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### The Oldtimers' Grapevine, Volume 16 (April - December 2006)

Oscar Haynes

*Oldtimers' Grapevine*

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# The Oldtimers'

## GRAPEVINE

*"May grace and peace be yours in abundance in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord"*

*2nd Peter 1:2*

April—June '06

Volume 16, Issue 2

## EDINBURGH CHURCH CELEBRATES 150TH!

By Mary Byrd Blackwell

One of 13 congregations clustered in a pocket of Disciple churches in the northern Shenandoah Valley, is Edinburg Christian Church, which celebrated its sesquicentennial May 21.

The 150-year-old church has approximately 85 members today. Thirteen were honored during the celebration as being members for more than 50 years. Among them are Ona Evans and Guy Mantz, who were baptized on the same day in 1932.



"It was a really good day," say the Rev. Debbie Harmon. "We had a number of out-of-town guests and members who had come a bit of a distance to be here."

Well before the Civil War, the early Edinburg congregation met in members' homes and at the Christian Church in Narrow Passage. They broke ground for the current building on Center Street in 1856, and the church was completed 13 years later. In 1898, the two separate entrances – one for each gender – were replaced with one central door, and the bell tower was added.

Former minister Warren Brubaker, who retired to his hometown, Luray in 2002, was the guest speaker at the anniversary celebration. Brubaker served both the Edinburg and Woodstock congregations for 17 years.

After an 80-year partnership, the Edinburg congregation chose to be independent of its sister congregation and called Harmon in 2003. Her husband of ten years, Bob, has since become pastor of Grace United Church of Christ in nearby Mount Jackson.

Rev. Harmon was "born a Baptist" in Louisville, Ky. She grew up in a Disciple congregation in Indiana, then during here teens attended a Methodist church where her mother was the music minister.

She graduated from the University of Evansville, a Methodist school, then Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis. She was ordained in 1994.

"Needless to say, I have a rather ecumenical background," she said.

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She served as associate pastor of youth and family ministers in Chesterfield, Ind. and completed a chaplain residency in Indianapolis before coming to Virginia. (photos by MBB)

### Meet the newest staff member of the Oldtimers' Grapevine Newsletter.

Mary Byrd Blackwell (MBB) is an Award winning journalist, who out of her love for writing and willing to give of her talent to a church-related publication, has joined the Oldtimers' Grapevine staff with joy and smiles as she agreed to share her skills with this periodical.



Miss Blackwell is a native of Kentucky, a Disciples Preacher's Kid. Her father is the Rev. Dr. William C. Blackwell who has held pastorates in Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, Iowa and Maryland. He was a Chicago-area Admissions Counselor for Culver-Stockton College when she completed high school.

In the mid 1990s, Mary Byrd moved to the Shenandoah Valley. In the early years she was Office Manager at a small radio station, and then Auction Coordinator for a public television station. Currently she is a reporter for The Shenandoah Valley-Herald, Woodstock, VA

In March, 2006, Mary Byrd's first place journalism award was one of three won by the Shenandoah Valley-Herald staff at the annual Virginia Press Association banquet in Roanoke, VA. Her award was for a series of stories on the District 1 school board race and recount late last year for weekly newspapers with a circulation of 5,000 to 6,999. Her stories followed the entire lengthy process .

Regarding her work, the judges from Oregon newspapers, said, "Blackwell did a good job of moving forward the story, but giving readers enough background of the amazing saga. The reporter also kept abreast of the issue and followed the story through to the end.

Miss Blackwell has a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA. She lives in the heart of Woodstock, VA with her cats, Bella the Evil Princess and Dexter the Wimp. Her parents, retired minister Rev. William and Mrs. Mary Helen Blackwell, of Brandywine, WV, are strong supporters of the Oldtimers' Grapevine.

### OVERHEARD

#### WHEN THE TITHE COMES IN

Two men were shipwrecked on a desert island. One was a churchgoer and the other wasn't. The non-churchgoer immediately began shouting, "We're going to die! There's no food! No water! We'll die!

The churchgoer calmly leaned against a palm tree and that drove the non-churchgoer crazy. He shouted, "What's wrong with you?" The churchgoer said, "You don't understand, I make a hundred thousand dollars a week."

"What difference does that make?" asked the non-churchgoer. "We're on a desert island and we're going to die!"

The churchgoer smiled and said "You just don't get it. I make a hundred thousand dollars a week and I tithe. My pastor will find me!"

### CORRECTIONS

**In January – March Issue of the Oldtimers' DISCIPLES NEWS ROUND-UP we reported Rev. Effie Blair, Indianapolis, IN was one of the earliest Disciple Women to be ordained. This has been challenged so we regret this error. The Oldtimers' Grapevine is committed to correcting errors!**



Oscar's Notes

## From the desk of the Managing Editor

A troubling concern of mine is the lack of finances and possible demise of Reconciliation. My heart aches as I recall the sweat, tears and blood that propelled this Ministry. Reconciliation is the church's race and poverty program.

In October, 1968, as the Nation was struggling to eliminate the ugliness of Racism, the late Dr. John R. Compton joined the international staff as director of Reconciliation while serving as associate secretary of the Ohio Society of Christian Churches.

Dr. A. Dale Fiers was General Minister and President at the time Dr. Compton resigned from the general staff to return to full time parish ministry of the United Christian Church in Cincinnati, OH.

It is with deep regret that I accept Dr. Compton's resignation," he said. "His contribution to the life of the church at the general level has been invaluable. 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, knowing the special talents Dr. Compton will be taking with him to the congregation and the community-at-large."

My prayer is that we, Disciples of Christ, today be as concerned and willing to combat the root causes of racism and poverty as we were during the leadership of such courageous leaders as Dr. Fiers and Dr. Compton. History tells me that at that time we numbered 1.4 million Christians in the United States and Canada – a Protestant communion founded on the 19<sup>th</sup> Century American frontier.

The Oldtimers' Grapevine Staff and board members will be attending the 19<sup>th</sup> Biennial Session of the National Convocation and look forward to visiting with you at our Display Booth. Rev. Dr. Delores Carpenter, President, is expecting to greet you in

Dearborn, MI., July 28 – Aug. 1, 2006 and share the photo of her first grandchild, a handsome boy.



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## Guest Editorial

# 90

Oscar Haynes turned 90 this year! Throughout the church we celebrate his long and faithful leadership—in local congregations, in regional leadership and in multiple ways in the total life of the Disciples. One—but only one—of his ministries was to assume the editorship of *The Oldtimers' Grapevine* with its unique role among disciples. An excellent way to say "happy birthday" to Oscar would be to support a proposal (now being considered by the publication's board of directors) to create a permanent endowment fund in his name for the support of this publication. I am sure that the Christian Church Foundation would be available to manage such a fund. I do feel a great many Disciples would welcome this way of saying "Happy Birthday, Oscar!"

Dr. Thomas J. Liggett, President Emeritus,  
Christian Theological Seminary and Division of  
Overseas Ministries.

## The Da Vinci Code Revisited



There has been a lot of controversy about the Da Vinci Code. The controversy has certainly added to the popularity and profitability of the book and the movie. I don't necessarily want to add to that popularity or profitability, but I believe

the book and the movie provides the church with a wonderful teaching moment to remind the world of one of the eternal truths of God.

The Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown is a book of fiction. Many people of faith have become disturbed because there are many who read it as a book of fact, but it is in fact, a book of fiction. It is a gripping mix of murder and myth. It is a spellbinding re-examination of 2,000 years of religious history. It has soared to the top of The New York Times best-seller list, and become the topic of heated conversations in book clubs and Bible studies. It has also inspired an army of writers to crank up their word processors and fire back with books such as Da Vinci Code Decoded, The Truth Behind the Da Vinci Code, Secrets of the Code, Breaking the Da Vinci Code, Exploring the Da Vinci Code, and Cracking Da Vinci's Code. Entire forests have been cut down to satisfy our craving for books about the Code.

And just a few weeks ago the movie version of The Da Vinci Code, starring Tom Hanks as religious symbols expert Robert Langdon. The story begins with the murder of a historian at the Louvre in Paris, and the discovery of a chain of cryptic codes and puzzles. At the heart of the mystery is a secret that goes back to Leonardo Da Vinci, and even earlier — to the days of Jesus Christ. The secret, which has ignited a controversy around the world, is this: Jesus was not the single, celibate man that most Christians assume he was. No, Jesus and Mary Magdalene had a child, and they began a bloodline that continues to the present day. It's scandalous stuff. No wonder so many folks of faith are upset.

One of the most fascinating questions in The Da Vinci Code involves the identity of the disciple seated at the right hand of Jesus in Da Vinci's painting of the Last Supper. Is the feminine-looking figure in this picture the disciple John — a youthful, clean-shaven man? Or is it Mary Magdalene, the follower of Jesus who would go on to be the first person to see the risen Christ? The Da Vinci Code wants you to believe that the figure is Mary, and it encourages you to embrace the idea that she was not only a follower of Jesus, but also his wife and gave birth to a child whose descendants still live today.

So John is not John — he's Mary. And Mary is the Holy Grail. Now, that's the gospel according to Dan Brown, but it is not the gospel of Jesus Christ. For the truth of the matter is to be connected to Christ has nothing to do with a sexual relationship between Jesus and Mary, but everything to do with a faith relationship between Jesus and us.

Jesus did have a love child. No doubt about it! Love children, actually. But it's not the child, or children that Dan Brown talks about. The love children of Jesus are all around us and we run into them everyday! You might even be one yourself! Actually if you want to know the truth Jesus is not the father. God is! But Jesus is my elder brother. I am in the family, the family of God! You may not always be able to tell it. I may not always look like my father. Sometimes I forget who I am and where I came from and I don't walk like him and I don't talk like him, but if you get real close, you'll see some resemblance there. Yes, I am his child! I've got his DNA in me. It's in my blood. It's in my very being. The good news of the gospel is that we are all love children of God and there is absolutely nothing that can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:39). We need to wake up and claim our inheritance!

Alvin O'Neal Jackson

## MICHIGAN PARK'S OCTOGENARIAN DIAMOND CLUB LUNCHEON

*"The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon, they will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green."* (Psalm 92:12 & 14)

These were the opening remarks from 90 year old Oscar Haynes to a standing room only assembly gathered to celebrate nine octogenarians being inducted into the Diamond Club at Michigan Park Christian Church, Washington, DC, April 1, 2006. Excitement prevailed during this annual Women's Day Luncheon, which was highlighted by the induction of four women and five men into the "2006 Michigan Park Christian Church Diamond Club Hall of Fame." This was the fifth induction ceremony.



"God's beloved, there is no green (money that is) or any other material substance that could create this great honor. It is unquestionably the love of God," said Elder Emeritus, Oscar Haynes, guest speaker.

"We are experiencing the holy scriptures being fulfilled this very 12<sup>th</sup> day of spring, here in God's Holy Temple. Nine persons whose lives have been so pleasing to God that they would be given ten years more than the scriptures promise." Focusing on the families of the nine honorees, he continued "Such a blessing starts during your youth by honoring your parents and your days upon the earth will be long."

Rev. Dr. Delores Carpenter, Senior Pastor, presented each honoree with the jewel that represented their birth month and a keepsake as she inducted them into the club.

They are: Edward Brown, Serena Burke, John Burke, Henri Mae Davis, Margaret Henderson, James Lucas, Oreta Rowe, George Waters and McClain Whitley.

Other participants in the program were: Dr. Valeria Ford, general chairman; Denise Riley, Luncheon Co-Chairperson; Rev. Yvonne Gilmore-Esig, Mistress of Ceremonies; Laurenda Carter, Introduction of Speaker; Jacqueline Liles-McGhee, Soloist; Pericles Jacobs, Jr., Instrumental Quartet; and Ceresa Jacobs.

Sunday's preacher for this 2006 Women's Day Celebration was the dynamic pastor of Ray of Hope Christian Church, Decatur, GA., Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale. The fiery speaker led the congregation to a mountain top worship experience as she delivered a powerful sermon entitled "An Invitation to Grow and to Serve: Women Across the Generations." Dr. Hale is a member of the Board of Directors of the Oldtimers' Grapevine Newsletter.

Rev. Judy Bowles, Assistant pastor of Pilgrimage Christian Church, Suitland, MD was the musician for the celebration.

**Photos provided by Josie W. Meeks**



## **OVERSEAS MINISTRIES CALLS FOR TRAVEL TO CUBA**

**INDIANAPOLIS, IN – Rev. David Vargas,**

President of the Division of Overseas Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has joined other religious leaders to express concern about “new interpretations of US government regulations” that restrict the ability of denominational bodies to work closely with partner churches and institutions in Cuba, and assist Cuban churches in their important faith witness.



Rev. Vargas, also Co-Executive of Global Ministries, along with other religious leaders sent a letter to President Bush reminding him that for more than a decade, local, regional and national church bodies have all been “eligible to receive licenses to conduct religious travel to Cuba.” However, recent policy decisions by the State Department and the Treasury Department severely limits this eligibility.

The letter also stressed that the partnership between US and Cuban churches “goes back many years and transcends political ideology.” They stressed that this partnership is now hindered by “impractical restrictions that have reduced our ability to send religious delegations to Cuba, limit our opportunities to accompany and support our Cuban church partners.”

Mrs. Sybel Thomas, widely recognized church leader from Chicago, IL, expressed her deep disappointment to these restrictions. She recalled for the Oldtimers’ Grapevine her visit to Cuba and the joy spent with the Pentecostal Church of Cuba. “The people were so gracious and happy to see us, she exclaimed. “I will always remember the love extended to us.” Mrs. Thomas had traveled to Cuba at the invitation of the Pentecostal Church of Cuba with a group that included her friend Joan Kagiwada, widow of the late David Kagiwada.

Rev. Vargas and other leaders stressed that the new restrictions on religious travel to Cuba “curtails

religious freedom” by allowing undue governmental interference in the exercise of religion and also impair the ability of US church bodies to participate in what we understand to be the churches global mission. These religious leaders urged President Bush “to affirm your administration’s support for the free exercise of our work in mission and fellowship with churches and ecumenical agencies in Cuba.”

## **RECONCILIATION CRISIS**

By Sandhya Rami Jha

**INDIANAPOLIS, IN** The financial crisis facing Reconciliation Ministries in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has reached the point where it has almost no paid staff in the office. This is true at both the general and regional levels. It has become evident the ministry needs to engage in a very serious process of evaluation in order to figure out the direction of this ministry.

A special evaluation group has been appointed which will hopefully develop an evaluation process by the end of 2006, that will have wrestled seriously with the following:

- a. Shoring up the financial structure of reconciliation ministries ( which may include serious evaluation of the special offering as the sole means of funding)
- b. looking at the successes and failures of our intentional move to anti-racism work as central to reconciliation ministries at the general level, and
- c. seeking better ways to strive for our goal of being an anti-racist, pro-reconciling church by the year 2020.

It is the intention of the committee to seek input from persons throughout the membership. The committee represents the diversity of the church that includes persons from the general church, the regions and local congregations. It also includes those now active in anti-racism work.

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The committee members are: Lori Adams, Eric Brown, Bob Hill, Chris Hobgood, Jane Lawrence, Marcus Leathers, Tim Lee (Moderator), Noemi Mena, Ron Parker, Sharon Watkins and Sandhya Jha.

The church has strongly proclaimed that it is committed to eradicating racism. The current situation of reconciliation ministries begs the question of whether that is true or whether we are going about it the best way. The committee deeply desires your prayers that God guide this process so that we may do God's work in the world. If people have questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact Sandhya.

