the congregation, and charter member of the MUMS, is Mrs. Mattie Russell. At the age of 90, she now resides in an area nursing center. Always known as the perfect hostess, with a charming personality, she receives friends as cordially in the center as she did in her lovely home.

Another member of the church and the MUMS is Mrs. Beatrice Daniels, 86, who is the widow of the late Squire Daniels, a pillar of the congregation. She continues to support the church in attendance and contributions. She currently suffers from parkinsons disease and heart problems but still has a great spirit.

The MUM Sisters will always be remembered in the history of the Twelfth Street Christian Church. The many contributions made by them and their families has played a major role in the life of this congregation.

(Researched information by Mrs. Gwendolyn Blayton Robinson)
FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL

Bishop Westley C. Robinson - Washington, DC.
Memorial services for this native of Springfield, OH, were held in late October at The Way of the Cross Church of Christ, Inc., 9th & D Streets, NE, Washington, DC, with Elder Richard J. Simon III, officiating.

At the time of his death, Bishop Robinson was serving as professor of Old and New Testament Studies and Dean of the Apostolic Christian College in Washington, D.C. He had served in many organizations in Washington and Northern Virginia, including Faith Unlimited Ministries. He was former pastor of Twelfth Street Christian Church, the New Fair Street Christian Church, Springfield, OH, and the True Holiness Church of God in Lincoln Heights, OH.

Bishop Robinson had also served as Interim Pastor of the Englewood Apostolic Faith Church in Chicago, IL, and Founder and Pastor of the New Life Christian Center in Chattanooga, TN. He also served as Presiding Bishop of the Fountain of Life Deliverance Ministries.

Bishop Robinson was a 1973 graduate of South High School in Springfield, OH, and a 1978 graduate of Wilberforce University. In 1998 he received a Master's Degree from the Howard University School of Divinity, and in 2000, he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Divinity by the Apostolic Christian College in Washington, DC. He was a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. Bishop Robinson was ordained an Elder of the Greater Emanuel Apostolic Faith Tabernacle, and in 1992 was consecrated a bishop by the Fountain of Life Ministries of Fayetteville, NC.

Eva Jean Wrather, - Nashville, TN. Memorial services for this well-known Church Historian were held in mid July at Vine Street Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), followed by a reception at the Disciples of Christ Historical Society, 1101 19th Avenue South.

This 92-year-old biographer of the 19th century religious figure Alexander Campbell, was the author of a two-volume work on Campbell, one of the founders of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the Churches of Christ. She has also written several other articles on this outstanding church leader.

Ms. Wrather developed an interest in Mr. Campbell as a teen-ager and became one of the outstanding authorities on his life according to a spokesperson for the Disciples of Christ Historical Society. Memorial gifts may be made to the Wrather/Hayes Fund at the Society.

This noted historian was a member of the American Society of Church History, the Tennessee Historical Society and the Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities. She was a magna cum laude graduate of Vanderbilt University and had been a member of Vine Street Christian Church for more than 65 years.
WHY - A SECRET?

News came to this publication by e-mail shortly before deadline that the hi-jacked plane which crashed in Pennsylvania was piloted by an African-American, First Officer Leroy Homer.

Although many hours have been spent watching this tragic news on several TV Networks, listening to the all-news station on my car radio and reading most of the leading newspapers, I never saw or read anything about Officer Homer being one of the many heros in the September 11th tragedy.

Officer Homer certainly saved many lives. As a pilot, it is reported that he refused to let his plane be used as a terrorist weapon. This act of heroism reportedly saved the lives of our congressional leaders. At the time both the Senate and the House of Representatives were in session. It is also notable that there were no lives lost on the ground. The Commercial Bank of New Jersey has set up a fund for the family of this hero. His hometown is Marlton, N.J.

"Enter into his gates with Thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: Be thankful unto him, and bless his name."

"For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations."

Blessed Thanksgiving to all our readers.
DEAR READER

This issue is blessed to have poetic reflections from the personal journey of the Rev. Dr. Robert Hill, who visited New York City with his wife Priscilla, immediately following the September 11 tragedy. Further reflections appear in the November issue of the Disciple Magazine.

Oscar Haynes, Editor

Will and Testament, September 12, 2001

I will make the bed, and then I will make coffee, and then I will play with the cats, and then I will make an appointment with my dermatologist regarding that oblong splotch on my arm.

I will read the paper, and then I will write my brother, and then I will bless my mother and my father, and then I will pray for my two sisters and their families, as their children get themselves and their questions ready for Sunday School next weekend.

