"WE HAVE LOST A BIBLE PREACHING MINISTER" declared Col. Charles E. McGee, on the death of the Rev. Dr. K. David Cole, his former pastor at Swope Parkway United Christian Church in Kansas City, MO.

It was January 7, 2003, in a Chatsworth, CA hospital room that Dr. K. David Cole's name was called. It had to be the Lord's voice as proclaimed in the lyrics of the old Negro Spiritual, "Hush, Hush Somebody's Calling My Name." His victory over a long valiant struggle with cancer was over.

This prominent African American leader served more than 24 years as pastor of Swope Parkway United Christian Church. This congregation was created through a merger of predominantly white Swope Park Christian Church, and predominantly African American West Paseo Christian Church. He succeeded the dynamic ministry of the late Dr. S.S. Meyers.

Dr. Cole is a former Moderator of the Christian Church, (Disciples of Christ). He is the second African American to hold this position, the first being the Rev. Dr. Walter Bingham. His service has spanned about every office of this denomination. He served on the General Board three terms, Administrative Committee, Nominating Committee, National Benevolent Association Board, and Moderator of the Christian Church of Mid-America.

"David was a friend more than 25 years. Not only a sought-after preacher, but also an excellent leader.... He believed that all Disciples, regardless of race, should be church together. K. David Cole will be sorely missed by all who were fortunate enough to count him a friend and by all who care about justice. Our thoughts and prayers are with Vi in this loss", said The Rev. Dr. Richard Hamm, general minister and president of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). David, as he was known by friends, was president of the National Convocation and recipient of its honored Liberation Award. He was widely recognized as an advocate for diversity and reconciliation. In 1995 he was the preacher at services for the Rev. Dr. William C. Howland, Jr., when he received the prestigious Diplomate Award of the National City Christian Church, (Disciples of Christ).

In 1996, after a year of meetings, David and the Rev. Dr. Robert L. Hill, Senior Minister of Community Christian Church, Kansas City, MO, joined together to create "Christians Offering Love to Overcome Racism (C.O.L.O.R.S.) a joint effort between their two congregations to combat the sin of racism. He remembered the wonderful fellowship which C.O.L.O.R.S. shared June 2002, during "Juneteenth" observance as a testimony to David's lasting imprint on this community of faith.

David was a devoted and loving husband and father. He is survived by his wife, Violaruth; his sister Lois; his five children, Evelyn, Sylvia, Brett, Meredith and Bart; sixteen grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

David at Sessions 1996
Indianapolis, IN
New Year greetings from Gertrude Dimke, dedicated servant in the general office and National City Christian Church for many years. She wrote, "I am blessed and grateful each day for good care. I do enjoy each card and letter to read and re-read as well as the visits. Thanks to all who remember me, as well as for your prayers. May all live happily in the year 2003.

Cleveland, OH
The Rev. Dr. Timothy M. James, Pastor of Fifth Christian Church of Cleveland, received the Medical Mutual 2002 Pillar Award/Smart Business News for Community Service as immediate past president of the Board of Trustees of The Cleveland Christian Home.

The Cleveland Christian Home avoided closure due to the dynamic leadership of Dr. James. He rallied the Christian Churches in Ohio, as well as politicians to give financial and moral support to keeping the home open. The supporters included Mayor Jane Campbell, Senator Eric Fingerhut, and Representatives Dennis Kucinich and Stephanie Tubbs Jones.

The National Benevolent Association of the Christian Church (DOC) had announced foreclosure of the home which has served families struggling with child abuse, neglect and mental illness for just over a century.

Claremont, CA
The Rev. Charles and Wendy Bayer are part of an American group of 18 persons guided by United Church of Christ pastor, Ted Braun, who are studying the life of the citizens of Cuba. This study, January 28 to February 11, includes the health, education, welfare, cultural and religious scene.

Louisville, KY
Mrs. Mable Lewis, life-long member of the Christian Church, (Disciples of Christ), has been honored with the Life time Achievement Award by the Department of Neighborhoods and the Louisville Police Department of that city. The presentation was made by Mayor Dave Armstrong and Police Chief Greg Smith.

This award was created in her name for her lifetime of dedication of working in her neighborhood to reduce crime and establish better communication. In the future this award will go to community members who have excelled in working in their neighborhoods to improve safety and unity.

"Miss Mable" as she is fondly known, has been active in the Wilson Avenue Block Watch since 1952 and a Block Watch Captain since 1960. She is one of the original members of the Mayor’s Citizens Block Watch Council created in the 80s. Even though she is 90 years old she is still active, and declared "I want our children to be able to grow up and play in good, safe communities.”

Mrs. Lewis is an active member of the Fourth District COP/PAC committee, the ladies Auxiliary at Christian Home, and is an Elder at Hill Street Christian Church, (Disciples of Christ). Declared Mayor Armstrong, “The citizens of Louisville say thanks to a wonderful person who shows how to make a difference.”

Wilson, NC
The Rev. John McKinney Richardson has been called as regional minister for the Christian Church, (Disciple of Christ) in North Carolina. He is to begin March 17, 2003.

Philadelphia, PA
Services of Dedication and Consecration of Fellowship Christian Church, (Disciples of Christ) were held at the new reclaimed home of the congregation recently with the Rev. Marsha Brown Woodard, pastor since 1999 leading the procession.

Important to this moving worship service of praise was the participation of the Rev. Vertie Powers, pastor of Fellowship from 1994 to 1998. Rev. Powers began the process of reclaiming the House of Worship at 61st & Oxford. Also playing a key role in the transition was the Rev. Dr. W. Darwin Collins, Regional Minister. For the past 30 years, the church was located at 5108 Chestnut Street.
POET’S CORNER

My Horse

God fashioned the horse, He whispered:
I’ve made you strong;
for great work you’ve been prepared.
Your joints and tendons made firm with strong sinews,
for there’ll be much labor for you to do.

My greatest creation will mount upon your back.
You will quickly adjust and accept this fact.
You will walk with him, carry him and work
day-by-day
and at times you’ll just run free, frolic and play.
Some will be ever so gentle and amuse
while others, insensitive, may strike, whip, abuse.

I’ve given you a temperament of calm perception.
You’ll respond to gentleness, love and affection;
with keen smell, hearing, sensing danger
and direction.
Your sleek, graceful and elegant style,
high nickers and whinnies that linger a while.

Gallop free, unrestrained, much strength you possess.
Toss high your head my wind will caress
your face, your mane, your magnificent frame;
loving all my creation and none are the same.

(Horse and man, compatible friends.)

May F. Lindsey Reed
Written February 25, 2003

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRECIOUS GIFTS

Dr. Terry & Mrs. Janet Reister, Hyattstown, MD; Dallas & Jean Hoadley, Fairfax, VA; Ray L. Nixon, Raymore, MO; Ruth D. Heimer, Indianapolis, IN; Dr. Ernest & Mrs. Janice Newborn, Claremont, CA; Dr. Robert & Mrs. Bonnie Kirkman, Louisville, KY; Col. Charles E. McGee, Bethesda, MD; Robbie N. & Mrs. Louada Chisholm, Silver Spring, MD; Lee Earl Acuff, Knoxville, TN; Glenn & Mrs. Charlotte Shoemaker, Raymore, MO; Beverly Smith, North Tazewell, VA; Rev. William & Rev. Mrs. Nanka Ryan, Baltimore, MD; Bess R. Terry, New York, NY; Mr. Odell & Rev. Dr. Margaret Roberts, Kansas City, MO; Mrs. Eddie Griffin, Chicago, IL; Rev. Rufus Lewis, Jr., Detroit, MI; Rev. William & Mrs. Dode Miller, Raymore, MO; Dr. Margaret C. Parker, Indianapolis, IN; Rev. Tom H. Johns, Leawood, KS.
For Whom The Bells Toll

Washington, D.C. Raymond N. Chase, Cartographer and veteran of the Korean War, died January 18 at his home in Washington. In keeping with his wishes, he was cremated. Inurnment was held at the Columbarium at Arlington Cemetery on February 6, 2003, the Rev. Andrea Foster, officiating.

Mr. Chase, a native Washingtonian, worked for the Defense Mapping Agency from the 1960s to the mid-1990s. He was a counselor with D.C. juvenile delinquents before joining the agency. After retiring he was a substitute teacher in the Washington schools.

Raymond, a friendly, quiet-spoken community volunteer leader was a graduate of Armstrong High School and Shaw University in North Carolina. He received a master's degree in fine arts from Federal City College.

He was an active life-long member of Twelfth Street Christian Church, Omega Psi Phi social fraternity and Phi Delta Kappa education fraternity. His survivors include two sisters, Vivian M. Chase of Washington and Jean C. Gregory of Toledo, OH. His marriage to Gertrude Chase ended in divorce.
Litchfield, IL  Garth Henrichs, former director of men’s ministries (CMF) of the Division of Homeland Ministries of the Christian Church (DOC) died at his home recently at the age of 99. He was a member of Union Avenue Christian Church in Litchfield.

Mr. Henrichs is a 1926 graduate of Disciples-related Eureka College and served as a member of Eureka College Board of Trustees for 27 years. In 1995 he was made a Life Member of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society of Nashville, TN. Garth served several years as national director of the Christian Men’s Fellowship, leading nation-wide gatherings of laymen in many areas of the United States. He had attended every Sessions except the last one in 2000.

This dedicated layman is survived by two children, Larry of Litchfield and Carolann Prast of Phoenix, AZ. He is also survived by a sister, Monta Henrichs Crane of Litchfield, seven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

Jacksonville, FL  Friends and family of the Rev. Dr. A. Dale Fiers, first General Minister & President of the Christian Church (DOC) mourn the loss of his wife, Virginia, who died February 3, 2003. Mrs. Fiers had been under hospice care.

Atlanta, GA.  The Oldtimer’s Grapevine extends condolences to the family of Rev. Donald O. Legg, a retired Disciples clergyman. His survivors include daughter, JoEllen Mapes, who is a staff member at Foxwood Springs, Raymore, MO; a NBA affiliate.

Cincinnati, OH.  Orlando (Landi) Morales Santos, permanent part-time minister of Northside Christian Church in Cincinnati died in late December. He is survived by his wife, Diana, two children, Jobi and Rosemarie, and two grandchildren, Zach and Jonathan.

Orlando, a close friend of the Rev. Dr. John Compton and the late prominent lay leader A.C. Stone, graduated from Phillips Graduate Seminary in Enid, Oklahoma and was ordained in February 1962. He left full-time ministry for a period and took employment with the Hamilton County Employment Training Agency, retiring in 1992 as Deputy Director. He then reentered into full-time ministry and pastored Carthage Christian Church, Cincinnati.

The Latest Space Tragedy

The nation mourns the death of seven astronauts who died as the shuttle Columbia disintegrated on reentry to earth on Saturday, February 1, 2003.

Michael P. Anderson, 43, was one of those that perished. Memorial services for him were held at Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church, a humble little clapboard church on the hard size of Spokane, Washington. The Rev. Freeman Simmons retired pastor of the congregation returned for this service.

"Feel glory," the pastor shouted, "not grief." "He was born for that, he had trained for that, he was ready for that." "And he had said if he didn’t come back, not to worry about him. He had made his peace."

Since the nation’s space program began more than 40 years ago, only 14 African-Americans have become astronauts. On board the shuttle, Mr. Anderson was supervising an array of scientific experiments and said he hoped that some would greatly benefit African Americans.

At Astronaut Anderson’s old church on Sunday, there were not many tears after the current pastor, the Rev. John Claiborne, gave his sermon. He urged the congregation to find inspiration in Anderson’s short, but glorious life.
**MLK CELEBRATION AT NATIONAL CITY CC**

At a time when America is building up troops and armaments on the border of Iraq for an all-out attack, an audience of over 600 people were being challenged by the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington to seek “NON VIOLENCE AT HOME AND ABROAD” during the annual Martin Luther King, Jr., birthday celebration.

This scenario took place at National City Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) just a stones throw from the White House, and the Rev. Dr. Alvin O. Jackson, Senior Minister, pleaded with the crowd to become Advocates for Peace. He was preaching from scripture as recorded by the prophet Isaiah 11:6-7.

The beautiful sanctuary of National City Christian Church; where the late President Lyndon Baines Johnson once worshipped; vibrated from the thunderous response to the speakers message of peace. “The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox.” “This is a beautiful picture of a tranquil peaceful world, far different from the one we see today, so filled with violence, strife, meanness and ugliness.

These same evil violent forces took the life of Martin Luther King, Jr., Jackson declared.

Mr. Debu Gandhi, the great-grandson of the late Mahatma Gandhi, great spiritual leader of India, joined him in this moving celebration. “Martin, declared Dr. Jackson, “joined with your great-grandfather in that the Hindu-Moslem-Christian-Jewish-Buddhist belief about ultimate reality is summed up in love.” His message to the audience was that Martin’s voice was the echo of the first voice. “That voice declared before there was a then or there, when or where, let there be light and there was light. It was the first voice that declared God is love and love is of God.” “It was the first voice that declared; let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Speaking of the assassination of Dr. King 35 years ago, he stated, “all the enemy dealt with was an echo, but the first voice went untouched.”

