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The Oldtimers' Grapevine, Volume 17 (January - December 2008)

Joyce I. Knox

Oldtimers' Grapevine

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The Oldtimers'

GRAPEVINE

January-March '08

Volume 17, Issue 1

"I am the vine, you are the branches. those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing."

John 15:5 NRSV



Rev. Dr. Lester G. McAllister

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A BLESSED LIFE

By David A. Caldwell

CLAREMONT, CA—The Rev. Dr. Lester G. McAllister, well known author, preacher, and professor, passed from earth into the arms of God on January 3, 2008. He died after a brief illness in his own home with his dearest friend Lou Ann Parsons at his side. A moving tribute was held in Kingman Chapel on the lovely grounds of Claremont United Church of Christ, with two hundred persons present, on January 10th. Interment was in Little Rock, Arkansas on January 18th, with a reception following at First Christian Church, Little Rock, where Lester was ordained on June 25, 1944.

Born October 12, 1919, in Little Rock, he was a second generation Disciple. Respect for all humanity, every race, every creed was "impressed indelibly," wrote Lester, "upon my mind and soul," after he witnessed a lynched Negro's body burned upon a funeral pyre of pews stolen from the AME Church, as a five-year-old in downtown Little Rock.

He was a preacher for sixteen years, beginning the summer he graduated from the famed Central High School in Little Rock. He paid for the first two years of college from "free will offerings," often less than one dollar. Moving to Lexington, KY, as a junior, he preached his way through Transylvania University and Lexington Theological Seminary.

He became the Disciples National Youth Director in 1945 and helped launch the CYF program and summer conferences for high school youth. He was on the committee that created the *God and Country Award* for the

Boy Scouts of America. He founded a high school in Jamaica, and integrated the Melbourne Hotel in St. Louis, after Emmett Dickson was not permitted to ride the elevator.

He further preached his way through his years at Berkeley, CA, earning a Ph.D at Pacific School of Religion, and writing his first book on *Thomas Campbell*. From 1953-1961, he was a professor of religion at Bethany College, and then served twenty-one years at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis. During those decades he became well known as a lecturer at Disciple events around the country and authored numerous books. His best known book was co-authored with Bill Tucker. It is called *Journey in Faith*, and is a standard work on Disciple history in our seminaries. He was the last surviving founding member of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society in Nashville, TN. His work with the historical society was some of the most satisfying of his long career.

He retired to Pilgrim Place in Claremont, CA, in 1985, where he continued to write and teach. Lester was a world traveler and a wise voice behind the scenes, influencing leaders, pastors, students, and lay persons of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ.)

He died at age eighty-eight, but his love of Jesus Christ and of the Disciples will live on in his writing, the many persons he mentored, at the Historical Society he so loved, and with the annual scholarship he endowed at Lexington Seminary for one exceptional student each spring to receive five thousand dollars for travel, discovering more about God and becoming a citizen of the world.



“When are we Donne?”

A free verse poem in memory of

Lester G. McAllister

By David A. Caldwell

Given at his memorial service.

Kingman Chapel,

Claremont United Church of Christ

Claremont, California.

January 10, 2008

Lester G. McAllister

Born October 12, 1919, Little Rock, Arkansas

Died January 3, 2008, Claremont, California

Lester McAllister loved to lecture
students, tour guides, peers, even strangers!
One of his oft repeated lecture topics were poet-preachers
like John Donne.

Lester enjoyed word play. I can hear him asking,
*“As a poet-preacher could Donne ever be done or
undone?”*

Donne himself asserted in “*Song*,”
“Go and catch a falling star.”

On January 3rd, as dusk settled upon Pilgrim Place,
Lester caught his falling star.
I, seeking light from his starry flame, ask,
“When are we Donne?”

Lester has parted his mortal portal.
I see him excitedly at heaven’s gate modestly quoting
Donne’s prayer:
*“Wilt thou forgive that sin which I did shun
a year or two, but wallowed in a score?”*

“St. Peter, sir,” pronounces Lester, *“My thesis is that sin,
hast not the final word!”*

Thus our “Good Doctor,” supped weekly at Salvation’s Table.
“*Evil*,” Lester lectured, *“is as real as is the fire of bigotry.”*
In Little Rock, at age five, his father took the little man to
learn a life lesson. They witnessed a lynched Negro’s body
burned upon a funeral pyre of pews stolen from the AME
Church. Respect for all humanity, every race, every creed,
was thus,

“impressed indelibly,” Lester wrote, *“upon my
mind and soul.”*

“When are we Donne?” *continued*

When are we Donne?

Is John Donne speaking as a poet or a preacher, in these famous lines?

*“No man is an island entire of itself;
Every man is a piece of the continent,
A part of the main...”*

Lester saw himself as “a part of the main.”

We forget Lester was sixteen years a preacher, before he was a professor. His senior summer after high school he was hired as a boy preacher of Antioch Christian Church, in rural Arkansas.

*“My remuneration was the free will offering,
recalled Lester, “which in the Great Depression
usually amounted to less than \$1.”*

Ordained, proudly, on June 25, 1944, under the tutelage of his first mentor Rev. Joseph B. Hunter, from his first sermon onward, Lester’s theory of preaching embodied Alexander Campbell’s, “Faith and Reason.” Lester’s favorite text was Romans 1:16-17:

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through Faith for Faith; as it is written, ‘The one who is righteous will live by faith.’”

When are we done?

Definitely only when God’s will is done!

Was Lester complete when he completed...

Three years of seminary in Lexington, Kentucky? Was it at the 1943 gathering of the AFL-CIO in Philadelphia, when he got to work with Eleanor Roosevelt, Walter Reuther, and A. Philip Randolph?

*“It was,” he boasted,
“a thrilling moment for a young minister.”*

Could it have been in 1945 when he began serving as the Disciples National Youth Director, and helped birth the CYF, a program for high school youth in churches across the nation?

Was Lester complete and completed when he led the effort to integrate the Melbourne Hotel, in St. Louis, after Emmett Dickson was not permitted to ride on the

elevator?

Or, was it in Jamaica, after WWII, when Lester helped organize a high school so poor youth could also have hope for a new and better world?

Possibly it was while he served on the founding committee of the “God and Country Award,” of the Boy Scouts of America?

How about the summer of ‘47 when he took William H. Howland, Jr., and other high school youth to Oslo, Norway, for the World Convention of Christian Youth. Did that complete his work?

When are we done?

Can finishing your Ph.D dissertation on Thomas Campbell make you complete? Certainly there was “joy in the morning,” celebrating, after his second mentor Dr. Perry E. Gresham, hired Lester as an Assistant Professor of Religion at Bethany College in 1953. Was that all the joy he would ever seek?

Those eight years Lester centered his life on a cadre of the called. Figuratively, he was welcomed into Camelot, there in West Virginia. In the village of Bethany, upon the banks of Buffalo Creek, Lester bonded with a network of amazing folk that became his family for the next fifty-five years.

At Bethany College, in the 1950’s, the rituals of Renaissance relationships experienced a revival.

When are we done?

In 1962, at age 43, Lester moved into his antebellum style home on Blue Ridge Road and began the first of twenty-one years at CTS. Two magical decades of classes, authoring books, speaking on three continents, in plain prairie meeting houses and ancient sacred cathedrals. Happy, happy times on the Board of his beloved Disciples of Christ Historical Society, in Nashville. Myriad trips with friends to far away places.

When are we done?

Possibly in contented conversations while he and William E.

“When are we Donne?” concluded

Tucker were signing first edition printings of *Journey in Faith*.

When are we done?

Could it have been on that Valentine’s Day 1985 when Lester became a pilgrim at Pilgrim Place where every day is a journey in faith, with authentic disciples? T.J. Liggett describes life at Pilgrim Place as

“Self discovery without relying on using past tense verbs.”

When is anyone’s life work done?

I aver, that for him it was an un-noted hour during the sixteen years of days Lester shared with Lou Ann Parsons, when unexpectedly every thing changed. No longer were they best friends, daily companions, and helpmates. In some magical moment these two mere mortals, entered that precious rare realm of *philia* and *agape* love, worthy of a poem by Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

I need to say before I close that Lester McAllister knew more about more things than any person I have ever known.

These three things he lectured at me repeatedly:

Questions determine answers.

Ever seek to challenge norms but always follow the rules.

God’s ministries of “Faith & Reason” are unending.

Lester’s last fear was not death but dying alone.

Lester’s life died late in the afternoon on. January 3rd, in his own living room seated in his favorite chair, with his beloved Lou Ann at his side, only hours after they had shared a piece of cherry pie.

When are we Donne?

Christian poets and preachers properly declare never, never, never!

I close quoting a few lines of John Donne from Meditation XVIII:

“His soul is gone, whither?

Who saw it come in, or who saw it go out? Nobody...

I received benefit and instruction from him when his bell tolled;

and I being made the fitter to pray by that disposition, whenin I was assisted by his occasion, did pray for him, and I pray not without faith.”



David A. Caldwell

OSCAR’S NOTES

From the Desk of the Contributing Editor



God has truly blessed *The Oldtimers’ GRAPE-VINE* newsletter ministry. The financial support of our appreciative readers has enabled us to establish an endowment with the Christian Church Foundation and to end 2007 and my tenure as Managing Editor with a balanced budget.

It is with deep appreciation that I will place this powerful ministry in the hands of a woman of honesty, integrity, and Christian ethics, after a joyful 6 years of involvement in a great love of mine. It has been an honor to have the opportunity to succeed my dear friend Dr. William K. Fox, Sr., founder of this 17-year-old publication. The editor and her associates have agreed to let me hang around for a while, so without such a great responsibility, I will keep in touch with my host of precious friends.

There are two issues that have been disturbing, and I thank you for letting me share them with you. The first is my concern over this deadly

conflict in Iraq, and especially the extensive period of time of our country's loss of precious lives and staggering financial losses. The ongoing loss of Iraqi lives as well leads us to pray and push this administration 24/7 to end this unholy massacre.

I personally feel that, as a Nation under God, we have not exercised enough pressure on the administration to step up a diplomatic program that will bring this conflict to an end.

My other disappointing concern is the division of the Stone-Campbell movement into three distinctive bodies: The Christian Church/Churches of Christ, the Churches of Christ, and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). I applaud the Disciples of Christ Historical Society as this general unit struggles to overcome this division.

While serving on the DCHS board, I realized the great loss there is in our separation. It was a joy knowing and serving our great church with such wonderful Christians as Dr. Leroy Garrett, Dr. Douglas Foster, Dr. Edwin S. Gleaves, Sara Harwell, and many others whom I immediately loved and respected and would like to be in fellowship with. Please join me in fully supporting Dr. Glenn Thomas Carson, President, as he works in developing that oneness of our church.

I look forward to fellowship with many of our brothers and sisters from the three strains as we worship together at the World Convention in Nashville, TN, July 30 to August 3, 2008. What an exciting time for building fellowship, understanding, and common purpose within the global family of Christian Churches – Churches of Christ – Disciples of Christ!

We Americans of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) are exceptionally pleased and excited that one of the powerful preachers will be the Rev. Dr. Cynthia Hale, Senior Pastor of Ray of Hope Christian Church, Decatur, GA. It will also be a blessing to hear speakers Bob Russell, Mike Cope and Robert Wetzell. It will be a great time and hopefully a new beginning of the dreams of some, when we gather at the 17th World Convention, dialoguing on the powerful theme, *Together in Christ*.

Those attending the National Convocation in Memphis, TN, July 25 – 28, 2008, will have a head start in powerful worship, as hundreds of Disciples from around the nation gather for the 20th Biennial Session, when leaders will lift up the theme “*God, Our Weapon in Spiritual Warfare*”, II Corinthians 10: 3-5. Rev. Dr. Timothy James, Sr. is urging those planning to attend to get their registrations in before May 31, 2008.

Dear friends, I am honored and humbled as I share with you the news involving the Disciples of Christ Historical Society and yours truly. The society, upon the approval of Dr. Glenn T. Carson, President, and the board, Dr. Raymond Brown, Chairman, will dedicate the renovated Exhibit Hall of the Historical Society, naming it the Oscar Haynes Exhibit Hall, at 2:00 pm on Tuesday, July 29, 2008, at 1101 19th Avenue South, Nashville, TN. In the announcement of this event, Dr. Carson said, “this is truly a miracle, that the dedication falls between the ending of the National Convocation and the beginning of the World Convention.”



Mailing Label Spruce Up

We will be going over our mailing labels with a fine-tooth comb to get them ready for Joyce & Ellen for the next issue in June. Please email us at our new address otgrapevine@hotmail.com if there is any wrong information on your label. Or drop a note to: *The Oldtimers' GRAPEVINE*, c/o Jude Martin, 4204 Rainier Ave., Mount Rainier, MD 20712. Thank you!

OVERHEARD

A little girl dressed in her Sunday best was running as fast as she could, trying to not be late for Bible class. As she ran she prayed. "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Please, please!"

While running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again! As she ran once again she began praying "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late. . . But please don't shove me either!"