I will visit neighbors with green peppers and the last of this year’s ripe tomatoes, and then I will bake cookies for the firefighters down on Wornall Road (and everywhere), and then I will—with deliberate and determined joy-walk down the Brookside exercise trail.

I will read E.L. Doctorow’s “City of God”, and then I will buy one Valencia orange, and then I will devour several of Priscilla’s divine brownies, and then I will light three candles in the cathedral, as a sign of what will be, what can be, what is truly worthy today and for any welcoming tomorrow.

I will work with my hands in the yard, and then I will wash my hands thoroughly, and then I will look out our healing kitchen window, and then I will drink two glasses of water, and then I will thirst for some new day and some new, saving strangers to come into our town.

I will sit in my cherished chair, and I will listen to rain, rumbling, and I will write a preamble for the new constitution and bi-laws for the Harmony Center, and, with all defiance, I will make plane reservations for Seattle, dreaming of Orcas Island.

I will call out to Willa, all three-foot-high, seven-years-old of her, across the street, and to Miles, her burgeoning little brother, too and I will honor the sheer testament of grace that they are in the arms of their parents in this world.

I will drive down my favorite expressway, and then I will eat the world’s greatest barbecue at Gates, and then I will remember Martin King and Martin Buber and Martin Luther and Martin Navritolova and then I will testify of a need for still more saints.

I will laugh once today, at the very least, and then I will remember Robert Frost and then I will recall Emily Dickinson’s late-coming fame, and then I will change the oil in my Jeep, and then I will take my Ansel Adams’ photo of Manzanar to the frame shop.

I will write a check for the United Negro College Fund, and then I will barter for season tickets for the rest of the Chiefs schedule, and beyond, and then I will contact the cemetery in Groesbeck, Texas, about the marker for Lewis, and then I will open the screen porch for the evening sun to come in.

I will call up Emanuel, and then I will testify to Thomas, and then I will offer a bowl of oranges to Buddha, and then I will have hope with Paul, and then I will seek Muhammad’s mountain, and then I will purchase a plot with Jeremiah.

I will ring a bell, and then I will climb a hill, and then I will sing a song (very loud), and then I will recite Psalm 22, and then I will cry with all anguish the cry of those of us who are not dead.

On this definitively different day, I will do all these things, and I will do even more tomorrow, and I will say it out loud again and again, until they hear it, until I hear it, clearly.

Robert Lee Hill
4601 Main Street
Kansas City, MO 64113

ATTENTION:

In the near future, another feature will be books for recommended reading by the Rev., Dr. Robert Hill, Sr. Pastor, Community Christian Church, Kansas City, MO.
NEWS FROM WEST COAST

Disciples at Pilgrim Place recently welcomed to their community Charles & Wendy Bayer and Ernest & Janice Newborn. It was an exciting and joyous welcome. A very unusual occurrence however, was the misunderstanding of the attendant in preparing for the arrival of the Newborns. He had placed a crib in the guest room for them. A natural confusion of names. Dr. Charles Bayer has already found the nearest golf course and some golfing buddies.

Several weeks ago a very well known retired Disciple was seen strutting around Pilgrim Place wearing a T-shirt with the wording “BIG-T.J.” and carrying a small boy child whose T-shirt was inscribed “LITTLE-T.J.” The Rev. Dr. Thomas J. Liggett was recently named a Life Trustee of Chapman University.

The OLDTIMERS’ contact on the west coast are recommending that our readers order a copy of A STREET CALLED LOVE, BY THE REV. Dan B. Genung. You may order copies from All Peoples Christian Church, 822 E. 20th Street, Los Angeles, CA. Cost runs $16.00 plus $1.50 postage. The church just about breaks even so include a tax free contribution, please. There was an excellent review of this publication in the May issue of The Disciple Magazine by the Rev. Dr. Robert Hill. Our readers would be interested to know there are pictures of the late prominent churchwoman Carnella J. Barnes.

THE POET’S CORNER

THAT DAY!

The sun rose, as always, from the blackness of night; Its rays stretched bright across the sky, Many awakened from slumber like you and I.

Some started with coffee, juice, a song or a sigh;

Not wanting this day either to pass them by.

Shaved, showered, shampooed and dressed; Most surely feeling confident, good, and blessed.

No one suspected what was coming in that hour;

Only God-Father and Son in their Holy Power.

For others had prepared to threaten, maim and kill;

To take lives and joys in a way that seemed unreal.

But Lord, don’t let us fret too long; Let us pray for one another that we might be strong;

Time will heal every woe and care.