The service ended on a high note, as Mr. Gandhi gave the quote from his great-grandfather, “Hatred ever kills, love never dies, such is the vast difference between the two. What is obtained by love is retained for all time. What is obtained by hatred proves a burden in reality for it increases hatred.” Before his voice was hushed the crowd was on their feet swaying to the popular refrains of “We Shall Overcome”, led by a children’s choir of many faiths and lilting music of the famous National City Organ, played by Dr. Edward Moore, Minister of Music, of National City.
Washington, D.C. “I see in the near future a crisis approaching that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country..... Corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the Republic is destroyed.”
—U.S. President Abraham Lincoln Nov. 21, 1864

Recommended New Books


“That There May Be Ministers” — Rev. Lester G. McAlister, Jr., retired historian, has authored a new book. Copies are available from the author at 6227 Leyden Lane, #207, Claremont, CA, 91711 or Disciples Seminary Foundation.

OVERHEARD

Zack and his mule were walking down the road when one of Zack’s friends drove up and offered him a ride to town. Zack got into the truck while his mule ran along behind. The mule was right in back of them as they reached 55, and stayed with them as they sped up to 70.
“I’m worried about your mule,” said the driver. “His tongue’s hanging out.” “Which way?” asked Zack. “Left”, replied his friend. “Well, stay in this lane—he’s about to pass.”

HE-HAW!
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GOD’S APPOINTED MAN FOR THE TIMES

“That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth;...”

Ephesians 1:10

The year was 1968, the place was Kansas City, MO., when a representative assembly approved the Provisional Design for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and elected the Rev. Dr. A. Dale Fiers, as the first General Minister & President of this denomination. According to Church historian D. Duane Cummins the “Approval of the Provisional Design marked the passage of the Disciples into denominational maturity. Officially named the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) they became a church.”

The “Christians” and the “Disciples of Christ” functioned and grew as a “movement,” often referred to as the “Stone-Campbell movement,” from late 1830s to 1968. During this period, Disciples often described the relationship of the Christians and the Disciples as a “brotherhood.” In 1960, the Commission on Brotherhood Restructure started the task of designing a new form of organization. During the 20th century, American-Asian, Hispanic, and African-American Disciples congregations multiplied.

Prior to becoming the first GMP, Dr. Fiers served as president of the United Christian Missionary Society, and in 1962, became the first permanent executive secretary of the Commission on Brotherhood Restructure of the Christian Churches. A man blessed with tireless energy, in late 1964, he assumed the duties of executive secretary of the International Convention of Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) for a six-year term.

Dr. Fiers’ leadership extends to much of American Protestantism. He was a member of the General Board of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA, and served as chairman of the Review of Reports Committee, and member of the General Program, Field and Planning Committee. He represented the North American Committee of the World Council of Christian Education and Sunday School Association in Tokyo in 1958, Germany in 1960, and Belfast, Ireland in 1962.

Continued on page 2
He has also represented the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as fraternal delegate to the annual conference of the British Churches of Christ in Manchester, England, and made an administrative tour of the Caribbean and South American missions. In 1961, he visited mission work in Mexico. He travels, mostly with Betty, also included New Delhi, India; Nepal, Thailand, and the Philippines.

This devoted and humble God-fearing leader will celebrate his one-hundredth birthday in December, 2006. He revealed during an interview a decade ago that he has been all "fired up" for the church since the day he was born. He apparently inherited his altruistic leadership from his mother, an ordained minister who rode a horse-and-buggy circuit in eastern Illinois and western Indiana during his boyhood. She told her son, "Some day maybe God will give us another minister in the family." God did. At the age of nine, Dale Fiers was baptized in the Christian Church. His father was a contractor, in West Palm Beach, FL, where he built a number of buildings, including churches.

During his tenure as GMP, Dr. Fiers requested the General Board to study the chief characteristics of a successful pastoral ministry. The study listed as the very first characteristic, "Constituency formation." He was told this means the kind of wisdom, ability and leadership that enables a diverse congregation of persons to become a community of faith that moves in the same direction toward the fulfillment of Christ's mission on earth."

In July, 1964, Dr. Fiers called on Indiana's two U.S. Senators to support any federal action necessary to cope with the "condition flawlessness" in Mississippi where racial strife had worsened.

During the march on Washington, Dr. Fiers met with members of Twelfth Street Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and led the march from the church to the Lincoln Memorial. History will likely record this as the most significant event during the Civil Rights Struggle.

This phenomenal clergyman, a man of wisdom and integrity, believed in the priesthood of all believers. In a speech in October, 2000, he related that one of the great joys in his sixty plus years in ministry has been the fellowship, indeed the comradesship, of laymen of the church.

On May 2, 2003, Dr. Fiers, and Mrs. Elizabeth (Betty) K. Fiers (deceased) will be honored by the Disciples of Christ Historical Society with the naming of a lecture Hall in tribute to the outstanding leadership of both. The late Mrs. Betty Fiers, a significant church leader in her own right, has been president of the International Christian Women's Fellowship, a delegate to the World Council of Churches, and member of the Indiana Civil Rights Commission.

Dale & Betty Fiers
“All I ever wanted to be was a pastor.” These words reverberated throughout the sanctuary of Kemper Road Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Cincinnati, Ohio, as family and friends celebrated The Rev. Dr. John R. Compton’s 60th anniversary ordination into Christian ministry.

The Rev. Nancy A. Eichorn, pastor, and members of the congregation greeted the honoree with hearts full of thanksgiving, declaring “Thank you John Compton for answering God’s call and blessing so very many of God’s people with your faithful leadership.”

The celebration began with a moving worship service with the Rev. T. Eugene Fisher, Administrative Director of Reconciliation preaching. The worship services were followed by dinner and fellowship. During the presentation of awards, people shared how Dr. Compton had touched their lives and made a difference. The presenters recalled a message by Dr. Compton which spoke of “calls that go unanswered” and the audience agreed that all were blessed by the fact that when the call came to young John, it did not go unanswered. This message was published in, The Vital Pulpit of the Christian Church, Bethany Press, 1969.

The printed program for the occasion lifted up the many firsts of Dr. Compton, as reported in The Disciple Magazine, June 1991:

......first African-American to serve on the United Christian Missionary Society Board
......first administrator of the National Convocation (DOC).
......first of his race to serve as assistant to the general minister and president (DOC)
......first administrator of Reconciliation
......first African-American regional minister of Christian Church (DOC)
......first African-American president of the Division of Homeland Ministries, Christian Church (DOC)

The Rev. T. Eugene Fisher, Administrative Director of Reconciliation preaching. The worship services were followed by dinner and fellowship. During the presentation of awards, people shared how Dr. Compton had touched their lives and made a difference. The presenters recalled a message by Dr. Compton which spoke of “calls that go unanswered” and the audience agreed that all were blessed by the fact that when the call came to young John, it did not go unanswered. This message was published in, The Vital Pulpit of the Christian Church, Bethany Press, 1969.

The love and respect for Dr. Compton was expressed by Rev. Eichorn when she said, “...we at Kemper Road are delighted to welcome the family and friends of Dr. John and Shirley Compton. We are continually blessed by their presence and faithfulness to God’s call and grateful for the opportunity to share in their lives.”

[At the time of this printing the editor received word of Dr. Compton’s death.]
**Try Child**

Sometimes things seem to weigh you down; 
too many decisions 
and so many things to do 
but you say – “I’ll try!”
And often it’s hard to talk to anyone, 
to make them understand 
but you decide – “I’ll try” 
and when you do, 
you question whether or not 
you should have and if you’ve maybe 
made things worse 
and you think – I may as well just give up; 
then again you say, “no, I’ll keep trying.”

Day after day you really see no way of things 
getting better.
You don’t want to give up 
and with that same thought – “I’ll try” 
you lift your head, you fold your hands, 
you bend your knees and you pray.
You know He is there, 
that He hears, that He cares, 
that He answers prayer. 
You tell Him all about it...
and you thank Him way down deep inside. 
He tells you 
‘everything’s gonna be all-right; 
to just hold on – to trust and believe.’
You feel so much better 
and speak right out loud
‘Til TRY LORD!’
and you feel as though you actually heard him answer 
“That’s all I ask child, is that you try.”

Written Tues., March 22, 1977
May F. Lindsey Reed

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**A Tribute**

Miss Eva Jean Wrather: The epitome of the word “Historian.” It was a privilege and honor to meet and come to know this extraordinary woman who was a founding and Charter Member of the Disciples of Christ Historical society. As a scholar and writer, she was an authority on the life and ministry of Alexander Campbell, the most prominent of the Four Founding Fathers of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). She spent the greater portion of her life researching and writing about him, and was held in high esteem by the entire fellowship. She stood in a lofty position with the church, in the annals of the Historical Society and in the hearts of the people. Her work, gifts and talents will be remembered and hailed by generations of yesteryear, today and those yet unborn.

The library and archives of the Historical Society, prior to being moved to the Vanderbilt campus in 1952, was at its inception, housed at Culver Stockton College in Canton, Missouri. Miss Eva Jean was present for the Groundbreaking and Laying of the Cornerstone in 1956. The lovely Tudor-gothic structure was completed and dedicated to the glory of God in 1958.

The Historical Society honored her in 1991 and I wrote a little poem—thought for that auspicious occasion. I have, since then, rewritten a portion of this thought. Eva Jean departed this life, Thursday, September 13, 2001

_Eva Jean Wrather_  
Disciples of Christ Historical Society  
(A Founding/Charter Member)  
_She helped make 1956_  
_A most momentous date._  
_She beamed in its completion in 1958._  
_She helped to bless the building and all it meant to_  
_Be, by sharing with her life and dreams_  
_The things her heart could see._  
_It is only well and fitting as we gather here this day, to say_  
_“well done” Eva Jean, and “thank you!”_  
_You’ve been a leader all the way._

“Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.”  
_Ecclesiastes 9:10_  
_KJV_

Written November 3 1991  
Adaptations April 2003  
May F. Lindsey Reed
APRIL, 1903, William Edward Burghardt DuBois, published the work for which he is most famous, a series of 14 essays titled *THE SOULS OF BLACK FOLK*. In it, he stressed the need to protect African-American voting rights and made his famous prediction that "the problem of the Twentieth Century is the problem of the color line."

According to James Weldon Johnson, *THE SOULS OF BLACK FOLK* had a stronger impact on the African-American community than any book since Uncle Tom's Cabin.

Dr. DuBois, author; editor; scholar; teacher; Pan-Africanist, graduated from Fisk University, then entered Harvard, where he became the first African-American to receive a Ph.D. from the school. His thesis, "The Suppression of the African Slave Trade to the United States of America, 1638-1870", published in 1896, was only one of dozens of scholarly papers he produced.

Two years after the publication of *THE SOULS OF BLACK FOLK*, DuBois organized the Niagara Movement, which led to the formation in 1909 of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the leading U.S. civil rights organization of the 20th century.

Dr. DuBois' efforts to promote world peace through socialism caused the U.S. government to indict him as a foreign agent in an effort to silence him, but the case was thrown out. The government retaliated by revoking his passport, tampering with his mail, and intimidating his friends and supporters. This treatment, combined with government's failure to end racial discrimination, caused him to turn to communism in 1961.

In 1963, Dr. DuBois became a citizen of Ghana, where he died on August 27, 1963, one day before the historic March on Washington.
**DISCIPLES NEWS ROUND-UP**

**Washington, DC**

Leaford C. Williams, elder of Michigan Park CC; author; civic and political leader, lecturer, and retired Foreign Service Officer; has authored a book *Journey Into Diplomacy*, which is must reading for any minority youth seeking to enter the diplomatic services.

Mr. Williams’s first foreign assignment was public affairs officer and chief of mission at the American Mission at Taegu, South Korea. He was the first and only African-American assigned to Korea who could speak Korean.

The Rev. Dr. Alvin O. Jackson, senior minister of National City Christian Church and Moderator of the Christian Church, (Disciples of Christ) underwent a surgery in late March that involved placing a titanium rod in his spine and replacing the outer layer of three cervical disks with titanium. He is wearing a rigid neck brace that restricts his head movement.

However, he is progressing so well that he was able to attend Easter services. His activity overall is still limited but progressing faster than expected.

Ambassador Mary A. Wright, assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Mongolia, submitted her letter of resignation in mid-March to Secretary of State, Colin Powell, after 15 years of service.

**Indianapolis, IN**

Attention Lay Men! — The deadline for candidates seeking the position of Director of Men’s Ministry is now. Forward inquiries to Patti Bradford, administrative assistant, Office of Disciple Men, 1-888-346-2631 or 317-713-2675.

Rick Lance, retired president of the National Benevolent Association, Disciples of Christ, is a new member of the Board of Directors of the Christian Church Foundation.

The Rev. Dr. Harold Watkins, retired president of Church Extension was hospitalized in March after suffering a stroke. Following 11 days in the hospital he returned home and began speech therapy.

**Ednor, MD**

The Rev. Ben (Chuck) Manning, senior minister at Heritage Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has a keen insight to what the soldiers in Iraq and their families are going through. During his 27 years in active duty as a U.S. Army chaplain, he said he never served in a war but was often “on the fringes”, having been stationed in a demilitarized zone in Korea during Operation Desert Storm.

