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2002

The Oldtimers' Grapevine, Volume 12 (January - December 2002)

William K. Fox Sr

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The Oldtimers'

GRAPEVINE

January/February '02

Volume 12, Issue 1

Psalm 71:5
“For thou art
my hope, O
Lord God:
Thou art my
trust from
my youth”

GOD'S "AMAZING GRACE"

Mrs. Buena Orene Cole, teacher, administrator and life-long servant of God, was inducted into the Centenarian Club of Oklahoma on January 4, 2002, at 3:00 p.m., having celebrated her one-hundredth birthday just hours earlier.

Mrs. Cole, one of 11 people in Eastern Oklahoma to reach the 100 mark in January, was initiated into the Centenarian Club by the Rev. Richard V. Zigiar, Executive Director of NEATs. Friends and family attending the ceremony included: her grandson Goldman G. Jacobs, Palm Springs, CA, granddaughter Donnetta Jacobs McMullen, and great grandson Justin David McMullen, both of Owasso, OK.

The ceremony was highlighted by the eloquent recitation of the poem "The Presence" by the honoree. Her warm smile and enunciation was a moving experience to those gathered. The love of a devoted daughter was evidenced in the introduction of the honoree by her daughter, Mrs. Suetta Cole Woodward of Tulsa, OK.

God's amazing grace has been a driving force through the entire life of this centenarian. At age 94, this servant of God celebrated 81 years of water baptism. She vividly recalled how it all happened. After the morning sermon the choir sang "Lord Jesus I long to be perfectly whole, and I want Thee forever to dwell in my soul..." She was age 12 when she made her confession of faith in Jesus Christ. One year later she was baptized in a lake in Palestine, TX. She also remembered her cousin Gomez was baptized with her and they both became members of Fulton Street Christian Church.

"Mother Cole" as affectionately addressed by friends, came from a family of preachers and was the wife of the late evangelist, Rev. Richard L. Cole for 55 years.

A great love of hers was the Christian Evangelistic Project Center which has provided scholarships for young people since 1976. The project was started with her husband, who encouraged college-bound students to

strive for excellence and be examples of Christian living at home, school and church. Following his death Mrs. Cole became sole administrator of the center.

Deeply rooted in her Christian Faith, Mother Cole attributed her longevity to "A GOOD AND MODERATE LIFE, AND GENEALOGY." Her favorite hymn is "AMAZING GRACE", and words of wisdom "DO YOUR BEST IN WHATEVER TASK YOU HAVE TO DO, WITH GOD AS YOUR PARTNER....LIVE IN HIS PRESENCE."

Mrs. Cole, member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, provided outstanding leadership in educational, religious and community circles and received many awards and honors.

She holds a B.S. degree from Philander Smith College and Little Rock University. She was the first Afro-American woman to serve on the board of Arkansas Christian Women's Fellowship; served twice as State President, and Secretary of

the National Christian Missionary Convention.

Mrs. Cole, a Christian Educator of deep humility, has been a faithful member of Second Christian Church, Tulsa, OK for the last 36 years. She is an ardent advocate for positive thinking, and has among her reading materials, the Bible, booklets and poems espousing optimism, excellency and successful living.

Mrs. Cole is honored in the Hall of Fame at the Martin Luther King Center in Muskogee, OK. She was honored by the Arkansas State Department of Education for exceptional work with young people. Mrs. Cole has enjoyed life due to her faith in God and recognition of His "AMAZING GRACE".

(Editorial note: Mrs. Woodward shared with The Oldtimers' Grapevine Newsletter on Monday, February 25, that her mother had received her greatest reward - earlier she had been called home to be with her Heavenly Father).



EDITOR'S NOTES

DEAR READER

Sharing of the many blessings experienced for the year. (Round-up 2001)

Joy in the family of Dave & Anne Alexander when son Doug decided to forego pursuing future relationship with the Episcopal Church and accepted a call from Antioch Christian Church and was elated to start serving January 1, 2002. David & Patty continue in good health and satisfying careers in Sacramento. Dave taught a course on evangelism and stewardship at LTS in the spring and is now planning more time for golf and a genealogy search. Anne, besides enjoying being grandmother, finds time to give care at the Alzheimer's Day Care Center most every Monday.

Bill & Dode Miller experienced both joy and sorrow in one week period when the family held a reunion at the home of Dode's 94-year-old mother the last of March and she was called to her heavenly home the following week. Just two months later, they enjoyed a most informative trip to Alaska. A Thanksgiving celebration was at the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Blessings continued in latter October when a new granddaughter was born bringing the total grands to twenty.

Ernest & Janice Newborn are basking in the lovely community of Claremont, CA, a community of 360 retired church professionals, however, the determining factor for this move was to be near their four grandchildren. Son Ernest II and wife, Josie, and their two sons (Josh & Joseph) live in the bay area. Daughter Mary Jo, and husband (Donald Wiggins) have a son, Nathan, and a daughter Meredith, who live in San Diego. Janice, recipient of the Church Women United "Year 2000 Valiant Women Award, is involved in the community, when not grandmothing. Ernest is serving as interim pastor with a local church and was presented the 2001 Distinguished Alumni Award by Christian Theological Seminary. He continues to serve as President of the Board of Oldtimers Newsletter.

Peter M. Margan and charming wife, Lynne, extended blessings in this season " when we all need a rebirth of hope". Peter, President of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society, unites with us in this historic prayer for light and hope in a season of darkness:

**We unite with you in this historic prayer
for light and hope
in a season of darkness:**

***Almighty God, give us grace to cast away
the works of darkness and put in the armor
of light, now in the time of this mortal life
in which your son Jesus Christ came to
visit us in great humility.***

Romans 12:11-14

A mountain top experience for the most joyful volunteer we know, Maryily Hotz, was the 1951 class of Butler University at its 50th graduation anniversary reception, all alumni luncheon and gals banquet. She was honored to be amember of the steering committee and giving the banquet invocation, attended by 47 alumni. The other joy Marilyn shares was the 25th anniversary celebration of Habitat for Humanity which was hosted by Indianapolis. She shares that at this noon emotional gathering tears filled eyes of the crowd as Vernon Fuller, Habitat founder, presented Bibles and hugs to owners of 25 new-homes built during the summer. Former U.S. President, Jimmy Carter, long-time Habitat volunteer spoke at the evening celebration.

continued on page 4

In the unfamiliar times and circumstances of 2001, friends and family are more precious than ever to Bill and Mary Helen Blackwell who struggled each day from June to mid November hoping for survival of grandson Fraser, who was suffering from a rare blood disease. The major agenda item on their gratitude list at the family gathering at Thanksgiving was the survival of 9-year-old Fraser.

Other joys included granddaughter Eliza again receiving first place in the County Social Studies Fair in Charleston; daughter Mary Byrd excelling as auction coordinator for WVPT-TV, for Harrisonburg and Charlottesville; and our 50th class reunion of Lynchburg College. This event was highlighted with Bill being presented the T. Gibson Hobbs Memorial Award for service to college, church and community. This is the college's highest alumni award.

The greatest blessing in the Jim and Lucy Reed household was Lucy's successful surgery. This wonderful talented musician entered the hospital for surgery and was dismissed three days later. Both her neurosurgeon and nephrologist give her very good reports. In mid July, Jim, with help from family and friends, moved into their new home at Robin Run. Several months later he found room in the two car garage for their car.

The Rev. Dr. William O. Howland, Jr. and wife Anne, celebrated their 50th anniversary with family and friends at the home of their daughter Mary Hurt, Midland, TX. during the holiday season. Bill, retired Sr. Minister of National City Christian Church, had just celebrated his 50th anniversary in the ministry a few months earlier.

