Deloris Ruddock checks the supply of packed bags ready for distribution.

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"Father, the time has come." Glorify your Son, that your son may glorify you.   John 17:1 (NIV)

Care in Small Packages

Each week on Wednesday, from 10 to 1, ground floor doors of this somewhat forbidding tall building in downtown DC are open to welcome members of the community whose nutritional needs are not being fully met by other sources of nourishment. For over eight years, NCCC Elder Deloris Ruddock has volunteered as manager of the food pantry at National City Christian Church. OTG talked with Deloris and volunteers who, inspired by her example, work with her in offering food supplies to 120-200 visitors per week.

OTG: Who gets the food?

Laurese Dancy: They're people in immediate need of food -- many are homeless, or residents of shelters like N Street Village; some are day laborers; those who have cooking facilities are probably cooking for a family.

OTG: What do you give them?

Lorraine Magnussen: Those who have cooking facilities receive a "menu" of packaged goods -- usually a combination of canned vegetables, meat, and pasta or rice that should provide the basis of a meal. Others take bags of tasty, high-energy snacks including water and juice, cereal and milk, microwaveable ravioli, cheese and crackers, granola bars, fruit cups. Both assortments are packed in recycled plastic bags collected by congregation members.

OTG: Where does the food come from?

Deloris: We buy the canned goods, pasta, peanut butter, and so on from the Capital Area Food Bank at a reduced rate, with funds donated by church members and some money allocated in the church.
budget. The CAFB lets me know what they have available, and I order from that list -- we try to order enough for a month, though sometimes supplies don't last that long.

Barbara Boward: The snack items are donated weekly by a few exceptionally dedicated church members who purchase them in bulk from discount groceries and wholesalers. Occasionally we get a special donation of fresh produce, and canned goods from special projects like a Boy Scout food drive.

OTG: Have you experienced any problems in operating the pantry?

Deloris: Unfortunately, the Food Bank's resources are diminished because of increased demand, in the current economy, and reduced donations from grocery companies. The church budget is tight as well, though members and staff remain committed to this project. We wish we had the resources to provide food more often. And it's a little harder to collect plastic bags now that DC requires groceries to charge for them!

Lorraine Magnussen: It would be very helpful if we could receive more donations of certain kinds of canned and dry goods and snacks.

Lorraine Magnussen at the Great Wall of Cheerios.

OTG: Why do you do this?

Barbara: This seems to meet a particular need in the city, although there are several local church and public meal programs for needy people. A disabled couple from northwest DC, who'd taken two buses to get here, told me they'd worked their way through a list of churches in the phone book to find some food assistance, finding none till they got to the "Ns." For my sister Lorraine and me -- our family has been at National City since 1939, and we consider this an important ministry of the church.

Laurese: We're part of the community, and we should help take care of people who need help.

Barbara Boward and Laurese Dancy pack bags of snacks.

Eddie Franklin: We do this from the heart, and because we want to give something back to the church and the community.

Eddie Franklin and NCCC staff member Roy Hatton prepare for the opening of the food pantry.

Deloris: I realize how fortunate I am to be able to pay something back for all I've been given -- Of course, when we distribute the bags, we receive many blessings, and I think our regular visitors appreciate being greeted and recognized. By the way, Building Superintendent Morris Jackson and his staff Roy Hatton and Mike Dula, along with Rev. Jason Pearson, are an important part of this ministry -- they greet visitors and supervise the sign-in process, so we can have an accurate record of services, in accord with CAFB requirements.

OTG: If another church -- maybe without facilities for cooking and serving food on-site -- wanted to adopt this model in their community, could you advise them?

Deloris: Sure!

Interviews for this article were conducted by OTG Associate Editor (and Food Pantry volunteer)
Ellen Crowder.
Dear OTG Readers,

This is our first newsletter of 2010 and we hope that all is well with everyone.

The new year began bright and beautiful with everyone in high spirits with plenty of resolutions and new beginnings. Then we woke up on January 12, with the news that an earthquake had devastated Haiti’s capital city, Port-au-Prince. Everywhere there was destruction, chaos, cries for help and of anguish – and we wondered what had happened to the serenity of the day before and what would happen to the people of Haiti.

Then reality set in -- these are not just the people of Haiti, these are our sisters and brothers in desperate need of our assistance. Immediately countries who were sworn enemies were working side by side and/or sending much needed supplies/money. Churches and organizations were mobilizing, doing the same. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was at the forefront of these efforts, sending money, clothing, supplies -- whatever was necessary -- and the OT Grapevine did its part as well.

This was outreach ministry at its best, and I knew that we were doing what God asked us to do; we were loving and helping our sisters and brothers in need, and witnessing God’s miracles in the process.

My sisters and brothers, let us continue to help whenever, and do whatever, is required of us. Scripture says, “Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.” Philippians 2: 4 (NIV).

On behalf of the OTG staff, thank you for your continued support of this newsletter. We also want you to know that we have had an increase in readership, for which we are most grateful, and we are so very appreciative of your precious gifts, which make this work possible. We welcome your suggestions about articles that may be of interest to our readers. Let us continue our ministry to support the ongoing efforts to rebuild Haiti, and always remember our duty to our sisters and brothers everywhere. Let us pray for our sisters and brothers there and extend our support.

As we go to press there has been another horrendous earthquake, this time in Chile. Blessings and Peace,

Joyce I. Knox
In the heart of northwest Washington, DC, like a beacon of light on a hilltop, a great church, Shepherd Park Christian, continues to hold aloft the light of the gospel at this crossroads of the world. The influence of this church and its opportunity for service to this area were not dreamed of by those men and women of faith who built the original church 110 years ago. Heirs of a glorious past, we face with confidence the new millennium with its challenges and opportunities.

We are proud of the history of our church, and proud of its accomplishments, in which it has played an important part in the religious life of our nation's capital. The Shepherd Park Christian Church, formerly known as Park View Christian Church and Whitney Avenue Christian Church, was organized in November 1899, and occupied the "Union Chapel", a small brick structure which had been built in 1877 and previously used for a community Sunday School. At a special meeting of the congregation held on Wednesday, March 28, 1945, the church voted unanimously to purchase four parcels of ground, which included three lots and part of a fourth on the corner of 12th Street and Eastern Avenue, Northwest, as a suitable site for a future home. On September 16, 1945, the congregation celebrated its ground breaking ceremony. Excavation for the new building began Friday, November 8, 1946. Construction continued until the summer of 1947.

The beginning of World War II and the rising cost of building materials and labor delayed the cornerstone laying ceremony and made it impossible to continue with completion of the building. Nevertheless, the basement was still prepared and furnished for our bible school and church services. The basement, which we considered our first unit of the building, was dedicated on Sunday, September 14, 1947.

On Sunday, August 29, 1948 the church name was changed from Park View to Shepherd Park Christian Church. As the congregation entered the Golden Anniversary Year, 1949, an extensive spiritual campaign was organized to ensure the completion of the church building. After that had been accomplished, the educational wing and the balcony were added, and the church building was completed. Later, the congregation added the Sacristy Room for communion preparation.

Past memories and present projects are fused together in our future expectations. Our history is woven with the magnificent web of relevant past - a past that is just the prologue to our future. To meet the needs of the present and the future, our current minister, Rev. Dr. Marcus Leathers, our church leaders, and our congregation are helping to make that history.

As we move forward with God's help and our minister's leadership and guidance, we are assured that our church and its growth will be measured by the quality of its purpose, its plans and its programs. Today, we share and work together in shaping the future.

Dr. Viccellio is a long time member of Shepherd Park Christian Church and the church historian.
God’s beloved, I have followed President Obama since his candidacy for President, and applaud his courage in making health care reform the key plank in his platform. This is legislation which has been defeated for a long time and under many administrations. I am incensed at the lack of respect and faith of Congressional members who, with little compassion for their fellow human beings, continue rejecting change, in the face of rising insurance costs. As we approach the vote on this legislation, unforeseen circumstances prevent me from sounding off on the immoral action of Republicans, and some Democrats, as they ignore the plight of fellow citizens.

Be sure to read the April-June, 2010 issue of The Oldtimers’ Grapevine. I will share opinions which time does not permit now because of a surprise health issue requiring surgery. But, by the Grace of God, I will be back with you as we gladly move into the beauty of Spring.

My best wishes for a Blessed Easter. May the love and peace of God abide with all of our precious readers.

Editor’s note The Haynes family and the OTG staff ask that you keep Oscar in your prayers as he recovers from surgery. Please join us as we pray that God’s healing mercies will ensure a complete recovery. Get well wishes may be sent to: Oscar Haynes, 13157 Marcey Creek Road, Herndon, VA 20171.
READER’S COMMENTS

Dear OTG Staff,
Thank you and all who join in to publish and send this wonderful paper to me and all others. I don’t know where you got my name since I know so few people there. I would like to thank them. May God bless you and everyone.

Sister Mattie Lynch

Dear OTG Staff,
We appreciate what you and the others are doing to keep the information flow among Disciples, especially in light of the demise of DISCIPLES WORLD. Give our regards to Oscar, et al.

Gratefully, Harold & Evelyn Watkins

Hi Oscar & Joan,
I wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed and learned from reading the GRAPEVINE. Please see that Jim and I continue receiving the paper. Blessings to both of you.

Nancy

Dear OTG Staff,
I find pleasure from learning of the wisdom and witness of so many Disciples. I also was surprised to read my name in a recent issue, and from that, blessed to receive a letter from a mentor from my youth, the Rev. Harold Johnson, former General Staff, of Indianapolis, IN.

Laird Thomason

Dear OTG Staff,
I greatly appreciate the service that you are giving. I thoroughly enjoy all the publications.

Love, Ruth P. Hobbs

THE POET’S CORNER

Quaff Deeply the Good Things of Life

Some do much too much for their children but teach them less and less; then stand back in wonder when their lives become a mess.

Teach them good things, teach them truth. Don’t stand, watch, and remain aloof. Be a part of their every day and be involved in most every way.

Teach them to quaff the good things, NOT BAD; To drink deeply of goodness – be at peace and be glad.

It’s terribly amazing to see ignorance abound when the presence of God can be seen all around.

It’s amazing to watch young men droop their pants and walk straddle-legged their undies bared to glance.

I watched as three young boys walked toward me and each held up their pants. The three looked downright foolish as if about to dance.

I was tempted to address them “Afternoon Ladies” but of course held my tongue and thought “This is one more reason why so many shun.”

We should teach to quaff deeply the good things in life.

Quaff all you can each day. Be a vessel seeking filling and be filled to run, to work, to laugh, to play.

Be a vessel overflowing as you run this race; Overflowing, quaffing deeply of God’s sweet and wondrous grace.

By May Reed

Written Tue., January 12, 2010
WASHINGTON, DC - On January 28, 2010, Twelfth Street Christian Church presented rewards to William Lloyd Garrison Elementary School students who excelled academically by increasing their grades and proficiency standards in math and reading. Each student received a $5 gift for their success. Pastor Dr. Paul H. Saddler spoke to approximately 100 students and praised them for their worthy efforts as "today's scholars." Presiding Elder Vandy Miller stressed the importance of remaining focused on academics as the key to their future success. The awards were provided by the generosity of Twelfth Street Christian Church. Pastor Saddler presented awards individually as Elder Miller, Deacon Sylvia Miller and Elder Lucy Ward congratulated each student. Principal Rembert Seaward shared his deepest gratitude to Twelfth Street Christian Church for having such a committed interest in Garrison students. Congratulations to Twelfth Street for answering the call to service at Garrison Elementary School!

INDIANAPOLIS, IN - Rev. Spencer P. Austin, retired from Unified Promotion, celebrated his 100th birthday in mid-December, 2009. He is remembered as one who helped create the Christian Church Foundation. His birthday celebration was highlighted by Dr. Gary Kidwell, President of the Foundation, presenting him with a certificate that signified the creation of the Spencer P. Austin Century Fund, a named permanent fund at the Foundation. The fund was started by the Austin family, and will make annual distributions in his name to the Week of Compassion. Dr. Austin’s wife Kitty is a retired member of the Oldtimers’ Grapevine newsletter Board.

SPANAWAY, WA – John Christopher Williams, who has fought a faithful fight against an illness since December 2008, was called home to be with the Lord on Sunday morning, February 7, 2010. He is the son-in-law of Rev. Dr. John R. and Mrs. Marilyn Foulkes. Funeral services were held at St. John Baptist Church in Takoma, WA on Saturday, February 13, 2010. Memorial services were held on Wednesday, February 17, 2010 at Berean Baptist Church, Chicago, IL. Rev. Jeremiah Wright, prominent retired clergyman who married John Christopher and Sarita, participated in this memorial service. The eulogy was given by Dr. Foulkes. Dr. and Mrs. Foulkes request that friends hold their daughter Sarita and their two grandsons Brandon and Christopher in prayer.

To meet the early registration deadline, your mail must be postmarked March 31, 2010. You may also register and get more information by going on line at www.quadrennial.org.
Arthritis

Arthritis is inflammation of a joint. It causes pain, swelling, and stiffness. Arthritis can occur at any age, but it affects older people the most. There are many different types of arthritis. Some types run in families, and others are related to body chemistry imbalances or immune system problems. There are three main types of arthritis: osteoarthritis, rheumatoid, and gout.

Osteoarthritis is the breakdown of joint cartilage. The symptoms are pain, stiffness, and swelling, which are common in fingers, hips, and knees. Rheumatoid arthritis is caused by inflammation of the membrane lining the joint (the synovium.) The symptoms are pain, stiffness, swelling in multiple joints, and joints that may be "hot" and red. Gout is the buildup of uric acid crystals in the joint fluid. Symptoms include a sudden onset of burning pain, stiffness, and swelling.