During a meeting with other clergy in the community, Rev. Manning said they all agreed that they needed to be very prayerful for peace and that the evening war broke out he had emailed approximately 80 families from his congregation a reminder to pray.

Rev. Manning smilingly confided that he finds comfort in a poem by Ann Weems, which he shared with his congregation and fellow clergy members. The poem begins: “On the edge of war, one foot already in, I no longer pray for peace: I pray for miracles.”

“There’s still a lot of ambivalence, but we still need to pray for peace and now, for miracles,” he said.

**Recommended Reading**

*Journey Into Diplomacy* is a book about Leaford Williams’ humanity, intelligence, linguistic ability, and zealous drive for equality in his government career as well as his private life. Leaford fights racism with every source of his being. He speaks of America as a great nation, one of the best in the world but is distraught at the stigma of racism that permeates American society.

The book contains many salient features worthy of highest praise. It is the first of its kind to reveal the dark side of the Foreign Service of the United States of America but also the first to devise a formula of how to correct those disparities and create a level playing field for all members of the Foreign Service Corps.

Leaford’s book is dedicated to all Americans whose progress has been hindered by racism. Copies may be purchased from Northeast Publishing House, 1037 Crittenden Street, NE, Washington, DC 20017. Voice (202) 529-6312/Fax: (202) 529-6234 Email: fort@erols.com.
For Whom The Bells Toll

Washington, DC. - Celebration of the life of Esther Tyree Callis, was held at Twelfth Street Christian Church on February 23, with Pastor Andrea Foster officiating. She had just recently celebrated her 93rd birthday.

Mrs. Callis is the daughter of the late Samuel Franklin Tyree, Sr., one of the founders of the Twelfth Street Congregation. This is the first congregation in the nation’s capital that was founded by African-Americans and has provided continuous religious services for 89 years.

She joined 12th Street at the age of 9. She attended Sunday School and Christian Endeavor meetings regularly. Along with her brothers Charles and Franklin, she helped raise money for bricks to build the first church building. As she grew into adulthood, she became an active member of the Christian Women’s Fellowship, the Nurses, Treasurer of the Flower Club, Church Financial Secretary, Vice President of the Forever Young club, Deacon, Trustee and Elder.

Elder Callis was very active in the community, serving with the Southeast House, Southeast Civic Association, Van Ness Elementary School PTA and Howard University Hospital. She was also a Red Cross sponsor for her school. As PTA President for Van Ness School, she worked with neighborhood parents in getting a new building. The group had to attend numerous meetings that included appearing before a panel of the U.S. House of Representatives. Many times she was the speaker for the group.

Esther, as she was affectionately called by friends, married Rufus M. Callis in 1936. They had celebrated their 63rd anniversary shortly before his death in April, 1999.

Elder Callis was a devoted mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, relative and friend. She is survived by four sons and their wives: Rufus, Jr. and Rita of Crofton, MD; Daniel, Sr., and Virginia of Clinton, MD; Harry and Grace of Washington, D.C.; and Charles and Patricia, Washington, D.C. Also two sisters, Alice Mines of Clinton, MD and Sarah Hairston, Mineral, VA. She also leaves to mourn her loss, ten grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews and cousins.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRECIOUS GIFTS

Don & Gretchen Wharff, Raymore, MO; David Downing, San Diego, CA; David Hawkins, Des Moines, IA; Mr. Robbie & Mrs. Louada Chisholm, Silver Spring, MD; Dr. John & Mrs. Shirley Compton, Cincinnati, OH; Dr. A. Dale Fiers, Jacksonville, FL; Dr. Thomas Liggett, Claremont, CA; Vera Russell, Philadelphia, PA; Betty Hogan, Indianapolis, IN; Dr. Sere & Mrs. Mary Jane Myers, Leawood, KS; Dr. Enoch Henry, Palestine, TX; Mrs. Ethel Seitz, Indianapolis, IN; Geneva Griffin, Indianapolis, IN; Hannah Hurdle-Toomey, Belleville, IL; Dan Genung, Claremont, CA; A.K. Longfellow, Pikeville, KY; Wade Rubick, Indianapolis, IN; Mr. Leaford & Mrs. Bertha Williams, Washington, D.C.; Lillian Dixon, Knoxville, TN; Mr. Eugene & Mrs. Bonnie Frazier, Raymore, MO; Pearlean Patton, Dayton, OH.
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FOUR GENERATIONS: A LEGACY OF LIVING FAITH

A sweetheart of life. The strong foundation in the faith given to Oletha led to her own confession of faith and baptism in the Mississippi River at age eleven. During her formative years at Southern Christian Institute Oletha picked and preserved fruit and made quilts to pay part of her tuition. Her faith was deepened during her teenage years at SCI. Her school friends included the late Rev. Sere S. Myers, James Mills, first African-American fire chief of Washington, D.C., Rosa Page Welch, whose friendship lasted a lifetime. When she left SCI she came to Washington to work in a factory making uniforms for World War I soldiers.

This gracious lady’s faith journey is a great inspiration for all women as they search for their own personal relationship with God. This deep relationship with God began with Oletha’s grandmother, Amanda Blackwell Carter; born 1854 in Prince William County, VA; who reared her. Oletha was born in Louisiana in 1897, on a riverboat to Lafayette and Emma Brown but her early years were spent in Duckworth, MS. Her grandmother taught her to read the Bible, to pray, and to live a Christian life. The strong foundation in the faith given to Oletha led to her own confession of faith and baptism in the Mississippi River at age eleven. During her formative years at Southern Christian Institute Oletha picked and preserved fruit and made quilts to pay part of her tuition.

Her faith was deepened during her teenage years at SCI. Her school friends included the late Rev. Sere S. Myers, James Mills, first African-American fire chief of Washington, D.C., Rosa Page Welch, whose friendship lasted a lifetime. When she left SCI she came to Washington to work in a factory making uniforms for World War I soldiers.

This beloved saint was a faithful member of 12th Street for 74 years. She helped organize the National Missionary Society, precursor to the Christian Women’s Fellowship. She shared her beautiful alto voice with her church choir and the Billy Graham Crusade Choir.

Oletha’s motto was “I would rather

(Continued on page 2)
Continued from page 1)

wear out in service than to rust out!” She was married to Benjamin Blayton, Sr., for 70 years. They are the parents of three daughters, Beatrice, Lois and Gwendolyn, and one son, Benjamin, Jr.
The faith of Grandmother Amanda, and mother Oletha, reached deep into the heart and soul of great-granddaughter and daughter Gwendolyn to endow her with a strong belief in the Christian Church and God and Jesus Christ.
Gwen, like Oletha, is an angel of mercy, an elder, Den Mother, sweetheart of Twelfth Street, CWF leader in the congregation, region and general church, and friend to all. She is a member of the Regional Commission for Ministry and is the first woman to serve as Vice Moderator of the board of Twelfth Street Church.
Elder Robinson is a graduate of D.C. public schools. She attended Spellman College, and is a graduate of American University. She also did graduate studies in Pastoral Relations at Howard University, School of Divinity. She has served on the National Convocation’s Nominating Committee and the Peace & Justice Committee of the Christian Church, (DOC).
The concern she has for others has always been prevalent in her life. In 1998 she was honored for her “exceptionally tireless” support of the CWF and in 2000 the United Church of Christ bestowed the honor of Wise Woman Elder upon her.

Gwen’s most recent honor was awarded by the Board of Trustees of Twelfth Street Christian Church on June 15, 2003. She was one of four members revered by her home congregation for her tireless and devoted service of more than 30 years.
Elder Robinson shared with that august gathering that she remembered her mother carrying her with her while making her mission visits. She recalled a visit they made to a poverty stricken family in a blighted area living in the shadows of the Capitol building. She recalled how grateful the children were, even for the smallest, inexpensive gifts. Gwen continues her mother’s legacy serving on the board of Central Union Mission in addition to weekly missions to the aging in her community.
Later, Gwen shared with the Oldtimers’ Grapevine “Perhaps I may have been the most blessed and happy of the honorees, not because of the honor but because of the sincere love shown on the part of my family.” Deeply rooted faith that spans three generations, from the Mississippi River to the Nation’s Capital. From Grandmother Amanda to Mother Oletha to daughter Gwendolyn. “...the one who is righteous will live by faith.” Rom. 1:17

Elder Gwendolyn Blayton Robinson
Clergy guests participating in tributes to the honoree were Rev. Dr. Valentino Lassiter, pastor of East View United Church of Christ and Rev. Dr. Timothy James, pastor of Fifth Christian Church, (Disciples of Christ) in Cleveland, OH.

A highlight of the evening was the tribute of an 11-year-old, who said, “When you preach, you bring the words alive and make me try to be a better person. Since I have been here, I have changed even though I’m only eleven. Church is like a home. I can rely on your sermon to brighten my day.”

The expressions of love and appreciation filled the evening. All departments of the congregation lauded Rev. Hedgemann for her love and inspiring sermons. Minister Donna Hurt, of the clergy staff, gave a moving prayer for their spiritual leader asking God’s continued blessings upon her. Among the guests was her mother, Mrs. Viola Hedgeman, a member of Michigan Park Christian Church, Washington, DC.

Dr. Hamm revealed that the 20/20 Vision is succeeding in the establishment of new congregations. There have been more new congregations started since its inception, just over a year ago, than in the history of the denomination.

Other participants in the services included Rev. Dr. Alvin O. Jackson, Senior Pastor, Rev. Gregory Howell, Associate Pastor, National City, Rev. Clark Lobenstein, Interfaith Conference, Rev. Kwami Osei Reed, United Church of Christ.

continued on page 6
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRECIOUS GIFTS

Norma L. Cody, Chicago, IL; Velma Worlds, Kansas City, MO; Dr. A. Dale Fiers, Jacksonville, FL; Mr. Harvey & Mrs. Sybel Thomas, Chicago, IL; Mrs. Suetta C. Woodard, Tulsa, OK; Dr. Lloyd H. & Mrs. Martha Lambert, Raymore, MO; Ruth E. Deer, Indianapolis, IN; Rev. Robert & Mrs. Diane Steffer, Paris, KY; Ruth D. Heimer, Indianapolis, IN; Wanda Teegarden, Fort Worth, TX; Dr. Lester McAllister, Claremont, CA; Ruth P. Hobbs, Jackson, MS; Mr. Eugene & Mrs. Nancy Rutherford, Raymore, MO; Ms Kathryn N. Range, Columbus, OH; Ms. Iva L. Blain, Raymore, MO; Dr. Francis & Mrs. Lucille Stark, Silver Spring, MD; Rev. G. David & Mrs. Dale Shreeves, Martinsburg, WV; Dr. Enoch W. Henry, Palestine, TX; Mr. Robbie & Mrs. Louada Chisholm, Silver Spring, MD; Mrs. Denise D. Olmsted, Raymore, MO; Dr. Lorene Holmes, Hawkins, TX; Millicent Battle, Kansas City, MO; Marvin E. Smith, Carlock, IL; Dr. William K. & Mrs. Reubena Fox, Raymore, MO; Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale, Decatur, GA; Dr. Harvey & Mrs. May Lord, Chicago, IL; Mr. Glenn & Mrs. Kathy Helme, Baltimore, MD.

OVERHEARD

HYMNS TO SING WHILE DRIVING

45 MPH: God Will Take Care of You
55 MPH: Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah
65 MPH: Just a Closer Walk With Thee
75 MPH: Nearer My God To Thee
85 MPH: This World Is Not My Home
95 MPH: Precious Memories
100 MPH: Lord, I'm Coming Home

Lord, hear our prayers!
"I found myself talking to the wind the morning of the 15th of May. It was gloomy and overcast and there had been tornadoes throughout the country and there were warnings of more to come. As I looked out the kitchen window at the branches being blown to and fro, I said to myself "dem dere ole tornadoes" and knew right away my thoughts were about to give birth again."

DEM DERE OLE TORNADOES

It wus jus lik da sky had busted open an all dat water in da clouds jus come spillin out. Almost lik den da wind decided ta git involved an started stirrin da rain round – da way a top spins, an afore ya knew it it done got so wound-up dat de only way it could stop wus ta rush down an burro itself intah de earth – but it jus done got it speed so built up dat it took modern two or three times a burroing itself cause jus once couldn’t slow it down or stop it; an it jus kept on goin-long foe quite a spel – once it done got started.

Moss of da time dem dere ole tornadoes does a awful lot of damage, an cause dey gets out of control, sometime folk get hurt or eben killed, an dat ole wind don’t eben know what it done did.

Use ta be – folk ‘tweren’t so busy rushin round an dey’d take mo notice of da sky; an dey’d know bout when da sky wus a gonna bust open lik dat an would git deyself someplace real safe – lik a ole cella in de ground. We’s got all dat fanci quipment now ta tell us when ole ‘Brother Wind’ is getting all twisted an wound-up but we’s don’t habe dem ole cellas to climb down intah an let dat ole ‘Brother’ pass o’vr; an we’ens jus gets all smashed up an thrown ever which-way.

We’s jus gonna habe tah start lookin up an not be so besy doing an gettin heah an dere. Bes way tah see what’s a going on o’vr yo head is tah look up regalar lik. Jus keep a-lookin up an da Lord’ll show ya tings ya nevah noticed befoe. We’ens betta start using sum common sense cause dem dere ole tornadoes don’t habe none a-tall. Yeh, betta start using dat plain ole common sense – whatcha wus born wit.

