The Oldtimers' Grapevine, Volume 16 (January - December 2007)

Oscar Haynes

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There is a new ministry at National City Christian Church, 14th & Thomas Circle Northwest, Washington, DC, which can be a model for other Disciples congregations ready to compete with the secular community for dynamic church growth.

On any Thursday night, in a parlor of the Disciples National Cathedral, a casual passerby might be greeted by the sounds of people eating, laughing, singing, and even debating. This is not just a lively committee meeting, or choir practice, nor a person at a podium teaching, this is “Bible study, young adult style.”

YADA, Young Adult Disciples in Action, (based on the Hebrew word “know”) is a group of individuals in their 20s and 30s seeking to strengthen their relationships with God, with each other, and the community. “It’s more of an interactive model of Bible study than a prepared lesson” explains leader Markus Dickinson. “I might prepare a few questions to facilitate discussion, but the flow of the evening is typically determined by individual insight and group debate.”

The Thursday night meetings start with one person preparing a meal, another leads a time of worship on guitar, and another will guide discussion. The evening normally concludes with a time to share joys and concerns and make prayer requests.

Rev. Dr. Stephen W. Gentle, Senior Pastor, shared with the Oldtimers’ Grapevine “how wonderful it is to see how this ministry has grown and how exciting it is to see people sharing the Word of God. In a big city, true fellowship and authenticity are important, but difficult to find.”
Within the chronicles of history of the Disciples, little can be found about the ordaining of the African American clergywoman. Although there is much information out there, past and present, it basically has not been gathered or written. This beginning account is but a minute portion of the date about some who have been ordained, their seminary preparation, and other facts.

It is written in "Journey in Faith" by Tucker and McAllister (1975), that "the Reverend Mancil M. and Sarah Lou Bostick were an outstanding husband and wife team among the Disciples." Sarah's friend, Bertha Mason Fuller, writes in her biography, "... this (is the) true story of one whom I have known since 1894 as a personal friend and co-worker in Christian service." THE LIFE STORY OF SARAH LOU BOSTICK by Bertha Mason Fuller (1949) - tells us unequivocally that Sarah "was an ordained minister and a member of the American Association of Women Ministers, an interdenominational organization." Not "probably" as others have said. Bertha validates this fact in telling of Sarah's membership in the American Assn. of Women Ministers. When she retired, she received a Ministers' Pension; not that of her husband. Sarah was one of the earliest women ordained within the Disciples of Christ and is the first known African American Woman ordained, in
the late 1890s or early 1900s. It is doubtful that she would have received any written documentation in that time period. Bertha would have known this, and, I believe, was moved to tell other about this dedicated woman of the cloth whose story may have otherwise never been known. The Rev. Clinton J. Holloway, a researcher, concurs in these findings.

In early years of the Disciples, as well as in other Fellowships, women clergy primarily held positions in Christian Education, mission or women’s work. Later it would be on boards, councils or other commissions. Few received the opportunity to serve as Pastor or Co-Pastor, and all too often, it was the consternation of other females which hindered their progress. The following is information on other Bible studied, ordained, African American Clergywomen:

The Reverend Arzolla Cooke Phillips received a call to the ministry in 1987. She graduated from Vanderbilt University Divinity School in 1990 and became the first African American Disciple woman to be ordained in the Tennessee Region—June 3rd at Calvary Temple in Knoxville, TN were she would pastor. In October 1991 she became the Senior Pastor where she remains. She has served as Second Vice Moderator, Regional Board Member and Chair of the Commission on Assembly. A native of Bluefield, WV, she holds a Masters from Bluefield State College, and previously taught in Ohio, Missouri, and Tennessee.

The Reverend Effie Burford attended Butler University School of Religion, graduating in 1952 with a Masters in Church History. She was ordained April 30, 1978, at Central Christian Church, Indianapolis, IN.

The Reverend Deloris Arzalia Turner was a graduate of Lexington Theological Seminary, May 1982. She was ordained at Mt. Olive Christian Church, her home church, that June in Martinsville, VA. In October 1983 she joined the national staff of the Christian Church, Indianapolis, IN. She was Director of Youth Ministry and Commission on Camps. In 1985 she took the position of Area Minister. She served as Senior Pastor, Central Christian Church, Kansas City, MO. Deloris received rest from her labors June 29, 1998. Amen!

The Reverend Dr. La Taunya Marie Bynum was born in Los Angeles, CA. She graduated from the Claremont School of Theology there in 1980 and was ordained Sept 14th at United Christian Church. As a Life Member of the Christian Church she has experienced a multi-cultural ministry doing leadership retreats and workshops, designing program resources to bring clergy and lay women together to support one another, and has served as staff for women events of the National Convocation, the Hispanic and Bilingual Fellowship Assembly, and Asian Disciples. She presently serves as Senior Pastor of Board Street Christian Church, Columbus, OH.

It was interesting to note a list of “Issues Identified By Black Clergywomen” on p.55 of the green section in the 1986 programme booklet of the 9th Biennial Session.

1. Placement of Black women in local congregations.

2. Collegiality and affirmation between Black women in ministry and Black men, i.e., how do we support one another. How can clergywomen be involved in the background of the National Convocation.

3. How do we address the deep rooted theological issues concerning women in ministry.

4. Field placement for women in seminary.

5. How best to sensitize congregations, clergywomen, clergymen and regional ministers.

We now find more than 20 years down the road, that these clergywomen issues are being worked on and worked out, by, through and among clergymen and women by themselves. There now seems to be a stronger sense of workability and camaraderie among all. By everyone demonstrating a constant effort to arrest these issues it is possible to eliminate them altogether.

Our Reverend Deborah Rolanda Thompson has been a pivotal partner among this group. She was ordained in 1981 at United Christian Church in Cincinnati, OH. She is a graduate of Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary where she was a Presidential Scholar and recipient of the Benjamin E. Mays Scholarship from the Fund for Theological
Education and received her Master Divinity. She was the Secretary of the Council of Religious Leaders of Metro Chicago and served on the Executive Committee of the Church Federation of Greater Chicago and many other councils and boards. She served five years as Pastor of Park Hill Christian Church, Denver, CO. Before coming to Church Extension she was Assoc. Regional Minister of the Christian Church in Illinois—Wisconsin, and Executive for the Chicago Disciples Union. In this position she coordinated the region’s New Church Program, as well as assuming a principal staff assignment for its Regional Capital Campaign. These and more areas of service line her ministry.

The Reverend Dr. Cynthia Lynette Hale has become a most noted minister of the Disciples. She is a native of Roanoke, VA. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music in 1975 at Hollins College, Hollins VA. She received her Master of Divinity degree from Duke University, Durham, N.C. in 1979 and was ordained into the Christian ministry. May of 1991 she completed her Doctorate at the United Theological Seminary, Dayton, OH. She served as Chaplain at the Federal Correctional Institute at Butner, N.C. She was inducted into the Martin Luther King, Jr., Board of Preachers at Morehouse College. In 1986, Dr. Hale became the founding Pastor of Ray of Hope Christian Church, Decatur, GA., one of the fastest growing churches of the Stone Campbell Movement.

The Rev. Denise Bell is a 1988 graduate of Denver Theological Seminary, Denver, CO. She was ordained that December at Park Hill Christian Church in Denver. Just prior to her ordination she was Chaplain Candidate for six months in the U.S. Navy.

In 1989 she was called to be Associate at Mallory Avenue Christian Church in Portland, OR. In January 1991 she was called to be its Senior Pastor and served there until February 1996. She also taught at the Portland Bible College.

In March of 1996 she joined the pastoral staff at Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church in Memphis, TN, and served as Associate Pastor to Women and Singles Ministries. Since January 2000 she has served as Senior Associate Pastor.

The Reverend Dr. Causion H. Delores Carpenter is another noted and pivotal leader among her peers, and throughout the Disciples Fellowship and beyond. In 1966 she earned her B.A., Summa Cum Laude—Sociology, Dept. Honor Scholar, Baldwin Oratorical Medal along with the Chin Memorial Award in Debating from Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD. In 1969 she received her M.Div., the Outstanding Greek Student Award, Maynard Award for Preaching and the Daniel Hill Leadership Award—Cum Laude, from Howard University Divinity School, Washington, D.C. In 1972, an M.A., in Sociology, Graduate School of Arts Fellowship—Ph.D. Candidacy, Washington University, St. Louis, MO. In 1986 she earned a Ed. D. from Rutgers University Graduate School of Education, New Brunswick, NJ. At Rutgers she became the First recipient of the Samuel D. Proctor Award, among many others too lengthy to list. She is General Editor of the African American Heritage Hymnal c2001; Professor of Religious Ed. at Howard University; immediate past president, 2004 - 2006, of the National Convocation of the Christian Church, (Disciples of Christ). She has been Senior Pastor of Michigan Park Christian Church, Washington, D.C. since 1986.

**Coming Features**

- **Michigan Park’s Mortgage Burning Celebration**
- **Dr. Delores Carpenter’s Center for Ministry Development**
- **Capital Area Region Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration**
- **Rev. Irie Session Plants A Church in Texas**
The board members, staff and friends welcome 2007 with jubilation as we profusely thank God for our loyal readers and the successes reached in 2006. The OTG is a publication of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and we warmly invite your news articles, pictures, praise, criticism and prayers.

GRAPEVINE ON THE WEB

Without a doubt, a pleasure for loyal OTG readers is relaxing with the latest issue in your favorite reading chair, or reviewing an inspiring article during a flight delay. And yet, as the subscription list grows and postage costs increase, the staff and board are considering alternative ways of delivery. One is posting content on the internet, available at any time to any one. This could also allow our “community of communications” to interact in new and different ways. As we explore the financial feasibility of Web delivery or establishing an OTG web site, we seek advice from our readers.

1. Would you be willing to receive the Grapevine on the internet (by email or website) instead of via the U.S. postal service?

2. Do you have any privacy concern about information in the OTG being available on the internet?

3. If OTG had its own web site, what features would you like included (for example, expanded Readers Comments, commentaries by guest columnists, etc)?

4. Do you have skills and insights based on your experience with web sites that you would be willing to contribute to the design and maintenance?

5. Please share your views of an “electronic Grapevine” by sending them to Ellen Crowder, el.crowder@comcast.net or 6210 Edsall Road, #203, Alexandria, VA 22312, or Oscar Haynes, 19 46th Place, NE, Washington, DC 20019 or oscarhyn@msn.com. Please respond soon so we can report back in the July-September issue.

Ellen Crowder, Staff Member.

An exciting goal reached in late 2006 was the establishment of a Permanent Fund with the Christian Church Foundation known as The Oldtimers’ Grapevine Fund. This goal was reached primarily with the leadership of Rev. Dr. Thomas J. Liggett and gifts to my 90th birthday. If the OTG ever ceases to exist or be a part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), then the annual distribution shall be made to Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, TX. Gifts above production expenses will be applied to this endowment. All staff and board members serve pro bono.

Joan and I lift up in prayer all those who contribute to this project, but cannot cease to praise the dedication of the Board of Directors and all those who warmly give of their time and talent to produce an excellent church publication.

A most recent exciting moment of my life was to hear the recorded voice of the late Kwame Nkrumah, President of Ghana, as the country celebrated its 50th Anniversary of Independence. It was March 6th, 1957, that Ghana became the first sub-Saharan country to gain independence from colonial rule. Just three years later, 17 more colonies had gained their independence.

When this noted Pan-African leader traveled to New York to address the world in front of the United Nations General Assembly, these words brought to memory one of my experiences at Twelfth Street Christian Church, the oldest African American Disciples Congregation in the Nation’s Capital (and world).

“*The great tide of history flows, and as it flows it carries to the shores of reality the stubborn facts of life and man’s relations, one with another.*”

Man’s relations, one with another, reminded me that the youth of Twelfth Street, under the dramatic tutoring skills of Elder Mary Ann Williams, produced a hit play and contributed the proceeds to Pan-Africa in support of African countries seeking freedom from centuries of invasion, slavery and colonial rule. In carrying out the command of the scriptures, “go into all the world” this was being made a reality, years ago.
DISCIPLES NEWS ROUND-UP

ST. LOUIS, MO – During the 2006 annual conference of the American Mental Health Counselors Association meeting, Rev. Dr. Betty Lancaster Short was named President for the District of Columbia. Dr. Short, a sixth-generation Washingtonian, shared with the Oldtimers’ Grapevine that the Capital City is reported to have the highest percentage of degreed professionals of any one geographical location in the world.

Dr. Short, Associate Pastor of Michigan Park Christian Church for several years with Rev. Dr. Delores Carpenter, envisions seeing and seeking professionals who have a passion for change in the Capital area—“locking arms, joining hearts, and creating a brain trust that will aid this city.” “My desire is to make mental wellness a priority for its citizens,” she declared.

WASHINGTON, DC – Mrs. Betty Smith, active member of Twelfth Street Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), received recognition from the White House in late 2006 for her outstanding volunteering service, “Foster Parent Program”, United Planning Organization. The award recognizes her dedication to volunteer service and signifies that she has served her community and country with distinction.

ST. LOUIS, MO – Dr. Charisse L. Gillett, recently retired Moderator of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States & Canada, has been named to a four-year term on the Division of Higher Education Board. This multi-talented lay leader of the Christian Church is program director of the Lilly Project at Transylvania University, a program for the theological exploration of vocation.

Dr. Gillett holds both undergraduate and master’s degrees from the University of Northern Iowa. She holds an educational specialist degree and a doctorate from Northern Illinois University. When not involved in the many hours of leadership for church and community, Charisse enjoys leisure time with husband, Dr. Donald Gillett II, senior pastor of East Second Street Christian Church, Lexington, KY.

WASHINGTON, DC – Attention! All persons between 18-28 years old, interested in the career of Nursing. The University of the District of Columbia is offering FREE tuition, books, a $250.00 monthly stipend, and guaranteed job placement at Providence Hospital upon graduation with a starting salary of $40,000.00. This is a three year program and the university is now recruiting students. Contact Ms. Beshon Smith, phone (202)266-5481 or e-mail Bsmith@urbanalliance.org.

INDIANAPOLIS, IN – Rev. Dr. Paul A. Crow, Jr., (Mr. Ecumenist Himself) traveled to Rome in January to deliver the Jean Tillard Lectures on Ecumenical Theology at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas. The theme of these lectures is “Faith and Order: History, Theology and Texts.” He was also preacher at the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service at Rome’s Centro Pro Unione.

Dr. Crow was the President of the Council on Christianity of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for 25 years. He was the first General Secretary of America’s nine-church consultation on Church Union (1968-1974), a member of the World Council of Churches’ Central Committee (1975-1998), and a member and Vice-Moderator of the WCC’s Faith and Order Commission (1968-1998).

WASHINGTON, DC – African American Ministers, joined by other clergy, gathered at East Dallas Christian Church, March 5-8, 2007, for the 33rd annual Black Ministers Retreat. The theme, “Who Do You Say That I Am?” is based on Jesus’ words to the Apostle Peter, Matthew 16:13-20.

Preachers included Vivian Bass, Phillip Ward, Gralin Hampton and Raumone Burton. Rev. Ray Owens was the Bible lecturer.

BALTIMORE, MD – Rev. David A. Caldwell, Pastor of First Christian Church, has announced his retirement will be the last day of March, 2007. Retirements are normally determined by age, (he will be 64 March 25th) health, etc., but Dave’s rationale is based on what will be in the best interest of the congregation. He explains:

“I chose my birthday month instead of either after Easter or after Pentecost because Easter celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus from the grave. It is about ‘beginnings’ not ‘ends.’ As for Pentecost, I love the birthday of the church.
DISCIPLES NEWS ROUND-UP con’t

It comes at the very end of the church year and just before the summer wind down of programs and attendance.” “By my retiring in late winter, the congregation has plenty of time to make plans for interim ministry long before summer break.”