***"If you want to build a ship, don't drum up the men to gather the wood, divide the work and give orders. Instead, teach them to yearn for the vast and endless sea." Antoine de Dsaint Exupery.***

The writer's e-mail is [sandhya.r.jha@gmail.com](mailto:sandhya.r.jha@gmail.com)

### ***BUILDING BRIDGES; RENEWING GOD'S COVENANT***



***"If God can't do it—It can't be done."***  
(Isaiah 61:7-11.)

"To God be the glory for this happy occasion that brings us together in worship and praise," are the words from Rev. Dr. Timothy James, Executive Secretary of the National Convocation and Associate General Minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) during the Sunday Worship Services for the Installation of Rev. Dr. Stephen Gentle, Senior Pastor and President of the National City Christian Church Foundation.

In lifting up greetings from Rev. Dr. Sharon E. Wat-

kins, General Minister and President, Dr. James asked the assembly to join "with the Administration's request for 10,000 Disciples Praying for our church. "We are seeking to build bridges and renew covenants across the church as we move into the future. We are a church whose time has come."

Lifting up the theme for the weekend of activities, "Building Bridges: Renewing God's Covenant", Dr. James said it is a marvelous theme upon which to launch into an unknown future. He commended the congregation for desiring to build bridges rather than burn bridges. "Renewing God's Covenant," he said, speaks to me of an intended desire to fulfill God's mission as people of God. Covenants, he said, are agreements that are binding and call for honesty, trust and faithfulness. He reminded the worshippers "God's covenant is everlasting and has been renewed in Christ Jesus and sealed in His blood at Calvary."

Quoting the scripture from Isaiah:61:8-11, he said; "For I the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery and iniquity. In my faithfulness I will reward them and make an everlasting covenant unto them. Their decendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples... I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God..."

Referring to a statement by Rev. Dr. Huberto Pimentel, Pastor and Seminary Professor and the incoming National Pastor for the office of Hispanic Ministries, he lifted this quote on "If God can't do it, it can't be done." "If this is something we can figure out and accomplish on our own, then we don't need God. But if this is a dream or a vision that we seek to achieve or fulfill, then we are totally dependent on God."

In sharing some of his personal experiences, Dr. James said Christians must learn and then remind ourselves that it is not about us. He said "I can grow weary and dreary with all that is no my plate, but the office staff made it plain, we are here for you. You are not alone.

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This is the Lord's work and for the Lord's glory." "National City Congregation and Foundation, as you move from two interim pastors to a selected senior pastor, you have much to be thankful for."

The messenger then lifted up the effort of Dr. Dan Moseley, an interim pastor, to bring a sense of hope and healing to the congregation. "You can truly say that "somebody prayed for me"(the congregation) and "somebody prayer with me") "I can sense, he said, that since I was here a year ago, burdens have been lifted, hope is very much alive, and God's covenant is being renewed."

Music for the Rev. Gentle's Installation Service, in addition to the Sanctuary Chorale, included the Lynchburg Singers of Lynchburg College. Dr. J.H. Kim, conductor, Lynchburg, VA, and the Monumental Brass Quintet.



The installation service on Sunday was preceded by a lively celebration banquet. Members and friends were treated to warm fellowship, delicious food and a program featuring Rev. James Powell, President of Church Extension, guest speaker. Among notable church leaders were: Dr. William C. Howland, Senior Minister Emeritus; Dr. Dan P. Moseley, and Dr. Peter Morgan, Interim Pastors; Dr. Glenn Carson, President of the Historical Society; Rev. Virginia Taylor, Rev. Idia Rodriguez, former staff, Rev. Jimmie and Mrs. Connie Gentle, parents of Dr. Gentle, and his wife, Miriam and their three children, Wesley, Ana-Elisa and Phillip.

## **TWO PARTNER CHURCHES IN THE WORK OF ANTI-RACISM INSTALL NEW PASTORS**

*By Joyce Knox*

**Rev. Elizabeth A. Pass** was installed at Springfield Christian Church in Springfield, VA on February 5, 2006 and **Rev. Paul H. Saddler** at Twelfth Street Christian in Washington, DC on May 21, 2006. They were installed in churches in the Region by Rev. Lari Grubbs, the Regional Minister and their congregations are partner churches who interact on a regular basis. Some people would call this a coincidence, but those persons who know the Lord of both congregations call it "Divine Anointing."

More than a year ago, with the urging of Elders Richard Bierce and Oscar Haynes, the congregations began to reconnect in their shared task of building their partnership and focus on Anti-Racism and Reconciliation. Since both congregations were in transition regarding pastoral leadership it was an opportunity for members to reaffirm our joint commitment to the work God called us to do.

Dr.. Anne Reid one of the founders of the Capital Area Region's Anti-Racism Team was thoughtful in assessing the past work, and hopeful of her sense of the big job we have yet to do. Several members of Twelfth Street gave recognition to the leadership and compassion that characterized the role of Springfield's former pastor, Rev. Dr. E. Madison Caudill.

Rev. Joan Bell-Haynes strongly urged us that as the family grows in commitment to Anti-Racism that we continue to share in fellowship and acknowledge the fact that we are coming together at the table, the table of sacrifice and covenant set by and convened by our loving God.

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### REV. ELIZABETH A. PASS



Sunday, February 5, 2006 was a wonderful day of celebration for everyone because Rev. Elizabeth A. Pass was installed as Senior Pastor of Springfield Christian Church. Rev. Pass said, "it was a day filled with food, fellowship and worship, a day unlike any other that solidified our belief in

the working and calling of God and gives us hope of a future not only of this particular church but the Church universal."

Rev. Pass, a native of Covington, KY, grew up a "P.K."/Preacher's Kid. Because of this she always had ample opportunity to live within the life of the church and most people would think that she had an easy time putting her calling into words. Not so! As she recalls, first she needed to turn on the phone (cell phone generation), then hear the phone ring, answer it and finally respond to the person on the other end-GOD.

She and her husband Tim, currently pursuing a degree in Social Work at the University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, have always talked about the Washington Metropolitan area as a place they would enjoy living. That dream has been fulfilled for Rev. Pass and will be completed when her husband graduates within the next year and joins her. As Rev. Pass said, "In every conversation Tim and I had, the DC area would always come up. "We always knew that one day, when the time was right, God would call us here."

Among the ministers participating in the service with Rev. Grubbs, were her colleague, Dr. Ken Kline, First Christian Church, Moline, IL, and Rev. Paul Saddler (not yet installed pastor) from Twelfth Street Christian Church. Also sharing in the celebration were her parents, Rev. Norman and Mrs. Mary Jo Whitthuhs, her sister Jennifer Moyer, nephew Asheron, and dear friends, the Smiths from Norfolk, VA.

Rev. Pass received her Master of Divinity degree from Lexington Theological Seminary, Lexington,

KY. She was an Associate Pastor of First Christian Church, Moline, IL. Rev. Pass looks forward to a long and blessed journey of faith with the congregation at Springfield Christian Church.

### REV. DR. PAUL H. SADDLER

Sunday, May 21, 2006 was a perfect day!

A day of sunshine, mild temperature and a gentle breeze; a day only GOD could provide; the day that Rev. Dr. Paul H. Saddler was installed at Twelfth Street Christian Church.



Rev. Lari Grubbs, the Regional Minister and Rev. Kwame Osei Reed, the United Church of Christ Conference Minister installed Rev. Saddler; Rev. Dr. Glenwood P. Roane, the pastor's cousin, preached the Installation Sermon; Rev. Dr. I. Benni Singleton gave the charge to pastor and Rev. Dr. Alvin O. Jackson gave the charge to the congregation. Other participants included Rev. Beryl E. Dennis, Minister Jacqueline Elliott, Rev. Bernard C. Coleman, Rev. Michael Paige, Rev. Melvin McCaster, Elder Haywood Vaughn, the Honorable Frank Smith, Edward H. Moseley, Charles Callis, Joy Majied and Rev. Dr. Sylvia McDonald-Kaufman.

Vocal Pointe provided the for the service. After the service, family, friends and the congregation returned to the fellowship hall for dinner.

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Born in Atlantic City, NJ, Rev. Saddler was raised in a Christian home where his father, Mr. John E. Saddler (deceased) and mother, Mrs. Mary Tilghman Saddler made sure that Christian principles were instilled in him at an early age. On any given Sunday he, along with his parents, older brother John and younger sister Linda, attended early mass at the Episcopal Church where his mother continues to serve.

Rev. Saddler's career was highly influenced by several mentors including Rev. Rex Whiteman of Atlantic City, NJ, Rev. Dr. Herbert Daughtry of Brooklyn, NY and Rev. Dr. Kenny Smith of Vienna, VA. He was licensed to preach at First Baptist Church in Vienna, VA in 1993, however, his work in ministry began in 1982 as a missionary. He worked as a Christian counselor to homeless men in New York City before moving to the Washington Metropolitan area.

He served as Youth Minister at Plymouth Congregational Church, Washington, DC; Pulpit Supply Pastor at Heritage United Church of Christ, Baltimore, MD; Interim Pastor of Amistad St. Paul United Church of Christ, Lanham, MD.

Rev. Saddler is an executive board member of the Washington Baseball Community Trust, a member of the Board of Directors of the Thurgood Marshall Center; Executive Minister of the Shaw Community Ministry of the United Church of Christ and a member of the DC Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Religious Studies from the College of New Rochelle; a degree in Christian Ministry from New York Theological Seminary; his Master of Divinity degree from Howard University's Divinity School and his Doctor of Ministry degree from Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, DC.

Rev. Saddler is married to the Honorable Judge Fern Flanagan Saddler (superior Court of the District of Columbia). He has two sons, Bradford S. Saddler of Atlantic City, NJ and Christopher Mark Foster-Saddler, a student at New York State University.

## **AN ECUMENICAL CONGREGATION INSTALLS FIRST DISCIPLES PASTOR IN 32 YEAR HISTORY**

Rev. Joan Bell-Haynes, ordained Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) clergywoman, was installed as co-pastor at United Christian Parish of Reston on April 2, 2006 by four denominations uniting in ministry.

United Christian Parish (UCP) is a congregation comprised of The United Methodist Church, The Presbyterian Church, USA, The United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).



Rev. Bell-Haynes was installed by Rev. Lari Grubbs, Regional Minister, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Capital Area. He was joined by judicatory representatives of the remaining three denominations: Rev. Dr. Young Jin Cho (UMC); Rev. Richard McFail, Stated Clerk & Treasurer and Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Braxton, Moderator both of The National Capital Presbytery; Rev. Dr. Kwame Osei Reed, Associate Conference Minister, United Church of Christ.

Supervisor Cathy M. Hudgins, The District Superintendent of Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, VA brought greetings from the larger Reston community. It was her second time coming for Rev. Bell-Haynes installation. The original date of February 12th was rescheduled because of heavy snow.

Rev. Debra Peevey (disciples minister), Spiritual Director of Journey of the Heart Ministries and President, Reston Ministerium gave a charge from the community.

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Rev. Peevey spoke of the historical importance of the event and recognized two giants in the faith of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) who were present: Dr. T. J. Liggett, President Emeritus, Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, IN; who was there with his daughter Peggy Liggett and Oscar Haynes, Elder Emeritus, Twelfth Street Christian Church, National City Christian Church Board, former vice chair, Disciples Historical Society and the husband of Rev. Bell-Haynes.

Here is Rev. Peevy's charge from the community:

*"We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that the reign of God always lies beyond us. . . .*

*This is what we are about. We plant the seed that one day will grow. We water the seeds already planted, know that they hold future promise. We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for God's grace to enter and do the rest.*

*We are workers, not expert builders; ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own."*  
Archbishop Oscar Romero

"With these profound words resonating in our hearts and minds, let us remember that we cannot know in our lifetime all the soil that is turning, all the seeds being sown, all the harvest that will come. It is our privilege and responsibility to lend ourselves, heart and mind to the work that God began and will one day finish. Along the way, we are fortunate to gather as a United People of God to welcome one into our midst one who will labor with us and will invite us to know God in a new way. Make no mistake, this woman, this Disciple of Christ will show us a new way because of the color of her skin, the content of her character, and her faith forged over a lifetime's full journey. Take in the diversity of this town, Reverend and be a pastor to us all.

I am honored to represent the Reston Ministerium and the public at large to thank UCP for calling the Rev. Joan Bell-Haynes to be a part of this community. I am to remind you that you haven't called her only for yourselves, but for the good of Reston as well! We joyously anticipate the ground

she will turn over, the seeds she will sow, the Spirit she will spread, and the future she will help us co-create.

We welcome you Reverend, blessed daughter of God, and we expect and need you to move beyond the walls of this congregation, to be a blessing to us all. Not only for this time, but for time beyond our time. Help us to do something, and to do it very well and help us to remember that what we do and who we are is an opportunity for God's grace to enter and to do the rest. May it be so."

Several highlights of the installation were the: UCP Adult Choir directed by Jann Tiller singing *River in Jerusalem*, arr. Leavitt; UCP Liturgical Dancers, directed by Jane Cofie, gave a powerful interpretation of *Order My Steps*; the inter-generational Combined Bell Choir directed by Dave Tiller gave a magnificent performance of *Grazioso* by **Arnold B. Sherman**; Genesis Choir (children), Yvonne Kaufman, Dir.; and a rendition of *How Great Thou Art* by the Haynes daughters: Donna Taylor and Christina Haynes accompanied by Rev. Judy Bowles.

Other participants included: Rev. Dr. M. Bruce Irwin, Co-Pastor, Ministerial Team Leader, UCP; Billie Sutter, Dir. Christian Education, UCP; Rev. Brenda Cardwell, Pilgrimage Christian Church; Mary Jackson, Elder & Search Committee Member; Robert Pitulej, UCP Moderator; David Meyer, Youth Representative, Search Committee; Judicatory Liaisons: Susan Fellows, UMC; Roxane Hughes, PUSA; Cathy Dain, UCC; Peter Raymond, CC (DoC); Katie Rinaman, Acolyte; Banner Carriers: Tom Raymond, Lucas Traunero.

## DISCIPLES NEWS ROUND-UP

**INDIANAPOLIS, IN – Dr. Jim Reed**, president emeritus of the Christian Church Foundation has successfully come through eight hours of surgery and showing good signs of recovery in the Intensive Care Unit of a local hospital. The family thanks persons who have kept Jim in their prayers.

**LEXINGTON, KY – Rev. James Gregory Alexander** was elected General Minister of the Kentucky Region, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) during the regional assembly in Bardstown, KY, on May 19, 2006. He had served as Associate for the past 14 years.

**COLUMBUS, OH — Mrs. Jackie Bunch**, former President of the National Convocation, has been re-elected to a three-year term on the Board of Directors of the Christian Church Foundation. She is also Secretary to the Board. Newly elected members are Rev. Suzanne Webb of St. Louis, MO, and Rev. Fred Harris of Hagerstown, MD

**WASHINGTON, DC – Mrs. Virginia Jett**, honored for her faithful ministry of food service to all Campers of the Capital Area Region at the Bethany Beach Conference Center, has retired after ten years of devoted service. In sharing her experience with the Oldtimers' Grapevine, Virginia said 'it was a wonderful experience to see the happy faces of so many young people, especially after a hearty, scrumptious meal.'

Mrs Jett said one of the disappointing experiences at the Conference center was adjusting to working with eight managers in ten years. However, she believed her Christ-centered life enabled her to enjoy the friendship of so many wonderful young people and overcome the difficulty of adjusting to the personalities of that many managers. She is a member of the Jett family, one of the organizing families of Twelfth Street Christian Church.

**WASHINGTON, DC—Rev. Dr. Delores Carpenter**, President of the National Convocation and pastor of Michigan Park Christian Church, invites persons going to the 19<sup>th</sup> Biennial Session in Dearborn, MI, to travel with her church by luxury coach.

