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2005

The Oldtimers' Grapevine, Volume 15 (January - December 2005)

Oscar Haynes

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The Oldtimers'

GRAPEVINE

January-March '05

Volume 15, Issue 1

Amos 6:11-12 NRSV

"See, the Lord commands, and the great house shall be shattered to bits, and the little house to pieces. Do horses run on rocks? Does one plow the sea with oxen? But you have turned justice into poison and the fruit of righteousness into wormwood..."

Walls of Separation Come Down

The Region of South Carolina moved toward overcoming the ugliness of sinful racism this past November when delegates, regardless of race, worshipped together at their First Regional Conference, spiritually responding to the Assembly Theme: "One Church – One Vision – One Body In Christ".



Rev. Sotello Long

Mrs. Dee Long



Building on the scripture from Romans 12:3-8, the Conference leadership, with guidance from Regional Minister Sotello Long and spouse, Dee Long, Congregational Services Consultant, Church Extension, joined together to celebrate this historical event of unity of the 126th Annual Regional Assembly and the 134th South Carolina State Convention.

"This Conference theme truly expresses the focus of our time together in a Christ-centered spirit of unity," exclaimed Rev. Long, as his dream of one church under his leadership becomes a reality.



Elder Joe W. Brown

The fulfillment of the scripture was captured in this quote from Elder Joe W. Brown, Assembly Moderator, "I will bless the Lord at all times and His praises shall continually be in my mouth."

"I greet you today truly in His name with praises in my mouth and the joy of the Lord on my heart. God has allowed us to witness and be a part of history in the life of the Christian Church in South Carolina. My heart is full . . . as we embark on our first Regional Conference of the Christian Church in South Carolina. "It is our collective prayer that this Conference will be a blessing to you and a life changing experience."

Elder Brown added, in welcoming the delegates, "Our theme, 'One Church- One Vision-One Body In Christ' is most appropriate and truly reflects the vision of our Regional Minister and Regional Council to become one body in Christ."

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)



Pastor Deveta S. Brown

Also claiming the victory was Pastor Deveta S. Brown, Moderator of the South Carolina Convention, who spoke these words, "...the South Carolina Conference is taking shape spiritually, programmatically and today, physically. Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

"We have come to a time in history when members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) are envisioning a future that will witness to a new level of unity and integration. We are challenged to value and embrace diversity."

As we strive to honor the call to be one church, it is important to note that we are not called to unanimity of opinion in all things. We are all different and being one will not be easy. We are challenged to learn about other cultures and faith traditions.



Rev. Dr. Robert & Mrs. Jackie Knight

Another most important declaration came from Rev. Dr. Robert M. Knight, Host Pastor, who stated, "On behalf of First Christian Church, 'Charleston's Historic Disciples Congregation,' my wife Jackie and I are privileged to welcome our fellow South Carolina Disciples, honored guests and visitors to this historic gathering: the first Regional Conference of the

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in South Carolina."

"Many in our congregation have worked diligently in planning and preparing for this spiritual occasion. Indeed, our prayer is that you will be richly blessed by the proceedings of these days, and that all that is said and done might, by the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, Honor God, through Christ our Lord."

Deloris D. Jamison was Chairperson of the 3-day Assembly that drew participation from nearly every general unit of the Christian Church and wide support from regional congregations.

"The Conference theme is an expression of our love and obedience to our Lord's call and a testimony of an awesome move of God being manifested in a spirit of unity. As you witness the celebration, we hope that it will be a time of cultural and spiritual refreshment for you."

Other participants included Pastor Melvin Brown, Immediate Past Moderator for the South Carolina Convention; Elder Buster Beard, Vice Moderator of the Assembly; Pastor Joseph Cobb, Immediate Past Moderator for the Convention; Pastor Freddie Lawton, Vice Moderator of the Convention; Elizabeth B. Little, Local Coordinator; Robin Smith, Moderator of the General Board & Congregation, First Christian Church; Dr. William Chris Hobgood, General Minister & President; T. Eugene Fisher, Director of Reconciliation; Dr. Timothy James, Associate General Minister & Administrative Secretary for the National Convocation, Dr. Lois Artis, President of Church Finance Council; Dr. Norman Reed, Manager, Greenwood Cemetery and Dr. Charisse L. Gillett, Moderator, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

(Courtesy of Pastor Freddie & Mrs. Virgie Lawton Antioch Christian Church, Varnville, SC)

DISCIPLES NEWS ROUND-UP

MACON, GA—FIVE GENERATIONS

Mrs. Evelyn Wilson, 94 years young, is the matriarch of the Wilson-Bell family. Members representing five generations of the Bell family, gathered for the holidays to celebrate a sister's birthday, Christmas and welcome the New Year, 2005, with third generation member, Rev. Mrs. Joan Bell-Haynes, and her husband, Oscar Haynes, residents of Washington, DC, home for the holidays.



WASHINGTON, DC – Young adults between the ages of 21 and 29, seeking to serve God by ministering to those in need, have until April 15, 2005, to submit your application for **Gethsemane Mission Year 2005-2006**, which will begin August 31, 2005. Forms may be downloaded from www.NationalCityCC.org/Gethsemane or contact Rev. Anna Bradley, Director, at (202) 232-0323, or Ab Bradley@nationalcitycc.org.

Gethsemane pays living expenses. Benefits include free housing, health insurance, a personal stipend, food allowance, eligibility for student loan deferment and an Americorps Education Award of \$4,725.00.

NASHVILLE, TN – **Dr. Laura Hobgood-Oster**, Chairperson of the Search Committee for the next president of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society, has expressed delight in the quantity and quality of responses prior to the

March 1, 2005, deadline. The candidate selected will succeed Rev. Dr. Peter Morgan who retired in mid 2004. Dr. Duane Cummins, retired president of Bethany College, Bethany, WV, is interim president.

DECATUR, GA – Sound advice on how to show your love on Valentine's Day was revealed in the February 14, 2005 issue of Jet Magazine from **Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale**, pastor of Ray of Hope Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Her suggestion is to show your love by reaching out to someone in need.

"Cards, candy and flowers are nice, but for someone who is hurting or feeling isolated, we need to give the gift of presence," she said. "Giving someone the gift of presence is to give them you and not just tangible gifts. That works for a husband, wife, family, lovers and friends. In whatever way you can be present with or for that individual to express your love, that's what I'm advocating," said Dr. Hale.

INDIANAPOLIS, IN – In response to the current climate of un-ethical action in our society, the Christian Church Foundation recently revealed its history of higher ethical standards of operation which preceded suggestions from a national panel on the Nonprofit Sector of ways nonprofits can become more transparent and accountable to donors.

"These recommendations includes: (1) Adopt conflicts-of-interest policies; (2) Recruit board members with financial literacy skills; (3) Require financial audits annually; and (4) Require charity officers to sign IRS documents."

The Foundation President, Rev. Gary W. Kidwell declared, "we are pleased that the Foundation is ahead of the curve on this issue because we must have the full trust and confidence of the donors." Over a year ago the Foundation board implemented policies and procedures that follow these toughened rules.

(Continued on page 4)

DISCIPLES NEWS ROUND-UP

(Continued from page 3)

YOUNGSTOWN, OH – First Christian Church, 562 Wick Avenue, a congregation that has existed in the central city since 1841, closed its visible ministry in October, 2004 and began worshipping at the Boardman Christian Church, 565 Boardman-Canfield Road.

Rev. Brittany Barber, pastor, said First Christian has had up to 1,200 members, and now has 100. The discussion of the merger was in the making for three years. Their building is a beautiful stone structure built in 1934, next to the Butler Institute of American Art and adjacent to Youngstown State University.

WASHINGTON, DC – Rev. Dr. Ken Brooker-Langston, Director of Disciples Advocacy Washington Network, has been named the first full-time director of Disciples Justice Action Network. He succeeds Rev. Harvey & Mrs. May Lord, Chicago, IL, who provided leadership voluntarily for many years.

Dr. Langston, widely known for his work in the area of justice & peace, is also a member of the Justice & Advocacy Commission of the National Council of Churches, a member of the Board of Directors at the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, and a member of the Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation Team of the Christian Church-Capital Area. He is a strong supporter of the National Convocation.

CHICAGO, IL – Park Manor Christian Church, **Rev. James Demus,** Senior Minister, lost the building that was recently purchased by accidental fire. The structure was to be renovated for their new worship center.

WASHINGTON, DC – Drs. Bruce & Kate Epperly have been called to Disciples United Community Church, Lancaster, PA, to begin a part-time husband & wife team ministry.

Kate, as affectionately known in the Capital Area Region, was ordained in the Christian Church with standing in the United Church of Christ. She was ordained in 1979, received her Master of Divinity the same year and her Doctor of Ministry degree in 1981, both from the Claremont School of Theology in CA. For the past 10 years she was senior pastor of the Palisades Community Church in Washington.

Bruce is the Director of the Alliance for the Renewal of Ministry and Professor of Church & Ministry at Lancaster Theological Seminary. Prior to joining the seminary faculty, Bruce was Director of the Protestant Ministry and Adjunct Professor in Theology, Spirituality and Medicine at Georgetown University and Medical School.

FORT WORTH, TX – Brite Divinity School recently presented the Distinguished Minister Awards to Belva Brown Jordan '86, Dean of Student Life at Harvard University Divinity School, and the Kenneth L. Teegarden Award (for consistent, faithful giving) to Rev. & Mrs. Niel Climer '94 of Western Heights Christian Church in Garland, TX.

RAYMORE, MO – Mrs. Reubena Stultz Fox, widow of the Rev. Dr. William K. Fox, Sr., went to be with her Lord on Sunday, February 27, 2005. A Memorial Service was held at Foxwood Springs Living Center on March 2, 2005. Mrs. Fox was a Board Member of the Oldtimers' Grapevine Newsletter, which was founded by her husband.

She is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Katherine Fox Cunningham (Spouse Jerry), Indianapolis, IN, and a son, William K. Fox, Jr., (Spouse Judy), Vancouver, WA. A *Celebration of Life* for Mrs. and Dr. Fox will be held in early April at Greenwood Cemetery, in the honored *Taylor Circle*. Expressions of sympathy should be gifts to: The William & Reubena Fox Scholarship Fund at Jarvis Christian College, P.O. Box 1470, Hawkins, TX. 75765.

CHICAGO, IL – Ayanna Johnson, prodigy of the late Rev. Dr. William K. Fox, Sr., is currently a member of the ministerial team at Park Manor Christian Church, and Project Director at Southwest Youth Collaborative. She is a recent dual degree (M Div/MSW) graduate of the Disciples Divinity House of the University of Chicago Divinity School.

KANSAS CITY, MO – The Jesus Connection Ministry will sponsor the Rev. Dr. Fred Craddock in a 2-part presentation on Saturday, May 7, 2005, at Park Hill Christian Church, 6601 NW 72nd Street, Kansas City. This is an open invitation to: “A Clarion Call for the Re-Birth of Mainline Churches.”

Washington, DC – Colleagues and friends joined Rev. Graylan E. Hagler, a well known Clergy Activists, as he celebrated his 25th Ordination Anniversary in early February. Rev. Hagler, senior minister of Plymouth Congregational UCC, holds dual standing in the UCC-Disciples of Christ.

WASHINGTON, DC— Twelfth Street Christian Church, Rev. Mary Brown Oliver, pastor, bestowed Elder Emeritus status to Oscar Haynes on March 13, 2005. He has given more than 60 years of spiritual leadership to the congregation.

Oscar was awarded Emeritus for his service as Trustee in 2002. He now has the distinct honored of being called Elder/Trustee Emeritus. Congratulations Oscar for all of your hard work and dedication!

OVERHEARD

Wife: “Honey, I’m gonna take you out into the country for a picnic. Do you like the country?
Husband: Sure, I love the country. When I was a little boy I lived in the country.”

Wife: Honey, when you was a little boy everybody lived in the country.”

READERS’ COMMENT CORNER

Dear Oscar: “May God’s blessing be with you as we move into the New Year.



Enclosed is a check in memory of Dr. Fox.”

Shalom, Jackie Compton Bunch,
Columbus, OH

Oscar, “Blessings on you and your continued work on behalf of all us Disciples.

As always, Ron.

Rev. Ronald Degges, Granada Hills, CA

Dear Oscar & Staff: “Thank you for the excellent job you are doing in publishing the Oldtimers’ Grapevine. It keeps me in touch... I was saddened by the passing of Brother Bill Fox. He was a fine man. May God continue to bless you.”

Mayme C. Garner, Cincinnati, OH

Greetings: “Regardless of how many issues you print yearly, I always look forward to receiving the ‘Oldtimers’ Grapevine.” Thanks very much.
Geneva Griffin, Indianapolis, IN

Dear Oscar: “I remember with much appreciation, both Dr. & Mrs. Fox at Southern Christian Institute as I was growing up on the SCI campus. They were wonderful, gracious people!” Lois.

Mrs. Lois Long Thompson, Claremont, CA

Oscar: “With appreciation for all you do for the church.” T. J.

Dr. T. J. Liggett, Claremont, CA

Oscar: “Have a prosperous New Year, full of good health and peace!” Tom

Rev. Dr. T. Garrett Benjamin,
Indianapolis, IN

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Rev. Dr. William C. Howland, Retired Senior Minister of National City Christian Church, Washington, DC, is Chairman of the Board.

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FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL

Milwaukee, WI – Vernice Chenault Gallimore, the first African-American policewoman to serve with the Milwaukee Police Department, will long be remembered as one who broke barriers to help families, especially youth. She died of a heart attack in late 2004, at the age of 85.



She was born Vernice Evelyn Chenault, the third of six children, in Sterling, KY. Her spiritual journey started at High Street Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), in her hometown. Mrs. Chenault corresponded with Ulysses S. Gallimore, Jr., a World War II sailor and in 1947 they were married.

Mrs. Gallimore graduated from Dubois High School in Sterling. She earned a BA from Spelman, College, Atlanta, GA and a MA in Social Work at Atlanta University, Atlanta, GA.

Throughout Vernice's 31 years of professional service with the Milwaukee County Children's Court Center, she was remembered as a great pioneer in the fields of social work and juvenile probation. An angel of God, she consistently delivered uplifting messages and financial contributions to many.

When Vernice retired, she asked fellow employees to contribute to the Northcott Neighborhood House instead of throwing her a party. They decided that they needed to do both. She was proud to present a check for \$3,000 to the center and enjoy her surprise thank you party.

God has always been the center of Vernice's life as exemplified by her membership in St. Mark AME Church (Church of the Anvil). Her major interests were young people and Black history. She was noted for her volunteer service in the Tutorial Program and the Rose Tea at St. Mark and for many hours at the Vel Phillips YWCA.