WASHINGTON, DC – Thousands of Christians gathered in the nation’s capital on March 16 and 17 to protest the continuing war in Iraq. This Christian PEACE Witness for Iraq was organized by several denominations including the Disciples Peace Fellowship. Full details are available on www.christianpeacewitness.org.

10,000 Disciples Praying

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

Imagine what 10,000 Disciples praying daily can do for our church! That’s an inspiring thought for me! As Disciples of Christ, we are in the midst of a transformation process that makes us the mission-oriented church needed for these times.

As society changes our church is also changing to be a meaningful part of future generations and to fulfill Christ’s mission around the world.

We are indeed in a period of transition and transformation. We see a growing sense of common mission in service of God through the whole church. We’re seeing even more clearly that God’s transformation will come through our own deepening Christian spirituality and mobilizing Disciples worldwide to even more exciting Mission.

Imagine 10,000 Disciples Praying daily for our church, our mission, our faith and for our church’s leadership. Imagine the focused power of daily prayer by Disciples.

I invite you to be part of 10,000 Disciples Praying daily for the church, the General Minister and President and other church leaders by committing to take time to pray daily for the Disciples future and Mission. I ask you to let me know that you’re committed to 10,000 Disciples Praying Daily so we can celebrate together answered prayers. We will communicate with you through e-mails and newsletters. We are starting 10,000 Disciples Praying during the Lenten season; please remember that we will continue this discipline of prayer throughout the year.

Such focused daily prayer is an exciting new thing we are doing. We will demonstrate to the world the power of prayer as it leads us in exciting new ways for the transformation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ.) This is why Isaiah 43 has become one of my favorite Bible passages: "For I am doing a new thing says the Lord. Now it springs up. Do you not perceive it?” (NIV)

Join me -- and 9,999 other Disciples -- as we unite our hearts, minds and faith to become 10,000 Disciples Praying daily.

Rev. Dr. Sharon E. Watkins
General Minister and President
DISCIPLES JUSTICE ADVOCACY NETWORK’s DECADE CELEBRATION HONORS FOUNDERS

Just over a decade ago, Rev. James Demus, III, invited Disciples of Christ activists and their ecumenical partners to join him for a conference at Park Manor Christian Church, Chicago, IL, which became the birth of an organization which the Chicago Tribune dubbed “Church Leaders Lay Groundwork for New Social Activism.”

The Tribune article stated: “From the rural hills of Kentucky to the streets of New York, ministers and church leaders gathered in Chicago to plan a leadership role in social activism.” Readers were informed that “conference participants were looking for a larger role for their churches in combating social injustices, and there was “a powerful grass-roots movement” leading any toward what Rev. Jesse Jackson (a conference speaker) described as “a genuine reawakening of our churches.”

The report also stated: “When the conference ended, the Disciples Justice Action Network was voted to be an official network.” That awakening continues today because of members and supporters, our dreamers and our workers, our visionaries and our organizers.

Why we continue is the amazing leadership provided over the years by such as: James Demus, Nancy Hunt-Wirth, Jack Sullivan, Wanda Adams, Doug Job, Kirsten Linford, David Nickell, Brenda Cardwell, Gerald Cunningham, Pam Mason, Larry Sweeney, Loel Heim, Jessica Vazquez, Jon Lau, Joan Bell-Haynes, Gilberto Pagan, Dianne Shumaker, Randy Palmer, Lavorn Mackens, Charles & Wendy Bayer, Ayanna Johnson, Carolyn & Garnett Day, Alvin Jackson, Phoebe Spier, Don & Anne Marie Coleman, Matt Rosen, Idia Rodriguez, Fred Tilinski, Noemi Mena, Tanya Tyler, and the list goes on and on.

The persons who worked the hardest on a daily basis to keep the network alive and moving were its two main founders, Harvey and May Lord. These two volunteers, who were the network coordinators, recruited individuals, families, congregations and organizations.

May and Harvey Lord have a long history of leadership and involvement in organizations and movements that deal with peace and justice. These include the civil rights movement, the peace movement, the sanctuary movement, the movement for debt relief, movements for peace and justice in Latin America and in the Middle East, the yearly protest against the School of the Americas, and the movement for racial justice and reparations.

As an expression of love for the Lords, the DJAN leadership team has established a special fund to honor the Lords: The Charles Harvey and May Sweet Lord Justice Action Fund. This fund will provide staff and volunteers the financial resources to continue the important work they started over the past decade.

Those interested in contributing to this important fund may go to www.djan.net/paypal.pdf to learn more about it, and make an online contribution at www.djan.net/paypal.htm.

By Rev. Dr. Ken Brooker-Langston
Guest Editorial

February was African American Heritage Month. What can we do about it? We can talk about a strategy to bring about a better life for the yet unborn. Education has always been the cornerstone of any strategy African Americans have crafted. Impacting the social system of America, and the world, has driven our efforts.

In 1998, with a new Pastor on board at First Christian Church, San Jose, I organized the African American Heritage Celebration. I asked Jarvis Christian College to supply a speaker. We shared this speaker, with Mills Grove Christian Church of Oakland. We were able to get a citation from the White House and it hangs on the wall of our church.

In 2007, what is available is the opportunity to assist and support Jarvis Christian College. When Dr. Sebetha Jenkins was selected to be Board Chair for the United Negro College Fund in 2004, that was a red letter day for Disciples. When I think of Jarvis, I am reminded of a statement on governance of institutions that Mr. Clark Kerr, Chancellor of the University of California, made. Kerr stated that the president of any institution is the lowest paid hourly wage professional on campus. This JOB is an 18-hour, 7-day-a-week enterprise.

I trust the National Convocation will be able to rally the troops and support Jarvis as it journeys deep into the 21st Century. All of our institutions need our support. We must begin somewhere, and Hawkins, TX, seems like a good place to start. This is a worthy African American Heritage Month initiative.

Mr. Charles A. McGee
PO Box 1673
San Jose, CA
charsjcca@aim.com

Disciples of Christ Historical Society Honors Oscar Haynes

The Disciples of Christ Historical Society announces that its Exhibit Hall will be named in honor of Oscar Haynes. A layman who has given his life to service in the Church. Haynes becomes the first African-American to be honored by room-naming in the Thomas W. Phillips Memorial, headquarters of the Historical Society.

A native of Tennessee, and now approaching his century mark, Haynes is past president of the National Convocation and former trustee of Disciples Home Missions, [Church Finance Council and the Christian Church Foundation]. Mr. Haynes has also served on the Board of the Historical Society. He has been named a Diplomate of the National City Christian Church Foundation and resides in Washington, D.C. with his wife, the Reverend Joan Bell Haynes, an ordained Disciples minister.

Glenn Thomas Carson, president of the Historical Society, says that Haynes is the "perfect match" for such an honor. "Oscar Haynes is a true servant of our faith," Carson says, "and he is a model Christian who spurs all of us along in our own discipleship."

Plans for dedication of the refurbished Exhibit Hall are set for 2008 or 2009. The Historical Society is receiving contributions to secure the honor for Mr. Haynes. Inquiries can be addressed to mail@discipleshistory.org or 1101 19th Ave., S., Nashville, TN 37212 December 22, 2006

Excerpt from President Glenn Carson’s article in the October-December Issue of the Oldtimers’ Grapevine: “I am asking each of you, as readers to this newsletter to send me $100 for the Oscar Haynes Exhibit Hall. I think you will agree that this is a small price to pay to honor such a giant who walks among us. Send your check (payable to DCHS) to 1101 19th Ave., S. Nashville, TN 37212.”
The Wisdom of A Child

Nine-year-old Joey was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday school.

“Well Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his army build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then, he radioed headquarters for reinforcements, They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved.”

“Now Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?” his mother asked.

“Well, no Mom. But, if I told it the way the teacher did, you’d never believe it!

Dear Oscar,

“I am an avid reader of the Oldtimers’ Grapevine. It is a first-class instrument of our Disciples’ story and ministry. It is also a sign of the “tie that binds” us together. It is a form of “koininia.” An enclosed gift comes with continuing prayers for you and the Board, who are cherished friends of mine.” Paul

Rev. Dr. Paul A. Crow, Jr., Indianapolis, IN

Hi, Oscar & Joan,

“Where is a great love for the word of God? Where is a source of knowledge? Where is a path to truth? The Oldtimers’ Grapevine, As I enjoy information about people I don’t know I am moved to give a gift so people across the country will be blessed by every issue that is printed.” Much love, Sister # 5.

Ms. Theresa Bell, Macon, GA

Dear Mr. Haynes,

“I enjoy the Oldtimers’ and recognize several of the names—especially the older ones who came to visit my Dad, and hear them prophesying the Bible.” I finished Howard University Dental School about 50 years ago. Sere S. Myers.

Dr. Sere S. Myers, Leawood, KS

Oscar & Joan,

“I hope the New Year will be very good for you and the Oldtimers’ Grapevine. Thanks for a job well done.” Robbie

Mr. Robbie and Mrs. Louada Chisholm, Silver Spring, MD.

Dear Oscar,

*This is an expression of my appreciation for the publication; a great love and devotion I will always have for the Foxes; and my sincere support of your great efforts and success with the Oldtimers’ Grapevine.” Sebetha

Dr. Sebetha Jenkins, President, Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, TX
Dear Oscar & Joan,

Thanks for the job you are doing with the Oldtimers’ Grapevine. I enjoy reading it very much. Continue the good work.” Libbey

Mrs. S. Elizabeth Speight, Winston Salem, NC

Dear Oscar,

“Thank you very much for the ministry of the Oldtimers’ Grapevine. Donald, Jerry and I really appreciate how you captured the Spirit of the last Convocation. Hope to see you at the General Assembly.” Charisse

Dr. Charisse L. Gillett, Transylvania University, Lexington, KY

Oscar,

“May God’s word continue to fill your memory, to rule your heart, and guide your feet. Our best wishes are extended to members of your family and staff.” Marjorie

Dr. Marjorie C. Parker, Indianapolis, IN

Mr. Oscar Haynes & Bell-Haynes

“I’ll be 85 in April, and qualify as an Oldtimer. I sang in the Chorus here at Foxwood Springs, singing next to Bill Fox in the Tenor section. – and I miss him!!, Reubena, too.

Keep up the good work. Graduate of Brite Divinity School, TCU, August 1951. Long time friend of Ozark Range.” Bob

Robert D. Chambless, Raymore, MO

Dear Oscar & Joan,

“I look forward to each issue of the Oldtimers’ Grapevine with joy, anticipation and memories.” Gwen

Gwendolyn B. Robinson, Hyattsville, MD

Dear Oscar & Joan: Just got the latest issue of Oldtimers’ Grapevine. It is such a wonderful ministry! It is much needed, well documented, and gratefully received.” Bob

Robert Kennel, Holly Spring, NC

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THE POET’S CORNER

Enjoy Life’s Nuts
Walnuts, Spanish, Pistachio, Hazel,
Filbert, Brazil, English, Macadamia,
Cashews and Pecans are all fine nuts indeed.

Absolutely good eating
I truly believe.

Different shapes, tastes, coverings and size,
an array of smells with hue-like disguise.

Although different, all tastily hold recognizable prize.

I usually eat only one kind at a time,
and other times of a mixture

I like to dine.

Once in awhile, I, like you, find one uneatable and toss it eschew.

We never want to stop eating nuts or throwing too many away.

Just check them first closely, like I do, I say.

For so it is with many things in life, like when you marry a man or a man takes a wife.

Often things that appear just plain hunky-dory are sometimes a “Pandora’s Box.”

So check first the assortment of people and things and toss out the worst like old sox’s.

Hold on to the Walnuts and Pistachios of life, savor the odors and taste.

Don’t let old Beelzebub steal any of your nuts.

Don’t let him spoil nor non waste.

by May F. Lindsey Reed Written Sat., Nov. 15, 2003
FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA
CELEBRATES SIXTY YEARS

Fellowship Christian Church, Philadelphia, PA celebrated 60 years of ministry on Sunday, December 10, 2006. In his sermon, Pastor John A. Croft, Sr, said, “God has poured out His blessings on us in reaching this historic day. I am blessed to be a part of this family and look forward to seeing the fruits of our labor continue.” The congregation was in agreement with the pastor.

Rev. Dr. Darwin Collins, Regional Minister, in his sermon “A Joyous Expectation”, reminded the congregation that their expectations don’t always go as planned in life but nothing is impossible with God. He lifted the faithfulness of Elder Calla Dean Joseph and past and present members of Fellowship. Elders Joyce Lambert and Faye Tyler praised Dr. Collins for his support of Fellowship.

In the evening celebration, Rev. Jermaine Heath, Pastor of St. Paul Chapel Baptist, in his message “Moving From Where You Are To Where You Need To Be”, told of God’s power to move them and the importance of being faithful and doing His will. “You must be willing to change so that you are not an ‘eight track church in a CD world’.”

Deacon Sadie Gunnings, a founding member expressed her desire to take this faith journey into the “CD” world. The journey started in 1944 when Mrs. Joseph traveled from Tulsa, OK to Philadelphia to visit her brother and attended all-white First Christian Church. This led her to share with her pastor Rev. Eugene James when she returned to Tulsa, so he encouraged her upon her return to Philadelphia to organize a Disciples congregation.

Upon her return in 1946 she met at the McKinsey home to discuss organizing a Disciples church. Others were Mr. & Mrs. Charles Denson, Mr. & Mrs. Garnell Gunnings, Mr. John Foster, Mr. Marshall Foster and Mrs. Margaret Drakeford. On December 29, 1946, the formal organization of the first African American Disciples congregation in Philadelphia, PA took place under the guidance of Elder C.L. Whitfield, brother of John Flanders Whitefield, pastor of Twelfth Street Christian Church in Washington, DC.

In 1990 Fellowship merged with Philadelphia Christian Church, which was founded in 1985. Today, Fellowship is the only African American Disciples congregation in the Pennsylvania Region.

In 1995, under the leadership of Rev. Vertie Powers, Fellowship was looking for a home. She challenged them to reclaim the property at 6101 W. Oxford Street, and they did. This relocation was completed later under the leadership of Rev. Marsha Brown Woodard and Dr. Collins. This final move led Deacon Gunnings to proclaim, “Thank God for bringing us from where we were to where we are now and I continue to pray to God to lead us to where He wants us to be.”

The Anniversary services were awesome in their praises to God for the many obstacles overcome. There was praise for the wisdom of the founder Elder Joseph, who died on May 29, 1997, at 101 years of age. Elder Lambert gratefully exclaimed “thanks be to God for bringing Fellowship this far by faith for sixty years and it is with joyous expectations that we trust Him to move us to where we need to be.”

Joyce Knox, Assistant Editor
Oldtimers’ Grapevine

(A special thank you to Deacon Vera D. Russell for providing OTG with the initial resources for this article.)
DEPRESSION

Depression is a "blue" period that won't let up and keeps coming back. It is an illness that involves changes in brain chemicals. Depression affects how you feel, think and act. Depression can leave you feeling helpless, worthless and unable to cope.

SIGNS OF DEPRESSION

- Feel worthless, guilty, helpless or hopeless
- Have trouble sleeping or sleep too much
- Loss of appetite or overeating
- Feel tired, weak or low on energy
- Feel restless and unable to sit still
- Have problems concentrating, remembering or making decisions
- Cry more easily than usual
- Lose interest in sex
- Think or talk about suicide

TREATMENT

- Medication—may help relieve depression symptoms
- Counseling—can help you work through problems that may be at the heart of an episode of depression
- Helping yourself-very important part of treatment

Kim Atwater is a nurse in the ambulatory surgery center at Kaiser Permanente, Kensington, MD
FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL

JAMESVILLE, NC - A Homegoing Celebration for Mamie Stancil Hooper was held January 14, 2007 at Mt. Carmel Church of Christ (Disciples of Christ), Vice Bishop William T. Collins officiating. She was born in Martin County, NC on August 16, 1919 to Ashley and Addie Stancil and married to George Frank Hooper, Sr. (deceased) on June 11, 1942.