The round-trip fare is an unbelievable fare of \$110.00 RT. Wednesday, July 27, 2006, at 7:30 a.m. The luxury coach will depart at 8:00 a.m. for a memorable trip of good food, fellowship and fun. You will return on Tuesday, August 1, at 8:00 p.m. For reservations contact Rev. Michael Page or Kevin Dorsey (202)526-3355. For more information go to [www.ncnewssource.org](http://www.ncnewssource.org).

**CANE RIDGE, KY – Rev. Robert and Mrs. Diane Steffer**, co-curators of Cane Ridge, are retiring this year after eight years building a greater visibility of this Disciples historical landmark. The couple served as interim co-pastors at Eureka Christian Church in Eureka, IL prior to moving to Cane Ridge. They will be moving back to Canada where Robert served as regional minister to be with family.

**INDIANAPOLIS, IN –** An estimated 5,000 women will converge on the city June 21 and spend the next five days praising God with old and new songs, workshops and forums. Each Disciples congregation is asked to select a special woman from your congregation for special recognition. A special happening is an honoring of Church Secretaries and Professional Assistants

**WASHINGTON, DC –** There is joy in the family of Rev. Dr. Delores Carpenter as they celebrate the arrival of Dr. Carpenter's first grandson, a baby boy born to daughter Dr. Jane Carpenter Rock. This bouncing baby weighed in at 10 lbs. 7.3 ozs. on Saturday, May 13, 2006.



**SUITLAND, MD –** Friends of Rev. Brenda Cardwell gathered at Pilgrimage Christian Church, 5105 Silver Hill Road, on June 17, 2006 to celebrate the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of her Ordination. Rev. Brenda recently celebrated her 19 years with the congregation. Rev. Judy Bowles, co-pastor, remarked "good

*(Continued on page 13)*

(Continued from page 12)

things come in three because we just recently burned the mortgage to our property.”

**WASHINGTON, DC -- Rev. Dr. Laird A.**

**Thomason** (P.K.), son of the late Rev. Frazer A. Thomason, Des Moines, IA, in addition to other duties, has become the Comprehensive Health Care Advocate for the Disciples Center for Public Witness, located at National City Christian Church, Five Thomas Circle, NW.



As Senior Fellow for Health and Health Care Concerns at the Disciples Center for Public Witness, Dr. Thomason will work closely with Disciples Home Missions, the Health and Wholeness Advocacy Office of the United Church of Christ, the Ecumenical Health Network of the Canadian Council of Churches, the Interreligious Health Care Working Group, Americans for Health Care, the Reproductive Health Care Working Group, and other ministries and organizations dealing with health care concerns.

“We are thrilled to have Laird join us,” said Dr. Ken Brooker Langston, the Director of Disciples Justice Action Network, and Coordinator of the Center. “He will bring a new focus on health care and years of experience to the Center’s work on this issue.”

In May, 2006, over 3000 activities associated with COVER THE UNINSURED WEEK, drew attention to the startling fact that in the United States, nearly 46 million Americans—including more than 8 million children—are living without health care. On accepting this appointment Dr. Thomason declared “it is my firm belief that Christians should work to provide quality health care to all people.”

Dr. Thomason bases his approach to health care on his experiences in ministry and hospice care. “People are more than their disease,” he said. “Comprehensive health care therefore has not only physical, but also emotional, spiritual and institutional components.”

This preacher’s kid has served congregations primarily in the Capital Area Region. He attended

Drake University in Des Moines and the Disciples Divinity School of the University of Chicago, where he was a resident of the Disciples Divinity House.

He is married to Evelyn Betts, an attorney who specializes in Elder Law which includes estate planning. She has served on the Boards of the Christian Church Foundation and the United Christian Missionary Society. During a drive to help members of the church prepare Wills, she and Atty. Jerome Hancock member of Twelfth Street Christian Church, provided this service.



**MD—Rev. Michelle Holmes Chaney**, managing partner of Chaney and Associates, LLC has accepted a new position with HMA Associates, Inc. as the Faith Alliance Manager for the National Faith Alliance Network for the National HIV/AIDS Partnership.

HMA Associates, Inc. is a full service multicultural marketing firm founded in 1994 with specialists in public service education campaigns. HMA is an award-winning, woman-owned minority business with expertise in reaching Hispanics, African Americans, Asians, Native Americans and emerging multiethnic audiences.

With a BA in Communications Studies with a minor in Sociology from Virginia Tech and Masters of Divinity from Candler School of Theology, Emory University with certificates in Black Community she was *Who’s Who Among American Colleges and Universities in 2000* and received an appointment as Director of Recruitment, Candler School of Theology.

She will continue with Chaney and Associates, LLC as a consultant. Chaney and Associates, LLC provides coaching, consulting and training solutions. Their services are designed to impact an organization’s effectiveness, operational culture, strategic direction and profitability.

Michelle is married to the Senior Partner of Chaney and Associates, LLC, William T. Chaney, Jr. who is a Disciple of Christ clergyman and associate member of Twelfth Street Christian

## READERS COMMENT CORNER



TO: Oscar.

"Oscar- Thank you for everything you do!" Glenn

Rev. Dr. Glenn Carson,  
President, Disciples Historical  
Society, Nashville, TN

Dear Oscar & Staff.

"Thank you for including me on your mailing. Your last issue, which extolled Rev. Lorenzo Evans and others, brought back many wonderful memories. Rev. Evans is still one of the finest persons I have met. Keep up the good work."

Love,

Louise Owens

Mrs. Louise Harris Owens, Baltimore, MD

Oscar. "T. J. Liggett had an excellent idea. Here is another \$90.00 for the Endowment Fund in honor of your 90<sup>th</sup>. The latest issue was one of the best."

Roland

Rev. Dr. Roland K. Huff, Jacksonville, FL

Oscar

"I remain grateful to 'The Oldtimers' Grapevine' and to you for style, diversity, and comprehensiveness used in keeping me abreast of the news. Keep up the good work!"

Sebetha Jenkins

Dr. Sebetha Jenkins, President, Jarvis  
Christian College, Hawkins, TX

Dear Oscar

"Another outstanding job with the Oldtimers' Grapevine. Such a beautiful tribute to Mr. Stone, Dr. Compton, Dr. Evans and Mr. Ellington. Enclosed is a gift for your dream of an Endowment for the newsletter." Love,

Ruth

Mrs. Ruth P. Hobbs, Jackson, MS

## THE POET'S CORNER

### Firmament – Nature – Beauty

Much like sipping from an overflowing,  
fragrant cup,

when I think of God's blessings from which  
we frequent sup.

As we drove away from Charlotte, North Carolina,  
one crisp, March morn –

mounds of fluffy, white, cotton candy clouds  
hovered lazily, appearing pure and newly born;  
virtually encapsulated within a soft shimmering,  
powdery blue sky – kissed by the sun's  
dazzling brilliance which was a blazing high.

The heaven's radiance spilled lavishly,  
copiously like soft spread lace  
creating a spectacularly vivid luster of colors  
on all its view embraced.

The flowers, bushes, plants and trees,  
complimenting one another under a calm, gentle  
breeze;

growing side-by-side, twist enter-lacing roots –  
some grafted together thru man's cutting of shoots.

Earth never ceases to yield, wield;  
bringing forth growth that excites the  
eye and mind –

to give us clues of Spring which are  
heavenly designed.

Everyone loves a SUN-ny day,  
awaiting blossoms to bloom –  
to see nature's spray.

Life just wouldn't be right without nature's bouquet  
to perfume, to enhance, to delight  
and when at its peak –  
what an overwhelming sight.

By May Reed

Written Mon., May 22, 2006

By May Reed



## FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL



**LOUISVILLE, KY – Rev. Walter D. Bingham died Wednesday, April 12, 2006,** at Brownsboro Nursing Center. He was 84. Rev. Bingham is the first African-American to be elected Moderator of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. He was elected to this

highest elected position in the 1.3 million-member denomination in 1971, in Louisville, KY.

Walter moved to Louisville in 1961 to become pastor at Third Christian Church and served that ministry 30 years. Shortly after moving there he, with several other pastors, began the struggle for desegregation of Louisville restaurants and other public accommodations. He joined in several marches and with others made a march on Frankfort, KY the Commonwealth capital with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Recognizing the leadership ability of Walter, he had not been in Louisville when he was elected to the Board of Directors of the Kentucky Association of Christian Churches, now the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Kentucky. He ultimately was elected as President in 1966, serving through the State Convention in 1967, the first of his race to hold this position.

Rev. Bingham has been a delegate to the World Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches. He served on the General Board of the National Council of Churches from 1969-1972, a representative in the consultation meetings of the Christian Church Union from 1969 to his retirement, and was delegate to the World Council of Churches in Nairobi, Kenya in 1975 and Vancouver, Canada in 1983.

Upon his election to Moderator of the Christian Church he received two standing ovations. "I regard this as an honor and a challenge," he said. "I feel that history has been made in a way, that my election

may set a trend that other minorities may be singled out for leadership."

"Walter Bingham understood that if the unity of the church is to be achieved, Christians must have a deep spiritual yearning for the unity of all God's people," said Rev. Paul Crow, retired president of the Council on Christian Unity.

"He was very active in the ecumenical movement and sought Christian unity in all his decisions", said Lexington Theological President Emeritus Wayne H. Bell. "As a graduate of Howard University's School of Divinity, I have passed his picture on the wall for the past 23 years" said Rev. Dr. Delores Carpenter, president of the National Convocation.

"We are deeply grieved over the passing of Walter Bingham, who, while always at heart a local pastor, served, loved and taught the larger church so much." said General Minister and President Sharon E. Watkins. "As the first black moderator of the Disciples of Christ, he was an historic figure, humbly encouraging others to achieve."

Rev. Bingham served with Twelfth Street Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) during the years he was at Howard University. Leaders of the oldest Disciples of Christ African American congregation remember him as a humble, brilliant man, always eager to help those seeking to improve their lives spiritually, mentally and socially. He was guest speaker for the church' 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Funeral services for Rev. Bingham were held April 18, 2006 at Third Central United Christian Church, Louisville, KY, the Rev. Raymond Brown, officiating. He is survived by his wife, Rebecca T. Bingham, and father to Dr. Gail Simmons Bingham, who is now at Lexington Theological Seminary. Rev. Bingham's siblings include, Willie Bingham, Jr., Nathaniel Bingham, Elizabeth Davis, Bertha Johnson and Evelyn Nevels.

*(Continued on page 16)*

## FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL *cont'd*

**GRAMBLING, LA – Dr. Charles A. Berry, Jr., President Emeritus, Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, TX, departed this life March 20, 2006.**



Dr. Berry spent his professional life working with young people and adults in institutions of higher learning. These institutions included Bishop College, Marshall, TX; Alcorn A & M University, Alcorn, MS; Texas Southern University, Houston, TX and Grambling State University, Grambling,

TX.

He was also Visiting Professor at the University of California, Berkley, and Adjunct Professor, Kansas State University. While at Berkley he did research on Personality Development and Structure and Organization of Black Youths.

This veteran educator received the Bachelor of Science Degree from Jarvis Christian College, Master of Social Work Degree from Atlanta University and the Doctor of Education Degree from the University of Indiana. He is a World War II, U.S. Navy Veteran.

Final Christian Rites were held at Lewis Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Grambling, LA, Rev. Dr. R.D. Helton, Officiating. Celebration of the life of Jarvis Christian College's eighth president was on the campus of Jarvis, Rev. Dr. John D. Mangram, officiant. The memorial service included expressions by Dr. Sebetha Jenkins, President. Interment in Pioneer Cemetery, Jarvis Christian College.

Dr. Berry is survived by his wife, Sarah Janet Berry, son, Charles Albert Berry, III, daughter, Monica Anetia Berry; sister, Lillian T. Hester, nephews, nieces and a host of relatives and friends.

**BALTIMORE, MD – Humphrey Foutz, a nationally known evangelist died April 13, 2006. He was 73 years old.**

He preached the gospel in 34 states, bridged racial barriers and led Baltimore's Central Church of Christ for more than 50 years. This charismatic powerful preacher became nationally known for his humor and big smile on the television series broadcast "Herald of Truth." He was featured in lectures sponsored by Southwestern Christian College, Abilene Christian University and Pepperdine University.



Mr. Foutz grew up in Dallas, TX and was raised as a Catholic. He attended Loyola University and was later baptized in old Ninth Street Church of Christ. He and his wife, Annie Jewel Foutz, moved to Baltimore in the mid-1950s. In the next half century they built a ministry with nearly 2,000 members. In 1958, Mr. Foutz served as minister of the storefront Gilmore Street Church of Christ. Sixteen years later he opened a Church of Christ congregation on Woodridge Road where he had a daily radio show called "The Morning Bible Study"

Mr. Foutz was eulogized by many college presidents and evangelists. Many evangelist called him "a great preacher who was sound in his doctrine".

**CHICAGO, IL – Mr. Richard Highbaugh,** beloved husband of Mrs. Delores Highbaugh and father of Rev. Dr. Claudia Highbaugh and Earl Burton, died on April 23, he was 85. His death is a big loss to the National Convocation and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Highbaugh was a Tuskegee Airman during WWII, but did not go to the war because of his brother's death.

*(Continued on page 17)*

## FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL *cont'd*

*(Continued from page 16)*

However, he remained in the reserves for 19 years and he kept up with the Chicago area association of Tuskegee Airmen until his final days.

His daughter, Claudia, was the first African American woman ordained in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and is currently Dean of Religious and Spiritual Life at Connecticut College and a trustee of the Disciples Divinity House at the University of Chicago.

Highbaugh loved children and acted as a mentor to many throughout his life, even being a Boy Scout leader at one point. He was a significant lay leader in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and a remarkable man in all aspects of his life.

"I will remember him as a gentleman and statesman," said Rev. Dr. Timothy James, Executive Secretary for the National Convocation and Associate General Minister. "He loved this church and he showed that love by his determination to be present and accounted for at both assemblies. He always had an encouraging word at times when most needed."

Highbaugh loved children and acted as a mentor to many throughout his life, even being a Boy Scout leader at one point. He was a significant lay leader in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and a remarkable man in all aspects of his life.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, June 17th at University Christian Church in Chicago followed by a reception at The Disciples Divinity House of The University of Chicago.

Contributions in Richard Highbaugh's honor may be made to the Tuskegee Airmen Scholarship Fund, Chicago Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen, Education Assistance Program, P.O. Box 19063, Chicago, IL 60619.

## OLDTIMERS' HEALTHVINE

### CHOKING AND CARDIAC ARREST

Without oxygen the brain can begin to die within 4 to 6 minutes. Rapid first aid for choking can save a life.

The Heimlich Maneuver is the best known method of removing an object from the airway of a person who is choking. If you choke on something and your airway becomes blocked, you will not be able to speak. Signal persons nearby that you are choking: do this right away, before passing out. Use the "Universal Sign for Choking." If the airway is almost completely blocked, there may be high-pitched noises when the person inhales, great difficulty breathing, and a very weak, ineffective cough.

If the person cannot speak, cough, or breathe, then the person may have a completely blocked airway. Emergency care for a person with a completely blocked airway, or a person with an airway almost completely blocked is the same. If you are alone and you are choking, you can do the Heimlich maneuver on yourself.

Position your fist slightly above your navel and give yourself quick, inward and upward thrusts, or lean forward and press your abdomen quickly over any firm object, such as the back of a chair or a porch railing.

If you think another person is choking because of an almost or completely blocked airway, Call for Help, and immediately prepare to do abdominal thrusts

*(Continued on page 18)*

## The Abdominal Thrust (Heimlich Maneuver)

1. Tell the victim what you are going to do.
2. Then Stand behind the victim with the front of your body pressed against the victim's back.
3. With victim standing follow these steps:
4. Wrap your arms around his or her waist.
5. Bend the person slightly forward.
6. Grasp the choking victim from behind.
7. Place your fist, thumb side in, just below the victim's breast bone and above the belly button, and with the other hand placed firmly over the fist.
5. Then pull your fist firmly and abruptly into the top of the stomach in order to force the object up the windpipe.