It might not be possible to prevent arthritis, but there are some things that can be done to help with arthritis.

- Exercise regularly (warm up before exercising)
- Try to control your weight
- Keep muscles stretched
- A warm shower or bath
- If there is no swelling -- apply moist heat for 20-30 minutes, 2-3 times daily
- Gently move the joint through as full a range of motion as possible
- When a joint is painful, limit movement
- When a joint is inflamed -- apply ice or cold packs, approximately 10 minutes per hour
- Medications as prescribed by your doctor

This information can be found in the Kaiser Permanente Healthwise Handbook, 2002.

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

OVERHEARD

An elderly lady was heading downstairs when she heard a burglar in her kitchen, collecting things he was going to steal. She had no weapon and was all alone. The only thing that she could think to do was to quote scripture. So, she called out, "ACTS 2:38!"

The burglar stopped in his tracks, so she was able to get to the phone and call 911. When the police arrived, the burglar was still frozen in place. They were very much surprised that a woman alone with no weapon could manage to stop a thief. One of them asked the lady: "How did you do this?"

The woman told him, "I quoted scripture." The cop turned to the burglar and asked, "What was it about the scripture that had such an effect on you?" The burglar replied, "What scripture? I thought she said she had an ax and two 38's."
WASHINGTON, DC – Edith Deborah Skelton Bell was born in Germany on April 25, 1947 to Wil- lie Lee and Daniel Skelton. She was raised in Wash- ington, DC and graduated from McKinley Technical High School. In 1965, she attended Howard University and majored in drama. Edith loved to read and research genealogy. In addition, she enjoyed music, theater, and the arts.

On August 10, 1968, she married Ernest Bell and they were blessed with two children, Kristine and Keith. Her family was the key focus of her life. Edith was committed to ensuring that her children were respectful, educated, and spiritually anchored. As a wonderful wife, mother, and grandmother, she was and will continue to be the anchor of her family. Her pride and joy were her grandchildren, Devin and Nya. She cherished every moment with them, admiring their energy, quick wit, and intelligence.

In 1968, Edith went to work for the federal Depart- ment of Education (formerly the Department of Health, Education and Welfare) in the Guaranteed Student Loan branch. As a specialist for the department, she traveled around the country to consult on the implementation of student loan programs. She was known for her work ethic, leadership qualities, and wonderful personality. She retired in 2005.

Edith appreciated and cherished the simple things in life, and had the ability to touch family and friends with nothing more than a soft smile, sincere compli- ment, or kind gesture. She used these attributes in furthering her relationship with Christ when she be- came a minister at Michigan Park Christian Church. She served for several years as the Minister of Visi- tation. God blessed her with the gift of visiting and consoling the sick and shut-in. Minister Bell also was an anointed prayer warrior. She will long be remembered for the fervent pastoral prayers she de- livered during Sunday morning services.

Minister Bell also served in several other capacities in the church. She organized the acolytes, served as an Elder, sang in the choir, participated with the youth department, and was the director of the church drama ministry. She wrote and/or directed several church plays such as: “The Douglas Family Christ- mas”, “Give Me Your Dreams”, and many Christ- mas Cantatas.

Minister Bell is preceded in death by her son Keith Bell. She is survived by her husband, Ernest Bell, her daughter Kristine, grandchildren Devin and Nya Bell, and their mother Chereka Melvin, as well as numerous family members and friends.

INDIANAPOLIS, IN – Effie Lois Stamps Buford was born on February 16, 1927 in Hinds County (Learned), MS to Andrew Leander and Seretha Hicks Stamps. Following a lengthy illness, Effie passed away peacefully on January 18, 2010 at the age of 82. She was preceded in death by her be- loved husband, Mr. Owen Buford.

In 1942, she attended Southern Christian Institute; she graduated in 1946 from high school and in 1948 from college, with highest standing. She completed her BA degree at Butler University in Spanish with a minor in Religion. In 1952 she received her Master of Arts degree from the Butler University School of Religion.

In 1950, Effie joined Second Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and began a lifelong lay ministry that culminated in her ordination at Central Christian Church in 1978. Rev. Buford was one of 15 charter members of Faith United Christian Church and remained a member until its closing in 2006. She also served as Chair of the Board of Overseas Ministries, Vice-Chair of the Na- tional Convocation, and Trustee of Earlham College in Richmond, IN.

Effie’s devotion to God was closely followed by her commitment to Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. During
FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL

her tenure, she established 29 new chapters. In the mid-70s she led an excursion to Africa with fellow Sorors and established the first African chapter. She lived to see both her daughter and granddaughter become members of this illustrious organization in 1976 and 2008 respectively. She was loved and treasured by Zetas around the world.

Rev. Buford had an extensive professional career teaching English and Spanish in the Indianapolis Public School system for 32 years. She retired in 1987 when she was named IPS Teacher of the Year.

Rev. Buford will be forever remembered by her devoted sister, Mrs. Hazel Stamps Moore, beloved children Maurice M. Boler, Jr. (Shawn), Cecelia A. Johnson-Powell (Richard), and Suzette E. Fears (Victor), eight grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and a host of loving nieces, nephews, cousins and devoted friends.

ASHLAND, KY -- Fred W. Nall, World War II veteran, prominent church leader, and businessman, died Thursday, January 28, 2010 at Woodland Oaks Health Care Facility following a brief illness. He was born June 21, 1919 in Island, KY to Ocie B. and Grover Cleveland Nall.

Mr. Nall was a member of the Army Corps of Engineers and the Army Criminal Investigation Division in Great Britain, France, Belgium and Germany. He attended the Army School of Criminal Investigation, studied Civil Engineering through the International Correspondence School, and graduated from the American Institute of Real Estate Appraisal at North Carolina State University.

He joined Ashland Oil, Inc., in 1941 at the Owensboro, KY pipeline division, transferred to Ashland in 1957, and served in several supervisory and management positions. He joined the coal division as Land Development Manager and was named Vice President of Ashland Coal in 1981.

Fred retired in 1985, and then devoted his business acumen to establishing quality long term health care facilities. His dedication led to the development of Woodland Oaks Health Care Facility in Ashland, Oakmont Manor in Flatwoods, KY, Middlesboro Health Care Facility in Middlesboro, KY, and Martin County Health Care Facility in Inez, KY. These long term care facilities won several awards for their outstanding quality of care. The clientele included the mother of the Governor of Delaware.

A major portion of his resources and time was devoted to the Christian church and community. He was a member of the Ashland Board of Education, the Board of Trustees for the Lexington Kentucky Theological Seminary, the National City Christian Church Foundation Board, and the University of Kentucky’s Sanders Brown Center on Aging. He joined First Christian Church of Ashland in 1957 and served as Deacon, Elder, and Chairman of the Board.

He served as a member of the Disciples General Minister and President’s Budget & Finance Committee; as a member of the General Board, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in 1975-1978, and as First Moderator, Region of Kentucky, 1978-1980.

Mr. Nall is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, Mary E. Nall; daughters Darlene Y. Nall of Nashville, TN, Sandra Nall Coburn of Orlando, FL, and Patti Nall Sanford of Ashland; and granddaughters, Torri L. Sanford of Wilmington, NC and Lynsey E. Coburn of Orlando, FL.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR
PRECIOUS GIFTS
Mrs. Daisy R. Chambers, Winston-Salem, NC; Mr. Carl Baldon, Sr., Louisville, KY; Mrs. Ruth Hudson, Indianapolis, IN; Ms. Mary Lou Kegler, Kansas City, MO; Mrs. Norvella K. Lloyd, Robersonville, NC; Mrs. Ruth P. Hobbs, Clinton, MS; Drs. Ernest & Janice Newborn, Claremont, CA; Dr. Thomas J. Liggett, Claremont, CA; Mrs. Gwendolyn Robinson, Hyattsville, MD; Dr. Samuel & Mrs. Mildred Hylton, Jr., St. Louis, MO; Mr. Tom & Mrs. Gail Killough, Huntsville, AL; Rev. William & Mrs. Mary Helen Blackwell, Brandywine, WV; Mr. Archie & Mrs. Kathryn Thompson, Baltimore, MD; Dr. Sere & Mrs. Mary J. Myers, Leawood, KS; Mrs. Betty Jo Brown, Houston, TX; Mrs. Betty Carter, St. Louis, MO; Mr. Robbie & Mrs. Louada Chisholm, Silver Spring, MD; Mr. Harold R. & Mrs. Evelyn N. Watkins, Indianapolis, IN; Mr. Dwight Bailey, Forest Park, IL; Mrs. Rebecca K. Galloway, Chatham, VA; Mrs. Mattie W. Lynch, Tazewell, VA; Mr. Laird & Mrs. Evelyn Thomasen, North Bethesda, MD; Christian Church Foundation, Inc., Indianapolis, IN; Rev. William & Rev. Narka K. Ryan, Baltimore, MD; Rev. Lois Hodrick, Somerville, TX; Mr. Clarence Hodrick, Taylor, TX; Dr. & Mrs. Langford, Indianapolis, IN; Mrs. Tracie D. Powell, Mt. Rainier, MD.

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CANDL Award to Oscar Haynes

On May 22, 2010, at the National City Christian Church Foundation meeting, the CANDL Light Award was presented to OTG Editor Oscar Haynes, the award inscribed "... to Oscar Haynes, for a Lifetime of Letting His Light Shine to the Glory of God." Our beloved Oscar is one of the most recent recipients of this award, given by CANDL founders Louis and Carolyn Brown, " ... to bring recognition to individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to service and to using their talents to create a positive influence." Other 2010 recipients of the CANDL award are Rev. Stephen Gentle and Miriam Gentle.

The CANDL Foundation was established in 2000 by Dr. and Mrs. Brown as an answer to the question, "What do you do when you have enough?" and their answer, "You give it away." The Foundation distributes to schools and churches an innovative device, Phonic Phones, using a product made by their successful plastics company. The "phones" support early development of reading skills in grades K-2, and over a million of them are in use in the 50 states, Canada, and several other countries. Any elementary school teacher may request 6 free phones through the www.candlfoundation.com website, or by calling 800-633-1212. Additional phones may be purchased for $2 apiece in cases of 24; profits are returned to the Foundation.

Cont’d on pg 2
Candl Award cont’d

also sponsors education programs such as
the Grandfather Reads videos and coopera-
tive programs with Kiwanis Clubs, PhonicsQ,
and Challenger Centers for Space Science
Education.

Certainly Oscar Haynes, the Gentles, and the
Browns represent the philosophy of the
CANDL Foundation, expressed in this quote
from George Bernard Shaw:

“I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the
whole community and as long as I live, it is my
privilege to do for it whatever I can. I want to
be thoroughly used up when I die, for the
harder I work the more I live. I rejoice in life for
its own sake. Life is no brief candle to me. It is
a sort of splendid torch which I got to hold up
for the moment and I want to make it burn as
bright as possible before handling it on to the
future generations.”

Ellen Crowder

Rev. Fiddmont to Lead Southwest Zone
by Jim Cullumber, Christian Church Foundation

The Rev. Marilyn Fiddmont, staff member of
the Christian Church Foundation since 2001,
has been promoted to vice president of the
Foundation’s newly created Southwest Zone.

“Marilyn continues to be a blessing, not only
to the Foundation, but to the whole church as
she works with donors, congregations and
partner ministries”, proclaimed Foundation
President Gary W. Kidwell, who announced
the promotion at a recent Board of Directors
meeting.

The Southwest Zone will cover donors and
congregations in New Mexico, Arizona, and
areas served by the Pacific Southwest Re-

gion. She previously was an assistant vice
president working in Texas, Oklahoma, Mis-
sissippi, Arkansas, and Louisiana.

“I am always grateful to sit with God’s people
as they consider what they can give to minis-
try, how they can become a legacy congrega-
tion, or just to be reminded of their wholeness
and sacredness as a human being,” Marilyn
said. “What we do is life-giving, creative and
valuable to kingdom building.”

Fiddmont has a master of divinity degree from
Houston Graduate School of Theology. She
previously served as program assistant for the
Coastal Plains Area of the Christian Church in
the Southwest, and as associate minister of
The Good Shepherd Christian Church in
Houston, TX. Her husband, Norman Fidd-
mont, is former pastor.

The Christian Church Foundation is a general
ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of
Christ), helping individuals make planned gifts
that benefit their favorite church causes. The
Foundation also assists congregations in their
own legacy planning, as well as in the devel-
opment of permanent fund policies and institu-
tional investing. At the start of 2010, the Foun-
dation was responsible for about $382 million
of the Church’s money.

Reverend Fiddmont
MOUNT CARMEL CHURCH OF CHRIST/
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

CELEBRATES 125 YEARS OF MINISTRY

by Eva Mariner and Carolyn Manning

In 1885, in its infancy, Mount Carmel Church of Christ/Disciples of Christ held meetings in homes and under trees at the location where it now stands. Today, Mount Carmel remains at 1185 South Stewart Street in Jamesville, NC. In 1898, the deed to the land on which the church is located was recorded in the Martin County Courthouse in Williamston, NC. The church was listed in the Washington and Norfolk District Assembly Minutes as being founded on a “Monday night following the second Lord’s Day in October.”

Mount Carmel was formed by several men in Jamesville who loved the Lord and saw the need for a Disciples Church there. These visionary men of God were Harry E. Ellison, Stephen A. Staton, Dave Walker, George F. Cordon, Sr., and Clinton R. Rascoe. Mount Carmel, along with the other Assembly Churches, practices the ritual of foot washing in conjunction with the Communion Service. Mount Carmel’s history can best be told in terms of pastoral tenures, spiritual growth, membership and physical structure.