A lifelong member of Mt. Carmel, Mrs. Hooper was a member of the Senior Choir and the kitchen committee (remembered for her delicious pastries), and became “Mother” of the congregation. She will be remembered for her charming smile, gentle spirit and caring nature.

Mrs. Hooper, mother of four, is survived by her daughter, Adelaide Harris, Jamesville, NC; George Frank Hooper, Jr. (Joyce) of Williamston, NC; Reginald E. Hooper and Warren E. Hooper (Wanda) of Jamesville, NC; a brother, James Stancil (Shirley); four sisters, Rosa Lee Whitaker, Frances Hardison, Ollie Ruth Stancil, and Mary Williams; in-laws Clarence Hooper and Bertha Berry, 15 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, one great-great grandson and a daughter-in-law, Loretta Hooper.

INDIANAPOLIS, IN – Rev. Arthur M. Detamore, former President, Church Finance Council (CFC), died December 25, 2006. He also served as a consultant for Church Extension following his retirement at CFC. Rev. Detamore was a graduate of Phillips Theological Seminary in Oklahoma.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRECIOUS GIFTS

Rev. Marvin E. Smith, Gainesville, FL; Ms. Milli- cent Battle, Kansas City, MO; Rev. Dr. Paul A. Crow, Jr., Indianapolis, IN; Ms. Denise Olmsted, Raymore, MO; Rev. Hannah Toomey, Forest Grove, OR; Mr. Ulysses & Mrs. Elizabeth Rice, Hyattsville, MD; Ms. Betty J. Doss, Raymore, MO; Mrs. Doris Daugherty, Washington, DC; Ray of Hope Christian Church, Decatur, GA; Dr. Kristine Culp, Chicago, IL; Rev. Pablo & Mrs. Jenean Stone, Black Mountain, NC; Rev. Arzolla Phillips, Knoxville, TN; Mrs. Josephine Burnett, Sacramento, CA; Rev. Samuel & Mrs. Mildred Hylton, Saint Louis, MO; Ms. Ruth Heimer, Indianapolis, IN; Ms. Ellen Crowder, Alexandria, VA; Mr. Roy A. Dunham, Silver Spring, MD; Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Claude Walker, Dallas, TX; Mrs. Theresa M. Beaton, Washington, DC; Mr. Ken & Mrs. Jimmy Mohler, Kansas City, MO; Mr. Waymon Martin, High Point, NC; Rev. Dr. William & Mrs. Mary Helen Blackwell; Mrs. Theresa R. Bell, Macon, GA; Mr. Robbie & Mrs. Louada Chisholm, Silver Spring, MD; Dr. Sebetha Jenkins, Hawkins, TX; Ms. Elizabeth Speight, Winston Salem, NC; Rev. Dr. Donald & Dr. Charisse L. Gillett, Lexington, KY; Mr. Timothy & Mrs. Brenda Rinaman; Reston, VA; Rev. Robert & Mrs. Lois Chambless, Raymore, MO; Mr. William & Mrs. Mary D. Jackson, Reston, VA; Rev. Dr. James & Mrs. Lucy Reed, Indianapolis, IN; Mrs. Gwendolyn B. Robinson, Hyattsville, MD; Mrs. Ruth P. Hobbs, Clinton, MS; Rev. Dr. Betty Lancaster-Short, Washington, DC.

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15
PRES. DR. GLENN T. CARSON
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DISCIPLES HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NASHVILLE TN 37212
The Reverend Belva Brown Jordan is a 1986 graduate of Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX. June 1st she joined the Christian Education Staff of Homeland Missions as Director of Racial/Ethnic Educational Ministries. Belva moved, with her daughter, from Texas to Indianapolis. She said, “As I crossed the state line I asked myself, Why are you doing this? Why are you leaving home?” But then I remembered Matthew 28:19-20. It was recalling this scripture that led Belva forward. Following the Word is the tie that will continue to guide, seal, hold, bind together, and strengthen the African American clergywomen of the Christian Church. Belva is with Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The Reverend Dr. Stephanie Buckhanon Crowder is a native of Memphis, TN. She graduated from Memphis Central High School in the top 10 of her class, 1987. She was valedictorian at Howard University, Washington, DC where she earned a BS degree, summa cum laude, in Speech Pathology/Audiology.
She was President of the Frederick Douglas Honor Society and youth spokesperson for United Way. Having acknowledged her call to ministry in May 1993, Stephanie was licensed by Metropolitan Baptist Church, Washington, DC and that July was ordained by her home church, Friendship Baptist in Memphis that August.

In August 1991 Stephanie entered United Theological Seminary in Dayton, OH. She was research assistant to the President and Managing Editor of Setting Captives Free, United's African American Ministries newsletter. She received her M.Div. in May 1994 and joined the staff of Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church, Memphis, TN that June. She served as assistant minister, Christian Education until August 1995. Stephanie received her PhD. in Religion: New Testament from Vanderbilt University in 2000. Her dissertation “Simon of Cyrene: A Case of Roman Conscription” was published -c2002. In 1996 Stephanie was granted ordination standing in the Christian Church Tennessee. She serves as Associate Pastor, New Covenant Christian Church, Nashville, TN.

The Reverend Brenda Marie Cardwell is Senior Pastor of Pilgrimage Christian Church, Suitland, MD. Her ordination was June 14, 1981, at Park Manor Christian Church, Chicago, IL and on June 21st at service of reaffirmation was held at First Christian Church, her home church, in Reidsville, NC. Brenda is a graduate of North Carolina A. & T. University, Greensboro, NC. On May 15, 1981, she graduated from Lexington Theological Seminary and received a MDiv. She also holds a Masters in Special Education from Chicago State University, Chicago, IL. Brenda was a member of the Committee On Black and Hispanic Concerns; Co-Pastored Howlett Street Christian Church, Peoria, IL. She and the late William Kappan Fox co-authored “Journey Toward Wholeness”, c1988.

The Reverend Ruth Lois Artis dons the cover of The Disciple magazine for July-August 1999. The caption reads “From Political Appointment To A Higher Calling.” From a Certified Public Accountant to President of a general unit of the Christian Church. She began this new position on May 10, 1999. Prior to that she was an assistant secretary for administration with the State Department of Environment and Natural Resources, serving six (6) years as senior advisor to the Governor of North Carolina, James B. Hunt. Lois received her ministry license with the Disciples in 1991. She attended Duke University and planned to
complete her senior coursework through Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, IN.

Lois was ordained April 7, 2002, at St. James Christian Church, Wilson, NC. She Co-Pastored the St. Andrews Christian Church in Dudley, NC.

While Lois diligently serves the Church in the position of President of the Church Finance Council, she commends her staff for their competency and passion shown in their ministry. Her interview was concluded with these remarks, "When people's daily lives begin to reflect Christian Stewardship, then we will have the resources necessary to help us do the work to which God has called us." – see p.6; Yvonne Samuel, The Disciple.

The Reverend Nadine Burton received her M. Div from Memphis Theological Seminary, December 1997. She joined the staff of Church Extension in the position of Minister of New Church Development in April 2003. She served as Associate Pastor, Christian Education at Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church. She is a native of Memphis, TN.

The Reverend Joyce Montgomery-Foulkes was the first Black woman to serve in the position of Moderator for the Indiana Region, serving two terms. She graduated from Christian Theological Seminary, May 18, 1986, and was ordained the same day at her home church, Light of the World Christian Church, Indianapolis, IN. She was Legal Secretary for the State of Indiana Supreme Court. Joyce was born October 5, 1982. Her spirit returned to the Lord, June 24, 1987. We live in the hope of seeing her again on yonder shore on that great getting-up morn. –Amen!

The Reverend Effie Blair was ordained January 25, 1976, at First Christian Church, Houston, TX. She was named director for Christian Education for Minority Constituencies, Homeland Ministries, Christian Church, that February. She is a graduate of Northwest Christian College and Phillips University with M.Ed. She previously taught 5th grade. Effie continues to be an active member of the Church. She is a native of Phoenix, IL. She now resides at Robin Run, Indianapolis, IN.

The Reverend Julia Brown Karimu is an native of Yazoo City, MS. In 1977 she was named Director of Voluntary Service for Disciples Home Missions. She was named Vice President and Executive Secretary for Personnel and Training for Division of Overseas Ministries. She was a student at Christian Theological Seminary, 1983-1984. She was ordained on Sunday, November 18, 1990 at Geist Christian Church, Indianapolis, IN.
The Reverend Toni R. Wright Colbert was ordained May 20, 2002 at Light of the World Christian Church, Indianapolis, IN.

The Reverend Debra Peoples White was ordained June 29, 1997, at Light of the World Christian Church, Indianapolis, IN.

The Reverend Mary Anne Glover is a third generation Disciple. She is a native of Wilson, NC. She is a 1981 graduate of East Carolina University and graduated May 17, 1991 from Lexington Theological Seminary. As a speaker for graduation, she spoke on “The Courage To Be and To Become.” She was the first African American student of the Disciples of Christ to be appointed to study at the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey, Switzerland. She served as Student Associate Minister at Third Christian Church, Louisville, KY. In 1998 she served as Senior Pastor of Faith United Christian Church, Indianapolis, IN. Mary Anne serves as Associate Regional Minister in Ohio. She was ordained May 19, 1991 by the Christian Churches in Kentucky and North Carolina.

The Reverend Dr. Julia Brogden is Founder of the Freedom Christian Church, Cleveland, OH. She was ordained June 1980 at Fifth Christian Church in Cleveland. She served there as Associate Pastor. She received her PhD from Chicago Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL.

The Reverend Dr. Jo Ann Bynum is Senior Pastor at Sierra Christian Church, Las Vegas, NV, a new church start. She was Associate Pastor of Abundant Life Christian Church, Los Angeles, CA in 1998.

The Reverend Angela Denise Davis attended Vanderbilt University Divinity School, 1996, Nashville, TN, where she received her MDiv. Angela was ordained at North Heights Christian Church, Wichita, KS.

The Reverend Billye Pinkston Bridges is a native Jackson, MS. She earned her MDiv from Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, IN, graduating May 17, 1998, and was ordained, Sunday, May 31, 2007 at her home church: Light of the World Christian Church. She earned a Bachelor’s in English Literature from Tougaloo, (MS) College; a Masters in Christian Education from Indiana University. She taught English Language Arts, English Literature and worked as Project Director, Association of Black Foundation Executives (ABFE), Indiana University Center on Philanthropy. She is a specialist in Secondary and Christian Education. She was called from Light of the World to the Center for Education and Mission, Disciples Home Missions. She served as assistant to the senior pastor; coordinated all Bible Study classes, Special Study classes and program activities. Billye was Director of the Annual Heaven On Earth Institute. She serves as an Elder …………..And she is our Dean/Director of the Institute for African American Faith and Life of the National Convocation.

Don’t miss the final installment of the current series in the Fall Issue of the OTG!
From the desk of the Managing Editor

Oscar's Notes

Reading my June issue of the Disciples World a few days ago I was excited over the good news of our denominational magazine winning five awards during the Annual Convention of the Associated Church Press in April. However, my joy was brief when I read the distressful news by the editor, Verity A. Jones, and the board that they are not sure this excellent magazine will survive this year.

My prayer is that our 800,000 plus Disciples will rally to the support of our church's magazine so we will not lose a publication providing visibility ending the often expression "We Disciples are the best kept secret in this world". I am thankful and excited over the national visibility the Disciples World has given the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The OTG Board and Staff learned of this crippling danger to small publications in April. We learned from Nation Magazine publisher Katrina van Heuvel the US Post Office rate change, proposed by "Time Warner, Inc." would increase small independent publications as much as 30 percent and less than 10 percent for the giants.

(Edited's Note)

Due to illness some feature articles will not appear in this issue but look for them in the July-September Issue. Saying thanks a million times to the dedicated staff for producing this issue would not be sufficient. Their commitment far excels that of any well-paid staffer. Thanks Joyce, Ellen, Donna, May, Kim and Joan for your love of the Oldtimers' Grapevine Newsletter Ministry.)

Please visit with us during the General Assembly July 21, to 25, 2007, at the Fort Worth Texas Convention Center. We will be with friends at the Greenwood Cemetery Booth.

Readers' Comment Corner

Dear Oscar & Joan,

"Whenever I receive my copy of Oldtimers' Grapevine, I stop whatever I'm doing to read it. As I read about some of the "old timers" who worked with or knew my Dad, childhood memories are often evoked. When I read about my contemporaries, I feel as if I am visiting with them and when I read about the younger generation, I am encouraged."

Eddie

Eddie Griffin, Chicago, IL. (Daughter of the late Rev. Dr. Lorenzo Evans).

Dear Oscar,

"Virginia and I enjoy each issue of the Grapevine because it helps us keep up with so many whom we know and love. We look forward to the next part of May Reed's article on Ordained African American Disciples Clergy Women.

Our love to you and Joan,”

Wayne

Dr. Wayne H. Bell, President Emeritus, Lexington Theological Seminary, Lexington, KY.

Dear Oscar,

"I am confident that our Board of Directors joins me in expressing heartfelt appreciation to you and other staff persons. I look forward to our "coffee and conversation time during the Fort Worth General Assembly."

Sincerely,

Ernest

Rev. Dr. Ernest Newborn, Oldtimers' Grapevine Board President, Claremont, CA

Dear Oscar,

"We were happy to see the article in "The National City Christian about the Oldtimers' Grapevine, and happier to see you doing so well at nearly 90 years young. Bless you Oscar. We look forward to reading the Grapevine."

Archie

Mr. Archie & Mrs. Kathryn Thompson, Baltimore, MD

Oscar,

"You are doing a great job. We enjoy the newsletter. Keep up the good work. Take care. God bless you."

Curtis

Mr. G. Curtis & Mrs. Becky Jones, Angel Fire, NM
A TRIBUTE TO “The Oldtimers’ Grapevine”

The OTG is Priceless,
The Communication is simply great;
I treasure all the news there in
For each Publication I can hardly wait.

Praise be to God for Oscar-
When the days of Dr. Fox were o’er,
He gladly accepted the challenge
Lifted serviceable wings—began to soar
To greater heights and wider scopes—
Disciples can’t ask for more.

Thank God for our Clergywomen,
Who are standing like druids of old
Serving, Sacrificing, Risking,
Many stories are still untold.

Let us, Disciples, in unity,
Continue to serve and pray;
Keeping Christ as our ever guiding light—
We will never go astray.

May we continue to give praise to Oscar—
Who is fighting the fight of the brave;
His job is definitely not easy—
He is fighting with courage to save
Our heritage and the foundation that was laid.

A close relationship with Jesus—
Is needed in the world today;
May we strengthen our ties as Disciples
Together may we serve and pray.

Mrs. Ruth P. Hobbs, Clinton, MS

(Editor’s note: On behalf of the board and staff,
I humbly express our appreciation for this
expression of love and esteem.)

ST. LOUIS, MO – During the 2006 annual conference of the American Mental Health Counselors Association meeting, Rev. Dr. Betty Lancaster Short was named President for the District of Columbia. Dr. Short, a sixth-generation Washingtonian, shared with the Oldtimers’ Grapevine that the Capital City is reported to have the highest percentage of degreed professionals of any one geographical location in the world.

Dr. Short, Associate Pastor of Michigan Park Christian Church for several years with Rev. Dr. Delores Carpenter, envisions seeing and seeking professionals who have a passion for change in the Capital area—“locking arms, joining hearts, and creating a brain trust that will aid this city.” “My desire is to make mental wellness a priority for its citizens.” she declared.

WASHINGTON, DC – Mrs. Betty Smith, active member of Twelfth Street Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), received recognition from the White House in late 2006 for her outstanding volunteering service, “Foster Parent Program”, United Planning Organization. The award recognizes her dedication to volunteer service and signifies that she has served her community and country with distinction.

ST. LOUIS, MO – Dr. Charisse L. Gillett, recently retired Moderator of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States & Canada, has been named to a four-year term on the Division of Higher Education Board. This multi-talented lay leader of the Christian Church is program director of the Lilly Project at Transylvania University, a program for the theological exploration of vocation.