You should try not to squeeze the ribs with your forearms. Each thrust should be distinct and delivered as if it will be the only thrust needed to free the obstruction. Repeat the thrusts as described above until the obstructions comes free or the victim becomes unconscious.

Following the expulsion of the object that caused the choking, keep the victim still and get medical help. All choking victims should have a medical examination, since complications can arise not only from the incident but also from the first aid measures that were taken. Occasionally an object will enter the lung instead of being expelled.

While the victim may appear to improve and breathe normally, in a few days signs and symptoms of a foreign body in the lung will appear such as, wheezing, persistent cough and pneumonia. If this happens, get medical help immediately.



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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRECIOUS

Col. Charles E. McGee, USAF (Retired), Bethesda, MD; Rev. Dr. Glenn Carson, Nashville, TN; Dr. Valeria Foster, Washington, DC; Rev. Karen Yount, Kansas City, MO; Miss Vera D. Russell, Philadelphia, PA; Mr. Don Wharff, Raymore, MO; Mrs. Louise H. Owens, Baltimore, MD; Mrs. Shirley Compton, Louisville, KY; Rev. Dr. Delores Carpenter, Washington, DC; Rev. Dr. Roland & Mrs. Kitty Huff, Jacksonville, FL; Rev. Marvin E. Smith, Carlock, IL Rev. Sir Walter & Mrs. Sandra Scott, Jr., Ocean View, DE; Miss Bess R. Terry, New York, NY; Dr. Sebetha Jenkins, Hawkins, TX; Mr. Robbie & Mrs. Louada Chisholm, Silver Spring, MD; and Rev. William & Mrs. Mary Helen Blackwell, Brandywine, WV.

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# The Oldtimers'

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*"A gracious woman gets honor, but she who hates virtue is covered with shame. The timid become destitute, but the aggressive gain riches."*

*Proverbs 11:16*

July—September '06

Volume 16, Issue 3

## GOD'S WILL FOR MY LIFE: Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale



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(During the 19<sup>th</sup> Biennial Session of the National Convocation I was able to spend 90 minutes with Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale and Rev. Joan Bell-Haynes in an interview session which was tape recorded. There is much to be learned about new church start from Rev. Hale who started a prayer and Bible study in her apartment more than 20 years ago with four others and today has a congregation of 3,500.) Oscar Haynes

**Cynthia:** This journey started at Loudon Avenue Christian Church in Roanoke, VA. Rev. Eugene James, Sr. baptized me. I grew up with Rosemary, Eugene, Jr., Timothy and Titus.

When I left Roanoke I went to Duke University for seminary, Durham, NC. I went on to become a federal prison chaplain in Butner, NC. I served from 1978-1985. I left there to start the church.

**Oscar:** When you first arrived what support did you have to start the church?

**Cynthia:** The first support I had was Church Advance Now (CAN) and the Region of Georgia. They both provided the start-up funding. I had the physical support of 13 Disciple congregations in the region. They provided persons who served on the Project Advisory Committee. They served in an advisory capacity- helping to make decisions and just walk with us.

I visited the different churches in the region. (Joan: That's when we followed her everywhere.) "We were preaching everywhere! And these were all white congregations. There is only a small pocket of about 5 black churches, primarily in South Georgia; two in Evergreen, down near Florida and one near Sandersville, GA off of Interstate 20.

**Oscar:** When you got started were there any agencies that gave support?

**Cynthia:** Yes, the Board of Church Extension gave us an interest free \$50,000 loan. The Division of Homeland Ministries provided training in Indianapolis and John Foulkes was the trainer.

Prior to going there, Ken Henry (Dr. Kenneth Henry, retired professor of Interdenominational Theological Seminary) sent out letters to disciples congregations across the country asking if they had young disciples in the Atlanta area. Charlotte Ivey, a member of 1<sup>st</sup> Decatur Christian Church, Decatur, GA, told me, I have a young woman I want you to meet. Her name is Joan Bell. So I came to meet you on campus, remember we had lunch. Listen, let me tell you the story. They did a Disciples clip about new church starts. I am sorry you didn't see it. They tell about you and who you are today. They showed the clip at the Convocation.

But I told them the story, the way I introduced the church to you was just introducing myself and the vision. And you said you thought it was something you would be interested in. And Joan, Ken Henry, and Sherry Gassaway came.

On that first night I asked the question, what do we need to talk about? We all agreed we need to talk about God. And we started with the book, "**Behold Your God**" (Joan). That is absolutely right!

The next week Joan came back with her two good friends, Kimberly (Bell Knight) and Sheryl Brown. Kimberly came back the next week with her family. Then Sheryl said, my people won't come to church, will you come to a house party? When I went to Memphis to preach at Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church in Memphis, TN, in 1986, Cordelia

Mims, told me about her daughter's family. Then two weeks later I went to Trinity UCC, Chicago, IL and met a young man who said I have a friend named Burrell Ellis. Burrell brought Sandra Barnhill and Carl Cunningham. Later Burrell brought 8 attorneys.



**THIS IS LIFESTYLE EVANGELISM. I LIVED IT, I PRACTICED IT, AND I HAVE TAUGHT IT.**

Carl then brought all of his family members. Literally, this church was built on lifestyle evangelism. I taught a class on: How Jesus Won Persons.

**Oscar:** Your idea of the Pastor's Class which was such a tremendous success; did that come from some unit; where did that come from?

**Cynthia:** About the Pastor's class, I taught a New Members Orientation Class every Sunday morning before I preached. It was an hour long, it came out of Acts 2, I still have the outline – "and they gathered together" said, Joan. Both women laughing said, "They gathered daily, yes, yes, and the church developed on Acts 2.

In the beginning we developed this strategic plan, which are remain the five foci of our church today. They are: Worship - Exalt the Savior; Equip the Saints; Evangelize the Sinner; Elevate Society, Empowerment through Stewardship. Those have not changed, consistency is what it is. See you cast the vision and build on it.

**Oscar:** This was portrayed so beautifully at the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on June 25, 2006.

**Cynthia:** That's exactly right. You don't change the message, the vision does not change, the vision evolves. I didn't have a vision when we first started but the Lord gave it to me. After the 5<sup>th</sup> year I began to really preach the vision, which is to impact and transform this present world. It hasn't changed. The market branding today is: *Transforming Your World*. You just keep honing it and bringing it up and sharpening it.

It is the same vision and you keep teaching it to your people. Joan said to me, "it speaks to my life".

**Joan:** When Oscar and I came back this June I saw it was the same vision, 20 years later. It spoke to me then and still speaks to me today.

**Oscar:** Your prison ministry, could you credit that with preparing you?

**Cynthia:** Yes, it did prepare me to pastor. I'll tell you how it prepared me to pastor. I used to tease the congregation, yes I was in a prison, that's how I learned to deal.

I knew when I was going to seminary, that I was called to pastor and I knew it would be a middle class church primarily. Because that would provide me with the monetary resources and people resources - gifted people resources to make a difference in the world. You know, you don't start out with homeless people. Now we have homeless people in our congregation.

The prison ministry helped me to deal with raw humanity. I saw pain personified everyday. And that is how I learned to pastor. I learned how to cry with people. I was a nice friendly person but I didn't know how to be present with people, identify pain, identify with the pain, be transparent and vulnerable and not care.

See, in prison it doesn't matter. It really doesn't, it is just raw. "Be vulnerable and not care, that is significant" (Joan). That's what I am preaching on Sunday, "How to be frank and honest". There is a book by Kent M. Keith, "Jesus Did It Anyway". He came up with 10 paradoxical commandments: In the first book he wrote, he gives the first commandment: people are illogical, unreasonable and self-centered but Jesus loved us anyway.

That was what I was trying to do, that was my mission, I felt my mission was to love people unconditionally in the prison. If I can love a rapist or a murderer then I can love anybody. That cut into my theology and really made it live for me; it proved me, if I was serious or not.

**Oscar:** You have served as president of the National Convocation, is there any recommendation you would have for the future?

**Cynthia:** The Convocation is a microcosm of the larger world. We have lost the flavor of being an extended family. That's what the Convocation is - an extended family. Because many of our elders have died the younger persons have not learned how to do that.

I was in Jamaica and our Disciples churches have merged with other churches. It's good in following our ecumenical nature but we don't need to lose our strengths.

The last couple of presidents have worked hard at it but the difficulty is volunteers can't do it. The years we did not have a staff person, it weakened us. And the larger church is weakened because of the financial situation and leadership. An organization can rise no higher than its leaders. William K. Fox is the first Executive Secretary that I worked under. And the other was Bill Hanna.

**Oscar:** Cynthia, I remember Bill and I started a campaign called: The Five Hundred Club. You were the first to send in a \$500 check. Also, you were just elected to one of the highest honors, The Necrologist for The Hampton Ministers Conference, Hampton Institute. There are those of us who are thrilled. I remember the embarrassing situation of the opposition to your appointment to the office of Executive Secretary in De Moines, Iowa in 1985. You didn't let it stop you.

**Cynthia:** No Sir, it hurt me, it killed me but I went on back and started the Ray (laughter). I had to prove to the Church, because this was what was said about me, that I didn't have what it took. It was so ugly. It was in the paper. I had to go back and prove, God said, you come on here. I had to prove that was the physical fleshly part; that I could pastor a black church. But that's what was said, they didn't want me to have that position. It was all political and gender related.

**Oscar:** Cynthia, I was hurt also. In spite of this action you still showed much love for your brothers in Christ.

**Cynthia:** I continue to love and respect them. Let me say something else about that too, that is important, hindsight is 20-20.

That was not God's will for my life, having that position. God's will for my life was Ray of Hope. And I didn't listen or I didn't hear. I thought I did but I didn't. T. Garrett Benjamin and I talked about it when he was just there for the 20th anniversary of Ray of Hope. I said, "T. Garrett I was preaching at your church right before I said yes to John Humbert. I was preaching the sermon, and I closed out by saying, "Wait on the Lord". And I didn't wait.



The Lord had to stop me. That was a horrible painful way but he said no, and I went ahead anyway. I was wrong; I should have heeded his call. I got two calls: one was from John Humbert and the other was from New Church Start, Hal Doster -- at the same time. Nobody knows this but -- I know it. And I don't mind telling it. And I said, sure, I'll talk to you. I had already been called by Hal but I was on my way to Indianapolis for a meeting with John Humbert.

**Joan:** I remember you told us that after you said yes to starting the new church, you went home to Roanoke and turned your face to the wall.

**Cynthia:** Yes, I turned my face to the wall and a friend came by the house, I forget who the guy was at the time, but he said, "the Lord told me to tell you to start a church". He said, "You are praying to the Lord right now". I said, "yes, how did you know that?" We laughed and everything. He said, "The Lord told me to tell you start the church". This was after the Des Moines situation. I went home and was praying, "God what is your will for my life?" So when I went back (home), I called Hal, we fleshed it out and that's when I went for the interview in Atlanta.

**Joan:** Thank you Lord!

**Oscar:** Is there any advice you may have for women entering the ministry today?

**Cynthia:** Be yourself (Laughter)! I mean really, you need to have a strong level of commitment, passion for Christ and the things of God, the kingdom and so it is important for women to be themselves and not try to be anybody else. Don't try to be masculine. The second thing I would say is not to be bitter ; the doors still get shut in your face; but don't get bitter about that. I made a commitment that I would never be bitter or angry. Let me tell you even today, there are people who fight me, who would want to fight but they don't have much luck today. Someone asked me recently, are there people who oppose you? I guess so, but I really don't care. I am turning 54 this year and I am in the "really don't care stage". I am in the care-less stage.

It is important for women to be themselves we bring a passion and that passion never changes. But what has happened with me in these latter years is that I am more secure and confident. The passion is still strong but I am chilled. I don't have to argue and get uptight anymore. What's going to happen is going to happen, God has it all under control. That's important.

I would also say to women; one of the things I struggle with I have experienced it, Joan has too; in the Christian Church we ordain women but we don't place them.

We are not aggressive; the good ole boy system is still in place and particularly in the Black Church. So I have women that I am ordaining; Adrienne Lotson is a recent one, she had to go back and get her PhD. There was no place for her to go. Another one is Vinnetta Golphin-Wilkerson who went back to work at Emory University after being ordained.

I can name women, not just from Ray of Hope, no place to go. So what I want to say to the Church is if you are going to ordain us and affirm us in ministry then provide the opportunities for us.

**Oscar:** Cynthia, this was great! We thank you so very much.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
RETIREE

JOINS OTG STAFF



Miss Ellen Crowder, life-long member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is the most recent talented volunteer to join the editorial staff of the Oldtimers' Grapevine Newsletter. She is a member of National City Christian Church and holds the office of a Deaconess.

After completing Political Science/Soviet studies degrees at Indiana University and the University of Wisconsin, she began a successful 37-year career with the U.S. Department of Education in the Washington, DC and Chicago, IL offices. She worked with a variety of programs focused on educational opportunity and equity.

She expressed the joy she received managing projects that help people to communicate, such as development of ED's first online training course for postsecondary student aid personnel and organization of National City's Web Site.

Ellen declared, "My life has been graced by many family members and friends who represent their faith in action, and it's wonderful to meet more of such people in the pages of the Oldtimers' Grapevine. It is a great privilege to have an opportunity to contribute to this unique communicator in any way I can."

NEWBORNS CELEBRATE GOLDEN  
ANNIVERSARY

"We do, We will" were the vows exchanged fifty-years-ago, in June, 1956, in Youngstown, OH, by Rev. Dr. Ernest Newborn and Mrs. Janice Newborn as they repeated them again in June, 2006.



Leaving their present retirement community in Claremont, CA, they traveled most of the Summer visiting locations and persons with whom they had lived and served since 1956. An unforgettable experience was time spent in Indianapolis, IN, their home and work place for 23 years. The highlight of this visit was celebrating "Mix '06" with over 3,000 women from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ.

Janice, retired Director of Disciples Women, was among the women who had the vision and initiative which resulted in this celebration of unity. Ernest, former Director of Reconciliation, participated in the "Spirit Walk" which was held on the opening day of "Mix '06".

Their travels also included quality time with their son, Ernest, II in the New York City area, and their daughter, Atty. Mary Jo, in San Diego, CA. "Since I could not join you in the exhibit booth for the newsletter at the Convocation, I took advantage of every opportunity to "promote" the Oldtimers' Grapevine," declared the President of the Board of Directors of this publication.

## 67TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



Robbie Chisholm, celebrated Disciples of Christ Church lay leader, and Louada Chisholm, 2005 recipient of the honored "Human and Spiritual Values Award," of the Division 17 Kiwanis Clubs, Montgomery County, MD, will celebrate their 67<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on October 27, 2006.

This much-loved couple, who have spent their lives in service to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), were married in the home of Rev. Clifford Jope, former pastor of the old Ninth Street Christian Church, Northeast Washington.

The Chisholms are members of Heritage Christian Church, Silver Spring, MD, Rev. Benjamin Manning, pastor. Louada, a native of Indiana has been an active Deaconess for years and active with the Christian Women's Fellowship of both the congregation and the Capital Area Region.

Robbie, who hails from Virginia, is Secretary/Treasurer of the Oldtimers' Grapevine Newsletter. He has served his congregation as Deacon, Elder, Chairman of the Board and Financial Secretary. He is currently Elder Emeritus and still active Financial Secretary. His pastor said "Robbie is a committed Elder Emeritus who still fills in at any position when needed."