May F. Lindsey Reed
Written Thursday, May 15, 2003
DISCIPLES NEWS ROUND-UP  continued

Continued from page 3

Rev. William B. Allen, College of Regional Ministers, Brian Farley, President of Disciples Youth, Capital Area, Rev. Emory Andrews, Minister of Music, Michigan Park Christian Church, Mr. Clifton Brown, President, Disciples Men; Rev. David Caldwell, Senior Minister, First Christian Church, Baltimore, Rev. Darwin Collins, Regional Minister, Pennsylvania, Rev. Brenda Cardwell, Senior Minister, Pilgrimage Christian Church, Ms. Zelia Diggs, President, CWF, Capital Area; Rev. Dr. Chris Hobgood, Regional Minister, retired; Rev. Timothy Mabbott, Senior Minister, First Christian Church of Alexandria, Rev. Luz Maiuri, Senior Minister, Downsville Christian Church; Mrs. Yvonne Malone, Moderator Elect, Capital Area Region; Rev. Sami Jones McRae, Pastor, North Pomfret Congregational Church (UCC) North Pomfret, VT; Dr. Edward A. Moore, Minister of Music, National City Christian Church; Rev. James W. Painting, Senior Minister, Grace United Church of Christ, Massillon, OH; Mr. John Ruiz, Regional Board, Capital Area, Mrs. Kathleen Prytherch, Past Moderator, Capital Area, Rev. Richard Taylor, Regional Minister, retired, Capital Area, and the honoree, Rev. Lari Grubbs.

Indianapolis, IN

Adonna Bowman, a laywoman from Los Angeles, has been called to be the executive director of the Office of Disciples Women. She is a life-long Disciple, who served the Regional Women’s Commission of the Pacific Southwest Region as communications director; member of the planning committee to create a Women’s Action Web Experience; and chaired a Spiritual Growth Retreat for women co-creating and leading a workshop on how to start and build women’s groups and programs, with an emphasis on how to reach younger women.

Miss Bowman recently completed a two-year certificate of ministry studies program and became eligible for licensed ministry the end of May. She directed registration for the 2002 International Christian Women’s Fellowship Quadrennial Assembly in Louisville, KY.

Nashville, TN — Dr. Peter M. Morgan, president of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society, was guest speaker for the 2003 commencement exercises in late May at Lexington Theological Seminary.

Dr. Morgan, a 1964 graduate of the seminary, began his ministry after seminary as pastor of Marion Christian Church, Marion, IA. In 1975 he was called to the program staff of the Division of Homeland Ministries. In January, 1996, Peter began his present ministry with the Historical Society.

Indianapolis, IN — The Pension Fund of the Christian Church (DOC) has announced that full-time ministers earned on average a $39,236.00 in salary and parsonage for 2002. The report said this represented a two percent increase over the previous year.

Columbia, SC

Dara Cobb, a seminarian who recently did field work with University Christian Church, Hyattsville, MD, is one of 20 missionaries chosen for overseas duty. She will serve three years in Botswana with the Congregational Church of Southern Africa. Having completed her seminary work she was recently ordained in her home church in South Carolina. Dr. Marshall Dunn, Rachel Frey, Cathy Libbee, and Jackie Wintle of University traveled to Holly Hill, SC to participate in Dara’s ordination.
When you include students, part-time, and bi-vocational ministers, the average drops to $36,118.00.

Baltimore, MD — The congregation of Christian Temple Christian Church (DOC), members of the family and friends joined on Sunday, May 18, to celebrate the 20th anniversary ordination of Rev. Richard K. Powell, their senior minister. Participants in the service were all family or life long friends.

Guest speakers for this special day were Joyce B. Coalson, pastor of Smartsburg Christian Church, Crawfordsville, IN, and Bob Coalson, graphic designer and independent book editor. Joyce is former Vice President of the Center for Leadership and Ministry of Homeland Ministries. Bob, husband of Joyce, is the former Communications Director of Christian Theological Seminary. Both he and Joyce, are graduates of CTS. Joyce is also a graduate of Phillips University, and Bob is a graduate of the University of Texas.

The Word in Action was given by Rev. James Powell, brother of Rick and also president of Church Extension of the Christian Church (DOC). Other family members included Rick’s wife, Jayna, and his two sisters, Patti Hannum and Kathy Keough.
Cincinnati, OH – A Service of Memory celebrating the life of The Rev. Dr. John R. Compton, was held at Mt. Healthy Christian Church, 7717 Harrison Avenue, Cincinnati, on April 23, 2003, the Rev. Timothy James, officiating.

The memories of this servant of God are many and outstanding. Just four months ago the 60th anniversary of his ordination into Christian ministry was celebrated by the pastor, members, friends and family at Kemper Road Christian Church, (DOC), Cincinnati. Responding to the honorees statement “All I ever wanted to be was a pastor”, the saints declared “Thank you John Compton for answering God’s call and blessing so very many of God’s people with your faithful leadership.”

Over the years the church and community has honored Rev. Compton with numerous honors and awards, including the Religious Award from Jarvis Christian College, the Distinguished Services Award of Greater Cincinnati Community Action Commission, Religious & Civic Award, NAACP, and Honorary Doctorate degrees from Christian Theological Seminary and Lynchburg College.

In 1988 he received the Liberation Award from the National Convocation of The Christian Church (DOC) and in 1995 he was inducted into the Jarvis Christian College Hall of Fame. In recognition of his dedication to making Cincinnati a better city for all citizens, the NAACP presented him the Presidents Award.

Dr. Compton believed in equal leadership opportunities for all and led the campaign to elect a lay-person as president of the National Convocation. His pastoral skills resulted in a Layman, Oscar Haynes, being elected president of this church unit in 1976.

Dr. Compton was called the “Way Paver.” He was the first African-American to be a general unit President. (Homeland Ministries), regional minister, (Indiana) and executive in the Office of General Minister and President. His many first can be found in The Disciple Magazine, June 1991.

Dr. Compton is survived by his wife, Shirley, John Jr., Lenita (Jackie) Bunch, grandchildren and friends. His first wife, Lucile, preceded him in death.
JACKSON, MS – Dr. Jessie B. Moseley, the 99-year-old daughter of a railroad employee and seamstress in Houston, TX, who rose to become a renown Christian Church (DOC), community and civic leader, made the final transition in Jackson on June 7, 2003. Home-going services were June 21, at United Christian Church, Jackson.

Dr. Moseley, identified as “A GRAND AND DIGNIFIED CHRISTIAN QUEEN OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN PROGRESS”, had been the devoted wife of academic scholar Charles C. Moseley, and proud mother of three children, Gene, Wilma Emma and Charles, Jr. After years as teacher of social and commercial studies, librarian, and a program director in the Young Women’s Christian Association, she served as the organizer and council convener in Mississippi for the National Council of Church Women.

This prominent church and civic leader was active up until God’s call to her reward. In the latter quarter of her long life of service she became the co-founder and director of the Smith Robertson Museum and Cultural Center. In addition to her leadership positions at United Christian Church, Dr. Moseley joined her husband as a catalyst for establishing and operating a congregation-sponsored day care center.

There is a series of celebrative Home-going events planned for the colorful life and service of Dr. Moseley. The locations include the Collier Mortuary Chapel and a Music Theater and Fellowship at the Alamo. Senior Pastor of United Christian Church, Russell H. Myers will officiate the services. Son Gene Moseley is coordinator of the many events.

Cleveland, OH - Mr. Benjamin Stultz, the celebration of the life of the only brother of Mrs. Reubena Fox, Board Member of The Oldtimers’ Grapevine Newsletter, was June 17, 2003, with Mrs. and Dr. William K. Fox in attendance. Mrs. Fox is now the last surviving member of her family of seven.

Mr. Stultz, a successful realtor, was preceded in death by his parents, William & Hetty Stultz, and sisters Mable, Hester and Bernice. This native of Martinsville, VA., had just celebrated his 95th birthday with family and friends.
The Food Pyramid for Diabetes shows what to eat each day. The pyramid has a block for each food group. The bottom block is grains /beans/starchy vegetables. These are the foods of which you should eat the most. Vegetables and fruits come next. Eat plenty of these, too. Milk and meat are important, but you need only small amounts. The pyramid tells you how many servings to eat from each food group. Your RD can show you how large a serving is and how to make a meal plan based on the pyramid. The top or point of the pyramid includes foods in the fats, sweets, and alcohol group. Read on to learn how to include these foods in your meal plan. As your first step, try to eat foods from each group every day.

**Set your sights.**
Write down your questions about food and diabetes until you see an RD.

1. __________
2. __________
3. I will try to eat ___ fruits per day by __________
4. I will try to eat ___ vegetables per day by __________
5. I will try to eat less fat by __________
6. I will try to eat less sugars by __________

**Keep track.**
Keep food records for 3 days and bring them with you when you meet with your RD. Write down what you eat and how much you eat right after you eat it to help you remember. Don’t wait until the end of the day.

**Example:**

**Day 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Foods and drinks eaten and amount.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7 a.m.</td>
<td>dry cereal-cornflakes 1-1/2 cups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
READER’S COMMENT CORNER

Dear Oscar, Find enclosed a donation for the Oldtimers’ Grapevine. “It is absolutely wonderful.”

Love, Cynthia.
Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale, Senior Minister, Ray of Hope Christian Church, Decatur, GA

Dear Brother Oscar, Thanks for recent e-mails and update on our OLDTIMERS’ GRAPEVINE mission. You are putting your unique imprint on the instrumentality and enabling it to meet evolving needs. Shalom, Bill. Rev. Dr. William K. Fox, Founder of the OLDTIMERS’ GRAPEVINE NEWSLETTER, Raymore, MO

“Oops’ it has been way too long since we’ve sent a contribution.” Kathy & Glenn Helme, Baltimore, MD.

Dear Oscar,
“Imagine my great surprise this morning when I got the Oldtimers’ Grapevine. I said that picture looks familiar. I put it under the magnifying glass and sure enough it was me. The reference to the March in Washington brought back memories of riding in a stretch limousine.” Love, Dale F.

Dr. A. Dale Fiers, first GMP of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). His reference to the limo was in response to a member of Twelfth Street CC, who offered to drive him to the march. Dr. Fiers refused the offer, saying, “oh no, I’m gonna walk with the rest of you.”

“The Cane Ridge Co-Curators say hello to Oldtimers’ Grapevine team! Many thanks and best wishes.” Robert & Diane Steffler.

“Hey, this is good.” Francis Stark
Dr. Stark is a retired Chair of the Department of Horticulture of the University of Maryland.
Oldtimer’s Grapevine Good Faith Form

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

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1*10***************ALL FOR ADC 37099
DR. PETER & MRS. LYNNE MORGAN
1101 19TH AVE. S.
NASHVILLE TN 37212
Rev. Dr. William Chris Hobgood, born to missionary parents during their tenure in the African Congo half a century ago, will be called to the office of General Minister & President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) at the denominations’ General Assembly, October 17, 2003, in Charlotte, NC. He will serve a 21-month period created by the resignation of Dr. Richard L. Hamm.

Rev. Dr. Alvin O. Jackson, Moderator, and the Moderator’s Advisory Group, which served as a nominating committee, called him to be the candidate for this leadership position. In his letter to the Administrative Committee, Dr. Jackson said, “It is the unanimous opinion of the moderators that our church would be well-served by having Chris Hobgood in leadership at this time.” The Administrative Committee unanimously approved the recommendation.

The next step in this once in a lifetime experience, was to recommend the action to the General Board. There was unanimous approval by the General Board at its July meeting. The action of these bodies will go to the General Assembly at its October meeting for affirmation. This procedure follows the Design of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States & Canada for filling this vacancy.

Chris, as affectionately called by friends and associates, left the Congo at age 15 for the United States to obtain his high school education. He lived with a sister in Wisconsin during this time. After high school he moved to Lexington, KY to enter the University of Kentucky. He was drafted by the football coach and played for the university until transferring to Transylvania College.

Dr. Hobgood, a fourth generation Disciple, was the Regional Minister in Arkansas for nine years, and for the next eight years served in the same capacity the Capital Area Region. Before becoming a regional minister he pastored congregations for 25 years in Kentucky, Indiana and Virginia, with 20 of those years as pastor of First Christian Church, Alexandria, VA. He retired from regional ministry in December 2002.

As Dr. Hobgood assumes leadership of our Church at this critical time of transition, I am reminded of another GMP who led us through a period that marked a major change in our identity as a mature denomination. There are striking similarities between Hobgood and our first GMP Dr. A. Dale Fiers. Dr. Fiers was an outstanding athlete in baseball and Dr. Hobgood in football. According to a friend and native Kentuckian, Fred Nall, Chris left University of Kentucky at the same time that legendary Bear Bryant became football coach at UK. Dr. Fiers strongly believed in the priesthood of all believers, so too, does Dr. Hobgood. Dr. Fiers was an advocate of an anti-racist denomination and Dr. Hobgood is giving effective leadership to the Christian Church’s becoming an anti-racist, pro-reconciling denomination.

(Continued on page 2)
In comments to the Administrative Committee in July, he stressed four dimensions of the life of our church. 