Early History 1898-1927

Records of the first 37 years are, at best, recollections. Records were not archived and therefore hard to authenticate. We do know the first pastor was Elder Henry G. Speller who was elected in 1880, followed by Elder W. S. Wise in 1903, Elder J. R. Green in 1908, Elder G. D. Norman in 1912 and Elder W. H. Peele in 1918.

Winstead Pastorate 1927-1956

During Elder Claude Winstead’s tenure, the church was wired for electricity in 1939; it was remodeled in 1942 for the grand sum of $185.00; the first communion table and a piano were purchased. Services were conducted on third Sundays with full pews in the church proper and in the balcony, and baptisms were held in the Roanoke River. Elder Winstead will always be remembered for leading the congregation in the song “It Is Well With My Soul.” His tenure ended with his death in 1956.

Slade Pastorate 1956-1977

Elder William Slade began his tenure with programs to make needed repairs to the church, and in 1959, gas heaters were installed. Even though members began moving to the city for economic improvement, the church continued to be spiritually strong. Minister Willie Norfleet was an associate pastor under Elder Winstead and continued through the pastorate of Elder Slade. Minister Norfleet also served as the church’s sexton.

Harvey Pastorate 1965-1977

Elder Samuel Harvey began an evening service for the youth on third Sunday evenings. He enhanced the physical structure of the church by having bathrooms, central air conditioning, and heat installed, and the church was bricked. Elder Harvey’s tenure ended when he became full-time pastor of Bethel Church of Christ/Disciples of Christ in Roper, NC.

Wilkins Pastorate 1977-1981

Under Elder Robert Wilkins’s leadership, greater emphasis was placed on youth training, with the addition of a youth choir and junior ushers. Renovations were also made to the church’s physical structure. He is remembered as a dynamic teaching preacher who promoted the church spiritually and worked hands-on with the youth.

Collins Pastorate 1981-present

Because of the leadership of Elder William T. Collins, Sr., the spirituality of the church
Mt. Carmel cont'd

continues to be enhanced, and plans to improve the structure have been implemented and mostly completed. An additional Sunday service was added, on second Sundays, which is designated Youth Sunday. A Youth department has been organized, with a Youth Director and youth serving on the Trustee and Usher Boards. Many changes have taken place since Elder Collins became the Pastor, most notably: a grant for a Youth Employment Program was obtained and implemented under the Healthy Start Baby Love program; the Youth academic achievement and incentive program was established; the structure was made handicapped accessible in 1988; Wednesday noonday prayer services, Wednesday night family hours, and Bible studies were added; and other auxiliaries and committees were added to make the church holistic.

Under Elder Collins's leadership, two wings have been added to the sanctuary (kitchen and office); renovations, including a sound system, have been completed in the sanctuary; and a van was purchased for the church. In 1989, the church was chartered and incorporated. We also voted to join the newly formed Eastern North Carolina and Virginia District Assembly. Mount Carmel Church of Christ/Disciples of Christ continues to maintain its heritage as we seek to carry out the great commission given by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to "Magnify Christ Continually" in our worship services, special programs, and community outreach.
Greetings, God’s beloved. Thanks to my many God-fearing friends who lifted me up in prayer, I am back with you after a speedy recovery from carotid surgery on Monday, March 22, 2010, at Reston Hospital Center, Reston, VA. My faith led me to believe God is in control and I would return.

In my correspondence recently, there was a prayer for President Obama, and the writer asked that I pass it along. Upon reading the many prejudicial articles in the press and horrible attacks during demonstrations against our President, all voices should be raised in prayer for his life.

As I enumerate some of the many acts of evil, remember that overall, one party of congressional leaders unanimously announced they would not support any legislation presented by the President, and they have lived up to it. Then in the streets, groups demonstrating under the banner of the “tea party” demonstrated both armed and unarmed, clearly showing the nation the degree of anger and racist moods they wanted the world to see. One demonstrator, Daniel Almond, an Iraq veteran and Atlanta-area real estate agent, demonstrated armed with pistol, rifle and ammunition. He was upset about healthcare reform, climate control, bank bail-outs, drug laws, and his concern that President Obama’s insistence on the Democratic Congress’s capitulation to a “totalitarian socialism” would trample individual rights. One clear signal of how racist the groups were is former Congressman Tom Tancredo’s statement, “President Obama was elected because ‘we do not have a civics literacy test.’”

Eugene Robinson, award-winning columnist for the Washington Post, writing about the “Tea Party” demonstration in New York City on Tax Day, said, “The overhyped Tea Party phenomenon is more about symbolism and screaming than anything else. A ‘movement’ that encompasses gun nuts, tax protesters, devotees of the gold standard, Sarah Palin, insurance company lobbyists, ‘constitutionalists’ who have not read the Constitution, Medicare recipients who oppose government-run health care, crazy ‘birthers’ who claim President Obama was born in another country, a contingent of outright racists, and a bunch of fat-cat professional politicians pretending to be ‘outsiders’... certainly is not a coherent intellectual or political force.”

The other party is not the only hard-fought opposition the President continues to face. I can understand the discouragement Sen. Evan Bayh was experiencing in Congress, but can not see why he would resign and deprive the president of his vote. This is a big blow, because his seat is open to the opposition at a critical time. His criticism of the inactivity of congress was even more depressive for President Obama than for Sen. Bayh.

Big money has fought the President even before he was inaugurated on January 20, 2009. The press has been atrocious in reporting stories even when he had won an impossible victory with the healthcare legislation. Others editorialize about every story by slanting the truth. Fox News has openly conducted a propaganda campaign against the Obama administration. Prominent journalist Howell Raines, former executive editor of the New York Times, in a press release in March, 2010, said Fox News is unfair, unbalanced and unchecked, adding as an afterthought, ‘dishonest.’ An example of those fighting the president is Stephen J. Hemsley, CEO of United Health Group, one of the nation’s largest health insurers, who reaped $98.6 million last year from exercising stock options, as reported by the company.
Only the power of God can effectively overcome the power structure of lobbyists and of Wall Street, which was able to set off a great financial crisis affecting the entire world. I fully endorse this prayer, having just experienced the power of intercessory prayer myself.

**LORD,**

*We pray for optimum health, mental clarity, and political prosperity for President Barack H. Obama. We pray that what he lacks in political ‘experience’ you make up for with supernatural wisdom and power. We also pray that when his enemies come upon him they will stumble and fall; and that your love will fill his heart to the end that ‘Your will’ be done through him. We pray mightily for his protection and his family. We reverently ask you to dispatch legions of angels to protect them from all hurt, harm, and danger as he serves as the President of the United States of America. We thank you and praise you for answering our sincere prayers, in Jesus’ precious name. Amen.*

---

**The Poet’s Corner**

**Poetically Speaking**

Jessie Brown Pounds was a lot like me. She wrote stories and poems, her pen flowed free. So many stories, short and sweet. So much presence of mind to share, not keep.

Sometimes thoughts awaken you from sleep The magic of words you cannot hold, they outward leap. Pen, paper, pencils kept always at hand, and when not in place, words may sift like sand. Your thoughts need be caught on paper no less or pieces and particles later missing impute distress.

Ole Jessie had a mighty way with word and thought. In writing she touched and enchanted the heart. When you started to read the enchantment rose and peaked; I couldn’t stop reading till the full message was leaked; Reading and cruising in her writings I’d find, cascading words became a mental gold mine.

I write for I love arranging words. I love writing and reading, and sharing verbs. I love singing too for music floods my soul with song. The two graces are God given and in my heart belong.

May Reed

Written Sat., March 13, 2010
The 21st Biennial Session of the National Convocation

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE ARE ABOUT

by Rev. Dr. Timothy James

It was in 1969 when the International Convention adopted the "Principles for Merger of the National Christian Missionary Convention, the United Christian Missionary Society, and the International Convention of the Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ)." As a result of the adoption of the "Principles" document, a new entity, the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), was formed to "nurture a realization of the merger vision."

The Convocation is an expression of the church that is positioned to promote racial harmony. The National Convocation was to be responsible for pointing "the emerging Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) toward racial inclusiveness and unity across racial lines."

A fivefold sharing formula for guiding black Disciples of Christ in the realization of the merger was presented in 1969. African American Disciples of Christ were urged to:

1. Share in the administration of Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) agencies by serving on policymaking boards and committees.

2. Share in the work and employment of the Disciples at all levels.

3. Share in the drama and exhibition of the work of the church as performed by the regional and general organizations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

4. Share in the financial support of the causes and concerns of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

5. Share faithfully and loyally in the activities, fellowship, and aspirations of the Disciples as a people moving toward complete inclusiveness and diversity.

(Taken from "The Encyclopedia of the STONE-CAMPBELL MOVEMENT", eds. Foster, Blowers, Dunnavant, and Williams; contributors William K. Fox, Sr. and John R. Foulkes, Sr.)

Dr. James is Associate General Minister of the Christian Church/DOC and President and Executive Secretary of the National Convocation.
21st Biennial Session

NATIONAL CONVOCATION CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
OKLAHOMA CONVENTION CENTER-Renaissance Hotel and Spa
10 NORTH BROADWAY ~ OKLAHOMA CITY ~ PH: (405) 228-8000
JULY 29-AUGUST 1, 2010

WED. JULY 28
1ST ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT
$60.00

THURS. JULY 29
PRE-CONVOCATION LEADERSHIP
CLERGY/LAITY
$40.00

FRI. JULY 30
COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS
5-7 PM

SAT. JULY 31
COMEDY/POETRY HOUR
COMMUNITY INVITED TIME

REGISTRATION MAY BE DONE
ON-LINE AT DISCIPLES.ORG/CONVOCATION.
MAIL REGISTRATION WITH PAYMENT TO:
NATIONAL CONVOCATION,
130 Washington St.,
Indianapolis, IN 46204.
Phone (317) 713-2406
Fax (317) 713-2417 or Contact:
Rev. Jesse Jackson, Jr. at
East Sixth St. Christian Church
(405) 235-3201

THURS. JULY 29-7 PM
M.L. JEMISON
St. John Missionary Baptist Church, OKC, OK
Past President of Progressive National Baptist Conv.

FRI. JULY 30-8:30 AM
DERRICK PERKINS
CENTENNIAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH
ST. LOUIS, MO

FRI. NIGHT JULY 30-7:30 PM
JEANS & T-SHIRT WORSHIP
SHELDON MCCARTER
GREATER CLEVELAND AVE. CHRISTIAN
WINSTON SALEM, NC

SAT. JULY 31-8:45 AM
SEKINAH HAMLIN
ANTI-RACISM & PRO RECONCILIATION
MINISTER FOR THE S.E. REGION OF THE
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

SUN.-AUG. 1- 6-9 PM
CONVOCATION BANQUET
MELVIN BROWN
MY FATHER'S HOUSE MINISTRY
LADSON, S.C

SUN.-AUG. 1-WORSHIP IN LOCAL CHURCHES
# 21st BIENNIAL SESSION REGISTRATION FORM

**July 29-August 1, 2010**

**Renaissance Oklahoma City Convention Center Hotel**

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**EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION DEADLINE ENDS MAY 31, 2010**

**REFUND POLICY:** Processing fee of $20.00, no refund after June 30, 2010.

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*Registration deadline July 1, 2010*

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<th>Clergy Institute, Lay Leader Institute, (Circle applicable Institute) Fee: $40.00</th>
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**Exhibitor Fee:** Disciples of Christ Member - $350.00, Non-Disciple - $400.00

*Exhibitor fee includes registration fee for 1*

**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED**

| $                                                |

**Methods of Payment:**

Checks, Money Order, Cashier’s Check – make payable to: National Convocation, 130 East Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204

Credit Card: American Express _____, Discovery _____, Master Card _____, Visa _____ (check one)

Card Number: ________________________________

Expiration Date: _____________________________

Mailing Address (If different from information on the Registration Form) ________________________________

Signature: _________________________________

Printed: _________________________________

*Please print your name as it appears on your credit card*

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**MAIL REGISTRATION FORM WITH PAYMENT TO:** National Convocation, 130 East Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204

Phone # (317) 713-2406 Fax # (317) 713-2417

| 9 |
The power of collegiate sports was displayed at the end of this basketball season when Butler University's basketball team, from a small university with a student body of 4200 and an athletic budget of $1.7 million, defeated powerful Michigan State 52-50 in the final four and lost the championship to Duke University by two points, 61 to 59. Duke has a $13.8 million athletic budget.

Despite the rich history of Butler University, it took this team of well-coached basketball players to bring national recognition to this college, which has historic ties to abolitionist Disciples. The university takes its name from one of its founders, Ovid Butler, an attorney, newspaper publisher, and social activist. His family moved from Augusta, NY to Jennings County, IN, where his father Chancey Butler, became one of the first Stone-Campbell movement preachers in state history.

In 1836, the family moved to Indianapolis, and in 1849, Ovid Butler established the abolitionist and political newspaper *Free Soil Banner*. This same year, he gave up his law practice and concentrated on social justice issues. Butler University was originally North Western University, but the name was changed in 1877 in honor of its celebrated founder and most generous financier, abolitionist Ovid Butler.

The team's victory was celebrated by Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins, General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in United States and Canada, who is a Butler graduate. She told the press she believed the team's work ethic and mental toughness helped them achieve so much this season. "It is always fun when your alma mater makes news in a good way," she said. Dr. Watkins added that her biggest source of Butler pride "is in the tradition of its founding by Disciple Ovid Butler, as an abolitionist school and as a rare place where women could receive a college education."