—**Mr. Bill Jackson, Reston, VA**



Jude Martin
(2007)

GRAPEVINE STAFF WELCOMES NEW MEMBER

The staff of *The Oldtimers' GRAPEVINE* warmly greeted an additional talented member recently when Jude Martin, daughter of parents raised in the conservative Mennonite tradition, agreed to work on this issue. She & her parents both moved to the metropolitan DC area in 1983; she to work with thrown away teens, they to provide medical care for indigent patients.

Jude's work experience includes retail cashier, therapist, office manager and volunteering for non-profits. She became acquainted with the newsletter through her "brother" Oscar Haynes, and his wife Joan, then associate pastor at University Christian Church, Hyattsville, MD, where Jude's family worshiped from 1999-2004. She is married to Paul Jolly, a Fund Raising Consultant, and has a 21 year-old step son, Travis. -Oscar Haynes

UNOFFICIAL MAYOR OF CAPITOL HILL

MR. WILBERT HILL By Oscar Haynes

"When I moved to Capitol Hill 35 years ago, the community was primarily African American", explained Deacon Wilbert Hill of 701 14th Street SE, Washington, DC. Few can claim a longer record of involvement on Capitol Hill than Mr. Hill, whose home is just a stone's throw from office buildings where decisions that impact the world are made.

Deacon Hill, member of National City Christian Church, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 14th & Thomas Circle NW, was born in Culpeper, VA, "a small town where we never had any racial problems," he said. "It was a quiet community where people lived together. It has been pretty much like that here", he added with a smile.

He explained that there has been a racial change in the community. There has also been a demographic change of singles to families as the schools have improved. Just at that moment we walked out onto the sidewalk and a young mother with her 2-year-old passed by and they greeted each other by name. "It gives me so much pleasure to have young people walk by and call me Mr. Hill, and older ones too. Even you called me Mr. Hill. This is respect I have earned and it means a lot that they recognize me for the work I have done."

Mr. Hill served on the Neighborhood Advisory Council for 20 years. He has been active with the police department and has many citations for his volunteer work in the community. "I would like to see those young people stop their ugly behavior and have more respect for others and themselves. Today drugs are a problem, but we didn't know what drugs were."

**Ordained African American Disciple
Clergywomen**

Mr. Hill retired from the U.S. Senate due to health problems in 2002. He enjoyed recalling the names of several U.S. presidents and legislators he had met, especially Senator Robert Dole and his friendliness. In 2001 he was the recipient of the Metropolitan Police Department Award. "Even though I love my home and the neighborhood, I sometimes think of leaving but the neighbors urge me to stay, so I'm still here."

His real joys are his two companions, two beautiful Chihuahuas named Porsha, one year old and Poquita, four years old. He took them for a walk while I was there and it was a joy to see the many expressions of love the neighbors have for "Mr. Hill" and his guardians. His favorite eating place is the Mexican restaurant just a block from his house. He enjoyed the owner who responded warmly. Mr. Hill has never married but loves children and was father for a period to two of his nephews. His mother lived with him prior to her death in September, 2006.

Deacon Hill joined National City Christian Church in 2002, under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Alvin Jackson. "I was looking", he said, and was touched by his sermon and joined. "I liked Rev. Jackson very much, he was an excellent preacher and I fell in love with Mrs. Jackson. She is such a sweet, kind lady." I usually attend the 8:30 service and take a direct route to the church so I can be there early and hand worship bulletins to the people as they arrive."

Deacon Wilbert Hill is pleased to live in the house by the side of the road on Capitol Hill and be a person of goodwill to people. His joy is in being recognized by passers-by who joyfully greet him with calling out "Mr. Hill!".



Mr. Wilbert Hill, Porsha & Poquita.

**The Ordination of Constance B. Nealey
September 10, 2006**

Dr. Nealey is a native of Birmingham, AL. She received a B.A. degree in English with a minor in Spanish at Xavier University, New Orleans, LA; a M.A. degree at Birmingham Southern College; Educational Specialist degree and the D. Ed. From the University of Alabama; M. of Theological Studies from the Beeson School of Divinity, Samford University.

A retired educator, Dr. Nealey works as an adjunct professor at Miles College. Previously, she was employed by the Jefferson County School System, Lawson State Junior College, and the Birmingham School System, where she served as principal of two schools: North Birmingham Elementary and Councill Elementary. Her most recent employment was with the Alabama State Department of Education as Chief Academic Officer.

Church affiliation – Jeffries Memorial Christian Church where her ordination took place; Ed Williams, Pastor. On the regional level she has served as Sec./Treasurer of the board and first vice moderator; she also has served as treasurer and vice president of the National Convocation.

**The Ordination of Reverend Betty Miller Green
June 23, 2001**

Reverend Green received an M. Div. at Chicago Theological Seminary. She was ordained at the First Christian Church, Maywood, IL, by the Illinois Wisconsin Region.

Additional Ordinations

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Reverend Michelle Brown | —May 2000 |
| Reverend Yvette Foreste | —May 2001 |
| Reverend Jacquelyn Powell | —May 2002 |
| Reverend Tracy Ross | —May 2002 |
| Reverend Dr. Helen Walton | —May 2002 |
| Reverend Marion Miller | —July 2003 |
| Reverend Teresa Hord Owens | —July 2003 |
| Reverend Dr. Sandra Blair Dotson | —July 2005 |

YOU KNOW ALL ABOUT US
 YOU know, Lord, how we live, how
 we sing, we dance, we work, we play,
 we study, we learn, we read, we
 write,
 we listen, we hear, we see, we
 touch,
 we feel, we smell, we taste, we
 hunger,
 we eat, we thirst, we drink, we talk,
 we walk, we skip, we run, we plant,
 we harvest; how we love, and we love
 this life.
 We see, we need, we hurt. We worry,
 we sigh, we cry. We want, we lack.
 We enjoy our many life experiences
 —life's many different phases. We
 pray - yet still there's times we stray.
 We receive each new day but may
 forget to simply say thank you —
 'Thank YOU LORD!' And with each
 rising sun, someone says at the end
 of day "There it goes! Everyday it
 goes and someone goes with it." So
 whether young or old, with joy or
 woe, as we bid the day farewell —
 all that need be said is 'YOU
 KNOW, LORD! YOU KNOW ALL
 ABOUT US.

Written Feb. 4, 2008
 May F. Lindsey Reed

Dear Oscar,

"I was blown away by the latest issue of *The Oldtimers'* *GRAPEVINE*. I emailed Ernest regarding his wonderful article on Rev. FOX. Kudos to you and the editorial staff!" --Norma

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

Dear Oscar,

"Keep up the good work with *The Oldtimers'* *GRAPEVINE*. The birthday card was a real surprise." --Louise

Louise Griffin, Washington, DC

Oscar,

"Thanks for your good work and for keeping us informed of the life and work of friends." --Harold & Evelyn

**Dr. Harold & Mrs. Evelyn Watkins,
 Indianapolis, IN**

"This gift is in honor of some of my best friends at Pilgrim Place re: honorary degrees to Ernest & Janice Newborn coming up! Great to have Lester McAllister's picture in this last issue."

--Rev. Frances Shorrock, Claremont, CA

TO: *The Oldtimers'* *GRAPEVINE* Staff:

"Congratulations on a great year. Keep up the outstanding work." --Vandy & Sylvia

**(Ret.) Col. Vandy & Mrs. Sylvia Miller,
 Silver Spring, MD**

Oscar,

"We truly appreciate the remarkable communication service of 'The Oldtimers' *GRAPEVINE*' Publication." --James & Giley

Dr. James & Dr. Giley Griffin, Dallas, TX

DISCIPLES NEWS ROUND-UP

WASHINGTON, DC – Jacqueline Elliott, a member of the ministerial staff of Twelfth Street Christian Church, 1812 -12th Street NW was ordained into Christian Ministry on Sunday, March 2, 2008, the Rev. Dr. Marshall Dunn, Acting Regional Minister, the Capital Area, officiating.

The Rev. Dr. Paul Saddler, Pastor, delivered the ordination sermon and Elder Sarah Hunter, 91-year-old member of the congregation, presented the candidate. Rev. Elliott is a graduate of Howard University Divinity School, Washington, DC.

LEXINGTON, KY – Professor of Pastoral Care David W. Sharrard and Vice President for Advancement James M. Wray, Jr., were recently recognized for 30 years of service to Lexington Seminary.

NASHVILLE, TN – The Disciples of Christ Historical Society and Disciples Home Missions are offering a free Sunday school curriculum covering the Stone-Campbell movement. The 12-week series covers the history and beliefs of the traditions that trace their heritage to religious movements founded by Alexander and Thomas Campbell and Barton W. Stone.

The curriculum, written by Deborah Adams Phelps, can be used for adult or teen Sunday school, new member classes, vacation Bible school, or individual study. Lessons can be downloaded from the Historical Society's website, www.discipleshistory.org.

WASHINGTON, DC – Rev. Dr. Delores Carpenter, pastor of Michigan Park Christian Church, 1600 Taylor Street NE, and a professor at Howard University's divinity school, has been named to the board of directors of Church Extension. Dr. Carpenter has also been elected to the board of directors of the National City Christian Church Foundation.

NASHVILLE, TN – The Disciples of Christ Historical Society elected three new board members during the Fall 2007 meeting. They

are: Miriam Gentle, wife of Rev. Dr. Stephen Gentle, senior pastor of National City Christian Church, Robert Drechsler of Wichita, KS, and Nancy Kleinert of Nashville, TN. Don Nunnally of Frankfort, KY, was elected to a second term.

SHERIDAN, AR – Mrs. Joy Greer Roberts, prominent business and community leader in Little Rock, died Oct. 13 at the age of 75. She will be remembered as Moderator of the General Assembly from 1981 to 1983, and strong supporter of the National Convocation.



General Assembly, July 2007: Joyce Knox with Oscar Haynes after the Board voted for her to be our third Editor.

NEWS



Joyce Ietta Powers Knox—Manager/Editor

The board of directors of *The Oldtimers' GRAPEVINE* has approved the appointment of Mrs. Joyce Ietta Powers Knox as Manager/Editor, succeeding Oscar Haynes. She becomes the third editor of this 17-year-old publication.

Joyce began her walk with the Lord at age nine at Mount Carmel Church of Christ, Jamesville, NC. She continues her Christian journey at Twelfth Street Christian Church, Washington, DC, where she serves as Deacon, Trustee, Church Historian, and Elder-in-training.

This Call moves Joyce from assistant editor of *The Oldtimers' GRAPEVINE* to Manager/Editor. Her church leadership has also included past president of the Disciple Women's Ministry, Usher Board, Worship Department Chairperson, and member of the 90th Anniversary committee, Kitchen Committee and noonday Bible study group.

Joyce attended Martin County, NC public schools, Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, TX, DC Teachers College (now University of the District of Columbia University), Prince George's Community College, Largo, MD, and she holds certificates in Print Media and Photography/Layout/Design from the Ragan Report, Chicago, IL.

Her print media experience includes 25 years with the DC Department of Human Services. Her career began with the Mental Health Commission, and she retired from the Office of Public Information, where she served as Writer/Editor for the newsletter and other agency publications.

Among the numerous rewards she received, the one she was most excited about was coordination of the Comic Relief program featuring Whoopi Goldberg, Billy Crystal and Robin Williams for the House of Ruth, a home for homeless and abused women. After arriving in Washington, DC in 1965, Joyce was the first African American to work in the business office at Jelleff's Department Store, where her customer service roster included First Lady, Lady Bird Johnson and her

daughters.

The scripture that keeps Joyce grounded and focused is Psalm 46:1 & 10a, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in the time of trouble." "Be still and know that I am God"

"This Ministry is blessed to have this resourceful Christian woman assume the leadership role. I am honored to have filled this position for six rewarding years. My prayer is that Joyce will give many successful years to this wonderful publication, which is the dream of the late Rev. Dr. William K. Fox, Sr." —Oscar Haynes



Joyce Knox, Manager/Editor, with son, Tyrone Knox, proudly watching.

Shift to Associate Editor



Ellen Crowder, Associate Editor.

Ms. Ellen Crowder, life-long member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and member of *The Oldtimers' GRAPEVINE* editorial staff since July, 2006, has been appointed Associate Editor, effective with Mrs. Joyce Knox succeeding Oscar Haynes as Manager/Editor.

When Ellen joined *The Oldtimers' GRAPEVINE* staff, she stated "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.

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. Ellen, now retired, is a member of National City Christian Church.
-Oscar Haynes

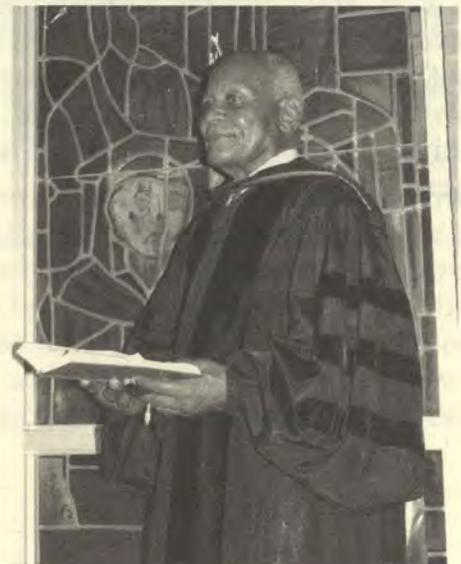
FIRST ANNUAL
JOHN D. MANGRAM INSTITUTE
AND BELL RINGER AWARDS

On May 10, 2007, a picture of the ills of this nation alarmingly came alive on the campus of Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, TX, when some of the most powerful men and women in ministry gathered to initiate the first annual John D. Mangram Institute & Bell Ringer Service Awards.