Comments for the New Year

"I really enjoyed the last issue. I always learn something new and I like that." May Reed

"Dear Elder Haynes, just a note to thank you. Psalm 71:5 seemd as though G.W. (Rev. Dr. George W. Jones, deceased) was speaking since this was his hope. In his new home, I believe he is smiling... The Oldtimers' is splendid. Keep publishing. God Bless".
Frances Jones and Family

"If you haven't been to Alaska, GO!, exclaimed newly wed Pablo Stone and his wife Jenean". The dream of a lifetime for this happy couple was an extended vacation to Alaska. Jenean has been working on the Stone geneology and has traced this human rights activist lineage back to Barton W. Stone.

Pablo is active in the black mountain urban forest commission, the Martin Luther King Prayer Breakfast Board, Chamber music festival board and United Nations Association Board. He was recently appointed to the Disciples Peace Fellowship Executive Committee. He also represents North Carolina Disciples on the Board of the Commission on Religion and Appalachia and member of their new anti-racism team.

Oscar Haynes,
Editor

Thank You For The Gifts!!!!

Glenn Shoemaker, Raymore, MO;
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Frances L. Jones, Cantonsville, MD;
Ray & Anna Nixon, Raymore, MO;
Eliza Husser-Cave, Bath, SC;

OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE

Published six times a year through tax exempt donations.

Oscar Haynes, Editor/Manager
19 46 Place, N.E.
Washington, DC 20019
202-398-8989

Associate Editor, Ernest Newborn
Los Angeles, CA
Donna Haynes, Production Manager
Washington, DC

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Just Transitioning

Got up this morning just running Around.
I finally said "stop!" and sat myself Down.
I was all out of breath when I got a
HOT FLASH...
I scolded myself while letting it Pass.
I talked right out loud as i fanned my Face
Chided myself on slowing myPace.
Getting older and changing
can be rather Hard.
Before you get started you're feeling
Down-right tired.
I'll just keep myself busy;
my mind and my Heart.
I won't let me be lazy,
It wouldn't be smart.
Athought sometimes-it feels-things are
coming Apart.
I remember the saying
"You're as young as you feel."
Yes, this is so true and life is
so ooo oo Real.
I don't doubt now that I'll keep
getting Older.
But God and His Word
will just make me Bolder.

*May F. Lindsey Reed
Non-Fiction
Written Thurs., Jan 10,
2002 - 12:12 pm*

A Lenten Prayer

*Dear God, as we begin this
season (journey) of Lent, help us
not to rush too quickly to the
empty tomb. Let us remember that
there was no resurrection without
first going through the wilderness,
going through the cross. There is
no triumph without seeking God's
face, without submitting our way to
God's will. Help me during this
time of rededication, as I open my
existence to you through
discipline, prayer and fasting to
listen to your guidance that I might
follow your will now and forever
more.*

Amen

Reverend Lillian C. Smith

oldtimer's

THAT DAY!

The sun rose, as always, from the blackness of night;

September 11 was dawning, the day took flight.

Many awakened from slumber like you and I.

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

Not wanting this day either to pass them by.

Shaved, showered, shampooed and dressed;

Most surely feeling confident, good, and blessed.

No one suspected what was coming in that hour;

Only God-Father and Son their Holy Power.

For others had prepared to threaten, maim and kill;

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

But Lord, don't let us fret too long;

Let us pray for one another that we might be strong.

Time will heal every woe and care.

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

Blessings surround us in a myriad of ways;

We need only to yeild, recognize life's each phase.

No woe is so great that God cannot attend;

God's love and Grace will always descend.

May F. Lindsey Reed

Written Thursday, Oct. 4, 2001, 11:32 am

It is a glorious day today...



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The Oldtimers'

GRAPEVINE

"Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers"
Proverbs 17:6

March/April '02

Volume 12, Issue 2

THIRD GENERATION DISCIPLE HONORED

Mrs. Eliza Husser-Cave, dedicated church and community worker, was named **DISCIPLE OF THE YEAR**, during the Regional Assembly of the Christian Church in South Carolina in late 2001. This is a coveted award presented to outstanding leaders in the region.

"In recognition of her extraordinary devotion to Christ and His Church, in all its manifestations, and for the outstanding example she has set both in season and out of season, the Regional Assembly honors Eliza Husser-Cave and give thanks to Almighty God for her"



Smilingly, Mrs. Cave accepted the award, saying "I feel humbled that I was chosen for the award and that people in the church feel that I was worthy. It is not every day you are honored for those things you enjoy doing for the church and the Lord."

The Rev. Donald Morris, pastor of First Christian Church (DOC) said "Mrs. Husser-Cave was very much deserving of this recognition. She has been active in church work ever since she was a child. Since living in this area, she's been special to our church. Community wise, the sorority that she belonged to in college and still belongs to is very active in the community."

Over the last 42 years, Eliza, as she is affectionately known, has served the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. She has served as President of the State CWF, President of the National Convocation CWF and was a CWF representative to the Caribbean twice. Her outstanding leadership career began as Secretary

to the State Convention. (Predecessor to the regional assembly).

Eliza has the distinction of having served on the Search Committees which called two General Ministers and President. They are the Rev. Dr. William C. Nichols, and the Rev. Dr. Richard L. Hamm. She has served on the General Board and Administrative Committee of The Christian Church (DOC), and the Board of Christmount Christian Assembly, Black Mountain, NC.

She currently serves as staff of the South Carolina Disciples Women and Elder at First Christian Church, Aiken, SC. Much of her life story is in a book published by the Christian Women's Fellowship. One of her favorite sayings is, "I can do all things through the help of the Lord"

The soft-spoken, personable Eliza Husser-Cave, a retired home economics teacher, credits her father and grandfather for inspiring her to give her life to Jesus Christ at an early age. The Poplar Hill Christian Church was founded by Grandfather IZIAH Husser.

We salute Eliza Husser-Cave for this distinguished recognition and thank God for her faithful service to Christ and the Church.

FIFTEENTH PRESIDENT OF LTS CALLED

"The presidential search process is now complete and on April 1, 2002, Dr. R. Robert Cueni will become the 15th President of Lexington Theological Seminary," is a quote taken from a special issue of the Lexington Theological Seminary Bulletin.

This was the statement of Rev. Dr. Harold R. Watkins, Interim President of Lexington, after a grueling, exhaustive search for the next God-blessed person who would fill this most important leadership position. Dr. Watkins added, "It has been my privilege to serve during this interim period between two presidents for whom I have great respect, Richard L. Harrison, Jr., and Robert Cueni."

Dr. Cueni is a well-known disciples pastor-scholar who served Country Club Christian Church, Kansas City, MO for the last 10 years. Prior to that ministry, he served churches in Texas, Indiana, Illinois and Michigan. In addition, he has authored seven books, his latest being "Questions of Faith for Inquiring Believers (C.S.S. Publishing, 2001).