First: The Disciples' core values "It is time to lift our Core Values so high that the world will see who we are".

- We believe that Jesus is the Christ, son of the living God and accept him as our Lord and Savior.
- We hold to the centrality of the Lord’s Supper.
- We aspire to the priesthood of all believers, the conviction that every confessing Disciple has a vocation of servanthood.
- We as a people who love the unity God gives us.
- We believe in the justice of God, that all people are on level ground before God, no one stands taller than anyone else.

Second: I believe it is vital for us to really connect the theological dots of our mission.

- "True community"
- "Deep Spirituality"
- "A passion for justice."
- Becoming an anti-racist church while establishing 1000 new congregations.
- Revitalizing 1000 congregations.
- Developing the leadership for these and other parts of our future.

Third: I believe that it falls upon the leadership of the church to set the pace. Every Christian has to be a leader in the world.

Fourth: We need to re-form our life to carry out God's call. We must agree to come to the table to be led by God to this re-formation of our way of being the church.

Recognizing the family came before the church, Chris' first love is his family. He and his wife, Cary Meade are the proud parents of two daughters, Dr. Laura Hobgood-Oster, Carey Lou Hobgood, real estate appraiser, and son Benjamin. Chris is no stranger to people of power. While pastoring First Christian Church of Alexandria, VA, he did volunteer work with the Virginia Mental Health Association.

Because Mrs. Marion Javits, wife of Senator Jacob Javits, was interested in the mental health issue, Chris was a dinner guests at the senator's home to discuss the mental health program in Virginia. A member of his congregation was the late Congresswoman, Edith Green

Chris’ missionary parents were the late Henry Clay Hobgood and wife Tobitha. The Hobgood family migrated from North Carolina to Kentucky. In 1912, Henry was commissioned to serve in the Congo. He returned to the United States in 1916 to Mission Headquarters in Indianapolis, IN. There was a beautiful student at the College of Missions studying for an assignment to Tibet. She met Henry Clay and instead of going to Tibet, they were married and she ended up going to the Congo with her husband. The Mission School in later years became the General Headquarters of the Christian Church (DOC) at 222 S. Downey Avenue. Chris shared the nostalgia he feels every time one speaks of the Disciples Mission Building.

In conversation with the Oldtimers' Grapevine Chris shared his vision of where he would like this church to be by the 2005 General Assembly in Portland, OR. He said, "We all need to re-order our lives to do what God would have for us to do." He expressed a desire for the Assembly Congregations to be more visible and full participants in all manifestations of the denomination. He anticipates meeting with all leaders of all regions, not just the pastors and moderators. "We will arrive in Portland being a truly "Anti-Racist/Pro-Reconciling Denomination."
Boston, MA—A new exciting church has opened in the greater Boston area under the sponsorship of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ, Rev. Elizabeth Myer, pastor. Additional information on Hope Christian Church, an open and affirming new congregation, can be obtained by calling (617) 469-2407 or writing Rev. Myer at ejmyer@yahoo.com. Rev. Grayland Scott Haglar, pastor of Plymouth Congregational UCC Church and Community Activists, Washington, D.C. is a former Disciple/UCC pastor in that area.

Washington, D.C. – Rev. Joseph Samuel Reeves, pastor of Whosoever Will Christian Church, 4514 Sellman Road, Beltsville, MD, has written a book entitled “The American Presidents from George Washington to Abraham Lincoln.” This is the first in a trilogy on the American Presidents. The second book is entitled “The American Presidents; Andrew Johnson to Dwight D. Eisenhower”, to be released by October, and the third “The American Presidents; John F. Kennedy to Bill Clinton.” will be released in late December. The publisher is Epic Press, Essence Publishing, Ontario, Canada. The cost is $10.95 per copy plus shipping.

Dr. Reeves is a native of Liberia. His favorite quotation comes from the late President John F. Kennedy, which he paraphrases: “The world is becoming a global village. We all need to transcend our petty differences and work for the betterment of Humanity.”

New York, NY – Amy Gopp, Kent, Ohio native, begins her second year of theological studies at Union Theological Seminary in the Fall. She has been named the Katherine Schutze Scholar for the academic year of 2003-04. This prestigious scholarship was founded in 1980, to encourage future generations of women in preparation for ministry. The founder, Katherine Schutze, served as a missionary both at home and abroad for 35 years.

In a recent e-mail to her friend Rev. Joan Bell-Haynes, Amy exclaimed, “I got a job at the United Nations!!!!!!!!!!! I’ll be working at the Disciples/UCC office at the UN! ... working on global advocacy issues, focusing on certain issues of my choosing. Then I’ll interpret those issues to the larger church. I’ll do some writing and speaking and will attend the Ecumenical Forum meetings each week at the UN with all of the other church agencies present. Can you believe it? It’s perfect for me! It’s a dream come true!

And before that, I’m going to Africa! Yes, Africa! I got a fellowship from the Fund for Theological Education so will be traveling to Kenya and Sudan this summer to work with the Decade to Overcome Violence with the World Council of Churches. I have dreamed of going to Africa since I was a little girl and now I get to go. I’ll also connect with the Women’s Desk there at the All Africa Council of Churches, which I’m sooooooo excited about. Please pray for my safety while there.

Fort Washington, MD – A service of ordination into the Christian Ministry for Jennifer Hope Kottler, was held Saturday, July 5, 2003, at Henson Valley Christian Church, 1900 Tucker Road, Fort Washington, MD, and attended by many family members and close friends.

Participants in the service included: Rev. Ruth Harvey, Interim Pastor of Henson Valley C.C.; Rev. Dwight Bailey, her mentor, pastor of Austin Boulevard C. C., Oak Park, IL, preached the ordination sermon; Kristine Culp, Dean of the Disciples Divinity House, University of Chicago; and Rev. William Crowl, Associate Dean of the Disciples House; Rev. Lari Grubbs, Regional Minister, C. C. -Capital Area; Dr. Robert Perry, Regional Moderator, C. C. -Capital Area; Joshua Patty, soloist, Disciples Divinity House; Rev. Ray Schultz, Commission on Ministry C.C. -Capital Area; Mr. & Mrs. Richard Kottler, parents of Jennifer, and other members of the congregation. The Rev. Kottler has accepted a call to the staff of Protestants For The Common Good, Chicago, IL.

Indianapolis, IN – The Rev. James P. Johnson, president of the Christian Church Foundation since 1992, will leave that position the end of August, 2003 to lead planned giving efforts for the Mayo Foundation. He and his wife, Nancy, will be relocating to Rochester, MN.

Continued on page 6
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRECIOUS GIFTS

Mr. Robbie & Mrs. Louada Chisholm, Silver Spring, MD; Dr. G. Curtis Jones, Angel Fire, NM; Mr. Silvio & Mrs. Ann Cappiello, Kensington, MD; Mrs. Loraine Pitman, Indianapolis, IN; Ovara O. Miller, Kansas City, MO; Ms. Hilda Koontz, Springfield, VA; Dr. Ernest J. & Mrs. Janice Newborn, Claremont, CA; Dr. Robert M. Hall, Indianapolis, IN; Rev. Janet Warner Chapman, Raymore, MO; Mr. Dan & Mrs. Frances Genung, Claremont, CA; Ms. Dorothy Sweatt, Raymore, MO; Dr. W.F. Terry Reister, Clarksburg, MD; Mr. Lea Earl Acuff, Knoxville, TN; Mr. Robert Chambless, Raymore, MO; Mr. Garland & Mrs. Barbara Farmer, Davis, CA; Dr. Jim & Mrs. Sarah Rainwater, Little Rock, AR; Leona E. Griggsby, St. Louis, MO; Mrs. May F. Lindsey Reed, Nashville, TN; Dr. Claude Walker, Dallas, TX; Dr. Wayne H. Bell, Lexington, KY; Dr. Norma R. Ellington-Twitty, St. Louis, MO; Mrs. Olivia A. Pennington, Raymore, MO; Mr. Joseph & Mrs. Winnifred Smith, Indianapolis, IN; Rev. Tom Murray (Anointed Temple of Praise), Memphis, TN; Mrs. Emily L. Jackson, Memphis TN; Mary M. Watson, Kansas City, MO; Rev. Glenn & Mrs. Charlotte Shoemaker, Raymore, MO; Mr. Robert & Mrs. Elaine Kennel, Holly Spring, NC.

OVERHEARD

There was a painter named Jack who was very interested in making a dollar where he could. So he often would thin down his paint to make it go a bit further. As it happened, he got away with this for some time.

Eventually the local church decided to do a big restoration project. Jack put in a bid for the painting and because his price was so competitive he got the job. He set up the scaffolding, bought the paint and thinned it down with turpentine.

Jack was up on the scaffolding, painting away, the job nearly done, when suddenly there was a horrendous clap of thunder. The sky opened and the rain poured down, washing the thin paint from all over the church and knocking Jack off the scaffold, landing on the lawn.

Jack knew this was a judgment from the Almighty, so he immediately fell on his knees and cried, “Oh, God! Forgive me! What should I do?”

From a clap of thunder, a mighty voice spoke, REPAINT! REPAINT! And thin no more!”

CORRECTION: In the May/June issue in the article on Four Generations: A Legacy of Living Faith, we incorrectly listed Elder Gwendolyn Robinson pursuing graduate studies in Pastoral Relations at Howard University, it should read Urban Ministries. We regret this mistake.
Mr. Mars and Old Man Moon

Looking up into the sky last nite
as I hummed a little tune,
I saw a small red constellation?
just adjacent to the moon.
I stared and stared
and finally thought
‘it certainly isn’t stars’
and marveled to my little self
if it possibly could be Mars.

I’d never seen this celestial sphere
and stared with growing delight
as I noted a tinge of blue
and a tiny speck of white.
It really grabbed my attention
so assistance I commandeered
and received a lovely glow
as through binoculars I peered.
I’ve wondered about this planet
whom scientist say is red.
I took one long last stare at it
and shuffled off to bed.
Old Man Moon was a
beaming dark yellow,
really almost brown,
it didn’t seem to bother him at all
having Mr. Mars around.

As I awoke next morning
I heard the newsman say
“It was a number of calls made last nite”
about that odd solar display.
It had definitely been determined
Mr. Mars had made a show
while Old Man Moon kept brightly shining,
reflecting his heavenly glow.

This spotting was reported Wednesday, March 16, 2003
Written Mon., August 11, 2003
May F. Lindsey Reed

Many call Dale Fiers the most significant figure
in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of
the twentieth century. He has had a major im-
 pact not only on his denomination but also on
American Protestantism in general, particularly
in his approach to such social issues as mission-
ary work and civil rights.

During the 1960s, Dr. Fiers was elected the first
General Minister & President of this denomina-
tion. According to Church historian Dr. Duane
D. Cummins the “Approval of the Provisional
Design marked the passage of the Disciples into
denominational maturity, officially named the
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) they be-
came a Church.”

His biography, commissioned by the Disciples of
Christ Historical Society, was written by Dr.
Cummins, currently serving as interim president
of Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian Uni-
versity. Copies will be available at the General
Assembly this October in Charlotte, NC. It
should be a must in the home of every Disciple.

The project was officially announced in
early May 2003, during the ceremonies
naming a Lecture Hall in the historic
headquarters building of the Society, in
honor of both Dr. Fiers and his first wife,
Betty.
Continued from page 3

Gary Kidwell, Senior Vice-President, will succeed Jim in that position. Gary becomes the third president of this unit of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The first president and founder is the Rev. Dr. James Reed, mentor to Jim before retiring eleven years ago.

**Washington, D.C.** — Service of Ordination into the Christian Ministry for Robert Taylor Phillips was held at National City Christian Church, on Sunday, July 13, 2003, with over 200 persons in attendance. A moving moment in the service was when Robert’s younger brother presented him as a candidate for ordination. The Rev. Dr. Alvin O. Jackson, Senior Minister, preached the ordination sermon. Among the participants were: Dr. Mark Miller-McLemore, Dean and Rev. Angela Denise Davis of Disciples Divinity House, Vanderbilt University Divinity School, Nashville, TN, where Robert received the Master of Divinity Degree; Rev. Jacquelyn McHenry, Associate Pastor, Shalom Community Christian Church, Greensboro, NC; Rev. Alice Davis, Executive Minister, Shiloh Baptist Church; Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Haggray, Executive Director/Minister D.C. Baptist Convention; Ms. Berlenda Hubbard, Minister of Music, Ebenezer AME Church, Chicago, IL; Rev. Lari Grubbs, Regional Minister, C. C.-Capital Area; Dr. Robert Perry, Regional Moderator C. C.-Capital Area; Dr. Delores Carpenter, Senior Pastor, Michigan Park C. C.; Dr. Ben Manning, Heritage C. C.; Rev. Virginia Taylor, Rev. Noemi Mena and Rev. Gregory Howell, all of National City C. C.; Robert’s parents, Mr. Utillus & Elene Phillips; and other members of the congregation and friends.

**Indianapolis, IN** — Hazel Rudduck recently died at the age of 106. She would have celebrated her 107th birthday just one month later. She is survived by a daughter, Joan Cofer, P.O. Box 63, Vinton, CA 96135.