The theme of the Institute, *Affirming the Minister's Call in a Time of Challenge*, gave such dynamic preachers as Dr. Frederick D. Haynes and Dr. Sheila M. Bailey an opportunity to share with the nation the impact Dr. Mangram has had for more than 50 years, in training ministers in critical thinking, poignant preaching, and social responsibility.

Dr. Sebetha Jenkins, President, opened the festivities by welcoming clergy, laity, and friends to the Jarvis campus, to share in the pride Jarvis has in Dr. Mangram, an alumnus who has risen from a humble bell ringer to being "The Teacher of Preachers." "Dr. Mangram has served ministers across this land, preparing them for such times as these," she declared.

Dr. Mangram began his call at Jarvis, she explained, as one of the bell ringers who rose up



who rose up early to toll the bell calling our students and employees to the duties of the day. At Jarvis, his calling was affirmed as he embraced the preaching of Rev. Emmett Dickson, who was also a bell ringer before him.

Rev. Olin Fregia, Chairman of the John Mangram Institute Committee, told the crowd, "We want to affirm the call of ministers, that royal priesthood of believers spoken of in I Peter 2:9, and pray this day will be an opportunity for servants to hear God in light of the challenges of our day. He added, "We want to affirm Dr. John Mangram's service to the hundreds of ministers he has challenged and trained."

Calling the clergy to the challenges of the times, the speakers lifted up the shooting at Virginia Tech, war in Iraq, pandemics, global warming, the cooling of a nation to God, terrorism, racism. "Our challenging times are of biblical proportions. As the prophets like Isaiah, Amos, and Jeremiah had to wrestle with their Call in similar times, so must we. "

Dr. Mangram is a native of Camp County, Pittsburg, TX, who was always asking questions in church; however, he found few answers. He felt embarrassed by a "sanctified ignorance" he saw in the pulpit, which led to his calling to teach preachers to raise questions and to think. His favorite quote is "A call is an urge. You have to feel it, taste it, touch it, smell it. It makes you uncomfortable because you don't know enough."

His training started at Jarvis, where he received a B.A. in 1945. Studies followed at Howard University School of Divinity, B.D., 1948; (the late Dr. Walter Bingham was a classmate); Yale University Divinity School, S.T.M. 1958; and Pacific School of Theology, Th.D, 1966.
-Oscar Haynes

The Oldtimers' HEALTHVINE

FOOT CARE FOR DIABETICS

- 1 – WASH YOUR FEET DAILY, using luke-warm water and soap.
- 2 – DRY YOUR FEET WELL, especially between the toes.
- 3 – KEEP THE SKIN SUPPLE, using a moisturizing lotion, but do not apply between the toes.
- 4 – CHECK YOUR FEET, for blisters, cuts or sores, redness or swelling. Tell your Doctor right away if you find something wrong.
- 5 – USE EMERY BOARD GENTLY to shape toenails even with the ends of your toes. Do NOT use a pocketknife or razor blades.
- 6 – CHANGE INTO CLEAN, SOFT SOCKS OR STOCKINGS DAILY, not too big or too small.
- 7 – KEEP YOUR FEET WARM AND DRY. Preferably wear special padded socks and always wear shoes that fit well.
- 8 – NEVER WALK BAREFOOT, both indoors or outdoors.
- 9 – EXAMINE YOUR SHOES EVERY DAY, for cracks, pebbles, nails or anything that could hurt your feet.

** A brisk walk every day stimulates the circulation.

--- These facts were taken from the *Nora Nordisc Pharmaceuticals*

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Kim Atwater is a nurse in the Ambulatory Surgery Center at Kaiser Permanente, Kensington, MD.



FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL



LOUISVILLE, KY – A service celebrating the Christian life of Mable Geneva Craig Lewis was held at Hill Street Christian Church, 2140 Dixie Highway, January 19, 2008, the Rev. John T. Harris, Pastor, officiating. The eulogy was given by Rev. Dr. Timothy M. James, Associate General Minister and Executive Secretary of the National Convocation.

Rev. Mable Lewis had recently celebrated her 98th birthday and will be remembered by family and close friends for the last sermon she preached, “What’s Love Got To Do With It?” The family’s response in her obituary was “EVERYTHING”.

Mable was remembered as an exceptional student who graduated valedictorian from Old Central High School, Louisville. She is a graduate of Simmons University, being the first African American woman to be licensed and ordained as a minister in the State of Kentucky. She dedicated her life to Christ at Hancock Street Christian Church, which later became Hill Street Christian Church.

Rev. Lewis loved people and the church, and Mrs. Brenda Etheridge remembered her for the loyal support she gave the National Convocation and the General Assembly. “I had hoped that she would be recognized as one of the women that had attended all of the Quadrennial Assemblies from its inception to the 2002 Assembly in Louisville,” she shared with *The Oldtimers’ GRAPEVINE*. Mrs. Etheridge remembered her saying that she had attended them all.

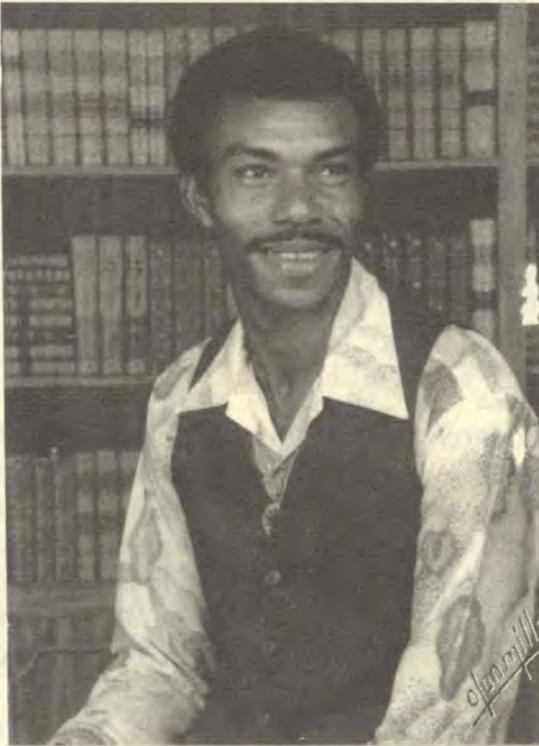
Rev. Mable Lewis is survived by a daughter, Jean Lewis; two sisters, Miola Hobbs and Dorthella Williams; a host of nieces, nephews and friends.

WASHINGTON, DC – Home-going services for Dr. William Clinton Bowie, Jr., native Washingtonian and son of Elder William Clinton Bowie, Sr., one of the Founders of Twelfth Street Christian Church, were held at the church on Saturday, January 19, 2008, the Rev. Dr. Paul Saddler, Pastor, officiating.

Affectionately called Clinton by his friends, Dr. Bowie attended Dunbar High School in Washington, where he was a friend and classmate of Senator Edward Brooke and the late Mercer Ellington, son of the late Duke Ellington. He is a graduate of North Carolina Central University. He then attended Meharry College, where he pursued studies in pharmacology and was employed as a medical researcher. Following Meharry, Clinton worked at Tuskegee University on special research projects.

Clinton continued his lifelong love of learning by studying chemistry at Columbia University, with advanced studies in pharmacology at George Washington University. He received his Ph.D from Pacific Western University. He was employed by the National Institutes of Health and the Food and Drug Administration, where he was a Senior Pharmacologist. He was a devoted family man, and enjoyed his leisure time with his granddaughter, spirited political discussion, jazz and classical music, and good food. He is past president of the PTA of Calvin Coolidge High School and a Boy Scout Leader.

Dr. Bowie was preceded in death by his father and mother, Elder William Clinton & Mrs. Carrie Bowie; his sisters, Bernice and Alice; and his nephew Craig Coleman. He is survived by his son, William C. Bowie III (Lynda Flowers); daughter, Donna Bowie-Conway (Theodore Conway); his beloved granddaughter, Christina L. Conway; his sister, Violina Major; his nieces Melva Meade and Claudia Coleman; his nephew, Craig Coleman; and a host of nieces and nephews.



Melvin Knox

GLENARDEN, MD – A service of love and appreciation for the life of Melvin Knox, Jr., husband of Mrs. Joyce Knox, recently appointed Manager/Editor of *The Oldtimers' GRAPEVINE NEWSLETTER MINISTRY*, was held at Twelfth Street Christian Church, 1812 12th Street NW, Washington, DC, Friday, January 25, 2008, the Rev. Dr. Paul Saddler, Pastor, officiating. The eulogy was delivered by Rev. Vertie Powers, Melvin's sister-in-law.

Melvin was baptized into the community of faith at Macedonia Baptist Church, Caldwell, TX. After moving to the Washington area he often attended Twelfth Street Christian Church with his wife, Joyce. In later years he gave of his resources and talent to important ministries of the church.

Following his graduation from Freeman High School, Caldwell, TX, Melvin received his post-secondary education at Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, TX, and his carpentry apprenticeship with his uncle and mentor, the late Edgar Harris. He loved sports and played both varsity football and basketball in high school and college. He would often referee high school foot-

ball and basketball games in Burleson County, TX.

Melvin pursued his chosen field of carpentry in Caldwell, TX, and in the Washington, DC area, after moving here. His expertise gained him an award for applying innovative uses for small spaces, which was written up in the *Potomac Magazine*, now the *Parade Magazine*, *Washington Post*. He received numerous awards and citations for his work. Most notably was his and his staffs' work on the Reeves Municipal Center the "flagship" building for the District of Columbia Government.

This very personable carpenter, a dedicated family man of integrity, had a magnanimous personality and would often say "my word is my bond." He will be remembered by his devoted wife of 49 years, Joyce Powers Knox; his son, A. Tyrone Knox; his daughter, Tonya L. Turner, Houston, TX; two granddaughters, Krystal Turner, Houston, TX, and Keisha Turner, Pasadena, MD; grandson Keith Turner, Houston, TX, great grandson, Duane Davis; three sisters, Linda Kay Beverly and Glendora F. Stautzenberger, (Stacy), Caldwell, TX, and Lenora R. Kinchloe of College Station, TX; two aunts, Doris Stonum, Caldwell, TX, Thelma McIntosh, Fort Worth, TX; great aunt Madge Harris, Caldwell, TX; four uncles, Rev. Earlie L. Knox, Sr., (Alfreda) Fort Worth, TX, Billy Wilson and Earl Wilson (Johnnie) Houston, TX, Henry L. Wilson, Fontana, CA, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Two special friends are Priscilla Tolbert and sister-in-law Rev. Vertie Powers, Graham, NC.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
PRECIOUS GIFTS**

Mr. James Chambers, Washington, DC; Dr. Glenn Carson, Nashville, TN; Mrs. Louise Griffin, Washington, DC; Rev. Dr. William & Mrs. Patricia Nottingham, Highlands Beach, CO; Mr. Robbie & Mrs. Louada Chisholm, Silver Spring, MD; Rev. Dr. Donald D. & Dr. Charisse Gillette, Lexington, KY; Rev. William & Mrs. Dorothy Bowles, Aurora, CO; Rev. Dr. Ernest J. & Mrs. Janice R. Newborn, Claremont, CA; Mr. James & Mrs. Eva Martin, Las Vegas, NV; Mrs. Esther Williams Tyler, Brooklyn, NY; Rev. Dr. William & Mrs. Mary Helen Blackwell, Brandywine, WV; Rev. Lea Earl Acuff, Knoxville, TN; Rev. Norman & Rev. Marilyn Fiddmont, Spring, TX; Rev. Bobbye Brown, Indianapolis, IN; Dr. Sere & Mrs. Mary J. Myers, Sr., Leawood, KS; Rev. Dwight E. Bailey, Forest Park, IL; Dr. James O. & Dr. Giley E. Griffin, Dallas, TX; Col. Vandy & Mrs. Sylvia Miller, Silver Spring, MD; Dr. Roland & Mrs. Kitty Huff, Rutland, VT; Rev. Frances F. Shorrock, Claremont, CA; Rev. Lois Hodrick, Somerville, TX; Rev. Clarence Hodrick, Taylor, TX; Rev. Dr. Harold R. & Mrs. Evelyn N. Watkins, Indianapolis, IN; Dr. Norma Ellington-Twitty, St. Louis, MO; Mrs. Velma L. McClure, Raymore, MO, and Mrs. Vernita Moore, Brooklyn, NY.