This, Jesus has shown us and will help us to bear.

Blessings surround us in a myriad of ways; We need only to yield, recognize life’s each phase.

No woe is so great that God cannot attend; God’s love and Grace will always descent.

May F. Lindsey Reed

Written Thursday, October 4, 2001, 11:32 A.M.

It is a glorious day today.....

---

Don’t eat too much turkey!

Save some cranberry sauce for me!
OUTSTANDING CAREER ENDS

The Rev. Dr. Karey E.L. Gee recently ended 15 years of outstanding service as Chief Executive Officer of National Benevolent Association Hollybrook Homes, Jacksonville, FL. His retirement was hastened because of his need and desire to care for his wife, Patricia, who put up a valiant fight with cancer. The NBA Hollybrook Homes is a HUD low income project with 182 apartments, housing some 640 adults and children.

Homes in 1986, it was known for its run down appearance and reputation as a haven for crime, lawlessness and drugs. Under the leadership of Dr. Gee these facilities became a model HUD community, initiating many innovative programs, which served not only its residents but the surrounding community.

Programs include computer lab training for both youth and adult, counseling for personal and spiritual support, as well as Drug/Aids counseling and Educational Programs. The housing complex also includes an on-site Toddler Development Center, a toy and book lending library, Clothing and Food Assistance, and Referral Services, upon request.

In addition to being the prime motivator of these programs, Dr. Gee has led NBA Hollybrook Homes over the past two years in visioning and formulating construction plans for a new community center on the campus. The center will include new offices for Hollybrook Homes and NBA Chance, conference room, meeting rooms, computer lab and a gym. Plans are to dedicate this new Center by the end of 2001. The Supervisory Board plans to include Dr. Gee in the dedication and celebration, because of his leadership in this project prior to retirement.

The Rev. Dr. Gee received his B.A. degree from Huston-Tillotson College in Texas, majoring in Psychology and Religion, minoring in Sociology. Dr. Gee attended Brite Divinity School (TCU 1960-64, Nacogodches University (TX) 1972, Oklahoma School of Business, 1973-74, and Lexington Theological Seminary, where he received his Doctor of Divinity in 1985. Prior to serving the NBA Hollybrook Home center, Dr. Gee served on the Regional Staff in North Carolina, and has pastored congregations in Oklahoma, Texas and Maryland.

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GENTLE GIANT CHANGES RESIDENCE

The Rev. Dr. George W. Jones, preacher, teacher, community organizer, veteran of World War II, devoted family man and friend of mankind, departed this life October 21, 2001, for the prize he sought, eternal like with his Heavenly Father.

Homecoming services for this outstanding church leader were held at Christian Temple Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 5820 Edmondson Avenue, Baltimore, MD, Friday, October 26, with the Rev. Marvin McFadden, Pastor of Mt. Zion Hill Baptist Church, officiating.

The love and respect for this man of God was evidenced by the overflowing crowd of community and church leaders, former students, coworkers and friends and their many expressions of praise for his many contributions to all people. The tone of praise was established by the Rev. Dr. William Howland, Jr., host interim pastor, as he warmly welcomed the audience with praise and love for Dr. Jones and the oneness of all of God's people.

The Rev. L.D. Colvin, Jr., pastor of Ron Brown Memorial Christian Chapel, exclaimed "He was a mentor to young clergy. He was regal—a man of distinction, high standards and ethics, who took an interest in current events and in debates in the scientific field. And at the same time, he was a gentle man."

This native of Philadelphia, PA., a strong believer and supporter of education, earned an undergraduate degree in sociology at Morgan State and in education at Coppin State. He earned a Master's degree in education from Loyola College. Later he
pursued studies in religion, earning a Master’s degree in pastoral studies at Howard University, and a Doctorate from Drew University, Madison, NJ. His dissertation was titled “An Experiment to Develop Leadership Potential of Youth.”

Reverend Jones pastored Second Christian Church, Hagerstown, MD, Twelfth Street Christian Church, Washington, D.C., and Mount Olivet Christian Church, Baltimore, MD.

The Rev. Dr. Jones is survived by his lovely wife of 56 years, a truly devoted companion, the former Frances L. Walker; and three loving daughters, Marsha M. Johnson of Aurora, CO, Cynthia E. Sorrell of Ellicott City, MD., and Charlotte C. Jackson of Reistertown, MD. He is also survived by a brother, Charles Jones of Roswell, NM., five grandchildern and close friends.
FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL

The REV. CLYDE H. EVANS

Services for retired minister Evans were held October 26, at Northwood Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Indianapolis, IN, where he and family had been members for several years.