"It's been quite exciting," said Virginia "Ginny" Spradlin, a 1966 Butler graduate and retired staff member of the Christian Church Foundation, commenting on the Butler team. "They were confident, they were poised...they just looked good."

A preacher visits an elderly woman from his congregation. As he sits on the couch he notices a large bowl of peanuts on the coffee table. "Mind if I have a few?" he asks. "No, not at all!" the woman replied. They chat for an hour and as the preacher stands to leave, he realizes that instead of eating just a few peanuts, he emptied most of the bowl. "I'm terribly sorry for eating all your peanuts, I really just meant to eat a few."

"Oh, that's all right," the woman says. "Ever since I lost my teeth all I can do is suck the chocolate off them."
The Oldtimers’ HEALTHVINE

Understanding Headaches

**Tension-type headaches** - this is the most common type of headache

**Symptoms:**
- A dull pain on both sides of the head, scalp, temple, or back of the neck
- Muscles in the back of the neck may feel “knotted” and tender to the touch

**Trigger/Causes**
- Stress - anxiety - fatigue - depression - oversleeping - bad posture

**Treatment**
- Warm or cold showers - adequate rest - over-the-counter pain relievers - relaxation

**Prevention**
- Exercise - manage depression - reduce stress

**Cluster Headaches** - These headaches come in groups or “clusters” of 1 to 5 headaches a day, everyday for weeks or even months at a time

**Symptoms**
- Pain is centered on one side of the head, usually around the eye, temple or one side of the forehead
- Pain is steady, sharp, burning and piercing

**Triggers/Causes**
- Drinking alcohol - smoking - certain foods (discussed later)

**Treatment**
- Prescribed medication - rapid breathing of pure oxygen for 5-15 minutes

**Prevention**
- Limit alcohol - quit smoking

**Migraine headaches** – These headaches come in two categories, classic and common. Migraine sufferers can have 2 to 4 headaches per month. Many sufferers are women.

**Symptoms** (for both types of migraines)
- Pain is intense, throbbing and pounding
- Pain is everywhere (front, back, sides)
- Nausea and vomiting
- Sensitivity to light and sound

**Triggers/Causes**
- Family history - certain foods (discussed later)
- Stress - alcohol - hormone replacement therapy
- Menstruation - birth control pills - fatigue
- Weather changes

Food is the suspected trigger of 1/3 of all migraine headaches. Foods to avoid:
- Caffeine, Chocolate, coffee, tea, soft drinks
- MSG, Most processed foods, Asians foods
- Alcohol, Red wine, champagne, beer
- Dairy products Aged cheese, sour cream
- Fruits, Avocados, bananas, citrus fruits
- Processed meats, Hot dogs, sausage, bacon, ham
- Fresh yeast, Breads, bagels, donuts, cookies
- Risen baked goods, Cakes, pizza dough
Healthvine cont’d

• Medication
  • Cold pack on forehead

Prevention
  • Avoid triggering foods - reduce stress - relax
  • Prescribed medication to prevent migraines

There are several other types of headaches but these are the most common.

All information obtained by A. Krames Publication 2006 and Kaiser Permanente

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

DISCIPLES NEWS ROUND-UP

SPRINGFIELD, VA—Eighteen women from Springfield Christian Church and Twelfth Street Christian Church held a Women’s Retreat at Springfield on April 10, 2010. There was time for sharing, reflection, worship, music, and food, with a focus on living our lives as a blessing to family, friends, in the workplace, in the church, in the community and in the world.

As part of their vision to be a blessing to the world, the group assembled 85 hygiene kits to send to Church World Service for use in areas hit by earthquakes, hurricanes, or other disasters. In addition, a sizeable care package of “goodies” was assembled, including a number of greeting cards with handwritten messages, that was sent to troops overseas.

The women look forward next year to continuing their tradition of holding a combined retreat each Spring.

NEW YORK, NY - Dr. James Cone, a prominent writer who is considered one of the most influential African American theologians ever, was honored by the Academy of Religion when he was awarded the Martin Marty Award for the Public Understanding of Religion. Established in 1996, the award recognizes an individual each year whose extraordinary contributions have relevance not only to scholars, but more broadly to the public as well. Earlier on the day of the award ceremony, longtime friend Dr. Cornel West interviewed Dr. Cone, providing the audience first-hand insight into the background of this outstanding historian, his influences, and his writings.

INDIANAPOLIS, IN – With the grace of God and the help, support, and training of Bishop T. Garrott Benjamin, a new congregation, Amazing Grace Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), will be planted on the northeast side of Indianapolis, IN. The planting pastor is Rev. Dr. Preston Adams, III. According to Dr. Adams, “the planting of this congregation is made possible by the grace of God and is the culmination of 20 years of prayer and the best preparation a planting pastor could receive”. Amazing Grace Christian Church (AGCC) will launch on September 12, 2010, and the Indiana Region has designated the church as a “Congregation in Formation.” The focus of the church will be the unsaved and the unchurched. The mission is to encourage, equip, and empower. Because of the hard work done by the planting Pastor, Dr. Adams, First Lady Greta Adams, the Amazing Grace Christian Church Launch Team, Bishop Benjamin, and the Light of the World Christian Church congregation, this new church start is able to launch as a vital and energetic congregation.
FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL

INDIANAPOLIS, IN - Talented artist Geneva B. Griffin was discovered at the early age of six when she sang her first solo in a school play. An outstanding student in all her studies at Howard High School, she was featured in programs with the Glee Club and a small ensemble. She also sang on a weekly radio show called the “Catholic Hour”. Etta Wooden, her high school music teacher, recommended Geneva for a scholarship to study voice at the Delaware School of Music. She was the first African American to attend the school.

After graduating from Howard High, Geneva enrolled in the School of Music at Howard University, Washington, DC. She was a soloist with Howard’s a cappella choir and received the Gold Key Award. The late Lula May Haynes was a choir member and dear friend of Geneva. Geneva graduated with a Bachelor of Music (MUSB) degree in voice. After graduation, Geneva did graduate study in the field of education at the University of Delaware and the University of Oklahoma.

This outstanding musician, wife of the late Rev. Dr. Thomas J. Griffin, has performed concerts with the Houston Symphony Chorale, the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir, the Indianapolis Opera Company, and the Indianapolis Matinee Musicale choral ensemble. She and her late husband, a prominent vocalist as well as preacher and teacher, were the first African Americans to conduct the opening and closing of all worship services at the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Kansas City, KA.

Geneva was baptized into the Christian Church by her husband and she immediately began serving as choir member, choir director, Sunday School teacher, Sunday School superintendent, Elder, secretary of the board of managers, chair of the board of managers, and vice-president of Christian Women’s Fellowship. She served two terms on the Commission of Ministry in Indiana. Mrs. Griffin will be remembered for her outstanding terms of service on the Indiana Regional Board and the General Board of the Christian Church.

She served on the Star Supporter Scholarship Committee and the Black Disciples Endowment Fund, as President of the Ministers’ Wives of the National Convocation, and as special soloist at the General Assembly and the National Convocation. Among her numerous awards are the Indiana Black Expo Community Service Award and the Finer Womanhood Week Woman of the Year Award from Zeta Phi Beta Sorority.

COLUMBUS, OH -- Lydan Smith Range, 78, departed this life Thursday, April 8, 2010 at her residence in Columbus. A graduate of Jackson State and Ohio State Universities, she retired from the Columbus Board of Education as an elementary school teacher. She was a member of the NEACEA and OEA, and a member of Bethany Christian Church, where she served as Elder Emeritus and former Church Chairperson. Mrs. Range was preceded in death by her parents Theodore Roosevelt Sr. and Versie Mae Peebles Smith; her husband Rev. Ozark Range Sr., three brothers and three sisters. Remaining to cherish her memory are her children Chester Louis Range, Zita Lavelle Moses, Ozark Range Jr. and Robin Jean Range; her brother Allen Smith; sisters Lillian Ducker, Gala Starling, Adell Smith, Elinder Martin, Nettie Smith and Loretta Peoples; 11 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren; and a great host of nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives and friends, including a special sister-in-law, Mynetta Smith, and the Bethany Christian Church family. Her Celebration of Life Service was held at Bethany Christian Church, 1130 Livingston Avenue, with Elders Ozark Range Jr. and Ronald B. McNabb officiating.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRECIOUS GIFTS
Mr. Robbie & Mrs. Louada Chisholm, Silver Spring, MD; Ms. Ann Cappiello, Kensington, MD; Mrs. Ruth D. Helmer, Indianapolis, IN; Mr. Richard & Mrs. Violet Bierce, Alexandria, VA; Dr. Sere & Mrs. Mary J. Myers, Sr., Shawnee Mission, KS; Ms. Lucy Reed, Tulsa, OK; Mrs. Erbie Person, Victorville, CA; Ms. Jacquelyn Stockton, Milton, MA; Ms. Josie W. Meeks, Washington, DC; St. James Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Somerville, TX; Rev. James P. & Mrs. Nancy Johnson, Lexington, KY; Ms. Jean Muir, Great Falls, MT; Dr. Donald K. & Dr. Charissee Gillett, Lexington, KY; Ms. Marjorie Bennett, Silver Spring, MD; Mr. Lou & Mrs. Carolyn Brown, Huntsville, AL; Mr. Robert & Mrs. Linda Glover, Indianapolis, IN; Ms. Ovara O. Miller, Kansas City, KS; Ms. Eva Doretha Thomas, Detroit, MI; Ms. TaShana Robinson, Indianapolis, IN; Rev. William & Mrs. Mary Blackwell; Brandywine, WV.

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Washington, DC  20020-1245
Carl Long, Hero in Baseball and in Life

by Rev. Sotello V. Long

Carl Long is the husband of Ella Long and the father of Cynthia Long, Teresa Whitfield and the South Carolina Regional Minister, Pastor Sotello V. Long. He is a member of the Grove Park Christian Church, Kinston, NC. He loves God, family and baseball!!! It has been said that "Carl's a true trailblazer," by North Johnson, former Kinston Director of Baseball Operations. "A trailblazer in every aspect of the word, not just in what he did for baseball in Kinston, but what he has done and continues to do for the city in so many ways."

On July 2, 2010 he was featured among the surviving members of the Negro Baseball League who gathered in Washington, DC for a grand celebration honoring the men and a few women who played Negro League baseball, at the time of the inaugural issuance of a commemorative stamp by the U. S. Postal Service.

Long, who made his debut in the Negro Leagues with the Nashville Stars at age 15, is a captivating storyteller of his days as a player. The South Carolina native later achieved a high level of success playing the outfield as a star center fielder for the legendary Birmingham Black Barons.

He was named to the Negro League All-Star team in 1953. He set the record for batting in...
111 runs in a season for Carolina League baseball. He also played on the Pittsburgh Pirates minor league baseball team. Long eventually broke the color barrier, becoming the first black player to play for the Kinston Eagles in the late 1950's, before a shoulder injury cut his career short. He has been inducted into the Negro League Hall of Fame in Washington, DC and he was inducted into the Kinston Indians Hall of Fame.

Carl Long’s Baseball Career History

Negro League Baseball
1951 Nashville Stars
1952-53 Birmingham Black Barons

Provincial League Baseball
1954 St. John’s Quebec, Canada

Minor League Baseball – Pittsburgh, Pirates
1955 Pioneer League, Billings, Montana
1956 Kinston Eagles, Kinston, NC - first black player in the Carolina League
1957 Mexico City
1957-58 Beaumont, TX

Kinston Indians - Carolina League Baseball
Hall of Fame Inductee: Feb. 7, 2003

Negro League Baseball Hall of Fame Inductee: May 12, 2003

Played with Willie Mays...against Henry Aaron and Charlie Pride.

He was a good long ball hitter with a good strong and accurate throwing arm!

Professional Accomplishments

First black baseball player in the Carolina League
First black Deputy Sheriff in the city of Kinston
First black city detective in the city of Kinston
First black Seashore/ Trailways commercial bus driver

If you want to find out more about the history of Negro League Baseball, just call to speak with Carl about his experiences during that time, or ask him about those other famous players he met that we all love.

Rev. Sotello Long is Disciples Regional Minister of the South Carolina Region.
QUADRENNIAL ASSEMBLY 2010

"Awake! Awake, Deborah!
Awake! Awake, break out in song!"

Judges 5:12a
by Adele T. Staton

The 14th Quadrennial Assembly, presented by the International Disciples Women's Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), was held on June 23-27 in beautiful Greensboro, North Carolina, at the Koury Center where the Sheraton Hotel is located and most of the delegates were housed.

This was my very first time attending the Quadrennial, which was very exciting, to say the least. I had the most rewarding and memorable experiences, meeting my Christian sisters from across the United States and around the world—and with all the things we had to see and do. Let's look at it from a "first timer's" point of view.

The theme for the QA was “Awake! Awake!” We were invited to awake singing, praying, studying the Word, and giving thanks to Our Father for all our blessings.

There were mission opportunities such as Habitat for Humanity (June 20-23); assembly of 3,240 hygiene kits for those devastated by earthquakes, floods, and other natural disasters; and Project Lunis, where the ladies made some 250 fleece blankets to distribute to those in need around the world. There were 5,000 books and 5,000 purses donated to a local women’s shelter. The American Red Cross was on location for a blood drive and received over 60 units of blood.

There were approximately 82 workshops to choose from. I heard many women make comments about the workshops with international sisters. We had ladies who traveled from Africa, East Asia, South Asia, the Pacific, the Middle East, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean.