Mrs. Gallimore is survived by one sister, Dr. Marjorie Chenault Parker (Russell Sr.), prominent church leader in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Indianapolis, IN; two sons: Donald (Patricia) of Reno, NV and Wendell (Robbie) of Milwaukee, WI; ten grandchildren, two sisters-in-law: Bernice Merriweather of Milwaukee and Flossie Sanders, of Kansas City, MO; nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Little Rock, AK – A shock went through the membership of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) on January 8, 2005, when news reached the public that **Mother Hosanna Mothershed, mother of Little Rock Nine student Thelma Mothershed Wair, had died.**

A pillar of Mount Sinai Christian Church, North Little Rock, Mother Mothershed never encouraged her daughter to be one of the first black students to integrate Little Rock's Central High School in 1957. But after initially telling Thelma her idea was "crazy," she urged her to stay strong against the jeers, taunts and soldiers.

This 89-year-old Disciple of Christ had one mission in life, that was to make a home for her family and serve God through the often sacrificial support of her church. "From our family's meager budget, she would either sew or make something for people when they were down to let them know there is someone who cares," said her son, Michael Mothershed.

Mrs. Mothershed met her husband, Arlevia, while they both were students at Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, TX. Their home was always warmly open to officials of the Christian Church, and especially the National Convocation. Rev. Barbara Jones, Regional Minister of Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi, knew her as "a very quiet, but effective woman." "She did not waste a lot of time on things that did not matter," she said. "You could count on her to do what she said she would do."

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)



Plymouth, NC – A triumphant home going celebration for **Mother Minnie Hill Keyes, 104 years young**, was held on February 9, 2005, at the Eastern Carolina & Virginia Headquarters, in Roper, NC, Bishop Daniel Boston, officiating.

On the night of her death, in a very weak voice from her death bed, Mrs. Keyes recited this passage from Matthew 12:28-29, "Come unto Me all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest, take my yoke upon you for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your soul."

Affectionately addressed as Mother Keyes, she was the widow of Bishop Sir Walter Raleigh Keyes, to whom she had been married for 69 years. She was a devoted member of Union Town Church of Christ (Disciples of Christ) until 1999, at which time her daughter and son-in-law, Nina and William Robinson, relocated her to Brooklyn, NY. During her time in Brooklyn she attended Stuyvesant Heights Christian Church, St. Paul Church of Christ and St. Phillip's Christian Church.

During her years at Union Town Church of Christ, Mother Keyes served as: Secretary of the Fellowship Organization; president of the Senior Choir; member of Christian Women's Fellowship, the Union Mother Board, Pastor's Aide; Delegate to the

Union Assembly and other conventions; Treasurer of the Women Home Mission; and active with the Sunday School Convention.

She is survived by a son, Walter Keyes (Marion) of Chatham, VA; five daughters, Lona K. Garrett, Portsmouth, VA; Carolyn K. Shipp (John), Bronx, NY; Nina K. Robinson (William), Brooklyn, NY; Norvella K. Lloyd, Robersonville, NC; and Vernita K. Moore, Brooklyn, NY. Also a daughter-in-law, Hazel Keyes; Sister-in-law, Viola Keyes, and 11 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren, and 23 great-great-grandchildren.

THE LEGEND OF THE DOGWOOD

It is said that at the time of the crucifixion of Christ, the Dogwood was a very large tree, big as an oak. The Dogwood was so even-textured, firm and strong that it was chosen as the timber for the cross.

Thus to be used for such a cruel purpose greatly distressed the tree. Jesus sensed this. He--who noted even the sparrow's fall--whose last compassion was for a repentant thief--similarly forgave the repentant Dogwood Tree for its unfortunate fate.

As he was nailed upon it, he sensed the painful remorse of the tree. In gentle pity for all the sorrow and suffering of every living thing, he said to the tree, "Because of your share of my suffering, never again shall the Dogwood Tree grow large enough and strong enough to be put to such a purpose as this."

He said, "Henceforth, the Dogwood shall be slender and bent and twisted, that it might forever remain unmolested by the tools of cruel men. And the blossoms shall be in the form of a cross. Two long petals and two short. And in the center of each petal there will be nail prints, Crown with rust and stained with red. And in the center of the flower will be a crown--of thorns. And all who pass and see the Dogwood tree. Will remember me."

Author Unknown

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The Villa is owned by retired Foreign Service Officer, Leaford Williams, an Elder with Michigan Park Christian Church, Washington, DC, the Rev. Dr. Delores Carpenter, Pastor.

THE POET'S CORNER

WHEN WE ONLY HAD THE OLD RADIO

You saw in your mind with the radio.
You'd hear with your ears,
you could picture the show.
You'd listen to the music and your thoughts
would flow;
while the instruments and voices
you'd recognize and know.

You'd chuckle and hum as you worked,
and played.
Relaxed as you rested when you sat,
or when you supine laid.
The radio made you think, use thought,
imagination,
while your mind enjoyed degrees
of maturing maturation.
When we listen with our eyes we may see
what is **not** said
but it's nice to just listen,
sit and lean back your head.
Most listened to the radio before TV,
took more time for family and friends,
had more time free.
Sat, laughed and talked, told old stories,
discussed the world across the sea.
But seldom now do you find such a radio show
and few lend an ear
with a savvy to hear, to know.
I'll continue to tell me and remind myself so
I won't forget when we listened much,
so much, to the old Radio.

Written February 3, 2005
May F. Lindsey Reed



RECOMMENDED READING



VISION WITH PASSION is a new Disciples of Christ history by Dr. William Miller, Raymore, MO. The early part of the book begins with Disciple leaders at the Middle Judicatory, 1890 and goes to 1969 (Restructure). This 283-page book is a project of the College of Regional Ministers, but financed privately. Dr. William K. Fox contributed a Chronology of AfricanAmerican Disciples from 1820-1928.

Readers of the Oldtimers' Grapevine should definitely be interested, especially beginning with the chapter on Race. Appearing in this chapter are write-ups on the late Dr. John R. Compton, Kring Allen, Russell Hensley, Norman Ellington, Gerald Cunningham, Charles Webb Sr., Emmett J. Dickson, and Eugene W. James. These are just a few of the names OTG readers will recognize.

COME SAIL WITH ME INTO A SEA OF POETRY is a book of poems by May F. Lindsey Reed, the OTG poet-in-residence. The Disciples of Christ Historical Society, Nashville, TN, hosted a poetry reading and book signing in late January. **Orders can be made to:**

GWD Ministries
1428 Elm Hill Pike
Nashville, TN 3210 greenwood1428@att.net
Phone: (615) 256-4395; Fax: (615) 256-4535
Or to: May Reed, P.O. Box 281043
Nashville, TN 37218 mrlreed@att.net
Or to: LightHouse Press Publishing
P.O. Box 281375
Nashville, TN 37228 lighthouse1@yahoo.com
Or to: The Disciples of Christ Historical Society, 1101 19th Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37212-2196

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The Oldtimers' GRAPEVINE

"They will neither harm nor destroy on all m holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea." Isaiah 11:9

NIV Strive Translation

April-June '05

Volume 15, Issue 2

First In Over Half A Century: A Woman GMP

The line of males which have held the Office of General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) since the election of Rev. Dr. A. Dale Fiers in 1951, will be broken in July, 2005, if the membership elects Rev. Dr. Sharon E. Watkins, an Oklahoma minister and veteran church leader.

Dr. Watkins, Senior Minister, Disciples Christian Church of Bartlesville, OK, was unanimously endorsed by the church's General Board on Sunday, April 17, 2005, to fill this top position.

"I am honored to be the person nominated to lead our denomination during a period of such exciting change and possibility," stated Rev. Watkins. "As a life-long Disciple, I know our church has a unique God-given mission for these times—a mission that has to do with the extravagant hospitality of the communion table. We welcome and nurture whoever comes through our doors, and then send those people back out in the world to be and to share the good news of God's love."



Dr. Charisse Gillett, the Moderator who presides over the board, declared, "I am enormously pleased with the recommendation of the General Board and believe that the Rev. Watkins

(Continued on page 2)

OTG First Board Member Eulogized



Reubena M. Fox, widow of Dr. William K. Fox, founder of the Oldtimers' Grapevine Newsletter, was called to be with the Lord on Sunday, February 27, 2005. Committal services for both were Saturday, April 2, 2005

at New Covenant Christian Church, Nashville, TN; Pastor William E. Crowder, Jr., officiant.

Memorial services for Mrs. Fox at New Covenant Christian Church (Formerly Gay-Lea Christian Church, founded by Elder Preston Taylor); preceded the Service of Committal at Greenwood Cemetery, also founded by Elder Taylor. Participants included: Dr. Sebetha Jenkins, President of Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, TX; Dr. Alvin O. Jackson, Washington, DC; Dr. Glen Stewart, Regional Minister, Tennessee Region; Dr. John R. Foulkes, Indianapolis, IN; Dr. Timothy M. James, Executive Secretary of the National Convocation and Associate General Minister, Indianapolis, IN; Dr. Norman Reed, General Manager, Greenwood Cemetery; Dr. Ernest Newborn, President of the Board, Oldtimers' Grapevine Newsletter, Claremont, CA; Rev. Perry D. Wiggins, Elder D'Arcy Porter, Elder Kathy Jeffries and Deacon May F. Reed.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

possesses the gifts, talents, grace, intellect, and strength to lead our church.”

Rev. Dr. LaTaunya Bynum, Chair of the Search Committee, said “Sharon is smart and committed to the church. She has a vision, she’s excited, she has experience and will bring a pastor’s heart and sensibility to the office of the GMP.” The committee was congratulated for having the courage to ‘step outside the box’.

Rev. Dr. W. Chris Hobgood, current Interim General Minister & President, added “I believe the church is blessed to have a leader like Sharon Watkins emerge. She is a very gifted leader and a person of deep faith.”

Dr. Watkins has served as Director of Student Services at Phillips Theological Seminary, Director of Church Relations and Associate Vice President for University Relations at Phillips. She has been a member of the General Board, the General Task Force on Reconciliation Mission, Moderator of the Christian Church in Oklahoma and part of the Stone-Campbell Dialogue group.

She has served as an adjunct professor at Phillips, teaching: pastoral vocations, history, theology and the practice of worship. Rev. Watkins served for two years as a missionary in the Congo, working on adult literacy programs. She is married to Rev. Dr. Richard H. Lowery, Professor of Old Testament at Phillips. They have two adult children, Bethany, 21, and Christopher, 19.

In a June 9th visit with Disciples of Georgia hosted by Ray of Hope Christian Church, Rev. Watkins shared that she considered “the leadership style of Moses in considering the position of GMP. Moses who, tired from leading his people through the wilderness, appoints leaders over the clans and tribes to help him guide the people. In this image, its not just Moses anymore—it’s a team.”

(Continued from page 1)

Reubena Mae Stultz Fox was born on October 7, 1912 in Martinsville, VA. She was the third child of William Richard and Hetty Katherine Stultz. She accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior at Fayette Street Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) at an early age. After completing her early studies in Martinsville she attended Bluefield State Teachers College where she received her diploma on June 2, 1936.

She started her teaching career in one-room school houses and commuted in her Model T Ford. She married the love of her life, Rev. Dr. William K. Fox on December 30, 1943. They started their married life in Jackson, MS where they both taught at Southern Christian Institute.

This devoted wife joined her husband in ministries in much of the Nation: Nashville, TN; St. Louis, MO; Indianapolis, IN; East Orange, NJ, and Dayton, OH. Although she was an active minister’s wife, mother, community volunteer, substitute teacher and OTG Board Member, she completed her Bachelor’s of Arts Degree at Harris Teacher’s College in St. Louis, MO in January of 1960.

She held many leadership positions in her church and community. Her sweet and gentle spirit will be greatly missed by all. Rev. Dr. William C. Blackwell, Brandywine, WV, dear friend of the Oldtimers’ Newsletter, in an e-mail upon learning of her death, wrote, “May your grieving be eased with the remembrance of the gifts those fine servants of Christ gave to us all.”

Mrs. Fox leaves to celebrate her life, a son, William K. Fox, Jr., and his wife, Judith, Vancouver, WA; a daughter, Katherine Cunningham and her husband, Gerald, of Carmel, IN; God-daughter, Ethel Mace, of Indianapolis, IN; thirteen grandchildren, thirty-one great-grandchildren, three great-great grandchildren, and a host of relatives and friends.

Disciples Historical Society Looks To New Generation In Presidency



Rev. Dr. Glenn Carson, 45 year-old native of Brunswick, GA, has been elected president of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society, Nashville, TN, by a unanimous vote of the Board of Trustees.

He assumes the office of President July 1, 2005.

The search for the next president of the Society, chaired by Dr. Laura Hobgood-Oster, began in 2003 and consumed the better part of two years. Dr. Carson follows Dr. Peter Morgan who retired in 2004, following nine years of service.

The Board of Trustees called Dr. D. Duane Cummins to the position of Interim President following the retirement of Dr. Morgan.

The Society's new president holds an Associate degree from Brunswick College in history; a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Valdosta State University in Theatre Arts; a Master of Divinity degree in Theology from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, TX; a Doctor of Philosophy degree in the history of Christianity from Southwestern Seminary; and post doctoral study at Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, TX.

Dr. Carson has served congregations in Kansas City, MO, South Carolina and Fort Worth, TX. He has served as Moderator of the Greater Kansas City Region Disciples Ministers Association and prior to his Kansas City assignments Dr. Carson served for five years as Assistant Professor of Religion at Charleston Southern University, Charleston, SC.

Gordon Dalrymple, Chairman of the Board of Trustees and member of the Search Committee, said "I am very impressed with the qualifications of Dr. Carson and believe the

great traditions of the Historical Society will be skillfully and thoughtfully served by him."

Dr, Carson is married to Mary Leslie Buice, a Physical Therapist; BA, Wesleyan College, Macon, GA, 1982; Physical Therapy Certificate, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, 1984. They have one son, William.

Commenting on his call to the Historical Society, Dr. Carson said, "The rich heritage that we share in the Stone- Campbell tradition is not only worth preserving, it is worth sharing. Our mission is not only the past, it is the future as well." One of the major points he lifted up for the office of president was to make the Society's web site the centerpiece of its ministry—"creating a premier website for the study and promotion of Christian history."

2004-2005 HELM AWARDS

Higher Education and Leadership Ministries (formerly Division of Higher Education) awarded Ann E. Dickerson Scholarships this past Fall to three Ph.D. students: Kristel Clayville, Patricia Duncan, and Kristin Van Heyningen, all Disciples Divinity House Scholars of The University of Chicago.

Dr. Dickerson, a native of Tennessee, was an outstanding leader of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). A member of the General Board at the time, Dr. Dickerson died in her sleep while attending a board meeting.

The scholarship supports women who are pursuing Ph.D.'s in religion. Recently ordained (June 12, 2005) Sandhya Jha received one of two Dewitt and Othel Brown Ministerial Scholarships awarded for outstanding leadership and ministerial potential. Garry Sparks was selected as the William Gilbert and Florence Leonard Jones Scholar. The award recognizes potential leadership to the church and is given to a Ph. D. student.

DISCIPLES NEWS ROUND-UP

INDIANAPOLIS, IN – Rev. Sandra Rucker Gourdet, wife of Daniel Gourdet and mother of two adult children, Nicolas Patrice and Helene Danielle, has been named Area Executive for Africa of Global Ministries. She will assume her new responsibilities July 15, 2005.