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The Oldtimers'

GRAPEVINE

*Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old. I am
about to do a new thing; now it
springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.
Isaiah 42:18-19, NRSV*



Members of Good Shepherd Christian Church and animal friends celebrate their donation of a complete ark.

Good Shepherd Christian Church Dedicates the Ark

On December 16, 2007, Good Shepherd Christian Church, Houston, TX, dedicated the Ark which the congregation had purchased through the Heifer International program. This dedication was the culmination of Pastor Emeritus Norman S. Fiddmont's challenge to the congregation to purchase the entire ark of animals, a goal of \$5,000, by December, 2007.

The dedication was extremely important to the congregation, which is described by Olivia Caudle, a young member, as "the little church with the big heart." In previous years, the congregation had bought sheep and a water buffalo through Heifer International, which is headquartered in Arkansas. This agency provides domestic livestock, seeds, and other resources for developing countries.

In recent years, the congregation has set outreach as a major emphasis for its ministry, and gives 15-20% of its income to outreach. It took the congregation two years to raise the \$5,000 for the celebration of dedicating the Ark. Members bought their favorite stuffed animals or costumes to represent one of the animals that will be delivered to families throughout the world.

Rev. Sam Alaniz, Pastor, and Rev. Marilyn Fiddmont, Minister to Families, enjoy the outreach ministry of Good Shepherd, which demonstrates to small congregations that their ministries can have a considerable impact.

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From the Editors:

Passing the torch...

Dear *Grapevine* Readers,

It is surely not an excess of humility that makes us view with some trepidation the prospect of assuming expanded *OTG* roles from our esteemed sage and mentor, Oscar Haynes! However, with Oscar kindly agreeing to continue as guiding light, Contributing Editor, and Treasurer; with Board Chair Dr. Ernest Newborn joining in as an Associate Editor; with ongoing support and advice from the Board of Directors; with the sustained commitment of contributing writers; and with the prayers, donations, and kind words of hundreds of loyal readers, we are encouraged that this beloved publication can be maintained in the spirit established during the past seventeen years by founder Dr. William Fox and his successor, Elder Haynes. Many of you know that publication of the quarterly *OTG* for the past six years has been largely a "family business," with Oscar's wife, Rev. Joan Bell-Haynes, and daughters Donna Haynes and Kim Atwater—not exactly people who have a lot of spare time!—performing major tasks of production and design for each issue.

It is impossible to say too much about the commitment to communication and service manifested by this gifted and loving family in keeping the *OTG* available to its ever-expanding readership.

Oscar Haynes and his family recognized in this newsletter a vehicle for sharing the "gospel" in the truest sense – distributing good news about people who have done, and are doing, the Lord's work. Some of these people are already well known for their contributions; some might not be widely recognized but for the existence of a newsletter like the *OTG*. You, faithful readers, have responded with joy to seeing some good news in a world that often seems not to have much of it – and have generously supported the *OTG* with donations and expressions of appreciation.

Unquestionably, we newer members of the staff are, to varying degrees, much less "in the loop" of Disciples church news than the Haynes

family. We shall continue to count on them for story ideas and news items, and we shall rely increasingly on Board members and readers to send in suggestions for *OTG* content. We hope to expand coverage to even better reflect all regions of the country and all manifestations of the Disciples community, and still occasionally include pertinent international features. We'll seek to identify additional contributing editors and writers who are familiar with events in their areas—so if this role sounds like a natural for you, please let us know!

May we apologize in advance if, in the next few issues, we don't keep up quite as well with some current events as the previous managing editor did.

Happily, Oscar has agreed to our request that he continue as *OTG* Treasurer, so the donations on which this publication so greatly depends may still be sent to him. (Comments and complaints can also be sent to him for typically kindhearted processing!) For the present, please use the same address for your contributions: 1946th Place NE, Washington, DC 20019-4616.

The July-September *OTG* will include lots of news from the National Convocation and the World Convention, as well as the dedication of the Oscar Haynes Exhibit Hall at the Disciples of Christ Historical Society headquarters. If you have additional requests or suggestions for stories/news items for that issue, please let us know by August 8. We'll appreciate even more your ideas for the October-December issue, which can also be sent by September 1 to the address above or to otgrapevine@hotmail.com.

It is an honor and blessing to work with Oscar Haynes and the Board in maintaining *The Oldtimers' Grapevine*, and we look forward to your active participation in carrying on this very special tradition.

Joyce Knox
Ellen Crowder
Jude Martin

Rev. Irie Session Named Associate Minister of North Texas

Reverend Irie Session, the pastor and developer of new Life Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Dallas, Texas, has been called to serve as the Associate Area Minister of the North Texas Area in the Southwest Region. She has also co-authored a book with several of her colleagues.

As the newly appointed Associate Area Minister of the North Texas Area, Reverend Session will be a dynamic and effective leader as she executes the duties of her office. Some of her responsibilities will include working with the Camp and Conference ministry as well as the Women's ministry. According to North Texas Area Minister Larry Ross in the NTACC newsletter, "Reverend Session is an energetic, passionate, caring and listening soul, and will help the North Texas Area serve the churches in an even more excellent way."

Because of the latitude this position brings, Reverend Session will be able to continue her work with New Friends New Life. This is the bible study group that extended its ministry to help assist marginalized women in the area who are seeking sanctuary while they restore their lives. She will also be able to continue her pastorate at New Life Christian Church.

You may recall from an earlier issue that this new church start is nontraditional in that the services are held in the afternoon to accommodate her congregation, who for the most part hold positions that carry over into the weekend. Additionally, their service is very unique by virtue of the fact that they have interactive bible study/sermon where all are able to share their views.

As daunting as these tasks are, OTG has recently learned that Reverend Session has found time to co-author a book and her chapter is entitled, "The Problem of Full Communion." This chapter is related to being black and a woman in the Churches of Christ. Also addressed in this



chapter is the Thomas Campbell "Declaration and Address" which points to the issue of sexism. This book, titled *One Church*, is a must read for everyone; however, the chapter "The Problem of Full Communion" should be read by women in particular because women continue to face many facets of racism and sexism in the church.

This multi-talented woman of God, who carries the titles Associate Area Minister, Pastor, author, role model and mentor, is a blessing to everyone who knows her and has associated with her.

✍

From the Desk of the Contributing Editor

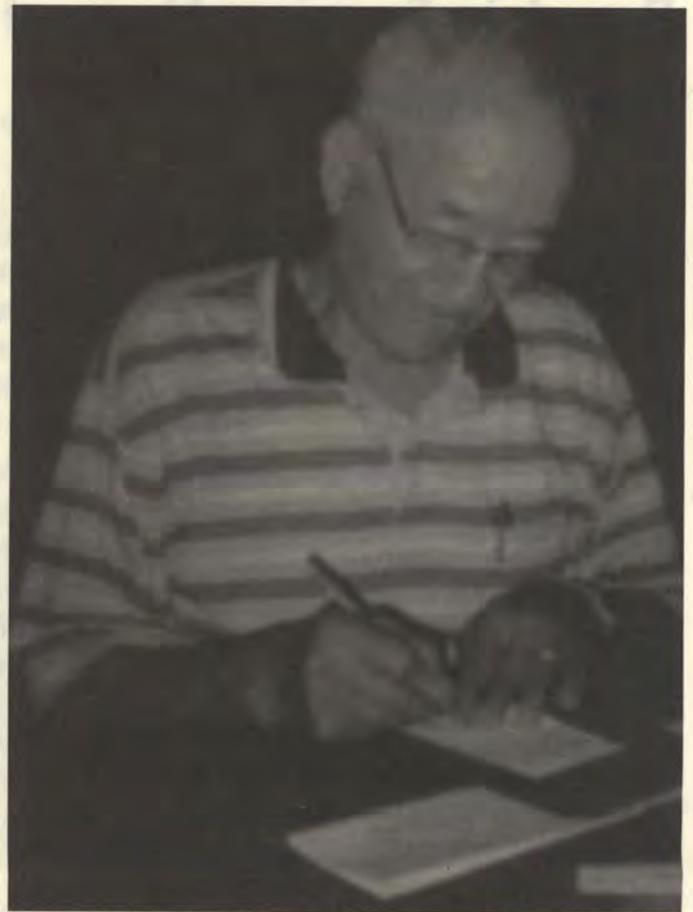
Oscar's Notes

Surprise! Surprise! Surprise! The surprise of my life was when I recently received an invitation from the United States Navy Chaplain Corps, Navy Recruiting Command, to join. At first I thought they had intended to recruit Oscar Haynes, Jr., but hardly so because he just celebrated his 54th birthday. I must say, even in error, this 92-year-old World War II Vet found this surprise a humbling honor.

I pray that every OTG reader will join me in keeping the newly elected leadership in your prayers. God blessed this 17-year-old publication when Joyce Knox, Ellen Crowder, and Jude Martin agreed to lead this ministry to greater heights. They are truly capable and ready. They could have taken on more glorious and less taxing ministries, but God led them to *The Oldtimers' Grapevine*. I am pleading for the support of all our subscribers. If our nearly 1,000 recipients would donate just one gift a year of \$25.00, this powerful voice of our people would not depend entirely on the sacrifice of a few and also those who sacrifice their time, talent and resources to produce this excellent newsletter.

These are the words of volunteer Ellen Crowder nearly two years ago: "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 Oldtimer's Grapevine*. It is a great privilege to have an opportunity to contribute to this unique communicator in any way I can."

Brothers and sisters, I am pleading for you to meet me in Memphis, Tennessee on July 25, 2008, when the 20th Biennial Session of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) convenes for three spirit-filled days of singing, preaching and praying. The timely theme for the gathering of the saints is "God, our Weapon in Spiritual Warfare", II Corinthians 10:3-5. Here Paul defends his ministry, "Indeed, we live as human beings, but we do not wage war



according to human standards; for the weapons of our warfare are not merely human, but they have divine power to destroy strongholds."

Please stop by the Exhibit Booth of the Oldtimers' Grapevine so we can say hello and provide you with a back copy of the newsletter which you may have missed.

We will drive from Memphis to Nashville where we look forward to continuing our quality time together at the Disciples of Christ Historical Society. At 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 29, 2008, the day after the Convocation ends, and one day before the World Convention begins, there will be the Dedication of the newly renovated Exhibit Hall in honor of yours truly.

This is an honor and an extremely humbling experience for one who never sought a seat at the head of the table. This day will be the beginning of an important milestone in the history of this great denomination when the Exhibit Hall will feature the many Saints who have made monumental

contributions but receive little, and often, no recognition. Dr. Glenn Thomas Carson, President, and members of the board announced that this exhibit will remain until July, 2009, when a new annual exhibit will be featured. This leadership of the church may set a new policy for the Nation, which only lifts up the accomplishments of African Americans one month out of the year.

Several issues ago I shared with our readers my dream of the day when the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Christian Churches/Churches of Christ, and Churches of Christ will permit Christian Unity to become the polar star of these three major American communions and our leaders will open dialogue which will lead us into a budding fellowship.

This dream has been nourished by Dr. Glenn Carson, who has made visitations to many Church of Christ congregations over the past year. I have shared this dream with Dr. Edwin S. Gleaves of Nashville, TN, who has lifted up leaders in the Church of Christ who are also supporters of such dialogue.

I pray that Larry Bridgesmith, Executive Director of the newly formed Institute for Conflict Management at Lipscomb University; Dr. Prentice Meador, Senior Minister at the Prestoncrest Church of Christ in Dallas, and Dr. Doug Foster, Abilene University, will pursue this dream.

This dream is being nourished by my excitement over attending the 17th World Convention, which will convene July 30, 2008 in Nashville. One of the dynamic preachers is the Rev. Dr. Cynthia Hale, Senior Pastor, Ray of Hope Christian Church, Decatur, GA. The general theme of the convention is TOGETHER IN CHRIST.

The World Convention brings together members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Christian Churches/Churches of Christ, and Churches of Christ, from all around the world.

My final note for this issue is on SESSIONS 2008, July 17 – 20, 2008, Oklahoma City, OK. The theme is “Renewing, Prioritizing, Transforming”, based on Romans 12:1-2. This is an exciting and

challenging scripture and the lineup of speakers is terrific. Imagine hearing the dynamic preacher from Roanoke, VA., the Rev. Dr. William Lee, former Moderator of the General Assembly, challenging men to put “first things first.”

The other outstanding speakers are Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins, General Minister and President; Rev. Dr. Rick Lowery, and Rev. Mark Briley, speaking to those in their 20s and 30s. The Wildwood Christian Church Choir will provide music as well as the Acapella singers. Being unable to participate in this Session is disappointing. I would love to be with three or four-hundred men as they worship together and respond to God's call in a rapidly changing world.

I recall these same scriptures were used 24 years ago with the theme “Who Programs You?” That was 1984 and the place was Purdue University. I had been called by Dr. John Compton, President of the Division of Homeland Ministries, and Rev. Elby Boosinger, Director of Christian Men's Fellowship, renamed Disciples Men, for the purpose of leading Sessions '84.

I pray God's blessings on all supporters of *The Oldtimers' Grapevine* and especially the competent staff and board of directors. May grace and peace be yours in abundance.