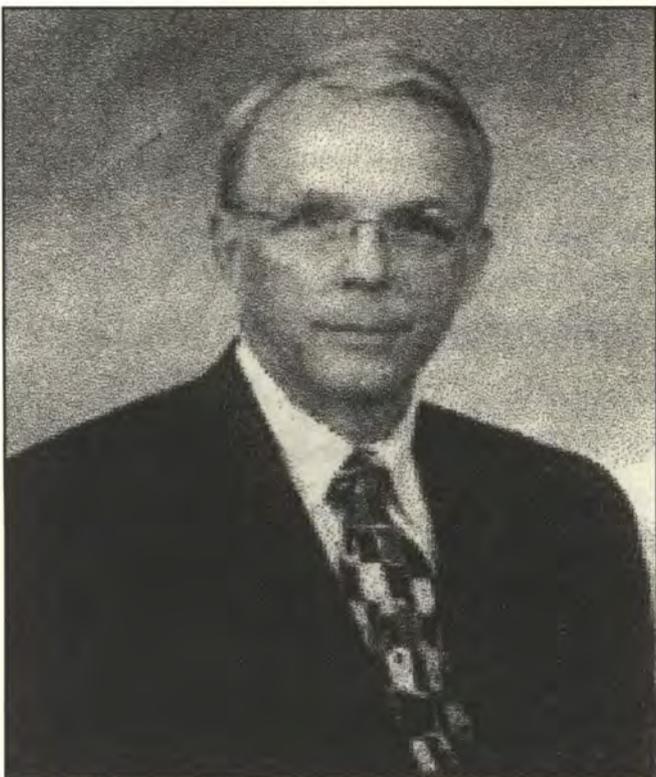
He believes his call to the position is a sign, "that Lexington is reaffirming its historical stand, which is to be primarily a place that produces leadership for the church - grass roots leadership - particularly the training of pastoral

cont'd on page 3

ministers.” “We have to have leaders well entrenched in the story of who we are as Disciples,” said the new seminary president.

Dr. Cueni exclaimed, “I want to help shape leaders who know the distinctive nature of being Disciple, which is, by definition, ecumenical. But we are not generic ecumenists. There is a distinctiveness about disciples.” What is it?

The Seminary’s new president has served on the General Board of the Christian Church (DOC), the Task Force on New Church Establishment, the National City Christian Church Foundation, Washington, D.C., and several other church-related and secular boards and committees.



THE REV. DR. ERNEST NEWBORN HONORED

The Rev. Dr. Ernest J. Newborn, Associate Editor of the **OLDTIMERS** GRAPEVINE and President of the Board of Directors, has been elected Distinguished Alumni of Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, IN. He is one of three outstanding religious leaders to be so honored by the Seminary this year.

Newborn’s career has included being senior pastor for congregations in three states and the District of Columbia, Administrative Director of Reconciliation and administrative positions as well as work with the General and Regional Church. He has played significant roles in ecumenical work as well.

Another significant honor was bestowed upon him at the 28th Annual Black Ministers Retreat in the observance of his fifty years of Ordination to Christian Ministry. “On behalf of the Christian Church (DOC) in the United States and Canada, the Board of Directors and Staff of the Division of Homeland Ministries and those gathered here salute you,” declared the Rev. Dr. Raymond E. Brown, Interim President.

cont’d on page 4

“We rejoice that in your many years as a faithful and committed preacher, teacher and mentor, you have led so many men, women, youth and children to new life in the Lord. We also praise God for the many times when people were transformed by the witness of a faithful life and committed servant.”

“On behalf of a grateful church, we pray that you will continue to share your deep faith and wisdom with all who seek God’s love and presence. The ministry to which God called you continues in you and in all those whose lives you have touched.”

In a past conversation with the editor of the Oldtimers’ Grapevine, Dr. Newborn said “I would most likely have become a Methodist,” had it not been for the Twelfth Street Christian Church (DOC), in Washington, D.C., “allowing me to practice preaching and teaching while a student at Howard University Divinity School.”

Retirees Launch New Magazine

Two retired print media professionals, anxious to respond to an important need in the life of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), have hastily come out of retirement and formed a not-for-profit corporation to launch a new denominational magazine. It will fill the void left by the demise of the Disciple Magazine.

These two very personable entrepreneurs are James C. Suggs, former president of the Christian Board of Publication, and Robert L. Friedly, former editor of the late Disciple Magazine. This new publication, which is expected to be released the end of April, 2002, is named “DISCIPLES WORLD”.

Disciples World is being sponsored by the Disciples of Christ Historical Society, one of the general units of the denomination. The magazine and a corresponding world wide web site will be operated by a nine-member board of directors, representative of all manifestations of the church.

The basic subscription rate for Disciples World, the new journal of news, opinion and mission, is \$22.00 per year. A bundle for education and evangelism, 10 to 19 copies, will cost only \$15.00 each for one year. The OLDTIMERS’ GRAPEVINE recommends a subscription in every home. We will be among the first to sign on!

Thank You For The Gifts!!!

Mary Frey, Indianapolis, IN;
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Russell & Nancy Harrison, Indianapolis, IN;
Gwendolyn B. Robinson, Washington, D.C.;
Suetta Cole Woodward, Tulsa, OK.

OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE

Published six times a year through tax exempt donations.

Oscar Haynes, Editor/Manager

19 46 Place, N.E.

Washington, DC 20019

202-398-8989

Associate Editor, Ernest Newborn

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Donna Haynes, Production Manager

Washington, DC

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oldtimer's

THE POETS CORNER

Mankind's Mindset

Mankind is filled with knowledge
Of this we overflow.
But of true wisdom, understanding,
few in this life doth show.

Men today judge others by an
acquired or earned degree.
Some simply lack the wisdom that
would help set man's soul free.

We've learned all the proper phases,
labored through life's different stages;
We practice daily what to say
And will worry if folk think we are OK.

Blessings pass by day-by-day
when we lack God's Word or fail to say;
the simple truths that make us strong,
those truths that help our life prolong.

Unlock the door of mind and heart.
Let God's word enter and peace impart.
Enjoy life, the world, and all that's been
given.

Deny the ways that make life driven.
Deny the Satan that grips and rivets.
For Jesus came, dies, and now Is risen,
no Satan can hold the mind, the soul
prison.

May F. Lindsey Reed
Written Mon., April 15, 2002



INMAN CHRISTIAN CENTER EXECUTIVE RETIRES

Daniel H. Sucedo retires after 35 years as Director of the Inman Christian Center, San Antonio, TX. Inman, a mission center for the Division of Homeland Ministries, was founded in 1913 as a neighborhood center to provide services to low income families.

When Dan became Director the Center had a budget of \$75,000. Upon his retirement the budget reports a healthy \$10 million in capital improvements that include a Parent-Child Development Center, the O'Keefe Outdoor Gym, and 298 apartments for the elderly and those with mental disabilities. Dan has been able to bring nearly \$9 million in grant to Inman to establish new programs.

The Inman Board of Directors has named Carol Edgerton Garcia to succeed Mr. Saucedo as Executive Director.

PASTOR TO HEAD RECONCILIATION

The Rev. T. Eugene Fisher, Sr., former pastor of Centennial Christian Church in St. Louis, MO, and Faith United Christian Church, Canton, OH., has been called as Minister of Reconciliation for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). He will give staff leadership to all aspects of the church's Reconciliation Mission.

In response to this call, Rev. Fisher declared "I am committed to this ministry, as well as the struggles that will go along with becoming an anti-racist/pro-reconciling church. I have spent much of my life building bridges. A bridge is only as viable as its anchors."

His work, he said, will be to shore up the anchors that we might build strong bridges that will stand up to the struggles that are still ahead. The Rev. Jessica Vasquez will continue with the Reconciliation Mission team as training coordinator.

Rev. Fisher is a former administrator at Light of the World Christian Church, Indianapolis, IN and youth Pastor at Oasis of Hope Baptist Church, Indianapolis. He has a Master of Divinity Degree from Christian Theological Seminary and a Bachelor of Science in business from Franklin University, Columbus, OH.

A HOLY GIFT

The Oldtimers' Grapevine received a monetary gift recently that reflected the true love of Christ. It has impacted this ministry so greatly that we want all to share in this expression of love.