Her new position comes after serving 30 years as a missionary in Zaire (now Congo) Zimbabwe, Lesotho, and Swaziland, Africa, and since 2003, in the Republic of Haiti.

Rev. Gourdet earned a Bachelor of Arts degree (with honors) from Miles College, Birmingham, a Bachelor of Science degree (with honors) from University of Alabama, an Honors Bachelor of Theology (with distinction) from the University of South Africa, she also completed a Master of Theology (with honors) from the University of South Africa.

LEXINGTON, KY – Dr. Daisy L. Machado, a church historian from Texas Christian University's Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, has been called to the position of Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean by Lexington Theological Seminary.

"I believe Dr. Machado will be an outstanding dean," said President R. Robert Cueni. She follows Dr. Philip N. Dare, the Seminary's librarian who also served as dean of the Seminary. A celebration of the Ministry of Dr. Dare as Librarian and Dean was held at the Seminary on April 16, 2005.

Dr. Machado, a native of Cuba, is the first Latina/o to serve on the LTS faculty. She has a B.A. from Brooklyn College, a Master of Social Work from Hunter College, School of Social Work,

and a Master of Divinity Degree from Union Theological Seminary, all of New York. Her Ph. D. (1996) is from The Disciples Divinity House, University of Chicago.

TULSA, OK – The Library of Phillips Theological Seminary has received two gift collections of books recently from Rev. Dr. **William C. Howland, Jr.**, and the estate of Richard Bush, former faculty member. Mr. Bush taught world religions at PTS until 1995. On July 17, 2005, his daughter, Ellen Frenkel, moved the majority of his library (2,267 items) from Denton, TX to the PTS campus.



Dr. Howland, Senior Minister Emeritus of National City Christian Church, Washington, DC, trustee emeritus of PTS, and once acting seminary president, gave a collection of 236 titles of early Disciples of Christ works to PTS.

Some of these rare books are first editions of Alexander Campbell's writings, and others are early Disciples theological titles.

INDIANAPOLIS, IN – Harvey & May Lord, parents of Disciples Justice Action Network, were honored at a gathering of the membership in May for having the courage and the vision to be the prophets, priests, and pastors of DJAN.

Dr. Ken Brooker-Langston, president, presented the "Blessed Are the Peacemakers Award" to the Lords on behalf of the World Council of Churches, "for inspiring, dangerous and faithful efforts to build a just and peaceful world." They also received a letter of thanks from Interim General Minister & President, Dr. William C. Hobgood.

(Continued on page 5)

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These two champions of PEACE, also received a beautiful diamond shaped glass sculpture inscribed with, **"We thank God for Harvey and May Lord, Pastors, Prophets and Founders of DJAN."**

WASHINGTON, DC – The Capital Area recently reported two Ministerial Changes. They are **Rev. Gregory Lee Howell**, from Associate at National City Christian Church to Pastor, Palm Lake Christian Church, St. Petersburg, FL and **Rev. Jeffrey T. Moore**, Pastor of Fort Washington Christian Church to Executive Director Big Brothers & Sisters of Crawford County, Meadville, PA.

INDIANAPOLIS, IN – Over 200 clergy persons, leaders of Disciples congregations across America, gathered at **Light of the World Christian Church, Bishop T. Garrott Benjamin, Jr., Pastor, April 11-14, 2005, for the Annual Black Ministers Retreat.**

Bishop Benjamin opened the four-day event preaching a sermon with such fervor Lady Benjamin said she had never seen Bishop preach more freely. **On June 8, 2005, Bishop and Mrs. Benjamin celebrated their 38th wedding anniversary.**

The preacher on the second night was the striking Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale, Senior Pastor of Ray of Hope Christian Church, Atlanta, GA, followed by Rev. Dr. Alvin O. Jackson, former Senior Minister of National City Christian Church, Washington, DC. The Bible lecturer was Rev. Dr. Frank Thomas, Senior Minister of Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church, Memphis, TN.

Among the many others participating in the retreat were Rev. Dr. Susan Street-Beavers, Rev. Marilyn Fiddmont Christian Church Foundation, Rev. Raumone Burton, Rev. Freddie Lawton, Rev. Eric Brown, Rev. Larry Covin, and Rev. Ayanna Johnson.

Cassette tapes are available from Tom Benjamin Ministries, PO Box 781344, Indianapolis, IN 46278.

PITTSBORO, NC –

Rev. Vertie Powers, former Minister of Evangelism for Church Development and Renewal with the United Church of Christ in Cleveland, OH, was installed the Associate Conference Minister of the Eastern North Carolina Association on Saturday, May 21, 2005.



Participants included Rev. Stephen Camp, Conference Minister; Rev. I. Kelly Shiflett, Rev. Felix Castro, Rev. Joanne Verburg, Ms. Charlene Smith, Rev. Keith Debord, Rev. Ervin Milton, Rev. Robert Pugh, Rev. Dannie Williams; Rev. Rose Wright-Scott, Rev. K. Ray Hill, Rev. Mark Nanney, Rev. Calvin Brooks, Rev. Cheryl McNair, Rev. Phil Hardy, Rev. Lawrence Walser, Rev. Elgean McCullers, Deacon Eva Mariner, Elder Adell Staton and Deacon Darien McGriff, son of Rev. Powers, and Deacon Joyce Knox, sister; both of Twelfth Street Christian Church, Washington, DC.

Rev. Powers has served the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Indianapolis, IN as Director of New Church Establishment and also Interim Director of Reconciliation. Prior to this she served congregations in Philadelphia, PA, and Washington, DC.

After completing public schooling in North Carolina and Washington, DC, Rev. Powers obtained her B.S. degree from Trinity College in Washington, DC and her Masters of Divinity from Duke in Durham, NC.

INDIANAPOLIS, IN – Dr. Ann Updegraff-Spleth, a certified Fund Raising Executive, has accepted the position of Vice President for Seminary Advancement at Christian Theological Seminary, effective May 4, 2005. Dr. Ed Wheeler, President, said she brings over 20 years of experience in not-for-profit leadership and fundraising.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

Dr. Updegraff-Spleth previously served as President and Executive Vice President for Program Planning for the Division of Homeland Ministries, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

ROANOKE, VA – Rev. Dr. William L. Lee., Pastor of Loudon Avenue Christian Church, (Disciples of Christ) has been nominated Moderator of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Elections for him and Carolyn Ho, first vice moderator, and Dr. Charles C. Gaines, second vice moderator will happen during the **General Assembly, Portland, OR, July 23-27.**

Dr. Lee has just finished serving a two-year term as vice president of the Greenwood Cemetery Board, Nashville, TN. Carolyn Ho is a member of Queen Anne Christian Church, Seattle, WA and Dr. Charles Gaines is a member of First Christian Church, Arlington, TX.

WASHINGTON, DC—Highlights of the Spring meeting of the **Board of Trustees of National City Christian Church, April 21-24, 2005,** included an Organ Recital by Dr. Lawrence Schreiber, Minister of Music Emeritus, and a lecture by Dr. D. Duane Cummins, President of the Board, on Leadership in “The Disciples Tradition.” This is the third in this lecture series. The first by Dr. Robert Hill, Senior Minister of Community Christian Church, Kansas City, MO and Dr. Robert Cueni, President of Lexington Theological Seminary, Lexington, KY.

WASHINGTON, DC – Members of the Christian Church, (Disciples of Christ) in the Region will be in for a treat on Sunday, July 10, 2005, when **Dr. T. J. Liggett, Claremont, CA,** will be preaching for the 11:00 AM services at Twelfth Street Christian Church. This is the oldest African-American Disciples Congregation in the Nation’s Capital.

Dr. Liggett is former president of Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, IN, and retired President of the United Christian Missionary Society of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

He has worked for five Nobel Peace Prize winners, two of them being Anglican Bishop Desmond Tutu and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr..

INDIANAPOLIS, IN – Rev. Charles H. Webb, Jr., former Director of the Office of Black Ministry for the Division of Homeland Ministries, has been appointed Director of Church and Alumni Relations for Christian Theological Seminary. He will begin July 18, 2005.

In making the announcement, Vice President Dr. Updegraff-Spleth said Rev. Webb will provide significant leadership in strengthening the connections between the seminary and the alumni, communions, and congregations that are part of the ever-growing CTS family.

Charles has pastored congregations in Oklahoma and California as well as Twelfth Street Christian Church in Washington, DC. He holds a BS from Phillips University and the Masters Ministry from CTS. He and his wife Debra are parents of a daughter Margarette and son Joshua.

WASHINGTON, DC — **Deacon Louada Chisholm,** a dedicated Churchwoman and a Honored life-long member of Heritage Christian Church, Silver Spring, MD, is the 2005 recipient of the honored “Human and Spiritual Values Award” of the Kiwanis Club in Leisure World, Silver Spring, MD.



Louada Chisholm (L.)

On May 15, 2005 members from all 10 Kiwanis Clubs in Division 17, Montgomery County, MD chose her for this annual award from among a significant number of nominees.

Mrs. Chisholm, wife of Oldtimers’ Grapevine board member, Robbie Chisholm, is an active member of the Christian Women’s Fellowship of both the Capital Area Region and her congregation, Heritage Christian Church.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

Her Pastor, Rev. Ben Manning, in reflecting on her award, said "Louada's life is filled with numerous examples of Christian Service." "When I first assumed my calling at Heritage a little over ten years ago, she was one of the members that quickly impressed me with her 'servant' approach to lay ministry." "She well deserved the award," he said, "and all of us at Heritage extend our warmest congratulations."

INDIANAPOLIS, IN — The Disciples Home Missions President Rev. Arnold Nelson announced key staff changes, which were effective in early June. Joining the staff are: Rev. Steve Doan and Rev. Susan Galasso. They will serve part-time as Disciples Military Endorsement Officer and Disciple Institutional Endorsement Officer, respectively.

Rev. Nelson also announced with regret the end of the position of Vice President for Specialized Services and the conclusion of the DHM ministry of Rev. Danny Thompson. Chaplain Thompson began his ministry with DHM in 1997, giving oversight to both military and institutional chaplaincies. President Nelson said this change was necessary for DHM to focus its mission on Congregational Transformation and Leader Development of Disciples who serve in local congregations.

CHICAGO, IL — Rev. William E. Crowl, Associate Dean, Disciples Divinity House, University of Chicago and former Regional Minister and President of the Central Rocky Mountain Region retired from full-time ministry in mid 2004. He will continue his work with DDH alumni/ae and donors on a half-time basis and make up for lost time with family and friends.



The Board of Trustees honored their colleague and friend on April 1, 2004, at a luncheon. Trustee Claudia Highbaugh shared how she first knew Bill through his skills as a youth leader. She remembered his love of singing (especially rambunctious camp songs), and his role as mentor.

Marshall and Barbara Dunn, fellow graduates of Hiram College, commented "Over the years we have admired Bill for his many gifts and obvious devotion to the church.... Few people have served so ably as a new church pastor, helped grow a strong congregation in Ohio, been an excellent Regional Minister and then our beloved Associate Dean."

Regional Minister Herb Knudsen, together with Patty Crowl, wife, presented Bill with the Distinguished Minister pin on behalf of the Pension Fund.

Rev. Crowl's ministerial career began with founding First Christian Church of Downers Grove, Illinois, as he was finishing his BD as a Disciples Divinity House Scholar. He subsequently accepted a call to First Christian Church in Baltimore, MD and Northwest Christian Church, Columbus, OH.

Rev. Crowl will be a contributing writer to the Oldtimers' Grapevine Newsletter in his retirement. The Oldtimers' Grapevine Staff welcomes Rev. Crowl to the team!

INDIANAPOLIS, IN — Rev. Dr. Harold R. Watkins, President Emeritus of Church Extension and former Interim President of Lexington Theological Seminary, was saluted February 12, 2005 by the Annual Convention of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Puerto Rico. In presenting the recognition, the Rev. Juan Figueroa said, "We give thanks for Hal Watkins, who has not only helped us build bigger sanctuaries, but has given us an example that has inspired a new generation of leaders who are today good stewards." Figueroa is the former General Minister and President of the Christian Church in Puerto Rico which includes 110 congregations. Watkins joined Church Extension in 1958 and served as president from 1980-1995.

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

BULLARD, TX — Veteran fund raiser with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), **Oden Latham, Jr.**, of Bullard TX, has joined the Lexington Theological Seminary Development Team.



Latham is a Special Assistant to the President, charged with maintaining a relationship with friends of the seminary while also introducing the Seminary to new friends. His task will be to provide a Seminary presence in selected congregations and regions within the Seminary's promotional area.

An ordained Disciples minister, Latham served as Vice President of the Christian Church Foundation and was based in Raleigh, NC. Prior to that he was area minister of the Northeast Area of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), in the Southwest, living in Tyler, TX. He also served as Director of Annual Giving for the National Benevolent Association and as a pastor of several congregations.

National City Christian Church Courtyard Dedicated To Former Administrator

The life and ministry of Sheila Brown Cooper was memorialized on Sunday, May 22, 2005, during the dedication of the Courtyard at National City Christian Church, 14th Street and Thomas Circle, NW.

This event followed action of the Board of Directors of the NCCC Foundation in a Resolution on April 23, 2005, proclaiming that due to her (a) voluminous untold and unheralded acts of kindness; (b) ever-present pursuit of wisdom; (c) passion for excellence in every role and endeavor she embraced, that this space be dedicated to her honor and loving memory.

Ms. Cooper served as Executive Assistant to Senior Minister Emeritus, William C. Howland, Jr., and as the Director of Special Ministries from 1984 to her retirement in 1995, due to ill health.

When the restoration of the Cathedral Sanctuary was completed in 1981, a practice of holding special dedications began. Dr. Howland explained, "These services have provided opportunity to recognize, honor, and memorialize individuals and families who have or have had a special relationship to National City. Board member Wesley Strotman was overheard to say, 'don't stand still in the sanctuary or you will be dedicated.'"

These dedications included : Pews, two organs, stained glass windows, chancel furniture, ten pillars, music suite, columbarium, sound control room and the Howland Center.

Sunday's dedicatory services included welcome and opening remarks by Dr. Dan Moseley, Interim Senior Minister, Dr. Howland, Mrs. Monte Hillis, who read the Board Resolution, and audience participation in the reading of a Litany of Dedication. Today, we continue in that tradition, declared Dr. Howland.

Ms. Cooper was diagnosed with lupus, a terminal disease. However, she outlived the number of years predicted for her.

The service ended with these words from Dr. Howland, "It seems most fitting that we remember Sheila today by naming this Courtyard for her. She often remarked that she could hear the sounds of the fountain from her office and she cherished the beauty of grass and flowers, shrubs and trees. Her memory is with us here this morning and her spirit will always be present in this place."



OVERHEARD

Two 90-year-old men, Moe and Sam, have been friends all their lives. Sam is dying. While Moe was visiting Sam says "Moe we have loved baseball all our lives. You have to do me one favor. When you get to Heaven, some way you must let me know if there's baseball in Heaven."