Oscar Haynes



Editors Oscar Haynes and Joyce Knox will go anywhere for a story in the OTVette.



Prominent St. Louisan Honored

The Rev. Dr. Samuel W. Hylton, Pastor Emeritus of Centennial Christian Church, St. Louis, MO, and tireless community leader, has received the distinguished honor of being named the Ageless-Remarkable St. Louisan for 2007 by the St. Andrew's Resources for Seniors.

The philosophy of "being our brother's keeper" has for years led Dr. Hylton in efforts benefiting older adults and the less fortunate. During the 47 years he served Centennial Christian Church, he provided impetus for the construction of three senior rent-based-on-income apartment communities in St. Louis.

This outstanding church and community leader serves on the board of the St. Louis Emergency Children's Home and served as chairman of its annual fundraiser. He is the Founding President of the St. Louis Clergy Coalition and is also a supporter of the United Way and the Christian Church Foundation Black Disciples Fund for Development.

Dr. Hylton's leadership extends far from the boundaries of St. Louis, MO. He has served the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada as First Moderator of the General Assembly and is a past President of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Good Read:

One Church

One Church, a new publication from the Disciples of Christ Historical Society, reached my desk last week, and I believe every member of the Christian Church/Churches of Christ, the Churches of Christ, and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) should add it to their library.

One Church is a celebration of the two-hundredth anniversary of Thomas Campbell's *Declaration and Address* (1809). However, it is much more. In the spirit of that stirring plea for unity from the beginnings of the Stone-Campbell movement, this volume restates Campbell's thirteen propositions and issues a new call for our churches to live out that vision of UNITY in the Twenty-first Century.

The editors for this excellent presentation of the vision for one church are Dr. Glenn Thomas Carson, President of the Disciples Historical Society; Dr. Douglas A. Foster, Associate Dean, Graduate School of Theology, Abilene Christian University, and Mr. Clinton J. Holloway, historian and World Convention planner.

For further information, contact the Disciples Historical Society, 1101 19th Avenue S., Nashville, TN 37212-2126. (615) 327-1444. mail@discipleshistory.org

Reviewed by Oscar Haynes

Poet's Corner

On Thursday, November 11, 2004, Norman and I had driven to Charleston, SC to attend the first combined Regional Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in SC, with the Reverend Sotello V. Long, Regional Minister. It was held at the First Christian Church.

Jean Brown and I were sitting and chatting in the Fellowship Hall that afternoon when she began telling me about some of her childhood experiences.

She told me about the time when she was in grade school and her teacher took the class to see a boat. She said she had only expected to look at the boat, but when they got there, her teacher said they were going to get in the boat, and she was terrified.

She said "I didn't mean to get in the boat. I only wanted to look at the boat."

I made a mental note of her account and later wrote the following:

Overheard..

"What's the name of Isaiah's horse?"

"Isme."

"How do you know that?"

"Isaiah 6:5: *Then said I, Woe is me!*" [Whoa, Isme!]

As told to Travis Jolly, member of University Christian Church, Hyattsville, MD, while on a Habitat for Humanity trip in Goldsboro, NC, with Goucher College.

I Only Wanted to Look At the Boat

I went thinking we'd only
look at the boat.

Don't like no water no way.
didn't have a mind to sail that day
and teacher only said we would look at the
boat.

The water can be pretty, so blue,
every bit
but I don't want nothing at all to do with it.
Now teacher never said we'd be getting in
the boat.

No way did I mean to get in ta float.
It was pretty to see and a nice place to be
but I don't like sailing,

just seeing for me.
Don't like floating — just being
and seeing.
Teacher only said we'd look at the boat
getting in the boat
was quite another note
but — we did get in the boat...

May F. Lindsey Reed
Written Spring 2005



Readers' Comments Corner

To Mr. Haynes,

"Enclosed you will find a check for \$100.00 from the Mid-America African-American Convocation, of which Rev. Faye Vaughn is the Coordinator. Yours in Christ."

Marilyn Powell, Treasurer
New London, MO

Dear Oscar,

"We will continue to look forward to *The Oldtimers' Grapevine*, but will miss your special touch!"

Kathy
Glenn & Kathy Helme
Baltimore, MD

Dear Oscar,

"Hopefully you and your lovely wife are OK. You will be missed from *The Oldtimers' Grapevine*, however, I can understand that you need some rest. Hoping to see you this year at the Convocation." Love! Peace! Joy!"

Ruth
Mrs. Ruth P. Hobbs
Clinton, MS

To the Editors,

Words are truly inadequate to express the gratitude for the services Oscar Haynes gave in the publication of *The Oldtimers' Grapevine*. He was quiet in nature, but so strong in leadership skills and commitment. I am hopeful that even though he will not be serving as editor of the newsletter, a strong link of communication will continue to exist.

Ruth P. Hobbs

Disciples' News Roundup

WASHINGTON, DC—Heartbeats of Faith is a \$5 million capital campaign to assure the sustainability of the Churchwide Health Program. More than 2,900 church servants and their families rely on this program for their primary medical, prescription, dental and vision insurance.

The Christian Church Capital Area Board encouraged each congregation to participate in a special offering between April 13 and 20, 2008 to help undergird the ever-increasing cost of health insurance coverage. Heartbeats of Faith material is available at www.heartbeatsoffait.org.

Washington, DC —The Christian Church Foundation distributed \$8.1 million for ministry in 2007, including a record \$4.3 million from permanent funds alone. Disciples' Mission Fund, the general funding system for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), received more than \$1.1 million from the permanent funds and donor-directed gifts. This figure is the largest distribution to the church's mission funding system in CCF's history. At the end of 2007, the Foundation was responsible for a record \$436.7 million in resources.

WASHINGTON, DC—"I was privileged to attend the National Press Club breakfast where Jeremiah Wright was the featured speaker," stated Rev. Dr. Delores E. Carpenter, Senior Minister of Michigan Park Christian Church and a professor at Howard University Divinity School, in an interview for the award winning *Disciples' World Magazine*.

Dr. Carpenter described the talk as "vintage Jeremiah Wright" in its willingness to critique what is wrong in American society and to stand up for the disenfranchised. She added, "I thought it was just great."

The full story by Beckie Supiano, *Disciples' World* contributing writer, is also available in the May

Disciples' News Roundup

issue of the Michigan Park Christian Church newsletter (202-526-3355).

INDIANAPOLIS, IN – Sheila P. Spencer, author, writer, educator, speaker, and poet, a brilliant young woman from Los Angeles, CA, has been called to the position of Program Director in the Office of Disciples Women. The appointment was announced by Adonna Bowman, Executive Director.

The dynamic Ms. Spencer will be providing direct staff support to the Executive Committee of the National Convocation, and facilitating and administering support of the Women's Resource Consulting Committee and the popular 2010 Quadrennial Assembly.

Sheila is a graduate of the University of Southern California. Her credentials include participation in the Woman-to-Woman Worldwide experience in Cuba in 1998, and service as Chair of the Disciples Home Missions Board of Directors. Her proud parents are the very involved Rev. Perry & Mrs. Doris Spencer of Los Angeles, CA.

CHARLESTON, SC – The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will hold a national leadership event June 13 -14, 2008 for current and aspiring leaders, both within and outside the denomination. Rev. Sotello Long, Regional Minister, said the conference has been designed, planned, and sponsored by the region's Disciples Women's Ministries.

The keynote speaker will be Gene Griessman, internationally known for his one-man play as Abraham Lincoln. "He gives lessons on how to become effective leaders. The event will open with remarks by Michael Beresford, managing director of church relations with the Billy Graham Evangelist Association, and conclude with a session featuring the notable church leader Lenita "Jackie" Bunch of World Convention.

INDIANAPOLIS, IN – Jennifer Riggs, Director of the Disciples' Refugee and Immigration Ministries, has compiled a new resource on immigration from a faith perspective entitled "Welcoming the World to Our Doorstep." It includes theological reflections by Jennifer, Eric Brown, Daisy Machado, Tim Lee, and Michael Kinnamon. It is available through the Disciples Home Missions Website

(<http://www.discipleshomemissions.org/>)

WASHINGTON, DC – Project Promise International, a project founded in August 2004 by Rev. Dr. Delores Carpenter, is proud of the impact it has had in reducing poverty and enhancing the quality of life of persons in the United States and Africa. Expanded support of persons in the greater Washington, DC community is being sought. Individuals can support the project by financial gifts and/or by having your shoes repaired at the Footwear and Leather Repair Training Center. Contact Rev. Chester A. France, Board Chair, (301)717-1367. www.projectpromiseintl.org.

TULSA, OK – Rev. Dr. Orval Holt, a 1950 graduate of Phillips University College of the Bible, has the distinction of being the last alumnus to receive the PTS Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumnus Award. This award will have a new name, which is: The Frank H. Marshall Award for Ministerial Excellence. Dr. Holt is a retired executive of the Christian Church Foundation and a friend of *The Oldtimers' Grapevine*.

CHERRY LOG, GA – The thousands of persons who wish to show their love for Rev. Dr. Fred B. Craddock have a golden opportunity by honoring him on his 80th birthday with a gift to the Craddock Center. He established the Craddock Center to serve needs of persons (especially children) in rural Northwest Georgia

Disciples' News Roundup

and beyond. Make your tax deductible check to Dr. Fred Craddock, The Craddock Center, P.O. Box 69, Cherry Log, GA 30522.

ST. LOUIS, MO – JoAnne Kagiwada, an attorney in international human rights, was recently elected to the Board of Higher Education. JoAnne is a former college president and vice-president of the National Council of Churches, and with her late husband David, a founder of the North American Pacific Asian Disciples.

MT. STERLING, KY – Cane Ridge Day 2008 is scheduled for June 28, 2008. Dr. William Drake, president of Midway College, Midway, KY, will be the keynote speaker. Music will be provided by the bell choir from Raytown (Missouri) Christian Church and the Backroom Blue Grass Band from Crestwood Christian Church, Lexington, KY.

INDIANAPOLIS, IN – The Christian Church Foundation Board, meeting in Indianapolis, recently celebrated a tremendously successful 2007, reporting ten million dollars in new gifts. “We give thanks to God for these donors, who not only share of their resources, but remind us that ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will continue to impact God’s world forever,” said Gary Kidwell, President.

Board officers and Executive Committee members for 2008 are: Robert Patterson, Chair; Peggy Brittan, Vice Chair; Jackie Bunch, Secretary; Rick Lance, Linda Hernandez Williams, Susan Diamond, Grace Caress, Joel Santos and Daniel Webster.

LEXINGTON, KY – Dr. R. Robert Cueni, Pastor of Country Club Christian Church, Kansas City, MO., was guest speaker for the 142nd commencement at Lexington Theological Seminary on May 16, 2008. He became President

of the Seminary in 2002, and has announced his retirement as soon as a new President can be called.

Twenty-six persons were awarded diplomas. In a graduating class of 11 women and 15 men, six received Master of Arts degrees, 18 received Master of Divinity degrees, and two received Doctor of Ministry degrees.

National Hispanic & Bilingual Fellowship Convocation

Hilton Hasbrouck Heights and
Executive Meeting Center
Hasbrouck Heights, NJ
July 10-13, 2008
10-13 de Julio de 2008

La Confraternidad Nacional Hispana y Bilingüe de la Iglesia Cristiana (Discípulos de Cristo) en los Estados Unidos y Canadá llevará a cabo la 14ta Asamblea. El tema es **Crecimiento y Discipulado: Desafíos para el siglo XXI**. El texto bíblico viene de Hechos 16:5, *"Así que las iglesias eran confirmadas en la fe, y diariamente crecían en número."*

The National Hispanic and Bilingual Fellowship of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada will hold its 14th Assembly. Theme for the assembly is **Growth and Discipleship: Challenges of the 21st Century**. The Biblical text comes from Acts 16:5, *"Then indeed the churches were established in the faith and increased in number daily."*

North American Pacific Asian Disciples Convocation

August 6-9, 2008
Stony Point Retreat Center
Stony Point, NY

HealthVine

PROPER CARE OF YOUR TEETH

Brushing your teeth and flossing daily, eating a healthy diet, and visiting your dentist for regular checkups will keep your teeth healthy.

Brushing

- Brush your teeth at least twice a day for approximately four (4) minutes each time.
- Use fluoride toothpaste.
- Use tartar-control toothpaste (this may help slow the formation of hard mineral building up (tartar) on the teeth).
- Brush your tongue and gums. Plaque building up (a sticky film made of bacteria) on these surfaces can cause bad breath.



Flossing

Flossing properly once or twice a day is the best way to remove plaque from below the gums and between the teeth.

Brushing Tips

- Brush after between-meal snacks
- Do not snack before bedtime

Cheeses, peanuts, yogurt, milk, and sugar-free chewing gum are good for your teeth. They help clear your mouth of harmful sugars and help to reduce plaque formation.

Taken from Kaiser Permanente *Healthwise Handbook*, 2002.