A hand written note with a check enclosed stated, "Exciting issue. Enclosed \$\$\$\$. Wish it could be more - But, I have to support four doctors, one chiropractor, and one pharmacy. Oh yes - I eat, too - but very well. At.... Blessings."

What a great expression of faith. God does provide, regardless to how greedy man has become.

The Oldtimers'

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The Oldtimers'

GRAPEVINE

May/June '02

Volume 12, Issue 3

*"I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor His seed begging bread."
Ps. 37:25*

PREACHER, TEACHER, COUNSELOR-GOD'S ANOINTED

The multi-talented Disciples of Christ church leader in this 21st century, the acknowledged "senior" of a Christian couple recently honored for unparalleled stewardship, is the Rev. Dr. Harold "Hal" Watkins, retired president of Church Extension. Mrs. Evelyn Earlywine Watkins, the beauty and brains of this exceptional couple, humbly shares her gift for giving.

The most recent recognition of their stewardship came during the spring meeting of the Christian Church Foundation Board. They received the Foundation's highest honor: The Harry T. Ice Award for Philanthropy and Overall Commitment to the Christian Church.

Dr. Watkins, retired president of Church Extension (formerly known as the Board of Church Extension), just completed a term as interim president of Lexington Theological Seminary. He gave highest praise to retiring president, Dr. Richard L. Harrison and the Search Committee for selecting Lexington's new president, Rev. Dr. Robert Cueni.



During the award presentation several speakers praised the Watkins not only for their generosity but also for their intentional efforts to mentor young pastors. "Hal, you are a major influence on people, and through people, on this church we know and love," said the Rev. James Powell, president of Church Extension.

Rev. Gary Kidwell, senior president of Major Gifts and Development for the Foundation said, "Hal and Evelyn are a model of not only a great marriage, but a great ministerial partnership." Hal and Evelyn were married on June 18, 1950 and he was ordained two weeks later.

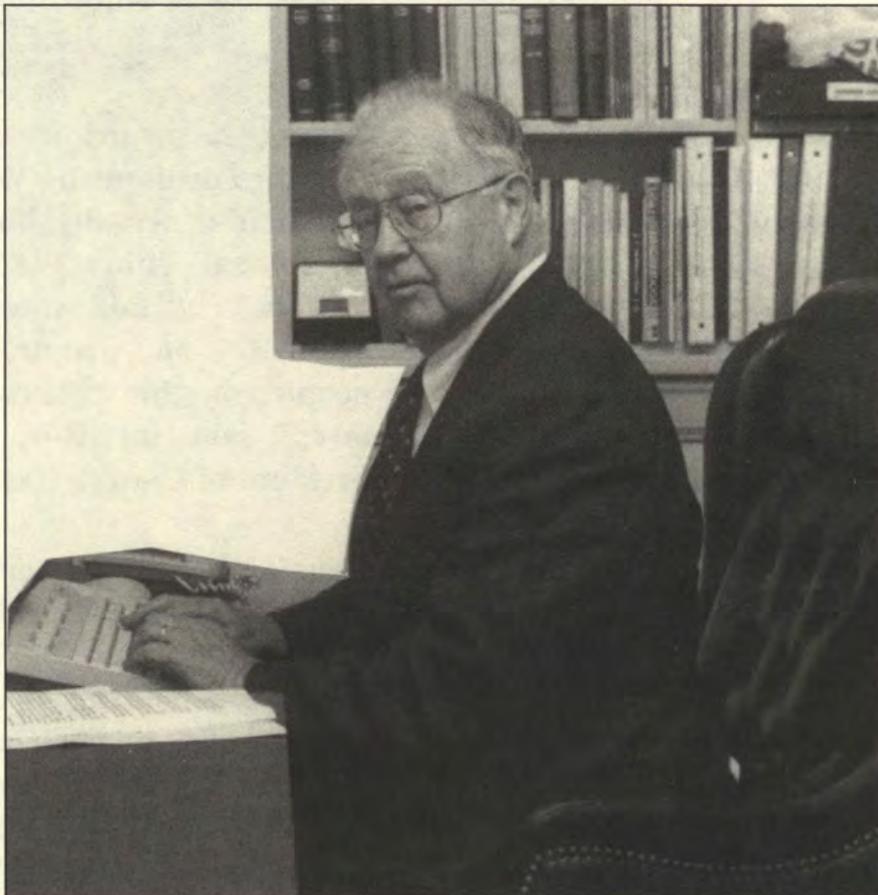
This Ohio native graduated Valedictorian from Wauseon High School in 1946 with letters in varsity basketball, football, and track. He was class president, editor of the yearbook, member of the choir and he played the tenor sax. Hal graduated Cum Laude from Bethany College and was a honor student at College of the Bible, now Lexington Theological Seminary. He holds Honorary Doctorates from Phillips University, Enid, OK and Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, IN.

In 1970, Watkins met with A. Maceo Walker, president of Tri State Bank of Memphis, TN to discuss investments of Church Extension in Black owned financial institutions. During his tenure as president, CE invested some \$1,200,000 with Black owned institutions.

While vice-president and consultant with CE he guided the building of a new library for Tougaloo College in Mississippi.

Dr. Watkins is a past president of the World Convention of Churches of Christ and served 12 years on the Ecumenical Church Loan Fund, Geneva, Switzerland. He is Board Chair of National City Christian Church Foundation and board member of Bethany College and the United Church of Christ Insurance Board.

Dr. Paul Crow when speaking of Hal's wisdom said, "His greatest display of wisdom was dating and seeking marriage of Evelyn. Hal is a gift of God's grace to all who know him."



Regional Minister to Lead General Unit

The Rev. Arnold C. Nelson, Jr., Regional Minister for the Region of South Carolina, has been called to be the next President of the Division of Homeland Ministries, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). He will assume his new duties August 1, 2002.

Don Tuttle, Chairman of DHM Board, said "the Rev. Nelson has a pastor's heart," in announcing the board's unanimous decision. "He knows what goes on in local congregations and can help Homeland Ministries partner with regions."

The new president declared, "I grew up in (the Disciples of Christ). My life is what it is because of this church—and the programs of Homeland Ministries."

Rev. Nelson has served as Regional Minister of South Carolina since 1998. In those four years he increased the number of congregations in the region, promoted racial/ethnic desegregation of fellowship organizations, camps and conferences, and increased region-wide Basic Mission Finance giving.

Prior to his call to the regional minister position, Arnold spent 21 years as a congregational pastor. He pastored Pulaski Heights Christian Church, Little Rock, AK, from 1984 to 1997, and First Christian Church, Camden, AK, from 1976 to 1984.

Rev. Nelson holds a Masters of Divinity Degree from Iliff School of Theology, Denver, CO. and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Phillips University, Enid, OK. He and his wife Kelly are the proud parents of three children, Anna, Carrie and Kate, a freshman at Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville, TN.

MONTANA PASTOR CALLED TO HOMELAND MINISTRIES

The Rev. Warren P. Lynn, senior pastor of Grand Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Bozeman, MO, since 1988, has been called to be Director of Search and Call, Homeland Ministries, beginning August 12, 2002. Search and Call is the ministerial relocation program of the Christian Church.

"Warren's experience in the pastorate and with computers provides him the unique skills to successfully guide clergy and regional ministers through the Search and Call process," said the Rev. Dr. Raymond Brown, Interim President of Homeland Ministries.

According to the Kentucky native, "I recognize the importance of the Search and Call process."

Rev. Lynn received a Masters of Divinity Degree from Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX. and a Bachelor of Science Degree from Warner Pacific College, Portland, OR. He is married to Elizabeth (Betsy) Richmond Lynn. They are the proud parents of four-year-old Philip Charles Lynn.