Sam looks up at Moe and says, "If it is at all possible, I will."

Shortly afterwards Sam passes on. At around midnight two nights later Moe is awakened by a blinding light and a voice calling "Moe, Moe,"

"Who is it? Says Moe sitting up. "Who is it?"

"Moe, its' me, Sam."

"Come on. You're not Sam. Sam just died."

"I'm telling you, insists the voice. "It's me, Sam."

"Sam? Where are you?"

"I'm in Heaven, says Sam, "its wonderful here and I have really good news and a little bad news."

"Tell me the good news first," says Moe.

"The good news is that there is baseball here and our old buddies who have gone on before us are here and they are young men again. It's always Spring and it never rains or snows. We can play ball all we want and never get tired."

"Really" says Moe. "That is fantastic, wonderful beyond my wildest dreams! But, what is the bad news?"

"You're pitching next Tuesday!"

OLDTIMERS' HEALTHVINE

Diabetic Eye Disease

Diabetic eye disease are eye problems that people with diabetes may face as a result of the disease. The most common diabetic eye disease is diabetic retinopathy which is the leading cause of blindness in American adults.

Diabetic retinopathy which is damage to the blood vessels in the retina.

- **Cataract is clouding of the eye's len**
- **Glaucoma is an increase in fluid pressure inside the eye that leads to optic nerve damage.**

What are its symptoms? There really are none. There is also no pain involved. This is why it is so important to have regular eye exams.

Can diabetic retinopathy be treated? The answer is yes. Laser surgery and appropriate follow-up care can reduce the risk of blindness by ninety per cent. However, Laser surgery usually cannot restore that vision which has already been lost.

What about other diabetic diseases?

- **People with diabetes develop cataracts at an earlier age. Cataracts can usually be treated with surgery.**
- **Glaucoma may also be a problem. It can be treated with medications, laser surgery and other forms of surgery.**

So, remember, get a routine dilated eye exam every year!

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

PROJECT PROMISE INTERNATIONAL, INC:

Rev. Dr. Delores Carpenter, a visionary clergywoman who dreamed of building a bridge to Africa several years ago, is now realizing "a dream come true." The public is invited to a meeting on Tuesday, July 19, 2005, 5 – 8 PM to learn of the progress that has been made.

A trip to Kenya in late 2004, with a delegation of 24 church members and friends, made it happen. While in Kenya the delegation learned of a leather goods manufacturing and training center just 24 miles outside of Nairobi. The center, which uses equipment donated by the United Nations also makes handbags for export to England, and manufactures shoes for Bata, Kenya's leading shoe company.

However, the center's focus is on training. People come from all over Kenya and other African nations to learn shoemaking and repair skills. They return to their own villages, towns and cities to set up micro-businesses.

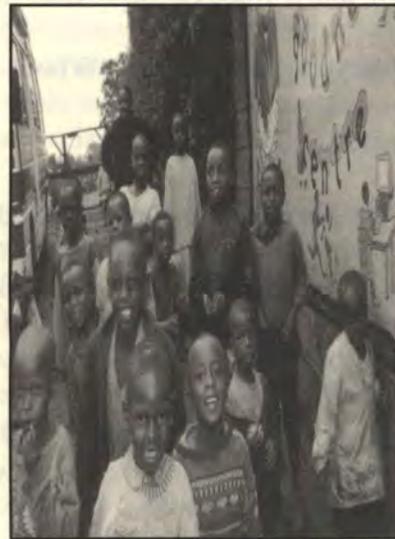
This was when the Project Promise delegation was put in touch with the Eastern South Africa Leather Industries Association (ESALIA). ESALIA representatives were so excited about the prospect of working together, they drafted a memorandum of understanding for Dr. Carpenter to bring back with her.

In the time leading up to the Kenya trip, Project Promise collected 11 tons of shoes, clothes, medical kits and other supplies to be donated. Due to red tape the goods did not arrive with the delegation but it was delivered about three months later.

This courageous woman, senior minister of Michigan Park Christian Church, Washington, DC, had been thinking about an Africa project several years earlier and during negotiations with the publisher of the African American Heritage Hymnal, GIA, the publishing house, agreed to rebate a percentage of hymnal sales to the African Heritage and Cultural Institute, also founded by

Dr. Carpenter. This multi-talented woman of God, was also Senior editor of the hymnal, which is used in many Disciples congregations. The Institute awards church music scholarships and also helps fund Project Promise.

During a visit with Dr. Carpenter a few weeks ago she provided the Oldtimers' Grapevine with photos of African children who are recipients of clothing and especially shoes provided by Project Promise. It was exciting to learn that Project Promise had already provided children with over 3,000 pairs of repaired and new shoes.



In addition to all these responsibilities, she is also President of The National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Vice President of the Greenwood Cemetery Board, Nashville, Tennessee. She urges OTG readers in the Washington area to come meet her on July 19, 2005 at the John E. Feggan Center, 311 68th Place, Seat Pleasant, MD.

Dr. Carpenter describes Project Promise as "another living bridge to Africa that is not a literal steel structure spanning the ocean, but an economic bridge—a way for North Americans to reach out to the people of Kenya and help them move from poverty to self sufficiency."

The Tie – Your Tie – My Tie

It's cloth, sometimes colorful,
different widths,
shape and size.

Some unique!

Some plain and simple!

Some with pattern that defies.

All provide the same effect
when they're placed about the neck
and uncomfortable as they may be,
rarely ever will we see
a gentleman lacking one in place
to enhance his neck and face.

'Tis my task, for alas

if one neglects to don me where requested
then entrance may result divested.

A meager portion of fabric, cloth.

Needful to be elegant, soft.

The tie! Your tie! My tie!

Written April 23, 2005

May F. Lindsey Reed



Oscar: Greetings! "Thanks for the good job you are doing with The Oldtimers' Grapevine Newsletter." Lester.

Dr. Lester McAllister, Claremont, CA

Oscar: "It is truly remarkable how great you and the staff are doing with such limited resources. I am pleased to join your increasingly growing number of readers in expressing heartfelt appreciation." Ernest.

Dr. Ernest & Mrs. Janice Newborn, Claremont, CA

Oscar & Joan: "Thank you for your good work. Blessings, Shirley.

Mrs. Shirley Compton, Louisville, KY

Dear Oscar: "Russell and I enjoy the Oldtimers' Grapevine so much, and we thank you for the work it takes to keep it coming!" Nancy.

Rev. Russell & Mrs. Nancy Harrison, Indianapolis, IN

Mr. Haynes: "This little gift is in memory of Rev. & Mrs. William Fox. They were on my wing at Foxwood."

Mrs. Velma McClure, Raymore, MO

Dear Oscar: "We always read the Grapevine carefully..." Joe.

Rev. Joseph & Mrs. Winnifred Smith, Indianapolis, IN

(Editor's Note: It is the policy of the Oldtimers' Grapevine Newsletter to endorse services and goods owned by our family of readers.)

NEW CD



Miss Karen Hylton has just released a new CD which should be in the home of lover's of a beautiful voice with solid musical accompaniment. It has something for all music lovers; traditional gospel, contemporary gospel, jazz gospel, hip-hop gospel. One selection that will bring smiles to Convocation members is the ever beautiful "In This Very Room."

To order the CD send a check for \$16.60 with your complete return address to Karen Hylton, 10447 Willowdale Drive, St. Louis, MO 63146. This covers shipping & handling. The OTG recommends considering Miss Hylton for fund raising events for your church. She may be reached at (314)997-4060 for full details. Karen is the daughter of Rev. Dr. Samuel & Mrs. Mildred Hylton. Dr. Hylton is a former president of the National Convocation and Mrs. Hylton, retired Music Educator in St. Louis, MO

PHONICS PHONE

Our readers have been introduced to Phonics Phones and we again heartily endorse this excellent teaching instrument. Every church school should have a supply on hand. This instrument is moderately priced and extremely valuable.

Among the testimonials to the benefits of Phonics Phones are First & Second grade teachers, Kindergarten, Special Ed, Reading Specialits and Elementary School Principals. The Phonics Phone is marketed by the Candl Foundaation, a non-profit formed by the discoverer of the Phonics Phone, Dr. Louis Brown and his wife, Carolyn. Rev. Dr. William C. Howland, Retired Associate General Minister & President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Senior Minister of National City Christian Church is Chairman of the Board.

Orders may be placed with Nancy Welsh, Candl Foundation, PO Box 18623, Huntsville, AL 35804 or 1-800-633-7212 or www.phonicsphoe.org.

COME SAIL WITH ME INTO A SEA OF POETRY

This book of poems by May F. Lindsey Reed, Poet-in- Residence for the Oldtimers Grapevine Newsletter is now in its second printing. A copy should be in every Convocation home and church library. Orders can be made to: GWD ministries, 1428 Elm Hill Pike, Nashville, TN 37210, or May Reed, PO Box 281043, Nashville, TN 37218 mrlreed@att.net Or Lighthouse Press Publishing, PO Box 281375, Nashville, TN 37228, or The Disciples of Christ Historical Society, 1101 19th Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37212-2196.

VISION WITH PASSION

Those attending the General Assembly will have the opportunity to purchase a book which is a narrative of Disciples of Christ in the early days of the denomination. It reveals the time when the Disciples had Corresponding Secretaries, State Secretaries, Conference Ministers and various other positions of service. The author, Dr. William Miller has put approximately 30 years into researching material for this book.

This biography of the Disciples recalls the OLD DAYS of the National Christian Missionary Society which helps recall good days and some rough ones such as the intentional burning of the home of the late Dr. John Compton. Our beloved Dr. William K. Fox provided a Chronology of African-American Disciples of Christ.

EXPERIENCE JAMAICA

Members of The Oldtimers' Grapevine Family may enjoy the magic of Jamaica and Fort Leaford Villa at a bargain rate by calling Mr. Leaford Williams, (202)529-6312. The Villa accommodates six persons and you will be pampered by the friendly 3-member staff.

Fort Leaford Villa provides all families the opportunity to create a memory that will last a lifetime. Mr. Williams is a retired Foreign Service Officer with a heart of gold. His love for his native home moved him to make it possible for all persons to vacation in this vacation wonder of the world.

FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL

Indianapolis, IN – Homegoing Services for Rev. Dr. Lorenzo J. Evans, 96-year-old educator and prominent churchman, were held on April 16, 2005, at Faith United Christian Church, Rev. Dr. S.J. Murray, officiating.



Dr. Evans was an intellectual giant with a warm caring smile and a reputation of integrity and humility. Praises echoed throughout the sanctuary as friends and colleagues remembered one who had served his church and country with dignity.

Among those who praised the works of this outstanding church leader were Bishop T. Garrott Benjamin, Rev. Dr. Irvin Green, Rev. Dr. Billy Bridges, Rev. Dr. John Foulkes, Rev. Dr. Helen Walton, Jeanette Larkins, Brian Griffin, grandson; Mrs. Eliza Cave, Dr. Marjorie Parker, Rev. Leonard Evans, Clarissa Wright and Rev. Charles Webb.

Born in Perry County, AL, the third of six children, Dr. Evans always had a yearning for education and after completing the Eighth grade he enrolled in Lincoln Normal High School. When he finished there he entered Southern Christian Institute where he was first introduced to The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and his future wife, Myrtle Heath.

Upon completion of Junior College, Lorenzo entered Clark College where he received his Bachelors degree. Although persons tried to discourage him he later obtained his Bachelor of Divinity Degree from Gammon Theological Seminary. He completed work for a Masters Degree in Sociology at Atlanta University, and in 1974 he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate Degree from Texas Christian University.

Dr. Evans was a State Worker for the “Colored” churches in Georgia, and served pastorates in Georgia and Oklahoma. He was Membership Secretary for the Butler Street YMCA, Atlanta, GA and Christian Educator for the General manifestation of the Christian Church. During World War II he served as a Chaplain in the U.S. Army.

He is survived by two daughters, Eddie Griffin (the late John) and Stacy Duke (King); two siblings, Rebecca Caldwell and John Evans (Maggie); sister-in-law, Inez; three grandchildren, Brian Griffin (Luba), Allison Brown and Taylor Duke, three great-grandchildren, Aron & Paul Griffin and Amyah Mahone. several nieces, nephews and friends.

WASHINGTON, DC—A Celebration of Life in Memory of **Alice Jean Bowie Coleman**, daughter of a founder of Twelfth Street Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), was held May 12, 2005, Rev. Mary Brown Oliver, officiating.



Alice is the youngest of four children to the late Elder William C. Bowie and Mrs. Carrie Bowie. Her other siblings are Bernice, deceased; William Bowie, II., and Violina Majors.

Alice was educated in the public schools of Washington, DC, receiving a Bachelor of Science from Howard University and a Master of Arts from George Washington University. She completed further studies at Howard,

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

George Washington, and American Universities. In addition to teaching, she coordinated the training programs for Special Education Teachers Aides, the Saturday School Program for the Mamie D. Lee Satellite Program, and the Child Find Program.

Alice was active in many professional and community organizations including: the Council for Exceptional Children, the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the Order of the House of Ruth, the Capitol City Links, Inc., and she was a founder of the Ever-Sharps.

She leaves to treasure special memories, daughter, Claudia; son, Craig and (Dinna); daughter-in-law, Lucia; Brother, William C. Bowie II; sister, Violina Major; seven grandchildren, seven great grandchildren, two nieces, a nephew, and a host of other relatives and friends.

HYATTSTOWN, MD –
A Service of Thanksgiving for **Dr. Maurice Hellner**, a Japanese Language officer for the U.S. Navy during World War II, was held at Hyattstown Christian Church, April 25, 2005, Rev. Dr W.F. Terry Reister, officiant.



After the war Dr. Hellner worked for the Office of Naval Intelligence, NSA and Defense Intelligence Agency. He earned his bachelors from the University of Southern California, and his Masters and Doctorate in economics from American University.

Maury grew up in the Swedish Covenant Church but joined National City Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) after his marriage to Artye, to whom he was married for 61 years. An Elder Emeritus, Dr. Hellner served National City Church in numerous capacities, and is remembered by many as a teacher and spiritual guide.

He once stated he wanted to be remembered, ” for 50 years of teaching Sunday School at National City.”

Surviving are wife, Artye, who is one of the founders of the Summer Enrichment Program which expanded to the Community Children’s Ministry; Maurine Rosenberg, New York City; Cheryl Hellner, Silver Spring, MD and Rev. Janet Hellner-Burris, pastor of Wilkinsburg Christian Church in Pennsylvania,

ROCKVILLE, MD – Chester L. Green, a statistician with the Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics for 37 years, died April 20, 2005 of pancreatic cancer at Casey House Hospice.

Mr. Green, a native of Philadelphia, PA, spent most of his life in this area. He was a graduate of Armstrong High School in Washington and West Virginia State College. During World War II he was an aviation engineer stationed in the Philippines and New Guinea.