This 85-year-old Disciple Minister retired in 1981 as Director of Information from Christian Theological Seminary. After retiring he served as Interim Minister for churches in New Zealand, Mexico and the United States.

Among the many congregations he served as Pastor, were Hickman Hills Community, Kansas City, MO; First Christian Church, Mankato, MN, and First Christian Church, Medicine Lodge, Kansas.

In 1961, Mr. Evans accepted a call to The Christian Church-Capital Area Region as Associate Pastor. While in the region he served as secretary and vice chairman of the Christian Education Department and member of the curriculum and program council. He also chaired the camp and conference committee of the Maryland Council of Churches.

Interim pastorates included in the Capital Area, Fairfax Christian Church, Fairfax, VA; First Christian Church, Bargersville, IN; Community Christian Church, Kansas City, MO; and First Christian Church, Athens, OH.

Survivors are his wife, Elberita Demotte Evans, two sons, Ethan and Philip and daughter, Joy Hastings. Memorial contributions may be made to Northwood Christian Church, The Disciples of Christ Pension Fund or the Fellowship of John at Robin Run Village, all located in Indianapolis, IN.

EDNA LEE HOUSTON-RICHIE

May 29, 1923-October 26, 2001

Fort Worth, TX. The celebration of the life and Thanksgiving for Sister Edna Lee Houston-Richie was Saturday, November 3, 2001 at Community Christian Church, 1800 East Vickery, Fort Worth, TX, with the Rev. Dr. Clause Walker, officiating.

There were expressions of praise for this loving church leader from church, business and community leaders as her life of service to God and His people was revealed in the spirited worship services.

Edna, as she was affectionately addressed, worked with the late Dr. Paul A. Sims to develop Community Christian Church Programs which she hosted. These included Sojourner Truth Players, Erma Lewis Dance Classes, City Youth & CETA Programs, Expanded Nutrition Program, Well Baby Clinic, and clothing, food and toy banks for needy children of the city.

Sister Edna loved to travel and rarely missed a National Convocation Session. Known as the “Three Musketeers” in traveling to church events were Rev. M.L. Fountain, Rev. Jennings and Edna. Her traveling buddies were, Blanche M. Griffin, Lucy Fountain, Coquese Reed and Lajoyee Harrison.

The Eulogy for this well-known church community leader was given by the Rev. L. Wayne Stewart, Indianapolis, IN. There were special expressions, for this native Texan, from Rev. Charles Faulkner, State President, Texas Christian Missionary Fellowship, Rev. Lloyd Facen, President, District 2, Rev. Fountain and Rev. L. Stanley, Puget Street Christian Church.

Edna leaves to mourn their loss, two daughters, Jacquelyne D. Spinks (Michael) and Sandra R. Davis; five grandchildren, four great grandchildren, a host of other relatives and friends.
"Lon Oliver Called to KAM Ministry"

The Rev. Lon Oliver, pastor of First Christian Church, Henderson, KY, has been called to serve the Appalachian Area through Kentucky Appalachian Ministries (KAM). This is a joint call from The Christian Church in Kentucky and The Division of Homeland Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The Reverend Oliver will also jointly serve as Small Membership Congregation Consultant for the General Church of the denomination. He will work in partnership with regions to support and strengthen small membership congregations.

Lon said, “It was also in the small membership church where I learned that people, rather than programs, are responsible for mentoring each new generation of Christians into an authentic understanding of Disciples. I believe God is calling me to allow my life to be affected by the people of Appalachia and our small membership congregations, while offering my faith, skills, and experiences as KAM Associate Minister”.

KAM is a cooperative mission of DHM and the Christian Church in Kentucky to work through Kentucky Appalachian Congregations. The ministry is focused on meeting the social, economic, educational and spiritual needs of people in the area. KAM calls people to work together in community based organizations and in ecumenical settings to accomplish it’s mission. KAM is the only Disciples home mission ministry which is congregationally based. Because of these partnerships, KAM is a strong Disciples of Christ influence in the area.

Lon grew up in local Disciple congregations in Wyoming and Oregon. This talented musician received both the Master of Divinity and Doctor of Divinity degrees from Lexington Theological Seminary. His wife Maria, is also a Disciple Pastor. They have one son, five-year-old David. KAM can be reached by E-Mail: lon@ccinky.net.

“Enter into his gates with Thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: Be thankful unto him, and bless his name.”

“For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations."