CUIC APPOINTS FIRST DIRECTOR

The Churches Uniting in Christ, launched on January 20, 2002, has called the Rev. Beatrice Y. Wood as its first director. The CUIC is a relationship among nine churches that have pledged to live more closely together in expressing their unity in Christ and to combat racism. These nine churches, or "member communions" collectively represent more than 22 million Protestant and Anglican Christians in the United States.

The Rev. Wood was the first woman pastor of the 137-year-old historic and predominantly African-American Mt. Zion Congregational United Church of Christ in Cleveland, OH. "Bert's appointment brings new energy to our collective commitment to uniting around essentials of faith and mission," says the Rev. Lydia Veliko, chair of the search committee. According to Rev. Veliko, "She brings significant gifts in the areas of organizational skill, and sensitivity to the needs of individual member communions. She has won the respect of our many ecumenical communities."

The nine member communions include the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), African Methodist Episcopal Church, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Episcopal Church, International Council of Community Churches, Presbyterian Church (USA), United Church of Christ and United Methodist Church.

A PRAYER FOR THOSE GROWING OLDER

Lord, Thou knowest that I am growing older. Keep me from becoming talkative and possessed with the idea that I must express myself on every subject. Release me from the craving to straighten out everyone's affairs. Keep me from the recital of endless detail. Give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips when I am inclined to tell of my aches and pains; they are increasing with the years and my love to speak of them grows sweeter as time goes by. Teach me the glorious lesson that occassionally I may be wrong. Make me thoughtful but not noseey; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom and experience it does seem a pity not to use it all. But Thou knowest, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.

Estes Park, CO

OVERHEARD

"Why can't you sleep?" the wife asks her husband, who is pacing the floor at 3a.m. "Honey, I borrowed \$1,000 from Sam next door, and I owe it to him by tomorrow." says the husband, wringing his hands. "I just don't have the money!" The woman jumps out of bed and flings open the window. "Sam" she shouts, "Sam, Sam!" Finally, the groggy neighbor opens the window. "What is it?" he asks. "You know the thousand dollars my husband owes you? He doesn't have it." She slams the window shut. "Now," she tells her husband, "you go to sleep and let him pace the floor."

POET'S CORNER

Our poet-in-residence underwent surgery recently and was unable to supply a poem for this issue. We pray for a speedy and complete recovery. Please keep Mrs. May F. Lindsey Reed in your prayers.



Our guest author for this issue is:

*I am Mattie J.T. Stepanek,
My body has light skin,
Red blood, blue eyes, and blond hair.
Since I have mitochondrial myopathy,
I even have a trach, a ventilator, and oxygen.
Very poetic, I am, and very smart, too.
I am always brainstorming ideas and stories.
I am a survivor, but some day, I will see
My two brothers and one sister in Heaven.
When I grow up, I plan to become
A father, a writer, a public speaker,
And most of all, a peacemaker.
Whoever I am, and whatever happens,
I will always love my body and mind,
Even if it has different abilities
Than other people's bodies and minds.
I will always be happy, because
I will always be me.*

May 2001

OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE

Published six times a year through tax exempt donations.

Oscar Haynes, Editor/Manager
19 46 Place, N.E.
Washington, DC 20019
202-398-8989

Associate Editor, Ernest Newborn
Los Angeles, CA
Donna Haynes, Production Manager
Washington, DC

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FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL

Services celebrating the life of Willie Ellen Green, known for her loving kindness, generosity and culinary expertise, were held recently at Second Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Jefferson City, MO. the Rev. Geneva Whittler, officiating.

Mrs. Green was employed at the Lincoln University Student Union as assistant hostess and later at Lincoln's Page Library and retired after 18 years of loyal service. She was a licensed funeral director.

In January 1996, Mrs. Green received the Martin Luther King, Jr., Award from the African-American Ministerial Alliance; A valiant Woman Award from Church Women United in November, 1996, and the David Brent Racial Justice Award from CURE (Christians United for Racial Equity) in April, 2000.

She was a member and Church Mother of Second Christian Church, Jefferson City, MO., an Elder, Trustee, and member of the Christian Women's Fellowship, choir and Sunday School. She was also a life member of the NAACP.



Reverend DR. OZARK RANGE, Greenwood, MS. Homecoming services for this well-known retired church executive were held at Friendship Baptist Church, Greenwood,

Mississippi on May 17. He died of a heart attack on May 10, 2002.

Dr. Range retired on March 31, 1995, after 17 plus years of service to Homeland Ministries as Director of Black Ministry. Before joining this general unit of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), he had served as pastor of Woodland Christian Church, Columbus, HO for 13 years. Prior to going to Woodland, he had served pastorates in Texas for approximately ten years.

On October 15, 1994, Ozard was inducted into this first Pioneer hall of Fame at Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, TX. In 1981 Jarvis bestowed upon him the Doctor of Divinity Degree. He was a graduate of Southern Christian Institute, Edward, MS.

Dr. Range is survived by his wife Mildred Range, pastor of the East Percy Street Christian Church, Greenwood, and seven children. A Scholarship Fund in his honor has been established at Homeland Ministries, P.O. Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN.

**DEE LONG JOINS CHURCH EXTENSION
STAFF**

Mrs. Dee Long, native of Raleigh, NC is a new member of the General Consultant Team of Church Extension, a financial unit of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). She previously served as program administrator for Church Extension's New Church Ministry Team.

The Rev. Eugene Randall, II, Vice President for Ministry Resources of Church Extension, said "Dee will counsel congregations and regions on their facility and capital needs. She brings to this position a real heart for the Disciples of Christ. Her passion and energy will be tremendous assets to those she will now serve."

Dee holds a bachelor's degree in communication from University of Memphis, TN, and is a graduate of Rutledge Business College in her hometown. She is married to the Rev. Sotello Long, Minister of Evangelism, Homeland Ministries. They are members of Light of the World Christian Church, Indianapolis, IN.

**Bethany College Calls New
President**

Bethany College, Bethany, WV, which has enjoyed excellent leadership from Dr. D. Duane Cummins over the past 14 years, has called Dr. Patricia L. Poteat to be the institution's 17th President.

The selection of Dr. Poteat was announced by James F. Companion, Chair of the College's Board of Trustees. Bethany College is the oldest degree-granting institution of higher education in West Virginia. The search committee was chaired by Trustee John N. McLaughlin of Pittsburgh.

Dr. Poteat will begin her duties at Bethany on July 1, 2002. "I am deeply honored to have been selected to serve as the next President of Bethany," she stated. She continues, "Bethany has a long and honorable history as an institution dedicated to academic excellence rooted in the liberal arts and nurtured by its affiliation with the Christian Church (Disciple of Christ)."

Dr. Poteat received her B.A. in English from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Her M.A. in English from the University of Kentucky, and she earned the Ph.D. in Religion from Duke University.

The Miracle of Communion

The miracle of Communion means the rich bowing down with the poor, the learned with the unlearned, the clean with the filthy, the master with the slave, the privileged with the deprived, the white with the black, and the black with the white.

Rosa Page Welch, 20th-century African-American Disciples singer.

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The Oldtimers' GRAPEVINE

September/October '02

Volume 12, Issue 5

*"They shall still bring forth
fruit in old age; they shall be
fat and flourishing."
Psalms 92:14*

Denomination Mourns Loss of Kenneth L. Teegarden

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has been deeply saddened by the death of The Rev. Dr. Kenneth L. Teegarden, who died recently at his home in Fort Worth, TX at the age of 80. He had suffered an aneurysm in May and had been hospitalized since.