He has served the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as Moderator of the Christian Church-Capital Area; member of the General Board, the Division of Higher Education, and the Disciples of Christ Historical Society. Robbie and Louada are parents of one son, Terry, and grand-parents of three granddaughters, and great-grandparents of four girls.

*From the desk of the Managing Editor*

OSCAR'S NOTES



I am still on a Spiritual High from the mountain-top- worship experiences at the 19<sup>th</sup> Biennial Session of the National Convocation (Disciples of Christ), July 28 – August 1, 2006, at the Hyatt Regency, Dearborn, MI.

This spiritual journey started on June 25, 2006, in Decatur, GA, during the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Ray of Hope Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale, Senior Pastor. Over 2,500 persons from the states of New York to Florida (including District of Columbia) spent a (brief) four hours in Praise and Worship for God's blessings on this congregation which began in Pastor Hale's apartment with only four other persons.

Since June, 1986, over 8,500 persons have joined the "Ray." There is an active current membership of 3,500 with an average of 2,000 in worship each Sunday. Guest preacher for the celebration was Bishop Tom G. Benjamin, Jr., Senior Pastor of the historic Light of the World Christian Church, Indianapolis, IN

These two dynamic services had a personal spiritual meaning for me because I learned that my wife, Rev. Joan Bell-Haynes, was the very first member of Ray of Hope, and it was three decades ago that my administration moved the Convocation from college campuses to the Convention Center in Little Rock, AR. I thank God for how he uses all of His servants.

A servant of the Holy, who has decided to let God use him until God uses him up is Rev. Dr. Raymond Brown, Sr. His outstanding service for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was profoundly reviewed pictorially for a crowded ballroom which sat breathlessly awed over the tremendous work one person had contributed to the life of this denomination.

*Cont'd on page 7*

*(Continued from page 6)*

His leadership skills will be called upon again this year as he becomes the first African American to be elected President of the Board of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society.

Congratulations to three outstanding clergypersons who are celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination. Oldtimers' Grapevine extends best wishes to Rev. Deborah Thompson, Pastor of Living Faith Christian Church, Winter Park, FL, Rev. Debra Peevey, Spiritual Director of Journey of the Heart Ministries, and President, Reston Ministerium, Reston, VA, and Rev. Dr. Robert Hill, Senior Pastor, Community Christian Church, Kansas City, MO.

Rev. Dr. Alvin Jackson's column will not appear in this issue due to his move to New York to assume the duties of Senior Minister of Park Avenue Christian Church, Sunday, September 17, 2006. His column will appear again in the October-December Issue.

See my article on Dr. Jackson on page 16.

## **CONGREGATION MAKES MAJOR LEADERSHIP CHANGE**

Rev. Ronald E. Hopkins, former active clergy member of the Capital Area Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has accepted the Call as full-time pastor of First Christian Church, Petersburg, VA. He had served this congregation as a part-time pastor for 36 months

"It was an awesome day," declared Audrey Sitten, Chairperson of the Board, in sharing with the Oldtimers' Grapevine the spiritually filled services on Sunday, August 6, the day of Celebration and Affirmation of the Call.

The love that had grown between Ron and the congregation during his part-time role was strongly expressed in the Affirmation of Faith. The promises of the people resonated through the building as they collectively shouted "We accept you (Ron Hopkins) as one called to public leadership in the Church and reaffirm your decision to accept God's claim upon your

life. We pledge our love and offer our prayers that together we may glorify God and make Christ known in the world."

Rev. Hopkins is a graduate of Mary Washington College, Fredericksburg, VA, he has a Master of Arts degree from The Disciples Divinity House of The University of Chicago Divinity School, and a Masters of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, VA. He is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Ministry degree at Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education (UTS-PSCE) in Richmond, VA.

Ron is married to Judith Ann (Youngblood) Hopkins and they are parents of three daughters, Cheryl, Ronica and Karyn, and two grandsons, Tyler and Chase.

## **HISPANIC DISCIPLES CELEBRATE VICTORY AT THIRTEENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**"Dile a mi pueblo que marche!"**

Living out the theme of the 13<sup>th</sup> Hispanic and Bilingual Assembly of "Tell my People to March!" March we did. To the music of meringue and salsa; to "coritos" and traditional hymns with a new spin. We marched to our worship, study and business sessions together, each other and our God. Over 400 of us gathered, July 13 - 16, 2006, in Killeen, TX.

Our new National Pastor, Rev. Dr. Huberto Pimentel, set the tone and the rhythm with his powerful opening speech. Although we have been blessed with Hispanic National Pastors, this time we are gifted with one who celebrates not only our gifts but calls us into healing; into a spiritual, emotional and intellectual wholesomeness. This makes our march excellent, inclusive and durable.

Our speakers were awesome: Rev. Dr. Samuel Pagan, a scholar and preacher, spoke about marching with a sense of mission- proclaiming the Good News and Power of the Holy Spirit; Rev. Tiznado, the only female speaker, spoke about Marching in Unity, using her experiences as a Military Chaplain to compare nuances of

marching in step, to the will of God; and the third speaker was Rev. Dr. Pablo Jimenez, who spoke about Marching in the Power of the Holy Spirit.

We are thankful for the presence of so many from our greater church leadership. Our beloved Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins was fully with us, not as just a spectator but a participant who truly values and affirms the diversity of all the people she leads. She rejoiced with us in the worship in song and music beautifully led by young adults.

Texas in July can be hot but the facilities at the host church, Iglesia Cristiana Sinai were excellent. A great bonus were the frozen delights made from coconut, tamarind and passion fruit available after each service by the Music Ministry. I am glad I was at this wonderful event. It definitely put me in the Marching to Victory Spirit.

**Rev. Noemi P. Mena, Pastor for Hispanic Ministry, National City Christian Church, Washington, DC**

### **VOLUNTEER TOUR GUIDES BEING FORMALLY TRAINED**

Mrs. May F. Reed, Curator/Veteran Staff member of Disciples of Christ Historical Society Nashville, TN, started training classes for tour guides for the Society on June 14, 2006, which consisted of 15 volunteers. Material shared with the group included the Society's new brochure. The volunteers were contacted by Elizabeth Regen, Trustee and member of Vine Street Christian Church. Some volunteers are also members of Woodmont Hills Church of Christ.

A second class was held July 12<sup>th</sup> with five volunteers. The first guide to give tours was Virginia Lewis. May found it interesting that a volunteer was named "Little Sally Walker" but she had never heard the rhyme "Little Sally Walker", so during a refreshment break May shared the rhyme with her.

## **19th BIENNIAL SESSION OF THE NATIONAL CONVOCATION**

From July 28 to August 1, 2006 the 19th Biennial Session of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Dearborn, MI was the place to be for spiritual refueling, and God was truly in the mist leading and directing our steps. People came by plane, train, bus and car with the sole purpose of worshiping and praising the Lord and prayerfully taking care of the church's business. When the count was tallied there were 705 registrants representing 425 congregations. The theme "Reclaiming Prophetic Ministry: Preparing the way of the Lord," Mark 1:1-4, provided a working purpose and a vision for this Convocation.

On Friday evening the Opening Worship Service for the Convocation was convened. Rev. Dr. Timothy M. James, Associate General Minister and Administrative Secretary of the National Convocation of the National Convocation; Rev. Dr. Delores Carpenter, President of the National Convocation and cadre of Convocation Officers, Board of Trustees, General Unit Representatives, Regional Representatives and Clergy.



Rev. Lari Grubbs, Regional Minister of the Christian Church Capital Area introduced the Convocation President, Rev. Dr. Carpenter, after which she declared the 19th Biennial Session of the National Convocation **OPEN!** Dr. Charisse Gillett, Secretary of the Convocation, called the roll of churches by state and almost every state was represented. Following the roll call, the General Minister and President of the Christian Church, Rev. Dr. Sharon E. Watkins gave the Invocation. In Rev. Carpenter's sermon for the Opening Session, she told the assembly, "Don't let the fear of failure or discouragement stop you, never forget to never give up." She said, "Sometimes I'm scared to speak out and

sometimes I hold back but if God is going to use you, you have to step up to the plate, you have to open your mouth and speak. Speak the power, speak to evil, speak to the situation." Then she went on to ask, "Is there a Prophet in the house?" And the audience answered with shouts of **YES! HALLELUJAH! PRAISE THE LORD!**

The offering was lifted by Brother John Tiggler, Convocation Treasurer and will be designated for the Star Supporter Fund. Rev. Dr. Frank Thomas, Vice President of the Convocation was the Celebrant for the Lord's Supper and it was a quiet and humbling experience. Rev. William Lee, Moderator of the Christian Church delivered the Benediction. Following the Opening Worship Service the assembly was introduced to the National Convocation officers at the President's Reception which was beautifully coordinated and hosted by Rev. Dr. Cynthia Hale, Senior Pastor, Ray of Hope Christian Church, Decatur, GA.

All of the Morning Glory sermons were facilitated by Rev. Rufus Lewis, of Detroit, MI. The Morning Glory preachers were eloquent as they gave words of wisdom to ponder during the

day. The preachers for the Morning Glory services were; Saturday, Minister Rachel Thomas, Memphis, TN; Monday, Rev. Rose Melton, Willingboro, NJ and Tuesday, Apostle John C. Harvey, Detroit, MI.

The Bible Lecturer, Dr. Rosetta Ross, of Spelman College, Atlanta, GA, was warmly received and the uplifting experience during the lecture was one not to be missed.

If you were anywhere near the assembly hall at any given time on any day you were certain to hear the melodious music by the musicians and singers under the direction of Rev. Dr. Emory Andrews, Director of Music for the Convocation Mass Choir.

On Sunday, after visiting the local churches for worship service, some toured the historical sites of Detroit while others crossed the border into Canada for sightseeing. However, nothing prepared us for the event that we would experience in the evening as we gathered in the Hubbard Ballroom for the National Convocation Music Concert under the direction of Dr. Emory Andrews. We were treated to a musical extravaganza that featured the National Convocation Mass Choir, the Oxon Hill High School Choir from Oxon Hill, MD and the Singing Preachers of Detroit, MI. The concert ended with a standing ovation from the audience and shouts of **BRAVO! BRAVO!**

At the business meeting on Monday morning, we were informed by Rev. Timothy James that even though some units and activities need the Convocation's attention, "the Convocation is in good order." Rev. Carpenter presented the 2008 slate of officers and they were unanimously accepted and congratulated. The officers are Harold Collins, President, Memphis, TN; Natalie Greene Houston Vice President, Lexington, KY; Joan Bell-Haynes,

Secretary, Washington, DC and Magdalen Shelton, Treasurer, Laurelton, NY.



The keynote speaker for the Convocation Banquet, Rev. April G. Johnson, Augustana College, Rockford, IL spoke eloquently to the theme "Reclaiming Prophetic Ministry." Rev. Dr. Raymond E. Brown was honored for his ministry to the church. Rev. Dr. John R. Foulkes, Jr., retired Administrative Secretary to the National Convocation and National Convocation Photographer, introduced Rev. Brown and told of his struggles, successes and accomplishments. Rev. Brown has worked in a number of units in the church and continues to work tirelessly in the service of the Lord. Rev. Timothy James surprised Rev. Carpenter when he presented her with the National Convocation's 2006 Liberation Award for her unselfish and committed service to the Convocation and beyond.

Two of our guest speakers, Rev. Dr. Jeremiah Wright, Senior Pastor, Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago, IL and Congressman John Conyers, Jr. (D-MI) rallied the assembly as they urged the attendees to be rooted and grounded in Christ as we reach out to others in faith and

to be empowered, vigilant activist around social justice issues for all people.

The workshops and seminars were most informative and enlightening and the workshop presenters instructed and demonstrated the most efficient way to use the materials to do the prophetic work of the church in the 21st century. Thanks was given to Rev. Billye Pinkston Bridges for the thoughtful planning that went into selecting the workshops and seminars.

Good health is one of the most important aspects of our being. Much gratitude was extended to the health care personnel for having such excellent health care services available for the attendees.

The exhibit hall was a lively place with persons manning booths representing the general units of the church, related institutions and other vendors displaying art, jewelry and clothing. It was truly a success because it was filled with people browsing, asking questions and receiving information, and purchasing.

The Closing Session's preacher was Rev. Dr. James C. Perkins of Detroit, MI. With the subject, "Retracing Our Footsteps to Find Our Lost Generation," he admonished the assembly, "do not write this generation off because we are in part responsible for their situation and we are not perfect ourselves." Holy Communion was the high point and most sacred time of the Closing Session. All assembled declared the 19th Biennial Session of the National Convocation a blessed and successfully assembly and are looking forward to 2008 when the 20th Biennial Session will be held in Memphis, TN.

*Mrs. Joyce Knox*



# DISCIPLES NEWS ROUND-UP

**INDIANAPOLIS, IN** – Mrs. Alpha Blackburn, president and chief executive officer of Blackburn Architects, was nationally recognized on June 1, 2006, during a NPA (National Public Radio) broadcast with Radio Talk Show Host Tavis Smiley. The show originated at Light of the World Christian Church, Bishop Tom G. Benjamin, Jr., Pastor.

Mrs. Blackburn, newly elected member to the Board of Directors, Disciples of Christ Historical Society, Nashville, TN, was a panel member for the broadcast on “Covenant with Black America” a best selling book authored by Mr. Smiley. Other panel members were Eddie Glaude, director of African-American studies at Princeton University and William A. Crawford, Indiana State Representative.

**LANSING, MI** – Rev. Jon Lacey has been named acting regional minister for the Region of Michigan, following the retirement of Rev. Morris Finch, Jr. Rev. Lacey is co-moderator of the Disciples Peace Fellowship and pastor of Ecclesia, an open and affirming ecumenical fellowship in Lansing, MI. Rev. Finch, former associate regional minister of Indiana, was also past president of the College of Regional Ministers.

**WASHINGTON, DC** – Senator Barack Obama of Illinois, gave a history-making speech at National City Christian Church on June 28, at Pentecost 2006/Building a Covenant for a New America, a rally to generate political support to overcome poverty in America. His pronouncement on faith and politics may be the most important since the late President John F. Kennedy declared his independence from the Vatican, according to Washington Post columnist E. J. Dionne, Jr.

Declaring religion cannot be a political expedient to win elections, the Senator said “Faith must be authentic.” Sharing his faith story, he stated, “Kneeling beneath that cross (in a United Church of Christ on Chicago’s Southside) I felt I heard God’s Spirit beckoning me. I submitted myself to His will, and I

dedicated myself to discovering His truth.”

Other speakers for this standing room only event included: the Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins, General Minister & President, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, the well-known preacher Tony Campolo, Governor Howard Dean and Jim Wallis, Chair of Sojourners, sponsors of the event.

**KILLEEN, TX** – Manny Collazo, member of Primera Iglesia Cristiana, de Orlando, and Rev. Gary Kidwell, President, Christian Church Foundation, were honored at the 13<sup>th</sup> National Hispanic and Bilingual Assembly with “Sumos uno” awards during the assembly that drew approximately 300 persons.

**INDIANAPOLIS, IN** – The retirement of Lois Lee, donor services coordinator for the Christian Church Foundation, marks the end of the original staff which started this financial arm of the Christian Church. Lois officially retires September 15, ending a 19-year career. She and her husband will remain in Indianapolis.

Mrs. Lee joined the Foundation as the administrative assistant to then-President Jim Reed, in 1987. Also on staff at that time were Ginny Spradlin, Herb Barnard, Betty Tankersley, Joy Kayler and Mary Lewis.