You could purchase almost anything from the vendors throughout the exhibit area. My favorite exhibit was Bras for a Cause—a display of bras decorated in the most clever, yet thoughtful, designs you could imagine. Some were funny, some serious, some a little eyebrow-raising, and some were not made from bras at all, but were created by Disciples Women to bring our attention to the fight against breast cancer and to raise funds for the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

All the women attending QA this year received a beautiful tote bag lovingly created and designed by women of the Disciples Church in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Congo. Please take time to read about their struggle for survival (especially the women), and how dangerous life can be for them.

Worship and Bible Study were held every morning and none was short on music and liturgical dance. Our spirits were constantly fed the Word, which helped to keep us on track to handle the business of our daily life. There was no shortage of familiar personalities nationally, regionally, or locally at QA.

We were welcomed on Wednesday night by Rev. John Richardson, Regional Minister for North Carolina. And I would be remiss if I did not mention my pastor, Rev. Valerie J. Melvin, Associate Regional Minister for North Carolina and a member of the local arrangements committee.

Evening services were as uplifting as any of the activities of the day and full of the "Holy Spirit." The message of the evening was delivered by what I call “headliners”. In addition to our own Rev. Dr. Sharon E. Watkins, General Minister and President for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), speakers included Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie, 117th elected and consecrated bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (and first woman to obtain the level...
of Episcopal office in the over 200-year history of the church); JoAnne Kagiwada, former director of Disciples work in International Affairs, who represents the denomination at the National Council of Churches; and Rev. Evelyn Nieves, who, along with her husband Rev. Moises Nieves, founded the Christian Family Church (Disciples of Christ) in Bronx, NY. Rev. Nieves served as Vice-Regional Moderator of the Northeastern Region in 2006-2008. Rev. Amy Gopp is the Executive Director for Week of Compassion of the Disciples Church, which annually distributes more than $2.5 million toward global sustainable development and humanitarian relief.

The men were not left out of the activities. For the first time ever, there was a Men's Program with morning devotions and conversations led by the former Disciples General Minister and President Rev. Dr. Richard Hamm. The "Tweeners", young people ages 12-17 years, were also welcomed to join in the excitement of QA. The young ladies in this age group were the ones who welcomed the delegates and visitors to QA with cheers, songs, on the spot games, and trinkets. I must say that watching these energetic young ladies, and hearing them sing and speak of their love for the Lord, touched my heart and let me know that DWM/CWF can only get better through the years.

The 14th Quadrennial Assembly was a splendid event and an outstanding success, and I for one hope to meet my sisters from across the globe again, and be part of the 15th Quadrennial Assembly in 2014.

QA Statistics: 1,887 registrants; 648 first time attendees; 8 every time attendees; 76 husbands; 40 tweenerers; 44 states represented; 15 countries represented.

Adele T. Staton is a lifelong member and an Elder at First Christ Church (DOC) Reidsville, NC and a music teacher for the Rockingham County school system.
HISPANIC ASSEMBLY FOCUSES ON THE FAMILY;
PASSES EMERGENCY RESOLUTION OPPOSING ARIZONA IMMIGRATION LAW
by Wanda Bryant Wills, Disciples News

"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15)

The important role of family in strengthening church and community was emphasized at the 15th biennial National Hispanic and Bilingual Assembly. More than 300 Disciples, most with a Hispanic background, gathered in Orlando, FL on July 7-11 for the nearly four-day Assembly. Worship leaders and other speakers explored the theme of family through sermons, workshops and children's and youth activities, all with a focus on the Joshua 24:15 passage of serving the Lord.

Business items on the agenda included an emergency resolution declaring Arizona Law SB-1070, and other similar laws like it, unjust. The resolution is in response to the Arizona law, which for the first time makes illegal immigration a state crime. "We want to call the whole church to take a stand on the immigration issue," emphasized National Hispanic Pastor Huberto Pimentel. The resolution affirms the need for just and comprehensive immigration reform that seeks to unite families and provide a clear path to legal residency. It also calls on the church's 33 regional ministers to write their respective U.S. Senators and Representatives to protest anti-immigration laws in their areas. On July 14, Haitian Disciples meeting at Camp Camby, Ind., approved a similar version of the resolution to show their solidarity with Hispanic Disciples, saying they too oppose the immigration law.

Other highlights of the Assembly included sermons that examined various aspects of the family. National Pastor Pimentel preached at the Saturday night, July 10 worship, reminding attendees that all churches are part of the family of God. "We may be geographically apart from each other," he said, "but we are challenged in the Bible to be one."

In his State of the Ministry report, Pimentel outlined several challenges facing Hispanic Disci-
My Notes for the July-September issue are certainly written with mixed emotions. I am still suffering from the impact of my aborted flight on United from Dulles airport to Oklahoma City, OK, on July 28th for the 21st Biannual Session of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Briefly, Joan and I sat in the airport for over seven hours for a flight that was finally cancelled. Our agent had to pick us up around 10:30 p.m. and take us to Baltimore, MD, where we caught a flight out of BWI-Marshall Airport for a 6:00 a.m. flight to Chicago, and then a flight from there to Oklahoma City. I will not bore you with all the unbelievable incidents which occurred, but they will be remembered. Our travel to Macon, GA for Joan's family reunion was just as horrific. But spiritual highs were experienced at the Convocation, especially with Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins, GMP, being a key participant, and visiting such a large number of my family through marriage was rewarding. There will be much on the National Convocation later.

My concern for the future of our country grows deeper when I experience the decrease in honesty, integrity, and goodwill, leading to a racial divide. Money has become a God in our country, which prints on the currency "IN GOD WE TRUST". I am a daily subscriber to the Washington Post, and alarmed at how their editorial policy has changed, especially noticeably since April, 2010. Just about the only balance I have noticed are in the writings by Eugene Robinson, an award-winning columnist. In my many years of life, I have never witnessed such insulting, life-threatening attacks on the President of the United States. The disrespect is even manifested in the halls of Congress.

As I foresee our future in the United States of America, Christianity is facing its challenge in history. Several weeks ago I received an email from a reader who asked that I forward a prayer to others for God's continuing protection for President Barack Obama, I feel this prayer needs to now encompass the future of this Nation, living up to its commitment to the statement on our currency, "IN GOD WE TRUST."

Just a couple of reminders to our readers, and they are: the last Sunday in September and the first Sunday in October are dates set aside for your Reconciliation gifts, and our denomination is working diligently in aiding the victims of the flood waters in Iowa and Tennessee and in Pakistan.

Stay well until we come together in my next Notes.

**DISCIPLES NEWS ROUND-UP**

**WASHINGTON, DC** – On Sunday, June 27, 2010 the Michigan Park Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), called the Reverend Marvin J. Owens, Jr. as Pastor. He accepted the call on July 8, 2010 and began serving on August 1, 2010. His installation will be held on Sunday, October 10, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. There will be a concert on Friday October 8 and a series of workshops on Saturday, October 9 starting at 10:00 a.m.
21st Biennial Session of the National Convocation – July 29-Aug. 1, 2010

by May Reed

Hi, GrapeVine readers --

I returned home from the Convocation mentally and spiritually rejuvenated. It was good to be there. I thought I'd share some highlights from our time in historic Oklahoma City, and so here we go.

DAY 1 - Thursday: At 8:00 a.m., Rev. Dr. Billye P. Bridges, Dean of the Convocation’s Institute for African-American Faith and Life and Director of Christian Education for the Christian Church (DOC), got things going with the “Three-In-One” pre-Convocation Leadership Institute. That evening, at 7:00 p.m., Sister Viann Bristow, President, called the 21st Biennial Session into order with a rap of her gavel. We were fed to overflowing that evening with dance, song, poetry, and prophetic preaching by Rev. Dr. Major L. Jemison, Pastor, St. John Missionary Baptist Church of Oklahoma City. Praise to God!

DAY 2 - Friday: The Centennial Christian Church of St. Louis, MO opened the session with Hallelujah songs of praise. Rev. Derrick Perkins, Pastor, brought the Word, “The Perfect Upgrade.” Workshops were at 10:00 on Friday and Saturday mornings. From #1, “Clergy Continuing Education: Saved to Serve: Live All Out” led by Rev. Claude Maples, to #13, “Signs of a Vital and Healthy Church,” led by Rev. R. Wayne Calhoun, Sr., Minister of Evangelism, DHM, everything was relevant.... Around 12:15 p.m., folks were scurrying about to get to the women’s and men’s luncheons, where they enjoyed rich fellowship time over plates of scrumptious victuals with friends from all over the country. At 2:00 p.m., each of the fellowship groups had meeting time in which to share and assess the past two years. The evening worship, once again, was inspiring through the songs and witness of the participants. Bishop Sheldon McCarter, Pastor, Greater Cleveland Avenue Christian Church, Winston Salem, SC, brought a challenging Word, “Go Hard or Go Home.”

DAY 3 - Saturday: Hallelujah Praise was led by the Oklahoma Choir Convocation. Rev. Dr. Sekinah Hamlin, from SERF Ministry of Anti-racism and Reconciliation Ministry–SE Region, Greensboro, SC, literally lifted us off our seats. She brought her message to a pinnacle as she stated again and again “I really didn’t want to preach this scripture.” But preach it she did, and all were blessed by the encompassing capturing of the Word. That afternoon, our LONE STAR (in more ways than one) JARVIS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE hosted a sweet reception amidst the exhibits; nice and different. The business session began with an update on the Church from our esteemed GMP, Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins. Reports were shared and received. The banquet that evening consisted of another tasty meal. Certificates were given for the three most outstanding banners, and the Liberation Award was presented to Rev. Dr. Billye P. Bridges, Dean. Bishop Melvin Brown, Senior Pastor, My Father’s House Ministry, Ladson SC, brought the evening to a close with a touching, gentle, moving testimonial message that spoke of his increased understanding of God’s presence in his life. It revealed to our understanding how profoundly God is using him.

DAY 4 - Sunday: Many arose and were, as usual, spread about the city in various churches. We who remained on site for worship were richly blessed and honored to be led in worship by Rev. Jesse Jackson, LAC and Pastor of East Sixth Street Christian Church, Oklahoma City. The choir sang
to the glory of God and the message was delivered by Rev. Dr. Raumone V. Burton, Senior Pastor, University Christian Church, Houston, TX. The evening included the installation of all new officers. The ceremony was conducted by Dr. Sharon Watkins. Our incoming President for 2010-2012 is Rev. Dr. Dale C. Braxton, Associate Regional Minister, AL-NW FL, and Pastor, Snow Hill Christian Church, Fort Deposit, AL. Dr. Dale is a special individual, for, like David, he has dancing in his feet, clapping in his hands, and singing in his heart. Get ready, Convocation, Get Ready! The Convocation concluded with hilarious gaiety. Mr. Mark Christopher Lawrence of Los Angeles, CA poured out a barrel of jokes, stories, and antics that left us filled to bursting with laughter, and we would certainly welcome him back again.

There was something for everyone — from the very youngest to the eldest. The Convocation Choir was tremendous, as were off-site work sessions, Gospel Hip Hop for the Youth, Young Adult activities, and more. Surely an enjoyable time was had by all. I'm sure that all of the Convocation attendees give thanks and kudos to our Administrative Secretary, Dr. Timothy James, for doing such an outstanding job in overseeing and leading the operations of this 21st Biennial Session, and to our outgoing President, Sister Viann Bristow, for her zeal, leadership, and dedication to the task. May the Lord bless, and keep you all in His care.

Hoping to see you in Houston in 2012!

May

**National Asian and Pacific Disciples Convocation**

**August 4-7, 2010**

*by Dr. Tim Lee*

The sixteenth NAPAD Convocation took place on the campus of Seattle University, under the theme, “Be Hope for the World.” It was a landmark Convocation because it produced thoroughly amended Bylaws and a new governance body, the NAPAD Board of Directors.

The Convocation drew two hundred or so attendees, a fourth of whom were children or youth. The youth and young adults arrived a day earlier to begin their activities at Gwinwood Christian Camp, about an hour’s drive from Seattle. About forty youth and a dozen young adults participated, under the guidance of ten counselors. The bulk of the youth came from Filipino Disciples Church in Los Angeles, the First Mongolian Christian Church in Oakland, CA, Samoan Congregational Christian Church in Seattle, and Korean Disciples churches from Seattle, Chicago, and southern California. The youth held their own programs, though converging with adults on certain plenary activities. Their activities were coordinated by Rev. Jae-hyong Cho of Sallims Christian Church (DOC) in Newport Beach California and Rev. Einstein Cabalteja of Filipino Disciples Church in Los Angeles. Fourteen of the youth confessed their faith and were baptized during the Convocation.

The opening worship took place in the evening on Wednesday, August 4, in the Pigott auditorium. The worship began with contemporary praise led by a youth band. Rev. Janet Casey-Allen rendered the invocation, and Rev. Sandra Messick, Regional Minister of the Northwest, offered words of welcome. Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins, General Minister and President, inspired worshipers with a message entitled “Hopefully …”. Offerings were collected for David Kagiwada and Soonggook Choi Scholarships. Rev. Kim Tran presided over the Lord’s Supper, aided by Rev. Paulo Lealaiafeaa, Rev. Kyu Su Um, Rev. Sungdoh
Cont’d from page 8

Ee, and Ms. Melissa Kim. The worship ended with a benediction offered jointly by Rev. Dr. Geunhee Yu and Dr. Watkins.