He was editor of “Employment and Earnings,” a monthly publication of the Bureau of Labor, before retiring in 1979. Chester was a member of University Christian Church, Hyattsville, MD, and a lifetime member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

Mr. Green is survived by his wife of 56 years, Mrs. Ella J. Green, an outstanding poet and dedicated church leader; two daughters, Angela Green of Washington and Bernita Green of Bowie, MD; and a sister, Erotida Gaskill of Woodbridge, VA.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRECIOUS GIFTS

Dr. William L. & Mrs. Dode Miller, Raymore, MO; Mrs. Eddie Griffin, Chicago, IL; Dr. Ernest J. & Mrs. Janice Newborn, Claremont, CA; Dr. Norman & Mrs. May Reed, Nashville, TN; Mr. Roy A Dunham, Silver Spring, MD; Mr. Joseph & Mrs. Winnifred Smith, Indianapolis, IN; Ms. Ethel Seitz, Indianapolis, IN; Mrs. Kathryn N. Range, Columbus, OH; Dr. James. R. & Mrs. Lucy Reed, Indianapolis, IN; M. Hattie Johnson, Long Beach, CA; Col. Charles E. McGee, Bethesda, MD; Ms. Velma McClure, Raymore, MO; Rev. Russell & Mrs. Nancy Harrison, Indianapolis, IN; Rev. Eugene & Mrs. Pauldenia Randall, Indianapolis, IN; Mr. George H. Coates, Kansas City, MO; Mr. Harvey R. & Mrs. Sybel Thomas, Chicago, IL; Mr. David & Mrs. Judith Torgerson, Landover, MD; Mrs. Shirley Compton, Louisville, KY; Mr. Robbie & Mrs. Louada, Chisholm; Rev. Vertie Powers, Greensboro, NC; Dr. William C. & Mrs. Ann Howland, Jr., Arlington, VA. Dr. Lester McAllister, Claremont, CA and Dr. William & Mrs. Mary Helen Blackwell, Brandywine, WV.

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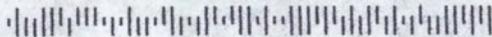
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The Oldtimers' GRAPEVINE

"For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father's family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for such a time as this."
Esther 4:14

July-September '05

Volume 15, Issue 3

MONUMENTAL MOMENTS: HISTORY MAKING PEOPLE



Sharon Watkins

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) July 24, 2002
Everywhere

Pay to
The order of
Week of Compassion
Twenty Three Thousand *Dollars*

\$23,000.00

Servants of God Bank



Charisse Gillett



Will D. Campbell



Amy Gopp



Johnny Wray



William "Bill" Lee



Alvin Jackson



T. J. Liggett



Faith Rewards Mallory Avenue CC
Richard Lauer & Aaron Hamlin



Ecumenism Alive!
Joan Bell-Haynes, Billie Sutter & Bruce Irwin

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2005 NEW GENERAL MINISTER & PRESIDENT

The Rev. Dr. Sharon E. Watkins is the first female to be elected to the top leadership position of a major denomination in the United States. She succeeded Rev. Dr. Chris Hobgood as General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) at the General Assembly in Portland, Oregon on July 26, 2005.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Dr. Watkins follows six male denominational leaders, the first being Rev. Dr. A. Dale Fiers at the 1968 General Assembly in Kansas City. Prior to 1968, Dr. Fiers was elected President of the United Christian Missionary Society (UCMS), the international missionary and education body of the Disciples of Christ. The uniqueness of the only mainline denomination born on United States soil can be found in the beautifully written story of: **Dale Fiers, Twentieth Century Disciple**, by **Dr. D. Duane Cummins**. It is available at the Disciples Historical Society, 1101 19th Avenue South, Nashville, TN, 37212-2196.

Dr. Watkins was overwhelmingly voted to a six year term and is eligible to serve a second term. "We are a church whose time has come," she declared as she approached the platform. During her installation service Dr. Watkins called on the church to "cut each other a little slack" to "negotiate some narrow passages together," to listen, and when necessary, to apologize and ask for forgiveness.

THREE DECADES LATER

Rev. Dr. Thomas J. Liggett, President Emeritus of Christian Theological Seminary, gave a stirring message from the pulpit of Twelfth Street Christian Church on July 10, 2005, recalling that the first and only time he ever visited the oldest African American Disciple congregation in Washington, DC, was as guest and friend of The Rev. Dr. Walter D. Bingham, the first African American to serve as Moderator of the General Assembly, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Dr. Liggett was welcomed to the pulpit by Rev. Mary Brown Oliver, current interim pastor, a retired District Superintendent of the United Methodist Church. His daughter Margaret M. Liggett introduced Dr. Liggett, who stated this was truly an honor and a first in introducing her dad.

Dr. Liggett's presidency at Christian Theology Seminary (CTS), from 1974 - 1986, saw significant growth in financial resources and expansion of the academic programs.

The new studies included Jewish and Christian relationships, the contributions of theologians from the Third World, and Christianity and the arts.

He is also remembered for his efficient leadership of the Division of Overseas Ministries of the Christian Church. He was predecessor of Dr. Robert A. Thomas and successor of Mae Yoho Ward in the Division of World Mission. He also preceded A. Dale Fiers and Virgil Sly in the UCMS presidency. His efforts with these four persons helped make restructure possible. Emphasis on gender equality, diversity, and anti-racism has been prominent in the history of DOM.

In 1946, Dr. Liggett served with his wife Virginia as UCMS missionaries. He has the distinctive honor of having worked with five Nobel Peace Prize Winners, two of which were Dr. Martin Luther King and Bishop Desmond Tutu.

HISTORIC MALLORY AVENUE CHURCH

Mallory Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) a vibrant congregation for many years but later fell into hard times, was given new life during the 2005 General Assembly by hosting the Week of Compassion Worship on Sunday, July 24, 2005.

The record crowd of worshippers were welcomed by the affable pastor, Dr. Aaron Hamlin, a native of Oberlin, OH, who has led this struggling congregation over the past 7 years. He stated that his desire is to keep this historic church from losing its visible ministry.

His leadership skills are keeping the doors of this church open. He has recruited three very personable young ministers who conduct services at different hours on Sunday as well as week day services. Pastor J. W. Friday is a former radio DJ who serves Dr. Hamlin in his travels due to his confinement to a wheelchair. Dr. Hamlin, whose grandfather is native Indian, succeeded Rev.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

Denise Bell as pastor of Mallory Avenue.

**RECORD WEEK OF COMPASSION
OFFERING AND ATTENDANCE
AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The General Assembly 2005 set several records, according to Johnny Wray, Director of Week of Compassion, when approximately 700 worshippers gathered at Mallory Avenue Christian Church to hear "bootleg preacher" Will D. Campbell give a simple but profound message on stewardship.

The standing room only gathering jubilantly received the personable 81-year-old preacher after a rousing 40 plus minutes of singing led by, Andra Moran, a very spirit-filled vocalist/guitarist from Nashville, TN. The rafters of Mallory Avenue Church were swaying to the lilting sounds and a record crowd.

Rev. Campbell posed the question "Have you ever been hungry? Really hungry?" He then shared this story. He was 7 when he went to the two-room schoolhouse in Amite County MS and a classmate, "a pudgy fellow" brought to school a loaf of bread and stood at the top of the stairs eating it. "I'm gonna watch until he's almost to the bottom and ask for the heel. When he did the boy said "No! That's my favorite piece."

He then shared with the crowd "I hated him. I wished he would die." He then told the crowd "While we are reaching for the bread and the spirit of the vine during this hour. 1,000 people for whom Christ died will die of starvation because we, the fat kid at the top of the stairs, will not share the heel of our loaf."

He then looked heavenward and prayerfully said "God have mercy upon us. Christ have mercy upon us."

The diversity of this record crowd was revealed when Rev. Dr. Robert Hill called for recipients of Week of Compassion funds to express how these gifts supplied relief from hunger and homelessness.

Responses came in many languages and sexes, many tearfully uttered which brought a sudden atmosphere of Thanksgiving throughout the aging Mallory Avenue Edifice.

The congregation responded with an outpouring of love, which numerically totaled a record \$23,000. "We are all givers and receivers of compassion," declared Dr. Hill, pastor of Community Christian Church, Kansas City, MO.

**UNPRECEDENTED AFRICAN AMERICAN
LEADERSHIP**

Among the many actions during the 2005 General Assembly was the successive racial candidates elected Moderator of the General Assembly. The nominating committee is to be commended for nominating members qualified for the position.

The line of African Americans who have been successfully elected to this office, each for a two-year period are: Rev. Dr. Alvin O. Jackson, 2001 – 2003, Washington, DC; Dr. Charisse Gillett, 2003-2005, Lexington, KY; and Rev. Dr. William Lee, 2005-2007, Roanoke, VA.

Since the first General Assembly in 1968, there had been only two African Americans to be elected to that key position. The first was Rev. Dr. Walter D. Bingham, Louisville, KY, in 1973, the other was Rev. Dr. K. David Cole, Kansas City, MO, 1991.

THE FIRST IN 32 YEARS

The United Christian Parish of Reston, Virginia called the first Disciple Minister in its' 32-year history, September 1, 2005, in the person of Rev. Joan Bell-Haynes of Washington, DC. This congregation is comprised of four denominations: United Church of Christ, United Methodist Church, Presbyterian Church (USA), and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The clergy leadership of the congregation consists of Rev. Dr. Bruce M. Irwin, United Church of

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Christ; Mrs. Billie Sutter, Presbyterian (USA), Director of Christian Education, and Rev. Bell-Haynes. Her major responsibilities are (1) to lead and manage the outreach/evangelism process, (2) to manage the new member process, (3) to develop young adult and youth ministries in support of the work of the DCE, and (4) to participate in the worship life of United Christian Parish.

Joan's entry into the Disciples of Christ started 19 years ago when she met the dynamic and spirit-filled Rev. Dr. Cynthia Hale, who was starting a new congregation in Atlanta, GA. She was so impressed with the spiritual and skilled leadership of Dr. Hale that she became one of the first four persons to join a congregation that worked hard on evangelism and witness. Today Ray of Hope has a membership of over 7,000.

Rev. Lari Grubbs, Regional Minister, Christian Church-Capital Area, encouraged Joan, along with several others to apply for the opening at United Christian Parish. According to Rev. Grubbs, "in 32 years it is time our denomination was represented in the leadership role." Rev. Bell-Haynes graduated from the Disciples Divinity House, University of Chicago. She was ordained in 1999 and served Community Christian Church, Kansas City, MO and University Christian Church, Hyattsville, MD.

WOC CALLS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Johnny Wray, Director of Week of Compassion, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has called Rev. Amy Christine Gopp to fill the position of Assistant Director of this church unit. Another General Assembly first.

The exciting and record breaking Week of Compassion Worship Service for the General Assembly was orchestrated by this very talented Disciple. Her deep concern and love for others led her to select the historic Mallory Avenue Christian Church for the WOC Sunday morning service, Prophet and parable-teller,

Rev. Will Campbell to give the sermon, Dr. Robert Hill to lead the offering, and the talented vocalist/guitarist to emotionally prepare the standing-room-only audience for a mountain-top worship experience.

Amy recently received her Master of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary, New York, NY, and on August 7, 2005, she was ordained into the Order of Christian Ministry at her home church (First Christian Church, (Disciples of Christ), Kent, OH.

Her ordination vow revealed her competency for her call to Week of Compassion. "As scandalous as the Gospel is," she declared, "I vow to live out, to the best of my human capacity, what it demands of me: to work against the systems of sexism, racism, economic injustice, classicism, and homophobia and undo these institutionalized and oppressive structures, and not only to love myself, my neighbors, and God with just about everything I've got, but also my enemies."

OVERHEARD

An aged man was dying so he summoned his nurse and asked that she call his lawyer and his doctor, right away.

Within half an hour, both men were at his side. The man's breathing was labored by this time and he silently lay there. His attorney asked, "what did you need us for?"

The reply came momentarily. "nothing," he said, "I have heard Jesus died between two thieves," he continues, "I wanted to know what it felt like."

DISCIPLES NEWS ROUND-UP

WASHINGTON, DC – Gethsemane Mission Year began its third year on August 31, 2005, with the arrival of five new Gethsemane Disciples at National City Christian Church, **Rev. Anna Bradley**, Director. The five new Disciples are **Amanda Belcher**, Noblesville, IN; **Heather Booker**, Lilburn, GA; **Anthony Douglas**, Akron, OH; **Sara Kelly**, Whittier, CA. and **Larry Morris**, Indianapolis, IN. “In addition to the wonderful gifts and talents they will bring to our congregation,” explained Rev. Bradley, “they will serve our community working with the Capital Area Food Bank, Sasha Bruce Youthwork and Samaritan Ministry.”

INDIANAPOLIS, IN – **2005 MARKS THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE Disciples Peace Fellowship**, the oldest peace organization of its type in any denomination. All Disciples can help promote peace and justice by sending tax deductible gifts to DISCIPLES PEACE FELLOWSHIP, P.O. Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1986. Keep up with what is happening at www.dpfweb.org.

OLATHE, KS – **Ginny Gould**, violinist in the Olathe East High School Orchestra, has been selected to perform at Carnegie Hall in New York on January 14, 2007. Ginny is the daughter of North Central Zone Vice President of the Christian Church Foundation, **Kirby Gould**.

CHICAGO, IL – **Rev. Teresa Owens**, member of Light of the World Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Indianapolis, IN, was appointed Dean of Students for the Divinity School, University of Chicago, August 1, 2005. Rev. Owens was the former Special Assistant to the President and CEO of the University of Chicago Hospitals, Michael Riordan.

HOUSTON, TX – **Marilyn Fiddmont**, Christian Church Foundation assistant vice president, is one of the many volunteers assisting in relief efforts for victims of Katrina. Marilyn, wife of retired minister Norman Fiddmont, wrote “For

those of us who had previous experience with tropical storms, etc., this is really something that we hate to see anyone have to endure. As massive as Allison was in Houston..., there is no comparison to this one.”

GRANTHAM, PA – Messiah College, a Christian institution affiliated with the Brethern of Christ Church, recently called **Rev. Lawrence Burnley** to fill the position of Associate Dean for Multicultural Programs, Special Assistant to the Provost for Diversity Affairs.

In a press release Rev. Burnley declared, “God has called me to provide leadership for the school to address diversity issues throughout the college and supervise a staff that provides support for students of color and international students. I’m blessed to be here. My Ph.D. program is at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, which is less than two hours away.”

FORTWORTH, TX – **The Women’s Ministry** of Community Christian Church, recently received much attention when four adults and six youths of the Beautiful Feet Ministry gathered at 6:30 am to kick off a fund raising program to fight poverty with fasting and prayer.

The program opened with testimonies from persons who had recently returned from a prison/jail ministry mission to Louisiana. They reported many prisoners repented and professed Christ. According to Rev. Dr. Claude Walker, Interim Pastor, the CWF started the Beautiful Feet Ministry to attract the youth of the congregation.