**LEXINGTON, KY**—Rev. Dr. Timothy M. James, Executive Secretary of the National Convocation and Associate General Minister & President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was the guest speaker for the 2006 Opening Convocation at Lexington Theological Seminary, Tuesday, August 29<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. James, former pastor of Fifth Christian Church, Cleveland, OH, is a dynamic speaker who holds degrees from College of Alameda, Culver-Stockton College, Christian Theological Seminary, and United Theological Seminary.

**INDIANAPOLIS, IN** – ‘TEN THOUSAND (10,000) DISCIPLES PRAYING.’ Dear Old-timers’ Grapevine reader, have you signed up to pray daily for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the General Minister and President in this church wide initiative? Become involved by going to [www.disciples.org/10000](http://www.disciples.org/10000) or call 317-713-2495. It is the belief of Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins, GMP, “this will demonstrate to the world the power of prayer as it leads us in exciting new ways for the transformation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ.)”

**WASHINGTON, DC** – Rev. Beverly Goines, a mathematical giant, will return to her theological studies through the Doctor of Philosophy program at Catholic University this Fall following her three-years as Resident Pastor, National City Christian Church. She has agreed to continue in a part-time ministry with National City. Rev. Goines is a graduate of the School of Divinity, Howard University and member of Michigan Park Christian Church, Rev. Dr. Delores Carpenter. Pastor.

**WILSON, NC** – Rev. Mary Anne Glover, Associate Regional Minister, Ohio Region, experienced the loss of her mother, Mrs. Tamer H. Glover, July 20, 2006. Funeral services were July 25, 2006 at St. James Christian Church, (Disciples of Christ), 1739 E. Nash Street, Wilson. According to Rev. Glover, her mother had planned her funeral in December, 1998 and she only followed her Mother’s request of no flowers and donations be made to the NC Alzheimer’s Association.

Rev. Glover shared that she was with her mother until the end. “What a journey, to escort my mother to eternity was an awesome, spiritual experience that will abide deeply within me for a lifetime!”

**WASHINGTON, DC** – Charlayne Hunter-Gault, noted journalist, has just published her second book, *New News Out of Africa*. Mrs. Gault was one of the first African-American students to attend the University of Georgia, in 1961. In an interview by Amy Crawford of *Smithsonian Magazine*, she charges in her new book that Americans are not being provided with even the basics of what’s going on in Africa,

this continent with 54 countries and over 800 million people.

The writer contends that new leaders have been instrumental in establishing new principles of good governance, good fiscal and economic management, respect for human rights and empowerment for women.

**LEXINGTON, KY** – There was jubilation in the Rev. Dr. Donald Gillett family and members of East Second Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) following the recent graduation of Donald from Lexington Theological Seminary. His accomplishment is rewarded by his charming wife, Dr. Charisse Gillett, Moderator of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) 2003 – 2005.



**KNOXVILLE, TN** – Attention! High School Graduates. Historically black Knoxville College has reduced its tuition from \$5,000 to \$1,400 per student including room, board, and books. All you need is \$600 for the enrollment deposit and the \$900 balance can be paid in four monthly installments of \$200. Requirements: Diploma and a 2.0/4.0 scale. Telephone: 1-800-743-5669. On line: <http://www.knoxvillecollege.edu/> and/or : [http://www.pineygrovebapt.org/GPG\\_Scholarships.htm](http://www.pineygrovebapt.org/GPG_Scholarships.htm)

**BALTIMORE, MD** – Rev. William T. Chaney Jr., Senior Partner of Chaney & Associates, LLC, and associate member of Twelfth Street Christian Church, Washington, DC, has been appointed pastor of the West Baltimore United Methodist Church by resident Bishop John R. Schol of the Baltimore-Washington Conference.

Rev. Chaney began his pastoral duties at this ecumenical cross-cultural appointment congregation on July 1, 2006. The church is located at 5130 Greenwich which is on the city’s historic “40 West” corridor. This native of Cincinnati, OH is a life long member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). He is married to Michelle Holmes Chaney, recently appointed

Manager for the National Faith Alliance Network for the National HIV/AIDS Partnership in Washington, DC.

**INDIANAPOLIS, IN**—Rev. Dr. Marshall Dunn, recently retired pastor of University Christian Church, Hyattsville, MD, has been called to fill the Associate General Minister slot through the end of this calendar year. This position has been vacant since the resignation of Rev. Dr. William Edwards to become Ohio's Regional Minister.

Rev. Dunn is a member of the General Board, Administrative Committee, Executive Committee and Mission Council. He was a member of the Mission Funding Task Force, chaired by Rev. Dr. Chris Hobgood, which reviewed and changed the mission funding system.

## OVERHEARD

### HOW TO KILL YOUR PASTOR

A minister was asked to inform a member with a heart condition that he had just inherited a million dollars. Members were afraid the shock would cause a heart attack and kill him. The minister went to the man's house and said "Joe, what would you do if you inherited a million dollars?"

Joe responded, "Well pastor, I think I would give half to the church." And the minister fell over dead.



## FROM MISSISSIPPI DELTA TO PARK AVENUE

Rev. Dr. Alvin O'Neal Jackson, born in Laurel, MS (the hometown of Leontyne Price) but grew up in Indianola, MS (the birthplace of B.B. King).



Dr. Jackson, who has pastored churches in, Roanoke, VA, Memphis, TN and Washington, DC, will fill the pulpit of Park Avenue Christian Church, September 17, 2006 becoming the first African American clergyman to pastor the oldest continuously worshipping congregation in this denomination.

"What a blessing and breakthrough," declared Rev. Dr. Thomas Benjamin, Senior Minister of Light of the World Christian Church, Indianapolis, IN. "Dr. Alvin O. Jackson, now the minister of the Park Avenue Christian Church., only God! I am proud of my son in the ministry because he proves God's Word once again that the steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord. Glory to God!"

The call to become senior pastor came July 23, 2006. "We have been prayerfully walking through the process that would bring us to this day" said Melissa Little, chairperson for the search committee. "We strongly believe that Dr. Jackson's experience and vision can help us move Park Avenue Christian Church to a new place, a place of growth and dynamic ministry.

We have been moved by the depth of his spirituality, excited and inspired by his preaching and impressed by his leadership and administrative skills and experience." After many months of work, extensive dialogue with all members, reviewing applications, extensive interviews, the search committee unanimously endorsed his candidacy.

Dr. Jackson served as senior pastor of Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church, Memphis, TN where membership grew to more than 7,800, making it the largest congregation in the United States and Canada. A dynamic ministry while at Mississippi Boulevard, "Love Thy Neighbor" brought African Americans and Anglos together in an extremely divided city.

In April, 1998, following his resignation from Mississippi Boulevard to accept the call to National City Christian Church, Washington, DC., it was standing room only in the sanctuary. During his tenure worship attendance tripled and the church's Foundation assets doubled. He was recipient of the 1997 Humanitarian of the Year Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

Dr. Jackson resigned as senior pastor of National City in November, 2004. His resignation followed articles in the Washington Post charging that he had plagiarized sermons and this led to conflict in the congregation. In a letter to the Park Avenue congregation addressing the plagiarism issue, Dr. Jackson wrote:

"At a period in my life when I was over-extended, over-committed, fatigued, burned-out, struggling with depression and a lowering of my self-esteem and self-worth, I used some sermon materials without attribution over a period of several weeks from a colleague in New York, Thomas K. Tewell."

This fourth-generation Disciple said that after his resignation from National City, "this was the best thing to ever happen to me – a time for rest, therapy and to reconnect with myself and with God. I am very pleased and very excited to be going to Park Avenue Christian Church."

Dr. Jackson attended Chapman College in Orange, CA, and Butler University in Indianapolis, IN, where he received the Bachelor of Arts Degree. He graduated with honors from Duke University, School of Divinity, Durham, NC, where he received the Master of Divinity Degree. He received the Doctor of Ministry Degree from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, OH, following completion of his doctoral dissertation "A Preaching Model for Equipping Disciples ("Making Numbers Count").

The new address for Dr. Jackson and his wife Tina, is : Rev. Dr. Alvin and Tina Jackson, 1453 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York 10128 and Park Avenue Christian Church, 1010 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10028.

### MORE PHOTOS OF THE NATIONAL CONVOCATION



## THE POET'S CORNER

# TOMORROW COMES AGAIN AND AGAIN

Tomorrow comes again and again

But we always call it 'Today.'

Tomorrow comes again and again

But we manage to keep it at bay.

Tomorrow comes again and again

But we refuse to receive it that way.

Tomorrow comes again and again,

Yet it still is ALWAYS "Today."

Written July 27, 2004

*May F. Lindsey Reed*



## READERS COMMENT CORNER

TO: Oscar & Staff



"I have enjoyed my copies of the news-letter and, every now and then, there is a sermon illustration in it that I can use. My inclusion in your mailing, even though I'm not of your denomination, shows me that you truly understand that there is but "One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism, One God and Father of us all." May God continue to bless you, your family and ministry."

Father Taylor.

The Rev. Father LeBaron Taylor,  
Winston Salem, NC

Oscar & Joan.

Thanks for your note and newsletter. I am at the Episcopal Divinity School managing their Lilly grant for Pastoral Excellence. I will start working this Fall as a "New Church Developer." I am attempting-with God's Grace-to create a homeless worshiping congregation—outdoor church—in Worcester, MA. Your prayers are needed!!"

Love, Liz

Rev. Elizabeth M. Magill, Waltham, MA

Oscar, Joan & Staff.

Keep up the good work. Enclosed is a check that includes \$250.00 for the Endowment Fund, and \$250.00 for Operating Budget. May God continue to bless the staff and newsletter.

Love, Robbie

Robbie & Louada Chisholm, Silver Spring, MD

Oscar:

What a joy to read the Oldtimers' Grapevine and be able to celebrate this vital history of Convocation leaders. My time at NBA allowed me to participate in three Convocations and of course seeing Norma Ellington Twitty in a recent issue.

Love and blessings,

Ben.

Rev. Ben Bohren, San Ramon CA



## SLEEP AND REST

A person at rest feels mentally relaxed, free from anxiety, and physically calm. Rest is a state of decreased mental and physical activity that leaves a person feeling refreshed, rejuvenated, and ready to resume the activities of the day. Each person has personal habits for gaining rest such as reading a book or taking a long walk.

Sleep is an altered state of consciousness that occurs for sustained periods, restoring a person's energy and well-being. During sleep, there is time for the repair and recovery of body systems for the next period of wakefulness.

### Stages of Sleep

#### Stage I: Nonrem

- \*lightest level of sleep
- \*lasts few minutes

#### Stage II: Nonrem

- \*period of stages of deep sleep
- \*lasts 10-20 minutes

#### Stage III: Nonrem

- \*initial stages of deep sleep
- \*lasts 15-30 minutes

#### Stage IV: Nonrem

- \*deepest stage of sleep
- \*difficult to arouse
- \*vital sounds lower than waking hours

- \*lasts 15-30 minutes

#### Remsleep

- \*stage of vivid-full-color dreaming
- \*starts about 50-90 minutes after sleep has begun
- \*REM (rapid eye movement) begins
- \*responsible for mental restoration

## SLEEP REQUIREMENTS

- Infants—average 14-17 hours usually in periods of 3-4 hours
- Toddlers-average 12 hrs. daily-many naps that stop by age 3
- Toddlers can begin to experience nightmares
- Preschoolers-daily sleep needs average 10 to 11 hours.
- School-age children –age 6-9 average 11-12 hours of sleep, children age 10-12 average 10 hours.
- Adolescents-prefer to stay up late and sleep later , average sleep ranges from 8-9 hours daily.
- Adults-age 20-50, may sleep less than 6 or more than 9 hours, but the majority averages 6-8 1/2 hours daily.
- Older adults-the amount of sleep a person gets as he or she ages does not change, but the quality of sleep deteriorates.
- The elderly awaken more often during the night, have an increase in total wake time, and may take more time to fall asleep.
- Napping is common, but is not a compensation for lost sleep.

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

## FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL



**LITTLE ROCK, AR**—Arlevia “A.L.” Mothershed, died Sunday, July 16, 2006, at the age of 91. He was preceded in death by his wife of 68 years, Mrs. Hosanna C. Mothershed.

Homegoing services for Arlevia, affectionately called “Opa”, were Friday, July, 21, 2006, at Parkview Christian Church, Rev. Anthony Honeycutt, officiating. Honorary Pallbearers included Jarvis Christian College Alumni Association and The Little Rock Nine.

Arlevia’s childhood education was in Bloomburg, TX, his birth-place, at a school started by his grandfather Oscar Mothershed. He attended Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, TX, where he met his wife Hosanna. He is a World War II Veteran and worked for many years at Fort Roots Veterans Hospital, retiring November 23, 1976.

Having been a Math tutor during his high school years, Arlevias hobbies were reading and working math problems. He was president of the Little Rock chapter of Jarvis Christian College Alumni Association, longtime member of Sinai Christian Church having served as Elder, Choir member, Sunday School teacher and official board member. At the time of his death he was attending Parkview Christian Church in Little Rock.

He is survived by six children, Lois (Jim) Pot, Hilversum, Netherlands and Legnac, France; Grace (Preston) Davis, Little Rock & East Orange, NJ; Thelma Wair, Little Rock; Gilbert Mothershed, Las Vegas, NV; Michael (Lucile) Mothershed, Jacksonville, FL, and Karen Mothershed, Little Rock.

Two brothers, Rev. S. Willard (Juliene) Mothershed, Houston, TX and David Mothershed, Shreveport, LA. Nine grandchildren, fifteen great- grand-grandchildren and one great great grandchild.

**SILVER SPRING, MD** – Margaret Letetia Grzeszkiewicz, widely known leader throughout Montgomery County, MD, died August 23, 2006, at Friends Nursing Home. She was 82 years old.

A service of Thanksgiving for Mrs. Grzeszkiewicz was held at Heritage Christian Church, Rev. Benjamin C. Manning, officiating. Margaret was a lifetime member of Disciples of Christ Churches, Aspen Hill and Heritage, Montgomery County, MD.

During World War II she worked for the Department of Defense and reporter for Montgomery County Courier Newspaper in the 1970’s and ‘80’s covering community events. She was a member of the Sandy Spring Theatre Group, Sunshine Homemakers Club, Northeast Montgomery County Clergy Association and was past president of Church Women United.

“I have a vivid memory of Margaret on Christmas Eve 1994, declared Rev. Manning in his Meditation, it was before I became the pastor, Carolyn and I visited the congregation and there was Margaret waving silk scarves dancing down the center aisle in a liturgical dance. She was a steady and mature spiritual influence as an Elder, and was later awarded the Elder Emeritus pen. We cannot say enough about her saintly influence.”