On Thursday, during the business sessions held in the morning, the landmark decisions were made. Copies of the current Constitution-Bylaws and proposed amendments were distributed to the attendees. Since the amendments were so thoroughgoing—since they encompassed the materials contained in the current Constitution—Bylaws—Rev. Dr. Lian Jiang, the moderator, opted to work only with the proposed amendments, entitled simply “Bylaws.” Under Dr. Jiang’s directions, Rev. Dr. Tim Lee read each section of the Bylaws, pausing whenever a question arose for clarification or discussion. A series of productive discussion ensued, and revisions were made to the proposed Bylaws. After the entire document had been reviewed and adjusted, members took a voice vote on its adoption. The vote was unanimously “aye.” As a result of this vote, the NAPAD has now acquired a structure to complement the General Board decision (GB-09-0644), passed in April 2009, that established the office of the Executive Pastor of North American Asian Disciples as a distinct general ministry, under the oversight of the NAPAD Board of Directors and the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Thursday afternoon featured other important activities. After the business sessions and luncheon, a series of breakout sessions took place. The sessions dealt with anti-racism and reconciliation (led by Rev. April Johnson), pension and health insurance (Rev. James Hamlett), new church and fund-raising (Revs. John Roh and Lori Adams), global ministry (Revs. Bob Shebeck, James Vijakakumar, and Salvador Martinez), Courageous Compassion (Rev. Brendon Gilvin), Disciples higher education opportunities (Dr. Kris Culp and Mr. Brad Lyons), and Office of General Minister and President (Revs. Sandhya Jha, John Chun, Patti Case, and Bruce Barkhauer). Thursday evening, Dr. Timothy Tseng spoke as one of the two guest keynoters. Dr. Tseng is President and Executive Director of the Institute for the Study of Asian American Christianity (ISAAC), located in northern California. A church historian with a PhD from Union Theological Seminary in New York, Dr. Tseng presented an insightful lecture using the metaphor of the script to show how American Pacific Islanders and Asians have been inscribed into playing various demeaning roles in American history. He also shared ways in which the oppressive script can be rewritten to empower Pacific/Asian Americans, rewritten on the basis of hope offered in the Gospel. Dr. Tseng’s talk was heard by both adults and youth, and the youth raised some of the most stimulating questions.

During the Friday business session, another landmark event occurred: the formation of the first NAPAD Board of Directors. The following persons were nominated for seven of the positions on the fourteen-person slate prescribed in the new Bylaws: Lian Jiang (Immediate Past Moderator), Tim Lee (Moderator), John Chun (Moderator-Elect), Cindy Kim (Secretary/Treasurer), April Lewton (Representative to the General Board), Geunhee Yu (Executive Pastor: ex-officio), and Sharon Watkins (General Minister and President: ex-officio). Five more were nominated as Members-at-Large: Janet Casey-Allen, Sandhya Jha, JoAnne Kagiwada, Paulo Lealaiafe'a, and Gideon Yu. Not on the slate but also on the Board were a Representative from the General Ministries and a Representative from the Regional Ministries. These representatives were to be nominated by their respective ministries and confirmed later by the NAPAD Board. A brief bio of each nominee was presented; then the members voted on the slate. The vote was again unanimously “aye.” Other activities on Friday included a second keynote presentation, this
Cont'd from page 9

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Other activities on Friday included a second keynote presentation, this time by Dr. Young Lee-Hertig. Dr. Lee-Hertig teaches in the Global Studies and Sociology Department at Azusa Pacific University, in Los Angeles, CA, having received a PhD in Intercultural Studies at Fuller Theological Seminary. She presented a lecture on Asian American women and multiculturalism. Later in the day, she and Dr. Tseng teamed up to lead a workshop that drove home the points each of them had lectured on. Friday afternoon featured additional breakout sessions: in-house and out-house evangelism (Rev. Ron Deggs) and women’s ministry (Rev. Jane Halley and Ann Pickett Parker). After supper, members gathered at a large hall in the Student Center for the much anticipated Culture Night. Despite technical glitches, good times were had by all, everyone enthusiastically applauding performances by our own members—hymn-singing by a Chinese team, modern worship dance by Mongolian youth, traditional dance by sisters representing the Zo (Burma) church, a violin-and-vocal performance by two Koreans, and an impressive dance act by a Samoan team.

Saturday morning, the Convocation ended after the closing worship, in which the newly chosen officers of the NAPAD were installed. In the morning of each day of the Convocation, a devotional had been held. On Thursday morning, it was led by the Chinese Disciples; on Friday, Samoan Disciples; on Saturday, the youth. Throughout the Convocation, child care and children’s program were provided by Rev. Nathan Hill and his spouse Yunkyong Hill, as well as Rev. Young Sook Kim. The NAPAD is grateful to each of these persons and groups—with special thanks to Rev. Sandra Messick, Rev. Paulo Lealaiafe, Rev. Jong Kook Hong, Rev. Youn Su Nam, and other Disciples of the Northwest Region, whose generosity was instrumental in making this Convocation a success.

Rev. Dr. Timothy Lee is Moderator of the NAPAD and Director of Asian/Korean Church Studies at Brite Divinity School, Ft. Worth, TX.
CHICKEN GUMBO

1 small stewing chicken
4 cups water
2 Tbsp. flour
salt & pepper to taste
3 Tbsp. olive oil
2 large cans tomatoes
1 chopped onion
parsley
4 cups okra, sliced & chopped

After chicken is cleaned and dressed, cut into serving portions. Dredge lightly with the flour and sauté in olive oil with chopped onion. When chicken is brown-add okra, tomatoes, half of the parsley salt, pepper and water. Cook very slowly until chicken is tender and okra is well done. Add water as required during the slow cooking process. If a thin soup is preferred, the quantity of water may be increased. Add remaining parsley. Best served warm.

Submitted by:
Jacquelyn Stockton Kordolewski
Milton, MA

A man feared his wife wasn't hearing as well as she used to and he thought she might need a hearing aid. Not quite sure how to approach her, he called the family doctor to discuss the problem.

The Doctor told him there is a simple informal test the husband could perform to give the doctor a better idea about her hearing loss. "Here's what you do," said the Doctor, "stand about 40 feet away from her, and in a normal conversational speaking tone see if she hears you. If not, go to 30 feet, then 20 feet, and so on until you get a response."

That evening, the wife is in the kitchen cooking dinner and he was in the den. He says to himself, "I'm about 40 feet away, let's see what happens." Then in a normal tone he asks, "Honey, what's for dinner?" No response. So the husband moves closer to the kitchen, about 30 feet from his wife and repeats, "Honey, what's for dinner?" Still no response. Next he moves into the dining room where he is about 20 feet from his wife and asks, "Honey, what's for dinner?" Again he gets no response. So, he walks up to the kitchen door, about 10 feet away. "Honey, what's for dinner?" Again there is no response. So he walks right up behind her and asks, "Honey, what's for dinner?"

She yells, "Chicken, Ralph! For the FIFTH TIME, CHICKEN!"

Contributed by Bill Jackson
THINGS WILL BE OK

Walking thru the streets of life
You become aware of the turmoil,
grief and strife.
But I picture heaven
Wondrous, peaceful, glowing and serene;
Pleasant atmosphere,
All things fresh and clean.
Not busy and noisy, no abstract distractions.
But sitting quietly with Jesus,
Filled with total satisfaction.

I can just imagine some things He will say
And the joy we’ll experience the whole
Endless day.
No clocks to awaken, no cleaning,
no rushing about.
No job to cause worry, no boss to adhere,
No furniture to dust, no one to fear;
Only total calm and peace
With my Lord so dear.

And all my friends from life’s former
journey’s birth
Will join me to celebrate this
beauteous new, new earth.
We’ll gaze upon the magnificent,
tide-less, crystal sea
And be captured and exulted that this all
could truly be.
We’ll see this Holy City and enter in to stay.
What a fine and glorious time
For things forever will be OK.

Written Sat., July 10, 2010
May Reed
Life began for Charles Washington Oliver on October 3, 1929, when he was born to George Washington and Esther Thelma Oliver in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Charles was greatly loved by his parents and four older siblings. After Mrs. Oliver moved her family to Washington, DC, Charles completed his education here and graduated from Armstrong Senior High School in 1948. He was drafted into the Armed Forces in 1951, and served until 1953 during the Korean conflict.

After his arrival in Washington, DC, his mother nurtured her family’s Christian growth through their union with Twelfth Street Christian Church (DOC). Charles served in numerous roles and leadership capacities in the church. He served as Junior and Senior Usher with the Interdenominational Church Ushers Association of Washington, DC and vicinity; in Christian Men’s Fellowship; in Forerunners; on the Deacon and Elder Boards; as Moderator; with the Sanctuary Choir and Men’s Chorus, and prepared scrumptious meals at the church. He also enjoyed Christian fellowship fun with the First Friday Nighters. His love of service extended in and out of the kitchen through his catering activities. He was known for his chicken and dumplings, fried chicken and fish, cakes and pies, yeast rolls, and homemade ice cream, to name a few.

He was employed with the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW), and later served with Fannie Mae as a corporate steward. He served many years as a househusband, helping to support his wife in her ministry and raising his children -- in fact, he originated the “house-husband” industry. As a father and grandfather, he was AWESOME beyond reproach. As a husband for 54 years, he was my best friend, my Knight in Shining Armor, my chauffeur, my iron chef, my confidant, my lover, and simply MY CHARLES!

He leaves to glorify his memory his devoted wife of 54 years, Rev. Mary Brown-Oliver; his three children, Howard (Latasha), Alyson (Marvin) and Clayton Jay (Ramona); five grandchildren, Noelle, Marvin II, Jaylan, Noah Charles, and Sydney; his surviving siblings, Naomi Washington and Robbie Douthit, and a host of other relatives and friends. His journey would not have been complete without the companionship of his devoted Christian friends Elder Lucy Ward and Deacons Samuel Chivis and Warren Jackson.
WASHINGTON, DC—James Reed

On May 23, 2010, ashes of Dr. James Reed were inurned in the columbarium at National City Christian Church, following a memorial service led by Pastor Stephen Gentle. James R. Reed was born November 10, 1927 in York, Nebraska to James C. and Mildred Lankin Reed. After serving in the United States Navy from 1945 to 1946, he attended and graduated from Phillips University and Phillips Theological Seminary in Enid, OK. He was ordained a minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in 1949, and pastored congregations in Ames, OK, Enid, OK, and Denton, TX, where he helped the congregation construct a new building that received national recognition for its architecture.

Dr. Reed was the inspiration behind the Christian Church Foundation, a general ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). In 1964 at the age of 37, he heeded the call of church leaders to envision an organization that would enable members of the denomination to fund ministry effectively for years to come. As the Foundation’s first employee and then its first president, he grew the Foundation’s assets from $119,000 in 1969 to over $40 million in 1991 when he retired.

Upon his retirement after 26 years with the Foundation, Dr. Reed returned to pastoral ministry, serving North Christian Church in Columbus, IN, and First Christian Church in Madison, IN. From 1997 to 1998 he served as interim minister of National City Christian Church in Washington, D.C.

In retirement, Dr. Reed continued to serve his church and community with creativity and energy. In 2002, he joined friends and colleagues to conceive and launch a new award-winning magazine, DisciplesWorld. Dr. Reed also served on the boards of Disciples of Christ Historical Society, Phillips University Legacy Foundation, Disciples Divinity House of the University of Chicago, National City Christian Church Corporation, Commission on Stewardship of the National Council of Churches, National Association of Fund Raising Executives, Oklahoma Christian Home in Edmond, OK, Indianapolis Symphonic Choir, and the American Church in Paris. He was an active member and leader at Downey Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Indianapolis’s historic Irvington neighborhood.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his brother Joe Wayne Reed; and three granddaughters. He is survived by his wife, Lucille Boatman Reed, of Fort Worth, TX, whom he married July 21, 1971; four daughters and their families, Bethel J. Wentz (David) of Augusta, KS, Carol E. Sircoulomb (Wayne) of Wichita, KS, Georgann Adams (Dan) of Indianapolis, and Laura S. Gelarden (Tim) of Indianapolis; three stepchildren and their families, Rebecca L. Brite of Paris, France, Robert N. Brite of Minneapolis, MN, and Stephen P. Brite (Lisa) of Colorado Springs, CO; thirteen grandchildren; four great grandchildren; and his former wife and friend, Dorothy M. Reed of Indianapolis. Dr. Reed is also survived by innumerable friends and colleagues who regarded him as a teacher and mentor.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRECIOUS GIFTS

Mr. & Mrs. George Coates, Kansas City, MO; Rev. William & Mrs. Mary Blackwell, Brandywine, WV; Ms. Deloris L. Ruddock, Mt. Rainier, MD; Ms. Mae E. Harris, Port Gibson, MS; Mrs. Daisy R. Chambers, Winston-Salem, NC; Mr. Wayne & Mrs. Virginia Bell, Lexington, KY; Mr. Philip & Mrs. Nancy Dare, Midway, KY; Mr. Glenn & Mrs. Kathy Helme, Baltimore, MD; Mr. Robbie & Mrs. Louada Chisholm, Silver Spring, MD; Mrs. Mary J. Thomas, Washington, DC; Rev. & Mrs. David A. Caldwell, Lutherville, MD; Ms. Mary M. Watson, Kansas City, MO; Dr. Sere S. & Mrs. Mary J. Myers, Sr., Leawood, KS; Mrs. Camella Walker, Houston, TX; Mrs. Leola Pickens Norman, Little Rock, AR; Ms. Lucille Reed, Fort Worth, TX; Mrs. Louise H. Owens, Baltimore, MD; Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Mohler, Kansas City, MO; Ms. Shirley Compton, Louisville, KY.