INDIANAPOLIS, IN – **Dr. Art Hannah**, the much loved retired president of the Pension Fund, is recovering following a successful heart transplant over the Fourth of July holiday weekend.

ST. LOUIS, MO. – The Ann E. Dickerson Scholarships for female Disciples working toward the Ph.D. degree in religious studies have been
(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

awarded to **Christy M. Newton, first time recipient and Amy C. Artman and Patricia "Tish" Duncan, repeat recipients.**

Christy Newton is a student at Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA and both Amy Artman and Tish Duncan are students at the Disciples Divinity House of the University of Chicago. Ann was a member of the National Convocation and at the time of her death was a member of the General Board of the Christian Church.

ATLANTA, GA.—Gordon Dalrymple, prominent church leader and businessman, received the coveted Faithful Servant Award of the Disciples Historical Society during the General Assembly in Portland, OR, on July 23, 2005. The award was presented by Dr. D. Duane Cummins, Interim President of the Society, who praised Mr. Dalrymple for his exemplary leadership as chairman of the board. The audience was moved by a dynamic speech given by Rev. Dr. Glenn T. Carson, recently elected president of the Society.

DALLAS/FORT WORTH, TX – Rev. Dr. R. Scott Colglazier, senior pastor of University Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has been named president of Minnesota's United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, one of seven UCC-related seminaries.

Dr. Colglazier, pastor of the 5,000 member University Christian Church, received his B.A. degree from David Lipscomb University in Nashville, TN, Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis.

Many will remember the role he played in helping negotiate volatile racial situations in the Fort Worth Independent School District and responding to a tragic shooting incident at Wedgwood Baptist Church in 1999.

INDIANAPOLIS, IN – The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) celebrated the gifts from Asia and the Pacific Islands, Sunday, Sept. 11, the beginning of North American Pacific/Asian

Disciples Ministry Week with the 11th being designated Kagiwada Sunday. Kagiwada Sunday honors the legacy of the late Japanese-American Disciples minister, **David Kagiwada**, who was the prime leader in the formation of NAPAD (North American Pacific/Asian Disciples). Kagiwada Sunday activities include praying for world peace, and reconciliation, fundraising for scholarships, recruiting ministerial students, pulpit exchanges, holding mission rallies and theological forums. Readers may contact Dr. Geunhee Yu at (888) 346-2631, for further information.

BURTON, SC — Dr. Timothy James, Administrative Secretary of the National Convocation and Associate General Minister & President, and Rev. Johnny Wray, Director of Week of Compassion, will be the Keynote Speakers for the second South Carolina Regional Conference, Sept. 30-Oct. 2, 2005. New Hope Christian Church, Ed Cushingberry, pastor, will be the host congregation. It has been a year since the Walls of Segregation came down in the South Carolina Region.

INDIANAPOLIS, IN — Forty years ago the U.S. Congress passed the Civil Rights Act which prohibited discrimination based on race, religion or sex in all institutions receiving federal funds.

For the past 37 years, Reconciliation Mission monies have been working on behalf of the church to ensure that the spirit of these watershed decisions is never lost. Your gifts to Reconciliation have helped Disciples contribute to the progress that has been made against systemic racism, individual prejudice and bigotry.

Offerings for Reconciliation will be received in congregations on September 25 and/or October 2, 2005. Is your congregation interested in applying for a Reconciliation Grant? Applications for 2006 are available from your Regional office and need to be returned by November 1, 2005.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

LOS ANGELES, CA— United Way of Greater Los Angeles has named **All Peoples Christian Center, a Disciples Ministry located in South Los Angeles, Agency of the Year for 2005.** All Peoples has been serving the Community for over 64 years.

Services offered include Day Care, a gang prevention program for middle school youth, an emergency food program, parenting classes, an after school program for students in grades 1 through 12, and a program for retired senior citizens. In 2004 All Peoples Christian Center served 8,671 individuals. **Mrs. Sandra Bryant, Director,** is the moving force behind this exemplary ministry.

CHICAGO, IL – Dr. Kristine Culp, Dean of the Disciples Divinity House, University of Chicago, announced in July that **Rev. Brittany D. Barber** has accepted an offer to become the full-time Assistant Dean. She started her duties September 1, 2005.

Brittany comes to this position after leading First Christian Church of Youngstown, OH, through the difficulty of ending its visible ministry. Her duties as Assistant Dean will focus primarily on interpreting the House to external constituencies – alumni/ae, donors and prospective donors, the church local and regional, and prospective students. She is married to Kevin Metzger, an experienced chef from Washington, DC.

WASHINGTON, DC -- **Sandhya Jha** was ordained into the Christian Ministry this summer at National City Christian Church. She is co-moderator of the Anti-Racism Commission of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). She is a recent graduate of the Disciples Divinity House, University of Chicago with a Master of Divinity and a Master of Public Policy. Sandhya has been called to the staff of the Northern California-Nevada Region.



THE POET'S CORNER

An Incident: A Good Ending

When I turned on Channel 4, NBC TV this morning, Matt Lowery was talking to some Life Guards and the mother of a little boy who had been trapped under a capsized boat. All had thought the worst but found, when turning the vessel to its proper position, that little 10 year old Darrell Nelson had held on to the boat's seats, keeping himself in an air-pocket. He had put his sunglasses in his mouth to keep from losing them, and held on almost two hours. When asked if he was afraid he gave a bit of a puzzled expression and said "No." You could see and hear and feel he meant what he said. He touched my heart and made me, a mother too, think of my son, LaMont, when he was a little fellow. I believe Darrell Nelson is going to do great things in his life. God has spared a special little soul. Thurs., June 10, 2004

And today, August 25, 2005, as I read again this article, these words were spun:

Some things happen that make you ask "Why?"
Some things happen that make you want to cry.
Some things happen that'll make you cringe and set your teeth.

Some things happen that are almost beyond belief.
Without a doubt little Darrell Nelson asked "Why?"
Maybe Darrell even wanted to give-up and cry -
but he set his teeth to just hold on tight, and God took over to win his fight. God empowered that they turn the boat, again, upright, hum mm m, hum mm m. hum mm mm mmm mm m. MY LORD!
MY LORD!

May F. Lindsey Reed



READERS COMMENT CORNER



Dear Oscar: "Sorry for taking so long to respond to an opportunity to contribute to such an informative publication. I have found it most enjoyable reading and educational for the church and personal history it contains. Thanks to you and Joan for undertaking such a valuable task." Gordon.
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon B. Dalrymple, Atlanta, GA.

Dear Oscar: "let me express my deep appreciation for all the work you and Joan have been doing on behalf of "the Oldtimers' Grapevine". It has been great to have your friendship across these many years." Roland.

Rev. & Mrs. Roland K. Huff, Jacksonville, FL

Hi Oscar, "Please accept the enclosed donation in memory of Rev. Lorenzo J. Evans. He was a most outstanding leader in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)." Jackie

Mrs. Jackie Compton Bunch, Columbus, OH

Dear Oscar: "This letter is long overdue! For some time, I have been enjoying the delightful 'Oldtimers' Grapevine!" There is such a diversity of information re so many Disciples, information that is not found in any other publication in our denomination. When our copy arrives, I clear off the kitchen table, heat up a cup of Spiced Chai and sit down to enjoy 'a visit with old friends.' Suzi

Mrs. Suzi Cummins, Swanton, MD

Oscar: "keep up the good work. We appreciate keeping in touch. We are staying busy with Phillips U and many community activities." Curt

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

Dear Friend:" Lois & I (80 & 83), residents at Foxwood Springs since 2001, enjoy reading the Grapevine. Keep up the good work. I am a Disciples Minister, graduate of Brite, TCN, 1951. We miss Bill & Reubena Fox, and I miss Ozark Range from my past life: Regards. Bob

Rev. & Mrs. Robert D. Chambless, Raymore, MO

OLDTIMERS' HEALTHVINE

Heart Attack

(Mayo Cordial Infarction)

A heart attack is caused by a blockage of the blood flow to some part of the heart muscle. Many people think they are having other problems such as heartburn or indigestion when they are indeed having a heart attack.

You may be having a heart attack if you have any of these symptoms:

(Chest pain that lasts longer than 20 minutes and is not relieved by rest or nitroglycerin and feels like)

- Crushing
- Tightness
- Pressure
- Severe burning sensation

You may also have pain radiating to your:

- Back
- Shoulders
- Neck
- Jaw/teeth
- Arm or wrist

Other signs:

- Sweating
- Shortness of breath
- Dizziness
- Fainting
- Nausea/vomiting
- Unusual weakness

Fast or irregular heartbeat.

If you have these symptoms seek emergency treatment immediately.

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

FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL

Columbia, MO – Rev. Duane Moon, 78, Vice President for development with the National Benevolent Association of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) from 1983 to 1989, passed away Sunday, Sept. 11, 2005, at his home in Columbia. Services were held Thursday, Sept. 15, at Columbia United Church of Christ.

Duane was born Sept. 25, 1926 in Emporia, KS. He married Alice Spencer in 1950 and to this union was born a son and a daughter. He graduated from Emporia High School, Friends Bible College in Haviland, KS, College of Emporia in Emporia, KS, Phillips Seminary in Enid, OK and received a doctorate in administration from the University of Iowa.

He was a friend of the National Convocation and loved attending the midnight preaching services, as revealed by friend and former colleague, Dr. Norma Ellington-Twitty of St. Louis, MO. He was a recorded minister in the Friends (Quaker) church and more recently was active in Columbia United Church of Christ. Duane served for 16 years as president of William Penn College in Oskaloosa, Iowa. Duane retired and moved to Columbia at Lenoir Woods Retirement Center in 1991.

Duane is survived by his wife, Alice; a son, David and wife Debbie; a daughter, Eileen Mullan, husband Mark; four granddaughters; a sister; one brother; and many nieces and nephews.

BALTIMORE, MD—Celebration of the Life of Rev. Melvin Ray Schultz, a deeply committed churchman, World War II Veteran and Chaplain was held on June 10, 2005, at Christian Temple Christian Church, Rev. Richard Powell, Pastor.

“Thinking of Ray produces many wonderful memories for me,” exclaimed Rev. Benchuck Manning, close friend who kept a friendly Army/Navy rivalry going. “My greatest impression comes from his love of ministry that was so evident in his leadership with the Commission for Ministry, the Lay School of Theology and his

advocacy for thinking through ordination and licensed minister issues. “His presence with the Commission on Ministry cannot be filled,” stated Rev. Manning

“Ray was a good friend who was responsible for my interest in Reserve Chaplainry over 30 years ago,” said Rev. Dr. D. Robert Chance, friend. “I cannot express my sense of loss,” stated Dr. Chance. “I admired and loved him greatly.”

Clergy persons attending the services were told to not wear robes. “All who knew Ray would smile at the ‘NO ROBES’ admonition,” declared Navy Chaplain Commander Lorenzo C. York. “Ray taught us much and his valued contribution to Navy Chaplainry and Disciples Clergy will prove to be his legacy, he said.

Dr. Kristine Culp, Dean of Disciples Divinity House, University of Chicago, announced in early July that Alumnus M. Ray Schultz has been selected as the Distinguished Alumnus for this year and is to be honored at the DDH Luncheon at the General Assembly. Even though he could not be there his life and work was still honored and celebrated.

Rev. Dr. Laird A. Thomason, in his eulogy honoring his dear friend, said Ray “enjoyed life.” “He did enjoy living, and he enjoyed the status that accompanied his long life as a Sr. statesman, a survivor who made a difference.” Ray’s interests included Martial Arts in which he attained the ranking of “black” belt, and Korean cooking. He enjoyed sharing his culinary efforts.

(Ed. Note. Ray’s friendship spanned more than three decades and a memorable experience was when he invited me to speak at the church he pastored in Manassas, VA just before its visible ministry ended. My honorarium was lunch. He prepared his favorite Korean dishes with the condition that I bring a bottle of Christian Brothers Chateau LaSalle Wine. Rest in peace my friend.)

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

This 82-year-old churchman is scheduled to be interred at Arlington National Cemetery on September 21 at 11:00 AM. Arrangements have been made to have his wife Phyllis' ashes placed in the coffin with him.

LOS ANGELES, CA – A Home going Celebration for Rev. Palmerdon Palmer, Jr., Pastor of United Christian Church, was held July 30, 2005. This service preceded a second memorial service in his hometown of Denver, CO.

The sudden death of this 40-year-old church leader was a shock to members, family and friends, as they learned on Sunday morning when they arrived to a locked building. He had passed on Saturday night in the hospital.

Rev. Palmer was the pastor of the home church of Rev. Dr. Toni Bynum, Pastor of Broad Street Christian Church, Columbus, OH. Dr. Bynum was dealing with this troubling news at the time of the General Assembly in Portland, OR. She was obligated to be at the Assembly due to her responsibility of chairing the search committee for the newly elected General Minister & President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Dr. Bynum said, "Don was a good pastor and preacher, and he and I were getting to be good friends. My home congregation is devastated."

Rev. Palmer had been at United for four years. His impact of this congregation and community was revealed in the words of praise from Minister Perry Spencer, Jr., deployed regional staff member and the eulogy by Rev. Madison Shockley, a United Church of Christ minister and friend.

WASHINGTON, DC—

A Service of Gratitude for the life of **Marilyn J. Church** was held June 18, at National City Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Rev. Dr. William C. Howland, Jr., officiating.

Mrs. Church was an active member of the Christian Women's Fellowship and a strong supporter of the International Gift Shop with her late friend Elder Hilda Koontz, manager. After the death of Hilda, Marilyn took over total responsibility of this ministry.



Among those sharing in the memories of this dedicated churchwoman were her brother, Steven M. Church, Rev. Noemi Mena, Associate Pastor for Hispanic Fellowship; Dr. Lawrence P. Schreiber, Retired Minister of Music; Rev. Arlene Franks, Brenda Graham, Mrs. Kathy Swihart, Associate for Senior Adult Ministries; Paul Rosstead, Monte Hillis, Marcella Hill, and Kathleen Walker

Mrs. Church is a retired faculty member of the University of Maryland. In her retirement she spent many years voluntarily tutoring those with learning difficulties.

PRESIDENT GARFIELD CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT

The 2005 White House Christmas Ornament in the succession of Presidents will be James A. Garfield, preacher, educator, politician, soldier- and participant in the Vermont Avenue Christian Church during his days in Washington as congressman and President.



-The beautiful ornament features a ceramic stone with an illustration of the south front of the White House. The pattern on the box is based on the Victorian wallpaper in the Garfield house in Mentor, OH. In the accompanying book National City receives special mention.