Dr. Gillett holds both undergraduate and master’s degrees from the University of Northern Iowa. She holds an educational specialist degree and a doctorate from Northern Illinois University. When not involved in the many hours of leadership for church and community, Charisse enjoys leisure time with husband, Dr. Donald Gillett II, senior pastor of East Second Street Christian Church, Lexington, KY.
WASHINGTON, DC – Attention! All persons between 18-28 years old, interested in the career of Nursing. The University of the District of Columbia is offering FREE tuition, books, a $250.00 monthly stipend, and guaranteed job placement at Providence Hospital upon graduation with a starting salary of $40,000.00. This is a three year program and the are now recruiting students. Contact Ms. Bes-hon Smith, phone (202)266-5481 or e-mail Bsmith@urbanalliance.org.

INDIANAPOLIS, IN – Rev. Dr. Paul A. Crow, Jr., (Mr. Ecumenicist Himself) traveled to Rome in January to deliver the Jean Tillard Lectures on Ecumenical Theology at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas. The theme of these lectures is “Faith and Order: History, Theology and Texts.” He was also preacher at the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service at Rome’s Centro Pro Unione.

Dr. Crow was the President of the Council on Christianity of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for 25 years. He was the first General Secretary of America’s nine-church consultation on Church Union (1968-1974), a member of the World Council of Churches’ Central Committee (1975-1998), and a member and Vice-Moderator of the WCC’s Faith and Order Commission (1968-1998).

WASHINGTON, DC – African American Ministers, joined by other clergy, gathered at East Dallas Christian Church, March 5-8, 2007, for the 33rd annual Black Ministers Retreat. The theme, “Who Do You Say That I Am?” is based on Jesus’ words to the Apostle Peter, Matthew 16:13-20. Preachers included Vivian Bass, Phillip Ward, Gralin Hampton and Raumone Burton. Rev. Ray Owens was the Bible lecturer.

Baltimore, MD – Rev. David A. Caldwell, Pastor of First Christian Church, has announced his retirement will be the last day of March, 2007. Retirements are normally determined by age, (he will be 64 March 25th) health, etc., but Dave’s rationale is based on what will be in the best interest of the congregation.

He explains: “I chose my birthday month instead of either after Easter or after Pentecost because Easter celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus from the grave. It is about ‘beginnings’ not ‘ends.’ As for Pentecost, I love the birthday of the church. It comes at the very end of the church year and just before the summer wind down of programs and attendance.” “By my retiring in late winter, the congregation has plenty of time to make plans for interim ministry long before summer break.”

WASHINGTON, DC – Thousands of Christians gathered in the nation’s capital on March 16 and 17 to protest the continuing war in Iraq. This Christian PEACE Witness for Iraq was organized by several denominations including the Disciples Peace Fellowship. Full details are available on www.christianpeacewitness.org.

Indianapolis, IN—Citing vision, integrity and leadership after 11 years of leadership, The Christian Church Foundation bestowed the honor of President Emeritus on James P. Johnson at its spring meeting of the Board of Directors. “Among those paying tribute to Johnson was retired CCF president Jim Reed, who was named president emeritus in 1997. During Johnson’s presidency the Foundation matured as a general ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Assets grew from $48 million to $227 million by the end of 2002.

Current CCF President, Gary Kidwell, praised Johnson for his role as mentor and friend to many, and bringing out the best in staff and the Foundation.

CORRECTION

In the January-March 07 Issue, we failed to report in the African American Ordained Disciples Clergy Women Article that The Rev. Arzolla Cooke Phillips is Senior pastor of Christian Church (DoC), Knoxville, TN. We regret this omission.
Reverend Dr. Delores Carpenter's faith in God has enabled her to lead the Michigan Park Christian Church congregation effectively, while not being afraid to venture into new directions and following through to see that her dreams and visions become realities. This has resulted in a church comprised of dedicated, forward-thinking members who constantly strive for a deeper faith and a more significant Christian life.

During the celebration of the 100th Church Anniversary in 1995, The Pastor made known her vision for the spiritual growth and physical expansion of the church in a booklet entitled "The Second Hundred Years". The expansion program included plans for an elevator and two restrooms designed for persons who are physically challenged. Shortly thereafter, Elder Frances Wood (Chairperson of the Steering Committee for the 100th Church Anniversary) presented to Michigan Park Christian Church a "model church" designed so that members and friends could conveniently deposit their contributions during Sunday morning worship services for the building fund expansion program.

Mr. Ricardo Herring, AIA, a member of the congregation and an architect, volunteered his services to work on the project. He prepared drafts of different structure designs that could be annexed to the existing building that would include an elevator, two restrooms, a library, a meeting room and a pastor's study. After the design was selected, Mr. Herring continued to give of his time and expertise on a pro bono basis.

When the contributions reached the required level, the church sought guidance from the Board of Church Extension. A representative from Board visited the church and recommended a plan of action that the church should follow in order to receive financial support from that office. As a result of that meeting a Capital Fund Campaign was initiated with Mrs. Ceresa Jacobs serving as Chairperson. She and her volunteers successfully implemented and followed through on the plan of action recommended by the Board of Church Extension. Over a period of three years the Campaign was deemed successful after a substantial amount of money was raised from members (pledged and non-pledged), visitors, friends and anonymous contributors.

A second Expansion Fund Campaign was initiated in 1999 with Councilman Harry Thomas serving as Chairperson. Rev. Eugene Randall, Corporate Secretary of the Board of Church Extension and the church's Special Ambassador, outlined a very intensive working plan for the first four to five weeks of the Campaign. Goals were set for two Sundays, July 4 and July 11, 1999. On July 4th sufficient funds were obtained in pledges to apply for a mortgage loan from the Board of Church Extension to begin building; this was declared "Victory Sunday". The groundbreaking ceremony for the new addition to the church was held on July 11, 1999.

Councilman Thomas died within a month after the groundbreaking ceremony and Deacon Debbi Hurd Baptist became the Chairperson of the Building Committee. She did an excellent job following through on all financial procedures. Because of the untimely death of Deacon Baptist, Elder Valeria Ford became the Chairperson of the Building Committee. Throughout the building project and the retirement of the mortgage in early 2007, much credit is due to the continuing support of Rev. Dr. Carpenter, the Trustees, the Chairpersons of the general Board—Elders Marlon Allen, Walter Brown, Ronald Banks and Rev. Peggy Miller. Elder Calvin Sampson served as the first treasurer of the building fund and Mrs. Margaret Boulware and Trustee Zelia Diggs followed him. Each doing a
superb job. The new addition of the church, now known as the Ministry Development Center was completed and dedicated in November of 2000. The church is most grateful to everyone who gave of their time, talent and finances to make this vision a reality.

Without the guidance and financial planning made available to the church by the Board of Church Extension, the Ministry Development Center would not have been possible. To them Michigan Park Christian Church expresses their endless gratitude and appreciation.

Joyce Knox, Assistant Editor
Oldtimers’ Grapevine

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**Vacation Meditation** by Dr. Peter & Mrs. Lynne Morgan

"Where did you go on your vacation?"
"The Garden of Eden!"

A mother warthog trots across our path followed by four piglets, miniatures of her, all with tails raised, antennae-like.

A lion pair mate. In a wonderful acceleration of the miracle of reproduction, a few moments later, we see a mother lion, stretched on the grass, raise her head to look at her nursing cub.

Four giraffe fill me with their presence of regal dignity as they make their way to the top of the rise before us and are silhouetted against the orange and blue of the setting sun.

Our way is blocked by an elephant that came upon a large mud puddle in the road. We watched, amused and delighted, as she eases her huge frame down into the cooling, soothing mud and enjoys a leisurely bath. Her bath finally completed, she manages to get her bulky body back on all four legs. Indignant at our intrusion, she charges our vehicle. As we drive out of harm’s way I resist an anthropomorphic remark, “I think she’s a modest young woman unhappy that we invaded her privacy.”

In our Eden a five-day-old infant elephant is protectively surrounded by her mother and fifty aunts and cousins who graze beside her.

In our Eden a three-day-old baboon holds on for dear life, cowboy style, as mother scurries along to the next meal.

In our Eden we even walked where Eve walked. But, her name was Lucy. In 1974 Donald Johanson discovered the skeleton of a 3 foot, 7 inch East African young woman from 3.2 million years ago. Lucy’s land and the knowledge of her existence filled us with wonder. (Yes, you can be a devout believer and accept evolution as the most plausible explanation to date of how creation came about.) An irreverent aside: The Eve named Lucy got her name when the paleontologists were having a party celebrating her discovery. The party music was the Beatles’ “Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds.”

When in memory I go again to “Eden” I am caught up in awe for God’s good earth; I am overwhelmed by the mystery of God’s good processes of creation. In my prayers I sing an odd medley. I start by humming “Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds.” But I leave my prayers singing Saint Francis’ “All Creatures of Our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing, Alleluia, Alleluia!”
WASHINGTON, DC — Mrs. Vertie Lee Hill-Powers was born in Dardens, NC on January 14, 1919 to Alexander and Cora Simmons-Hill. She was the youngest in the family with two brothers and two sisters who preceded her in death.

Vertie graduated from E.J. Hayes High School in Williamston, NC and soon after married Andrew Leon Powers (deceased). In 1960 Leon, Vertie and children moved to Washington, DC to work and make a home for their family.

Mrs. Powers was passionate about her love for and service to God. She studied the Bible and helped many others to know and love God. In her later years, as illness began to take its toll, she loved sitting around her table talking to and encouraging family members and friends about God's goodness.

Mrs. Powers died on Friday, April 13 at age 88. She is survived by a son Maurice (Renee). Her son Andrew Leon Powers, Jr. preceded her in death. Five daughters Joyce Knox (Melvin) an OTG assistant editor; Costella Sims; Vertie Powers, a Disciples/UCC minister and a contributor to OTG; Nadine Powers, Denise Thomas (Toby); a step-daughter Eva Mariner; 16 grand-children; 12 great grandchildren and a host of other relatives and friends.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRECIOUS GIFTS

Mrs. Ruth P. Hobbs, Clinton, MS; Mr. Kevin Metzner & Rev. Brittany Barber, Chicago, IL; Rev. Dr. Ernest J. & Mrs. Janice R. Newborn, Claremont, CA; Ms. Patricia Clark, St. Louis, MO; Ms. Ruth B. Bajema, Reston, VA; Mr. Eugene Carnes, Walker, KY; Rev. Loraine A. Pitman, Indianapolis, IN; Mr. Archie & Mrs. Kathryn Thompson, Baltimore, MD; Mr. Mrs. Philip N. Dare, Midway, KY; Ms. Melba Redd, Columbus, OH; Rev. Michael C. & Mrs. SueAnn Yarbrough, Shawnee, KS; Rev. Dr. WA. & Mrs. Linda Curwood, Lexington, KY; Mr. Franklin & Mrs. Vivian Gee, Round Rock, TX; Mr. Robbie N. & Mrs. Louada Chisholm, Silver Spring, MD; Dr. & Mrs. Sere S. Myers, Sr., Leewood, KS; Ret. Col. Maurice & Mrs. Ruth Lee, Potomac Falls, VA; Rev. Dr. Thomas J. Liggett, Claremont, CA; Mrs. Eddie E. Griffin, Chicago, IL; Ret. Col. Charles E. McGee, Bethesda, MD; Mrs. Daisy R. Chambers, Winston Salem, NC; Rev. Loren & Mrs. Catherine Broadus, Lexington, KY; Mr. Curtis & Mrs. Becky Jones, Angel Fire, NM; Dr. Louis & Mrs. Carolyn Brown, Huntsville, AL; Rev. Russell & Mrs. Nancy Harrison, Indianapolis, IN; Mr. Jay & Mrs. Kim Atwater, Washington, DC; Dr. Wayne H. & Mrs. Virginia Bell, Lexington, KY.

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The Reverend Vertie Powers is an ordained Disciples of Christ Minister with Ecumenical Partner Standing in the Eastern North Carolina Association of the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ. She serves as the Associate Conference Minister for the Eastern North Carolina Association. Over the past two years she has taught a class in “Spiritual Formation” at Duke University, Durham, NC to incoming students at the Divinity School.

Rev. Powers was ordained at Twelfth Street Christian Church, 1812 12th St. NW, Washington, DC, in July 1992. She was installed as Pastor of Fellowship Christian Church, Philadelphia, PA, April 30, 1995. Before being called to North Carolina, she was Minister of Evangelism for Church Development and Renewal with the United Church of Christ, Cleveland, OH.

She has served the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) on the general level in Indianapolis, IN, as Director of New Church Establishment and as Interim Director of Reconciliation.

Rev. Powers was educated in the public school systems of Martin County, NC and Washington, DC. She obtained her Bachelor of Science degree from Trinity College in Washington, DC and her Master of Divinity degree from Duke University, Durham, NC. She is an internationally known preacher and singer having used her gifts of word and song on four continents.
The Reverend Dr. Robin Hedgeman graduated from Lexington Theological Seminary in 1988. She did her student ministry at Third Christian Church, Louisville, KY, and was ordained there in May of that year.

Dr. Hedgeman pastored Howett Street Christian Church, Peoria, IL. She served as Chairperson of the Board of Disciples Home Missions, and was Associate Regional Minister in Ohio.

She served as President of the National Convocation in 2000-2002. Robin was called to the Senior Pastorate of Bethany Christian Church, Cleveland, OH, in 1997, where she continues to serve today.

The Reverend Joan Bell-Haynes was jointly ordained August 28, 1999 by Maywood Christian Church, Maywood, IL, and Park Manor Christian Church, Chicago, IL. Joan entered the Disciples Divinity House of The University of Chicago, in Sept., 1995, where she received the Masters of Art Degree.

Joan has served as Associate Pastor, Community Christian Church, Kansas City, MO; Associate Pastor, University Christian Church, Hyattsville, MD, and is currently Co-Pastor of United Christian Parish, Reston, VA.

The Reverend Marilyn S. Fiddmont is Assistant Vice President, South Central Zone, Christian Church Foundation, Houston, TX. Marilyn was ordained June 25, 2001, by the Good Shepherd Christian Church, Houston, TX.

The Reverend Dr. Jo Ann Bynum is Senior Pastor at Sierra Christian Church, Las Vegas, NV - New Church Start. She was Associate Pastor in 1998 at Abundant Life Christian Church, Los Angeles, CA.

The Rev. Shauna Linn McGee was ordained by the Christian Church in Ohio at East Second Street Christian Church, Lexington, KY. She is the first woman to serve ESSCC as its Assistant Pastor and she is now Pastor of Vision Christian Church (formerly Castlewood CC), Lexington, KY. She received a B.A. from Kentucky State University and a M. Div. from Lexington Theological Seminary.

Every ordained clergy, man or woman, of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Christian Churches and Churches of Christ should send their information to the Historical Society for a biographical file to be opened and entered into the archives. **On your graduation from Seminary – please send:**

Dates you attended seminary – name of the seminary – city, state, a copy of your ordination service showing church – city/state, and a nice photograph along with a brief bio sketch. As you begin to move about in your ministry, remember to send information periodically to the Historical Society to update your file.

There are more than 35,000 biographical files housed in the DHS archives. We want to include yours also. Time, space and unavailability of records would not allow me to share more on these dedicated and learned clergywomen in this article...but please help to make these findings less elusive and more inclusive, in the future. As clergywomen of the church, would you help by beginning or continuing to collect and share your records for use and for future research. Helping to preserve and make available your ministerial work and service to the church will allow your ministries to remain a viable manifestation of walking/working/cohesive/living curricula vitae. Your Historical Society looks forward to your becoming a vital part in this effort.