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On May 23, 2011, an Oldtimers’ member, James Reed, was honored at the new National Life Christian Church. He was laid to rest at the call of faith, but not at the age of 17. His founder, A. J. Reed, lived to be 99 years old. The new church is a memorial to James Reed and is located at 3611 Bangor Street, SE, Washington, DC 20020. It is named in honor of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Reed, who contributed $100,000 to the church. The church is open to all, and services are held every Sunday at 10:30 AM. A special service will be held on the occasion of the church’s anniversary in August.
A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

Isaiah 11:1 (NRSV)

THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY REFLECTS ON THE NATIONAL CONVOCATION
by Rev. Dr. Timothy James

It has been nearly seven years since I began this position of service and leadership. I came here after serving twenty-five years as pastor at the Fifth Christian Church in Cleveland, Ohio. The change and transition was not easy. There was great sacrifice for my wife, Joyce, in having to relocate and continue her career in education with differences encountered from one state to another. Our youngest son, Christopher, had to join a new high school and basketball team, in his senior year, in the highly touted Indiana school system programs. So there were some challenges along the way. But through it all, God has been good to us. God has opened doors and made ways out of no way for us. We have surely found out and proved over and again what prayer and faith in God can do.

I come from a family of preachers. My grandfather, Rev. Carey James, preached at the First Christian Church in Clarksdale, MS. My father, Rev. Eugene W. James, Sr., as I recall, served different churches in Tulsa, OK, Roanoke, VA, Warren, OH, and Berkeley and Oakland, CA. He retired to manage one of the Disciples Senior Resident Facilities in Oakland. I have three brothers: Eugene, Jr., Daniel, and Titus, who serve in ministry. I was blessed to have been raised in a home environment where the love of God was the basis of the love in our home, congregation, and community. It was my experience to begin my education in the segregated school systems of Roanoke, VA and to graduate from the fully integrated Berkeley High...
School in California. To have lived in various parts of the country truly added to my learning experiences, social skills, and appreciation of other cultures and persons of different backgrounds.

I have appreciated the emphasis that our denomination has placed on education for our church leadership. I also see it as primary preparation for church leadership. We need a prepared leadership for our churches today, which will lead into the twenty-first century. Our constituency, our membership, desires to be stronger and more committed to the church. It is my staunch belief that the Lord will use all that you have to give in ministry, especially your preparation. It is my deep belief that when we take the time to study the Bible, theology, worship, economics, sociology, politics, math, and science, we are praising the Lord with our minds. Studying to learn about the world and the society in which we live helps us to understand the times and the persons whom we serve.

One of the greatest areas of study for me has been Black History, Black Theology of Liberation, and Black Heritage Appreciation. In a society that sought to make me feel and act like a second class citizen, the knowledge and wisdom of my African American heritage were most liberating and affirming for me. I am somebody! I am God's child! Thus it is important that we tell our story in the life of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), for we belong here.

It is my hope and dream that the presence, power, and influence of the National Convocation will enable the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), to live out and fully into our imperative to be a Pro-Reconciling/Anti-Racism church. With God's help and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we can truly be and share the good news from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth. It is my dream that the National Convocation participate wholeheartedly in the movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. We have so many areas of division, and they are increasing more and more. But the great commission, Matthew 28: 16-20, is the blessed tie which binds our hearts in Christian love and service, as well as to one another.

The business of the National Convocation is handled in our annual Board of Trustees meetings, the Biennial Session, and the office of the National Convocation. This is the instrumentality and the forum where social issues, church concerns, and political matters pertaining to African Americans may be addressed. The cry is made loud and clear, from within and without of the National Convocation, for us to move from mediocrity to relevance. We need to offer our constituency a real faith for living in these real times. We have the leaders and more are on the way. But we need to see the day, and soon, where we may support our leaders, preachers, and congregations through faithful giving and generous stewardship.

We as a denomination would like to show the face of our church to fully reflect the faces of the people that make our great nation. But for me, it is more than having persons of various racial ethnicities in leadership -- it is having all of our congregations strong and cooperating and contributing in our regions to make them strong as well. Therefore, let us be encouraged to participate fully in the Congregational Transformation initiative by signing on one hundred fifty congregations from the Convocation. By our faith, the Holy Spirit will work good and great works through us. What a Mighty God we serve.

Respectfully,
Timothy M. James

Photos courtesy of Charles Peoples
Beloved Friends,

It is a joy for me to touch base with you again. “Give thanks with a grateful heart” is a phrase that has recurred as I have thought about my message to you. On a personal note, I am acutely aware of and thankful for my health. I can testify to the healing power of God and the love of family and friends as I have experienced a smooth recovery from surgery in September. Along with my trusted doctors, my support network was there for me, providing food, prayers, cards, and whatever was needed; proving again that the “fervent and effectual prayers of the righteous availeth much.” (Research has shown that persons who pray and are a part of a faith community experience more effective recoveries than those who do not have such support.)

Let me share a few side notes that have captured my thoughts during recovery. Medical costs are quite high, yet good medical care is worth it. Will we be strong enough and courageous enough to advocate for good, affordable, and accessible medical care for all in the New Year? Are we individually and corporately doing all we can to enhance our health care? With so many African Americans who are subject to diabetes and being overweight, will we continue to serve sugary and fatty foods at church and family dinners? We all know that God is a healer; yet he expects us to do our part. Stewardship not only includes time, talent, and treasure; it also includes “temple” – our bodies.

I would like to express gratitude for our Grapevine family. I extend kudos to the Grapevine staff and board for all they do to produce this wonderful publication. When my Grapevine arrives, I know I will learn about interesting people and activities that are taking place within our denomination.

Although I did not attend the Convocation this year, the Grapevine took me there and I could “taste and feel that it is still good.” Long live the Convocation and its important role in the life of our church! An important part of our Grapevine family is you, the reader. Many thanks to you for your loyal support of us. We think of you and your informational needs as we plan each edition. Let us know what you think, and keep those donations coming in, so that we can soar to even higher heights in 2011.

Finally, I want to express thanks to God for sending his Son to save us and provide believers with everlasting life. May God’s love permeate everything you do and say, as you celebrate the Savior’s birth – yet again. Remember not only family and friends during the season. Think about those who are in the throes of despair and confusion due to the economic downturn, broken relations, or the loss of a “significant other.” Some of these people are in your church -- nicely dressed and coifed -- yet they are hurting inside. Keep your antennae up -- listen for opportunities to encourage, support, and share God’s love. Give those who are lost and without hope a reason to be thankful this Christmas.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given... And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

Blessings,

Norma
“Saved to Serve. Live All Out!” This is an excellent theme for Disciples of Christ. We are Disciples of Christ. Disciples of Jesus Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. What is wholeness? Wholeness is Unity. Wholeness is God’s Shalom, Wholeness is what was expressed in the initiative for merger forty years ago. “One God, One Church, One Mission!”

You know, sometimes we Disciples lament that we began as a unity movement and since then all we’ve done is split. But actually, that is not true! We have had a merger! When African American Disciples, at a considerable risk, said, “We will unite in this newly restructured church and go forward – as one.” – it was a courageous witness to the oneness of God and of God’s church. Those courageous leaders demonstrated in those decisions that they were saved to serve. They lived all out! They were saved to serve their neighbors in the name of Jesus. Just as we are saved to serve by being the good news of Jesus Christ, from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth.

The challenges that call for our service today are many: economic recession; environmental disaster on the Gulf Coast, even while the 9th Ward of New Orleans and Beaumont, TX still need rebuilding; an immigration system that is broken and inhumane; a global economic system that favors the wealthy and puts cell phones in the privileged hands of the people in this room at the expense of children and women in Congo. We are called to live all out so that they can simply live. We are saved to serve in a time such as this. But I want to say that even in these hard times, I believe there is a new spirit moving among Disciples of Christ. We are a church whose time has come! There is a new spirit of cooperation and collaboration among us that is of God. We are moving out of old walls and boundaries and working together in fresh new ways, because a movement’s got to move!

This movement for wholeness has a mission to be and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth.

In this last year, General Ministries have leapt tall boundaries in a single bound. Church Extension, Higher Education and Leadership Ministries (HELM), and Disciples Home Mission (DHM) have put their heads and hearts together with leading local pastors like Rev. Gene Lawson, to spark among us a culture of leadership for transformation – because, as the preachers of this Biennial Session have told us, it takes leadership for a church to flourish: leadership in Christ. I see that spirit of cooperation and collaboration as Division of Overseas Ministries and Week of Compassion forge new understandings of our shared work around the world: Critical Presence with Courageous Compassion! Through their work, lives are changed.

Let me tell you about some other evidences of that new spirit – that spirit of building new coalitions and networks for the sake of carrying out Christ’s mission. The General Minister and President’s Pastoral Table now meets several times per year. At this table, I meet with Dr. Timothy James, Dr. Huberto Pimentel of Hispanic Ministries, and Dr. Geunhee Yu of North American Pacific Asian Disciples to dialogue on matters before the church – as pastoral leaders together. More and more people come to us with matters to take to the pastoral table. I believe the influence of this table of leaders is going to grow. A Justice Table has been convened to meet to help us, as Disciples, highlight and focus our ministries of justice and advocacy. We recently held a conference with leaders of the Haitian Disciples Churches in the US and Canada. Dr. James participated in that conference. A commission is being formed to look at forming an official Haitian Disciples ministry to meet the particular needs and concerns of Haitian Disciples congregations here.
Other signs of hope for this church: in the last year, NAPAD moved out of OHM and into direct relationship with the General Board – very much along the model of the Central Office for Hispanic Ministries. In August, they passed new bylaws and elected their first-ever Board.

In the last two years, church has increased the funding share for the three racial-ethnic ministries. Already the National Convocation Administrative Secretary and his Executive Assistant, as part of the Office of General Minister and President, are supported by first fruits of any Disciples Mission Fund giving that comes into the church. Now, by action of the General Ministries, affirmed by the General Board, all three racial-ethnic ministries also receive a share of the General Ministry portion of funds. In our time, mission funds are shrinking (except Reconciliation, which has remained flat, and Week of Compassion during times in which we are responding to a disaster.) For the racial-ethnic ministries to have received a slightly larger share of the pie when the pie is shrinking is a sign of the church's commitment to ministry in a context where diversity is viewed as a gift of God. I believe that, as Disciples of Christ, we are living all out. Sometimes that means we can have some contentious times, but that’s OK, because we are called to tell the truth in love. Even in our disagreements, we unite in our love for one God, one church, one mission. We unite in our desire to show God's love for the world. For that I give thanks. We are disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. We are saved to serve. To live all out. May it be so.

Rev. Dr. Sharon E. Watkins is General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.
power struggle in the Goldsboro-Raleigh Assembly over its educational institute. He explains the background and the outcomes of the struggle. On a brighter note, Williams covers key leaders in his chapter “Personalities.” The reader will especially interested in the entry on Elder Whitfield.

Reverend Dr. Williams is the second of thirteen children and was baptized in 1943 at Vine Swamp Church of Christ/Disciples of Christ in Kinston, NC when he was very young. Reverend Williams, affectionately called Brother J. O., has and continues to be an energetic leader in the church and has given outstanding service to his country in the U. S. Air Force. He was ordained October 1959 at the Goldsboro Disciples Institute, Goldsboro, NC. He currently serves as Director of the Capital Campaign for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in North Carolina with a goal to raise $1.2 million.

He has served in key positions in the Disciples Church in North Carolina as well as the national church, where he served as Chairman for the Board of Church Extension in Indianapolis, IN. During his 51 years in ministry, this prominent church leader has pastored numerous churches in North Carolina, and is now the senior pastor of Beulah Hill Christian Church in Four Oaks, NC. He is also the first African-American man to pastor a white congregation in the Christian Church in North Carolina.

This energetic clergyman and author is married to Ida Williams. They have two sons and five daughters, 14 grandchildren, and 18 great-grandchildren. One of their daughters, Marilyn F. Williams, serves as the Second Vice Moderator for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

The book is time well spent for those who want to expand their knowledge of these important developments in Disciples history. *Know Us* is available for purchase from the author through the regional office of the Christian Church in North Carolina.

Oscar Haynes is an Elder at United Christian Parish in Reston VA, and is presently a contributing editor of this newsletter. Glenn Thomas Carson, M.Div., Ph.D., is the Disciples of Christ Historical Society President.
Dear Friends,

As I share these notes with our loyal readers in the final issue of the Oldtimers’ Grapevine for 2010, my prayer is that you will enjoy these Notes with the same enthusiasm I have reporting them. This publication has gone through many changes in 19 years of continuous publication, and major changes have come since 2000, when my dear friend and our founder, Dr. William K. Fox, persuaded me to succeed him.

Over a year ago, it was time for me to give up the many responsibilities of the publication and pass them on to others. The first change was Manager/Editor, and we were blessed to recruit Mrs. Joyce Knox, retired servant of the District of Columbia government as editor of the city’s official publication. After a few years of devoted church and community volunteerism, she resumed her love of several years and agreed to take on the duties of this growing publication.

Joyce’s one requirement was to have Ms. Ellen Crowder, a dear friend of ours and retiree of the U.S. Department of Education, be her Assistant. All agreed, and these two efficient ladies took charge of the editorial duties. This issue includes articles from such notable Denominational leaders as Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins, General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of the USA and Canada. Her article describes several progressive steps being taken. Other notable leaders represented in this issue are Rev. Dr. Glenn Thomas Carson, Rev. Dr. Timothy James, Rev. Dr. J. O. Williams, Rev. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II, and Dr. Katherine Fox-Cunningham.