This keepsake is a reminder of our Disciples legacy in Washington, DC. The ornament is only \$14.00 and may be purchased from Lynne Morgan at National City, 14th & Thomas Circle, NW, Washington, DC, 20005. (202) 232-0323.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRECIOUS GIFTS

Mrs. Pearl & Rev. Deborah Thompson & Maia Thompson, Winter Park, FL; Rev. Roland & Mrs. Kitty Huff, Jacksonville, FL; Mrs. Ruth P. Hobbs, Jackson, MS; Dr. Duane & Mrs. Suzi Cummins, Swanton, MD; Darlene Y. Nall, Nashville, TN; Rev. Garland & Mrs. Barbara Farmer, Davis, CA; Ovara O. Miller, Kansas City, MO; Dr. Sere & Mrs. Mary J. Myers, Sr., Leawood, KS; Rev. William & Mrs. Patricia Nottingham, Indianapolis, IN; Mrs. Loraine Pitman, Indianapolis, IN; Mrs. Iva L. Blaine, Raymore, MO; Mr. Don & Mrs. Gretchen Wharff, Raymore, MO; Rev. Robert D. & Mrs. Lois Chambless, Raymore, MO; Mrs. Mary J. Thomas, Washington, DC; Mrs. Alma H. Alderman, Washington, DC; Mr. Robbie N. & Mrs. Louada Chisholm, Silver Spring, MD; Mr. Leaford C. & Mrs. Bertha Williams, Washington, DC; Mr. Curtis & Mrs. Becky Jones, Angel Fire, NM; Dr. Lester McAllister, Claremont, CA; Dr. William & Mrs. Mary Helen Blackwell, Brandywine, WV, Mr. Gordon B. & Mrs. Monolea Dalrymple, Atlanta, GA, Rev. Arzolla Cooke, Knoxville, TN, and Mr. David & Mrs. Linda Hawkins, Des Moines, IA.

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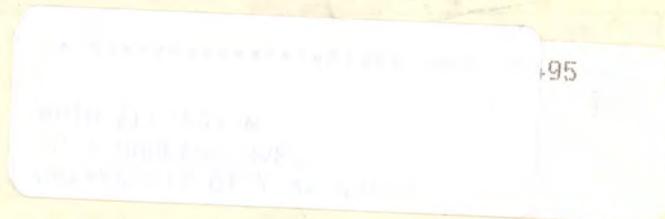
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GRAPEVINE

October-December '05

Volume 15, Issue 4

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. . . In him was life, and the life was the Light of all people."

John 1:1-4 NRSV

THE LEGACY OF GOD'S FOUR HORSEMEN

God's Answer To Jeremiah

⁵"If you have run with men on foot and they have made you tired, then how can you run as fast as horses?"

Jeremiah 12:5a (New Life Version)

Only a few have the faith of men who will dare to run with the horses. The four that did are: Mr. Alfred Clark (A. C.) Stone, Rev. Dr. John R. Compton, Mr. Norman S. Ellington, and Rev. Dr. Lorenzo James Evans. These four gave their all; physical, mental, financial and moral to the glory of God from early childhood to beyond the grave. Their dedication to following the teachings of Jesus Christ has been and is ever present in their personal histories and their family heirs.

A visionary on a mission is **Alfred Clark Stone**, described in church circles as "The Fearless Disciple Enabler." He introduced an article on "Lay Leadership" in 1982, which resulted in the establishment of the Star Supporter Scholastic program for young people preparing for ministry. He also convinced the National Christian Missionary Convention to address the need for more effective stewardship of finance in early 1956.

Selling the Star Supporter Fund, administered by Men's Ministries, Division of Homeland Ministries, became a major mission of Mr. Stone's life. He traveled everywhere speaking to anyone who would listen. His stewardship resulted in him spending the smallest budget and obtaining the greatest results of any church leader. He rarely spent a night in a hotel, but always in the home of a Disciple he had met at a General Assembly or Convocation.



"Whether at the National Convention or Kentucky Christian Missionary Convention, my Uncle Clark was there—holding court. Tall, confident, suave, well-dressed, soft-spoken and very persuasive, he was a welcome presence as he had a vision for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)—nationally and locally, stated his niece, Muriel Stone Nolen.

A. C.'s daughter Randa, explained that her father was an early motivational speaker, accepting invitations across the country and encouraging his young Kappa brothers to become Disciples. He also encouraged those entering the ministry to seek a higher education, she said. He and his wife, Mrs. Bessie Stone, enjoyed hosting Disciples in their home in Cincinnati, OH.

Continued from page 1

This successful insurance company executive and developer of housing for low and middle-income people with his son A.C. Jr., never feared a challenge. The physical race for this fearless lay churchman, who believed in the Priesthood of All Believers, ended at age 80 in April of 1992.

"Peace will not come in the world until the needs of people are addressed adequately," declared **Rev. Dr. John R. Compton**, addressing the International Christian Men's Fellowship Conference which met in Indianapolis, IN, June 10-12, 1982. This was one of his major speeches after becoming president of the Division of Homeland Ministry.



"Peace and happiness will never be ours to claim as long as life's less fortunate discover that peace and justice pass them by. The church in the next decade will be facing a number of serious issues which have brought the world to the 'razor's' edge of disaster---hunger, displaced persons, children, the poor, racism and sexism."

This prominent churchman, who always said "All I ever wanted to be was a pastor", applauded the laymen for their successful efforts through two special projects, The Star Supporter Fund and Trees for Tomorrow. The Star Supporter Fund in 35 years had educated 21 pastors, six chaplains, four denominational staff members, four college professors and three campus ministers. His legacy of firsts is legendary:

The first African American to serve on the Board of the United Christian Missionary Society; Executive in the office of the General Minister & President; Regional Minister; President of the Division of Homeland Ministries; Member of the church's general cabinet; Administrator of the National Convocation and administrator as well as creator of the Disciples Reconciliation program.

Oscar Haynes, who chaired the presidential search committee, said Dr. Compton's record is "enviable—professionally, ethically and spiritually." He further declared, Dr. Compton's knowledge, leadership abilities and skills," stood out as the search committee sifted through 87 nominees."

During Dr. Compton's tenure as president of Homeland Ministries there were many changes. Under his leadership the division implemented programs to support stated goals and objectives; changed the division's development procedures; initiated a new budgeting process; strengthened its partnerships with regions, general units and congregations; realigned professional staff portfolios and improved the division's staff system.

This courageous leader of deep humility, declared in a Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration in January, 1985, *"If Dr King were alive today, he would be on the picket line protesting the fact that his dream has been postponed indefinitely. For the first time since his (King's) death, the voting pattern of the nation has been anti-minorities, anti-poor and anti-black."* He lashed out at the addition of 12 million people to the sub-poverty level, a military budget that has destituted the nation and 90 million unemployed.

Upon Dr. Compton's resignation from the general office to return to the pastorate, Dr. A. Dale Fiers, first General Minister & President of the denomination, said, "It is with deep regret that I accept Dr. Compton's resignation. His contribution to the life of the church at the general level has been invaluable.

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

He has increased our awareness of the injustices toward minority communities and our need for reconciliation with each other. I rejoice with the United Christian Church in Cincinnati, knowing the special talents Dr. Compton will be taking with him to the congregation and the community-at-large."

The physical race for this veteran leader ended on April 19, 2003, but the run has not. Mrs. Jackie Compton Bunch, Dr. Compton's daughter who committed her life to his spiritual tutoring continues the race. She shared with the Oldtimers' Grapevine her thanks to God for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). *"I am blessed to be a member. It is my interaction with members that has helped and is helping to shape and support me as I travel on my spiritual journey."*



"Jackie," as she is affectionately known, is a recently retired guidance counselor. For over 36 years she worked for the Public Schools in Columbus, OH, specializing in serving disadvantaged students living in the inner city. Her faith

journey has included not only her vocation but also a Sunday School Teacher, C.Y.F. Advisor, C.W.F. president, Deacon and Elder in her congregation.

She has effectively served the Ohio Region in various offices and committees, the key ones being: Ohio C. W. F. District Consultant, Ohio C. W. F. Commission, and Ohio Regional Convention Secretary. Jackie has served as member of the General Board, and as secretary, vice-president, and president of the National Convocation of the Christian Church. She has served as International Christian Women's Fellowship President and is now serving as the President of Global Women Connecting (formerly World Christian Women's Fellowship).

Jackie is an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) Sorority, Inc. and is currently serving a

second term as president of this local chapter of 223 members who focus on providing "Service to all Mankind." She and husband, Bruce are the parents of: Dr. Abdu Y. Bunch, a Chemical Engineer, Ms. Jamila A. Bunch, the Mentoring Coordinator for the Gastonia Housing Authority in North Carolina, and Ms. Jehan M. Bunch, a recent Mass Communication graduate from Central State University.

Mr. Norman S. Ellington, a man who had the courage to believe that *"To be in Christ is to be free to love across racial and economic lines,"* became a leading force of Reconciliation in the Christian Church. Mr. Ellington regarded scripture as a mandate from God and helped thousands of others to believe.



In early 1972, the undaunted belief of this man of God led the welfare reform in Missouri and Illinois to receive a boost as three TV Shows, 100 trained discussion leaders and some 2,000 men and women joined with Disciples to form a group of people ready to work toward welfare reform in these states.

This movement started in St. Louis where Norman was director of the Inner-City Project of the Disciples' Change Through Involvement Program. The success of the program came through Norman's ability to receive the support of the United Presbyterian Church, United Church of Christ, Episcopal Church, Missouri-Synod Lutheran Church, and black Baptist Churches.

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3

Identified as the Mother-to-Mother program, and Family-to-Family Ministries, discussions were held in at least 195 home settings in the St. Louis area, and was carried by cable into western Illinois. Another 100 groups gathered in Fulton, Jefferson City, Moberly, Hannibal and Louisiana, MO, and Quincy, IL.

Additionally, members of the League of Women Voters, National Welfare Rights Organization and National Association of Social Workers were involved in the series. The project was initially funded by Reconciliation funds. These innovative programs helped suburban church persons to get to know inner-city persons, and discover, as Norman would say, *"that the poor are human beings."*

An exciting story of the impact this program had is told about a man who entered the program with a commitment to never allow a black person in his home. Six months later he journeyed to Washington, DC to help his new black friend to get a loan on a house. And later, he was a key leader in a successful effort to change the lending policies that made his trip necessary.

One church woman learned that justice is not always dispensed equally when the son of her inner-city friend was arrested, not allowed to see a lawyer or to call home and was held without bond for weeks.

The rich legacy of Mr. Norman Ellington will be enriched by the devoted human relations work of his daughter, Dr. Norma Ellington-Twitty, Director of St. Louis County Greenbook Initiative on Domestic Violence & Child Maltreatment, Layton, MO.



Dr. Ellington-Twitty provides leadership for a federally funded initiative designed to develop a more coordinated and integrated response to the co-occurrence of domestic violence and child maltreatment. St.

Louis County is one of six funded demonstration sites in the nation.

Norma worked for the National Benevolent Association, Christian Church, St. Louis, MO, from 1985 to 2000. She was Chief Executive Officer and Vice President for Community Relations a new position for the National Benevolent Foundation from September 1999 to her departure in June, 2000. During this period she established relationships with community, private, public, and university constituencies in the greater St. Louis community. Served as NBA representative on national committees/organizations.

Prior to September, 1999, she served as Vice President of Program Planning & Evaluation. Her responsibilities included new program/facility development; program evaluation; affirmative action; and education and training. She built the staff from two (2) to twelve (12), with a budget of \$500,000.00+ in 1999. Dr. Ellington-Twitty served as executive/senior staff member, with administrative oversight for over 80 agencies nationally.

Rev. Dr. Lorenz James Evans, fourth of the God's great horsemen, developed a program for the Department of Men's Ministries in 1983 that was described by the executive secretary as "one of the most exciting ever." The board of directors of the Division of Homeland Ministries approved the Layman's Leadership in program planning as a department program.



Continued on page 5

(Continued from page 4)

The program provided training through workshops to laymen in the areas of church planning and budgeting and enabled laymen to assume more effective leadership in the congregation.

The workshops, primarily geared to the needs of black Disciples congregations, were originated by Dr. Evans, of Indianapolis, and A.C. Stone and Mexico Hayden, both of Cincinnati. Seven men participated as consultants for the pilot program. They were : Rev. Evans, Joseph Carroll and Marshall Warren of Indianapolis; Mr. Stone, Mr. Hayden, and Mr. Lee Curd, of Cincinnati, and Oscar Haynes of Washington, DC.

Rev. Boosinger praised these seven consultants for volunteering for this time consuming program. More than 40 congregations participated in the program in less than six months. Evaluations revealed:

88 per cent of the participants felt the overall planning/budgeting event for laymen was an excellent experience.

92 per cent felt the strength of the program was in the lay leadership.

79 per cent felt the resources were helpful.

81 per cent felt the event was well coordinated between the congregations and workshops.

The program and training was under the direction of the Rev. Louis Ferrer, director of leader development for men.

Dr. Evans faced diverse competitors in the many races he ran. In 1960 he became the national director of field program in the Department of Christian Education of the United Christian Missionary Society.

During World War II, Lorenzo spent 45 months as a captain in the U.S. Army Chaplaincy. His next challenge was Membership Secretary for Butler Street YMCA, Atlanta, GA. Prior to his service with United Christian Missionary Society, he was National Director of Christian Education for the National Christian Missionary Convention.

In 1958 Dr. Evans was a delegate to the World Convention on Christian Education in Tokyo, Japan. On the East Asia tour he visited mission stations in Japan, Okinawa, Thailand and the Philippines. Stopovers included Hawaii and Hong Kong.

In 1993 Dr. Evans celebrated 59 years of devoted service to Christian ministry. Also in 1993 he was in his 20th year as the principal Bible teacher for senior citizens served by the Multicultural Center in Indianapolis, IN. He had two passions in life, the church and his family, his daughter Eddie E. Griffin shared with the OTG



“As I was growing up his frequent travels often prevented his being with family (wife, Myrtle Heath’, sister Stacy Marie) on birthdays and other occasions but he always tried to make up for this with cards, telephone calls or telegrams,” she said.

“What he instilled in me was the belief that I too had an obligation to serve the church. This led me to becoming an Elder in my congregation, a regional moderator, serving on various regional committees, the General Board of the church and other related boards and committees as I served the church and community. It was an honor to God and our father.

Eddie Griffin, a retired Social Service Executive, is Vice President of the Board of Disciples Divinity House of The University of Chicago.

Happy Birthday Oscar!

Our beloved Managing Editor is celebrating his 90th Birthday on January 18th. Please join us in honoring his life and work with a card, note or gift. Oscar’s dream is to establish an Endowment for the Oldtimers’ Grapevine. I hope you will partner with us in the endeavor. Please designate all monetary gifts to the Oldtimers Grapevine Newsletter. For more information call 202-299-6511.

DISCIPLES NEWS ROUND-UP

INDIANAPOLIS, IN—"Dear Friends: Greetings from Week of Compassion and thanks for your continued generous and strong support of the witness and work you continue to make happen with WOC throughout the world." This exciting e-mail came from the tireless WOC director, Rev. Johnny Wray.

This third quarter report of WOC, of which all Disciples can be proud, revealed that between January 1 and September 31, 2005, regular gifts reached \$2,023,429, an increase of \$147,160 over 2004. It may be of extreme interest to members of the National Convocation that over \$208,650 has gone directly to disasters in Africa.