**Send your records to:**

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**1101 19th Avenue S.**

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Dr. Glenn Thomas Carson, President
Sara Harwell, Vice President Information Services

May Reed, Curator/Docent
Retired Veteran Staff - DCHS

2/28/2007
Nostalgia overcomes me as I share with our readers my notes for this issue of the OTG. It takes me back some 60 years to my early years of publishing newsletters. Like printers ink, this love has filled a major part of my life-journey. It was the excellent congregational newsletters of Rev. Dr. Forrest D. Haggard that started a beautiful friendship.

This very special friend will be remembered by our mutual friend Rev. Dr. Richmond Nelson and me as a bridge builder, reaching out with hands and heart across the seas, facilitating better understanding and closer relationship between the church in the U.S.A. and Christians in the Third World, particularly Jamaica—the land and the people he loved.

Memorial services for Dr. Haggard and his wife, Eleanor V. Haggard, whose deaths were only ten days apart, were held at the Overland Park Christian Church, Overland Park, KS, on September 8, 2007. I had lost contact with Forrest until several months ago, when I received a call from him to let me know that our friend Richmond would be coming to Washington for a visit following the board meeting of the World Convention of the Christian - Churches of Christ – Disciples of Christ. Both are former presidents of the World Convention.

In a tribute to the couple, the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands (Congregational/Disciples/Presbyterian) remembered with deep gratitude the invaluable contribution Forrest and Eleanor made to the life and witness of the Church in Jamaica. He recalled that Forrest and Eleanor and the congregations they served have been partners in Mission with the Church in Jamaica for over 40 years.

In recalling how Forrest shared the love of Christ with everyone regardless of race, color, or station in life, Richmond declared “some of the ways” are:

- Support for the training of men and women in Jamaica for the Ministry of the Church;
- Providing scholarships through Jamaica Partners, which he founded, for continuing education of students, Scouts and staff of Oberlin High School;
- Creating an endowment for the Haggard/Nelson Chair in Theological Studies at the International University of the Caribbean in Kingston.

Dr. Nelson shared that sincere concern and care for the good health of the Jamaican people led them, through Jamaica Partners, to build a medical clinic to serve the needs of the students and people in the community. In their honor, he said, we have renamed the facility “The Forrest and Eleanor Health Centre”.

During the years Rev. Dr. William K. Fox was Executive Secretary of the National Convocation, he built a remembered relationship between the Convocation and the Churches of Jamaica, and during the years I served as President of the Convocation, we intensified that working relationship.

Due to the tireless effort of Forrest, Eleanor, and Richmond, the World Convention of the Churches of Christ was held in Jamaica in 1984. This was the first for a cruise ship, with hundreds of Christians on board, anchored in Kingston Harbor for one week serving as a floating hotel during the Convention.

The 17th World Convention will convene in Nashville, TN, July 30 – August 3, 2008, just over ten months from now. This is the only global gathering of churches with a heritage in the Stone-Campbell tradition. The prominent guest speakers include Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale, Ray of Hope Christian Church, Decatur, GA. Registration forms may be secured from World Convention, 1279 Brentwood Highlands Drive, Nashville, TN 37211. One of the sponsors of the World Convention, held every four years, is Greenwood Cemetery, Inc., Nashville, TN

I look forward to worship and fellowship with my brothers and sisters of all church streams with a Campbell-Stone heritage from all around the world.
"Yes, I support Senator Barack Obama in his bid to become the next president of the United States," declared Col. Charles Edward McGee, USAF (Ret), in his soft-spoken voice.

This was the reply Col. McGee gave the Oldtimers' Grapevine during a recent interview in his lovely Bethesda, MD, home amid the many medals he has been awarded over the past several years, the latest being the Congressional Gold Medal. This is the highest civilian award bestowed by Congress, and it was presented by President George W. Bush during ceremonies at the White House.

Col. McGee went on to explain that, even though he supports Sen. Obama, he is not comfortable with individuals who use the military for political goals. In his response to a question about the war in Iraq, he briefly replied, "We are not going to win."

This personable World War II Tuskegee Airman entered Army Air Corps Pilot Training in November, 1942, and was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant on June 30, 1943. He flew more combat missions than any other pilot in the armed forces, earning the Legion of Merit with Cluster, three Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Bronze Star, 26 Air Medals, and the Elder Statesman of Aviation Award.

Col. McGee said he was motivated by love of aviation - "I loved to roll and spin" - and lived his life by the Boy Scout motto: "On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight."

In 1995, Col. McGee moved from Kansas City, MO, to Bethesda, MD, following the death of his wife, the former Frances E. Nelson of Champaign, IL. He is an active Elder of North Chevy Chase Christian Church, and in 2000 was Chairman of the Elder Board.

The biography of this outstanding American hero, *Tuskegee Airman: The Biography of Charles E. McGee*, authored by Dr. Charlene E. McGee Smith, Ph.D. should be in every library, school, and home in the United States. It was published by Branden Publishing Company, 17 Station Street, Box 843 Brookline Village, Boston, MA 02447.

(I urge every reader of the OTG to learn the whole story on this 80-year-old role model for American males by purchasing this book, which tells the whole exciting story of his life.)

**OVERHEARD**

An elderly woman walked into the local country church. The friendly usher greeted her and helped her up the steps. "Where would you like to sit?" he asked.

"The front row, please," she replied.

"You really don't want to do that," the usher said, "The pastor is really boring."

"Do you know who I am?" the woman asked.

"No," he said.

"I'm the pastor's mother," she said indignantly.

"Do you know who I am? said the usher."

"No." she said.

"Good," the usher replied.
CANDL FOUNDATION OF HUNTSVILLE HONORS DR. JUNE SCOBEE RODGERS

Dr. June Scobee Rodgers, Founding Chairperson of the Challenger Center for Space Science Education, received the 2007 CANDL Light Award during ceremonies May 2, 2007 before a standing room only crowd at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Huntsville, Alabama. The recipient of the 2006 award was S. Truett Cathy, owner of the Chick-fil-A food chain.

Dr. Rodgers is the widow of Astronaut Dick Scobee, commander of the Space Shuttle Challenger 51-L Teacher in Space mission. The families of the Challenger astronauts founded the Challenger Center in 1986 to encourage math and science education for children and youth.

Prior to establishing the Challenger Center, Dr. Rodgers had been an active and prominent leader in education throughout her professional life. She is proud to have taught in every grade-level classroom from kindergarten through college. Much of her work in the early 1980s was devoted to integrating the “Aha” of the science community into the classroom, using the theme of space exploration.

Other recipients of the CANDL Award include Mrs. Norman Vincent Peale, Dr. Benjamin Reaves, Rev. Dr. William C. Howland, Jr., Rev. Whintley Phipps, Rev. Dr. William & Rev. Linda Curwood, and MG (USA, Ret.) Gaylord T. & Mrs. Gunhus.

The CANDL Foundation is a nonprofit, tax-deductible organization whose focus is children’s literacy. The Foundation's founders are Dr. Louis & Mrs. Carolyn Brown.

The foundation was the prime sponsor of the series of videos Grandfather Reads, seen on National Public Television and now available to the public.

The foundation also supports the distribution of the Phonics Phone. This instrument is a teaching and learning tool that helps children improve their reading and enunciation skills. More information on the monumental civic and charitable work of the CANDL Foundation may be had by contacting 256.859.4957, ext. 157, and www.phonicsphone.org

Phillips University Legacy Foundation

PHILLIPS UNIVERSITY TRADITION PROJECT - Phillips University in Tulsa, OK, formerly located in Enid, OK, has chosen to tread a unique path of survival. Rather than close the doors and walk away like so many others, the Trustees and administrators found a way to honorably close the school and sustain its ideals and mission for educating Christian leaders.

Here are the steps taken upon closure, as reported by the Co-Chairs of the newly-formed Phillips University Legacy Foundation, Dr. G. Curtis Jones, Jr., and his wife Becky:

Following payment of all debts, efforts are now underway to strengthen the spirit of brotherhood with Phillips Theological Seminary.
The University has invested $3 million of remaining assets in its educational mission through the Phillips University Legacy Foundation.

The Legacy Scholars program influences generations of talented young people by nurturing their dreams, cultivating their talents, and providing scholarship funds to ensure they can attend the 17 colleges and universities affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Legacy Scholars are awarded annual renewable tuition scholarships of up to $5,000 based on their academic achievements and potential leadership in the church and community.

Included in the list of scholars in the class of 2007-08 are three African American students enrolled at Tougaloo College in Mississippi: Phylicia L. Holmes, Junior-2nd Year Scholar, English/Pre-Nursing; Jamela A. Davis, Junior-2nd Year Scholar, Biology, and Le’Mia B. Jenkins, Sophomore-1st Year Scholar, English.

Michigan Park Sharon Hall Scholarship Recipient Speaks At Its Annual Prayer Breakfast

Sunday, May 20, 2007, the Sharon Hall Scholarship Committee of Michigan Park Christian Church, Washington, DC, Rev. Dr. Delores Carpenter, Pastor, held its Annual Prayer Breakfast. The guest speaker was Ms. Kristine Bell, lifelong member of the congregation.

Ms. Bell has been a member of the diaconate, the choir, and the Christian Education Department, during which she also served as a Sunday school teacher. She was one of the first recipients of the Sharon Hall Scholarship.

Kristine received her bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education from the University of the District of Columbia. She received a Master’s Degree from the University of Maryland in Education Policy and Administration. She has been an active participant in the International Reading Association, the National Education Association, and the Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development.

She is currently a School Improvement Specialist, assisting low performing schools to increase test scores and improve overall student achievement.

Kristine is the founder of the Crossing Land and Sea: Student Cultural Learning Group. This group gives at-risk students the opportunity to experience and learn about different cultures. Presently she is working with a group studying the foods, religions, art, literature, and traditions of countries in East Asia. In the future, Crossing Land and Sea plans to introduce disadvantaged students to cultures in Africa and Latin America.

The 2007-08 Sharon Hall Scholars are Tyisha Belcher, Virginia State University; Petersburg; Jonathan Cooper, Morehouse College, Atlanta; Myles Franklin, Brooks Institute of Photography, Ventura, CA; LaKeeta Sharp, University of Maryland; Lyesha Wiggins, Prince George’s Community College, Largo, MD; and Kara Yates, Spelman College, Atlanta.

The outstanding graduate for 2007 is 1st Lt. Albert Franklin “Asher” Squire, United States Air Force, Master’s of Science and Administration (with a concentration in Acquisition Administration), Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, MI.

Members of the committee are: Elders Zelia Diggs, Wardell Hardy, Corrine Sampson, George Wilson; Deacons, Barbara Hall, Dona Griffith, Vivian Reed, Mrs. Ceresa Jacobs, Mr. Delvia Lewis, Mrs. Thelma Scipio, and Rev. Gloria Hill, Chairperson.
FORT WORTH, TX – The 2007 General Assembly ended on a high note on July 27, 2007 when the 2006-2007 leadership team ended their duty of successfully leading one of the best assemblies in several years and turned the responsibilities over to a new leadership team.

Meet the three newly elected church leaders who were installed to serve as the moderator team for the 2007-2008 biennium: Dr. D. Newell Williams, president and professor of Modern and American Church History at Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Moderator; Rev. Ayanna Johnson, pastor, social worker, community organizer, motivational speaker and pastor, First Vice Moderator; and Robert Alvarez, president of North Point Realty Partners, a commercial real estate firm in Fayetteville, GA, Second Vice-Moderator.

Several highlights of the assembly were: The spirited worship through music, led by talented Disciple Bill Thomas from California; State-of-the Church address by General Minister and President Sharon E. Watkins; Moderator Bill Lee, pastor of Loudon Avenue Christian Church, Roanoke, VA, effective leadership and preaching throughout the five days, who brought worshippers to their feet with his sermon on The Road to Emmaus text from Luke’s gospel; Belva Brown Jordan, Stephanie Paulsell, and Elizabeth Myers-Bolton whose personal stories of their spiritual journey moved many worshippers to tears.

To share this banquet feast together, every Disciples congregation was invited to bring or send a chalice to 2007 General Assembly, which was exchanged with a chalice from another Disciples congregation. Approximately 250 chalices were exchanged at the Assembly.

The discussion among most delegates was the impassioned plea of Barbara Major, member of the Bring New Orleans Back Commission.
OSCAR HAYNES DAY AT NATIONAL CITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

On September 30, 2007 more than 130 people gathered on Sunday afternoon from around the Capital Area Region and beyond to honor a man who has given his whole life to the church and dedicated himself to making life better for humanity. I have yet to be in his presence when he has not greeted everyone: family, friend or stranger, with the full attention of his heart. He makes everyone feel as if they are the most important person in the world to him and they genuinely are. Every encounter with him is an event filled with the blessings of his encouragement, wisdom, support, intellect and love for Jesus.

Rev. Dr. Stephen Gentle, senior pastor of National City said in his opening remarks that “everyone in this room has been touched by Oscar Haynes and we are here to celebrate that today”.

Oscar Haynes Day was a fundraiser to help support the efforts to restore the Exhibit Hall in the T.W. Phillips Memorial in Nashville. Since 1941 Disciples of Christ Historical Society has served its mission of preserving and making available to researchers the many documents, books, periodicals, and audio-visual materials telling the story of the Stone-Campbell Movement: Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Churches of Christ and Christian Churches/Churches of Christ.

This celebration drew the presence of two (2) past presidents of the Disciples Historical Society: Dr. Roland & Mrs. Kitty Huff, now residents of Vermont; Dr. Peter & Mrs. Lynne Morgan, Washington, DC, and Dr. Glenn Carson, Nashville, TN, the Society’s current president.

Rev. William Lee, senior pastor of Loudon Avenue Christian Church, Roanoke, VA and most recently, the Moderator of the Christian Church in the U.S. and Canada gave a stirring message entitled: Angelic Assistants. Rev. Dr. Timothy James brought greetings from: General Minister and President Dr. Rev. Sharon Watkins, Ray of Hope Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Cynthia Hale and The National Convocation. Rev. Lari Grubbs, Capital Area Regional Minister, Rev. Dr. Paul Saddler, pastor, Twelfth Street Christian Church and Rev. Dr. Bruce Irwin, co-pastor, United Christian Parish also brought greetings.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Display Cases—Five (5) new display cases /w Donor Name Engraved plate: $6,000 per case.

Book Nook—Custom Shelf/w Donor Name Engraved plate: $10,000.

Flat Screen TV—$4,000.

A DVD w/Historical Overview —$5,000.

Brass Plaque Naming the Hall—$3,000.

Lighting Upgrade—a $500 gift helps.

Paint Hall & Entry-way—a $100 gift helps.

The goal is to dedicate the Oscar Haynes Exhibit Hall in the summer of 2008.
Reverend Irie Sessions Plants a Church in Texas

On October 14, 2007, New Life Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will celebrate one year of service to the Lord. Come follow Rev. Irie Sessions and her congregation’s glorious adventure in Christ.

The course that steered Rev. Sessions to plant a church began with a Bible study group, for current members of Preston Church of Christ in Dallas, TX. One day during Bible study, a prostitute walked in, asking for spiritual and emotional guidance. She shared her story with the group. They embraced her and reached out to her associates who wanted to change their lives. The lives of women of Preston Church were enhanced and changed forever. They became witnesses of what love and forgiveness are all about. The group created an organization specifically designed to assist women with these issues, appropriately named “New Friends and New Life.”

Encouraged by what she was experiencing, Rev. Sessions was convinced she should create an environment where the women, families and significant others could worship once a month. She said, “my plan, and I emphasize —my plan—was not to plant a church. However, once their lives began to be transformed, they felt uncomfortable in the mainstream religious communities.” Because of this, Rev. Sessions will always be grateful for choosing Brite Divinity School to pursue her Master of Divinity degree.

Her goal when entering Brite was a Pastoral Theological Certificate and eventually a Doctorate in Pastoral Theology to teach and prepare pastors to minister to marginalized women, especially those with histories of sexual abuse and domestic violence. However, she recalled, “these were challenges I faced in my personal life and found little professional and biblical support from the church.”

She chose Brite for its great Pastoral Theology and Counseling program,” and Brite gave her the freedom to think for herself.