She was the beloved wife of her late husband of 52 years, John Joseph and is survived by her son Mark, of Sunshine, MD and foster son Steven Selby of Frederick, MD. A Memorial Fund in her name has been established for “Heritage Christian Church Building.” Gifts may be mailed to Heritage Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) 15250 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20905-5631.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRECIOUS GIFTS**

Mr. Roscoe & Mrs. Clara Dickerson, Cleveland, OH; Mrs. Ruth Hobbs, Jackson, MS; Rev. Thomas H. Johns, Raymore, MO; Mr. Harvey & Mrs. Sybel Thomas, Chicago, IL; Rev. Joseph & Mrs. Winnifred Smith, Blacksburg, VA; Dr. Sere & Mrs. Mary J. Myers, Sr., Leawood, KS; Mr. Robbie & Mrs. Louada Chisholm, Silver Spring, MD; Rev. Elizabeth Magill, Waltham, MA; Rev. Father LeBaron Taylor, Winston Salem, NC; Miss Brenda Mikotu, St. Louis, MO; Miss Patricia Clark, St. Louis, MO; Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale, Decatur, GA; Mr. John & Mrs. Odetta Redd, Martinsville, VA; Mrs. Josie Meeks, Washington, DC; Mr. Dale & Mrs. Mary Ann Brown, Alexandria, VA; Rev. Michael Paige, Washington, DC; Rev. Dr. Paul & Mrs. Fern Saddler, Washington, DC; Rev. Garland S. & Mrs. Barbara Farmer, Davis, CA; Mr. & Mrs. George H. Coates, Kansas City, MO; Rev. Robert & Mrs. Berlina Brock, Seattle, WA; Mrs. Judith Ware, Washington, DC; Rev. Dr. David & Mrs. Dale Shreeves, Martinsburg, WV; Rev. Ruth D. Heimer, Indianapolis, IN; Miss Nancy H. Wirth, Tulsa, OK; Rev. Dr. Eugene & Mrs. Bonnie Frazier, Raymore, MO; Mrs. Loraine A. Pittman, Indianapolis, IN; Dr. Laura Hobgood-Oster, Georgetown, TX; Rev. Dr. Thomas J. Liggett, Claremont, CA

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# The Oldtimers'

## GRAPEVINE

October—December '06

Volume 16, Issue 4

*"...Behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."*

*Luke 2:10-11, NASB*

## A STELLAR TENURE OF SERVICE IS EXTENDED by Joyce Knox



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Dr. Giley Nixon Griffin is an exceptional woman with gifts and talents that she shares unselfishly with the church on all levels because of her love and dedication. She is the First Lady of Corinth Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Kilgore, TX, where she serves with distinction.

Dr. Griffin is very active with the Texas Christian Missionary Fellowship of the Christian Church in the Southwest Region. During the 125th Assembly, 2006, held on the campus of Jarvis Christian College in Hawkins, TX, July 11-15, 2006, she was instrumental in preparing and presiding over the Memorial Service that celebrated the lives of the members who have "gone home to be with the Lord."

During the 19th Biennial Session of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), held in Dearborn, MI, July 28-August 1, 2006, Dr. Griffin's leadership of the Ministers' Spouses Fellowship, as President, was a good example of leadership. She also helped prepare and present an educational workshop entitled "Whose Call Is It Anyway-Claim Your Own Name." This workshop encouraged and affirmed the ministers' spouses, whose responsibilities require listening and acting upon God's special call on their lives.

Dr. Griffin is an outstanding educator who is married to Rev. Dr. James O. Griffin, Pastor of Corinth Christian Church in Kilgore, TX.

# Texas Christian Missionary Fellowship Celebrates 125th Assembly

## At Jarvis Christian College



Dr. Sebetha Jenkins, President of Jarvis Christian College, and the Campus Pastor, Rev. Olin Fregia, welcomed the Texas Christian Missionary Fellowship of the Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ), Southwest Region, to the campus on July 11-15, 2006, as the Fellowship celebrated its 125th Assembly.

Remaining true to their theme, "Remembering Our Heritage, Striving for the Future" with a sub-theme "Faith," those assembled remembered and honored the dedication and sacrifices of their fore-parents. They concentrated on God's word and how it will enable them to stay focused on what is being done now and what needs to be done in the future to keep the Fellowship vital and nurturing.

With Rev. Derry C. Henry, President of the Fellowship, at the helm, conferees from all five Districts came together to share their vision for the Fellowship, share their zeal for Christ, their love for each other, and their awareness of the contributions made by members within the Fellowship.



In Rev. Henry's opening statement, he quoted the late Dr. E.W. Rand, often asking, "How do you know where you're going if you don't know where you have been?" It appears that the question and the answers are being taken to heart by all who have and will participate in this Fellowship.

This organization has been a "torch in the dark." They have carried out their mission as they encouraged, trained, and prepared pastors and laity alike for the many tasks that lie ahead. By doing this, they have served and continue to serve with distinction in Texas, throughout the nation, and beyond. This is indeed a great legacy!

The assembly speakers, led by the President, Rev. Henry, the Campus Pastor, Rev. Olin, and the Keynote Speaker, Rev. Andrea Foster, Pastor/Developer of United by Faith Christian Church in Laurel, MD., delivered awesome and God inspired messages that left the conferees challenged and encouraged to continue their walk in the Master's vineyard.

Early morning meditations, vibrant Bible lecture services, informative and spirited workshops, and all-encompassing youth activities were some of the many events that were included in the days' diverse schedule of events and enjoyed by all.

Joyce Knox, Assistant Editor, Oldtimers' Grapevine



# *Faith United Christian Church Ends Its Visible Ministry* by Rev. Vertie Powers

Habakkuk makes a complaint to the Lord and, after receiving an answer, makes a second complaint. At the end of his second complaint he states: "I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what he (God) will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint." The Lord answered and told Habakkuk to write down the revelation and to make it clear so others would be able to understand it as he has done.

Faith United Christian Church, through its revisioning process, waited on God to speak and to speak clearly to them. They had heard the still speaking voice of God give the new vision of an end but also a beginning, a new thing. They were faithful to that vision and had a celebration to close what Faith United in its present form is, and to begin the new thing that God has prepared for them.

Upon reading the Worship Booklet for the Closing Celebration, I began to do some remembering of my own. I remember my days at Faith United, short though they were, and the prayers and support I received from the individual members of that community. I remember the smiles and the words of welcome that greeted me whenever I came into that fellowship of believers. I remember the interest shown in me and my welfare, being so far from family. I remember their care and concern for their church and the wider church.

I remember the involvement and hard work of Faith's members in the regional and general manifestations of the church. But most of all I remember their love, commitment, and dedication to their church, each other, and more importantly, to God.

Everyone who has come through and been touched by Faith United will have memories. The memories and models of ministry that were practiced are the cornerstones on which new ministries will be built. This new thing will be the gift that will energize, invigorate, and enliven the new act of reaching out to others. Faith is fortunate in being able to realize and recognize her human limitations and in being able to back off and let go and let God. Faith will be one of those faith communities that I will continually be impressed by. She will also be one that I remember as being able to be renewed by the hard efforts and simple joys of people working together in ministry. Faith has said "let the creative energy of our God flow in and through us as we build a better community for God here on earth".

I give God thanks and praise for Faith United Christian Church, for you have tickled my sanctified imagination and liberated me to imagine a new and different world.

Rev. Vertie Powers is currently serving as Associate Conference Minister for the Eastern North Carolina Association of the United Church of Christ.

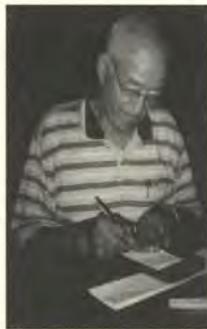


*From the desk of the Managing*

*Editor*

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OSCAR'S NOTES



Friends, I have been thinking how pleased I will be to see this turbulent year come to a close. But, when I think of the many blessings the Oldtimers' Grapevine has received during this same period of time, I realize God is good all the time.

The goodness began January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006, when friends joined yours truly in celebration of my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. My children & wife sponsored a birthday party and asked friends to make love gifts to the newsletter. There were many beautiful expressions of love, including three thousand- three-hundred and seventy-five dollars (\$3,375.00) in cash. These love gifts enabled us to establish a Permanent Endowment Fund with the Christian Church Foundation for \$5,000 to protect the future publication of this important periodical.

It was February, 1991, when the Oldtimers' Grapevine was launched and church bells had already tolled for Christian stalwarts like Robert H. Peoples, Barton Hunter, Charles C. Mosey, E. Toy Fletcher, Norman S. Ellington, Kenneth Kuntz, Blair T. Hunt, and Mae Yoho Ward.

Standing in the wings to soon take flight to their rewards were Fedel Reyes, Elby Boosinger, John Long, Rosa Page Welch, Margaret and George Earl Owen, Alfred C. Stone, Lester Rickman, and the list goes on. May the OTG keep alive the memories of thousands of other Saints in perpetuity.

This publication belongs to the people, and invites news from all branches of the Stone Campbell Movement. The pledge of the current volunteer staff is to continue the dream of the founder, Dr. William K. Fox, "to provide a communications network for persons sixty years of age and older in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Effort is made to nurture senior citizens in the sharing of religious as well as common personal day-to-day experiences in order to enhance the quality of life for seniors."

We currently add to this pledge our desire to embrace all ages, races, and all three streams of the Stone-Campbell Movement: the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Christian Churches (Churches of Christ), and the Churches of Christ. We will continue to have the non-fee subscription policy and provide our readers with the best we have to offer on a budget underwritten with funds received through Good Faith Forms. Whether we receive a gift or not, we have not and will not drop a subscriber.

With God all things are possible. Our goals for the future include a Website and a scholarship for a minority student pursuing Journalism. We are blessed by the addition of our most recent volunteer, Ellen Crowder, who has experience in building websites. We seek the prayers of all our friends as we strive to continue this ministry.

Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year from the staff: Rev. Joan Bell-Haynes, Dr. Ernest Newborn, Donna Haynes, Kim Atwater, May Reed, Joyce Knox, Ellen Crowder, Mary Byrd Blackwell, Dr. Alvin O. Jackson and Oscar Haynes, Sr.

# DISCIPLES NEWS ROUND-UP

**CANE RIDGE, KY** – On Sunday, October 29, in the Meeting House, friends and colleagues of Co-Curators Robert & Diane Steffer were given the opportunity to congratulate them on the spectacular eight years of service they have provided at Cane Ridge. The Steffers have announced that they would like to finish at the end of 2006. Their reasons are age and the desire to be near their children in Ontario, Canada. It is not too late for friends to write letters of thanks to the Steffers. Please send your letter and gift check made payable to Cane Ridge Project, marked Diane and Robert Steffer Gift, to: Henry Hanna, Treasurer, Cane Ridge Preservation Project, P.O. Box 26, Paris, KY 40362-0026.

**INDIANAPOLIS, IN** – Double blessings are in order to Bishop Thomas G. Benjamin, Jr., on the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his consecration to the Bishopric and his 17<sup>th</sup> Pastoral Anniversary. Bishop Benjamin is the visionary Senior Minister of Light of the World Christian Church in Indianapolis.

**INDIANAPOLIS, IN** – James P. Johnson, retired president of the Christian Church Foundation, has been named “President Emeritus” by the Board of Directors. He retired as president in 2003, after serving in the position for 11 years. He resigned to accept a position as Director of Planned Giving at the Mayo Foundation.

In announcing its decision, the board noted, “His understanding and love of the whole church created within the Christian Church Foundation a climate of faithful stewardship and service to others.” Dr. James R. Reed, who was the first president of the Foundation, was named President Emeritus in 1997.

**NASHVILLE, TN** – The Board of Directors of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society honored two of the dedicated leaders of the Society during action in the recent November meeting. Rev. Dr. Peter Morgan, recently retired president, 1995-2004, was named President Emeritus.

Mr. Dale Brown of Alexandria, VA, who has served this board during different periods for over 30 years, was named board member emeritus.

**INDIANAPOLIS, IN** – Dr. Sharon Watkins, General Minister and President, along with 10 other church leaders, signed a letter on Oct. 24 calling on Congress to increase the minimum wage.

**WASHINGTON, DC**—Laurenda Carter, Kathy Mosley and Annice Majette, three members of the National City Gospel Choir, participated in a “special ensemble” of the Washington Performing Arts Society’s Men and Women of the Gospel Choir for the finale of the Sweet Honey In the Rock concert at Carnegie Hall (New York City) on November 10, 2006.

**CHICAGO, IL** – Parkway Garden Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, Rev. Dr. Edward J. Morris, Sr., Pastor, has begun a new Computer Learning Center to provide “FREE” basic computer literacy classes for persons of all ages. The project is the brain child of members Carlotta Miller and Belinda Hayes.

**SAINT LOUIS, MO** – Congratulations to Jennifer Twitty and Anthony Strickland on their marriage, Sept 3, 2006. Jennifer is the daughter of Dr. Norma Ellington-Twitty, OTG Board Member and the granddaughter of Ruth Ellington & the late Norman Ellington.



Jennifer holds a MBA in Marketing from Florida A&M University. She is a proud member of the Beta Alpha Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. She is currently a part of the Marketing Training Program with Caterpillar. Anthony also works for Caterpillar where he serves as a Mechanical Engineer at the Mapleton Foundry.

## CARPENTER AND CAMPOLO IGNITE CAPITAL AREA REGIONAL ASSEMBLY *by Oscar Haynes*

Rev. Lari Grubbs, Regional Minister of the Christian Church-Capital Area, declared the biennial Regional Assembly in Towson, MD, October 20-21, 2006, to be a tremendous success. He was extremely proud to report that the worship was powerful and the speakers' dynamic, but the true expression of love was in the offering for Hurricane Relief of over \$2,000.

The Assembly was officially opened by the personable Moderator, Yvonne Malone, on Friday afternoon, October 20, 2006. Key activities following registration were interest groups that enhanced open discussions. They included: "Congregational Transformation"; "Spiritual Formation in Congregational Life"; "Getting Dirty for Jesus"; "Being in Your Right Mind: A Novel Approach to Bible Study"; "The Many Ways We Can 'Give Ourselves' to the Church"; "The Historic Jesus and the Mythical Christ"; "Seven Keys to Servant Leadership"; "What's New in Our Quest for Christian Unity?"; Religion and Politics: A Preview of Election 2006"; "Family Stories—A brief overview of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)"; "So What Do We Do Now, God? – Learning to use the discernment process" and "Critical Global Presence: What in the World are Disciples Doing?"

Friday evening featured the first of two speakers who are faithful Christians and prophets of our time, who call upon the Church to keep its promises to Christ, declared Rev. Grubbs. The very popular after-dinner speaker was the Rev. Dr. Delores Carpenter, Pastor of Michigan Park Christian Church in Washington, DC. She just completed a two-year term as President of the National Convocation.

Rev. Carpenter's message was preceded by two musical selections from the Gospel Choir which helped provided the overflowing crowd with a mountaintop worship experience. The choir traveled to Towson to participate in this rich service. Rev. Carpenter is Professor of Religious Education at Howard University's School of Divinity.

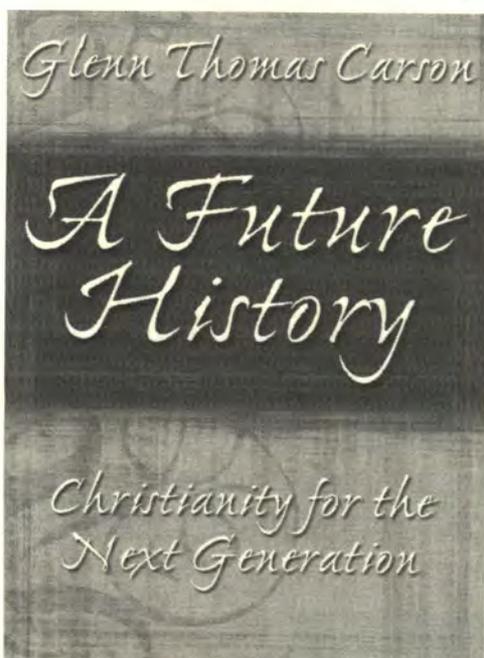
Saturday's speaker, following the luncheon, was Rev. Dr. Tony Campolo, Founder and President of the Evangelical Association for the Promotion of Education. He is a media commentator on religious, social, and political matters who has worked to create, nurture and support programs for "at-risk" children in cities across North America. The Saturday service was also highlighted by the presentation of the Regional Ministers' Pin to Dr. William Chris Hobgood, Installation of Officers, and Holy Communion.

The planning team for this successful assembly included Rev. David Caldwell, Chairman, Rev. Dr. Martha Brown, Mrs. Kris Caldwell, Rev. Lari Grubbs, Glenn & Mrs. Kathy Helme, Vaughn & Mrs. Bonnie Quelette, Rev. Dr. Robert Perry, and Rev. Rick Powell.