Kim Atwater is a nurse in the Ambulatory Surgery Center at Kaiser Permanente, Kensington, MD



For Whom the Bells Toll

Virginia Jett, Superb Chef, Deacon, Senior Usher

GLENARDEN, MD— A service of celebration and love was held for Virginia Jett on Saturday, April 26, 2008 at Twelfth Street Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Washington, DC, with the Senior Pastor, Reverend Dr. Paul H. Saddler delivering the eulogy.

Virginia was born in Westmoreland County, VA on December 17, 1926 to the late George Henry and Lena Brown. During her youth and young adult years, she was an active member of First Baptist Church, Colonial Beach, VA. After moving to Washington, DC, she met Raymond J. K. Jett (deceased) and in July 1956 they were married at Twelfth Street Christian Church, where he was a member and she became a member.



She worked for the Library of Congress in Washington, DC and retired after 31 years of exceptional service. After her retirement she accepted a position as Head Chef for the Christian Church Capital Area Region's conference center at Bethany Beach, DE where she prepared and served many delicious meals to the conferees.

Virginia devoted her adult life to serving God as a faithful member of the church. She served as a Deacon, on the Senior Usher Board, as a member of the Disciples Women's Ministry, and a member of the women's choir -- The Voices of Twelfth Street. She will always be remembered for her love and dedication to the children and youth in the congregation, who affectionately called her "Ma Jett" and for whom she opened her home and often her purse whenever the need arose. The adults, as well as the children, will remember her for those delicious meals that always ended with a decadent dessert.

Virginia leaves to mourn, yet rejoice in the life she lived, her devoted daughters, Raynell Jett-Aka and Veronica Blair (Alan, Jr.); two brothers, Joshua and Edward Brown; a sister, Elmira Watts; sisters-in-law Matilda, Virginia and Bernice Brown; three grandsons, Kenneth Hughes, Jr., Alan G. Blair, III and Le'Mond G. Aka; a granddaughter, Kiara A. Blair; family friend Ghislain G. Aka and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.



Phyllis Ames Willford, Educator, Volunteer

FERNANDINA BEACH, FL — Phyllis Ames Willford died at her home on February 13, 2008. She was born in Washington, DC and was a lifelong member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Phyllis was educated at St. Mary's College of Maryland; she received her Bachelor of Arts degree from George Washington University, Washington, DC and her graduate degree in Early Childhood Development from St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN.

A memorial service honoring her life and witness was held on Saturday March 1, 2008 at Arlington Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Jacksonville, FL.

Phyllis gave a lifetime of service to her country and community in both professional and volunteer capacities in the public school systems of Maryland and South Bend, IN, the Florida District Mental Health Boards, and the United Way of Lee County Alabama.

She is survived by her husband of 53 years, Reverend Milton Willford; son, Chris Willford (Peggy) of Boca Raton, FL; daughter, Catherine "Cass" Willford Best (Alexander) of Fernandina Beach, FL; sister, Barbara Ames Vivari of Bethesda, MD; nephews, Joseph Ames "Jay" Vivari and Bruce N. Vivari (Debbie) of Rockville, MD; niece, Barbara Gay Wagner (Steve) of Cherry Hill, CO, and many other family members and friends.

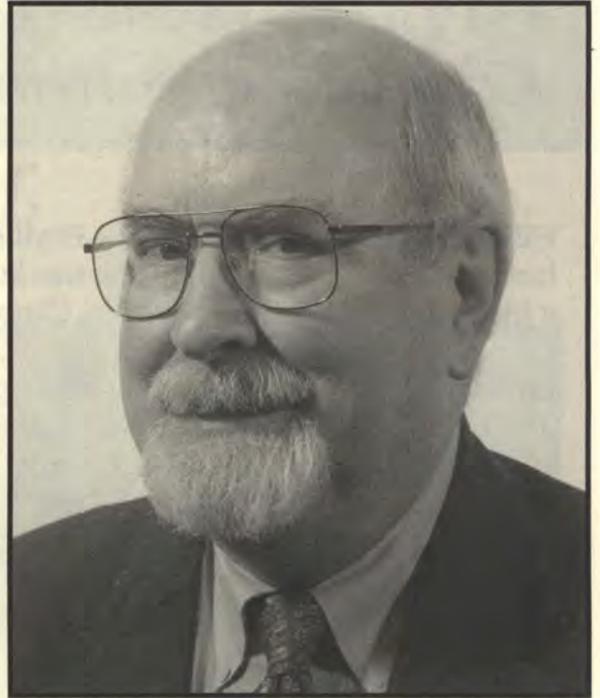
Contributions to Phyllis's memory may be sent to the Hospice of NE Florida or the Children's Defense Fund.



Dale W. Brown, Library Director and Teacher

ALEXANDRIA, VA — Disciples of Christ Historical Society leader Dale W. Brown died January 31, 2008, after a long struggle with Parkinson's disease. A Kentucky native, he lived in Alexandria for over 42 years.

Dale held graduate degrees from Wayne State University and the University of Michigan, and also had studied at Scarret College, Peabody, and Vanderbilt Seminary in Nashville, TN. He was Library and Media Director for Alexandria, VA public schools for 18 years, and Supervisor of Libraries/Media for Arlington County, VA public schools for nine years. Dale taught at the University of Maryland and other universities in the DC metropolitan area.



Known for his extensive personal library and love of books, Dale was a member of the Children's Book Guild of Greater Washington and served as President of the Guild. After retirement, he served as a Library/Education Consultant for Overseas Schools for the U.S. Department of State. While on the Alexandria Sister City Committee for Dundee, Scotland, Dale and his wife Mary Ann traveled to Scotland several times and hosted numerous visitors from Dundee in their home.

Dale was a longtime member of National City Christian Church in Washington, DC. There he served on the Board of Deacons and the Board of Elders, as Chair of the Education Committee, and in many other activities of the church. He was admired for his flower arranging talent and his collections of pottery, blown glass, and crèches. His crèche collection, numbering over 300, includes nativities he had collected from all around the world.

A student of church history for all of his life, Dale was a member of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society in Nashville, TN for almost 50 years. He served on the DCHS Board of Trustees for many years, and on search committees that called two Presidents of the Society, Dr. Peter Morgan and current President Dr. Glenn Carson.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Ann Brown, his daughter, Caroline Blauer (David), his son, Peter Brown (Gina), his stepson, John Page (Marguerite), two sisters, Esther Heusner and Doris Brown, twelve grandchildren, six great grandchildren, and a host of other loving relatives and friends.

At his request, mourners at his February 10 memorial service read these lines of Canon Henry Scott Holland:

"Death is nothing at all....Life means all that it ever meant...Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes we shared together...I am waiting for you, for an interval, somewhere very near...All is well."



THANKS FOR YOUR PRECIOUS GIFTS

Mrs. Shirley D. Compton, Louisville, KY; Second Christian Church, New London, MO; Rev. William & Mrs. Mary Helen Blackwell, Brandywine, WV; Mr. Glenn & Mrs. Kathy Helme, Baltimore, MD; Mrs. Ruth P. Hobbs, Clinton, MS; Mrs. Joyce Knox, Glenarden, MD; Mr. William & Mrs. Mildred Chaney, Cincinnati, OH; (Ret.) Col. Charles E. McGee, Bethesda, MD; Dr. Thomas J. Liggett, Claremont, CA; Mr. Robbie N. & Mrs. Louada B. Chisholm, Silver Spring, MD; Mr. Frank & Mrs. Rubena Adams, Chicago, IL; Mrs. Daisy R. Chambers, Winston Salem, NC; Rev. Robert F. & Mrs. Linda S. Glover, Indianapolis, IN, and Dr. Sere S. & Mrs. Mary J. Myers, Sr., Leawood, KS; Rev. David & Mrs. Dale R. Shreeves, Martinsburg, WV.

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It takes a lot of love to put together *The Oldtimers' Grapevine*, and a little money, too!

The writers and editors put together this little newsletter as a labor of love. \$5 a year covers the cost of printing and postage. If you can send \$15 or \$20, that will cover the cost of sending it to some less fortunate! God bless you.

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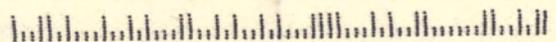
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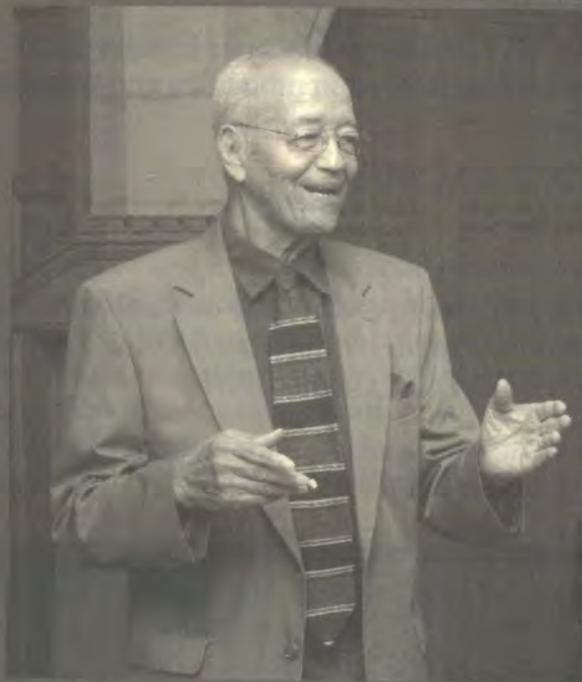
GRAPEVINE

July-September '08

Volume 17, Issue 3

Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth. The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Psalm 46:10 & 11



Oscar Haynes

Thanks to Ted Parks at *Disciples World* for the use of the above picture.

EXHIBIT HALL DEDICATION FOR OSCAR HAYNES

By Doris Daugherty

On Tuesday, July 29, 2008 we witnessed an historic event at the Disciples of Christ Historical Society in Nashville, TN. Three of the four living generations of the Haynes family observed the dedication of the Oscar Haynes Exhibit Hall. Many friends, including Disciples officials from all over the country, were in attendance. As we gathered in the A. Fiers Lecture Hall, the highlight of the occasion was the participation of Oscar and his wife, Joan, in the ribbon cutting ceremony. A room filled with well wishers applauded and were genuinely pleased and thankful for the many accomplishments of one so well loved.

Oscar began his walk with the Lord when he was a mere lad of 10 years of age, and has continued that walk. Some of his accomplishments include being the first layperson to be President of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); second Vice Moderator of the General Assembly; Moderator, Christian Church Capital Area Region; and Life Patron of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society. Some of the awards and honors he has received are the John James Audubon Medal from the Audubon Naturalist Society; Public Service Award, YMCA of Washington, DC; and Diplomate Award from National City Christian Church, Washington, DC. He has held many leadership positions and sits on numerous Boards. Oscar is an outstanding journalist and

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his love for journalism grew out of a newsletter he created while in the U. S. Air Force. He named it "*The Harry's Ear Herald*" for the engineers' corps. He returned to his joy in journalism and has now semi-retired as the Editor/Publisher of *The Oldtimers' GRAPEVINE*, a Disciples of Christ newsletter published four times a year.

At the dedication ceremony, among those offering accolades were the Historical Society President, Dr. Glenn Carson, who said, "we connected the new hall to the Church's goal to be pro-reconciliation, anti-racism. We want to do our part to make sure that everyone understands that we are the Historical Society for everybody in the Stone-Campbell movement, regardless of which stream they're in, regardless of racial-ethnic constituencies."

General Minister and President Reverend Dr. Sharon Watkins stated that Oscar embodies the idea of "deep Christian spirituality, and a passion for justice." National Convocation Administrative Secretary Reverend Dr. Timothy James described Oscar as "a model of a man, who helped to move the Convocation to higher levels. . . ". Capital Area Regional Minister Reverend Lari Grubbs said, "Oscar witnesses to all people and says racism is wrong, and is willing to speak out." Many others praised the work Oscar has done for the Church both locally and nationally.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, we enjoyed a wonderfully prepared reception which afforded another opportunity for fellowship with Oscar and Joan, their family and friends.

As we moved about the Oscar Haynes Exhibit Hall, it was interesting to note the information on developing congregations, numerous encased historical photographs and posters commemorating African American progress, and many who championed the cause. We saw information about Southern Christian Institute, founded in Mississippi in 1875, and its merger in 1954 with Tougaloo College, which is historically related to the Disciples, and the Disciples-related historically black Jarvis Christian College, founded in Hawkins, TX, in 1912. Another highlight in the exhibit was that on Rosa Page Welch, a graduate of Southern Christian Institute, a renowned singer and an ambassador of "good will" for the Christian Church. There is also a

portrait of Preston Taylor, who in 1917 organized the National Christian Missionary Society, which was the precursor to the National Convocation. Other displays of photographs in the cases depict the work of the Disciples in our beloved Church.

How pleased we were to be in the presence of our honoree, Oscar Haynes, a man of vision who is passionate for the cause of promoting racial justice. He is a man of deep faith and conviction.

May God continue to bless our brother as he continues his interest in promoting and spreading the love.



Doris Daugherty is an Elder at Twelfth Street Christian Church, Washington, DC and Treasurer of The Oldtimers' GRAPEVINE.