When she began looking for space to hold monthly worship service, the North Texas Regional Minister, Rev. Larry Ross, suggested she check with Disciples congregations. This resulted in her being given space in Rosemont Christian Center and in holding weekly, rather than monthly services. A church was planted and they had a pastor—Rev. Irie Sessions—and it was a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) congregation. Their first service was October 15, 2006, and there were ten people with no church affiliation, ready to give their lives to Christ. The service is multi-cultural, held every Sunday at 5:00 p.m., chiefly because the members work on Sunday mornings.

When asked “why the Disciples of Christ ;” Rev. Sessions said, “I must admit, I didn’t choose the Disciples, God led me to you. I’m passionate about ministry, outreach, service, racial reconciliation and social justice. I believe that Christ has set us free to liberate the oppressed, give sight to the blind and set the captives free —I’m where I belong!”

Joyce Knox, Assistant Editor
Oldtimers’ Grapevine
Beliefs Lead Him To Prison: Rev. Don Coleman Shares His Journey

Rev. Don Coleman, co-pastor of University Church in the Hyde Park area of Chicago, who put his faith into action by protesting the continued existence of the School of the Americas military center in Fort Benning, GA, extended these greetings to the Oldtimers' Grapevine at the General Assembly in Fort Worth, TX.

"Greetings to you from convict 92949-020. I have been out of prison for two months and am pleased to be able to resume my work with my wife, Ann Marie, and University Church people. Ann Marie and I are co-pastors and find our ministry challenging and continually exciting, and I have much appreciation for the church's support of my recent journey to prison.

One of the first things I did after leaving prison was celebrate my 70th birthday on June 18, 2007. It was a marvelous celebration with friends welcoming me home and celebrating this landmark year in my life. You never get so old that God doesn't have surprises for your life.

Let me remind you of my circumstances. Last November 19, 2006, 22,000 people descended on Fort Benning, GA to demonstrate against the School of the Americas (SOA) which has been renamed the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, (WHINSEC). SOA/WHINSEC has as its mission the training of military personnel, sent from Latin American countries, in the use of terror. Over the last decades hundreds of thousands of people have been killed or "disappeared." Those targeted most directly for death are religious leaders, union organizers, schoolteachers, and community leaders wanting to help common people create a better life for their families.

We have a family in our congregation who fled to the United States during the Sanctuary Movement in the early 80s because their village was burned to the ground, crops and animals destroyed, and many family members slaughtered. Saq Ja was one of six hundred villages destroyed by the scorched earth policy of Guatemalan President Rios Mont. Many of the troop leaders in this action were trained at Fort Benning.

I was one of 16 people who climbed over or through the fence at this demonstration and was arrested. We were tried, convicted of a federal misdemeanor, and sentenced. We received various penalties depending on age and the number of times participating in such actions. I was sentenced to 60 days in prison to be served at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in downtown Chicago.

My experience in prison was very interesting. The prisoners welcomed me with generous hospitality. They made sure I had things needed, such as toothpaste, tooth brush, soap, shower slippers, disinfectant for toilet seat, etc., and that I understood the rules and would not get into trouble.

Upon discovering I had only 60 days they were curious as to what I did. I told them the story of the SOA and they were amazed that the U.S. government would teach this kind of violence. Most had never heard of a federal misdemeanor charge. However, it did not take long to understand that there is government-sanctioned violence that far exceeded anything any of them were convicted for. They asked, "Who are the real criminals?"

I want you to understand that I was called by God to participate in this action of civil disobedience. I felt the presence of God so strongly that I refer to the action I took, and that of the others, as an act of "holy obedience.” I appreciate the support of family, friends and church people around the country. I received hundreds of letters of encouragement and knew many congregations were remembering me each Sunday in prayer.

"The next SOA/WHINSEC demonstration will be held the weekend of November 23, 2007. Plan to join us. It will be great fun and a way of struggling in a significant way for a more just and humane world. Donald Coleman
Where Have You Been In Your Day Dreams?

It is a precious thing to just sit and Palaver with God in your mind.
If you’ve never done so why don’t-cha some time.
God is always listening!
HE speaks to us through our Dreams, and Day Dreams.
HE speaks to us in ways that may seem unreal – causing a soul to take inward delightful flight.

Some times in our Day Dreams we aren’t even aware our thoughts have abandoned our flesh and are oblivious to flight, time of departure nor aware of our return.
But experiencing a sense of a Stabilizing presence when the flight is ended because what you’ve always felt could never be – has been – has happened.
you’ve experienced this wonderful sensation in your Day Dream. you’ve ascended into The Third Heaven.

May Reed
Written Sat., Sept. 23, 2006

READERS COMMENT CORNER

Oscar,
“The April – June Issue of the Oldtimers’ Grapevine is great. I hope you and Joan had a great time at the General Assembly.”
Robbie & Louada Chisholm, Silver Spring, MD

Mr. Haynes & Bell-Haynes
“I never get a copy of the Oldtimers’ Grapevine that it does not bring back fond memories of singing in Foxwood Springs’ Chorus, sitting next to Bill Fox in the tenor section. Keep the faith,”
Bob

Robert D. Chambless, Raymore, MO

Oscar,
“I appreciate you and all your hard work. I enjoy every issue of the Oldtimers’ Grapevine.”

Mrs. Daisy R. Chambers, Winston Salem, NC

Dear Oscar,
“Thanks so much for all the work you and your team do to make the Oldtimers’ Grapevine Newsletter possible. Russell and I enjoy reading all the news you compile so ably.” Nancy

Rev. Russell and Mrs. Nancy Harrison, Indianapolis, IN
BALTIMORE, MD – First Christian Church, Baltimore, MD, has called Rev. Yvonne Gilmore-Essig to the position of Interim Minister. Rev. Gilmore-Essig follows Rev. David Caldwell in providing leadership for this congregation, which was established in 1810.

In accepting the call, she declared, “May First Christian be not only a community of memory but a community of hope, transformation, and resurrection power, to the glory of Jesus Christ our Lord. I submit that God has endowed us with purpose and invites us to share in the kingdom that he is still creating today!”

INDIANAPOLIS, IN – Rev. Dr. Paul A. Crow, Jr., the first president of the Council on Christian Unity, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was honored on June 3 at Northwood Christian Church for 50 years in the ministry. His leadership includes various roles in the World Council of Churches and his work to open dialogue between the Roman Catholic Church, Greek Orthodox Church and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Christian Unity, (Disciples of Christ) was honored on June 3 at Northwood Christian Church for 50 years in the ministry. His leadership includes various roles in the World Council of Churches and his work to open dialogue between the Roman Catholic Church and the Disciples.

WASHINGTON, DC – Matthew Rosen, religious action coordinator for the Children’s Defense Fund and member of North Chevy Chase Christian Church, and Linda Walling, director of Faithful Reform in Health Care, have been added to the Disciples Center for Public Witness. Rev. Dr. Ken Brooker-Langston, Director, announced that Rev. Rosen will serve as senior advisor to the Center for Public Witness on children’s issues and Rev. Walling as senior advisor on health care reform.

The Disciples Center for Public Witness is a shared ministry of the Disciples congregations in the nation’s Capital (Twelfth Street, National City, Michigan Park and Shepherd Park), and Light of the World Christian Church in Indianapolis, IN.

CHICAGO, IL – Miriam Cruz, former White House staffer during the Jimmy Carter era, and member of National City Christian Church, has returned to Chicago and joined with her nephew Jose Cruz in the establishment of Cruz and Associates. This is a communications firm that specializes in political campaign consulting, public affairs, and educational consulting targeted at the Hispanic community.

Ms. Cruz, a native of Puerto Rico, spent 25 years in the nation’s capital, which included operating her own consulting business after leaving the White House. Her leadership at National City included: elder, member of the congregation’s board and Foundation.

Ms. Cruz was also a very active member in her community.

CHICAGO, IL – Harvey and May Lord, founders of Disciples Justice ActionNetwork, recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. They requested that gifts celebrating their six decades of marriage be made to DJAN. Checks may be mailed to DJAN, P.O. Box 35887, Tulsa, OK 74153.

HAGERSTOWN, MD – Rev. G. David Shreeves, Minister of Visitation for First Christian Church, Hagerstown, MD, and former Pastor of Shepherd Park Christian Church, Washington, DC, will retire the end of September, 2007, completing 62 years of ministry. He celebrated his 60th anniversary of ordination in early June 2007 and is retiring at age 81. His wife, Dale, spent forty years as Organist/Director of Music and Christian Education.

FORT WORTH, TX – Mrs. May F. Lindsey Reed, Poet in Residence for the Oldtimers’ Grapevine newsletter, and author of “Come Sail With Me into a Sea of Poetry,” a compilation of her poems which is in its second printing.
She is the recipient of the 2007 "Faithful Servant Award" of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society. Presentation of the award was made by Verity Jones, Publisher and Editor of the award-winning Disciples World Magazine.

WASHINGTON, DC - Dr. William "Bill" Wright, was ordained into the Christian Ministry on Father's Day, the second ordination in 2007 for the Twelfth Street congregation. Rev. Pamela Jones, doctoral student at the University of Chicago Divinity School and a native of Detroit, MI, brought a challenging and inspiring sermon. Rev. Wright completed his Ph.D. at the Disciples Divinity House, University of Chicago this Spring. He has accepted a teaching position at Eureka College, Eureka, IL.

WASHINGTON, DC – Rev. John Saddler, was ordained into the Christian Ministry in late March at Twelfth Street Christian Church, by the Capital Area Region. He is the brother of Rev. Dr. Paul Saddler, Pastor of the Twelfth Street congregation.

BALTIMORE, MD – Glenn & Kathy Helme, lifelong members of Christian Temple Christian Church, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary September 14, 2007, at the Historical Overhills Mansion, 916 S. Rolling, Road, Catonsville, MD.

An overflowing crowd of guests, representing several generations of Disciple congregations and leaders of several general units of the denomination. Some traveled from as far away as Hawaii, joining in an evening of music, fun, fellowship, food and laughter.

LEXINGTON, KY – Among the exciting happenings at Lexington Theological Seminary, Dr. R. Robert Cueni, President, is the appointment of Dr. Richard Lowery, Interim Dean; Words of Wisdom from General Minister and President, Dr. Sharon E. Watkins; and the graduation of the popular Rev. LeMarco Cable of Memphis, TN.

In accepting his call to the Seminary, to the position of interim dean and vice president for academic affairs, Dr. Lowery said, "It is a challenging and exciting time at the Seminary, and I am impressed with the design of the new curriculum." A native of Tennessee, Dr. Lowery graduated from University of Tennessee with honors in 1979, then went on to Yale Divinity School and graduated cum laude in 1982.

"Graduates, you have been called to be leaders in this new century where the world appears to be breaking apart," exclaimed the Rev. Dr. Sharon E. Watkins in her graduating address to the 2007 graduates. Dr. Watkins declared, "Let your hearts break over a fragmented church and world. But keep your eyes fixed on the wholeness that is already in the fabric of creation since God first pronounced it 'good'."

The very talented Rev. LeMarco Cable received the Master of Divinity degree. He served as a Steem Student at National City Christian Church, Washington, DC, and Pastor of Hasson Street Christian Church, Rogersville, TN.
OLDTIMERS' HEALTHVINE

WHEN EARWAX IS A PROBLEM

Everyone has earwax. There are special glands in the ear canal that produce earwax in small amounts. The wax dries in your ear canal before the movement of your jaws pushes it out.

--Earwax is an important part of the body's natural defense system. Earwax lubricates and protects the eardrum from foreign matter such as water and insects. Earwax is natural and healthy.

--Earwax becomes a problem when it builds up and eventually blocks the ear canal. When earwax does build up, you may sense some small hearing loss or have a feeling of "fullness" in the ear.

--Ears are generally self-cleaning but if you have a problem with too much earwax, you can use cleaning methods, unless your eardrum has a hole in it. You can put two to three drops of mineral oil in your ear at bedtime. Try this for three days. The mineral oil should soften and help loosen the wax.

WAYS TO HELP PREVENT EAR DAMAGE

• Do not squirt water into your ear.
• Avoid putting anything in your ear smaller than your elbow—for example:
• No cotton-tipped applicators
• No hair pins
• No bobby pins
• No matchsticks

The above methods of trying to clean the wax will only push the wax closer to the eardrum. You could cause serious damage to your ear— even dizziness and permanent hearing loss.

Kim Atwater is a nurse in the ambulatory surgery center at Kaiser

FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL

MARTINSVILLE, VA
Deacon James Edward Stockton entered into eternal rest on June 24, 2007, at his home. He was one of 13 children born to Lewis and Easter Hairston Stockton, born March 15, 1912, in Henry County, VA. Deacon Stockton joined Jerusalem Christian Church at an early age and was a furlong member. Through life experiences and teachings from the church, he became and remained a dedicated and devoted servant of God, his family and the church.

Deacon Stockton was married to the "love of his life" Lizzie Hodge on June 5, 1936. Their union was blessed with six children. Their son Joseph Bernard Stockton preceded him in death, as did seven brothers and three sisters. He retired from Pulaski Furniture Corporation in 1978 after 33 years of service. He loved nature and never lost touch with the land, as evidenced by his Summer and Fall gardens.

Memories of his love and moral, spiritual, and physical support will be forever cherished in the hearts of his family: his wife, Lizzie Stockton of the home; his children, Sherwood (Linda) Stockton, Cornell (Agatha) Stockton, Smith Stockton, Larry (Juana) Hodge, all of Martinsville, VA; Jacquelyn (John) Kordalewski, Milton, MA; daughter-in-law, Alice of Kernersville, NC; his 13 grandchildren, 19 great grandchildren, four great-great grandchildren; two sisters, Katherine Hairston, Queens, NY, and Parthenia Staples, Houston, TX; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRECIOUS GIFTS

Mr. & Mrs. Donald E. Mitchell, Indianapolis, IN; Mr. Don & Mrs. Shirley Brewer, Arvada, CO; Ms. Roxanne H. Hughes, Reston, VA; Mr. David & Mrs. Linda Hawkins, Des Moines, IA; Ms. Millicent M. Battle, Kansas City, MO; Ms. Mary Lou Kegler, Kansas City, MO; Mrs. Delois Guess, Tulsa, OK; Mr. Allen & Mrs. Isabell Smith, Jackson, MS; Dr. William C. & Mrs. Ann O. Howland, Jr., Austin, TX; Mr. Dale W. & Mrs. Mary Ann H. Brown, Alexandria, VA; Mrs. Shirley Compton, Louisville, KY; Mr. George H. Coates, Kansas City, MO; Ms. Henri M. Davis, Washington, DC; Ms. Hattie Johnson, Long Beach, CA; Mrs. Helen M. Gray, Arlington, VA; Rev. & Mrs. Charles Webb, Indianapolis, IN; Mr. Robert D. & Mrs. Lois S. Chambless, Raymore, MO; Mr. Robbie N. & Mrs. Louada Chisholm, Silver Spring, MD; Ms. Ruth D. Heimer, Indianapolis, IN; Rev. G. David & Mrs. Dale R. Shreeves, Martinsburg, WV; Ms. Zella Mae Hunter & Ms. Brenda J. Kirk, Tulsa, OK; Rev. William & Mrs. Mary Helen Blackwell, Brandywine, WV; Mr. Harvey & Mrs. Sybel Thomas, Chicago, IL; Rev. Evelyn F. Hale, Lovington, IL

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WILLIAM K. FOX, SR: REFLECTIONS ON HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CHURCH AND HIS INFLUENCE ON MY LIFE by Dr. Ernest Newborn

"Four things a man must do
If he would make his record true:
To think without confusion clearly;
To love his fellowmen sincerely;
To trust in God and Heaven securely."

Henry van Dyke (1852-1933),
an American author, educator, and clergyman.