Dr. Teegarden retired in 1985 as the denomination's general minister and president. He first moved to Indianapolis, IN in 1965 as staff executive for the restructure process. He did much of the conceptualizing of the new structure for the denomination and was a relentless promoter of it. He served the maximum two six-year terms as GMP, from 1973-1985.

Reverend Teegarden has been credited with changing this 170-year-old American-born denomination from a collection of independent agencies and congregations to a more organized body with a representative



general assembly. Prior to becoming GMP, he served church pastorates in Oklahoma, Texas and Arkansas, and regional minister in Texas and Arkansas.

This caring church leader was recognized for not only being a sensitive pastor, but for ecumenical leadership and community involvement which included the Little Rock school integration efforts in 1957.

The current GMP, Richard L. Hamm, remembers Ken as one who helped shape my ministry as well as many other young ministers. He declared, "If Dale Fiers was the father of restructure, Ken Teegarden gave it specific form and made it work".

The Rev. Dr. William C. Nichols,

DISCIPLES NEWS ROUND-UP

GMP, 1991-1993, said "His contribution, in all manifestations of the church, was enormous, and the whole church is deeply in his debt. Though he walked in the company of the powerful and famous, he remained humble, selfless and ready to serve wherever God led him. A saint, a scholar, and a human being much loved by a multitude of friends".

"I witnessed his pastoral heart, his love of the church, his integrity in living out the vision of covenant, and the joy and energy with which he served," declared the Rev. Dr. John O. Humbert, Deputy General Minister under Dr. Teegarden.

"Our church will forever bear the mark of his faithful and creative service as pastor of local congregations, regional minister, executive of the Commission on Brotherhood Restructure, General Minister and President. A grateful church joins his wife Wanda and family in grieving his loss while celebrating his wonderful life," stated the Rev. Dr. A. Dale Fiers, the first GMP of this 800,000 member denomination from 1968 to 1973.

In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made to University Christian Church or Brite Divinity School, both in Fort Worth, TX.

TUSKEGEE, AL - Rev. Keith Elliott was recently called as minister at Union Christian Church and during installation services in September the congregation also celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination.

KANSAS CITY, MO - Rev. Margaret Roberts, pastor of Swope Parkway United Christian Church, recently sent out a plea to friends of K. David Cole and wife Vi to please lift them up in prayer. David was diagnosed as having pneumonia as well as other malady causing chest pain. Rev. Cole is a retired pastor of the congregation.

LOS ANGELES, CA - Rev. Algie Rousseau, former interim pastor of Twelfth Street Christian Church, Washington, D.C., has received an Honorary Doctorate Degree from the Southern California School of Ministry, Inglewood, CA. His wife, Dr. Sylvia, has been appointed Superintendent of District "I", Los Angeles Unified School District.

FORT WORTH, TX - Dr. D. Duane Cummins, retired president of Bethany College in West Virginia, has accepted the position of interim president of Brite Divinity School. Former president, Dr. Leo Perdue retired in July to return to full-time teaching and scholarly research.

cont'd on page 3

INDIANAPOLIS, IN - In its zeal to eradicate the sin of racism from North America, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has awarded \$163,800 in grants with emphasis on education for racial reconciliation and anti-racism advocacy. The Disciples Reconciliation Mission Committee awarded 14 grants that will fund programs in 13 states. These grants are awarded to congregations and church-related or non-profit community-related projects designed to contribute to Disciples of Christ's covenant

"to be an anti-racist/pro-reconciling church" and to eliminate racism in church and society.

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK - John D. Malget, Jr., Minister of Music at First Christian Church, Cushing, OK, is the new president of the Association of Disciples Musicians. ADM is affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) through the Division of Homeland Ministries.

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Rev. Dr. Darwin Collins, Regional Minister of the Christian Church in Pennsylvania, represented regional ministers at the retirement celebration for the Rev. Dr. W. Chris Hobgood during ceremonies at National City Christian Church on October 27, 2002. This celebration was sponsored by the Anti-Racism Team of the Christian Church-Capital Area to not only honor Chris but provide an opportunity for other religious, community, and political leaders to join in celebrating the outstanding leadership he has given the whole community. Other participants included Rev. Dr. Clark Lobenstine, Executive Director, Washington Interfaith Conference; Rev. Brenda Cardwell, Pastor and Chair, Anti-Racism Team; Lindsay Hannum, President of Regional CYF; Dr. Siva Subramanian, United Hindu-Jain Temple Association; Rev. Brenda Girton-Mitchell, Director, National Council of Churches; Dr. Alvin O. Jackson, Moderator, General Assembly of the Christian Church (DOC) and Sr. Minister, National City Christian Church.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRECIOUS
GIFTS**

Dan B. & Frances Genung,
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Claremont, CA; Pablo & Jenean
Stone, Black Mountain, NC; Giley E.
& James O. Griffin, Dallas, TX; Ruth
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Kenneth Chambers, Jefferson City,
MO; Robert C. & Berlena Brock,
Seattle, WA; Mary M. Watson,
Kansas City, MO; Ida Dotson,
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Louisville, KY; William & Mary Helen
Blackwell, Brandywine, WV; Robbie
& Louada Chisholm, Silver Spring,
MD; Arzolla Cooke, Knoxville, TN;
Frances M. West, Indianapolis, IN;
Mary & Bill Jacobs, Tempe, AZ;
Annette Jackson, Nashville, TN;
Roland K. & Kittie Huff, Jacksonville,
FL; Marguerite Jackson, Dayton,
OH; and Gretchen & Don Wharff,
Raymore, MO.

A Thanksgiving Prayer

*Give us thankful hearts, O God, in this
season of Thy Thanksgiving. May we be
thankful for health and strength, for sun and
rain and peace. Let us seize the day and
opportunity to strive for that greatness of
spirit that measures life not by its
disappointments but by its possibilities, and let
us ever remember that true gratitude and
appreciation shows itself neither in
independence nor satisfaction but passes the
gift joyfully on in larger and better form.
Such gratitude grant us, O Lord. Amen.*

W. E. DuBois (1868-1963)

OVERHEARD

Rev. Willie Williams found a dead
mule in front of his home and
phoned the police about it. The
officer on the desk knew the
Reverend and, thinking he'd have
some fun with him, said, "I thought
you clergymen took care of the
dead". "We do", replied the
minister, "but it is always proper to
first get in touch with the relatives".

BE RECONCILED!

*2 CORINTHIANS 5:18-20
ERADICATE RACISM FROM
ITS ROOTS AND IT WON'T
GROW TO BE A PROBLEM.*

*GIVE GENEROUSLY TO THE
RECONCILIATION
OFFERING*

*CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)*

POET'S CORNER

Have You Ever

*Have you ever experienced a heavenly day
where you felt lofty and bright,
springly and light;
and things felt just right
in your heart, in your sight,
and you just felt good,
not at all uptight.....
No fights to fight - -
just serenely alright?*

*It is moments like this
that sweetens the soul.
It is moments like this
that you just want to hold
It is moments like this
that should be shared;
should be told.
It is moments like this
that make you feel whole.*

*May F. Lindsey Reed
Written Friday, August 30, 2002*



OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE

**Published six times a year through tax
exempt donations.**

Oscar Haynes, Editor/Manager
19/ 46 Place, N.E.
Washington, DC 20019
202-398-8989

Rev. Joan Bell-Haynes
Assistant Editor
Washington, DC

Associate Editor, Ernest Newborn
Los Angeles, CA
Donna Haynes, Production Manager
Washington, DC

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Happy Thanksgiving!

oldtimer's

FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL

Long Grove, IL - Rev. Dr. John Soongook Choi, founding leader of the North American Pacific/Asian Disciples, and founding pastor of Chicago Christian Church, (Disciples of Christ) died recently at his home.