The newsletter subscription base has grown from 300+ to 1,000+ in the past five years. Other staff and contributors who give of their talent are Donna Haynes, Production Manager; Doris Daugherty, Treasurer; Kim Atwater, Health Editor; Oscar Haynes, Contributing Editor and Publisher; and Ernest Newborn, Contributing Editor. Contributing writers include Mrs. May Reed, Poetess, and the many church leaders who share articles of interest in this newsletter, which is published quarterly. It is financed through tax-exempt donations and the volunteer services of a dedicated staff.

The publication has a board of directors chaired by Dr. Norma Ellington-Twitty. Other members are Mrs. Sybel Thomas, Vice-president; Mr. Harvey Thomas, Mr. Robbie Chisholm, Dr. D. Duane Cummins, Mrs. Katherine Fox-Cunningham, Rev. Dr. Cynthia Hale, Mrs. Ruth Hobbs, and Rev. Dr. William C. Howland, Jr.

Much of the copy in this issue covers activities during the 21st Biennial Session of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Other contributions for this issue are from Rev. Jesse Jackson, Chair of the Arrangements Committee for the 21st gathering and Mr. Charles Peoples, official photographer for the session. There also are special recollections written by the daughter and granddaughter of the newsletter founder, Dr. Fox.

As I wrap up Notes for this issue, I am wishing each reader and loved ones a Happy Thanksgiving! As we celebrate Christmas, let God be praised, let us sing the Glories of Our Lord and King. Let your Christmas be full of song, full of joy, and full of God’s blessings. Merry Christmas to All!

I look forward to joining you again in the New Year.

God bless!

Oscar Haynes
My earliest remembrance of my father was not that he was standing up “talking” for what seemed to be a long time in the front church on Sunday morning while I slept in my mother’s lap, but that he always wore a dark suit and that he was so much taller than me. It is no wonder that my first-grade teacher was puzzled when every time I drew a picture of a man he had on a dark suit and towered over every other person in the picture. Little did I realize then what a real giant of a man he really was to many people.

The son of a minister who was a writer and published song writer, upon the death of his father, he became fatherless at age three. However, my father learned much about life from many men in his life: his older brother Tommy, his Uncle William - a business owner, the men at the predominately white Milwaukee, Wisconsin high school he attended in the 1930s, and the University of Chicago Divinity House he lived in during the 1940s, where he was the first black student. Most of all, I am sure that he was influenced most by those religious men and women whom he met on his journey to devoting his life to Christ and his ministry. My grandmother, the strong, proud, independent woman raising her three sons as a single parent, probably had the most impact on my Dad. She earned her living as an elocutionist for church programs and community events. Many times since they went to join the Lord, I have reflected on my parents and brother, my mother Reubena, with her loving and gentle ways and fiery spirit, and my Dad, with his very calming nature, quick wit, and astonishing wisdom. My brother William Jr. and I could never understand how my Dad knew so much about everything and seemed to “always be right”.

By marrying one of his Timothys, Jerry Cunningham, I guess you might say I valued his opinion again. My brother and I loved and respected my father greatly, not because he was our Dad, but because he was the giant of a man that God created to love us and my mother unconditionally. His love for God, the church, and our family was a precious gift that God gave us that we can only pay forward. Our entire family misses him so much, but we know that his spirit is with us and in us always.
A STORY ABOUT GRANDPA WILLIAM K. FOX, SR.

by Diane Bush

Every time I think about Grandpa, I find myself laughing out loud, remembering one of his visits to California when I was a teenager. Everyone who knew him knew that he was very active, and during one of his visits, he made his way to our garage, where my sisters and I found him working on our discarded 10-speed bikes from a past Christmas. He was pumping the tires with air, adjusting the hand brakes and oiling the chains. I’m not sure which one of us asked him what he was doing, but knowing him like we did, we knew it had to involve some sort of exercise. Well, the question was asked and Grandpa said, “I think we should all go for a bike ride. The bikes are ready and it will be fun.” So, setting aside our aversion to exercise, we decided to go with him on this bike ride. We figured he was old and that a trip around the block and to the local park would do him in, because it sure would do us in.

So, we headed out with Grandpa leading the way. He was pedaling at a very vigorous pace, pulling away from the rest of us quickly. Then suddenly he slowed to a stop. Here it was ten minutes into the ride and I figured he bit off more than he could chew and tired much sooner than he expected. I just knew this adventure with Grandpa was coming to an end, but I was wrong. He was waiting on the rest of us to catch up. He stated that the ride so far was nice but he wanted to explore on the bikes and then go to the local store on the way back to pick up some soft drinks. My sisters and I looked at each other as if to say — explore where and go to what store? You see, we lived in a community that was on a hill and all the streets in our community were very hilly, not to mention that the store he was referring to was at the bottom of one of those steep hills.

My sisters and I decided we were done. Ten minutes on the bike was more than we had done in years and we told Grandpa that he was on his own. We asked Grandpa if he knew our address and phone number, just in case he would lose his way, and he assured us that he would be fine. With a shrug of our shoulders and a good-bye he was off.

Well, a few hours had passed since we last saw Grandpa, and we began to get worried. Our dad, William Jr., arrived home from work and asked about Grandpa. We told him the story about the bike ride and our dad just smiled at us. We continued to explain that Grandpa had been gone for hours and we were concerned. Dad’s smile got bigger and he began to laugh. We asked him why he was laughing and he said, “You let an old man show you up?” He added that Grandpa would be fine and not to worry. He would turn up when he was done riding.

Grandpa did show up, not much later that evening, with the sodas and the stories of his adventure.

Diane "Dee" Bush is the daughter of William Fox, Jr. and Judy Fox. She and her husband Lee Bush are currently stationed in Spain.
East Second Street Christian Church
Celebrates 159 Years of Welcoming Members to Come Home at Homecoming
by Rev. Dr. Donald K. and Dr. Charisse L. Gillett

On October 31, 2010, East Second Street Christian Church (ESSCC) celebrated its annual homecoming service. ESSCC Senior Pastor, the Reverend Dr. Donald K. Gillett II and First Lady Dr. Charisse L. Gillett welcomed home friends and church family from all over the country. The theme for the 159th Homecoming Celebration was “Come to Me, Come Home! Get Nourished Then Flourish, to Cultivate and Elevate Greatness in God’s Kingdom!” In this spirit, each generation wore a color to represent their unique age group. Church members and friends identified as builders wore the color brown; those identified as boomers wore the colors black and red; those identified as generation X wore the colors black and yellow or orange; those identified as generation Y wore the colors of black and white; and finally those identified as generation I wore the color blue.

The annual Homecoming celebration gave all the chance to reconnect with friends and family, but more importantly with the history of this historic congregation. One hundred and fifty-nine years ago, as with the origins of many African American congregations in the United States, East Second Street Christian Church was founded by a freed slave, Thomas Phillips, and originally was called the “Colored Christian Church of Lexington”. The fledgling church conducted services in a carriage house located on West Fourth Street, which had been purchased by John Brand, Elder Thomas Phillips’s one-time master. Elder Phillips continued to serve in a leadership role in the church for the next decade. In Lexington, the “Colored Christian Church” was an important symbol in the sustained quest for worship and spiritual healing.

East Second Street Christian Church has been located at Martin Luther King Boulevard and Constitution Street for 130 years and has experienced periods of growth and revitalization. Of note was the exceptional leadership of Rev. D.H. Dickerson during the Depression and war years, and later Rev. O.B. Garner, who was appointed pastor as the Civil Rights movement was unfolding, and served faithfully for 37 years.

During his tenure, Rev. Gillett has revitalized established ministries and set the groundwork for new ministries reaching out to the local homeless, university, and prison communities. Rev. Gillett expresses a God given mission for East Second Street Christian Church to be a welcoming, teaching, learning, and praying church that develops leaders for the needs of the church and community. Reverend Dikiea Elery said, “It really is good to see people come back and worship on this day. I can certainly feel God’s spirit in this place.”

This year’s Homecoming celebration included an 11:00 a.m. Praise and Worship service with a powerful message delivered by Elder Karen Kennedy, and a 3:30 p.m. worship service with a spirit-filled message by Reverend Reginald Smith of Broadway Christian Church, Winchester, KY.

The church is looking forward to the 160th Church Anniversary Celebration in April 2011 and again will welcome friends and family home. ESSCC is a church that respects the past, lives in the present, and plans for the future.
The flu is a viral illness that usually affects people in the winter. The flu is much worse than the common cold. The symptoms are the same as they are with a cold, but much more severe, and they usually come on very suddenly. The symptoms include a fever, 101 degrees to 104 degrees, shaking chills, fatigue, weakness, and a runny nose. These symptoms may last up to 10 days.

The flu can be dangerous for infants, older adults, and people with chronic conditions. Antiviral medications are sometimes recommended for people at high risk for complications from the flu. These medications may reduce the duration and severity of some types of flu if they are taken soon after symptoms develop.

**Prevention**

- Get a flu shot (this year's vaccine contains H1N1)
- Keep up your resistance to infection by eating a healthy diet
- Get plenty of rest
- Exercise regularly
- Avoid exposure to the flu
- Wash hands often

Kim Atwater is a Registered Nurse at Kaiser Permanente in Kensington, MD.
SEASON OF JOY

With ambient thoughts of what’s on the way,
High seasonal joys and festival days,
Thanksgiving and Christmas could just come and stay;
Just last forever and not run away.
At this time of the year
many people appear to smile more and laugh more,
and spread more good cheer.
Church bells ring loud, long resounding peals
Little children make snow angels
With animated zeal.
And the angels hover close to view what’s going on
For the children’s play is rich, rare and more strong.
They question “Why can’t this always be? The joy, and fun
And laughter we now see – children’s voices filled with glee?
Why can’t the human heart but see
How things like this should always be;
More love and harmony in unrestrained joy.”
And why can’t mankind be more like children, see without alloy.
Cease to be so steely and enjoy life’s total sum,
The Holidays are here, share now your cheer with everyone.

May Reed
Written Nov. 8, 2010
BLUE RIDGE, GA — This year, 2010, marks the Reverend Harold C. (Hal) Doster's 60th year in ministry. He began his ministry as a 19-year-old rising sophomore at Bethany College, Bethany, WV. While studying as a pre-ministerial student, Hal was called to pastor the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Flushing, OH. He served that church for three years, until he graduated from Bethany College and entered Yale Divinity School, New Haven, CT. He's been going strong ever since!

SUITLAND, MD — On October 19, 2010, the Prince George's County Council presented proclamations honoring nine Prince Georgians who have made history and major contributions to the state, nation, and world. Reverend Brenda Cardwell, pastor of Pilgrimage Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and associate pastor Reverend Judy Bowles were among them.

They were honored as living examples of dedication to serving the poor and less fortunate. Rev. Cardwell, who is African American, and Rev. Bowles, who is white, have dedicated their lives to social justice and racial reconciliation. For 23 years their church, with fewer than 40 members, has served over 1,200 young people and run five important community/poverty relief/educational programs in the area.

WASHINGTON, DC — Each year Michigan Park Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) honors its Diamonds, those members who have reached the age of 80. Not only were they honored for their longevity but for their Christian faith and work in the local, regional, and national church. The celebration for the Diamonds - Inez Belcher, Willie Berry, Walter Brown, Annie Holloway, Patsy Johnson, Dorothy Rutherford, and Corrine Sampson -- took place on November 7, 2010.
FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL

DECATUR, GA -- Reverend Kenneth Earl Henry, Sr., 77, died on October 28, 2010, following a four-month battle with cancer. He was surrounded by his family and loved ones at the time of his passing.

Rev. Henry was born in Palestine, TX, to Ophelia G. and Reverend Enoch W. Henry, Sr., on December 27, 1932. He graduated from Lincoln High School, Palestine, TX, and received a BA from Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, TX, and B.Div. and S.T.M. from Yale University School of Divinity, New Haven, CT.

Rev. Henry was Associate Professor of Church History at the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC), Atlanta, GA, where he taught for more than 30 years, retiring in 2003 and receiving the title of Professor Emeritus in 2010. He co-authored, with Mark Ellingsen, a history of the ITC titled Making Black Ecumenism Happen: The History of the Interdenominational Theological Center as a Paradigm for Christian Unity (Atlanta, Georgia: ITC Press, 2008). He was a founding member of the Ray of Hope Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Decatur, GA. Reverend Henry was a guest lecturer and speaker at colleges, universities, churches, and church conferences nationally and internationally. Reverend Henry's accomplishments and honors include: ordained as a minister in the Christian Church, (Disciples of Christ) in 1956; first African American to serve as First Vice Moderator of the Christian Church; active board member for several national-level church organizations: Council on Christian Unity, Division of Overseas Ministries, Campbell-Stone; inclusion in the Encyclopedia of African American Culture and History; and induction into the Jarvis Christian College Hall of Fame in 1996.

He is survived by his wife, Pearl Lean Henry, Decatur, GA; his daughter Valarie Henry, Atlanta, GA; his son Kenneth E. Henry, Jr., Minneapolis, MN; his sisters, Annie L. Fain, Palestine, TX, Mattie Henry Ester, San Francisco, CA, Ruthye M. Jackson, Palestine, TX, and Bettye J. Cannon, Atlanta, GA; and his brother, Dr. Charles E. Henry (Janice), Lubbock, TX. Memorial services were held on November 6, 2010 at Ray of Hope Christian Church, Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale, Senior Pastor, officiating. Dr. Claude Walker, Kansas City, MO, gave the eulogy.
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