HYATTSVILLE, MD – An estimated 300 well-wishers gathered at University Christian Church on October 29, 2005, to express their thanks and celebrate the retirement of their senior pastor, Rev. Dr. Marshall Dunn and his charming wife, Barbara.

Among the celebrants were: Rev. Louise Kilpatrick, former associate and husband Patrick, Jacksonville, FL; Dr. Kris Culp, Dean, Disciples Divinity House, University of Chicago; Rev. Kathleen Kline Chesson, representing Capital Area Regional Clergy.

BIRMINGHAM, AL—Rev. Dale C. Braxton, pastor of Snow Hill Christian Church, Mt. Willing, AL, has been called to the position of Associate Regional Minister for the Alabama-Northwest Florida Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). He will continue serving the Snow Hill Congregation.

DAYTON, OH – The officers and members of Summit Christian Church, 4021 Denlinger Road, Dayton, observed the 30th anniversary of their pastor, Rev. Dr. J. Thomas Johnson with a four-day celebration of preaching and music.

Participants included Bishop Emma Curtis-White, Church of the Rock Ministries, Dayton, and the Voices of Summit Choir; Rev. Leroy Thomas, Emmanuel M.B. Church, West Dayton, and the

Summit Gospel Chorus; Rev. Dr. William H. Edwards, Regional Minister & President; and Rev. William K. Garr, Paris Kentucky Christian Church and choir, accompanied by his wife. Two exceptionally moving moments came in a tribute came from his daughter, Jeanne Tomeka Johnson and a sermon by his son, Pastor Joseph Thomas Johnson, Jr.

INDIANAPOLIS, IN -- Rev. Lucas Torres, organizer of the first Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries, has been named the recipient of the 2005 WILL WITTKAMPER AWARD for his lifetime of commitment and dedication to justice and the Christian gospel. The presentation was made by Linda McKiernan-Allen, co-moderator of the Disciples Peace Fellowship.

"On this special occasion we give thanks to God for Lucas. We give thanks for his beloved spouse, Manuelita Cruz Vidal, and for their children, Lucas III, and David Horacio," declared Linda. She continued, "Rev. Torres' excellent tenure as National Hispanic Pastor brought dignity to the Hispanic Disciples Community. He contributed to the development of a healthy relationship of trust and mutual respect between the Hispanic Disciples family and the rest of our denomination."

WASHINGTON, DC – National City Christian Church has completed its search for a Senior Minister by calling Rev. Stephen W. Gentle of Orlando, FL. Stephen was associate minister under Senior Minister Dr. William C. Howland Jr. from 1990 – 1992.

The search started just over a year ago upon the resignation of Dr. Alvin O. Jackson. Since his resignation Dr. Dan Moseley and Dr. Peter Morgan have served as short-term interim ministers. Rev. Gentle starts on January 2, 2006.

INDIANAPOLIS, IN – Dr. LaTaunya Bynum, pastor of Broad Street Christian Church, Columbus, OH, has been called to lead the Support and Advocacy Ministry Team of GLAD Alliance. The team is dedicated to providing pastoral care to

GLAD members.

Dr. Bynum is a native of Los Angeles, CA. She holds degrees from Chapman University and the School of Theology at Claremont. She was chairperson of the search committee which nominated the new General Minister & President, Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins.

HAWKINS, TX – God smiled on Jarvis Christian College recently when it was announced that this historically black college had been left about \$500,000 from the estate of Mrs. Lois V. Potter, Arlington, TX. The estate is being handled by the Christian Church Foundation.

“We are extremely pleased that Mrs. Potter recognized a need and was able to take steps to resolve that need,” said Dr. Sebetha Jenkins, president of Jarvis. The corpus of the gift is to fund scholarships for qualified Disciple students.

INDIANAPOLIS, IN -- Rev. T. Eugene Fisher has accepted the position of Director of Membership for the Pension Fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Rev. Fisher will give primary leadership to recruitment of new Pension Plan members, encourage participation in programs offered by the Pension Fund, and lead activities to enhance services for all constituencies within the church.

During the past four years Rev. Fisher has served as Minister of Reconciliation. His previous pastorates include: Centennial Christian Church, St. Louis, MO and Faith United Christian Church, Canton, OH. He was the Business Administrator of Light of the World Christian Church, Indianapolis, IN, and Youth Pastor of Oasis of Hope Baptist Church, Indianapolis, IN.

ASHLAND, KY – Rev. Isaac Nicholson, pastor of First Christian Church, Ashland, was married to Shauna Gail Blair, a paralegal with Jenkins Fernsstermaker, PLCC in Huntington, WV on October 15, 2005. Prior to accepting the call to First Christian Church in Ashland, KY, Rev.

Nicholson was pastor at North Chevy Chase Christian in Chevy Chase, MD

The groom is a graduate of Lexington Theological Seminary in Lexington, KY and the bride is a graduate Morehead State University.

CHURCH PIANIST HONORED



Mrs. Mary Nall, member and pianist of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Ashland, KY, has been honored for over a quarter century of volunteer service to her congregation. Mary and her husband Fred, a retired oil executive, joined First Christian Church almost a half century ago.

According to church lore, the regular Sunday School pianist was ill and Mary was asked to play. She willingly began playing for Sunday morning service, joining the church organist, Gail Rous. “Mary Nall’s dedication and devotion to her ministry is truly remarkable. She has a kind spirit and I count her as a dear servant of the Kingdom,” said her pastor, the Rev. Isaac Nicholson.

Mrs. Nall’s love for music has moved her to give undying support to the Association of Disciple Musicians. Up until the General Assembly in Kansas City, MO in 2001, she had never missed an Assembly. During the past several years she has played for both morning worship and the Wednesday evening vespers services.

READERS COMMENT CORNER



Dear Oscar & Staff: "I look forward to reading the news in 'Oldtimers' Grapevine.' I can't believe that I discovered the 'Grapevine' only a few years ago. I was pleased to see the item about the death of my husband Chester in your previous issue. May God continue to bless you in this ministry." Ella

Mrs. Ella Jones Green, Silver Spring, MD.

Dear Oscar & Joan: "It's been too long! The last time our paths crossed was in Portland, OR in July. Enclosed is our check for the Oldtimers' Grapevine. We enjoy reading it each and every time it arrives at our doorstep." Kathy (Glenn too!)

Glenn & Kathy Helme, Baltimore, MD

Dear Oscar & Rev. Joan "What a beautiful publication of the Oldtimers' Grapevine! You are such sweet, great spirits! It seems each publication gets better and better. Words are not adequate for me to express my gratitude. May the good Lord bless both of you as you continue to serve." Ruth

Mrs. Ruth Hobbs, Jackson, MS

Dear Oscar: "Thanks so much for including me in the Oldtimers' Grapevine' family. I really appreciate hearing from and about my good friends—like you!" Betty

Mrs. Betty Hogan, Indianapolis, IN

OVERHEARD

Pastor Seeking A New Secretary

Pastor: I need a secretary who can spell.
Can you spell Mississippi?

**Hopeful
Secretary:** The river or the state?

THE POET'S CORNER

My Family's Lovin Chickenfest

Well Aunt Mabel set the table
and
Mama Shedd prepared the bread.
Sis. Mollie Dee brought her tasty sweet tea
and
old Grandpa Dennis drank with glee.
The sun was bright, so high in the sky;
this was a blessed day
which money couldn't buy.
Mom's, Dad's and children laughed
and talked up a storm.
The Family Chicken Fest this year
was truly, newly reborn.
This little family of mine came together
each July.

The joy we generated this year
surely resounded in the courts on High.
They positioned me comfortable in a large
recliner chair

They always fixed a place for me
that showed their love and care.
Since Vietnam I can no longer stand.

It was hard for me at first but
after nearly forty years,
I've gotten through the worst.
Since God saw fit to let me live
I'll praise His Holy name,
For I've still got my little
Chickenfest Family
and

A world of love to claim.

Written Thurs., October 13, 2005
May F. Lindsey Reed



FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL

SPRINGFIELD, OH – Celebration of the life of **Mrs. Della January**, 72-year-old lay leader in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), was held on October 4, 2005, at Fair Street Christian Church, the Eulogy by Pastor J. Thomas Johnson.

Della's leadership skills were discovered at an early age. She was president of her senior class at John Hay High School and continued her leadership during the years she was president of the Christian Youth Fellowship of her congregation. The general manifestation experienced her leadership capabilities from 1996 – 1998 while president of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Della was employed at Wright Patterson Air Force Base and in her earlier years was pianist and organist at Cedar Christian Church. She was preceded in death by her husband, Virgil and her son, Tony. Survivors include her sisters Louellen and Betty, an aunt Ila, and uncle Roosevelt, and several relatives and friends.

WASHINGTON, DC – Celebration of the life of **Annie Evelyn Boykin**, an expert seamstress who made clothes for her entire family, was held on December 30, 2005, at Twelfth Street Christian Church, Rev. Mary Brown Oliver, Interim Pastor.

In the Eulogy Mrs. Boykin was referred to as a virtuous woman "who is a crown to her husband, as reported in Pro. 12:4. Church members and neighbors knew her as a loving wife, devoted mother and caring grandmother. Because of her warm spirit, friends would warmly call her mom.

After retiring from her government nursing career, Annie entered into private nursing duty. She is survived by two daughters, Barbara and Sharlene Boykin, of Upper Marlboro, MD; three sons, Edward of Mt. Olive, North Carolina, Elwyn of Brandywine, MD, and Keith of San Diego, CA; two sisters, four brothers, and other relatives and friends.

OLDTIMERS' HEALTHVINE

STRESS MANAGEMENT

Stress is a natural part of life. Stress is change in our lives, which we must adapt to. Stress comes from negative and positive events. Too much stress can have a negative effect on our physical health. There is no way we can eliminate all stress but we need to find a way to keep our stress under control. There are several different techniques used to manage stress and various ones work for different people.

Stress Management Techniques

- *Practice good time management*
 - make a list of what needs to be done
 - a. decide which items are important
 - b. choose which things can wait until later.
 - Be aware of your own limits.
 - If you need help: ask for it!
- *Manage expectations: unrealistic expectations can be a source of stress.*
 - step back from the situation and look at it from the outside — in.
- *Live a healthful lifestyle*
 - physical exercise 4-5 times per week.
 - eat healthy
- *Practice relaxation techniques.*

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

(CORRECTION)

In the Oldtimers' HealthVine article on Heart Attack in the July-September 2005 issue, the (Mayo Cordial Infarction) should have read (Myo Cardial Infarction). The Oldtimers' Grapevine is committed to correcting errors. Readers interested in contacting the newsletter for that purpose can send an e-mail to oscarhyn@msn.com.

FIFTY: BECOMING THE CHURCH OF THE 21st CENTURY

Bethany Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), standing on the promises of God through many transitions of location, will celebrate fifty years of ministry from February 12, until the last Sunday in 2006. Rev. Dr. Robin Hedgeman, Senior Minister gives leadership to this historic congregation at its present address: 3940 Martin Luther King Jr., Drive, Cleveland, OH.

The celebration will begin with a pre-anniversary worship service on Sunday, February 12, 2006. Guest speakers will include Rev. Arthur Hill of Lincoln Avenue Christian Church; Rev. Donald Jackson & Evangelist Lynette Jackson of United Faith Church; Bishop R.W. Dickerson of Emmanuel Pentecostal Church, and Bishop Norman Wagner of Mt. Calvary Pentecostal Church.

The next major event will be the Anniversary Banquet, Saturday, February 28, 2006, at the palatial Mediterranean Party Center, located in Bedford Heights, OH. Further information is available by dialing (216) 341-1132.

In February of 1955, the late Elder Robert W. Dickerson and a few faithful believers discussed his vision of starting a new Disciples of Christ Church that would be a beacon of light in the neighborhood. The fruits of that discussion resulted in the birth of Bethany Christian Church in February 1956.



In the mid 1990's the congregation was enjoying healthy growth, Elder Dickerson's health was deteriorating and Dr. Hedgeman was asked to please come to their rescue. Robin resigned from her position as Associate Regional Minister of Ohio and assumed leadership of the congregation. Under her leadership the congregation has continued to grow spiritually, numerically and financially. *"Our goal is to become a 'five star church' in all areas,"* declared Dr. Hedgeman. *"Our ministry continues to impact the lives of individuals living in our community through our outreach ministries."*

The congregation has a tradition of a large membership choir and in 1988; Elder Dickerson brought a choir of 70 to Nashville, TN to participate in the 100th anniversary of Greenwood Cemetery. In October of 2004, Dr. Hedgeman, Priscilla of Twelfth Street Christian Church, Washington, DC, brought a choir of approximately 75 to join this oldest African-American Disciples Congregation in the Nation's Capital in celebration of its 90th Anniversary.



Bethany CC Choir in Nashville-1988

OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE BOARD LEADERSHIP STRENGTHENED

Three prominent church leaders, who have also given stellar leadership in the academic and religious communities of North America, have recently been named to the Board of Directors.

These three leaders are: Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale, founding and Senior Pastor of the Ray of Hope Christian Church, Decatur, GA; Mrs. Katherine Fox-Cunningham, daughter of the late Rev. Dr. William K. Fox, founder of the newsletter, and Dr. D. Duane Cummins, retired President of Bethany College, Bethany, WV, Historian and Author.

These three skilled leaders will be joining the august body of current directors to lead this 14-year-old publication into a thriving future, giving outstanding public service to a world praying for a future of integrity and compassion. The January-March issue will carry full-length stories on these three key leaders of The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRECIOUS GIFTS

Mrs. Velma L. McClure, Raymore, MO; Mary M. Watson, Kansas City, MO; Mrs. Rebecca Galloway, Chatham, VA; Mrs. Lillian B. Hester, Compton, CA; Rev. Joseph M. & Mrs. Winnefred Smith, Blacksburg, VA; Rev. Ernest & Mrs. Janice Newborn, Claremont, CA; Mr. Harvey & Mrs. Sybel Thomas, Chicago, IL; Rev. Alec J. & Mrs. Alice Langford, Indianapolis, IN; Mr. Robbie & Mrs. Louada Chisholm, Silver Spring, MD; Ms. Ruth D. Heimer, Indianapolis, IN; Denise D. Olmsted, Raymore, MO; Mr. Fred & Mrs. Mary Nall, Ashland, KY; Mrs. Betty Hogan, Indianapolis, IN; Mr. Glenn & Mrs. Kathy Helme, Baltimore, MD; Mrs. Ella Jones Green, Silver Spring, MD; Mrs. Ruth Hobbs, Jackson, MS; Mr. Dallas & Mrs. Jean Hoadley, in honor of grandchildren Brandon and Brian; Mr. David & Mrs. Hattie Millner, New Carrollton, MD; Rev. Robert & Mrs. Diane Steffer, Paris, KY; Dr. William & Mrs. Mary Helen Blackwell, Brandywine, WV; Rev. Eugene & Mrs. Bonnie Frazier, Raymore, MO, and Rev. Charles & Mrs. Martha B. Barr, Cameron, MO.

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