He served on the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), on the Division of Homeland Ministries Board of Directors, on the University of Chicago Disciples of Christ Divinity House Board, as well as other committees and boards.

He is survived by his wife, Myonghi and sons, Midong and Sundong. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Soongook Choi Scholarship Fund, PO Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

Fort Worth, TX - The Southwest Region of the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, is mourning the loss of their regional minister, Rev. Dr. Ralph E. Glenn. "This is, of course, a tremendous loss to



everyone who has known and loved Ralph and his family," said Rev. Dr. Richard L. Hamm, General Minister of the Christian Church, (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

Glenn provided important service throughout the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), serving as area minister in Mid-America, as well as

vice president of Columbia College, Columbia, MO; Phillips University, Enid, OK; and the Division of Higher Education, St. Louis, MO. He was beginning his sixth year as regional minister of the denomination's largest region. This region serves nearly 450 congregations in Texas, New Mexico, and parts of Kansas and Oklahoma.

The Alabama native had served congregations in Austin, TX, and Kansas City, MO. He was a member of University Christian Church, Fort Worth, TX. He is survived by his wife, Peggy, daughter, Heather, and son, Clayton.

“For Whom The Bells Toll”



Washington, D.C. - Homegoing services for Frances L. Jones were held at Twelfth Street Christian Church on October 16, 2002, with the Rev. Andrea Foster, officiating.

The death of this petite, elegant, and regal lady followed the death of her husband, the Rev. George W. Jones by almost one year to the day. They were married on February 12, 1945, and later that same year they began their strong relationship with Christ through baptism by Rev. Clinton L. Whitfield at Mount Olivet Christian Church in Baltimore, MD. For over 51 years, Reverend Jones and his “First Lady” ministered to God’s people in Hagerstown and Baltimore, MD, and Washington, D.C.

Her professional career began in 1967 with the Social Security Administration, where she was administrative assistant of the BDI Division, and in the office of Civil Rights and Equal Employment. This woman of quiet strength and character was recipient of several Special Achievement Awards for outstanding performance.

Mrs. Jones is survived by three daughters, Martha, Cynthia and Charlotte, two son-in-laws, six grandchildren, a brother-in-law, a sister-in-law, and a host of relatives and friends.

Claremont, CA - Members of the Christian Church, (Disciples of Christ) were saddened in early October upon learning of the death of Mrs. Virginia Liggett, wife of Dr. Thomas J. Liggett.

Dr. and Mrs. Liggett served for 20 years as Disciples of Christ missionaries in Argentina (1947-1957) and Puerto Rico (1957-1967). She served in parish work in Resistencia (northern Argentina) and later in Buenos Aires, where she taught Christian Education at Union Theological Seminary. She was also involved with other ecumenical projects

In Puerto Rico, she served as librarian at the Evangelical Seminary in Rio Piedras and was active with the Disciples’ Christian Women’s Fellowship. She will be remembered for her love and commitment toward the church and her contribution to developing leaders, especially among women.

Mrs. Liggett graduated with honors from Transylvania University, Lexington, KY, and received a Master in Arts Degree in a joint program of Union Theological Seminary and Columbia University, New York City, with specialization in Christian Education. Earlier this year she received the honorary degree “Doctor of Divinity” from Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, IN.

This prominent 84 year-old church leader is survived by her husband of 61 years, Dr. T.J. Liggett, her daughter, Peggy her son, Thomas M. , four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild, T.J.



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The Oldtimers' GRAPEVINE

November/December '02

Volume 12, Issue 6

*"The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the Word of our God stands forever."
Isaiah 40:8*

DOUBLE DUTY DISCIPLE RETIRES



Charles Edward McGee, Colonel, USAF (RET) distinguished fighter aircraft pilot and National President of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., stepped down from that position in August after four years. During that

time he traveled extensively representing the famous Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., while maintaining active membership with North Chevy Chase Christian Church in Kensington, Maryland as Trustee, member of the Pastoral Relations Committee and Chair of the Elders. This congregation was pastored by the Rev. Dr. John O. Humbert before leaving for Indianapolis, Indiana where he later became General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

As one being blessed with boundless energy, Colonel McGee stated "I will continue traveling, attending Salute to Veterans events and in 2003 events related to the fiftieth anniversary of the Korean

War and the 100th anniversary of "Powered Flight by the Wright Brothers" celebrations. With a warm, genuine smile he added, "periodic family visits to share time with ten grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

In mid December he was one of six notables from the history of aviation assembled at the National Air and Space Museum to begin a year celebrating the advent of powered flight. The line up included Neil Armstrong, astronaut; John Glenn, the first American to orbit the Earth; David Lee Hill, one of the famed Flying Tigers in WWII; Shannon Lucid, the astronaut who has spent more time in space than any other American; and Charles McGee, one of the legendary Tuskegee Airmen of World War II.

This Cleveland, Ohio native entered the Army Air Corps in 1942 interrupting his education at the University of Illinois and was commissioned in 1943, graduating in Class 43-F, Tuskegee Army Air Field. He remained on active duty 30 years becoming a Command Pilot with over 6,100 total hours.

He flew fighter aircraft combat tours in three major military conflicts; The P-39, P-47 and P-51 planes with the 302nd Fighter Squadron in Italy during WWII, the F-51 with the 67th Fighter Bomber Squadron in Korea, and the RF-4C with the 16th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron in Vietnam.

Colonel McGee commanded the 44th Fighter Bomber Squadron in the Philippines, 1951-'53, the 7230th Support Squadron in Italy, 1961-'63, the 16th TRS 1967-'68 and Richards-Gebaur AFB, Missouri in 1972.

This much decorated hero has been awarded the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, Distinguished Flying Cross with Two Clusters; Bronze Star, Air Medal with 25 Clusters, Army Commendation Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal with Cluster, Presidential Unit Citation, Korean Presidential Unit Citation, The Hellenic Republic WWII Commemorative Medal and several campaign and service ribbons.

A true believer in Jesus Christ, Colonel McGee is the son of Lewis Allen McGee, a teacher, social worker and minister of the AME church. In his early boyhood days he joined the Boy Scouts of America where patriotic values of loyalty, bravery and service, consistent with his Christian upbringing, were strengthened. His quest for personal challenge moved him to the ranks of Eagle Scout. From scouting and church he gained an enduring sense of the importance of brotherhood and service to others.

In the mid-fifties, Colonel McGee, with his wife and three children settled in Kansas City, MO, the first year for school desegregation there. He

and the family became active in the Christian Church at 2454 West Paseo Boulevard where the late Rev. S.S. Myers was pastor. Due to the ecumenical services in the military, Charles, an A.M.E. and his late wife, Frances, who was Baptist, chose this congregation. This church had the message, the music and the decorum he and Frances looked for in worship services, he explained.

Colonel McGee is a life member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, The NAACP, the Air Force Association, the Military Order of World Wars and Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. Other significant recognitions are: Scouting's Silver Beaver Award, the Airmen's General Noel F. Parrish Award, and the National Aeronautic Association's Prestigious Elder Statesman of Aviation Award.



(The Oldtimer's Grapevine staff recommends for your reading *TUSKEEGEE AIRMAN*, the biography of Charles E. McGee, for the rest of the story on this Double Duty Disciple. It is written by his daughter, Dr. Charlene Smith and published by Branden Publishing Company, 17 Station Street, Box 843 Brookline Village, Boston, MA 02447.)