Seventeen years ago, William K. Fox, Sr. conceived and gave birth to a new publication, The Oldtimers’ Grapevine. I am pleased to join in celebrating this and many more outstanding achievements of “Brother Bill” – my mentor, friend and colleague in ministry. I was asked to reflect on his legacy, including his contributions to the church and also ways in which he has influenced and enriched my life and ministry.

I was a student at Tennessee State University in Nashville. He was a professor of History and Dean of Men at the University. In addition to being a faculty member, Fox was pastor of the Gay-Lea Christian Church in Nashville.
During my senior year at the University, Fox was called to serve as pastor of the Centennial Christian Church in St. Louis, MO. Before moving to St. Louis, Fox officiated at my installation as interim pastor of the Gay-Lea congregation.

The Rev. Dr. Fox has a long and distinguished pastorate with the Centennial Church and the larger St. Louis community. He gave creative and visionary leadership as administrative director of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

His ecumenical involvements included serving as associate director of the New Jersey Council of Churches and providing significant leadership with the National Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches.

In recognition of Fox’s proven leadership and record of achievements, he was invited to join the Disciples’ general office staff as Assistant to the General Minister and President. His responsibilities in that office included serving as Chair of the General Reconciliation Committee, with which I served as Administrative Director from 1978 to 1992.

The Reconciliation Ministry was established in the 1960s to combat the root causes of racism and poverty in our society, i.e., injustice and racial discrimination. The church-wide effort was designed to include congregations, regions, and general units of the church. In addition to annual Special Day offerings, funding was generated by other fundraising events.

The first “BIKE RIDE FOR CONSCIOUSNESS AND FUNDRAISING” was proposed by William K. Fox in 1983. He and I planned and directed the 21-day, 1,326-mile bike ride from Indianapolis, IN, to San Antonio, TX (site of the 1983 Disciples’ General Assembly.) This may shock many, but although Fox celebrated his 66th birthday during the ride, he was ahead during most of the journey! I was only 56 years old.

I need to share a word about my experience with the Fox family (wife Reubena, son William, Jr., and daughter Katherine.) I spent the summer of my first seminary year with the Fox family in St. Louis. As a struggling student, I could not refuse the free food and lodging offered me. As a student minister I was assigned to work with the youth of the congregation.

I also had the opportunity to “shadow” Pastor Fox during his church and community ministries. It was an invaluable experience. I have endeavored in many ways to emulate his example and model of ministry. Henry van Dyke’s poetic words are fitting as I reflect on the life and ministry of William K. Fox Sr. His record is TRUE:

-CLEAR THINKING
-SINCERE LOVING
-SECURE TRUSTING.

THANKS BE TO GOD FOR THE MINISTRY OF WILLIAM K. FOX, SR.!
REV. BRENDA CARDWELL, CO-AUTHOR OF JOURNAL TO WHOLESNESS, REMEMBERS DR. FOX

“... No longer objects of mission but partners in mission.”

The scriptures remind us often to give thanks to those persons who have made a difference in the lives of so many. I can hear Paul saying now, “I thank my God for every remembrance of you” (Phil 3:1).

It is with great joy that I say those same words about Dr. Fox: I thank God for every remembrance of you. He was one of many giants in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). I knew his name and the impact of his leadership in my early teens. My aunt lovingly called him Bill Fox.

It was not until my years at Lexington Theological Seminary that I would really get to know this man of small stature but a Godly giant. My love for telling the story of our people in the life of the Christian Church was fueled by the passion in Dr. Fox. He thought that everyone needed to know our history. I was fortunate to spend time with him as I worked on my research project. This was indeed a joy, as I listened to him tell his story en route to the Historical Society in Nashville.

His love for this church in good times as well as bad were quite evident. His general spirit was apparent as he took time with me to share himself, his wisdom, and encouragement.

One of my greatest remembrances of Dr. Fox was his humility. This was especially so when he allowed me to share the co-authorship of our book. He consulted me as if I knew as much as he did. What an honor and privilege.

I will forever respect and appreciate this Godly Giant. “I thank my God for every remembrance of you.”

OVERHEARD

An elderly man was very ill, and lay in his bed expecting to die at any time. Suddenly smelling the aroma of cookies from the kitchen, he was so overwhelmed that he somehow managed to gather enough strength to force himself down the stairs.

He leaned against the kitchen door frame for rest and gazed into the room. There, spread out on the kitchen table were dozens of his favorite chocolate chip cookies. Was this heaven? Or, was it one final act of heroic love from his devoted wife seeing that he left this world a happy man? Muster ing one great final effort he threw himself toward the table.

His parched lips parted as he imagined the taste of these wondrous cookies. His trembling hand slowly made its way to a cookie at the edge of the table when it was suddenly smacked with a spatula.

“Stay out of those,” snapped his wife. They’re for the funeral.”
As we wrap up this 16th year of publishing the OLDTIMERS’ GRAPEVINE, I thank God and Rev. Dr. William K. Fox, Sr., for convincing me to assume the editorship of this remarkable ministry he had nurtured for 11 long years. I had no idea of the impact it had and the potential it provided for the minority constituency of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). During more than 60 years, I have periodically produced newsletters, but none with the depth of building bridges and mending fences as the OTG.

As we start our 17th year of publishing, in January, 2008, we can proudly say we never missed an issue. God has blessed us with a dedicated Board of Advisors and a volunteer staff of talented Disciples. Though circulation has more than doubled, and the cost of printing and postage has risen, we enter the new year in the black and with plans for more growth.

We ask our wonderful supporters to keep the operation in your prayers as we develop plans to make an important change, due to an illness in the family. This is just a matter of timing; as we move into 2008, everything will remain the same. We are blessed to add the name of Mr. Bruce Tilsley, a prominent artist in Arvada, CO, to our list of distinguished contributors.

Dear friends, 2008 is a very important and busy year in the lives of all Disciples. Pray that as Americans go to the polls to elect a new president of our United States of America, that we will pull the levers for those candidates whose lives most closely parallel the life of Jesus Christ. When our regional assemblies roll around, be among the delegates who will attend and elect God-fearing leaders.

This is the year the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will be meeting in Memphis, TN, July 25 – 28, celebrating the 20th Biennial Session. The excitement continues in Nashville, TN, on July 29, 2008, when friends and supporters of the Historical Society of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) gather for the dedication of the Oscar Haynes Exhibit Hall in the T.W. Phillips Memorial.

The following day the final national event scheduled is the Seventeenth World Convention, July 30 – August 3, 2008, also in Nashville. This is the only global gathering of churches with a heritage in the Stone-Campbell tradition. Participants will come from all around the world. Celebrating under the theme of “Together in Christ,” the gathering draws people from all church streams with a Stone-Campbell heritage. This will include members of the Churches of Christ, the Christian Church/Churches of Christ, and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The Historical Society of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Rev. Dr. Glenn Thomas Carson, president, is one of the sponsors of the World Convention.
It is always exciting when I receive news from Disciple friends. The latest includes wedding anniversaries of those who have reached their 50th or over: D. Duane & Suzie Cummins, 50 and Art & Jean Banks, 50; Algie & Sylvia Rousseau, 51; James & Dorothy Daugherty, 57, and Robbie & Louada Chisholm, 68 years of marital bliss. May God continue to bless you and your loved ones.

Another exciting bit of news comes from Dr. Glenn Carson, President, and the board of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society. The inaugural display in the Oscar Haynes Exhibit Hall will be on the history of the National Convocation. Displays will change annually which means that this exhibit on the important history of the National Convocation will be up from July, 2008 until mid 2009.

Hundreds of persons per month visit the Historical Society, and this means the highlighting of the unique heritage the National Convocation brings to our entire denomination and beyond. Visitors will be exposed to the rich history of such church leaders as Elder Preston Taylor, Convener of the first 41 delegates who attended the First Christian Missionary Convention on September 5 – 11, 1917 in Nashville, TN, held at the Lea Avenue Christian Church.

Elder Taylor is only the first and leader, of the parade of giant church leaders who gave their all to the advancement of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) throughout the world. A quote by Rev. Dr. Raymond E. Brown gives a descriptive picture of the contribution to the whole church of Elder Taylor and the Convocation.

“It was a model church insofar as all being under one shelter; the master, the freedman, and the slave all worshiped together.”

The parade continues with John R. Compton, Rosa Brown Bracy, Emmett J. Dickson, Carnella Jameson Barnes, Lorenzo J. Evans, Sarah Lou Bostik, Sere Stacey Myers, Rosa Page Welch, Enoch Walton Henry, Jr., Albert “A.C.” Stone and Charles Webb, Sr. There are thousands more, deceased and living, who contributed to building bridges that made this denomination a host of witnesses for Jesus Christ.

I thank God for this opportunity to thank every member of the OTG newsletter board, the faithful, talented staff of volunteers, and the loyal readers who have this a banner year in the life of this wonderful publication and me. May the Lord pour out His blessings upon each of you in the New Year. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!
By Oscar Haynes

A standing room crowd filled the pews of Park Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 1010 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y., on October 21, 2007, to witness the installation of Rev. Dr. Alvin O'Neal Jackson as new senior pastor of this 197-year-old congregation.

The procession led by the African djembe drum of the Mandinka people of West Africa, dating back to the great Mali Empire of the 12th century.

Guest preacher for the installation and covenant service was Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes, former senior minister of the Riverside Church of New York City. His dynamic sermon drew frequent applause from the congregants.

In conversation with two members of the congregation prior to the worship, member Jim Gaynor, a writer/sculptor, shared with the OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE that they are blessed to have Dr. Jackson as their pastor. He then introduced Brad Bond, Manager of Customer Relations of The Conference Board, who had recently become a new member. Jim explained that his friend Brad was not an active church member until he visited Park Avenue and heard Dr. Jackson.

“He visited one Sunday”, he stated, “and then he came back a second Sunday. He returned on the third Sunday, and to my surprise he placed his membership. I said we are blessed, because before Dr. Jackson arrived, the Sanctuary was empty on Sundays.”

In July, 2003, when conversation started with Park Avenue, Dr. Jackson shared that on the 16th of May, during a slow walk/run under a darkened overcast through Central Park and by Park Avenue Christian Church, “I started dreaming about ministry possibilities in the city of New York.

Before the Brush Run Church, before the Cane Ridge Church, before the handshake in 1832 in Lexington, KY that united the “Disciples” and the “Christians” together, there was a small faithful group of Disciples of Christ meeting in homes to continue “in the Apostles” doctrine of fellowship, breaking bread and prayers.

It was October, 1810, and this was the beginning of what is known today as the Park Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Fast forward 2010, The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will celebrate its bicentennial. What could Park Avenue Church look like on the 200th anniversary?

- I see a church in 2010 that is dynamic, thriving, vibrant, healthy, growing -with at least 500 active participating members.
- I see a church becoming a beloved community.
- I see a church spiritually centered and grounded, pursuing the disciplines of prayer, study, fellowship, giving and hospitality.
- I see a church that has a passion for justice, and is socially progressive.
- I see a church with two services of Sunday worship.
- I see a church in the heart of the city with a heart for the city.
- I see a church in 2010, 200 years old and growing strong!

Among the many participants in the service were Rev. Dr. Glenn Carson, President, Disciples of Christ Historical Society, Nashville, TN; Rev. Dr. Stephen Gentle, Senior Minister, National City Christian Church, the Denomination's National Cathedral, Washington, DC; Dr. Rev. Dr. Suzanne Webb, Senior Minister, Union Avenue Christian Church, St. Louis, MO; Mrs. Tina and Mr. Cullen O'Neal Jackson, wife and son of Dr. Jackson; Co-Regional Pastors, Northeastern Region, the Christian Church, New York City: Rev. Lonnie Oats, Rev. Raphael Rosa, and Rev. Dr. Judith Hoch Wray, Pastoral Associate, Park Avenue Christian Church.
The Oldtimers’ Grapevine newsletter joyfully welcomes artist Bruce Tilsley to our role of distinguished contributors.

During the General Assembly of 2007, a friendship that started in 1984 with “SESSIONS 84”, Disciple Men at Purdue University, was renewed when I walked into the Fellowship Hall at First Christian Church, Arlington, TX and saw Bruce. It was like a letter from home.

After 45 years as a successful commercial artist, Bruce started painting again at age 68. With acrylics as his favorite medium, his paintings honor nature, the west, and the quickly fading landmarks found along the Front Range and throughout Colorado. His largest commissioned painting to date is a 4 x 8 foot depiction of a high mountain lake and cascading waterfall.

Tilsley studied at the Kansas City Art Institute under Ross Braught and Wilber Niewald in the early 1950s. In high school he was the recipient of numerous awards and received several scholastic scholarships for higher education.

Through his company Graphic Solutions, Bruce produced thousands of logos, brochures and other business-enhancing designs. He is also a recognized cartoonist and illustrator. His works have appeared in several books and publications and his sought-after line drawings have been produced and sold as popular souvenirs for years.

Bruce Tilsley paintings are realistic “no explanation needed” works. His style allows the viewer to see his colorful brush strokes up close, while at a distance they fade away into a “photographic” look. His favorite studio is plein-air but he also works from photos and inspiration. His paintings are currently displayed at several area churches, and represent only a tiny sampling of his prolific work.

Bruce hopes his assorted landscapes, farmscapes and ranchscapes will remind you of the beauty and inspiration of nature. Here are a few samples of his work.

Visit his website at: brucetilsley.com or brucetilsley paintings.

The OLDTIMERS’ GRAPEVINE Newsletter is blessed and honored to have the work of this outstanding Disciple artist appear in this sixteen-year-old publication. Oscar
THE POET’S CORNER

A Blarney New Year It’s About to Be –It Is!

The Blarney Stone had spun me completely around, for to kiss it I had to be turned up-side down.

I hung, like a swing hangs from a tree, between walls in a narrow well but oh how free.

Blarney Stone sets near the top of Blarney Castle and is thought to possess poignant lift.

I sought to receive such inward, eloquent gift.

And while my heart stood still I puckered to kiss.......... Feeling the same as I withdrew my lips, I opened wide my eyes.

I thought “whatever did I miss! Does it take two, three, four or more tries?” realizing then—it wasn’t the Stone that would imbue these gifted traits.

It is the “ROCK” of ages inside my soul that provides the mind’s peculiarities, Innate—bold.

And so

“A Blarney New Year It’s About To Be-It Is!”

A blarney New Year to unfold.

A blarney New Year—full—to behold.

Written Wed., November 14, 2007

BY MAY REED

Blarney, is a village in Ireland that lies northwest of the city of Cork near to Blarney Castle. The Blarney Stone, near the top of the castle, is said to confer on those who kiss it– the peculiar kind of persuasive eloquence alleged to be characteristic of the natives of Ireland. The groves of Blarney are extensive and interesting.

READERS COMMENT CORNER

“Dear Brother,

I commend you and Joan for the outstanding publication, The Oldtimers’ Grapevine. It is such a delight and joy to read all about our friends from all over the world. You have indeed expanded a noble idea into a majestic, literary journal about so many Christian brothers and sisters. Keep up the good work.”

“Dr. Sebetha Jenkins, president, Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, TX.

“Keep up the good work, Oscar.. All Hallows Eve seems an appropriate time to write Oldtimers’. I’m always amazed how many old timers I know. But when I think about it, I am one, so why not. Best wishes”, Frank

Mr. Frank R. Helme, Fort Worth, TX

Dear Oscar,

I just want to thank you for the article regarding the Phillips University Legacy Foundation. Phillips University provided more leadership for the Church than any other higher education institution. We appreciate all you are doing with the Oldtimers’ Grapevine. God bless. Curtis

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

Dear Mr. Oscar

“Charles and I enjoy the Oldtimers’ Grapevine even though we are not Disciples of Christ. God bless you and Joan.” Love, Christine

Mr. Charles & Mrs. Christine Kendrick, Fort Washington, MD

Oscar,

“To one OLDTIMER from 2 OLDTIMERS’11” Orval

Rev. Orval and Mrs. Margaret Holt, Fort Worth, TX

Dear Oscar & Joan,

“Elaine and I so much enjoyed your day at National City recently. It was good to be and see so many good friends again. If you could only put a “hug” in the Oldtimers’ Grapevine. What a great publication!!” Bob

Mr. Robert & Mrs. Elaine Kennel, Holly Spring, NC

Oscar,

“I just received a copy of the Oldtimers’ Grapevine. It’s fantastic! What a great job you and your talented helpers do! What a pleasure to read!” Many blessings, Ken

Dr, Ken, Dr. Emily and Rachael
Brooker- Langston, Annapolis, MD
Newborns to be Honored

Rev. Dr. Ernest J. and Mrs. Janice Newborn, 537 Berkeley Avenue, Claremont, CA, both distinguished leaders in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), were voted recipients of Doctor of Divinity degrees by action of the Board of Trustees, Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, IN, on Friday, November 2, 2007. The degrees will be awarded at the May 17, 2008, commencement service. The seminary will also honor Dr. Newborn, and his wife Janice, along with other honorary degree recipients, at a dinner, May 16, 2008.