Photo courtesy of Ted Parks, *Disciples World* magazine.

ABOVE Rev. Joan Bell-Haynes & Oscar Haynes joyfully cut the ribbon to dedicate the Oscar Haynes Exhibit Hall.



FROM THE EDITOR'S PEN

It is an honor and privilege to send greetings to each of you, our *OTG* readers. As we stated previously, when we took the helm of this newsletter, the standard of excellence had already been set, and it is a blessing for the new staff and for me to continue to compile, publish, and distribute this newsletter with the same superior quality. We will continue to give you up-to-the-minute reports on the ministries taking place in your congregations all over the United States and Canada. By the same token, we need you to send us information about the ministries and programs/projects in your congregation, in your Region and from the National Church, in order for us to provide you with the current news.

Your gifts continue to be the staple that keeps the *OTG* newsletter existing and thriving, and we are truly thankful. Accounting for, and acknowledging, the gifts you so lovingly and freely give is a significant task. We are blessed that for some time, the responsibility was diligently handled by Board member Robbie Chisholm, and subsequently by Editor/Manager Oscar Haynes. We are pleased to inform you that we have secured a treasurer for this newsletter. She is Elder Doris Daugherty, a member of Twelfth Street Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Washington, DC. Doris is very gifted in financial matters and will properly take care of the financial resources that you provide for this newsletter. Thank you, Doris, for accepting the treasurer's position!

Now, on another front. Most of us were "glued" to our television sets during the two weeks of the Democratic and Republican National Conventions. On Tuesday evening, August 26, 2008 at the Democratic National Convention, our own Reverend Dr. Cynthia Hale gave the Invocation that opened the evening's session. The prayer was God-inspired, eloquent, and all-inclusive. I'm sure, like me, you were all proud to be members of the Christian Church! Dr. Hale is the Senior Pastor of Ray Of Hope Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Decatur, GA and a member of the Board of Directors for the *OTG* newsletter.

To all of our *OTG* readers -- remember to listen carefully to both Presidential candidates, decide on the one that mirrors your views and interests more closely, and cast your ballot on November 4, 2008.

Blessings & Peace,
Joyce I. Knox

ST. JAMES CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-ONE YEARS OLD AND GOING STRONG

By Moshall McNeil
Lyons, TX

In small towns and rural communities across the United States and Canada are small congregations like this one that proudly serve our communities. We also help undergird the Regional and National manifestations of the church.

My church, St. James Christian Church in Lyons, TX, is one of those small congregations that has been a "beacon of light" for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in this part of Central Texas for one hundred twenty-one years.

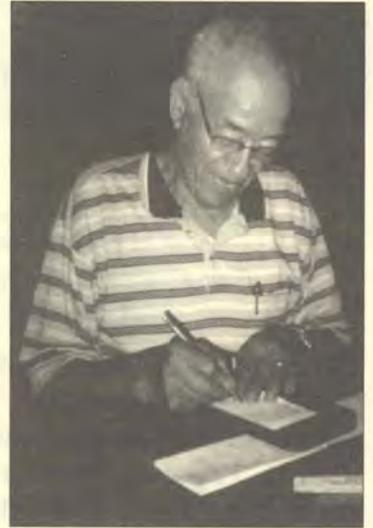
St. James Christian Church was formed in 1887, with John Wesley Washington as the first member, under the leadership of W. B. McGregor from Lee County Texas. The first meeting was held in a brush arbor (a makeshift building of old lumber, tree branches and bushes). Later they were moved by the Holy Spirit to build a Church house. Elder Washington allowed the church to be built on his land. That first building was a 10 x 10 boxed building hewed from trees on the property; the roof was constructed with 1 x 12 planks and held together with square nails. Now we can enjoy the comfort of a beautifully air-conditioned edifice with many other amenities. *But I'm getting ahead of my story. . . .*

In 1938, Sister Hannah Washington Powell gave the church the deed to the land, and in 1981, St. James was remodeled and bricked. The present building was dedicated on October 8, 1995. Since that time, and with God's grace, we have continued to make updates and improvements.

The members of this church have always been involved with the well-being of the people in our community. In the early days you would find the members in their horse and buggies going from house to house for Bible Study, visiting the sick and homebound, taking food and doing whatever was needed. These saints made sure everyone had food to feed their families. If a family was blessed with a garden and/or animals (hogs and cows), they would share with everyone in the community. Every year, a Revival was held to spiritually refresh and rejuvenate the congregation, their families and friends. On Sunday following Revival, a dinner, lovingly prepared by the members in their homes and brought to the church, would be served on the church grounds and everyone was invited to the feast.

In our one hundred twenty-one years, St. James has had five Pastors who have served this congregation and taken us on a spiritual journey that has taught us about God's love, grace, and mercy and our risen Savior's gift of eternal life. Under these pastors, we have seen our membership grow, Elders and Deacons ordained, and ten members called out and ordained as Ministers. The Pastors who served this congregation include: Elder William Green, 1887 to 1902; Reverend W. B. Washington, 1902 to 1951 and 1955 to 1962, (served 65 years); Elder O. A. Armstead, 1951 to 1955; Reverend Porter Washington, Sr., 1962 to 1998; and Reverend Walter Nix, Sr., 1999 to 2007. Presently, Reverend Dock Reese is serving as Interim Pastor. ***Continued on page 14.***

OSCAR'S NOTES



In these exciting times, with political conventions, world conventions, historical dedications, and horrific gasoline prices, it is difficult to live a normal life. A piece of mail in mid-August from Sue and Don Nicholson, lay leaders at Columbia United Christian Church, Columbia, MD, added to that excitement. . . .

They remembered me from over two decades ago, when I met with the congregation as a member of an ad hoc committee to decide whether the Disciples should partner with the United Christian Church and the Church of the Brethren to support the Columbia United congregation. We were impressed, and recommended approval, and the Capital Area Regional board did the same.

My excitement climaxed at 10:30 am on Sunday, August 24, 2008, as the congregation and friends celebrated the ministry of Rev. Beth O'Malley. When my daughter Donna and I entered the sanctuary, who should greet us with a sisterly kiss and hug, but the personable Beth O'Malley, who after 12 years was moving on to become Dean of the Chapel at Hood College, Frederick, MD.

A standing-room-only crowd had gathered to celebrate the ministry of a Pastor and friend, who over the past 12 years had helped them grow into a God-loving Open and Affirming Congregation.

The celebration was highlighted by 10 young people who shared the top ten things they learned in church. Here are some of the ten:

10. Kids are the future; 8. Confirmation takes a long, long, long time; 7. Even kids can make the world a better place; 6. There are two testaments in the Bible; 5. In our church, no matter who you are, we love you; 2. Rev. Beth really loves chocolate and carrots! and 1. We are rebel Christians!!

God's Beloved, this quotation by the late Rev. Norman Vincent Peale, "Scatter goodwill and love and prayers all around, everywhere, and you will be astonished, not only by what it does for other people, but how it comes back to you in generous abundance.", was proven true on July 29, 2008, at the Dedication of the Exhibit Hall in the headquarters of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society, Nashville, TN.

This event was the culmination of a brilliant idea by Dr. Glenn T. Carson, President, who received the support of his board to underwrite the renovations by naming the Exhibit Hall in honor of a fellow Disciple. Substantial contributions, which covered the cost, were received in record time.

God has provided me with this opportunity to thank all who played any role in the success of the project.
Continued on page 8.

Community Partnership, Stakeholders at Work

By Dr. Paul H. Saddler

On August 20, 2008, Twelfth Street Christian Church hosted the Annual Alliance for Concerned Men Youth Awards ceremony. The successful evening included award presentations to Washington D.C. youth ex-offenders who have decided to change their priorities and adopt new paths toward success. Saleem Hylton, Program Director, served as Master of Ceremonies. Several city officials were in attendance, including Police Chief Cathy L. Lanier, who shared her testimony and encouraging words to awardees, and At-Large Council member Carol Schwartz, who praised the awardees and the event. Dr. Paul H. Saddler, Pastor of Twelfth Street, stated, "I am extremely proud of these young adults. Their transformations help to validate the practical usefulness of local church, government, and community partnerships. The Alliance of Concerned Men are dedicated professionals willing to take the time to guide our young men and women to become well-rounded, productive citizens who are able to contribute to our society." The community partnership will sponsor a "Youth Harvest Summit" at Twelfth Street Christian Church on November 21-23, 2008.

Dr. Paul Saddler is Senior Pastor of Twelfth Street Christian Church, Washington, DC.



Dr. Saddler, Pastor 12th St. CC on left, DC Chief of Police Lanier at center and ACM Program Director Saleem Hylton at right.

THE POET'S CORNER

Once, when I was a little girl, I bit a moth ball and spit, and spit for the longest. When Mama asked me why I bit it I answered "I don't know!" then I thought for a moment – I remembered it looked like a bubble gum ball but when I bit down I got the 'UGH' of my life. There've been a lot of "I don't knows" uttered by wee ones.

I Don't Know

Have you ever asked a little child
why did they do a thing?
and the simple answer
"I don't know!" came back
and puzzled expression sprang.
You probably then asked again
and not much more availed.
You really wanted to understand
but the answer
stayed indwelled.
Feeling no intent had been
to mess-up, misplace or destroy, tho the little one
had been told more than once "this or that
'tis not a toy."
A child wants to feel and touch
the things their eyes may see;
I think to determine
'what in the world a thing could possibly be.'
New sights, sounds, so many things
lying around.
New tastes to test, things to explore
by hand or mouth, on the table,
on the floor.
To be sure saying
"NO!"
won't remain in effect.
The touching and tasting 'me' simply can't
reject and for the time being
wee
inquisitive little folk will continue to touch, taste,
feel, sniff, pinch, and poke.



Written Fri., January 13, 2006
(Non-fiction)
May F. Lindsey Reed

OSCAR'S NOTES cont'd

I was truly honored and humbled, but thank God that it is the culmination of my dream. Dr. Carson pledged that the new hall would feature for a full year the artifacts and memorabilia of the African-American contribution in the growth of the Christian Church over the last 200 years.

Most Disciples are unaware not only of the many contributions, but that the National Christian Missionary Convention, forerunner of the National Convocation, was the vehicle leading the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) into the merger making us equal in 1969. I pray that every congregation will plan a tour, especially for their youth, to visit the Disciples of Christ Historical Society, 1101 19th Avenue S, Nashville, TN, before August 31, 2009.

The knowledge they will gain from a tour of the Exhibit Hall will be from the best source available of stories of African Americans like Rosa Brown Bracy, John R. Compton, Emmett J. Dickson, Lorenzo J. Evans, William K. Fox, Enoch W. Henry, Albert "A.C." Stone, Preston Taylor, Bessie E. Chandler, Charles Webb, Sr., Rosa Page Welch, and Sere S. Myers, just to name a few.

As we near our OTG deadline, some sad news has reached me. Dr. James R. Reed, president emeritus of the Christian Church Foundation, departed this life on Monday evening, September 1, 2008, in an Indianapolis hospital where he had been admitted earlier in the day.

Jim, as he was affectionately called by friends, was the first president of the foundation and served from 1964 until retiring in 1991. He was truly a passionate, visionary leader and saw this general unit grow from assets of a few thousand dollars to multi-millions. When I retired from Fromm & Sichel, Inc. in 1984, I volunteered my services and became a member of the board. He and his lovely wife, Mrs. Lucille (Lucy) B. Reed, were like biological family during my years in Indianapolis.

Life has been hectic these last couple of weeks for Americans, even retirees, due to the Democratic National Convention and then the Republican National Convention with 24/7 telecasting. During the conventions, it was depressing when I checked the newspaper for the latest casualty figures from Iraq. As of the end of August, as reported by the Pentagon, there had been 4,149 fatalities and 30,568 wounded. The report also stated "tallies may be incomplete because of lags in reporting." This is the time for all advocates of peace to make their desires known.

On a lighter note, a travel opportunity for our readers is available as we head into Autumn. The owner of Fort Leaford Villa, retired foreign service officer Leaford Williams, has told me his resort residence in Montego Bay, Jamaica, in the Ironshore Estates on the edge of the Ironshore Golf & Country Club, may be rented at a reduced rate of \$1,500 per week during the months of September, October, and November, 2008. The villa, which accommodates six, has a staff of a cook, butler, and housekeeper. This offer is open to subscribers of *The Oldtimers' Grapevine* and their friends. For further information and reservations, check the website at www.fortleafordvilla.com. Telephone (202)529-6312.

I will end my notes for this issue making an appeal for Reconciliation. This ministry is a special mission of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for the elimination of the primary causes of racism in North America. The offerings for this year will be held September 28 and October 5, 2008. Rev. April Johnson has been called to the office of Director of Reconciliation.



2008 National Hispanic and
Bilingual Assembly
By Rev. Noemi Mena

This year, for the first time, the “**Asamblea Nacional Hispana y Bilingüe**” did not gather at one of our churches. Instead, we gathered on July 10-13 at the Hilton Hasbrouck Heights Executive Meeting Center in New Jersey. I will definitely miss getting to visit sister churches, worshipping in a real sanctuary and eating church-cooked meals. But having said that, in terms of organization and content, this was actually one of our best Assemblies.