DISCIPLES NEWS ROUND-UP

WHEATON, MD - The Regional Board of the Christian Church-Capital Area, has called the Rev. Lari R. Grubbs as the new regional minister. He succeeds the Rev. Dr. William Chris Hobgood who retired the end of 2002. Rev. Grubbs, a native of St. Louis, MO, was Area Minister for the Southeast Gateway Area of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Mid-America, Inc.

INDIANAPOLIS, IN-The Division of Overseas Ministries Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has called the Rev. David Vargas to serve as Acting President succeeding the Rev. Patricia M. Tucker. Mr. Vargas will serve from January 1, 2003 until the selection and confirmation of a new president.

INDIANAPOLIS, IN-The Rev. Luis E. Ferrer, a former staff member of The Department of Church Men, (Disciples of Christ) has been elected Assistant Secretary of Church Extension. Luis joined Church Extension in 1993 as a General Consultant.

In other actions, the Board of Directors elected Lori Adams to the position of Assistant Vice President for Human and Organizational Development, and called William Petty, veteran of sales and promotion in the communication industry, to serve as Director of Marketing. Bill is a long time member of Light of the World Christian Church, Bishop T. Garrett Benjamin, Pastor.

LEXINGTON, KY-The family and close friends of former Georgia Regional Minister David Alexander surprised wife Anne with a 70th Birthday bash. In

shock, she entered the room as more than 35 friends and family sang "Happy Birthday" and later commented "they didn't sing happy birthday."

JACKSONVILLE, FL-The Rev. Dr. A. Dale Fiers, the first general minister and president of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) marked his 96th birthday December 17, 2002. Dr. Fiers resides in the NBA Cypress Village with his affable wife, Virginia.

RAYMORE, MO-One of the most memorable events in the life of the Dr. William and Reubena Fox family was the surprise celebration of Reubena's 90th birthday. This celebration was skillfully planned and touched the lives of many. One response included a monetary gift that named the Black Church Heritage Association and the Oldtimer's Grapevine Newsletter the recipients. Friends expressed their love for Mrs. Fox with cards, e-mails, telephone calls, personal visits and prayers. The oneness of this couple visibly surfaced in expressions to the honoree as well as to her devoted husband.



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THANKS YOU FOR YOUR PRECIOUS GIFTS

Mrs. Pearl Thompson, Winter Park, FL; Mrs. Mayme C. Garner, Cincinnati, OH; Clyde & Queen Jackson, Edwards, MS; Dr. Mattie C. Williams, Chicago, IL; Robbie & Louada Chisholm, Silver Spring, MD; Rev. & Mrs. David Alexander, Lexington, KY; Rev. & Mrs. Harold Watkins, Indianapolis, IN; Gertrude A. Dimke, Indianapolis, IN; Charles B. Barr, Cameron, MO; James & Dorothy Daugherty, Silver Spring, MD; Lois Hodrick, Somerville, TX; Mrs. Jackie Compton Bunch, Columbus, Oh; Mrs. Betty Carter, St. Louis, MO; Mrs. Ruth Hobbs, Jackson, MS.

A Prayer for the New Year

Help us to remember, O Lord, in this beginning of the year that the man who makes and breaks his New Year's resolves is at least better than the man who makes none. Deliver us from such sloth and self-satisfaction as see no evil and recognize no possible improvement or are too lazy to attempt the good. Give us courage to fail in a good cause, and determination never to cease striving toward that which God, His world and our own hearts tell us is worthwhile. Wherefore, O Lord, shall the world count its steps from that dark cross on Calvary if those steps be not really toil and slipping and back-sliding and yet withal that forward-coming toward Thee.

Amen.

—W.E. B. Dubois (1868-1963)

OVERHEARD

Fire swept the plains and burned down the farmer's barn. While he surveyed the wreckage, his wife called their insurance company and asked them to send a check for \$50,000, the amount of insurance on the barn. "We don't give you the money," a company official explained, "We replace the barn and all the equipment in it." "In that case," replied the wife, "cancel the policy I have on my husband."

Happy New Year!

The staff of the Oldtimer's Grapevine Newsletter wishes our readers a New Year filled with LOVE, PEACE AND JOY. May Almighty God keep you in His care and grant you the opportunity to celebrate New Year 2004.

Oscar, Joan, Donna and Oscar Jr.

POET'S CORNER

Life Means Adjusting

*Life is just livin
each day you're given,
not worrying about the rest.*

*Life is a mystery
soaked deep with history,
there's so much you can't learn it all.*

*Life seems to manifest
what's good, what's bad, what's raw.
So you deal with things as best you can;
And there's moments that'll cause you to bawl.*

*But the world just keeps turning,
nothing stays the same,
life certainly has its ups and downs.
If you learn to turn with it
and lean in the curves,
you'll enjoy just being around.*

*In this coming New Year
why not plan to do
what's good, what's best, what's wise.
Share 'HIS WORD' rich and sweet;
fill the lonely, lost and bleak
and wondrously open their eyes.*

*May F. Lindsey Reed
Written December 19, 2002*

OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE

Published six times a year through tax
exempt donations.

Oscar Haynes, Editor/Manager
19 46 Place, N.E.
Washington, DC 20019
202-398-8989

Rev. Joan Bell-Haynes
Assistant Editor
Washington, DC

Associate Editor, Ernest Newborn
Los Angeles, CA

Donna Haynes, Production Manager
Washington, DC

DIRECTORS

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(Con't from page 3)

CLEVELAND, OH-The Rev. Dr. Robin E. Hedgeman, pastor of Bethany Christian Church, will celebrate her 15th ordination anniversary in the Christian ministry in 2003. Robin is the former Associate Regional Minister of the Region of Ohio and a Priscilla of Twelfth Street Christian Church, Washington, D.C.



ST. LOUIS, MO-Highlighting the activities of the All Convocation Luncheon and Closing Service of the Seventeenth Biennial Session of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was the presentation of the Liberation Award. The recipients were posthumously Rev. Earl Murray, the Rev. Dr. Ernest J. Newborn and Mrs. Janice Newborn. The awarding of this prestigious honor was started in 1980 and has included both clergy and laity who have made outstanding contributions in leadership in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Receiving the award for Rev. Murray is his widow, Mrs. Murray and his son, the Rev. Tom Murray.



The Rev. Newborn and Mrs. Newborn



(Con't on page 7)

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ST. LOUIS, MO-The Rev. William Lee, pastor of Loudon Avenue Christian Church, Roanoke, VA, began his term as president of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) during the closing worship of the 17th Biennial Session. He succeeds the Rev. Dr. Robin Hedgeman, pastor of Bethany Christian Church, Cleveland, OH.

NASHVILLE, TN-A grant from the Oreon E. Scott Foundation has been awarded to the Disciples of Christ Historical Society for the research and development phase of a biography of Rev. Dr. A. Dale Fiers, first general minister and president of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The book will be written by Dr. D. Duane Cummins.

The Rev. Dr. Peter Morgan, president of the society, underwent total hip replacement surgery in November. This native of West Virginia is making a remarkable recovery and thanks friends for their prayers.

CINCINNATI, OH-The Rev. Dr. John R. Compton, former Regional Minister of Indiana and president of the Division of Homeland Ministries, just to name a few of the key leadership positions he has held in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), celebrates his 60th ordination anniversary this year.

Washington, DC - Oscar Haynes retires again! After more than six years as Office Administrator/Communications Specialist for the Christian Church Capital-Area Region Oscar retires to give more time to his family, the Oldtimers Grapevine, and the several Disciples and community boards he serves. He is very excited about sharing his marketing expertise with his son, Oscar, Jr who has established a battery business in the Washington area.

The Oldtimers'

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