Hazel coordinated the first International Christian Women’s Fellowship Quadrennial Assembly which is the only time this job was done by a volunteer. Memorial gifts in her name to the Women’s Endowment Fund may be sent to Christian Church Foundation, 130 E. Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-3645.

**Indianapolis, IN** — The Rev. Billye P. Bridges has been named Director of Christian Education for the Division of Homeland Ministries by the Board of Directors. Rev. Bridges will provide leadership for all Disciples’ Christian educators. She is former Director of Specialized Christian Education, primarily focusing on African-American leaders and congregations. Rev. Bridges formerly served as Minister of Christian Education and Programs for Light of the World Christian Church, Indianapolis, Indiana, Bishop T. Garrott Benjamin, Senior Pastor.

**Washington, D.C.** — Yvonne Gilmore, Disciples House Scholar at Disciples Divinity House, University of Chicago, was married July 3, 2003, to Martin Essig, at Michigan Park C.C., with Rev. Dr. Delores Carpenter, Senior Minister, officiating. The beautiful bride was one of the youth speakers at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday celebration two years ago, sponsored by the Christian Church-Capital Area. Other participants included Dr. Cynthia Lindner, Director of Ministry, Divinity School of The University of Chicago; Rev. James Demus, Senior Pastor, Park Manor C.C., Chicago, IL.
Changing Leadership In The National Convocation: A Biographical Retrospective

The Rev. Dr. John R. Foulkes, Executive Secretary of the National Convocation since 1986, will retire from that leadership position the end of December, 2003. His successor will possibly be announced during the General Assembly in Charlotte, NC. Rev. Foulkes resigned from the position of Senior Minister at Parkway Christian Church, Chicago, Illinois, to become Director of Special Congregational Services, Division of Homeland Ministries, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Dr. Foulkes is the eighth eminent churchman to serve in this office. The office includes the position of Associate General Minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. John is married to Marilyn L. Foulkes. They are the parents to three children and six grandchildren. Dr. Foulkes succeeded Rev. Dr. William W. Hannah, who served for two years before resigning to return to the pastorate.

The Rev. Thomas J. Griffin, a retired executive of the Christian Church (DOC) was called in early January 1985 to serve as interim in this post until a successor was called. He agreed to fill the post vacated by Dr. Hannah.

Rev. Griffin had served in a number of denominational posts, among them was Secretary for Reconciliation; the first director of the Change through Involvement program, started in 1965 with a grant from the Irwin-Sweeney-Miller Foundation of Columbus, Indiana; and director of Christian Action and Community Service for the Disciples’ United Christian Missionary Society.

During the latter part of the same year, 1985, The Rev. Dr. Raymond E. Brown, senior vice-president of the Disciples’ Board of Church Extension, was called to serve as interim, following the retirement of Rev. Griffin. He maintained his position with Church Extension while working with the General Minister & President, the National Convocation Trustees, and Advisory Committee for the selection of the new executive.

Dr. Brown had served as President of the National Convocation, 1969-72; President of the National Christian Missionary Convention, 1968-69; and First Vice-Moderator of the denomination’s General Assembly. In 1972-76, he served on the Board of Trustees of Lexington Theological Seminary, Lexington, KY.
An Ohio pastor, trained in inner-city church planning, was called to this post in June, 1972, succeeding Dr. John R. Compton, who resigned at the end of 1971 to return to the pastorate. The appointment of Rev. Dr. William K. Fox was announced by Dr. A. Dale Fiers, GMP.

"Mr. Fox brings to the position a distinguished record as a leader in the Christian Church (DOC) and in the ecumenical movement," he said. "He will provide outstanding leadership among black churchmen and as one of the top staff of the church will give leadership to the whole church." Dr. Fiers added.

Dr. Fox was a Lilly Endowment Planning Fellow in Indianapolis from 1961-65, developing a design for inner-city churches for the Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis. He had taught Urban Church at Union Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio. A native of Beloit, Wisconsin, Dr. Fox is married to Mrs. Reubena Fox, a retired social worker. He is a physical fitness buff who jogs daily and is fondly remembered for bicycling. During a 10-year pastorate in St. Louis, MO, he was also a regular columnist for the Disciples' magazine, The Christian, and in 1991 started the Oldtimers' Grapevine Newsletter.

The Rev. Dr. John R. Compton, identified by many in leadership as the "way paver," was called to the office of Executive Secretary and Assistant to the GMP in 1970. His goal in accepting the appointment was to firmly entrench the National Convocation in training African-American Disciples in church leadership and centering on issues of concern to the black church.

Dr. Compton's leadership skills led to his becoming the first African-American to be called to many top positions in the Christian Church (DOC). They include: the Board of the United Christian Missionary Society, Executive Secretary of the National Convocation, Assistant to the General Minister & President, Administrator of Reconciliation (church's race and poverty program), Regional Minister of Indiana, President, Division of Homeland Ministries, member of the church's 16-member General Cabinet, and advocate for a 20 percent minimum guideline among Disciples for ethnic minority employment and representation.

In 1944, The Rev. Dr. Emmett J. Dickson was called to the office of Executive Secretary of the National Christian Missionary Convention, precursor to the National Convocation. (The National Christian Missionary Convention merged with the Christian Church (DOC) in 1969. After the merger Dr. Dickson was named Director of Field Services for the Department of Evangelism and Membership in the Division of Homeland Ministries.

Before his call to Homeland Ministries, Dr. Dickson served as Chairman of the Department of Religion and Philosophy at Lincoln Institute, Lincoln Ridge, Kentucky, and Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, Texas. Dr. Dickson, who gave his entire professional life to educating and inspiring others. He mandated that all members of the National Convocation commit themselves to continual and fervent leader development.

The first to serve in this office was The Rev. Robert Hayes Peoples who gave eight years of dedicated leadership. Rev. Peoples was called to Second Christian Church (DOC) in 1943. Bishop T. Garrott Benjamin succeeded Rev. Peoples and Second Christian Church is now Light of the World Christian Church with membership of over 3,000.

Rev. Peoples, a native of Hollywood, MS, completed his junior college course at Southern Christian Institute and then entered Eureka College where he received a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Education. In 1927 he was called to Jarvis Christian College to head the Department of Religious Education and Bible. Rev. Peoples was active in the Indianapolis, IN community and in 1948 was awarded the Church Federation Race Relations Award.
Washington, D.C. –
A Celebration of
Life for Abraham
Beaton, Jr., was
held at National
City Christian
Church, on July
10, 2003, the Rev.
Dr. Alvin O. Jack-
son, officiating.

“Abel”, as he is affectionately known,
was born in Jacksonville, FL, but lost
his parents at the tender age of five. He
was raised by other loving family mem-
bers in Bronx, NY.

In the mid-1990’s Mr. Beaton re-
dicated his life to Christ at Mt.
Sinai Baptist Church. In 2002, he
and his loving and faithful wife,
Theresa, became members of Na-
tional City Christian Church. They
fell in love with the inspiring ser-
mons of Pastor Jackson, the music
and the warmth of the congregation.
It was said, “Abe will always be re-
membered for how he fed the hearts
and stomachs of the congregation.”

Abe was the founder and president
of Beaton’s Fine Caterers, a busi-
ness that allowed him to fully ex-
press his love for cooking great
food for great people. Among his
company’s select clients was Na-
tional City Christian Church, where
his gourmet skills and flair of
showmanship were demonstrated at
all prestige functions.

After graduating from Haaren
High School in New York, Abe
entered Howard University.
However, becoming homesick he
later transferred to New York
University and received a
Bachelor’s degree in Economics/
Accounting. He later earned a
Master’s in Business Admini-
stration from Southern Method-
ist University.

In 1969, Abe began a career in
banking. He served as Vice
President of United National
Bank of Washington under
President Sam Foggie. He was
also an officer at the Unity State
Bank in Dayton, OH, and then
President of King State Bank in
Houston, TX before starting his
own business. He also served
on the faculty of Howard Uni-
versity School of Business. Dur-
ing his military career he was
stationed at Andrews Air Force
Base, the field used by Air
Force One.

Abe is survived by his wife,
Theresa, mother-in-law, Luvenia
Smith, two children, Jeffrey L.
Beaton (Jacqueline) and Abrielle
Beaton Anderson (Jack), one
sister, Alma Beaton Foster, six
granddaughters, two godsons,
and a host of relatives and
friends.
OLDTIMERS HEALTH VINE

HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE (HYPERTENSION)

Blood pressure is a measurement of the force of blood against the walls of the arteries. A blood pressure reading includes two numbers, for example, 120/80. The first number in the reading is called the systolic pressure. It is the force that blood exerts on the artery walls as the heart contracts. The second number in the reading is called the diastolic pressure. It is the force that blood exerts on the artery walls between heartbeats, while the heart is resting.

If a person consistently has a systolic pressure of above 140, and a diastolic pressure of above 90, he or she is said to have high blood pressure (hypertension). High blood pressure increases your risk for heart attack, stroke, and kidney or eye damage.

RISK FACTORS

- Smoking
- Being overweight
- Having a family history of high blood pressure
- Being of African American descent
- Having an inactive lifestyle
- Drinking too much alcohol
- Having too much salt or not enough Potassium in the diet

PREVENTION

Small changes in your lifestyle may help you prevent high blood pressure or help you lower your blood pressure if it is too high.

- Maintain a healthy weight
- Be physically active—at least 30 minutes on most days of the week
- Drink alcohol in moderation
- Use salt moderately
- Reduce the saturated fat in your diet. Saturated fat is found in animal products (meat, milk, and cheese). This will help you lose weight, lower cholesterol, and reduce your risk for coronary artery disease. (We'll get to that in another issue).
- If you smoke

Kim Atwater R.N.
Kim is an operating room nurse with more than twenty years of experience. She adds to her nursing credits a patented medical device and a published article in the Advance For Nursing Magazine.
Dear Oscar, “please put us back on the mailing list. Hope to see you in Charlotte.”

*Rev. Dr. Claude Walker, Dallas, TX*

Oscar—“I was loaned a copy of the Oldtimers’ Grapevine. I hadn’t known about it. Hope to see you at the General Assembly.”

*Lorraine Pitman, Indianapolis, IN*

Dear Oscar, “I enjoy the Grapevine so much and treasure its warmth. May God continue to bless you and yours.”

*Rev. Dr. W.F. Terry Reister, Hyattstown Christian Church, Clarksburg, MD*

Oscar, “It was good seeing and visiting with you in Nashville. I appreciated the Oldtimers’ Grapevine and am now a supporter.”

*G. Curtis Jones, Jr., Angel Fire, NM*

Good Christian Friend Oscar Haynes, “...Thanks to the Oldtimers’ Grapevine and a large Merlin Vision Magnifier, I can keep up somewhat with today’s church leaders and the changes taking place in our church.....We Oldtimers’ need the Grapevine.”

*Rev. Dr. Robert M. Hall, Retired Regional Minister, Indianapolis, IN*

Dear Oscar & Joan, “...Received our first issue of the Oldtimers’ Grapevine and found it of immeasurable fun and value. Ann was intrigued with the story of Gwendolyn and we had a real chuckle over “Dem Dere Ole Tornadoes. ...May the wind be always at your back.”

*S. Cappiello, Kensington, MD*

Dear Oscar, “I am pleased to observe that you and Joan are doing a splendid job with the Oldtimers’ Grapevine publication. Dr. Alec Langford (retired minister) and his wife, Alice (retired general staff) are interested in receiving the publication.

*Rev. Dr. Ernest J. Newborn, Claremont, CA (President of the Oldtimers’ Board)*

Oscar, “your passion shows through in this wonderful newsletter. There’s no question in my mind that you ‘guided’ Chris Hobgood into the General Minister interim. Hope to see you in NC. Bob K.

*Robert Kennel, Holly Springs, NC*
Oldtimer's Grapevine Good Faith Form

Name ____________________________

Address ____________________________

City / State / Zip ____________________________

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

Please send your gifts - check or money order to:
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Washington, DC 20019-4616

OLDTIMERS’ GRAPE
19 46th PLACE NE
WASHINGTON, DC 20019-4616

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
"The Lord will give strength unto His people; the Lord will bless His people with PEACE."
Psalm 4:8
From Pulpit to Office of GMP

The Rev. Dr. Timothy James, pastor of Fifth Christian Church (DOC), Cleveland, OH was elected to the office of Administrative Secretary of the National Convocation and Associate General Minister by the Administrative Committee at the Oct. 17th meeting. He will assume the position on January 1, 2004.

James, who celebrated his 25th anniversary ordination in August, has served as pastor of Fifth since he was ordained in 1978. He has served on the Commission on Ministry for the Christian Church in Ohio as both member and chair. His relationship with the National Convocation is not entirely new. He served as president from 1994-1996.

James will take up the helm from The Rev. John R. Foulkes, who has served in this position for the past 17 years. James received a B.A. from Culver-Stockton College (Canton, MO), a M. Div. from Christian Theological Seminary, (Indianapolis, IN), and a D. Min. from United Theological Seminary (Dayton, OH).

The National Convocation is the witness of African American congregations whose mission is to support and strengthen the total mission of the Christian Church.