## Disciples Historical Society News



Dr. Glenn T. Carson, President of the Disciples Historical Society, has published a new book, "A Future History: Christianity for the Next Generation," which is now available. The book features four central ideas for the health and well-being of the Stone-Campbell movement.

Each book is only \$5.00 plus \$2.00 S&H. The cost for orders of 10 or more is \$3.50 plus S&H. Orders may be placed at [mail@discipleshistory.org](mailto:mail@discipleshistory.org) or call toll free (866) 834-7563.

The Disciples of Christ Historical Society Board, in its November meeting in Nashville, TN, elected the Rev. Dr. Raymond Brown chairman of the "board of Trustees for 2007 - 08."



Dr. Brown, currently serving his second term on this board, becomes the first African-American to hold this position in the 65-year history of the Historical Society.

Dr. Brown retired in 1991 as Senior Vice-President of the Board of Church Extension after 21 years of pioneer administrative service. His capable leadership has been called upon several times since his retirement to give leadership to other general units of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Some of these leadership responsibilities include: President of the Church Finance Council, twice; President of the Division of Homeland Ministries; Interim Administrative Secretary for the National Convocation, twice (which is in the office of the General Minister and President), and most recently, President of the Board of Directors for Greenwood Cemetery Properties, Nashville, TN.

Dr. Brown, a native of Arkansas, is now retired and resides in Indianapolis, IN with his wife, Rev. Suzanne DeMoss Brown. They are active members of Downey Avenue Christian Church, where Rev. Susan Shadburne-Call is the Senior Minister.

# OSCAR HAYNES TO BE HONORED

BY Glenn Thomas Carson, President of The Disciples of Christ Historical Society



I am so happy to tell you about a great honor for a great man. The Board of Trustees of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society has determined that the Exhibit Hall at our headquarters in Nashville, Tennessee should be **named for Oscar Haynes**. Some of you may remember that we named our Lecture Hall for Dale Fiers a few years ago. This honor for Oscar continues in that tradition.

You don't need for me to recount for you everything that Oscar has done for this Church. You all know that as well as I do. Simply put: He is a saint. He has given his life and energy to the cause of Christ and to fulfilling his message of love for all people. Now, Oscar would smile and shake his head to everything I just said. But you and I both know it's true.

Currently, our Exhibit Hall is just as it was when we opened our doors in the 1950s. We need to update and refurbish the room, so that when we put Oscar's name on the wall, it will look fresh and new. I am asking each of you, as readers of this newsletter, to send me \$100 for the Oscar Haynes Exhibit Hall. I think you will agree that this is a small price to pay to honor such a giant who walks among us. Of course, your gift to our ministry is tax-deductible. **Send your check (payable to DCHS) to 1101 19<sup>th</sup> Ave. S., Nashville, TN 37212.**

Please send me  
\$100  
for **Oscar!**

You can call or email me if you have any questions: 1-866-834-7563 (toll free) or [mail@discipleshistory.org](mailto:mail@discipleshistory.org)

If the editor will allow me, I'll be back in these pages to let you know how we are progressing on the project. And I hope it won't be long before I can invite you to the dedication of the Oscar Haynes Exhibit Hall. Please help me make this honor for Oscar come to life.

## OVERHEARD

### Just A Tap

A passenger in a taxi leaned over to ask the driver a question and tapped him on the shoulder. The driver screamed, lost control of the cab, nearly hit a bus, jumped the curb and stopped inches from a large plate glass window.

There were a few moments of silence and then the driver, still shaking, said "I'm sorry, but you scared the daylights out of me."

The frightened passenger apologized and said he didn't realize a mere tap on the shoulder could frighten him so much.

The driver replied, "No, no, I'm sorry, it's my fault. Today is my first day driving a cab. I've been driving a hearse for the last 25 years."

## READERS COMMENT CORNER



Greetings Oscar,

"I would like to congratulate you and the staff for a BLOCKBUSTER EDITION of the Grapevine – Volume 16, Issue 3. Rev. Fox would be proud!! We are grateful for your dedication and passion to produce an excellent publication." Norma

*Dr. Norma Ellington-Twitty, St. Louis, MO*

Dear Friends,

"Dr. Fox was my best friend. He has been an inspiration to many here at Foxwood Springs and Raymore Christian Church where he was made Elder Emeritus. The interview with Dr. Cynthia Hale is an inspiration to me. Keep up the good work. May God bless you!"

*Eugene Rutherford, Raymore, MO*

"Excellent issue this time – most informative."  
Pat N.

*Dr. William & Mrs. Patricia Nottingham, Indianapolis, IN*

Hello Oscar,

"Thank you for a wonderful newsletter. The Oldtimers' Grapevine gets better and better each year! Here's wishing you and yours lots of love, joy and laughter." Love, Joy

*Mrs. Joy Walker, Shreveport, LA*

"Many thanks for keeping us Oldtimers informed about our friends such as Walter Bingham." Joe – age 94.

*Joseph and Winifred Smith, Blacksburg, VA*

Hi Joan,

"Love to you and Oscar. Just back from India and got a chance to read the new Grapevine. What an inspiration the interview with Dr. Hale was for young women of color starting out in ministry." Sandhya

*Rev. Sandhya Rani Jha, Minister of Transformation, Christian Church of Northern California-Nevada*

## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

### CELEBRATES 19<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

The Sharon Hall Scholarship Committee of Michigan Park Christian Church, Washington, DC, Rev. Dr. Delores Carpenter, Pastor, celebrated its 19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on November 4, 2006 with a concert and pre-Thanksgiving dinner that drew a standing-room-only crowd.

The program featured the Sargent Gospel-Aires, the 25-member Gospel Choir of Sargent Memorial Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC. Early in the program the choir brought the crowd to their feet with a joyous number appropriately entitled "I've Got the Victory."

Other numbers by the choir, which revealed the large number of talented singers, included: "Available To You", "Lord's Been Good to Me", "Revived", and "How Excellent Is Thy Name". The singers were accompanied by piano, drums, and keyboard, all super musicians. The concert was narrated by Rev. Dr. Betty Lancaster Short.

Rev. Gloria Hill, Chairperson of the event, shared with the OTG that in 19 years the committee has been instrumental in providing over 50 young people in the congregation undergraduate scholarships. This ministry started in 1987 with donations from Mrs. Helen Hall's family and supported by other members and friends. It is a living memorial to Sharon Hall, her daughter, who was chairperson of the Youth Activities until her death in December, 1986.

Scholarship Committee members are: Elders Zelia Diggs, Wardell Hardy, Corrine Sampson, and George Wilson, Mrs. Donna Griffith, Barbara Hall, Ceresa Jacobs, Vivian Reed, and Mr. Garlan Hill and Delvia Lewis.

## THE POET'S CORNER

### A Maiden — A Man — A Savior

She was just a young girl  
as pure as a pearl,  
had a beau whom dearly she loved.  
They planned to be wed,  
and then heavenly led in a life sweet as doves.  
But it seemed at this point  
that that couldn't be  
and she listened, she wondered  
And waited to see;  
For an angel Divine,  
brought a message sublime;  
thus she prayed and waited to see.  
It's a blessing to know  
God will certainly show  
His will and the way we should go.  
For Mary, dear sweet Mary,  
so young and betrothed,  
experienced absolutely no woe.  
Joseph, too, met the angel  
and was told the good news,  
for he first was filled with dismay.  
But learning the truth  
from the angel divine,  
put his mind in wondrous array.

*Taken From:*

*Come Sail With Me into a Sea of Poetry by  
May F. Lindsey Reed, 2004*

## PHOTOGRAPHING A BUCK *by Rev. William Blackwell, special to the OTG*



On the cold morning of November 4, 2006, my wife (Mary Helen) and I looked out our farm house north window to see if any deer were munching on the still green grass. There are many deer now, usually quite passive around us, and we like to watch them or shoo them away from the shrubs and flowers. Most of the time, they are females, or does, sometimes with their fawns still at their sides. Rarely do we see the bucks close by.

On that morning however, there was a buck standing about 40 or 50 feet from our house, nonchalantly grazing away. He had a fairly large 6-point “rack” or antlers, and we immediately sought to get a picture. That is difficult because bucks are much more skittish than the does and generally quite wary.

This one was neither skittish nor wary. I grabbed my digital camera, a warm bathrobe and slippers and quietly opened the screen door and slipped outside, all the time making sure he would not likely see me.

There are three things that can alert a deer to danger, which is not true of most creatures. Any one of these three signals can cause it to dash

away with long, graceful and bounding leaps, their tails lifted high over their backs to display a large patch of white from which their name “whitetails” derives. First, deer have extremely sensitive noses and are especially alert to the scent of humans. A hunter, whether with gun or camera, will have no luck if approaching a deer from “upwind” I had no such problem that morning because the little wind that was coming from the buck’s direction was “downwind.”

A second danger signal is sound. A deer’s hearing is just as sharp as the sense of smell, and ears are constantly twitching in all directions. Unlike undesirable scent, sound may not send a deer in flight because they are extremely curious and inquisitive.

The third sensitive facility is sight. The camera or firearm hunter has several options to avoid being detected. In addition to being certain of blending into the background, merely standing stock-still can often work if the deer has not been successful in figuring out what is going on. I have experienced this with a doe and her fawn; I was downwind and never so much as twitched.

As I waited for a good camera shot that chilly November morning, I made very sure the buck would not see any movement when I raised the camera for a picture. Finally, he came from behind a fence and stood in plain view in the gate opening, where I could get not only one, but eventually 39 pictures of him ... a rare opportunity. He never knew I was there. He would lift his head, sniff the air and return to grazing. He gave me numerous poses until finally, having his fill, he wandered off behind the garage and out of sight.

# OLDTIMERS' HEALTHVINE



## THE FLU (Influenza}

Influenza is a virus that affects many people, usually in the winter. Flu is usually more severe than the common cold and the symptoms occur quite suddenly.

Symptoms include:

- Fever (101° to 104°)
- Shaking chills
- Body aches
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Weakness
- Runny / stuffy nose

Flu can be very dangerous for infants, older adults and those with chronic medical conditions.

## PREVENTION

Get the flu shot

Eat healthy

Wash hands often

Get plenty of rest

Exercise regularly

Avoid exposure to those with flu symptoms



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

## FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL

**DETROIT, MI** – Mrs. Emma Price, mother-in-law of Rev. Rufus Lewis, Pastor of United Christian Church, died Friday, November 24, 2006. Her funeral service was December 2, 2006, at the church. Mrs. Price, member of the Usher Board at United, is also survived by Deacon Rhonda M. Lewis, Candis Price, Dara Jordan and Chanel Sumerville.

**DALLAS, TX** – Mrs. Eva Facen Hurdle, mother of Rev. Lloyd Facen, Pastor of Warren Avenue Christian Church, Dallas, TX, died Thursday, November 23, 2006, Thanksgiving Day. She was a member of The Way, The Truth and The Life Christian Church, formerly Denley Drive Christian Church in Dallas. The funeral service for Mrs. Hurdle, member of the immediately recognized family names of Facen and Hurdle in the Christian Church, was held at Watren Avenue Christian Church on Friday, December 1, 2006.

**HYATTSVILLE, MD** – Mrs. Francis McDaniel, prominently known in the Christian Church-Capital Area as “the crafts lady”, died September 27, 2006, at the age of 96. She spent over half a century providing arts and crafts projects and instructions to various regional camps, retreats and organizational events.

**FAIRFAX, VA** – A Celebration of the Life and Resurrection for Dallas W. Hoadley, an 83 year-old retired Army Colonel, was held at Fairfax Christian Church, on Wednesday, November 22, 2006, Rev. Laura Sweet, officiating. Dallas died November 18 of complications from cancer at Capital Hospice in Arlington County, VA.

Col. Hoadley was an active member and Elder Emeritus of Fairfax Christian Church, a congregation he helped organize in the 1960s. He also helped establish Springfield Christian Church in the 1950s. He was author of “The Christian Elder,” a primer and handbook being used by many congregations in Virginia, Maryland and District of Columbia.

Dallas was a friend of all persons, especially those who loved God and country. Two dear friends were Ret. Col. Vandy Miller and Haywood Vaughn, members of the Men’s Chorus at Twelfth Street Christian Church, Washington’s oldest Disciples of Christ African-



American Congregation. The chorus was to sing his favorite hymn but because of a life – threatening thunderstorm the chorus spent five fruitless hours in a van en route but failed to fulfill their mission.

This personable church leader was born at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC, to Captain Chase W. Hoadley, US Army, and his wife Amy, both from Iowa. Following his father’s death at about age seven, Dallas and his two sisters were raised in Baltimore, MD by his mother and Aunt Rachel.

Dallas was a multi-talented person who spent many hours, after retiring, pursuing his love of watercolor painting and reading. He was an excellent teacher and speaker. He is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University and received a Master’s Degree in journalism from the University of Florida in 1957.

Col Hoadley is survived by his beloved wife of 58 years, Jean, and his children: Ellen D. Hoadley of Baltimore, MD; Stephen D. Hoadley (Donna), of Knoxville, TN; David T. Hoadley (Mary Pat), of Culpepper, VA; and Melissa Hoadley (Glasson T. Arm), of Manassas, VA.

He is also survived by his sister, Chase Irvine, of Fort Lauderdale, FL; six grandchildren; four step-grandchildren; five great-grandchildren, and two step-great-grandchildren.

## FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL *con't*



**PORT GIBSON, MS** – Rev. T. Elias Harris, prominent Church leader and educator, died Saturday, September 23, 2006, at the age of 73. He was born June 30, 1933, to the loving parentage of Charlie and Mary Agnes Hampton Harris in Claiborne County, near Pattison, MS.

In 1949, at the age of 16, T.E. Harris entered the gospel ministry at St. Luke Christian Church and became Minister of Antioch Christian Church in 1951. He was employed by the Claiborne County School System, from 1959 – 1973, serving as Mathematics, History, and English Teacher and Visitation Counselor.

Rev. Harris began his formal education at Blackburn School in Pattison, MS, at the Claiborne County Training School. His pursuit of an education later led him to Southern Christian Institute in Edwards, MS, from which he graduated with honors. He received an Associate BA in Business from Campbell College (Jackson State University) in Jackson, MS and a BA in Philosophy and Religion from Tougaloo College, Tougaloo, MS. He pursued further studies in English at Duke University, Durham, NC; Alcorn College (now Alcorn University) and Mississippi Baptist Seminary, Jackson, MS.

In 1953, Rev. Harris accepted the Call to Indianola Christian Church, Indianola, MS; the birthplace of Rev. Dr. Alvin O. Jackson, Pastor of Park Avenue Christian Church, New York, NY. Dr. Jackson credits Rev. Harris as a significant influence in his early years. In 1955, T. E. began serving Christian Chapel Church and in 1982, he became Pastor of St. Luke Christian Church.

Rev. Harris has served as Vice President and President of the Mississippi Christian Missionary Convention; Chairman, District IV Convention; Member of the Commission on the Ministry; Board Member of the Mount Beulah Development Corporation and Christian Brotherhood Homes, Jackson, MS; and Chairman of the Christian Concerned Citizens of Claiborne County, MS.

This servant of God is survived by two sisters, Emma Jones, Jackson, MS, and Mae E. Harris, Port Gibson, MS; one brother, Nathan Harris, Jackson, MS, and many nephews, nieces and friends.



Transformed and renewed congregations need healthy vital leaders. To address this need, the Pension Fund and Disciples Home Missions are coordinating a three day Churchwide Health and Wellness Summit.

Wednesday, January 31, Noon to Friday, February 2, Noon  
Indianapolis, Indiana

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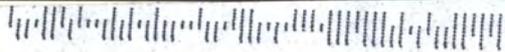
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