The degree of honor for Dr. Newborn is being awarded in recognition of his “faithful ministry, providing visionary leadership to all of his work, but especially in the areas of fighting racism and poverty and working to help the Christian community live into the reconciliation Christ has made possible”, declared the Rev. Dr. Edward L. Wheeler, Christian Theological Seminary, President.

Dr. Newborn is former director of the Reconciliation Ministry of the Christian Church, and pastor of Disciples and United Church of Christ congregations in Tennessee, Missouri and Washington, DC. The 94-year-old congregation, Twelfth Street Christian Church, Dr. Paul Saddler, Pastor, is one of the churches in Washington which has benefited from his scholarly ministerial leadership. Among his many other current leadership positions is: president of the Oldtimers’ Grapevine Board of Directors.

Mrs. Janice Newborn is being awarded the honorary degree in “… recognition of your pioneering efforts, vision, tenacity and skills in your distinctive and groundbreaking work in women’s leadership issues.” She is the retired Executive Director, Office of Disciples Women. The Newborns are parents of two adult children.

Dr. Lester G. McAllister Reviews Teegarden Biography

The biography of Kenneth L. Teegarden, an important 20th century Disciples leader, has been issued by the TCU Press. It is written by D. Duane Cummins, himself a well known Disciples leader and author. Dr. Cummins has given us a comprehensive and readable story of the life of his fellow Oklahoman.

Teegarden was born in 1921 in Cushing, OK. With his death in 2002, the Disciples lost a dedicated and wise counselor, a leader with a pastor’s heart. In six well-outlined chapters, the author covers Teegarden’s family history, his education, his parish ministry in Oklahoma and Texas, and his formation as a leader for the wider manifestations of the church during the years he served as Executive Secretary of the Arkansas Christian Missionary Society.

The major portion of the biography is given over to the prominent role Kenneth Teegarden played in the long process by which the Disciples moved from a loose federation of congregations and agencies to what is known today as the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The 240-page book comes with 30 pages of charming, intimate, and instructive family and church pictures to illustrate his life. There is a helpful index and bibliography. The price is $20.00.

(This important biography was a joint project of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society and Texas Christian University Press. It was officially released during the Historical Society dinner at the General Assembly in Fort Worth, TX. Dr. McAllister is a noted church historian, author and Emeritus Professor of Church History, Christian Theological Seminary.)
Mr. Robert Kennel, a prominent active layman in the Capital Area Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) from 1975 to 1998, has returned to his native North Carolina home. He is has joined the North Carolina Regional Staff as Director of New Church Development. The region committed to 50 new Disciples churches by 2020 and currently has 12 new churches underway.

In a report to the Oldtimers' Grapevine, Mr. Kennel shared how he was led to accept this position because of his involvement in a number of new church developments in the Capital Area. These included several “storefront” churches in Washington, DC and Baltimore, MD. Among these successful church starts is the Hispanic congregation at National City Christian Church (the denominations national Cathedral), Washington, DC; United Christian Parish in Reston, VA, and Pilgrimage Christian Church in Suitland, MD.

This affable North Carolinian also provided the region with his managerial skills by serving as chairman of the board at Bethany House Disciples of Christ Retirement Center, Rockville, MD, for several years. He was also an active member of the Capital Area Regional Board of Managers.

Bob is extending an invitation to any ‘OLD-TIMER’ retiring in North Carolina to join him and his committee in reaching the region’s goal of 50 new congregations by 2020. He explains that the new churches range from Anglo, to African-American, to Hispanic, to Haitian, to Asian as well as several churches of diverse membership.

He reports that the North Carolina Regional Church is working with the Goldsboro-Raleigh Assembly churches as well. He states that Valerie Melvin, (daughter of former Bishop Melvin of the Goldsboro-Raleigh District) recently joined the Regional Staff as Associate Regional Minister for Women’s Ministries, working with John Richardson but also with Bob in new church development.

This layman of endless energy said he also enjoys working with South Carolina Regional Minister Sotello Long. Rev. Long and Bob are both former athletes with North Carolina State University. Rev. Long was a member of NC State's 1974 National Basketball Championship team.

34TH ANNUAL BLACK MINISTER’S RETREAT, MARCH 3-6, 2008

“More Than Conqueror's Through Jesus Christ”  Roman 8:31-39

MIDDLETON CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES of CHRIST), LOUISVILLE, KY

SPONSORED BY DISCIPLES HOME MISSIONS
regional minister, Rev. Edge praised Mrs. Dee Long, a congregational services consultant with Church Extension for complimentary resources in facility planning and insurance filings. She described the congregation’s spirit as “positive but anxious to rebuild.”

COLUMBUS, OH – Northwest Christian Church, Cynthia Adcock, Pastor, hosted the installation services of LaTaunya Bynum and Stephen Bentley as regional associate pastors and Brenda Webster as regional program minister in early October.

Dr. Bynum was senior pastor of Broad Street Christian Church in Columbus when called to the regional staff position. Rev. Bentley was pastor of Hocking Valley Parish in southeast Ohio before becoming interim regional associate minister in 2005. Rev. Dr. Webster was associate pastor of the children’s ministry at Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church, Memphis, TN.

INDIANAPOLIS, IN – Disciples Home Mission, Global Ministries, and other ministry partners lead the church on World AIDS Day, December 1, 2007, reminding us all that HIV is an issue for everyone. They reminded the nation that they have numerous resources that will empower congregations to take part in the eradication of HIV/AIDS around the world.

“Combine a helping of Habitat for Humanity with a dose of Week of Compassion wrapped around Disciples Women and what do you have? A BLITZ BUILD!” declared Mrs. Mohler. The goal is to build a home for a family in need in Beaumont and provide additional relief for hurricane victims in the area. Complete information is available by contacting the Office of Disciples Women, Disciples Home Missions, Attn: Amber Dixson, PO Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1986.

LAS VEGAS, NE – Sheila Spencer, former Executive Secretary of the National Convocation, won second place in the National Association of Black Journalists Spirit in the Words Poetry Competition, held in August 2007 in Las Vegas. “We’re the Hands”, was the title of her entry. It was an amazing week for Ms. Spencer as she interacted with writers from all over the country.

INDIANAPOLIS, IN – Dr. L. Wayne Stewart, Director of Black Ministries, Disciples Home Missions, has announced his departure that was effective, October 17, 2007. Rev. R. Wayne Calhoun, Sr., Minister of Evangelism for Disciples Home Missions, will assume Rev. Stewart’s duties of coordinating the 2008 Black Minister’s Retreat, an annual clergy event to be held in March, 2008.

WASHINGTON, DC – Rev. Steven B. Moore, Senior Pastor of Carmel Christian Church, Carmel, IN, has accepted a call to become Vice President of Development and Associate Pastor at National City Christian Church (the National Cathedral of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), effective January, 2008.

Rev. Moore is a Timothy of Christian Temple Christian Church, Baltimore, MD, and very familiar with the Capital Area Region. In accepting the call, Steven said “As the Vice President of Development, I believe that National City Christian Church has a story to tell. With its unique witness in Washington, DC, National City’s story is one which must be continually communicated and shared in all manifestations of the church and beyond.”

MEMPHIS, TN – Three newly elected members of the Christian Church Foundation Board joined current members at the Fall meeting, October 30-November 4, 2007, for orientation prior to their three-year terms, which start in 2008. Extra activities included a guided tour of the Civil Rights Museum which was followed by a discussion on inclusiveness led by Dr. Cornell Thomas, VP of Diversity, Oklahoma State University. During dinner at the ‘Rock ‘Soul’ Museum that Saturday, the board thanked outgoing members: Brenda Cline, Fort Worth, TX, Edythe Kelley-Greene, Memphis, TN, and Barry Robinson, now living in Oro Valley, AZ. The Board and staff worshipped at Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church as they celebrated the 86th Founder’s Day Celebration on Sunday, Nov. 4th, 2007.

Incoming board members are: Rev. Joan Bell-Haynes, of Washington, DC, co-pastor of United Christian Parish, Reston, VA; Mrs. Elizabeth Topliffe, Grand Rapids, MI, an attorney with Fifth Third Bank, serving as VP and Group Manager since 2001, and Rodney E. Witte, VP and Corporate Banking Manager of First National Bank of Denver, CO.

INDIANAPOLIS, IN – Bishop T. Garrott Benjamin, Senior Pastor of Light of the World Christian Church, and First Lady Beverly
Benjamin, celebrated “The Great 38”, their 38th anniversary of pastoral ministry for this dynamic congregation, October 7th—14th, 2007.

CLEVELAND, OH – Rev. Jack Sullivan, Senior Pastor of Fifth Christian Church, has been elected co-chair of Disciples Justice Action Network (DJAN). Rev. Sullivan succeeds Rev. James Demus, Senior Pastor of Park Manor Christian Church, Chicago, IL. Rev. Demus is one of the founders of DJAN and will continue as a special advisor to the organization.

SUITLAND, MD – Rev. Brenda Cardwell, Senior Pastor of Pilgrimage Christian Church, celebrated her congregation’s 19 years of ministry November 11–17, 2007. Rev. Cardwell is the founding pastor of Pilgrimage. Her capable assistant is Rev. Judy Bowles, a native of Oklahoma, and a very gifted and anointed musician.

KENSINGTON, MD – Rev. Lari Grubbs, regional minister of the Christian Church-Capital Area, celebrated 40 years in the ministry on October 21st, 2007. The region celebrated his anniversary by inviting gifts of $40.00 or more in support of the regional staff. Rev. Grubbs begins a sabbatical in January.

OCEAN PINES, MD – Rev. Dr. W. Chris and Mrs. Carey Meade Hobgood were blessed with the birth of a second grandchild on Nov. 21, 2007, when Johnny David Hobgood came into the world weighing 7 pounds and 6.9 ounces. Parents and grandparents are rejoicing over this blessing from God.


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**OLDTIMERS’ HEALTHVINE**

**SHINGLES**

Shingles is caused by the same virus that causes chickenpox. Once a person has had chickenpox, the virus can live, but remain inactive in your body. If it becomes active again, usually later in life, it can cause shingles. Shingles can appear at any time without warning.

The first signs of shingles can include itching, tingling and burning. A few days later a rash of fluid-filled blisters appears, usually on one side of the body or face.

It is estimated that in the U.S. up to one million cases of shingles occur every year. A vaccine that may prevent this malady is now available; consult your physician about the advisability of obtaining a shot.

*Kim Atwater is a nurse in the ambulatory surgery center at Kaiser Permanente, Kensington, MD*
FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL

LOUISVILLE, KY
Home-going services for Rev. Raphael E. Hancock, Jr., were held at Third Central United Christian Church, 3900 West Broadway Street, Saturday, November 17, 2007, the Rev. Raymond L. Brown, officiating.

Rev. Hancock, the second of three children born to Rev. Raphael E. Hancock, Sr., and the late Mrs. Louise Craig Hancock, was preceded in death by his two siblings, Serome C. Hancock, and Mona Hancock Stone. Raphael received Christ in 1926 at Hannibal Christian Church (now Willow Avenue Christian Church) Hannibal, MO, under the ministry of his father.

PHOTO

Raphael answered the call to Disciples ministry at the age of 17. His is a legacy of Christian Church Ministers and Builders. In addition to his father, there are his paternal grandfather, Rev. Mike Hancock; paternal great uncles, Rev. Will Hancock and Rev. Mark Hancock.

Rev. Hancock was a Disciple Icon — establishing, renovating and pasturing churches in the following locations: Nicholasville, KY (East Maple Street Christian Church,) his first pastorate; Romine Avenue Christian Church, Dallas, TX; Third Christian Church/Warren Avenue Christian Church, Dallas, TX; Boll Street Christian Church/Forrest Avenue Christian Church, Dallas, TX; Community Christian Church (adjacent to Jarvis Christian College), Hawkins, TX, and Central Christian Church, Louisville, KY.

He is survived by a daughter, Bobbie J. Hancock Fant, Louisville, KY; a son, Raphael E. Hancock, III, Las Vegas, NE; a niece, Muriel Stone, Burtonsville, MD; and 14 grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and a host of relatives and friends.

TEMPLE HILLS, MD—Mary Ella Ashby Daugherty, 92, entered into eternal rest on November 16, 2007, following a terminal illness. Her going home services were at Allen Chapel AME Church, Rev. Dr. Michael E. Bell, Sr., pastor, Washington, DC; Presiding Elder Goodwin Douglas, worship leader, and Rev. Dr. Paul Saddler, Eulogy.

Mrs. Daugherty, affectionately addressed “Nana”, was born in Cumberland, MD to the late George and Elmira Nailor Ashy and had resided in the Metropolitan area since 1939. She graduated from Frederick Street High in 1933 and received her two year certificate to teach from West Virginia State University.

Mary married the late Elder George Daugherty on October 18, 1939 at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Cumberland. To this union one daughter, Lillian, was born.

Following her marriage to George, an active member of Twelfth Street Christian Church, Washington, DC, she attended 12th Street and later became an associate member. She later joined the Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church and the National Cathedral.

She was a statistical assistant, Bureau of Mines, U.S. Government and after retirement became a substitute teacher for the Prince George’s County Public Schools. Participants in the worship services included her two sisters-in-law, Elder Dorothy Daugherty, Silver Spring, MD and Elder Doris Daugherty, Washington, DC.

Survivors include her daughter, Lillian Daugherty Young; grandsons, Anthony, Kelvin and George Young; great-grandsons, Branden, Chudie, Allen, Michael and Joshua; brother, James Ashby (June); and numerous family members and friends.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRECIOUS GIFTS

Mr. Bruce & Mrs. Ruth Tilsley, Arvada, CO; Mrs. Barbara M. Hall, Washington, DC; Rev. Orval & Mrs. Margaret Holt, Fort Worth, TX; Mr. John H. & Mrs. Serena L. Burke, Jr., Washington, DC; Rev. Loraine Pitman, Indianapolis, IN; Mr. Charles & Mrs. Christine Kendrick, Fort Washington, MD; Rev. Eugene & Mrs. Bonnie Frazier, Raymore, MO; Mrs. Daisy R. Chambers, Winston Salem, NC; Mr. Robbie N. & Mrs. Louada Chisholm, Silver Spring, MD; Rev. Dr. Judith Hoch Wray, New York, NY; Dr. G. Curtis & Mrs. Becky Jones, Angel Fire, NM; Mr. Robert & Mrs. Elaine Kennel, Holly Springs, NC; Rev. Frank R. & Patricia Helme, Fort Worth, TX; Mr. Barry K. & Mrs. Patti A. Robinson, Angel Fire, NM; Ms. Mary M. Watson, Kansas City, MO; Dr. Lester G. McAllister, Claremont, CA; Rev. Dr. William & Mrs. Mary Helen Blackwell, Brandywine, WV; Rev. Dr. Harold & Mrs. Evelyn Watkins, Indianapolis, IN; Mrs. Gwendolyn B. Robinson, Hyattsville, MD, and Rev. William & Mrs. Dorothy Bowles, Aurora, CO.

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