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

“Oh Lord, I praise you today for your goodness! You are great and greatly to be praised! I love you, I honor you, and I worship you. For you alone are the Living God. There is one beside you. You are God and I bless you, my Lord. Awesome Trinity, Holy Mystery, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

This is the day you have made, I will rejoice in it. Father, I thank you for loving me, and giving me the gift of life. Lord Jesus, I thank you for your wonderful gift of salvation. Holy Spirit, I thank you for your powerful Presence. My heart is overwhelmed with love for you, my God. I pause in the busyness of life just to thank you, To praise you, and to worship you!

Let everything within me bless your holy name!

My words can not express all I want to say, but I will say I love you, Lord. For you are good and your mercy toward me is great!

I give you all the glory, the honor, and the praise!

In the name of Jesus I pray, Amen.”

-Bishop Charles E. Blake

(We have so much in our lives for which to be thankful. Let us not forget to offer up our thanksgiving to God this coming Thanksgiving Day, 2003)
DISCIPLES NEWS ROUND-UP

Indianapolis, IN.- The Rev. Claudia E. Grant, former General Minister & Vice President of the Christian Church (DOC) has been called to the Office of Disciples Women to coordinate the Quadrennial Assembly 2006. This event, which draws 5000 or more women will be held June 21-25, 2006, in Indianapolis, IN.

Cleveland, OH - Rev. Dr. Timothy M. James, Pastor of Fifth Christian Church, celebrated his 25th anniversary of ordination in August. All twenty-five of those years have been spent at Fifth Christian Church (DOC).

Washington, D.C. - A Prayer Service for Rev. Dr. Alvin O. Jackson, Senior Minister of National City Christian Church, was held at Michigan Park Christian Church Rev. Dr. Delores Carpenter, Senior Minister, on Monday, October 13, 2003, to demonstrate love and compassion during this difficult period in his ministry.

Participants included Rev. Dr. Ronald Hopson, Rev. Harold Dungan, Rev. Dr. Barbara W. Skinner, National City Gospel Choir, Rev. Dr. Jeffery Haggray, Rev. Emory Andrews, Rev. Dr. Delores Carpenter, Michigan Park Christian Church Choir, Rev. Lari Grubbs, Rev. Dr. John Foulkes, Mr. Christopher Richardson and Rev. Dr. W. Chris Hobgood.

Approximately 200 persons attended this spirit-filled service, excitedly responding to musical selections that included “Order My Steps”, “Give Us This Day,” “I Will Rise”, “I Need You Now”, and “More Than I Can Bear”.

Chicago, IL - Rev. Ruben Cruz, Pastor of Chicago Spanish Christian Church, has been elected Chairman of the Church Finance Council Board.

Hyattsville, MD. - University Christian Church, a diverse congregation, has released a devotional that carries the personal stories of members on race relations. It is commendable resource for congregations building multi-cultural faith communities.

The project started with Dara Cobb while a seminarian serving with University under a grant from Reconciliation and the enthusiastic support of Senior Minister Dr. Marshall Dunn in 2001-2002. It was completed by Mrs. Ella Green, writer and committed member. Persons may request a copy by writing to Rev. J. Marshall Dunn, University Christian Church (DOC) 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD 20782

Indianapolis, IN The first phase of A New Millennium Vision of Church was realized July 12 and 13, 2003, during the Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting Dedication Service and Worship at The Light of the World Christian (DOC), located on “A City Set on a Hill”, 4646 N. Michigan Road, Indianapolis, IN.

The dreamer and Senior Pastor Bishop T. Garrott Benjamin, B.S., M.Div, D.Min, his beautiful mate of 36 years, Lady Beverly Benjamin a dedicated competent staff of over 30 persons joyfully marched into this first phase of “A City On A Hill” joined by thousands of members and friends.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRECIOUS GIFTS

Mr. Fred W. & Mrs. Mary Nall, Ashland, KY; Dr. Sere S. & Mrs. Mary Myers, Leawood, KS; Rev. Roland & Mrs. Kittie Huff, Jacksonville, FL; Mr. Gene & Mrs. Nancy Rutherford, Raymore, MO; Mr. Robbie & Mrs. Louada Chisholm, Silver Spring, MD; Mr. Donald E. & Mrs. Mary Mitchell, Indianapolis, IN; Louise Moseley, Columbia, MO; Mr. Fred W. Terry, Brooklyn, NY; Mrs. Lillian B. Hester, Compton, CA; Mrs. Annette Jackson, Nashville, TN; Mrs. Era Holmes, Oklahoma City, OK; Rev. George A. & Mrs. Julia Harris, Indianapolis, IN.
A Call To Worship

Coming together, coming to worship,
coming to give thanks.
Coming to lift up Christ' name,
coming to share Christian fellowship,
coming to sing, coming to read God’s Word,
coming to witness one to another,
COMING TO PRAISE OUR LORD;
Come rejoicing!
And come we must,
bringing the many varied attributes
of our lives
that attribute to God’s existence
in this world and in us.
Bring your smiles, your tears, your songs,
your joys, your sorrows,
your hope in this day
and for all your tomorrows.
Bring all that you are to the
Throne of Grace.
Release all that you are and receive
all that you need ... 
come believing,
come giving, come receiving;
COME GLORIFY GOD!

Written in the mid 90’s
By May F. Lindsey Reed
[See first entry from] The Gifts We Bring:
Worship Resources for Stewardship And Mission -
Volume 3 Church Finance Council Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
WHY GET A FLU SHOT?

To help protect yourself, your family members, friends, co-workers and others from the flu.

WHO NEEDS A FLU SHOT?

People who:

- are age 50 and over
- have a chronic illness such as asthma, diabetes, or heart or lung disease
- have a weakened immune system, such as from cancer, HIV/AIDS
- are past the third month of pregnancy
- are planning to be pregnant during the flu season (November thru March)
- interact with a lot of people, such as at school, work or on public transportation
- want to try to stay healthy.

CAN I GET THE FLU FROM THE FLU SHOT?

No. Because the flu shot is made from killed, or inactive, viruses, it is not possible to get the flu from the flu shot. The flu shot does not protect against other viruses that may seem like the flu. And, the flu shot takes two weeks to protect you.

WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?

Remember to ask if you also should get a pneumonia vaccine?

Kim Atwater R.N.
Jacksonville, FL—Dr. A. Dale Fiers, first General Minister & President of the Christian Church (DOC) died September 28 at the age of 96. Memorial services were held at Riverside Avenue Christian Church, Jacksonville, FL, October 6, 2003 with Rev. B. Fred Woolsey, presiding.

Dr. Fiers’ role in the restructure of the Christian Church (DOC) led to the unifying of congregations, agencies and church associations into a covenantal body. “Dale was a giant among Christian leaders. ...His death reminds us and the church, that we’re in God’s hands, and this is our source of comfort,” said the Rev. Dr. Richard Hamm, General Minister & President.

Dr. Fiers will be remembered for leading the denomination in positive response to the social issues of the country. He supported the civil rights struggle of the 1960s and brought together church leaders to initiate the Reconciliation Poverty and Race Program of our denomination.

Other participants in the service included Dr. James P. Johnson, former President, Christian Church Foundation; Dr. James Hilton, Interim Minister; Dr. Howard Dentler, former Associate General Minister; Hugh Joyce, Son-in-Law; Rev. Richard J. Hull, II, Senior Minister.

Hyattsville, MD — A celebration of life for Dr. Francis C. Stark, Jr., was held at First United Methodist Church a neighboring congregation with a very large sanctuary) on October 4, 2003, Dr. Marshall Dunn, officiating.

Dr. Stark, and his wife of 62 years, Lucille Moore Starks, were members of a dedicated group of believers at Mt. Rainier Christian Church, who felt God’s call to build Christ’s church and in 1958, organized University Christian Church. According to the current Senior Minister, Rev. Marshall Dunn, they not only wanted to build a new building, they wanted to create an exciting community where the Good News of Christ was proclaimed, where people loved one another deeply, and where they truly served the world God loved.

In his sermon of September 14th, 2003, the date of their 62nd wedding anniversary, Rev. Marshall declared that they were founders of this congregation whose love and leadership made University Church possible.” He referred to them as the founding father and mother of this church.

Dr. Stark was the first President of the Board, one of the first elders and first elder emeritus, Sunday school teacher, and he sang in the church’s original choir. He was also Moderator of the Capital Area Region and member of the board of Bethany House, a senior citizen high rise in Rockville, MD.

In 1940 Francis moved to Maryland University to accept a graduate fellowship. In 1941 he began work on his doctorate but since he had a low draft number he enlisted in the US Army Air Corps in 1942. He completed a training course and was made a B-24 pilot instructor. After WWII he returned to University of Maryland and was appointed Assistant Professor. He finished his PhD in 1948 and was promoted to Associate Professor in 1949 and Professor in 1951. In 1964 he became head of the Department of Agriculture and in 1974 Provost of Agricultural & Life Sciences.

Other participants in the memorial services were Francis C. Stark III, son; Todd Stark, grandson; Rev. Joan Bell-Haynes, Associate Minister; Dr. William E. Kirwan, University of Maryland; Doug Newell, Rotary Club; Oscar Haynes, friend; Mary Ruth DeGast, organist; Sara Hindsley, pianist & soloist, and Edward Fontaine, soloist.
Dr. Stark is survived by his wife, Lucille, two children, Carolyn Pauline Reich and Francis C. Stark III. Three grandsons, Clayton Reich, Daniel Reich and Todd Stark, a granddaughter Monica Reich Mills, and a great granddaughter Ashlyn Elizabeth Mills.

Indianapolis, IN – “Gertrude Dimke loved the Christian Church (DOC) and lived out her entire life committed to Christ and to the church,” declared Rev. James M. Wray Jr., Lexington Theological Seminary, Lexington, KY, in eulogizing this 93-year-old servant of God.

“Not only did she know just about everyone, she cared deeply about them and took care to nurture friendships” Rev. Wray continued during memorial services October 12, at Third Christian Church, Indianapolis, IN. Dr. Harold R. Watkins, Retired President of Church Extension, officiated the services.

Other worship participants included Rev. William Briley, Senior Minister, Third Christian Church; Rev. Janet C. Dennard, Houston, TX; Rev. Howard Dentler, Retired Associate General Minister & President; Dr. William C. Howland, Retired Associate General Minister & President, and Senior Minister Emeritus, National City Christian Church; Rev. Lester D. Palmer, President Emeritus, Pension Fund of the denomination; Marjorie C. Patterson, Friend; Nathan Perry, Organist, host church; Rev. James R. Reed, President Emeritus, Christian Church Foundation; Rev. James C. Suggs, Retired President, Christian Board of Publican; and Rev. Neil Topliffe, Senior Associate Minister, Geist Christian Church.

Miss Dimke, a native of Delta, OH, was an active member of Norwood Christian Church in Toledo until moving to Cleveland to begin her career on the staff of the Ohio Christian Missionary Society in 1936. Ten years later she moved to Indianapolis to assist in establishing a new permanent office of the International Convention of the Christian Church. For the next 30 years she was secretary to three chief executive officers of the Christian Church (DOC).

In 1978 Gertrude moved to Washington, D.C. where for nine years she was Administrative Assistant, Assistant Treasurer and Secretary to the National City Christian Church Corporation (Foundation). In October, 1989, she was named the fifth recipient of the Diplomate Award, noting that her “extensive career has provided an exemplary witness of devotion, service, compassion, and concern.” She was presented a Faithful Servant Award in 2001 by the Disciples of Christ Historical Society for 50 plus years of service to the church.
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On November 1 & 2, 2003, Disciples of Christ in South Carolina held a joyous celebration installing their newly called Regional Minister, Rev. Sotello V. Long, the third actively serving African-American regional minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The other two are Rev. William C. Morrison, Jr., Region of Florida, and Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr., Northwest Regional Christian Church.

The festivities began with a banquet, hosted by Bishop Melvin Brown, Moderator and the South Carolina Convention of Christian Churches. The guest speaker was Mr. Carl Long, father of Sotello. Mr. Long is a former Negro League Baseball player, who has been inducted into the Carolina League Baseball Hall of Fame. The speaker’s love and esteem for his son was accentuated in his insight of Sotello’s pre-teen and teenage years.

The opening night activities included the affirmation of Mrs. Dee Long, wife of Rev. Long, as Congregational Services Consultant Deployed by Church Extension, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). They will make their home in Summerville, SC.

Other participants included Mrs. Mary Ann Mitchell, Dee’s mother; Mrs. Ella Mae Long, Sotello’s mother, Rev. Eugene Randall, Dr. & Mrs. John R. Foulkes, Rev. Marilyn Fiddmont, Marcella Clayton and Mr. & Mrs. Keith Shanklin. Music by Nathaniel Brown, Johnny Smalls and Al Paul Brown.

Bishop Thomas G. Benjamin Jr., Senior Minister of Light of the World Christian Church, Indianapolis, IN was guest preacher for the Installation Worship Service on Sunday, Nov. 2. The moving worship services were attended by over 200 worshippers that included many national leaders of the Christian Church (DOC). Among them were: Rev. Dr. Chris Hobgood, General Minister & President; Rev. John Richardson, Regional Minister in North Carolina, and Rev. Eugene Fisher, Director of Reconciliation.

The installation service was preceded by a worship & praise service led by the youth of First Christian Church, Charleston. Music for the service was provided by New Galilee Christian Church. Mrs. Cynthia Sparks, Rev. Long’s sister; presented him as the Regional Minister of South Carolina.