The theme this year was *Growth and Discipleship: Challenges for the XXI Century*. The biblical text came from Acts 16:5. Instead of having guest speakers, they used some of our very own Pastors who are doing excellent ministry. The presentations were candid, entertaining, and challenging. Pastors especially were challenged by stating that churches that are not making progress are a reflection of their pastors.

The music and the audiovisuals were excellent. One of the more poignant was a video in which several pastors expressed their regret for not being at the assembly, expressing that their current status did not allow them to travel safely in the U.S. Hispanic Assemblies are truly family reunions; we mourn the loss of loved ones, celebrate our seminarians and our graduates, and boards are installed. This year, we even had a book signing. One of our ministers originally from Cuba, Feliberto Pereira, wrote the book *I was a Stranger*. We also share knowledge, reach consensus, rejoice in our diversity, collect money for worthy causes, and receive with wide arms visitors and officials from our larger church. Above all, we are reminded that we are part of, and accountable to, something greater than ourselves, and it is invigorating.

Reverend Noemi Mena is pastor of the Hispanic Ministry at National City Christian Church, Washington, DC.

OVERHEARD

A politician was running for election and was talking at a campaign stop to voters.



"My opponent has called me a liar. Rest assured, I have never lied to you. The only problem I have is that the facts don't always match up with what I believe."

Reports on the 2008 World Convention, the North American Asian Pacific Convocation in New York and the 20th Biennial Convocation in Memphis will appear in the next issue.

READERS' COMMENT CORNER

Dear Oscar,

Thank you for your encouraging words and friendship. Great issue of *The Oldtimers' GRAPEVINE* that just came out.

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

Oscar,

Thanks is such a small way to greet you, your dear wife and family. We hope and pray you can now enjoy a bit of relief.

It is comforting to know you have such competent and dedicated people to take over.

Our prayers are with you, Joan Bell, your family and your successors.

God bless you all.

Love,

**Robbie & Louada
Silver Spring, MD**

Dear Oscar,

Best wishes in your new responsibilities from a couple "old" friends to a wonderful friend and servant of our Lord. If words could thank you for all you have done in Christian service, we would run out of paper and ink before the list of thanks could be completed.

See you at the World Convention.

Love in Christ Jesus,
**Hal & Ann
Blue Ridge, GA**

Dear Elder and Rev. Haynes:

It has been a true blessing being able to read your wonderful publication. Congratulations to you both. I keep up with the Disciples Church through my net-working.

I look forward to hearing from you both and thank you for your prayers and friendship. I am so happy to hear of your success as God's messenger!

Yours in Service to God's Kingdom,
**Dorothy & Leon Berry
Baltimore, MD**

Oscar,

Sure enjoy the regular updates! Keep up the faithful work!

With Appreciation,
**David Downing
San Diego, CA**

Oscar,

How can you remain humble with so much praise and commendations?

Blessings,
**Ernest Newborn
Claremont, CA**

Our deepest appreciation to Oscar Haynes and his wife, Rev. Joan Bell-Haynes for all they have done to help make *The Oldtimers' GRAPEVINE* what it is today.

We extend our best wishes to Joyce Knox, Ellen Crowder and Jude Martin as they ably lead *OTG* into the future.

**Roland & Kitty Huff
Rutland, VT**

Dear Oscar,

We all have been blessed by your long and faithful stewardship of the *GRAPEVINE*, and we praise God for your leadership and for the great efforts given by your entire family to ensure that it was produced and sent to a waiting flock.

The new editors and leaders have begun their work in a dynamic and thoughtful manner, following the high standards that you and others have established. We thank them and pledge to support them in carrying this banner forward. Also, we are very pleased to know that we will continue to enjoy the fruits of your vast wisdom and boundless love of the Church as you share your thoughts in upcoming editorials and news stories.

God is great, and He selects only the best to be His emissaries, angels and editors; we thank Him for sending you to serve this, among many, mission among us.

Peace, Love and Thanks,
**Richard & Violet Bierce
Alexandria, VA**

DISCIPLES NEWS ROUND-UP

WASHINGTON, DC—“My affection for the people of National City runs deep,” declared **Dr. D. Duane Cummins** as he retired from the National City Christian Church Foundation after six years as board chairman.

Dr. Cummins exceeded his commitment of service by extending his term from a three-year term to six years. His tenure began with Rev. Dr. Alvin O. Jackson and concluded with over two years of ministry of Rev. Dr. Stephen W. Gentle. Prior to coming to National City, Dr. Cummins had completed a successful 15-year presidency of Bethany College, Bethany, WV. He served one year as president of Brite Divinity School of Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX, and board chair of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society, Nashville, TN. Dr. Cummins is a renowned historian and member of *The Oldtimers' GRAPEVINE* newsletter Board.

CHICAGO, IL – **Rev. Dr. Claudia Highbaugh** of Disciples Divinity House, and University of Chicago trustee, celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of her ordination in June. She was the first African-American woman to be ordained into the ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). This much honored educator was recently named Alumna of the Year at Hiram College, Hiram, OH.

INDIANAPOLIS, IN – **Rev. April Johnson**, ordained into Christian ministry at National City Christian Church, Washington, DC, has been called to be the Minister of Reconciliation for the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ. Rev. Johnson, a native of Chicago, IL, holds a Master of Divinity degree from Howard University. Reconciliation is a special mission of the Disciples to eliminate the primary causes of racism in America.

Her work will include developing educational, promotional, and training resources that support the church's pro-reconciliation/anti-racism priority. She will also seek to develop a collaborative net-

work, with regional anti-racism teams sharing in the distribution of reconciliation funds raised in each region. The traditional date for raising funds for Reconciliation has been the last Sunday in September, and this year's appeal is September 28, 2008.

LEXINGTON, KY – Lexington Theological Seminary has called **Dr. James P. Johnson**, a 1965 alumnus of the seminary, to become its 16th president, succeeding Dr. R. Robert Cueni. Dr. Johnson has a proven track record as a church administrator and fundraiser. He has served as a congregational pastor and denominational leader for more than 43 years. He is former president of the Christian Church Foundation and president of the Church Finance Council. In 2003-2007, he worked with the Mayo Foundation, helping that organization develop a planned giving program.

“We believe Jim has the skills necessary to position LTS as a premier seminary in the years ahead,” said LTS trustee Richard Griffith of Lexington, who chaired the 13-member search committee. “We had many fine candidates, but Jim’s experience in administration and fundraising, and his deep passion for the seminary, brought him to the top,” Mr. Griffith declared.

NASHVILLE, TN -- The Disciples of Christ Historical Society will hold the 2008 **Joe and Nancy Stalcup Seminar for Congregational Historians** on September 25-27 in Nashville. Participants will be equipped to do the work of congregational historians. Session topics will include building a website on a small budget, digitizing and indexing historic photographs, and preserving your congregation's archives.

The Oldtimers' HEALTHVINE

BED BUGS

Planning that perfect vacation?
Going to some wonderful location?

Well, some of the best hotels, and some of the worst, have been afflicted with bed bugs... nasty little critters! "Bed bug" is the common name for *Cimex lectularius*, a reddish-brown, oval-shaped insect that is about one quarter inch long. Bed bugs survive by sucking blood from a host animal, preferably a human. Bed bugs can be killed with pesticides such as DDT. Listed below are some tips to consider before jumping into that crisp "fresh" bed.

- * Always pull back the top cover--don't sit or lie on it (they may never wash the top cover)
- * Peel back sheets and check the mattress--run fingers along upper and lower seams (check mattress pad also)
- * check for tiny black spots, (excrement), usually smaller than poppy seeds
- * check bedside table--check the walls of the drawers also
- * don't put luggage on the floor--place on luggage stand
- * look for powder in the drawers or on the headboard (this usually means the room has been exterminated)
- * if any sign of bed bugs is found, request another room, BUT do the same inspection in the new room
- * when packing to leave, inspect your luggage and clothing for bed bugs

Once you return home, if any signs of bed bugs are found, simply use HOT water and detergent to wash clothes, then dry clothes for at least 30 minutes. This should kill all bed bugs on clothing.

Remember to have a great trip!



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

FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL



DALLAS, TX -- Melba A. Latimer Hawkins entered into life eternal on May 6, 2008 in Dallas, TX, and her services were held there on May 9, 2008. She was preceded in death by her husband, Reverend Jesse Hawkins.

Mrs. Hawkins was born in Bagwell, TX on January 1, 1926 to Smith and Bessie Latimer. After graduating from high school in Clarksville, TX, she entered Jarvis Christian College in Hawkins and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree.

She spent many years in politics, working in voter registration. She was also a community activist, engaging in projects that continue to have a positive influence in the community.

In 1962 Melba married the late Reverend Jesse Hawkins and moved to Des Moines, IA. During the early years of her marriage in Des Moines,

she worked 16 years for the Look Magazine Company. In 1978 she moved back to Jarvis Christian College with her husband. Both she and Reverend Hawkins were active supporters of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Mrs. Hawkins worked at Jarvis Christian College until retiring in 2003.

Mrs. Hawkins is survived by one sister, Helen Latimer of Dallas, TX; her son David Hawkins (Linda) and daughter Joye Carrington of Des Moines, IA; her son Vernie Hawkins (DeLores), Ames, IA; a sister-in-law, and a host of grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

ST. LOUIS, MO -- Funeral services for Mrs. Ruth Elizabeth Ellington, mother of OTG Board member Norma Ellington-Twitty, were held on September 6 at Centennial Christian Church. A full story on Mrs. Ellington and her distinguished family will appear in the next issue.



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ST. JAMES CHRISTIAN CHURCH *cont'd.*

The ten Ministers called out of this congregation have made us proud. Some have served this congregation and all have spread the word of God throughout the state of Texas and beyond. I proudly present their names: Reverends E. B. Washington, Porter Washington, Sr., Louis Washington, Basel Lister, Sr., H. B. Nix, J. W. Washington, Walter Nix, Sr., Alice Lewis, Lois Hodrick, and Dock Reese, Sr.

As in the early days of the church, we continue to let our presence be known throughout Texas as we serve our community and state with our outreach ministries. For instance, we take food and clothing to the food pantry in Somerville, TX (a town over from us and somewhat larger); we visit, have prayer, and give gift baskets to our senior citizens, sick and homebound once a month; visit and counsel the youth in the youth detention centers. We also send baby clothing and products to the Inman Center in San Antonio, TX (a children's center).

God has truly blessed St. James Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) down through the years. "One hundred twenty-one years of existence is ours, only through the grace of God. We are worshiping God and giving thanks for His mercy and love. To God be the glory."



Mrs. Moshall McNeil is a retired teacher and lifelong member of St. James Christian Church.

BELOW Saint James Christian Church, Lyons, TX, as it looks today.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRECIOUS GIFTS

Ms. Ruth Alice Hudson, Indianapolis, IN; Mr. William & Mrs. Mary Jackson, Reston, VA; Dr. Lorene B. Holmes, Hawkins, TX; Mr. Fred & Mrs. Dorothy Colding, Hyattsville, MD; Rev. William & Mrs. Mary Helen Blackwell, Brandywine, WV; Mr. Don & Mrs. Gretchen Wharff, Raymore, MO; Ms. Ovara O. Miller, Kansas City, MO; Mr. Marvin E. Smith, Gainesville, FL; Rev. Ruth D. Heimer, Indianapolis, IN; Ms. Millicent M. Battle, Kansas City, MO; Ms. Gloria Rinaman, Lecanto, FL; Mrs. Geneva E.B. Griffin, Indianapolis, IN; Ms. Ruth Bajema, Reston, VA; Rev. Dr. T. Garrot & Mrs. Beverly Benjamin, Jr., Indianapolis, IN; Mr. Miles L. Hackney, Cleveland, OH; Mr. Barry & Mrs. Patti Robinson, Oro Valley, AZ; Ms. Loreatha Jones, Brooklyn, NY; Mr. David & Mrs. Linda Hawkins, Des Moines, IA; Dr. Laura Hobgood Oster, Georgetown, TX; Rev. Harold C. & Mrs. Ann B. Doster, Blue Ridge, GA; Mrs. Mary J. Thomas, Washington, DC; Rev. David C. Downing, San Diego, CA; Dr. Ernest J. & Mrs. Janice R. Newborn, Claremont, CA; Mr. Beverly & Mrs. Mary Smith, North Tazewell, VA; Mr. Richard & Mrs. Violet Biere, Alexandria, VA; Ms. Deirdre L. Jackson, Harvey, IL; Mr. Leon & Mrs. Dorothy Hammond-Berry, Baltimore, MD; Dr. Roland K. & Mrs. Kitty F. Huff, Rutland, VT; Mr. Robbie N. & Mrs. Louada B. Chisholm, Silver Spring, MD; Ms. Judith E. Ware, Washington, DC; Rev. Cheryl D. Smith, Ypsilanti, MI; and Donald & Charisse Gillett, Lexington, KY.

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