Blessed Christmas to all our readers, and a healthy & prosperous New Year!
DEAR READER

As we close this year of much strife, disappointments and upheaval we are blessed to share insights from Scripture by a peace advocate, The Rev. Graylan Scott Hagler, Senior Pastor, Plymouth Congregational Church of Christ, Washington, D.C.

Oscar Haynes, Editor

“You are either with us or you are with the terrorists.”

With that post-September 11th statement, George W. Bush sought to suppress debate in our nation. And yet I, for one, am not with the President, his war, or mindless patriotism, and hear me well-I am not with the terrorists!

I have spoken out for peace, and against the war efforts and U.S. foreign policy that helped bring these events upon us. Since then, I have received dozens of hate calls and some death threats. But I choose not to be silenced because a true democracy needs voices that test and challenge.

Democracy is not tested or proven in times of ease; it is tested and proven in times of crisis. Judging from the irate and threatening calls I have received, democracy in the United States is failing the test!

Let me address what I perceive as quite divergent worldviews from that of white mainstream America and that of black Americans. I have preached in numerous black churches, and since the events of September 11th, the Christian faith calls for us to seek greater, and less violent ways to solve crises. It emphasized the basic Christian message, calling us to “love your enemies, and do good to those who hate you, “blessed are the peacemakers,” and “do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” Black audiences have reacted with enthusiasm, while mainstream white audiences have reacted with great hostility. And I must ask: why?

Could it be because blacks are more familiar with the historical dirty deeds of the United States at home and abroad? We know about Cointelpro, U.S. involvement in the assassinations of Patrice Lumumba and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to name two. We have seen U.S. foreign policy favor colonial and neo-colonial powers.

Blacks know what it is to be insecure. We know too well cross burnings and church burnings. We know racial profiling and have never lived with the same degree of safety and well being most white Americans take for granted. Now, in this current crisis, our insecurity is largely unchanged.

Black Americans have reason to believe their government does abroad just as it has done at home - many of its actions are neither fair, just, nor righteous.

I in no way wish to justify the crimes of September the 11th. But to give some perspective I point to U.S. support of anti-democratic and even fascist regimes around the world. The U.S. never addresses the genuine and legitimate grievances of poor and oppressed peoples in the world unless those grievances fit into the selfish political schemes of American capitalism.

And, yet for everything we do there is an impact, and a consequence. When American-manufactured arms oppress Palestinians, we help create a physical and mental where extremism can be born. When we bomb poor civilians in Iraq, we help create a context for extremism. When the so-called “first world” treats the rest of the world as vassal states, we help create a context for extremism.

cont’d on page 6
To make Americans feel safe and secure, the U.S. must address the grievances of the world’s struggling, poor and oppressed populations. When we fail to do that, extreme and charismatic voices find fertile ground to organize.

The culprits of the crimes committed on September 11th should be prosecuted and brought to justice. But the U.S. must bring forth evidence before an international tribunal, and lawfully present its case.

What happened at the World Trade Center and at the Pentagon is a crime, but it should not have been a cry for war. War only leads to war. Violence contributes to more violence. If our objective is to make people safe and secure, we need to pursue means that will bring safety and security. I believe that can only come through peaceful solutions developed in sane and reasoned ways.

Graylan Scott Hagler

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ATTENTION:

In the near future, another feature will be books for recommended reading by the Rev., Dr. Robert Hill, Sr. Pastor, Community Christian Church, Kansas City, MO.
THE POET'S CORNER

A Maiden - A Man - A Savior

She was just a young girl
as pure as a pearl,
had a beau whom dearly she loved.
They planned to be wed
and then heavenly led in a life sweet
as doves.

But it seemed at this point
that that couldn't be
but she listened and waited to see.
For an angel divine brought a
message sublime and she prayed and
waited to see.

It's a blessing to know
God will certainly show
His will and the way we should go.
For Mary, dear sweet Mary
so young and betrothed,
experienced absolutely no woe.

Joseph, too, met the angel
and was told the good news,
for he first was filled with dismay.
But learning the truth
from the angel divine,
put his mind in wondrous array.

How the shepherds rejoiced,
how the angels did sing
at the birth of the Savior, our King.
Wise men crossed the wide plain,
they came from afar,
three followed a bright shinning star.

Christ brought the world worth
as Mary gave birth,
all heaven and earth stood in
awe.
For Jesus, Lord Jesus
had come forth like the wind
to bring, and to give His great
Law.

May F. Lindsey Reed
Mon., December 3, 2001
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