(Contributions to this article were submitted by Barbara Rogers & Rev. & Mrs. Freddie Lawton)
Year End Challenge:
“Advocates For Peace”

As the United States approaches the holiday of the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., January 19, 2004, let there be no limits placed on Martin’s dream of the elimination of racism, bigotry and hatred.

During MLK services at the National Cathedral of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) on January 12, 2003, over 600 people gathered in the beautiful sanctuary to hear Rev. Dr. Alvin O. Jackson, Senior Minister and Mr. Debu Gandhi, great-grandson of the late Indian spiritual leader, Mahatma Gandhi, pleaded for all congregants to become Advocates for Peace.

Mr. Gandhi’s quote from his great-grandfather, brought the crowd to its feet when he declared, “Hatred ever kills, love never dies, such is the vast difference between the two. What is obtained by love is retained for all time. What is obtained by hatred proves a burden in reality for it increases hatred.”

The King holiday services were sponsored by the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington, This was the first time services were held in a Disciples of Christ Church in the Capital Area Region.

DISCIPLES NEWS ROUND-UP

Raymore, MO—“VISION WITH PASSION”, a book on the history of the State Secretaries and Regional Ministers of the Christian Church (DOC) by Rev. Dr. William L. Miller, Jr., should be in the home of every Disciple. It would make an excellent Christmas gift!

This new book explores the history of Disciples’ Regional Ministry prior to 1968. According to the author, “History was made by countless Disciple leaders many years ago. It had only to be discovered and written.”

Included in those interviewed by Rev. Miller were Rev. Dr. William K. Fox, retired Executive Secretary of the National Convocation, Gerald Cunningham, author of “Reflections on Justice Ministries”, and Rev. James Rainwater, former State Secretary and outstanding churchman in the 70s and 80s. Morris Finch, Michigan’s Regional Minister, calls the book “a very readable interpretive history.”

Charlotte, NC—Rev. Dr. Richard L. Hamm, retired General Minister & President, was warmly received at one of his last official actions at the General Assembly in Charlotte when he gave a challenging message at the Peace March and Prayer Vigil. He was honored earlier by Chapman University with an Honorary Doctorate of “Human Letters”.

Falls Church, VA.—Rev. Kathleen Kline Chesson, was officially installed as Senior Minister of First Christian Church, (DOC), Falls Church, VA on November 16, 2003. She recently completed an Interim as Associate Minister at Rock Spring Congregational United Church of Christ in Arlington, VA.

Kathleen has been an active Disciples pastor and is an active member of the regional Anti-Racism Team. She is married to James Chesson and the mother of three children, Zachary, Frances and Joslyn.

Cleveland, OH—Charles “Chase” Dickerson.
Bethany Christian Church, (DOC) recently celebrated 70 years of music ministry with a one-man concert attended by more than 400 persons. His late brother, Rev. William Dickerson, founded Bethany Christian Church in 1956, and served the congregation until his death in 1997. The senior minister of Bethany is Rev. Dr. Robin E. Hedgeman, native of Washington, DC.
Baltimore, MD - Lansdowne Christian Church (DOC), 101 Clyde Avenue, Baltimore, MD. Celebrated one hundred (100) years of ministry to the Lansdowne community with special services led by Rev. Dr. Trent Owings, Pastor, on Sunday, November 23, 2003. This Disciple congregation and building has marked its place in history as part National Historic Registry. It also has a relationship with the Grand Army of the Republic.

Rev. Owings' sermon on "The Church Past, Nature and Future," challenged the congregation to be ecumenical, increasing dialogue between the church and the community. The pastor and congregation were presented a certificate from Rev. Dr. Peter M. Morgan, President of Disciples of Christ Historical Society, for its longevity of ministry to that community and the world. The certificate was presented by Rev. Lari Grubbs, Regional Minister. An anniversary hymn was written by Rev. Clarence Cook and music by Randy Neilson, organist and President of the congregation.

North Lima, OH—According to the Guinness World Records, Charlotte Benkner is the oldest living person in the world. She celebrated her 114th birthday in November. Charlotte is a member of the Saturday Church at Glenellen, North Lima, OH. She and her baby sister, 99, live together in an assisted living community called Glenellen Senior Suites and Villas-Lakeside just south of Youngstown, OH.

Indianapolis, IN—"IN THE FULLNESS OF TIME" a story of Disciples women from 1874 to 1999, is a must for every Disciple and certainly every CWF in the Christian Church (DOC). It was written by Fran Craddock, Martha Faw, and Nancy Heimer. This focuses on women’s relationship to each other and to the church.

The Fullness of Time provides a provocative view of the history of women’s ministries in the Christian Church. It serves as a bridge to our past and a literary springboard into our future, according to Lenita (Jackie) Bunch, past president, International Christian Women’s Fellowship.

Charlotte, NC—Charisse Gillett, member of East Second Street Christian Church (DOC) and Program Director for the Lilly Project at Transylvania University, was elected Moderator of the Christian Church (DOC) at the General Assembly, 2003. She, along with the vice moderators will preside through the Assembly in Portland, OR, July 23-27, 2005. Her husband, Rev. Donald Gillett is the Senior Pastor at East Second Street CC (DOC).

Canton, MO—Rev. Denton L. Roberts, co-author of "Empowering Congregations", a book on successful strategies for 21st century leaders, with Rev. Dr. Robert L. Hill, has received this year’s “Outstanding Alumni for Service” Award from Culver-Stockton College. Copies of Empowering Congregations may be purchased from Hope Publishing House, P.O. Box 6008, Pasadena, CA 91116-USA, or Community Christian Church, Attn: Mary Reliford, 4601 Main Street, Kansas City, MO 64112.

Martinsville, VA-Governor Reid, president of the Virginia Regional Men’s Ministry will be leaving that office in January to make way for Rev. Ron Hopkins, president-elect. Ron is co-pastor of First Christian Church, Petersburg, VA.

The men of Broad Street Christian Church, Martinsville, have formed a new men’s fellowship which seeks to go beyond what might be considered “typical” men’s ministry. Steve Perotti, pastor, said the group will have its share of study, fellowship, and “maybe even a retreat or two and a breakfast here and there.”

Washington, D.C.—There was joy at National City Christian Church on Sunday, November 16, as the congregation celebrated with Rev. Virginia Taylor, her fiftieth (50th) Anniversary of Ordination and her retirement from many years of dedicated work with the congregation. She and her husband, Rev. Richard Taylor will be moving to Richmond, VA to enjoy their retirement years near their children.
Hallelujah! Christ Is Born

Why it’s time once again when we remember His Birth.
Time once again for all heaven and earth to announce and proclaim in sweet joyous refrain,
Christ Is Born!

Sing songs of blessed melodies.
Share smiles and mirth and sweet pleasantries.
Let all the world the belfries ring anew;
Christ Is Born for me!
Christ is born for you!

While the days grow shorter and the nights so long; work, wait and rest – let your souls be made strong.
Encourage the lonely with kind words and song.
Tell again and again Christ Is Born!

Shout hallelujahs, let His Word be your sword.
Cut out the evil, tie the wrong with truth’s cord.
Praise the Lord and rejoice, Christ Is Born!

Written Friday, Dec. 5, 2003
[A poem song]
May F. Lindsay Reed

Reader’s Comment Corner

Dear Oscar, “Keep up the good work!”
Donald & Mary Mitchell, Indianapolis, IN

“Thanks, Oscar & Joan, for your good work.” Bill & Narka Rev. William & Narka Ryan, Baltimore, MD

Dear Oscar & Joan, “Thank you for your get well card. Your good wishes were very helpful and I am now much improved and ready for Christmas sales at our gift shop. Enclosed is my check for the Oldtimers’ Grapevine, a most enjoyable publication.” Sincerely, Hilda.
Hilda Koontz, Springfield, VA.

Dear Oscar, “I really enjoy receiving your Oldtimers’ Grapevine Newsletter.” Sincerely, Ruth A. Hudson, Indianapolis, IN.

Oscar “Keep your news coming to us in the Pacific Southwest Region. As the old hymn says, ‘There is No East or West’ We are truly one.” Ron.
Rev. Ronald J. Degges, Granada Hills, CA.

Dear Friends, Oscar & Joan, “Thanks as always for the informative and entertaining Oldtimer’s Grapevine Newsletter.” Our love, Bill and Mary Helen.
Rev. William C. & Mrs. Mary Helen Blackwell, Brandywine, WV.
OVERHEARD

For Christmas, my niece and her husband bought a toy parrot that repeats everything you say. Trying it out, they accidentally knocked it off the table. It didn’t look broken, but the wings would no longer flap. Hoping to return it to the store, my niece boxed it up and advised her husband “Don’t tell the clerk it fell off the table; just tell him it was defective.” Immediately the bird inside the box began to chant. “Fell off the table! Fell off the table!”

May all that Christmas really means—
Its peace, its joy, its love—
Be yours as when, that Holy Night,
The Star first shone above.

Merry Christmas
And
A Happy New Year!

The OTG Staff:
Ernest, Oscar, Joan, Donna, Kim and May

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**Oldtimers' Grapevine Increases**

**Board Leadership**

The Oldtimers' Grapevine Newsletter recently elected two new members to its Board of Directors. These two prominent Disciples of Christ Church leaders are, Dr. Norma Ellington-Twitty, St. Louis, MO. and Mr. Robbie Chisholm, Silver Spring, MD.

Dr. Ellington-Twitty is the Director of Family Court of Saint Louis County, Domestic Violence/Child Maltreatment Initiative, since April, 2001. She provides leadership for a federally funded initiative designed to develop a more coordinated, integrated response to the co-occurrence of domestic violence and child maltreatment. She holds a Ph.D. with extensive clinical and administrative background.

Many active in the National Convocation of the Christian Church (DOC) will remember Norma for the outstanding leadership she provided the National Benevolent Association as Vice President, Program Planning & Evaluation from 1985-1999 and CEO & Vice President for Community Relations in 1999 and 2000. She is the daughter of Ruth Ellington, an active member of Centennial Christian Church in St. Louis and the late visionary layman, Norman Ellington who conceived the "Mother-to-Mother Program. This program matches inner-city mothers with more affluent suburban mothers and is well received with Congregational CWF's.

Mr. Robbie Chisholm, a native Virginian who has resided in the Nation’s Capital his entire adult life, has also served the Christian Church (DOC) almost all of those adult years in the congregation, regional and general manifestations.

He warmly recalled his first experience on the general level when he was elected to the Board of Unified Promotion. Dr. Spencer Austin called to congratulate him before he was notified of his election. A letter of apology followed in a couple of days.

Robbie was Moderator of the Christian Church-Capital Area in the mid 60s and served a total of eight years on the Historical Society Board. He chaired the Nominations Committee the last year he was on that board to make sure he was not re-elected.

He said one of his most memorable experiences was the 16 years he served on the General Board of the Christian Church (DOC) and was assigned to the Section chaired by the late Rev. King David Cole, whose friendship he cherished. Robbie was instrumental in helping Twelfth Street Christian Church (DOC) in securing the loan for the new sanctuary & fellowship hall.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRECIOUS GIFTS

Rev. Jennifer H. Kottler, Chicago, IL; Mr. Franklin & Mrs. Vivian Gee, Silver Spring, MD;
Mr. David & Mrs. Hattie Millner, New Carrollton, MD;
Mr. Robbie N. & Mrs. Louada Chisholm, Silver Spring, MD;
Rev. Dr. Ernest J. & Mrs. Janice Newborn, Claremont, CA;
Rev. William & Rev. Narka Ryan, Baltimore, MD;
Mr. Chester & Mrs. Ella Green, Silver Spring, MD;
Rev. Ronald J. & Mrs. Deniese Degges, Granada Hills, CA;
Ms. Hilda E. Koontz, Springfield, VA;
Mrs. Ruth A. Hudson, Indianapolis, IN;
Rev. William C. & Mrs. Mary Helen Blackwell, Brandywine, WV.

OLDTIMERS' HEALTHVINE

"THE MAGIC OF BUBBLES"
By Kim Atwater

Nurse Uses Bubbles in Surgi-Center

Everyone loves blowing bubbles-those spherical bodies of gas contained in a liquid. They can be fun and magical. They can also be useful as a tension reliever. I have a unique use for bubbles in our ambulatory surgical center.

Our caseload includes people of all ages. The children as well as family members are apprehensive about the upcoming surgical procedure. To allay their anxieties we started to offer the children the opportunity to blow bubbles. It is an immediate stress reliever. The parents and children get excited, smile and try to catch each bubble, taking their mind off pending surgery. The magic of bubbles does its work.

Bubbles aren’t just fun to look at, but they can help with deep breathing exercises post-operatively. We recently had a child whose post-op SaO2 levels were unsatisfactory. I encouraged the child to blow some bubbles and his oxygen levels slowly rose to optimal levels with each bubble blown. Not all these “children” I’m referring to necessarily fit into the age range of babies to preteen. People of all ages love bubbles.

Bubbles are inexpensive. Our surgi-center buys a case at a time. Why don’t you discover the magic of bubbles!

Kim Atwater is a nurse in the ambulatory surgery center at Kaiser Permanente, Kensington, MD.
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